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Vandals strike

\$5k elephant 'didn't survive' vandals

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

An elephant with the name of Elly who travelled from Cambodia to stand watch outside Gastronomics restaurant in Thames has been brazenly destroyed by a group of offenders.

Restaurant owner Kishan Raikwar said he was alerted that vandals who had "come from the other side of town" had pushed over his \$5000 feature piece last week.

"She didn't survive," he said.

Local police officers informed him that the offenders had been caught. Police later told *The Profile* four men were arrested and charged following the incident, which happened shortly after 11pm on January 16.

Elly was purchased in April last year, and Kishan said there had been no issues with vandalism since that time. In the past few months, locals, out-of-towners, and overseas visitors had all stopped to take photos with Elly, he said.

"As a business, we don't need this. We put some effort into the main street, and whatever the reason those [vandals] have is not good enough," Kishan said. "Someone has to step up and say that if you do this, then you have to be punished."

It's going to cost Kishan \$5000 to get a replacement Elly sent from Cambodia, and he said generous locals have already offered to help foot the bill.

Police said four men were due to appear in Thames District Court on January 30 facing charges of wilful damage in relation to the incident.



The large elephant outside the Pollen St restaurant was smashed by vandals, right. Photos: SUPPLIED



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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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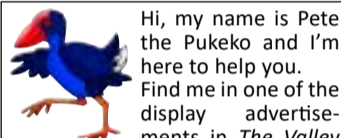
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High speeds cause concern on SH25A

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

It's been a month since the \$43 million Taparahi Bridge on state highway 25A was opened to the public, and while transcoastal travel is now back to normal for most people, there are still safety concerns when driving through the still-active construction site.

Traffic volume on the road has already returned to pre-slip levels, with approximately 7330 vehicles making the trip every day throughout the peak summer period.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency urged drivers to stick to the temporary speed limit of 50km per hour after complaints about chipped windscreens due to loose stones from the new chipseal.

"NZTA's maintenance contractors received five complaints of chipped windscreens in December after the road opened," regional manager of infrastructure delivery Jo Wilton said.

"All of the complaints related to stone being flicked up by passing traffic.

"New seal on any stretch of road takes time to bed-in and can have loose chip."

The road had been swept several times in response, Jo said, and the agency had not received any further complaints.

Site workers have also complained of speeding drivers on social media, saying tailgating is making it difficult for them to turn safely into the construction site.

Meanwhile, there is still much to be done at the site around the bridge.



The new Taparahi Bridge on SH25A. INSET: The initial slip in February 2023 took out 110m of road. Photos: SUPPLIED

The hillside had collapsed during the cyclones last summer, taking 110m of road with it, as an overflowing culvert under the road caused the loosely-packed earth to become waterlogged.

New drainage infrastructure for the bridge is not yet completed and the roading team also needs to test the soil nails, construct fencing, tidy the site and remove temporary structures. The helipad and laydown area are also yet to be reinstated.

The rest of SH25A has also undergone a major facelift. NZTA said \$30 million had been spent on recovery and maintenance along the highway, up from their initial budgeted figure of \$25 mil-

lion. "We've taken advantage of the closure to repair damage caused by last summer's storms and deliver an accelerated maintenance programme along the remainder of the route," Jo said.

"This has included slip clearance and slope stabilisation, removal of hazardous vegetation, new culverts and side drains to improve management of surface run-off, strengthened bridges, new seal, road markings and signage. All this work improves the resilience of the highway."

The bridge itself now features very deep supporting piles, soil nailing and earthworks designed to keep the road standing in the

face of future weather events.

While the agency said it was proud of the job it had done to get SH25A open again ahead of schedule, Jo said this was unlikely to be the standard for future roading projects around the country due to the uniqueness of the situation.

"This was deemed emergency works which was given priority by all involved," Jo said.

"A lot of overtime and nightwork was used... It should be noted that this increases project costs and requires a lot of management to keep everyone well and to avoid fatigue."



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Thames Tides

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
Jan 24	Jan 25	Jan 26	Jan 27	Jan 28	Jan 29	Jan 30
Morning: 12:42am 0.7 Afternoon: 1:11pm 0.9	Morning: 1:33am 0.7 Afternoon: 2:00pm 0.9	Morning: 2:18am 0.6 Afternoon: 2:45pm 0.8	Morning: 2:59am 0.6 Afternoon: 3:27pm 0.8	Morning: 3:38am 0.6 Afternoon: 4:07pm 0.8	Morning: 4:16am 0.6 Afternoon: 4:45pm 0.8	Morning: 4:53am 0.6 Afternoon: 5:23pm 0.8
7:08am 3.2 7:24pm 3.1	7:56am 3.2 8:16pm 3.1	8:40am 3.3 9:03pm 3.1	9:21am 3.3 9:45pm 3.2	10:00am 3.3 10:24pm 3.2	10:38am 3.3 11:01pm 3.2	11:15am 3.3 11:37pm 3.2
6:23am 8:36pm	6:24am 8:35pm	6:25am 8:34pm	6:27am 8:34pm	6:28am 8:33pm	6:29am 8:32pm	6:30am 8:32pm
Best At 12:06pm	Best At 12:59pm	Best At 1:48pm	Best At 2:34pm	Best At 3:17pm	Best At 3:57pm	Best At 4:37pm
Set 4:13am Rise 7:56pm	Set 5:13am Rise 8:38pm	Full Moon Set 6:16am Rise 9:12pm	Set 7:18am Rise 9:41pm	Set 8:18am Rise 10:06pm	Set 9:17am Rise 10:29pm	Set 10:15am Rise 10:50pm

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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	HIGH Mm	LOW Mm
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

Mayor Salt's F-bomb not 'the real issue'

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

Thames-Coromandel Mayor Len Salt says he's not usually the type of person to sign off an email with "go f**k yourself", but after witnessing a barrage of abuse aimed at his council staff, he wanted to make his stance clear.

"It's very rare for me," he told *The Profile*, "but if you want to threaten my staff, if you want to threaten our people in council, then that's what you can expect."

A resurfaced email from June, 2023, was published on a social media page showing the mayor dropping the F-bomb after a constituent asked for the private details of council staffers.

The Profile has seen the full email in which the sender requests "the full names, positions held in the TCDC corporation, and the private addresses of all the legal team, rates team, corporate services group". They also include council chief executive Aileen Lawrie in their request for information "for the sole purpose of prosecution procedures".

Mayor Salt then replied: "Morena... Please keep a record of my reply in case you need to refer to it for legal reasons or future court cases. My official response, as Mayor of Thames-Coromandel District Council, to your request for personal details of staff names and addresses, is this. Go f**k yourself".

Mayor Len said there was always a possibility the email would resurface, but in truth, he had forgotten about it.



Thames-Coromandel district Mayor Len Salt. File Photos



Steve Hart

He said he wanted the sender to be "very, very clear" about what his response was, and that "there was no ambiguity".

He also said he had since received support from mayors from across the country, who praised him for "pushing back" against the "aggression" local councils have put up with for the past year.

Anyone outraged about his choice of words was missing the point, he said.

"The point is not that a random mayor somewhere in the country used an F-word... the level of aggression and abusive behaviour directed to our staff and elected members is the discussion they should be having.

"This was not something I would

do on a regular basis, but [people] need to focus on the real issue, and if my statement serves to highlight the real issue of aggression and abuse towards our people, then it's served its purpose."

An email also viewed by *The Profile* shows one recent example of council-aimed abuse.

Sent on December 22, 2023, by a different constituent, the email was in response to a TCDC staffer providing an update on a Powerco application and said: "You're a heartless f**king b****h sending this out the day before Christmas. Rot in hell".

"This is happening on multiple levels," Mayor Salt said. "Social media, emails, face to face contact across customer service counters,

in council meetings and community board meetings, in public information sessions organised by council staff, and in public meetings attended by councillors and elected members.

"I think we will see this conversation move through Local Government New Zealand and become more of a topic councils want to start addressing and pushing back on."

The man responsible for the resurfaced email was Steve Hart, who vied for the mayoral chains at the 2022 local body elections.

Though he didn't compose the email that elicited the F-bomb response, he said his intention was to raise the question whether Mayor Salt's reaction was "appro-

priate".

"It seems today that sort of language is mainstream and I just thought: is it? Is it appropriate? Especially from someone holding public office?" he said. "I thought [the post] might get a bit of a reaction, and it's good that it has because it puts it out there."

Steve said it was "absolutely not" the right response from the mayor. "Why not have an intellectual discussion about the subject, rather than lay abuse and insult in that matter?"

When asked whether it was an appropriate response as a "push back" against aggression aimed at council staff, Steve said constituents themselves were the ones pushing back against "inadequacy".

"You'd expect the abuse, and the abuse is getting louder and louder because of the lack of performance. Does everybody sit back and take it? Or do they say something about it? And who do they say something to?"

The sender of the email could not be reached for comment.



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Happy New Year

News from Thames-Coromandel District Council



January 2024

Thames branding buzz

Summer has been busy for Thames, with visitors being encouraged to explore all the interesting places the town has to offer through the new Thames brand promotion which started before Christmas.

New “places of interest” maps are being distributed by the information kiosk at Goldfields Shopping Centre as well as by visitor information centres around the Coromandel and Hauraki, retailers and accommodation providers in Thames.

The revamped website explorethames.nz showcases the town’s history, activities and events of interest as well as business directories of where to eat, shop, stay and what to do.

Locals are encouraged to ‘follow’ and ‘share’ social



media posts #explorethamesnz widely and make the call to friends and whānau to come and “explore interesting” in Thames this summer.

REDUCING FIRE RISK

A reminder that until at least the end of January Fire and Emergency NZ’s Restricted Fire Season is in force for the Coromandel with no outdoor fires allowed without permits.

Private fireworks are banned, except for already planned and approved public fireworks displays.



Kerbside collections

Rubbish and recycling collections for Thames Coast & Manaia, Thames Rural South and Thames & Surrounds continue in the alternate red week (rubbish and food scraps) and yellow week (mixed recycling, glass and food scraps) system over the summer.

Our contractors Waste Management will be working on Auckland Anniversary Day, Monday 29 January, and Waitangi Day, Tuesday 6 February, doing collections so the service will not be affected by the public holidays.

Download your calendar at tcdc.govt.nz/bindays or pick one up from our Council office, library or the information kiosk at Goldfields Shopping Centre.

Our Refuse and Recycling Transfer Stations are open 8:30am-5:30pm during daylight saving. If you’re leaving town before your collection day you can drop off your recycling for free or pay \$5 for a large 60L plastic bag of rubbish. tcdc.govt.nz/rts

FREE MINIBUS BETWEEN THAMES AND COROMANDEL TOWN

Spread the word about the free Connector bus service running between Thames and Coromandel Town this summer.

The service runs on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays and is a trial until mid March.

Booking is essential. Text the relevant company including your name, the service time and the town you are being picked up from.



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tcdc.govt.nz/coromandeltransport



Thames Community Board UPDATE

Board Chair, Adrian Catran JP reports:

“It’s been heartening to see Thames come alive with visitors over summer partly as a response to the long awaited opening of 25A in conjunction with the Community Board’s work to raise the town’s profile – by promoting the “explore interesting” brand and website, using Christmas flags to lift people’s spirits and funding new information signboards going up soon. We can all help by sharing with our friends and relatives the interesting things our quirky historical town has to offer. To this end we are backing our new town vision of: “Thames – the most interesting town in NZ” in an endeavour to bring more visitors to Thames in this our 150th year of the first meeting of the Thames Borough Council.”



adrian.catran@council.tcdc.govt.nz

The Board’s next meeting is on Wednesday 21 February, 10am in Thames Council Offices. tcdc.govt.nz/meetings

WELCOME TO THE THAMES-COROMANDEL DISTRICT

WATER RESTRICTIONS ARE IN PLACE

TCDC.GOV.TZ/WATERRESTRICTIONS



Water restrictions

Thames and Thames Valley residents and visitors are being urged to practise good water habits and reduce any unnecessary usage over the summer period.

In mid January both the town and the surrounding Thames Valley were on Level 5 restrictions – with outside watering banned, except for hand-held watering cans for essential plant watering. That was lifted after a couple of days for Thames town but remains in force for Thames Valley.

We’re keeping a close eye on water usage and our levels in our water treatment plants, particularly over Auckland Anniversary Weekend and Waitangi Weekend, with visitors adding to water usage.

Keep up-to-date with water restrictions at tcdc.govt.nz/waterrestrictions

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Culture and climate change: crafting a future

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

The title 'master crafter' doesn't sit well with Thames weaver Louisa Humphry.

For her and weaving partner Kaetaeta Watson, both originally from Kiribati, the joy of their craft is not in recognition, but rather in the learning and passing on of techniques and traditions to others.

Nevertheless, in November the pair were jointly awarded the title of Craft Master by the Asia-Pacific branch of the World Crafts Council, in recognition of their dedication to the traditional Kiribati practice of weaving.

Criteria for the award included an extraordinary contribution to their field, sustainable practices, international recognition, continuous learning, and international collaboration, leading to the passing on of knowledge and intangible cultural heritage that otherwise might be lost.

That the award was given jointly was a testament to the collaborative nature of their craft, Louisa said; being able to bounce ideas off each other and work to the other's strengths has been a major part of their success.

"War armour [w]as one of the major reconstructions that we had done together," Louisa said.

"All around the world is war armour in museums, that belonged to Kiribati... but there's none in the islands and the makers are all gone.

"We had to kind of teach ourselves from some of the photos of



Louisa Humphry is passionate about the preservation of traditional Kiribati weaving techniques. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

what's in the museums."

Louisa has always been passionate about sharing her heritage.

"I think it's very important that you know your roots," she said.

"We see our young ones that are losing their language and culture, and I think it's very sad. It's all very well being successful and getting on with the life we've created here

but if you don't know who you are it's a sad thing, there's nothing to pass on to the future generation.

"We have got quite a growing [Kiribati] population that are living in NZ now, and it's nice to be a part of encouraging them to preserve their heritage art."

Passing on Kiribati's traditions is especially important nowadays,

because of the devastating effects of climate change and pollution on the tiny nation's low-lying islands.

"Our oceans are our lifeline in Kiribati, [but] at the moment it's polluted, there's rubbish, it's over-fished," she said.

"So apart from the water rising, just the condition of our ocean is

so deteriorated... That's going to be our future really, trying to settle in some other parts of the world."

Between exhibitions and working on their own art, the pair run workshops with schools and groups across the country. Along with the physical weaving of te tai (headgear), baskets, and mats, they also weave stories.

"We try to incorporate all kinds of other things, like telling them some of the stories from Kiribati, promoting the language," Louisa said.

"As we do things we're telling them about some of the taboos around doing things... Some of the norms of our culture.

"What we are trying to tell our young ones now is that we're not getting any younger - what we are trying to pass on to them, it's very important that they take it on because they will be the ones to carry it [forward]."

Despite the pair's skill and expertise, it's their emphasis on collaboration that Louisa would prefer to emphasise.

"In no way are we master crafters, master weavers," she said.

"There are some very, very talented weavers and crafters around, but they've got that mentality of not sharing.

"So part of our job is to actually say, if you don't share it, it's going to get lost... We're not going to be here all the time and our young ones will be deprived because we're keeping this knowledge to take to our grave."



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High tea event for The Treasury

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

Anna Dunwoodie says her first job as a volunteer for The Treasury was pushing papers around the kitchen table, clearing space so she could sit and have dinner.

Her parents, Geraldine and Morrie, started the research and archive centre in Thames, and so Anna has always been aware of the importance of preserving heritage.

And with The Treasury now in hibernation due to a lack of funding, she has organised a high tea event to help keep the archives safe while the doors are shut.

"There's quite a few people who are now really wondering where they can store things that have been very important to their family. I know that the School of Mines have had several things handed in because The Treasury's doors have been shut," she said.

Even with the centre's regular operations being on hiatus, Anna said it cost roughly \$25,000 a year to keep the archive safe - and that includes maintaining its gaseous fire suppression system.

In order to help out with the costs, she has organised an English and Japanese fusion high tea, with internationally renowned lyric soprano Charlotte de Rothschild as guest of honour.



Soprano Charlotte de Rothschild will speak at the high tea event coming up in March.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Charlotte can perform in 19 languages, including Japanese, Chinese and Korean, and has created themed programmes. Her best known is 'Family Connections', which traces the musical history of her forebears with music by, and anecdotes about, the composers who were friends, teachers, or ancestors of the Rothschild family during the 19th and 20th centuries.

Anna, who is a harpist, met Charlotte in 2017, and said it was a rare occasion for Thames to have not only a high tea on the event calendar, but to have Charlotte in attendance.

"I think this will be something

that will really tickle people's taste buds and be memorable," she said, "and the whole support of The Treasury - that we have to keep this history safe and alive for future generations - is enough to get people here."

DETAILS: The high tea will be held on the afternoon of Saturday, March 9, in the Thames Civic Centre, with tickets available via email or from Carson's Bookshop. Tickets will be \$100, and will include the opportunity to have a guided tour through The Treasury prior to the event. Email: charlottefundraiser24@gmail.com.



Past and present members of the Friends of the Emergency Department team celebrated 20 years of patient support in October. Photo SUPPLIED

Friendly faces needed at hospital

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

Hato Hone St John is seeking 10 sensitive, friendly and caring individuals to join the Friends of the Emergency Department volunteer programme at Thames Hospital.

The service provides support to the emergency department, with volunteers offering comfort and a friendly face to patients and family members in what is often a stressful situation. While duties can include assisting with making beds, serving cups of tea or providing information, for most patients, the value of the volunteers is in their company.

"It's a non-clinical role; they're in there just supporting patients, family, friends who might just need someone to talk to," community engagement coordinator Nikki Tyrrell-Baxter

said. "Just supporting the people who are up there and helping them take their mind off their troubles."

Potential applicants should have excellent communication skills, be compassionate and sensitive towards medical issues, and be physically fit as the role requires a lot of walking.

Their required commitment is a four-hour shift once a week or fortnightly. Clinical experience is not needed, and full training is provided along with ongoing support from St John.

"It's a real team environment," Nikki said.

"It has a lot of self-reward, just helping people."

DETAILS: For more information call Lesley on 027 632 3115 or visit join.stjohn.org.nz.



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College mural creates sense of belonging

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Collaborating with others can be daunting, but a group of Waihi College students and their kaiako made everything come together when they created their school mural.

Former Waihi College kaiako [teacher] Chrissy Paterson led a group of 12 senior students over half a semester in creating a mural as part of an alternative learning programme called Creative Industries.

Students were split into two groups to share ideas, before they joined together again to discuss their findings. Ideas produced were very similar and made the refining process “easy and seamlessly collaborative,” Chrissy said.

Local Māori artist Ana-Lee Hemopo was invited to share about the tikanga and protocol around Māori art forms and weaving, and despite the students’ mahi being a contemporary process, it was key for them to know the importance of the culture traditionally, Chrissy said.

The mural’s objective was to acknowledge the four school houses - Amaranth, Dominion, Empire, and Royal - as well as major landmarks, pūrākau [stories], and legends in and around Waihi.

“We make connections to Rapaotio [guardian of the river] and Ureia [taniwha], Whare Maia [house in the heart of the school], Papatūānuku [earth mother] and Ranginui [sky fa-



TOP: The completed mural hangs proudly in school hall, left: Students and builders install the mural, centre: students hard at work on the mural, right: Māori artist Ana-Lee Hemopo weaves protocol and tikanga into teaching. File Photo: SUPPLIED

ther], the tree of life situated in the heart of the school, Ohinemuri River, and our four local maunga [mountain].”

A lot of the aspects were designed and drawn by the group’s creative lead, Shaedyn Delamere.

Chrissy said in creating this mural “we wanted past, current and future students to feel like

they belonged”.

“It aligns with the school value ‘Kei konei tatou’ - Here we stand.”

There are also references to the wider Waihi beach and Tuhua.

Neisha Bellamy, who was Waihi College Leader of Arts, reflected on how extensive the project was.

“It was the biggest piece of art any of us students had worked on. I think many of us felt the pressure of just how big it was, and we knew it was going to stay at the college for a very long time.”

Chrissy said Rudi Sas and his team of builders were to thank for their efforts in getting the

mural up, and taking the time to do it with precision.

“It had huge sentimental value to us as a group as it was a way we could all leave a piece of us behind,” she said.

Students photographed the process and wrote blogs, which can be read on the school website, waihicol.school.nz.

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Rural Life



Help needed for trust



Gary and Adrienne Dalton have run Te Whangai Trust for 18 years and have seen countless lives changed for the better. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

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

The Te Whangai Trust is not only a nursery, but in saying that, it relies on councils and organisations to purchase the plants it nurtures.

Yet as founders Adrienne and Gary Dalton would tell you, the trust is more than the end product of its natives, it's a social enterprise that provides alternative pathways to employment for people in need across the Thames Valley.

Over 18 years, they have seen lives changed.

Former gang members, released prisoners, and isolated rangatahi have all been employed

by Adrienne and Gary, with some even being temporarily housed by them.

It's no surprise then that in 2022, Adrienne was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the Queen's Birthday Honours, and that this year, Gary has been named a semi-finalist in the 2024 Senior New Zealander of the Year awards.

They are now calling on members of the community to assist at Te Whangai Trust, and said there was a diverse range of skills out there that could be tapped into.

"No matter what their stage is in life, people have all got their learnings they can share," Adrienne said. "A person who has

been bankrupt can have empathy for the ones who have nothing. All they need is a good listening ear, and to be prepared to sit by somebody and let them vent."

Gary added that retirees could also provide their talents to help the trust grow. In turn, more seeds will get sown and it is hoped, more organisations will purchase them.

"The more trees they buy, the more kids we can help," he said.

The trust was inspired by Gary and Adrienne's daughter Leigh, who died in a car accident in 2007. Since then, the pair have faced their challenges, but the biggest of them all has been working towards achieving sys-

temic change.

"We had an 18-year-old kid who came from the roughest background, and we'd shoot out and plant some trees and I'd say to him: 'You'll be able to get your grandkids to come back and see what you did'. You can watch his stature change immediately," Gary said. "He's a little thug who now has a future and can show what he's achieved. It changes their mana straight away.

"But you can't spend too much time fixing what's wrong, you've got to make what's wrong right," he said. "There are some things you aren't going to change - only time can change them."

The Te Whangai Trust is

grounded in the practice of whangai (in Māori culture, this means being raised by extended family), and at the nursery in Miranda, there is a clear feeling of kāinga.

All workers are paid a living wage while they develop their skills in a nurturing, inclusive environment.

"We're providing them with hope," Gary said. "Everyone needs to feel as though they are contributing and valued in their community."

DETAILS: For info, or to support the trust, visit: tewhangai.org.



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Rural Life

Blooming beautiful

An array of bright blooms including dahlias, sunflowers, and lillies were on display at the Waihi Memorial Hall on Saturday when the Waihi Dahlia Club held its annual competition. Entrants came from near and far, with experienced judge Keith Hammett evaluating the flowers on their form, stem, condition, size, and colour quality. Keith started growing dahlias as a teenager in the United Kingdom, and has been a judge for 60 years. Waihi club president Jennifer Chappel said the event had been running for the same length of time. She acknowledged this year's entrants and their diverse range of blooms. Reporter **KELLEY TANTAU** was in attendance to capture all the colour.



Overall champion Annabella Martin with organiser and grower Jennifer Chappel.

Photos: KELLEY TANTAU



Award winners Dave and Kay Shirley with judge Keith Hammett, left.



The bright blooms were also on sale after the event prizegiving.



Experienced judge Keith Hammett demonstrates his keen eye.



A variety of different breeds of dahlia were on display.

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Rural Life

Dairy production stable despite climate conditions

Dairy sector production has held strong in the face of difficult climate conditions throughout the 2022/23 season.

The annual New Zealand Dairy Statistics report released today by DairyNZ and Livestock Improvement Corporation (LIC) shows an innovative dairy sector producing well, despite climatic challenges, inflationary pressures, and global supply chain issues.

In the 2022/23 season, milk production remained relatively stable with 20.7 billion litres of milk containing 1.87 billion kilograms of milksolids processed by dairy companies. This represented a 0.4 per cent decrease in litres produced, but a 0.3 per cent increase in kilograms of milksolids.

While milk production per cow increased, the trend of declining cow numbers continued with a 3.46 per cent decrease to 4.67 million cows.

DairyNZ chief executive Campbell Parker emphasises the good work farmers have done to manage conditions, including Cyclone Gabrielle and high on-farm costs, and the varying impacts these had on farm operations.

“New Zealand dairy farmers continue to focus on using technology information to milk efficiently, while managing their individual farm conditions,” says Mr Parker.

“These insights are driving better decisions, while a range of tools help improve herd sustainability and productivity.”

The season saw an increase in the percentage of cows herd tested, at 81.1 per cent of total cows tested (3.79 million cows, the highest percentage on record) while artificial breeding remained relatively stable at 3.81 million cows (82 per cent of cows).

LIC chief executive David Chin says the

increase in individual cow milk production and uptake of herd improvement services demonstrates farmers’ sharpened focus on cow efficiency.

“Our sector is producing more milksolids from a smaller cow population, and this is testament to the great work of Kiwi dairy farmers.

“Despite a challenging season, farmers have continued to invest in solutions that support them to produce the most sustainable and efficient animals for their herd. The use of high genetic merit sires and record number of cows being herd tested is enabling farmers to breed highly efficient cows that produce more and have a lower emissions intensity profile.”

The average dairy co-operative payout (including dividends) from Fonterra and Tatua was \$9.26 for the 2022/23 season, which is the second highest inflation adjusted payout for farmers on record.

New Zealand dairy farmers are resilient and accustomed to managing volatility, with the sector experiencing a drop in expected milk price for the 2023/24 season. The current Fonterra midpoint forecast sits at \$7.50 per kg of milksolid.

Mr Parker says that dairy plays a large role in contributing to GDP and supporting the prosperity of local communities, as well as providing around 55,000 jobs nationwide. “While managing climatic conditions, dairy export revenue is expected to increase to \$25.1 billion in for the 2022/23 season.

“We should all be proud of the dedication of the dairy sector and what is achieved even in difficult seasons as we continue to deliver economic growth for New Zealand.”

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Grant for new Turua play area

A \$15,000 New Zealand Community Trust grant will do wonders for the renovation and expansion of Turua Barnardos' play area.

The early learning centre is currently undergoing redevelopment, with a vacant Barnardos building in Hamilton having already been transported to its new home in the Hauraki town.

Barnardos' trust and grants fundraiser Amanda Kidman said the existing facility was at the end of its life, and funding was sought to support the acquisition of outdoor play equipment for the new space.

"The expanded outdoor play area will serve as a vibrant space for children in our community, fostering physical activity, social interaction, and overall well-being," she said.

"This redevelopment will also give Barnardos the opportunity to apply to extend the current licensing of 38 children to meet community need and provide access to early childhood education to tamariki and whanau. There is a predicted increase in population growth as Hauraki District Council is set to develop two major subdivisions nearby."

The \$15,000 grant was funded via The Paeroa Hotel, and New Zealand Community Trust general manager of grants, marketing and communications Ben Hodges said



Byron Gubb will be excited to get his hands on new play equipment. Photo SUPPLIED

he was grateful for the partnership.

"Together, we made this grant happen," he said.

The renovation and extension of the Turua centre is scheduled to take place later this year, with hopes that the new building will cater to the expected boom in Turua's pop-

ulation growth.

"This renovation and extension of our Turua Early Learning Centre is a fantastic example of our mahi and long-standing commitment to providing early childhood education opportunities to tamariki and whanau in the Waikato district," he said.



Whitianga's Stu Pedley and Leo Magri of Let's Go Descarrego. Photo SUPPLIED

Festival set to draw crowds back to Coro

Festival-goers can add Whitianga to the list as BayJam sets out to host the Coromandel's vibrant culture, talent and kai on January 28.

Focussed on melody, taste and community spirit, the event calls on the expertise of local musicians, Coromandel's artisanal food producers, and the charm of the area's cafes, bars and businesses.

There are five bands set to grace the main stage including Whitianga's Stu Pedley and Leo Magri of Let's Go Descarrego.

Drawing from long traditions of folk storytelling, their sweet tunes tip their hat to rhythm and blues, Brazilian percussion and New Orleans sounds.

Around 10 performers will hit the buskers stage, including recent school leaver and Ukrainian refugee Keey Fremm, who will also deliver a circus performance down the main street, and a gig at the MonkeyHouse Theatre in the

evening.

Keey enjoys circus arts, is a national award-winning composer and jazz pianist, and has been selected to represent New Zealand this year at London's Globe Theatre as a composer.

Coromandel's mix of artisanal food producers will ensure kai-moana, plant-based kai and Lotta Love icecream will join other offerings on the menu.

Festival goers will also be able to familiarise themselves with locally produced nuts, chilli sauce, sea-salt and honey.

Mercury Bay Museum will also hold a celebration called Those were the Days, which will be a mix of old-fashioned games, Kauri gum polishing and even an opportunity to make some butter.

DETAILS: January 28, from noon at Taylor's Mistake Reserve and Whitianga town, www.Whitianga.co.nz.

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'Most delicious fish in NZ' found at Waihi



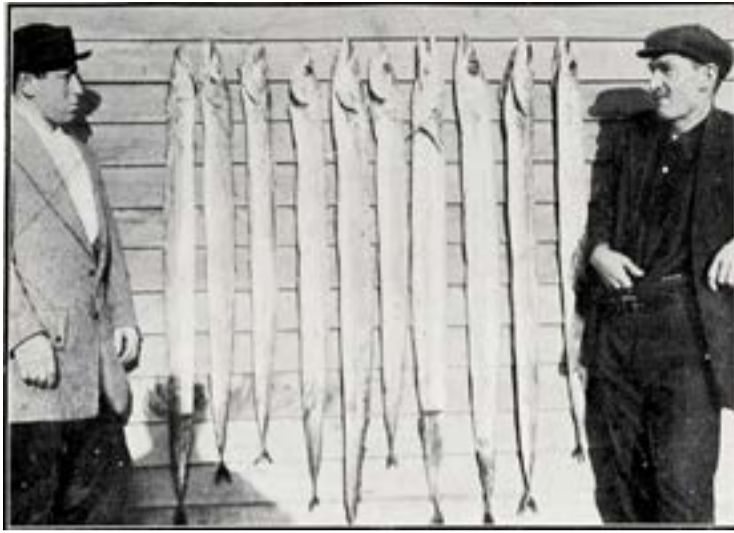
As part of a Valley Profile series, MEGHAN HAWKES searches through old newspapers to bring you the stories Thames Valley locals once read about themselves.

1914

Frost fish caused a small sensation when they came ashore at Waihi Beach. The scabbard, or frost fish, had mysterious habits and why they came ashore and where they came from was a puzzle.

Those that periodically appeared at Waihi Beach were observed to shoot ashore along the top of the water at a terrific speed. One man found one some 39 feet up the beach away from the water lying in a place over which he had passed only a few minutes previously. Fancy prices were offered for these fish, which made splendid eating.

Meanwhile, vexatious delays during the building of a new bridge over the Waihou River were finally overcome and now it was nearing completion. The Puke Bridge had all the piles driven, the swing span in the centre in position, and the decking of the bridge almost finished. The swing span could be opened with ease



Claimed to be the most delicious fish in New Zealand - frost fish found on the beach Waihi. Photo: SUPPLIED

in a little over two minutes. The approaches on the Nether-ton side of the river were nearly completed, and the material for making the approaches on the Paeroa side was ready. The contractors, Messrs Kennedy and Taylor, were pushing on as rapidly as possible, and the bridge would soon be open for traffic.

At Matatoki, residents were treated to a picture entertainment for the first time in over twelve months. A large attendance watched a very good programme. 'Scotty' Woods of Puriri was the owner, Mr Jennings, a well known Thames boy, was the efficient operator, and Mr Lasen, manager. Miss Winnie Cooper presided at the piano and played very nicely, making the entertainment more enjoyable than it would

have been without music.

The new Waitakaruru hall was opened by Mr McGuinness in the unavoidable absence of Mayor Lowe, the event being celebrated by a concert and dance in the building. The concert attracted a crowded audience, many arriving from Thames by launch.

They were entertained at tea on arrival by Mr and Mrs Stretton and proclaimed the entertainment and dance one of the most enjoyable they had ever attended. The musical programme was heartily applauded and the performers had to respond to vociferous encores.

Supper was provided and greatly enjoyed. Dancing was indulged in until an early hour of the morning. The Thames party returned by launch in the morning, taking pleasant mem-

ories of their trip.

The hot springs at Miranda were gaining a reputation as being responsible for remarkable cures of rheumatism.

An Auckland man, who had suffered for years, and who had been treated by many medical men, was recommended by one to try the springs, which were credited with being specially efficacious in the treatment of rheumatism, though a Thames resident who tried them found the effect nil.

The Auckland man gave the Miranda springs a trial for some weeks, and as a result was now up and about again, as well as ever.

One thousand sheep and lambs were driven round the Thames Coast after being sold by the Steedman brothers, McMahon brothers and Mr Tye, all well known settlers down the coast, to Mr Corrigan, of Morrinsville.

The sheep rested for the night in one of Mr Debbie's paddocks and then were railed to their destination. They were in superb condition and experienced farmers expressed the opinion that the line would be hard to beat in any part of New Zealand.

The Thames County sheep should surely convince the skeptical - and there appeared to be several in the district - that for sheep farming, the land of Thames was eminently suitable and was in every way equal to the much praised sheep lands in other parts of New Zealand.

In Brief

SERIOUS CRASHES ON PLAINS

Canal West Rd, Waitakaruru, was closed on January 18 following a serious crash. Police said the two vehicle collision was reported just after 4pm. Initial indications were that one person was in a serious condition. The Serious Crash Unit attended. Motorists were advised to avoid the area and expect delays. On January 21, Orchard West Rd/SH2 was also closed following a serious crash. The two vehicle crash was reported to Police at 3:10pm. Police said initial indications were that there were serious injuries and the Serious Crash Unit were in attendance.

GRANT OPEN

The Gwenyth Wright Study Grant is now open for applications by women in the Thames, Coromandel or Hauraki areas. Thanks to the generosity of the late Gwenyth Wright and others, the Women's Loan Fund/Wahine Putea is able to offer a \$2000 scholarship grant in 2024 for women returning to studies; women pursuing further education; women acquiring new skills; or women upgrading their present skills. Applications can be emailed through to robbieam@xtra.co.nz. Additional details at: thameswomensloanfund.weebly. Last date for applications to be received is February 29.

THAMES COAST ROAD CLOSURES

State Highway 25 at Ruamahanga Bay was closed for short periods on January 22 to allow for a helicopter to safely operate over the road. NZTA said equipment and materials were urgently required for slope stabilisation work, including drilling holes to allow the installation of soil nails to help stabilise the slip face.

Hato Hone St John Thames



Youth program

Our St John youth programmes continue for the year. We have the Penguin Programme that caters for the 5 to 8 year olds to introduce these young people into fun and adventure in a controlled and supervised environment. The Cadet Programme is for the 8 to 18 year olds and provides a focus on first aid, healthcare, leadership and general life skills.

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If you have children looking for fun and development, there are currently some vacancies on each programme.

Youth Leader vacancies

We are also keen to expand our Youth Leadership team to assist our Youth Divisional Manager run these programmes. If you are 18 years or older and keen to assist, we would like to hear from you.

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ART & ENTERTAINMENT

From zoologist to artist

The first of Thames Art Gallery's featured artists for February is Jan Linklater.

Jan's beginnings were in England where she trained as a zoologist and biochemist before attending art school later in life where she developed as a water-colourist.

After emigrating to New Zealand, Jan found that the drier climate and strong light favoured the use of acrylics, which emphasised the forms and patterns of the landscape.

Jan finds her "springboard" and inspiration comes from the waterways and foliage on her walks around the Coromandel and the subtle colours of the saltmarshes at Miranda and Pauanui. As well as landscapes, Jan loves life drawing and seeks to capture body language, mood and the pattern of the pose, often using her "long-suffering" family as models.

At the End of the Day is a recent work based on a moment with her sister - in it Jan sought to simplify and use strong colours to dramatise the pose. The use of black intrigued her and the enclosure by the chair created an atmosphere of calm.

Jan's admiration for artists Matisse, Hockney and Katz are reflected in her work, and like David Hockney, her favourite colours of magenta, pacific blue, orange and turquoise are often featured in her endeavour to enhance reality and to give excitement and joy to all.



Artist Jan Linklater at work.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Jan also offers prints of her paintings in card form which also can be purchased from Thames Art Gallery.

Leigh Matthew will also be exhibiting his carving and ceramics work in February at the gallery.

He has had many years of wood carving experience using traditional methods. His main inspiration comes from primitive art from Polynesian and Scandinavian origins, some more recently with a modern twist. He enjoys creating one-off art works, mainly from Kauri and other native woods.

Leigh gained his skills in ceramics at the Studio Potters in Onehunga where he was a member for a number of years. Using stoneware clay, he constructs

slab built sculptures, many hand carved with intricate patterns.

His glazes contain high amounts of metal oxides in order to produce natural organic and weathered looks. One of Leigh's sculptures was purchased by Manukau Council for their art collection.

Leigh has recently moved to Thames and since joining the very vibrant people at Thames Art Gallery, along with the ever changing colours and formations of the firth, mudflats, natural resources, ancient Kauri and walks through the local bush, his enthusiasm for his arts has been regenerated.

DETAILS: Thames Art Gallery, 604 Tararu Rd. Open weekdays: 10am-2pm, weekends: 10am-4pm.

Stunner show premieres for arts fest

Bombshells are set to light up The Theater in Waihi - and you're invited to witness the fallout.

Seven actors have answered the call of duty and are blowing the lid off the inner workings of women.

Director Hollie Weir fell in love with the script as one of its performers in 2016.

"When I first read the monologues, I felt like someone had stolen my journal. It was so personal, so agonisingly funny, and so cathartic," she said.

"The author, Joanna Murray Smith, has dared to write women with such honesty that they're instantly relatable."

Originally written as a one woman show, Weir has divided the play between seven.

"There is so much talent in the Waihi area, it would have been a crime to not include as many people as possible. We've even managed to lure award-winning writer and director Aisne Edwards from Whangamata to join us as succulent obsessed cacti lover.

"And that's before fan-favourite Fi Gudsell will make you celebrate - and commiserate - her wedding. The always

beautiful Nina Mayhara will have patrons completely baffled; while uber talented Lucy James will dance the way no Catholic schoolgirl has ever danced before. Wickedly funny

Ivy Coombe will leave you stunned with the unexpected, and the irrepressible Tracey Carter is breaking hearts and taking names with a hilarious cabaret comeback."

As for the Director herself?

"A wild ride through a regular day of an exhausted stay-at-home-mother. Not a far stretch, really!"

But Weir said the show wasn't just for a girls night out.

"If you have a mother, daughter, sister, aunty, heck - if you know even just one woman - I guarantee you will connect with this show."

"You might cringe. You might cry. You'll definitely laugh, and you'll undoubtedly recognise the women speaking to you from the stage," she said.

DETAILS: Waihi Drama Society presents Bombshells, premiering during the Waihi Street and Arts Festival, January 26 to, February 3. Ticket information: waihidrama.co.nz. (Please note, Bombshells is R13.)

"Joanna Murray Smith, has dared to write women with such honesty that they're instantly relatable."

- Hollie Weir



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SPORTS

Football team close to fundraising goal

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Nobody wants to get pipped at the post, especially the Hauraki Plains Football Club senior men's team, who have been lacing up their fundraising boots in order to round up \$11,000 for new goal posts before the season begins.

The senior men's team was formed late last year, with the first ever official senior men's game set to kick off on home turf on April 6.

A monumental day in and of itself, the club will also celebrate its 40th anniversary, with a birthday bash planned including food and coffee carts, bouncy castles and more.

With a little more than \$1000 left to raise, club president Matt Vendt told *The Profile* that Grassroots Trust had donated "a big chunk" of the funding. "Pretty much, we start getting into it [game season] on April the 6th, but of course you need some goal posts to start training with," he said.

The goal posts are set to arrive by the end of February.

"So we've just got to get the last of the money," he said.

Two trailer loads of firewood were donated by Splinta's at the end of last year for the club to raffle off.

"We did the Ngatea Christmas Funday market, we set up a stall there and we sold a few tickets."

Matt said he and his team



Hauraki Plains Football Club President Matt Vendt, and son Ashton Vendt, 8, ready to sell some raffle tickets at the Ngatea Xmas Funday in December. Photo: SUPPLIED

aimed to sell them "as best we can", taking turns selling raffles at their workplaces.

Support had come from people

who didn't have a fireplace but wanted to back the cause, and some even stated if their number was drawn, they would

happily donate the wood back to the club to do another raffle, he said.

Previously known as the Hau-

raki Plains Junior Soccer Club, the addition of senior players had given the club a reason to secure a second room, with the team managing to score a couple free couches.

There was still a need for tables and chairs to host the opposition at home games, and even a wall for the club to put a kitchen in.

"We've got the gib for it, but we don't have the four-by-two to actually build the framing," he said.

A kids corner was something else the club would like to set up, with requests for bean bags, a DVD player and TV to make it more family friendly, he said.

February 10 is the club's muster, and it's hoped around 20 senior men and women will sign up to the club, which last year had about 70 junior club members.

"That's the day to come down and sign up to play," he said.

Any men or women who wish to play can head along to the event at the club football grounds at Hugh Hayward Domain from 4pm.

"Come down and support us, and see the first ever Hauraki Men's [football] team play and also celebrating the fact that the club's been around [for] 40 years this year."

DETAILS: To purchase a raffle ticket and support the team, search for Hauraki Plains Football Club on Facebook or email hpsoccer@gmail.com.

Friday 26 January 2024 - 4-8pm

Saturday 27 January 2024 - 9am-3pm

Friday night <u>outside</u> Memorial Hall		Friday night <u>inside</u> Memorial Hall	
Time	Entertainers	Time	Entertainers
4.00 - 8.00			Market Stalls
4.00 - 5.00	Bag pipes (Grey Wacke)		Ruby Moon
5.00 - 6.00	Quarter Acre (Allison & Mike)		Lillybeth Melmoth
6.00 - 7.00	Katikati Concert Band		Rona Keith - Zine making in Supper room
7.00 - 7.45	Quarter Acre		Michelle Yong - Face painting in Supper room
4.00 - 8.00			
4.00 - 6.00			

Saturday <u>on the stage</u> Memorial Hall	
Time	Entertainers
9.00 - 3.00	Market Stalls - Inside Hall
10.30 - 11.30	Friends Place - Trudy van Stee and Dick Molema
12.00 - 12.30	Grahame Wharton
1.00 - 1.30	Grahame Wharton
2.00 - 2.30	Carolyn Parker
4.00 - 6.00	Face painting Supper room - Naia Gordon
All Day	Zine making in Supper room - Rona Keith

Saturday <u>outside</u> Memorial Hall	
Time	Entertainers
9.00 - 3.00	Childrens art activities and games in Seddon Street and 'Imagination Station' - imaginative play for 10 years and younger. All Free
9.00 - 10.00	Milly Moon and Brendon Pooley
10.00 - 11.00	Katikatz Jazz Band
11.00 - 12.00	Afriky and Krakotokra performing + workshop
12.00 - 12.45	Naranjarte puppet show by Ana and Sergio
12.45 - 1.45	Afriky and Krakotokra performing + workshop
1.45 - 2.45	Paperjam

Lions Club of Waihi

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Photo: SUPPLIED

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Public Notice



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given as required by clause 9.1 Of the Thames Valley Rugby Football Unions Constitution that the Annual General Meeting of the Thames Valley Rugby Football Union Inc will be held at the Union's offices, 140a Normanby Road, Paeroa on WEDNESDAY 28th February 2024, commencing at 7.30pm

Nomination forms need to be completed and returned to our office by the close of business on Wednesday, 7th February 2024

The meeting will also be held via Zoom. To request a Zoom link or nomination form, Please email admin@tvrfu.co.nz

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Public Notice

Hauraki District Council Meetings - February 2024

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

Taramaire Drainage District Committee
Thursday, 1 February 2024, 9am
Ngātea Service Centre

Western Plains Drainage District Committee
Thursday, 1 February 2024, 10.30am
Ngātea Service Centre

Eastern Plains Drainage District Committee
Thursday, 1 February 2024, 1pm
Ngātea Service Centre

Paeroa Rural Drainage District Committee
Friday, 2 February 2024, 10am

Regulatory Hearings Committee
Monday, 5 February 2024, 9am (if required)

Planning Committee
Monday, 12 February 2024, 9am (if required)

Adaptive Planning and Emergency Management Committee
Monday, 12 February 2024, 1pm

Audit & Risk Committee
Tuesday, 13 February 2024, 9am

Community Partnerships Committee
Wednesday, 14 February 2024, 9am

Regulatory Hearings Committee
Monday, 19 February 2024, 9am (if required)

Finance Committee
Monday, 26 February 2024, 10am

Council
Wednesday, 28 February 2024, 9am

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Situations Vacant



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These positions commence at the start of 2024.

To apply please submit the school application and a current CV.
Positions close 1 March 2024

CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12pm Monday

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CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12pm Monday

Public Notice

Temporary Road Closure

Pursuant to the Section 11(e) of the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974, notice is hereby given that for the purpose of the Lions Arts & Street Festival event, the following road will be closed to ordinary vehicular traffic for the period indicated below. During the period of closure provision will be made for ordinary vehicular traffic, which would otherwise use the road, to use alternative routes.

Period of closure: Saturday 27 January 2024, 7.00am to 5.00pm.

Road to be closed: Seddon Street, Waihi from Moresby Ave (SH2 roundabout will remain open) to Haszard St intersection.

Alternative provision for ordinary vehicular traffic will be made with signs, cones and barriers to redirect traffic on detour.

It will be an offence under the above regulations for any person otherwise than under authority of an authorised permit to use the road for ordinary vehicular traffic during the period of closure.

L D Cavers
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council

Public Notice

Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw 2023



Due to the introduction of the Self-contained Motor Vehicles Act 2023 and amendments to the Freedom Camping Act 2011, Council has undertaken a review of the Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw 2020 and have made changes to be consistent with the Freedom Camping Act 2011.

Council has revoked the Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw 2020 and replaced it with the Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw 2023 at a Council meeting on Wednesday, 20 December 2023. This bylaw came into effect on 20 December 2023.

Copies of our bylaws are available on our website <https://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/rules-regulations-licences/bylaws> and at our Council offices.

L D Cavers
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council



www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz

Situation Vacant

The Memorial Company

We are looking to expand the team with two new roles
Based in Thames.

Graphics & Marketing Coordinator

who has experience in graphic design to join our team. We require a positive and motivated individual who can perform various tasks and projects, such as designing advertising campaigns, managing websites, creating content, handling communications and social media profiles, and providing customer services and sales. This position will require some travel.

We are looking for someone who is creative, innovative, and highly organized with strong attention to detail. The ideal candidate will be proficient in Corel Draw, Adobe Design Suite, Microsoft Office Suite, and other software packages.

This is a part time position with hours to suit.

If you are up for a challenge and seeking variety in a fast-growing company, we would love to hear from you!

Monumental Masons Assistant -

we are in search of a practical individual who can assist in the manufacturing, restoration, and installation of memorials in cemeteries. The role will also involve the laying of concrete foundations and pathways.

Applicants should have some knowledge of concrete work, including preparing and placing concrete, processing concrete mould making, and they must be practical in nature and able to lift heavy objects. They should enjoy working in a team and be self-organized. Additionally, applicants must hold a full driver's license.

This is a full-time position, and training will be provided. The role will be based in Kopu, Thames, and travel and overnight stays may be required from time to time.

If you fit either role email your resume or CV to the managing director, Chris Fraser, at cf@pmmthames.co.nz.



Public Notice

PAPER DELIVERIES

Please be advised that due to school holidays and a couple of unfilled paper runs, we might not be able to cover all of our runs throughout the Valley over the next few weeks.

If you are one of the few who does not receive your weekly paper, please note they are available here:

- NGATEA :** Ngatea 4 Square, HDC Council Offices , Ngatea Post Shop, Z Petrol Station, Ngatea Purple Dairy
- PAEROA :** Moores Caltex, Countdown, HDC Council offices, Takenote, Paeroa 4 Square, Paeroa Information Hub
- WAIHI :** Maybelle Superette, New World, Toyworld/Takenote, Information Centre, Daffodil Dairy, Waihi Supervalue
- THAMES:** Totara Veggie Shop, Mobil Kopu, Gull Service Station, Martina 4 Square, Bin Inn, Tararu Dairy, Queen St Mobil, Goldfields Mall, Pak'N'Save, Paper Power, Thames 4 Square, Carson's Bookshop, Thames Council Offices, Kauaeranga Store
- KEREPEHI :** Kerepehi Dairy

Mullet season is back

Get ready Aotearoa. Long or short, curly or straight, classic or modern... mullet season is here.

It's the return of The Mullet Matters, a fundraising campaign in support of the Mental Health Foundation of New Zealand.

Last year's inaugural event saw almost 700 mullet-loving souls take up the challenge and set their mullets loose around Aotearoa, starting important conversations about mental health and raising over \$130,000 for the mental health promotion charity.

Hayden McGehan, who took part in the fundraiser last year, is back for another round. He says the power of the mullet is in its ability to spark important conversations about mental health.

"You don't have to walk up to someone and say, 'do you want to talk about mental health?', but someone's going to come up to you and be like, 'what's up with the mullet?' That's your in."

During last year's campaign, Hayden, a freelance illustrator, created a mullet wearing character for friends who run a barbershop.

He was so inspired by The Mullet Matters experience, that he had the character tattooed as a permanent reminder.

"I don't know if I'll ever get rid of the mullet, but the tattoo will be there forever – that whole event, I'm never going to forget it because it was so powerful."

Funds raised during The Mullet Matters will help fund the vital mental health resources the Mental Health Foundation provides for free to one in five Kiwis who will experience mental distress this year, and to those who support them.

Each year the foundation shares around a million free mental health resources around the motu – covering topics such as suicide prevention, well-being, depression, anxiety, suicide loss,



Hayden McGehan displays his mullet.

Photo: SUPPLIED

and more.

Blake Taylor is another returning mulleteer. He knows the value of the free resources.

"I have some hanging up in my office and having them for free, without the barrier of cost, for our people who are seeking help is amazing."

There were plenty of women who took up the challenge in 2023 as well, like Cheyenne Marsters.

"Walking into the barbershop to get my hair cut, at first was quite intimidating, but people in the shop overheard me talking about why I was having the haircut and as I was walking out afterwards, they started clapping and I felt really proud and it made me go, 'Yeah, I want to rock this even harder!'"

DETAILS: To join Haydo, Blake, Cheyenne and hundreds of mullet champions in making a positive change for mental health, visit themulletmatters.co.nz.

SPORTS REPORTS

Send your sports reports and photos to editor@valleyprofile.co.nz

BOWLS

Two tournaments were completed successfully at Kerepehi Bowling Club, and Local Bodies to come on Thursday, January 25 - a good start to the year. Twentymans Funeral Services/On 2 It Electrical sponsored the Opt 3s. Results: 1st 4 wins (Waihi Beach) Earl White and team; 2nd 3.5 wins (Kerepehi) Doug Topine, Ian Smith, Carolyn Maihi-Topine; 3rd 3 wins (Kerepehi) Arthur Thorburn, Louis Curd, Fatu Tausi; 4th 3 wins (Kerepehi) Graham Pyke, Margaret Henderson, Lance Troy. Margaret Henderson 50 Years Bowling (MHSponsored) Opt 3 bowl 3s was also

well attended and morning tea and lunch were provided, plus 50 year cake cutting. See the full story on P20. Results: 1st 4 wins (Thames) John Brookes, Rodney Blake Borough, Graeme Lenden; 2nd 4 wins (Tui Park) G Hewett, Darryl L, Tony T; 3rd 3.5 wins 7 points 15 ends (Thames) Adrian Wrihly, Mary Wrihly, Murray Newton; 4th 3 wins 28 points 17 ends Mary King, Kaye Bunn, Carol. Coming up February 2-5, Māori Aotearoa National Bowls (Also at other TV locations), February 18, Lion Breweries Opt 4s, February 24, Huntly Club visit, February 25, Quinn Engineering Opt 3s. To register: Lorriane 021 255 4522.

- Supplied by Terry King



ABOVE: Margaret Henderson celebrated 50 years of bowling with a tournament and cake cutting (see the full story on P20). LEFT: Peter Hamilton in action at Kerepehi Bowling Club.

Photos: SUPPLIED/TERRY KING



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DIRECT CREMATION requiring transfer from Whangamata, Tairua, Whitianga, Waihi, Paeroa, Ngatea and Coromandel: **\$3195.00**
DIRECT CREMATION requiring transfer from North of Coromandel or Waikato Hospital: **\$3295.00**
 Outside all of these areas: **\$2950.00 plus mileage**

SUPPORT LOCAL

For additional information please refer to Twentymans website: twentymans.co.nz CONTACT: 07 868 6003



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CONTACT: Forever Pets 07 868 6003.

We guarantee the ashes you get back belong to your pet and only your pet.

SUPPORT LOCAL



SUDOKU

134

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

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

EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

134

HARD

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

MEDIUM

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

EASY

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

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JUMBO CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

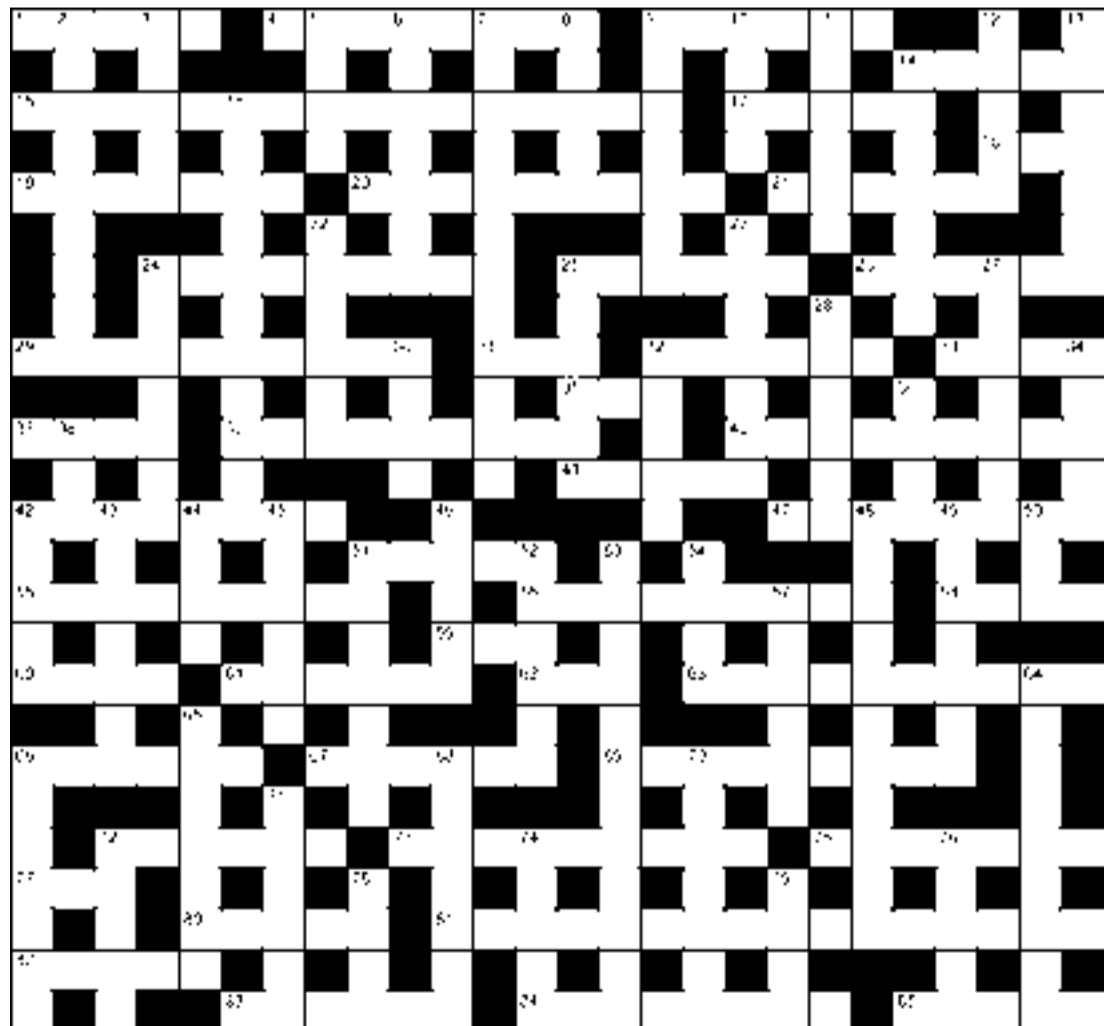
- 1 Overhead (5)
- 4 Begged (8)
- 9 Afternoon nap (6)
- 14 Alphabetical reference (5)
- 15 Conservative person who resists any change (3,5-2-3-3)
- 17 Microbes (5)
- 18 Resin (3)
- 19 Sad (7)
- 20 Intricate, involved (9)
- 21 Scented-flowered shrub; girl's name (6)
- 24 Staff (9)
- 25 Take away (6)
- 26 Speak indistinctly (6)
- 29 Pretend to be asleep, unconscious or dead (4,6)
- 31 Label (3)
- 32 Oversensitive (6)
- 33 Young sheep (4)
- 35 Uncooked (3)
- 37 Speed competition (4)
- 39 Greek philosopher (9)
- 40 High-spirited (9)
- 41 Alleviated (5)
- 42 Ill at ease (8)
- 47 Bony framework (8)
- 51 Scour (5)
- 55 Miscellaneous small objects (4-1-4)
- 56 Gear (9)
- 58 Froth (4)
- 59 Tankard (3)
- 60 Genre (4)

DOWN

- 2 Able to speak two languages (9)
- 3 Wax match (5)
- 5 Manufacture (4)
- 6 Wool fat (7)
- 7 Help to re-adapt to a former state of health or good repute (12)
- 8 Raise doubts, objections (5)
- 9 On calming medication (7)
- 10 Slight advantage (4)
- 11 Sewing strand (6)
- 12 Proverb (5)
- 13 Inspect (7)
- 14 Narrow connecting land (7)
- 16 Masquerade as (11)

ACROSS

- 22 Miniaturised tree (6)
- 23 Defendant in a criminal proceeding (7)
- 24 Remittance (7)
- 25 Academic award (6)
- 27 Flagrant (7)
- 28 Reduced in size (6)
- 30 Silent (4)
- 32 Screw (5)
- 34 Conductor's stick (5)
- 36 Cut down (4)
- 38 Unreturnable serve (3)
- 42 Automaton (5)
- 43 Captain (7)
- 44 Starring role (4)
- 45 Lecture (6)
- 46 Dirty (5)
- 48 Spending money excessively or immoderately (11)
- 49 Bliss (7)
- 50 Strange (3)
- 51 Monarch's staff (7)
- 52 One asking for charity (6)
- 53 Open to doubt (12)
- 54 Fencing sword (4)
- 57 Late in (anag)(6)
- 64 Meddle (9)
- 65 Ardent fan (7)
- 66 Traversed (7)
- 68 Trip while walking (7)
- 70 Tumbling entertainer (7)
- 71 Turn into (6)
- 72 Nozzle (5)
- 74 Melodic sounds (5)
- 76 Chooses (5)
- 78 Defeat (4)
- 79 Rescind (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Abuse, 4 No spring chicken, 14 Shape, 15 Cower, 16 Manuscript, 17 Retch, 19 Duo, 20 Wedlock, 21 Partnered, 22 Enmity, 25 Go-between, 27 Mishap, 28 Remand, 33 Bottleneck, 35 Oil, 36 Spread, 37 Ugly, 39 Act, 41 Samovar, 42 Pewter, 43 Extradite, 44 Incur, 45 Weakness, 50 Na, 51 Launched, 55 Farce, 58 Freewheel, 59 Unique, 60 Offered, 61 Dot, 63 Riot, 64 Mettle, 65 Rut, 66 Decomposed, 68 Credit, 69 Recall, 71 Oscillate, 76 Tragic, 77 Fanatical, 79 Balcony, 81 Lie, 84 China, 85 Disdainful, 86 Braid, 87 Seize, 88 Golden handshake, 89 Honey.

DOWN: 2 Broken, 3 Shell, 5 Opal, 6 Plumage, 7 Incite, 8 Guile, 9 Hatless, 10 Carp, 11 Extend, 12 Paddy, 13 Devoted, 14 Shrivel, 18 Accelerate, 23 Owner, 24 Barrier, 26 Outlook, 27 Malaria, 29 Anguish, 30 Locate, 31 Coats, 32 Mantra, 34 Keel, 36 Stuck, 38 Yield, 40 Fawn, 45 Wafer, 46 Awesome, 47 News, 48 Skewer, 49 Crude, 50 Neutral, 52 Unfamiliar, 53 Cheroot, 54 Eyelet, 55 Flatten, 56 Witty, 57 Curd, 62 Scrim, 67 Finance, 68 Cyclist, 70 Abandon, 72 Staunch, 73 Libido, 74 Lizard, 75 Unwise, 76 Tepid, 78 At sea, 80 Cargo, 82 Hard, 83 Junk.

SPORTS

Margaret reaches bowling milestone

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

Once Margaret Henderson transitioned from indoor to outdoor bowls, she never looked back.

For 50 years she has been a presence at the Paeroa, Thames, and Kerepēhi clubs, and has amassed an array of titles and memories - with certificates and photographs stored in albums and scattered across her dining table.

"I wasn't going to sit around all day with the neighbours," she says with a laugh.

"When my youngest fella went to school at Tirau, I followed him out the gate."

That was 50 years ago, and the now 83-year-old continues to play bowls at Kerepēhi, where there was a special tournament held in her honour on January 17.

Margaret was president of Thames Valley Bowls from 2011 to 2013 and represented the club for many years, gaining 43 Thames Valley titles.

She's played in Australia and on Vancouver Island for Bowls New Zealand.

"I didn't think I'd be fit enough for tennis or the more rigorous sports," she says, pointing out that the highlight of her long-standing bowls career has been the people she has met.

"It's been the company; I've met a nice lot of people," she



Paeroa local Margaret Henderson has been playing outdoor bowls for 50 years.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

says. "See, I can talk to the plants but they don't answer back."

Outdoor bowls, also known as lawn bowls, is a sport in which the objective is to roll

biased balls so that they stop close to a smaller ball called a jack or kitty.

It is played on a bowling green, and the outdoor surface is either natural grass, artificial turf or cotula.

Margaret's calendar can get quite busy, with tournament options across the district, from Morrinsville to Hauraki to Thames Coast.

She's always happy to play against or alongside anyone.

"I'm not a snob," she says.

This playing season, Margaret will be returning to her home turf - the Paeroa bowls club, but she says she's no longer interested in playing competitively.

"I gave up singles ages ago and just want to play tournaments now - when you're in a team.

"But we all have our off days, we're all human," she says.

"Some days, you've got nothing between the ears. You've got to have a laugh at these things."

Margaret said Business House Bowls was always a good opportunity for people to get involved in the sport, and that it was an activity fit for all ages and abilities.

She herself never practises - even before a tournament.

"You just concentrate when you're playing championships... making sure you've got the bias right to start with."



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