

The Valley Profile



100% LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

626 Pollen Street 07 868 6124



CoromandelApp



DOWNLOAD FREE TODAY!



The Valley Profile

STOPBANK TO STOPBANK

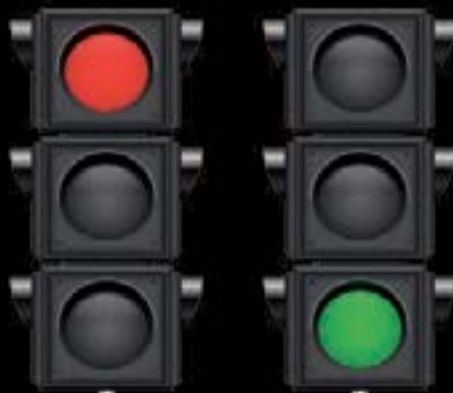
In the space of a fortnight, Waihou Valley's flood protection scheme has worked 'magically' to protect its towns from further damage caused by two severe weather events. **KELLEY TANTAU** dives into the scheme's history, and hears how Thames Valley communities would 'not be able to function' without it. Full story on Page 3.



A drone shot over Paeroa showing the closed floodgates at Criterion Bridge, left, holding back the Ohinemuri River on Tuesday, February 14. Cyclone Gabrielle was the first severe weather event that warranted their use since the gates were installed in 2018. Photo: TANE BRADLEY

We all know the drill...

RED is a NO



GREEN is a GO



0800 4 MY BIN (0800 469 246)

www.smartenvironmental.co.nz



smart
environmental

CONTACT US

The *Valley Profile* is delivered weekly to Hauraki Plains, Paeroa, Waihi, Thames, Thames Coast and surrounds, plus bulk distribution peninsula-wide.

Our focus is 100% local community content.

'The paper people read'

NEWS/EDITORIAL

Publisher/Editor Teresa Ramsey

Ph 0204 0944 853

editor@valleyprofile.co.nz

Senior Reporter Kelley Tantau

Ph 022 619 4889

kelley@valleyprofile.co.nz

Reporter Gordon Preece

Ph 022 174 3988

gordon@valleyprofile.co.nz

ADVERTISING

Ad manager Nikki Sanders

Ph 022 1303 885

Email: nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz

MISSED PAPERS/ADMIN

Ph 021 100 8709

Email: admin@valleyprofile.co.nz

2 QUEEN ST, PAEROA

Ph 07 862 7077

www.valleyprofile.co.nz

ISSN 2703-5700

Sentencing delayed for accused

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

The man accused of smashing a car into two Thames businesses last year has had his sentencing delayed after a raft of other charges were brought to the judge's attention.

On August 10, 2022, the man allegedly entered two addresses along Pollen St, Thames - Sunburst Cafe and Thames Jewellers - without authority.

He was apprehended by officers from the Paeroa police station.

The man pleaded guilty to charges set before him at a sentencing indication at Thames District Court on January 20.

The charges included theft, unlawfully taking a vehicle, possession of an offensive weapon, driving while disqualified, and two charges of burglary.

He was scheduled to be sentenced on February 17.

However, Judge Christina Cook became aware that the man was also facing a raft of different charges from Manukau District Court.

These included burglary and arson, intentional damage, carrying an imitation firearm, failure to provide information, another charge of driving while disqualified, and a charge of resisting.

Judge Cook said, in her view, the man's earlier sentencing indication - given by Judge Paul Geoghegan - was no



The Sunburst Cafe along Pollen Street was one of two Thames businesses to get ram raided in August, 2022.

File photo: KELLEY TANTAU

longer binding, considering it was given in isolation, without Judge Geoghegan's knowledge on both the man's earlier and subsequent offending.

"In the normal sense, this matter would have to go back for his consideration, but that's simply not possible at this time as he is not in the country," Judge Cook said.

"We need to consider a way

forward and there needs to be communication with both counsel as to who is going to represent [the man]."

Judge Cook said it was not appropriate or possible for two lawyers to counsel the man, making submissions on different sets of offending to be dealt with within the same sentencing event.

The man was therefore grant-

ed a continuation of his bail, which *The Profile* earlier reported as having the conditions of not contacting any of the victims, and not driving south of the Bombays unless appearing in court.

He is scheduled to reappear in Thames on March 17.



Hi, my name is Pete the Pukeko and I'm here to help you.

Find me in one of the display

advertisements in *The Valley Profile*, then email admin@valleyprofile.co.nz with your full name and postal address, and the business name and page number of the ad by the following Monday to go in the draw to win a Lotto ticket. Last issue it was in the Hauraki Taxation ad.

We fish
We dive
We know
Marine

READ BROS.
EST. 1867
Hardware

www.readbros.co.nz
308 Pollen St, Thames
07 868 6608

SCUBA & SPEARFISHING

Get your gear "dive ready" - we service all dive gear and fill and test cylinders.

We stock SCUBA and Spearfishing gear, wetsuits available to order.

MARINE

We are your local store for a wide range of marine products.

For trailer boats, yachts and launches - we stock chandlery for new builds, maintenance and repairs.

FISH

Your only main street tackle and marine safety gear supplier.

Charts, life jackets and flares available.



Chartered Accountants

The Hauraki Taxation Service Limited

- For out of town independent accounting advice
- Established 1982
- Approved agents for Inland Revenue Department
- Offices in Thames & Coromandel Town



328 Pollen Street, Thames
Ph/Fax: 07 868-9710

E: thames@haurakitaxation.co.nz

95 Kapanga Rd, Coromandel
Ph/Fax: 07 866-8660

E: coro@haurakitaxation.co.nz

Thames Tides

| Wed Feb 22 | Thu Feb 23 | Fri Feb 24 | Sat Feb 25 | Sun Feb 26 | Mon Feb 27 | Tue Feb 28 |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | |
| Morning 3:16am 0.2 3:45pm 0.2 9:39am 3.8 10:02pm 3.7 | Morning 4:04am 0.2 4:34pm 0.2 10:28am 3.8 10:50pm 3.7 | Morning 4:51am 0.2 5:22pm 0.2 11:17am 3.7 11:37pm 3.6 | Morning 5:38am 0.4 12:05pm 3.6 6:08pm 0.4 | Morning 12:23am 3.5 12:52pm 3.4 6:27am 0.6 6:54pm 0.5 | Morning 1:10am 3.3 1:41pm 3.2 7:18am 0.8 7:42pm 0.7 | Morning 2:01am 3.1 2:30pm 3.1 8:13am 0.9 8:33pm 0.9 |
| 6:55am 8:07pm | 6:56am 8:06pm | 6:57am 8:05pm | 6:58am 8:03pm | 6:59am 8:02pm | 7:00am 8:01pm | 7:01am 7:59pm |
| Best At 2:43am 3:09pm | Best At 3:33am 3:57pm | Best At 4:21am 4:45pm | Best At 5:09am 5:32pm | Best At 5:57am 6:21pm | Best At 6:46am 7:11pm | Best At 7:36am 8:02pm |
| Rise 8:40am Set 9:26pm | Rise 9:52am Set 9:54pm | Rise 11:01am Set 10:21pm | Rise 12:08pm Set 10:50pm | Rise 1:15pm Set 11:22pm | Rise 2:19pm Set 11:59pm | Rise 3:21pm |

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

MOON AND FISH KEYS

New Moon First Quarter Full Moon Last Quarter

Good Fishing Fair Fishing Not So Good

TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES

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

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

Flood protection performed 'magically'

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

It was as clear from the ground as it was from the sky: the Waihou Valley's flood protection scheme had done its job during not only one severe weather event, but two.

The Hauraki and Thames-Coromandel districts were hit with heavy rain, slips, surface flooding, and road closures over the storm of Auckland Anniversary weekend and Cyclone Gabrielle.

The latter arrived in the rohe in the early morning hours of Valentine's Day, and warranted the floodgates at Criterion Bridge, Paeroa, to be closed for the first time since they were installed in 2018.

"We were getting modelling right throughout the day as to what the potential [Ohinemuri River] rises could be... The state highway to Waihi was closed at 10.30pm due to slips rather than flooding, and at 1am, the gates shut - and at the right time," Hauraki Mayor Toby Adams said.

"The level of the river had got to the height of the main street of town, so the stopbanks performed magically. Absolutely magically."

The Waihou Valley flood control scheme was carried out between 1972 and 1997.

The scheme was designed to put an end to flooding, such as what was experienced in 1981, when Paeroa and Thames suffered considerable flooding and

more than 2000 people were evacuated.

According to NIWA, half the town of Waikino was completely destroyed when the Ohinemuri River broke its banks, and a Civil Defence emergency was declared in the Paeroa Borough and Ohinemuri County, as well as the Thames-Coromandel area.

A long-time resident of Station Rd, who didn't want to be named, said he lived in Paeroa during the town's floods of 1981, and recalled going "down the main street in a row boat".

"If we didn't have the stopbanks where they currently sit now... the town would've been underwater."

- Mayor Toby Adams

Following Cyclone Gabrielle, his garage was flooded, but his home was "alright" - and he said Waikato Regional and Hauraki District councils had "done a really good job" closing the floodgates and mitigating what could have been widespread damage within the town.

"We're extremely lucky in the fact that we've got a really awesome drainage and flood protection system throughout the Hauraki," Mayor Adams said.

"If we didn't have the stopbanks where they currently sit now, or the stopbanks at all, the

town would've been underwater."

The Waihou Valley scheme was the biggest flood protection scheme undertaken in New Zealand and cost more than \$178 million.

Collectively, the Waihou Valley and neighbouring Piako River schemes include 357km of stopbanks and floodwalls, 139 floodgates, and 52 pump stations. They help protect Te Aroha, Paeroa, Thames, Ngātea, Turua and Kōpū.

The Waihou scheme is one of the country's best and is often labelled "the Rolls Royce" standard, Waikato Regional Council's flood protection and land drainage manager Adam Munro said.

"Without the flood schemes in place, communities would simply not be able to function as they do on the Hauraki Plains. Much of the plains are at or below mean sea level, meaning that without the flood schemes in place - especially the stopbanks - some areas would flood every high tide, twice a day."

Mr Munro said Cyclone Gabrielle and Cyclone Hale - which arrived in January - had "certainly tested" council's infrastructure.

He said river level recorders in the Ohinemuri provided timely alerts on when flooding may occur. They recorded levels every five minutes, and this data was electronically sent to the regional council in real time.

These notifications, along with modelling using weather forecasts, meant the council knew



A monument commemorating the completion of the Waihou Valley scheme at the northern outskirts of Paeroa. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

when to close the gates across SH26 before the river levels got too high.

"We got to close the Criterion Bridge floodgates for the first time since they were installed in 2018, so that was very rewarding to see how well that piece of engineering stood up to the job, holding back the Ohinemuri River from flooding the state highway, the school, properties and farmland," he said.

"Infrastructure such as stopbanks and spillways mostly go unnoticed until you have a really big event such as Gabrielle and Hale, and it's then that people see them in action and really appreciate how much water they

hold back... that's when they're really valued."

Meanwhile, construction including earthworks on the Firth of Thames foreshore east and west stopbanks project continues.

This is a three-year project to upgrade the height of the stopbanks to design standard.

Regional council said the work was "critical" for the flood protection of the Hauraki Plains, from the Firth of Thames to Te Aroha on the Waihou River, to almost Morrinsville on the Piako River.



Soap Box Sunday

Hosted by Sandra Goudie
Retired
Mayor/Member Parliament.

Have you something to say?
Got a question?

Hot topics:

- RMA • 3Waters
- Therapeutics Bill

2pm Sunday 26 February.
Ngatea War Memorial Hall.
027 431 2442

Five generations, one store

READ BROS.
EST. 1867
Hardware

- Fastenings and Extrusions
- Key cutting and Locksmithing
- Interior and Exterior Paint
- Marine Supplies
- PPE and Footwear
- Tools
- Hose and Rubber
- Engineering and Welding Products

308 Pollen Street, Thames
Telephone 07 868 6608

www.readbros.co.nz

Snowden's - MENSWEAR -



New Seasons R M Williams clothing
and accessories in stock now.

Proudly locally owned and operated
for more than 50 years

520 Pollen St Thames,
Ph: 07 868 7056

www.snowdensmenswear.co.nz

LA Z BOY
Great Recliner **SALE**

Buy one recliner and
get a second one

**HALF
PRICE!***

LIMITED TIME ONLY *T&C's apply. Participating stores only. Please see in-store for more details or go to la-z-boy.co.nz

BAXTERS

LA Z BOY
FURNITURE GALLERY

Live life Comfortably

FURNITURE & BEDS R US

205 SEALEY ST, THAMES | PH 07 868 6128



CAPS Hauraki's Michele Fil, left, Deanne Cronin, and Nelson Joseph.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU



A cyclone didn't deter Waihi College students from spreading joy this week.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Fun and whānau at Children's Day

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

A free event that celebrates children and families will be "something to look forward to" after two years of restrictions and a summer of rain.

Held annually on the first Sunday in March, the nationwide Children's Day has been put on hold in Thames since 2021.

Its return to the town comes with "perfect timing", CAPS Hauraki chairperson Michele Fil said, with whānau in need of a pick-me-up after the spate of severe weather events.

"It is perfect timing because families are really stressed, and even if their house wasn't damaged, a lot of them would've been prevented from getting to work or to shops or to schools.

"We're talking about stress on top of stress on top of stress," Michele told *The Profile*.

This year, Thames Children's Day organisers have "gone back to basics" and have arranged for classic Kiwi games such as an egg and spoon race, tug-of-war, and a three-legged race.

There will also be crafts, poi-making, harakeke [flax] weaving, face painting, and live music.

The event is completely free. "We need to have a time to celebrate, and it's so important for families to be able to come and not pay for anything," Michele said.

"Everything is free and they can have a really good day with food provided and lots of entertainment."

The social service agency on Queen St has put on a Children's

Day celebration for "a long time" and each year continues to get bigger, Michele said.

"People hang out for it, they look forward to it... It feels exciting to be having something to celebrate after what has been such a difficult time and a difficult few years."

The Thames Small Gauge Railway will be in operation, while CAPS staff and Thames Rotary Club members will be on hand making kai.

DETAILS: Children's Day, Sunday, March 5 from 10am to 2pm at Victoria Park, Thames. This is a free event. All families welcome. Thames Taxis will be running a free shuttle. For updates and info, follow Safe kids, thriving families on Facebook.



Waihi students spread joy through fundraiser

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

Waihi College students shared the love this week when they hand-delivered cyclone-delayed Valentine's Day cards and chocolate to their classmates.

The kind-hearted gesture was carried out in support of Save the Children, with all money raised from the students' sales going towards the charity.

Valentine's Day was on February 14, but due to the arrival of Cyclone Gabrielle and subsequent school closures, the college's arts, services and communications co-ordinator Wendy Shave told *The*

Profile that they decided to delay the gift-giving and make it a "week-long thing".

Sales were made between Wednesday-Friday last week by students Divyash Swamy, Meg Thomas, Sarah Low, Ciara Hennessy, Jaja Holtz-Taylor, Lucy Walton, Jade Waite, and Dora Hsing.

On Monday, February 20, "cupids" Joseph Frew and Farish O'Flaherty delivered the cards and chocolates to their peers.

The college raised around \$300 for their efforts.



WAIHI COLLEGE

Oceana Education Trust Recipients and NCEA Endorsements'

Waihi College held a special assembly today for Years 11 to 13, to award those students who received Scholarships from the Oceana Gold Education Trust in 2022. These students were Erika Serenado, Honza Andrews, Izzy Faber, Sean Choi and Zac McKechnie. Special guests were ex Waihi College Principal Harry Shepherd who was the visionary for the Trust, ex student Rory Davis, Oceana

Gold representatives Kyle Welton, Kit Wilson and Trudie Stephens, Community representative for the Trust, Doreen McLeod and Student Representative for the Trust, Divyash Swamy. Naomi Laslett was also awarded with her Duke of Edinburgh, Gold Level. Unfortunately due to flooding, Naomi, Honza and Izzy could not attend.



We also celebrated those students who achieved an overall NCEA Level endorsement at Merit or Excellence level in 2022. Those students were Naelene Donaldson, Kataraina Ainsley, Maya Dodd, Samantha Morrow, Iain Hartley, Maggie Gerbich Burrows, Thalia Trepels, Scarlett Chambers, Amy Harris, Zoe Hug, Hayaat Dass,

www.waihicol.school.nz



Hamish McKinnon and Hamish Mudford. We also awarded students who achieved their Vocational Pathways Award. These students were Jaja Hotlz-Taylor, Nicholas Mannix, Queenie Su, Lucy Walton, Ciara Hennessy, Meg Thomas, Divyash Swamy and Tyla Millar.

Well done to our students and a special thank you to Oceana Gold – Waihi College has received support up to the value of \$1 million from the local gold mine, spanning 30 years now. Not only do they give out these scholarships, but they also give money to the school each year to help with a large variety of assets and resources that go on to benefit all our students. A huge asset to the whole community.



Check out the Keeping Informed section of the Waihi College website to stay informed with all things Waihi College www.waihicol.school.nz

Cyclone Gabrielle impacts community

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

Cyclone Gabrielle may have moved on, but the damage she left behind will take longer to clear away.

In Paeroa, the Racecourse Motel had to throw away eight entire units' worth of furnishings.

Owner Dale Marriner said the backwater had come into the carpark from Thames Rd, sitting at almost 30cm high.

"[There was] a car parked here because we had guests and that's how we found out - they woke early in the morning to water. Even the back of the car filled up," she said.

"Everything looks fine, but it's not, it's contaminated. Every single thing. Carpets, bed, furniture, everything."

Dale said they initially thought they'd escaped the floodwaters.

"I thought we really missed it, you know, and then it's come right through," she said. "There are worse people off, but yeah, it's devastating."

Also in Paeroa, Willoughby St resident Martin van de Wetering was busy cleaning up the day after the storm.

He told *The Profile* that the carpet on the bottom level of his house had to be ripped up, while his car was put on blocks to protect it from rising floodwaters.

"We didn't have any signs with the last storm event, and when we went to bed, there still weren't any signs of flooding,

and that was about 10pm. At 2am, we got up and had a look... we'd never seen anything like it before."

According to Hauraki District Council, 12 people and two dogs utilised an evacuation centre set up at Paeroa Memorial Hall.

"It was a combination of emergency evacuations and self-evacuations.

The self-evacuations [included] people feeling uncomfortable, so they chose to evacuate," council said.

In Thames, Te Kura O Te Kauaeranga - Thames South School - registered with Civil Defence's Emergency Operations Centre as a Community Led Centre and welcomed in a woman with pets, large family groups, and homeless residents.

The kura worked with Te Whāriki Manawāhine O Hauraki Womens Refuge, Ngati Maru, local Māori Wardens, Thames High School, the Hauraki Māori Trust Board, and Coastal Bins.

"We've had whānau come in from day one," board chair Michael Barlow said.

"Some have been coming and going, and we've also had people in transit - people who have nowhere else to go."

Meanwhile, Waikino School in the Karangahake Gorge also opened its doors in case anyone needed a place to stay.

Principal Jo Wheway said she thought the school wouldn't be needed, but she got a call about 10:30pm from a "lovely local family" worried about the large



For the first time, the floodgates at Criterion Bridge were put to use.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

trees around their property.

She said it was "handy" that they were able to offer school as a safe refuge for people as Waikino was often "overlooked" as it was located between Waihi and Paeroa.

"But if we have floods and slips then the people of Waikino can't get to either of those towns, so we have to start thinking about community resilience as we look to a future with increased likelihood of adverse weather events."



Thames South School opened as a safe haven for residents.

Photo: SUPPLIED



FREE
Children's Day
Sunday March 5th
10 am to 2 pm
Victoria Park, Thames

Fun activities for the whole family!

BRING A PICNIC AND JOIN US!
Bouncy castle ▶ Bumper balls ▶ Water slide ▶ Train rides
Face painting ▶ Games ▶ Music
And more...

Check More FM Coromandel
wet weather cancellation

CHECKLIST
✓ The kids ✓ Picnic
✓ Water ✓ Sunscreen
✓ Togs & Towel

This event is proudly organised by CAPS Hauraki
to celebrate National Children's Day
Enquiries Phone 07 868 8644

THAMES MUSIC AND DRAMA
PRESENTS
Four Original Short Plays

@mergence
noun.
1. the process of becoming visible after being concealed.

Tararu Arts Centre
March 17th - 19th 2023

I AM NOT BROKEN **BEST LAID PLANS**
WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY LAURA HAMILTON WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY DAVID BULL

FREEING AVA **THE CHANGE**
WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY PETER MARSHALL DIRECTED BY ERIN WIGLEY

BOOK NOW

thamesmad.co

OUR COROMANDEL



News from Thames-Coromandel District Council

22 February, 2023

Kōpū Marine and Business Precinct

It's full steam ahead on building the infrastructure for the new marine and business facility at Kōpū, in spite of interruptions caused by the severe weather.

The earthworks and roading, including a new access road – King Street, are on track to be completed by the end of February. In March the marine contractors will move onto the site to start work on the commercial wharf.

When it's finished, the facility will consist of: an 80m long commercial wharf and floating pontoon enabling in-water marine servicing and vessel loading; an expanded, unsealed haul-out; an upgraded, concrete reinforced slipway; and a public boat ramp and car park.

The target date for the opening of the whole precinct is May 2024, creating up to 100 long-term jobs and attracting new business and investment.

tcdc.govt.nz/kopumarineprecinct



Roading and earthworks will be ready before marine contractors start work in March.

Below: Lorenzo Canal from Urban Solutions, who is managing the project for our Council, on site showing elected members the site plan.



A technical survey of existing infrastructure has now been completed.

Pollen Street services

The ground-penetrating radar survey of underground infrastructure on Pollen Street and connecting side streets has now been completed and a report is being drawn up for March.

The physical work to replace ageing underground pipes is not expected to start until after June 2023 and will be carried out on a staged basis. There will be stakeholder meetings well ahead of the construction so we can talk through the proposed work programme and get feedback from businesses and the community.

Tōtara Valley

Preparatory work has been completed on the first phase on the infrastructure needed to enable

more residential housing to be built in Tōtara Valley south of Thames to ease the town's housing shortage. A stormwater culvert has been built under Ngāti Maru Highway (SH 25) to reduce the risk of flooding, and a turning bay completed on the highway into

Tōtara Valley Road. Further road widening and extension of water, wastewater and stormwater services are expected to be completed by the end of 2024 and the tender process is underway. Current landowners have received valuations to review.

tcdc.govt.nz/totaravalleyroad



Thames Community Board UPDATE

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

"A huge thank you to everyone who has been involved in the severe weather events, from emergency management staff, contractors, and our communities for looking after each other. 2023 has been a rough ride, but I'm convinced that our communities and businesses are resilient and have the skills and determination to recover, providing Central Government is able to provide some form of help. We look forward to meeting some of you at Thames Market where every second Saturday Board members will be present to listen and chat with the public."

adrian.catran@council.tcdc.govt.nz



The Board's next meeting is on Wednesday

29 March 2023, at 10am in the Council offices.

To speak in the public forum, contact governance.services@tcdc.govt.nz
Agendas are published two working days before meetings at tcdc.govt.nz/meetings
You can watch recordings of our meetings on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/c/ourcoromandel](https://www.youtube.com/c/ourcoromandel)



What do you think about our draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan?

HAVE YOUR SAY FROM 3 FEB TO 3 MARCH
tcdc.govt.nz/wmmp



Have your say on minimising waste

We want to hear from you about what more we can do to minimise the amount of waste going to landfill in our district.

We're developing a proposed action plan over the next six years this goal – which is described in the draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan. We would like your feedback.

"Waste is expensive, so investing now in innovative ways to reduce the amount of waste we all produce can pay big dividends down the line," says Mayor Len Salt. "Please share your innovative ideas about managing waste with us."

Visit tcdc.govt.nz/wmmp to read the draft plan and fill in the short survey.

TAIPARI PARK SKATE PARK REMOVAL

The skate park facilities are being removed from Taipari Park starting from 20 March 2023 due to a long-standing commitment to return the sacred burial ground it's built on to local iwi.

Skaters are advised to use the popular Thames Powerco Skate Park in Porritt Park which was built to replace Taipari Skate Park. Young skaters were involved in the design process.

If you have a younger child who uses the old skatepark and would like to discuss their needs further, please contact our Customer Services Team on customer.services@tcdc.govt.nz or phone 07 868 0200.



Thames Powerco Skate Park was built to replace Taipari Park.

@ThamesCoromandelDistrictCouncil

coromandel_tcdc

Get our free eNewsletters!
www.tcdc.govt.nz/subscribe

tcdc.govt.nz

customer.services@tcdc.govt.nz
Private Bag, 515 Mackay St, Thames
Phone: 07 868 0200

Brutus and the perils of the driveway

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

A nearly two-year-old Staffordshire bull terrier named Brutus was almost bested by the cars he loves to chase after being hit by a family member's vehicle and lay stuck against its exhaust.

In November, 2022, Brutus - who has an affliction for running up and down his driveway - was struck by his owner's sister's car just outside of Waihi.

"It happened after work on a Friday evening, around 6pm at home on the owner's shared driveway," Franklin Vets veterinarian Dr Stephanie Fulton said. "Brutus was stuck for about 10 minutes while they found a trolley jack to lift the car off him."

"It appeared at the time that his right front leg had been run over completely, too."

As soon as he was free, Brutus was rushed into Franklin Vets' Waihi clinic after hours.

He was immediately given pain relief, while cold running water was used to cool the large burn on his back.

X-rays were taken of his neck, front legs, and pelvis, which showed he had multiple fractures in his front right leg. He was stabilized over the weekend and transferred to Franklin Vets' Pukekohe Clinic early on Monday.

"He had orthopedic surgery to repair the fractures and two plates were used to stabilize the broken bones," Dr Stephanie



Two-year-old Brutus sustained burns and fractures after being struck by a car in his driveway.

Photos: SUPPLIED

said. "A large area of skin was removed over his back to assist in healing the area that had been burnt by the exhaust. Because of the way Brutus's leg had broken, he needed to have two plates used to properly stabilize the fracture."

After surgery, Brutus was put on strict cage rest and exercise restrictions, which meant he had to be on a lead every time he went outside.

Six weeks later, x-rays were

taken again to see how his leg was healing.

"We could see on the x-rays that it was healing nicely, and new bone was being laid down around the fractures. Brutus was then allowed to slowly increase the amount of exercise he got and is happy now to be allowed out for short walks," Dr Stephanie said.

"His skin wounds are all now healed and aside from some impressive scars, he is back to his normal happy, bouncy self."

Dr Stephanie said it was always "a bit of an adrenaline rush" treating animals that have been in an accident.

"You never know what you're going to be dealing with when they arrive," she said.

Dr Stephanie also advised pet owners to opt for pet insurance, stating that insurance often meant difficult decisions around the best treatment options didn't need to be made.

Brutus' owners, meanwhile, were "so grateful" that their pup

was able to recover from the accident, and told *The Profile* he was now able to "run around with his friends again".

"The whole experience was a very traumatic event for everyone involved, especially my sister who was driving the car," the owner said.

"She felt very guilty about the incident and now drives very slowly up the driveway."



NORTHWIND TAE KWON DO

CLASS SCHEDULE 2023

| PAEROA TKD | WAIHI TKD |
|----------------------|---|
| Tuesdays & Thursdays | Mondays & Wednesdays |
| 6 pm - 8 pm | First Class 4 pm - 5.30pm Second Class 6 pm - 7.30pm |

Register your interest with Mr Hicks
(028) 400 7550
northwindtkd@gmail.com

FRANKLINvets

Commercial farm | Pets | Lifestyle farm



Thames Centre Pharmacy
Dispensary & Healthcare Advice

Efficient convenient prescription dispensing

Open Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm (closed 12.45pm - 1.45pm)

Thames Medical Centre
817 Rolleston Street
Thames

Ph 07 8685100 – Fax 07 2800724
pharmacist@thamescentrepharmacy.co.nz

Our team are locals supporting locals

100% LOCAL VETS HERE TO HELP 24/7

KOPU 07 868 5007. PAEROA 07 862 7295.
WAIHI 07 863 8684. WAITAKARURU 07 868 9030.
www.franklinvets.co.nz

Donations made for flood victims

By GORDON PREECE

Flood-affected Hawke's Bay residents were "overwhelmed" by donations they received from an unfamiliar location.

Waitakaruru resident Arianna Ashworth and her work mate Cam Bishop delivered items donated by Thames Valley residents to Hawke's Bay on February 18.

Arianna said she and Cam donated the items to the Environment Centre Hawke's Bay donation hub in Hastings, the Hastings Racecourse, which was holding animals rescued from the floods, and the community in Whakatu outside of Hastings.

"They were overwhelmed with how far we had travelled to get there... a lot of them didn't know where Ngātea was so we had to explain where it was but they really felt the love," she said.

"It was getting pretty desperate for the Whakatu community, they were a lower socio-economic community already struggling and then they had the battle of no power and no resources to support themselves.

"When we pulled into the cul-de-sac where we dropped a delivery off, the locals came out of their houses, it was like we got swarmed and the donations were probably gone within ten minutes."

Arianna told *The Profile* she launched the donation project since she had previously lived in Hawke's Bay and "like most New



Cam Bishop, left, and Arianna Ashworth with some of the donated items.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Zealanders" was "heartbroken" by what had happened there.

"Seeing it first hand, my worst fear is that a lot of those people who are still unaccounted for are no longer with us, and for the rural community... the results are that they're going to be out of business and financially impacted for years to come," she said.

"Whilst the orchard owners are trying to orchestrate the recovery of their own properties, it amounts to a huge amount of stress but... visiting some of the more seriously impacted communities, there were so many hands on deck.

"There's massive piles of debris that are being cleared from

houses but everyone's just put their boots on and their gloves on and they've really got stuck in... and that was very nice to see."

Arianna said more than 30 Thames Valley residents donated on February 17 with the likes of clothes, linen, petfood, and non-perishable food.

"We had two SUVs [sports utility vehicles] full and a 10ft by 5ft trailer, so that gives you an idea of the quantity," she said.

"[The donors] were heartbroken for Hawke's Bay, they were a New Zealander just wanting to help. In particular, I think Ngātea and surrounds is largely a rural community so from one rural community to the next, that would be the main reason.

"[I received] lots of praise for me and Cam... lots of people were saying thank you for allowing us to get stuff down there and just really appreciative they did have the opportunity to help."

Arianna said she and Cam hoped the donated items would reach those who are most desperate.

"I imagine in places like Wairoa and some of those other lower-socio economic communities that don't have insurance... they would need to completely rebuild their lives solely by donations or help from groups or the government," she said.

"I hope our donations of those staple items like clothes and blankets will find its way to them."

Meanwhile, a Waihi and Paeroa donation drive for Hawke's Bay flood victims also took place on February 20 and 21.

A delivery of the donated non-perishable foods, bottled water, camping stoves, nappies and formula was planned for February 22.

AVAILABLE NOW

- One Bedroom Apartment, Level 3
- One Bedroom Apartment, Level 2
- Two Bedroom Villa, 134sqm, 1 bathroom, guest WC, single garage

ENQUIRE TODAY!

STAGE 1 IS NOW COMPLETE

ENQUIRIES FOR STAGE 2 ARE WELCOME!

All apartments are within walking distance to Thames' shops, cafes and walkways.

The perfect location to enjoy your fun-filled retirement

Our open plan, single level apartments feature covered balconies with fantastic views of the sea, Kauaeranga River and mountains.

Each unit's elegantly finished kitchen, lounge, bedroom and bathroom offer stylish warmth and light.

All residents enjoy scenic views from each level's shared lounges, use of the Village Community Lodge and participation in all activities and amenities at your leisure.

PHONE US

to view

by appointment

Come and experience the difference!









Living the lifestyle, loving the choice...

A lifestyle village in Thames on the Coromandel



Richmond Villas

LIFESTYLE VILLAGE

82 Richmond St, Thames

0800 868 5484

www.richmondvillas.co.nz





Rugby club volunteers help restore the club rooms. RIGHT: Thames Pony Club grounds under water.



Photos: SUPPLIED

Escapades of a safe-blower



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

1937

Safe blowers entered the Skerepēhi Economic Store under the cover of darkness and after using explosives on the safe, escaped with a large sum of money. When the owner, Mr Innes, arrived at the store he found an upheaval in his office, the safe badly damaged, five cheques, a cashbox and 30 pounds missing. The thieves had taken precautions to deaden the sound with two sacks of chaff that had been dragged from the storeroom and used as buffers.

After leaving by the front entrance they failed to close the door.

A man living in the vicinity, returning home late, saw a car parked near the shop, and, being curious, took its number. Eventually, a man already serving a prison sentence wrote to the police confessing the crime. He stated that he wanted to clear the matter up, and start his life again with a clean record. He had borrowed a car from a friend in Auckland and drove to Kerepēhi, arriving about mid-

night. After forcing a side window with an iron bar he entered the store, and blew the safe open with gelnite and a detonator. He took the cashbox and returned to Auckland, later throwing it off a ferry. He spent the money and burned the cheques.

The Paeroa Brewery, which produced Paeroa Water, now had success with its products Golden Ale and Oatmeal Stout.

The brewery building had been renovated and the most modern equipment installed. This included the very latest high speed labeling machine, bottle steriliser, and cooler and filtering plant.

The brewer in charge had lengthy New Zealand experience, and for many years brewed at Guinness' famous stout brewery in Dublin, and at Burton-on-Trent, the district which produced the well known Bass English ale.

An earthworm menace was troubling farmers in the Turua, Nethererton and Ngātea districts. Earthworms in pasture land were generally beneficial, but on the Hauraki Plains the worms were a threat owing to the sheer weight of their numbers.

Meanwhile, without warning, hundreds of tons of debris fell across the road in a landside at Puru Point, on the Thames coast, completely blocking the road. A heavy motor vehicle had just passed and had a narrow escape.

Many cars had to be driven on to the beach and round the point to reach the road beyond it.

A gang of council men were quickly on the scene, and in a few hours the road was open for one way traffic.

Clubs impacted by flood waters

By GORDON PREECE

Rhodes Park and Thames Pony Club were underwater on Ngati Maru Highway south of Thames in the early hours of February 14 after flood waters came over the Kauaeranga River spillway during Cyclone Gabrielle.

Thames Pony Club president Katherine Forsyth said the club had experienced flooding "unlike we've had for many years" after club grounds on the south side of the stopbanks were flooded, which is usually a safe area for members' horses and ponies during a storm warning.

"We did actually have to rescue some horses at 4am," she said.

"There were seven horses on the stopbank overnight and we had already moved some of the others to other grazing."

Katherine said there was a "big repair job" ahead for the club.

The club held a working bee on Saturday, with members helping to fix fencing and get the grounds back in working order after the floods.

"All the horses that have gone to other grazing, they'll need to stay there for quite some time," she said.

Meanwhile, Thames Rugby and Sports Club (TRSC) president Steve Gooder told *The Profile* the flooding damaged the clubrooms.

"[The water was] up above a

metre through the clubrooms, up on the higher part of the clubrooms where it's never been before," he said.

"We'll just get it cleaned up, hose all the silt out from inside and hopefully it dries and hopefully we don't get anymore rain."

The TRSC committee held a working bee at its clubrooms on Saturday to clear the damage left by the floodwaters with the help of its members, netball and rugby players, coaches and the Thames Junior Rugby Club.

The committee said while there still needed to be work done with professional and financial assistance, the club was one step closer to getting the club up and running for the start of the season.

Thames Autos



A Division of Takarangi Motors Ltd



R.M.V.T.



HOME DEMONSTRATIONS AND DELIVERIES AVAILABLE WE CAN COME TO YOU

— www.thamesautos.co.nz —

2010 Hyundai Tucson

2.0Ltr Auto, 2WD, Alloys, etc, Value SUV



\$7,990

2014 Mitsubishi Lancer

2.0Ltr Auto, NZ New, Hi Spec Model



JUST \$9,990

2008 Honda Civic

1.8Ltr Auto, Low kms, NZ New



TOP BUY \$7,990

Mitsubishi Pajero

V6 Auto 3.7Ltr, 7 Seat, Top Spec



ARRIVING

2008 Mitsubishi Colt Plus

Auto, Low 76kms, Excellent Condition



ONLY \$7,990

2014 Ssangyong Actyon Sports

Diesel Manual, 2WD, Tow Bar



\$16,990

2016 Suzuki Vitara Ltd

4WD, 1.6Ltr Auto, Top of Range, NZ New



\$19,990

2009 Mazda SP25

Auto, Leather, Sunroof, Etc



VALUE \$9,990

LEYLAND STOWE

Mob: 027 355 5152 Ph: 07 868 8981

or 0800 868 898

609 Pollen St, Thames RMVT

thamesautos@xtra.co.nz



No Deposit Finance

available on all vehicles.

Full workshop servicing

& repairs available including

Auto Electrical service

Rural Life

Quadriplegic hunter shoots for Deerstalkers

By GORDON PREECE

A target to continue his passion for the great outdoors despite his disability loaded Elliott Keys to join Thames Valley Deerstalkers Association just north of Paeroa in 2016.

The 23-year-old Mount Maunganui resident told *The Profile* he decided to participate in a hunting course for a gun licence with Thames Valley Deerstalkers Association [TVDA] after he received specialised hunting equipment to cater for his disability.

"I grew up shooting guns with my grandfather Tony and always loved the idea of hunting but never really had the opportunity to get into it before my accident," he said.

"I had a mountain biking accident in 2014 and I am a C4 quadriplegic or tetraplegic, I'm paralysed from the neck down.

"My uncle Matt found a company in America [Be Adaptive Equipment] that makes specialised shooting mounts for disabled people so we bought one of those into New Zealand."

Elliott said the mount included two motors to move the rifle and control the joystick, and special technology was used to pull the trigger.

"We have a bull bar on the front of the Polaris [off-road vehicle] and it sits on top of the



Elliott Keys, centre, with his dad Mike Keys, left, TVDA life member Mike Deane, and best mate Dale McGuire.

Photos: SUPPLIED

bull bar, and then I have the joystick inside the Polaris to be able to move it in the passenger seat," he said.

"I have a camera system which looks down the scope for

me and then just bluetooth to my iPad or my phone so I can see down the scope, and then someone just needs to load the gun for me.

"[The trigger] is a rubber tube

and it uses what's called sit and pump technology. They've got a little sensor inside it that when I sit on the tube it sends a signal to the mechanism that pulls the trigger and then bang."



The rifle on the Polaris.

Elliott said he had used his specialised equipment to shoot targets, deer, pigs, and goats and for pest control shooting rabbits and possums in the Tokoroa area. "[The farmers are] very nice and very accommodating to let me on to their property to shoot," he said.

Elliott said TVDA was also accommodating for his hunting ambitions.

"They didn't care about my disability, they were open to trying new things which is very excellent of them so we decided to go with them over the one in Tauranga," he said.

"They've been very accepting, they're very respectful and all of the members are very friendly and have helped me in different ways teaching me skills.

"[With my specialised equipment] I was able to shoot better than everybody else, they wanted to take it off me after the first week because I out-shot all of them."

Cowsheds, Feedpads, Bunker Roofs

Call us to arrange a visit to discuss your needs
Now is the Time to Plan

HOME PASSENGER ELEVATORS • GENERAL ENGINEERING • TRACTOR FORKLIFTS

QUINN ENGINEERING

45 Reta Crescent, Kerepehi
Phone (07) 867-6712 Mobile (0274) 944-948
www.quinn.co.nz Email: info@quinn.co.nz

NGATEA WAIUKU
MILKING MACHINES
AND PUMP SERVICES LTD

For all your Dairy Solution, Pumping, Irrigation solution, Breakdown support and much more.
Servicing the Hauraki Plains since 1984.

info@milkingmachines.co.nz
www.milkingmachines.co.nz

31 Orchard West Road, Ngatea Ph: 078677360

FOR EARTHWORKS

- ▶ Digger, Bulldozer, Truck Hire
- ▶ Mulching, Gorse, Ti Tree etc
- ▶ Metal
- ▶ Suppliers of Hay Silage & Maize Silage

T & A MCWATTERS LTD
PHONE TIM 027 278 5384

FOR CARTING OF

- ▶ Suppliers of Mangatangi River Rock
- ▶ Decorative Stones & Drainage
- ▶ Sand Shell
- ▶ Palm Kernel
- ▶ Fertiliser
- ▶ All Grades of Metal

SMYTHES HAULAGE LTD
PHONE TIM 027 278 5384

Rural Life

Pirie Farms shines at Australasian events

By GORDON PREECE

Ngātea-based Pirie Farms attended the NZ Dairy Event at Fielding between January 24 and 26 where New Zealand's best cattle were exhibited.

Pirie Farms director Julie Pirie told *The Profile* she helped co-ordinate the Youth Team Challenge at the event which her daughter Ella and Ngātea resident Chloe Sargent competed in with Kimberley Simmons from Invercargill and Jacoba Gread from Morrinsville.

The team, called Hot Shotz, competed in clipping, parading and judging to place first in the Open Country Youth Team Challenge.

"[Ella] was very thrilled because there were a lot of other great animals there so it gave her an opportunity to see how hers compared. She was pretty happy with how they did," Julie said.

Ella also competed individually at the event where she paraded her yearling, calves and cow.

"[She] had quite good success with her animals, her calf won her class, her yearling won her class, her calves got second and third, and her cow

went on to win reserve champion intermediate and combined breeds," she said.

"We hadn't gotten into showing cattle at that local level before, but now that Ella has got involved she really enjoys the comradery and to catch up with all her other friends who were there to show cattle.

"It gives us the opportunity to portray what we do in quite a good way on the farm. But you have to go in with eyes open, it is a lot of work but you don't have to have your own animals to take along you can just help somebody."

Julie said she also managed and organised the New Zealand Jersey team, which competed against six Australian teams at the International Dairy Week held in Tatura, north of Melbourne, from January 14 to 19.

"In the past we've won it much to the surprise of the Australians, but this year we placed sixth, which in hindsight is not too bad because we've had a couple of years where we couldn't do much in terms of that competition," she said. "But the highlights [this year] were the clipping team who scored 98 out of 100 and the parading team performed very well."



The New Zealand Jersey Team at International Dairy Week.

Photo: JULIE PIRIE



Ella Pirie clipping at NZ Dairy Event.

Photo: PAM GOODIN



Ella Pirie parades her cow at International Dairy Week.

Photo: JULIE ASHTON



WE ARE ALL GO OUT OF OUR NEW PAEROA BRANCH

GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR HERD

We provide a well blended uniform custom made blend with the products and specs your girls need to fulfill their requirements & give you better bang for your buck.

MINERAL BLENDS. COMPETITIVELY PRICED.

If you have blends of Minerals you would like then call now and try us for price.

ENERGY

Keep your girls energised through the summer heat. We have high energy additives and also high energy liquid for less dust. PK/Molasses.

DELIVERY TO YOUR SILO ON TIME - EVERY TIME WITH OUR OWN AUGER TRUCK

We work while you & your girls Make the Moolah!

CALL NOW 0272 240 728



myfeed.co.nz | Brett@myfeed.co.nz



Chloe Sargent, Kimberley Simmons, Ella Pirie, Jacoba Gread.

Photo: PAM GOODIN

PAEROA FARM SERVICES LTD
 118 Normanby Rd, PAEROA, 3600
 Ph: 07 862 8263

We specialise in Milking Machines & Equipment, Effluent & Irrigation Systems, Filtration & Purification, and Water Pump Supplies & Installations.

To cover all your dairy needs.

Email: shop@paeroafs.co.nz
 web: www.paeroafarmservices.co.nz

A1Motorcycles

Servicing and Repairs
Workshop or On Farm
Road, Farm, MotoX
 Ph : 027 2166867
 Graham Cornes
 A Grade Motorcycle Mechanic
 graham@a1motorcycles.co.nz

Parts and Accessories
Road, Farm, MotoX
 Ph : 027 2166860
 Alison Cornes
 parts@a1motorcycles.co.nz
www.a1motorcycles.co.nz



DUNCAN

ECO SEEDER

NEW

**Duncan
Eco Seeder**

**Trailed 18
run complete
with disc
openers**

\$34,690 +GST



Hauraki Plains Motors

1 Pipiroa Road, Ngatea • Ph 07 867-7021

A/Hrs Mike 027 440 4681, Miles 027-227-1121 Email: admin@hpmotors.co.nz

VALTRA

**DEMONSTRATOR
AVAILABLE NOW**



**WAIKATO
TRACTORS**

*We're behind you
100%*

**Call
Graham Sara: 027 654 0915**

Kia Stonic

LX 1.4L Petrol



MRP
\$24,990 ^{+ORC*}

Features include:

- 1.4L DOHC MPI D-CVVT Petrol Engine
- 6-speed Automatic
- 15" Alloys
- 6 Airbags
- Forward Collision Avoidance Assist - Car / Pedestrian / Cyclist
- Lane Keep Assist & Lane Follow Assist
- Driver Attention Alert
- Rear Parking Sensors
- Rearview Monitor with Dynamic Guidelines
- LED Daytime Running Lights
- Halogen Bi-Function Projection Headlamps with Static Bending Light
- 8" Touchscreen Infotainment
- 4.2" TFT LCD Colour Supervision Instrument Cluster
- Wireless Apple CarPlay™ & Android Auto™

THAMES VALLEY KIA 321 Pollen Street, Thames



Ph 07 868 8951 • Paul Griffin 021 169 4036 • www.ThamesKia.co.nz

*MRP is the Maximum Retail Price. The Kia 5 Year Warranty Programme runs for 5 years or up to 100,000 kms (whichever occurs first). All other on road costs (ORC) are additional. Terms and Conditions apply, see Kia.co.nz for full details.

2019 Toyota CH-R Limited

NZ New



\$29,990

THAMES

| | |
|---|---------------|
| 2020 Toyota Hilux SR5 Cruiser, 2WD | \$44,990 |
| 2019 Toyota Prado, VX Ltd, Top Spec | \$72,990 |
| 2019 Kia Stinger, GT-T, 1 owner | \$44,990 |
| 2019 Toyota RAV4 GX, 2.0Ltr | \$34,990 |
| 2018 Toyota Corolla, GX, Hatch | from \$22,990 |
| 2018 Toyota Hilux, SR5, Auto, 2WD | \$41,990 |
| 2018 Toyota Rav4, GXL, AWD, 2.5 Petrol | \$28,990 |
| 2017 Toyota CH-R, turbo, 3 to choose from | \$29,990 |
| 2017 Kia Sportage, NZ New | from \$19,990 |
| 2013 Toyota Hilux, SR5, 4wd, Auto, Canopy | \$32,990 |

PAEROA

2019 Toyota Corolla

BLACK EDITION,
2.0P,
NZ New



\$29,990

| | |
|--|----------|
| 2019 Toyota RAV4 GX 2.0P 2WD NZ New | \$34,990 |
| 2018 Toyota Hilux SR5, 2.8TD, 4WD, 6AT | \$48,990 |
| 2018 Toyota Rav4 GX 2.5P AWD SIGNATURE CLASS | \$34,290 |
| 2018 Kia Sportage LX+ 2.0D, AWD, NZ New | \$29,990 |
| 2017 Toyota Corolla GLX, 1.8P H/Back, Alloys, Auto | \$21,990 |
| 2016 Toyota Hilux S 2.8D 5MT 2WD | \$32,990 |
| 2015 Toyota Aqua 1.5P Hybrid | \$14,990 |
| 2014 Toyota Hilux 3.0TD, DCC, 4WD, 5AT | \$32,990 |

Valley Toyota Thames

www.valley.toyota.co.nz • 07 868 8950
 Contact - Karl Richards 0274 084 564
 Christo Carstens 021 025 30264
 Finance - Terry Boswell 0210 445 929



Tony Richards Toyota Paeroa

www.richards.toyota.co.nz • 07 862 7674
 Contact - Kent Ravenhill • 027 878 0642
 Finance - Kent Ravenhill 027 878 0642



V8, muscle, vintage and modified classic cars are expected at the event.

File photo: TERESA RAMSEY

Rotary show ready to rumble

By GORDON PREECE

Hundreds of vehicles will rev into Paeroa Domain this Saturday for Rotary Paeroa's popular V8 and Motorcycle Show and Swap Meet.

Secretary and president-elect Katie McLaren told *The Profile* the event had taken place for around 15 years to encourage V8 and motorcycle enthusiasts to get together and celebrate the culture.

"The public response has been pretty good locally and regionally," she said.

"We have quite a few people who come from out of town from Auckland, Hamilton, Tau-

ranga, Te Aroha and Thames, and it raises quite a bit of money for the Paeroa community. It's quite a fantastic event," she said.

"Last year we had it at Paeroa Racecourse and it was quite busy, I think we had around 5000 people in attendance."

Katie said as well as V8 and other classic cars and motorbikes, the event would feature food stalls, a live band called *The Action*, a rockabilly fashion show and the popular swap meet, which boasts between 10 and 20 sites.

Katie said Rotary Paeroa was still delegating how the money raised from the event would be distributed.

"We are always looking for great projects within Paeroa that Rotary can help out with," she said.

"In the past we've put money into local schools and Paeroa Community Support Trust to support youth."

Katie said the swap meet opened at 8am with the vehicle display, food stalls and entertainment begins at 10am.

Prizegiving starts around 12:30am or 1pm and wraps up around 2pm or 3pm.

DETAILS: The event costs \$5 per adult with free entry for people under 15. For stall bookings and enquiries contact: rotarypaeroa@gmail.com.

ENTERTAINMENT

All set for improv

By GORDON PREECE

A family-friendly improvisational show with high energy and comedy will entertain audiences at Waihi Memorial Hall on February 26.

Honest Liars, based in Tauranga, will perform to fundraise for Youth Theatreworks Waihi, which was established last year as a charitable trust to provide theatre and performance opportunities for tamariki in the Waihi area.

Trustee Victoria Menary told *The Profile* *Honest Liars* was currently holding Sunday workshops for the trust and offered to do a fundraising show.

"We are searching for a home for our trust, a place where we can run classes and workshops, where our young people can feel a sense of ownership and belonging," she said.

"The funds raised will go towards that, and also running fur-

ther classes and workshops."

Victoria said Youth Theatreworks Waihi had six committee members and 19 students involved in its acting classes.

"We are from a range of backgrounds, all sharing a desire to improve well being and outcomes for Waihi youth by providing theatre and performance opportunities," she said.

"Last year we put on a very successful show called *James and the Giant Peach*, involving nearly 40 children and young people in Waihi.

"We had two excellent, experienced directors who were able to guide and coach the tamariki to fantastic performances, we are so proud of the kids and what they achieved."

Details: *Honest Liars* fundraiser for Youth Theatreworks Waihi, Waihi Memorial Hall, February 26, 4pm, tickets \$15 at Waihi Stationery and at the door. Call: 07 863 9090.



Honest Liars will perform in Waihi this weekend.

Photo: SUPPLIED

/Richardsons

Ngatea / Paeroa

522 Hauraki Road, Turua **\$670,000**

NEW LISTING

- Indoor/outdoor flow with Archgola
- Spacious, fully fenced section. Zoned for HPC
- Walk to pre-school and primary school

RN1472 🏠 3 🛏 1 🚗 1 🚲 1

28 Orchard East Road, Ngatea **\$679,000**

NEW LISTING

- 3 bdrms/ New lino/ New Carpet incl in price
- Fireplace/ Heatpump/ Heat transfer/ DVS
- 885m2(m or l) Fenced section/ Good garaging

RN1470 🏠 3 🛏 1 🚗 1 🚲 1

/Richardsons

Thames

31 Merrimana Drive, Thames **Offers Over \$1,150,000**

NEW LISTING

Four bedrooms including Master with en-suite and walk-in wardrobe. Open plan living which leads you out to a covered outdoor entertaining area with side curtains. Good kitchen with plenty of storage and scullery. Double garage with internal access and plenty of off street parking.

RT5759 🏠 4 🛏 2 🚗 2 🚲 1

781 Awaiti Road **Offers Over \$600,000**

- Lovely rural outlook - 5000 square metres
- 3 Bedrooms - Separate lounge - Garage
- Ph Kevin Fathers 027 279 9800 for details

RRP228 🏠 3 🛏 1 🚗 1 🚲 1

4 Treore Lane **Offers Over \$669,000**

NEW LISTING

- Nestled in the amazing Hauraki Village
- Brick two bedroom duplex home in Paeroa
- Archgola for outdoor entertaining

RG2003 🏠 2 🛏 1 🚗 1 🚲 1

26 Patui Avenue, Thames **\$1,095,000**

PRICE REDUCED

Beautifully presented and offering a serene position in one of the Bays best areas the home has been extensively renovated and extended. A wonderful open plan living area on two levels flows out onto a large covered wrap around deck surrounded by gardens.

RT5752 🏠 3 🛏 2 🚗 2 🚲 2

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>PAEROA</p> <p>07 862 7888</p> <p>54 Belmont Road</p> <p>paeroa@richardsons.co.nz</p> | <p>NGATEA</p> <p>07 867 7800</p> <p>33 Orchard Road</p> <p>ngatea@richardsons.co.nz</p> | <p>THAMES</p> <p>07 868 6978</p> <p>556 Pollen Street</p> <p>thames@richardsons.co.nz</p> |
|--|--|--|

Real Estate Ltd MREINZ
Licensed REAA2008

For further properties please visit our website

www.richardsons.co.nz

Real Estate Ltd MREINZ
Licensed REAA2008

Gardening

Prepare your garden

After a very indifferent wet humid summer with some dry sunny days, we may start to experience cooler nights with overnight dew, signalling the time to prepare the garden for the next season's planting. If it is dry, keep watering to make the most of the late summer crops to help supplement the weekly shop.

Vegetables

Once crops have finished producing, it's time to remove spent plants and replenish the soil with a mixture of blood and bone, sheep pellets and a good general garden fertiliser. Dig well into the soil and water in, then you are ready to start planting out your new seedlings. Plant now: carrots, spinach, celery, coriander, broccoli, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, rocket.

Just a note: If you collect your own seeds for later propagation, now is the time to do this before composting. Any old plants pulled out can be cut up and added to the compost bin. While any garden areas are empty, take time to top up garden beds, replenish the soil with a new layer of compost, blood and bone and sheep pellets.

Flowers

It is also time to replenish the soil in your flower gardens with compost, blood and bone and sheep pellets. Top up the mulch too, great for not only keeping weeds at bay but also to help plants with warmth over the cooler months.

Start to plant your favourite winter flowering seedlings, pansy, viola, primula, polyan-

thus, calendula, cineraria, lobelia, poppies, alyssum, stock and snapdragon.

It is also time to plant spring flowering bulbs. Daffodils can be planted out from late February to the end of May. Early planting gets them off to a good start for better root development. Plant in full sun and well-drained soil. Anemones and Ranunculus are easy to grow, stagger planting for extended flowering season. Hyacinths are a beautiful addition to any garden. They are best planted out March/April in a cool spot. Protect all new plantings with slug and snail bait.

Fruits

Citrus trees are heavy feeders so feed with a specific citrus feed. This ensures healthy green leaves and better growth, flowers and fruits. Mulch around the roots to conserve moisture. Continue to harvest apples, pears, grapes, peaches and plums if yours survived the frost in September and you managed to salvage some of the fruit. Once stone fruit have finished prune to shape and remove dead or diseased branches.

Lawns

Autumn is the ideal time to sow or repair your lawn. Now is a good time to fertilise your lawn to promote nice healthy growth.

Compost Heap

The compost with benefit from all the addition of the trimming and pruning of spent crops. Happy gardening.

- Ngatea Garden Circle

Country Dog

GARDEN CENTRE

9am - 5pm 7 Days

28 Thames Road
Paeroa

Ph: 862 6438

E: donna@countrydoggardencentre.co.nz

www.countrydoggardencentre.co.nz

Gilmer Farms

Fruit trees for sale.

Find us at

Grahamstown market

Phone 029 870 4433.

Please leave a message,
we will get right back to you.

Email: gilmerfarms1nz@outlook.com

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| March 2023 Moon Planting Calendar | | 1 Non planting Day | 2 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed | 3 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed | 4 Non planting Day | 5 Non planting Day |
| 6 | 7 Non planting Day | 8 Full Moon | 9 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs | 10 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs | 11 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed | 12 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed |
| 13 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed | 14 Non planting Day | 15 Non planting Day | 16 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs | 17 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs | 18 Non planting Day | 19 Non planting Day |
| 20 New Moon | 21 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed | 23 Non planting Day | 23 Non planting Day | 24 Plant above ground crops | 25 Plant above ground crops | 26 Non planting Day |
| 27 Non planting Day | 28 Non planting Day | 29 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed | 30 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed | 31 Non planting Day | | |

MARCH GARDENING AT

**GREEN
MANURE
CROPS**

PLANT NOW

- * LUPINS
- * MUSTARD
- * MIXED
GREEN
MANURE



**MASSIVE
RANGE OF
HIBISCUS**

**AVAILABLE NOW
GREAT COLOURS**

**START PLANTING YOUR
WINTER GARDEN NOW**

**Broccoli, Cabbage,
Brussel Sprouts,
Cauliflower
can all go in now.**

**Why not try a late crop of
beans, dwarf & climbing,
carrots, parsnips
& beetroot**

**We have a full range of
seeds, fertilizers, soil
conditioners to help
you get started**

**PEA
STRAW**

**NEW
SEASON
BALES
ARRIVING
EARLY
MARCH**



382 Ngati Maru Highway

**Totara, Thames
OPEN 7 DAYS**

8.30am to 5pm

Ph 868 7960

CALL THE EXPERTS

ARBORIST



TREE SHAPES

Qualified Arborists

- Treework Large & Small
- Stump Grinding ➤ Hedge Trimming
- Fruit Tree Pruning ➤ Chipping

For a free quote call
07 868 3985 or 0274 726627

ARBORIST

We solve your tree problems
Tree Removal • Stump Grinding
Pruning • Clearing • Storm Clean Up
Qualified, experienced,
fully insured
Trusted treework for over 25 years
Call today

SHORT BACK'N SIDES LTD
027 439 0367
shortbacknsides.co.nz

ARCHITECTURE

Architectural design

Plans and documentation for alterations and additions to existing buildings. Building consent applications. LBP Design - Contact Richard
Tel: 022 050 3157
Email: richard@sketch-it.co.nz

BUILDER / CARPENTER

QUALIFIED & LICENSED LBP.
Many years experience.
Ph Peter
027 496 5241



Ben Specta plans to keep everyone electrically safe with his new business. Photo: SUPPLIED

Electrical inspector connects in region

Ben Thompson, who goes by the name Ben Specta, has the knowledge, experience and qualifications to inspect all manner of electrical installations throughout the Hauraki-Coromandel region. Ben Specta sparked his independent electrical inspection business called Inspectrical in Waihi in early January, which is a division of his Auckland-based electrical contracting company called Cable Systems. "Our family has been holidaying in Waihi for decades so we just developed a love for it and it's a good place to escape the rat race," he said.

"There's a shortage of electrical inspectors in this area, and [I want to] be of use to the locals, and help keep everyone electrically safe." Ben Specta said Inspectrical offered general electrical inspections for homes and businesses, electrical warrant of fitness [EWOFF] for caravans, emergency lighting compliance. "I would say I am friendly, honest and reliable, I've done a couple of caravan EWOFFs and the reaction is so far so good," he said. Contact Inspectrical: ph 021 944 309 or email: ben@inspectrical.co.nz

BUILDING SERVICES



PROFESSIONAL TRADE SERVICES
BUILDINGS • ELECTRICAL • PLUMBING

Kitchens * Bathrooms * Pergolas * Fencing
Decks * Gibbing * Tiling * Landscaping
Home Maintenance and Much More
Your 1 Stop Shop – www.ptsnz.com
3 Coronation St, Paeroa Ph 0800 088 001

BUILDING SUPPLIES

For all your building supplies
Trade welcome
79 Kopu Rd, Thames
Phone 868 0130



CLEANING



• Lawn mowing
• Weedeating
• Hedge & tree trim
• Section clearing
• Gardening
• Rubbish removal
• Interior house clean
• New build clean/clear
• Odd jobs considered
• One off jobs welcome

0800 464 898
Alaine Hedges
027 242 7268
John Hedges
027 457 2018
Email: info@ajcleanupcrew.co.nz

DRIVING ACADEMY

DRIVING COURSES

Driving lessons
Learner Licence courses*
Defensive Driving courses*
Book now 027 314 1577 (text or phone)
*register your interest
*see if you are eligible for free courses
admin@valleyeducation.co.nz



EARTHWORKS & CARTAGE



Digger, Bulldozer & Truck Hire

- Mulching
- Cartage of Metal, sand, fertiliser, palm kernel, hay & maize silage

PHONE TIM 027 278 5384
T & A MCWATTERS LTD

FUNERALS



Our family serving yours — in the Hauraki & Thames Coromandel Districts

- Traditional & Bespoke Funerals
- Direct Cremation
- Pre-Planning
- Eco Funerals / Natural Burial

Ph: 0800 862 6362
Des & Christine Necklen
Funeral Directors



ELECTICAL INSPECTOR



- Caravan e-wofs
- Home and Business electrical inspections
- IQP emergency lighting inspections

Servicing Hauraki, Coromandel and the Western Bay of Plenty
021 944 309 - ben@inspectrical.co.nz

ELECTRICIAN



INNIS ELECTRICAL
027 539 5572
theinnis@xtra.co.nz

- Domestic
- Industrial
- Commercial
- New Installations
- Re-Inspections
- Electrical WOF's

Registered Electrician & Electrical Inspector
Covering Paeroa and surrounding area

FIREWOOD



SPLINTA'S FIREWOOD SERVICES
Old Man Pine • Gum • Mac • Pine
Free delivery to Thames, Paeroa, Ngatea & Te Aroha
Ph: 0800 7754 6827
splintasfirewood
Email: splintasfirewood@gmail.com

GARDEN CARE SERVICES

Call the Gardener™
YOUR GARDEN - YOUR WAY

Garden Care Service
Hedge & Shrub Trimming
Softscapes & Small hardscape features
Call Paul (028) 4640 600
www.callthegardener.co.nz

HAIRDRESSER



HAIRCUTS WALK INS WELCOME
NEW LOCATION OPPOSITE MITRE 10
APPOINTMENTS NOT NEEDED
POLLEN ST THAMES

HEAVY HAULAGE



HEAVY HAULAGE SERVICES
TIPPER TRUCK
KENWORTH T909
TRANSPORTER
TRUCK AND TRAILER
3R4/3R8 WIDENER

20 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE
Fast & Efficient
021 215 8704
FLASHEXCAVATIONS.CO.NZ
FLASHEXCAVATIONS LTD@GMAIL.COM

HOMEKILL

Hunts Home Kills
We have over 30 years of butchery expertise.

- We are dedicated to you, the customer.
- Hygienic, vacuum packed products.
- Professional facilities.
- Smoked meats are our specialty.
- 12 - 14 days hung on the bone, minimum
- Game orders over 10kg
- Premium custom orders to meet your needs

Ph: 0800 250 939 • Mob: Mike - 021 411 210
E: butchersapron@yahoo.co.nz
W: huntshomekills.nz • Follow us on FB

HYDRAULIC HOSES



Mobile Hydraulic Hose Service
Whangamata/Thames/Coromandel Region
hyd hosecompany@gmail.com
Matt: 0274 123 996
For Service That Counts

KITCHENS

KITCHENS

Kitchens, Wardrobes, Laundries & other bespoke Interior Cabinetry
Quality Service & Products
Get in touch, we'd love to chat

WAIHI P: 027 426 9966
E: info@designexpressions.co.nz

MOBILE MECHANIC



We come to you...
• Servicing & repairs on all cars, trucks, campervans, machinery & small engines
• Batteries available
Phone Brian: 021 259 4779 or 876 5401
Email: robosvette@gmail.com

PAINTER



Interior & Exterior • Residential & Light Commercial
• Fully Insured • Workmanship Guarantee
Contact Stan on 0223137911
to discuss your project.

CALL THE EXPERTS

PET FOOD

K9 CUISINE



- Beef • Chicken • Goat • Horse
- Lamb & Tripe • Meat Mixes
- Specialty Mixes • Bones • Veal

E: mary@k9cuisine.co.nz
P: 027 221 2282

W: K9cuisine.co.nz • FREE Delivery •

PET FOOD

DOG TREATS

Thames Market
every Saturday...
Rain or Shine

E: debstra.dogs@gmail.com
FB: Deb's Dog Treats'n'Meats

PHYSIOTHERAPY

coromandel physiotherapy
+ orthopaedic rehabilitation

BACK & NECK PAIN
SPORTS & WORK INJURIES
POST SURGERY & FRACTURE REHAB
ACUPUNCTURE

Robert Lindsay • Rodney Grant • Carol Hayes
Physiotherapy clinics located throughout
the Hauraki and Coromandel Regions
Ph: 07 868 9579
www.thamesphysio.co.nz

PLUMBER



PLUMBING • DRAINAGE • GASFITTING
GENERAL MAINTENANCE

Thames 07 868 6021
Whitianga 07 866 0070
Whangamata 07 865 7151
Waihi Beach 07 863 5621

CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 1pm Monday

Birth Notice

Newland,
Beau Evelyn:
Congratulations to
Perrin and Natasha on
the birth of our precious
granddaughter, Beau.
Born 19-2-23, 5lbs 4oz.
Love Trevor, Hunsu
and family.

Gardening

Stump Grinding. All
sizes, all areas. Free
quote. Ph 021 060
7659

Need stump grinding?
Any size, any number,
anywhere.
Different machines for
different applications.
Over 20 years experience.
Short Back n Sides Ltd
We solve your
stump problems.
027 439 0367

Storage

STORE 4 U Waihi.
Clean, dry, alarmed.
Call Curly 021 746 608.

STORAGE KOPU, PAEROA TE AWAMUTU

"New Units"
Ph 027 440 7101
07 868 3033
Safe n Sound Storage
www.safestorage.co.nz

Thames Valley Storage
- secure, dry units
available, two sizes. Call
Trev 027 4076966

Situations Vacant

Wanted-
Fun loving musician(s) to
conduct and accompany
an established and
enthusiastic choir of around
20 singers at Richmond
Villas Retirement Village.
Please contact Richmond
Villas Office for further
details (07 868 5484).

For Sale

Aluminium door, incl
frame & side light,
2.1hx1.250w, incl
Schalge S6000 locking
system, \$2000. Ph 07
867 5222

Inflatable dinghy,
2.7 long OA, incl 2 HP
Yamaha outboard. Both
units used twice, \$1000.
Ph 07 867 5222

Air compressor and
hose, \$450. Ph 07 867
5222

Public Notice

HAURAKI RSA & Memorial Club

Annual General Meeting.
Tuesday 4th April 2023,
RSA Club Rooms,
Pipiroa Rd, Ngatea, 7.00pm

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?

This job could be for you!
Starting on a casual basis
with the potential to become
a permanent position in
time.

Send/email your CV to:
richmond-villas@xtra.
co.nz or Richmond Villas,
82 Richmond St, Thames



Public Notice

HAURAKI DISTRICT LAND DRAINAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEES



RE-ESTABLISHING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP FOR THE 2023 - 2026 TERM

Applications are invited from persons prepared
to serve as members on Land Drainage Advisory
Committees in the Hauraki District. Nominations
will be submitted on the prescribed form and
sent to:

Post: The Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council
PO Box 17
PAEROA 3640

Email: info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz

Nominations open 9.00am on Tuesday,
28 February and close 4.00pm on Tuesday,
28 March 2023.

Each candidate shall be a drainage ratepayer
in one of the respective subdivisions described
below and be nominated by a drainage ratepayer
within that subdivision. It is expected that
those appointed will serve for approximately a
three-year term (to March 2026). Each Drainage
Advisory Committee will have the standing of a
Committee reporting to Council.

| WESTERN PLAINS DRAINAGE DISTRICT | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Waitakaruru/Miranda | 1 Member |
| Pipiroa | 1 Member |
| Rawerawe | 1 Member |
| Ngatea/Puhunga | 1 Member |
| Pouarua/Waikumete | 1 Member |
| Kaihere/Torehapa | 1 Member |
| Patetonga/Mangawhero | 2 Members |
| Pouarua/Maukoro Scheme | 1 Member |

| EASTERN PLAINS DRAINAGE DISTRICT | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Orongo/Kopuarahi | 1 Member |
| Horahia | 1 Member |
| Huirau | 1 Member |
| Wharepoa | 1 Member |
| Awaiti West | 1 Member |
| Awaiti East | 1 Member |
| Netherton West | 1 Member |
| Netherton East | 1 Member |

| PAEROA RURAL DRAINAGE DISTRICT | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Komata North | 2 Members |
| Opukeko | 1 Member |
| Tirohia/Rotokohu | 2 Members |

| TARAMAIRE DRAINAGE DISTRICT | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Taramaire | 2 Members |

A map showing the respective drainage districts
and the subdivisions within drainage districts
is available for inspection at Council's Ngatea
and Paeroa offices. Nomination forms are also
available at these offices.

In the event that more nominations are received
than there are vacancies, an election may be held
within the ratepayer electorate of the respective
subdivision.

In the event that there are no nominees in any
particular subdivision, Council may appoint or
second a member to ensure fair and equitable
representation.

LD Cavers
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council



www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz

Situations Vacant

Wanted. Tip truck
drivers. Full time
positions. Hauraki area.
Ph 027 490 5994

PLACE YOUR AD IN THE PROFILE:

022 130 3885

nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz

Handyman Services

**THAMES HANDYMAN
& BUILDING SERVICES**
Building,
home maintenance &
general gardening services
Phone: Fleur or Crighton • 0273 913 283

Situation Vacant

**Saunders
Mitsubishi**
Automotive Technician
Saunders Mitsubishi are looking for an
Automotive Technician to join our team in
Thames. This is a full-time position.
Apply to Paul Saunders
paul@saundersmotorgroup.co.nz

Situation Vacant

**Peninsula Memorials
are looking for a Labourer**
to help assist in the Manufacture,
Restoration and Installation of Memorials.
Travel and lifting involved.
Full time position.
Training will be provided.
This position is based in Thames.
Please email cf@pmthames.co.nz

Peninsula Memorials

PAPER RUNNERS

We have a vacancy for a paper runner in
Paeroa to deliver in the
Longridge Estate area.

Please contact Geoff via email
admin@valleyprofile.co.nz
for more information.

The Valley
Profile

RUBBISH REMOVAL

Smart Bins

Skip bins, Wheelie Bins,
Farm Bins

Phone us or book online
0800 4 MY BIN or
www.smartbins.co.nz

SEPTIC TANK CLEANING

ALLENS UNITED

Paeroa (2015) Ltd

LIQUID WASTE
SPECIALISTS

0800 862 720 | 027 442 0067

TYRES & BATTERIES



- ▶ Stockists of all major tyre brands
- ▶ Exide Batteries with extended warranties
- ▶ Wheel Alignments.

314 Pollen St, Thames
Ph 868 8182

SIGNS

SIGN DESIGN PRINT

Professional Sign & Design Service

- Logo Design & Company Branding
- Vehicle Graphics
- Directional & Information Signs
- Shop & Site Signage
- Footpath Signs
- Banners
- Business Cards



13 Francis Street, Paeroa 3600 valleysigns@xtra.co.nz
07 862 8290 0210 6777 02

WINDSCREENS



We come to you!

Chip Repairs - Windscreen replacements
-Insurance claims

PH: 0272127750
www.precisionwindscreens.co.nz

Book this space!

022 130 3885
nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz

The Valley
Profile

DEADLINE

We now take your classified ads

anytime before 1pm Mondays

022 130 3885 | nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz

The Valley
Profile

Momo the missing feline found

By ALICE PARMINTER Public Interest Journalism funded by NZ On Air

When Amy Churcher's cat Momo went missing in April, 2020, during the Covid-19 lockdown, she and her son Heath were sure they would never see him again.

The Waitakaruru family moved homes the day the lockdown took effect. Momo had experienced previous moves well, but this time he disappeared.

The then four-year-old cat was initially missing for two weeks. He made a brief reappearance on Easter Sunday, but a week later he was gone for good.

So when Amy saw a Facebook post on February 4 talking about a

found cat, she was stunned to realise she recognised him.

"I was gobsmacked when I was tagged in the post," Amy said. "I had posted on local pages that Momo was missing, to no avail."

Amy said there had been a few sightings here and there, including a neighbouring farmer who thought they'd seen Momo in their rubbish pile, but they weren't able to catch up to him.

"We hoped and prayed he was still alive and that maybe someone had taken him in or he was keeping himself well fed through his love for hunting."

Amy said Heath was distraught when Momo went missing.

"Heath and Momo were best friends, he was his first pet and they were always together. He missed him immensely," she said. "One night I went in to check on [Heath] before I went to bed and there was a photo of Momo lying there on his chest."

Amy got Momo for Heath when he was a toddler.

"I actually called him Gizmo and when Heath was a toddler he couldn't say his name and just called him Momo."

The day Amy saw Momo on Facebook, she was in disbelief.

"I couldn't believe my eyes," she said. "Boy, was Heath happy when

I told him the news and showed him the photo I'd seen online."

They collected Momo that same afternoon, from a property just across the road from their old house. Amy theorised he'd been looked after by an elderly couple who used to live there.

"He's not skinny or anything, he looks like he's been well-fed," she said.

Momo has since slotted right back into life with his family, despite the addition of a few new felines in his absence.

"He's not skittery, he's the most mellow cat ever. He gets

"He's not really wanting to go anywhere to be honest. I think he's just like, 'I missed you guys'."

- Amy Churcher



Heath and Amy Churcher have been reunited with their runaway cat Momo.

Photo: SUPPLIED

along with our other cats just fine," Amy said. "He's not really wanting to go anywhere to be honest. I think he's just like, 'I missed you guys'."

"We're over the moon to have him back. It just goes to show the power of social media and miracles can happen," Amy said.

"It's amazing that we've been reunited with him after all this time."



PROGRAMMES AVAILABLE FOR 2023

If school wasn't your scene, or if you want to learn to earn, these are some of the FREE options we have for you:

- Retail Level 2 - Upskill your customer service, learn how to deal with the public.**
- Foundation Skills L1, Mechanical Engineering L2, Intro to Agriculture L2**
(these 3 programmes will help you achieve NCEA Level 1 and 2)
- Agriculture Level 3 - Te Mahi Whenua (15 weeks)**
- Horticulture Level 3 (29 weeks)**
- Health & Well Being Level 3**
- Prep for Success**

We also offer some fee paying short programmes – Barista and Defensive driving lessons and Learners courses
Call us for pricing.

Valley Education

free courses • free transport

Call or **07 868 7892**
text us **027 314 1577**

www.valleyeducation.co.nz

CoromandelApp

SCAN ME

Local news and information at your fingertips!

Download the Coromandel App for up-to-date local news from around the Coromandel Peninsula and Hauraki districts, plus road and weather reports, local activities, trades & services, things to do, local markets, shopping, dining, community information and much more!

How to Download: Simply scan the QR code, left, or go to your app store and search 'Coromandel App'

The Coromandel App is powered by your local team at the Valley Profile, with our award-winning journalists providing local news you can trust

ADS FROM JUST

\$10

PER WEEK + GST

Advertise: Get your business on the Coromandel App for a cost effective way to reach your customers with listings, banners or in-story adverts. Pricing starts from just \$10 + GST per week!
Find out more: Ph 022 130 3885, nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz

LOCAL NEWS & INFORMATION

DOWNLOAD FREE TODAY!

GET IT ON

Download on the

The Valley

Profile



DIRECT CREMATION
 Thames: (15km radius) \$2595 incl GST
 Other areas: Whangamata, Waihi, Whitianga, Paeroa,
 Ngatea \$2895 incl GST



For additional information please refer to Twentymans website: twentymans.co.nz
 CONTACT: 07 868 6003



Please advise your Vet of your wish to use Forever Pets Crematorium



Visit the website: foreverpets.co.nz for further information.

CONTACT: Forever Pets 07 868 6003.

We guarantee the ashes you get back belong to your pet and only your pet.



SUDOKU

88

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

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

EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

88

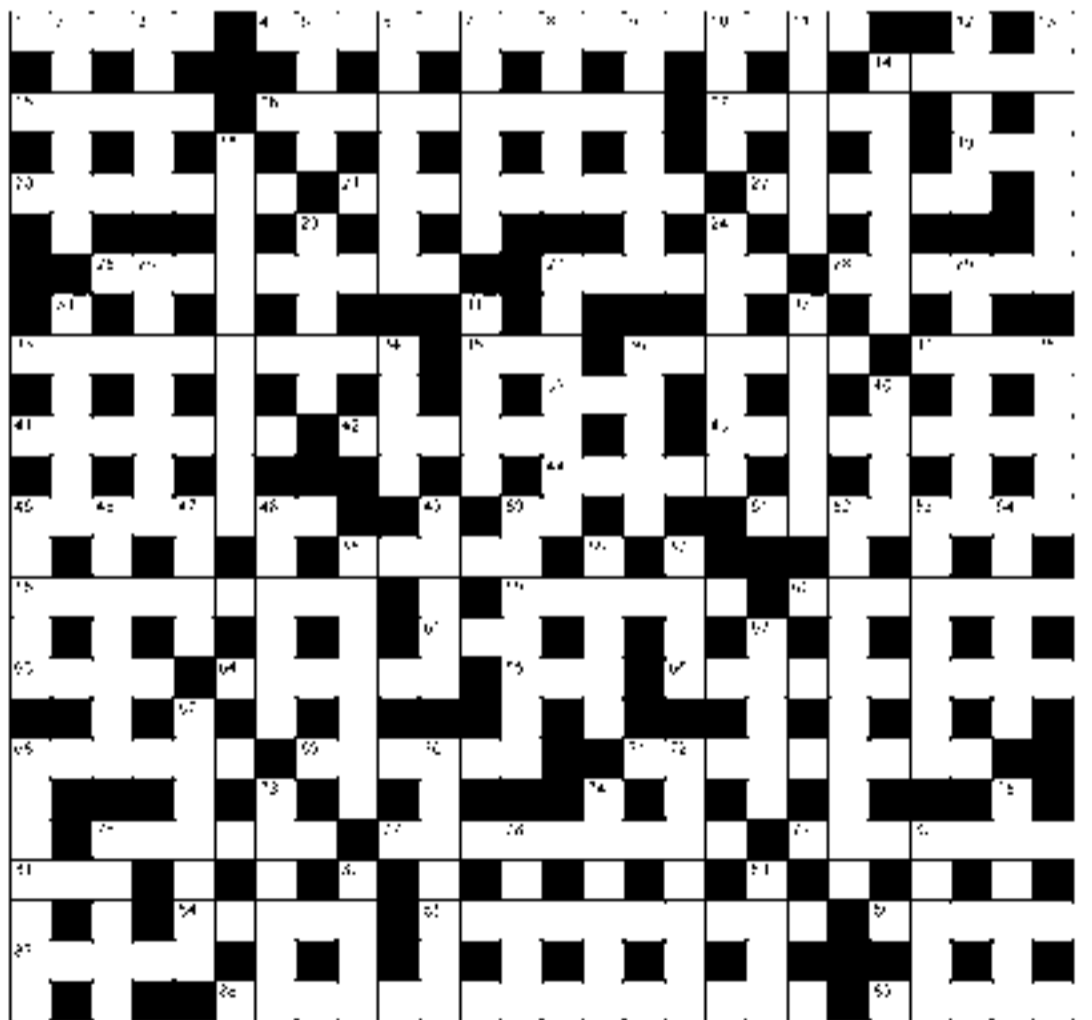
Puzzles © The Puzzle Company
www.thepuzzlecompany.co.nz

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

JUMBO CROSSWORD

108

- ACROSS**
- 1 Declare (5)
 - 4 Something said by mistake (4,2,3,6)
 - 14 Sleeping-place onboard (5)
 - 15 Judicial proceeding (5)
 - 16 Athletics event (6,4)
 - 17 Leg bone (5)
 - 19 Play on words (3)
 - 20 Scrap, leftover (7)
 - 21 Listen secretly (9)
 - 22 Grab quickly (6)
 - 25 Russian musical instrument (9)
 - 27 Distribute sparingly (6)
 - 28 Noisy quarrel (6)
 - 33 Earthquake study (10)
 - 35 Pixie (3)
 - 36 Muslim sovereign (6)
 - 37 Praise (4)
 - 39 Lard (3)
 - 41 Nomadic Arab (7)
 - 42 Seasoned sausage (6)
 - 43 Long complicated procedure (9)
 - 44 Winning (5)
 - 45 Tie (4,4)
 - 50 Taking place (2)
 - 51 Recently dead (8)
 - 55 Sweet thick liquid (5)
 - 58 Puzzling (9)
 - 59 Wonder drug (6)
 - 60 Sly laugh (7)
 - 61 Mongrel (3)
 - 63 Den (4)
 - 64 Go on board (6)
 - 65 Appropriate (3)
 - 66 High-class cookery (6,4)
 - 68 Favour (6)
 - 69 Place blame for wrongdoing (6)
 - 71 Unbiased (9)
 - 76 S American river (6)
 - 77 Very hot (9)
 - 79 Neck vein (7)
 - 81 Craze (3)
 - 84 Compare (5)
 - 85 Of horses and riding (10)
 - 86 Less (5)
 - 87 Placates (5)
 - 88 Morally beyond reproach (6,4,5)
 - 89 Revolution (5)
- DOWN**
- 2 Large serving dish (6)
 - 3 Coach (5)
 - 5 Entice (4)
 - 6 Enthusing lecture (3,4)
 - 7 Insect's antenna (6)
 - 8 Pester relentlessly (5)
 - 9 Highest (7)
 - 10 Short letter (4)
 - 11 Suave (6)
 - 12 Lined chart (5)
 - 13 Timidity (7)
 - 14 Electric cell (7)
 - 18 Annoy, cause to become hostile (10)
 - 23 Conductor's stick (5)
 - 24 Post on wharf (7)
 - 26 Run away (7)
 - 27 Cruel and brutal fellow (7)
 - 29 Alpine goat-antelope (7)
 - 30 Strict (6)
 - 31 Foot-operated pedal(5)
 - 32 Bargain over price (6)
 - 34 Chinese monetary unit (4)
 - 36 Knife-sharpening rod (5)
 - 38 Great fear (5)
 - 40 Palm fruit (4)
 - 45 Reside (5)
 - 46 Extremely stupid, foolish (7)
 - 47 Rope fibre (4)
 - 48 Season (6)
 - 49 Ruse (5)
 - 50 Perform surgery (7)
 - 52 Association of companies (10)
 - 53 Branch of maths (7)
 - 54 Cricket team (6)
 - 55 Score (7)
 - 56 Circumference (5)
 - 57 A metal (4)
 - 62 Snap (5)
 - 67 Particulars (7)
 - 68 Flawless (7)
 - 70 Ill-defined (7)
 - 72 Ruler (7)
 - 73 Oriental pipe (6)
 - 74 Picked (6)
 - 75 Handbook (6)
 - 76 X-rated (5)
 - 78 Not smooth (5)
 - 80 Oneness (5)
 - 82 Tangle (4)
 - 83 Silly (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Laughing stock, 8 Polish, 14 Drake, 15 Magnolia, 16 Rancour, 17 Agape, 18 Tot, 19 Schemes, 21 Dashboard, 22 Revise, 25 Sympathise, 27 Tricycle, 28 Ripple, 31 Cocoon, 33 Heading, 34 Deputy, 35 Foal, 37 Use, 39 Deal, 40 In focus, 41 Negligent, 42 Talking, 43 Terminal, 48 Assemble, 52 Clocked, 56 Gatecrash, 57 Estuary, 58 Tamp, 59 Tie, 60 Twee, 61 Coerce, 62 Pioneer, 63 Ornate, 65 Mutual, 66 Downpour, 68 Timekeeper, 71 Saturn, 72 Steamiest, 74 Stumped, 76 Aim, 79 Rouge, 80 Chicago, 81 Harangue, 83 Colon, 84 Adults, 85 Learn the ropes.

DOWN: 2 Anarchy, 3 Genie, 4 Ill, 5 Goat, 6 Tartare sauce, 7 Conch, 8 Portray, 9 Lead, 10 Scaled, 11 Sauté, 12 Lettuce, 13 Monolingual, 14 Deficit, 20 Extension, 23 Rightful, 24 Sloping, 26 Problem, 27 Thirst, 29 Proverb, 30 Stages, 32 Obese, 34 Denim, 36 Lathe, 38 Fife, 43 Tight, 44 Retreat, 45 Itch, 46 Amazon, 47 Route, 48 Anagrams, 49 Skyrocket, 50 Matinee, 51 Limit, 52 Chariot, 53 Kleptomania, 54 Devour, 55 At death's door, 64 Pattern, 65 Monarch, 67 Notices, 69 Execute, 70 Argued, 71 Smell, 73 Inane, 75 Mango, 77 Tell, 78 Shut, 82 Rye.

SPORTS

Ania selected for national touch squad

By GORDON PREECE

Ania Ballantine was “really excited” when she received the call to represent her country in a sport she’s competed in since her childhood.

The 18-year-old, who graduated from Hauraki Plains College [HPC] last year, told *The Profile* she qualified for the under 18 New Zealand Mixed (male and female) Touch Team in November and will don the singlet for the first time in May.

“I was really excited to be honest, we had trials [at King’s College in Auckland in mid-October] beforehand and to even get the call to go to the actual trials was surreal,” she said.

“We had one training camp at King’s College a couple of weeks back and we have another one in March at Western Springs, and then we fly off in May to Brisbane for the [Asia Pacific Youth Touch Cup].”

Ania, who is also about to kick off her commerce degree at the University of Canterbury, said she’d competed in touch rugby since she was around eight-years-old, representing Thames

Valley.

“I played for HPC senior mixed teams and junior girls teams and I played for Thames Valley mixed teams from under nines through to under 16s,” she said.

“In 2021, our Thames Valley under 16 mixed touch team came second at nationals [in Auckland] and our Thames Valley open mixed team came second at nationals [in Christchurch] as well, that was pretty huge.”

Ania, who also competed for Thames Valley in rugby union, basketball and netball, said training accelerated her morale.

“A lot of hard work and consistency, keeping up with fitness, keeping up with ball skills, not just at the regular team trainings but on your own as well, that’s really important to getting above the rest.”

Ania said training with her sisters Savaan and Tiare, who have competed in touch rugby for Waikato, also inspired her to aim high.

Ania said she hoped being part of a national squad would enable her to gain more experience and connect with other New Zealand and international touch players.



Ania Ballantine will represent New Zealand in touch rugby for the first time in May.

Photos: HUUH IMAGES

WHYTELINE

OUR PRE-OWNED PICKS

2020 Suzuki Vitara Turbo 2WD 2022 Suzuki Jimny Sierra

1.4L TURBO PETROL

AUTOMATIC MANUAL



PRICE DROP

DEMO SPECIAL!

FINANCE AVAILABLE
TRADE-INS WELCOME

\$28,990

FINANCE AVAILABLE
TRADE-INS WELCOME

\$34,990

2018 Isuzu D-Max LS DC 2WD

3.0L DIESEL

AUTOMATIC



PRICE DROP

FINANCE AVAILABLE
TRADE-INS WELCOME

\$34,990

2020 Ford Ranger Raptor 4WD

2.0L Bi TURBO DIESEL

AUTOMATIC



FINANCE AVAILABLE
TRADE-INS WELCOME

\$69,990

2015 Suzuki Celerio GLXC

1.0L PETROL

AUTOMATIC

ONE OWNER, LOW KMS



PRICE DROP

FINANCE AVAILABLE
TRADE-INS WELCOME

\$9,990

2010 Volkswagen Golf Type R

2.0L TURBO PETROL

AUTOMATIC



FINANCE AVAILABLE
TRADE-INS WELCOME

\$20,990

2022 Suzuki Swift Sport

1.4L TURBO PETROL

AUTOMATIC



DEMO SPECIAL!

FINANCE AVAILABLE
TRADE-INS WELCOME

\$29,990

2015 Holden Colorado Z71 DC 4WD

2.0L DIESEL

MANUAL



PRICE DROP

FINANCE AVAILABLE
TRADE-INS WELCOME

\$32,990

WHYTELINE.CO.NZ | 39 PUKE ROAD, PAEROA | 07 862 8783

HAURAKI'S HOME OF SUZUKI