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ENABLING BETTER BUSINESS

## A band of brothers



Three of the six Olsen brothers in Cairo - Eric, Andy, and Fred. Photo: SUPPLIED

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

Six brothers hailing from Turua all went off to war.

They faced different countries, different battles, and different roles, and after their return, they each had different lives.

Learning about the history of her family follows a "life-long fascination" with World War II for Frances Salt, and has culminated in a chronicle she has collated detailing her dad and uncles' experiences in war, and the safe return home of all six.

Fred, Andy, Glen, Eric, Roy and Norm were brothers - the Olsen boys hailing from Turua on the Hauraki Plains.

Glen was the father of Frances, who was born two weeks after "VJ Day" [Victory over Japan Day] in 1945, which signalled the end of the war in the Pacific.

"In my earliest memories, people constantly talked about 'The War' and I wondered what it was," Frances said. "When we went to functions such as the RSA Christmas Party, there was always a toast to 'Absent

Friends' and I thought it was because some people could not attend.

"Years later, I realised it referred to those killed during the war, especially dad's cousins. As I grew older, I became aware that dad had been to 'The War' as indeed had all six Olsen brothers."

Fred, a New Zealand Expeditionary Force Signaller, was wounded in action in North Africa in 1942, sustaining a chest contusion from an exploding shell. He was discharged from service almost three years to the

CONTINUED ON P2

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# Turua six were brothers in war

CONTINUED FROM P1

day later. Andy, a cheese maker-turned combat engineer, was stationed in North Africa and escaped back there from Crete.

Eric, a sergeant with the Divisional Cavalry Regiment, once spoke of a time in the desert when the vehicle he was in became stuck in the sands. The call went out for help, and when the rescue vehicle arrived, there was his brother Fred sitting on the front - whom he hadn't seen for almost two years.

Roy was in the Infantry before becoming a signalman. When Roy enlisted, he was 18-years-old and underage, but his mother reluctantly signed for him. His main reason for wanting to go was because Johnny Johnson - his best friend and cousin - had already enlisted and Roy wanted to be in "the action" with him.

Sadly, Johnny was killed by a German attack and this had a long-lasting effect on Roy.

Norm, meanwhile, was a Lance Corporal and served in Japan where the standard activities of his service included sentry duty, ceremonial guard, and artillery practice. Some 70 years later, he still recalled the Japanese for: "Halt! Who goes there?"

Finally, Frances' father Glen,

the third-eldest Olsen boy, was a Captain in the Infantry. He was stationed in the Pacific Islands, Italy, and Egypt.

"When we were young we were always amazed at how many men dad knew," Frances said. "When we asked how he knew someone, it was always the same answer: 'I knew him in the Army!'"

Glen met his future wife Winifred when he was a first-year teacher at Turua Primary School and she was a first-year dental nurse posted to the Hauraki Plains. They married in August, 1940.

When Glen retired, he took her back to Italy - to Rome and Florence - to show her places where he had served during the war.

All six Olsen brothers have since passed, but Frances said their combined 25 years of service in World War II was a "remarkable contribution to Aotearoa New Zealand".

"Each Anzac Day at the Dawn Service, I remember what they did for our country. I will be in London this Anzac Day but will wear my poppy with pride with other New Zealanders in commemoration."



A young Frances Salt with her older sister Christine and mum and dad after the war. Photo: SUPPLIED



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## Thames Tides

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
Apr 24	Apr 25	Apr 26	Apr 27	Apr 28	Apr 29	Apr 30
 Morning: 1:13am 0.8, 7:24am 3.2 Afternoon: 1:35pm 0.7, 7:57pm 3.2 Sun: 6:52am 5:40pm Best At: 12:14pm Full Moon: Set 6:46am, Rise 5:35pm	 Morning: 1:50am 0.7, 8:02am 3.2 Afternoon: 2:13pm 0.7, 8:33pm 3.3 Sun: 6:52am 5:39pm Best At: 12:36am, 12:59pm Full Moon: Set 7:48am, Rise 6:04pm	 Morning: 2:28am 0.7, 8:41am 3.2 Afternoon: 2:50pm 0.6, 9:10pm 3.3 Sun: 6:53am 5:38pm Best At: 1:23am, 1:47pm Full Moon: Set 8:52am, Rise 6:38pm	 Morning: 3:07am 0.7, 9:21am 3.2 Afternoon: 3:28pm 0.6, 9:48pm 3.3 Sun: 6:54am 5:36pm Best At: 2:13am, 2:40pm Full Moon: Set 9:58am, Rise 7:20pm	 Morning: 3:48am 0.8, 10:02am 3.2 Afternoon: 4:07pm 0.6, 10:29pm 3.3 Sun: 6:55am 5:35pm Best At: 3:08am, 3:36pm Full Moon: Set 11:01am, Rise 8:11pm	 Morning: 4:33am 0.8, 10:46am 3.2 Afternoon: 4:50pm 0.7, 11:14pm 3.2 Sun: 6:56am 5:34pm Best At: 4:05am, 4:34pm Full Moon: Set 12:00pm, Rise 9:11pm	 Morning: 5:22am 0.8, 11:33am 3.1 Afternoon: 5:36pm 0.7 Sun: 6:57am 5:33pm Best At: 5:03am, 5:32pm Full Moon: Set 12:51pm, Rise 10:19pm

\*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 (G), Fair Fishing (F), Not So Good (N)

**TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES**

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

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

# Survey dives into fate of Thames pool

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

With the future of aquatic provision for Thames hanging in the balance, the public is now being asked what they think a new pool facility should look like, and where it should be located.

The current Thames Centennial Pool sits on a sacred urupā (burial ground) at Taipari Park and is reaching the end of its useful life.

Thames-Coromandel District Council has already agreed to remove the pool and return the land to Ngāti Maru - but on whether or not it should replace the pool, and if so, with what, it is asking the public's perspective.

Following a feasibility study that determined the most suitable sites, the council has put forward four options.

Option one includes doing nothing but restoring Taipari Park at a cost of up to \$550,000.

Options two and three include establishing a new local aquatic facility at Thames High School, each with a differing mix of indoor and outdoor pool choices costing between \$36m-42m; and a fourth option includes constructing a new sub-regional aquatic facility with a bigger mix of pools in Kōpū South at an estimated



TCDC has already agreed to remove its Centennial Pool and return the land to Ngāti Maru - but on whether or not it should replace the pool, and if so, with what, it is asking the public's perspective. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

cost of up to \$77m.

Back in February, the Thames Community Board heard positives and negatives to both a local and sub-regional facility.

For the local facility, the

positives were that it would be accessible within the Thames township, it would build on a successful school/community partnership; it would have a lower operating risk; and

would come at a lower project cost.

Its negatives were that it'd be a smaller facility with less appeal, it would have limited to no growth potential, it would

have minimal external investment, and it would likely be majority funded by council.

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

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

The three 'construct' options all aim to meet the aquatic needs of the town - which is to remedy the current pool provision described as "structured, inflexible, cold, and ageing," and fulfil a "clear community desire for indoor and warm water".

The council's survey is available online on the council's website: [www.tcdc.govt.nz](http://www.tcdc.govt.nz), and also through paper copies, which can be obtained from its offices on Mackay St, at the Thames Library, and the Centennial Pool.

Responses must be submitted before Monday, May 6.



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# Education

## The scoop on the Thames High Troupe

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Showing their skills beyond the classroom is something a group of Thames High School drama students are embracing - but it's not just for the applause.

The Thames High Troupe have been honing their artistry in the community by taking on paid professional event work, such as at the Paeroa Highland Games and Tattoo and Katikati Jazz Street Party.

Thames High School drama teacher and troupe leader Luke Devery said the troupe was a self-funded extra curricular programme aimed at putting the kids out in front of the wider community. The point was to get them out there working professionally, liaising with clients and fulfilling briefs, he said.

"They see themselves as a valuable commodity because they're being hired, and then re-hired."

The troupe aims to do four gigs a year, three paid and one for charity. So far they've had two high profile gigs and "absolutely nailed it".

"It's really heartening to see the event co-ordinators get excited about the work that these young people are doing," Luke said.

Things were expected to be a little quieter for the troupe over the next few terms, he said.

However, the community will have a chance to witness something soon that the group and senior drama department have



Thames High Troupe out in action at the Paeroa Highland Games and Katikati Jazz Street Party.

Photos: SUPPLIED

been working on. "Something exciting is coming at the end of term two," Luke said. Student leader for culture and arts and troupe member TJ Judd was at the forefront of making the group's gigs come together.

"Without [TJ], this probably wouldn't be going forward," Luke said. "He's not just a mouthpiece, he's a really strong advocate of the

arts at Thames High."

TJ told *The Profile* he enjoyed being in the troupe, and even though there was a lot of set up work, it was still "a heck of a lot of fun". Seeing all the smiling faces when he performed was a highlight, he said.

"They don't know who we are, but it's just nice to bring a sense of community involvement and

share a little bit of happiness."

Trying to keep up the same level of energy throughout a long gig was a challenge, TJ said.

Even though characters have different energy, and you change up between them, you still have to keep that focus and ability to remain in character, instead of slouching around, doing nothing."

The group's debriefs were an

important part of the gig, "as it lets us know what we need to improve on for next time", TJ said.

For students interested in being part of the troupe, TJ said it was definitely a great thing to do.

"Bring along your best smile and your best pair of boots."

**DETAILS: To stay up to date with the group, search Thames High Troupe on Facebook.**

### Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga Thames High School



Kia kōtahi ai te piki ake, kia ikeike rawa ki te taumata  
We grow together to achieve ones true potential

## CELEBRATING SUCCESS



### North Island Athletics Champ

Congratulations to Ffin Owen Year 11, who competed in the Intermediate Boys 400m at the North Island Secondary Schools Athletic Champs held in Palmerston North. After placing in the top three at the Waikato Secondary schools, Ffin earned his spot in the Waikato team to not only represent our school and Thames Valley region but all of the Waikato Secondary Schools at this prestigious and very competitive event with athletes from all around the North Island. Ffin placed 9th overall in the North Island and we are extremely proud of him and his achievements. It was a great experience bring on 2025!!



### Harp at High School

The Music Department hit the jackpot once more with an enchanting pedal harp presentation by Canadian harpist Josh Layne, as part of a project spearheaded by local enthusiast Anna Dunwoodie to introduce harps into schools, supported by TCDC's Creative Communities Scheme. Josh visited on Monday 8 April, engaging with our senior music students and Year 10 newcomers, delving into the instrument's history, technology, and the beautiful melodies it produces. There were plenty of beaming smiles from the brave students who dared to try their hand at playing.



### EARS Camp

EARS is a tuakana-teina peer support programme. This year twenty students have volunteered to support student welfare by being available as 'a listening ear' on an ad hoc basis during morning tea and lunchtimes. Alongside these students we are lucky to have the support of 24-7's Samantha and Linn, as well as Lisa Barnett. The training camp held on Saturday 6 April was held at Te Mata Lodge where everyone got to know each other better through learning and team-building activities. These included communication and listening skills, building trust, ethical considerations, cooperative games and problem-solving skills.



### Creative Waikato: Beatboxing

Thursday 21 March Creative Waikato facilitated a memorable event where Beatboxing champion Jj Pakinga, aka Genetic and alumni of Thames High School and musician Beau Monga, visited the Music Department. Our senior guitar group had the privilege of delving into the art of looping under their guidance. The atmosphere was charged with excitement, and the display of talent was nothing short of extraordinary. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Creative Waikato, Jj Pakinga and Beau Monga for igniting a passion for beatboxing and looping within our taiohi through their exceptional talents.



### Girls 3x3 Basketball 1st Place

Junior basketball players sank plenty of hoops at the recent 3x3 tournament held in Te Aroha. Our Junior boys and girls 3x3 Basketball teams have made us proud by participating in the Thames Valley 3x3 Basketball tournament with the girls' team securing 1st Place overall. Our junior boys won two out of three games in their pool and was placed 5th out of 17 teams. Well done boys! A special thank you to our coaches Ben Willis and Phil Taylor. Thank you also to Karen for being an awesome ref for the day.

# Museum mischief

The Waihi Arts Centre and Museum welcomed visitors in for a surreal experience on April 12, when it opened its doors for free. Visitors were greeted by historical figures - miners, soldiers, nurses, teachers and scientists - played by members of the Waihi Drama Society. Oceania Gold displayed rock samples, while the Hauraki District Council was on hand to discuss its draft Long Term Plan and the future of the museum, which is in need of seismic strengthening work. The museum was packed with kids and families, several in costumes to fit the spooky theme. It was an interactive, engaging event with museum staff encouraging visitors to explore every nook and cranny of the building. **ALICE PARMINTER** went along to brush up on her history.



Oaken is delighted to find a rock display to show his dad.



Three-year-old Caleb gets his wounds tended by a wartime-era nurse.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER



Michelle and daughter Natalia, who is dressed as an ancient Egyptian queen.



A 'mad' prisoner heckles the police guard from inside the museum's prison cell.



A miner looks like part of the display - until he spooks visitors.

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# Winning's great...

OPINION



By MICHAEL WILKES

A group of boys are playing some rugby on the school field and one catches the ball, and another yells out 'run it straight'. The spirit of a warrior kicks in, the drive of competition begins to rise and the boy pushes off hard on his back foot leaning forward into a full sprint.

They lock eyes and drive towards each other fixing for battle. One drops down low ready to tackle, the other leans in harder for the charge. A knee collides with a shin and the attacker ends up on his back feeling the pain of a broken leg. It was a pure accident, and yet it has me pause to consider competition. Sometimes it's fun, and sometimes people get hurt. We recently had one of our school groups decide for their community day (in which we focus on showing others they matter) choose to invite another class of year eights to join them for a period of fun games and put on a shared lunch. Our concerns for the event began when we discovered that the real heart for the event was to win. It was not about lifting the others up, but about winning, and winning convincingly. And so, we encouraged them to use their noticer and observe how quickly competition can turn things ugly. Don't get me

wrong here, I love a good competition. I love a good chance to run it straight and see how it works out.

But we need to keep ourselves in check. I remember a friend who decided to quit competitive boxing because he didn't like what happened to him in the ring. He was the nicest guy outside of it. But as soon as he entered it, he described a feeling that would come over him where he was genuinely out for blood. He decided sparring was fun but competition like that was not for him.

When competition changes from something fun to something toxic it has gone too far. When a group of friends come together to play and it leads to them ready to go to blows it has not been a success. But when its on the sports field we can except it often as a healthy thing most games. But when competition weasels its way into our workplaces or our homes it is often not so healthy. Passive aggressive jabs, withholding information, and hoping ill of a person's project in favour of our own. Knocking your child down a notch when they have experience success, critiquing when its not needed and one upping each other's stories, when we should simply be listening does not help.

Today I simply pause to consider competition. I am competitive to a fault. In a board game or on the field, that is ok (mostly). But today I pause to consider the times and spaces at home and at work where maybe competition has caused me to forget that others matter. And I remind myself that in most cases the success of others around me is a good thing, because when we support success we share it and build a culture that gives life.

- Michael Wilkes is a Living Well Trust Youth Worker



Lucas and Isabelle examine some potions in the Harry Potter-themed escape room in Paeroa. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

## Holiday escapades on offer

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

The libraries of Hauraki and Thames-Coromandel are putting on some enjoyable free children's activities for the school holidays.

Hauraki District Libraries have a wizard-themed series of activities, with a Harry Potter-

themed escape room at Paeroa Library; 3D printing, wand crafting and painting in Waihi; and wizard activity booklets in Ngatea.

The Peninsula libraries, meanwhile, have an animal theme, along with a Minions escape room at Thames Library. A variety of pets from Scalez

& Tails Reptile Rescue Coromandel will be visiting Thames, Mercury Bay and Tairua Libraries over the two week period.

In addition, all three libraries have other craft sessions scheduled as well.



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# Six60 flat at Four Square

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

A replica of the flat bandmates Six60 shared while living in Dunedin was located outside Four Square Ngātea last week, to celebrate the pop rock group's Grassroots Tour.

As part of the tour, the group is travelling around Aotearoa New Zealand playing in small towns at intimate venues, including Pōtahi Marae in Te Kao, the Piha Surf Club, Waimate's Regent Theatre, and the Te Puka Tavern.

Although Six60 didn't make an appearance, the miniature replica of the flat where the band members once lived together in Dunedin - 660 Castle St - was parked up at Four Square Ngātea on April 18. Pictured are owners Yvette and Richie Saunders.



# Waihī Beach cleaners 'felt good doing good'

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

Disability Employment facilitator Selwyn Cook and a team of Waihī job-seekers hit the beach with buckets, rakes, and rubbish bags on April 8 to remove any litter they could find.

The goodwill stemmed from studying the Mental Health Foundation's 'Five Ways To Wellbeing' resource, and Selwyn told *The Profile* that, while considering the 'giving' topic, the group decided upon a clean-up day at Waihī Beach.

"We ended up filling five 20L pails. This was mostly from paper, cans, bottles, a fishing knife sheath, and some fishing line. There was one broken bottle in the sand so this made the whole exercise worthwhile," he said.

"It was great how clean the beach actually was. Most of the rubbish came from the adjacent walkways, car parks and a playground. All in all we thought there was a lot less rubbish than we thought we would get."

Wanting to make the initiative a win-win, Selwyn approached

Flatwhite Cafe to ask if a morning tea shout could be put on for the crew. And, after an extended period of time filling their buckets, Flatwhite owner Andrew Kennedy exchanged the rubbish bags for a "scrumptious" lunch.

"We finished the day feeling very satisfied," Selwyn said.

According to the Mental Health Foundation's 'Five Ways of Wellbeing', volunteering and being involved with the community was strongly linked with feeling good and functioning well.

Carrying out acts of kindness, whether small or large, could increase happiness, life satisfaction and general sense of wellbeing, the resource said.

"We did feel good after our litter pickup but the kindness we felt by Flatwhite Cafe was pretty amazing, too," Selwyn said. "It sure felt good to do good."

**DETAILS:** To discuss employment possibilities for any of Selwyn's volunteers, get in touch via [selwyn@covina.co.nz](mailto:selwyn@covina.co.nz).



Selwyn Cook and a team of Waihī job-seekers hit the beach for a clean-up day.

Photo: SUPPLIED

## Scott Simpson MP for Coromandel

Contact me anytime  
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# Mixed media and sculpture to feature

The first of two featured artists for May at Thames Art Gallery, Lisa Stent is a mixed media artist living in the cradle of a beautiful valley in Puriri, near Thames.

Lisa has always been creative and in 2018 she began a three-year deep dive into workshops and online courses in painting. This inspired experimentation with techniques, styles and a variety of mediums.

Over this time she found her favourite mentors and discovered the best way to create art was to fully express herself, "the best way to find your style is to find yourself, then the creativity flows authentically".

Lisa says she has a very visual and kinaesthetic learning style, so texture and colour is very important to her. "I love people to touch my art, to experience the textures, and discover the subtle curiosities that appear through the layers."

Being a mixed media artist, Lisa works mostly with acrylic paints and inks and includes pastels, stamps, collage, stencils, modelling paste and pretty much anything that can be used to create a visual impression.

Several years ago Lisa created "My Intuitive Oracle Deck", a mixed media collection of cards accompanied by a miniature easel and a leaflet containing short quotes to encourage intuitive inspiration.

The originals from the deck will be on display at the Thames Art Gallery for the month of May and the decks will be available for purchase. "My Intuitive Oracle Deck was proudly completely made in Aotearoa New Zealand and printed locally in Paeroa," she said.

Lisa is excited to be exhibiting these and more of her amazing work at the Thames Art Gallery as the May featured artist.

"My dream is to create artwork that visually inspires and uplifts the viewer, prompting intrigue and imagination".

Gary Nevin is the featured potter/sculptor for May. He was born in Paeroa and has travelled extensively, throughout the Coromandel Peninsula. He attended the Julian Ashton School of Art in Sydney with the intention of becoming a landscape painter. After spending six months drawing plaster busts to get his eye in, he got over it and left - so he has not become a landscape painter.

Gary discovered pottery after seeing the work of contemporary Japanese ceramists at an exhibition in Hamilton, which blew his mind at the mastery and medium of the Japanese masters.

Around the same time, he saw an exhibition by New Zealand-born potter Chester Nealie in the Hamilton Library, which was the first time he had seen woodfired anagama pieces and they left a lasting impression on him.

Thus, an on-going affair with clay began. He enjoyed hand building work, rather than throwing on the wheel, though the wheel gets dusted off from time to time, turning out figurative pieces, birds and animals, with a whimsical and wacky approach.

He has continued along the same theme with his new found passion for incorporating concrete and steel into his pieces, which will be evident at his exhibition at the Thames Art Gallery throughout May.

Gary can often be found at the Seagulls Centre gleaning inspiration for his next masterpieces.

**DETAILS: Thames Art Gallery, 604 Tararu Rd, Thames, open Monday to Friday 10am to 2pm, and weekends 10am to 4pm.**



**Thames Art Gallery**  
604 Tararu Road, Thames Coast

**May Featured artists**

**GARY NEVIN**



Gary is a potter/sculptor who enjoys creating quirky characters, birds and animals from clay. Recently he began incorporating steel and concrete

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Lisa loves to experiment with texture, colour and using mixed media to create interest and intrigue that pop up through the many layers

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Thames Art Gallery's featured artists for May are Gary Neavin and Lisa Stent. Photos: SUPPLIED



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### ADVERTISEMENT

**ADOPTION IS LOVE** is initiating a monthly discussion forum, **LIFE MATTERS WITH BENNY**, fostering the exchange of ideas and perspectives — a reflection of a free society. Our focus encompasses various topics such as open adoption, adoption reforms, abortion, mental health, infertility, family life, and free speech.

Join the conversation by sharing your thoughts. Feel free to email Benny, a lawyer with a background in Family Law and founder of **ADOPTION IS LOVE** at [info@adoptionislove.org.nz](mailto:info@adoptionislove.org.nz)

## LIFE MATTERS WITH BENNY

From our **ADOPTION IS LOVE** Facebook page, Benny received this comment:

*"Hi Benny, I'd love to hear a real story about open adoption." N*

"My babysitter was accepted into Med School and was about to graduate Uni when she got pregnant during her first sexual encounter.

Everyone was telling her to abort the baby, that she had such a promising career ahead of her and she shouldn't let this mistake derail her plans. I told her that although this was difficult timing, this baby could be a blessing to another family through adoption.

She chose an open adoption, had a precious baby girl which she placed in the arms of the loving family she had carefully selected, and went on to Med School.

She kept in contact with her baby girl and her adoptive family and would meet up with them for holidays. What a feeling of peace and accomplishment to take the life and loving giving option of adoption to an unplanned pregnancy. She's a Doctor now with a family of her own.

Think too about Jacinda Ardern getting pregnant with her baby girl right as she became Prime Minister. That sets another example of being able to handle surprises as the blessings they are!"

Love always,

*Benny*



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# Rural Life

## Pet weight management: risks and strategies

Maintaining a healthy weight is important for our furry companions.

Just like in humans, excess weight can lead to a large number of health issues including diabetes, respiratory and heart disease, kidney disease and arthritis.

It can shorten an animal's life expectancy by as much as 25 per cent.

Factors contributing to pet obesity include overfeeding, lack of exercise, genetic predisposition, and certain medical conditions.

Some signs of obesity in our

pets include difficulty feeling their ribs, an inability to see or feel the waist when viewed from above, and a reluctance to engage in physical activity.

Options for weight management include the following:

An initial assessment with your vet is recommended to rule out any underlying medical disease, provide guidance on an appropriate target weight, and recommend a suitable diet and exercise plan.

A balanced diet: specific diets may be used that encourage weight loss without our pets still feeling hungry.

Portion control: measuring or weighing our pet's food and dividing their daily ration into smaller frequent meals can help avoid overeating. Avoidance of treats or using low-calorie treats can help.

Regular exercise: encouraging physical activity through daily walks, play sessions and interactive toys. Walks should ideally be in the early morning or evening to avoid overheating.

For cats, try using a toy that they can stalk and catch.

Healthy weight loss in our pets should be gradually



Excess weight can lead to a large number of health issues for your pet, including diabetes, respiratory and heart disease, kidney disease, arthritis, and a shortened lifespan.

File Photo: PIXABAY

achieved over several months with a loss of 2-3 per cent bodyweight each month being an ideal amount.

The key element in achieving an ideal weight is the dedica-

tion of us as pet owners.

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# Rural Life

## Farming career all in the family

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

Dairy manager Teagan Gray is proud to be the fifth generation of farmers on the family farm in Hauraki. She's coming into her third season as farm manager on the 160 hectare property, and was recently named 2024's Auckland/Hauraki Dairy Manager of the Year.

For Teagan, farming was always what she wanted to do, but it took a while to realise she wanted to follow in her family's footsteps.

"I've actually got an equine major," she said. "At uni, for all our core papers we were in with the agriculture students. The more we did, the more I realised dairy farming actually aligned with a lot more of my goals and visions. I'm quite ambitious and quite career-driven, and I could see a lot more opportunity for myself in the dairy industry."

The main draw for Teagan was being outside with the animals - so when the opportunity came to work for her parents Neil and Glenda, she took it.

Teagan started on the farm, just behind her parent's boutique raw milk dispensary Buttercup Dairies, in 2016, working her way up from farming assistant into management. Now, she's putting her own stamp on the place.

Teagan plans to be 50-50 sharemilking in the next few years, with the eventual aim of putting equity back into the farm. With that in mind, she's building on the solid foundation that comes with

keeping a farm in the family for over 100 years.

"I feel very fortunate that I've got very progressive parents," she said.

"We really embrace any new technology on the market in terms of using what's available to really help drive the farm and its efficiency in production... There's so much research that's out there and best practice, and really, I just have to take that research that's been done and implement it, what fits in our farming system that we're running."

One of the technologies she's adopted is the use of virtual fencing collars, which helps her manage the 480-head herd from her phone.

"All our information is in that app, our growth and our covers and our round lengths. So, we're able to make very quick decisions... like, precise allocation of our pasture in terms of management. We're pasture-first and really focusing on the pasture quality as our primary source of feed... It really helps us drive that pasture quality," she said.

"[And] I wholeheartedly believe our animals are happier and get to display more natural behaviours, because they don't have that association with me and food."

Teagan will be attending the national dairy awards in Queenstown at the beginning of May.

"Just to be there in itself is such a fantastic achievement. What you learn about yourself, just your strengths and your weaknesses, and the benchmark-



Farming is a way of life for 33-year-old Teagan Gray.

Photo: SUPPLIED

ing has been really good.

"It's exciting to be part of [the] industry, you know; we provide world-class nutrition all around the world that en-

hances people's lives," she said.



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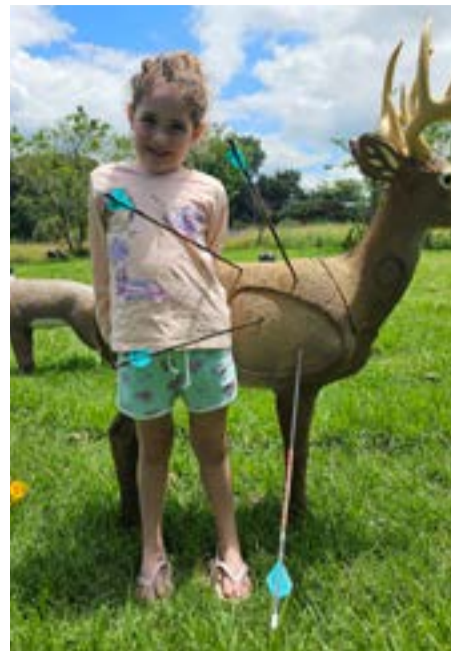


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# Rural Life



## All the action at Flaxmill Day

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

The Hauraki Vintage Machinery Club is hosting its annual Flaxmill Day this weekend, and there promises to be "all sorts of action" on offer.

Club president Neil Fitzgerald said the Flaxmill Day was one of the club's main fundraisers for the year, with its annual Crank Up Day following behind.

He said the event - held at the Kerepehi Flax Mill on Kaihere Rd - would include a demonstration of the flax stripper; historic stationary engines; a vintage tractor display; flax weaving; and hay making.

Neil, a former earthmoving contractor with 56 years experience - owns his own assortment of vintage machinery, including several tractors, bulldozers, draglines, a stationary baler, and other earthmoving "toys".

He said the club was a "friendly, social" group of roughly 50, who meet once a month at members' sheds around the Hauraki and further afield.

He said all funds raised from the Flaxmill Day will go towards looking after the historic mill.

The group has recently built a "club barbecue", Neil said, and that would also be firing this weekend in order to feed the visitors.

**DETAILS: Hauraki Vintage Machinery Club's annual Flaxmill Day, this Sunday, April 28 at 668 Kaihere Rd. Gold coin donation for entry. Food and drink on offer.**



Thames Valley branch of the NZ Deerstalkers Association has received \$6880 for 3D archery targets and inserts.

Photos: SUPPLIED

# Grant hits the mark for archers

New Zealand Community Trust has awarded a \$6880 grant to the Thames Valley branch of the NZ Deerstalkers Association for the acquisition of 3D archery targets and additional 3D inserts.

The funding enables them to host the National Bowhunters Tournament on King's Birthday weekend, providing a significant boost to the local archery community.

Branch president Maureen Coleman said the tournament will see dedicated archers and bowhunters from all around the motu

travel to the Thames Valley venue on the outskirts of Paeroa.

"Adults and juniors alike all mix and mingle together, the expanded learning opportunities are immense and it's a fantastic way of helping to instil many social skills in the process of learning the finer techniques of the sport," she said.

The club was founded in 1956 and since then, it has branched out to welcome several other sporting codes.

Amateur archer Dilwyn Jenkins said the new 3D targets and inserts would "be great" for the up-

coming tournament and the club in general.

"We host all manner of events at TVDA (including club days, practice days, inter-club events, coaching days, and open days), as well as helping out at school galas, fun days, corporate events, and team building days throughout the year."

New Zealand Community Trust's general manager grants, marketing and communications Ben Hodges said the trust was "delighted to support this club bustling with enthusiasts of a

range of outdoor pursuits".

"NZCT is grateful for our fundraising partnership with The Royal Oak Hotel that made our grant possible."

New Zealand Community Trust is one of the largest gaming societies in New Zealand.

In 22/23, it awarded more than \$40 million in grants throughout the country for a wide range of community services, including sports, rescue services, youth development, the arts and cultural activities.

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## BOWLS

Paeroa Bowling Club celebrated its 120th birthday on April 6. It is worthy to note that this was 120 consecutive years. An awesome achievement for the club and one which we are very proud of. There were around 50 invited guests at the event, and Margaret Henderson cut the cake. Margaret's history with the club goes back around 50 years. Invited guests were not only current members but older members from the past as well. Our patron and current member, John Pullan, gave a speech on the history of the club and president Kevin Lockley spoke of the club's past, present and future. A most delicious meal was enjoyed by all followed by dessert and cake. This was a fabulous night, celebrating a wonderful milestone and truly enjoyed by all. The history of this club is rich and full of great people, playing a great game at a great club.

- Martin Douglas



Around 50 invited guests attended the Paeroa Bowling Club 120th celebrations.

Photo: SUPPLIED

## FOOTBALL

Waihi Men's football Division 2 side continued their winning form with their third consecutive win on Saturday, this time 5-1 at Ngaruawahia. They sit top of their table with 9 points.

The Division 4 side lost 4-2 at home against Northern United. In wet conditions in Ngaruawahia, the Waihi Men's 1st team lead at halftime 4-0 playing some sweeping football which the home side could not handle. Second half the foot was taken off the gas but eventually ended the game 5-1 to Waihi. Player of the Day was centre back Ben Grant. On Sunday, the Waihi Women beat Waikato Unicol 2-0 in Hamilton, a magnificent result This Saturday 27 April the Waihi men's first team travel again to play Ngaruawahia Presidents in round 1 of the Waikato Men's knockout cup.

The Waihi Football men's division 2 side had their first home game of the season against Cambridge on April 13. They made it two wins in a row with a solid 4-1 victory. Waihi led 3-0 at halftime with Jasper, Paul and Bryn all decisive on attack. The Waihi Green and Golds took their lead to 4-0 before the Cambridge Red and Whites scored a late consolation goal. Thanks to sideline Dylan for match details and the official referee for a well managed game.

The Waihi Division 4 men's side ResInation had their game postponed. While the Waihi women's side needed to default their game due to a raft of injuries in their squad.

- Don Mackay

## RUGBY

Round 4, Silcock Shield, courtesy of Tighthead Ted

The first weekend of genuine wet weather rugby, heavy showers, interspersed with drizzle and light showers across all four venues. Despite the weather, there was plenty of good rugby on display. Whangamata ran rampant to record their first win of the season, over COBRAS. Mercury Bay in defeating Hauraki North at the

Waitakaruru International Stadium also got their first "W" of 2024.

### WAIHI v WAIHOU

Waihi Athletic Rugby Club. Referee: D Tui-Taylor. Rain, heavy at times, greeted the two undefeated sides in the 2024 Senior A competition. Early on though it looked like Waihi would take the game away from the visitors. The well-drilled Waihi forwards provided some quality pill from a scrum for a slick Waihi back move to put wing Dylan Bellamy over in the corner. With more deception runners than seemed humanly possible, the Waihou backs would have needed an Enigma machine to work out who to tackle.

After 20 minutes, thanks to a couple of Quinn Collard penalties, the score hit 11-0, and things were looking ominous for Waihou. However, in true Waihou fashion, they dug deep into their reserves and started to apply pressure.

With the score 11-7 at halftime, and the Waihi lineup finding it next to impossible to win their own ball, it was game on. Hard carrying from loose forwards Isaac Seiuli and Matt Axtens stretched the Waihou defence, and with the rest of the pack following suit, the penalties flowed.

Quinn Collard obliged by slotting the three pointers, and the lead stretched to 20-7. Waihou though, did not know they were beaten, and in the last 10 minutes were hammering on the Waihi line. As the rain intensified there was no way through the iron curtain of Waihi's defence, Brett Ranga and Dylan Horne putting in some hits bigger than *Thriller*. Waihi 20 (D Bellamy try; Collard 5 penalties) beat Waihou 7 (S Van Der Valk try; R Stevenson conversion).

### WHANGAMATA v COBRAS

By Whanga's Whispering Will. The Boom Pitt, Whangamata. Referee: S Watts. Whangamata have their first win on the board after a convincing display over recent close rivals COBRAS. The home side enjoyed a wealth of possession, and despite the rain, which was torrential at times, were able to spin it wide with success.



Isaac Seiuli - had a fantastic game for Waihi Athletic.

Photo: SUPPLIED/TVRFU

The opening two tries came through hard work from the forwards, picking and going for multiple phases, then staying patient to reap the rewards for their efforts. Then came the try of the day. A COBRAS clearing kick found fullback Connor Emerson near his own 22 and, opting not to kick, he ran it back and his long pass put Fozz Gilbert away down the left touchline. Whangamata led 28-0 at halftime and the side were playing with confidence. COBRAS came out more determined in the second stanza and there were periods where neither side could gain ascendancy. By now Whangamata had their tails up and the forwards were making great gains with their carries. Playing on top of COBRAS, Tyler Cotterill made a half break down the wing and lock Ben Laurie capitalised by dotting down in the next phase.

The forty-two point victory, in which Whangamata defended doggedly and attacked freely, is a performance the team will be pleased with and look to build on to keep their season trending

in the right direction.

Whangamata 47 (T Bond 2, J Barfoot, S Rau, B Laurie, T Cotterill, J Cordice tries; T Raoren 6 conversions) beat COBRAS 5 (S Rototakala try).

### THAMES V PAEROA

Rhodes Park, Thames. Referee: R Rogers. Like Waihou, and COBRAS, Thames came into this game against front running Paeroa with a few players missing at late notice, but like the two aforementioned teams dug deep into the "club first" ethos and filled the gaps with B players, who more than handled themselves at the higher level. Another match played in conditions more suited to duck shooting than rugby, Thames battled the larger Paeroa pack well, with prop Justin Kibbett, in his first A match for five years, outstanding. Handling errors from both sides saw pressure hard to build, and with Paeroa giving away too many penalties, Thames went into the halftime break ahead 12-10. Paeroa, who had scored a lovely try in the first spell with some slick backline antics,

changed tack in the second spell and reverted to some wet weather tactics which saw them take the lead early on in the second 40, soon blowing out to 22-12. With discipline now better, Paeroa looked to be well in control. However, Thames got a late sniff with lock Corbin Saunders snaring an intercept, haring away like a startled hedgehog to score and to bring the game close again 19-22. Paeroa were not to be denied the win, and added their own five pointer, and the game was again safe for the visitors, 27-19. Thames 19 (D Hughes, L Mau, C Saunders tries; Hughes 2 conversions) lost to Paeroa 27 (J McCain, L Tiatia, S Tali-mao, O Soisoi tries; N Emery, T Maliel-egaoi conversions, Emery penalty).

### HAURAKI NORTH v MERCURY BAY

Waitakaruru International Stadium. Referee: AJ Hartley. In a clash of the winless, Mercury Bay secured their first victory singalong of the season, earning a bonus point in the process. The visitors hit the ground running, with an early try from a smart short side dash from halfback Conor Maccaulay putting Dane Matthews in for the opening five pointer. North replied with a penalty soon after.

The match settled down into an arm wrestle after the opening fireworks, both forward packs bashing away at each other with glee as they attempted to take control. With the atrocious weather, handling was difficult at best, and errors often released the pressure for the defenders as cracks were appearing. The North lineup had the yips which did not help, while the Bay set piece was better, but still not great. Scrums were an even battle, neither side gaining a clear edge in the wet.

North once again were well led by veteran Matty Fisher, who was joined by fellow veteran Rikki Sherrick, lining up for his second game of the day after battling with Ngatea in the B game. Both playing at a level that screams out "age shall not weary them, or the years condemn". Fraser Anderson also did a double and was outstanding in both matches. An entertaining match that saw that large crowd well entertained - and well into the night by all accounts, in true North fashion!

Hauraki North 15 (F Anderson, E Leutogi tries; E Fiavaai conversion, penalty) lost to Mercury Bay 29 (D Matthews, C Best, M Save, A Waterhouse tries, C Curren 3 conversions, penalty).

### SENIOR B RESULTS

Round 3. Waihi 28 v Waihou 25 (21-3). Waihi looked in line for a big win in this match, leading by 21-3 at the break for oranges. Waihou though came out firing in the second spell, and some silly mistakes from the hometown heroes saw the visitors snatch a lead 22-21. A penalty soon after, stretched the lead to 25-21. Ferocious defence from Waihou saw a comeback win in the offing, before Waihi's unrelenting final onslaught bore fruit, with a five pointer out wide - duly converted by Mears to snatch the win back.

Whangamata 13 v Mercury Bay 12 (5-5); Hauraki North 3 v Ngatea 3 (0-0); Thames 12 v Coromandel 49 (7-39).

# MEET THE LOCALS

## MOVING DAY IS FAST APPROACHING

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or just remind the locals that you're still around....

Contact Nikki: 022 130 3885

Publishing June 5th - Booking Deadline May 11th



# Thames Valley Club Rugby

## SENIOR A

Saturday April 27th

Waihou V Te Aroha COBRAS

Waihi V Thames

## SPLIT ROUND

Hauraki North - Paeroa - Mercury Bay - Whangamata

BYES



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



Teams named first indicate home team

## SENIOR B

Coromandel	V	Waihou	Sat Apr 27th	12.25pm
Waihi	V	Whangamata	Sat Apr 27th	12.25pm
Mercury Bay	V	Hauraki North	Sat Apr 27th	12.25pm
Ngatea	V	Te Aroha COBRAS	Sat Apr 27th	12.25pm
Thames - Bye				



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## Dead Cert

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

As you see I am still hanging on," wrote 28-year-old George Millar to his Paeroa parents from Turkey in 1915 in the thick of World War I's Gallipoli campaign.

His other piece of good news was that "I received postcards and letters from home this week". Letters in war time were vital to morale, keeping men and women connected to the homes they had left behind, and those at home linked with their loved ones.

During the early days of war, the sons of Thames Valley residents were in training in Egypt and their letters were received fairly regularly.

There was little anxiety about their sons' safety, but then the scene changed - since active service had begun letters were irregular, and opened with fear and trembling.

On 25 April, 1915, New Zealand and Australian soldiers landed at what is now called Anzac Cove on the Gallipoli Peninsula. For most of the 16,000 men who landed that day, it was their first experience of combat.

By that evening, 2000 of them had been killed or wounded.

The *Ohinemuri Gazette* gravely observed: "Until now the real horrors of war with all its cruelties and sorrowing consequences, have not broken upon us with such reality. Until the Dardanelles [Gallipoli] engagement, where some of the brave boys of our town are in action, we could only conceive in a vague way the awful realities of the situation".

"We knew of course that thousands of innocent lives were being sacrificed every day . . . but it did not come home



A convalescent Anzac writes home, 1916.

Photo: SUPPLIED

to us as it does now."

George's experience he summed up almost jauntily - "We had another big battle on the 19th inst, and lost a number of men including two of our signalers".

"The Turks suffered very heavily; in a short section of trench where I was fighting, we polished off between two and three hundred. The attack was so severe that they got right up to our parapets before we stopped them.

"In a few cases the enemy rushed into our trenches, but we immediately bayoneted... Our next bit of excitement was on the 25th, when one of the enemy's submarines torpedoed and sank the battle ship *Triumph*... It is bad luck losing a ship, which since we landed has given us a great deal of assistance.

"Since the last incident, things have been fairly quiet. Today we have had only an occasional shell to keep us

CONTINUED ON P15



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# Lest we forget

CONTINUED FROM P14

alive." He ended his missive home with - "Goodness knows how long this war is going to last. It may end any day. Let us hope that it will soon be over and I can get back again. I have seen enough of war to do me a lifetime . . . Don't worry one bit about me; I am in the best of health and so far have been lucky enough to dodge 'Turkish Delight'."

But worry stalked those left behind and post offices and postmen were sought after every day for news of absent ones while newspapers contained horrifying lists of those killed or wounded.

The young men of the district were impressive in their willingness to be always so ready to go to the front and fight with all their heart and strength for country, King, and liberty, yet hearts were heavy as more and more youths from the surrounding district volunteered for service.

In July, 1917, a large group of people gathered at the Paeroa railway station to see the arrival and departure of the express train from Thames, which carried still another contingent to Frankton Junction, en route for Awapuni military camp, near Palmerston North, to prepare for active service abroad.

Some of the young men embarked from Thames, while others stepped on at different stations along the line. As the train drew up the scene became more emotional, and mothers, sisters and sweethearts pushed forward with tears and affectionate goodbyes. The new soldiers were not in khaki, but when they arrived at camp their uniforms would be immediately dealt out to them, together with other items of clothing and bedding. The young soldiers, after a life of two or three months in camp would return again to their homes. They then had final leave for ten days, after which they would be considered fit for active service. At any time after the end of their leave they would be called on to prepare for life on the ocean and an uncertain future.

One of these boys was Archie Lyes, 27, from Waikino, whose initial experiences were published in the *Gazette* near the end of 1917 when there had been a surprise meeting in London of three Paeroa soldiers. Archie, of the



Letters from home for the men of the NZ artillery, 1915 BELOW: Reassuring news from a New Zealander at Gallipoli, 1915. Photos: SUPPLIED

Medical Corps, on three days' leave wanted to see the "lights of London".

He had only been there one day when he came face to face with Victor Taylor, son of a Paeroa Councillor, and Ted Nelson, who was employed building the Public Works dredge in Paeroa. It was a happy recognition, and "a merry time was spent, but the time came when the best of friends must part: the bugle called, and the three Paeroa chums were off to the war again".



Within a few short weeks the tone of Archie's letters had changed and the next described the "Horror of the Trenches".

Writing from a military hospital after being gassed, he said: "When one is in France in active service, one has to endure many hardships... he has to

traverse many miles of rough country, quite uncommon to that of the lands of New Zealand. This we had to do after a close confinement in the trenches for ten days, with hard fighting all the time. We went through the period - which seemed to us all a year or more - with but little sleep and without a wash to refresh ourselves. During the term in the trenches, our rations were extremely short."

At the military hospital, he was in the same ward as a couple of other New

Zealanders. The nurses were all Australians, and extremely kind to the sick and wounded. Archie also had a British roommate - a very fine specimen of a man, about 45 who had a family of three, who despite his age had been called up to do service. "I saw some letters from his children, which would make the most hardened shed a tear.

"Whilst the father was in the midst of battle on one side, his wife and children on the other side were forever dodging air raids." Archie wistfully added: "I am still on the sunny plains of France, but things in the true sense are not as sunny as they are in dear old Paeroa".

Keeping things sunny was strongly urged by Archdeacon Hawkins, a returned New Zealand chaplain. "All the lads' letters from the Front are bright... some people seem to think that soldiers merely affect a brightness for the benefit of their friends and wives but this is not so. Their words truly reflect their spirit... Whatever pessimists there are, they are not at the Front. I certainly ought to know, because I have censored thousands of letters."

It was important that letters from home should be equally bright. "There should be no worrying details of anything sent to the soldier. He cannot help. The letter reaches him months after the details have been set down, and just when the letter makes him worry, the writer may have experienced a beneficial change that made the letter quite unnecessary.

"Keep your letters to soldiers entirely bright!" is the slogan for those who are writing to soldiers, "and when they come back don't pester them with war talk. They don't want it".

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# The meaning of Anzac Day

April 25 will see district-wide commemorations for Anzac day, which holds special meaning for many. Gateway journalism student **TALLIS AUSTEN** recently asked people in Paeroa to share their memories and stories of what Anzac Day means to them.



Gary and Fiona Wells-Lakeland, of Paeroa. Gary served in the British army, in the Household cavalry, while Fiona spoke of the younger generation being educated on Anzac Day. "We recently went to our grandchildren's school, they had a remembrance day and they had the kids talk about heroes in their families. My father was in the second World War. I like the fact that my grandsons will get to know about my father and what he did."



Jaqui Pokino and Graham Wine reflected on the stories of friends and family who served. Jaqui said that for her, Anzac Day was about "the memories of families who served". "My father was an ex-navalman. He was captured, when he escaped the prisoner of war camp he had to walk across Europe on half a cup of cooked cabbage a day. He was skin and bones by the time he arrived," Jaqui said. "My first husband lost both his legs in Vietnam while he was a lead scout, so I'm very familiar with what war does." Graham said: "I had a friend who was from London. They had a terrible time, them and their neighbours. They were bombed out of their houses".



Amanda Hart, of Waihi, and Deb Leonard, of Upstairs Downstairs, shared a common Anzac related connection. "Both of our fathers served in the second World War, in the air force, and both would have been a hundred if they were still alive today," Deb said.



Janet Morighan: "Anzac Day helps me remember my grandfather and my father, one served in World War I, and one served in World War II. So Anzac does have meaning to me, it means for me, there should be peace for all of us in New Zealand."



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Rino Wilkinson: "Anzac Day is a special day for me, I enjoyed it during Covid, when people went out to the front of their houses and did their silence. My neighbours, I honestly don't see them at these things, but in Covid they all came out in their dressing gowns, cuppa teas, cause that was the only way you could do it then as a mark of respect. It's celebrated in the new modern era with quite a vast audience. I've seen it grow over recent years with the younger generation turning up a lot more these days, it's good to see the younger ones. Primary schools, there's different groups, you know St Johns, and stuff like that."




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# Lest we forget

## Remembering mates, in bad times and good

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

The scenes described by Barry Bainbridge and Les Gaskin are a sharp contrast to the comfortable, modern living room they sit in.

The two men, both from Ngatea, are reminiscing about their time in the service of the Crown. Their words conjure up ghosts of men in uniform: training for war; parading around town on R&R; life at sea and on the road.

Barry was a marine engine artificer with the rank Chief Petty Officer. He fondly remembers his Navy years as some of the best in his life.

"I joined in 1958 as a young apprentice... [and] did a total of about 26 years in two wacks," he said.

"We were in the Malaya-Borneo area when they had that big confrontation. We took part in it but as for seeing anything, I couldn't see through steel. I was down at the bottom. But without us, nothing. They couldn't see where they were going, they couldn't fire the guns, they couldn't sail."

Les, meanwhile, was with the Territorials. While he didn't serve overseas, he still remembers fellow drivers who fell in Vietnam.

"I was a driver with the Army at Linton. If it moved, we had to learn to drive it. We would drive jeeps, trucks, landrovers, tanks, buses... There was not an implement or a vehicle that I couldn't drive, on the road or anywhere," he said.

"I never saw service because



Former servicemen Barry Bainbridge and Les Gaskin hold Anzac Day dear to their hearts.

Photo: SUPPLIED

I was a driver, and when they called for support for Vietnam, because you couldn't drive vehicles in the jungle, none of the drivers were required. But they did take volunteers, and I had two mates that went over and got a bullet in the back and were killed."

Anzac Day is sacred to both men. Not only is it a chance to remember their fallen comrades, but it's also a time for stories.

"[Veterans] could meet their

mates, see who's still alive, and have a bloody good laugh," Barry said.

"It was their outlet for hanging on to all the atrocities that a lot of them were seeing."

For Les, it was also a way to connect with his father.

"It was the only time I could get my dad to open up and tell me what it was like," Les said.

"Because I was in the service, I was allowed to go into the RSA and have a beer with him on Anzac Day, but I'd just

sit at the table, I wasn't allowed to open my mouth at all. And they would reminisce about the atrocities, and I hope like hell it never happens again."

Les' father was changed by his time at war, he said.

"My dad went overseas as an artilleryman. He came back on a hospital ship - he had his arm severely damaged by a shell. His four mates that were in the artillery with him were killed, and when he fell, he fell in a bit of a dip and a tank ran over

him. We had to have a corset on him every morning and he kept that on for 10 or 15 years," Les said.

"Dad went to the dawn service, and we never saw him again until about seven o'clock that night. And if you wanted to see him, you'd go up to the RSA ... but as I said, you had to hold your bloody tongue."

This year, as every year, Barry will be attending a dawn service in Ngatea. He goes to remember his fallen friends.

"I'm impressed by the one that they have at the school," Barry said.

"And you get more and more people coming in and watching, and coming to them with their young kids. Younger ones are starting to realise what their fathers and grandfathers did, and they're taking a bit of an interest."

But it's those moments after, the reuniting of mates at the RSA, when the memories will truly flow.

"Every time I go to the RSA, I think of a lot of people that I know that have died; some have been in the wars, some haven't," Barry said.

"It's camaraderie," Les said.

"The comradeship within the services was more reliable than out in the general street... You could rely on assistance from other members of your team. You didn't have to think, 'Well, is anyone behind me with a knife or a baton or anything like that?', because there was always someone [there]."



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# Gardening

## Get your garden ready for winter's embrace

The last month of Autumn is looming and the perfect time to do some winter weather preparation. Continued warm weather and some welcome rainfall has prolonged the growth of plants. It is an ideal time to weed, dig in compost and nutrients for soil health before the ground becomes too heavy and cold. Follow with a good layer of mulch which provides a blanket to keep the soil warm and suppress weed growth.

### In the flower garden

As gaps appear in spots around the garden, sprinkle annual seeds of poppies, calendula, cornflower, marigold, stocks or alyssum. Before planting, dig in compost and sheep pellets. Cover seed with a fine sprinkling of seed raising mix if you have some.

Autumn is the best time for planting new shrubs and trees so they can get established over the cooler winter months. Plant new season's daphne, camellias and rhododendron to add welcome colour to the garden in winter and early spring.

May is the last opportunity to get spring bulbs such as daffodils, freesia, hyacinth and tulip in the ground. You still have time to plant lilies, which are easy to grow and can be planted anytime



It's an ideal time to weed, dig in compost and nutrients for soil health.

File Photo: PIXABAY

between May and September. Dig in bulb food before planting and cover with 100mm of soil.

Once dahlias stop flowering, the tubers and gladioli corms can be lifted and stored in a dry place ready for replanting in spring. They need to be lifted every

couple of years because, left any longer, dahlia tubers quickly grow into heavy clumps.

Plan for the addition of new roses by preparing the soil by adding compost. New roses should be coming into garden centres next month. Existing

roses can have a light tidy up (not pruned yet) and spray with copper.

### Fruits & Vegetables

Continue harvesting autumn treats of feijoa, guavas and persimmon as they ripen.

Apples and pears, continue

late season harvesting. Once harvest is over and leaf fall is complete, these can be pruned and sprayed. Plum trees can be pruned once harvest is completed. Fertilise citrus around the base around the drip line.

Prepare strawberry beds for sowing young plants from June to November.

Continue harvesting your late summer crops of beetroot, cabbage, spinach and lettuce. The ground is still warm enough to be planting more lettuces, spinach and brassicas.

The last of the tomatoes will still ripen on the plants albeit a bit slower due to shorter daylight hours. If you have planted leeks at the end of summer as they grow, pile up the soil around the stems to provide support and keep the stems white. Add new herbs of thyme, coriander, parsley, rosemary and mint.

The compost heap will benefit from the addition of the autumn leaf fall. Many tree leaves are a particularly rich source of plant nutrients and make a valuable contribution to soil fertility. Turn compost heaps over regularly.

Lawns will need aeration and fertilising this month.

Enjoy your garden.

Ngatea Garden Circle

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### Public Notice

## ANZAC DAY

**Change to Plains Ward Civic Service on Thursday 25 April, 2024**



**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 through Hugh Hayward Domain (NOT Pipiroa Road and Orchard West Road as previous published).

DA Adams, JP  
Mayor - Hauraki District



*Lest we forget*

# Two Raw Sisters back Pink Ribbon

Two Raw Sisters have teamed up with Breast Cancer Foundation NZ to urge people in Waikato to host a Pink Ribbon Breakfast this May.

The best-selling cookbook authors, Margo and Rosa Flanagan, are using their passion for tasty and nutritious food to inspire Kiwis to tuck in for a good cause.

"We often have the mindset that 'it will never happen to me' but breast cancer is a lot more common than we think," Margo said.

"For us, hosting a Pink Ribbon Breakfast is more than sitting round a table with a bunch of women eating delicious food. Without the funds raised, Breast Cancer Foundation NZ can't continue their amazing job of breast cancer education and helping those affected by the illness."

For Rosa, the role of diet in breast cancer prevention and recovery matches the sisters' food philosophy: "We love making and sharing recipes that make you feel great. We want to make it easy for individuals to love food and experience the positive impact good food has on our overall well-being."

Breast cancer is the most common cancer for Kiwi women, with around 300 diagnosed in Waikato every year.

Pink Ribbon Breakfast is Breast Cancer Foundation NZ's largest annual fundraiser, where tens of thousands of Kiwis host special events throughout May in their homes, workplaces and communities. The money raised goes towards the charity's life-saving work in education, research, advocacy and patient support. Registrations are now open at pinkribbonbreakfast.co.nz.

"Pink Ribbon Breakfast is the ultimate show of support for the 3,500 Kiwi women diagnosed with breast cancer every year," says Ah-Leen Rayner, chief executive of the



Margo and Rosa Flanagan

Foundation.

"Hosting is easier than ever before, thanks a new website that supports people to register, plan and track their fundraising goals. As a charity that doesn't receive any government funding, it's only thanks to the generosity of New Zealanders that allows us to do whatever it takes to stop women of dying from breast cancer."

To help inspire Kiwis to get involved this May, Two Raw Sisters are offering Pink Ribbon Breakfast Club members a limited-time free subscription to their app and sharing a number of their delectable recipes. Here's one of them:

### Chocolate Raspberry Mug Cakes

Simply mix all of the ingredients in a mug and bake for 20 minutes. The end result is a fudge chocolate raspberry cake loaded with melted chocolate chunks and served with a big scoop of ice cream. Serves two, Prep time: 10 minutes

#### Ingredients

- 1/4 cup rolled oats (use brown rice flakes if GF)
- 2 tbsp flour (use buckwheat flour if GF)
- 1/2 banana, mashed
- 2 tbsp dark chocolate, roughly chopped
- 2 tbsp cacao powder
- 1 tbsp maple syrup
- 1 tsp vanilla bean paste or extract
- 3/4 tsp baking soda
- 1/4 cup plant-based or dairy milk
- 1/2 cup raspberries, fresh or frozen
- 1/2 tsp of sea salt

To serve: 2 scoops of plant based or dairy ice cream

#### Method

Preheat the oven to 180°C. Add all of the ingredients to an oven proof mug and mix until well combined. Place in the oven and cook for 20-25 minutes. Serve straight out of the oven with a scoop of ice cream for dessert.



# SPORTS

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



## Hautapu prevails against Hauraki North Diamonds

The third round of the Waikato Women's Championship fixture witnessed an intense clash between the Hauraki North Diamonds and Hautapu, amidst Saturday afternoons wet conditions on the Hauraki Plains. The match, which kicked off at 1pm, was characterized by a relentless battle, despite the challenging weather.

The first half saw both teams fiercely competing, with neither side managing to break the deadlock until the 35th minute when Hautapu surged ahead, claiming the first points of the game. A successful conversion kick further bolstered their lead, ending the half at 0-7 in favour of Hautapu. After the break, Hautapu capitalized on their momentum, extending their lead to 12 points. However, the Hauraki North Diamonds rallied, with a solid period of play from the forward pack rumbling up and grinding through the phases, culminating with blindside Chloe Bur-

gess crossing over the line, narrowing the deficit to seven points.

Despite their efforts, a quick tap penalty in the 75th minute dashed the Hauraki North Diamonds' hopes of a bonus point, concluding the game with Hautapu emerging victorious at 17-5. Diamonds coach Vita Dryden said she was "proud of the way the girls worked together for 80 minutes, and had each other's backs in their first wet weather game of the season".

Despite the loss, the Hauraki North Diamonds showcased significant improvements in the scrums and team defence, drawing several positives from the encounter. They now set their sights on their upcoming fixture against UMS (Matamata) this coming Saturday at Hauraki North's ground, aiming to build on their performance.

- Andrew Connaughton

# Police 'legends' join community events

## OPINION



By RON AGNEW

In the old days, the support for the police within the community was amazing. In many instances, the police were stationed here for decades and not wishing to leave, dedicated to the town in fact.

I felt Ron and Dave White, and Sel Hunter were legends, and had all been here 10-20 years when I arrived as the fifth constable. Dick Abel the Sergeant transferred shortly after and Sgt John Gorko and Liz, his wife, arrived.

The Thames staff were really embedded in the community and took part in nearly all the community events - trolley derbies, hospital bed races down the main street, Marine SAR open days and raft races, Barbara Doyles' Murder Mysteries at the Brian Boru Hotel, business netball, soccer, golf and bowls competitions.

At morning and afternoon teas at the Police Station, one never knew who would pop in: publi-



Former Thames Police officer Ron Agnew, left, with Margaret Dorreen and Colin Mollohy at the annual Thames Trolley Derby. TOP RIGHT: Shorty Walmsley, of the Thames Star. Photos: SUPPLIED

cans, SAR personnel, CD Police, solicitors. However, one regular was the wonderful Shorty Walmsley, the Thames Star photographer, who called in every Monday morning to take photos of whatever had been occurring over the weekend. He would report back to the chief reporter, Gwenda Aitkinson, of any possible news stories. Shorty and his wife, Pat, and family were wonderful supporters of the Police. Kingsley Field was the popular editor at the paper.

The Police Social Club, on the top floor of the old Station, was

open one night a week, for pool and darts and where many stories were told. Police challenged their CD Police brothers, or the SAR, tow truckies Mike Moore and Vic McWatt, or solicitors' to compete.

Although it couldn't be done now as a way of thanks, many people would drop beer into the station, in gratitude, as an example, after successful SAR searches, (Marine & Land), and similar events, and similarly at Christmas as a way of thanks.

There was one lady who was absolutely amazing. She was the

night shift telephone exchange operator up in the Post Office. The Police Station number was 32, and all the phones in Thames and the surrounding area were hooked into a switchboard at the Post Office. So you had to go through the switchboard to get connected to another phone number.

On party lines, there were a number of phones connected on the same line, especially out on the Plains. In those days sometimes about three or four households shared the same line. One house might be 35b, another 35d etc. You



would wind the handle of your phone and the operator would then dial the number you asked for. One had to hope the neighbours on the same line weren't listening in, as happened at times!

When we left the station at night to patrol the area, we told the exchange operator, and she took our calls. If urgent, she rang Hamilton Police station to call us on the car radio. When returning to the station, we rang her, and she was incredible.

She would proceed to summarise the evening's calls; often dealing with them herself from her extensive knowledge of the families involved, especially the regular ones. "Number 47 is having a domestic again after the pub. 64d are having problems with their son again and want him arrested. 102 have reported their car stolen again, but I told them to look down Pollen St again where they started their pub crawl at the beginning of the evening".

She was a powerful and positive presence, in our eyes, and she never realised I don't think, what a difference she made!

- Ron Agnew is a former Thames Police officer



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# The Valley Profile

# CHRIS' QUIZ

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parminter

1. Anzac biscuits traditionally contain which alternative to eggs as a binding ingredient?
2. In which year was the planet Pluto reclassified as a dwarf planet?
3. Which American author wrote the classic novel *The Catcher in the Rye*?
4. All true oak trees belong to which genus, beginning with Q?
5. Which word beginning with Z, refers to a machine that smooths the ice in an ice skating rink
6. Who was New Zealand's first elected female prime minister?
7. Yellow, magenta and what other colour make up the coloured inks used in most printers?
8. In 1983, DD Smash released the hit single 'Outlook for \_' which day of the week?
9. What is the most common chemical ion in seawater?
10. Which country's flag, still used today, is the oldest continuously used national flag in the world?

ANSWERS: 1. Golden syrup; 2. 2006; 3. J.D. Salinger; 4. Quercus; 5. Zamboni; 6. Helen Clark (Anny Shipley staged a coup to become PM, she was not elected by the public.); 7. Cyan; 8. Thursday; 9. Chloride; 10. Denmark.

# In Brief

## SUE WRIGHT HONOURED

The passing of former councillor and Coromandel Town resident Sue Wright was marked with sadness by Thames-Coromandel District Council. A retired school teacher, Sue was actively involved in the community for many years and received the QSM in 2009 for her services to the community. A Waikato Conservation Board trustee, she worked hard for the environment and also had a love of art and heritage. Sue was a Coro Community Services trustee (community van), and also active in the local museum, Forest and Bird, the Community Arts Council and Coro Heritage Trust (Treasury). Sue was also a member of Hauraki House committee, Keep Coromandel Beautiful and Buffalo Cemetery Committee.

She co-authored *True Tales of Coromandel, In Search of the Rainbow and The Coromandel Gold Trail*. She was instrumental in saving Hauraki House, The Thames Treasury and McGregor Bay wetland. She planted many trees, loved her garden, playing scrabble and her chooks. She will be missed by her two sons, David and Richard, and by her many friends.

## MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP

Thames Museum Te Whare Taonga o te Kauaeranga has joined Museum Aotearoa's national Keep the Lights On campaign to ensure it can continue serving the community. A membership scheme is being promoted to raise more funding, with the public being encouraged to sign up to support the museum. Chair Carolyn McKenzie said the museum was facing difficult times financially. In the last 10 months its door sales and membership

scheme faced a shortfall of \$1615 in meeting fixed costs, and it also had to find funds to protect and enhance its collection.

## NEW THAMES SIGNAGE

The first two of three new road signs at the entrances to Thames are in place, directing travellers to the town centre. Thames Community Board secured funding for the signs from the Ministry of Social Development as part of the 'Explore Interesting' Thames brand.

## RESTORATION AWARD

Kūaotunu Dune Care, a group of Kūaotunu residents and ratepayers working to protect local dunes ecologically and culturally, has been recognised for its environmental efforts. The incorporated society received the 2024 Coastal Restoration Trust Award for Outstanding Restoration Project at a conference in Kāwhia.

# SUDOKU

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

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HARD

147

HARD

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147

MEDIUM

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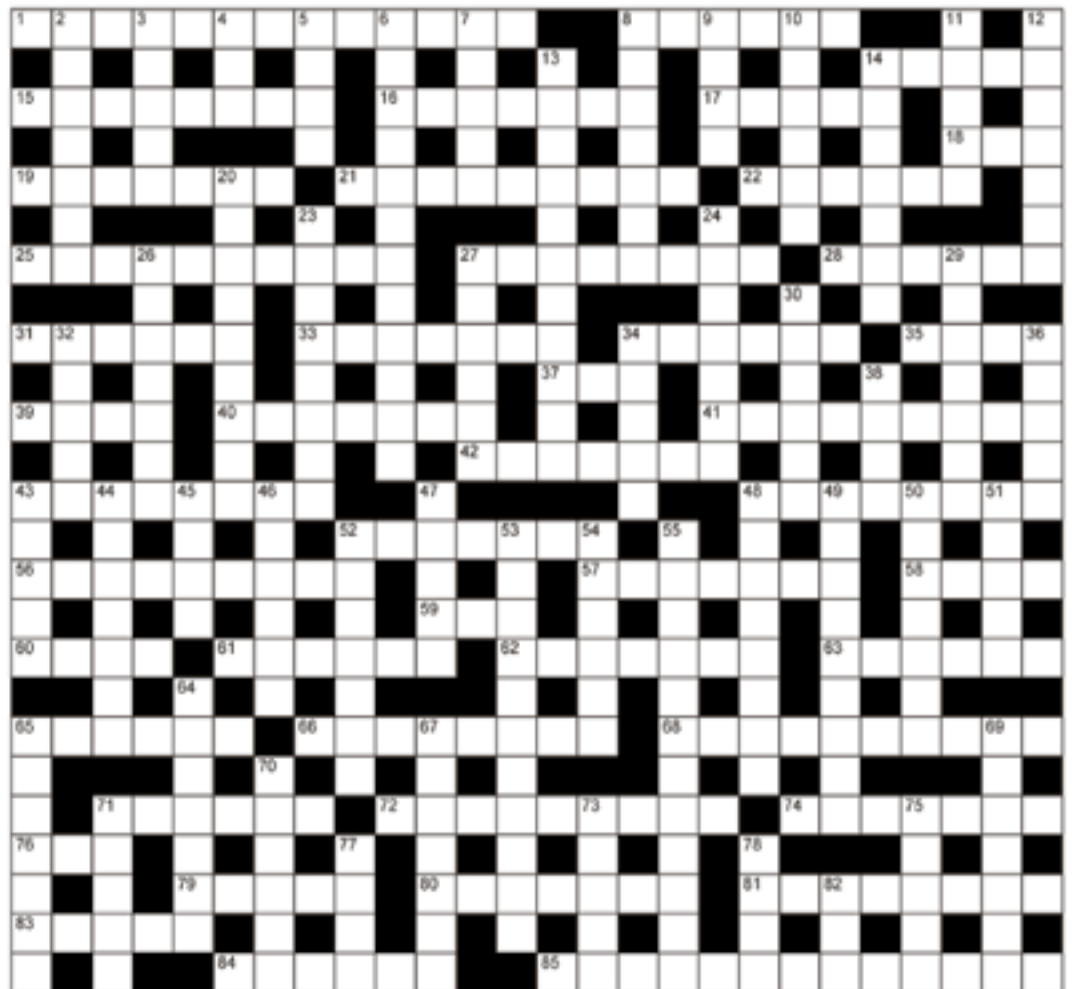
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1	6	5	4	2	7	3	9	8
4	8	2	9	6	3	1	7	5
7	9	6	5	4	8	2	3	1
8	5	1	2	3	6	7	4	9
2	4	3	7	1	9	5	8	6

# JUMBO CROSSWORD

167

- ACROSS**
- 1 Back up your argument or keep quiet (3,2,2,4,2)
  - 8 Surprise attack (6)
  - 14 Discourage (5)
  - 15 Short official news statement (8)
  - 16 Loving (7)
  - 17 Unlawful act (5)
  - 18 Self-image (3)
  - 19 Apparel (7)
  - 21 Welder's gas (9)
  - 22 Eat up (6)
  - 25 Greek philosopher and mathematician (10)
  - 27 Personification of the USA (5,3)
  - 28 Entirely free from (6)
  - 31 Son of Zeus (6)
  - 33 Bent (7)
  - 34 Declare not guilty (6)
  - 35 Pack away (4)
  - 37 One of the Seven Dwarfs (3)
  - 39 Boxing match (4)
  - 40 Compress (7)
  - 41 Be frugal (9)
  - 42 Keep from happening (7)
  - 43 Breakfast food (8)
  - 48 Small piece (8)
  - 52 Predict (7)
  - 56 Game-getting dog (9)
  - 57 More humorous (7)
  - 58 Bawdy (4)
  - 59 Pen tip (3)
  - 60 Subside (4)
  - 61 Contusion (6)
  - 62 Pupil (7)
  - 63 Just about (6)
  - 65 Favour (6)
  - 66 Glassed display box (8)
  - 68 Stop roaming (6,4)
  - 71 Pieces of bread (6)
  - 72 eg salt or pepper (9)
  - 74 Irregularity (7)
  - 76 Popular success (3)
  - 79 Stage whisper (5)
  - 80 Upset the composure of (7)
  - 81 A bet against heavy odds (4,4)
  - 83 Obvious (5)
  - 84 Medieval clown (6)
  - 85 Having surgery (5,3,5)
- DOWN**
- 2 As a rule (7)
  - 3 In darkness (5)
  - 4 Make a choice (3)
  - 5 Ballad (4)
  - 6 Not used to (12)
  - 7 Submarine (1-4)
  - 8 Nonexistence (7)
  - 9 Give support to (4)
  - 10 Small harpsichord (6)
  - 11 Say (5)
  - 12 Wilted (7)
  - 13 Pamper (11)
  - 14 Very loyal (7)
  - 20 Completely preoccupied (9)
  - 23 Leaflet (8)
  - 24 Grand meal (7)
  - 26 Gun pouch (7)
  - 27 Maintenance (6)
  - 29 Exterior (7)
  - 30 Energy (6)
  - 32 Snapshot (5)
  - 34 Throbbled painfully (5)
  - 36 Cereal crop (5)
  - 38 Saucer-shaped bell (4)
  - 43 Separates (5)
  - 44 Entourage (7)
  - 45 Large wading bird with long downcurved bill (4)
  - 46 Reign over (6)
  - 47 Lying face downwards (5)
  - 48 Italian dish of fried beaten eggs (8)
  - 49 Hormone secreted in response to stress (9)
  - 50 Wild duck (7)
  - 51 Stair post (5)
  - 52 Cargo (7)
  - 53 Second-rate (11)
  - 54 Talk profusely in an excited manner (6)
  - 55 Beyond the limits of acceptability (12)
  - 64 Pouch-billed water bird (7)
  - 65 Maybe (7)
  - 67 Big one (7)
  - 69 Financially secure (4-3)
  - 70 Death (6)
  - 71 Drinking-tube (5)
  - 73 Grieve for (5)
  - 75 Brick or stone worker (5)
  - 77 Quick and neatly skilful (4)
  - 78 Apartment (4)
  - 82 Indicator of a woman's maiden name (3)



## PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Prophet, 4 Go scot-free, 9 Flutter, 13 Kiss, 14 Behave, 15 Yelled, 16 Cannery, 18 Pus, 20 Directions, 21 Shortage, 22 Singe, 25 Occupy, 26 Jalopy, 28 Accompany, 33 Time bomb, 34 Aboard, 35 Problem, 39 Prolific, 40 Recall, 41 Blow, 42 Latex, 43 Steam, 46 Lick one's wounds, 53 Meter, 56 Pivot, 57 Torn, 58 Trusty, 59 Standing, 62 Portion, 63 Adroit, 64 Admirers, 67 Metronome, 69 Pledge, 70 Gather, 74 Paddy, 75 Meltdown, 77 Shopkeeper, 81 Gas, 83 Orderly, 84 Grille, 85 Inlaid, 86 Fang, 87 Cluster, 88 Competence, 89 Gallery.

DOWN: 1 Poked, 2 Obstruct, 3 Thesis, 4 Grain, 5 Step, 6 Odyssey, 7 Falcon, 8 Erect, 10 Lead, 11 Tension, 12 Enrage, 17 Scepticism, 19 Egg on, 23 Sombrero, 24 Spark, 25 Octopus, 27 Anon, 29 Caribou, 30 Denial, 31 Hollow, 32 Serene, 34 Agape, 36 Brace, 37 Cove, 38 Bold, 44 Tripod, 45 About, 47 Idol, 48 Kingdom, 49 Notion, 50 Squat, 51 Outlawed, 52 Suture, 53 Mind-reader, 54 Thin, 55 Regular, 60 Court, 61 Smug, 65 Ended, 66 Shipmate, 68 Endless, 69 Pungent, 71 Barrel, 72 Dollop, 73 Spring, 76 Torso, 78 Halve, 79 Rugby, 80 Glee, 82 Sign.



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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Two choirs, two conductors, two concerts for Anzac

An “exciting” collaboration between the community choirs from St George’s Thames and Te Aroha will see them come together to sing excerpts from *The Armed Man: A Mass For Peace* this Anzac weekend.

The work, by Sir Karl Jenkins, was written as a response to the horrors of the Balkans War and in particular the siege of Sarajevo.

“It is the world’s most performed contemporary work, having been performed over 3000 times by professional and amateur choirs. St George’s Community choir performed the full work in 2018,” committee member Barbara Tegg said.

“The concert’s title *Donna Nobis Pacem (Grant Us Peace)*, from the beautiful Agnus Dei chorus, encompasses the theme of peace throughout the whole concert and so is appropriate to be performed close to Anzac Day.”

Both choirs will also perform their own programme of songs. These songs are varied in style and include *Ukuthula*, a traditional Zulu Prayer; *Adiemus*, also by Karl Jenkins, and *Wairua o Te Puna Aroha*, which speaks of love and togetherness.

John Mullon will conduct *The Armed Man* choruses as well as the Te Aroha choir’s programme. John has worked in music education both in New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

Community participation in music-based projects continues to motivate John and in 2012, he set up the Te Aroha Community Choir and continues to collabo-



Conductors Sandie Davis-Roberts and John Mullon will lead the Anzac weekend performances. SUPPLIED

rate with many other choirs.

Meanwhile, Sandie Davis-Roberts will bring a vast repertoire of choral experience to the stand when she leads St George’s community choir in their bracket of songs.

Now living in Thames, she began her career in choral music at the age of seven in England, and has since performed as a chorister and soprano soloist in choirs in the United Kingdom, Canada, and New Zealand. “Piano accompanist Yi Ting Heng has been working

hard as the rehearsal pianist in both Te Aroha and Thames, and will now accompany both performances,” Barbara said.

“Also joining the performances are a number of instrumentalists sourced from our local communities. Nichola Genn Harris - Head of Music at Thames High School - will be playing the flute and piccolo; Arvan Deepak Ram, in his second appearance for St George’s choir is the percussionist, and Emily Logan is playing the trumpet.

“The audience will be able to enjoy the beautiful harmonies of 65 singers ‘on stage’ in St George’s church, with its wonderful acoustics.”

St George’s Community Choir and Te Aroha choir are both non-auditioned choirs - all singers or potential singers are welcome.

**DETAILS: Performances on April 27, 2pm at the Senior Citizens Hall, Te Aroha, and April 28, 2pm at St George’s Church, Thames. Tickets: \$20 from Carson’s bookshop or at the door. School-age children free.**

## Thames talent on show at free concert

Thames Music Group’s next free lunchtime concert will consist of the musical stylings of Sam and Jayne from Arthur Road, and Maria Yates.

Held on April 26, the Thames Talent Concert will feature performances by Sam Rogers - a teacher at Thames High School and Jayne Bolsover - deputy head teacher at Te Puru School, as well as Maria Yates, who will sing and play separately.

Maria’s musical journey began with the Arai te Uru Cultural club in Dunedin in the 1960s. Kapa Haka provided numerous rhythmic and singing opportunities for Maria, who first learned guitar at Dunedin North Intermediate school. Maria has supported local theatre group Thames MAD in three productions, and is a member of Thames Acoustic group and Thames Musicians’ Club.

Maria’s love of waiata and singing has been shared with a number of schools in the community, and she will sing and play her favourite songs in this concert.

**DETAILS: Thames Music Group’s Friday Free Lunchtime Concert series presents Thames Talent with Arthur Road and Maria Yates, Friday, April 26 at 12:15pm, St George’s Church. More info: www.thamesmusicgroup.com.**

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