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

 \mathbf{F} ormidable mountain peaks have been a familiar part of everyday life for Paul Beisly.

He grew up in a family which always loved the outdoors, and after his dad, Derek Beisly, died in a rock fall on Mt Cook in 1992, Paul kept his legacy of living life to the full and pushing the limits of adventure alive.

At the beginning of March, Paul and his friend Cameron Webster completed the Four Peaks, an unofficial outdoor adventure challenge which sees participants ascend and descend the four highest mountains in the North Island in one day. It took the pair just under 21 hours from 5am on a Saturday until 2am the following day to travel up and down Mt Taranaki, Mt Ruapehu, Mt Ngauruhoe and Mt Tongariro. They ascended a total of 4465m and covered 42km on foot - plus five hours driving between mountains.

Paul, the Year 10 pastoral dean at Paeroa College, told *The Profile* he and Cameron had the Four Peaks on their minds "for a few years".

"We've completed a few other good adventures, like the Tongariro Northern Circuit, Lake Waikaremoana, and the Abel Tasman National Park. The Four Peaks seemed like a good one to tick off next," he said.

Paul said the toughest part of the challenge was heading up Mt Ngauruhoe, which stands at 2287m

"It was dark by the time we got there and we didn't find the unmarked track leading up to the summit.

"We battled up steep, loose, rocky scree which seemed never ending. Giving up was definitely an option at that point," he said. **CONTINUED P2**



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Four Peaks inspired by dad's legacy

"If it was any steeper, looser, darker or colder it would have become dangerous. But we were still within safe conditions and we made it to the top about 10pm for a beautifully clear starry sky.'

On the flipside, Paul said his favourite part of the day was being up Mt Taranaki for the sunrise, but his favourite mountain was Ruapehu.

"I love the variation, the numerous peaks surrounding the steamy milky blue crater lake. It's the highest mountain in the North Island and vou can start to feel the thin air at that altitude. It's a special place," he said.

Paul, who lives in the Karangahake Gorge, prepared for the mammoth task by staying fit through running, surfing, cycling, and climb-

His backyard of the gorge was also the perfect place to train, he said, though bigger events like the Four Peaks were "more about having fun in the outdoors than simply



Paul Beisly climbed the four highest mountains in the North Island in one day.

Photo: SUPPLIED

being focused on a goal to achieve"

Inspired by his dad, who was also a Paeroa College teacher, Paul said he was always planning "some kind of adventure" and has set his sights on completing all the

NZ Great Walks - each walk in one day.

"On top of [that], I'd like to do Ruapehu's Round the Mountain loop in a day which has unbelievable alpine, bush, and also desert environments. I'd also like to

have a go at the Kaimai North South Track which is quite long and tough," he said, "so maybe I'll need some more training for that.



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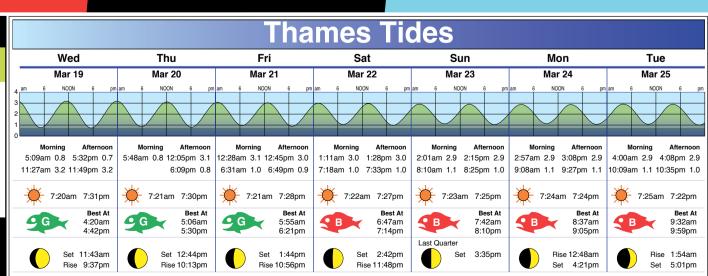
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Not So Good

Bench seat to be installed for young Ezra

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

Amemorial seat will be installed at Ezra Tapp's favourite park, giving his family a place of comfort when they pass through Waihī.

Ezra, who had autism, was three-yearsold when he drowned in the Ohinemuri River near his home in Waihī, on August 12, 2014.

His mum Julia told The Profile it was hard for her and her husband Jason to stay in the Hauraki town, especially being able to hear the river flow, so they moved back to her hometown of Whangārei in 2016.

However, a bench seat that will soon be installed in Ezra's honour will help the family return to Waihī - because they will have "something positive to look forward to".

"[The seat] is incredibly important to us," Julia said.

"As a mother, I struggled with how to make sure he's remembered, and this gives us a solid object where people will sit and remember their loved ones and speak his name.

"It keeps his memory alive in his favourite place.

"It'll also help us be able to come back to Waihī... [It] has



The rocket at Victoria Park, Waihī, has a special meaning to the Tapp family. INSET: Ezra Tapp was three-years-old when he drowned in the Ohinemuri River near his home.

been really hard to return to, even pass through, and this brings us all so much comfort."

The bench seat has been ordered and will be located at Victoria Park, affectionately known as the Rocket Park, off Seddon Ave.

The site is a special one. Ezra's grandad helped build the rocket at the playground, Julia said, and it was her son's favourite park to play at.

The cost of the seat was do-

nated in full by Tamara and Stuie Thompson, while friend Amy Sleep has been handling all the paperwork.

"Those three people have made this possible," Julia said, "and we are using any extra funds raised to make the bench wheelchair accessible and to brighten the park."

Hauraki District Mayor Toby Adams said council's parks and reserves manager had been working with Amy Sleep to pull the project together.

He confirmed council will install a concrete pad for the bench to sit on and, if funding allowed, take the opportunity to extend the current concrete path to the bench, so people of all abilities could access it easily

"The placement of the bench gives a full view of the whole of Victoria Park, which we're sure will be appreciated by everyone who visits it," Mayor Adams said.

"It's a privilege to be able to facilitate this for the family."

Hauraki District Council considers requests for memorial benches on an individual basis based on feasibility of location; reason for the bench; and funding provided.

Julia hopes Ezra's seat will give people pause.

"Please use the seat, say his name, think of your loved ones and all the beautiful memories you hold of them," she said.

"Never hold back on saying I love you."





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Thirty-five years of radio 'for the people'

Nga Iwi FM, Hauraki's Māorilanguage radio station, has celebrated its 35th anniversary.

The week of March 3-7 saw the station celebrate everything it has

achieved since its inception, with former staffers reminiscing on air, live giveaways, and a public hui.

When the Paeroa-based station first hit the airwaves, it was with the aim of giving iwi a place to stay connected to their language and culture.

"He taonga tēnei, mā te iwi, ko te iwi [this is a treasure, for the people, by the people]," Nga Iwi FM chairman Mike Baker said as he addressed the crowd who arrived to celebrate the milestone

on March 7.

"Our radio station has always been a youth orientated, community based, and driven type of station that has been recognised as belonging to the people, and so we've seen a generation of language speakers who see us as be-longing to them," Mike later told The Profile.

"It survived 35 years of strong relationship... and that relationship can only grow and get better."

Despite its successes, Mike said the station still struggles.

Funding is a major challenge, but he plans to keep pushing for parity within the broadcasting sector. Currently the station is only funded for eight or nine hours of broadcasting each day.

"It's not funded equitably, and it's not funded sufficiently, and while we've done a very great job



Nga Iwi FM staff and guests celebrate 35 years. RIGHT: Mike Baker and Seini Nai.

with what we've got, [we want] that level playing field and the investment in iwi," Mike said.
"We should be funded for the

whole 24 hours. The industry has proven itself across the landscape of radio, and we've been a para-

mount driver."

Even with limited air time though, Nga Iwi FM has done a lot within the Māori community, and not just by sharing stories. During Covid-19, for example, the station worked alongside Te Korowai to ensure the most vulnerable in the community were cared for.
"We were able to ensure that...

all the food parcels, all those kau-

papa [projects], were being made available by us," Mike said. "Our radio station has been the

voice to get that out there.

Former station manager Seini Nai was also at the hui to celebrate the station. She remembers her time there fondly.

We say te reo me ona tikanga, which is the language and the cul-ture. That was really at the heart of all of the [Māori-language] radio stations being established around that time," she said.

"For Nga Iwi the focus was on Hauraki-tanga but I think the real success of the radio station has been to be a platform for the Photos: ALICE PARMINTER

iwi, for the hapū, for the whānau, to feel connected and that's why transmission was a major thing for us back then. We really put a lot of focus on 'how do we extend our culture to all of our families, all of our people in Hauraki?'

Programme director Rino Wilkinson, meanwhile, remi-nisced about the physical changes at the station. As one of its founding members, he has seen a lot of

growth in the studio itself.

"In the early 1990s, how we gathered information for the radio station was a thing called Teletext. I've seen [the station] developed over the years. From the good old



cart machines, to the reel-to-reels. to the cassette tapes, to the CDs.

"We used to have to be an announcer painting the picture, through voice, so the listener could see what was happening. These days pictures are everywhere, but it's still a strong need, in my mind, for radio to be around.

Decades on, one thing everyone is proud of is the station's status as a stepping stone for its people.

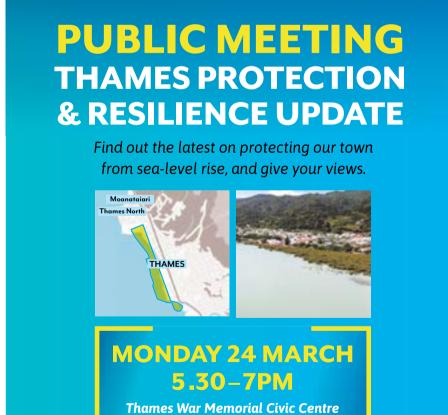
"I've seen announcers grow over the years... it's just nurturing them there in their career, but it's also building their confidence as a young person getting ready to the big wide world, whatever career path. The radio station gives them that platform to grow," Rino said.

"And I just can't say enough about this place, the station, what

it's given me - it gave me the confidence to stand for council, and then to be elected the very first Māori ever [for Hauraki District Council].

"It's just been a wonderful week sharing those wonderful memories. We're a big family, you know? Ngā iwi, the people.





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Curious curios on display at collectibles show

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

Arthur Harsant is a collec-

Shiny hubcaps line the walls in one corner of his shed, tucked away in the Thames foothills; vintage cars rest alongside antique furniture, old books, and shelves of glass bottles.

There's no specific era or item represented here - for Arthur, the joy of his collection is in its history.

"The historical research - that's part of the fun of it really," he said.

"A very, very important thing to do [is] to either label things or certainly talk about things to people, to your children, for example, so they can keep the history with the item.

"Everything has a story, and it's so easy for that story to be lost."

Pride of place in Arthur's collection at present is an array of colourful, heavily embossed poison bottles.

Informative posters accompany the display, which is being prepared for the inaugural Antiques and Collectibles Show, taking place in Thames on March 22.

The show is being organised by Arthur, Carmen Judson, Chris Buchanan, and other members of the Thames Vin-



Arthur Harsant shows some of his vast collection - in his hand is a sheep shearer from the early 1900s; behind him is the royal crest from atop the Thames Post Office, removed when New Zealand Post was established. RIGHT: Arthur's display of poison bottles.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER

tage Bottle and Collectors Club, which was established only 18 months ago.

"The aim really is to get people interested in talking about history and these interesting pieces," he said.

Carmen said the club wanted to educate younger people, and keep Thames' history alive.

"Bottle shows go right through New Zealand, but this is the first one ever in our area," she said. "The hall will be full of Thames-related history - anything old and interesting."

Alongside Arthur's displays will be displays from the Thames Historical Society, School of Mines, Thames Mu-



seum and more. There will also be stalls of curios for sale, and outside the hall, Carmen said they hoped to have a vintage car display.

The show is a natural extension of the club's activities - it's a fairly casual group of around 30 members, Arthur said, who hail from Thames to Tauranga.

"Everyone gets their 15 minutes of fame... People can show their latest finds," he said.

"And it's a great hobby as far as companionship goes. One of the things that's quite gratifying is the members who have been doing this sort of thing for ages, helping the younger ones, and giving bottles to them and all that sort of thing.

"Because you're just custodians of the stuff, you know, you can't take it with you."

DETAILS: The inaugural Thames Antiques and Collectables Show, March 22, 10am-3pm at the Thames Civic Centre. Gold coin entry.





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ADVERTORIAL

Digging Deep: Thames business marks 50 years

A special celebration is in the pipeline for Thames Drainage & Digging, who first swung open their doors in 1975.

The Deverill family company will celebrate 50 years in business serving the community and beyond on March 21.

Owner operators and brothers Shane and Brett Deverill run a tight ship with a team of six.

The brothers joined their parents in the business around 30 years ago, assuming full responsibility about 10 years ago when dad Peter retired.

Drain laying, drain unblocking, and earthmoving services, installation and maintenance of septic tanks, effluent systems and filters and wastewater plants are some of the services on offer from the team at Thames Drainage & Digging.

"We go all over the Peninsula -[Thames], the Hauraki Plains, the Kaiaua Coast. We cover a pretty reasonably big area," Shane said.

"We pretty much go anywhere and do anything."

And that's been a rule of thumb for Thames Drainage & Digging since the beginning.

It was 1973 when Peter and Maureen Deverill shifted to Thames.

Peter, a plumber, noticed an opportunity to transition into drain laying "and that's where it all started", Shane said.

And with that, Peter, alongside Colin Brokenshire and Dave Dunlop, established Thames Drainage & Digging in 1975.

Even though Dave and Colin departed from the organisation, Peter and wife Maureen carried on the business, and are still directors today alongside sons Shane and Brett.

The brothers worked for their parents during the school holidays, and when they graduated from school - they worked in different jobs and explored different places, before heading back to be part of the business around 30 years ago, Shane said.

"I spend most of my time in the office looking at jobs and pricing and stuff. And Brett runs the job with the guys. That's kind of it in a nutshell."

But the consistency of Thames Drainage & Digging stands as a



Directors Shane, left, Maureen, Peter and Brett with the newest digger of the fleet. BELOW: Peter Deverill drives the Ferret - one of Thames Drainage & Digging's first pieces of machinery used in the 1970s.

Photos: SUPPLIED

milestone in its own right.

The business has more or less "chugged along just quietly", Shane said.

In terms of machinery in the early 70s, there wasn't much around.

They started off with an old Cranville digger, and also had a digger built for them called a Ferret, Shane said, which they had for many years before they got their first tracked excavator.

Thames Drainage & Digging now boasts a fleet made up of two different sized excavators, trucks, a water blasting unit, cameras and a telehandler - which has a big bucket, a jib for lifting and forks, and is the biggest one in the area, Shane said.

"And we've just replaced our big digger last year. So that's like brand new from last year."

It was clear Shane, Brett and the team were proud of the steady growth. "We've grown quite a bit



over the years - and now we're turning 50."

But a key factor in the business's longevity is the unwavering trust and commitment from its clients. The team of directors and staff at Thames Drainage &

Digging wanted to say a big thank you to everyone who has supported and chosen to work with them for the past 50 years.

"We really need to thank our ongoing loyal customers that have been with us for a long, long time. We have a few of those," Shane said.

The main goal for the next 50 years was simple: to just keep going and carry on providing a good service to our customers, he said.

- By Davidda Hikatangata



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Hockey's big day out

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

Ctudents from across the Hauraki took part in the Thames Valley Hockey Association's Hockey Big Day Out event on March 10-17.

Each day of the event, different school teams played each other in a series of 12-minute matches designed to introduce them to the fun of the sport. They were umpired by Hauraki Plains College students and members of the hockey association.

Darren Smith, high performance director for Hockey New Zealand and general manager of the Waikato Mavericks, was at the Ngatea turf during the week to watch the action.

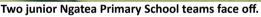
Darren, who also established the Hockey Big Day Out 25 years ago, said it was fantastic to see so many young people still at-tending and enjoying the annual event.

We're giving them the chance to play hockey, and I just think kids running around on the turf doing this stuff, it's so good," he said.

"You can already see they're good players. You can already see them holding the stick well - it's so awesome."









Neal Grover from Te Kauwhata School runs with it.



Grace Dowling, left, with Yohan Camasis, Superstan Kuni, and Autumn Roskam from St Joseph's Waihī.



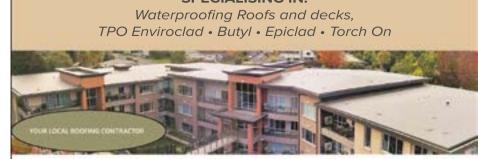
Christopher Baigent, left, and Zakk Adams from Ngatea Primary School.



Mackenzie Sylva, of Hikutaia School, gives the ball a big hit.



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Lawyer, inventor, newspaper man found dead



As part of a Valley Profile series, MEGHAN HAWKES explores our local history by seeking out stories of life and death in the Thames Valley

The non-appearance in Waihī streets of old identity James Galbraith prompted inquiries to be

James, a 67-year-old bachelor from Scotland and a familiar sight about town, was last seen on a Friday morning in July, 1915. When police visited his residence in Featon Rd, they discovered his body.

He appeared to have died two days earlier; an inquest would reveal evidence of long standing pleurisy and a failing heart. When found James was lying on a rough mattress on the floor, covered with a rug and some coats.

James' family had arrived in New Zealand as part of the George Vesey Stewart Special Settlement Scheme. These were initially two settlements at Katikati sold to Irish settlers in lots. After the success of these settlements, Stewart organised a third, at Te Puke. These settlers were drawn from all over the British Isles and included four of the Galbraith family who arrived at Tauranga in January, 1881. James arrived seven months later in August when he was 32, and three re-



James Galbraith's grave. SUPPLIED maining family members arrived in March the next year.

James had been a practising solicitor in Scotland, and in 1884, having passed the necessary examinations, was admitted to the Supreme Court of New Zealand as barrister and solicitor. In 1885 James ventured into the newspaper business becoming part owner of the bi-weekly *Tauranga Evening News and East Coast Business Advertiser*.

James was also inventive and in 1886, after the Tarawera volcanic eruption, he experimented with the productivity of different soil combinations. The results were publically displayed in three small flowerpots.

One contained ordinary garden soil, one an equal quantity of garden soil and volcanic ash, and the other pure volcanic deposit which had fallen in Tauranga. The differing growth rates of maize and dwarf peas were proof of the fertilising properties contained in the volcanic deposit.

In 1887, James announced that he had disposed of his newspaper and

would now devote his attention exclusively to the legal interests of his clients. He found the smell of printer's ink too strong to resist however and in 1888 he and his brother Robert acquired the *Bay of Plenty Times*, Robert also becoming the editor.

Robert also becoming the editor. James's newspaper interests were extensive. Within a year or two he printed the *Ōpōtiki Weekly Mail* and *Hot Lakes Weekly Chronicle*, the *Te Aroha Weekly*, and the *Ohinemuri Mail*. His brother Robert was elected Mayor of Tauranga in December, 1889, but he died suddenly in office two months later aged 32.

James continued on with his newspaper and printing concerns, in 1890 being appointed sole agent for the Australasian Colonies which sold the most current type-setting machinery.

By 1891, though, James was in Auckland on the staff of Giles's Business and Training College where he gave lessons in English, Literature, Latin, French, Greek, Science, Law and Shorthand. In September, 1892, he had left the college and struck out on his own as a private tutor in civil service and law exams, offering shorthand lessons as well. He also taught at Marist Brothers Sacred Heart School offering private instruction in music, Latin and experimental science.

In 1895 James moved to Waihī where, in conjunction with J M Wrigley he founded the *Waihī Miner* newspaper. This was initially a 10-page foolscap size publication, pending the arrival of a larger Wharfdale printing press from Sydney.

As a sideline, James began trying his hand at inventions and in 1898 applied for a patent for a machine called the Encycle, or travelling rail, which was expected to revolutionise vehicular traffic. The travelling rail could be easily attached to the wheel of any vehicle. A vehicle provided with Encycle wheels carried with it, and was constantly laying and travelling over, its own railway. James declared that by using this invention the road could compete successfully with the railway and everyone who provided his vehicle with Encycles would actually bring to his own door a railway over which he could travel everywhere.

In 1900, the Waihī Miner was wound up and James appears to have worked as a journalist in the Thames Valley district. He invented a new system of shorthand writing in 1901 which he claimed could be written faster and more legibly than the traditional Pitman shorthand. He called his method the Tonic shorthand, and declared that a year's application by the student would make him a verbatim reporter. He returned to private tuition in 1904, giving lessons in bookkeeping, shorthand, arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and mathematics suitable for School of Mines, physics, chemistry, geology, and science. He also coached candidates for Civil Service. He would teach at a pupil's residence if required and offered reduced fees for more than one pupil in the same family. In 1911, now in his 60s, James ap-

In 1911, now in his 60s, James applied for a patent for roller skates but his ideas did not seem to come to fruition. For the last few years of his life he offered lessons by correspondence for his Tonic shorthand system. When he died newspapers called the sad demise of the once enterprising Scotsman "a lonely death".

James is buried at Waihī cemetery.

Chris' Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parminter

- 1. Which British crown colony peacefully reverted back to Chinese rule in 1997, in a ceremony officially known as the 'Handover'?
- 2. In the game Minecraft, which of these could you use to mine diamonds? a) a stone pickaxe, b) an iron pickaxe, or c) a wood pickaxe? 3. Shenzi, Banzai, and Ed are the names of three of the hyenas from which 1994 Disney animated film? 4. Which gorge marks the transition between the Coromandel Ranges and the Kaimai Ranges?
- 5. Which 16-year-old future superstar became the youngest player ever to tee off in a PGA tournament in 1992, at the Nissan Los Angeles Open?
- 6. The musical *West Side Story* is based on which William Shake-speare Play?
- 7. The American singer-songwriter Billie Eilish O'Connell (usually known as Billie Eilish), has which middle names? a) Eilish Pirate Baird, b) Eilish Pirate Bay, or c) Eilish Pirate Ship?
- 8. Which language beginning with A is the third most prevalent official language, with 23 countries using it officially?
- Due to an incorrect assumption about the disease's source, the term 'malaria' is derived from Italian, meaning ______ air?
 Which of these British Over-
- 10. Which of these British Overseas Territories has the same name as the genus for freshwater New Zealand eels? a) Anguilla, b) Bermuda, or c) Gibraltar?

ANSWERS: 1. Hong Kong; 2. b) an iron pickaxe; 3. The Lion King; 4. The Karangahake Gorge; 5. Tiger Woods; 6. Romeo and Juliet; 7. a) Eilish Pirate Baird; 8. Arabic; 9. bad (mal = bad in italian); 10. a) Anguilla.



Hato Hone St John Thames

Youth program

Recently cadets from Thames and Ngatea attended the children's day in Thames and were active in demonstrating CPR and helping show people through one of the ambulances. Learning CPR from an early age has a positive impact on survival rates from cardiac arrest in the community.

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Colourful fun

Pūriri School enjoyed a sunny day for their colour run fundraiser event on March 1. Students raced through a slippery wet course, pelted through coloured powder and enjoyed a family barbecue. The funds raised will be going towards the upcoming beach camp and a school van, principal Lydia Lester said. "We had a great community day, lots of laughter and smiles."



Students have fun with slime in the shade.



Good, soapy fun.



The weather was ideal for the run.



Slipping down the slip-n-slide



A bench is no obstacle for one leaping student.



Teachers and parents also got in on

DVERTORIAL

Could you be the next owner of Rapaura Watergardens?

t's not everyday a watergarden comes up on the market.

But when it does, it's a rare invitation to own a piece of serenity.

It's exactly what has happened with the Rapaura Watergardens at 586 Tapu Coroglen Rd, Thames, which is now up for sale after 31 years of family ownership.

Rapaura manager Sacha Sank said it was not an easy decision to make, but following the passing of his mother, Sally, in 2023, he felt it was time for new energy.

A new owner will now have the unique opportunity to guide and help write the next chapter in the story of these watergardens.

And it's not just the gardens that come with the property. A 40-seat restaurant with a full commercial kitchen, three houses, a workshop, storerooms, chicken coop, stable, tunnel houses and garden storage are all part of the package. The property can hold weddings, music events and offers guest accommodation, which has received top reviews and was fully booked across the summer.

It's clear Rapaura is a lifestyle business with unlimited potential - and comes fully stocked and furnished with everything from teaspoons to tractors. One key principle that's remained with Rapaura since its origin in 1965 was from a saying on a sign in the garden about land and man.

"It says in any society, owning land is being a temporary caretaker and the fact is you look after it and you leave it in a better state than you found it," Sacha said. "And that's what we've always felt here.

"It's our philosophy for the garden".

It should come as no surprise Rapaura was rated a 5-star Garden of National



Current owner Sacha Sank.

Significance by the New Zealand Gardens Trust - and was the only one on the Coromandel. But it doesn't stop there.

Rapaura is consistently rated number one out of 25 things to do in Thames, which Sacha said was "a great honour", and featured in all major travel guides.

The meaning of Rapaura was the meeting of the spring waters, Sacha said.

"So you've got three creeks coming through the property and two of them join up on the property. So it's [the] meeting of the spring waters there," he said.

Sacha describes it as "the lifeblood".

Just like the water flowed through the property, so did the energy, he said.

"So that's a key aspect of it. All gardens have beauty but there's also the energy as well."

It could be an opportunity for a multigenerational family to step in and "make their mark", or even a new venture for multiple families to purchase it together as a



A new owner will have the unique opportunity to guide and help write the next chapter in the story of the Rapaura Watergardens.

Photos: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

holiday home, Sacha said.

There's certainly ample parking for vehicles and boats. One thing Sacha is certain about: "I always say it's not a place to see. It's actually a place just to sit, absorb and enjoy".

For all enquiries about the Rapaura Watergardens property at 586 Tapu Coroglen Rd, Thames, please contact NZ Sotheby's Realty agent Cary Ralph by Email: cary.ralph@ waikatonzsir.com or phone 021 139 4000. Scan the QR code for more information.

- By Davidda Hikatangata





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Pauanui Parkrun takes off

On November 30 last year, Pauanui Beach got its first ever weekly Parkrun event, which is only the sec-ond Parkrun in the Coromandel region.

The Pauanui Parkrun has since continued to gain positive feedback from locals and from people all over the

Each week, the organisers continue to be amazed with almost always at least one participant from overseas, who have have come from all over the world including places like Ireland England and Australia as well as all around New Zealand.

Many have travelled just to take part in this brilliant free community event, which is very inspiring to many involved.

"It proceeds to be a very good uptake in getting the community involved and invested in something greater," organ-

So far the Parkrun has received a positive response from the public of Pauanui - not only participants but also

The Parkrun is a voluntary event held at the Southend of Pauanui Beach opposite the car park, and all those involved offer their time to help the event

The Parkrun takes place on Saturdays at 8am at the Southend opposite the car park at Pauanui Beach, and is available to anyone who wants to run, walk, or spectate.

It attracts many tourists, visitors and locals, with its beautiful coastal views overlooking the beachfront and the op portunity of meeting up at Cabana Cafe afterwards.

"I wanted more of a community spirit and camaraderie within the running community of Pauanui. That's why I started it up," event director Neil Paulsen said.

"Some of the participants' favorite part is just getting together afterwards and having a coffee and chat.

Lots of the other locals are just pleased to have another string in their bow for community events that are available to the public, and are thank-

It seems the locals of Pauanui Beach are loving this new weekly event that has already brought so much friendship, fun and positivity to the community and it looks like it will continue to do so as long as this event keeps going.



Event director Neil Paulsen, left, Jez Rogers and Lily Paulsen, right, at the Parkrun.







Bev and Kevin Sharp are celebrated at a recent ribbon day at Paeroa Domain.

Forty-three years of service

ATHLETICS

Kevin and Bev Sharp were celebrated for their long years of service to the Paeroa Amateur Athletics Club on March 8.

At the club's ribbon day, attendees heard how Kevin, a former athlete himself, joined the club committee in 1983 for a 43-year-long association with the sporting group.

"I'm quite gratified that you think of us," Kevin said.

"You get involved, and you just carry on year after year, and all of a sudden you stand back and realise how long you have been involved.

"It's been a labour of love. I've enjoyed the sport pretty well all my life, and certainly enjoyed knowing the inside out of the domain. But I couldn't do it all without a wife to look after all the secretarial side and keep me on my toes.

Kevin was made a life member of the Paeroa Amateur Athletics Club in 1995.

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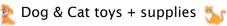
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Positive vibes

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

The sun beamed down in the Hauraki Plains for a day of athletics, friendly competition and positive vibes on February

25.
The Hauraki Plains College Athletics Day saw students compete in a variety of track and field events, while decked out in house group colours, face paint and accessories.

There were also sightings of students in banana and wookiee costumes out on the fields.

But the main theme of the day was to encourage a Sport Waikato initiative the school was implementing: "Positive Vibes Only". The idea was about creating environments that were enjoyable for everyone, whether they're a player, coach, referee, administrator

or supporter.
Year 13 student Rhona McInnes told *The Profile* it was a wonderful day where the school community got together. "I constantly heard laughter

and encouragement as every-one enjoyed being active and supporting each other in a fun and lively atmosphere.

Year 13 student Benjamin Beard said it stood out as one of his most memorable school memories to date, with perfect weather and laughter and ice cream with friends.

While fellow student Fergus Ball said it was good to see everyone participate even though it was hot. "Everyone enjoyed it and was really positive.



A banana flies over the bar in the high jump competition.

A Star Wars Wookiee runs along with the competition.







Students speed to the finish line.



Students get behind the Positive Vibes Only campaign.



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Salt to stand for second term

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

For Thames-Coromandel's Len Salt, the biggest learning he's taken from his first term is the importance of finding the balance.

It's a lesson he'll be holding on to as he vies for a second stint in the district's top job. Mayor Salt announced his in-

Mayor Salt announced his intention to restand last week, and told *The Profile* the decision was only made after being given the nod by his partner, Svargo.

"The job comes with a very high level of personal commitment, and that's not just for me, that's for both of us, and I couldn't do it without her support."

Mayor Salt said the district faced

Mayor Salt said the district faced some "significant challenges" over the past three years, including the major weather events of 2022 and 2023 which cut off communities and contributed to an economic decline.

decline.

He also said the diversity of the district, while being one of its unique features, also presented a challenge in achieving fairness and equity for all.

There were personal trials, too.
"The main challenge is finding

a balance between the inevitable criticism that you get," he said, "because not everyone's going to like the decisions that you have to make as a mayor and as part of a council.

"I guess where that becomes a real personal challenge is when that criticism becomes a personal attack. That's hard to deal with sometimes, but it's balanced out by the fact that when I go out into my communities, I get such in-



credible levels of support and affirmation from people."

Mayor Salt said he had become "better at finding the balance" and learning to switch off for an hour or so.

or so.

"When I first started, especially when we had the storms, I'd be waking up at three in the morning and going through things in my mind and rehashing stuff that had happened during the day," he said.

"But you need to develop the

"But you need to develop the ability to step away from that and come back in the morning or the next day with a fresh look at things.

"And for me, my escape is I play some music. I don't play golf. I don't do any other sports. My leisure activity is playing music. But for the first 18 months or so, I didn't pick up my guitar at all.

"Once I found that I needed this, I needed a way to switch off and relax, I picked up the guitar again." Mayor Salt, who will be 69 in May, has a spinal condition and can sometimes be seen using a walking aid on his jaunts around the district - but he said his ailment gives him common ground with some constituents.

"For the first 10 or 15 minutes when I get together with people of my age, we are always talking about, you know, how's the hip? How's the back? How's the eyes?" he joked.

he joked.

"And then we get on to talking about roads and rubbish and parks and libraries and rates. But it gives us some common ground."

Thames ward councillor Peter Revell has already announced his intention to stand for Mayor.

DETAILS: Election day for this year's local body elections is on October 11, 2025. Candidate nominations officially open on July 4.



ENTERTAINMENT

From Mars to Thames

The Mutes from Mars are heading to Thames to perform a free concert.

The band, from West Auckland, is made up of seven members with intellectual disabilities ranging from brain damage to autism.

For 15 years, the band has toured and played gigs across New Zealand with support from provider organisation A Supported Life.

The Mutes from Mars has released a number of albums over the years - their latest offering, *The Neon Sky*, is available on Spotify and consists of a mix of self-written songs and covers.

The band is heading to Thames for a three-day rehearsal retreat, which will culminate in a free public concert at the band rotunda in Victoria Park on March 29.

"We hope to showcase the tal-

ents and skills of the musicians who undoubtedly have challenges but who overcome these through creativity and the belief they can achieve as much as anyone else in the community," the band's spokesperson said. DETAILS: The Mutes from Mars, free concert on March 29, 2pm in

Victoria Park, Thames.



The Mutes from Mars are set to play in Thames.

Photo SUPPLIED





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Rural Life

Ngatea sharemilkers take out dairy awards

The winners of this year's Auckland/ Hauraki Dairy Industry Awards said they were proud to have achieved a 50/50 sharemilking role at a young age and were on track to buy their first farm.

Brad and Courtney Edwards, from Ngātea, were named the region's Share Farmer of the Year at the annual awards dinner which was held at the Thames Civic Centre last week.

They are 50/50 sharemilking for Maureen Martinovich on her 90ha, 240-cow property, and won \$11,975 in prizes and six merit awards.

The couple were runners-up in the

same category last year and said they made the most out of the opportunities that came from the experience.

"We found out so much more about our business that we thought we knew, until we benchmarked against others with Dairybase," they said.

The 24-year-olds are both active in the community with hockey and Hauraki Young Farmers.

They said they both loved financials and believed they were "on to it when it comes to financial planning".

"We are on track financially to hit our goal in five years and buy our own farm by 30," they said. "One of our biggest challenges was applying for bank loans when we first started sharemilking four years ago, as we were just 20-years-old and the banks said we were too young."

Brad and Courtney acknowledged their children as their biggest driver and said one of their biggest strengths was that they worked well as a team in all areas of farming, which helped the farm run easily and smoothly.

The New Zealand Dairy Industry Awards are supported by national sponsors ASB, CowManager, Ecolab, Federated Farmers, Fonterra, Honda, LIC, and Trelleborg, along with industry partners DairyNZ and MediaWorks.

Runner-up in the Share Farmer category was awarded to Justin Ruygrok, a 28 per cent sharemilker on Ray and Tony Reid's 52ha, 170-cow Waiuku farm.

Steven Pratt was named the 2025 Auckland/Hauraki Dairy Manager of the year and won \$8139 in prizes plus three merit awards. He was runner-up in the same category last year.

The 33-year-old holds a Bachelor of Agriculture from Lincoln University and is farm manager on David and Paula Pratt's 170ha, 430-cow Patetonga property.

The fourth-generation farmer said he was proud to be working on a farm that had been in the family for 110 years.

He said he plans to continue to produce food for a growing global population and was excited about the new technology and innovation that was being developed.

Runner-up in the 2025 Auckland/ Hauraki Dairy Manager category went to Owen Clifford, who placed third in the same category last year.

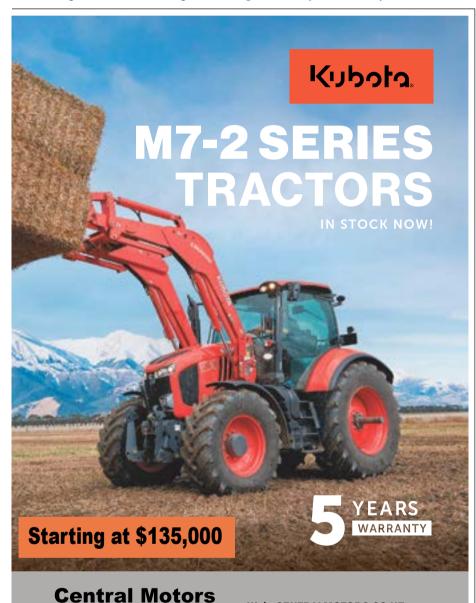
He is the farm manager for Ross and Tracey Laing on their 200ha, 500-cow Waerenga property and won \$3,090 and two merit awards. The third placegetter in the Dairy Manager category was awarded to Satbeer Singh Sandhu, who is 2IC on Carl Thomas' 97ha, 304-cow Te Aroha farm. Singh Sandhu won \$1845 in prizes and one merit award.

CONTINUED ON P15



Brad and Courtney Edwards, from Ngātea, were named the region's Share Farmer of the Year at the awards dinner held at the Thames Civic Centre.

Photo: SUPPLIE



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Rural Life

CONTINUED FROM P15

Meanwhile, the winner of the 2025 Auckland/Hauraki Dairy Trainee of the Year category was Caitlin Snodgrass who was runner-up in the same category last year. She won \$6220 and two merit awards.

Caitlin is farm assistant on Stu and Karen Davey's 220ha, 650-cow Paeroa property.

"The awards experience was incredibly valuable, offering excellent networking opportunities with industry leaders, potential employers and inspiring mentors," she said.

"The feedback I received

"The feedback I received helped me identify my strengths and areas for growth, guiding me toward focused learning and skill development."

The 30-year-old said she was very proud of her progress and learning since entering the dairy industry, and was particularly proud of learning the practical skills.

"In 2023, I had never driven a manual vehicle or motorbike, now I can confidently handle two-wheelers, tractors and various farm implements," she said.

With future farming goals including contract or sharemilking with her partner, at this stage in her career Caitlin said she sees multiple pathways open to her, and her primary goal was to deepen her understanding of farm management,



The winner of the Dairy Trainee of the Year category is Caitlin Snodgrass, a farm assistant on Stu and Karen Davey's 220ha, 650-cow Paeroa property.

Photo: SUPPLIED

business sustainability and animal welfare.

"Long term, I'm open to progressing into farm ownership or a research-based role focusing on preventative health and genetics, or even a position that blends on-farm work with industry-wide improvements," she said.

Runner-up in the Dairy

Trainee category was awarded to Katie Roper, who is 2IC assistant manager on Ashley and Ayna Thomas' 130ha, 400-cow Pukekawa property. She placed third in the same category last

Third placegetter went to Cillian Aberhart, who was runner-up in the same category in

The 21-year-old is farm assistant on Gale Bebington's 130ha Te Aroha farm and won \$1270. DETAILS: The Auckland/Hauraki Dairy Industry Awards field day will be held on March 26 at 10.30am, 1873 State Highway 27, Morrinsville, Fonterra S/N 75075. Further details on the winners and the field day can be found at www.dairyindustryawards.co.nz.

\$1.34m for enviro projects

Waikato Regional Council has granted a total of \$1.34 million from its Natural Heritage Fund (NHF) towards four landscape scale environmental projects.

CNHF) towards four landscape scale environmental projects.

The Integrated Catchment Management Committee approved grants for projects at Mt Karioi (Raglan), northern Coromandel Peninsula, Mt Pirongia and the Kaimai-Mamaku Ranges.

This includes \$4445,500, were the content of the property of the content o

This includes \$445,593 over three years for the Moehau Environment Group's Caring for Native Biodiversity project in Northern Coromandel.

The funding will go towards labour for pest animal, pest plant control and community and school engagement programmes materials, such as traps and consumables.

This group has undertaken community led, landscape scale pest control and biodiversity management projects for more than 20 years. The project area comprises a significant number of private properties, including QEII National Trust covenants along with areas of public conservation land. The group oversees a network of traps for a kiwi sanctuary, pest animal and pest plant control at Waikawau Wetland, a coastal forest pest animal control subproject, and education and advocacy programmes in both schools and the wider community.

The next Natural Heritage Fund round will open in April, for the 2025/26 financial year, with around \$1.4 million to distribute.

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NIFRIAINMFNI



Elsa Klein to perform free conc

hames Music Group's free Friday concert on March 21 features the relaxing classical instrumental music and original songs of Elsa

The concert, which begins at 12:15pm at St George's Church in Thames, is a walk through Elsa's lifelong journey with music and the concert grand pedal harp - starting from the traditional roots of classical harp then through contemporary reimagining of jazz classics, and finishing with her current experimental folksy originals. The first part of the concert will feature

some of the world's most recognisable classical solos from Claude Debussy, Henri Renie, and iconic harp composer Marcel Grandjany. The second part will showcase Elsa's originals, a fusion of folk, jazz, and indie genres on the harp and vocals.

American-born, Elsa is a harpist, writer and occasional CFM radio host, who lives in Hahei. After a classical music training, her collaborations with Coromandel artists Alex Thorne and FEI LIN have inspired a more contemporary and blended approach to music. A familiar face with the Whitianga-based

group Morels and electric guitar-and-harp duo Tiny Lighting, Elsa is fascinated by how the harp can feature in alternative genres such as rock and country music, and accompany electronic instruments.

DETAILS: www.thamesmusicgroup.com.

Thames MAD to stage 'loud and proud' School of Rock

Thames Music And Drama will be stag-ing the "loud and proud" *School of Rock* musical this May, and director Samantha Connors wants the show to be inspirational and educational

Based on the film starring Jack Black, the stage show follows Dewey Finn, a failed, wannabe rock star who poses as substitute teacher Mr Schneebley at a conservative prep school.

There, he tries to teach his students how to "stick it to the man" - ultimately giving them a voice through music.

"It's about making sure that youth are valued for what they can contribute," Samantha said. "That they are not dismissed or ignored just because they are young.

"I've experienced this myself in various roles, when adults discount your ideas and views. It's disheartening and extremely

frustrating".

Sam said giving rangatahi a voice and a platform to showcase their talents was extremely important to her, and this produc-tion provided plenty of scope for this, with 15 teens in lead roles where they are able to demonstrate a range of theatre skills includ-ing acting, singing, dancing, and musician-

In fact, staging this show will be a huge opportunity for Samantha herself. At just 28, she will be the youngest director of a major musical for Thames MAD.

Her mother Diane Connors has been heavily involved in local theatre for more than 35 years, and as such, Samantha found herself gaining experience in all aspects of stagecraft. She has assisted with props, front of house, marketing, tech, supported production roles and has even been stage manager on occasion.

However, while she has attended three director workshops over the years, directed a children's show at age 21, and co-directed Peter Pan and the Medallion's Secret in 2021, she said she found it hard to step out of the shadow of her mother.

'Sometimes it's hard to be taken seriously as a young person trying to spread our wings in an adult environment," she said.

However, Thames MAD's policy of encouraging young people to learn skills and develop their interest in theatre provided

her with additional support.

"I am very grateful that the committee has entrusted this role to me.

"I had a whole proposal to present with descriptions of my vision for the musical. The subject expert facilitator listened... and I finally felt heard.

Samatha said she has loved School of Rock ever since she saw it live in London and was excited to bring the show to local audiences.

She hopes the "loud and proud" show spreads the message "that we all need to make space for the next generation to express themselves, explore who they are as individuals, and find their place in society". DETAILS: Thames MAD's School of Rock in May at the Thames Civic Centre. For tickets and more info, visit www.thamesmad.co.



School of Rock director Samantha Connors hopes the show encourages rangatahi to express themselves.

Photo: SUPPLIED

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of King Henry VIII, is named Regent while tyrant Henry is fighting overseas. From the B&I Film Festival.
The Great Escaper (96 mins) M. Starring Michael Caine & Glenda Jackson. True story of an 89y.o. British
WVII Navy veteran who "broke out" of his nursing home to attend 70th anniversary D-Day commemorations.
Black Bag (93 mins) M. A high-stakes mystery starring Cate Blanchett, Michael Fassbender,
Pierce Brossen and others. An intelligence agent is suspected of betraving the nation.

Pierce Brosnan and others. An intelligence agent is suspected of betraying the nation.

Hard Truths (97 mins) M. Legendary filmmaker Mike Leigh returns with a fierce, compassionate, humorous study of family and the thorny ties that bind us. Highly awarded film.

<u>Tinā</u> (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 The Last Journey (95 mins) M. (Swedish with English subtitles). An emotional and hilarious story exploring a son's attempts to coax his father into reengaging with life. A joyous road trip through the south of France.

Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy (125 mins) M. Bridget navigates life as a widow & single momentum.

with the help of family, friends, and a former lover, Daniel Cleaver (Hugh Grant). **A Complete Unknown** (**141 mins)** M. In 1965, a young Bob Dylan shakes up his act on the folk ctric and singing rock as the voice of a generation. Starring Timothée Chalamet. White Bird (120 mins) PG. Struggling to fit in at his new school after being expelled, Julian's grand-mother tells him the story of her experiences in World War II. A moving drama fit for the whole family.

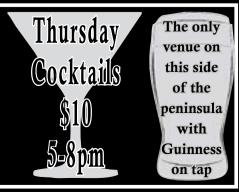
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Gratitude changes things when life gets busy

By MICHAEL WILKES ife gets busy.

⊿Time slips away - some of it spent on things that truly mat-

some on things that don't. And often, the most important things take a back seat.

There have been seasons in my marriage where my wife has felt the consequences of

I've let busyness take over, and in doing so, I've uninten-

When we stop prioritising time together, connection fades it's as simple as that.

But worse still, as that connection fades, we stop appreciating all the beautiful things about that other person.

We see it in families all the

Couples grow distant, and parents spend more time discussing the annoying things about their kids rather than celebrating them.

But here's what I'm learning: even when life feels imbalanced, having intentional rhythms can keep the most important things first.

Simple daily habits that anchor us can make all the differ-

One of those rhythms for me has been practicing gratitude.

Every day, I take a moment to write down what I'm thank-

And what struck me was that, time and time again, my wife and kids topped that list.

As I made gratitude a habit, something shifted.

I found myself thinking about

I started enjoying and looking for those cute little moments with my kids more.

I started to adore my wife again and I wanted to tell her I love her more.

And - surprisingly - I even found myself getting butterflies again, like when we first met.

So, I share this as something I'm still learning, but also as something to consider.

If life feels overwhelming, if your thoughts naturally drift toward the negative, maybe a daily practice of gratitude could

It won't erase struggles, but it might just open your eyes to the good that's already there - waiting to be noticed, valued, and cherished.

Michael Wilkes is a Living Well Trust Youth Worker. He and his team pro-vide mentoring and resilience pro-grammes 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 chal-lenging in the current climate. Email michael@livingwell.org.nz to sign up to their quarterly newsletter or to become a supporter

Foodies DVERTISING FEATURE

A 'primo spot' for food, merch and Tapu pies: Royal Oak Hotel

f you're on the lookout for a "primo spot" to eat with a great country atmosphere, campground over the road and one of the best spots in the country for fishing: Royal Oak Hotel in Tapu, Thames Coast, is the place to go.

Owners Lisa and Chris Chaffey, who have been at the helm for two and a half years, said the most rewarding thing so far was "meeting heaps of awesome people who make our jobs so much more fun".

When dining, guests can expect to find a friendly, relaxed atmosphere, a beautiful garden area, great food and refreshing cold drinks.

One must-eat meal is "definitely the catch of the day".

"Nothing beats fresh fish and chips with a delicious garden salad," however, steak came in at a very close second, Lisa said.

But the Royal Oak Hotel has a signature special with a family twist.

Chris' dad started Thames Pies in the early 2000s, and when he closed the shop, Chris took over the recipes and rebranded to Tapu Pies.

We can barely keep up with demand some days. There are so many flavours available, we sell just as many cold/frozen pies as we do hot ones.

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Royal Oak Hotel's chicken schnitzel with mushroom sauce, haloumi salad, prawn cocktail and garlic prawns. Photo: SUPPLIED

Oak Hotel hoodies, singlets, tees, caps and bucket hats, and a new line of shorts.

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Coromandel MP Scott Simpson, left, met with students leaders on March 14 as part of a student leadership summit at Wharekawa Lodge, near Opoutere. The event included Year 13 leaders from Whangamatā Area School, Thames High School, Hauraki Plains College, Mercury Bay Area School, Coromandel Area School, Morrinsville College, Te Aroha College, Paeroa College, and Waihī College. Mr Simpson said he spoke to the students and found them passionate, smart and ready to make their mark on the world. Photo: SUPPLIED

In Brief

RIVER TRAIL APPROVED

A walking and cycle trail connecting the Pāuanui and Tairua communities is set to become a reality, with resourcing consent and final regulatory approvals now in place, Thames Coromandel District Council savs

The 13km Tairua River Trail will create a fully off-road route between the towns, and will incorporate a 120-metre suspension bridge across the river near Tanners Mill. A 6km section of trail from Pauanui waterways upstream towards Hikuai is already open, and once the trail to Tairua is finished, walkers and cyclists will be able to complete it as a loop. The trail's construction is being overseen by the Hikuai District Trust. funded by a mix of public and private

BINS BINNED

A set of rubbish and recycling bins on Marshall St, Paeroa, were set on fire on Sunday, March 16, around 8am.

The Paeroa Fire Brigade attended the fire, which was extinguished in around 20 minutes. The bins, located next to a public toilet and playground, were unsalvageable, with only their frames remaining.

SLIP REPAIR

Work has begun to repair a slip on Kennedy Bay Rd. The work site is located approximately 2.3km from the Colville Rd turnoff, and the project will take approximately five weeks to complete, depending on the weather. Road users are asked to prepare for delays of up to 20 minutes during the working hours of Monday to Friday, 7am-7pm.

RESILIENCE MEETING

Thames Coromandel District Council is holding a public meeting on March 24, 5.30-7pm at the Thames War Memorial Civic Centre to update the public on the Thames Protection and Resilience project. The project aims to manage the risks to Thames from coastal hazards such as flooding and storms.

Deadline 12noon Monday

Church Notice

Assembly of God 10am Sundays.

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Public Notice

Notice of Special General Meeting Turua Play Centre Incorporated
Date: 25th March 2025 - Time: 6.30pm Venue: 12 Raratuna Street Turua 3574

The purpose of this meeting is to

Make amendments to the Turua Play Centre Incorporated constitution/rules.

Change rule 28 from

In the event of the dissolution of the Centre, or the Centre through any other cause ceasing to exist the assets of the Centre shall be sold by public auction and the proceeds of such sale shall be applied first in payment of all costs debts and liabilities of the Centre and secondly any surplus shall be applied in aid of some local charitable İnstitution.

To read:

Rule 28: The Society may be voluntarily wound up in accordance with the Incorporated Societies Act, 1908 and if there shall be any surplus property or assets the shall **not** sold by public auction and the proceeds of such sale shall **not** be applied first in payment of all costs debts and liabilities of the Centre and secondly any surplus shall **not** be applied in aid of some local charitable Institution On the winding up of the society, all assets including without limitation all forms of property, funds and the benefit of any contracts will be transferred to TE WHĀNAU TÚPU NGĀTAHI O AOTEAROA

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Temporary Road Closure

Pursuant to the Section 11(e) of the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974, notice is hereby given that for the purpose of Beach Hop 2025 Waihī Annual Classic Car Parade and Show event. The following roads will be closed to ordinary vehicular traffic for the period indicated below. During the period of closure provision will be made for ordinary vehicular traffic, which would otherwise use the road, to use alternative routes.

Public Notice

Period of closure: Wednesday 26 March 2025, 6.00am to 3.00pm.

Roads to be closed in Waihī:

- SH2 (from Seddon St/SH2 intersection to Kenny St intersection)
- Seddon St (from School Ln/SH2 intersection to entire Seddon St)
- Gilmour St (from Kenny St/SH25 intersection to Seddon St)
- Muller St (from property no. 3 Muller St to Seddon St roundabout)
- Haszard St (from property no. 24 to
- Moresby Ave (from property no. 80 to SH2 roundabout)

Alternative provision for ordinary vehicular traffic will be made with signs, cones and barriers to redirect traffic on detour.

It will be an offence under the above regulations for any person otherwise than under authority of an authorised permit to use the road for ordinary vehicular traffic during the period of closure.

D A Speirs Chief Executive Hauraki District Council

PAPER DELIVERIES

Although we endeavour to deliver our paper to everyone, sometimes we just cannot achieve this If you are one of the few who did not receive your weekly paper, please note they are available here: NGATEA - Ngatea 4 Square, HDC Council Offices.

Ngatea Post Shop, Z Petrol Station Ngatea Purple Dairy

PAEROA - Moores Caltex, Countdown, HDC Council offices, Takenote, Paeroa 4 Square, Paeroa Information Hub

WAIHI - Maybelle Superette, New World, Toyworld/ Takenote, Information Centre, Daffodil Dairy.

Waihi Supervalue
THAMES - Totara Veggie Shop, Mobil Kopu, Gull Service Station, Martina 4 Square, Bin Inn, Tararu Dairy, Queen St Mobil, Goldfields Mall, Pak'N'Save, Paper Power, Thames 4 Square. Carson's Bookshop, Thames Council Offices,

Kauaeranga Store TURUA: Turua Dairy KEREPEHI: Kerepehi Dair

Public Notice

Annual General Meeting Paeroa Basketball Assn

Monday 24 March 2025 6pm Paeroa College Gym

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Public Notice

Thames-Coromandel District Council Meetings - April 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 April 2025.

Council meetings

Council Meeting

Thursday 27 March 2025 09:00am, Thames Council Chambers, 515 Mackay Street, Thames - Consultation on the 2025/26 Annual Plan

Tuesday 8 April 2025 09:00am, Thames Council Chambers, 515 Mackay Street, Thames

Community Board Meetings

Tairua-Pāuanui Community Board

Monday 28 April 2025 10.00am, Pāuanui Community Hub, 23 Centreway, Pāuanui.

Whangamatā Community Board

Tuesday 29 April 2025 10.00am, Whangamatā Service Centre, 620 Port Road, Whangamatā

Thames Community Board

Wednesday 30 April 2025, 10.00am, Thames Council Chambers, 515 Mackay Street, Thames

Please visit https://www.tcdc.govt.nz/Our-Council/Meetings/ Agendas-Reports-and-Minutes for copies of agendas and order papers.

Chief Executive Thames-Coromandel District Council





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JUMBO ROSSWORD

ACROSS Heap (5)

4 Appear unafraid despite one's feelings

(4,1,4,5) **11** Bed cover (5)

14 Single (5)

15 Of marriage (11) **16** Actor (8)

Guilty party (7)
Turmoil (5)
Thing built (9)

20 21 24

Head off (9)

26 27 Elf or fairy (6)

Twist out of shape

31 Person authorised to act for another (5)

32 Underground

cemetery (8)
34 Whisky plant (10)
38 Disregarded (7)

39 Dog breed (6) 40 Customer (6)

Masticate (4)

42 45 Shine wetly (7)

Obstinate (10)

Sectors (anag)(7) **54** Highest point of achievement (4)

55 Astuteness (6) 56 Fictional books (6)

57 Of questionable value (7)

60 Rate per hundred (10) **61** Citrus drink (8)

62 Duck for down (5) **65** Prey (6)

66 Agatha Christie sleuth (6)

67 Go with (9)
72 Ruling over (9)
73 Waterway (5)

74 Imitative behaviour

79 Lock in jail (8)

80 Expert judge in matters of taste (11) **81** Aromatic plants (5)

82 Economises (5) 83 Divert the

suspicions of (3,3,3,5) **84** Remains (5)

DOWN

2 Language (6)

Inexpensive (5) 5 Practical joke (4)

6 Adore (7) Panda food (6)

8 Touch down (4) 9 Bone break (8)

10 Pacific island (6)

11 Unruly (10) 12 Empty space (4)

Temper fit (7) 17 Skinflint (5) 18 Cutting back on (10)

22 Sea (5) 23 En masse (8)

25 Harmful, poisonous

26 Topic (7) 28 Thrifty (6) 29 Thwarted (6)

30 Posture (6) 33 Sun-dried brick (5) 35 Boredom sign (5) 36 Unit of heredity (4)

37 Repeat (4) 42 Grip firmly (5)

Living forever (8) 44 Subtle distinction

(6)**4**5

Known territory (4,6) **46** Female relation (4)

Tingles (anag)(7)

48 Renovate (6) Synthetic fibre (5)

51 Dross (4) 52 View (7) Hairpiece (6)

58 Demolish violently (4.2.4)

Nitwit (5) 63 Achieve a goal (5,3) 64 Cleave (5)

Calls into question

(7)68 Definitive model of its kind (7)

69 Regain (6) 70 Salt solution (6) Unwashed (6)

75 Chemically unreactive (5)

76 Black marketeer (4) Intertwine wool (4)

78 Rotate (4)

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PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Asked, 4 Protects, 9 Depict, 14 Stare, 15 On pins and needles, 17 Troll, 18 Oaf, 19 Chutney, 20 Leakproof, 21 Beaver, 24 Telephoto, 25 Iodine, 26 Bronze, 29 Scandalous, 31 Ham, 32 Sailor, 33 Mind, 35 Urn, 37 Tuba, 39 Go-between, 40 Ownership, 41 Elfin, 42 Gendarme, 47 Tempered, 51 Alias, 55 Ornaments, 56 Trademark, 58 Gift, 59 Duo, 60 Mute, 61 Ignite, 62 Lot, 63 Extraneous, 66 Repast, 67 Zircon, 69 Regrouped, 72 Vortex, 73 Fault-find, 75 Barrier, 77 Lei, 80 Cable, 81 Beat about the bush, 82 Smash, 83 Broker, 84 Estrange, 85 Slide

DOWN: 2 Synthetic, 3 Edict, 5 Rung, 6 Tangelo, 7 Cheek to cheek, 8 Solar, 9 Discord, 10 Pity, 11 Cooper, 12 Major, 13 Perfume, 14 Slavery, 16 Smell danger, 22 Aplomb, 23 Andiron, 24 Tankard, 25 Immune, 27 Neither, 28 Bounce, 30 Site, 32 Snuff, 34 Duped, 36 Wrap, 38 Use, 42 Groom, 43 Non-stop, 44 Arms, 45 Manage, 46 Wilde, 48 Make a splash, 49 Egghead, 50 Elf, 51 Aspirin, 52 Stolen, 53 Matter of fact, 54 Here, 57 Author, 64 Undressed, 65 Ostrich, 66 Recluse, 68 Chamber, 70 Gondola, 71 Member, 72 Vicar, 74 Lease, 76 Rebel, 78 Deck, 79 Stag

BAYLEYS







Thames 110 Brunton Crescent

Views, convenience and comfort

110 Brunton Crescent is a well-maintained home set in an elevated position, offering stunning views of Thames township and the Firth. Located just moments from the town centre, it provides both convenience and comfort. The 110sqm (more or less) home features three bedrooms, a full-service bathroom, and an open-plan kitchen and dining area. A north-facing deck extends from the dining area, ideal for relaxing and enjoying the changing scenery. Modern amenities include a wood burner, two heat pumps, and a heat transfer system. The 1,037sqm (more or less) section includes a single internal access garage and easy-care grounds, offering potential for further personalization.

bayleys.co.nz/**2180779**

3 🛏 1 🚢 1 🖨

 $\textbf{Auction (unless sold prior)} 11 am, Thu \, 3 \, Apr \, 2025$

96 Ulster Street, Hamilton **View** 10-10.30am Sun 23 Mar

Glenn Tanner 027 486 2399 glenn.tanner@bayleys.co.nz

Maddy Aislabie 027 780 4389

maddy.aislabie@bayleys.co.nz



Pauanui 57 Hall Road and 2511 Kopu- Hikuai Road

Receivership - buy one or all three!

Here are three prime Coromandel properties that have come to the market – 57 Hall Road offers a 61.93ha (more or less) dairy farm with a modern milking shed and a three-bedroom home, plus an adjoining 74.36ha (more or less) grazing block with excellent infrastructure and reliable pasture growth. 2511 Kopu Hikuai Road sits on 81.45ha (more or less) of land and is a well-maintained dairy support block with quality fencing, water systems, and potential for a family home. Whether you're interested in one or all three, these properties provide fantastic farming and coastal living opportunities. These properties are being sold by way of receivership, so don't miss out!

bayleys.co.nz/2630039

217.7442_{ha}

For Sale by Deadline Private Treaty (unless sold prior)

3pm, Thu 10 Apr 2025

96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

 $\textbf{Karl Davis} \ 027 \ 496 \ 4633 \ karl. davis@bayleys.co.nz$

Glenn Tanner 027 486 2399 glenn.tanner@bayleys.co.nz

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









Puriri 107 Neavesville Road

Serene rural haven: family home with panoramic views

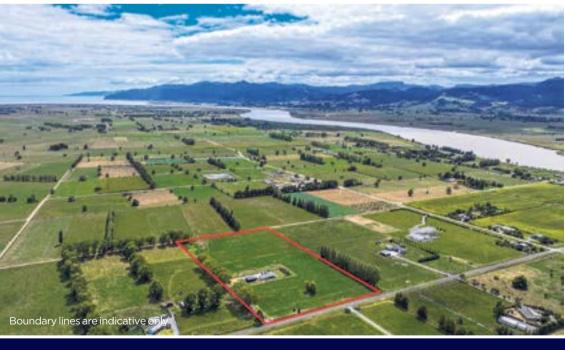
Escape to rural tranquility with this three-bedroom lifestyle property on 3.2 hectares (more or less) of rolling hills and lush greenery. The home features a master bedroom with ensuite, two additional bedrooms, and an open-plan kitchen, living, and dining area with modern appliances and an island bench. 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 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

SUCCESS REALTY LIMITED, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 200 MH REALTY LTD, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008





Turua 94 Piako Road

Space, style and shedding

Set on 4.04ha (more or less), this superb four-bedroom lifestyle property is ideal for families or downsizing farmers. Three bedrooms have built-in wardrobes, while the master boasts an ensuite. A large double garage with internal access includes a laundry. Outside, a high-stud three-bay shed suits boats or farm gear. Two fenced paddocks offer space for livestock, plus room for a chicken coop or gardens. Minutes from Ngatea and Kopu, with Hauraki Plains College zoning, it's a rare find—don't miss out!

bayleys.co.nz/2630033

4.0469_{ha} 🗖 4 🛏 2 🗬

Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 10 Apr 2025 Bayleys Hamilton, 96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

View 2-2.45pm Sun 23 Mar Karl Davis 027 496 4633 karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz Sam Aislabie 027 429 5410

sam.aislabie@bayleys.co.nz



BAYLEYS







Turua 923 and 969 Hauraki Road

Proven production in the heart of the Hauraki Plains

Looking for a quality dairy unit? This 65.7ha (more or less) farm in the Hauraki Plains offers strong production with a potential stop bank lease. Featuring flat, well-drained land, it includes a separate 7ha title. Fencing is good, with races leading to a centrally located 20 ASHB cowshed. Milking 200-215 cows for Fonterra, it produced 75,770kgMS in 2022/23. Reliable council water ensures supply. Infrastructure includes a wintering barn, implement shed, workshop, PKE bin, and haybarn. A three-bedroom home with a garage and workshop makes it ideal for a family or one-man operation. Call us today!

bayleys.co.nz/2630047

65.74_{ha}

Asking Price \$2,595,000 + GST (if any) **View** 11am-12pm Fri 21 Mar & Fri 28 Mar **Karl Davis** 0508 83 83 83

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

SUCCESS REALTY LIMITED, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008







Waitakaruru 42 Back Miranda Road

Lifestyle section, three minutes to boat ramp

Set in the heart of the Hauraki Plains on 5.16 hectares (more or less), this bare lifestyle section in Miranda offers a rare chance to shape your rural escape. Ideal for building, farming, or investment, the mostly flat land features open pasture, established trees, and a natural pond attracting birdlife. Mature trees provide privacy while framing views of the Coromandel Ranges. Nearby, enjoy Miranda Hot Springs and the Shorebird Centre. With power at the boundary and easy access to Waitakaruru, Thames, and Pukekohe, this property is ready for development.

bayleys.co.nz/2630024

5.167_{ha}

Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 24 Apr 2025

96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

View 10-10.30am Sun 23 Mar

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

Connor Davis 027 496 4622

connor.davis@bayleysngatea.co.nz

SUCCESS REALTY LIMITED, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 200

BAYLEYS







Paeroa 181D Thorp Road

Receivership dairy farm

Here's your chance to secure a productive 87ha (more or less) dairy farm in the heart of the Hauraki District. With predominantly flat contour, fertile soils, and strong production history, this is an excellent first farm or addition to an existing portfolio. Well-maintained paddocks and a central race system ensure easy management. Infrastructure includes a 28-aside herringbone dairy shed, calf shed, and two implement sheds. Stock water comes from two bores, with the option to connect to council supply. Effluent is managed via a Kliptank system with 900,000-litre capacity and a travelling irrigator. A solid 1960s home provides 120sqm of comfortable family living. Call today!

bayleys.co.nz/**2630044**

87.7_{ha} 🎞

For Sale by Deadline Private Treaty (unless sold prior)

3pm, Thu 3 Apr 2025

Bayleys Hamilton, 96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

Phone for viewing times

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

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

SUCCESS REALTY LIMITED, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008





Paeroa 183B Thorp Road

Receivership dairy farm

Here is the opportunity to purchase this expansive 210 sqm (more or less) home on the outskirts of Paeroa that is situated on flat land overlooking the 15.39 ha (more or less) of land that comes with it. All it needs is a new family to enjoy all it has to offer. Inside lends itself to spacious open-plan living area including a well-designed and modest cheflike kitchen. Family living is well catered with four double bedrooms, and two bathrooms, and a guest toilet. Outside, the property is an entertainer's dream with extensive decking to the northeast. Situated in a desirable rural setting, the property is just 4 minutes' drive from the conveniences of Paeroa township. Call today!

bayleys.co.nz/**2630038**

15 ha 🗖 4 🛏 2 🖷 2 📾

For Sale by Deadline Private Treaty (unless sold prior) $3\,\mathrm{pm}$, $Thu\,10\,Apr\,2025$

Bayleys Hamilton, 96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

Phone for viewing times

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

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











Paeroa 272 Rotokohu Road

Receivership Dairy Farm

103-hectare (more or less) dairy farm, located in the heart of the Hauraki District, with quality and quantity of infrastructure and a proposed subdivision already underway, this property presents a compelling strategic business investment. Whether it is an easy way to get into your first farm or adding a farm to your portfolio you can't help but be impressed with the infrastructure already in place. Improvements include a 34-aside herringbone dairy shed, plus over 600sqm of additional shedding. Good quality council drinking water is provided to the farm. Accommodation includes two dwellings, as well as two additional accommodation options. Call today.

bayleys.co.nz/2630036

103.3_{ha}

For Sale by Deadline Private Treaty (unless sold prior)

3pm, Fri 28 Mar 2025

Bayleys Hamilton, 96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

View 11am-12pm Tue 25 Mar

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

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

SUCCESS REALTY LIMITED, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 200





Mangatangi 1781 Miranda Road

Proven dairy unit with top notch infrastructure

Spanning 108ha (more or less), this well-equipped dairy farm offers flexibility with settlement to suit Autumn or Spring calving. An additional 62ha (more or less) lease is available across the road, accessed via an underpass. The farm features a modern 50-bale rotary dairy shed, three residences, a 300-cow feed pad, and extensive infrastructure, including sheds and a bore for reliable water. Effluent covers 30ha. Located under 100km from Auckland and Hamilton, this is a prime farming opportunity. The vendors are ready to move—call today to view.

bayleys.co.nz/**2315951**

108ha □

Asking Price \$4,600,000 + GST (if any)

Phone for viewing times

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

Sam Aislabie 027 429 5410

sam.aislabie@bayleys.co.nz

SUCCESS REALTY LIMITED, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008











Whangamata 503 Port Road

A Prescription for Investment

- 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} 口 118_{sqm} 日

For Sale by Deadline Private Treaty (unless sold prior)

7 The Esplanade, Whitianga

View by appointment

Josh Smith 027 229 8865

iosh.smith@baylevs.co.nz





Thames 448 Pollen Street

Add value, add strength, add returns

- Strengthen to add value
- Main Street offers prime positioning
 Returning \$36,000pa+GST and outgoings

 $A\,prime\,add-value\,opportunity\,in\,the\,heart\,of\,Thames.\,This\,freehold\,site\,on\,Pollen\,Street\,is\,a\,low-entry\,investment$ with future upside. The property provides immediate cash flow with room for growth whilst a 18% NBS rating presents an opportunity to strengthen, upgrade, or redevelop. A motivated seller has set an auction date, making this a genuine opportunity to secure a main-street asset.

bayleys.co.nz/2180777

508_{sqm} □ 415_{sqm} □

 $\textbf{Auction (unless sold prior)}\ 12pm,\ Thu\ 10\ Apr\ 2025$

96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

View by appointment **Josh Smith** 027 229 8865

iosh.smith@baylevs.co.nz



Regan eyes midgets after 50th mini-stock win

By ALICE PARMINTER, Public Interest

With 50 mini-stock race wins already under his belt, 15-year-old Regan Le Cheminant is looking ahead to his latest challenge - the midgets elect ets class.

The Waihī teenager has been a regular fixture on the racing track since the age of 11, and celebrated his 50th club win on February 23 at the Waihī Beach Dirt Track Club.

The win is a testament to the

The win is a testament to the focus and dedication of the talented teenager, who grew up watching his dad, uncle, and cousins at the track.

"Dad used to race back in the early 2000s or late 90s,

and I've loved this sport ever since," Regan said.

For Regan, motorsport is a way of life. For six months he will race almost every weekend at tracks around the North Island, and during the off-season it's all about car maintenance, fitness, and prepping for the next season.

"It's not all about the drive, it's the car, it's the maintenance. We replace shocks every year. We do wheel bearings to make sure the car's smooth," Regan's dad, Mike, said.

"Another thing in these scenes is fitness. Regan's al-most black belt in karate... About five or six laps [in] his fitness starts to really show.



Waihī mini-stock car champion Regan Le Cheminant hits the track in his new F2 midget car, number 25, left. RIGHT: Regan with some of his awards.

"Some guys, they just start slowing down after about four or five laps. But Regan will give 100 per cent.

Regan will be joining the midgets class in April. As he is still under 16, he will need to apply for a special dispensation to race. But Regan said he is ready for the new challenge, and is looking forward to hitting the track in his new F2 midget car. "[I'm] really excited. When I had a go on it, the acceleration power was different, it was just better," Regan said.

As well as facing adult com-

petitors for the first time, the midgets class also brings new challenges.

"You're going from about 50 horsepower to 300 horsepower with half the weight," Mike said. "So we're trying to get some seat time

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All apartments are within walking distance to Thames' shops, cafes and walkways. The perfect location to enjoy your fun-filled retirement

Our open plan, single level apartments feature covered balconies with fantastic views

of the sea, Kauaeranga River and mountains. 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.

But Mike's still there to talk strategy with Regan, something they have done for his whole

racing career.

"I've been involved with Speedway for 25 years, raced for eight myself. So it's about passing my knowledge on," Mike said.

"I've done a lot of work with

'I've done a lot of work with Regan on paper, exiting, entering... it's all about getting that driveline right.



"And I've taught Regan that you need to learn your com-petitors. Some kids stay down low, so you've got to go around them. Some come off the corner wide, you've got to come under them.

'If you know how to read a track, you're halfway there,' Regan added.

Regan's now aiming for Rookie of the Year, although he said he will consider his first midget season a success if he finishes all his races without any crashes. Mostly, he's just excited to get out on the track and give it a go.

"Everything vanishes when you're in the car, on the track,"

"And you're just there to



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- Three Bedroom Villa
- 2 Bedroom Apartment

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