

Pāpāmoa Post

MAY 2025

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Morning magic

Story page 6



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WE WANT YOUR LETTERS!

We welcome letters to the editor for publication.

Email ellen@papamoapost.co.nz.

Letters should not exceed 200 words, and may be edited, abridged, or rejected at the Editor's discretion.

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Rotary raises \$45k for youth

Pāpāmoa Rotary, Bluehaven Group, and Mitre 10 Pāpāmoa raised more than \$45,000 for local youth in their annual charity golf tournament last month.

It was the event's 12th year, with almost \$300,000 raised and donated to youth-focused local charities and organisations in Pāpāmoa and Te Puke since its inception.

Rod Keucke of the Rotary Club of Pāpāmoa says the organisation was delighted to once again partner with the Bluehaven Group and Brian and Loretta Johnstone from Mitre 10 Pāpāmoa to run the event, which was held at Omanu Golf Club.

Pāpāmoa College principal Iva Ropati was the guest speaker at the after-game function, sharing about the challenges students face

and the goals they aspire to. Iva is passionate about his role in achieving the best for every student and thanked Pāpāmoa Rotary for the huge assistance it gives to the college.

Previous recipients of funding include scholarships, the dictionaries in schools project, Graeme Dingle Foundation, driving awareness courses for youth, bike safety in primary schools, Pāpāmoa Surf Life Saving Club, and many other local community organisations.

Pāpāmoa Rotary is grateful to the major sponsors and the support of more than 50 businesses and individuals, says Rod. "This is an amazing commitment from the supporters to youth initiatives." ■



Tournament winners: Sam Mathis, Scott Mathis, Ben Mathis and John Dickson.



Second place winners Mainfreight 1.



Carol Miller and Suzi Gambitsis.



Golf organisers Jude Lindfield and Mary-Ann de Silva.

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- Nathan & Lilly Standen

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From the editor's desk

It's fantastic news that the eastbound off-ramp of the Pāpāmoa East interchange will be open by the end of this year. Currently residents travelling towards Rotorua must head all the way to Domain Road before doubling back to head in the right direction. The new off-ramp will be a huge time-saver for anyone in Pāp East who regularly heads to Paengaroa, Rotorua, Taupō or further afield.

It will also help the retailers at The Sands Town Centre. If you haven't checked out this new centre yet, I encourage you to do so. The retailers and eateries there are high quality and well worth a visit.

Enjoy your read and have a great month.

■ Ellen Irvine

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Interchange ramp to open this year

The eastbound off-ramp of the Pāpāmoa East Interchange will open ahead of schedule and is expected to be operational in the second half of this year.

The news has been welcomed by residents, who were originally given a date of mid-2026 for the completion of the full interchange project.

However questions remain about toll charges. Bay of Plenty MP Tom Rutherford says work is continuing on consideration of a new toll point west of the interchange.

“While there are still details to be worked through regarding tolling, the priority has rightly been placed on delivering tangible benefits to residents as quickly as possible. I encourage locals to participate in the public consultation on tolling arrangements expected in mid-2025,” says Tom.

The interchange is a critical infrastructure project for the Pāpāmoa area, which is projected to grow to around 40,000 people by 2043. Once completed, it will significantly reduce travel times to Tauranga, Mount Maunganui, and eastern destinations while facilitating further development of the Golden Sands and Wairākei neighbourhoods and The Sands town centre.

Tom says the early opening is a victory for the rapidly growing community, and will improve commuter journeys and open up more land for development and growth.

“I’ve been advocating for this project since before I became an MP as locals repeatedly tell me that it is important to them.”

The interchange project is a joint initiative between Tauranga City Council and the NZ Transport Agency, with NZTA providing 51 percent of the funding. HEB Construction is leading the construction work.

Tom praised the collaboration between local and central government.

“Projects like this help to deliver economic growth that ultimately provides more jobs, higher incomes and further opportunities to help families get ahead.

“I want to thank the Minister, Tauranga City Council, and NZTA for their commitment to this project and their willing-

ness to find innovative ways to accelerate its delivery. This is exactly the kind of practical, common-sense approach to infrastructure that our region needs.”

Tauranga City Council says forecasts also show an opportunity for \$5 million to be saved on the cost of the project, which is currently budgeted for \$79.3 million in the Long-term Plan.

At a meeting of the council’s City Future Committee, it was shared that the project is being delivered on time, on

budget, and safely.

The committee heard that there have been more than 80,000 worker hours on site to date without any serious harm incidents.

“This is exactly what we’re looking for – projects that are going to improve the social and economic wellbeing of our communities, while offering value for money for our ratepayers, and ensuring that our workers go home safe to their families every day,” says committee chair Rod Taylor. ■



The Pāpāmoa East Interchange currently under construction. PHOTO: TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL



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Naomi wins gold at Australian surf event

Local teacher and surf athlete Naomi Davoren has won gold in the Masters Female Surf Race at the Australian National Championships.

The 53-year-old Pāpāmoa Surf Life Saving Club member competed against 15 of Australia's top athletes, leading from the outset and holding her position through challenging surf conditions. Facing strong currents, a heavy shore break, and a demanding second bank, she demonstrated both skill and determination to claim victory.

Naomi, who is a Life Member of the Pāpāmoa Surf Club and a teacher at Golden Sands School, says the competition at the event was next level.

"I knew I had to push hard from the start. I managed to lead around the first can with a group in close pursuit," says Naomi.

"Heading back in, I feared getting jagged, but I fought hard to be first on the wave - and the rest is history! I'm stoked with the result - all the swimming paid off."

Pāpāmoa Surf Club says Naomi's achievement is a source of immense pride for both the club and the wider New Zealand surf lifesaving community. Her success on the international stage is a testament to

the strength and talent of Kiwi athletes in surf sports, says the club.

Naomi's twin daughters Isobella and Georgia Davoren also competed at the event, finishing in 6th place in the U19 Female Tube Rescue final together with teammates Trelise Chote and Amelie Pearson.

The Australian Surf Life Saving Championships, affectionately known as "The Aussies," is the premier event in the surf lifesaving calendar, bringing together members from Australia's 314 surf clubs to compete in over 480 beach and ocean events. More than 7000 competitors entered this year's Gold Coast event. The competition included traditional lifesaving disciplines like rescue and resuscitation, belt swimming, and surf boats, to modern ironman and ironwoman races, which encompass swimming, running, surf ski paddling, and paddle boarding.

• Pāpāmoa Surf Life Saving Club athletes Trelise Chote, Isobella Davoren, Amelie Pearson and Oliver Pepers have been selected for the Surf Life Saving New Zealand High Performance Youth Squad for 2025-2026. ■



Naomi Davoren and daughter Georgia celebrate her success.



Mark Divehall

Pāpāmoa Cricket Club founder recognised

Pāpāmoa Cricket Club founder and president Mark Divehall has been awarded the Alan Cotter Award for Services to Cricket by Bay of Plenty Cricket.

Mark was the driving force to establish the club in 2017, and the organisation recognised his key role in the "incredible growth and success" of the club. Over the last eight years the club has grown in numbers and facilities, and was named Northern Districts Cricket Association Club of

the Year in 2023.

The club's growth includes the expansion of training nets from two lanes to four, two grass blocks on Alice Johnson Oval, and most significantly the opening of the clubroom facility in partnership with Tauranga City Council and Pāpāmoa Football Club.

The award is named after the late Alan Cotter, and recognises individuals whose dedication to cricket has shaped their communities for the better.

Alan's legacy was built on selfless service, tireless commitment, and a belief that "if everyone does their bit in the community, then the community is a better place for it."

Bay of Plenty Cricket says that like Alan Cotter, Mark has a strong passion not only for club cricket - but for the local community.

Mark has also served as a junior and senior coach at club level, as team manager/coach, and as a board member for Western BOP Cricket. ■

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Beach morning magic

Every Wednesday morning at 6am, a little bit of magic happens at Pāpāmoa Domain.

People of all ages, and from all walks of life, come together to take a dip in the ocean – winter, summer, rain, hail, or shine – and begin their day on a high.

It all started three years ago when Jacinda Crothers came up with the idea as an opportunity to connect with nature and other people in the community.

“I’ve done this for years now; I used to do it on my own,” says Jacinda. “It’s a shared experience now, which is beautiful. It’s totally open to everybody. It’s such an incredibly

magical way to start the day.”

The ‘Rise and Refresh’ ritual is much more than a morning swim. Jacinda, who is a certified mindfulness mentor and expansion coach, says it’s about building resilience, showing up for yourself, and supporting mental health. The group meets on the beach by the domain carpark, Jacinda lights a candle, and they do a mindfulness practice before braving the waves.

As the seasons change, cooler mornings and wild weather bring swims that can be even more magical than on a beautiful summer’s day, says Jacinda.

“Every Wednesday is different as we



Jacinda Crothers



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journey through the seasons. It's different every single day, that's why I have thousands of photos. The sky is different, the moon is different, the waves are different.

"We do it over summer and that's easy, but as the seasons shift, there's a different focus. All of a sudden I'm out of my comfort zone, it's dark, it's cold, but we walk through it together."

Jacinda has committed to a personal challenge to swim in the ocean every day for a year; when we spoke to her she was up to day 87.

"These next few months are going to be challenging, but that's where the growth happens," she says. "It's easy when the water is warm and it's beautiful outside. But if you can show up for yourself in these moments, feel the fear and do it anyway, on the other side of that is where there is massive growth."

Pāpāmoa is home to Jacinda and her family after spending 15 years living overseas.

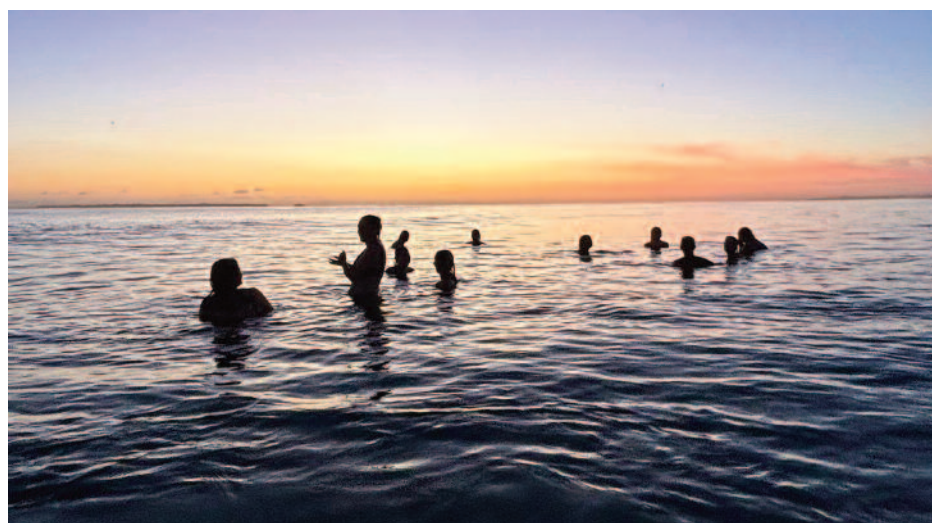
Enjoying the area's easy access to nature is a huge positive.

"I feel like we are so blessed to live where we are. To be able to access what we have from a nature perspective. There are people around the world who would pay millions of dollars to have what we have on our doorstep."

Jacinda hopes to inspire more people to embrace early swims and join her on Wednesday mornings.

"It's something that I'm so passionate about. I'd love to see more people from Pāpāmoa and surrounding areas discover this transformative experience. Everyone walks away and says 'look at that morning!' Before the sun rises, we have allowed ourselves to connect with nature. It's such a beautiful place."

To register for this free event, go to www.jacindacrothers.myflodesk.com/riseandrefresh ■



Jacinda Crothers says every morning swim is different, and her many photographs reflect that. PHOTOS: JACINDA CROTHERS



**Papamoa
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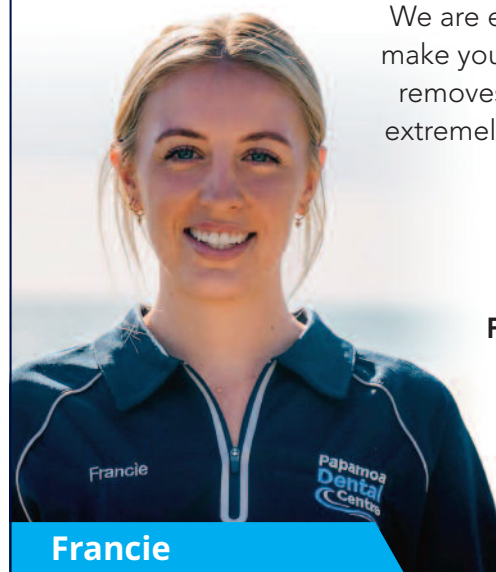
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Papamoa Dental Centre is very privileged to have two excellent, friendly Dental Hygienists who have joined us this year.

Francie and Sarah both aim to work together with patients to achieve optimal oral health by way of treating gum disease and providing patients with the tools and education to improve and maintain good oral hygiene. They both strive to make the experience of visiting the hygienist as pleasant as possible, so that patients feel happy returning.



Francie



Sarah

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Or visit us 532 Papamoa Beach Road



Papamoa Dental Centre



Nature to art: an exhibition

Art brought Suzy Granger and Emma Davie together, and now the pair are excited to stage a combined exhibition.

When abstract painter Emma first admired Suzy's ceramics, she was surprised to learn that the artist lived on Simpson Rd, just round the corner from her own Dickson Rd home.

At the time Emma didn't realise that Suzy had already admired her work too, and had even visited Emma's studio during the BOP Open Studios art trail.

"I had to meet her," says Emma, who sent Suzy a message on Instagram and found an instant connection. "We had so much in common, we had very similar ethics."

Adds Suzy: "And our approach to our work, and the abstract nature of it."

A firm friendship was formed, which has culminated in an upcoming exhibition that's been a year in the making. Confluence (a conversation through canvas and clay), is at the Incubator gallery at Tauranga's Historic Village from 16 May to 7 June.

Confluence is the perfect name for the exhibition of two like-minded artists, describing the process or act of merging.

"[Confluence] is like when two rivers merge, it's like our work merging, and the environment and how we merge with it," explains Suzy, who creates under the name Slab Ceramics.

Both artists are heavily inspired by nature, and they say their intent for the show is a conversation between two



Emma Davie and Suzy Granger say their art, though created in different mediums, complements each other.



artists about the environment; land, nature, and sea.

Living in Pāpāmoa inspires both of their work. Emma arrived here eight years ago in the hope of a slower pace of life, while Suzy moved here five years ago. She decided to take six months off teaching to focus on her ceramics, and the risk paid off, with her work soon stocked at Paper Plane in the Mount.

Walking on the beach inspired the work Suzy is showing in the exhibition. "[Last winter] there was so much detritus and debris on the beach, there was so much colour. These colours, and textures, and shapes, have inspired the work."

Emma too likes to take slow walks on the beach, where she stops to photograph small details that catch her eye. "It's that really slowing down and looking, [you see details] like marks left on the beach made by seaweed."

They both hope that their work reminds people of something they have seen in the natural world, sparking imagination.

"It's the imperfect," says Emma. "That's part of going back to nature."

The exhibition is on at The Incubator Gallery (Historic Village) from 16 May to 7 June.

Follow Suzy and Emma @slab.ceramics and @emmadavie.artist. Check out their websites at slab-ceramics.com and emmadavie.com. ■

CONFLUENCE

a conversation
through canvas
and clay



An exhibition with Ceramicist
Suzy Granger from Slab
Ceramics & Abstract Artist
Emma Davie

Opening on
Friday 16 May, 5.30pm
Running until 7 June





CONFLUENCE



Some of Emma's paintings and Suzy's ceramics which are featured in the Confluence exhibition.



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Alongside New World at The Sands, there are a number of specialist stores. These foodie destinations share their customer favourites with us:



Slow Cooked Lamb Korma

This low maintenance, delicious curry is the perfect addition to any dinner schedule! Fragrant and creamy, the house will be filled with the tantalizing scent of this moreish, slow cooked wonder. Garnish with fresh coriander and chilli to your own tastes, making it the perfect family friendly meal.

- 800g lamb neck or shoulder chops
- 15g butter
- 1 onion, thinly sliced
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tsp minced ginger
- 150ml beef or lamb stock
- ¾ cup (or 200g) korma curry paste
- 1 cup cream
- ¼ cup ground almonds
- 100g baby spinach
- Coriander, crispy curry leaves and chilli, to garnish
- Rice and naan bread, to serve

Preheat your oven to 150 degrees celsius, fan bake. In a heavy based casserole dish, bring a drizzle of oil to a medium to high heat. Brown the lamb chops for 1-2 minutes each side, then set aside.

To the same dish, add the butter and stir until melted. Add the onion, garlic and ginger, and cook while stirring for 2-3 minutes or until the onion begins to soften. Stir through the curry paste and cook for a further minute.

Pour over the stock then stir and nestle the lamb chops into the onion mixture. Cover with a tight fitting lid, and place into the oven for 3-4 hours or until the lamb is tender. Alternatively, transfer the browned chops and aromatics to a slow cooker and cook on auto for 4-6 hours.

Once the lamb chops are tender, remove the bones and stir through the cream, almonds and baby spinach. Place into the oven or leave in the slow cooker for a final 30 minutes, then season to taste and serve.

Recipe from www.newworld.co.nz



Pablo Restaurant & Cafe

Pablo's Ecuadorian-inspired **Black Risotto** is made with squid ink and served with a leek-infused oil. For a truly elevated experience, add Octopus to this rich and delicious dish, and pair it with the Te kano Chardonnay.



Knead Artisan Bakery

This toasted **Reuben Sourdough** is the perfect winter warmer - made with homemade Russian dressing, swiss cheese, thinly sliced pastrami, sauerkraut and pickles, sandwiched between two slices of freshly baked white sourdough.



Hello Sushi

The **Soy Garlic Chicken** is an explosion of flavour and can be served alone, or with rice and salad. The succulent fried chicken gets tossed in a sticky, flavourful soy and garlic sauce, and can be topped with additional sauces to pack a punch.



Pizza Hut

Crank up the heat with a fan-favourite **Peri Peri Chicken Pizza**, loaded with chicken breast, red onion, green capsicum, fresh tomato, and fiery jalapeños, all smothered in melty mozzarella and finished with a mildly spicy Peri Peri mayo.



Ali Baba's House

This **Mixed Meat Rice Dish** is a crowd favorite—grilled chicken and beef over rice, topped with tabbouleh, slaw, fresh veggies, pickled cabbage, hummus, beetroot sauce, and served with Turkish bread.



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Commonly asked - what is the difference between polarised and non-polarised lenses?

By Blur Eyecare

As we head into another winter, it's not surprising many of us retire our sunglasses for a few months. What you may not realise is, it's just as important to protect your eyes through the winter months as it is through summer. Just like our skin, UV radiation can harm our eyes, at any time of the year. While those levels are three times higher during summer, UV rays are around even in overcast wintry weather, so we recommend keeping your sunglasses on hand all year round!

There are many options available these days. Non-polarised/ UV tinted sunglasses will reduce the intensity of light reaching the eyes and provide protection from our harsh UV rays.

For those who rely heavily on digital devices or a heads-up display unit in their vehicle, this would be an ideal choice, as polarised lenses can be a bit of a nuisance with the appearance of digital screens. Polarised sunglasses reduce the intensity of glare while blocking certain angles of light. These will give you the same amount of protection from UV rays as non-polarised sunglasses, but with the added bonus of glare reduction. Polarisation will allow for richer colours, starker contrast in shadows, and more clarity in your environment. It is not so much "better" for your eyes, but can be more comfortable in brighter conditions.

If you're into active sports that require a



quick reaction time, like mountain biking or trail running, a reflection can be a dangerous distraction. Compared to regular tinted sunglasses, polarised lenses will erase the shimmer and keep your tyres on the dirt. Fishing and boating are also among the hobbies where we would suggest the use of polarised lenses. This will allow you to see through the surface of the water rather than getting a reflection off it. Perfect for spotting that big catch of the day!

Pop in to Blur Eyecare at Spring Pāpāmoa any time, and our team will guide you through the best options for you. You can reach us on 07 282 7129, or check out our website www.blureyecare.co.nz, where you can book online for your next eye examination. ■

Empowering buyers and sellers at auction

By Rachel Cole of Harcourts

At Harcourts, we lead the industry in auctions, setting the benchmark for best practice, best results and the best auctioneers in the business. Auctions are widely recognised as the most effective method of selling property, delivering the best price in the shortest timeframe. Our auction guides are designed to provide clarity, confidence and the tools needed for success for both buyers and sellers.

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Rachel Cole.

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The children of Pāpāmoa Coast Kindergarten enjoyed a fun excursion to Pāpāmoa Surf Life Saving Club, where they learned about the important work of lifeguards and how to stay safe on the beach. Teacher Aimee Crisp says the children were given a tour of the club and an educational talk by long-serving lifeguard, Sue Matthews. “Sue is a regular reliever at our kinder-

garten and often volunteers her time to provide extra experiences such as this for our tamariki, which we are very grateful for,” says Aimee. “Due to the kindergarten’s location in our beautiful coastal community, we really value opportunities like this, in order to support children’s understandings around water safety and how to be sun smart.” ■



E-scooter operator change



Bright pink scooters are scattered around Pāpāmoa as Flamingo has taken over Tauranga City Council’s e-scooter license holding from Beam. Over the the year to April, more than 175,000 trips on shared e-scooters have travelled a distance of more than 317,000km across Tauranga. Flamingo is a New Zealand-owned and operated shared micromobility company founded in 2018. Its mission is to provide safe and sustainable transport options accessible to everyone. It also operates in Auckland, Wellington, Dunedin, Palmerston North, Porirua and Waimakariri. ■



Children at Pāpāmoa Coast Kindergarten loved their trip to the beach to learn about beach safety.



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Supporting women in business

Tara Langman's face lights up when she talks about helping other women achieve their dreams.

A mother of two and a business owner, Tara loves nothing more than supporting others to find success in business.

After moving from Hamilton three years ago, the marketing expert soon realised there are loads of women in Pāpāmoa running awesome businesses. But often they are so busy in their work, they struggle to get the word out about their business.

So Tara launched her own side business to teach them to take control of their own marketing, without getting bogged down in jargon and rabbit holes.

MarketHer is an online platform to help women market their own business.

"I want to give back and help others," says Tara. "Women want to balance freedom for their families, be there for

their kids, and know they are doing something worthwhile."

Business owners are so busy working in their business and juggling other roles, that they don't have time to nut out the latest trends in marketing and effective strategies, she says.

The MarketHer platform provides step-by-step support, live expert-led workshops, on-demand training, and a community, for a monthly membership fee.

Tara was blown away when the premium membership, which includes one-on-one strategy sessions, sold out in the first six months.

It's practical, easy-to-follow marketing guidance that works for their businesses, says Tara.

"This is about taking the guesswork out, providing expert guidance, and helping women grow their businesses with confidence."

Tara works with women around the country, but especially enjoys connecting with other Pāpāmoa businesswomen and networking at the She Is Unleashed group. Camilla May, who runs Flourish Drama Club in Pāpāmoa, says Tara's "nailing your social media" course is brilliant.

"What I love most is that it's just five minutes here, three minutes there. You don't need to sit down for hours to learn, and in the space of a few minutes you

still learn something really useful," says Camilla.

Another Pāpāmoa business owner, Georgia Murray of Thrive Sensory, says MarketHer has been a "game-changer" for her business.

It's music to the ears of Tara, who hopes to grow the platform to reach even more women,

"I feel like I've found my purpose."
www.markether.co.nz ■

Supporting mums and bubs

Pāpāmoa mums and bubs came together for a special day celebrating breastfeeding, supporting wāhine, and creating a positive and empowering space for mothers and their babies.

The Big Latch On at Pāpāmoa Plaza was one of several events nationwide to raise awareness about breastfeeding and create connections within the community.

The event was for all māmā, whether they were currently breastfeeding or they have done so in the past. Women were invited to bring their little one, support crew, or just show their support for other mums.

Among the supporters was Ashley De Grey, who creates handcrafted DNA keepsakes and helps mums mark their breastfeeding journey with jewellery through her business The Spilt Milk Co.

Ashley is passionate about supporting mums and families in the Pāpāmoa community, by celebrating their achievements.

"I believe every breastfeeding parent should have the right to feel proud of their journey, no matter if that lasted for one latch, one week, one year or beyond, and love to help mamas feel empowered for overcoming adversity and reaching their breastfeeding



Alex Deas, Ashley De Grey, and Tracey Tretheway.

milestones," says Ashley, who attended many Big Latch On events while breastfeeding her own children.

Ashley donated \$1000 worth of prizes to the campaign to support and encourage mothers around the country.

"Now on the other side of my breastfeeding journey, I love to give back to the wonderful people in this community and continue to support breastfeeding mothers alongside their journey." ■

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Tauranga City Councillor for Pāpāmoa Ward *Steve Morris*

Listening to Pāpāmoa, pushing back on the 12 per cent

This April the Mayor and councillors hosted 17 events throughout the city, from classic town hall meetings to casual drop-in sessions at markets, to gather your feedback directly on the draft 2025/26 budget. Even though we represent different wards, we supported one another throughout. Thank you to all those who attended an event and to Mayor Mahé, Deputy Mayor Scouler, Cr Taylor and Cr Curach for joining me at my Pāpāmoa town hall meeting at the surf club a few weeks ago.

With a proposed 12 per cent rates rise in a challenging economic climate, I knew our community would push back – as it should. So before adopting the draft budget, I moved to form a working group consisting of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, senior staff and two councillors to identify an additional \$6.7 million in operational savings before setting the final budget in June. I am confident we can secure these targeted savings and reduce the increase in a meaningful way. High rates rises around New Zealand have been cited as a factor contributing to inflation rising slightly to 2.5 per cent, and Tauranga must do its part.

For wider context, last month's headlines focused on the new administration building on Devonport Road. It is undeniably striking and is an international showcase for timber construction, but it will be seen little by the public once the Council Chamber relocates to Willow Street. Conceived and initiated by the commissioners, the building will cost more than \$90 million in lease payments over the



Pāpāmoa Ward Councillor Steve Morris

next 15 years on top of a \$33 million fit-out that Council paid for. In my view, this and other lavish legacy projects locked in by the commissioners conflict with the Prime Minister's call for councils to return to basics. It also raises important questions about why the current government allowed the commission to continue for nine months after the election despite public warnings that commissioners were committing future elected councils to costly long-term projects.

I always welcome your thoughts and questions as your Pāpāmoa representative. Please email me at steve.morris@tauranga.govt.nz or call 021 0900 1817. ■



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MP for Bay of Plenty Tom Rutherford

A victory for Pāpāmoa's growing community

Recently we received exciting news for our community with the announcement that the eastbound off-ramp of the Pāpāmoa East Interchange will open ahead of schedule in the second half of 2025.

This isn't just another infrastructure announcement – it's the culmination of years of advocacy and a testament to what can be achieved when local voices are heard in Wellington.

Since before my election, I've been fighting for this project. The message from locals has been consistent and clear: we need better connections to support our rapidly growing community. Pāpāmoa is expected to grow to around 40,000 people by 2043, and our infrastructure needs to keep pace.

I've worked tirelessly behind the scenes, engaging directly with the Minister of Transport, NZTA officials, and Tauranga City Council to push this project forward. My persistent lobbying for an early opening of at least part of the interchange has finally paid off. The eastbound off-ramp represents a significant victory in this ongoing effort to secure better infrastructure for our region.

What does this mean for you and I as locals? For families in the Golden Sands and Wairakei neighbourhoods, it means shaving precious minutes off your commute. For businesses, it means improved accessibility and new opportunities for growth. For property owners, it means enhanced connectivity

that adds value to your investment.

But this is just the beginning. While the eastbound off-ramp will provide immediate relief, the full interchange project – scheduled for completion in mid-2026 – will transform how we move around our region. It will alleviate pressure on existing routes and enable further development.

Our Government's commitment to infrastructure extends beyond this single project. The recent green light for the Tauriko West Road of National Significance demonstrates our comprehensive approach to addressing the region's transport needs.

These aren't just roads and ramps – they're lifelines that connect communities, create jobs, and drive economic growth. Every minute saved in traffic is a minute that can be spent with family or growing a business.

I want to thank Transport Minister Chris Bishop, Tauranga City Council, and NZTA for their collaboration on making the early opening possible. I also want to thank every community member who shared their stories and concerns with me – your voices have been instrumental in moving this project forward.

Rest assured, I'll continue fighting for our region's infrastructure needs. This early opening is a win, but our work is far from over. The Bay of Plenty deserves world-class infrastructure, and I won't stop until we get it because I'm a local, just like you! ■

Neighbourhood Support

By Bruce Banks,
Pāpāmoa Neighbourhood
Support co-ordinator

Reported property crime has been reasonably low lately and the good news is that the message to "lock your vehicles" is starting to get through, with fewer items being stolen from unlocked vehicles. As the nights draw in, and the darkness hours increase, there will be more opportunity for thieves to target cars in the cover of darkness.

Please make sure to check your car is locked and all valuables removed, as part of your evening bedtime ritual.

If you are a Neighbourhood Support member, you will be receiving our fortnightly Police crime report via email newsletter every second Friday.

If you are not a member and would like to receive our communications, just send me an email and we will join your household up: nspapamoa@wbopns.org.nz

There are almost 6000 member households already in our database, but I would like that to increase so we have the vast majority of Pāpāmoa residents kept informed of what is going on in our community.

Neighbourhood Support is about more than just reducing and preventing property crime. We also have information from a variety of sources that we push out to our members to help us create a safe, resilient and connected community.

Our partners include Police, Fire and Emergency, Community Patrols, Search and Rescue, St John, Emergency Management,



Bruce Banks

Tauranga City Council and a few others.

Where are all the volunteers?

The vast expanse of Pāpāmoa East is a prime target for property crime and if anyone has a couple of hours to spare a week, I could do with some help canvassing streets in 'Pāp East' that have low membership numbers and getting them onboard as Neighbourhood Support members ASAP.

I need to create a team of around six people to complete this task so please get in touch if you would like to help make Pāpāmoa the safest and most caring place to live.

Contact me on (07) 562 2828 or 027 271 3772, or email nspapamoa@wbopns.org.nz.

Crime reduction and prevention in our community is a joint responsibility. Police, Neighbourhood Support, Community Patrols and the general public all have a part to play. When we all work together success is possible.

Until next time. Have a safe month. ■

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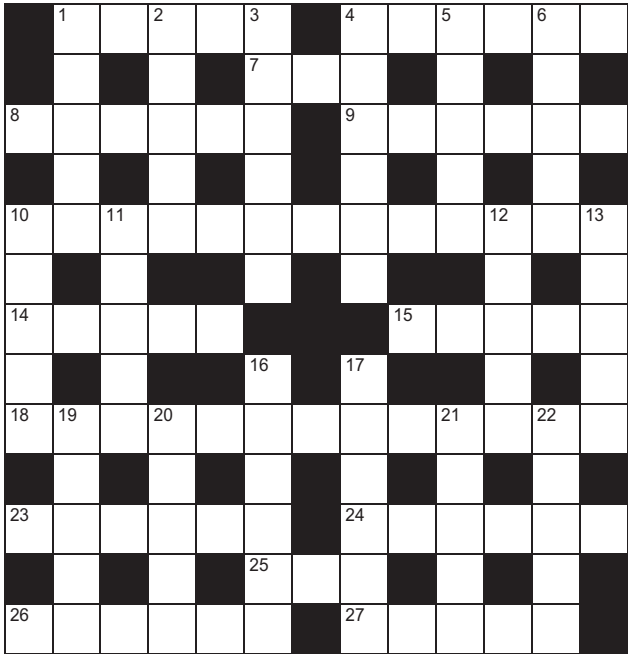
QUIZ

- 1. What is the only metal that is liquid at room temperature?
- 2. The city of Timbuktu is located in which African country?
- 3. What long-running Broadway musical is set in 19th-century France and features characters like Jean Valjean, Javert, and Cosette?
- 4. Who was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean?
- 5. Which animated film features a character named Remy who dreams of becoming a chef?
- 6. What is the capital city of Canada?
- 7. In rugby, how many points is a try worth?
- 8. Which famous author wrote Charlie and the Chocolate Factory?
- 9. What is the longest river in New Zealand?
- 10. What is the name of the actor who played Jack Dawson in Titanic?
- 11. How many players are on a standard netball team at one time?
- 12. What year did World War I begin?
- 13. Which planet is known as the Red Planet?
- 14. What is the name of New Zealand's national museum?
- 15. What is the tallest mountain in the world?
- 16. Who was the first person to step on the moon?
- 17. What is the name of the fictional wizarding school in Harry Potter?
- 18. What is the official language of Brazil?
- 19. Which U.S. state is home to the Grand Canyon?
- 20. What is the Māori word for family?
- 21. Who painted the Mona Lisa?
- 22. In what year did New Zealand give women the right to vote?
- 23. Which country is famous for inventing the pavlova?
- 24. What is the largest ocean in the world?
- 25. What is the chemical symbol for gold?
- 26. Which Disney movie features the song Let It Go?
- 27. Who played the role of Wolverine in the X-Men movies?
- 28. What is the capital city of Japan?
- 29. Which Broadway musical, set in 1950s New York City, features rival street gangs and includes famous dance numbers choreographed by Jerome Robbins?
- 30. How many sides does a hexagon have?
- 31. Which famous landmark can be found in Agra, India?
- 32. What is the smallest country in the world?
- 33. What does the "www" in a website URL stand for?
- 34. What is the main ingredient in traditional hummus?
- 35. In which sport can you score a "birdie" or an "eagle"?
- 36. How many legs does a spider have?
- 37. What is the longest-running animated TV show?
- 38. What is the currency of Japan?
- 39. Who wrote To Kill a Mockingbird?
- 40. What is the Māori name for New Zealand's North Island?

ANSWERS

- 1. Mercury
- 2. Mali
- 3. Les Misérables
- 4. Amelia Earhart
- 5. Ratatouille
- 6. Ottawa
- 7. Five
- 8. Roald Dahl
- 9. Waikato River
- 10. Leonardo DiCaprio
- 11. Seven
- 12. 1914
- 13. Mars
- 14. Te Papa Tongarewa
- 15. Mount Everest
- 16. Neil Armstrong
- 17. Hogwarts
- 18. Portuguese
- 19. Arizona
- 20. Whānau
- 21. Leonardo da Vinci
- 22. 1893
- 23. New Zealand
- 24. Pacific Ocean
- 25. Au
- 26. Frozen
- 27. Hugh Jackman
- 28. Tokyo
- 29. West Side Story
- 30. Six
- 31. Taj Mahal
- 32. Vatican City
- 33. World Wide Web
- 34. Chickpeas
- 35. Golf
- 36. Eight
- 37. The Simpsons
- 38. Japanese Yen (¥)
- 39. Harper Lee
- 40. Te Ika-a-Māui

Quick crossword



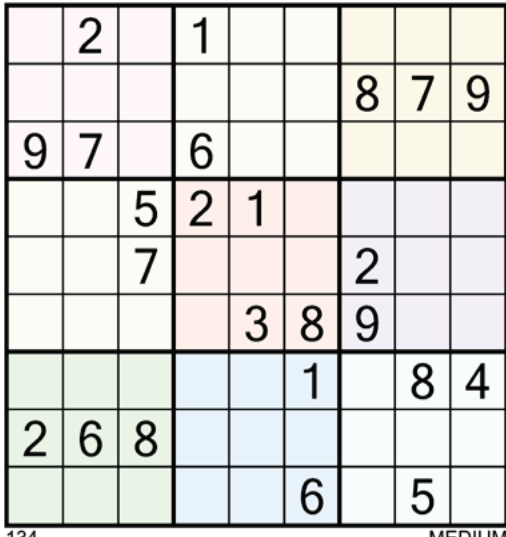
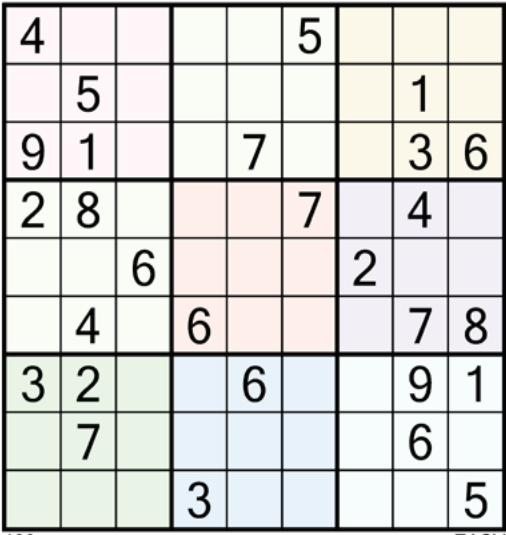
- Across**

 - 1. Pilfer (5)
 - 4. Not transparent (6)
 - 7. Cancelled (3)
 - 8. Larger (6)
 - 9. Cool and unfriendly (6)
 - 10. Not answerable (13)
 - 14. Decree (5)
 - 15. Scale (5)
 - 18. Betrayed (6-7)
 - 23. Luxury fibre (6)
 - 24. Refuge (6)
 - 25. Alcoholic drink (3)
 - 26. Ice up (6)
 - 27. Subtext (5)
- Down**

 - 1. Pretend (5)
 - 2. Sense (5)
 - 3. Disgust (6)
 - 4. Insult (6)
 - 5. Bouquet (5)
 - 6. Up to the time (5)
 - 10. Tip over (5)
 - 11. Farewell (Fr) (5)
 - 12. Ecstasy (5)
 - 13. Implant (5)
 - 16. Household members (Fr) (6)
 - 17. School absentee (6)
 - 19. Proprietor (5)
 - 20. Chap (5)
 - 21. Flair (5)
 - 22. Radiate (5)

Sudoku

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.



Kids' corner

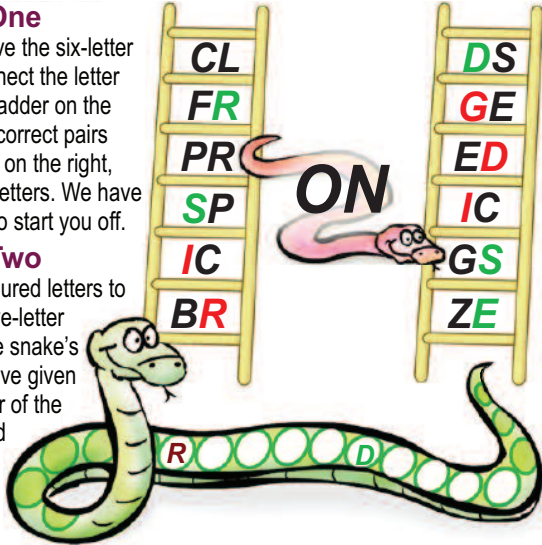
Snakes and Ladders

Puzzle One

Can you solve the six-letter words? Connect the letter pairs in the ladder on the left with the correct pairs in the ladder on the right, with middle letters. We have solved one to start you off.

Puzzle Two

Use the coloured letters to make two five-letter words on the snake's back. We have given the first letter of the red word and the green word.



Solutions

Crossword

Across: 1. Filch, 4. Opaque, 7. Off, 8. Bigger, 9. Frosty, 10. Unaccountable, 14. Edict, 15. Climb, 18. Double-crossed, 23. Angora, 24. Asylum, 25. Gin, 26. Freeze, 27. Theme. **Down:** 1. Feign, 2. Logic, 3. Horror, 4. Offend, 5. Aroma, 6. Until, 10. Upend, 11. Adieu, 12. Bliss, 13. Embed, 16. Menage, 17. Truant, 19. Owner, 20. Bloke, 21. Style, 22. Exude.

Snakes and Ladders

Puzzle 1
CLONED, FRONDS, PRONGS, SPONGE, ICONIC, BRONZE, RIGID, DRESS.

Sudoku

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

Pāpāmoa Food Hub update

The gift of nourishment



By Pāpāmoa Food Hub founder Bruce Banks
Autumn has arrived, and the demand for food support in Pāpāmoa is not slowing.

As the weather gets cooler, our food parcels are adapted to suit the season. The standard parcel is created for a family of four for a minimum of four days, and it can be adapted to suit larger families. That's breakfast, lunch, dinner and even dessert, plus some pantry staples and a few treats added for good measure. When available we try to add personal hygiene items and food for the cat or dog.

For all main meals we also include our own recipe cards, and all the ingredients to create a nutritious, healthy dinner that is also budget friendly. Many of our clients have found our recipe cards very useful and saved them so they can use them again and again.

Pāpāmoa Food Hub was created to offer short-term emergency food support, and that is exactly what we do. Where long-term issues are evident, we can often advise our clients where further help might be available.

From what I have been told lately, it appears that far too many Pāpāmoa families are needing help but are too afraid or embarrassed to ask. Some of these are hard working families who have just hit a temporary bump in the road and need a bit of help to get through their struggle.

Some of the common reasons to need help from Pāpāmoa Food Hub include redundancy, unexpected medical or dental bills, a

bereavement, reduction in work hours or lack of work for the self-employed.

The hub is run almost entirely by volunteers and relies on local financial support. It does not receive any government funding but needs to apply to funders such as gaming trusts, with some success.

Working within our capacity means that we cannot always service everyone who applies for food support; our main priority is helping families.

Applications can be made via our website; make sure you supply all the information requested to be considered. Before applying, please read the conditions at the top of the form.

What's coming up in the next few months?

Our plan is taking shape to bring free cooking classes to Pāpāmoa families who could do with a little help in preparing healthy, nutritious and low-cost meals for the family. This is a great opportunity for a parent and teen/pre-teen child to learn to cook together. First classes are expected to start this school term.

More information will be on our website and Facebook page soon and we will be asking for applications.

To apply for food support just go to the website: papfoodhub.org.nz. Our email is admin@papfoodhub.org.nz

And remember - Pak'nSave has a donation bin at the front of the store - this is only for non-perishable items purchased from Pak'n-Save on the day of purchase. ■

A message from your local doctor

By Dr. Dennis Docker of Tend Pāpāmoa

Even in our sunny seaside town, the cooler weather is starting to roll in and it's a stark reminder that winter is just around the corner. I'm Dr. Dennis Docker, a GP at Tend Pāpāmoa, here to remind you that now is the time to prioritise your health.

Every winter, GP clinics get busier and wait times grow longer. This year, we remind you to take a proactive approach, come in early for your health checks and get your flu vaccine in one easy visit. And let's not forget that vaccines for COVID-19 remain available for everyone over the age of five and for children over six months with underlying health conditions.

Many people delay care until symptoms get worse, but prevention is key. My best advice is see your doctor regularly, before illness prevails.

Three simple ways to stay ahead of the winter bugs:

1. Schedule annual check-ups around birthdays to keep the whole whānau on track.
2. Use the Tend app to book appointments, order repeats, view test results and view your consultation notes.
3. Combine your visits by getting your flu shot during your health check-up. Just book both through the Tend app.

While some clinics have closed books, at Tend Pāpāmoa on 53 Domain Road, we're welcoming new patients and are here to keep you well this winter. Simply download the Tend app and enrol today.



Dr. Dennis Docker of Tend Pāpāmoa

P.S: Tend also has an online same-day care service, available via the Tend app. This is a convenient and cost-effective alternative to after-hours clinics. ■

Grey Power news

Grey Power Pāpāmoa & Districts held its AGM in April, followed by a talk from Rebecca Hodgson from Sport Bay of Plenty on how to "keep on your feet". The group's next meeting will be a winter solstice luncheon at Canton Kitchen at noon on Friday 13 June. All welcome. Queries: phone Jonathan 572 2091. ■

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Pacific Lakes Village is set amongst tranquil park like grounds and private lakes. Spacious modern villas and terrace houses have been designed to create a vibrant community, providing an ideal setting for your active and independent lifestyle.

The village's main community facility, The Pavilion, is currently under construction. Positioned on the lakes edge, this impressive building will house an eatery, lounge bar, library, art studio, beauty salon, wellness suite and extensive recreational facilities. Experience our community first-hand - show home available by appointment.



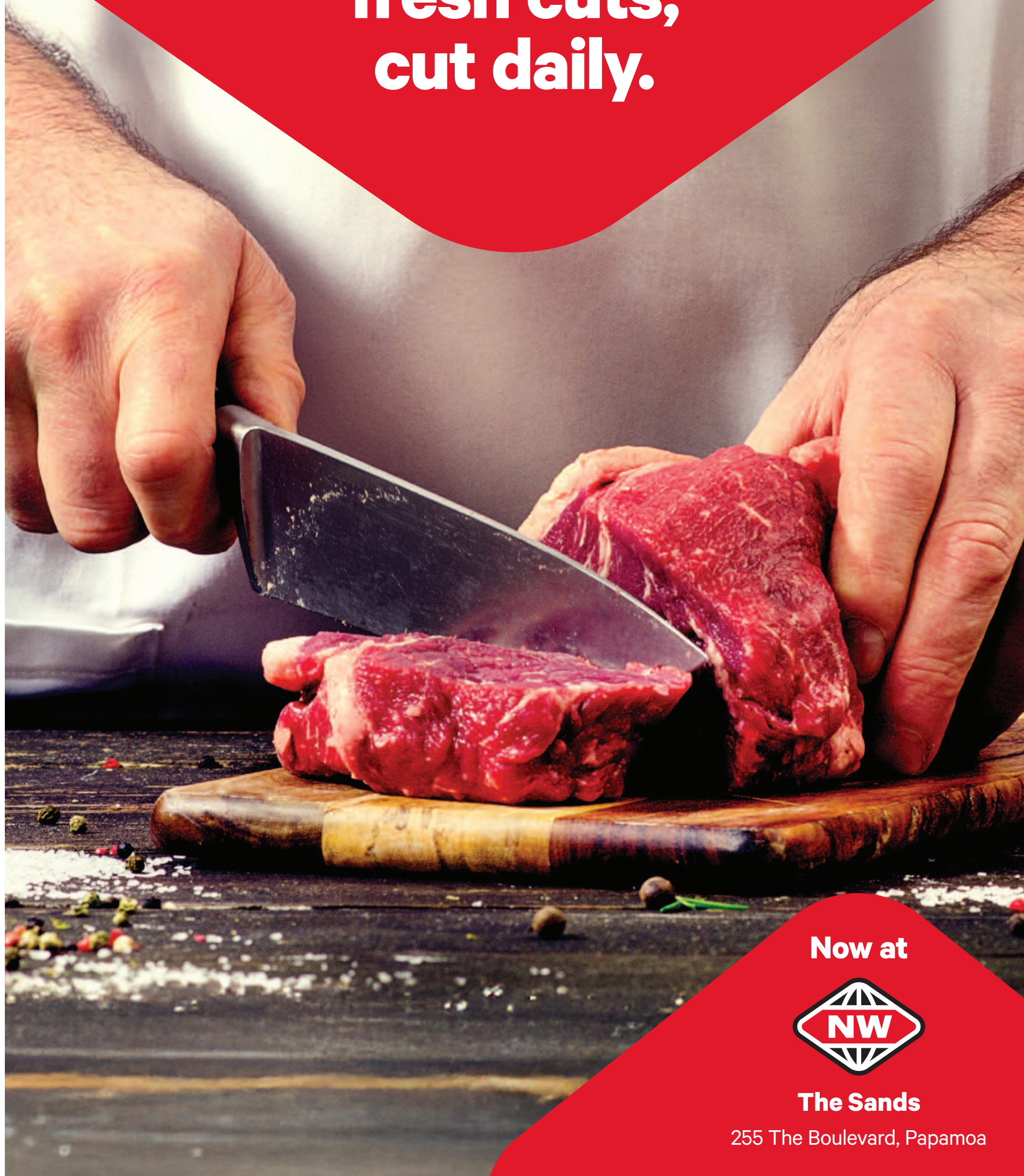
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