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MAIN ST 'UNSAFE'

Survey shines spotlight on need for \$70k fix

A recent survey found only 23 per cent of people feel safe on the main street of Paeroa at night. ALICE PARMINTER reports



Paeroa's main street needs a facelift, according to a recent survey. File Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

Lack of lighting in Paeroa's main street was one of many concerns for those who responded to a Paeroa Business Association (PBA) survey recently.

The survey, which ran for 70 days from Christmas, was put together to gauge the public perception of Paeroa's main shopping area on Belmont and Normanby Rds.

Of the more than 100 people who responded, 74 per cent were locals, with the remainder made up of visitors to the area.

Survey respondents rated the overall presentation of Paeroa's main street 2.2 out of five stars. For cleanliness, the street

was rated 2.8 out of five, and for building appearance 2.1.

But it was safety on the street at night that caused concern, with only 23 per cent of respondents saying they felt safe.

Those who felt unsafe at night said their main issues were the lack of lighting, not enough policing, and too many rough people "lurking around in the dark".

Respondents said lighting was inadequate and inconsistent, with some spots that were safe and some dark areas that weren't.

Suggested improvements included bet-

ter lighting, a return of the street radio, upgraded pavements, more seating, more regular deep cleaning, painting throughout the main street to lift its appearance, and getting rid of temporary fencing.

PBA committee member Rhys Carmichael said the survey was an important first step in branding Paeroa as a desirable destination to shop and work.

"One of the key focuses for the business association is about uplifting the appearance of the main street, and the way the community feels about it," he said.

"[The survey has] exactly reiterated

all the thoughts we've had in the areas where we're focusing initially."

The association is already making plans to replace the more than 120 lights in the main street with more cost-efficient and reliable LED lights.

It's expected to cost around \$70,000.

"We've obtained the quotes, we have someone lined up who can do the work, but of course we have to get the money first," Rhys said.

"As a business association and a not-for-profit organisation, the maintenance of at

CONTINUED ON P2

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Main St 'unsafe'

CONTINUED FROM P1

least 120 lights is not cheap, [but] the goal is to have this sorted realistically within the next six to seven months."

The under-verandah lighting had historically been the responsibility of the former Positive Paeroa community promotion group, and when the group became dormant, some individual businesses began maintaining their own lights, Rhys said.

However, the PBA will now be managing all the lighting, to bring consistency back to the street.

Hauraki District Council indicated it might consider re-acquiring and maintaining Paeroa's under-verandah lighting assets in the future, according to the minutes of a community partnerships committee meeting on February 12.

However, Deputy Mayor Paul Milner told *The Profile* it was only an idea at this stage.

"The association was quite keen to get it up to a good standard because they're working closely with all the businesses to see what their needs are and what businesses are willing to contribute, and they're able to get outside funding as well," he said. "[But] it's certainly not off the table that that could happen."

The business association is currently receiving guidance on the project from the council's funding advisor.

Rhys said the survey results would help strengthen the PBA's funding applications.

"It becomes the business district's voice to say, 'hey look, there's a call within the community for this,'" he said.

"Thank you to the people who took part in it.

"And if anyone wishes to make a donation, that would be greatly appreciated. If we can make [the street] look inviting, that is going to bring more people to town, more businesses, and then in turn it's going to put more back out into the community."

DETAILS: To donate or find out more, contact the PBA: enquires@paeroa.org.nz.



In Brief

PAEROA EVACUATION

Waikato Police are making enquiries after an incident in Paeroa on March 2.

An officer attended a property on Shaw Avenue at around 1.30pm on an unrelated matter, a police spokesperson said.

"Upon conducting an initial door knock, police noticed unsecured firearms inside the property through a window. Police contacted the owner of the property and invoked the Search and Surveillance Act to enter and search the residence.

"During the search, Police located five firearms and ammunition, alongside an item of concern. Police contacted the New Zealand Defence Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team."

As a precaution, the surrounding area was evacuated, and cordons were put in place. Police said the disposal team attended and made the item safe. Police are speaking with the owner and occupants of the residence.

FOUR ARRESTED

Four people are before the courts after separate burglaries in the Waihi and Waihi Beach areas between January 23 and February 5. A 31-year-old woman and 40-year-old man, both of Karangahake, have been jointly charged with burglary from a holiday park; a 48-year-old Auckland man is also charged with burglary from a separate holiday park; while a 24-year-old Waihi man has been charged with burglary of a residential property.

During all three burglaries, clothing, food and a car were stolen.

Waihi Sergeant Nigel Sanderson said Police wanted to thank the members of the public who promptly reported the incidents. "The information they provided us allowed us to act quickly – and two of the accused were arrested as they walked past the Waihi Police station."

All four have appeared in court and will reappear at later dates.

DAIRY ROBBERIES

Police are making enquiries after a robbery at a commercial premises on Tararu Rd on Friday, February 28, at around 5.10am. Meanwhile, several police vehicles were on site in Kerepēhi on March 3, following reports of a robbery around 6.50am. Police said there would be an increased presence in the area while a scene examination was undertaken. Enquiries are ongoing into both incidents.

SCRUB FIRE

Fire and Emergency New Zealand responded to a vegetation fire near Otway at 2pm on Sunday, March 2 with nine trucks, a spokesperson said. The fire was initially in two places – each 80 metres by 50 metres in size, and about 200 metres away from each other.

The fire on the eastern side of Paeroa-Tahuna Rd was contained by 2.30pm, and the fire on the western side reached 200 metres by 20 metres in size before being suppressed at around 3.45pm.

Traffic on the road was diverted for safety while the fire was brought under control. The last crew left at 4.20pm. The cause of the fire is currently being investigated.

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Thames Tides

Wed Mar 5	Thu Mar 6	Fri Mar 7	Sat Mar 8	Sun Mar 9	Mon Mar 10	Tue Mar 11
Morning: 5:49am 0.4 12:14pm 3.6 Afternoon: 6:19pm 0.3 Sun: 7:07am 7:52pm Best At: 5:24am 5:53pm Rise: 12:56pm Set: 10:42pm	Morning: 12:34am 3.5 1:05pm 3.5 Afternoon: 6:42am 0.6 7:09pm 0.5 Sun: 7:08am 7:50pm Best At: 6:22am 6:51pm Rise: 2:10pm Set: 11:29pm	Morning: 1:28am 3.4 1:59pm 3.3 Afternoon: 7:40am 0.7 8:04pm 0.6 Sun: 7:09am 7:49pm Best At: 7:22am 7:52pm First Quarter Rise: 3:19pm	Morning: 2:28am 3.2 2:57pm 3.1 Afternoon: 8:44am 0.9 9:06pm 0.8 Sun: 7:10am 7:47pm Best At: 8:22am 8:51pm Set: 12:23am Rise: 4:19pm	Morning: 3:35am 3.1 4:01pm 3.0 Afternoon: 9:53am 1.0 10:16pm 0.9 Sun: 7:10am 7:46pm Best At: 9:20am 9:48pm Set: 1:25am Rise: 5:09pm	Morning: 4:46am 3.1 5:10pm 3.0 Afternoon: 11:02am 1.0 11:27pm 0.9 Sun: 7:11am 7:44pm Best At: 10:15am 10:41pm Set: 2:33am Rise: 5:50pm	Morning: 5:51am 3.1 12:03pm 0.9 Afternoon: 6:17pm 3.0 Sun: 7:12am 7:43pm Best At: 11:06am 11:29pm Set: 3:40am Rise: 6:22pm

MOON AND FISH KEYS
 New Moon First Quarter Full Moon Last Quarter
 Good Fishing (G) Fair Fishing (F) Not So Good (B)

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	-	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

Concerns over handling of threat to college

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

Parents of Hauraki Plains College students are angry about a lack of communication around an incident last week which saw the school threatened and subsequently closed.

The school was made aware of an anonymous video containing "specific threats of harm" on Thursday, February 27. Police identified and questioned a young person in relation to the incident.

Meanwhile, classes continued as usual.

The school sent out text messages advising parents of the situation, but many said they did not receive the communication.

The first text from the school said, "a threat has been made to our school. The police are here... We are managing the risk in an appropriate manner".

It was followed later in the afternoon by another message saying the situation had been resolved and there was not believed to be any further threat at that time.

Some of the parents who did receive the messages collected their children early, as did parents who were contacted directly by their children from their personal devices. School management then decided to close the school on Friday following an unconfirmed second threat.

"While we are unable to verify its legitimacy at this time... Out of an abundance of caution, a decision has been made to close the school for instruction on Friday," the school said in a statement.



Hauraki Plains College closed on Friday as a precaution after a threat was made.

File Photo

Police later told *The Profile* it was not aware of a second threat being made.

"Police are speaking to a young person in relation to the incident [and] are not seeking anyone else in relation to the incident," Police said. "There is not believed to be any further threat to public safety."

Social media was awash with rumours and misinformation on Thursday and Friday, as the school community tried to figure out what was happening.

Even students had little information. One student who spoke to *The Profile* said they heard rumours in class on Thursday, before parents had been contacted.

"There was a boy who said there was a guy who was going to come

[to the school]. And I'm like, oh, that's just fake. But then at morning tea, it started... kids knew about it. There were a lot more teachers. I knew something bad was happening."

One parent, Lisa, who requested only her first name be published, said she had lost trust in the school over the lack of clarity as the incident was unfolding.

"I think everybody's just as stunned as I was. I'm not quite sure why we've had no communication, you know. And the only detail that we've received is what the kids have been told at school by the teachers," she said.

"We're left to fill in the gaps because we haven't been given the right account. So everything that

comes in we've got to consider as it could be right. And some of it is pretty scary."

Principal Sharon Moller declined to comment on Friday, saying the school was still working closely with Police. However, the school's board of trustees made two public statements explaining its actions during the incident.

"We immediately consulted with the Police and followed their expert direction. For safety and operational reasons, the Police controlled the nature of communications from the school, which meant that we were restricted in what we could share at the time.

"We understand that this may have caused concern," the first statement read.

"Following a review of our emergency communication protocols, we have identified that some parents did not receive text message notifications. We are actively investigating this issue and will take immediate steps to rectify it."

The second statement, released on Friday, clarified that the person in question was never at or around the school grounds. It also addressed a lockdown drill held at the school on Wednesday, February 26, saying it was unrelated to the incident and had been pre-planned to take place that week.

The statement said students would be offered support on their return to school this week, and warned about misinformation.

"We ask parents to discuss with their children the impact their social media posts may have on the ongoing escalation of situations when false information is shared.

"Our senior leadership team is aware of several false stories currently circulating among students, and the students responsible will be addressed on Monday," it read.

Lisa said she had asked the principal to meet with parents as a matter of urgency.

"I'm hoping that in the next couple of days... we can just discuss how this isn't what we want to see," she said.

"If there is some kind of threat, we as parents have a right to do our own health and safety assessment, and we decide how much risk we want to take with our children."





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HDC NEWS

4 March 2025

The plot thickens

The next chapter of the Ngātea (Plains) Library and Service Centre rebuild is taking shape.

So far the dump station for freedom campers has been relocated to make room for the new building and in February a short list of companies were invited to tender for the new build. Once the final edits are done on the tender and consents process we'll advise on the expected timeline for the project including the demolition of the existing building.

The library and customer service team will move into the Supper Room of the Ngātea War Memorial Hall for the duration of the demolition and build.



Concept design - Southeastern view

View the concept plans at: letstalk.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/service-centre-library



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The local body elections taking place on 11 October 2025 call on everyone in the district over 18 to stand up and be counted. Help shape the future of your communities by either standing for Council or making sure you're enrolled to vote.

This year our voting arrangements include the Mayor and 13 councillors including two councillors for the new Te Pakikau o te Ika Māori Ward.

Remember, if you'd like to vote in Te Pakikau o te Ika Māori Ward, you'll need to enrol in the Māori electoral roll first through www.vote.nz

Find out more about enrolment and the election at www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/council/elections



Key Dates:

- Friday 4 July
Nominations open
- Friday 1 August,
Nominations close at noon
- Tuesday 9 September
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Still waters run deep

Update on Local Waters Done Well

A huge amount of work is going into the analysis of the five options that Council agreed to investigate for the Local Waters Done Well consultation. A Council working party will meet on 10 April to decide on the preferred options to present at the Council meeting on the 30 April with the community consultation set for early May 2025.

Learn more at letstalk.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/local-water-done-well



Have your SAY!

Open consultations

Local Alcohol Policy review

Opens 3 March to 4 April 2025. We'd like your opinion on opening hours and the selling of single serve drinks for off-licences.

Proposed Plan Change 2

Rezoning of some land in Waihi to either residential or industrial land.

Proposed Plan Change 2A

Rezoning of Kopuarahi Hall and Patetonga Hall and adjoining land.

View our website for more information <https://letstalk.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/>



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Save the date!



Community Ward Meetings

- Plains Ward – Tuesday 18 March 5:30pm
Ngātea War Memorial Hall, Supper Room
- Paeroa Ward – Thursday 20 March 5:30pm
Paeroa War Memorial Hall, Supper Room
- Waihi Ward – Thursday 27 March 5:30pm
Waihi Memorial Hall, Supper Room



SH26 on target to reopen on time despite delay

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

State Highway 26 is expected to reopen on time despite flooding at the site of the bridge replacement, the transport agency says.

New Zealand Transport Authority Waka Kotahi said work to replace the bridge on the highway at Onetai Rd between Pūiri and Hikutaia was well underway, and the road was expected to reopen on March 10, within the advertised four-week closure.

However, the project hasn't been without its hiccups. A photo supplied to *The Profile* shows submerged construction equipment in the stream, as a storm event over the weekend of February 15-16 caused flooding at the site.

A statement from NZTA said the flooding did not cause significant damage, and although the team were unable to work for a day, the time was quickly made up.

"The area around the bridge is known to flood, which is why the work needed to be done during the drier summer months, and some allowance for this was built into the timeline of the programme. Works within the flood zone are substantially advanced now," the statement said.

Acting regional manager of infrastructure delivery Darryl Coalter told *The Profile* the agency was committed to completing the build as quickly as



Equipment was flooded at the worksite after being left along the streambed during a storm. RIGHT: A temporary pedestrian bridge has been constructed through the worksite for local school kids.



Photos: SUPPLIED

possible.

"The team replacing the bridge over Onetai stream is making good progress. They are currently finishing off the installation of the bridge abutments... after that's complete they'll move on to building the new road approaches and sealing the surface of the bridge," he said.

"The bridge will initially reopen to one way traffic, to enable the team to finish the road approaches and other aspects of the project."

Contractors are working ex-

tended hours on the project, NZTA said, with two shifts during daylight hours.

The road closure has been difficult for many, including businesses, workers and students. Cathy Haigh from The Cheese Barn at Matatoki said she had seen a noticeable drop in custom, despite efforts to inform people the cafe was still open.

"It definitely has had an impact on us. I've put posts on Facebook but... people are still confused, they're still ringing and going, 'how do I get to you?'"

"We had a good weekend, Sunday was very busy. But then I'm having to let some of my staff go home early during the week because it just dies in the afternoon usually. There's no one here."

Meanwhile, Hikutaia School students who live on the Thames side of the roadworks have been given a workaround solution by NZTA, to enable them to get to school without facing the 45-kilometre detour.

"The project team has built a pedestrian bridge over the

stream as an interim measure, which is being well used by local school children and their families," Darryl said.

"Because it's part of the work site – children, parents/caregivers and teachers are escorted across at designated crossing times. Around 30 school children are affected by this closure. While we can't provide alternative access for cars, we wanted to see what we could do for the kids."



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Spartina spraying underway

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

The Department of Conservation (DOC) is undertaking an operation in Coromandel Harbour to control the spread of the invasive estuary grass weed Spartina.

Work was scheduled to begin at the end of February with aerial spraying from a helicopter, and will be supplemented with back-pack spraying. The project is expected to wrap up in April. Exact timings for the spraying will depend on a patch of clear weather with minimal wind.

Spartina is a salt-tolerant grass which invades mud-flats and threatens the habitats of some migratory birds and shellfish. It is aggressive and needs to be removed, DOC said.

“When it comes to Spartina, ‘do nothing’ is not an option,” DOC Coromandel biodiversity ranger Jamie Carey said.

“If we don’t address this infestation quickly, we’ll lose valuable habitat for our native species.”

The herbicide DOC will be using is haloxyfop-methyl, which affects only grasses and has been shown to reduce spartina by up to 95 per cent with a single application. It is low-risk to humans and breaks down in water, a DOC-issued fact sheet said; however, it is known to be “moderately toxic to some species of fish and invertebrates at high concentrations”.

Jamie said the use of the chemical was closely controlled and monitored by DOC, the Waikato Regional Council, and the Environmental Protection Authority.

“The target weed, Spartina, is sprayed at low tide when there is minimal opportunity for the herbicide to enter standing water and is therefore absorbed into the spartina plants,” he said.

“To date DOC hasn’t recorded any



Spartina, a fast-growing grass which traps silt and sediments on mudflats.

Photo: SUPPLIED/DOC

negative ecological impacts, either acute or chronic. Work already undertaken in recent years within the Whitianga district is consistent with this lack of measurable impacts.”

Jamie said monitoring would be undertaken after the operation to ensure water quality in the harbour has not been compromised, as per DOC’s consent to use the product. “We acknowledge some people do not support the application of herbicide, however it is currently the most efficient and effective method of controlling this weed. The focus of the weed control is to protect our estuaries, native flora and fauna.”

People are advised to avoid fishing and gathering kai moana within 500 metres of the affected areas for five days following spraying. Signs with application dates will be placed in key access locations around the estuary and harbour.



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New Turua principal all about connections

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

Karen Houghton is looking forward to forming connections with her new students at Turua School.

The new principal, formerly from Pōkeno School, said she was drawn to the small, tight-knit community when she took on the role.

“For me, education is about people. Building relationships with students, staff, and the community is key,” she said.

“I really missed the fact that I didn’t know all the children by first name anymore [at Pōkeno]. When you’ve got 650 kids, it’s just not possible to know every child in the school.

“But I know a lot of the kids at Turua already, which is so lovely.

“I’ve managed to teach in three of the classes now - that’s been really cool, being able to get back into the class and get to know the children,” she said.

Karen brings with her years of experience in pastoral care and special education, along with her teaching experience.

“A big part of my background is PB4L (Positive Behaviour for Learning), which is a behaviour management programme... it’s all about respect and care and love, and including others and listening to others.

“And Turua is quite new in their journey, but their latest ERO report did talk around the need to increase pastoral care, which is one of my strengths,”



Turua School’s new principal, Karen Houghton, is relishing getting to know her young charges. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

she said.

“[But] my philosophy is that the school has already got its own history and its own culture, so my first part of my role is just understanding where the school is at and getting to know the community and what they’re wanting for the school, because I believe that a principal’s role is to work collaboratively with the school community.”

Also on Karen’s radar this year are the new maths and literacy curriculums.

“When I first started as a SENCO or Special Educational Needs Coordinator at Pōkeno School, one of my big passions

was how can we have so many children that are failing in reading and writing? What is causing that?”

“So I did a lot of research into structured literacy well before it became a thing that was mandated through the government.”

But it won’t all be hard work

“I love telling jokes, and I love riddles. They’ve already heard a lot of my bad jokes at school assembly. I think, particularly with big kids, if you can get them laughing and you can connect with them through a joke, then it really does solidify your relationship, and being able to be a bit of an idiot in front of them is good too,” she said.

“I got told last week that I had skibidy sigma. My kids were well-impressed by that. I didn’t know what skibidy meant - apparently, I’m extra cool, so there you go. I’ll take that.”

What Karen is most excited for, however, is continuing to grow the school’s welcoming community vibe.

“[The students] all come to school with their own set of values and understandings of the world, and it’s about ensuring that they can see themselves within the school so the school reflects who they are,” she said.

“That’s what I hope for them, that they’ll come to school and love it, and then the learning will just be a great by-product of that, because if a kid feels safe, happy, and connected, then they’re ready to learn, and that’s key, I think, for a child on the learning journey.”



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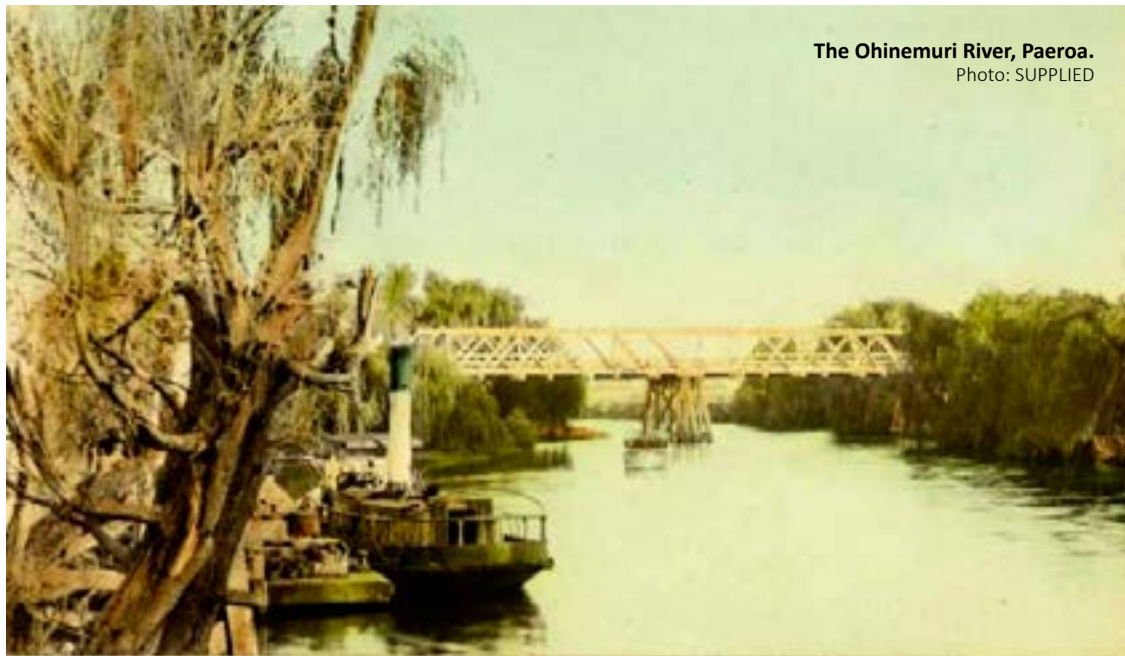
Multiple tragic drownings plague Bush family



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

Willow trees grew along the banks of the Ohinemuri River at Paeroa and eight year old Charles Bush had to stoop to pass underneath them. He intended to pick up some sticks to throw into the river with his friend Leslie Roigard, 10. The boys often played together on the river bank opposite the Criterion Hotel where Leslie's father was proprietor. Charles' mother Ellen was employed at the Criterion and both families lived there.

As Charles clambered under a willow bough on that Saturday afternoon in February 1922 he was very close to the edge of the steep bank. Leslie warned him to come away. At that moment Charles slipped, falling into the water and all Leslie could see of him was Charles' hat floating on the river. He immediately called out in alarm but being a half-day holiday there was no one about. Leslie ran up the stairs of the Criterion Hotel and told his mother and she sent him



The Ohinemuri River, Paeroa. Photo: SUPPLIED

for the police.

In the meantime Mr Broyd, Ohinemuri Club caretaker, ran over and dived in where Charles fell, but because of the clouded state of the water and weeds and rubbish, he could not find the boy. Constable McClinchy arrived with grappling irons and others were soon on the spot with a boat.

After 20 or 25 minutes grappling under great difficulties through undergrowth the constable succeeded in recovering Charles. Dr Little was on the bank awaiting events, and Charles was immediately handed over to him.

The doctor applied artificial respiration methods but life was extinct. Charles was taken

into the Criterion Hotel, where Mrs Roigard made all the necessary arrangements.

The coroner and police investigated the locality of the fatality, a *Ohinemuri Gazette* reporter accompanying them. The place was a highly dangerous one for children. The bank was sloping and consisted of shifting pumice sand. At the inquest Dr Little stated death was due to drowning, adding that the filthy river had not helped matters.

Constable McClinchy concurred, saying that the willows, weeds, and rubbish made the matter of rescue difficult.

The coroner's verdict was that Charles, a lad who was bright, full of good spirits, and

of winsome disposition, had accidentally drowned. The sad event emphasised the need of a swimming bath attached to the school; had such a facility existed, it was more than likely that nearly every boy would be able to swim by the time he reached the age of eight.

For Ellen Bush this terrible tragedy was not the first she had suffered. Eight years previously her husband, 25 year old Charles Cyril Bush, a Thames fisherman, had also drowned while clearing his nets in the Waihou River near Kopu, when Charles was just an infant.

Charles Cyril is buried at Shortland cemetery, Thames, and Charles Edward at Pukerimu cemetery, Paeroa.

Chris' Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parmenter

1. What name beginning with J also refers to a baby kangaroo?
2. James Cook named New Caledonia when he viewed the rolling hills in the northeast of the island and they reminded him of which location?
3. The band Rednex, whose song *Cotton Eyed Joe* reached number one in the New Zealand music charts in 1995, are from which nation? a) Canada, b) Sweden, or c) the United States of America?
4. In which modern day country is the ancient city of Timbuktu located?
5. 'Cabbaged' and 'Fabaceae' are the longest words in the English language that can be spelled using which system?
6. Which animated TV series, created by Stephen Hillenburg, began as an informative picture book called *The Intertidal Zone* used to educate his students about marine biology?
7. According to a 2023 report by the Sports and Fitness Industry Association, what is the fastest growing sport in the USA? a) baseball, b) boxing, or c) pickleball?
8. Which of these Hauraki towns is not intersected by State Highway 2? a) Ngatea, b) Paeroa, c) Thames or d) Waihi?
9. The term 'omnicompetent' refers to someone who is a) completely competent at dealing with all things, or b) completely incompetent?
10. True or False: There are wild emu present on the Chatham Islands?

ANSWERS: 1. Joey; 2. Scotland (Caledonia is the Latin word for the north of Scotland); 3. b) Sweden; 4. Mali; 5. Musticabob Squarepants; 7. c) Pickleball; 8. c) Thames; 9. a) completely competent; 10. True. There are currently thought to be 67 on the island

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Citizens welcomed

Twenty-two new citizens swore allegiance to king and country on February 26, at Hauraki District Council's citizenship ceremony. There were tears and cheers as the newly-minted New Zealanders were welcomed into the community by Mayor Toby Adams and council staff. **ALICE PARMINTER** was there to document the special occasion.



Hauraki District Mayor Toby Adams with the Isiderio family, of the Philippines.



Toby Adams, left with Ana Luisa Cáceres Troncoso, second from left, from Chile.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER



Darren Hannah from the United Kingdom with his family.



Flordeluna Bilawan McGaughran, centre, from the Philippines.



Stephanus Basson and Erika Senekal-Basson from South Africa with their children.

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All things petrol

Paeroa Domain was packed with vehicles of all shapes and sizes at the Rotary Paeroa Annual Car and Motorcycle Show and Swapmeet on February 22. This year, for the first time Rotary combined their two regular fundraising events, the Vintage and Classic Car Show and the V8 Show, into one big extravaganza. On display were vintage, classic and V8 cars, as well as trucks, pickups, hotrods, bikes, caravans and other vehicles of interest. The crowd were entertained by market stalls, activities, demonstrations and entertainment, plus 50s-themed entertainment. **RICHARD HORNELL** braved the petrol fumes to capture the event.



Vehicles of all types were admired at the event.

Photos: RICHARD HORNELL



Vehicles of all types were on display at the annual fundraiser.



Fire and Emergency NZ provided fun rides for the kids.



Rock 'n Roll dancers entertain the crowd.



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Deals were made at the swap meet.

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Applications close 4pm Monday 17 March 2025

The Hauraki District Council recognises the role art plays in making our public places energising, interesting and inviting. We have developed a Council Public Arts Policy and assigned annual funding to contribute towards this.

There is one funding round per year, where up to \$30,000 is made available via the Public Arts Fund for applicants proposing to create and display Public Arts (either in a Public Place, or on private land in the Public Realm). Projects must meet the criteria of the Public Arts Policy.

Learn more and download the application guide and form from our website <https://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/community/grants-funding> or pick up a form in our service centres.

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Rural Life

Industry monitoring dry conditions

It has been a great spring and summer for farmers, but soil moisture levels are now plummeting as the usual dry February starts to bite, an industry group says.

The Waikato and South Auckland Primary Industry Adverse Event Cluster core group convened recently to collectively review conditions and intel from farmers and growers across the region.

“The usual dry summer conditions have returned to Waikato and South Auckland regions, and it’s good to see farmers are generally well-prepared,” Ohinewai farmer and group chairperson Neil Bateup said.

“There is plenty of supplementary feed about for stock at present following a good spring and farmers generally are reported to be coping.

“With no significant rain forecast for the region in the near future we want to reassure farmers that we’ve got this situation on our radar and we’re looking out for them.”

Neil encourages people to look after their own wellbeing and take a moment to check on neighbours.

For those needing support or information, call Rural Support Trust, your rural professionals, or industry groups and supply contacts, he said.

“Farmers will need to be agile. It will rain and conditions will improve, but we do not know if this will be early or late March, or beyond,” he said.

FIND OUT MORE

- Contact numbers and resources for farmers:
- www.rural-support.org.nz or 0800 787 254
 - www.dairynz.co.nz/feed/seasonal-management/summer-management
 - www.beeflambnz.com
 - www.hortnz.co.nz
 - www.mpi.govt.nz
 - www.farmstrong.co.nz



Neil recommended farmers stay in regular contact with rural professionals and graziers, regularly review feed and financial budgets, and have a plan B and plan C.

“Influence what you can control, particularly the communication with others, and planning,” he said.

The Waikato and South Auckland Primary Industries Adverse Event Cluster was set up in 2016 to bring together agencies from the primary industries, central and local government to prepare for and co-ordinate responses to adverse events.

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Rural Life

Community Whānau Day celebration held

The Kauaeranga Valley Visitor Centre's inaugural Waitangi Whānau Day blended ancient creatures with modern technology.

Held on February 6 at the picturesque Department of Conservation (DOC) visitor centre near Thames, the event attracted families from across the district to learn about Aotearoa New Zealand's native flora and fauna and recognise Waitangi Day as a special time to reflect on the nation's history.

DOC ranger Maree Limpus said people of all ages attending the event loved the talk and hands-on encounter with fascinating native lizards showcased by community legends Doug Ashby, known as "The Lizard Man", and his partner Jane.

Maree led a nature walk covering unique, native plants and some of their traditional and medicinal uses.

Throughout the day, visitors were offered a virtual reality goggles experience with a programme developed by Waikato Regional Council and local iwi.

The experience takes the user through an immersive and interactive journey in time, showing what ancient kauri forests looked like before hu-



Virtual reality goggles immerse the users in ancient kauri forests. RIGHT: Triff and Lola Sitnikoff meet a native lizard.

mans, and what the forest will look like if the spread of the soil borne pathogen kauri dieback is stopped and native wildlife protected.

In the evening, Coromandel tour operator Kiwi Dundee held a twilight bush adventure to explore the valley's native bush and share knowledge on wild-

life such as our native tuna/eel.

"The day was a great success and highlights the enthusiasm for local conservation," Maree said.

"It was wonderful to see people being engaged with the activities and being eager to learn and share.

"We are all connected to the

natural environment in different ways. Raising our children to know how precious it is and being kaitiaki (guardian), will mean the natural beauty of Aotearoa New Zealand and its precious wildlife will remain for many more generations to come."

DOC staff planned to hold



Photos: SUPPLIED

the Waitangi Day event annually, Maree said, among a calendar of other fun-filled events throughout the year at the visitor centre.

DETAILS: To keep up with event announcements and local conservation efforts, head to: www.facebook.com/DOCHaurakiCoromandel.

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Chiefs Manawa visit

Chiefs Manawa players swapped sod for sand when they took part in a training day with the Whiritoa Lifeguard Service in coastal Hauraki recently. The team took part in a number of relays on land and in the sea, assisted - and challenged - every step of the way by the local lifeguards.



Olympian Ruby Tui arrives at the beach.



Chiefs players take part in the 'Stay Together' surf relay.

Photos: SUPPLIED



Chiefs players take part in the surf relay.



Jade Coates meets life member Bill Goodwin.



Senior lifeguard Lauren Young talks the team through the 'I Love My Rock' challenge.

Bite back: facing fear without shrinking your world

OPINION

By MICHAEL WILKES



Last night, a mate showed me a gnarly bite on his calf from an eel. I couldn't believe it - the thing must've been massive. Turns out, as the boys were standing at the top of the jump, their friend was at the bottom yelling, "Wait! There's a massive eel!" But no one listened. And honestly, if I'd been there, I probably would've

said, "Ah, don't worry - eels are more afraid of us than we are of them. It'll move". And I would've been wrong. That moment got me thinking because it's a situation we all know. That moment when there's a risk in front of us, and our response is: "She'll be right, mate". But sometimes, she's not. Sometimes, we get bitten by the eel. Now, here's the real question - how does that affect our future choices? I can already hear some of you thinking, Ew, yuck, I'm never swimming in a river

again! Or if you were the one bitten, even more so. I'm all for healthy risk assessment, but I'm also for healthy risk-taking. Of the hundreds of river swims I've been on, and the thousands of mates who've done the same, I've only heard of this happening once. So, when we have a scary or painful experience, what do we do with it? Do we let it grow into a fear that keeps us from ever trying again? Or do we jump back in, acknowledging the risk but knowing it's worth it?

Because every time we let a negative experience stop us, our world shrinks a little. And the harder it becomes to take new risks. Whether we're kids or adults, this matters. One bad moment doesn't erase all the good that came before it. Just like learning to walk or ride a bike - falling doesn't mean we never try again. So get back up. Jump back in. Because if we avoid every scary thing, the cost becomes too great. And our world too small for the person we were made to be.



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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Relationships at the heart of employment navigation service

Joe James-Matthews is a Kaiārahi (navigator) for Te Mana Whai Pūkenga: a kaupapa Māori navigation service that supports whānau to become work ready, delivered by Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki.

Joe is part of a team that supports anybody aged 18 and above, living in the Hauraki rohe, to do training, look for full-time employment or upskill themselves.

Joe's dedication to this kaupapa shines through in 21-year-old Carlaus, a self-confessed 'trouble-maker' hailing from South Auckland, who struggled with finding his place and his purpose upon moving to Hauraki.

"Growing up wasn't easy...I was hanging around with the wrong crowd and was a bit lost really."

He heard there was somebody who could help him, and was introduced to 'Uncle Joe'. What started off as 'a bit itchy' in the beginning developed into a very strong relationship and it blossomed from there.

Carlaus has blitzed his way through the work-readiness programme: progressing through to his full driver licence with endorsements, completing wheels track and rollers, and taking part in the Poutama Mahi programme, which involves being introduced to employment and edu-

cation opportunities available in his local community and further afield.

Joe has been there every step of the way, motivating Carlaus to get out of bed every morning, providing transport when needed, and showing unwavering belief in his young mate.

"We've become quite close, and I would consider him a friend now, not just a whānau."

Through his engagement with the Te Mana Whai Pūkenga service, Carlaus has been encouraged to become a strong person, to forge new bonds with people in his community, and found the self-belief that he could turn things around for a brighter future.

With a refreshed CV, he landed himself a job as a security guard, helping him to support his young whānau.

"I've never looked back to the old me, never looked back to that past."

For Joe, the most rewarding part of his mahi is his relationships with whānau.

"I just loving helping our whānau... that's my only aspiration."

To find out more about Te Mana Whai Pūkenga, contact our team: mahi@korowai.co.nz, call 0508 835 676 - option 4, or visit www.korowai.co.nz.

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Devoting 30 minutes to a proper skin check means it can be done properly, rather than trying to squeeze it into a 15 minute appointment, with other conditions to address. We aim to pick up skin cancers, but also lesions that are premalignant. This means lesions that may not be cancer-

ous yet, but may become so in the future. If we can treat these early, we can prevent the lesions from developing into a cancer. So how often do we need to have our skin checked? This differs for each patient depending on your risk. This is affected by your sun exposure, your skin type and your family history. At your first skin check, you can discuss with the doctor what your risk is, and when you should have your next one done.

Dermnet.org.nz is a great website with lots of information about skin checks, and mole maps. It also has a full description of what to expect when you have a skin check done. Please note, this service is also open to "casual patients", you do not have to be enrolled with Health Ngatea to access this service.

The cost is \$120 per appointment.

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Carlaus, left, with Joe from Te Mana Whai Pūkenga: a kaupapa Māori navigation service that supports whānau to become work ready, delivered by Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki.

Photo: SUPPLIED



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Mercury Bay Art Escape set to thrill

Scores of artists will be opening their studios to the public and showcasing their work as part of The Mercury Bay Art Escape this month.

The annual event this year involves around 50 artists, with co-organsier Sally Samins saying that a “rich and eclectic range of art will be for sale straight from the studios”.

Artistic mediums will include paintings, woodwork, screen-printing, raranga (flax weaving), jewellery, photography, ceramics, photography, sculpture, blacksmithery, pottery and mixed media.

“The event is free and offers a wonderful day out traversing the beautiful coastline,” Sally said, “with studio locations between Tairua and Whangapoua.

“Art Escape also provides the opportunity for the public to visit and chat with member artists in their creative spaces, see their work in progress, find what inspires them and what new art they are working on.”

Work by the artists can also be viewed at a Showcase Exhibition, until April 21 at Hot Waves Café at Hot Water Beach.

Sally said the annual self-drive event was a fabulous way to promote and develop the



growth of the visual arts in the Mercury Bay area in particular, and the wider Coromandel

Peninsula in general.

Artists involved include those who have exhibited before and



LEFT: Co-organsier and artist Sally Samins stands next to her piece 'Urban Breakout'.

ABOVE: One of the artists new to the Art Escape event is flax weaver Helena James. Photos: SUPPLIED

those new to the event.

New artists include Bruce Jackson (jeweller), Carroll De Pape (fibre artist), Donna McKelvey (mixed media artist), Helena James (flax weaver), Liz Klein (ceramicist), Louise Cook (fibre artist), Sharon Graham (painter), Spid Pye (photographer), Toni Leefe (water colour painter) and Vanessa Graham (ceramicist).

DETAILS: The Mercury Bay Art Escape is running over two weekends, March 1 and 2, and March 8 and 9. For more information visit their website: www.mercurybay-artescape.com.

GOLDFIELDS WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
The February meeting of the Goldfields Women's Institute commenced with the Aspiration and Prayer. The Motto for the month – “Of all the things that you wear, your expression is the most important” was read by Sue Fah. Birthday girl this month was Kate Wood. The Good Deed – Used Christmas Cards etc and Calendars for the Goldfields Special School, was well supported, as well as Used Stamps, Wine Bottle Tops, Can Tabs and Milk Bottle Tops, which will be taken to the Federation Meeting in early March. Arrangement was held regarding the Federation AGM and the raffles were won by Jeannine Oliver and Sue Fah. Recently, two boxes of rugs and beanies have been donated to the Tararu Rest Home. The annual general meeting was then held. President Helen read the annual report, which gave a comprehensive account of everything that we have achieved in 2024. This resulted in 3370 items of goods we have donated and our members have volunteered their time to the tune of 3249 hours. Our main projects are the Emergency Toilet Bags to Thames Hospital, knitting for the newborn unit at Waikato Hospital, rugs for the rest homes in Thames and our many monthly goods deeds. There was a presentation of trophies for the year: Christie Vase for Most Points – Helen Udy, Thames Coast CWI Trophy - Val Bowen, Garden Circle Trophy – Sue Fah, Wilton Tray – Most Competition Points – Bev Schenkel. Scott Vase – Most Points Overall – Sue Fah. President's Choice – Heather Cryer Cup – Jean Brady. Election of Officers – President/Secretary - Helen Udy, Treasurer Kate Wood. Members then enjoyed a relaxing lunch.

Irish-Kiwi artist to perform at Kauaeranga Hall

Award-winning Irish-Kiwi guitarist and composer Dave Flynn returns to New Zealand with an exciting expansion of his acclaimed show Celtic Guitar Journey.

In Kauaeranga Music's first 2025 concert in the Kauaeranga Hall on Saturday, Dave Flynn's Celtic guitar style has a new dimension to it, with the inclusion of exhilarating, percussive sounds of Flamenco.

Connections between Irish and Spanish music come alive in the Rumba Reel, while Galician and Irish jigs dance in unison.

New arrangements of music from Brittany, France, and Cape Breton, Canada, further his explorations of global Celtic culture.

Dave promises a vibrant mix of new compositions and familiar favourites, including: *The Irish haka O'Neill's March*, enlivened with a hint of Flamenco; Intricate, soulful arrangements of O'Carolan's baroque harp music; the infectious energy of Celtic jigs and reels, spanning centuries of tradition.

With his virtuoso guitar playing and engaging storytelling, he brings new life to the rich tapestry and heritage of Celtic music.

DETAILS: Dave Flynn will perform on March 8 at the Kauaeranga Hall at 7:30pm. Door sales \$28, pre-paid \$25 txt: 021 912 993 or kauaerangahallmusic@gmail.com, or Garden Music, 712 Pollen St, Thames.

Irish-Kiwi guitarist and composer Dave Flynn. Photo: SUPPLIED



Scott Simpson
MP for Coromandel

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ENTERTAINMENT

The Petersens pluck, pick and play for Thames

REVIEW

The Petersens

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

The room is packed by the time I arrive. It's hard to spot any empty chairs, but there are still people coming through the doors and into the main auditorium of the Thames War Memorial Civic Centre.

We're all here to see The Petersens.

The room goes dim until only the stage is lit.

Two Petersens step out into the middle, Matt on the guitar and Julianne on the mandolin.

Matt leads in with some bluegrass picking and Julianne jumps in on the second count with muted strums for percussion before stepping up to the microphone.

"I have seen the daylight fading, I have faced the eventide, but tomorrow I'll be going over on the morning side," Julianne sings.

It's *Morningside*, a Petersens original.

No murmurs, no footsteps, no movement - nothing but full attention from the audience. Julianne's soft, smooth voice holds the room's gaze - every note clear and pure, yet filled with emotion.

Before the second verse arrives, three more Petersens and friend Emmett appear with their instruments in tow - Katie on the Violin, Emmett on the dobro guitar, Ellen on the banjo, and Mum Karen on the double bass.

Katie brings in the violin alongside Emmett on the dobro, also known as a resonator guitar, for a short stint before the whole band plays together in unison for the second verse, where Katie and Matt accompany Julianne with vocal harmonies.

Every note is thoughtful and sincere, yet so fluid it seems as though it unfurls in real-time. That's how natural this music thing appears to be with the Petersens.

Smiles form on each band member's face as the youngest swings into action with a mandolin solo after verse two.

Whoever had the idea to start the set with a catchy tune that also showcases a bit of everyone's strengths knew what they were doing. I look around the room, just for a second, and all eyes are glued to what's happening on the stage.

There's foot taps, head nods, and no evidence of a cell phone in the air - just full attention for the artists and their art.

By the time verse three hits, anyone who was unsure about the evening is now staying put. It's one thing to play music and it's another to play with feel - The Petersens can do both.

Small gestures and looks across the stage at one another indicate the band is not only tuned to the music but to each other.

Following verse three, Ellen bounces into a banjo solo and swaps a smile with her siblings. Even though she makes it look effortless, undeniable joy beams from the musi-



The Petersens sing to a packed out Thames War Memorial Civic Centre on February 23.

Photo: AARON CLARK PHOTOGRAPHY

cian, as if pouring out music is both a delight and necessity.

There's a whistle followed by claps from an impressed crowd, and a shift in the song as the band reaches the bridge.

The musicians pour their souls into every note. With a sense of purpose, Emmett unleashes his solo - plucking the dobro strings with his right hand and sliding across the frets with his left. This is bluegrass.

The people clap, but it doesn't end here.

Katie leans in straight after with a solo on the fiddle, eyes shut.

This family doesn't muck around, and certainly doesn't leave anyone out.

Everyone plays a significant part in the song, especially Karen, the matriarch who stands at the back, holding down the bass line. She is the backbone, the pulse that keeps the train moving.

The band moves and feels the music in their own ways, some close their eyes, and others tap their feet. Some do both.

But there are no show ponies here.

The music drops out for another verse, except for Matt's guitar and Julianne's vocal.

It takes understanding the people you make music with to truly know how to lean forward or back into it.

It's also a fine art to know where and how to add a little more or a little less - and The Petersens know how to add just the right amount.

After all, it's only a few minutes into a two hour show, they can't give away all their secrets just yet.

But something quite clear is the way each member plays with a quiet grace, allowing

every instrument to compliment the others.

Matt's guitar comes to a halt, and three voices sing acapella for the final verse.

"I have seen the daylight fading, I have faced the eventide, but tomorrow I'll be going over on the morning side, over on the morning side." The final notes ring out in the auditorium, but only for a heartbeat, followed by cheers and claps.

The evening follows on with a blend of original and cover songs for a cathartic night of listening.

We all came for the music, but who knew the banter and humour between siblings during song intervals would have the room in soft chuckles every time.

We get to know the artists as they introduce one another and tell stories.

If it's a delicate balance to weave in and out of heartfelt harmonies and waves of laughter, then The Petersens are tightrope professionals.

All in all, this show is not just good for the ears, it's good for the soul.

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Tinā (125 mins) M. Story of a Samoan teacher, who struggling after the death of her daughter in the Christchurch earthquakes, reluctantly takes on the role of substitute teacher at a wealthy private school. She forms a choir, while unexpectedly rediscovering her passion for being a teacher and mother.

White Bird (120 mins) PG. Struggling to fit in at his new school after being expelled for his treatment of Auggie Pullman, Julian is visited by his grandmother and is transformed by the story of her attempts to escape Nazi-occupied France during World War II. A moving drama fit for the whole family.

The Last Journey (95 mins) M. (Swedish with English subtitles). An emotional and hilarious story with a life-affirming message, this film is a cinematic experience exploring a loving son's attempts to coax his aging father into reengaging with life by embarking on a joyous road trip through the south of France.

Spit (105 mins) M. Comedy. Spitteri finds himself locked up in an immigration detention centre upon his return to Australia. With old enemies and a target on his back, he navigates a series of misadventures, sharing with his fellow detainees the meaning of mateship and what it is to be truly Australian.

A Complete Unknown (141 mins) M. 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.

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.

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Celebrations of Life provide us with the opportunity to remember, reflect and to say goodbye. We need to grieve, we need to be with people to give and receive support. Funerals are for the living, and play an important role in the grieving process.

Saying goodbye offers an opportunity to express our emotions and feelings. It allows us to convey our gratitude, love,

and appreciation to those who have been a significant part of our lives.

Goodbyes provide closure, enabling us to move forward with a sense of resolution. When we take the time to say goodbye, we acknowledge the past and embrace the future.

This sense of closure can help us find peace in moments of transition and change.



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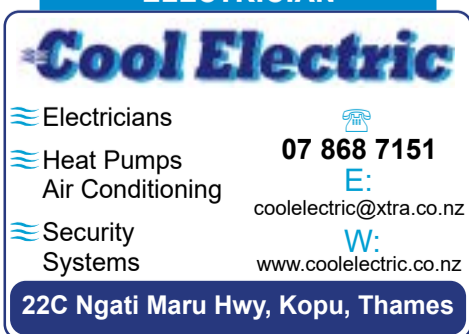
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Superheroes celebrated

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

Paeroa Domain was filled with “real-life superheroes” on March 2, for a free event all about volunteering, staying safe, and celebrating the people who look after the community.

The inaugural Real Life Superheroes event has been three years in the making, and was a collaboration between the Hauraki, Thames-Coromandel, and Matamata-Piako district councils. It featured informational stalls from groups including first responders Hato Hone St John, Fire and Emergency NZ, and Police NZ; emergency and aid organisations Civil Defence, Red Cross, the NZ Army, and Youth Search and Rescue; community patrol, neighbourhood support, and rural support groups; Volunteering Waikato; and other community focused groups like the Hauraki Māori Trust Board and Te Korowai. There were also free sausages and water, competitions, and live demonstrations by emergency services.

Event organiser Brett Otto from Hauraki

District Council said he wanted a day where people could find information and learn how to get involved themselves.

“This day is all about real-life superheroes, and we have those guys that are in these services, but we don’t have enough of them,” he said. “So it’s about learning, knowing your risks, being prepared, having a plan, and upskilling yourself, so that you become a level-up superhero yourself, and then you know how to look after yourself.”

Brett said he hoped the day inspired people, especially youth. “My passion is mentoring kids, getting them to think about their future, [and] being a good global citizen. Following your passions and your dreams, but realising that you can do anything, you just need a bit of help,” he said. “It’s just giving kids a bit of confidence... it’s actually having a go at something and then figuring out what it is that you actually want to do. If you don’t put yourself out there or you don’t volunteer, how are you going to know?”



Mini-superheroes line up for the best superhero costume competition.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER



An “offender” is taken down during a police dog demonstration.



A live rescue demonstration sees volunteers cut out of a car by the fire brigade, while ambulance staff prepare to treat the patients.




Cohen and Isla try on some police gear.

CLASSIFIEDS

Deadline 12noon Monday

Public Notices	Pets	Situation Vacant	Situation Vacant
<p>THAMES HIGH SCHOOL REUNION INVITE Social Studies Period Promised-lots of Chat!! Date: Sat 5th April, 2025</p> <p>Overview & Purpose Sharing of 60 years living, existing, deteriorating- whatever you wish to call our being really, at a venue close to Thames, from 11am ish till 5 pm followed by dinner in Thames. A registration fee of \$35 pp will secure venue hire, finger lunch and complimentary drink with cash bar available for those who wish it.</p> <p>Education Standards : Whatever you absorbed from 1964 to 68, Must be able to remember your name!</p> <p>Needed-Registration before Friday 28th March 2025, to Brownie20a@gmail.com Ph +64 275 425 944 when venue will get confirmed, to avoid gate crashers.</p>	<p>KENNELS WAITAKARURU Boarding Kennels and Cattery. “A great place for your pet to stay.” Shane & Sherrin Hansen. Ph: 07-867-3344, SH25 Waitakaruru, RD6 Thames</p>	<p>Heavy Diesel Mechanic We are a family orientated business based near Thames looking for a Heavy Diesel Mechanic to join our team.</p> <p>This position is to service & maintain a fleet of modern Kenworth & Scania Trucks, along with Company Vehicles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be self motivated, reliable & willing to run a workshop with part time help • \$40 - \$50 per hour based on experience • Hours are flexible to suit • Company Ute & Phone provided <p>Please phone Chris 0210 229 3626 to Apply</p>	<p>Be at the heart of it</p> <p>Nurse Practitioner - Thames Be at the heart of it. Bupa Tararu Care Home and The Booms Care Home in Thames are seeking a Nurse Practitioner to join Bupa, one day per week. A great opportunity to be part of a company that delivers refreshingly different person-first commitment to care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nurse Practitioner - make a lasting difference and enrich lives in the community through resident consultations. Seeking 6 hours per week across two care homes in Thames, Waikato <p>Bupa is a community, and together, we share a purpose - helping people live, longer, healthier, happier lives, and make a better world. This is a chance to work in a rewarding environment, where our residents are at the heart of everything we do.</p> <p>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 or ring 07 868 6176.</p>
<p>KOPU BRIDGE POU COMMUNITY TRUST The AGM for the the Trust will be held on Sunday 9 March, 4pm at the St George’s Church Committee Room. All welcome, including new members and potential trustees. www.historickopubridge.co.nz</p>	<p>Trades</p> <p>FENCING CONTRACTOR Residential & Rural Retaining walls & more High quality workmanship Competitive prices Call Matt 021 1727 148</p>	<p>DRIVER REQUIRED We need a Class 5 Driver for a curtain side truck and trailer. The work is NZ wide loading General Freight. Time away from home is required. Could suit someone not requiring full time work. Late Model equipment. Based here at Kopu. The position is part time/casual however could become full time if all is okay. Experience is required. DG license and a forklift ticket are required. Good money offered for a hard working person. Email cliff491@hotmail.com or text 027 894 8089 a brief description.</p>	<p>Be at the heart of it</p> <p>Last month’s winner of the lotto ticket was Bev Harris, who found Pete in the February 28th edition in the Eves Real Estate advert. Go to page 2 for details on how to enter.</p> 
<p>PAPER RUNNERS We have a vacancies for paper runners in Ngatea. Immediate Start... Please contact Geoff: admin@valleyprofile.co.nz for more information.</p>	<p>Situation Vacant</p> <p>Woodturners Cafe is looking for a staff member to join our team for 20-30 hours per week, including 1 weekend day. No experience necessary as we can provide full training for the right applicant. Contact Lorraine with expression of interest on 021 246 9376</p>		




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For additional information please refer to Twentymans website: twentymans.co.nz CONTACT: 07 868 6003

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SUPPORT LOCAL

SUDOKU

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

			3	4	5		6	
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6						4	9	
			1			5		

HARD

190

Puzzles © The Puzzle Company
www.thepuzzlecompany.co.nz

JUMBO CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Odour (5)
- 4 Deliberately ignore wrongdoing by others (4,3,5,3)
- 14 Go aimlessly (5)
- 15 Heating device (5)
- 16 Not moving (10)
- 17 Small dog (5)
- 19 Signal (3)
- 20 Lawlessness (7)
- 21 Dynamo (9)
- 22 Small (6)
- 25 Top up (9)
- 27 Green club (6)
- 28 Brand new (6)
- 33 Very loudly (mus) (10)
- 35 Meadow (3)
- 36 Military musician (6)
- 37 Leg joint (4)
- 39 Weep (3)
- 41 Blameworthy (2,5)
- 42 Dive (6)
- 43 Non-stop (9)
- 44 Flower (5)
- 45 Judging standards (8)
- 50 Therefore (2)
- 51 Used again (8)
- 55 Farewell (5)
- 58 Military unit (9)
- 59 Swore (6)
- 60 Whim (7)
- 61 Black sealant (3)
- 63 Cat's lives (4)
- 64 Writer (6)
- 65 Tree (3)
- 66 Kept up (10)
- 68 Word of honour (6)

DOWN

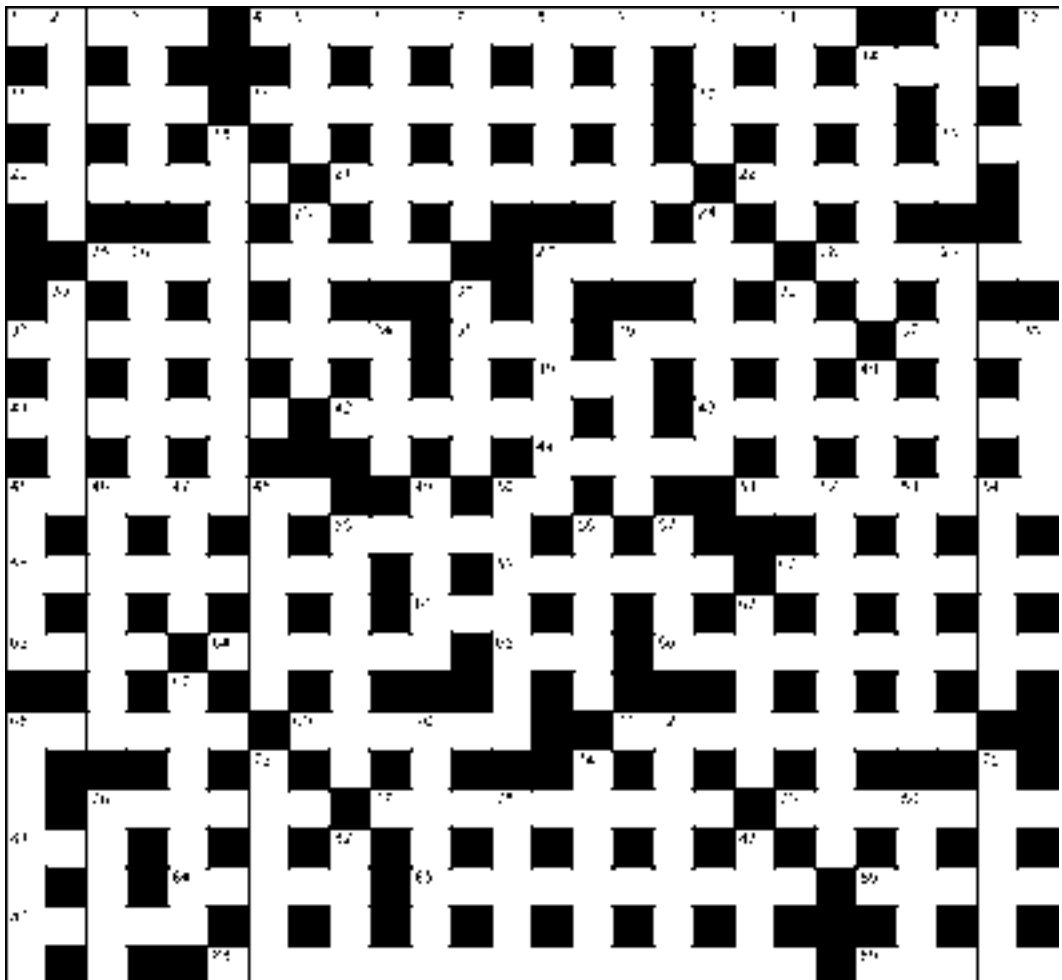
- 2 Rebellion (6)
- 3 Crowbar (5)
- 5 Pledge (4)
- 6 Young cats (7)
- 7 Snagged (6)
- 8 Japanese city (5)
- 9 Room over a stable (7)
- 10 Edible grain (4)
- 11 Scared (6)
- 12 Bit (5)
- 13 Directed (7)
- 14 Aloof (7)
- 18 Trade supplier (10)
- 23 Smithy's block (5)
- 24 European country (7)
- 26 Pull out (7)
- 27 Sugar pill (7)
- 29 Daytime clock (7)
- 30 Clay worker (6)
- 31 Board (5)
- 32 Secure (anag)(6)
- 34 Unctuous (4)

ACROSS

- 69 Soapy sphere (6)
- 71 Agent 007 (5,4)
- 76 Bovine creatures (6)
- 77 Earnestness (9)
- 79 Fame (7)
- 81 Beam of light (3)
- 84 Forbidden (5)
- 85 Concerned, curious (10)
- 86 Chilly (5)
- 87 Bogus (5)
- 88 Accidental mistake in speaking (4,2,3,5)
- 89 Postpone (5)

DOWN

- 36 English poet (5)
- 38 Bordered (5)
- 40 Diversify (4)
- 45 Room on boat (5)
- 46 Severe (7)
- 47 Dutch cheese (4)
- 48 Utter stupidity (6)
- 49 Skiing slope (5)
- 50 Courses (anag)(7)
- 52 Fell apart (4,2,4)
- 53 Warn (7)
- 54 Christian festival (6)
- 55 Old object (7)
- 56 Male duck (5)
- 57 Playing side (4)
- 62 Repaired (5)
- 67 Stir vigorously (7)
- 68 Rot and smell (7)
- 70 Court official (7)
- 72 Skilled worker (7)
- 73 Worldwide (6)
- 74 Wood decay (3,3)
- 75 Dead body (6)
- 76 Revolution (5)
- 78 Drawback (5)
- 80 Elevate (5)
- 82 Ring (4)
- 83 Bill of fare (4)



210

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Abate, 4 Manacles, 9 Vacant, 14 Sling, 15 Blot one's copybook, 17 Scrum, 18 Zoo, 19 Reserve, 20 Snatching, 21 Costly, 24 Forbidden, 25 Nestle, 26 Legend, 29 Navigating, 31 Hem, 32 Mocked, 33 Dodo, 35 Axe, 37 Shut, 39 Denounced, 40 Refurbish, 41 Spied, 42 Aberdeen, 47 Pretence, 51 Squab, 55 Economist, 56 Energetic, 58 Pews, 59 Soh, 60 Dove, 61 Cornet, 62 Oui, 63 Exasperate, 66 Tedium, 67 Pitted, 69 Conferred, 72 Sniper, 73 Semibreve, 75 Cutlass, 77 Can, 80 Argue, 81 Bone of contention, 82 Libel, 83 Beetle, 84 Relished, 85 Exits.

DOWN: 2 Ballerina, 3 Title, 5 Also, 6 Adorned, 7 Lay it on thick, 8 Sloth, 9 Vikings, 10 Cast, 11 Narrow, 12 Fizzy, 13 Ignored, 14 Smitten, 16 Never say die, 22 Vision, 23 Placard, 24 Fritter, 25 Nomads, 27 Emotion, 28 Heifer, 30 Glum, 32 Merit, 34 Ochre, 36 Writ, 38 Hub, 42 Ahead, 43 Evolved, 44 Doom, 45 Editor, 46 Quest, 48 Escape route, 49 Expired, 50 Cow, 51 Stencil, 52 Behold, 53 Lewis Carroll, 54 Ogle, 57 Trader, 64 Transport, 65 Musical, 66 Trickle, 68 Tremble, 70 Novices, 71 Meagre, 72 Snobs, 74 Inner, 76 Latex, 78 Heat, 79 Once.

BAYLEYS

NEW LISTING



Boundary lines are indicative only



Ruamahunga - Thames Coast 43F Otuturu Crescent

Coastal gem with unbeatable views!

Look no further for your slice of the Kiwi dream than this enticing opportunity nestled in the picturesque Coromandel Peninsula. Perched on an elevated site, this one-bedroom unit offers unparalleled sea and bush views. Whether you're seeking an investment property, an Airbnb venture, or simply a weekend getaway, the options are abundant. Immerse yourself in the serene surroundings, offering a tranquil escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Conveniently located just a short drive from the township of Thames, you'll have easy access to all amenities, while still enjoying the peace and quiet of coastal living.

bayleys.co.nz/2180681

1 1 2

Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 27 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
MH REALTY LTD, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008



Tapu 503 Tapu Coroglen Road

Idyllic country sanctuary

This peaceful 3.2ha (more or less) retreat is surrounded by native plantings and a soothing stream creating a sanctuary of birdlife. The layout is spacious and thoughtfully designed, with five large bedrooms and three beautiful bathrooms, including a luxurious ensuite. The heart of the home is a charming country-style kitchen featuring a coal range and wetback; complementing the rustic feel. Two inviting living areas, formal dining and covered entertaining area with fish pond, make this home perfect for entertaining, enjoying with loved ones and unwinding amongst nature. The property also features impressive shedding and a sleepout for family/guests.

Make this slice of paradise yours!

bayleys.co.nz/2180764

5 2 3 4

Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 20 Mar 2025
 96 Ulster Street, Hamilton
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Robyn Cruickshank 027 308 7110
 robyn.cruickshank@bayleys.co.nz
Karl Davis 027 496 4633
 karl.davis@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!

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9.4 ha 3 2 9

Asking Price \$1,590,000
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 karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz
Connor Davis 027 496 4622
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- Tenanted to a well-established national brand returning \$33,103.13pa +GST/OPEX
- Highly accessible featuring rear parking and service lane access
- With an 83% IEP rating, the building meets strong structural standards, offering security for investors

This is an attractive opportunity for mum-and-dad investors, portfolio builders, or those seeking stable commercial returns in a sought-after coastal location. With limited commercial supply in the area, well-leased investments like this are tightly held. A straightforward, high-performing asset in a prime position - call today and secure your place in Whangamata's growing commercial landscape.

bayleys.co.nz/2221423

235 sqm 118 sqm

For Sale by Deadline Private Treaty (unless sold prior)
 4pm, Fri 28 Mar 2025
 7 The Esplanade, Whitianga
View by appointment
Josh Smith 027 229 8865
 josh.smith@bayleys.co.nz
MH REALTY LTD, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008





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_{ha} 3 2 2

Asking Price \$1,099,000

View Sun 1-1.30pm or by appointment

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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ENQUIRIES FOR STAGE 2 ARE WELCOME!**

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The perfect location to enjoy your fun-filled retirement

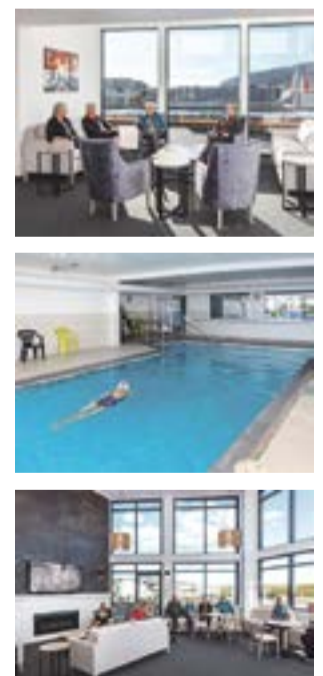
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Each unit's elegantly finished kitchen, lounge, bedroom and bathroom offer stylish warmth and light.

All residents enjoy scenic views from each level's shared lounges, use of the Village Community Lodge and participation in all activities and amenities at your leisure.

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