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Residents wake to speeding, skidding



Revvng vehicles and dangerous high speeds throughout the night have raised safety concerns. File Photo: UNSPLASH

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

Thames is being woken up and the alarm is set sporadically: 2.30am, 3.30am, 4.30am, 5.30am.

These are the times drivers have been accelerating down the town's main streets, revving their engines and skidding their tyres across the tarseal.

It's an issue law-abiding citizens of Thames shouldn't have to put up with, the local MP has said, but the behaviour is part of a New Zealand-wide problem that

preys on a good nights' sleep.

"It's not something you expect to happen because you're asleep, for starters, and because it's Thames and maybe I'm being a bit naive," Mal Hargreaves said.

"There have been some previous episodes but none as sporadic as this."

Mal owns a property overlooking MacKay St, and he and his neighbours are being subjected to early wake-ups by drivers revving their car engines, doing burn-outs, and speeding.

The incidents have taken place on February 26, March 12, and

March 19, and again on April 1 and 2.

"I think they're doing it for their own kicks and entertainment, but [they need to] have a bit of consideration for their neighbours, their family, and their community. Thames has a high propensity of older people and [the drivers] are ripping up and down the road outside the hospital where people are trying to recover," he said.

"From our point of view, yes it's okay to have fun, but maybe be a bit more considerate."

Mal has contacted the local police and community leaders such

as Thames-Coromandel Mayor Len Salt, Thames Community Board chair Adrian Catran, and Coromandel MP Scott Simpson.

He said while he understood there was no easy fix for the problem, an increased police presence and additional traffic-calming measures on key Thames streets - such as MacKay, Queen, and Rolleston - could put some heat on the perpetrators.

He's concerned about what could happen if residents intervene or are impacted by the potentially-dangerous high speeds if nothing else gets done.

"What if someone tries to take a photo, or decides to have words with them, or [the driver] loses control of their vehicle?"

"I don't mind people with high-powered cars - we've got one, but we wouldn't hoon down any of those streets at that time of the morning."

Coromandel MP Scott Simpson said Mal's concerns were valid.

"All of those issues are real issues for law-abiding citizens in Thames, and the potential for the matters to get out of hand is real and present," he told *The Profile*.

CONTINUED P2

We all know the drill...

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GREEN is a GO



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

Our focus is 100% local community news.

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New Three Waters plan still lacks councils' 'confidence'

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

A "major shakeup" of the government's Three Waters reform will now see every council have its own "seat around the table" but Thames Valley mayors remain eager for more detail.

Last week, the government announced changes to the re-named Affordable Water Reforms by agreeing to establish 10 new regionally owned and led entities instead of four.

Recently-appointed Local Government Minister Kieran McNulty said the new approach would avoid a "rates blow out" and deliver savings to households between \$2770-\$5400 per year by 2054.

Entities would be owned by local councils on behalf of the public, with entity borders to be based on existing regional areas.

The 10 entities would start delivering water services from July 1, 2026 at the latest, but entities are able to proceed before this if ready.

"The new changes have provided time for councils to work through transition which is good," Hauraki Mayor Toby Adams told *The Profile*.

"The change in entities does



Hauraki Mayor Toby Adams, left, and Thames-Coromandel Mayor Len Salt.

give each council a seat around the table, but it still has the other layers, which doesn't give councils confidence on how priorities will be delivered."

Thames-Coromandel Mayor Len Salt wasn't available for comment but in a statement said his council was also "keen" to get more detail on how the changes will apply.

"Our district will be part of the Waikato entity, which is based on the existing Waikato regional model. We already have long-standing and positive collaboration with the other local governments in the region on roading, transport, emergency management and other services like building control.

"Each council mayor will have a seat on a regional representative group along with an iwi representative. So, 11 Wai-

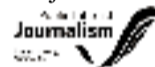


kato mayors and 11 Waikato iwi representatives will oversee a professional board that will be appointed based on competence and skill to run our local entity."

National Party leader Christopher Luxon, who was in Thames last week, also released a statement calling the change "the same broken Three Waters reforms with a new coat of paint".

"Labour's Three Waters 2.0 still takes local assets and local control away from councils and forces them into entities – the number of which has increased from four to 10.

"We know Kiwis want local water assets in local hands, and they don't want co-governance structures imposed on them. But Labour just doesn't get it."



Dangerous driving concerns

CONTINUED FROM P1

"Citizens shouldn't have to put up with this kind of nonsense, and like Mal, I'm worried about the potential of people taking the situation into their own hands and for that to escalate."

Mr Simpson, who lives in Thames, said he'd also had nights of disturbed sleep caused by the loud burn-outs occurring "in the wee hours of the morning".

"It's become increasingly common in the township of Thames, and I'm pleased that Mal has decided to raise it as a local issue.

"Sadly, it's just a symptom of a much wider level of criminality and lawlessness that is occurring throughout the country," he said. "Thames is not immune and Thames is not the only community where this is a problem."

Thames Police confirmed to *The Profile* that first and second-time offenders who operate a motor vehicle causing a sustained loss of traction face maximum imprisonment of three months, a maximum fine of \$4500, and a minimum disqualification from driving of six months.

DETAILS: Report any bad driving behaviour to the Police by using the NZ Police online report to make a non-emergency report, or by calling 105. If you are observing the driving and feel it requires police attendance please call 111.



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E: coro@haurakitaxation.co.nz

Thames Tides

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
Apr 19	Apr 20	Apr 21	Apr 22	Apr 23	Apr 24	Apr 25
Morning 6:10am 3.5 12:19pm 0.4 6:41pm 3.4	Morning 12:46am 0.4 1:10pm 0.3 7:01am 3.5 7:31pm 3.5	Morning 1:33am 0.4 1:57pm 0.3 7:50am 3.5 8:17pm 3.6	Morning 2:18am 0.4 2:42pm 0.3 8:38am 3.5 9:01pm 3.6	Morning 3:02am 0.5 3:25pm 0.4 9:24am 3.4 9:44pm 3.5	Morning 3:47am 0.6 4:07pm 0.5 10:09am 3.3 10:27pm 3.4	Morning 4:32am 0.7 4:49pm 0.6 10:54am 3.2 11:11pm 3.2
6:46am 5:47pm	6:47am 5:46pm	6:48am 5:45pm	6:49am 5:43pm	6:50am 5:42pm	6:51am 5:41pm	6:52am 5:40pm
Best At 11:21am 11:45pm	Best At 12:09pm	Best At 12:33am 12:58pm	Best At 1:23am 1:48pm	Best At 2:14am 2:40pm	Best At 3:07am 3:34pm	Best At 4:01am 4:28pm
Rise 5:16am Set 5:17pm	New Moon Rise 6:25am Set 5:44pm	Rise 7:34am Set 6:14pm	Rise 8:43am Set 6:47pm	Rise 9:51am Set 7:26pm	Rise 10:55am Set 8:11pm	Rise 11:54am Set 9:02pm

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

MOON AND FISH KEYS



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	HIGH	LOW
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

Crime concerns addressed for Waihi residents

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

Waihi residents were given an opportunity to voice their concerns about a perceived rise in crime on April 5, following a flurry of social media activity.

Local Facebook groups had been seeing increasing numbers of posts about break-ins, crime, and suspicious people. The rising feeling of angst and unease prompted Waihi Neighbourhood Support co-ordinator Sacha Urlich to schedule a public meeting.

The meeting, held at the Waihi Baptist Church, was attended by around 100 concerned local residents. The speakers were representatives from Neighbourhood Support, Waihi Community Patrol, Police, and Hauraki District Council's Civil Defence/emergency management team, among others.

"It's people being anxious - feeling like there's nothing happening," Sacha said.

"I think some good traction will come out of [the meeting], and that's what we wanted."

The meeting was primarily an information session. It covered details including contacting police on 111 for an emergency or 105 to make a report; protecting your home from crime by using sensor lights, alarms and CCTV, having dogs, making a place look occupied, locking doors, and installing window stays; and having a plan in case of emergencies like weather



Waihi Neighbourhood Support co-ordinator Sacha Urlich addresses the crowd.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

events.

There was also some lively debate from people who had been victims of burglaries and other crime, questioning the speakers about resources available in the area.

Senior Constable Harley North urged people to contact police in the first instance, and to not use Facebook as a primary means of reporting suspicious behaviour or crimes.

"We know there's a whole heap of crime in the community that goes unreported," he said.

"That's not helpful for New Zealand Police. We need to

know what crimes are occurring in the community, no matter how small or how big."

He also spoke about the police presence in Waihi, stating that the police station was usually staffed during regular business hours. On those occasions that police were not in the station, it was because they were on patrol and Police could always be reached via the contact button in front of the station.

Constable North said crime numbers tended to drop substantially whenever an offender was caught.

"Our staff arrested one of our

prolific burglars here in Waihi on the weekend," he said.

"All it takes is for us to get another couple of [arrests] and I think you'll see that all of a sudden the burglaries in Waihi will drop way off."

Waihi's community patrol and neighbourhood support were also present at the meeting. The Hauraki town currently has only three community patrol members, and there are 47 neighbourhood support groups in Waihi township.

Neighbourhood support groups are hyper-local, keeping an eye on their road or a small

BY THE NUMBERS

- 6 frontline police staff in Waihi
- 17 burglaries across Waihi and Waihi Beach in the 31 days to April 5
- 2 burglaries in Waihi between March 31 and April 5
- 80 per cent of crime caused by 10 per cent of offenders
- 3 community patrol members in Waihi
- 47 neighbourhood support groups in Waihi
- 24/7: Waihi's available police presence
- Call 111 for emergencies
- Call 105 for non-urgent police enquiries

section of the community, while community patrollers take to the streets in a marked car to act as a second set of eyes for police. Both groups were keen for more volunteers.

There was a surge of interest from meeting attendees, with around 40 people indicating their interest in joining one of the groups.

"It's all about looking out for ourselves and our neighbours," Neighbourhood Support district support co-ordinator Chris Smith said.

"It's just communicating with each other and being aware,"



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Our Coromandel

News from Thames-Coromandel District Council



19 April, 2023

Anzac Day Tuesday 25 April



Parades and services

Our Mayor Len Salt extends a warm welcome to the public to attend our district's Anzac Parades and Memorial Services on Tuesday 25 April, as we remember those who have served on our behalf.

Returned service personnel are invited to wear their medals and decorations. All descendants of returned service personnel are welcome to participate in the parades. Descendants of returned service personnel marching in the parades are invited to wear medals on the right upper portion of their apparel.

Services will be held at the following locations locally:

TAPU

5.45am: Dawn Parade – from Tapu Fire Station to Cenotaph, Tapu Hall.

6.00am: Dawn service at Tapu Hall followed by breakfast afterwards.

THAMES

5.45am: Dawn Parade from Sealey Street (outside BNZ), along Pollen Street, turn left into Mary Street to Thames War Memorial, Civic Centre.

6am: Service at Thames War Memorial, Civic Centre, followed by breakfast at the Thames Bowling Club on Mackay Street, opposite the Council offices.

9.45am: Civic Parade from Sealey Street (outside BNZ), along Pollen Street, left into Mary Street, to Thames War Memorial Civic Centre.

10am: Service at Thames War Memorial Civic Centre.

Thames road closures Anzac Day

- Pollen St will be closed between the intersections of Walter St and Sealey St from 5.30am to 10.30am.
- Mary St (Create the Vibe area) will be closed between the intersections of Pollen St and Queen St from 5.30am to midday.
- Service Lanes 6 & 8 will only be accessible from the non Mary Street ends from 5.30am to midday.

During the road closures, please use the alternative routes of Campbell Street, Mackay Street, Bella Street and SH25.



Rubbish and recycling services

There will be no kerbside rubbish or recycling collections on Anzac Day, Tuesday 25 April. Collections for the rest of the week will be one day later than normal. tcdc.govt.nz/kerbside

Refuse Transfer Stations

Thames Refuse Transfer station will be open from 1-5.30pm on Anzac Day. Find out more at tcdc.govt.nz/rtss



Closures

Council facilities
Closed on Anzac Day



District libraries
Closed on Anzac Day



Thames Pool
Closed on Anzac Day

KŌPŪ MARINE AND BUSINESS PRECINCT

The project has entered a new phase with marine contractors Heron Construction moving onto site to start work on the construction of the commercial wharf.

Contractors Fulton Hogan completed the first stage of works at the end of March 2023. These works included forming the base for the recreational parking and commercial areas, installing piles to support crane pads, and connecting the newly formed King Street to the precinct, including installing communications, electrical conduits and water services. Fulton Hogan will return in early 2024 to complete the car park surface, King Street paving and Quay Street entrance widening.

The target date for the opening of the whole precinct is May 2024.

tcdc.govt.nz/kopu



The first stage of road works, infrastructure and the base for parking and commercial areas finished in March 2023.

ROAD TO RECOVERY

We're continuing to work our way through recovery since the extreme weather events earlier in the year.

Payments for the majority of successful applicants to the **Business Recovery Fund** were made by mid April. Government allocated our district \$3.8 million to distribute for the Waikato region. We had 508 applications seeking a total of \$10.8 million.

We were way oversubscribed so some businesses didn't get the full amount they may have applied for.

Payments totalling over \$400,000 have been made to residents, ratepayers, small business owners or not-for-profit organisations through the **Mayoral Disaster Relief Fund**.

We continue to lobby Government vigorously for financial support to repair the district's infrastructure and to ensure a permanent solution to SH25a is a priority. Our Council hosted a visit from Transport and Coromandel Cyclone Recovery Minister Michael Wood and continues to press hard for support recovery.

On our local roads, our contractors have made great progress, making routes safe and passable. A solution to reopen the Tapu-Coroglen Road is expected to be announced soon.



Moanataiari sea wall meeting

Moanataiari residents have been updated at a public meeting on the five-year annual inspection and performance review of the Moanataiari Inundation Protection Scheme, or sea wall, conducted by engineering firm Tonkin and Taylor.

Three options were presented for upgrading the sea wall to extend its lifespan beyond 2036 if the anticipated rate of sea-level rise continues.

Find out more at tcdc.govt.nz/moanataiari-sea-wall

Right: Moanataiari residents are forming a community group to provide feedback on sea wall options.



Thames Community Board UPDATE

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

"It was great seeing locals and visitors out and about enjoying Easter despite the challenges to our roading system and economy. It's important to also recognise opportunities, which include more visitors travelling through Thames as an alternative route up the Coromandel Peninsula. I and Board members look forward to joining our community on Anzac Day to honour the sacrifices made by many in defending democracy as we know it.

At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them.

Lest we Forget"

adrian.catran@council.tcdc.govt.nz

The Board's next meeting is on Wednesday 10 May 2023, 10am in the Council Offices. Recordings of all our Council and Community Board meetings are posted on tcdc.govt.nz/meetings, where you'll also find meeting agendas and minutes.



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Luxon: 'Big target' needed for SH25A

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

Those who wore blue to the public meeting with National Leader Christopher Luxon and Coromandel MP Scott Simpson didn't go unnoticed by the party members, but one man purposely wore black to protest the lack of action on the Kōpū-Hikua Rd.

Co-chairman of the Primary Land Users Group Andy Loader told the attendees of the April 13 meeting that he purposely wore dark attire, after receiving little support from the government about establishing a temporary bypass of the major slip on State Highway 25A.

"I put out an open letter to the government about State Highway 25A and a temporary accessway. They sent me an email reply to say: 'We've received it, it's in front of the minister, but please be aware it'll be a minimum of two months before you'll see a reply'."

Heman Ahlowalia, owner of impacted Tairua business The Pepe Cafe, called the delay "disrespectful".

The men were two of many



National Party Leader Christopher Luxon arrives at the Thames Civic Centre with MPs Simeon Brown, left, and Scott Simpson.

Photos: KELLEY TANTAU



who raised concerns about the main thoroughfare that has been shut since February, with Heman asking why other countries could launch satellites through space while New Zealand "experts" couldn't fix

a road. "We've heard that contractors up here could've pushed that bloody road through in a number of weeks," another said. "I don't know why it's not been done under a state of emergency."

Mr Luxon, who was joined in Thames by Pakuranga MP and National spokesperson for transport Simeon Brown, said he would set a "big goal" - such as opening the Kōpū-Hikua Rd by Christmas. "It might feel big, hairy, audacious, and scary, but

we've got to set a target. What worked incredibly well was Kaikoura... It was a classic case of having a date and a budget. It had dedicated leadership... and they were empowered to get the job done. It feels like the target we need to set here."

In the Primary Land Users Group's open letter - which was also addressed to Thames-Coromandel Mayor Len Salt, Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency, and others - Mr Loader wrote that the "lack of critical access and uncertainty when a resolution will be forthcoming is having a huge negative impact physically and mentally on all of whom are dependent on road access".

He said he had been contacted by contractors saying a single-lane bypass with a loose metal surface could be built quickly to prevent "the huge bypass route through Waihi".

At the meeting, that statement was reiterated by former Thames-Coromandel Mayor and National Party MP Sandra Goudie.

"We're going to hold the government to account on actually delivering and getting things done," Mr Luxon told the crowd in his closing statement. "And I'm rather skeptical in their ability to get things done."



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Disaster Relief Fund



Hauraki District Council have established a Limited Disaster Relief Fund to help our residents who were most affected by the cyclone in February 2023.

The Limited Fund is open to Hauraki residents who have suffered financially and/or emotionally and require financial support, as a result of the flooding event. Only one application will be considered per household.

The Limited Fund will provide a one-off hardship grant to affected residents, to go some way towards helping alleviate the emotional and financial stress experienced due to the cyclone.

Priority will be given to:

- Essentials of daily life (e.g. food, accommodation, utilities).
- Extra financial burden or costs due to the flooding.
- Family or personal crisis.
- Costs not covered by insurance or other fund, such as WINZ support.

Funding applications for grants opened Tuesday 11 April and will close at 5pm on Friday 5 May 2023.

Application forms can be picked up from any of our offices in Paeroa, Waihi or Ngatea or download a form online <https://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/community/grants-funding/cyclone-relief-fund>



Hopes for inquest into Sara Niethe case

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

The 20th anniversary of the murder of Kaihere mother-of-three Sara Niethe has been and gone.

Still, the fight for justice continues. Sara was killed by Mark Pakenham in 2003, but in 2011, he told the Crown she consented to being injected with methamphetamine and that her death was accidental. Pakenham's charge was therefore reduced to manslaughter and he was released on parole in 2016.

Sara's body is still missing. For the past three years, Tauranga-based private investigator Bruce Currie has been conducting a pro bono review of the case and has spent more than 800 hours investigating.

But he's come up against a roadblock in his attempt to gain further insight through the Official Information Act [OIA], telling *The Profile* that his request for detail was denied by the Crown Law Office.

"The Solicitor General, who is the only authority who can approve the reduction of the charge from murder to manslaughter, was asked to release his decision as to why Pakenham was allowed to plead guilty to a reduced charge of manslaughter without giving up the location of Sara's body," Mr Currie said. "This request was refused."

According to correspondence sent by New Zealand's Crown Law Office to Mr Currie and seen by *The Profile*, while Crown Law accepted it was subject to the OIA, the information requested was generated as part of the office's Law Officer role, and therefore fell outside of the OIA.

The Crown has two appointed Law Officers to represent its interest in the courts: the Attorney-General - a position cur-

rently held by Hon David Parker; and the Solicitor-General - Una Jagose, who has held the role since 2016. Michael Heron was the Solicitor-General before her, from 2012-2016.

Crown Law confirmed to *The Profile* that where a person charged with murder offers to plead guilty to manslaughter, the decision whether to accept that plea to manslaughter is made by the Solicitor-General, and in practice this included his/her delegates. Even if the OIA did apply to the Law Officer role, Crown Law told Mr Currie that the information he requested would still be withheld because good reasons existed for withholding it.

Mr Currie called this a "travesty". "I was disappointed; it's a matter of public interest as to why that charge was reduced, and the reasons shouldn't be hidden away," he said.

"I've approached [Sara's] family and said there's one way we can actually see a proper review of the whole scenario and that's to have a new inquest ordered by the High Court."

Mr Currie was putting the paperwork together to do just that.

He also pointed to a new law in the United Kingdom that required its parole boards to take into account a prisoner's refusal to reveal where they hid their victim's body. Known as 'Helen's Law', it is named after murdered 22-year-old Helen McCourt, whose body has never been found.

"So what about Sara's Law for New Zealand?" Bruce said.

DETAILS: To contact Bruce about the case, phone 027 844 1349, or email bruce@mrtrac-er.co.nz



SOLARPUNK - Alive and Well in Thames Free Concert - Saturday April 22 at noon



SOLARPUNK AOTEAROA

SOLARPUNK AOTEAROA

Auckland jazz musicians, the duo, will play at The Green Room, 733 Pollen Street - Thames' new community-led music venue and social club. The duo will play songs from the Great American Songbook, jazz/Latin standards as well as jazzified popular covers. Their music is rooted in jazz with a strong sense of swing and Latin flavors. Everyone is welcome.

This concert is supported by Peter Brown, poet, painter

singer and believes in the power of the word and music to change lives and bring people together. As a young man, Peter sang in the New Zealand Youth Choir which gave concerts in Singapore, USA, Germany, Holland and Great Britain to promote world peace. He now wants to encourage community arts which have given him joy and solace throughout his life.

Contact Deb 0272288011



Calum Dundas and Loris Zigon

Burke Street Weeding - Sunday April 23 from 9am

It's time to release the native trees planted at the dog park behind the Seagull Centre. Anyone who loves trees and wants to save the planet is

welcome to come along and help out. Weeds don't grow over winter in the colder weather, so weeding now will give the trees another boost. Please wear appropriate clothes and boots. No chemicals or machines. The planet needs 1,000,000,000,000 trees to slow climate chaos. This can be achieved by communities coming together, planting one tree at a time, and looking after them. Contact John 0210635483

Cafe helps 'dream come true'

Kelley Tantau named finalist

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

A four-month stint volunteering at a local cafe has helped Thames man Alex Makinson achieve his dream of owning a Playstation 5.

Alex, who has Asperger's syndrome, a form of Autism Spectrum Disorder, approached Villager owner Jason Liddiard late last year seeking employment.

With no full-time roles available at the Mary St cafe at the time, Jason took Alex on board as a volunteer, using a "points system" as an act of payment.

"His dream was [to buy] a PS5, and he had no way of achieving that dream, but we made it come true," Jason told *The Profile*.

"He persevered, and he had times when he had to push through. It taught him a lot about striving to achieve a goal."

Alex helped out at the cafe over the busy summer period - from November 1 to March 31 - and his jobs included running errands around town, getting supplies from the supermarket, bringing coffee and food to customers, doing the dishes, and welcoming patrons at the door.

"Alex can stack the fridge faster and better than I can," Jason said with a laugh. He was rewarded with a Playstation 5 donated by the cafe earlier this month.

"He was very ecstatic and very grateful. He couldn't believe he had done it. Now we're like his second family."

Jason is now going the extra mile and is eager to find the per-



Villager cafe staff Jason Liddiard, left, Kelly Cochran, and Kiva Clearwater celebrate with Alex Makinson who holds his new Playstation. Photo: SUPPLIED

fect job for Alex - who he described as "super punctual and polite" and a "joy to be around".

"What I want to do for Alex is find the perfect job for him, because that's what he came to me for, and he knows he needs a job to afford the things in life he dreams about," he said.

"There's got to be a business out there that would love to have someone like Alex on board. He's got the attitude that every Kiwi

business owner wants in an employee - happy and grateful to have a job, and to be part of a team."

Jason, who has bipolar disorder, said his motive for helping Alex stemmed from his own mental health journey and the lack of available services within Aotearoa.

"My 'why' comes from my frustration at New Zealand's mental health system... it's in an absolutely atrocious state," he said.

"I know how hard it is. My own

personal journey to get myself well and get to a point of being a person who can own and manage a cafe has been difficult, and I know that if I didn't have all the little people helping me along the way, I never would've got there."

DETAILS: If you think you have a job or Alex, contact Jason at: jaliddiard-nz@gmail.com.



Valley Profile senior reporter Kelley Tantau has been named a Community Journalist of the Year finalist in the 2023 Voyager Media Awards.

Announced on Friday, Kelley was selected as a finalist alongside six other journalists from around New Zealand. She was judged on her writing excellence, use of contacts and initiative, her articles' newsworthiness and exclusivity, and their relevance to the community.

The annual media awards have celebrated excellence in New Zealand journalism since 1973 to encourage, showcase, and acknowledge the best of New Zealand's news media across all platforms, culminating in a celebration of the winners in May.

Kelley started with the *Valley Profile* in November, 2020, after previously working for Stuff.

Editor Teresa Ramsey said it was a great achievement for Kelley, who worked hard to keep *Profile* readers informed with fair, balanced and accurate journalism.

"Kelley is an extremely talented and versatile journalist, who has represented our region with in-depth investigations and reported our news with beautifully-written stories, photos and video. It's fantastic for her to be recognised by our peers at a national level, which shows she is one of the best journalists in the country."

This is *The Profile's* second year of being nominated for The Voyager Media Awards. In 2022, the community newspaper - which also operates 'The Coromandel App' - was named finalist in the Community Newspaper of the Year and Editorial Leader of the Year categories.

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The Supported Life Style Hauraki Trust chief executive Samantha Lee said the trust was “over the moon” at its new Maratoto Valley property.
Photo: GORDON PREECE

Supporting trust rides into Maratoto

By GORDON PREECE

The horse has bolted for The Supported Life Style Hauraki Trust at the formerly named Chester Farm and will soon mount up for its rehabilitation programmes using horses.

Chief executive Samantha Lee told *The Profile* the trust took over the reins of the 30 acre Maratoto Valley property in March after Greg Jamieson rode off into the sunset after 31 years as its owner to focus on his ConTact C.A.R.E recovery business.

Samantha said the new property, which has five or six full time staff, would allow its EquiLibrium rehabilitation pro-

grammes to expand.

“It’s a programme we really believe in for supporting people with disabilities or recovering from brain injuries or [who have] mental wellbeing challenges to come and spend time with the horses,” she said.

“[Greg] said that that was something he had always thought was worthwhile and he had done some ConTact C.A.R.E work on our horses so we had that relationship that way.

“Greg texted me to let me know the farm was on the market...and I thought it would definitely suit our needs, so we did some investigation and I spoke to the board who were support-

ive of it.”

Samantha said the trust previously held ownership of an eight acre Kerepēhi property for around 25 years where people could spend time with horses and ponies and grow vegetables and flowers. It also owned a six acre Puriri property for around three years, which was where its EquiLibrium programmes began.

“We had always hoped to provide lessons outside the organisation so that’s something we did start in Puriri, but the place was just too small and we didn’t have any facilities,” she said.

“We also had a number of our other people from our residential locations who would like to

spend more time in the country and our farm at Kerepēhi was just too small.

“[The new property] is an opportunity to bring all of that together in one place and grow it a little bit more and see how far it can go.”

Samantha said the trust had an “overwhelming response” to the new property, which has eight horses including one pony.

The whole purpose of the equilibrium programme was to get people to encourage them to reflect and the environment encourages that relaxation,” she said.

“It’s that serenity, tranquility, that calm, you can hear the

river, you can hear the trees and it’s a really good place to be.”

Samantha said the trust would work on a new name for the property and planned to begin its full EquiLibrium sessions once it roped in suitable mounting blocks for people with mobility challenges.

“We first need to speak with an engineer to help us develop one properly to make sure it’s got all the stability and that it’s safe and functional and get a quote,” she said.

“We also hope to speak to the community and go through our current fundraising channels... anybody who wants to come on board and help us, that would be great.”

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Rural Life

Ear lost after dog attack



By Dr Gemma Withers - BVSc

We first met Ali the 14-year-old Labrador in January this year, after being attacked by other dogs.

The bites she had suffered caused large wounds around her face and ear. Her owners brought her in to the Franklin Vets Kopu clinic to see Dr Stephanie Reid. The wounds were quite infected - a common occurrence with dog fight wounds - and a lot of tissue had broken down around her ear.

She was taken to surgery that afternoon to clean up the wounds and remove all of the non-viable tissue, which ended up being most of her left ear. Ali stayed in clinic for the rest of the week recuperating with the Kopu team.

It took weeks of dedicated care and bandage changes from Ali's owners, but we are pleased to say Ali is doing well and



Ali has healed after losing her ear after a dog attack.

back to her lovely self.

Ali's case is a good reminder to be aware that dog aggression is a real problem with some very serious consequences. Be aware of your own dog's behavior and that of the dogs around them. Of course not all fights can be predicted or avoided, but do your best to keep your pet safe, whether walking on the street or playing with others. Socialising your dog well as a puppy so they learn how to play nicely with others is very important.

We run puppy classes at our Paeroa and Waihi clinics where the pups can meet to play, and you will be given practical tools to use when training your pup.

It's also a chance for owners to identify normal behaviours and the physical needs of their dog. We use positive reinforcement to make training fun for you and your puppy. Enquire in clinic for dates and to sign up.

Note - your pup needs to be under 11 weeks old at the start of the course and have had its first vaccination.

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Photos: SUPPLIED



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Rural Life



Club members Brendon Adams, left, Robin Hill and Peter Williams at the flaxmill last year.

FILE Photo: GORDON PREECE

Flaxmill to Crank Up

By GORDON PREECE

A strip of Hauraki Plains history will be cranking up at Kerepēhi Flaxmill on April 23.

The Crank Up event, hosted by the Hauraki Vintage Machinery Club, will feature locally grown flax being stripped in the historic Kaihere Rd mill, as well as flax weaving, vintage tractors, and petrol and diesel engines that were used to power farm machinery.

Club member and mastermind behind the mill Brendon Adams told *The Profile* the event had been held for around five years and attendees always appreciated the club, which has between 30 and 40 members, preserving local history.

"The flaxmill was a big part of the

Hauraki Plains' early history, and it was one of the main money earners for the area before dairying took off," he said.

"It's going to be driven with a 1910 steam engine and that's quite unique because all the early mills were run by steam so it's quite an early set up.

"We started off using a tractor to drive the plant and the last three times we've used the steam engine so it's definitely the only steam driven flax mill in New Zealand."

Brendon said a gold coin donation was required to enter the event which would go towards the preservation of the mill.

DETAILS: Kerepēhi Flaxmill Crank Up, April 23, 11am to 3pm, 668 Kaihere Rd. Gold coin donation for entry. Food and drink on offer. More info: Ph 027 476 5586.

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Kishan Raikwar, left, Ken Last-Harris, Adrian Catran, Warren Sly and Rob Johnston.

Anzac flags erected

By GORDON PREECE

Twenty RSA flags have been raised on Pollen St in Thames to commemorate Anzac Day on April 25.

The project was hoisted by the Thames Community Board during the night on April 12.

Chair Adrian Catran told *The Profile* the RSA, who also assisted to install the flags, was "ecstatic" the flags would be lining the street for this year's Anzac Day commemorations.

"They're ecstatic that finally this is the first time we've had Anzac flags up," he said.

"It's an important event in our calendar, and we must acknowledge those who have gone before us... Thames contributed many people to the first world war and the second world war."

Adrian said the total cost of the flags was \$2000, which was paid for by a \$1000 contribution by local businesses and a \$1000 contribution by the RSA.

He said the flags were part of the commu-

nity board's plan to display more street flags this year to promote local events.

"What we're hoping to do going forward is we're hoping to do flags for Matariki coming up, and we hope to put out a flag design for August, September, October and have a winner who will design the flag for us," he said. "Then hopefully put up Christmas flags... because we have had no colour and no flags going forward in Christmas times."

Adrian said the RSA flags would remain on display for a week after Anzac Day and the plan was to reassemble the flags for the event each year.

Thames RSA president Ken Last-Harris said the flags were looking "pretty good" for Anzac Day. "It's the first time we've been able to put up something like that, so it'll be good for our big day," he said.

DETAILS: Dawn parade: 5:45am from the BNZ, Sealey St, along Pollen and Mary Streets for a 6am dawn service to the Civic Centre, followed by breakfast at the Thames Bowling Club. The civic parade at 9:45am will have the same route for a 10am service at the Civic Centre.



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The St John retail store in Pahau Street helps support our community in many ways. Revenue is directed towards the Hato Hone St John community programmes that we run such as Health Shuttles, Youth programme, Friends of the Emergency Department, Hospital Friends, Pet Therapy, Caring Caller, clinical services at our communities charity events and support for Ambulance; as well as maintaining our property and fleet.

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Golden vision for Waitekauri



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.

1888

The Thames Valley would look quite different in a hundred years declared a visitor to his companion as they led their horses toilsomely up the steep Waitekauri track.

As he looked down from the heights, across the Thames Valley, over the ranges of Waitekauri, Maratoto, Hikutaia, Puriri and across to Karangahake and Te Aroha, over the vast Piako Swamp, and down the streaks of molten silver river that drained the great valley into the Hauraki Gulf, he thought of the tons of gold that lay hidden in the hoary old hills. Envisioning the future he could see on the vast plain in place of flax and scrub, kahikatea and cabbage tree, the curling smoke of a thousand homesteads. There would be cultivated farms, busy mills and decent churches topping neighbouring hills.

Long lines of road, with loaded wagons, a snaky train gliding between stations and long tails of smoke from river steamers, all plying between a dozen little human hives instead of the dreary



waste of swamp and bush there now.

COW INCIDENT

At Shortland, Mr Tetley, butcher, had an unpleasant encounter with a cow. He went early in the morning to a paddock in Willoughby St to look at some cattle. During the night a cow had calved, and the calf had fallen into a hole over which the cow was standing. On Mr Tetley's approach, the cow made a furious rush at him, one of the horns ripping his trousers. He fortunately had a stick with him and kept the infuriated animal at bay until he made his escape from the paddock.

PAEROA FIRE

The teacher's residence at Paeroa narrowly escaped burning down after a candle caught some clothing hanging on a door. In a few minutes the room was on fire but owing to the presence of mind of Miss Baskett and Mr Sullivan the flames were speedily extinguished.

ACCOMMODATION PLANNED

The Waihi Gold Mining Company intended to build boarding house accommodation for its workmen to provide good cheap living and put an end to the discomfort of

men living in tents. The company planned to house industrious and sober men, who would be as fit for work at the beginning of a week as at the end. Employers paying attention to the sobriety of their men and only engaging those who were not prey for publicans would raise the morale of the working man.

FOOTBALL MATCH

The Tapu Jolly Boys, a football team, chartered the *SS Lily* to take them to Coromandel to play a match. The weather was delightful, and after a pleasant trip of four and a half hours, the steamer arrived and the visitors scattered themselves over the district to refresh the inner man. At 3.30pm the match commenced in Lynch's paddock, the game keeping up with spirit for nearly two hours and resulting in a win for Tapu. The team was entertained at a sumptuous spread at King's Temperance Hotel where toasts were drunk in bumpers. They were then invited to a dance at the schoolroom, where the youth and beauty of Coromandel were assembled. Dancing was kept up until midnight when the visitors retired, unanimously voting the Coromandelites jolly good fellows.

BOOK REVIEWS



Did I Ever Tell You This? A Memoir, by Sam Neill
In this fascinating and entertaining memoir, written in a creative burst of just a few months in 2022, Sam Neill tells the story of how he became one of the world's most celebrated actors. He has worked around the world, an actor who has moved effortlessly from blockbuster to art house to TV, from Dr Alan Grant in the Jurassic Park movies to The Piano and Peaky Blinders. *Did I Ever Tell You This?* is a joy to read, a marvellous and often very funny book, the work of a natural storyteller who is a superb observer of other people, and who writes with love and warmth about his family.

The Bookbinder of Jericho, by Pip Williams

In this beautiful novel from the internationally bestselling author of *The Dictionary of Lost Words*, Pip Williams explores another little-known slice of history seen through women's eyes. Evocative, subversive and rich with unforgettable characters, *The Bookbinder of Jericho* is a story about knowledge – who gets to make it, who gets to access it, and what is lost when it is withheld. In 1914, when the war draws the young men of Britain away to fight, it is the women who must keep the nation running. Two of those women are Peggy and Maude, twin sisters who work in the bindery at Oxford University Press in Jericho. Another great read from Pip Williams.

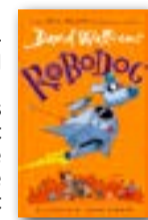


Homecoming, by Kate Morton

Adelaide Hills, Christmas Eve, 1959: At the end of a scorching hot day, beside a creek in the grounds of a grand country house, a local man makes a terrible discovery. Police are called, and the small town of Tambilla becomes embroiled in one of the most baffling murder investigations in the history of South Australia. Many years later and thousands of miles away, Jess is a journalist in search of a story. She discovers a true-crime book chronicling a long-buried police case: the Turner Family Tragedy of 1959. It is only when Jess skims through its pages that she finds a shocking connection between her own family and this notorious event – a murder mystery that has never been satisfactorily resolved. An epic story that spans generations, *Homecoming* asks what we would do for those we love, how we protect the lies we tell, and what it means to come home.

Robodog, by David Walliams

Enter a world of superheroes and villains in this action-packed comic caper from No.1 bestselling author David Walliams - and meet Robodog: the future of crime fighting! Welcome to the city of Bedlam. Enter if you dare! Bedlam is one of the most dangerous places on Earth - home to a host of wicked villains. Nothing and nobody are safe from these evil criminals. The city needs its own superhero to defeat the supervillains. But who? Robodog! Walliams keeps rolling out hits for young readers and the format of action, fun, quirky characters and part graphic content is perfect for encouraging reluctant readers into the wonderful world of books!



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Fiery fun in Waihi

The Waihi Fire Brigade's open day on April 15 was a blast in more ways than one. Visitors watched fire and rescue demonstrations, rode in a fire truck, tried out the escape maze, and dressed up as firefighters. The event raised funds for the brigade's Skytower Challenge Team, with proceeds going to Leukaemia and Blood Cancer New Zealand. ALICE PARMINTER captured the day's activities.



Firefighters and St John paramedics demonstrate a rescue in a car crash scenario. Photos: ALICE PARMINTER



Two-year old Oliver Bond tries out the Jaws of Life.



Siblings Isabelle and Lucas Parminter are dressed for the part.



Nine-year old Taylor Cochrane wields the hydraulic cutters in the demonstration zone, slicing through steel like butter.



Macson Haynes, 3, in his firefighter outfit.



Jeremiah Melmoth, 3, is fired up.

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Changes to kerbside rubbish and recycling collection from 1 September 2023



Last year we adopted our Waste Management and Minimisation Plan | Tiakina a Papa! Mimiti te Para! The goal for the Plan is not only to minimise waste to landfill, but to work towards zero waste together as a district. Our new kerbside rubbish and recycling collection that starts on 1 September is designed to do just that.

From 1 September 2023, here's what the kerbside collection service will look like:

- A new **140L landfill bin**, (replacing the 60L pre-paid yellow rubbish bags¹), collected fortnightly on a user pays (pay as you throw) basis
- A new **food scraps bin**², collected weekly
- Mixed recycling, collected fortnightly, using the **current recycling wheelie bin**
- Glass recycling, collected fortnightly, using the **current crate**

The kerbside collections will be funded through the targeted refuse collection rate. The new landfill bin and food scraps bin will be delivered by August 2023 to each household that already receives the service. We'll communicate more about that, along with everything you need to know about the kerbside calendar and what goes into the bins, over the coming months. Check out the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) about the new service on our website <https://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/rubbish-recycling/kerbside-collections>

¹ Yellow bags will not be collected from 1 September 2023, however, we'll accept yellow bags at the transfer stations up to the end of December 2023. Yellow bags will not be available for purchase from 1 September 2023.

² The new food scraps bins are being funded by Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

The new service will *alternate each week between recycling week and rubbish week*.



Did you know?

Every property in the district pays towards the running of the Waihi and Paeroa Refuse Transfer Stations (RTS). You can recycle free of charge at these sites. Only properties that receive a kerbside recycling service pay a targeted rate for kerbside collection.

What's not happening by 1 September 2023?

Rural collections: We currently don't provide rural collections, but we'll look at extending our kerbside collection for rural communities in year two (2024/25) of the contract as we know there is a lot of interest in this.

What else is new?

From 1 September 2023, we'll have a new recycling drop-off depot in Ngatea, where you can recycle your glass, paper, plastics 1, 2 and 5, cardboard, tin and aluminium cans and green waste.

We'll also be opening both our Refuse Transfer Stations from 9am – 5pm Tuesday to Sunday from 1 September.



Recycling options in Hauraki District



Sort it out
before you
put it out

The mixed recycling and glass recycling collections will remain the same with the new kerbside collection contract starting on 1 September, so let's get it right now.

As a consumer of products you can help reduce waste by following the **6 R's** and using all recycling options available in the district, in addition to your kerbside recycling collection.

- **Refuse** to purchase what you don't need
- **Reduce** what you do need
- **Reuse** anything that you can
- **Recycle** what you cannot refuse, reduce or reuse
- **Rehome** what you no longer need or want
- **Regeneration** (i.e. compost) the rest

You'll be surprised how much you can divert from landfill by getting into these awesome recycling habits now.

Here's a reminder about what can go in your recycling wheelie bin and glass crate.

Glass bottles and jars | Karaehe



Glass bottles and jars (clear, amber, blue and green glass only)

Don't overfill your crate
Our contractors will accept extra glass bottles but they must be in an official blue crate. These are available for \$15 dollars at any of our offices. Alternatively, our refuse transfer stations all accept recycling at no charge.

Recycling | Hangarua



Aluminium + tin cans (cleaned)




Rigid plastics graded 1, 2 and 5 (cleaned)




Paper and flattened cardboard boxes (remove leftover pizza from pizza boxes)



Recycling tips

Rinse  Empty and rinse plastics, cans, tins, glass bottles and jars. Don't squash containers.

Lids off  Remove lids and put in the rubbish bag.

Wrap it  Wrap broken glass/china in paper before putting it in your rubbish bag.

Did you know?
It's costly to dispose of dirty recycling.


That's because it gets rejected at the sorting facility and then gets allocated to landfill – so it's handled twice after collection.

Clean recycling is the way to go.

Recycling clean soft plastics and liquid paperboard cartons (Tetra Pak™)

We've partnered with the Hauraki Repair and Reuse Centre, FuturePost, Tetra Pak™, SaveBoard and the local supermarkets to bring you these collections points. Ka pai!

Drop off locations	Soft plastics	Liquid paperboard (TetraPak™)	E-Waste (available in September)
Council service centres: Paeroa Ngatea and Waihi	✓	✓	
Refuse Transfer Stations: Paeroa and Waihi	✓	✓	✓
The Hauraki Repair and Reuse Centre, Paeroa	✓	✓	
Four Square, Ngatea; New World, Waihi; and Countdown, Paeroa	✓		

 Find out more about soft plastics, liquid paperboard cartons and E-Waste at <https://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/rubbish-recycling/recycling>

Recycling on the street

Ngatea, Paeroa and Waihi town centres all have recycling bins on trial for one year. These bins are not for household rubbish. Only unbroken bottles or glass jars, empty of food or liquid in the glass recycling please. An information sign is next to the bins explaining what can go in each bin.

Our Big Belly compacting bins have also had a make over to help them stand out on the street.



Cars, bikes and colour

Rotary Paeroa's popular V8 and Motorcycle Show and Swap Meet was held on April 15, with plenty of bright colours, bold patterns, and beautiful vehicles to be found. The fundraising event, which was postponed after wet weather hindered its original date of February 25, featured a range of cars and motorbikes, food stalls, a live band called The Action, and a rockabilly fashion show. Reporter **KELLEY TANTAU** was there.



The models from the Rockabilly Fashion Show strike a post in front of classics.

Photos: KELLEY TANTAU

Temporary fix for Tapu-Coroglen Rd

A temporary alternative route for the Tapu-Coroglen Rd will be ready for use in June, Thames-Coromandel District Council has said.

The road was closed to traffic when a section of it slipped into the river below during the storm events of January and February. Only the slip site, some 10.2 km from Tapu, is closed, and there is currently no access for through traffic. Residences and businesses on either side of the slip are still open to the public.

The temporary route will be for light traffic only and will be single-lane, with limited visibility, tight corners and passing/waiting bays at either end of the bypass site.

The council is intending to undertake the works in May and June as weather allows. Improvements will also be made to drainage systems and the road surface, to ensure the road remains usable over winter.

The temporary route will be monitored daily for ground movement. While every effort will be made to keep the temporary road open, the council has warned that ground movement or necessary work on permanent repairs may force its closure.

A permanent repair is in the works, and the council estimates it will be complete in December.

The repair will consist of a retaining wall from the river below, to the level of the road. Specialist contractors will be required, and work will begin in spring, once the weather allows.



Ted Hodge, Chris Short, Warren Harris, dog Snoopy stand by Warren's 1978 Lincoln Continental.



Mitchell Pike and his 2011 Holden V Commodore SS.



Michael Watson and Patrick Tilsley take part in the Swap Meet.



Terry Carter with his 2006 Screaming Eagle Harley Davidson.



Roy Russell's pooch Odie comes along for the ride.

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502 Hape Road, Thames **\$900,000**




Offering an architectural feel with a vaulted and an angular walled living space, the property provides for 3 double bedrooms, master with ensuite, family bathroom, open plan living with kitchen & dining and an entertainment deck. The ground floor offers a double garage, laundry, bedroom & office.

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2 Bennett Street, Paeroa **\$585,000**



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Cooked brekkie now at Cheese Barn

The Cheese Barn is situated in a picturesque area between Thames and Paeroa, only 5km from Kopu.

The Hauraki Rail Trail is 30 meters down the road at the back of the farm, so plenty of cyclists call in for coffee, cheese boards, pizza or ice cream. They make their own gelato and sorbet ice cream using the same organic milk and cream as the cheese is made from. The cafe is open seven days a week and is BYO licensed, so you can enjoy your favorite wine with a cheese board under the trees.

The latest venture for The Cheese Barn is doing cooked breakfast which is proving to be very popular.

These are done on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning until 11.30am. What better than to do a bike ride out with some friends and have a leisurely brunch with a great coffee made with Coffee Lala beans.

See the website for the menu - www.thecheesebarn.co.nz.

The Cheese Barn prides itself on its use of fully BioGro certified organic milk for its boutique cheeses, ranging from traditional Dutch Gouda, Camembert, Brie, Blue, Feta, Halloumi, and Mozzarella, plus a range of Yoghurt, Quark, Cottage Cheese, Sour Cream and Ghee.

Cheese maker Kelvin Haigh has been making the cheese for nearly 25 years and has an impressive array of awards on the wall.



Eggs Benedict with salmon is now on offer at The Cheese Barn. Photo: SUPPLIED

Cheese tasting and talks for groups and clubs can be arranged with Cathy, Kelvin's wife who runs the cafe.

The range of animals attract attention from kids and adults alike and can be hand fed with pellets sold in the cafe.

There are goats, alpacas, guinea pigs, rabbits, chickens and birds, often there are baby animals to be seen too.

The shop sells a range of local

gourmet foods like chutneys, pickles, olives, salami, and oils to compliment the cheeses, as well as a great range of cheese knives, slicers, boards and other cheesy related items.

The gift baskets and boxes are popular for the foodies in your lives.

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Debs Scholes sells dog treats for all dogs' chewing habits.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

Paws-itive treats for canine friends

Debs Dog Treats 'n' Meats prides itself on catering for all dogs' chewing habits and using sustainable products.

Owner Debs Scholes has led the Waihi-based business for 12 years, and said it had always been for the dogs.

"We get the dehydrated leftovers of animals grown for the New Zealand and export market, I know what animals they are, where they've come from and what they've eaten," she said.

"It's quality food for the dogs, it's fantastic teeth cleaning because they have to scrape and chew, its training aids, boredom busters, and mental stimulation.

"I also refuse to use commercial packaging, so it's cellophane and handwritten labels."

Debs said she sold her dog treats online and held a stall at the Thames Saturday Markets. She also offered deliveries to dog owners in Thames and Hauraki areas on her way home from the Saturday markets.

"I have a natural rapport with dogs, my knowledge of dogs is quite extensive in their food and their training - my whole thing that I'm doing is for the dogs," she said. "All visiting dogs [to the stall] get free treats."

CONTACT: debstra.dogs@gmail.com.

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Thames Valley Club Rugby

SENIOR A

April 22nd

Hauraki North	V	Waihi Athletic
Te Aroha COBRAS	V	Mercury Bay
Thames	V	Whangamata
Paeroa	V	Waihou



All Senior A games start at 2.35pm

(unless stated)

Teams named first indicate home team



Hauraki North Diamonds Women's v United Matamata Sports 1pm (Round 2)

SENIOR B

Ngatea	V	Waihou	1.00pm
Hauraki North	V	Tairua	1.00pm
Te Aroha COBRAS	V	Coromandel	1.00pm

In Brief

ARTISTS WANTED

Thames Heritage Festival organisers are calling for artists who want to be part of its 2023 event, which will be held from September 29 until October 1 with the theme: Arts & Crafts, Lost & Found. "This year, it is all about our artistic talents and bringing arts and crafts from the past back to life in whatever form you wish," organisers said. To participate in the festival, email info@thamesheritage.co.nz.

MOTORBIKE DAY

A free dirt bike riding day for children is being held on the Thames Coast this weekend. The aim of the day is to teach children how to safely ride a motorbike. The day begins at 9am on April 22 at Cemetery Point, Tapu. Enquiries can be made at www.revs.co.nz.

FREE CONCERT

Thames Citizens' Band will perform at Thames Music Group's Friday Lunchtime Free concert

on April 28 at St George's Church at 12:15pm. Conductor Linden Moyle said the band was 153 years old, and its oldest band member, Bill Rolfe, is 90 years old. "Our weekly joy is banding together to hear how our individual, apparently meaningless part becomes music - you can't have harmony by yourself!" he said. "We all differ in age, genre preference, ability, experience but we create a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts. Our music is as varied as the band players." Koha welcome, with hot soup and bun after the concert available for \$5.

TRAFFIC STATS

The Thames Business Association has reported the latest statistics for its ANPR camera, which tracks vehicles in and out of Thames. Vehicle numbers were up in March, 2023, with 362,757 vehicles captured, compared to 326,102 in March last year. However, there were 275,077 vehicles during February this year, compared to 329,225 for the same period last year. The TBA said the changes in figures reflected bad weather events and indicated an increase in traffic up the Coast Rd.

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SUDOKU

96

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

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

EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

96

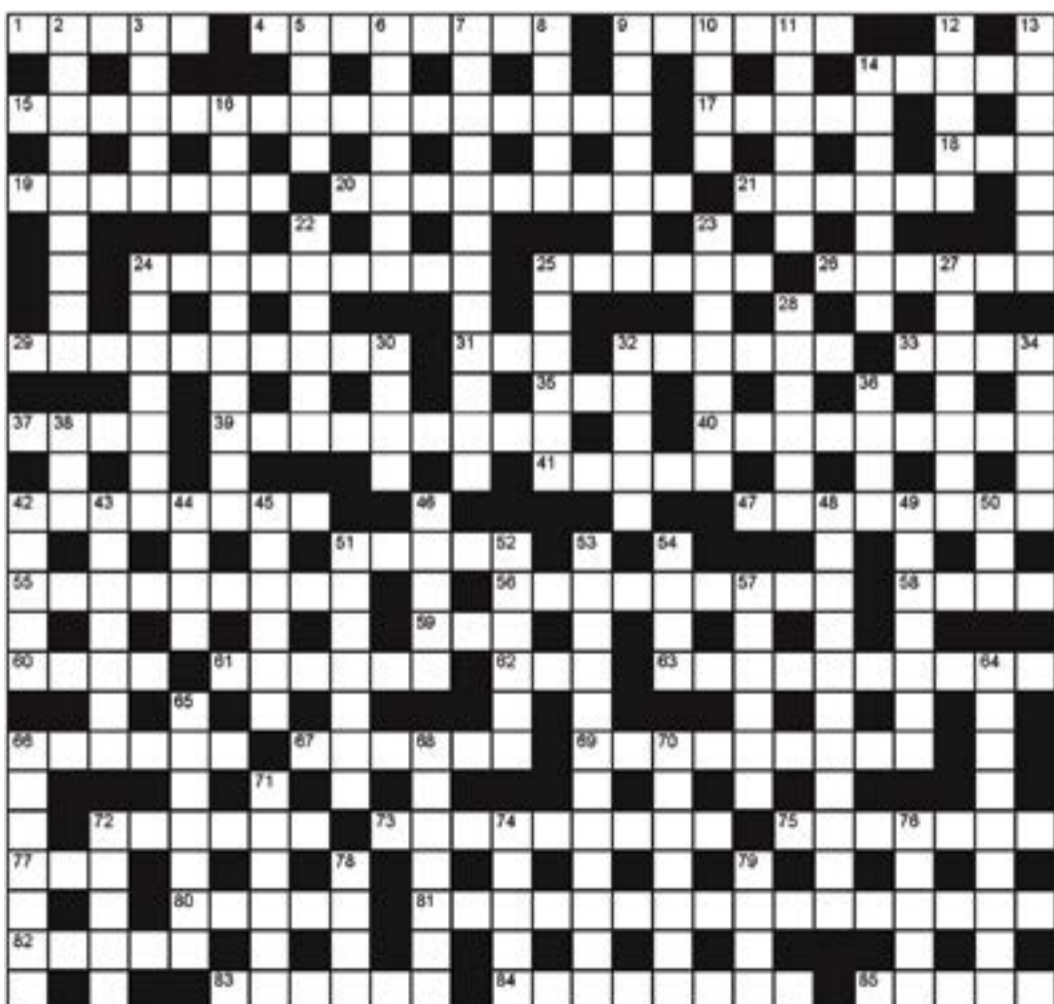
Puzzles © The Puzzle Company
www.thepuzzlecompany.co.nz

HARD	4	2	5	1	9	8	3	7	6
	7	8	6	3	4	2	1	9	5
	3	9	1	6	5	7	8	2	4
	9	1	2	4	7	6	5	3	8
	6	4	3	8	2	5	9	1	7
	2	6	8	7	3	9	4	5	1
	1	7	9	5	6	4	2	8	3
	5	3	4	2	8	1	7	6	9
MEDIUM	2	5	3	8	1	4	7	9	6
	7	1	6	2	9	3	4	8	5
	9	8	4	6	5	7	2	3	1
	6	4	8	7	2	1	9	5	3
	1	9	7	3	4	5	8	6	2
	5	3	2	9	6	8	1	7	4
	3	6	9	4	8	2	5	1	7
	4	7	1	5	3	9	6	2	8
	8	2	5	1	7	6	3	4	9
EASY	8	4	3	9	7	6	5	1	2
	7	5	9	1	2	3	4	8	6
	6	2	1	8	4	5	9	7	3
	2	1	4	5	3	7	6	9	8
	5	3	8	4	6	9	1	2	7
	9	6	7	2	1	8	3	4	5
	1	8	5	3	9	2	7	6	4
	4	7	2	6	5	1	8	3	9
	3	9	6	7	8	4	2	5	1

JUMBO CROSSWORD

116

- ACROSS**
- 1 Of the kidneys (5)
 - 4 Signs of illness (8)
 - 9 Disconnect (6)
 - 14 Leg bone (5)
 - 15 Person or thing that one is extremely pleased or relieved to see (5,3,4,4)
 - 17 Near (5)
 - 18 Racket (3)
 - 19 Steel beams (7)
 - 20 Pruning clippers (9)
 - 21 Edict (6)
 - 24 Book of synonyms (9)
 - 25 Bits (6)
 - 26 Mental giant (6)
 - 29 Those expecting the worst (10)
 - 31 Cereal crop (3)
 - 32 Motto (6)
 - 33 Predisposition (4)
 - 35 Amazement (3)
 - 37 Begging request (4)
 - 39 Honeymooners (9)
 - 40 Small sausage (9)
 - 41 Ooze out (5)
 - 42 Party set (anag) (8)
 - 47 Brow (8)
 - 51 Prison rooms (5)
 - 55 Sentimental remembering (9)
 - 56 Staff (9)
 - 58 Satisfy completely (4)
 - 59 Tree (3)
 - 60 Fashionable (4)
 - 61 Goes rotten (6)
 - 62 Consume (3)
 - 63 Inviolable (10)
 - 66 Ledger entry (6)
 - 67 Thwart (6)
 - 69 Held in high regard (9)
 - 72 Cricket team (6)
 - 73 Field figure (9)
 - 75 Sweet sauce (7)
 - 77 Metal (3)
 - 80 Volley of shots (5)
 - 81 With startlingly rapid progress (2,5,3,6)
 - 82 Eagle's nest (5)
 - 83 Highly decorated (6)
 - 84 Newspaper employee (8)
 - 85 Pickpocket (5)
- DOWN**
- 2 Completely remove or get rid of (9)
 - 3 Greenfly (5)
 - 5 Story (4)
 - 6 Colonist (7)
 - 7 Single direction thoroughfare (3-3,6)
 - 8 Fashion, manner (5)
 - 9 Merit (7)
 - 10 Carpet nail (4)
 - 11 Barrel maker (6)
 - 12 Residence (5)
 - 13 Social conduct (7)
 - 14 Small dog (7)
 - 16 Low-growing plant with small bright blue flowers (6-2-3)
 - 22 Capital of Poland (6)
 - 23 Celebrate (7)
 - 24 Surplus to requirements (2,5)
 - 25 Make glad (6)
 - 27 Ape (7)
 - 28 Gambling house (6)
 - 30 River in Hades (4)
 - 32 Inoculation fluid (5)
 - 34 Broken glass fragment (5)
 - 36 Tree trunk (4)
 - 38 Meadow (3)
 - 42 Pick-me-up (5)
 - 43 Of fish (7)
 - 44 Hitch (4)
 - 45 Sturdily built (6)
 - 46 Assumed name (5)
 - 48 Principle for general guidance (4,2,5)
 - 49 Spouse (7)
 - 50 Towards the stern (3)
 - 51 Card game (7)
 - 52 Orb (6)
 - 53 Scribe's ailment (7,5)
 - 54 Employer (4)
 - 57 Silver-white metal (6)
 - 64 Shotgun shell (9)
 - 65 Varied (7)
 - 66 Talk incessantly, trivially (7)
 - 68 Gruesome (7)
 - 70 Financial backer (7)
 - 71 Insect's antenna (6)
 - 72 Way in (5)
 - 74 Measuring stick (5)
 - 76 Resilient (5)
 - 78 Unconscious state (4)
 - 79 Long ago (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Truce, 4 Raise one's sights, 14 Probe, 15 Spiel, 16 Royal flush, 17 Barge, 19 Lad, 20 Leopard, 21 Clientele, 22 Cavity, 25 Frustrate, 27 Adroit, 28 Famous, 33 Bottleneck, 35 Ska, 36 Suffer, 37 Last, 39 Gut, 41 Magnate, 42 Veneer, 43 Liability, 44 Atoll, 45 Repaired, 50 Um, 51 Renegade, 55 Crook, 58 Plentiful, 59 United, 60 Traipse, 61 Owl, 63 Dais, 64 Truant, 65 Err, 66 Promontory, 68 Skewer, 69 Nettle, 71 Ascending, 76 Carpet, 77 Permitted, 79 Twosome, 81 Woo, 84 Spine, 85 Thoughtful, 86 Medal, 87 Eject, 88 Slippery as an eel, 89 Broke.

DOWN: 2 Rapier, 3 Cheap, 5 Atom, 6 Scarlet, 7 Offset, 8 Erupt, 9 Scholar, 10 Gobi, 11 Threat, 12 Jolly, 13 Meddles, 14 Pelican, 18 Prospector, 23 Creel, 24 Pitfall, 26 Rotunda, 27 Anagram, 29 Ocarina, 30 Locate, 31 Ashen, 32 Rebate, 34 Knew, 36 Stoop, 38 Thyme, 40 Hide, 45 Rapid, 46 Puerile, 47 Iota, 48 Effort, 49 Robot, 50 Ukulele, 52 Narrow down, 53 Glisten, 54 Desire, 55 Cleaver, 56 Nitre, 57 Keep, 62 Boxer, 67 Defrost, 68 Seaweed, 70 Theatre, 72 Sweeten, 73 Serial, 74 Stages, 75 Embark, 76 Coped, 78 Moody, 80 Sheer, 82 Weep, 83 Pure.

SPORTS

Danielle sprints to glory in Brisbane

By GORDON PREECE

Patetonga-raised parathlete Danielle Aitchison says she's "really proud" of her recent sprinting success in Brisbane and now eyes the World Para Athletics Championships in Paris in June.

The 21-year-old Paralympic Games medalist told *The Profile* she achieved gold in the 100m with a time of 14.21 seconds and silver in the 200m with a time of 29.76 seconds at the Chemist Warehouse Australian Open, held between March 30 and April 2.

"I was really happy and I'm really proud of myself, and then to also get gold medals is the icing on the cake," she said.

"It's always so close between the girls who get gold, silver and bronze, so it's always a little competition to see who can get it."

Danielle, who grew up in Patetonga and is currently in her final semester of a social science degree at the University of Waikato, also competed at the Brisbane Track Classic on March 25, achieving sixth place in the 100m with a time of 14.19 seconds.

"I was really proud of how I ran over there in the Brisbane Track Classic, and then having the [Australian Open] the



Danielle Aitchison won gold and silver at the recent Chemist Warehouse Australian Open held in Brisbane. Photo: SUPPLIED

following weekend was more around testing the recovery strategy," she said.

"[The Australian Open] was

a good opportunity for me to run a heat and run a final on the same day because when I do

world championships in Paris, I

will have heats and finals.

"It was just about making sure I'm comfortable and confident going forward in that

situation." Danielle, who has cerebral palsy which causes her to have balance issues, fatigue, and muscle tone loss, said she was selected to compete in the Australian Open after achieving gold medals in the 100m and 200m at the New Zealand Track and Field Championships in March.

"I had been doing a few tweaks with my form and technique, so with the way that I ran at the New Zealand Track and Field Championships I was really ecstatic... and to hear the times that I got was the highlight of my season," she said.

Danielle achieved 13.95 seconds in the 100m and 29.46 seconds in the 200m.

Danielle said she will now spend the next two months training before jetting to Paris for the World Para Athletics Championships where she hopes to qualify for the Paris Paralympics which take place next year.

"I do strength and conditioning workouts at the High Performance Centre in Cambridge, and I also do some pre-hab which is to help work those muscles that need a little bit more extra care and attention.

"I'm also doing some track workouts which can be a variation of on the track and on the grass, and doing circuits."

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