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Out to lunc



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

While many of New Zealand's schools are disillusioned with the government's nationwide Healthy School Lunches programme, a Hauraki school is showing it's still possible to provide tasty, healthy meals to students.

Paeroa College's school lunches are prepared on site, from fresh, locally-supplied ingredients.

Each day kitchen supervisor Jan Mitchell and her team make up to 360 meals from scratch in the school's commercial kitchen. Their menu is varied - featuring crowd favourites such as spaghetti bolognaise, fresh subway sandwiches, and nachos - and each meal is stuffed with vegetables. The main courses are supplemented with fresh fruit, nuts, and muesli bars at morning tea. The trio were proud of the meals they provided, Jan said.

'The kids are loving it. And the feedback from some of the students I've been getting: 'that's actually nicer than my mum's, but don't tell her'," Jan said.

"It's all about the kids, and it's good to be feeding them."
School lunches are nothing new at Paeroa College. But the overhaul of the government's school lunch programme, which took effect at the beginning of 2025, came with several changes.

The Ka Ora, Ka Ako or Healthy School Lunches programme is the initiative which provides meals to 242,000 disadvantaged students nationwide. Most schools in the programme operate under the external model, with lunches delivered daily by the School Lunch Collective. Some schools, such as Paeroa College, operate under the internal model, preparing their meals onsite. There is also an option under the legislation for an iwi and hapū partnership model.

However, schools on the external model are not permitted to switch to another model without Ministry of Education approval.

The mandated budget for external model schools is \$3 per meal. Internal model schools are allocated \$4 per meal, to account for the additional costs of administration, staffing, and waste.

The new internal allowance is roughly half what it was in the CONTINUED ON P2

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Lunch programme called into question

past, Jan said, but even so her team is coming in well under budget.

Outside the college however, many other schools aren't so happy with the new

Turua School, which runs on the external model, was one of several schools nationwide whose meals turned up late in the initial weeks of the programme - once having to resort to sandwiches made by staff to keep the kids fed. Principal Karen Houghton said the meals were now arriving on time, but while she appreciated that lunches were available for her students, their quality left something to be desired.

They're not as good as what they had fore," she said.

The children don't seem to enjoy it that much, so we have a lot of leftovers. I do think that it would be great to have a local supplier and put that money back into the

local economy."

Another school principal told *The Pro*file they could "write an essay" about their complaints but they were unable to comment publicly about the issue.

A parliamentary petition has also been circulating to cancel the School Lunch Collective's contract. The petition, started by Māori lawyer Tania Waikato on March 12, is urging the government to return the lunch contracts to local providers. As at March 31, it had 7978 signatures. The Collective has been mired with complaints since it took over the external providers contract, with images of frozen or over-



The Paeroa College kitchen team provide healthy, tasty, and filling meals each day. BELOW: Photographs show how many fresh ingredients go into each school meal. Photos: ALICE PARMINTER

heated, mass-produced and unappetising

meals circulating in the national media. But Paeroa College principal Andrew Cameron said their programme was an example of school lunches done right.

'We're showing that we have a sustainable model, and I think if we can show that with a school our size, then other schools can do it similarly," he said.

"[The external model] is where all the

headaches are at the moment, everything you're reading and hearing.

"And ultimately, the only reason [we're] a success is because we've got three awesome people in there working hard for our



"We want to pump Jan's tyres up because there's so much bad publicity around school lunches, the centralised

model, and we could not be happier with the situation we're in."





0988, alice@valleyprofile.co.nz.

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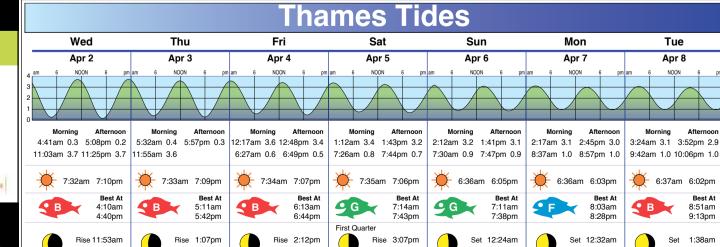






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Tennis match memorialises 'good bugger'

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

Steven Slavich was "one of life's good guys".

He was a farmer and father-ofthree living in Paeroa, and one of Jodi Morrison's early memories of her close friend's dad was his knack for getting people to pick up a tennis racquet.

It wasn't so much his passion, she said, but his enthusiasm when everyone joined in.

Steven was, genuinely, one of life's good guys. Just super nice. If he wasn't so nice he probably wouldn't have stopped to help those kids and then he'd still be

Steven was killed in 1991, after stopping along State Highway 26 to give two youths - one of them Shane Rogers - a ride.

Rogers, who was 16 at the time, shot him, when Steven tried to escape from the vehicle, he caught his arm in a seatbelt. Rogers grabbed the steering wheel and sped off, dragging Steven along the road.

Rogers was sentenced to life imprisonment, but was paroled in 2002 after serving about 10

Jodi was 15 at the time of the



honoured Steven by doing just the thing he always did: bring people together.

mur-

her

friend

der. As

was

close

and Steven's eldest daughter,

A year later, the Steven Slavich

Memorial was created; a mixed

Frana.

'My memory of him with regards to tennis is not so much about his passion for tennis itself, but for getting anyone and everyone to join in - have a go and enjoy it - whether you were

doubles tennis tournament that a great tennis player, had never played before, or were anywhere in between. He just wanted people to try it and have fun doing it," Jodi told The Profile.

"The emphasis [of the tournament] has always been on having a go and having fun. So we generally try and pair weaker or non-players up with a stronger

partners out of a hat, but we often do a little subtle shuffling to even out the competition because that feels like the spirit of the tournament.'

Jodi said she was "extremely proud" of the Hikutaia Sports Club for holding the event.

"Frana is my closest friend, but the whole family are, like Steven was, 'good buggers', and it brings me joy to see how much it means to them that people still want to turn up in his honour.

"It's a tournament where as many club members as nonmembers make the effort to come," Jodi said.

The tournament has been held consistently since 1992, but through a variety of reasons like weather, the Covid-19 pandemic, and "procrastination", it hasn't run since 2016.

Luckily this year Marica, Steven's youngest daughter, rang me up and just said: 'Let's do it on February 21' and that's all we needed. We had 15 pairings, plus plenty of sideline supporters, including 10 of Steven's grandkids and three great grandies.

The cherry on top was Steven's grandson, Ryder Van Hellemond - playing with his aunty Crystal Van Hellemond - taking out the trophy this year.





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Property Management

asses for combat sport leave positive impact

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

Moving to Thames and discovering there wasn't an opportunity for locals to train in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu led blue belt Max Sedarat to start up

classes of his own.

Not only was the combat sport great for teaching patience and respect, it also demonstrated that "age and size don't matter" - a lesson Max said he quickly learned.

Brazilian jiu-jitsu is described as a self-defense sys-

scribed as a self-defense system, martial art, and combat sport based on grappling, ground fighting, and submission holds.

Max started training at Auckland MMA in Pakuranga under VR Jiu-Jitsu about four years ago, but just over a year ago, he

made the move to Thames.
"Thames did not offer any
Jiu-Jitsu classes, but I went to check out the local boxing club, Never Surrender, and [they] could not have been more welcoming and allowed me to use the space to start some.

Max is currently teaching two classes a week out of the Never Surrender gym at 424b Pollen Street, one for children and one for adults.

There are already between 7-10 children taking lessons, ranging in age from five to 13; and 15 people in the adult classes, including some partici-



Max Sedarat, far right, with the students from one of his Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu classes in Thames. RIGHT: Max Sedarat is a blue belt who Photos: SUPPLIED started training in Auckland.

pants over 60-years-old, Max

said.
"I think there are many reasons why people should try jiu-jitsu. The lessons you gain in class are relevant to everyday life. Personally, I've learned many valuable lessons through training - patience, respect, staying humble, asking questions, and being open to learn-

ing.

"Jiu-jitsu is also great exercise," he added. "It is a full-body workout that will test your cardio, strength, reflexes, and flexibility. While under the pressure of your opponent trying to choke you, you also have to remain mentally strong."

Max said technique out-weighed brute strength when

it came to Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, having learned that lesson early on while training in Auckland. "When you show up to your

first class as a 27-year-old man and get your butt kicked by a 14-year-old, you quickly learn that age and size don't matter as much as technique and mindset in this sport.'

Max said that coaching the Jiu-Jitsu classes in Thames was a highlight of his journey in the sport thus far.

"I am a blue belt in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. For those who may not know, it goes white, blue, purple, brown, and then black. So I have quite a bit more learning to do myself.
"But I am glad to be able to

share this experience with oth-



ers and I hope to provide the same positive impact that this sport has had on me.

DETAILS: Max's classes run Mondays, 5pm for kids, 6pm for adults. Kids classes are free/koha

and the adults classes are free for the first week. For info or to get in touch, maxsedarat22@gmail.



















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Bite Cafe

Yearly savings of \$100k from binned council bins

Several rubbish bins are being removed in the Hauraki district, a report has revealed.

A review, tabled at the Hauraki District Council's March 27 meeting, found the Parks and Reserves litter bin budget has increased year on year with continuous

Currently the council manages 100 litter bins, 60 of which are Big Belly Bins. The total expenditure for litter bin activity for the 2023/24 financial year was around \$382,000 - nearly \$114,000 over budget.

Of particular concern are the Big Belly Bins - while they were installed to reduce labour costs, the review found that they needed to be set to only 50 per cent capacity for health and safety reasons, to avoid the bin liners being too heavy for staff to safely lift and empty.

The review also cited misuse of public bins, with people regularly using them to dispose of household waste, and said kerbside recycling bins were regularly contaminated with regular rubbish and consequently sent to landfill.

"It's a damn shame that we've gone to all this effort to put up bins for recycling and people are putting their normal rubbish in them," Mayor Toby Adams said at the meeting

"Public rubbish bins are not being used effectively - they have a huge price tag and it's coming out of your rates and hence we've got to make some changes. Councillors approved recommenda-

tions to remove 13 Big Belly Bins com-

new dog fees for the 2025/26 financial year. Registration fees are remaining unchanged, however the impound fees have been increased for dogs which are

\$100,000 per year.

an adoption fee of \$50. Journalism



Big Belly Bins are being removed from the Hauraki district. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

pletely; replace the others with either

standard bins or ones with lids that do

not open too wide; and replace 12 recy-

cling bin units with standard bins. The

changes are projected to save more than

Meanwhile, the council has also set its

unregistered. Councillors also agreed on

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Waihī warms up

A wild wave of wanderers welcomed in the Waihī Warm Up Party for Beach Hop 2025 on March 26. A convoy of classic cars rolled through the main street, while happy punters admired and snapped photos of their favourites. Some people were decked out from top to toe in their sharpest threads for the fashion show and best dressed competition, while others simply glammed up to add to the atmosphere. Reporter **DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA** revved up the camera and captured some of the day's excitement.



Catherine Searancke brings a pop of colour to the event.



Rylee enjoys checking out all the cool cars in town.



Vehicles vroom down Waihī's main street.



Hetherington House residents celebrate with their own mini Beach Hop.



Graham Wilson, left, and Terry Mcintyre from Christchurch.



Denee Read and Kay Warrender.







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Identity of drowned swimmer remains a mystery



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 man seen to strip off his clothes and jump into the Piako River was of sturdy build, fair haired, probably in his mid-30s.

He swam strongly for some distance until the middle of the river was reached, when he was sud-denly swept away by the swiftly running water. His demise on that March day in 1904 was witnessed by local settler John McWilliams and the alarm raised.

During the search, as Detective Miller and two other men were dragging the river, Charles Tay-lor, a fisherman working near the river mouth, discovered a body entangled in one of his nets.

was handed over to Detec tive Miller and taken across to Thames. The man's clothes - a blue coat and vest, tennis shirt, and gray tweed trousers - had been found tied to a ti-tree stake at the point where he went into the water. It was supposed he was making for a dinghy on the oppo-site side of the river, intending to cross back in it for his clothing.

The man was reported to be a

German. last seen alive at a sur-

veyor's camp a few miles distant. He was later identified as not a German, but Mr Watkins, a member of a Piako survey party, formerly in one of the government departments in Auckland. But when friends of Watkins viewed the body they stated it was not him.

An inquest yielded few answers. There was no evidence as to the identity of the deceased. He was a man about 35, 5ft 8in in height, with fair hair and a reddish moustache. Detective Miller had a suspicion that he was named McLean, an engineer, but he was unable to substantiate this.

All that could conclusively be said was that he accidentally drowned. The police were satis-fied he was not Watkins, who had left Thames the previous Monday for Papakura for a holiday. This information reassured Watkins friends, some of whom had telegraphed from Auckland making worried inquiries.

The unknown man likely became one of many who appeared to just vanish from their lives, leaving family and friends with no idea what happened to them. This was common in the late 19th—early 20th century, a time of much migration, slow communication

and inadequate record keeping. Newspaper columns were published around the world seeking loved ones under the headings of Long lost relatives or Missing friends. Compiled by England's Lloyds' Weekly newspaper, the pleas were often heart breaking:

James Pipe Pettitt, of Suffolk, left London in 1873 on board the Duke of Edinburgh for New Zea-



Landing in a new country – immigrants come ashore at Auckland.

land, and was last heard of by his parents in 1875, from Christchurch, New Zealand.

John Caldicut and his sister Martha were last heard of on February 14, 1874, when their address was Baillie St, Shortland, Thames Goldfields, New Zealand.

Killott (David), sailor, native of Hammersmith, sailed from the London docks, supposed in the John Duncan, bound for New Zealand, 30 years ago. Brother William can gain no tidings of him

Inman (Walter), sailor, of Tox-teth Park, Liverpool, left Cardiff in 1874; last heard of in New Zealand. His sisters, Emily and Etty, inquire. Parents are dead.
George Smith arrived at Auck-

land from Islington at Christmas, 1874, and 10 years since had his letters sent to PO, Thames Goldfields. His father, mother, brothers, and sisters long for news.

Edward Brownlow employed at Messrs Price Bros, iron founders, Grahamstown, Thames, New Zealand, 1875; afterwards at Cornwall Arms Hotel, Grahamstown, New Zealand; last heard of at Adelaide, New South Wales. Sister Charlotte inquires.

John Thomas Bentley left Ford St, Old Ford, in 1885 to go to Windsor Hotel, Windsor, New Zealand. His poor mother has had no tidings of him for nearly nine

Misspelt addresses and geographical confusion added to the uncertainty as with those look-ing for Joseph Stephen Price, of Chatham, England, went to New Zealand in June, 1884, and has not

was working as a blacksmith at the Addington works, Christchurch. Some assumed a new identity

such as John Allen appeared to do when he left Rishton for Scot-land, en route, for New Zealand, in 1874-5; sailed ship Jessie Ashburn under name A Smith. Last wrote from Wellington.

Occasionally there were positive outcomes. In 1893, the *Thames Star* reported "A Thamesite hears news of his brother – the importance of looking over the list of Long Lost Relatives that we from time to time reprinted from Lloyd's Weekly cannot be overestimated".

timated".

The issue of July 23 contains the following paragraph: "Eli Morgan (April 2nd) replies to Brother Samuel from Thames, New Zealand. It is 25 years since the brothers had heard of each other".

A family discovering a famale

A family discovering a female relative who had disappeared somewhere in New Zealand thanked *Lloyd's* "again and again for their kindness on behalf of her distracted parents".

The mother wrote to the editor

"God will bless you, dear sir, for your goodness to anxious moth-

The columns ran until around 1916 in New Zealand papers when the mounting lists of those who went missing in World War I took priority and a new era of faster communication and contact emerged.

It is unknown where the man who dived into the Piako was buried, or if he was ever identified, just as it is unknown who was left waiting to hear from him.

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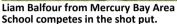
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SPORTS

Athletes compete

Paeroa Domain was filled with secondary school students from across Thames Valley on March 18, for the inter-school athletics competition. Competitors circled the track for the running events, while others took on the shot put, discus, javelin, high jump, long jump and triple jump field events. Reporter ALICE PARMINTER hit the starting blocks to catch the action.







Waihī College's Chenelle De Lange lines up her javelin throw.



t's all on in the 100 metre dash.



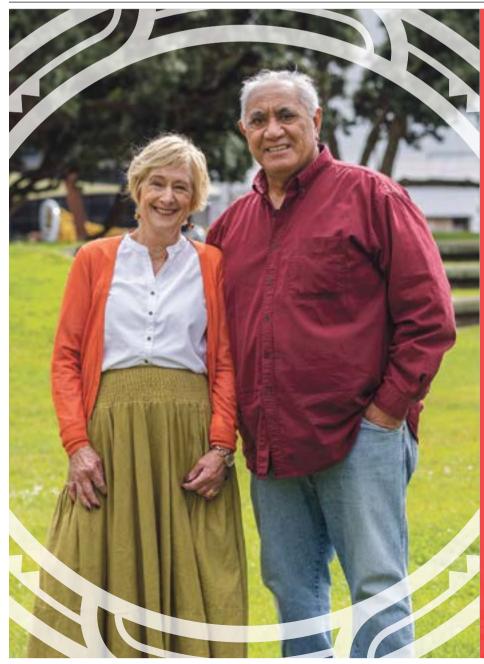
The boys circle the track in the 3000 metre race



Sienna Moore from Hauraki Plains College in the high jump.



Thames High's Jason Prak flies high in the triple jump event.



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SPORTS

Off to the races

The Thames Valley Secondary Schools Swimming Champs meet took place in Thames on March 12. Students from schools across the valley freestyled, butterflied, backstroked and dived through their paces under Sport Waikato's "Positive Vibes Only" banners. The motto is from an initiative by the sporting agency to encourage support and good sportsmanship within the sporting community, and the students embodied the good vibes on the day with plenty of cheering for everyone in the pool. Reporter **ALICE PARMINTER** dived into the action.



Boe Leach from Hauraki Plains College in the boys 100m individual medley.



Paeroa College's Pippa Frater, left, and Katikati College's Indiana Woodward.





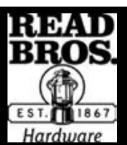


Paeroa's Indie Robinson.



Lexis Rohrlach from Thames High School in the 16+ girls backstroke.

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WAS \$1158.70 **NOW \$900**

In Brief

SERIOUS CRASH

State Highway 2 in the Karangahake Gorge was closed on March 31 after a crash near Waikino. The two-vehicle crash happened near School Rd, and was reported just before 1pm. Police said there were serious injuries. Detours were put in place and motorists were advised to avoid the area and expect delays.

MINING APPLICATION LODGED

OceanaGold has lodged an application for the Waihī North Project with the Environmental Protection Agency under the Fast-track Approvals Act process. The 11,000-page application was lodged on March 7 and subsequently underwent a check on 'completeness and scope' from the agency. Once accepted, a panel of experts will be convened, which will then have around 30 working days to approve or decline the application. However, there is no timeline by which the panel must be convened. The panel is also not obligated to hold a hearing over the application.

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

Construction of Whitianga's new Refuse and Recycling Transfer Station is due to begin in late April. The \$11.5 million facility, located on Moewai Rd, is projected to open in June, 2026. The site will include a foundation for the development of a resource recovery centre, similar to the Seagull Centre in Thames. Whitianga's existing refuse transfer station will remain in use until the new facility is open.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS

Daylight Savings ends on Sunday, April 6, at 2am - remember to set your clocks back one hour.

Bundle up your pet's vet care

re you avoiding a trip to the vet be-Are you avoiding a trip to the cost? Anexa's Bundle pet wellness plan offers a simple, affordable way to manage your pet's healthcare with easy monthly pay-

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Anexa customer Rachael, who has five rescue dogs - including three with special needs, says Bundle has been a game changer.

"We can't afford to insure them all, especially with pre-existing conditions, but with Bundle, vet visits are super affordable. We did the maths and we're actually saving money

"With the unlimited consultations, we never hesitate to bring our pups in. It gives us peace of mind, knowing that a simple tummy ache isn't something more serious like an obstruction or poisoning."

Learn more about Bundle at your local Anexa clinic or visit anexa.co.nz/bundle.

- Supplied by Anexo





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Lynne's gift shop will be temporarily closed for renovations from March 30th. Reopening as Christine & Co Easter week, Monday April 14th. Come and see all the exciting changes.



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Budding plans for community garden

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

Agroup of Paeroa locals are banding together to develop a community garden, and they need the public's help.

The newly formed Paeroa Mahinga Kai committee is developing a proposal for a communityled garden initiative, named the Paeroa Community Marā Kai, in the heart of the town. They're asking for community feedback via an online survey, which is open until April 4.

The committee's vision is for a shared space shaped by the com-

munity.

The survey said the garden would be a "space for connection, learning, and kai sovereignty", with community members al-ready expressing "a desire to learn traditional plantics" traditional planting methods, improve access to fresh, healthy kai, and create a space for rongoā Māori".

The committee will approach Hauraki District Council for funding and support, and is hoping for permission to locate the garden on an unused council-owned site on the corners of Aorangi and Ainslie Rds. Committee co-chair Sarsha

Waite said the amount of community support they have received since they began working on the proposal around six weeks ago

has been encouraging.

"[We've been] pushing for donations, ringing businesses, and putting together the informa-tion, and so many businesses are on board," Sarsha said. "And it doesn't need a big start-up fund."



Sarsha Waite, left, and Lisa Parkin are part of the new Paeroa Mahinga Mai committee.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

Sarsha said the committee had already received offers of supplies and other help from local businesses. They have been given five IBC water tanks which they plan to convert into raised garden beds, and have had offers of support from people with practical skills such as soil testing and construction as well.

The committee is also receiving guidance from community organi-sations like Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki and the Hauraki Māori Trust Board, Sarsha said.

"I work in a school - I've seen the need. We're just all trying to get together and do a little something for the community," she said.
"We want to start doing some

workshops, teaching people how to build their own gardens at home, how to compost, how to recycle properly, all those kinds of things

"I think everyone's starting to realise the real pinch of cost of living. And also that there's nothing here for our youth. So if we have this, then the youth can get involved... it benefits them, benefits the community, because then they feel like they're giving back, they're contributing to the community, and therefore they respect it more. It's a win-win for everyone.

The section the committee hopes to secure is ideal for a community garden space, Sarsha said -it's in a lower social-economic area

where she sees a lot of need, and many of the committee members live nearby.

"It's perfect. You've got a big tree where we can trim back the lower branches and hang a swing and make it like a community vibe," she said.

'And if we have the fruit trees all up there, you know, the hope is that [kids will] come and they'll climb up the fruit trees and pick themselves some fruit."

DETAILS: Go to https://forms.office. com/r/FC8LycgM9g to fill out the Paeroa Community Marā Kai survey. Closes April 4.



Chris' Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parminter

1.Which word means "ves" in Spanish?

2. Complete the song lyrics: "I clearly now, the rain can has gone"?

3. What is the chemical symbol for Carbon?

4. Which consonant letter is silent in the word 'fluorescent'?

5. Complete the book title: Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the

6. Which letter represents the speed of light in physics?

7. Is the Mediterranean usually referred to as a gulf, an ocean or

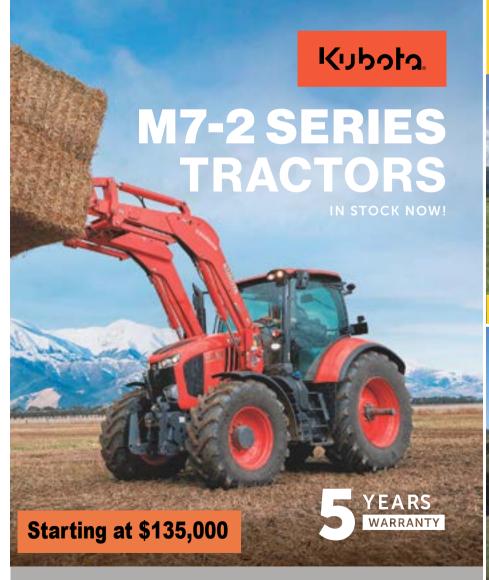
8. Which major scale in music is made up only of white notes on a piano?

9. Which letter is referred to by the term 'Charlie' in the NATO phonetic alphabet?

10. Which letter is the Roman numeral for 100?



ANSWERS: 1. Si; Z. See; 3. C; 4. C; S. Sea; 6. C; 7. Sea; 8. C; 9. C; 10. C.



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Six dairy and grazing farms for sale by receivers

suite of six moderate-sized Awaikato and Coromandel Peninsula dairy and grazing farms is for sale by receivers keen to meet the market, and Bayleys Country salesperson Karl Davis is expecting strong interest.

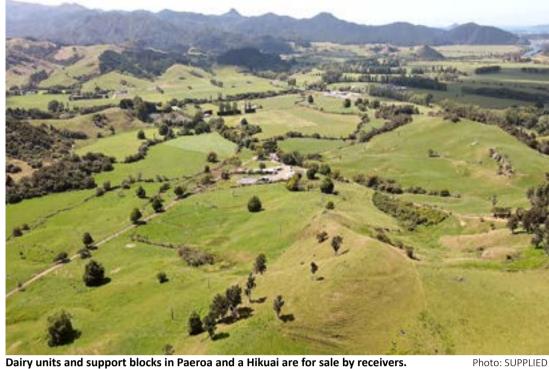
The package comprises three dairy units near Paeroa and a fourth dairy unit with two connected support blocks near Hikuai on the Coromandel Penin-

Mr Davis expected interest would be boosted by this season's "bumper payout" and the improving outlook for dairy farming.

"Fonterra's payout this season is projected to be about \$19 billion, 30 percent more than the previous season, so confidence in the outlook for dairy is strengthening," he said.

With the forecast for dairy specifically, and drystock still being very strong, the farming sector for the short term looks very good.'

The opportunity for buyers to make an offer on one or any combination of the properties will also broaden their attraction, with Mr Davis saying that so many options available at one place at one time was



Dairy units and support blocks in Paeroa and a Hikuai are for sale by receivers.

"These properties will appeal to someone looking for scale who is prepared to make an offer for either the cluster of three dairy units near Paeroa or the three connected properties in Hikuai," he said. "There's also a good number of farmers in the greater Waikato region who have beach houses on the Coromandel Peninsula, so either

the dairy unit and one or both grazing blocks might be an attractive option for them to mix farming and time off at the beach.

"However, it is more likely the farms will sell individually and will appeal strongly to people looking for their first farm, particularly sharemilkers.'

The three Paeroa dairy units range in size from 88ha to 104ha (more or less) and average production for the past seasons ranges from nearly 90,000kgMS per year to just over 108,000kgMS per year, depending on supplemen-

tary feeding levels. Mr Davis said there were

houses in reasonable condition, plus additional buildings on the Paeroa properties which could be developed into accommoda-

Meanwhile, the 62ha (more or less) Hikuai dairy unit has a 32-aside herringbone dairy shed with in-shed feeding system and features several barns, plus a workshop.

Mr Davis said its close prox-

imity to several beaches in the Coromandel would appeal to buyers who enjoyed "farming, fishing and a beach lifestyle".

One of the adjoining grazing blocks was 74.4ha (more or less) flat to rolling country with two storage sheds. The second grazing block was 81.5ha (more or less) of rolling to steep hill country with its own stock yards.

'Under a receivership situation, there is often a better opportunity to pick something up then it otherwise would be if it wasn't a receivership," Mr Davis told *The Profile*.

"Coupled with lower interest rates - it certainly looks like a great time to be involved, if you ever had a thought to buy

DETAILS: The farms are for sale by Deadline Private Treaty. For more information, contact Karl Davis on 027 496 4633 or email karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz.







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ENTERTAINMENT

Youth enjoy theatre training

"I can't wait to get on the road again, the life I like is making music with my friends

and I can't wait to get on the road again."
This Willie Nelson quote aptly describes the situation that three younger members of Thames Music And Drama found themselves in recently.

They embarked on a 16-hour return

drive (including short stops, road works and detours) to Palmerston North with president Diane Connors to attend a theatre training weekend.

Being theatre enthusiasts, Lexi Thomas, Elijah Lester and Sophia Haakma, sang most of the way.

The playlist comprised of the three-hour cast recording of *Hamilton*, a variety of Disney musical hits, a spattering of pop songs and even some Nirvana.

The rock genre was fitting, as they stepped into their characters from the society's upcoming production. School of

society's upcoming production, School of Rock, which they sang to also, of course.
While the adults attended the Musical

Theatre New Zealand's annual conference and training weekend at the Palmerston North Conference and Event Centre, just along the road at The Globe theatre our trio joined another 29 youth aged eight to 18 years from around the Manawatu region for the inaugural Whakakā Junior programme.

They endured long, exhausting days learning lyrics, movement and dance to three numbers, which they performed to conference attendees on Saturday even-

ing.
"It was really intensive training," Sophia said. "We had to learn a lot in a very short amount of time"

She said it was a good experience over-

They honed their skills in telling a story through song and displaying appropriate expression all the while ensuring that



Theatre enthusiasts, Lexi Thomas, Elijah Lester and Sophia Haakma.

diction and volume were clear, even when singing in a New York accent or a whisper.

The Thames Music And Drama committee sponsored the teens for the weekend, with assistance from a Pub Charities grant. "It's part of our tikanga to invest in our youth," Ms Connors said.

"They literally are our future, and these

three have been involved with our theatre for a few years now, as well as holding lead roles in our next production, so it was a no-brainer

Lexi, Elijah and Sophia have participated in several workshops, performed on stage and the later two have also played in

bands for Thames MAD shows.

"It's a case of 'watch this space', as I am certain with all this talent, and the passion and commitment these rangatahi demonstrate, that they may well be leading the local theatre forward in the not to distance



Mandy, Jason, and Julie inspect Te Puru Community Centre's new kitchen.

\$22k kitchen for Te Puru Hall

By ALICE PARMINTER, Public Interest
Journalism funded by NZ On Air
The kitchen at the Te Puru Community

The kitchen at the recommend of the kitchen at the recommend o facelift.

A celebration was held at the Thames Coast facility on March 12, to thank all those involved with the upgrade. The celebration marks the tail end of years of effort by the committee and community to restore and refurbish the building, after it was damaged by storms in 2008

The hall was closed to the public in 2011, after building inspectors found significant issues with the roof structure.

The Thames-Coromandel District Council estimated at the time it would cost around \$150,000 to fix. Additionally, the building needed upgrades to the exterior, drainage, kitchen and bathrooms.

The community rallied together to bring the hall back into working order, committee member Kay Steen said.

'Thanks to the generosity of the community and Placemakers, the hall was put back together better than before," she said.

In 2021 we made an agreement with TCDC to upgrade the toilet block and we would upgrade the kitchen. The toilet block was finished in July, 2021, so it's taken another four years to complete the kitchen.'
The new kitchen, which cost \$22,000,

was funded by the hall committee. The council paid for new flooring, at a cost of \$5000. Kay said the committee was excited to invite staff from Mitre10, who worked on

the installation, along to the celebration. "Julie [from Mitre10] made a comment that we couldn't ignore. She said that of all the kitchens their department designed and ordered, they have never seen one fin-ished," Kay said. "We fixed that and invited Julie, Mandy and Jason to join us in an afternoon tea and have a look at what they helped to create.



Thames Valley Glub Rugby

SENIOR A Saturday April 5th

Paeroa Mercury Bay Hauraki North Waihou V **Waihi Athletic Thames Whangamata** Cobras

All Senior A games start at 2.00pm (unless stated) • Teams named first indicate home team

12.25pm Mercury Bay Hauraki North Paeroa Sat Apr 5th 12.25pm Sat Apr 5th Waihou Thames Waihi Athletic Sat Apr 5th 12.25pm 12.25pm Whangamata Cobras Sat Apr 5th Sat Apr 5th 2.00pm Ngatea Tairua **SENIOR B**





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The Last Showgirl (88 mins) M. The Last Showgirl, a poignant film of resilience, rhinestones and feathers, stars Pamela Anderson as Shelly, a glamorous showgirl who must plan for her future when her show abruptly closes after a 30-year run. Pays homage to the working class of Las Vegas. 83% on Rotten Tomatoes.

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.

Bonhoeffer: Pastor. Spy. Assassin (132 mins) M. Berlin during the Third Reich, examining Bonhoeffer: Pastor. Spy. Assassin (132 mins) M. Berlin during the Third Reich, examining Bonhoeffer's determination to live his life with uncompromising political and spiritual courage, while speaking truth to power, in his attempt to save countless Jewish lives. True story.

Widow Clicqot (91 mins) M. Chronicles the gritty journey in the early years of the Veuve Clicquot vineyard in 19th century France and brings to life the fascinating young woman behind the iconic orange label. Based on the novel The Widow Clicquot: The Story of a Champagne Empire and the Woman Who Ruled It. 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.

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

Exhibition & Sales

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Details of where each group meets and how to join will be available at the expo

nce I start something, I know I'



By MICHAEL WILKES Almost every one children of my children starts the morn-

ing upset, saying they don't want to go to school or kindy.

was my youngest daughter. Full of despair and tears, she declared, "I don't want curly hair. I want straight hair. I'm not going to kindy!'

We sat and talked. I affirmed her, told her she was beautiful.

I asked her how many people say they wish they had hair like

"No one does," she said. I reminded her, but she wasn't in a listening mood.

As the conversation continued, I gently told her she would be going to kindy. I reminded her that she always comes home with a highlight from her day. And then I said the phrase that has become a mantra in our home: "Once I

It's a simple phrase, but a powerful one. So often, we feel fear or resistance before doing something - but once we start, the fear

fades, and we just get on with it.

In our family, this phrase has become embedded in our kids' thinking. I love when my older children cut me off with, "Yeah, Dad, I know - once I start, I'll be

okay".

They've learned it, they believe it, and even better, they live it. And that's the real goal - not

just to hear wisdom, but to internalize it and apply it when it matters most.

Nothing makes me prouder than hearing them use it in their own moments of fear, encouraging themselves with the very words we've spoken over them.

So, what's a wall you or those around you keep running into?
Whether it's your kids, your students, your employees - or even yourself - maybe it's time to create a phrase, mantra, or motto that helps break through fear.

A simple reminder that nudges us forward instead of shrinking

Because once we start, we'll realise... we will be okay.

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 newslet-ter or to become a supporter.

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We will have these clinics at the practice once again, at the covered area out the front of the building.

Clinics will be available on April 2, 9 and 16.

We will also be offering the Covid-19 Booster to all those who are eligible at the same time you have your flu shot.

2025 eligibility for funded influenza vaccine - pregnant people, people aged 65 years and over, people aged six months to under 65 years with eligible



conditions, children four years of age and under who have been hospitalised for respiratory illness or have a history of significant respiratory illness, people aged six months to under 65 years with serious mental health and addiction conditions.

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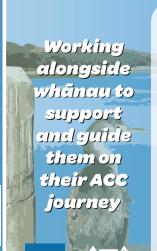
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Endless opportunities' at new Coro centre

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

new pursuit centre in the heart And native Coromandel bush will combine a marine and conservation focus to foster a love for the outdoors in rangatahi (youth).
The new Hillary Outdoors Co-

romandel Centre was celebrated on March 6 with around 80 peo-ple attending, including local ple attending, including local community members, Hillary Outdoors staff, its patron Alexander Hillary, founder Sir Graeme Dingle, and previous property owners, the Clegg family.

Hillary Campbell told *The Profile* stories were shared about the property's bandwar from the

the property's handover from the Clegg family to Hillary Outdoors, the organisation's history since its founding in 1972, and hopes for

the centre's future.
Situated in Port Charles, it was envisioned to be the organisation's third centre, alongside the Tongariro and Aotea centres; however, due to various operational challenges, the Aotea centre closed in 2024.

'The main requirements for the new centre were that it be remote and diversify the learning experi-ences offered from the existing centres," Hillary said.



"Travelling to the centre needed to be achievable, without the add-ed monetary and logistical chal-lenges of flights and ferry rides. The Coromandel location perfectly fulfilled these criteria, provid-ing an ideal setting for accessible, unique outdoor opportunities.

The new Coromandel centre is surrounded by 340 hectares of native bush, two-thirds of which is Queen Elizabeth Conservation Trust land. There are six participant cabins on site, each capable of sleeping up to 12 in a dormitory-

style setting.

Those who take part can experience a wide range of activities, including sea kayaking, waka ama, coasteering, surfing, snorkelling, rock climbing, and tramping through the bush with overnight stays in hammocks or under flys.

"These activities are part of custom-length programmes that can range from multi-day to multi-week, and even multi-year options," centre manager Hayden Devine said. "The programmes blend hands-on conservation and environmental education for young people with thrilling out-door adventures. Rangatahi continually learn through adventure, helping them build confidence, recognise their strengths, and develop a deeper connection with the environment."

Hayden said the location of the centre was a "key highlight" that would draw participants to the area, offering "endless opportunities for transformative experiences both on land and at sea".

"The best way to develop a leve

The best way to develop a love for the outdoors is simply to spend time in it," he said.

"At the centre, rangatahi will immerse themselves in nature daily, connecting through adventure and active participation. They will gain confidence, recognise their strengths, and understand the power of the outdoors.

"Biosecurity systems, in collab-oration with the Waikato Regional Council, have been put in place to protect Kauri trees and educate young New Zealanders about the importance of preventing Kauri

"We look forward to collaborating more in this space to inspire our participants to love and respect the natural environment." DETAILS: To register interest, or for more info: www.hillaryoutdoors.



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Death Notice

KANARA, Lisa: Passed away on 12/3/2025 Youngest daughter of John and Sheryl. Loved friend of Sam Swannell. Gone way too soon, resting with her dad.

Friends are invited to a remembrance day at
The Junction Hotel, Thames at 1pm on Saturday 12th

In Memoriam

BOYD, William: Passed away 3 years ago on the 2nd April. Dad & Popa Not a day has gone by that we haven't thought

of you. Your Spirit lives on in love & our memories of you, that we hold dear. Your Wisdom will continue to inspire us & the way that was shared in the Simple moments Remembering you with gratitude & warmth in our hearts All our love Tam, Emerald-may, Rigby, Nick, Riley-Ray &



Roxannah-Lee

Church Notices

Thames Spiritualist Church, Sunday April 6th, 2pm Grahamstown Hall Speakers: Clinton May, David Foster and Vicki

Waihi Assembly of God Church

'Worship & Healing' 10am Sundays Scout Hall, Baker St, Waihi

Waihi Bible Chapel Ph. Num 021 522 668 Come read the Word. Learn Scripture (King James) You want the truth, it's all here. Come help us read and learn Bible Study Wednesday

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General: 4pm Monday April 14th



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winner of the lotto ticket was Marlene Trumper, who found Pete in the March 4th edition in the **A1 Motorcycles** advert. Go to page 2 for details

on how to enter.

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Public Notice



HAURAKI DISTRICT PLAN NOTIFICATION OF DECISION ON PLAN CHANGE

Hauraki District Council gives notice that it has made its decisions on the application and submissions on the following Plan Change:

Proposed Plan Change 6 (Private): Extension of Martha Mineral Zone

Pursuant to Clause 10(4)(b) of the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991, Hauraki District Council gives notice that on 27 March 2025 it made Decisions on the application, submissions and further submissions to Proposed Plan Change 6: Extension of Martha Mineral Zone.

Amendments to District Plan:

- Rezoning of land (19 properties) from Residential Zone to Martha Mineral Zone
- Rezoning of land (7 properties) from Low Density Residential Zone to Martha Mineral Zone
- Amendments to Section 5.17 (Martha Mineral Zone) and 8.3.1 (Amenity Matters – Noise) of the Operative Hauraki District Plan – Hauraki Section
- Consequential amendments including to Planning Maps K1, K3, K4 and K7

To view the Decisions and Amendments of Proposed Plan Change 6: Extension of Martha Mineral Zone, visit https://www. hauraki-dc.govt.nz/plan-change-6 or any Hauraki District Council office or library.

D A Speirs Chief Executive on behalf of Hauraki District Council 1 April 2025







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

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ACROSS 1 Burnt remains (5)

- Statuette (8)
- 9 Technical language (6)
- 14 Maltreat (5)
- 15 17 Usually (4,5,4,3)
- Strong-smelling (5) 18 One-legged jump
- (3) **19** Enigma (7)
- 20
- Sparked off (9) Ailment (6) 21
- Impostor (9)
- 25 Strata (6) 26 Film text (
- Film text (6) 29 Famous (10)
- 31 Infant (3)
- 32 Extent (6)
- 33 Slide unexpectedly
- (4) Tint (3) **3**5
- 37 Naked (4) 39 Earth's ap Earth's apex (5.4)
- 40 London square (9) 41 Scoundrel (5)
- 42 Predicted (8)
- 47 All over the planet (8)
- Of sound (5)
- 55 Distasteful (9)56 Most adorable (9)
- 58 Unlock (4) **59** Day before (3)
- Open pie (4) Daze (6) 60
- 61
- 62
- 66 Fume with anger
- Tune (3) Without shoes (10)

- 67 Aimless scribble (6) **30** Author, Roald **69** A wind (9)
- **72** Stampede (6) 73 Keeps up (9) 75 Overzealous
 - 36
- person (7) Fuss (3)
- 77 Alcoholic drink (3) 43
- 80 Deport (5) 81 Cacophonous; ear-splittingly loud
- (3,2,4,3,4)82 Frequently (5)
- **83** Entrapped (6)
- Dotted, fleckéd (8)
- 85 Confused, bewildered (2,3)

DOWN

- 2 Book, film plot (9)
- Occasion (5)
- Thought (4)
- **6** Said (7) 7 Ceremonial opening
- **8** Boy's name (5)
- 9 Nervous (7)10 Prevalent (4)
- 11 Set-up costs (6)
- Aggressive (5) 13 Proteas (anag)(7)
- 14 Bring forward (7)
- Patience (11)
- Annoy persistently
- (6) **23** Warship (7)
- **24** Go before (7)
- 25 Foam (6)
- 27 Against the law (7) 28 Bring to mind (6)

- 32 Condescend (5)
- Celebration (5) Young sheep (4)
- 42
- Defect (5) Make a booking (7)
- 44 Rescue (4)
- 45 Fairness (6) 46
- Make cross (5) 48
- Panting (3,2,6) Expression of 49
- remorse (7) 50 Falsehood (3)
- 51 Illness indication (7)
- Split (6) Additional to (4,3,5)
- 54 57 Bludgeon (4) Ribald (6)
- Disentangle (9) 64
- Hone (7) Garden bird (7) 66
- 68 Stunted (7)
- Pillage, rifle through 70
- (7) **71 72**
- Allocate (6) Leaves out (5)
- Jottings (5)
- Accounts inspection
- (5) **78** Handy (4)
- Surrender (4)

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Essay, 4 Sticky situation, 14 Tonic, 15 Arrow, 16 Disbelieve, 17 Lofty, 19 Set, 20 Swallow, 21 Barometer, 22 Script, 25 Profiteer, 27 Answer, 28 Candle, 33 Drawbridge, 35 Hot, 36 Sudden, 37 Gala, 39 Hen, 41 Account, 42 Sinker, 43 Negligent, 44 Areas, 45 Reckless, 50 Ex, 51 Athletic, 55 Brain, 58 One in four, 59 Taught, 60 Aviator, 61 Bar, 63 Yarn, 64 Jersey, 65 Awe, 66 Determined, 68 Abduct, 69 Budget, 71 Appearing, 76 Clover, 77 Dexterity, 79 Offered, 81 Ape, 84 Unite, 85 Lengthened, 86 Strip, 87 Eases, 88 In the nick of time, 89 Frank.

DOWN: 2 Shrewd, 3 Atoll, 5 Thin, 6 Cabbage, 7 Yellow, 8 Irene, 9 Useless, 10 Toll, 11 Office, 12 Angst, 13 Scuttle, 14 Typical, 18 Conference, 23 Study, 24 Deadens, 26 Rowlock, 27 Anthrax, 29 Dialect, 30 Crèche, 31 Choke, 32 Height, 34 Edit, 36 Sneer, 38 Attic, 40 Mill, 45 Roomy, 46 Cleared, 47 Link, 48 Scored, 49 Tabby, 50 Entrant, 52 Hovercraft, 53 Elation, 54 Ironed, 55 Brusque, 56 Cubes, 57 Shed, 62 Steep, 67 Octopus, 68 Apparel, 70 Gremlin, 72 Patient, 73 Design, 74 Grotto, 75 Resign, 76 Cease, 78 Tunic, 80 Enter, 82 Mesh, 83 Seam.

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10.9_{ha} 🛘 3 🛏 2 🖷 3 🗳

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34_{ha} □

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3.2_{ha} □ 3 🛏 2 🖷 2 📾

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5,117_{sqm} 🗖 3 🛏 1 🖷 2 🗳

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65.74_{ha}

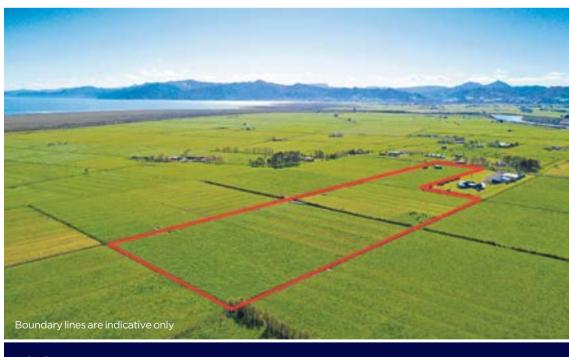
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Pipiroa 45 Arawa Street

Flat, fertile block awaits buyers

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

bayleys.co.nz/26300018

6.1_{ha} □

Asking Price \$495,000 + GST (if any)

Phone for viewing times

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

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









Miranda 42 Back Miranda Road

Lifestyle section, three minutes to boat ramp

Set on 5.16 hectares (more or less) in the heart of the Hauraki Plains, this bare lifestyle section in Miranda offers a rare chance to create your rural escape. Build your dream home, establish a small farmlet, or invest in sought-after land. A mix of open pasture and mature trees provides privacy and structure, while a natural pond attracts birdlife. Mostly flat, it's an ideal building site with rural views towards the Coromandel Ranges. Close to Miranda Hot Springs and Shorebird Centre, with easy access to Waitakaruru, Thames, and Pukekohe. Power and services are at the road

bayleys.co.nz/2630024

5.1_{ha} □

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

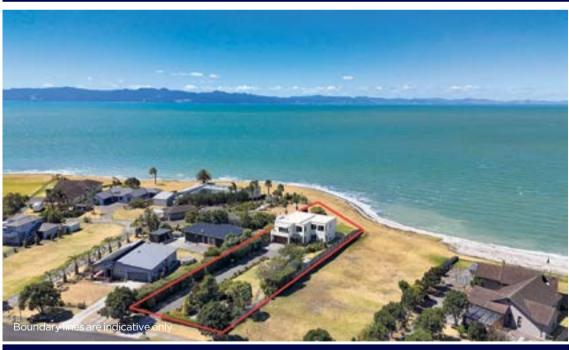
96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

Phone for viewing times

Karl Davis 0508 83 83 83

karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz Connor Davis 027 496 4622

connor.davis@bayleysngatea.co.nz







Kaiaua 10 Rua One Place

Beachfront brilliance - sophistication, style, and space

Anchored on a no-exit road, this elevated 1,557sqm (more or less) beachfront home boasts breathtaking Firth of Thames views. Built for strength, the three-bedroom, three-ensuite + toilet home features an upstairs kitchen, downstairs kitchenette, and durable materials. Expansive windows frame uninterrupted ocean vistas, while a rimu benchtop adds warmth. Solid concrete walls and native timber details ensure character and longevity. A dumbwaiter aids convenience, and a Dolomite filtration system with 75,000L water storage boosts practicality. With direct water access, subdivision potential (subject to council approval), and Airbnb appeal, this coastal gem shines.

bayleys.co.nz/2630046

1,557_{sqm} □ 3 🛏 3 🛋

Closing 3pm, Thu 1 May 2025

96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

View 1.15-1.45pm Sun 6 Apr **Karl Davis** 0508 83 83 83 karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz

Connor Davis 027 496 4622

$Moto\,X\,mayhem$

The Waikato Schools MX Challenge took place at the Patetonga Motorcycle Club on March 28-29. Students from 33 schools across the region zoomed around the muddy and hilly terrain in an exciting, adrenaline-filled series of races. Among the competitors tackling the tight turns and thrilling jumps were several students from across the Hauraki, with Paeroa College taking home the win, and Hauraki Plains College placing fourth. Reporter ALICE PARMINTER took to the track to catch the dustfilled action.



Marlin Van Hellemond from Paeroa College.



Ryan Mills from Hauraki Plains College.



The 12-16 year-old 85 and 150 fcc race is off to a thrilling start.



Hauraki Plains College's Wiremu Murray, front, takes a jump.

STAGE 1 IS NOW COMPLETE

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Jake Redmond from Hauraki Plains



HPC's Tyler Fitzgerald.

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