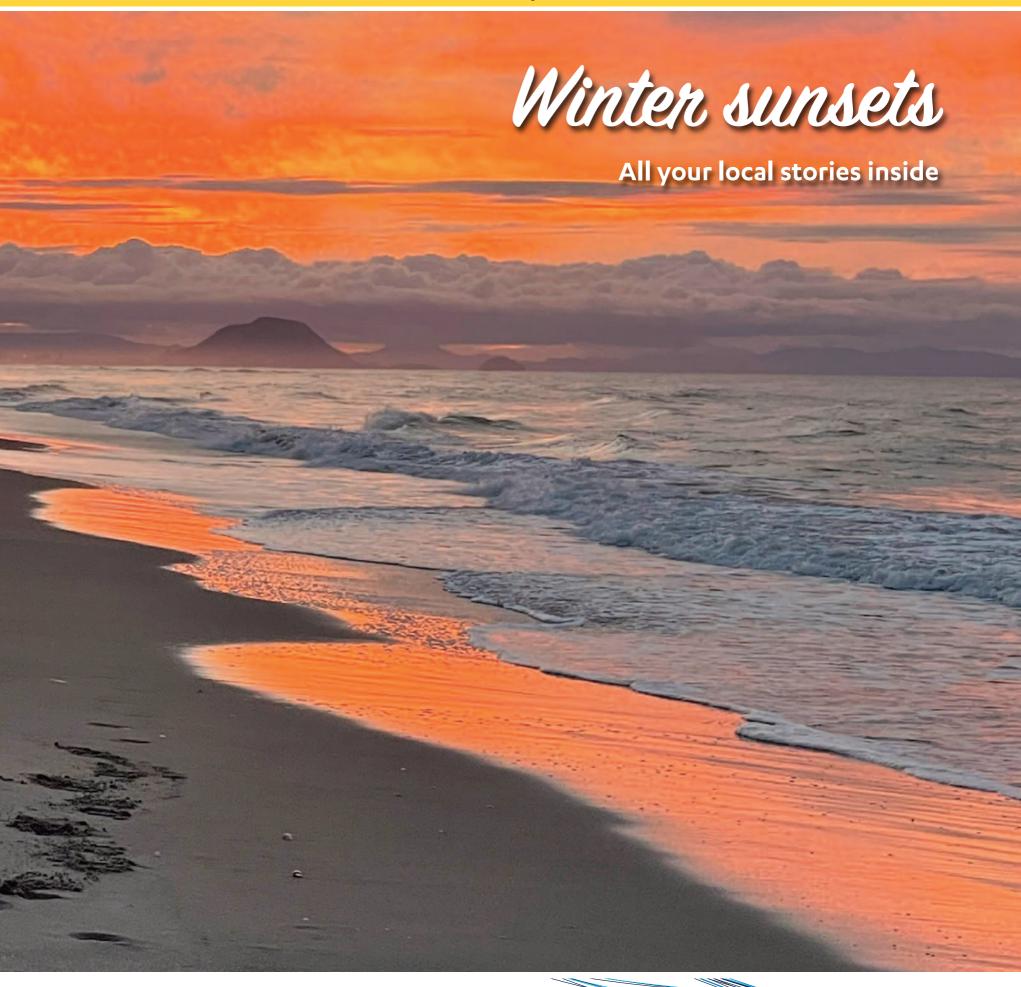
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From the

If you're looking for something fun to break out of the winter rut, how about signing up for Pāpāmoa's very own Amazing Race? The event is a Lions Club fundraiser for the Pāpāmoa Volunteer Fire Brigade to get an all-terrain vehicle.

With the beach being such a core part of leisure in Pāpāmoa - surf-casting, long-line fishing, and bonfires - it's essential that the brigade has a way to get down to the far end of the beach.

We are so fortunate to have a dedicated brigade of volunteers who give up their own time to keep us safe. Get behind the campaign if you can. You can read more about this on pages 5 and 7.

Ellen Irvine

Papanoa Post



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Bridge beams to be placed

he bridge beams over the Tauranga Eastern Link at the Pāpāmoa East Interchange will be installed in mid-August.

A new milestone will be reached with the installation of the 12 concrete beams for the overbridge, each weighing approximately 70 tonnes. The beams will be installed over four nights.

"Lifting the bridge beams into place to connect both sides of the Tauranga Eastern Link corridor is a major step towards completing the interchange and the culmination of years of planning, investigations, design and engagement with project partners, stakeholders and the local community," says Tauranga City Council's director of major transport projects Chris Barton

Installation of the beams will involve a number of huge trucks and cranes, so a full



closure to traffic on the Tauranga Eastern Link Toll Road/SH2 is required. This work will be done at night, with a diversion for traffic via the Te Puke Highway for four nights from 8pm to 6am, starting Tuesday, 19 August (weather dependent).

Details on traffic impacts will be widely shared in the weeks ahead of the closure, including via digital signs at the entry to the Tauranga Eastern Link.

Interchange eastbound off-ramp to open in August

he eastbound off-ramp at the Pāpāmoa East Interchange is scheduled to open in the last week of August.

The early opening of the ramp will provide significant relief to the regularly congested Domain Road interchange during evening peak hours, when traffic volumes are highest in this direction.

But the threat of tolls looms, and Pāpāmoa ward councillor Steve Morris is mobilising the community to push back on "unfair" tolls.

While the off-ramp will initially be tollfree, NZTA is proposing to install another toll gantry on the western section of the TEL to capture users of the [interchange]. This raises serious questions about fairness for our region," says Steve.

The Bay of Plenty region will soon host three of New Zealand's four toll roads. Other major new roads around the country remain toll-free.

"The good news is that we can fight this. NZTA will soon open consultation on the proposed toll, and I strongly encourage every Pāpāmoa resident to get involved," says Steve.

"Keep an eye out for an upcoming consultation announcement from NZTA. When it opens, submit your feedback directly to them and reach out to our local MPs encouraging their support for fairness in the BOP

The Pāpāmoa East Interchange project is a joint initiative between Tauranga City Council and NZTA.

Bay of Plenty MP Tom Rutherford welcomed news of the early opening. While the eastbound on-ramp cannot open simultaneously, the off-ramp was the logical choice for early opening, says Tom.

"The contractor requires continued access up the eastern side of the interchange to complete the overbridge construction. Given we could open either the on-ramp or offramp early, but not both, the off-ramp was chosen due to the higher volume of traffic movement expected and the relief it will provide to Domain Road.

"This interchange is critical infrastructure for our region. Every step we can take to deliver benefits early makes a real difference to families dealing with congestion every day."

Tauranga City Council worked with the project contractor, Minister for Transport Chris Bishop, the New Zealand Transport Agency and local MP Tom Rutherford to make the early opening a reality.

The Pāpāmoa East Interchange is key to improving network connectivity for existing residents and will also enable ongoing residential and commercial development.

Mayor Mahé Drysdale says opening the off-ramp nine months ahead of schedule is a great outcome and will help ease traffic

The rest of the interchange will be open and ready to use in early-2026, which will have "a significant impact on improving traffic flows and ease of accessing the TEL from Pāpāmoa East", says Steve Morris.

The Council's Programme Director: Major Transport Projects, Chris Barton, says construction is progressing well, with costs also forecast to be within budget. 🔳

Rising Stars shine in Jersey Boys

wo of Pāpāmoa's brightest young performers, Morgan Kitching and James Ferns, are stepping into the spotlight in Tauranga Musical Theatre's upcoming production of *Jersey Boys: The Musical*.

With a shared passion for musical theatre and a deep appreciation of the music of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons, both performers bring energy and experience to this celebrated show.

At just 18 years old, Morgan already boasts an impressive musical theatre resume. Since joining the Tauranga Musical Theatre Youth Programme in 2023, she has taken on a variety of roles, including Elle Woods in *Legally Blonde*, Katherine Plumber in *Newsies Jr.*, Anna in *Frozen Jr.*, and Eponine in *Les Misérables* – a performance that earned her a Zony Award nomination. She also represented New Zealand in the 2025 Kiwi All-Stars programme, performing at the Junior Theatre Festival in Sacramento, California.

In *Jersey Boys*, Morgan plays Francine Valli, Frankie Valli's daughter, as well as several ensemble characters.

For Morgan, *Jersey Boys* is more than just another show. "Since the show was announced last year, I have been listening to the soundtrack on repeat. I love the authenticity of that era of music and I'm looking forward to bringing it to life on stage," she says.

Having recently graduated from high school, she sees this production as a valuable opportunity for growth during her gap year.

"It's a great learning experience and a chance to work with a new creative team."

Seventeen-year-old James shares Morgan's enthusiasm. A familiar face in the theatre



James Ferns and Morgan Kitching share the stage in Tauranga Musical Theatre's production of Jersey Boys: The Musical this September.

community, James began his theatre journey in 2020 and has since performed in productions such as *Peter Pan Jr., Frozen Jr., Matilda: The Musical*, and *Les Misérables*. He also represented New Zealand in the 2025 Kiwi All-Stars programme.

In *Jersey Boys*, James is relishing the experience of being in the ensemble and as understudy for the role of Nick Massi.

"I've always loved the music from The Four Seasons era, so being able to get on stage and share that was a big factor in choosing to audition," he says.

Both performers highlight the vocal

rehearsals as a standout part of the process.

"Hearing everyone sing together and seeing the work we're all putting in is so exciting," says James. "It makes you realise just how much talent you're surrounded by."

Morgan agrees, noting the thrill of hearing harmonies come together after practising solo. "It's a whole other exciting thing when you finally hear your part with the rest of the cast."

Of course, every production comes with its challenges. For Morgan, mastering the Jersey accent has been a fun, but tricky, task.

"It's so different from any other accents I've done before!" she says.

James, meanwhile, has had to adjust to dancing with a guitar – something he didn't expect to be quite so difficult.

"I'm grateful to have Lindsey [Share, choreographer] there to stop me from smacking someone with a guitar head," he jokes

As they prepare to take the stage, both performers are excited – and a little nervous.

"Getting into Baycourt is going to feel exciting, nerve-wracking and familiar all at once," says Morgan.

James adds, "It's a big stage, so with a smaller cast, it means that you have a lot of space to move around and play with. It also means there is nowhere to 'hide', but that's part of the thrill."

As opening night approaches, both performers are eager to share the magic of *Jersey Boys* with local audiences.

"The songs in the show are ones that audiences likely know, so it's sure to have people humming the tunes long after they leave the theatre," Morgan says.

James adds, "The story of The Four Seasons is one that all ages will enjoy. Plus, I believe that the enjoyment being had on stage by the cast will be something the whole audience feels."

Don't miss the chance to see these talented young performers. Performed by a local cast and crew, with a live band, *Jersey Boys* runs from September 11 to 27 at Baycourt Community & Arts Centre. Tickets from eventfinda.co.nz or at the Baycourt Box Office.

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Big splash for the Polar Plunge



ore than 200 people braved the chill to take a winter ocean dip in the 2025 Pāpāmoa Polar Plunge.

The event was the first under the Visit Pāpāmoa brand, after the organisation changed its name from Pāpāmoa Unlimited.

Visit Pāpāmoa committee member Raegen Tyrer says the Polar Plunge was an absolute

"We had over 200 brave plungers hit the water dressed as snowmen, road cones, superheroes, and Santa's helpers. All being cheered on by their incredible support crews on the beach. The atmosphere was electric

- full of laughs, wild costumes, and unbeatable community spirit," says Raegen.

"We're incredibly grateful to our partners at Pāpāmoa Surf Life Saving Club for keeping everyone safe, our generous sponsors for the epic spot prizes, the amazing vendors who helped set the vibe, and our incredible volunteers - they kept everything running smoothly with big smiles and even bigger

Raegen says the event showcased the character of the Pāpāmoa community: "bold, enthusiastic, and just the right amount of

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More than 200 people took up the challenge for a mid-winter dip. PHOTOS: VISIT PAPAMOA











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Andy launches friendly new companion driving service in Pāpāmoa



etting safely where you need to go – with a chat and a smile – is what Andy Ryan does best.

After nine years helping Pāpāmoa locals

with household jobs as "Handy Andy," Andy has launched a new business: A Plus Companion Driving.

Whether you need an airport run, a



hospital appointment in Tauranga or Whakatāne, a shopping trip, or just a ride to see friends, Andy will get you there comfortably and reliably. He'll pick you up at your door, ensure you're safely inside at the other end, and be there to bring you home.

"It's about having someone you trust and know – always the same person, so there's familiarity," says Andy. "I really enjoy a good chat, getting to know people and offering that personal care. Having a driver means people can keep their independence, which is so important."

Andy knows first-hand how valuable safe, reliable personal transport can be. After a fall from a ladder left him with broken bones and months of medical appointments, he saw how much difference it made to have someone caring and dependable to help.

"When I was a handyman, people often

asked me to take them to appointments. Now I can do that properly," says Andy. "I used to sit down with them for a coffee and a chat – and now we can do that on the road."

Andy and his wife Wanda have lived in Pāpāmoa for nine years and raised their three children here. He's proud to serve the community he calls home.

Fully licensed and police-checked, Andy ensures every client can travel with peace of mind. A Plus Companion Driving is also in the process of becoming ACC accredited.

If you or someone you know would like to book a ride with Andy, you can call or text 021 112 9140, or email apluscompaniondriving@gmail.com.

Check out his website at

www.a-plus-companion-driving.com, and find Andy on Facebook at 'A plus, companion driving'.

Amazing Race-style challenge to raise funds for Pāpāmoa Fire Brigade

Pāpāmoa locals are being invited to buckle up, solve clues, and race around their own backyard – all in support of the Pāpāmoa Volunteer Fire Brigade.

The Amazing Race Pāpāmoa will be held on Saturday September 6, offering families and friends a fun day out while helping raise \$60,000 for a new all-terrain vehicle that the brigade needs to reach emergencies off-road.

"It's a way for the Pāpāmoa community to support their fire brigade and have a

great day in the process," says Pāpāmoa Fire Chief Arron King.

While TV host Phil Keoghan won't be on hand, local MP Tom Rutherford will help launch the event.

The challenge has been designed with 17 stops around Pāpāmoa, each featuring a fun, family-friendly task or puzzle. Like the hit TV show The Amazing Race, teams will need to complete a challenge at each stop before receiving their next clue and continuing the circuit.

"It's really a chance to explore your own backyard," says Arron.

The course has been designed by Arron's wife Paula King, ensuring local knowledge shapes every twist and turn.

The event will wrap up at Pāpāmoa Surf Life Saving Club, where participants can enjoy a gold-coin BBQ to celebrate completing the challenge.

Pāpāmoa Lions Club member Margaret Brasting says the event has had tremendous support from local businesses, many of whom have signed up as points of interest or challenge hosts along the way.

"It's a circuit right around Pāpāmoa," says Margaret.

Entry is \$50 per car, making it an affordable family day out that directly supports a vital local service.

To enter or find out more, email: atv4papamoa@lionsclubs.org.nz

Read more about the ATV campaign on page 7.



EVES Open returns to Pāpāmoa for its fourth year

Professional tennis returns to the Bay of Plenty this summer, with the World Tennis Tour once again taking place at the Pāpāmoa Tennis Club.

Scheduled for 15-21 December, the EVES Open will bring together some of the world's best up-and-coming players, competing for official WTA and ATP ranking points and more than \$60,000 in prize money.

Now in its fourth year, the tournament has become a fixture on the local Tauranga events calendar, marking the start of the summer and Christmas season. Pāpāmoa ward councillor Steve Morris says it's great to see the event return.

"Bringing world-class sport to Pāpāmoa is a real win for the city – and the fact it's free to attend makes it even better for our community. We're big fans of tennis here, with Tauranga leading the country in growth for both memberships and casual play.

"Tauranga City Council is proud to support this event through the Tauranga Event Fund, which helps bring more arts, culture, and sporting experiences to life, making our city an even better place to live and visit.

"The event's gone from strength to strength over the past few years, and it's fantastic to welcome an event of this calibre back to Pāpāmoa."

Players have often praised the EVES Open for its atmosphere and hospitality, with many calling it their favourite tournament at this level. Gareth Archer, commercial and marketing manager for Tennis New Zealand, says the event is also vital for local athletes.

"Kiwi players have to travel far and wide to earn prize money and ranking points. Events like the EVES Open are crucial. They offer players the chance to compete on home soil, with the backing of a local crowd."

Last year, more than 40 New Zealanders competed in the men's and women's singles draws, alongside players from more than 15 countries.

This year's tournament will offer plenty for fans and families, including a junior school holiday programme and the NZ Wheelchair Tennis Championships, which will be held alongside the main draw. The popular courtside hospitality tables will return, offering food and wine close to the action. Public entry is free all week, with great vantage points from the grass banks around the courts.

Along with EVES, the event is proudly supported by Tauranga City Council and TECT through their event funds, ensuring the tournament remains free for spectators.



Some of the action at a previous EVES Open in Pāpāmoa.

Open-plan learning to end; classrooms go single-cell

Pāpāmoa College has announced plans to reconfigure its open-plan learning spaces into single cell classrooms, with construction starting this year.

The decision is in line with the Government's call to end construction of open-plan classrooms, ensuring all new classrooms are designed with flexibility to deliver better student outcomes.

In a message to parents, principal Iva Ropati and presiding member Dr Clarke Raymond say the Board considers the current layout as a significant barrier to educational achievement at Pāpāmoa College.

"The school was built in 2011 and was considered a Ministry of Education flagship

school for modern teaching and learning. It was built purposely to accommodate large groups of learners in single shared spaces without any physical separation.

"The school completed its own due diligence over the past few years and, amongst other things, trialled relocating senior students from the open plan spaces into our temporary relocatable classrooms. This initiative has resulted in positive achievement outcomes for the students and the school"

As a consequence of shifting seniors into more private learning spaces there has been a dramatic improvement in NCEA achievement for Year 11 to 13 learners,

sav Iva and Clarke

"Compared with 2020 Level 1 NCEA has increased from 63.5 per cent to 82.4 per cent, Level 2 from 67.5 per cent to 88.3 per cent and Level 3 from 66.4 per cent to 74.2 per cent

"We are also experiencing much higher levels of student engagement and overall enjoyment of teaching and learning.

"Our findings are consistent with the general consensus among NZ schools and the current government stance on all new classroom builds. We are now proudly amongst other high performing secondary schools in the BOP, and anticipate that our achievement results will continue to trend

upwards as a result of changes to our learning environment in the future."

Bay of Plenty MP Tom Rutherford has welcomed the Government's decision to end the building of open-plan classrooms.

"This is excellent news for schools across the Bay of Plenty who have been telling us that open-plan classrooms simply aren't working for their students and teachers," says Tom.

The Government's new approach prioritises flexible standard designs over open-plan layouts, using features like glass sliding doors that allow spaces to open for collaboration but close for focused learning.



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Brigade callouts increasing

n 2016, the Pāpāmoa Volunteer Fire Brigade responded to 135 calls. By July of this year, they had already reached 136 callouts.

The Pāpāmoa brigade celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2023 and has seen a steady rise in callouts over the years as the area has grown.

The organisation is one of hundreds of volunteer brigades making up 86 per cent of New Zealand's firefighting force, a fact many locals may not be aware of.

"That a lot of people don't realise we are a volunteer brigade is a credit to the brigade," says Fire Chief Arron King. "We're here, we've been here for 50 years. The red truck turning up – the level of service is the same [as a paid brigade]."

The brigade is on the lookout for new recruits as it keeps pace with the growing number of callouts, and the challenges of a fast-growing community.

The brigade currently has 18 firefighters and 4–5 support crew, but is hoping to find 2–3 more volunteers to help cover an everincreasing workload.

Arron says finding the right people can be challenging, particularly given the need for availability during the working week.

"The challenge we have is where do people live, what is their availability mid-week, middle of the day," he says. "It's ideal for shift workers or the self-employed."

Earlier this year, the team received a new fire truck, which meant upskilling in pump operation and other training requirements.

Pat Wilson was made Deputy Chief of the brigade earlier this year, while former deputy Brent Sanford remains an active and valued long-serving member of the crew.

Arron says Pāpāmoa's rapid development is also posing new challenges on the ground, particularly in newly built subdivisions with narrow streets.

"A friendly reminder to people: we need to be able to get down those narrow streets," he says. "Please don't park on a fire hydrant – it's illegal. This is a real bugbear for us."

Despite the demands, the brigade remains committed to serving its community and welcomes anyone interested in joining to get in touch.



Pāpāmoa Volunteer Fire Brigade chief Arron King

ATV campaign ramps up

The fundraising push for a new all-terrain vehicle (ATV) for the Pāpāmoa Volunteer Fire Brigade is gathering momentum, with the local community rallying behind the cause.

The Pāpāmoa Lions Club is leading the effort to raise the \$60,000 needed to purchase the specialist vehicle, which will help the brigade respond more effectively to emergencies along the beach and in challenging terrain.

Fire Chief Arron King says the ATV will make a major difference, especially for beach callouts along the 25km stretch from Mauao to the Kaituna Cut.

"The 'big red thing' can't go along the beach," says Arron of the fire truck. "A lot of our residents go down there to surf cast, long line and have bonfires. We have had calls to bonfires at the end of Pāpāmoa Beach past where the houses end. It's not safe for the guys. We have had calls in the Welcome Bay Hills / Pāpāmoa Hills area.

"It's not a case of if it [a major remote incident] is going to happen but when."

While an ATV is not part of Fire and Emergency New Zealand's (FENZ) standard



fleet – and therefore not funded centrally – Arron says it will be a vital local asset.

"I've been chief here for five years. One of my first things talking to the brigade was let's do a brainstorm of what we want. As a brigade we came up with this."

After securing FENZ approval for the purchase, the responsibility for raising

the funds fell to the brigade – which is where the Lions Club stepped in.

Margaret Brasting, from the Lions Club's ATV4 Pāpāmoa Project Committee, says the group quickly saw how much the new vehicle would help the workload of local volunteer firefighters.

The Lions have worked hard to encourage

community groups, schools, retirement villages, and other organisations to get involved. Fundraising activities have included a Pāpāmoa Hills climb, quiz night, collection days, a display at Pāpāmoa Plaza, a Givealittle page, and now an Amazing Race-style event. (See story page 5).

Local schools have also supported the cause: Pāpāmoa College held a mufti day and car wash, Pāpāmoa Primary School ran a pizza day, and Suzanne Aubert Catholic School also contributed.

Margaret says the project has not only raised vital funds but also helped raise awareness about both the fire brigade's needs and the work of the Lions Club.

The Lions Club of Pāpāmoa is like a secret service, going quietly about its volunteer work, jokes Margaret.

"This project has given us the opportunity to touch all sorts of people, it's given Pāpāmoa Lions a higher profile in the community. Our members are very committed.

"I always feel like the person who comes along and gives 50 cents has as much impact as someone who gives a \$10 note. Everyone can be included. The cause is the important thing."

Also pitching in are a dedicated group of Leos – youth volunteers from Pāpāmoa College who work alongside the Lions. It was one of these Leos who came up with the project's fitting slogan:

"Our beach, our brigade, our safety."



Healthy eye care habits How to use your home

By Blur Eyecare

about the importance of eye health, it goes without saying, our eyes are one of the most vital organs in our body, yet they often get overlooked in our daily health routines (excuse the pun). With increasing screen time and exposure to environmental stressors, maintaining healthy vision has become more important than ever. Unfortunately some factors can't be avoided, and not everyone is blessed with straightforward eye health, however a few simple habits can go a long way in maintaining it. Here are some key practices to incorporate into your daily life:

- Spending hours staring at digital screens can cause eye strain, dryness, and even headaches. Practice the 20-20-20 rule: every 20 minutes, look at something 20 metres away for at least 20 seconds. We know this is easier said than done when you're in "work mode" but give it a go. Even if it's not quite as frequent as this, it will be better than staring at those screens for hours on end!
- Dry eyes can be very uncomfortable and may even affect your vision. Blinking often, especially when using screens, helps spread tears evenly over the eye. If you experience persistent dryness, we recommend asking your Optometrists about eye drops to help alleviate this.
- UV rays from the sun can harm your eyes over time, increasing the risk of cataracts and macular degeneration. Wear sunglasses that block UVA and UVB rays when you're outdoors, even on cloudy days.
- A balanced diet rich in vitamins and antioxidants supports long-term eye health.



Incorporate foods high in omega-3 fatty acids, vitamin C, vitamin E, and zinc to help protect against age-related vision problems. You can also speak to your Optometrist about supplements that are specifically suited to you and your eye health.

- Avoid touching or rubbing your eyes with dirty hands, and always remove makeup before bed. If you wear contact lenses, follow proper cleaning and storage procedures to prevent infection.
- Routine eye exams help detect vision changes and screen for common eye diseases like glaucoma, especially as you age. Even if you don't wear glasses, a check-up every one to two years is a smart preventive step.

By adopting these habits, you're not only caring for your eyes in the present but also safeguarding your vision for the future. The team at Blur Eyecare Pāpāmoa are here to help. Call us on 07 282 7129, or pop in to Unit 5/17 Toorea Street, at Spring Pāpāmoa.

low to use your home equity to buy a rental property

By Rachel Cole of Harcourts

Thinking about buying an investment property or holiday home? Your current home could be the key to making it happen – thanks to equity.

So, what is equity?

In simple terms, equity is the portion of your home you truly own. It's calculated by subtracting what you still owe on your mortgage from your home's current market value. For example, if your home is worth \$700,000 and you owe \$350,000, you have \$350,000 in equity.

This equity can be a powerful financial tool, especially if you're looking to expand your property portfolio.

How does it grow?

Equity builds over time in two main ways: by paying down your mortgage and as your property value increases. You can also boost equity by making extra mortgage repayments or upgrading your home to lift its value

Can you access it?

Yes – provided you meet your lender's criteria. Most banks will allow you to borrow up to 80 per cent of your home's value. You might access this equity by refinancing your mortgage, using a redraw facility to tap into extra repayments, or taking out a home equity loan.



Rachel Cole.

It's important to talk to a mortgage adviser to understand which option suits your situation best, especially under the Reserve Bank's lending rules.

More than just investing

While using equity to buy a second property is common, it's not the only option. Equity can also fund renovations, help pay off high-interest debt, or cover major expenses like a new vehicle.

Ready to get started?

Using equity smartly can help you move toward your financial or lifestyle goals. Speak to a mortgage expert, then phone me on 0800 RACH 4 U and turn that equity into opportunity.





American flag football grows in popularity

fast-growing sport and a tight-knit team – meet the Pacific Coast Sharks, Pāpāmoa's very own American Flag Football Club.

The club was founded in 2024 by Graham Whyte, who is on a mission to grow the game of flag football in Pāpāmoa. With a strong focus on tamariki and rangatahi, the club offers a fun, safe, and inclusive space for young people to develop their skills, build friendships, and experience team sport.

Graham played American football in the UK before moving to Pāpāmoa four years ago. He decided to introduce flag football – the fastest-growing Olympic sport in the world – to the



The Pacific Coast Sharks American Football Club offers a new sport to youth in Pāpāmoa.

local community. Graham runs taster sessions to the sport in schools, and realised there was an appetite for it.

"We got the backing of the community, and it's gone from strength to strength," says Graham. "We've officially been a club for 12 months."

Flag football is a non-contact version of American football that emphasises speed, agility, and strategy – perfect for players of all skill levels. With growing international recognition and its inclusion in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, it's an exciting time for the sport globally and locally.

As a summer sport, flag football runs from September to March, and doesn't clash with winter codes. Last summer the new club attracted 37 players – a fantastic start for a new and niche sport – and hopes to grow this season. Currently there are two grades – under 16 and under 12 – with mixed teams available.

The club has its eyes on the future: by focusing on the youth and junior players now, those players are the future senior team.

In September the club will host its inaugural Junior and Youth Flag Football tournament in Pāpāmoa. This event is open to all clubs and organisations, and Graham hopes to attract a decent number of the 30-odd clubs based around New Zealand



The tournament will be held on Sunday, September 28 at Gordon Spratt Reserve.

Meet Graham and the team, including his wife Kay who is the club's secretary, at their fortnightly stall at the Pāpāmoa Community Market.

To learn more about the Pacific Coast Sharks or to get involved this season, see the Facebook page 'Pacific Coast Sharks American Football Club'. ■







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.



Meet "The Calm Guy": Lloyd's mission | Xavier shoots for the win to support men's mental health

hen people sit down with Lloyd Shand, they often tell him the same thing: he has a remarkably calming presence.

"That's the feedback every time," says Lloyd. "It's kind of my superpower, it's what I bring when I sit with people."

It's this natural gift for putting people at ease that inspired the name of his coaching business: The Calm Guy.

Based in Pāpāmoa, Lloyd is passionate about helping men aged in their 30s to 50s reset from burnout, overwhelm, and stress, without guilt, pressure, or pretending everything's fine.

Through 1:1 coaching and a podcast he co-hosts (What No One Told Us), Lloyd is working to create safe, grounded spaces for men to reset, get clear, and feel more like themselves again - without all the pressure to "man up."

For Lloyd, this work is personal. After experiencing the unexpected loss of both his father and sister, he has spent the last few years turning that pain into purpose. He has volunteered at Grief Support Services for over two years, walking alongside others who are navigating grief and personal hardship. Today, Lloyd also works with men in the community, offering support through conversation, connection, and care.

While he is calm now, the father of two says just a few years ago he was juggling owning a busy cafe, family, grief, and the pressure to keep it all together.

That breaking point became a turning point, not just for him, but for the men he now works with.

"I had to learn ways to be able to manage my own mental health," says Lloyd, who started working with a coach, eventually inspiring a career change to become a coach himself.

"Going through my own journey I've had to learn that it's okay to open up and talk about what's going on for you. Since becoming a coach I've had



Lloyd Shand

the privilege of holding space for other men."

Via his podcast, Lloyd also facilitates an open conversation between two men, sharing from their own lived experience.

"We wanted to offer a space that is authentic. We aren't afraid to be vulnerable," he says.

Volunteering as a peer support at Grief Support Services has been a meaningful journey for Lloyd, walking alongside someone, meeting them where they're at, and listening.

"The grief journey is not linear. To know you are not alone, that's really powerful," says Lloyd.

For any men struggling with overwhelm, Lloyd's advice is that there is a way through. His approach is one of balance and a holistic perspective.

"The biggest thing to start with is connection. Connecting to family, connecting to important people in vour life, do vou have a sense of community, connecting with the natural world. Nature has been a massive healing avenue available all the time, and it doesn't cost anything."

Connect with Lloyd via his website: thecalmguy.co.nz

ormer Pāpāmoa basketballer Xavier del Mundo is now playing the sport in the United States and is raising his profile by going for the title of Youth Athlete of The Year.

The 12-year-old now lives in Texas and is vying with other young athletes in a competition to win US\$25,000, and appear in a 3BRAND advertisement in Sports Illustrated. The competition is looking for "an exceptional young athlete who represents everything we love about sports: a dedication to greatness, fierce competition, and a commitment to their teammates and competitors alike".

Xavier's mum Rachael Barton del Mundo says he has had scouts in the US advising him.

As a Pāpāmoa Primary School student, Xavier was featured in the Pāpāmoa Post in 2023 when he was selected to attend an elite camp for the sport in the United States. He was one of only around 75 children around the world to get an invitation to the July 2024 Phenom America Jr. Camp in California. The camp is invite-only and features training, education, and evaluation for young basketball players.

While the family is now living in the States, where Xavier's dad Ric del Mundo is originally from, Rachael says their heart is in the Bay: "New Zealand, and Pāpāmoa especially is still home."

Rachel says Xavier has a shy nature and basketball has been a



Xavier del Mundo

great way for him to break the ice and make friends.

"Belonging to a team is a brotherhood... even if he still doesn't say much, he doesn't have to be locked into the kind of isolation that shyness can cause and he can instead speak with his handle," she says in his blurb for the competition.

"Athletes can look like they have it all but most have to overcome something difficult to achieve success, Xavier feels lucky that he gets to play a sport he loves that also helps him off the court."

To vote for Xavier see: athleteoftheyear.org



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GENERUS LIVING

Top young talent takes the stage

Pāpāmoa's Got Talent returns this August as local primary schools battle it out with their unique acts.

The event was established in 2023 to celebrate the talent and artistic strengths of youth within the Pāpāmoa community, says organiser Liz Proudlock of Pāpāmoa College.

"From juggling and dancing to singing and playing instruments, students from all contributing schools submit their top four acts to showcase in a vibrant variety concert held at Pāpāmoa College," says Liz.

Now in its third year, the event continues to grow, with local schools running heats to determine their top acts. This year's showcase will take place on Friday 22 August at 6pm in the Pāpāmoa College theatre, with students from Golden Sands, Suzanne Aubert Catholic School, Te Akau ki Pāpāmoa Pri-

mary, and Tahatai Coast School all entering acts. Intermediate performers from Pāpāmoa College will also take to the stage, sharing their talents with the wider community.

The event has already proven its pedigree – last year's winning act, rock band Indigo from Tahatai Coast School, has gone on to compete in the Smokefree Rockquest as Pāpāmoa College students, winning the musicianship award against schools across the Bay of Plenty.

"Student MCs will host the evening, while musicians from Pāpāmoa College will entertain the audience during judging deliberations, and senior arts students will volunteer backstage and capture photographs of the event" says Liz.

"Pāpāmoa's Got Talent is about fostering a love for the arts, celebrating student creativ-

ity, and giving young performers the opportunity to experience the excitement of performing for a live audience. This event is a wonderful celebration of talent, teamwork, and the thriving arts culture within our Pāpāmoa community.

Every participant receives a voucher from Fresh Choice, ensuring every student feels like a winner. The top act will be awarded a shield and a Rock Shop voucher.



Last year's winning act, Indigo from Tahatai Coast School, whose members are now students at Pāpāmoa College.

Pāpāmoa Community Patrol marks quarter of a century



Tina Kemp and Debbie Youngman of Pāpāmoa Community Patrol.

n the year 2000, when Pāpāmoa was still a small coastal settlement, a group of enterprising local residents were worried about crime.

They formed a group - Pāpāmoa Night Owls to keep a watch on the community.

Now that organisation - known today as Pāpāmoa Community Patrol - is celebrating its 25-year anniversary, and the current team wants to invite all past volunteers to join the festivities.

Committee member Dianne Bognuda says the celebration on 16 November will involve the current 40 volunteers and celebrate the organisation's history. It will be a chance to reminisce and talk about how the patrol currently operates.

Dianne and husband Gary enjoy patrolling regularly and giving back.

"It's just helping the community. And as they say, being the eyes and ears of the police.

"We just enjoy doing it, and hopefully being out being seen, that we might deter some sort of crime."

The Patrol was established in September 2000 when like-minded citizens got together and set up "Pāpāmoa Night Owls". The group was formed due to the volume of crime and vandalism in the area with the full co-operation of the local Police Sergeant John Mills. The inaugural committee was Doreen Dunbar - Chair, Eileen Jones – Secretary, Brian Dunbar - Treasurer, with Tod Granshaw, Raewyn Welsh and Norman Jones as committee members.

Ninety Pāpāmoa residents signed up as members of the "Night Owls".

In May 2010 the Patrol name was changed to "Pāpāmoa Beach Community Patrol" (to align with Community Patrols New Zealand (CPNZ)) and then in May 2014 the name was changed to "Pāpāmoa Community Patrol" and was registered as an incorporated society.

Pāpāmoa residents continue to volunteer their time to assist the Police to make the local community a safer environment in which to live, with current membership about 40

To get in touch with the organisers of the anniversary celebration, contact papamoa@cpnz.org.nz ■



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Tauranga City Councillor for Pāpāmoa Ward Steve Morris

Pāpāmoa East Interchange: A win for our community, but tolling concerns loom

'm delighted to announce that Tauranga City Council will open the off-ramp connecting the Tauranga Eastern Link (TEL) to Pāpāmoa East by the end of August – months ahead of schedule. This is a major milestone for the Pāpāmoa East Interchange (PEI), and it wouldn't have been possible without some support. Last year, I reached out to Mayor Mahé Drysdale and MP Tom Rutherford, asking them to help clear roadblocks in Wellington so we could connect Council's new interchange to the TEL early. Both reached out to Minister Chris Bishop to make this happen. The off-ramp will ease our evening commute, taking pressure off the Domain Road exit and

saving us valuable family time in the evening. The rest of the PEI will be open and ready to use in early-2026 – ahead of both time and budget

However, a significant concern remains. While the off-ramp will initially be toll-free, NZTA is proposing to install another toll gantry on the western section of the TEL to capture users of the PEI. This raises serious questions about fairness for our region.

A double standard in tolling

The Bay of Plenty seems to face a glaring double standard when it comes to road tolling.

Soon, our region will host three of New Zealand's four toll roads. Meanwhile, the \$884 million Manawatu/Tararua Highway, \$837 million Hamilton Bypass, and the \$1.25 billion Transmission Gully Motorway all opened toll-free. For Pāpāmoa residents, this feels particularly unjust. We're already funding half the PEI through our rates and the other half through petrol taxes. Adding a toll on top of that means we'd effectively be paying twice for infrastructure that other regions enjoy without extra charges.

Your voice matters

The good news is that we can fight this.

NZTA will soon open consultation on the proposed toll, and I strongly encourage every Pāpāmoa resident to get involved. We've seen community action work just last year - submissions and political pressure convinced NZTA to abandon plans to toll the Manawatu/Tararua Highway.

Keep an eye out for an upcoming consultation announcement from NZTA. When it opens, submit your feedback directly to them and reach out to our local MPs encouraging their support for fairness in the BOP too. As always, I'm keen for your thoughts and feedback: steve.morris@tauranga.govt.nz or 021 0900 1817.

Pāpāmoa food Hub update

By Pāpāmoa Food Hub founder Bruce Banks Whith winter upon us, demand for food support continues to grow in Pāpāmoa and we are doing our best to support those in need. There will never be enough funds to support everyone who makes a request and that is for a number of reasons.

Pāpāmoa Food Hub receives no government funding and needs to identify other grant funders, philanthropists and local businesses for financial support.

We need to prioritise the funding we do receive so that families are the first to be supported. It is a well-known fact that children who go to school hungry find it so much harder to concentrate and therefore their learning is disadvantaged. Well-fed kids do better and that is the outcome we strive for.

With limited funding we must work with what we have, and to overspend each week would be a very irresponsible operating model. So we work within our capacity, to be



PAPAMOA FOOD HUB

around for a long time to come

Another limitation is our volunteers. We are almost 100 per cent run on volunteer time and commitment. The volunteers give us so much of their time and that is really appreciated.

To offer to help, donate, or request a food parcel, go to our website and click on the relevant tab.

www.papfoodhub.org.nz

When applying for a food parcel please make sure you fill out all the information requested. Incomplete forms just slow the process down and you run the chance of missing out.

Our first set of free cooking classes was a roaring success and the new term is now underway, with another group of locals keen to learn a bit more about feeding their family good, healthy, nutritious and economical meals.

By next month's issue of the Pāpāmoa Post we hope to tell our community about a new partnership to make our cook-



ental Care Body Sprays Soap Shampoo & Conditioners Period Products Jams

Donations of these items can be dropped off to the Property Brokers office at the Plaza, or MP Tom Rutherfords' office on Domain Road or purchased in-store at Pak'nSave and left in the Donation Bin there.

ing classes accessible to more of our families, so watch this space for the announcement soon.

We are still needing a few more volunteers. Delivery team members are needed as well as people to help out at our stall at the Sunday market once a month. Please email us if you are interested in joining our team. admin@papfoodhub.org.nz

Finally, a massive thank you to our very generous community who continue to support us where they can. We could not do what we do without that help, so please get in touch if you see an opportunity to help us and in doing so, give back to your community.



Meet your Te Puke Funeral Director

Bruce Wills.

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- Pre payment options

If you have any questions at all Bruce and the team would love to talk to you. No obligation of course.

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MP for Bay of Plenty Tom Rutherford Getting back to basics: real reform for local government

ike many of you, I've been watching Tauranga City Council's recent 9.9 per cent rates increase with concern. When household budgets are already stretched. adding \$180 to \$1124 to rates bills hits hard. As your local MP and someone who lives right here in the Bay, I understand the frustration when rates keep climbing while basic services lag behind.

When I'm at the local café or walking the beach at Pāpāmoa, residents tell me they want councils focused on the basics that matter. Fix the roads, manage our water properly, and stop wasting money on projects that don't deliver real value. That's exactly what our Government's comprehensive local government reforms will achieve.

We've introduced the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill to Parliament – a game-changer that will legally require councils to prioritise core services like roading, water infrastructure, and rubbish collection when setting budgets. We're removing the vague "four well-beings" from council purposes and replacing them with clear accountability for basic services

The reforms include new financial performance measures with mandatory public reporting, so you'll see exactly how your rates are being spent. Councils will need to disclose all contractor and consultant spending - no more hiding costs in complex budget documents. When councils can cut nearly 100 staff positions and still hit ratepayers with a 9.9 per cent increase, something is fundamentally wrong with how local government oper-

Our Government has made it clear that we will not support new taxes and revenue tools for local authorities when there's clear scope for councils to improve value for money. We're working at pace on a rates cap model, with an update coming later this year. This is about addressing the number one issue facing families right now - the cost of living.

While improving council accountability, we're also creating new opportunities through our City and Regional Deal for Western Bay of Plenty. This 10-year partnership

Tom Rutherford



Tom Rutherford

between central and local government will unlock infrastructure investment, streamline planning, and coordinate development across our region. For Pāpāmoa families, this means better transport connections, improved water infrastructure, and more housing delivered through unified government action.

Our reforms also include significant regulatory relief, removing compliance burdens that add cost without adding value. This means more of your rates dollar goes toward fixing roads and maintaining services, not expanding bureaucracy.

By the end of 2025, we'll have the System Improvements Bill passed and our first Regional Deal delivering results. As someone who is a Bay of Plenty local, I'm determined to ensure our councils work for residents, not the other way around. Our Government is putting ratepayers first, ensuring every dollar spent delivers real value for our communi-

Neighbourhood Support

By Bruce Banks of Neighbourhood Support

hat a contrasting month we have just had regarding property crime in Pāpāmoa. The first two weeks were the school holidays, and we had 23 reported incidents. These were mainly around vehicle break-ins, taking items from cars, or an attempt to steal the car.

In the last two weeks we had just three reported incidents, which is a massive drop. You have to wonder if some/any of the first two weeks' offending was related to bored school kids just getting up to mischief?

In July we welcomed our new Sergeant to Pāpāmoa Police. Tanerahi Keno, (known as T.K), started here this month and is planned to remain here for the next two years or so.

It is also great to see our Community Constable Adrian return to normal duties after his ankle surgery. This means he is back in uniform and able to drive Police vehicles again. For Neighbourhood Support this means that we can get back to doing our very popular driveway meetings as soon as daylight savings starts. Driveway meetings are conducted in the early evening and are designed to refresh existing street groups or kick-start new groups. Keep an eve on the Neighbourhood Support e-newsletters for details.

Speaking about the e-newsletter, do you receive it in your inbox? If not, just email me and we can add your household to our mailing list. (nspapamoa@wbopns.org.nz) Our newsletters include a fortnightly property crime report and news from the frontline written by our Community Constable, along with other useful and helpful information that affects the wellbeing and safety of the Pāpāmoa community.

As we get closer to spring, I am beginning a programme to encourage more of our Pāpāmoa East streets to create their own street groups to better connect neighbours, making for a safer and more resilient street. This is a big job and I need to recruit a few volunteer helpers who can offer just a couple of hours a week to this project. There is so much to do because Pāpāmoa East is



Bruce Banks

growing so quickly. Please, if you can help, I would be grateful.

Finally, thanks to the big push from Tom Rutherford, your BoP MP, and Steve Morris, your Pāpāmoa ward councillor, pushing NZTA hard for the last many months. The Pāpāmoa East interchange is set to open partially later this month. This is a major development and will reduce some congestion along Te Okuroa Drive. An eastbound exit off the TEL will open to access The Sands and surrounding area.

That's it for this month: except I would like to thank all those many people who contacted me to congratulate me on my Paul Harris Fellowship I received from Rotary International. The award was for service to my community and in particular for the creation of the Pāpāmoa Food Hub, something that I am very proud of, and to be acknowledged was very humbling. It was a team effort and not just me that made the Food Hub come to fruition, so my thanks go to all those that helped make it happen. You know who you are.

nspapamoa@wbopns.org.nz













- Which actor played Forrest Gump in the 1994 film?
- What is the capital city of Canada?
- 3. Which book series begins with the line "Mr and Mrs Dursley of number four, Privet Drive..."?
- 4. In which sport would you perform a "kip" on uneven bars?
- 5. What year did New Zealand give women the right to vote?
- 6. What is the name of the fictional café in the TV show Friends?
- 7 Which planet is known for having a prominent ring system?
- 8. What is the national animal of Scotland?
- 9. Which artist painted The Persistence of Memory featuring melting clocks?
- 10. What is the name of the world's longest river (by most measurements)?
- 11. Which US state is known as the "Sunshine State"?
- What is the Māori word for family? 12.
- 13. Who directed The Grand Budapest Hotel?
- 14. What instrument does Yo-Yo Ma famously play?
- 15. What's the common name for the medical condition "epistaxis"?
- 16. In which city would you find the Colosseum?
- 17. Who wrote the novel The Book Thief?
- 18. What's the tallest species of penguin?
- What two colours are on the flag of Japan? 19.
- 20. What is the only fruit with seeds on the outside?
- 21. In New Zealand, what does the company Whittaker's primarily produce?
- 22. Which ballet features a girl named Clara and a toy that comes to life?
- 23 What's the main ingredient in traditional Japanese miso soup?
- 24. Which car company makes the Corolla?
- 25. Who was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize?
- 26. What does the internet abbreviation "DM" typically stand for?
- 27. Which popular word game app was purchased by The New York Times in 2022?
- 28. In Greek mythology, who turned everything he touched into gold?
- 29 What's the official currency of South Korea?
- 30. What kind of animal is a kakapo?
- 31. What is the largest bone in the human body?
- Who sings the song Flowers, released in 2023? 32.
- 33. What is the term for a group of iellyfish?
- What is the name of the first Hobbit encountered in The Lord of the Rings film trilogy? 34
- In which city is the Eiffel Tower located? 35.
- 36 What letter represents 50 in Roman numerals?
- 37. What is the cooking term for partially cooking vegetables in boiling water?
- 38. Which Shakespeare play features the characters Oberon and Titania?
- What number do you get if you add the sides of a triangle and multiply by zero? 39.
- What common household item was invented by Richard G. Drew in 1930? 40

ANSWERS

Scotch tape .U.

Zero .65

A Midsummer Night's Dream .85

Blanching 75 .95

> Paris .25.

Frodo .4δ

₩ гшаск .ΣΣ

Miley Cyrus .25 Femur

ΊΣ

A parrot (flightless, nocturnal) .02

South Korean won .62 King Midas

Wordle 77.

Direct Message .92

Marie Curie .25.

Toyota .42 Miso (fermented soybean paste)

.23. The Mutcracker 75.

Chocolate .12

Zfrawberry

Red and white ·61

Emperor penguin Markus Zusak 71

кошб

.9[

Nosebleed .SI

.02

OllaJ

Wes Anderson .Σſ

Whānau .21

Florida .11

The Mile .OI

Salvador Dalí .6

Unicorn

Saturn Ί.

Central Perk

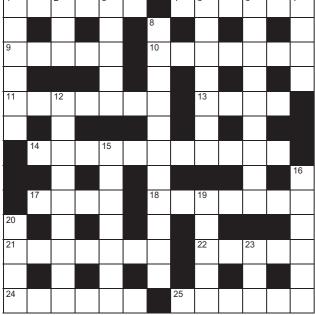
1862

Gymnastics Harry Potter

Ottawa

.2 Tom Hanks

Quick crossword



Down

1. Sheen (6)

2. Winning serve (3)

6. Regal colour (5,4)

5. Sovereign (7)

7. Whirlpool (4)

15. Flimsy (7)

16. Caress (6)

on (4,7)

3. Mix of rain and snow (5)

8. Friend who can't be relied

12. Feeling unwell (3-6)

19. Large black bird (5)

23. Give a nickname (3)

20. Minor quarrel (4)

Across

- 1. Act as go-between (6)
- 4. Become visible (6)
- 9. Sift (5)
- **10.** Irritated (7)
- 11. Adult male chicken (7)
- **13.** Depend (4)
- 14. Available in store, stock item (3-3-5)
- **17.** Fine, soft hair (4)
- **18.** Deluge (7)
- 21. Raise to a higher position 22. Visual recording (5)
- 24. To separate grains by flailing (6)
- 25. Lacking skill for a task (6)

Sudoku

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

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

8	4		9	7	3	8
8			9	Ļ́-	3	8
8			9	4	3	
		9				6
7				3	5	
		5				
5	7			6		
6						
			6			3
	7 5 6		7 5	7 5 5 7 6 6	7 3 3 5 7 6 6 0 0 0	7

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

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

TH SP ΑE Use the coloured letters to SC 70

ST

RA

Solutions

Crossword

16. Stroke, 19. Raven, 20. Spat, 23. Dub. blue, 7. Eddy, 8. Fair weather, 12. Off-colour, 15. Tenuous, Down: 1. Lustre, 2. Ace, 3. Sleet, 5. Monarch, 6. Royal 21. Promote, 22. Video, 24. Thresh, 25. Unable. Rooster, 13. Rely, 14. Off-the-shelf, 17. Down, 18. Torrent, Across: 1. Liaise, 4. Emerge, 9. Sieve, 10. Annoyed, 11.

Sudoku

Snakes and Ladders

THREE, APPLE. Puzzle 2 AERIAL, SCRIPT. THRICE, SPRITE, STRICT, RARITY, Fuzzle 1

9	L	8	L	2	9	7	6	3	П	3	L	8	9	L	9	7	2	6
t	9	2	6	1	3	8	9	1	П	1	7	9	3	7	6	9	8	L
L	6	3	Þ	8	G	L	9	7	П	Þ	6	9	7	8	L	9	1	3
8	Þ	9	L	L	2	9	3	6	П	L	8	1	Þ	9	3	6	9	2
6	3	1	9	9	t	7	L	8	П	6	9	3	1	9	7	L	Þ	8
9	7	L	3	6	8	L	Þ	9	П	9	Þ	7	L	6	8	3	G	L
3	1	7	2	9	6	G	8	L	Ш	G	3	7	6	7	1	8	L	9
1	8	6	9	t	1	3	2	9	П	8	1	L	9	3	9	2	6	t
2	9	9	8	3	L	6	1	t	П	7	9	6	8	L	Þ	L	3	G

All puzzles copyright The Puzzle Company

www.thepuzzlecompany.co.nz

New development on Beachwater Drive



onsent has been granted for three three-level buildings containing 36 units to be built on Beachwater Drive.

Sarah Omundsen, General Manager: Regulatory & Compliance for Tauranga City Council, says the site at 9 Beachwater Drive is zoned for high-density residential development.

"In 2024, resource consent was granted to establish 36 units across three three-story separate buildings. The development also includes a dedicated car park for each unit, and two communal outdoor open spaces, with an intention to retain some of the existing palm trees complemented by additional planting of native species."

The application was made by Archispace, and the council understands that the Tauranga Community Housing Trust (TCHT) intends to lease the site once developed.

"The consent was granted on a non-notified basis, which means that there were no public submissions on the process. To date, we aren't aware of any feedback from residents."

A public meeting was called by the community in response to the new residential development.

Neighbourhood Support shared news of the meeting, which was attended by Pāpāmoa ward councillor Steve Morris.



Students urge path users to "share with care"



Dāpāmoa Primary School Travel Smart leaders have a clear message for the community: "Share with care".

Their call comes as Tauranga City Council notes increasing concerns from shared pathway users about unsafe speeds and behaviour.

Pāpāmoa Primary School Year 6 student Brix Isaac, who regularly cycles along the Pāpāmoa Shared Pathway, says he's seen both good and bad behaviour on the paths.

"You need to be kind to pedestrians who are next to you – don't swerve in front of them," says Brix. "Most people want to do the right thing on shared paths – and keeping left is a simple way everyone can help make them safer and more enjoyable."

The advice when using a shared pathway is simple: slow down, keep left, keep dogs on a short leash, and ring your bell when passing. These small actions can make a big difference for children, families, and older pedestrians who use the paths daily.

Pāpāmoa ward councillor Steve Morris sup-

ports the students' message, noting that the city's shared pathways are meant to be safe and inclusive spaces for all.

"It's a timely reminder that our shared pathways are for everyone," says Steve. "Slowing down and showing courtesy helps create a safer, more enjoyable environment for all users – especially our children.

"With more people using our city's scenic pathways for walking, cycling, and commuting, the need for respectful and responsible behaviour is more important than ever."

E-bike riders are encouraged to keep their bikes on a low-power mode and adjust their speed to match those around them. This helps ensure a safe and comfortable experience for everyone sharing the pathways.

Pedestrians also play a key role in creating safer shared spaces. Walking on the left helps keep shared paths flowing smoothly and when walking in a group, be mindful of others – move to the left in busy areas or when others are approaching.



Amazing Race

Saturday September 6 at 1pm

Make your way around Pāpāmoa completing fun challenges

\$50 entry per car

Prizes up for grabs

Followed by a BBQ at the end

To register or for more details email atv4papamoa@lionsclubs.org.nz

All proceeds go towards funding an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) for Pāpāmoa Volunteer Fire Brigade

Please register by 1 September

A Pāpāmoa Lions Club Community Project



