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Waihi miners who served in France in World War I were remembered last week. MORE ANZAC COVERAGE, P10-13
Photo: GORDON PREECE

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NEWS/EDITORIAL

Publisher/Editor Teresa Ramsey
Ph 0204 0944 853
editor@valleyprofile.co.nz
Senior Reporter Kelley Tantau
Ph 022 619 4889
kelley@valleyprofile.co.nz
Reporter Gordon Preece
Ph 022 174 3988
gordon@valleyprofile.co.nz
Reporter Alice Parminter
Ph 022 527 0988
alice@valleyprofile.co.nz

ADVERTISING

Ad manager Nikki Sanders
Ph 022 130 3885
Email: nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz

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Latest vandalism to cost \$10k

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

The vandalism of a Waihi toilet block will cost ratepayers around \$10,000 to repair, and it is only the latest in a long line of wanton damage within the Hauraki district.

Council staff were alerted to a fire in its Haszard St toilets around 3am on April 18. It was quickly determined that the blaze was deliberately lit.

"We have seen an increase in vandalism generally," council's group service delivery manager Adrian de Laborde told *The Profile*.

"For instance, the toilet at the Waihi Cemetery being burnt to the ground last year, the current fire vandalism of the Haszard St toilets in Waihi, and the seats on the grandstand in Paeroa Domain, which had to be removed due to vandalism.

"Significant money is being spent on graffiti damage and repair. It is a real and burgeoning cost for our communities and a waste of ratepayers' money."

Mr de Laborde said roughly \$40,000 worth of damage had been made deliberately in the past 12 months, mainly in Paeroa and Waihi.

School holidays proved to be the worst time for vandalism, he said.

And while it was "hard to tell" the exact figure to repair the most recent fire damage,



Hauraki District Council staff were alerted to a fire in its Haszard St toilets around 3am on April 18. Photo: SUPPLIED/HDC

Mr de Laborde said it could cost around \$10,000.

With the men's restroom suffering more damage than the women's, council will have to install a new toilet, and toilet roll dispensers. There is also

damage to the ceiling, which needs cleaning, repairing, and repainting.

"Some initial work has been done to at least get one cubicle in each section working," Mr de Laborde said. "It's the only

public toilet in the Waihi CBD, so staff have gone all-out to get some functionality, although there is still much yet to do."



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Thames Tides

Wed Apr 26		Thu Apr 27		Fri Apr 28		Sat Apr 29		Sun Apr 30		Mon May 1		Tue May 2	
Morning	5:19am 0.9	Morning	6:09am 1.0	Morning	12:48am 3.0	Morning	1:43am 2.9	Morning	2:40am 2.9	Morning	3:35am 2.9	Morning	4:25am 2.9
Afternoon	5:33pm 0.8	Afternoon	12:26pm 2.9	Afternoon	1:15pm 2.8	Afternoon	2:08pm 2.8	Afternoon	3:06pm 2.8	Afternoon	4:05pm 2.8	Afternoon	5:01pm 2.9
	11:39am 3.1		6:20pm 0.9		7:03am 1.1		8:13pm 1.1		9:17pm 1.1		10:40am 1.1		11:05pm 1.0
Sun	6:53am 5:39pm	Sun	6:53am 5:37pm	Sun	6:54am 5:36pm	Sun	6:55am 5:35pm	Sun	6:56am 5:34pm	Sun	6:57am 5:33pm	Sun	6:58am 5:32pm
F	Best At 4:54am 5:20pm	B	Best At 5:46am 6:10pm	B	Best At 6:35am 6:58pm	B	Best At 7:21am 7:43pm	B	Best At 8:05am 8:26pm	B	Best At 8:47am 9:07pm	F	Best At 9:28am 9:49pm
	Rise 12:45pm Set 9:59pm		Rise 1:28pm Set 10:58pm	First Quarter	Rise 2:04pm Set 11:59pm		Rise 2:35pm		Set 12:59am Rise 3:02pm		Set 1:58am Rise 3:26pm		Set 2:58am Rise 3:50pm

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

MOON AND FISH KEYS

New Moon First Quarter Full Moon Last Quarter

Good Fishing Fair Fishing Not So Good

TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES

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

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

Banded rails, rainfall hinder work at Kōpū

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

A banded rail population that was potentially strengthened by the site works at the Kōpū Marine and Business Precinct has been a somewhat cheeky challenge for the construction team.

The at-risk native wetland birds, pleased by the workers opening up a larger food area for them, would pick up crabs cleared from the ground and eat them behind the diggers. But their presence also meant all work around them had to stop.

“There was a banded rail nesting area through here so where we found a nest, we had to stop work in that area for an exclusion zone until they hatched and moved on,” Fulton Hogan’s construction divisional manager for Waikato Gordon Inglis said.

“There were six or eight nesting areas which were potentially increased by us opening up more food areas for them as we cleared it.”

Mr Inglis said the birds “slowed work down dramatically” but it was all part of the process.

He was one of many to have worked behind the scenes who were present at a tour of the Kōpū development, alongside Thames-Coromandel District Council Mayor Len Salt and staff, councillors and community board members, and Waikato Regional councillor Warren Maher.

Once completed, the precinct has the potential to create 108



The construction team and council staff celebrate the latest milestone at the Kōpū Marine and Business Precinct. INSET: A banded rail. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

jobs and could bring economic returns of up to \$58.5 million over the next 30 years.

Most of the \$15.3m cost of the project is being met through an \$8.2m grant from the government’s Crown Infrastructure Partners Fund, \$4.05m from the Three Waters Reform ‘better off’ funding, and \$1.4m from the Thames Community Board’s Thames Urban General-Purpose Reserve.

The first stage of the works was completed by Fulton Hogan at the end of March, which included forming the base for the recreational parking and commercial areas, installing piles to support crane pads, and connecting the newly formed King St to the precinct.

They will return in early 2024 to complete the car park surface, King St paving and Quay St entrance widening.

“It’s awesome to have the mangroves gone and the hardstand here and it’ll be a fantastic project for the area,” Mr Inglis told *The Profile*.

“I’m proud to be involved in it.” Vaughan Austen from Kopu Marine shared his excitement for the project.

“It’s really impressive,” he said. “We’re turning down so much marine work, there’s just so much out there, and I hope someone

else invests and makes the most of this opportunity.”

Once completed, the facility will consist of an 80 metre-long commercial wharf and floating pontoon; an upgraded, concrete reinforced slipway; and a public boat ramp and car park.

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



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SPORTS

USA rugby kicks off

The Red Mountain Knights First XV rugby team from Phoenix, Arizona, played the Hauraki Plains College and Paeroa College First XV's in Paeroa on Saturday as part of the US team's Waikato/Bay of Plenty tour. The visitors stayed at Te Pai O Hauraki Marae in Paeroa and were treated to a hangi at Paeroa Rugby and Sports clubrooms after the match. They were presented with rugby jerseys from Paeroa College and a trophy from HPC. RESULTS: Paeroa 12 vs HPC 0; Paeroa 10 vs USA 5; HPC 12 vs USA 5.



Hauraki's Innes Hill and Rohan Landy make the tackle against USA.



Paeroa College players tackle HPC's Rohan Landy near the try line.



HPC's Maika Church heads for the try line at top speed with USA players in pursuit.

Photos: TERESA RAMSEY



Hauraki's Jed Coulter left, and Paeroa's Ashton Chwesik in the line out.



HPC perform the haka before play.



Hadlee Marshall makes a run for it.

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HAURAKI PLAINS COLLEGE WELCOMES OUR NEW TEAM MEMBERS



David Angell
(HOD Science)

Born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. Started at Hauraki Plains College on Oct 17, 2022, but took my first teaching job in New Zealand in Huntly in 2000. Moved back to Canada after 1 year and returned 21 years later. My hobbies are riding my bike and swimming. My wife, dog, and I are happy to be in New Zealand and look forward to the adventures that await us here over the following years. So far, everyone has been great and Kiwis really are a classy group of people.

I have been a teacher in New Zealand for thirteen years. I have taught almost everything you can in the social sciences and I am enjoying the busy start this year at HPC. I live rurally with my wife and family, and a growing collection of animals.

Richard Collette
(Humanities)



Leonardo de Angelis
(Maths)

I was born in Rome (Italy) on 29 of June 1977. I did all my studying in Rome and got my Physics degree. I studied at Victoria University for my teaching diploma in 2009 and got a teaching job at Western Heights High School in Rotorua. Two years in Rotorua teaching Maths and Physics. Then I went to Paraguay and lived there for 8 years. Then I went back to Rome, spent 3 years there and finally back to New Zealand. I like hiking, and silence.

My name is Anjaleen Kumar and I am proud to call New Zealand my new home. I am originally from Fiji. I hail from a farming background from a rural setting of Vanua Levu, Fiji Islands. I have 11 years of teaching experience around schools in Fiji. As a child growing up in a family of educators, I knew at a young age that teaching was my passion. I am a proud mother of two daughters and a dedicated wife to my husband. I went to University of the South Pacific to complete my Bachelor degree. Like most other people, I enjoy travelling and helping others.

Anjaleen Kumar
(Science)



Ivan Geerlings
(Maths)

Kia ora, my name is Ivan Geerlings. I was born in Rotorua, started primary schooling in Auckland, started intermediate school in Invercargill (and finished it in Christchurch, and did my high schooling and university studies in Melbourne, Australia before coming back to NZ to work, so you could say I've seen some of the country! This is my first year teaching, however I did some relief teaching at HPC in Term 3 and 4 last year. When I'm not at school, I like to play squash in Te Kauwhata, tend to my garden, strum my ukulele, and read books.

Tapu Fire Station stokes up 50 years

By GORDON PREECE

Support from the Thames Coast community has been spotlighted in Tapu Volunteer Fire Brigade's journey to kindle half a century.

The brigade, which sparked its operations in 1972 and gazetted in 1973, celebrated the milestone on April 15 with past and present members and presentations from local dignitaries and the Auckland Provincial Fire Brigade Association (APFBA).

Chief fire officer Warwick Reed told *The Profile* the idea for the station was ignited in 1971 by a dozen Tapu locals, who recognised its need after infernos on the coast and the delays for brigades like Thames to reach the scene.

"Even though we're a small brigade, we've been able to maintain the momentum that they established," he said.

"We have 14 volunteers and we get a lot of support, we get a lot of people coming to us after events and thanking us.

"Waiomu Beach Cafe has a donation bowl for the brigade, and the Royal Oak Hotel in Tapu has been a very good supporter over the years through the help of raffle sales."

Warwick said half the brigade's volunteers were also trained in first response, which had been a boost to the com-



Past and present members of Tapu Volunteer Fire Brigade attended its 50-year celebrations on April 15.

Photo: SUPPLIED/AMELIA NURSE

munity.

"We have quite a high population of retired people on the coast so we get a lot of breathing difficulties, chest pain and ailments associated with ageing," he said.

"Because the ambulance has to come from Waihi or Pukekohe or Paeroa, it means we're with patients longer and so we need another level of training.

"We want to stay as a first response brigade because the greatest need is medical at the moment."

Warwick said future plans for the brigade included attracting more volunteers who lived in or near Tapu.

"There is a need for emergency response on the coast and we're still meeting that need, but it is difficult because a lot of

our members work in Thames so they can't respond during the day," he said.

"A lot of housing along the coast is older people and a lot of them are holiday homes, and it's expensive and difficult for young families to purchase a house on the coast... so it's hard to find volunteers.

"But we're going to be here for the long run... It's the first

50 and there'll be more to come."

Warwick said the brigade received a certificate of appreciation by Thames-Coromandel Mayor Len Salt at its celebration evening, and a commemorative crystal from the fire brigade association, which also presented a plaque on behalf of the United Fire Brigade Association.

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The crowd enjoyed getting into the groove.



Millah McGahan and Megan Dunstow from Paeroa College.



The organisers of the Whānau Day, alongside White Chapel Jak, celebrate after the show.

Photos: KELLEY TANTAU



Three friends prepare to slide down the inflatable bouncy castle.



Noah Ahmed, 10, eats candy floss.



White Chapel Jak perform.



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Authorised by Scott Simpson,
614 Pollen St, Thames.



Hauraki riders roped in to western style

CLUB PROFILE

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

Horse riders in the Hauraki Plains and Thames Valley can now learn about a different style of riding available right on their doorstep.

The Hauraki Western Riders Club, established in 2019, is based at the Omaha Valley Sports Arena in Puriri. Its point of difference is the style of riding.

“English riding is definitely more popular and common around New Zealand,” club president Laurie Webb says.

“Western horses tend to move with a longer, lower gait and head carriage. Western riders ideally ride with lighter rein contact and horses are encouraged to move independently and naturally.”

The western style of riding was developed in the West of the United States of America on ranches, open country and working with cattle.

The most obvious difference between the two disciplines is the attire - western saddle, the clothing worn and the cowboy

hat. The club has members from across the peninsula and the plains. They meet on the first Sunday of the month, and they focus on a variety of skills and activities; among them cattle work, horsemanship, cowboy dressage, western performance, trail, formation riding, games, trekking, cowboy challenge, weekend camp overs and training clinics.

It’s a fun, relaxed atmosphere, and Laurie says plenty of families enjoy the low-stakes, all-abilities-welcome nature of the club.

“We had some people that were interested in that style,” she says.

“We saw a need for it around our community and local area.”

Member Sharon Meek sums up the club’s atmosphere: “camping together, eating together, laughing together, riding together, helping each other in the arena are all components of the companionship which we have, and this all makes a successful clinic and a thriving club.”

The club currently has 40 members on its books, but more are always welcome,

“Camping together, eating together, laughing together, riding together, helping each other in the arena are all components of the companionship which we have,”

- Sharon Meek



Riders focus on a style of riding developed on the cattle ranches of western America.

Photos: SUPPLIED

Laurie says.

“We cater for a wide variety of abilities. Anyone is welcome - whether they have western gear or not they can come along and join in.”

To find out more about the Hauraki Western Riding Club, email: lauteach77@hotmail.com.



RIGHT: Horsemanship and training clinics are a large part of Hauraki Western Riding Club members’ interests.



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SPORTS

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There was full noise and mud in Puriri on April 15 as around 40 drivers put the pedal to the metal for the final round of the National 4x4 Trials Series. The event was hosted by the Thames Valley 4WD Club and saw entrants navigate a series of courses including steep hills and mud bogs. Reporter **GORDON PREECE** was at trackside to snap the action.



Chris Tomalin, left, and his navigator Fleche Crawford are ready to race.



Kevin Hermansen, left, and Nicholas Hamilton sent mud flying.



Rhys O'Brien, left, and Clarrie Vazey attempt to conquer the bank.



Wayne and Tayla Weatherly whip round the corner.



Cody Fogden, left, and Karl Burgener.



Chris Price motors through the bog.

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Rural Life

Luxon: Attitude change on farming needed

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

Farmers have been treated as villains, National Leader Christopher Luxon says, and he wants that attitude to change.

His party has also promised “sweeping changes to farm regulations” if successful in this year’s election.

The Leader of the Opposition was in Thames recently for a public meeting co-ordinated by Coromandel MP and National Party environment spokesperson Scott Simpson.

One of the very first questions for the hopeful Prime Minister was from an ex-dairy farmer concerned about the negativity surrounding the agriculture industry, including insinuations it was responsible for poor water quality in New Zealand.

“Farmers are being treated as villains,” Mr Luxon said in response.

“You are not villains. You should be deeply, deeply valued. Why? This is a sector that got us through the GFC [Global Financial Crisis], it got us through Covid. We’ve now got the economy shrinking and [the agricultural sector] is going to be the backbone that gets us through this recession.”

Mr Luxon said there was “nothing better than agriculture” for Aotearoa, and that it was a fantastic industry being burdened by masses of regulation.



Christopher Luxon was in Thames to talk about the economy, farming, and local roads.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

“When I talk to farmers, 30 per cent of their week now is spent managing all the paperwork and all the compliance and all the costs. Often, on the same day, they’re going to lots of different sources: councils, governments, MPI, all over the place.

“We’re going to have a cup of tea and actually stop, assess, and really think through that regulation, because at the moment, it’s

like playing tennis with ten tennis balls coming over the net - you can’t hit all ten at the same time.”

Former Thames-Coromandel Mayor and National Party MP Sandra Goudie also attended the meeting and asked Mr Luxon if his party would consider “putting food production into our school curriculum, starting at kindergarten”.

“Because food producers are

our biggest export earner and I’m tired of seeing them being used as a political football,” she said.

Mr Luxon agreed. He told the crowd inside Thames’ Civic Centre that 65 per cent of New Zealand’s export earnings came from food and fibre production.

However, young people needed to learn “the basics” in order to get a foot in the industry.

“When I talk to employers

across a range of sectors, they say they employ someone straight out of high school and they’re not work ready because they haven’t got a basic level of numeracy and literacy that you need to even have a conversation about food production,” he said.

“If we get the basics right, I think that has a whole bunch of flow-on effects.”

The National Party last week announced a new Getting back to Farming package, which would improve access to workers, restore local decision-making, and protect food production.

The package would introduce a “2-for-1 rule” for the next three years: for every new regulation that central or local government wants to introduce on the rural sector, they must take away two.

“This is about using targeted rules with clear environmental limits so farmers can work with confidence,” Mr Simpson said in a statement.

“National is committed to this country’s climate change goals. We know shutting down some of the world’s most carbon efficient farmers only sends production to less efficient farms overseas and could raise global emissions.

“We can protect the environment and allow farmers to get on with business by reining in the bureaucracy and using clear, well-targeted rules instead.”



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Random roll of marble decides fate



As part of a Valley Profile series, **MEGHAN HAWKES** explores our local history by seeking out stories of life and death in the Thames Valley

High spirits were evident in the streets of Paeroa in March 1915, despite war having been declared eight months earlier.

Land for settlement in the Hauraki district was being balloted and all along the main street groups gathered discussing their chances and their plans for the future when they got “on the land”. The mid-morning trains steamed in bringing large numbers of people, while several coach loads came from various parts of the Thames Valley and outer districts.

Several women represented husbands, brothers and sweethearts away at war. Among this hopeful throng was young Albert Moor, who had come to New Zealand five years previously for his health. He had worked on Mr Cullen’s Maratoto farm and then for Hugh Morrison at Hikutaia.

There were hundreds of applicants in this great rush for land and all hopes rested on the roll of a marble.

The ballot system involved numbered marbles being placed in a locked revolving box in equal number to the applications for land received.

Marbles were withdrawn and whoever held the corresponding number would be allocated that block of land. But Albert’s number was not drawn and he left New Zealand three days later on the *SS Rotorua*, for England, arriving in May, 1915.

There would be more ballot marbles drawn in New Zealand a few months later, this time as part of conscription – compulsory enrollment for war service. Albert, though, would not have to be compelled to do his bit.

Once in England, after a short holiday, he approached the War Office in London, offering his services in any department, but was unsuccessful.



A recruitment poster from World War I, 1915.

Image: SUPPLIED

He later applied again, and this time was promised an opening if he underwent an operation. He spent three weeks in hospital and was recovering when he had a cycle accident, which ended his prospects of entering the army.

Undeterred and determined, he managed to enter the Navy, signing on to the hospital ship *Dover Castle* as a bath attendant.

He was stationed at the Dardanelles during the height of the fighting, and later at the Persian Gulf during the Mesopotamia Campaign – a battle between British and Indian troops against the Ottoman Turks in Mesopotamia (now Iraq).

It was a lengthy and tragic campaign marked by bitter fighting in a harsh climate.

Albert described the sufferings of the troops as terrible. Wounded soldiers waited more than 24 hours before arriving at the first dressing station; and scores of lives were lost through utter neglect. Medical supplies that should have been sent to relieve

the suffering of the wounded were lacking. On May 26, 1917, the *Dover Castle* was on passage from Malta to Gibraltar, 50 nautical miles north of Bône, Algeria when she was torpedoed twice by the UC-67, a German



mine laying submarine.

The first explosion killed several boiler stokers. The wounded were evacuated on to the HMS *Cameleon* and the *Dover Castle*’s captain and a few crew tried to save the ship, but she was hit by a second torpedo an hour later, sinking in three minutes.

The crew and occupants were brought ashore to the British Vice Consulate at Bône, Algeria,

around 11pm. Everything possible at that hour of the night was done for them, and 500-odd were transferred to the military barracks.

Albert’s persistence had seen him journey to New Zealand, attempt to carve out a new life for himself, return to England and tenaciously seek war employment. But now Albert’s number was up. He had been suffering from consumption, a slow moving lung disease, for years.

When the *Dover Castle* was torpedoed, Albert was in the last stages of the illness and he fell victim to the shock of the attack, exposure, and general fatigue, dying from a lung hemorrhage at 5am on May 27.

He was buried the following day by the Army chaplain in the section of Bône cemetery consecrated to soldiers and sailors.

The funeral was attended by nearly all the members of the crew, a detachment of British soldiers, with their officers, the ladies of the Red Cross Society,

a detachment of French soldiers, and very many residents of the town. The sailors brought a wreath in porcelain for the grave.

The news of Albert’s death reached Hikutaia through Fred Blyth, his friend and a Paeroa storekeeper, who received a letter from Albert’s parents enclosing information from the British Vice Consul.

Fred passed this on to the *Ohinemuri Gazette*, writing: “I am sure the residents of Hikutaia will learn with sorrow the circumstances of his death and can claim him as a hero, fighting for his country and his flag”.

The British Vice consul informed Albert’s parents a wooden cross would be put on Albert’s grave and it would be looked after by a local society. The published letter was headed: *A tragic death – a brave boy from Hikutaia*.

Although not an Anzac, Albert is representative of hundreds of men whose path in life was altered by the random roll of a marble.

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French Mayor commemorates tunnellers

By GORDON PREECE

The Mayor of a French town where Waihi men built tunnels in World War I paid his respects at an informal ceremony at the Tunnellers Memorial on April 17.

The town of Arras, which is around two hours north of Paris, is remembered as the town where the miners from Waihi and other parts of New Zealand constructed large underground areas to house troops to prepare for a major British assault.

An underground museum in the town called Carrière Wellington, provides visitors the opportunity to view the work undertaken by New Zealand tunnellers and those attached to them more than 100 years ago.

Its Mayor, Frédéric Leturque, and his delegation visited the Tunnelers Memorial as part of a tour visiting NZ Tunnelling Company and Pioneer descendants in Rotorua, Wellington and the Cook Islands.

Waihi Heritage Vision, which is an organisation dedicated to preserving the town's history, hosted the visit.

Secretary Krishna Buckman told *The Profile* it was important to maintain a relationship with Arras.

"It's lovely to have that link with that town, it's a very important town to us because a lot of our people, not just the miners but also our New Zealand troops who went over there to France died over there," she said.

"That's why we have our Fields of Remembrance crosses [at the Tunnellers Memorial] because a lot of our New Zealand men are buried over in Europe so Waihi and Arras are linked quite strongly."

"In 2019, we had the centen-



Arras Mayor Frédéric Leturque places a wreath, accompanied by Arras City Councillor Arnaud Michel, right, and Arras District Council Vice President Nicolas Desfachelle, left, with No'oroa Te Hira Anguna at rear left.

Photos: GORDON PREECE

nial of the homecoming of the NZ Tunnelling Company and we had a visit by the Mayor of Arras because our tunnellers were the first to go over to the frontline and they were the last to return."

The event included wreath layings by the Arras Mayor and his deputy, Hauraki Mayor Toby Adams, Waihi RSA, OceanaGold, NZ Tunnelling Company descendants and representatives of a Cook Island soldier who served in

Arras.

Mayor Leturque also viewed the Cross of Crosses and Poppy Fence in Waihi, and the OceanaGold Education Centre for a light lunch before departing for Rotorua.

RIGHT: 100 crosses have been erected by the Fields of Remembrance Trust to remember those who served in the NZ Tunnelling Company in World War I.



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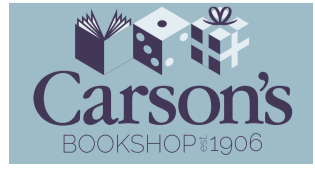
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New president for Hauraki RSA

By GORDON PREECE

A motorcycle enthusiast and son of a Royal Air Force pilot is the new president of Hauraki RSA after bringing attention to the club in the past 12 months.

Trevor Birchall, who is also the co-ordinator of the Ulysses Waihi-Thames Valley branch, was elected president of the Ngātea-based association on April 4.

He told *The Profile* he planned to continue his progress to make it a community hub.

"In the past 12 months, we have successfully opened the doors on Friday nights with great support from the locals," he said.

"We have a good sporting tournament called the Tip Cup... that's very successful, and I just started the McCarrroll Cup [sporting tournament] again.

"I want to see our RSA be a real place to be in Ngātea as in the eight years I have lived here it was rarely open."

Trevor, whose father William Jack Birchall flew Wellington bomber planes in World War II for the Royal Air Force, said more volunteers and in particular those who were younger, would enable the RSA to open more regularly. "We would like to open the doors more often to the public but because we're running on volunteers, you don't want to burn out your volunteers, so we can't open the doors on a regular basis," he said.

"We have to think about getting that next age group instead of just the 60- and 70-year-olds, we need to attract the younger generation," he said.

"It doesn't matter what sort of club it is... if you don't have



Newly-elected Hauraki RSA president Trevor Birchall has been instrumental in publicising the club over the past 12 months.

younger people coming on you don't have a club in 20 years."

Trevor, whose wife Di is also the secretary, said the club also needed to raise "quite a bit of money" for overdue maintenance.

"The building was built in 1952 and very little maintenance has been done over the years.

"We've still got electrical work that needs doing, we've got planting work that needs doing and we certainly need

joinery work that needs doing," he said.

"We will be able to apply for Lotto grants and other grants from other places but at the moment we're getting a couple people to give us quotes on what needs to be done first.

"Hauraki RSA is there for our veterans however it is also there for our community whether they have served or not.

"After all we are a social club."

HAURAKI RSA

Hauraki RSA is there for our veterans, but as a social club it is also there for our community, whether or not they have served.

The RSA provides a range of services, including veteran welfare support, advocacy, social activities, and commemoration events. The Hauraki RSA is open every Friday night at 14 Pipiroa Rd, Ngatea, when the bar is open, meals are available or you can come along for a game of snooker, bowls or darts.

Hauraki RSA is always looking for more volunteers to help once a month. As a volunteer, you will make new friends, have a free meal, and will be giving back to your community.

For more information, search for Hauraki RSA on Facebook, or contact president Trevor Birchall: Ph: 021 701 466 or email t.d.birchall@gmail.com.

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First *Last Post* for WWI bugle in 19 years

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

As *The Last Post* rang out across Thames this Anzac Day, few people may have realised it was about as authentic as it could get.

Aileen Lawrie, chief executive of Thames Coromandel District Council, was the bugle player, and the instrument she held was an heirloom dating back to the first World War.

"It's a World War I bugle and you can tell by the design, its shape. This is a British one," Aileen said.

The bugle is one of a pair on loan to the Thames Museum by the family of Miriam McKenzie, Thames RSA's official bugler of more than 27 years.

"She bugled at RSA funerals, and dawn services, that sort of thing," Miriam's son Fritz McKenzie said.

"[The bugles] have got a bit of history."

Miriam first began playing for the RSA in the mid-1970s with the vintage bugle. As time went on, a local policeman by the name of Arthur Burns noticed the condition of the instrument and gave her his father's bugle as a replacement.

The Burn's Bugle was notable in its own right, having reportedly been played at the funeral of former New Zealand prime minister Michael Joseph Savage. Miriam played the Burn's bugle for Thames RSA until her retirement in 2004.

Fast forward to 2023, and the bugles are freshly on display at the museum. It was a bit of serendipity when Aileen popped in for a tour.

"I'd only just brought [the bugles] in and she came along," Fritz said.

"She wondered if we had a bugle and I'd just donated the two of them, and next minute she cranks a note out of it and away she went."

Aileen has been a brass



TCDC chief executive Aileen Lawrie has stepped up to play *The Last Post* with a vintage bugle.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER

player all her life, starting out as the principal cornet player of the Marlborough College boy's brass band. She played in brass bands throughout New Zealand, was in the Air Force band, and in recent years she played *The Last Post* at Anzac Day events in Opotiki.

This year, she was due to play at Paeroa with the Kerepehi Brass Band, of which she is a member. But when she saw the museum's bugles she jumped on the opportunity to play one of them at the Thames service instead.

The museum volunteers were all too happy to let Aileen borrow a bugle. She settled on Miriam's original one, pairing it with the mouthpiece from the Burn's bugle.

"It's really nice that [the bugles] will be out and playing on Anzac day again," Thames Museum chairperson Carolyn McKenzie said.

Aileen said she was privileged to be able to carry on the tradition of a female bugler in Thames. The addition of an authentic instrument was the icing on the cake.

"I'm going to be nervous and I'm going to try not to shake because when you shake, your sound wobbles," she said.

"I guess there's quite a bit of pressure on [me] to do it justice. These events are really meaningful. It's not lost on me."



The authentic World War I bugles are on display at Thames Museum.

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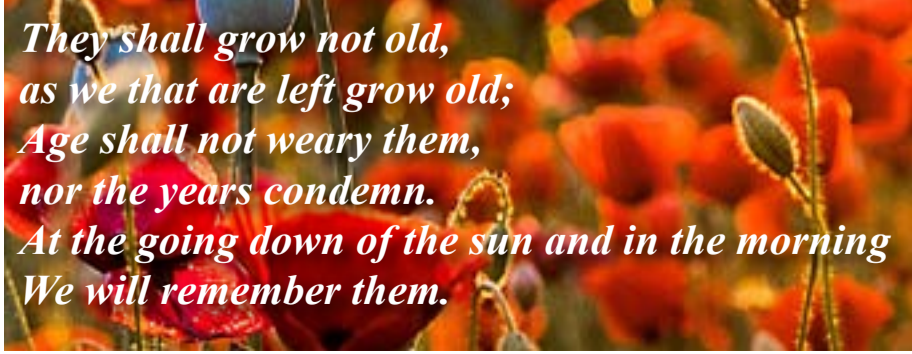
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Student Life

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Pārāwai learning takes off

This year has started at full pace for Pārāwai students, and there have been so many learning opportunities for all.

The year started off with Whanaungatanga experiences for each of the 11 classrooms.

Despite bad weather putting a damper on the original plans, teachers managed to create some awesome team building experiences outside the classroom, to develop strong relationships between students and staff.

For the juniors, this was a fun day including a very large bouncy castle. For our middle and senior students, this was an overnight experience at school, learning to cook their own dinners in teams. Added to this was shared good old 'kiwi camping' with the visitors from Kansai International School. Once again, these students added to the global understanding of the students, and strong friendships and cultural exchanges created an awesome atmosphere for our Pārāwai community.

Pārāwai students have also been out and about making the most of their local environment, with a specialised EOTC programme run across all classes.

In term one, all classes visited the local William Hall Arboretum and the Waikiekie Stream.

The trips included discussions around living things, and how they are suited to their environments, and that ecosystems



Pārāwai students enjoy some awesome team building experiences.

are all connected so one small change affects everything else.

There were plenty of discussions and questions around flooding, deforestation and pollution affecting their local habitats.

Literacy and numeracy skills are a focus at Pārāwai School,

and by linking the EOTC learning to classroom programmes, students are engaged and motivated to achieve. Pārāwai's regular groups are also back in full swing with Kapa haka, choir, and gymnastics on offer and leaders running lunchtime sports.

- Supplied by Pārāwai School



Adjusting to a new school

Starting at a new school can be a challenging and overwhelming experience for children. It requires them to leave their familiar surroundings, friends, and teachers behind and start afresh in a new environment. As a parent, you may feel helpless about how to help your child cope with this transition. However, there are several things you can do to make the adjustment to a new school smoother and more enjoyable for your child.

Parents can help ease the transition by acknowledging their child's fears, attending orientation events, helping them make new friends, establishing a routine, and staying positive and patient. By talking to their child about their own experiences, parents can help their

child feel less alone and more supported. Getting to know the school before their child starts attending can also help by familiarizing themselves with the layout of the school and important places.

Encouraging their child to make new friends by introducing themselves to classmates or joining after-school clubs can also make the transition smoother. Establishing a routine can be vital for children, and parents can stay positive and patient by reminding their child of the exciting new opportunities that await them.

Starting a new school can be daunting for children, but with the right support and guidance from parents, they can thrive and enjoy this new chapter in their lives.



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Student Life

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Students are provided with a solid foundation for success at Kopuarahi School.

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Choosing the right school

Moving to a new area can be exciting, but also a little nerve-wracking, especially if you have school-aged children. Finding the right school is important to ensure that your child receives a quality education and is happy in their new environment. So, how do you go about choosing a new school?

Firstly, do your research. You can start by checking out the school websites or even reaching out to schools directly. Take a look at the schools' curriculum, extracurricular activities, and any special programmes on offer. This will give you an idea of whether the school aligns with your child's interests and needs.

Next, talk to other parents in the area. They can give you valuable insight into the schools in the community. Ask them about the teachers, the facilities, and the overall atmosphere of the school.

It's also important to consider

the location of the school. How far is it from your home? Can your child walk or bike to school, or will you need to drive them? Is there a school bus available?

These are all factors that can impact your daily routine and your child's overall experience.

Don't forget to involve your child in the decision-making process as well. After all, they will be the ones attending the school every day, so their opinion matters. When visiting the schools, be sure to ask plenty of questions.

Don't be afraid to inquire about things like class size, teacher qualifications, and the school's discipline policies. The more information you have, the better equipped you will be to make an informed decision.

Do your due diligence, involve your child in the process, and trust your instincts. With a little effort, you'll find the perfect school for your family in no time.



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Pukekos Educare celebrates 20 years

Locally owned and operated Pukekos Educare has been providing childcare in the district since 2003, with past children now returning with their own families with a continued sense of belonging, wanting their children to have the same early childhood love and adventures they themselves cherished.

Pukekos Educare is world famous for allowing children to enjoy the great kiwi backyard, including slides in the mud and rain (who remembers that viral video?), continue to provide children with wonderful outdoor spaces for those memorable childhood adventures.

Large trees surround the play spaces with veg gardening, fruit trees, plenty of sand, and water, complete with bridge over a small man-made creek, a beautiful where pepi, mini caravans to replicate those famous Coromandel camping adventures, and even an upcycled palette secret fairy garden.

Children can also make those special memories around an open fire, great for gathering around on a cold winter's day with a warm cuppa milo and a great story. Who wouldn't want to play here all day?!

Pukekos is also well respected within the schooling communities for its strong curriculum, having founded 'Wha' club concept for the older children, where the continued development of strong skills in self-confidence,



Mini caravans to replicate those famous Coromandel camping adventures at Pukekos Educare. Photo: SUPPLIED

reliance, and resilience, learning to problem solve, appreciate ideas and points of view, understanding respect and how work alongside others while exploring and making discoveries of the world around them is continued in a more in-depth way.

The true essence of this magical place, or as their slogan suggest, "where the magic of childhood begins" is the true sense of family you feel and see when you walk through the gate.

Children from one to six years enjoy being together as families do, with siblings able to enjoy their precious childhoods together (some childcare services sepa-

rate children by age) in this way, you see older children caring for younger ones and younger ones learning from and enjoying sharing these amazing spaces with older children.

The well-experienced teaching team flows seamlessly in the background, supporting children where needed, accommodating every child's needs and wants with such warm care and expertise.

This place truly feels like a home away from home, so if you're looking for the place for your children to love the magic of early childhood, this is it!

- Supplied by Pukekos Educare

Kaihere School: small size, big opportunities

Choosing the right school for your child is a crucial decision.

At Kaihere School, we pride ourselves on offering a personalized, eco-friendly educational experience within a close-knit community. We warmly welcome new students and families to join us.

Here are six compelling reasons to consider Kaihere School for your child:

Small class sizes and high teacher-to-student ratio: Our low class numbers ensure that each student receives individual attention, enabling them to grow academically and emotionally. Our dedicated staff creates a supportive learning environment, allowing every child to thrive.

Silver Enviroschool status: As a Silver Enviroschool, we prioritize environmental awareness and sustainability. Our picturesque school grounds serve as the perfect setting for eco-conscious learning, empowering students to become responsible global citizens who understand the importance of caring for our planet.

Annual calf club day: We foster a strong connection with our rural heritage through events such as calf club day. This annual event encourages students to take care of raising a calf, lamb or goat and develop skills and character in caring for animals alongside

building a deeper appreciation for the rural community.

Structured literacy programme and modern teaching tools: We offer a forward-thinking curriculum that includes a structured literacy programme and modern teaching tools. Our approach encourages critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving in real-world contexts.

On-site school pool: Our school pool provides students with swimming lessons and water safety education. This valuable resource promotes physical activity and helps develop essential life skills.

Strong community involvement and connection with Kaihere School playgroup: We foster connections with the local community, including the Kaihere School playgroup for young families. Through partnerships, projects, and events, we create a supportive network that ensures our students' success.

To learn more about the Kaihere School difference, we encourage you to visit our school and see for yourself.

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- Richard Reid
Principal, Kaihere School

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- Structured literacy program and modern teaching tools.
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Gardening

Time to look after your soil

The last month of Autumn is looming and the perfect time to do some important soil nourishment. Continued warm weather and some welcome rainfall has prolonged the growth of plants and unfortunately weeds.

It is an ideal time to remove weeds, dig in compost and nutrients for soil health before the ground becomes too heavy and cold. Mulching after this provides a blanket to keep the soil warm and suppress weed growth.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Continue harvesting autumn treats of feijoa, guavas and persimmon as they ripen. Apples and pears: continue late season harvesting. Once harvest is over and leaf fall is complete, these can be pruned and sprayed. Fertilise citrus around the base out to the drip line. Prepare strawberry beds for sowing young plants in June - November. Continue harvesting your late summer crops of beetroot, cabbage spinach and lettuce.

The ground is still warm enough to be planting more lettuces, spinach and brassicas. The last of the tomatoes if you have any left will still ripen on the plants albeit a bit slower due to shorter daylight hours. Sow seeds of beetroot, broccoli, broad beans, cabbage, carrots, onions, spinach, swedes and turnips.

If you have planted leeks at the end of summer as they grow, pile up the soil around the stems to provide support and keep the stems white. The garden can be tidied up by cutting back lightly to refresh the plants and allow new growth.

FLOWERS

As gaps appear in spots around the garden, sprinkle annual seeds of poppies, calendula, cornflower, marigold, stocks, and alyssum to name a few. Before planting dig in compost and sheep pellets.

Cover seed with a fine sprinkling of seed raising mix if you have some. Autumn is the best time for planting new shrubs and trees so they can

get established over the cooler winter months. It is time to plant new seasons daphne, camellias and rhododendron. These will add welcome colour to the garden in winter and early spring.

May is the last opportunity to get spring bulbs such as daffodils, freesia, hyacinth, jonquil, muscari and tulip in the ground. You still have time to plant lilies which are easy to grow and can be planted anytime between May and September. Dig in bulb food before planting and cover with 100mm of soil.

Once dahlias stop flowering the tubers and gladioli corms can be lifted stored in a dry place ready for replanting in spring. Plan for the addition of new roses by preparing the soil by adding compost. New roses should be coming into garden centres next month. Existing roses can have a light tidy up and spray with copper.

COMPOST HEAP

The compost heap will benefit from the addition of the autumn leaf fall. Many tree leaves are a particularly rich source of plant nutrient and make a valuable contribution to soil fertility. Turn compost heaps over regularly.

*Stay healthy and enjoy your garden.
- Submitted by Ngatea Garden Circle*

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8 Non planting Day	9 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	10 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	11 Non planting Day	12 Non planting Day	13 Non planting Day	14 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed
15 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	16 Non planting Day	17 Non planting Day	18 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	19 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	20 New Moon	21 Non planting Day
22 Non planting Day	23 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	24 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	25 Non planting Day	26 Non planting Day	27 Non planting Day	28 Non planting Day
29 Non planting Day	30 Plant above ground crops	31 Plant above ground crops	May 2023 Moon Planting Calendar			

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Friendships and green fingers formed over 60 years

The Ngatea Garden Circle celebrated 60 years with a luncheon at the Memorial Hall in Ngatea on April 12.

It is incredible that a small community like ours can achieve a milestone such as this. It shows the relevance and importance of groups like this in the community to withstand the test of time.

President Eileen Leonard and secretary Averil Jenkins did a wonderful job of putting the event together with their team of helpers. Thank you ladies.

Eileen paid a special tribute to our foundation members, who 60 years ago had the courage and desire to form this garden group. And to think we have been able to carry on for all these years with just about the same format.

Flower and shrub competitions, raffle and tea and a biscuit. The afternoon teas have become more than a biscuit but that's okay.

Friendships are formed and maintained over many years, and it is not only a gardening group but a support network for those involved.

The Ngatea Garden Circle held its first meeting on June 5, 1963, attended by Mesdames Waugh, E Waite, J Taylor, F Ridings, G Millen, Hawthorne, D Brodeen, E Tyerman, E Benner, L Tye, E Hayward and N Pye. The meeting closed at 3.30pm. The minutes were short and sweet in those days. The meeting was held on the second Wednesday of every month and to date this has remained unchanged.

As time went by, the minutes became more detailed and some meeting procedures changed



but mostly the protocols are unchanged.

The luncheon to celebrate the 60th anniversary was held on the 12th of April 2023, at the Ngatea Memorial Hall and attended by 26 past and present members.

Eileen introduced our guest speaker, Joy Leonard, whose gardening prowess is widely known in our community. Joy is our go to gardening guru at Hammer Hardware who has been supplying our raffle prize for many years. Thanks Chris and Shelley.

Joy spoke about the many styles of gardens around the district and the fact that there is no right or wrong design, it's more about what you want and like in your backyard. Just get planting. Joy also talked about the importance of feeding your garden with the correct nutrients and the appropriate time to feed plants. Pop in to Hammer Hardware and she will

give you the right advice. Thanks Joy.

The cake was then cut by the two oldest attending members, Diane Elliott and Elizabeth Preston. The luncheon was catered for by Peggy Barriball with proceeds going to The Riding for the Disabled and included an excellent selection of savoury and sweet finger food dishes.

We are privileged to have members in their 90s, some past and one who is still a current member. Happy 92nd birthday to Diane Elliott for April 19. Have a great day. It just goes to show gardening is good for longevity.

The raffles were drawn, and some very happy attendees went home with a selection of plants, flowers and garden ornaments.

A wonderful way to round off our anniversary.

- Chrissie Tegg, Ngatea Garden Circle

ABOVE: Ngatea garden circle members enjoyed a luncheon at Ngatea Memorial Hall on April 12 to celebrate the group's 60th anniversary.

RIGHT: Cutting the Ngatea Garden Circle 60th anniversary cake are long-serving members Diane Elliott and Elizabeth Preston, front, and president Eileen Leonard, rear.

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<p>BLAIKIE, Myra Joan (nee Doherty): Passed away in Brisbane on 7 April 2023. Much loved big sister of Kerry (Thames) Noel (Waihi) and sister-in-law of Jan and Ann. Gone but never forgotten.</p>	<p>Grazing available Tahuna Alan 021 0244 3463</p>	<p>Thames. Two bedrooms, home office, garage. Rent negotiable. Couples & solo parents ok. No smokers or dogs. Call KL on 021 715 415</p>	<p>Thames Valley Storage – secure, dry units available, two sizes. Call Trev 027 4076966</p>
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<h3>Community Employment Officer</h3> <p>Fixed Term May 2023- Dec 2023</p> <p>Hauraki District council has two exciting community focus opportunities:</p> <p>Community Employment Officer (fixed term) This role is with the Gr8 Job Hauraki team! Working closely with our Community Employment Liaison, with a focus on further developing support programmes for businesses and those employed through the programme to ensure the greatest chance of sustainable employment.</p>	<h3>Public Notice</h3>	<p>THAMES SOCIETY OF ARTS, INC. AGM at the gallery 604 Tararu Road, Thames Saturday, 29th April 2023 2 pm All welcome</p>	<h3>Public Notice</h3>
<h3>Community Advocacy Officer (Permanent)</h3> <p>Come on board now and help Council advocate on behalf of the district to central government and other external organisations for funding and support to assist in achieving actions and outcomes that will benefit our communities</p> <p>This could be your opportunity to take up an interesting and satisfying career move where you can contribute directly to the future of the community.</p> <p>Applications close 11 May 2023</p> <p>“At Hauraki District Council ... it's more than just a job!”</p> <p>To apply for this job go to: haurakidc.recruitmentthub.co.nz/Vacancies OR www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/our-council/jobs/ & enter reference code 6316133</p>	<h3>Public Notice</h3>	<p>PAEROA GREYPOWER INC. The AGM of the above organisation will be held on Monday 13th May at 1.30 p.m. at the Bible Chapel. All are welcome. <i>Gail Locke Secretary at the Bible Chapel</i></p>	<h3>Public Notice</h3>
<h3>Hauraki District Council Meetings - May 2023</h3> <p>Pursuant to Section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, public notice is hereby given that the following meetings will be held during the month of May 2023 in the Council Chamber, Hauraki House, William Street, Paeroa unless otherwise stated.</p> <p>Western Plains Drainage District Committee Thursday, 4 May 2023, 10.30am Ngatea Service Centre</p> <p>Eastern Plains Drainage District Committee Thursday 4 May 2023, 1.00pm Ngatea Service Centre</p> <p>Regulatory Hearings Committee Monday, 8 May 2023, 9.00am (confirmed)</p> <p>Planning Committee Monday, 15 May 2023, 9.00am (if required)</p> <p>Adaptive Planning and Emergency Management Committee Monday, 15 May 2023, 1.00pm</p> <p>Regulatory Hearings Committee Monday, 22 May 2023, 9.00am (if required)</p> <p>Zero Carbon Promise and Waste Minimisation Committee Monday, 22 May 2023, 1.00pm</p> <p>Council Meeting Wednesday, 31 May 2023, 9.00am</p> <p>L D Cavers Chief Executive Hauraki District Council</p> <p>www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz</p>	<h3>Situation Vacant</h3>	<h3>Public Notice</h3>	<h3>Public Notice</h3>
<h3>Data Entry Administrator</h3> <p>We are seeking an administrator with accurate data entry skills and strong attention to detail to cover maternity leave.</p> <p>Hours approx. 10-12 hours per week – days negotiable.</p> <p>Commencement will be beginning of May. Please send CV to office@lbtcement.co.nz or call Catherine: 07 867 7588</p>	<h3>Public Notice</h3>	<h3>Public Notice</h3>	<h3>Public Notice</h3>

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Bridge to be first built from timber in five decades

Onetai Bridge might reach just 9m over a tiny stream, but its upcoming replacement marks a giant leap in bridge design for Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency.

It will be the first state highway bridge built from timber in 50 years, representing an exciting move towards using climate-friendly materials, the organisation said.

The bridge, located just north of Hikutaia on State Highway 26, will be constructed using an engineered timber product called glulam, which is made from layers [laminates] of wood glued together.

It has twice the strength per kilogram compared with steel, and is specially designed to be hard-wearing and durable, Waka Kotahi regional manager maintenance and operations Rob Campbell said.

“Road bridges in Aotearoa New Zealand are generally built with concrete or steel. Onetai will be the first to mark a return to more sustainable design, with timber beams and deck.

“We’re hoping to make this the new norm, so while it might seem like a minor project, it marks a groundbreaking shift in design for

bridge replacements on state highways,” he said.

The new Onetai Bridge is designed to last at least 100 years, linking the greater Waikato region with the Coromandel Peninsula. Its replacement will add to the resilience and safety of this route, as the new design will be stronger and wider than the old bridge, Mr Campbell said.

The new design will be the same length as the old one, but will be 3m wider, and will boast extra safety features.

These include a new type of side barrier which can be fitted right to the outside edge of the bridge, and therefore gives drivers more lane space, helping reduce the risk of head-on crashes.

The bridge will have simple concrete foundations, and new scour protection both upstream and downstream. Scour, which happens when water flows change or rivers flood, is a leading cause of bridge failure.

In the meantime, Onetai Stream Bridge remained safe to use, Mr Campbell said.

“Once the detailed design is completed, we’ll be able share more information about construction and timing,” he said.



Angela Brutnall, left, and Jenni Baines with their winning artworks.

By GORDON PREECE

Art award winners announced

By GORDON PREECE

Six winners were announced at this year’s annual Paeroa Society of Arts awards on April 5.

President Jenni Baines told *The Profile* the awards were designed for members of the Normanby Rd society to showcase their artworks.

“It was a joyous evening, and there was a feeling of warmth of what was happening in our community,” she said.

The awards were separated

into six categories, including pottery, painting, other media, the Heather Dobson Creativity Award, the Dawn Elliott Encouragement Award and a specialist category.

The other media category could include feltwork, photography, stained glass and jewellery, and the Heather Dobson and Dawn Elliott awards are named after former members of the art society.

The specialist category chosen this year was under the sea after a tidal wave of positive response

to the idea by the committee.

The winners included Angela Brutnall for painting and other media, Jenni Taris for pottery, Anne Stuart for under the sea, Jenni Baines for the Heather Dobson Creativity Award, and Jill Skerrit for the Dawn Elliott Encouragement Award.

Jenni said the judges included Hauraki Mayor Toby Adams and Paeroa potter Mike O’Donnell.

“The judges were incredibly happy and pleased with the talent that we’ve got,” she said.



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SUDOKU

97

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

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

EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

HARD

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

MEDIUM

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

EASY

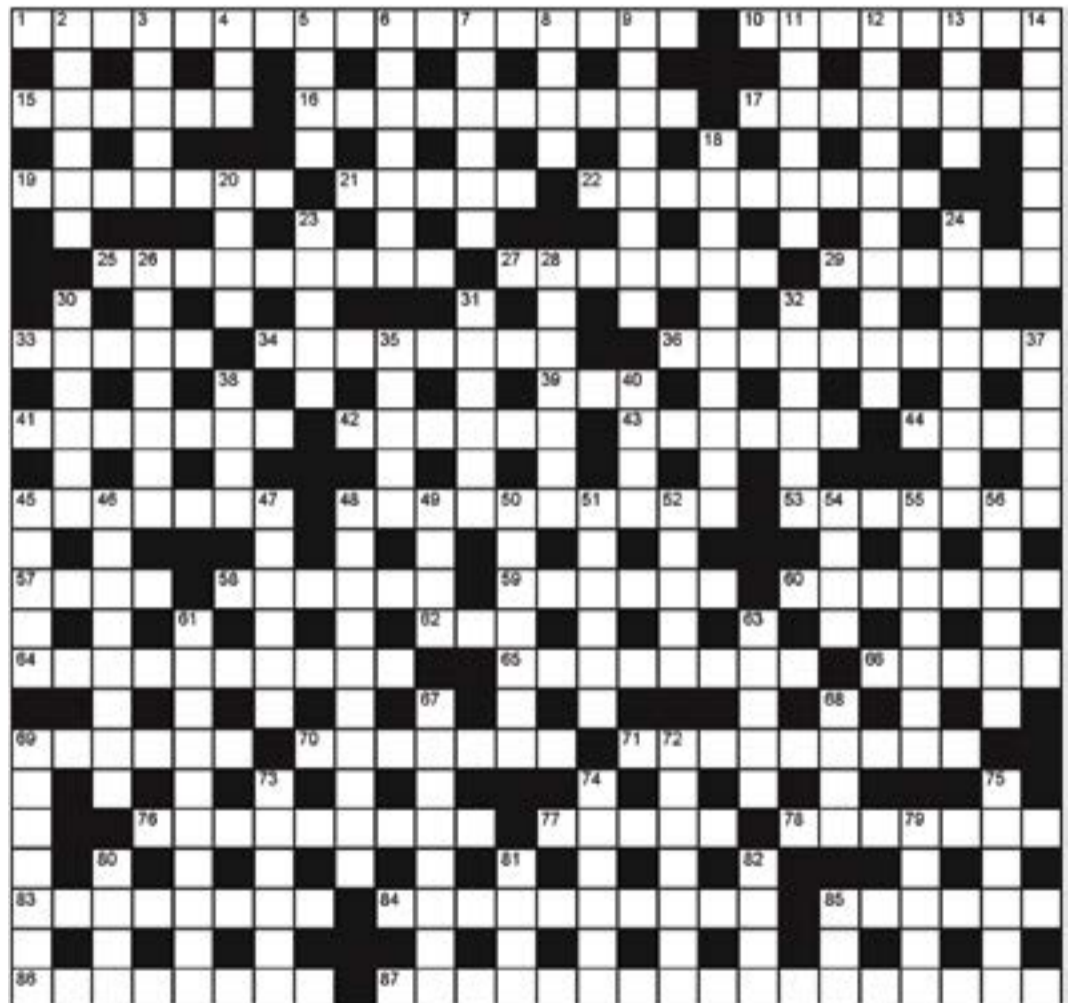
9	7	3	4	1	8	6	5	2
4	8	5	6	9	2	3	1	7
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5	3	8	9	2	7	1	4	6
2	4	9	5	6	1	8	7	3
6	1	7	3	8	4	2	9	5
7	6	2	1	4	5	9	3	8
3	9	1	8	7	6	5	2	4
8	5	4	2	3	9	7	6	1

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JUMBO CROSSWORD

117

- ACROSS**
- 1 Do as one pleases yet escape punishment or censure (3,4,4,6)
 - 10 Divides in three (8)
 - 15 Woman's garment (6)
 - 16 Snapshot (10)
 - 17 Agenda (8)
 - 19 Pickling liquid (7)
 - 21 Dense (5)
 - 22 Singers (9)
 - 25 Reckless (9)
 - 27 Inquisitive (7)
 - 29 Picturesque (6)
 - 33 Annoyed (5)
 - 34 Intrude unlawfully (8)
 - 36 Speed up (10)
 - 39 Vase (3)
 - 41 Voyage (7)
 - 42 Jacket (6)
 - 43 Utter foolishness (6)
 - 44 Evil giant (4)
 - 45 Climbs (7)
 - 48 Lure (10)
 - 53 Freedom (7)
 - 57 Female relation (4)
 - 58 Violent local storm (6)
 - 59 Large country property (6)
 - 60 Ship's hooter (7)
 - 62 Moose (3)
 - 64 Enhanced (10)
 - 65 Innocuous (8)
 - 66 Dark wood (5)
 - 69 Titillate (6)
 - 70 Declare free from blame (7)
 - 71 Strike back (9)
 - 76 Choice (9)
 - 77 Domestic cat (5)
 - 78 Garb (7)
 - 83 Almanac (8)
 - 84 Genealogical chart (6,4)
 - 85 Handbook (6)
 - 86 Remove poison from (8)
 - 87 Refuse to do, no matter how great the reward (3,3,4,2,5)
- DOWN**
- 2 Oblong cream puff (6)
 - 3 Tickle (5)
 - 4 Unreturnable serve (3)
 - 5 Cried (4)
 - 6 Double (7)
 - 7 Short-sightedness (6)
 - 8 Very uncommon (4)
 - 9 Elation (8)
 - 11 Gun kick (6)
 - 12 Glasses (10)
 - 13 Inkling (4)
 - 14 Varnish (7)
 - 18 Author's text submitted for publication (10)
 - 20 Friend in war (4)
 - 23 Mound of stones as a monument (5)
 - 24 Darkroom apparatus (8)
 - 26 Watch (7)
 - 28 Sudden rise (7)
 - 30 Mistakes (6)
 - 31 Japanese battle cry (6)
 - 32 Writing implement (6)
 - 35 Hairdresser's premises (5)
 - 37 Foe (5)
 - 38 Fuse together (4)
 - 40 African river (4)
 - 45 Flooded (5)
 - 46 Persuade (8)
 - 47 Book, film continuing a previous story (6)
 - 48 Make even worse (10)
 - 49 Ceramic slab (4)
 - 50 Russian playwright (7)
 - 51 Fully ripe (6)
 - 52 Of birth (5)
 - 54 Worshipped image (4)
 - 55 Show (7)
 - 56 Crowd (6)
 - 61 Talkative person (10)
 - 63 Normal (5)
 - 67 US state (8)
 - 68 Window ledge (4)
 - 69 Relished (7)
 - 72 Trade ban (7)
 - 73 Trigger (3,3)
 - 74 Attorney (6)
 - 75 Argument (6)
 - 79 Ballroom dance (5)
 - 80 Hops-drying kiln (4)
 - 81 Minor quarrel (4)
 - 82 Yield (4)
 - 85 Impair (3)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Renal, 4 Symptoms, 9 Detach, 14 Tibia, 15 Sight for sore eyes, 17 Close, 18 Din, 19 Girders, 20 Secateurs, 21 Decree, 24 Thesaurus, 25 Pieces, 26 Genius, 29 Pessimists, 31 Rye, 32 Slogan, 33 Bias, 35 Awe, 37 Plea, 39 Newlyweds, 40 Chipolata, 41 Exude, 42 Tapestry, 47 Forehead, 51 Cells, 55 Nostalgia, 56 Personnel, 58 Sate, 59 Ash, 60 Chic, 61 Decays, 62 Eat, 63 Sacrosanct, 66 Credit, 67 Stymie, 69 Respected, 72 Eleven, 73 Scarecrow, 75 Custard, 77 Tin, 80 Salvo, 81 By leaps and bounds, 82 Eyrie, 83 Ornate, 84 Reporter, 85 Thief.

DOWN: 2 Eliminate, 3 Aphid, 5 Yarn, 6 Pioneer, 7 One-way street, 8 Style, 9 Deserve, 10 Tack, 11 Cooper, 12 Abode, 13 Manners, 14 Terrier, 16 Forget-me-not, 22 Warsaw, 23 Rejoice, 24 To spare, 25 Please, 27 Imitate, 28 Casino, 30 Styx, 32 Serum, 34 Shard, 36 Bole, 38 Lea, 42 Tonic, 43 Piscine, 44 Snag, 45 Rugged, 46 Alias, 48 Rule of thumb, 49 Husband, 50 Aft, 51 Canasta, 52 Sphere, 53 Writer's cramp, 54 Boss, 57 Nickel, 64 Cartridge, 65 Diverse, 66 Chatter, 68 Macabre, 70 Sponsor, 71 Feeler, 72 Entry, 74 Ruler, 76 Tough, 78 Coma, 79 Once.

SPORTS

'Hauraki's Hardest' ready to rumble

By GORDON PREECE

A rigorous training schedule while caring for three children and dealing with animal carcasses is Francis Waitai's determination as he prepares for an upcoming boxing title fight.

The Paeroa-based New Zealand Super Middleweight Champion will go toe to toe with the current Queensland champion for the same weight class, Tangiariki Mauri on May 6 at YMCA Hamilton.

A win would earn Francis, who's nicknamed Hauraki's Hardest, the World Boxing Council Australasia Silver Super Middleweight title.

Francis, who gave a boxing demonstration at Goldfields Mall on April 14, told *The Profile* he was "feeling good" ahead of his clash with Mauri, a man he admits to be a friend outside the ring but not in the ring.

"Training's going well, starting to feel fit and strong, nearing up to it anyway," he said. "As long as I'm fit and strong enough then nothing will be able to stop me."

"Getting this title would put me up there in the world rankings so it would mean a lot."

Francis, who said he currently sits around 190 in the world rankings, said he trained roughly three hours a day after work at Silver Fern Farms in Te Aroha and as much as he could in between time with his kids, Casius, Hoani and Louki.



Francis Waitai will step into the ring for an Australasian championship title on May 6.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

"I stick to it everyday and do the best that I can do, and work towards my goals," he said.

"My partner [Ngaz Tamanui] helps out a lot as well all the way."

Francis's training includes

pad work, shadow boxing, body-weight exercises and sparring at Never Surrender Boxing Health and Fitness Club in Thames as well as sprints, running up and down the Paeroa Grandstand

steps and running a combined distance of around 40km per week.

The 27-year-old said he became hooked on boxing in 2013 when he visited Never Surrender

with friends. "Once I went in I thought I would never leave, I loved it," he said.

"I really liked the training and then one day coach [Shaun George] told me if I was keen to have a fight and I said yes."

Francis said his first fight was held in Thames at an event called Chaos on the Coromandel in 2014 and he had gone on to compete in more than 50 amateur fights plus eight professional fights since turning pro in 2019.

His most notable professional fight was last year when he convincingly beat Chase Haley from Dunedin to scalp the New Zealand Super Middleweight Championship title.

"It was a big deal for me at first, it was cool, never see anything like this around here anyway," Francis said.

"I owe a lot to my trainer Shaun George, without him I would've never got to where I am right now in the ring fighting for these titles."

"He has a big part to play in all this, he's got a lot of passion for it."

Francis also thanked his sponsors for supporting him on his boxing journey.

He has defended his Super Middleweight Championship title three times and looked forward to potentially loosening the belt to make way for a new one come at the World Boxing Council Australasia Silver Super Middleweight title on May 6.

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