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## Teen surfer sets the bar high



Pāuanui surfer Lola Groube in action.  
Photo: SUPPLIED/ PhotoCPL

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

Three years into her competitive surfing career, 13-year-old Lola Groube has already earned several podium finishes, the latest being a bronze medal last month.

Now she is eyeing the upcoming World Junior Surfing Champs, a "great experience" and an occasion she's attended twice before.

The Whangamatā Area School student and Pāuanui local recently placed third at the National Surfing Championships. Held

in New Plymouth from January 12 to 18, the New Zealand-wide competition saw more than 300 surfers take part, and Lola said quite a few Kiwis living in Australia also came across to compete.

She entered the 16 and Unders and Open Women's divisions, placing third overall in the former.

"I really wanted to win that one so I was a bit bummed, but surf comps can be tricky as a lot of things affect your end result - choice of wave, wave size, wind, wave priority," she told *The Profile*.

"If you win the nationals, you get an automatic spot on the New Zealand Junior Surfing Team which goes on to the World Junior Surfing Champs - which I have qualified for the past two years, so it is definitely my goal to qualify again as it is such a great experience.

"Last year it was held in El Salvador and the year before it was held in Brazil, so it was cool to surf in amazing locations with the best kids from around the world."

Lola, who is part of the surf academy at Whangamatā Area School, as well as the

Whangamatā Boardriders, started surfing when she was just three-years-old, moving into the competitive circuit at age 10.

"My dad is a really good surfer so he taught me how and it helps that we live at the beach," she said. "[Being part of the] Whangamatā Boardriders is great as it feels like you have a team behind you that you are competing for. At every comp you get allocated points based on your placing, and your aim is to beat the competing boardrider clubs from around the country."

**CONTINUED ON P2**

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**In Brief**

**NEW ROLES FOR SIMPSON**

Coromandel MP Scott Simpson has been appointed Minister for ACC and Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. He said it was a privilege and he was excited by the opportunity Prime Minister Christopher Luxon had given him to take on the new portfolio roles. "I relish the chance to be a part of the broader coalition team that is working to get New Zealand's economy growing and thriving again," he said.

**ROGUE BULL SHOT**

A bull was shot dead by Police in Paeroa on February 21, after it caused damage to vehicles. Officers were called to Shoalhaven St around 8.30am following a report of a loose bull in the area. A police statement said a number of vehicles were damaged in an effort to contain the animal, but no injuries were reported in relation to the incident. The bull was euthanised at around 9.30am. Enquiries into the matter are ongoing.

**DEAD CATTLE IN RIVER**

Two dead cows were found in the Ohinemuri River in Karangahake Gorge last week. The carcasses were first reported on social media on February 20. The Waikato Regional Council and Hauraki District Council were informed, and the cattle have since been removed from the river. The cows had no identifiable tags or



The Real Life SuperHeroes Day will be held in Paeroa, March 2. SUPPLIED

features, the regional council said.

**GOOSE CULL PLANNED**

Thames-Coromandel District Council is planning a cull to manage the goose population in Matarangi. Around 500 geese are causing widespread issues in Matarangi, including a large amount of droppings on sidewalks; damage to landscaping and grassy areas; aggression towards other bird species; and contamination of waterways with waste. The cull will take place at night during this week, with a professional contractor using low-powered ammunition and a silencer to minimise disruption. Temporary signage will be placed at entrances while the work is underway, and all animal remains

will be removed. Council said the cull had been approved by police.

**SUPER SUNDAY**

The ultimate Real Life SuperHeroes Day is this Sunday, March 2, at Paeroa Domain from 10am-2pm. It will be an action-packed day celebrating real-life heroes - Fire and Emergency NZ, Hato Hone St John, Police, and other agencies which help out in times of crisis. The free family fun day is being run in conjunction with Civil Defence Waikato and the Matamata-Piako, Thames-Coromandel, and Hauraki district councils. There will be a free sausage sizzle and water, interactive emergency service games, live demonstrations, and competitions, including best dressed superhero.

**Teen surfer sets the bar high**

**CONTINUED FROM P1**

Events in Piha and the South Island are on the horizon for Lola, each one helping her get one step closer towards making the New Zealand junior team.

And in July, she'll most likely head to Australia to compete in the Occy Grom Comp - one of the most prestigious grom comps in the world and where Lola has clinched third and second place finishes in the past.

She also travels frequently in order to gain experience and ride bigger waves than what's often found at her home turf.

"Every surf is different and I really love that," she said.

"Where we live there are a lot of small waves, so we have to travel a bit so I can learn more and get comfortable surfing larger waves and reef breaks which can be tricky, but I'm lucky that I have great sponsors like Billabong, Pete Anderson Surfboards, Vans, and Sticky Johnson wax that support me," she said.



**PLACE AN ADVERTISEMENT/ADVERTORIAL:** Advertising Manager Nikki Sanders, Ph 022 130 3885, nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz; Feature Writer Davidda Hikatangata, Ph 022 174 3988, davidda@valleyprofile.co.nz; **NEWS/EDITORIAL:** Managing Editor/Owner Teresa Ramsey, Ph 0204 0944 853, editor@valleyprofile.co.nz; Senior Reporter Kelley Tantau, Ph 022 619 4889, kelly@valleyprofile.co.nz; Reporter Alice Parminter, Ph 022 527 0988, alice@valleyprofile.co.nz. **LETTERS:** Send letters to the editor: editor@valleyprofile.co.nz or 2 Queen St, Paeroa, 3600. Letters must include your full name and address, be 250 words or less and may be edited, abridged or rejected at editor's discretion. **THE VALLEY PROFILE** is independently owned and operated. It is delivered weekly to every letterbox in the Hauraki Plains, Paeroa, Waihi, Thames, Thames Coast, plus bulk distribution peninsula-wide, with an estimated reach of 35,000 readers. **OFFICE: 2 QUEEN ST, PAEROA, Ph 07 862 7077 | ISSN 2703-5700**



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**Thames Tides**

Wed Feb 26		Thu Feb 27		Fri Feb 28		Sat Mar 1		Sun Mar 2		Mon Mar 3		Tue Mar 4															
Morning	12:15am 0.9 6:38am 3.1	Afternoon	12:39pm 0.9 6:48pm 3.1	Morning	1:08am 0.7 7:27am 3.3	Afternoon	1:31pm 0.7 7:45pm 3.2	Morning	1:56am 0.5 8:14am 3.5	Afternoon	2:20pm 0.5 8:36pm 3.4	Morning	2:42am 0.3 9:01am 3.6	Afternoon	3:08pm 0.3 9:24pm 3.6	Morning	3:27am 0.2 9:48am 3.7	Afternoon	3:56pm 0.2 10:10pm 3.7	Morning	4:13am 0.2 10:35am 3.8	Afternoon	4:43pm 0.2 10:57pm 3.7	Morning	5:00am 0.3 11:24am 3.7	Afternoon	5:30pm 0.2 11:45pm 3.7
Sun	7:00am 8:01pm	Sun	7:01am 8:00pm	Sun	7:02am 7:59pm	Sun	7:03am 7:57pm	Sun	7:04am 7:56pm	Sun	7:05am 7:54pm	Sun	7:06am 7:53pm														
Best At	11:47am	Best At	12:14am 12:40pm	Best At	1:06am 1:32pm	Best At	1:57am 2:22pm	Best At	2:47am 3:12pm	Best At	3:37am 4:03pm	Best At	4:29am 4:56pm														
Rise	4:17am	Rise	5:30am	Rise	6:44am	Rise	7:58am	Rise	9:11am	Rise	10:25am	Rise	11:40am														
Set	7:07pm	Set	7:39pm	Set	8:08pm	Set	8:36pm	Set	9:03pm	Set	9:32pm	Set	10:04pm														

\*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	Mn	Hr	Mn
Coromandel	-0	04	-0	04
Whitianga	-0	01	-0	06
Tairua	+0	10	+0	21
Whangamata	-0	03	-0	05
Waihi Beach	-0	12	-0	12

# Ambo station in critical condition close to rebuild

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

The Waihi St John ambulance station is just \$111,000 away from completing its vital rebuild, with staff calling on the community to help make it happen, one “111” at a time.

The station on Johnstone St was run down, earthquake-prone, and no longer fit for purpose, Hato Hone St John group operations manager Coromandel South Julia Te Huia told *The Profile*.

It’s been pulled down to make way for something new - a “home away from home” for the staff and volunteers who assist with around 215 call-outs every month.

“The station was built sometime back in the 1970s, and over the years it’s just become more and more not fit for purpose,” Julia said.

“[A new building] will give the staff who are working hard all day every day a nice place to come back to and rest and recharge.”

The Waihi station has been relocated to a temporary location along Hazard St, but Julia said the timeline for the rebuild - which would be a state-of-the-art premises featuring a new kitchen and restrooms - was still on track for being completed by the end of June.

However, though Hato Hone St John has raised more than 75 per cent of the total funds required, it still needed to fundraise \$111k.



St John’s Julia Te Huia at the site of the Waihi ambulance station rebuild.

Photo: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

They’ve established a ‘111’ fundraiser to occur throughout the month of March, asking people to challenge themselves to either a single event or a month-long objective.

Ideas included: walking, running, or cycling 111kms; completing 111 laps of a pool; sink-

ing 111 balls along a golf course; hitting 111 nails into a wall during a home renovation project; or even baking 111 cupcakes.

Participants can sign up to the Waihi 111 challenge, or donate to the cause, online.

And they didn’t have to be local, Julia said.

“We’re encouraging anybody

to sign up,” she said.

“You could be on holiday in Waihi Beach and need an ambulance. People come from all over New Zealand to come up to the Coromandel.

“There has definitely been increased workload [over summer].”

The team working from the



The Waihi St John crew. SUPPLIED

Waihi station can transport patients across to Thames Hospital, to Waikato Hospital, Tauranga Hospital - “and anything can happen in between”, Julia said.

“There’s been a lot of volunteer work and support behind the scenes to get this [rebuild] up to where it is; past managers and a lot of people that have been a part of the project over the last couple of decades.”

Emergency medical technician Dean Moffett agreed that a new state of the art station would allow the staff to maintain their own welfare and wellbeing all year round.

“It will also allow us to comfortably study and develop our skills to continue delivering life changing interventions to our community and surrounding areas.”

**DETAILS: To donate or to take part in the Waihi 111 Challenge, visit [fundraise.stjohn.org.nz/t/waihi-111-challenge](https://fundraise.stjohn.org.nz/t/waihi-111-challenge)**



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# Education

ADVERTISING FEATURE

## New faces and alumni reconnect at THS

Thames High School has kicked off 2025 with warm welcomes for new students, staff, and an invitation for past students to reconnect.

This year's pōwhiri provided the perfect setting to introduce the incoming Year 9 rōpū, new students across year levels, and 17 international students from Japan, Cambodia, and Germany.

The school also welcomes four new teachers: Anukar Kumar in biology, and Rinal Prasad in mathematics from Fiji, Ravenesh Nand in mathematics from Morrinsville, and Michael Kim in outdoor education from Hauraki Plains College, who will also serve as Kaiawhina/Dean for Year 9 and 10 students.

We were fortunate to have our mana whenua, Ngāti Maru, represented by Johnson (Reha) Watene and Matua Wati Ngamane, who led karakia (blessings) and whaikōrero (speeches) to formally welcome our newcomers. Many thanks also to Matua Wayne Whitney, who spoke on behalf of the manuhiri (visitors), who are now tangata whenua following this welcome and to board chairperson Reverend Brendon for blessing the additional kākahu



A Thames High School pōwhiri to welcome new staff and students to the school community.

Photo: SUPPLIED

(cloaks) for newly appointed Deputy Student Leaders and Manukura Māori Leaders.

In the spirit of reconnection, Thames High School is launching an alumni network to unite past and present students.

This initiative aims to foster mentorship, share experiences, and provide opportunities for

former students to give back.

To mark this initiative, an alumni barbecue will be held on April 6, 2025, featuring a school tour and talks from current student leaders.

Former students are encouraged to attend, share memories, and see the school's latest developments. With Thames

High School's 150th anniversary approaching in 2030, gathering alumni contacts now will ensure an engaged community for this significant milestone.

Thames High looks forward to strengthening connections across generations, building a lasting sense of belonging.

If you are interested in at-

tending or being part of the committee please email christinesutton@thameshighschool.nz for a registration form, or visit our website where you can register online. There will be a small cost to cover the lunch.

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Welcome Alumni

# New beginnings and family ties at Kaihere

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

The beginning of term was a big day for Kaihere School's new principal, Ngaire Harris.

It was also a milestone moment for her granddaughter Eliza, who joined the school alongside her grandmother.

"We started together," Ngaire said.

"She's loving it, and it's really special to watch her at school."

Kaihere School is a big part of Ngaire's family history.

She's lived in the rural community for 50 years, and her husband, four children, and one of her elder grandchildren have already passed through its gates.

Now, Ngaire gets to share the grounds with Eliza and another of her granddaughters, Charlotte.

The new role is an exciting opportunity to give back to her local community, Ngaire said.

And she brings with her a wealth of experience, having spent 30 years teaching at Hauraki Plains College - 22 of those as principal - and also previously working at the Education Review Office.

"Living in the community for some time, you have a sense of what the community is about and what I would call the school's DNA," Ngaire said.

"[And] I had 40 schools with



Kaihere principal Ngaire Harris and granddaughter Eliza on their first day of school.

Photo: SUPPLIED

the Education Review Office and most of them were rural primary schools...

"It gave me a really good insight into what works, what makes them tick."

There's also an advantage in having come from a secondary school environment, Ngaire

said.

"One of the benefits is knowing what the students are going to need, particularly in terms of literacy and numeracy, so that when they do go on to college, they're well prepared," she said.

Mostly though, Ngaire plans to focus on the basics.

"We are about good people working hard.

"We want them to be good, decent human beings, but also working hard at their learning or being a good friend or whatever it is.

"At the same time [I'm] really wanting to expand the curriculum so that even though it's a small school, the students get really good learning opportunities," she said.

"We've got other staff doing other things, a music programme and looking at a science programme, and just making sure that they get the same opportunities and learning experiences as in the bigger schools.

"I think whatever you want for your own grandchild, you want for everyone's grandchild.

"It's something I remind myself often: it's not just about my grandkids, it's about everyone's grandkids."



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# Connecting communities

## Changes to your electricity distribution charges

From 1 April 2025 our electricity delivery charges in your region will increase by an average of 23.4%. That's about \$5 more each week for the average residential customer.

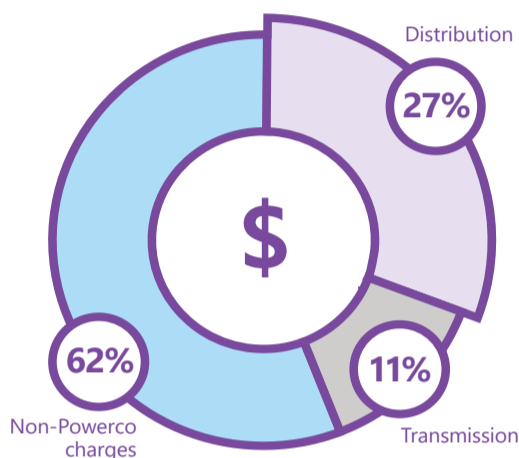
As your local lines company, we're here to provide safe and reliable electricity to your door. To do that we continually invest in our network of lines, cables, substations and other assets. This ensures we meet your electricity supply needs now and in the future.

We update our prices on 1 April each year to reflect the cost of operating and investing in the network. We also pass on Transpower's transmission costs to use the national grid. Together, these charges make up around 38% of your power bill.

This year's change is a combination of:

	Change		Weighting		Result
Distribution	26.5%	x	74%	=	19.6%
Transmission	14.8%	x	26%	=	3.8%
<b>Total</b>					<b>23.4%</b>

### Average electricity bill



The impact on your electricity bill will depend on how and when you use electricity, and how your retailer chooses to structure how they pass on our charges on to you.

We're regulated by the Commerce Commission to ensure we provide quality supply at a fair price. Recently the Commission set how much revenue we can earn through our customer charges for the period 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2030.

Revenue allowances have increased because inflation, costs, and interest rates have changed since the last review in 2019. Customer demand for electricity is also growing as Aotearoa reduces its carbon footprint and we need to invest more to meet this demand.



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# Our Coromandel

News from Thames-Coromandel District Council



26 February 2025

## Make your voice count

Our local body elections are taking place on 11 October 2025. Our communities will have the chance to shape local decision-making by standing as candidates or casting their vote.

This year, our voting arrangements include the Mayor, nine councillors, and a Māori ward councillor from the new Te Tara o Te Ika Māori Ward.

Empower yourself and your community by ensuring you're enrolled to vote in this year's election. You can check or update your enrolment details at [vote.nz](http://vote.nz)

Remember, if you'd like to vote in Te Tara o Te Ika Māori Ward, you'll need to enrol in the Māori electoral roll first through [vote.nz](http://vote.nz)

Find out more about enrolment and the election at [tcdc.govt.nz/2025-elections](http://tcdc.govt.nz/2025-elections)

**YOUR VOICE MATTERS, MAKE IT HEARD.**

Enrol to vote in our local election or find out if you're eligible at: [vote.nz](http://vote.nz)

THAMES COROMANDEL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Thames Community Board UPDATE

**Board Chair, Adrian Catran JP reports:**

“Time’s flying – with seven months left of our term before elections, the current Board is keen to progress initiatives now to ensure the long-term vibrancy of our town and surrounds. We’ve made great progress in reviving the visitor economy through marketing and promotion, and new assets such as Porritt Park. Protecting the town’s \$1 billion in assets from sea-level rise is a high priority. A lot of good work’s been done on understanding coastal protection options, but also on understanding challenges Thames’ rivers pose. I’d urge you to attend the public meeting on 24 March at 5.30pm when coastal options and updated information on the risks of flooding from rivers will be outlined. It’s your chance to give feedback.”

**adrian.catran@council.tcdc.govt.nz**

**The Board’s next meeting is Wednesday 19 March at 10am in Thames Council Chamber.** Meeting agendas and the 2025 Council meeting schedule are at [tcdc.govt.nz/agendas-reports-and-minutes](http://tcdc.govt.nz/agendas-reports-and-minutes)

**KEY DATES**

- FRIDAY 4 JULY: NOMINATIONS OPEN
- noon FRIDAY 1 AUG: NOMINATIONS CLOSE AT NOON
- from TUES 9 SEPT: DELIVERY OF VOTING PACKS
- noon SAT 11 OCT: CLOSE OF VOTING AT NOON
- FRIDAY 17 OCT: OFFICIAL RESULTS ANNOUNCED

### Thames visitor promotion



New map signage in Porritt Park, in the shape of the Pinnacles, is encouraging visitors to spend more time experiencing the town. Paid for by the Thames Community Board, the sign’s part of a visitor promotion initiative 'Explore Thames', designed by Brand Matter.

### ENVIRONMENT ACTION

A new Thames environmental group, Thames Environmental Alliance, accompanied Thames Community Board members to John William Hall Aboretum to raise awareness about the need to enhance biodiversity by planting native species. Earlier, Waikato Regional Council, responsible for weed control, reported on its actions to remove noxious alligator weed around Thames.



### PUBLIC MEETING THAMES COASTAL PROTECTION UPDATE

Find out the latest on protecting our town from sea-level rise, and give your views.



**MONDAY 24 MARCH 5.30-7PM**

Thames War Memorial Civic Centre



[tcdc.govt.nz/ProtectThames](http://tcdc.govt.nz/ProtectThames)

### MEET AT THE MARKET

Come and talk to your Community Board members at Thames market on Saturday 8 March and every second Saturday after that. They're keen to hear your views.

- DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?
- DO YOU HAVE IDEAS?
- COME SPEAK TO US, WE'RE LISTENING!



### DISTRICT EVENTS FUND OPEN

Are you organising an event with the potential to make waves in the Coromandel? The District Events Fund is open for applications, offering support to events that showcase the region and drive economic and social wellbeing.



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# Hikutaia settlers appeal for new gravel road



As part of a Valley Profile series, MEGHAN HAWKES searches through old newspapers to bring you the stories Thames Valley locals once read about themselves.

## 1908

Hikutaia was a hive of activity with settlers over the bridge by the river bestirring themselves to get the County Council to metal their part of the road to enable them to get their milk to the local creamery instead of taking it up the river to Netherton.

Fred Howes was building a fine residence opposite the railway station, a decision that the local schoolmaster welcomed as the Howes' had several children of school age.

In response to a suggestion that the government purchase the Alley Bros' estate, Mr Bax received a telegram from Prime Minister Joseph Ward stating that owing to government ministers being scattered over the colony, the matter would not be considered until after November's election.

Meanwhile at Paeroa, a startling find was made under



On the move at Hikutaia - shifting a six-roomed house by bullock team.

Photo: SUPPLIED

the Choral Hall in Wharf St, a building in which Miss Kenny conducted a private school for young children.

The children were in the habit of playing under the school, and they discovered a package beneath the floor of the building. They tried to knock it down with an old horseshoe, eventually succeeding.

When opened, the package, which weighed about five pounds, was found to contain several plugs of gelignite, some caps, and some fuse.

It was handed over to Constable Henry, who found that it was wrapped in an *Auckland Star* newspaper of November of the previous year, and over the newspaper was another wrapping on which was a post-date of the same month.

Evidently the package had come through the post, and for some reason had been hidden under the hall.

It was fortunate that the gelignite did not explode when handled by the children, as if it had done so some of them would undoubtedly have been killed and the buildings in the vicinity destroyed.

Over on the newly named Hauraki Plains, previously the Piako Swamp, dredges for cutting canals had arrived.

One of the dredges was fitted up by means of a crane at Thames, which was then able to assist in the putting up of the others.

The first work to be undertaken by the dredges was to commence operations on the canal from Waitakaruru.

At Thames, Police Court a 'polished scoundrel', who had been victimising residents received his just desserts. George Allen, alias Captain Nella, alias Chappell and other assumed names, was before the court for false pretences, and being a rogue and a vagabond. He had played upon the sympathies of many Thames people by telling stories, and had received assistance in cash from several.

He even had the audacity to tell the Inspector of Police that he was going to keep straight. He once attempted to pass himself off at Waihi as the newly-appointed electrician to the Waihi mine. Since 1897 the accused had 28 convictions recorded against him, and served six years in gaol with hard labour.

## Chris' Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parmenter

1. Of *The Muppet/Sesame Street* characters Bert and Ernie, who is yellow and who is orange?
2. In 2022, Samsung's revenue was equal to what percentage of South Korea's GDP? a) 2.4 per cent, b) 22.4 per cent or c) 42.4 per cent?
3. What is the northernmost populated nation to use the New Zealand dollar? a) Cook Islands, b) Niue, c) Tokelau, or d) Pitcairn Islands?
4. The Cornish dish 'Stargazy pie', features which type of food protruding through the crust? a) bananas, b) carrots, or c) fish?
5. Can a member of the public drive through the Channel Tunnel from the UK to France?
6. The technology known as Bluetooth is named after a) a cartoon character, b) an inventor or c) a king?
7. Which country has the largest population in the Southern Hemisphere, and fourth largest in the world?
8. The annual Highland Games is an event held each year in which Hauraki town?
9. What is the taxonomic name (Genus + species) for maize and sweetcorn? a) *Mai ze*, b) *Mays zea*, or c) *Zea mays*?
10. According to *The Simpsons* fandom page, how old would Bart Simpson be today if he had aged normally from when the series began? a) 27, b) 37, or c) 47?



ANSWERS: 1. Bert is yellow, Ernie is orange; 2. b) 22.4 per cent; 3. c) Tokelau; 4. c) fish; 5. No; 6. c) a king - Harald Bluetooth, a 10th-century Danish monarch; 7. Indonesia; 8. Paeroa, 2025 marked the 32nd year of the Games; 9. c) Zea mays; 10. c) 47.

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# Rural Life

## Stormwater an innovative irrigation solution

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

An innovative solution to bush regeneration and resilience is being developed for a small stand of mature kahikatea trees in Turua.

The aim of the project, a uniquely-designed irrigation system, is to keep the stand healthy, giving its trees the best possible chance of resisting dieback disease.

The project is the brainchild of Turua Domain caretaker and committee member Jim Sutherland.

The aim is to use stormwater collected from the neighbouring Barnados Early Learning Centre to maintain the water table in the domain's fenced-off section of bush at the back of the property, adjacent to Piako and Oparia Rds.

The two-acre stand has around 72 mature kahikatea trees which are roughly 400 years old, along with at least 100 young saplings.

Two 4000-litre water tanks have already been installed behind the Barnados building.

"They were going to put in an underground tank... That was going to cost them \$15,000," Jim said. "I'd priced our irrigation scheme up to about \$15,000 as well. So they said, 'well, that's pretty easy. We'll just do the irrigation scheme then if the council agrees'.

"Barnados have been really



Turua Domain caretaker Jim Sutherland with the stand of Kahikatea trees.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

good with us, and we've worked with them a lot."

An adjacent shed, funded by a \$700 grant from the Seagull Centre in September last year, will eventually house an irrigation pump, and the committee is now working on pipes to move the water from the tanks

to the bush, around 100 metres away.

The pipes will be connected to a manifold at the treeline, and pumped through hoses laid around the boundary.

"They'll be movable hoses. And we're going to make them out of the fire brigade's [old]

forestry firefighting hose which is made to weep so they don't get burnt when you drag them through the fire, [and] modifying those with holes to some degree as soaker hoses," Jim said.

"So we'll have the pump running, we'll have two or three

lines coming off that manifold. But we'll also have the option to bring it around if we do some special planting in some area we want to water.

"Because if we can put more water in here in the summer, [the bush will] generate itself, we won't have to worry about planting. That's what we want, then we've won the game."

Jim, who formerly worked for the Department of Conservation's predecessor the NZ Forest Service, said he realised how important it was to keep the trees watered when researching rainfall records.

"We had three years in a row where we were under one metre [of rainfall]. That's the first time in 50 years of records that I read that we had three dry years in a row," he said.

"That was before the dieback started. And I believe that was the trigger point to make the trees that weak that the pathogens got at them. So that was the trigger point to make me think, we've got to do something."

The committee received advice from the Waikato Regional Council while planning the project. The tree stand itself is being monitored by the council as part of its push to restore and protect indigenous forest stands.

"The council has been leading research into apparent

CONTINUED ON P11

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# Rural Life



Turua Domain's stand of Kahikatea trees. BELOW: The water tanks and shed are ready to go.

CONTINUED FROM P10

dieback... Early indications suggest a potential link to climate stress, with trees that are periodically flooded appearing to be more affected than trees in permanently wet or permanently dry locations.

"The stress of experiencing flood and drought extremes may make these trees more susceptible to attack by soil pathogens (Phytophthora and Pythium species), which have been detected under kahikatea trees," a statement from the council said.

Council scientist Yanbin Deng said they were impressed with the dedication of the volunteers looking after the domain. Council visits to Turua in 2023 and 2024 found most of the domain's trees had remained healthy, with the forest experiencing a slightly increased health score for improvements in species composition and winter bird food species, thanks to recent planting undertaken by the domain volunteers. Several of the trees have been tagged for ongoing monitoring.

"It's an experiment... I don't think it's been done before. But it just makes



sense to me," Jim said of the irrigation project.

"[Dieback] is here. What we're going to do is keep the trees healthy and they'll fight it off.

"In a hundred years' time [I hope] it starts to look like a natural native bush. But it's not a scientific project. It's an asset to the town. People love it, they bring a plastic chair around and sit here and just take in the ambience. And that's what we want."



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# Testament to mining heritage ready for rail trail

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

A three-metre tall testament to Thames' "strong mining heritage" will be the latest sculpture installed along the Hauraki Rail Trail.

Designed by Thames artist John McKeown, *Miners' Gates* has been constructed from old railway sleepers, and will be put in place alongside State Highway 25.

Consisting of 12 frames that stand more than 3m high and 2.5m wide, John told *The Profile* the work references the timber bracing put in mining tunnels to prevent collapse.

He hoped his piece would prompt the public to recognise the "contribution, hard work, and extreme risks" forebears

undertook to build the community.

"I spent some time in Japan, and they have Torii Gates at the entrances to temples and sacred places. *Miners' Gates* act as a gateway to Thames from the south and a gateway to Hauraki from the north. They also represent protection and security in a dangerous world," he said.

In 2015, the Thames Public Art Trust held a competition in which artists submitted designs to be installed as part of the trust's sculpture trail initiative.

John - who jointly won People's Choice - said the initial brief was for kinetic or moving sculptures, but he wanted to "turn that around and have everything else moving around the artwork".

"[*Miners' Gates* will be] arranged a cou-

ple of metres apart in a S-pattern and you will ride through them," he explained. "So, the cyclists and walkers will move, there will be a 'swish swish' sound as you pass them on a bike, and as the sun moves through the sky, the shadows will move around also."

The 12 frames were made from creosoted oak railway sleepers imported from England, John said, as they were the only ones long enough. The steel boots and connections were made by Kōpū Engineering.

"[Fellow trustees] Paul Sylvester, Rob Johnston and I assembled the frames in Paul's shed over three days in the weekends, and have stored them out in Kōpū waiting installation," John said.

He also had to face some challenges during the construction, including scrounging a crane truck to pick up the

sleepers, sparing time for initial assembly, and gaining "a seeming legion of consents and installation funding".

He said installation started last week, kicking off with a re-alignment of the concrete path between the Thames Airfield and Thames Rugby and Sports Club.

"This has been helped by the generous donations from the estates of Jo and Tata Ru and Jimmy Baynton - this has been completely funded by them and the art trust," John said.

"This has been a great privilege to be able to make our fantastic wee town a bit better for our future and enjoyment, and I am looking forward to many more fabulous and funky art pieces being brought to life in our area."



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**Tinā (125 mins)** M. The story of Samoan teacher Mareta Percival. Struggling after the death of her daughter in the Christchurch earthquakes, Mareta reluctantly takes on the role of substitute teacher at a wealthy private school and is surprised to find children crying out for guidance, inspiration and love. Drawing on her culture, she forms a choir, while unexpectedly rediscovering her passion for being a teacher and mother.

**The Great Escaper (96 mins)** M. The Great Escaper' is a 2023 biographical drama film starring Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson (based on the true story) of an 89-year-old British World War II Royal Navy veteran who "broke out" of his nursing home to attend the 70th anniversary D-Day commemorations in Normandy, France in June 2014. Along the way, he is aided by strangers, makes some new friends and says a heartfelt goodbye to a fallen friend, while news of his "escape" makes him an international sensation.

**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, Daniel Cleaver (Hugh Grant). On the apps, she's pursued by a younger man (White Lotus's Leo Woodall). Directed by acclaimed filmmaker Michael Morris.

**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 siring rock as the voice of a generation. Timothée Chalamet stars and sings as Bob Dylan, the electric true story behind the rise of one of the most iconic singer-songwriters in history.

**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.



John's son Keenan McKeown shows off the scale of *Miners' Gates*, soon to be installed along the rail trail in Thames. Photo: SUPPLIED

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**March Featured Artist**

**JEAN GALBRAITH**

Jean enjoys experimenting in many different artistic styles. She mostly connects with her emotions to express her creativity in her artworks

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## Thames Coast provides 'art fodder'

Jean Galbraith is the featured artist for March at Thames Art Gallery.

She has been painting on and off for most of her adult life. Even when life got in the way, she still managed to keep her hand in by attending courses and maintaining contact with friends who were either artists or shared her love of art.

Jean says her happy place is amongst paintings by famous (and infamous) artists from around the world. Whilst she cannot say that she has an absolute favourite, she does feel a strong connection to the works of Russian/French artist Marc Chagall. Like him, Jean often draws from her emotions, be it mood, memory or imagination, which then manifest into her creative works.

Egon Schiele and Gustav Klimt are also influential artists she greatly admires and gathers inspiration from, along with New Zealander Jacqueline Fahey and Australian artist, Rone. She tries to incorporate some of the principles of colourful artist Freidensreich Hundertwasser into her garden where possible.

Jean's art is made up of many different styles, with the view from her home and the many bays along the coast providing an abundance of "art fodder".

Her two favourite paintings are *Apeiron*, painted after reading the Colum McCann book of the same name, which she con-



Artist Jean Galbraith. Photo: SUPPLIED

siders still relevant today, and *Mary-Ann*, which started off as a fairly demure still life and morphed into a colourful reflection of her personality. She has also just completed a triptych for a friend that draws from three different but connected aspects of her life.

To view Jean's work, she will be exhibiting on the Southern Wall in the Thames Art Gallery throughout March.

**DETAILS: Thames Art Gallery, Tararu, Thames, open 10am-4pm daily**

# Gardening

## Prepare now for next season

After a mixture of weather conditions with some dry sunny days, we may start to experience cooler nights with overnight dew, signalling the time to prepare the garden for the next season's planting. If it is dry, keep watering to make the most of the late summer crops to help supplement the weekly shop.

Once crops have finished producing it's time to remove spent plants and replenish the soil with a mixture of blood and bone, sheep pellets and a good general garden fertiliser. Dig well into the soil and water in then you are ready to start planting out your new seedlings.

Just a note: If you collect your own seeds for later propagation, now is the time to do this before composting.

Any old plants pulled out can be cut up and added to the compost bin. While any garden areas are empty take time to top up garden beds, replenish the soil with a new layer of compost, blood and bone and sheep pellets.

**Plant Now:** Leafy greens: leeks, carrots, silver beet, spinach, celery, winter lettuce. Salad crops: lettuce, rocket, mesclun blends. Brassicas: broccoli, cauliflower, kale (cavalo nero and curly kale). Herbs: mizuna, parsley, coriander, chives and chervil. Protect all new seedlings from snail and slugs with a slug bait. If possible, cover your brassicas with mesh to protect from the white butterfly.

It is also time to replenish the soil in your flower gardens with compost, blood and bone and sheep pellets. Top up the mulch too, great for not only keeping weeds at bay but also to help plants with warmth over the cooler



**Hyacinths are a beautiful addition to any garden. They are best planted out March/April in a cool spot.**

File Photo: PIXABAY

months. Continue to plant your favourite winter flowering seedlings, pansy, viola, primula, polyanthus, calendula, cineraria, lobelia, poppies, alyssum, stock and snapdragon.

It is also time to plant spring flowering bulbs. Daffodils can be planted out from late February to the end of May. Early planting gets them off to a good start for better root development. Plant in full sun and well-drained soil. Anemones and Ranunculus are easy to grow, stagger planting for an extended flowering season.

Hyacinths are a beautiful addition to any garden. They are best planted out March/April in a cool spot. Protect all new plantings with slug and snail bait.

Citrus trees are heavy feeders so feed

with a specific citrus feed. This ensures healthy green leaves and better growth, flowers and fruits. Mulch around the roots to conserve moisture.

Continue to harvest apples, pears, grapes, peaches and plums if you're lucky enough to still have fruit on the trees. Once stone fruit have finished, prune to shape and remove dead or diseased branches. Autumn is the ideal time to sow or repair your lawn. Now is a good time to fertilise your lawn to promote nice healthy growth. Pull out any tired summer herbs and replant parsley, chives, rosemary and mint. The compost will benefit from all the addition of the trimming and pruning of spent crops.

Happy gardening.

- Supplied by Ngatea Garden Circle

## Legacy down the ages

### OPINION



By MICHAEL WILKES

I was recently at a family reunion with my wife's whānau. It was a brilliant weekend - celebrating life, family, history, and the land that shaped their roots. There were stories shared, beach swims with the kids, bush walks, and plenty of laughs as we all came together. But what captivated me most was the idea of legacy.

This family's story is one of generational faith. They lived on a remote farm, completely cut off from access over land. The house itself was built with materials brought through the bay, and any trip to civilisation required a long journey by boat.

More than 80 years ago, in this isolated corner of the country, a missionary arrived on horseback to share the Christian message. The parents of the family believed, were baptised, and started walking a new path of faith. Fast forward to the present day: the family reunion wrapped up with a church service on Sunday, and a huge number of relatives turned up to worship together. What struck me was how one action, one decision, can ripple through time. A single moment, like that missionary's visit, can alter the course of a family for generations. It reminded me of the power we hold in small, seemingly insignificant actions. A kind word, a moment of encouragement, or an act of faith can change the trajectory of a person's life—and beyond. I think of a story a teacher once told. He was stopped on the street by a vibrant young woman who asked, "Do you remember me?" When he didn't, she explained that he had saved her life. As a student, she had been on the brink of suicide, feeling hopeless and unseen. One day in class, this teacher noticed her work and praised her eye for detail and design, telling her she had a bright future. That single comment gave her the hope to carry on. Today, she's a successful fashion designer, thriving in her passion.

As I stood at the family reunion, surrounded by generations shaped by faith, I couldn't help but marvel at how legacy works. Our words, choices, and actions matter. They ripple outward, touching lives in ways we may never see, echoing through generations yet to come.

*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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<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>Assembly of God</b> <b>10am Sundays.</b> <b>Scout Hall.</b> <b>Baker St, Waihi</b></p>	<p><b>Thames Spiritualist Church, Sunday</b> March 2nd, 2pm Grahamstown Hall. Speakers: Eric and Margaret.</p>	<p><b>STORAGE KOPU, PAEROA TE AWAMUTU</b> "New Units" Ph 027 440 7101 07 868 3033 Safe n Sound Storage www.safestorage.co.nz</p>	<p>Thames Valley Storage – secure, dry units available, two sizes. Call Trev 027 4076966 <b>CLASSIFIEDS</b> Call Nikki: Ph 022 130 3885</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 Phone 07 868 9944</p>	<p><b>TOTAL STORAGE LTD KEREPEHI / PAEROA</b> 10FT CON. \$125 per mnth 20FT CON. \$240 per mnth <small>T&amp;C's apply</small> <b>021 67 67 99</b> info@totalstorage.co.nz</p>

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**Public Notice**  
  
The Annual General Meeting will be held in the RSA Clubrooms Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025 at 1pm.  
Nominations for Office and Notices of Motion close with the secretary 6pm Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025  
Nominations forms are available at the club.  
A Robelack, Secretary

**Public Notice**  
**PĀNUI KI TE IWI WHĀNAU O HARATAUNGA Hui Whānau: Harataunga West 6B**  
Kia ora e te whānau,  
E tono atu ana mātou ko Lisa Harrison rāua ko Tony Brooking, me ō mātou whanaunga, ko Dion, rātou ko Joshua, ko Paki, me Wanita Harrison hoki i tō koutou tautoko me ō koutou whakaaro mō ā mātou tono ki te whenua o Harataunga West 6B.  
**Purpose of the Hui:**  
To discuss the following Licence to Occupy applications:  
1. Lisa Harrison and Tony Brooking – Licence to Occupy one acre with driveway access.  
2. Dion Harrison – Licence to Occupy one acre with driveway access.  
3. Joshua, Paki, and Wanita Harrison – Joint Occupation Order application.  
**Hui Details:**  
**Date:** Sunday, 30 March 2025  
**Time:** 1:00 PM  
**Location:** Harataunga Marae  
This hui is an opportunity to discuss and uphold the collective interests of our whānau. All feedback will be recorded and shared for transparency.  
**If you are unable to attend:**  
Lisa Harrison: 021-1657702  
Email: lisa.harrison09@icloud.com  
Ngā mihi aroha,  
Lisa Harrison, Tony Brooking, Dion Harrison, Joshua, Paki, and Wanita Harrison

**Public Notice**  
**Hauraki District Council Meetings - March 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 March 2025 in the Council Chamber, Hauraki House, 1 William Street, Paeroa unless otherwise stated.  
**Whiritoa Public Meeting**  
Whiritoa Community Hall, 44 Whiritoa Beach Road, Whiritoa Saturday, 1 March 2025, 10.30am-12.00pm  
**Regulatory Hearings Committee**  
Monday, 10 March 2025, 9:00am (if required)  
**Planning Committee**  
Monday, 17 March 2025, 9.00am (if required)  
**Plains Ward Public Meeting**  
Ngātea War Memorial Hall Tuesday, 18 March 2025, 5.30-7.30pm  
**Paeroa Ward Public Meeting**  
Paeroa War Memorial Hall Thursday, 20 March 2025, 5.30-7.30pm  
**Regulatory Hearings Committee**  
Monday, 24 March 2025, 9.00am (confirmed)  
**Council**  
Thursday, 27 March 2025, 9.00am  
**Waihi Ward Public Meeting**  
Waihi Memorial Hall Thursday, 27 March 2025, 5.30-7.30pm  
D A Speirs  
Chief Executive  
Hauraki District Council  
  
[www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz)

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**We would love to hear from you! To express interest, email Jade Monigatti, the Care Home Manager at Bupa Tararu Care Home, at [Jade.Monigatti@bupa.co.nz](mailto:Jade.Monigatti@bupa.co.nz) or ring 07 868 6176.**

**Public Notice**  
**Thames-Coromandel District Council Meetings - March 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 March 2025.  
"Due to unforeseen circumstances, this notice is later than usual however all meetings are listed on Council's online Council Meeting Calendar and will be available to view online via Microsoft Teams."  
**Council meetings**  
**Council Meeting**  
Tuesday 11 March 2025 09:00 am, Thames Council Chambers, 515 Mackay Street, Thames  
**Community Board Meetings**  
**Whangamatā Community Board**  
Tuesday 18 March 2025 10.00am, Whangamatā Service Centre, 620 Port Road, Whangamatā  
**Thames Community Board**  
Monday 3 March 2025 10:00am, Thames Council Chambers, 515 Mackay Street, Thames.  
*This meeting is specifically on the Deed of assignment of two leases and is publicly excluded for the following legislative reasons Section 7(2)(b)(ii) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.*  
Wednesday 19 March 2025, 10.00am, Thames Council Chambers, 515 Mackay Street, Thames  
**Tairua-Pāuanui Community Board**  
Monday 24 March 2025 10.00am, Pāuanui Community Hub, 23 Centreway, Pāuanui.  
**Coromandel-Colville Community Board**  
Tuesday 25 March 2025 09.00am, Colville Hall, Colville Road, Colville  
**Mercury Bay Community Board**  
Wednesday 26 March 2025 09.00am, Mercury Bay Service Centre, 10 Monk Street, Whitianga  
Please visit <https://www.tcdc.govt.nz/Our-Council/Meetings/Agendas-Reports-and-Minutes> for copies of agendas and order papers.  
A Lawrie  
Chief Executive  
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HARD

189

HARD

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EASY

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

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# JUMBO CROSSWORD

209

**ACROSS**

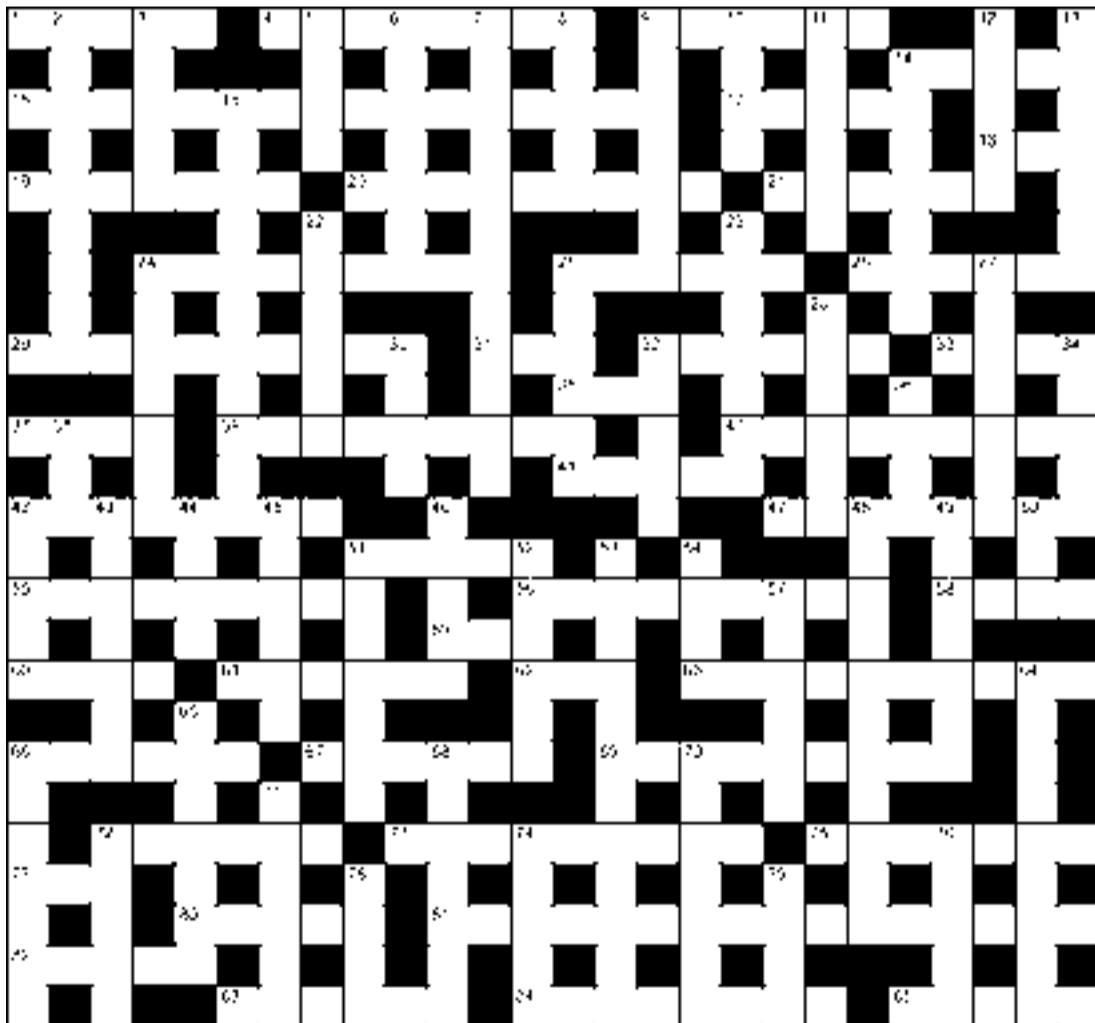
- 1 Die down (5)
- 4 Handcuffs (8)
- 9 Unoccupied (6)
- 14 Arm support (5)
- 15 Make a reputation-damaging mistake (4,4,8)
- 17 Rugby formation (5)
- 18 Menagerie (3)
- 19 Book (7)
- 20 Grabbing (9)
- 21 Expensive (6)
- 24 Banned (9)
- 25 Snuggle down (6)
- 26 Myth (6)
- 29 Plotting a course for the driver (10)
- 31 Stitched edge (3)
- 32 Derided (6)
- 33 Extinct bird (4)
- 35 Chopping tool (3)
- 37 Close (4)
- 39 Spoke out against (9)
- 40 Renovate (9)
- 41 Was involved in espionage (5)
- 42 City in Scotland (8)
- 47 Charade (8)
- 51 Thick cushion (5)
- 55 Comes into (anag) (9)
- 56 Vigorous (9)
- 58 Church seats (4)
- 59 Fifth note (3)
- 60 Bird of peace (4)
- 61 Blown instrument (6)
- 62 French yes (3)

**DOWN**

- 2 Graceful dancer (9)
- 3 Heading (5)
- 5 As well (4)
- 6 Decorated (7)
- 7 Exaggerate excessively (3,2,2,5)
- 8 Slow-moving animal (5)
- 9 Scandinavian raiders (7)
- 10 Play's actors (4)
- 11 Lacking breadth (6)
- 12 Effervescent (5)
- 13 Snubbed (7)
- 14 Infatuated (7)
- 16 Don't ever give up (5,3,3)
- 22 Eyesight (6)
- 23 Sign for public display (7)
- 24 Batter-coated morsel (7)

**ACROSS**

- 25 Wanderers (6)
- 27 Feeling (7)
- 28 Young cow (6)
- 30 Depressed (4)
- 32 Worth (5)
- 34 Yellow pigment (5)
- 36 Court order (4)
- 38 Wheel centre (3)
- 42 Winning (5)
- 43 Developed over time (7)
- 44 Fate, destiny (4)
- 45 Newspaper boss (6)
- 46 Search (5)
- 48 Way out in an emergency (6,5)
- 49 Passed away (7)
- 50 Intimidate (3)
- 51 Lettering guide (7)
- 52 See (6)
- 53 He wrote Through The Looking Glass (5,7)
- 54 Eye amorously (4)
- 57 Merchant (6)
- 64 Carry (9)
- 65 Play or film with songs (7)
- 66 Small flow (7)
- 68 Vibrate (7)
- 70 Beginners (7)
- 71 Paltry (6)
- 72 Social climbers (5)
- 74 Interior (5)
- 76 Liquid rubber (5)
- 78 Warm (4)
- 79 Long ago (4)



**PREVIOUS SOLUTION**

ACROSS: 1 Staff, 4 Have a bone to pick, 14 Crowd, 15 Dregs, 16 Combustion, 17 Civil, 19 Lie, 20 Contain, 21 Green-eyed, 22 Ottawa, 25 Letterbox, 27 Discus, 28 Rescue, 33 Accustomed, 35 Egg, 36 Shovel, 37 Ante, 39 Net, 41 Certain, 42 Bonsai, 43 Seeing red, 44 Tarry, 45 Unbroken, 50 By, 51 Wriggled, 55 Equal, 58 Illegally, 59 Africa, 60 Inverts, 61 Got, 63 Yank, 64 Nibble, 65 Apt, 66 Benevolent, 68 Dreary, 69 Corset, 71 Sculpting, 76 Allied, 77 Amusement, 79 Posture, 81 Cad, 84 Idiot, 85 Rhinoceros, 86 Limp, 87 Ruins, 88 Swinging the lead, 89 Leads.

DOWN: 2 Terror, 3 Fight, 5 Agog, 6 Embargo, 7 Basket, 8 Naive, 9 Tunnels, 10 Puck, 11 Cavity, 12 Koala, 13 Adverse, 14 Cleaned, 18 Dirty trick, 23 Prime, 24 Autopsy, 26 Equator, 27 Dignity, 29 Control, 30 Screen, 31 Tense, 32 Veneer, 34 Drop, 36 Stare, 38 Ended, 40 Snag, 45 Unity, 46 Balance, 47 Orgy, 48 Clair, 49 Bulge, 50 Blatant, 52 Innovation, 53 Gremlin, 54 Extent, 55 Eyebrow, 56 Crate, 57 Scab, 62 Angle, 67 Trellis, 68 Discard, 70 Samurai, 72 Conceal, 73 Review, 74 Smooth, 75 Tripod, 76 Admit, 78 Swing, 80 Twice, 82 Stun, 83 Sofa.



**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** 12.30-1.15pm Sun 2 Mar

**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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**Puriri** 107 Neavesville Road

**Serene rural haven: family home with panoramic views**

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

bayleys.co.nz/2316097

3.2<sub>ha</sub> 3 2 2

**Asking Price** \$1,099,000

**Phone for viewing times**

**Karl Davis** 0508 83 83 83

karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz

**Glenn Tanner** 027 486 2399

glenn.tanner@bayleys.co.nz

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**Netherton 6520 Wilson Road (SH2)**

**Classic charm in the countryside**

Set on 9.4 hectares (more or less) in the heart of Hauraki Plains, this property is more than a home— it’s a lifestyle statement. With a striking blend of traditional charm and classic luxury, this residence commands attention, exuding a stately presence. Generous living spaces + rumpus room are complemented by large windows that capture natural light and rural views. The home features spacious bedrooms, well-appointed bathrooms, and an expansive kitchen. Enjoy the luxury of a private pool, alongside a tennis court and summer house ideal for summer time with friends and family. Complementing this is 9ha (more or less) of grazing land. Call today!

bayleys.co.nz/2316278

9.4 ha 3 2 9

**Asking Price** \$1,590,000  
**View** 11.30am-12pm Sun 2 Mar  
**Karl Davis** 027 496 4633  
 karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz  
**Connor Davis** 027 496 4622  
 connor.davis@bayleysngatea.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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# Hauraki tamariki scoop national medals

**Hauraki basketball and touch rugby teams represented the Thames Valley region at national tournaments last month. Student ALI KOIA-HAMLING caught some of the exciting action across the week.**

Hauraki basketball and touch rugby teams headed to national tournaments in Rotorua during the summer holidays.

From January 20-22, 12 teams of local tamariki and adults took the court at the Poitūkohu Māori National basketball tournament.

Seven out of the 12 teams took home medals - the under 12 Tama Rima, under 14 Kōtiro, under 18 Wāhine, Pa-keke Mixed and Social Mixed teams won gold in their divisions, while under 8 mixed Kōwhai, Wāhine and under 8 Kahikatea Kotiro took home silver.

Three other teams just missed out on semi-final spots, making it the most successful year for Hauraki Māori Basketball.

A few days later, several tamariki from across the Thames Valley represented the rohe at the 2025 Rowdy's



Tyrell Te Moananui, (basketball under 12s), prepares to shoot his free-throw.

Touch Nationals, also in Rotorua from January 25-26.

This included tamariki from Thames Valley touch teams (under 10, 12 and 14 boys, girls and mixed teams, Kerepēhi/Paeroa touch team the Cobras (under 14 boys) and Thames Valley Māori team (under 12 mixed).

Playing against the country's

best, and through torrential rain on the final day, it was an incredible weekend for the under 12 mixed grades at the tournament, as all three Thames Valley teams claimed the top three spots with TVT Māori winning gold, TVT Titans 1 winning silver and TVT Titans 2 winning bronze.

- By Ali Koia-Hamling



Thames Valley Māori win Gold in the Under 12's touch mixed grade at the Rowdy's Junior Touch Tournament in Rotorua.

RIGHT: Kaea Koia-Hamling and Kade Frater of the TVT Titans 2 team take on the Thames Valley Māori team during the national touch rugby tournament.

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