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# Paying it forward

**Paeroa man defies the odds and gives back to life-saving St John crew**  
**KELLEY TANTAU reports**



Martin van de Wetering with his wife Sally and daughter Anja.  
Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

Martin van de Wetering is busy polishing his Harley Davidson, but buffing the bike, let alone riding it, is something doctors never thought he'd be able to do after he suffered a severe brain aneurysm back in 2020.

In fact, neurosurgeons didn't give him "a hope in hell" of ever walking again.

Five years on, Martin is taking everything in his stride, but he hasn't forgotten the St John ambulance crew who helped save his life.

Martin, from Paeroa, was walking home

one night when he collapsed on his front deck. His wife, Sally, and daughter Anja found him and called 111.

"There happened to be a Waihi crew just coming into Paeroa. So, they just had to go around the corner, and they were at my place," he said.

The crew attended to Martin before he was flown to Waikato Hospital, where he spent between 9-10 weeks in the ICU and neurosurgery ward.

"And in the end," he says, "I was very lucky to recover."

Martin had suffered a severe brain aneurysm which came "straight out of the blue".

"In the end, I was conscious," he says, "but I just wasn't there. The family would go and visit me, and I'd just be away with the fairies. [Doctors] ended up putting a magnetic shunt in my head to relieve the pressure off the brain, and the moment they did that, I say I woke up. That's when I started to recognise everybody and got my memory back and everything. So, I'm extremely fortunate."

Martin said a neurosurgeon told him

none of them expected him to ever walk again, let alone be able to function, and because of his prompt care by the Waihi St John ambulance crew who attended to him that day, he wanted to pay it forward.

He read *The Profile's* February 25 story about Waihi's Johnston St ambulance station needing more funds to complete its rebuild, and thought he'd do his bit to help out, utilising a sport he's been heavily involved in for decades - clay target shooting.

He and his daughter Anja have

**CONTINUED ON P2**

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The Thames Clay Target club hosted a fundraising shoot to give back to Waihi St John. Photo: SUPPLIED

**CONTINUED FROM P1**  
accumulated a number of world champ titles all around the world, and Martin has been president of the Thames Clay Target Club for nearly 20 years. "I decided to put a shoot on to raise some funds, and I just went round and contacted people I know in the sport and visited our club and tried to rally up some support," he said. "It was a little bit last minute, and so we didn't quite get the numbers there that I hoped for, but I have to say, I was just absolutely astounded with the generosity of the people in our sport." On March 30, more than \$3000 was raised from the shoot, while at Whitianga the week before, another \$600 was collected by the passing around of a hat. "So we were able to make a \$3600 donation to the station fund over at Waihi. It was just a way of giving back to St John's for what they did for me." Not only was Martin's prompt assistance a literal lifeline, but after his release from hospital, he said St John continued to provide faultless care. "In the last four-and-a-half years, I've struggled with severe blood clots, heart problems, you name it, and I've had to call 111 several times, and in some cases be taken to A&E."

"I know they're not always immediately available, but the crew on the night I collapsed were coming into Paeroa to relieve, because all the local crews were out on calls. They back each other up, and you can't fault them," he said. Martin heads to the Thames Clay Target Club off Ngāti Maru Highway every week, and the week he chats with *The Profile*, he is preparing to host more than 100 students from Auckland to Taupō for a secondary school shoot. He and Anja are also vying to qualify for New Zealand teams for the 2026 worlds, which will be held in Christchurch. He's feeling great, he said, hence why he's polishing his bike. "I count myself as one of the very few fortunate ones, after all, the neurosurgeon I saw in Wai-kato Hospital, a few months after my release, he turned to me and said: 'Well, you're a walking miracle'." "He said: 'None of us in neurosurgery gave you a hope in hell of ever walking again, let alone being able to function as a human being'. I can only count myself as extremely lucky," Martin said, "and I cherish every moment". **DETAILS: To donate to the Waihi station's rebuild, visit [fundraise.stjohn.org.nz/t/waihi-111-challenge](https://fundraise.stjohn.org.nz/t/waihi-111-challenge).**

## Valley Profile reporter named finalist

Valley Profile reporter Alice Parminter has been named a finalist in the prestigious 2025 Voyager Media Awards. Alice, who joined *The Profile* team part-time in 2023, was one of three finalists in the Local Journalist of the Year category, alongside Joel MacManus from *The Spinoff* and Matthew Littlewood from the *Otago Daily Times*. The national awards, run by the News Publishers' Association, recognise excellence in New Zealand journalism. This year, the 38 award categories saw 114 finalists selected from over 900 entries. Entries had to be published in the 2024 calendar year. Alice's portfolio included her investigation into Thames' red-stickered homes after Cyclone Gabrielle and personal stories of trauma from gang members. Winners will be announced on May 16.



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## Thames Tides

Wed Apr 16	Thu Apr 17	Fri Apr 18	Sat Apr 19	Sun Apr 20	Mon Apr 21	Tue Apr 22
 <b>Morning</b> 3:03am 0.7 9:19am 3.2 <b>Afternoon</b> 3:24pm 0.7 9:44pm 3.3  6:44am 5:51pm  Best At 2:02am 2:26pm  Set 9:35am Rise 7:13pm	 <b>Morning</b> 3:41am 0.8 9:57am 3.1 <b>Afternoon</b> 4:01pm 0.7 10:21pm 3.2  6:45am 5:49pm  Best At 2:50am 3:16pm  Set 10:36am Rise 7:53pm	 <b>Morning</b> 4:21am 0.9 10:36am 3.1 <b>Afternoon</b> 4:38pm 0.8 11:00pm 3.1  6:46am 5:48pm  Best At 3:42am 4:08pm  Set 11:35am Rise 8:41pm	 <b>Morning</b> 5:05am 0.9 11:17am 3.0 <b>Afternoon</b> 5:18pm 0.8 11:44pm 3.1  6:47am 5:47pm  Best At 4:35am 5:02pm  Set 12:29pm Rise 9:37pm	 <b>Morning</b> 5:52am 1.0 12:01pm 3.0 <b>Afternoon</b> 6:03pm 0.9  6:48am 5:45pm  Best At 5:29am 5:56pm  Set 1:16pm Rise 10:40pm	 <b>Morning</b> 12:33am 3.0 6:43am 1.0 <b>Afternoon</b> 12:48pm 2.9 6:54pm 1.0  6:49am 5:44pm  Best At 6:22am 6:49pm  Set 1:57pm Rise 11:47pm	 <b>Morning</b> 1:27am 3.0 7:38am 1.0 <b>Afternoon</b> 1:41pm 2.9 7:54pm 1.0  6:50am 5:43pm  Best At 7:15am 7:40pm  Set 2:32pm

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

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

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

PLACE	Hr	High	Mn	Low
Coromandel	-0	04	-0	04
Whitianga	-0	01	-0	05
Tairua	+0	10	+0	21
Whangamata	-0	03	-0	05
Waihi Beach	-0	12	-0	12



# Former Paeroa racecourse enters new era

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

The Paeroa Hills development is taking shape in the town’s former racecourse which, when completed, will bring a boost to the local population.

The racecourse had sat largely vacant since the last horse bolted in 2012, but since developers Wayne and Chloe Wright cut the chains of the gates in November, 2020, movement began to welcome in “a new, modern Paeroa”.

The site will see a roundabout installed off Thames Rd, residential living, green spaces, a commercial zone, and a chapel holding a special memory of Chloe, who passed away in September, 2023, and who spoke of her desire to create “history” and a place she hoped was “unlike any other”.

“We’re building a fantastic chapel amongst the trees,” Wayne told *The Profile*.

“As you come in the gate on to the property and turn left and go up that little hill, you look out over the property.

“On that ridge line will be a chapel that she had started designing and that I’ve had the designer carry on and finish off. And there’ll be a memory to her inside that.”

Currently, work is being done to change the terrain of the former racecourse. Crossfalls and pits are being put in to catch water, while the soil is being consolidated in preparation to become the final level for roads, stormwater and sewer pipes, and the like.



Currently, work is being done to change the terrain of the former Paeroa racecourse.

Photo: MATTHEW ARNOTT

Wayne said progress will be spread over the next three years, with the current work cycle continuing until winter.

“Then there’ll be a pause of probably four months because we can’t work in the dirt,” he said, “but then next summer we’ll make some major improvements in terms of progress, and by the time next winter comes, we’ll have some roads and formation down and it’ll be a much easier site to work on through the winter.”

Hauraki district Mayor Toby Adams said the development, coupled with the work happening at the close-by Longridge Retirement Village, could boost Paeroa’s population by up to 30 per cent. “It’s definitely growing, and the community is changing, which is not a bad thing,” he said.

He also said it was great to have someone so passionate about the area behind the project.


“Particularly Wayne on this one where he has always said this is a passion project and a legacy project in memory of his wife. “So, that makes it even more special for us.”





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# New \$530k playground celebrated

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

The smell of fresh bark chip was still in the air as Ngatea Primary School celebrated the opening of its new \$530,000 playground on April 10.

With an area of 1035 square metres, the spacious adventure space features multiple slides, climbing frames, huts, and other obstacles for the children to explore.

Its construction took only four weeks, helped along by hours of volunteer work from the school community to prepare the site.

“Andrew Williams led an incredible team of volunteers for two days to clear this whole site, lay new drainage, and prepare the middle base for our installation,” school board presiding member Shannon Burke said.

“It’s been a huge community effort to get to this point where we are now. I’m actually really proud of our little community pulling something like this off, this is massive.”

The grand opening took place on the school’s Grandparents Day, and was attended by a large crowd of students, staff, and friends of Ngatea School, along with the Board of Trustees, Hauraki District Mayor Toby Adams, and former school principals Len and



Students swarm the climbing frame and test out the new equipment at the grand opening. Photos: ALICE PARMINTER

Lucy Hay. The blessing was conducted by Normie Anderson.

Former Ngatea Primary School student Donna Hoyle cut the red ribbon. Her company, Playground Creations, was the chosen vendor for the build.

“All of our playgrounds we create are special, but to do one where I went to school - it’s a privilege actually to have been here to help create this amazing new play space,” she said.

Principal Neil Fraser said the students were delighted to give the equipment a test run ahead of the opening.

“It’s been pretty hectic the last probably four weeks, the kids had to be on hard surfaces

only,” he said. “The teachers had a play this morning first, [and] each syndicate went on for a half hour - it was absolute chaos out there. The [old] one was probably around 50 or 60 years old and it no longer met health and safety requirements, and because we have such a big footprint we went big.”

The school received grants of \$307,000 for the project, from the Ngatea Primary Kids First Committee, Lottery Grants Board, Grassroots Trust, Akarana Community Trust, Blue Sky Community Trust, and the Dragon Community Trust.



Former student Donna Hoyle returns to her alma mater to officially open the playground she built.

## In Brief

**FATAL CRASH**  
One person has died after a crash in Waihi on April 13. Emergency services were called to the single-vehicle crash, involving a motorcycle, at the intersection of Rosemont Rd and Consols St at around 8:20pm. The rider died at the scene. Police said enquiries into the circumstances of the crash were ongoing.

**FRANCIS WINS**  
NZ super middleweight fighter Francis Waitai has retained his title after his bout against opponent Adrian Taihia at Chaos on the Coromandel on April 12. The fight was Francis’ first defence of the title.

**WELLBEING EXPO**  
The Thames Holistic Wellbeing Expo will be held at the Thames Civic Centre on June 21 to celebrate Matariki. Billed as “a beautiful day of healing our mind, body and spirit”, the expo will feature psychic readings, energy healing, hands-on healing, spiritual and wellbeing supplies, crafts, giftware, homemade jams, sauces and pickles, healing products and more. Public entry is free and doors open 11am-4pm.

**PLAYGROUND CLOSED**  
Thames’ Porritt Park playground will be temporarily closed on April 16 between 8am and 11am to allow contractors to deep-clean the equipment.

**50 YEARS**  
The Pāuanui Fire Brigade marked its 50th anniversary on April 6, with a celebration at the Pāuanui Lakes Resort. Around 250 people attended the celebration. Deputy Chief Fire Officer Fred Crawford was also recognised for 50 years of service to the brigade and the Pāuanui community.

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# Rescue team recognised at national awards

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

The Te Aroha Paeroa Search and Rescue team have been recognised for a March 2024 operation which saw them assist a hunter who had suffered a severe leg fracture after a fall.

Made up of 21 volunteers, the local search and rescue squad - dubbed TAPSAR - was awarded the supreme award for outstanding operation at the annual New Zealand Search and Rescue Awards.

Senior operational member Jeremy Gamble told *The Profile* he was proud of his team's efforts during the rescue of the hunter, who had fallen on a bush trail off the Tuahu Track, south of Te Aroha.

The challenging terrain had prevented the Westpac Rescue Helicopter from conducting an aerial extraction, so the TAPSAR team leveraged their local connections and secured access to an adjacent private property, enabling quicker access to the patient.

With a St John Ambulance officer in their ranks, pain relief was able to be administered.

"All searches are unique and present slightly different risks and challenges," Jeremy said.

"In this instance, we were fast approaching the end of the day and loss of light, so we



Brad Montague and Sarah Daroux show off their search and rescue award.

Photo: SUPPLIED

needed to be able to quickly provide a safe helicopter winch site or perform a stretcher carry on steep, rocky terrain."

Established in 1994, Land Search and Rescue New Zealand is a dedicated incorporated society providing special-

ist search and rescue services across diverse environments, including suburban, urban, wilderness, and rural areas.

TAPSAR covers much of the Kaimai Range, from Paeroa to Matamata, and are often working beyond that boundary.

Jeremy has been training with LandSAR since its inception, and became a field member in 1995.

"My father was involved with the team, and we have always loved getting into the bush," he said.

"I did head away for a bit with travel and working overseas, but when we returned, I rejoined in 2007."

Jeremy said unresolved operations were the hardest thing about the work.

"I can't think of how hard it must be on a family 'not knowing'," he said.

"Conversely, getting someone home safe is the best. When you make that first contact with a lost party and the relief washes over their face, it's a pretty cool moment."

"With the Kaimais on our doorstep, lost or injured trampers or hunters are the most common occurrence. However, we do get a variety of searches for people in different personal situations."

TAPSAR's volunteers come from all walks of life and live all over the district, including Paeroa, Morrinsville, Te Aroha, Matamata, and even Hamilton.

Jeremy also said it was important to commend employers of search and rescue volunteers, as they wouldn't be able to get out into the field without their support.

**DETAILS:** For more information or to volunteer, email [tearoa.paeroasar@gmail.com](mailto:tearoa.paeroasar@gmail.com) or find the team on Facebook.



A photograph of a family of four (a man, a woman, and two children) sitting up in bed, smiling and looking towards the camera. The room is brightly lit with large windows.

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# Police accept conduct findings in Whitianga incident

Police have accepted the findings by the Independent Police Conduct Authority in relation to an incident in Whitianga in March, 2023, in which an officer drove his patrol car into an offender.

Relieving Waikato District Commander Superintendent Scott Gemmell said the incident began after Police officers were called to a Whitianga apartment complex for a family harm matter.

One officer went to the address on foot and a second officer went in from another direction in a patrol car.

“When the officer drove into the carpark, he saw the man who had been involved in the family harm incident. The man immediately started yelling at the officer and smashed the police car windscreen, shattering the glass, which injured the officer,” he said.

“The officer initially started driving away but, concerned for his colleague who had still not arrived at the scene, he did a U-turn and then drove the patrol car into the man.

“He has then got out of his patrol car and punched the offender several times.”

Police carried out an investigation into the incident and the officer was charged with common assault and assault with intent to injure.

The case was tried before a judge and jury in May, 2024, and the officer was acquitted.

The offender was charged with intentional damage and intentionally injuring the officer and was convicted in court.

“As both matters have already been traversed through the courts, police will keep our comment limited except to say that while we acknowledge this was a confronting and unpredictable situation for the officer involved, our investigation and subsequent legal advice found the force used was excessive and as such the officer was charged,” Superintendent Gemmell said.

“An employment investigation remains ongoing, and we cannot comment on the specifics for privacy reasons.

“We can confirm the officer remains working for New Zealand Police.”

**“The man immediately started yelling at the officer and smashed the police car windscreen, shattering the glass, which injured the officer.”**  
- Scott Gemmell



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## Coco and kittens saved

**By Dr Annalise Riley BVSc (Dist.)**

Coco is a young Bengal cat who presented to the Waihi clinic in February after her owners noticed she was having difficulty giving birth.

Coco went into labour in the early hours of the morning. After successfully delivering one kitten on her own, her contractions weakened, and a few hours passed with no progress. Realising something was wrong, Coco's concerned owner rushed her to the Waihi Clinic for help.

Upon arrival, an ultrasound revealed three remaining kittens, all of which had strong heartbeats. Coco, however, was no longer showing signs of active labour, so it was time for the Waihi team to intervene.

Dystocia, or difficulty giving birth, is a common condition in our companion animals. It has many causes, including large or incorrectly aligned fetuses, obstructions in the birth canal and uterine inertia. Dystocia can be managed medically or surgically, depending on the cause and the animal's health. As Coco and her kittens were stable, the decision was made to attempt medical management.

An initial dose of oxytocin stimulated strong uterine contractions, and one more kitten was born.

However, no more kittens came after additional doses of oxytocin and calcium. A repeat ultrasound showed that the remaining kittens' heart rates were dropping, and an x-ray revealed they were large and positioned high in the uterus. It was clear that Coco could not deliver the last two kittens naturally, so an emergency C-section was performed.

Coco's remaining kittens were safely delivered via C-section, and Coco was spayed to prevent future litters. She recovered overnight at the clinic with her newborn kittens. Thanks to the attentive care of Coco's owners and the swift intervention by the Waihi team, Coco and her kittens are all doing well.

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Coco and her kittens.  
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# Water woes for museum with leaky roof

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

The Paeroa and District Historical Society Museum is in dire need of a new roof.

The building, constructed in the late 1930s and now owned by the society, was the former location of Plunket and the town library.

Now home to Paeroa's history, it's filled with tales of the town's past in the form of artefacts, written histories, photographs, and other taonga.

However, the building is in urgent need of maintenance.

Some items have already been damaged beyond repair from water damage, and museum volunteers fear the worst for the rest of the collection if repair funds cannot be found.

"We've got a very, very leaky roof," society president Gaye Cleave said.

"It's been running down the wall in the museum and of course if there's photos on the wall they suck it all up.

"So we've had certificates there that are donkey's years old, that we've just had to chuck out because the writing's all run in them."

A newer addition to the building has already had its roof replaced, but the section of roof over the older rooms is another story.

And to complicate matters, the guttering is concealed under the roofing iron.

"That's the way it was done back in the day... you don't see



Paeroa Museum's Gaye Cleave, left, and Kae Petch say the building needs repairs to the roof. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

the roof. You don't know what's going on up there until it starts leaking," treasurer Kae Petch said.

Quotes received by the committee have priced the repairs at up to \$15,000, or \$45,000 to replace the entire roof with a more modern one.

The committee is also worried about the written records room, where buckets laid out along the room's edges need regular emptying.

"There's a lot of jubilee books and centennial books and a lot of family history books. There's a lot of scrapbooks of Papers Past in there," Kae said.

"But with it being damp all the time, it really compromises the integrity of that written history. This is my family history in there as well. If I don't look after it, who's going to?"

The society recently held an event to raise funds for the roof. The wedding memories and high tea fundraiser featured a parade of models in wedding dresses from different eras, beginning in around the 1920s, and was a huge success -

all 120 tickets were snapped up and the society raised around \$4000.

The committee is also applying for funding, Kae said, and seeking assistance from Hauraki District Council as well.

"It's very hard to get money from anybody. I don't believe that [funding groups] see museums as something that's a funding priority," Kae said.

"We used to get \$6500 [from council] which covered our insurance, but now they've cut it to \$5000 for this year, and it's down to \$2000 for the following two years."

But the ladies said new members, and volunteers, would also help the museum's efforts along.

"We have membership fees and people coming in the door, which did increase last year, so we're hopeful that it will keep increasing, but we've got to try and keep up with things so people are interested in coming to the museum," they said.

We're finding it very hard to get helpers. Because no one wants to come down here and sit for three hours... so we've just cut [the hours] back because we just can't get the help.

"It's just hopeless."

**DETAILS: Paeroa and District Historical Society Museum, open 11am-2pm, Tuesday to Friday. Contact [paeroamuseum@gmail.com](mailto:paeroamuseum@gmail.com) to find out more.**



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# Sudden death shocks Thames community



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

“Get as much fun out of life as you can, but do not expect anyone else to pay for it,” were the words of farewell that Professor R M Algie remembered many years later from James Adams, Thames High School headmaster, to pupils as they left school.

The professor, making a speech in 1938, paid tribute to “that fine headmaster” who made a lasting impression on him.

It was this impressiveness that saw Harold Bagnall, an old Thames High pupil, salute Mr Adams as he passed him in Auckland’s Lower Queen St in early September, 1906. But when he returned a few minutes later, James Adams was dead.

Sixty-seven-year-old James had just arrived from Thames by steamer on a visit to his daughter, Mrs Buchanan, of Remuera, who met him at the wharf, together with one of her brothers. They then made their way rather quickly to a tramcar at the lower Queen St terminus when James suddenly complained of feeling faint and almost immediately swooned away.

He was carried into Mr Hall’s chemist shop where restoratives were applied and he was attended to by Drs Moir and Aickin, but James never recovered.

The news of his sudden death came as a great shock at Thames. He had been in charge of the high school for 26 years and his care of the pupils was almost paternal.

On the steamer, James had complained of heart pain, and the city coroner, having learned that Dr Lapraik, of Thames, had attended James for heart trouble, decided that an inquest was unnecessary.

James was returned to Thames by steamer. He left a widow, Anne, and several adult children.

At Thames flags were flown at half mast at schools and on public buildings. At St George’s Church Rev O’Callaghan gave an eloquent sermon on sudden death. He spoke of James’ sterling qualities, which had earned him the esteem of the whole community.

James was born in County Kerry, Ireland, his family one of many who struggled through the potato famine. He was fortunately well educated and gained teaching qualifications at London University. He was appointed headmaster of the Middle School, Douglas, Isle of Man, when he was 26. James thought education should be free for boys and girls and that science and natural history were important. He, his wife Anne and their four children immigrated to New Zealand in 1870, hoping that the Scottish settlement at Dunedin would foster his ideals.

But, unable to find a position there, he was appointed assistant master at the Grammar School in



James Adams before immigrating to New Zealand. Photo: SUPPLIED

Parnell, Auckland. James became headmaster in 1872, a post he held for the next eight years. James’ interest in botany was furthered by his friendship with Thomas Cheeseman, a botany and zoology teacher, and in future years they went on many excursions in the North and South Islands together. James also published several botanical papers.

In 1880, James was appointed headmaster at the new Thames High School, after the initial appointment of Mr W Morrison fell through. The formal opening of the Thames High School took place in the Baillie St school room. Mayor Ehrenfried said they had been very fortunate in securing Mr Adams, a gentleman of high scholastic attainments, with a reputation of a successful teacher, who had lifted the Parnell school from a very small one to a

position of high standing.

Dr Kilgour was rather more cautious, saying Thames did not possess many parents who could afford to lay out eight guineas per annum for having their children educated at the High School.

Still he had no doubt that in time Mr Adams, with his energy and perseverance, would overcome all difficulties and make the institution a large and flourishing one, which James ultimately did.

He and Anne had five more children, and his interest in botany led him into the orbit of Thames chemist John William Hall, who established New Zealand’s oldest arboretum.

James’ funeral was attended by all sections of the community and an impressive service was held in St George’s Church en route. As he was a member of Lodge Sir Walter Scott, the Masonic brethren attended in black dress without regalia. Amongst the many wreaths were tributes from the Board of Governors, the High School pupils, the old boys of Thames, and individual past pupils from all parts of the Auckland district.

James was buried at Tararu, his epitaph reading in part “scholar, gentleman, enthusiast, who loved knowledge and truth, and hated ignorance and cant”.

In August, 1907, a memorial, an enlarged photograph of James, said to be a ‘speaking likeness’, was unveiled at the High School.


The Adams Memorial Prize for mathematics was introduced as well. A newspaper memorial notice a year after his death remembered James “who was instantly removed on September 1, 1906, in the flood tide of his strenuous life.

## Chris’ Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parminter

1. In 2015, which item did Volkswagen produce that outsold cars by 20 per cent? a) batteries, b) sausages, or c) tyres?
2. Is the delicacy known as ‘Chicken Oysters’ made of meat from a chicken, or an oyster?
3. A standard tablespoon in the US, UK, New Zealand and almost everywhere else is 15mls. What volume is a tablespoon in Australia? a) 10, b) 15, or c) 20mls?
4. How many golf balls are estimated to be lost in the USA each year? a) 1.5 million, b) 1.5 billion, or c) 1.5 trillion?
5. Which bird can go 10 months without landing, flying the entire time? a) Albatross, b) Common Swift, or c) Godwit?
6. The musical *West Side Story* is based on which of William Shakespeare’s plays? *Romeo and Juliet* or *The Taming of the Shrew*?
7. Which country has the southernmost capital in the world? a) Argentina, b) Chile, or c) New Zealand?
8. Approximately one in five humans has an extra: a) heart, b) lung, or c) spleen?
9. The kiwifruit is native to which country? a) Brazil, b) China, or c) New Zealand?
10. What is the chemical symbol for the element Copper? C, Co or Cu?

ANSWERS: 1. b) sausages. They sold more than 7.2 million curlywurst sausages in 2015, compared with worldwide sales of 5.82 million cars. They also sell ketchup sauce. 2. Chicken. Oysters are two small, round pieces of dark meat on the back of poultry near the thigh. 3. c) 20 mls; 4. b) 1.5 billion; 5. b) Common Swift. They drink, feed and often even mate from solid ground, but do land on the water during this time; 6. *Romeo and Juliet*; 7. c) New Zealand; 8. c) spleen; 9. b) China; 10. Cu.



### St John Thames

**Hospital Friends Programme**

It was with great sadness that we received the news of the sudden passing of our team colleague Lesley Young of Paeroa on 3rd April. Lesley was a valued and treasured volunteer who held the position of Co-ordinator for our Hato Hone St John Hospital Friends (FED’s) programme. Our 13 FEDs’s contributed over 1800hrs of support to patients and their families at Thames Hospital last year.

**Health Shuttles Programme**

Our 6 shuttles made over 3600 transportations to deliver 760 people to their medical appointments. This demonstrates the great need our community has for reliable and safe and cost effective transport to mostly out of town hospital appointments. Our primary source of funding for this service comes from our St John Thames Opportunity Shop that contributed over \$65,000 towards the operational costs of the shuttles.

**Vacancies for volunteers**

Both of our Hospital Friends programme and the Health Shuttle programme are staffed by valuable volunteers and we have vacancies on both teams we would like to fill.

To find out more information please call us on 0800 STJOHN (0800 785 646), pop into the Opportunity Shop, or ask one of our staff.

**Hato Hone St John - local people helping meet the needs of our community**

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# New falé a tribute to late principal's missions

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

Paeroa Christian School officially opened its new Island Falé (house) on April 11, in a heartfelt dedication ceremony.

The wooden structure, located on the front lawn of the school, was dedicated to the memory of former principal Lance Nancekivell and will serve as a reminder of the school's numerous mission trips to Samoa and Fiji.

Lance, who was the school's principal for 17 years, began taking the school's senior students on mission trips in 2006.

"In previous years we'd take year eight students on a New Zealand day adventure somewhere, but Lance wanted more than that," former teacher Jill Robertson said.

"He wanted them to experience another culture, to open their eyes to a world beyond Paeroa where God was at work, and a world where maybe they had a contribution to make."

The missions continued throughout Lance's tenure, and current principal Royce McMurtrie said the spirit of the trips remained after Lance's died in 2022.

"I was fortunate to go on the last trip to Fiji - it was my first mission trip as principal of the school. And man, it impacted me," he said.



The new falé was dedicated to former principal Lance Nancekivell's memory.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER

"These journeys were never just about helping. They were about building genuine relationships, sharing lives, and living out the love of Christ in practical and powerful ways.

"I'm absolutely passionate about keeping Lance's legacy going by having that mission

trip be part of the culture of our school."

The falé was funded from a generous donation by a school family, who asked that it be spent on a project for the school.

Its opening was attended by school students, faculty, and

former students, along with the wider school community. Also in attendance were Lance's wife Lynley Nancekivell, and Meliki and Ola Talolo, the managers of Oasis Farm in Fiji where the missions currently take place.

The falé was built by charity group MMM New Zealand, who



The new falé.

also have connections with the school's mission programme.

Royce said the school wanted the falé to be a place of shelter, connection, and meaning.

"It's a significant thing, not because it's an amazing structure, it's just what it represents," he said.

"[It's] a physical reminder of our school's mission programme and a lasting symbol of one of our core values, manaakitanga. Manaakitanga calls us to care deeply, serve selflessly and honour others in all we do.

"And in the world that we live in with so many broken connections, it's actually much more important that we're intentional about it. So it's good that people have come. We've got ex-students who went on previous mission trips here today and ex-staff, so it's really drawn in people that have been connected to our school for the past 20-plus years."



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THAMES VALLEY RUGBY

Club Roundup : Round 3 : April 12, 2025

Massacre at Mercury Bay

Hot of the press from Tighthead Ted

Booomfah! That was the first tackle as Paeroa captain Johnson McKain levelled his opposite number James Mahi in the first carry of the game, and the intensity never dropped in the 90-odd minutes of action. Waihi took the spoils in another close match against the plucky Green Machine of Paeroa, 24-21.

No holds barred rugby, forward packs bashing the crap out of each other, and the backlines doing a lot of daisy picking as the fatties tried to exert dominance. It was an error ridden game, neither side could string together many phases before coughing up the pill or conceding a penalty - and there was the rub, when you concede a penalty to Waihi, one of two things happen. Collard slots a goal from anywhere inside the 50 metre mark, or kicks for touch and rakes off 50 metres. Paeroa conceded nine kickable penalties, and Collard landed seven. To top things off, with a few minutes left on the clock, and leading 21-14, he lands a 40 metre drop goal, sailing over the crossbar by 20 metres. This turned out to be the winning points, as a late Paeroa try, and wide conversion by Hendrix Beazley brought the Green Machine's tally to 21, three converted tries, to 24, seven penalties and a drop goal.

In a scrappy match there were no real standouts with slashing runs or displays of skill, it was trench warfare at its best. Plenty of effort, the returning Dylan Horne impressive with one memorable charge up the centre, and after his first run into a green brick wall, Mahi also carried well, and second five Ish Leilua's running was more and more damaging as the match progressed.

Oneone Faafou Soiso at hooker for the visitors was a wrecking ball, with and without the pill. A hard man to stop, and certainly not one you want to spot in the defensive line as you carry! McKain had a big game too, hard carries and some beautiful tackles, while Tyrone Keith was also hard to stop. Final score of 24-21, the match was worthy of a final, and Waihi will be looking at themselves as to why they couldn't breach the Paeroa try-line, while Paeroa will be looking to improve that discipline - three tries to none and still losing must

be a real coach killer.

Meanwhile, over on the coast at Whitianga, the mighty Marlins of Mercury Bay put on a second half clinic to take the Coastal Challenge trophy off Whangamata with a record score, 60-12. The locals were too powerful from numbers one through 15. The longer the match went on, the more the Mercury Bay side dominated. Set pieces turned to custard for the Red 'n' Whites, and with the high quality ball that the local pack was providing, the Marlins backline cut the visitors to shreds. A case of too big, too fast, too strong, and the scoreboard reflected that after 80 minutes.

Then at the Waitakaruru International Stadium, Waitakaruru, Hauraki North broke their duck for the season, beating the visiting COBRAS side 25-20, hanging on for grim life at the end, but taking the 'W'.

Once again, North started like a house on fire, leading 18-6 at the break on the back of a hard working pack, led by Josh Barker at number eight, and prop Sefanaia Taulanga. One big run from Taulanga had the home crowd on their feet as he barrelled up the field like a runaway steamroller.

The visiting Snakes started to reel in the home side through the second 40, the local lads doing just enough to hold on by the final whistle.

Perhaps a few penalties should have been aimed at the posts rather than the sideline during that second half to keep the scoreboard ticking over - it seems to work for Waihi.

COBRAS will rue their slow start, but did well to rip back into the game, and should be disappointed with the result, as the game was there for the taking in the last 10 minutes but North held on with some stoic defence.

Sliding across the plains to Te Aroha, in the heat, Waihou succumbed to two late tries as the visiting Taniwha took control in the final 15 minutes for the 26-18 win. A ding-dong battle up front with little to separate the packs, the kicking of Dan Edmonds giving the visitors a comfortable(ish) margin come fulltime. Huge collisions had the crowd grimacing as the fast paced match turned into primal warfare.

Waihou misplaced wing threequarter Harry Lafituanai at his new home on the flank had a top game, as did Bronson Wilson-Beech in the midfield and Jake O'Connor controlled proceedings well in number nine. The Thames big boys Peter Jack McLean, Nigel Williams and Sione To'a all played well for the black and blues.

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A Minecraft Movie (101 mins) PG. Minecraft, where creativity doesn't just help you craft, it's essential to one's survival! Four misfits—Garrett "The Garbage Man" Garrison (Momoa), Henry (Hansen), Natalie (Myers) and Dawn (Brooks)—find themselves struggling with ordinary problems when they are suddenly pulled through a mysterious portal into the Overworld: a bizarre, cubic wonderland that thrives on imagination.

The Penguin Lessons (111 mins) M. Starring Oscar nominee Steve Coogan, this poignant dramedy from director Peter Cattaneo follows an Englishman's personal and political awakening after he adopts a penguin during a cataclysmic period in Argentine history.

The Correspondent (119 mins) M. While covering the news desk in Cairo, an Australian journalist is arrested and accused of terrorism. He has become a pawn in the middle of a deadly game full of corrupt officials and ancient rivalries. A gripping thriller and a compelling true story.

Dog Man (95 mins) G. When a faithful police dog and his police officer owner are injured together on the job, a harebrained but life-saving surgery fuses the two of them together and Dog Man is born.

Disney's Snow White (109 mins) PG. A live-action reimaging of the classic 1937 adventure film. Journeys back to the story with beloved characters Bashful, Doc, Dopey, Grumpy, Happy, Sleepy, and Sneezy.

Tina (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.



Waihi took the spoils in another close match against the plucky Green Machine, 24-21. Photo: TVRFU

HDC NEWS

Property Owners - You've got mail

There's important information for some property owners with your April Rates bill covering the planned changes to wastewater billing. New Property Valuations are also in the post. If you don't agree with your new valuation, you have until 4.30pm on Friday 30 May 2025 to object online via our website.

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Find out more about changes to wastewater billing

Remember to Flush out your taps

The Ministry of Health recommends that you flush a mugful of water from your drinking water tap each morning before use to remove any metals that may have dissolved from the plumbing fittings. We recommend this simple precaution for all households, including those on public and private water supplies.

CALLS FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) HAURAKI RAIL TRAIL

Get on your bike and ride!

The role of Council Trustee on the Hauraki Rail Trail Charitable Trust is available and we're seeking Expression of Interests. If you're a big supporter of the Rail Trail and want to be part of its continued success, email us at info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz. Applications close Wednesday 30 April 2025.

Kerbside collection reminder 22 - 26 April Recycling + Food scraps

Tuesday 22 April Whiritoa, Waihi Zone 1

Wednesday 23 April Waihi Zone 2, Waikino, Mackaytown and Karangahake

Thursday 24 April Kerepehi, Tūrua, Kaiaua, Ngātea and Waitakaruru

Saturday 26 April Paeroa

Always place bins facing the kerbside by 7:30am on collection day

Dog Rules for public holidays

Dog times on Whiritoa beach differ over public holiday weekends. Find out more about our Dog Exercise Areas in the Hauraki District at https://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/rules-regulations-licences/dogs-other-animals/dog-exercise-areas

HAURAKI DISTRICT ANZAC DAY Commemoration Parades and Memorial Services

You are warmly invited to attend services on Friday 25 April at the following locations:

Paeroa

6:00 am RSA Dawn service, Cenotaph Primrose Hill

9:15 am Civic Service at Paeroa War Memorial Hall

Waihi

6:00 am RSA Dawn service, Waihi RSA

8:00 am Wreath laying, Waihi Cemetery

9:00 am Tunnelling Company Service, Gilmour Reserve

11:00 am Civic Service at Waihi Memorial Hall

Ngātea

6:00 am Dawn Service, Hauraki Plains College, Ngātea

11:30 am Civic Service at Ngātea War Memorial Hall

Kaihere/Pātetonga

9:30 am Service at Kaihere Hall

Kerepēhi

6:00 am Dawn service and Parade (5.30am muster for parade), Kerepēhi War Memorial Hall

Kaiaua

7:00 am Service at Ruaoneone, Urupa, F Lowry Road, Whakatiwai

Returned service personnel are asked to wear medals and decorations. Descendants of returned service personnel are asked to wear medals on the right upper portion of their apparel. Wreaths will be laid during the services. To present wreaths at each ward Civic service please contact Katie McLaren, Ph. 07 862 8609 no later than 4.00pm on Friday 18 April 2025.



# More driving mentors, more ‘gold’ mined

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

Eighty-three locals who participated in the Thames Community Centre’s driver programme went on to contribute hundreds of volunteer hours to organisations in 2024. Now, to continue this cycle of giving back, more mentors are needed to support future drivers and help sustain the community impact.

The Thames Community Centre, on MacKay St, runs a Driver and Volunteer Programme which sees them paying for driver license test fees, lessons, courses and mentored driving practice for people who are willing to give volunteer hours back to the community.

Since 2018, the initiative has found volunteer work for 390 people within 28 different community organisations, centre manager Jeff Whitfield said.

Eighty-three volunteers were placed last year alone.

Jeff told *The Profile* he had a hunch the initiative would be a success, as the centre understood there was a population out there “languishing on their learner’s”.

But word of its success had spread, and there were now more applications for mentored practice than the centre could offer.



Mentor Colleen Hughes with driver Libee.  
Photo: SUPPLIED

“Our mentors, their time is like gold to us,” Jeff said.

“We really value what they do... because it’s life changing for the drivers. Some people have got jobs, they’ve got independence.

“Our issue is we only have one car, and there’s only so many hours in the day, but most importantly, we could do with some more mentors, so I hope that we can mine some more gold.”

The Driver and Volunteer

programme helps with all phases of driving qualification, from a learner’s licence through to a full.

The student and the volunteer driving mentor practice with twice weekly drives in the centre’s Valley Toyota car over a 12-week programme.

The student also has three lessons with a professional driving instructor.

The centre currently has eight volunteer mentors but Jeff said he would like to double that

number as applicants were now on a waiting list.

“Realising 12 weeks is quite a chunk of time we do have mentors that can come off the bench to cover practices for other mentors as required,” he said.

One of the mentors, Colleen Hughes, said contributing to the programme was “very rewarding”.

“I was looking for something else to make life meaningful; to give back to the community and meet some new people.

“It’s very rewarding and only a couple of hours a week,” she said.

“It’s a way of contributing to the community, as having a driver’s licence removes barriers to work and gives independence.”

**DETAILS:** For more info or to lend a hand, visit [www.thamescommunitycentre.org](http://www.thamescommunitycentre.org) or contact Jeff: 027 868 9797.



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Rural Life

# Prize for student interested in ‘all things water’

A University of Waikato student's love for water science, sparked from a series of childhood moments enjoying the creek below her family home in the Hauraki Plains, has been awarded the Water Sciences Prize.

At the March meeting of Waikato Regional Council, 20-year-old Morgan Harris was presented with the prize, established in 1990 by Sir Ross Jansen with the University of Waikato Earth Sciences Department.

The water sciences prize of book vouchers worth \$500 is awarded annually to the student who shows outstanding ability in water science papers taught in the Faculty of Science and Engineering.

Morgan's love for water science began early, with the creek below her family's home in Patetonga where she built dams and rafts with her siblings, and noticed the temperature and depth change with the seasons.

"One year a beloved kayak washed away during heavy rain, and I often saw parts of the plains flooded on our drive to school along the Piako River," she said.

"My first experience with water testing was with EcoQuest Education Foundation who let me join in with their research projects as a 15-year-old.

"I was shocked to learn the invertebrates in a stream could tell us about its health and couldn't wait to test the creek at home."

Together with a love for the



WRC climate action committee chair Jennifer Nickel, left, with prize winner Morgan Harris and WRC chair Pamela Storey, following a presentation of the water sciences prize.

Photo: SUPPLIED/WRC

planet and desire to help others, this passion ultimately led to a Bachelor of Climate Change with a major in Environmental Science at the University of Waikato.

"The interdisciplinary nature of the degree has equipped me with a diverse skillset to tackle complex climate-related challenges.

"It has also solidified my inter-

est in all things water," Morgan said.

"I'm beyond grateful to have had some amazing lecturers who fostered and directed my passions. I've loved my every encounter with atmospheric science, hydrology and freshwater ecology at the university."

Having completed her under-

graduate degree, Morgan has been undertaking a research project with the university, exploring the intersection of river flood timescales and community vulnerability in New Zealand.

The research project will lead into her Master of Science, where she will continue to focus on extreme rainfall and its impacts

as part of a new research group Climate Extremes and Societal Impacts (CLESI) led by Dr Luke Harrington.

Morgan is combining recent NIWA data on catchment flood timescales and climate-driven precipitation intensification with socioeconomic metrics like the New Zealand Deprivation Index.

"In practice, this project has involved me learning ArcGIS and trying to make useful, and hopefully pretty, maps and graphs of vulnerability across New Zealand.

"My passion for interdisciplinary work drives my research and my future career aspirations. I know that planning for climate change requires understanding both physical risks and socio-economic vulnerabilities."

Waikato Regional Council chair Pamela Storey said: "Morgan's dedication to this field is precisely the kind of passion and know-how we aim to foster with this prize".

"The prize is not just a recognition of individual achievement; it is also a call to action. We hope that by celebrating Morgan's accomplishments, we can inspire more young people to pursue studies in environmental science and build the capability we need for a sustainable future.

"Our region faces significant environmental challenges, and the more talented individuals we have on board, the better we can develop innovative solutions and ensure the health and resilience of our natural environment."

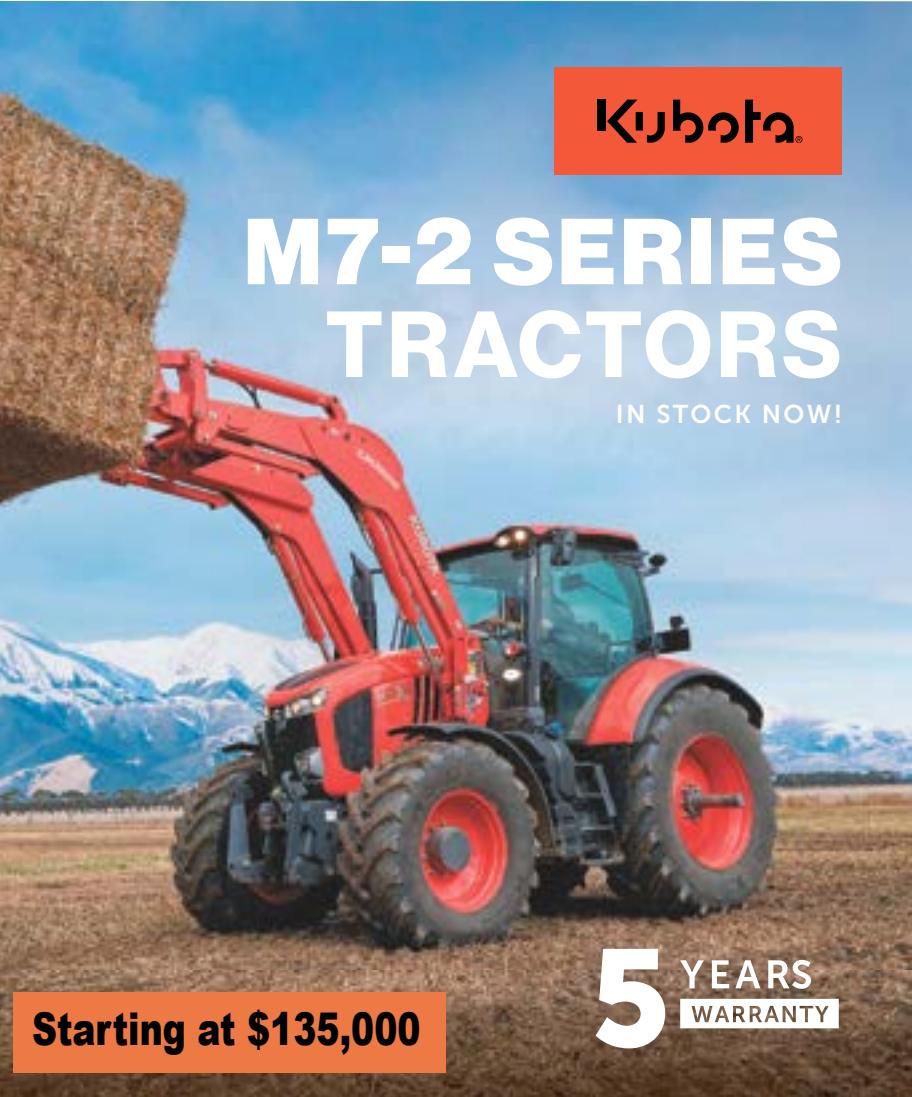
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# Rural Life

## Gourdness gracious

Turua School’s annual Giant Pumpkin Competition and Autumn Gala fundraiser was a huge success. The event, held on March 29, saw dozens of people turn out to compete in the giant pumpkin, decorated gumboot, and wacky vegetable competitions. There were also plenty of fun activities on offer, including a “train” ride, bouncy castles, face painting, a seedling stall, and the hugely popular “soak a teacher” dunk tank. The heaviest pumpkin weighed in at a whopping 86kg, grown by Liam and Hannah Urwin. Turua School raised \$4000 at the gala, for their Garden to Table programme and other enriching school activities. **ALICE PARMINTER** went along to get her 5+ a day.



Kids enjoy the tractor “train” ride.



Chase Tahitahi and Finn Howse with a giant.



William Manning and Toby Vaughan with some massive pumpkins.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER



Sampling the yummy treats at the bake stall.



Jacob Strang with his entry.



The “Decorate a Gumboot” competition.



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UNLX104

Rear fence, Bearing covers, Front end loader reader (require brackets), Covered drive shaft to eliminate feed wrapping, Dual latch hooks for stronger headstock & feeding cradle connection



# Bright sparks

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

The Pārāwai School hall was filled with bright minds on April 9 and 10, as the school played host to two competition rounds of the annual EPro8 Challenge.

Students from a number of schools across the Thames Valley participated in the Thames heats, with year 7-8 students competing on April 9, and year 5-6 students taking their turns on April 10.

Around 35,000 students across New Zealand compete in the science and engineering competition each year, testing their problem-solving skills in a number of engineering-based challenges.

This year, students were tasked with building working electronic models of things like motorised barrier arms, a foosball table with electronic scoreboard, and shopping trolleys with automatic turning. Each four-person team

was provided with a wide array of electronic and construction equipment, basic tools like tape measures and screwdrivers, and a booklet of instructions.

The participating teams at the two sessions were from Hikurangi School, Matatoki School, Moanataiari Kura, Ngatea School, Pārāwai School, Pūriri School, St Joseph Catholic School Waihi, Tairua School, Waihi East School, and Waitakaruru School.

Tairua School took out the year 5-6 heat, with second place going to Moanataiari Kura and third to Matatoki School. For the year 7-8 teams, the first and third place prizes went to teams from Pārāwai School, while second place was won by Ngatea School.

The top-placing teams will go on to compete in the Waikato regional semi-finals.



A Moanataiari pupil fetches components for the team's project.



Students from Waihi East School test their table.



Pārāwai School students plan their build.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER



The Ngatea School team works on their construction's frame.



A Pūriri School student tightens the screws on the foosball table.

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Meet Your Local School

ADVERTISING FEATURE



Matatoki School focusses on positive learning outcomes for all students. Photo: SUPPLIED

## People an asset at Matatoki

**N**au mai. Haere mai. Matatoki School is a great place to learn and play. Our biggest assets at Matatoki School are our people; our dedicated teaching team and our wonderful students.

We are confident to meet the learning needs of your child. Our main focus is striving for positive learning outcomes for all students and celebrating student achievement and success. We aim to achieve these goals through: teaching excellence.

Our teachers are constantly upskilling their curriculum knowledge and implementing effective pedagogies. An inclusive, caring school culture: Based on our school values of courage, attitude, respect and excellence. We have a school culture where students feel emotionally safe to learn, develop positive learner dispositions and respect the needs of others.

Our senior students help nurture and enjoy fun relationships with their peers and younger students. Quality learning environments: we ensure all our teachers and students have the tools and resources they need to access learning, and that support effective teaching practice. Our classrooms are spacious and inviting, our play spaces and gardens provide an attractive place for sports activities and flourishing friendships. Home/ school partnerships: We are both highly invested in your student's success. So we work closely with families to support their child's learning and wellbeing. The strength of these relationships makes a positive difference for our learners. Come and visit us and see for yourself.

Our learning: We have a specialised New Entrant Programme to ensure your child starts their learning journey with confidence. We have specialised Year 8 programmes and student leadership learning so your child leaves our school well prepared for the challenges of secondary school.

-Supplied by Matatoki School

## Students known, inspired and supported at Kopuarahi

**I**n the heart of our rural community lies a gem of a school - Kopuarahi School, where every child is known, valued, and supported to thrive.

We may be small in size, but we're big on heart, opportunity, and outcomes.

At Kopuarahi, we believe in pointing kids in the right direction.

Our small class sizes mean more individual attention, stronger relationships, and a learning environment where no one gets lost in the crowd.

Every student has access to modern digital devices and quality resources that support both core learning and creative exploration.

Our rich, localised curriculum is built around strong foundations in reading, writing, and mathematics, while also growing each child's confidence, curiosity, and character.

We're proud to nurture the whole child—fostering wellbeing, resilience, and a strong sense of belonging.

Rooted in traditional rural values and close community ties, Kopuarahi School is more than just a place of learning—it's a place to grow.

We also offer a school van service with convenient door-to-door pick-up and drop-off within a 10km radius, making access easier for busy families.

If you're looking for a school where your child will be known, supported, and inspired, come and experience the Kopuarahi difference.



Kopuarahi School is more than just a place of learning—it's a place to grow. Photos: SUPPLIED

Now enrolling for Years 1–8.  
**DETAILS:** Contact Principal Chris Patel today on 021 024 19709 or [principal@kopuarahi.school.nz](mailto:principal@kopuarahi.school.nz).

-Supplied by Kopuarahi School

### Matatoki School

A small school with a big heart!

Give your child the country school experience only 10 minutes from town.

Why enrol with us?

We provide:

**Outstanding Teaching:**  
Passionate, skilled teaching team, who inspire a love of learning.

**Achievement focused:** High expectations and tailored support for every child.

**Wellbeing matters:** We foster confidence, resilience, and lifelong success.

**Beautiful grounds and play spaces:** Lush gardens, sports areas and an onsite pool.

**Community spirit:** A warm and welcoming school community.

**Contact:**

9265 State Highway 26, Matatoki, Thames

<https://www.matatoki.school.nz/>

[office@matatoki.school.nz](mailto:office@matatoki.school.nz)

[principal@matatoki.school.nz](mailto:principal@matatoki.school.nz)

078681079

Come and see for yourself! Pop in for a visit at Matatoki School! We would love to see you!

**Our learning:**

We have a specialised New Entrant Programme to ensure your child starts their learning journey with confidence.

We have specialised Year 8 programmes and student leadership learning so your child leaves our school well prepared for the challenges of secondary school.

**A unique school in a rural environment close to town with:**

- a strong focus on engaging children in real-life learning
- small class sizes
- one-to-one digital devices
- personalised learning
- digital technologies including coding, an active e-sports team, lego workshops, and robotics
- engagement with sustainability, environmental education, and kaitiakitanga
- caring, committed, experienced staff
- a focus on hauora/ well-being for all
- School van pick-up and drop-off with door-to-door service within the local area of a 10km radius, by negotiation

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# Meet Your Local School



ADVERTISING FEATURE

## New school, fresh start

It's a big step to start at a new school. There are lots of things for students and families to adjust to such as new teachers, classmates, school layout and routines. One thing is for certain - it's a fresh start, and for students who study in the Hauraki-Coromandel, the first few days of school can come with a mix of nerves and excitement. It's completely normal to feel uncertain while getting used to a new environment. Things take time. The good news is that most schools are ready to help with welcome programmes, student buddy systems and supportive staff who can help make the transition easier. Families can also support the change by staying positive, and helping to get involved in any activities and events through the school so everyone can feel more connected. Even though it can be a challenging space, it also brings opportunity. A new school can mean the chance to meet different people, try new activities and discover new strengths. With time, students can become confident and feel at home in spaces of learning. But a new school is more than just a change of scenery, it's the beginning of a new chapter. Encouragement, support and a little bit of patience can propel students to find their footing and begin to thrive in their new surroundings.



A new school can bring opportunities to learn, grow and discover strengths.

File Photo: PIXABAY



Paeroa Early Learning Centre kids love to learn and play.



Photos: SUPPLIED

## Relationships valued at Paeroa Early Learning Centre

Paeroa Early Learning Centre is a small family/whanau mixed aged centre for children from six months of age. We value relationships and enjoy being able to see these relationships blossom between all ages with only one inside and outside environment for all children in our care. We know your child is special to you and we will take the best possible care of them. Come and see us for more information on our new fees from March 31, 2025, as this is just a taste of what we have to offer: preschool fee (three to six year olds) to attend four days for \$39 a week, or a sibling fee for one infant/toddler (one and two year olds) and one preschooler to attend three days for \$39 a week. \*Terms and conditions are outlined in our fee schedule located at the centre. - Supplied by Paeroa Early Learning Centre



**At Waihi College students are given many opportunities to participate in a wide array of educational programmes, activities, events and experiences.**



**Management, staff and students are devoted to the educational needs of our unique rural community and are committed to maintaining a caring, supportive and friendly atmosphere.**

**We are the Waihi College whānau because when you are a part of Waihi College, you are part of our family.**

**Here at Waihi College, we endeavour to create a place to stand and a place to come back to for all time, your turangawaewae.**

**Come on in and let us help your young person on their journey, to become the best version of themselves.**

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# Meet Your Local School



ADVERTISING FEATURE



Thames High School makes sports accesible for all students. Photo:THS STUDENT PALARY ROUS

## Sports a vital part of THS

At Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga - Thames High School, sport is more than just an extra-curricular activity - it's a vital part of student development.

Aligned with our vision to grow together to reach one's true potential, we are committed to making physical activity accessible to every student, regardless of skill level or experience.

Whether you're a competitive athlete or simply enjoy getting active, our kura offers the ideal environment to participate, have fun, and grow. We believe every student should experience the many benefits of sport - building confidence, leadership, and teamwork - while staying active and healthy. It's not just about winning; it's about participation, enjoyment, and personal growth. We offer a wide range of sports, including rugby, netball, football, basketball, athletics, volleyball, mountain biking, chess, golf, and more.

Students can join competitive teams, recreational groups, or take part in our Active As lunchtime and after-school "have-a-go" sessions. Led by our Sports and Active As Co-ordinator, Tess Watts, with support from Alicia Costello and Xavier Brown, our team is here to help students get involved.

If there's a sport you're keen on, Tess and the team will do their best to support it. Inclusion and accessibility are at the heart of our sports programme. The Active As initiative promotes equal opportunities and supports students with diverse needs, encouraging participation without pressure.

With strong links to local clubs and excellent facilities, sport at Thames High is about creating experiences, developing life skills, and fostering a lifelong love of physical activity.

-Supplied by Thames High School

## Pukekos: 'home away from home' for young learners

The early years last forever - Whakamana te tamaiti.

The early childhood service you chose is vital in providing children with the right experiences for life.

This centre in Thames really has a great vibe.

Having great relationships is what they do best, enjoying the amazing children they get to work alongside every day, parents love to get involved here and everyone genuinely wants to be part of Pukekos.

At Pukekos older and younger children are not segregated by age, siblings get to share their precious childhoods together, so naturally develop the life and social skills of caring and sharing.

Everyone looks out for one another, just like a family, a home away from home.



Pukekos overflows with awesome play spaces. Photo: SUPPLIED

Pukekos insists the children head off to school with a good understanding of life skills, being independent, confident, a good listener, what it means to be a member of a group, plus a rich love of wanting to learn.

Feeling happy and secure when they head off for their school adventure, fitting in and participating quickly and effectively is vital. This place overflows with awesome play spaces both indoors and outdoors.

Natural settings, trees, plant life and adventure! The indoors are thoughtful spaces to be with others or quiet areas

to just be. All areas are beautifully uncluttered, designed and cared for.

And the location - a quiet cul-de-sac, away from the loud and busy main roads. Calm and safe, the centre is nestled 2 mins away from the centre of town.

It really makes for a relaxed and happy space for everyone.

-Supplied by Pukekos



## ENROLMENT ENQUIRIES WELCOME



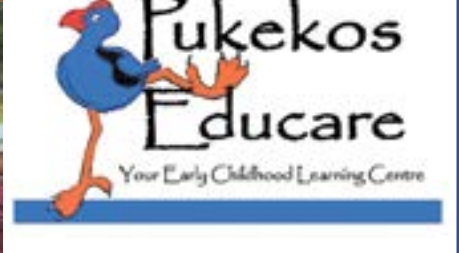

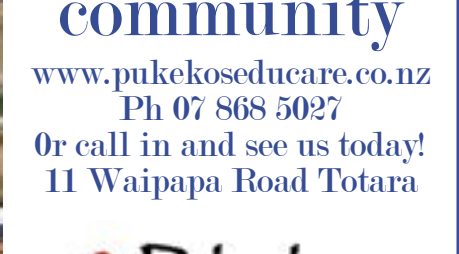

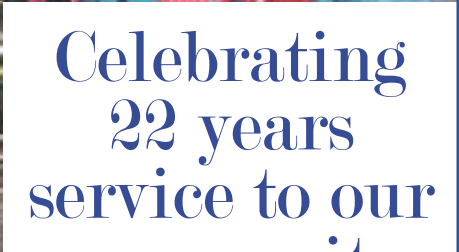



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# Our Coromandel




News from Thames-Coromandel District Council


15 April 2025

## DECISION TIME FOR THAMES-COROMANDEL

Kōrero mai – We're listening, tell us what you think.



Our district has three important issues to decide on and we'd like your feedback so our elected Council can make the best possible decision for the community.



### What does the future of water services look like?

Our Council would like your feedback on how best to manage Council's water services in the future.

The Government's Local Water Done Well water services reform programme means councils throughout Aotearoa New Zealand must consider different management

and operation models of our “three waters” – stormwater, wastewater and drinking water. Several models have been deeply researched and the advantages and disadvantages of each weighed up. Another question is whether to keep water services 'in house' or team up with other councils? We'd like your feedback on the options between 15 April to 15 May. We'll be holding meetings throughout the district and reaching out for feedback on the proposed options.

tcdc.govt.nz/lwdw



## EASTER AND ANZAC WEEKENDS



### Kerbside collections

On the week of Easter Monday, 21 April, yellow week collections for Thames Rural South and Thames & Surrounds take place on Saturday 26 April (two days later due to both the Easter Monday holiday and then Anzac Day on Friday). Check out your collection calendar at [tcdc.govt.nz/bindays](https://tcdc.govt.nz/bindays)

### Refuse Transfer Stations:

Our transfer stations hours changed to 8.30am–4.30pm with the end of Daylight Saving on Sunday 6 April. They are closed on Good Friday 18 April and until 1pm on Anzac Day, Friday 25 April. [tcdc.govt.nz/rts](https://tcdc.govt.nz/rts)

## RATING REVIEW 2025

We're rethinking our rating system to ensure it is fair, transparent, and best reflects the needs of our district.

We're proposing a **shift from rating based on land value to rating based on capital value.** It's the system that over 65% of councils across New Zealand use.


This **isn't about increasing the total amount of rates collected** – it's about redistributing how rates are shared.

We're presenting **three** different options for you to choose from.

### Help shape the future of our rating system

We're also keen to hear your thoughts how we approach second dwellings, or SUIPs (separately used or inhabited parts of a rating unit).

**Find out more on our website and in our comprehensive Proposal Document.**



tcdc.govt.nz/ratingreview

## Proposed changes to summer kerbside collections

We're proposing to change peak summer collections for rubbish and glass recycling in our east coast communities from twice weekly to once weekly.

These communities, from Whangamatā to Whangapoua, would still have rubbish, glass, mixed recycling and food waste collected once a week from the week of Christmas to the week of Waitangi Day.

Fewer than half of the properties in the east coast



are making use of each collection in this period. Changing from two collections per week to one would be more efficient, reduce environmental impact and lower costs while still meeting community needs.

The feedback period opened 1 April and runs until 29 April.

tcdc.govt.nz/annualplan2025


## ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIONS FRIDAY 25 APRIL



**THAMES: 5.45am Dawn Parade** – from Sealey St (outside BNZ), along Pollen St, turn left into Mary St to Thames War Memorial Civic Centre, for **6am Dawn Service.** Followed by breakfast at the Thames Bowling Club, Mackay St.


**9.45am Civic Parade** – from Sealey St (outside BNZ), along Pollen St, left into Mary St, to Thames War Memorial Civic Centre, for a **10am Civic Service** followed by refreshments at the Thames Bowling Club, Mackay St.


*Returned service personnel are asked to wear their medals and decorations. Descendants of returned service personnel marching in the parades are asked to wear medals on the right upper portion of their apparel.*




tcdc.govt.nz/feedback

For info on the next Community Board meeting and Council meeting check [tcdc.govt.nz/meetings](https://tcdc.govt.nz/meetings)

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tcdc.govt.nz/col

## COMMERCIAL OPERATORS LICENCES on our reserves

Applications are open until Monday 24 April. For more information or to submit an application, visit [tcdc.govt.nz/col](https://tcdc.govt.nz/col)



**Paeroa 2025  
Easter Services**

*You are warmly  
invited to join us.*

**Thursday 17th April 7pm**  
**Last Supper Service**  
hosted at Paeroa Baptist Church

**Friday 18th April 9am**  
**Good Friday Service**  
hosted at St Paul's Anglican

**Sunday 20th April**  
**Resurrection Sunday Services**  
9am at St Mary's Catholic  
10am at the Baptist, Bible Chapel,  
Co-operating Parish, Paeroa Elim,  
and St Paul's Anglican

**Thames Union Parish  
Easter services:**

**St James in Thames  
(cnr Pahau & Pollen St):**

**Good Friday and Easter  
Sunday at 10am**

**St Andrews Coromandel  
(Rings Rd):**

**Easter Sunday at 10am**

**EASTER AT  
ST GEORGES**

**PALM SUNDAY  
SUNDAY 15TH APRIL  
9:30AM  
(SUNDAY AT A CRCH 10:00)**

**THURSDAY EUCHARIST  
THURSDAY 17TH APRIL  
10AM**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY  
THURSDAY 17TH APRIL  
6PM**

**GOOD FRIDAY  
THURSDAY 18TH APRIL  
9:30AM**

**EASTER SUNDAY  
SUNDAY 20TH APRIL  
ST GEORGES 9:30AM  
TE PUHU 9:30AM**

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Authorised by Scott Simpson, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.

# Draggin' crosses and giving it a nudge this Easter

## OPINION



By MICHAEL WILKES

My kids go to St Francis, and this year for Lent they decided to give up TV. Yep - TV. Cold turkey. Now, let's be honest, when they first suggested it, I thought, "This'll last a week - tops."

But to their credit, they stuck with it. A few dramatic sighs when their friends mentioned some exciting show and realising they could not, but overall, they were champs.

Might even keep it going after Easter... not sure they're as keen on that idea though.

We've also got this little Good Friday tradition at home. There's a hill behind our place, and every year we haul a wooden cross to the top as a way to remember what Jesus did.

It's not a performance or anything - just us, puffing our way up a hill with some friends, and doing something intentional to remember the heart behind the holiday.

And look, I get it. For some, Easter's just a great long weekend. For others, the fact it's rooted in religion might be off-putting. But whether you're into the Jesus story or not, I reckon Easter still offers something valuable.

It's a good time to reflect on things like love, sacrifice, and giving beyond ourselves - stuff the world could do with a bit more of, don't ya reckon?

In fact, I've recently started following this guy online - massively inspiring, doing awesome things in his world. And I don't agree with everything he says or



believes. But that doesn't matter. Because I can still learn from him, and I get inspired to go harder in my world. I can grab the gold and apply it to my own life.

Same goes for Easter. Even if the faith bit doesn't sit with you, you can still take something from the heart of it.

So here's a thought as we head into the long weekend:

What could you give?

Not money necessarily - maybe time. A listening ear. A helping hand. A moment of undivided attention for your kids.

Easter's not just about chocolate and hot cross buns. (Although let's not pretend those aren't worth celebrating too.)

It's a picture of the age old words, "there is no greater love" and a call for each of us to live with a bit more heart.

And maybe - just maybe - give a little more of ourselves away.

*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@living-well.org.nz to sign up to their quarterly newsletter or to become a supporter.*

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# Danika pedals to the podium

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

One of Danika Bergersen’s goals was to score the New Zealand number one spot for the current bicycle motocross (BMX) season.

It’s something the victorious young star can now tick off her list as she claimed the crown and took out the top spot at the BMXNZ National Championships for the 16 year old girls category on March 22 to 23 in Invercargill.

The BMX racer and year-11 Hauraki Plains College student told *The Profile* she was “super stoked” to take home the New Zealand number one as it rounded off her season nicely.

“It’s a great feeling to see all of that effort pay [off], both mentally and physically.”

The budding racer celebrated her win with a relaxed evening, good sleep and dinner at Five Stags in Cromwell the following night,

she said. But the victory didn’t come without its obstacles.

The greatest challenge at the competition for Danika was being able to finish first without any errors in each race, she said.

However, It didn’t stop the young rider from clinching the win.

But Danika didn’t just stop at one goal.

In the current BMX season, the riding prodigy also snapped up the North Island number one, National Series number one, Oceania number one, and Track Attack number one placings.

The promising racer said she would concentrate to further develop her skills and push herself to perform better in upcoming races.

“I would also like to thank everyone who has supported me throughout the season on all levels.”



BMX star Danika Bergersen claims the number one BMXNZ National Championship spot for 16 girls.

# Foodies

ADVERTISING FEATURE



Sarav and Sonam Joshi offer delicious dishes at Ironique Cafe in Te Aroha.

Photos: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA/ SUPPLIED

## Ironique Cafe: ‘asset to Te Aroha’

The number one thing Sonam and Sarav Joshi want people to know about Ironique Cafe in Te Aroha is that they aim to deliver the best experience for their customers.

“Our customers needs’ are our main priority”, the owner operators said. Sonam, who has owned the business for one year, said another thing she wanted people to know is that dietary requirements would not be a barrier for people to eat at her cafe.

“Just talk to us and we’ll find a solution,” she said. “Last week, one of our customers was gluten-free

and dairy-free, and we made a meal according to her needs.”

A recent Google review from a customer said Sonam was caring and attentive to their complex dietary needs - a “real asset to Te Aroha”, and offered top points across the board for the food, service and atmosphere.

Even though Sonam said she hasn’t changed the former owners’ menu - she has enhanced it with a few new touches such as homemade salad dressings, jams, sauces and marinades - which make the steak sandwiches “a hit”, Sonam said. Something people can get ready for

is the seasonal additions such as soups.

But one of the staple items at Ironique Cafe is the “must-try” Organico coffee.

It’s the reason Ironique Cafe pops up first on a Google search of “best coffee in Te Aroha”. And if people need their events and functions catered for such as funerals, weddings, celebrations, staff meetings and more - just get in touch with Sonam to make a booking.

DETAILS: Stay up to date and follow Ironique Cafe on Facebook.

-By Davidda Hikatangata

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# Resilience a legacy for Ngatea Rugby & Sports

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Resilience is woven into the fabric of the Ngatea Rugby & Sports Club.

It's something that began with the club's origins in 1922, and once again with the club's reformation in 1975. The club has undergone multiple transformations across the decades, each adding a unique chapter to its rich history.

But something that has remained throughout seasons of change and adversity is the club's strength and perseverance.

Ngatea Rugby & Sports Club life member and former president Graeme 'Scruffy' Hughes told The Profile when the new era for the club kicked off in 1975, there were four key people who "got it all back up and going": Ted Engebretsen, Des Holden, Neil Barker and Les Pyke.

The previous club, Hauraki College Old Boys Rugby Football Club, went into recess in 1971, and after discussions and a vote, the Ngatea Rugby Football Club was revived in 1975 and Ted Engebretsen was elected president. With Des Holden as coach and Les Pyke as manager, the club entered a team in the Thames Valley Senior Reserve Grade.

One notable game and the start of many close encounters between the clubs, was the Ngatea vs Hauraki North Rugby Football Club clash where Hauraki North won seven points to six.

A second Ngatea team was introduced in the Thames Valley compe-



Mr H.P O'Connor, past president of the New Zealand Rugby Union, with official guests at the opening of the Ngatea Rugby Football Clubrooms, 1980.

tition in 1976. This Third Grade team was coached by Barrie Richards and managed by Dave Connors.

The number of players increased and by 1978, Ngatea entered three teams into the Thames Valley Rugby Football Union competition; Senior Second Division coached by Des Holden, Senior Third Division coached by John Dillon and the Third Grade team coached by Rex Holden and Keith Courtney.

One highlight for the club was when they snapped up all their games played against their close neighbours; Hauraki North during the 1978 rugby season.

Another highlight was the Ngatea Third Division and Third Grade teams winning the Thames Valley competi-

tions which were the first championships the club had won.

The Ngatea Third Division team went on to win the competition for three consecutive years. The reason for this success was due to coach John Dillon. John was a respected club member and mentor, he "got on with everyone and was an awesome guy".

But the club needed a place to call home. It was September, 1979, when construction work commenced on the new clubrooms, built by Ron Burton and opened in 1980. "We did a hell of a lot of fundraising such as picking up hay to get the club opened."

However, it wasn't always smooth sailing for the club.

There were seasons of sadness with the loss of valued club members, Phil



The 2005 Senior B Championship winners, who were pivotal to the club's growth 20 years ago.

Photos: SUPPLIED

'Buff' Buffet, who played for the Third Division, Dave Connors, who managed the Third Grade and Under 21 teams, and Pat Hughes, who not only was the club's treasurer, but painted and wallpapered the interior and exterior of the clubrooms in 1980.

The club also faced some challenges during a low patch in the mid 1990s and that's when Eddie Staiger, Nola Walker and Ted Engebretsen and others kept it going.

Luckily by the late 1990s, John Dillon, Mark Richards and then president Steve Darrah fielded a Second Division team which paved the way to the resurgence of the club. Adrienne Watson was an integral part of the club management in the early 2000s, being secretary for eight years.

Encouragement and support from a tight band of club members and supporters helped the club get through the challenges.

The Ngatea Rugby & Sports Club remains proud of the fact it's the only club in the Thames Valley to have fielded five teams in a season.

The years between 2000 and 2012 saw development in the club with the 2005 Team showing the mahi and resilience to win the Leach Memorial Cup, Lawrence Memorial Championship, Westfalia Cup and the Points Cup and went on to win again in 2006, 2008 and 2009.

"The Ngatea Rugby & Sports Club extends a huge thank you to everyone who has supported the Club's journey in reaching their 50th anniversary."



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# ‘You play to enjoy the game’: Ted’s life of rugby

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

In the history of any club, there are people whose contributions stand the test of time.

Edward ‘Ted’ Engebretsen is one of those individuals whose dedication to the Ngatea Rugby & Sports Club has left a mark on its legacy.

As the club’s first-ever player and administrator to become a life member, Ted wasn’t just an early supporter but one of the key people instrumental in the club’s reformation in 1975 - when he was elected president.

But it doesn’t stop there.

Ted, now 81, who shifted to Ngatea from Palmerston in 1970 with wife Glenys or ‘Glenn’, became the Ngatea Rugby Football Club (NRFC) delegate to the Thames Valley Rugby Football Union (TVRFU), and later went on to become the TVRFU president from 2007 to 2012, and patron from 2016 to 2021.

Ted also became a life member of the TVRFU, which recognised his contributions to rugby in the community.

He was also a patron of the NRFC and the Ngatea Rugby and Sports Club (NR&SC) until 2024.

The most significant part for Ted during his presidency at the club was the encouragement from the people around him, he said.

“It was very important to have support from everybody,” he said.

“And I was lucky over the years to have good secretaries, treasurers, bloody good club captains, a good active committee.



Ted, front row second from the left, in the Rangitikei Primary School Rugby Representatives team around 1953. Photo: SUPPLIED

“I had a very good committee around me, and they passed their enthusiasm down onto the rugby players and the management and things like that to work well.”

But rugby wasn’t just a thing to do - it was something that ran in the Engebretsen family.

The rugby legend was one of four brothers who grew up “playing rugby all day, all night” out in the backyard or in the paddock, he said.

“It was just a natural thing, that’s what young country boys did, they played rugby, you know?”

Ted said he remembered his dad, Bill Engebretsen, teaching them how to tackle when he was about four

years old.

But the family sport genes didn’t stop there.

Ted and Glenn have three daughters: Kylie, Hayley and Lauren, who were involved in all sorts of sports, including swimming, hockey, cricket and rugby.

Lauren followed her dad’s footsteps into rugby and played for Waikato University and then made her debut in the New Zealand Black Ferns in 2004.

It was clear how significant rugby was for Ted’s family.

One memorable moment for Ted was from around 1953, when he played in a primary school tourna-



Ngatea Rugby stalwart Edward ‘Ted’ Engebretsen. Photo: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

ment for his team, the Rangitikei Primary School Rugby Representatives, he said.

“That’s really when rugby became really important to me.”

But Ted’s passion for the sport was propelled by his intention: “you play to enjoy the game”.

“All I wanted to do was just to go out there and to play and do well for whichever team I played for.”

As well as rugby, Ted is also involved in the Ngatea Volunteer Fire Brigade and in 2023, was recognised for 50 years of service.

“I was very lucky that I was able to have a full life doing what I did,” Ted said.

Ngatea Rugby Sports Club

50th Reunion Committee

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# A history of Ngatea Rugby & Sports from 1975 to 2025

**1975** Ngatea Rugby Football Club was formed. Ted Engebretsen is elected president. Ngatea entered a team in the Thames Valley Senior Reserve Grade.

**1976** Ngatea had two teams in the Thames Valley Club competition - the senior reserve and a new third grade team. Ngatea senior reserves won against Tairua Rugby Football Club and became known as 'the unpredictables'.

**1977** Senior reserve team won their competition, the McDonald cup, and gained promotion to the TVRFU second division competition.

**1978** Ngatea had three teams in the TVRFU Club competition - senior second division, senior third division and the third grade team. The Ngatea RFC third division team and third grade team won the championship.

**1979** Ngatea fielded three teams in the Thames Valley RFU competition. The third division team went on to win the comp for the second year in succession. The under 21's capped off another successful season by winning the TVRFU under 21 competition, also for the second year in succession. In September, construction began on the new club rooms.

**1980** The new clubrooms were opened by the then president of the New Zealand RFU, Mr Frank O'Connor. Second division team won their competition and the Leach Memorial Cup and gained promotion to the first division. Third division team won their third consecutive season. Sad losses for the club with the deaths of Phil Buffet, Dave Connors and Pat Hughes.

**1981** Ngatea RFC fielded three teams in the TVRFU competition. Senior A team member Irvine Campbell made his Thames Valley RFU debut.

**1982** The club entered five teams in the Thames Valley club competition and were the only club in the Thames Valley to do so.



Steve Hayward made his senior A debut for Ngatea RFC in 1989 at 18.

**1983** Ngatea RFC remained in the senior A competition throughout the 1983 season, beating rivals Hauraki North to avoid relegation. The team was coached by Pop Taipari.

**1984** A whole new coaching regime was introduced at Ngatea RFC with the arrival of Norman Pratt, who was appointed as the senior A team coach. Senior A finished in the top four of the Thames Valley competition over a five year period. A number of Ngatea Senior A players went on to gain representative honours with the Thames Valley RFU team.

**1988** One highlight of the season was the under 21s team making it through to the finals. Ngatea senior A team captain Irvine Campbell was appointed the captain of the Thames Valley rep team which went on to win the NZRFU third division title.



The 2025 Ngatea Rugby & Sports Club team.

**1989** Steve Hayward made his Senior A debut for Ngatea RFC in 1989 at the age of 18. He made his Thames Valley debut in 1990 and continued to play for Ngatea for many years.

Steve's grandfather, Hugh Hayward, was a great supporter of the Ngatea RFC for many years.

His father, Bill, played for and coached Ngatea RFC teams for many years and his son's, Shaun and Adrian, both play for Ngatea.

His partner, Lorraine was the third division team manager in 2019 and Steve coached the Senior B team, along with Johnny Williams, for several years before Covid-19 put a halt to all club rugby.

The Ngatea domain is now known as the Hugh Hayward Domain in recognition of Hugh's lengthy service to the club and community.

**1990** Ngatea RFC's Senior A team had a successful season in 1990. Won the first round of the championship and took the Silcock Shield as reward. The Under 21's also won the first round and the Fowler Cup.

**1994** Ngatea Senior A's had five players representing Thames Valley Swamp Foxes and Irvine Campbell became a TVRFU Centurion representing TVRFU in 100 first class games.

**2000** Ngatea RFC celebrated their 25th anniversary. Graeme 'Scruffy' Hughes was

elected club president and remained in that position for 12 years, supported by wife Sue and mother Faye Hughes.

A valued supporter of the Ngatea RFC Nola Walker was the bar manager and club treasurer for many years.


**2004** Ngatea RFC became Ngatea Rugby and Sports Club, and included rugby, netball and hockey.

**2005** Senior B team won the Thames Valley Senior B Championship in 2005 and 2006.

**2006** Senior B won the Elders Trophy, Leach Memorial Cup and Lawrence Memorial Cup.

**2008** Ngatea won the TVRFU Senior B

CONTINUED ON P25



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# Celebrating 50 years



CONTINUED FROM P24

competition and the Lawrence Memorial Trophy.

**2009** The Senior B team won the first round and snapped up the Leach Memorial Cup, followed by winning the championship and Lawrence Memorial Trophy again.

**2012** Senior B team made it to the finals but were beaten by Thames in a close match. Scruffy stepped down as president to be replaced by Peter Corlett.

**2013** The club fielded a Senior B and Senior C team in the TVRFU club competition. At the end of the season Ngatea R&SC was voted Thames Valley Sports Club of The Year.

**2014** Ngatea R&SC senior team were competitive and won a couple of games in the Thames Valley senior competition before being relegated to Senior B competition for the second round.

**2015** Ngatea fielded a Senior A and a Third Division team and a celebration was held for the 40th reunion of the reforming of the Ngatea RFC.

**2016** Ngatea R&SC entered a team in the Senior B competition. The team won the majority of their games and made it through to the McDonald Cup semi-final on a points difference and then won the championship.

**2017 - 2018** Club numbers decreased.

**2019** Ngatea team made it through to the semi final of the Senior B competition, losing to Paeroa West.

**2020 - 2021** Ngatea R&SC struggled for player numbers and also during the pandemic. But between 20120 to 2021, players from Kerepēhi helped to keep the club going. Throughout these tough times, there were games which Ngatea played with only 14 players.

**2019 - 2025** Ngatea R&SC has been fortunate to have players come from Kerepēhi, such as the Watene whānau, who have made a significant contribution.

**2022 - 2023** the Ngatea team took the field in quite a few games with eight Watene whānau on the team sheet.

**2024** The establishment of the first women's rugby team at Ngatea R&SC. The team played in the Thames Valley Women's competition.



The Ngatea RFC 1975 Senior Reserve Team.

Photos: SUPPLIED



The Ngatea RFC 1976 Third Grade team.

en's rugby team at Ngatea R&SC. The team played in the Thames Valley Women's competition.

**FINAL WORDS**

Fifty years have passed since Ngatea Rugby Football Club started up again af-

ter many years in recess. There have been many highs, and a few lows during that 50 years. However, the Ngatea RFC and the Ngatea R&SC have kept on going. A credit to all those men and women who have stuck with the club.

## Golden celebration for Ngatea Rugby

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

It takes dedication, leadership and grassroots support to run a club.

It's what makes hitting the 50-year mark a momentous occasion for the Ngatea Rugby & Sports Club.

Former, current and lifelong members, as well as friends and family of the Ngatea Rugby & Sports Club are invited to celebrate the club's 50th Reunion on May 23 to 25 at the Rugby Club, Hugh Hayward Domain.

Life member and former president; Graeme 'Scruffy' Hughes told The Profile the event would kick off on Friday May 23 with a mix and mingle.

Saturday, May 24, will have rugby matches, followed by dinner with a guest speaker and cutting of the reunion cake by two key supporters.

A social rugby game between the Ngatea Mudkickers and the Whangamatā Toe Kickers Golden

Oldies teams on Sunday, May 25, will conclude the weekend's celebrations.

Along with the mix and mingle on Friday May 23, there will also be an auction for people to snap up special reunion playing jerseys. The current team will play in these jerseys the following day for the home game, and then they'll be returned to the auction winners.

Club member Don 'Daff' Neil has compiled a book of the club's history, with the help of others in the Ngatea Rugby Club and wider Hauraki community, and this taonga is available separately or included in the dinner option for Saturday night.

**DETAILS: To register for the Ngatea Rugby & Sports Clubs 50th Reunion, email NRSC50threunion@gmail.com or phone Scruffy on 021 161 9829.**

**The club is asking for people to please register for the weekend's celebrations before April 20.**



Progress of the new clubrooms being built in 1979 to 1980.

**The Connors family would like to congratulate the Ngatea Rugby Club on its 50th Reunion.**

The family have been involved for the best part of these 50 years through playing, administration and fundraising.

Dave was Club Captain and Team Manager, with his biggest role as one of the fundraising committee that got the clubrooms built. Dave led the "picking up hay" side of things, and even when sick in hospital kept issuing orders and instructions. Eileen lost count of the number of team jerseys washed through the trusty wringer washing machine.

Their four sons Kevin, Marty, Phillip and Doug have proudly played for the Club over these years.

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FOOTBALL

As the full-time whistle blew at Rhodes Park, the dejection on the faces of the Thames Football Club squad told the story. A second straight 5-3 defeat — this time at the hands of Waikato Unicol Reserves — marked a disappointing start to the season.

Beneath a brilliant blue sky, the day started well for the hosts, as a deep Ben Taylor corner was collected by Clark Veal, who teed up Michael Kim on the edge of the area. Kim struck a low, rasping drive into the bottom-left corner, giving the keeper no chance. Unicol promptly regrouped and began to assert attacking pressure of their own. Thames initially withstood the onslaught well, with Elliott Wilson's superb goal-line clearance keeping the visitors at bay. With the first half drawing to an end, a momentary lapse in concentration proved costly. Towering center-back Xander Hearfield launched a long free kick into the Thames box, prompting a moment of hesitation from young goalkeeper Kobe Brown,



Michael Kim advances with the ball, left; and Elliott Wilson intercepts with a slide tackle.

and the ball bounced uncontested into the unguarded net. Uncil carried their momentum into the second half, immediately testing the Thames backline with a series of shots and crosses. A searching ball into the box landed at the feet of Tyrrell Henderson, who poked home from close range to give Unicol the lead. It



Photos: MARK BROWN

probing for a winner. Brown repelled a close-range header in the Thames goal before a slick turn and shot from Veal, who was imperious all afternoon, forced a smart save down the other. It was nip and tuck until the 80th minute when Unicol retook the lead in bizarre fashion. A looping defensive clearance from Hearfield sailed over

everyone and into the Thames goal, catching Brown off-guard. Thames appeared deflated but rallied forward in a late attempt to salvage the game. Despite the effort, it was Unicol that struck the killer blow - a swift counterattack saw the ball fall to Cameron Mckay, who sneaked the ball into the far corner to make it 4-2. With minutes remaining, Thames fought back again as a Xavier Brown corner found the unmarked Taylor, who powerfully headed home. The chance of a dramatic finish was quickly distinguished as a flowing Unicol move down the right culminated with a low cross, which was neatly turned in by Brad Sissons at the near post - sending the visitors to the top of the table.

Unicol headed back to Hamilton, content with all three points, while Thames continued to languish at the wrong end of the table. The Easter break offers a chance to reflect - with a testing away trip to Morrinsville looming large. Final score Thames FC 3 - 5 Waikato Unicol Reserves.

- By Jonathan Coles

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CLASSIFIEDS

Easter Deadline: 5pm Thursday April 17 for April 22 paper

Death Notice

**YOUNG, Lesley Anne (nee Armstrong):**  
Passed away unexpectedly (surrounded by family), at Thames Hospital, on 3rd April, 2025; aged 68 years. Dearly loved sister in law and cherished friend of Gayle, Jennifer and Henri, and loved auntie of Logan. Lesley will be sadly missed.



Church Notices

**Waihi Bible Chapel**  
Ph. Num 021 522 668  
Come and celebrate Easter with us 10.30am, lunch will be provided, this Sunday 20th April.

**Waihi Assembly of God Church**  
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Public Notices

**2024 General Revaluation**



The Rating Valuation Roll for the Hauraki District has been revised as at 1 September 2024 by Quotable Value Limited as the Council's Valuation Service Provider.  
The Roll will be available for public inspection during office hours at the Hauraki District Council offices at William Street Paeroa, Orchard Road Ngatea and Rosemont Road Waihi for the period of 14 April to 30 May 2025.  
The Valuations will also be available on Council's website [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz)  
Objections must be received online through our website or at one of the Council offices by 4.30pm on 30 May 2025.  
D A Speirs  
Chief Executive  
Hauraki District Council



**[www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz)**

**Notification of intention to conduct spraying within Hauraki District local road reserve areas**  
The Hauraki District Council road maintenance contractor (Ventia Ltd) will conduct a spraying programme within Hauraki District road reserve areas to control vegetation within the kerb and channel.  
The operational area will include the entire Hauraki District local road kerb and channel network, with spraying activity programmed to commence on Monday 07/04/2025.  
Agrichemicals to be used are:  
· Glyphosate 360  
· Meturon  
For enquiries relating to the operation phone Charles Tana, Operations Manager, Ventia Ltd on 027 298 4993.  
We thank you for your patience during these road improvement works.



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Due to a new project within the local Waikato region Fire Protection Contractors are currently seeking expressions of interest for new roles open now in the projects team, offering competitive remuneration based on skills and experience.  
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Previous experience in an administration role is essential.  
Prior experience as a receptionist or personal assistant is preferable.  
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**Applications close Friday, 25th April 2025**







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

EASY

7	4	2				9	1	
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196

HARD

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MEDIUM

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EASY

7	4	2	3	5	8	9	1	6
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216

ACROSS

1 Set at intervals (5)

4 English poet (8)

9 Garden insect (6)

14 Work out (5)

15 Naïve, inexperienced (3,6,3,5)

17 Come down with (5)

18 Viper (3)

19 Sour liquid (7)

20 Big luxurious car (9)

21 Activity (6)

24 Light boxer (9)

25 Nervous (6)

26 Cereal pest (6)

29 Complete cessation of movement (10)

31 Moose (3)

32 Hotness (6)

33 Let fall (4)

35 Potato dent (3)

37 Froth (4)

39 Come to pass (9)

40 Lawn weed (9)

41 Contest prize money (5)

42 Least favoured competitor (8)

47 Pitiful (8)

51 At large (5)

55 Sectional (anag)(9)

56 Large hairy spider (9)

58 Flee (4)

59 Fire remains (3)

60 Spellbound (4)

61 Lackey (6)

62 Henpeck (3)

63 Interpreted (10)

66 Light shoe (6)

67 Inlaid design (6)

69 Retinue (9)

72 Fired (6)

73 Lie (9)

75 Old hand (7)

77 Church seat (3)

80 Eminent (5)

81 Eager to start (8,2,3,3)

82 Premature (5)

83 Cure (6)

84 Remittances (8)

85 Dwarf the growth of (5)

DOWN

2 Republic head (9)

3 Hawser (5)

5 Mountain in Sicily (4)

6 Nil (7)

7 Speed up vehicle (4,2,3,3)

8 Comes closer (5)

9 Crux (7)

10 Speed competition (4)

11 Unbroken (6)

12 Free from dirt (5)

13 Beneficial (7)

14 Wither (7)

16 Very weighty (5,2,4)

22 Adjacent to (6)

23 Straddling (7)

24 Elegant skill in style or performance (7)

25 Maintenance (6)

27 Decision (7)

28 Poem unit (6)

30 Overdue (4)

32 Strikingly odd (5)

34 Take fright (5)

36 Netting (4)

38 Large vase (3)

42 Mouth sore (5)

43 Expressionless (7)

44 Evaluate (4)

45 Source (6)

46 Female (5)

48 Clear (11)

49 Hug (7)

50 Unwell (3)

51 Dictionary (7)

52 Of race (6)

53 Apt to shoot (7-5)

54 Hair tangle (4)

57 Planet (6)

64 Schooling (9)

65 Only ABC (anag)(7)

66 Small piece cut off (7)

68 Lawlessness (7)

70 Defeat soundly (7)

71 Courage to continue (6)

72 Promised solemnly (5)

74 Inundate (5)

76 Build (5)

78 Wood-shaping tool (4)

79 Treaty (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Grate, 4 Against the clock, 14 Satin, 15 Snarl, 16 Letter bomb, 17 Shack, 19 Use, 20 Marbles, 21 Inventory, 22 Despot, 25 Volunteer, 27 Gloomy, 28 Beside, 33 Incinerate, 35 Air, 36 Oblong, 37 Diva, 39 Map, 41 Similar, 42 Hoopla, 43 Refurbish, 44 Nurse, 45 Reindeer, 50 Is, 51 Assailed, 55 Resin, 58 Shangri-La, 59 Expire, 60 Irksome, 61 Dux, 63 Ship, 64 Little, 65 Act, 66 Toe the line, 68 Lustre, 69 Amulet, 71 Offspring, 76 Pickle, 77 Amusement, 79 Genuine, 81 Goo, 84 Later, 85 Adroitness, 86 Queue, 87 Niche, 88 Cheek of the devil, 89 Plays.

DOWN: 2 Runway, 3 Throb, 5 Glee, 6 Incense, 7 Surged, 8 Trout, 9 Embargo, 10 Last, 11 Crater, 12 Stout, 13 Intense, 14 Skipper, 18 Recuperate, 23 Stray, 24 Implore, 26 Opinion, 27 Germans, 29 Initial, 30 Unwise, 31 Happy, 32 Sniffs, 34 Eros, 36 Opera, 38 Aphid, 40 Area, 45 Rises, 46 Italics, 47 Digs, 48 Elicit, 49 Aside, 50 Inexact, 52 Surcharges, 53 Insulin, 54 Ermine, 55 Ragtime, 56 Spite, 57 Fret, 62 Least, 67 Freckle, 68 Lagging, 70 Lumbago, 72 Finance, 73 Clutch, 74 Umpire, 75 Unruly, 76 Poach, 78 Strut, 80 Usual, 82 True, 83 Asti.





NEW LISTING

Boundary lines are indicative only



Thames 62 Kopu Road

Deceased estate – Industrial

Your opportunity to acquire an affordable, tidy industrial property comprising warehouse, office and self-contained caretaker accommodation positioned in the heart of Kopu industrial precinct. Includes a 162sqm (approximately) warehouse linked to 146sqm (approximately) office/caretaker accommodation situated on a 759sqm (approximately) industrial zoned site with secure electric gated entry and fully sealed carparking area. Opportunity to secure a vacant strategically located property close to the new Kopu Marine Precinct and within a tightly held industrial area close to Thames township.

Call now for an appointment to view.

bayleys.co.nz/2180769

759<sub>sqm</sub> 308<sub>sqm</sub> 10

**Tender (unless sold prior)**  
Closing 4pm, Thu 15 May 2025  
459 Pollen Street, Thames  
**View** by appointment  
**Geoff Graham** 021 733 430  
geoff.graham@bayleys.co.nz  
MH REALTY LTD, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008



Mangatarata 3815 State Highway 2

Café + highway = opportunity

- Business only
- Popular café with rural outlook located on State Highway 2
- Opportunity to increase revenue

This well-established café combines a relaxed rural setting with strong customer demand from locals and passing traffic. With a solid reputation and regular trade, it's ready for a new owner to take it to the next level. This business-only opportunity has untapped potential for growth. The rural lifestyle adds to the appeal—owning a café in the countryside means more than just work; it's about community, creativity, and quality of life.

bayleys.co.nz/2630045

**Price by Negotiation**  
**View** by appointment  
**Josh Smith** 027 229 8865  
josh.smith@bayleys.co.nz  
SUCCESS REALTY LIMITED, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008





OPEN HOME



Boundary lines are indicative



Thames 208 Saint Patricks Row

Rare indeed!

Spanning 4,825sqm (more or less), this beautiful bungalow offers space, privacy, and stunning water views minutes from town. Enjoy 180-degree water views, unwind by the outdoor fire, or entertain under the stars. Seamless indoor-outdoor flows to sunny decks, charming patios, and immaculate gardens, while the sleek kitchen anchors the spacious open-plan living, with a dining area, sunroom, and a separate lounge. Downstairs offers a garage, workshop, additional bedroom, and bathroom. With easy drive-on access and ample parking, this is a rare chance to secure a large landholding in a prime location.

Don't miss this gem—call now to view!

bayleys.co.nz/2180758

4 1 2 2

Price by Negotiation  
View 2.30-3.30pm Sun 20 Apr or by appointment  
Geoff Graham 021 733 430  
geoff.graham@bayleys.co.nz  
MH REALTY LTD, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008



Thames Harv's Butcher Shop

Thames Butchery for sale

- The only independent butcher shop in Thames
- Prime corner spot on the main street in Thames, ensuring high visibility, easy customer access and on street parking
- Longstanding business with a strong customer base and established reputation for high-quality produce
- Includes three well trained full-time employees
- Turnkey with quality chattels, specialist processing areas, cool storage facilities and chilled display cabinets in retail space
- Ideal opportunity to own and operate your own butchery in a supportive small-town environment
- Flexible lease arrangement to suit new owner requirements

bayleys.co.nz/2180755

Price by Negotiation  
View by appointment  
Geoff Graham 021 733 430  
geoff.graham@bayleys.co.nz  
MH REALTY LTD, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008



SPORTS

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

Swimming sensations

Thames Centennial Pools was packed last month for the Thames Valley Primary School Swimming Champs. More than 360 year 5-8 students gathered at the pools to compete in their school cluster groups. The 12 clusters represented 43 schools from across Hauraki Plains and the Coromandel Peninsula. Parents and other supporters also turned up in droves, creating a carnival-like atmosphere for the young swimmers as they competed. ALICE PARMINTER waded in to see the fun.



Tyla Price, of Whangamatā Area School, in the girls' 100m individual medley.



The 10 and under girls prepare for their 100m breaststroke race.



Benson Faamaile from Hauraki Plains cluster swims in the boys' 100m individual medley.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER



The nine-year-old boys in the 25m breaststroke, cheered on by a large crowd.



Mercury Bay's Coco Shepherd.



Corey Lees, 100m breaststroke.

**AVAILABLE NOW**

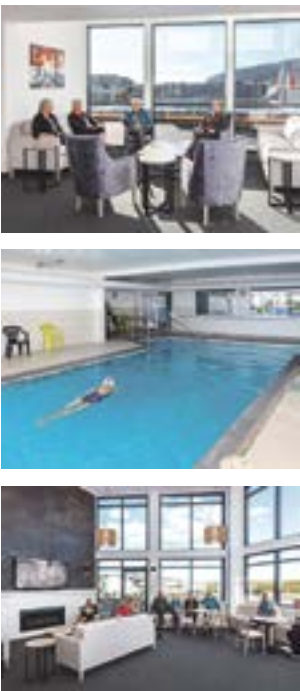
- Two Bedroom Villa
- Three Bedroom Villa
- 2 Bedroom Apartment

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**STAGE 1 IS NOW COMPLETE**  
**ENQUIRIES FOR STAGE 2 ARE WELCOME!**  
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.

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the difference!*



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