

The Valley Profile

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Pothole repair stand off puts public at risk

Large potholes outside the Totara shops are becoming a health and safety hazard for shoppers and a headache for business owners as arguments soar over who is responsible. **KELLEY TANTAU** reports.

Potholes so large they look like “craters” in a Thames parking lot have become a health and safety hazard after a man fell over one.

But while three businesses have all shown an interest in sharing the repair costs, they were waiting for the NZ Transport Agency to “come to the party”, though it refutes responsibility.

Harvinder Singh, the tenant of the Totara Dairy along State Highway 25, told *The Profile* he had lost customers over the potholes, which on a rainy day, looked “like a swimming pool”.

He said the accessway was no longer safe for elderly people to exit their cars and it was quickly becoming a health and safety issue.

Not only that, but people were pointing the finger at him and his wife for not doing something about it.

“We are getting stressed, because customers will come in and say: ‘It’s a lake out there, you need to get your sh*t to-

gether’. We have others that say they don’t want to pull up over here again,” he said.

“But they don’t realise we can’t afford to do it all on our own.”

Mr Singh has owned the business since February last year, but said he did not own the building or the land it sat on. He has contacted Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) about getting the potholes repaired.

He believed it was the landowner’s responsibility to pay for the surface repairs; however, he was willing to share the cost, he said.

“It’s not that I’m running away from spending the money, but I’m only a tenant, and they can’t expect me to pay for it all.”

The building’s owner, Kyle Whisker from Peninsula Motorcycles next door, has also contacted NZTA about getting the space repaired.

A quote he received from asphalt company ACO Waikato



Harvinder Singh, the owner of the Totara Dairy along State Highway 25, says he has lost customers over the potholes, which on a rainy day, look “like a swimming pool”.
Photos: KELLEY TANTAU

to repair the holes, provided to *The Profile*, stated it would cost \$22,000 to stabilise and chip seal the 550sqm area.

Traffic management would also be required for two days at an estimated cost of \$4,164.

A second quote from Higgins Contractors said the repair would cost \$66,481.

“We’ve been battling since we moved in here about five years ago to try and get something done about it,” Mr Whisker said.

“We’ve contacted NZTA, because apparently they are responsible for 10m either side of the centreline of the road.

“So, quite a lot of the really bad potholes are within that,” he said.

“They say it’s the responsibility of the business owners.”

Mr Whisker said the area then became council-owned

CONTINUED ON P2



The carpark has been described as no longer safe for elderly people to exit their cars because of the large potholes.

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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 approximately 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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Hi, my name is Pete the Pukeko and I'm here to help you. Find me in one of the display advertisements in The Valley Profile, then email admin@valleyprofile.co.nz or Ph/txt 027 396 2459 with your full name, the business name and page number of the ad by the following Monday to go in the draw to WIN a car valet from Thames Autos worth \$150! The prize is drawn at the end of each month.

Thames Autos

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‘Give what you can, take what you need’

Te Whāriki Manawāhine o Hauraki (Hauraki Women’s Refuge) has officially opened a food rescue for whānau in Paeroa. KELLEY TANTAU was invited to its launch.

Pātaka Kai, Hauraki’s newest food outlet, has a dual purpose: to support whānau in deciding how they get from one shopping week to the next, and to prevent processed foods from going into landfills. “Better the food goes to feeding our whānau rather than polluting Papatūānuku,” Te Whāriki chairperson Josie Anderson said. “As such, whānau who use Pātaka Kai are also exercising their kaitiakitanga to care for and protect Papatūānuku. This way we all win.” The establishment of Pātaka Kai had been a long time coming, and at its launch on June 24, Josie said food security for whānau had been “seriously lacking”. “Last year, with Covid-19, it came to the fore, and it actually gave groups like ours a chance to not only know it, but to take actual steps forward to do something about it. “When we were delivering food and supporting whānau, one thing we found when we sat back to reflect was that although this was about providing kai to our families, we saw that whānau were actually



The kaumātua and kaiāwhina of Te Whāriki Manawāhine o Hauraki’s new Pātaka Kai food rescue at its launch on June 24. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

starting to participate in the decisions themselves. “What that was saying to us was when our families have the resources, they are more than capable of making decisions for themselves,” she said. The Pātaka Kai initiative is supported by Pak’nSave, Countdown, Waikato Environmental Trust, Kauaeranga Valley Co-operative, Iwi organisations, and caring community members.

“Feeding whānau is all about keeping alive the values and practices of our kaumātua to care for each other,” John Linstead, kaumātua Pātaka Kai, said. “Our nannies and aunties would always feed whoever was at our home at kai time, no questions asked. “This is continuing that legacy - our kai is your kai, give what you can and take what you need.”

PĀTAKA KAI
Pātaka Kai is located at 66 Belmont Rd, Paeroa. Bring your shopping bag when you need to. Opening times to donate to Pātaka Kai are: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 9.30am-3.30pm; Friday, 9.30am-2pm; and Saturday, 9.30am-12.30pm. To contact Te Whāriki Manawāhine O Hauraki, free call 0800 868 3132.

‘Crater-sized’ potholes have businesses at a loss

NZTA says repairs do not fall under its jurisdiction - ‘Waka Kotahi does not maintain private parking areas’

land for roughly 4m before his boundary began, 1m from the front steps of the Totara Dairy. He said a survey peg showed the boundary line; however, a Thames-Coromandel District Council spokesperson said all properties on that block fronted directly on to the state highway reserve, and there was no strip of council-owned property in between. Mr Whisker said he was happy to pay for a portion of the repair costs, but the transport agency and district council needed to “come to the party” too. “We have paid for countless trailer loads of metal to fill in the potholes, and

Richard in the bait shop has also used his digger to fill these in out of our own pockets and time,” he said. “If everybody chipped in, then it wouldn’t be such a big deal, and we could get it done.” Richard Waterreus, from Early Bird Bait and Tackle next door to the dairy, has owned the business for two years. Up until two months ago, he had maintained the dilapidated surface using his digger to keep it up to an “operational standard”. “To try and keep our customers happy, who come with boats and trailers, I’ve maintained it mostly by myself, but also a little bit by the current tenant of the dairy who does his best. “But I feel that it’s not my responsibility

to continue.” Mr Waterreus believed the landowner should pay for the “lion’s share” of the cost; however, he too wouldn’t be opposed to contributing. “I believe it has to be shared, but also that NZTA and the council should have some part to play, because if those potholes were in the middle of Thames, they would not exist, because something would be done.” NZTA Waikato system manager Cara Lauder said while the transport agency was responsible for maintenance on SH25, this section of the highway was within the 70km/h speed environment, where Waka Kotahi was only responsible for maintaining the road from kerb to kerb.

The potholes were located behind the drainage channel, in line with the kerb, which meant in this instance, the required work did not fall under Waka Kotahi jurisdiction. “While the area in question is on state highway road reserve, it is being used as a driveway/access point and private parking area. “Waka Kotahi does not maintain private parking areas or driveways as these are for the use of private landowners and their visitors. “Waka Kotahi has offered to help coordinate our network outcomes contractor to undertake the repairs,” she said. “However, this would be at the cost of the relevant landowners or leaseholders.”

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Thames Tides

Wed Jun 30	Thu Jul 1	Fri Jul 2	Sat Jul 3	Sun Jul 4	Mon Jul 5	Tue Jul 6
 Morning: 5:10am 0.6, 5:23pm 0.7 Afternoon: 11:24am 3.4, 11:54pm 3.5 Sunrise: 7:32am, Sunset: 5:11pm Best At: 4:50am 5:13pm Moon: Set 11:33am, Rise 11:00pm	 Morning: 6:01am 0.7, 12:13pm 3.3 Afternoon: 6:15pm 0.9 Sunrise: 7:32am, Sunset: 5:11pm Best At: 5:34am 5:56pm Moon: Set 12:00pm	 Morning: 12:46am 3.3, 1:03pm 3.1 Afternoon: 6:51am 0.8, 7:10pm 1.0 Sunrise: 7:32am, Sunset: 5:12pm Best At: 6:17am 6:37pm Moon: Last Quarter, Rise 12:01am, Set 12:25pm	 Morning: 1:36am 3.2, 1:56pm 3.1 Afternoon: 7:42am 0.9, 8:09pm 1.1 Sunrise: 7:32am, Sunset: 5:12pm Best At: 6:58am 7:18pm Moon: Rise 12:59am, Set 12:50pm	 Morning: 2:27am 3.2, 2:52pm 3.0 Afternoon: 8:34am 0.9, 9:08pm 1.1 Sunrise: 7:32am, Sunset: 5:13pm Best At: 7:39am 8:00pm Moon: Rise 1:57am, Set 1:15pm	 Morning: 3:18am 3.1, 3:51pm 3.0 Afternoon: 9:27am 1.0, 10:04pm 1.1 Sunrise: 7:32am, Sunset: 5:13pm Best At: 8:21am 8:42pm Moon: Rise 2:54am, Set 1:42pm	 Morning: 4:09am 3.0, 4:46pm 3.0 Afternoon: 10:20am 1.0, 10:54pm 1.1 Sunrise: 7:32am, Sunset: 5:14pm Best At: 9:05am 9:27pm Moon: Rise 3:52am, Set 2:12pm

*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	LOW
Coromandel	-0	05	-0 04
Whitianga	-0	02	-0 06
Tairua	+0	10	+0 20
Whangamata	-0	07	-0 08
Waihi Beach	-0	12	-0 13

Snooze, you win at wacky competition

By KELLEY TANTAU

Falling asleep on the job will get you one step closer to a win with Coromandel's CFM's first ever sleep championships.

The competition, which sees four competitors tucked up in four beds inside Thames' Goldfields Mall during opening hours, is an endurance sporting event you've been practising for your whole life, CFM owner Lynda Grant said.

"We were thinking of a promotion we could do at Goldfields, something different, and Gina, our promotions manager, came up with a sleep competition. We hadn't heard of it being done before and, with a bed shop and a linen shop in the mall, it seemed a logical thing to do," she said.

The competition pits four hopefuls together for each of the four rounds, with the top sleeper from each heat moving forward to the finals on July 9.

Competitors have an hour to fall asleep and will be judged on posture, their ability to sleep for as close to an hour, the speed in which they doze off, and if there is a snore.

The prize is a brand-new queen size bed, mattress, and manchester package valued at more than \$4000.

"On the whole, [our competitors] have been pretty committed, and there have been more

women than men entering," Lynda said.

At heat one on Saturday, all four entrants were female, and consisted of Elaine Rhind, Christine Williams, Charleen Thorner, and Georgina Lloyd.

"My strategy was to try and stay awake last night, but I got bored and went to sleep... I ended up sleeping 12 hours by accident," Georgina said.

The winner of heat one was Christine Williams, and the winner of heat two was Ponch Junior. Both sleepers will go on to the finals.

DETAILS: Heat 3 of CFM's sleep competition will be held at 12pm on July 3, with heat 4 at 12pm on Sunday, July 4. The finals will be held at 6pm on July 9. CFM will be broadcasting live from the events, tune in to 95.1 and 94.0.



Heat One saw the four competitors attempt to snooze surrounded by spectators.

Photos: KELLEY TANTAU



Georgina Lloyd tried to stay awake the night before but ended up over-sleeping.



Elaine Rhind settles in for the sleep-off.

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Alice in Our Place

Nā Alice i tā mātou rohe



Thanks for journeying with Alice through Our Place and telling us what you think about our plans for the next 10 years and beyond.

You helped us make these important choices

Paeroa street upgrade

We had \$650,000 left in our budget to upgrade Wharf and Mackay Street and we wanted to know if we should invest more money or just finish what we could with the money we had.

You gave us lots of suggestions for improvements so we decided to add another \$500,000 to our budget, which gives us \$1.15 million overall to complete the project over the next 12 months.

Hauraki Rail Trail extension in Waihi

We already have plans to make the existing route in to town safer, but we also wanted to provide a more picturesque ride into town, alongside the Ohinemuri River.

You agreed this is a great idea, so we've included \$1.47 million in our budget to build the Trail within the next 12 months. Next steps include talking with stakeholders to finalise the Trail route.

Visitor information services

We wanted to provide funding for information services in all our wards, including the Plains.

You told us you want this too, so we've allowed \$65,000 per year each for visitor information services in Paeroa and Waihi, and \$20,000 per year for the Plains.

Waihi streetscape

We wanted to invest about \$2.7million to upgrade Seddon Street, between Gilmour Street and Rosemont Road, and along Rosemont Road to Kenny Street.

You told us there are other improvements you'd like to see in the town centre that could be done for less than a full streetscape, so we've scaled back our plans.

We've decided to invest \$1.2million on smaller projects to refresh the town centre, rather than a full streetscape.

Town promotional organisations

We wanted to reduce funding to our town promotional organisations and employ a district wide coordinator to provide support to local business, community groups and organisations in event management, volunteer recruitment and training, and district and business promotion.

You told us you liked this district wide approach so we've reduced funding to Positive Paeroa, GO Waihi and Positively Promoting the Plains to \$12,000 each per year and will look to employ a district wide coordinator this year.

If you made a submission, we'll get back to you individually on the points you submitted on, during July.

We received lots of other feedback too

Based on your suggestions, we made some changes to some of our plans and adopted our 2021-31 Long Term Plan.

What's next?

Now we've finalised our Long Term Plan, we'll get cracking on all the things you've agreed we should do.

Check out our Long Term Plan!

Read the plan at www.govt.nz/our-council/hauraki-long-term-plan/



Meditation and yoga workshop builds resilience

A yoga and meditation workshop held in Thames recently aimed at giving participants tools to tackle physical and mental wellbeing.

Kailasa New Zealand (Life Bliss of New Zealand Charitable Trust) held the unique workshop, called Know You, Heal You, on June 13.

The aim of the day was to help bring authentic Vedic wisdom of the self, yoga and meditation, in an accessible and user-friendly way in order to promote blissful and empowered communities.

Participants travelled from various parts of New Zealand, including Auckland, Rotorua, Palmerston North, Wellington and Christchurch to participate in the event.

The workshop involved interactive games, hands-on activities, discussions and meditation.

"Just as important it is to develop a healthy body; it is equally important to develop a strong inner space that is capable of handling any situation life brings," lead co-ordinator Sri Gautama said.

"With the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on New Zealand, building this resilience is critical now more than ever. It is Kailasa NZ's vision to provide this support to communities."

This is the second major workshop Kailasa NZ has organised in Thames, with the event made possible by funding from Thames-Coromandel District Council.

From meditation workshops to individual counselling, An-



Kailasa NZ connected with the Māori community at the Matai Whetū marae during the weekend.

Photos: SUPPLIED

nadhaan (food donation) and community outreach, Kailasa NZ has been empowering New Zealand with authentic Vedic solutions to a variety of challenges New Zealanders are facing - from mental and physical health to spiritual wellbeing.

During the same weekend, Kailasa NZ connected with the Māori community in Thames at the Matai Whetū marae to help strengthen the bonds of mutual understanding and oneness between Hindu and Māori communities.



The workshop involved interactive games and hands-on activities.

Thames house fire suspicious

Police are treating a house fire in central Thames as suspicious.

Thames Volunteer Fire Brigade, with assistance from the Turua and Puriri brigades, responded to a house fire on Mackay St, Thames, around 3.44pm on June 19.

It is believed a mother and four children aged between 6-11 lived at the home.

All occupants got out of the house safely, though all their possessions were lost in the fire.

A Police spokesperson said the cause of the fire was yet to be determined but Police were treating it as suspicious.

"Thankfully no one was injured but damage to the house has been severe. Enquiries into the fire are ongoing," they said.

Anyone who has any information which could assist the Police enquiries is asked to get in touch by phoning 105 and quote file number 210619/5778.

Meanwhile, a givealittle page set up to support the family has raised nearly \$1200 for clothing and furniture. It's understood the family did not have insurance.

More info: givealittle.co.nz/cause/thames-family-lost-everything-due-too-house-fire.

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WHAT'S ON

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.thamesmusicgroup.com.

July 7: T# Cafe Talk: Transition Town Thames (T3) will host Ric Bal-four, who will speak about his job as the Landcare Trust local representative. The Back Room at the Lotus Realm, 7:30pm.

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

July 23: The Kumeu Vintage Brass Band: Free concert, 12:15pm at St Georges Church with soup and a bun following for \$5, cash only.

August 8: Barbershop Men's Chorus, Mighty River Harmony: St Georges Church, 2pm. Tickets: cash at the door, adults: \$20; members: \$15; kids: \$5.

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: Dog training for kiwi avoidance: at the Kauaeranga Visitor Centre, Ph 07 867 9080 or email kauaerangavc@doc.govt.nz.

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.

October 5: Hotel California The Eagles Experience: A live concert and stage show, Thames War Memorial Civic Centre, 8pm. Tickets: event-finda.co.nz.

October 16: Ngatea Garage Sale: Thousands flock to Ngatea to find a bargain. Main street, Ngatea, 9am to 2pm.

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 Dodunski, 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 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



Thames Music And Drama's latest production, *Peter Pan and the Medallion's Secret* will be staged at the Thames Civic Centre from July 3-10. Tickets available now at www.thamesmad.co

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 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 Citizens Advice Bureau: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 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: paeroaart-society@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 McKeown, 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

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The Valley
Profile

Space destroyed by fire gets new life

By KELLEY TANTAU

Pizzas are churning out of Waikino School's Whare Manu space yet again, after a fire destroyed their original pizza oven and caused \$68,000 in damage.

The blaze, which started from the school's pizza oven and took out an outdoor classroom, occurred on November 15 last year.

But on Friday evening, the school community gathered around the site of the fire to celebrate the relaunch of a "bigger and grander" Whare Manu space - and to cook pizzas for the crowd.

The original pizza oven had been constructed by students, as part of the school's effort to build sustainably, and was used almost daily.

This time around, the pizza oven and parts of its shelter are made out of clay, using bamboo framework gathered from the

bottom of the school's paddock.

Principal Jo Wheway said it took "six months of stomping clay" to get to this point.

"Every [student] has had at least one go at stomping and building and some of them kept coming back and back and back," she said.

"They've all now had an exposure to earth building and its importance."

Rose Tuffery, from Waihi, is an earth-builder who helped out the school with its Whare Manu design.

"The kids that don't learn in the classroom, find a place doing these kinds of things," she told *The Profile*. "And building with earth has got a lot of magical properties that you can't explain, it just does good things for people."

The school has been growing rapidly since Mrs Wheway started as principal three years ago, with around 90 students on the roll.



ABOVE: Alex Heremaia and Waikino School principal Jo Wheway cut the first pizza from the new Whare Manu.

Photos: KELLEY TANTAU



Waikino School teacher Catherine Cookson is in charge of the putting in and taking out of the pizzas.



Paul and Levi Bluett are one of the first to try a pizza made in the new Whare Manu space.



The new pizza oven and its shelter was made out of clay, using bamboo framework gathered from the bottom of the school's paddock.

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The past year has been a good one for Saunders Mitsubishi in Thames.

The car dealership came out of the Covid-19 lockdown with a state-of-the-art, purpose-built building on Pollen St, and within its walls, has continued to sell new and used cars locally and across the country.

The new building was roughly 510sqm and featured a 38-space car lot, and a full parts and service department.

It was designed by franchise owner Paul Saunders, who has seen the site transform since the days his Dad, Mike, owned a used car yard and workshop at the same location.

“Dad started the business in 1978, across the road where Fresho is now, and in 1985, he bought what was the Warwick Arms Hotel and built a car yard there. “I used to go down to the yard with him on a Saturday morning, and he would work, and I’d just play around the cars,” Paul said.

“I bought it in 2001, and in 2008, we took on the Mitsubishi name.

“He pops in here now and again and has a coffee and a gab and tells me about the old days.

“Dad’s very proud,” he said.

Paul grew up around the motor industry and was a mechanic by trade. He said now was a good time to be a Mitsubishi dealership.

“We’ve been flat-out since Covid, but supply is an issue. The new car demand is outstripping supply,” he said.

“Here, the Triton is our biggest seller, then the ASX, and Outlander. Right now, we’re getting inundated with people wanting electric vehicles.”

The announcement of the Govern-



Saunders Mitsubishi in Thames has won the Managing Directors Award, which was given to only one dealership in the country. Owner Paul Saunders stands outside their new building with the trophy. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

ment’s Clean Car Discount scheme, in which people buying new electric vehicles would be eligible for a discount of up to \$8625 from tomorrow, had appeared to appeal to the district’s residents, Paul said.

Mitsubishi has the Outlander PHEV and Eclipse Cross in the e-range.

“We’re a small fish in a big sea, but we deal with the changes that arise over the years in the motor industry,”

Paul said. “The internet now makes the world so much smaller, and repeat business is huge for us.”

Paul said the company prides itself on building and maintaining relationships with its customers, and in 2017 and 2020, they won awards for customer service, as chosen by the public. This year, Saunders also won the Managing Directors Award, which was given by Mitsubishi to only one

dealership in the country.

“There’s about 37 full dealerships in the country, so it was really surprising, but the awards are all a team effort,” he said.

Saunders Mitsubishi sells new and used cars, and also has a fleet of rental cars, and a full parts and service department. It’s located at 201 Pollen Street, Thames. Ph: 07 868 8398.

- KELLEY TANTAU

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Rural Life

Swords clash after clean car announcement

The government’s new clean car scheme has spurred debate between Coromandel MP Scott Simpson and former Labour candidate Nathaniel Blomfield over prior use of Blomfield’s work ute.

KELLEY TANTAU reports

The government’s recently announced Clean Car Scheme has faced backlash from the rural community, with Coromandel’s MP claiming some have called it “an attack on farming”.

Under the scheme, buyers of new or used imported electric vehicles would be eligible for a rebate, while others could face levies on registering new or used combustion-engine vehicles such as utes.

Coromandel MP Scott Simpson took issue with Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern’s recent claim that a “large number” of people buying utes were not “using them for legitimate use as those who work in the primary sector and the trades”.

The National Party environment spokesperson posted a photo to his Facebook page on June 17 showing former Labour Party candidate Nathaniel Blomfield posing outside his ute that had been signwritten ahead of the 2020 election.

Mr Simpson questioned if the ute’s use was “legitimate” or not.



Scott Simpson

“To be blunt, I don’t care what kind of vehicle Nat drives, but the issue I was raising was that the Prime Minister had decreed that some vehicles and some users of utes were legitimate and some weren’t.

“That’s really the problem I have,” he told *The Profile*.

“It’s a question of a Prime Minister who has taken it upon herself to decide what is a legitimate ute user and what is not, and I think that is bad form and I think that is bad practice.”

Mr Simpson said he had been driving a Hyundai Kona electric vehicle (EV) for almost three years, and had reached more than 80,000kms in it.

He said EVs were the way of the future. “But right now, they are simply not sufficiently practical for people like farmers, tradies, electricians, and plumbers, who don’t have the option of buying an EV, and therefore are going to be foisted with this new tax.

“At Fieldays, people felt it was an unfair tax on farmers



Scott Simpson questioned on social media if Nathaniel Blomfield’s ute was “legitimate use” at the last election.

Photo: SUPPLIED

in particular, and this [scheme] is seen by many farmers as yet another attack on farming.”

Mr Blomfield said he was surprised to see Mr Simpson’s post questioning the legitimacy of his work ute. While still a member of the party, he was no longer directly involved in Parliament, and currently works as a labourer. He ran for the Labour Party twice, once in 2017 and again in 2020, last year gaining 17,713 votes to incumbent Scott Simpson’s 21,218.

He told *The Profile* he used his ute to cart firewood, tools, and equipment, among other

things.

However, the post ended up drawing “a lot of negative vitriol” towards him, he said.

He also believed the Prime Minister’s “legitimate” comment was a “bad turn of phrase” that had been “misconstrued by a lot of people”.

“I’m a supporter of the policy discouraging the importation of higher polluting vehicles, and the transition to lower-polluting vehicles. That doesn’t mean [we all have] Nissan Leafs.

“They’re not taking away your choice. But we’ve got to do something,” he said.



Nathaniel Blomfield

“This whole pushing back of the timeline of climate change, we can’t constantly do that, because climate change isn’t slowing down, and if we don’t do something, it’s going to be too late for any sort of action.

“National agrees that this is happening,” he said.

“But they have no real plan to address anything, they just want to oppose, oppose, oppose.”

THE CLEAN CAR SCHEME

From July 1, owners registering new or used electric vehicles can claim a rebate of up to \$8625 and plug-in hybrids can claim up to \$5750. To pay for the scheme, buyers of new or used combustion engine vehicles such as utes will face a fee of up to \$5175 for a new import or up to \$2875 for a used import. The aim of the scheme is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help the government reach its goal to be carbon-neutral by 2050.

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Celebrating THE ARTS

New feature celebrates the arts

Welcome to the Valley Profile's new arts page. With support from local advertisers, this page will be published regularly to celebrate our local arts scene throughout the Thames Valley. In this first instalment, we feature the opening of an annual Matariki art exhibition, which doubles as a fundraiser for St Francis School in Thames. On this page every other month, you can expect to see a variety of stories, including local art news, events and exhibitions, plus profiles of our local artists. This includes any kind of creative expression, from storytelling to painting, sculpture, music, theatre, fashion and culture. We are looking forward to celebrating our local artists and art events. If you have any news tips or upcoming art events to list on this page, or would like to support this page with advertising, please contact me, Ph 0204 0944 853 or editor@valleyprofile.co.nz.

- Teresa Ramsey



Father Valley gives a blessing at the opening of the St Francis School Matariki Art Exhibition at The Vibe.

Matariki exhibition opens

Matariki celebrations began in Thames last week with the opening of the St Francis School Matariki Art Exhibition at The Vibe in Mary St on June 24. The celebrations continued on June 25 with the Matariki Exhibition opening at Bounty Store in Grahamstown, which is also part of the school fundraiser. Matariki is an important Māori celebration, signifying the start of the New Year in Māori culture.

Curator Fiona Cameron said the exhibition featured works from local and national artists. The exhibition opened to a large crowd of art lovers. **DETAILS: Matariki Art Exhibition at Bounty, 754 Pollen St, Thames, runs until July 17. Students' art work will be displayed in the container at The Vibe from Wednesday to Friday noon-1:30pm, Saturday 10am-1pm and Sunday 10am-2pm until July 8. All proceeds to St Francis School.**



Karen Bowie, left and Coromandel artist Elisabeth Carter enjoy the art works on display at the Bounty Store exhibition.



St Francis School principal Oliver Fahey, left, with his wife Mikaela Fahey and Matariki Art Exhibition curator Fiona Cameron.



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Vaccinations for the rest of Aotearoa New Zealand

The COVID-19 vaccination rollout for the general population starts from the end of July.

Our COVID-19 vaccination programme has built momentum steadily since February. We are vaccinating around 100,000 people a week at the moment. In the second half of the year we hit top speed and everyone in New Zealand aged 16 and over will be able to be vaccinated.

Moving to the general population

So far, vaccinations have been made available to those most at risk of getting COVID-19 to limit the chances of it getting into the wider population.

With more vaccine supply coming on, and having ramped up our infrastructure, vaccinations for everyone else in New Zealand aged 16 and over (the general population) start from 28 July.

This is a very large group of people. To make this flow smoothly, we will break this down by age bands.

All people aged 60 plus can book their vaccinations from 28 July. Then, two weeks later, people who are 55 plus. From there, new age bands will be opened up every 2–3 weeks based on confirmed deliveries of the vaccine and the speed of rollout to earlier groups.

By mid to late August, invitations should be open for people over 45. By mid to late September, invitations should be open for those over 35, with everyone else being eligible from October.

Invitations

Most people will get a direct invitation to book – either by email, text, phone call or in the post. You will then be able to book through *Book My Vaccine*, a new national booking system that will be online from 28 July, or phone a new national call centre. Availability of booking slots (the date, time and place you can be vaccinated) will vary between district health board (DHB) regions.

Once you are eligible to be vaccinated, you can be vaccinated at any time. There is no cut off.

Registration

Even if your age band isn't open, everyone aged 16 and over will be able to go to *Book My Vaccine* to register for an invitation from 28 July. Registration means we will be certain to have your correct contact details and when your age group is opened, you will get an invitation telling you it's your turn to book.

Find out more at [Covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz)

New Zealand Government

Getting a vaccination

Step 1	Receiving an invitation We'll call or send you an email, text or letter to invite you to book.
Step 2	Make your booking From 28 July, go to <i>Book My Vaccine</i> or call the new national call centre to book both doses, or to register if your age band isn't open yet.
Step 3	Get your vaccination Have your first vaccination dose. 3–6 weeks later have your second vaccination dose.

If you don't hear from us, or are concerned, you can register for your vaccination through the new national *Book My Vaccine* booking system at any time from 28 July.

Important dates

28 July	People 60+	Vaccinations open
11 August	People 55+	Vaccinations open
Mid to late Aug	People 45 +	Invitations should open
Mid to late Sept	People 35+	Invitations should open
October	People 16+	Invitations should open

Other ways to get vaccinated

As we go through the year there will be other ways for people to be vaccinated. These will include workplace vaccinations and other targeted vaccination events across the country. For some remote rural communities we will vaccinate all age groups at the same time to make it easier for them. Our successful whānau-centred approach to vaccinations will continue for Māori and Pacific communities and those with disabilities.

Unite
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COVID-19



Te Puru School's Otis Taylor spots a clearing and makes a run for it, with Zaylee Savage, right, offering full support.

Photos: KELLEY TANTAU

Rippin' good fun

Schools from throughout the Thames Valley gathered at Paeroa Domain on June 23 for the Thames Valley Primary Schools Rippa Rugby Finals Tournament. The top placements were the Waihi Beach Tohora (1st), and Waihi East Kokako (2nd) in the Year 5 and 6 division; and the Mercury Bay Area School Jetz (1st), and Waihi College Underdogs (2nd) in the Year 7 and 8 division. *Valley Profile* reporter **KELLEY TANTAU** caught all the action



Ngatea's Tayla Kennedy outruns a Waerenga defence.



Moanataiari's Taj Shiriwastow-Gardyne fends off Waihi players.



James Heap from Parawai School makes it all the way to the try line.



Archie Stove, from Te Puru School, makes a run for it.



Marshall Bowen reaches for the tag.



Ngatea's Patrick Beagley makes a pass.

Queen's Head a sight to behold once more

By KELLEY TANTAU

A rocky outcrop that bears the resemblance of former British monarch Queen Victoria can be seen from the road once again.

The landmark, dubbed Queen's Head, located between Waihi and Waikino, has had gorse, macrocarpa, and pine trees cleared from around the cliff face that holds her.

It's thanks to landowners Pete and Vicki Beveridge, Waihi Heritage Vision, and a grant from Hauraki District Council.

According to the September 1990 Ohinemuri Regional History Journal, Queen's Head was, in historical terms, priceless.

"She has been a landmark in the district long before records were kept or man arrived, and she would have been there long before her namesake ascended the British throne.

"She would have seen the first Māori arrive in the area, followed by miners as they walked into the district. Then, with the formation of the road, the packhorses, stage coaches and other traffic. Nowadays all sorts of motorised transport pass round her base," the journal read.

"However, visibility of her is now somewhat obscured by a seedling pine tree and travellers passing through would be hard put to get a glimpse of her."

That's now changed following Pete and Vicki Beveridge's successful plea to the district council for funding to clear the monarch's face.

The couple live on the land on which the rock sits, and Pete told *The Profile* they'd looked into clearing the scrub, but knew the costs of the traffic management needed to partially close the road, as well as an experienced arborist, would soon add up. They were encouraged to apply for council funding, and were supported by Goldfields Railway, whose

train passes by Queen's Head, as well as members of the community. They received almost \$10,000

from the council to get the job done.

"You say 'Queen's Head' to a lot of people in town and they don't know what you're talking about, but there's an awful lot of people who do," Pete said.

"They say: 'When we used to come home as kids, we'd be looking out for Queen's Head, because that's when we knew we were home'."

Pete and Vicki are both involved in their local community, and Pete is the son of former Waitakere ranger Bill Beveridge, who, alongside Bill's father Joe, had a walking track named after him in the Auckland ranges.

Pete had found he had the same inclination for history.

"We're quite happy to be the custodians of [Queen's Head]."

"There she is, behold the queen."

- Pete Beveridge



The iconic Queen's Head rock between Waihi and Waikino can now be seen from the road along State Highway 2.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

"It could quietly erode over a couple hundred years, but at the moment, it's still here and recognisable for what it was in the first place," he said.

"There she is, behold the queen."

As far as is known, there is no record of who dubbed the rock Queen's Head, but according to the Ohinemuri Journal, verbal accounts said a couple of miners in Queen Victoria's day noticed the resemblance to the ruling monarch, and that is what the rock has been called ever since.



Workers clear the historic Queen's Head rock site.

Photo: SUPPLIED



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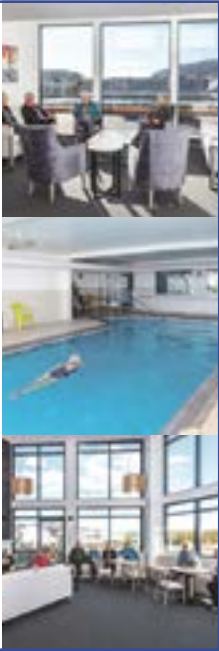


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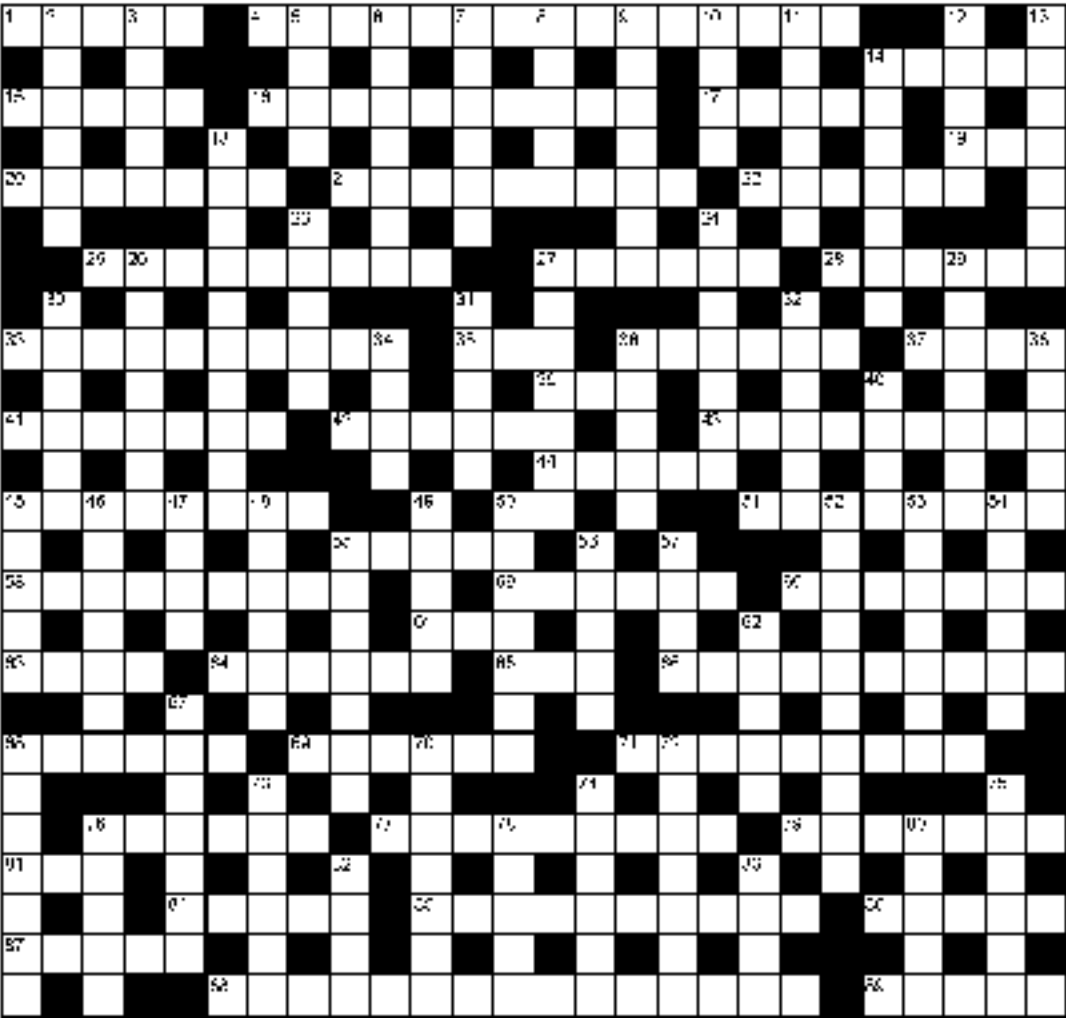
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JUMBO CROSSWORD

27

- ACROSS**
1 Book of photos (5)
4 Possess a special sensitivity to danger (4,1,5,5)
14 Pester (5)
15 Iron alloy (5)
16 Intersections (10)
17 Weary (5)
19 Small child (3)
20 Root vegetable (7)
21 Lifelike (9)
22 Greenfly (6)
25 Requesting forcefully (9)
27 Ice cream dish (6)
28 Tacky (6)
33 Carry out (10)
35 Spider's trap (3)
36 Burglarproof (6)
37 Boast (4)
39 Vase (3)
41 Shortfall (7)
42 Tin alloy (6)
43 Ludicrous (9)
44 Free-for-all (5)
45 Powerfully attractive (8)
50 Exists (2)
51 Saying little (8)
55 Battle (5)
58 Menial cur (anag)(9)
59 On land (6)
60 Quantities (7)
61 Friend (3)
63 Wheel shaft (4)
64 Sculpted likeness (6)
65 Hotel (3)
66 Maternity (10)
- DOWN**
2 Deadly (6)
3 Consumers (5)
5 Well-ventilated (4)
6 Of the Orient (7)
7 Amble (6)
8 Hospital pictures (1-4)
9 Coarse sacking fabric (7)
10 Consumes (4)
11 Play text (6)
12 Tangles (5)
13 Bewilder (7)
14 Habitual users (7)
18 Let down (10)
23 Let in (5)
24 Whistle, boo (7)
26 Feeling (7)
27 Residential areas (7)
- ACROSS**
29 Reindeer (7)
30 Skin disorder (6)
31 Studies assiduously (5)
32 Shock (6)
34 Take notice of (4)
36 Go furtively (5)
38 Inexperienced (5)
40 Siamese (4)
45 Craze (5)
46 Took a chance (7)
47 Cereal heads (4)
48 Stir up (6)
49 Open-mouthed (5)
50 I a Latin (anag)(7)
52 Entrant (10)
53 Anneal (7)
54 Distribute sparingly (6)
55 Praise to excess (7)
56 Intone (5)
57 Cheerless (4)
62 Play for time (5)
67 Strip (7)
68 Diplomatic building (7)
70 Round of applause (7)
72 Edible leafstalk (7)
73 African country (6)
74 Ecclesiastic (6)
75 French brandy (6)
76 Toss (5)
78 Fashion (5)
80 Play (5)
82 Vote against (4)
83 Alcoholic drink (4)



ACROSS: 1 Album, 4 Have a sixth sense, 14 Annoy, 15 Steel, 16 Crossroads, 17 Tired, 19 Tot, 20 Parapin, 21 Realistic, 22 Aphids, 25 Demanding, 27 Sundae, 28 Sticky, 33 Accomplish, 35 Web, 36 Secure, 37 Brag, 39 Urn, 41 Deficit, 42 Pewter, 43 Laughable, 44 Brawl, 45 Magnetic, 50 Is, 51 Taciturn, 55 Fight, 58 Numerical, 59 Ashore, 60 Amounts, 61 Pal, 63 Axe, 64 Statue, 65 Inn, 66 Motherhood, 68 Ending, 69 Weapon, 71 Brilliant, 76 Threat, 77 Mausoleum, 79 Road hog, 81 Ash, 84 Stale, 85 Daydreamer, 86 Rainy, 87 Slows, 88 Tip of the iceberg, 89 Patch.

DOWN: 2 Lethal, 3 Users, 5 Airy, 6 Eastern, 7 Stroll, 8 X-rays, 9 Hessian, 10 Eats, 11 Script, 12 Knots, 13 Mystify, 14 Addicts, 18 Disappoint, 23 Admit, 24 Catall, 26 Emotion, 27 Suburbs, 29 Caribou, 30 Ecceza, 31 Swots, 32 Trauma, 34 Heed, 36 Sneak, 38 Green, 40 That, 45 Mania, 46 Gambled, 47 Ears, 48 Incite, 49 Agape, 50 Italian, 52 Competitor, 53 Toughen, 54 Ration, 55 Flatter, 56 Chant, 57 Grim, 62 Stall, 67 Undress, 68 Embassy, 70 Plaudit, 72 Rhubarb, 73 Malawi, 74 Cleric, 75 Cognac, 76 Throw, 78 Style, 80 Drama, 82 Veto, 83 Beer.

Cheerful flowers brighten gloomy days

We are almost to the middle of winter but with temperatures still relatively warm and few frosts, we are still experiencing good growth. Although it is a bit gloomy, many cheerful flowers begin to emerge in the garden, such as camellias, leucadendrons, daphne and some blossoming shrubs.

VEGETABLES

If the soil is dry enough, the empty spaces in the vegetable garden can be cultivated, fertilised with blood and bone and sheep pellets and then planted out. You can also apply a heavy dressing of compost and leave as a mulch on the surface to be dug in later if you don't want to plant straight away. Vegetables that can be planted out this month are beetroot, bok choy, garlic, lettuce, Mesclun greens, parsnip, and radishes. Continue harvesting bok choy, carrots, cabbage, kale, leeks, lettuce, mesculun, peas, radish, rocket and silverbeet if you're lucky enough to have all this produce in your garden. When planting new crops, make sure you put plenty of slug bait and derris dust around the seedlings to protect from pests. Onions - continue main season sowing. Pukekohe Long Keeper is the best main season variety. Peas - make early sowings, prepare the ground thoroughly. Spinach - make further successive sowings for continued spring harvest. Vegetable seeds to sow in containers under shelter include broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce, and hothouse tomatoes.

FLOWERS

Now is the time to start planting winter sweet, camellias, viburnum, winter roses, hellebores, dianthus, leucadendrons, violets, daphne, kowhai



Camelia flowers are beginning to emerge to brighten gloomy winter days.

and flowering kale.

FRUITS

In the fruit garden, it is all about planting new season fruit trees and getting those strawberry plants in. Liven up your garden with some winter blooms. Stone fruits - check for the earliest signs of bud movement on early season plums and peaches. Inspect terminal leaf buds critically. Green tip sprays are vital for control of leaf curl and bladder plum infections. Apply copper oxychloride or similar. For other fruits, such as apples and pears, continue winter pruning and appraise trees critically. Citrus - harvest citrus carefully. Cold temperatures are responsible for intensifying skin colour but it doesn't necessarily indicate full maturity. Provide protection against the cold. Grapes - select the strongest growing canes when pruning. Cut out old wood which bore last season's fruit. Remove those which are thin and weak. Passionfruit - apply copper

oxychloride to protect against grease spot disease. Berry fruits: Complete pruning. Strawberries - carefully cultivate around plants, side dress with a balanced NPK fertiliser. Mulch with either peas straw or pine needles.

ORNAMENTAL SHRUBS & TREES

Winter colour when the leaves change can be stunning and berries such as idesia, holly and pyracantha brighten the garden as well.

ROSES

As a general rule, lightly prune after each flush of flowering. Hard pruning in winter is required to stimulate the growth of sturdy fresh shoots. Remove old and damaged wood.

COMPOST HEAP

Cut up light prunings and twigs from fruit trees and rose bushes and include in compost with lawn clipping and poultry manure if you have. Aerate compost heaps to encourage rapid breakdown.

Enjoy your garden.

- Ngatea Garden Circle

Deadline extended for business awards

Businesses entering the Hauraki Coromandel Business Awards have more time to get their entries in now the deadline has been pushed out to July 31.

Committee chair Kate Rigg said there was a lot of interest in this year's event and organisers decided to extend the deadline so businesses had more time to put together their applications.

Kate said the were also trying something new this year. "We're asking the public to suggest who they'd like to see enter. We'll then let businesses know they've been put forward and send them the information they need," she said.

"Knowing they have their community behind them is a huge confidence boost for people thinking about giving it a go."

There are seven categories businesses can enter: Emerging Business, Hospitality, Manufacturing & Trade, Professional Services, Retail, Rural & Primary Industries, and Tourism. There are also awards for Service to Business and the hotly-contested People's Choice: public nominations for these two categories open on September 6.

Committee chair Kate Rigg said the past year was an incredibly challenging time for businesses.

"But people here have shown extraordinary resilience and that's something we want to acknowledge and celebrate," she said.

"Previous entrants say the awards process is an excellent opportunity to reflect on how they operate."

"They say it's helped them set goals, renewed their enthusiasm for their business, and to feel very proud of the work they're doing here in Hauraki and Coromandel."

The gala evening for the 2021 Hauraki Coromandel Business Awards is on October 28 at the Grand Mercure Puka Park in Pauanui. The event was postponed last year due to Covid-19.

Entry forms can be downloaded from www.haurakicoromandelbusinessawards.co.nz. For more information, email info@haurakicoromandelbusinessawards.co.nz.

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July 2021 Moon Planting Calendar			1 Non planting Day	2 Non planting Day	3 Non planting Day	4 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs
5 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	6 Non planting Day	7 Non planting Day	8 Non planting Day	9 Plant root crops, Liquid Feed	10 New Moon	11 Non planting Day
12 Non planting Day	13 Non planting Day	14 Non planting Day	15 Non planting Day	16 Plant above ground crops	17 Plant above ground crops	18 Plant above ground Crops, Liquid Feed
19 Plant above ground Crops, Liquid Feed	20 Non planting Day	21 Non planting Day	22 Plant above ground crops	23 Plant above ground crops	24 Full Moon	25 Non planting Day
26 Non planting Day	27 Plant root crops, Liquid Feed	28 Plant root crops, Liquid Feed	29 Non planting Day	30 Non planting Day	31 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	

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Founder of Ngatea remembered



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.

1931

The magnificently named Mr Ingvald John Hansen Bratlie - formerly one of the best known men on the Hauraki Plains, died at Auckland. He was considered the founder of the township of Ngatea.

Born in Norway in 1866, he was educated in law at Oslo University, specialising in Ancient and Modern languages and securing several degrees including a doctor of philosophy. He excelled at military college and became the champion ski runner of Norway. He arrived in Wellington in 1890, later acquiring a sawmill and farm at Pelorus Sound. At the first ballot of the Hauraki Plains land, Mr Bratlie drew a section at Orchard (Ngatea) and channelled his considerable energies into becoming one of its first settlers.

An 'epidemic' of petty thefts from unoccupied residences swept through Paeroa. Three houses were ransacked but no money was found. The miscreants inflicted considerable damage however by smashing crockery. Three boys were charged



Turua in 1920, showing the main concrete road of the district. Photo: SUPPLIED

with the offences and remanded to the Children's Court.

The large shell deposits at Miranda caught the attention of a company who had plans for a lime works there. An application was made to the Thames Harbour Board to lease the foreshore and for a freight quotation to the amount of 30,000 tons per annum. The company also asked for the use of the southern side of Thames' Burke St wharf, provided the channel was dredged out. Conveyers would be erected from the barges to the large shed on the wharf, where the shell would be burnt and crushed, the finished article being dispatched from the railway siding. The Harbour Board, recognising that the project meant the employment of a large number of men, drew up attractive terms for the company. A liberal application of lime was necessary to farm the swamp land successfully and quantities of lime were already used yearly. With such large deposits of shell at the farmers' back door it was considered the works would be a valuable acquisition to the district.

Sound on film apparatus

was installed in the Turua Hall and the whole of the plant was brought right up to date with the very latest improvements. This permitted the screening of a much wider range of good pictures which had previously been impossible with the sound disc apparatus.

A man driving a tractor attached to a hay press from Nethererton to Pipiroa had no lights on either machine, but anticipated that he would arrive at his destination before sunset. However, in crossing to the Pipiroa ferry the hay press stuck in the mud and by the time the machine was pulled out, darkness had fallen. He took his machines along the Pipiroa Rd intending to park them in a nearby paddock, but another man who was driving a lorry came up behind and collided violently with the hay press. The driver stated that he was dazzled by the lights of an approaching car. The magistrate said the case was one of misfortune, but there had been a technical breach. He fined the lorry driver 10 shillings and costs for not having his lorry equipped with two independent brakes.



Ulysses Waihi-Thames Valley branch member George Haffenden is the group's most senior active member. Photo: SUPPLIED

Special ride honours Ulysses club member

The Ulysses Motorcycle Club celebrated one of its long-standing members last week.

The Ulysses Waihi-Thames Valley branch, which rides out from Paeroa each Thursday morning, marked George Haffenden's 84th birthday with a ride through Matamata to Hobbiton Shire.

George is the branch's most senior active member and regularly enjoys joining the group on its rides. He has been a member of the club for more than 30 years.

The Thames man is also a volunteer for St John, helps at Thames Hospital every Tuesday and is an active member of the local Vintage and Classic Car

Club, attending most events.

Ride organiser Trevor Birchall said George enjoyed a recent brunch ride with the club so he wanted to organise a special ride for him to celebrate his birthday. George was unable to ride last week, but was presented with a birthday cake.

The Club invites all riders over 40 to join them on its Thursday rides, assembling at the L&P Bottle in Paeroa at 9:15am to ride out at 9:30am sharp. The group also organises weekend rides. For more information, find the Ulysses Waihi - Thames Valley Branch Facebook Page or contact Wayne, 021 0282 8442 or Trevor 021 701 466.



The St George's Community Choir performs Songs for Solstice in the church at a concert on June 20, conducted by Jono Dunlop. Choir spokesperson Barbara Tegg said the group had two great performances with great audiences on June 19-20, especially on the Sunday. "There have been lots of accolades and wonderful comments. [We] so enjoyed singing and a brilliant organ performance was a special treat." Organist Micheal Bell, who played two solos in each performance, asked the audience to suggest a song he could improvise. "The audience really appreciated his talent and versatility."

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SPORTS

Valley cricket community farewells champion

By KELLEY TANTAU

He's been credited with creating a cricket comeback in the Thames Valley, and now, as he prepares for his next professional chapter, his sporting comrades celebrate what came to be known as the "Ram Regime".

Ramesh Subasinghe will leave the Thames Valley for a role as pathways programme head coach and manager at Otago Cricket on July 2.

He's spent the past three years in the district as cricket development officer. He also carried out coaching responsibilities in the performance environment across both the men's and women's game. This year, the 37-year-old was voted the New Zealand Cricket Development Officer of the Year.

Friend and Waikato Valley Cricket Association life member Mike Cotter called Ramesh a champion, one who "completely changed the whole cricketing scene" within the Thames Valley. Mr Cotter said a decades-long absence of cricket in the area led to a loss of the Thames Valley "spirit", and brought

about a disastrous decline in the game at all levels.

"Many good people tried to arrest the slide. None came even close to succeeding until Ram was appointed by Waikato Valley Association three years ago.

"What he has accomplished through his infectious love of the game and excellent administration skills in particular, has been quite amazing," Mr Cotter said.

"Is the Ram Regime well enough established to prosper now that he has moved on to the next phase of what will surely be a rewarding career path for him? No one would be happier than this old cricket lover if the game continued to trend towards what we experienced during the golden days of cricket in this district."

Glenn Crowe, a friend of Ramesh's who this year won the Northern Districts Cricket Association award for Outstanding Contribution and Services to Community Coaching, said when Ramesh was initially appointed as development officer, it was a case of "here we go, here comes another person who will just do what they have to, to tick the boxes required".

"My passion for cricket is probably the biggest driver for me. I think God made cricket on the eighth day."

- Ramesh Subasinghe



Ramesh Subasinghe leaves for a role with Otago Cricket on July 2. Photo: SUPPLIED

"How wrong were we," he said.

"Ram has been nothing of the sort. He built the relationships in our cricket communities by going out and meeting with like-minded people, and basically

did what he said he was going to do, and then some.

"Sure, he has been recognised through winning awards, but this guy will always be remembered as being someone who gave everything to his role and

genuinely cared about people, players, and the community.

"We know that Otago cricket is in good hands with Ramesh there to help steer their ship," he said.

From 2006-2012, Ramesh, a former pace bowler, played first-class cricket for his home country, Sri Lanka. Between 2007-2013, he travelled to the United Kingdom to play as an overseas professional.

He told *The Profile* the Waikato Valley had been a great home for the past three years.

He said he was "humbly proud" of all that has been achieved during his tenure.

"I'd like to give a very heartfelt thank you to the entire community who have worked with me to achieve what we have achieved.

"My passion for cricket is probably the biggest driver for me. I think God made cricket on the eighth day," he said.

"I have full confidence in the community, because there is enough capability to take cricket forward, and I know Northern Districts is really committed to keeping it going.

"And it would be a dream to see someone from Thames Valley someday go on to become a Black Cap, and knowing you had something to do with it, would be one of the greatest things."

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