

The Valley Profile



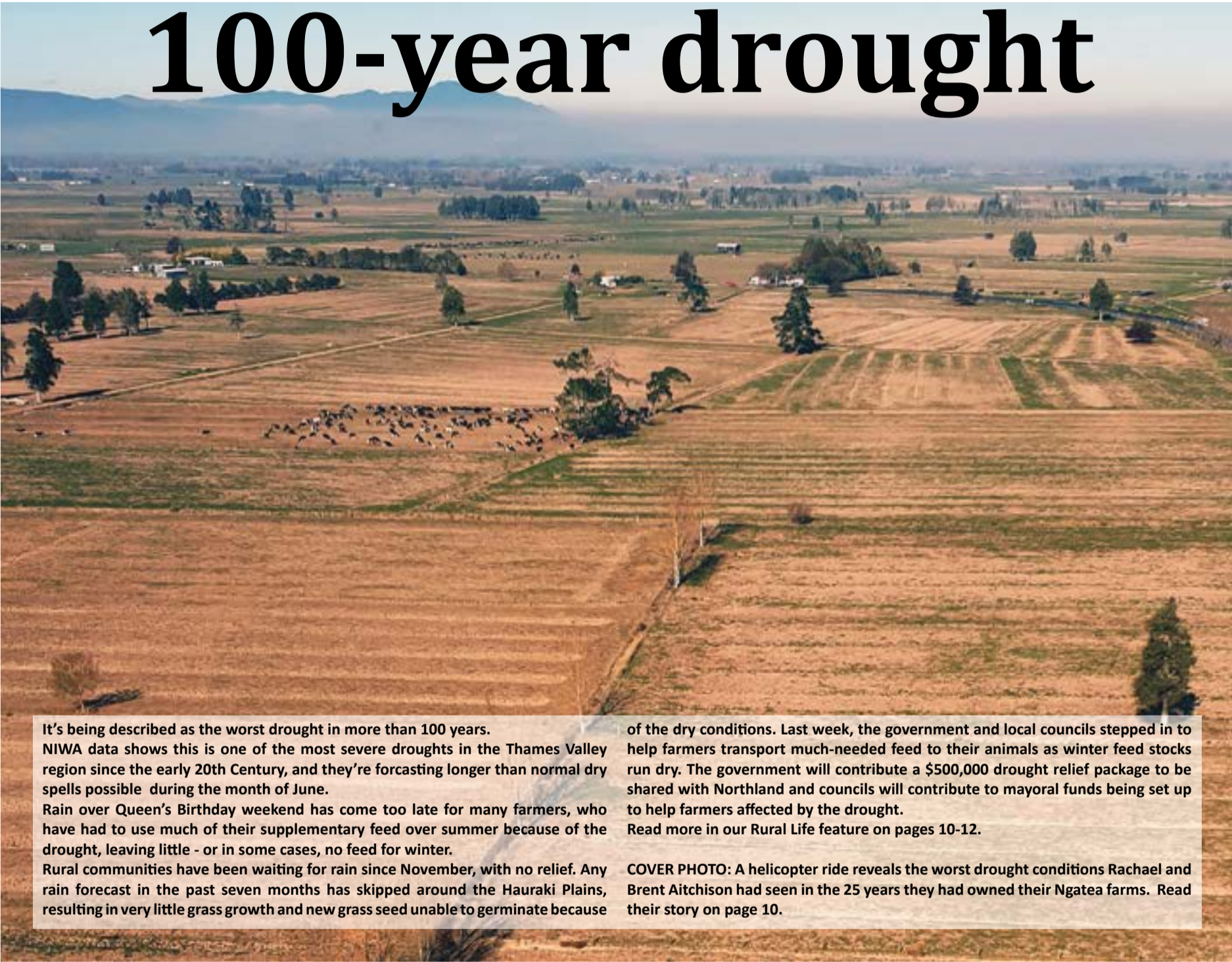
Students celebrate return to school, P5

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Issue 002

June 2020

100-year drought



It's being described as the worst drought in more than 100 years. NIWA data shows this is one of the most severe droughts in the Thames Valley region since the early 20th Century, and they're forecasting longer than normal dry spells possible during the month of June. Rain over Queen's Birthday weekend has come too late for many farmers, who have had to use much of their supplementary feed over summer because of the drought, leaving little - or in some cases, no feed for winter. Rural communities have been waiting for rain since November, with no relief. Any rain forecast in the past seven months has skipped around the Hauraki Plains, resulting in very little grass growth and new grass seed unable to germinate because

of the dry conditions. Last week, the government and local councils stepped in to help farmers transport much-needed feed to their animals as winter feed stocks run dry. The government will contribute a \$500,000 drought relief package to be shared with Northland and councils will contribute to mayoral funds being set up to help farmers affected by the drought. Read more in our Rural Life feature on pages 10-12.

COVER PHOTO: A helicopter ride reveals the worst drought conditions Rachael and Brent Aitchison had seen in the 25 years they had owned their Ngatea farms. Read their story on page 10.

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The Valley Profile is a monthly community newspaper that delivers 100% local news in the Thames Valley region.

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We deliver 12,000 copies to every letterbox, reaching approximately 22,500 readers in Hauraki Plains, Paeroa, Thames and Thames Coast.

DEADLINE
News and advertising deadline is noon on the 20th of the month. We can design your advertisement at no extra charge but please give us as much notice as possible.

DELIVERY
The Valley Profile community newspaper will be delivered on the first Wednesday of every month.

ADVERTISING RATES
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We welcome letters to the editor for publication in The Valley Profile. Please email your views to editor@valleyprofile.co.nz. Letters need to be 200 words or less and may be edited, abridged or rejected at the editor's discretion.

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Consumer spending bounces back

By TERESA RAMSEY

Spending in the Thames Valley region has bounced back after the four-week Covid-19 shutdown.

A Te Waka Waikato Economic Development Agency economic report released on May 27 shows weekly spending nose-dived around 60 per cent during the shutdown compared to the same period last year, but steadily increased under Alert Level 3.

On May 17, just a few days after moving to Alert Level 2, consumer spending in the Thames region was about 15 per cent higher than the same period last year and spending in the Hauraki region was just below normal.

Thames Business Association (TBA) chief executive Sue Lewis-O'Halloran said a further increase in spending was expected in the next week as the region spent more time in Alert Level 2.

"With the support of loyal local customers, consumer spend with local businesses has recovered really well inside of Level 2," she said.

"We are all in this together - let's keep moving in a positive direction on our journey back to normal (the new normal)."

Sue, who took up the chief executive role during the shutdown, said shopping locally was more important now than it had ever been. Thames was a resilient, re-



Thames Business Association chair Heather Moore, left, with new chief executive Sue Lewis-O'Halloran.

tail service town, which would help get it through the Covid-19 shutdown, she said.

"So far, we haven't heard of any businesses failing in the Thames area in the lockdown. What we've noticed in talking to shopkeepers is they're very positive.

"We really believe that Thames has a unique business community, we're not dependent on the tourism dollar as are other communities on the Coromandel. Yes we do like the tourism dollar, however, we have a lot of other things going for us."

Born in Canada, Sue moved to the Thames Coast 12 years

ago with husband and local Clive O'Halloran. She has worked in the not-for-profit sector for most of her career. In her new role, she planned to further promote the Thames area, she said.

"We're right now looking for the point of difference, what's going to make us stand out. And we have some ideas we'd like to present but it really is outside the box thinking. We can't do everything that we've always done because it's not going to get the great result."

Sue plans to visit all retailers and as many commercial owners as possible.

"We want to build our membership so we have a stronger voice.

"We need to get our funding sorted, we are hoping to have backing from the community, from the council and from other funders in order to grow the TBA to attract more business.

"We're close to major centres and we are becoming more attractive to people in those major centres and there are a great number of people moving here."

She also encouraged locals to explore their own backyard.

"A lot of people don't tour their own country, which is phenomenal."

Letter to the editor

DROUGHT OVERLOOKED

Congratulations on *The Valley Profile*. Finding it in my mailbox on the Thames Coast was a pleasure and I look forward to when it's twice monthly. It's long past time that we had a local newspaper with local news instead of articles gathered from afar.

Covid-19's importance has masked the problem of this extended drought. The brown pad-

docks with dessicated drains points up a lack in planning for the future. Firstly, the need for unused water storage (tanks and dams) and secondly, the provision of native bush/forest that stores water in its detritus-covered forest floors. It's obvious that the DOC estate, where pests are managed, allows the streams to keep running. Farmers need the bush.

Sincerely, Peter H Wood.

End in sight for Ngatea roadworks

NZTA expects to complete the Ngatea main street upgrade during the week of June 8 - nearly six months after roadworks began.

Delays during the upgrade have severely disrupted businesses, with some having to lay off staff.





Asphalt has now been laid on all car parking bays and most of the eastbound lane, with just the area near the bridge to be completed.

Work stopped for Queen's Birthday weekend, with traffic reopened to two lanes until crews

returned on June 2. In order to safely lay the asphalt on the bridge and the approaches on the western side of the river, the road will be closed on Friday, June 5, from 9am to 3pm. This is because this area is too narrow for the asphalt machinery to work and allow a lane of traffic to safely pass.

While the bridge is closed, State Highway 2 traffic will be detoured around Ngatea, but the main road will be open to traffic in both directions as far as River Rd.

JUNE 2020

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MAORI FISHING GUIDE BY BILL HOHEPA

Students step back in time

By TERESA RAMSEY

A time capsule thought lost forever has been unearthed during major drainage works at Hikutaia School after more than 40 years.

Principal Wayne Whitney said the time capsule was buried in 1979 during the school's centenary celebrations.

Past pupil Richard Bax said he remembered burying the time capsule during centenary celebrations with his father, George, who was chairman of the school committee and centenary committee at the time.

"It got moved because we tried to find it for the 125th reunion and we dug up half the school and we couldn't find it," he said.

"It was probably just a random stroke of luck that I drove past [during drainage works] ... the whole place was dug up and I thought there's a time capsule there somewhere. It was just sitting among the rest of the concrete in the rest of the rubble - it would have just gone straight in the dump truck.

"It was quite exciting when we did find it."



Past pupils Richard Bax, left, and Rodney Spinks with students Pippa and Harry Campbell-Spinks and in front: Ollie Silvester, left, and Kaea Koia-Hamling with the contents of the time capsule.

Photo: TERESA RAMSEY

The time capsule contained centenary memorabilia, such as pins and a teaspoon, along with a whistle, dice, Stanley knife, pen, pencil and other small items. They were in poor condition despite being stored in a glass preserving jar wrapped in plastic.

Matua Wayne said the students didn't understand the purpose of the recovered time capsule initially but now senior students were keen to make their own time capsule.

"They're thinking about what

they could put in for the future for other people to think what it was like for us now in 50 years' time," he said.

"We could put something about Covid-19 in and other bits and pieces, they're talking about a mobile phone ... different things that will be out of date or change between now and then.

"It'll be interesting to see what they come up with."

A centennial plaque was also found during the drainage works, which will be restored along

with the school's centennial garden. The school is yet to decide what will happen to the recovered time capsule, but it may be put on display in the school.

There was another time capsule buried during the school's 50-year celebrations but it couldn't be found. Another buried during the school's 125th reunion has been dug up and is on display in the school office.

The \$150,000 drainage works are part one of a series of upgrades at the school.

Honours announced

Two Thames Valley women have received The Queen's Service Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours List - Dawn Elliott, of Paeroa, for services to art education and Gwenyth Wright, of Thames, for services to women and the community.

Mrs Elliott has been painting for more than 40 years and has been a voluntary art teacher since the 1980s. She taught art in Auckland before moving to Paeroa in 1996, when she taught painting classes at Paeroa College until 2009. She has also been the driving force behind primary schools exhibiting pupils' work at the Paeroa Society of Arts gallery, where she's also helped hold regular exhibitions. Mrs Elliott also initiated an art exhibition known as 'Paeroa's Art in Windows', where shop windows and businesses displayed art works relating to life in Paeroa. Mrs Elliott is a life member of the Paeroa Society of Arts and has also been a member of the Thames Art Society.

Ms Wright established the Thames Women's Loan Fund (WLF) in 2003, providing community-led microcredit to women without charging interest. The microcredit scheme is for women who need help to establish a small business, study, or stabilise their financial situation. Ms Wright was also a founding trustee of the Wellington WLF from 1992 to 2002. She also established the Organic Strategy Group in 2003, which contributes to a greater understanding of organic horticulture in the community, and organised earth building workshops and an organic farming intern scheme for youth established in 2009. Ms Wright also worked with the Thames Coromandel District Council in 2015 to arrange land for natural burials in Hikutaia and edited the Women in Agriculture newsletter from 1982 to 1992.



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Tragic end for little Lily Brown



As part of a Valley Profile series, **MEGHAN HAWKES** explores our local history by seeking out the stories behind Thames Valley headstones.

Little Lily Brown was witness to the heroic measures that were taken to save the Maori of Waitakaruru during the 1918 Spanish Flu epidemic. Victims were in buildings that weren't weatherproof, many lay on bare floors. Those who died remained unburied. Mr Stretton and his family, Waitakaruru locals, worked hard to help those stricken but they were quickly overwhelmed. The chairman of Thames Hospital sent help in the form of Mr Hammond and together the two men battled the unseen enemy. They mixed disinfectant in kerosene tins and splashed it around homes on brooms made of tea-tree bush in an attempt at fumigation. They found a mattress for one woman they discovered lying on the wire weave of a bed. They took temperatures and left medicine. They sent out requests for lemons and oranges. They brought sufferers jars of sago and milk and beef tea. They made stretchers of saplings threaded through sacks.



View of Waitakaruru on the western side of the Piako swamp.

They organised coffin building and arranged burials. At great risk to themselves they worked day after day in ceaseless rounds of care and compassion, witnessing heart-breaking scenes. Ultimately Nurse McKinnon arrived and took over the district. Thirteen had died, among them the parents of Lily Brown. Nine-year-old Lily was then adopted by well known Waitakaruru settlers, Ropi and Rihi Brown. Rihi Brown was a very popular woman of high rank. Her grandfather was a noted Maori mariner whose war canoes were conspicuous in many battles in the Hauraki Gulf and the Waitematā. By the time she was 11, in 1920, Lily was settled into her new life. When she left home with her sister one October morning for their one-roomed, single teacher school, about 2½ miles distant, her thoughts were probably on the rattling, rumbling Land Department's train of road metal trucks. This was the government's light railway, used for delivering metal to roads on the Hauraki Plains. The school children would

frequently climb on the trucks to get a ride. Lily arrived at around 8.30am and began playing about the road near the school with friends. The Land Department's traction engine, with five trucks ahead of it, was coming along the tramline. Lily and another girl named Preston ran along the side of the trucks unseen by the engine driver, who was facing in the opposite direction. Lily tried to climb on to the first truck but somehow she slipped and fell under the wheels. The alarm was immediately given and the engine stopped but Lily had been killed instantly. Lily's death, which occurred between the Waitakaruru stream bridge and the canal, was ruled an accident by the coroner, with no blame being attached to anyone. There was an impression amongst her horrified school friends that her coat may have got caught in a wheel. Lily is likely buried at Makomako urupa, on Back Miranda Rd, Waitakaruru. This cemetery is more than 100 years old and is the burial place of many of the descendants of the Paraone aka Brown families.

Captain Cook memorial restored

By TERESA RAMSEY

An historic memorial marking the spot in Kopu where Captain Cook landed in 1769 has been restored.

The memorial was officially opened near the Kopu Bridge on May 29 following a project to restore it in a landscaped site using stone from the Kauaeranga Valley.

The memorial was originally erected at the Kopu Bridge in 1941 and was moved to the Kopu Public Hall in the 1980s before being put in storage about 10 years ago.

The project to restore and resite the memorial cost \$48,000, including \$24,000 in funding from the Ministry for Culture and Heritage and \$24,000 from Thames Coromandel District Council.

The project cost more than expected because of the soft marine clay at the site.

Members of the Kopu Landowners & Occupiers Association,



The Cook memorial at Kopu

Heritage Network Group and Kopu Bridge Society took part in the official opening, along with Thames-Coromandel Mayor Sandra Goudie.

"This has just been restored magnificently," she said.

"This is about 1769 being celebrated by the Thames community. It's great that we still value and cherish our historic monuments and places, I think that's very important and a special part of what Thames is all about."



The restored Captain Cook memorial was officially opened at Kopu on May 29.



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Funds raised despite shutdown

Being closed since March didn't stop Ngatea Playcentre from making nearly \$1000 in its annual fundraiser.

Spokesperson Nicole Däbler said this year's fundraiser was probably the most successful compared to previous years, despite the Covid-19 shutdown.

The centre raised \$950.50 through online platforms, including a successful Oxford Pie fundraiser.

"We very much appreciate all the orders and contributions from family members, friends and other members of the local community," she said.

"As a thank you we as a centre are going to donate some pies and other food and non-food items to people in need in our community."

The centre will decide at its

next meeting how to spend the funds raised, however, ongoing projects currently include re-naturing the kitchen and carpentry shed.

The centre will reopen on July 21 2020, she said.

"Lots of our kids miss playing with their friends, doing messy play, constructing in the large sand pit and using all the other great resources for play we have at our centre," she said.

"Nevertheless the fun and learning has continued at home during this extraordinary time, which we are all facing in different ways.

"Our mums and dads have continued to provide activities and experiences supporting our children's interests and development, keeping the Playcentre spirit alive at home."



Zoe and Laine Williams create artworks from leaves while at home during the shutdown. Photos: SUPPLIED



Addison Abraham, left, and Zoe Williams both graduated from Playcentre during the shutdown.



Students get into the Fun Friday dress up theme.

Fun return to school

Ngatea Primary School staff, students and parents celebrated their return to school after the shutdown with a Fun Friday dressup day on May 22. "It has been a lovely return to school and we have loved seeing our students' smiling faces on site, reconnecting with their friends, teachers and other school support staff," deputy principal Vicki Coles said. "Thank you so much to all our parents and caregivers who have supported their children with home-based learning during our time in lockdown."



Junior students enjoy getting out and about.



Onsies were a popular choice on a chilly morning. Photos: SUPPLIED



Students show off their costumes in the main street.



Ngatea Primary School staff decided to bring some joy, smiles and lightness to the return to school after the Covid-19 shutdown by dressing up every day of their first week back.



Local Radio Broadcasting to Paeroa & the Hauraki Plains

Coromandel's CFM on 94.0FM

Rach Stewart Photography @rachstewartnz



This advertisement is authorised by the Hauraki District Council

Monday, 1 June 2020



Funds for farmers

They say the pen is mightier than the sword, and they're right.

Recently our three local Mayors (Hauraki, Matamata-Piako and Thames Coromandel) and local MP Scott Simpson wrote a letter to Minister of Agriculture Damien O'Connor asking for help for local farmers.

Soon after the government announced relief funding for drought stricken farmers in north Waikato and Northland to the tune of \$500,000.

The money will go to local mayoral drought relief funds to hand out for the purchase and delivery of feed supplies.

Hauraki District Council will also add \$10,000 towards the fund.

Mayor Toby Adams said the effects of the drought had been bubbling away in the shadow of Covid 19 for some time.

How to apply

We're currently working through the details of how the money will be distributed. It may take a few weeks before this is finalised.

Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for more information on how to apply.

Rates relief for farmers

Covid 19 related rates payment extensions and holidays are also available for drought-stricken farmers.

To apply for a rates payment extension or holiday go to <https://forms.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/rates-holiday>

“There's been a lot of emphasis on Covid, but we're forgetting we're in one of the worst droughts ever in recorded history, particularly in Eastern Waikato.”

Mayor Toby Adams

Normal rubbish collections have started again!

You can put your council rubbish bag out every week on your normal collection day - it doesn't need to go in your wheelie bin. As for recycling – this will once again be collected fortnightly on the normal recycling week for your street. And, remember that glass in crates will be collected at the same time as your wheelie bin.

Plastic by numbers

From now on, only plastic types 1 and 2, along with paper, cardboard, aluminium cans and clean tins will be accepted in your wheelie bin and at our refuse transfer stations.

Plastics 1 and 2 include things like milk, soft drink and shampoo bottles. Whereas plastics 3 to 7, which are not being collected, are things like yoghurt pots and takeaway containers. Check the container for the number in the triangular recycle symbol.

If it's not 1 or 2, or you can't determine the number, it goes in the rubbish. Please don't burn plastics 3 to 7, this is more harmful to the environment than sending them to landfill.

To start with, while we all get used to the changes, all recycling including plastic types 1 and 2 will go to landfill. The good news is, once the sorting centre in Kopu gets up and running on 15 June, clean plastic types 1 and 2 will be recycled and repurposed, which will mean less plastic is going back into the environment.

Hey, please don't wishcycle

Plastics 3 to 7 are no longer being collected because since China stopped recycling plastics from other countries, no feasible overseas or local market has been found.

We're not giving up on this problem. We support WasteMINZ who are lobbying the government to ban the use of plastics 3 to 7, and we're actively looking for alternative solutions.

In the meantime, please don't wishcycle by putting them in your bin, wishing they'll be recycled. They won't be, and you'll contaminate the whole load of recycling, meaning everything will go to landfill.

For more info go to www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/plastic-recycling-faqs

New Ngatea footpath next steps

Hey, thanks for your feedback on our proposed footpath design.

Earlier this year we asked you what you thought about our proposed footpath design for the Ngatea main street. Overall, you told us that you liked the design, which used simple robust materials, including exposed aggregate, with coloured inlays in selected areas.

Now we know we're on the right path, we're hoping to start building the footpath in July – depending on contractor availability. We expect NZ Transport Agency will have finished the SH2 road renewal and kerb and channel upgrade work by then. Building the footpath at the same time as the roadworks would have caused too much disruption, raised safety issues, and slowed the roadworks project down.

The aim is to replace the whole length of the main street footpath in 100m sections. We'll work with the contractor to confirm timeframes closer to the project start date.

To see the footpath design and stay updated on this project go to www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/projects

Or sign up to our e-newsletter **In the Loop** and receive updates straight to your inbox www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/e-newsletter

Next chapter begins for Ngatea library upgrade

The next chapter in the story of the Ngatea library and service centre upgrade has begun.

At its meeting on 27 May, the Council agreed to invest up to \$65,000 in the next phase of the project, which is to do a full assessment of the existing building and draw up concept designs and plans. A working party made up of the Mayor, councillors and community representatives will be set up to work on the designs and keep the community up to speed as they go.

Mayor Toby Adams says the Council received extensive community feedback throughout the early stages of the project and has a detailed understanding of what's important to its communities, both now and in the future,

“We've summarised all the feedback in a community book and we'll be using that a lot as we go along. It's going to be looking pretty well-used and dog-eared by the time we're finished,” he said.

Other decisions made last year include that the library and service centre stays in the existing building, which may include alterations and additions, at the current site.

“There was a tidal wave of feedback that the library and service centre should stay put right where it is next to the Hugh Hayward Domain and we've taken that on board,” the Mayor said.

Once plans for the upgrade are finalised the working party will share them with the wider community and the Council will make further decisions on the actual building part of the project. Overall, it's expected to take about two years from putting pencil to paper until the key is turned in the new door lock.

Elected Members appointed to the working party include:

- Mayor Toby Adams
- Deputy Mayor Paul Milner (Chair)
- Plains Ward Chair Ross Harris
- Councillors, Ray Broad, Rodney Garrett and Rino Wilkinson

The working party will also appoint someone from the Plains community as well as someone from the wider community to be part of the working party.

For more information, and to view the community book visit our website: <https://weneedtotalk.hauraki-dc.govt.nz>

Paeroa op shop goes national

By TERESA RAMSEY

Shoppers queue outside the Paeroa Promotions Opportunity shop, waiting patiently for their turn to browse through the bargains inside.

It's the first day of Covid-19 Alert Level 2 and founder and manager Marise Carey and her team of volunteers have been busy behind the scenes during the shutdown, getting ready for the expected crowds.

Mrs Carey also spent the shutdown setting up a temporary online shop - "to keep me busy and sane but to generate money for the shop".

"We were okay until about August with enough funds in our account to carry us through, but no-one really knew how long this was going to go for. I have to be busy," she said.

"I was only in lockdown for two weeks and I didn't cope well."

Keeping busy is how she copes with losing her 22-year-old son William, who died in a car accident two years ago.

"I need to do something meaningful. That's another motivation for doing this. I need to give back, it's a healing thing, keeping busy, helping people. William always helped everybody, that's the way we brought the kids up."

The online shop exceeded all expectations during the shutdown, with orders flowing in



Paeroa Promotions Opportunity shop founder and manager Marise Carey, left, with assistant manager Donna Hone. Photo: TERESA RAMSEY

from Wanaka, Christchurch and Welling to Napier, New Plymouth and Kaitia. The reason the online shop took off was the reasonable pricing and good quality items, she said.

"From that we had a really good response and made a lot of money, which I actually decided to invest back into the shop because we haven't invested a lot in fittings."

The online shop is now closed, and will only reopen if the country goes into shutdown again.

Mrs Carey opened the Hughenden St op shop six months ago to give back to the community - all profits are donated to charity.

"We wanted to open another op shop that was community-focussed and affordable and in the same token, put the money back into Paeroa town and the

local Hauraki area," she said.

To help with the problem of finding volunteers to help run the shop, she began offering the shop directly to schools and community groups for a set fee to cover expenses. The groups provided their own volunteers and kept any profits they made.

"On average, they walked away with around \$800 a week for their fundraisers," she said.

This also meant they didn't have to decide which charity groups received the profits from the op shop, she said.

Donations of clothes and bric a brac flood in from throughout the Hauraki District. The shop is becoming so busy, they're looking for bigger premises.

"I was looking for a bigger shop before Covid. Out the back ... it's just chocka block."

Funds raised for Foodbank

Richmond Villas residents raised \$1157 for Thames Foodbank during the Covid-19 shutdown.

Residents' committee president Joanna Farrell said residents were enthusiastic about holding a collection for the foodbank as they wanted to give back during difficult times.

"We wanted to make sure it stayed in Thames for the local people here," she said.

"We are well looked after in here, we're all pensioners so we don't need to rely on businesses or work to be financially viable. And we haven't been spending because we haven't been out of the village."

The committee, which met monthly, organised regular functions and activities for residents

and kept an eye on their health and wellbeing, she said.

While confined to the village grounds during the four-week Alert Level 4 shutdown, residents took part in many activities, including line dancing and regular walks, all while practicing physical distancing.

Village staff had been "wonderful" during the lockdown, buying groceries and other necessities for residents, which was reassuring for those in the high risk age group, she said.

"There's not many residents under 70, quite a few have chest complaints and heart problems as you do in elderly age group. Once it gets into a village or rest home [Covid-19] is dynamite."



Richmond Villas residents take part in a line dancing session during the shutdown. Photo: SUPPLIED

Dolphins in Ngatea

The rare and beautiful sight of around 60 dolphins swimming in the Piako River in Ngatea on May 18 surprised and amazed bystanders. The pod of dolphins - some around 2.5m long, swam 12km inland from the Firth of Thames to Ngatea township.

They were thought to be either bottlenose or common dolphins, and it was likely the reason they were so far inland was because they were chasing food. The large pod of dolphins' early morning swim entranced and delighted bystanders. Christine Beagley was one of many to take

video footage of about 20 of the dolphins swimming and jumping out of the water near the Hauraki Plains College and Districts Rowing Club in Kaihere Rd, Ngatea. Dolphins swimming in brackish water is not thought to be common, however, she had seen videos of dolphins swimming in the Waihou River as well, she said.



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Pastor looks forward to new his role at Paeroa Baptist Church

By TERESA RAMSEY

When the new pastor at Paeroa Baptist Church began his new job during the Covid-19 shutdown, he had no idea when he would meet his flock.

Bryce Millar took up his new role at the church in Wood St, Paeroa, on May 26 when he and his wife Carol and their 4-year-old son Harrison moved from Napier. However, he expected it could be some time before he could hold the church's regular full Sunday services with his congregation of about 70 people because of the Covid-19 virus pandemic.

"I don't know how long we will be in this space, no-one does," he said.

"There are some concerns with having some older people in our congregation and we have some people who are in that more vulnerable bracket so we maybe will be holding off having services a

little bit longer for their sake.

"We're going to start encouraging people to take advantage of those groups of 10 so they can meet in some capacity."

If Covid-19 restrictions continued too long, he might consider setting up some form of online worship, he said.

"There are some technology barriers but the hope is we'll be out soon and in the meantime, the smaller groups can gather together and love each other and pray. I think that's mainly the thing that we do miss."

Pastor Millar, 32, studied a degree in Applied Theology and Diploma in Pastoral Leadership at Carey Baptist College in Auckland before becoming a youth pastor for several churches in Napier and his home town of Taupo for 12 years. The Paeroa position was his first role as senior minister, he said.

Though he had plenty of ideas to bring to his new role, he



Bryce Millar is the new pastor at Paeroa Baptist Church.

Photo: TERESA RAMSEY

wouldn't be making any executive decisions, he said.

"It takes someone to be committed to listen and be engaged in the processes and that's what I want to be doing - I'm not making the calls, I'm not telling us what to do, I just want us to be engaging in these processes together," he said.

"As Baptists, we should be the best at that, it's one of our key foundational principles, this idea of congregational governance. "Every voice is important."

A big welcome to Jazz the feral blue and cream tortoiseshell kitten - a real 'heart breaker'

A feral kitten full of fear was trapped facing an uncertain future.

One rescuer's heart breaks seeing this incredibly gorgeous blue cream tortoiseshell, the terror and uncertainty in that face led us to rescue another forgotten waif, despite saying we cannot take on any more felines. Jazz, a 10-week-old feral, joins the Animal Rescue Thames rehabilitation unit and is slowly responding to one-on-one attention - pats and strokes gain her trust each day. Stage one of



rehab sorted. Stage two is met with tortoiseshell defiance, and grim furry determination that this pick up, cuddle stuff is not on her agenda nor met with any great

deal of joy. On the two times we were able to get her clear of the unit to the bedroom she loved the cuddles, enjoyed warm blankets and being fussed over. She is a drama queen this one and her socialisation will take longer and at her pace and hers alone. She has quickly learnt to back right away to the furthest unreachable corner to avoid this ridiculous idea of her being cradled and molly coddled.

Her coat is plush and soft and given time she will be like Lizzy,

the other naughty tortie who unceremoniously beats the daylights out of both 5-month-old brothers.

The brothers are now able to be adopted to their new forever home but must remain as a pair and need a quiet, more rural home to cruise around.

FUNDRAISING

Our garage sale has been suspended until we are clear of the Covid-19 levels so in the interim, we sell what we can for what we can get on the internet. Our account

is low and our budget incredibly tight though we appreciate it's tough times around us so we will find a way through. Thank mews to all those special people who have donated cat food to the rescue unit. One donation included tinned salmon, tuna and also sardines - treat time for felines who adore fishy dinners. Also a financial blessing from a lovely family has helped feed the felines for over a week. Ph 07 868-2907.

- Alice & John Parris

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Drought conditions revealed

By TERESA RAMSEY

It wasn't until dairy farmer Rachael Aitchison saw her farm from the air that she realised the severity of the drought gripping the Hauraki Plains.

The photos she took during a helicopter ride over the property on May 22 shocked a lot of people, she said.

"It doesn't look that bad from on the ground but when you actually get up there and you see that, it's a bit mindblowing."

The photos revealed the worst drought conditions she and husband Brent had seen in the 25 years they'd farmed their two dairy farms near Ngatea, she said.

"We've had droughts but not going into the end of May," she said.

"We've had feed and we've had systems in place, but when it goes on this long ...

no-one can plan for a drought that goes for seven months. It's unheard of for us here."

The Hauraki Plains is one of the worst-hit regions in the country, along with Thames-Coromandel, Northland and Hawke's Bay. NIWA data shows it's one of the most severe droughts in more than 100 years.

"There is this pocket in the central Hauraki Plains that rain has just dodged since November. We watch it, it goes through the Firth of Thames and to Te Aroha," she said.

The couple usually farm a total of 1050 dairy cows on their 155ha and 195ha farms, but because of the drought, they have had to cut cow numbers to just 800.

Despite the cut in cow numbers, the Aitchison's supplementary feed bill this

season has still skyrocketed because of the drought.

"It's superseding any budget or expectations - at the moment, over and above our normal feed budget, we would have spent \$250,000," she said.

The cows were "just holding" their condition despite drying off in early April instead of the end of May because of the lack of feed.

"These cows are due to start calving in six weeks. We're having to put pretty serious systems in place for the start of calving so we'll be looking at starting them just milking once a day as opposed to twice a day. So straight away there's production cuts."

The drought had caused some sleepless nights, she said.

"Our staff seem to be coping very well

so we've really got to focus on looking after our staff, they're at the forefront of it, they're the ones feeding the cows. Stress levels are elevated but we are okay, we're doing alright."

"We're in contact with a lot of farmers that are surrounding us that are also in this drought condition so we just need to work together and support each other."

A drought relief package has been announced for north Waikato, see page 11 for details.

WHERE TO GET HELP:
Rural Support helpline: Ph 0800 787 254;
Beef + Lamb 0800 BEEFLAMB (0800 233 352); DairyNZ 0800 4 DAIRYNZ (0800 4 324 7969); AgFirst 0508 AGFIRST (0508 243 477).

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Rural Life

Support package announced for drought-stricken farmers

By TERESA RAMSEY

Financial help is on the way for Thames Valley farmers struggling with what's being described as the worst recorded drought in history.

After meeting with farmers on the Hauraki Plains on May 21, the region's mayors and Coromandel MP Scott Simpson made a plea to the government for financial assistance for those affected by the drought.

On Monday last week, Minister of Agriculture Damien O'Connor announced a \$500,000 drought relief package to be shared between north Waikato and Northland. The money will be given to mayoral drought relief funds set up to help farmers cover the cost of delivering much-needed feed supplies.

Hauraki district Mayor Toby Adams said council would also be contributing \$10,000. Council was currently setting up a working group to help farmers affected by the drought, with the main focus on helping with feed transportation costs, he said.

"We wanted to keep it fairly narrow and applicable and get it to as many as we possibly can,



Hauraki Mayor Toby Adams

so we felt that was a good way forward," he said.

However, those in other rural industries such as horticulture could also apply if they had been affected by the drought, he said.

Mayor Adams it was a 100-year drought based on the amount of hardship it's caused.

"It's either one of or definitely the worst recorded drought in history in our area," he said.

"The average ground cover is probably 1000 kilos of dry matter a hectare less than there should be at this time of year, so there's quite a shortfall. I think on Monday [last week], one of the farms out on the Hauraki Plains got 10mls [of rain] - they really need a 100ml drop just to

get the grass to germinate and then 50 or 60mls a week just to keep on top of it."

Rain had been skirting around the Plains for months, he said.

"The eastern part of the Coromandel and us down in Hauraki just seem to be missing out. You can be at one end of Awaiti Rd in Paeroa where it's had a good drop of rain and travel two minutes down the road and it's had next to nothing."

The relief package wasn't likely to be enough for farmers, he said.

"They're going through something that's out of their control - no different from Covid-19, they can't control the rain and they're finding it just as tough. They've got the pressures and banks and people relying on them just like any other main street business in town. We are trying to show we support our rural communities as much as we do our business communities - every part of our community is important to us and we didn't want them to think they were out there on their own."

Council planned to release final details of the fund and how to apply within a few weeks.



Duck shooters urged to clean gear

Hunters and duck shooters are being urged to clean their equipment between waterways to avoid the spread of unwanted freshwater pests.

Waikato Regional Council's biosecurity team made the plea as the 2020 game bird season opened on May 23 - later than normal to take account of the COVID-19 restrictions.

"Unwanted freshwater pests such as didymo, hornwort and alligator weed continue to pose a serious threat to our rivers, streams and lakes," Waikato Regional Council biosecurity pest plants team leader, Darion Embling said.

"Once in a waterway they can disperse rapidly causing significant economic impacts, as well as destroying the environmental, recreational and aesthetic values of our waterways."

There was still a chance hunters and duck shooters could stop

the spread of the invasive pests, he said.

"To date there have been no positive confirmations of didymo in the North Island, and the freshwater weed hornwort which is wide-spread throughout the North Island has recently been eradicated in the South Island.

"Only a couple of years ago Lindavia intermedia, which produces a slime known as lake snow, was found for the first time in the Waikato and there's no known way of removing it once it's present."

Some freshwater pests were microscopic and could be spread by a single drop of water, he said.

"Even if you can't see the pest you could be spreading it."

"We are asking hunters moving between waterways to 'Check, Clean, Dry' any equipment that has come into contact with river or lake water - particularly boots, decoys, boats and boat trailers."



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Rural Life

Shed meetings guide farmers in drought

By KYLIE COX

This year's unusually dry autumn has been very tough for all farmers on the Plains.

Our clay farms have opened up providing ideal conditions for crickets. We are used to crickets on the Plains but this year some areas have experienced cricket resistance to bait which has amplified the problem.

The prolonged dry has meant many farmers have gone through most if not all of their winter supplement and are faced with severe pasture damage due to heat stress and overgrazing. In March and April, we all got out our seed drills for a much needed pasture patch up. I had been standing cows off at night since January as a tool to lengthen my rotation and look after pasture, but still had very open areas with 50 per cent of the farm requiring some kind of pasture renovation.

We received enough rain to germinate seeds but with no decent follow up rain, new grass

shoots have almost been at a stand still, sitting ducks for slugs if you didn't bait for them.

Some of the worst affected areas are in Turua, Kerepehi and Netherton with average pasture covers still below 1300kg/DM/ha, six weeks out from calving.

All this going on whilst we were in Covid-19 lockdown.

One of the positives to this year is having a \$7 plus milk payout. This has given us some extra flexibility to help achieve cow condition and pasture targets.

Once lockdown eased, a group of concerned farmers teamed up with DairyNZ and ran a series of small shed meetings on the Plains to help guide farmers through. I attended the one held in Waitakaruru.

Some of the key points I took away were:

Have a plan - DairyNZ are happy to help anyone needing assistance with on farm decisions or feed budgeting. Talk to your bank around finance options to cover extra feed if needed or

look to destock surplus animals.

Look after your pasture - strategies like lengthen round and on-off grazing in place.

Apply nitrogen - most fertilizer companies are offering deferred payments.

Look after yourself and your team. Get off farm for a break before calving. Rural Support Trust are there to help and provide support.

Remain positive and have hope things will improve.

Apply for the drought recover advice fund - the grant can be used on a wide range of business advice.

Farmers are a very resilient bunch, we look after one another. There have already been two truckloads of donated silage come into the Plains for those in need and Federated Farmers have been co-ordinating maize straw bales and silage. If you require assistance sourcing feed, Federated Farmers can help.

- Kylie Cox is the Hauraki Federated Farmers sharemilkers' section chair.

Budget planning can reduce stress levels

By TESSA FISHER



As the new farming season starts we welcome all the new farmers to our area, and turn our focus to planning for the 2020/21 season.

Completing a budget for the 2020/21 season helps prepare and plan for next season. Budgets are an important tool to evaluate the farm performance and determine areas of improvements. It can also assist in reducing stress or anxiety as it shows a financial plan which can then be used to start discussions with banks around banking facilities or looking at other options which may help alleviate cash flow pressure.

There is strong deferred income (\$1.41) to be received at the current \$7.20 payout which does provide a reasonable cash flow during these months. But as farmers have used winter feed to help get through this drought there will be increased feed costs for 2020/21. For May balance

date farmers the last provisional tax payment for 2020 is due on June 28. The increased payout has been offset against the increased farm working expenses and/or lower production due to the drought. Therefore this tax payment may need to be reviewed to ensure overpayment of tax is not occurring.

If there is a cash flow shortage during the winter months, one option which may assist with tax payments is tax pooling. Tax pooling allows you to purchase tax at a later date through an intermediary who has invested in tax.

There is an interest cost involved, but this is lower than the interest charged by Inland Revenue. A chartered accountant, farm advisor or resources available from DairyNZ can assist you to complete your budget and cash flow plan. Let's hope more rain and warmth is on the forecast to help the grass grow, along with your businesses.

- Tessa Fisher is a chartered accountant at Nick Hoogeveen & Associates



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Sports

Dad plans 100km run for Autism

By TERESA RAMSEY

Caleb Koia-Hamling is no stranger to pushing himself to the limit to raise funds for charity. In the past, he's raised \$700 in the Thames Save The Children run, \$1200 for the Heart Foundation in the Auckland Marathon and he's even completed the Huntly Marathon in 2013 dressed as a Kiwi, breaking the world record for running a marathon dressed in an animal suit.

In his latest challenge, the Goldfields School teacher plans to run 100km around Blue Lake in Rotorua for Autism NZ.

The Paeroa father-of-four teaches a class of seven "boisterous" boys with autism at Goldfields, so wanted to give back to the organisation that provided support and resources for families with autism.

"Some [expenses] are covered through different agencies but some things parents just have to cover, so they need any help that they can get. And sometimes, they just need to connect with other whānau that are going through the same thing," he said.

The early childhood education-trained teacher said teaching kids with autism was "awesome".

"It's my first primary teaching job ... and first special needs so everything's brand new but I think they put me in the classroom because they're all boisterous boys and they're not necessarily going to learn like a mainstream class would. I tend to bring in some of my early childhood training and do lots of play-based learning and



Caleb Koia-Hamling sticks to his training programme by running laps of his backyard during the Covid-19 shutdown, with his children, Brooklyn, 2, left, Kaea, 5, Ali, 9, and Trey, 8.

Photo: SUPPLIED

physical play."

Mr Koia-Hamling, 37, said he chose the Blue Lake run for the fundraiser because it was his second favourite place to run, behind the Karangahake Gorge.

"There's native trees and bush and you're right by the lake - it's literally just a gorgeous blue-water lake. It's about 5.5km per lap, so if it's hot, you can stop and have a dip in the lake."

His goal is to run 20 laps, which is about 110km. He hoped to start the run at 6am on September 26 and complete it by 9pm. The furthest he has run before was 102km during a 12-hour athletics track challenge, which pushed him to his physical limits, he said.

"I'd never run further than a marathon before that and even then, I'd never finished a marathon without hobbling the last five or ten kilometres, so I don't know where I pulled the 102km out."

"But I can honestly say, that's probably the closest I've come to my absolute physical limits."

When the hooter went off at the end of that 12-hour race, I literally collapsed on to the inside of the running track and I had to get moved off to the side. My whole body seized up and I couldn't feel my legs for the next couple of weeks."

That experience has helped him get ready for the Blue Lake run, however, there was no real way to prepare for a 100km run, which required mental toughness after about 50km, he said.

"You're going to be sore regardless, no matter how much you train. There's going to be some level of pain and discomfort, it's just how you handle it."

He's been training since the end of last year for the run, following a marathon training programme and completing more consistent long training runs.

"Those are the runs I used to skip leading up to events and you can't. You can bull to your friends and say that you've done them but when you do a

race you can't lie to your body - your body knows if you've done the training or not."

During the Covid-19 shutdown, he didn't want to skip any training runs so he set up a 100m track around his backyard, which he ran 300 times or 30km on his longest run.

"The neighbours probably thought I was a bit mad but it was good for mental strength."

Now the lockdown has lifted, he's now training in the bush.

"You have to train on the terrain you're going to race on, so I'm trying to run on trails and run outdoors. At Blue Lake, there's probably a kilometre where you run up the road and then the rest of it's on trail."

Mr Koia-Hamling has raised about \$1100 for Autism NZ so far and hopes to reach his goal of \$2000.

"Thanks to all of the amazing supporters who have donated, and a special thanks to MANA-vation, Cooper Tyres Paeroa and Paeroa 24 Fit Club."

Donations: www.givealittle.co.nz.

Birdies flock to Paeroa course

Like other golf clubs throughout the country - and probably the world - the Paeroa Golf Club's financial planning and playing programme has been severely disrupted over recent months because of Covid-19. However, there are indications that the club has come through the crisis well.

The most encouraging and somewhat unexpected outcome has been a significant increase in new memberships in recent weeks.

Another obvious benefit from the enforced lockdown of golf courses was that the playing surfaces of the high use areas have had a chance to recover from regular 'foot traffic'. The greens staff at Paeroa had to work overtime once they were permitted to return to the course but the greens as well as tee blocks are now in their 'best ever' condition according to players who have been on the course since Level 2 began. Because it's close to areas of native bush, birds and animals - some unwelcome of course, have always been attracted to the peaceful site. Although there was a 'no visitors' rule in place for the first week after re-opening, nobody thought to explain this to wood pigeons (kereru), tui, kaka, kingfishers, shining cuckoos, bell birds and fantails in particular, which were seen in greater numbers.

Nineteen different species of birds (not all native) were spotted or heard the day golfers began playing after seven long weeks.

- Mike Cotter



Got a great story to share?

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Sports

Playing sport an important part of Covid-19 recovery

Sport provides important physical, social and community connections crucial to wellbeing. It will be a very important part of the recovery and rebuild of New Zealand post Covid-19 with many sports now in a 'get ready' phase, where they will put in place what is needed to commence safely. As training numbers can increase, sports can then enter a "prepare to play" phase to get athletes ready to compete. It is

important that everyone is patient as clubs work through procedures to keep everyone safe. Please note that professional leagues can resume (without crowds) at level 2 as they are considered controlled workplaces.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

A shout out to our club staff and volunteers for their support with the re-launch and now more than ever we need to retain and recruit more

volunteers. If you are interested in helping get sport and recreation back on its feet, there will be a role for you, and we would love to have your support. Please contact us!

And don't forget June 21 – 27 is National Volunteer week. The theme is Te Hua o te Mahi Tahi – the benefit of working together.

Watch for the promotion on our Sport Waikato website and Facebook page and take the time to

thank those who help make sport happen.

RESILIENCE FUND

Sport Waikato is proud to be partnering with Sport NZ to administer the new Sport NZ Community Resilience Fund in our region, and we are now accepting applications. The fund aims to deliver immediate funding to help regional and local organisations remain financially viable through the immediate period

of disruption created by COVID-19. The fund will be available to regional organisations, as well as clubs on a first in first served basis. For all the details, along with eligibility and guidelines on how to apply: www.sportwaikato.org.nz. If you have any queries, please email crf@sportwaikato.org.nz or Sport NZ: crf@sportnz.org.nz.

- Julie Stephenson
Hauraki District Coordinator



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Disappointment as cricket season cut short

When travel and other restrictions brought the 2019-20 season to a premature conclusion, cricketers throughout the country were naturally disappointed. Teams and players who were heading toward competition championship play offs and topping performance charts would have been especially gutted - none more so than the very keen, talented and successful players in the Ngatea Primary School and Hauraki Plains College (HPC) cricketing scenes.

The college's two teams were both enjoying the benefits of a recent upsurge in support for cricket at the school with dedicated players positioned at the top of the statistics boards in the

Waikato Valley/Hamilton Schools competitions the First XI or years 9-10 teams were involved in.

Both teams were heading their respective competitions with three weeks of play to be negotiated before probable finals play offs.

The HPC First XI had clearly outclassed each of the four teams it encountered prior to the premature ending to the season, which will ensure the team is promoted to a higher level of competition when the new season begins in October. Obviously it will be a real benefit to the team's better players to be pitting their skills against stronger opponents as they push themselves toward their goals of playing at the higher levels of the

game and fulfill their cricketing dreams. Hopefully, other team members will also be motivated to lift their game toward the next level also.

The school's years 9-10 side, which consisted of only three of the highly successful 2018-19 team, began by experiencing a rare and highly exciting tied match but then went on to register three easy victories before the early conclusion to the season. Again, several HPC players were close to - or at the top of - runs and wickets tables, indicating promotion to a higher grade of opposition will provide a welcome challenge in the new season.

- Mike Cotter



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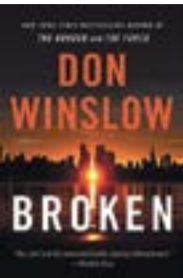
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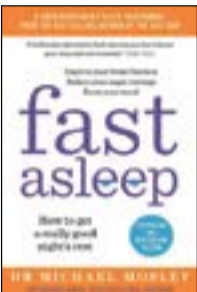
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Book Reviews




Broken
Don Winslow

Best-selling crime author Don Winslow's latest offering delivers six intense short novels connected by the themes of crime, corruption, vengeance, justice, loss, betrayal, guilt and redemption. In *Broken*, he realistically portrays a world of high-level thieves and low-life crooks, obsessed cops struggling with life on and off the job, private detectives, dope dealers, bounty hunters and fugitives of the American criminal highway. With his trademark blend of humanity, humour and action, Winslow delivers a fast-paced collection of tales that make for addictive reading.



Fast Asleep
Dr Michael Mosley

Can't sleep? A good night's sleep is essential for a healthy brain and body. So why do so many of us struggle to sleep well? In *Fast Asleep*, best-selling health and wellbeing author Dr Mosley explains what happens when we sleep, what triggers common sleep problems and proposes a science-based approach designed to help you re-establish a healthy sleep pattern. Full of insights and practical tips plus recipes which will boost your deep sleep by improving your gut microbiome, *Fast Asleep* provides the tools you need to sleep better, reduce stress and feel happier. An easy and interesting read and a critical contributor to good health.



The Strangeworlds Travel Agency
L D Lapinsky

A fantastic new magical adventure series for kids. When 12-year-old Flick Hudson accidentally ends up in the Strangeworlds Travel Agency, she uncovers a amazing secret: there are hundreds of other worlds just steps away. All you have to do to visit them is jump into the right suitcase and you are transported to enchanted forests and other magical worlds. Ideal for 9+ readers and brilliant for assisted bedtime reading as the adult will be just as engaged.

Book reviews supplied by Greg Hampton of Carson's Bookshop

Changes made to plastics recycling

By TERESA RAMSEY

Layne Sefton has seen dead dogs, nappies - even an outboard motor in recycling bins.

Now, the Smart Environmental central regional manager will count plastics numbered 3-7 on the list of blacklisted items for the wheelie bin.

From the beginning of June, Thames-Coromandel and Hauraki district councils will only be collecting plastics numbered one and two. Anything numbered three to seven should be put in general rubbish for landfill. Paper, cardboard and cans/tins will still be collected as usual in recycling wheelie bins.

Mr Sefton said contamination of recycling wheelie bins had always been a problem as people "wish cycle".

"Not only is plastics 3-7 not viable or worth anything to us anymore but even before then we were having up to 20 per cent contamination in the wheelie bins as people treat them as general rubbish," he said.

"Everything from dead dogs, green waste, to nappies, you name it - I've seen an outboard motor in one of those wheelie bins so if people want to be serious about recycling then they've got to actually start treating the bins right."

Since January, 2018, the market for plastics 3-7 disappeared when China no longer took plastics, he said.

"A lot of the mixed plastics has gone to Asia, they've taken the val-



Smart Environmental materials recovery facility manager Kevin O'Callaghan, left, with central regional manager Layne Sefton. Photo: TERESA RAMSEY

uable ones out ... and who knows what happened to the rest because it's quite specialist technology to recycle those."

Smart Environmental, which collects rubbish and recycling for the councils, had been stockpiling the unwanted plastics, however, in the past two years, two fires thought to be caused by lithium batteries destroyed about 3000 bales of mixed plastics, which ended up in the landfill. Since the last fire in March, 2019, they had stockpiled another 2000 to 3000 bales, which were in the process of being dumped at landfill, he said.

Plastics numbered one and two, along with paper and cardboard, are now made into other products within New Zealand.


"There is a market for ones and twos in New Zealand, which is a good news story because we don't have to export it, it's jobs and re-

What to look for

Plastics 1 and 2 include plastics like milk bottles and shampoo bottles. Look for the number in the triangle on the bottom of the plastic.

(Polyethylene Terephthalate)


Includes soft drink and sports bottles, condiment/food jars.



PETE

(High-Density Polyethylene)

Includes water and milk bottles & cleaning product bottles.

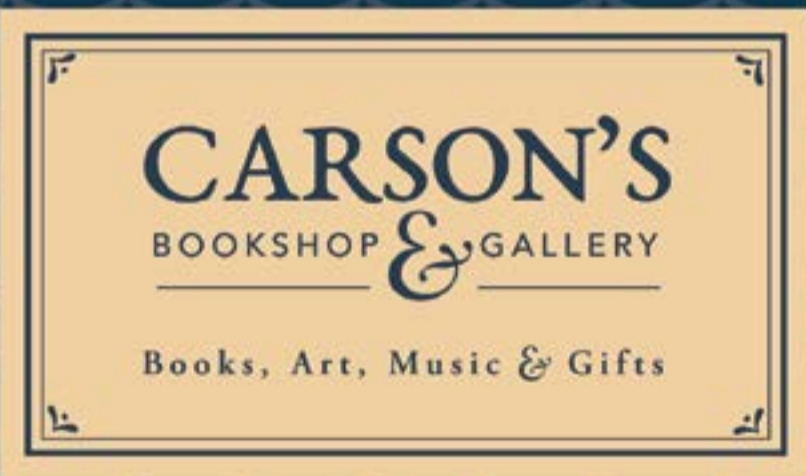


HDPE

purposing in New Zealand," Mr Sefton said.

Plastics one and two were reasonably easy to recycle, he said.

"Mostly it's stuff that's in your kitchen and in your laundry ... and most of the ones and twos are quite clearly labelled."



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One of the new seats at Thornton Bay. INSET: Students hard at work completing their designs.

New seats for Thornton Bay

Visitors and locals of Thornton Bay now have new seats and tables for their picnics thanks to the efforts of a group of residents and Te Puru School students.

Thornton Bay Projects co-ordinator Janet Jones said the bay's seats and tables were washed away during a large storm in 2018, which also swept away 5 metres of the foreshore and caused huge damage to the road.

"While the road was repaired, our picnic area under the trees was not," she said. So in mid-2018, residents began working with Thames Coromandel District Council to get seats and tables back in the bay.

"The seats are the combined effort of Thornton Bay residents who sold raffle tickets, donated funds to this project, carved designs in the tables and worked with students to carve Pacific designs in the seats," she said.

Council provided three seats, installed the tables and supported the residents through the application process with NZTA, she said.

The students of Room Matai from Te Puru School carved the designs on the seats and also painted crabs on the rubbish tin.

Ngati Tamatera blessed the wood and gave students ideas for their designs tied to local Maori history. Thornton Bay Pacific artist and carver Fatu Feu'u worked with students on their designs and donated one of his prints, which raised \$1490 toward the project. Thornton Bay residents raised an additional \$2750.

The week before the Covid-19 lockdown, A & G Price finished the brass plaques attached to three seats and two tables.

A potluck dinner celebration for all who contributed will go ahead at a later date to celebrate the end of this project, she said.

Women's Institute

GOLDFIELDS WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Due to Covid-19, the Goldfields Women's Institute has not had a meeting since our Annual General Meeting in March. Thoughts were given at the meeting to associate member, Margaret Williamson, who had been in hospital, but is recovering now at home. A large number of items were donated to the St John Op Shop from our Good Deed and a good amount of knitting was on display, particularly two beautifully knitted prem beanie hats 12-year-old Courtney Fah made. In February, 1375 bread tags had been part of our Good Deeds to be sent overseas and turned into wheelchairs. After lunch we held the annual meeting and it was amazing to hear the amount of goods we had donated to the babies, elderly and of course our emergency toilets bags to the Hospital. We have also donated financial help to several organisations throughout this community. Our members donated 5973 hours of their time, a tremendous achievement. The 2020-21 committee: president, Helen Udy; secretary Maureen Claasen; treasurer, Beryl Allison, committee: Jill Affleck, Jean Brady, Val Bowen, Carol Cresswell, Bev Schenkel and Colleen Schnuriger. Once we all went into lockdown, the committee have each had members to ring each week to keep in contact with each other and to make sure that everyone has been kept safe and well. We hope to have a June meeting, depending on which level we are in.

MARCH COMPETITIONS: Bloom: 1st Helen Udy,

2nd Jill Affleck. Cluster: 1st= Helen Udy & Jill Affleck. Shrub: 1st Jill Affleck, 2nd Helen Udy. Towel & Facecloth: 1st Colleen Schnuriger. Peg Apron: 1st Anne Bicknell. Fabric Brooch: Carol Cresswell.

KEREPEHI WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our second meeting this year was held at the Kerepehi Bowling Club. We had a minutes silence for a former member Scottie Locke who passed away. Elaine read the draft plan for 2021 national competitions and these were discussed. Debbie Smith gave a report on Founders Day as she was the only one who went from our institute. It was a roll call birthday gift to the value of \$5 dollars, we made beanies and booties for Middlemore Hospital and had a Steampunk colouring in competition. Thirteen pairs of new children's pyjamas were donated to Middlemore Hospital. Anniversaries: Carolyn Giles and Ethel Fowell, who both got a lovely card made by Ethel. After our lunch break we had our AGM: president and associates officer: Elaine Jolliffe, vice president: Jan Edmonds, secretary: Carolyn Giles, treasurer: Marion Van Eyk Hostess, press reporter and birthdays: Debbie Smith, raffles, points and anniversaries: Ethel Fowell, programmes: Cathie Haakma, sales table: Bev Adamson.

COMPETITION: Bloom: Elaine Jolliffe, 1; Cathie Haakma, 2; Debbie Smith, 3. Spike: Bev Adamson, 1; Cathie Haakma, 2; Jan Edmonds, 3. Shrub: Jan Edmonds, 1; Bev Adamson, 2; Carolyn Giles, 3. Veg: Jan Edmonds, 1; Cathie Haakma, 2; Bev Adamson, 3. Herb: Jan Edmonds, 1; Bev Adamson, 2; Carolyn Giles, 3. Competition results for AGM Points: Competition A Individual: Marion Van Eyk, 1; Jan Edmonds, 2; Carolyn Giles, 3. Competition B Federation: Carolyn Giles, 1; Bev Adamson, 2; Debbie Smith, 3.

Restaurant gives away 100 meals

A Paeroa restaurant gave away 100 meals during the Covid-19 Level 3 shutdown despite taking a hit after being closed for a month.

One3One Bar Kitchen Cafe manager Suchit Chhetri said staff came up with the idea to offer the free meals once the Level 4 shutdown was lifted and they were able to offer takeaway meals.

Staff wanted to give back to essential workers and those who might have been struggling financially during the pandemic, he said.

"We were just sitting together discussing what we can do for the community as we were open for takeaways but still we knew some people couldn't afford that meal - people don't have that much money and they have big families to feed. It's just been a hard time for everyone. We just wanted to try and reach out to people and say hey, there's someone who is there to help you."

Members of the community were asked through social media to nominate someone they thought would benefit from a free meal, he said. Staff then made 100 butter chicken or vegetable curry and rice meals, which they delivered throughout Paeroa. "It was all teamwork and effort that we put in together."

The meals were well received, he said.

"There was so much gratitude received from people, it was amazing."

Mr Chhetri said he was able to retain his nine staff during the Level 4 shutdown thanks to the government's wage subsidy.

"We have a lot of local clientele and [fewer tourists] will affect us ... but we're trying to stay positive as much as we can," he said.



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Plenty to do in the garden during June

Winter is upon us. Deciduous trees are still losing their leaves, days are shorter and the nights are longer.

Although it is been warm, a few frosts have started, with more on the way. The ground can quickly become water logged so begin digging over soil and improving fertility in preparation for spring.

VEGETABLES

Asparagus: Established beds give a good surface cultivation. Previous season's fern growth can be worked in as mulch or cut off and composted. Now is the time to prepare and plant new beds. Fertilising is key.

Beans: Further sowings of broad beans can still be made. Beetroot: Winter seedlings need occasional cultivation to aerate soil and control weeds. Foliar fertilise to stimulate growth. Cabbage, Cauliflower, Broccoli and Brussels sprouts: Main season winter harvest continues. Give late autumn transplants regular cultivation and apply side dressing of a balanced NPK fertiliser.

Carrots and Parsnips: Harvest those sown December/January as ready. Parsnips are subject to root diseases if wet soil conditions persist. Celery: Use outer stalks to allow and extended harvest throughout winter months.

Garlic: Traditionally planted on the shortest day or over the next few months. Garlic cloves should be completely under the soil but don't bury too deep. About 3-5cm is ideal and 20cm apart. Treat elephant garlic the same way.

Lettuce: Continue planting winter lettuce. Choose cut and come again varieties are best. The red-leaf lettuces usually cope with



Plant garlic bulbs this month

winter chill or go for corn salad aka lambs lettuce which is tough as old boots. Keep weed free. Rhubarb: Old crowns which have been lifted and stored can now be divided and planted in permanent growing position. Set the crowns 600mm apart. Prepare soil thoroughly with well-rotted compost.

Silverbeet and Spinach: Harvest outer larger leaves to help plants to continue producing through winter. Make further sowings of spinach for a succession of spring harvest.

FLOWERS

Early season winter annuals are beginning to bloom, such as alyssum, calendula, cornflower, pansy, poppy, snapdragon, stock cineraria and primulas. Plant our new season's bulbs and perennials. Bulbs already planted out daffodils and freesias are well on the way due to the continued warm weather. Dutch Irises are starting to flower also.

STONE FRUITS

Leaf fall is almost complete so in mid-June apply a winter copper spray, especially on varieties prone to bacterial canker.

OTHER FRUITS

Apples, Pears: Begin mid-winter pruning to regulate fruiting characteristics and improve fruit bearing - new trees require minimum pruning.

Citrus: Severe winter cold damages shoot growth and fruit. Where possible lightly cover trees on clear frosty nights.

Feijoas: Continue harvesting.

Berries: Strawberries: Now is the time to sort your strawberry bed if you want strawberries for Christmas. Full sun with free draining soil. Dig in strawberry fertiliser before planting and liquid feed every fortnight. You should see flowers starting to form by the end of August. Raspberries, boysenberries and loganberries: Prune out last season's cane growth - tie new seasons growth onto supports, select strongest - prune out spindly shoots.

ORNAMENTALS

June and July are main planting months for shrubs and trees. In very wet ground these may need to be planted in raised beds to achieve good drainage. Careful consideration to garden layout is suggested.

ROSES

The flowering season is almost finished. Stop dead heading and allowing the rose to produce rosehips puts nourishment back into the plants. Prune in July. Apply a lime sulphur spray at a rate of 1:10 to clean up powdery mildew or moss on old bushes.

COMPOST HEAP

All compost heaps need thorough aerating - Turn all heaps this month add garden lime, sulphate of ammonia and nitrogen fertiliser to stimulate decay.

Old compost ready for the garden can be applied as a mulch or incorporated into the soil when preparing gardens for spring.

Enjoy your garden.
- Ngatea Garden Circle



Heritage home listed for sale

A two-storey heritage home in Thames nicknamed "the gingerbread house" has been listed for sale after being in the same family for three generations.

Owner Pippa Jackson said her great-aunt and uncle Ruth and Russell Sharplin bought the Brown St property in the 1970s.

"I have fond memories of when we were children - we'd be running around Victoria Park [across the road] while our parents played billiards in the front room."

The nickname "gingerbread house" came about because it was painted a mustard colour with a red roof and dark green trim at one stage, she said.

When her late parents, Pat and Graham Jackson, took ownership of the property in the early 90s, it was in need of a full renovation.

"It had lost all its charm when they took it over - the bones were really good, it was really solid but it was run down. It was really awe-

some that they could look at that and see something that was really beautiful."

Her father added a full verandah, intricate fretwork and a full kitchen extension. He also replaced the interior scrim walls with gib, added shutters to the master bedroom and hand-turned the rimu staircase bannister.

"He really was an amazing builder, no little detail was overlooked," she said.

When Pippa took ownership of the home in 2015, she continued the renovations, refurbishing both bathrooms and giving it a fresh new paint job. It will be hard to let the property go after being in the family for so long, she says.

"It has always been a recognised as an historical home, often used for marketing material, brochures, etc, because it's so pretty."

The home, built in 1919, will go to auction with Harcourts at 2pm on June 18.



Visique O'Hagan Vision Care is back to normal hours but with some restrictions in place.

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8 Plant root crops, trees & shrubs	9 Plant root crops, trees & shrubs	10 Non Planting Day	11 Non Planting Day	12 Plant root crops Liquid Feed	13 Plant root crops Liquid Feed	14 Non Planting Day
15 Non Planting Day	16 Non Planting Day	17 Plant root crops, trees & shrubs	18 Plant root crops, trees & shrubs	19 Non Planting Day	20 Non Planting Day	21 New Moon Non Planting Day
22 Plant above ground crops Liquid Feed	23 Plant above ground crops Liquid Feed	24 Non Planting Day	25 Non Planting Day	26 Non Planting Day	27 Non Planting Day	28 Plant above ground crops
29 Plant above ground crops	30 Plant above ground crops Liquid Feed	June 2020 Moon Planting Calendar				

JUMBO CROSSWORD

- Across**

1. Misunderstanding (17)

10. Expensive, high quality (8)

15. Two-handed cutting blade (6)

16. Final result (3,7)

17. Captain Nemo's submarine (8)

19. 55th wedding anniversary (7)

21. Pseudonym (5)

22. Competitive canine situation (3,3,3)

25. Shotgun bullet (9)

27. Chief of a work gang (7)

29. Alter (6)

33. Wed (5)

34. Maharajah's wife (8)

36. Gather (10)

39. Bloke who gets fired up in November (3)

41. Shy (7)

42. Afternoon nap (6)

43. Shoelace hole (6)

44. Agitate (4)

45. Piece of embroidery work (7)

48. Hesitancy (10)

53. Release (3,4)

57. Memorandum (4)

58. Foolish (6)

59. Seldom (6)

60. Bright red (7)

62. Morepork or ruru (3)

64. Snake-like (10)

65. Cheeky (8)

66. Nervous (5)

69. Team defeated by
- NZ in 2017 America's Cup final (6)

70. Unusual (7)

71. Eight-sided (9)

76. Woodworker (9)

77. Divine being (5)

78. Hide (7)

83. Preparation (8)

84. Sudden downpour (10)

85. Handbook (6)

86. Cheat, con man (8)

87. Angry (3,5,3,6)
35. Bird-like (5)

37. Eagle's nest (5)

38. Six-sided shape (4)

40. Himalayan monster (4)

45. Cavity connecting with the nose (5)

46. Motherly (8)

47. Turn (6)

48. Not regretful (10)

49. Extinct bird (4)

50. Game played on ice (7)

51. Angel (6)

52. Lubricated (5)

54. Every one or thing (4)

55. Chemical recipe (7)

56. Not subject to tax (6)

61. Deserved (4-6)

63. Relative by marriage (2-3)

67. ABBA's first hit (8)

68. Alone (4)

69. Sea creature, wheke in Maori (7)

72. Food provider (7)

73. Light, sweet cake (6)

74. Ocean floor (6)

75. Fruit high in vitamin B6 (6)

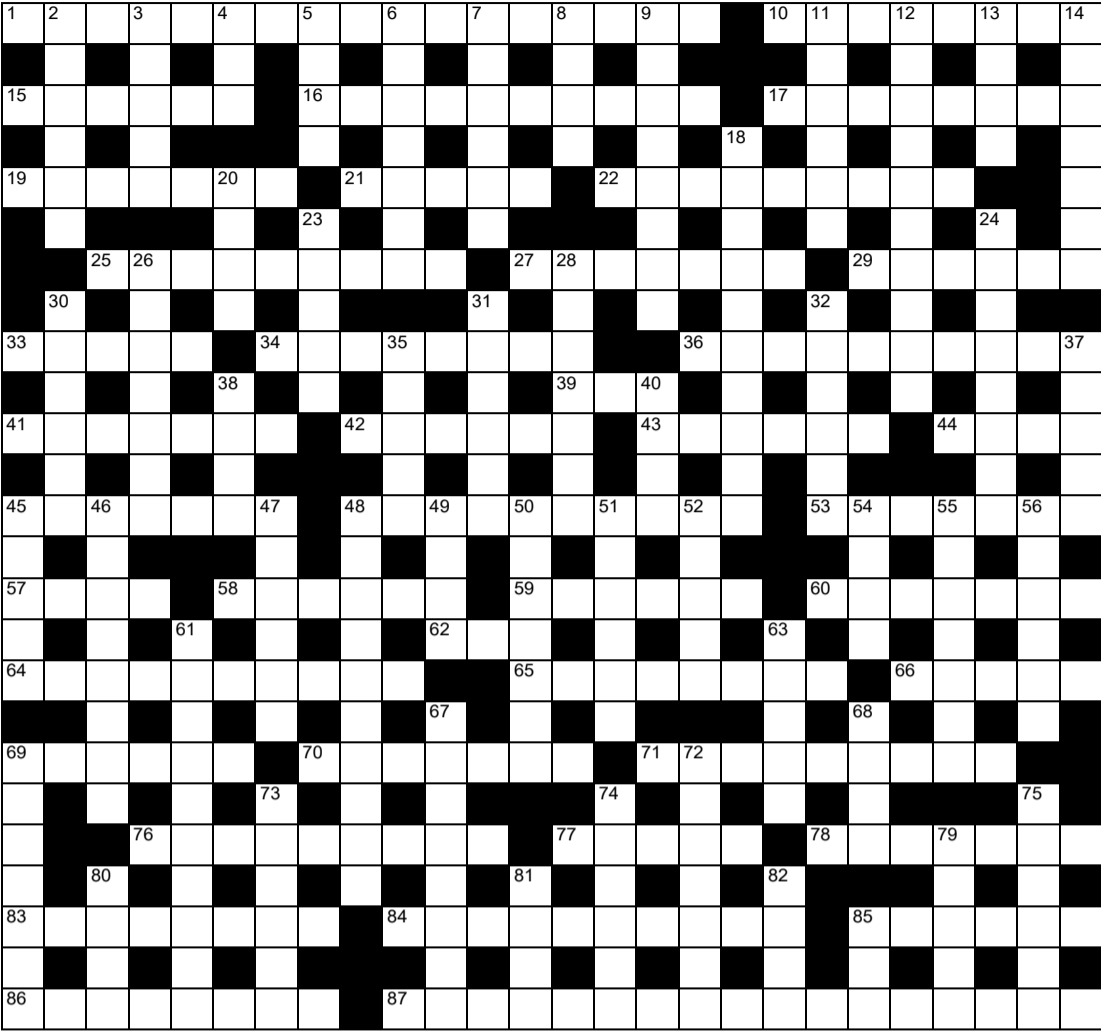
79. Man-made waterway (5)

80. Long Indian dress (4)

81. Influential leader or expert (4)

82. Scratch (4)

85. Raincoat (3)



DOWN: 2. Income, 3. Inter, 4. Tie, 5. Reel, 6. Red flag, 7. Tartan, 8. Tidy, 9. Once-over, 11. Plats, 12. Astronomer, 13. Kill, 14. Testify, 18. Get a move on, 20. Late, 23. Lilac, 24. Disaster, 26. Airship, 28. Origami, 30. Sahara, 31. Hassle, 32. Egrets, 35. Avian, 37. Eyrie, 38. Cube, 40. Yell, 45. Sinus, 46. Maternal, 47. Rotate, 48. Impenitent, 49. Dodo, 50. Curling, 51. Seraph, 52. Oiled, 54. Each, 55. Formula, 56. Exempt, 61. Well-earned, 63. In-law, 67. Waterloo, 68. Solo, 69. Octopus, 72. Caterer, 73. Sponge, 74. Seabed, 75. Banana, 79. Canal, 80. Sari, 81. Gurn, 82. Itch, 85. Mac.

ACROSS: 1. Misinterpretation, 10. Upmarket, 15. Scythe, 16. End product, 17. Nautilus, 19. Emerald, 21. Alias, 22. Dog eat dog, 25. Cartridge, 27. Foreman, 29. Modity, 33. Marry, 34. Maharani, 36. Congregate, 39. Guy, 41. Bashful, 42. Sista, 43. Eyelet, 44. Owl, 64. Serpentine, Indecision, 53. Set free, 57. Note, 58. Stupid, 59. Rarely, 60. Scarlet, 62. Scarier, 64. Sample, 48. Conceal, 83. Planning, 84. Cloudburst, 85. Manual, 86. Swindler, 87. Hot under the collar.

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Community Contacts

Listings are limited to the name of the club or group and a maximum of two contact names and numbers. Clubs and groups are responsible for keeping their listings up to date, email: editor@valleyprofile.co.nz.

Classical Music Club: Kim Reid, Ph 07 862 3839
Craft Market: Lynette Mapson, Ph 027 617 4470
Goldfields Women's Institute: Ph 07 868 8984 or Ph 07 868 7273
Grey Power Paeroa: Ken Carter, Ph 07 862 7271
Hauraki Bowling Club Mangatarata: Pene Koch, Ph 07 867 3380
Hauraki Cardiac Support Club Thames: Ph 07 868 6148
Hauraki Country Music Club: Tina Haakma, Ph 07 868 3443
Hauraki Golf Club: Len Cameron, Ph 07 867 7660
Hauraki Plains Co-operating Parish: Jane, Ph 027 471 4654
Hauraki Plains Diabetic Support Club: Ryan Corr, Ph 07 868 8551
Hauraki Plains Lioness Club: Jill McIntosh, Ph 07 867 7373
Hauraki Plains Rural Show: Sonia, Ph 027 431 5825

Hauraki Plains St John: Call or pop into the Op Shop, Ph 07 867 8073
Hauraki Plains Youth Cricket: Anna Dodunski, Ph 027 466 4126
Hauraki Vintage Machinery Club: Ph 07 887 8902 Ph 07 867 7089
Health Groove Yoga and Mums n Bubs Yoga: Jo 021 027 48490
Jig Saw Puzzle Library: Mangatarata, Ph 07 867 3250
Kerepehi Brass Band: Rowan Garrett, Ph 07 867 6762
Kerepehi Women's Institute: Ph 07 867 6002 or Ph 07 868 8582
Mahjong: Nola Walker, Ph 07 867 7301
Music and Movement: Suzanne, Ph 07 867 7916
Ngatea Badminton: Jenny Adams, Ph 07 867 3028
Ngatea Chinwag Cafe: 10am-12 Tuesdays, parish hall, Darlington St
Ngatea Community Garden: Jane, Ph 07 867 7245
Ngatea Indoor Bowling Club: Ph 07 867 7889 or Ph 07 867 7230
Ngatea Lions Club: Bruce Foster, Ph 021 043 9280
Ngatea Playcentre: Ph 027 327 5536
Ngatea Pony Club: Nicky Hamblyn, Ph 07 867 7078
Ngatea Scouts: Kim Donaldson, Ph 07 867 7350
Ngatea Women's Institute: Nola Walker, Ph 07 867 7301
NZ Red Cross Thames: Betty Sutcliffe, Ph 07 868 6148
NZ Society of Genealogists Thames: Pam French, Ph 07 868 6492

Paeroa Grey Power: Linda Vickery-Pouesi, Ph 07 862 9107
Probus: Jill McIntosh, Ph 07 867 7373
Scrapbooking: Pam Tonks, Ph 07 867 7780
SeniorNet Thames Valley Inc Ngatea: Shirley Mical, Ph 07 867 5090
St Paschal's Catholic Church: 07 867 7401 and 07 867 7056
Tai-Chi exercise Kaiaua: Stacy, Ph 09 576 3705
Tasty Books & Wine Tasting: Anne, Ph 07 867 3367
Thames and District Machine Knitting Club: Ph 07 867 7165
Thames Bonanza Club: Ph 07 868 6673
Thames Chin Wag Cafe: Mondays 12.30pm to 2pm, 608 Queen St
Thames Creative Fibre Group: Kate Caldwell, Ph 027 2405 467
Thames Dahlia Club: Paul Silvester, Ph 07 868 9346
Thames Hauraki Parents Centre: Meike, Ph 07 867 3163
Thames Hauraki Diabetic Support Group: Brian Corr, Ph 07 868 8551
Thames-Hauraki Scottish Country Dance Club: Ph 09 232 7672
Thames Probus Club: Ph 07 868 9081
Thames Toy Library: Lesley, Ph 07 868 6274
Thames Valley Adult Riding Club: Helen Pooley, Ph 021 233 1245
Turua Playcentre: Estelle, Ph 027 371 8511
Turua Scouts: Leanne Scott, Ph 027 329 7887 or 07 867 8388

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Calendar to raise funds for charity

Jim Pooley, left, Helen Pooley and Wendy Scott mark Anzac Day with a private commemoration on horseback. Photo: SUPPLIED

Members of the Thames Valley Adult Riding Club commemorated Anzac Day by contributing to a calendar for charity.

Each year, several club members usually mark Anzac Day by taking part in the Hamilton Anzac parade with their horses as part of the Horse Group, where they lay a wreath at the Cenotaph in Pirana Park supported by the New Zealand Army, bands, children, scouts, guides and returned services.

However, this year they couldn't take part because Anzac Day was cancelled during the Covid-19 shutdown, so instead they have contributed to a calendar to raise funds for riding lessons for children without ponies at Waikato Equestrian Centre.

"The Horses are a huge draw card in the parade, which is controlled by Hamilton city council with a limit of 25 horses only," riding club spokesperson Helen Pooley said.

"Previously, we have been joined with Waikato mounted rifles as they played a huge part in the First World War."

The club also puts out its own calendar each year of events during the season and members' activities, which are varied and wide ranging and include a few bloopers.

Mrs Pooley said the club's activities and planned rallies had been put on hold because of Covid-19 and the club's end-of-year trophy day would now be held in the new season.

"Our grounds are still open for members and are looking great so as long as the weather holds they can be used. As horses need daily checks and feeds horse owners have been fortunate and it's been a time to have that one on one action with your four-legged friends so lots of ground work and time to iron out little niggles."

Treks were planned over the winter months but these would be monitored to keep within the rules of Covid-19 restrictions, she said.

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