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The Valley Profile

'Destination Thames'

With the Thames business community "hurting" amid the after-effects of a pandemic, cyclone, and the closure of a major arterial route for up to a year, the district mayor says an opportunity has arisen to make the town a destination and drawcard. **KELLEY TANTAU** reports



Concerns are rife within Thames' business community that with the closure of the Kōpū-Hikuai Rd, travellers will bypass the town.

They've already witnessed the quiet of the Covid-19 pandemic and a January that came with significant rainfall, now, business owners fear another stagnant spell.

But the district's mayor believes there lies an opportunity instead.

"We've got the Thames Coast Rd," he said, "which means that instead of coming to Kōpū, turning right, and going up [state highway] 25A, people are going to turn left and come through Thames."

The mayor spoke at a public meeting last week that was full to the brim with business owners wanting to know what to expect after their peak summer season was plagued with bad weather, road closures, and event cancellations.

Mayor Salt told them his council had to take State Highway 25A, "out of the picture", in order to provide Thames with an advantage. "As long as we can keep that access open, as long as we can get some resilience into the Coast Rd and we don't keep getting interrupted by weather events, we've got an opportunity here and I think we should be grabbing it with both hands."

Organised by the Thames Business

Association and with guests including TCDC chief executive Aileen Lawrie and Destination Hauraki Coromandel general manager Hadley Dryden, an aim of the forum was to offer suggestions as to "what Thames needs".

Most business owners felt that without an information centre manned by staff, those who did visit the town wouldn't know "where to go and what to do".

They suggested reestablishing an i-Site, reopening Mary St to traffic, and lobbying central government to make the roads more resilient to weather events.

Jenny McLeod, whose glass art gallery and shop is located along Pollen St, said she opted for "the basics".

"So, signage, I reckon, and the information centre. I think those are two key things that could happen quickly," she told *The Profile* at the February 20 meeting.

"I think we need them now more than ever because of the roading crisis. The biggest thing is we don't want people to miss Thames out."

"We are still up and running and have been the whole time."

\$25M IN CYCLONE RELIEF GRANTS FOR BUSINESSES ANNOUNCED, P2



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NEWS/EDITORIAL

Publisher/Editor Teresa Ramsey
Ph 0204 0944 853

editor@valleyprofile.co.nz

Senior Reporter Kelley Tantau

Ph 022 619 4889

kelly@valleyprofile.co.nz

Reporter Gordon Preece

Ph 022 174 3988

gordon@valleyprofile.co.nz

ADVERTISING

Ad manager Nikki Sanders

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\$25m allocated to cyclone relief

A \$25 million grant allocation to help businesses in cyclone-affected regions to clean up and get back on their feet is a welcome boost to the Coromandel.

The grants, which will be up to a maximum of \$40,000 per business, are part of the initial \$50 million emergency package recently agreed by Cabinet.

The grants are for businesses who face significant cashflow issues due to continued challenges with customer access, ability to source stock, supply chain issues, inability to operate as usual due to physical damage to equipment or premises, or delays in insurance assessment and repairs.

"We really want to thank the government for listening to us as we shared what our business communities are going through, and addressing some very painful economic hurt," Thames-Coromandel District Mayor Len Salt said.

"Between Cyclone Hale and Gabrielle we've hosted Minister McAnulty, Minister Allan and Minister Wood who have really understood the magnitude of these events on our local economy.

"We acknowledge other regions that have been worse hit in many ways, and the distribution of this funding will reflect that in the allocation. The col-



Grants of up to \$40,000 will be allocated by Thames-Coromandel District Council for those affected by recent cyclones.

File Photo: SUPPLIED

lapse of our roading networks is one of the biggest issues for us, and those connectivity links have a huge impact on business productivity."

Thames-Coromandel District Council will disburse funds for its region, and is currently working through the process of how that will be actioned.

"There will be collaboration and input from our business associations and industry leads around our district as part of

this process, which we'll be working through over the next few days," Mayor Len said.

In the past week council staff attended Business Association meetings Thames, Mercury Bay and Whangamatā.

"Feedback from these local communities was extremely valuable and will help with decisions around the allocation of funds. We've also been running a business impact survey, and this data and evidence will also

contribute to the decision making."

Finance minister Grant Robertson said the priority was to get initial emergency support out as quickly as possible.

"Those who are on the ground in communities know best how to do that. The government has established agreements with local delivery partners to make it happen," he said.

"Each local agency will have their own processes, but the government has provided the funding to address the immediate cashflow needs of businesses."

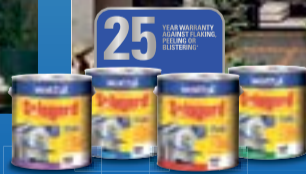
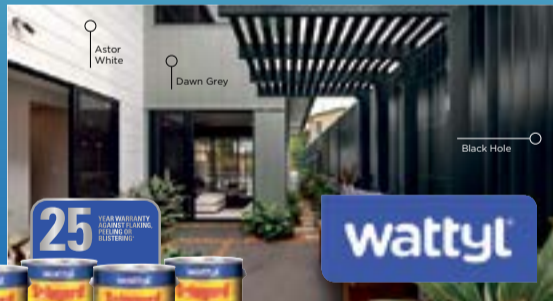
Along with the grants scheme, \$250,000 will be provided for the Employers and Manufacturers' Association to extend the reach of its employer helpline and \$600,000 for the Regional Business Partners to increase the amount of business advice they can offer.

The First Steps mental wellbeing initiative is available for use by businesses in affected regions. The costs of this are covered by the recent funding injection after the Auckland floods.

The funds add to the \$25 million in support for farmers and growers and a new recovery visa to help bring in more workers to help with the recovery.

DETAILS: More information at tcdc.govt.nz/bizcyclonerelief.

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Thames Tides

| Wed Mar 1 | Thu Mar 2 | Fri Mar 3 | Sat Mar 4 | Sun Mar 5 | Mon Mar 6 | Tue Mar 7 |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| Morning: 2:58am 3.0, 9:13am 1.1 Afternoon: 3:23pm 2.9, 9:31pm 1.0 Best At: 8:28am 8:54pm Set: 12:41am, Rise: 4:18pm | Morning: 4:01am 2.9, 10:16am 1.1 Afternoon: 4:21pm 2.8, 10:36pm 1.0 Best At: 9:19am 9:45pm Set: 1:29am, Rise: 5:10pm | Morning: 5:06am 2.8, 11:17am 1.2 Afternoon: 5:24pm 2.8, 11:40pm 1.0 Best At: 10:10am 10:35pm Set: 2:23am, Rise: 5:54pm | Morning: 6:04am 2.9, 12:12pm 1.1 Afternoon: 6:24pm 2.8 Best At: 10:59am 11:23pm Set: 3:21am, Rise: 6:31pm | Morning: 6:54am 3.0, 7:18pm 2.9 Afternoon: 1:00pm 1.0 Best At: 11:46am Set: 4:21am, Rise: 7:04pm | Morning: 7:38am 3.1, 8:04pm 3.0 Afternoon: 1:44pm 1.0 Best At: 12:09am 12:31pm Set: 5:21am, Rise: 7:32pm | Morning: 8:18am 3.1, 8:45pm 3.1 Afternoon: 2:01am 0.8, 2:25pm 0.9 Best At: 12:52am 1:13pm Set: 6:21am, Rise: 7:57pm |

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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 | Mn | LOW | Mn |
|-------------|----|----|-----|----|
| Coromandel | - | 05 | - | 04 |
| Whitianga | - | 02 | - | 06 |
| Tairua | + | 10 | + | 21 |
| Whangamata | - | 03 | - | 05 |
| Waihi Beach | - | 12 | - | 12 |

Kōpū-Hikuai Rd fix ‘may take a year’

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

It will be nine months to a year before the Kōpū-Hikuai Rd is fully re-opened in the Coromandel, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency says.

Waka Kotahi regional manager of infrastructure Jo Wilton said a solution was still being worked on to fix the Kōpū-Hikuai Rd, State Highway 25A, after a huge slip near the summit destroyed more than 110 metres of road after several storms in January.

“There are three main options for reinstating this highway. One – we build a bridge replacing the lost section of road; two – we build a deviation which bypasses the slip site; three – we build a retaining wall and effectively rebuild the road from the ground up,” Ms Wilton said.

“We don’t know which option is most feasible yet. The right solution cannot be established until the geotech work is complete.

“We know the rebuild must be resilient and as timely as possible. We understand how critical this highway is for Coromandel residents, businesses, and visitors.”

Coromandel MP Scott Simpson said the news was not surprising.

“I think over the last week or two everybody has become aware of just the size and the



It could be up to a year before the Kōpū-Hikuai Rd is repaired after a massive slip destroyed a large section near the summit.

Photo: SUPPLIED/NZTA

magnitude of the problem on State Highway 25A,” he said.

“I, and [Thames-Coromandel District Mayor] Len Salt, will be putting the pressure on NZTA and the government to ensure that the 12 months that they’re talking about is an absolute maximum. Hopefully it will be less than that and not longer.”

State Highway 25 needed to be a priority for the government, Mr

Simpson said. He was concerned for the businesses of the Coromandel Peninsula, who had already been feeling the pinch after a stormy summer and two years of restrictions due to Covid-19.

“The real issue is the time frame and the implications that having State Highway 25A closed for a year means for residents and visitors to the region,” he said.

“We are about to go into autumn and then into winter. Those are not the best months for trading around the peninsula.

“So many businesses are literally hanging by a thread, and for some of those businesses the owners are going to have to make some very hard tough decisions, probably sooner rather than later.”

Waka Kotahi said the slip site

“So many businesses are literally hanging by a thread, and for some of those businesses the owners are going to have to make some very hard tough decisions.”

- Scott Simpson

had deteriorated further following cyclone Gabrielle in mid-February. Some cracks across the road near each edge of the slip had widened, but there has been no further movement at this stage.

“The Hikuai side of the slip is high and possibly unstable. Assessment of the stability of this slope is underway,” Ms Wilton said.

“The next step is to construct a temporary track, to allow access for a geotech drilling rig up to the site of a potential deviation above the slip area. We also need to form another access track to the base of the slip where a retaining wall could be founded, but the ground is too wet to do this yet. Until we can get a rig in – we can’t get significant testing done.”

Ms Wilton said the tracks would likely be in place in approximately two weeks, subject to weather.





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Paint job to cost an extra \$164k

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

District councillors were torn last week over a decision to vouch for a paint job that has more than doubled in price.

At its February 21 meeting, Thames-Coromandel councillors were told the Tararu Arts and Culture Building just north of Thames was in need of exterior paint work.

The Heritage New Zealand building had not been repainted for 32 years, councillors heard, but while a budget of \$100,000 had already been set aside for the project, the updated cost of the work totalled \$264,000 - \$164,000 more than the original expected price.

This is because the labour needed to strip back the weatherboards was made more costly by the discovery of old lead paint; its removal must be notified to Worksafe.

Council's property and facilities manager Jon Muston admitted the new price - which was provided by three tender applicants - did catch him "a little by surprise".

"Yes, you can defer it, but you only defer the problem until tomorrow, and invariably, the problem tomorrow is more expensive than the solution today," he said.

"I know it's tough times with everything happening in the district, but these buildings still need attention."

The building is considered a district asset so the cost of the



The Tararu Arts and Culture Building just outside of Thames is getting a \$264,000 paint job. Photo: GORDON PREECE

paint job will be spread across all rateable properties - around \$2 per rateable unit.

South Eastern ward councillors Gary Gotlieb and Terry Walker both questioned the timing of the expense, stating that there was still uncertainty around how much it'll cost the council to repair infrastructure following Cyclones Hale and Gabrielle.

"I agree that 32 years ago is a long time but what's the difference with another year or so?" Cr Gotlieb asked. "We just don't know how much money we're

going to have to spend on our infrastructure... We need to spend money where it's going to help a greater number of people."

"I love the arts and I love this building... but I do have issues trying to justify it at the moment," Cr Walker added. "I struggle with it at this time and wonder if another year would be best."

However, Mercury Bay councillor Deli Connell said council needed to "look after" its historical assets.

"We have so few heritage buildings. It breaks my heart what's

been lost, so I'm definitely proud having this [done] properly."

The vote was: Mayor Len Salt; Crs Robyn Sinclair, John Morrissey, Rekha Giri-Percival, and Deli Connell for; and Gary Gotlieb, Terry Walker, Peter Revell, John Grant against.

"I know it hurts at this time, but I think it needs to be done," Mayor Salt said.

Staff are hopeful the repaint will be completed by the end of June.



Tornado lifts roofs, cuts power at Waihi Beach

More than 1000 Waihi Beach properties lost power on Saturday after a tornado tore through the coastal town.

Fire and Emergency New Zealand [FENZ] received calls reporting the tornado before 8am and Police advised the public to avoid the Seaforth Rd area while emergency services responded to a weather-related incident.

Residents in the Dillon, Wilson and Scott streets area reported witnessing the twister, which is believed to have lasted ten minutes, and some properties suffered damage with roofs torn off and fences and windows smashed.

The tornado was believed to have formed off the coast of Waihi Beach.

There were no injuries reported during the incident.

PowerCo reported about 130 properties were still without power on Sunday morning but its website showed no further power outages on Monday.

Metservice said there had been a thunderstorm warning in place for the area, which meant a tornado or waterspout was very likely to have happened.

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Cancer-free and ready to 'refresh' life

ONE YEAR ON

When *The Profile* first spoke with Wendy and Craig Fergusson in February, 2022, they were facing selling their home to cover the cost of an unfunded lung cancer drug. The Waihi couple now has an exciting update. **GORDON PREECE reports**

Wendy Fergusson has been through "hell" for 18 months. She's undergone rounds of chemotherapy, radiation, and immunotherapy to combat a cancer tumour on her right lung.

Now, the former smoker can claim she is cancer-free after completing her final treatment of Imfinzi in December, 2022.

The Profile first reported on Wendy's plight back in March last year, and at that time, Imfinzi was unfunded by Pharmac. However, it became funded in August, 2022, for people with locally advanced stage 3, unresectable, non-small cell lung cancer.

"I thought: 'Thank God for that' - because they just wouldn't give me any direction and I didn't know what future I had because you're always in limbo," Wendy said.

"We have a direction now, we can make plans. We didn't think we had any."

"We have a direction now, we can make plans. We didn't think we had any."

- Wendy Fergusson

After her diagnosis in July last year, Wendy underwent continuous chemotherapy and radiation in Hamilton.

"It was hell to be honest, and there was a time at the end of [2021] that I honestly didn't think I would survive it. There were times I didn't think I would wake up."

Wendy said the chemotherapy and radiation shrunk the tumour and her oncologist then suggested immunotherapy to ensure the cancer cells didn't return.

After initially suggesting an unfunded drug called Keytruda, which would have cost Wendy and Craig \$120,000, her oncologist changed her immunotherapy drug to Imfinzi, which is specifically targeted to treat lung cancer.

Also unfunded at the time, the couple faced having to raise more than \$200,000 for 12 cycles of Imfinzi which meant they may have to sell their home to pay for it. Wendy said the situation was "horror".

"They always say lung cancer is a major issue and yet how was someone supposed to come up with that money?"

"I talked to a couple of peo-



Wendy and Craig Fergusson can refresh their lives after 18 months of lung cancer treatment. Photo: GORDON PREECE

ple who had sold their homes to pay for it and there was no absolute guarantee that [Imfinzi] would work. They were now living with their children; they've had to reverse their lives because the government made them pay for it."

Wendy and Craig established a Givealittle page to raise funds for the Imfinzi treatment, but in the meantime learned from her oncologist that Pharmac was considering funding the drug - bringing the total treatment cost down to \$46,000.

The funding by Pharmac

meant Wendy and Craig no longer had to sell their home.

"It didn't become public until August but [my doctor] got me on the programme in January [2022]... I was incredibly lucky," she said.

Wendy had her final Imfinzi treatment on December 2, 2022, and continues to visit her radiologist and oncologist to ensure the cancer was under control.

She thanked her family and neighbours for their support during a "really crap year and a half", as well as the Givealit-

tle donors - including Alison O'Callaghan who walked the Tongariro Crossing to raise funds for Wendy in April last year after reading her story in *The Profile*.

Wendy said she and her husband would now focus on refreshing their lives.

"Now it's time to think of [Craig] - to make his life a little easier because he helped me immensely through it all.

"I may have been through this but he's been through it in the background and that's even harder," she said.

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ENTERTAINMENT

New event fund

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

Hauraki District Council have voted to close its traffic management fund for events and replace it with a new fund, one that is “open to all” across the rohe.

Increases in traffic management costs was one reason for the change, councillors heard, as was an over-reliance on council funding, and unequal opportunities for events not previously funded.

The new general fund will be open to all events taking place within the Hauraki district.

A portion of it will be “ring fenced” annually to fund the traffic management of events such as: Go Waihi’s Beach Hop Warm Up Party; the Paeroa Highland Games and Tattoo; ward Christmas parades; and the Rotary Paeroa Classic and Vintage Car Show.

If traffic management funding is not required for these events, the funds can instead be used for the general event fund, open to all other event organisers in the rohe [area].

According to a council report, fully funding traffic management for some community events had “created a reliance” on the district council for events to go ahead.

“It would be opportune to review and support these events to expand their funding streams

and/or adapt their events.

“Both Ngātea and Waihi moved away from Christmas Parades this year to events that do not require road closures and both events received positive feedback,” the report said.

“Neither were eligible for funding from the traffic management budget.”

The report also raised concerns about there being no process to determine the actual need of the organisations for funding, as the Go Waihi Warm Up Party, Paeroa Highland Games and Tattoo, ward Christmas parades and Rotary Paeroa Classic and Vintage Car Show had their traffic management invoices paid in full by council without needing to submit a budget or assurances beforehand.

“An event approval process is currently under development and it is envisaged that this will provide an avenue for event funding requests and offers of support from the [council’s] district events co-ordinator.”

The report was received positively at a council meeting on February 22, with councillors stating they were “happy to support it as it stands”.

The closure of the traffic management fund and creation of a general event fund received a unanimous vote around the table.



Josh Layne will strike a chord with Thames audiences on March 5. Photo: SUPPLIED

Canadian harpist to perform

Thames Music Group is “delighted” to host a Canadian harpist and composer for its first 2023 concert performance on March 5.

Josh Layne has many strings to his bow including a revival performance of Bochs’s long dormant *Concerto No. 1 in D minor* at the World Harp Congress in Wales in July, 2022.

He has performed extensively across Canada, the United States, Europe and South America, and has been praised

for his virtuosity and the sensitivity of his playing.

Mr Layne has also recorded four albums of solo harp music including his 2013 CD *Passage: music for solo harp*, which features three of his original harp compositions.

Nicknamed a “harp genius” and a “consummate musician”, Mr Layne will perform a program at St George’s Anglican Church that shows off the depth and breadth of the harp.

His concert will include original pieces and performances of Smetana’s orchestral masterpiece, *The Moldau*, the Adagio from Beethoven’s *Appassionata* sonata, and Jacques de Presle’s French impressionist *Garden in the Rain*.

His Thames performance will mark the end of his New Zealand tour, which began at the start of February.

DETAILS: Josh Layne - Harpist, March 5, 2pm at St George’s, Thames, \$20 door, \$15 members.



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Celebrations were had at the official launch of Waihi's revamped Rocket Park on February 20.

Photo: SUPPLIED/HDC

Trucks banned on 309, Tapu-Coroglen

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

Thames-Coromandel District Council has voted to prohibit the thoroughfare of overlength vehicles on the 309 and Tapu-Coroglen roads.

This follows the closure of State Highway 25A Kōpū-Hikuaī Rd after damage caused by recent storms, forcing large vehicles to follow a different route to access the eastern Coromandel.

In a report presented to council at its February 21 meeting, staff said both the 309 and Tapu-Coroglen roads were narrow, primarily unsealed, and had a number of "very tight corners".

"Neither of these roads are suitable for overlength vehicles," it said.

"Long vehicles cannot navigate them comfortably because of the tight corners, and trucks have crashed or been stuck regularly in the past."

In order to address the issues with these two roads, staff recommended council make two new restrictions under Clause 9 of its Traffic Control Bylaw to prohibit vehicles of 12.6 metres or more, including trailers, from using them.

"I think it's a good move, absolutely," deputy mayor Terry Walker said.

Blast off for Rocket Park relaunch

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

The Lions Club of Waihi celebrated the launch of the revamped Rocket Park last week, which now features a new slide and pirate ship among the upgrades.

The park, just off State High-

way 2 in Waihi, has been a work-in-progress for the Lions club and Hauraki District Council since 2018.

In April that year, the council asked residents what they'd like to see happen at the iconic playground.

The responses were: more swings, a flying fox, and keep-

ing the pirate ship.

Council removed the old ship for safety reasons, but had a new one built that fit the bill.

The \$140,000 joint project had its official launch on February 20, and opening the site was the vice president of Lions Club International, Dr Patti Hill.

As well as a new pirate ship and rocket slide upgrade, the park also features two flying foxes and a new swing set.

Work will start on new fencing for the playground - on the state highway side of the park - shortly, council said.



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Mufti day for Turkey and Syria

St Francis Catholic School in Thames held a mufti day on February 10, raising \$179 for people affected by two large earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. Principal Oliver Fahey told *The Profile* the school had been praying for the affected families, learning about both countries and decided to hold a mufti day for students to wear colours of both countries' flags [red, black, white and green] and raise funds. Reporter **GORDON PREECE** went back to school to capture the supportive students.



Year 7 and 8 students donned the Turkey and Syria colours.



Sherwin Joseph, left, Zuriel Regis, Jedi Taylor, and Jordan Sara.



Rillanya Rojo, left, Ridhika Renjith, Jake Jose, and Austin Knpton relished the mufti day.



Jakob Sara, left, JJ Owen, Lena Rumble, and Alzora Taylor.



Year 5 and 6 girls.



Year 1 and 2 students.

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Fatal fire at boarding house in Paeroa



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

A noise in the middle of a February night in 1912 woke John Crosby.

He looked out the window of the Paeroa boarding house owned by his father but seeing nothing, got back into bed.

Almost immediately he heard someone shout "Fire!"

Opening the door he found the passage full of smoke. He ran out, coming across Tony Lupes who told him it seemed the fire was in George 'Scotty' Preston's room.

Together they tried to enter Scotty's room, but flames

came forth in great sheets and the room was black with smoke.

Tony ran from room to room rousing the occupants while John rang the fire bell. John went back and up the stairs, but was unable to get to the top. He helped Mrs Flett down just as one of the ceilings began to fall. In less than five minutes the whole place was a blazing inferno.

Crosby's boarding house was formerly the Royal Mail hotel closed by prohibition three years earlier. Now used as accommodation, it had just over 40 rooms in which about thirty people, including some children, slept. Many had come that night from the Premier Picnic in Auckland.

Now lodgers were rushing about in their night clothes. There was a scramble for the stairway and most escaped this way out on to the road.

One young woman, cut off from the stairs by the flames, used a rope to pluckily make her way down the outside of the building. Other boarders also



The ruins of the Royal Mail Boarding House.

Photo: SUPPLIED

found themselves in a perilous plight but soon everyone was assembled on the road outside the building, except 33-year-old Scotty Preston. It was hopeless to try and get back into the building again.

Within minutes, the Paeroa Fire Brigade was on the scene but the water pressure was poor. The heat was intense, and

although the firemen worked gallantly they had no chance against the devouring flames.

Medhurst's stables, alongside the end of the burning hotel, soon caught fire; fortunately all the buggies, coaches and horses were removed.

On the opposite side of the road, buildings were scorched and started to smoke in the

heat which was so great that one of the firemen at a fire plug in Wharf St had to have a constant stream of water playing on him to prevent his clothes from catching fire. Within an hour and a half the boarding house was entirely consumed.

Around 5am the body of Scotty Preston was found. The noise that woke John Crosby he now believed to be Scotty trying to put the fire out.

Scotty had not been in Paeroa long. The Scotchman was formerly on the sea and held a marine engineer's certificate. He had been second engineer at the Waihi Paeroa Gold Extraction Company for about six months. He had been lodging at Crosby's boarding house for some four or five months.

An inquest found that George Preston was accidentally killed in a fire which destroyed the Royal Mail Hotel and that the fire originated in or near his room.

George, a single man, had no known relatives in the country. He was buried at Pukerimu cemetery, Paeroa.

Scott Simpson MP for Coromandel

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- Rensha Bouwer



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Rural Life

\$25m for rural cyclone recovery 'wasn't huge'

By GORDON PREECE

A \$25 million support package for those in the rural sector affected by Cyclone Gabrielle "wasn't huge" given the scale of the damage, the Rural Support Trust says.

The government last week announced \$25 million in grants to help with recovery efforts for farmers, growers, whenua Māori owners, and rural communities who were significantly affected by the cyclone in mid-February.

Waikato Hauraki Coromandel Rural Support Trust chairperson Neil Bateup told *The Profile* the funding was a "good opportunity" for the rural sector but it "wasn't huge" given the scale of the clean up.

"It's just a general pool, anyone from anywhere will be able to fill the application form and send it in and they'll all be assessed somewhere in Wellington but it's not specific to regions, just available to anyone who has been affected," he said.

Those in the rural sector can apply for cyclone recovery grants through the Ministry for Primary Industries.

Grants are available for growers of \$2000 per hectare up to a maximum of \$40,000 to remove silt from trees and vines, support the clean-up, and minimise tree and vine losses; and also for pastoral

Feds: Army must deploy to rural communities

Federated Farmers has called on the government to deploy the army to deter crime in rural areas of Coromandel, East Cape and Hawke's Bay.

Chief executive Terry Copeland said the army was present following the Christchurch earthquake, which established a threshold now crossed by the crime and fear plaguing the flood hit regions.

Copeland was in the Hawke's Bay over the past few days and met plenty of people who were cleaning up flood damage. Many had grave fears for the safety of themselves and property.

"People outside the region have little awareness of the dire situation. The criminal element is operating and intimidating in isolated rural and farming areas, and a perception is not enough is being done to rein them in."

"The Police are doing an awesome and much appreciated

and arable farmers of up to \$10,000 to help initial recovery on-farm, such as repairs to stock-water infrastructure for stock and fencing.

The Rural Support Trust held a flood recovery and support information session at Hikutaia Hall on February 23.

Rural Support facilitator Sam Owen, who hosted the event, said around 40 dairy, drystock



job. But the army would increase the reach of State authority and support to rural areas."

Copeland said there was no need for curfews or army enforcement powers, and the army could travel isolated regions, to make itself available as the communities requested. "Rural communities are tight knit and

self-reliant, but they could do with the reassurance and support of the army's neutral presence."

"Exhausted people in flood-hit areas are very vulnerable, and the State is not there with them at enough scale. They need the reassurance of the army presence, and criminals need the army to deter them."

and beef farmers attended from as far away as Whangamatā.

"They all wanted to know some information that they would love to explore further," he said.

"A lot were slowly getting on top of the workload, a few are still trying to grasp the scale of the damage they've got and working out what steps to take next... and a few of them were

feeling for the guys in Hawke's Bay and wondering what they could do to help them."

Mr Bateup said the trust was currently supporting Hauraki-Coromandel farmers who had to rehome their animals after the floods and were in need of feed.

"There have been a couple of farms who have had to rehome their animals because their

farms were flooded and other farmers have taken their animals in and looked after them until such time they can go back to their farms that they belong to," he said.

"I'm aware there's also some feed being donated and that will be needed for some people to actually get through this pinch if they had flooded farms."

Mr Bateup said more generators were needed for farmers during weather events.

While the Hauraki-Coromandel rural community supported each other amid the floods, there was a shortage of generators to keep businesses operating, he said.

"The issue is obviously up the Coromandel with access and power and I'm aware that there were generators being shared around three or four farms to get cows milked... which is really good," he said.

"But there probably weren't enough generators and I think that's something the farming industry needs to look at going forward."

"Farmers need to have a generator or a generator to share amongst three or four so if these things were to happen, there's a way to keep the business ticking over."

DETAILS: For more information contact Rural Support Trust: 0800 787 254. To apply for a grant visit: www.mpi.govt.nz.

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OPINION



By MICHAEL WILKES

I entered this year with such excitement for the year to come. It had been a tough few years for most of us and it felt like that season had come to an end.

It looked like we had a clear run to start the year well. And then the weather hit. We have been so fortunate in our region compared to what is being experienced in the Hawke's Bay. Yet, there has no doubt been tragedy and struggle in our own back yard.

What I have observed however is the resilience we see, that often surprises us. The news we are hearing and reports from friends and family on the East Coast is heart breaking. And yet we see a deep community resilience that stares tragedy in the face and re-

fuses to stay down.

In the past 10 years we have seen earthquakes, the mosque shooting, fires, Covid-19, flooding and slips. And we have seen people come together, neighbour helping neighbour. A region, or nation called to action, called to stand united.

When we experience pain, tragedy, even trauma as a collective, we stand as a collective. There is something about knowing that everyone else is in mud with me. There is a greater strength knowing that we are not alone, that we stand together.

I would argue that a huge part of the resilience of a person, and research would support this, comes from the community we have around us. When a person experiences tragedy or trauma in isolation, however, it becomes very hard to get back up and lean into the pain.

Just this week in our Thrive resilience program we explored this idea. We invited a student to walk around a rope while being supported by the class holding the rope in a circle.

Each student had a role to play, reflecting the connections of the young person - mum, dad, brother, sister, pet, class mates, sports team and so on.

As the student walked around

the rope, we then began to tell a story that saw certain aspects of the circle let go, until eventually only a handful of students remained as support.

And we asked the question to students: "who are the key people in your life that can hold you up when things get tough?"

In these trying times we find ourselves in, there are people in our community who are needing support right now.

We have people who have indeed lost their homes or loved ones. And now is the time to reach out and show others they are not alone in their pain. Because the greatest resilience comes from community.

Something valuable for us each to consider is what does our circle of support look like. Consider drawing or writing it down while you are healthy and well.

Consider who you would lean on, and who will lean on you. When we are consciously aware of who is in our circle, and talk about it with each other, it becomes easier to ask for help when we need it.

Because the reality is that no one is an island, and we need each other more than we care to admit.

- Michael Wilkes is a Living Well Trust Youth Worker

New staff at Health Ngatea

Introducing New Staff

We are thrilled to welcome our new Nurse Prescriber Nadia Malloy, who has recently joined the Team at Health Ngatea. She comes to us with 20 years of nursing experience, and has recently completed her Nurse Prescribing Post Graduate Diploma. The last 10 years of Nadia's career have seen her working locally amongst our communities. Married with two teenage daughters, Nadia enjoys surfing, camping and hiking.

As of Wednesday, February 15, we are really happy to have the renewed services here at the Practice of our HIP (Health Improvement Practitioner) Issac and his associate Coach, Graham. They work collaboratively as our HIP Team and appointments are made through a Clinical referral and having had prior assessment.



Government changes to CBAC (Community Based Assessment Centre). We have held these Clinics Monday to Friday for assessing patients with respiratory symptoms for the last 2.5 years and are continuing this service.

We have received notification that the government will no longer fund this and all costs involved will now have to be passed on to the patient. The cost will be the same as you pay for a general consultation. We can share more information as it comes to hand. Take care of each other and stay safe.

- Supplied by Health Ngatea.

Health warning for water

The Te Whatu Ora Public Health Unit for Waikato is reminding people with their own drinking water supply to make sure it's safe following recent weather events.

For those on tank water, it is important to check for any foreign matters that may have been drawn into the tank and are potentially contaminating the water within the tank. To disinfect your tank use household plain bleach (not scented varieties). Leave untouched for 24 hours to allow the chlorine to

work, the health agency says.

If you collect drinking water from your roof, it's advised to check the gutters for any debris that may have become lodged in the spouting. All spouting needs to be clean and the roof itself checked for any debris, sediment or animal excrement.

For those sourcing water from a stream or spring, ensure an adequate form of treatment is in place such as filters and ultraviolet disinfection lights, which may need changing or cleaning.

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SPORTS

Splash of Colour

Staff and Students of Paeroa College made the most of the perfect weather on February 10 during their annual swimming sports competition. School spirit was on display in full swing as everyone dressed up in their respective house colours to cheer on those competing. Throughout the day, students competed in a series of races and relays which gained them points for their houses. Later on, everyone had a bit of fun, with “biggest splash” competitions and teacher relays, where staff got involved and went head to head with students to conclude the day with some friendly competitive spirit. Paeroa College student **TALLIS AUSTEN** captured the fun.



Students show pride with their Māori and Tongan flags.

Photos: TALLIS AUSTEN



Best dressed males pose for a photo.



Keegan Bradey voted best dressed year nine boy.



Teachers time the swimmers.



Hayley Harris and Bronte Holden dress in green for Maru house.



Jo Tuivalalagi launches into his lap of breaststroke.



Cooper Robinson finishes his race in the lead.



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Muz Hintz says PTSNZ prides itself on its professionalism. Photo: GORDON PREECE

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needs in order to provide a stress-free experience" he said.

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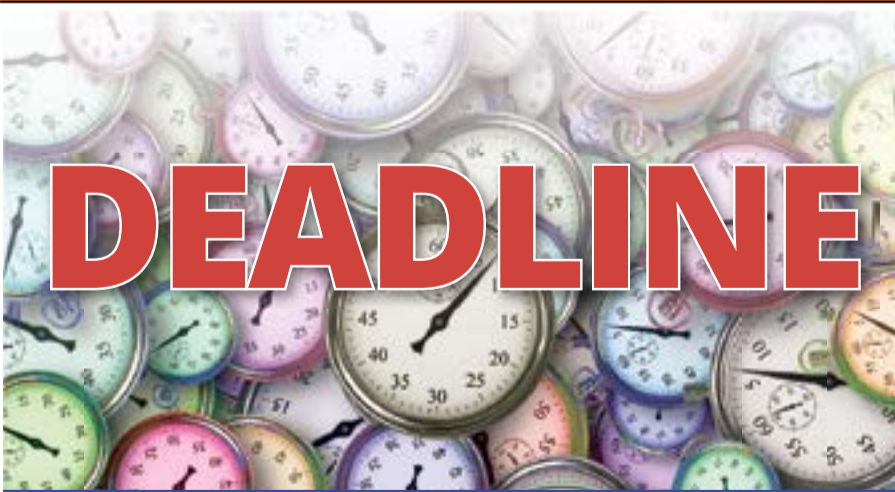
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Last month's winner of the lotto ticket was Martin Barber, who found Pete in the February 8th edition in the Valley Toyota advert. Go to page 2 for details on how to enter.



CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 1pm Monday



DEADLINE

We can take your classified ads anytime before 1pm Mondays

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CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 1pm Monday

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| Church Notices Thames Spiritualist Church, Sunday March 5th, 2pm Grahamstown Hall. Speaker: David Foster. | Grazing Heifer grazing available for 23-24 season. Keith Trembath, Ph 07 862 6833 | For Sale Aluminium door, incl frame & side light, 2.1hx1.250w, incl Schalge S6000 locking system, \$2000. Ph 07 867 5222 | Public Notice Paeroa & District Historical Society AGM 20th March, 1:30pm at Paeroa Museum 37 Belmont Road All welcome, tea and bikkies after <i>President Ron Tyrrell</i> |
| For Sale Inflatable dinghy, 2.7 long OA, incl 2 HP Yamaha outboard. Both units used twice, \$1000. Ph 07 867 5222 | Gardening Stump Grinding. All sizes, all areas. Free quote. Ph 021 060 7659 | Storage | Wanted to Buy Motorcycles, 4 wheelers & side x sides. Going or not. Phone 027 216 6867. A1 Motorcycles |
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Public Notice

Hauraki District Council Meetings - March 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 March 2023 in the Council Chamber, Hauraki House, William Street, Paeroa unless otherwise stated.

Regulatory Hearings Committee
Monday, 6 March 2023, 9.00am (if required)

Paeroa Ward Public Meeting
Tuesday, 7 March 2023, 5.30 - 7.30pm
Paeroa War Memorial Hall Supper Room

Waihi Ward Public Meeting
Monday, 13 March 2023, 5.30 - 7.30pm
Waihi Memorial Hall Supper Room

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

Citizenship Ceremony
Wednesday, 29 March 2023, 8.30am

Council Meeting
Wednesday, 29 March 2023, 9.30am

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Kopu Marine is a division of Kopu Engineering where we are also looking for keen experienced workers to work on large vessels we haul out such as mussel barges, aluminium welding experience and general marine work would be an advantage here.

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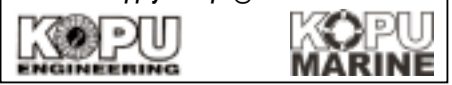
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The Valley Profile



Author intent on spelling out success

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

When it comes to spelling and reading, Thames author Julie Crimmins-Crocker is the most passionate person around.

The former teacher and deputy principal spent her career developing strategies to help her students with the fundamental learning skills, culminating in a series of *Learn to Spell* puzzle resource books for teachers.

"A particular passion of mine was spelling and literacy," she said. "Every subject is easier when you can read - science, maths, everything."

Julie said she initially designed the resources for use in her own classroom. "[When you work with children] you know what works and what doesn't work," she said.

Puzzles proved to be an excellent way to motivate her students to learn, she said.

"You like them to really get enthused about reading. And spelling can be tedious for some students, you do it out of context. This was a fun way of learning."

She said the puzzles added relatable context, by using real sentences and examples. The flexible nature of the worksheets allowed her to cater to each child's individual needs without a lot of extra work for herself. One child could be given an accompanying word list or have some starter words filled out, while another group would be able to work collaboratively to help each other read the clues, for example.

"They can tell if they've got the



Author Julie Crimmins-Crocker with her teaching resource books.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

answer right or wrong and then they can mark it themselves as well," she said. "Anecdotally, I'd say that it did improve their spelling and their reading, and their motivation, their engagement."

Each book is aimed at an age ranging from four to eleven, although they also are useful for older learners, including adults.

Julie based her resources around the method of phonics - teaching the relationship between the writ-

ten letters and their sounds.

"I think this idea of teaching phonics systematically but in context is the way to go."

She published her first few books with Folens Publishing, which is now Harper-Collins, while living in England. She later emigrated to New Zealand, and now she is retired, hopes to gain some interest for the newly modernised series here in New Zealand schools.

The *Learn to Spell* series has

been designed with teachers' needs in mind, with spiral-bound spines for easier photocopying, and PDFs versions available, she said.

"So these are really user-friendly for teachers," she said. "And that's why I did it first of all, to make my life easier, to help them learn and to have fun doing it."

Julie said she gets a great deal of enjoyment out of knowing others have used and loved her books.

"It's neat to help the students,

help the teachers, for them to enjoy doing it."

The *Learn to Spell* books are available in two series called *Cross Spell Crosswords - Phonics* and *Practice with Puzzles - Phonics and spelling*. They are available from Carson's Bookshop in Thames, or from www.learntospell.co.nz.



SPORTS REPORTS

The Valley Profile welcomes your sports reports and photos, email editor@valleyprofile.co.nz

Rugby coaches enjoy course

VALLEY RUGBY

Thames Valley Rugby Union hosted its annual World Rugby DRC Level 2 Coaching Course in Tairua on February 18-19.

After initial concern the course may be in doubt due to Cyclone Gabrielle, road closures involving slip and tree damage were remarkably cleaned up by some fantastic work by our roading contractors and the green light to go ahead was pushed.

In total, 16 amazing coaches from all over the region attended, travelling from Ngātea, Te Aroha, Whitianga, Thames and Waihi respectively.

A mixture of coaches attended, from secondary school students, junior coaches, secondary school coaches, club coaches, females, males, young, old and people just wanting to make a difference in their community.

For a Heartland provincial union, this is a remarkable number of coaches who were willing to upskill and learn. To put this into perspective, there were other provincial unions delivering the same course over the weekend such as Auckland (a much bigger union) and a combined Whanganui/Wairarapa Bush/Horowhenua Kapiti, which had fewer participants.

Over the weekend, coaches were educated on topics such as values and philosophies, planning, attack and defence systems, game analysis, principles of play,



The level 2 coaching group.

Photos: SUPPLIED

culture, selection processes and more.

Because of the location, participants were lucky enough get down to the beach for a set piece session.

A mixture of in the classroom and on the field activities kept coaches engaged throughout the two days, and some much-needed Vitamin D meant the sunblock had to be applied. Throughout the presentations, endless amounts of beautiful food and drink were consumed and a nice Saturday night in Tairua town was on everyone's mind. Pizzas and chips from Ma-

naia Café & Bar went down a treat, and so did the cold beverages which were on ice.

A big thank you must also go to our five Coach Educators and Tairua Rugby & Sports Club who put on an amazing show of fun and games. Our educators did an amazing job engaging our coaches, delivering a professional approach and showing the vision of Thames Valley Rugby.

Coaches have said that they felt "inspired", "encouraged", "honoured" and "made a number of life-long friendships".

From this course, the 16 coaches



A coaching planning session.



A lineout session takes place.

now head away to their respective clubs and schools. To complete the course, they must create a six-week training programme, be observed by one of our coach educators and also complete two online prerequisites.

These people will do an amazing job in our community, and we can't wait for them to give 320 players a quality experience and retaining them in our game.

We have some amazing people in this region and this weekend amplified that.

- Scott Day, Thames Valley Rugby Union rugby manager

Open triples tournament kicks off

WAIHI BOWLS

Hooray, the Waihi Bowling Club managed to get a fine day for our Open Triples tournament on Thursday, February 9, with six visiting teams and thanks to our sponsors Oceana Gold.

The greens have settled down and playing well thanks to some concentrated effort from our greenkeeper, Noel Rae, and helpers. First place: Judith Wilson with Barry and Garry. Second place was Arthur Thorburn with his Kerepēhi team, and third place was the Waihi Beach team skipped by Ann Murray.

Earlier, on January 14, our Open Tournament was sponsored by Rick Perkinson and was won by John Lorimers composite team.

Second was Peter Glass composite team, and third place went to Waihi Beach team with Gavin, Grant and Peter. In a generous touch, Rick gave a prize to each Skip to share with their team, and everyone enjoyed the camaraderie.

We now have our Facebook page up and running for you to catch some photos and news we will be posting on that. So all good, and goodbye to Gabrielle.

- Clare Boyd

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SUDOKU

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

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HARD

Puzzles © The Puzzle Company
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EASY

JUMBO CROSSWORD

109

ACROSS

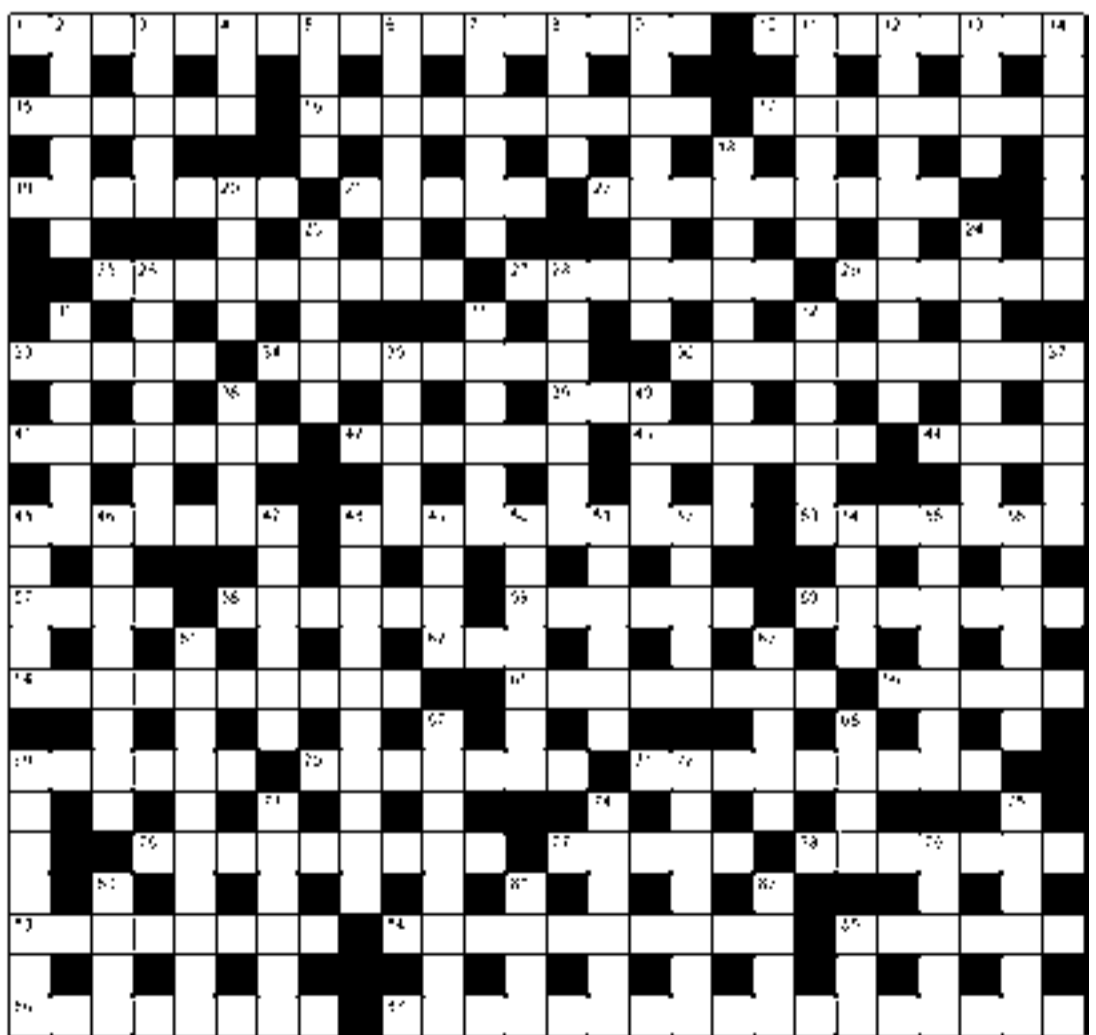
- 1 Do something to hide one's intentions (3,2,1,11)
- 10 Conversation (8)
- 15 Day nursery (6)
- 16 Restless desire to travel (10)
- 17 Displaying vigour, liveliness (8)
- 19 Clothes for newborn (7)
- 21 Whiskers (5)
- 22 Ill-judged, unwise (9)
- 25 Free from defect (9)
- 27 Never growing old (7)
- 29 Arm muscles (6)
- 33 Enraged (5)
- 34 Excessively ingratiating in manner (8)
- 36 Ghost (10)
- 39 Young child (3)
- 41 Submissive (7)
- 42 Rainwater channel (6)
- 43 Horse's feet (6)
- 44 Overtake (4)
- 45 Mailers (anag)(7)
- 48 Cave projection (10)
- 53 Sunshade (7)
- 57 Throbbing pain (4)
- 58 Browbeat (6)
- 59 Dried grape (6)
- 60 Précis (7)
- 62 Pair (3)
- 64 Feelings of doubt about (10)
- 65 Blunt criticism (8)
- 66 Minimum (5)

DOWN

- 2 Imaginary (6)
- 3 Male relation (5)
- 4 Beer (3)
- 5 Scythed (4)
- 6 Doghouses (7)
- 7 Alcoholic drink (6)
- 8 Regulation (4)
- 9 Set of clothes worn together (8)
- 11 Hinder (6)
- 12 Voice box inflammation (10)
- 13 Hinged barrier (4)
- 14 Puts up with (7)
- 18 Assume beforehand (10)
- 20 Heel over (4)
- 23 Make less sharp (5)
- 24 Articles (anag)(8)
- 26 Advent (7)
- 28 Of the stomach (7)

ACROSS

- 30 Explosive exhalation (6)
- 31 Accommodation house (6)
- 32 Cosmetics (4-2)
- 35 Gibe (5)
- 37 Of the nose (5)
- 38 Positive quantity (4)
- 40 Siamese (4)
- 45 Brings up (5)
- 46 Sticky (8)
- 47 Short-sightedness (6)
- 48 Fortress (10)
- 49 Mimicked (4)
- 50 Tumbling athlete (7)
- 51 Petty details (6)
- 52 Use one's mind (5)
- 54 Malarial fever (4)
- 55 Directionless (7)
- 56 Stampede (6)
- 61 Assign to a preconceived category (10)
- 63 Temporary repair (5)
- 67 Large neckerchief (8)
- 68 Supplication (4)
- 69 Remaining matter (7)
- 72 Small baking-serving dish (7)
- 73 Holds up (6)
- 74 Change around (6)
- 75 Hunting expedition (6)
- 79 Frequently (5)
- 80 Moist (4)
- 81 Food shop (4)
- 82 Threesome (4)
- 85 Tree (3)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 State, 4 Slip of the tongue, 14 Berth, 15 Trial, 16 Triple jump, 17 Tibia, 19 Pun, 20 Remnant, 21 Eavesdrop, 22 Snatch, 25 Balalaika, 27 Ration, 28 Fracas, 33 Seismology, 35 Elf, 36 Sultan, 37 Laud, 39 Fat, 41 Bedouin, 42 Salami, 43 Rigmarole, 44 Ahead, 45 Dead heat, 50 On, 51 Deceased, 55 Syrup, 58 Enigmatic, 59 Elixir, 60 Snigger, 61 Cur, 63 Lair, 64 Embark, 65 Apt, 66 Cordon bleu, 68 Prefer, 69 Accuse, 71 Impartial, 76 Amazon, 77 Scorching, 79 Jugular, 81 Fad, 84 Liken, 85 Equestrian, 86 Minus, 87 Calms, 88 Whiter than white, 89 Cycle.

DOWN: 2 Tureen, 3 Train, 5 Lure, 6 Pep talk, 7 Feeler, 8 Hound, 9 Topmost, 10 Note, 11 Urbane, 12 Graph, 13 Shyness, 14 Battery, 18 Antagonise, 23 Baton, 24 Bollard, 26 Abscond, 27 Ruffian, 29 Chamois, 30 Severe, 31 Pedal, 32 Haggle, 34 Yuan, 36 Steel, 38 Dread, 40 Date, 45 Dwell, 46 Asinine, 47 Hemp, 48 Autumn, 49 Trick, 50 Operate, 52 Consortium, 53 Algebra, 54 Eleven, 55 Scratch, 56 Girth, 57 Zinc, 62 Break, 67 Details, 68 Perfect, 70 Unclear, 72 Monarch, 73 Hookah, 74 Chosen, 75 Manual, 76 Adult, 78 Rough, 80 Unity, 82 Knot, 83 Daft.

SPORTS

Future pros visit Paeroa Golf Club

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

Five South Korean golf students who have made Paeroa their home for the past three months will be leaving with a number of achievements, with one breaking a long-standing ladies course record by five shots.

Teenagers Yul Park, Hayeon An, Seungyeon Shim, Seunggu Kang, and 12-year-old Shioh Heo arrived in the country with their professional golf coach, Hyunseung Kim, in December.

They travelled to Paeroa and, to gain experience, joined the Paeroa Golf Club, as well as the Hauraki and Te Aroha clubs.

For three months they have lived with Paeroa golf member John Saxon and his partner, Soon Duk Park, whose son is coach Hyunseung Kim.

John said he was initially daunted by the idea of having five teenagers living under their roof.

"We don't have a big house, but we have a nice caravan, so that solved that," he said.

"But we'd have them back,

definitely."

John said the students' routine typically consisted of waking up between 5.30am and 6am, having breakfast, and getting ready to head to the course on Rotokohu Rd, 6km from Paeroa's town centre.

Usually, they'd play 18 holes of golf before returning home for lunch and a rest.

At about 2.30pm, it's back to the golf course for practice under the "watchful eye" of coach Kim, before the day comes to an end at about 6.30pm.

Club captain Colin Anderson told *The Profile* that the young players' passion had been "an eye-opener".

"I get here fairly early most mornings and they're already on the course," he said.

"They're here all day and practise six days a week, and when they're not here, they've been going to other tournaments."

Tournaments have been held in Rotorua, Taupo, New Plymouth, and Hastings, with the teens doing well in the Danny Lee Springfield Open 2023.

And back at their home course of Paeroa, Yul Park broke the

"I get here fairly early most mornings and they're already on the course."

- Colin Anderson



The golf students from South Korea with their coach Hyunseung Kim, their hosts John Saxon and Soon Duk Park, and Paeroa Golf Club captain Colin Anderson.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

ladies' long-standing course record more than once.

The record was a round of Gross 69, but Yul achieved a Gross 66 and a Gross 64.

Colin and John said there was potential among the young

players, and possible Lydia Kos in the making.

The students and coach Kim will depart New Zealand on March 2 and said they were "very grateful" for the help and hospitality provided to them

from the club.

DETAILS: Paeroa Golf Club welcomes new members of all ages. For info, visit www.paeroagolf.co.nz



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