

The Valley Profile

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The Valley Profile

REACHING THE PINNACLE

The Pinnacles Hut along the Kauaeranga Kauri Trail is one of the biggest and busiest DOC huts in New Zealand. **KELLEY TANTAU** speaks to its warden, Robert Brouwer, who has witnessed sunsets, sunrises, thunderstorms, and noisy bullfrogs during his five years at the summit. Full story: P4 & 5

A view from the top of the Pinnacles Track. PHOTO: ROBERT BROUWER

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Our focus is 100% local community content.

'The paper people read'

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A tribute to Thames Lions

OPINION

By LAURIE MCCORMACK

As the old saying goes, you don't know what you are missing till it's gone.

You cannot travel anywhere in Thames without seeing a Lions sign.

At the southern entrance to the town by the Thames Airfield stands the impressive The Stamper Battery Icon, The Welcome to Thames sign.

On permanent loan from the Thames Prospectors Association, the Batteries were built one each by A&G Price and the old Judds Foundries.

Driving down Queen St behind the white picket fence built by Thames Lions is Porritt Park playground.

Thames Lions started building the playground in April, 1969, and it was opened for Christmas in December, complete with the iconic Rocket and replica SS Wakatere boat.

Gone now but standing there for 30 years, the good ship Wakatere was just a replica but a real part of Thames' rich gold mining history. She plied the seas between Auckland and Thames, providing travel for both goods and passengers.

At the northern end of the playground is the Citizens Advice Bureau building, which was built and manned by Lions and whoever was available at



Laurie McCormack says you cannot travel anywhere in Thames without seeing a Lions sign. Photo: GORDON PREECE

Lodge in Hamilton. Their efforts through the years have been a major part of the Lions' year.

Very early in the Lions history was the challenge to become Knights of The Blind by Helen Keller, who was blind, deaf and dumb. For many years, Lions the world over have collected funds for the Blind Institute, making house-to-house collections and in later year, as members grew older, manning street stalls, etc.

Lions members have always been supported by their wives and friends, and eventually lady members were admitted, which added strength to the clubs.

It must be said that Lions do not do all of these things by themselves. Lions have the doubtful reputation of being the best bucket shakers in the world, but if it weren't for the generosity of people in their town, these projects would not and could not be done.

The people of Thames have always been generous in this regard.

What they are not quite willing to do is join such an organisation as Lions or many other organisations for that matter, and that is what ultimately led to the disbanding of the club. So RIP Thames Lions Club.

- Laurie McCormack is a past president of Thames Lions Club

the time.

On the roof of the former council building over in Pollen St is the town clock.

Around town in historic sites are some 45-50 yellow signs depicting buildings and activities of the old mining days.

There are also many seats and picnic tables dotted here and there, and many other items - too many to mention here but all achieved by this band of merry men.

Supplying firewood to the elderly, manning barbecues, marshalling at events, providing barmen for functions when needed, and helping with diabetes testing.

In 2002, a devastating

weather bomb hit Coromandel, causing the death of one woman and extreme damage to property, with many losing all their worldly possessions. Within 48 hours, Thames Lions received \$20,000 from the Lions International Trust Fund to help families most in need, along with additional help from local businesses.

When NZ Blood Services came to town, Lions readied the hall, served refreshments and restored order at day's end.

A major effort for friends, picking, packing and selling daffodils on behalf of the Cancer Society, helping with their efforts including the development of the Lions Cancer



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Thames Tides

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
Jan 18	Jan 19	Jan 20	Jan 21	Jan 22	Jan 23	Jan 24
Morning 4:07am 3.0 Afternoon 4:21pm 3.1	Morning 5:14am 3.1 Afternoon 5:22pm 3.2	Morning 6:18am 3.2 Afternoon 12:22pm 0.7 6:26pm 3.3	Morning 12:53am 0.5 Afternoon 1:20pm 0.6	Morning 1:50am 0.3 Afternoon 2:17pm 0.4	Morning 2:43am 0.2 Afternoon 3:11pm 0.3	Morning 3:34am 0.1 Afternoon 4:05pm 0.3
10:19am 0.9 10:46pm 0.7	11:21am 0.8 11:51pm 0.6		7:18am 3.4 7:30pm 3.4	8:14am 3.6 8:31pm 3.5	9:07am 3.7 9:28pm 3.6	9:58am 3.8 10:21pm 3.6
6:17am 8:39pm	6:18am 8:38pm	6:19am 8:38pm	6:20am 8:37pm	6:21am 8:37pm	6:22am 8:36pm	6:23am 8:36pm
Best At 9:26am 9:55pm	Best At 10:26am 10:58pm	Best At 11:30am	Best At 12:04am 12:38pm	Best At 1:11am 1:43pm	Best At 2:15am 2:45pm	Best At 3:14am 3:41pm
Rise 2:03am Set 5:00pm	Rise 2:46am Set 6:14pm	Rise 3:40am Set 7:24pm	Rise 4:46am Set 8:25pm	New Moon Rise 6:02am Set 9:14pm	Rise 7:21am Set 9:57pm	Rise 8:39am Set 10:32pm

*Not for navigational purposes.
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MOON AND FISH KEYS

New Moon
 First Quarter
 Full Moon
 Last Quarter

Good Fishing
 Fair Fishing
 Not So Good

TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES

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

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

A day in the life at Pinnacles Hut

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

It's the Australian bullfrogs that wake Robert Brouwer up at the Pinnacles Hut.

The New Zealand native Hochstetter's frogs are "gorgeous" but rarely seen, so it's left to the croaking Aussie bullfrogs to drive Robert and his colleague "nuts".

"The noises that you get up there are completely different to the noises in town.

"When you're in town, you're used to traffic and people and trucks going past. Up there, it's the weather or the wildlife," Robert said. "But some nights, you'll wake up just because it's so quiet."

Robert is one of two Department of Conservation hut wardens up at the Pinnacles track just outside of Thames.

Being in the job for five years has meant he's seen many sunsets and sunrises, and even the odd thunderstorm.

"Sometimes you can get up to see a wonderfully still night where it's completely black outside, or maybe the stars are out, and there's just nothing. No voices, no traffic, just

nature.

"Other times, the weather's coming through and thunderstorms are great fun... we don't get many but they add a bit of excitement," he said.

The Pinnacles Hut is situated 6km along the popular Kauaeranga Kauri Trail. The public hut is a two bunkroom, 80-bed hut with a large kitchen that trampers can hunker down in for the night.

There is also another hut for the wardens, which Robert said has been converted pretty much into a "three bedroom bach".

It is his home away from home; the place he stays

for his eight-day shift, returning after six days back in Thames.

"Two of us share that home but not at the same time," he said. "We are effectively flat-mates but we only see each other once a week."

Before the start of each shift, Robert has to walk the 6km up to the hut, carrying food that'll last him eight days.

"It's actually not as hard as you think," he said, "because our clothing and bedding stay

"The average teenager takes 4-5 hours and they think they're dying, and then they find out there's no wi-fi and they know they're dead."

Robert Brouwer



Robert Brouwer is one of two DOC hut wardens up at the Pinnacles track, near Thames.

Photos: SUPPLIED

up there, so you're literally just carrying fresh food for the week, and you can actually eat pretty well.

"When you're up there, you don't live off freeze-dried food. We're just as likely to be having a nice venison steak with a fresh salad from the veggie garden we have up there."

Yes, according to Robert, the warden's Pinnacles Hut provides the DOC staff with

their fresh greens, housed in a greenhouse to avoid competition with the possums and birds.

He said the job provides him with a healthy lifestyle, both mentally and physically due to the length of the weekly climb, which has an altitude of 600m.

"The guide time to walk there is three hours.

"A fit person will walk it in two hours. Staff, we will rou-

tinely do it in an hour and a half. For a trail runner, an hour is not unusual, and the speed record I know of is someone who ran it in 35 minutes," he said.

"On the other end of the scale, the average teenager takes 4-5 hours and they think they're dying, and then they find out there's no wi-fi and they know they're dead."

CONTINUED ON P5

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Art and Street Festival set for Waihi

By GORDON PREECE

The organisers of the upcoming Waihi Art and Street Festival hope the event will be a “good family outing” for Auckland Anniversary weekend.

The free event, which will take place on January 28 and 29 from 9am to 3pm, will feature art and craft market stalls, community stalls, raffles, children’s activities, dancers and buskers on Seddon St.

An art exhibition by Studio Art Waihi and local schools and preschools will also be open at Waihi Arts Centre & Museum.

Organiser Thea Ris told *The Profile* the event, which was first held in 2021, was a “big success”.

“We had about 80 volunteers who helped and a big part of it came from the Lions, so it’s now a big Waihi Lions project,” she said.

“This year is actually bigger again because everyone wants to have a stall and everyone wants to take part, and so we’re going to block off the road as well.”

“OceanaGold, HDC [Hauraki District Council], James Searle Say Foundation and lots of local businesses have donated money, so in effect we the committee have raised all the costs required to run this festi-



Margaret Meyle, left, Carolyn Treblico, Jose Jebb, Thea Ris, Ria Molema, Jennifer Chappel, Absent: Connie Riddle.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

val with the help of Lions.”

Thea said Creative Communities and Trust Waikato also donated funds for the festival.

Organiser Jose Jebb said live entertainment would include local and non-local acts.

“We have A Friends Place

from Waihi Beach, which is for people over 65 who play music; and we have the Paeroa Rock and Rollers on stage for half an hour,” she said.

“We’re going to have masses of street entertainment including the Kra KoTo Kra drum-

mers [from Whangārei] and then the Afriky dancers [from Waiheke Island], and the Dixie and Concert Band from Kati-kati.

“The Concert Band and Dixie Band... do an interactive concert where people can drum

and dance,” she said.

Jose said *Seven Sharp* reporter and comedian Ben Hurley and Hauraki District Mayor Toby Adams will open the festival on January 28 with a bagpipe performance by Art Johnston from Waikino.

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Authorised by Scott Simpson,
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Aussie teens spend Xmas in Thames

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

A group of teens from Australia have opted to spend their Christmas and New Years in Thames, refurbishing the inside of the Salvation Army and getting amongst the community.

Salvation Army pastors Ben and Jesse Willis, both 25, have hosted the nine-strong group since December 21, and told *The Profile* the mostly-teen team had not only painted the interior of the church on Pollen St, but also provided the town with other acts of goodwill.

“A friend of ours who runs Teen Missions in Australia sent us a message earlier [in 2022], and asked, out of the blue, if we would like a team to come to Thames and we said ‘absolutely’.

“Certainly none of them have been to Thames before,” Ben said, “and it’s quite an incredible sacrifice to give up their Christmas with family to go to a place they’ve never been and to bless that community.”

Teen Missions is an inter-denominational Christian mission organisation specialising in running short-term mission trips for youth, teenager, and adult participants.

It was started in 1970 in the United States.

For Ben, who hails from Australia, and Jesse, who comes from Hawke’s Bay, Teen Missions holds a special place in their hearts - they met on a trip around seven years ago.



The teens visiting Thames learned their individual pepeha and a Māori waiata. Inset: Salvation Army pastors Ben and Jesse Willis with their daughter, Madison.



Teen Missions usually take place over the Christmas holidays, and with the youngest Thames visitor being 14-years-old, Ben and Jesse said it was a privilege to host the group for the summer.

“I remember one Christmas, we started the day in Bangkok and ended the day in Kathmandu,” Ben said. “So, our Christmas Day went for 25 and a half hours.”

“For me, Christmas has always been massive in my family,” Jesse added, “I was the first one in my family to miss one, so certainly we can relate to what [our teens] are feeling, and it’s quite a privilege to be on this side of it and hosting them.”

The teens also learned their individual pepeha [introduction] and a Māori waiata. They left New Zealand on January 16.

“Teen Missions was something my older siblings did, and when I turned 16, it was my turn to go, so I went four times to various countries, and it was on my trip to Nepal when I met Jesse,” Ben said.

“We were friends, but once we got back, I realised I certainly missed this girl who was living in New Zealand, and so about 18 months later, I moved over to the Upper Hutt where Jesse was liv-

ing at the time.

“We wouldn’t be here in Thames today if it wasn’t for Teen Missions in our lives.”

This is the pair’s first year as Salvation Army pastors, and they moved to Thames at the start of 2022. They married in 2019 and have a three-month-old daughter named Madison.

They said that alongside the Teen Missions trip to Thames, there was also another group

visiting an orphanage in Thailand and another helping out at a remote indigenous community in North Queensland, Australia.

Ben said that showed how there were different forms of need in the world.

“There is always going to be human need, but sometimes it just looks different,” he said.

“There are definitely people in need in Thames who benefit from [the mission’s] hard mahi here.”

Photos: SUPPLIED



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Govt assistance sought after Cyclone Hale

By GORDON PREECE

Coromandel residents have been warned to take “great care” this week after Ex-Cyclone Hale left “considerable damage” to the district.

The rainfall caused significant slips which resulted in the closure of the Thames Coast Road, 309 Road, Kōpū-Hikuai Road, and Kennedy Bay, Colville and Kauaeranga Valley roads.

Thames-Coromandel district Mayor Len Salt told *The Profile* the council would investigate the long term effects of the cyclone.

“There are places like Moanataiari, parts of Thames, Te Puru and the Coast Rd that are vulnerable to storm events, sea level rise and in some cases even the subsidence of the land,” he said.

“We know the urgency of these things and that’s a conversation we need to have with our community and with the government because there are some significant numbers involved and some critical decisions that need to be made.

“The west coast I think it’s clear to say in some ways there’s more urgency particularly around the Thames area so that will be the number one area of focus.”

Mr Salt said due to Cyclone Hale being classified as a one



The Thames Coast Rd was among several Coromandel roads that were closed last week after slips.

Photo: SUPPLIED/TCDC

in 20-year event, there would be a large financial impact.

Therefore, he had written to Emergency Management Min-

ister Kieran McAnulty to seek financial assistance from the government.

“We need to lessen the im-

pact on ratepayers as much as possible,” he said.

Thames-Coromandel District Council said while no exact cost

figures were confirmed, it expected the bill to repair coastal areas after Ex-Cyclone Hale would run into ‘serious’ six figures.

While all roads were now reopened after damage caused by the storm, “great care” was still advised for motorists.

“Further tree falls and slips can occur due to waterlogged ground,” council said.

“Our staff and contractors will still be on the local roads clearing debris and repairing damage for some time, and some areas may still suffer damage as the soils move while drying out.

“Some of the larger areas will require deeper investigation and longer term repairs in the future.”

Council said the rainfall the district had experienced since the beginning of January had broken all records.

“In the short space of 11 days we’ve had the level of rainfall we normally get in five months,” council said.

“According to the regional monitoring network, Waikato Regional Council, the saturation levels on the Coromandel are unprecedented.

“It has been confirmed that the Coromandel has received 800mm of rain so far this year, a new record.

“Normally this volume is not reached until May.”

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Rural Life

Cracking macadamias at Patetonga property

By GORDON PREECE

Nestled in the hills at Patetonga are more than 1500 macadamia nut trees spread over 8.5 hectares with around 30 sheep keeping the grass low.

Famke van Laren and her partner Gavin (Gav) Laurich have owned Top Notch Macadamias since 2018 and have grown and processed more than 63 tonnes of the super-food.

Famke told *The Profile* she and Gavin “fell in love” with the property when they first viewed it in 2017.

“Gavin is a dairy farmer by trade and I’m a high school teacher by trade and Gav thought ‘trees can’t be harder than cows’, then I thought ‘trees can’t be harder than teenagers’,” she said.

“We had no knowledge of macadamia trees whatsoever, we didn’t think it would be that hard because trees don’t give you attitude or lip and they don’t give... mastitis either, and it’s a beautiful property.”

Gavin said Top Notch Macadamias was an orchard, a commercial kitchen and a processing plant which also processes macadamia nuts for other North Island growers, making it the largest macadamia processor in the country.

“Effectively we run the orchard as an orchard with all



Gavin (Gav) Laurich and Famke van Laren at the Top Notch Macadamias entrance.

Photo: SUPPLIED

the trees growing the nuts, then we harvest them, and then we have an effective processing factory on site,” he said.

“They come off the tree with about 20 per cent moisture and we let them dry down to two per cent moisture and then we crack them and sort them into

six different grades.

“From there we commercially wholesale nuts, we crack other people’s nuts they buy and then we also have a commercial kitchen which takes on some of our kernel, which makes them into various products like brittle to sell in cafes and restau-

rants.” Gavin said the macadamia nut trees, which produced 13 different macadamia nut varieties including beaumont, flourish at the property because it was sheltered from frost.

“People are surprised that it grows here because it’s got a reputation as being a bit of a

tropical tree because it grows predominantly in Australia, Hawaii and South Africa,” he said.

“They can be a bit touchy to get started with the frosts but realistically once they’re going, they don’t seem to mind the wet too much, and they have coped with the droughts we’ve had for the last few years.

“They will produce until they’re 100 years old.”

Famke said the macadamia nut harvesting season began around June and took place for three or four months with the help of volunteers before they fertilised and pruned the trees to prepare for the next season.

Famke said the property also had around 30 sheep which acted as lawnmowers.

“It’s really important to keep the grass down - we’ve got free food and that brings in pests like rats or ferrets or possums because they can get to the nuts, so by keeping the grass low there’s no hiding place for them,” she said.

“Then we also don’t have the green vegetable bug, which is a terrible pest for macadamias because it spoils the nuts. They stem the nut when it’s still very young and they leave blemishes.

“You see that once you crack it, they won’t be your buttery, crisp nut, you can only use it in processing for either the macadamia milk or butters.”



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Rural Life

Going dairy pays off for young farmer

Waikato dairy farmer Jimmy Cleaver is a 23-year-old farm manager who is passionate about his work in the dairy sector and looking after his team.

"I went dairy farming because of the possibilities it offers me. Not many jobs allow you to climb the ladder as quickly, becoming a farm manager by 19 and then be able to go off sharemilking by 26," Mr Cleaver said.

"I get to work with a fantastic team, be outdoors with animals, while still enjoying a good lifestyle, including being able to get off farm and pursue my hobbies by going hunting or diving.

"I always encourage people to give it a go and see if you like it. I believe that you never know how you will find it until you just get stuck in."

Jimmy was named Auckland/Hauraki dairy manager of the year at the 2022 New Zealand Dairy Industry Awards and received the national DairyNZ people and leadership award.

"The first year I entered the dairy industry awards in 2021, I went in with an open mindset. I was young and just wanted to see what a young



Award-winning dairy farmer Jimmy Cleaver encourages people to give farming a go.

Photo: SUPPLIED/DAIRYNZ

person could achieve, and see what I could learn and improve on," he said.

"When I entered this year, our farm had just had a very good year. I had taken on the feedback from the year before, and ahead of the awards night I knew that I had done every-

thing I could do to win.

"Looking at my future goals, I want to go sharemilking in a few years' time, and I already own some of my own cows to help achieve this. My other goal is to be able to offer others the same opportunities I have received, as I am grateful and

want to pass that on to others."

DairyNZ's GoDairy programme continues its recruitment drive showcasing careers, like Jimmy's, in the dairy sector.

DairyNZ strategy and investment leader Nick Robinson said the sector continued to

encourage Kiwis to join the sector, as one-third of dairy farms sought to fill on-farm vacancies.

"The dairy sector provides 37,000 on-farm jobs for Kiwis. We want to continue to recruit good people, and there are plenty of opportunities out there for keen Kiwis to join us and get involved, while starting on great salaries and having clear progression pathways," Mr Robinson said.

There were plenty of opportunities for young Kiwis to start on a good salary and be promoted into management roles, he said. Farm managers can earn over \$100,000.

Becoming self-employed as a farm owner or sharemilker is another option on the career ladder. Many farms offer reasonably priced on-farm accommodation, which means no commute to work or daily travel costs, helping them save for future goals.

Dairy farm teams work closely with animals, help protect the environment, contribute to their local community and are making a difference to the future of New Zealand.

DETAILS: For more information about joining the dairy sector, visit godairy.co.nz.

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SPORTS

Alley Memorial Park scores centenary

By GORDON PREECE

More than 500 people attended the grand opening of Alley Memorial Park a century ago, and now the committee hopes 100 people will help mark 100 years at celebrations on January 21.

The park was established as a small wooden clubhouse in February, 1923, after Hikutaia local William Alley donated 3.5 acres of land to the community in 1921 for a war memorial park, a croquet lawn, tennis courts and a bowling club.

David Corbett, who has been a member of the park for almost 50 years, told *The Profile* the interclub croquet, bowls and tennis competitions had been the greatest success.

"When the club goes out and challenges other clubs, that's been a major right from the opening," he said.

"Two of the croquet club members Pauline and Ralph Bax were national champions and another pretty big thing was Mal Morrison, he was a national selector for bowls.

"He was a major part of the club and he headed to the 1998 Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur as a selector."

David said the croquet club closed in 1986 and the current tennis and bowling club both had around 25 paid members.

Community support was vital to keep them operating,



Travis Silvester, left, David Corbett, Murray Annals, Christine Alley and Nigel Bax. Photo:GORDON PREECE

he said.

"The park would go through more than \$4000 but the bowling club goes through more expenses than that because they've got to maintain the machinery for the grass," he said.

"Whereas the tennis club is more maintenance free, but the tennis balls exceed a couple of thousand a year.

"It's more of a social club

now - playing bowls and tennis once a week on Thursday to incorporate any members to come along and join as a social member, because we've got the bar licence as a sports club and sausage sizzles to cover a bit of cost."

The World War I memorial gates at the park entrance were opened on December 12, 1926, with the names of the 11 Hikutaia men who died and the

29 Hikutaia men who served inscribed on pink granite tablets set into the pillars.

David said a new pavilion was built in 1969 dedicated to the memory of those who served in World War I, and a third tennis court was constructed in 1991.

"A real feature was the amount of fundraising for the third tennis court. Quite a few years we did hay making and



Alley Memorial Park opening.

we certainly generated quite a few dollars ourselves and we also got a donation from the Lotteries Commission."

David said the centenary celebrations on January 21 would begin at 11am with a luncheon followed by speeches and a cake cutting before the courts and greens open for tennis and bowls.

"The 100-year celebrations are probably going to be a bit smaller than the 50-year celebration but back then the club was a lot bigger with a lot more members," he said.

Long-serving member Christine Alley, whose husband Allen is a fourth generation Alley, hoped there would be "around 100 people for 100 years".

DETAILS: For enquiries about the Alley Memorial Park centennial contact David Corbett, Ph 022 011 3487.

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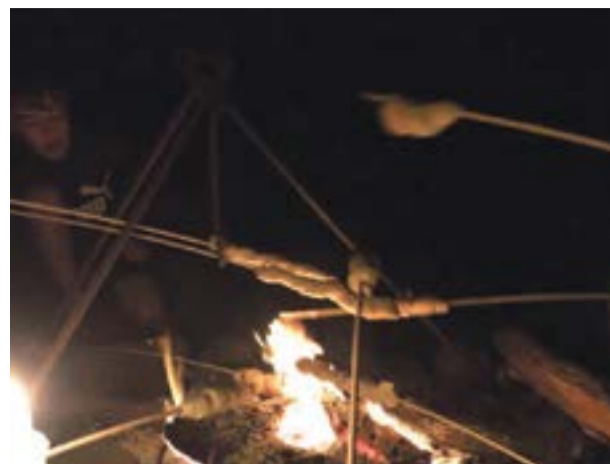
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Foodies



Glory Cafe's quick bread recipe is perfect for the campfire or camp oven.

Photos: SUPPLIED

Quick bread perfect for camping

RECIPE

It's summer - even though it is a bit wet. New Zealanders love to spend more time outdoors, fishing, swimming, baching, or camping. Summer is the busy time for Glory Cafe, when the locals disappear and the Aucklanders descend as they travel to the east coast. Tourists have come back too, lots of Australians and English, they come thick and fast and they provide us with interesting days - people take the wrong coffee even with a name attached, fathers pull out their wallets to pay for all the teenagers bought on holiday and cringe at the bill. People we see once a year come in and say hi like long lost friends. It's manic but actually it's lots of fun. Having a day off are few and far between but New Years eve is a special time I get to get out of the kitchen

and go camping for a couple of days. A friend from school invited me to her parents' private camping site by the Maratoto river in Hikutaia years ago. We used to go for the night, having to open New Years day, but for the past two years, I have stayed a couple of days, its a special place. (Many of you reading would have worked out which property I am talking about.) My friend's cousins visit and share the campfire with us. We were both Girl Guides so we teach our children how to cook on a fire, we catch up on a year's worth of life, we share openly and in a safe environment and listen to the river. I bring the damper, which we wrap around sticks, try and cook it without burning it or getting too much ash on it and then enjoy it with lashings of Anchor butter and Anathoth jam - yum. I dont use a classic damper recipe,

more a quick bread recipe. It's a very versatile recipe, you can make it into bread and cook it in a camp oven or roll it flat and use it as a flat bread: lay out three sheets of tinfoil, oil it well and flatten it, then cover it up and cook it over the embers or on a grill - then you have focaccia. It makes a great pizza dough too.

INGREDIENTS
1 onion, finely diced
Mix together with:
1.5 cups of warm water
3 teaspoons of instant yeast
1 teaspoon of sugar

METHOD
Let it sit for 15 min or so until the yeast really activates, stir in 3.5 to 4 cups of flour two tablespoons of olive oil and a bit more water to make a 'shaggy mess'. It should be slightly moist, not dry.

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SPORTS

Young cricketers attend HB camp

CRICKET

This month Valley Cricket will be sending teams down to Hawke's Bay to play during the month of January for Cricket Camps.

This has become an annual event for some of our cricketing families in the area, with this being the third time some have attended.

There are now younger siblings who are getting to attend after having to watch older brothers and sisters play.

We have six teams attending from year 4-5s through to year 11-13s. Teams are not picked but rather if someone wants to attend we try and find a team for them - it is all about giving keen young cricketers the opportunity to play more cricket.

The cricketers play five or six games over a four-day period, so get lots of cricket in. It is good because as we all know with cricket, it doesn't always go to plan and if one game isn't a good one, then there is always the next game to improve on.

The teams are made up of players from Thames-Coromandel, Hauraki, Te Aroha and Morrinsville areas.

This provides opportunities to play with rather than against each other as they do on the Saturday games.

Most of the teams are staying



Thames Valley cricketers, above and below, are competing at the annual Hawke's Bay cricket camp during January.

Photos: SUPPLIED

together at Hostels together with other teams attending the camps.

We are fortunate that we have great parents who all step in and help with the running of the teams so it doesn't fall on a couple of people to sort everything. Many hands make light work.

We would like to thank our wonderful sponsors for supporting Valley Cricket and their players - Cookson Trust Farms; Miller Poulgrain Thames; Diprose Miller Te Aroha; Richardson's Ngatea; Marty Carr and Townshend Thomas Charitable Community Trust.

The teams tried to have some pre-Christmas games but the weather didn't play ball. The yr 4-5, 6 and 7 teams had games scheduled against WBOP.1 at home and the other in Tauranga. The games up here went ahead despite a less than ideal weather forecast.

Two games were completed and the other one managed 45 out of their 6 overs.

The games in Tauranga were cancelled. The yr 8 and 9s played each other and then had games against Hamilton teams but didn't get completed.

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Death while haymaking



As part of a Valley Profile series, MEGHAN HAWKES explores our local history by seeking out stories of life and death in the Thames Valley



Haymaking with horse and cart 1890s. Photo: SUPPLIED

Around three in the afternoon on a January day in 1896, haymaking was well underway at John Townsend's farm in Hikutaia.

A cart was loaded with hay and ready to move off. John was preparing to sit down on the load as a farmhand named Dunlop, holding the horse's head, asked "Are you ready?" John replied yes but as the horse began to move forward John lost his balance, tumbling backwards 25 feet to the ground. He struck the ground full on his shoulders and lay unable to move. The other workers, including one of his sons, rushed to his aid. John's wife, Martha, was informed of the accident and John was carefully placed in a buggy and conveyed to Thames hospital, the journey taking nearly three hours. Dr Callan thought that the case was hopeless, but he and the Matron, Miss Stewart, did all that they could.

At 9.30pm, John was given a sleeping draught. It was hoped in the morning he would have revived from the shock and an-

other opinion could be given on the extent of his injuries but eight days later John died.

John Townsend, 52, was from Worcestershire, England and had arrived in New Zealand after an eventful journey 32 years earlier on the immigrant ship Portland.

As the ship was about to cross the Equator, open mutiny broke out, resulting in several crew being put in irons.

When gold was discovered in Thames, he was among the early arrivals at the new field, setting up the first butchery business at Shortland with Mr Barnett. John soon opened his own shop in Mary St and was active in public affairs, earning him the respect and esteem of the whole community.

He married Martha Ensor in 1868 and they had 12 children. He was never afraid to take a stand on any matter, especially during the many years that he occupied a seat in the County Council. The past two or three years he had directed his attention to his farm at Hikutaia. He was a kind husband and a fond and indulgent father to his children whose ages at his

death ranged from 26 to seven years old.

It was John's dying wish that he be buried as a Mason. At his funeral members of the Sir Walter Scott Lodge of Freemasons headed the procession, being followed by the hearse, the mourning carriages, and the members of the Loyal Waikato and Charles Bruce Lodges of Oddfellows, a large number of the general public bringing up the rear. At St George's Church the service was performed by Reverend O'Callaghan, and at Shortland cemetery the Masonic rites were accorded to John.

The emblematic sprig of acacia - the Masonic symbol of the immortality of the soul - was placed on the coffin.

Three of John's children who had died before him are buried at Shortland - two daughters who died respectively at 15 days and one year old, and a son who died aged 21 after a brief illness.

At St George's next meeting, feeling reference was made to the loss John, one of the most zealous and consistently energetic of men.

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History in abundance at Thames abode

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

Living in a home that was designed by a famed architect from the 1800s and once housed the Thames School of Mines' first president has been a "privilege" for a family who are now saying goodbye.

Robyn Leach and Matthew Downes have owned the Kilgour House at 300 Queen St, Thames, for the past six years.

The historic homestead was a love affair for the couple, whose sons Alexander and Oliver were the catalyst to the purchase.

"They met as friends at Parawai School and our marriage came from their friendship," Robyn said. "They were six-year-olds and [Matthew and I] were sorting out their playdates, and we talked together and decided to buy this house, so, friends became brothers here."

The house, which sits on 622 square metres of land, was designed by Thomas Mahoney, the son of architect Edward Mahoney, circa 1896-7.

In 1876, Thomas joined his father's architecture practice and the firm was responsible for a wide range of designs including domestic buildings, commercial and public buildings, churches and hotels. They won a competition for the design of the Auckland Customhouse in 1888, and were also responsible for the design of Auckland's Pah Homestead and St Patrick's Cathedral, as well as the St George's Church in Thames, which showcases the Mahoney's

fine tradition of combining wood with neo-Gothic architecture.

"It's been such a treasure and a privilege to live in such a beautiful home," Robyn said.

"It's the craftsmanship of every detail that you notice, and the children have enjoyed it; there's lots of rooms to tumble through and doorways and decks and there's a little Harry Potter under-the-stairs spot, too."

Robyn, of Ngāti Maru heritage, has family connections to Thames, and moved to the town eight years ago. After obtaining her home's LIM report, she learned that it was the former Kilgour House, once owned by Dr James Kilgour, a Thames Mayor and the first president of the Thames School of Mines.

She said there were still some misconceptions that the home was the former Macdonald House, but Robyn told *The Profile* that the Macdonald homestead was located next door.

In a Shortland, Thames Heritage Area report authored by Dr Ann McEwan, Queen St housing associated with the Macdonald and Kilgour families was "particularly significant both historically and architecturally".

"Some of the buildings in the area, among them the former Kilgour house at 300 Queen St, demonstrate a higher standard of construction and craftsmanship than the majority of the building stock," it said.

Now, Robyn, Matthew, and their sons are moving to Dunedin, and the historic property is on the market for sale.



The historic homestead was designed by Thomas Mahoney, the son of architect Edward Mahoney, circa 1896-7.

BELOW: Robyn, Matthew, and their sons.

PROPERTY PHOTO: ALAN DUFF

Robyn invites people who are interested in the homestead's history to call in during one of the open homes.

"It's been a privilege being able to have our family dinners around the table in a kitchen you know many other families have been in," she said. "We hope the next family takes their place in this homes' history as custodians of this Thames treasure."

DETAILS: The house has been listed with Trinity Network Thames and can be found online.



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Mike Wright says barbeque cuts are "booming".

Photo: GORDON PREECE

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Mike said Hunts Home Kills had always aimed to be a "step ahead" with vacuum packing, which makes meat last longer in the freezer.

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CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 1pm Monday

Public Notice



PĀRĀWAI SCHOOL 2023 PRE-ENROLMENT DAYS

Enrolments for the 2023 school year will be taken at the school office on
Thursday 26th January 2023, 9.00am – 3.00pm

and
Friday 27th January 2023, 9.00am – 12.00pm

Any enquiries please contact the school office on 07 868 8117.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all current and new families back to school on Wednesday 1st February 2023.

Hauraki District Council Meetings - January 2023



Pursuant to Section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, public notice is hereby given that the following meeting will be held during the month of January 2023 in the Council Chamber, Hauraki House, 1 William Street, Paeroa unless otherwise stated.

Council meeting
Wednesday, 25 January 2023, 9.00am

L D Cavers
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council

www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz

Public Notice



Notification of intention to conduct spraying within Hauraki District local road reserve areas

The Hauraki District Council road maintenance contractor (Downer NZ Ltd) will conduct a spraying programme within Hauraki District road reserve areas to control vegetation within surface water channels and side drains and around road features such as sign posts and roadside marker posts.

The operational area will include the entire Hauraki District local road network, excluding state highways, with spraying activity programmed to commence at the end of January 2023

Agrichemicals to be used are:

- Glyphosate 360
- Pulse
- Associate

If you would like your property frontage to be excluded, you may apply online via www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/no-spray-zone or call into any of the Hauraki District Council Service Centres.

For enquiries relating to the operation phone Brenden Baxter, Contract Manager, Downer New Zealand on 021 426 190.

We thank you for your patience during these road improvement works.

L D Cavers
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council

www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz

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A full clean New Zealand driving licence is necessary for this role.

Position commences Term 1, 2023

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Applications close Monday, 30 January 2023



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CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 1pm Monday

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15 years

SCHAARE, Norman Ernest:
08-04-1914 - 04-04-1998
25 years

SCHAARE, Norman John:
04-04-1947 - 08-03-2003
20 years

SCHAARE, Pamela Louise:
10-01-1947 - 26-09-1987
36 years

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Public Notice

THAMES WORKINGMEN'S CLUB (Inc.)

Notice of Special General Meeting Wednesday
1st February at 5:30pm

AGENDA

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Bruce Harper

Acting Club President



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SPORTS



ABOVE: The Golden Girls social squash group, and below: an original Golden Girls gathering.

Photos: SUPPLIED

Golden Girls celebrate 35 years

SQUASH

A group of Thames Squash Club ex-players recently celebrated 35 years since they first got together.

The collection of friends from the club was named after the original TV series *The Golden Girls*, which was running at that time in 1987.

The Golden Girls as members of the Thames squash club decided to keep together with meetings for dinner twice a year, in May and November. Members had to be 40 years of age to be eligible and many had to wait their turn.

Original members from first get together were Kay Maxwell, Eileen Cunningham, Judy Cropp, Val Saun-

ders, Maureen Brown, Val Wind, Carol Spence, Wanda Tyack, and Pat Grant.

At each meeting, two volunteers were selected to organise the date and venue for the next meeting.

This entailed many fun-filled events consisting of nights of 1940s; bowls; a mystery trip to Muddy River restaurant at Turua; Irish night; guest entertainers Helen Clark & The Queen; Auckland Trots on the bus; a fashion parade and hat night.

The 20-year celebration was at Deb and Charlie's restaurant, 30 years was celebrated at Puriri Pub and the group has just held its 35-year celebration thanks to management at Richmond Village. Forty members attended, with one mem-



ber, Raewyn Stewart, crossing the ditch to attend from Australia. We are all ex-players now but the

meetings will still go on twice a year with usually a turn out of up to 30 of us.

- Supplied

KEREPEHI WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
Our December meeting was held in the Kerepehi Bowling Club on the December 13. Elaine Jolliffe welcomed six members there.

One apology from Sue Watson. We had one December birthday; Debbie Smith and she selected a present from the birthday bag.

One of our roll calls was to bring something for our members Christmas raffle, it was something Christmassy. First was Marion van Eyk, second was Vicky Fulton. Our Christmas hamper which was our fundraiser we had all been selling tickets for was drawn. First went to Winnie Sharma and second went to Janine Red Hats.

We had all been growing seedling potatoes in a bucket. We had dug them up and brought them along. First Jan Edmonds, second was Marion van Eyk. Tea Cosy was another roll call. First Bev Adamson and second Jan Edmonds. We finished our morning by playing Mr and Mrs Right with our exchange Christmas gifts we had all brought along. After a few minutes of passing them to the left and right and back again we all ended up with a parcel that wasn't ours.

We were all going out for lunch in the end only four ladies went, two others couldn't make it for various reasons. We went to Cornerstone Café. We had a nice, relaxed time there to end our year. Ashamed our numbers were so small.

Flower Competitions: Bloom: 1st Carolyn Giles, 2nd Jan Edmonds, 3rd Bev Adamson Shrub: 1st Jan Edmonds, 2nd Marion van Eyk, 3rd Carolyn Giles; Vegetable: 1st Marion van Eyk, 2nd Carolyn Giles, 3rd Bev Adamson; Spike: 1st Jan Edmonds, 2nd Marion van Eyk; Next meeting: February 2023.



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SUDOKU

83

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

	3					4	6	
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HARD

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8	1	7	4	3	9	5	1	2

EASY

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

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JUMBO CROSSWORD

103

ACROSS

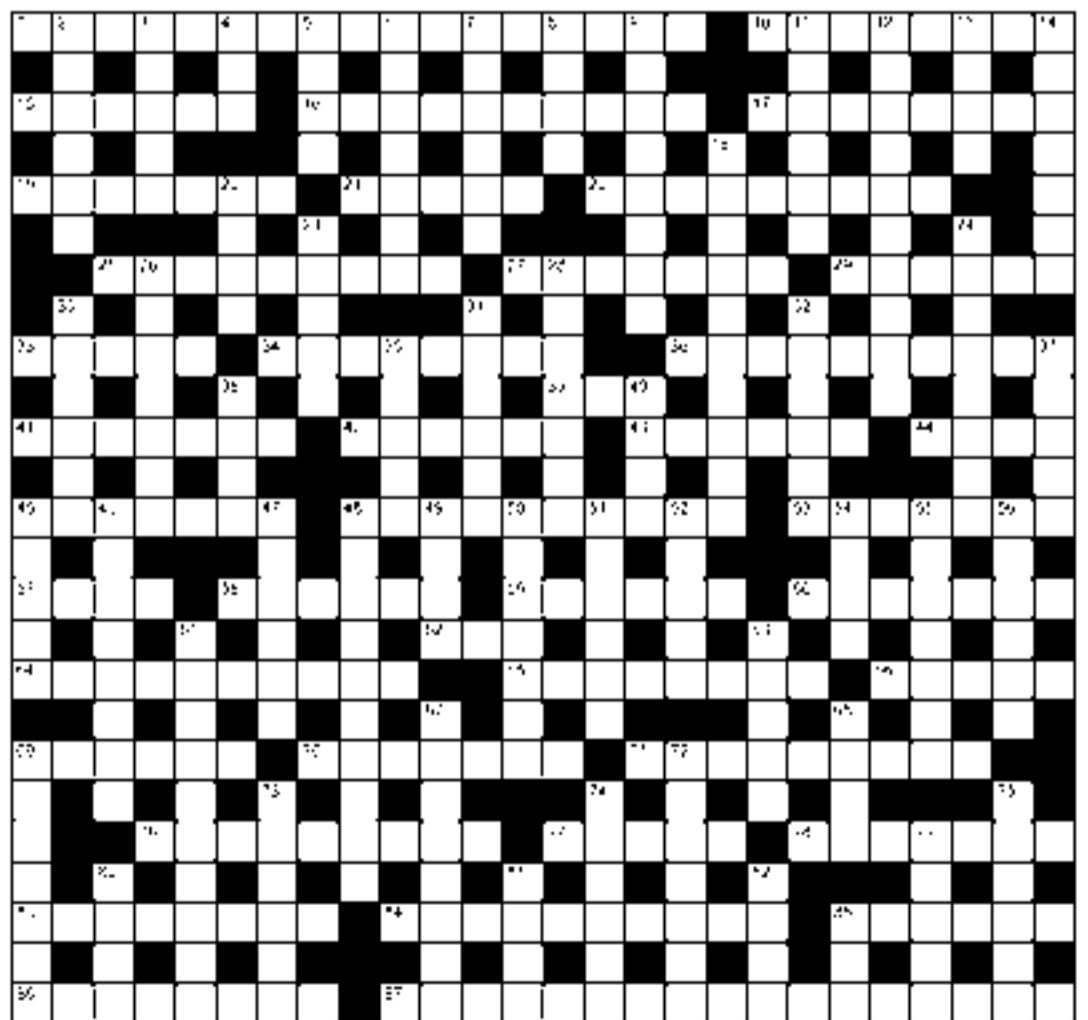
- 1 Be uncompromising in doing a deal (5,1,4,7)
- 10 Ideas (8)
- 15 Circus buffoons (6)
- 16 Added message (10)
- 17 Court of justice (8)
- 19 Announce (7)
- 21 Unit of capacity (5)
- 22 Out of earshot (9)
- 25 Fiddler (9)
- 27 Fragile (7)
- 29 Chant (6)
- 33 Fruit liquid (5)
- 34 Worries (8)
- 36 Grasp mentally, understand (10)
- 39 Unusual (3)
- 41 In a sloping position (7)
- 42 Hand-operated (6)
- 43 Bird enclosure (6)
- 44 Connect together (4)
- 45 Vast (7)
- 48 Interfering (10)
- 53 Apparition (7)
- 57 Church in Scotland (4)
- 58 Expression of gratitude (6)
- 59 Tastelessly showy (6)
- 60 Withdraw (7)
- 62 Barrel (3)
- 64 Canine snack (3,7)
- 65 Fish tank (8)
- 66 Roof overhang (5)
- 69 Young hen (6)

DOWN

- 70 One more (7)
- 71 Consensus (9)
- 76 A trial one (anag)(9)
- 77 Ventriloquist's doll (5)
- 78 Sports arena (7)
- 83 Laughed quietly (8)
- 84 Jam flavour (10)
- 85 Former name of Sri Lanka (6)
- 86 Sever limb (8)
- 87 Very favourable chance (6,11)
- 2 Tumbled over and over (6)
- 3 a,e,i,o or u (5)
- 4 Donkey (3)
- 5 Mountains (4)
- 6 Sack (7)
- 7 Soak up (6)
- 8 Lass (4)
- 9 Exemption from punishment or loss (8)
- 11 Recluse (6)
- 12 Asymmetrical (10)
- 13 Female deer (4)
- 14 Retrieve from destruction (7)
- 18 Execution device (10)
- 20 Reign (4)
- 23 Cast metal bar (5)
- 24 Leading (8)
- 26 Joss stick (7)
- 28 Firm determination (7)
- 30 Relic repository (6)
- 31 Encircling (6)
- 32 Refrains from

ACROSS

- 35 Shipping box (5)
- 37 Solid (5)
- 38 Finishes (4)
- 40 Distinct lower part of wall (4)
- 45 Irritated, annoyed (5)
- 46 Summer flower (8)
- 47 Moral principles (6)
- 48 Making reference to (10)
- 49 Student's table (4)
- 50 Traveller's belongings (7)
- 51 Plant shoot (6)
- 52 Penny-pincher (5)
- 54 Jetty (4)
- 55 Positive (7)
- 56 Wealth (6)
- 61 Floating aid (4,6)
- 63 Customer (5)
- 67 Small dagger (8)
- 68 Leave out (4)
- 69 Universal remedy (7)
- 72 Soft coloured sweet (7)
- 73 Mute (6)
- 74 Swathed headdress (6)
- 75 Rudimentary canoe (6)
- 79 Senior group member (5)
- 80 Hurdle (4)
- 81 Employee (4)
- 82 Minor error in printed text (4)
- 85 Small bed (3)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Gift of the gab, 8 Chapters, 14 Probe, 15 Offender, 16 Annuals, 17 Piste, 18 Apt, 19 Writers, 21 Apologies, 22 Funnel, 25 Forfeited, 27 Tungsten, 28 Sneeze, 32 Relief, 34 Pierced, 35 Ordeal, 36 Spit, 38 Off, 40 Span, 41 Relapse, 42 Aggravate, 43 Tannery, 44 Bludgeon, 49 Instinct, 53 Rotated, 57 Exclusive, 58 Regalia, 59 Purl, 60 Mar, 61 Dive, 62 Big top, 63 Ominous, 64 Musket, 66 Errors, 67 Purchase, 69 Gold medal, 73 Summit, 74 Motorboat, 76 Ice cube, 78 Tip, 81 Rider, 82 Kibbutz, 83 Landlord, 85 Petty, 86 Friendly, 87 Spick and span.

DOWN: 2 Inferno, 3 Theft, 4 Fad, 5 Harp, 6 Grasps, 7 Banal, 8 Changing down, 9 Answers, 10 Tape, 11 Risqué, 12 Coral, 13 Fertile, 14 Pennant, 20 Reinforce, 23 Zeppelin, 24 Headway, 26 Feigned, 27 Ticket, 29 Explain, 30 Tempo, 31 Jargon, 33 Expel, 35 Often, 37 Treat, 39 Tact, 44 Blend, 45 Uncover, 46 Grub, 47 Origin, 48 Stamp, 49 Illusion, 50 Spasmodic, 51 Impasse, 52 Curve, 53 Restful, 54 Throw a wobbly, 55 Dry ice, 56 Igloo, 65 Primary, 66 Epitaph, 68 Crooked, 70 Alberta, 71 Girder, 72 Banzi, 73 Spots, 75 Bouts, 77 Cells, 79 True, 80 Flak, 84 Nun.

SPORTS

Hauraki North Diamonds kick off

By GORDON PREECE

An opportunity to capitalise on the “strong” women’s rugby movement led Hauraki North Rugby Club to form its inaugural women’s team.

President Andrew Williams told *The Profile* the women’s team, called the Diamonds, would be a “great addition” to Hauraki North.

“We’ve had rugby in our community now for 110 years and [in 2021] we had challenges for the first time in a long time where we could only field one senior men’s team, and that was because of the Covid yarn,” he said.

“At that point we needed to look at ourselves and say ‘what can we do to keep our club going?’

“With the women’s rugby being so strong, we thought let’s have a look at this. We’ve got the core with our facilities to adapt to change and tick the boxes and hopefully we see other Thames Valley clubs looking down the same avenue as well.”

Andrew said the idea to establish the Diamonds team also stemmed from the success of the Thames Valley Vixens and a Whangamatā sevens tournament held in November last year. “Ex-play-



Hauraki North’s first women’s team will feature current Vixens players.

Photo: SUPPLIED

er Brendan Clark saw Thames Valley were looking for a coach to coach their Vixens team for the year. Brendan put his hand up for that and they were the best winning team in terms of their win-loss

average,” he said.

“Then there was an opportunity for us to put a [Hauraki North] team [into the sevens tournament] using Brendan as the coach. From there, we had discussions that someone

needs to put their hand up... and the chance for the girls to put a team in the Waikato Women’s Premier Competition is here for us now so we’re sort of taking it with both hands to welcome these

girls into our rugby club.”

Brendan Clark, who’s the head coach of the Diamonds, said the current players had competed for the Vixens and were “stoked” to be part of a Hauraki North team.

“They’re looking forward to being in an official Waikato premier competition, which is going to be a pretty tough thing for them to have a crack at, but they’re all very excited,” he said.

“I think in the pre-season we’ve got a couple of games lined up with Auckland Marist and College Rifles.”

Brendan said a development women’s team was also planned.

“We’ve got about 20 or 30 wanting to play in 2023 at Hauraki North and then we’ll have a campaign to get some more players over the summer,” he said.

“We’ll probably hold a muster or two just to try and get a [few] more girls coming out and having a look.

“Coaching wise, we’ll look out for a couple more coaches for the development side and to help out with the premiere side.”

DETAILS: A Hauraki North muster will take place at its Waitakaruru rugby grounds at 6pm on January 20.

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