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A proposal made by Central Government to fix the country's water infrastructure could mean the cost to ratepayers throughout the region is likely to increase threefold. KELLEY TANTAU reports

Thames-Coromandel's Mayor has likened the Government's Three Waters reform to Britney Spears' conservatorship, saying it'll be like "having your name on something, but you're pot sume what" but you're not sure what".

Central Government is proposing to build a better system for New Zealand's three waters - drinking water, wastewater and stormwater.

Currently, 67 different councils own and operate the majority of these servic- "And of es, and the reform proposes to establish four publicly-owned, multi-regional entities which ing mums and dads would take over from

would tast July 1, 2024. The Government said it would work with councils to build a bet-

ter system that was still owned by the communities it served, but in Thames-Coromandel, where the council has already spent millions upgrading its water treatment plants, the reform would have a large financial flow-on effect.

"The new entity proposal means that council's retain ownership and that's the end of it - I call it 'A Britney Spears'," Thames-Coromandel May-Spears'," Thames-Coromandel Ma or Sandra Goudie told *The Profile*.

'Your name is on something but you're not sure what. Mayor Goudie said whatever hap-

pens going forward, the cost for water infrastructure to ratepayers would "increase exponentially

'We're talking about close to triple the cost of water infrastructure supshe said. ply," she said. "And of course, no matter how you

do it, it's the hard working mums and dads that have to pay for this stuff.

later cost to r

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

The council has already upgraded Tairua, Pauanui and Whitianga's water treatment plants, with the remaining seven water treatment plant upgrades set to be completed by 2023-24.

But Mayor Goudie said the scheme would see them undertake a "never ending job".

"We've got to renew some of the infrastruc-ture for Thames; we'll "And of course, no matter how you do need to have Whareka-ho/Simpsons Beach Beach connected to the Whi*s stuff. a* connected to the whi-tianga water supply; we'll need wastewater and stormwater for *- Sandra Goudie* Hahei; we'll have to put more effort into that on as Coromandel Town expands, we'll need more infrastructure there," she said that have to pay for this stuff."

said. "We'll probably need additional filtration plants as communities grow, and we may even need another waste-water plant."

Mayor Sandra said three waters was "definitely a matter of huge significance" and ought to go out to public consultation before any decisions were made.

CONTINUED P2



Thames- Coromandel Mayor Sandra Groudie. Photo: SUPPLIED

BIRTHDAY SALE

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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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Reader's delight at upcoming Bookarama

Bv KELLEY TANTAU

Donating and buying books can have a big flow-on effect when Thames Valley's Zonta club convenes for their August Bookarama.

The club's only fundraiser that goes on to help projects locally, nationally, and internationally, will see hundreds of books for sale at St James Church in Thames.

But first, the books need to get in the hands of the Thames Valley members, and president Pam Harsant is calling on the public to drop off pre-loved books of any genre.

"We're almost expected to run the event now, because people just turn out to see it and look out for it. We collect as many books as we can," she said.

Founded in 1919 in the USA, Zonta International has 30,000 members in 1.200 clubs across

67 countries. Members volunteer their time to support women and girls in their local communities, run projects in many parts of the world to improve the lives of women, and advocate on women's issues at all levels of society.

In New Zealand, Zonta has been active for 50 years, and has 28 clubs from Northland to Otago.

The Thames Valley club had been operating for at least 25 years, Pam said. There were about a dozen mem-

bers and they were always looking for more.

"When we make money from the public, we have to spend it back in the public, so it all goes towards awards and grants and donations, she said

Zonta also offered scholarship and award programmes for furthering women's education.

Typically, the Thames Valley Club raises around \$6000 every year from the Bookarama. Even after the Covid-19 lockdown last year, people turned out in droves to get their hands on a new read. "It was just as good as ever," Pam

said. "People really want us to run the

event, and we often get phone calls from people asking when we'll run the Bookarama each year. But Pam said the fundraiser was

only made possible through people's support.

DETAILS: Zonta Club of Thames Valley's Bookarama, August 20 and 21 at St James Church, Thames. Books can be donated now at the Paeroa Information Centre or at The Treasury and ANZ Bank in Thames. They can also be collected. Phone Althea on 07 868 9970 for info or to help.

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Water reform could be costly - Mayor

CONTINUED FROM P1

However, her understanding was that Parliament would soon cover the questions surrounding public consultation, and whether or not they were going to by-pass the need for it. Hauraki District Mayor Toby

Adams did not wish to comment without obtaining further information about the reform, but referred *The Profile* to a council statement which said the \$2.5 billion support package was "helpful", however, it was not just about money. "There are still lots of unknowns and at this stage, our priority is to support our staff while we carefully consider the information, talk with our communities and advocate for the best outcomes for them and the environment," the statement said.

As part of the reform, the government announced a \$2.5 billion support package for councils, and, according to Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ), which earlier stated three waters would bring "acute affordability issues in some areas, particularly among smaller councils with aging populations", the funding would help set councils up to focus on community wellbeing.

'The key thing for us now is that councils have the time to work through the package and what it means for them and their communities. That will be our focus for the next eight weeks," LGNZ President Stuart Crosby said.

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					Ser	rving the Hauraki P	lains for 25 years		
	Thames Tides								
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Vaccination centre opens at Goldfields

By KELLEY TANTAU

The 18,000 people wild many 3" will be able to get their Cov-id-19 vaccine from Tuesday this The 18,000 people who make

A Covid-19 vaccination centre, set to open at Goldfields Mall on Tuesday, July 27, will oper-ate five days a week, Tuesday to Saturday, the Waikato DHB has confirmed.

New Zealand is now on to group three of its vaccination roll-out, which means people at risk of getting very sick from the virus - such as citizens aged 65 and over, with a relevant underlying health condition, a disability or in a position of caring for a person with a disability, or were pregnant - could gain early access to the vaccine.

Waikato DHB's Covid-19 vaccination implementation programme lead Maree Munroe told The Profile there were roughly 18,000 people from Thames and its surrounds making up group three.

The site of Goldfields Mall, in Thames, was selected for the vac-cination centre because it was "a

high profile area", she said. "[It's] in a shopping centre, very accessible with ample parking, and we felt it would meet the

needs of the community." The vaccination centre has been set up by the DHB in collaboration with Te Korowai Hauraki o Hauora; however, it will also be supported by general practices and pharmacies in the rohe (district), Maree said.

There will be 15-20 staff working at the site, made up of vaccinators, administration and kai manaaki (support) staff, who will ensure that each person is cared for during their vaccina-

"We know that there are many people very keen to have their vaccination," she said.

"Eligible people would have received a message to book their appointment either by text, email or a letter. Soon there will be a national number available publicly for eligible people to call to book an appointment if you haven't received an invitation to book from the DHB.

The current mobile sites will continue to operate, and there will be a number of GP practices and pharmacies setting up to vaccinate in the Coromandel, Maree said, with more detail to come as they opened. DETAILS: Vaccinations are by ap

pointment only, those eligible will receive an invitation by the end of July. More info: covid19.govt.nz.

Emma Hall had trouble finding a job after 10 operations and two years on ACC recovering from an accident.

New career after crushing accident

When nothing is going right in a job hunt, Emma Hall wants to remind people that everyone is worth something.

The Hauraki Plains woman came close to losing her right arm in a crushing accident a few years ago.

After 10 operations, two years on ACC, and an endless number of job applications declined, Emma decided she was worth more than the rejection she was getting from employers

who felt anxious about taking a chance on her.

"After running my own clean-ing business, I knew how capable I was, but after the accident, it was hard to prove it physically – I had to relearn how to write and feed myself," she said. "Eventually, I realised the one thing I could still do and

loved doing was driving my ute. "I sat my Class Two driving licence so I could have a go at driving trucks.

With this new skill under her belt, she felt sure her new career would soon be trucking along, but doors stayed firmly shut.

Shut. Determined not to give up, she posted her plight on Fa-cebook. It caught the eye of Gr8 Job Hauraki's commu-nity employment liaison Julie Stephenson, who immediately contacted Emma contacted Emma.

Together they were able to **CONTINUED ON P14**



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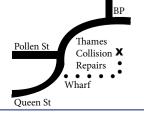
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Pothole debate could head to Ombudsman

By KELLEY TANTAU

The dispute over potholes in a Thames superette's parking lot could be put in front of the Ombudsman.

Harvinder Singh, the tenant of the Totara Superette along State Highway 25, has had no luck in getting Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency to share the costs of repairing the holes, which he said made the car park look "like a swimming pool" on a rainy day.

Since speaking to The Profile in June, he's spent more than \$1000 hiring equipment and metal to fill the

holes, but he said it was only "temporary[?] fix.

People contin- Kotahi, and are specifi- maintenance. ued to pull up to the shop and **cally excluded from the** Any new works or improveyell out to him

and his wife,

telling them to 'fix the bloody driveway', he said.

Waka Kotahi's Waikato sys-tem manager Cara Lauder earlier said while the trans-port agency was responsible for maintenance and the second for maintenance on SH25, this section of the highway was within the 70km/h speed en-vironment, and Waka Kotahi was only responsible for main-taining the road "from kerb to kerb".

However, Thames-Coroman-del District Council's roading manager Ed Varley understood

Waka Kotahi were responsible for maintenance of the entirety of the State Highway road reserve in this area, including the area in front of the shops.

He has provided Mr Singh with guidance about how he may proceed with the issue. "Our council does have a Memorandum of Understand-

ing with Waka Kotahi that within the 70kmh urban zone of state highways in our district where there is a verge, drainage, or footway, council has a maintenance liability.

"As there is no verge, drainage or footway in the area in front of the To-

"Any new works or

memorandum."

tara shops, the improvements are the council has no liability to unresponsibility of Waka dertake any *TCDC* ments are the responsibility of Waka Kotahi,

and are specifically excluded from the memorandum."

Mr Varley said as this had already been discussed with Waka Kotahi, his guidance boiled down to suggesting Mr Singh approach the Ombuds-man for a final resolution.

The Ombudsman handled complaints about Government agencies, such as the transport agency, and Mr Singh said approaching it was a route he was willing to take.

A Waka Kotahi spokesperson said the agency remained of the



Harvinder Singh, the tenant of the Totara Superette, recently spent more than \$1000 on pothole repairs.

view that the work required at the Totara site did not sit un-der its jurisdiction, as it did not maintain private parking areas or driveways, because they were for the use of private

landowners and their visitors. "The policy applied at this location is applied consistently across the country for the state highway network," the NZTA said.



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Look forward to hearing from all you Valley Profile readers.

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9am - 2pm Saturday

Kumar's credits community for its 20 years

By KELLEY TANTAU

A t Christmas time four years ago, Santhosh Kumar hung fairy lights inside his Indian restaurant in Paeroa.

Not wanting to take them down once the holiday season was over, he decided to instead keep adding to the collection, and the eatery now glows - red, yellow, green, blue.

The vision for the restaurant, called Kumar's Something Special - which has just celebrated its 20th year - had sat inside Santhosh's head for decades.

Back in India, his family had run bakeries, and Santhosh was a professional baker himself, but when everyone zigged, he decided to zag.

"My ambition was to do something like this; it was always in my blood," he told *The Profile*. "This is what my dream was,

"This is what my dream was, and even when we moved here, even though I was working for someone else, my dream was to cook for people and get that appreciation from them."

Santhosh moved to New Zealand in 1997, heading straight to Thames where he got a job as a baker.

"Within a year or so, I lost my job," he said.

"There used to be a policy that said: last man in, first man out. That was me, but it was good because that's how I was able to open my own Indian



Santhosh Kumar, second left, with his family Sabin, Bindu, and Sabeesha, underneath the iconic Christmas lights in their restaurant. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

restaurant." He and his wife, Bindu, and their two children, Sabeesha, and Sabin, relocated to Paeroa where Santhosh's dream was made possible.

However, it wasn't all smooth sailing.

"When we started, we struggled a little. [People] used to come and open the door, smell the smells, and then shut the door and walk away," he said. "You'd see their faces, and they'd doubtfully look at us. But I'm not blaming the town, because they were not used to it."

In fact, Santhosh credited the town for keeping Kumars afloat after all these years, in particular, around six families who supported him in those first 12 months.

"For some reason, there were a few families that came and supported us. It was not necessarily for the food, I know that," he said.

"They were coming to help me out."

Within a year, the Hauraki District became accustomed to the new cuisine, and in 2002, Kumars moved to a bigger premises - the Normanby Rd location they are still at 18 years later.

Santhosh and Bindu soon

welcomed their third child, a daughter named Chandana, and all the children have helped out at the restaurant over the years.

"It is a family business," Santhosh said. "Everything has come together."

And while it continues to be business as usual for the family, the town could bet on a big celebration at Kumars come 25 years.



HAI

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

ward 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, slient auction, raffles. Register a team by July 30, text: 0210 263 4461.

August 8: Paeroa Little Theatre Auditions: 1.30pm at Paeroa Lit-tle Theatre. 'Twas the Fight Before Christmas by playwright Devon Williamson. Cast: Four women and two men, ages 25 to 65 years. Contact Sara for a script: Ph 027 479 8460.

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. March 11-13: Moanataiari School 50th Reunion: A weekend of events. FB: @MoanataiariSchool-Reunion2022, Registrations will open soon. moana.school.nz/contact-us.

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

Puriri Valley Market: First Satur-

day of the month at Puriri Hall. 8am to 12:30pm. A variety of stalls on offer, Ph 027 4903 714 to book. Thames Market: Every Saturday in Grahamstown, 8am to 12pm.

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

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Corinthian Masonic Lodge, Thames: Colin, Ph 07 868 8196 or 021 259 6699 Craft Market: Lynette Mapson, Ph

027 617 4470 Diabetic Support Group: Thames Hauraki, Barry Young Ph 07 868

6353 Goldfields Women's Institute: Ph

07 868 8984 Hauraki Bowling Club Mangatarata: Pene Koch, Ph 07 867 3380 Hauraki Cardiac Support Club Thames: Ph 07 868 6148

Hauraki Country Music Club: Tina Haakma, Ph 07 868 3443 Hauraki Golf Club: Len Cameron,

Ph 07 867 7660

Hauraki Plains Co-operating Par-ish: 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 Gar-

rett. 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

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,

The Songwriters Soirèe will see both acts in

As the winter kicks into gear, two of the county's most charming acts are teaming up for a cute run of shows to warm the cockles of your hearts in the form of the Songwriters Soiree. Bask in the candle-lit vibrancy and indie folk stylings of renowned Tāmaki Makaurau sweetheart Edward Castelow and Nelson/Põneke dreamboats O & The Mo when they merge for a special set of intimate performances.

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 Sut-

cliffe, Ph 07 868 6148 NZ Society of Genealogists Thames: Pam French, Ph 07 868 6492

Paeroa Citizens Advice Bureau: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am-1pm, Ph 07 862 8093

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

Paeroa Community Programmes: Ph 07 862 9129

Paeroa Drop In: Every Tuesday 9.30am-12.30, St John Rooms Paeroa Grey Power: Secretary Gail

Locke, Ph 07 862 6256 Paeroa Society of Arts: paeroaart-

society@gmail.com Paeroa Walking Group: 9am, Mon,

Wed, Fri, Elaine Lally, Ph 07 862 8409

Probus: Jill McIntosh, Ph 07 867 7373

Runner Runner Poker Club: Thursdays, 6.30pm at Punters Bar. Scrapbooking: Pam Tonks, Ph 07

867 7780 Solarpunk Aotearoa: John McK-

eowen, Ph 021 063 5483 St Paschal's Catholic Church: Ph 07

867 7401 and 07 867 7056

stripped back mode, sharing the performance space in tandem and entwining their sets song for song while discussing themes and offering insight into the material or it's inspiration along the way. DETAILS: Catch the show at 7pm on July 30

at the Back Room, Pollen St, Thames. Tickets: \$10. book at undertheradar.co.nz.

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,

ΖΟΝΤΑ

INFORTSING TOMES

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 MacDon-

ald Brown, Ph 027 228 8011 Tramping in Thames area: www. sporty.co.nz/kauaerangatrampingclub

Turua Playcentre: Estelle, Ph 027 371 8511

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

Paeroa Little Theatre invites vou to



Sunday 8 August, 1.30 pm, Paeroa Little Theatre

'Twas the Fight Before Christmas by playwright Devon Williamson.

Cast: Four women and two men, ages from 25 to 65 years. For script requests please contact Sara Single, 027 479 8460.



BOOKARAMA **Is Coming!** Please DONATE your old books NOW!

Zonta is seeking books for Bookarama on Friday 20th and Saturday 21st August 2021.

> To donate books contact: • Thames: phone Althea on 07 868 9970 Ngatea: phone Murray on 027 273 7963 Paeroa: Drop off at the "i-site" Thames: Drop off at The Treasury or ANZ Bank

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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. 16

Rural Life Trikafta funding application 'fantastic', says farmer

Paeroa farmer James Lambie takes 75 pills and does two hours of physiotherapy each day for cystic fibrosis. He's hoping that will soon end if a cystic fibrosis medicine that currently costs \$400,000 a year is funded. KELLEY **TANTAU** reports

Hauraki farmer says Phar-Amac's funding assessment for a new cystic fibrosis medi-cation is "fantastic news" for sufferers.

James Lambie, a beef farmer from Paeroa, was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis (CF) as a

child. Amidst the "With Vertex open-Covid-19 pandeming up the compasic last year, he was vocal in calling on *sionate access route,* Government Pharmac to those Kiwis critically ill ate access route, those Kiwis critically ill those Kiwis critithe and Pharmac to fund a drug called with CF at least now stand a chance." Trikafta to help him and more than

500 others suffer-ing from the disease in New Zealand.

Now, pharmaceutical company Vertex has submitted its application to Medsafe and Pharmac for approval of Trikafta, which according to Cystic Fibrosis NZ, worked for around 90 per cent of those with cystic fibrosis.

Medsafe has accepted the application and granted it priority status, while the Government agency Pharmac has started its funding assessment process.

'The fact that Vertex has submitted Trikafta's application to both Medsafe and Pharmac at the same time is fantastic, and if all goes to plan, it could save months and months in the overall timeline," James, 28, told *The Profile*. He said the advocacy group

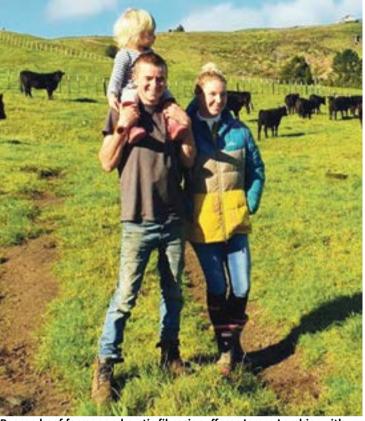
Trikafta 4 Kiwis, as well as Cystic Fibrosis NZ had worked hard for the outcome, but it was "only the start of a long road"

"Medsafe and Pharmac could still take years assessing this application, before even talks of a price deal with Vertex come

into play," he said. "[But] with Vertex opening up the compassioncally ill with CF at least now stand a - James Lambie chance.

Cystic fibrosis is a disease that affects the lungs and digestive system. Around 540 people in the country have

And, according to Cystic Fibrosis NZ, Trikafta provided significant and immediate improvements for those with the disease by increasing lung function and weight gain, reducing the burden of treatment, improving quality of life,



Paeroa beef farmer and cystic fibrosis sufferer James Lambie, with Photo: SUPPLIED wife Emma and daughter Jess.

and increasing life expectancy. It cost more than \$400,000 a year, and because the drug was out of the Lambie's reach, James had to undergo two hours of physiotherapy every morning and take 75 pills a day.

He was working on his farm with his lung function sitting around 50 per cent, which he said continued to decline.

Getting limited oxygen in every breath was also very tiring, he said.

'No one has had an application granted yet at this stage but in the long run it should mean about the worst 10 per cent of the CF population in NZ will hopefully be granted this medicine while negotiations with Pharmac and Vertex take place."

In a statement, Pharmac said Vertex had applied for its triple combination modulator therapy medicine to be funded for people aged over six with cystic fibrosis, making New Zealand the first country to receive an application for those under the age of 12. "Before we can fund any

medicine, we need advice from our clinical experts, a deal with the medicine supplier, and enough money in the budget to fund it now and in the future, Pharmac's director of operations Lisa Williams said.

Scientific evidence on the medicine will be assessed within the next few months.

"If it makes it to our options for investment list, we'll aim to fund it when we have money available in our budget. I do want to acknowledge that it is one of the most expensive applications we have ever received," she said.

Pharmac gets around 40 new medicine funding applications each year. In the past financial year, it funded 14 new medicines.



Pets in good hands with new owners at Playful Paws

A mother-and-daughter duo have brought their experience and passion for pets down from the north to operate a reliable boarding lodge tucked within the Hauraki Plains.

Linda and Sophie Hepburn are the new owners of Playful Paws Pet Lodge, formerly known as Costar, along Hauraki Rd in Turua.

Moving to the district from Mangawhai, Northland, last month has meant the frosty mornings have come as a bit of a shock, but the thrill of expanding their business and being part of the Hauraki community has lit a fire under them.

"We started a doggy daycare up north about three-and-a-half years ago, and it grew from there.

"We've always been looking for something a little bit bigger," Sophie told *The Profile*.

Up north, the daycare had 15-20 four-legged guests visit each day. The pair also fostered, rescued, rehabilitated, and rehomed dogs.

In Turua, the boarding and cattery side of the business is up and running, with a daycare service to follow once they've "found their feet".

"We do try to cater to the dogs' needs as much as we can - if you've got an old dog or a little dog or a nervous dog, anything like that, we can make them more comfortable," Linda said. "We treat the dogs like they are our own pets, and we



Playful Paws Pet Lodge owners Linda and Sophie Hepburn with their dog Axel.

want the best for all of them." Linda and Sophie's passion began a decade ago, when they lived in Thailand. For four years they were involved in volunteer-

"Then we thought, why not make a living from being around things we love?"

Playful Paws was established when Sophie was 19. She soon enlisted the help of mum Linda, and the two quickly became a bona fide team.

"It just always seemed right," Sophie, now

23, said. "I always felt like it was my calling. Whenever dogs are around, it always gels well."

Linda said she was proud of Sophie for starting the business, and said she had become a sort of "dog whisperer".

The pair said doggy daycare and boarding businesses were a growing industry, and it was now more of "a norm" for pet owners to book their pooches in for a play date during the week.

But it was important for the businesses to

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

be trustworthy, they said. "Our goal is to make this a place people want to bring their pets to, as well as make it a safe and fun place for the animals."

Drop-off hours are between 8am-9.30am, and 4pm-5.30pm, but they are flexible by arrangement. Appointments to inspect the property can also be arranged.

For information, phone 027 415 8209, email playfulpawspetlodge@gmail.com, or find them on Facebook.

- KELLEY TANTAU





Magic's Khiarna Williams teaches students how to perfect their shoot techniques.

A taste of netball magic in Thames

Waikato Bay of Plenty Magic netball players Caitlin Bassett and Khiarna Williams taught Thames Valley kids passing, shooting, and catching tactics as part of the ANZ FutureFERNS festival on July 22. Held at the Jack Mclean Community Recreation Centre in Thames, the event saw primary school and high school students take part. **KELLEY TANTAU** caught all the fun.

Photos: KELLEY TANTAU





Ella Brown, left, from Moanataiari School cuddles up to Magic goal shooter Caitlin Bassett.





Isabelle White pays attention to the instructions.





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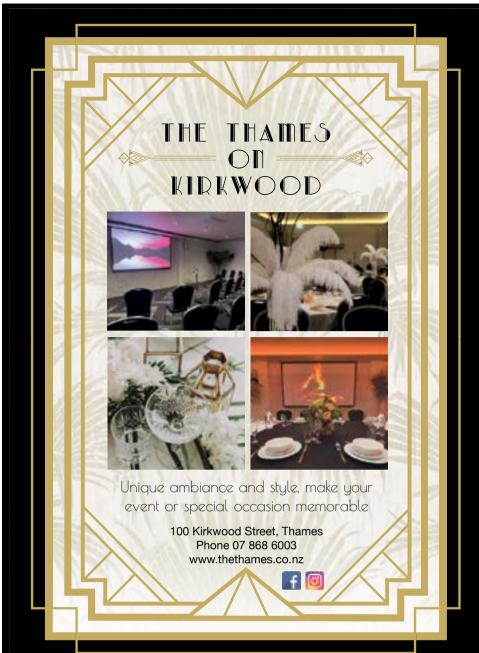




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The final FAREWELL



A range of menus on offer

Orchard Providores are the Public Office restaurant based in Ngatea, providing catering for weddings, corporate functions and private events. We have a range of traditional, casual and gourmet menu options that you can choose from to best suit your event.

All of our food is handmade by our team of chefs using fresh ingredients to make beautiful cuisine that extends beyond traditional afternoon teas and finger food. Our offerings range from delicious mushroom arancini with truffle aioli to traditional club sandwiches filled with the freshest ingredients to our delectable salted caramel and chocolate brownie. Part of our complete service is to present our cuisine beautifully as well as serving tea, Allpress percolated coffee and orange juice directly to your guests.

Our professional service aims to reduce the pressure during an emotional time. We offer a range of menu options to suit various venues and budgets. Keep it simple and give us the number of people you would like to cater for and we will provide a variety of finger food or work with us to create a bespoke menu that may include some of your loved one's favourite treats. We offer a range of service options depending on your needs and can tailor these to work for you. Orchard Providores are passionate about creating contemporary catering with fresh and vibrant flavours. Our capable team can take care of everything on your behalf so you can focus on what matters most.

154 years young and going strong

Twentymans Funeral Services is New Zealand's oldest surviving funeral home, which has been dedicated to serving the people of Thames and the greater Coromandel Peninsula since 1867.

Over the decades many things have evolved but for the team at Twentymans, they continue to do what they do best which is taking care of your loved ones when you need them the most, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Established by William Twentyman in 1867, Adrian Catran purchased the business in 1993. Between Adrian's vision, innovative technology, and the loyalty of the local community, Twentymans has withstood the test of time and is now an award-winning leader in the industry.

Today, Twentymans stands proudly alongside it's sisters Thames Valley Crematory, Forever Pets and The Thames on Kirkwood offering the community a convenient range of affordable services all on one site.

Situated at 709 Pollen St, Thames, Twentymans have created a comforting space where families can discuss their funeral needs with a funeral director.

Twentymans have viewing rooms situated in Paeroa, Whangamata and Whitianga, each of these are open by appointment only. A service can be held at Grahamstown Chapel, which comfortably seats 200 people and has an exceptional audio



Twentymans Funeral Services.

and video system, which allows the service to be live streamed at the family's request.

A reception can be held next door at The Thames on Kirkwood, giving mourners the opportunity to share memories, and continue to celebrate the life of someone they cared about. Complimentary car parking is available for patrons in Kirkwood Street.

Thames Valley Crematory is on Kirkwood St alongside Forever Pets in the former Judd's Foundry building.

Adrian is delighted to be able to offer local cremations at a significantly reduced price with a new, innovative human cremator.

To help with the healing process, families are given the opporPhoto: SUPPLIED

tunity to say a final goodbye at the crematorium, if they so wish.

For those little companions who have a bit more fur and a few more legs, there is Forever Pets to help your beloved pet cross over the rainbow bridge. Using one of the most techni-

Using one of the most technically advanced pet cremators in the world, Forever Pets has a strong reputation for delivering a truly empathetic, respectful individual pet cremation service with high standards and genuine care.

It is hard when you lose a devoted family member or beloved pet, but there is no one more reliable than the team at Twentymans and Forever Pets to look after you and your family in your time of need. Give them a call on 07 868 6003.

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- function facilities Monday Saturday from 11:00am:
- Bar
 - Catering
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Thames Workingmen's Club 407 Cochrane Street, Thames. Tel: 07 868 6416 Email: info@thsworkers.co.nz

The final FAREWELL



The Thames Workingmen's Club in Grahamstown.

A great place to meet

Located on the corner of Cochrane and Kirkwood Streets, the Thames Workingmen's Club has long been recognised as a place to meet with friends and family to talk through the journey of life.

Family members of those who have passed have found comfort in going to the Club to farewell their loved ones; however, the facilities are not limited to Club members only. As part of the Club's commitment to the community it is also available to nonmembers. Subject to availability, the Club's air-conditioned facilities are available Monday to Saturday from 11am. Offering a bar and a commercial kitchen, catering can be provided to suit most budgets.

Loved ones are often remembered by the music they liked to listen to - with access to most of the music ever recorded, the Club will willingly have this music playing in the background.

The Club is there to help and will endeavour to keep the organising of a gathering as simple and stress free as possible. Contact should be made by

Contact should be made by calling 07 868 6416.

Getting your affairs in order

Death can be an unpleasant topic, but it's an important one often avoided by New Zealanders, particularly those aged under 40. When a young person passes away, they often do so without a will.

Although talking about your own mortality can feel uncomfortable, knowing you have a valid will can provide you and your family with the peace of mind that your final wishes are known and will be followed.

When thinking about a will, there are several important things you need to consider. All will-makers must appoint an executor and a trustee. An executor obtains probate for your will from the High Court and your trustee carries out your wishes. Although the executor and trustee are separate roles, you may appoint the same person to fulfil both.

A family member is often appointed to these positions, however, it's important you think about whether a person is suitable for such a role, bearing in mind that grief can affect people badly. The last thing you want is for it to cause strain on your family's relationships or cause unnecessary friction.

If you choose not to have a family member or if the distribution of your estate is likely to be complicated, another option is to appoint your lawyer or a trustee company. The next thing you need to do is



Writing a will is important, even if you're young.

decide what your final wishes are. Your will instruct your trustee to distribute your estate to whomever you wish.

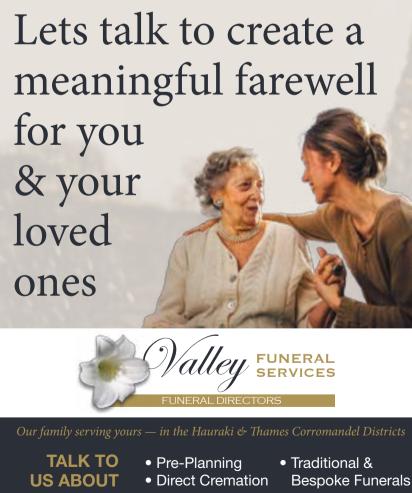
This may include leaving your property to your partner, children, grandchildren, other family members or friends you wish to provide for, or you can also leave some of your property, money or other assets to a family trust.

Items such as cash, jewellery, artwork or furniture can be left to particular friends or family members and money to a specific charity or organisation.

Make sure you give instructions to your executors if you own a business, and tell them whether you'd like to be cremated or buried, and how you would like your funeral to be conducted.

Money is the last thing people want to think about when grieving but there are expenses, such as funeral costs, that will need to be taken care of. Funerals can cost thousands of dollars. If it's unlikely your estate could cover your funeral costs, preparing for the future will save your loved ones unnecessary financial strain.

The same can be said if you are servicing a mortgage. You may want to ensure that you have insurance cover for your mortgage and also have income protection insurance for your partner and/or children.



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The final FAREWELL

Don't leave it to chance Cremation or buria

We're all going to die. Dress it up any way you like, it's an inescapable fact.

Therefore – don't leave a mess. If you own property, make a will. Whether you have a family or not, make sure you have given proper written instructions about what is to happen with your property. You accumulate it while you're alive, and it is really the only thing you can control or influence when you die.

The best approach is to think in these terms of the following questions:

- When I die, what do I want to happen to my property?

- Who do I want to appoint to make sure that happens?

- If that person or those people are also dead, who do I want to replace them?

- If any beneficiary has died, who gets their share?

When you have answered those questions, see a lawyer. Lawyers have the skills to draft wills in terms that you want. In an increasingly complex world, they can also point out to you what problems you might create if you don't consider the rights of other people who may have an interest in your estate.



Graham O'Brien

Spouses, children, de facto partners – all have different potential rights. Don't make the mistake of thinking nobody can challenge your Will.

Wills are also living documents. They need to be revisited regularly to make sure they still answer the questions above.

Everybody has heard (or read about) a horror story when family members contest estates.

Sometimes all the skill in the world cannot prevent such behaviour. But careful planning, and consultation with your lawyer, can reduce the risk. Don't leave it to chance.

- Graham O'Brien Director, Insight Legal Ltd t's probably the biggest decision you're going to make when it comes to making funeral plans.

What's better - burial or cremation? The truth is, there's no easy answer. Both options have their pros and cons but in reality, the decision will come down to what's right for you and your family. This will be based on your budget, personal beliefs, religion, and other factors.

There is no right or wrong choice when it comes to choosing between either being buried or cremated. From a legal point of view, both options require a different course of action.

In New Zealand, burials are constrained by law to official cemeteries and traditional burial grounds, which means you will need to buy a burial plot. Either you or your funeral director can contact the local authority that governs the cemetery of your choice and advise on the availability, cemetery restrictions and costs.

There will be a plot purchase fee, an additional cost for the opening and closing of the grave and any supplementary fees such as a lowering device, short notice, Saturday or public holiday fees. For a burial, you can also arrange a memorial stone with a monu-



Burial or cremation - have you decided?

mental mason to be placed at the grave site at a later time. Check with your local council for any terms and conditions about what type of headstone or commemorative plague you can have.

The rate of cremation in New Zealand is in the range of 70 - 80 per cent, and is the predominant means of disposing of our dead.

Cremation can usually take place before or after the service has been held. Funeral or memorial services can take place at most venues, whether it be a funeral home chapel, a church, private residence, sport club, community Photo: Albrecht Fietz/PIXABA

hall, indoors or outdoors. Ashes are normally available for collection a few days after the service but in some cases can be sooner by prior arrangement. Ashes can be divided up if required, and there are some restrictions about where you can dispose of ashes.

All local authorities make provision for ash interments in their cemeteries, or they can be scattered at a place of significance to the deceased.

In all cases, unless the land is owned by the family, permission should be sought from the landowner, local authority or iwi.



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Man injured in firearm incident Gr8 Job Hauraki THE OLD POST

Vintage Valley News



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

1899

 ${
m A}$ n unusually thick fog settled over the Hauraki Gulf and Coromandel harbour and a gentleman who was on the Tokatea Range described it as singularly beautiful. The sky was clear overhead, and the sun shone brilliantly on the white, foamy-looking mass, the dark tops of the isles of the Gulf and the peaks of the foreland forming a charming contrast.

A man named John Davis had a very narrow escape while out curlew shooting at Miranda.

He was preparing to cross the mud in search of birds and laid his gun against a wire fence. A slight breeze was blowing, which shook the wire and the gun fell to the ground and went off inflicting a nasty wound in his back. He was brought over to Thames in the steam launch *Planet* and conveyed to the hospital. It was a marvel that he escaped with his life, as had the charge entered a little higher it would have probably



Matatoki in 1920.

touched a vital spot.

An important function took place at Netherton when the newly constructed pontoon was

declared open for traffic. Councillor Moore, member for the Netherton Riding, said the punt brought Netherton within 1½ miles of Paeroa, the nearest market for the produce of thousands of acres of land. Mrs Moore then christened the pontoon the Advance.

Various dignitaries and visi-tors were the first to cross the river in the new craft. The vessel crossed the water automatically, being constructed so that the river currents moved it. After several speeches and a song by Councillor Stackpole, an abundance of viands were produced and done ample jus-tice to. The company broke up with three cheers for Councillor Moore.

Michael McMahon, Tapu, had the honour of grow-ing the largest kumara and po-tato of the season.

The kumara turned the scale at seven pounds, while the po-tato weighed six pounds and

Photo: SUPPLIED

one ounce. This spoke volumes for the suitability of the soil of the Tapu district. Both "giants" were able to be viewed at the office of the *Thames Advertiser* by anyone interested.

Considerable complaints were made at the manner in which Paeroa's streets were lighted. There were only three street lamps, and while lighting their own particular locality, they only made the darkness more conspicuous in other parts. The County Council decided to erect five more lamps, and with eight incandescent lights, Paeroa would be fairly well lighted.

A very successful meeting of settlers was held at Puriri regarding a creamery proposed for Matatoki. The full number of cows required to start with, 310, was reported to be avail-able. The establishment of the creamery would be a great boon to the settlers. The Thames County Council planned to start work on the main Matatoki Road at once as a number of people were buying land and settling down in the vicinity.

hailed a success

CONTINUED FROM P3

offer employers the reassurance that Emma had what it took to be successful, and Murray Bain of Coastal Bins, Emma's new employer, couldn't agree more. "Emma's background running

her own cleaning business really shows in her meticulous attention to detail and time management. And she's a capable and responsible driver of our trucks," he said.

"In fact, we gave her the keys to a truck dedicated to her own routes recently. If I get the opportunity, I would hire another Emma in a heartbeat."

Thirty-two people are now in new jobs through collaboration and funding from the Ministry of Social Development and the combined efforts of Gr8 Job Hauraki, local employers and businesses, and social organisations operating in the district.

Support available from Gr8 Job Hauraki includes entry-level training, wage-based incentives, and other support for job seekers and businesses looking to take on staff.

And for Emma, the support was just the boost she needed to steer herself into a whole new career.

"After my accident, I really had to think about what I could do. One thing I definitely didn't want to do was sit on the couch for the rest of my life," she said. "Now I feel like there's no stop-

ping me." Hauraki District Council en-

courages local employers and job seekers to contact Julie Stephenson on 021 536 715 or email Julie.Stephenson@hauraki-dc. govt.nz to find out how Gr8 Job Hauraki can help more busi-nesses and people find their fit.



Emma Hall is now back in the work force after a bad an accident.



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2018 Toyota Yaris, Sig Class, Auto	\$19 <i>,</i> 990
2017 Toyota Corolla, GXR, Special Editon Hatch	\$21 <i>,</i> 990
2017 Kia Rio LX, Hatch, Auto, 1 Owner, NZ New	\$17 <i>,</i> 990
2016 Hyundai Tucson Elite, AWD, Diesel	\$34,990
2016 Toyota Corolla GX, Sedan, Alloys	\$18,990
2013 Nissan Juke, Alloys, Auto, Red	\$12 <i>,</i> 990
2011 Nissan, Tiida, ST, 1.8 ltr, Auto	\$9,990
2004 Toyota Prado, VX, 4wd, V6 Petrol, Towbar	\$18,990

Valley Toyota Thames

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2013 Toyota Hilux SR5, 3.0TD, 4WD	\$42,990
2013 Toyota RAV4 GX, 2.5P, Towbar	\$19,990
2012 Kia Rio EX, Hatch	\$11,990
2006 Toyota Allion, 2.0L Auto sedan	\$7,990

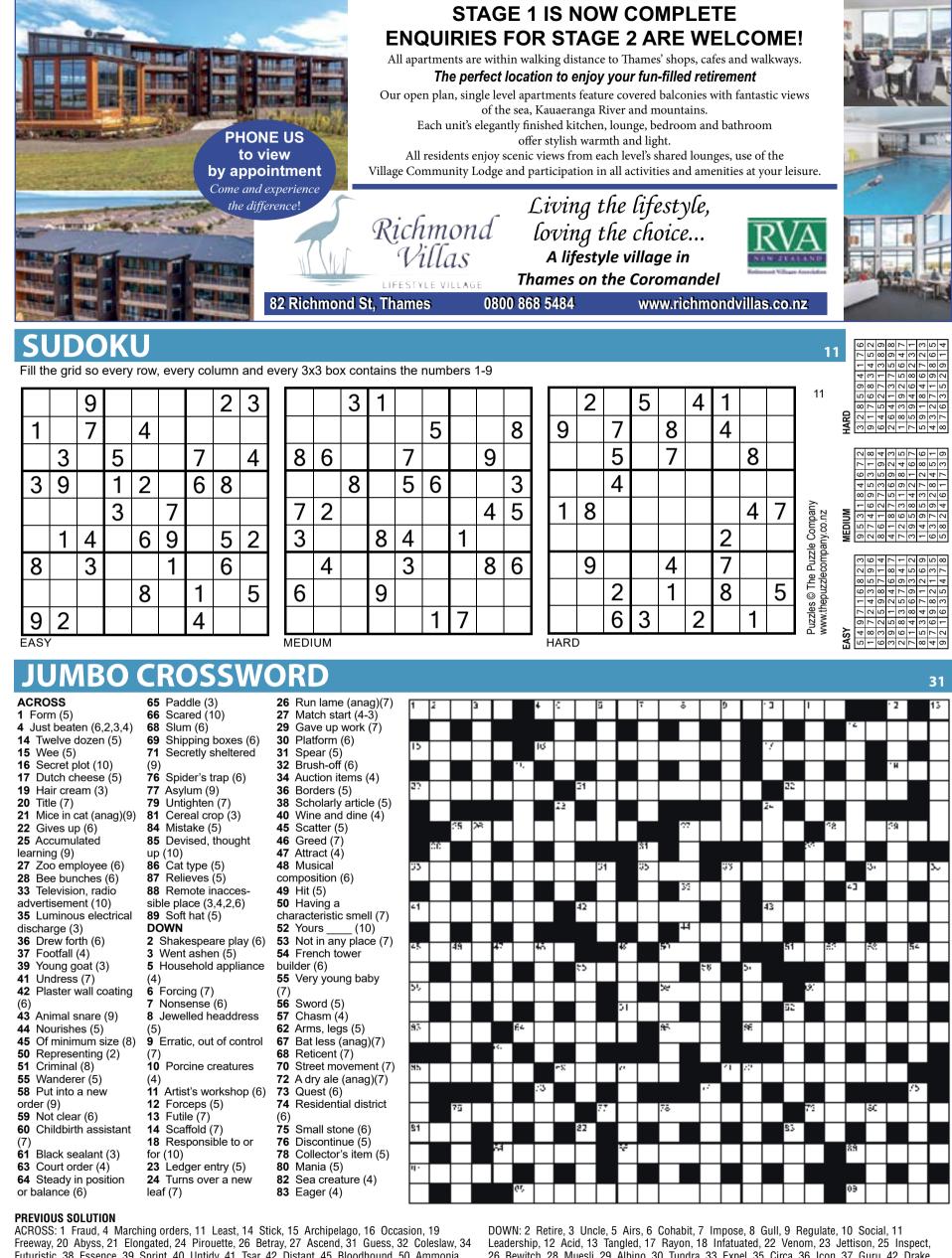
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16 THE VALLEY PROFILE, July 28, 2021

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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 Pirouette, 26 Betray, 27 Ascend, 31 Guess, 32 Coleslaw, 34 Futuristic, 38 Essence, 39 Sprint, 40 Untidy, 41 Tsar, 42 Distant, 45 Bloodhound, 50 Ammonia, 54 Aria, 55 Intone, 56 Unlock, 57 Recycle, 60 Earthquake, 61 Long shot, 62 Split, 65 Copper, 66 Decoys, 67 Acoustics, 72 Saltpetre, 73 Drawn, 74 Marbles, 79 Close-ups, 80 Incredulous, 81 Maybe, 82 Lifts, 83 Plumb the depths, 84 Short. DUWN: 2 Retire, 3 Uncle, 5 Airs, 6 Cohabit, 7 Impose, 8 Gull, 9 Regulate, 10 Social, 11 Leadership, 12 Acid, 13 Tangled, 17 Rayon, 18 Infatuated, 22 Venom, 23 Jettison, 25 Inspect, 26 Bewitch, 28 Muesli, 29 Albino, 30 Tundra, 33 Expel, 35 Circa, 36 Icon, 37 Guru, 42 Drake, 43 Stirrups, 44 Tongue, 45 Bookkeeper, 46 Owed, 47 Doubles, 48 Oblong, 49 Nicks, 51 Meek, 52 Olympic, 53 Inlaid, 58 Shoemakers, 59 Focus, 63 Doorknob, 64 Strap, 65 Comical, 68 Cowslip, 69 Step up, 70 Traded, 71 Member, 75 Beach, 76 Golf, 77 Arch, 78 Ouch.

July 28, 2021, THE VALLEY PROFILE 17

an your spring garden

Spring is on its way, the days are starting to lengthen and there's a bit more heat in the sun. It's a good time to get the tools out of the shed, give them a clean if need be, and get a head start on planning and creating your spring garden. VEGETABLES

Prepare the garden for spring planting by digging in compost and lime. Potato time – Seed potatoes are available for planting during late winter. They like slightly acidic soil with good moisture levels. Dig in Blood and Bone to im-prove soil structure and attract earth-worms. Plant about 15cm deep and apply 5cm layer of mulch. Once sprouts start to show apply an additional 15cm mulch to protect from sunlight. Place the seed potatoes in a well-lit position out of direct sunlight to sprout (chitting) prior to planting. Continue har-vesting existing crops of carrots, pars-nips, celery, leeks, lettuce, cabbage, cauliflower, spinach and start planting out more cut and come varieties of lettuce. The arrival of August means you can start off tomato seeds on a warm windowsill in a garden shed or under a cloche so the seedlings are ready to plant out once the last frosts have passed. Rhubarb – Divide old clumps which have wintered over. Plant out pieces containing new green shoots.

Weed and gently cultivate around your plants. Trim back old plants to stimulate fresh growth. **FLOWERS**

Start planting gerberas, marigolds, hellebores, azaleas and daphne while conditions are right. If it is warm enough, gladioli corms can be plant-ed out. Keep beds well weeded and mulch where possible. It is not too late to plant a new rose but don't leave it any longer than August. They like sun, good air flow and when planting, a seaweed tonic. This promotes good



Prepare your potato patch now.

root growth. As existing plants awaken from their winter hibernation, it's time to feed them to prepare for the flurry of new growth. Give shrub roses a good prune to around knee height and remove dead stems and mulch. Spray with a Lime sulphur concentrate to prevent infestation. FRUIT

A good copper spray now will help prevent a lot of fungal and bacterial diseases on your pip fruit trees, stone fruit and berry plants later in the season. Repeat weekly; especially if you had a problem last season until the little green tips of the leaves start to appear. Always remember to clean up leaf drop around plants to avoid spreading diseases. Mulch around the base of your fruit trees after cleaning up leaf drop. Prune your feijoas to en-courage a healthy fruit crop for next season. COMPOST HEAP

Aerate compost heaps to encourage rapid breakdown. Add your prunings to keep the worms well fed.

Spreading a Lawn Fertiliser over the lawn in late winter will provide a rich source of nutrients which will nurture and improve the soil structure and the integrity of the lawn. - Ngatea Garden Circle

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	Non planting Day	Non planting Day	Augus	ot 2021	100011	1. 1.2	W
			Planti	ng Cale	endar	1 All	Plant root crops, trees and shrubs
	2 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	3 Non planting Day	4 Non planting Day	5 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	6 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	7 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	8 Non planting Day
	9 New Moon	10 Non planting Day	11 Non planting Day	12 Plant above ground crops	13 Plant above ground crops	14 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	15 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed
	16 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	17 Non planting Day	18 Non planting Day	19 Plant above ground crops	20 Plant above ground crops	21 Non planting Day	22 Non planting Day
	23 Full Moon	24 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	25 Non planting Day	26 Non planting Day	27 Non planting Day	28 View Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	29 With a construction of the construction of

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18 THE VALLEY PROFILE, July 28, 2021



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Public Notices

HAURAKI DISTRICT

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Public Notice of application for Club Licence

Section 101 Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

To: The Secretary of the District Licensing Committee Hauraki District Council PO Box 17 PAEROA 3640.

No objection to the issue of

HAURAKI DISTRICT

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Public Notice of application for Off-Licence

Section 101 Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012

Mowaman 2020 Limited, 25

Mowaman 2020 Limited, 25 Orchard West Road, Ngatea, (owner), has made application to the District Licensing Committee at Paeroa for the renewal of an Off Licence in respect of the premises situated at 25 Orchard West Road, Ngatea known as Ngatea Four Square.

The general nature of the business conducted under the licence is Grocery Store.

The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is sold under the licence are: Monday to Sunday 7am to

The application may be inspected during ordinary office hours at the office of the Hauraki District Licensing Committee, William Street,

Any person who is entitled

Any person who is entitled to object and who wishes to object to the grant of any application may, not later than 15 working days after the date of the first publication of this notice, file a notice in writing of the objection, with the Secretary of the District Licensing Committee at:-

To: The Secretary of the District Licensing Committee, Hauraki District Council, PO

No objection to the issue of

a licence may be made in relation to a matter other than a matter specified in section 131 of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

This is the second publication of this notice. This notice was

first published on July 21st, 2021

Box 17, PAEROA 3640.

7pm.

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July 28, 2021, THE VALLEY PROFILE 19

New competition calls for chess junkies

By KELLEY TANTAU

A battle of wits will play out in Thames next month when men and women of all ages face off across a chess board.

The first ever senior and junior Thames Valley chess championship will be held on August 21, and has so far attracted around 50 players from the district, as well as Te Aroha, Te Kauwhata, Papakura, Papatoetoe, and Tuakau.

Two of the Valley's players set to rise to the occasion are Russell Mercer, president of the Thames Chess Club, and Emma Thorburn, a 15-year-old Hauraki Plains College student.

"I like the fact that it's a very even start," Russell said about the game.

"I like the battle of wits," Emma added. "Out-strategising someone is the best, and you always have to work for it."

Emma started playing the board game in Year 9, spurred on by a desire to beat a cocky friend. She went on to play her first tournament around three weeks later and won the title of 'Best Girl'. She was unbeaten at the Waikato Regional under 18s during Term 2 this year, and won bronze in the Auckland Girls' under 16 competition. She heads up to Counties Manukau every fortnight to play, and has the dream to one day

She heads up to Counties Manukau every fortnight to play, and has the dream to one day participate in the sport professionally, while Russell has been involved with the Thames club since its inception more than a decade ago.

The August tournament was



the brainchild of Ron Lanning,

a chess savant from Auckland. He started playing the game 49 years ago, in much the same way Emma did - wanting to take a mate of his down a peg.

way Emma did - wanting to take a mate of his down a peg. "I went to the school library, got out every book they had, and started studying [chess] until the tide turned." He said much like Emma and Russell, he had a passion for chess. "I really want to kick off that there is something for players in this region to work towards," he said.

"As I'm finding out, there's a lot more people here that play chess but aren't part of the Thames chess club."

There were a dozen or so players involved in the Thames club, ranging in age from seven onwards.

Both Ron and Russell said it

Chess aficionados Russell Mercer, left, Emma Thorburn, and Ron Lanning are gearing up for the TV chess champs.

was great to see young people becoming involved in the sport. "Size and age really has nothing to do with chess. A young person can beat any person, and

"We want to let as many person, and that's quite a big plus," Ron said. "We want to let as many people know that there are opportunities for all ages to be involved in a sport which is not expensive and can be played by anybody." The tournament is free to enPhoto: KELLEY TANTAU

ter, yet there will be monetary prizes and trophies up for grabs, as well as the title of Thames Valley champ.

Valley champ. DETAILS: August 21 at the Thames War Memorial Civic Centre from 9.30am. Those interested in participating can contact Ron: email ron-lanning@xtra.co.nz or Ph 027 212 8232. To join or get in touch with Thames Chess Club: email thameschessclub@gmail.com.



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