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50 years of lost and found

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

For 50 years, Waihi Land Search and Rescue has been navigating rough, rugged - and oftentimes, urban - terrain to locate lost people.

They conduct searches as far as Whiritoa in the north and the Karangahake Gorge to the south, at times teaming up with neighbouring LandSAR groups around the Waikato. On December 10, they acknowledged their five decades of volunteer work by hosting a "brilliant" event at their new search and rescue base.

Deputy chair Wymond Symes said the team of 26 had been working out of the local police station, but after a few years of fundraising, they got enough money together to build their own operations and training base in Golden Valley Rd. The 50th celebrations were held at the base and included guests such as NZ LandSAR chief executive Carl McOnie and chief operating officer Tony Wells, as well as Waikato Police representatives Sergeant Alton Trembl and Sergeant Warren Shaw.

Wymond, who moved from Auckland to Katikati around 2007, said the Waihi branch was a "smaller, more rural" group made up of a diverse bunch of people, aged between 30 and late 50.

"We work alongside the Police, so if there's someone who is missing, lost, or injured, normally Police are the first to be notified, and they would then reach out to us for additional resources," he said.

"The obvious [operation] people think of is a lost or injured tramp or hiker in the bush, but



Members of Waihi LandSAR on the job. Photo: SUPPLIED

it's far more broad than that.

"Probably, for every wilderness-type operation we have, we get an urban one. And an urban example

might be a child or toddler going missing from their home, but probably the most common urban search we'd be called out to would

be dementia-based wandering."

Wymond said his love of being involved in search and rescue had strengthened over the years, and

he now favoured the "investigative" side of the work.

"In the early years, I used to always go out into the field and do the physical search, but there's also a management team behind every search," he explained.

"That's why we have our base - so we can set up all our mapping systems, our documents, everything we need for planning, and the real joy for me now is gathering information to help with that planning of the search.

"A really critical part of it is building a profile of the [missing] person, and there's many ways you can do that."

Wymond said this included categorising the person and rifling through published data for typical behaviour patterns, while LandSAR or the Police collected personal information from friends and family.

Meanwhile, the team would be out in the field, he said, sending clues or information back to the base.

"Some searches are resolved within the first five or six hours, but there are some that have gone on for several weeks... There's also those that don't get resolved."

Wymond said the field teams were "really well-trained".

There were nationwide trainings every weekend, while the Waihi branch trained on the first Tuesday of every month.

"We're always open for new members," he said.

DETAILS: Find Waihi Land Search & Rescue on Facebook, or visit www.landsar.org.nz.



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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.

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Childrens' pet cat mauled by dogs

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

A spate of attacks on pet cats in Paeroa is causing concern among the community, with fears the dogs responsible could turn their attention towards small children.

On November 29 last year, a Paeroa resident warned pet owners in an online post that her two elderly cats had been mauled and killed by roaming dogs.

Just five days later, in the early hours of the morning, it was Kieran Casey's turn to witness his own cat being attacked at the front door of his home.

"I got out of bed and ran to the door and there were these two Staffy-type dogs mauling [cat] Alley. They understood a commandment and when I said 'bugger off', they did, but the cat took off too," he told *The Profile*. "When we found him in the morning, he was pretty beaten up."

Kieran took Alley to the vets to try and save him, but shortly after paying a deposit, Alley passed away from his injuries.

Kieran's family, including his two children, were "pretty gutted" about the ordeal. Alley's death had also been hard on his sibling, Ben.

"We aren't pointing fingers and understand dogs chase cats, cats chase birds, but it's the timing [of it] so early in the morning, the location on top of our stairs, and the savageness [of the attack]," he said. "Most of all, what if it was a kid, not a cat, on their own property? These so-called dog owners need to be ashamed of themselves and shouldn't be allowed to have them if they are not controlled."



Alley the cat died after being attacked by two roaming dogs. Photo: SUPPLIED

Hauraki District Council's communications team leader Margaret Maclaurin said council was aware of some recent complaints regarding cats being attacked.

She said dog attacks on cats were not common but did occur occasionally. "It's possible the current incidents are being caused by the same dog/s, rather than more dogs attacking cats."

Both Kieran and other residents said they had their suspicions about which dogs were responsible, but council said hard evidence was needed to ensure the correct dog or dogs were identified.

"Council is investigating the complaints and trying to obtain clear evidence to identify the alleged roaming dog/s," Margaret said. "When council is aware of areas of concern, extra street patrols are carried out in that area."

"To assist us in investigating these complaints, we ask that the community report roaming dogs to council promptly so the Animal Control team can be dispatched to

the area."

Any follow-up actions by council are in line with its Dog Control Act and could range from infringement fines, restrictive dog classifications, owner classifications, or prosecutions.

"We ask that pet owners are responsible pet owners and ensure that their pets are kept contained/secured to their own property and do not become a roaming nuisance," Margaret said. "While Facebook community pages are a very useful tool for letting your immediate community know if you've found a dog, spotted a roaming dog, or had an encounter with a dog, that communication does not always get to the attention of council."

"It's often at night that roaming dogs are most active. Keeping your cats indoors will help."

DETAILS: To contact HDC to report any animal attacks, phone 07 862 8609.



Charges laid after Waihi burglaries

Police are seeking information following multiple arrests for Waihi burglaries.

Waihi Sergeant Nigel Sander-son said two Waihi men, aged 26 and 34, faced charges in the Waihi District Court after multiple burglaries at a Waihi store between October and December.

Police executed a search warrant at a Waihi address locating a large number of items believed to have been stolen in the burglaries.

"Solid investigative work and local knowledge assisted in identifying those responsible and executing the search warrant," he said.

Some of the items seized included a generator, camping equipment, power tools and inflatable pools. "Police are pleased to be able to return these items to the rightful owner," he said.

Police believe a white and blue truck was involved in a number of burglaries, and urge anyone who may have been a victim of offending involving this truck to contact Police on 105.

Meanwhile, an "eagle-eyed neighbour" helped Police recover a significant amount of stolen property worth around \$30,000.

The goods, which were stolen from a Coromandel bach, were recovered from a Waihi address, and Police said they were making enquiries to locate the suspect.

The owners of the bach were alerted to the theft by a neighbour, who saw a vehicle leaving the property with a loaded trailer.

Enquiries led Police to a person of interest in the Waihi area.



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Thames Tides

Wed Jan 10		Thu Jan 11		Fri Jan 12		Sat Jan 13		Sun Jan 14		Mon Jan 15		Tue Jan 16	
Morning 12:31am 0.8		Morning 1:24am 0.6		Morning 2:14am 0.4		Morning 3:03am 0.3		Morning 3:50am 0.2		Morning 4:38am 0.2		Morning 5:26am 0.3	
Afternoon 12:56pm 0.9		Afternoon 1:47pm 0.7		Afternoon 2:39pm 0.6		Afternoon 3:30pm 0.5		Afternoon 4:21pm 0.4		Afternoon 5:12pm 0.3		Afternoon 6:02pm 0.3	
6:58am 3.2		7:48am 3.3		8:37am 3.5		9:26am 3.6		10:15am 3.7		11:04am 3.7		11:54am 3.7	
6:09am 8:41pm		6:10am 8:41pm		6:11am 8:41pm		6:12am 8:40pm		6:13am 8:40pm		6:14am 8:40pm		6:15am 8:40pm	
Best At 11:54am		Best At 12:26pm		Best At 1:30am		Best At 2:32am		Best At 3:30am		Best At 4:24am		Best At 5:15am	
Rise 4:02am Set 7:50pm		Rise 5:04am Set 8:49pm		New Moon Rise 6:16am Set 9:37pm		Rise 7:33am Set 10:19pm		Rise 8:50am Set 10:53pm		Rise 10:05am Set 11:23pm		Rise 11:18am Set 11:51pm	

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TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES

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

PLACE	Hr	Min	Hr	Min
Coromandel	-0	04	-0	04
Whitianga	-0	01	-0	05
Tairua	+0	11	+0	21
Whangamata	-0	02	-0	05
Waihi Beach	-0	11	-0	12

Budding democrat brings a voice to youth

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

On a mid-September evening, when most children in New Zealand were getting ready for bed, Pārāwai student Avé Te Teira-King was stepping out on stage - in Billund, Denmark.

Avé was one of 80 participants chosen from around the world to attend last year's Children's General Assembly. The 10-year-old was in the company of like-minded children aged 10-17.

They had been collaborating over zoom meetings for six months to discuss and come up with solutions to real-world issues, with the aim of developing a manifesto and an idea catalogue to be shared with the world.

The summit on September 19-21 was the culmination of months of dedication, and a chance for the children to meet in person, workshop their ideas, and present their manifesto to the United Nations General Assembly via a live broadcast.

For Avé, the experience was incredible. She and her chaperone, mother Roanne Mitchell-Teira, had the opportunity to explore the self-proclaimed "children's capital of the world", including the Lego Museum, before getting down to the serious business of solving the world's problems.

"The main manifesto [for the conference] was called STEAM, which is a mix of science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics," Avé said.

"My manifesto was based off



Avé Te Teira-King with Billund Mayor Stephanie Storbank during the Children's General Assembly. Photo: SUPPLIED

mental health. For the first day or two we were learning more about our manifesto and what we could do about it. I learnt more about the world and the issues we were learning about."

The assembly was the ultimate stage for youth, allowing everyone a chance to have a say. Avé answered questions at the live

broadcast, and co-hosted a discussion panel with a 17-year-old from Pakistan.

"I got chosen to be a host for something called a democratic dialogue. There were questions about AI and technology ... everybody thought different things."

Ro said the parents were also challenged at the assembly. Their

task was to continue to support and encourage their youth to have a voice in their own communities.

"Us as parents got to sit in on one of those dialogues, just to observe how the kids think and how they react," Ro said.

"It was quite interesting [to] see a 10-year-old's answer compared to a 17-year-old's answer. A

10-year-old, they will just speak what is on their mind and what they think is right, whereas a little bit older they're a little more reserved... But it was quite mind blowing seeing the answers coming from the younger generation."

Since the summit, Avé has been pondering ideas to make a difference in Thames.

Her first action was to hold a presentation at Mātai Whetū marae on October 25, explaining what she learned in Billund. Mayor Len Salt attended the presentation, and Ro said he offered Avé a "mayoral mentorship" on the spot.

"You can tell he's really supportive of the rangatahi around Hauraki," Ro said.

"So [that's] something in 2024 she can work towards. She's had a bit of a break since then - it was six months of hard slog, three-hour workshops. Getting up [at 12am] and doing a three hour workshop is quite full-on for a 10-year-old, the commitment was huge."

Nicely refreshed from the Christmas break, Avé is now ready to get involved with some community youth projects.

"Because it's also about giving back," Ro said.

"We need to do a massive thank you to the community who got behind her with fundraising, and this is how she can give back to her own community."

But she can't do that by herself, she's only 10. We've gotta have a bit of an army behind her."



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Memories made during Coro holiday season

In Brief



As part of a Valley Profile series, **MEGHAN HAWKES** searches through old newspapers to bring you the stories Thames Valley locals once read about themselves.

An almost endless stream of vehicles flowed through the Thames Valley during the 1938 summer holiday season. Roads were thronged with cars, caravans, trailers, lorries, motorcycles and bicycles.

Camping gear, tents and blankets were prominent among the luggage piled high on carriers and back seats. The great variety of design in caravans and tents was breathtaking. Huge caravans, in size rivalling and even outclassing the big modern cars, were now the acme of comfort and luxury - fitted with all manner of conveniences, radio, cooking apparatus, bunks, armchairs, settees, and tables.

A very popular form of shelter was the tent fly on two poles opening on to the parked car. This provided cover for sleepers, diners or loungers, and was very easily erected or dismantled. More people now had motor vehicles and very few were willing to stay at home if they could get away for even two or three days, while one day picnics were very popular with dairy farmers' families who had to consider the tie of the cows.



The Thames coast, Whitianga and Waihi beach, Paeroa and the Hauraki Plains also carried a large quota of local holidaymakers.

One who had discovered the delights of peninsula camping around ten years earlier was the legendary outdoorsman and novelist Zane Grey who made Mercury Bay his deep sea fishing headquarters in 1928, returning for several years thereafter.

He established a camp about nine miles from Mercury Bay wharf on a terrace shaded by giant pōhutukawa trees. In his inimitable drawl he told a Thames Star reporter "I've had a simply wonderful time at Mercury Bay. The fishing ground there

is, I think, the best in the world." As well as his deep sea fishing parties, Grey indulged in photography and filming. In 1933 he intended to make a film of the great leaping mako shark which had yet to be adequately photographed. He had a very up to date movie camera and a telephoto model capable of recording scenes at great distances.

Thrillingly, several men from Hollywood came with him. But in 1933 Zane Grey's party suddenly broke camp. This was understood to be due to bad weather although there were rumours that other factors influenced it.

He never returned to Mercury Bay. His swashbuckling manner

did not always go down well with locals but he did more to promote New Zealand big game fishing than any other angler.

Promoting Coromandel was on the county council's agenda in 1942. A scheme was outlined for publicising the Peninsula with a view to attracting factory and other city workers to Coromandel for their Christmas break. Coromandel was only 40 miles by sea from Auckland and was an ideal place for a few days' rest and change.

The new launch Maretana would run daily through the holidays. Beautiful camping grounds were available all over the county, and the time seemed opportune to make it known.

First-class hotel accommodation was also available. A council representative was instructed to go to Auckland and start preliminary arrangements for the campaign. Slides were screened in city picture theatres and short talks given over the radio.

A 'Health Holiday' was the tempting tag line used at Waihi Beach in 1938. Billed as being on the 'beautiful health restoring coast, it boasted it had the finest beach in New Zealand. Waihi Beach featured a remodelled motor camp, lit by electricity, with good water and a store that renewed fresh stocks of food daily.

There were four hard tennis courts and ideal surfing conditions watched over by a vigilant surf club patrol. Surf boards and surf-o-planes were for hire. There was a movie twice weekly and a nightly dance at the Cabaret which promised fun and all the holiday health giving benefits of soft drinks, chocolates and cigarettes.

FATAL CRASH VICTIM NAMED
Police have named the man who died in a crash on the Thames Coast Rd, State Highway 25, on January 2. He was 32-year-old Eli Boyd Wallace, from Auckland. Enquiries into the circumstances of the crash are ongoing, but Police earlier said Emergency services were called to the scene at about 3.25am after a car reportedly hit a power pole and crashed into the water near Russek Rd. To assist with the ongoing investigation, people can call 105.

NEW THAMES BRAND REVEALED
The opportunity to "explore interesting" is the theme behind the new Thames town branding that was launched recently. A new website, managed by Thames Business Association, aims to showcase the area's history, highlight events of interest, and feature business directories of where to eat, shop, stay and what to do. A steering group consisting of Thames-Coromandel District Council, the Thames Business Association, Ngāti Maru, and other key organisations has overseen the project. The branding and signage planning has been largely funded by a \$50,000 grant from the Ministry of Social Development. In addition, Thames Community Board has contributed \$10,000 towards new information signboards and \$7,000 for social media marketing.

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Revitalised Thames Youth Centre reopens

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

The Thames Youth Centre is undergoing a seachange, and new board members Jacinda Karaitiana and Kesian Paymani are inviting the community to get involved.

The centre has been a part of Thames' social fabric for decades, hosting bluelight discos, dances, and other youth-focused activities. In recent years the charitable trust which runs it has held regular events and activities for youth aged 11-24, from choir and Dungeons and Dragons games, to after school programmes and art workshops. Early in 2023 though, the centre closed its doors, although the trust remained active on the charities register.

"The manager left a while ago, and then it has just been dormant, so there wasn't really a board happening," Jacinda told the *Profile*.

"I used to come here when I was younger for different things and it was cool, I've got cool memories of this building."

When Jacinda and Kesian heard the centre needed new management, they were quick to put their hands up. It's just a temporary appointment, they said; their aim is to set the centre up for ongoing success as an independent community asset with a permanent board.

"We want it to be diverse and we want [the board] to have different people who work in youth spaces. So we're in the stages of ... getting our vision together for where it's



Kesian Paymani and Jacinda Karaitiana want to bring the currently dormant Thames Youth Centre back to its glory days. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

going to head. It's going to be different to how it's previously been run though - more of a community centre than an individual kaupapa [programme]," Jacinda said.

"We want to hold the reins for now until we can get enough people invested in it, but we're not really keen to be in charge of it, just making sure that it gets a good flow and a good process going and it's actually got longevity, because it's not good if it falls over every time someone leaves the board."

Already, the pair have had sev-

eral expressions of interest, and late in October, they began the mahi with a working bee to clear the centre out.

"So many people have been keen to help out, which has been really awesome," Kesian said.

"[We had a] skip from Coastal Bins, we've had whole whanau come down and help us clear the last bit.

"Christina Lynch [from] Mums Get it Done offered to come and clean the whole place."

While the pair are aiming for

a grand opening in April or May, they plan to renovate the space first.

"We want to paint it all, and then we want to redo the bathrooms, get better lighting and make it warmer. Just give it a little bit of love," Jacinda said.

"It's gotta look nice. We work with kids; they want stuff where they can ... do tik-toks in front of a wall or something, so we want it to be aesthetic for them to want to come here."

Also on the to-do list is finding

funding and people with the relevant know-how.






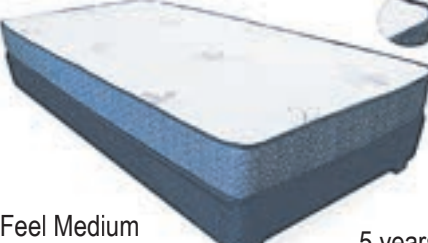
"We have an email if anyone wants to help us," Kesian said.

"Not even money, just time, or expertise. I'm keen to see it up and running but you know, it's a lot on top of what we're already doing so it's a balancing job."

DETAILS: To get involved with Thames Youth Centre, email Jacinda at thamesyouthcentre@gmail.com.



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Career week sparks passions

St Joseph's School in Paeroa held a Careers Week last term. Its aim was to broaden horizons and spark passions, and also to provide positive role models for tamariki (children). "It was a fantastic week with many people from all walks of life connecting with our children," principal Emalene Cull said. "As an educator, it was a true privilege to be able to see our learners light up speaking to people who share their interests. Seeing our dino/fossil-mad kids meet a palaeontologist, our artists meet an artist with paintings all over the world, our sports kids meet Olympians and hold a gold medal, our kids who dream of being a police officer sit in the driver's seat of a police car, our kids who dream of being a firefighter helped into the gear by a firefighter... and more."



At the fire truck is Kererū, the junior class.

Photos: SUPPLIED



Kahu passes an impressive police vest to Amy.



Tylah checks out the visiting police car.



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Heath was all smiles at the event.

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Swamp Foxes donate \$16k to Goldfields School

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Building a strong friendship with students and staff at Goldfields School is important for the Thames Valley Swamp Foxes, who donated \$16,200 to the school on December 15.

Swamp Fox Coach David 'Harry' Harrison, who presented the cheque at the school's final assembly, said it was amazing to see what the school had done with previous Swamp Fox donations.

"Seeing the library, seeing the van, seeing all the things, the pool - it's amazing," he said.

"I hope this helps again, and we'll be back.

"We're definitely not stopping, we love it."

The Swamp Foxes raised the money by auctioning off rugby jerseys the team had played in against Ngāti Porou East Coast on September 30.

"We got a win that day, which I'm sure added some value to them [the jerseys]."

Harry said the special thing about the jerseys was the Goldfields School logo printed on the back, "so it was with us every game, everywhere we went, that was really special to us as a team".

On the field, Harry said: "we want to be as successful as possible", but off the field, community was "a big thing" for the Swamp Foxes.

"This connection with Goldfields School is such an important part of our community.

"We want to inspire our people to want to watch us play rugby. That's a big part of it."

Harry said spending time at the school was something really valuable to him and the team, and an annual visit to see the kids had become part of their pre-season camp.

"When you actually form those connections and you see kids and staff - you've got a bond," he said.

The students had started recognising the team colours and some of the team members, he said.

"Players that have been in the team [for] a few years recognise the students, which is really cool. They feel comfortable being here," he said.

Goldfields School principal Cameron McKenzie said two rugby jerseys donated to the school were "the right size for us to gift to our leavers" during the assembly.

The relationship between the school and the players had become "more organic, more natural", and that some of the students weren't just rugby fanatics but "more like actual Swamp Fox fanatics", he said.

"It's recognition that we're part of the community, and that we're an important part of the community and they make us feel important," he said.

"That's probably the best part."

RIGHT: Goldfields School students share a final waiata for their fellow student leavers.

"This connection with Goldfields School is such an important part of our community"

- David Harrison



Coach David 'Harry' Harrison, right, presents Cameron McKenzie with the donation.

Photos: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA



RIGHT: Goldfields School students share a final waiata for their fellow student leavers.

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Rural Life

New Year Honour for doctor's rural health services

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

A Whangamatā doctor has been acknowledged with a Queen's Service Medal for his services to rural health in this year's New Year Honours.

Dr Michael Miller has been a general practitioner in Whangamatā for 33 years, advocating for improved health outcomes for patients living in rural communities.

Dr Miller acquired the Whangamatā Medical Centre in 1990, developing it into the town's first purpose-built medical facility which opened in 1995.

As clinical lead, he expanded and improved the medical services available to the community by establishing modern, integrated primary health care services at the practice.

In 2005, he founded Whangamatā Community Health, a charitable trust, which raised funding for radiology and ultrasound services to be delivered locally.

He successfully secured additional funding for after-hours medical care and the establish-

ment of primary care beds in the town's aged residential care facility.

He has been a strong advocate for the provision of comprehensive 24/7 care and the training of medical students, postgraduate doctors and GP registrars in rural practice.

He was a founding member and treasurer of the Rural General Practice Network and the rural electorate representative of the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners Council.

He has been a member of several GP and rural advisory groups, including the Pinnacle PHO management group and Midland Health Network rural advisory group.

Dr Miller champions the use of point of care ultrasound in primary care for rural communities in particular.

The 2024 New Years Honours list acknowledges a wide range of people serving their communities, and recognises those who have achieved something special.



The ponding of effluent following irrigation.

Photo: SUPPLIED/WRC

Effluent discharge results in \$70k fine

A Waikato farmer has been convicted on two charges and fined \$70,000 in Te Awamutu District Court for the unlawful discharge of dairy effluent into the environment and contravention of an Abatement Notice.

The charges relate to an incident on a Waitakaruru dairy farm in September, 2020.

Douglas Villers Torr was sentenced by district court Judge Brian Dwyer on December 12, following a defended hearing in November and a failed application for a discharge without conviction.

His conviction on two charges under the Resource Manage-

ment Act was as a result of a prosecution taken by Waikato Regional Council.

Responding to a complaint on September 12, 2020, council officers conducted a compliance inspection at Torr's farm property and found him in the process of pumping out the contents of his effluent pond on to a paddock using a stationary irrigator.

He told the officers he had been irrigating effluent in the same paddock for a number of days.

Mr Torr was causing significant ponding of thick effluent sludge and liquid over a wide area. This activity posed

a threat of contamination to groundwater and also contravened an Abatement Notice that had been served on Torr in 2017 following an earlier dairy effluent related offence.

"This has been a particularly disappointing case," said Waikato Regional Council compliance manager Patrick Lynch.

"Mr Torr has simply not accepted that his actions posed a real risk of contaminating the environment. He ignored the very clear warning he had been given in 2017 and then required a lengthy court case, where expert witnesses were needed, to give evidence to establish this risk."

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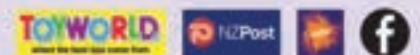
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Student Life

ADVERTISING FEATURE



**Pūriri School principal
Lydia Lester.**
Photo: SUPPLIED

Small school, big heart at Pūriri

The heart of our little school is a community of learning, creating a safe environment where everyone has a sense of belonging and achievement.

After 17 years in the education sector, working in large, medium and small settings, I have now settled in as a principal of a small, rural school.

This has put me in a privileged position, to see the unique strengths of these remarkable institutions.

At a small school everyone knows each other by name. Every teacher works with every child. We can take careful, personalised approaches, reorienting and retooling the material for each child, tailoring the curriculum to the needs of the individual.

Everyone helps, everyone leads. The older kids consolidate their learning by sharing with the younger ones; the younger kids give the elder the privilege of mentoring and the skills of patient, gentle correction. We are a family, in our small circle, everybody wins.

Smaller schools look and feel like their community, woven into the local context. The same close knit environment that allows teachers to know all the children offers that same visibility and interactions with the community that surrounds them.

Whether coming in to read a book or digging a long jump pit for athletics day, whānau, neighbours and locals all play their part.

It takes a village, the saying goes, and connecting with our community is key. At Pūriri School, parents, teachers and students work together to achieve the best outcomes, everyone has a voice. All ages and stages intersect and assist in the task of raising and training our children.

Ehara toa i te toa takitahi, engari, he toa takitini. My success is not that of a single person but instead the strength of many.

Talk to us about how we might work for your family.

-Supplied by Pūriri School principal Lydia Lester

Dive Into Learning

At Pūriri School

Creating lasting, positive childhood memories.

Our small, welcoming school community encourages and enables students to celebrate growth and success in an inclusive and innovative environment.

Did you know that we are one of the oldest schools in the region (est 1878), rich with history and an honourable legacy of learning?

Our vision and passion are to create a positive educational environment, inspiring lifelong learners with confidence to embrace their uniqueness, making lasting connections with peers, local community, and the world around them.

Life is about learning, inside and outside, in every place and every context. If we're not inside learning literacy and numeracy, you'll find us by the river exploring and applying our learning.

It would be my honour to meet you and your child or children for a school visit or chat.
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Family involvement, community connection

What truly sets Thames Coast Community Kindergarten apart from others is its innovative approach to fostering family involvement and community connections.

The not-for-profit and community run kindergarten's shorter sessions are a unique feature, specifically designed for caregivers and children aged 0-3 years to engage in play together under the supervision of experienced kaiako (teachers).

This initiative, held twice a week, encourages parents, caregivers, grandparents to actively participate in their child's early learning journey.

During these sessions, parents have the opportunity to play alongside their little ones, creating a special bond while simultaneously building friendships with other parents.

The presence of fully qualified teachers ensures a supportive environment where caregivers can gain valuable insights into their child's development.

This distinctive approach transforms the kindergarten into more than just an educational institution; it becomes a community hub where families come together to share experiences and support one another.

The chairwoman of the parent committee attests to the impact of these morning sessions.

"I have made such wonderful connections and friendships because of my time spent at kindy with my children on those

morning sessions," she said.

"I liken it to a play centre set up but with qualified teachers there to help your focus on your child's development as you interact with them in their learning environment.

"It also means that when the little one is ready for big-kids' sessions, the transition is seamless!"

This testimonial highlights the kindergarten's commitment not only to education but also to creating a space where families can forge lasting connections and actively contribute to their children's growth and development.

Thames Coast Community Kindergarten stands out as a beacon of community-oriented early childhood education, emphasizing the importance of collaborative learning experiences for both parents and children.

DETAILS: The Kindergarten operates as an All Day centre five days per week, Monday to Friday. Two of those days, Tuesdays and Thursdays, are split into two individual sessions. On these days we provide sessions for young children (0-3 years) and their parents, caregivers, grandparents, followed by a session for the older children (3-6 years).

- Supplied by Thames Coast Community Kindergarten

PICTURED RIGHT: It's all fun, games and lots of learning at the Thames Coast Community Kindergarten.
Photo: SUPPLIED








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February 7th & 8th: 8.00am - 10.00am

Back to School Dates

Term 1: 30th January – 12th April

- 30th January – 5th February: TEACHER ONLY DAYS (school closed for students)
- 6th February: Waitangi Day (Public Holiday)
- 7th February: Years 8-13 start
- All students to meet in the hall at the start of school
- Buses will run normal time morning and afternoon
- 9th February: Year 7s start (powhiri)
- Year 8-13 go to Ako class at start of school
- All Year 7s and any new students to assemble at the front of the school at 8.45am for powhiri

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Health & Wellbeing

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Did you set health and fitness goals in January 2023 but somehow never got around to achieving them?

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Please stop wasting time! Your health is your most precious asset and the choices that you make today count towards your healthier future. An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure.

Book your annual WOF. Order blood tests so you know where your cholesterol, blood sugars and inflammation levels are. At the same time get your blood pressure checked along with any other aches and pains or little things that have been bothering you.

Once you know where your numbers are, you can plan to make the lifestyle changes necessary to move towards a healthier 2024.

Small changes one step at a time work best. If you try to make too bigger changes, the chances are they won't last.

Changing from a sugary snack to a piece of fruit. Eating more vegetables and fewer processed starches. Moving from white bread to whole grain, white rice to basmati or brown, tasty cheese to Edam, chippies to a handful of nuts, are all small changes that make a huge difference over time.

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them to start straight away. If you had one car to last you a lifetime, I bet you would look after every little fault and ding and get it fixed before it became something bigger.

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Every cell of who we are can only come from the food that we eat. The quality of our hair, skin, nails, tendons, muscles, bones, organs and brain can only come from one place and that is from what we choose to eat.

So start by thinking about the quality of your food choices.

Eat predominantly whole foods and avoid ultra processed foods most of the time. Eat to drop inflammation and promote health. Drink plenty of water. Move your body daily. Just a 20-30 minute walk is worth its weight in gold. Make good quality sleep a priority. Learn how to manage stress. Learn to work with your circadian rhythms and hormone levels.

Make 2024 your year of health!
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Be off work, not off sick this summer

New Zealand Food Safety (NZFS) is urging you to keep things golden this festive season and summer so your whānau and friends are safe from foodborne illness.

"In the warmer summer months, we tend to eat outside, travel to enjoy picnics and barbecues, gather kaimoana more frequently, and enjoy social gatherings," NZFS deputy director-general Vincent Arbuckle said.

"We want everyone to spend their holidays enjoying their time off, rather than getting sick from the food they eat. The most common foodborne illnesses in New Zealand are campylobacteriosis, salmonellosis and yersiniosis.

"They all have really nasty symptoms, and can result in days of illness. For people who are elderly, very young, immunocompromised, or pregnant, the complications can be severe and, in rare cases, fatal. To help you get the most out of your summer, we're sharing our top five tips for good food safety practices."

Handwashing is number one. Washing your hands with soap and warm water is the first line of defence and one of the best ways to prevent harmful bacteria spreading to your food.

On the go with food? Chill it. Store foods like salads, meats and cheeses in a chilly bag or chilly bin with ice packs until needed.

Don't contaminate your plate – handle raw chicken safely. Avoid washing raw chicken before preparing it as this can spread bacteria in the kitchen – rather, pat chicken dry with a paper towel and put the towel in the bin. Always wash your hands with soap and warm water after handling raw chicken. Barbecue like a pro. Use separate utensils, chopping boards and plates for raw and cooked meat, and barbecue meat until it is more than 75°C all the way through.

Check before you collect kaimoana. NZFS issues public health warnings when there are unsafe shellfish biotoxin levels, advising the public not to gather or consume shellfish. Cooking does not kill the toxins and eating toxic shellfish can make you very sick, or even be deadly.

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The Valley Profile

Last month's winner of the lotto ticket was Shona Bills, who found Pete in the December 13th edition in the Snowden's Menswear advert. Go to page 2 for details on how to enter.



CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12pm Monday

CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12pm Monday

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Raffle Results

Paeroa Bowling Club Christmas Raffle
1st Prize: Christmas Hamper #48 John Strange
2nd Prize: \$100 note and Artwork #2 Noeline Posselt
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Situation Vacant

Thames Bowling Club is looking for a part time competent person for kitchen and bar work. Must be able to work evenings and some weekends.
Phone and leave message 07 8686107

Public Notice

Hauraki District Council Meetings - January 2024



Pursuant to Section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, public notice is hereby given that the following meeting will be held during the month of January 2024 in the Council Chamber, Hauraki House, William Street, Paeroa unless otherwise stated.

Council
Wednesday, 31 January 2024, 9.00am

L D Cavers
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council



www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz

Situation Vacant

MOTORCYCLE SERVICE MANAGER

We are looking for a Motorcycle Service Manager to lead our busy bike workshop.

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Public Notice



2024 Election of Trustees Notice To Beneficiaries Inviting Nominations

- (a) Nominations for election to membership of the Trust Board.
- (b) Applications for inclusion in the roll of beneficiaries.

Pursuant to section 46 of the Maori Trust Board's Act 1955, the above Board hereby calls for nominations for the election of twelve (12) persons to membership of the Board which is divided for the purpose of representation into the following sections:

Ngāti Hako, Ngāti Hei, Ngāti Maru, Ngati Paoa, Patukirikiri, Ngāti Porou ki Harataunga ki Mataora, Ngāti Pukenga ki Waiiau, Ngāti Rahiri Tumutumumu, Ngāi Tai, Ngāti Tamaterā, Ngāti Tara Tokaanui and Ngāti Whanaunga. One trustee is required to represent each listed Iwi.

The Board also calls upon such of its beneficiaries as have not already enrolled, being persons who have attained the age of 18 years, to apply to have their names, occupations and addresses included in the Board's Roll of Beneficiaries. Any enrolled beneficiary who has changed his or her occupation or address since he or she enrolled is also requested to give the Board notice thereof.

The last day for receiving nominations and applications for enrolment is at 5pm Monday 12 February 2024, being three months before the present members cease to hold office. All nominations and applications for enrolment should be addressed to the Secretary, Hauraki Māori Trust Board, whose postal address is P O Box 33, Paeroa 3640 or emailed to jm@hauraki.iwi.nz.

Nomination forms can be obtained from the Hauraki Māori Trust Board office, 41 Belmont Road, Paeroa, or by phoning 07 862-7521 or contacting the election helpline on 0800 666 041 or emailing iro@electionz.com. The forms must be signed by at least 5 beneficiaries who are entitled to vote in respect of the election of that candidate, and be accepted by the candidate, and all signatures witnessed by one or more other adult persons. A candidate may at any time withdraw his or her nomination by notice to the Board.

An election will be held by postal ballot if the number of valid nominations for any of the twelve iwi sections received by closing date exceeds the number of persons required to be elected for that section.

Dated at Paeroa this 10th day of January 2024

John McEnteer
Secretary



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CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12pm Monday

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Situation Vacant

Situations Vacant



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- 3+ years of experience in chartered or commercial accounting.
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- Experience using alternative accounting packages such as APS, MYOB is desirable.

What we offer:

- A supportive, value-driven working environment.
- Ongoing professional development personalised towards your strengths and interests.
- Professional membership fees & training requirements provided.

Applications:
All applicants must have the legal ability to work in NZ.
A detailed job description is available upon request. Please send your CV with a covering letter to recruitment@cooperaitken.co.nz
Applications close Friday 2nd February 2024

Paeroa Central School
- 1 x Kitchen Assistant

We seek an enthusiastic and organised person to join our Kitchen Team. You will assist with the provision of food preparation and other kitchen tasks to support the Kitchen Manager, and maintain an effective and efficient operation of the kitchen.

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- Secondary school education (three years or more) is highly desirable
- Work experience of at least 1 - 2 years.
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Friday 19th January 2024 @ 5pm

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Profile



The Paeroa College sevens team that competed at the Condors comp. Photo: SUPPLIED

Sevens squad shows confidence at Condors

Paeroa College's sevens team competed in the Condor Sevens NZ Secondary Schools Rugby Championships at Mount Maunganui's Blake Park in December.

This is the first time Paeroa College qualified for the tournament after winning the Thames Valley Open Boys event. The team always knew it would be a hard ask to compete against the big schools from the major unions but went in with an amazing attitude.

"We want to compete and test ourselves against the best," co-captains Ashton Chwesik and Cooper Morrison said.

With a less than ideal time to prepare - a mere two-and-a-half weeks, coupled with player unavailability, Paeroa went in a little underdone but did not want to give up this potentially once-in-a-lifetime chance.

They lost to Auckland's King's College 41-0 and Hamilton Boys' High School 62-0 in the first two games but never gave up. This building of confidence saw them almost knock over Kerikeri High School, having opened them up with an open line in the last play of the game when a missed pass saw the winning try go begging and the opposition swooping to score at the other end. Heartbreak, losing 26-17.

The second day began with a game against St Bede's College out of Christchurch. Again they were close until the very end, losing 34-17 in the last couple of minutes with a couple of quick tries.

Waihi College were next up and they copped the frustrations of the Paeroa boys and were beaten, giving the Paeroa side their first win 33-7. The final game saw them come up against De La Salle College out of Manukau, and although losing 36-12, again they never gave up.

All in all, an amazing opportunity from a very young team, which included one Year 9, three Year 10s and five Year 11 players, and if they do go on to qualify again, will set them up to be better able to compete against the big guns.

The support that they received from within the Paeroa community was amazing and they could not have done it without them - HG Leach & Co Ltd, Paeroa 4 Square, Tony Richards Toyota, BJ Morrison & Associates, Jock Spinks, Waituta Farms and Clogfoot Enterprises all contributing, which was very much appreciated. The team would also like to thank Steven Hill, Scott Patterson, Scott Day and Taine Wilson for helping them prepare.

- By Gerry Bakker

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ENTERTAINMENT

Music's first gig of '24

Kauaeranga Music welcomes back The Eastern for its first gig of 2024.

The Eastern, last seen at Kauaeranga Hall in 2018, describe themselves as a string band that roars like a punk band, that swings like a gospel band, that hopes like folk singers, and sings love songs like union songs, and writes union songs like love songs.

Four albums and well over 1000 shows deep, The Eastern have played and toured with Fleetwood Mac, Steve Earle and Old Crow Medicine Show amongst others, ticking off miles, countries and 200-plus shows a year every year.


Having delivered four albums, The Eastern garnered a reputation as one of New Zealand's hardest working and most honest to goodness band, one that embraced an old-fashioned ethic of people and shows over posts and playlists.

They gather converts and friends wherever they or their records land. The rolling, rambling, spirit raising atmospheres they project in their live shows have endeared them to the hearts of many. It's obvious they care about the audience as much as the songs.

DETAILS: The Eastern performing this Friday, January 12 from 7.30pm at Kauaeranga Hall, 437 Kauaeranga Valley Rd, Thames. It will be an outdoor gig if weather is fine. Tickets: Door sales \$25, pre-paid \$22 txt: 021912993 or email kauaerangahallmusic@gmail.com



NZ band The Eastern. Photo: SUPPLIED




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SUDOKU

132

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

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

EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

132

HARD

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

MEDIUM

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

EASY

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

JUMBO CROSSWORD

152

ACROSS

1 Shatter (5)

4 Held tightly (8)

9 Least contaminated (6)

14 Way (5)

15 Irritate by tactless handling (3,2,3,5,3)

17 Frighten (5)

18 Can (3)

19 Tool (7)

20 Clichéd (9)

21 Long narrow band of colour (6)

24 Attempt (9)

25 Be indecisive (6)

26 Middle (6)

29 Very popular book (4-6)

31 Stitched edge (3)

32 Curtains (6)

33 Obnoxious child (4)

35 Be in debt (3)

37 State of unconsciousness (4)

39 Restore to life (9)

40 Take the place of, supplant (9)

41 Wear away (5)

42 Excessive praise (8)

47 Flow-controlling valve (8)

51 Cut with sweeping strokes (5)

55 Indiscriminate slaughter (9)

56 Correction (9)

58 Canines (4)

59 Space between (3)

60 Small whirlpool (4)

61 Origin (6)

62 Burst (3)

63 Synthetic (10)

66 Financial plan (6)

67 Diminish (6)

69 Large important church (9)

72 Acrimonious (6)

73 Mementos (9)

75 Dressmaker's guide (7)

77 In favour of (3)

80 Depart (5)

81 Feeling very cold (7,2,3,4)

82 Thrill (5)

83 Gun kick (6)

84 Infuriated (8)

85 Group of witches (5)

DOWN

2 Facial hair (9)

3 Reject with disdain (5)

5 Perjured oneself (4)

6 Destructive wind vortex (7)

7 Nose-wipe (12)

8 Divine for water (5)

9 Remittance (7)

10 Hurry (4)

11 Sailors' song (6)

12 Give a price for proposed work (5)

13 Pseudonym (3,4)

14 Went to bed (7)

16 Long and severe questioning (5,6)

22 City in Texas (6)

23 Recovery setback (7)

24 Contestant (7)

25 Reduce in rank (6)

27 Underwater missile (7)

28 Tyrant (6)

30 Uncommon (4)

32 Fiend (5)

34 Make fine adjustments to (5)

36 Let fall (4)

38 Night bird (3)

42 Dietary roughage (5)

43 Shunned (7)

44 Neaten (4)

45 Think logically (6)

46 Scope (5)

48 Puffed (3,2,6)

49 Will addition (7)

50 Gearwheel (3)

51 Abridge (7)

52 Come to pass (6)

53 Wearing glasses (12)

54 Conception (4)

57 Meal course (6)

64 Statement to relieve doubt (9)

65 Fabric (7)

66 Stumped (7)

68 Lettering guide (7)

70 Alerted (anag)(7)

71 Act properly (6)

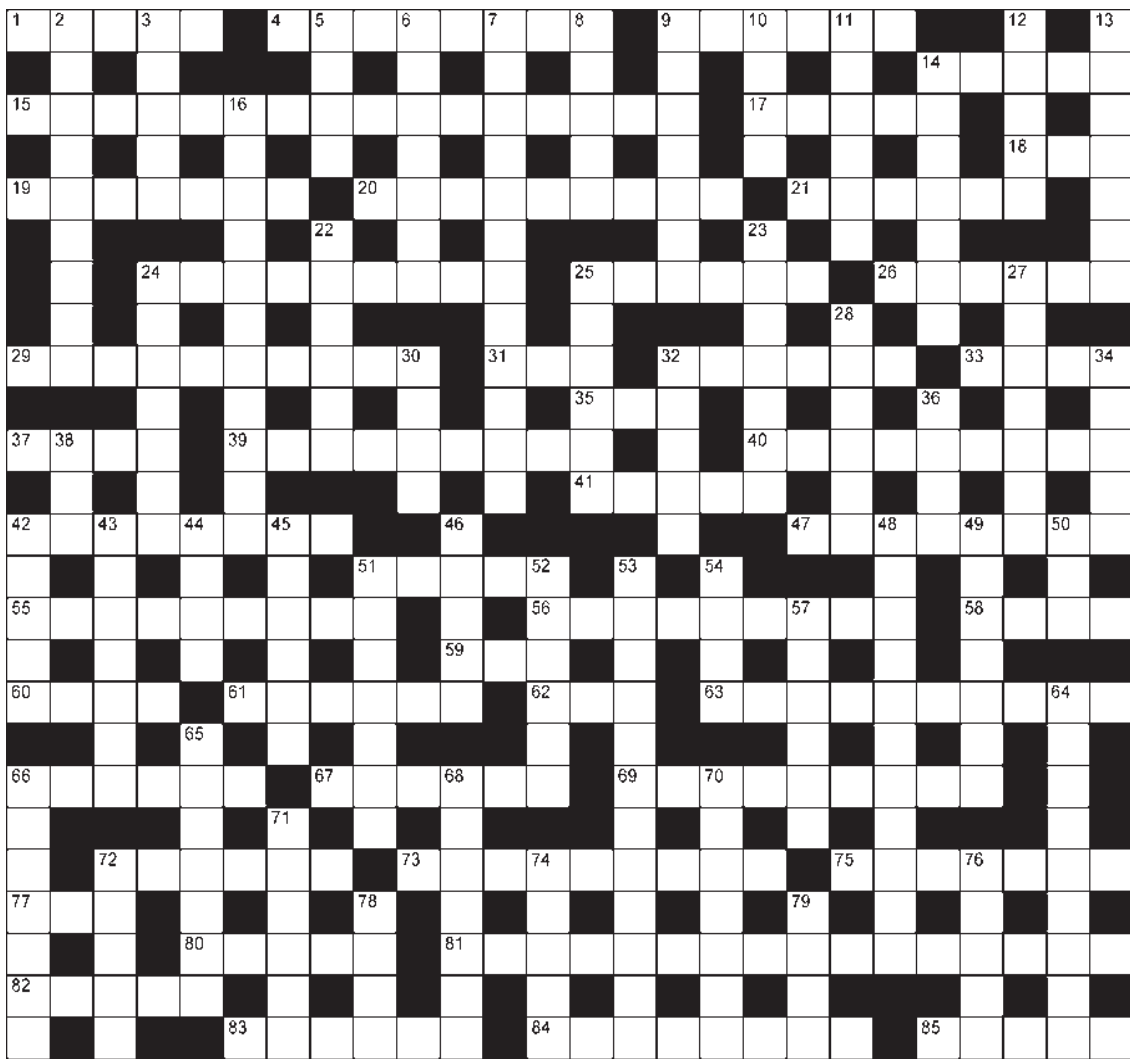
72 Expansive (5)

74 Light-splitting glass (5)

76 Forbidden (5)

78 Nil (4)

79 Abode (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Button one's lip, 8 Unwise, 14 Space, 15 Resemble, 16 Buskers, 17 Shaft, 18 Lot, 19 Restate, 21 Itinerary, 22 Honest, 25 Assumption, 27 Commence, 28 Floppy, 31 Volume, 33 Smitten, 34 Gibbet, 35 Lens, 37 Tie, 39 Flue, 40 Ricotta, 41 Reconcile, 42 Yelling, 43 Asbestos, 48 Heighten, 52 Chances, 56 Acetylene, 57 Creates, 58 Also, 59 Tun, 60 Ship, 61 Voyage, 62 Stealth, 63 Netted, 65 Mayhem, 66 Inactive, 68 Gingernuts, 71 Scales, 72 Voluntary, 74 Venison, 76 Sap, 79 Lithe, 80 Caution, 81 Caffeine, 83 Guide, 84 Arises, 85 Take a breather.

DOWN: 2 Useless, 3 Theft, 4 Nib, 5 Need, 6 Substantiate, 7 Ibsen, 8 Upsurge, 9 Wasp, 10 Slalom, 11 Fault, 12 Testify, 13 Detrimental, 14 Steeple, 20 Top secret, 23 Dissects, 24 Iceberg, 26 Ukulele, 27 Cathay, 29 Predict, 30 Rescue, 32 Ogles, 34 Genie, 36 Stein, 38 Snag, 43 Amass, 44 Brevity, 45 Styx, 46 Ocelot, 47 Paste, 48 Hatching, 49 Insincere, 50 Hearten, 51 Ensue, 52 Cézanne, 53 Conspicuous, 54 Scheme, 55 Belligerence, 64 Debauch, 65 Message, 67 Choices, 69 Trounce, 70 Jester, 71 Spoil, 73 Taiga, 75 Inept, 77 Pews, 78 Scab, 82 Foe.



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ENQUIRE TODAY!



STAGE 1 IS NOW COMPLETE

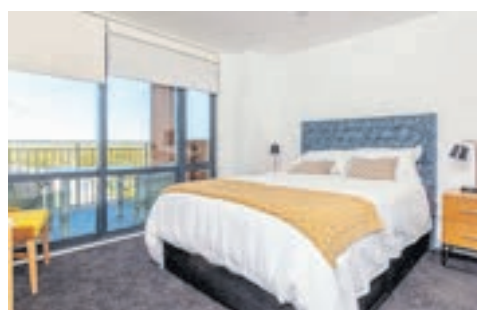
ENQUIRIES FOR STAGE 2 ARE WELCOME!

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

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