

# The Valley Profile

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## Kiribati services honoured

By KELLEY TANTAU

Louisa Humphry travelled more than 4000km across the Pacific to start her life in New Zealand.

But home was never far behind.

For her service to the community and culture of Kiribati, her home country, Louisa was named an Honorary Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit, as part of the Queen's Birthday Honours announced Monday.

The Thames woman was born "under a coconut tree" in Kuria, Kiribati, an independent island nation right on the equator.

"I came to New Zealand when I was nearly 17, and I was lucky enough to get a scholarship, and went to school in New Plymouth. I stayed at Scotlands hostel.

"That was really a culture shock," she told The Profile.

"The language was a huge factor, because even though my written English was perfect, I couldn't stand in front of the class and tell them a story.

"It took me nearly a year to be able to sit and converse with people."

To Louisa, the food in New Zealand was strange, the milk was strange, and even the water was strange.

"Our water was really quite brackish in the islands, and it had a salty taste to it, so when we were given water here, I used to put a little dash of salt in it," she said.

She also had to have three hot water bottles placed in her hostel bed to keep her warm, considering the climate was so different to Kiribati.

"But I found that people were

my saving grace," she said.

Louisa met her husband Jack Humphry when the latter was volunteering in her home country, and the pair got married on the island in 1973.

"I come from a family of 10, so I said to my dad, you are not to give me any money, we have to start on our own... so we did," Louisa said.

"We travelled from Kiribati on a boat to save money, and I was seasick as a dog."

While on a bus in Fiji, heading toward a plane which would take them to New Zealand, Jack and Louisa serendipitously met a Kiwi who offered Jack a job at his welding company in Glen Innes, Auckland.

"We didn't have a car, but we went to a pawn shop, and took our watches off, our jewellery, gave them our gramophone, and had enough of a deposit to get a flat and bed and that was it," Louisa recalled. "We lived on coffee and bread and cheese until Jack's first pay."

"And you really do appreciate life when you do it like that."

Throughout her time in New Zealand, Louisa helped set up a Kiribati community group in Auckland, and was part of the group who established some of the first Kiribati Independence celebrations and the body now recognised as the New Zealand Kiribati National Council.

In the 1970s, she was a key advocate for Kiribati's presence in Auckland Pasifika festivals. She was a member of the group who established the first Pacific health clinic in Hamilton, K'aute Pasifika Trust, and she also managed the Hamilton Combined

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For her service to the community and culture of Kiribati, her home country, Thames woman Louisa Humphry was named an Honorary Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU



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# Christmas wonderland calls for festive helpers

By KELLEY TANTAU

Help is needed to bring a Christmas wonderland back to Thames for this year's silly season.

The Thames Christmas Wonderland is planned for December 11-24 but more hands on deck are required to ensure the event's survival.

Around 3500 people visited the wonderland - held at the Thames War Memorial Civic Centre - when it opened for the first time in 2016.

Organiser Nikky Fisher said the event's purpose was to create a safe environment for families to enjoy the magic of Christmas.

"It was also about creating traditions," she said.

"When our kids were little, we used to pop them in the car and go driving to look at all the houses, because there used to be lots of houses done up with lights. Now, you go driving and there's one house here, one there, and one there.

"So it was more about giving people somewhere to take their kids that was in a safe environment."

A meeting will be held on Monday, June 14 at 6pm at the GBD restaurant in Thames,

and people who could help create the displays from now until Christmas were asked to attend.

The organisers also needed people to help set up the display, "man" the door during its opening hours, and pack down and clean up on Boxing Day.

Without help, Nikky said the event "will not exist".

"It's a really mammoth task."

The December event breaks the Mary St Civic Centre into a "maze", with visitors able to navigate different rooms with different themes. Past themes included a fairy forest, Santa's toy shop, the north pole, and a reindeer stable.

There was also another room set aside for games and crafts, Nikky said.

The entry price was kept low, \$2, to ensure more families could attend and this year, Nikky's husband, artist Rick Fisher, has painted the 20-ft container holding the decorations with Santa Claus on the side.

**DETAILS: Thames Christmas Wonderland meeting, Monday, June 14, 6pm at the GBD Thames. Those who cannot make the meeting but still want to help can find 'Thames Christmas Wonderland' on Facebook.**



Louisa and Jack Humphry met and married on the island of Kiribati.

## Kiribati services honoured

CONTINUED FROM P1

Christian Food Bank from 2004 to 2019. She has been involved with the wider art community to preserve and share weaving practices to maintain Kiribati traditions.

As an artist herself, she has exhibited throughout New Zealand, and recently one of her and Whiritoa artist Kaetaeta Watson's works - Otintaai - was acquired by Te Papa museum.

"In Kiribati, you weave because you need to live. You weave for a purpose: a basket to put your food in, a mat to sleep on... I've now gone and ventured into decorative things, and my mother would often say: 'What's that for?' and I'd say: 'It's pretty', and she'd say: 'But it's useless'.

"It's nice to retain your own culture, so you're not lost," Louisa said.

"I always tell the kids who are born in New Zealand but are

I-Kiribati, don't ever lose your identity, your language or your culture. It's everything that you are."

Louisa said she enjoyed working with children, and on June 11, she'll be making flax stars with the students of St Francis School in Thames for their Whānau Day.

Some of the works will then go on display at the St Francis Children's Matariki Arts Exhibition at The Vibe, Mary St, from June 24.

Louisa said receiving the honorary MNZM - people who were not citizens of a Commonwealth realm were given "honorary" membership - was humbling.

"When you do things for people, you don't expect anything [in return]," she said.

"You do it because you want to do it, so when something like this happens, it's overwhelming; somebody feels you deserve it."

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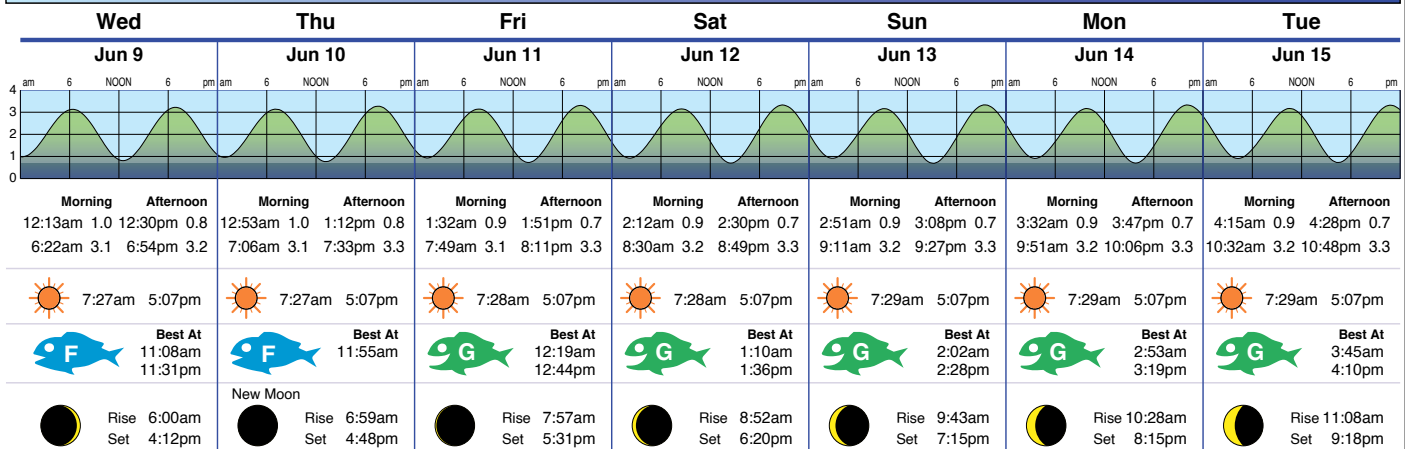
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## Thames Tides



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### MOON AND FISH KEYS

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### TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES

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

PLACE	Hr	MIN	Hr	MIN
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



# Chilli-eater turns up the heat at nationals

By KELLEY TANTAU

It was the chowing down on one of the world's hottest chillies at a Ngatea barbecue festival that propelled Wei Zhang on to the national stage of spice.

Now, she's been crowned the country's second-best chilli-eater, and the competition's top female competitor.

The Paeroa translator's heat history is long-spanning.

Growing up in the Chinese province Jiangxi meant eating spicy foods was second nature.

"In China, there are basically three provinces famous for their spicy foods, and my home province is one of them," she says. "If you grew up there and didn't eat spicy food, people would think you were strange. It's probably like if you grew up in New Zealand and didn't like fish and chips."

Wei grows her own chillies - her greenhouse was built around her jalapeno plant - and often asks Indian or Thai restaurants to cook her meal "as spicy as you can".

"And they always want to double check: 'Are you sure, are you sure?'"

So when Ngatea local Adam Matete organised Hauraki Plains' first Up in Smoke barbe-

cue festival earlier this year and included a chilli-eating competition, Wei's love for spicy food saw her enter.

She had never entered a chilli-eating competition before but despite that, she won.

It was her impressive polishing off of a Carolina Reaper chilli that qualified her to enter the NZ Chilli Eating Champs in Auckland last month, where competition was fierce.

"We were given different kinds of chillies, from mild to hot, and we were required to chew the chilli for 30 seconds and then swallow the whole thing except the stalk," Wei says. "Then, we waited another four minutes before being served another, hotter, chilli."

Wei's lips began to burn after eating another Carolina Reaper, but still, there was more to come. "Because the contestants were so good, even the Carolina Reaper couldn't knock out many people, so the organiser decided to serve 'chilli kebabs' - just four chillis on one toothpick." By the final round, Wei and the eventual champion had already eaten 40 chillies each.

"In the last round, we were going to have to eat 10 of the hottest chillies in the world, and at that stage I thought: 'I don't really want to throw up in



Paeroa woman Wei Zhang has been crowned the country's second-best chilli-eater.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

front of so many people'."

Wei said she thoroughly enjoyed the event, and while she wouldn't pursue chilli-eating as a talent per se, she would love to participate in more events, and to see more females giving it a go. "It does require practice," she says. "But the more you eat spicy foods, the spicier you can get."

RIGHT: Some of Wei Zhang's home-grown chillis.





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# National award for Parks Week

Recreation Aotearoa has recognised our Council’s work to produce and market events for Parks Week 2021 with the coveted Green Pavlova award.

Recreation Aotearoa is the professional body that represents the recreation industry in New Zealand. At their national conference in Rotorua recently, our Council was awarded with the Parks Week 2021 Marketing Award. “Our Community Facilities



Our Parks and Reserves Officer Sue Costello.

Team, including our Libraries staff, put a huge amount of effort into creating events and programmes for the week that required a lot of planning and a high attention to detail, and were very well received by the public,” says our Community Facilities Manager Derek Thompson.

Parks Week is an annual event involving events and activities to celebrate the vital role parks play in creating liveable towns and thriving communities. Parks Week ran from 6-14 March this year and included cycle awareness workshops, cemetery tours, children’s activities such as fairy door finding in Thames and Whitianga, selfie frames and much more.

[tcdc.govt.nz/parksweek2021](https://tcdc.govt.nz/parksweek2021)

## SHOWCASING OUR ARTISTS AT CREATE the Vibe

Local artists are taking centre-stage in the next phase of our Create the Vibe project to invigorate the Thames town centre.

The project aims to create a shared civic hub to encourage foot traffic and a vibrant town centre. It is 90 per cent funded by Waka Kotahi/NZTA and 10 per cent via Thames Ward ratepayers.

A mural by local artist Rick Fisher has now been added to the project’s HQ container in Pollen Street.

A second mural by another local artist, Kylie Gunn, has been painted on the back of the Stirling Sports building.

Other local artists will contribute work to fill the remaining blank planters in the Create the Vibe project space. Watch them in action on Saturday 12 June from 12-1:30pm. Live music and free face painting.

### Inspiring our creative kids

The CREATE kids’ club is held every Sunday from 1pm – 3pm to encourage and inspire our young and developing artists.

[tcdc.govt.nz/createthevibethames](https://tcdc.govt.nz/createthevibethames)



Kylie Gunn mural in progress 1 June 2021

## Council deliberates Long Term Plan



Our Council met last week and held deliberations on the Long Term Plan (LTP) to discuss the feedback we received on our proposals during the public consultation in March-April and make decisions on projects, services and budgets for the next 10 years.

These decisions are now being analysed for their impact on rates and the final LTP is scheduled to be adopted on 30 June. Watch our Council website, subscribe to our email newsletters, and like and follow us on Facebook (see the bottom of this page for details) for the details on the LTP. [tcdc.govt.nz/longtermplan2021](https://tcdc.govt.nz/longtermplan2021)

## Kerbside Collections

Kerbside rubbish and recycling collections are a day later this week because of Monday’s Queen’s Birthday public holiday



[tcdc.govt.nz/kerbside](https://tcdc.govt.nz/kerbside)



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## Thames Community Board UPDATE

### A word from the Board Chairperson, Strat Peters

“Keep on checking out the pedestrian space on Mary Street in the centre of Thames. There are some great new additions, including the mural wrapped around the container HQ and another mural on the back wall of the Stirling Sports building – both by local artists. There are some great events coming up, so I’d encourage people to come along and enjoy them and make use of the space.”

[strat.peters@council.tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:strat.peters@council.tcdc.govt.nz)



**Brown Street toilet upgrade** – The old toilet block has been removed and the new facility, designed in a heritage look to fit into this historic part of Thames is being installed. The new toilet, co-funded by the government’s Tourism Infrastructure Fund, should be finished by early July. [tcdc.govt.nz/tif](https://tcdc.govt.nz/tif)

**Thames War Memorial Civic Centre** – The foyer and conference room are having new floor coverings installed this month.

**Porritt Park Playground** – Adjustable secure straps have been reinstated on the blue accessible swing allowing small children through to young people and their caregivers to enjoy inclusive play. The ladder to the Climby Shifter playground item has been replaced under warranty and is now back in action. And, Hoppy the Grasshopper is currently ‘on holiday’ getting a ‘new leg’ – he will be back soon.



Each Community Board area has a contestable grants pool to encourage and support not-for-profit organisations that have a positive impact on the community. Applications for our Council’s Community Board grant funding are open from 1 July – 31 July 2021. Find out more [tcdc.govt.nz/cbgrants](https://tcdc.govt.nz/cbgrants)



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# Travel agent still stuck in Covid-19 ‘nightmare’

By KELLEY TANTAU

Travellers making up for lost time are booking themselves in for a two-week stay on a tropical island, marking a slow and steady return to international tourism.

But travel agents are still feeling the pinch of the pandemic, with one saying that while some businesses begin to move on, they are still stuck in the Covid-19 “nightmare”.

Jo Robinson, the co-owner of helloworld Travel in Thames, said the tourism and travel industry continued to struggle, one year since the country exited lockdown restrictions on June 9, 2020.

“I think 90 per cent of industries have overcome the financial stress Covid put on them, and some of them are actually now better off than they were pre-Covid, except the tourism and travel industry,” she said.

“We’re still living the Covid nightmare.”

Jo said it had been really challenging having no govern-

ment support, apart from the 12-week subsidy last year. They were still also trying to get families reunited.

“We’re still sending the odd person overseas and still trying to get people back.

“One is going back to England in July, and I’ve been working with them for a year.

**‘Some [industries] are actually now better off than they were pre-Covid, except the tourism and travel industry. We’re still living the Covid nightmare.’**

- Jo Robinson

Another was one of my first clients who came in after lockdown, trying to bring his family back to New Zealand. It’s been 14 months of us trying to get his family back.”

However, the opening of the Cook Island travel bubble in May, in which travellers could fly to and from the Cook Islands quarantine-free, was a blessing



helloworld Travel’s Jo Robinson said it’s been a slow start to international travel, but there is, at least, a ‘light at the end of the tunnel’.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

for the industry, she said.

“After the Cook Island bubble was announced, we were crazy busy for the next two weeks.

“Our first clients that flew out last Saturday to Rarotonga are off on a two-week holiday, and I’ve got another lot going out for a two-week holiday this Saturday.

People are going for longer and are excited and are counting down their sleeps.”

However, travel to Australia was moving at a slower pace - although people travel-

ling across the ditch for sports games or live shows was proving popular.

Jo said the timeline to travel returning to total normality was like shifting goalposts, but at least there was “light at the end of the tunnel now”.

Her Pollen St agency still operates between the Covid-reduced hours of 9am-2.30pm, Monday to Friday, with four staff working part-time.

They can help people redeem their airfare credit, plan a holiday, and navigate the “chal-

lenging” policies, declarations and regulations that now came with international travel.

“That support is key because we’ve had people in recently that booked things online but were struggling with connections on the phone, or changing things.

“People need that peace of mind, and they need reassurance that there is going to be someone to help them.”

Jo can be contacted at [thames@helloworld.co.nz](mailto:thames@helloworld.co.nz) or on 07 868 9260.

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# Creativity sessions hone in on artistic instincts

By KELLEY TANTAU

The woman behind the new aptly named ‘The Creativity Sessions’ in the centre of Thames wants people to rein-vigorate their artistic instinct. Deb Brock has run creativity workshops for two decades, and said everybody had the ability to be expressive.

“If you think you’re not creative, that’s not true. Every human is creative and it comes out in different ways,” she said. “Art is a very personal thing, and it’s unique to every individual.”

Deb, who runs workshops at Artsider, one of the vocational spaces of the Supported Life Style Hauraki Trust, said there was a huge gap in the Thames community in terms of creativity sessions for the general public.

So, The Creativity Sessions was born, and now provided a space where people could “generally just chill and be creative for a couple of hours”, she said.

The first few sessions have been located in the back room of Nectar, but from Thursday, June 17, Deb will run the sessions from one of the upstairs rooms at the old Post Office in the centre of Pollen St.

The two-hour sessions could be based around art forms such as painting, drawing, sewing,



Deb Brock says new Creativity Sessions aim to fill a gap in the arts sector of the Thames community. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

knitting, printmaking, sculpture, and stitching.

There was at this stage one morning and one afternoon session every Thursday, with the possibility of an evening session being established if the interest was there, Deb said.

“The way I’m viewing the sessions is that the people who

come to them would almost treat it like how they go to yoga once a week. The Creativity Sessions are the same really; it could be the one thing they do that week that is about them.”

Deb said there was some structure around the sessions, but it was not an “art class”; however, high quality materi-

als were provided for use on the day.

“I often use the analogy of making a cake: if I gave you really awful flour and sugar and rancid butter and said ‘make a nice cake’, could you make a nice cake?”

“It’s the same with materials,” she said. “With art and

creativity, you need good materials to produce something that you like.”

**DETAILS:** The Creativity Sessions run on Thursdays, from 10am-12pm, and 1pm-3pm, and hold a maximum of eight people. It costs \$25 per session which includes teas, coffees, materials and tutoring.



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# Rural Life

## Trees planted for Arbor Day

A three-day tree planting for Arbor Day in Paeroa saw helpers of all ages get their hands dirty for the Aorangi Millennium Forest. Organised by Paeroa Streamcare, and with \$5000 in financial backing from Waikato Regional Council's Environmental Initiatives Fund, the event saw around 350 trees planted in and around the gully off Aorangi Rd. The first day of the planting on June 3 was attended by students from Tirohia School, Goldfields School and Paeroa Playcentre, as well as district councillor Carol Daley, Waikato EnviroSchools' Ruairi Kelly, and other Millennium Forest kaitiaki. Reporter **KELLEY TANTAU** saw the hard work unfold.



ABOVE: The 'Tirohia Empire' take a well-deserved break during a busy day of tree planting.

LEFT: Aidan Chandler, right, from Tirohia School helps collect the mulch.

BELOW LEFT: Harper Sandford with spade in hand.

BELOW: Casey Jones from Paeroa Playcentre helps put a stake in the ground.

RIGHT: Xanthe Starr gets stuck into planting a tree.

Photos: KELLEY TANTAU



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# Rural Life

## New winter checklist released

The farming sector has developed a new wintering checklist and winter grazing plans designed to help farmers make practical written plans for winter.

The advice is in line with new guidelines recently released by MPI.

The resources are now available from industry bodies DairyNZ, Beef + Lamb New Zealand and Federated Farmers. A comprehensive winter grazing plan is also available through the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI).

The new wintering checklist helps farmers assess whether they are prepared for winter and highlight any potential gaps.

The checklist is supported by other new initiatives, such as webinars, workshops and regular information from industry bodies collaborating on advice to farmers to ensure it is co-ordinated and consistent.

DairyNZ farm performance general manager Sharon Morrell encourages farmers to make use of the new resources, as it helped take the right steps to continuing to lift winter grazing standards.

“Planning for winter and wet weather now is important to deliver good outcomes when adverse weather arrives,” she said.

“Farmers will begin moving stock on to crops in the next few weeks, so now is the critical time to ensure all plans are in place for the months ahead. We are all committed to lifting winter grazing performance and using a wintering checklist and practical plan helps farmers and graziers to do that.”

In addition, DairyNZ’s new winter grazing plan provides step-by-step



DairyNZ farm performance general manager Sharon Morrell encourages farmers to make use of the new resources. Photo: SUPPLIED

strategies for paddock set-up and grazing management for immediate focus this winter. This includes protecting critical source areas and waterways, bale placement, back fencing and having a wet weather contingency plan.

Beef + Lamb New Zealand will also be delivering a series of winter grazing workshops around the country.

The sector has also recently launched a wintering hotline for any concerns or complaints. If anyone sees something that doesn’t look right, they can call the wintering hotline on 0800 FARMING. The hotline is supported by Federated Farmers, Beef + Lamb New Zealand and DairyNZ and calls are confidential.

More information at Beef + Lamb: [www.beeflambnz.com/wintergrazing](http://www.beeflambnz.com/wintergrazing), DairyNZ: [www.dairynz.co.nz/wintering](http://www.dairynz.co.nz/wintering), or [www.mpi.govt.nz](http://www.mpi.govt.nz).

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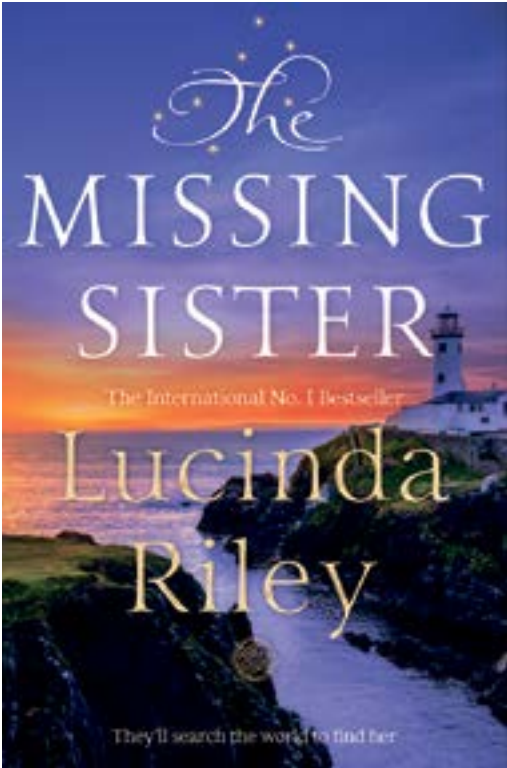
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*Email sports results and/or photos to editor@valleyprofile.co.nz one week before publication*



**The winning Paeroa team: Gary Barbour, left, Pat Beven, Paul Cornish and Mac Miller. Photo: SUPPLIED**

Members of the Paeroa Bowling Club had a successful day playing in the Whyteline Tournament at the Kerepēhi Links on May 27. The greens on the day played well for the two Paeroa teams, who finished the tournament in the grass section of the tournament with a first and third placing. Thirty six teams competed on both the grass and synthetic rinks with Paeroa being dominant on the grass. The winning Paeroa team was Mac Miller, lead, Gary Barbour, two, Pat Beven at three and Paul Cornish, skip. The team consisting of Royce McMurtrie, Rob Neale, Lois Curd, skipped by Arthur Thorburn finished in third place. Paeroa Bowls are hoping to compete regularly during the winter season at Kerepēhi, Te Aroha and Thames rinks.

**Animal rescue centre donations appreciated**

Firstly, thank you to those who have donated cat food, this is truly appreciated. We have been blessed with lovely financial blessings from our Facebook page, which gave us a little more in the kittys' kitty to tide us over.

New to the centre are a mother cat and her kittens. The mum is still aloof and refusing to socialise, her chunky, tabby son is dual natured and we have concerns about his attitude. While we can pick up and handle him, his unpredictable swat and swipe at you is of major concern, which is not something we have ever had to deal with to this degree. His sister is completely opposite, turns herself inside out and purrs hard out. It's really a difficult situation for us as his behaviour is totally unwelcomed and not re-homeable but we will continue as we are in the hope he turns into a purrbaby. However, what made this harder for mother and kittens was the kittens were born in a garden and left too long in the wild, which means socialisation is harder and takes far longer. This is the hard part of rescue and rehabilitation for them. Meanwhile, rescue cat Lizzy has total adoration and love for Wiki, who is her pal and mate, and Cinders has been socialising throughout the house. Her high level of trust in us is pretty overwhelming as she has never let us pick her up and carry her, so to do so is a massive step forward and she has enjoyed being out and about free rein, something she rejected earlier on over the past year.

Unfortunately, our Queen's Birthday garage sale was cancelled this year, so any financial blessings would be a massive help, with donations of canned cat food, sardines, salmon, and pet milk all appreciated.

Any enquiries: Ph 07 868 2907.  
- Alice and John Parris

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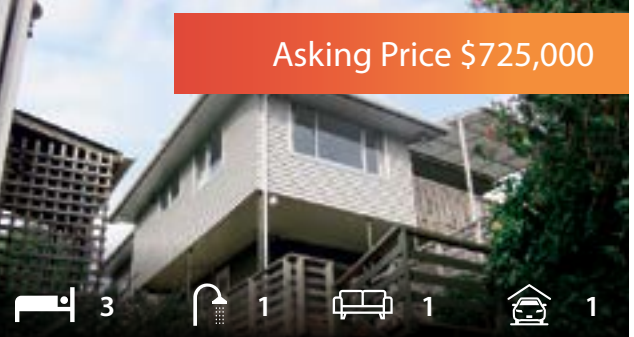
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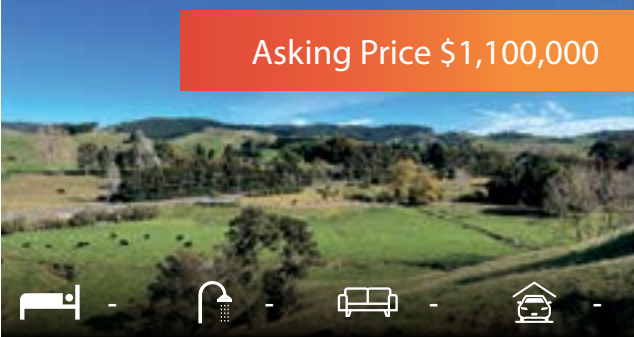
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04

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

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

							3	5
			5		6			2
	5			7	9			1
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MEDIUM

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HARD

4

HARD

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

MEDIUM

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

EASY

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

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JUMBO CROSSWORD

24

ACROSS

1 Smudge (5)

4 Be fond of sugary foods (4,1,5,5)

14 Push down on (5)

15 Proverb (5)

16 Fat used for making pastry (10)

17 Trunk (5)

19 Zero (3)

20 Insult (7)

21 Alertness, care (9)

22 Obstructs (6)

25 Exclamation (9)

27 Ceremony (6)

28 Emergency (6)

33 Make in three copies (10)

35 Facial twitch (3)

36 Type of horse cab (6)

37 Family (4)

39 Be in debt (3)

41 Wool fat (7)

42 Stress (6)

43 Baby's seat (9)

44 Worn, shabby (5)

45 Stinginess (8)

50 Dad (2)

51 Card game (8)

55 Donor (5)

58 Lancaster (anag)(9)

59 Alternative (6)

60 Butt holder (7)

61 Rascal (3)

63 Narrow opening (4)

64 One-sided (6)

65 Extinguished (3)

66 Friendless isolation (10)

68 Call off (6)

69 Actor's stand-in (6)

71 Assent to without protest (9)

76 Weak (6)

77 Occupied (9)

79 Surgeon's blade (7)

81 Old measure of length, about 45 inches (3)

84 Point in question (5)

85 Nominal leader (10)

86 Legitimate (5)

87 Theme (5)

88 Accept or reject with no other choice being possible (4,2,2,5,2)

89 Wobbly dessert (5)

DOWN

2 Amend (6)

3 Wrath (5)

5 Throbbing pain (4)

6 Inconsistent and unpredictable (7)

7 Turned obliquely (6)

8 Decree (5)

9 Harbour vessel (7)

10 Sworn statement (4)

11 Exhilarate (6)

12 Hard-wearing trousers (5)

13 Ineffectual (7)

14 Exploded grain (7)

18 Vacillating (10)

23 Canoe (5)

24 Sexually provocative (7)

26 Tropical cyclone (7)

27 Italian cheese (7)

29 Dried grape (7)

30 Fold mark (6)

31 Knife-sharpening rod (5)

32 Puma (6)

34 Engrave with acid (4)

36 Large and heavy (5)

38 Effrontery (5)

40 Cover on a healing cut (4)

45 Money resources (5)

46 Sell to bidders (7)

47 Front part (4)

48 Filter out (6)

49 Stay clear of (5)

50 Suggest (7)

52 Bankruptcy (10)

53 Of plants (7)

54 Polish port (6)

55 Scottish city (7)

56 Announce (5)

57 Fencing sword (4)

62 Muzzle (5)

67 EEC ring (anag)(7)

68 Sadism (7)

70 Advantage (7)

72 Russian playwright (7)

73 American state (6)

74 Savage (6)

75 Domestic servant (6)

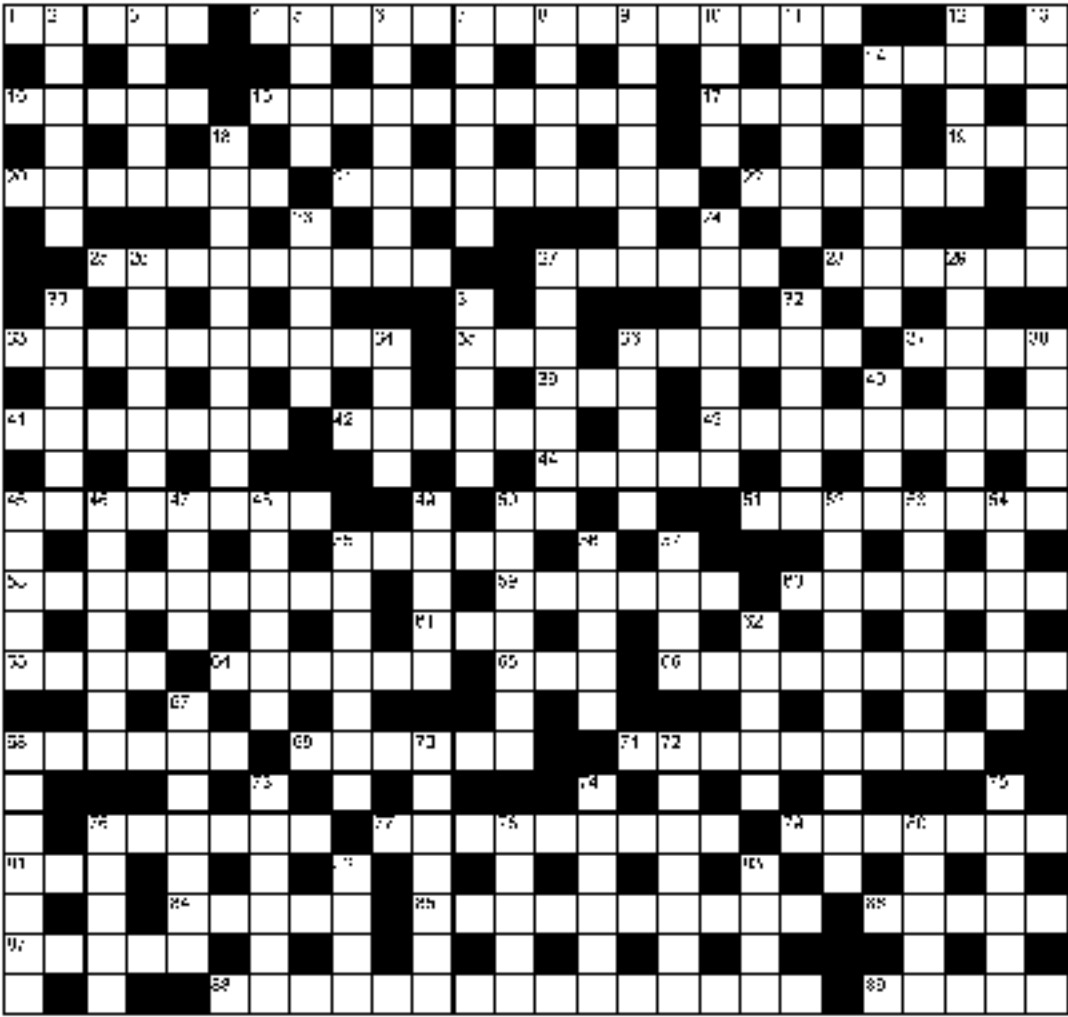
76 Aircraft wing parts (5)

78 Portend, bode (5)

80 Permission (5)

82 Used to be (4)

83 Cab (4)



ACROSS: 1 Smeat, 4 Have a sweet tooth, 14 Press, 15 Adage, 16 Shortening, 17 Torsol, 19 Nil, 20 Affront, 21 Attention, 22 Blocks, 25 Utterance, 27 Ritual, 28 Crisis, 33 Triplicate, 35 Tic, 36 Hansom, 37 Clan, 39 Owe, 41 Lanolin, 42 Accent, 43 Highchair, 44 Tatty, 45 Meanness, 50 Pa, 51 Cribbage, 55 Giver, 58 Ancestral, 59 Option, 60 Ashtray, 61 Imp, 63 Silt, 64 Biased, 65 Out, 66 Loneliness, 68 Cancel, 69 Double, 71 Acquiesce, 76 Feeble, 77 Inhabited, 79 Scalpel, 81 Ell, 84 Issue, 85 Figurehead, 86 Valid, 87 Topic, 88 Take it or leave it, 89 Jelly.

DOWN: 2 Modify, 3 Anger, 5 Ache, 6 Erratic, 7 Skewed, 8 Edict, 9 Tugboat, 10 Oath, 11 Thrill, 12 Jeans, 13 Useless, 14 Popcorn, 18 Indecisive, 23 Kayak, 24 Raunchy, 26 Typhoon, 27 Ricotta, 29 Sultana, 30 Grease, 31 Steel, 32 Cougar, 34 Etch, 36 Hefty, 38 Nerve, 40 Scab, 45 Means, 46 Auction, 47 Nose, 48 Strain, 49 Avoid, 50 Propose, 52 Insolvency, 53 Botanic, 54 Gdansk, 55 Glasgow, 56 State, 57 Foil, 62 Snout, 67 Generic, 68 Cruelty, 70 Benefit, 72 Chekhov, 73 Alaska, 74 Fierce, 75 Mental, 76 Flaps, 78 Augur, 80 Leave, 82 Were, 83 Taxi.



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RT5645

4 1 - 1

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# Man missing in the Waihōu



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

Robert Floyd had completely vanished. The distinctive looking man - a 20-year-old African American from Brooklyn, New York - was one moment standing near the galley door of the steamer *Patiki* as it loaded cargo and the next he was gone. There were several people on deck at the time he disappeared but no-one saw Robert go overboard and no splash was heard.

It was about 9.45 on a June morning in 1898 and the *Patiki* was alongside Fisher's Landing, Nether-ton, on a run from Paeroa to Thames. Thomas Matthews, steward, called to Robert a couple of times to come to breakfast but got no answer. Shortly after loading, the steamer resumed her trip and a baffled Thomas started searching for Robert. Miss Etta McPeake, a Thames dressmaker, was feeling mystified too. When near the landing, she was sitting on the deck watching the men unload a plough whe



Waihou River - Junction Wharf, Paeroa. Photo: SUPPLIED

she also observed a dog on the bank. Subsequently she heard it growl and then to her astonishment she saw the animal float past in the water.

About 12 minutes after Robert had been missed, when they had gone down river about three miles, Thomas informed the captain. The captain turned the steamer around. He sent a man up the masthead to ascertain whether he could see Robert on the bank anywhere, thinking that if he had fallen off he might have swum ashore.

When Thomas told Miss McPeake it was thought Robert had fallen overboard she said with alarm: "Oh! That is what I saw in the water." Miss McPeake pointed out the spot and the area was dragged for more than two hours. Dynamite was discharged after which they started dragging again. This time Robert's body was found near the spot indicated. When the *Patiki* came into Thames, Constable Hodgson received the

body and lodged it in the morgue. Robert had nothing of value on his person and no property on board the ship. He had been a cook on the *Patiki* for three weeks and prior to that had been a cook on the *Roto-mahana*. He was a cheerful man on good terms with everyone on board. He was single with no relations in the colony. He could not swim as far as anyone knew. Thomas Matthews, the steward, speculated Robert had been trying to shoot pigeons with his catapult and had over reached and fallen in. Thomas had looked and couldn't find the catapult either. An inquest found Robert Floyd was accidentally drowned in the Waihōu River. He was buried at Shortland cemetery, his funeral attended by the employees of the Northern Steamship Company and many of the general public. A Miss Gibson sent a lovely wreath which was placed on the coffin of the man who was there one minute and gone the next.

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# Ngatea rugby field ‘like playing on concrete’

By KELLEY TANTAU

There’s no need to visit Rotorua for its mud baths, we’ve got them right here - at Hugh Hayward Domain.

That’s the belief of Doug Connors, who is hesitant to market the Ngatea field as a new spa destination, but the state of the grounds, especially after weather events, has left him no choice.

“We know it’s not the best of dirt or drainage, we know that this is the Hauraki Plains, but we’ve had comments that it’s one of the worst playing fields in the Thames Valley,” he said.

Mr Connors is the president of the Ngatea Rugby and Sports Club, and on behalf of the codes who train and play on the field, made a submission to Hauraki District Council as part of its long term plan (LTP) hearings on May 18-19.

Mr Connors said the club had been told “multiple times” over the years the upgrade and repair of the number one field at the domain would be included in council’s next LTP; however, “nothing ever happens, and no

feedback is ever received”.

He told *The Profile* he understood council had plans to make the upgrades in 2025, but waiting another four years could be injurious to players using the field.

“There are ruts from where the earth has sunk from where the soak drains have been installed [and] this is a major health and safety concern due to players twisting ankles,” he said.

“The lack of grass on the field will be like playing on concrete.”

Mr Connors also understood an irrigator which cost council around \$15,000 has been used only once since it was purchased five years ago.

The irrigation system was deemed “not fit for purpose” and would take around 16-18 hours to irrigate one rugby field, he said.

There were also no lights on the grounds, which meant the junior league had to travel to Waitakaruru for their evening games.

Mr Connors was now calling on council to bring forward



Ngatea Rugby and Sports Club president Doug Connors is calling on council to improve the playing fields at Hugh Hayward Domain. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

any plans to repair the field to 2022. He also asked for a better irrigation system and new lighting.

“Get it so it’s a good playing field for all codes, not just for rugby, but for touch rugby and athletics,” he said.

According to Hauraki District Council’s parks and reserves manager Paul Matthews, the council acknowledged the purchase of the irrigator was “a mistake”.

They have plans to sell the unit and replace it with something more appropriate after discussions with the Hugh Hayward Domain Users Committee.

Mr Matthews also told *The Profile* the fields were audited every six months by a turf consultant, and the consultant had never referred to their condition as either “poor or unsafe”.

“In which case, we would close the field,” Matthews said. “Having said that, we’re aware the field will need a complete renovation sometime in the next few years.”

Council has allowed \$50,000 in its draft 2021-31 LTP for the field’s renovations for 2024-25. It has deliberated on all the submissions to its draft 2021-31 long term plan and, once it’s adopted, will respond individually to all submitters on the outcomes of the points they have raised.

It’s expected the LTP will be adopted at a council meeting on June 23.

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