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Last call for 'The Hika'

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

The discussion to buy a pub began over a beer.

But it wasn't just idle talk, and it wasn't just any pub - it was the Pioneer Tavern in Hikutaia, and for almost a year its patrons had gone without their local watering hole, without their "social hub".

With the 'For Sale' sign out the front, and with a desire to make the building a local asset, a group of locals banded together and thought: let's have a go.

Now, they are "well on the way" to buying the Pioneer Tavern for the community.

In April, 2022, publicans Ray and Suzanne Waite put the beloved pub on the market, after "spoiling" the Hikutaia community with good service for almost 30 years, Hikutaia local Bill Quinn told *The Profile*. "The property was on the market for about five years, and everyone thought someone was going to buy it and carry it on, but if they didn't, everyone said: 'We should buy it as a community' but nobody actually did anything.

"Then it sold and didn't open as a pub, and everyone said: 'Oh, we should have bought it'."

Bill said as soon as the tavern came back on the market, a small group of locals decided to either "talk about it and regret it" or "take action and have a go".

"So, that's what we're doing," Bill said, "we're having a go."

They've established Hika Lands Ltd - a registered company - and community members and interested parties can purchase shares, with 800 shares of \$1000 required to purchase the pub.

Bill said they were "well on the way to being able to complete the project".

"By the end of [this] week, we either go ahead or we pull the pin, and if we go ahead, there's still opportunity for shareholding investments to go forward, longer term, but

we've got to be in the race," he said.

Bill calls himself the "project idiot" - stating that it sometimes takes an "idiot" to stand up and make change.

He's had meetings with Thames-Coromandel District Council and said there was "no reason" why they couldn't get the pub back to "a full operational social hub for our district". "The community buy-in has been brilliant. We can all drive around the country and see empty country pubs everywhere, turning into houses, or just becoming derelict," Bill said.

"We've been without our community hub, our social connection spot, for coming up a year, and people are missing it - that's the real driver.

"People are suddenly realising how valuable it was now they haven't got it."

Bill said he was aware that the pub's sale had attracted other interested parties, with some looking into the possibility of turning the tavern into a private dwelling.

Hika Lands has a conditional sales purchase agreement in place on the property, which will become unconditional on March 27, if successful in their acquisition of shares.

If a "change of the baton" is initiated, Hika Lands has "phase two" aspirations - upgrading the pub so it becomes a "destination", with features such as an outdoor big screen, a stage for live music, a hangi pit, and a kids play zone.

Seven hundred shares of \$1000 are required for phase two. "The key thing isn't about selling a good time, the punch line we're getting across is to step up now before it is too late," Bill said. "There's nobody bank-rolling this, if the community doesn't step up, it will not happen."

DETAILS: To register your interest: Ph 027 564 5170 or email biosoils@xtra.co.nz.



Hikutaia local Bill Quinn says the community is close to purchasing their local pub.



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Our focus is 100% local community news.

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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 Advantage Tyres ad.

Teachers strike

Thames Valley teachers and principals left the classroom for the streets in Thames, Paeroa and Waihi on March 16 as part of a nationwide strike for better conditions to improve public education. The rallies were organised by the Post Primary Teachers Association and the New Zealand Educational Institute after both unions rejected Ministry of Education offers to increase staff, and allow better pay and working conditions. Reporter **GORDON PREECE** captured the protest.



Darcy Knyvett, left, Michael Moroney, and Sean Collier.



Teacher Deane Scott, left, with teacher Maree Entwisle.



Teachers protest at Create The Vibe in Mary St, Thames.



Haley Stewart, left, Anna Walters, Hannah Anderson.



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Thames Tides

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
Mar 22	Mar 23	Mar 24	Mar 25	Mar 26	Mar 27	Mar 28
Morning 2:07am 0.3 8:26am 3.7	Morning 2:56am 0.2 9:15am 3.7	Morning 3:42am 0.3 10:04am 3.7	Morning 4:27am 0.3 10:51am 3.6	Morning 5:13am 0.5 11:37am 3.5	Morning 5:59am 0.6 6:48am 0.8	Morning 12:40am 3.3 6:48am 0.8
Afternoon 2:33pm 0.3 8:53pm 3.6	Afternoon 3:22pm 0.2 9:41pm 3.7	Afternoon 4:09pm 0.2 10:26pm 3.6	Afternoon 4:54pm 0.3 11:10pm 3.6	Afternoon 5:37pm 0.4 11:54pm 3.4	Afternoon 12:23pm 3.3 6:21pm 0.6	Afternoon 1:09pm 3.1 7:06pm 0.7
7:22am	7:23am	7:24am	7:25am	7:25am	7:26am	7:27am
Best At 1:19am 1:44pm	Best At 2:08am 2:32pm	Best At 2:56am 3:21pm	Best At 3:45am 4:10pm	Best At 4:35am 5:01pm	Best At 5:26am 5:53pm	Best At 6:19am 6:45pm
New Moon Rise 7:26am Set 7:51pm	Rise 8:37am Set 8:18pm	Rise 9:47am Set 8:47pm	Rise 10:56am Set 9:18pm	Rise 12:03pm Set 9:53pm	Rise 1:08pm Set 10:34pm	Rise 2:09pm Set 11:21pm

*Not for navigational purposes.
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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	HIGH	LOW
Coromandel	-0	05	-0 04
Whitianga	-0	01	-0 05
Tairua	+0	10	+0 21
Whangamata	-0	03	-0 05
Waihi Beach	-0	12	-0 12

Businesses turn attention towards survival

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

In the wake of storms and the closure of State Highway 25A, Thames-Coromandel businesses are turning their thoughts to how they are going to survive the next nine to 12 months without direct access across the coast.

The Coromandel didn't even make the top 10 visitor destinations for the month of February, Thames Coromandel District Council said, which is unprecedented.

Kristy Ralls at Prescotts Garage in Hikuai said the road closure was having a massive effect on the business.

"We've actually just had to make a young guy redundant because business since that road closed, plus all the floods and cyclones ... the shop side of it has just gone so quiet. It just has such a flow on effect for our whole business," she said.

There were also personal implications, she said.

"[Owner] Shaun lives in Kōpū, and he's having to go the long way, potentially costing us about 12 grand extra a year for fuel and RUCs for him to do that."

Kristy said she was worrying about how they were going to pay the bills.

"Normally we should be so cash-rich at this time of the year going into winter, and we are not at all," she said. "It's been quite stressful."

She said there was barely any traffic through Hikuai now, apart from the road workers and the odd tourist who was un-



Work has begun on the gaping chasm on the road between Kōpū and Hikuai, but it's not an immediate fix.

Photo: SUPPLIED/WAKA KOTAHI

ware of the road closure.

"It's just like dead man's land out here," she said. "It's quiet, real quiet."

Over in Thames, Kerren Adams of Valley Panelbeaters was similarly dispirited.

"The traffic volume coming through here's not the same," he said.

"At the moment it's not affecting me too much because we've still got work to do, but people are choosing not to come to Thames now to get their RUCs

and stuff done or looking at alternatives for their insurance jobs."

Cancellations were coming in from over the hill now, Kerren said.

"It's life changing for me. We've had all this Covid stuff and being locked down ... it affects you mentally. Really, is everything worth it?"

Kerren said his commute, from Pauanui to Thames, was also unsustainable and he was having to stay in town during the week to

avoid driving four hours a day.

"I'm gonna have to re-evaluate work," he said. "I've worked all my life to be in a situation where I've got a nice house - I can't even go to it because we can't rely on the roads. I don't want to waste my life in the car."

Things were slightly more positive at Goldfields Mall, with owner John Freer saying his tenants were taking a proactive approach to marketing in a bid to find new markets until the road was reopened.

Still, he said, business was down, and there had been a noticeable effect on trade.

"We've got 22 businesses that operate out of Goldfields, and pretty much all of them are feeling some type of impact," he said.

"It's just an absolute imperative that [the road] gets open as soon as possible."

SH25A UPDATE, P12



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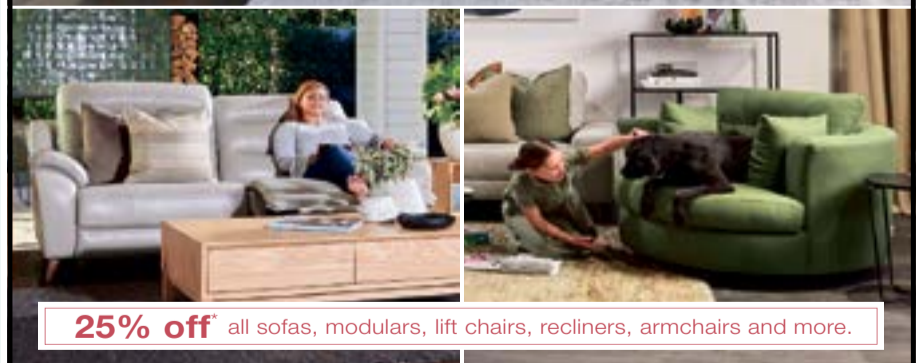
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Rates could go up 11.4 per cent

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

Thames-Coromandel District Council is floating an 11.4 per cent average rates increase for the coming financial year.

This is almost 4 per cent higher than what was forecast in 2021.

Mayor Len Salt said the proposed increase would “undoubtedly” add an extra burden to ratepayers - particularly on those on fixed or limited income.

“I am deeply aware of this and myself, councillors, and our staff have put a massive amount of effort into trying to limit the increase as much as we possibly can,” he said.

“We do have rates remission and hardship options available to people who are significantly impacted by the rates and we strongly encourage people to contact council and discuss their individual situation with us to see if we can help.”

Mayor Salt told *The Profile* that “the current financial situation” not only for Thames-Coromandel District Council, but on a national and global scale, was going to be tough “possibly for the next 12 months”.

Council was looking at further options for managing expenditure, he said.

“Where we can find savings, we will do so.”

In council’s 2021-2031 Long Term Plan, staff forecast a 7.7

per cent average rates increase for the district this coming year. Since then, council said, interest rates have increased, project and contract costs have escalated, and now, council faces the ongoing costs to rebuild and recover following the recent storm events.

The proposed district average rates increase of 11.4 per cent may change further before council adopts its final Annual Plan in June, to accommodate storm rebuilding and recovery projects which haven’t yet been costed.

“Public input and submissions are vital in the process and we strongly encourage residents and ratepayers to have their say on the proposed Annual Plan,” Mayor Salt said.

Council also wants to know if Thames residents would prefer to defer the planned Pollen Street upgrade project to 2024/25 and beyond.

If the deferral is supported, then the capital budgets for Pollen Street water, wastewater, stormwater and roading in 2023/24 will be zero.

DETAILS: Public consultation is open now until April 10. To have your say and view council’s Consultation Document, visit: www.tcdc.govt.nz/Our-Community/Have-Your-Say/Current-Consultations



Judge: Paper system possible cause of delay

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

The man accused of driving a stolen vehicle into the front of two Thames businesses will now have his sentencing handed down in Pukekohe.

He was meant to be convicted in Thames back in February, but after a raft of other charges were brought to the presiding judge’s attention, the case could not proceed.

Judge Noel Cocurullo faced the same problem when the man appeared again at the Thames District Court on March 17.

He said there was a “fundamental problem” with the sentencing indication handed down by Judge Geoghegan on January 20 - in that the judge was not made aware of a raft of other charges against the accused from Manukau Court, including burglary and arson, intentional damage, carrying an imitation firearm, failure to provide information, driving while disqualified, and resisting.

Judge Geoghegan gave a sentencing indication and no one had a clue about the South Auckland charges...

“In fact, Judge Geoghegan’s sentencing indication is very much on the basis that [the man] was a first offender for

burglary, when he wasn’t, and the only person who knew he was in fact pleading guilty to a burglary in South Auckland was [the man]. No one else knew.”

In that case, allowing the earlier sentencing indication to stand would be “quite wrong” and Judge Cocurullo said the court system relying on paper could be to blame for the surprise charges.

“Judge Geoghegan’s sentencing indication is very much on the basis that [the man] was a first offender for burglary, when he wasn’t.”

- Judge Noel Cocurullo

“One might argue that, because in 2023 we still operate on paper, that is the simple reason,” he said.

“If [the man’s] charges had come up on screen, they would have been right before [Judge Geoghegan’s] very eyes.”

Earlier, the court heard how on the evening of August 9, 2022, the man allegedly entered a rural address in Puke-

kohe and gained entry to a Mitsubishi Triton ute parked in the driveway.

He took the vehicle and drove to a service station in Mara-maru, using the victim’s pay-wave to put \$149.29 of diesel into the car.

He then drove to Thames. At some point, the man allegedly put on three sets of gloves and partially concealed his face before driving the stolen vehicle at speed into the front of Sunburst Cafe along Pollen St.

He reversed the vehicle and drove again, at speed, into the front of Thames Jewellers.

The ute became stuck, half inside and half outside the store.

The man left on foot and was subsequently arrested and searched; a meat cleaver was found on his person.

At the time, the man offered no explanation for his offending.

Judge Geoghegan’s sentencing indication from January 20 was thereby withdrawn.

The man was offered the opportunity to vacate his guilty pleas to the charges set before him during that indication, but chose not to.

He will now await sentencing at Pukekohe District Court in May.



Moanataiari Sea Wall Public information meeting

Residents of Moanataiari are invited to attend a public information meeting on the sea wall.

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Taking the first step towards first steps

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

Four-year-old Ruby Shelford has a cheeky grin that's full of mischief.

It's clear the Thames girl is as full of energy as any other preschooler. She also has cerebral palsy. Ruby was born early at 32 weeks, and after a complicated delivery was diagnosed with the disability. Although her condition is mild, she is unable to walk and suffers from stiff, painful muscles in her legs.

Cerebral palsy is caused by damage to the brain, and affects muscle control, movement and posture. It is a condition that requires lifelong treatment from an early age; Ruby needs physiotherapy twice a week, and has already undergone two surgeries on her hips.

Mum Doleena says it's hard to see Ruby miss out on so many milestones.

"We obviously make our decisions on what we do depending on her really," she says.

"For instance [if] we've got a party to go to at the skatepark. And she can't ride a bike or she can't hold herself on a bike. So it's sort of like, do we go? Or do we say no, we can't?"

"It's hard as parents," says her dad, Nick. "You do get to miss out. It's hard to go to parks sometimes and watch all the other kids running around and your one can't."

For mild cases such as Ruby's, one of the treatments is an operation called Selective Dorsal



Ruby, 4, wants to face life with a spring in her step, but she needs some help.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

Rhizotomy (SDR). It is a permanent neurosurgical operation which reduces spasticity - stiffness - in the legs. If successful, Ruby will have a good chance of walking. The only catch - it's not offered in New Zealand.

Doleena and Nick are fundraising to get her to St Louis Children's Hospital in Missouri, United States, for the operation.

There she will be under the care of the doctor who invented the operation, Dr Park.

"The surgeon only takes on patients that he thinks have a good chance of walking again," Nick says. "The surgery will also lessen the chance of further surgeries later in life ... and it should prevent a lot of pain."

Getting a spot for the operation was not an easy task.

"She had to be assessed before we were accepted," Doleena says. "We had to go to the physiotherapist and do videos with her - different stances, sitting,

stretching, x-rays."

Ruby is scheduled to have her operation on April 28. Afterwards, she will need to stay in the country for three additional weeks as she undergoes intensive physiotherapy, up to four times a week. Overall, the flights, accommodation, post-operative treatments and the operation itself will cost the family around \$120,000.

Local businesses have contributed to the cause, which the

"My hope for her is that she has that independent lifestyle where she can go to the grocery store and buy groceries, go to the toilet unaided ... that's a fairly normal lifestyle."

- Nick Shelford

couple are very grateful for, but they are still working hard to make up the shortfall of around \$100,000.

Nick says it's a daunting plan, but the outcome will be worth it to give Ruby the chance to experience the independence most children her age take for granted. "There's a good chance, it's not guaranteed but it's highly likely that she will be [walking] even if it's just with a walker or walking stick," he says.

"My hope for her is that she has that independent lifestyle where she can go to the grocery store and buy groceries, go to the toilet unaided ... that's a fairly normal lifestyle."

"We want her to walk, basically. We want her to be independent, to have an independent life," Doleena adds. "It's such a small thing, us not having to lift her. The goal would be to walk. Just to walk."

DETAILS: To help Ruby, visit givealittle.co.nz/cause/operation-fight-4-ruby.



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Young metal detectorist unearths relics

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

A young man and his metal detector have been reuniting people with their lost belongings.

Matt Howse, 10, has been taking his new device to nearby beaches, surveying the sand and finding jewellery, coins, and relics of yesteryear beneath it.

The Karangahake School student first got into metal detecting after a trip to the South Island two years ago, his dad Tony told *The Profile*.

"He bought [a metal detector] when we went gold mining down the South Island, but it was more for gold, so it wasn't until Matt did some busking in Thames and made enough money to buy this new metal detector - which is really good for finding coins and jewellery, along the beach, especially."

To earn enough for his metal detector, Matt learned to play two songs on the guitar and stood outside Goldfields Shopping Centre for an hour.

From that, he earned just over \$386.

He has since been traversing the beaches of Whangamata and has had great success in reuniting people with their

lost items. "He found a lady's watch, and her mum had given it to her years ago. She went to the beach the night before and she had a swim and lost it there," Tony said.

"She put a post up [on social media] and someone tagged me, and I said, 'We'll meet you there at 1 o'clock and you can show us where it is'."

"We got there a bit earlier, so Matt jumped off the sandbank, turned his machine on, and within 20 seconds, he'd found it," he said. "She was just over the moon."

Tony said there was quite a large contingency of metal detectorists throughout New Zealand, and while "every 10 or 20 steps" you may be able to find a coin of some kind, Matt has spent half an hour along a certain stretch

and has only found a few pieces of tinfoil.

"It depends on how many people have been there before you," Tony said.

The Karangahake pair take all the rubbish they've unearthed away with them, and "there's a rule that you always fill your holes in".

Tony said Matt was "really thorough" and had learned all the different beeps the metal detector makes. He will continue metal detecting throughout

"As soon as there is a storm on the beach, everything changes, and things from yesteryear can be anywhere."

- Tony Howse



Matt Howse, 10, has been using his new metal detector to reunite people with their belongings once lost in the sand. Photos: SUPPLIED

winter, and the father and son duo will keep their eyes fixed to the ground, in hopes to find an elusive gold nugget.

"As soon as there is a storm on the beach, everything changes, and things from yesteryear can be anywhere," Tony said.

"Even if someone has been through [the sand] one week, three or four weeks later, it's a different beach."



Matt uses his pointer, left, to unearth coins and lost jewellery.



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Patrollers recognised for creating safety

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

Senior Constable Gareth Carter from Thames Police has a vivid memory about Peter Nicholson and his late wife Carole.

"There were burglars down at the marina and I thought: 'Oh yes, I'm gonna catch these guys'," he recalled at an awards evening for the Thames Community Patrol last week.

"I went running in there thinking 'I've caught them, I've caught them' - but they had beat me to it. It was the community patrol that actually beat the police in getting there."

Volunteers of Thames' community patrol - which has been operating in the town for 20 years - were recognised at a service award ceremony at Thames Police Station on March 14.

Peter was one of the recipients.

He has been involved with keeping the streets safe for two decades, and said back in the day, when the pubs closed, the patrollers could hardly drive down Pollen St because the roads would "fill up with people".

"With the patrol, we like it to be boring," he said. "If it's boring, then you know there's nothing happening."

On those quiet nights, Peter and his wife Carole would head out to Kōpū and count the rabbits.

Then, they'd count the number of cats they encountered.

"It was just to keep our minds open and active," he said.

George West was also posthumously recognised for his long-standing service.

He died in 2022, but his wife Jan and daughter Louise were there to accept the award.

"Dad was very proud to be part of the community patrol, and mum and I were proud of the work he did," Louise said. "We want to thank you so much for thinking to invite us here today. My partner said: 'God, [dad is] still getting awards'."

Thames-Coromandel Mayor Len Salt told members the work they did was "absolutely fabulous".

"What it does is it goes to the heart of what community is all about. We've had a rough few weeks, as you know, and the thing that always shines is the level of contribution from ordinary people within the community; people that live next door, down the road, and in the parts of town we see, day in and day out."

Community Patrols New Zealand chairperson Chris Lawton, who travelled from Auckland to be at the event, said community patrols created "the feeling of safety in our communities".

"And that is hard-earned and easily lost," he said.

"Day time is just as important as night time, and if no



Peter Nicholson was acknowledged for his 20 years of service.

Photos: KELLEY TANTAU

one cared in our communities, no one would feel safe. People feel safe because of what you guys do."

Senior Constable Gareth Carter also shared his thanks.

"I really appreciate it, as do the other police who live locally, because to have you guys out there, even if it's just on the radio to call for back-up, at least we know there are ears listening to Thames."

DETAILS: To volunteer contact Graeme Wood on 027 417 8224 or 07 868 8095.



George West was posthumously recognised for his contribution. His daughter Louise accepts the award from TCD Mayor Len Salt.



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Rural Life

Optimus limes at Hauraki orchard

By GORDON PREECE

A zest for a lifestyle change led Wade and Jane Andrews to purchase a 2.5 acre lime orchard on Hauraki Rd in 2016.

The couple now produce up to two tonnes of the citrus fruit per year and Wade told *The Profile* the business was named after their now six-year-old son.

“We had been in Thames but we wanted a bit of land with a growing family of three boys,” he said.

“When we actually purchased the property, my wife was pregnant and we had our son in January 2017. The property wasn’t named prior.

“[They] had it set up as a functioning orchard but they hadn’t named it as such, so when Leo our son was born... we decided to start up a partnership company and we named it Leo’s Limes.”

Wade said Leo’s Limes produced around 20 to 30kg of the citrus fruit per tree per year.

“We’re now functioning at about 230 lime trees, and we predominantly supply to our local markets... we have some good local consumers which we gather through social media, word of mouth and through friends,” he said.

“We were actually lucky this year to have some earlier fruit so we could supply from early February to just before the end of the year in November.

“Once a lime starts to yellow as it ripens and gets a little bit older, it automatically becomes a B grade lime, but the better limes are the ones that are a bit older, they’re juicier, and they’ve got more taste.”

Wade said the orchard could soon be after a full-time employee to help process the limes after recently replacing an old row of trees with a processing shed.

Leo’s Limes focused on the



Wade Andrews, left, Jane Andrews, Leo Andrews, front, and Cohen Andrews.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

lime appeal, he said.

“When we’re processing and packaging we’re picking the best produce and that’s part of it, we’re not supplying sub-standard fruit,” he said.

“Keeping on top of the trees and giving them a prune, keeping the trees off the ground so that limits the amount of bugs

that can access the trees, and a bit of luck at the end of the day.

“We’ve been lucky enough to have this land where the limes have seemed to thrive, we haven’t for the last three years sprayed the trees so they’re more or less organic.”

Wade said Leo’s Limes had

not been affected by the recent cyclones. “From the original people that planted the limes they did a very good job in terms of forming the water tables so the limes aren’t sitting in low lying areas,” he said.

“[The water is] always only a metre max below the ground because of the marine clay

that’s down below, it holds the moisture.

“At the moment we are getting extreme weather patterns - this summer is wet whereas last summer we had one of the driest summers we’ve ever had, but it hasn’t affected the limes too much... and we haven’t lost any trees.”

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Rural Life

Hive of activity at Waihi-based apiary

By GORDON PREECE

Thomas Menefy is the king bee of Menefy Honey & Pollination which he established on his Waihi lifestyle block in 2015 to service nearby kiwifruit orchards for pollination.

The former fertiliser spreader driver told *The Profile* the business, which he operates alongside his 1.37 hectare kiwifruit orchard called the Beez Kneez, produced more than ten tonnes of honey annually with the help of up to 90,000 working bees.

“[Waihi] is a good location for honey production, [there’s] a lot of farmland and we’ve got the Kaimai [Range] surrounding it and the Coromandel Ranges.

“There’s a lot of variety of trees and flowers which keeps [the bees] happy,” he said.

The operation has 550 hives on 18 farms around Waihi, with 60,000 to 90,000 bees in each colony.

“We concentrate on the kiwifruit pollination [between November and December]... and then we put [the hives] out on the sites to get a bit of honey... we aim to do eight to ten tonnes of bush honey and we aim to do two to three tonnes of mānuka.” Thomas said he trimmed the

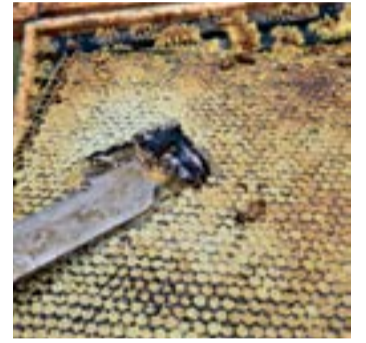


Thomas Menefy has more than 500 hives on 18 Waihi farms.

Photos: SUPPLIED



More than ten tonnes of honey is produced annually.



The honey being trimmed.

honey from the honeycombs after New Year and they were taken to Whangamatā to be extracted into drums.

“We then take a couple of drums down to Katikati to get potted up into jars and then we sell the jars and we’ll sell the majority of our honey commercially in drums and then it gets

exported overseas,” he said.

Thomas said while the business had been buzzing, it had felt the sting this year due to the wet weather.

“There’s not a lot of demand this year and the bush honey’s actually been quite bad because of the wet weather - the bees are just inside when it’s raining,” he

said. “Because of all that heavy rain we had in January and late December, they couldn’t forage for [the honey] so they just ate [the honey] they had.

“We’ve been going round pulling honey off and there’s not much at all this year, normally it’s really good but you can’t do much about the weather.”

Despite this year’s wet weather, Thomas said his products continued to be swarmed by honey lovers.

“Customers love the honey, we sell locally at our honey stall, in the local shops, and supply Falls Retreat with buckets of honey for their cooking,” he said.



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Rural Life

Is the grass greener?



By Stephanie Reid
BSc (Hons) BVSc

While we won't remember this summer for long days at the beach or sunburn, it is remarkable to see green grass at this time of year.



Paspalum seedhead covered in Ergot fungus.

Although, along with this green grass we have noticed an increase in call outs for "wobbly calves". A couple of the repeat offenders we've seen recently are Paspalum Staggers and Vitamin B1 or Thiamine deficiency.

Paspalum Staggers occurs when cattle ingest the paspalum seed heads infected with an ergot fungus. The fungus initially starts out sticky and green then becomes black when mature, typically occurring under warm, humid conditions. In high enough doses, ingestion of the mature fungus can lead to neurological signs. This is most commonly seen in calves, as due to their smaller size, less needs to be ingested to reach toxic levels.

Signs may include head shaking, muscle tremors and inco-ordination – if animals are stressed or overstimulated, they may end up falling over. Indirect consequences may include dehydration and poor growth rates as animals are unable to graze effectively or make their way to troughs to drink, as well as injury due to misadventure.

In more extreme cases, animals may go down permanently, suffer paddling convulsions, and eventually die.

There is no specific treatment or antidote for paspalum staggers. In less severe cases, recovery is usually achieved by removing animals from toxic pasture and feeding an alternative feed source such as hay. More severely affected animals may need veterinary attention to initiate supportive therapies such as

fluid and anti-inflammatories.

Vitamin B1 or Thiamine is required daily by cattle, normally this is produced in the rumen by bacteria. However, in some cases, other types of bacteria that produce thiaminase (thiamine destroying) enzymes can proliferate within the rumen leading to deficiency. This most commonly occurs when cattle change from a low-quality, high fibre diet to one containing high carbohydrates i.e. lush pasture.

A lack of thiamine causes the brain to swell, resulting in signs such as depression, inco-ordination, blindness, "star-gazing" and, if allowed to progress, the animal will end up in a characteristic position known as opisthotonos with their head arched backwards and legs outstretched prior to death.

Treatment consists of B1 injections twice daily for at least 3 days. Prognosis depends on the severity of signs. Some animals may end up with permanent brain damage, therefore prevention is better than cure.

Methods to prevent thiamine deficiency include avoiding sudden changes in diet, particularly if going on to high quality feed, providing a fibre source when feeding high carbohydrate diets, and supplementing thiamine using an oral drench during risk periods.

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SPORTS

On your marks

High school students, aimed, leaped and had an appetite for the finish line at the Thames Valley Secondary Schools Athletics at Paeroa Domain on March 14. Reporter **GORDON PREECE** took his marks to snap the nail-biting action.



Waihi College year 9 student Bhima Meares prepares to throw his shot put.



Hauraki Plains College student Kaia van Doorn paces to the finish.



Thames High athletes Jodie Loudon, left, Kyah Lyon, and Lawton Waite.



Paeroa's Kaleb Gurnick takes a leap of faith in long jump.



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25A Reconnecting Coromandel

State Highway 25A is a vital connection the Coromandel depends on, and its sudden closure is felt by everyone.

We're working on the solution

A project team has been established and is focussing on assessing the possible options. Several have been identified and they fit into three categories:

1. Build a bypass around the top of the site.
2. Replace the lost section of road with a bridge.
3. Rebuild the supporting ground with retaining walls.

To determine which is the best option, we first need to know what the underlying ground is made up of. This investigation work is underway now.



i Find out more and stay up to date

Things are changing all the time, visit nzta.govt.nz/sh25a-rebuild and subscribe to our regular project updates.

Before you travel, use Waka Kotahi Journey Planner for the most up-to-date information on road closures at journeys.nzta.govt.nz



23-SH-025

Long recovery for SH25

KOPU-HIKUAI UPDATE



By Rob Campbell

What a year it's been already for the Coromandel road network.

Our priority is to stabilise as many slips as fast as we can, to make sure that

we reduce the chance of access being affected further. At the same time, we are working hard to design permanent solutions and to have teams of people ready to start constructing these, drawing from a wide range of local and national suppliers with the right skills and experience.

The recovery phase will be long, it might take two years to complete all the work in front of us, with the State Highway 25A Kōpū-Hikuaia repair estimated to take nine months to a year.

In January and February alone - there were more than 200 slip events on Coromandel and East Waikato highways. More than 50 of these are considered "significant slips", which means they're over two truckloads of materials in size. Of these 200, the chasm at the summit of Kōpū-Hikuaia is only one. A big one mind you!

There were 361 Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency contractors on the ground responding to the sheer enormity of this situation over the first two months of this year. This equates to a whopping 56 thousand worker hours in this region alone, at a cost of around \$5 million dollars.

The scale of the permanent repairs this year is significantly higher than previous

years, including the 2018 Thames coastal storm event.

Currently, there are around 30 active overslips and 20 active underslips requiring permanent solutions. An underslip is a slip that falls below the road level, like the one between Hikuaia and Opoutere, which has caused serious headaches for the community recently.

Up on Kōpū-Hikuaia, we've currently got two geotech and two earthworks teams working flat out.

The focus is on collecting samples using drill rigs, which bore deep into the earth to get information on what material there is to work with, specifically if there's rock and where it is.

But while this critical work is ongoing, there's a lot happening all around the Coromandel.

There is a significant number of culverts to repair and clean up. Heavy rainfall resulted in severe scours and damages to our stormwater system. We are still inspecting the drainage and continuing work on the maintenance and repairs.

We appreciate that it's extremely frustrating and stressful to have so many roads compromised. There's uncertainty about when things will be fixed, or whether a slip will worsen or a new one develops - compromising SH25 further. It's tough economically as well as emotionally and socially.

We want to thank everyone in the community for their patience despite the challenges and for respecting our teams out there. Most of them are locals too and everyone wants to see the Coromandel fully connected again as fast as possible.

- Rob Campbell is the regional manager of maintenance and operations for Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency

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Arrests made after burglaries

By ALICE PARMINTER, Public Journalism funded by NZ on Air

Police have arrested a 39-year-old man in relation to a series of commercial burglaries in Thames.

The burglaries occurred between February 25 and March 14 at four separate locations.

Sergeant Martin Tomkins hoped the arrest would help provide some reassurance to locals.

“We’d also like to thank members of the public for coming forward with information to help Police,” he said.

The man was due to appear in Hamilton District Court on March 16 on four burglary charges.

Police said further charges were likely.

Meanwhile, the Thames Business Association (TBA) advises business owners to remain vigilant and think about deterrents to help avoid break ins after a spate of burglaries over the past two weeks.

They recommend: installing CCTV; ensuring good lighting at all store entrances; not leaving money in the till and leaving empty tills open; and signing up for BizWatch, the TBA crime prevention group.



Fight at Tararu draws observers



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.

1879

Two bushmen, having a little dispute over one of the thousand and one little things that bushmen quarrelled over, adjourned to the seclusion of Tararu to settle the grievance.

The news of the fight spread like wildfire and proved a god-send for cabbies, as, within five minutes of the rivals driving off, five other loaded cabs were on the road, the occupants all eager to see the sport. By the time they arrived at Tararu, however, the fight was over, and the bushmen were found forgetting their differences in foaming tankards of beer. Their audience returned to town, looking considerably disgusted.

TELEPHONE ESTABLISHED

Telephonic communication was established between the telegraph offices of Miranda and Mercer by officials for their own amusement. The instruments were constructed by the officer in charge from a description in a British newspaper. The distance between the two places was about 30 miles, and a gentleman who was invited



Tararu in 1867.

Photo: SUPPLIED

to hear the telephone ‘shake’ said that he could hear people miles away speaking, singing and whispering as distinctly as if they were in the same room with him.

GRAHAMSTOWN FAVOURED

The favouring of Shortland over Grahamstown at Thames by the Borough Council infuriated a Shortland resident. Between Willoughby and Grey Streets were stinking drains and bad footpaths and the area was permeated with the smell from an infernal brewery. The expenditure of rates was angled towards Grahamstown, which had good footpaths and stone crossings while the poor sleepy hollow of Shortland got nothing. “So long as the ratepayers choose to elect men to the council that hold large properties in Grahamstown, they will never get a fair share of rates spent in their district. Rouse up, ye sleepy ones!” he urged.

HIKUTAIA ROAD COMPLAINT

Mr Alley of Hikutaia also wanted action from the council. His horse became badly bogged while riding to Shortland and if it hadn’t been such a strong animal it would have stuck fast

in the county mud. The road had been formed out of swamp land two years previously, had never been repaired and was fast becoming a series of bog holes. Mr Alley couldn’t drive cattle or sheep to market on the rotten excuse for a road. He had spoken to the road overseer and also the County Chairman who threw the blame on the government. Mr Alley implored the *Thames Star* editor – whose pen the County Chairman had a dread of – to use his influence to get the county men to fill up the bog holes with manuka, rushes or fern, in place of more substantial metal or broken stones.

PAEROA DANCE PARTY

A group of gentlemen, accompanied by a party of ladies, came up on horseback to Paeroa from Thames to attend a dancing party in the Public Hall. Miss Belcher and Sergeant Russell officiated at the piano, and Messrs Dewar and Marshall played the violin. The party broke up early as several of the gentlemen wished to make an early start so as to reach the Thames in time for business in the morning.

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

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22 Seaview Avenue, Te Puru **Offers Over \$1,150,000**

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Huge family home on two levels ideal for a big family or B&B for extra income. Situated one block from the foreshore and just down the road from the boat ramp. There's plenty of room for the boat, kayaks and more and Te Puru is renowned for it's community and holiday atmosphere.

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ENTERTAINMENT

THE SCHIZOPHONICS

One of the most explosive combos to have ever graced our stages (and curbsides), San Diego garage rock 'n' soul crew The Schizophonics have announced their return to Aotearoa.

The band is playing in Thames on March 23, with local support from Neon Serpent.

Previously here in 2019 and 2020, leaving a legendary run of red hot gigs in their wake, The Schizophonics' husband and wife team Pat and Lety Beers since unleashed their third studio album *Hoof It* upon the world to rave reviews late last year. The Schizos are cramming in as many appearances as possible into their forthcoming visit to New Zealand, with new bass player Tommy Lambert Granger.

DETAILS: *The Green Room, March 23, doors open at 8pm and Schizophonics on at 9:15pm; Tickets available from www.undertheradar.co.nz.*

ISLA MAY TO PERFORM

Violinist Isla May Whinnen-Jensen will perform in Thames Music Group's free Friday concert on March 24.

Isla is a 12-year-old Thames violinist, who has been learning for six years. She is currently studying for her grade six exam, with Auckland-based teacher Alexandra Laubli.

Isla has previously played in Auckland with the BayLynn Youth Band, held two of her own concerts in Thames, and is a familiar face busking at the Thames market. She is currently collaborating with other musicians to form a folk band. Her genres include classical, folk and contemporary. Isla plans to study music at university, become a



Violinist Isla May Whinnen-Jensen will perform in Thames Music Group's free Friday concert on March 24. Photo: SUPPLIED

violin teacher and luthier. The concert will be a mixture of classical and folk music.

DETAILS: *St George's Church, Thames, on March 24 at 12.15pm.*

KAUAERANGA SHOW

An internationally acclaimed multi-genre artist will grace the Kauaeranga Hall stage on March 26.

Denise Norton has risen as one of Aotearoa's most successful international stage performers of classics, jazz and other genres and her Kauaeranga Hall performance will be filled with heart-warming and dramatic songs and brilliant orchestrations.

Born and bred in Auckland, Denise became a student member of the Royal Academy of Dance, which began her international perfor-

mance career.

She performed in a varied lineup of shows in Europe including *CATS*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Requiem* before performing in jazz clubs during a one-year stint in New York City.

Her Sunday afternoon performance will feature songs made famous by these shows, songs by Edith Piaf, Screaming Jay Hawkins, Al Cooper, and songs from her latest recording projects.

DETAILS: *March 26, 2:30pm, Kauaeranga Hall, tickets: pre-paid \$22; door sales \$25, contact 021 912 993, kauaerangahallmusic@gmail.com or visit Lotus Realm.*

TE PURU QUIZ NIGHT

Te Puru School's Quiz Night will be held on Friday, March, 31 to raise funds for the school. The quiz

night will kick off at 7pm at Te Puru School Hall, 507 Thames Coast Rd. The fundraiser includes cake, tea and coffee for sale, bring gold coins for games and raffles.

DETAILS: *Teams of up to eight people. \$20 per person, to book: email: TePuruPTA@gmail.com.*

A TASTE OF MATARANGI

Live music, great food and drink, family activities and charity auctions will be on offer at the Matarangi Village Green for A Taste of Matarangi event on April 1.

Organisers said the event, which is in its eighth year, would be a family fun day out.

"There will be activities for the whole family, not just those who look forward to tasting wine, sampling delicious food and listening to great music."

There will also be event fun rides, a bouncy castle, face painting, raffles, auctions and a charity bucket drop supporting the event charities, which are Kūaotunu Search and Rescue and Te Rerenga School.

"Fabulous music will entertain you all day with Sound Republic, Pow Wow, Mandy Meadows duo, Whitianga Dixieland Band and a Kapa Haka performance by the Te Rerenga School pupils."

There will also be a large tent and festival-goers are encouraged to arrive early to secure their spot in the shade.

"Festival-goers should note there will only be limited space for small gazebos but plenty of space for chairs and umbrellas."

DETAILS: *Matarangi Village Green, 10am-4:30pm, Adult \$25, Child \$5, and under 5 free, tickets, shuttle bookings and more info: www.atasteofmatarangi.co.nz.*

Twilight gala planned

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

Early April will see a Twilight Gala held at Waihi College, raising funds for a new playground for Year 7 and 8 students.

Event spokesperson Nicky Twidle said the college's goal was to raise \$7000 to fund the first stage of the playground, with the Year 7 and 8 pupils helping out during the event by running their own stalls and activities to help fundraise.

"As well as the Year 7 and 8s taking initiative in this huge project, we also have other departments in our school chipping in as well. For example, our hospitality department, led by Siobhan Fitzgerald, are contributing by hosting a whole bunch of food stalls."

"Our technology department has some fun ideas, many of which are still a secret, but there will be a Green Screen experience, plus a waterslide run by Bluelight," she said.

Attendees should also expect live entertainment from the college's performing arts students, bouncy castles, "old school" gala games and car boot sales.

DETAILS: *Twilight Gala at Waihi College, April 5, 4pm-6.30pm. Book a stall for \$25, powered or unpowered: email gala@waihicol.school.nz.*



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The Floor Man staff LJ, left, Dan, Jase, and Kezlin.

Photo: SUPPLIED

The Floor Man hits the floor

The team at The Floor Man offer sales and installation of carpet, vinyl, laminate, polyurethane of timber and concrete floors for Hauraki-Coromandel households and businesses.

Owner Daniel Martindale established the business in Thames eight years ago prior to relocating to Ngātea, and said he always received layers of positive feedback from clients.

"Dad taught me 17 years ago in the Hawke's Bay and then I moved up here, finished training with a local company, and

then eight years ago just before we had our second daughter decided it was time for a change," he said.

"[Clients] are quite happy with the work I do and the team usually gets good feedback," he said.

"[The key is] hard work, good work ethic, and just knowing the trade inside and out."

Dan said he eventually plans to establish a shop for The Floor Man within the region.

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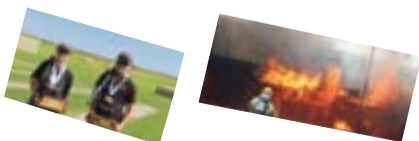
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SPORTS



Thames Valley Hockey Association president Vicki Coles, left, and vice president Rachel Aitchison at the Ngatea hockey turf.
Photo: GORDON PREECE

Turf upgrade for Ngatea

HOCKEY

By GORDON PREECE

More than 1000 Thames Valley hockey players will soon be able to dribble and sweep at an upgraded Ngatea hockey facility.

Thames Valley Hockey Turf Society and Thames Valley Hockey Association announced a upgrade to its facility, worth close to \$1 million including GST, on March 10 with the replacement of its existing sand turf for a specialised water-based synthetic turf.

Society chair Julie Stephenson told The Profile the upgrade would allow hockey to be played in all weather conditions and was needed for health and safety reasons.

"The surface that has been down since 2007 has been quite severely affected by the subbase...it's affecting the playing surface basically

and it's become a health and safety issue," she said.

"It's been so bad in fact that other associations wouldn't come and play on the turf."

Julie said funding for the project included \$400,000 from the Lottery Community Facilities Grant, \$164,220 from Grassroots Trust, \$156,700 from Hauraki District Council and \$135,000 from the association.

"We've been absolutely delighted with the response we've had this year and I think that in previous years the turf society has carried a mortgage to meet the costs of installation initially, and then the rest of the first resurfacing," she said.

"This year the funders have really seen the need for us and hopefully we're going to be in a situation this time where we don't have

that kind of loan hanging over our heads."

Julie said the new turf installation would begin in April and was expected to be hockey ready by mid-May.

"When the [first] turf went in [in 1993], the numbers of people playing hockey probably trebled so I'm hoping with the upgrade... we'll be looking at attracting a greater number of people back to the game or who are new to the game," she said.

"It's an awesome opportunity to market what is going to be an international facility and get all our local people playing on it.

"Then we would welcome back our neighbouring associations as well which opens the door for mini tournaments, secondary school games, senior games and intercity," she said.

to attend as extras. The recent event was hosted by the Tahuna Club with more than 75 people in attendance. The highlight of the day at Tahuna was the nett 62 by Colin Anderson, Paeroa Tahiti Team, which helped maintain their position on top equal with Tahuna Team 1.

The next round will be hosted by Waihi on March 31. It is a nett competition and the top five nett scores counting towards the six week combined total Pennants Results Zone 3: Round

1 Thames on March 3; Round 2 Tahuna March 13: Paeroa Tahiti: round 1: 352, round 2: 354, total: 706; Tahuna 1: 356, 350, 706; Waihi Nuggets: 355, 370, 725; Te Aroha: 359, 366, 725; Tahuna 2: 367, 361, 728; Waihi Quartz: 375, 363, 738; Waihi Ingots: 374, 365, 739; Hauraki: 362, 379, 741; Thames: 369, 377, 746; Paeroa Rua: 386, 389, 775. The next round will be hosted by the Waihi Club on Friday March 31.

- Supplied by Colin Anderson, Zone 3 Convenor

CROQUET

Wednesday, February 22, saw croquet players from Warkworth, Pakuranga, Howick, Papakura, Manurewa, Hamilton East, Claudlands, Tauranga, Katikati, Paeroa, Morrinsville, Te Aroha and Thames descend on the Thames Croquet Club for their February 2023 Open Tournament sponsored by Richmond Lifestyle Villas. There was relief that the day dawned fine and clear as the previous January tournament had to be cancelled due to rain sodden greens. It was lovely to see all five greens full of players rather than under water. The 36 players enjoy an uninterrupted day of play under the hot sun.

Competitors were divided into three divisions of six pairs, depending on their playing handicap level: Premier, Intermediate and Primary and played under the Levels/Doubles system. Play was intense and fierce (the game brings out the competitiveness of people). Club member Ruth Henderson said: "The shot of the day belonged to Heather Prince, president of the Paeroa club. Her ball was behind the hoop. There was a snarl or gathering of three balls in front. She played her ball, all three scattered and she got an, 'impossible' in/off; and scored the hoop. I've only been playing for four years but have

never seen such a feat!"

We also had a lucky couple from Warkworth who rocked up in their Campervan when we had a space in the draw as another couple had to withdraw. Then they won their division!

The final results were close with the winners and runners up in each division having to be decided on a countback of hoop differential (where the winners scored more hoops overall than the runners up, even though both pairs have won an equal number of games).

RESULTS: Division 1: Premier Winners: Pam Fisher and John Wood from Pakuranga; Runners up: Noeline Posselt (Paeroa) and Pat Anderton (Morrinsville). Division 2: Intermediate Winners: Chris Lewenden and Alan Butchardt from Claudlands; Runners up: Neville Culpith (Manurewa) and John Bailey (Papakura). Division 3: Primary Winners: Brian and Vanessa Morrison from Warkworth Runners up: Heather Prince (Paeroa) and Ann Hatton (Waihi).

The prize presentation was made by Amy Parker of Richmond Lifestyle Villas after the players enjoyed a sumptuous afternoon tea provided by Thames Croquet Club members. Visit us on Facebook at 'thamescroquetclub' or email thamescroquet@gmail.com for further information about our club.



Premier Division winners Pam Fisher and John Wood.



Primary Division winners Brian and Manessa Morrison.



Intermediate Division winners Chris Lewenden and Alan Butchardt.



Premier Division runners up - Noeline Posselt and Pat Anderton.



Intermediate Division runners up Neville Culpith and John Bailey.



Primary Division runners up Heather Prince and Ann Hatton.

GOLF

After Two rounds of Six The Waikato Vets Pennants competition is hotting up.

The competition is held between the six Zone 3 clubs with six players in each team. Clubs may enter as many teams as they please and this year, 10 teams have been entered.

This ensures the host club gets at least 66 players being involved at each club hosting. Host clubs also encourage additional vets players

Results Zone 3: Round 1 Thames on March 3; Round 2 Tahuna March 13: Paeroa Tahiti: round 1: 352, round 2: 354, total: 706; Tahuna 1: 356, 350, 706; Waihi Nuggets: 355, 370, 725; Te Aroha: 359, 366, 725; Tahuna 2: 367, 361, 728; Waihi Quartz: 375, 363, 738; Waihi Ingots: 374, 365, 739; Hauraki: 362, 379, 741; Thames: 369, 377, 746; Paeroa Rua: 386, 389, 775. The next round will be hosted by the Waihi Club on Friday March 31.

- Supplied by Colin Anderson, Zone 3 Convenor

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HARD

92

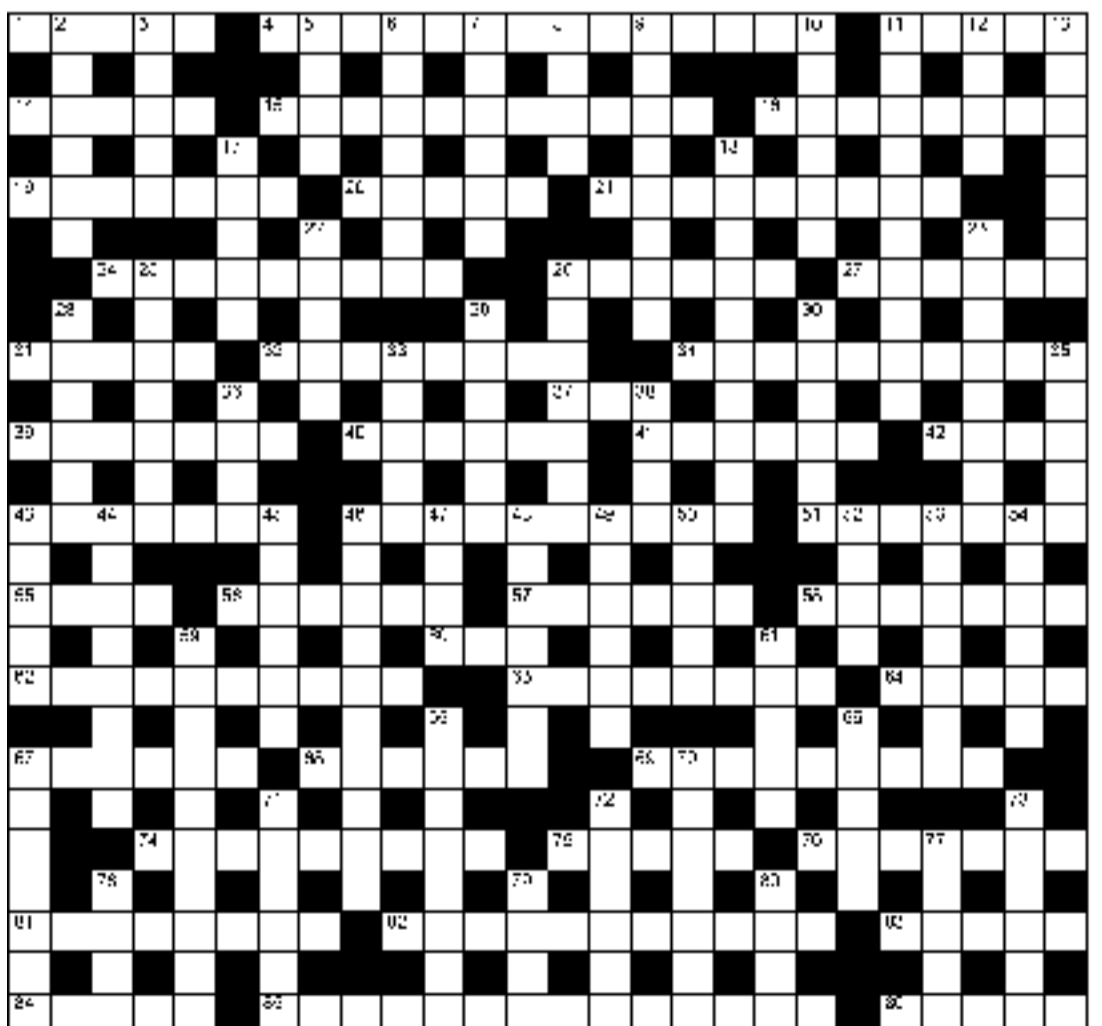
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4	3	5	1	9	6	7	8	2
5	2	3	4	1	9	6	7	8
9	1	8	7	6	5	2	3	4
7	6	4	3	8	2	9	5	1
3	5	7	6	4	1	8	2	9
1	4	9	8	2	7	3	6	5
2	8	6	9	5	3	1	4	7

JUMBO CROSSWORD

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Communal money fund (5)
 - 4 Be an unwanted third party with a couple (4,10)
 - 11 Category (5)
 - 14 True (5)
 - 15 Revive from unconsciousness (11)
 - 16 Curved sword (8)
 - 19 Floor show (7)
 - 20 Open-mouthed (5)
 - 21 Restless (9)
 - 24 Big guns (9)
 - 26 Scamp (6)
 - 27 Burning (6)
 - 31 Adipose (5)
 - 32 Stress (8)
 - 34 Film actor's audition (6,4)
 - 37 Can (3)
 - 39 Handcuff (7)
 - 40 Fix (6)
 - 41 Woodwind player (6)
 - 42 Protracted (4)
 - 43 Trace (7)
 - 46 Notes (5,5)
 - 51 Backer (7)
 - 55 Highlander's dagger (4)
 - 56 Says (6)
 - 57 Deadly (6)
 - 58 Accord (7)
 - 60 Age (3)
 - 62 Switches back and forth (10)
 - 63 Spotless (8)
 - 64 Merge (5)
 - 67 Blanket-like cloak (6)
 - 68 Develop over time (6)
 - 69 Not resolved (9)
 - 74 Sleep through winter (9)
 - 75 Core (5)
 - 76 Deer meat (7)
 - 81 eg spider, scorpion (8)
 - 82 Furnace (11)
 - 83 Quay (5)
 - 84 Astute (5)
 - 85 Large fuss over something trivial (5,2,1,6)
 - 86 Reduce drastically (5)
- DOWN**
- 2 Weather map line (6)
 - 3 Jewelled headband (5)
 - 5 Welsh emblem (4)
 - 6 Born later (7)
 - 7 Inhabit (6)
 - 8 Satisfy fully (4)
 - 9 Plant studier (8)
 - 10 Sailboats (6)
 - 11 Waist sash (10)
 - 12 Play divisions (4)
 - 13 Unknown (7)
 - 17 Ledger entry (5)
 - 18 Blue (10)
 - 22 Economic depression (5)
 - 23 Very hungry (8)
 - 25 Withdraw (7)
 - 26 Speaker's platform (7)
 - 28 False front (6)
 - 29 Break loose (6)
 - 30 Official count (6)
 - 33 African scavenger (5)
 - 35 Big wild cat (5)
 - 36 Basin stopper (4)
 - 38 Middy (4)
 - 43 Alcoholic drink (5)
 - 44 Close examination (8)
 - 45 Accessories (6)
 - 46 Keeping from decay (10)
 - 47 Sit for (4)
 - 48 Recovery setback (7)
 - 49 Kit out (6)
 - 50 Precise (5)
 - 52 Blueprint (4)
 - 53 Candidate (7)
 - 54 Highly decorated (6)
 - 59 Phobic rash (anag) (10)
 - 61 Beginning (5)
 - 65 Precious metal (8)
 - 66 Female fox (5)
 - 67 Maybe (7)
 - 70 State of perfect happiness (7)
 - 71 Deserves (6)
 - 72 Spurn (6)
 - 73 Developing unborn (6)
 - 77 Model (5)
 - 78 Heroic narrative (4)
 - 79 Indication (4)
 - 80 Bean curd (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Chances, 4 Give advice, 9 Italics, 13 Ours, 14 Sailor, 15 Rarity, 16 Minaret, 19 Nervous, 20 Chip off the old block, 21 Before, 22 Puppet, 24 Speculate, 29 Crevasse, 30 Dearth, 31 Icicles, 35 Flippant, 36 Rafter, 37 Ewer, 38 Cover, 39 Tag, 41 Suede, 43 Ethics, 47 Franc, 50 Eel, 54 Spooft, 55 Peer, 56 Mussel, 57 Opponent, 60 Canteen, 61 Beetle, 62 Leonardo, 65 Freewheel, 67 Encode, 68 Futile, 72 Nineteen to the dozen, 75 Essence, 77 Medical, 78 Affair, 79 Bruise, 80 Acme, 81 Stagger, 82 Close shave, 83 Segment.

DOWN: 1 Clown, 2 Aircraft, 3 Sparse, 4 Golf course, 5 Verdi, 6 Airport, 7 Verify, 8 Catch, 10 Third place, 11 Leaflet, 12 Clench, 17 Sour grapes, 18 Coach, 21 Benefit, 23 Prepare, 25 Potter, 26 Avenue, 27 Fabric, 28 Delete, 30 Ditch, 32 Crop, 33 King, 34 Tear, 40 Appear, 42 Duel, 44 Tomato, 45 Issue, 46 Shellac, 48 Appeal, 49 Cloudburst, 50 Épée, 51 Lettuce, 52 Moot, 53 Frieze, 58 Decelerate, 59 Golden rule, 63 China, 64 Binnacle, 66 Reeking, 67 Endures, 69 Direct, 70 Shears, 71 Versus, 73 Offal, 74 Zebra, 76 Elect.

SPORTS

Swimming records for college para-athlete

By GORDON PREECE

Rylee Sayer was “over the moon” after breaking New Zealand swimming records at the Swimming Waikato Summer Long Course last month.

The 14-year-old Hauraki Plains College student achieved the open New Zealand records for the 200m breaststroke and the 100m and 200m freestyle and the under 16 New Zealand records for the 400m and 50m freestyle. Open New Zealand records apply to swimmers aged over 13 years.

Her mother Amanda Sayer told *The Profile* while her daughter had previously broken New Zealand swimming records, some of the new records were “pretty special”, such as the 200m freestyle, which she did in an 8.5-second personal best and broke the record by seven seconds.

“She was pretty over the moon.

“Within the last year she has broken something ridiculously like 14 New Zealand records or 16 and under New Zealand records.”

Amanda said Rylee competed under the S14 swimming classification for swimmers with intellectual disabilities as she has a rare condition called tuberous sclerosis complex which causes tumour-like growths in her brain, kidneys, heart, and skin.

However, she could still com-



Rylee Sayer recently swam her way to break open New Zealand swimming records.

Photos: SUPPLIED/BWMEDIA

pete with able-bodied athletes at events like the summer long course.

“The only time Rylee ever goes in para races is when she goes to national events,” she said.

“She really enjoys that because it really pushes her to improve herself.

“To have a girl like Rylee who does have an intellectual disabili-

ty... she’s really opening a lot of doors for other girls and she wants to be a role model to get more girls being competitive in that pathway.”

New Zealand paralympian Cameron Leslie looked after the swimming development programme for Rylee and she was coached at Matamata Swimming Club by Graeme Laing, who is the son of the late New Zealand olympic

swimming coach, Duncan Laing.

Amanda said Rylee also qualified at the summer long course for the Virtus Global Games to be held in France in June. The games are a pinnacle event for athletes with intellectual disabilities.

“The focus for her now is to keep getting personal bests in the races she’s got records in, so that she can be as competitive as possible when she gets there in June,” she said.

“Rylee is not hoping to get a medal over there because she’ll be racing world record holders and olympic athletes, but she’s going for the exposure of being on the world stage.

“Hopefully she will in the next year or two be looking at world games, Commonwealth Games and then hopefully her target Olympics is in 2028 in Los Angeles.”

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