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ENABLING BETTER BUSINESS

Kōpū or THS?

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

Thames Community Board members have held off making a firm decision about where the town's future pool facility will sit, despite a recommendation saying the local high school was the best location.

The board was presented with three business case options: one that looked into housing the new facility at Thames High School, a second which catered to a sub-regional pool at Kōpū South, and a third which compared both sites alongside another choice - to "do nothing".

All but two board members agreed with the latter option: to proceed with a business case that compared Thames High and Kōpū South, or whether it was best to park the project for the meantime.

"We'd be derelicting our duties as elected members if we didn't look at every single cost of the two pools sites and a 'do nothing' option," board chair Adrian Catran said. "Somebody could come back and say to us: 'Did you think about not building a pool? Did you think about Kōpū? Did you think about Thames?'"

With Thames' current Centennial Pool located on an urupā at Taipari Park, it needs to be removed by 2027 and the land returned to Ngāti

Maru.

According to a report presented to members at the February 21 meeting, a Thames and Sub-Region Aquatic Provision Feasibility Study concluded that "future aquatic provision should be focused on delivering a local aquatic facility at Thames High School".

As to whether it should be an indoor or outdoor facility would be determined once community feedback had been obtained.

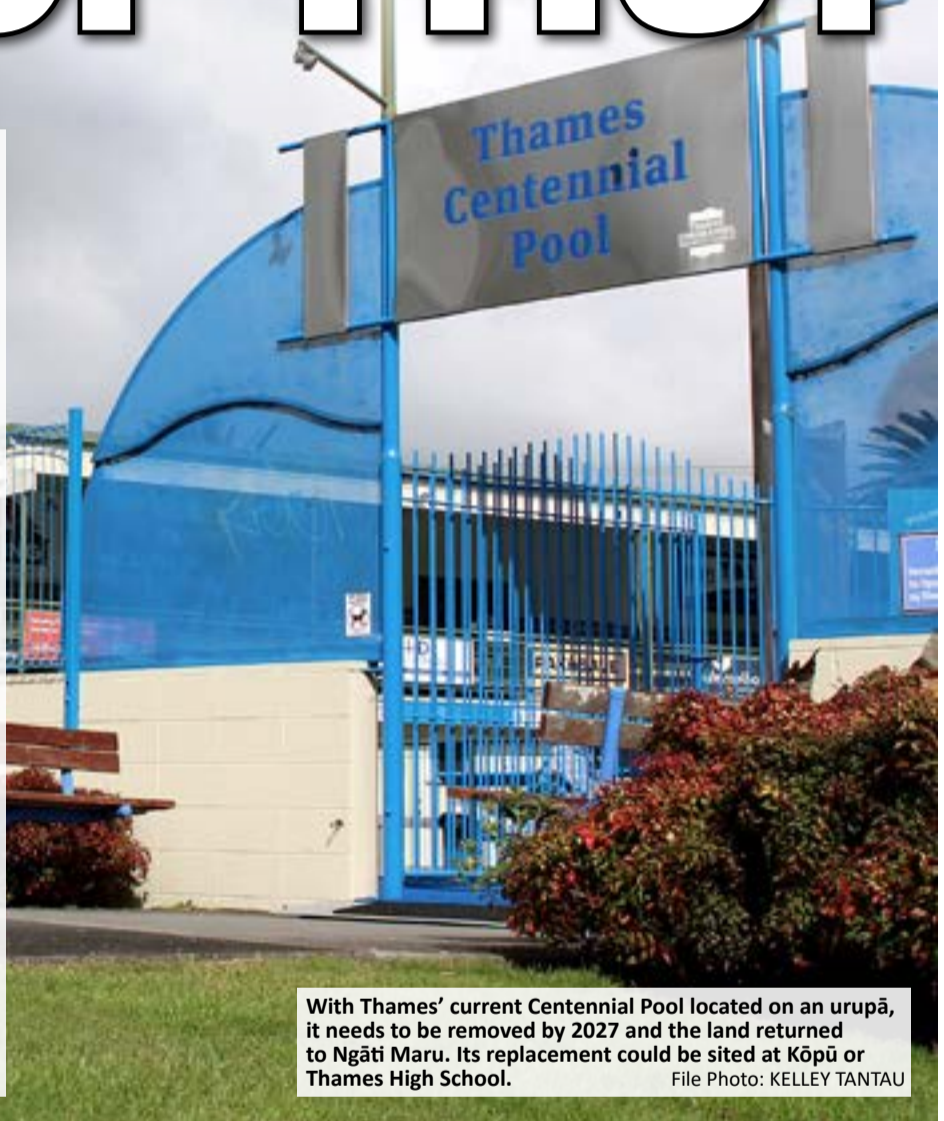
However, the recommended location in the feasibility study for a sub-regional aquatic facility was a privately-owned site in Kōpū South, known as the "ex-Carter Holt Harvey site".

Both sites came with pros and cons.

For the local facility, the positives were that it would be accessible within the Thames township, it would build on a successful school/community partnership; it would have a lower operating risk; and would come at a lower project cost of roughly \$40m.

Its negatives were that it'd be a smaller facility with less appeal, it would have limited to no growth potential, it would have minimal external investment, and it would likely be majority funded by council.

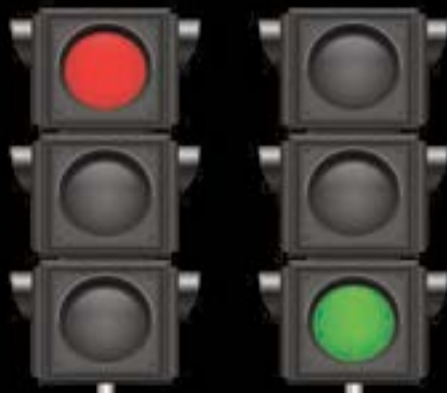
CONTINUED P2



With Thames' current Centennial Pool located on an urupā, it needs to be removed by 2027 and the land returned to Ngāti Maru. Its replacement could be sited at Kōpū or Thames High School. File Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

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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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Motorbikes seized following tangi of gang member

Multiple motorbikes were seized after Police had an increased presence in Paeroa on Tuesday, February 20, for the tangi of a Waikato-based gang member.

A contingent of gang members travelled from across Waikato, Auckland and Bay of Plenty to the Hauraki town to attend the service, which took place at a local marae.

Inspector Will Loughrin said Police carried out checkpoints and conducted high visibility patrols through the community during which a number of motorbikes and vehicles were seized from gang members and infringements issued.

Police also had aerial support from the Police Eagle helicopter.

“Our expectations have been made very clear, we have zero tolerance for any anti-social, unlawful, or driving-related offending,” Inspector Loughrin said.

“Police will continue to take enforcement action where offending is identified.

“Everyone in the community has the right to be safe and feel safe and we ask you report any unlawful behaviour to police on 111 if it is happening and 105 after the fact.”

Meanwhile, Police have named the man fatally shot by Police in Waikato last week as 31-year-old Christopher Tauki-



Police carry out checkpoints and conducted patrols through the community during which a number of motorbikes and vehicles were seized. SUPPLIED

ri, of Paeroa.

Christopher was shot by Police on February 15 following a lengthy vehicle pursuit from Hamilton to the Matamata area. A Critical Incident Investigation into what happened remains ongoing.

Police are still seeking any footage or images from the public of the vehicles involved in the pursuit, which include a

silver Mazda MPV and a black BMW 120i, which crashed on McLaren Rd.

People can submit videos or photos to castlebridge.nc3.govt.nz. Information can also be provided to the Operation Castlebridge Investigation Team by phoning 105, or by making a report online at www.police.govt.nz/use-105, file number 240215/2359.

Two options for potential pool site

CONTINUED FROM P1

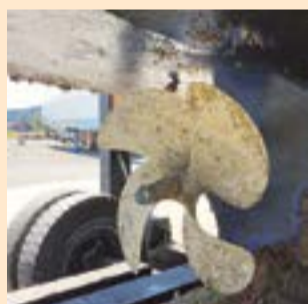
For the sub-regional Kōpū facility, the positives were that it'd be a larger, extensive facility with greater appeal, it would have the potential to align with future population growth, it would have some tourist appeal, and could potentially obtain external funding.

Its negatives were that it'd be located outside of Thames, which could impact the willingness of residents to travel farther afield, and that it could come at a higher operating and capital cost of roughly \$70m.

Board member Holly McKenzie agreed with option three - to move ahead with a business case that would compare all three options before the findings were brought back to the board in July.

“I'm a firm believer in leaving no stone unturned,” she said. “It's very important that we have all the answers and have all the information for everyone to make a decision.”

While most other elected members concurred, board member Cr Robyn Sinclair voted against the motion while Cr Martin Rodley abstained.



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Thames Tides

Wed Feb 28		Thu Feb 29		Fri Mar 1		Sat Mar 2		Sun Mar 3		Mon Mar 4		Tue Mar 5	
Morning	4:25am 0.6	Morning	5:01am 0.7	Morning	5:38am 0.8	Morning	6:18am 0.9	Morning	7:03am 0.9	Morning	7:54am 1.0	Morning	8:52am 1.1
Afternoon	4:51pm 0.7	Afternoon	5:27pm 0.7	Afternoon	6:03pm 0.8	Afternoon	6:42pm 0.8	Afternoon	7:25pm 0.9	Afternoon	8:14pm 0.9	Afternoon	9:13pm 0.9
Sunrise	7:01am	Sunrise	7:02am	Sunrise	7:03am	Sunrise	7:04am	Sunrise	7:05am	Sunrise	7:06am	Sunrise	7:07am
Best At	3:34am	Best At	4:14am	Best At	4:55am	Best At	5:40am	Best At	6:29am	Best At	7:23am	Best At	8:20am
Set	10:02am	Set	11:00am	Set	12:01pm	Set	1:04pm	Set	2:09pm	Set	3:14pm	Set	4:16pm

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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	Min	High	Low
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

Vibe removal 'not good for business'

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

Two workers whose cafe was nearest to Thames' innovative and controversial 'Create the Vibe' pedestrian space want to dispel the rumour that homelessness has ceased since the public space was removed.

They also believe the reversion of Mary St back into a traffic thoroughfare was not "100 per cent good for business".

Jason Liddiard, owner of The Villager along Mary St, addressed Thames Community Board members at a meeting on February 21.

He said he was often dubbed 'Mayor of the Vibe' while the space was still standing.

"One of the key factors when I bought the cafe was the fact there was a public space there. The [previous] owner reassured me the space was permanent, it was going to stay there, and that led me to thinking how I could offer my services outside of my cafe and into that space."

Jason said every day he would "dress the Vibe" by putting the beanbags out and opening the shade umbrellas.

People "responded really well to that", he said.

But the Vibe also attracted "a whole spectrum of people", from "those that sleep rough to



Two workers whose cafe was nearest to Thames' innovative and controversial 'Create the Vibe' want to dispel the rumour that homelessness has ceased since the public space was removed.

File Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

those who travel from Auckland to visit their bach in Pauanui", he said.

"There were a number of undesirables who no one in town liked, and I took it under my wing to basically build a strong enough case to have them removed from [that place within] town. Something I learned was that you're going to get all members of the public engaging in the space, but it does need a champion."

Jason was joined at the meet-

ing by cafe worker Kiri Ko, who said the idea that it would be "100 per cent good for business to remove a public space has been proven incorrect".

"It really wasn't good for [Jason's] business or the amenity of businesses that are relying on a public space to get customers," she said.

"The other rumour I'd like to dispel is that getting rid of the Vibe got rid of the homeless people. When I was working at the Villager after the Vibe was

dismantled, I had several elderly people come up to me and say: 'Aren't you glad the homeless people are gone now?' and actually, I had to point out to them that the homeless people were now there across the street, and at the civic centre... so removing the Vibe did not remove the homeless people, it just shifted them."

Kiri said homelessness was a problem Thames was going to have to face any time a new public space was implemented.

"There will be all sorts of people using it, and because there are people with mental health issues that want to hang out in a public environment because they feel safe, is not a reason to can a public space."

The Vibe was removed in August last year after being implemented for 28 months.

According to Thames-Coromandel District Council, the overall "adaptive urbanism" initiative cost \$336,587 and was 90 per cent funded by Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency and 10 per cent by council.

It was touted as becoming "a shared civic hub space for people to gather on Mary St at the corner with Pollen St - right in the middle of things... and where a good town square should be".

The pedestrian area was declared 'Best Street' at the Keep New Zealand Beautiful Awards on February 17, 2022.

However, two petitions - one 'for' and one 'against' The Vibe were presented to elected members during its lifetime, while businesses along the main drag spoke of loss of income and of the space attracting anti-social behaviours and drug use.



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Education

New look and nourishment for students

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Moving with new initiatives is something Thames High School has embraced this year with the introduction of free school lunches and new uniforms.

Ka Ora, Ka Ako, or Healthy School Lunches Programme, was a Ministry of Education programme that had become available to all Thames High School students at the start of 2024.

Thames High School principal Michael Hart told *The Profile* the school had been fortunate to be eligible for the programme.

Kaiaua company Pel Group Ltd stepped up to the plate as the new Ka Ora, Ka Ako provider for the school, tasked with preparing lunches to feed 420 students every day.

Mr Hart said students received morning tea and lunch, with Pel Group prepared to adapt their menu based on what "hits the mark" and what doesn't.

Wraps, sandwiches, burritos and cheeseburgers had been some of the items so far.

A recent survey conducted by the school showed 25 per cent of young people hadn't eaten as regularly as expected, Mr Hart said.

"We know anecdotally that there is a need, and based on the uptake it has certainly been well appreciated."

The lunches had been a real benefit and helped with financial stress for families, Mr Hart said.

Better well being, engagement



Year 9 students enjoy Ka Ora, Ka Ako lunch in their new uniform, left, Exodus, Tyson and Tyler.

Photos: SUPPLIED

to school, regular attendance and better concentration were other benefits the school expected to see, Mr Hart said.

"That's the ultimate aim - to have healthy kids who are able to engage in positive learning."

Head students Cassandra Duthie and Koen Liddell said the lunches meant students did not have to worry about food.

People eating more, getting food into their system and having increased energy levels had been the main changes the students said

they could see.

Meanwhile, another change for the school this year had been the introduction of new uniforms, with a roll out transition planned to take place across a three-year period.

A 2021 school survey made it clear the community thought there was an opportunity to refresh the uniform, Mr Hart said.

Year 9s kicked off 2024 in their new gear, with other year groups to shift to the new uniform over time. The school was pleased to

have a comfortable, good quality uniform at a good price point, Mr Hart said.

"Value for money for a durable uniform was a really important part of our process," Mr Hart said.

However, head students Cassandra and Koen said there had been some confusion for students unsure about which tops they needed, and found it hard to tell the year 12s and 13s apart anymore as they now had the same tops.

Mr Hart said there had been some miscommunication, but that

had all been resolved after the first week or so.

"Those are just everyday teeth-thing things when you're experiencing a new thing."

Before the update, the senior tops were worn by year 13s, but now included the year 12s because both groups were senior students, Mr Hart said.

"And we like to identify them as such."

The school had been looking at an identification system for the year 13 uniform to distinguish between the year levels, but it was still a work in progress.

Mr Hart said he had heard lots of comments from his community and the students enjoying wearing the uniform.

"They can see it making a big impact out there."

One thing the school made sure of was that the uniform was non-gender specific, with different styles of shorts and fitted and straight leg trousers.

"So effectively, whether you call it a masculine or feminine traditional fit, whichever you wear, it doesn't matter," Mr Hart said.

Refreshed health and physical education t-shirts had been emblazoned with the school tohu, a design that reflected the school's whenua [land], Mr Hart said.

"It really makes a big impact and looks really, really smart."

"We're really hoping that 2024 is going to be the great year that it has started off being," Mr Hart said.

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga
Thames High School



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CELEBRATING SUCCESS



Swimming

Thames High School's Swimming Sports event at the Centennial Pools on Friday, February 16, witnessed a remarkable surge in student engagement compared to past years. Among the standout performances, Maia Whitney, a Year 9 student, etched her name into school history by shattering the longstanding record for the Junior Girls 50m Backstroke. Clocking in at 37.06 seconds, Maia's achievement eclipsed the previous record set in 2006 by a mere fraction. Her remarkable feat is a testament to dedication and skill. Congratulations to all participants for their outstanding efforts!

HOUSE POINTS



Start to 2024 Pōwhiri

Thames High School kicked off the the school year by officially welcoming its new cohort of staff and students starting in 2024. The atmosphere was filled with excitement and anticipation as bright-eyed taichi / students eagerly embarked on their journey to embrace fresh challenges and soak up knowledge. Our Kapahaka Rūpū, Te Puna o Te Pito Mata, brilliantly performed Haka and did a great job of welcoming their fellow students. With enthusiasm abound, these students are poised to make the most of what Thames High School has in store for them in 2024.



Parent Bi-Election

School Board Parent By-Election Results Declaration 2024
(no voting election required)

At the close of nominations at noon Wednesday 7 February 2024, the number of valid nominations received for 2 parent representative vacancies was equal to the number of vacancies required to be filled on the School Board.
I hereby declare the following duly elected:

HODSON-RAPANA, Ngaio
WHITNEY, Wayne

Signed: Wayne Jamieson
Returning Officer
Canterbury Education Services (CES)



Troupe Clowning at Highland Games

Thames High Troupe took centre stage at the Paeroa Highland Games and Tattoo on Saturday 10 February. From still characters to the whimsical Lollipop Girls, and from the endearing Granny to the enigmatic Corpse Bride, the troupe brought a diverse range of acts to the forefront. Other notable performances included The Fallen Angels, The Pram Trio, Mud-guards, Headless, and more captivating roving characters.

Among the standout representatives was Student Leader Izzy Fitzsimmons, who kicked off the weekend festivities with a stirring rendition of the National Anthem. Not to be outdone, the school band also left their mark with a stellar performance on the main stage. Well Done!

Teenage stunt student 'so gutsy'

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

Being hit by a moving car, getting her hands set alight, and seeking thrills on the backs of horses is all in a day's work for stunt student Isabel Pearson.

The Year 11 Hauraki Plains College pupil has been learning the ropes at the New Zealand Stunt School, run by international stunt actress and co-ordinator Dayna Grant and her husband Pai Pai.

The school, which operates from bases in Hunua and Otara, provides stunt training to new and existing stunt performers of all ages, as well as actors and actresses keen to sharpen up their physical performance skills.

For three years, Isabel has done everything from high falls to stage combat, and professional stunt actress Dayna Grant told *The Profile* the 15-year-old was "so



HPC student Isabel Pearson has been learning daring tricks and feats at the New Zealand Stunt School. Photos: SUPPLIED

"She's really persistent and she really wants it, and that's where it comes from."

- Dayna Grant

actress Gal Gadot.

She's also doubled twice for Oscar-winning actress Charlize Theron, first in *Snow White and the Huntsman* and then in the "stunt-heavy" *Mad Max: Fury Road*.

She said stunt artists were starting to get more acknowledgement for their unique and high-adrenaline line of work.

"We have always been the unsung heroes, but that's quite nice, in a way."

Isabel keeps her stunt training close to her chest, but said she doesn't let fear get in the way.

"I quite enjoy the adrenaline of it all," she said, "and I'm surrounded by people I really trust."

The only thing yet to be crossed off her list is setting mum Jody's hands on fire.

DETAILS: For more details about the NZ Stunt School, visit www.nzstuntschool.com.



gusty". "She's

herself, being really motivated to get better and better and be at every workshop and now she's as good as most of the adults.

"She's really persistent and she really wants it, and that's where it comes from. If you want anything badly enough, you'll get there."

Dayna said there were opportunities for stunt jobs and action doubles in New Zealand as well as overseas, and it's a career Isabel wants to chase.

Dayna herself has stunted in high-profile films such as *Wonder Woman 1984*, where she was a superhuman Amazon and body doubled for lead

always been an incredible [horse]

rider, so she picked up all the horse stuff simple as, but she just has no fear," she said. "She started off with the kids but pursued the whole thing

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Education

Inclusion a focus for Thames Valley schools

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Helping students connect and feel included in their community is fundamental for two Thames Valley schools and their new partnership.

A new Goldfields School satellite class was opened at Thames High School on February 7, with four tamariki who transitioned to Year 9 from a satellite class at Te Kura o Te Kauaeranga Thames South School.

Goldfields satellite classes are set up in primary and secondary schools so students can receive the specialist teaching they require in regular school environments.

Thames High School principal Michael Hart said the way Goldfields School had distributed its classes around the area was “really awesome” because it was inclusive of all students.

“[Thames High School] pride ourselves as being part of the community, and vice versa.”

Mr Hart said one of the Goldfields students was the brother of a current Thames High student, which gave a “whānau connection” within the school.

Reinforcing those close ties, Mr Hart said there were other Year 9 students who had also



Goldfields School principal Cam McKenzie, left, Teacher aide Whaea Megs, students Ahmir Murray-Habib, 12, Kennedy Harding, 12, Matthew Yates, 12, Teacher Matua Caleb and Thames High School principal Michael Hart. ABSENT: Noah Grimshaw, 14.

Photo: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

come from Thames South and recognised one of the Goldfields tamariki.

“So you have that continuity of relationships because of that inclusion in the community - it’s really, really awesome.”

The students’ teacher, Matua Caleb, had been exploring op-

portunities for the tamariki to participate in specialty classes like drama, food or technology, Mr Hart said

“[Matua Caleb] has been getting people coming to him and saying ‘hey, it’d be really cool if your tamariki [would] come to our class,’” Mr Hart said.

Building a good relationship between the schools was also important for Goldfields School Principal Cam McKenzie.

“We’ve got to want to be there, they’ve got to want us. Nothing goes forward unless that happens.”

Mr McKenzie said satellite

classes had been beneficial for students.

“You’re raised together,” he said. “They live, go to school [and] grow up in their community.”

Students would not be transported all the way to Paeroa everyday, he said. “When you cut down bus time you increase learning time.”

Mr McKenzie said students could also get to know and be known by local businesses and one day start doing work experience.

Matua Caleb said he and teacher aide Whaea Megs had been getting students used to their new space and helping build their confidence for their speciality classes.

“We want to set them up. We want them to succeed rather than just doing heaps.”

The students didn’t like big crowds, but introduced themselves in front of a whole staff meeting last year, Matua Caleb said. “They were amazing.”

The tamariki went to an assembly on their first day too, which was “chucking them in the deep end a bit”, Matua Caleb said.

“But they are pretty resilient.”

50



Goldfields School

Goldfields School is proud to celebrate its 50th Anniversary, marking five decades of embodying the spirit of He Mahitahi, working together to provide exceptional education and support for learners of all abilities.

Rare disease diagnosis: 'I live on a knife edge'

By FRANCES HELLENDOORN

Acromegaly and the panhypopituitarism that followed are difficult words to pronounce and even harder to understand.

My name is Frances Hellenendoorn. I live in Thames with my husband and cats Buddy and Holly. In 2009 at age 40 I was diagnosed at Waikato Hospital with acromegaly and transferred five days later to the high dependency unit at Auckland Hospital for surgery.

I was losing my vision because a pituitary adenoma (benign tumour) was pressing on my optic nerve and from 'crazy' menstruation I now had none. I also had high prolactin levels.

Acromegaly is caused by a pituitary tumour which produces too much growth hormone. The incidence is three or four new cases per million people per year, however, recent research shows it to be much more common than previously thought.

Treatment options include surgery, radiotherapy and medications. My tumour was estimated to have been there around 11 years when found and so a lot of the damage was already done.

In order to remove the tumour, almost all my normal anterior pituitary gland was removed causing panhypopituitarism as the production of all pituitary hormones were reduced. I have secondary adrenal insufficiency, which is life threatening, because the pituitary can no longer instruct my adrenal glands to make the stress hormone cortisol. For this, - I carry an emergency steroid injection in



Frances Hellenendoorn's quality of life has been impacted enormously after being diagnosed with a rare disease.

a soap box wherever I go.

I live on a knife edge, dependent on steroids and replacement hormones lifelong. I am constantly monitoring my body for a downturn in core energy due to the onset of illness or the impact of severe emotional stress. I need to respond quickly to increase my steroid dose and reduce demands on my body.

To get through each day, I need regular periods of absolute rest.

My quality of life has been im-

acted enormously. My husband and I have lost normality; slice after slice has gone. I was a distance runner and swimmer. My dream was to do the Coast to Coast multisport event. I live with severe physical pain in both the small and large joints from extensive osteoarthritis due to the excess growth hormone. I have had surgery on my spine and am on a waitlist for a total knee joint replacement.

I wish all stores had a customer chair beside the checkout for pa-

trons to rest on. I cannot prepare food due to the arthritis in my hands. The brain fog makes driving and cognitive tasks difficult.

My life is an everlasting series of tests and procedures such as regular colonoscopies as my colon has grown extra long due to excess growth hormone. Acromegaly can cause polyps in the bowel that can lead to bowel cancer.

Trips even to Thames require a support person. There is no adequate carer support funding, so

my husband never gets a break.

Travel is difficult therefore since the surgery we have seldom seen our family. The loss of my career as an early childhood teacher has created an ongoing financial struggle.

We have lost the trajectory of life with its associated social norms. Unable to have children, therefore no grandchildren, we watched with pain our peers having families. Without children and easy access to town, life and engagement with society passes you by and you are trapped in a back water.

Finding a place to grieve for such enormous losses due to chronic illness has been very difficult. I try to explain to people what my limits are as a way to support and protect myself, but it is as though that fence is invisible to people. This makes me very isolated, including in the health sector.

My experiences have led me to have more empathy, especially for elderly people. My husband and I would not have endured all that we have without our faith in our loving God and our community at Thames Baptist Church and friends in the Kauaeranga Tramping Club that I used to tramp with.

Rare diseases are often invisible because they lie beyond the people's comprehension.

DETAILS: Rare Disease Day is a day of global solidarity, marked each year around the world on the last day of February (the rarest day of the year) to raise and to advocate for equity for rare disorders. There are more than 7000 different types of rare disorders, with more being discovered each day. More information: www.raredisorders.org.nz.

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HDC NEWS



28 February 2024



Mayor Toby shaking hands with Greg Dodd, Managing Director of Spartan Construction Ltd, at the Paeroa Wastewater Treatment Plant

Paeroa Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

“On Friday 23 February, Hauraki District Council signed a \$35 million contract, awarded to Spartan Construction Ltd, for the upgrade of our Paeroa Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP).”

This is the single largest infrastructure project that Council has invested in. It’s a bold move, one that the community has been asking for and one that gives us confidence in growing our district for future generations.

It’s a journey that originally began in 2017 with the preparation of a business case and plan for our wastewater systems. Covid-19 significantly interrupted the flow of the planning in 2020 and the delays escalated associated costs. Added to that was the uncertainty of the proposed changes to 3-Waters.

But as a Council and community, we knew that we wanted to be the masters of our own destiny and get this job done. It’s an important upgrade that’s essential to meet the new national discharge standards in our resource consent and prepare for future development of the area.

The Paeroa WWTP upgrade will likely take two years to complete and is part of a ten-year, \$100 million investment in wastewater infrastructure across the district that started three years ago, in line with the commitments from Council’s 2021-2031 Long Term Plan.”

Toby Adams
Mayor, Hauraki District Council

What’s in the pipeline for your patch?

New Raw Water Pipeline - Kerepēhi

We’re currently laying 5.3 kilometres of a 630mm-wide raw water intake pipe from the Waihou River to the Kerepēhi Water Treatment Plant (KWTP). The new pipe will take over from the current 450mm-wide pipe, once construction of two new raw water storage tanks at the KWTP, due for completion mid-year, are ready. Budget for the pipeline \$1.8 million

Water Main Renewals - 3 sites in Paeroa, 1 in Turua, 1 in Pipiroa, 1 in Kerepēhi and 1 in Waitakaruru.

These pipes have reached their end of life and breakages are causing issues. The renewals will increase resilience in the network and provide security of the supply. Budget \$1.3 million.



Kerepēhi raw water pipeline renewal

Hauraki Plains ADAPTATION PLAN



Do you live on the Hauraki Plains?

Would you like to be involved in scoping what resilience and sustainability will look like for the Plains communities for the next 100 years?

Following on from the successful adoption of the Wharekawa Coast 2120 Community Plan, we’re now starting, (with funding from the Government’s Better off Fund), to work with the Plains communities on an adaptation plan. It’ll focus on the natural hazards and effects of changing weather patterns on the low lying areas of the Hauraki Plains.

Join us at our Hauraki Plains Adaptation Plan roadshow to learn more at:

Ngātea Family Day Out - Sunday, 10 March

Kerepēhi Bowling Club - Saturday, 16 March
Have a go at playing Bowls while getting involved in the kōrero for the Plains.

Turua Market - Sunday, 17 March

Council staff and technical experts will be there to answer your questions and chat about how you can get involved.

Interested?

Find out more at www.letstalk.hauraki-dc.govt.nz; phone us on 0800 734 834 or email info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz

Save the date!

March Community Ward Meetings

Our March Community Ward meetings coincide with the launch of our **2024-2034 Love This Place** (Long Term Plan) **consultation** so your councillors will be there from 12:30pm to listen to your feedback.

The Ward meetings will start at 5:30pm.

See you there!

Plains Ward - 5:30pm, Tuesday 19 March,
Ngātea War Memorial Hall

Paeroa Ward - 5:30pm Thursday 21 March,
Paeroa War Memorial Hall

Waihi Ward - 5:30pm Thursday 28 March,
Waihi Memorial Hall



Learn more about the LTP



www.letstalk.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/2024-ltp

Rural Life

Keep those Easter treats hidden from your pets

Christmas is well behind us, and the days are getting shorter, which means Easter is just around the corner! While chocolate may not do wonders for our waistline, the consequences of chocolate for our furry friends can be far more serious.

Chocolate contains theobromine and caffeine, both of which are potentially toxic to cats and dogs.

The darker the chocolate the more theobromine and caffeine, and hence, the greater risk to your pet. The amount of milk chocolate that would have to be eaten to cause significant ill health is large, more than most dogs would get access to unless they ate whole boxes of chocolates.

Dark chocolate is much more concerning as the amount of theobromine in it is many times higher than milk chocolate. Note that white chocolate has extremely low levels of these compounds, which makes it almost impossible for a dog to be intoxicated by eating it, but it's still a milky, calorie-rich food which can upset the stomach pretty badly, so diarrhoea is a possible outcome of eating all chocolate types.

Signs of chocolate toxicity due to the theobromine and caffeine can depend on how much is ingested and are due to excessive stimulation of the central nervous system, so increased thirst, restlessness, and a racing heart are common findings. In more severe cases muscle tremors, seizures and heart failure may develop, this can be fatal.



Franklin veterinarian Steph Reid.

The caffeine will take effect very quickly, within 30 minutes, while the theobromine takes 2-3 hours to have any impact. If you think your dog has eaten chocolate more than 3 hours ago, and there have been no signs of ill health, it is extremely unlikely to develop toxicity. But diarrhoea might be coming...

If you suspect your pet has ingested chocolate, contact your vet clinic right away for advice. We may be able to induce vomiting so that the chocolate is not absorbed or provide supportive care while the toxins work through their system.

Our pets have a great sense of smell and can often find even the best-hidden chocolate treats, so make sure your chocolate is kept somewhere safe and secure out of their reach.

- Supplied by Steph Reid, veterinarian at Franklin Vets Kōpū



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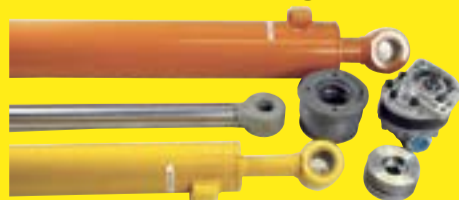
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Rural Life

Fishing comp to aid Rural Support Trust

Anglers and divers will be out in force this weekend at a charity fishing competition in aid of the Waikato Hauraki Coromandel Rural Support Trust.

A briefing will take place on Friday evening at the Thames Rugby Club on Ngāti Maru Highway, followed by a full day of fishing on Saturday, from 9am-4pm.

The weigh-in and prize giving will take place at the rugby club from 4:30pm onwards, with all weighed in fish auctioned off at the event as well as a lucky competitor draw.

Contestants can choose to dive, fish from the shore, or use a boat or kayak. Entries will fall under one of four categories - snapper, kingfish, kahawai, and underwater - and there are plenty of prizes up for grabs.

“With such an amazing cause to support the rural community we are looking for 200 participants,” organisers said.

A charter boat is available for 14 people on March 2 from Hannafords Wharf, thanks to Coromandel Fishing Charters. “Departing 11:30am and returning at 3:30pm, it is a perfect way to take part, even host family, friends or clients. Contact Bryce, Ph 021 616 601 to reserve a space.

The Rural Support Trust Waikato is part of a nationwide charitable organisation set up with primary producers



A fishing competition will raise funds for Waikato Hauraki Coromandel Rural Support Trust this weekend. File Photo

during challenging times, their region spans from south of the Auckland Harbour Bridge to Lake Taupo, including the Hauraki and Coromandel regions, encompassing the 11 territorial council authorities and Waikato Regional Council.

The organisation provides free one-on-one confidential support for farmers and growers at a time and place that suits. If needed, they may facilitate a referral to the right professional help, such as farm management, mentoring and counselling.

DETAILS: Charity fishing competition, March 1-2 at Thames Rugby Club. See Charity Fishing Competition 2024 event on Facebook or email c4bryce@gmail.com for information.

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Rope breakage results in mine accident

In Brief



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

At ten to eight on a May morning in 1903 Richard Lindsay and Jeremiah 'John' Landrigan came on shift at the Waihi mine.

The men were sinking a winze - a small shaft between different mine levels - from No. 6 to No. 7 level. The night shift, just prior to knocking off, had blasted the rock and dirt with gelignite, which made a terrific black smoke. In order to allow the smoke to clear, Richard and John waited a little time at the top of the winze.

After the smoke lifted, John elected to fill the buckets with the loosened debris while Richard remained on top to work the windlass. He lowered John down in the bucket.

After four buckets had been hauled up, the fifth was within about two feet of the top of the winze when the wire rope suddenly broke. Richard immediately called down a warning to John but the bucketful of dirt shot to the bottom, striking him. Richard ran along the level to get help and then hastily returned, descending the ladder to the bottom of the



Men go on shift at Waihi mine.

Photo: SUPPLIED

winze. Preparations were made to bring John to the top of the winze, and then he was transferred to the surface where Dr Guinness, who had been summoned, was waiting. On examination, the doctor found that life had been extinct for some minutes.

Thirty two-year-old John, an Australian, had been in Waihi three or four years. Two years previously he had married and he and his wife, Amelia, had a son, who was just over a year old. John had been a miner for more than 14 years and was well known and liked in Waihi. At the inquest, Richard Lindsay said John could not have escaped the falling bucket unless he had seen it coming.

They had used the rope for about a week. He noticed no breakages

in the rope before it gave way. The shift boss, William Jones, passed through about ten minutes before the accident and remarked that the rope was getting short and they must get another one. Richard and John had examined the rope before commencing work. They thought it was all right.

James Gilmour, mine manager, said if a man wanted a new rope it would be supplied within half an hour or so. He was of the opinion the rope had been cut by a sharp piece of quartz. William Jones said the rope had been put on some time the previous week. It was not new and had been used in another winze. He considered the rope to have been sound and safe.

The coroner said the rope was chewed from use, which possibly

was due to a piece of quartz cutting it. A measure of blame, he thought, was attachable to the shift boss and to the workmen themselves.

To examine the rope properly it should have been taken off altogether. The verdict was that John met his death by the breaking of a wire rope which had been worn at the handle of the bucket until too weak to carry the strain.

John was buried at Waihi cemetery. Amongst those at the funeral were representatives from the Waihi Miners' Union and the Oddfellows' Lodge, John being a member of both.

A month after John's death the Waihi Miners' Union sent 50 pounds to his widow, who had waited in vain for her husband to return from his last shift.

ROAD CLOSURES

The Thames Coast Rd will be closed at Ruamahunga Bay between noon and 2pm every second Friday until further notice to allow helicopter access to the slip site. NZTA Waka Kotahi said the team working to stabilise the large slip on SH25 at Ruamahunga was making great progress and now needed equipment and supplies delivered to the top of the slope by helicopter on a regular basis. The road will close in both directions for up to 20 minutes at a time, then reopen to allow traffic to clear before the next closure. Meanwhile, an overnight road closure will be needed early March between 11pm and 4am on SH25A so NZTA can install a new rubber seal into one of the bridge joints on Taparahi bridge. "Our team will take advantage of the closure to also install grates on the drainage channels," NZTA said.

COROMANDEL ART SALE

A variety of artists, both young and old, will be participating in the first Coromandel Affordable Art Sale at Hauraki House Gallery from March 2-10. All artworks are under \$300 and it is a "cash and carry" sale so people can take their purchases home to enjoy straight away. There will be works available from artists all over the Coromandel Peninsula, varying from painting to pastel, photography to pottery. It's hoped it will become an annual event. Sale is open 10-4pm daily.

Scott Simpson
MP for Coromandel

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Clay and eggshell mosaic to feature

Jen Hawkeswood is the first of Thames Art Gallery's featured artists for March.

Jen is largely self-taught and is motivated by everyday life and community events in the Coromandel, having lived there most of her life. She works predominantly in acrylic and mixed media, but in recent years she has explored the tactile and sustainable qualities of eggshell mosaic and pigment painting. Jen is inspired by detail, by the colour and contrast in everyday life, who we are, how we live, where we work and play, the classic and the quirky.

Jen is a very versatile artist and is well known for her black and white genre painting, for which she has won awards. She is also the very talented artist behind colourful murals at the Thames Museum, Matatoki School, Coromandel Museum and Kopu Station Hotel.

Jen derives her inspiration and versatility from many artists over the years, including a number of New Zealand ones she has witnessed up close at work.

She says her greatest difficulty has been allowing herself the amount of time needed to achieve the standard she requires in her paintings, but acknowledges that down time is also very important. She finds bush walks and nature to be an anchoring force to achieve her goals.

Jen says that in today's climate



it is necessary for an artist to be adaptable, innovative, sustainable and affordable. When she is painting or creating, "all is right with her world".

The second featured artist for March is Kay Ogilvie.

Kay first felt the magic of clay when pottery was taught at a design course she was doing at polytech 30 years ago. She was immediately enchanted by the feel of the clay, the way it responded to every touch, the heat and noise of the kiln being fired, the buckets of sludgy glaze that would transform, usually, into beautiful

colours. She is still captivated by that magic as much today as then, still experimenting, still learning, still loving it. Kay's work is both decorative and functional.

Kay's grandchildren are such an inspiration to her, the way they work freely and spontaneously, lay on lots of colours and don't fuss with the finish.

So, after 20 years of aiming for smoother, more even, more skillfully made and more perfectly glazed pieces, she is now experimenting with loose, freer shapes and indulging her love of lots of colours together.



LEFT: Kay Ogilvie with one of her "ragged dresses" clay works.

TOP: Jen Hawkeswood works predominantly with acrylic and mixed media but in recent years, she has explored eggshell mosaic and pigment painting. Photos: SUPPLIED

It is never too late to try something different and with this Kay began making clay "ragged dresses". She was cutting slices of clay and slapping them on the table, enjoying the patterns appearing, when a line of Leonard Cohen's came into her head, "She's wearing rags and feathers from Salvation Army counters" and without much planning, the first ragged dress materialised.

DETAILS: Works by very talented artists and more can be seen throughout March at the Thames Art Gallery, 604 Tararu Rd, open seven days, 10am-4pm.

\$40m upgrade

Hauraki District Council has committed \$40 million to upgrade Paeroa's wastewater treatment plant.

The contract was awarded to Spartan Construction Ltd on February 23 as part of the council's ten-year, \$120 million investment in wastewater infrastructure across the district.

"This is the single largest infrastructure project that council has invested in," Mayor Toby Adams said. "We've gone with the option that gives the most resilience for growth, meets resource consent discharge standards and provides capacity during natural disasters."

The upgraded plant, stage one of the council's long term plan, will move away from the traditional pond based system to a "mechanical system" to meet national environmental water discharge standards set by the government. It will meet Paeroa's population growth up to 2035.

Provision will be made, but not built, for stage two which caters for Paeroa growth until 2050. The building site will also be raised and levelled to future proof against unexpected natural disasters such as flooding.

Work is expected to start by late 2024 and be fully commissioned by mid to late 2026.

Mayor Adams said planning for the district's wastewater systems began in 2017, but was delayed by Covid-19 and the uncertainty around proposed changes to the Three Waters.

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Thames Art Gallery
604 Tararu Road, Thames Coast

March Featured artists

<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">KAY OGILVIE</p>  <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 5px 0;">Kay began working with clay over 30 years ago. After spending years striving for perfection, she is now experimenting with freedom and spontaneity</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">JEN HAWKESWOOD</p>  <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 5px 0;">Jen mostly works with acrylic, mixed media, and now eggshell mosaic and pigment painting. Jen has won awards for her black and white artworks</p>
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Gallery Hours: 7 days 10am-4pm

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We also work hard to help keep your energy prices affordable by planning carefully and delivering efficiently. Our revenues are set by the Commerce Commission and we update our prices once a year. These prices reflect the costs of operating and investing in the network. This year's change is a combination of:

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Transmission	1.2%	x	28%	=	0.3%
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The tables below show how these charges have changed. The overall impact on your electricity bill will depend on a few things, such as how and when you use our network and how your retailer chooses to structure the prices they charge you.

For more information about our pricing and what we're working on around our network, visit www.powerco.co.nz

Powerco electricity information disclosure

Valley Network Points of supply: Arapuni, Hinuera, Kinleith, Kopu, Piako, Waihou, Waikino.

New delivery charges for the Bay of Plenty and Tauranga regions. **Powerco's new delivery charges are effective from 1 April 2024.**

Residential & small commercial customers

Delivery charges	Delivery charges ¹ effective 1 April 2024						Estimated number of consumers	Transmission charges ² effective 1 April 2024			
	Fixed charge (\$/day)	Peak Winter ³ (\$/kWh)	Peak Summer ³ (\$/kWh)	Off-Peak (\$/kWh)	Controlled (\$/kWh)	Uncontrolled (\$/kWh)		Fixed charge (\$/day)	Peak / Off-Peak (\$/kWh)	Controlled (\$/kWh)	Uncontrolled (\$/kWh)
V05S: Low fixed charge option	0.60	0.1934	0.1934	0.0693	0.0593	0.1078	36,861	0.13	0.0138	0.0138	0.0138
V06S: Standard option	1.30	0.1615	0.1615	0.0374	0.0274	0.0759	37,442	0.28	0.0138	0.0138	0.0138
V08: Temporary accommodation	1.45	0.1610	0.1610	0.0275	0.0275	0.0690	500	0.28	0.0138	0.0138	0.0138
Previous delivery charges							Previous transmission charges				
V05S: Low fixed charge option	0.45	0.1673	0.1673	0.0745	0.0745	0.1033		0.11	0.0143	0.0143	0.0143
V06S: Standard option	1.11	0.1372	0.1372	0.0444	0.0444	0.0732		0.26	0.0143	0.0143	0.0143
V08: Temporary accommodation	1.25	0.1371	0.1371	0.0349	0.0349	0.0667		0.26	0.0143	0.0143	0.0143

Commercial

Consumer group	Delivery charges ¹ effective 1 April 2024					Estimated number of consumers	Transmission charges ² effective 1 April 2024		
	Fixed charge (\$/day)	Peak Winter ³ (\$/kWh)	Peak Summer ³ (\$/kWh)	Off-peak (\$/kWh)	Uncontrolled (\$/kWh)		Fixed charge (\$/day)	Peak (\$/kWh)	Off-peak (\$/kWh)
V01: Unmetered Supply - other than streetlighting	0.45				0.1379	198	0.11		0.0138
V02: Unmetered Streetlighting (per light)	0.1916					14	0.0279		
V22: Three phase 61 - 250 amp	12.79	0.1574	0.1574	0.0373	0.0746	566	2.88	0.0145	0.0145
V28: Greater than 250 Amp up to and Including 299 kVA	30.29	0.1403	0.1403	0.0346	0.0674	50	5.28	0.0145	0.0145
Previous delivery charges					Previous transmission charges				
V01: Unmetered Supply - other than streetlighting	0.45				0.1291		0.11		0.0143
V02: Unmetered Streetlighting (per light)	0.1913						0.0279		
V22: Three phase 61 - 250 amp	12.64	0.1293	0.0425	0.0425	0.0694		2.74	0.0143	0.0143
V28: Greater than 250 Amp up to and Including 299 kVA	29.08	0.0628	0.0628	0.0628	0.0628		4.08	0.0143	0.0143

1. Delivery charges include the transmission charges.
2. Transmission charges include all recoverable costs such as transmission costs, council rates and statutory levies.
3. 'Winter' months are April – September, and 'Summer' months are October – March

Large commercial / industrial

Consumer group	Distribution charges effective 1 April 2024			Estimated number of consumers	Transmission charges ² effective 1 April 2024	
	Assets and maintenance \$/kVA	Indirect variable \$/PCD (kW)	Indirect fixed \$/annum		Connection assets \$/kVA	Other assets \$/ADL (kW)
V40 ⁴ : 300 - 1,499 kVA capacity	78.02	24.79	4,500	98	10.49	138.53
V60 ⁴ : Greater than or equal to 1,500 kVA capacity	32.16	48.29	13,800	25	10.70	135.56
Previous distribution charges			Previous transmission charges			
V40 ⁴ : 300 - 1,499 kVA capacity	63.01	22.30	4,500		9.84	138.53
V60 ⁴ : Greater than or equal to 1,500 kVA capacity	27.30	46.45	12,600		10.79	135.52

4. Charges for the Group V40 and V60 consumers are determined on an individual basis and as such the charges shown here are based on average charge across all consumers in these groups. Group V40 and V60 consumers are charged both distribution and transmission charges as detailed above.

Gardening

Time to prepare for the next season

After a mixture of weather conditions with some dry sunny days, we may start to experience cooler nights with overnight dew, signalling the time to prepare the garden for the next season's planting.

If it is dry, keep watering to make the most of the late summer crops to help supplement the weekly shop.

Once crops have finished producing, it's time to remove spent plants and replenish the soil with a mixture of blood and bone, sheep pellets and a good general garden fertiliser. Dig well into the soil and water in then you are ready to start planting out your new seedlings.

Just a note: If you collect your own seeds for later propagation, now is the time to do this before composting.

Any old plants pulled out can be cut up and added to the compost bin.

While any garden areas are empty, take time to top up garden beds, replenish the soil with a new layer of compost, blood and bone and sheep pellets.

Plant Now: leafy greens: leeks, carrots, silver beet, spinach, celery, winter lettuce.

Salad crops: lettuce, rocket, mesclun blends.



Time to plant your favourite winter flowering seedlings, including snapdragon.

File Photo: PIXABAY

Brassicas: broccoli, cauliflower, kale (cavalo nero and curly kale).
Herbs: mizuna, parsley, coriander, chives and chervil.

Protect all new seedlings from snail and slugs with a slug bait. If possible, cover your brassicas with mesh to protect from the white butterfly.

It is also time to replenish the soil in your flower gardens with compost, blood and bone and sheep pellets. Top up the mulch too, great for not only keeping weeds at bay but also to help plants with warmth over the cooler months.

Continue to plant your favour-

ite winter flowering seedlings, pansy, viola, primula, polyanthus, calendula, cineraria, lobelia, poppies, alyssum, stock and snapdragon.

It is also time to plant spring flowering bulbs. Daffodils can be planted out from late February to the end of May. Early planting

gets them off to a good start for better root development. Plant in full sun and well-drained soil. Anemones and Ranunculus are easy to grow, stagger planting for extended flowering season.

Hyacinths are a beautiful addition to any garden. They are best planted out March/April in a cool spot. Protect all new plantings with slug and snail bait.

Citrus trees are heavy feeders so feed with a specific citrus feed. This ensures healthy green leaves and better growth, flowers and fruits.

Mulch around the roots to conserve moisture.

Continue to harvest apples, pears, grapes, peaches and plums if your lucky enough to still have fruit on the trees. Once stone fruit have finished prune to shape and remove dead or diseased branches.

Autumn is the ideal time to sow or repair your lawn. Now is a good time to fertilise your lawn to promote nice healthy growth.

Pull out any tired summer herbs and replant parsley, chives, rosemary and mint.

The compost will benefit from all the addition of the trimming and pruning of spent crops.

Happy gardening.

- Ngatea Garden Circle

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March 2024 Moon Planting Calendar			Calendar Supplied by Gilmer Farms	1 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	2 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	3 Non planting Day
4 Non planting Day	5 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	6 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	7 Non planting Day	8 Non planting Day	9 Non planting Day	10 New Moon
11 Non planting Day	12 Non planting Day	13 Non planting Day	14 Plant above ground crops	15 Plant above ground crops	16 Non planting Day	17 Non planting Day
18 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	19 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	20 Non planting Day Autumn Equinox	21 Non planting Day	22 Non planting Day	23 Non planting Day	24 Non planting Day
25 Full Moon	26 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	27 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	28 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	29 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	30 Non planting Day	31 Non planting Day

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V8s roll on in

Paeroa was alive with the sights and sounds of V8s and classic vehicles at Rotary Paeroa's annual V8 Car and Motorcycle Show & Swap Meet at Paeroa Domain on Saturday. The family day out offered market and food stalls, demos, activities, raffles, prizes and live music with stunning cars and motorbikes on display. Paeroa Rotary have held this event for 19 years, with all money going back into the community. *The Valley Profile's* **TERESA RAMSEY** captured some of the classics on display.



Judges Rick Purcell, left, and Bruce Dreadon make their rounds.



Motorbikes of all shapes and sizes draw a lot of interest from the crowd.



Parlour Vans NZ president Mike Goodwin, left, chills out with Gary Greig and his 1980 Ford Transit 302 V8 van.



Harper Thorburn, left, and Paige Taylor collect for the Firefighter Sky Tower Challenge fundraiser for Leukaemia & Blood Cancer New Zealand.



A Saker SV1 original New Zealand-built vehicle was fully restored in Paeroa.



A hot rod rolls in.

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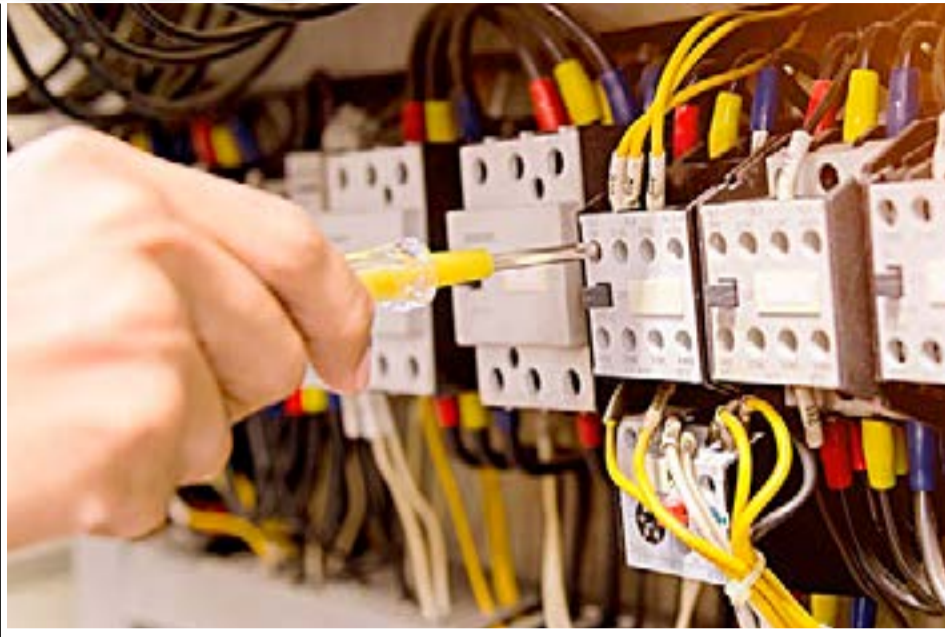
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The Valley
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CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12pm Monday

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AGM**
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Applications close Monday 4 March (4.00 pm)

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Email: traceyreed@thameshigh.school.nz

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Contact Nikki - 022 130 3885

Public Notice

STEAMING THE THAMES INC.
Lawn Bowls & Devonshire Tea, followed by the AGM.

At the Thames Bowling Club
Saturday 23rd March 2nd
1:00 - 5:00pm
Lawn Bowls 1:00 - 3:00
Devonshire Tea 3:00 - 5:00
AGM 1:00 - 5:00

Financial members free
Non members \$15 per person
Financial members are invited to the AGM to vote in the election of the 2024 Steaming the Thames Committee

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Public Notice

Hauraki District Council
March 2024 Meetings

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 March 2024 in the Council Chamber, Hauraki House, 1 William Street, Paeroa unless otherwise stated.

Whiritoa Public Meeting
Saturday, 2 March 2024, 10.30am
Whiritoa Community Hall
44 Whiritoa Beach Road

Planning Committee (if required)
Monday, 11 March 2024, 9.00am (if required)

Council
Wednesday, 13 March 2024, 9.00am
(to adopt the LTP Consultation Document and supporting information for consultation)

Regulatory Hearings Committee
Monday, 18 March 2024, 9.00am (confirmed)

Plains Ward Public Meeting
Tuesday, 19 March 2024, 5.30pm
Ngatea War Memorial Hall

Paeroa Ward Public Meeting
Thursday, 21 March 2024, 5.30pm
Paeroa War Memorial Hall

Council
Wednesday, 27 March 2024, 9.00am

Waihi Ward Public Meeting
Thursday, 28 March 2024, 5.30pm
Waihi Memorial Hall

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www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz

CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12pm Monday

Death Notice

BRUNT, Laurie:
Passed away peacefully on February 17. A memorial for Laurie will be held at Paeroa RSA on March 11 at 1pm

Death Notice

ROBERTS, Herbert Edwin George (Sam):
On February the 15th 2024 passed peacefully at Wakefield aged 91. Dearly loved husband of the late Noelene, and loved father of the late Barbara and loved Dad of John. Loved grandfather of Kylee and Cherie and loved great grandfather, and great great grandfather. Much loved brother to his late sisters, loved uncle and brother in law to past and present

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Thames Spiritualist Church, Sunday March 3, 2pm Grahamstown Hall. Speaker: Lisa Andrew

NEWSPRINT

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The Valley Profile
CoromandelApp

Children's Day a thing to 'look forward to'

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

A free event that celebrates children and families will be "something to look forward to" after two years of restrictions and a summer of rain.

Held annually on the first Sunday in March, the nationwide Children's Day has been put on hold in Thames since 2021.

Its return to the town comes with "perfect timing", CAPS Hauraki chairperson Michele Fill said,

with whanau in need of a pick-me-up after the spate of severe weather events that left property damaged and people stranded.

"It is perfect timing because families are really stressed, and even if their house wasn't damaged, a lot of them would've been prevented from getting to work or to shops or to schools.

"We're talking about stress on top of stress on top of stress," Michele told *The Profile*.

"We've had three years of Covid, it's still going on, and families are also coping with loss of income, and this little community has been under stress for a long time now."

This year, Thames Children's Day organisers have "gone back to basics" and have arranged for classic Kiwi games such as an egg and spoon race, tug-of-war, and a three-legged race. There will also be crafts, poi-making, harakeke [flax] weaving, face painting, and live music.

The event is completely free.

"We need to have a time to celebrate, and it's so important for families to be able to come and not pay for anything," Michele said. "Everything is free and they can have a really good day with food provided and lots of entertainment."

The social service agency on Queen St has put on a Children's Day celebration for "a long time" and each year continues to get bigger, Michele said.

"People hang out for it, they look forward to it... It feels exciting to be having something to celebrate after what has been such a difficult time and a difficult few years."

The Thames Small Gauge Railway will be in operation, while CAPS staff and Thames Rotary Club members will be on hand making kai.

DETAILS: Children's Day will be held on Sunday, March 3 from 10am to 2pm at Victoria Park in Thames. This is a free event. All families welcome. For any updates regarding the weather, follow CAPS Hauraki [Safe kids, thriving families] on Facebook.



SPORTS

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



Players at Thames Coast Bowling Club compete in the heats at the beginning of the tournament. Photo SUPPLIED

Bowls tournament a success

BOWLS

The 50th Aotearoa National Māori Bowls Tournament was held on Waitangi weekend at five clubs across Thames Valley.

Hundreds of players from across the country descended on Thames, Hauraki, Kerepēhi, Paeroa and Thames Coast bowling clubs for two days of competition.

Thames Coast Bowling Club president Kaye Bunn said the atmosphere during the tournament was fantastic.

"Waitangi weekend for the Aotearoa National Māori Bowls was an amazing weekend and an absolute hit," she said.

"Despite the patchy weather with four seasons in one day on the Saturday, everyone still had a great time and play continued on. There were some amazing bowls played and sportsmanship on and off the green was an awesome atmosphere.

"The feedback we received - [it] was awesome to hear about the success the Valley had in being able to provide the facilities for this event."



A tug of war was one of the fun activities at last year's Children's Day.

File Photo

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SUDOKU

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2			4	6		1		
				3				8
9					2	5		

HARD

139

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

HARD

139

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

MEDIUM

139

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

EASY

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JUMBO CROSSWORD

159

ACROSS

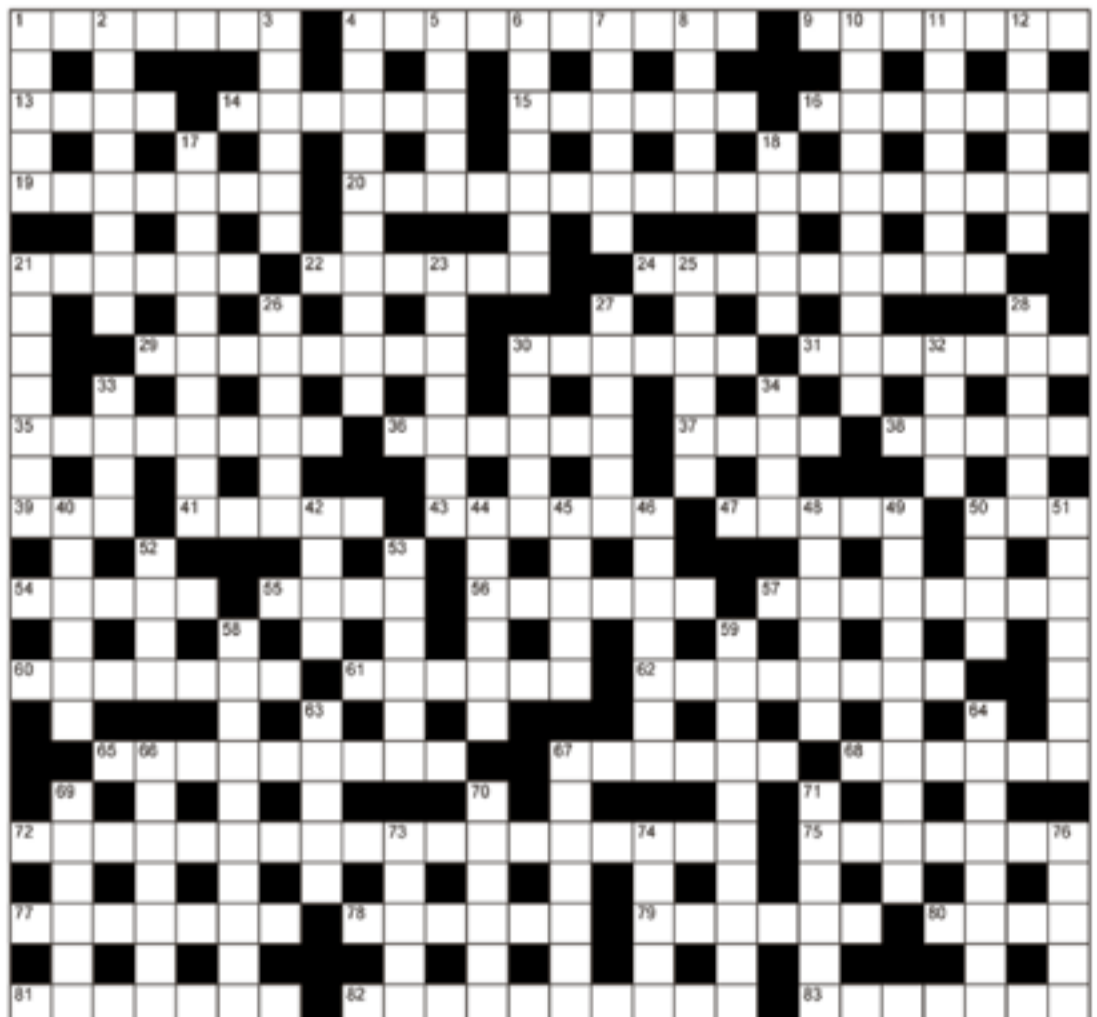
- 1 Gaining points (7)
- 4 Safety measure (10)
- 9 Under discussion, dispute (2,5)
- 13 Downfall (4)
- 14 Be of importance (6)
- 15 Vinegar acid (6)
- 16 Trivial objection (7)
- 19 Authentic (7)
- 20 Serve out an extra tot of rum at sea (6,3,4,5)
- 21 Plays for time (6)
- 22 Bell tower (6)
- 24 Comes into (anag) (9)
- 29 Not able to be moved (8)
- 30 Abnormal fear or aversion (6)
- 31 Practical knowledge (4-3)
- 35 Decline in activity (8)
- 36 Struggle against (6)
- 37 Defrost (4)
- 38 Polite (5)
- 39 Fall behind (3)
- 41 Trunk (5)
- 43 Preliminary drawing (6)
- 47 Go and get (5)
- 50 Wager (3)
- 54 Initiated (5)
- 55 Fly unaccompanied (4)
- 56 Dance company (6)
- 57 Be of different opinions (8)
- 60 Excess (7)

DOWN

- 1 Momentarily raise the shoulders (5)
- 2 Of the East (8)
- 3 Mixture of rock fragments and pebbles (6)
- 4 Shop selling pastries (10)
- 5 Sign on (5)
- 6 Lawlessness (7)
- 7 Pact (6)
- 8 Oily fruit (5)
- 10 Competition played in a series of contests (10)
- 11 Residential districts (7)
- 12 Open with key (6)
- 17 Tactful (10)
- 18 Animal life of a region (5)

ACROSS

- 21 Apple pastry (7)
- 23 Insect's antennae (7)
- 25 Brightly printed and glazed cotton fabric (6)
- 26 Browbeat (6)
- 27 Lyrical (6)
- 28 Submissive (6)
- 30 Aplomb (5)
- 32 Low dam (4)
- 33 Small branch (4)
- 34 Counterfeit (4)
- 40 Tree-lined street (6)
- 42 Set eyes on (4)
- 44 Young cat (6)
- 45 Scandinavian goblin (5)
- 46 Unlucky (7)
- 48 Cold dessert with sponge, sherry, custard, cream (6)
- 49 Obstinate (10)
- 50 Tree covering (4)
- 51 Garden latticework (7)
- 52 Stinging insect (4)
- 53 Serious, uncheerful (6)
- 58 Waist sash (10)
- 59 Over and over (10)
- 63 Heartless (5)
- 64 Unchanging intonation (8)
- 66 Take the wraps off (7)
- 67 Pull out (7)
- 69 Cure (6)
- 70 Rots (6)
- 71 Emphasis (6)
- 73 Body trunk (5)
- 74 Hot coal (5)
- 76 Foyer (5)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Cabin, 4 Shrinking violet, 14 Toast, 15 Stray, 16 Compromise, 17 Raise, 19 Dew, 20 Foresee, 21 Zookeeper, 22 Filthy, 25 Buccaneer, 27 Rasher, 28 Placid, 33 Sugar daddy, 35 Hug, 36 Ritual, 37 Snug, 39 Ace, 41 Gorilla, 42 Infant, 43 Cochineal, 44 Trade, 45 Atom bomb, 50 Pa, 51 Truffles, 55 False, 58 Hot potato, 59 Nutmeg, 60 Absence, 61 Ass, 63 Room, 64 Prowls, 65 Ill, 66 Satellites, 68 Clever, 69 Bronze, 71 Espionage, 76 Allows, 77 Interrupt, 79 Hearsay, 81 Pal, 84 Water, 85 Profitable, 86 Sneer, 87 Needs, 88 Thin on the ground, 89 Below.

DOWN: 2 Author, 3 Irate, 5 Hook, 6 Improve, 7 Knocks, 8 Naive, 9 Viewers, 10 Ogre, 11 Elixir, 12 Tardy, 13 Steward, 14 Textile, 18 Peccadillo, 23 Snide, 24 Lettuce, 26 Uranium, 27 Regatta, 29 Conceal, 30 Dugout, 31 Cheap, 32 Saucer, 34 Yank, 36 Regal, 38 Gulls, 40 Riff, 45 Abhor, 46 Outcome, 47 Boom, 48 Meagre, 49 Alias, 50 Pensive, 52 Unbalanced, 53 Feeling, 54 Etched, 55 Forward, 56 Stile, 57 Fees, 62 Attic, 67 Bellows, 68 Company, 70 Ninepin, 72 Soprano, 73 Switch, 74 Trying, 75 Gazebo, 76 Alter, 78 Epoch, 80 Range, 82 Wren, 83 Flan.

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