

The Valley Profile

Carson's
BOOKSHOP 1906



Read Play Give

600 Pollen St. Thames

www.carsonsbkshop.co.nz

Talk to us about our Community Fund

The Diprose Miller Community Fund assists with funding for projects and events carried out by not-for-profit organisations and individuals in our local area.

Apply today.

diprosemiller.co.nz/community-fund/



ENABLING BETTER BUSINESS

Festive season begins

The festive season kicked off with a bang in Hauraki, with Santa making an appearance in two Christmas parades - Paeroa on December 1 and Waihi on December 2. Businesses, schools and community groups put on their festive best and paraded through the towns to the delight of hundreds of onlookers.

MORE PHOTOS: P7



Santa waves to the crowd at the Waihi Christmas parade on Saturday. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

We all know the drill...

RED is a NO



GREEN is a GO



Phone us today

0800 4 MY BIN (0800 469 246)

www.smartenvironmental.co.nz



smart environmental

CONTACT US

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

'THE PAPER PEOPLE READ'

NEWS/EDITORIAL

Publisher/Editor Teresa Ramsey
Ph 0204 0944 853

editor@valleyprofile.co.nz

Senior Reporter Kelley Tantau

Ph 022 619 4889

kelley@valleyprofile.co.nz

Reporter Alice Parminter

Ph 022 527 0988

alice@valleyprofile.co.nz

ADVERTISING

Advertising Manager Nikki Sanders

Ph 022 130 3885

nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz

Feature Writer Davidda Hikatangata

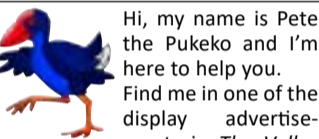
Ph 022 174 3988

davidda@valleyprofile.co.nz

2 QUEEN ST, PAEROA

Ph 07 862 7077

FIND US ONLINE:
www.valleyprofile.co.nz or
download the
Coromandel App
on your smart
phone



Hi, my name is Pete the Pukeko and I'm here to help you.

Find me in one of the display advertisements in *The Valley Profile*, then email admin@valleyprofile.co.nz with your full name and postal address, and the business name and page number of the ad by the following Monday to go in the draw to win a Lotto ticket. Last issue it was in the Splintas ad.

New signage inbound for Thames

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

An array of new signage is on its way for Thames, and while most will have a minor impact on rates, the local community board hopes they'll make a big impression on visitors to the town.

In July, the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) granted \$50,000 to Thames-Coromandel District Council from its North Island Weather Events fund.

The purpose of the funding was for branding, website, and visitor signage initiatives that would help to attract visitors to the town.

In September, Thames Community Board members stressed the importance of having the proposed signage erected before summer, and at its November 29 meeting, the location and design of the signs were decided on.

The first will be a visitor information sign outside the Thames Civic Centre, providing visitors with basic information, such as a map.

The proposed design showed a wooden sign that was 2.4 metres high and 1.2m wide, and in the shape of a Kauri dam.

It would cost around \$3500 and the impact on Thames ratepayers would be 8 cents per annum for ongoing operational costs.

A second information sign would be erected at the revamped Porritt Park playground and would be designed in the shape of The Pinnacles.



An array of design concepts for the new signage for Thames, the font of which have not been finalised.



Photos: SUPPLIED/TCDC

A council report said in addition to visitors travelling north on Queen St, the location of the sign would mean that visitors to the playground would be able to view the sign easily.

There was also safe off-street parking for visitors who stopped to read the sign.

It would also cost around \$3500, with the rate impact on Thames ratepayers being 8c per annum.

The third approved sign was a new directional sign on Queen St, near the pedestrian crossing.

The proposed south-facing sign would include direction to Thames' Town Centre, with a view to encourage visitors to

turn down Mary St. In addition, it would include symbols for services and the Pacific Coast Highway route.

The cost of the sign could be up to \$10,000, and there would be no rate impact on Thames ratepayers as it was proposed the sign would be owned by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency.

Finally, community board members also agreed to install a "picture frame" at the Waiomu Domain.

The frame would be constructed off-site and transported to the reserve where it would be assembled. The frame would be 3m long and 2.4m high and could cost up to \$10,000. The impact on Thames ratepayers

would be 11c per annum.

"Picture frames have become common in scenic areas including locations such as [the] Whitianga foreshore," the report said. "It is a way to control photo images that are shared by visitors. This may help change the perception of Thames so that the scenic qualities are better recognised."

Community board chair Adrian Catran said the unanimous vote on the signage was an "amazing step forward".

"From the road closure through to now... it's incredible how fast we're moving on to branding Thames."



Incorporating the latest in Plasma Cutters, MIG, ARC and TIG technology - Weldtech products offer professional welding results and simple setup for all welding requirements and skill levels.



TradeZone
Thames

SEE US AT:

READ BROS. HARDWARE
308 Pollen St, Thames
www.readbros.co.nz
07 868 6608

Accountants

The Hauraki Taxation Service Limited

- Established 1982
- For out of town independent accounting advice
- Approved agents for Inland Revenue Department
- Offices in Thames & Coromandel Town



328 Pollen Street, Thames
Ph/Fax: 07 868-9710
E: thames@haurakitaxation.co.nz

95 Kapanga Rd, Coromandel
Ph/Fax: 07 866-8660
E: coro@haurakitaxation.co.nz

Thames Tides

Wed Dec 6		Thu Dec 7		Fri Dec 8		Sat Dec 9		Sun Dec 10		Mon Dec 11		Tue Dec 12	
4 am	6 NOON 6 pm	4 am	6 NOON 6 pm	4 am	6 NOON 6 pm	4 am	6 NOON 6 pm	4 am	6 NOON 6 pm	4 am	6 NOON 6 pm	4 am	6 NOON 6 pm
Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon
2:10am 2.9	2:36pm 3.0	3:02am 2.8	3:27pm 3.0	3:59am 2.8	4:16pm 3.0	4:58am 2.8	5:05pm 3.0	5:54am 2.9	5:53pm 3.0	12:17am 0.8	12:40pm 0.9	1:05am 0.7	1:26pm 0.8
8:09am 1.0	8:51pm 1.1	9:07am 1.1	9:43pm 1.0	10:06am 1.1	10:35pm 1.0	11:02am 1.1	11:27pm 0.9	11:53am 1.0		6:44am 3.1	6:41pm 3.1	7:31am 3.2	7:30pm 3.2
☀️ 5:51am	8:26pm	☀️ 5:51am	8:27pm	☀️ 5:51am	8:28pm	☀️ 5:51am	8:29pm	☀️ 5:51am	8:30pm	☀️ 5:51am	8:30pm	☀️ 5:51am	8:31pm
🐟 Best At 7:45am	8:05pm	🐟 Best At 8:24am	8:44pm	🐟 Best At 9:04am	9:25pm	🐟 Best At 9:46am	10:08pm	🐟 Best At 10:30am	10:54pm	🐟 Best At 11:19am	11:45pm	🐟 Best At 12:13pm	
🌙 Rise 2:02am	Set 1:37pm	🌙 Rise 2:24am	Set 2:35pm	🌙 Rise 2:45am	Set 3:34pm	🌙 Rise 3:08am	Set 4:35pm	🌙 Rise 3:34am	Set 5:39pm	🌙 Rise 4:03am	Set 6:46pm	🌙 Rise 4:39am	Set 7:56pm

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

MOON AND FISH KEYS

New Moon
 First Quarter
 Full Moon
 Last Quarter

Good Fishing
 Fair Fishing
 Not So Good

TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES

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

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

Animal carcasses, human faeces during clean up

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

Maratoto residents, sick of seeing rubbish piles attracting more rubbish piles, got together for an hours-long clean-up of their valley, collecting four trailers full of illegally-dumped waste.

Inspired by the formation of the Maratoto Valley Landcare Group, 13 local adults, one child, and eight international students spent four hours cleaning up their environment.

Some of what they found in the bushes and the swimming holes was “beyond disgusting,” Christine Gibb said.

“A lot of the rubbish was a health and safety hazard... broken glass and smashed porcelain and drainage pipes. Used drug needles thrown in the swimming holes were another worry,” she said.

Among the items found illegally-dumped was: household items, plastics, car parts and tyres, clothing, gas bottles, animal carcasses, alcohol bottles and cans, human faeces, drug paraphernalia, a dog kennel, and fast food wrappers.

“The rubbish piles seemed to attract more rubbish piles. It’s like people see them and think: ‘Ah, that is a free solution’. Then we get the flies, the rodents, dogs, and hawks scattering the contents everywhere,” Christine said.

“There has always been the problem of fly tipping, but during [the Covid-19] lockdown it became chronic. People were



Thirteen Maratoto adults, one child, and eight international students spent four hours cleaning up their environment.

Photo: SUPPLIED

home, cleaning out sheds, cupboards, and the dump was closed or perceived to be too costly, so the solution was to drive out to the rural valleys and dump.

“It hasn’t stopped and appears to have become a habit now,” she said.

Christine told *The Profile* the clean-up crew agreed more needed to be done to stop illegal

dumping, also called fly tipping.

“There needs to be consequences and prosecutions and better policing and reactions from authorities. [As well as] more respect from the general public,” she said.

“Maybe education and promotions on ‘taking it home’, and maybe council rubbish bins at the more popular spots would

help too.”

Hauraki District Council provided a skip bin and bore the disposing costs of the clean-up, and according to its Litter Infringement Policy, control officers can issue infringements for the dumping of rubbish in a public place or on private land without the occupiers consent.

A person found depositing

dangerous litter of any quantity in any place can be hit with a \$400 fine, while depositing non-dangerous litter of less than 1 litre by volume in a public place, or on private land without the occupier’s consent, can warrant a \$100 fine.



PETCH
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

STRUCTURAL | ENGINEERING | EXCELLENCE

- Design of reinforced concrete, steel & timber structures
- Earthquake engineering
- Commercial buildings
- Industrial warehouses
- Architectural homes
- Residential projects
- Seismic assessments of existing buildings
- Retaining walls and shoring systems

visit www.petch.nz • info@pce.nz • 022 023 9502

Find your Serenity.

It all begins with great sleep.

UP TO 50% off.

1,000 days interest free
*On in-store purchases \$999 & over 'til 25.12.23

BedsRus Where dreams begin. **BAXTERS**

The experts in sleep.

BAXTERS FURNITURE & BEDS R US
205 SEALEY ST, THAMES | PH 07 868 6128

Education

Doctor dreams for Thames High's Dux

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

Ruby Molloy's love of learning has led her to become a two-time Dux recipient of Thames High School.

The successful school leaver is now on her way down south, having received the University of Otago's Leaders of Tomorrow entrance scholarship.

"Getting my scholarship down to Dunedin was a big achievement for me," Ruby told *The Profile*.

"The scholarship itself will help to fund my stay at the halls next year, and will provide support that will ease me into my first taste of independence."

When she was in Year 9, Ruby set herself the goal of receiving the Year 10 Dux - which she obtained.

Then, she set her sights on being named Dux once more for Year 13.

She said she was "so ridiculously excited" when she heard her hard work had paid off for the second time.

"After so much hard work, not just this year but in my whole school experience, getting Dux was so affirming," she said. "It's always been something I've strived towards, throughout my whole school



Ruby Molloy has plans to study medicine now her high school years are finished.

Photo: SUPPLIED

experience but especially this year."

Ruby said it was her love of learning that supported her goal.

"To me, learning is an enriching tool both for self-discovery and for a greater understanding of the world. Connecting with my schoolwork, and enjoying

the process of completing it - at times - was so important to me achieving my goal."

She said the people at Thames High, both the teachers and her friends, made her schooling experience so worthwhile.

"I've got lots of people that have supported me this year, and I'm so grateful for the

things they've taught me and the values they've instilled. I've definitely learned a lot and been really inspired to go out and pave my own way," she said.

She will be entering into first-year health sciences in 2024, with the hopes of becoming a doctor. As a doctor, she said

she'd love to specialise in obstetrics or in becoming a General Practitioner.

"The breadth of medical science fascinates me, but seeing its real-life applications and how much good medicine can do is what drives me towards a career in the field," she said.

"As a doctor, you are not only present for people in their most vulnerable moments but you are also empowered by science to assist them. This, combined with the prospect of lifelong learning makes for my dream career."

And her advice to those students coming into NCEA exams? Do the work as you get it.

"I like to keep a planner as well, just so I can write down my due date for everything and plan out how much time I want to spend completing assignments each day," she said.

"I'd [also] say working hard during your practice externals at the end of the year. I know the grade doesn't mean much, so long as you don't get sick, but learning all of those standards and sitting the exam as a true practice for your real externals is super helpful for the actual exams."



Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School



Kia kōtahi ai te piki ake, kia ikeike rawa ki te taumata
We grow together to achieve ones true potential

CELEBRATING SUCCESS



International Students

Our school community has had the pleasure of welcoming more international students in 2023, adding a diverse and global perspective to our school once more. This year, we were honored to host a remarkable 27 international students from Germany, France, Italy, and Japan. We are looking for families to host more students in their homes in 2024. If you would like to know more please contact Pauline by phoning the school on 8688688, texting 0275361001 or emailing internationalssupport@thameshigh.school.nz



Acrobatic Workshop

On Friday 10 November, our Year 10 Cirque Class took a thrilling dive into acrobatics with The Dust Palace. Mr Devery, HoD Drama commended their courage, highlighting the values of Whanaungatanga and Whakamana—building connections and supporting each other. Mr Devery shared his immense pride in witnessing his students step outside their comfort zones. Despite a few tumbles, the class embraced the spirit of pushing boundaries, learning through laughter, and creating lasting memories.



Hauraki Cultural Festival

In a dazzling showcase at the 50th Annual Hauraki Māori Festival on Saturday 18 November, our Kapahaka Rōpū, Te Puna o Te Pito Mata, presented a mesmerising performance of seven songs, spanning Waiata a ringa, Haka, and poi. The 18 taihoi received unwavering support from dedicated parents throughout weeks of practice, earning heartfelt gratitude from Whaea Rawiria and Johnson Reha Watene, the Kaiako behind the group. The event not only celebrated Te Ao Māori but also emphasised the significance of community collaboration in preserving Māori heritage and Tikanga. Ngaa Manaakitanga!



Head Students 2024

The new student leaders for 2024 were announced at the Senior Prize Giving and the Kākahu (cloaks) were passed onto the Head Students from our 2023 Head Students. We thank the 2023 Student Leaders for their contribution this year. They represented Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga exceptionally and we wish them luck in their future endeavours. The Head Students for 2024 are: Cassandra Duthie: Head Student
Kaen Liddell: Head Student
Waimarie Reynolds-Kokiri: Manukura Māori
Harris Elliot-Hogg: Manukura Māori
Abby Greenwood Deputy Head
Hunter Growden Deputy Head



Waikato Trades Awards

The Waikato Trades Academy Awards Ceremony took centre stage at the Rotokauri Campus on Thursday 9 November. The event recognised the remarkable achievements of the academy's talented students. Nic Rendall, Year 12, stood proudly as the recipient of a well-deserved certificate in Level 2 Construction and Infrastructure. Denver Esteban, Year 13, secured recognition in Mechanical Engineering Level 3, attesting to his outstanding accomplishments in the discipline. He also received the Prime Minister Vocational Award for Excellence at our recent Senior Prize Giving.

Rest and recuperation for feathered friends

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

Visitors to Traci Vivian's home can expect to be greeted with squawks and the sound of rustling feathers.

On any given day the Waihi woman has up to a dozen birds distributed around the house in cages, pens and heated tanks.

Many of them will be injured or ill; some will be motherless fledgelings needing a helping hand to get started in life.

Traci has been rescuing and rehabilitating birds for over a decade, and has seen hundreds of feathered patients through her doors.

Land birds and seabirds turn up from the surrounding community and as far away as Matamata, Te Poi and Thames.

Today the kitchen is occupied by a duckling, two fledgeling starlings, a cockatiel and a chatty magpie named Raucous.

There are also at least 25 other birds outside, in aviaries Traci has cobbled together from recycled materials.

"My aim is to have a few more setups in the backyard so I don't have to do soft releases at other people's places, [but] it's more important that I buy their food and medicines," Traci said.

"Every bird has got a different diet and needs ... none of it's cheap. A bag of pigeon food that lasts 2 weeks is about \$70."

But Traci rarely asks for help, although she will occasionally put out a call on Facebook for linens and paper towels, or ask for donations to be sent directly



Birds are often brought to Traci Vivian's home for rehabilitation.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

to the wildlife account at Franklin Vets in Waihi.

"It's not about me, it's about the birds. I don't ask for anything from anyone, that's just the way I am," she said.

"I've always liked animals, from a tot. I rescued school rats - when I found out those were going to get dissected I had to sneak those home because there was no way I wanted them put

on the table."

She found her first bird, a near-dead sparrow chick, in a downed nest 11 years ago. She revived it with a hot water bottle and weetbix, before calling a vet for advice.

"I ended up with Mario for about nine years until he passed away. He was on the brink of death," Traci said, recalling how the little bird was determined to

stay with her.

"He didn't want to go. Every time you stepped outside with him he'd fly back inside. Every morning you'd let him out, he'd have a bath in the kitchen sink and then he'd be back on your shoulder. [He was a] horrible little thing because he used to bite something chronic, but that's a sparrow for ya."

Most of her birds will be re-

leased once they are well, or rehomed if they are unsuitable for the wild.

"If I kept every single bird the house will be full of 'em," she said.

"The best bit though is letting them go. It's no different to a second chance for a human being - to me it's a second chance for wildlife.

"I enjoy seeing them get released, and for those that unfortunately don't get released it's always nice when I find a really great home for them."

Right now Traci is preparing for the annual influx of birds with botulism.

It's an ideal time for anyone interested in bird rescue to get involved, Traci said, with both herself and her mentor, Thames woman Frances Southorn, expecting to be inundated with patients as the weather heats up.

"If people want to get into this I encourage it. And if they want information Frances is only too happy to mentor, to train and to pass on her experience," she said.

"I've not studied, I've not done anything. It all just seems to fall into place. [Each] new species, I get on the internet and research it, ring up the mentor."

DETAILS: Traci Vivian can be reached on Facebook for help with injured birds, and donations should be directed to Franklin Vets Waihi's wildlife fund.



Thames Autos



A Division of Takanini Motors Ltd

R.M.V.T.

HOME DEMONSTRATIONS AND DELIVERIES AVAILABLE WE CAN COME TO YOU

www.thamesautos.co.nz

2015 Kia Pro-Ceed GT
6 Speed Manual, Turbo, Special Car



\$13,990

2010 Citroen C4 VTR
1.6Ltr 5 Speed Manual, Low 63Kms



ONLY \$8,990

2014 Holden Cruze SRi-Z
Top Spec, NZ New



\$11,990

2002 Toyota Camry
2.4Lt Auto, NZ New



VALUE \$4,990

2017 Ford Focus Sport
Low Kms



\$16,990

2014 Peugeot 308
Auto, 54Kms, Like New



ONLY \$9,990

2011 Holden Epica
2.5Lt Auto, NZ New, Value Family Car



\$6,990

2017 Nissan Qashqai Ti
Auto, NZ New, 1 Owner, 42km, As New Cond.



\$26,990

LEYLAND STOWE

Mob: 027 355 5152 Ph: 07 868 8981

or 0800 868 898

609 Pollen St, Thames RMVT
thamesautos@xtra.co.nz



No Deposit Finance available on all vehicles. Full workshop servicing & repairs available including Auto Electrical service

THE AVIATOR EXPERIENCE

NOW IN THAMES



- BIRTHDAY AND CHRISTMAS PARTIES
- FRIDAY FIGHT CLUBS
- AGES 10 AND ABOVE

705 POLLEN STREET THAMES
OPEN THUR, FRI, SAT AND SUN

P: (021) 648699

BOOKINGS@THEAVIATOR.CO.NZ

ADVERTORIAL



Craig Saunders, left, invites punters to give The Aviator Experience a go. INSET: Anita Saunders is buckled in and ready to fly. Photos: SUPPLIED

The Aviator: A call to all Top Guns

Strong support from friends and family, the local council, the community board, Thames business association and councillor Peter Revell was just the encouragement Anita and Craig Saunders needed to kickstart their dream of re-opening The Aviator Experience, this time on Pollen St, in Thames.

"It's been a tough few years for the hospitality industry and I cannot give enough praise to all the people that have helped us select Thames and reopen, and this includes our new landlord. It has been quite humbling to be fair," Craig said.

How did this all come about? "Well, I'm from a military family, both parents from the Navy but I'm not the biggest fan of boats but have always had a fascination for military aircraft, so I joined the Air Force," he said.

"We've built several simulators over the years and now have six military-style simulators that can fly up to 16 different aircraft and helicopters. There is a much larger plan

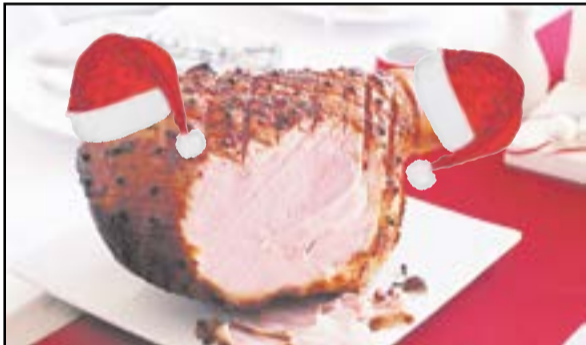
for us here, as we work with some good people to make Thames our permanent home for The Aviator."

The Aviator was "not just for the boys" either, he said, with a good portion of customers being girls too. It's great family entertainment as well, as families can watch the action on the screens, whilst the "pilots" fly in Virtual Reality.

"I don't think it's much of a secret, but we are currently working to turn 705 Pollen St back into a family friendly event space with food and beverage. All going to plan, this will happen sometime early in 2024. Grahams-town is a great location; we are enjoying it here and meeting so many lovely people.

"Besides the fun aspect of The Aviator, we believe strongly in 'paying it forward' but also looking back and remembering the sacrifices of all those before us.

"The association with Sir Keith Park is another aspect to why Thames is almost the perfect location for The Aviator."



YOUR LOCAL BUTCHER

QUALITY EVERYTIME

PROFESSIONAL, HONEST AND RELIABLE HOME KILL PROCESSING AVAILABLE

CALL NOW TO MAKE A BOOKING

Christmas hams now available, be quick to avoid disappointment.

OPEN Mon - Fri 7am till 5.30pm

Sat 8am till 1pm

61 Belmont Road Paeroa

07 862 6959



FOR ALL YOUR CATERING NEEDS

Wedding, Funerals, Meetings, Team Building days, Parties
Any occasion you need catered.

50-seat function Room (Burton's Out the Back)

404 Pollen Street Thames

Ph: 0223809735 email: burtonsbistro.catering@gmail.com

website: burtoncatering.co.nz facebook: @burtonscatering

Lunch Bar Opening Hours: 7:30am-3:00pm Monday-Friday

COURTNEYS' Christmas Tree Farm & Decoration Barn



It's not Christmas without a real Courtneys' Christmas tree!

OPEN 7 DAYS

A GREAT PLACE TO BE IMMERSSED IN CHRISTMAS CHEER!



Courtneys' Christmas Tree Farm and Decoration Barn

40 Puriri Valley Rd, Puriri

868 6064 or 027 458 9878

www.christmastree.co.nz

Towns on parade

The festive season kicked off with a bang in Hauraki, with Santa making an appearance in two Christmas parades - Paeroa on December 1 and Waihi on December 2. The parades were a chance for people across the community to come together and celebrate the holiday season. Paeroa's parade on Friday afternoon culminated in a family fun event at the domain, with entertainment, food, and of course the jolly man himself. Santa also made an appearance on Seddon St in Waihi the following day, completing several circuits of the main street to the delight of the children lining the streets. *Valley Profile* reporter **ALICE PARMINTER** captured the festivities.



The Tongan community's Paeroa float was a riot of colour and music.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER



Waihi Baptist Church embrace the reason for the season.



Schoolkids participate in the parades, despite the rain.



The float themes were varied, ranging from Santa and elf themes, to traditional Christian messaging.



Paeroa Christian School embraces a Winter Wonderland theme.



Several Waihi elves sneak a peek at the parade before resuming their candy-distributing duties.



Waihi Playcentre tamariki toddle down Seddon St.

Hydraulink
Thames

H 24/7 MOBILE SERVICE

We do Ram Repairs and Servicing

- Hydraulic hose & fittings
- Breakdown services 24/7
- Industrial hoses
- Lubricants & Oils
- Ram repairs & servicing
- General Engineering

Ph 07 868 5435
0274 990 924

100% NZ OWNED

14C Kopu Road
Kopu, Thames

Best under pressure

AUTOWORKZ

THE A TO Z OF AUTO REPAIRS

FOR WOFS, LUBES AND ALL MECHANICAL REPAIRS

PRE 2000'S MOTORBIKE RESTORATIONS, SPECIALIZED PAINT WORK & REPAIRS

CALL DALE 867 7195 | 027 372 4797
autoworkz70@yahoo.com
KOHUNUI ST, NGATEA

Rural Life

Windows open but DOC 'dropped the ball'

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

The famed Windows Walk track in the heart of Karangahake Gorge has been reopened after being closed for more than a year due to storm damage.

However, other popular tracks throughout the region still remain inaccessible to the public, which the local MP says the Department of Conservation (DOC) needs to prioritise reopening in order to help with the economic recovery of the region.

Slips, debris and other damage from last summer's storms have affected many tracks in the region, while geotechnical and safety concerns have caused the closure of others. DOC said the closed tracks required a lot of work to bring them back up to a safe standard.

"There is no timeframe for clearing or reopening the Crown Tramway track [in Karangahake Gorge]: we face a significant challenge with a large slip," DOC acting Tauranga operations manager Zane Jensen said.

"The slip covers approximately 60 metres of track, which means it is impassable for walkers. It will remain closed for the foreseeable future, and we do appreciate this will be disappointing for people who enjoy this walk."

However, Zane said DOC was striving to get the gorge's Tunnel Loop track open as soon as possible.

The Windows Walk was also recently reopened, he said, fol-



DOC says it's striving to get the gorge's Tunnel Loop track open as soon as possible after being closed by a slip during storms early this year.

Photo: TERESA RAMSEY

lowing safety-focused remedial work including the installation of barriers to keep the public away from dangerous adjacent mining tunnels.

He was confident the closure of the Karangahake Gorge tracks hadn't severely impacted tourist numbers, stating the tracks remained "popular and busy".

But Cathedral Cove was another story, with DOC closing the track

permanently following a large slip which rendered the track unsafe.

Beach access has been reinstated via the sea, but visitors are still unable to get too close to the arch due to a risk of falling rock.

The DOC website also has warnings advising of several other track and hut closures in the Thames-Coromandel district, including several near the Tapu-Coroglen Road, the Golden Cross track in

Maratoto, and a section of the Coromandel Walkway connecting Fletcher Bay and Stony Bay.

Coromandel MP Scott Simpson said he was unhappy with the delay in reopening Cathedral Cove and other tracks in the area, and said DOC needed to prioritise repairing the tracks to assist with the economic recovery of the region.

"The Department of Conservation has dropped the ball in terms

of its responsibilities to our wider community to get tracks open," he said.

"We've got a local economy that has suffered three consecutive summers of incredibly poor trading ... those businesses have had to deal with 11 months of having the main highway closed, so I think the Department of Conservation has an absolute obligation to make [opening Cathedral Cove] a priority."

DOC acknowledged the impact the closure of Cathedral Cove had had on local businesses, and said it would work with the local community as it worked to remediate the area.

An information leaflet on the DOC website addressed the Cathedral Cove closure directly.

"Cyclone Gabrielle washed away complete sections of the track and we were not prepared to risk staff or contractors' safety by commissioning work at a site where access was challenging and the land was still moving," the statement said.

"DOC has a responsibility to manage and inform visitors of the risk in areas where they are going. There is risk to anyone who uses those tracks. Reinstating them would be a complex and potentially costly job, with no 'quick fixes'."

"We need to plan for resilience against climate change and regenerative tourism that connects communities to nature."



Paeroa Auto Electrical

- Auto Air Conditioning
 - Latest Diagnostic Tools for your European Car
 - Range of Batteries for Cars, Trucks, Tractors, RVs and more
 - On Farm Auto Electrical Service
- Ph: 07 862 8565 Email: unipoint@xtra.co.nz
3 Belmont Road Paeroa

- Cowsheds • Feed Pads
 - Rolling Feed Bin Lids
- "Over 30 Years Experience"

Central Motors

Hauraki Ltd
60 Orchard Rd, Ngatea • 867 7524
www.centralmotors.co.nz
Andrew - 027 285 0349 • John - 027 279 6799

Rural Life

Pros to feed pad discussed at Parkside event

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

A visit to Parkside Dairy Farm in Pipiroa as part of the P3 Trust's Monitor Farm Field Day was a chance for farmers to gather insight into other practises undertaken around the Hauraki.

Hosted by Greg and Tessa Fisher, the November 23 field day had a "great turnout" and provided guests with a perspective into Parkside's operations - including the use of their sheltered feed pad.

The farm's owners, shareholders, and directors include managing director Nick Hoo-geveen, Harry White, Neil Haywood, and Bruce Nicol, while Greg Fisher has operated the farm since June 1, 2022.

"We discussed the reasons for putting in the covered feed pad on Parkside, and what was considered and determined when evaluating this eight years ago," Tessa Fisher told *The Profile*.

"We discussed how it has run over the past eight years, and learnings since putting the feed pad in."

A feed pad is used for regular supplementary feeding and loafing of cattle on an area of land that is either formed with a solid foundation or concreted to establish a permanent sheltered feed pad.

They offer a solution to issues like animal lameness and



Guests listen to the discussion about the covered feed pad inside the feed pad at Parkside.

Photos: SUPPLIED

heat stress, while allowing efficient feed use. However, they require significant work to establish and maintain, as well as a strong effluent management system.

"Greg discussed how he runs the feed pad day to day, and the pros and cons of operating one," Tessa said. "It's been a beneficial investment for Parkside and has increased the av-

erage production by approximately 24 per cent.

"This has largely been achieved by increased feed efficiency and increased pasture growth."

The farm has 350 cows and two full-time-equivalent staff, and guests were also able to check out the Parkside herd in the paddock, while hearing updates from monitor farms

about how they got through the wet winter season.

Tessa encouraged more farmers to get involved with the field days if they weren't already.

"P3 Trust puts on two field day events per year, and it should be a great learning opportunity to see what other farmers are doing in the area," she said. "We try to demonstrate something different each



Parkside's feed pad has allowed its owners to increase production by around 24 per cent.

field day as well as have a catch up on the monitor farms. We are keen to hear ideas of what you would like to see at field days or through our education series also."

Established in 2012 by dairy farmers, the P3 Trust is driven by a clear purpose: to enhance the profitability, sustainability, and satisfaction of Hauraki Plains dairy farmers, while uplifting the wealth and well-being of the broader Hauraki Plains community.

DETAILS: To stay up to date, subscribe to the weekly P3 Hauraki Plains Monitor Farms e-newsletter at dairynz.co.nz/subscribe, or join the P3 Dairy Trust Facebook group.



BBQ season is on its way

MASPORT X-GRILL

3 burner, cover, grill & convection



\$1,099

ZIGGY

3 sizes - single, double or triple burner



From **\$499**

Hauraki Plains Motors

1 Pipiroa Road, Ngatea • Ph 07 867-7021

A/Hrs Mike 027 440 4681, Miles 027-227-1121 Email: admin@hpmotors.co.nz



ENTERTAINMENT

Christmas favourites

After the success of Street Requiem in July, St George's Community Choir is pleased to present a festive Christmas performance - A Celebration of Christmas Music at 3pm on December 10 at St George's Church, Thames.

Celebrating the Christmas season, the concert will be "joyful and relaxed", committee member Barbara Tegg said, and the audience will have the opportunity to participate in several familiar carols throughout the afternoon.

Christmas mince pies and a cuppa will be served after the performance for the choir and the audience. The choir will perform a variety of Christmas music from the 8th to the 21st century, from Aotearoa and from several countries around the world.

Travelling the globe, the choir sings music such as: Infant Holy, a traditional Polish Carol; The Carol of the Bells, which is based on a Ukrainian folk song; the Huron carol, a Canadian Christmas

hymn; and the West Indian Spiritual, The Virgin Mary. Included in the programme is Gloria, from Street Requiem which is African in style and seeks to bring a sense of peace and hope to communities around the world.

"The music has been chosen for its range of styles with singing in both unison and beautiful four part harmony," Barbara said.

"Sandie Davis-Roberts is again conducting the choir. She brings a vast repertoire of choral experience to the stand and has been training the choir for this concert since September. Yi Ting Heng has been our rehearsal pianist and she will be accompanying the singing."

St George's choir is a community choir - no auditions are required. It welcomes new singers and those that just want to give choir singing a go. In 2024, the choir is planning to join with the Te Aroha Singers for performances in Thames and Te Aroha towards the end of April.



Christmas cheer heads to Waihi Beach

The countdown to Christmas has well and truly begun, and Santa's gearing up to visit the idyllic holiday hot spot, Waihi Beach. On Saturday, December 16, from 8am to noon, the Saturday Farmers' Market at Waihi Beach School will transform into a festive community event for the whole family. This Christmas Market will have something for everyone, especially the little ones. Kids can have a pony ride or challenge themselves with a game of giant inflatable tenpin bowling or football, plus much more. While the kids are entertained, adults can explore the popular Saturday Farmers' Market, which is shaping up to be their biggest Market to date. With an array of food and drink stalls, fresh local produce, arts and crafts, live music, and entertainment from Waihi Beach School. And let's not forget the main attraction - Santa Claus himself. At 10am, Santa will make a special appearance at the Christmas Market, spreading Christmas cheer and bringing smiles to children's faces. "The Christmas Market is all about community and the kids. We want every kid to leave grinning from ear to ear. Admission is free, so gather your whanau and friends and join us for a fun festive morning," events manager Matt Nicholson said. More info: www.waihibeach.co.nz or www.waihibeachfarmersmarket.co.nz.



Festive Friday night fun

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

An upcoming Friday night is set to feature something for everyone at multiple events across the Thames Valley.

On Friday, December 8, all of the Grahamstown precinct in Thames will be open.

There will be live music and portraits at Vessel Co-op, a Fijian night at the Grahamstown Shack, a one-night-only experience at Proud Mary's, tacos at Little Toke, dinner at Cafe Melbourne and so much more.

Visitors will also be able to do their Christmas shopping at participating stores between 5pm-8pm, with all purchases going in the draw to win a gift pack prize.

On the same night, Turua will host its first 'Christmas at the Hall', running from 5.30pm-8.30pm.

There will be live entertainment, raffles, a sausage sizzle, bake sale, face painting, a lucky dip, classic cars on display, a free slip and slide, a bouncy castle, stalls, and Santa will also be there giving treats to the kids.

Turua's own Rocker Warrior will be in attendance giving away Warriors posters.

Meanwhile, every Friday in December leading up to Christmas, most stores in Waihi will be open for late-night shopping until 8pm. On the final Friday, December 22, Santa and his elves will pay a visit.



Thames Hauraki Dance Theatre dancers prepare for a journey to wonderland on December 9, which will include two performances loosely based on Alice in Wonderland. The show will feature dancers from four year olds to adults, with a mix of classical ballet, contemporary, jazz and tap. The performance will be held at Thames War Memorial Civic Centre at 2pm. Photo: SUPPLIED

DAVE TAYLOR ROOFING

SPECIALISING IN:
Waterproofing Roofs and decks,
TPO Enviroclad • Butyl • Epiclاد • Torch On

YOUR LOCAL POOFING CONTRACTOR

TEL: 027 2707 277
EML: davetaylorroofing@gmail.com
WWW: davetaylorroofing.co.nz

FOR EXCEPTIONAL WINDOWS & DOORS

FAIRVIEW THAMES

10 Millar Place, Kopu, Thames
P: 07 868 9105 | office@fairviewthames.co.nz
www.fairviewthames.co.nz

Love your view

‘Do not slack off’: Hard work pays off for Waihi Dux

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Excellence is something that Waihi College’s Dux for 2023 Tyla Millar has set her sights on.

The 18-year-old recipient of the Shepherd Cup and Waihi Lions Scholarship for Dux passed all her NCEA internal assessments this year with flying colours.

“All of the credits I did get this year were excellence credits,” she said.

This level of diligence and motivation has been propelled by the year 13’s love for “academic validation”.

“A lot of people when they see me to start with they kinda just assume that I’m just like everyone else [who] doesn’t really care about my marks,” she said.

A sense of satisfaction for disproving people’s remarks and observations gave Tyla “a good feeling to know that I can do better than anyone thinks I can”.

Dedicated to her learning, devoted to giving her best and a strong advocate for knuckling down, “my advice would be to definitely... do not slack off”.

This sentiment rings loud and true for Tyla, who has been working toward this academic goal since year seven.

“It’s good to feel like I’ve finally got it”.

Declaring that it was “a bit of



Waihi College Dux Tyla Millar, left, with Proxime Accessit Meg Thomas.

Photo: SUPPLIED

a shock” to hear her name during the dux announcement, the student said it was also “just a big relief” when she accepted her award.

“It gives me a lot of confidence in myself, to know that

I can achieve something like this [and] going further, I can achieve other big things.”

A defining moment for the student was when she started her NCEA journey.

“I was the only one in year 11

to get an excellence endorsement,” she said.

“And then when I got first in my year group, that kind of just motivated me because everyone had been telling me about how hard it would be all year for me

“My advice would be to definitely... do not slack off.”

- Tyla Millar

to get endorsements and how I shouldn’t really keep my hopes up. So when I got that, I knew that I should keep going,” she said.

Next year will see Tyla preparing to study a double major in law and psychology at Waikato University, alongside playing netball and running.

Tyla received the Te Paewai o te Rangi: The University of Waikato Scholarship for Outstanding Academic Achievement, which will “definitely help out”.

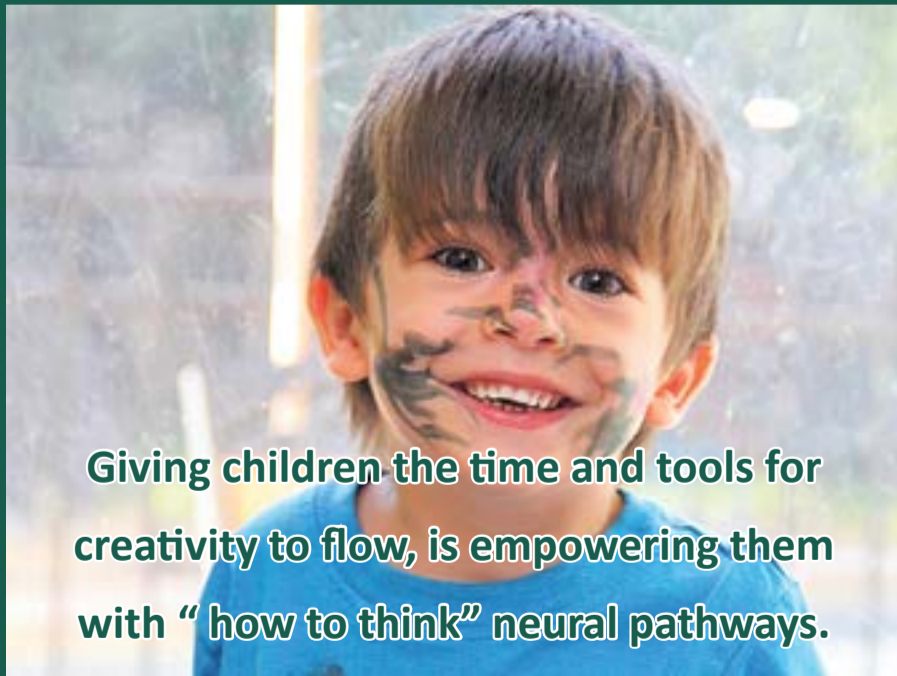
Tyla hopes next year’s year 13 students will work hard to achieve university entrance (UE). “Try and get UE as soon as you can because it’s really just a big relief once you do get it. Just don’t stress about what you’re going to be studying, just pick something that you’re interested in and go from there,” she said.

“You don’t have to make up your mind straight away.”

Meanwhile, Meg Thomas was named Proxime Accessit and received The Coombes Cup.

“Children must be taught how to think, not what to think”

Margaret Mead



Giving children the time and tools for creativity to flow, is empowering them with “how to think” neural pathways.



Sally Christie

Ph: 027 372 6332 • E: sally@hfvin.co.nz

TE MAHI - Upskill

Learn to earn

To all fridge door swingers, couch surfers and screen queens who have dreamt of fixing the world and starting a revolution but can’t start a lawn mower, we can pave the way to your next job.



Our FREE 15 week course is a Level 3 programme giving you confidence with all kinds of machinery - chainsaws, quad & motorbikes, fencing & infrastructure.

Call now to check your eligibility

Level 3 Agriculture spaces available now.

Level 3 Horticulture spaces available now



Valley Education

free courses • free transport

Call or **07 868 7892**

text us **027 314 1577**

www.valleyeducation.co.nz

Drinking, fights leads to child neglect charge



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

PART ONE

The woman's home was in a bad state – it was dirty, there were no plates or dishes and her children ill-clad and ill-fed. It was not a fit place to bring up children. Six men testified against her – neighbours, policemen, detectives, and the Borough Relieving Officer.

She bore signs of debauchery. She was addicted to drink, and allowed the children to run wild. Her house was frequented by bad women. On more than one occasion men were seen to enter her house late at night. There were great rows in the house. She had recently had an illegitimate child. Only last week she was seen with another woman the worse for liquor in a Grahamstown restaurant. The charge, as was law at the time, was made against her four sons aged 9, 7, 5, and 3 years. It was alleged they were neglected children, residing in a brothel with their mother, Charlotte Thrupp, a reputed prostitute. His Worship said he did not think the section of the Neglected and Criminal Children Act was meant to apply to children



View from Irishtown over Thames. Block 27, upper right, was where Charlotte and her children lived.

Photo: SUPPLIED

living with their mother, even though the place might be a brothel. He dismissed the charge but administered a caution to the woman regarding her character.

The hardening of Charlotte's character had perhaps begun two years earlier on an August morning in 1878 as dawn broke over the Firth of Thames.

Fishing boats, which had been out all night around the Piako river mouth, were aground on the Piako Flats waiting for the tide to come in. The Colombo however was aground and on her beam ends. On investigation a man's leg clad in dark trousers and a blucher boot was seen tangled in the rigging.

On a return search a short time later the body was gone.

The Colombo had left Shortland Wharf at 11.30 the previous evening for Waitakaruru, in charge was Thomas, better known as Jonathan, Thrupp, the owner. He had

with him James Benney, who helped Jonathon sail the boat, and George de Thierry, a licensed interpreter, who had chartered the Colombo to take him to Waitakaruru to collect a man required as a witness in a Native Lands Court case.

A search was made for the men by the harbour boat and steamers Te Aroha and Fairy but was unsuccessful. The Te Aroha, however, brought back with her the Colombo. At the request of the despairing relatives of the missing men a detachment of the Naval Brigade left the Albert Street wharf in the gun boat Victoria to make a thorough search.

Mr Spencer also took out his little steamer the Memsahib. In both the gun boat and the Memsahib were some of the Thames Star carrier pigeons, which would fly the news to town if the bodies were found. But there would be no news on the fate of the occupants of the Colombo.

George De Thierry, 55, was of an

old French Royalist family, and was married to Ani Whanauwhaka with whom he had a family. James Benney, 37, was well known amongst the mining community and left a wife and children. Jonathan Thrupp was by occupation a miner, but had been badly injured in an accident in the Piako mine. Funds were raised for him and the Colombo purchased. Jonathon was not accustomed to working small boats and it was supposed that the Colombo was caught in a squall and capsized. Jonathon and his wife Charlotte had four children.

The De Thierry family were financially sound, but the families of Benney and Thrupp were wholly unprovided for. A week after the accident a meeting was held at the Pacific Hotel to raise funds for the relief of the widows and families. Mr Mason made a statement which showed that the case of the Thrupp family in particular was very distressing. Funds were to be collected and performances held at the Academy of Music in aid of the Colombo Accident Relief Fund. The public responded liberally to the call.

On 15 August George De Thierry's body was discovered on a mud bank by some fishermen. An inquest found he had accidentally drowned. James Benney's body was found on 27 August by the steamer Rotomahana on her passage between Auckland and Thames. An inquest was thought unnecessary.

Five weeks later Charlotte Thrupp was asked to accompany a police constable to Coromandel. A body had been found near Manaia wearing dark trousers and blucher boots. It was Jonathan Thrupp. For Charlotte life had taken a very dark turn.

CONTINUED DECEMBER 13

Tapu-Coroglen Rd set to reopen early

The Tapu-Coroglen Rd is expected to reopen on December 8, a few weeks earlier than expected.

Thames-Coromandel District Council said Coromandel contractor Kelsey Construction was progressing well with the road repair.

The road has been closed since January after a period of Cyclones and storms caused large slips that washed out the road earlier this year.

"The delays caused by Cyclone Lola and site vandalism have been made up by the contractors on site and (weather dependent) we anticipate having the route open by Friday, 8 December, earlier than originally expected," council said.

Police were called and private security guards put in place after hours at the Tapu-Coroglen Rd roadworks site following incidents of vandalism to the contractor's plant and equipment, along with confrontation from some of the public towards staff in recent months.

The route was to remain closed to all vehicles more than 12.6 metres in length and was not an approved diversion route for the closure on State Highway 25A, council said.

AVAILABLE NOW

- One Bedroom Apartment, Level 3
- One Bedroom Apartment, Level 2
- Two Bedroom Villas

ENQUIRE TODAY!



STAGE 1 IS NOW COMPLETE ENQUIRIES FOR STAGE 2 ARE WELCOME!

All apartments are within walking distance to Thames' shops, cafes and walkways.
The perfect location to enjoy your fun-filled retirement

Our open plan, single level apartments feature covered balconies with fantastic views of the sea, Kauaeranga River and mountains.

Each unit's elegantly finished kitchen, lounge, bedroom and bathroom offer stylish warmth and light.

All residents enjoy scenic views from each level's shared lounges, use of the Village Community Lodge and participation in all activities and amenities at your leisure.



PHONE US
to view
by appointment

Come and experience
the difference!



Living the lifestyle, loving the choice...

A lifestyle village in Thames on the Coromandel

82 Richmond St, Thames

0800 868 5484

www.richmondvillas.co.nz



SPORTS REPORTS

Thames Croquet's 117th birthday bash

CROQUET

It was rather special that Charlie Lyes, partnered with Don Lockhart, won the Primary Division of the recent tournament held to celebrate the 117th birthday of Thames Croquet Club.

The Lyes family came from Thames, and in the late 1980s. When the club made the move to have greens independent from the bowling club, it was Charlie Lyes who spent a month on his tractor levelling the soil over what had been a rubbish dump to form the five courts.

His son Cameron, ably taught by his grandmother Emily Lyes, started playing in 1989 at the age of 10, and as a schoolboy was chosen to play in Australia.

He won the Arthur Ross Memorial Event five times.

Eventually his handicap was reduced to minus-three and he was selected to play for New Zealand in the World Championships in 2002.

Club captain Jill Maw was pleased to have a full complement of players register for the birthday bash and to have teams from Leamington, Claudelands, Warkworth, Pukekohe, Howick, Te Aroha, St Heliers,



Primary Division winners Charlie Lyes and Don Lockhart alongside club captain Jill Maw and Amba Catran.

Morrinsville, Paeroa, Waihi, Thames, and even one entry from Western Australia.

Heralding a successful day with the weather co-operating, and the courts looking good, after a lavish afternoon tea and cutting of the birthday cake, Amba Catran from sponsor Twentymans Funeral Services presented the prizes.

DETAILS: For those wanting to 'have a bash' and give the game of golf croquet or rush croquet a go over the summer months, the Thames club plays start at 8.45am Mondays and Thursdays; on Saturdays at 12.45pm; and on Wednesday evenings at 4.45pm. Just turn up, wearing flat soled shoes at the clubrooms at 101 Beach Rd. Mallets are supplied and the first game is free.

- Supplied by Thames Croquet Club

Ulysses' Icons 150 rides to success

Forty-five motorcyclists and passengers enjoyed a tour of some of the most iconic Hauraki and Thames-Coromandel sights last month on the Ulysses Waihi-Thames Valley Icons 150, raising more than \$2100 for Cyclone Gabrielle victims.

A sunny day meant both the competitive and tour groups enjoyed 150km of "very pleasant riding" along a number of the area's less-travelled roads, branch co-ordinator Chris Brown said.

"We were pleased with the level of support that we received from our local motorcycling community, as well as as well as our two district councils and many local businesses, including Hauraki RSA Ngatea, Hauraki Plains Motors Ngatea, Central Motors Ngatea, Moto 1 Paeroa, Harcourts Whangamata, and Bike Rider Magazine," Chris said.

He believed the funds raised by the Waihi-Thames Valley group was greater than most



The Icons 150 ride raised more than \$2100 for Cyclone Gabrielle victims.

Photo: SUPPLIED

other Ulysses branches, including those of main centres, he said.

"A lot of hard work went into organising and running the event, and I thank everyone for lending a hand on the day to en-

sure it was a success."

With the triumph of the Icons 150, Chris said the club was looking into the possibility of running further fundraising rides in the future to support local community groups.

GOLDFIELDS WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The meeting of the Goldfields Women's Institute commenced with the Aspiration and Prayer. The Motto for the month - "It may be true that life begins at 40 but everything else begins to wear out, fall out or spread out" was read by Val Bowen. The Roll Call - How many articles can you fit into a matchbox starting with the letter M, resulted in Val Bowen having 13 articles, Sue Fah 10, Jean Brady 8 and Jeannine Oliver 4, and all

agreed that M was quite a difficult letter. Birthday girl this month was Helen Udy. Raffles were won by Sue Fah and Val Bowen. A lovely thank you letter was received from the Thames Birthing Unit for the two boxes of knitting, which they intend to make up some lovely gifts over the holidays for the babies born in the Unit. The table again was laden with knitting and also a good supply of toilet bags that were sewn and then will be filled with toiletries for our Emergency Toilet Bags. Our

speaker for the day was Sue Fah, who spoke about publishing her second book of poetry. Her book is called "Imaginations" and Sue read several poems to us all, which we all thoroughly enjoyed. Grace was said before we enjoyed a relaxed lunch. **COMPETITION RESULTS:** Bloom - Helen Udy 1, Val Bowen 2, Bev Schenkel & Kate Wood 3=. Cluster - Val Bowen 1, Helen Udy and Sue Fah 2=. Shrub - Sue Fah 1, Helen Udy 2, Val Bowen 3. Orchid - Helen Udy 1, Sue Fah 2, Val Bowen 3.

METAL RECOVERIES
2006 LIMITED
SCRAP METAL BUYERS & RECYCLERS

PH: (07) 868 9422

Stephen Young
0274 820 536

P.O. Box 768, Thames

DEPOT: 26 QUEEN ST, KOPU THAMES

THE CHEESE BARN
Café & Shop OPEN 7 Days

Looking for some Gift ideas?

4 Wainui Road, Matatoki, RD1 Thames,
Ph 07 868 1284, www.thecheesebarn.co.nz

ADOPTION
THE GIFT OF LOVE

ADOPTION IS LOVE
WWW.ADOPTIONISLOVE.ORG.NZ

New Christmas stock arriving weekly

• Cushions • Jewellery • MM Linen 100% cotton bedspreads • Wall Art
• Handbags & Accessories • Loyalty Cards • Gold Card Discounts • Gifts

Lynne's 500 Pollen St, Thames - 868 8725

Whānau Health Centre Holiday Hours

COROMANDEL | PAEROA | THAMES | WHITIANGA

DECEMBER 2023

Friday 22 December: CLOSING EARLY 12PM
 Monday 25 December: CLOSED
 Tuesday 26 December: CLOSED
 Wednesday 27 December: OPEN 8:30AM - 5:00PM
 Thursday 28 December: OPEN 8:30AM - 5:00PM
 Friday 29th December: CLOSING EARLY 12PM

JANUARY 2024

Monday 1 January: CLOSED
 Tuesday 2 January: CLOSED
 Wednesday 3 January: OPEN 8:30AM - 5:00PM
 Thursday 4 January: OPEN 8:30AM - 5:00PM
 Friday 5 January: OPEN 8:30AM - 5:00PM

TE AROHA : CLOSED 18 December 2023 - 05 January 2024*

ALL WHĀNAU HEALTH CENTRES OPEN/BUSINESS AS USUAL MONDAY 8 JANUARY 2024.



TE KOROWAI
HAUORA O HAURAKI

"Mō Tātou o Hauraki"

Health & Wellbeing



Just what the doctor ordered

Free health checks and help navigating social services

Connecting with whānau in the spaces and places that they choose is one of the approaches Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki takes to reach this priority population.

What that looks like in practice is like the free health check pop-up stand run by its Piki te Ora service team at the recent Hauraki Cultural Festival at the Silver Farms Arena in Te Aroha.

"It's been a really good turnout, we've been so busy," Bettina Hunter said.

Staffed by an occupational therapist, kaiawhina and administration kaimahi, the health hub tested for blood-sugar levels, blood pressure, and shared information on healthy kai options.

"We're helping with navigation services that are available for whānau that might need access with mahi, ACC, whānau

aspirational planning - Wānau Ora and Tamariki Ora services," Gypsy Roberts said.

Lining tables nearby was a wall of Whānau Ora hygiene packs in easily recognisable branded boxes full of essential supplies for whānau.

By the end of the day 41 whānau were checked and a further 80 had engaged with Te Korowai's navigation services using a special passport as a way for them to give feedback and register. For the past five years, Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki, a Whānau Ora partner in the Te Ngira Collective, has supported the annual event. This year, it gave away stage spot prizes including vegetable pods for whānau to grow their own at home.

- Supplied by Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki

HOW ARE YOUR EARS? ITCHY, BLOCKED, RINGING?

Our experienced registered nurses provide

- ✓ Micro suction of ear wax and debris
- ✓ Management of ear infections
- ✓ Removal of foreign objects from ear canal

Adults \$55 Children \$35

- No referral required
- ACC and Veteran Affairs approved

Thames is every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
 Paeroa is every second Friday



107 Sealey St Thames
 Ph: 07 868 3250
 Or book online at
www.earhealth.co.nz



Qualified Nutritionist: Personal Trainer: Health Coach: Life Coach
 with over 20 years of experience



Women over 40 If you are serious about losing some weight and improving your health for the summer I can help.

Lose 6-10kg

Fit back into your summer clothes

Feel great with energy to spare! Online Coaching via My website FB Zoom or Phone

www.outlookforlife.com
ginny@outlookforlife.com
 01202838272

Meet our newest team member

Who is Justine?

Justine is a Physician Associate (PA-C). She recently moved here with her husband and son, and two dogs, from Vermont in the USA. She feels very fortunate to live and work in beautiful New Zealand.



Justine holds a Bachelor's degree in cultural anthropology and ecology and a Master's degree in infectious diseases. She is nationally certified (the "C" in PA-C) through the NCCPA in the United States.

Justine has been a Physician Associate in family medicine for more than 20 years at the same rural clinic. She has proctored other physician assistants, nurse practitioners and medical students as well as mentored high school students interested in the medical profession. She has been a medical volunteer overseas in Haiti, Gua-

temala, and Greece.

Life at home is spent with family hiking, exploring in nature, fishing, gardening and baking.

What is a Physician Associate?

Physician associates are highly trained health-care professionals who work as a part of the medical team. PAs are trained under the medical model like doctors and are hired to work as an extension of a doctor under the doctor's delegation.

They have existed in the US since the mid 1960s and are currently working and being trialled all over the world. PAs typically obtain medical histories, perform examinations and procedures, diagnose illnesses, prescribe medication, order and interpret diagnostic tests, refer patients to specialists as required, and first or second-assist in surgery.

- Supplied by Health Ngatea.



Classic to contemporary styling

All aspects of colouring

Blonding specialists

"City styling in the heart of Coromandel"



558 Pollen St, Thames. Phone 868 6105
www.facebook.com/walterandcothames

www.walterandco.co.nz
[Instagram@walter_andco](https://www.instagram.com/walter_andco)



721 Pollen St, Thames (Rose Cottage)

Mon - Fri 9am to 5pm

Twice Monthly clinics in Ngatea, Te Aroha, Whangamata & Whitianga

littlefootpodiatry.co.nz

020 41941399 - littlefootpodiatry@gmail.com

SPORTS

Oceania title bout ends in draw for Waitai

BOXING

By ANDREW CONNAUGHTON

A capacity crowd of passionate boxing fans gathered at Chongqing's 9000-seater main arena in China on Saturday, November 25, to witness a spectacular display of athleticism and skill.

Whilst also being broadcast live on China Channel 5, simultaneously a global audience of more than 10,000 boxing enthusiasts tuned into the livestream from Chongqing to witness the highly anticipated clash between New Zealand's own Francis 'The Punisher' Waitai and Wuzhati 'Ozat' Nuerlang, China's esteemed Light Heavyweight champion.

The stakes were high, with the coveted WBO Light Heavyweight Oceania Title and a spot in the top 15 world rankings hanging in the balance. The 10-round battle proved to be closely contested. The judges' scorecards reflected the intensity of the bout, rendering a split decision of 96-94, 95-95, 93-97, ultimately deeming the match a draw.



Wuzhati Nuerlang, left, and Francis Waitai at weigh in. RIGHT: Francis Waitai at Chongqing's main arena.

Although the decision may not have favoured either pugilist, Waitai graciously acknowledged the toughness of his opponent, describing the bout as a "good fight".

Despite the draw, Waitai's boxing skills catapulted him further up the world rankings, also attracting attention

from global promoters eager to showcase his formidable skills in future bouts.

Francis Waitai's coach, Shaun George, of Team George Promotions, extended gratitude to the Chinese hosts for organizing a professional event and providing an overall exceptional experience.



Reflecting on the bout, Shaun noted that Francis had excelled in the early rounds, out-jabbing and out-maneuvring his opponent. While 'Ozat' utilised "punch and hold" tactics in the latter half of the bout, it was Francis who finished stronger, staggering Ozat with powerful combinations in the final

rounds. Shaun, while acknowledging the close nature of the fight, believed Waitai had done enough to secure a win.

Amid discussions of a potential rematch, Waitai expressed a preference for the fight to be in his preferred weight division, Super Middleweight.

Taking a well-deserved break for recovery, Waitai is gearing up for an eventful 2024, with numerous international fight opportunities on the horizon.

Waitai hopes to inspire others with his journey, emphasizing that hard work can lead to success. Proud of his roots in Hauraki and the town of Paeroa, Waitai shared: "You don't need a lot".

"I just worked hard on my sport, and now it's sending me around the world."

Reflecting on his time in China, Waitai expressed admiration for the vibrant culture and the warmth of the people of Chongqing.

Despite its bustling nature, he felt welcomed and appreciated the hospitality of the locals, creating lasting memories of his remarkable journey.

Valley completes successful northern regions provincial 7s series

RUGBY 7s

Since 2019, when the Thames Valley Swamp Fox Men miraculously qualified for the National 7s in Tauranga, Provincial Union (PU) 7s has not existed.

In March 2023, the Northern Regions stakeholders created an attractive series which would lead the revival of Rugby 7s in New Zealand.

With Taranaki, King Country and Auckland opting out, Thames Valley made the bold decision to enter both a Swamp Fox (Men) and Vixen (Women's) team into the three-week series against all NPC first-tier provinces.

We put our hand up to host the first of three tournaments in Whangamatā, followed by the second of the 'pre-requisite' tournaments, both teams travelled to Pukekohe for the Counties Manukau leg. Both teams showed vast improvement from the previous tournament in Whangamatā with a number of close results and clearly building towards the main event in Whangārei on November 25.

The Swamp Foxes (Men) went down early in pool play to Bay of Plenty, 7-31, and North Harbour, 5-29. With confidence still high, they went

into their final pool match against Waikato with nothing to lose. In what was a quality Waikato team, Thames Valley pulled off a remarkable upset victory, 14-10. A late try to Jarrod Gellert sealing the victory from a great team try on the full-time hooter.

This created a strong buzz within the Thames Valley camp, and the strong contingent of supporters who travelled up North to support our teams. Now playing Northland in the semi-final, the emotional roller coaster eventually caught up with the team, going down 14-26, and then eventually losing the Bowl Final to Bay of Plenty.

The Vixens (Women) also created history by beating North Harbour 12-10 in the Bowl Final of the Women's Competition. For the first time, a Heartland Provincial Union Women's team claimed a scalp against a Farah Palmer Cup Provincial Union. The Vixen's defensive effort late in the match was the difference between the two teams, sustaining pressure and forcing a mistake. This capped off a challenging three weeks for the Vixens, with a large number of players falling to injury and unavailability, meaning the team had to dig deep into



Valley players in action: Charlie Best, top left, Cory Middleton left, and Eliki Sicinilawa, above.

Photos: SUPPLIED/TVRFU

the player stocks. Earlier in pool play, the Vixens lost to Bay of Plenty 0-22, North Harbour, 0-14, and Waikato, 7-22. This victory over North Harbour continues to solidify and build on the success and growth we are witnessing in the Women's space within the Thames Valley.

From a player standpoint, The Swamp Foxes were able to bleed in three boys all under the age of 20

years old, Korbin Chwesik, Max Baker and Fozz Gilbert, all of whom have had great 2023 seasons, showed their quality in the men's representative scene with numerous quality performances and contributions. Dane Mathew of Mercury Bay was a consistent standout performer after his experience in the Heartland Championship this season. As were Charlie Best with pace and energy on attack,

and Eliki Sicinilawa who was an enforcer on defence, to name a few.

For the Vixens, Cory Middleton who lives in Coromandel but played for the Hauraki North Diamonds, put in a massive shift each week. As was fellow Diamond Natasha Forsythe, who was involved in everything and continues to show her talent. It was also a prime opportunity for two secondary school students, Josey Hansen (Paeroa College) and Dana Lang (Hauraki Plains College), who never took a backwards step and again showed the talent we have coming through our female ranks.

The TVRU would like to thank the key volunteers that led our teams throughout the campaign, Brendan Clark (Vixens) and Scott Paterson, Steven Hill, Jason Simpson and Tamsin Armstrong (Swamp Foxes).

We now look ahead to 2024 and wait for direction about what lies ahead in the Rugby 7s space within New Zealand.

The hope for everyone is that the National Tournament returns which would add extra fizz to the already great programme the Northern Regions stakeholders have created.

- Scott Day, TVRFU

Scott Simpson MP for Coromandel

Contact me anytime

0800 550 330 • scottsimpson.co.nz
mpcoromandel@parliament.govt.nz
f scottsimpsonmp

National

Authorised by Scott Simpson, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.



Thames Centre Pharmacy

Dispensary & Healthcare Advice

Efficient convenient prescription dispensing

Open Monday to Friday
9am - 5pm
(closed 12.45pm - 1.45pm)

Thames Medical Centre
817 Rolleston Street
Thames

Ph 07 8685100 – Fax 07 2800724
pharmacist@thamescentrepharmacy.co.nz

Our team are locals supporting locals

CALL THE EXPERTS

ARBORIST



TREE SHAPES

Qualified Arborists

- Treework Large & Small
- Stump Grinding ➤ Hedge Trimming
- Fruit Tree Pruning ➤ Chipping

For a free quote call
07 868 3985 or 0274 726627

CLEANING



0800 464 898
Alaine Hedges
027 242 7268
John Hedges
027 457 2018
Email: info@ajcleanupcrew.co.nz

- Lawn mowing
- Weedeating
- Hedge & tree trim
- Section clearing
- Gardening
- Rubbish removal
- Interior house clean
- New build clean/clear
- Odd jobs considered
- One off jobs welcome

BUILDING SERVICES



PROFESSIONAL TRADE SERVICES

RESIDENTIAL - House Renovations - Kitchens Bathrooms - Pergolas - Fencing - Decks Gibbing - Tiling - Landscaping - Painting General Home Maintenance and Much More

COMMERCIAL - Body Corporate Maintenance Programmed Maintenance - 24/7 Emergency Callouts

CONSENTS - Required Building Consent work lodged with Councils.

DESIGN - CAD Design for Extensions - 3D Room Design (see how your job will look like when completed)

INSURANCE - Preferred Insurance Provider Flood / Earthquake / Cyclone / Electrical Plumbing Work

Ph 0800 088 001 (Call for a FREE Estimate) www.ptsnz.com
Office & Showroom 3 Coronation Street, Paeroa



T&A McWatters offers a "good job done for a fair price".

Photo: SUPPLIED

CABINS FOR SALE



- Office • Sleep Outs
- Extra Accommodation
- Storage • Study
- Farm Accommodation

Available in 2 colours
10 sqm - Fully welded galvanised steel frame
Marine Ply floor, insulated walls & roof
3 double power points, COC, interior/exterior light

VIC'S CABINS WAIKATO
021 0271 6857

DRIVING ACADEMY

DRIVING COURSES

Driving lessons
Learner Licence courses*
Defensive Driving courses*
Book now 027 314 1577 (text or phone)
*register your interest
*see if you are eligible for free courses
admin@valleyeducation.co.nz



T&A McWatters haul 20 years

A "good job done for a fair price", has been the driving force for T&A McWatters Ltd in its 20-year operation. The Ngātea-based company offers drain clearance, mulching, bulldozer, digger and truck hire, and a carting service for all grades of metal, palm kernel, hay, silage, sand and Mangatangi River Rock. Tim McWatters, who operates the company with his wife Althea, said the bulk of their clients were farmers and

councils. "They all keep getting us back, so we must be doing a good job," he said. "We cover South Auckland, down to the Waikato, to the Coromandel Peninsula and the Hauraki Plains." Tim said the future plans for the company, which currently has four staff, was to expand if an opportunity arose. **CONTACT: Get in touch by phoning 027 278 5384.**

EARTHWORKS & CARTAGE



Digger, Bulldozer & Truck Hire

- Mulching
- Cartage of Metal, sand, fertiliser, palm kernel, hay & maize silage

PHONE TIM 027 278 5384
T & A MCWATTERS LTD

ELECTRICIAN



INNIS ELECTRICAL

027 539 5572
theinnis@xtra.co.nz

- Domestic
- Industrial
- Commercial
- New Installations
- Re-Inspections
- Electrical WOF's

Registered Electrician & Electrical Inspector
Covering Paeroa and surrounding area

ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR

Camper E-WoF \$100

021 944 309
I come to you*
*Waihi + 30km

FUNERALS



Valley FUNERAL SERVICES

FUNERAL DIRECTORS


Our family serving yours — in the Hauraki & Thames Corromandel Districts

- Direct Cremation for Ngatea/Paeroa/Thames/Waihi \$2850 GST incl
- Traditional, Eco & Bespoke Funerals from \$4800
- Pre-Planning

Ph: 0800 862 6362
Des & Christine Necklen
Funeral Directors



ELECTRICIAN



Cool Electric

- Electricians
- Heat Pumps
- Air Conditioning
- Security Systems

07 868 7151
E: cooelectric@xtra.co.nz
W: www.cooelectric.co.nz

22C Ngati Maru Hwy, Kopu, Thames

FIREWOOD



SPLINTA'S FIREWOOD SERVICES

Free delivery to Thames, Paeroa, Ngatea, Waihi, Whangamata & Te Aroha

SPRING SPECIAL
Pine \$80/cube - Gum \$130/cube
Minimum order 3 cubes
Ph: 0800 7754 6827
splintasfirewood

FLOORING

Supply & Installation for Domestic & Commercial

- Carpet • Vinyl
- Laminate • Polyurethane

Contact us for your free Measure and Quote
Phone: 021 020 47027
Email: dan@thefloorman.co.nz



GARDEN CARE SERVICES



Call the Gardener

YOUR GARDEN - YOUR WAY

Garden Care Service
Hedges & Shrub Trimming
Softscapes & Small hardscape features

Call Paul (028) 4640 600
thegardenercall@gmail.com

HIRE CENTRE



THAMES HIRE CENTRE

Jellicoe Crescent, Thames

Perrin Newland
Telephone: 07 868 9350
Email: hire@thameshire.co.nz
www.thameshire.co.nz

HOME HANDYMAN AND COMMERCIAL HIRE

HOMEKILL

Hunts Home Kills

For all your meat and game processing needs.

- We are dedicated to you, the customer.
- Hygienic, vacuum packed products.
- Professional facilities.
- Smoked meats are our specialty.
- 12 - 14 days hung on the bone, minimum
- Game orders over 10kg
- Premium custom orders to meet your needs

Ph: 0800 250 939 • Mob: Mike - 021 411 210
E: huntshomekill@gmail.com
W: huntshomekills.nz • Follow us on FB

PLUMBER



BROKENSHIRE & ROSS

YOUR LOCAL PLUMBING & HEATING SPECIALISTS



MOBILE MECHANIC



mobile mechanics

We come to you...

- Servicing & repairs on all cars, trucks, campervans, machinery & small engines
- Batteries available

Phone Brian: 021 259 4779 or 876 5401
Email: robosvette@gmail.com

PAINTER



That Painter Ltd.

Residential & Light Commercial

- Interior & Exterior • Residential & Light Commercial
- Fully Insured • Workmanship Guarantee

Contact Stan on 0223137911 to discuss your project.

PLASTERER

TWINWOLF PLASTERING SERVICES

- Exterior Plastering specialist.
- 30 years experience
- All aspects of plastering including. Gib stopping, fireplaces, steps, foundations, patios, block walls and renovations.
- Specialising in exterior repairs & modern finishes.

Shannon: 022 428 2239
Twinwolfservices@gmail.com

SERVICES

Plumbing • Drainlaying
Roofing • Gas
Home Heating



P: 868 6096
A: 315 Pollen Street Thames 3500
E: brokey@outlook.co.nz
W: www.Brokenshire.co.nz

CALL THE EXPERTS

RUBBISH REMOVAL

Smart Bins

Skip bins, Wheelie Bins, Farm Bins

Phone us or book online
0800 4 MY BIN or
www.smartbins.co.nz

SEPTIC TANK CLEANING

ALLENS UNITED

Paeroa (2015) Ltd

LIQUID WASTE SPECIALISTS

0800 862 720 | 027 442 0067

SCRAP METAL

Scrappy Verns

Buyers of all scrap metal & cars
Farm clean up specialists
Top prices paid

Phone Vern • 021 621 437

SCRAP VEHICLES



Any unwanted car, ute, van or 4WD No warrant, No WOF, Deregistered, not going?? NO PROBLEM

WAIKATO VEHICLE REMOVALS PH/TXT KEVIN 027 299 6165

TYRES & BATTERIES



- Stockists of all major tyre brands
- Exide Batteries with extended warranties
- Wheel Alignments.

314 Pollen St, Thames
Ph 868 8182

WINDSCREENS



We come to you!

Chip Repairs - Windscreen replacements
-Insurance claims

PH: 0272127750
www.precisionwindscreens.co.nz

Last month's winner of the lotto ticket was John O'Neale, who found Pete in the November 8th edition in the Waikato Tractors advert. Go to page 2 for details on how to enter.



CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12pm Monday

Death Notice

WHITEHEAD, Waveney Rosina:
Passed away peacefully on 1st December, 2023; aged 94 years.
Dearly loved wife of the late Colin. Treasured Mum of Anne, Dinah and Clare, and mother-in-law of Colin, Derek and Steve.
Adored Grandma of Stacey, Juliette, Emma, Daniel, Abbie, Maya, Catrin and Amy. Much loved great-Grandma of nine. Special Auntie Lee of Bryce and Sheree.
A celebration of Waveney's life will be held at the Grahamstown Chapel, 102 Kirkwood Street, Thames on Thursday 7th December at 11am, followed by private cremation.
Communications to: clarewilliamsot@gmail.com

Church Notices

Assembly of God
10am Sundays.
Scout Hall.
Baker St, Waihi

For Lease

Yards for lease, Thames and Kopu. Suitable for trucks, vehicles or trade business base. Ph 027 440 7101

For Sale

2 cured sheepskins, long hair, offers. TV cabinet \$40. 50" TV - free. Fridge, 4 yrs old \$45. Ph 868 7237

Dining table and 6 chairs, deep freeze, fridge freezer, 2 china cabinets, double and single beds, washing machine, lge range of garden tools and rotary hoe. All must go, make an offer. Ph 07 867 3222.

Health

Plains Healing Centre
Since 1989 now in Paeroa as **Romoco Wellness.**
Makers of the famous **Golden Skin Cream**
Burns, Bites, Grazes
2 or 4 legs...
07 862 9167

Gardening

STUMP GRINDING.
All sizes, all areas.
Thames based. Ph 021 060 7659

Need stump grinding?
Any size, any number, anywhere.
Different machines for different applications.
Over 20 years experience.
Short Back n Sides Ltd
We solve your stump problems.
027 439 0367

Handyman

Handyman Services
• Waihi and surrounding areas
• Building maintenance and repairs
• Mobile - Grant
027 333 8331
• E - Waihi105@gmail.com

Handyman

THAMES HANDYMAN & BUILDING SERVICES
Building, home maintenance & general gardening services
Phone: Fleur or Crighton • 0273 913 283

Public Notices

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING
Community Patrol NZ - Paeroa
(formally Night Owls)
for the election of new Committee
7.00pm, Wednesday
13th December
2023 at the St Johns Rooms
31 Belmont St, Paeroa

Handyman

Mowing, hedges, fencing, gardening, carpentry, painting, retaining walls, welding, waterblasting.
Work is good quality and I will not attempt to work outside of my skills. Insured.
Dennis Schuler 022 129 0169

CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12pm Monday

Painter

Professional roof painter. Mario Kerkhof 027 961 4055

Storage

Storage Unlimited
25 Ngati Maru Highway Kopu, Thames
Clean, secure, dry Units available
7 x 3.6m and 7 x 5.5m
Phone 07 868 9944

STORE 4 U Waihi.
Clean, dry, alarmed.
Call Lyn 0275 759 173.

STORAGE KOPU, PAEROA TE AWAMUTU
"New Units"
Ph 027 440 7101
07 868 3033
Safe n Sound Storage
www.safestorage.co.nz

Thames Valley Storage - secure, dry units available, two sizes.
Call Trev 027 4076966

Storage

TOTAL STORAGE LTD
KEREPEHI / PAEROA
10FT CON. \$125 per mnth
20FT CON. \$240 per mnth
T&C's apply
021 67 67 99
info@totalstorage.co.nz

Trades & Services

Eazy-Blast water blasting. Small jobs. Steps, drives, paths, patios etc. Text Chris 021 0852 1825

FENCING CONTRACTOR

Residential & Rural Retaining walls & more
High quality workmanship
Competitive prices
Call Matt 021 1727 148

Man with a Trailer

Need something picked up or taken away?
Text or Call: 021 049 4110

Advertise with the paper that is being read
Valley Profile
Ph 022 130 3885

Public Notice

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School
Host an international student in 2024
Why host an international student?
Enrich your family with cultural diversity. Forge lifelong connections and friendships. Receive \$295 per week, while making memories that last a lifetime!
Your home, their home.
Host an international student in 2024 and embark on a journey of cultural exchange, learning, and friendship.
If you would like to know more please contact Pauline by phoning the school on 8688688 texting 0275361001 or emailing internationalsupport@thameshigh.school.nz
www.thameshigh.school.nz
Facebook / Thames High School Events and Celebrations

Situations Vacant

Thames High School
Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
International Programme Manager (Permanent, 30 hours per week)
We seek an enthusiastic individual to join our team as International Programme Manager. This role is essential to make sure our international students have an enriching educational experience at our school. You will continue to develop and grow our positive international profile. Experience in international education or related roles and understanding of the Code of Practice for Pastoral Care of International Students would be an advantage.
For more detailed information and role descriptions refer to our website www.thameshigh.school.nz/ vacancies
Applications close Monday 11th December (4.00 pm)
Please send your cover letter, CV and application form and/or direct enquiries to:
Tracey Reed, Principal's PA
Email: traceyreed@thameshigh.school.nz

Public Notice

School Board Casual Vacancy for a Parent Representative Paeroa College
A casual vacancy has occurred on the school board for an elected parent representative.
The board has decided to fill the vacancy by selection.
If 100% or more of eligible voters on the school roll as the board, within 28 days of this notice being published, to hold a by-election to fill the vacancy, then a by-election will be held.
Request for a by-election should be sent to:
Presiding Member
Paeroa College
c.r.buchanan@xtra.co.nz

Situation Vacant

Qualified Mechanic Wanted
Immediate start.
Email: miles@hpmotors.co.nz
or phone 027 227 1121

WAIHI RESIDENTS
Please be advised that due to delivery issues, some residents may not receive a home delivered paper for a short time. You can still get your copy at the local dairies, supermarkets and information centre.

HAURAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL
Serviceperson (Reticulation) Kaitiaki (Kotuitui Rawa)
We are seeking Water Reticulation Service people to join our team
Ideally you will have:
• A full NZ Drivers Licence
• Physical fitness for outdoor and manual mahi
• A Current Class 2 licence and Traffic Controller
• Proven experience in water reticulation or a related field
• Excellent problem solving and communication skills
• Qualifications and experience in Infrastructure Works/Wastewater/Drain laying/Pipeline Construction & Maintenance
• Good working knowledge of health, safety & well-being requirements
Sound like you? Apply today.
"At Hauraki District Council... it's more than just a job!"



The latest photo of the 124m SH25A bridge on December 1 shows it is nearing completion.

Photo: SUPPLIED/NZTA

No celebration on site for SH25A bridge project

The new \$43 million Kōpū-Hīkuaui bridge is still on track to open in a few weeks, however, there will be no celebrations on site.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency regional manager of infrastructure delivery Jo Wilton said the transport agency shared the community's excitement about the reopening of State Highway 25A and understood the desire to celebrate this.

However, there could not be opening activities at the site or along SH25A for safety reasons

as it was still an active work-site, even after the bridge was opened to traffic, she said.

"Re-opening the road involves a careful traffic management process and to ensure the safety of both road users and workers, the exact timing will not be advertised," she said.

Thames-Coromandel District Council said it was working with Waka Kotahi and stakeholders on how to best coordinate initiatives across the Coromandel to celebrate the reopening of the highway.

"We're really excited about

the reopening of State Highway 25A and understand it's an occasion our communities are keen to celebrate," council said.

Council is calling for ideas to celebrate the opening, contact: rachael.white@tcdc.govt.nz.

Meanwhile, as of Friday, Waka Kotahi was on schedule to re-open SH25A to traffic on or before December 20, three months earlier than expected.

The main highway has been closed due to a 130 metre slip during storms, which destroyed the road near the summit early this year.

Progress on the 124 metre bridge over last week includes the stitching together of the bridge barriers and placement of the rails.

Soil nailing to ensure the bank next to the bridge stays secure and resilient, is complete, with planting to come.

Work continues on building the road connecting either end of the bridge, but foam bitumen is complete on the western side.

This week the project team hopes to chipseal but this was weather dependent, Waka Kotahi said.

Gift a bundle of vet care

We all know that feeling. When you want to give a loved one the "right" present, something they need, something they will appreciate, a gift they will use. Well, how about purchasing them a year's worth of primary pet care for their pet? How about buying them a Bundle Pet Plan from Anexa Vets?

Bundle is Anexa's wellness pet plan. It gives the flexibility to visit the vet whenever advice is needed and it ensures the pet's key annual veterinary care costs are covered. It includes unlimited vet consults, an animal health check, blood and urine analysis, routine vaccinations, discounts on surgery, pet food, flea and worm treatments, and more. It was created so pet owners can seek advice without barriers and make the most of preventative care. It is available to cats and dogs of all ages. A plan applies to an individual pet. There are four plans to choose from, each is tailored to its species specific veterinary needs with consideration taken as to where the pet is in their vaccination schedule. Usually, a monthly payment plan – this December Anexa Vets are offering the Bundle Pet Plan as a lump sum Christmas Special, making it the purrfect present for the pet owner or pet in your life.

How does it work? First, select a plan that suits the pet's needs. Our helpful staff can help with this if needed. Then pop into your local Anexa vet clinic, and purchase a voucher pack. Gift to the recipient. The pet owner fills out the enrolment form, reads the terms and conditions and returns the paperwork to their local Anexa Vet clinic by 28 February 2024. This should be done before booking a consult so administration can be completed and the Bundle plan can be applied to the pet's file. Once enrolled, the pet owner will receive a confirmation email.

So, if you are stuck on what to buy this Christmas, we encourage you to give the gift that keeps giving. Gift a Bundle of vet care, and know that your gift will be appreciated not only on Christmas but all year round.

Learn more: anexa.co.nz/bundle or stop by your local Anexa clinic.

- Supplied by Anexa



Stuck with what to buy a loved one?

How about purchasing them Bundle Pet Plan for their furry family member?





The plan covers the pet's primary vet costs including unlimited vet consults, routine vaccinations, discounts and more. For more info visit anexa.co.nz/bundle/ or from one of our friendly staff members at your local Anexa Vet clinic.



SCAN FOR MORE INFO



Thames 623 Pollen St, 07 868 7005
Ngatea 49 Orchard Rd, 07 867 7256

Te Kauwhata 28 Main Rd, 07 826 3581
Maramarua 515 Ferndale Rd, 09 232 5891

Paeroa 39 Belmont Rd, 07 862 8815
Te Aroha 60 Rewi St, 07 884 8014

St George's Church

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE
9.30AM, 7PM & 11PM

CHRISTMAS DAY
9.30AM

All Welcome!

St George's Community Choir

Festival of Carols

10th December, 3pm

THAMES VALLEY TANGATA ORA TRUST

The People's Wellbeing Trust

Total Mobility Scheme assessors

SALES SERVICE HIRE



We do our best to source other products on request

DAILY LIVING PRODUCTS

- Reachers
- Sock Aids
- Walking Sticks
- Continence Products
- Bathroom & Toilet Aids

607 Mackay St, Thames (Opposite the hospital) • Ph: 07 868 7723 or 027 383 1117 • E: tvtot2017@gmail.com

Opening Hours: 10am - 3pm Monday to Friday - After hours by arrangement

SUDOKU

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

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

EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

129

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

HARD

129

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

MEDIUM

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

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

EASY

JUMBO CROSSWORD

149

ACROSS

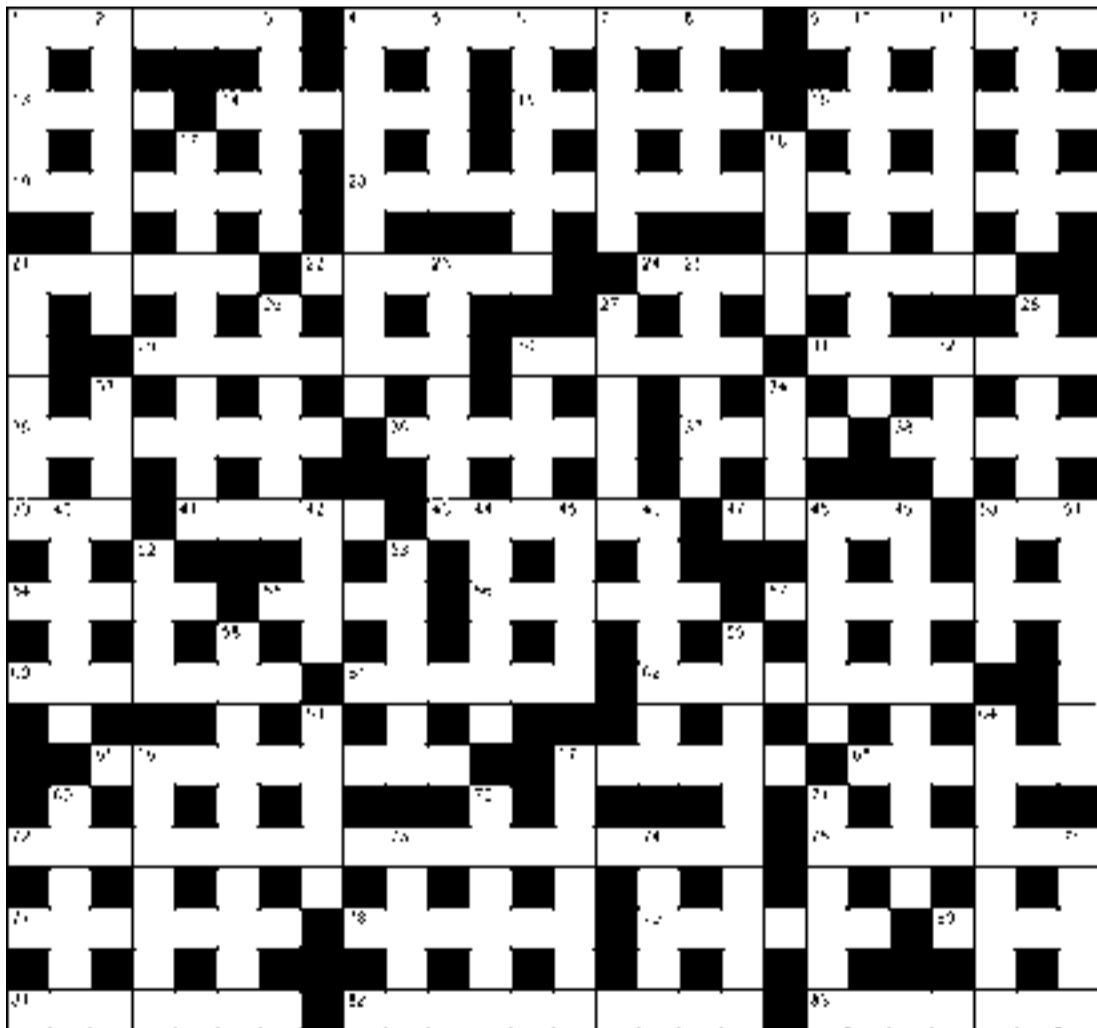
- 1 Extend in time (7)
- 4 Go to bed (3,3,4)
- 9 Mimic (7)
- 13 Trim (4)
- 14 Soak up (6)
- 15 Elevated (6)
- 16 Made possible (7)
- 19 Compress (7)
- 20 Prolong a visit more than one's host wishes (4,3,4,7)
- 21 Fringe (6)
- 22 Bumpy (6)
- 24 Ancient arena fighter (9)
- 29 Hairdresser (8)
- 30 Impudent (6)
- 31 Skin bubble (7)
- 35 Bedtime drink (8)
- 36 Outcome (6)
- 37 Vault (4)
- 38 Turning machine (5)
- 39 Female sheep (3)
- 41 Long hilltop (5)
- 43 Pulled sharply (6)
- 47 Striped animal (5)
- 50 Tot up (3)
- 54 Singing voice (5)
- 55 Fabric tuck (4)
- 56 Weak (6)
- 57 Undeveloped frogs (8)
- 60 Gruesome (7)
- 61 Associated (6)
- 62 Almond-flavoured paste (8)
- 65 Flowering mountain plant (9)
- 67 Finds out (6)

DOWN

- 1 Chooses (5)
- 2 Death notice (8)
- 3 Drinking vessel (6)
- 4 Deceived (10)
- 5 Lower leg bone (5)
- 6 Whaler's spear (7)
- 7 Moves (6)
- 8 Dirt-free (5)
- 10 Monaco gambling resort (5,5)
- 11 Smoked plant (7)
- 12 Woman's name (6)
- 17 Flying machine (10)
- 18 Stage whisper (5)
- 21 Afternoon performance (7)
- 23 Diverseness (7)
- 25 On the cards (6)
- 26 Scared (6)
- 27 Mild (6)
- 28 Technique (6)
- 30 Butter-making machine (5)

ACROSS

- 32 Sojourn (4)
- 33 Malarial fever (4)
- 34 Confront (4)
- 40 Grain pest (6)
- 42 Bite away at (4)
- 44 Having a good knowledge of (2,4)
- 45 Mix by pressing (5)
- 46 Quandary (7)
- 48 South American country (6)
- 49 In letter sequence (10)
- 50 Wheel shaft (4)
- 51 Wreck (7)
- 52 Painful to touch (4)
- 53 Gramophone needle (6)
- 58 Beheading machine (10)
- 59 Cream-filled rolled gingerbread wafer (6,4)
- 63 Unwanted garden plants (5)
- 64 Determined, unwavering (8)
- 66 Hates (7)
- 67 Blood-sucking worms (7)
- 69 Mend (6)
- 70 Stationary (6)
- 71 Relic repository (6)
- 73 Of or from one's birth (5)
- 74 Quarrel (5)
- 76 Stale-smelling (5)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Scald, 4 A month of Sundays, 14 Plain, 15 Radar, 16 Asymmetric, 17 Azure, 19 Spa, 20 Elusive, 21 Incentive, 22 Change, 25 Acclaimed, 27 Tureen, 28 Income, 33 Maintained, 35 Oaf, 36 Bauble, 37 Miss, 39 Fir, 41 Inherit, 42 Futile, 43 Secretive, 44 Theme, 45 Opulence, 50 Ra, 51 Sentence, 55 Scale, 58 Harmonica, 59 Queued, 60 Display, 61 IOU, 63 Edge, 64 Taunts, 65 Elk, 66 Touch-and-go, 68 Ritual, 69 Permit, 71 Bell tower, 76 Stalin, 77 Premature, 79 Bracken, 81 Lap, 84 Eagle, 85 Irritating, 86 Banks, 87 Cheat, 88 A drop in the ocean, 89 Blunt.

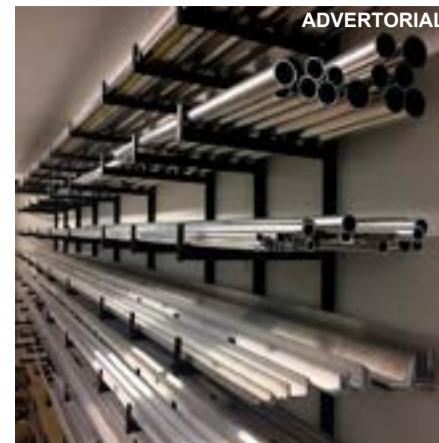
DOWN: 2 Cradle, 3 Leads, 5 Mast, 6 Nominee, 7 Heeded, 8 First, 9 Uncover, 10 Deal, 11 Youths, 12 Pause, 13 Enlarge, 14 Pennant, 18 Evaluation, 23 Giant, 24 Repulse, 26 Conceal, 27 Taffeta, 29 Opinion, 30 Catnap, 31 Motif, 32 Cloche, 34 Drum, 36 Brief, 38 Siege, 40 Feat, 45 Ochre, 46 Upright, 47 Eros, 48 Climax, 49 Basis, 50 Request, 52 Neighbours, 53 Expunge, 54 Charge, 55 Saunter, 56 Seeks, 57 Sect, 62 Guild, 67 Parapet, 68 Replica, 70 Martini, 72 Erratic, 73 Ringed, 74 Statue, 75 Jerkin, 76 Spiel, 78 Merit, 80 Crawl, 82 Memo, 83 Inca.

Nobody knows
Engineering
Automotive
Safety
Marine
Farming
Forestry
 like we do

TradeZone
 Thames

SEE US AT:

READ BROS. HARDWARE
 308 Pollen St, Thames
 www.readbros.co.nz • 07 868 6608



ADVERTORIAL



New name, same great service

On December 1, 2023, Read Bros Hardware opened its doors as TradeZone Thames, the latest member for the TradeZone Industrial Group Ltd.

Read Brothers Hardware has been around since 1867, looking after the ever changing hardware needs of Thames and the Coromandel.

As TradeZone Thames, they'll look a little different, with some bold signage and crisp new uniforms but will continue to operate with the same great team you are used to seeing, and with an extended range of goods.

Owners John and Nicola are the fifth generation running the business. They have built their business on trust and service. Providing good quality products paired with a knowledgeable team is a winning combination.

TradeZone New Zealand, who have re-

cently celebrated 25 years as industrial supply specialists, are excited to have Read Bros join the group and know the store will make a great addition to the TradeZone Group. Meanwhile, TradeZone become part of the rich history of Read Bros Hardware Ltd.

Read Bros' expansion into the industrial supply market is not too far from the Read Family's original operation, John Read (The Founder) was a timber merchant and ironmonger for the growing gold town of Thames from 1867 onwards.

Industrial works continued through second generation of Reads, where Arthur Read operated the store and was also a contractor, constructing many utilities throughout Thames. It's no wonder that John and Nicola, when looking for expansion opportunities, find themselves here, eager to supply quality trade and industrial supplies with service to match.

WHYTELINE

OUR LATEST PRE-OWNED LISTINGS

2023 Suzuki Swift Hybrid RS
 AUTOMATIC
 1.2L HYBRID



FINANCE AVAILABLE
 TRADE-INS WELCOME **\$25,990**

2022 Suzuki Vitara Turbo AWD
 AUTOMATIC
 1.4L TURBO
 PETROL



FINANCE AVAILABLE
 TRADE-INS WELCOME **\$29,990**

2017 Nissan Qashqai TI
 AUTOMATIC
 2.0L PETROL



FINANCE AVAILABLE
 TRADE-INS WELCOME **\$23,990**

2022 Suzuki Ignis Ltd
 AUTOMATIC
 1.2L PETROL



FINANCE AVAILABLE
 TRADE-INS WELCOME **\$21,990**

2012 Nissan Navara D40 ST 4WD
 MANUAL
 2.5L DIESEL



FINANCE AVAILABLE
 TRADE-INS WELCOME **\$24,990**

2023 Suzuki Swift Hybrid RS
 AUTOMATIC
 1.2L HYBRID



FINANCE AVAILABLE
 TRADE-INS WELCOME **\$27,995**

2016 Ssangyong Korando SPR 4WD
 AUTOMATIC
 2.0L DIESEL)



FINANCE AVAILABLE - TRADE-INS WELCOME **\$16,995**

WHYTELINE.CO.NZ | 39 PUKE ROAD, PAEROA | 07 862 8783

HAURAKI'S HOME OF  **SUZUKI**