Porritt Park design approved, ongoing costs unknown, P2

The Valley

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Hot to trot

A small ginger horse has captured the hearts of more than 260,000 social media followers around the world with his Waihī adventures. FULL STORY, P8

> Geoffry the Conqueror, currently based on a Waikino farm, makes waves worldwide with his antics. Photo: KATE BASKOVA



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### LETTERS

#### **CREATE THE VIBE ARTICLE** Dear Teresa Ramsey.

The Valley Profile's half-page piece on 21 June with the headline Create the Vibe survey 'too hard to find' was based sole-

ly on the comments of two individuals. The reporter approached our council for background information on the survey methodology and at that time was urged not to base an article solely on the comments of people who had approached the paper with their complaint.

The reporter didn't attempt to use basic techniques of journalism to report on how other members of the community have found out about the survey. One of the individuals quoted was able to find the survey, despite her criticism

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### Park design approved, ongoing costs unknown

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

Landscape design plans have been approved for Porritt Park's new destination playground, but the Thames Community Board has yet to decide how much ratepayers will fork out in depreciation costs.

Ongoing operational and maintenance costs of approximately \$6.45 a year per ratepayer are already expected to be included in the district's rates, according to a report updating the board on the project's progress.

However, the cost of depreciation is still up in the air, depending on whether the board opts to fully or partially fund depreciation, or not account for depreciation at all.

If the depreciation is fully funded by ratepayers, all playground equipment will be able to be replaced at the end of its lifespan. Partial funding means

of it being hard to find. That individual

is an active opponent of the project and

does not necessarily reflect a general

view in Thames. The other comment

was from an anonymous shopkeeper,

who made a comment about the length

of time the survey is open. These two

comments do not justify the headline

or such a prominent article. In fact, the

opposite of it being hard to find is true.

es - one of the highest responses ever.

The vast majority of these responses

(1374) were made online. In addition,

our researcher interviewed 83 people

face to face. This is one of the highest

totals ever for our consultations - nearly

three times the number the people who

Our survey had 1457 survey respons-

the council will have to make decisions about which pieces of equipment to remove at the end of its life and which to replace, potentially reducing the appeal of the space as a 'destination playground'. Without depreciation funding, expired pieces of equipment will simply be removed with nothing replacing them.

According to the report presented at the board's June 21 meeting, if the board opts to fund depreciation for the playground in full, it could cost an estimated \$13.83 per annum per ratepayer. The total cost per ratepayer could be around \$20.28 per annum, including operational costs.

This is an increase from previous cost increase estimates by the Thames Coromandel District Council. In a September 2022 meeting, the board received a report estimating the operational costs to be \$4.50 per annum, with potential depreciation costs of \$12.80 a year. Thames councillor Robyn Sin-

Thames councillor Robyn Sinclair said at the latest meeting that depreciation costs for the playground would not be a completely new charge for ratepayers, as the existing playground also required maintenance and depreciation payments.

depreciation payments. "We have already been paying depreciation, we have already been paying [operational costs], so yes this is a charge, but it is not a brand new \$20.28 charge," she said. The board opted to defer its

The board opted to defer its decision on depreciation costs, recommending instead that the costs be decided in the next long-term plan cycle for the district.

The playground landscape plan, meanwhile, was approved by the board. It includes a bespoke boat and lighthouse play feature inspired by the replica Wakatere Paddle Steamer, which stood on the site between 1969 and 2017. It also features an accessible seesaw and carousel, a nature play area, scooter track, basketball court, barbecue facility and an accessible 'Changing Places' toilet facility. Some existing features, such as the swings and skate park, will remain.

Council parks and open spaces manager Derek Thompson told board members the new playground would ideally be suitable for play by Christmas, with landscape planting to be completed next winter.

completed next winter. The playground project has a budget of \$2 million. An initial \$1.5 million was donated to the council in 2022 by an anonymous donor, and an additional \$500,000 was approved by the council to cover potential cost increases.

The Thames Business Association has been charged with raising the additional funds.





An artist's impression of the approved layout for the new destination playground at Thames' Porritt Park.

Image: SUPPLIED/TCDC

Send your letters to the editor: editor@valleyprofile.co.nz or 2 Queen St, Paeroa, 3600. Letters must include your full name and address, be 250 words or less and may be edited, abridged or rejected at the editor's discretion.

aquatic and sports facilities for Thames. We are very pleased with this response and we hope that the Valley Profile's reporting in its next issue will reflect it. - Andrew Boden, Thames-Coromandel District Council infrastructure pro-

ject delivery manager

#### VALLEY PROFILE RESPONSE

Our story about the Create the Vibe survey was fair and balanced, with comment from both the opponents of the Vibe, who had concerns about the availability and timing of the survey, and comments from council, which was given the opportunity to respond to those concerns and asked for additional information about the survey. This story represented both sides of the issue, and also helped bring information about the survey to light for those who may not be subscribers to council's email newsletter or may have missed it.

I stand by my journalist's reporting of this issue, as all stories in the awardwinning *Valley Profile* are approved and edited by me. I qualified as a journalist in 1995 and have worked for some of the biggest publications in New Zealand.

In that time, I have never been "urged" by a council to write a story in a certain way such as in the emails our reporter received from council prior to publication.

I also understand the "basic techniques of journalism", which include gathering information and comment from those who represent a sector of the community, such as Sheryl McConnell, who previously presented council with a petition containing more than 640 signatures.

She had a genuine concern that the survey may not reach those who would like to have their say. This was also expressed to me in person by many members of the public. Without the presence of a scientific survey, it would be impossible to know how many members of the community knew about the survey. However, I expect recent coverage by local media outlets, such as *The Profile* and local radio stations, also helped inform the community about the survey, contributing to the high response.

- Teresa Ramsey, Valley Profile manaaina editor

Thames Tides													
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### From Thames to the Pacific for Dame Teuila

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

For Dr Teuila Percival, the health and wellbeing of Pacific people, particularly children, has been a life-long passion. The newly-appointed Dame Companion of the New Zealand

Order of Merit has spent her ca-reer caring for the Pacific community.

"I grew up in Thames, and my mum and dad were radiog-raphers at Thames Hospital," Dame Teuila said.

'Back in those days there was a real sort of community feel to the hospital. I used to go after school and hang around the department.

Medicine was a comfortable space, she said, and when she developed an interest in science, going to medical school was the

obvious choice of career. "I love clinical work, it's my main job," Dame Teuila said.

"I'm a front line paediatrician, I work at Middlemore in ED and in the wards.

The Samoan health-care pro-vider, who now lives in Auckland, has spent years researching and developing Pacifika-centric healthcare programmes and services. She was a founding member of South Seas Healthcare in Ōtara and the Pacific Medical Association.

She was also involved with the start-up and running of several community services, including a child obesity clinic, Mana Kids school clinics, Moana Connect and school nursing programmes.



Dr Teuila Percival is now a Dame Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit, following her recognition in the **King's Birthday Honours** Photo: SUPPLIED

"When I started off as a young doctor there was very little awareness or involvement of Pacific people in their own health and the development of healthcare for themselves," Dame Teui-

la said. "[These programmes] work re-ally well with Pacific families and high-need families and they provide really good care for them.

"The outstanding example is the Covid-19 pandemic and how

the Pacific community and the providers really worked together. They were kind of left out of the initial planning but once they be-came involved and got resourced they stood up fantastic services.

"Pacific people had really, re-ally high vaccination rates, they set up services where they looked after Covid patients in the home, they had a huge centre for immunisation, they did really fantastic testing and tracing for their own

community." Dame Teuila has been no stranger to other disaster events either.

She spends time every year working in clinics in Niue, Sa-moa, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and other Pacific Islands, and a few times found herself stationed in the midet of a crisic midst of a crisis.

"I've developed an interest in responding to disasters from a doctor's point of view. I've

worked in the 2009 tsunami Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu, so I'm really interested in how we look after children in disasters. And that's really important to New Zealand too because we're get-ting more and more extreme weather events [here].

Countries like Tuvalu often have very limited resources, she said, and it's a different kind of medicine.

"You have to go back to the old fashioned clinical skills you might have had when you were a young doctor, and you don't have CT scans down the corridor like you do here.

"You have to be prepared to practise medicine in a different way ... and work pretty hard."

Dame Teuila said the work was always very enjoyable no matter where she happened to be, and that was in large part due to the people. "I always find a great sense of

collegiality in whatever I do, no matter what the context. So work might be hard, but it's nice work

because you've got good people that you work with," she said. Her praise for the people ex-tended beyond the workplace too, with the acknowledgement of her family of her family.

"We can't do anything without our family, they're a big team that you return to when times are tough or when times are really good, so I am always very grateful for my family and the support they give me.'

Journalism ing raying a **١** 

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## Kapa haka fun

Goldfields School hosted students from Tauranga, Hamilton North and Rotorua specialist schools for its inaugural kapa haka festival on June 20. A performance from Paeroa Central School students kicked off the event, which was held at the Elim Church in Paeroa with friends and family.



Rotorua students wow the crowd with their polished performance.



Paeroa Central students open the festival with a strong performance.



Goldfields School students have fun with their poi during an item.



Hamilton North students enjoy their performance.



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### ommunity treasurer treasures new honour

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

For years, Peggy Barriball has been the go-to treasurer for organisations in Waitakaruru and Thames. Now, the long-time Justice of the Peace (JP) and budget services advisor has a new set of initials to add after her name: QSM.

Peggy was awarded a Queen's Service Medal in this year's King's Birthday honours for her services to the community. And there have been a lot of them.

Since moving to the Hauraki Plains in 1971, she has been involved with the NZ Plunket Society, Waitakaruru Playcen-Society, Waitakaruru Playcen-tre Association, Western Firth Catchments Group Trust, Fam-ily Safety Services Trust, Seagull Centre Trust, Thames Valley Special Olympics, Waitakaruru Community Hall Committee, Waitakaruru School Calf Club, Hauraki Plains Agricultural Club Group Day Treasury Research Group Day, Treasury Research Centre and Archive, A Place at the Table Trust, and Trust Wai-kato. She is or was the treasurer

for many of these groups. She has also been a JP for 13 years and a budget financial advisor at Thames Budgetary Services for 16 years. There's proba-bly more, she said; over the years she's been involved with many different areas of the community.

'As my aunt always said, 'if you want something done, ask a busy

person'," Peggy said. "And as my daughter says, 'you've got to learn to say no'!" Peggy said she has always



Peggy Barriball has received a Queen's Service Medal for services to the community.

loved numbers, as well as helping people. "I find organisations have trou-

ble getting treasurers, and so I've been able to help them out in that way," she said. "Funding's always an issue. But

your best asset in any organisa-tion's always your people."

Each of the causes are some-thing close to Peggy's heart. Plun-ket and Playcentre were there for her when she was new to the area with a young family.

"The Plunket Society and supporting the young mums is very important. Especially around here in the rural areas," she said. here in the rural areas," she said. "Young mums probably feel a bit of isolation, especially if they don't have the support of their

family around them." School groups came later on, as her own children and then grandchildren grew up. Even now, she's remained involved with the

"Yeah, they keep calling me

back to do things. Which is great! I'm the [calf club] chief recorder now.

Peggy's service with the JP Association was also instigated by someone asking her to join. She established a JP service desk in Ngatea to provide notary services to the rural community in Hau-

"The JPs are a really good group of people to work with. You meet lots of different people with that too.

"We set up the service and we've got one in Ngatea, one in Thames and I think Whitianga, Waihī. And that's so that ... there's a regular date, a regular time a JP will be there."

With her love of figures, work-

With her love of figures, work-ing at Thames Budgeting Servic-es was also a natural step. "If you help somebody get out of the financial ... it's a real bo-nus. A lot of them you can't but just the one every now and then ..." will be a great success

And no matter what she was involved with, there was always something new to learn, and new people to help. "My eight years on Trust Wai-

kato ... the communities that we went around to and seeing what they were doing and what they needed - yeah, I learnt a lot from that," she said. "Mind you, I've learnt a lot

from every organisation. It's continuous, you can never stop. "You can't be successful with-

Any success you have is a team effort, it's not just a personal one.

Receiving the Queen's Service Medal, Peggy said, was also a team effort, with her family heavily involved in community service as well. "I wish to thank the person or

persons who nominated me for this award. As you know I don't get to find out who this is but to think they consider me worthy of the award is very humbling.

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# eputy chief fire officer and JP honoured

#### **BV GORDON PREECE**

Derek Collier was "totally blown away" upon being honoured for his community service.

The Whitianga Volunteer Fire Brigade deputy chief and Justice of the Peace [JP] received the Queen's Service Medal in the 2023 King's Birthday and Coronation Honours for services to Fire and Emergency New Zealand and the community.

Derek, who has lived in Whitianga for six decades, said his honour was an appreciation of the work his fellow brigade and JP members do for the town.

"I was totally blown away and thought to myself I'm sure there's other people who deserve it far more than I do," he said.

"It's definitely not something that I have done all by myself, it's the other members of the brigade, the other JPs in town, and especially my family.

"If anyone probably deserves this award, it's probably my wife Jenny, who is also extremely involved in the local community.

Derek said he first suited up at Whitianga Volunteer Fire Brigade in 1987.

the Queen's Fire Service Medal,

and he was also the president of

the United Fire Brigades' Asso-

'That gave me a little bit of

ciation," he said.

My grandfather, [Douglas Butcher], was the chief fire officer of the Stratford Fire Bri-



Derek Collier, QSM, said his honour was dedicated to the Whitianga Volunteer Fire Brigade and the Justices of the Peace in Whitianga Photo: SUPPLIED needed a couple of extra people

involved and I was approached

by them and I said yes, and the

Derek said he had been heav-

rest is historv

ficer for nearly 20 years prior to being appointed its deputy chief in 2018.

He also competed in New Zealand and Australia with the brigade's road crash rescue

gade is the biggest thing, it's like a big family... we all work well with each other and it's a great community group to be part of," he said.

"We were obviously well recognised when we had Cyclone Gabrielle come through earlier this year, our boys were very busy for a couple of days but it's just being a part of the community, helping the community when the community is in need.

The 61-year-old said he had also served as one of 14 Whitianga JPs from his sports retail store on the main street for 18 years.

He is regularly involved with the Hauraki Justice of the Peace Association, mentoring newly appointed JPs and contributing to education sessions held in Whitianga.

"[In 2004] some of the local JPs were finding the workload was getting too much and they approached me and asked If would be interested in helping the JP society to relieve the workload," he said.

"Myself and all the other JPs in Whitianga do a fair bit of work around the area.

Derek said he also flew commercially for ten years with Mercury Airlines, which operated an emergency air ambulance service, transporting patients to Auckland.



# Restoring justice life's work for Shirley

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

For Dr Shirley Jülich, her justice has had a very personal bent. Now, she's been recognised by the Crown for her work, as an officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit.

The Whitianga resident has been a champion of restorative justice since the mid-1990s, helping survivors of sexual abuse experience a sense of justice during their journey to recovery.

Having been a victim of child sexual abuse herself, Shirley said the most helpful part of her recovery process wasn't the court hearings, but the family meeting her father held, where the perpetrator was made to take accountability for his actions.

"When I thought back about all of that ... I just thought the thing that gave me an experience of a sense of justice was a family meeting that my father had convened, and the only thing that was wrong with it was that it had no follow up," Shirley said.

"When I had just started my PhD, I thought, 'that's what I think would be good to find out about, what other survivors thought', so that's what drove my research."

Shirley's research led to



Dr Shirley Jülich, ONZM, has spent her career helping victims of sexual abuse find a sense of justice and closure. Photo: SUPPLIED

Project Restore, an initiative offering a survivor-led restorative approach to addressing sexual violence. The organisation holds meetings or hui between the offender and victim, along with support people and specially trained facilitators, to directly address the harm done.

"That's what victims want. They want to tell their story in a safe forum. If they go to court, they don't often get the opportunity to tell their story," Shirley said.

"They want to hear the offender take on responsibility and demonstrate accountability. And they want to feel vindicated that there has been some censure against the offender.

"That will then give them a sense of justice. And a sense of justice, of course, is one of the prerequisites for having a sense of closure to be able to move Project Restore is accredited by the Ministry of Justice, and receives referrals from the courts for anyone who pleads guilty to a sexual violence case. "We've got I believe a gold

on."

standard type programme addressing sexual violence," Shirley said.

"And we also have some funding to allow some community referrals. "It's interesting to know that more than 90 per cent of us will report our car stolen, but only 10 per cent of us will report our bodies violated. So that funding is in recognition that the majority of survivors of sexual violence don't report their experience to anybody."

Project Restore was now seen as a leader in the field, Shirley said, and she was proud of everything the programme had achieved.

"We have the mechanism in law that allows us, it's not an alternative system - it's an extra layer to justice. That's the restorative part. I'm really proud. I'm proud that my research is being accessed through the [Massey University] library.

"It's exciting that people are using my work."

Shirley, who is an associate professor at Massey University, said the public hadn't always been so accepting of her work. "Back in the 90s, whenever there was anything in the paper about my work you'd get emails putting us down... it was appalling," she said. "[Lately] I haven't had a

"[Lately] I haven't had a thing so ... I wonder if the public has grown up. I think it's a little change in attitude.

"I just think, what a difference to the 90s."





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### Miniature horse ropes in social media herd

**By GORDON PREECE** 

A small ginger horse who is hot to trot has conquered more than 260,000 social media followers

Geoffry the Conqueror, who is currently based at a Waikino farm, has touched the hearts of many around the world for his courage to cross kilometres of coastline, swim in deep water, and tackle bushland.

Owner Rachael Jenks told The *Profile* the Facebook page that had now roped in more than 260,000 followers since it was established in 2017, was "almost too much for my brain to com-prehend" prehend".

prehend". "It was definitely unexpected - it was just a thing that some friends had suggested when he used to come to horse camps and stuff and they were like, 'oh, he's so cute, you should start a Facebook'," she said. "I remember when L got to 200

"I remember when I got to 200 likes and I was like, oh my gosh that's so many likes, imagine 200 people in the same room... and now it's [260,000], that's almost too much for my brain to comprehend, but it's cool.

Rachael said she had also sold calendars featuring images of Geoffry and his "sidekick" Dou-gal the donkey for four or five

years. "I sold 1000 a couple of years ago, and every year their numbers go up. I send them to America, Canada, Sweden, Switzerland, and random places I haven't even heard of," she said.

Rachael said she assumed the images of Geoffry the Conqueror galloping in New Zealand's envi-

ronment won people over. "People absolutely love the New Zealand scenery and just the freedom that Geoffry represents," she said.

"In my videos, there's always a horse or two running free with Geoffry, he's got his little sidekick, Dougal the donkey, or sometimes my two horses are running free. People just can't fathom that life if they're living overseas in apartments or whatever

"Even if people do own horses,



they don't have the same freedom to run free on beaches, and it's just that free life that people just love to see, horses running

and enjoying what they do." Rachael said she purchased Geoffry the Conqueror off Trade Me in 2011 while she was living in her hometown, Katikati. "I was never allowed a min-

iature horse, my mum and dad said no, and they went away on holiday for ... about four days and I rang up mum to tell her that I saw [Geoffry] on Trade Me," she said. "I was like 'you know that miniature horse that is at the neighbours place, it's on Trade Me, I'm going to buy it', and they just sort of laughed it off, and they came home and there were little muddy hoofprints through the house.

"They were like, 'ah, you've bought that horse haven't you', and I had bought the horse with the emergency \$200 they had left me for food.'

Rachael said Geoffry the Con-ueror "makes their day" for aueror those who encounter him.

"I'll be walking along [Waihī Beach] and look back and there's

Beach] and look back and there's a child walking along with Geof-fry and Dougal," she said. "People will comment that [Geoffry has] made my day be-cause if they look like they want to approach, we'll stop and let them pat them and they'll say they're very friendly and give them a scratch. them a scratch.

"I've taken them to old people's homes as well, and all the old people have a story about how they used to ride to school on a horse and 'there was usually five of us on a horse but much bigger than this horse', but it ab-solutely makes their day as well because it keeps the memories for them.

DETAILS: Follow Geoffry at: facebook.com/geoffrytheconqueror.



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the Conqueror.

### Rural Life 105k attend Fieldays

Fieldays, the largest agricultural event in Southern Hemisphere, has just wrapped its 55th year.

With an audience comprising of both newcomers and Fieldays stalwarts, the event once again demonstrated a remarkable level of engagement and connectedness, organisers say. With this being the first winter event

with the international borders open since 2020, Fieldays brought together individuals, business leaders and decision makers from various corners of the globe, to create invaluable relationships and partnerships that will facilitate knowledge-sharing and champion New Zealand-led innovation.

"It's been a truly wonderful four days," New Zealand National Fieldays Society chief executive Peter Nation said.

"When the gates opened on a Wednesday morning under a blanket of fog and sun and positivity on the horizon, the buzz was great, and you could feel the positivity and excitement within hours of opening. "In the face of economic and regu-

latory changes ahead for the primary sector, there was a profound spirit of camaraderie and buoyancy" Mr Nation

said. "With just over 105,000 attendees through the gates in the past four days, it had a different feel to our audience at the end of the last year". A number of the 75,000 who came

through in November, only six months prior, were newcomers to Fieldays

"To be welcoming back many of those who hadn't been here since 2021 was humbling.

"Effectively we have welcomed over

**NEW HONDA** 



Crowds flock to Fieldays at Mystery Creek. Photo: SUPPLIED/FIELDAYS

170,000 to Fieldavs in just 12 months. Once again Fieldays provided the ul-timate platform to showcase New Zealand's agricultural excellence, he said.

"The event served as a compelling testament to the unwavering resolve and determination of the agricultural community.

"Like the main event, the Fieldays In-novation Awards celebrated their 55th anniversary proving that the sector has a huge runway for growth and driving the primary sector forward." Planning is already underway for

Fieldays 2024, building on the success-

rieldays 2024, building on the success-es of the past week. The dedicated Fieldays team are looking forward to welcoming every-one back to Mystery Creek in twelve months' time, from Wednesday, June 12 to Saturday June 15.

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### Rural Life Climate policy welcomed

Federated Farmers gives the recently an-nounced National Party climate policy "five stars", the farming organisation's president Wayne Langford says.

"We released a rural roadmap outlining our 12 key policy priorities for restoring farmer confidence this election.

That roadmap included a clear call for the next government to urgently review our methane reduction targets, support the better use of technologies, and to re-think our ETS forestry rules," Mr Langford

said. "We're really pleased to see the National Party have picked up on those important issues and are making commitments to put in place solutions that will work for farmers. It shows that they've been listen-ing to farmers."

ing to farmers' concerns." National's climate change spokesper-son Simon Watts said around half of New Zealand's greenhouse gas emissions came from agriculture.

"Finding a sustainable pathway to re-duce agricultural emissions, when we are among the most emission efficient farmers in the world, without decimating our most important economic sector is a ma-jor long-term challenge for New Zealand," he said.

"National is up for that challenge and that is why... we announced we will re-move the ban on gene technologies, which will help give farmers the tools they need to reduce methane emissions through gene edited crops, feed, and livestock. "National supports the recognition of

on-farm sequestration, allowing landowners to earn Emissions Trading Scheme credits through other forms of carbon capture besides tree planting, such as re-storing wetlands. This will reward those who put effort into removing carbon from

the atmosphere and bring us closer to our emission targets.

Langford said farmers would be particularly pleased to see a firm commitment to review the current unscientific and unrealistic methane reduction targets that could only have been achieved through unacceptable reductions in sheep, beef and dairy production.

"Putting a price on emissions to drive blindly towards those targets would be absolutely devastating for farmers, rural communities and the New Zealand econ-omy," he said. "We can't just reduce emissions by farm-ing less and planting productive farmland

ing less and planting productive farmland in pine trees - we need to be looking to new technologies whether that be methane inhibitors, vaccines or gene-editing.

"New Zealand farmers are committed to doing our bit to stop additional warming, but the policies that support emissions reductions need to be pragmatic, sensible and fair," Langford said. DairyNZ said delaying agriculture emis-sions pricing until technology was in place

and targets reviewed was a step in the right direction. DairyNZ chair Jim van der Poel said if

a New Zealand government was going to price agricultural emissions, then the pricing system must be fair and practical for dairy farmers.

"Dairy farmers are already world leading – because of that, we need to continue to invest in new technology and mitigation options to hold that position," he said.

"Before any emissions pricing system is introduced, there must be clarity about emissions targets and how any pricing mechanism will work, along with how all these factors work together. "We must get the details right."

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Thirty five teams of rippa rugby players from around a dozen primary schools competed in the Thames Valley Rippa Rugby finals tournament at Paeroa Domain on June 21. A morning of rain turned the fields to mud, which added to the fun for some. **TERESA RAMSEY** caught some of the action.

### PORIS



Lola Harris, of Ngatea Primary School, tries her best to avoid having her tag ripped.



Te Puru School's Louie Dryden, 8, had some fun in the mud.



Mercury Bay Marlins have a break from the mud.



Hikutaia's Kiana Parata-Bidois defends her tag.

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Photos: TERESA RAMSEY



Netherton's Zeeva Hayes evades her opponent.



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### Trout breeding established |

THE OLD POST



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.

#### 1884

rout breeding on the Paeroa Trout breeding on the Paeroa Estate was a successful ven-ture for Geoffrey Maclean, who had received a large installment of 3000 ova from the Acclimatisation Society. At a consider-able sacrifice of time and with much perseverance, he suc-ceeded in stocking the creeks of the Paeroa, Horahora, and Okoroire districts with speckled

English brown trout. Two thousand five hundred fish hatched - a proportion rarely achieved in the province. In the fish house were hatching out troughs, which, instead of receiving the water one from the other, were supplied simultane-ously and independently of each other, avoiding the possibility of transmitting disease

In transporting the fish a dis-tance of nearly ten miles, tanks were placed on a dray and so arranged that a constant supply of water was kept flowing in at one end and out at the other.

Keeping the water perfectly still ensured the fish would sur-vive the journey. Although the



Trout fishing on the Waihou River. undertaking was more patriotic than profitable, settlers were en-

couraged to take part in this very deserving work. TARARU CAB MOOTED

When business obliged George Harcourt to walk to Tararu, he observed there was no cab on the Bank Corner at Grahamstown when he started at 11am and none on his arrival at 12.45pm. Was this road not worthy of having an advertised cab, say three times a day? he asked.

Residents might then have an opportunity of arriving on the asphalt with less than an inch of dirt on their boots. Four cabs usually stood either at Grahamstown or Shortland. People could never get them separate. He suggested that a spirited proprietor could organise a Tararu cab starting from the Corner, say at 9am, 12pm and 4pm and return 30 minutes later. "Kindly venti-late", he signed his letter to the editor.

#### **MIRACULOUS ESCAPE**

Messrs Bradley and Co dispatched their driver of the mail coach, Alf Rowe, to Thames from

Photo: SUPPLIED

Te Aroha in a light four wheel trap, recently purchased for this job, and known as a Gortland wagon, to which were attached a pair of smart bay horses.

All went well until a part of the road which lay right at the foot of the Karangahake gorge. Here there was a very sharp turn, in a place where the road was only 10 eet wide.

On the left hand side was a high bank; on the opposite was an almost perpendicular drop of some ten or twelve feet on to the creek bed. There was no protec-tion at all, from a bank or rail.

Just as the vehicle came round the corner one of the horses shied, and before the driver had time to avoid an accident, the whole vehicle went over the bank, the two occupants being pitched right across the creek ĥed.

One horse was killed and the wagon badly damaged, but the driver and passenger had a mi-raculous escape. Several alterations were urgently needed at this part of the road to make it safer for traffic.

### Youth trust seeks support

#### By GORDON PREECE

The Living Well Trust is host-ing a series of promotion stands at PaknSave Thames each Thursday in the coming weeks to boost financial support.

The trust provides youth work in primary and secondary schools in Thames and Paeroa to restore hope, instil an appre-ciation for life, and inspire posi-tive decisions towards a fulfilled life

Co-ordinator Michael Wilkes told *The Profile* the trust currently had a funding gap.

"If we can get regular people in the community supporting what we do financially, then it's just so much more sustainable than the traditional approach of looking for grants all the time," he said.

"I've been hoping to increase individual support by 40 to 50

grand a year, which feels like a big number but if we had 50 people giving ten bucks a week

we'll be getting there. "That money goes straight into the cost of programmes and then paying for staff time to pro-vide the programmes." Michael said the trust had

three current staff and planned to introduce another two to-

wards next year. "We've definitely got some interesting demand from a lot of people in schools locally but then also, there's other groups outside of the region that are wanting to explore taking on the programme," he said.

"There's lots of parents who see the value of what we do in their kids and we still get great feedback from parents." DETAILS: More information online at: livingwell.org.nz.



Michael Wilkes held the first of many Living Well Trust promotion stand outside PaknSave Thames on June 15. Photo: GORDON PREECE





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### **GET WARM STAY WARM**





A home can lose upwards of 30 per cent of its heat through windows.

#### indows. Photo: PIXABA

### Time to insulate your home

As temperatures drop, energy use, costs, and waste inevitably begin to rise. With the ever-increasing need to lower our carbon footprint, it makes sense for homeowners to consider various ways to lower their homes' energy consumption.

While you may have already considered investing in energy-efficient appliances and heat pumps, water heater insulation, and/or solar panels, you may well have overlooked a key aspect of your home that's in dire need of insulation. That aspect? Windows.

On average, a home can lose upwards of 30 per cent of its heat through windows alone. That's because glass is not inherently insular. The more windows a home has, the more energy will be lost. This also means that you as a homeowner will likely need to run your heating system at a higher temperature and/or for longer periods of time. In this case, it won't really matter how energy efficient your home might be

HEAT PUMP

CLEANING

in other areas, as whatever gains might be made will eventually be outweighed by the loss.

To combat this issue, be sure to check your windows' age, as older windows are generally less energy-friendly. You could also consider double-glazing your windows if they aren't already – or check if it might not be time to replace old double-glazed windows with newer ones.

You will also want to check window seals and joinery, as windows that don't seal well will not be able to effectively trap in heat. While wood frames tend to be the generally more effective option, this material is not as long-lasting. It may be beneficial for you to, instead, invest in aluminium joinery, as this material creates a good seal, looks stylish, and is 100 per cent recyclable.

stylish, and is 100 per cent recyclable. While the initial outlay might be high, the energy and associated cost savings associated with well-insulated windows are definitely worth it.

Mark Campbell

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# Simple ways to save money this winter

Consumer NZ, Warmer Kiwi Homes and the Electricity Authority have teamed up on a campaign to provide free and easy tips to help people keep their home warm and healthy this winter; and save up to \$500 in the process.

The campaign's headline is 'Find money in weird places', and it focuses on how everyone can make savings by making tiny changes.

Consumer's latest nationally representative survey shows three in five New Zealanders are concerned about the cost of energy.

"We know the cost-of-living is hitting many people hard," Consumer NZ chief executive Jon Duffy said.

"New Zealanders' wallets are having to stretch further than ever, and for some it's the first time they have had to worry about covering the essentials".

One place where everyone can make a saving is on their household energy costs. Check your power plan

All electricity is the same, no matter where you buy it from. You may as well get it for the cheapest price you possibly can.

the cheapest price you possibly can. "Make sure you are on the best plan for your household," Electricity Authority chief executive Sarah Gillies said.

"The more households shop around for electricity on a regular basis, the more electricity retailers improve their products, services and pricing.

vices and pricing. "Users of the Powerswitch comparison site, typically save between \$300 and \$400 per year when they change plan.

"It's a free and easy comparison service. It only takes a few minutes to enter your details and compare the plans and providers available," she said.

Get the most out of your heat pump

"Heat pumps are great for heating bigger or less well-insulated spaces, because the running costs are so low – but it pays to know how to get the most out of it and maintain it properly," Warmer Kiwi Homes manager Henry Nepia said.



"For anyone wanting to stay warm without breaking the bank, using a heat pump efficiently is a game-changer," he said.

Warmer Kiwi Homes offers government grants of 80 per cent of the cost of ceiling and underfloor insulation, and up to 80 per cent of the cost of an energy-efficient heater to eligible households. Cranking up the heat pump temperature

Cranking up the heat pump temperature on a cold day won't make it work faster, but it will make it work harder and cost more money.

If you tend to have the heat pump setting high, choosing to keep it at its optimum setting of between 19 and 21 degrees could save you up to \$320 a year.

Take a few minutes every two months to clean your heat pump filters. A clean heat pump will be more efficient and will save you money on your power bill. Switch off appliances at the wall when

you're not using them

If something is plugged in at the wall but not being used, it's probably still sucking up your power. Devices with a stand-by light are even more likely to be an unwanted drain on your household power bill. Take a few seconds to switch your appliances off at the wall – this could save you up to \$100 a year.

Shorten your showers to five minutes

A long hot shower provides a moment of bliss on a cold and blustery day. However it's useful to know that longer, 15-minute showers are surprisingly heavy on the wallet: about one dollar each. Cutting showers down to five minutes could save \$5 per person per week. Set a timer to help you keep your showers short.

Change your washing machine settings to cold wash

A cold wash performs well for a general-use wash and uses a quarter of the electricity per load than a warm wash.

A family doing four loads of laundry per week stands to save about \$50 per year by switching to a cold laundry setting.

Longer, 15-minute showers are surprisingly heavy on the wallet: about one dollar each. Cutting showers down to five minutes could save \$5 per person per week. Set a timer to help you keep your showers short. Photo: PIXABAY

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### Wrong heater could cost dearly

For many, making the leap to installing a heat pump is an expensive gamble. However, "understanding the pros and cons of heat pumps versus portable heaters can save users money in the long run", says Mark Milmine, owner of 100% Thames and Whitianga.

Portable heaters have their place. Understanding the basic costs and benefits of each type of portable heater could avoid a disappointing result.

Heat pumps are now well-established as the primary heat source for kiwi homes. Further, a heat pump can cool a room as well as heat it, allowing you to use it as an air conditioner. Before choosing a size, style or model of heat pump, you need to consider their pros, cons and cost-effectiveness.

Pros include: warm, dry and comfortable; lower heating costs (usually); dehumidifying; air filtering; cooling. Cons include: noise; not so good in low temperatures; draughts/ breeze; initial \$ outlay.

100% Thames and Whitianga only stock reputable brands of heat pumps, including Panasonic, Mitsubishi Electric and Fujitsu. A free, no-obligation quote is the only way to ensure the right model is selected to heat the target space efficiently.

Electric heaters can be expensive to run and aren't usually powerful enough to keep living areas warm. However, their low purchase price means they're often the best value for money in small spaces like the bedroom or study, or to provide a short-term boost for spaces heated by heat pump or wood fire.

Oil column heaters provide efficient and cost-effective heating for longer term use. Ideal for medium to large rooms needing constant temperature. Not useful for quick, targeted heating, however.



Oil column heaters provide efficient and cost-effective heating for longer term use, ideal for medium to large rooms needing constant temperature.

Oscillating tower fan heaters offer fast, even heating thanks to fan, large element and oscillation. Good for quickly heating an office or rumpus room.

Panel heaters are fast and quiet, they are ideal to warm up all objects and people in line with the radiant waves, providing a pleasant warmth.

Convection heaters provide fast heating for medium- to large-sized rooms and are perfect for rooms where occasional heating is required.

Personal fan heaters deliver instant directional heat. Ideal to quickly heat a space and/or provide directional warmth. Cheap to buy, often expensive to run long term.

The staff at 100% Thames and Whitianga are trained to assist customers in identifying their underlying needs and choosing a heating solution that is right for them. Leading brands include Dimplex and Delonghi – both recommended by Consumer NZ.

"Understanding the goals of the purchase – heating what? how quickly? for how long? - is critical in avoiding an expensive mistake," Mark says. - Supplied by 100% Thames and Whitianga



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### Garden growth slows down

We are almost to the middle of winter, and still experiencing some warm sunny days interrupted by some mild frosts. Growth in the garden is beginning to slow down which gives time for spring and summer planning. It is a nice time to witness the cheerful flowers begin to merge in the garden, camellias, leucadendrons, daphne and some blossoming shrubs to brighten our days.

If the soil is dry enough the empty spaces in the vegetable garden can be cultivated, fertilised with blood and bone and sheep pellets and then planted out. You can also apply a heavy dressing of compost and leave as a mulch on the surface to be dug in later if you don't want to plant straight away.

Sow your favourite veges like cauliflower, lettuce, potatoes, silverbeet, kale and cabbage. Protect where possible with cloches.

Continue harvesting carrots, cabbage, kale, leeks, lettuce, mesculun, rocket, silverbeet if lucky enough to have all this produce in your garden.

When planting new crops make sure you put plenty of slug bait and derris dust around the seedlings to protect from pests. In containers under shelter, plant seeds

of – broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce, onions, carrots, parsnips and beetroot.

In the flower garden now is the time to plant camellias, viburnum, hellebores, dianthus, leucadendrons, violets, daphne, kowhai and flowering kale.

In the fruit garden it is all about planting new season fruit trees and getting those strawberry plants in. Check for earliest signs of bud movement on early season plums and peaches. Inspect terminal leaf buds critically. Green tip sprays are vital for control of leaf curl and bladder plum infections. Apply copper oxychloride or similar. Prune your deciduous fruit trees now. Ensure that your cutting tools are clean and sharp and clean and protect cuts with a pruning paste.

Citrus – Harvest citrus using secateurs to prevent damage to the trees. Cold temperatures are responsible for intensifying skin colour but it doesn't necessarily indicate full maturity. Provide protection against cold. Grapes – Select the strongest growing canes when pruning. Cut out old wood which bore last season's fruit. Remove those which are thin and weak. Passionfruit – Apply copper oxychloride to protect against grease spot disease. Berry fruits-Complete pruning. Strawberries – Carefully cultivate around plants, side dress with a balanced NPK fertiliser. Mulch with either peas straw or pine needles.

Winter colour when the leaves change can be stunning and berries such as idesia, holly and pyracantha brighten the garden as well. To promote healthy rose bushes and a fabulous floral display, there are two simple steps to take during winter. Prune and Spray. Completely remove any dead stems (usually grey) then prune each stem to just above an outward facing bud.

Spray with Conqueror oil and Copper Oxychloride and again in 2 weeks time to help break the pest cycle. Cut up light pruning's and twigs from fruit trees and include in compost with lawn clipping and aerate if possible.

- Ngatea Garden Circle

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#### June 28, 2023, THE VALLEY PROFILE 21



#### ASSIFIEDS - Deadline 1pm Monday **Situations Vacant Trades & Services** TILER he Quality workmanship. Currently available. MEMORIA Enquiries ph Rob Ph 021 026 93064 **Trades & Services** C M **FENCING Incorporating Bronze Plagues NZ Ltd** CONTRACTOR Residential & Rural Person Extraordinaire Retaining walls & more Wanted now High quality workmanship Competitive prices The memorial company (formerly Peninsula Memorials) are relocating to new premises at Kopu from 21st of August and looking to fill a new exciting role. You will be the goto Customer Service Administrator plus the Personal Call Matt 021 1727 148 assistant to the busy Managing Director, ensuring orders are processed on time correctly and keeping the MD busy working on his well-established Wanted To Buy business with customers throughout N.Z. You will be a special person with attention to detail, good at admin tasks social media and a bright personality and great organisation skills with PA desires for efficiency. This role could suit school hours and flexible working days could be 20-25 hours per week to suit. Tell us why you would be a great person extraordinaire for us. Send us an e-mail and your CV. Wanted **Plucked Possum** Carcasses Possum Fur MP & HP \$100/Kg Chris Fraser Possum skins all sizes/colours **Managing Director** 1st & 2nds, The Memorial Company From \$10 - \$22 per skin **Bronze Plagues NZ** Ph: 07 579 9931 cf@pmthames.co.nz **Basically Bush Ltd** Situations Vacant **Situations Vacant** WANT TO JOIN THE HG LEACH TEAM? HAURAKI We're on the hunt for a **Quarry Operator** About the role: **Computer and** Full-time permanent position **SCADA Network Engineer** Involves operating across all three of our quarries Hauraki District Council is seeking an enthusiastic, Entry - intermediate level self-motivated Network Engineer. This position is to Full on the job training will be provided assist in the configuration and maintenance of . Applicants must have a Class 1 Council's SCADA Networks and Infrastructure to drivers licence ensure that our treatment plants and pump stations. Looking for someone with a are operating reliably. keen attitude, willingness to learn and ability to fit in with This role has the potential opportunity of transferring to a new entity under the affordable Water reform the family value approach at HG Leach The salary range for this role is between \$90,000 and \$100,000 per annum based on your releva If you'd like to learn more about experience and competencies the role or send us your CV, please contact jan@hgleach.co.nz To apply for these roles, please go to: or phone 0274 922 001 www.haurakidc.recruitmenthub.co.nz/Vacancies Applications close 17 July 2023 EACH, **Situations Vacant** "At Hauraki District Council ... it's more than just a job!' **OPERATIONS MANAGER** A lead position is available for a Young-stock and Bull Farming COMPREHENSIVE VETERINARY SERVICES operation covering approximately 1,000 head across three properties FOR FARM & COMPANION ANIMALS on the Hauraki Plains. Essential skills required for the role include: Pasture Management & Feed Budgeting skills A high level of livestock management capability Basic computer & spreadsheet skills Your 100% Local Vets · General farm maintenance skills • People leadership capability to oversee any other employees (currently one) **NGATEA 07 867-7056 Optional skills** PAEROA 07 862-7056 • An interest in genetics & stud stock • A heavy traffic licence Please express your interest **THAMES 07 868-3013**

and send your CV to catherine@townshend.co.nz

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### Rotary cyclone relief funds available

The Thames Rotary Club has funds available to donate to people or organisations who have been affected by the floods that followed Cyclone Gabrielle. Thames Rotary has already distributed

\$8300 and expects to receive a further \$7000 shortly, and it plans to allocate this before the end of June.

President Jacquie Mitchell said the club's Rotary District, which encompasses most of the eastern side of the North Island, had been the beneficiary of overwhelming and heart-warming financial support from many generous clubs and individuals throughout New Zealand and even from Australia.

#### In Brief

#### **KINDY POP UP SHOP**

The Pop Op Shop, a benefit event for Thames Coast Community Kindergarten, will be hosted at the Thames Squash Club on July 1 at 6pm.

The Pop Up Shop is an opportunity for shoppers to buy quality second hand adult clothing and enjoy a fun evening out in Thames all while supporting Thames Coast Community Kindergarten's fundraising efforts. Clothing is donated by locals, and this year designer fashion brands Twenty Seven Names, Citta, One Teaspoon, AS Colour, Recycle Boutique and Brixton have also come on board. These coveted items will be sold by silent auction.

'We are thrilled to be hosting this event again," Thames Coast Community Kindergarten chair Justina Lardner-Burke said.

"Last year the queue was out the door, the vibe was great and shoppers purchased some stunning clothing for bargain prices. This year builds on this experience and promises to be even better.

"This is an important event to support our Kindy fundraising efforts, so we really appre-ciate everyone who has donated clothing and purchased their tickets to come along."

In addition to clothing donated by our community, the kind has also secured sponsorship for some premium items, which will be auctioned

DETAILS: Tickets are \$25 pre-sale and \$30 on the door and are redeemable in clothing. Pre purchase tickets: email kindy.pop. up.opshop@gmail.com. Clothing prices up.opshop@gmail.com. Clothing prices range from \$5 -\$40, with select special items priced at a little more, sizes available are 6-20. The event includes clothes for sale, cash bar, auction, raffles, a cash bar and EFT-POS

#### FAR OUT FOLK CLUB RETURNS

The Far Out Folk Club is back after a break due to the closing of The Backroom in Thames. Founding member Dylan Lajunen said a new venue had been sourced for the monthly open mic, open stage event on the first Friday of each month at Te Kura o Te Kaueranga - Thames South School Hall.

"Our mission is to create a welcoming, supportive space for performing artists and audiences to come together. The stage is open to all kinds of performance artists - to the sharing of stories, songs, dances, poems, humour and more.'

"These funds are to be used to assist with recovery from the disastrous floods experienced by the district," she said.

The Thames Club is the only Rotary Club on the peninsula, and we are aware that there are those further from Thames who need assistance. "We would like to hear from any individu-

al or group who is still experiencing cyclone related difficulties.

DETAILS: Applications for funding, outlining what the money would be spent on, should be sent to the Thames Rotary Club, giving your contact details, at thames.rotary@gmail.com before Friday, June 30.

Artists of all skill levels were welcome, from absolute beginners to seasoned profession-als, he said. "We also encourage those who are not performers to come along to listen and connect with other like minds.

"A regular performance venue that is relaxed and low key but with a quality sound system and a receptive, appreciative audience is a really valuable platform for any performer.

The several monthly sessions we have had so far have been rewarding for everyone who has been involved, and there are regular performers who will be really happy to return and practice the art of sharing their gifts with the world'

DETAILS: The first session will be held at the hall at 7pm on July 7, \$5 entry. For more details contact faroutfolkclub@gmail.com.

#### **KIAIDO RYU MARKS 40 YEARS**

Kiaido Ryu Martial Arts is having another huge get together in Thames on June 30 and July 1 for gradings as well as their annual midyear Ball.

This year they're also celebrating a mile-stone of 40 years since Lance and Ava Strong began their first Karate classes in Thames in 1983. Over this 40-year period, Lance and Ava also developed twelve other Kiaido Ryu schools, now run by senior ranked instructors, with Thames Dojo being the 'Hub' for all the other Kiaido Ryu Martial Arts Dojo.

In Thames, 50 junior students and 40 senior students train year round every Tuesday and Thursday at the Jack McLean Community Recreation Centre. Lance said more than 140 martial arts students and their supporters will attend the upcoming annual gradings.

"Students and Instructors will come from -Thames, Auckland, Tauranga, Katikati, Taupo, Hamilton, Bombay, Putaruru, Taupo, Hawera, and even from as far north as Kawakawa

They'll all converge on Thames with the aim to grade for their next belt levels."

Every year, Kiaido Ryu has two large gradings: one in July, one in December, and at this time students and their supporters travel to Thames. "Many stay over and make a weekend of it, and also support the local hospitality industry.

DETAILS: Gradings will begin on Friday, June 30, at 7pm with 10 people aiming to attain Black Belt 4, including Thames students. All other ranks gradings begin from 10am on July 1. There is no charge for members of the public, who are welcome to attend and watch any or all of the gradings.



If you are old enough to remember singing in the rain with Gene Kelly, let us take you over the rainbow on a trip down Memory Lane, with uplifting songs you know and have loved! If Beyonce or Justin Beiber is more your thing, come along anyway, and hear what we used to aroove to!!

ELIM CHURCH CENTRE **STATION ROAD, PAEROA** SATURDAY 1 JULY - 2PM ADULTS \$10

SCHOOL AGE MUSIC LOVERS......FREE!!

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die, 53 Sewer, 56 Comic, 57 Aria, 58 Artery, 59 Motoring, 62 Faction, 63 Meteor, 64 Twilight, 67 Itinerary, 69 Convex, 70 Banana, 74 Satin, 75 Stubborn, 77 Vociferous, 81 Cur, 83 Boredom, 84 Native, 85 Absent, 86 Cave, 87 Wastrel, 88 Relentless, 89 Remnant.

45 Exist, 47 Tart, 48 Amateur, 49 Graded, 50 Tutor, 51 Scrutiny, 52 Erotic, 53 Soothsayer, 54 Whim, 55 Regatta, 60 Coins, 61 Give, 65 Crate, 66 Panorama, 68 Trident, 69 Concept, 71 Pagoda, 72 Polite, 73 Dinner, 76 Blame, 78 Oasis, 79 Scent, 80 Cope, 82 Rage,

# States States

- \$810,000
- less than 12 months old
- 4 bed, 2 bath
- quiet cul-de-sac

- \$1,010,000
- 4 bed, 2 bath
- fully fenced
- secure, alarmed, zoned for Pokeno school



Kirsten Anderson

Hi there! My name is Kirsten Anderson, and I am a real estate sale associate in the Te Kauwhata and surrounding areas. Coming from a small farming town for most of my life, I have a love for being a part of a community. This love was my motivation for moving to Te Kauwhata, after living in Hamilton for a few years.

I value the community spirit where locals help locals. In my spare time you will find me at the local squash club, the creative hub running photography workshops for youth, at the netball courts, as well as networking and supporting a local business group. As a mother of 2 girls, my values in life are built on trust and honesty. You can trust that I will always be honest and support you every step of the way! When you work with me, I work for you, so we can problem solve together to get you where you want to be.

I bring with me a can-do attitude with a strong farming work ethic; I will go out of my way to make sure that every client I work with has the best experience possible.

Any of her listings can be found at remaxapex.co.nz or contact her on 022 0877 354 for a comprehensive market appraisal.

### RE/MAX APEX 5B Main Road Te Kauwhata. kirstenanderson@remax.co.nz www.remaxapex.co.nz

