

The Valley Profile

Carson's BOOKSHOP 1906



Read Play Give

600 Pollen St. Thames

www.carsonsbookshop.co.nz



CoromandelApp



DOWNLOAD FREE TODAY!



The Valley Profile

Mobile dentist canned

'Major concerns' over mobile dentist removal in Thames

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

Since June last year, all has been quiet on the mobile dentist front.

Eight schools in and around Thames have stopped receiving visits from the dental technicians who arrived on wheels.

Instead, a pilot between Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand and local health provider Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki has encouraged tamariki to have their dental checks completed in Te Korowai's new clinic, Pito Hauora, in the centre of Thames' CBD.

But while some in the community are excited about the designated space for dental health, others fear it'll lead to access issues, and without the attentiveness of dentists in schools, the state of children's teeth would diminish.

Moanataiari School principal David Brock has "major" concerns.

"At the moment, what's happening is that the only parents that are really getting any service are the parents of children who obviously have problems," he said.

"Whereas, if you've got a dental service that is more proactive in looking at children's teeth, they're going to be able to catch the problems before they emerge to any great extent.

"At the moment, the system is badly failing our children."

Mr Brock said Moanataiari hosted mobile dentists once a year, but since June, 2022, that privilege was taken away by the

new pilot.

He said communication with Te Whatu Ora had been "problematic".

"We did get visits from [Te Whatu Ora] prior to the service officially commencing; however, there was no genuine consultation or collaboration; the visit was really a notification," he said.

"The [Te Whatu Ora] strategy has not been inclusive... it's not particularly well thought through. Certainly, from a school perspective and from the perspective of students, it's not a solution that is really workable."

Mr Brock said the beauty of the mobile van was that service was guaranteed for the whole school, not just parts of it.

He's worried about the ability of his school whānau being able to access the new arrangement off-site, having to take time off work, or facing issues with transportation.

"What is a major concern is if our children don't receive dental care at a young age, when it does come to the parents' attention that there is a problem, they're going to require more dental treatment than what would've been required in the first instance," he said.

"From a school perspective, we would like to see the service we've had previously continued. We would like to see the dental vans going back into schools where that particular model was working successfully. Don't change a system that's working, and that was clearly working."



A Thames principal says the new dental system is "badly failing our children".

File Photo: PIXABAY

Father Justin Gill said dental care for his two children, aged 11 and 8, had always been "one less thing to worry about".

"When [the van] is at school, they're really proactive with problems," he said. "The mobile clinics have always been good for me."

"I'm just concerned about the wait times at [the new site], because with lots of schools in the area vying for a spot to be seen... I

don't see how it's going to work."

However, Justin was pleased there would be a designated clinic in Thames, because he had seen first-hand how difficult it was to track down care for his kids.

When his daughter was having tooth pain, he had to phone a school in Coromandel that was hosting the mobile dental van.

After a number of calls, they directed him to Mangatawhiri. When that dentist was off work

sick, Justin and his daughter had to travel to Morrinsville.

"I was lucky, I've got a car, but if I didn't, I would have been absolutely stuffed," he said.

And for other schools involved in the pilot, such as Pūriri School which does not have the luxury of hosting the mobile dental van, a designated space would be a great benefit.

"All our students need to be

CONTINUED ON P2

Zero to Hero – Recycle, Recycle



Rubbish without recycling is like throwing your trash directly into landfill ... that makes me see red!

Well, it's a no brainer ... make the Smartest move, call the experts today, we know how to put things in their place.

Get your clean green bin for your business today.



Phone us today

0800 4 MY BIN (0800 469 246)

www.smartenvironmental.co.nz



smart environmental

CONTACT US

The *Valley Profile* is delivered weekly to Hauraki Plains, Paeroa, Waihi, Thames, Thames Coast and surrounds, plus bulk distribution peninsula-wide. Our focus is 100% local community content.

'The paper people read'
NEWS/EDITORIAL

Publisher/Editor Teresa Ramsey

Ph 0204 0944 853

editor@valleyprofile.co.nz

Senior Reporter Kelley Tantau

Ph 022 619 4889

kelley@valleyprofile.co.nz

Reporter Gordon Preece

Ph 022 174 3988

gordon@valleyprofile.co.nz

ADVERTISING

Ad manager Nikki Sanders

Ph 022 1303 885

Email: nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz

MISSED PAPERS/ADMIN

Ph 021 100 8709

Email: admin@valleyprofile.co.nz

2 QUEEN ST, PAEROA

Ph 07 862 7077

www.valleyprofile.co.nz

ISSN 2703-5700



Hi, my name is Pete the Pukeko and I'm here to help you. Find me in one of the display advertisements in *The Valley Profile*, then email admin@valleyprofile.co.nz with your full name and postal address, and the business name and page number of the ad by the following Monday to go in the draw to win a Lotto ticket. Last issue it was in the Twentymans ad.

'Major concerns' over mobile dentist removal

CONTINUED FROM P1

taken to nearby schools for their dental check ups already," principal Lydia Lester said.

"As Te Korowai would provide a specific spot for dental visits, I agree that it would be much easier for whānau to book in - especially when dental issues pop up out of sync with when the mobile unit is close by."

In the Ministry of Health's Age 5 and Year 8 oral health data received from the Community Oral Health Service, statistics show the level of decayed, missing and filled teeth across the country.

In 2021 within the Waikato, 2360 school children aged five were examined and there were 4566 "decayed, missing and filled teeth" recorded.

That same year, there were 6103 Year 8s examined, and 3619 "decayed, missing and filled teeth" recorded.

Coromandel MP Scott Simpson was unaware of the pilot, but said he was "sceptical" about its design.

He wanted assurances that the dental care and wellbeing of school children in the Thames area was not going to be compromised.

"Our health system is in complete meltdown crisis at the moment, and from my point of view, there seems to be far too much tinkering and moving around of deck chairs... My concern is we already have a significant issue, not just locally, but nationwide with children's dental care," he said.

"I'm instinctively concerned by what could be seen by some as a further reduction or dilution of



Dental checks for children will now be held at Te Korowai, Thames.

existing services that are being refocused elsewhere."

Mr Simpson said taking away dental care provided to school children within schools was an "unproven theoretical move" that could potentially result in children having less access to the care they need.

"It seems crazy to me to have school kids' dental care put at risk."

Te Whatu Ora Waikato's interim lead hospital and specialist services Michelle Sutherland told *The Profile* there were eight schools involved in the pilot within Thames. They were: Pārāwai, Thames South, Moanataiari, St Francis, Te Puru, Tapu, Matatoki and Puriri schools.

The dental clinic was still under construction at Pito Hauora, she said, but when completed, it

would offer a "higher level of care than previously available in the community".

"This will include oral surgeries which would have otherwise required a hospital visit. A community-based service also reduces wait times for complex procedures."

Michelle said in most cases, parents and caregivers accompanied children to their appointments, which was encouraged so they could be part of any treatment plan.

For families who may face travel or scheduling challenges, the fixed site offered appointments all-year-round and there were transport options in place, she said.

These included a free - or with voluntary donation - shuttle service which could pick children and whānau up from home or

school.

Te Korowai manukura hauora chief executive Tammy Dehar said since the launch of Pito Hauora in July, 2022, the co-ordination of screening and prevention services delivered within the hub had been handed to Te Puna Hauora Matua o Hauraki PHO, with the Pito Hauora hub continuing to be staffed with a mix of Te Korowai Hauora and Te Whatu Ora staff.

"Prior to and following the launch of Pito Hauora and the various discussions had with Te Whatu Ora and Hauraki PHO, Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki have always expressed our wawata [aspirations] to have a dental health facility, within the Hauraki rohe, that is able to support the needs of our most vulnerable whānau and definitely to include relief of pain," Tammy said.

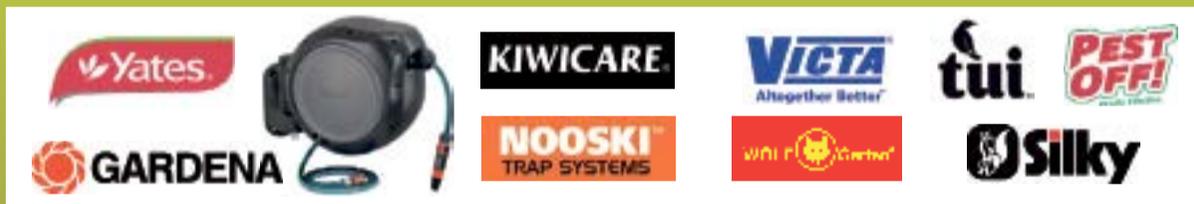
"Discussions have occurred, and continue, around what mechanisms that we, as Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki, could do to support whānau with getting their tamariki to the dental services.

"We understand that more intimate discussions are occurring between Te Whatu Ora and the schools, and finalising as to how Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki can support."

The pilot will be reviewed in 12 months, Te Whatu Ora Waikato said, and its community oral health services would "continuously review service delivery options to better meet the needs of the community".



Looking for quality in garden tools, watering options and pest management?



We have the advice and products you need to get the best from your garden all year round.

READ BROS. EST. 1867 Hardware

COME AND SEE US for the latest products to care for gardens and outdoor areas

SEE MORE AT
www.readbros.co.nz
308 Pollen St, Thames
07 868 6608

Chartered Accountants

The Hauraki Taxation Service Limited

- For out of town independent accounting advice
- Established 1982
- Approved agents for Inland Revenue Department
- Offices in Thames & Coromandel Town



328 Pollen Street, Thames
Ph/Fax: 07 868-9710

E:thames@haurakitaxation.co.nz

95 Kapanga Rd, Coromandel
Ph/Fax: 07 866-8660

E:coro@haurakitaxation.co.nz

Thames Tides

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue																																																																																																																																													
Mar 15	Mar 16	Mar 17	Mar 18	Mar 19	Mar 20	Mar 21																																																																																																																																													
<table border="1"> <tr> <th>Morning</th> <th>Afternoon</th> <th>Morning</th> <th>Afternoon</th> <th>Morning</th> <th>Afternoon</th> <th>Morning</th> <th>Afternoon</th> <th>Morning</th> <th>Afternoon</th> <th>Morning</th> <th>Afternoon</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1:19am 3.2</td> <td>1:40pm 3.2</td> <td>2:15am 3.1</td> <td>2:34pm 3.1</td> <td>3:19am 3.1</td> <td>3:35pm 3.1</td> <td>4:29am 3.1</td> <td>4:43pm 3.1</td> <td>5:36am 3.3</td> <td>5:55pm 3.2</td> <td>12:18am 0.6</td> <td>12:45pm 0.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7:27am 0.8</td> <td>7:49pm 0.7</td> <td>8:26am 0.9</td> <td>8:48pm 0.8</td> <td>9:31am 0.9</td> <td>9:57pm 0.8</td> <td>10:39am 0.8</td> <td>11:11pm 0.7</td> <td>11:44am 0.7</td> <td></td> <td>6:38am 3.4</td> <td>7:02pm 3.3</td> </tr> </table>	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	1:19am 3.2	1:40pm 3.2	2:15am 3.1	2:34pm 3.1	3:19am 3.1	3:35pm 3.1	4:29am 3.1	4:43pm 3.1	5:36am 3.3	5:55pm 3.2	12:18am 0.6	12:45pm 0.6	7:27am 0.8	7:49pm 0.7	8:26am 0.9	8:48pm 0.8	9:31am 0.9	9:57pm 0.8	10:39am 0.8	11:11pm 0.7	11:44am 0.7		6:38am 3.4	7:02pm 3.3	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>Morning</th> <th>Afternoon</th> <th>Morning</th> <th>Afternoon</th> <th>Morning</th> <th>Afternoon</th> <th>Morning</th> <th>Afternoon</th> <th>Morning</th> <th>Afternoon</th> <th>Morning</th> <th>Afternoon</th> </tr> <tr> <td>7:16am</td> <td>7:38pm</td> <td>7:16am</td> <td>7:36pm</td> <td>7:17am</td> <td>7:35pm</td> <td>7:18am</td> <td>7:33pm</td> <td>7:19am</td> <td>7:32pm</td> <td>7:20am</td> <td>7:30pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Morning	Afternoon	7:16am	7:38pm	7:16am	7:36pm	7:17am	7:35pm	7:18am	7:33pm	7:19am	7:32pm	7:20am	7:30pm													<table border="1"> <tr> <th>Morning</th> <th>Afternoon</th> <th>Morning</th> <th>Afternoon</th> <th>Morning</th> <th>Afternoon</th> <th>Morning</th> <th>Afternoon</th> <th>Morning</th> <th>Afternoon</th> <th>Morning</th> <th>Afternoon</th> </tr> <tr> <td>7:02am</td> <td>7:32pm</td> <td>8:03am</td> <td>8:35pm</td> <td>9:06am</td> <td>9:37pm</td> <td>10:08am</td> <td>10:38pm</td> <td>11:07am</td> <td>11:35pm</td> <td>12:02pm</td> <td>12:28am</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Morning	Afternoon	7:02am	7:32pm	8:03am	8:35pm	9:06am	9:37pm	10:08am	10:38pm	11:07am	11:35pm	12:02pm	12:28am													<table border="1"> <tr> <th>Set</th> <th>Rise</th> <th>Set</th> <th>Rise</th> <th>Set</th> <th>Rise</th> <th>Set</th> <th>Rise</th> <th>Set</th> <th>Rise</th> <th>Set</th> <th>Rise</th> </tr> <tr> <td>2:52pm</td> <td></td> <td>12:12am</td> <td>3:57pm</td> <td>1:15am</td> <td>4:53pm</td> <td>2:26am</td> <td>5:41pm</td> <td>3:42am</td> <td>6:20pm</td> <td>4:59am</td> <td>6:54pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Set	Rise	2:52pm		12:12am	3:57pm	1:15am	4:53pm	2:26am	5:41pm	3:42am	6:20pm	4:59am	6:54pm																																										
Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon																																																																																																																																								
1:19am 3.2	1:40pm 3.2	2:15am 3.1	2:34pm 3.1	3:19am 3.1	3:35pm 3.1	4:29am 3.1	4:43pm 3.1	5:36am 3.3	5:55pm 3.2	12:18am 0.6	12:45pm 0.6																																																																																																																																								
7:27am 0.8	7:49pm 0.7	8:26am 0.9	8:48pm 0.8	9:31am 0.9	9:57pm 0.8	10:39am 0.8	11:11pm 0.7	11:44am 0.7		6:38am 3.4	7:02pm 3.3																																																																																																																																								
Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon																																																																																																																																								
7:16am	7:38pm	7:16am	7:36pm	7:17am	7:35pm	7:18am	7:33pm	7:19am	7:32pm	7:20am	7:30pm																																																																																																																																								
Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon																																																																																																																																								
7:02am	7:32pm	8:03am	8:35pm	9:06am	9:37pm	10:08am	10:38pm	11:07am	11:35pm	12:02pm	12:28am																																																																																																																																								
Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise																																																																																																																																								
2:52pm		12:12am	3:57pm	1:15am	4:53pm	2:26am	5:41pm	3:42am	6:20pm	4:59am	6:54pm																																																																																																																																								

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

MOON AND FISH KEYS

New Moon
 First Quarter
 Full Moon
 Last Quarter

Good Fishing
 Fair Fishing
 Not So Good

TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES

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

PLACE	Hr	High Mn	Low Mn
Coromandel	-0	05	-0 04
Whitianga	-0	01	-0 06
Tairua	+0	10	+0 21
Whangamata	-0	03	-0 05
Waihi Beach	-0	12	-0 12

PM: Local roads leave 'a lot to be desired'

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

The Prime Minister says the problems Thames-Coromandel is facing with its roading network fall into the category of being prioritised when it comes time to make decisions about investment.

Speaking to *The Profile* following his visit to the storm-battered Kopu-Hikuai and Thames Coast roads last week, Prime Minister Chris Hipkins said while the area was "an absolutely stunning part of the world", it was clear it was also a part of the country where the roading infrastructure left a lot to be desired. "We're going to have to do quite extensive work, I think, to get the roading network up to scratch," he said.

The Prime Minister was shown around the rohe [area] by Thames-Coromandel district Mayor Len Salt, and while no announcements were made regarding investment into the district's roads, Mr Hipkins said there was "going to need to be some prioritisation".

"Where communities have been cut off, or where there has been significant damage to roads that has a major impact on communities, [they] are going to need to be prioritised,

and the Coromandel clearly has a number of areas that fall into that category," he said.

When pressed if that meant Thames-Coromandel residents could ensure prioritisation when it came time for the government to make decisions on investment, Mr Hipkins said there was "no question".

"There's no question given the level of destruction that's currently occurring on the Coromandel Peninsula, that the transport network there has to be a priority for us," he said.

"There's a number of different levels we have to approach with that; clearly we've got to look at the immediate issues, and try to get connectivity restored as much as we can."

Long-term resilience comes after that, he said.

The Prime Minister also believed Kiwis would be happy to contribute financially to the "very large investment needed".

"The money we've been spending as a country on our roading network has been steadily increasing. The issue is, we have had a bit of inconsistency in terms of where the investment [has been] made," he said.

"Some of the new roads that have been built, in some cases,

"I think New Zealanders... are likely to be very supportive of increasing our investment in roading resilience"

- Chris Hipkins



Prime Minister Chris Hipkins was in Thames last week to inspect the condition of the district's roads. Photo: SUPPLIED

have been built at the expense of maintaining existing roads. We actually need to do both of those things.

"So, I think we need to have a good, honest conversation as a country about the fact that we're going to have to put more money into this.

"I think New Zealanders, looking at the extent of the damage we've experienced over the last couple of months, are likely to be very supportive of increasing our investment in roading resilience."



PM Chris Hipkins, left, with TDC Mayor Len Salt. Photo: SUPPLIED

PROGRAMMES AVAILABLE FOR 2023

If school wasn't your scene, or if you want to learn to earn, these are some of the FREE options we have for you:

Retail Level 2 - Upskill your customer service, learn how to deal with the public.

Foundation Skills L1, Mechanical Engineering L2, Intro to Agriculture L2

(these 3 programmes will help you achieve NCEA Level 1 and 2)

Agriculture Level 3 - Te Mahi Whenua (15 weeks)

Horticulture Level 3 (29 weeks)

Health & Well Being Level 3

Prep for Success

We also offer some fee paying short programmes – Barista and Defensive driving lessons and Learners courses

Call us for pricing.



Valley Education
free courses • free transport

Call or **07 868 7892**
text us **027 314 1577**

www.valleyeducation.co.nz

LA Z BOY
Make it Yours **SALE**

at least **25% off***
all La-Z-Boy



HARBOR TOWN
Rocker Recliner
NOW \$1,099*
WAS \$1,999

HARBOR TOWN
2 Seater
NOW \$1,299*
WAS \$2,299

over **40% off**



25% off* all sofas, modulars, lift chairs, recliners, armchairs and more.

LIMITED TIME ONLY *T&C's apply. Participating stores only. Please see in-store for more details or go to la-z-boy.co.nz

BAXTERS LA Z BOY FURNITURE GALLERY
Live life Comfortably.
FURNITURE & BEDS R US
205 SEALEY ST, THAMES | PH 07 868 6128

Education

Trust marks 30 years supporting college

By GORDON PREECE

More than \$1 million has been contributed to Waihi College by the Waihi Gold Mining Education Trust over the past 30 years.

Chair Doreen McLeod told *The Profile* the trust, which is funded by the community, was established in 1992 by the Waihi Gold Mining Company, currently owned by OceanaGold, to give back to Waihi College to support its students.

"By assisting with their education facilities and the top five students [at Waihi College] gaining a scholarship each year means they can go on to tertiary education with some sort of financial backing," she said.

"I just had a look at last year's [recipients] and we've got [a student who received a scholarship for] Bachelor of Civil Engineering and he was going to use his money towards a high tech laptop to run [computer aided-design] and 3D modelling.

"They blow my mind... these guys and girls really are aiming for the top."

Doreen said the trust, which has five other trustees, started its journey with a \$25,000 donation to Waihi College annually, but now it donated \$58,000 each year.

Of that funding, \$38,000 will be used to provide additional equipment and materials, with \$4000 allocated to scholarships for the top five students to assist with



Principal trustee and former Waihi College principal Harry Shepherd, left, Trust chairperson Doreen McLeod, scholarship recipients Erika Serenado, Zac McKechnie, and Sean Choi, and Waihi College principal Alistair Cochrane.

Photo: SUPPLIED

their tertiary studies.

The purpose of the funding was to support college and tertiary students; to relieve students of financial hardship; to assist students by complementing available funding and to provide further educational facilities.

"I'm always pushing to get more money out of the mining company or anyone who would give us

money, like Masonic Lodge, so I hope the trust continues and other people might come on as well," Doreen said.

The trust met each year with the principal and a student representative to discuss projects that may need additional funding.

"They can get equipment that probably a lot of other schools can't afford to have in the technol-

ogy and computer areas," Doreen said. "The software for product design for plastics and wood and metal work, that's all supplied by the trust, and even things like student welfare and the breakfast club, so that's helping students right across the board.

"The college is very supportive and I'm sure that they find it very beneficial."

Doreen said the trust had also financially supported kapa haka performances, first aid training and upgrades to the college hall within its 30 years.

A celebration for the trust marking 30 years was held last month at Waihi College with trustees, OceanaGold staff and alumni who received scholarships from the trust.



WAIHI COLLEGE

www.waihicol.school.nz

the NZ flood victims from Cyclone Gabrielle) and have set a date for the Ball! It's always action packed and there are so many things students can get involved in. We are also continuing with our SADD group (Students Against Dangerous Driving) and have so much more to look forward to as the year progresses.

Rolling into the Term

Waihi College has a ton on again this term. We've already had the Senior Camp at Aongatete, started the Grease auditions, had our whole school Swimming Sports, Athletics and Competitive Swimming Sports, are preparing for the Year 7&8 Camp, the Gala, organised two fundraisers (one for Save the Children and one for

One of our ongoing services is the amazing Jump Start Driving programme which is offered to Waihi College students and is a collaboration between the College and Oceana Gold. The program is intended to help students obtain their restricted licence by providing weekly driving lessons. The lessons are free to the student, thanks to OceanaGold for sponsoring the Jumpstart car and the community volunteers, who are police vetted and trained through the Bluelight Navigator program. Lessons are 45 minutes long and students are taken on different routes around Waihi and surrounding areas. Such an incredible programme and such an asset to our community.

As for the Gala coming up in April - if you'd like to have a stall, please email us on gala@waihicol.school.nz. It's going to be such a great event!



Dates to look out for: Year 7&8 Day Camps (10th – 15th March), Waihi College Gala (5th April), SADD workshop (26th April), Waihi College Ball (13th May), Grease (22nd – 24th June).

Head to the Waihi College website to keep informed of all things Waihi College! www.waihicol.school.nz

Traffic numbers, visitor spend down

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

The Hauraki-Coromandel region suffered the greatest decrease in visitor spend across the country in January.

This, coupled with 54,148 fewer vehicle movements in and out of Thames via Kōpū in February, will make for an “extremely challenging year” amid the closure of the district’s major highway due to a large slip.

Destination Hauraki Coromandel general manager Hadley Dryden told *The Profile* the region was hit the hardest in January when it came to visitor spending, compared to the same time last year.

Electronic card transactions recorded a 30 per cent drop in visitor spend for the region compared to a 24 per cent increase across New Zealand.

“However, spend in Hauraki Coromandel was still the 10th highest of the 38 areas measured, at \$50.56 million, demonstrating the huge importance of tourism to the region’s economy,” Hadley said.

“The measured deficit of \$22m does not include online purchases or cash payments, so the actual loss will be significantly greater still.”

As expected, Hadley said, given the impact of weather events, Thames-Coromandel suffered a greater decrease than the Hauraki district, down 32 per cent and 21 per cent, respectively. Coromandel and Colville, Whi-

tianga, Thames, Whangamatā and Tairua recorded decreases of at least 30 per cent, with all other communities between 15 and 25 per cent down.

“Thames services many of the other communities in the region, so the town will also feel the impact from decreased day trips from people in the district shopping locally, as they can’t just pop over the Kopu-Hikuai Rd,” Hadley said.

“Roading resilience is the overall priority and the return of State Highway 25A is critical for the region.”

In February, 2023, the Thames Business Association reported 275,077 vehicles entered and departed Thames-Kōpū and 17 stolen vehicles or number plates were recorded.

For three days during Cyclone Gabrielle, traffic was down by around 50 per cent, with just 5207 vehicle movements on the 12th; 4640 on the 13th; and 4345 on the 14th.

This is compared to February, 2022, in which there were 329,225 vehicles travelling in and out of Thames, and 12 stolen vehicles or number plates.

Hadley said the current status of the rohe’s roading network was going to make for “an extremely challenging year”.

Destination Hauraki Coromandel had recently launched a ‘Welcome to our World’ campaign, and Hadley said advocacy for business support hadn’t stopped.

“We have a great opportunity



Hauraki-Coromandel suffered the greatest decrease in visitor spend across NZ in January.

File photo: KELLEY TANTAU

to promote the loop and all the towns and communities along the way, and likewise, businesses have the opportunity to appeal to new visitors who wouldn’t typically travel past,” he said.

“Keep doing the basics well - consistently delivering a quality experience is half the battle won. If people have an awesome experience, they’ll tell others and come back, which is important as visitor numbers won’t be the same while the roads are being repaired.”

Thames-Coromandel District

Council has meanwhile opened applications for its Business Recovery Grants following Cyclone Hale and Cyclone Gabrielle.

According to Mayor Len Salt, central government was funding \$25 million in recovery support to businesses in seven North Island regions, and Thames-Coromandel was administering \$1.42m of it.

“[It] will enable us to further support local business operators who have been suffering in the wake of these storms,” Mayor Salt said.

To be eligible, applicants must be experiencing significant cashflow issues due to continued challenges with customer access, ability to source stock, supply chain issues, inability to operate as usual due to the physical damage to equipment or premises, or delays in insurance assessment and repairs.

Applications will be assessed by an independent advisory panel and close on March 31.



Best pool site could sit outside Thames

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

The district council will look further afield for potential suitable sites for Thames’ Centennial Pool replacement, with the search focusing on areas around the neighbouring Hauraki district.

But suggesting that Thames’ new pool could possibly be built outside the town was “so unpalatable”, one councillor said.

With Thames’ current pool located on an urupā at Taipari Park, it will be removed by 2027 and the land will be returned to Ngāti Maru.

And after Sport Waikato enquired where the best location would be to develop a sub-regional aquatic facility, the Thames Community Board decided last week to research suitable sites in the Hauraki district, to ascertain whether a sub-regional facility - with multiple funders - or a local facility - funded largely within the Thames ward - would be best.

Councillor Martin Rodley voted against the motion.

“It’s the Thames replacement pool. How can it be a 20 to 30 minute drive from Thames?”

“We’re basically saying unless you’ve got a car... you can’t use

“It’s the Thames replacement pool. How can it be a 20 to 30 minute drive from Thames?”

- Cr Martin Rodley

this pool,” he said.

“It’s so unpalatable.”

In January, Hauraki Mayor Toby Adams advised staff his council was willing to consider the possibility of a partnership with Thames-Coromandel Dis-

trict Council to develop a sub-regional aquatic facility, and supported investigating site options within the Hauraki area, outside the Thames boundary.

To research potential locations within the Hauraki district, it’s going to cost \$11,000, with a “cost-share” with Hauraki’s council to be sought.

TCDC group manager operations Bruce Hinson said he understood “the emotion and the seriousness” of what was being discussed; however, a wide scope of research was needed to answer the question of locality.

Board member Holly MacKenzie said she was “ecstatic” to see

the recommendation brought to the March 8 meeting.

“You go out and check everything, tick everything off, before you make a decision... we’re not signing a wedding certificate, we’re not saying we’re buying this land, we’re just saying: ‘these are the options’ and I’m rapt with that,” she said.

Once options have been prepared, a presentation will be arranged for the Thames Community Board, followed by a presentation to Ngāti Maru and stakeholders.



“Support local, shop local”

- Jewellery
- Cushions
- Loyalty Cards
- Wall Art
- Handbags & Accessories
- Gold Card Discounts
- MM Linen 100% cotton bedspreads

Lynne's 500 Pollen St, Thames - 868 8725

Thames Centre Pharmacy

Dispensary & Healthcare Advice

Efficient convenient prescription dispensing

Open Monday to Friday
9am - 5pm
(closed 12.45pm - 1.45pm)

Thames Medical Centre
817 Rolleston Street
Thames

Ph 07 8685100 – Fax 07 2800724
pharmacist@thamescentrepharmacy.co.nz

Our team are locals supporting locals

Foodies

ADVERTISING FEATURE

HISTORIC WAIKINO HOTEL



Open daily from 12pm

Family Friendly full of history offering thirst quenching beverages & homestyle soul food

We have a buffet menu available for large bookings, please contact us for details

"The home of Eliza's Claim Gold Gin" Distilled on site

8541 SH2 Karangahake Gorge
Waikino

Ph: 07 863 8381 • E: info@waikinohotel.nz



Waikino Hotel offers gin tastings to groups of all sizes to help you to discover and appreciate the unique flavors of each gin.

All things gin at Waikino Hotel

Experience heartwarming hospitality and great spirits in a spot as old as the hills.

Nestled in the wild Karangahake Gorge, the Waikino Hotel Bar & Kitchen offers thirst quenching beverages, craft gin and homestyle soul food.

Family friendly and full of history, we're a favourite stop for locals and road-weary travellers.

The Waikino Hotel's 126-year-old story is one of fire and flood, excess and prohibition, but most of all, it's a story about connections.

Connecting travellers and towns, the present with the past, and our community with each other.

And now the hotel has become home to an award-winning craft distillery.

Two years ago, Kaimai Brewing and Distilling set up their operation at the hotel and released their first gin, Eliza's Claim Gold Gin.

Crafted using pure artisan spring water and botanicals complimented with organic rosemary and manuka honey, this gin glitters with real gold flakes (just like the land it's made on).

This went on to win a gold medal in the New Zealand Spirits Awards.

Since then, the company has added to its range and now boasts a range of four distinctive gins, a

spiced rum, and the newest release, a beautifully crafted Apple Pie Moonshine.

We offer tastings to groups of all sizes where we guide you through the tasting process, and help you to discover and appreciate the unique flavors of each gin.

We can cater to functions large and small, so if you're looking for something a little different do pop in and experience the perfect mix of relaxation and flavour with Waikino Hotel and Eliza's Claim Gin.

Enjoy the best of both worlds – a relaxing atmosphere and a delicious, smooth gin.

- Supplied by Waikino Hotel



THE CHEESE BARN

AT MATATOKI LTD.

Café & Shop OPEN 7 Days

BioGro Organic Cheese & Yoghurt. Gelato & Sorbet made on site. Deli lines & Giftware. Animal Farm and outdoor area.

4 Wainui Road, Matatoki, RD1
Thames Ph 07 868 1284
www.thecheesebarn.co.nz

The GLORY CO. CAFE

ESTABLISHED 2017

Glorious FOOD Glorious COFFEE

PHONE 07 867 7157



How can we help you?

What do we cater?...Everything!



We cater from small private gatherings to large scale events.

- Weddings & Funerals
- Corporate Events
- Team Building Events

Contact us to plan the catering for your next event.

Kris Burton 022 380 9735

email burtonsbistro.catering@gmail.com

facebook @burtonscatering • website burtoncatering.co.nz

And we can cater to your needs...

- Buffet
- A La Carte
- Morning & Afternoon Teas
- High Teas and more

THE PUBLIC OFFICE
CAFE | RESTAURANT



10 Orchard Road West, Ngatea

p: 07 867 7714

e: book@thepublicoffice.co.nz

Brunch
Lunch
Dinner
Catering
Events



Wholesome authentic take out food made on site

Fresh bread, pies, salads & toasties We have ... European & NZ artisan cheeses

Catering Beautiful pantry items Charcuterie

MON - FRI: 8am to 5pm • SAT 8am to 3pm
22 Belmont Rd Paeroa Ph: 021 139 3834
E: info@providencepantry.co.nz
www.providencepantry.co.nz

Licensed Cafe
Real Fruit Ice Cream
Great Coffee
Fresh Seafood
Fish & Chips
and even Bait

THE WHARF

Shortland Wharf, Thames
Ph: 868 6528 Cafe Ph: 868 6828
E: thamesfish@xtra.co.nz
www.thamesfisheries.co.nz

Food for us comes from our relatives, whether they have wings or fins or roots. That is how we consider food. Food has a culture. It has a history. It has a story. It has relationships.

WIMONA LADUKE
SOPHISTICATED-COURMET.COM

2000 truck loads of debris removed

By ALICE PARMINTER, Public Journalism funded by NZ on Air

Work continues throughout the Thames Coromandel district to clean up the damage caused by cyclones Hale and Gabrielle.

Roading issues have been the largest part of the work by far, with slips still occurring.

Thames Coromandel District Council said its roading contractors had cleared more than 16,000 cubic metres of debris and slip material from council-operated roads - more than 2000 truck loads. It was an effort requiring around 110 people and 6000 work hours to achieve.

Approximately 120 slips over roads have been cleared, with 90 slips beneath the road identified for future repair.

"We are moving from the initial response phase that focused on opening all routes as soon as possible, to the recovery phase," roading manager Ed Varley said.

"Priority will be given to the 309 Rd and to Tapu-Coroglen Rd in that order. The 309 Rd will be prioritised over Tapu-Coroglen as the route is currently open and minor repairs can be carried out to maintain it, whereas Tapu-Coroglen Rd is the only collapse currently closing a road in the district."

Mr Varley said the recovery phase would include investigations into roadway failures, interim repairs, and prioritised repairs of vital roads, as well as the clearing of drains and removal of residual debris and detritus.

Along with the massive



This home in Thornton Bay was damaged by one of the many landslips during the storm events of January and February. Cleanup is still ongoing across the Thames Coromandel district. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

amount of work to be done on the region's roads, council was also focusing on a number of other concerns; ensuring council-managed facilities such as beach accessways were safe to use, offering community support where storm damage had occurred, and providing support to struggling businesses.

Council has set up a Mayoral Disaster Relief Fund to support those suffering financial hardship from damages caused by cyclone Gabrielle.

By last week, the council had already received 148 applications

for the fund.

During the height of the storm events, council also helped seven households in the region into temporary accommodation following storm damage to their homes.

As well as giving immediate attention to repairs, council said it would also be looking ahead to manage how the district copes with climate change and rising sea levels, along with options for coastal communities.

The Shoreline Management Pathways project had been looking at these issues already, and

would help inform the council's 2024-2034 long term plan, council said.

State Highways 25 and 25A were not included in the council's assessment as they are managed by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency. SH25A is expected to take up to a year to reopen, while SH25 is still undergoing works between Hikuai and Opoutere due to a recent underslip and will be under stop/go traffic management for light vehicles only until further notice.



Teachers on strike

Schools around the region will close on March 16 as teachers and principals take part in a nationwide one-day strike for better conditions to improve public education.

The strike, which includes secondary, primary and early education, comes after the Post Primary Teachers' Association (PPTA) and the New Zealand Educational Institute (NZEI) voted to take industrial action over collective employment agreements offered by the Ministry of Education in February.

NZEI Te Riu Roa president Mark Potter said the offer did little to address the sector concerns to ensure teaching was a "valued" and "attractive" profession.

He said important concerns remained around the need for significant improvements in staffing and funding of schools and kindergartens.

PPTA said its 20,000 members wanted salaries increased to match inflation, more guidance staff to work with increasing numbers of children struggling with mental health and societal issues, greater recognition of teachers, and effective controls on workload.

Schools and kindergartens are responsible to let parents and caregivers know if they would close on strike day.

Thames Autos

A Division of Tokai Motors Ltd R.M.V.T.

HOME DEMONSTRATIONS AND DELIVERIES AVAILABLE WE CAN COME TO YOU

— www.thamesautos.co.nz —

<p>2013 BMW XI Auto, Top Example</p> <p>\$11,990</p>	<p>2013 Ford Fiesta Zetec 1.6 Lt Auto, Only 73km</p> <p>\$12,990</p>	<p>2009 Toyota RAV4 Auto, 4WD, Great Condition</p> <p>\$11,990</p>	<p>2014 Mitsubishi Lancer 2.0Ltr Auto, NZ New, Hi Spec Model</p> <p>JUST \$9,990</p>
<p>2009 Mazda SP25 Auto, Leather, Sunroof, Etc</p> <p>VALUE \$9,990</p>	<p>2014 Mercedes A180 Auto, Low 22kms, As New Condition</p> <p>\$19,990</p>	<p>2005 Nissan Murano 2WD, Handy SUV</p> <p>\$6,990</p>	<p>2013 Mazda Atenza 2.0Lt Auto, Immac cond</p> <p>SPECIAL \$13,990</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">LEYLAND STOWE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mob: 027 355 5152 Ph: 07 868 8981 or 0800 868 898</p> <p style="text-align: center;">609 Pollen St, Thames RMVT thamesautos@xtra.co.nz</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">No Deposit Finance available on all vehicles.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Full workshop servicing & repairs available including Auto Electrical service</p>
---	--	--

Kiwi mustered for return home

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

Up to 25 kiwi will be returning home to a sanctuary in Te Mātā at the end of March.

The birds are part of the Operation Nest Egg programme, a national initiative run by Save the Kiwi to rebuild New Zealand's wild kiwi population.

Thames Coast Kiwi Care runs the programme in Te Mātā, covering 5000 hectares of private and Department of Conservation land behind Te Mātā, Tapu and Waikawau.

Kiwi eggs from the sanctuary are taken to Auckland Zoo for hatching, with the chicks then raised on predator-free Rotoroa Island.

"They grow up big and strong there, in the life of luxury with no predators, and then they're ready to come back to the Thames Coast when they're technically big enough to fight off a stoat," co-ordinator Sheena Beaton said.

Sheena was excited for the 10-day muster to trap and return the kiwi.

"It's our biggest muster of kiwi off the island to date," she said.

"It's not guaranteed that they'll catch them all because they can be elusive little critters, [but] there is potentially 25 that they can bring home."



Handler Neil John settles a returning kiwi into a release box in 2021. Photo: RACHEL HOLMES

Kiwi numbers have been increasing steadily in Te Mātā since the programme began. There are currently about 250 birds in the area.

"When [we] started in 2006 there was an estimated only 28 birds total up in Te Mātā - you know, that's nearly the whole

population that we started with that are coming back."

Nationally, kiwi numbers are declining by 2 per cent a year. However, Sheena said the programme's bird numbers had increased by roughly 15 per cent a year.

The growth in numbers is

largely due to extensive predator control efforts, as well as the breeding programme, she said.

"We've been just continually controlling mainly mustelids in there - stoats, ferrets, weasels - that's been our target species for the last 17 years.

"We've got 60 volunteer trappers that go out every two weeks and check the traps," Sheena said.

"Without that predator control, kiwi have a very slim chance of surviving. Over 95 per cent of kiwi don't survive if there's no predator control. So it just shows how important that aspect of it is for sure."

Thames Coast Kiwi Care are celebrating the return of the kiwi with a fundraising dinner and auction at Tapu Hall on April 1, where guests may have the opportunity to meet a kiwi if one has been caught that day.

Some schools along the coast have also been invited to meet a kiwi. The rest of the birds will be released quietly back into the sanctuary - no fanfare, just a welcome return to their home.

DETAILS: Celebration dinner and fundraiser, April 1 from 4.30pm at Tapu Hall. Tickets are available from thamescoastkiwicare.org or Carson's Bookshop.



Pool passes extended

To make up for a dampener of a pool season, Hauraki District Council is extending all current season passes to the 2023-24 season at no extra charge.

Mayor Toby Adams said he hoped it would be some consolation to the dedicated swimmers who had been inconvenienced this summer.

"We're as frustrated as our communities with how this season has gone," he said. "Wild weather, mechanical failures on some pumps and heating elements and staff shortages have made it very stop and start for everyone and we're really sorry about that."

"To make up for it, we'll honour this year's season passes by extending them for the next season."

Paeroa pool was scheduled to have a slightly longer season, but with the pool's heating out of action and staff shortages, council will close Paeroa pool at the same time as the Waihi and Ngatea pools. The last day of the pool season will be March 12.

Council was also looking at new ways to get a wider selection of lifeguards from the community. Council encourages anyone who is interested in being a lifeguard to get in touch so they can be considered for the 2023-24 season which runs from late October to around the end of March.

JOCK MUNRO MOTORS LTD

HEY LOOK!
NEW YEAR SALE

203 Walter St Thames Ph 07 868 8635 AH 868 8636

HEY LOOK!
NEW YEAR SALE

All vehicles sold with new W.O.F. and current rego

1999 HOLDEN VECTRA

2.2L Auto, Sedan, Silver, New rego, New WOF, Original condition



LOOK AT, BUY IT
\$2,250

1996 HONDA ACCORD

2158cc Auto, Mags, 196,000 kms, Drives Well, Very smart in Metallic Blue



LOOK AT, BUY IT
\$3,995 BEST AVAILABLE

2006 TOYOTA CAMRY SPORT

2400cc WTi Auto, All Extras, Original



LOOK AT, BUY IT
\$5,850

2007 VW PASSAT S/WAGON

Up in kms, All Electric Extras, Great Condition



LOOK AT, BUY IT
\$6,500

2004 TOYOTA ESTIMA

158,000 kms, 2360cc Auto, All Extras, 7 Seats, Best Available



LOOK AT, BUY IT
\$5,995

2001 HONDA CONCERTO

4 Door Sedan, 1600cc, 5 Speed, Up in kms, Very Tidy, Drives Well



LOOK AT, BUY IT
\$2,850 BE QUICK

1999 MITSUBISHI DIAMANTE

Auto, Extras



LOOK AT, BUY IT
\$2,500 3 to Choose OR NEAR OFFER

1997 FORD LASER A CLASSIC DREAM

2 Door Hatchback, 1600cc Auto, In immaculate unbelievable condition. Same owner for 19 years. Restore.



LOOK AT, BUY IT
\$4,250

TOYOTA 2005 TOYOTA COROLLA GLX

1.8L 5 Speed, All Extras, Top Condition, Up in kms



LOOK AT, BUY IT
\$4,250

JOCK'S EXTRA SPECIAL 1994 MAZDA FAMILIA

CD, Mags, Air Con, Rear Spoiler, Tinted Windows, Central Locking, 227,550kms, Immaculate Condition, In Silver



LOOK AT, BUY IT
\$3,600

HONDA 2004 HONDA ACCORD EURO

2.4L, 5 Speed Manual, All Extras, Rear Spoiler



TOP CAR
\$4,995

LOOK AT, BUY IT

JOCK'S SPECIAL 2008 MAZDA PREMACY

1998cc Auto, CD, Mags, Electrics, Bluetooth, 7 Seater, 127,000kms



LOOK AT, BUY IT
\$6,995

TOYOTA 2006 TOYOTA AVENIS

109,000kms, Mags, Electrics, In Silver, Immaculate

2005 TOYOTA SENTRA

5 door S/Wagon, All extras, 1500cc Auto, 7 seater. In white. VALUE

2002 TOYOTA CAMRY GL

2200cc, 5 speed manual, 2.2P, Sedan 182,000 kms, all extras

\$5,650 \$4,895 \$4,500

DAEWOO 2004 DAEWOO NUBIRA S/WAGON

Original in Meatallic Blue, 1600cc Auto, 143,000kms, GOOD VALUE

\$4,695 \$3,995

HONDA 2004 HONDA ODYSSEY AERO

Station Wagon, In White

TO ARRIVE

NISSAN 1992 NISSAN MAXIMA

2500cc Auto, Up in Kms, Very tidy in white

\$4,260 \$2,995

Further funding for Paeroa RSA

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

The Paeroa RSA has received another \$5000 from Hauraki District Council so it can embark on the next step towards earthquake-proofing its building.

The Belmont Rd club was earlier identified as a “potentially earthquake-prone building”.

In September, 2019, it was granted \$5000 from council’s Significant Natural Areas and Heritage Features Incentive Fund to obtain seismic assessment reports, with the results later showing the building was less than 20 per cent of New Building Standards.

The RSA now needs to obtain a design for its structural upgrade, and recently asked council for an extra \$13,396.

At its meeting on February 22, elected members decided to instead give another \$5000 because the work proposed was not active maintenance of the heritage building, and encouraged

the RSA to seek other funding sources.

“Just note that we have given them \$5k, and if we gave them \$10k, that’d be \$15k, which would be quite high in comparison to what we have done,” Mayor Toby Adams said.

Deputy Mayor Paul Milner agreed with others around the table that \$5000 was the appropriate amount.

“With the RSA, before you can actually physically do something, you need to do a great deal of planning...”

“That’s going to be a half a million dollar project, if not more, so to give a little bit up-front is probably a good thing,” he said.

The decision was made to grant \$5000 from council’s Significant Natural Areas and Heritage Incentive Fund to the Paeroa RSA. Payment would only be made on receipt of confirmation that the club had secured the balance of the total cost of the design for the structural upgrade of its building.

“That’s going to be a half-a-million dollar project, if not more, so to give a little bit up-front is probably a good thing

- Cr Paul Milner



Toa in search of new home

PET PROFILE

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

A pup who has spent more than 60 days in the Hauraki District Council pound is the star of *The Profile’s* very first Pet Profile.

Toa, whose name means ‘warrior’ in Māori, is a dog who was found by a council animal control officer in early January by the rest stop at the Kōpū bridge.

Usually, a “roaming” dog would be “well gone” before officers arrive, the council spokesperson said; however, she decided to attend and have a look around.

“I spent about 20-30 mins wandering around, looking in the bushes and calling out with no luck. I was heading back to the ute when I sensed I was being watched,” she said. “Two wee eyes peered at me from out of the bushes.”

“I needed to spend a fair bit of time sitting with him and talking to him to gain his trust - a few treats helped too - but unfortunately I could still not get close enough to get a lead on him so needed to use the catch pole and lift him into the truck.”

As scared as Toa was, he never showed any aggression, and once at the pound, he snuggled up into a mink blanket and rested.

“We were later told that locals



Toa’s name means ‘warrior’ in Māori.

Photo: SUPPLIED/HDC

had seen Toa there for three or four days at least and had not been able to catch him. I suspect he was dumped and possibly was waiting there for his people to return. He was just so scared and sad.”

For seven days, Toa was advertised as being found, but no owner came forward, though council suspects he had once been a loved pet.

“Toa has been gentle from the start, just wanting reassurance

and wanting to stay close.

“As the days have passed he has become more relaxed and his personality now shines through,” she said. “He’s more than ready for his forever home; room to run and play.”

To enquire about adopting Toa, phone the council on 0800 734 834 (in the district) or 07 862 8609.



We Care Community Trust Grant Funding

In tough times we are here to help

We Care Community Trust is a recently licensed gaming machines’ society operating from **Punters Sports Bar** in Thames. We Care has funding available for qualifying organisations in the local community.

Applications are now being received and considered by the Directors of We Care Community Trust in accordance with their authorised purpose statement and the funds that are available. Applications close at the end of each month for consideration the following month.

Applications can be obtained online from:

<https://wecare.org.nz/> or from

Punters Sports Bar
719 Pollen St
Thames

Scott Simpson

MP for Coromandel

Contact me anytime

0800 550 330
mpcoromandel@parliament.govt.nz
scottsimpson.co.nz
scottsimpsonmp

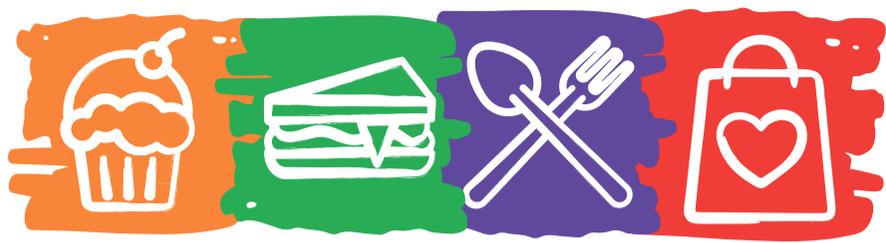


Paeroa Auto Electrical

- Auto Air Conditioning
- Latest Diagnostic Tools for your European Car
- Range of Batteries for Cars, Trucks, Tractors, RVs and more
- On Farm Auto Electrical Service

Ph: 07 862 8565 Email: unipoint@xtra.co.nz
3 Belmont Road Paeroa





PAEROA'S KRAFTY KITCHEN NOW OPEN

HOME BAKES

Takakau Sandwiches (Maori Bread)

Biscuits

Desserts

Cold Drinks

Pies

Lettuce Parcel Salads

Cakes

Upcycled Furniture

ArtWork

Scented Candles

Unique Gifts

Something for Everyone

80 Normanby Rd, Paeroa

paeroakraftykitchen

ADVERTORIAL

'Homely' vibe at Krafty Kitchen

Supporting Hauraki-Co-romandel crafts people and producing "homely" food for locals was the inspiration for Melba Pakinga to open Krafty Kitchen on Paeroa's main street.

The former te reo Māori lecturer and owner of Kapai Krafts in Paeroa said she wanted to "look at the bigger picture" after recently moving back to her hometown from Auckland.

"I decided a lunch bar would be a good opportunity to add to the craft shop expanding the business to provide some home bake favourites," she said.

"We wanted to add to the food options already being provided here in Paeroa town such as some of our local delicacies experienced on the Marae.

"Just to name a few: steamed pudding, Māori bread, Rēwena bread, and fry bread, along with basic lunch bar foods."

Melba said the arts and crafts side of the business was inspired by her previous life in Huntly, where she often visited a local craft shop whose business focused on local artists and crafters in the community.

She appreciated the personal touch rather than mass production or com-



Melba Pakinga will highlight and support local at her new artwork store and lunch bar. Photo: SUPPLIED

mercialised goods.

"We hope to provide a similar but different option for our town by giving it that homely boho-chic upcycled kind of product," she said.

"We do like the personal touch and getting to know the community has been an amazing start to

this venture.

"We want our customers to feel that they can find something a little more personalised and unique."

Melba acknowledged her whānau and friends, who supported her in getting the store ready to open on March 6.

ADVERTISEMENT

JOIN CROSS COUNTRY RENTALS

A rewarding role serving your school community



When former NZ Police Road Policing Manager and Hamilton City Councillor Leo Tooman, decided to retire, it wasn't long before he found the perfect part time job.

After a career spanning 48 years with the former Ministry of Transport and then NZ Police, during which time he received recognition for his many road safety and traffic enforcement initiatives, Leo likes to keep busy. So, he joined Cross Country Rentals in April 2022 as a Specialised School Transport Assistance (SESTA) driver, delivering the Ministry of Education transport service that assists children and young people with special needs to travel safely to school.

This was the perfect job that enabled him to remain involved and provide a great service to those in the community who need it.

"Through my role at the MOT, I was familiar with Cross Country Rentals which started off as a rental vehicle company and had a contract through our vehicle testing centre at the time. They had a good reputation for being a good operator and that continued when they were bought by Tranzit," says Leo.

"Then, when I was the Stakeholder Manager for Fulton Hogan I'd see the CCR team driving past taking kids to school and I thought that would be a good part time number - a couple of hours in the morning and afternoon and a nice van to drive, as I still enjoy driving. What's more, you are doing something really worthwhile for these kids - getting them safely to and from school."

After joining CCR and going through its training programme, Leo began driving SESTA runs in Hamilton city, Tamahere and Matangi.

"It was a lot of satisfaction. I got to know the kids and their families - we developed trust and a neat rapport."

Now, Leo has been promoted to a Driver Trainer and welcomes new drivers onboard, training them how to operate the vehicle and wheel chair hoist; filling out log books and run sheets, and demystifying the operational side of the role.

"This is a great rewarding role for retirees as the timing is great, especially if you enjoy fishing, or golf during the middle of the day. It also would suit parents, whose kids have just left home."

CCR is currently recruiting for part time SESTA drivers in Hamilton and Paeroa. New comers to the industry are also welcomed as training and induction can be provided.

"We're looking for people with great customer service skills, a passion for serving the community and those who enjoy working within a friendly and fun team, but is confident working on their own as well," says CCR Project Manager Tony Dickason. "We offer a terrific training programme and a fun, supportive culture."

CCR is a family run, New Zealand owned business with depots located throughout New Zealand meaning there's plenty of opportunities to be had for career advancement.



Leo Tooman, CCR Driver Trainer

If you are interested in this role or keen to find out more, you can you either call our friendly team on 0800 200 018 or send your contact details and a CV to Kath at: kathn@crosscountryrentals.co.nz

Making a splash

The Thames Valley secondary schools swimming championships were held at the Thames Centennial Pools on March 8. Schools from across the region dived, kicked and glided their way through the water to represent their school. **ALICE PARMINTER** was there to catch the action.



Zoe Winter from Hauraki Plains College in the 50m breaststroke.



Lexis Rohrlach from Thames High School gets a head-start.



The junior boys take off for the 100m freestyle. From left: Paeroa's Cooper Robinson, Waihi's Lachlan Osborne-Sole, Te Aroha's Mason Diprose and Mercury Bay Area School's Oscar Williams.



Taylor Mainwaring of Whangamata Area School takes on the competition.



Paeroa College's Eliza Stepanic competes in the 50m breaststroke.



Thomas Brown of Hauraki Plains.

Hydraulink
Thames

H 24/7
MOBILE
SERVICE

See us for all your hose repairs

- Hydraulic hose & fittings
- Breakdown services 24/7
- Industrial hoses
- Lubricants & Oils
- Ram repairs & servicing
- General Engineering



Ph 07 868 5435
0274 990 924



14C Kopu Road
Kopu, Thames

Best under pressure

Five generations, one store

READ BROS.
EST. 1867
Hardware

- Fastenings and Extrusions
- Key cutting and Locksmithing
- Interior and Exterior Paint
- Marine Supplies
- PPE and Footwear
- Tools
- Hose and Rubber
- Engineering and Welding Products

308 Pollen Street, Thames
Telephone 07 868 6608

www.readbros.co.nz



crystals, fairies, dragons and more...
A little bit of something for everyone.

11 Belmont Rd, Paeroa
027 486 5680



NO UTE TAX
WE PAY, YOU DON'T

TRITON
4WD GSR AUTO



**Saunders
Mitsubishi**

0800 11 11 10

201 Pollen St

www.saundersmitsubishi.co.nz

A/h: Warren Hurley 021 941 963

Paul Saunders 021 220 0098

"The Clean Car Fee of \$4,082.50 will be paid for by Mitsubishi Motors New Zealand for vehicles registered before 31 st March 2023."

Bad weather delays life-saving care



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

Esther Young had never looked well since her arrival at Miranda six weeks previously in March 1901.

She and her husband, Frederick, were from the lonely outpost of Norfolk Island. The Youngs and their two children, aged five and nine, lived on the farm of Robert Douglas, who employed Frederick as a labourer.

Twenty nine year old Esther had been ailing for three or four years from liver complaint, and although attended by a doctor on Norfolk Island, appeared exceedingly ill.

So it was a relief when Mr and Mrs Douglas and their daughters called in to see her on a Sunday in late April and found that she seemed brighter and said she felt better. The respite did not last long though as by Thursday Frederick sent word that his wife was worse, and he was not coming to work.

The Douglas's visited Esther and, alarmed, urged that she be sent to Thames by the next morning's boat for medical treatment. No doctors were available on the Miranda side of Thames and travelling there by



The Mutineers turning Lieutenant Bligh and 18 others adrift from the *Bounty*.

Photo: SUPPLIED

river was the only option, but, distressingly, rough weather meant the boat did not arrive as usual.

Frederick and the Douglas family did all that was possible for Esther but on Friday night she became worse. The bitter irony of medical help being available on isolated Norfolk Island but not within reach in more populated New Zealand was probably not lost on them.

Despite the care of the Douglas's and other neighbours, Esther died around 3am on Saturday. By Sunday Kirby Bros boat was finally available and Esther's body was taken across to Thames.

The inquest, held at the Warwick Arms Hotel, found liver complaint was the cause of death. Esther and Frederick were both descendants of mutineers on the *Bounty*. In

1789, in the South Pacific Ocean, discontented crewmen seized control of the ship *Bounty* from the captain, Lieutenant William Bligh, sending him and 18 others adrift in the ship's launch. Esther was descended from Matthew Quintal, a Cornish able seaman, who joined the leader of the mutiny, Fletcher Christian, along with seven other mutineers, including Edward 'Ned' Young, midshipman, who Frederick was descended from.

The mutineers, along with some Tahitian women and men, settled on the uninhabited Pitcairn Island.

Matthew Quintal, a hot-tempered and erratic man, was killed with an axe by Ned Young and another mutineer during one of Quintal's regular drunken episodes. Ned Young died of asthma on Christ-

mas Day 1800, the first man to die a natural death on Pitcairn. Quintal and Young descendants later settled on Norfolk Island.

Despite the turbulent history of their ancestors, the marriage of Esther and Frederick appeared peaceful, marred only by ill health.

Esther was buried at Shortland cemetery, Thames. Frederick and the children returned to Norfolk Island. Their son, Wilfred died in 1916, aged 24, killed in action in France. Two years later Frederick, 57, employed as a quartermaster, died suddenly at sea on board the cable steamer *Iris* while off Norfolk Island. Their daughter, Kathleen, survived to old age on Norfolk where descendants of the *Bounty* mutineers live to this day, making up just under half its population.

WI donates rugs, pyjamas

The Kerepehi Women's Institute's first meeting of the year was held on February 7 at Jan Edmonds home in Thames. President Elaine Jolliffe welcomed us all back for 2023. We had two apologies: Marion van Eyk and Sue Watson. Our thought for February and raffle was supplied by Debbie Smith: "A friend is one who knows all about you, but loves you just the same".

Our raffle was won by Bev Adamson. Founders Day, which was supposed to be on February 21, had to be cancelled due to Cyclone Gabrielle. Birthdays: Kristen Barnes celebrated her 70th birthday but wasn't there as she was in hospital. March 6 was Federation AGM in the Ngatea Hall at 10am. One of our roll calls was a sketch of a flower: 1st Bev Adamson, 2nd Carolyn Giles. Second roll call was Butterfly Cakes: 1st Bev Adamson, 2nd Carolyn Giles. 174 items were sent to Middlemore Hospital in their wool program and 26 pairs of children's pyjamas. Three new rugs were donated to Te Korowai and toilet items also. 18 items of canned food to Paeroa Trusts Food Bank. Our AGM was held at 1:20pm with most people taking the same positions again.

Competition A: 1st Jan Edmonds, 2nd Marion van Eyk, 3rd Bev Adamson. Competition B: 1st Bev Adamson, 2nd Jan Edmonds, 3rd Carolyn Giles; Flower Competitions: Bloom: 1st Debbie Smith, 2nd Carolyn Giles, 3rd Bev Adamson; Spike: 1st Bev Adamson, 2nd Jan Edmonds, 3rd Carolyn Giles; Shrub: 1st Jan Edmonds, 2nd Bev Adamson. Herb: 1st Jan Edmonds, 2nd Carolyn Giles, 3rd Elaine Jolliffe; Vegetable: 1st Carolyn Giles, 2nd Bev Adamson.

EVES Exceptional. Every day.

eves.co.nz

EVES. Exceptional. Every day.

At EVES, our salespeople and property management team are committed to successfully assisting you in buying, selling, and investing in property.

We work hard to understand the goals and aspirations of our customers on their property journey and are determined to get the best results.

Talk to EVES today.



EVES Waihi ☎ 07 863 1118

📧 waihi@eves.co.nz EVES Realty Ltd, Licensed under the REAA 2008

Exceptional. Every day.



ENTERTAINMENT

Beach Hop warm up in Waihi

Waihi is gearing up for its Warm Up Party for the 2023 Beach Hop, which will bring classic cars and hot rods, as well as the infamous "undie 500", to the town centre.

The event will be held on Wednesday, November 23, and the chairman of Go Waihi - who is organising the party - said excitement was beginning to brew.

"This event is all about having fun, and, as always, we've got plenty to offer," Max McLean said.

"We're making sure there's lots of entertainment for everyone, too. Waihi East and Central schools will open the day with a kapa haka performance, welcoming the cars once they've arrived, and we'll have bands performing throughout the day, with lots of rock 'n' roll music and dancing."

There will also be more than 50 stalls selling everything from bric-a-brac, collectables, local produce, and food, as well as a best dressed fashion show.

The Undie 500 - a relay race where teams of three dress up in oftentimes humorous garb - will take place at 12.30pm, with the winners sharing in a \$200 cash prize.

Hauraki Mayor Toby Adams said he was looking forward to taking part in the day's activities.

"If you love the sound of a V8 engine, the curves of a classic car, a 50s fashion silhouette, or good old fashioned rock 'n' roll, then you won't want to miss this brilliant event.



Classic cars are expected at the warm up. Photo: GORDON PREECE

"I love the atmosphere and the energy it brings to Waihi, with the whole town out enjoying the spectacle.

"So whether you're a Danny or Sandy fan, remember, this year 'Grease is the word'."

To support Waihi's local businesses, The Beach Hop team will also be running their Shop and Win promotion. Those who spend \$20 or more at a local shop can go into the draw to win a 50-inch Panasonic TV. The prize-winner will be drawn by Beach Hop Organiser Noddy Watts during prize-giving, and the winner must be there to claim their new TV at the time.

Meanwhile, the Repco Power Cruise around the Coroman-

del Loop (Whangamatā-Waihi-Paeroa-Thames-Coromandel-Whitianga-Tairua-Whangamatā) will take place on Thursday, March 23; the Castrol Edge Thunder Cruise to Onemana is on March 24; and the main festivities are in Whangamatā on Saturday and Sunday, March 25-26. **DETAILS: Waihi Warm Up Party rundown: 10am: Cars will start pulling in to Waihi from Whangamatā; 10:50am: kapa haka from local schools; 12.30pm: Undie 500; 1.30pm: fashion show; 2pm: prize-giving. Entry forms for the Mitre 10 Undie 500 or Best Dressed Fashion Show will be available on the day at the Go Waihi tent by the Memorial Hall and from roving ambassadors in the crowd.**

Tildas adorn Karangahake

By GORDON PREECE

Crafting sessions and tilda artworks were on sale at Karangahake Hall from March 3 to 5 for the second Tilda Trunk Show.

Host Sandra Burrows, who owns House of Patchwork in Helensville, said she decided to hold the event again after the first one in 2021 was successful.

"Initially it was a thoughtful idea going through Covid where we hadn't had a lot of

shows so [the event is for] people to do something a bit different and give them ideas and inspiration and carry on with their hobby," she said.

"The first one was successful, so I thought I would hold it again and it's always been a good response.

"The store is a destination shop and people will travel if they know what they're looking for.

"It's great to have the local people as well as out-of-towners."



Tilda Trunk Show's Sandra Burrows, left, Hayley McGlone, Annie Reid, and Pamela Blaikie. Photo: GORDON PREECE

/Richardsons

Paeroa / Ngatea

23 Taniwha Street, Paeroa Offers Over \$850,000

Unequivocally unique, this executive home boasts open plan living which maximises the beautiful views, three bedrooms with the master having a walk in robe, beautifully tiled ensuite and it's own deck. Private outdoor entertaining area. Carpeted double internal access garage. Sought after location.

RG2005 - NATASHA DAWSON 027 200 6608

🏠 3 🛏 2 🚗 2 🚗 1

1434 Kaihere Road, Ngatea Deadline Sale

- New Kitchen/ Upgraded Bathroom
- Sep Rumpus Rm/Office/Fireplace/HRV
- 4673m2(m or l)Dble Garage/Carport

RN1478

🏠 3 🛏 1 🚗 3 🚗 2

781 Awaiti Road, Paeroa \$595,000

- Lovely rural outlook - 5000 square metres
- 3 Bedrooms - Separate lounge - Garage
- Ph Kevin Fathers 027 279 9800 for details

RRP228

🏠 3 🛏 1 🚗 1 🚗 1

/Richardsons

Thames

9 Merrimana Drive, Thames \$1,150,000

Immaculately presented family home. Situated in a very sunny & quiet area. En-suite, walk-in wardrobe, family room, covered patio & fenced backyard.

RT5764

🏠 4 🛏 2 🚗 2 🚗 2

607 Queen Street, Thames \$645,000

This house is handy to everything...park up the car and save your money! 3 bedrooms, double garaging, & good sized flat section.

RT5765

🏠 3 🛏 1 🚗 2 🚗 1

22 Seaview Ave Offers Over \$1,150,000

Huge family home on 2 levels ideal for a big family or B&B for extra income. Situated one block from the foreshore & just down from boatramp.

RT5763

🏠 5 🛏 2 🚗 2 🚗 2

603A Augustus Street Nth \$770,000

This beautifully presented 1890's Villa is located in the heart of Thames in a quiet, elevated position. Very handy to town and schools.

RT5766

🏠 4 🛏 1 🚗 1 🚗 1

PAEROA
07 862 7888
54 Belmont Road
paeroa@richardsons.co.nz

NGATEA
07 867 7800
33 Orchard Road
ngatea@richardsons.co.nz

THAMES
07 868 6978
556 Pollen Street
thames@richardsons.co.nz

Real Estate Ltd MREINZ
Licensed REAA2008

For further properties please visit our website

www.richardsons.co.nz

Real Estate Ltd MREINZ
Licensed REAA2008

Rural Life

Hauraki dairy farmers scoop dairy awards

Hauraki dairy farmers dominated the Auckland-Hauraki Dairy Industry Awards on March 10.

Mangatāwhiri farm manager Finja Philips was named the region's Dairy Manager of the Year and Rita Jeffrey, of Patetonga, was announced the winner of the region's Dairy Trainee of the Year.

Isidro Quilla Jr, also of Patetonga, received runner-up in the dairy manager category.

Teagan Gray, who manages a 160 hectare Thames property with 475 cows owned by her parents Neil and Glenda Gray, placed third in the dairy manager category.

Morrinsville farm assistant Cillian Aberhart was named runner-up in the Dairy Trainee category.

Finja, who manages a 190 hectare Mangatāwhiri farm with 452 cows, said she believed the New Zealand dairy industry had "huge potential".

"Dairy farming is not just a job, it's a way of life and farmers really care about our cows and our land," she said.

"We need to continue to spread our story, share our passion, explain the thoughts, planning and care that goes into our decision-making and continue to share our commitment to making a world-class product on the export market." The 27-year-old former vet said her and her husband Ryan's future farming goals



Rita Jeffrey, left, and Finja Philips with their Auckland-Hauraki Dairy Industry awards.

Photo: SUPPLIED

included returning to the family dairy farm to work alongside her parents and continue developing the business.

"A big part of the future is also being a bit curious and open to the way it will look – it might

have to be radically different than the 'norm' or the way it's previously been done," she said.

"I want to be on the frontier of this change and help to pave the way for other women to be sole dairy farmers if their partners work off-farm."

Rita is currently second in charge of a 90 hectare Patetonga farm with 309 cows. The 23-year-old said being a woman in the dairy industry was a challenge but it was satisfying to prove people wrong "and showing them that women do just as good a job

as men".

Future farming goals for Rita included owning a herd of Jersey cows.

"My main goal for farming is just to have a good lifestyle, happy cows and successful seasons," she said.

"I'd love to have my own breeding lines and even attend some shows or on-farm events with my own animals and managing a farm myself is my next step in this process."

Isidro Quilla Jr entered the awards programme for the first time to promote responsible dairy farming at a manager's level.

"I come from a farming family, my dad was a Philippine cowboy and he taught me good stockman skills dealing with all our animals, including our horses, beef cattle, working buffalos, dairy buffalos, pigs, goats and dogs," he said.

The 40-year-old manager of a 265 hectare Patetonga farm with 830 cows said his future farming goals included establishing financial stability and moving to a contract milking role, with an ultimate goal of a small-herd dairy farm.

While there was no Share Farmer category winner, the judges commended 50:50 Maramarua sharemilkers Crystal Scown and Bailey McSheffrey and awarded them two merit awards.



50

YEARS

IN NEW ZEALAND

Come in for a deal!



Hauraki Plains Motors

1 Pipiroa Road, Ngatea • Ph 07 867-7021

Miles 027-227-1121 Email: miles@hpmotors.co.nz

SPORTS

Highway closures affect Thames clubs

By GORDON PREECE

Members of some Thames sports clubs have discontinued training and competing since the Kōpū-Hikuai Road closure in late January.

Thames Gymsports administrator Michelle Lange told *The Profile* between 20 and 30 existing and incoming members who reside on the eastern side of the peninsula had discontinued their sport.

“We have quite a strong group of gymnasts that have been coming to us for quite some time, all the way from preschoolers up to college age, who just can’t make it anymore,” she said.

“We also had a lot of people wanting to join up and they were all set to join over the Christmas holidays until disaster struck... everyone is disappointed.

“Some of those older girls were part of our competitors crew and they’re going to miss out on the competition season this year and not be able to meet up with their friends on that weekly basis.”

Michelle said the club had explored options to keep affected members involved in gymsports, including sending coaches and equipment to their households, and opening the Kōpū gym once a month for extended periods of time to make travel worthwhile.

“But now with the [Hikuai to Opoutere Rd damaged] as well, we’re struggling to try and put plans in place to help be connected,” she said.

Meanwhile, Thames squash players



Some Thames Gymsports members who live in Eastern Coromandel face no competitions or weekly trainings. File Photo: SUPPLIED

who need to travel long distances to reach the eastern Coromandel for work have also put down their racquets.

“Our season’s just starting but there’s probably less enthusiasm to be playing and travelling at night when you’ve already done a big day of travelling,” club president Leigh Robcke said.

“It’s taking quite a lot of the tradies, in particular, an extra hour-and-a-half each day to travel to, say, Pauanui, so some of them are not as keen to be playing competition squash after [work] hours.”

Leigh said the Kōpū-Hikuai closure had also interrupted interclub events.

“Mercury Bay usually puts in a couple of interclub teams for Tuesday and Wednesday night squash... but because of the road closure they’re not actually going to be doing that this year.”

NEWSPRINT

Roll ends for sale
800mm wide, varying lengths,
\$10 ea

Available at the
Valley Profile office:
2 Queen St, Paeroa

Call first to check availability:
Ph 0204 0944 853



Perfect for school holidays
- art and craft,
moving, table coverings
and more

The Valley
Profile

Brett Harris Electrical 2016 Ltd

For all your Electrical
Requirements 24/7

Specialist in all
Farm Installations
and maintenance.

Domestic - Rural
Commercial

7 Mahuta North Road,
Hauraki Plains

Tel: (07) 867-5196

Mobile: 027 270 2804

Serving the Hauraki Plains for 25 years

COMPREHENSIVE VETERINARY SERVICES FOR FARM & COMPANION ANIMALS



Your 100% Local Vets

NGATEA 07 867-7056

PAEROA 07 862-7056

THAMES 07 868-3013

PL0619006



Hato Hone St John Thames

Royal Honours.

The Order of St John honours is an independent part of the New Zealand Royal Honours system. Admissions to, and promotions within, the Order are sanctioned by our Sovereign Head.

Members receiving honours make significant contributions and are recognised for their dedication and work beyond the expectations of their role. Several local people have been included in the recently announced 2022 Honours list sanctioned by His Majesty the King.

To be Commander:

- > John Armitt - Thames

To be Officer:

- > Rosanne Shaw - Thames
- > Peter Young - Paeroa

To be Member:

- > Helen Appleby - Paeroa
- > Sheila Cummings - Waihi
- > Shane Deverill - Thames
- > Brenda Reid - Whitianga
- > Rachel Ross - Ngatea
- > Harvey Till - Waihi

St John - local people serving the needs of our community.

For further information email: hauraki.community@stjohn.org.nz

CALL THE EXPERTS

ARBORIST



TREE SHAPES

Qualified Arborists

- Treework Large & Small
- Stump Grinding • Hedge Trimming
- Fruit Tree Pruning • Chipping

For a free quote call
07 868 3985 or 0274 726627

ARBORIST

We solve your tree problems
 Tree Removal • Stump Grinding
 Pruning • Clearing • Storm Clean Up

Qualified, experienced,
 fully insured

Trusted treework for over 25 years
 Call today

SHORT BACK'N'SIDES LTD
 027 439 0367
 shortbacknsides.co.nz

BUILDING SERVICES



PROFESSIONAL TRADE SERVICES
 BUILDING | ELECTRICAL | PLUMBING

Kitchens • Bathrooms • Pergolas • Fencing
 Decks • Gibbing • Tiling • Landscaping
 Home Maintenance and Much More

Your 1 Stop Shop – www.ptsnz.com
 3 Coronation St, Paeroa Ph 0800 088 001

CLEANING



A J CLEAN UP CREW

- Lawn mowing
- Weedeating
- Hedge & tree trim
- Section clearing
- Gardening
- Rubbish removal
- Interior house clean
- New build clean/clear
- Odd jobs considered
- One off jobs welcome

0800 464 898
 Alaine Hedges
 027 242 7268
 John Hedges
 027 457 2018
 Email: info@ajcleanupcrew.co.nz



Luisa Gillbanks, left, Leif Gillbanks and Liam Gillbanks.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

Clear roads ahead with Precision

Precision Windscreens offers autoglass replacement and repairs for cars, vans and heavy machinery for Hauraki-Coromandel drivers.

Owner Liam Gillbanks established the mobile business with his wife Luisa in January, 2022, after being a working glass man at a local windscreen business for around 10 years.

“We’re a family business and we started up because we wanted to create a life that was going to be good for our son and being

able to spend time with him,” he said. “We already lived [in Paeroa] so it seemed like a logical choice and it’s a great community.

“Being mobile is one of the driving factors of our success... [our clients are] usually pretty stoked that we come to them and make it easy.”

Liam said his focus was to continue growing the business and trying to give the same chipper service.

Contact: email: liam@precisionwindscreens.co.nz, or Ph: 027 212 7750.

DRIVING ACADEMY

DRIVING COURSES

Driving lessons
 Learner Licence courses*
 Defensive Driving courses*
 Book now 027 314 1577 (text or phone)
 *register your interest
 *see if you are eligible for free courses
admin@valleyeducation.co.nz



ELECTRICIAN

- Rural & Dairy
- Residential
- Industrial
- Commercial
- Heat Pumps
- Service & Maintenance

ngatea@laserelectrical.co.nz



(07) 867-7049
 “Totally Dependable”

ELECTRICIAN



INNIS ELECTRICAL

- Domestic
- Industrial
- Commercial
- New Installations
- Re-Inspections
- Electrical WOF's

027 539 5572
theinnis@xtra.co.nz

Registered Electrician & Electrical Inspector
 Covering Paeroa and surrounding area.

ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR



INSPECTRICAL
 Electrical Inspections

- Caravan e-wofs
- Home and Business electrical inspections
- IQP emergency lighting inspections
- Solar power inspections

Servicing Hauraki, Coromandel and the Western Bay of Plenty
021 944 309 - ben@inspectrical.co.nz

EARTHWORKS & CARTAGE



Digger, Bulldozer & Truck Hire

- ▶ Mulching
- ▶ Cartage of Metal, sand, fertiliser, palm kernel, hay & maize silage

PHONE TIM 027 278 5384
T & A MCWATTERS LTD

FUNERALS



Valley FUNERAL SERVICES
 FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Our family serving yours — in the Hauraki & Thames Coromandel Districts

- Traditional & Bespoke Funerals
- Direct Cremation
- Pre-Planning
- Eco Funerals / Natural Burial

Ph: 0800 862 6362
Des & Christine Necklen
 Funeral Directors

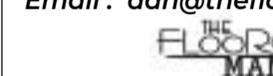



FLOORING

Supply & Installation for Domestic & Commercial

- Carpet • Vinyl
- Laminate • Polyurethane

Contact us for your free Measure and Quote
 Phone : 021 020 47027
 Email : dan@thefloorman.co.nz



GARDEN CARE SERVICES

Call the Gardener™
 YOUR GARDEN - YOUR WAY

Garden Care Service
 Hedge & Shrub Trimming
 Edging & Small landscape features

Call Paul (028) 4640 600
www.callthegardener.co.nz

HAIRDRESSER



Magic Scissors
HAIRCUTS
MEN
WOMEN
CHILDREN

APPOINTMENTS ACROSS FROM MITRE 10 NOT NEEDED POLLEN ST THAMES

HIRE CENTRE

THAMES HIRE CENTRE
 Jellicoe Crescent, Thames

Perrin Newland
 Telephone: 07 868 9350
 Email: hire@thameshire.co.nz
www.thameshire.co.nz

HOME HANDYMAN AND COMMERCIAL HIRE

HOMECILL

Hunts Home Kills
 We have over 30 years of butchery expertise.

- We are dedicated to you, the customer.
- Hygienic, vacuum packed products.
- Professional facilities.
- Smoked meats are our speciality.
- 12 - 14 days hung on the bone, minimum
- Game orders over 10kg
- Premium custom orders to meet your needs

Ph: 0800 250 939 • Mob: Mike - 021 411 210
 E: butchersapron@yahoo.co.nz
 W: huntshomekills.nz • Follow us on FB

HOME MAINTENANCE

HOUSEWASH
 SOFT-WASH the exterior of your house, roof or patios, fences & driveways.

Cleaning, moss treatment & waterblasting for 25 years.

Also clean exterior windows.
 Call 0800 737 777 or
 Anton direct on 027 313 4386
atlasgroup@xtra.co.nz

HYDRAULIC HOSES



Mobile Hydraulic Hose Service
 Whangamata/Thames/Coromandel Region
hyd hosecompany@gmail.com
Matt: 0274 123 996
 For Service That Counts

KITCHENS

KITCHENS
 Kitchens, Wardrobes, Laundries & other bespoke Interior Cabinetry

Quality Service & Products
 Get in touch, we'd love to chat



WAIHI P: 027 426 9966
 E: info@designxpressions.co.nz

MOBILE MECHANIC



We come to you...

- Servicing & repairs on all cars, trucks, campervans, machinery & small engines
- Batteries available

Phone Brian: 021 259 4779 or 876 5401
 Email: robosvette@gmail.com

PAINTER



That Painter Ltd.
 Residential & Light Commercial Painters
 No paint like Picasso only cheaper!

- Interior & Exterior • Residential & Light Commercial
- Fully Insured • Workmanship Guarantee

Contact Stan on 0223137911
 to discuss your project.

PET FOOD

DOG TREATS

Thames Market every Saturday...
 Rain or Shine

E: debstra.dogs@gmail.com
 FB: Deb's Dog Treats'n'Meats

CALL THE EXPERTS

CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 1pm Monday

PLUMBER



BROKENSHIRE & ROSS
YOUR LOCAL PLUMBING & HEATING SPECIALISTS



SERVICES
Plumbing • Drainlaying
Roofing • Gas
Home Heating



P: 868 6096
A: 315 Pollen Street Thames 3500
E: brokey@outlook.co.nz
W: www.Brokenshire.co.nz

PLUMBER



PLUMBING • DRAINAGE • GASFITTING
GENERAL MAINTENANCE
Thames 07 868 6021
Whitianga 07 866 0070
Whangamata 07 865 7151
Waihi Beach 07 863 5621

RUBBISH REMOVAL

Smart Bins
Skip bins, Wheelie Bins,
Farm Bins

Phone us or book online
0800 4 MY BIN or
www.smartbins.co.nz

SCRAP METAL

Scrappy Verns

Buyers of all scrap metal & cars
Farm clean up specialists
Top prices paid

Phone Vern • 021 621 437

SEPTIC TANK CLEANING

ALLENS UNITED
Paeroa (2015) Ltd

LIQUID WASTE SPECIALISTS

0800 862 720 | 027 442 0067

TYRES & BATTERIES



► Stockists of all major tyre brands
► Exide Batteries with extended warranties
► Wheel Alignments.

314 Pollen St, Thames
Ph 868 8182

WASTE REMOVAL

SKIP BIN HIRE
For Household, Business,
Building and Farm
Rubbish Disposal

Ph: 0800 754 724
Paeroa Skip Bins (2017) Ltd

WINDSCREENS



PRECISION
WINDSCREENS
We come to you!

Chip Repairs - Windscreen replacements
-Insurance claims

PH: 0272127750
www.precisionwindscreens.co.nz

Book this space!

022 130 3885
nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz

The Valley Profile

Grazing Heifer grazing available for 23-24 season. Keith Trembath, Ph 07 862 6833	Handyman Mowing, hedges, fencing, gardening, carpentry, painting, retaining walls, welding, waterblasting. Work is good quality and I will not attempt to work outside of my skills. Insured. Dennis Schuler 022 129 0169	Wanted to Buy Motorcycles, 4 wheelers & side x sides. Going or not. Phone 027 216 6867. A1 Motorcycles	Situation Vacant Woodturners Cafe are looking for more staff to join our team. Multiple positions covering front and back of house. Involves one weekend day per week. No experience necessary as we can provide full training for the right applicant. Contact Lorraine with expression of interest or CV bmattock48@gmail.com
Gardening Need stump grinding? Any size, any number, anywhere. Different machines for different applications. Over 20 years experience. Short Back n Sides Ltd We solve your stump problems. 027 439 0367	Gardening STUMP GRINDING. All sizes, all areas. Thames based. Ph 021 060 7659	Storage STORAGE KOPU, PAEROA TE AWAMUTU "New Units" Ph 027 440 7101 07 868 3033 Safe n Sound Storage www.safestorage.co.nz	
		Thames Valley Storage - secure, dry units available, two sizes. Call Trev 027 4076966	

Handyman Services  THAMES HANDYMAN & BUILDING SERVICES Building, home maintenance & general gardening services Phone: Fleur or Crighton • 0273 913 283	Situations Vacant Teacher Aide Paeroa College We are currently hiring one or more part-time (up to 25 hours/week) Teacher Aides to support our student-centred teaching and learning programmes. We are looking for industrious, enthusiastic and flexible individuals to work with our teaching staff to support students with learning challenges. We welcome applications from persons of any age, gender, or cultural background. For one of the roles, the ability to support our outdoor education programme is essential. Experience working in a secondary school environment is not required. Applications for this position close 24 March, or as soon as suitable applicants are identified. Please mark "Confidential" and send or email to yolandel@paeroacollege.school.nz Attention: Principal's PA Paeroa College 15 Te Aroha Rd, Paeroa 3673
Situations Vacant  Based in Ngatea Professional Class 5 drivers with positive attitude, attention to detail and procedures, required to join our fuel transport team. • Multi combination Class 5 experience required • DG license preferred • Fuel experience not essential, full training provided • Excellent remuneration • Pre Employment Drug test and Full medical will be required The position may involve shift work. Send your CV to roy@lbttd.co.nz or call Roy on 021 951 755	Situations Vacant  Caretaker/Van Driver Position Tirohia School has a part time position as school caretaker commencing as soon as possible. This position is for 12 hours per week, these hours are semi-flexible. We are looking for a reliable, energetic Caretaker for our school. The position involves carrying out a wide range of duties to help us ensure that our school is maintained as a clean, safe and secure environment. The successful applicant will be required to do a variety of tasks in a job where nothing is predictable and no 2 days are the same. A job description and application form are available from the Tirohia School office, phone 07 862 7086 or email office@tirohia.school.nz



DEADLINE

We can take your classified ads anytime before 1pm Mondays

022 130 3885 | nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz

The Valley Profile

Situations Vacant  Automotive Technician Saunders Mitsubishi are looking for an Automotive Technician to join our team in Thames. This is a full-time position. Apply to Paul Saunders paul@saundersmotorgroup.co.nz	Situations Vacant  Caretaker/Van Driver Position Tirohia School has a part time position as school caretaker commencing as soon as possible. This position is for 12 hours per week, these hours are semi-flexible. We are looking for a reliable, energetic Caretaker for our school. The position involves carrying out a wide range of duties to help us ensure that our school is maintained as a clean, safe and secure environment. The successful applicant will be required to do a variety of tasks in a job where nothing is predictable and no 2 days are the same. A job description and application form are available from the Tirohia School office, phone 07 862 7086 or email office@tirohia.school.nz
INTERESTED IN WORKING AT ANY OF THESE SCHOOLS? TEACHER RELIEVERS - TEACHER AIDES GROUND STAFF / CLEANERS - ADMIN STAFF Please register your interest at shorturl.at/sAIP2 OR contact Neil Fraser (027 2767672 / principal@ngatea.school.nz)	

NEED STAFF?

GOT SOMETHING TO SELL?

Advertise in the Valley Profile and get results!

Phone Nikki on 022 130 3885

SPORTS

Ding-Ding on Pollen St for boxing club

By GORDON PREECE

A growing membership at Never Surrender Boxing Health and Fitness Club can now spar at a new venue after throwing in the towel at its former ring.

Secretary and boxing coach Shannen Middleton told *The Profile* the club, which has more than 100 members, made the decision to find a new premises after its base at Thames Jockey Club became “run down”.

“We have 35-plus kids training and it wasn’t ideal with the bouncy floors. Also one of our professional boxers, [Francis Waitai], put his foot through the floor at one training, so we didn’t want the kids training in there,” she said.

“We’ve been looking for a new place for a couple of years, and just by chance we came across this place.”

The new premises was an “awesome location”, she said.

“Really easy to get to for our adults and tamariki [children], there’s lots of parking and it’s a really clean and safe space for everyone.”

The new gym was also fitted with the club’s new gear, she said. “We’ve got a whole lot of new punchbags, new gloves and pads for the kids, some new



Never Surrender Boxing Health and Fitness Club members at their new premises.

Photo: SUPPLIED

headgear, speedballs and we have a new boxing ring as well.”

Shannen thanked the club treasurer Andrew Connaughton for his “tireless” work to find a new space and secure funding for its new boxing equipment.

“At the end of last year we received \$8000 from Grass-

roots Trust and \$11,500 from Thames-Coromandel District Council; [Andrew’s] built a great relationship with NZ Boxer, so we can get the most out of the funding we’ve received.”

The club membership was increasing at each weekly training session, particularly its tamariki

classes whose members were aged between five and 12 years, she said.

“We had 25 at training the other day and then another 10 new kids turned up,” she said.

“Even if you’re not wanting to actually have a fight, you’re actually learning fighting skills,

and building a lot of muscle memory with the pads.

“We’re adding more classes as much as we can, getting all our rangatahi [youth] involved and putting some good role models in front of some of our at-risk youth as well.”

Shannen said the club was also “absolutely stoked” for members Francis Waitai and Tasmyn Benny, who had competed in national and international rings.

“Francis last year fought in the Fight for Life and Tasmyn won a bronze medal at the Commonwealth Games [Gold Coast, 2018] - she was the first female to win a medal in boxing for New Zealand,” she said.

“Francis was an at-risk youth and just look at him now, professional boxer and New Zealand super middleweight champ.

“We’re absolutely stoked for them, you don’t have to be in a big city with all the flashiest gears to be good at anything, hard work and dedication will beat talent any day.”

Shannen encouraged more people to enter the ring.

“Come get fit, come get healthy, you’re going to meet people who have a totally different life to you, they become your whānau,” she said.



HAVE YOUR SAY ON OUR PROPOSED ANNUAL PLAN 2023/24

WE’D LIKE TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS ON:

- Our proposed average rates for 2023/24
- Storm recovery and how it has affected our budgets
- Deferring the Pollen Street Infrastructure project to help our businesses recover
- Our updated capital works and operational programmes, which are making room in our budget for projects relating to storm events that will need to be added at a later date
- Kerbside collection pricing options for our new rubbish and food waste bins
- Changes to our schedule of fees and charges

For more information and to share your thoughts, visit [tcdc.govt.nz/annualplan2023](https://www.tcdc.govt.nz/annualplan2023)



ADVANTAGE
THE TYRE PROFESSIONALS

Two Locations

Kopu Tyre Services
Main Road, Kopu, THAMES
Ph: 07 868-9660
Emergency Service: 0274 976 356

Valley Tyre Services
Cnr Station & Tawa Rds PAEROA
Ph: 07 862-7767

- ◆ Wheel Alignment Services
- ◆ ATV Tyres
- ◆ Alloy and Chrome Performance Mag Wheels
- ◆ 1 Hour Puncture Repairs
- ◆ 24 Hour Callout Service

www.advantagetyres.com

THAMES VALLEY TANGATA ORA TRUST

The People's Wellbeing Trust
Total Mobility Scheme assessors



**SALES
SERVICE
HIRE**

We do our best to source other products on request

MOBILITY EQUIPMENT

- Mobility Scooters
 - Wheelchairs • Walkers
 - Electric Lift Chairs
- 3 years AA Membership on Goldfern Mobility scooters.
Rescue/breakdown service only

607 Mackay St, Thames (Opposite the hospital) • Ph: 07 868 7723 or 027 383 1117 • E: tvtot2017@gmail.com
Opening Hours: Monday to Thursday 10am - 3pm, Friday 10am - 1pm - After hours by arrangement

SUDOKU

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

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

EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

91

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

HARD

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

MEDIUM

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

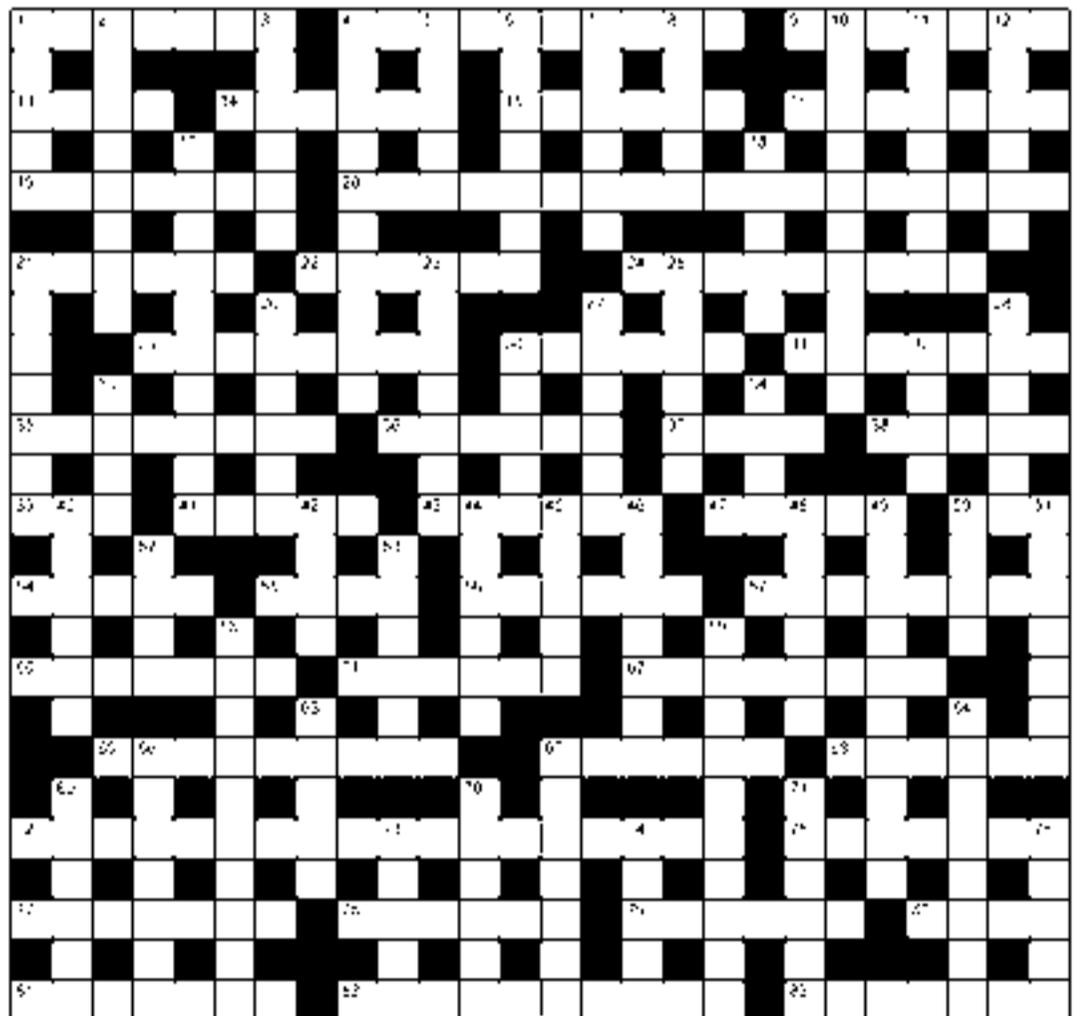
EASY

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

JUMBO CROSSWORD

111

- ACROSS**
- 1 Odds (7)
 - 4 Provide guidance (4,6)
 - 9 Sloping letters (7)
 - 13 Yours and mine (4)
 - 14 Tar (6)
 - 15 Uncommon thing (6)
 - 16 Mosque tower (7)
 - 19 Edgy (7)
 - 20 Someone who resembles their parent in character (4,3,3,3,5)
 - 21 Previously (6)
 - 22 Marionette (6)
 - 24 Invest at a risk (9)
 - 29 Glacier fissure (8)
 - 30 Paucity (6)
 - 31 Frozen drips (7)
 - 35 Lacking proper respect or seriousness (8)
 - 36 Beam (6)
 - 37 Pitcher (4)
 - 38 Insure (5)
 - 39 Label (3)
 - 41 Soft leather (5)
 - 43 Moral philosophy (6)
 - 47 Old French money unit (5)
 - 50 Long fish (3)
 - 54 Lampoon (5)
 - 55 Equal (4)
 - 56 Shellfish (6)
 - 57 Adversary (8)
 - 60 Factory restaurant (7)
 - 61 Shelled insect (6)
 - 62 ___ da Vinci (8)
 - 65 Coast unpowered (9)
 - 67 Put into cipher (6)
 - 68 Pointless (6)
 - 72 Rapid non-stop talking speed (8,2,3,5)
 - 75 Crux (7)
 - 77 Claimed (anag) (7)
 - 78 Illicit relationship (6)
 - 79 Contusion (6)
 - 80 High point (4)
 - 81 Reel (7)
 - 82 Narrow escape (5,5)
 - 83 Piece (7)
- DOWN**
- 1 Circus comic (5)
 - 2 Flying machines (8)
 - 3 Thinly dispersed (6)
 - 4 Links (4,6)
 - 5 Italian composer (5)
 - 6 Aerodrome (7)
 - 7 Establish the truth of (6)
 - 8 Come down with (5)
 - 10 Bronze-winning position (5,5)
 - 11 Circular (7)
 - 12 Grip firmly (6)
 - 17 Jealous dismissal of something really desired (4,6)
 - 18 Train (5)
 - 21 Advantage (7)
 - 23 Ready (7)
 - 25 Clay user (6)
 - 26 Tree-lined street (6)
 - 27 Material (6)
 - 28 Strike out (6)
 - 30 Discard (5)
 - 32 Cut short (4)
 - 33 Sovereign (4)
 - 34 Rip (4)
 - 40 Come into view (6)
 - 42 Affair of honour (4)
 - 44 Red fruit (6)
 - 45 Offspring (5)
 - 46 Varnish (7)
 - 48 Attraction (6)
 - 49 Downpour (10)
 - 50 Sword (4)
 - 51 Salad vegetable (7)
 - 52 Debatable (4)
 - 53 Decorative wall band (6)
 - 58 Slow (10)
 - 59 Basic precept (6,4)
 - 63 Porcelain (5)
 - 64 Ship's compass housing (8)
 - 66 Fetid (7)
 - 67 Puts up with (7)
 - 69 Steer (6)
 - 70 Clippers (6)
 - 71 Against (6)
 - 73 Edible internal animal parts (5)
 - 74 Striped animal (5)
 - 76 Vote in (5)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Loose, 4 Slippery, 9 Choose, 14 Chief, 15 Call a spade a spade, 17 Eider, 18 Ace, 19 Ignored, 20 Dictating, 21 Pencil, 24 Goosestep, 25 Cudgel, 26 Settee, 29 Inhalation, 31 Ebb, 32 Swivel, 33 Digs, 35 Wan, 37 Also, 39 Reminisce, 40 Caesarean, 41 Birch, 42 Reprisal, 47 Repeated, 51 Angst, 55 Boycotted, 56 In a bad way, 58 Deed, 59 Lap, 60 Tree, 61 Remote, 62 Tie, 63 Stagnation, 66 Mutual, 67 Bridge, 69 Sightseer, 72 Guitar, 73 Sceptical, 75 Holster, 77 Awl, 80 Ebony, 81 Brave the elements, 82 Erode, 83 Reveal, 84 Exorcist, 85 Regal.

DOWN: 2 Orangutan, 3 Salvo, 5 Leap, 6 Predict, 7 Easy to please, 8 Yeast, 9 Cleaned, 10 Omen, 11 Sodden, 12 Final, 13 Offence, 14 Cracker, 16 Stegosaurus, 22 Helium, 23 Bewitch, 24 Glamour, 25 Cobweb, 27 Trisect, 28 Renege, 30 Nine, 32 Snare, 34 Synod, 36 Race, 38 Lie, 42 Robot, 43 Payment, 44 Iron, 45 Anthem, 46 Agile, 48 Pay envelope, 49 Auditor, 50 Eve, 51 Adjourn, 52 Tiptoe, 53 Take a shine to, 54 Bass, 57 Wealth, 64 Orchestra, 65 Matinee, 66 Minaret, 68 Decibel, 70 Graphic, 71 Cajole, 72 Gloom, 74 Peace, 76 Sieve, 78 Pyre, 79 Mess.

AVAILABLE NOW

- One Bedroom Apartment, Level 3
 - One Bedroom Apartment, Level 2
 - Two Bedroom Villa, 134sqm, 1 bathroom, guest WC, single garage
- ENQUIRE TODAY!**

**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.

**PHONE US
to view
by appointment**

*Come and experience
the difference!*



*Richmond
Villas*
LIFESTYLE VILLAGE

Living the lifestyle, loving the choice...

A lifestyle village in Thames on the Coromandel

82 Richmond St, Thames

0800 868 5484

www.richmondvillas.co.nz



WHYTELINE

**MARCH
OFFER**

**GET A FREE WELLNESS
CHECK.**

CALL WHYTELINE ON 07-862 8783 AND ASK TO
ADD A WELLNESS CHECK TO YOUR NEXT
WARRANT OF FITNESS BOOKING.
WE'LL ALSO THROW IN A FREE
EXTERIOR WASH.

WOF + WELLNESS CHECK + WASH
FOR ONLY

\$69!



WEBSITE:

WHYTELINE.CO.NZ

LOCATION:

39 PUKE ROAD, PAEROA

PHONE:

07 872 8783

TERMS & CONDITIONS:
PROMOTION NOT VALID FOR MOTORCYCLES. PROMOTION ONLY VALID WHEN ADDED TO A WARRANT OF FITNESS CHECK. A WELLNESS
CHECK IS NOT A SERVICE, AND DOES NOT INCLUDE THE COST OF ANY FLUIDS THAT REQUIRE REPLACING. PROMOTION VALID FOR
BOOKINGS MADE BEFORE 25/04/2023 AND MUST BE BOOKED BY THE CUSTOMER AT THE TIME OF BOOKING A WARRANT OF
FITNESS.