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  **The Valley Profile**

CLASSICAL TO COUNTRY

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

A classical percussionist and a former ballerina will “amuse” their new community as they try to become farmers in Thames.

Sarah Fitzsimons is the new owner of the Thames Hauraki Dance Theatre, formerly the Thames Hauraki Ballet Theatre, which had its base in Turua.

Her husband is Jeremy Fitzsimons, the youngest son of the late Jeanette Fitzsimons, who was a former Green Party co-leader and environmental trailblazer.

She passed away in March, 2020, at the age of 75 after spending the day working on her farm up the Kauaeranga Valley.

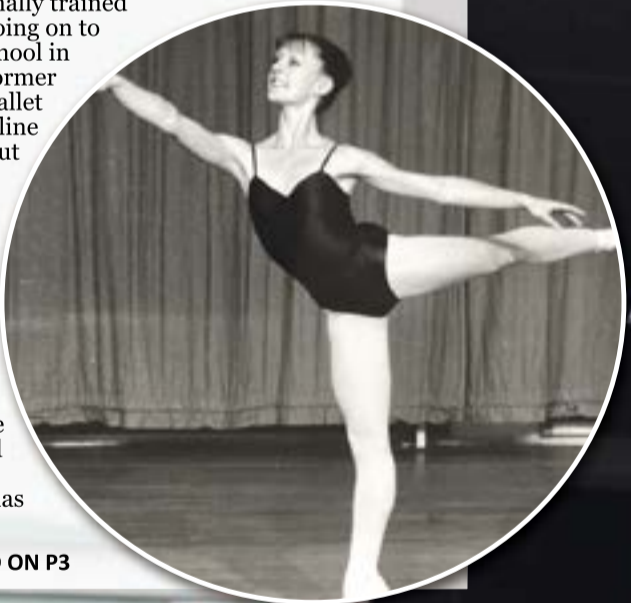
“We were very close to her and she spent a lot of time with us when she was in Parliament in Wellington, and we would come up every holidays,” Sarah told *The Profile*.

“We always said we would come help look after the farm when she and Harry were too old, and our plan was to do that in three year’s time, but when she passed so suddenly three years ago, we realised we needed to be there now.”

Sarah, who originally trained in Sydney before going on to the Royal Ballet School in London, emailed former Thames Hauraki Ballet Theatre owner Pauline Germon to ask about casual teaching positions.

An offer to instead buy the school was presented.

“I said: ‘Okay, sure’ and we’ve been working on that the last 18 months, and I hope now that I can hold [the studio] in the same acclaim she has for many years.”



Sarah Fitzsimons will open the doors to her new dance school on February 7.
Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

CONTINUED ON P3

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Our focus is 100% local community content.

'The paper people read'

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'Booming' Christmas trade at mall

By GORDON PREECE

Some retailers at Goldfields Shopping Centre have seen record increases in trade in what they say has been the "best" Christmas period.

Goldfields manager John Freer told *The Profile* the mall community expected something special would happen for the December, 2022, shopping period, and that business owners were "very happy" after a merry trade.

"Coming out of Covid, the general indications were that people were going to come and travel and have an enjoyable Christmas, and I think that's reflected in terms of the trading that we've experienced," he said.

"McDonald's are telling me their trading has exceeded previous Decembers and also, we've had the likes of The Warehouse which has also reported really sound trading figures."

Mr Freer said more than 1.2 million people visited the mall throughout the year, exceeding that of the previous two years.

"So it's not just about people spending more money, it's about the fact that we've had more people coming into the shopping centre."

Mr Freer also congratulated the mall's tenants on their successful trade following what has been a "challenging year" due to staffing and supply chain issues.

"People have stepped up and it's been quite impressive to



Goldfields Shopping Centre manager John Freer congratulated the mall's tenants on their successful Christmas trade.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

see what has happened with the likes of the Warehouse who rely on a big staff. With McDonald's, there's a lot of people that have gone the extra mile to make sure the appropriate service is available."

Boots 'N' All owner James O'Grady said the business he's owned for 35 years was "booming" at Christmas, with a record

\$7500 made in one day.

"We sold out of a lot of stuff... business has been booming and at Christmas time our record was \$6140 but it is now \$7500, which is basically a whole week's taking in one day," he said.

"We get a lot of Aucklanders that come down and we get a lot of tourists who come to my shop every year from Australia, UK,

America, and we target them as well; we buy extra stuff in for them as well so we're a bit of a destination shop.

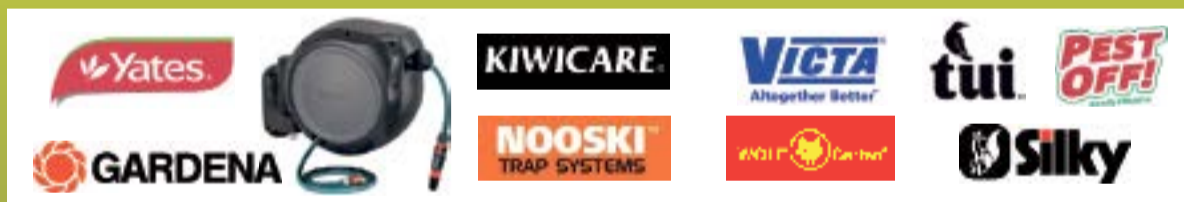
"We're looking forward to another prosperous year again.

"We've gone into very good watches and we're selling a lot of jewellery and we'll keep trying new products and being good to our customers."

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Thames Tides

Wed Jan 25		Thu Jan 26		Fri Jan 27		Sat Jan 28		Sun Jan 29		Mon Jan 30		Tue Jan 31	
Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon
4:23am 0.1	4:56pm 0.2	5:12am 0.2	5:47pm 0.3	12:01am 3.5	12:31pm 3.6	12:50am 3.4	1:22pm 3.5	1:40am 3.3	2:13pm 3.3	2:35am 3.1	3:05pm 3.2	3:34am 3.0	3:59pm 3.0
10:50am 3.8	11:11pm 3.6	11:40am 3.7		6:02am 0.4	6:37pm 0.4	6:53am 0.5	7:27pm 0.5	7:48am 0.7	8:18pm 0.6	8:47am 0.9	9:12pm 0.8	9:50am 1.0	10:11pm 0.9
Sun 6:25am	8:35pm	Sun 6:26am	8:34pm	Sun 6:27am	8:34pm	Sun 6:28am	8:33pm	Sun 6:29am	8:32pm	Sun 6:30am	8:31pm	Sun 6:31am	8:31pm
Best At 4:08am	4:33pm	Best At 4:58am	5:21pm	Best At 5:45am	6:08pm	Best At 6:31am	6:54pm	Best At 7:17am	7:40pm	Best At 8:04am	8:28pm	Best At 8:52am	9:17pm
Rise 9:54am	Set 11:02pm	Rise 11:05am	Set 11:29pm	Rise 12:12pm	Set 11:55pm	Rise 1:18pm		First Quarter	Set 12:22am	Set 12:52am	Rise 3:26pm	Set 1:24am	Rise 4:29pm

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

MOON AND FISH KEYS			
New Moon	First Quarter	Full Moon	Last Quarter
Good Fishing	Fair Fishing	Not So Good	

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

PLACE	Hr	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

'Urgent' roading upgrades needed

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

Thames-Coromandel's Mayor has written to the Prime Minister's office calling for long-term solutions to state highway "pressure points" that experience problems every time there's heavy rain.

In the wake of Cyclone Hale, which caused damage throughout the Coromandel Peninsula, Mayor Len Salt said he wrote "to the highest level of government" - the office of the Prime Minister - to pitch the district's case for urgent work on the peninsula's state highways.

Mayor Salt said some roads were currently unable to withstand the regular storms the district faced. "I've also urged the government to prioritise funding for sealing the 309 and Tapu-Coroglen roads," he said.

"When other roads close in bad weather, these narrow, winding gravel roads face pressures of traffic they're not designed for - such as heavy trucks or cars towing caravans and boats," he said.

"I've emphasised that it's a crucial safety issue. We've done the feasibility studies and have the costings."

Mayor Salt also said he has

been keeping in touch with Kieran McNulty, the Minister for Emergency Management, on funding for the council's long-term storm clean-up.

Staff were preparing final costings for that, he said.

"Although it's been a rough start to the year, we're a resilient lot.

"It's great to see the return of summer and people getting a chance to get out and about and boost local businesses."

Following the storm, a sizeable crack appeared along the popular Kōpū-Hikuai Rd on State Highway 25A.

The fissure is being closely monitored by Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency, and the road continues to be under stop-go management and closes overnight from 7pm.

Thames-Coromandel District Council earlier said the highway could close again at any time if the condition of the road changes to make it unsafe.

DETAILS: Before travelling, check: www.journeys.nzta.govt.nz or Ph 0800 44 44 49. Updates will also be posted on TCDC's Facebook page.

READ MORE: Concern over delays in clearing slips, P14



Sarah Fitzsimons, left, and Pauline Germon, with the late Jeanette Fitzsimons, inset. Photos: SUPPLIED

Ballerina turns farmer

CONTINUED FROM P1

Sarah moved to Wellington in 2001 for a job teaching at the New Zealand School of Dance, and it was in the city where she met her future husband, Jeremy.

"My flatmate was choreographing a show for [percussion group] Strike, which my husband founded, and she said: 'The boys are all a bit poor, should we have them over for lasagne'... and that's how we met."

Now the two creatives will take on a different challenge: learning the rural ropes from Jeanette's husband, Harry Parke, at Pakaraka Farm.

"My husband is a classical percussionist and I'm a ballet teacher, and so we are going to amuse the community as we try

to be farmers," Sarah said with a laugh.

"The idea is that we somehow combine both, but that might be easier in our minds."

Pakaraka Farm is an off-grid section, with 215 acres of diverse agro-ecological projects, including 180 acres of regenerating native bush.

It may be a stark contrast to the grand theatres Sarah has danced in, but she told *The Profile* she was excited to be realising both her classical and country dreams.

"I'm really looking forward to having my own dance school; I've always wanted that," she said. "I used to teach my sisters in the garage when I was little."

"I've also always wanted to be closer to nature and live rurally, it's just another dream I've always had, so we're really lucky

and privileged to follow on with what Jeanette and Harry have created."

Sarah and Jeremy's 15-year-old daughter, Izzy, has also made the move up from Wellington. Their son, Jasper, 17, is starting his tertiary education at Otago University.

The family officially moved to Thames on December 17, the date of Jeanette's birthday, and Sarah will open the doors to her new dance school on February 7.

"I believe really strongly that dance should be for everyone and it should be fun - all shapes, all sizes - and I'm really excited about that."

DETAILS: For information about the theatre or to contact Sarah, visit: www.thdt.co.nz



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OUR COROMANDEL



News from Thames-Coromandel District Council

25 January, 2023

Kerbside charges to change

Changes in our kerbside rubbish collection this year, when a different provider takes over our solid waste services, is one of the big issues we'll be publicly consulting on as part of developing our 2023-2024 Annual Plan.

From 1 September 2023 the blue rubbish bags are going to be replaced with wheelie bins and we'll also be introducing a kerbside household food waste collection.

How these changes are funded is currently being developed as part of the process of our Annual Plan, which sets out our project delivery and budgets for the next financial year (1 July 2023-30 June 2024).



Our Annual Plan 2023/24 is year three of our 2021-2031 Long Term Plan (LTP). There will be public consultation to get your feedback on any changes that are significantly different to what we forecast in our LTP for 2023/24.

We'll be asking for your feedback in March/April this year, and we'll deliberate on submissions at our 17 May meeting.

The final Annual Plan 2023/24 will be adopted at our Council's meeting on 28 June.

Check out changes to our Council services over summer.

If you're visiting the Coromandel these summer holidays, we have put everything you need to know about our services all on one handy page.

tcdc.govt.nz/summerinfo

SAVE WATER THIS SUMMER



Even though we've had a lot of rain in the past few months, we face increased demand for water over our busy summer period. Water is a precious resource and we're asking households to please be mindful of water use so that we can ensure that our supply can be effectively managed in the months ahead.

Check out our handy water-saving tips at tcdc.govt.nz/savewater

Find out what level of water restrictions are in place locally at tcdc.govt.nz/waterrestrictions

Porritt Park upgrade

School children have been contributing their imaginative vision of what they want for Thames' new Destination Playground at Porritt Park, through an art competition and organisers' visits to schools.

The upgrade to the park, made possible by a large donation from a philanthropic couple, will mean that the park becomes a gathering place for families to travel to spend the whole day. It will reflect the history of the area, introduce stronger, more challenging play equipment and provide enhanced accessible toilets for people with disabilities.

Fundraising is taking place to top up the last part of the funding needed to make the vision a reality. Look out for donation jars at local businesses.

It's a joint project between Thames Business Association, which is overseeing the project, our Council, Ngāti Maru, Future Landscapes designers, Changing Places and Rotary Charitable Trust. To get in touch or make a donation, email porrittparkproject@gmail.com



Summer Kerbside Schedules

Our summer period of extra kerbside rubbish and recycling collections across most of the Coromandel ends on Friday 10 February. From Monday 13 February we resume our regular non-summer collection schedule. Check the schedule for your area at

tcdc.govt.nz/kerbside

Our seven Refuse Transfer Stations (RTS) are open to extended operating hours until Sunday 19 February. From Monday 20 February they are open to their regular non-summer hours. Check the RTS locations and operating hours at

tcdc.govt.nz/rts



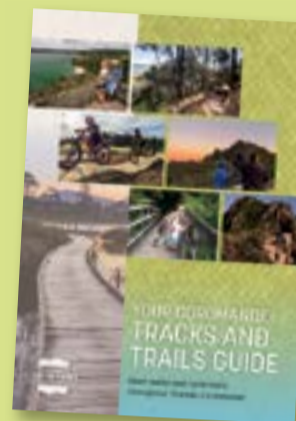
Your Coromandel Tracks and Trails Guide

The updated edition of our popular Tracks and Trails Guide is now available free from information centres, public libraries and Council offices.

The guide outlines a variety of walks and cycle trails across the district for all fitness levels. The mix of locations includes harbour and river margins, heritage town centres, playgrounds, busy working wharves and the Coromandel's famous sandy beaches.

Most of the walks are short, easy excursions near our town centres, rather than more strenuous tramping routes. You can also check out mountain biking and cycling trails, ranging from family-friendly easy experiences to harder mountain biking trails.

The online version can be downloaded at tcdc.govt.nz/tracksandtrails



Thames Community Board UPDATE

A word from our Thames Community Board Chair Adrian Catran JP:

"One of my new year's resolutions was to ensure that 2023 is a year of progress for Thames. We've got a new team on the Board, and we're extremely motivated to deliver results, bearing in mind we have less than a 1000 days to reset Thames."



We'll be overseeing the work on Kōpū Marine and Business Precinct to open up new business opportunities and on Tōtara Valley infrastructure to bring much-needed housing to the area. We've definitely got some interesting challenges ahead in this tough economic climate. These include managing coastal erosion and flooding, and planning new sports facilities for the area. But we're ready for these challenges and keen to listen to and represent the views of our ratepayers. To that end, we intend to have a monthly stall at the Thames market so you are able to share your thoughts with us."

adrian.catran@council.tcdc.govt.nz

The Board's next meeting is on Wednesday 15 February 2023, at 10am in the Council offices.

To speak in the public forum, contact governance.services@tcdc.govt.nz Agendas are published two working days before meetings at tcdc.govt.nz/meetings, where you'll also find recordings of each meeting.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Short plays an outlet for up-and-comers

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

A series of short plays coming to audiences in March will give emerging directors a platform to showcase their talents, while dealing with topics such as menopause, trauma, and lost hopes and dreams.

Thames Music and Drama will showcase *Emergence* between March 17-19, consisting of four short, original plays by up-and-coming directors.

Thames MAD president Diane Connors said the event was a concept put forward by one of its committee members, Asha Peppiatt, keen to mentor anyone interested in learning about the skills and techniques of directing.

"The MAD committee are constantly searching for ways to provide the means of facilitating the development of stagecraft – not just on stage but in many of the other extremely important roles that make up the production team. It's all part of our succession plan," she said.

"There is a lot to directing – so many facets. The short play is a good place to start; although, staging four short plays in one sitting means they all have to make some concessions and think creatively about their sets."

Each piece will be between 20-30 minutes long and will be put on stage by Laura Hamilton, Peter Marshall, David Bull, and



From front of stage to behind the scenes, Erin Wigley and David Bull turn their hand to directing.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Erin Wigley - who will be showcasing *The Change*, a play written by Diane. It highlights the challenges women face when going through menopause – but from a male perspective.

"Menopause is something I have been experiencing for a few years now. I felt like it needed more air time, as no one seems to talk about it, yet half the population goes through it,"

Diane told *The Profile*.

"I decided to have the men share their experiences with watching mothers, wives, partners go through "the change" to [provide] a different perspec-

tive; a little twist in the tale... and partly to not make it a play about women complaining about their symptoms."

Diane said *Emergence* had been "such a collaboration", and an opportunity for artists to tackle more sensitive topics.

The other three plays tell the story of a middle aged woman recovering in hospital from an eating disorder; a mid 30s female describing her experience in the aftermath of a sexual assault; and men dealing with their own personal disappointment of lost hopes and dreams.

"It is just brilliant to be able to encourage, support, and profile local writers and stage stories that no-one else has seen yet," Diane said.

"This will be their world debut."

Auditions for two of the plays - *The Change* and *Best Laid Plans* by David Bull - take place this weekend, and Thames MAD is encouraging anyone keen to perhaps fulfill a New Year's resolution and act on stage for the first time to get in touch.

DETAILS: *The Change* auditions: Saturday, January 28, 1pm-3pm, contact Erin, Ph 027 449 4740. *Best Laid Plans* auditions: Saturday, January 28, 3pm-5pm, contact David, Ph 0204 137 6534. All auditions will be held at the Tararu Rooms, 604 Tararu Rd, Thames.



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Simpson down in caucus rank

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

Coromandel's MP Scott Simpson is "more than happy" to be down eight places on the National Party's caucus rankings, in order for his fellow colleagues to "shine".

National leader Christopher Luxon last week announced a reshuffle of his MPs' portfolios and rankings, with former leader Todd Muller promoted up the list and picking up the Climate Change portfolio, which was held by Mr Simpson since 2021.

Mr Simpson dropped from number 11 to 19 in the party's rankings, but will continue his role as spokesperson for the environment, which he's held since 2017. He's now also the Party's spokesperson for Oceans and Fisheries, and Water.

"When people go up, it's absolutely always the case that someone goes down," he told *The Profile*, "and I'm more than happy to stand a little bit down in terms of allowing some of my other colleagues to shine in the spotlight, and I wish them all very well."

Mr Simpson said there was "logic" behind the portfolio changes, but that he was not going to lose his interest in climate issues "one little bit".

"Climate change affects every portfolio, and I'm going to continue to keep a very close watch on climate change issues, and climate policy," he said.

"To be in a National Party caucus led by Christopher Luxon is a great privilege, a great honour, and I'm looking forward with excitement for the year ahead and the roles I have now to get my teeth into."

Meanwhile, Jacinda Ardern announced she would be resigning from her role as the country's Prime Minister, stepping down from the position no later than February 7.

Chris Hipkins will become New Zealand's 41st Prime Minister in her place, and while Mr Simpson thanked Jacinda Ardern for her service, he was sceptical of Chris Hipkins' "track record".

"He was an adroit manager of the processes during the Covid crisis, but his performance in the education portfolio and Police have been really inadequate," he said. "Just because there's been a change of face at the top of the Labour Party, doesn't mean that the underlying issues with the current government have suddenly disappeared."



Passengers debark in Paeroa



As part of a Valley Profile series, MEGHAN HAWKES searches through old newspapers to bring you the stories Thames Valley locals once read about themselves.

1873

The Ohinemuri sports at the Paeroa race course had attracted a large gathering and shortly after noon, the smoke of an approaching steamer indicated the influx of expected visitors.

The *Enterprise No. 2* was the first to steam round the bend of the river and make fast alongside the bank. From her crowded deck and bridge about 200 passengers landed.

The *Enterprise* was followed by the *Lalla Rookh*, which landed at the same spot. The *Effort* was also in company with the *Lalla Rookh* and she landed opposite the Māori settlement from where it was only a short walk to the race course which had been cleared of thick fern and tea tree making it a most suitable sports ground.

VISITOR NOT IMPRESSED

Thames did not impress a Canterbury settler who arrived by steamer and was then transported along a cheaply constructed railway.

The town looked like a manufacturing one, with many chim-



Enterprise No. 2 visited Paeroa in 1873.

Photo: SUPPLIED

neys belching black smoke. Mining machinery went night and day, disturbing sleep. The town was not handsome, the main street being two muddy miles long. Trolleys and tramways intersected the streets everywhere and the footpaths were made of planks. The buildings reminded one of Christchurch 15 years earlier. The mining batteries and pumps were well worth a visit, but the owners would not let a visitor take the smallest piece of stone despite there being tons of it. A great many mines refused to admit reporters, which made the newspapers indignant. The Cantabrian was glad to leave the city of gold, noise, mud and get back to Auckland.

Another visitor scoffed at the name the Thames 'Goldfield' when in reality it was the Thames 'Gold Hill' - all the mines being in the hills. The miner's looked whitewashed and most of them were single - they either did not make enough wages to support a wife, or did not feel inclined to enter the married state while they were working underground.

The Auckland City Market at-

tracted stall holders from around the district including F Scheirl from Miranda who exhibited ironstone, coal and pig iron. The brilliantly illuminated market looked quite the thing to a back country settler.

TRACK IN DISREPAIR

The bridle track between Hastings (Tapu) and Waiomu was continually in a wretchedly miserable state of repair, or rather no repair at all.

It was generously supplied with mud traps for bipeds and quadrupeds regularly snaring pedestrians and equestrians between Tapu and Grahamstown.

Many accidents had occurred to men going to and from their work, particularly on dark nights. People attempting the journey had to wait until the tide was sufficiently low to enable them to go by the beach and avoid the track.

Women and children could not use it and many children were unable to attend school. There were no decent bridges over the Puru and Waiomu creeks which had to be crossed by wading through deep and rapid water.

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Rural Life



Greg said he would treasure people making memories at Chester Farm when he departs after 31 years. INSET: Greg Jamieson competing in showjumping.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

'Life-long' memories at Chester Farm

By GORDON PREECE

Generations of families have been taught by equestrian Greg Jamieson at the place he's trotted for more than three decades.

The owner of Chester Farm in the Maratoto Valley told *The Profile* he sold the property in December, and said the fondest memories he'll have after departing in March will be seeing the thrill people got from riding horses and camping.

"I know from when I was a kid and when I was a horse rider, a place like this would be a dream and the kids get lifelong childhood memories from here," he said.

"They'll ride their ponies in the morning and then when it gets hot they swim in the creek all day, and then at night they're out there with

their flashlights running round.

"That's the thing you remember as kids."

Greg bought Chester Farm in partnership with his parents, Pat and Joe Jamieson, in 1991 when it was a 150 acre dairy farm. After 12 years of milking cows, he moved to a Pukekohe property where he was a full time horseman.

He then returned to Chester Farm in 2010 and built a house, an arena and equestrian facilities.

"At the height of the busy times we were training over 100 horses a year, and on top of that, we would have clinics and camps where people came and had riding lessons," he said.

"There would be 30 or 40 clinics over a weekend and then we would have ongoing private lessons through the week as well, so

it's been a pretty busy place over the years.

"I was still a competitor during my time here, I think I produced three grand prix horses and the last horse I've got here now is Vollrath Cagall, who's a retired stallion, but he was my last grand prix horse."

Greg said Chester Farm, which he named after the show jumping horse he rode for New Zealand called Chichester, also featured on the TV show, *Country Calendar*, in 2017 which roped in many visitors.

"The episode was called *Horse Talk* and they showcased our equestrian business, and from that we got a lot of national recognition," he said.

"We got 150 trampers from Auckland that year who camped

down in the camping ground for ten days and they weren't horsey people, they were just camping and there were four generations of families staying there."

Greg said it was a "fairly hard decision" to sell Chester Farm but he did so to focus on his ConTact C.A.R.E business, which rehabilitates animals and people.

"I got to the point where I no longer needed farming facilities and horses for myself because I don't ride horses anymore, and there's more and more demand for ConTact C.A.R.E work," he said.

"In the last couple of years I've been doing a lot of work in the lower North Island and relocating down to Kāpiti is a way of me taking myself and my work to a place where there's limited opportunities for people to access ConTact

C.A.R.E.

"I've had 31 years [at Chester Farm] and we've been able to offer a lot to the local equestrian community so I feel like I've had my money's worth out of it and I'm looking forward to moving on to the next adventure."

Greg said The Supported Life Style Hauraki Trust will take over Chester Farm in March and it plans to continue the legacy.

"They're looking to have the place still available for the community to hire the camps as part of their long term plan, which for me is the perfect scenario," he said.

"They want to keep the name and they recognise the significance of Chichester and what that means to the farm and I'm excited and happy to hear how it's going to be taken into the future."

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Rural Life

Fighting facial eczema this season

With all the rain we've been having this month, I suspect that facial eczema will be an issue earlier this season compared to the previous few.

As of early January, some areas in the region already had some high spore counts.

Facial eczema is caused by a fungus (*Pithomyces chartarum*) that grows in the pasture, particularly ryegrass. Warm, humid weather provides perfect conditions for fungal growth.

The fungal spores contain a toxin (sporidesmin) that causes liver damage. This damage means that the liver doesn't function as well and byproducts in the cow (and sheep, alpacas and llama) that are normally dealt to by the liver can build up.

Certain byproducts cause the cows to become very sensitive to light.

Signs of facial eczema to look out for include a drop in milk production, restlessness and/or shade seeking, licking at udders and, in the worst affected cows, white-haired or hairless areas of skin becoming thickened, blistered, and peeling off. Not all animals with liver damage will show physical signs (subclinical disease). It is estimated that for every clinical case there will be 10 cows with subclinical facial eczema.

We monitor farms that regularly provide grass samples for spore counts during the risk period.

However, spore numbers can vary significantly between neighbouring farms and even on the same farm.

If you have concerns about the spore



Franklin Vet's Dr Neil Murray. Photo: SUPPLIED

levels on your farm the best thing you can do is bring in a few handfuls of grass from your own paddock for testing. The main way to protect stock from facial eczema is to give them zinc during the risk period.

Dairy cows are most commonly treated with daily zinc supplementation via drinking water or in their meal. For young and dry stock it's more effective to give them slow-release zinc boluses.

These boluses last for six weeks at which point an additional dose can be administered if required.

Care needs to be taken when calculating the correct dose of zinc to give, as too much zinc is toxic to cattle and can be fatal. If you have any questions about facial eczema or would like advice to create a prevention plan for this season, then get in touch with your local Franklin Vets clinic.

- Supplied by Dr Neil Murray BVSc
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Rural Life

Thinking differently about farm work

Dayna Rowe's into only her second season of managing a farm team, but she's quickly found her preferred approach.

"It's the way you develop your team, it's the way you treat your team and really encourage them, that makes all the difference. That's been a huge part of my own style as I've come into managing staff," she said.

Despite being brought up on the family farm, Dayna didn't really fall in love with dairying until she got a summer job milking cows and spraying weeds at home during a university break. Four years, two farms and a lot of hard work later, Dayna was offered the 2021/22 season farm manager role on her parents' farm.

The job offer topped off a great couple of years for Dayna; she'd won Bay of Plenty Dairy Trainee of the Year in the 2021 NZ Dairy Industry Awards, and been runner-up in the same category in 2020.

Now still only 24, Dayna says she and her team's open discussions around roster-setting aim for maximum flexibility for all.

"I make an initial roster; then it gets redone about three times to accommodate everyone's needs as best as I can. I like to make sure there's time for everyone's relationships and extra-curricular activities: study, family time, whatever is important to them.

"A big part of it is flexibility,"



Born and raised on Rowe Farm, dairy farmer Dayna Rowe is on track to take over the business. Photo: SUPPLIED

she said. "If people want to work through the day so they can get to their kids' sport games by 3pm, or get to the doctor or other appointments, they're more than welcome to do that – so long as they communicate that with me."

Showing care for her team has circled back to Dayna.

"People on my team now often ask what I would like time for. They've offered to do things like night checks for me on the evenings where I like to do my sports after work or something.

"That shows they've noticed and appreciated me doing it for them."

Shaping up their workplace to-

gether has given everyone staying power too. Her whole team has stuck with Dayna from the end of last season into this season.

"That was an awesome feeling: that what we're doing together is working, people want to be here, and they want to stay a part of this team."

"If you get a name for yourself as a workplace environment that's desirable to work in, you will attract people who want to work for you."

Dayna is acutely aware that changing the way people work on-farm will be a critical part of ensuring the dairy sector can offer great jobs and great workplaces. That's why she's such a supporter of the sector's Great Futures in Dairying workforce plan led by DairyNZ – and its aim to attract and retain great people to reduce the current labour shortage.

The plan is the sector's strategy for shaping dairy farming as a competitive career option through a range of workplace and technology advances.

Dayna says she knows it's going to take effort and buy-in from sector organisations, dairy companies, the government, and most importantly, from farmers like herself and her team.

"We've got so many great opportunities in the dairy industry," Dayna says. "It's so flexible – you can concentrate on everyone's skillsets to decide who gets what job, too."

"You can think really differently about how a farm works."

"That's what's really cool: building a workplace that celebrates and creates a positive supportive environment."

"One that builds up the resilient workforce the Great futures in Dairying plan talks about."

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Rural Life

Interest weighing heavily on farmers

Farmers are being squeezed by rising interest rates, with debt or other financial concerns eroding mental wellbeing, the latest Federated Farmers Banking Survey shows.

Nearly 1200 farming businesses answered questions in the November survey, reporting that their average mortgage interest rate had increased to 6.29 percent from 4.59 percent in May (and 3.95 percent in November 2021).

“It’s a reflection of the impact of official cash rate rises and while plenty of other Kiwi households and businesses are also feeling the pinch, many farms are carrying high debt,” Feds President and economy spokesperson Andrew Hoggard said.

Since the May Federated Farmers survey, the average farm mortgage value has increased from \$4.07 million to \$4.19 million while the median increased from \$2.25 million to \$2.50 million.

The average level of overdraft was up \$46,000 to \$328,800, with an average interest rate of 8.59 per cent.

“It’s not a surprise given those big numbers that just over 40 per cent of farmers said they felt their mental wellbeing had been affected by their debt levels, interest rates, changing condition, or other forms of financial pres-

sure,” Andrew said.

Also released recently was the government’s primary industries Situation Outlook Report. It highlighted the boost to the economy from an estimated record \$55 billion in food and fibre export returns by June next year, but what didn’t make the headlines was that farm expenses jumped 15 per cent in the September quarter compared to the September quarter 2021, with rises in fuel (53 per cent), fertiliser (37 per cent) and debt servicing (34 per cent) leading the way.

Farmer satisfaction with their bank relationship continues to slip, the Feds survey showed. Although just on 60% per cent of farmers said they were very satisfied or satisfied with their bank relationship, this was down 5 points from the survey six months earlier, and is the lowest since the biannual surveys began in 2015.

Some 17.4 per cent of farmers perceived they had come under undue pressure over the past six months, up 3.5 points from May 2022, with sharemilkers leading the way (20.7 per cent).

Overall, banks’ conditions for lending became tougher rather than easier for all farm types, with 3.3 percent reporting easier conditions and 26.8 percent reporting tougher conditions.



Over the Christmas holiday break, Waikato Regional Council’s Maritime Services ramps up its presence in holiday hotspots. Photo: SUPPLIED/WRC

Operation Neptune in full swing

With improved weather conditions, Operation Neptune will be back patrolling Waikato waters.

For three weeks over the Christmas holiday break, Waikato Regional Council’s Maritime Services ramps up its presence in holiday hotspots to educate the public about maritime safety.

Regional Harbourmaster Chris Bredenbeck said this season, the Operation Neptune team was “really busy” out on the water until New Year’s Eve, but from January 4, patrols had to be halted completely due to

high winds making it too dangerous to go out, “for us and for everyone else”.

“We’re expecting the weather to improve, so we’ll be out in full swing again, just like everyone else,” Chris said.

For Operation Neptune this year, Maritime Services increased its patrol staff numbers by 19 to 24 to ensure compliance of the region’s navigation safety bylaw and reduce the risk of harm on the water.

Chris said so far more than 100 infringement notices had been handed out for various offences and unsafe behaviours,

such as not wearing a lifejacket, speeding in populated areas and towing without an observer.

“We also attended three incidents of vessels falling over ... capsizing. These incidents were essentially people heading out over the bar in big seas and coming to grief. On the good side, everyone involved was wearing a life jacket, but there are investigations into how the incidents came to be.”

Due to the extreme weather conditions, three vessels had also sunk on moorings or at anchor.

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Gardening

Harvest time has arrived 'with vengeance'

Being one of the hottest months of the year, February is one of the main harvest periods. It's an in-between season in the garden, harvest time has arrived with vengeance, and it is a time for preserving, freezing and storing produce for winter and spring use. There's much planting of winter and spring bulbs to be done.

Vegetables

Beans – dwarf and climbing. All must be sown very early in the month, no later than the first or second week.

Beetroot – Late sowings can still be made ready for winter harvest. **Broccoli and cabbages** - seedlings can be planted in well prepared beds at intervals to provide a succession of late winter harvest.

Carrots – Harvest as required. Further sowings can be made but ensure you regularly cultivate and aerate soil for best results.

Cucumber, eggplants and peppers and tomatoes – Continue to harvest crops and preserve and freeze excess quantities for later use.

Onions – Harvest time has arrived. If wet weather is on the horizon set out onions on shallow trays indoors where they can dry and cure. Clip tops and roots and



Apples develop higher skin colour throughout February.

PHOTO: PIXABAY

store in open mesh tray or boxes to dry.

Kumara – Harvest once the leaves start to yellow. Cut back the foliage and carefully lift the kumara with a fork. Leave them on the ground for a few days to cure.

Cover with a sack or newspaper at night. Store in a cool dry place.

Plant seedlings of leeks, broccoli, capsicum, lettuce, rocket, silver-beet, spinach, spring onion to name a few.

Flowers

Gaps appear in flower borders as early season flowers die out and need replanting. Early autumn rain often causes mature plants to become disease ridden.

Once foliage starts to deteriorate, old plants need to be removed to compost bins and the ground prepared for further planting.

Bulbs and Perennials – Plant, divide, weed and cultivate

throughout the winter months while plants are dormant. Prepare ground incorporating fertiliser.

Plant out – Fuchsia, petunia, dahlia, verbena, alyssum, cosmos, gazania, marigold, nemesia, chrysanthemum, daffodil, tulip, hyacinth, pansy and viola, dianthus, gerbera and lavender.

Fruits

Main autumn harvest begins. Late season peaches and plums mature

rapidly with the onset of cooler autumn nights and hot sunny days.

Apples develop higher skin colour. Earliest maturing varieties will soon be followed by main season varieties.

Main late season peaches and plums are now fully mature. Irrigate trees thoroughly to swell the fruit size before harvest if dry weather prevails.

Continue with the pest control and watch for codling moth. **Strawberries** – With the completion of the main fruiting season, old plants can be dug out.

Herbs

Plant new herbs for a continued supply – basil, chilli, coriander and parsley.

Lawns

Perfect time for sowing new lawn is late February. It is a busy time coming up for lawn mowing as growth rate increases. Keep watering existing lawns if dry.

Compost Heap

Gather all the discarded plants once harvest is complete and add to the compost. Turn heaps regularly.

Enjoy your garden.

- Ngatea Garden Circle

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6 Full Moon	7 Non planting Day	8 Non planting Day	9 Non planting Day	10 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	11 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	12 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed
13 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	14 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	15 Non planting Day	16 Non planting Day	17 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	18 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	19 Non planting Day
20 New Moon	21 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	22 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	23 Non planting Day	24 Non planting Day	25 Plant above ground crops	26 Plant above ground crops
27 Non planting Day	28 Non planting Day		February 2023 Moon Planting Calendar			

Gardening

Gardeners, adapt to changing weather

What a very contrasting summer we have been experiencing in comparison to last summer.

From a very prolonged hot and dry period to persistent heavy rain and strong winds that have wreaked havoc in the garden.

Some plants have relished the conditions and are thriving, however many summer annuals and vegetables have suffered. Petunias and cosmos are not looking very spectacular at present, neither liking the constant wetness and wind.

There is still plenty of summer left so replenish any annuals that are doing poorly, this will get your garden looking fabulous for the remainder of the warmer months.

Due to the rainy weather there has been a very noticeable decline in bee activity, and there have been fewer monarch butterflies about. On the upside, there have also been fewer white cabbage moths, which has meant brassica crops have been more successful than usual for this time of year.

With the changing weather patterns, we as gardeners have to be adaptable. With good planning and thoughtful planting, we can have a stunning flower garden and/or a productive vegetable garden year round.

By erecting a wind break or planting a hedge, your garden can benefit from being more sheltered by the extremes mother nature can bring. An excellent hedge option that is dense, fast growing and easy to maintain is Eugenia Brilliant (Lilly Pilly).

Eugenia have a lovely reddish tinge on the new growth and are really bushy with a fine leaf to give a really dense hedge, perfect for shelter or to screen out unpleasant views.

The vegetable garden has taken a battering also. Many tomatoes have had tops blown off, are showing signs of blight and other fun-

gal issues. Potatoes and other root crops are not faring all that well either.

Consider harvesting what you can and replacing with brassica crops, leeks, lettuces and other leafy greens. Although we are half way through summer, you can still plant many heat loving vegetables and herbs. Start planning your autumn garden now to gain the best results.

Now is an ideal time for repotting your indoor plants. Use a quality growing media to get the most vigour and healthiest plants.

Tui Pot Power is our media of choice and is perfect for your house plants and also for outside pots and hanging baskets.

Pot Power contains Saturaid, Seaweed and Slow Release Fertiliser, which ensure your plants thrive.

Our indoor plant pick for making an impact is Monstera Adansonii (Monkey Mask). It is an easy care pot plant with unique foliage. Each oval shaped leaf has holes bringing interest and texture to any space.

This Monstera enjoys bright indirect light and will thrive with regular misting. It is a versatile plant that can be used as a climbing or trailing plant.

Take your garden inside your home by picking some flower blooms.

Dahlias look amazing in a vase.

Ensure to make a slit in the stem to allow water up take, this will mean you can enjoy the beauty of the flowers for an extended period.

Picking flowers will also encourage more flowers to develop, especially for Alstroemeria and Roses.

Removing spent flower heads also keeps your plants looking their best.

Happy New Year to all. Enjoy your garden.
- Country Dog Garden Centre, Paeroa



An excellent hedge option that is easy to maintain is Eugenia Brilliant.

Photo: SUPPLIED

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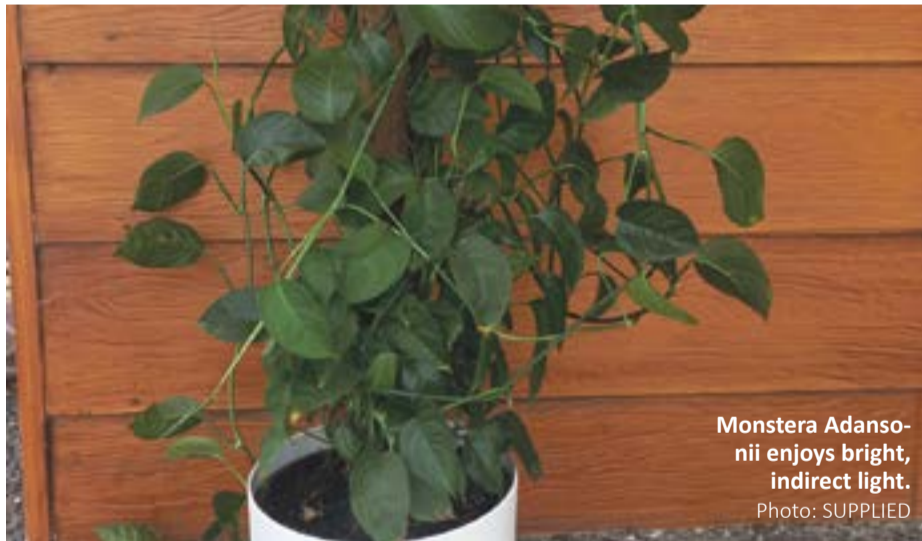
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Monstera Adansonii enjoys bright, indirect light.
Photo: SUPPLIED

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Concern over delays in clearing slips

By GORDON PREECE

A Thames Coast campground manager has raised concerns about “disorganisation” causing delays in clearing slips caused by Cyclone Hale.

However, Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency says it recognises the “vital” nature of the route for residents and visitors, and say they cleared the slips “as soon as possible”.

Waka Kotahi said State Highway 25 on the western side of the Coromandel Peninsula was closed for around 41 hours from just after midnight on January 11 to 5.15pm on January 12.

Waka Kotahi manager of maintenance and operations Rob Campbell said the closure was caused by a number of slips caused by the cyclone, including a “large” one at Ruamahanga which blocked both lanes.

“The closure area was extended for a period due to the risk of another slip on the hillside between Tararu Creek Rd and Ngarimu Heights Rd,” he said.

“There had been some rock-fall here which needed to be assessed by geotechnical engineers.”

Tapu Camp manager Bruce Efford said the road closure

left visitors stranded and “disorganisation” caused delays in reopening the road.

“Everyone couldn’t get out or couldn’t get in, and it’s happening all the time because of the lack of organisation,” he said.

He was also disappointed that no work had been done to prevent slips before the cyclone arrived on New Zealand shores.

“There’s no preparation for when these things happen... [slips] are going to happen because there are bigger and bigger vehicles on the road.”

Waka Kotahi told *The Profile* it was looking at how to improve long-term outcomes in the aftermath of weather-related damage.

However, it didn’t consider the Ruamahanga slip area “high risk”.

“At this stage there are no specific plans for the Ruamahanga slip area, as this site is not considered a high risk of failure,” Mr Campbell said.

“Over the past 12 months, the resilience of our state highway network has been tested during weather events, and Waka Kotahi continues to work to understand all resilience risks to the network, and prioritise these accordingly.”

Help welcomed at bar fight

OPINION



By RON AGNEW

Policing in and around Thames in the 70s was certainly about policing with support from, and as a part of, the community.

Often the public had intervened before we got to the job.

Locals knowing, I think, that we mostly worked by ourselves. Except for doubling up on Friday and Saturday nights when our Civil Defence policemen also came into help us and the Traffic Officers.

When I attended a large fight of 20-30 people on the road outside the Brian Boru Hotel on a Saturday afternoon; I managed to get towards the centre of the problem where the fired up main instigators were. Here I was met with the usual hostility.

However, a huge fist flew over my shoulder and landed directly on the face of the main instigator. I looked around to

find a number of locals I knew well.

They had been passing by and were determined to back me up with whatever was needed!

Once we removed a few offenders, it all settled down.

The town had a huge community spirit; and a determination to look after itself from outside negative influences.

Gangs were never really an issue.

However, two members of Black Power did come to town from Paeroa on one occasion and tried to make

the Junction Hotel their base.

It was only a week before they upset some of the local families.

The barman rang late on a Thursday night to report a huge fight in the bar with stools being thrown, and used as shields, as pool cues were being used as weapons.

When I got there, there were no locals to be seen, but the two gang members were sitting on the floor holding their heads.

The bar was a mess. Broken furniture littered the floor.

I got them out of the bar to the station and cleaned off some of the blood, but they refused treatment and refused to make a complaint.

Thankfully I was able to arrange a car to come from a family member and I took them out towards Paeroa to meet them.

I was so grateful that night to one of the large local families whose many sons aged between 16 and 40 took matters into their own hands to keep gangs out of the community.

One of the busiest places for trouble was the Burger Bar, when a fight started unusually one mid-week afternoon.

Shop assistants from the men’s wear shop across the

road intervened and held the offenders until we arrived 10 minutes later.

I did feel sorry for one drunken offender however, who abused and tried to fight the owner late one night, then tried to jump the counter to grab the till.

He received a scoop full of hot fat for his troubles. Luckily his clothing absorbed most of it, but he did experience some burning sensations after.

Nowadays, it is not recommended that the public respond to situations of crime and disorder of course, as weapons these days are more than just pool cues.

- Ron Agnew is a former Thames Police officer

“A huge fist flew over my shoulder and landed directly on the face of the main instigator. I looked around to find a number of locals I knew well.”

- Ron Agnew



“That's the thing about books. They let you travel without moving your feet.”

-Jhumpa Lahiri



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Booking deadline is Friday
February 3rd
Copy deadline is Tuesday
February 7th.
Publishing Wednesday February 15th

The Valley
Profile

ENTERTAINMENT

The Eastern set to return

Kauaeranga Hall will host The Eastern band on January 27.

The Eastern, who last performed at Kauaeranga Hall in 2018, describe themselves as a string band that “roars like a punk band, that swings like a gospel band, that hopes like folk singers, and sings love songs like union songs, and writes union songs like love songs, and wants to slow dance and stand on tables”.

Four albums and well over 1000 shows deep, The Eastern have played and toured with Fleetwood Mac, Steve Earle and Old Crow Medicine Show amongst others, ticking off miles, countries and 200 plus shows a year every year.

No Depression magazine noted they were: “One of the best modern roots acts, from any country”. NZ country legend Barry Saunders simply called them “The Truth”.

Having delivered four albums: *The Eastern*, *Arrows*, *Hope and Wire* and *The Territory*, The Eastern garnered a reputation as one of New Zealand’s hardest working and most honest to goodness band, one that embraced an old-fashioned ethic of people and shows over posts and playlists.

They gather converts and friends wherever they or their



The Eastern have performed and toured with Fleetwood Mac.

Photo: SUPPLIED

records land.

Thrillingly the rolling, rambling, spirit-raising atmospheres they project in their live shows have endeared them to the hearts of many.

It’s obvious they care about the audience as much as the songs.

DETAILS: *The Eastern*, January 27, 7:30pm, outdoor gig if fine, Kauaeranga Hall, 437 Kauaeranga Valley Rd, Thames, Door sales: \$25; Pre-paid: \$22. For more information: Ph 021 912 993 or kauaerangahallmusic@gmail.com or visit Lotus Realm 714 Pollen St, Thames.

Shapeshifter to perform

By GORDON PREECE

Kiwi artists are set to entertain crowds at Williamson Park for the Whangamatā Beach Break on January 28.

The R18 event will feature Shapeshifter, Australian psych-rock group Ocean Alley, roots-driven hypnotic dance trio My Baby, Raglan groovers Masaya and rising Auckland surf-rock and reggae band Flaxxies.

Organiser Alex Turnbull said Whangamatā was selected for the concert because it was a “classic kiwi summer destination”.

“A beach break in Whangamatā is an iconic summer vacation and we’ve seen some horrific weather events over this summer, so we’re going to give this a good go and make it a good and safe com-

pliant event for the people of Coromandel. Alex said 6000 people could be attending the event and that ID will be required at the gate that matches the name on the ticket.

Organisers also urged festival-goers to respect the community and environment and that an alcohol ban was in place around Williamson Park.

DETAILS: Williamson Park, January 28, 2pm to 10pm, R18, food and drink available, bar opens at 4pm. Tickets: Ticket Fairy, visit www.beachbreak.co.nz.

TICKET GIVEAWAY!
We have a double pass to giveaway: email your name and mobile number to gordon@valleyprofile.co.nz by January 26 to enter the draw.



Kiwi drum and bass band Shapeshifter will perform. Photo: SUPPLIED

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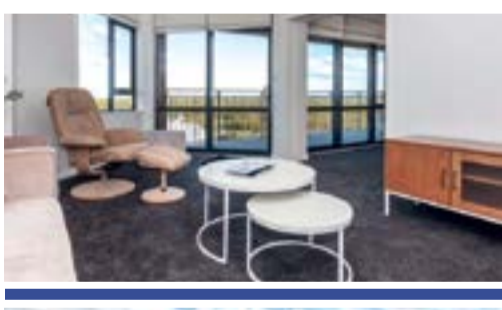
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Public back a school holiday change

A majority of residents asked by *The Profile* whether school holiday dates should be changed supported the idea, following what has been a summer of "atrocious" weather events. **GORDON PREECE** reports.

A proposal put forward to people walking the streets of Thames Valley that pitched school students getting a two-week holiday over Christmas and New Year, and then the month of February off, was met with approval.

The question came after the Hauraki and Thames-Coromandel districts were lashed in January with "atrocious" weather unbecoming of summer school holiday fun.

Paeroa resident Danny Thompson thought changing the dates was a good idea.

"I think based on how the weather has been I think it's probably a good idea to shift it," he said.

"I have grandchildren on their school holidays at the moment, they could have enjoyed it a lot more but the weather put a damper on things."

Coromandel Town resident Sue Rockliffe also supported the idea.

"Our weather system has changed dramatically now and everything needs to be changed and moved a bit further," she said. "We're from Coromandel and we've got people that have booked bachs and haven't been able to go down to the beach with their kids so that's pretty sad for them."

Thames residents Jan and

Steve Granich said they had believed for more than 40 years school holidays should be shifted.

"Yes, definitely, it should've been done years ago," Steve said.

"I just think it's too hot for little children, I've always thought that, I think it would be better to have it later, perhaps in late February," Jan said.

Thames resident Jenny Galloway and Paeroa resident Kim Davis also supported the idea.

"Yes, I think that's a very good idea, the seasons have changed, they're coming earlier or later," Jenny said.

"Yes I think it should, whatever suits the children or the parents, just whatever makes everyone happy."

However, Preston Moorcroft who was visiting the Thames Coast from Rotorua believed school holidays shouldn't be shifted to February because it would impact on retirees who wanted to spend summer time without many holidaymakers.

"It will really upset the school year with a lot more holiday involvement with the kids," he said.

"The New Year would be turned upside down with holidays in February so I don't think it should be changed."



"I think based on how the weather has been I think it's probably a good idea to shift it," says Paeroa's Danny Thompson.



"Our weather system has changed dramatically," says Coromandel Town resident Sue Rockliffe.



Preston Moorcroft: "The New Year would be turned upside down with holidays in February so I don't think it should be changed."



"Yes, definitely, it should've been done years ago," says Jan and Steve Granich, from Thames.



Kim Davis: "Yes I think it should, whatever suits the children or the parents, just whatever makes everyone happy."



"I think that's a very good idea, the seasons have changed, they're coming earlier or later," says Jenny Galloway.

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Busy bees

Thames Coast Community Kindergarten held a working bee recently to spruce up its Te Puru establishment. More than 60 volunteers made planter boxes, painted a new mural, removed old trees and weeds, and prepared the ground to lay concrete for a new shed. All materials were supplied by The Kiwi Kids Charity, which also provided food for the hungry workers and a fire engine and police car display for the kids.



The working bee crew gather at Te Puru.

Photos: SUPPLIED



Emma Corner, Karen Bowie, Kate Coatsworth and Dana Cocks.



Volunteers chip in with planter box prep.



Maeve Taylor-McGee paints a garden seat red.



ABOVE: Liane Clarke and Ben Taylor. BELOW: The Kiwi Kids Charity volunteers.



RUBBISH AND RECYCLING

Auckland Anniversary/Waitangi Day

Whiritoa

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- Wed 1 FEB - Rubbish bags and glass recycling
- Mon 6 FEB - Rubbish bags and all recycling

Ngatea/ Kaiua/ Waitakaruru

- Wed 1 FEB - Rubbish bags and all recycling
- Wed 8 FEB - Rubbish bags only

Kerepehi/ Turua

- Wed 1 FEB - Rubbish bags only
- Wed 8 FEB - Rubbish bags and all recycling

Waihi/ Waikino

- Thu 2 FEB - Rubbish bags only
- Thu 9 FEB - Rubbish bags and all recycling

Paeroa/ Karangahake/ Mackaytown

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- Thu 9 FEB - Rubbish bags only

Kerbside collections will be on your normal collection day - by 7:30am!

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Be courageous, Strive for excellence, Be of big heart.

Student Life

ADVERTISING FEATURE



The MOE is considering improvements to teacher aide provision.

Photo: PIXABAY

Resourcing under review

The Ministry of Education and the education sector is considering improvements to the teacher aides resourcing model to strengthen outcomes for teacher aides, learners and whānau.

The Ministry of Education said an education sector reference group was established in March, 2021, to conduct the review and provide a set of recommendations to the Accord Governance Group, which consists of the Ministry of Education, NZEI Te Riu Roa (New Zealand Educational Institute) and PPTA Te Wehengarua (New Zealand Post Primary Teachers' Association).

“Between December, 2022, and April 6, 2023, the sector reference group are consulting with their constituents on their proposal,” the ministry said.

“The sector reference group will reconvene towards the end of April, 2023, and use the feedback acquired through consultation to inform whether any changes

are made to the proposal.

“The group will then submit their final recommended proposal to the Minister of Education to consider in mid-2023.”

The proposal focused on English-medium education settings, and it was important that the proposal worked for bilingual and Māori medium in English-medium schools, the ministry said.

“The ministry engages separately with Kaupapa Māori peak bodies and stakeholders to strengthen and grow Kaupapa Māori education settings, kura and pathways.

“Our ways of working are adjusting as we improve our understanding of Kaupapa Māori needs, contexts and priorities.

“The ministry is committed to considering support for teacher aide provision and related resourcing in Kaupapa Māori, but this will be progressed separately and will take a different approach.”

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

- After School Care & Holiday Program (OSCAR)
- Breakaway FREE Youth Holiday Program
- Music and Movement
- Music Tuition
- Disco Action
- Kids Can Cook
- Friday Night Friend-zy
- Leaders in Training for Youth
- Paeroa Children's Day
- Day Camp
- Maximised Cooking
- Seniors Exercise
- Tuning In - Senior music appreciation
- Keen Team (Weigh In group)
- Mahi Putea - Making Money Personal
- Senior Bus Trips

COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Hauraki Resource Centre - Information & Advice
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- Paeroa Volunteer Drivers
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- Thames Valley Alternative Learning

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Facebook - Paeroa Community Support Trust
enrolmy.com/pcst-community-programs

Paeroa Community Support Trust



The Paeroa Community Support Trust engages with around 120 volunteers who help run various programmes that make a positive impact in the Paeroa community.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Thames Hauraki Dance Theatre

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Student Life

ADVERTISING FEATURE



The funding will land early this year.
PHOTO: PIXABAY

Funding for bus drivers

Additional funding for rural school bus drivers will be rolled out at the beginning of the school year.

Education Minister Chris Hipkins announced in December that \$26 million in funding over four years would bring rural school bus driver's wages in line with those who drive for "comparable public transport services".

"We're announcing this extra funding following the government's October 2022 funding increase to the driver wages of council-run school bus services," he said.

"The ministry has waited until the October funding has begun to reach public transport drivers to ensure that any funding increase for school transport is aligned.

"While driver availability tends not to be such an issue for rural school buses, we

want to ensure that remains the case by offering comparable rates in line with any major movements."

Minister Hipkins said ministry officials and schools would work with its transport operators to pass on the additional funding to drivers at the beginning of the school year.

"Operators will be required to opt-in to receive this funding and must agree to pass on this, and any subsequent funding increases, to their drivers," he said.

"For many students and families, assistance with transport to school is vital, and school bus drivers are essential to getting children to and from school safely.

"Around 100,000 students receive school transport assistance from the Ministry of Education, particularly in rural parts of the country."



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WAIHI COLLEGE

www.waihicol.school.nz

With the start of the new year here and so many dates and important events to remember, it's great to know you can find everything you need on the Waihi College website: www.waihicol.school.nz. Choose the 'Our School' tab in the top menu for all your back to school needs such as the 2023 stationery lists, uniform ordering and essentials, bus routes, start back dates and our staff directory; or head to Keeping Informed to check out our Latest News, calendar and daily notices.



Term 1 2023:

- 6th February – Waitangi Day (Public Holiday)
- 7th February – Year 11-13 start: Year 11 doing Kickstart Project & Year 12-13 at Camp
- 8th February – Year 11-13 continue with Kickstart Project & Year 12-13 continue at Camp
- 9th February – Year 8-11 start classes & Year 12-13 continue at camp
- 10th February – Year 7's start (powhiri) & Year 12-13 start classes

You can also check out the Events Calendar in our Parent Portal. There are some handy instructions for how you can log on and use the Parent Portal if you're a first time user or need a re-cap

<https://www.waihicol.school.nz/using-the-portal/>



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Paul said he caters for his customers' gardening needs.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

Avid gardener grows his business

Paul Hicks is Call The Gardener and said he planted his gardening business last month to fit in with looking after his son and coaching martial arts. "I've been planning [the business] since last year and did a few [landscaping] courses over the lockdowns," he said. "I've always been an avid gardener, I've had a veggie garden that I've always done, I've always grown plants...and cut flowers when I was younger." Paul said he is offering softscapes and small hardscape gardening services. "I'll do garden beds, lawn mowing, pruning, potting plants, turning your

lawn into a garden, weeding, edging and trimming," he said. Paul said he was looking forward to growing his business. "I'm trying to develop a personal service where I create a relationship with the owner," he said. "Our motto is Your Garden, Your Way, I'm not here to tell you how you should have your garden, I'm here to give you ideas of how you could have your garden and that's something I like." Contact Paul for more information: Ph: 028 4640 600 or www.callthegardener.co.nz.

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CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 1pm Friday

Death Notice

WOODGATE Norma Anne :
Passed away peacefully at home in Greymouth, with loving family by her side on January 19, 2023, aged 80.
Dearly loved wife for 58 years of Mel, cherished and loving Mum and mother-in-law of Ross, and Neil & Tena, kind and much loved Grandma of Alecia, and Katie, dearly loved sister and sister-in-law of Helen & the late Brian Mitchell, John Shepherd, Margaret & the late Barney Murray, and Brian Shepherd (deceased) & Lanita Adams, a loved sister-in-law of Violet & John Wood-Oliff and the late Kelvin Wood, Len (deceased) & Joy Woodgate, and Marion Meads, and Vernon (deceased) & Pamela Woodgate and the late Norma Woodgate, a loved aunty, cousin and a friend of many.
In lieu of flowers donations to the Cancer Society would be appreciated and can be made online at cancer.org.nz or at the Service. Messages to 70D Shakespeare Street, Greymouth 7805.
A Funeral Service to celebrate Norma's life will be held in the William Sampson Memorial Chapel, Tainui Street, Greymouth on Thursday at 11am followed by cremation on the Coast at the Westland Crematorium.
Westland Funeral Services Ltd Greymouth Ph 03 768 0250

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Public Notice



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given as required by Clause 9.1 of the Thames Valley Rugby Football Unions Constitution that the Annual General Meeting of the Thames Valley Rugby Football Union Inc, will be held at the Union's Offices, 140a Normanby Road, Paeroa on **WEDNESDAY 22nd FEBRUARY 2023** commencing at 7.30pm.

The meeting will also be held via Zoom. To request a Zoom invitation, please email admin@tvrfu.co.nz

Situations Vacant



Relief Teacher

Northern Health School - Thames Unit, Mackay Street

We are looking for an on call relief teacher to assist our Thames based team in delivering learner focused programmes to students with chronic health needs. The preferred applicant will be a fully registered, experienced secondary trained teacher with NCEA experience and a basic understanding of the school curriculum.

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

Position commences Term 1, 2023

Please visit www.nhs.school.nz to apply on-line
Applications close Monday, 30 January 2023

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The hours of work are between 9.00am and 3.00pm with set week days and rostered weekend work.

I am open to options to fill the above position

- Someone with school age children who can work school hours
- Only wants weekend work
- Retired and wants just a few hours a week.
- Maximum guaranteed hours are 42 per fortnight with the option to do more cleaning
- Minimum would be two days a week at six hours per day

A job description is available and can be emailed out. Applications close 31 January and are to include CV and covering letter.

Please email to: book@tuscanonthames.co.nz

Public Notice

PAPER DELIVERIES

Please be advised that due to school holidays and a recent surge in COVID infections, we might not be able to cover all of our runs throughout the Valley over the next few weeks.

If you are one of the few who does not receive your weekly paper, please note they are available here:

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- PAEROA**
Moores Caltex, Countdown, HDC Council offices, Takenote, Paeroa 4 Square, Paeroa Information Hub
- WAIHI**
Maybelle Superette, New World, Toyworld/Takenote, Information Centre, Kenney St Dairy, Daffodil Dairy, Waihi Supervalue
- THAMES**
Totara Veggie Shop, Mobil Kopu, Gull Service Station, Martina 4 Square, Bin Inn, Tararu Dairy, Queen St Mobil, Goldfields Mall, Pak 'N' Save, Paper Power, Thames 4 Square, Carson's Bookshop, Thames Council Offices, Kauaeranga Store
- KEREPEHI**
Kerepehi Dairy

CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 1pm Friday

DEADLINE

As next week is Auckland Anniversay weekend, classified deadline will be 1pm FRIDAY 27th JANUARY

022 130 3885 | nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz

CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 1pm Friday

SPORTS RESULTS

Email your sports results and photos to editor@valleyprofile.co.nz

Public Notice

Public Notice

Hauraki District Council Meetings - February 2023



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

Taramaie Drainage District Committee
Thursday, 2 February 2023
9.00am - Ngatea Service Centre

Western Plains Drainage District Committee
Thursday, 2 February 2023
10.30am - Ngatea Service Centre

Eastern Plains Drainage District Committee
Thursday, 2 February 2023
1.00pm - Ngatea Service Centre

Paeroa Rural Drainage District Committee
Friday, 3 February 2023, 1.00pm

Regulatory Hearings Committee
Tuesday, 7 February 2023, 9.00am
(if required)

Community Partnerships Committee
Wednesday, 8 February 2023, 9.00am

Planning Committee
Monday, 13 February 2023, 9.00am
(if required)

Adaptive Planning and Emergency Management Committee
Monday, 13 February 2023, 1.00pm

Audit and Risk Committee
Tuesday, 14 February 2023, 9.00am

Finance Committee
Tuesday, 14 February 2023, 1.00pm

Regulatory Hearings Committee
Monday, 20 February 2023, 9.00am
(if required)

Zero Carbon Promise and Waste Minimisation Committee
Monday, 20 February 2023, 1.00pm

Council Meeting
Wednesday, 22 February 2023, 9.00am

L D Cavers
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council



www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz

Hauraki District Council



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

Situation Vacant

PAPER RUNNERS

We have a vacancy for a reliable paper runner in Paeroa to deliver the newspaper that is being read.

Please contact Geoff via email

admin@valleyprofile.co.nz

for more information.



Clayton Harrison lines up a shot. Photos: SUPPLIED

BOWLS

On Sunday January 15, Twentymans Funeral Services/On 2 It Electrical sponsored triples was played at Kerepehi Bowling Club. Numbers were reduced to 15 teams after being postponed from January 11 due to rain. Successful prize winners were: 1st 4 wins, 23 ends, 11 points (Kerepehi) Ken Hancock, Bruce Graham, Wayne; 2nd 4 wins, 22 ends, 39 points (Paeroa) Peter Rowling, Ken Lockley, Jim Erbacher; 3rd 3.5 wins, 25 ends, 37 points (Kerepehi)

Grant, Mike Hitchcock, Philippa Garrett; 4th 3 wins, 19 ends, 11 points (Kerepehi) Dave Sutherland, Barbara Thompson, Alan Thompson; 5th 3 wins, 16 ends, 16 points (Kerepehi) Mitti Taipari, Garry Parker, Don Cooper; 6th 3 wins, 18 ends, 1 point (Waihi) G Hewitt and team. Coming up on January 26: Local Bodies Invitation 4s; February 5: Lion Breweries 4s; February 19: Norm Allen 3s. Club championships continue through February and March. Contacts:- Club 07 867 6897, Lorraine 021 255 4527, Richard 022 603 1669. Good bowling, - Terry King



Jessica Harrison prepares to bowl.



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CONTACT: Forever Pets 07 868 6003.

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SUDOKU

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

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

EASY

			5					
		9			2		5	
8	3		1	7			9	
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MEDIUM

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

84

HARD

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

84

MEDIUM

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

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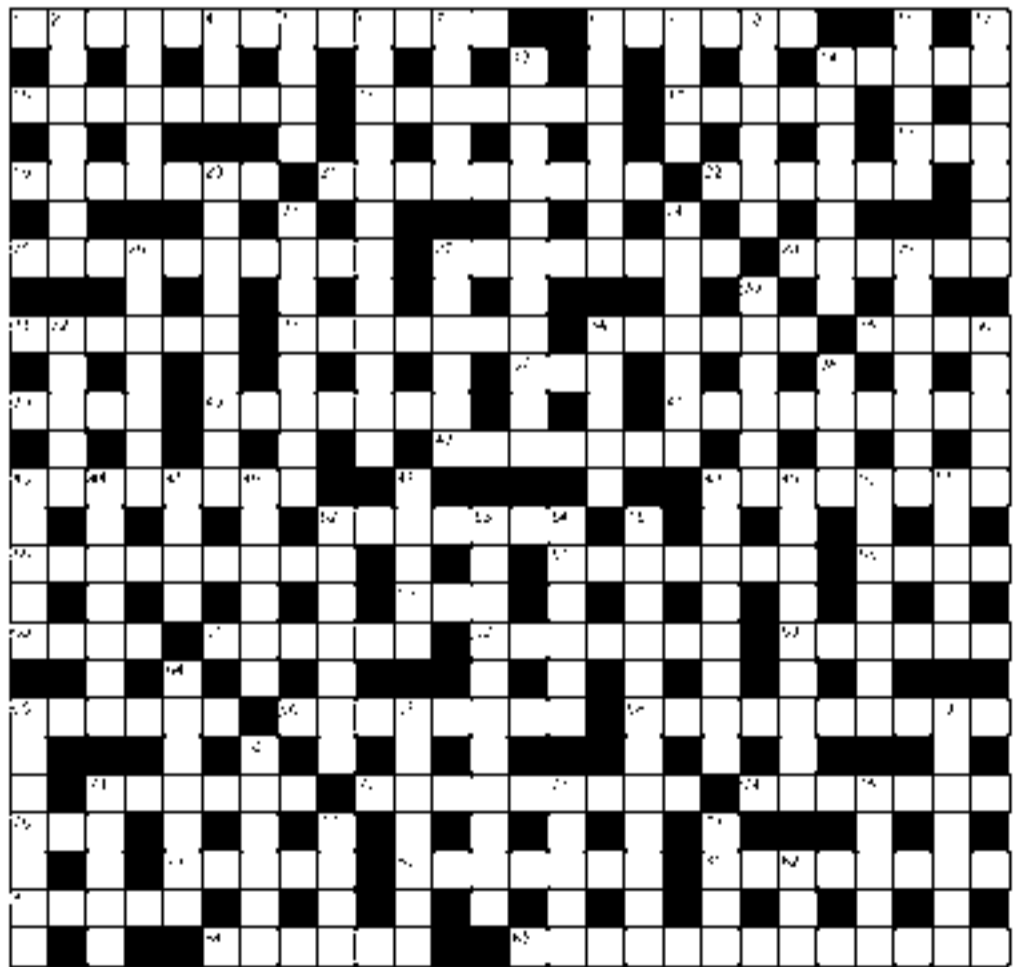
EASY

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

JUMBO CROSSWORD

104

- ACROSS**
- 1 Lose impetus or enthusiasm (3,3,2,5)
 - 8 Sends away for (6)
 - 14 Waste drain (5)
 - 15 Singing voice (8)
 - 16 Retaining (7)
 - 17 Heavenly body (5)
 - 18 Large beer cask (3)
 - 19 Small barkless dog (7)
 - 21 Declaration (9)
 - 22 Garden figures (6)
 - 25 Diminish in value (10)
 - 27 Holds (8)
 - 28 Discarded material thrown overboard (6)
 - 31 Spurn (6)
 - 33 Advantageous (7)
 - 34 Scanty (6)
 - 35 Responsibility (4)
 - 37 Frozen water (3)
 - 39 Asian desert (4)
 - 40 Consequence (7)
 - 41 Extremely tiring and demanding (9)
 - 42 Inscribe (7)
 - 43 Mesmeric (8)
 - 48 Brochure (8)
 - 52 Good food connoisseur (7)
 - 56 Apiarist (9)
 - 57 Eighths (anag)(7)
 - 58 Tosses (4)
 - 59 For each (3)
 - 60 Time period (4)
 - 61 Wretchedness (6)
 - 62 Car's underframe (7)
 - 63 Vehement protest (6)
 - 65 Meat pin (6)
 - 66 Leave by will (8)
 - 68 Idiot (10)
 - 71 Sibling (6)
 - 72 Engaged woman (5-2-2)
 - 74 Attained (7)
 - 76 Not home (3)
 - 79 Pasture flower (5)
 - 80 Of the stomach (7)
 - 81 Maritime (8)
 - 83 Become less intense (5)
 - 84 Duplicity (6)
 - 85 Wasted away or completely exhausted through overwork (4,2,1,6)
- DOWN**
- 2 Ignorant of (7)
 - 3 Oily fruit (5)
 - 4 As well (3)
 - 5 Sense (4)
 - 6 Get up to dance (4,3,5)
 - 7 Skilful (5)
 - 8 Thin, stiff dress fabric (7)
 - 9 Floor on ship (4)
 - 10 Jog the memory (6)
 - 11 Studies assiduously (5)
 - 12 Nuclear fuel (7)
 - 13 Taking to pieces (11)
 - 14 Thwarted (7)
 - 20 Winter visitor? (4,5)
 - 23 Arousing pity (8)
 - 24 Magnify (7)
 - 26 Get-together of former colleagues (7)
 - 27 Caffeine drink (6)
 - 29 Outdoor clock (7)
 - 30 Shock (6)
 - 32 Dark wood (5)
 - 34 Bravery award (5)
 - 36 Vision (5)
 - 38 Applaud (4)
 - 43 Pastime (5)
 - 44 Book introduction (7)
 - 45 Completed (4)
 - 46 Weaken, damage (6)
 - 47 With uneven surface (5)
 - 48 Game bird (8)
 - 49 Musician's beat counter (9)
 - 50 Summit (7)
 - 51 Hot coal (5)
 - 52 Welcomed (7)
 - 53 Goods for sale (11)
 - 54 Beat soundly (6)
 - 55 Breakfast fare (4,3,5)
 - 64 Disease (anag)(7)
 - 65 Russian tea urn (7)
 - 67 Vertical (7)
 - 69 Culinary herb (7)
 - 70 Make up one's mind (6)
 - 71 Homeless cat (5)
 - 73 Trunk (5)
 - 75 Porcelain (5)
 - 77 Kind (4)
 - 78 Reverse (4)
 - 82 Raises (3)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Drive a hard bargain, 10 Thoughts, 15 Clowns, 16 Postscript, 17 Tribunal, 19 Declare, 21 Litre, 22 Inaudible, 25 Violinist, 27 Brittle, 29 Intone, 33 Juice, 34 Concerns, 36 Comprehend, 39 Odd, 41 Leaning, 42 Manual, 43 Aviary, 44 Join, 45 Immense, 48 Meddlesome, 53 Spectre, 57 Kirk, 58 Thanks, 59 Garish, 60 Retract, 62 Keg, 64 Dog biscuit, 65 Aquarium, 66 Eaves, 69 Pullet, 70 Another, 71 Agreement, 76 Rationale, 77 Dummy, 78 Stadium, 83 Chuckled, 84 Strawberry, 85 Ceylon, 86 Amputate, 87 Golden opportunity.

DOWN: 2 Rolled, 3 Vowel, 4 Ass, 5 Alps, 6 Dismiss, 7 Absorb, 8 Girl, 9 Impunity, 11 Hermit, 12 Unbalanced, 13 Hind, 14 Salvage, 18 Guillotine, 20 Rule, 23 Ingot, 24 Foremost, 26 Incense, 28 Resolve, 30 Museum, 31 Around, 32 Spares, 35 Crate, 37 Dense, 38 Ends, 40 Dado, 45 Irked, 46 Marigold, 47 Ethics, 48 Mentioning, 49 Desk, 50 Luggage, 51 Sprout, 52 Miser, 54 Pier, 55 Certain, 56 Riches, 61 Lifejacket, 63 Buyer, 67 Stiletto, 68 Omit, 69 Panacea, 72 Gumdrop, 73 Silent, 74 Turban, 75 Dugout, 79 Doyen, 80 Jump, 81 Hand, 82 Typo, 85 Cot.

SPORTS

Badminton life member honoured

By GORDON PREECE

The Badminton Thames Valley Junior Player of the Year trophy has been renamed in honour of Sue O'Brien for her 45-year service.

Sue, who was made a Badminton Thames Valley life member recently, told *The Profile* she was "quite overwhelmed" but was "very honoured".

"I thought it was an appreciation of all the years. I've always been passionate about the sport and it's good when someone can say you're doing a very good job," she said.

"I first came to Waihi in 1976 from Auckland and was looking for something to do. I was actually wanting to join the tennis club but it was winter in 1977 and I met someone named Rhonda Kneebone, who said 'would you like to come play badminton?'"

"I actually didn't know what badminton was and I had never played it before so I came along to the day club. A year or so later I joined the affiliated night club in Waihi and that's where it all started really."

Sue said she had been a Badminton Thames Valley committee member, secretary, acting president and tournament organiser and co-ordinator for the Thames Valley Masters team.



Sue O'Brien will continue keeping "badminton fit" after 45 years.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

Her main highlight had been coaching between 200 and 300 juniors.

"When I'm coaching in Waihi I try and put enjoyable fun things in, they run around the gym a few times to warm up and then stand against the wall and do some exercises

and then we go through all the different strokes that they need to know when they're called," she said.

"Then I have helpers - my main helper is Helen Brady, who's from our Waihi Badminton Club, and we show them how to serve, and then for half

an hour at the end they have games.

"So it's kind of a fun learning environment, which I think is important for kids."

Sue said some juniors she had coached went on to compete in senior Thames Valley and national teams.

This included Taurian McConochie, who was the first recipient of the O'Brien Trophy for Junior Player of the Year in 2022.

Sue said she had also enjoyed keeping "badminton fit" while competing individually and with the Waihi Badminton Club and Thames Valley Masters and Veterans teams.

"That was probably the highlight - playing the inter-club [for Waihi], because you really had to get into it, know the rules and play properly," she said.

"As time progressed, I played for the Thames Valley Masters in the number one team... for a few years, and I loved that and I still compete with the Veterans when they need me.

"I play for enjoyment but I'm competitive when I'm out there.

"I've won a few things over the years but I think keeping badminton fit, being dedicated to the sport and if you're passionate about your sport you'll always do well."

The 75-year-old said she had no plans to put down her racket.

"Every year I ask myself can I play? but I'll be back this year and I'll continue playing for as long as I can," she said.

"I think if you stop when you're older you can't pick it up again, so you need to keep on no matter what."

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