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Grassroots ingenuity



Volunteers drove their mowers down the streets of Turua recently in order to lend a hand for a special community event.



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

Helpful handymen and women drove their mowers down the streets of Turua in order to get to a clean-up day at the Domain earlier this month.

The working bee was called by local Brendan Walsh, a.k.a. The Rocker Warrior, who is planning a Family Fun Day in

April and noticed the site for the event was in need of a little TLC.

“I decided to put on the Ride On Mower day to help get the domain looking beautiful and ready for the fun day in a couple of weeks,” he said.

“I was blown away by the support from the community. People were riding their mow-

ers down the street to get to the domain to help. I was very proud.”

Brendan said preparations for the Turua Family Fun Day were going well, with around 15 stalls, 15 food vendors, and the entertainment all booked.

“Big trucks are coming, hotrods, farm equipment... CFM are broadcasting from the

fun day as well.” Being known as one of the New Zealand Warriors’ biggest fans, Brendan also said tickets for the 2024 rugby league team’s Heritage Jersey raffle will go live shortly, and he’d be at Pak’nSave Thames on April 11 and 12 to sell them.

“Things are slowly coming together and I am getting awesome support and donations

from around the district which I am very humbled by,” he said.

“I can’t wait for the fun day to get here.”

Another Ride On Mower Day will be planned ahead of the Family Fun Day, which is set to take place on April 13, 10am-4pm.



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The Little Things writer Matt Lawrey and his sons, Darcy and Miro. Photo: SUPPLIED



GIVEAWAY!
The Valley Profile has a copy of *The Little Things* book to give away, email your contact details to editor@valleyprofile.co.nz to go in the draw.

The Little Things comes to The Profile

This week marks the launch of the popular New Zealand cartoon on the highs and lows of parenting, *The Little Things*, in *The Valley Profile*.

Written by Matt Lawrey and drawn by Peter Lole, *The Little Things* was launched in 2010 and has been published in newspapers across the country and in Australia and the United Kingdom.

The cartoon was inspired by Matt and his wife Tania's parenting experiences. "In the early days, writing *The Little*

Things was really a form of self-therapy," Matt jokes.

"We initially thought it would appeal to parents of little kids but soon discovered that grandparents really enjoyed it too. It also struck a chord with kids who enjoyed seeing things through their parents' eyes."

Matt says he's thrilled to see *The Little Things* appearing in *The Valley Profile*. "After 13 years in print, we've got a lot of cartoons to share, and we really hope the readers enjoy them."

Valuations delayed

By KELLEY TANTAU, Public Interest Journalism funded by NZ On Air
Thames-Coromandel District Council is still anticipating its rating valuations for 2024, but said independent valuer QV were "on track" for a May 3 approval.

All properties within the district are due to receive new rating valuations ahead of the next rating year, which starts on July 1. The valuations are carried out for council by QV on a three-yearly basis.

"Though the public notice date was delayed from January to give the QV team more time to ensure the accuracy of these rating valuations, they are still on track to accomplish this," council said. "There is a small number of valuations remaining to be double-checked in the audit process, but our council has all the valuations for the district and it is this information that is reflected in our Rating Information Database, which is now also showing the proposed rates for 2024/25 for individual properties."

Council said because of this double-checking, it was possible that some property valuations might change, but what property owners received in the past would be their approved QV valuation. "These sorts of small delays are relatively common due to the highly technical nature of the valuation work, with factors such as Covid-19, evolving regulatory requirements, and the up-and-down movement of the property market these past three years adding to its complexity," council said.

If property owners do not agree with a new rating valuation once it has been certified and sent to them, they will still have an opportunity to lodge an objection.



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Thames Tides

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
Mar 20	Mar 21	Mar 22	Mar 23	Mar 24	Mar 25	Mar 26
Morning 4:16am 3.0 Afternoon 4:39pm 2.9 10:34am 1.1 10:55pm 1.0	Morning 5:20am 3.0 Afternoon 5:44pm 2.9 11:33am 1.1 11:56pm 1.0	Morning 6:15am 3.0 Afternoon 12:25pm 1.0 6:42pm 2.9	Morning 12:47am 0.9 Afternoon 1:12pm 1.0 7:02am 3.1 7:31pm 3.0	Morning 1:30am 0.8 Afternoon 1:53pm 0.9 7:44am 3.1 8:14pm 3.1	Morning 2:09am 0.8 Afternoon 2:32pm 0.8 8:23am 3.2 8:53pm 3.2	Morning 2:45am 0.7 Afternoon 3:09pm 0.7 9:00am 3.2 9:29pm 3.2
7:21am 7:29pm	7:22am 7:28pm	7:23am 7:26pm	7:24am 7:25pm	7:24am 7:23pm	7:25am 7:22pm	7:26am 7:20pm
Best At 9:42am 10:06pm	Best At 10:30am 10:52pm	Best At 11:14am 11:35pm	Best At 11:55am	Best At 12:15am 12:35pm	Best At 12:55am 1:14pm	Best At 1:34am 1:53pm
Set 2:00am Rise 5:17pm	Set 3:02am Rise 5:48pm	Set 4:03am Rise 6:15pm	Set 5:03am Rise 6:39pm	Set 6:01am Rise 7:01pm	Full Moon Set 6:58am Rise 7:22pm	Set 7:56am Rise 7:43pm

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

MOON AND FISH KEYS

New Moon	First Quarter	Full Moon	Last Quarter
Good Fishing	Fair Fishing	Not So Good	

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

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

WomensShed takes on mural restoration

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

Members of the women's section of Thames' MenzShed were the only ones to take on the task of repairing a well-known mural after it was damaged during last year's general elections.

The mural, created by the late potter Barry Brickell OBE, has sat inside the Thames War Memorial Civic Centre on Mary St since 2016.

But centre custodian Sharon McCaskill said a majority of the piece was damaged during the general elections last year, when "kids came along and pulled loose pieces off of it".

"I was a bit put out by that but what can you do?" she told *The Profile*. "To be honest, they possibly did us a favour because the MenzShed has told me it was on a rather bendy piece of material and that they're now in the process of strengthening the back of it."

The terracotta clay mural was unveiled in the entrance of the Civic Centre back in September, 2016, and according to a Thames-Coromandel District Council press release from the time, it told a "story of the land and the environmental impacts upon it".

For more than five months, the spot it sat remained bare while Sharon searched for someone to repair the piece.



The mural, created by the late potter Barry Brickell, sat inside the Thames War Memorial Civic Centre on Mary St since 2016.

She said she contacted a number of local artists, including Driving Creek Railway which was founded by Brickell in the 1970s, but all refused to take on the task.

When the women of the Thames MenzShed said they'd tackle the project, she was thrilled. The restoration has been led by MenzShed secretary

Trish Beasley alongside Ros Rasmussen.

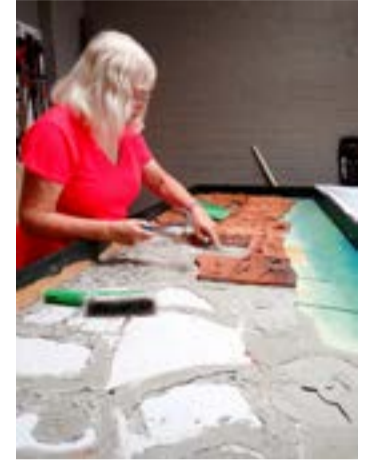
"No one was willing to take the job on, but I just took one look at it and said: 'We can do that - easy,'" Trish said.

The women have refurbished the backing panel and reglued all of the component sections - all 35 of them - back in place. A new backing panel will be at-

tached for better support before the mural is reinstalled in the Civic Centre's entrance lobby.

"It took six guys to carry it around to the shed," Trish said. "She was hard work. It's going to go back in a van because now it's got all the pieces reattached to it."

Trish said she and Ros didn't know exactly how to approach



Trish Beasley works on the mural's restoration.

the restoration, but saw "what needed to be done to be able to get it back up".

"It's a piece of Thames history - it was the first thing you saw when you went into the Civic Centre, and it was sad that it had been covered up since before Christmas."

The Thames Community MenzShed opened in 2018 and introduced a women's section in 2021. About a third of the group's entire membership was now made up of females, Trish said.

DETAILS: To get in touch with either the Thames MenzShed or WomensShed, email: thamesmenzshed@aol.com.



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2024-2034 Long Term Plan

"Join the kōrero about what we're proposing for the Hauraki District over the next 10 years. The cost of living is high at the moment and Council is feeling the pinch too. There's been some tough decisions to make to keep delivering the service levels you expect. Check out what we have planned, what it costs and let us know your feedback. There's a big focus on infrastructure projects like the \$35 million upgrade to the Paeroa Wastewater Treatment Plant, essential for the environment and for future proofing growth in the Hauraki District. Water bills are also on the rise to meet the increased compliance standards for drinking water. To balance the books, we're projecting an average cost (property and water rates) for a medium value property* to be \$11.19 per day in 2024/25, the first year of the Plan. This represents a significant increase in rates for the first year - 2024/25, after that it reduces down.

You can use the rates calculator on our Kōrero Mai | Let's talk Hauraki website to work out how our proposed plans will affect your rates bill. We can't control things like rising interest rates, depreciation costs and inflation, but we can work with you to find out what the compromises and expectations are for you and your communities."

Toby Adams
Mayor, Hauraki District

* Medium value property = \$600 000, based on 1 September 2021 property valuations.

The main consultation issues

- **The Waihi Arts Centre and Museum** building needs earthquake strengthening. Help us decide the future of this historic building.
- How do we **maintain our primary stopbanks in the Western Plains Drainage District** to provide the right level of protection from flooding?

We're also seeking feedback on:

Fees and charges, Development Contributions Policy, Rates Remission and Postponement policies and the Revenue and Financing Policy.

Want to know more?

There is a lot of information to take in and you can find all of the supporting information at **Love This Place: 2024 -2034 Long Term Plan | Kōrero Mai | Let's Talk Hauraki**, or if you prefer you can read more information at any one of our service centres or libraries.



Pick up a consultation document from our offices or libraries or view online at <https://letstalk.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/2024-ltp>



20 March 2024

Tell us your thoughts!

The LTP consultation opened 18 March 2024 and closes at 4:00pm, 26 April 2024. You can find out more and provide feedback by:

- **Going online** at **Love This Place: 2024 -2034 Long Term Plan | Kōrero Mai | Let's Talk Hauraki** (<https://letstalk.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/2024-ltp>)
- **Sending us an email** at letstalk@hauraki-dc.govt.nz
- **Filling in a feedback form** and drop off to our service centres or post it to PO Box 17, Paeroa 3600.
- **Giving us a call** on 07 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 (from within the district)
- **Attending the Long Term Plan Hearing on 14 and 16 May**, to present your feedback to Council in person. Please call us to book an appointment.

Long Term Plan community events

March

Drop in sessions with your Councillors from 12:30-5:30pm, followed by a Ward Meeting from 5:30pm at:

19 March - Plains Ward, Ngātea War Memorial Hall

21 March - Paeroa Ward, Paeroa War Memorial Hall

28 March - Waihi Ward, Waihi Memorial Hall

April

2 April - Turua Community Hall, 10am-1pm

5 April - Kaiaua Community Hall, 10am-12pm

5 April - **Stopbank event** - learn about the history of the plains and our flood protection plans for the future. Starts at 2:30pm - 4:30pm, Waitakaruru School

9 April - Kerepēhi Bowling Club, 10am-12pm

12 April - **Night at the Museum event: 5-7pm**, Waihi Arts Centre and Museum, 54 Kenny Street, Waihi

Food, music, entertainment, history, art and a chance to hear and provide feedback on the future of this historical building.

15 April - Paeroa neighbourhood event - Edward Street Reserve 4pm-7pm

16 April - Whiritoa, 1pm, Whiritoa Community Hall



Paeroa couple going strong after 60 years

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

Val and Lud Sparks' love language may differ, but it's clear to see how the Paeroa pair have reached their diamond wedding anniversary, celebrating 60 years together last month.

At their Hauraki villa, the couple were humble about their romantic milestone, but said their relationship was strengthened by their faith, and one another's ability to "give and take".

"We've found that we probably express [ourselves] to each other in different ways," Lud said, while Val quipped: "You can say that again".

"The best way I can explain it is, for Val's birthday or Christmas, I'd always have a card at least," Lud said. "No matter what the gift, I'd put a lot of thought into the card."

"But for Val, that's the last thing she would ever consider. It's in other ways that she would express it."

Val was 16-years-old when she met Lud, 21. Both were King Country born and bred.

"Living in the country, we didn't go out anywhere at all, but my mother let us go to a Bible Class Camp and [Lud] was there. We didn't date, but I went to Hamilton to do my nursing training and he would come up and see me," Val said.

Lud, who had completed a signwriting apprenticeship at his father's business, went back to school for two years - something that was "unheard of in those days".

He then "bumped around" in Te Kuiti for a while before heading off overseas - spending three months as a volunteer at a Christian hospital in Bandung, the

capital of Indonesia's West Java province.

Throughout his travels, Val and Lud exchanged letters and, six weeks after he returned, they were married.

They wed on February 22, 1964, at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Te Kuiti, and had the reception "in a hall that's no longer there".

Speaking to *The Profile*, the pair were casual about their diamond milestone, but through their conversations it was clear the bond remained.

"My [favourite thing about Lud] would be that every day almost without fail, he says the words: 'I love you'," Val said.

"Without spelling it out," Lud added, "Val provided something in my life that wasn't there."

"That's why I appreciate, even now, that she is there. And if she's away longer than I'm expecting her to be, I do get anxious."

The couple said their faith had been significant to them the whole way through their six decades together. They moved to Paeroa in 1986 and now both attend the Paeroa Co-Operating Parish, where they had a celebration for their anniversary with friends and family.

But before they were wed, and before Val went on to become a geriatric nurse and Lud a probation officer, there were times the couple tried to go their separate ways.

"But it was never a goodbye," Lud said, "and I cannot explain it any other way than that God wanted us to be together."



Lud and Val Sparks celebrate 60 years together. Photo: SUPPLIED

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Life-saving addition to school

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

A potentially life-saving device has been installed at Moanataiari School in Thames, thanks to contributions from across the community.

The new AED (automated external defibrillator) was installed at the beginning of March, and principal David Brock said it would provide peace of mind not only for the staff and students, but for the wider community as well.

"It makes our school a safer environment," he said.

"We've got one little girl who is a heart student here, [and] you don't always know when you're going to have to access something like that. We hope never, but it's just another little safety step for us."

The teachers' annual first aid training was fresh in teacher aide Donna Weir's mind when she came across AED charity The Heart Box. Donna, who's own child also has a heart condition, asked the school to install one.

Pretty quickly, administrator Julie White solicited multiple offers of support from local organisations.

The medical device itself, worth an estimated \$4000, was donated by Exceed - We Fix Windows and Doors, through Heart Box.

"Pre-Covid, Exceed launched the Heart Box programme," Exceed Thames franchise owner Ron Houben said.

"And my paramedic son worked in this area... I've probably heard about 1000 stories about cardiac arrest incidents from him, so I'm quite passionate about it."



A community effort has resulted in the installation of a publicly accessible AED at Moanataiari School. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

The alarmed lockbox required to house the device was provided by Police, Destination Coromandel, and Gateway Glass.

The Moanataiari Residents Association, Hato Hone St John, and the entire school community also got involved.

"Once they were aware of what we were trying to do it was just amazing. Everyone was really supportive," David said.

"It probably took about a four-week period from start to finish - we were really quite thrilled."

Jon Roath from St John was on hand to teach the staff how to use the device. He said it was a very user-friendly device which would issue verbal instructions on activation. "They're primarily used in the event of a cardiac arrest,

which is when someone's heart stops," Jon said.

"The point of having them strategically around the community is that the evidence shows that early intervention through good CPR and a good first shock will dramatically increase the life expectancy of that patient. After four minutes, the brain starts to die of a lack of oxygen. If they can get those two things going before then the outcome and the survival rate is massively increased."

DETAILS: The AED is located at Moanataiari School at the Kuranui St entrance. Call 111 to access the device. Other AED locations can be found on the GoodSAM phone app.



Thames guitarist Andrew Chang.

Photo SUPPLIED

Thames guitarist to perform

Thames dentist Andrew Chang will perform a range of guitar music for Thames Music Group's free Friday lunchtime concert on March 22.

The concert will be held at St George's Church in Thames at 12:15pm.

Andrew has been playing the guitar for 45 years.

"The latter half of my years have been dedicated entirely to acoustic fingerstyle playing," he said.

"After seeing the great Tommy Emmanuel, I was blown away by how much can be done on six strings with no accompa-

niment, a one man band able to entertain audiences with well-loved songs performed instrumentally on one guitar."

Andrew now continues to enjoy reimagining and arranging many popular songs to play in solo acoustic fingerstyle.

His song choices reflect the influence of growing up in the classic rock era - everything from The Beatles onwards, with a few surprises along the way.

DETAILS: Free Friday lunchtime concert, 12.15pm on March 22 at St George's Church, Thames. Koha appreciated.

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Our team are locals supporting locals

Sky's the limit for Hauraki showjumper

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

A Hauraki show jumper is set to face her obstacles head-on when she gears up for an international competition in South America.

In May, 15-year-old Camryn Young will head to Argentina to take part in the Global Amateur Tour, which offers amateur horse riders the opportunity to experience all the excitement, adrenaline, and professionalism of competing internationally.

She will spend her first two days trialling horses around various stables in Buenos Aires, before jumping in three rounds over three days from the onset of the competition on May 10.

"It was around Christmastime when we got the letter that said I'd been accepted, and I could not believe it, I was so incredibly excited," she told *The Profile*.

The Hauraki Plains College student trains with Julia Johnston from Starlight Farm, and because she's had experience in riding a different collection of equines, she said she wasn't daunted by the fact she'll have to bond with a



Show jumper Camryn Young, 15, is heading to Argentina to take part in the Global Amateur Tour. INSET: Camryn receives the blue ribbon. Photos: SUPPLIED

new, Argentinean horse. "I'm used to getting on different horses," she said.

"You start to get a feel [for each] and adapt quite quickly. It could be tricky to adjust, but they give you a selection of horses and you ride them and see which one suits best and which one you click with the most."

Camryn's skills in showjumping were recently showcased at Horse of the Year, where she rode StarlightIvanhoe and StarlightSahara. On the former, she came third in the ESNZ Show Hunter show jumping equitation, and now wants to ride StarlightIvanhoe during the Pony

Grand Prix.

Luckily, Camryn said she's always been very organised. As she heads into her first year of NCEA exams, her useful tool for keeping on track is a whiteboard.

"The horses have a routine, and there's certain things they do each day, but when it comes to school work, I just try to do as much as I possibly can," she said. "I find it not too hard to keep on top of everything."

Camryn will head over to South America with her mum Sheena and dad Matt - who have always supported her equine passions even though they are not "horse people" themselves.

"I am a perfectionist, so mum and dad always have to remind me to wait a moment and look at what I've done," she explained.

"But I do love it, even though there's definitely days where I go: 'Why do I do this?'"

"Everyone gets that with anything they do, and it's about being able to switch past it because you do love it and you want it so bad that you'd do anything to achieve it."

DETAILS: Camryn is currently seeking sponsorship and has plans to raise funds for the trip. To keep up to date with her sporting achievements, find Camryn Young Equestrian on Facebook.



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Rural Life

Pumpkin patch thefts threaten festival

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

Ongoing thefts in Turua School's garden have disrupted learning, affected its upcoming Giant Pumpkin Festival, and frustrated staff and children alike.

Estelle McCoid, teacher aide and the school's Garden to Table programme specialist, said several items had been stolen from the school grounds over the past few weeks, including an expensive donated hose and other equipment. The real gut-punch though, was the missing produce, grown and tended to by the students themselves and intended for use in the school's cooking curriculum.

"[I was] saddened to find that our nearly ready pumpkins were all gone, and our kumara beds had been dug through. Our large marrow that we were measuring and observing to see how big it could grow was also picked but left behind," Estelle said.

"The children and staff work really hard to look after the garden, and it's awesome that our kids have the opportunity to learn these life skills."

Estelle said she had noticed some missing things in the last few months, but there was nothing overt until the beginning of March. As well as the pumpkins and kumara, she said some cabbages, leeks, eggplants, onions, beetroot, and even some potted seedlings had disappeared.

"Even since that [Facebook] post. On Monday afternoon between 4pm and 4.30pm someone came and stripped the apple tree and also had another go at the kumara... Boy, it's frustrating," she said.

"The kids are pretty miffed, but the worst thing is that one of the things we do is sell our produce at the festival, and we literally have nothing to sell now, at all."

Luckily, some forward planning means the cooking classes can still go ahead, for now.

"We've fortunately got quite a bit of stuff in the freezer... During the school holidays I was regularly coming in and picking stuff and freezing it, or making preserves and stuff. So there should be



enough to carry on with."

The thefts came just weeks before the school's annual Giant Pumpkin Festival fundraiser event, scheduled for March 23.

The festival is going ahead as planned, and Estelle urged the community to come along and help support the school - some of the funds raised will now go towards replacing garden equipment and purchasing a security camera.

"There's a couple of rides that we haven't had in the past, something a bit different," Estelle said.

"We thought, why not change it up a little bit, add a few things here and there and hope for the best."

The entertainment will be rounded out with a pumpkin-themed art display from each classroom, and there will be plenty to buy with quick-fire raffles, candyfloss, food, and a seedling stall all on offer.

The competitions will also be hotly contested this year.

Along with the pumpkin and

other large vegetable weigh-ins, there is also a scarecrow decorating competition, open to groups and individuals; and a gumbout decorating competition for anyone from preschoolers through to adults.

And of course no one will go hungry with the school's Garden to Table team on duty.

"We've gotta have the world-famous-in-Turua pumpkin soup and cheese rolls. The cheese rolls are really popular, it's nuts actually."

"We can never make enough."
DETAILS: The Giant Pumpkin Festival, March 23 from 11am at Turua School. Competition registrations are between 9.30am and 11am.



TOP: The kids at Turua School are all set for this year's Giant Pumpkin Festival. RIGHT: The school's apple tree was stripped of its fruit, upsetting gardening students.

Photos: SUPPLIED



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Rural Life

Dolphin study aids species understanding

Analysis of a tissue sample taken from a Hector's dolphin spotted off the coast of Thames-Coromandel has aided understanding of the species and confirmed where the animals came from, the Department of Conservation says.

In October 2023, DOC staff were alerted to a sighting of an adult female Hector's dolphin, accompanied by a juvenile, in the Firth of Thames near Te Kouma.

The sighting of the animals off the Coromandel's west coast was rare and unusual, prompting DOC to urge the public to report their own sightings.

At the time, DOC marine scientists suggested the dolphins could be from the Hector's population off the east coast of the South Island – a fact now confirmed by tissue sample analysis.

DOC marine technical advisor Kristina Hillock said obtaining a tissue sample from a dolphin required staff aboard a vessel to get close enough to an animal to use a special dart gun.

The dart gun secures a small plug of flesh – about the size of a fingernail – which is then sent for DNA analysis.

"This is the first time we've obtained a sample from a Hector's spotted in this area, and for us that's crucial," she said.



In October 2023, DOC staff were alerted to a sighting of an adult female Hector's dolphin, accompanied by a juvenile, in the Firth of Thames near Te Kouma.

Photo: SUPPLIED/DOC

tor's spotted in this area, and for us that's crucial," she said.

"Confirming the animals spotted in the Firth of Thames were originally from the South Island population helps us un-

derstand more about the species' distribution – it's another piece of the puzzle as we work to understand more about Hector's dolphins."

Kristina said there were usu-

ally a couple of sightings of Hector's around the east coast of the Coromandel Peninsula every year, and DOC continued to urge the public to call in sightings of the dolphins.

"Confirming the animals spotted in the Firth of Thames were originally from the South Island population helps us understand more about the species' distribution."

- Kristina Hillock

"Hector's dolphins have the distinctive round dorsal fin, like a Mickey Mouse ear – so our message is 'round fin, call it in'."

People can report Hector's and Māui dolphin sightings on a special online form on the DOC website, or by calling 0800 DOC HOT.

People reporting sightings should record and send in as much information as possible, including the date, time and location (ideally GPS coordinates), and the number of dolphins and their estimated size. Photographs and videos were also very helpful.

Kristina said reports of dead Hector's or Māui dolphins were also helpful, and if the animals could be retrieved within a few hours of their death, it helped DOC staff and other marine scientists to develop more knowledge of the species.

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Rural Life

Owners urged to deal with old, derelict vessels

The Waikato Regional Harbourmaster has a simple message for owners of old, derelict vessels moored in the region: Please manage your boat properly to avoid it turning into a crisis and a costly burden on ratepayers.

On average, Waikato Regional Council's Maritime Services team has to recover four vessels each year which have either sunk on their mooring, or their mooring has failed or broken and the vessel has grounded or sunk.

The cost to ratepayers of dealing with each of these vessels can vary from \$5000 to as much as \$50,000.

"This is a big problem for us in the Waikato just as it is for regional councils across Aotearoa," regional harbourmaster Chris Bredenbeck said.

"It's unwanted work for the council due to the owners of the vessels not having the funds or capacity to manage their own vessels. There are unfortunately dozens of very old vessels across our harbours which are not being maintained and reaching a point where they are irreparable."

The boating bylaws require vessels be seaworthy at all times when on the water and it is the owner who is responsible.

Most problem vessels are among the approximately 850 'zoned moorings' in the Waikato region.

Maritime Services staff do regular patrols, looking for vulnerabilities in the mooring lines.

"When we spot an issue with a vessel, we try to locate the owner and highlight the risk to them with the aim of getting the owner themselves to remedy the situation," Bredenbeck said.

Weather can be a hugely problematic fac-



A 36-foot boat is pulled ashore at Waiomu for demolition and disposal after it was holed by rocks in February. The vessel was in very poor condition and unable to be repaired.

tor and may result in a vessel breaking vulnerable moorings. During Cyclone Gabrielle, for example, six vessels in the Waikato came away from their moorings and were either grounded or sank.

"We may find ourselves having to pump the fuel tanks to remove contaminants from the vessels and stop them entering the water. Once that is managed, we move on to considering the navigation safety issues. Is the vessel going to be a hazard for other vessels? We do try to recover the costs from the owner for the work where we can.

"The simple fact is that people need to maintain their boats. This includes having the proper equipment, such as an automatic bilge pump, checking their vessels regularly and paying close attention to how their vessel is connected to its mooring. After a heavy weather event, go check on your boat and make sure everything is in order."

Maritime Services are available to give advice and put owners in touch with professionals who can help.

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Iconic former police station up for sale

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

After making her home in the former Thames Police Station and enjoying the property for the past nine years, Michele Farnham is now selling this historic two-storey landmark.

Designed by renowned New Zealand architect John Campbell and built in 1909, the property covers 953m2 with entrances on Queen Street and Kirkwood Street.

“Out the back gate and I’m in Grahamstown - the heart of this vibrant community,” Michele said.

After the final police investigation for the missing Swedish tourists was conducted here in 1989, the station was decommissioned then sold to private owners to convert to a residence in 1991, Michele said.

It has since been a Wellness Centre, a successful B&B and even had a small cinema upstairs at one point.

The building reveals echoes of its past in every room. As you enter through the double doors, Inspector Kiely’s office was on the left. It had a split door as a counter, which still exists today. This was where you would pay your fines or licence fees. A box in the wall between the rooms was used for the inspector to pass money and documents through to the clerks’ room on the other side.

Over the hall was the Sergeant’s room. Next was the watchhouse where prisoners were received, searched and processed. At the end of the hall stood the detec-



The former police station, in the heart of Thames, is up for sale.

Photos: SUPPLIED

tive’s room which was also used for fingerprinting.

At the far end of the building is the dining room with a working fireplace, kitchen and pantry.

Michele has heard many stories of raucous parties held here allegedly fuelled by confiscated alcohol. A winding staircase leads to the second storey, which was originally built with five small bedrooms and a bathroom.

Adjoining the main building is the cell block, formerly the jail and now a unique living space with a double and single room, full bathroom and kitchenette.

Fast forward to today and the four downstairs offices in the main building are used as bedrooms/study and a library, which has bespoke bookshelves made from carefully salvaged Kauri from the old Thames nurses’ home when it

was pulled down. Also downstairs the dining room stands in its original location, the kitchen has expanded and the detective’s room is now a family bathroom.

Upstairs has been sympathetically modified to create a large living room, a master bedroom and another full bathroom.

Michele and her daughter have enjoyed the police station as a real “family and friends” home having



TOP: The backyard is ready to go for outdoor gatherings.

hosted many convivial gatherings from high teas to ‘Fashion in the Field’ for the Melbourne Cup.

The property lends itself to entertaining. Michele always imagined setting up a beer garden called The Constables Arms.

The in-ground pool is very popular in summer. Michele has planted gardens, a mini-orchard and created outdoor seating areas around the property.

Of course a property like this must come with its own ghost, and of course it does - a mischievous one at that.

Despite completely replacing the doorbell three times, it rings at odd hours. Michele once put the replaced doorbell away in the storeroom but it still rang once “out of the blue.”

The Old Police Station is being sold privately for \$1,590,000. For an appointment to view, phone Michele Farnham 0272 334408 or Damon Shelly 0274 333 151.



SPORTS

Athletic aptitude

Paeroa Domain fielded the Thames Valley secondary schools athletics day on March 12. Students from across the peninsula and the plains gave their best effort at the track and field events. As runners circled the oval, others hurled their javelin, shotput and discus or leaped for the high jump, long jump and triple jump. ALICE PARMINTER was there to catch the action.



The boys were all concentration as they run the 800m.



Rocky from Thames High School takes a leap at the high jump.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER



HPC's Zeeva Hayes and Riley Clay, of Waihi College, sprint it out in the 100m.



Kaleb Gurnick in the triple jump.



Riley Koppens from Hauraki Plains College takes on the shotput.



Rylee Morgan lets the discus fly.



Walter and Isayah in the boys 200m.

Thames Valley Club Rugby

SENIOR A Saturday March 23rd Round 1

Whangamata V Waihou

Thames V Mercury Bay

Te Aroha COBRAS V Hauraki North

Paeroa V Waihi Athletic



All Senior A games start at 2.00pm (unless stated)
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Scavenger fun

The Great Waihi Beach Scavenger Hunt achieved resounding success during Auckland Anniversary Weekend, organisers said, surpassing previous records with a surge in registrations over previous years.

Each team was presented with 12 clues that guided them through the picturesque landscapes of Waihi Beach.

Among the hidden gems were the Trig Trail, the Instagram-worthy driftwood heart sculpture in Bowentown, and the charming Athenree Homestead, to name

but a few. Three teams, drawn at random from those who successfully conquered all twelve clues and challenges, then had the opportunity to unearth cold, hard cash.

Buried within the sand were prizes of \$750, \$500, and \$250. The Ghost of Africa team claimed the top prize. Waihi Beach Events & Promotions events co-ordinator Matt Nicholson said it was "a fantastic turnout and a day full of creativity. The event captured the spirit of adventure and showcased the best of Waihi Beach".



A "mythical friend" sand creation.



The best "Bowentown heart photo" entry from the scavenger hunt.

Photos: SUPPLIED



Team Ghost of Africa wins \$750 in cash in the Big Dig.



Participants find the sign.



A dotterel impersonation.



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Plentiful supply of Paeroa whitebait for city



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.

1940

Whitebait, a popular fish delicacy, was to return to the Auckland market with supplies coming from Paeroa. An early run of whitebait in the rivers was greater than at the same time the previous year and, unless flooding and muddy water hindered operations, the season was expected to open with a plentiful supply for shops in the city.

But complaints were made about the fish becoming scarce, a white baiter of 50 years saying that there were too many regulations crippling New Zealand.

The country was being drained all the time and several creeks, lagoons, and rivers were flood gated, keeping the freshwater fish from getting to their natural breeding grounds.

Meanwhile, the dilapidated state of the Puriri wharf and the pipeline laid across the river adjacent to it was creating a menace to navigation. The Northern Steamship Company announced it was discontinuing stops at Puriri and in future all cargo for clients there would be landed at Hikutaia. The



Whitebait season opens - supplies from Paeroa district.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Thames County Council asked for a report, wanting to know how the pipeline was a ship's length or so away from the Puriri wharf making it dangerous for the master of the vessel to work his ship anywhere near the bank. The ship had to be berthed at different times during the night and in inclement weather, and to do this had to go near the bank to get alongside the wharf. The council chairman said they had obtained permission from the Minister of Marine to lay the pipes across the river and could not be expected to move them now.

Waitakaruru also had woes including the urgent necessity for electric lights at its main wharf, where cheese was loaded. A considerable amount of shipping work was done at night to suit tides and

avoid storage. The Hauraki Plains Council decided to install lights, the chairman commenting that they were an absolute necessity.

Parking conditions at the Waitakaruru hall were problematic as well. There were no funds available to improve them according to the Paeroa Public Works Department.

The Main Highways board was also not responsible in any way to construct parking areas for private property owners. There appeared to be ample parking space inside the hall property and also along the Miranda Rd, therefore all traffic could be kept off the State Highway without difficulty.

Hauraki Plains County chairman Mr Parfitt agreed, saying "That is what I think". Councillor Pinchess did not, retorting "You

can't get the people to walk".

A visitor from Hamilton, in conversation with a pressman, described the Thames Coast as having "the best and safest beaches in the province". Asked if he thought improvements could be made, he replied "I should say so". The lack of an organised motor camp was one of the first matters which should receive consideration.

When told there was such a camping ground at Tararu, he replied that more like it were required further along the Coast.

If the local bodies concerned could not provide such facilities, it was a wonder some private property owners did not show some enterprise. "Thames needs some of the Mount Maunganui 'go-getters' in their midst. They would boost things along."

In Brief

TE PURU SCHOOL QUIZ


Te Puru School is holding its annual quiz on March 22 at 7pm to raise funds for projects at the primary school. The quiz promises to be an entertaining night out, with teacher Isaac Garmey returning as Quiz Master and exciting games on offer in the intermission. Game prizes this year include two nights' accommodation in a mystery Coromandel location, and also a locally grown, organic fruit and veggie hamper. Teams of up to eight are allowed, entry is \$20 cash on the door per person. Nibbles are provided and home baking, tea and coffee will be for sale. Register: email tepurupta@gmail.com or Ph 07 868 2747.

ART THERAPY COURSE

The Thames Community Centre will be offering another Art Therapy course next month. The course commences on April 2 and runs for six weeks through until May 7. Each day runs between 1.30pm-2.30pm at the Thames Community Centre, with Dianne Mclean as the tutor. Email trcc@xtra.co.nz or phone 027 8689 9797 to register, \$50 for six sessions.

CLUB RUGBY KICKS OFF

Club Rugby pre-season matches kicked off last weekend, with all eight premier men's teams in action prior to the HG Leach & Co Senior A Men's premier competition, which begins on March 23. The HG Leach & Co Senior B Men's competition starts on April 6, and the draft Women's Waikato Development Competition runs from April 13 to May 25 for seven weeks. The Senior A Men's draw, home team named first, all 2pm kick off: Whangamatā v Waihou, Thames v Mercury Bay, Te Aroha Cobras v Hauraki North and Paeroa v Waihi Athletic.



Hato Hone St John Thames

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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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For further information phone Shane Deverill on **021 955 860** or email: hauraki.community@stjohn.org.nz

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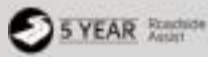
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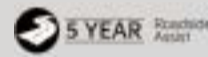
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Now approaching their third year in business, Owner Liam Gillbanks says the "personal freedom and being able to make my own schedule" has been a highlight so far.

"When we started Precision Windscreens, my priority was being able to spend as much time with my wife and newborn son as possible while providing for them financially," he said.

As their son is now nearing two years old, Liam and his wife, Luisa, look forward to growing the business further as a team this year.

"I'm excited about getting more hands on again, supporting Liam in providing a stress-free client experience



Owners of Precision Windscreens Luisa and Liam Gillbanks with their son. Photo: SUPPLIED

and looking for new ways to improve our services," Luisa said.

CONTACT: Get in touch

with Liam, Ph: 027 212 7750, or email: admin@precisionwindscreens.co.nz.

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Don't write them off...

OPINION



By MICHAEL WILKES

Recently my older brother invited me to join him on the Whakarewarewa forest loop. I figured it would be a great ride to invite my seven-year-old son to join in on. A week before the trip I message my brother to discover the ride was going to be 33km of mountain biking. I broke my boy's heart when I informed him a few days out that he would not be able to join us.

The day before the trip he approached me and asked to join in the adventure. "Pleeease Dad?" he asked as he pulled at my shirt. I explained it would be a long ride and that there would be no turning back. I told him he would probably end up in tears

and still have to keep going to get back to the car. Yet the risk of tears would not deter him.

So, I cautiously said yes. Boy, was he excited. He was going on a big ride with his uncle and dad. On our way to Rotorua he was so chatty. We unloaded the bikes and got ready. And then we set off. Out into the unknown.

And let me tell you, what unfolded next was not what I expected. For the majority of the ride this seven-year-old led the way. Setting a pace that was good for him. It just so happened that his uncle was starting to lag behind and his dad was feeling the pain.

The final stretch along the flat back to the vehicle saw my lad continue to charge, excited and exhilarated by my complaining and burning legs. As a dad, I could not have been prouder until he shared his experience on the drive home.

"Dad" he said. "Yeah buddy?" "I hate going uphill," he paused. "But I know I have to do hard stuff in life to be able to get the good things."

Now I was beaming from ear to ear. As I reflect on this day, I am reminded in the face of so much going on, let's not write the generation off that is following us. Give them a chance to shine and they just may surprise you.

- Michael is a Living Well Trust Youth Worker

SPORTS REPORTS

Email your sports results and photos to editor@valleyprofile.co.nz



LEFT: The Paeroa Bowling Club Champion Fours Team: Peter Rowling, left, Paul Cornish, Ken Paul (Skip) and Tony Watt. The team played for the Club Championship Fours recently and now proceed to the Thames Valley champion of champions tournament. RIGHT: Paeroa Bowling Club's recently concluded Twilight Bowls Competition champions, who played a fantastic final game and came out the winners after some suburb bowling. The team are called the "Hake Heroes" and from left to right they are: Trudy, Mark and Jesse (skip), being awarded their trophy and medals by club president Kevin Lockley. The Twilight Bowls competition was very well supported by the Paeroa community, and the standard of bowling is quite exceptional. The community really supports our club and we we truly appreciate their involvement. The club's season is drawing to an end at the end of April. - Martin Douglas

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New series explores goldmine of history at museum

By TALLIS AUSTEN, Paeroa College Gateway Student

Thames Museum has kicked off a new series of historical community evenings.

Museum society member Carolyn McKenzie said the aim of these monthly events was all about “familiarising people with our history, and giving them a place where they can come along and have some relaxation after work, hear an interesting talk and have some fun”.

The opening talk was given last month by museum society member Alan Judd, a direct descendant of Charles Judd, who founded the first iron foundry in Thames in the early days of the gold rush.

Alan spoke about how the

foundry and other company owners diversified after the gold rush ended and went into business ventures such as producing lighthouses and locomotives.

Carolyn said the museum was “very pleased” with the turnout for the talk, with 18 people attending.

“I think it was a very successful event and hopefully this coming month will be even more successful,” Carolyn said.

The next historic event will be held next March 27 at 5pm, when museum researcher Rosalie Steward will give a musical performance and presentation about the history of music and entertainment during the goldrush.

Carolyn said back when

Thames was a gold mining town, people would get their entertainment from various hotels and saloons around town.

Rosalie will be talking about the music that was popular with people in the old days, from brass bands to church choirs and theatre productions.

The events will be held on the last wednesday of every month and members of the public are welcome to check out the entertaining and informative presentations.

It’s \$10 to get in, but free to Museum society members.

There will be an opportunity to have some drinks and nibbles and to look around the museum before the fun begins.



Thames Museum’s opening talk by Alan Judd.

Photo: SUPPLIED

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You can also order from the fish shop delicious fresh fish and chips, which can be eaten in the cafe, or outside on the seating situated right on the Wharf as both businesses are one and the same.

Afterwards, top it off from the selection of cakes and treats or with a real fruit ice cream available inside the fish shop all year round.

Cocktails are also a popular favourite over summer and the wharf can cater for small group bookings.

During the summer months there is also live music.

The angry chef will be operating on selected weekends during the summer months (Jan-Mar) and offering some exciting menu items.

The Wharf has a relaxed atmosphere for all ages to enjoy and is open seven days a week with late nights from Thursday to Sunday each week.

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142

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

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

EASY

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HARD

142

HARD

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

MEDIUM

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

EASY

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

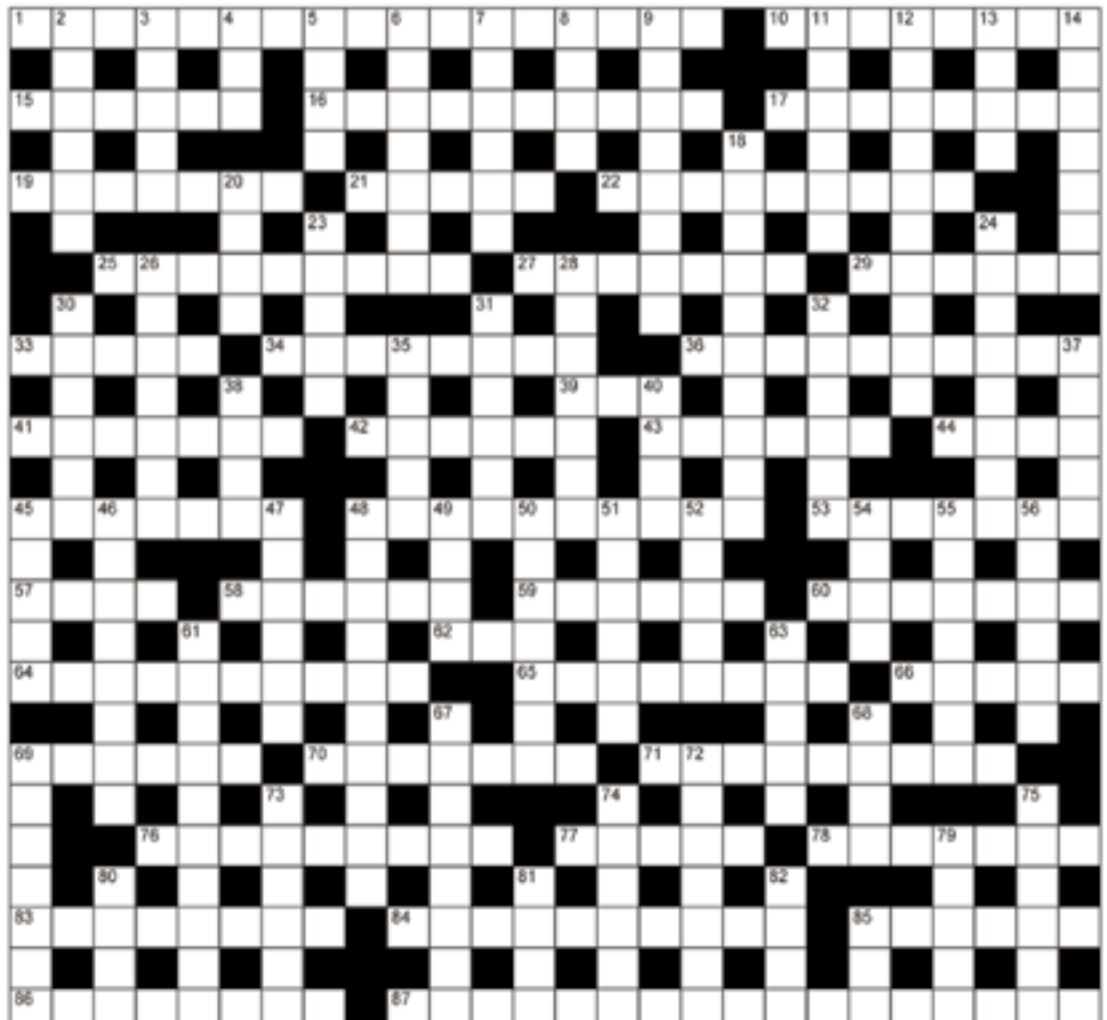
162

ACROSS

- 1 Completely eccentric (5,2,1,9)
- 10 Become less (8)
- 15 Holiday camp hut (6)
- 16 Section appended to a publication (10)
- 17 Hairdresser (8)
- 19 Bauble (7)
- 21 Opinions (5)
- 22 Weather instrument (9)
- 25 Dry run (9)
- 27 Temporary stay (7)
- 29 Shunting track (6)
- 33 Fear attack (5)
- 34 Bullet bounce (8)
- 36 Excited pleasurably (10)
- 39 Gearwheel (3)
- 41 Dessert sauce (7)
- 42 Small restaurant (6)
- 43 Tropical lizard (6)
- 44 Nil (4)
- 45 Liberty (7)
- 48 Her tin cone (anag) (10)
- 53 Clothes for newborn (7)
- 57 Food grain (4)
- 58 Picnic basket (6)
- 59 Modernise (6)
- 60 Freight shipment document (7)
- 62 Pull (3)
- 64 Large walk-in safe (10)
- 65 Spanish ranch house (8)

- 66 Pointer (5)
 - 69 Song (6)
 - 70 Low areas between hills (7)
 - 71 Ungraceful dive (9)
 - 76 Shoulder-belt for cartridges (9)
 - 77 Organ controls (5)
 - 78 Line of hereditary rulers (7)
 - 83 Strong-arm tactics (8)
 - 84 Kept up (10)
 - 85 Thick soup (6)
 - 86 Hasty and careless (8)
 - 87 Withdraw very quickly (4,1,5,7)
- DOWN**
- 2 Not injured (6)
 - 3 Claw (5)
 - 4 Astern (3)
 - 5 Church recess (4)
 - 6 Copy (7)
 - 7 Relatives by marriage (2-4)
 - 8 Hair tidier (4)
 - 9 Long-tailed jumper (8)
 - 11 Pressed (6)
 - 12 Incapable of changing to meet circumstances (10)
 - 13 Concept (4)
 - 14 Small food fish (7)
 - 18 Blood-stemming cord or compression bandage (10)
 - 20 Large jug (4)
 - 23 Body organ (5)

- 24 Balm (8)
- 26 Long formal letter (7)
- 28 Result (7)
- 30 Wild cat (6)
- 31 Slum area (6)
- 32 Cue (6)
- 35 Edible bulb (5)
- 37 Operated a vehicle (5)
- 38 Threesome (4)
- 40 Donate (4)
- 45 Rural holdings (5)
- 46 Surround (8)
- 47 Scanty (6)
- 48 Very unlikely (10)
- 49 Transport (4)
- 50 Snobbish (7)
- 51 Boil down (6)
- 52 Saltpetre (5)
- 54 Slightly open (4)
- 55 Trade ban (7)
- 56 Candle fat (6)
- 61 Asymmetrical (10)
- 63 X-rated (5)
- 67 Estrange; make unfriendly (8)
- 68 Of questionable quality or legality (4)
- 69 Cuts in half (7)
- 72 Swells (7)
- 73 Repulsive (6)
- 74 Connect (6)
- 75 Mark of disgrace (6)
- 79 Thespian (5)
- 80 Greek cheese (4)
- 81 Small biting fly (4)
- 82 Small whirlpool (4)
- 85 Pastry-topped dish (3)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Cycle, 4 Watch the birdie, 11 Camel, 14 Fatal, 15 Inaugurated, 16 Trimaran, 19 Glisten, 20 Bathe, 21 Atrocious, 24 Appraised, 26 Before, 27 Gifted, 31 Hatch, 32 Checkers, 34 Fraudulent, 37 Sad, 39 Gunfire, 40 Casino, 41 Umpire, 42 Less, 43 Glucose, 46 Eliminates, 51 Magnate, 55 Arch, 56 Scrawl, 57 Plaque, 58 Destiny, 60 Era, 62 Demolished, 63 Squatter, 64 Holly, 67 Sponge, 68 Oblige, 69 Dreamlike, 74 Manhattan, 75 Abode, 76 Caution, 81 Premiere, 82 Kleptomania, 83 Eager, 84 Lunge, 85 Bread and butter, 86 Jetty.

DOWN: 2 Yearly, 3 Leads, 5 Aunt, 6 Courage, 7 Taught, 8 Exam, 9 Identify, 10 Earwig, 11 Communiqué, 12 Mire, 13 Lanyard, 17 Weird, 18 Sour grapes, 22 Sight, 23 Etcetera, 25 Pacific, 26 Bassoon, 28 Manual, 29 Medium, 30 Quorum, 33 Crawl, 35 Taste, 36 Arms, 38 Duet, 43 Guard, 44 Uncommon, 45 Excess, 46 Exacerbate, 47 Idle, 48 Impasse, 49 Abacus, 50 Erupt, 52 Axel, 53 Network, 54 Tangle, 59 Plagiarise, 61 Relax, 65 Disabled, 66 Clear, 67 Scalpel, 70 Radiant, 71 Cherub, 72 Absorb, 73 Honest, 77 Tease, 78 Vein, 79 Open, 80 File.



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