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The Valley Profile

MAYOR'S THAMES MOVE

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

When Len Salt arrives at the gate of his new Thames home, he has to stop the car to allow his dog, Molly, into the backseat.

She rides with him the rest of the way.

When they reach the house, tucked at the end of a cul-de-sac, the Thames-Coromandel Mayor is greeted by his wife of 27 years, Svargo, and the dog runs out in search of a squeaking cow from her toy box.

The couple made the move from Whitianga to Thames on January 21, and while there is a flatpack in the study and outdoor furniture in the living room, there are also homely touches already scattered around the place, like the garden sculptures Len had specially made for his wife.

"The thing we love about it here is it's safe, the neighbour's kids play on the street, they come and say hello. The welcome has been incredibly friendly," he says, "and I don't think it's because we're the Mayor and Mayoress, they just reached out and brought beans and flowers."

Len and Svargo moved to Whitianga in 2010, and it was in the coastal town that Len got his first taste of civic leadership. He ran for Mayor in 2019 and was ultimately successful in his bid at the last local body elections in October, 2022.

Originally, the pair thought he'd be able to do "quite a lot" in his new role as Mayor from Whitianga.

"Stage one of the plan was: stand for the mayoralty. If I won, then we would make decisions from there," Len says, "but the reality is, I have meetings and stuff I've got to do in Thames all day, every day, and while there's a lot of travel around the district, the number of meetings and commitments and engagements in Thames means that I've got to be here."

However, with Svargo a former maths teacher at Mercury Bay Area School, and with Len playing the banjo in the Whitianga Dixieland Band, the couple see themselves still heavily connected to the eastern Coromandel.

Their former home in Whitianga has been rented out.

"I need to travel a lot through the district," Len says, "and I'm really keen for Svargo to travel with me because she's a huge help to me in managing the stuff I've got to do as the Mayor."

"Even if I just chauffeur," Svargo says, "then he can be on his emails and answer texts and have a sleep."

CONTINUED ON P2



Thames-Coromandel Mayor Len Salt, his wife Svargo, and their dog, Molly, sit outside their new Thames property.

PHOTO: KELLEY TANTAU

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Regional rates to rise 5.8 per cent

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

A 5.8 per cent increase in Waikato Regional Council rates could be on the cards for the next financial year, subject to repayment decisions of an abandoned Hauraki Plains pump station project.

The Muggeridge's pump station drainage project in Ngatea was designed to deliver two 2-cumec pumps, a culvert and canal and aimed to provide a continued drainage service for the community and farmland in the Muggeridge area, from Kaihere Rd to the east and south, Pouarua Rd to the west and Orchard Rd to the north.

Regional council pulled the pin on the project after the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment declined shovel ready funding of \$5.7 million.

According to a report presented at its meeting on February 9, ratepayers have not yet contributed financially towards the Muggeridge's pump station project as it did not complete the construction phase. However, a debt of more than \$1.8m has accumulated from work undertaken to date, and, with interest added over a 10-year period, this figure will total \$2,523,570.

A council spokesperson told *The Profile* that while Waikato regional councillors had confirmed an estimated increase

in rates of 5.8 per cent, it was subject to a decision regarding the funding of the Muggeridge's pump station debt repayment.

It was agreed that on February 23, staff will report back to council on options for the funding of the Muggeridge's programme for inclusion in the final annual plan budget.

The pump station has been accounted for in the budget at a higher amount than the council is likely to land on at its meeting later this month, they said.

Regional council chief executive Chris McLay said the rates increase was heading towards the double-digits, but staff brought this number down to something more "realistic".

"In the LTP [Long Term Plan], the previous council had signalled, with the assumptions they had made, a 1.6 per cent increase, and in the last year or so the world's pretty much changed on us. We've had to face a few other realities in terms of what that means to our business," he said at the February 9 meeting.

"We've been really mindful that ratepayers have got to pay it, so we've done our best to bring you something we believe meets the levels of service that we've signalled but is appropriate to take out to the public."

At home with Thames' Mayor and Mayoress

CONTINUED FROM P1

"The nature of this job is that I could not do this on my own, without the support I get from Svargo... she's there helping me out, backing me up, and she's also got her own life to live."

"I'm sure I'll find it again sometime," Svargo adds with a laugh.

During his election campaign, Len made an early decision to vouch for South Eastern ward councillor Terry Walker as his deputy mayor. Audience members attending candidate meetings were, at that point, wary of a potential East Coast-West Coast divide.

Len told the crowds he'd "make it very clear" that a council under his watch would work for the whole district, and nothing has changed now he's living in Thames, he says.

"One of the things that needs to be really appreciated is that when you are Mayor, and when you are a councillor, you have responsibilities for the whole district, and that's one of the challenges individual councillors are faced with.

"Their responsibility is not just for where they live, but it's for the whole district."

Len, whose whakapapa is both Ngapuhi and Tainui, is the eldest of five children. He learned to cook at age 10 and helped out his mum because "dad wasn't around very much".

"I wrangled the other kids and

tidied up, peeled the potatoes, put the soup on, because mum was working full-time so it was down to me," he says.

"You learn a lot from those sorts of experiences."

He married Svargo on December 2, 1995, after meeting while dancing.

"Svargo was the best dancer in the room and everybody wanted to dance with her," he says.

"She had the best timing and the best rhythm."

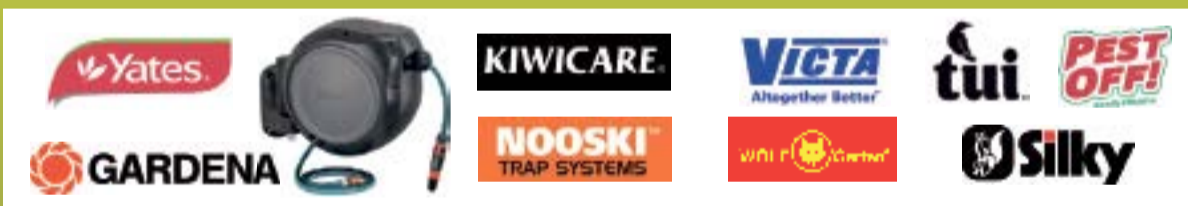
He's only forgotten their wedding anniversary once - last year, in the months after being named the district's new Mayor.

And with the severe weather events impacting the region's roading network and businesses, and with the Kōpū-Hikua Rd out of action for the foreseeable future, Len and Svargo chuckle when asked about his first few months in the top job.

"I've had other mayors ringing me up and saying: 'Oh my God...' They've been really supportive and are quite encouraging, saying that I'm doing a good job, and I find that really touching.

"Svargo's also really good at insisting that I get a break. She's really good at saying OK, enough, stop, put your feet up. She's really good at keeping me sane and healthy and balanced, because the reality is, I'm not good at doing that myself."

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Thames Tides

Wed Feb 15	Thu Feb 16	Fri Feb 17	Sat Feb 18	Sun Feb 19	Mon Feb 20	Tue Feb 21
Morning 2:35am 3.0 8:46am 0.9	Morning 3:38am 3.0 9:50am 0.9	Morning 4:47am 3.1 10:57am 0.9	Morning 5:56am 3.2 12:01pm 0.7	Morning 12:34am 0.5 6:58am 3.4	Morning 1:33am 0.4 7:55am 3.6	Morning 2:26am 0.2 8:48am 3.7
Afternoon 2:54pm 3.1 9:11pm 0.8	Afternoon 3:53pm 3.1 10:17pm 0.8	Afternoon 4:58pm 3.1 11:28pm 0.7	Afternoon 6:08pm 3.2	Afternoon 1:03pm 0.6 7:16pm 3.3	Afternoon 2:00pm 0.4 8:17pm 3.5	Afternoon 2:54pm 0.3 9:12pm 3.6
6:48am 8:16pm	6:49am 8:15pm	6:50am 8:13pm	6:51am 8:12pm	6:52am 8:11pm	6:53am 8:10pm	6:54am 8:08pm
Best At 8:11am 8:41pm	Best At 9:11am 9:43pm	Best At 10:15am 10:48pm	Best At 11:21am 11:52pm	Best At 12:24pm	Best At 12:54am 1:23pm	Best At 1:51am 2:17pm
Rise 12:38am Set 3:54pm	Rise 1:25am Set 5:03pm	Rise 2:23am Set 6:07pm	Rise 3:33am Set 7:02pm	Rise 4:49am Set 7:48pm	New Moon Rise 6:08am Set 8:25pm	Rise 7:26am Set 8:57pm

*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	Hi	Low
Coromandel	-0	05	-0	04
Whititanga	-0	01	-0	06
Tairua	+0	10	+0	21
Whangamata	-0	03	-0	05
Waihi Beach	-0	12	-0	12

Businesses 'overlooked' in storm relief

By ALICE PARMINTER Public Interest Journalism funded by NZ On Air

In what should be the busiest time of the year for the Coromandel Peninsula, last months' road closures and heavy rains have instead left visitors reluctant to travel and local businesses struggling through quieter than usual long weekends.

Now, a central government announcement providing relief funds for Auckland's floods has left many in Thames-Coromandel feeling overlooked.

A \$5 million package was allocated to help Auckland businesses with flood recovery payments, mental wellbeing support and small business advice.

But for Coromandel business owners, their only available relief was the waiving of penalty fees for late payments to Inland Revenue.

Coromandel MP Scott Simpson said he was "very disappointed".

"Our businesses have been disadvantaged by a series of heavy weather events and it seems that the government has decided to prioritise the Auckland businesses ahead of Coromandel businesses," he said.

"I think that's remiss and unfair".

Mr Simpson said the announcement showed ministers' lack of understanding about the impact of severe weather events on the Coromandel's economy.

"I know how gutted Coro-



Mayor Len Salt, left, and councillor Morrissey talking with Mike from the Pepper Tree Restaurant in Coromandel Town.

Photo: SUPPLIED/TCDC

mandel businesses will feel. [State Highway 25A] is clearly going to be out of action for much longer than any of us would want," he said.

"That's going to mean changed travel patterns, extra cost, extra time and obvious impacts for businesses and people around our region."

Though some businesses along State Highway 2 have reported an increase in business due to the detour, Thames Business Association manager Sue Lewis O'Halloran said

Thames businesses had been impacted.

She said the message on national news to avoid the Coromandel had been harmful, adding that advice for visitors to travel via Paeroa or Ngatea had meant that Thames had missed out on business.

"There is concern and frustration from our business community," she said.

Sue said some businesses had estimated their loss of business over Waitangi weekend at 30 per cent or more.

courage people to return to local businesses, adding that the season was not yet over.

"Once this weather clears we've still got a good opportunity to welcome visitors right through till the beginning of May," he said.

"It's not uncommon for it to be regarded as the best time to visit anyway.

"Temperatures aren't so hot ... the water's warm, you still get those long summer evenings without the actual heat so we're pretty keen to just ramp it up, lay out the welcome mat and get people back again."

Thames Coromandel District Mayor Len Salt visited Coromandel Town on Waitangi Day, talking to business owners about the impact of the storms and the need for visitors to return.

"With the support of Destination Hauraki-Coromandel, a campaign will be running in the coming weeks to encourage traffic through Thames, along the Thames Coast and up to Coromandel Town to encourage take a break, have a coffee and wander the shops before heading on their journey to the eastern seaboard," Mayor Salt said.

"The campaign will also promote the State Highway 25 southern entrance from Waihi through to Whangamatā, and up to Tairua and Pauanui."

Businesses across the district will be ramping up their own

CONTINUED ON P10

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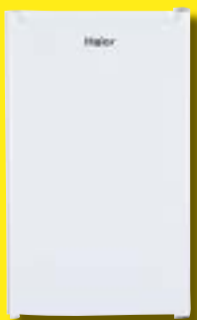


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Search for Sara Niethe restarts

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

The search for missing woman Sara Niethe restarted on Saturday, with search and rescue experts navigating “dense” terrain in rural Hauraki.

Sara, a mother-of-three, was killed by Mark Pakenham at his Kaihere home in 2003.

Ten years later, Pakenham pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of manslaughter after police recorded him saying he had fatally injected methamphetamine into Sara.

He was soon released on parole but has since refused to reveal where her body is, claiming that he cannot remember.

The search was headed by private investigator and former Waikato CIB senior detective, Bruce Currie, with more than 50 people, including Land Search and Rescue [LandSAR] crews from across the district, banding together.

The area of interest was Ohinewai Rd, a steep, narrow, gravel stretch of road off State Highway 27, that is said to be familiar to Pakenham.

“It is very, very dense, so it does mean the searchers will have to work very closely together,” Kip Mandeno told *The Profile*.

“Often in these searches, you think you’re looking for a big vehicle, but it might only be part of the vehicle or a piece of clothing.”

Kip is part of Hamilton Land-

SAR’s incident management team, and has 40 years of experience in search and rescue.

Following Saturday’s search, he said GPS data that recorded everybody’s movements would be reviewed.

“If we find no evidence or information of value, that will define future search areas.”

And even if nothing was found during the search’s early stages, every exploration attempt would be deemed a success, he said.

“Even if we find nothing today, it’s a success, because we’ve cleared areas and were able to reduce the search area, so it potentially gets smaller and smaller, and maybe we will find a success at that point in time.”

Conrad Leonard, a forestry worker with 16 years’ experience, was involved in the search. His partner, Danielle, is one of Sara’s three children.

“Our children... it’s their grandma that we’re trying to find, and they’re of the age now where they’re asking what happened, and I don’t know what to say to that,” he said.

“The three siblings are very close, they talk all the time, but Danielle is having trouble sleeping because everything’s becoming fresh and raw again.”

In regards to the day’s search, Conrad said finding “anything” was “better than nothing”.



Whangamatā LandSAR members analyse the area of interest before heading out in search of Sara and her vehicle - a 1987 Honda Civic hatchback. Below right: Search and rescue expert Kip Mandeno. Photos: KELLEY TANTAU



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Mangatangi Fire kindles 50 years

By GORDON PREECE

A Mangatangi dairy farmer whose hay shed caught fire sparked a rally for a local fire station in 1972.

Fast forward to 2023 and the Mangatangi Volunteer Fire Brigade will burst into marking its 50 years serving the “close-knit” community on February 18.

Chief fire officer for the brigade Steve Pogson told *The Profile* the brigade reaching the 50-year milestone was something it and the community could be “extremely proud of”.

“Everyone of us who’s in the brigade has joined to give back to the community so personally I’m extremely proud of what we’ve achieved and what we do on a yearly basis,” he said.

“Fifty years ago a gentleman by the name of Don Shanks had a fire on his hay shed on his dairy farm and as a result of that and the time it took for neighbouring bridges to attend, he felt there was a need in the community to have a brigade.

“He rallied around a whole bunch of farmers and workers in the area and got together and they became an axillary brigade to Pukekohe and that’s how it got started back in December 1972.”

Steve said the brigade, which has 17 current members, wouldn’t have reached 50 years



Mangatangi Volunteer Fire Brigade members were commended for their efforts to help the brigade reach its 50-year milestone.

Photo: SUPPLIED

if it weren’t for the support and efforts of its members and founder Don Shanks, who was the chief fire officer until his retirement in 2012.

“The biggest thing would be Don pushed really hard for the speed limit along State Highway 2 to be changed because of the number of fatalities and motor

vehicle accidents we were attending,” he said.

“We were the busiest rescue tenure in New Zealand for some years and we most definitely aren’t anymore because the road has changed.

“What we have and where we’ve got is a direct result of Don’s desire to get the brigade to

where it is and that’s why he got a Queen’s Service Medal [QSM] for his achievements.”

Steve hoped people would rush to the scene of the first lot of 50-year celebrations at the brigade on Miranda Rd on February 18.

“The plan is to start at 11am and go through to 3pm,” he said. “We’ve got an old vintage fire



Brigade founder Don Shanks.

truck coming in from Pukekohe, an aerial and heavy rescue tenure come down from Pukekohe, we’re going to have our own [fire] truck there and hopefully Westpac and Police dog handlers will turn up.”

“There will also be face painting and kids activities plus a barbecue for everybody, we’re hoping it will be a full on event well attended by the community.”

Steve said there would then be a plaque unveiled by Coromandel MP Scott Simpson and Waikato District Council Mayor Jacqui Church.

“Then we’ve got a function that night at Maramarua Golf Club where there will be some discussions and guest speakers from FENZ and the ex-chief Don Shanks,” he said.

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For more information go to <https://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/our-council/funding/creative-communities-scheme/>

Half a century at Thames Fire Station

By GORDON PREECE

Representing Thames in international challenges stoked Jim Maxwell's fire during his 50 years with Thames Volunteer Fire Brigade.

The former deputy chief fire officer told *The Profile* he was a 17-year-old apprentice fitter and turner at A&G Price when he got a call out to join the fire service in 1960.

"My father owned a butcher shop [Maxwell & Sons] in town and he employed a fireman when I was a little joker so I grew up getting to know this other guy and as I got older I used to go and watch them running their waterway competitions," he said.

"I hung around there and then one day when I was 17 I was asked if I wanted to join the fire brigade, and I joined as what they call a messenger because you couldn't be a fireman until you were 18 back in those days.

"So I used to hang with the chief and if he wanted something done I used to go and do this or go and do that and eight months later I was a fireman."

Jim said he then resigned from the brigade in 1965 to relocate to Auckland before returning to Thames in 1978 when he became an engineer at Kopu Engineering and resulted as a Thames volunteer firefighter.

He became the station officer in 1982 which he held until 1987 before being reappointed



Jim Maxwell is 'proud' of his 50 years at Thames Volunteer Fire Brigade.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

to the role in 1990.

Between 1992 and 2006 he was the third officer and was put through his firefighting paces.

"I've competed in waterways competitions for probably 25 years and we had a very good road crash rescue team [in Thames] which I managed and coached and we ended up winning an Australasian title with

that [in 2004 in Melbourne]," he said.

Jim said that win ignited the Thames team to compete in the World Rescue Challenge in Plymouth, England that same year.

"When you go away to competitions you learn a lot, you make mistakes, then you make mistakes again but that's the

guts of getting a winning team," he said.

Jim said his highlights also included receiving the Queen's Service Medal [QSM] in 2002.

"I was gobsmacked, I really was, I wondered why me?" he said.

"Then later on I was very proud to have received it because I got that as being a fire-

man and what I've done for Thames."

"The fire brigade is held in high esteem the whole time and we command a lot of respect and I think we give a lot, we try and entrench on the young ones that we are part of the community."

Jim was then appointed deputy chief fire officer in 2006 before he became involved in operational support in 2018 training firefighter recruits.

"When I stood down as deputy I was going to leave, but you can't be a member of something and not do something and I wasn't going to go to fire calls because I was getting old," he said.

"I love giving young people the same training as when I joined and getting them up to a national standard.

"It's a good feeling when these guys and girls go away to a course and they come back with a qualification, from a recruit firefighter to become a firefighter, I really enjoy it."

The 80-year-old said he had no plans to extinguish his fire service flame.

"I'm proud of the Thames Fire Brigade and I think we're a very well oiled unit, and I'm proud to be a Thames fireman," he said.

"Right now I have no thoughts about leaving, so providing my health will hold up and providing I keep the respect of other firemen, I'll stay."

Jim will be formally presented with his Double Gold Star Medal on March 18.

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Fun and Games

The 30th annual Highland Games and Tattoo was held in Paeroa Domain on February 11. The festival ran from 9am-9pm. Participants piped, danced, paraded and competed in heavyweight field events across the day, resplendent in tartans of all different clans. There was plenty of entertainment all day, followed by the Evening Tattoo. **ALICE PARMINTER** was there.



The Papakura Pipe Band strutting their stuff.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER



Highland dancers Emelia Farnell, 7, and Sophie Kaan, 8.



Solo bagpiper Phil Nielsen.



Irish dancer McKenna Hills.



Harry Hardie takes on the Axemen's woodchopping competition.



Ayden Thompson-Priest, 13, in the Lions Junior Highland Games.



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'Up in Smoke' has sweet twist

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

The return of Hauraki Plains' hottest event will pay homage to the idea that kicked it all off.

Back in November, 2020, Ngātea man Adam Matete put the call out for the best carrot cake maker on his community's Facebook noticeboard.

Six people entered the spur-of-the-moment competition, and in a surprising turn of events, the baking contest led to the development of a cook-off for "barbecue-tioners" that attracted hundreds of spectators and raised funds for the community garden.

Dubbed 'Ngātea Up In Smoke', the inaugural event took place on January 23, 2021, and featured competitors barbecuing and smoking meat for judging, as well as a chilli-eating contest.

It will be back this weekend after a year off following Covid-19 restrictions - and it will include a carrot cake bake-off.

"It's going to be good. There are about eight [cake] entries so far, and the terms and conditions state that any remaining cake belongs to the event organisers," Mr Matete told *The Profile*.

"Last year it couldn't go ahead, because we didn't want to scare everybody by having a big event just after the Covid restrictions had finished, and so we left it for a year.

"Now it seems that the scare of Covid is gone, and we are ready to go."

Barbecue-show celebrities and



Adam Matete has organised an 'Up in Smoke' event for this weekend.

FILE PHOTO: KELLEY TANTAU

"big-wigs" in the BBQ community will be attending the event, Mr Matete said, which will this year feature a new youth barbecue competition, a hot dog eating competition, a chilli eating competition and the barbecue cook-off.

"This year we're restricting it to three different meats - we don't want to make our barbecue experts broke," he said. "We've gone with: beef short ribs, pork belly

any way, and chicken lollipops."

The event will also host a bouncy castle and games for children, live music, and a licensed bar at the rugby clubrooms.

All funds raised will go to the Ngātea community pantry.

"I'm excited to see how it's grown, and the biggest thing for me is getting the community together, having a bit of fun, entertaining the kids, and giving a cash injection to the community pan-

try," Mr Matete said.

"With all the flooding that we've had, it's probably a good time to have a hot day out. We can barbecue your tears away."

DETAILS: 'Up in Smoke' will be held at Hugh Hayward Domain from 10am on Saturday, February 18. Contact Adam at upinsmoke0121@gmail.com for more information. Registrations preferred.



Final summer set for rocker

See former Swamp Thing "rocker and solo acoustic maestro" Grant Haua this weekend in Paeroa in what will be his final public show for the summer.

Reunited with his Swamp brother Michael Barker on drums, and Hurricane Elis' Brian Franks on bass, it's all set to be a night of acoustic and electric fretwork fireworks that's not to be missed.

Kicking off proceedings with an Awa Blues acoustic solo set, Grant will present his "deep timbre soul" vocals. It's a performance that relates heavily to his Maori culture, he says.

Grant Haua hails from Tauranga, and his second solo album, Awa Blues, was one of France's Rolling Stone magazine's Top 25 albums of the year in 2021.

DETAILS: Grant Haua Explosion, Saturday, February 18 at The Refinery, Paeroa. Tickets: \$40 door sales, \$30 pre-sales. Contact Nicky: info@the-refinery.co.nz or phone: 07 862 678. Event details at: www.eventfinda.co.nz



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Storm hampers SH25A slip assessment

State Highway 25A is once again being monitored for damage, as ex-Tropical Cyclone Gabrielle bears down on the Coromandel Peninsula.

With widespread surface flooding, coastal storm surge waves in low lying areas, land instability, power outages, road closures, trees and debris falling, Thames-Coromandel District Council's Civil Defence team urged caution throughout the district on Monday.

It followed Associate Transport Minister Kiri Allan visiting the region and SH25A to better understand the size of the repair job ahead.

She was joined by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's Regional Manager of Infrastructure Delivery, Jo Wilton.

"Waka Kotahi has begun the work needed to get a full picture of the damage to SH25A, but the right solution cannot be established until preliminary work is complete," Ms Wilton said.

According to Waka Kotahi, a full geotechnical assessment cannot be undertaken until the site has dried out, however, early investigations were underway with drones.

"The geotechnical investigations will help inform the best option to reinstate the highway. We are exploring a range of options for this site – but we won't know more until the experts can share their findings," Ms Wilton said.

"This is a critical thorough-



The slip on SH25A now measures around 110 metres across and is highly unstable, Waka Kotahi says.

Photo: SUPPLIED/NZTA

fare for Coromandel residents and visitors, and what we do know is that any fix will be complex and will take considerable time.

"It's imperative it's restored in a way that ensures resilience and long-term confidence for the Peninsula."

The slip now measured around 110 metres across and was highly unstable, Waka Kotahi said, adding that Cyclone Gabrielle could potentially

bring new challenges.

The severe weather event was expected to bring 400mm of rain and gale force easterly winds with gusts exceeding 130kmh to the Coromandel.

On Monday, the local Civil Defence was strongly urging all people in areas that have been flooded previously, or who lived close to beaches or rivers, especially along the eastern seaboard, to self-evacuate as soon as possible to family

or friends until the cyclone had passed.

In addition, Civil Defence strongly urged all people living on hillsides to check surroundings for cracks. If they were new or had increased in size or length, they were also encouraged to evacuate.

Waka Kotahi expected to be able to share more information about potential solutions for SH25A with the public in the next fortnight.

Businesses 'overlooked' in cyclone relief

CONTINUED FROM P3

advertising as well, with business associations in Thames, Whangamatā and Mercury Bay planning meetings to discuss promotion of their areas.

Goldfields Shopping Centre Manager John Freer also acknowledged that business had been a little slow during the stormy weeks.

The mall was closed and sandbagged on February 1 in anticipation of rising floodwaters, however the expected overflow did not eventuate and the shops were reopened the following day.

"It's obviously been quiet over the last few days. And of course the impact going forward is a bit hard to tell," Mr Freer said.

"Long weekends always create a lot of business, and that hasn't eventuated because of the rain."

Mr Freer said there was also uncertainty over whether customers from the eastern side of the Peninsula would return to Thames now that the State Highway 25A road from Kopu to Hukuai was closed.

"Whether they'll still continue to come around [to Thames] through Waihi or choose to go to places like Tauranga, it's a bit of an unknown."



Hato Hone St John Thames



Youth program.

Our St John youth programmes are restarting for the year. We have the Penguin Programme that caters for the 6 to 8 year olds to introduce these young people into fun and adventure in a controlled and supervised environment.

The Cadet Programme is for the 8 to 18 year olds and provides a focus on first aid, healthcare, leadership and general life skills.

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Free - Mental health First Aid course

These courses continue to be popular. Thames is providing these courses free to our community in appreciation of the support we receive and acknowledging the challenges our community faces.

St John - local people serving the needs of our community.

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Rural Life

Fonterra orders an end to killing bobby calves

By GORDON PREECE

Dairy giant Fonterra has ordered its farmers to stop killing bobby calves for non-humane reasons.

Fonterra said from June 1, Fonterra farmers must ensure all non-replacement calves should be raised for beef, veal or pet food.

"While the majority of [Fonterra farmers] won't need to alter their current practices as a result of this change, we can't afford to be complacent as consumers here and around the world become more interested in how their food is produced," a Fonterra spokesperson told *The Profile*.

Hauraki-Coromandel Federated Farmers president Robert Crow said while the ruling would have a "minimal" impact on the district, management of extra bobby calves prior to June may cause feeding and staffing issues.

"They've got to feed them waiting for that space to get them into the works and it's at a time of year when the procurement is pretty tight because of the number they are trying to process.

"The more animals that need to be fed the more staffing hours need to go into it,



Farmers must only slaughter bobby calves on their farms for humane reasons from June 1.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

and not enough staffing as it is at the moment is going to put pressure on farmers to somehow work out that shortfall," he said.

"It goes back to discussions with the government as to what they are going to do around the

immigration process to allow migrant workers to come into the country a little bit freer so that we can do the right thing."

Mr Crow encouraged any farmer who might be affected by the ruling to "preempt it".

"We've got a fair bit of time

between now and the spring to make sure that we've got systems and processes in place and the ability to house feed and care for those animals until you can get them off to the saleyards, or to rearers, or to the works," he said.



Robert Crow

"Spare a thought to opportunities to maybe rear some calves through the weaning, there's definitely money to be made there."

- Robert Crow

"Spare a thought to opportunities to maybe rear some calves through the weaning, there's definitely money to be made there to pop them back into the meat industry, especially the better quality stuff.

"So all we are saying is forward plan, think about it, there's opportunities which can come out of this if anyone is looking down those lines."

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- Parade of Hats 12pm
- Lunch 12.30pm
- Family Fun Games 1pm
- Prize-giving 1.30pm

ENTERTAINMENT



The *Unsung Heroes* will perform at Kauaeranga Hall.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Unsung Heroes on stage

Chris Priestley and the *Unsung Heroes* will be performing at the Kauaeranga Hall later this month.

With Peter Elliott, Cameron Bennett, Sonia Wilson and Nigel Gavin, The *Unsung Heroes* are set to tell stories from New Zealand's distant past, with newspaper clippings and poems read by Peter Elliott as an introduction, and a slideshow of historic images accompanying each song.

Chris Priestley is a singer-songwriter and New Zealand historian. He has recorded eight albums, three of which were Tui Folk Music Award finalists. As a hospitality entrepreneur, he co-founded Real Groovy Records as well as cafe and music venues Java Jive, Kerouacs, Atomic, and Café One2One in Ponsonby.

Cameron Bennett is a singer-songwriter, TV producer, media consultant and journalist based in Auckland. The former European correspondent and news presenter plays and performs regularly on acoustic guitar, lap steel guitar and fiddle, both solo and with various groups.

Nigel Gavin is a multi-award-winning musician. Initially a visitor from Long Island, New York, Nigel is now a Kiwi resident and has long been a featured player in Aotearoa's music scene, particularly in Auckland, playing seven-string guitar, banjo, mandolin, bass - indeed, almost anything with strings.

Sonia Wilson is a living, breathing "human Womad festival". Born and raised in Paris, UK-educated, and now based in Auckland, her music has taken her from the streets of Paris, across the Kenyan savannah, through remote Himalayan villages, and then "home" to New Zealand.

Peter Elliott is the group's narrator and compare. He has spent more than 40 years in New Zealand theatre's scene, as well as in film and television as an actor, producer, presenter, and as an advocate for actors. He has a passionate interest in New Zealand history and has been involved with *Unsung Heroes* over the past few years.

DETAILS: February 19 from 6pm. For ticketing info, email: chrispriestley@gmail.com.

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The Valley
Profile

Neglect contributes to woman's death

Dead Cert

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

George Thompson of Waihi had been doing the best he could for his 28-year-old wife, Eleanor, who had fallen ill at the beginning of April 1899. Times were tough for the Thompsons with George unemployed since Christmas, although he picked up some sporadic mining work.

From her sick bed, Eleanor would ask for bread, chicken and soup which George provided – the chicken coming from their own fowls. Between tending to his wife, his irregular work and care for their nearly one-year-old daughter, domestic tasks began to slide.

After a few days Eleanor seemed no better so George asked Clara Lucas, wife of a Waihi watch maker, to go to her. Clara knew Eleanor wasn't a robust woman and she found her to be very ill and complaining of a bad headache. She was in bed, dressed, with all the bedclothes on her. Over the next few days Clara visited Eleanor but she didn't want help and refused to see a doctor.

On Monday 24 April, at 7am, George on his way to the mine to look for work, tapped at Clara's window and told her Eleanor had fainted by the fire the previous day. When Clara got there the house was not very clean but she didn't think it her place to clean it. There was no work



The SS Delphic docked at Liverpool, 1898.

Photo: SUPPLIED

at the mine for George.

By Friday, Dr Wright had been called in. He found Eleanor to be suffering from typhoid fever. She lay in unchanged bedclothes in a grubby room. There appeared to be no suitable food for her. Dr Wright told George that it was impossible to treat her at home and recommended Eleanor's removal to Thames Hospital. George replied that he could not pay the hospital fees. Dr Wright advised that if he was destitute there was no charge.

But on Saturday Dr Wright felt there was a very great chance of Eleanor dying on the road. He then advised George to get female assistance and suitable food and medicine for Eleanor. Due to the Thompsons' circumstances, Dr Wright also wired the Charitable Aid Board for help - "Woman ill; typhoid; no means; too ill for removal; can you assist?"

Clara, as well as Miss Keane, came to help. Food and medicine was provided by a friend. About midnight Mrs Gallie came in and helped Clara lift Eleanor

out of bed and replace the old mattress with a new one. But despite their efforts, Eleanor's condition became worse and she died a few days later.

At the inquest Dr Wright said the cause of death was typhoid hastened by not having proper care and nursing. The women who attended her were inexperienced and only undertook the nursing out of pure kindness. His telegram to the Charitable Aid Board was delayed and they were not notified of Eleanor's dire circumstances until days after she died.

The jury censured George for neglecting to provide his wife with proper nourishment and care, and also criticised the unacceptable Charitable Aid Board system. Eleanor and George were from Northern Ireland and had arrived in New Zealand aboard the immigrant ship *Delphic* in 1897. Eleanor, a few months pregnant, suffered a turbulent journey to her new life which included hurricane squalls and terrific seas.

She is buried at Waihi cemetery.

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Photos: SUPPLIED

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Next door is the iconic fish shop, which has a daily selection of wet fish, seafood, bait, and salt ice available. You can also order from the fish shop delicious fresh fish and chips, which can be eaten in the cafe, or outside on the seating situated right on the Wharf as both businesses are one and the same. Afterwards, top it off from the selection of cakes and treats or with a

real fruit ice cream available inside the fish shop all year round. Cocktails are also a popular favourite over summer and the wharf can cater for small group bookings. The Wharf has a relaxed atmosphere for all ages to enjoy and is open seven days a week with late nights from Thursday to Sundays each week. So come down and enjoy this unique kiwi experience.

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Donna Hone will hold her exhibition at Paeroa Society of Arts until February 28.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

Macrame, pottery on show

By GORDON PREECE

Donna Hone hopes visitors to her Paeroa Society of Arts exhibition will appreciate the time and skill that goes into her pottery, knitting, crochet and macrame.

The former Seddon resident, who moved to Paeroa in 2018 to escape her earthquake nerves after the 7.8 magnitude Kaikōura jolt in 2016, told *The Profile* her exhibition was open until February 28.

Donna said people who had viewed her exhibition so far had been “very encouraging”.

“I’ve sold quite a lot of stuff and got some really good feedback from people who have

come in, and I hope more people get to enjoy what I’ve done.

“It’s about getting people to appreciate the time and skill that it takes to make something from scratch.”

Donna said her passion for art stemmed from her Bay of Islands childhood.

“I did art in school in Northland, [I did] pottery, photography, I did School C art. If I needed something, I had to make it myself and I played around with batique and all sorts of things,” she said.

Donna said she joined the Normanby Rd art gallery to learn new skills and engage with the community.

“I have always wanted to

learn and teach crafts that are not well known anymore, I used to do a bit of tuition with knitting, crochet and sewing because I feel like I’ve been born outside of my generation,” she said.

“Because there’s not a lot of people my age who do those kinds of things, so I’ve been like a sponge, if anyone’s trying something new I have a go at it.

“I have done market stalls at Paeroa Community Car Boot Markets, Paeroa Twilight Market and Waihi Underground Market, down in the South Island I did lots of markets and I recently went to the Tauranga Plant Fest.”

Country fair set for Kauaeranga hall

The Kauaeranga Hall will host a “fun-filled” country fair on February 18 to raise funds to improve its facilities.

Organiser Peter Revell said local residents had spent “many months” preparing for the fair.

“Having been postponed twice owing to covid and then unfavourable weather, we are hoping it is a case of third time lucky,” he said.

“The Kauaeranga Valley Hall is the focal centre of the vibrant Kauaeranga community and hopes to raise sufficient funds to further improve the hall and its surroundings, including improvements to the toilets and water supply.”

Mr Revell said the event, which will take place between 11am and 2pm, will feature the Kauaeranga Café, baking,

crafts, plants and bring and buy tables with an array of produce on offer inside the hall.

“There will [also] be raffles, lucky dips, and an ever-popular silent auction of goods and services donated by local residents, including artworks, BnB overnight stays, and trailer loads of firewood,” he said.

“Outside there will be produce stalls, live music, a pet parade, bouncy castle, face painting, along with an early afternoon of traditional family outdoor games from the past like sack races, three-legged races, and tug of war.”

Details: Kauaeranga Hall Country Fair, February 18, 11am to 2pm, 437 Kauaeranga Valley Rd. For further information ph: 021 912 993 or email: revellp@gmail.com.



The Kauaeranga Hall was established in 1902.

Photo: SUPPLIED

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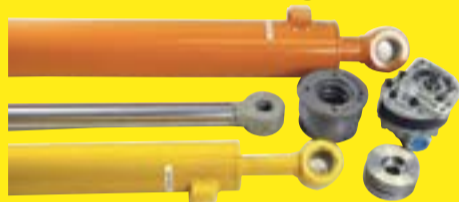


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Best under pressure



Thames businesses prepared by piling up sandbags.

Photos: GORDON PREECE

More wild weather for rohe

Business owners along Thames' main street prepared for ex-Cyclone Gabrielle by collecting sandbags and placing them at their entrances. The district council had sandbag collection points set up across the rohe [area] over the weekend, in preparation for the brunt of the cyclone this week. Four Square Thames owner Nalin Patel told *The Profile* that while there had been no power outages and he had prepared sandbags at his front entrance, his business had sold out of bread. "Saturday was busy and [on Monday] most businesses are shut so workers aren't here to pick up their stuff and go home after," he said. "Bread is sold out, and we cannot increase bread straight away because we have to tell [the suppliers] 48 hours in advance." Sand and sandbags that have been in contact with floodwater need to be thrown away, the district council has advised. They can be taken to a local transfer station.



Four Square Thames owner Nalin Patel said the store had sold out of bread.

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Schools donate to foodbank

Times are tough at the moment. We hear talk of recession, the cost of living has sky rocketed, and meeting the weekly costs for many is becoming all the more of a struggle.

And for some there comes that moment where they open the cupboards to prepare dinner for the whānau to discover the food is almost out and this week's pay needs to cover the car repairs.

It's times like these where many find themselves in a spot where they need that little extra support to get through the week.

Thankfully, that is where the Thames Food Bank, which has been operating for over 15 years, at Thames Baptist comes in. Late last year we were grateful to have a bulk amount of food from Parawai and St Francis primary schools come in.

Both schools sent a class to deliver the food and take the opportunity to learn about how the food bank works, where donations and food come from, and the harsh reality that life is not so easy sometimes we all need a helping hand.

There were many questions asked by students and it was a real pleasure having them join us for the morning.

The Thames Food bank has been an important resource in Thames for many years now and its availability comes down



Parawai, above, and St Francis students visit Thames Foodbank.

to the generosity of our Thames community.

We at Living Well Trust (Thames Baptist Community Ministries) wanted to take the chance to say a huge thank you to the volunteers and for the regular support we receive from

different business and individuals both in goods and financially.

DETAILS: Donations can be brought to 305 Mary St or placed in the donations box at Pak n Save.

- Supplied by Thames Foodbank

SPORTS REPORTS

Send your sports reports to editor@valleyprofile.co.nz



Graham Palfrey from the Waihi Bowling Club presents a very surprised Siobhan Mueggenburg with the \$1000 Big First Prize in the club's 1000 Tickets Cash Raffle, which was drawn on January 26. Siobhan is a local Waihi mum who is working hard to establish her Vintage Furniture Restoration project, so it could not have gone to a more deserved person. Congratulations Siobhan. Graham, John and Kay are active members of the Waihi Bowling Club and have formed a fundraising committee, below, to provide extra funds needed when the club

relocates to Morgan Park next to the Netball and Tennis Courts once the new Carpet Green is completed in the near future. So well done to their team, no doubt they will be tapping you on the shoulder again in the future. This raffle, sponsored by Paeroa Flooring Design, proved to be a winner, with the big first prize and five additional prizes of \$100 each. Tickets were sold both in Waihi, Waihi Beach and beyond with most of the lucky winners being locals. The complete list of prize-winners will be advertised separately. - Supplied by Waihi Bowls



/Richardsons

Paeroa / Ngatea

10 Willoughby Street, Paeroa **\$479,000**

NEW LISTING

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- Woodburner, heat pump, separate toilet
- 455m2 (m o l) section, single gge, handy to town

RG1999 🏠 2 🚗 1 🚗 1 🚗 1

28 Towers Street, Paeroa **\$515,000**

PRICE REDUCED

- 3 brms, good sized kitchen, single gge + carport
- Sep lounge with wood burner & heat pump.
- 481m2 (more or less) section. Handy to town

RG1988 🏠 3 🚗 1 🚗 1 🚗 1

204 Parawai Road, Thames **\$699,000**

Spacious open plan living area has been freshened up and a stylish new kitchen has been installed. Light & bright living area features polished floors

RT5723 🏠 3 🚗 2 🚗 1 🚗 1

607B Augustus Street North **\$785,000**

This split level home offers an attractive kitchen, open plan living with bifold doors opening out to a paved patio and a sunny deck area.

RT5753 🏠 3 🚗 1 🚗 1 🚗 1

17 Rimu Street, Kerepehi **\$469,000**

NEW LISTING

- 4 Double bedrooms/ Heatpump/ Good storage
- Polished wooden floors/Carport & Dble garage
- 1012m2(m o l) section/ Rural views

RN1471 🏠 4 🚗 1 🚗 2 🚗 1

8128 Shwy 26, Hikutaia **\$730,000**

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- 3 brm home with lovely rural outlook - Dbl Garage
- Room for gardening & paddocks for your animals

RRP229 🏠 3 🚗 1 🚗 2 🚗 1

10 Valder Place, Waiomou **\$945,000**

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NETBALL
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F: <https://www.facebook.com/HaurakiSoccer>



PAEROA PROBUS

Meet each 4th Wednesday
10am @Paeroa Bible Chapel
Wharf Street, Paeroa
President:
Elizabeth Beare
027 2795854

HAURAKI PLAINS PROBUS

Meet each 3rd Wednesday
10 am @ Ngatea Memorial Hall
Contacts:
Helen Baker 021 1818735
Jill McIntosh 867 7373

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Meet each 2nd Tuesday
10am @ Richmond Villas
89 Richmond St, Thames
President :
Chris Hovell
07 868 8196

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0276765005 or
Mike Somerville
0272821982



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is inviting potential new members to give squash a go!

Thames Squash Club is a very active, friendly and vibrant club in a great location with awesome facilities.

Some of the squash activities the Club regularly runs include:

- Tournaments and events
- Business house
- Inter-club
- Ladies night
- Casual squash
- Junior squash
- Coaching (for all levels of ability)

We have a fully electronic booking and access system that allows members to play squash when it suits and our membership rates are very reasonable.



If interested in finding out more please contact
Rob Johnston, Membership TSRC, 021 780 989
 Email: robjarchitecture@gmail.com - thamessquash@orcon.net.nz

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Rotary is a service organisation known for high integrity

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We welcome new members

For more information contact Margarete Ford (President) on rotarypaeroa@gmail.com



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A friendly, family orientated club welcoming everyone, catering to all needs with year round social and competitive league comps.

- Monday night casual tennis 5.30 pm at the courts for those wishing to return to tennis or those who want to give tennis a go.
 Contact Sarah Christophers 022 619 4413
- Weekday Tennis is Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Contact Peter Hudson PH: 027 334 2426
- Tuesday night is the Tennis League.
 Contact Karin Chambers 027 623 8590

Contacts - Coaching - Shannon Paki 021 0225 3308
All other enquiries - Jon Ballantyne 027 243 5364 (Club President)
 Sarah Christophers 022 619 4413 (Secretary)

E | thamestennisclub@gmail.com W | thamestennisclub.com
 403 Brown Street, Thames





Wahine Toa Netball Club based in Waihi aims to support Women, Men, and whanau in our community by providing a vehicle (a Club) that is passionate, endorses healthy living, and promotes a sense of belonging.

Mark these up-and-coming events on your calendar!

- Friday Night Thames Valley League trials, Men and Women 19th February 5pm
- Men's Pre-Season Tournament 1st April 9am
- Women's Social Muster- March 2023
- Housie Fundraiser- Date to be confirmed
- Pre-Season Tournament- Mixed/ Women's/ College in 1 division- date to be confirmed

If you're interested and want to know more, email
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Brian Robinson of Turua-based Mobile Mechanics. Photo: GORDON PREECE

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Brian, who previously worked at Terry Jeffcoat and Trevor Masters Transport in Kōpū, said because he operated from home, he could keep prices down for his clients. "So far we've had positive feedback from everybody," he said.

"I picked up one customer the other day and he said he'd heard good things about me and thought he'd give me a call so I was quite pleased with that."

Brian is able to travel to help clients with services and repairs or they can bring their vehicles to his house, which is cheaper as they don't have to pay him to travel.

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PM: McCaw Lewis-Legal Advisors:
MACA
NTT Settlement Bill
Corporate Whare

PAEROA WAR MEMORIAL HALL
05 March 2023 - 10am
Contact: Tennille Hirama
tennillehirama@yahoo.co.nz
021-842-154

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Logging Truck Driver

Full Time position in the Hauraki Area

MUST:

Be punctual, honest and reliable.
Hold a current Class 5 License.
Logging experience preferred but not essential.

Also casual position available but must have experience.

Please phone Chris on 0210 229 3626

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Public Notice

THE PAEROA RSA WOMENS SECTION
The Annual General Meeting will be held in the RSA Clubrooms Saturday 1st April 2023 at 1pm
Election of Officers & General Business
K. Strachan
Secretary/Treasurer

PAEROA RSA
The Annual General Meeting will be held in the RSA Clubrooms Sunday 19th March 2023 at 1pm.

Nominations for Office and Notices of Motion close with the secretary 6pm Friday 03rd March 2023.

Nomination forms are available at the club.
A Rohrlach, Secretary

Situations Vacant

Assistant Gardener/Maintenance Person

Are you motivated, enjoy the outdoors and working as part of a team?

Do you have experience in: gardening, lawn mowing and ground maintenance?

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SPORTS

Thames Valley Olympians bring home medals

Thirteen athletes from Special Olympics Thames Valley took part at the national summer games in Hamilton at the end of 2022.

Chair Anna Walters said the athletes enjoyed the accommodation at St Paul's Collegiate School, where they got to experience life in the dorms with the "most amazing" food.

The competitors took part in four sports: athletics, aquatics, bocce and indoor bowls.

"Excitement was high due to the long wait for the games, but it was wonderful to be able to share the experience with so many of our friends from the clubs across New Zealand," Anna said. "Sadly, we had to leave one athlete behind due to Covid, but we competed extra hard to support them and FaceTimed during the events to keep them up to date."

Anna said the athletes "excelled", and most pleasing for the coaches was the professionalism, commitment,

and friendship they showed during the event.

They came away with five gold medals: two for Jonathan Read in athletics, and one each for Carla Van Deventer and Stacey Cowdell in aquatics, and another for Sam Morrison in athletics.

They also got 10 silver medals: for athletics, Sam Morrison; the bocce team of Josh Allen, Henry Munro, Holly Jones, and Simon Ashby; as well as the indoor bowls team of Mattie Mikaere, Myles Singleton, Kim Forrest, and Kelsea Archer.

Bocce pairs Holly Jones and Simon Ashby, indoor bowls pair Kelsea Archer and Kim Forrest, and athletics competitor Jonathan Read also brought home some bronze.

DETAILS: Training starts next week for the athletes, with an athletics event in Tauranga in March. If anyone is interested in coaching, volunteering, or competing for Special Olympics Thames Valley please contact: specialolympicsthamesvalley@gmail.com



Bocce team, Henry, left, Holly, Simon, Josh and their coach Arthur.

PHOTOS: SUPPLIED



The competitors took part in the opening ceremony.



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

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HARD

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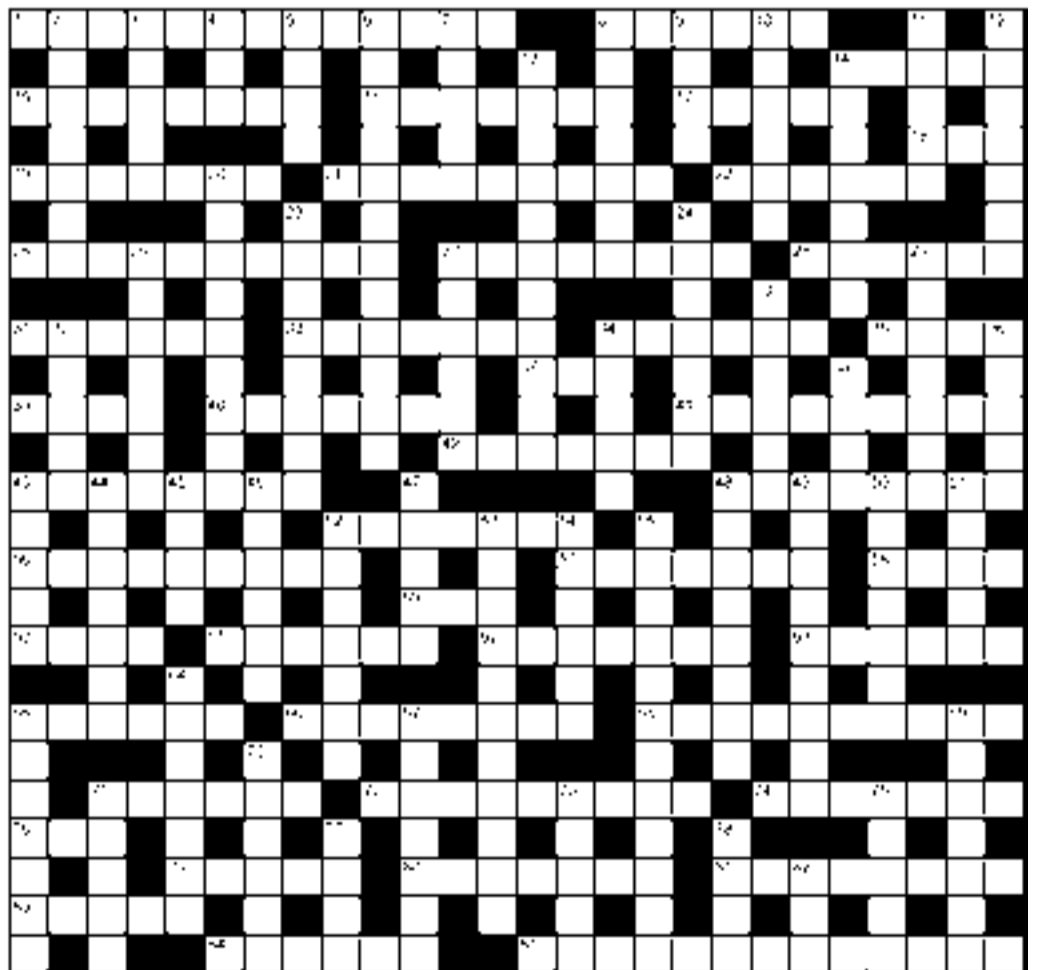
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3	7	2	8	1	9	6	5	4
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JUMBO CROSSWORD

107

- ACROSS**
- 1 Object of ridicule (8,5)
 - 8 Buff (6)
 - 14 Male duck (5)
 - 15 Flowering tree (8)
 - 16 Bitterness, resentfulness (7)
 - 17 Open-mouthed (5)
 - 18 Small child (3)
 - 19 Plans (7)
 - 21 Car's instrument panel (9)
 - 22 Prepare for an exam (6)
 - 25 Understand the sentiments of (10)
 - 27 Three-wheeled bike (8)
 - 28 Small wave (6)
 - 31 Larva's spun case (6)
 - 33 Title (7)
 - 34 Second-in-command (6)
 - 35 Young horse (4)
 - 37 Application (3)
 - 39 Business transaction (4)
 - 40 Optically sharp (2,5)
 - 41 Remiss (9)
 - 42 Making conversation (7)
 - 43 Airport passenger building (8)
 - 48 Put together from parts (8)
 - 52 Timed (7)
 - 56 Gain entry without invitation (9)
 - 57 Tidal river mouth (7)
 - 58 Ram down (4)
 - 59 Dead heat (3)
 - 60 Affectedly dainty (4)
 - 61 Bully into doing (6)
 - 62 Colonist (7)
 - 63 Highly decorated (6)
 - 65 Shared (6)
 - 66 Cloudburst (8)
 - 68 Race official (10)
 - 71 Planet (6)
 - 72 Estimates (anag)(9)
 - 74 Baffled (7)
 - 76 Direct a gun (3)
 - 79 Cosmetic powder (5)
 - 80 Illinois city (7)
 - 81 Lecture at length in a forceful manner (8)
 - 83 Intestine part (5)
 - 84 Grown-ups (6)
 - 85 Become familiar with customs and procedures of an organisation (5,3,5)
- DOWN**
- 2 Lawlessness (7)
 - 3 Wish granter (5)
 - 4 Unwell (3)
 - 5 Horned animal (4)
 - 6 Fish dressing (7,5)
 - 7 Spiral seashell (5)
 - 8 Depict (7)
 - 9 Heavy metal (4)
 - 10 Climbed (6)
 - 11 Fry quickly (5)
 - 12 Green vegetable (7)
 - 13 Speaking only one language (11)
 - 14 Shortfall (7)
 - 20 Added wing (9)
 - 23 Light fur (anag)(8)
 - 24 Angled (7)
 - 26 Difficulty (7)
 - 27 Dryness (6)
 - 29 Short pithy saying (7)
 - 30 Race sections (6)
 - 32 Excessively fat (5)
 - 34 Hardy fabric (5)
 - 36 Turning machine (5)
 - 38 Military flute (4)
 - 43 Close-fitting (5)
 - 44 Strategic withdrawal (7)
 - 45 Hankering (4)
 - 46 Legendary race of female warriors (6)
 - 47 Trail followed (5)
 - 48 Mixed-up word puzzles (8)
 - 49 Soaring firework (9)
 - 50 Afternoon performance (7)
 - 51 Restrict (5)
 - 52 Ancient two-wheeled horse-drawn vehicle (7)
 - 53 Irresistible impulse to steal (11)
 - 54 Eat hungrily, quickly (6)
 - 55 Extremely ill (2,6,4)
 - 64 Repeated decorative design (7)
 - 65 Sovereign (7)
 - 67 Perceives (7)
 - 69 Put to death (7)
 - 70 Debated (6)
 - 71 Odour (5)
 - 73 Fatuous (5)
 - 75 Tropical fruit (5)
 - 77 Relate (4)
 - 78 Closed (4)
 - 82 Cereal crop (3)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Alter, 4 Swinging the lead, 14 Barge, 15 Radar, 16 Plagiarism, 17 Cocoa, 19 Fit, 20 Western, 21 Greenland, 22 Devout, 25 Sceptical, 27 Tomcat, 28 Mercer, 33 Laryngitis, 35 Lad, 36 Switch, 37 Knob, 39 Ivy, 41 Winning, 42 Lagoon, 43 Agreement, 44 Grout, 45 Rosemary, 50 Is, 51 Shambles, 55 Salon, 58 Pyromania, 59 Shaken, 60 Fallacy, 61 Imp, 63 Duel, 64 Copper, 65 Err, 66 Lengthened, 68 Voyage, 69 Reject, 71 Alienated, 76 Gaiety, 77 Himalayas, 79 Odyssey, 81 Eel, 84 Soggy, 85 Expression, 86 Toxic, 87 Audit, 88 Paint the town red, 89 Terse.

DOWN: 2 Leaves, 3 Exact, 5 Well, 6 Nigeria, 7 Images, 8 Grill, 9 Homonym, 10 Lace, 11 Archer, 12 Drift, 13 Feather, 14 Bayonet, 18 Propaganda, 23 Ditty, 24 Habitat, 26 Cayenne, 27 Tidings, 29 Congeal, 30 Casino, 31 Aloof, 32 Scorch, 34 Snag, 36 Synod, 38 Baths, 40 Team, 45 Rapid, 46 Sorcery, 47 Mime, 48 Random, 49 Flair, 50 Inspect, 52 Avant-garde, 53 Believe, 54 Exceed, 55 Sampled, 56 Tarry, 57 Peel, 62 Unwed, 67 Against, 68 Veteran, 70 Eminent, 72 Liaison, 73 Stigma, 74 Make do, 75 Genius, 76 Glade, 78 Ample, 80 Score, 82 Hymn, 83 Cope.

SPORTS

Junior rugby split to be considered

By GORDON PREECE

Thames Valley Junior Rugby is considering holding its 2023 season in two separate divisions to tackle travel issues from ongoing road closures.

This includes the long-term closure of the Kōpū-Hikuai Rd on State Highway 25A after a large section collapsed due to a significant slip last month.

Chairman Gavin Flint told *The Profile* he believed a move to split the competition into eastern and western Thames Valley divisions would make junior rugby easier for both parents and kids.

“With rugby right through to senior level, there’s a lot of travel all over the Thames Valley... and with our main route, the Kōpū-Hikuai, being out of action, we’ve got to try and make it a bit more user friendly for parents and for the younger kids,” he said.

“If you asked them to travel two hours to play 40 to 50 minutes of rugby and then have to turn around and come back again, it’s a big ask on the kids, it’s a big ask on the parents, and petrol isn’t cheap so we’ve got to look at all the options.

“We don’t want kids quitting, we want to build on last year’s numbers and keep growing,

and this year we’re hoping to have an all-girls competition parallel with the boys.”

Gavin said under the proposed system, the first round of junior rugby, which kicks off in late April, would be held with teams on the same side of the Coromandel Range competing against each other before a decision was made whether to merge the two.

“Hopefully each conference will have a similar number of teams on each side in each grade... and they’ll probably play a round and then we’ll see what the roading situation is.

“If we can get through the Kōpū-Hikuai Rd, we might merge together and have a competition against each other, a lot of it depends on where the Kōpū-Hikuai Rd stands and the likes of the 309 Rd and the Tapu-Coroglen Rd.”

Gavin said the union would discuss the proposal with the Thames Valley clubs hosting junior teams. “It’s an idea to try and get clubs talking about it so we’re all prepared and parents know they’re able to do something,” he said.

“[Waihi Athletic Rugby Club] has the most kids and the most amount of teams so they could go either way to east or west but that’s a club council matter.”



Thames Valley Junior Rugby could be played in two divisions this year after a spate of road closures. File Photos: SUPPLIED



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