

# The Valley Profile

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## SO CLOSE!



There were only two points in it at the final whistle as Thames and Mercury Bay senior A teams battled it out in the mud for the McClinchy Cup on Saturday, turn to P14-15 for full coverage

Thames player Justin Vaimalu pushes through the Bay's defence. Photo: TERESA RAMSEY

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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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**Thames Autos**  
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# Hauraki libraries to get new tech

By KELLEY TANTAU

New technology will prevent books from going walkabout from district libraries around the Hauraki.

This week, library users may be able to spot the \$32,000 Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system in Paeroa, Ngatea, and Waihi. It was approved by Hauraki District Council in October last year, and funded through existing budgets.

Library services team leader Melanie Brebner told *The Profile* her team was excited by the opportunities the new system will provide.

“Besides being a best practice solution for stock management, what it really does is free up staff from administrative duties and allows them to focus on new services and programmes, to match our vision of our libraries being a community hub.”

In Melanie’s report to council staff back in October, she said missing books were only identified when a stock take was conducted, or when customers looked for a book that wasn’t there. However, stock taking using the current barcode technology was time-consuming, with each item needing to be pulled from the shelf to scan, so were not conducted frequently.

“Sometimes the book or item is genuinely lost after leaving

the library, and sometimes it was because it was not where we expected it to be on the shelves,” she said.

“With RFID, a scanning wand is passed in front of the shelves. Any items that are out of place are immediately identified, along with any items that are not on the shelf when and where they should be.”

The improved stock management system would also reduce the costs incurred with replacing lost items, she said.

The technology was scheduled to be installed in Paeroa on Tuesday; Waihi on Wednesday; and Ngatea on Thursday.

A self-service kiosk at each of the libraries will also enable people who choose to use them to issue and return their own books and magazines. The self-service kiosks can take Eftpos and cash payments.

“We have a lot of new equipment as a result of funding from the New Zealand Libraries’ Partnership Programme, part of the Government’s Covid-19 recovery response, such as lots of new Lego, 3D printers and sewing machines, TV screens, and consoles for video games,” Melanie said.

“The time we gain from improved processes thanks to the installation of RFID will enable us to deliver programmes and activities based around our new equipment. We can’t wait to get started.”

## Solstice

Dimly lit, a spider’s lair -  
Our woodshed, storing in dry air,  
Wood split with axe and careful eye.  
Winter warmth, and Solstice night.

Boistery, blustery winds by night.  
That morning coffee, it all comes right.  
Beanie, woollies along Pollen Street,  
Partly shopping, but folks to greet.

Though ‘tis the winter of our discontent,  
Oldies, chuckle, wrinkled, bent.  
One stooped on stick, looks up, “No fear -  
Old age ain’t for sissies, but I’m still here!”

Preoccupied - where’ve I parked my car.”  
Walk, look nonchalant, it can’t be far.  
Cold, dark mornings, bare feet on path.  
Warm evenings, cat and I before the hearth.  
- David Legge

## FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you David Legge for sharing your prose (above), it sums up nicely that wintery feeling we all have at the moment. We welcome contributions from our readers, so please keep them coming in - poems, letters to the editor, photos, news tips and more. A bit of wintery weather didn’t put off hundreds of rugby fans on Saturday for the Thames Valley senior club finals. Turn to pages 14-15 for our coverage of the event. For more rugby news, turn to page 20 to read about Thames player Richard Judd, who recently returned to New Zealand from his success in Japan. He’s recently headed to Wellington,

where he’s signed with the Hurricanes for two years. Sometimes, life really does give you lemons, as happened to Kita Bell, whose parked car was written off after being hit by a drunk driver. This was her only transport to get her son Loki to Goldfields School in Paeroa. In typical fashion of our great community, nearly half the funds have already been raised to replace the car and ensure Kita can get Loki to school for the next couple of years. Turn to page 3 for details about how you can help. Meanwhile, stay warm on these fresh winter days and, if inspiration should hit to put pen to paper, please get in touch!

- Teresa Ramsey

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## Thames Tides

Wed Jul 21	Thu Jul 22	Fri Jul 23	Sat Jul 24	Sun Jul 25	Mon Jul 26	Tue Jul 27
 Morning 3:37am 3.4 4:28pm 3.4 10:00am 0.6 10:35pm 0.7 Sun 7:25am 5:24pm Best At 9:15am 9:46pm Set 4:15am Rise 2:11pm	 Morning 4:39am 3.4 5:31pm 3.5 11:04am 0.6 11:35pm 0.7 Sun 7:25am 5:24pm Best At 10:17am 10:49pm Set 5:27am Rise 3:06pm	 Morning 5:43am 3.4 12:04pm 0.5 6:29pm 3.6 Sun 7:24am 5:25pm Best At 11:20am 11:52pm Set 6:33am Rise 4:10pm	 Morning 12:31am 0.6 12:59pm 0.4 6:45am 3.5 7:23pm 3.7 Sun 7:23am 5:26pm Best At 12:22pm Full Moon Set 7:31am Rise 5:19pm	 Morning 1:25am 0.5 1:50pm 0.4 7:42am 3.5 8:13pm 3.7 Sun 7:23am 5:27pm Best At 12:52am 1:21pm Set 8:19am Rise 6:29pm	 Morning 2:17am 0.5 2:38pm 0.4 8:35am 3.5 9:02pm 3.7 Sun 7:22am 5:27pm Best At 1:48am 2:14pm Set 8:58am Rise 7:38pm	 Morning 3:07am 0.5 3:24pm 0.4 9:25am 3.5 9:50pm 3.7 Sun 7:21am 5:28pm Best At 2:39am 3:03pm Set 9:31am Rise 8:44pm

**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	Min	HIGH	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

# Plea for help to get Loki back to school

**A Thames student has been stuck at home for a month after a car crash took away his only transportation to Goldfields School in Paeroa. KELLEY TANTAU reports**

Kita and Loki Bell were sitting in the lounge of their Thames home when they heard the “smack and bang” of a drunk driver crashing into their parked car.

Fortunately, no one was injured, but the accident left both cars undriveable, meaning single mum Kita was no longer able to get Loki to Goldfields School in Paeroa.

“It is his favourite place. He’s very happy there,” Kita told *The Profile*.

Her son Loki, 16, has learning difficulties and has attended Goldfields for 10 years. The school was now rallying to get Kita a new car and therefore, get Loki back to school. They’ve opened a Givealittle page, which has seen more than \$2100 donated so far toward their goal of \$4,500.

“We want to make sure we raise enough [money] so that there is a registration, warrant of fitness, and insurance for a year,” senior school deputy principal Jillian Carberry said.

“The ideal goal would be to have enough money to have it insured for the rest of Loki’s

time at school, so he doesn’t have to go through this again.”

Loki attends Goldfields three days a week, and Kita said he had learned so much and had formed valuable connections during his time there.

“He’s learned how to cook, and how to shave - everything. All because of Jillian and Matua Cam [McKenzie] at Goldfields,” she said. “But routine is paramount for Loki.”

Not having a car also meant the pair were unable to travel freely to pick up groceries, go to the library, or just get out of the house.

“It’s not a huge amount of money, so it shows that [Kita] is not in it to make a million bucks,” Goldfields principal Cameron McKenzie said.

“She’s just in it to get a safe car for her son.”

“I’m not looking for a Porsche or anything,” Kita added.

Both Jillian and Cameron said they missed Loki’s presence at the school.

“Loki comes into my office every now and then, throws his arms around my back, says: ‘lovely lady,’ and then leaves again,” Jillian said.

*“It is his favourite place. He’s very happy there.”*  
- Kita Bell



Goldfields Special School in Paeroa is asking for donations to get one of their students, Loki Bell, back to school. Photo: SUPPLIED

“I think the thing we probably miss the most is the humour that we get from Loki, because Loki says what all of us are thinking. There are many times where there has been a lot of laughter ‘cos Loki has come out with a gem.”

**TO DONATE:** email Goldfields School: [office@gfs.school.nz](mailto:office@gfs.school.nz), or visit: [givealittle.co.nz/cause/help-me-get-back-to-school](https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/help-me-get-back-to-school)



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OURCOROMANDEL

THAMES COROMANDEL DISTRICT COUNCIL

News from Thames-Coromandel District Council

21 July, 2021



## Focus on infrastructure underlies Long Term Plan

**Building and maintaining essential infrastructure, meeting legislative requirements and keeping up our current levels of service is the foundation of our 2021-2031 Long Term Plan, which was adopted by Council recently.**

The average rates increase across the district for this financial year (1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022) is set at 8.8 per cent. District-wide, over the 10 years of the LTP, there will be an average rates rise of 5.1 per cent, or \$195 per year.

"That's about \$4 a week more to pay for a huge range of projects and services right across what our Council delivers," says our Mayor Sandra Goudie.

"Thanks to the strong engagement in this LTP, we've laid a solid foundation to address challenges such as the increasing costs of handling rubbish and recycling, keeping communities supplied with drinking water, planning for sustainable growth and addressing climate change," Mayor Sandra says.

The next decade will see our Council invest \$455 million in capital projects plus more than \$1 billion to fund day-to-day operations such as:

- Handling rubbish and recycling
- Providing clean drinking water
- Treating wastewater
- Maintaining roads, bridges and footpaths
- Maintaining parks and reserves and sports facilities

### Notable projects for the Thames area:

- Totara Valley Road, Thames, services extension to allow more housing: \$6.5 million over 2021-23
- Pollen Street, Thames infrastructure upgrade: \$16.4 million over 2023-25
- Thames sub-regional pool: \$14 million over 2025-27
- Thames sports precinct (at future pool site): \$7.6 million over 2026-28
- Thames South water treatment plant – Puriri: \$13.4 million over 2023-25

For more information on the Long Term Plan, visit [tcdc.govt.nz/longtermplan2021](http://tcdc.govt.nz/longtermplan2021)

## OPERATORS WANTED FOR INFORMATION CENTRES

We're calling for Expressions of Interest in running the information centres in Whangamatā, Thames and Whitianga.

The contract will run from 1 October this year until 30 June 2024, with our Council providing a set amount of funding through a Service Level Agreement.

Expressions of Interest close 5pm, Friday 27 August 2021. If you want to chat to us about options or have some other ideas of how to offer the service, please contact Kirstin Richmond 07 868 0200, or email [kirstin.richmond@tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:kirstin.richmond@tcdc.govt.nz)

## Job opportunities in the Thames area

NZ Meat Processors has expanded its operations and is looking for more staff for their new Totara site, where they make both freeze dried and frozen pet food. Contact Anna at [anna@nzmpl.co.nz](mailto:anna@nzmpl.co.nz) for more information.

Kōpū Engineering has openings for tradespeople qualified in fabricating and engineering. Get in touch with Vaughan Austin if you're qualified and interested: [vaughan@kopu.co.nz](mailto:vaughan@kopu.co.nz)

Kōpū Engineering is also taking on apprentices through the government's Apprenticeship Boost Programme.

You can find out more about the programme on the Work and Income website [workandincome.govt.nz](http://workandincome.govt.nz)



This year entries are open until Wednesday 4 August 2021. [knzb.org.nz](http://knzb.org.nz)



## RED-gistered yet?

Dog registrations are due by 31 July [tcdc.govt.nz/dogs](http://tcdc.govt.nz/dogs)



Applications open until Saturday 31 July 2021 [haurakicoromandelbusinessawards.co.nz](http://haurakicoromandelbusinessawards.co.nz)



[tcdc.govt.nz/cbgrants](http://tcdc.govt.nz/cbgrants)



## Thames Community Board UPDATE

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

"Our Long Term Plan is now finalised and there are some exciting projects that have been in the planning stages that are now being funded and can go ahead. Particularly exciting is the sub-regional aquatic facility to replace Thames Centennial Pool, the sports precinct to go in at the same site as the new pool, south of the airfield, an upgrade to the infrastructure such as water and wastewater pipes below Pollen Street, and much more." [strat.peters@council.tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:strat.peters@council.tcdc.govt.nz)



**Brown Street toilets are open** – The upgraded toilet block at Brown Street, by the Thames Small Gauge Railway and opposite the School of Mines, is now officially open. There are four unisex toilets, a men's toilet with two urinals, a unisex space, a baby-changing area and a mobility accessible toilet. The facility was built offsite by Permacrete, craned into position, and is designed in a heritage look to blend into the surrounding historic area. It's \$370,000 cost was 50 per cent funded by the government's Tourism Infrastructure Fund.



**Thames Community Board's next meeting** is on 11 August, 9am, at the Council Chambers, 515 Mackay St. Agendas are published two working days before meetings on [tcdc.govt.nz/meetings](http://tcdc.govt.nz/meetings)

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# New manager to put shine back in Goldfields

By KELLEY TANTAU

The best may be yet to come for a mall in Thames that has seen better days.

John Freer became the new manager of Goldfields Shopping Centre in September last year, on the back of the Covid-19 lockdown.

Since then, he's set out to prove the mall "means business", in the hopes to see it become a mecca for shopping and entertainment once more.

Goldfields opened in November, 1990 and, according to a *Thames Star* article from the time, cost \$25m and initially had room for 40 shops.

Under the current layout there was room for 21 stores, Mr Freer said, with 17 of them now occupied.

He hoped to see the centre close to capacity by Christmas.

"I've heard lots of negative comments about Goldfields, and most of them are true, but I really believe that we can turn Goldfields around, and we're already doing that," he told *The Profile*.

"I'm getting some positive feedback already."

Three shops were currently being upgraded to house new tenants, the car park had been repaired with lines repainted, and investment had recently been made with The Warehouse, he said.

"People can see that we actually mean business. The owners are prepared to make this work," Mr Freer said.

"The next major piece of



Goldfields' new manager John Freer wants the mall to be 'New Zealand's happiest place to shop'. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

work will be redoing the front of The Warehouse's Garden Centre, and that's all been architecturally designed."

Mr Freer said Goldfields, as the only shopping mall in the Thames Valley, was important for not just Thames, but the whole region.

However, there was a lot to factor in when it came to trying to lease out the shops.

"When I first came here, I thought: 'What does Thames need?' But then as reality

kicked in, I knew that while we might want some shops, we weren't going to get them all," he said.

"Thames is out on a bit of a limb, so for the big retailers to come to Thames, it can be a little challenging. On the positive side, our population reach is about the same as Orewa, north of Auckland, and that's around 65,000 people.

"What it all comes back to," he said, "is us wanting to be part of the Thames retail scene,

and Thames for a long time has been trying to find out where it sits. We just need something that gives us a point of difference."

Mr Freer had a plan to make the mall "New Zealand's happiest place to shop", but he asked for people's patience.

"That's going to take a lot of work, but there's already been some really neat initiatives over time... it's not the sort of business where we can do everything overnight."

# Shelving failure spooks shoppers

By KELLEY TANTAU

Shelving the length of the Thames Noel Leeming store collapsed last week sending appliances flying and frightening shoppers.

Luckily, no one was hurt in the event. A man, who didn't want to be named, told *The Profile* he was sitting at the store's counter around 11am on July 15, when "the whole racking just seemed to peel away from the north wall like surf rolling along a beach".

He said the whole incident took between 10-12 seconds, and made a "thunderous noise".


"There were microwaves, small appliances, and the likes of food processors all along that wall. There was just this amazing sound of breaking glass and microwave doors crashing."

"It was quite surreal." He said there appeared to be "absolutely nothing" securing the racking to the wall, and it was "only a matter of time" before it collapsed. He said the store was lucky no one had been injured by its falling stock.

A Noel Leeming spokesperson said the area was immediately cordoned off after the incident and assessed for damage and health and safety risk. "The store was temporarily closed while the area was assessed and the store reopened with safety cordons in place," the spokesperson said.

"Stock damaged in the incident has been removed from sale."

Remedial work was completed the same day, along with a comprehensive safety inspection on all wall mountings in the store, she said.



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**Youth Programmes.**  
There are some vacancies on our St John Youth programmes for children aged 6 to 8 years and youth from 8 to 18 years.

**Mental Health First Aid courses.**  
We are looking to offer another free course to our community in September.

**St John - local people serving the needs of our community.**

To find out more information about the courses or our St John community programmes, please call Nikki on: (07) 868 0555 or email [nikki.tyrrell-baxter@stjohn.org.nz](mailto:nikki.tyrrell-baxter@stjohn.org.nz)



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WHAT'S ON

Email your community event or club or group notice to editor@valleyprofile.co.nz by noon Thursday the week before publication. Listings are published at the editor's discretion and may be edited. Clubs and groups are responsible for keeping listings up to date.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**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.

**July 24: Choir Singing Workshop:** With Jayne Tankersley, 10am-2pm at St George's Church Hall, \$20. Ph 027 373 9952.

**July 28: Thames Continuing Education Speaker Series:** Auckland University of Technology history professor Paul Moon, Thames Civic Centre, 10:30am.

**July 30: Songwriters Soiree:** Edward Castelow and O & The Mo at the Back Room, Pollen St, 7pm.

**July: I am Not an Algorithm exhibition:** by Deb MacDonald Brown at GBD until the end of July.

**August 6: Moanataiari School Quiz Night:** Bite Cafe, 6pm. Food and drinks available, silent auction, raffles. Register a team by July 30, text: 0210 263 4461.

**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 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: eventfinda.co.nz.

**October 16: Ngatea Garage Sale:** Main street, Ngatea, 9am to 2pm.

**LOCAL MARKETS**

**Kaiaua Seaside Market:** at The Boating Club, Kaiaua, 9-1pm, last Sunday of 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 Mangata-rata:** 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 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:** Mangata-rata, 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 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



Exhibition opens

*I am Not an Algorithm* is the title of an exhibition by Thames collage artist, Deborah MacDonald Brown displayed at The GBD on Pollen St until the end of July.

The theme of the exhibition reflects Macdonald Brown's passion for the environment and the need to protect it.

"As a digital collage artist I have the freedom to create different worlds and explore different ways of looking at the world," she said. "There is so much beauty around us and this is what I want to reflect in my art. I believe this beauty is worth fighting for".

MacDonald Brown's image *The Flowers that Bloom in the Spring Trala Trala*, (pictured left) is her first solarpunk work. All proceeds from her exhibition will be donated towards Solarpunk Aotearoa's tree planting activities planned for spring equinox. Please contact Deborah by text on 027 2288 011 or email: debsmacb@gmail.com.

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 McKewen, 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 Bridge Club:** 401 Brown St, Monday and Thursday at 1pm, Tuesday at 7pm. Ph 07 868 8023

**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 Floral Art Club:** third Monday of the month. Ph 07 868 9873.

**Thames Hauraki Parents Centre:** Meike, Ph 07 867 3163

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

**Thames Heritage Network:** Margaret Cropp, Ph 07 868 1024

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

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

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

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

**Thames Rotary Club:** Warren Sly, Ph 021 772 351

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

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

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

**Thames Tennis Club:** Contact Maree, Ph 027 217 1682

**Thames Toastmasters Club:** Ph 027 296 8585

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

**Thames Valley Zonta Club:** Pam Harsant, Ph 027 495 5583

**Totally Thames Inc:** Deb MacDonald Brown, Ph 027 228 8011

**Tramping in Thames area:** www.sporty.co.nz/kauaerangatramping-club

**Turua Playcentre:** Estelle, Ph 027 371 8511

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

**Ulysses Motorcycle Club:** Thursdays at L&P Bottle, Paeroa, 9:30am, Ph 021 028 28442 or 021 701 466

**Women's Loan Fund:** Ph 07 868 7820

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# One man’s high-heeled walk for Hospice

By KELLEY TANTAU

Seeing a 6’4 man wearing a blue sequinned dress and high heels walking down Thames’ main street may not be the most ordinary Friday for some.

But for those who know Mike Plant, a radio host on Coromandel’s More FM, they likely wouldn’t be surprised to learn the daring dash down Pollen St was payback.

The fearless feat came about after Mike and his colleague Michelle Shaw went to a work lunch at Cafe Melbourne in Thames.

Mike, although having taken Michelle to the cafe, left her “abandoned” there once the lunch ended, meaning Michelle had to walk back to the pair’s studio - about 700m away - on her own and in heels.

“She complained about it the next day on air, and I was like: ‘It’s not that bad, harden up’.

“But she talked about the problems on Pollen St; a lot of people say the cobbles are slippery and dangerous, and then she said: ‘Well, you try it’.”

From there, Thames’ Hospice Shop got in touch, as did a number of listeners spurring the breakfast host on. One pledged to donate to the Hospice charity if he wore a dress; another would do the same if he put on a wig.

So on July 9, Mike, in a



Coromandel’s More FM breakfast host Mike Plant is joined on his walk in high heels by Hospice Waikato chief executive Craig Tamblyn, left, co-host Michelle Shaw, right, and volunteers who collected donations for the charity. Photo: SUPPLIED

blonde wig and blue dress and high heels, replicated the route Michelle had taken a week before.

He was joined in support by Hospice Waikato chief executive Craig Tamblyn, as well as volunteers who collected donations for the charity.

From the day, they received \$766.

“I’ve got blistered feet with

bandages on at the moment, but in the end it was great for the cause,” Mike told *The Profile* after his walk.

“It wasn’t my first time [wearing heels], but I’d really like to stress it is not a regular occurrence.”

Not only was the walk a “good tourism ad for Thames” - it also raised awareness of the off-kilter cobbles on Pollen St’s pave-

ment, he said.

“We had a lot of emails and texts come into the studio saying to be careful. A lot of the cobbles are not even or smooth, and it was hard, really hard.

“There are a lot of office workers who wear stuff like that, and there’s people who go out for drinks at our local establishments and want to look nice, so it is a bit sketchy for them,” he

said.

Mike, whose shoe size is 13, said the heels he wore were brought into town as “reinforcements” from Hamilton.

And although the walk was his just deserts for leaving Michelle at the cafe, Mike said he didn’t have any regrets.

“It ended up being for a great cause, so I don’t feel so bad about it.”

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# Rural Life

## Howl of a protest in Ngatea

By KELLEY TANTAU

Farmer advocacy group Groundswell NZ has vowed to undertake further action if the Government refuses to put a stop to its environmental regulations and ute tax.

The announcement was met with cheers in Ngatea on Friday, ahead of a protest which saw hundreds of people either hop in their tractors and drive down the main street, or show their support from the sidelines.

It was one of 57 Howl of a Protest events held by Groundswell around the country, and local co-ordinator Colin Caldwell, speaking on behalf of the group, said “enough was enough” when it came to the “unworkable” Government regulations.

“Groundswell’s main concerns, and the focus of this protest, are the unworkable environmental policies: freshwater, indigenous biodiversity, SNAs, and climate change,” he said.

“Everyone is feeling overwhelmed by the avalanche of poorly designed policies, and the ‘we-know-best,’ one-size-fits-all mindset of the current Government.

“Groundswell is keen to promote workable solutions.”

Mr Caldwell said if within one month’s time, by August 16, the organisation had not

seen “sufficient moves” by the Government to address its concerns, it would be undertaking further actions.

Federated Farmers’ Hauraki-Coromandel president Rob Craw, speaking on behalf of the organisation, said they weren’t surprised the “frustration and anger about the deluge of new regulations and costs from central Government” was spilling over into a protest meeting.

“As far as we know, this is the single biggest protest event since the 80s,” he said.

“This is certainly the winter of discontent.”

Mr Craw said the ute tax was the “straw that broke the camel’s back” for many farmers, and said the scheme was “quite frankly a joke”.

“Overall, our message to the Government is simple: we need to organise the work plan better. We have a soiled, haphazard approach right now that is causing stress and anxiety for many, not just for farmers and growers, but other sectors and, quite frankly, the Government’s own officials.”

Ngatea’s two-hour Howl of a Protest saw many from around the Thames Valley convene in tractors and in utes - they were joined by thousands across the country in an effort Groundswell said “cannot be ignored”.

MORE PHOTOS: P9



St John ambulance members attend the protest.

Photos: KELLEY TANTAU



Protestors and supporters join the rally.



Farmers drive their tractors down Ngatea’s main street.

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# Rural Life

## Farmers protest regulations



Lorraine Williams takes part in the protest.



A farm dog makes some noise on the back of a ute.



A farmer gets his message across.

Photos: KELLEY TANTAU

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# Resolution of trauma offered through Tantrik Yoga

Kara-Leah Grant knows nobody chooses trauma.

As a writer and non-dual Tantrik Yoga teacher, the Thames woman uses her own experiences with trauma and the Tantrik teachings to help others heal.

“When people start to share their wounds, their pain and their traumas with me, it’s a real honour to hold space for that. The biggest aspect of the work I do is meeting everyone with loving-awareness - not judging anything or anyone,” she said.

“Society is still quite judgemental toward people, for example, who struggle with addiction, but addiction is a symptom of trauma, and nobody chooses trauma.”

Classical Tantra is a methodology for self-realisation, she said, and it supports people to resolve “undigested emotional experiences” and unhelpful mental constructs. It began in South-East Asia around 500CE and focuses on liberation from conditioning, as opposed to Neo-Tantra, which was invented in San Francisco in the early 20th century and focuses on conscious sexuality.

Over the last 10 years, Kara-Leah has worked with hundreds of clients and students, helping them identify and uninstall limiting beliefs, and to fully heal and dissolve deep childhood wounds and trauma.

“As children, when something painful happens, the child’s sys-

tem cannot cope with the intensity of the emotion. The system has all these ways of protecting the child from feeling the pain, so the emotion gets locked away,” she said.

As a child, Kara-Leah experienced trauma, but didn’t fully realise the extent of it until she moved overseas in her 20s.

While there, the psychological defences she had built up to protect herself as a child began to break down.

“I started feeling all this grief over my parents’ divorce, which happened when I was 11,” she said. “And at the time, I’d said it was totally cool and it was all fine, when in reality, I was ignoring my emotional pain. In my 20s, suppressed emotions started to break through. I had an intense Kundalini Awakening that I was not prepared for and it went all the way into psychosis.”

Kara-Leah was committed to Lions Gate Hospital’s acute psych ward in Vancouver, and diagnosed with bi-polar disorder.

“When I came out, I knew I needed a healing approach which saw me as whole, and recognised that I was not just this diagnosis. I needed an approach which understood the awakening process - that was yoga.”

In 2006, she began teaching yoga and over time, that evolved from teaching physical postures, to working with people in the “emotional and mental realm”.

At a 2010 training, Kara-Leah was introduced to the teachings



Kara-Leah Grant uses her own experiences with trauma and the Tantrik teachings to help others heal.

Photo:SUPPLIED/JEFFREY PACKARD

of Classical Tantra for the first time, and in 2015, she committed to doing 1000 days in a row of a Tantrik Yoga practise, which she completed in July last year.

She has been leading workshops and retreats since 2015 which focus on using the tools of Tantrik Yoga to help others liberate themselves from the impacts of trauma.

“One of the biggest things is for people to feel safe, seen,

heard, and to feel loved,” she said.

Her next one-day immersion workshop, held on August 7 in Matatoki, near Thames, will focus on trauma and the spiritual path. She will also host a five-day ancestral trauma healing retreat in Taupō from September 13-17. She also does one-on-one sessions with people.

“This approach doesn’t save you, because there is no magic

bullet, but Tantrik Yoga offers a new way to relate to life that supports the dissolving and resolving of trauma responses over time. People are not their trauma responses - that’s just conditioning. It’s not who they are.”

For more information on the work Kara-Leah does, or to book for her upcoming courses, visit [www.karaleah.com](http://www.karaleah.com).

- KELLEY TANTAU



## ANCESTRAL TRAUMA HEALING RETREAT

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Cost: from \$1195



## TRAUMA AND THE SPIRITUAL PATH

### 1 DAY LOCAL WORKSHOP

Sat 7th Aug, 9.30am - 4.30pm  
Matatoki, Thames

Explore the intersection between trauma and the spiritual path. The day will include practices, techniques, interactive discussions and a catered lunch.

Cost: \$195

## 1:1 SESSIONS

Work with Kara-Leah in 1:1 sessions. Make the most of this powerful opportunity to:

- Dissolve childhood trauma, patterns and wounds.
- Reduce suffering.
- Uninstall limiting beliefs.
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- Be guided through the process of awakening.
- Access the innate joy of being.

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Kara-Leah is a Non-Dual Tantrik Yoga teacher living in Thames. She has direct experience with dissolving and resolving childhood trauma on the spiritual path, plus has developed a trauma-informed approach through working with hundreds of students and clients. She supports people to awaken to the joy of their natural selves, beyond their conditioning.

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Register for these in-person events or book a 1:1 session by emailing Kara-Leah at [connect@karaleah.com](mailto:connect@karaleah.com) or calling her on 021 715 415.

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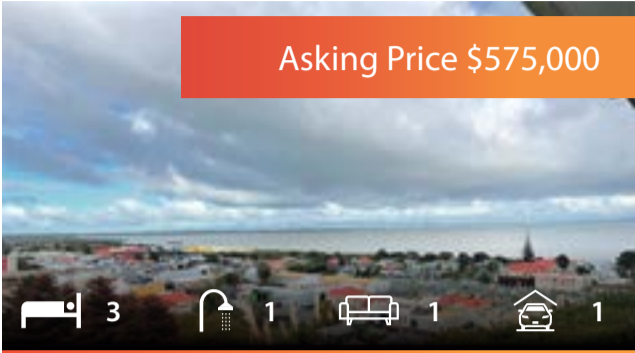
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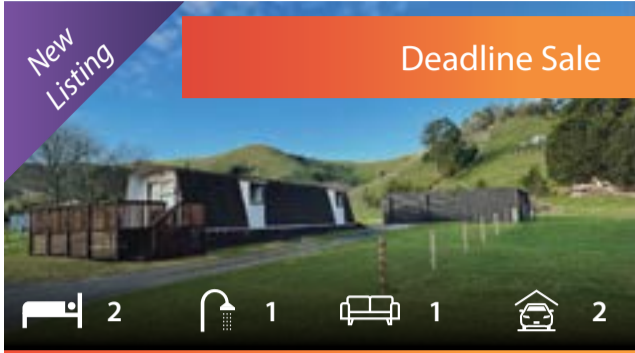
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
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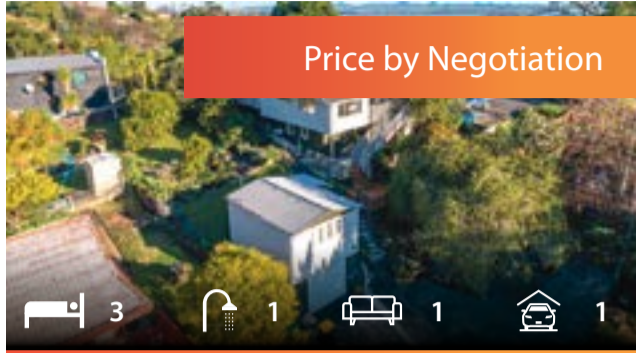
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
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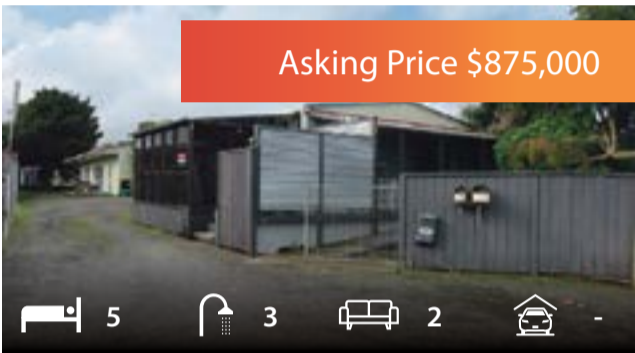
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
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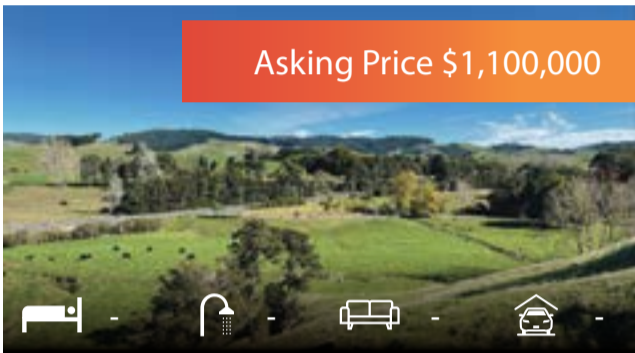
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
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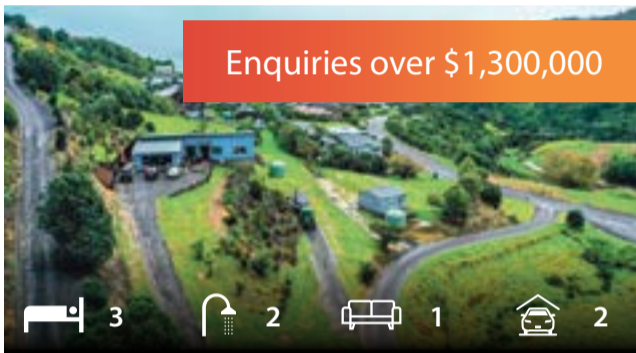
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
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# Goldfields Shopping Centre – improving the experience

Already this year more than 600,000 people have visited the Goldfields Shopping Centre, Thames.

Even with very limited international tourists, Goldfield's visitor numbers remain strong reflecting the support from both the local and wider community along with visitors to the Coromandel Peninsula and Hauraki Plains.

These indications are highly positive for Thames during a period where uncertainty appears the norm.

Goldfields is continuing to work with both local organisations through to national and international retailers, endeavouring to ensure it delivers an enjoyable shopping experience to those visiting the centre.

Within the centre, shoppers will notice three shops which are undergoing upgrade work for new tenants, while The Glow Up Lounge has been opened by Adriana Ponze, and Jan Ward and Lynda Davidson have relocated their Treats Coffee Cart into the Centre.

The Waikato DHB is locating a Covid 19 Vaccination Centre at the Centre.

Recently the joint Coromandel CFM and Goldfields inaugural Sleep Championships were staged. This unique event was supported

by the Furniture Jungle and Bed Bath and Beyond – the two shops providing a bedding prize worth more than \$4000.

Currently Thames Rugby and Sports has a display located in the centre featuring 150 years of Rugby in Thames. The display highlights the greatest Thames rugby team of all time, next month a weekend of celebrations is planned.

Previously displays supporting Steampunk, school holiday activities, the Paeroa Highland Games and Christmas activities have featured along with Destination Coromandel promotional material.

Local groups are encouraged to consider using the centre forecourt for displays and activities relating to community projects.

The interest people have in Goldfields is evident in the feedback provided by residents and shoppers – that feedback is welcomed and appreciated.

**GIVE US A HAND**

As one of six organisations involved in a Destination Coromandel sustainability project, Goldfields is looking to better understand how it can ensure a positive impact on the environment.



Thames High School students Micah Collis and Riley McCaskill, of *The 2 Fifths*, play during the recent Sleep Competition at Goldfields.

Photo: SUPPLIED

While sustainability includes most facets of a business, a key element is the handling of rubbish and waste.

Rubbish blowing around the place is not a good look for anyone, therefore, our first objective is to ensure all pub-

lic areas are clean and tidy. While our cleaning staff are being proactive with regular litter removal, we urge shoppers to do their thing.

Bins are available across the carpark and throughout the centre – please use these. A plan has been imple-

mented to remove all litter behind the centre including rubbish finding its way into drains and into the adjoining mangroves.

If groups wish to assist in keeping the foreshore litter free, Goldfields would love to hear from you.



# 'The Vibe' here for summer

By KELLEY TANTAU

Thames' "Vibe" could be hanging around throughout the coming summer as the district council looks to evaluate its longevity once the town's busy period has passed.

The Create the Vibe pedestrian space on Mary St has been in place for four months, and has seen murals, festoon lighting, planter boxes, and picnic tables replace the once-busy road linking Pollen and Queen Streets.

Recently, new "wayfinding pavement decals" have been installed to direct foot traffic along the main street. Three bike racks have also been added, while another mural, a hopscotch diagram, and new rubbish bins are yet to come.

The space was initially 90 per cent funded (\$320,125.50) by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency as part of its Innovating Streets pilot programme, with the remaining 10 per cent (\$35,569.50) from Thames Community Board.

Thames-Coromandel District Council senior communications officer Michael Dobie said invoices for the total spend on the project were being tallied, and council would have a better breakdown of the costs involved in about a month. He said the pedestrian space was still a trial, and the materials used were not permanent and had about a two-year lifespan.

"It's been in place about four months - since the end of summer this year - and we'd like to



Create the Vibe on Mary St has been in place for four months. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

leave it in place over the coming summer, after which we'll prepare a formal evaluation with input from subject-matter experts including our roading team and Police," he said.

"There has been quite a lot of activity in the Create the Vibe space, including day-to-day use by Thames residents, crafting sessions in the container, and major events like Beach Hop and Steampunk."

Mr Dobie said while feedback on the space was initially "50/50" at first, public opinion had been growing "increasingly positive".

"We've made changes based on feedback, including rotating the placement of the Create the Vibe HQ container and introducing more public art by local artists in the space," he said.

At the Villager cafe on Mary St, owner Nick Lockley said the Vibe worked well for them as a

business.

"I opened when this all started, and we were really busy at the tail end of the summer, and when we've got days like this [clear skies], we're busy because people sit outside and there's always activity going on."

He'd be pleased to see the space stick around for summer, as he'd like to extend the cafe's opening hours and bring entertainment - such as buskers - to the site.

Back in April, the council monitored traffic to identify the effect the Mary St closure had on surrounding streets.

From their findings, there were no significant decreases in traffic, or people driving into central Thames. Traffic in Pollen St increased and so did that of the surrounding streets with people using alternative routes to move around the town, council said.

## ENTERTAINMENT

### Choir workshop to be held

St George's Community Choir welcomes Hamilton-based soprano Jayne Tankersley to lead a choir singing workshop in Thames on Saturday.

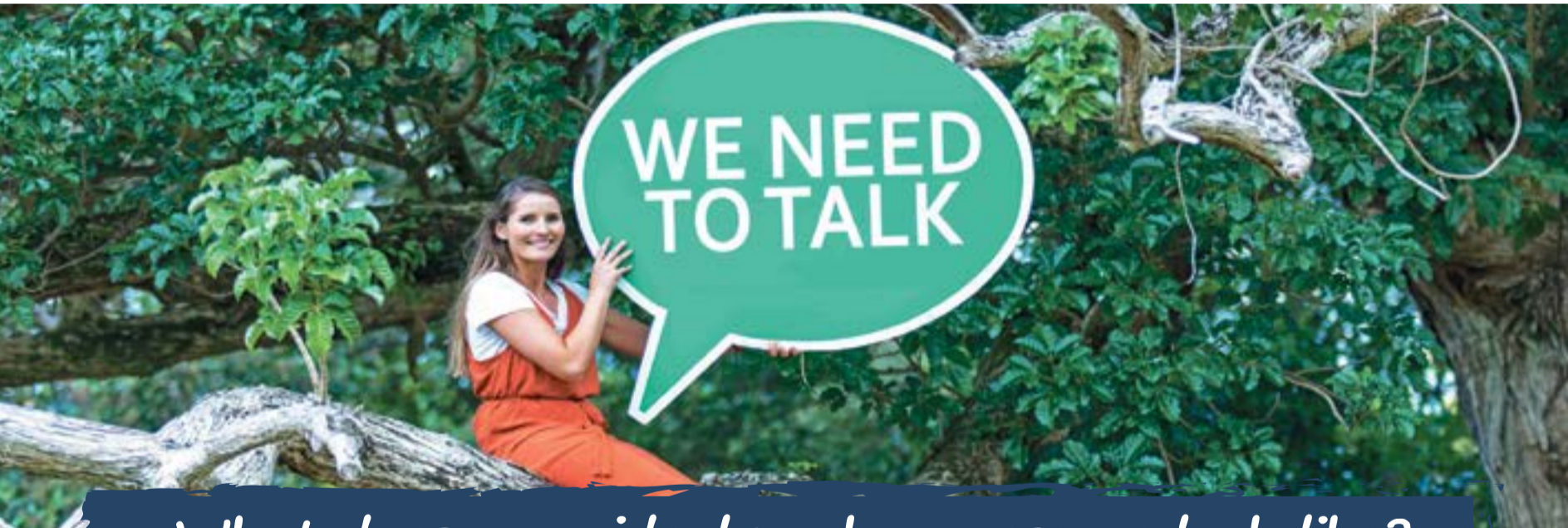
Jayne Tankersley is one of New Zealand's most experienced singers of Baroque, Renaissance and Medieval music. She was awarded the Best Musical Act at the 2015 Auckland Fringe Festival and is in demand as a soloist throughout the country. From 1999 to 2006 she was based in Boston, USA, where she completed a Masters degree in early music vocal performance. Since returning to New Zealand, she has appeared with orchestras and ensembles throughout the country, and is heard regularly on RNZ Concert. Most recently

she appeared with the New Zealand Dance Company as one of five singers in Micheal Parmenters' production *Orpheus - A Dance Opera*, which premiered to rave reviews at the Auckland Arts Festival and the New Zealand Festival. She currently teaches in five different Waikato schools and takes three choirs, as well as a private singing studio. For several years she traveled to Thames to take singing lessons at Thames High School. Jayne's teaching style is dynamic - the workshop promises to be an enjoyable experience for those who attend.

**Details: Saturday, July 24, 10am to 4pm, St George's Church Hall Thames. Registrations: from 9:30am, \$20. All interested in singing are welcome.**



One of New Zealand's most experienced singers, Jayne Tankersley, will lead a choir singing workshop in Thames on Saturday. Photo: SUPPLIED



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SPORTS



Tuise Toai-Key gets the ball over the try line for Thames amid strong defence by Mercury Bay.

Photos: TERESA RAMSEY



Thames forwards prepare for a scrum.



Mitchell Murphy passes the ball.



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10

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HARD

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JUMBO CROSSWORD

30

ACROSS

1 Criminal deception (5)

4 Dismissal notice (8,6)

11 Minimum (5)

14 Adhere (5)

15 Group of islands (11)

16 Social event (8)

19 American highway (7)

20 Bottomless pit (5)

21 Lengthened (9)

24 Dancer's spin (9)

26 Double-cross (6)

27 Go up (6)

31 Estimate (5)

32 Cabbage salad (8)

34 Ultra-modern (10)

38 Crux (7)

39 Quick run (6)

40 Messy (6)

41 Russian emperor (4)

42 Aloof (7)

45 Canine sleuth (10)

50 Pungent gas (7)

54 Opera solo (4)

55 Chant (6)

56 Open (6)

57 Use again (7)

60 Tremor (10)

61 A bet against heavy odds (4,4)

62 Divide (5)

65 Reddish metal (6)

66 Dummy ducks (6)

67 Science of sound (9)

72 Nitre (9)

DOWN

2 Go to bed (6)

3 Male relative (5)

5 Affected manners (4)

6 Live together (7)

7 Foist upon (6)

8 Seabird (4)

9 Control the rate of (8)

10 Gregarious (6)

11 Captaincy (10)

12 Corrosive liquid (4)

13 Knotted (7)

17 Synthetic fibre (5)

18 Smitten (10)

22 Spite (5)

23 Throw overboard (8)

25 Audit (7)

26 Enchant (7)

28 Breakfast fare (6)

29 No bail (anag) (6)

30 Treeless Arctic plain (6)

33 Oust (5)

35 About (5)

36 Religious representation (4)

37 Revered mentor (4)

42 Male duck (5)

43 Rider's supports (8)

44 Language (6)

45 Accounts minder (10)

46 Had debts (4)

47 Increases twofold (7)

48 Rectangular (6)

49 Small cuts (5)

51 Submissive (4)

52 I comply (anag) (7)

53 Set into surface (6)

58 Cobblers (10)

59 Camera adjustment (5)

63 Handle (8)

64 Bind (5)

65 Funny (7)

68 Yellow-flowering pasture plant (7)

69 Escalate (4,2)

70 Exchanged (6)

71 Subs payer (6)

75 Run aground (5)

76 Outdoor sport (4)

77 Curved support (4)

78 Cry of pain (4)

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ACROSS: 1 Fraud, 4 Marching orders, 11 Least, 14 Stick, 15 Archipelago, 16 Occasion, 19 Freeway, 20 Abyss, 21 Elongated, 24 Pironette, 26 Betray, 27 Ascend, 31 Guess, 32 Colslaw, 34 Futuristic, 38 Essence, 39 Sprint, 40 Untidy, 41 Tsar, 42 Distant, 45 Bloodhound, 50 Ammonia, 54 Aria, 55 Intone, 56 Unicorn, 57 Recycle, 60 Earthquake, 61 Long shot, 62 Split, 65 Copper, 66 Decays, 67 Acoustics, 72 Saitpetre, 73 Drawn, 74 Marbles, 79 Close-ups, 80 Incredible, 81 Maybe, 82 Lifts, 83 Plumb the depths, 84 Short.

DOWN: 2 Retire, 3 Uncle, 5 Airs, 6 Cohabit, 7 Impose, 8 Gull, 9 Regulate, 10 Social, 11 Olympic, 53 Inland, 58 Shoemakers, 59 Focus, 63 Doorknob, 64 Strap, 65 Comical, 68 Cowslip, 43 Stirrups, 44 Tongue, 45 Bookkeeper, 46 Owed, 47 Doubles, 48 Oblong, 49 Nicks, 51 Meek, 52 Bewitch, 28 Muesli, 29 Albino, 30 Tundra, 33 Exped, 35 Circa, 36 Icon, 37 Guru, 42 Drake, Leadership, 12 Acid, 13 Tangled, 17 Rayon, 18 Infatuated, 22 Venom, 23 Jettison, 25 Inspect, 29 No bail (anag) (6), 30 Treeless Arctic plain (6), 33 Oust (5), 35 About (5), 36 Religious representation (4), 37 Revered mentor (4), 42 Male duck (5), 43 Rider's supports (8), 44 Language (6), 45 Accounts minder (10), 46 Had debts (4), 47 Increases twofold (7), 48 Rectangular (6), 49 Small cuts (5), 51 Submissive (4), 52 I comply (anag) (7), 53 Set into surface (6), 58 Cobblers (10), 59 Camera adjustment (5), 63 Handle (8), 64 Bind (5), 65 Funny (7), 68 Yellow-flowering pasture plant (7), 69 Escalate (4,2), 70 Exchanged (6), 71 Subs payer (6), 75 Run aground (5), 76 Outdoor sport (4), 77 Curved support (4), 78 Cry of pain (4).

# Woman dies after gut pain



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

Turpentine sprinkled on hot flannels did not ease Atheline Arnold's abdominal pain. Her mother-in-law had carefully followed the doctor's advice but there was no relief from the discomfort which had plagued her for the past five days.

Atheline, 29, was the wife of John Arnold, a mill hand at Gibbon's Mill, Kōpū. The Arnold's lived near the mill with their three small children. Although unwell all that week in August, 1897, Atheline had been able to do her housework, but around 3.30pm, she took to her bed. John sent their eight-year-old daughter for his mother who came at once.

Atheline was very ill, lying on the bed and in great pain. Mrs Arnold put a hot brick at her feet and began applying hot poultices to the stomach. Atheline felt a little better on Friday evening and seemed to stay that way until midnight when she became worse. About 6.30am on Saturday, on his way to work, John stopped at the telephone office and made



Workmen at Gibbon's sawmill, Kōpū. Photo: SUPPLIED

arrangements for a wire to be sent to Dr Callan as soon as they opened. But around 9am Atheline, feeling better, sent their daughter to cancel the wire. Mrs Arnold and a neighbour, Mrs Foster, continued with the care of Atheline keeping up with hot salt poultices until Saturday afternoon when hot bran was tried. At 5pm, Atheline grew worse and it became clear that she was seriously ill.

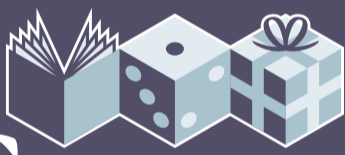
A telephone message was sent to Dr Callan, who replied he could not come, though he promised to see Atheline first thing on Sunday morning.

He advised the application of hot flannels sprinkled with turpentine. Dr Bond was also called but he could not come either. In the early hours of Sunday morning, Atheline deteriorated and at 5am her desperate brother rode into Thames to get Dr Callan. The doctor's son said his father would be out first thing but it was too late for Atheline who died at 6am. Dr Bond found that death was due to inflammation of

the bowels, which Atheline had suffered for about five days, three of them acutely. He said even if he had been able to attend Atheline on Saturday evening he could not have done much good, the disease having reached a critical stage.

The inquest jury disagreed, saying Drs Callan and Bond were greatly to blame for not coming out to Kōpū when sent for and Atheline might have been saved if either of the doctors had acted promptly. The Coroner acidly commented the jury seemed to know more about the science of surgery and medicine than the medical men. The *Thames Advertiser*, in an editorial headed 'The Doctor's censured', concluded the "two respected medical gentlemen" were not to blame.


Atheline was returned to her mother's home in Onehunga. John Arnold, who had helplessly witnessed his wife's struggles, poignantly wrote in his wife's death notice that she was now "free from all trouble."



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*Look forward to hearing from all you Valley Profile readers.*



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SPORTS RESULTS

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Frosty day for tournament

A great turn out of 22 teams playing on both greens at Kerepēhi Bowling Club, for the Ngatea Richardsons Real Estate sponsored optional fours on a frosty Sunday, July 4. Four teams hammered their opponents with four wins each.  
**RESULTS:** 1st 4 wins 45 points 21 ends (Waihi Beach RSA) Devin Brooks, Lyn Brooks, Kathryn McGaughley, Adrian McGaughley; 2nd 4 wins 37 points 24 ends (Kerepēhi/ Tui Park) Daniel Harrison, Shaun Harrison, Trace Harrison, Wayne Heron; 3rd 4 wins 34 points 19 ends (Thames Coast) Ray Winikerei, Colin Beaufill, Lois Bradley, Maeline Beaufill; 4th 4 wins 24 points 22 ends (Morrinsville) C Finlay, Ken Cowley, K Hansen, L Wynen.  
- Terry King



Frank Finlay, stalwart Hauraki Bowls, rolls up.

Photo: SUPPLIED



Croquet club closes for winter

The Thames Croquet Club on Beach Rd has closed its lawns for the winter. The Te Aroha Club has welcomed our members to play at their grounds instead. Seven Thames members recently enjoyed a sunny afternoon playing with the friendly people of Te Aroha Croquet, and we look forward to more games on their picturesque lawns.

LEFT: Thames and Te Aroha croquet players met recently for a friendly match.

Photo: SUPPLIED

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# Matariki magic at kindy

Thames Coast Community Kindergarten celebrated Matariki recently by singing some waiata the tamariki practised and with a shared lunch of vegetable soup the children made. Matariki is the Māori New Year and is celebrated by the coming together of families, harvesting food, sharing kai and stories, and much more.



Arne'e Boyd, front left, takes part in the celebrations.



The children had fun learning about Matariki, the Māori New Year.



Tamariki also played with rākau sticks.



Shared kai was a veggie soup the children made.

Photos: SUPPLIED

# JOIN OUR ARTS PAGE

The *Valley Profile* will be running an arts page every 2nd month. If you are interested in supporting this page, please contact Nikki for more information. There are limited spaces available.

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SPORTS

# Richard Judd heads back to Wellington

By KELLEY TANTAU

Former Swampfox and Hurricanes half-back Richard Judd is back in the country after his first professional rugby stint in Japan.

The 29-year-old has spent the past year signed with the Suntory Sungoliath, a top league Japanese rugby union team based out of Fuchū, Tokyo.

He flew down to the capital on Sunday, where he'll be gearing up for his first match with Wellington against Northland on August 7, as part of the Bunnings NPC.

Richard, from Thames, played 23 games for the Thames Valley Swamp Foxes, and in the 2015 ITM Cup season, he impressed as part of the Counties Manukau Steelers' squad.

He joined the Bay of Plenty Steamers for the 2017 Mitre 10 Cup Season, before earning a spot in the Hurricanes' extended training squad for the 2018 Super Rugby season.

He debuted against the Crusaders and was later confirmed as part of the Hurricanes' 2019 team. In 2020, Richard signed for Suntory Sungoliath.

"Over there, their work mentality is unbelievable. The trainings were pretty intense right through the whole week.

*"Over there, their work mentality is unbelievable. The trainings were pretty intense right through the whole week."*

- Richard Judd

But we loved it, the culture, the food... I probably ate too much ramen," he joked.

Richard was joined in Japan by his wife Jordyn and daughters Taylor, 6, and Baylee, 4.

With him in the Suntory Sungoliath team was All Black Beauden Barrett and former Wallabies midfielder Samu Kerevi. Richard said he learned a lot being around players such as them.

"I'd pick their brains quite a bit," he told *The Profile*.

"And I'm probably more of a defensive half-back, more of a physical one than a running one, so I needed to work on more of a tactical game as well. I learned quite a bit of that over there, just more consistency in my kicking and passing, so hopefully I can bring that into this season with Wellington."

The former Thames High student said he "definitely took the long road" when it came to rugby, but said playing for Thames Valley in The Heartland Championship gave him an insight into what could be.

He also caught the Thames Valley senior A and B semifinal on July 10 and said it was awesome to see Thames doing so well.

He'll now be signed with



Thames rugby player Richard Judd was joined in Japan by his wife Jordyn and daughters, Taylor, 6, and Baylee, 4.

Wellington for two years, and will work towards another Super Rugby contract.

**DETAILS:** The 2021 Bunnings NPC is the 16th season of New Zealand's provincial rugby championships featuring 14 teams. It was previously dubbed the Mitre 10 Cup. The games will run until the end of October.

**RIGHT:** Richard Judd, with daughters Taylor and Baylee, will be playing for Wellington in the provincial championship.

Photos: SUPPLIED



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