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The Valley Profile is delivered weekly to letterboxes in the Hauraki Plains, Paeroa, Waihī, Thames, Thames Coast, plus bulk distribution peninsula-wide. Our focus is 100% local community news. **'THE PAPER PEOPLE READ'** 

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SH25A bridge: The people's project

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

s a vibrant sign was erected Aat the Kopū-Hikuai roundabout thanking the team behind the quick construction of the Taparaĥi Bridge, a celebration was

wrapping up in Thames. Present was the Thames-Coromandel district Mayor, Len Salt, Coromandel MP Scott Simpson, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency chief executive Nicole Rosie, and a myriad of main players who helped re-connect the Coromandel Peninsula in record time.

'Who would have thought that a bridge, a bridge, a structure of concrete and steel, could generate such an emotional response for all the people the loss of the connection had affected? What it means is it's not about the infrastructure," Mayor Salt said, "it's about the effect it has on people in the community. And it is emotional.'

The celebration was held on December 15, after a SH25A site visit from Prime Minister Christopher Luxon, and five days before the roading network was set

to reopen on December 20. Its purpose was to acknowl-edge the people behind the pro-ject, and it was evident on the day that people were the most valuable tool in the Taparahi Deidac's construction Bridge's construction.

Project contract manager Ashley Cooper, from Fulton Hogan, said he felt "a huge amount of pleasure and pride".

The project has been an absolute team effort from start to



The now-completed Taparahi Bridge along State Highway 25A, as seen from above

finish; it wouldn't have been possible without the team. ' he said. "As a team, you couldn't have asked for anything better. Everyone was just focused... and the incredible support from the community blew everybody awav

At the former slip site, where the Kōpū-Hikuai Rd had been closed since late January, the feeling was much the same. Construction professionals such as supervisor Byron Wensor, site engineer Taylor Auld, project engineer Alison Craigie, s site engineer Laura Gover, and site engineer Pieter Ruthven were passionate about the task at hand.

**CONTINUED ON P3** 



Engineers Taylor Auld, far left, Pieter Ruthven, Laura Gover, and Alison Craigie are passionate about the task at hand. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

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		Tha	mes Tio	des		
Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
Dec 20	Dec 21	Dec 22	Dec 23	Dec 24	Dec 25	Dec 26
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7:29am 0.6 8:10pm 0.6	8:30am 0.7 9:07pm 0.6	9:35am 0.8 10:07pm 0.6	10:41am 0.8 11:07pm 0.6	11:42am 0.8	6:32am 3.2 6:46pm 3.2	7:26am 3.3 7:41pm 3.2
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*Not for navigational purposes. Graphic supplied by OceanFun Pub www.tidewiz.com www.tidespy.	Nishing Ltd. .com www.ofu.co.nz	N AND FISH KEYS ● ● W Moon First Quarter Good Fishing ♀♀ Fair	Full Moon Last Qua	time difference from	mes at the following ubtract (-) the given the Thames times	ga - 0 01 -0 05 + 0 10 +0 21 amata - 0 03 -0 05



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#### CONTINUED FROM P2

"Everyone that has been on this project loves what they do and are really good at what they do," Taylor told *The Profile*, "and that's why we've been able to build the bridge to the quality, and in the time, that we have.

"[People] see the finished project and it can be hard to understand how much time, work, and love goes into things like this; this is what we do, but it does take a lot of effort." For Taylor, the bridge con-

For Taylor, the bridge construction was a chance to return home to Thames, while Alison and Laura relocated from Wanaka to work on the project. They've been residing in Thames for around four months and said they were "really surprised and impressed" with the town.

During his tour of the new bridge, Prime Minister Christopher Luxon, who was joined by transport minister Simeon Brown, also commended the people behind the project.

"This is a project that, under normal times, would take anywhere from 12 to 18 months to get done, and it's been done ahead of time, under budget, and it's happened because a team of people have come together and have done an incredible thing," he said.

"When you talk to the workers involved here, whether they be engineers, or abseilers trying to put 12-metre drills and nails into the side of a bank, there's incredible skill."

The project was operating seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Now that it has reopened, as of Wednesday, the reconnection will see holidaymakers flock to the likes of Whangamatā, Pāuanui and Hahei in time for



A site tour and celebration with Mayor Len Salt, MPs Scott Simpson and Simeon Brown and Prime Minister Christopher Luxon, centre, acknowledges the team behind the Kōpū-Hikuai road reconstruction, including the new bridge, below. Photos: KELLEY TANTAU

the busy summer season.

"It was actually almost emotional to be up [at the site]... to see it finished," Coromandel MP Scott Simpson said.

"When we saw it the first time, it was literally a gaping, moving, water-gushing hole that looked like a lunar landscape, and now it's not, and I can't wait to drive that piece of road very soon." The state highway suffered sig-

The state highway suffered significant damage after the North Island's major storm event in late January. The cost of the bridge is ex-

The cost of the bridge is expected to be approximately \$43 million, well under the initial \$50 million estimate, with an additional \$25m spent to clear slips, replace the original undersized culvert and undertake road maintenance work along the rest of the length of SH25A.

Waka Kotahi said once the road opened, the area around the new bridge would remain an active worksite, and there would be temporary traffic management with a speed restriction through the area.

It will not be safe to stop and sightsee on or near the bridge, and road users are asked to keep moving through the site.





December 20, 2023, THE VALLEY PROFILE 03

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# WAIHI COLLEGE CELEBRATES SUCCESS

JUNIOR PRIZEGIVING AND SERVICE RECOGNITIONS 2023 Waihi College recently celebrated their Juniors in their Sport, Service, Effort and Academic Prizegivings. Well done to all our students who achieved their goals this year, whether small or large, personal or public. Special congratulations to those that won our top awards. We are looking forward to seeing you all back next year to continue on your learning journey with Waihi College and make the most of all that it has to offer.



#### **Junior Service Recognitions**

Service is a huge part of Waihi College. The College proudly boasts many students who serve either the school or community, or often both, in a multitude of ways. This year, the following students were celebrated for all they do to help make Waihi a great community.

Aidan Butler Aliya Smith Alex Maitland **Alexis Hughes** Anakah Lewis Ari Pillai Beau Fitzgibbon Brooklyn Frewin Celeste Rush Chace Tawhiti Charlize Moore Chenelle de Lange Connor Peters Dakota Cardie Emma Beaumont-Simpson Gracie Tempelmeyer Hannah Bismark Harlem Field-Hargreaves Jack Carpenter Jackson Howard Jayce Phillips Jazmine Jones

Leo's Services to Sport Services to School, Services to Netball Leo's Services to Sport Services to Sport Coaching Services to Sport Services to Sport Services to Sport Services to School Hall Tech, Services to School Services to Sport Services to School Services to Sport Services to School

Services to Sport, Waihi Beach Lifeguard Service

Kobe Phillips Libby Sammons Lilly-Grace Naisby Mace Harries Malea Hutchins Max Morley Mitchell Paynter Nevaeh Vautier Nivek Smith Paitoa Peka Palace O'Brien Peke-Tupaea Ropiha Peter Brimmer **Reese Neame** Rico Edmonds Rylee Morgan Stella Shave Tai Baker Tate Randell Trent Ewing

Zoe Shave

Services to Sport Services to School Services to School Services to Sport Services to Sport Services to School, Waihi Beach Lifeguard Service Services to Sport Services to School Services to Sport Services to Sport Services to School Services to Sport Hall Tech, Services to School Services to Sport Services to School

# uarry petition launched

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

Residents disappointed in a proposed quarry development in the Waitawheta Valley have now launched a petition, calling on Hauraki District and Waikato Regional councils to refuse to grant resource consent.

Steve Erickson and Llyod Mercer live close to the proposed quarry, south-west of Waihī, and earlier told The Profile that quarry owners, HG Leach, had "brought the fight" to their side.

They said the development would lower property values, have environmental repercussions, and create noise and visual impacts. Steve also said there were "at

least four rare and threatened species that live in the area", including the long tailed bat, Hochstetter's frog, Te Aroha stag beetle, and striped skink.

The Waitawheta is a beautiful river starting in bush, and close to Auckland and other main centres. It's one of the cleanest rivers in the North Island which provides the water town supply for Paeroa," he said.

We are very concerned there will be serious risk to water quality and environmental damage if the quarry goes ahead.

In a letter sent to residents within 1km of the proposed site, HG Leach said its Spence Rd quarry would be designed to ensure compliance with Hauraki District Council's noise standards. It would operate Monday to Saturday from 6am to 6pm, and Sundays, 7am to 1pm.

**66**This project has farreaching effects on the local environment and the wider community." - Steve Erickson

The company was also propos-ing to undertake "screen planting" to reduce the visual impact of the quarry from nearby Franklin and Ĥume Rds.

The petition, dubbed 'Stop the Spence Road Quarry' is run via the Greenpeace website and has so far obtained 106 of the 100-signature target.

It calls on the two councils to refuse consent to the HG Leach quarry application on Spence Rd for "environmental reasons".

The petition creators also expect any submission process to be publicly notified for community consultation.

This project has far-reaching effects on the local environment and the wider community," Steve said. "At the least, everyone should be made aware of this project and be allowed to make submissions to both the Hauraki District Council and the Waikato Regional Council.

Hauraki District Council confirmed that a resource consent application had been lodged by HG Leach. It also said it was aware of the petition launched by local residents. Waikato Regional Council also confirmed its own resource consent application had been received.

HG Leach chief operating officer

Mark Baillie told The Profile he became aware of the petition last week. He said it was important to remember that the site was situated in "a working rural environmenť

"This application does not encroach on the [Significant Natural Area] on the property, and the proposed quarry affects approximately 8.5ha of poor-quality pasture on the 113ha property. "The proposal includes enhance-

ment of onsite wetlands, creation of new wetland areas and planting of additional natives on site

He said HG Leach had sought advice from independent expert ecologists and stormwater engineers who had designed the stormwater management for the site to have excess capacity - even in a 100-year average rainfall event.

'HG leach has been operating the Waitawheta quarry since 1969, and as a local, family-owned busi-ness, we care about the region and as such this proposed quarry operation has been designed to minimise any potential environmental impact," he said.

The resilience and connectivity of the local community relies on having access and connection via a roading network, which our very products are critical to maintaining and repairing. With the increase in weather related events, there is an even greater need for local communities to have the access to aggregate." *DETAILS: More info: community.* 

greenpeace.org.nz





Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

#### Paintings on display this summer the tables, and everyone gets down

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

Waihī holiday makers looking for a piece of local art will have plenty to peruse, as the Waihī Art Club puts on their annual summer exhibition in January. The free event, scheduled for

January 4-7, will be held at the Waihī Beach Community Hall. Around 150 artworks of all sizes, topics and mediums will be available for sale.

Club president Noela Mockford said the group was excited to share their work with the public.

We're more of a social group, most of us are self-taught," Noela said.

"[So] we all get a thrill when someone picks one of our paintings out of everything else that they like the best.

The club's 25 members meet every Thursday at the Waihī Bowling Club. Inks, pastels, canvases and paints are spread out among to the serious business of creating. Although their work is individ-

ual, there is a lot of collaboration as the artists ask for opinions, ofas the artists ask for opinions, of-fer feedback and just generally cheer each other on. This is what they love most about the club, the members say; the relaxing, sup-portive, family-like environment. "Sometimes you can be sitting

"Sometimes you can be sitting here painting and there's no noise at all, other times it's like being inside an aviary," Noela said.

We're all our own worst critics, every one of us. [But] we care about each other ... We get together for shared lunches and a Christ-mas dinner. It's my happy place." DETAILS: The Waihī Art Člub's Summer Exhibition, January 4-7 at the Waihī Beach Community Hall. Doors are open 9:30am-4pm. Free entry; eftpos available.

Journalism 26.00



Mob: 027 355 5152 Ph: 07 868 8981 or 0800 868 898 609 Pollen St, Thames RMVT thamesautos@xtra.co.nz

20 December 2023

# HDC NEWS

#### Mayor's Message Kōrero ā te Koromatua

We started 2023 with Cyclone Gabrielle and it's fair to say we're still feeling the impact from that storm event. Floods, slips and road-closures have all taken additional time and resources to fix, but in spite of this, we've had some great wins to celebrate this year. The extension to the Waīhi end of the Hauraki Rail Trail has really taken shape; in October we signed off on Māori Wards for the next local government election and our Wharekawa Coast 2120 Community Plan has been adopted.

We're in full swing with *Placemaking* activities in Ngātea, Kerepēhi and Paeroa and four months into our new kerbside collection service. *Check out my handy video to make sure you're putting your green PAYT rubbish bin tag on correctly to ensure collection.* 



It's been an up and down year, with the cost of living soaring but as always, our communities pull through together – it's the Hauraki way.

Next year we'll be tackling the 2024 – 2034 Long Term Plan and there're some hard decisions coming up. High interest rates, increased depreciation costs along with sky rocketing supply and labour costs are having a big impact on affordability for us and our communities. In the new year, we'll get stuck into the mahi but for now, December's a time for connecting and appreciating family and whānau; looking out for each other and making memories in our stunning district. From myself, our Councillors and Council staff, we wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas season. See you in 2024!

Toby Adams Mayor, Hauraki District Council

### How's the river?

Let's all go with the flow... and conserve water when the rivers are running high

and full of silt or running very low and slow.

The water supplied to our district is from streams and rivers and is dependent on regular rain. When it's wet the rainfall is great for replenishing our water supply. But high rainfall also stirs up sediment in the streams which makes treating the water a lot harder. Under extreme rainfall conditions, the treatment plants are shut down until stream quality allows treatment to continue.

During drier periods our river levels are lower than normal and we have less water to treat and go around, so it makes sense to conserve water.

But it's when the rivers are running high and muddy that it's also really helpful to use less water, especially in extreme weather events. It sounds like an oxymoron to conserve water when there's bucket loads falling from the sky, but treating less muddy water takes the strain off the pumps and filters, which keeps them in good working order for longer and that's good on your pocket too. Remember to report leaks asap on - 0800 734 834, 24/7.



### Council services over the holidays

HAURAK

#### Council offices - Ngātea, Paeroa and Waihī

8am to 12 noon	Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> December
Closed	Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup> December to Tue 2 <sup>nd</sup> January
8am to 4.30pm	Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> January - normal hours resume

#### Paeroa and Waihī Libraries

9.30am to 12 noon	Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> December
9.30am to 12.30pm	Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup> December
Closed	Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> December to Tue 2 <sup>nd</sup> January
9.30am to 5pm	Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> January - normal hours resume

#### **Ngatea Library**

8am to 12 noon	Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> December
Closed	Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup> December to Tue 2 <sup>nd</sup> January
8am to 4.30pm	Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> January - normal hours resume

#### Swimming Pools - Waihī, Paeroa and Ngātea

6am to 6pm	Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	
11am to 5pm	Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup> and Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> December	
Closed	Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> December	
11am to 5pm	Tue 26 <sup>th</sup> December	
6am to 6pm	Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> December	
11am to 5pm	Sat 30 <sup>th</sup> and Sun 31st December	
Closed	Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> January	
11am to 5pm	Tue 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	
6am to 6pm	Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> to Fri 5 <sup>th</sup> January	
11am to 5pm	Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> and Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> January	
	Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> January - normal hours resume	

#### Refuse Transfer Station - Waihī and Paeroa

10am to 4pm	Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> to Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> December				
Closed	Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> and Tue 26 <sup>th</sup> December				
10am to 4pm	Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> to Sun 31 <sup>st</sup> December				
Closed	Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> and Tue 2 <sup>nd</sup> January				
10am to 4pm	Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> to Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> January - normal hours resume				

#### **Kerbside Rubbish and Recycling**

Collection areas	Rubbish + Food scraps	Recycling + Food scraps	Rubbish + Food scraps
Whiritoa, Waihī - Zone 1	* Tue 26 <sup>th</sup> December	* Tue 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> January
Waihī - Zone 2, Waikino, Mackaytown, Karangahake	* Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> December	* Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Tue 9 <sup>th</sup> January
Kerepēhi, Turua, Kaiaua, Ngātea, Waitakaruru	* Thu 28 <sup>th</sup> December	* Thu 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> January
Paeroa	* Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> December	* Fri 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Thu 11 <sup>th</sup> January

\* Collection is one day later due to public holiday

# Pennie Brownlee: visionary and advocate

#### OBITUARY

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

Pennie Brownlee was a woman who saw magic.

In the land around her, in other people, and especially in children.

The potential she saw in-formed her vision of a holistic, peaceful community, and Pennie spent her life teaching others how to see it too - pushing them to think better, do better and be better.

Growing up in Puriri in the 50s, Pennie's free-range childhood was the beginning of her deep-seeded love and respect for nature.

This passion spilled over into a devotion to those who couldn't stand up for themselves, and shaped her life as an activist and advocate. Close friend Michele Fill said

Pennie was always at the fore-front of causes in Thames, striving for cultural change in any way she could for Māori, wom-

en, and any community group that needed lifting up. "When I met her in 83, things were very political," Michele said.

"A National government came in and wanted to close down all the rural hospitals and so we started a campaign.

"We managed to save Thames Hospital. Pen was one of the people who did all the posters for the campaign and helped push the [hospital] bed down the main street."

Pennie helped establish the Women's Health Council and marched in women's peace marches. Behind the scenes she worked on campaigns to get women elected to councils, and health, community and district boards. She was involved in Women's Refuge and several environmental organisations.

"She started the first Treaty of Waitangi workshop... Pen-nie turned people around in their attitude towards Te Tiriti. She used lots of examples about Hauraki and that sort of opened

people's eyes to what had hap-pened here, and what needed to change here, "Michele said. "I don't think people have any idea of how much she had a hand in [in Thames]. She had the bigger picture, and not many people do." At the heart of Pennie's ac-

tivism though, was her need to improve the world for the next generation. And that also meant working with the chil-dren themselves, and those who raised them.

raised them. Although Pennie began her career as a teacher, she soon moved on to running work-shops for parents. She was heavily influenced by child de-velopment experts Emmi Pikler and Joseph Chilton Pearce, and her parenting philosophy was her parenting philosophy was gentle, respectful and child-led.

"It was a huge thing, her views on attachment and an understanding of 0-3 years as being so precious. [My kids] loved the fact that she would listen to them.



Pennie Brownlee felt the need to improve the world for the next generation. Photo: SUPPLIED

Pennie worked with CAPS Hauraki, a child and parent advocacy service, from its be-ginning. She also worked with Playcentre Aotearoa, shaping much of its childcare model.

"Her ideas significantly shaped sector views on learning in the early years and the role parents and kaiako [teachers] play in supporting children's wellbeing," Playcentre Aotearoa pedagogical lead Kara Daly said.

"Pennie's publications, origi-nally *Magic Places* and later Dance with Me in the Heart and The Sacred Urge to Play, have been included in the Playcentre Education programmes for dec-ades and have influenced generations of Playcentre parents and kaiako.

Nurturing creativity and attachment were two key areas of Pennie's mahi, and she was steadfast in advocating for the wellbeing of New Zealand tamariki.

Pennie's illness and subsequent passing on September 20 at age 76 was a private and cherished time. Michele noted how

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blessed Pennie's daughter Clare Caro, her extended family, and close friends felt during those final weeks.

"I think for Clare it was huge to see how this small commu-nity [rallied around]. She was pretty overwhelmed by that, Michele said.

"It was incredibly peaceful and [Pennie] was surrounded by love. It was exactly how she wanted it to be."

wanted it to be." The family asked at Pennie's funeral that she be remembered in simple ways - by singing, walking on the beach or in the bush, or planting a tree. "Love and respect our chil-dren and nurture them, and do the same with our earth," Michele said. "Her family meant everything to her, and so did her close friends. It's been a privilege to be on her journey a privilege to be on her journey with her and we've had a lot of fun along the way. She should go down in history as a changemaker - it's a huge legacy." Pennie's work will live on

through the Pennie Brownlee Foundation. Clare, along with some of Pennie's friends and colleagues, will continue to run education courses and share Pennie's teachings.

We carry the essence of Pennie in our hearts and in all of our work," the website said, 'continuing her mission of promoting the well-being of babies, children, parents and caregivers".



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**News from Thames-Coromandel District Council** 



We hope you have a safe and relaxing summer, from Mayor Len Salt and our Councillors.

Our Council offices will be closed from 12 noon Friday, 22 December 2023 re-opening to normal hours Wednesday 3 January 2024. Customers can still contact us over this period 24/7 on 07 868 0200 or email – customer.services@tcdc.govt.nz tcdc.govt.nz/summerinfo

#### **ANOTHER WIN** FOR SMP

The Shoreline Management Pathways (SMP) project has won the prestigious Terry Healy Project Award at the New Zealand Coastal Society (NZCS) conference in Wellington. This was jointly awarded to our project



partner, Royal Haskoning DHV, and our Council. Find out more at tcdc.govt.nz/smp



Council services over summer

tcdc.govt.nz/summerinfo



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More

#### **PEAK SUMMER RUBBISH & RECYCLING KERBSIDE COLLECTION CALENDARS**

CHRISTMAS 2023 - EARLY FEB 2024

Peak summer services for the Coromandel's entire EAST COAST, as well as COROMANDEL TOWN and TE KOUMA, and COROMANDEL RURAL NORTH



Find out which collection area you're in by using our handy address finder at www.tcdc.govt.nz/summerkerbside where you can also access digital calendars. Or pop in to your local Council office before the break to pick up a summer peak calendar for your area.

Any questions, please phone 07 868 0200 or email us at customer.services@tcdc.govt.nz

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#### **Board Chair, Adrian Catran JP reports:**

Our community board oversaw a range of great projects and initiatives, including:

- Construction started on Kopū Marine and Business Precinct, meeting all maior milestones
- and expected to open in May 2024. Purchase agreements were signed with



the majority of landowners so the road can be widened for the

Tōtara Valley Road housing development.

- Two public meetings were held for residents of Moanataiari and one for Te Puru to talk about options for protecting these areas from sea-level rise through our Shoreline Management Plan. A contractor was engaged to design protection options for Thames, connecting with other stormwater and river management work.
- Detailed feasibility studies are being finalised into site options for the Thames Sub-regional Aquatic Facilities Project and, separately, the Thames Sports Partnership Project. Both reports will be made public early-to-mid next year.
- Thames visitor attraction initiatives through improving directional and information signage in and around Thames is underway and will be visible over the holidays.
- Landscape designs for **Porritt Park Playground** were approved. Exciting new play equipment was ordered and shipped. Construction work is planned to start early in 2024.



- Aerators were installed at Thames Treatment Plant. Design work is underway for a new intake and reservoir for Thames South Water Treatment at Pūriri and we've tendered for a treated water main.
- A decision was taken to remove the Create the Vibe trial pedestrianised creative space following surveys with the public.



Mary Street is now reopened to traffic and we asked staff to investigate traffic-calming on Mary Street and surrounds.

Thank you everyone who participated in Board activities this year. Have a safe, relaxing summer break. Enjoy our beautiful district. For Board meetings next year, please visit tcdc.govt.nz/meetings

adrian.catran@council.tcdc.govt.nz

# **Rural Life** Summer boating safety key focus of Operation Neptune

With thousands of people expected to take to the water this summer, Waikato Regional Council maritime officers will be highly visible to promote boating safety.

"Operation Neptune is about providing a proactive presence on the water, with the emphasis on boating safety," Waikato Regional Harbourmaster Chris Bredenbeck said.

"We'll be looking closely at whether boaties are following the rules including around personal flotation devices (PFDs), speed limits and the need for towing with an observer in place.

"For example, people on vessels up to six metres need to wear their PFDs while the vessel is underway. Larger vessels are required to have a PFD for each person onboard but they're only required to be worn under certain circumstances. This is a different rule to some other regions."

Boating rules are prominently displayed on signage at boat ramps around the Waikato, on council's website and the Marine-Mate app. In addition, a multi-media public information campaign will promote Operation Neptune throughout the summer with the key message of 'come home safe'.

"We have some of New Zealand's most popular coastline as well as inland waterways, and we want people to enjoy them. Boat skippers are encouraged to review the boating rules before they take to the water, helping to keep themselves and others safe," Mr Bredenbeck said.

"Énforcement of these rules is a key part of Operation Neptune. Education ends at the boat ramp. It's the skipper's responsibility to ensure they know the rules and comply with them on the water."



Waikato Regional Harbourmaster Chris Bredenbeck. Photo: SUPPLIED/WRC

Council maritime officers on patrol can issue breach notices that can lead to fines of up to \$200 per offence. Last summer, Operation Neptune staff

Last summer, Operation Neptune staff issued 131 infringement notices, 27 formal warnings and 24 verbal warnings. The annual Operation Neptune pro-

The annual Operation Neptune programme will run for about three weeks during the summer boating peak between Boxing Day and 14 January 2024, covering popular coastal, lake and river boating areas across the Waikato region.

This includes Raglan and Kāwhia in the west, the entire Coromandel Peninsula, along with the Waikato River from Port Waikato through to Lake Karāpiro and Lake Arapuni down to Lake Ōhakuri.

For the three weeks of Operation Neptune, the council's year-round maritime services team will be boosted by about 25 staff from other parts of the organisation. Staff will be deployed on nine council-

branded vessels – featuring flashing lights and sirens or horns – which range in size from jetskis to a seven-metre boat. DETAILS: More info at waikatoregion.govt.nz/ maritime-services.



YAMAHA

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# MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAY

# Wrappers' delight

#### **By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA**

Santa's helpers assembled to deck the halls with boughs of holly, or in Paeroa, deck the Bap-tist Church hall with rows of jolly Christmas cheer and gift wrap-ping for the annual Christmas Toy appeal.

The event draws in support and donations from people, organisations and groups who want to make sure no local children will go without this Christmas.

Organiser Jill Robertson said she was amazed by how "the community has just been so generous

"We've got 270 kids to give gifts to today, and if you wander around you'll see each of the piles, some of them get two or three things," Jill said. Toys, books, stationery, board

games, puzzles, sports equipment and more were spread around the room at various gift wrapping stations, separated into age and gender groups. The call was put out for ap-

propriate gifts for children from newborns to 12 years old, "but sometimes if there's families that have got older ones, we'll try and

cater for them". Jill acknowledged that while primary school kids were the target, "we don't like to send anybody away with nothing'

Among the helpful elves were familiar faces from previous ap-peals, Lois Waugh, Doris Beisly and Heather Browne, who pitched in across the room.

Jill said she was thrilled at the show of support for the appeal, and reflected on how it was a "real privilege to be able to do.



Early elves all set at their stations



Expert elf Lois Waugh is ready to wrap







Donated games, toys and sports gear



Heather Browne (left) and Organiser Jill Robertson get gift labels ready.



# MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPP Skater-dog shows off

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

Witnessing a dog dressed as an elf skateboarding through Gilmour Lake Reserve may not be an everyday occurrence for some, but for Chelsey the retrodoodle and her owner Rhonda Walch, years of entertaining has ensured a welcome reception whenever they're on the scene

Chelsey was at Waihī's Christmas at the Lake on December 10 alongside family member, border collie Boof.

Rhonda, who is not only a dog trainer but a dressage competitor, said Chelsey's skills on the skateboard derived from a life of entertaining at hospitals and events. It all started after Rhonda's husband

passed away from cancer, and Rhonda wanted to raise money for the local cancer society. She put on an event at the Waihī Memorial Hall and Chelsey pushed a pram while a couple of other dogs were dressed as babies.

After years of raising money for different causes, Rhonda taught Chelsey - who is almost 10 - to ride a skateboard, and the poised pet can now push it along with her paw, lean on, and even turn, the board. "I do it all for charity," Rhonda said. "It's something that I can put back into the

community." She also fosters "pound pups" that have been taken in by Hauraki District Council, teaching them to sit, stay, wait, and lie down, and practising in Waihī town.

Journalism 1

Rhonda can also be spotted training her talented doas at the local netball courts. MORE PHOTOS, P13

Chelsey the skateboarding dog was at Waihī's Christmas at the Lake on December 10. Photo: KENNY MCARTHUR

# HOLIDAYS District full of 'book Santas'

**Bv KELLEY TANTAU, Public Interest** funded by NZ On Ai

The Christmas-spirited book drive organised by the Hauraki Family Violence Intervention Network and Carson's Bookshop in Thames has put new books in the hands of hun-

dreds of young readers. The initiative, which asked people to purchase a children's book at the counter of Carson's to be then passed on to tama-riki in need, ran until December 18.

Organiser Sally Christie said "Christmas elves" were now

distributing more than 160 donated books around the district. We are blown away by the response, more than we ever imagined, that books are already going out to families in need," she said.

The aim of the book drive was to encourage residents to become "Book Santas" and Sally said it was great to have Thames Valley children fall in love with reading this holiday season.

Journalism 4 m 4



Sally Christie and Greg Hampton with some of the books donated at Carson's Bookshop. Photo: SUPPLIED

### **Merry Christmas** and a safe and happy New Year from us all at Thames Autos.

We will be closed from Friday Dec 22nd and back on Monday Jan 15th

### Thames Autos







nnes

Leanne, Sophia & Ava would like to thank all our loyal supporters for the past year. Have a Merry Christmas and a safe & Happy New Year. We will be closing for a break on Dec 22nd and reopening Jan 9th "City styling WALTER &C9 in the heart o

Thames 868 8725

Merry Christmas Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season





# MERRY CHRISTMAS AN

# New wheels for Santa

The Ngatea Xmas Funday captivated hundreds of people over the weekend, including the jolly man in the red suit, but he was missing his sleigh. Instead of reindeer hooves, the Hauraki Plains heard the rolling motion of a combine harvester - Santa's new wheels. Joyful chatter and laughter came from children and families around the Hugh Havward Domain as Santa shared kindness and handfuls of lollies with the crowd. The Funday was filled with music from the Kerepēhi Brass Band, food trucks, buskers, classic cars, fairies, giant bubbles, face painting, and more than 100 market stalls. Reporter DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA snapped some of the Funday festivities.









**Tony Richards** Toyota Paeroa. We're closed the stat days only.





massive thanks to all of our clients this year!

We will be closing down from 23rd Dec - 8th Jan 2024.

Merry Christmas from the team at Precision Windscreens.



Everyone wants a moment with Santa.



Funday Fairies Matilda, left, with daughters Magnolia and Petunia.

......



Amelia Spooner, 9, gets festive.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM TIM AND THE TEAM AT T&A MCWATTERS



Season's greetings from Protile CoromandelApp

Teresa, Nikki, Kelley, Alice, Davidda and the team would like to thank all our advertisers, contributors and readers for your support this year. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year!

This is our last paper for 2023 - The next issue will be out January 10, 2024

The love of Christmas was on display.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPP** DLIDAY

### Christmas cheer in Waihī

Waihī's Christmas at the Lake event, organised by a sub committee of Go Waihī, was held on December 10 and drew a large crowd to Gilmour Lake Reserve. Event organiser Sarah Spicer said it was a fabulous day out for the community. "We have had great feedback and all I could see on the day were smiles on faces and there was such a great sense of togetherness in the air. It definitely takes a village to put on an event like this and the location at the lake above the water was just stunning." She said the event would "definitely" become an annual occasion.





Plenty of smiles and bubbles were shared on the day.

Musicians perform to the masses



otos: KENNY MCARTHU

ora Horse Drawn provided pony rid



# S AND HAPPY HOLIDAY The elimination of hu



New World Waihī owner Harminder Singh, centre, oversees the preparation of donated food for Salvation Army Christmas hampers. Photo: SUPPLIED

### \$10,500 Christmas donation

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

Adonation by a Waihī business-man will see 115 families en-

Justice Arms and the set of the s vation Army, to be distributed to

families before Christmas Day. The goods were ordered by the Salvation Army to fill their Christmas hampers. However, Harminder offered to donate the entire order saving everyone deentire order, saying everyone de-served to feel good on Christmas.

"The spirit of Christmas ... It's about giving, isn't it? That's what it's all about for me anyway, being brought up as a Christian all my "Harminder said.

"It's about giving to others who haven't got it, and for them to enjoy Christmas as much as we do. Donated included chicken included chickens,

roast vegetables, pavlova, basic staple items such as milk, sugar and coffee, and some extra treats like biscuits and chocolate.

Salvation Army Waihī's Lt Corps Officer Alanah Moody said the organisation was thrilled to receive the generous contribution, especially as food was one of their biggest costs.

A lot of these families are struggling just week-to-week, let alone at Christmas, and for families to be given - not just normal food but to create a meal that's beautiful for Christmas," she said.

"Our families feel a lot of pressure to be able to create a day for their kids that other kids get to experience and talk about at school. "It's really hard for them and

they feel such a burden when they can't provide that themselves."





By MICHAEL WILKES n this season of busyness life can feel like it is getting away from us.

We push and push and push harder still to get everything done for the year. All the while adding the extra fun bits of decorating trees, hanging lights, buying presents, and trying to hold it all together.

Yet this so-called silly season is simply the homestretch. Most of us have been running

all vear. We wear busyness like a badge. For many of us, being busy has become closely tied to our sense of worth. Yet busy

does not mean productive or healthy. I used to be a window clean-

er around the Coromandel. For the first year as I was

trying to prove myself, I went full pace. I would run myself ragged smashing out a job super-fast and race on to the next one. Yet one lead up to Christmas I slowed myself down.

I intentionally noticed things around me, I allowed myself to relax in the job, have conversations, and enjoy the flow. I felt way more relaxed. The funny thing however, was my speed did not change.

The time it took to finish a house was still the same. What I realised that Christmas season was that busyness or hurry is often a state of being, as opposed to the speed at which we do things.

Often when life is busy around us, our inner self be-comes overloaded. All our 'free space' becomes loaded with worry, thoughts on what we should or shouldn't be doing, on the things we need to achieve, and mental checklists that if written down could simply be left somewhere other than in our mind where things tend get stuck on an endless loop cycle.

Just because life is busy does not mean we have to be busy in ourselves. And this is a lesson I often come back to. When I begin to feel the hurry,

6 Busyness or hurry is often a state of being, as opposed to the speed at which we do things."

- Michael Wilkes

I pause. I intentionally make time in the morning to read a book slowly, I email myself my to-dos and forget about them. I breathe slower and try to notice the beauty around me that is bigger than myself, and I turn everyday practices like washing my hands into a deeper space - pause, breathe deep, and allow myself to be aware of a deeper, quieter space.

And I make sure my downtime is real down time. However it looks, if you're

feeling stressed, busy beyond reason and full of hurry, it may be time to consider the elimination of hurry.

Find your own ways to be able to be surrounded by the busyness and still find moments of stillness.

Jump online and see how people introduce stillness, or silence into their day, try some things. and maybe, just maybe you'll find a little more peace in the turmoil. - Michael Wilkes is a Living Well

Trust Youth Worker



# Homelessness, ram raids, rugby and a broken highv

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

storm-damaged ¶yclones, Croads, homelessness, crime concerns, and a cost-of-living crisis were issues on the minds of Thames Valley locals this year, but beyond the rain and other issues, there were people doing great things around the district.

Movement underground and above the clouds provided the region with shakes, slips, and surface flooding over the sum-mer season; while Hauraki North's first muster for their new female team, The Dia-monds, took place. The Kōpū-Hikuai Rd collapses, causing huge disruption to residents and businesses on both sides. FEBRUARY

The search for Hauraki woman Sara Niethe, missing for 20 years, restarted, while more than 11,000 people reported feeling a 4.8 magnitude earth-quake near Te Aroha that shook residents awake throughout the region on February 3. MÄRCH

Thames Valley teachers and principals left the classroom for the streets in Thames, Paeroa and Waihī on March 16 as part of a nationwide strike for better conditions to improve public education. Work began on finding a fix for the Kōpū-Hikuai. APRIL

Clare Marriott walked 3000kms on the Te Araroa Trail to raise funds for a Fiji animal shelter, while Waihī residents were giv en an opportunity to voice their



concerns about a perceived rise in crime in the town. MAY

*The Profile* launches its inves-tigation into homelessness in Thames, speaking to the tent-dwellers living in Danby Field. *The Profile* team also scooped up five accolades in May at the annual New Zealand Community Newspaper Association Awards, while senior reporter Kelley Tantau was named joint runner up for Community Journalist of the Year at the prestigious Voyager Media Awards.

JUNE Work on the \$43 million bridge spanning the huge slip on the Kōpū-Hikuai Rd got under-way in June, while a "placid and trusting" ewe that used to be petted by the children of Te Puru was one of three sheep at-





tacked and killed by a roaming

dog. JULY

All Black Aaron Smith was in town to unveil a new bench seat, five vehicles were used to smash through Goldfields Mall, and Paeroa's racecourse development had its dawn blessing. AUGUST

After more than two years, the Thames Community Board lis-

tened to the controversy and voted to remove Create the Vibe in Mary St. Brendan Walsh aka the Rocker Warrior - was named one of the finalists to find the New Zealand Warriors' biggest fan. SEPTEMBER

A peaceful protest was held in Paeroa to draw attention to the opening of the small town's second vape shop, while Da-vid Mulholland announced his plans to establish a new cinema experience in Thames. OCTOBER

The general election was held in October, with incumbent MP Scott Simpson retaining his Coromandel seat, while the New Zealand Society of Genealogists' Waihī branch remembered the 100-year anniversary of the Waikino School shooting. NOVEMBER

Waka Kotahi announced SH25A would be open in time for Christmas, Thames Valley Schools acknowledged their Dux recipients, and the Treas-ury Research Centre and Ar-chive made the "tough but re-sponsible" decision to go into hibernation after facing fund-ing challenges ing challenges. DECEMBER

The famed Windows Walk in the heart of Karangahake Gorge reopened after more than a year, Thames' new Interwoven sculpture faced backlash on-line, while the Kōpū-Hikuai Rd officially reopened ahead of the summer rush.



#### Nick Hoogeveen & Associates CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT **Business Adviser and Rural Solutions** focused on profit and wealth development Nick is in attendance at the Ngatea office every Thursday Email: office@hoogeveen.co.nz Ph: 07 862 9090 Website: www.hoogeveen.co.nz Adviser to Achievers 24/7 <u>Hydraulink</u> MOBILE SERVICE Thames We do Ram Repairs and Servicing Hydraulic hose & fittings Breakdown services 24/7 Industrial hoses Lubricants & Oils Ram repairs & servicing General Engineering 14C Kopu Road Ph 07 868 5435 100% 0274 990 924 Kopu, Thames Best under pressure



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# Artists' journeys lead to Thames

Thames Art Gallery's January featured artist, Jewel Lynam, has had a very interesting journey as an artist.

She was always creative but it was never in her thoughts to become an artist, let alone a professional one.

At the age of 46, with limited funds, she put on a backpack and headed for Europe, based on an

urge that she "had to go". Five months later, in Monaco, she bought a canvas and a few tubes of paints, headed for the beach and started to paint. Her journey to becoming a profession-

A top gallery in Aix-en-Provence, South of France, offered her a solo exhibition, unbeknown that she had never had any art training. From here she had many solo exhibitions, including in Par-is and has exhibited with many prestigious artists from around the world. After living in the Unit-ed States for 23 years where she made a living from her art, Jewel returned to New Zealand in 2010 to continue with her work.

As Jewel has had no formal training as an artist, she began painting with no preconceived idea or colour in mind. She likes acrylic paint and occasionally moves to mixed media but each piece conveys a freedom of ex-pression. Jewel feels an energy flow through her when painting and often paints to music, which she says are both a universal language. Light plays an important part in her work and she loves colour and to see what comes from the energetic application and movement of paint. She says



Jewel Lynam's paintings have healing vibrations. BELOW: Denise Judd's work.

many of her paintings have a heal-ing vibration, which will be passed on to the viewer whether they are aware of it or not, therefore she hopes that her work evokes a re-sponse to the senses and not the eye alone. Jewel Lynam lives in Thames and is currently in the process of writing a book about her unique journey as an artist, as well as continuing to produce her

works of art. Thames Coast potter Denise Judd's work will also feature at the gallery during January. Her work varies in style from

the quirky Cat with the Rat, to more functional pieces. She is known for producing uniquely dif-ferent totem poles which she gets a lot of satisfaction from making, from sculpturing the first piece for the bottom to the very last piece on the top. Her most fun totem was titled *Kiwiana*.

She recently received a merit award for a sculptural piece titled Out There, which shows her work is very heartfelt to her and others.



She enjoys trying different techniques like Kerikomi and Origami, which can be seen at her exhibi-tion. She will also be displaying raku and pit-fired pieces.

Denise makes her own glazes with recipes she has acquired over the years and uses her own gas kiln to fire her art. Her works are ideal for brightening an area of the garden or for displaying in the home

DETAILS: Thames Art Gallery, 604 Tararu Rd, for the month of January. Open weekdays: 10am-2pm, weekends: 10am-4pm.

- Supplied by Thames Art Gallery



Angela Brutnall with some of her artworks.

File Photo: VALLEY PROFILE

### Liquid artist returns to Paeroa

Artist Angela Brutnall returns The Paeroa Society of Arts next month for an exhibition at the Crosby Gallery during the month of January. Her liquid paintings and beach

landscapes will be on display at the gallery in Normanby Rd. Angela earlier told *The Profile* 

that while she had been a member of the gallery since 2008, she only started creating art during Christmas, 2019.

"My philosophy to life is 'nev-er stop learning' and I felt like I wanted something to occupy myself apart from my garden and family," she said. "So I went online and saw liq-

uid art on there, which I thought was rather exciting. "After many disasters, because

they turn out terrible sometimes, I started to become happy with my results, and after showing a few people I was invited to the Cambridge Arts Festival in March, 2020.

Angela said she drifted to beach artworks more recently when she wanted to display something different at one of the gallery's exhibitions. "I love the clouds, I love the

sea and I like rocks, and my first ever painting that I had done of a beach was the one I put into the exhibition and it got a commended certificate.

DETAILS: The exhibition will be open between 10am and 3pm from January 2-30, at the Paeroa Arts Centre, 109 Normanby Rd, Paeroa.



# Floating pool drifts to Ngatea's Piako river

# THE OLD POST Vintage Valley News

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.

#### 1929

Afloating pool was launched drifted into position at the Ngatea Swimming Club's site opposite the school house. It had been made for the order of its uppose made for the safety of its younger members and to teach swimming. The pool was a substantial af-fair 30ft long and 10ft wide, the

frame being made of 12 by 12 kau-ri obtained from the old battery at Karangahake. Attached to this frame were battens to form walls and a floor. The pool floated to a depth of thirty inches. There was no chance of the pontoon capsizing - six men sitting on the frame at one side only submerged it half an inch below the normal level.

The pontoon was constructed by Mr Trevelyan free of charge to the design of Mr Reid, president of the Swimming Club. The timber was bought with funds raised by public donation and by means of a bottle-gathering drive. It was moored to the bank and proved a complete success. CONTAMINATION CONCERNS

Farmers who depended on their water supplies for both man and



The floating pool in the Piako River. beast from the Hikutaia stream were faced with a very grave problem. The battery of the Oh-inemuri Gold and Silver Mining Co, situated at Maratoto on the Hikutaia stream, was about to commence work which meant the tailings undergoing the cyanide of potassium process would be set adrift in the Hikutaia creek.

The situation was made all the more worse as there was no immediate sign of the inauguration of the county water supply. It was months since the Thames

County Council set up a water supply but apparently a hitch had occurred somewhere and the settlers fringing the banks of the Hikutaia stream were without any supply apart from what they could gather from the inadequate method of roof tank collection. Cyanide of potassium was just as poisonous to cows as it was to humans, and most settlers watered their stock from drinking places in the stream. Unless these places were fenced there would be dead cows in Hikutaia within days.

**MOTH PLANES LAND** Four Moth planes landed at Paeroa on the first stage of their tour of the North Island scouting for landing grounds. The Mayor of Paeroa, Mr Marshall, and Mr Spencer Mason, chairman of the Aero Club Committee, were pas-sengers. Within a minute of schedule time, the machines were hovering over Paeroa, and a large crowd

saw them land on the racecourse. On landing, Mr Marshall addressed the crowd, stating that the trip from Auckland to Paeroa by air took only an hour and three gallons of petrol. Captain Seabrook said that the racecourse was too near the hills to be entirely suitable. A party inspected a field of about 40 acres which had been surveyed from the air. It was found to have an excellent surface, and could provide a runway

Photo: SUPPLIED

#### CAR CRASH IN GORGE

A Buick tourer, while proceeding in the direction of Karangahake after a dance at Waikino, met with a sudden check in the gorge. While taking the nasty corner round the bluff, the front wheels jumped on an outcropping rock, interfering with the steering, with the result that the car crashed into the cliff.

The front undercarriage of the car was torn off and the front axle bent like a hoop, while the steering gear suffered a total eclipse.

No one was hurt, and a local breakdown lorry later towed the car away.

### Trial bus service begins

A Connector bus will run be-tween Thames and Coromandel town four days a week from December 18 as part of a

13-week trial. Thames-Coromandel District Council said it was granted re-covery funding from the Ministry of Social Development for the trial to reconnect commu-nities with healthcare, education, appointments, work opportunities and whānau.

The service will run on Mon-days, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, with tickets \$5 each way, under 14s free. The vans hold up to 11 passengers, so bookings are essential.

Community partnerships co-ordinator Helen Flynn said

co-ordinator Helen Flynn said council was looking forward to having the service up and running for communities who needed it. "As people have told us, being able to access appointments, key services and work is so important. It will also help to reduce isolation by supporting friends and whānau to spend time together over the holitime together over the holi-day season. We are asking our locals to get behind this trial, spread the word and use the service."

The trial follows a community survey run by council, which aimed to understand the level of interest in a public transport service between Thames and Coromandel township.

Next steps will be assessed towards the end of the trial, depending on its use and sustain-able funding options.

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#### 18 THE VALLEY PROFILE, December 20, 2023



# AGRICULTURE

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Midsummer is a demanding time in the garden. Dry soils create many problettuces seedlings. Take advantage of any gaps in flower gardens also. Potatoes – Continue harvesting once flowering is complete and the plants have Sustaining soil moisture is a constant chore. The most effective time for garden died down. October/November sowings of irrigation is in the evening when dried up soil can soak up the water. Many fruit trees

early maturing varieties of sweet corn will be ready for harvest by the third or fourth week of the month. Harvest once the tassels have begun to shrivel and dry.

bone. Continue three-weekly sowings of

Tomatoes – Harvest fruit as soon as they begin to colour. Trim off bottom leaves as the fruit ripens progressively up the vine. This improves air circulation. Trim off laterals for the same reason.

Flowers

Water gardens in evenings

Garden

lems for growing plants.

Vegetables

spraying and summer pruning.

Control Pyrethrum or similar.

need attention with harvesting, irrigating,

Beans - Continue summer sowings of

dwarf and climbing beans for extended

harvest. Continue with further summer sowings of beetroot. Main season sowings

of carrots made in November and Decem-

ber will be growing rapidly. Thin the small

finger-sized seedlings and use. This will encourage growth of those left behind. Midsummer is a time when carrot rust fly

attacks. Protect crops with Organic Insect

Harvest outer stalks of celery so plants

can continue to grow through summer. Plant out further seedlings. Garlic – Nearly

harvest time. Even though still green and growing vigorously, should be dug up and

left to dry on the surface of the garden. Seedlings of cabbage, cauliflower and

broccoli can be planted out, but it is advis-

able to cover and protect from white but-

terfly caterpillars. Cucumbers and zucchini planted in October, November will be ready

for harvest. Watch the zucchini as they re-

quire daily picking. Early season pumpkins

Eggplants and capsicum – should be ready for harvest later in the month. Ku-

maras – Encourage vigorous growth. Keep

Time to plant out leek seedlings in prepa-

ration for winter crops. Prepare soils with

and squash will be ready for harvest.

the bed weed free.

Summer flower borders including marigolds, petunias, zinnias and salvia are in full bloom. Little attention is needed at this stage. Dead heading and keeping beds weed free is important so you don't waste water on weeds. Early morning watering is preferable to evenings. Also in full bloom will be gladioli, carnations, chrysanthemums. Dahlias, canna and calla lilies should be in full bloom. Fruits

Main season harvesting commences on stone fruits, peaches, nectarines, plums and late season apricots. Early season apples start to ripen later in the month. Citrus will need constant irrigation if possible.

Summer prune early season stone fruit trees. This replaces winter pruning and helps prevent silver leaf disease.

Continue to harvest available fruits, apples, citrus, berries and grapes enjoy the fruits of your labour.

Lawns – Don't cut too short. Compost Heap – Turn frequently.

Stay safe and well. Ngatea Garden Circle





SHOP (CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY)

FREE GIFT WRAPPING OR GOLD COIN KINDLY ACCEPTED FOR THE THAMES SPCA

# <u>SPORTS</u> Pārāwai student wins big at Waikato athletics day

#### ATHLETICS

Thirteen-year-old Sienna Moore was named Year Eight Girl Overall Champion at the recent Waikato Full Primary Athletics Day, after taking out first place in all four of her chosen events.

The Pārāwai School student headed to Te Awamutu on November 29 with primary students from across the region to compete in the 100 metre sprint, 200 metre sprint, high jump and long jump events.

Sienna's high jump topped out at 1.32 metres, and her long jump result was 4.99 metres - just shy of her personal goal of 5 metres, and a new personal best.

At the end of the day, her total of 20



points was enough to net her the trophy,

with the runner-up achieving 6 points. She was the only athlete on the day to win all four chosen events. Her club, Thames Amateur Athletics Club, said it was very proud of all her efforts.

"Sienna has the dedication and mindset of someone much older than her 13

years. "[She] only trains once a week for an hour, whereas the majority to attend these big events from substantial schools have daily training and specific coaches for their chosen event."

Sienna's next long jump goal of hitting 5m will be attempted at the North Island Colgate Games in January, and the following month she will start college where she has set her sights on beating some school sports records.



Pārāwai School student Sienna Moore at the Waikato athletics meet.

Photos: SUPPLIED



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- > the volunteers that help with our Opportunity Retail Shop
- > the volunteers and staff that run our Health Shuttles
- > the volunteer Friends of the Emergency Department / Hospital
- > the volunteers of the Thames Area Committee and our Patron
- > the volunteers and staff on our ambulances
- > the youth and their volunteer leaders in our Youth programme
- > the volunteer Caring Callers
- > the members of the Order of St John of Jerusalem

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### LETTERS

. 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.

#### INTERWOVEN BACKLASH

First off good on you for pointing out the stress this backlash will have caused the loved ones of the sculpture's creator, the late Chris Budgen, (Interwoven backlash, Valley Profile, P1, December 13). I absolutely love this piece and commend the persons behind the sponsorship and acknowledgment of thinking it a worthy piece of art. I have been appalled at the so called responses to this piece. I am a regular user of the walkway and it makes me smile. My interpretation of this installation is that it represents the colours of our world. The green representing the hills and landscape that surround Thames. The red, Pohutukawa (Xmas Tree) planted along the walkway, gracing the coast and also planted as a remembrance to those fallen for our country in the war. The blue, a reflection of our sky and seascape. The vellow our wonderful sunny days and glorious coastal sunsets. The purple, showing the diversity of those who live in Thames. Wow did I get it -Interwoven being the world that surrounds us... I have spoken to many with most liking it, if anything saying it brightens the entrance into Thames. Those who don't use the walkway have all noticed it and the same can't be said about the other sculptures, which are easy to drive by without noticing them. Most of the people have noticed the piece next to the Aerodrome, the Horseshoe strobes, but the Jandal and the piece by the Kauaeranga bridge



The Interwoven scupiture at Totara, near Thames weren't even acknowledged as being seen yet they have been up for a longtime. Personally, I like all of them and they all have their place. For those concerned about the cost, find out first the facts before you condemn. It would have just taken a phone call to the council (or email) to find out YOUR RATES money wasn't used. My condolences to those who knew Chris Budgen and the stress this must be causing you but have heart, there are lots of people who just love it and I know now don't even look at social media for the sure and certain reason that a lot of it is full of negative response as they have nothing better to do and probably don't do much to help others around them either. - Wendy Courtney

WINDSC	REENS	sanaar and the piece of the hadderanga shage	wenay country		
anaire - Winder	We come to you! creen replacements	CLASSIFIEDS - DO	eadline 12pm Monday		
pans - winust -Insuranc PH: 0272	e claims	Handyman	Storage		
	ndsoreens.co.nz	THAMES HANDYMAN & BUILDING SERVICES Building,	TOTAL STORAGE LTD KEREPEHI / PAEROA		
	Monday	home maintenance & general gardening services	10FT CON. \$125 per mnth 20FT CON. \$240 per mnth		
yman	Storage	Phone: Fleur or Crighton • 0273 913 283	T&C's apply 021 67 67 99		
ihi and	Thames Valley Storage – secure, dry units	Public Notice	info@totalstorage.co.nz		
ling areas maintenance	available, two sizes. Call Trev 027 4076966	Proposed Temporary Road Closure Pursuant to the Section 11(e) of the Tenth	Situation Vacant		
repairs le - Grant 33 8331 )5@gmail.com	Storage Unlimited 25 Ngati Maru Highway Kopu, Thames	Schedule of the Section 11(e) of the Territh Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974, notice is hereby given that for the purpose of a Highland Games and Tattoo event organised by Highland Games and Tattoo Committee it is intended to close the following roads to			
alth	Clean, secure, dry Units available 7 x 3.6m and 7 x 5.5m	ordinary vehicular traffic for the period indicated hereunder. During the proposed period of	Customer Services Advisor		
Healing ntre	Phone 07 868 9944	closure provision will be made for ordinary vehicular traffic, which would otherwise use the road, to use alternative routes.	Kaitohutohu Ratonga Kiritaki		
89 now in	Trades & Services Eazy-Blast water	<b>Period of closure:</b> Saturday 10 February 2024 from 6.30am to 6.30pm.	Are you Passionate about serving your community?		
roa as noco Iness. herapeutic tion as per y Blows	blasting. Small jobs. Steps, drives, paths, patios etc. Text Chris 021 0852 1825	<ul> <li>Roads to be closed in Paeroa:</li> <li>Willoughby St, from intersection of SH26 (Arney St ) to intersection of Corbett St.</li> <li>Mackay St, from intersection of SH2 to intersection of Willoughby St.</li> <li>Hall St, from intersection of SH2 to intersection of Willoughby St</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Do you bring an optimistic, can-do approach in all you do?</li> <li>Is motivating people around you to their best and looking for solutions when faced with challenges your strength?</li> </ul> Then we would love to hear from you!		
2 9167	Need something picked up or taken away?	Corbett St, from intersection of Albert St to King St	We have two positions available <ul> <li>Full time role (Ngatea): Monday to Friday, 8am</li> </ul>		
nter nal roof	021 049 4110	King St - entire length.     Alternative provision for ordinary vehicular     traffic will be made with signs, cones and	<ul> <li>to 5pm</li> <li>Part-time role (Paeroa &amp; Ngatea) : (30 hours per week) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Fider Vacually and the base of the base</li></ul>		
irio Kerkhof 055	FENCING CONTRACTOR Residential & Rural	barriers to redirect traffic on detour. It will be an offence under the above regulations for any person otherwise than under authority	Friday. You will need to be available between 8am to 5pm You will ideally have customer service		
rage	Retaining walls & more High quality workmanship	of an authorised permit to use the road for ordinary vehicular traffic during the proposed period of closure.	experience, fantastic computer skills and knowledge of local government. However, it's all about having the right attitude and being a willing learner. Being a Customer Services		
RAGE PAEROA AMUTU	Competitive prices Call Matt 021 1727 148	Any objections should be directed to Transport Manager on 07 862 8609 or info@hauraki-dc. govt.nz by 12 January 2024	Advisor is all about providing service to people, therefore, a positive, friendly attitude is essential in this role.		
440 7101 8 3033	Advertise with the paper	L D Cavers Chief Executive Hauraki District Council	You bring the right attitude we will teach you the skills. To apply for this job go to:		
und Storage torage.co.nz	that is	Situation Vacant	haurakidc.recruitmenthub.co.nz/Vacancies		
1)//=: -:	being read	Qualified Mechanic Wanted Immediate start.			
J Waihi. alarmed.	Valley Profile	Email: miles@hpmotors.co.nz	"At Hauraki District Council		
75 759 173.	Ph 022 130 3885	or phone 027 227 1121	it's more than just a job!"		

### STAY HEALTHY AND GO WELL THIS SUMMER

#### **PLAN AHEAD**

#### COVID-19 is still a risk this summer so protect yourself, your whānau, and your community by getting immunised.

community by getting immunised. It's a good idea to pack RATs, hand sanitiser and face masks

Stock up on your repeat prescriptions. Some pharmacies may not carry certain medicines, or have limited stock, so be prepared and take what you need with you

#### SPREAD SUNSHINE

• Rest up at home

if you're sick.

If you have cold, flu or COVID-19 symptoms take a RAT test

**If you test positive for COVID-19,** monitor and manage your symptoms. You should isolate for at least 5 days.

Visit **info.health.nz** for COVID-19 info

#### **UNWELL? UNSURE? MAKE A CALL**

#### • Healthline 0800 611 116 – free medical advice 24/7

• Ka Ora Telecare 0800 252 672 (0800 2 KA ORA) – for people in rural areas from 5pm-8am on weekdays and 24 hours a day on weekends and public holidays. Nurse consultation free. Children under 14 free. Fees apply for clinician appointments.

For details or to book visit **kaora.co.nz** 

• Need to talk? 1737 – free call or text 1737 any time to talk with a trained counsellor

 Always call 111 for an emergency – In an emergency call 111 or go directly to the closest hospital emergency department

#### **VISIT A PHARMACY**

A pharmacist is a qualified health professional who can give health advice.

#### **HOLIDAY HEALTHCARE SUPPORT**

Some medical centres and pharmacies may be closed or have limited hours during the holidays. Visit **healthpoint.co.nz to** find local healthcare services.

#### **HEALTHCARE IN THAMES AND COROMANDEL**



Thames Hospital emergency department will be open providing critical and emergency care 24/7. If you do find yourself in our Thames Hospital emergency department, make sure you have a plan for getting home once you're discharged. Most patients leave the emergency department after treatment. Keep in mind that there are very limited Uber and taxi services available in Thames.

#### Colville Community Health Centre

2299 Colville Road. Coromandel Call first on **07 866 6618**, appointments for casual patients are available **Open 8.30am-4.30pm** 18, 20, 22, 27 and 29 December. Open 3 and 5 January **Closed** 19, 21, 23-26, 28, 30 December-2 January and 4 January

#### Coromandel Family Health Centre

80 Kapanga Road, Coromandel Call first on **07 866 8500**, appointments for casual patients are available **Open 8.30am-5pm** 18-22 December, 27-29 December, 3-5 January **Closed** 23-26 December, 30 December-2 January

Mercury Bay Medical Centre 83 Joan Gaskell Drive. Whitianga Call first on 07 866 5911 appointments for casual patients are available. 24/7 on-call. Open 8.45am to 5pm 26 December- 19 January Closed Christmas Day

Paeroa Medical Centre 4 Queen Street, Paeroa Call 07 8632112. no casual appointments available **Open 8am- 4pm** 23 December, 28-30 December, 4-6 January **Closed** 24-27 December, 31 December-3 January

Thames Medical Centre 817 Rolleston Street. Thames Call 07 8689444 No casual appointments available **Open 8.30am-5pm** except on public holidays and weekends

Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki THAMES – 210 Richmond Street, Thames and Thames Hospital Clinical Centre Mary Street PAEROA – 15 Princes Street, Paeroa TE AROHA – 221 Whitaker Street, Te Aroha COROMANDEL – 225 Kapanga Road, Coromandel

WHITIANGA – 2 Coghill Street. Whitianga Call first on 07 868 0033, appointments for casual patients may be available Open 8.30am-5pm 27-28 December Open 8.30am-1pm 29 December Closed from 1pm 21-26 December Closed 30 December-2 January

Waihi Family Doctors 43 Kenny Street. Waihi Call 07 863 2112. no casual appointments available Open 8.30am-5pm 28-30 December Closed but on-call 27 December. 3 January Closed 24-26 December. 31 December-2 January

Waihi Health Centre 1 Mueller Street. Waihi Call first on 07 8638195. appointments for casual patients are available Open 8am-5pm 28 December-2 January Reduced hours 8am-1pm 31 December-2 January Closed 24-27 December. 3 January

Whangamatā Medical Centre 103 Lincoln Road. Whangamatā Call first on **07 865 8032**. appointments for casual patients are available **Open 9am-5pm** 18-22 December. 27 December- 5 January **Open 9am-1pm** 23 December **Open 12pm-1pm** 24 December **Closed 25**-26 December



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### **SUDOKU**

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

4

Foretell (7)

Pile up (5)

45 River in the underworld (4)

**44** Conciseness of expression (7)

Come after (5)

Fiasco (7)

Options (7) Defeat heavily (7)

Court clown (6)

French painter (7)

Save from danger

Wish-granter (5) Pottery beer mug

Hidden drawback

29

30

(6) **32** 

34

36

(5) **38** 

(4) **43** 

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17

#### JUMBO CROSSWORD ACROSS 65 Chaos (6) 27 Old name for China 66

**1** Stop or refrain from talking (6,4,3) **8** Imprudent (6) 68 14 Place at intervals (5) 72 15 Look like (8) **16** Street musicians (7) 76 Vertical passageway (5) **18** Auction item (3) 80 81 **19** Say again (7) **21** Travel plan (9) 22 Law-abiding (6)25 Main spouts (anag) (10) 27 Begin (8) 28 Limp (6) 31 Loudness (6)

- 33 34 Infatuated (7) Gallows (6) 35 Optical glass (4) 37 Dead heat (3) Smokestack (4) Soft Italian cheese 39 40
- (7) **41** Restore friendly relations between (9) **42** Shouting (7) **43** Insulating substance (8)
- 48 Enhance (8)52 Probabilities (7)
- 56 Welder's gas (9) 57 Makes (7)
- 58 As well (4)59 Large beer or wine
- cask (3) 60 Vessel (4)
- 61 Long sea trip (6)
- 62 Furtiveness (7)
- 63 Gained after expenses (6)
- **PREVIOUS SOLUTION**

Idle or inert (8) Spicy biscuits (10) Fish covering (6) Not compulsory (9) Deer meat (7) Plant juice (3) Supple (5) Heedfulness (7) Coffee drug (8) 83 Direct the course of (5) **84** Crops up (6) **85** Have a rest during vigorous activity (4,1,8)

#### DOWN

46 Wild cat (6) **2** Futile (7) 47 Adhesive (5) 3 Embezzlement (5) 4 Pen end (3) **48** Emerging from eggs (8) 5 Poverty (4)6 Prove the truth of **49** Not expressing genuine feelings (9) (12) 7 Norwegian **50** Make more cheerful (7 playwright (5) 8 Sudden strong **5**1 52 increase (7) 53

9 Flying stinger (4)10 Winding ski course 54 Aggressive 55 (6) **11** Imperfection (5) behaviour (12) 64 Communiqué (7) **12** Give evidence (7) **13** Causing harm or 65 67 injury (11) 69 70 71 73 Pamper (5) Siberian forest (5)

- 14 Church spire (7) 20 Highly confidential (3,6) **23** Cuts open and
- 75 77 Bungling (5) Church seats (4) 78 Wound crust (4)
- examines (8) 24 Floating lump (7) 26 Stringed instrument 82 Enemy (3)
- (7)

ACROSS: 1 Maggots, 4 Down and out, 9 Glucose, 13 Glad, 14 Dragon, 15 Reside, 16 Caprice, 18 Sea, 20 Child's play, 21 Nose ring, 22 Gavel, 25 Cinema, 26 Throne, 28 Apprehend, 33 Balanced, 34 Meagre, 35 Naughty, 39 Thespian, 40 Flight, 41 Name, 42 Happy, 43 Dirge, 46 Ill-gotten gains, 53 Apart, 56 Spoof, 57 Calm, 58 Shared, 59 Doubloon, 62 Graphic, 63 Flaunt, 64 Negative, 67 Secateurs, 69 Orrery, 70 Slogan, 74 Gamut, 75 Affluent, 77 Continuous, 81 Asp, 83 Copious, 84 Sprang, 85 Leeway, 86 Fang, 87 Release, 88 Repugnance, 89 Auditor.



DOWN: 1 Magic, 2 Gradient, 3 Script, 4 Dogma, 5 Wins, 6 Arrange, 7 Desist, 8 Under, 10 Loam, 11 Certain, 12 Secret, 17 Adam's apple, 19 Angry 23 Bordello, 24 Sheaf, 25 Created, 27 Hock, 29 Piranha, 30 Salami, Carton, 32 Stupor, 34 Might, 36 Grasp, 37 Gear, 38 Omen, 44 Impure, 45 Group, 47 Lead, 48 Gambler, 49 Tissue, 50 Exact, 51 Greenery, 52 Shoots, 53 Ambivalent, 54 Atom, 55 Tension, 60 Vital, 61 Agar, 65 Beefy, 66 Ignorant, 68 Erudite, 69 Octagon, 71 Cajole, 72 Déjà vu, 73 Strata, 76 Lapse, 78 Obese, 79 Sugar, 80 Fuss, 82 Plan.



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