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## Giving a toss

*The annual Highland Games and Tattoo saw hundreds of kilt-wearing people descend on the Paeroa Domain on February 8. Among games of strength, dances, piping and music, a highlight of the event was the Caber Toss - a show of strength where competitors lift and throw a 130-pound wooden beam.*

Brooke Rowbotham is the only woman to compete in the Caber Toss finals, alongside three men including 18-time champion Patrick Hellier. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

MORE PHOTOS: P7

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# Applications open for Youth MP

Young people who are passionate about their communities are encouraged to apply to be the Coromandel electorate's Youth MP.

Coromandel MP Scott Simpson said every three years, there was an opportunity for young New Zealanders to experience "what it means to represent their peers and region in Parliament".

"As the Youth MP, you'll be tasked with gathering the views of your fellow students, as well as the wider community, and representing them at the two-day Youth Parliament event in Wellington on July 1-2, 2025," he said.

"At Youth Parliament you'll have the chance to experience the workday of an MP, debate legislation, sit on select committees, and ask oral questions in the House of Representatives."

Mr Simpson said the successful applicant would report back to Hauraki-Coromandel communities about their experience and shadow



Scott Simpson. FILE PHOTO

him during a typical day of engagements.

The only criteria for applicants is that they need to be aged 16 to 18 years as at February 28. Applicants also need to submit a video of maximum 90 seconds detailing their ideas "to get NZ back on track".

**DETAILS: To apply to be the area's Youth MP, email the video, with a subject line that should read [Your Name 2025 Coromandel's Youth MP] to mpcoromandel@parliament.govt.nz. The application process closes on February 28.**

# Police appeal for stolen medals

Police are appealing for information to reunite a number of service medals with their rightful owners after being stolen during a burglary in Waihi.

The selection of medals were among a range of property taken from an address on Trig Rd North between 6pm on Sunday, February 1, and 2pm on Monday, February 3.

Police said the seven service medals were of "extreme sentimental and historical value", and were of great importance to the victims and their family.

Other items stolen during the burglary include two Stihl chainsaws, a hedge cutter, a cordless drill, an angle grinder and battery, wedding rings, and other personal jewellery.

Police would like to hear from anyone who may have seen any suspicious activity in the Trig Rd North area between the Saturday evening and Monday afternoon.

Police are also appealing

for any CCTV or dashcam footage in the area that may assist in their investigation locating the service medals and holding the alleged offenders to account.

**DETAILS: If you have any information that may assist Police in their investigation, please contact Police online at 105.police.govt.nz, clicking "Update Report" or by calling 105. You can also provide information in person at the Waihi Police Station or anonymously through Crime Stoppers via 0800 555 111. Please use the reference number 250203/0911.**



Police are hoping to return stolen service medals to their rightful owner. Photo: SUPPLIED

Hi, my name is Pete the Pukeko and I'm here to help you. Find me in one of the display advertisements in *The Valley Profile*, then email admin@valleyprofile.co.nz with your full name, postal address, and the business name and page number of the ad by the following Monday to go in the draw to win a Lotto ticket. Last issue it was in the Animal Advertisements ad.

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## Thames Tides

Wed Feb 12		Thu Feb 13		Fri Feb 14		Sat Feb 15		Sun Feb 16		Mon Feb 17		Tue Feb 18		
Morning	1:37am 0.6	Morning	2:23am 0.6	Morning	3:05am 0.5	Morning	3:45am 0.5	Morning	4:23am 0.6	Morning	5:01am 0.6	Morning	5:39am 0.7	
Afternoon	2:05pm 0.8	Afternoon	2:51pm 0.7	Afternoon	3:34pm 0.7	Afternoon	4:14pm 0.7	Afternoon	4:52pm 0.7	Afternoon	5:29pm 0.7	Afternoon	6:07pm 0.8	
	7:58am 3.3		8:44am 3.4		9:26am 3.4		10:06am 3.4		10:45am 3.4		11:23am 3.3		12:01pm 3.2	
Sunrise	6:45am	Sunrise	6:46am	Sunrise	6:47am	Sunrise	6:48am	Sunrise	6:49am	Sunrise	6:50am	Sunrise	6:51am	
Sunset	8:19pm	Sunset	8:17pm	Sunset	8:16pm	Sunset	8:15pm	Sunset	8:14pm	Sunset	8:13pm	Sunset	8:12pm	
Best At	12:45am	Best At	1:33am	Best At	2:17am	Best At	2:59am	Best At	3:39am	Best At	4:18am	Best At	4:58am	
	1:10pm		1:56pm		2:38pm		3:19pm		3:58pm		4:38pm		5:19pm	
Set	5:50am	Full Moon	Set	6:55am	Set	7:58am	Set	8:58am	Set	9:56am	Set	10:54am	Set	11:53am
Rise	8:20pm	Rise	8:46pm	Rise	9:10pm	Rise	9:32pm	Rise	9:53pm	Rise	10:15pm	Rise	10:38pm	

\*Not for navigational purposes. Graphic supplied by OceanFun Publishing Ltd. www.tidewiz.com www.tidespy.com www.ofu.co.nz

**MOON AND FISH KEYS**

● New Moon    ● First Quarter    ● Full Moon    ● Last Quarter

🐟 Good Fishing    🐟 Fair Fishing    🐟 Not So Good

**TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES**

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

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

# Concurrent roadworks cause frustration

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

A council road in Turua is being repaired at the same time as a four-week state highway closure this month.

Pavement rehabilitation works on Hauraki Rd are being undertaken concurrently with the Onetai Stream Bridge replacement on SH26 - despite it being the advised detour for travellers to take.

Hauraki Mayor Toby Adams said the roadworks did not come with the best of timing, but the schedule had been set before New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) had advised council of the February 10 closure of SH26, which runs between Paeroa and Thames.

“That portion of [Hauraki] road has needed work for a little bit of time, so we approved a budget, and that gave staff the ability to go out and get a tender with a start date, which they did,” he said.

“All of a sudden, NZTA came out and said that they were starting work on the other side, which they were supposed to have done last year.”

Mayor Adams said he and his chief executive wrote to the agency requesting a change of date for the bridge replacement, but this was denied.

He said he understood driv-



Pavement rehabilitation works on Hauraki Rd are being undertaken at the same time as the Onetai Stream Bridge replacement on SH26.

File Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

ers' frustration.

“It's no different for us as elected members and staff; those are roads that we travel frequently,” he told *The Profile*.

“I mean, the plus side is that you'll still be able to travel

through, it'll just be under stop-go.

“And yes, there might be a bit more increased traffic from traffic that is coming the other way, but if you're local, you know there's multiple ways to

get around that, and it may be quicker to take a slightly longer route,” he said.

“But either way, just plan your events to know that wherever you're going, or whichever way you're going, it's going to

take a little bit longer, and if you already know that, it's a lot easier to deal with.”

NZTA's Waikato systems manager Andrew Oakley said the transport agency had been in discussions with Hauraki District Council about its Onetai Bridge project from its inception, as it was aware the Turua works were being undertaken concurrently.

“As the Onetai Stream and the area surrounding the work-site is subject to flooding during wet weather, the works needed to be scheduled during the drier summer months – January through to March,” he said.

“This bridge is at the end of its life and given its age and condition, delaying the project until next summer was not an option.

“We understand that the road closure will be inconvenient to residents and businesses, and our contractor will work as quickly as possible in order to minimise the length of time the road needs to be closed,” he said.

He said the agency has worked with council to co-ordinate temporary traffic management between the two projects that minimises disruption to road users and community.



## Get creative HAURAKI

FUNDING NOW OPEN!

Creative Communities Scheme Funding for local arts

*If you have a creative arts project that needs funding, then this will be music to your ears!*

We can help with funding for projects that provide creative opportunities for your community. If that strikes a chord with you, and hits the right notes then don't delay!

Applications are open to individuals and all age groups whose projects engage with young people (under 18 years) or celebrates and promotes the diverse arts and cultural traditions in the community.

Learn more and download the application form from our website [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/community/grants-funding/creative-communities-scheme](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/community/grants-funding/creative-communities-scheme)

Projects must take place between 1 October 2024 and 30 September 2025.

Applications open until 4pm  
Friday 14 March 2025.

Musician performing at the Paeroa Contemporary Dance - End of Year Show 2024, "Life Beyond"



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# Education

ADVERTISING FEATURE

## New staff, students welcomed to HPC

On January 28, a pōwhiri was held to welcome all new students and staff to Hauraki Plains College.

There are 210 Year 9 students joining the school, several students in Year 10-13, and seven new staff members.

The manuwhiri [guests] were led by John Aloï, the college's new curriculum leader of Science, and Matua Frank Thorne, from Hauraki and Ngāti Hikairo, who supported with a whaikōrero [speech].

Whaea Carrie Taipari-Thorne, the new principal at Kaiaua School, led the manuwhiri with a karanga [welcome call].

The hall was packed with 400 manuwhiri, including siblings and whānau.

The college's staff and Year 13 students stood strong as representatives of the haukāinga [home people], welcoming in the manuwhiri, while Matua Te Waiheruata Rāwiri led its whaikōrero, and Whaea Nicky Farrant supported with a karanga.

Then, while the families and adults enjoyed morning tea, the college's Year 9 and 13 students headed off with their River Guides to learn more about day one and to get their



A pōwhiri was held on January 28 to welcome new staff and students to Hauraki Plains College.

Photo: SUPPLIED

timetables.

With the school's student population set to go beyond 950, Hauraki Plains College welcomes the following staff, who are joining for 2025: William Marks - Physics; John Aloï

- Curriculum Leader Science; Dianne Dunchie-Coley - English; Yotam Kay - Horticulture/Social Science; Melanie Turner - Dance/Drama; Alesha Ridealgh - Humanities; Paul Dodds - Services Academy Director;

Ana Van Eyk - Student Services/Reception; Tracey Barker - Wellbeing Team.

Hauraki Plains College also encourages putting two dates in the calendar for February: Thursday, February 13 at 6pm

in the college hall for the Year 11 NCEA Information Evening; and Tuesday, February 18 at 6pm in the hall for the Meet the Year 9 River Guides.

- Supplied by Hauraki Plains College

# 2025 PŌWHIRI *Welcome*



TWO DATES TO PUT IN THE DIARY INCLUDE:

THURSDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 6PM IN THE HALL: YEAR 11 NCEA INFORMATION EVENING

TUESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 6PM IN THE HALL: MEET THE YEAR 9 RIVER GUIDES

# 'Shut down the chatter' with sound

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

Cutting through the chatter of modern day life starts with sound.

The Thames Community Centre's new health and well-being programme, facilitated by its creative therapist Dianne McLean, aims to carve out space in the mind and shut down noise by using sound bath meditation.

It's an ancient practice based on the idea that sound vibrations and frequencies can have a healing effect on the mind and body, Dianne said, and restore a sense of balance and wellbeing.

"I first found out about it as most people do by going to a sound journey and experiencing it first hand.

"At that stage I didn't know about the science or the theory behind it, but the wonderful feeling of calm and peace at the end really left an impression on me," she told *The Profile*.

"Much later, I began my studies to qualify as a creative therapist and we studied sound healing as part of that. That was when I really began to understand the 'why' of how it works on the mind and body, and can produce such profound effects for people."

Kicking off this Friday, February 14, at the centre at 609 Mackay St, Thames, Dianne said people attending the sound bath meditations could



Thames creative therapist Dianne McLean is offering a sound journey experience, starting this month. Photo: SUPPLIED

expect to experience a combination of meditation practices supported by sound bowls.

"This is really helpful because the bowls have a beautiful way of carving out space in the mind and shutting down the chatter of the monkey mind, so if you struggle to get a bit of respite from racing or intrusive thoughts, or struggle

with how to meditate, then a sound bath meditation could be just the way into a deeper practice," she said.

"We live in a world where chronic stress is a big problem - not just for our mental and emotional wellbeing but also for our physical. It can be so difficult to fully unwind and really give our minds and

bodies a chance to rest and be at peace, and I've found the sound bowls can absolutely facilitate that.

"We sometimes fall into the trap of thinking that somehow physical health and mental-emotional health are separate, and one has no effect on the other or that we can just treat the body or the mind without the other, but in fact, the mind and body are intrinsically linked," she said.

"So, in the same way that physical exercise can lift our mood and make us feel more optimistic, meditation and sound healing will have positive effects on our bodies, too."

Dianne said for those at the beginning of their meditation journey, combining relaxation with sound bath techniques could be a valuable jumping-off point.

She believed sound healing had become a bigger trend in recent times, with more people recognising it as a healing modality.

"I think if anyone is curious or wonder if this is something to help support them on their wellness journey then this course is a great introduction for them."

**DETAILS: Sound Bowl Meditation programme, commencing at the Thames Community Centre, 609 Mackay St, Thames, this Friday, February 14. For info or to register, email [tcrc@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tcrc@xtra.co.nz).**



# Dance for Parkinson's workshops set to begin

Age Concern Hauraki Coromandel is hosting a free workshop led by Dr. Francine Hills, a dance practitioner, next week.

In her role as health promoter for Age Concern Hauraki Coromandel, Francine integrates her extensive research and practice into creative initiatives that benefit older adults.

She's also an academic and advocate for enhancing health and well-being through movement and dance.

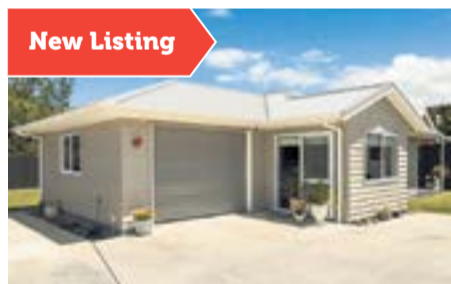
The morning session, held on February 19, will provide a practical demonstration of Francine's dance programme and showcase how it can support those living with Parkinson's disease and their carers.

The session is open to anyone with an interest in movement and Parkinson's, including health professionals, caregivers, or someone affected by Parkinson's who is looking to explore the benefits of dance and movement.

**DETAILS: Dance for Parkinson's with Dr Francine Hills is on at the Grahamstown Community Hall, 768 Pollen St, Thames, on Wednesday, February 19 from 9.30am-12pm. For session details and to register, email [support@achc.org.nz](mailto:support@achc.org.nz). Spaces limited.**

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**Asking Price** \$769,000  
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# Explore best of district ‘and beyond’

The Echo Walking Festival is inviting people to “explore the best of the Hauraki-Thames Valley and beyond” this April.

Running from April 1 to 22, and with more than 45 guided walks, the Echo Walking Festival is a non-profit event organised by town promoters within the district.

A spokesperson said whether a participant was looking for a family-friendly outing, a chance to dive into local history, or a challenging climb, the festival had “something for everyone”.

“For those craving adventure, Echo features some of the most rewarding hikes in the region.

“The Waiotahi to Karaka Loop, led by the Kauaeranga Tramping Club, winds through regenerating bush, past gold-mining relics, and up to the stunning Red Rocks Bluff with expansive valley views.

“The Maratoto Wires Track follows the historic telephone line through rugged terrain, offering a remote backcountry experience with steep climbs and breathtaking scenery,” they said.

“The Pinnacles Walk, one of the most spectacular hikes in the North Island, follows a historic packhorse route, leading trappers through kauri logging country before reaching



This year’s Echo Walking Festival has “something for everyone”.

File Photo

unbeatable summit views over the Coromandel.”

Beyond the big hikes, the festival also offers walks suited for all ages and abilities, they said.

“Hall’s Arboretum, guided by archaeologist Dave Wilton, explores a historic forestry site home to both exotic and native trees that played a key role in shaping New Zealand’s forestry policy.

“The Waihi Cemetery Walk tells the stories of the remarkable women who helped shape the town, offering a moving

glimpse into the past.

“The Opoutere Beach and Forest Walk is a peaceful, family-friendly journey along one of the Coromandel’s most tranquil beaches, with a return loop through native forest and the opportunity to spot nesting seabirds.”

Every walk in the festival will be guided, which meant there would be no need for participants to “worry about maps or navigation”.

They were encouraged to just “turn up and follow the lead”.

“These walks provide a safe and engaging way to explore, learn about the region’s history and ecology, and connect with like-minded adventurers,” the spokesperson said. “Whether you’re an experienced trapper or simply looking to spend more time outdoors, this festival is the perfect way to step into nature.”

**DETAILS: Echo Walking Festival is taking place between April 1-22. All walks must be booked online, so visit [www.echowalkfest.org.nz](http://www.echowalkfest.org.nz) to secure your spot.**

## Chris’ Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parmenter

1. In computer/console gaming, what does NPC stand for?
2. For the rugby union competition, what does NPC stand for?
3. Which online travel-related company uses an owl as their logo?
4. The Australian speed skater Steven Bradbury is mostly famous for what reason?
5. When was gold first discovered in Thames? a) 1837, b) 1867 or c) 1897?
6. In which musical does the main character meet President Franklin D. Roosevelt? a) *Annie*, b) *Hamilton* or c) *Wicked*?
7. Which country has the highest population in South America?
8. Which of the following New Zealand natives is described as being deciduous (loses its leaves in winter)? a) Hebe b) Ribbonwood, or c) Totara?
9. Contrasting with helium, what effect does inhaling sulfur hexafluoride have on the voice?
10. Which billionaire was behind the sale of 20,000 flamethrowers for USD\$500 each in just five days, in 2018?



**ANSWERS:** 1. Non-player character or non-playable character; 2. National Provincial Championship; 3. TripAdvisor; 4. Being the first athlete from the Southern Hemisphere to win a gold medal at a Winter Olympics, which he won in 2002 when the rest of the competitors crashed out on the final corner; 5. b) 1867, in the Kauaeranga final corner; 6. *Annie*; 7. Brazil (226 million); 8. Hebe; 9. It deepens the voice; 10. Elon Musk.



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- John & Nicola Read



# Scottish festival fun

The 32nd Paeroa Highland Games and Tattoo took place in Paeroa on February 8. For 12 sun-soaked hours pipers played, strongmen lifted and highland dancers strutted their stuff in the Paeroa Domain, amid a crowd of hundreds of onlookers. The domain was packed all day, and the festivities continued well into the evening with the Evening Tattoo festivities kicking off at 6pm. ALICE PARMINTER went along to enjoy the atmosphere.



A highland dancer shows her moves in the Evening Tattoo showcase.



The Junior Highland Games.



Hamilton Caledonian Pipe Band.



The massed pipe bands assemble to march in the Evening Tattoo.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER



Going for speed in the Axeman's Chopping Carnival.



The Farmer's Walk - walking as far as possible while carrying two 50kg weights.

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# Thames boy in the thick of Tarawera eruption



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

## PART ONE

A tremendous noise reminiscent of a cannon blast shook the Thames Valley in the early hours of June 10, 1886.

By dawn news had filtered through that the sound had been the violent eruption of Mt Tarawera around 10 miles from the village of Te Wairoa, near Rotorua.

The village, with its hotels and stores, was the gateway to the Eighth Wonder of the World – the pink and white terraces on the shores of Lake Rotomahana – stunning stairways of silica descending into thermal springs.

When daylight came, smoke and steam rising from the neighbourhood of the massive explosion could be distinctly seen from the top of Thames Valley ranges. Dust and ashes fell as far as Te Aroha and Karangahake.

Telegrams detailing the disaster caused great alarm and

the *Thames Advertiser* office was besieged by an anxious throng. One victim was said to be Miss Bagnall of Turua but proved not be. Mr Crosbie, of Thames, who had been working at Tikitere on a new hotel had a narrow escape.

But somewhere in the middle of the disaster was Charles ‘Charlie’ Sutherland Haszard, a five-year-old boy from Thames.

Around 10 days earlier, strange disturbances on Lake Tarawera had unnerved local Māori. Tourists were taken across the lake to the geothermal wonderland by guides in canoes or whaleboats.

A short walk over a land bridge to Lake Rotomahana was rewarded by the sight of the White Terrace, a large formation covering three hectares resembling cascading water turned to stone descending 30 metres.

They then crossed Lake Rotomahana to the salmon coloured Pink Terrace which descended about 22 metres over 100 metres. Tourists bathed in the Pink Terrace pools which had various temperatures and depths.

But by 1872 the Pink Terrace was being greatly spoiled by visitors scribbling their names on it, and the tourism in general was infuriating Tūhoto Ariki, the tribal priest of Te Wairoa. Believed to be 100 years old, he came from a long line of high priests and was both respected and feared.



The Haszard family outside their home in Te Wairoa, 1885. Photo: SUPPLIED

He was said to have powers over the air and the underworld and the tribe, afraid of him, treated him as an outcast.

Te Wairoa Māori charged £2 to be rowed across Lake Rotomahana and £5 to make a sketch or take a photograph.

The tribe became prosperous but with this came greed and the ravages of alcohol.

Tūhoto predicted disaster but was ignored.

The principal guide was Sophia Hinerangi, who had taken thousands of tourists over the lake to the terraces. In late July 1886, while ferrying a small group across the lake, the waters suddenly rose and an eerie whimpering sound was heard.

The group then saw another canoe in the distance which appeared to be a large war canoe, full of Māori dressed for a fu-

neral, some with the heads of dogs and others with their hair detailed with feathers of the Huia and White Heron.

It came near enough for Mrs Sise of Dunedin to see the sun glittering on a paddle.

It was hailed but there was no answer and the phantom canoe then vanished.

Young Charlie Haszard was blissfully unaware of the strange phenomenon occurring at Te Wairoa.

His mother, Janet, had died suddenly the year before at Thames leaving her husband, William, with six children under the age of 12.

Now Charlie was staying with his father's brother, Charles and his family at Te Wairoa.

Several branches of the Haszard family had immigrated to New Zealand from Prince

Edward Island, Canada.

Starting in 1859, several voyages were made in ships specifically constructed for the migration.

Charles and his wife Amelia, who were second cousins, initially lived in Bombay, Auckland eventually settling at Te Wairoa where Charles became headmaster of the Maori school.

They lived in the schoolhouse with their children Clara, 22, Ina, 16, Adolphus, 10, Edna, 6, and Mona, 4. The Haszards also took in guests and on the night of June 9 these were surveyor John Cunningham Blythe and Harry Lundis, his assistant. Old Mary Te Monti, a local Māori woman, was also at the residence.

It was Amelia's birthday and the group enjoyed a pleasant evening ending with the surveyors telling of the occultation of Mars with the Moon.

By 11pm all were in bed but around 1.15am the household was roused by an ‘earth quiver’ and a rumbling noise. Charles Hazard, going to the verandah, exclaimed it was the most wonderful sight he had ever seen. An ink-black cloud hovered over Mt Tarawera, with lightning and balls of fire shooting out of it.

John Blyth said it was a cloud charged with electricity, but it was something altogether quite different...

**PART TWO WILL FEATURE IN NEXT WEEK'S VALLEY PROFILE**

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# It's okay to slow down, but don't stop

**OPINION**

By MICHAEL WILKES



Last year, I set a goal: to run up the Pinnacles.

It's seven kilometers of pure uphill climb, followed by a punishing descent that feels like your knees are being jackhammered with every step.

Thinking about it now, I wonder why anyone would willingly sign up for that.

Determined, I started run-

ning three to four times a week, gradually building up my stamina.

On January 2, I decided it was time for a test run - not quite the Pinnacles, but a 15-kilometre bush track with less climbing.

Two hours later, I limped back to the car, my knee shot and my body thoroughly spent.

That night, a cold hit me like a freight train and lingered for weeks.

The fallout was bigger than I expected. I stopped exercising altogether, and with that,

my morning routine of reading, reflecting, and moving my body fell apart.

The lack of structure led to a slump that felt harder to climb out of than the trail I'd attempted.

A friend of mine, who's a personal trainer, once said, "You can slow down, but don't stop".

His words came back to me during that slump.

For some of us, a full stop can derail everything. We're like ships: a rudder is useless if the ship isn't moving. Without movement, motivation be-

comes hard to find.

Eventually, I forced myself back into routine.

I'm running again - though carefully - and slowly rebuilding my habits. My knee still needs time, and my energy isn't fully back, but I already feel worlds better.

For me, those weeks of stopping altogether served as a powerful reminder: it's okay to slow down, but stopping entirely comes at a cost.

Life will throw challenges at us - whether it's injuries, sickness, or setbacks.

But if we can keep moving, even at a slower pace, we'll maintain momentum to steer our way forward.

So, wherever you're at, take the time you need. Slow the pace if you have to. Just don't stop.

*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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# Rural Life

# Llamas lead trek through farm history

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

In a small paddock nestled among the hills in Kuaeranga Valley, Lorenza Devcich is feeding her four llamas.

The doe-eyed creatures are eager to come close, and Lorenza chats away to them as we talk.

Stella, Fern, Libby and Abby are part of Lorenza's unique menagerie at Devcich Farmstay. They are also the stars of Lorenza's llama treks - a 90-minute walk to a private swimming hole, accompanied by the graceful mammals on leads.

"We follow this tramline up and along the river up to the end of the property, which gives you lovely views looking up to those hills close up," Lorenza says.

"I've been doing it on and off for the guests and it was such a hit, I have decided to open it up a bit, by appointment only."

There's a bit of a scuffle as we talk, while the llamas jockey for position at our buckets. They're real characters, Lorenza says.

"Stella's got a personality of her own and if she decides that she doesn't want to walk, she'll just stop and put the brakes on. And she's even sat down," she says.



Lorenza Devcich and her llamas on her Kuaeranga Valley farm.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

"Usually when she sits, I've got to just leave her. There's no way, I've sat on her and all sorts and she won't get up. So we just leave her behind and then she catches up when she's had her little protest.

"But she loves it when we go, I usually walk them up to the swimming hole and she'll get in

the water."

Along with the llamas, Lorenza has a herd of Scottish Highland cows, some Damara sheep, and a whole flock of interesting birds - peacocks, partridges, Lady Amherst hens, guinea fowl, golden pheasants, two emus, and a variety of interesting hen breeds.

"I've always liked antiques and character stuff rather than modern," she says.

"And with animals and birds, I just like something that's a little bit different, you know, that you don't see on a farm every day."

The whole farm is filled with things you don't see every day.

A category one historical property, it was established by Lorenza's grandfather Simun and his two brothers when they immigrated from Dalmatia, Croatia, in the early 1900s. Simun and his family ran a number of enterprises on the property. Lorenza returned to Thames in 2005 to help her father, and has been working hard ever since on restoring and repairing the original buildings.

"When I first took over, you couldn't walk around this island in the middle," she says of the toolshed.

"It was full of rubbish. I had a big skip out there and all the bent pipe and the rusty nails and stuff that couldn't be used or wasn't antique - out it went. I had three piles: rubbish, antiques, stuff I could use.

"I think I've improved it, if anything. Hopefully keep the history going for a bit longer."

There's a woolshed, kauri mill, toolshed, blacksmithery, and winery on the premises, alongside the three-bedroom homestead and a one-bedroom cottage. Lorenza has memories of the mill running as late as the 80s, and she worked in the winery as a child.

"My father, Ivan, [was] a winemaker. This particular

CONTINUED ON P11

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# Rural Life



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** The trading post is filled with historic artefacts from the property; Lorenza holds a piece of kauri gum from the trading post; Scottish highland cows. ALICE PARMINTER

CONTINUED FROM P10

shed was built in 1931," she says. "My job was filling the bottles or cleaning them. And it was dreadful stuff, even as a teenager. I couldn't stand it."

Also onsite is a trading post, looking just as it would have 100 years ago.

"My grandfather would trade with the gum diggers and the loggers in the camps up by the Pinnacles," she says as we poke around in the trading post among ancient tools and dusty bottles.

"A lot of them didn't have any money so he'd give it to them on credit, and then he'd buy the gum back."

We emerge into the sunshine once more to watch Lorenza's birds stroll around the lawns, and the llamas

crowding around the fence across the way.

Much of the charm of the place, it seems, comes from Lorenza herself - full of stories of her family and history that brings the place to life.

I came back to Thames in 2005 when Dad's health started failing. When I got back home I thought, this isn't such a bad place to be. I felt at peace actually," she says.

"It's a lot of work and [the animals] keep me really busy [but] I'm just about to the stage now that I'm happy with it.

"I've done my bit with it, saving most of the buildings, working harder than I ever have."



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# Rural Life

## Velvetleaf a risk to all landowners who crop - WRC

Any farmer who harvests or buys crops risks inviting one of the world's most invasive pest plants on to their property – to their detriment.

Velvetleaf, which is spread by machinery or via contaminated maize, is currently found on 105 properties in nine regions of the North Island: 61 in the Waikato, 20 in Auckland, 15 in Manawatu-Whanganui, three in Hawke's Bay, two in Wellington, and one each in Northland, Taranaki, Gisborne and Bay of Plenty.

North Island velvetleaf co-ordinator Sally Linton said the issue was that farmers bought maize from all over the country and even internationally, often sight unseen, and contractors who harvested crops often worked multiple properties across large areas.

"It's so invasive that if your neighbour has it and you are sharing equipment then you're likely to get it if that machine is not cleaned. To be honest, no farmer that crops is free from risk – and that is the message we need to get out. Biosecurity starts at the gate. It'll save you a lot of headaches."

Velvetleaf was first found in New Zealand in the early 2000s, with infestations of the cropping weed mostly concentrated around Auckland and Waikato. Its prevalence was exacerbated by the fodder beet incursion of 2016-17 and there



Velvetleaf seedheads and flower. Photo: WRC is now at least one infected property in every region of the North Island.

"The discovery of velvetleaf on a property can significantly impact farming businesses as cropping is difficult and more costly," Sally said. "So, while there are rules to prevent its spread from properties, we also do everything we can to support landowners who are affected."

Landowners are responsible for destroying velvetleaf, which is an unwanted organism under the Biosecurity Act, and all machinery leaving an infested property must be cleaned.

**DETAILS: Suspected sightings of velvetleaf should be reported to your regional council or Sally Linton at [sally.linton.nz@gmail.com](mailto:sally.linton.nz@gmail.com).**

## Judd's awkward lump



By Stephanie Fulton

Meet Judd, (pictured below), a 9-year-old black mastiff who recently visited our Waihi clinic as his owners had noticed a lump on his left hind foot.

Upon his initial visit, a sample from the lump was taken using a small needle to extract cells, which were then examined under a microscope. The diagnosis was a Mast Cell Tumour (MCT), a potentially malignant type of growth. They account for approximately 20 per cent of skin masses and can occur anywhere. Given the nature of MCTs, surgical removal was recommended.

Surgery to remove the tumour took place the following week. Typically, wide margins are taken around such tumours, but this was impossible due to its location on Judd's foot. The limited spare skin meant the incision couldn't

be fully closed, leaving a portion of the wound open. Judd's foot was carefully bandaged to cover the open wound, and the area was monitored and rebandaged every 4-5 days. The MCT was sent to the lab to ensure the whole mass had been removed and to grade the tumour.

Judd's owners did a great job with his care after the surgery, ensuring his bandage stayed clean and dry. The wound healed within approximately three weeks, throughout which Judd was a fantastic patient, sitting calmly through every bandage change, enjoying treats and head scratches. The lab results brought great news: the entire tumour had been successfully removed, and it was classified as low grade, meaning it was unlikely to have spread (metastasised) or recur in the same spot.

Judd's story highlights the importance of getting skin lumps checked promptly. Early detection and treatment ensure our furry friends stay healthy and happy.

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Photos: 1 - surgery; 2 - four days post-op; 3 - two weeks post-op, 4 - four weeks post-op. SUPPLIED



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187

HARD

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# JUMBO CROSSWORD

207

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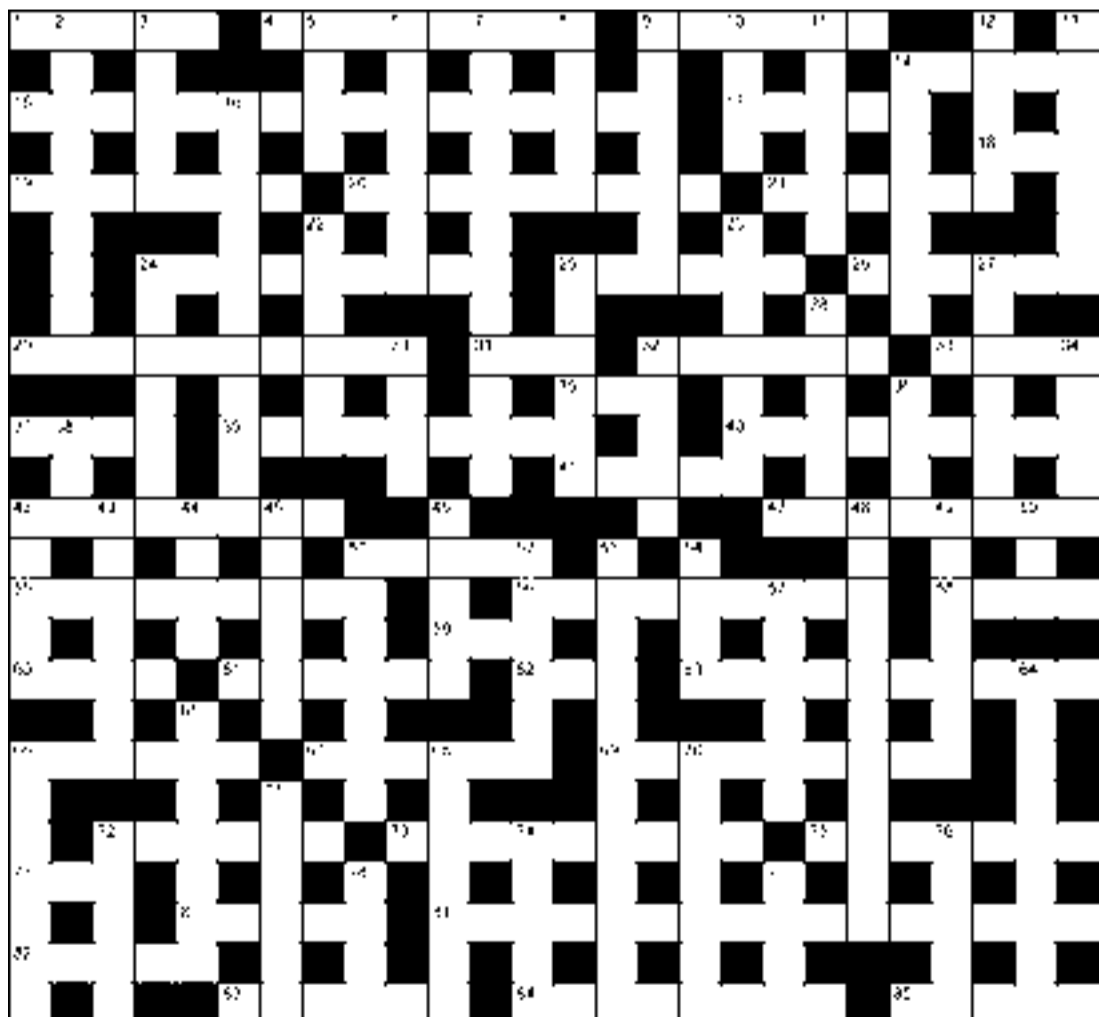
- 1 Last (5)
- 4 Agitates (6,2)
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- 17 Theatrical entertainment (5)
- 18 Knight's title (3)
- 19 Waxy colouring sticks (7)
- 20 Ancestors (9)
- 21 Chase (6)
- 24 Free-falling jumpers from aircraft (9)
- 25 Zeal (6)
- 26 Winner's prize (6)
- 29 Racing dogs (10)
- 31 Brick-carrying device (3)
- 32 Keen discernment (6)
- 33 Skin mark (4)
- 35 Tavern (3)
- 37 Throb painfully (4)
- 39 French heroine (4,2,3)
- 40 At or nearest the top (9)
- 41 Conditions (5)
- 42 Took for granted (8)
- 47 Ritual (8)
- 51 Fourth Greek letter (5)
- 55 Of great beauty and delicacy (9)
- 56 Dubious, unbelieving (9)
- 58 Pen tips (4)

**DOWN**

- 2 Heir (9)
- 3 Great pain (5)
- 5 Indirect suggestion (4)
- 6 Aperture in door (7)
- 7 Greatly superior; very much in advance of (7,5)
- 8 Preserved plum (5)
- 9 Commanded (7)
- 10 Cereal heads (4)
- 11 Eat (6)
- 12 Make happen (5)
- 13 Dry (7)
- 14 Sobered (anag) (7)

**ACROSS**

- 16 Easy earnings (5,3,3)
- 22 Austrian capital (6)
- 23 Cloud type (7)
- 24 Timidity (7)
- 25 Habitual user (6)
- 27 Wind instrument (7)
- 28 Place of worship (6)
- 30 Store (4)
- 32 Annoyed (5)
- 34 Attempt again (5)
- 36 Gratis (4)
- 38 Mongrel (3)
- 42 Fabric fold (5)
- 43 Queries (anag)(7)
- 44 Component part (4)
- 45 Mystery (6)
- 46 Spherical map (5)
- 48 Practical guideline (4,2,5)
- 49 Grand residence (7)
- 50 Capture (3)
- 51 Claimed (anag)(7)
- 52 Attack (6)
- 53 Memorise (5,2,5)
- 54 Male deer (4)
- 57 Frank (6)
- 64 Netherlands port (9)
- 65 Greed (7)
- 66 Conceal (7)
- 68 Long-lasting (7)
- 70 Actor's assistant (7)
- 71 Of slender build (6)
- 72 American state (5)
- 74 Snow house (5)
- 76 Coarse (5)
- 78 Seize (4)
- 79 Long ago (4)



**PREVIOUS SOLUTION**

ACROSS: 1 Musty, 4 Make short work of, 14 Clasp, 15 Lingo, 16 Lascivious, 17 Prior, 19 All, 20 Guarded, 21 Burnished, 22 Burial, 25 Enlighten, 27 Tenant, 28 Felony, 33 Scrutineer, 35 Mar, 36 Shifty, 37 Star, 39 Put, 41 Nearing, 42 Jingle, 43 On the ball, 44 Defer, 45 Employee, 50 No, 51 Ecstatic, 55 Canoe, 58 Shipshape, 59 Garlic, 60 Strolls, 61 Owl, 63 Debt, 64 Classy, 65 Ewe, 66 First thing, 68 Keeper, 69 Credit, 71 Solitaire, 76 Wrench, 77 Cautioned, 79 Ignited, 81 Cue, 84 Parka, 85 Originally, 86 Vague, 87 Eight, 88 Behind the scenes, 89 Steed.

DOWN: 2 Unique, 3 Tiger, 5 Away, 6 Exclude, 7 Havana, 8 Roots, 9 Western, 10 Rope, 11 Odious, 12 Fatal, 13 Apology, 14 Cruiser, 18 Deficiency, 23 Thief, 24 Incisor, 26 Neutral, 27 Torpedo, 29 Outcast, 30 Scream, 31 Image, 32 Static, 34 Raid, 36 Stuff, 38 Relic, 40 Feat, 45 Eased, 46 Pliable, 47 Oust, 48 Enable, 49 Enjoy, 50 Neglect, 52 Set at large, 53 Another, 54 Island, 55 Censure, 56 Greet, 57 Tiff, 62 Frail, 67 Receipt, 68 Kitchen, 70 Diamond, 72 Operate, 73 Accrue, 74 Copies, 75 Secure, 76 Wedge, 78 Thigh, 80 Inapt, 82 Taxi, 83 Flue.

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Kickdown chaos

Multitudes of music and motorcycle-mad punters were bathed in sunshine at the Kickdown Festival 2025 at Joe's Farm, Whangamatā, from February 6 to 8. Motorcyclists were invited to take part in the Coromandel loop ride or CFMoto adventure ride followed by an open fire barbecue meat festival on February 7, and the downtown bike show in Whangamatā township on the morning of February 8. Back on the festival grounds, people were able to get amongst the fun and festivities such as food stalls, barber shops, tattoo artists, freestyle motocross displays, motorcycle stalls, NZ Stage and Screen Combat School displays and more. But the main event on day three was the afternoon concert, which kicked off with Dick Move, followed by The D4, Th' Dudes, Kora and wrapped up with a performance by headliners Shihad. Reporter **DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA** was there to snap some of the action on concert day.



Bogan burnouts.



Matt and Ryan Van Sant.



Juanita Tau and Duane Dawson.



Shihad performs for the crowd.

Photos: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA



Whangamatā locals, left, Victoria and Jess, with Kharma from Papamoa.



Anthony Symonds of Rotorua caught the drumstick from The D4.

## Car show set to roar into Paeroa with Elvis in tow

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

The Rotary Paeroa Annual Car and Motorcycle Show and Swapmeet is heading to Paeroa Domain on February 22, and is set to be a bonanza of all things petrol.

This year, for the first time Rotary is combining their two regular events, the Vintage and Classic Car Show and the V8 Show, into one big extravaganza.

Vintage, classic and V8 cars will be on display along with trucks, pickups, hotrods, bikes, caravans and other vehicles of interest.

The annual swapmeet will take place at the same time, with stallholders bringing their vehicle-re-

lated wares. There will be market and food stalls, activities, demonstrations, kid's entertainment, raffles, and the much-sought-after prizes for each car category.

To keep the crowd entertained, Rotary have called on some 50s-themed entertainment - rock'n'roll dancers, a pin-up fashion show, and Paeroa's own Elvis, Trevor Needham.

"I'm going to bring several eras of Elvis through the decades, from about 1960 up until when he passed in 1977. We're going to be doing some country music as well," Trevor said.

"I'm really hoping that we can make it something to remember."

Trevor will be wearing three different costumes during the show, each weighing 15kg and worth around \$5000. He said he was excited to bring his show back to his hometown.

"I lived in Paeroa for a long time and to bring this [show] home again, it touches me," Trevor said.

"It's important for people to know how much I love being a part of that community and now to come back with this show after all these years, it's a big part of me."

Rotary president Katie McLaren said the car show was shaping up to be a fantastic day, and said combining the two events made sense.

"The capacity of the club is

changing - a lot of people were getting sick and retiring and going away, so we just thought we'd combine it into just having one event per year, one big car event, one big fundraiser," she said.

The show will be Rotary's major fundraiser for the year, allowing the club to continue supporting the community in Paeroa, Waihi and the Plains.

"A lot of our funding goes towards supporting youth, so we have put a fair amount of money into the local schools and college," Katie said.

"Before Christmas we agreed to give some money to Paeroa Central School towards their new play-

ground surfaces; the Ohinemuri Kahui Ako towards a youth support programme, [and] we've provided some funding towards the Paeroa College Academic Scholarships as well as some funding to the Santa Parade for the Business Association.

"We're always looking for worthwhile community projects."

**DETAILS: Rotary Paeroa Annual Car and Motorcycle Show and Swapmeet, February 22, 10am at Paeroa Domain. Entry \$5pp, vehicles \$10 each (including driver), under 15s free.**



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**Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy (125 mins)** M. Bridget navigates life as a widow & single mom with the help of family, friends, and a former lover. On the apps, she's pursued by a younger man.

**The Room Next Door (107 mins)** M. Starring Tilda Swinton. Martha's strained relationship with her mother fractures when a misunderstanding drives them apart. Their mutual friend Ingrid sees both sides of the rift.

**A Complete Unknown (141 mins)** M. At the Newport Folk Festival in 1965, a young Bob Dylan shakes up his act on the folk music scene by going electric and singing rock as the voice of a generation.

**Maria (123 mins)** M. Follows the life story of the world's greatest opera singer, Maria Callas, during her final days in 1970s Paris. Captivating performance by Angelina Jolie. International co-production.

**The Haka Party Incident (90 mins)** E. True story about a group of young activists who sought to stop university students performing a parody of haka each capping week. A largely forgotten event in our history.

**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.

**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.

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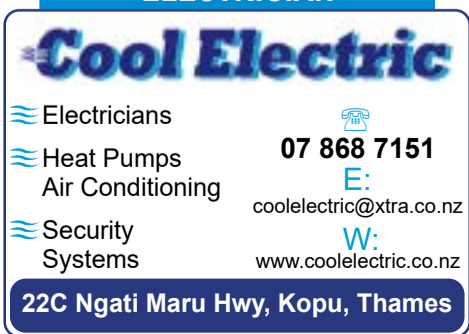
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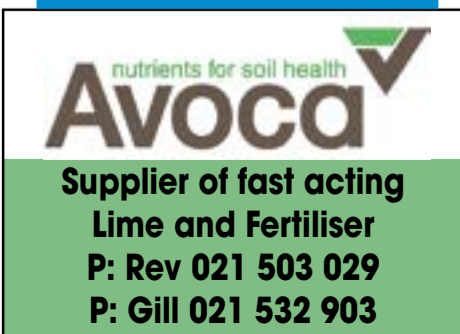
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## BOWLS

Paeroa Bowls recently celebrated its fours champions.

The final day of the competition on February 3 was a close encounter, played in great spirit and well-fought by both teams. There were only a few points in it right to the end. Congratulations to Kevin Lockley, Peter Rowling, John Pullan and John Tarrant. Commiserations to Colin Demler, John Ridings, Rick Eastman and Lance Trow, for keeping the game so close as it could've gone either way. A very enjoyable game to watch.

Congratulations must also go to John Pullan after being in the winning team, as this means he has now made the 100 club, made up of 90 club championships at Glenfield and Paeroa Bowling Clubs and 10 Thames Valley titles. Well done John for reaching this milestone, this will be hard to beat. - Martin Douglas



## In Brief

### HIGHWAY CLOSURE

State Highway 25, the Thames Coast Rd was closed at the Russek Rd intersection near Kereta while emergency services attend a crash reported at 12.45pm on February 7. Police said initial indications were that there had been serious injuries in the crash involving a vehicle and a motorcycle. Motorists were advised to avoid the area and expect delays. NZTA said the crash was cleared and the road reopened at 2:30pm, however, motorists were advised to allow extra time for delays in the area to ease.

### SUPERHERO EVENT

A Real Life Superheroes event is set to fly into Paeroa Domain on March 2, 10am-2pm. The fun day out, run by Hau-raki District Council, will celebrate the everyday heroes who keep us safe: Fire and Emergency NZ, Hato Hone St John, Police, and other amazing emergency services. There will be family-friendly games, live demos, and interactive education. Attendees can learn how to prepare for emergencies, or sign up to volunteer and build their emergency skills. Entry is free, and there will be a free sausage sizzle and bottled water.

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### NEW DISPLAYS

Thames Museum has three new displays. *Remembering the Telegram*, *Summer scenes* by Herbert Rogers c1937, a display of watercolours given to Dr Hetherington to cover services rendered. Finally, the museum is calling for information about its *Tāre Māori / Māori Doll* display - a 1960s doll from the S Hall Collection, surrounded by carvings by Puriri School children.

## CALL THE EXPERTS - Continued

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**CLASSIFIEDS** Deadline 12noon Monday

Death Notice	Church Notice	Gardening	Public Notices	Handyman Services	Situations Vacant
<p><b>GUNNER, Joyce Velma (Joy):</b> Peacefully at Thames Hospital (after a short illness), on 3rd February 2025; in her 79th year. Dearly loved wife of Tom (Paeroa), dearly loved Mum of Lorraine and Noel Hutchings (Whakatane), Desmond (Hamilton), Deborah (Whakatane), Denise and Ralph Stammers (Paeroa). Cherished Nana of Lisa Marie Stammers, and great-granddaughter Lucy. <i>"We will all miss you so much Mum"</i>. A celebration of Joy's life was held at Twentymans Grahamstown Chapel, Thames, on Saturday 8th February, followed by private cremation. Condolences may be sent to Tom Gunner, 52A Puke Road Paeroa 3600.</p> <p><b>TWENTYMANS</b></p>	<p><b>Waihi Bible Chapel</b> Ph. Num 021 522 668 Come read the Word. Learn Scripture (King James) You want the truth, it's all here. Come help us read and learn.</p> <p><b>Builder</b> <b>Reno's</b>, decking, fencing. For free quote ph Phil 021 088 63559</p> <p><b>For Lease</b> Yards for lease, Thames and Kopu. Suitable for trucks, vehicles or trade business base. Ph 027 440 7101</p> <p><b>For Sale</b> Weightlifting set for sale. \$300 Ph: Ted 021 167 6777</p>	<p><b>STUMP GRINDING.</b> All sizes, all areas. Thames based. Ph 021 060 7659</p> <p><b>Painter</b> Professional roof painter. Mario Kerkhof 027 961 4055</p> <p><b>Pets</b> <b>KENNELS</b> WAITAKARURU Boarding Kennels and Cattery. "A great place for your pet to stay." Shane &amp; Sherrin Hansen. Ph: 07-867-3344, SH25 Waitakaruru, RD6 Thames</p> <p><b>Roof Cleaning</b> <b>BURROWS ROOF CLEANING</b> EST 1971. For moss, mould etc removal. Industrial chems. Gutters cleaned, paths, drives, fences etc. Covering Paeroa, Waihi, Waihi Beach, Te Aroha. Ph Murray 0800 287 7697</p>	<p><b>AUDITIONS</b> "Taking Off" by Roger Hall 4 female roles 40 - 50 year olds Paeroa Little Theatre 1 Francis St 4.30pm Sat. Feb 15th</p> <p><b>Hauraki RSA Inc and the Hauraki RSA Poppy Trust</b> Annual General Meeting to be held on Tuesday 25th March at the Hauraki RSA Club, 14 Pipiroa Road, Ngatea at 7.00pm</p>	<p><b>THAMES HANDYMAN &amp; BUILDING SERVICES</b> Building, home maintenance &amp; general gardening services <b>Phone: Fleur or Crighton • 0273 913 283</b></p> <p><b>Storage</b> <b>TOTAL STORAGE LTD</b> <b>KEREPEHI / PAEROA</b> 10FT CON. \$125 per mnth 20FT CON. \$240 per mnth T&amp;C's apply <b>021 67 67 99</b> <b>info@totalstorage.co.nz</b></p>	<p><b>Staff Required for Gull Thames Service Station</b> 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 <a href="mailto:cx01839@xtra.co.nz">cx01839@xtra.co.nz</a> or drop your CV in. GULL &amp; Rockgas Thames 208 Pollen Street Thames 3500</p> <p><b>Club Manager /Secretary/Treasurer - part time</b> We have this position coming available due to retirement at the Ohinemuri Club in Paeroa. For a more in-depth job description and applications, email <a href="mailto:dinott@xtra.co.nz">dinott@xtra.co.nz</a></p>
<p><b>Church Notice</b> <b>Assembly of God</b> 10am Sundays. Scout Hall. Baker St, Waihi</p> <p><b>CLASSIFIEDS</b> Call Nikki: Ph 022 130 3885</p>	<p><b>For Sale</b> Heading pups. Black &amp; white, 4 mths old. Ph 07 867 3119 or 021 112 7927</p> <p><b>Handyman</b> An experienced handyman covering all trades with over 20 years exp building trade. Please contact Laurie King 0212510246. ktproperty.com</p>	<p><b>Storage</b> <b>Thames Valley Storage</b> – secure, dry units available, two sizes. Call Trev 027 4076966</p>	<p><b>Storage</b> <b>STORAGE KOPU, PAEROA TE AWAMUTU</b> "New Units" Ph 027 440 7101 07 868 3033 Safe n Sound Storage <a href="http://www.safestorage.co.nz">www.safestorage.co.nz</a></p> <p><b>Storage Unlimited</b> 25 Ngati Maru Highway Kopu, Thames Clean, secure, dry Units available 7 x 3.6m and 7 x 5.5m <b>Phone 07 868 9944</b></p>	<p><b>PAPER RUNNERS</b> We have a vacancies for paper runners in Waihi &amp; Thames. Immediate Start... <b>Please contact Geoff: admin@valleyprofile.co.nz for more information.</b></p> <p><b>PAPER DELIVERIES</b> 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: <b>NGATEA</b> - Ngatea 4 Square, HDC Council Offices , Ngatea Post Shop, Z Petrol Station, Ngatea Purple Dairy <b>PAEROA</b> - Moores Caltex, Countdown, HDC Council offices, Takenote, Paeroa 4 Square, Paeroa Information Hub <b>WAIHI</b> - Maybelle Superette, New World, Toyworld/Takenote, Information Centre, Daffodil Dairy, Waihi Supervalue <b>THAMES</b> - 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 <b>TURUA</b>: Turua Dairy <b>KEREPEHI</b>: Kerepehi Dairy</p>	

# BAYLEYS



**Coromandel** 1296 Manaia Road

## Home and income with breathtaking views

Experience rural living with breathtaking Coromandel views on 38.9ha (more or less). This property blends rustic charm, modern comforts, and income potential. The main four-bedroom home features 70sqm (more or less) of decking, an open-plan lounge/dining area, and a private deck. "The Cottage" offers a self-contained retreat, earning \$200+ per night on Airbnb. With 12ha (more or less) of QE II protected bush ensuring privacy and 180sqm (more or less) of shedding for equipment, this is a unique lifestyle opportunity.

bayleys.co.nz/2630022

38.98<sub>ha</sub> 4 2

**Auction (unless sold prior)** 11am, Thu 6 Mar 2025

96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

**View** 12-12.45pm Sun 16 Feb

& 12.30-1.15pm Sun 23 Feb

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

**Glenn Tanner** 027 486 2399

glenn.tanner@bayleys.co.nz

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MH REALTY LTD, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008



Boundary lines are indicative only

**Waiomu** 17 Waiomu Valley Road

## Where sea views meet comfort

Are you looking for a place to create lasting memories just moments from the beach? Here's your chance to secure a slice of paradise on a generous 766sqm (more or less) section. This home has three bedrooms and one family bathroom. The kitchen overlooks the spacious dining and lounge, making it easy to cook and entertain at the same time. Step outside to a beautiful outdoor space that blends perfectly with the natural surroundings. It's an ideal spot to relax or entertain, whether you're hosting a barbecue or enjoying a quiet evening. The property also includes one garden shed for extra storage, one single garage and plenty of parking, all just a short drive to Thames township.

bayleys.co.nz/2180765



3 1 1 1

**Auction (unless sold prior)** 11am, Thu 6 Mar 2025

96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

**View** by appointment

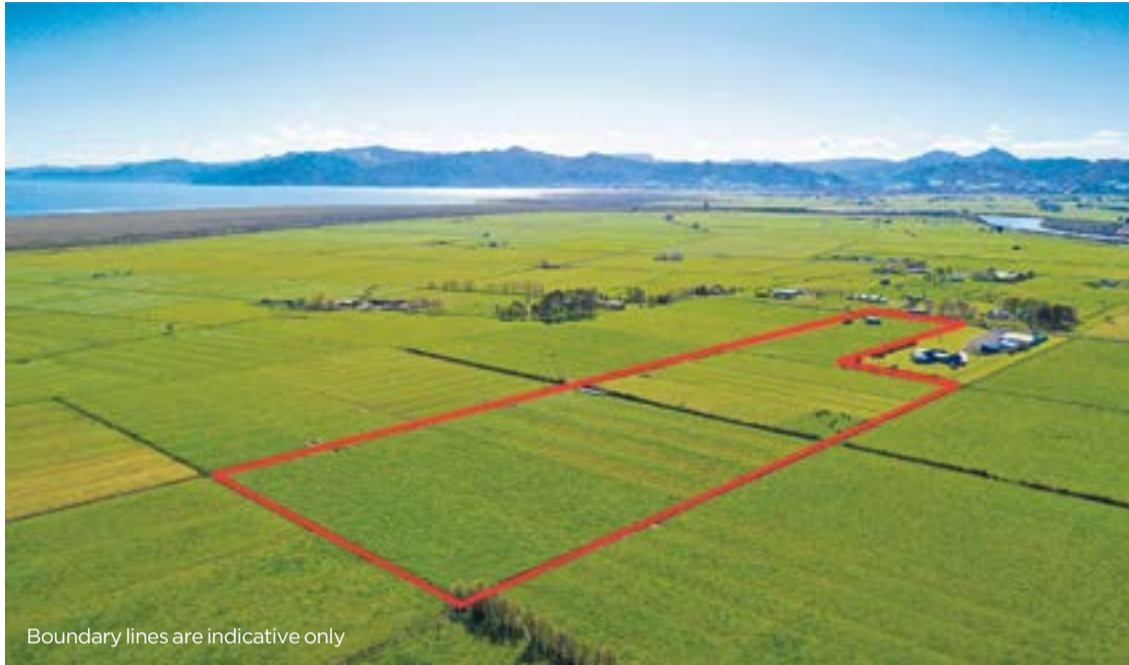
**Glenn Tanner** 027 486 2399

glenn.tanner@bayleys.co.nz

**Maddy Aislabie** 027 780 4389

maddy.aislabie@bayleys.co.nz

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Boundary lines are indicative only



**Pipiroa 45 Arawa Street**

**Flat, fertile block awaits buyers**

Up for grabs is this flat, fertile, 6.1574 ha (more or less) block. The current owner is using it to graze approximately 20 head of mixed-age cows all year round. This block is ready for you to hit the ground running, with power available. A large 9x6m three-bay implement shed, built in 2005, provides ample storage for toys and farm equipment. Water and power connection is readily available at the boundary on council supply, with both titles metered together. The block is divided into 9 paddocks for ease of stock management. Whether you're envisioning a small hobby farm, growing your own produce, or enjoying the peace of open spaces, this block offers a canvas for your dreams. Call us today!

bayleys.co.nz/26300018

6.1 ha

**For Sale by Deadline Private Treaty (unless sold prior)**  
2pm, Wed 19 Feb 2025

**Phone for viewing times**

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

**Seth Roe** 027 320 6937 seth.roe@bayleys.co.nz

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Boundary lines are indicative only



**Paeroa 53A Norwood Road**

**A private oasis in the heart of Paeroa**

Discover a spacious family home on 1,879 sqm (more or less) in the heart of Paeroa, offering privacy and convenience. Tucked at the end of a private driveway, this four-bedroom Lockwood home features open-plan living, a cosy conservatory, and window seating, flowing to a sun-soaked, north-facing deck. The master suite boasts an ensuite and walk-in wardrobe, while three additional bedrooms share a secondary lounge opening to a sheltered patio—ideal for alfresco dining. Just 1.3 km from Paeroa's town centre, with Hamilton and Mount Maunganui within 85 km, this home blends space and charm.

bayleys.co.nz/26300017

1,879 sqm 4 2

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

**View** 3.30-4pm Sun 16 Feb

**Seth Roe** 027 320 6937

seth.roe@bayleys.co.nz

**Connor Davis** 027 496 4622

connor.davis@bayleysngatea.co.nz

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# BAYLEYS



## Waihi 134 Pukewera Road

### Chasing Waterfalls

Offering 84 hectares (more or less) of mixed contour land, this well-located property is a serious support block for dairy farmers or an ideal beef grazing unit. With approximately 65–70 hectares effective, it comfortably carries an average of 160 yearling beef grazers currently and 40 breeding cows, highlighting its consistent productivity. The land's versatility includes around 10 hectares of mowable contour, supporting supplementary feed production. A strong farming history underpins this block, with regular fertiliser application ensuring ongoing pasture performance and productivity. Adding further appeal is a beautifully renovated four-bedroom home, modernised in 2022. Call today!

bayleys.co.nz/26300015

84.8<sub>ha</sub> 

**Auction (unless sold prior)** 11am, Thu 27 Feb 2025  
 96 Ulster Street, Hamilton  
**View** 11am-12pm Thu 20 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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## Huntly 251 Bain Road

### Embrace the country lifestyle

Escape to the countryside and enjoy rural living with this exceptional lifestyle property. Surrounded by tranquil landscapes, this 8,008sqm (more or less) section offers a unique opportunity to create your dream retreat away from the city's hustle. Whether building a spacious home, adding a workshop, or starting a hobby farm, this property accommodates all your lifestyle goals. There's room for a garden, orchard, or swimming pool, all with stunning views of rolling hills and open skies. Power is at the boundary, and consented plans are ready. Protective covenants safeguard your investment while allowing creative freedom. Don't miss the chance to embrace New Zealand's countryside.

bayleys.co.nz/2316240

8,008<sub>sqm</sub> 

**Asking Price** \$355,000  
**Phone for viewing times**  
**Karl Davis** 0508 83 83 83  
 karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz  
**Peter Kelly** 027 432 4278  
 peter.kelly@bayleys.co.nz

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**Whitianga A44/73 South East Highway**

**Semi-retire in style**

- Motivated vendors ready to move on
- Management rights until 2057
- Three-bedroom manager apartment

Our vendors are ready for their next chapter, and instructions are clear: all previous pricing is to be disregarded. On offer is a unique lifestyle opportunity combining business and pleasure with the management rights for Sovereign Pier on the Waterways and a spacious three-bedroom manager's apartment. Whether you're ready to wind down your career or seeking a lifestyle change with income potential, this opportunity is hard to beat.

bayleys.co.nz/2201754

161<sub>sqm</sub>

**Tender (unless sold prior)**  
Closing 4pm, Fri 14 Mar 2025  
7 The Esplanade, Whitianga

**View** by appointment

**Josh Smith** 027 229 8865  
josh.smith@bayleys.co.nz

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**Whitianga 26 Albert Street**

**Retired vendors require a sale**

- Multi tenanted investment offers split risk, returning \$104,580+GST and outgoings
- 508sqm (more or less) pedestrian core zone
- Vendors require a sale due to retirement

26 Albert Street supported by a mix of reputable tenancies boasts a strong anchor tenant, Snapper Jacks, who capitalises on its prominent corner location in the Whitianga CBD. With potential for future development, the property offers an excellent opportunity for investors seeking a well-positioned asset with strong income and upside potential.

bayleys.co.nz/2201661

508<sub>sqm</sub> 740<sub>sqm</sub>

**Auction (unless sold prior)** 12pm, Thu 13 Mar 2025  
96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

**View** by appointment

**Josh Smith** 027 229 8865  
josh.smith@bayleys.co.nz

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# BAYLEYS

## NEW LISTING





### Kerepehi 27-31 Reta Crescent

## Prestigious industrial investment

- Nationally recognised tenant returning \$296,402pa+GST/OPEX
- Modern premises built to a high standard for tenant
- Strategically located within the golden triangle of trade

This property is impeccably designed to meet modern industrial standards, featuring a secure 9,908sqm (more or less) site with substantial security fencing. The 2,520sqm (approximately) high-stud warehouse includes a high-spec office fit-out and multiple staff facilities. Prestigious industrial investments of this calibre are rare, offering a solid return and a high-quality tenant in place. Don't miss the opportunity to secure this exceptional asset.

[bayleys.co.nz/26300020](https://bayleys.co.nz/26300020)

9,808<sub>sqm</sub>  2,520<sub>sqm</sub> 

**Auction (unless sold prior)** 12pm, Thu 13 Mar 2025

96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

**View** by appointment

**Josh Smith** 027 229 8865

[josh.smith@bayleys.co.nz](mailto:josh.smith@bayleys.co.nz)

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## NEW LISTING



Boundary lines are indicative only





### Paeroa 7 Grey Street

## New year, new premises

- Vendor committed to selling
- 547sqm (approximately) warehouse with staff facilities
- Fully fenced drive-around yard
- Rated at 75% of the New Building Standards

Our motivated vendor presents an unmissable opportunity to secure your new premises. Whether you're looking to establish, expand, or relocate your business, 7 Grey Street offers a practical and affordable solution for industry professionals and owner-occupiers seeking a well-equipped base in the heart of Paeroa's thriving industrial hub.

[bayleys.co.nz/2313415](https://bayleys.co.nz/2313415)

2,314<sub>sqm</sub>  547<sub>sqm</sub> 

**Auction** 12pm, Thu 13 Mar 2025

**View** by appointment

**Josh Smith** 027 229 8865

[josh.smith@bayleys.co.nz](mailto:josh.smith@bayleys.co.nz)

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# SPORTS

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

# Winning streak for BMX champion

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

If there's one thing Danika Bergersen learned about herself during a BMX competition last month, it's that she knows how to persevere.

"I don't back down from challenges easily," she said.

It's something that propelled the 15-year-old bicycle motocross racer to the top in the Eastern Region BMX Track Attack Series for 2025 held in Melbourne, Australia, from January 11-19.

The young athlete, who rode in the 16-year-old girls' group, competed in 21 races across six different tracks in Melbourne, and claimed victory in every single one of her races, clinching first place in the competition for her age group.

The champion arrived at the competition with no expectations, and even though she was happy with the results, it all came as "a bit of a shock", she said.

The racer, and Hau-raki Plains College Year 10 student, told *The Profile* it was a confidence boost to ride with new competitors and in different environments, which she called "that unknown ele-



Fifteen-year-old Danika Bergersen won first place at the Track Attack Series in Melbourne. INSET: Danika prepares for a jump. Photos: SUPPLIED

ment". She said racing on unfamiliar tracks and having limited time to practice meant she only had around four

laps prior to each race to learn the track.

"This was a bit of a challenge, but was something I was able to adapt to."

One thing Danika said she enjoyed was two of the races which happened at night and finished around 11pm.

"New Zealand has twilight

races but they often finish before it gets too dark."

Danika also had an "amazing opportunity" to take part in a coaching session with 2024 Paris Olympics gold medal winner and French rider Joris Daudet, and a second coaching session with Australian BMX Olympian Izaak Kennedy, she said.

But her victory lap doesn't end there.

Hot on the heels of her first Track Attack Series win abroad, Danika headed back to New Zealand to start the new school year, continue BMX training and to compete in another competition.

On February 2, the rising BMX star competed in the 2025 Oceania BMX Championships in New Plymouth, where she claimed another first place victory in the 16-year-old girls' category.

The racing prodigy said this was a major event where top riders from anywhere in Oceania went to compete and she was happy she achieved the title.

The next thing Danika was working towards was the BMX New Zealand National Championships in Invercargill from March 21-23, she said.

But two dream goals for Danika were to continue having fun while competing, and also to be able to "give back to the sport" by coaching some of the younger riders, she said.



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