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\$8.9m repair

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

If a picture paints a thousand words, then a tour through the Thames-Coromandel District Council building is a thesis.

While the 1980s premises are clearly dated, with little to no air conditioning in some places, a lack of space which requires both the Mayor and chief executive to double their offices as meeting rooms, and toilets which leave much to be desired, there are other issues which fall beyond aesthetic quirks.

The two buildings on Mackay St in Thames also fall short of health and safety and seismic standards.

So, after years of fixing their financial eye towards other building projects in the district, it's come time for the council's own headquarters to have some TLC.

In its Long Term Plan, now open for consultation, council is proposing to refurbish and upgrade its existing main building at an estimated cost of \$8.9m.

This is likely to be the most cost effective and efficient option, while still strengthening the building and bringing it up to standard. One good example of the safety issues, as shown by council's building inspection team lead Brian Carter, is the main exit from the upper level of the building - where resides the chambers. There's only one stairwell and,

in the event of a fire in the bottom level, it may not be usable.

To demonstrate, Brian points to a fire protection wall that has a gap he can fit his hand through, showcasing that if there was a fire on the lower level, smoke would migrate up the stairwell and cause issues for evacuation.

"These are the sorts of things we are facing," he tells *The Profile*.

Moving onwards past swollen window frames and origami hanging from holes in the ceiling, there is a secondary exit from the upper level.

Unfortunately, it is also where sits the main switchboard for the building - one of the highest threat areas for a fire, Brian says.

"The fire proofing in here also has gaps in it," he explains. "It's supposed to be contained so that any fire is starved of oxygen. If that happens here now, then this stairwell is no longer usable."

The council's chief executive Aileen Lawrie, who has been in the role since August, 2022, says there are a lot of "complex issues" throughout the premises, and even though the buildings are required to be upgraded within 15 years, there's a provision within the Building Act which states that if any maintenance is undertaken, the buildings must be brought up to full strength as a safety measure against earthquakes.

CONTINUED P2



After years of fixing their financial eye towards other building projects in the district, it's come time for the council's own headquarters to have some TLC - and it's not simply cosmetic.

File Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

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TCDC headquarters needs \$8.9m fix

CONTINUED FROM P1

It means that if council spends over a certain threshold to upgrade something within its buildings, the need for earthquake strengthening and fire proofing would automatically be triggered.

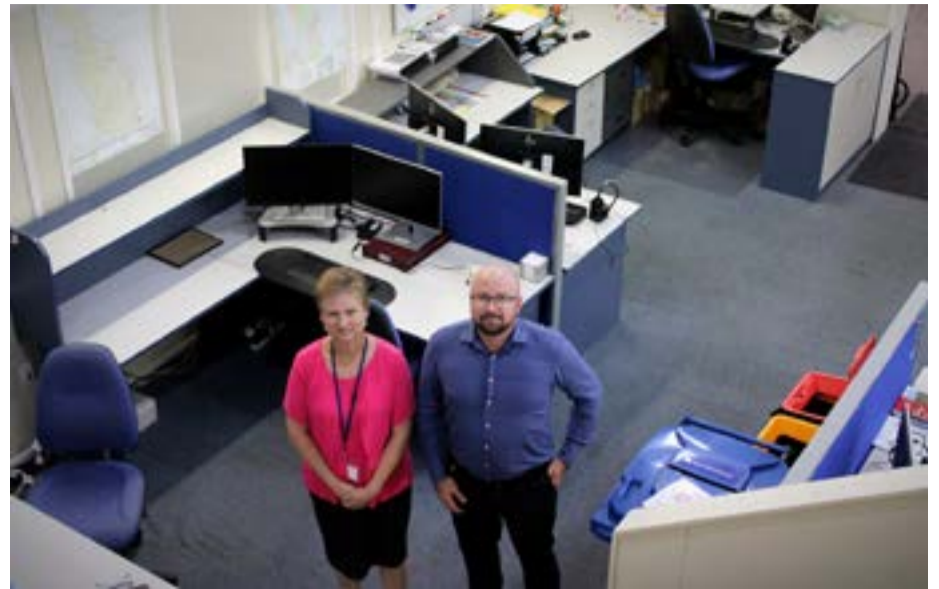
"If the building was perfect right now, we could probably sit here for 15 years," she says. "Unfortunately, the building isn't perfect right now. We've pretty much run out of time."

The Mackay St premises - which has been officially declared earthquake prone - also act as the response buildings for Civil Defence emergencies and, as council's Civil Defence controller, Brian says they were fortunate that the weather event that recently stormed the district was a cyclone and "not a large earthquake".

"We do have plans to use other buildings, so it wouldn't be the end of the world, but we would be severely hamstrung while we set up," he explains.

As the tour continues - with knowing looks from staff seemingly well aware of the shortcomings of their workspace - both Brian and Aileen stress the need to set an example to ratepayers.

As the regulators, council has a legal responsibility to provide safe public facilities, and visitors to the main council headquarters on a daily basis include contractors, invited guests, customers utilising the AA services, as well as elected members and the public attending council meetings.



Council's building inspection team lead Brian Carter and chief executive Aileen Lawrie stand in the secondary TCDC building on Mackay St. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

Right now, the buildings' official safety rating is less than 34 per cent. Seventy-six per cent is the minimum target for a seismic upgrade, while a building housing Civil Defence operations should have a rating in the 80s or 90s.

"It's not about to fall down around our ears," Aileen says of the buildings, however the time has come to bring the construction into the modern era.

"While I'm focused on the staff, it's also about business continuity. So,

when people really need us the most, we've got to be able to deliver."

DETAILS: With the consultation document now out for public feedback, hearings for those who wish to speak verbally on their submissions to council's LTP are pencilled in to take place on April 30, as well as May 1 and 2. Council will deliberate on May 21 and 22, with the 2024-2034 LTP adopted at a full meeting on June 27.



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Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
Apr 10	Apr 11	Apr 12	Apr 13	Apr 14	Apr 15	Apr 16
<p>Morning: 1:48am 0.2, 8:06am 3.7 Afternoon: 2:14pm 0.1, 8:33pm 3.8</p> <p>Best At: 12:58am 1:25pm</p> <p>Rise: 8:01am, Set: 6:39pm</p>	<p>Morning: 2:36am 0.2, 8:57am 3.7 Afternoon: 3:03pm 0.1, 9:21pm 3.8</p> <p>Best At: 1:52am 2:20pm</p> <p>Rise: 9:17am, Set: 7:16pm</p>	<p>Morning: 3:25am 0.3, 9:47am 3.6 Afternoon: 3:50pm 0.2, 10:09pm 3.7</p> <p>Best At: 2:49am 3:18pm</p> <p>Rise: 10:31am, Set: 7:59pm</p>	<p>Morning: 4:14am 0.5, 10:37am 3.5 Afternoon: 4:37pm 0.4, 10:57pm 3.5</p> <p>Best At: 3:47am 4:16pm</p> <p>Rise: 11:41am, Set: 8:49pm</p>	<p>Morning: 5:06am 0.6, 11:27am 3.3 Afternoon: 5:25pm 0.6, 11:48pm 3.3</p> <p>Best At: 4:45am 5:14pm</p> <p>Rise: 12:42pm, Set: 9:47pm</p>	<p>Morning: 6:00am 0.8, 6:15pm 0.8 Afternoon: 12:18pm 3.2, 6:58am 1.0</p> <p>Best At: 5:42am 6:10pm</p> <p>Rise: 1:34pm, Set: 10:49pm</p>	<p>Morning: 12:42am 3.2, 6:58am 1.0 Afternoon: 1:11pm 3.0, 7:10pm 0.9</p> <p>Best At: 6:36am 7:01pm</p> <p>Rise: 2:16pm, Set: 11:53pm</p>

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PLACE	Hr	Mn	HR	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

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

Waihi museum needs strengthening work

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

The Hauraki District Council-owned historic building, the Waihi Arts Centre and Museum, has been identified as earthquake prone and could cost \$750,000 to bring up to standard.

The council is asking for the public's views on undertaking "minimum seismic strengthening work" on the building as part of its Long Term Plan discussions.

According to its consultation document - now open for feedback until April 26 - the potential harm from earthquake damage to the Waihi Arts Centre and Museum was considered to have "serious consequences but very low probability of occurring".

Significant parts of the building are at 20 per cent of new building standards, while the minimum standard a current building must meet in terms of earthquake strength is more than 34 per cent.

"We have a risk management plan for the building and mitigation measures identified from this will be completed," council said.

"Legislation allows us up to 25 years to complete the necessary remedial work to bring the building up to the required standard.

"Being a heritage building,



The Waihi Arts Centre and Museum, has been identified as earthquake prone and could cost \$750,000 to bring up to standard.

File Photo: SUPPLIED/HDC

we could also request an extension of an additional 10 years."

Council's preferred option is to borrow \$750,000 to focus on strengthening the highest risk parts of the building.

It will be a district-wide funded project costing around \$7 per ratepayer, excluding any external funds sourced.

The costs associated with this option are mainly to address structural elements, and don't improve the aesthetics of the arts centre and museum.

Meanwhile, the council is hosting 'A Night at The Museum' this Friday, April 12, between 5pm-7pm.

The aim of the event is to




give residents a chance to experience the museum and hear about some options for its future. There will be a free sausage sizzle, spot prizes, and some "spooky surprises" thanks to the Waihi Drama Society.

Entry to the event and to the museum is free all weekend - Saturday and Sunday, from






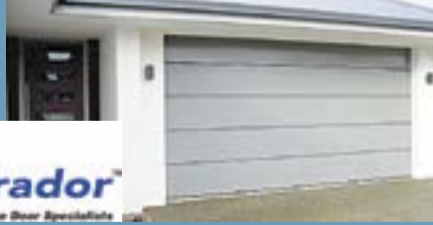
12pm until 3pm.

DETAILS: Consultation on council's 2024-34 Long Term Plan is open for feedback until Friday, April 26, with hearings scheduled for May 14-16. More info at: letstalk.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/2024-ltp



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Education

Hauraki students take the lead

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

A leadership programme at Hauraki Plains College has given 50 student council members a place to learn and expand their skill set as leaders in their community.

Representatives from the school's nine student councils gather together on Friday afternoons to attend the Lift55 Rangatahi Leadership Workshop Series facilitated by Daz Burns and Emily Ussher of The Good Day Matrix and Lift55.

The nine student councils are arts, sports, hapū (house), hospitality, service, Te Māngai Pāho o Tikarahi (Māori student council), systems, academic and environmental.

Students split into teams to think through, unpack and move toward addressing some of the issues they face in school guided by Daz and Emily who reinforce leadership skills.

"The purpose of this kaupapa was to invest in our rangatahi in our community, who have such massive potential to have a positive and meaningful impact on the wellbeing of a wide range of people," Daz said.

Emily said seeing passion and commitment from the students towards their projects was a highlight.

"Even if they won't see the benefits in their time at the college, they have dug deep and



Gr8 Job Hauraki and Hauraki Mayor Toby Adams present at the first leadership session. Photos: SUPPLIED

it's awesome," she said.

Student council members Isobelle van Mil and Joshua Stonyer told *The Profile* the programme was teaching them how to deal with things and work with people.

"It's really valuable," Isobelle said.

"[Daz] has also taught us some useful conflict de-escalation techniques."

Part of the systems council, Isobelle said she worked with her group to tackle issues related to water systems. Stu-

dents photographed drinking fountains around the school in need of fixing or replacing for a presentation they planned to take to the board of trustees, Isobelle said.

"Some of them [water fountains] just need a bit of TLC."

Isobelle said students would also like another water bottle filling station. The environmental council was another group Isobelle was part of, and she said her group received help from Jo Buchan from the Ministry for Environment, who

worked with schools to make them more eco friendly.

"We're making some steps towards that sort of thing. It's pretty neat," Isobelle said.

Joshua, who is part of the service council, said one significant thing he'd learned from the leadership programme was how to react under pressure and communicate clearly and concisely.

The goal for Joshua's group was to promote respect among students and teachers.

Joshua said there was a big



Students, left, Joshua Stonyer and Isobelle van Mil.

difference between how year 9s and 13s responded to situations.

"[Year 9s] don't have the respect as much compared to when we were [in] year 9."

The group were in the early stages of talking with all year level deans, and adding an anonymous form to each classroom where students could share their stories about times they felt disrespected.

The aim was to organise an assembly where the group could raise awareness and help people understand their actions had consequences, he said.

Both Joshua and Isobelle said "good communication" was an important leadership quality that helped others.

"Making change is really important for me, but it's also really important that you're able to communicate and cooperate with others - especially if you want to change something," Isobelle said.

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TE MĀNGAI PĀHO O TIKARAHĪ



A controlled burn as seen from northern Paeroa, on the evening of April 2.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

Controlled burn in Paeroa ‘spectacular’

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

A fire in the hills behind Paeroa alarmed residents on April 2, with many taking to social media to ask about the blaze.

The fire was a controlled burn-off for a local contractor, to clear slash.

Paeroa Volunteer Fire Brigade chief Paul Jackson said the service was aware of the blaze.

“It wasn’t threatening any property or anything, it looked

pretty spectacular though,” he said. “They lit it about ten o’clock in the morning, and we got our first call about five o’clock at night.”

By the time night fell, the fire was visible from many backyards on the north side of Paeroa. Social media commenters said they could see the smoke from as far away as Kerepēhi. The fire continued to smoulder for a week, with the brigade reporting more fires in the same location on Monday.

“Smoke is causing a nuisance so please keep windows closed and pull in any washing while we get on top of it all.”

A Fire and Emergency spokesperson said the controlled burn was being undertaken for land management purposes.

“The area is currently in an open fire season, so a fire permit is not required for this type of activity,” they said.



Pārawai students are proud as punch of their pancakes.

Pancakes for food bank

A number of students from Pārawai School involved in the Thames Baptist Church’s Res-kids programme recently fundraised for the food bank by cooking up a batch of pancakes for the community. The group successfully raised \$280 for the cause. Living Well Trust’s Michael Wilkes said the current economic climate has seen the food bank double the number of food parcels being given out but there had been a significant drop in support. He calls on people in a position to boost the foodbank supplies to get in touch via 07 868 6274 or by visiting between the hours of 9am-11.30am, Monday-Thursday.



A sausage sizzle was also on the cards.

Photos: SUPPLIED

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New playground plans set for Karangahake School

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

A new playground is in the works for Karangahake School after a generous donation.

The rural primary school, located in Karangahake Gorge between Paeroa and Waihi, wants to raise at least \$60,000 to replace its old equipment. The upgrade plans were set in motion by a donation of more than \$20,000 from its now-disbanded Parent-Teachers Association (PTA), with the stipulation that the money be spent on renewing the play equipment.

“We didn’t have anyone interested in the PTA,” school administrator Zoe Shepherd said of the disbanding.

“There’s still parents that are really heavily involved with fundraising, it’s just not an official trust any more. But the playground is a gift that the PTA wanted to leave as a legacy, because the whole purpose of [its] fundraising was to get the extra stuff for the kids.”

The school recently posted a video of their current playground, highlighting issues such as missing planks, peeling paint, unsuitable equipment and missing soft fall material.

Now, students are putting their efforts into raising additional funds, and Zoe said they would also be looking into grants.

“We’re probably aiming to fund half of the playground ourselves and get the rest through grants,” she said.

“But it starts with us fundraising, and then we can get planning and quoting, get grants, and start construction. So that won’t be un-



Karangahake School students have been fundraising for a new playground with a bake sale and colour run.

Photos: SUPPLIED

til the end of the year.”

So far the school has raised over \$8400 (gross) from its fundraising efforts.

The 62 students at the school are already excited for the new playground, and told the *Valley Profile* what they did and didn’t want to see in the new space.

“We need a new playground because it’s crusty and rusty,” one student said.

“It’s a safety hazard - It hurts

your hands when you go on the monkey bars.”

“I really want those spinny things where you sit in it,” another said; a third said they’d like a flying fox, easier monkey bars or a swing.

The school has held several fundraisers so far this year. Takings from their regular bake sale in Paeroa - usually used to cover the cost of extras such as school trips, sports fees, math and litera-

cy games, and gardening and craft supplies - will be going towards the playground, as will the \$500 raised at their Colour Run event on March 28.

The students have also set up a profile on an online fundraising platform, which allows them to see how much they have raised and get rewarded with prizes.

“Once they hit a certain dollar value each kid will get a prize, and they get to choose what they want,

so they’re more motivated to try and earn a bit more money,” Zoe said. “It’s been a really good fundraiser because the kids are going to get something out of it, and we know exactly what the money’s going to.”

The school hoped to begin construction on the playground by the end of the year.



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The deadline for nominations has been extended to Sunday, 14 April 2024.

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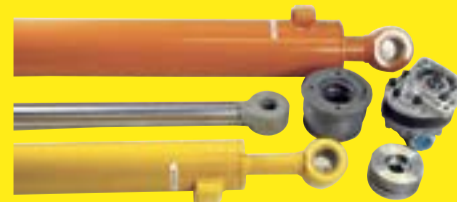
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Best under pressure

Fluffy new mascot for “Pawroa” St John

By TALLIS AUSTEN, Paeroa College Gateway Student

St John’s Paeroa station recently welcomed its newest, and most furriest team member.

Mocha, a Shih Tzu Maltese cross, recently moved to Paeroa with her owner Donna Thomas, who is a full time frontline ambulance officer.

At a recent get-together to welcome the pair, another ambulance team member posed for a picture holding Mocha, and it was posted to the station’s social media page.

“The post got lots of comments and from there it just sort of happened,”

Donna said, and fluffy little Mocha, who is still only a puppy, became the new mascot for Paeroa St John.

“Personality wise, she is spunky, she’s very loyal to me, very sweet,” she said.

Being only eight months old, Mocha’s a playful pup.

“She loves playing with her toys, a couple times a day she will just go crazy and race around, the more you laugh at her the faster and more excited

she gets,” Donna said.

“She’s known me all her little life. She was the last born out of five, and she was really tiny compared to her siblings.

“But she used to fight her brothers all the time and play full on.”

Despite her spunky and brave personality, Mocha won’t be out on “pawtrol” with the ambulance team.

Her doggy duties will include attending St John community events and in her St John ambulance jacket, which was specially made for her by Donna, she certainly looks the part.

“All going well, she’ll come to some events - she might become a little bit famous and people can come and see her.”

Meanwhile, St John Paeroa is running multiple programmes for youth in the community.

For young people who are interested, there is a “penguin programme” for children aged five to eight years, and from eight to 18 years, they have an opportunity to become cadets.

St John cadets learn first aid and emergency training as well as leadership and general im-

“All going well, she’ll come to some events - she might become a little bit famous and people can come and see her.”

- Donna Thomas



Donna Thomas with her pup, Mocha. BELOW: Mocha shows off her St John jacket.

Photos: TALLIS AUSTEN

portant life skills.

Additionally, St John is always keen for more volunteers. No experience is needed and full training is provided for anyone curious.

DETAILS: Application information is available online for both cadets and volunteers: www.stjohn.org.nz or Ph 0800 ST JOHN.



RIGHT: New mascot Mocha shows off her St John jacket at the Paeroa station.

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OPINION



By MICHAEL WILKES

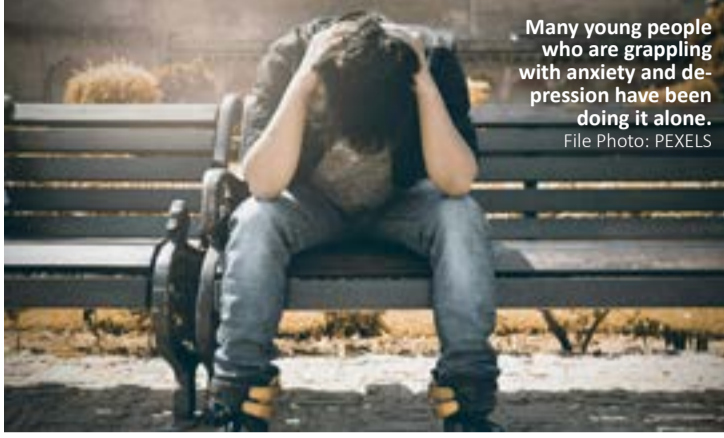
The other day I heard the timeless song by Simon and Garfunkel *I am a Rock*. My dad used to absolutely love listening to them and the likes of Pink Floyd.

I think we often forget that music has power and that the lyrics we are singing can run deeper within us than we care to realise. As I pondered the lyrics, the song brought a sadness within me.

“I am alone. Gazing from my window to the streets below. On a freshly fallen silent shroud of snow. I am a rock, I am an island.”

From time to time, or more often than I care to admit, I meet young people who are grappling with anxiety and depression, and they have been doing it alone.

They feel a sense of shame



Many young people who are grappling with anxiety and depression have been doing it alone. File Photo: PEXELS

that they cannot deal with this stuff themselves. They are the ones who have worked hard to mask it, to pretend everything is okay.

The ones who catch us off guard and suddenly have gone from seemingly successful to falling apart overnight.

In part they are people who have believed the fairy tale of the self-made person. The rags to riches story. The lie that we can be an island.

Not one of us is self-made. We all stand here today because someone cared for us when we were young. They may have caused us some trauma, but we are still here because of them.

And today I remember a lady named Lynne Chaffey. In part the youth work I do started because I shared a dream and she said “let’s do it”.

She was a main catalyst that

moved me into the hard grind of turning dreams to reality. We all need each other.

In our work with young people, we understand that research shows we are hardwired for connection. And so we try to include parents and teachers in the journey as best we can with our resources.

Today as I ponder the struggle of many I meet along the way, as I ponder the people who have helped me get to where I am; my hope is that we can all lay down a bit of pride and consider who are the people in my life that I can reach out to for support. Because regardless of whether we are experiencing success or sorrow right now, the reality is that we are better together, stronger together, and all the more richer for it.

- Michael Wilkes is a Living Well Trust Youth Worker



The cake was cut by the club’s first president Noel Coventry and special guests Sydney and Judith Shepherd.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Paeroa Probus celebrates five years

Paeroa Probus had a “successful and fun” fifth birthday and AGM on March 27, with the cake made by Noellean McHugh and cut by the club’s first president Noel Coventry and special guests Sydney and Judith Shepherd from Omokoroa.

Probus clubs provide members with the opportunity to connect socially, and membership is open

to anyone who is retired or semi-retired.

The Paeroa arm continued operating throughout Covid-19, missing only two meetings due to the national lockdowns.

Its new club president is Jo Schneebeil, vice president is Robin Kennedy, and outgoing co-presidents are Elizabeth Beare and Lorraine Wilson.



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STEM warriors

Primary school students from around the Thames region gathered at Pārāwai School in Thames on April 4 and 5, for the inter-school EPro-8 STEM - science, technology, engineering and maths competition. Teams of four were provided with a workstation containing a variety of equipment, including gears, wheels, pulleys, joiners, nuts and bolts, tools, aluminium framing, motors, and electronics. The teams were given two and a half hours to complete a variety of challenges such as building a scooter. As they completed each portion of a challenge, the judge provided feedback and guidance and awarded points. Reporter **ALICE PARMINTER** headed to the Year 5-6 session to see how the competitors measured up.



The MoanaSmarts from Moanataiari School tackle the challenge head on.



Students from Pārāwai School consider the judge's suggestions.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER



The Electronics team from St Joseph's Catholic School, Waihi.



Ngatea Primary School's Tech Ninjas consider their next step.



The Waitakaruru School team ponder an axle issue.





The Hikui Honeys double-check.

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Rural Life

School brings the bush back to Bush Rd

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

Kopuarahi School is on a mission to bring the bush back to Bush Rd, and it needs some help. The rural primary school, located on the corner of Bush Rd and State Highway 25 in Pipiroa, has around 900 native seedlings ready to plant along its 1.26 hectare boundaries.

The community is being invited to bring along their augers and spades to assist with the planting on May 7-9.

School principal Chris Patel said the planting was part of its five-year project to learn and connect with the surrounding environment, helping the school's 18 students grow into "environmental champions".

"My dream is to see Bush Rd become a better corridor for the movement of native birds," she said.

"The only native birds I've ever seen in four and a half years on this site are kingfishers, white faced herons and seabirds. I've never seen tūi, fantails, kererū - the usual suspects that I have in my own home garden in Thames."

The seedlings, a mix of mānuka, kānuka, carex, tī kōuka (cabbage trees) and māhoe, were donated to the school by Trees For Survival, a charitable trust teaching students how to become involved in the regeneration of their environment.

A further 100 seedlings have



The children of Kopuarahi School have been spreading mulch, marking out a nature and bike trail, and preparing to plant over 900 seedlings. It's all part of their project to restore the bush and make the school a haven for native wildlife.

Photos: SUPPLIED



also been offered by Restore Natives.

The school already has one boundary planted with around 250 trees after receiving a grant from Countdown's Growing for Good programme in 2021.

There is still much to be done, however.

"We started clearing the boundary of the school, which was pretty overgrown with blackberry and tobacco plants, nightshades and gorse, thistles, convolvulus: you name it, it was there," Chris said.

"The idea is to have our school field surrounded by native trees... and also to have a nature trail that other people can use, and a bike track."

The project has also been helped along by construction company Higgins, which donated a pile of mulch to the school.

"This is native tree mulch that has come from SH25A where it slipped," Chris said.

"We've had about 40 truckloads delivered around the perimeter of our field and we had a Bobcat in

on Tuesday to spread that, and that will be where these 800, 900 seedlings will be planted, within that mulched area. That's going to save a little school a lot of time and weeding - it's our taonga, our treasure."

Along with the native plantings, the school will be establishing a small wetland, wildlife habitats such as weta hotels and worm farms, fruit and vegetable gardens, and nature trails. The project's final touch will be an all-weather, multipurpose track with

a pump track, suitable for bikes and other school activities.

"If we can create the environment that suits New Zealand native animals and insects that are in the ecosystem, then I think I've done part of my job here - which is ensuring that our kids go out of here with a sense of understanding of who they are and what they are about. This is their place."

DETAILS: Tree planting event, May 7-9 at Kopuarahi School. To volunteer, contact office@kopuarahi.school.nz or 07 867 5048.

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Rural Life

Wairoa shelter receives refurb

Volunteers from the Katikati Tramping Club and Kaimai Ridgeway Trust spent several days over the past month renovating the Wairoa Shelter, east of the Lindemann Loop Track in the Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park.

Kaimai Ridgeway trustee Ian Newman said the old shelter had a “rusty iron roof, tumbledown ponga walls, an earth floor and poor drainage”; however, the support structure and rafters were sound.

“The shelter now has coloursteel walls and roof, a gravel floor, polycarbonate windows and a seat constructed from leftover timber.

“Drainage has been improved, the helicopter landing point levelled, and nearly 60 metres of boardwalk placed on muddy parts of the track approaching and leaving the shelter,” he said.

The volunteers who assisted from the Katikati Tramping Club were Laraine Hughes, David Vickers, Peter Williams, Brett Wisheart, and Brian Hawthorn. Ian, who is also a member of the club, managed the project.

“The building materials and volunteers were flown in by helicopter and the volunteers either walked out the same day



The Wairoa shelter now has coloursteel walls and roof, a gravel floor, polycarbonate windows and a seat constructed from leftover timber.

Photo: SUPPLIED/IAN NEWMAN

or stayed overnight,” he said.

The trust’s volunteers assist the Department of Conservation to maintain the Kaimai backcountry tracks - 180km worth - and its huts - there’s seven of them,

The volunteers belong to a

network including NZ Deerstalkers branches, tramping clubs and individuals and they also deliver small projects such as the Wairoa Shelter renovation.

Funding is provided from hut fees from Te Rereatukā-

hia Hut and Te Whare Okioki, the Backcountry Trust, other organisations and from public donations.

DETAILS: To assist KRT with projects, track or hut maintenance or a donation, please email kaimairidgeway@gmail.com.

Confidence recovers

Concerns about high interest rates, poor commodity prices and excessive red tape are weighing heavily on farmers, but rural confidence has risen from last year’s record lows, a survey shows.

Federated Farmers’ latest Farm Confidence Survey shows there’s been a positive shift in the rural mood since 2023, when confidence reached its lowest point in the survey’s 15-year history.

“It’s good to see the first improvement in farmer confidence for quite some time now,” Federated Farmers national president Wayne Langford said.

“I want to be clear that it’s only a slight improvement and it’s coming off a very low base. I wouldn’t say farmers are feeling more confident yet - they’re just feeling less unconfident. Confidence is no longer going backwards, but it’s still in the gutter.”

Langford said farmers were struggling with high inflation, high interest rates and lower commodity prices, and the impact of those on their profitability.

“Most farmers are still feeling that general economic conditions are bad, and most are still making a loss. Where we are seeing a shift is in the number of farmers who expect things will improve in the next 12 months.”

Compared to last July, the January 2024 survey shows more farmers expect their production and spending to increase, and fewer farmers expect their debt to increase, in the 12 months ahead.

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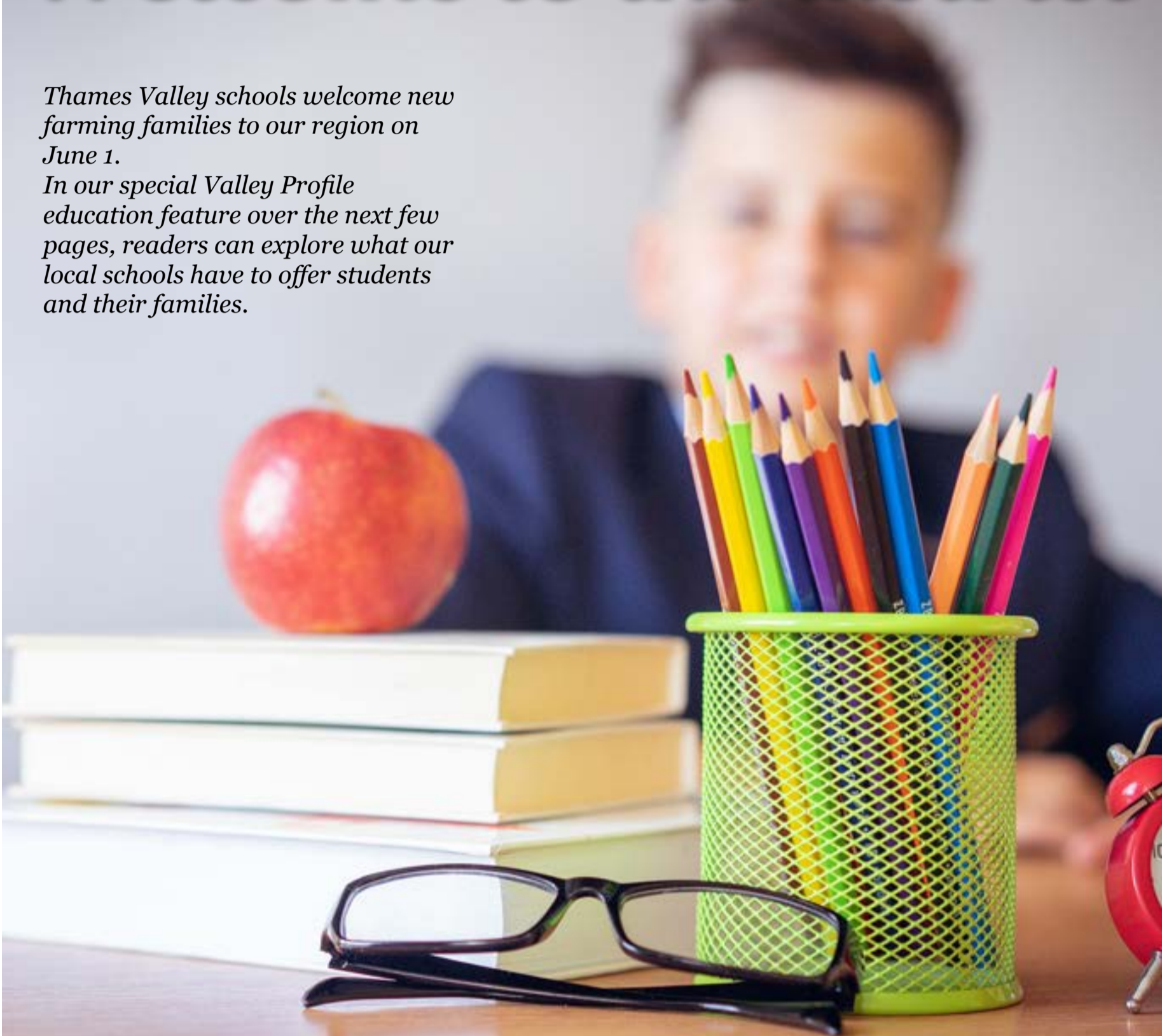
Student Life

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Welcome to the district

Thames Valley schools welcome new farming families to our region on June 1.

In our special Valley Profile education feature over the next few pages, readers can explore what our local schools have to offer students and their families.



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Phone for a visit. More details are on our School website

Waitakaruru School
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Waitakaruru RD 6 Thames 3576

E: admin@waitakaruru.school.nz
W: www.waitakaruru.school.nz

P: 07 867 3155



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Ngā mihi nui, ngā mihi mahana ki a koutou,
Warm greetings to you all!

My name is Hine Viskovich.
It is a great privilege to be the
Principal of Matatoki School.

I lead teaching and learning, and am supported by a dedicated and competent teaching team.

- Matatoki is a small rural school with a huge heart.
- We nurture our students in an environment of support and high expectations.
- Our students enjoy a school culture that is inclusive, has a rich curriculum and is safe - physically and emotionally.
- At Matatoki we enjoy a very supportive community.
 - We work hard to provide the very best opportunities and learning experiences for our students.
 - School and whanau partnerships means we can work collaboratively to achieve the very best for every student, and strive for excellence, academically and socially.

9265 State Highway 26, Phone: 07 868 1079
www.matatoki.school.nz - office@matatoki.school.nz



Active As at Thames High

In 2023 Thames High School was chosen as one of 40 schools nationwide to lead the Active As project, a new project between regional agencies and Sport New Zealand supporting secondary schools to provide quality active recreation and sport opportunities aiming to promote physical activity among students.

The project supports schools to design and implement their own physical activity initiatives.

This year has seen an "Active As Hour" started every Wednesday for year 9 students at Thames High School.

The hour is divided into four strands — culture, environment, performing arts, and physical activities — rotating each term to offer diverse experiences.

Under the culture strand, students explore Māori, Pacifica, and Indian traditions like dance, poi, and rakau.

The environment strand involves river studies, tree planting, and gardening.

Performing arts introduces street theatre skills such as balloon animals and stilt walking, while physical activities focus on outdoor games and challenges.

Tess Watts leads the project as Active As coordinator, ensuring its successful launch.

One year 9 student was overheard saying "it's the best class of the week", and another said "I feel like



Students work with rakau as part of the cultural strand in the Active As project. Photo: SUPPLIED

I'm being physical when I'm at Active As hour".

Thames High School has appointed a lunchtime activities facilitator, with Xavier Brown set to take on the role from term two.

Xavier will organize various activities during breaks, a step we think will continue to promote greater peer interaction among students, a trend staff have already noticed growing during term one following the introduction of the "no phones" policy.

- Supplied by Thames High School



Simply the BEST at Miller Ave

At Miller Ave School in Paeroa, we are constantly striving to live up to our mission, Simply the BEST.

Our school values sit behind The BEST way to be: Brave, Engaged, Sensible and Thinking.

Our tamariki earn tokens for showing the BEST way and redeem rewards as acknowledgement as part of the PB4L journey we have been on for the past 18 months.

We are proud to be an Enviroschool and recently achieved bronze status and our school environment reflects the efforts of our enviro team and teaching programmes.

This year we welcome back our music specialist Roshan and other arts initiatives such as an art auction and a showcase of enviro schools learning based on living landscapes.

Well-being is an impor-

tant part of our teaching and learning.

We are piloting The ZONE which is available for two hours each day to support tamariki to build resilience by learning how to regulate their emotions for improved learning outcomes. This is part of our journey to implement trauma informed practice at MAS.

We also have introduced a graduate programme to build skills and capabilities of our senior students with a credit based system which provides students with a pathway to success. This will help prepare our seniors for high school and their future.

Our vision is 'creating brighter futures together' and we provide opportunities for tuakana teina which enables our older students to build positive relationships with younger students by working

alongside them.

Programmes and initiatives provided at MAS include: Swim safe, Life Education Trust, GRIP leadership, Super smash cricket and other cluster events as well as professional development for teachers in digital technologies.

We have an inclusive environment that incorporates our close association with Goldfields special school.

Our tamariki are very fortunate to have healthy, yummy lunches and breakfast provided.

Finally, we would like to thank our local community for being so supportive of us and as a token of goodwill we will no longer be locking our gates; however, ask that anyone who utilises our beautiful grounds be respectful and close the gates behind them.

- Supplied by Miller Ave School



Kia kōtahi ai te piki ake, kia ikeike rawa ki te taumata
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- ☀️ Localised curriculum
- ☀️ Bronze Enviroschool
- ☀️ Opportunities for kapa haka, music, EOTC, technology and sporting experiences

For further information please contact the school office
P: 07 863 8693 E: ssamson@east.school.nz

waihiest.school.nz



Protecting children's wellbeing

The Paeroa Community Support Trust (PCST) was founded in 1996, and has been delivering social services for almost 30 years in the Hauraki District.

We operate from two sites: the PCST Carehouse, and Hauraki resource centre, both located on Willoughby St, Paeroa.

We continue to support our community by building on capabilities that empower whānau - tamariki, young people, and seniors, all who come from diverse backgrounds, different life experiences and abilities. We offer a variety of children's programmes including Oscar after school care, holiday programs, Kids Can Cook, and rangatahi leaders in training.

The PCST Paeroa financial mentoring program is easily accessible and a free service; as is the Whānau support and strengthening families (assisting families to gain access to a range of free wrap-around support services).

In addition, these services help families improve their children's school attendance.

We also host an alternative education programme, a supervised contact service

via referral, and provide a resources and information centre.

Weekly social activities are popular with senior chinwags, action disco for individuals with additional needs, and music and movement for preschoolers.

We partner with Paeroa Neighbours Foodbank, Paeroa Volunteer Drivers, Paeroa Toy Library, and Paeroa Community Bus, and provide a grocery delivery service for the housebound.

PCST host the annual Te Rā O Ngā Tamariki - Children's Day each March.

A successful event with no charge to our community thanks to the generosity of Iwi, local businesses, churches, non-for-profit organisations, and government agencies.

It is an opportunity to acknowledge the importance of safeguarding our children and putting their needs first, and to celebrate children and mokopuna who are our legacy, who will lead and shape the future.

This is our ongoing commitment to protect the wellbeing and rights of children.

-Supplied by The Paeroa Community Support Trust



Welcome to Waihi College

Sitting on eleven hectares of land, Waihi College comprises students from Year 7-13 and includes Sports fields, a swimming pool and gymnasium, a Farm Unit, Hollis Bush, a Horticulture and Agriculture block, multiple technology, art and academic classrooms and the Year 7-8 Waka.

Starting Together

The Waka are a very special area of the school and are made up of eight pod classrooms between two buildings.

The pod classes have been named Te Arawa and Tainui and can be closed to create eight individual classrooms, or opened up to create two large spaces.

Learning Together

All Year 7-8 classes work together, using a shared direction to plan and construct learning programmes that connect each of the curriculum areas. Students are taught according to different factors, such as curriculum level, interests, and learning style.

Each Homeroom class has a mixture of

Year 7-8 students and the benefits of composite classes include peer relationships, the ability to work across classes according to learning needs and interests, and more flexibility to make changes.

The Year 7-8 students operate in their waka classroom most of the time, with the core subjects of mathematics, english, social studies, te reo and health all being taught in the waka pods.

For subjects such as science and physical education, students leave the homeroom and go to specialized classrooms and teachers.

Over a two year period, students experience a range of subjects which include music, drama, digital, art, engineering, wood, textile and food Technologies and incorporate events and opportunities such as EPRO8, Chess Club, Hall Tech, Community and Service Groups, Kapa Haka, School Plays and Productions, and School Bands.

-Supplied by Waihi College

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WAIHĪ
COLLEGE

At Waihi College students are given many opportunities to participate in a wide array of educational programmes, activities, events and experiences.



Management, staff and students are devoted to the educational needs of our unique rural community and are committed to maintaining a caring, supportive and friendly atmosphere.

We are the Waihi College whānau because when you are a part of Waihi College, you are part of our family.

Here at Waihi College, we endeavour to create a place to stand and a place to come back to for all time, your turangawaewae.

Come on in and let us help your young person on their journey, to become the best version of themselves.

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Want the benefits of a great little school for your child?

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Our small school has a big heart, and we are committed to ‘pointing kids in the right direction’.

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We believe in growing the whole child and instilling strong rural values, traditions, and connections.

Our rich, localised curriculum emphasises reading, writing, and mathematics within meaningful contexts.

We give students a solid foundation for success by nurturing their social, emotional, and physical well-being while also providing opportunities for creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving.

Our passionate team of adults works with energy and enthusiasm to create a happy and safe learning environment for all learners.

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Contact Chris Patel, our principal, today to schedule a visit and see first-hand what we can offer you and your child.

Call, text, or email me now at 021 0241 9709 or email: principal@kop-



Students are provided with a solid foundation for success at Kopuarahi School. Photo: SUPPLIED

uarahi.school.nz. Join our community and experience the Kopuarahi difference.

- Supplied by Kopuarahi School



Culture and environment priorities at Central Kids

Central Kids Paeroa Kindergarten has been providing early childhood education in our community for over 50 years, and is proud to have built strong relationships with many generations of whānau.

The fully qualified teaching team is passionate about supporting tamariki to learn through play – by doing, asking questions, interacting with others, problem solving, and the purposeful use of quality resources within a safe, fun and stimulating environment. Older tamariki enjoy regular visits to the ngahere (bush), which allows them to explore the wonders of nature, make new discoveries, develop their physical skills, exercise their imagination and connect with Papatūānuku (Mother Earth).

Kindergarten kaiwhakaako (head teacher) Rachel McElroy says ngahere visits are a special part of the curriculum at Paeroa Kindergarten. “Being outside in nature, with space and opportunity to explore, makes our tamariki so happy. It gives them so many opportunities to learn about the world around us, and builds the foundation for them to become future kai-tiaki of our environment.”

The kindergarten’s inclusive learning environment welcomes whānau to be part of their

child’s learning journey, with plenty of opportunities to get involved.

Interacting with whānau, friends, community groups and services gives tamariki a strong sense of identity within our local community, and prepares them well for the transition to kura (school).

Te ao Māori is woven throughout the curriculum of all Central Kids kindergartens, with te reo Māori me ona tikanga (Māori language and protocols) embraced and thriving.

Rachel says the kindergarten values the language, culture and identity of all tamariki, and actively promotes the use of te reo Māori. “One of our goals is for our tamariki to be confident in te reo Māori to ensure the language thrives. We learn local waiata and use te reo Māori in everything we do.”

Paeroa Kindergarten is a special place that supports tamariki to grow to their full potential. Central Kids believes quality education should be something that all tamariki can experience, and provides flexible financial and accessibility options to ensure no tamariki miss out. The door is always open, you are welcome to pop in for a visit any time.

- Supplied by Central Kids Paeroa



A unique school in a rural environment close to town with:

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KOPUARAHI SCHOOL

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Paeroa Kindergarten



When your tamariki step through our gate, they become part of our whānau, and we become part of yours.

At Paeroa Kindergarten we believe in learning through play in a safe, fun and stimulating environment. Visits to the ngahere (bush) provide opportunities for tamariki to explore the wonders of nature and are a core part of our curriculum. Māori language, culture and identity are valued and thriving here.

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SPORTS

Horsing around

Riders, horses and supporters galloped into Thames Pony Club on March 13 for the Thames Valley Secondary Schools Show Jumping Competition. Ten teams entered the competition from Hauraki Plains College, Paeroa College, Thames High School, Waihi College, Katikati College, Rototuna High School, Te Kura and Mercury Bay High School. The Hauraki Plains Gold team was named champion on the day taking out first place, followed by Thames High School. Pony Club president Katherine Forsyth said it was a fantastic day and all riders represented their schools with pride and good sportsmanship. "We had a record number of entries and we enjoyed welcoming those schools who travelled some distance to join us," she said. "Thank you to our hard working committee, our judges and stewards, and everyone else who chipped in to help - there's so much to do on days like these - so a big thank you, the day ran very smoothly."



Competition winners Hauraki Plains Gold: Chloe Aitchison, left, Hannah van der Struys, Tamzin Forsyth-Lees and Maggie Murdock.
Photos: GEORGINA LLOYD & KATHERINE FORSYTH



Brooke Pearson of Hauraki Plains College flies over an obstacle.



Paeroa's Mara Gumbley tackles a jump at speed.



Samantha Cooksley and her horse take a leap.



Hauraki's Tamzin Forsyth-Lees guides her mount through the course.



Joanna Cole of Hauraki Plains gives her horse a pat after her round.



Paeroa College's Isabella Dryland takes the reins.



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Tapu postmaster leads mass exodus from coast



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.

1874

'The masterly scrapings upon catgut' by the Tapu postmaster, which made local folk dance and jump like whirling dervishes, were no more.

The postmaster had gone to Auckland with his fiddle, his wife, and his little ones. The baker had left for Shortland, with his horses, and cats, and dogs. The secretary of the Progress Committee, the midwife, sawyers, bush men and bullock drivers had all cleared out as well. As a sign of the times a hungry miner who asked "Is our butcher killing anything today?" received the reply of "A few fleas, perhaps".

Meanwhile, All Fools' Day was ushered in at Thames with great hilarity, especially at Scrip Corner where the fun was kept up until noon. The centre of attraction was the Bank of New Zealand where a miniature fishpond with a fountain was playing. A creature that had been brought from Pūkoro Miranda in the shape of a crayfish was occasionally leaping out of the water catching flies.



Cottages at Tapu on the Thames Coast.

For hours, scores of people trooped in to view the wonder of the day. A helpful notice stated that the 'perfect specimen' had been found on the Miranda shore, was 21 inches long and had thirteen legs. For those looking closely among the rocks though, the claws of what appeared to be a crayfish

did not move. The whole thing was a hoax, the curio nothing more than a lump of sealing wax artistically shaped to resemble a crayfish.

Over in Kōpū, the making of a harbour was under investigation and Mr Whisker's land, the site of the old flax mill, looked a good

Photo: SUPPLIED

position for a landing place. It was proposed to form a company in Auckland to construct a tramway from Shortland to Kōpū where all the upriver traffic would centre.

Vessels coming with cargo and passengers to these townships would go up to Kōpū. A landing place at either Kōpū or Totara Point looked to be an absolute necessity if Ohinemuri were opened for gold prospecting and considerable river traffic had to be accommodated.

A friendly match of cricket between the Shortland and Grahamstown contingents of the Borough Fire Brigade was held at Pārāwai Gardens resulting in an easy victory for Shortland in one innings.

The teams were conveyed to the gardens in buses, and very little time was lost in arranging preliminaries. After the game, mutual expressions of regard were exchanged and the competitors returned to town. There was a good sprinkling of visitors at Pārāwai, the pleasant gardens being a favorite resort on Saturday afternoons.

A properly formed track between Thames and Coromandel was greatly needed to enable prospectors to have supplies sent to central stations. A track had been made three years previously but the rapid growth of native trees and shrubs had almost entirely obliterated it.

It would also be madness to attempt to ford or swim the many unbridged creeks during the tempestuous winter weather. Travellers who had crossed from Thames to Coromandel described the road as perfectly horrible and simply dreadful.

In Brief

SH25A ROADWORKS

From early April, new signage and hazard warning signs, improved road markings and audio tactile profiles (rumble strips) will be installed along SH25A to make the road safer, Waka Kotahi advised. The work will be done overnight over several weeks, with stop/go traffic management in place.

GORGE DELAYS EXPECTED

Waka Kotahi says motorists can expect delays during road repairs on SH2 through the Karangahake Gorge from early April. The highway will be closed overnight through the gorge for five nights from April 7 for road resurfacing. The road will close from 8pm until 5am and temporary speed limits will be in place during the day. A separate project to repair an underslip opposite Victoria Battery will also begin in the first half of April. This will take between four and six weeks, depending on the weather. The road will be reduced to a single lane with stop/go traffic management and a speed restriction in place while work is being done.

SKATEPARK OPENING

Tairua Skatepark will be opened on April 15, with an official opening ceremony taking place at 1pm. The celebration will take place at Cory Park Domain, and the public has been invited to come along. The opening comes after years of legal court battles and delays, as a group of local residents fought to keep the development from gaining consent.

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Thames Valley Club Rugby

SENIOR A

Saturday April 13th

Waihi V Whangamata

Thames V Hauraki North

Paeroa V Te Aroha COBRAS

Mercury Bay V Waihou



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



Teams named first indicate home team

SENIOR B

Coromandel	V	Hauraki North	Sat Apr 13th	12.25pm
Thames	V	Whangamata	Sat Apr 13th	12.25pm
Waihi	V	Te Aroha COBRAS	Sat Apr 13th	12.25pm
Mercury Bay	V	Ngatea	Sat Apr 13th	12.25pm
Waihou	-	Bye		

Scott Simpson MP for Coromandel

Contact me anytime

0800 550 330 • scottsimpson.co.nz
mpcoromandel@parliament.govt.nz
f [scottsimpsonmp](https://www.facebook.com/scottsimpsonmp)



Authorised by Scott Simpson, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.



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Vern Harding of Scrapy Verns celebrates a mighty 20 years.

File Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

Scrap metal master looks after regions

Scrapy Vern's is the local expert for all things scrap metal collection in the Hauraki-Coromandel area. Owner Vern Harding says, "anything metal, we take".

"We're scrap metal collectors. We can do farm clean ups and car pick-ups, any scrap metal we buy, copper, brass, batteries, steel etc."

With an extensive list of services including the collection, clearing, removal, and recycling of metals, Scrapy Vern's leaves no leaf unturned, or in this case, metal.

Scrap vehicles, old vehicles, tractors, machinery, anything metal they can take at "top prices".

Vern celebrates a wonderful milestone this month as it has been 20 years since he opened the door to his business and started providing services across Coromandel, Thames, Ngātea, Paeroa, Waihi and Te Aroha. CONTACT Vern on: 021 621 437, or pop in at 48 Coronation St, Paeroa. Open Hours: Monday - Friday 8am-5pm, Saturday 9am-12pm.

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CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12pm Monday

Public Notices	For Lease	Garage Sale	Gardening
DALTON, Robert (Harvey): On 28 March 2024 peacefully at home in Thames. Adored brother of Lynne Clapp (deceased) and Jan Doherty. Admired and loved brother-in-law of Kerry Doherty. Special "Uncle Harv" of John and Jenny Gibbons, Trish Body, Kellie Jewitt and Alan Doherty. We will love and miss you always.	Yards for lease, Thames and Kopu. Suitable for trucks, vehicles or trade business base. Ph 027 440 7101	5 Wakatere Place, Totara Palms. Sat 13th April, 8am start. Tools, furniture, household items. ALL MUST GO	STUMP GRINDING. All sizes, all areas. Thames based. Ph 021 060 7659
	For Sale	Gardening	Health
	Fridge/freezer 380 ltr, fridge, 3 seater settee includes 2 recliners, 4 burner BBQ & bottle, plus much more. Ph 021 930 980	Need stump grinding? Any size, any number, anywhere. Different machines for different applications. Over 20 years experience. Short Back n Sides Ltd <i>We solve your stump problems.</i> 027 439 0367	Plains Healing Centre Since 1989 now in Paeroa & Thames as Romoco Wellness. Gentle therapeutic manipulation as per Harley Blows 07 862 9167
Church Notices	For Sale	Public Notice	
Assembly of God 10am Sundays. Scout Hall. Baker St, Waihi	Weight lifting set \$300. 2 laptops \$100 ea. Portable wax remover, never used \$60. Ph 021 167 6777		

ENTERTAINMENT

Chicago moves on show in Thames

Community theatre group Thames Music and Drama is tackling another Broadway hit.

This time, it's a "fun and light look at a dark subject", particularly defined by the style of dance moves made famous by Bob Fosse - Chicago.

Bob Fosse choreographed the original 1975 stage musical with his distinctive knees in, shoulder rolls and 'jazz hands'. He was nominated for numerous awards for his directing and choreography for Chicago, along with Cabaret, and worked with musical icons such as Doris Day, Shirley McLaine, and Liza Minnelli.

Thames Music And Drama have secured the skills of Sherrie Roue-Walker as choreographer in their production of the stage musical, which will be showing later next month.

Sherrie started her love of theatre in Thames with children's productions for what was then known as Thames Musical Theatre, and continued through to her teens.

When it was time to leave Thames to continue her studies, she attended The University of Waikato, where she graduated with a double major in English and Theatre.

But Sherrie's thirst for learning wasn't quenched.

She went on to earn a Bachelor in Performing Arts majoring in Musical Theatre through Wintec Te Pūkenga.

This is her first full musical production as choreographer.

"I have put many, many hours into this show," she said. "It's got such great music and characters that the dance moves have to reflect and strengthen. There is so much to work with, and the dancers have been working really hard to make each step 'pop'."

Sherrie said there were big ensemble numbers as well as more intimate solo pieces; however, the most challenging, but also the most fun, was the finale number with Velma and Roxie.

"It's all on by then, with these two characters finally getting the spotlight they have been seeking," she said.

Sherrie has not only choreographed more than ten dances for the production, but she also plays one of the murderesses in the song Cell Block Tango and understudies for Roxie.

DETAILS: Check out her moves in Thames Music And Drama's version of Chicago, playing from May 17-25 at Thames Civic Centre. Tickets at www.thamesmad.co.



Thames Music And Drama have secured the skills of Sherrie Roue-Walker as choreographer in their production of Chicago, showing next month. Photo: SUPPLIED

SPORTS

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



Matamata Black and White stripes clear the ball upfield versus Waihi Green and Gold on Saturday. Both Waihi men's senior football teams won their opening games of the 2024 Waikato football season. At home on the Waihi College pitch, the Division 4 side beat Matamata All Stars 2-1 with all the goals coming in the first half. The Waihi Division 2 side had a huge 8-2 win at Te Awamutu. Draw for this Saturday, April 13: Division 2 play Cambridge at Waihi College, 2:45pm kick off. The Waihi Division 4 side are away at Cambridge also 2:45pm kick off. - Don Mackay

HAURAKI MĀORI TRUST BOARD

2024 TRUSTEE BY-ELECTIONS

Notice To Beneficiaries Inviting Nominations

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

Pursuant to section 46 of the Maori Trust Board's Act 1955, the above board hereby calls for nominations for the election of two (2) persons to membership of the Board to represent the following sections:

Ngāti Paoa	1 Trustee
Ngāi Tai	1 Trustee

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

The last day for receiving nominations and applications for enrolment is at 5pm Monday 13 May 2024. All nominations and applications for enrolment should be addressed to the Secretary, Hauraki Māori Trust Board, whose postal address is PO Box 33, Paeroa 3640 or emailed to jm@hauraki.iwi.nz.

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

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

Dated at Paeroa this 10th day of April 2024.

John McEnteer
Secretary



CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12pm Monday

<p>Painters</p> <p>Professional roof painter. Mario Kerkhof 027 961 4055</p>	<p>Situation Vacant</p> <p>STEPPING OUT HAURAKI INC 100 SEALEY STREET THAMES</p> <p>POSITION: SHED & GARDEN FACILITATOR HOURS: 5 per week or 2 x half days.</p> <p>TASK/DUTIES: To assist/plan/facilitate activities/projects in our Shed & Garden. An empathetic/creative nature would be an attribute for this role.</p> <p>A full job description is available if interested. Email: manager@steppingouthauraki.org.nz or office@steppingouthauraki.org.nz</p> <p>Applications close by the 19th of April 2024</p>	<p>Situation Vacant</p> <p>STEPPING OUT HAURAKI INC 100 SEALEY STREET THAMES</p> <p>PART TIME POSITION FOR A QUALIFIED MENTAL HEALTH PEER SUPPORT WORKER (18HRS per week)</p> <p>If you think you can work in a demanding but rewarding position that offers a huge range of variety – have a strong empathetic nature and able to motivate and encourage others while working in a small dynamic team. Please enquire.</p> <p>For job description: Email: manager@steppingouthauraki.org.nz or office@steppingouthauraki.org.nz</p> <p>Applications close by the 19th of April 2024</p>	<p>Situation Vacant</p> <p>Saunders MITSUBISHI THAMES</p> <p>Aftersales Role</p> <p>We are seeking an Aftersales person to join the team at Saunders Mitsubishi.</p> <p>For a full job description please email us at the address below.</p> <p>This is a full-time position.</p> <p>Email us your resume and cover letter to Paul Saunders paul@saundersmotorgroup.co.nz</p>	<p>Pets</p> <p>KENNELS WAITAKARURU</p> <p>Boarding Kennels and Cattery. "A great place for your pet to stay."</p> <p>Carol and Bill Bell, Ph:07-867-3344, SH25 Waitakaruru, RD6 Thames</p>
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Public Notices

End Times?
Are we in the end times? Are you interested in meeting in Thames to discuss biblical end time prophecy, give me a call.
Tony 027 440 4045.

Paeroa Netball Centre Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 17th April, at 6:00 pm at the Paeroa Netball Centre Pavilion.

Public Notice

RSA Hauraki RSA & Memorial Club
Notice to Veterans and their families of the Hauraki Plains

From 13 March 2024 Veterans' Affairs advised the decision to suspend Veterans' Independence Programme services for new clients for 12 months.

To ensure that those Veterans who are in need of independence services are supported, local solutions may need to be found – whether that's volunteers in the area helping out or support through your local RSA.

Should Veterans of the Plains need advice on what support is available please do not hesitate to contact the Hauraki RSA & Memorial Club "Local Support Advisor" di Elliott-Birchall on 021 672 112

You do not need to be a member of the RSA to receive financial support.

Public Notice

Public Notice

Public Notice

PAEROA PIPE BANDS COMMITTEE INC A.G.M.
Sunday 21st April 3pm

PAEROA ATHLETIC Clubrooms
Paeroa Domain (next to grandstand)
Willoughby Street, Paeroa

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Public Notice

ANZAC DAY

Citizens are invited to attend the following Commemoration Parades and Services on Thursday 25 April, 2024

PAEROA WARD CIVIC SERVICE
Public Commemoration Service to be held in the Paeroa War Memorial Hall at 9:15am.
The Service will be preceded by the Parade, which will assemble in Wharf Street behind the RSA at 8:45am.
Organisation Markers are requested to report to the Parade Marshal by 8:45am.
The Parade will commence at 9:00am proceeding to the War Memorial Hall via Wharf Street, Belmont Road and Normanby Road.

PLAINS WARD CIVIC SERVICE
Public Commemoration Service to be held in the Ngatea War Memorial Hall at 11:15am.
The Service will be preceded by the Parade, which will assemble in Pipiroa Road behind the RSA at 10:45am.
Organisation Markers are requested to report to the Parade Marshal at 10:45am.
The Parade will commence at 11:00am proceeding to the War Memorial Hall via Pipiroa Road and Orchard West Road.

WAIHI WARD CIVIC SERVICE
Public Commemoration Service to be held in the Waihi Memorial Hall at 11:00am.
The Service will be preceded by the Parade, which will assemble in Seddon Street beside the RSA at 10:30am.
Organisation Markers are requested to report to the Parade Marshal at 10:30am.
The Parade will commence at 10:45am proceeding to the Memorial Hall via Seddon Street.

Services Dress – Mufti and Service Medals
Wreaths will be laid during the service
All organisations and persons wishing to present wreaths at each ward CIVIC service are asked to advise Katie McLaren, telephone 07 862 8609 no later than 4.00pm on Thursday 18 April 2024.

OTHER NON-CIVIC SERVICES:
Paeroa Dawn Service
6:00am Cenotaph Primrose Hill, Paeroa
Kerepēhi Dawn Service
6:00am War Memorial Hall, Kerepēhi (5:30am muster for parade)
Kaiawa Service
7:00am Ruaoneone Urupa, F Lowry Rd, Whakatiwai
Kaihere/Pātetonga
9:30am Kaihere Hall, Kaihere
Ngātea Dawn Service
6:00am Hauraki Plains College, Ngātea
Waihi Dawn Service
6:00am RSA Club Waihi
8:00am Wreath Laying, Waihi Cemetery
Tunnelling Company
9:00am Gilmour Reserve, Waihi

DA Adams, JP
Mayor - Hauraki District

Lest we forget

Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

NOTIFICATION OF LEASE FOR A CLUB BUILDING CONCESSION APPLICATION

The Minister of Conservation gives notice under section 17SC of the Conservation Act 1987 of an application by Mercury Bay Boating Club Incorporated to establish and operate a community facility (boating club/sailing school) for a period of 30 years at Local Purpose Reserve (Lot 6 DP 426920) Dundas Street, Whitianga.

Any person or organisation may make comment in writing to the Director-General for or against the proposal or make any other written submissions on the proposal. Find further details of the proposed concession and submission forms at 2024 consultations: Have your say (doc.govt.nz).

Objections or submissions should be sent to:
Email: permissionshokitika@doc.govt.nz
Subject line: 112555-OTH, Submissions re. Mercury Bay Boating Club
Attention: Ange Paget, Senior Permissions Advisor

Post:
Director-General,
c/o Department of Conservation,
Private Bag 701,
Hokitika, 7842.

Submissions will be accepted up to and including 5.00 pm on 9th May 2024. Once submitted, submitters' information is subject to the Official Information Act 1982 and may be released under that Act. If you wish to keep any part of your submission confidential, you need to state this in writing when making your submission.

Any person or organisation wishing to be heard in support of his/her submission, must request (within that submission) an opportunity to appear before the Director-General.

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HARD

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7						5		
				1				2
5			8		4	1	7	6

MEDIUM

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

EASY

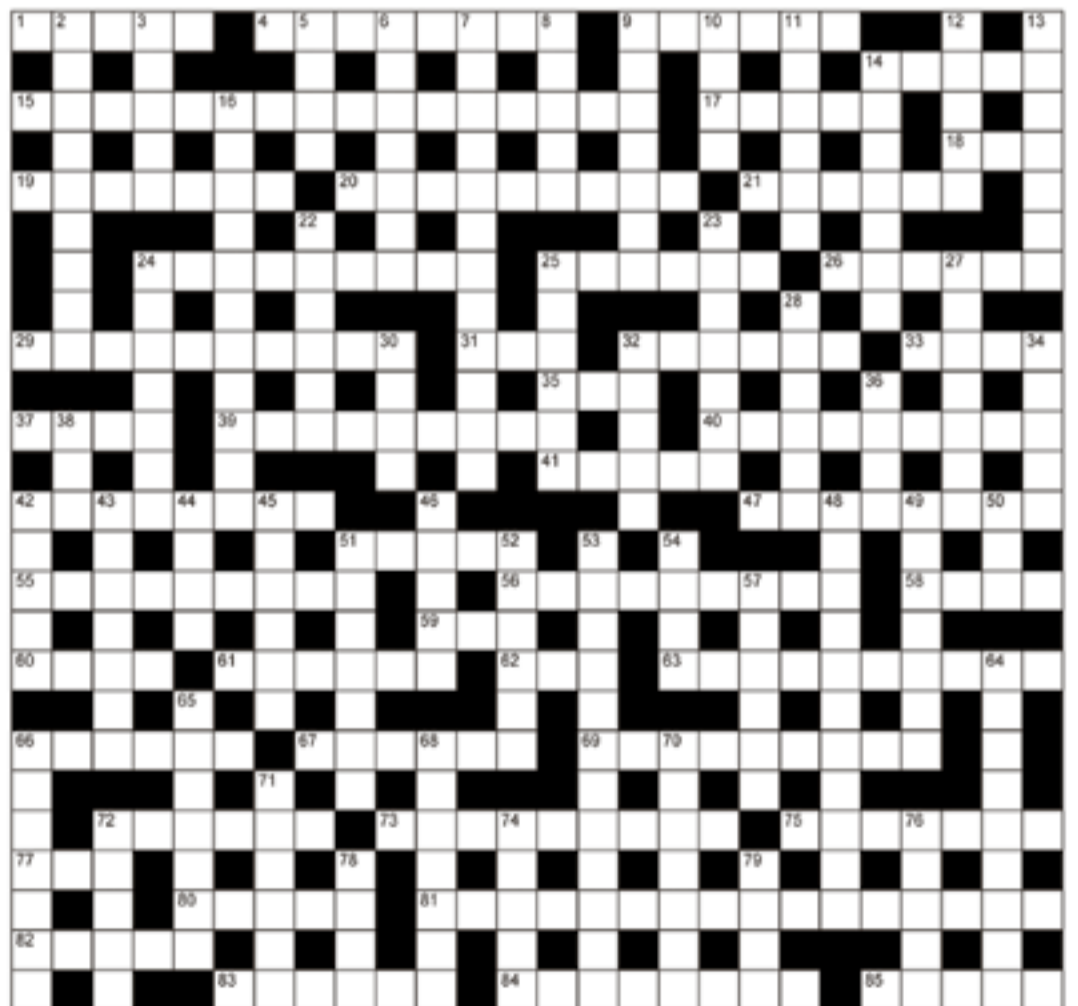
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6	3	7	2	5	8	4	1	9	
5	9	8	1	6	4	2	7	3	
9	6	3	4	1	5	7	6	9	1
7	2	1	6	8	9	3	4	5	
8	4	5	3	7	2	6	9	1	
1	7	4	8	1	2	4	8	7	
3	5	6	7	9	1	2	4	8	
2	8	9	5	4	6	1	3	7	

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JUMBO CROSSWORD

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Untrue (5)
 - 4 Cooking container (8)
 - 9 Salad vegetable (6)
 - 14 Dried plum (5)
 - 15 Become disorientated (4,4,8)
 - 17 Punctuation mark (5)
 - 18 Dead heat (3)
 - 19 Alien (7)
 - 20 Unpleasant to look at (9)
 - 21 Meagre (6)
 - 24 Scented mixture of dried flower petals (9)
 - 25 Small stone fruit (6)
 - 26 Periphery (6)
 - 29 Person spoiling the fun of others (3,7)
 - 31 Tune (3)
 - 32 Mutual (6)
 - 33 Pleads (4)
 - 35 Short sleep (3)
 - 37 Break down (4)
 - 39 Meddle (9)
 - 40 The common people (3,6)
 - 41 Short, abrupt (5)
 - 42 Tree (8)
 - 47 Competitor not expected to win (8)
 - 51 Lucky accident (5)
 - 55 Rash, hasty (9)
 - 56 Crop-protecting figure (9)
 - 58 Donkey-horse (4)
 - 59 Pretend (3)
 - 60 Ball dress (4)
 - 61 Dairy product (6)
 - 62 Watch (3)
 - 63 Impossible to satisfy (10)
 - 66 Filter (6)
 - 67 Discarded material washed ashore (6)
 - 69 Sanitise, make germ-free (9)
 - 72 Response (6)
 - 73 Stiff-legged march (9)
 - 75 US treeless grassland (7)
 - 77 Silvery metal (3)
 - 80 Attain (5)
 - 81 Behave yourself or leave (5,2,2,4,3)
 - 82 Larceny (5)
 - 83 Gushing hot spring (6)
 - 84 Fantasise (8)
 - 85 Wheel covers (5)
- DOWN**
- 2 Say sorry (9)
 - 3 Bulbous yellow root vegetable (5)
 - 5 Too (4)
 - 6 Less dirty (7)
 - 7 Took part in (12)
 - 8 Cat's last life (5)
 - 9 Firmness of purpose (7)
 - 10 Enclosure in courtroom (4)
 - 11 Asian skiff (6)
 - 12 Stale-smelling (5)
 - 13 Merit, be worthy (7)
 - 14 Repeated decorative design (7)
 - 16 Discussion towards agreement (11)
 - 22 Jewellery item (6)
 - 23 Respire (7)
 - 24 Small stones (7)
 - 25 Brass musical instrument (6)
 - 27 Goaded, provoked (7)
 - 28 Quit (6)
 - 30 Sour-tasting (4)
 - 32 Reject with disdain (5)
 - 34 Wasp's defence (5)
 - 36 Trunk of a tree (4)
 - 38 Residue from fire (3)
 - 42 Adhere to (5)
 - 43 Give authority to (7)
 - 44 Bathroom powder (4)
 - 45 Unequalled (6)
 - 46 Sweeten (5)
 - 48 Practical and realistic (4-2-5)
 - 49 Flourishing unchecked (7)
 - 50 Night bird (3)
 - 51 Plume (7)
 - 52 Respect, admire (6)
 - 53 Shop selling sewing and dressmaking materials (12)
 - 54 Abominable snowman (4)
 - 57 Feel bitter about (6)
 - 64 Opposite of latitude (9)
 - 65 Meal course (7)
 - 66 Legislative act (7)
 - 68 Back financially (7)
 - 70 Railway-supporting block (7)
 - 71 Ten-year period (6)
 - 72 Incorporate (5)
 - 74 Broken glass fragment (5)
 - 76 Insinuate (5)
 - 78 Units of electrical resistance (4)
 - 79 Locale (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Turn a blind eye, 8 Spouse, 14 Spade, 15 Sanskrit, 16 Prepare, 17 Dirge, 18 Dot, 19 Sapling, 21 Head start, 22 Leeway, 25 Vermicelli, 27 Speedway, 28 Pestle, 31 Dahlia, 33 Tetanus, 34 Soften, 35 Exit, 37 Hop, 39 Stud, 40 Improve, 41 Turquoise, 42 Diploma, 43 Proceeds, 48 Shepherd, 52 Console, 56 Water polo, 57 Martini, 58 Toys, 59 Rot, 60 Ream, 61 Claret, 62 Oversee, 63 Eyelet, 65 Bottom, 66 Educates, 68 Intimidate, 71 Subtle, 72 Parentage, 74 Aspirin, 76 Lip, 79 Range, 80 Shampoo, 81 Cockatoo, 83 Shred, 84 Scales, 85 Fringe benefit.

DOWN: 2 Unaware, 3 Nasal, 4 Bar, 5 Iota, 6 Depreciation, 7 Yield, 8 Steered, 9 Odds, 10 Sorbet, 11 Bandy, 12 Vestige, 13 Partnership, 14 Seaweed, 20 Nectarine, 23 Platypus, 24 Taffeta, 26 Melodic, 27 Singed, 29 Textile, 30 Hearth, 32 After, 34 Spoof, 36 Tweed, 38 Jump, 43 Power, 44 Outcast, 45 Earn, 46 Doodle, 47 Inert, 48 Stiletto, 49 Epidermis, 50 Hothead, 51 Rhyme, 52 Corrode, 53 Out-of-the-way, 54 Embers, 55 Dressing gown, 64 Bombard, 65 Ballast, 67 Chassis, 69 Tripoli, 70 Clinic, 71 Spare, 73 Taper, 75 Image, 77 Cell, 78 Acre, 82 Cue.

SPORTS

Club teams 'sort out the cobwebs'

CLUB RUGBY

Thames Valley Rugby Union 2024 Silcock Shield Round 2 - from your wandering writer, Tighthead Ted.

Better weather greeted the teams across the Valley for the second round of the 2024 Silcock Shield. Teams are starting to sort out the cobwebs and show their colours, with good rugby played across the various venues. The first round of the Senior B competition kicked off also, with cracking matches, according to my network of rugby tragics at the games.

Whangamata v Paeroa: The Boom Pitt, Aickin Road, Whangamata. Referee: S Watts.

The defending champs are zero for two, not a position that they are unfamiliar with after last season's start, but not an ideal way to start your two home matches. The red 'n whites did though, come up against a Paeroa side that hit their straps early, and never took their foot off the accelerator throughout.

The green machine scored early through massive flanker Talea Faaleaoga, after a crossfield kick was not defused by Whangamata. Whangamata replied quickly, through a Raoran break and kick for Sonny Rau to gather and dot down in the corner. A fine sideline conversion by TJ Wise tied it up. Paeroa soon scored again, man mountain Talea Faaleaoga again dotting down, and Whangamata were then chasing the game, and against a Paeroa side with the bit in their mouth, it was hard going for the home side.

While the score blew out to an extent, the match was hard fought, two big packs going hard at each other, with neither gaining constant ascendancy. Both packs had their moments, but it was the ball provided to the dangerous looking Paeroa backs that proved the difference.

Halftime saw the locals training 15-21, three tries to two. A good start, but unable to add to the score after the break, saw the game slowly slip away, Paeroa adding three more five pointers. Stand-outs for Paeroa were many, although special mention to packmen Silao Tali-mao, Talea Faaleaoga and replacement hooker Oneone Faafou. Faafou was lethal, making inroads into the tiring Whangamata defence in the second spell. Midfielder Taimua Malielegaoi was



Paeroa's Taimua Malielegaoi fends off Tiaontin Raoren.

Photo: TVRFU

also impressive, along with left wing John Penu. For the home side, the midfield pairing of David Dwyer and Joe Perawiti never stopped running, while up front captain Jacob Chaplin led by example in a tireless display. Prop Jordan Cordice and lock Chris Tuilotolava also featured prominently throughout. Paeroa Rugby & Sports 38 (I Telea Faaleaoga 2, J Penu, T Keith, T Malielegaoi, T Sauaga tries; N Emery 3, Malielegaoi conversions) beat Whangamata Rugby & Sports 15 (S Rau, T Raoran tries; S Wise conversion, penalty). HT 21-15.

Waihou v Thames: Boyd Park, Te Aroha. Referee: D Tui. Waihou overcame a sluggish first 40 to beat the resurgent Thames 14-10 in what was described as an 'ugly' game of rugby. Thames started well, dominating with possession and carry meters went into the break ahead 10-3.

They will rue a slew of missed chances and half chances that could have put Waihou away, but were unable to convert chances to points. Waihou, never a team to lie down and die, came out in the second spell with some top efforts off the bench seeing them shore up their set

piece, and do enough to beat Thames.

Highlights of the match include the yellow card to Waihou veteran Craig Bedford two minutes after scoring what would be the decisive five pointer, the goal kicking of Adam Ratcliffe, Waihou openside flanker Max McLimont's relentless work ethic, and the impact of Hazelton off the bench. Thames will be disappointed to not take many chances to score in a match that got away from them. They were well served by the tireless Caleb Duffin, starting at lock before moving into prop, a man with a big engine who was ready for a third half of rugby, and try scoring wing Siao Si Tuihalingie, a constant threat.

Dali Tui, in his 99th start with the whistle, was commended by both sides for his control of the match. Waihou Rugby & Sports 14 (C Bedford try; A Ratcliffe 3 penalties) beat Thames 10 (S Tupou try; S Havealea conversion, penalty). HT 3-10.

COBRAS v Mercury Bay: Boyd Park, Te Aroha. Referee: K Maaijen. After keeping pace throughout, and even shading the home side in the first 40, the young Mercury Bay side eventually went down swinging to the Snakes. With a first half

that saw the Bay scoring, but then immediately letting COBRAS back to reply, a lack of concentration and experience saw the home side take control in the second spell and secure the comfortable win.

For the COBRAS there were many big efforts put in, but leading the way upfront were lock forward George Tuitupou and teenage flanker Junior Naba. Dangerous on the back of a dominant scrum was number 8 Kahura Moke with two tries, and in his 50th match, Shintayne Dare. Leroy Neels at halfback in his first match of the season was straight back to his best also. Mercury Bay had yeoman service from prop Anzac Waterhouse and Austin Brear, while Dane Mathew and Colville Green were classy for the double-digit men out the back. Te Aroha College Old Boys Rugby and Sports 42 (K Moke 2, S Schuler, E Naba, F Paseka, S Dare tries; L Neels, Paseka, Schuler conversions, Neels, Paseka penalties) beat Mercury Bay Rugby & Sports 22 (C Curren, J Finnerty, M Paurini tries; Curren, C Green conversions; Green penalty). HT 15-15.

Hauraki North v Waihi Athletic: Waitakaruru International Stadium, Waitakaruru. Referee: R Rogers. A record winning score for the visiting team as Waihi's resurgence in 2024 continues. With savvy recruiting in the off season, starting with a management team that is overhauling the whole club structure, the future is looking bright for Waihi Athletic.

Meanwhile North are struggling for numbers, but in true North fashion, despite the scoreline, never gave up, and late in the first spell it was only fantastic defence from the visitors that kept the home team scoreless. There is cavalry on the horizon for the Blue Bulls though, with a few quality players due back in the next few weeks.

The tone of the match for Waihi was set early with some huge defence. Brett Ranga, back from injury, led the way with an opening hit that should have been registered with the earthquake commission. With the tone set, Waihi's defence was relentless from then on in, and as the North scorecard would indicate, very tough to pierce. With the forwards paving the way, the Waihi back division was clinical in their execution, and loved the quality possession, scoring seven of the nine tries. Fullback Cam Gerlach was the main benefactor with four tries, often with two touches in a movement, proving the old adage, 'pass early and back-up', is as good advice today as it was back when Bob Scott was kicking goals with his toes. The centre pairing of Dylan Rangi and Kahu Craig-Ranga were a handful, and the whole show was orchestrated well by Quinn Collard at 10.

North, while well beaten on the scoreboard, were not disgraced and scrapped from the first whistle through to the last. Veteran Matty Fisher was a standout, along with hooker Brad Lauder. And substitute lock Jacob Lowe brought much needed go forward for the final 25 minutes - a huge shift after playing for the North B's earlier in the day. Waihi's previous largest win over North was in 2018, a 41-8 win at Waitakaruru. Waihi Athletic 59 (C Gerlach 4, Q Collard 2, D Rangi 2, I Seili tries; Collard 7 conversions) beat Hauraki North 0. HT 21-0

Senior B results: (home team first): Hauraki North 7 - 22 Waihi Athletic; COBRAS 50 - 12 Mercury Bay; Waihou 20 - 19 Thames; Whangamata 15 - 27 Coromandel; Ngatea - bye.



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SPORTS

BMX meet rallies racers

Paeroa BMX hosted its Old School Meet for 2024 at the Paeroa track on Taylor Ave this past weekend. There were all sorts of competitive and fun races to take part in across all age divisions, including a 'pro' class for 16+ riders, and an 'retro' class featuring old bikes from the 80s. Clubs from across the Waikato and beyond were in attendance - as was reporter **KELLEY TANTAU** who caught some of the action.



Addison White shows her grit during the Striders 3-4 Years racing.



The 11 Boys are all focused.

Photos: KELLEY TANTAU



A group of riders pump their way around the track.



Toby de Groot, number 164, races in the Sprockets 5 and under.



Young visitors Charlie and Aleisha.



Cruise Keane in the Boys 7 Sprockets.

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