

The Valley Profile

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Road 'too dangerous' for kids

Kaiaua primary students have been clipped by cars and knocked off their bikes while riding home from school. KELLEY TANTAU investigates the school's plea for action.

Standing on the road between the white line and Kaiaua School is a feat not for the faint of heart. There is only a mere metre between the line and the fence, and its access for pedestrians is made difficult by the road's downward slope, which makes it near-impossible to manoeuvre for students riding their bikes.

It's the same towards the settlement of Whakatūwai, a kilometre away.

There is no footpath either side of the road, and children have been clipped by cars as they rode their bikes to and from school.

One incident even saw a child knocked off his bike, Kaiaua School principal Karlos Bosson said.

"The driver of the van did stop and see if he was okay, picked him up, threw the bike in the back of the van and drove him home.

"As principal, straight away you think of the health and safety requirements of a child being picked up by a stranger, and then you consider how it happened: being involved in an accident.

"These are things that we're facing."

Another child was riding her bike and wanted to cross the road to where there was a footpath. On her way, she fell off and landed on the road. Luckily, those students were okay but the close-calls have prompted the school and community to act.

Issues regarding the lack of a

safe pedestrian access from the full primary school on East Coast Rd to Whakatūwai were brought to Hauraki District Council's attention by concerned resident Roger Barlow at council's long term plan hearings last month.

In his submission, Mr Barlow said the Kaiaua School student voice was "very compelling and frightening".

He also said the roadworks completed on the road in front of the school earlier this year highlighted the lack of a safe access for pedestrians.

"Before, I used to be able to walk along the fenceline. Now, I just don't try anymore. It's just too dangerous," Mr Bosson told *The Profile* during a visit to the Hauraki school.

"When we take the children across the road to the beach, we now have a person up on the bend that will signal down when it's safe to cross, and the kids, basically, walk very briskly," he said.

"That's a procedure we need to iron out: we want all staff to wear high-vis vests."

Mr Bosson has been principal at the school for three-and-a-half years. When he started there, no students rode their bikes to and from school. Now, close to a third of the roll did.

"It's a large number, and the risk factor is huge," he said. "Remember when you were a kid and could easily ride to school?"

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Kaiaua School principal Karlos Bosson is concerned for the safety of his students who ride bikes to and from the beach-side school.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

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The *Valley Profile* is a community newspaper that delivers 100% local news in the Thames Valley region. We deliver 12,500 copies each Wednesday to every letterbox, reaching about 30,000 readers in Hauraki Plains, Paeroa, Thames, Thames Coast and surrounding rural areas, plus bulk distribution around the Coromandel Peninsula.

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Send your letters to the editor to editor@valleyprofile.co.nz or PO Box 550 Thames, 3540. Letters must include your full name and address, be 250 words or less and may be edited, abridged or rejected at the editor's discretion.

CLIMATE CHANGE

I would like to comment on the comment of John Leeman that "We are heading to the point of no return [with climate change]" (*Electric vehicles on show at Thames expo, Valley Profile*, June 2). This is related to an article about electric vehicles reducing carbon emissions. The first point to consider is how our electricity is being produced for powering the vehicle. If the electricity is being produced by photo voltaic plates on the roof, by local windmill or stream, or it could be that the extra electricity is being produced by coal-fired or other fossil fueled generator, which is only shifting the perceived problem to another place. In my observation as a soil consultant, the important point to consider is the loss of carbon from our soils. Over a period of collecting soil samples from farmland, I noted diminishing organic matter percentages in soil samples. This leads to a lack of carbon in the soil that has the capacity to hold four times its weight in water. When that carbon is incorporated into the soil as humus by soil biology, the humus can hold its own weight in water. Water is the most important element for the growth of plants. The markers for climate change are floods and flood damage and temperature. The greater the quantity of moisture an environment, including soil, can hold, the less likely a damaging flood is. If one observes our environment, much of the heat generated comes from the surface of the earth reflecting heat back into the atmosphere, air, which then heats the water bodies such as rivers lakes and oceans that generate the storms. When summer soil temperatures were measured, differences were measured from one farming system to another of 16 degrees centigrade. The main difference between the properties was the amount of carbon in the soil. Describing exactly how one can increase the carbon as humus in the soil as well as increasing the net profit of those farming the soil would require a longer article. It has and is being done by a small but increasing number of people. From my point of view, this is the most important way that we can participate in moderating climate-related events in a manner that will also clean our water and enhance fish for recreation and industry. The opportunity here is to increase prosperity of the whole country.

Peter Bacchus, Thames

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

The *Valley Profile* welcomes your opinions, views, accolades and concerns. Writing a letter to the editor is one of the easiest ways to get your message across to tens of thousands of *Profile* readers. So, if there's something happening in our community you feel strongly about, please get in touch - this space is available for you to publish your views, comment on a recent story or respond to the issues of the day. We also welcome your sports results, photos and news tips.

- Teresa Ramsey
editor@valleyprofile.co.nz



Kaiaua School principal Karlos Bosson on the dangerous stretch of road.

Kaiaua Rd 'too dangerous'

CONTINUED FROM P1

"That's no longer the case anymore. It's become a very dangerous proposition for a lot of our kids."

Mr Barlow and Mr Bosson said a footpath from the school to the settlement needed to be established. They also wanted the speed limit of the road to be reduced from 70kmh to 50kmh.

"We have logging trucks using the road, we have tractors and other agricultural vehicles using the road, we have car clubs using the road, we have motorbikes using the road, we have tour coaches using the road, we have cyclists using the road, we have locals using the road," Mr Barlow said.

"What we do not have is a footpath that will allow us to walk safely."

According to Hauraki District Council's group manager service delivery Adrian de Laborde, Mr Barlow's submission was the first staff had heard of the incidents along East Coast Rd.

"It raised our concerns as well. We care about what's happened... and we're actively looking into solutions," he said.

Mr de Laborde said while there were no finalised plans or designs at this stage, council had indicated it wanted to look into the viability of constructing a footpath in the area. Staff were currently preparing a report detailing possible options for consideration.

He also agreed the speed limit could be too high on this section of road.

"This is currently being investigated as part of a wider review of speed limits across the district.

"Once this review is complete, we'll ask our communities for feedback on our proposed changes," he said.

"Council will then consider this feedback before finalising and prioritising the implementation of any new speed limits."



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Thames Tides

Wed Jun 16	Thu Jun 17	Fri Jun 18	Sat Jun 19	Sun Jun 20	Mon Jun 21	Tue Jun 22
 Morning: 4:59am 0.9, 11:14am 3.2 Afternoon: 5:11pm 0.8, 11:34pm 3.3 Sunrise: 7:30am, Sunset: 5:07pm Best At: 4:34am 4:59pm Rise: 11:43am, Set: 10:23pm	 Morning: 5:46am 0.9, 11:59am 3.2 Afternoon: 5:59pm 0.8 Sunrise: 7:30am, Sunset: 5:07pm Best At: 5:23am 5:46pm Rise: 12:14pm, Set: 11:28pm	 Morning: 12:22am 3.3, 6:35am 0.8 Afternoon: 12:48pm 3.2, 6:52pm 0.8 Sunrise: 7:30am, Sunset: 5:07pm First Quarter Best At: 6:10am 6:34pm Rise: 12:44pm	 Morning: 1:13am 3.3, 7:27am 0.8 Afternoon: 1:41pm 3.2, 7:51pm 0.9 Sunrise: 7:31am, Sunset: 5:08pm Best At: 6:57am 7:21pm Set: 12:34am, Rise: 1:12pm	 Morning: 2:07am 3.4, 8:23am 0.7 Afternoon: 2:40pm 3.2, 8:53pm 0.8 Sunrise: 7:31am, Sunset: 5:08pm Best At: 7:46am 8:11pm Set: 1:41am, Rise: 1:41pm	 Morning: 3:02am 3.4, 9:22am 0.7 Afternoon: 3:43pm 3.3, 9:55pm 0.7 Sunrise: 7:31am, Sunset: 5:08pm Best At: 8:36am 9:03pm Set: 2:51am, Rise: 2:13pm	 Morning: 4:00am 3.5, 10:22am 0.6 Afternoon: 4:47pm 3.4, 10:55pm 0.6 Sunrise: 7:31am, Sunset: 5:08pm Best At: 9:30am 9:59pm Set: 4:04am, Rise: 2:49pm

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

MOON AND FISH KEYS

New Moon First Quarter Full Moon Last Quarter

Good Fishing Fair Fishing Not So Good

TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES

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

PLACE	Hr	Mn	Hr	Mn
Coromandel	-0	04	-0	04
Whitianga	-0	02	-0	06
Tairua	+0	10	+0	20
Whangamata	-0	07	-0	08
Waihi Beach	-0	12	-0	13

Break-in leaves family shaken

By KELLEY TANTAU

An attempt by three offenders to steal cigarettes from a well-known Ngatea dairy has left the store owner and his family shaken up.

At around 11pm on June 3, three offenders smashed their way into the Ngatea Lotto and Foodmart on State Highway 2.

None of the staff were on site at the time, but owner-operator Narem Kumar told *The Profile* he was alerted to the break-in when the shop's cameras picked up the offenders' movements and notified an app on his phone.

The offenders appeared to be after cigarettes.

"They smashed the side wall behind the Coke fridge and pushed the fridge over. They tried to smash open the cigarette cabinet, but they were unsuccessful so they had to run away because they were running out of time," he said. "They got away with some drinks only."

The popular purple store has cameras, grills on the doors, and an alarm system. It was last targeted by thieves around four years ago. "At that time we had some damages and there were some smokes stolen as well," Mr Kumar said.

The latest incident was the seventh burglary the store has had in the 10 years the family has owned it. "We have had a good break for the last couple of years

but now it's come back again.

"It's something we don't look forward to, but it's something we can't avoid either."

Mr Kumar said the business had gone through a tough time as of late, following the Covid-19 lockdown and the long-spanning roadworks in the main street.

He said these factors made it all the more important for people to continue shopping local.

"Mentally, we are disturbed by [the break-in], that's the biggest thing. It's good to have the support from our very loyal customers but the issue is, every time we have a break-in, our insurance premiums go up, and to get claims, we have to pay an excess of \$10,000 or so. Anything below that, is basically our loss."

Mr Kumar encouraged anybody who might know the culprits to phone the police, not just for the community's safety, but for their own safety, as well.

"Anything could happen while they're trying to steal. Things can go wrong. They never know who is behind the counter, so it could go either way."

A Police spokesperson said no arrests had been made but an investigation was underway. They also encouraged anyone who may have seen anything suspicious around the Orchard West Rd area at that time to phone Police, quoting file number 210604/3280. Tips can be made anonymously on 0800 555 111.



Diane Hewitt with her pooch Chyka, who is modelling one of the colourful dog sweaters. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

Dog sweaters created with pride

By KELLEY TANTAU

The colours inside Diane Hewitt's Thames home act as a reminder of where she has been, and where she is going.

There's the coloured rug pinned to the wall from her trip to Arizona, the box filled to the brim with knitting yarn, and not to be missed is Diane's dog Chyka, who walks around the house in a sweater the colours of the rainbow.

"Years ago, I had depression, and I found that colour lifted my

mood and helped me through it," Diane tells *The Profile*.

Chyka, a jack russell x bichon maltese, sits on her lap, the colourfully-striped sweater she's wearing handmade by Diane keeping her warm on the brisk winter's morning.

Diane started knitting dog sweaters for a friend, and soon found there was a market for high-quality, hand-knitted, wool sweaters for the country's rainbow communities (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex or queer people).

She's since created a brand, Proud Pooch designer dogwear, in support of these communities.

"My primary focus when I started was to create beautiful sweaters for the rainbow communities, but it evolved from there to include absolutely everybody," she said.

In March, Diane had a stall at Woof - The Auckland Rainbow Dog Show, and for three weeks she sold her sweaters at the Thames Market. All types of different people stopped to take in

CONTINUED ON P7



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Oystercatchers caught for tracking

Department of Conservation researcher Emma Williams is confident the ET she's holding in her hands really will phone home.

That's because she's just fitted this South Island Pied Oystercatcher (or Sipo for short) with both a highly visible red tag with the initials ET and a new generation tracking device, a sort of tiny solar-powered phone, which is already talking to an app on her mobile phone.

It's all part of a joint project between The Department of Conservation (DOC), Landcare Research, Birds NZ and the Pūkoro Mirānda Shorebird Centre to find out more about the birds in order to provide better protection because their numbers are declining.

ET was one of 115 of the birds recently caught in a net at Kuranui Bay, just north of Thames, and fitted with the red tags. In addition, 22 were fitted with the tracking devices.

All the birds were safely released.

Sipos breed in riverbeds and farmland in the South Island and then, as winter approaches, fly in their thousands up to warmer places like the Firth of Thames.

To find out more about their behaviour, hundreds of Sipos are being fitted with brightly coloured tags with letters on them – the ones for the Firth are red but other areas have different colours, in the hope birdwatchers who see one will record the colour and letters and advise DOC. In addition,



ABOVE: Oystercatchers being caught and tagged at Kuranui Bay.

RIGHT: DOC researcher Emma Williams with a newly-tagged oystercatcher dubbed ET.

Photos: SUPPLIED

tion, a few are also being fitted with the tracking devices so the routes they take from their nesting areas in the south to their holiday homes up north can be plotted.

In another part of the project, predator control is being carried out on selected nesting areas.

Birdwatchers who spot the birds can contact DOC at bandingoffice@doc.govt.nz or ring the Shorebird Centre at 09 232 2781.



ENTERTAINMENT

Choir to perform *Songs of Solstice*

St George's Community Choir is excited to present two performances of *Songs for Solstice* this weekend in Thames.

The choir is known for performing major works but *Songs for Solstice* is an inspirational selection of beautiful choral music in mostly four-part harmony. Included are songs by John Rutter and New Zealand composer David Hamilton as well as some spirituals and well-known waiata.

Jonathan Dunlop is again musical director and conductor for the choir, with his family again singing, including parents Wendy and Martin, brother Michael and fiancée Louisa. Michael Bell will accompany the choir and will perform two organ solos.

The choir was grateful they were able to perform and rehearse in St George's Church, known for its wonderful acoustics, and now well heated for a winter performance, a spokes-

person said. St George's Community Choir is an all-comers choir - no auditions are required. "This year we are pleased to have welcomed several new singers and for some the joy of singing in a choir is a new experience."

On July 24, the choir will host a singing workshop, led by Jane Tankersley, who is known for her lively and fun style of teaching. This workshop will be open to all. On November 20-21, the choir looks forward to performing Handel's *Messiah*, timed to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the opening of St George's Church. Auckland Choral traveled by barge to Thames 150 years ago to perform *The Messiah* for this special occasion.

"We already have a lot of interest from singers wanting to be part of this performance."

DETAILS: June 19 at 7pm and June 20th at 2pm. Tickets \$20 from Carson's bookshop or at the door.



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Arleea Douglas, 11, is hard at working constructing a tukutuku panel.



Aileen and Aidan Tinto work together to make a flax star.



Hartash Singh and Charlotte Perry.



Uma Shakespeare shows off her Māori mask.

Matariki magic

Thames’ St Francis School held their Matariki Crafts Whānau Day on June 11, ahead of the students’ upcoming Matariki Arts Exhibition. In attendance was this year’s Queen Service Medal recipient Louisa Humphry, who made flax stars with the children, as well as Su McPherson, who showed the kids how to make a Matariki peg doll. The exhibition will be held at The Vibe on Mary St, 2:30pm from June 24 to July 7. **KELLEY TANTAU** captured the day’s creativity.



Flax weaver Louisa Humphry, honorary MNZM, helps out the students.



Making Māori masks was one of the crafts on offer throughout the day.



Newly appointed CEO

We are excited to announce our new CEO, Deborah Hollands.

Throughout our firm's 100 plus years of supporting our client's growth and development, it is rewarding to share in their successes. We take pride in meeting our clients' core business and family needs, while further guiding them in achieving their business goals and succession. Achieving our own goals as well as our clients', supports greater success for our community.

We are excited to announce as part of our succession, the next step in our own journey, with the appointment of Deborah Hollands as our next CEO. We believe this will help create freedom in our own business as part of our core philosophy of creating freedom for our clients'.

Deborah has been working closely with Grant Eddy, our current CEO, to ensure a smooth transition. Grant will now step back from his CEO role and focus on other responsibilities within the firm. This reinforces the firm's commitment to our strong succession as well as our team's growth and development.

Grant has been our CEO on and off for approximately 20 years and we appreciate Grants immeasurable dedication to CooperAitken. Grant is extremely hands on with his clients, and as his client base grows along with the firm, the need for a full time dedicated CEO was recognised.



Many will know Deborah already. She has been with the firm since 2001, working with clients and has overseen a number of key projects, developments and functions internally for the firm. While assisting Grant in the management of the firm for some time now the board see Deborah's appointment as CEO as a logical decision given her knowledge, experience and ability to guide CooperAitken into the future.

Deborah is looking forward to her new role and providing leadership to the organisation, while maintaining the valued relationships with existing clients she has established over the years. She values a high level of service to our clients, and is looking forward to developing and expanding the services being offered in a continually changing environment.

CooperAitken appreciates the role Grant has played, guiding the firm to where it is today and we welcome Deborah as our new CEO.

We are excited about the future of CooperAitken, and our continued growth and development.

If you require assistance in your business our dedicated team of professionals are here to support and look forward to hearing from you.

Below: Back row (L to R) Anna Bennett, Coral Phillips, Carissa Cressy, Gavin Haddon
Front Row (L to R) Peter Hexter, Amy Coombes, Grant Eddy, Deborah Hollands, Rory Noorland



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WHAT'S ON

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 19-20: Songs for Solstice: St George's Community Choir, with Jono Dunlop and Michael Bell. St George's Church, tickets at the door or at Carson's Bookshop.

June 23: Continuing Education Group speaker: Charles Cato, retired Judge of the Supreme Court of Tonga, 10am, Thames Civic Centre, all welcome.

June 25: Thames High School Music Students: Free Concert at St George's Church, 12:15pm.

June 26: Shave 4 Starship: Ngatea Volunteer Fire Brigade from 3pm at the Ngatea Fire Station. Get involved and fundraise.

June 26: Divas of Country Rock: Paeroa Country Music Club Fundraiser, Paeroa War Memorial Hall, 1:30pm. Tickets: \$20 at Forget Me Not. Ph 021 247 6789

July 1: Kiwi Fusion Food Lover's Celebration: 5.30pm-7pm, July 1 at Saint George's Parish Hall, Thames. Bring a plate of food and a gold coin. RSVP: kiwifusionthames@gmail.com.

July 3-10: Thames Music and Drama: *Peter Pan & the Medallion's Secret*, at Thames Civic Centre, July 3-10.

July 4: Renaissance meets Jazz: Denise Norton concert, St George's Church, Thames, 2pm, www.thamesmusic-group.com.

July 13: Bowel Screening Seminar: 10.30am, St James Parish Hall, morning tea provided. Ph Phone 07 868 9790 to book.

August 13-15: 150 Years of Thames Rugby: Thames Rugby & Sports Club, Rhodes Park, catch up function, invitational game and celebration dinner. www.trsc.co.nz/150years.

August 21: Thames Valley Chess Championship: at the Thames Civic Centre. Must be level one to play. Free entry.

September 12: Trail Trilogy: Run or walk 10km to 140km on Hauraki Rail trail. More info: www.trailtrilogy.com.

LOCAL MARKETS

Kaiaua Seaside Market: At The Boating Club, Kaiaua, 9-1pm, last Sunday of the month. Ph 027 489 7850

Karangahake Hall Market: Fourth

Saturday of the month, 9am-2pm, 12 Crown Hill Rd. Ph 027 678 2035

Paeroa Car Boot Market: First and third Saturdays of the month, 101 Normanby Rd, weather permitting. Ph 07 862 7833

Thames Market: Every Saturday in Grahamstown, 8am to 12pm.

Turua Market: Third Sunday of the Month at Turua Hall, 9am to 1pm. Ph 027 696 7644

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Corinthian Masonic Lodge, Thames: Colin, Ph 07 868 8196 or 021 259 6699

Craft Market: Lynette Mapson, Ph 027 617 4470

Diabetic Support Group: Thames Hauraki, Barry Young Ph 07 868 6353

Goldfields Women's Institute: Ph 07 868 8984

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 Dondunski, Ph 027 466 4126

Hauraki RSA Memorial Club: Ph 07 867 7898 (evg) or 07 867 7301

Hauraki Vintage Machinery Club: Ph 07 867 7281

Jig Saw Puzzle Library: Mangatarata, Ph 07 867 3250

Kerepehi Brass Band: Rowan Garrett, Ph 07 867 6762

Kerepehi/Paeroa Indoor Bowls: Ph 027 418 4300

Kerepehi Women's Institute: Ph 07 867 6002 or 07 868 8582

Mahjong: Nola Walker, Ph 07 867 7301

Music and Movement: Suzanne, Ph



Thames High School Music Students will give a free Concert at St George's Church, Thames, 12:15pm on June 25.

027 337 2544

NAAM: 11am -12.30 Tuesdays, Thames. Leigh, Ph 027 497 8601

Ngatea Badminton: Jenny Adams, Ph 07 867 3028

Paeroa Bowling Club: Paul, Ph 021 0290 1508 or Gary Ph 07 560 9200

Ngatea Chinwag Cafe: 10am-12 Tuesdays, parish hall, Darlington St

Ngatea Community Garden: Jane, Ph 07 867 7245

Ngatea Garden Circle: Alice Douglas on 07 867 7463

Ngatea Indoor Bowling Club: Ph 07 867 6082 or 07 867 8015

Ngatea Lions Club: Bruce Foster, Ph 021 043 9280

Ngatea Playcentre: President, Ph 027 327 5536

Ngatea Pony Club: Nicky Hamblin, 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 Citizens Advice Bureau: Tuesdays/Thursdays 10am-1pm, Ph 07 862

8093

Paeroa Community Knitters: Lyn Ph 07 560 9200 or Sandra 022 610 1734

Paeroa Community Programmes: Ph 07 862 9129

Paeroa Drop In: Every Tuesday 9.30am-12.30, St John Rooms

Paeroa Grey Power: Secretary Gail Locke, Ph 07 862 6256

Paeroa Society of Arts: paeroaartsociety@gmail.com

Paeroa Walking Group: 9am, Mon, Wed, Fri, Elaine Lally, Ph 07 862 8409

Probus: Jill McIntosh, Ph 07 867 7373

Runner Runner Poker Club: Thursdays, 6.30pm at Punters Bar.

Scrapbooking: Pam Tonks, Ph 07 867 7780

Solarpunk Aotearoa: John McKeowen, Ph 021 063 5483

St Paschal's Catholic Church: Ph 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 50+ Cycle Group: Chris, Ph 0274 998 159

Thames Bonanza Club: Meets third Thursday of month, Ph 07 868 6673

Thames Chin Wag Cafe: Mondays

10:30am, 608 Queen St, Ph 07 868 9790

Thames Continuing Education: Fourth Wednesday of month, Ph 021 564 339

Thames Creative Fibre Group: Dana Catley, Ph 07 868 7310

Thames Croquet Club: Dennis Karl, Ph: 07 868 2423

Thames Dahlia Club: Paul Silvester, Ph 07 868 9346

Thames Hauraki Parents Centre: Meike, Ph 07 867 3163

Thames-Hauraki Scottish Country Dance Club: Ph 07 280 0631

Thames Heritage Network: Margaret Cropp, Ph 07 868 1024

Thames Lions Club: Ph 07 868 9873 or email: pandb@xtra.co.nz

Thames Menz & Womenz Shed: Tony Winter, Ph 027 290 0023

Thames PickleBall Club: Tuesdays, 10-11am, Ph 027 290 0023

Thames Probus Club: Meets second Tuesday of month, Ph 07 868 5573

Thames Rotary Club: Warren Sly, Ph 021 772 351

Thames Ruby Redz Red Hatters: Ngaire Potter, Ph 07 868 3421

Thames Senior Indoor Bowls: Tuesdays 9.30am - 12pm, St James Hall. Ph Val, 021 054 2337

Thames Steady As You Go: Falls Prevention group, Thursdays, 1:15pm, St Georges Hall, Ph 07 868 9790

Thames Tennis Club: Maree, Ph 027 217 1682

Thames Toastmasters Club: Ph 027 296 8585

Thames Valley Adult Riding Club: Helen Pooley, Ph 021 233 1245

Thames Valley Zonta Club: Pam Har-sant, Ph 027 495 5583

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Tramping in Thames area: www.sporty.co.nz/kauaerangatrampingclub

Turua Playcentre: Estelle, Ph 027 371 8511

Turua Scouts: Leanne Scott, Ph 027 329 7887 or 07 867 8388

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Cultures ‘fused’ over shared plates of food

Dogwear lifts mood

By KELLEY TANTAU

Coming together over plates of food while tapping into Thames’ diverse community is the essence of an event aimed at the town’s newbies.

Kiwi Fusion, a female-only group established by Eve Macaskill Hemming and Rue Singh, was created to encourage women from different cultures to meet people and feel welcome in Thames.

On July 1, they’ll be hosting a “food lover’s celebration of culture on a plate” - and they are inviting women of all backgrounds to attend.

“I think with ladies as such, we bond better when we’re eating or drinking a glass of wine,” Rue said.

“Women put a lot of love into cooking food for their family and friends, so this is a way to share time together,” Kiwi Fusion attendee Suze McElroy added.

Suze and Rue have attended the two Kiwi Fusion events held so far, and said they were “blown away” by the diversity of its participants.

Thirty-five people attended the first event, and ethnicities ranged from Japanese, Italian, Polish, South African, Canadian, Indian, Māori, and Polynesian, they said.

Rue was originally from Durban, in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

She moved to New Zealand



Rue Singh, left, and Suze McElroy are organising an event to bring cultures together in Thames. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

in 2017 after visiting the country for a working holiday.

“I spent a year, loved it to bits, went home, but knew I needed to come back. Something was calling me back here,” she said.

And when it came to food, Rue said some dishes were sentimental, such as her mum’s samosas, or Bunny Chow, a dish that originated among the Indian South Africans of Durban.

“Back in the day, my colour skin wasn’t allowed to go to a restaurant, so we had to go in the back if we wanted to get

food. So, we were given bread with the insides scooped out, and it was filled with curry or gravy, and the inside of the bread was put on top of it, and that was your meal if you wanted to eat out,” Rue recalled.

“Now, we have turned that into something we take pride in.”

Suze, who grew up in central Auckland, said her passion for taking part in Kiwi Fusion was to make friends.

She moved to Thames at the beginning of the year.

While there was still some hesitancy about admitting she was from the city, Suze said the people of Thames had shown her hospitality.

“All in all, everyone has been really welcoming, and perhaps people realise now that new people inject new life into a town.”

DETAILS: Kiwi Fusion Food Lover’s Celebration, 5.30pm-7pm, July 1 at Saint George’s Parish Hall, Thames. Bring a plate of food and a gold coin for hall hire. RSVP: kiwifusionthames@gmail.com.

CONTINUED FROM P7

the vibrancy of her wares.

“People who are interested in the sweaters aren’t necessarily in the rainbow communities,” she says. “Colour lifts my mood, and I think it does for a lot of people.”

In constructing her garments, Diane “knits to fit” after obtaining two measurements from the dog: neck to tail, and chest.

“I’ve unashamedly approached people on the street and I’ve asked them if I could use their dog as a model.

“I accosted a chihuahua whose owners really wanted a military-style sweater, so I sourced a Major epaulette off a uniform, and I knitted the sweater in green and brown, and between the shoulder blades of the chihuahua, I stitched on this authentic Major symbol. I’ve had absolute fun with it,” she says.

The sweaters are made from pure New Zealand wool and range in price from \$60 for a very small breed, to \$80 for a medium-sized breed, such as a spaniel. Diane says she can also knit for larger dogs by order.

“It started off as just average knitting, but then you meet people who want different things, and I’m always up for the challenge,” she said.

“I’ve got three university degrees and I knit dog sweaters,” she says with a laugh, “and it’s the most rewarding thing I’ve done.”

For more info: Find Proudpooh Aotearoa Designer Dogwear on Facebook or Ph 020 4070 2434.

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Emphasis on good wool at Good Yarn Store

When winter rolls around, Colleen Graham has all the comforts she needs.

At The Good Yarn Store, inside The Depot in Grahamstown, Thames, she's surrounded by yarns of merino, possum, mohair, alpaca, cottons and more, which can be used to create something cosy as the colder weather looms.

Having retired but still looking for that "something" to do, she opened the store in August following the Covid-19 lockdown, and its launch has allowed her to let her creative flag fly unobstructed.

"I'd actually seen the shop empty before lockdown, but then Covid came. It was still available after, but with the resurgence in hand crafted garments and with encouragement from friends, I thought: 'Just do it'. 'I needed to fulfill something,' she told *The Profile*.

"I have a family history in retail, but I've always done accounting and office work, now I can indulge in my passion for knitting and be in the creative environment that I love."

Colleen, originally from the Wairarapa, had a career in real estate upon moving to Thames. In the background, though, she'd be sewing, upholstering, chalk painting, and, of course, knitting. She even knits when she's the passenger in a car.

The Good Yarn Store stems from a long-spanning love for knitting and hands-on projects. Colleen was taught to knit by her aunty, and the women of her family all knew how to take part in the craft.

"I sew as well, and started out by making a dress for my doll. I still have my Walkie Talkie doll, and that dress," Colleen said with a laugh. "I feel that my aunty would be quite proud to know that I've now started up this venture."



Having retired but still looking for that "something" to do, Colleen Graham opened The Good Yarn Store last August.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

All of Colleen's yarns are natural, and come from around New Zealand, Peru, and Europe, and she tries not to have any plastic in the shop. The wools are curated with high-quality, consisting of merino, possum, mohair, alpaca plus hand dyed merino and silk from an Auckland dyer called "Yarn Floozy".

She also sells 'knit kits' - that come with a knitting pattern, needles, and the wool.

Colleen is planning on starting up a

knitting group, which she hopes will take place monthly.

"It wouldn't be a lesson as such, but just like-minded people sitting and knitting for an hour or two, swapping ideas and helping one another," she said.

"Here, there are so many lovely people that come in, as well as repeat customers who show me what they've been creating and get advice on future projects.

"The past 10 months has seen the business grow with happy customers who

come back plus more passing through looking for a new project.

"I'd never done anything like this before in my life, but it just felt right, and it is."

To contact Colleen, or for more information, visit the shop in The Depot, Grahamstown, phone 021 332 649, or email thegoodyarnstore@gmail.com.

Store hours are Tuesday-Friday, 9am-3pm, and Saturday, 9am-2pm.

- KELLEY TANTAU



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www.thegoodyarnstore.co.nz



Rural Life

Skilled workers to cross border

The farming sector has welcomed a government decision to allow an additional 200 dairy workers and 50 vets to enter New Zealand.

Federated Farmers and DairyNZ say they are extremely relieved the government has recognised the “crippling” shortage of workers in the dairy industry by approving the skilled workers to cross the border. This exception process is expected to help some of the workers stuck overseas return to their jobs on Kiwi farms.

Federated Farmers immigration spokesperson Chris Lewis said since the closure of the border last year because of the Covid-19 pandemic, farmers had been crying out for dairy farm staff, with almost 50 percent of farmers surveyed reporting vacancies on farms.

“I have taken many, many calls from people who are struggling to cope without their farm managers and skilled staff. It has been a desperate time for many dairy farming families,” he said.

Now the job of working through the details with DairyNZ, Immigration NZ and the Ministry for Primary Industries will begin, to see how these 200 spaces can be fairly allocated across the country, he said.

DairyNZ chief executive Dr Tim Mackle said the move was a step in the right direction.

“This is positive news for farmers, who will be encouraged that government have heard our concerns and responded,” said Dr Mackle.

“We will be ensuring farmers understand the detail of the class exception to be able to make an informed decision.”

However, while the border excep-



DairyNZ chief executive Dr Tim Mackle.
Photo: SUPPLIED

tion process will offer some farmers some respite for the coming season, it’s not expected to solve the long-term labour solution so many industries are facing. It has also proved very challenging to get Kiwis interested in dairy farming careers, but both Federated Farmers and DairyNZ continue to run programmes designed to encourage people to give farming a go. This includes the relaunch of the Go-Dairy campaign: www.godairy.co.nz.

A recent DairyNZ and Federated Farmers survey showed 87 percent of farmers surveyed had made changes to make their business more attractive to staff.

These changes included improved rosters to give more time off (42 percent), reduced hours of work (34 percent), flexible milking schedule (23 percent), increased salaries and wages (65 percent) and upskilling and training (36 percent).

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To find out more information about these programmes or any of our St John community programmes, please call Nikki on:

(07) 868 0555 or email nikki.tyrrell-baxter@stjohn.org.nz

Rough waters prevent crossing



As part of a Valley Profile series, **MEGHAN HAWKES** searches through old newspapers to bring you the stories Thames Valley locals once read about themselves.

1890

Quite a crowd assembled at Thames' Curtis wharf to watch a boat whose occupants were making fruitless efforts to cross over from the Piako side.

Two lads had gone over to the Piako swamp for duck shooting. When they made a start for home, the wind was blowing so strong and the water was so rough, they couldn't get across and were steadily drifting away down the harbour. The tide was out, making it very difficult to get a boat to their rescue. Eventually the harbourmaster's boat, having been pulled through the mud a considerable distance, got floated. Just then the wind gusted and it took a good deal of hard work to reach the boy's boat. Once under tow, they found they couldn't make the Good's Wharf so they put into Tararu. The boys, who were completely exhausted



Curtis Wharf, Thames

when picked up, were then brought to town none the worse for their unpleasant adventure.

Not quite so lucky was a mate on the steamer *Te Aroha* whose hat blew off. He went out in the steamer's boat to pick it up, but while attempting to return had a mishap with the oars and a stiff nor'easter gale blew him out to sea. The captain endeavoured to get the harbourmasters' boat, but found the oars were locked up and before help was at hand darkness set in. As the mate was a good boatman it was thought he would make for either Piako or Miranda. The weather was so dark and dirty that nothing could be done towards searching for him until daybreak.

Since the Thames to Coromandel road had been repaired, Tapu was becoming quite lively. Mr Spencer, with his yacht *Rose*, made frequent excursions up and down the coast. Sea bathing was a great attraction to the fairer sex whilst dancing and musical rehearsals at the Exchange Hotel provided amusement for the

evenings. A very pleasant drive to Tapu was now to be had and the arrival of seven or eight buggies was a common event on Sundays.

Two mammoth onions were displayed in the shop window of Mr W Wood, Pollen St, Thames. The vast vegetables, known as the Giant Rocca, were grown in swamp land at Totara by Mr Owsley from seed purchased from Mr Wood. Mr J M Coote, the genial host of the Commercial Hotel of Paeroa, planned to build a new hotel at the corner of Normanby Rd and Arney St. The plans showed a really first class structure of two storeys with a very large number of bedrooms as well as a dining room on the lower floor. Mr Coote was to be congratulated on his pluck and it was hoped his confidence in the township's prosperity would prove correct. Fire and brimstone appeared to be raining down on the district when a terrific thunderstorm, lasting about three hours, swept through. Many were convinced an earthquake also occurred at the same time.



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05

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25

1 Char (7)
4 Foresee (10)
9 Come before (7)
13 Tankards (4)
14 Pronounce not guilty (6)
15 Dance company (6)
16 Friendly, good-natured (7)
19 Cold auntie (anag) (10)
20 Suffocation (8)
21 Make flat (5)
24 Bracelet trinkets (6)
25 Remove the disguise from (6)
27 Soliloquy (9)
32 Stopped (8)
33 Be hesitant, weak (6)
34 Fell down (7)
38 Death notice (8)
39 Invisible (6)
40 Musical instrument (4)
41 Tossed pole (5)
42 Receded (5)
45 Shrug off criticism (4,1,5,4)
52 Party-givers (5)
55 Basketry willow (5)
56 Red purplish-brown colour (4)
57 Cream-filled pastry (6)
58 Last, final (8)
61 Decided (7)
62 Rifle-cleaning stick (6)
66 Pause between play acts (9)
68 Multiplies (6)
69 Intense dismay (6)
73 Spacious (5)
74 Monarchy supporter (8)
76 Quicken (10)
81 Circumnavigated (7)
82 Ascending (6)
83 Not clear (6)
84 Stopper (4)
85 Blissfully peaceful (7)
86 Word that reads the same backwards or forwards (10)
87 Citadel (anag) (7)
DOWN
1 Disney deer (5)
2 Certificate allowing sick student to pass exam (8)
3 Drink of the gods (6)
4 Ill-treat (5)
5 Dancer's skirt (4)
6 Economise (3,4)
7 Actor's cue (6)
8 Mildly intoxicated (5)
10 Prevalent (4)
11 Grand French house (7)
12 Muted (6)
17 Waist sash (10)
18 Fulcrum (5)
22 Large-flowering shrub (8)
23 Automaton (5)
26 Paper money (4)
28 Burdensome (7)
29 Fireplace (6)
30 Medical establishment (6)
31 Give in to pressure (6)
33 Just made (5)
35 Performed softly (mus)(5)
36 Branch (4)
37 Asian desert (4)
43 Street performer (6)
44 Put up (5)
46 Lie adjacent to another (4)
47 Gemstone (7)
48 Hypothesis (6)
49 Lazed about (5)
50 Dubbed a Sir (8)
51 Famous British admiral (6)
52 Falling ice (10)
53 Break (4)
54 Pullover (7)
59 Sloping edge (5)
60 Horse farm (4)
64 Masted vessel (5)
65 Cherish (8)
67 Mule ran (anag)(7)
68 Preserved (7)
70 Drenched (6)
71 Beach suit (6)
72 Prolific, fertile (6)
75 Greek letter (5)
77 Discontinue (5)
78 Rowing team (5)
79 Food shop (4)
80 Extinct bird (4)

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DOWN: 1 Bambl, 2 Aegrotat, 3 Nectar, 4 Abuse, 5 Intu, 6 Cutback, 7 Prompt, 8 Tippy, 10 Rite, 11 Chateau, 12 Dullied, 17 Cumberbund, 18 Pivot, 22 Gardelia, 23 Robot, 24 Corrode, 26 Note, 28 Onerous, 29 Hearth, 30 Clinic, 31 Relent, 33 Fresh, 35 Piano, 36 Limb, 37 Gobi, 43 Busker, 44 Erect, 46 Abut, 47 Emerald, 48 Theory, 49 Idled, 50 Knighted, 51 Nelson, 52 Halstones, 53 Snap, 54 Sweater, 59 Bevel, 60 Stud, 64 Sloop, 65 Treasure, 67 Numeral, 68 Bottled, 70 Soaked, 71 Bikini, 72 Fecund, 75 Alpha, 77 Cease, 78 Eight, 79 Dell, 80 Dodo.

1 Blacken, 4 Anticipate, 9 Precede, 13 Mugs, 14 Acquit, 15 Troupe, 16 Affable, 19
 20 Asphyxiate, 21 Level, 24 Charms, 25 Unmask, 27 Monologue, 32 Arrested, 33
 34 Toppled, 38 Obituary, 39 Unseen, 40 Oboe, 41 Caber, 42 Ebbd, 45 Have a thick skin,
 52 Hosts, 55 Ostr, 56 Pice, 57 Eclair, 58 Ultimate, 61 Settled, 62 Ramrod, 63 Hothouse, 66
 68 Breeds, 69 Horror, 73 Roomy, 74 Royalist, 76 Accelerate, 81 Skirted, 82 Uphill, 83
 84 Bung, 85 Idyllic, 86 Palindrome, 87 Dialect.

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744 Thames Coast Road, Tapu

By Negotiation

OPEN HOME SAT & SUN 12 - 12.30PM



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RT5640



 3  2  1  1

104 Karaka Road, Thames

Deadline Sale by 23 June 2021





OPEN HOME SAT & SUN 12 - 12.30PM

NEW LISTING



Price guide Late \$200,000's upwards. Being sold "As is, where is" If you have a positive, can do, attitude then this fantastic opportunity is too good to let slip by. Make no mistake this home needs a massive amount of work to bring it back to life but don't look at what it is now, look at what it can be.

RT5645

 4  1  -  1

18-20 Otuturu Crescent, Ruamahunga Bay

Deadline Sale by 23 June 2021

OPEN HOME SAT & SUN 1 - 1.30PM

NEW LISTING



Built in the 1960's the property altogether comprises of a total land area of 2982m2 but is held under 2 separate titles. The dwelling would benefit to some maintenance & refurbishment so if you are not scared of rolling up your sleeves and getting the job done then this property is a must view. Peaceful, tranquil and privately set.



RT5641

 4  2  2  1

368 Thames Coast Road, Thornton Bay





By Negotiation

OPEN HOME SAT 2 - 2.30PM



This beautifully refurbished home with uninterrupted views, offers spacious living, three double bedrooms, three outdoor entertainment areas and large double garage with exquisite hobby room above which can become a guest suite for family, guests or B&B's. Sunroom and front covered deck offers sunset views over the Firth.

RT5628

 3  1  2  1

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decided it must be a miracle.

After months of investigating, reading,
meeting with fellow colleagues, it was
agreed that this event was not a
miracle, merely that he had buttered
his toast on the wrong side.

SPORTS



Hauraki Plains College Year 11 student Sophie Perry was snapped in a “super” pose at a dress-up night on the final evening of the 2021 NZ Division II Swimming Champs held in May. Sophie, who recently joined the St Paul’s Swim Club after being a member of the Thames Swim Club for the past five years, took part in the meet held at Dunedin’s Moana Pools. Her results included: silver in the 400m freestyle; silver in the 100m freestyle; and bronze in the 200m freestyle, the latter for which she qualified for the NZ Short Course championships. Meanwhile, Sophie also attended the Waikato Secondary Schools Champs on May 27 at Waterworld in Hamilton. There she placed second in the 100m freestyle, first in the 200m freestyle, and first in the 100m individual medley.

Photo: SUPPLIED/WE DARE

WI donates knitted items

The Kerepēhi Women’s Institute’s monthly meeting was held at the Kerepēhi Bowling Club on May 11, where president Elaine Jolliffe welcomed eight members. Our thought for the month was researched and read out by Jan Edmonds: ‘Mothers are like buttons; they hold everything together’. Our roll call was a ball of double knitting wool and photos of members’ mothers. Set competition was a cushion cover 40x40cm and a hand-written limerick about mum. Our raffle was won by Bev Adamson. We were told about Group Day on July 6. We had a lovely display of knitting, pictured below, for the wool programme at Middlemore Hospital: 16 cot blankets, 15 pairs of booties, four jumpers and five beanies. We also had 12 hand-knitted blankets for Te Korowai to be donated.

COMPETITIONS: Flowers: Bloom: 1 Jan Edmonds; 2 Elaine Jolliffe; 3 Marion van Eyk. Spike: 1 Sue Watson; 2 Bev Adamson; 3 Debbie Smith. Shrub: 1 Sue Watson; 2 Jan Edmonds; 3 Marion van Eyk. Vegetable: 1 Marion van Eyk; 2 Elaine Jolliffe; 3 Jan Edmonds. Herb: 1 Jan Edmonds; 2 Marion Van Eyk; 3 Carolyn Giles. Cushion Cover: 1 Bev Adamson. Limericks: 1 Elaine Jolliffe; 2 Bev Adamsom; 3 Jan Edmonds.

GOLDFIELDS WOMEN’S INSTITUTE
The May meeting of the Goldfields Women’s Institute began with the aspiration and prayer. Thoughts were given to Jeannine Oliver as her daughter-in-law had just passed away. The motto: ‘Happiness is not what you want, it’s about appreciating what you have’ was read by Dot McHardy. The roll call – Your Star Sign and how accurate it is, created some very interesting comments, with many members feeling they are quite accurate at times. The good deed was items to fill emergency toilet bags for Thames Hospital. Raffles were won by Sue Fah, Val Bowen and Bev Schenkel. A discussion was held regarding the Piako Thames Group Day, which Goldfields WI will be hosting in July. Our speaker for the afternoon was Carole Bridle who spoke about the involvement she had 20 years ago in compiling the book “Moehau” for the Colville School Reunion. It took two years to compile articles and photos donated from people who had grown up or lived in the Colville area.

COMPETITIONS: Bloom: Val Bowen 1, Sue Fah 2, Jill Affleck 3. Cluster: Jill Affleck 1, Sue Fah 2, Anne Bicknell 3. Shrub: Val Bowen 1, Jill Affleck 2, Sue Fah 3. Orchid: Sue Fah 1, Jill Affleck 2.



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Nurses walk out

By KELLEY TANTAU

Healthcare workers striking for better pay and work conditions along Pollen St in Thames last week donned rain-coats instead of scrubs, and placards instead of swipe cards.

The rainy weather on June 9 did not deter the large turnout of Thames Hospital staff and supporters, who dressed in purple and chanted for safe staffing and fair pay.

Those driving by in the warmth of their cars tooted in encouragement, and it was that support which made Thames Hospital senior nurse and New Zealand Nurses Organisation (NZNO) delegate Naera Komene emotional.

“We just want them to know that we care about them, but we need to be cared for too.”

The strike was “very important”, she said.

“We need the DHB to notice our worth.

“We work long hours, we don’t ask to be paid for it often, and we just get on with the job. All of the nurses are in the same boat, and I’m just so happy there are a lot of people supporting us.”

The strike involved nurses, midwives and healthcare as-

sistants at public hospitals and district health board facilities, and came after around 30,000 NZNO members voted to reject the latest offer from DHBs concerning pay, work conditions, and safe staffing.

NZNO organiser Nigel Dawson told *The Profile* there was a “chronic shortage of nurses” throughout the country.

“Nurses don’t want to strike. They never want to strike. They felt they’ve been forced into this. I think they just feel let down. They feel they are totally undervalued,” he said.

“Everybody’s been affected by this DHB [cyber] hack, but it hasn’t made that much difference [to staffing]. There’s been significant understaffing issues in the DHBs for years, and it’s just getting worse.”

The strike comes after Wai-kato DHB was crippled by a cyber-attack, in which hackers obtained sensitive data about patients, staff and finances.

According to a recent update by health board chief executive Dr Kevin Snee, the DHB continued to make “good progress” in restoring its technical systems after taking appropriate steps to safeguard against any further cyber-attacks.



ABOVE: Thames Hospital staffer Andrea Phillips shouts out her message.

RIGHT: Thames Valley nurses take part in the strike.

BELOW: Healthcare workers brave the rain to get their message across.
Photos: KELLEY TANTAU



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