

The Valley Profile

ISSN 2703-5700

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

Issue 028 July 7, 2021

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Frozen in time

Time is standing still for the Thames town clock - and only time will tell when it will be back to its former glory. KELLEY TANTAU investigates

A stopped town clock in Thames is ticking off people who think it's well past time to get it fixed.

Time has stood still in the town for a few months, with the clock above the TPC building on the corner of Mary and Pollen Streets frozen at 6.35.

One commenter on social media believed once the clock was fixed, a "curse" will be lifted from the town, but Phil Green, the designated time keeper whose office sits below the broken clock, said the problem was much more ordinary than that.

"It's been having problems for about 18 months, but it wasn't too bad. We'd just come into the office and suddenly find that it had lost an hour. We'd advance it and it'd be fine for the next few weeks or months," he told *The Profile*.

"Then it started getting worse and worse and worse."

Mr Green is a shareholder at Dunwoodie and Green Surveyors. They've been in the building, what used to be the Thames-Coromandel District Council offices, since 1993.

"When the council owned it, it was controlled by a timepiece like a grandfather clock."

"That was starting to play up, so we had someone build an electronic controller for it, and we've run it off that for the past 30 years," he said.

"Originally, it was pretty reliable. We hardly ever touched it

apart from at daylight savings."

Thames Star articles from the time raved about the clock being installed on April 8, 1968. The then-Mayor Wallace Brunton called it a "red letter day" - a day of special significance or opportunity.

The clock was a gift from the Thames Lions Club, and Mr Brunton said it was a "monument not only for the people of Thames, but a fitting memorial to the local club members whose efforts made the gift possible".

Thames Lions Club president Mike Fury, speaking personally, said the clock was put there for a reason, and he would love for it to continue being of use to the public.

"As long as it's needed in the town, I would be very pleased to see it restored," he said. "And I think we would lose a landmark if we didn't keep it going."

Mr Green said they'd considered changing the clock to a digital display, but agreed the original time piece added character to the town.

"We stopped it at 6.30 because we figured that was going to be the best time for people. If we'd stopped it at 12 o'clock, people would have looked at it and thought: 'It's time for lunch'."

They've sent the clock's controller away to get fixed, but were waiting on parts from England, he said, so when it'll return to its former glory, only time will tell.



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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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Hospital staff scrub in with Hauraki rangers

In a break from their busy routines of looking after patients, 13 medical staff from Thames Hospital recently spent some time caring for nature.

They visited the Kauaeranga Visitor Centre on May 21 for a day of team building, planting more than 100 trees and providing the impetus for a new section of the Kahikatea track to be constructed.

The day also acted as an opportunity to engage the Healthy Nature Healthy People initiative, DOC community ranger Maree Limpus said.

"This initiative embraces the fact that connecting with nature has been shown to improve concentration, emotional functioning as well as buffering against stress, lowering cortisol levels (flight or fight response) and improve the immune system," she said.

"It significantly improves mood, enhances wellbeing and provides greater life satisfaction. With the tough year health sector employees have had, this was the perfect opportunity to work together for the benefit of all."

The day for the hospital team started in the Kauaeranga Visitor Centre where they did some strategic planning. They then headed out into nature with one of DOC's rangers.

The tree planting work made a small but important contribution to the management of the track and the wider valley, Maree said, and the hospital team's collective effort meant



Thames Hospital staff do their bit for te taiao (the environment). Photo SUPPLIED/KATERINA QUAX

children and other walkers were now diverted onto a new section of track complete with historic artefacts along its edge – avoiding having to use a stretch of road.

Heritage and visitors ranger Yvette Yule, who led the hospital staff in their planting and mulching activity, said she was impressed by how fast and effectively they worked.

"I was blown away by how much work they got through in such a short period of time and it was great working with such interested and enthusiastic people."

The feedback from the hospital staff at the end of the day was very positive, she said.

"Everyone loved the day spent in the valley," Thames Hospital's Janine Lee said.

"The surroundings were conducive to our agenda, and the beauty and privacy provided the perfect backdrop to our day."

"We are still buzzing about the planting we accomplished and we look forward to returning to see the results."

"We're very grateful to DOC for the use of their facilities and to Maree for her input, and for our department we now have a clear picture of how to improve our service."

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Thames Tides

Wed Jul 7	Thu Jul 8	Fri Jul 9	Sat Jul 10	Sun Jul 11	Mon Jul 12	Tue Jul 13
 Morning: 4:59am 3.0, 11:12am 0.9 Afternoon: 5:37pm 3.1, 11:40pm 1.1 Best At: 9:51am 10:15pm Rise: 7:31am, Set: 5:14pm Fish: F (Best At 9:51am 10:15pm) Moon: Rise 4:51am, Set 2:47pm	 Morning: 5:48am 3.0, 11:59am 0.9 Afternoon: 6:23pm 3.2, 11:59pm 0.9 Best At: 10:40am 11:05pm Rise: 7:31am, Set: 5:15pm Fish: F (Best At 10:40am 11:05pm) Moon: Rise 5:49am, Set 3:28pm	 Morning: 12:24am 1.0, 6:36am 3.1 Afternoon: 12:43pm 0.8, 7:05pm 3.2 Best At: 11:30am 11:56pm Rise: 7:31am, Set: 5:16pm Fish: F (Best At 11:30am 11:56pm) Moon: Rise 6:46am, Set 4:15pm	 Morning: 1:06am 1.0, 7:22am 3.1 Afternoon: 1:25pm 0.7, 7:44pm 3.3 Best At: 12:23pm Rise: 7:31am, Set: 5:16pm Fish: F (Best At 12:23pm) Moon: New Moon, Rise 7:39am, Set 5:09pm	 Morning: 1:47am 0.9, 8:05am 3.2 Afternoon: 2:05pm 0.7, 8:23pm 3.4 Best At: 12:49am 1:15pm Rise: 7:30am, Set: 5:17pm Fish: F (Best At 12:49am 1:15pm) Moon: Rise 8:26am, Set 6:08pm	 Morning: 2:29am 0.9, 8:47am 3.2 Afternoon: 2:44pm 0.6, 9:03pm 3.4 Best At: 1:41am 2:07pm Rise: 7:30am, Set: 5:17pm Fish: G (Best At 1:41am 2:07pm) Moon: Rise 9:08am, Set 7:11pm	 Morning: 3:11am 0.8, 9:28am 3.3 Afternoon: 3:24pm 0.6, 9:43pm 3.4 Best At: 2:32am 2:56pm Rise: 7:29am, Set: 5:18pm Fish: G (Best At 2:32am 2:56pm) Moon: Rise 9:45am, Set 8:16pm

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

MOON AND FISH KEYS

New Moon First Quarter Full Moon Last Quarter

Good Fishing Fair Fishing Not So Good

TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES

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

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

Coma the push for student to become paramedic

It took fighting for his life in an 18-day medically-induced coma for paramedicine student Kieran Broadfield to realise his calling in life. He shares his incredible story with KELLEY TANTAU

It was back in 2013 when Kieran Broadfield first became interested in becoming a paramedic. “For one reason or another” he decided not to go for it, and instead moved back home, to the United Kingdom. Five years later, he was left “fighting for his life” after a car crash in Cornwall, and was in a medically-induced coma for 18 days.

After waking up, he realised the accident was a “kick up the ass” to do what he originally set out to do.

“It was kind of like: hold on, you need to go and do what you actually wanted to do in life,” he told *The Profile*.

“Because I had become a builder... and I got put off from going to school for three years because I thought if I was a student, I wouldn’t be earning money, but then I very nearly died and realised that didn’t matter.”

Kieran is an Auckland University of Technology (AUT) paramedicine student, with 18 months left of his degree.

He’s been commuting to Ngatea at least twice a week since May, for a six-month pilot programme being delivered by St John Ambulance in Ngatea.

The initiative was announced as

part of the final phase of St John’s Double Crewing Project to see the end of single-crewed ambulances in New Zealand. It trains and develops frontline ambulance volunteers and paramedicine students like Kieran to be work ready once they graduate.

News reports of Kieran’s car crash said the then-22 had a fractured eye socket, fractured right cheek bone, collapsed lung and two broken ribs as well as other external injuries and internal and external bruising.

Kieran said the paramedics who attended the scene helped out in the best way - by doing nothing.

“They called the helicopter off because ultimately, they made the decision that they could get to the hospital in 10 minutes or less, [as opposed to] spending potentially half-an-hour or 45 minutes on scene, messing around, trying to put me to sleep,” he said.

“So I find it very interesting that these two paramedics were very highly-skilled but ultimately didn’t do anything, because they were knowledgeable and experienced enough to know that the hospital was the best place for me.”

Kieran, now 25, wants to obtain his Emergency Medical



Paramedic student, Kieran Broadfield, 25, has been training with St John Ambulance in Ngatea as part of a new pilot programme. Photo: SUPPLIED

Technician qualification before Christmas, and eventually go on to become a full-time paramedic. He said he “absolutely loved” the pilot programme in Ngatea - the only station with the programme on offer.

“In cities like Hamilton central or Auckland, you’re only five minutes from hospital, so you don’t really treat patients that much. In Ngatea, sometimes you’ve got patients in the ambulance for over an hour, so there’s much more time to speak to patients, and the treatments you do are different,”

he said.

“With Ngatea, there’s a real community thing to it. You’ve got a whole bunch of volunteers in the local community who come to the station in their own time, completely free of charge. You get a real sense of absolute care there.”

Two dozen people have signed up to the programme, with participants working alongside current paid ambulance officers who provide guidance and support as they respond to a variety of emergencies.

St John Hauraki Territory

Manager John Armitt said it was “exciting” to be able to offer the participants a career path in their chosen profession.

“The training programme means paramedicine students are getting the vital hands-on experience they need to work as an ambulance officer, while they’re completing their paramedicine degree, and our volunteers who want to further their service on the frontline have the opportunity to do so.”

READ MORE: New rural ambulance launched for Ngatea St John, P4

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New rural ambulance for Ngatea St John

A new ambulance created especially for rural and remote communities has been commissioned for service in Ngatea to serve surrounding communities and enhance St John's emergency response times.

A dedication ceremony was held for the new Volkswagen First Response Unit in Ngatea on June 29.

The rural ambulance was launched as part of developments to St John's service delivery model, as the organisation rolls out the fourth and final year of its Double Crewing Project.

As well as providing better tools for the dedicated teams of volunteers, the project has enabled four additional paid staff to be hired – three in Paeroa and one in Ngatea, to double crew all transporting ambulances, which serve communities throughout the district.

St John Hauraki Territory manager John Armitt said volunteers were the "heartbeat of our emergency ambulance service".

"We are excited to provide them with a new state-of-the-art vehicle to cater to our rural terrain, to enable our amazing volunteers to continue their invaluable, lifesaving work," he said. "The new First Response Unit will benefit both our staff and patients. They are smaller and nimbler compared with traditional ambulances, which will enable our crews to navigate tight, rural roads, and



St John Hauraki Territory Manager John Armitt greets guests and unveils Ngatea new ambulance.

Photo: SUPPLIED

quickly locate patients.

"They are also tall and provide the space required for treating and stabilising patients, which enables the best clinical care to be applied."

Apart from having modern features, the new First Response Unit is designed for crews to transport patients locally or to meet a helicopter or transporting ambulance, which will shorten job cycles and ena-

ble crews to remain in the local community and be available to respond to emergencies more often.

This will improve response times and lead to better health outcomes for patients.

The rollout of the new rural ambulance means more local volunteers are required to work alongside current and new staff, who play a critical role in delivering the important lifesaving

work throughout the region. St John is committed to supporting the development of its volunteer ambulance officers and ensuring they receive the necessary coaching and training required to be successful.

Anyone interested in volunteering for St John on the frontline can contact their local St John station, call 0800 ST JOHN (0800 785 646), or visit join.stjohn.org.nz.

Community rallies for Starship fundraiser

By KELLEY TANTAU

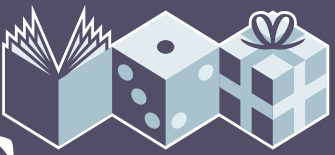
A head-shaving fundraiser put on by the Ngatea community has raised around \$13,500 for Starship Children's Hospital.

Organised by the Ngatea Volunteer Fire Brigade, and supported by many within the Hauraki Plains community, the June 26 event saw men and women shave their heads and faces, all for a good cause.

Brigade chief Miles Shelley said the fundraiser exceeded expectations, with at least 34 people opting to take part. This was a big leap since their last fundraiser for Leukaemia and Blood Cancer New Zealand around 10 years ago, he said.

"It was nowhere near on this scale. There were only about 10-12 people who did it last time."

Mr Shelley said donations will remain open until the end of the month, and locals can donate cash at participating stores, such as Hauraki Plains Motors, Hammer Hardware, or Four Square, or through online banking into the account: 38-9002-0546884-08.




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Solarpunks celebrate Matariki

A hundred or so Thames Solarpunks and their friends came out to shine at The GBD on Friday night to celebrate Matariki and encourage action to slow down climate change. Star of the night was a popup wearables show, where flowers, feathers, fur and lights embellished many of the costumes. Standouts were the ‘Four Seasons’ by Walter & Co, ‘The Nine Stars of Matariki’ by Steamy Sisters and support from another Thames business, Seven Five Two. The Solarpunk social will be the first of many to connect the Thames community with its environment through the arts and environmental action. It was followed on Sunday by another native tree planting at the Burke St dog park.

- Deborah MacDonald Brown



A large group of friends light up the night with their colourful costumes.

Photos: RICHARD HORNELL PHOTOGRAPHY



Walter & Co's Rachel Broadbent is one of the Four Seasons models.



An attendee's costume is lit up like a starry night.



The Four Seasons, from left: Rachel Broadbent, Ava Leatham, Sophia Grindler and Chloe Paynter.



A Solarpunk couple enjoys the event.



Participants have fun on the night.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

August 21: Dog training for kiwi avoidance: at the Kauaeranga Visitor Centre, Ph 07 867 9080 or email kauaerangavc@doc.govt.nz.

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

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

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

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

LOCAL MARKETS

Kaiaua Seaside Market: at The Boating Club, Kaiaua, 9-1pm, last Sunday of 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 Lioness Club: Jill McIntosh, Ph 07 867 7373

Hauraki Plains Rural Show: Sonia, Ph 027 431 5825

Hauraki Plains St John: Call or pop into the Op Shop, Ph 07 867 8073

Hauraki Plains Youth Cricket: Anna Dodunski, Ph 027 466 4126

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

Hauraki Vintage Machinery Club: Ph 07 867 7281

Jig Saw Puzzle Library: 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



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

Ngatea Lions Club: Bruce Foster, Ph 021 043 9280

Ngatea Playcentre: President, Ph 027 327 5536

Ngatea Pony Club: Nicky Hamblyn, Ph 07 867 7078

Ngatea Scouts: Kim Donaldson, Ph 07 867 7350

Ngatea Women's Institute: Nola Walker, Ph 07 867 7301

NZ Red Cross Thames: Betty Sutcliffe, Ph 07 868 6148

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

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

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

Paeroa Community Programmes: Ph 07 862 9129

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

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

Paeroa Society of Arts: paeroaart-society@gmail.com

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

Probus: Jill McIntosh, Ph 07 867 7373

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

Scrapbooking: Pam Tonks, Ph 07 867 7780

Solarpunk Aotearoa: John McKeown, Ph 021 063 5483

St Paschal's Catholic Church: Ph 07 867 7401 and 07 867 7056

Tai-Chi exercise Kaiaua: Stacy, Ph 09 576 3705

Tasty Books & Wine Tasting: Anne, Ph 07 867 3367

Thames 50+ Cycle Group: Chris, Ph 0274 998 159

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

Thames Chin Wag Cafe: Mondays 10:30am, 608 Queen St, Ph 07 868 9790

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

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

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

Thames Dahlia Club: Paul Silvester, Ph 07 868 9346

Thames Hauraki Parents Centre: Meike, Ph 07 867 3163

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

Thames Heritage Network: Margaret Cropp, Ph 07 868 1024

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

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

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

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

Thames Rotary Club: Warren Sly, Ph 021 772 351

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

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

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

Thames Tennis Club: Maree, Ph 027 217 1682

Thames Toastmasters Club: Ph 027 296 8585

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

Thames Valley Zonta Club: Pam 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

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Sacrifice 'worth it' to give back to the community

Four years, juggling four jobs while studying towards a degree in social work, Nikita Costello was up at dawn for work and rarely in bed before midnight.

The schedule was unrelenting. There were many tears and days where she could have thrown it in, but she believes the sacrifice was worth it.

The former Thames Valley woman secured her dream job in January this year and celebrated her graduation at the University of Waikato in Tauranga earlier this month.

"It was a hard slog but I made it," says Nikita, who became the first in her family to gain a university degree when she graduated with a Bachelor of Social Work.

Now, Nikita works as a youth social worker at Tauranga's Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), a job she knew she wanted even before she started studying.

The catalyst to pursue tertiary study came about when Nikita did a charity fundraiser in support of her nephew who went through nearly 100 surgeries to repair blocked airways in his throat.

Shaving her head earned Nikita more than \$7000 for Starship Children's Hospital and the Child Cancer Foundation. More than that, she liked the feeling of performing a selfless act.

"For me, reward and satisfaction came with helping people so I started to research professions where I could really make a difference."

The love she has for her family helped influence Nikita's choice of career.

"Between me and my wife Kelly, we have 13 nieces and nephews. They are my 'why'. Life is very different now with many more challenges than when I was a kid. It's tough out there for many of our young people and their families."

"I want to help create a better future for the kids in my family and the kids in our community – to empower them and give them the tools to be resilient."

Born in Thames, Nikita grew up in Whangamata and lived there until she was 15, before moving to Ngatea to live with her Nana. A talented basketball player, Nikita moved for the sports opportunities Hauraki Plains College could offer. However, it wasn't enough to keep her engaged with school.

"I got NCEA level 1 and gapped it in year 11," she says. "I always saw myself as sporty and practical, not academic, so school didn't seem a good fit for me or maybe I wasn't the right fit for school."

After putting her practical skills to good use with a job servicing boat motors then later waiting tables in Wellington, Nikita moved to Tauranga when she found out she was going to be an aunt as the pull of family was too strong.

Studying as a mature student wasn't easy. Academic writing and referencing took a while to get used to, as did living on a student budget. Nikita worked as a barista in the early morn-



Gaining a Bachelor of Social Work degree was "a hard slog" for Nikita Costello.

Photo: SUPPLIED/UNIVERSITY OF WAIKATO

ings before heading to university, and did bar work in the evenings. She took on casual work as a student ambassador for the University, helping at events such as careers expos and open days. Somehow, she also squeezed in 12 hours a week with TYDT while she studied, and upwards of 50 hours at their 100% Summer Series events.

When Nikita began her 60-day social work placement at CAMHS, she was fortunate to work across all three teams – maternal mental health, child,

and adolescent. Her fixed term role in the adolescent team sees her work with 13-18 year olds with moderate to severe mental health needs. She's grateful for the support she receives from the group of experienced clinicians she works with.

"I am in awe of their practice," she says. "I'm learning something new every day and am fortunate to have such amazing mentors."

A few days before graduation, Nikita was thrilled when CAMHS made it clear they

wanted to keep her on. Her career goals are falling nicely into place. She's back studying too. Every few months she travels to Auckland for block courses to complete a Postgraduate Certificate in Mental Health and Addiction at Auckland University of Technology (AUT).

"Right now, I'm all about 'show me the permanent contract'," she laughs. "I want to work four days a week and spend the other day volunteering my time and skills to give back to the community."

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Different experiences, same great service

It's the same quality of service, just in a slightly different format, and the team at The Falls Retreat remain as passionate as ever about the food they put on the plate.

The popular bistro, nestled in the Karangahake Gorge, relaunched in May, providing diners with new experiences to expand their food knowledge.

For 10 years, co-owners Emma Walters and Brad King ran the bistro as a restaurant, but the lack of skilled hospitality staff, only made worse with Covid-19, required them to do things a little differently.

"The changes that we've made have been a necessity. Our industry is in an absolute crisis, there's just no staff," Emma told *The Profile*.

"If we were going to keep making everything from scratch, and grow our own produce, and put a lot of attention into the food and service, we couldn't continue doing that in the original model.

"So, we are no longer offering a lunch and dinner menu, but we still have the same amazing food and great hospitality, and you can choose from three different dining experiences."

The Pizza Social on Friday nights has a casual-style sharing menu, featuring the

bistro's wood fired pizzas, chunky chips and organic salads.

The Paddock to Plate Dining Experience on Saturday nights is a four-course degustation menu with a house-made welcome drink on arrival.

The Sunday Feast at lunchtime is a two-course set menu showcasing the bistro's popular dishes, with an opportunity for a self-guided tour of its organic veggie gardens.

The retreat also runs cooking and gardening workshops on selected Saturdays at lunchtime, with the option of booking for groups and functions of 12 or more people.

"We're trying to tell more of a story about where the food comes from and how we make it," Emma said.

"And after Covid, we tried everything. You've got to adapt and I think that's what we've done."

The Falls Retreat has gone from having six chefs to just two, Emma said.

The kitchen is run by her husband, head chef Brad King, and they were still looking for skilled chefs to join the team.

"Until we get more staff, we won't be able to increase our hours," she said.

The retreat's location is ideal



For 10 years, Emma Walters and Brad King have run The Falls Retreat as a restaurant, but the lack of skilled hospitality staff has required them to do things a little differently. Photo: SUPPLIED

for Hauraki Rail Trail users, and it also has three accommodation options: The Rose Cottage, the Waterfall Cabin, and the new Log Cabin.

They also specialise in hosting functions and weddings, with the picture-perfect Owaharoa Falls as the backdrop.

"We are open, and we still have the same values, and the same amazing food, it's just delivered in a more unique way."

- KELLEY TANTAU

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- Unite against COVID-19 – [Covid19.govt.nz](https://covid19.govt.nz)
- Ministry of Health – [Health.govt.nz](https://health.govt.nz)
- Te Puni Kōkiri – [Karawhiua.nz](https://karawhiua.nz)
- Ministry for Pacific Peoples – mpp.govt.nz

You can also keep up to date with current information and frequently asked questions by following the above organisations’ social media channels, or you can speak with your health provider.

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A “population explosion” of koi carp (pictured) is impacting our river ecosystems. Hauraki Gulf Forum representative Phillip Buckthought says the invasive pest fish could be detrimental to the Government’s Sea Change Plan released last week. KELLEY TANTAU looks into the issue.

Koi ‘population explosion’ challenges new strategy

New marine protection areas and restrictions on fishing are among a raft of changes being put in place to protect the Hauraki Gulf for future generations.

But a “population explosion” of koi carp could be detrimental to the Government’s plan.

The strategy, released last week and dubbed Revitalising the Gulf – Government action on the Sea Change Plan, was a long time coming, and a “very positive step for change”, Phillip Buckthought told *The Profile*.

Speaking from a personal standpoint, Mr Buckthought, a Hauraki District Councillor for the Plains Ward, and council’s appointment on the Hauraki Gulf Forum, said the Sea Change Plan was the culmination of four years of

hard work by a Stakeholder Working Group in conjunction with local Māori.

“The working group was made up from a cross section of people from our communities around the Hauraki Gulf with differing interests and outlooks, from conservation, to farming, to fishing.

“With backing from specialists and scientists, and using as much up to date information that was available, they developed this comprehensive plan that, and this is the important thing, they all agreed on.

“This was tabled in 2017,” he said.

The strategy, announced on June 22, detailed the creation of 18 new marine protection areas, which would “increase marine protection in the Gulf almost threefold”.

There would also be a Fisheries Plan



Phillip Buckthought

with a range of changes to fishing practices and catch settings, including restricting trawl fishing to within carefully selected “corridors”.

But Mr Buckthought said a “population explosion” of koi carp, imported into New Zealand in the 1960s, was “impacting and undermining” river ecosystems, and would be a challenge in itself.

“The Waihōu Piako Advisory Committee has expressed this concern for a number of years now and want action,” he said.

“They have invited Minister [David] Parker to present to them on how the government views this threat and what their plan is to control or eradicate them.

“Given the Minister’s comments, and in light of the actions proposed for the Gulf, unless something is done about the koi carp, they may be detrimental to the outcome of the plans for the Hauraki Gulf.”

In a release, Oceans and Fisheries Minister David Parker said the government was delivering on its election promise, and was “taking the long view”, recognising that sustained action

CONTINUED ON P11

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Rural Life

Koi carp an ‘ongoing issue’

CONTINUED FROM P10

was necessary. Mr Buckthought said the government had endorsed and adopted most of the recommendations outlined in the Sea Change Plan, which was “great news”.

“One of the understandings from the working group though, was that for the plan to be successful, it would be important that all the recommendations be implemented, not just some.”

The working group also recognised the importance of putting in place an “empowered governance structure” for the future to oversee the implementation of this commitment, he said.

“That is a question for Minister Parker, as it is one thing to announce what the plan is, but then how is the plan going to be implemented, ensuring that the planned outcomes come to fruition?”

According to the Department of Conservation, koi carp were an “ongoing issue” - particularly in the Waikato region.

Freshwater technical advisor Matthew Brady said the species were known to be present within the Piako and Waihou river catchments; however, recent reports of the koi in those catchments did not represent an expansion of the pests’ range.

“Records show koi have been in those catchments for more than a decade,” he said. “Weather-related flooding in more recent years is thought to have contributed to their spread in these catchments.”

DOC has eradicated koi carp in the South Island after a “significant long-term effort”, as well as in small ponds in the North Island, he said.

However, koi remained an invasive



The invasive pest fish koi carp have been in the Piako and Waihou river catchments for more than a decade.

FILE PHOTO

pest fish widespread throughout the upper North Island.

“We keep a close eye on work on methods to control koi carp, but at the moment our options are limited, so we focus on containment,” Mr Brady said.

“Where you have a new confirmed sighting, and it’s small scale [or] we have the tools, we’ll take an eradication approach.”

“As for new sightings in large water systems or existing populations, this is very challenging, and the tools we have available at the moment will ultimately fail because they can’t be scaled up to the level required, and would cost tens of millions of dollars with no guaranteed result.”

Mr Brady said people could fish recreationally for koi carp, but they must be killed as soon as they were caught.

Dead fish were to be disposed of by burying them well away from the waterbody where they were found.

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Change of the guard at Thames Markets

By KELLEY TANTAU

Every Saturday, Angelika and Peter Poeschl have been like hosts, welcoming people into what has been their home away from home for the past 12 years. As managers of the Thames Market, they've shown guests around, they've introduced people to stallholders and business owners, and they've made sure everyone was having "fun".

"It was a huge step, taking it on. I think it helped me personally to grow. It was also very important to feel connected to the town," Peter told *The Profile*.

But now, the pair have decided the time is right to pass the baton on to someone else, and Jaini Stowe, a familiar face among the weekend market, has stepped up to the task.

Jaini, who first had a stall at the market around five years ago, had a fond affiliation for the event.

"The first day I arrived in New Zealand, it was a Friday, and it was horrible weather. The first thing I did the next day was come and see the Saturday market in Thames," she said.

"That was more than seven years ago, and I was thinking: 'Look where I am now, I get the Saturday market.' It's quite emotional."

The Thames Market was established by Dianne and Peter McKinnon in September



Angelika and Peter Poeschl are welcoming Jaini Stowe, centre, to the managerial position at the Thames Market.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

1995, and last year was its 25th anniversary.

Peter and Angelika Poeschl took over the market 12 years ago, and have watched it go from strength to strength.

They too arrived in the country from their native Germany on a rainy day, and when they got

to Thames, they wanted to form "roots" in the town, Angelika said.

Over the years, they've made sure the market kept its appeal by asking all stallholders to have a personal input into their goods, a feature Jaini admired.

"The question I've been asked is: 'What changes are you making?'

I don't think I'll make any," she said. "I like how the market runs. We'll keep it that way."

The Thames Market will continue to be held every Saturday at the Grahamstown end of Pollen St. More stallholders were welcome, Jaini said.

"I want it to continue, not just

for myself, but for the town, and for the two previous managers who put it all together for 25 years," she said.

"Hopefully I can do another 12 years as well."

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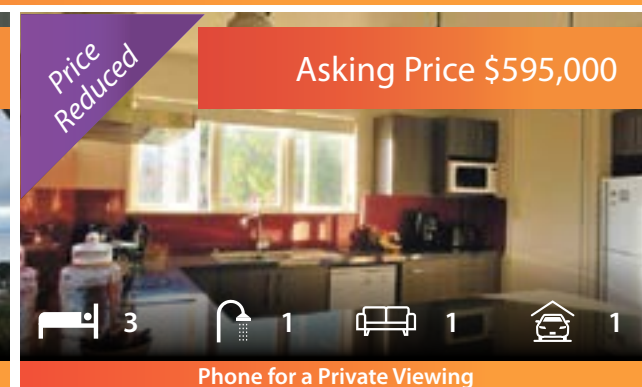
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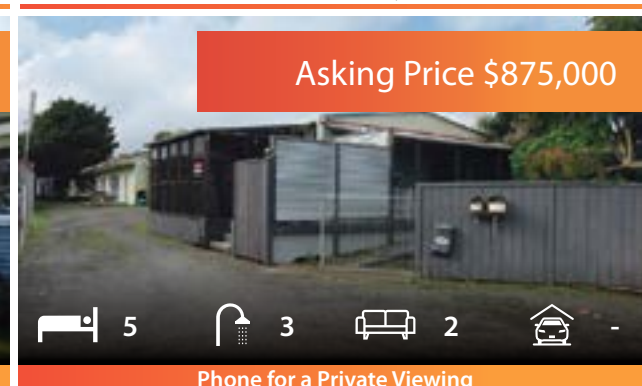


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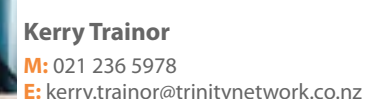
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EASY

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HARD

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EASY

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28

ACROSS

1 Long soft seat (5)

4 Medicine in gelatine cases (8)

9 Stroke (6)

14 Raise (5)

15 Everything; the complete amount (3,5,8)

17 Mediterranean tree (5)

18 Paddle (3)

19 Forecast (7)

20 Assiduousness (9)

21 Sore to touch (6)

24 Taking for granted (9)

25 Dreary, sombre (6)

26 Meddle (6)

29 Intensified (10)

31 Falsehood (3)

32 Wickerwork trunk (6)

33 Biting insect (4)

35 Garland (3)

37 Bursts (4)

39 Assessment (9)

40 Glued into (anag)(9)

41 Bomb (5)

42 Short current affairs cinema film (8)

47 Soft shoes (8)

51 Fret (5)

55 Large hairy spider (9)

56 High-spirited (9)

58 Gown (4)

59 Leather-piercing tool (3)

60 Let fall (4)

61 Nucleus (6)

62 Ignited (3)

63 Made publicity for (10)

66 Maintenance (6)

67 Followed (6)

69 Uprising (9)

72 Deep-set (6)

73 Small dog (9)

75 Duo (7)

77 Astern (3)

80 Encouraged (5)

81 Somebody who can always be relied on for support, comfort (1,5,2,8)

82 Mislays (5)

83 Did not go (6)

84 Undress (anag)(8)

85 Decree (5)

DOWN

2 Or else (9)

3 Intimidated (5)

5 Unreturnable serves (4)

6 Widely spoken Bantu language (7)

7 Mirror (7-5)

8 Edges (anag)(5)

9 Pressures into doing (7)

10 Civil disorder (4)

11 Hidden shooter (6)

12 Of lesser importance (5)

13 Race official (7)

14 Progress (7)

16 Stage-manage (11)

22 Root vegetable (6)

23 Timber processing plant (7)

24 Mythical flying horse (7)

25 Resides (6)

27 Taint (7)

28 Dog shelter (6)

30 Numb (4)

32 Secretes (5)

34 States positively (5)

36 Floppy (4)

38 Poem (3)

42 Renowned (5)

43 Sorcerer (7)

44 Ladder step (4)

45 Gave the slip (6)

46 Hearing (5)

48 One asking questions (11)

49 Serving (7)

50 Chest bone (3)

51 Cautionary advice (7)

52 Shouted (6)

53 Underground (12)

54 White cheese (4)

57 Forging blocks (6)

64 Puzzling (9)

65 Utterly wicked (7)

66 As a rule (7)

68 Inaudible (7)

70 Woman's bedroom (7)

71 Heaviness (6)

72 Secret supply (5)

74 Circular bands (5)

76 Church council (5)

78 Small whirlpool (4)

79 Small island (4)



ACROSS: 1 Couch, 4 Capsules, 9 Carass, 14 Hoist, 15 The whole caboodle, 17 Olive, 18 Oar, 19 Predict, 20 Diligence, 21 Tender, 24 Presuming, 25 Dismal, 26 Tampere, 29 Heightened, 31 Lie, 32 Hammer, 33 Flea, 35 Lei, 37 Pops, 39 Appraisal, 40 Longitude, 41 Shell, 42 Newsreel, 47 Slippers, 51 Worry, 55 Tarantula, 56 Exuberant, 58 Robe, 59 Awi, 60 Drop, 61 Kernel, 62 Lit, 63 Advertised, 66 Upkeep, 67 Ensued, 69 Rebellion, 72 Sunken, 73 Chihuahua, 75 Twosome, 77 Aff, 80 Urged, 81 A tower of strength, 82 Loses, 83 Stayed, 84 Sundries, 85 Edict.

DOWN: 2 Otherwise, 3 Covered, 5 Aces, 6 Swahili, 7 Looking-glass, 8 Sedge, 9 Coerces, 10 Riot, 11 Sniper, 12 Minor, 13 Starter, 14 Headway, 16 Orchestra, 22 Turnip, 23 Sawmill, 24 Pegases, 25 Dwells, 27 Pollute, 28 Kennel, 30 Dead, 32 Hides, 34 Avers, 36 Limp, 38 Ode, 42 Noted, 43 Warlock, 44 Run, 45 Eluded, 46 Trial, 48 Interviewer, 49 Portion, 50 Rib, 51 Warning, 52 Yelled, 53 Subterranean, 54 Feta, 57 Anvil, 64 Enigmatic, 65 Helinous, 66 Usually, 68 Unheard, 70 Boudoir, 71 Weight, 72 Stash, 74 Hoops, 76 Synod, 78 Eddy, 79 Isle.



Girls from Ngatea Primary compete as part of the day.



Josie McCue Molesky from Te Puru on the beam.



Jessie Logan and Lily Hammond.



Fern Paki does a forward roll off the mat.

Gymsports fun

Around 200 students from throughout the region took part in a festival at Thames Gymsports on June 30. Reporter KELLEY TANTAU caught some of the tumbles and turns.



Maia Tahitahi performs her floor routine.



Ngatea competitors with teacher Bianca Williams.

We have stock arriving for July delivery. Pre order today

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The Final Farewell

The Valley Profile is running an End of Life advertising feature on July 28.

If you'd like to be part of this feature, contact Nikki today to book your place

Booking deadline: Friday, July 16

Nikki Sanders
Phone: 022 130 3885
nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz

The Valley
Profile

Dead Cert

An aerial photograph showing a boat moving down a wide river, leaving a V-shaped wake. On the right bank, there is a large, light-colored house with a prominent chimney. The surrounding area is lush with vegetation.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Photos: SUPPLIED

Ian Irvine and Raewyn Goble cut the cake.



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Evelyn Lowry
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112 Parawai Road, Thames

By Negotiation




OPEN HOME SAT 12 - 12.30PM

NEW LISTING



Fantastic location on a level fully fenced large section. 3 large double bedrooms, spacious living & dining, a bathroom with a claw foot bath, shower & toilet, simple kitchen, HRV, mains hot water & an elevated front deck that surveys your sweeping front lawns. The double entrance provides great access for cars, boat and more.

RT5647

 3  1  2  1

405 Karaka Road, Thames

\$575,000

OPEN HOME SAT & SUN 12 - 12.30PM

NEW LISTING



Tidy 1970's home nestled up the Karaka looking over the bush surrounds & listening to a nearby stream in the background. Very spacious lounge with stand alone wood fire to keep you cosy. A sun filled conservatory to sit and enjoy the native bush & birds. Single garage plus workshop and plenty of off street parking.



RT5649

 3  1  1  1

712 Mackay Street, Thames





\$599,000

OPEN HOME SAT & SUN 1 - 1.30PM



A 4 bedroom 1900's Villa situated in a sunny spot close to town. Looking for a new owner who has the time to put love and care into this old beauty. Large living area, separate large dining & original wooden joinery. Generous backyard with single garage & added room is on its own title and has its own access from Bella Street.

RT5638

 4  1  1  1

106 Vanguard Street, Thames

By Negotiation

OPEN HOME SAT & SUN 2 - 2.30PM



This gorgeous period property, fully renovated a number of years ago is part of the wonderful history of the Grahamstown area. Views over town & Firth. Walking distance to the shops makes it a great location. Insulation and large heatpump. Self contained cabin at the rear of the property. Guide price - Offers over \$550,000.

RT5646

 3  2  -  1

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Ngatea / Paeroa

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Set on an 8066m2 (more or less) section. It boasts a newly carpeted 4 bedroom home with a fireplace. 2 renovated bathrooms. Tidy kitchen, fully fenced yard & single garage with workshop & loft above. The property consists of one large paddock that surrounds the fenced yard.

RN1376 - TODD BELL 021 177 6097

 4  2  1  1

190 Normanby Road, Paeroa

\$499,000

NEW LISTING



Sitting proudly on a partially fenced 455sqm (more or less) section with carport and single lock up garage is this gorgeous 1930s character home offering two double brms, open plan kitchen/dining and lounge. The kitchen is modern with dishwasher, under bench oven and hob.

RG1921 - NATASHA DAWSON 027 200 6608

 2  1  1

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Public Notices
Thames Museum Society Inc
Notice of 2021 AGM
The Annual General Meeting will be held at Thames Museum at 3.30pm on Saturday 24th July. All welcome. Enquiries 0278686072

Wanted to Buy
Small spa pool. Phone 868 8838

Events
Come along to hear film editor Ken Zemke and Kiwi musician Paul Bennett present an evening of entertainment.
There will be sing along opportunities, lively banter and meaningful discussions around the theme of
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Lotus Realm Friday July 9 at 7.30pm
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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.

022 130 3885
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SPORTS RESULTS

Bowls success for Valley clubs

A team from Paeroa Bowling Club took out the Gordon O'Brien Memorial Trophy recently. The tournament, held at the Kerepēhi Bowling Club, was compromised by strong winds and rain throughout the day's play. Start of play was held up while rain squalls passed then play proceeded with 18 teams playing shortened games of five ends each. Rain held off to allow the tournament to conclude all four matches but the strong winds made play demanding during the day. Paeroa's team of Arthur Thorburn (skip), Lois Curd, Jimmy Erbacher and Peter Rowling won convincingly with four wins and a major point differential.

RESULTS
A good turnout of 19 teams for the Martyn Barriball Memorial competition on June 13 and the Gordon O'Brien Memorial at the Kerepēhi Bowls & Sports Club on June 27, with each tournament being sponsored by the families. Martyn Barriball Memorial optional fours: 1st 4 wins 25 ends 45 points (Tui Park) G Hewitt, A McGaughey, Wayne Heron, K McGaughey; 2nd 3.5 wins 19 ends 16 points (Haurahi) Pat Ridings, John Ridings, Ros Mason, Rae Dudding; 3rd 3.5 wins 17 ends 16 points (Thames/Kerepēhi) Lance Trow, Graeme Pyke, Margaret, Kelse Trow. Gordon O'Brien Memorial opt fours: 1st 4 wins 16 ends 29 points (Paeroa) Arthur Thorburn team; 2nd 4 wins 14 ends 20 points (Kerepēhi) Shaun Harrison, Tracy Harrison, Daniel Harrison, Mo Harrison; 3rd 3.5 wins 12 ends 15 points (Thames/Kerepēhi) Lance Trow, Graham Pyke, Margaret, Kelse Trow; 4th 3.5 wins 11 ends 11 points (Thames) S Hitchcock, M Hitchcock, Andy. Club Prize 1: Des Stanaway, Don Cooper, Sally Felton, Michael Crosland. Coming up at the Kerepēhi club on July 18: Tunnicliffe Nissan optional fours; August 8: O'Hagan Vision Care opt fours and August 22: Ngatea Meats/Paeroa Home Hardware opt fours to finish winter bowls.



Paeroa's winning team with Lee O'Brien, right, presents the Gordon O'Brien Trophy to Lois Curd, left, Jimmy Erbacher, Peter Rowling and Arthur Thorburn. Photos: SUPPLIED



Kerepehi Bowling Club member Garry Parker in action.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Old and new combine to create on-stage magic

REVIEW
Peter Pan and the Medallion's Secret
Review by KELLEY TANTAU

There was a lot to like about Sunday night's performance of *Peter Pan and the Medallion's Secret*, Thames Music and Drama's latest production.

The familiar tale of the boy who wouldn't grow up was given a stage sequel and highlights included the 47-strong cast, 35 of whom were under the age of 17; the inclusion of sign language; and the well-utilised Thames Civic Centre stage. Yes, there were many glittering aspects of the production, but the shining moments lay within the cast's facial expressions, their commitment, and their delivery of the witty and at times cheeky prose.

Hook and Smee (played by Stuart Floan and Ewan Mackie, respectively) and Sarah (Elliott Dent) with her friends and rivals, came equipped with all of the above.

Particular scenes, set in the headmaster's office of the Wendy Darling School for Girls, showcased a fine-tuned and well-cast consortium of comical characters. The addition of Mr Arthur Godfrey (Hilary Rodley) and Mrs Agatha Darling (Heather Ball) made the scenes all the more joyous.

The musical show featured some 70s hits like The Clash's *London Calling*, and Blondie's *One Way or Another*, as well as some modern songs, including the evening's powerful ensemble rendition of *Here's to Never Growing Up*.

There were also some top-notch voices throughout the mix, and suspected future thespians in the likes of Elise Floan's Peter Pan and the seven girls tasked with bringing down (or assisting) Captain Hook.

Then came the oh-so delicate and deft Tinkerbelle (Lia-rah Anderson) who, although soundless, showed an impressive skill of speaking with her



Elise Floan portrayed the titular Peter Pan.

Photos: KELLEY TANTAU



Captain Hook (Stuart Floan) and Smee (Ewan Mackie) shared good stage presence and banter.



The ensemble numbers made up of mostly young people were the stand-out of the show.

eyes and through dance.

She was a true light-source of this show in the most graceful of ways.

Also impressive and something that shouldn't be overlooked was the production's fast and well-directed scene changes.

Whether it was the jumps

through space and time, or the arrival of the cannibals (with a hilarious Titch in tow), the pace of the show moved like clockwork, and was assisted with the admirable lighting and effects that Thames MAD does so well.

The show is an original juke-box musical, written by former Thames High School teacher

Alan Cumming as a school show 15 years ago.

His dialogue remains clever and, at moments, hilariously morbid, and the new cast carries it well.

According to the co-directors, Sam and Diane Connors, 'believe' was the theme throughout the production, and after

witnessing Sunday night's performance, I too believe that entertaining, quality theatre can be found in Thames.

DETAILS: The full scale production of *Peter Pan and the Medallion's Secret* will be staged at the Thames Civic Centre until July 10, tickets at www.thamesmad.co.

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SPORTS

Football fever

The Thames Senior Women’s football team are ranking third on the table with six wins, one draw, and two losses so far. **MARK BROWN** from *One of a Kind Photography* caught the action at a recent game, where the team scored a 5-3 win against Morrinsville AFC Pink Ladies.



Goalie Nyah Railey makes a great save.



Ella Steward runs with the ball.



Surrounded by Morrinsville players, Thames’ Brooke Douglas puts in some fancy footwork.



Kathy McCue puts in a big kick.



Keltie McManus evades her opponent.



Milly Hinson kicks the ball.

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