

# The Valley Profile

ISSN 2703-5700

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

Issue 033 August 11, 2021

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Liam Khudolyey, 11, and Ben Martin, 12, with the Ribik's Cube-solving robot made out of Lego.  
Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

## Robot masters

By KELLEY TANTAU

Two students from Turua Primary have created a robot out of Lego that can solve a Rubik's Cube in less than five minutes.

Liam Khudolyey, 11, and

Ben Martin, 12, were this year part of a Lego Robotics Extension Group at their school, and created the machine after three weeks of construction and 10 hours of programming. By using a Lego Mindstorms kit, and down-

loading instructions and code created by David Gilday from MindCuber, they were able to see their own robot in action.

"There's an ultrasonic sensor that detects when you put the Rubik's Cube in, and it starts scanning it with a colour

sensor. After it has scanned all the sides, it will make algorithms for the motors to solve the Rubik's Cube," the boys explained.

The robotics class is new to Turua this year, and is led by teacher Estelle McCoid.

Whaea McCoid said she was proud of the boys for completing such a complicated task.

"We showed it in assembly," the boys said.

"It was loud. Everybody was clapping."

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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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# New Ngatea library ignites discussion

By KELLEY TANTAU

Ngatea locals are optimistic about a new library and service centre in the town, following discussions that have stretched out for three years.

But they don't want to be let down. At a recent meeting, Hauraki District Council opted to replace the current library building on Orchard West Road with a new, \$2.5 million purpose-built one.

The other option under consideration was to upgrade the building to try to bring it up to modern standards, but staff expected that to cost \$1m more.

The decision comes after a strong reaction from the community, starting back in 2018, who were adamant the library should stay in its current location near Hugh Hayward Domain, rather than be shifted elsewhere.

Valda Laurich was a member of the library committee that circulated the 2018 petition which gained more than 1200 signatures, asking for the library to stay at its current site.

Following its success, the library group disbanded.

Valda told *The Profile* she didn't have a problem with a new, modern library being constructed at the site, so long as the facilities suggested by the community during the consultation period would be included.

The feedback from this period was captured in a commu-



The old Ngatea library building, above, could be knocked down to make way for a new, purpose-built one (concept drawing right).

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU/Inset: HDC



nity book in 2019, and included suggestions such as natural lighting, extended opening hours, learning hubs, meeting spaces, and outdoor areas.

On the streets of Ngatea on Friday, some locals told *The Profile* the proposed designs were "fantastic" - so long as the location was a sure-thing.

Others wanted the new library to be made bigger.

Council has paid for some initial concept designs, and they showed the proposed

new building would sit around 380sq/m - almost half the size of the existing building (718sq/m).

"I like the look of the old building done up, preferable to [the new], but for me personally, if they really have to go with the new building it has to be bigger," one commenter said.

"It's like me building a tiny home because I just got married, even though I'm two months pregnant and I'm going to have a baby."

"We are a community that is going to grow, so let's not just build for now, let's think like our forebears and go bigger."

There were also concerns about the reliability of the build, after Ngatea's prolonged main street upgrade impacted its businesses greatly.

"They couldn't get our footpaths right, so what confidence do we have that they can get the costings, the quality, and the workmanship right for a new library?"



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## Thames Tides

| Wed<br>Aug 11                                | Thu<br>Aug 12                                 | Fri<br>Aug 13                                 | Sat<br>Aug 14                                 | Sun<br>Aug 15                              | Mon<br>Aug 16   | Tue<br>Aug 17                                |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|--|
|  |   |   |   |  |   |  |
| <b>Morning</b><br>2:47am 0.6<br>9:05am 3.4   | <b>Morning</b><br>3:30am 0.6<br>9:47am 3.5    | <b>Morning</b><br>4:14am 0.5<br>10:30am 3.5   | <b>Morning</b><br>5:00am 0.5<br>11:16am 3.5   | <b>Morning</b><br>5:47am 0.5<br>6:09pm 0.7 | <b>Morning</b><br>12:27am 3.5<br>6:38am 0.6                       | <b>Morning</b><br>1:20am 3.4<br>7:33am 0.7   |
| <b>Afternoon</b><br>3:01pm 0.5<br>9:19pm 3.6 | <b>Afternoon</b><br>3:44pm 0.5<br>10:03pm 3.6 | <b>Afternoon</b><br>4:29pm 0.5<br>10:49pm 3.6 | <b>Afternoon</b><br>5:17pm 0.6<br>11:36pm 3.5 | <b>Afternoon</b><br>12:04pm 3.4            | <b>Afternoon</b><br>12:58pm 3.4<br>7:06pm 0.8                     | <b>Afternoon</b><br>1:59pm 3.3<br>8:09pm 0.9 |
| 7:07am<br>5:40pm                             | 7:05am<br>5:41pm                              | 7:04am<br>5:42pm                              | 7:03am<br>5:43pm                              | 7:02am<br>5:43pm                           | 7:01am<br>5:44pm  | 6:59am<br>5:45pm                             |
| <b>Best At</b><br>2:05am<br>2:29pm           | <b>Best At</b><br>2:53am<br>3:16pm            | <b>Best At</b><br>3:40am<br>4:04pm            | <b>Best At</b><br>4:28am<br>4:53pm            | <b>Best At</b><br>5:18am<br>5:44pm         | <b>Best At</b><br>6:10am<br>6:38pm                                | <b>Best At</b><br>7:07am<br>7:36pm           |
| <b>Rise</b> 8:50am<br><b>Set</b> 8:19pm      | <b>Rise</b> 9:18am<br><b>Set</b> 9:25pm       | <b>Rise</b> 9:47am<br><b>Set</b> 10:33pm      | <b>Rise</b> 10:16am<br><b>Set</b> 11:41pm     | <b>Rise</b> 10:47am                        | <b>First Quarter</b><br><b>Set</b> 12:51am<br><b>Rise</b> 11:23am | <b>Set</b> 2:03am<br><b>Rise</b> 12:06pm     |

\*Not for navigational purposes.  
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**MOON AND FISH KEYS**



**TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES**

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

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

# Homesick for family in Sydney lockdown

By TERESA RAMSEY

The strict rules of lockdown in Sydney are hitting hard for former Thames resident Carole Dovell, as the Australian city battles to bring the deadly Delta Covid-19 outbreak under control.

Born in Thames, Carole, 63, moved to Sydney 11 years ago to be with her children and grandchildren.

Carole told *The Profile* she had booked flights back to New Zealand on July 31 to visit her mother, Betty Dovell, in Thames, but her flight was cancelled weeks ago.

Instead, she is in the midst of extreme lockdown measures in Sydney as the city tries to bring the more contagious Delta variant of the virus under control in an outbreak that prompted the end of quarantine-free trans-Tasman travel for at least eight weeks.

Under current lockdown rules, Carole, who works as a medical typist, was required to undertake weekly Covid-19 testing as she worked more than 10km from her home, and masks indoors had been “mandatory for ages”, she said.

“I wear a mask for the train commute and work – a total of 10 hours per workday. Today, they’ve added mandatory masks outdoors as well.”

Her son-in-law is currently home-schooling her four grandsons and looking after



Carole Dovell, left, with baby granddaughter Elyse, mum Betty and daughter Sarina.

Photo: SUPPLIED

her toddler granddaughter, while her daughter is undergoing twice-weekly Covid-19 testing in order to work as an aged-care manager.

Her son, who lives on the other side of Sydney with his family, has been on a two-week lockdown for construction but was able to access government assistance, though it didn’t cover the rent.

“I can’t visit them; they can’t

visit me,” she said. “I haven’t seen my grandchildren for so long.”

But there were some positives, she said.

“The bonuses of living here at the moment? The trains are empty. Plenty of seats.”

Living with the ever-changing lockdown restrictions was difficult.

“They advised us that for us in the extreme lockdown parts

of Sydney, we can nominate a ‘bubble’ person, who can come to my place and visit. I was so excited - my daughter can come see me,” she said.

However, the next day, her hopes were dashed as the limit was changed to 5km and her daughter lives 9 km away.

“I’ve learnt about video chats so I can still talk to my family online. It’s not quite the same, but it is a bonus.”

Carole, who lives alone, said living in the Sydney lockdown made her miss Thames even more.

“I miss seeing (mount) Gentle Annie just before I travel on to the Kōpū bridge, knowing that I am nearly home. I miss the waterfront walkways; I miss the gentle pace of Thames life. But most of all, I miss my mum, my Thames whanau and my friends,” she said.

But the biggest thing she missed was something money couldn’t buy.

“I haven’t been able to see my grandchildren for six weeks now, and lockdown is set to go on for at least another four weeks,” she said.

“I miss hugs. I miss my grandkids rushing into my arms, and squeezing until it hurts. I miss holding their little hands. And I miss those all-encompassing hugs from my kids – those adult hugs that help me to remember that I did okay to get them to the amazing, loving adults that they have become.

“And one day, I’m gonna get back to Thames and savour those hugs from my Mum and anyone else who wants to share.

“But hey, Kiwis, have a think about this. If you’re feeling blue over there, sing along with Fred Dagg for me: ‘We don’t know how lucky we are, mate, we don’t know how lucky we are’.

“I wish I could say the same.”

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# Cupcakes sweeten SPCA fundraiser

By TERESA RAMSEY

A Thames woman spent her Sunday off baking dozens of cupcakes and homemade dog biscuits for a good cause.

Sophia Grinder baked 76 cupcakes to sell on her day off last week for the SPCA's annual Cupcake Day fundraiser, along with her friend and co-worker, Rachel Broadbent.

The pair, who work at Walter & Co Hairdressing, raised \$360 from their stall outside the salon on August 2.

"The main reason I wanted to do SPCA Cupcake Day this year is because I believe it is an important cause to raise money for," Sophia said.

"Since animals don't have a voice, we can help people realise how important animal rescues like SPCA are - from fostering dogs and kittens, to taking in abused and neglected animals and giving them a quality life that they hadn't had before.

"Raising the money helps pay for their vet bills and treatments and to help feed them and find them homes with lots of love."

Sophia said she had rescued pets from the SPCA and other rescues in the past.

"They have been the best companions and furry friends for myself and our family. I think it is important to support animal rescues as they are in it to help care for animals and provide them the best life possible, with help from us."



Rachel Broadbent, left, and Sophia Grinder sell cupcakes (below) and homemade dog biscuits. Photos: SUPPLIED

The SPCA encouraged animal lovers at workplaces, schools and clubs to roll up their sleeves, pop on an apron, and bake a difference for thousands of animals who needed help, after last year's Cupcake Day appeal was severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Like many other events last year, SPCA's Cupcake Day fundraiser suffered the effects of the pandemic. As a result, just half the number of usual participants took part, resulting in a major funding shortfall.

SPCA Chief Executive Andrea

Midgen said the event was a great chance for workplaces to come together for a small act of kindness that would make a big difference to animals in need.

"It doesn't matter whether you're a master chef in the kitchen or your idea of baking starts with a packet of cake mix, Cupcake Day is a fun and easy way to help New Zealand's most vulnerable animals," Ms Midgen said.

The SPCA said it required additional funding more than ever after the government declined the Inspectorate's request for

additional financial help in this year's budget.

The SPCA's Inspectorate was responsible for rescuing sick or injured animals, investigating welfare complaints and prosecuting those who abused or neglected animals, she said.

"That's why we really need as many people to take part in our Cupcake Day fundraiser as possible. We are so grateful for the support we receive and appreciate every single dollar."

**DETAILS: For more information or to donate, go to: [www.spcacupcakeday.co.nz](http://www.spcacupcakeday.co.nz).**

# Theft of AED 'appalling'

By TERESA RAMSEY

The theft of a life-saving device from a regional park has left a small coastal community in disbelief.

St John Hauraki Territory Manager John Armit said the theft of an automated external defibrillator (AED) from Waiharau Regional Park just north of Kaiaua during the past week was "appalling".

"The AED was kindly gifted for the benefit of the community thanks to the generosity of local supporters, including Triumph club, Kaiaua Boat Club and members of the public," he said.

"The site for the AED was chosen because the park is frequented by people from all walks of life."

The AED was a vital tool used to help save lives in the event of a cardiac arrest, he said.

"Stealing an AED is taking away a life-saving piece of equipment which is only useful in a cardiac arrest emergency, therefore we urge anyone who knows anything about its disappearance to please speak up or return it."

The theft has been reported to the Police and if it is not returned, the community will need to fundraise in order to replace it. "St John will need to raise close to \$3000 to replace the missing AED and fix the post it was held in."



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See the difference

# Puriri engineering Einsteins ace EPro8

By KELLEY TANTAU

A Puriri School foursome have completed a “record breaking” feat at this year’s EPro8 Challenge.

Shawn Edlin, 10, Brooke Madgwick, 10, and Lexi Thomas, 11, plus Lexie-Mae Wells, who has since moved to Pārāwai School, took part in the annual challenge. They placed third in the Waikato region for years 5-6 behind Matamata and Elstow-Waihou schools, clinching the Puriri School’s highest accolade from the event.

The EPro8 Challenge is an inter-school science and engineering competition. More than 10,000 students from 800 schools from throughout the country take part each year. Events are run for years 5-6, 7-8 and 9-10, with teams of four students competing for the title of their region’s EPro8 Challenge Champion.

“They went off to Pārāwai first for qualifying, along with schools from the Thames, Coromandel, and Whangamatā regions,” teacher Jon Coburn said.

“They won that one, and went over to Morrinsville for the semi-finals. They won that and made the grand final and came third across every Waikato school.”

They were the first ever group from Puriri School to make the grand final, he said.

The goal of the two-and-a-half hour challenge was to get the most points and finish as many

tasks as possible.

“The first one we found pretty easy, the second one was a little harder, and the last one we couldn’t really complete,” Brooke said.

“I had a bit of a meltdown,” Lexi added.

The first task was a “laser tracker” and the second was a solar panel that followed the sun.

The third challenge was called “the waka” - which was the hardest task of them all.

“That’s when I had to go off and have a break,” Lexi confessed.

They ended up switching from that task to another which had them create a “kontiki remote control fishing vehicle”.

“For me, it was really cool because I had never actually used a screwdriver in my life,” Brooke said.

Mr Coburn said the group would practise through online tasks, but after doing so well in the qualifiers, school principal Jaimee Price invested in an EPro8 Challenge School Kit, worth close to \$2000, but subsidised by half.

“We purchased that so [the students] could refine their skills a bit more,” he said.

It also meant the group could practise ahead of the event next year, which they were all keen to attend.

“I want to do it again, and nobody’s stopping me!” Lexi said.

More information online at: [epro8challenge.co.nz](http://epro8challenge.co.nz).



ABOVE: Shawn Edlin, left, Brooke Madgwick, and Lexi Thomas have come third in the Waikato regional EPro8 Challenge.

LEFT: The Puriri Penguins team in action at the Waikato finals event.



RIGHT: The team are hard at work completing a challenging task during the Waikato EPro8 Challenge final at St Paul's Collegiate School in Hamilton.

LEFT: The Puriri Penguins team were placed third in the years 5-6 age-group at the regional EPro8 Challenge final held in Hamilton recently.

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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

**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](http://www.trsc.co.nz/150years).  
**August 21: Dog training for kiwi avoidance:** at the Kuaeranga Visitor Centre, Ph 07 867 9080, email [kuaerangavc@doc.govt.nz](mailto:kuaerangavc@doc.govt.nz).  
**August 21: Thames Valley Chess Championship:** at the Thames Civic Centre. Must be level one to play. Free entry.  
**August 25: Ngatea Lions Cancer Morning Tea:** Ngatea Memorial Hall, 10am, guest speaker, quick raffles, delicious morning tea. All proceeds will go to Cancer Support.

**August 29: Gitbox Rebellion:** Kuaeranga Hall, 2:30pm, door sales \$25 or prebook: 021 912 993.  
**September 11-12: Battle of Britain Commemorations:** September 11: Military vehicle display at Thames Airfield 10:30am-2:30pm, gold coin donation; RSA Cocktail Party: 6pm, GBD, tickets \$35, book: Ph Bob, 0272 113 157. September 12: Wreath laying at Thames Airfield, 11am.  
**September 12: Trail Trilogy:** Run or walk 10km to 140km on Hauraki Rail trail. More info: [www.trailtrilogy.com](http://www.trailtrilogy.com).  
**October 2: TV Ulysses Twists & Turns:** Slow riding motorbike training, Ngatea Library carpark, 10am-2pm, \$5 per bike. Proceeds to Women's Refuge. All riders welcome.

**October 5: Hotel California The Eagles Experience:** A live concert and stage show, Thames War Memorial Civic Centre, 8pm. Tickets: [eventfinda.co.nz](http://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, [moana.school.nz/contact-us](http://moana.school.nz/contact-us).

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## 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 Saturday of the month at Puriri Hall, 8am to 12:30pm. A variety of stalls on offer, Ph 027 4903 714 to book.

**Thames Crafters Market:** Second Saturday of the month at St James Hall, Pahau St, Thames, 8am to 2pm. Ph 07 868 7310. Next market: August 14.  
**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

**Ballroom Dancing:** Te Puru Hall, Mondays 2-4:30pm, Thursdays 7-9:30pm. Ph 027 221 5987  
**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, Ph 07 868 6353  
**Goldfields Women's Institute:** Ph 07 868 8984  
**Grey Power Thames:** Carolyn Young Ph 07 868 6353  
**Hauraki Bowling Club Mangatara:** Pene Koch, Ph 07 867 3380  
**Hauraki Cardiac Support Club Thames:** Ph 07 868 6148  
**Hauraki Country Music Club:** Tina Haakma, Ph 07 868 3443

**Hauraki Golf Club:** Len Cameron, Ph 07 867 7660  
**Hauraki Plains Co-operating Parish:** Jane, Ph 027 471 4654  
**Hauraki Plains Diabetic Support Club:** Ryan Corr, Ph 07 868 8551  
**Hauraki Plains Rural Show:** Sonia, Ph 027 431 5825  
**Hauraki Plains St John:** Call or pop into the Op Shop, Ph 07 867 8073  
**Hauraki Plains Youth Cricket:** Anna Dodunski, Ph 027 466 4126  
**Hauraki RSA Memorial Club:** Ph 07 867 7898 (evg) or 07 867 7301  
**Hauraki Vintage Machinery Club:** Ph 07 867 7281  
**Jig Saw Puzzle Library:** Mangatara, 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  
**Ngatea Community Garden:** Jane, Ph 07 867 7245



**August 13-15: 150 Years of Thames Rugby:** Thames Rugby & Sports Club, Rhodes Park, catch up function, invitational game and dinner. More information at [www.trsc.co.nz/150years](http://www.trsc.co.nz/150years).

**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 Hamblin, 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:** [paeroaartsociety@gmail.com](mailto:paeroaartsociety@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.  
**Solarpunk Aotearoa:** John McK-

owen, Ph 021 063 5483  
**St Paschal's Catholic Church:** Ph 07 867 7401 and 07 867 7056  
**Tai-Chi exercise Kaiaua:** Stacy, Ph 09 576 3705  
**Tasty Books & Wine Tasting:** Anne, Ph 07 867 3367  
**Thames 50+ Cycle Group:** Chris, Ph 0274 998 159  
**Thames Bonanza Club:** Meets third Thursday of month, Ph 07 868 6673  
**Thames Bridge Club:** 401 Brown St, Monday and Thursday at 1pm, Tuesday at 7pm. Ph 07 868 8023  
**Thames Chin Wag Cafe:** Mondays 10:30am, 608 Queen St, Ph 07 868 9790  
**Thames Continuing Education:** Fourth Wednesday of month, Ph 021 564 339  
**Thames Creative Fibre Group:** Dana Catley, Ph 07 868 7310  
**Thames Croquet Club:** Dennis Karl, Ph: 07 868 2423  
**Thames Dahlia Club:** Paul Silvester, Ph 07 868 9346  
**Thames Floral Art Club:** third Monday of the month. Ph 07 868 9873.  
**Thames Hauraki Parents Centre:** Meike, Ph 07 867 3163  
**Thames-Hauraki Scottish Country Dance Club:** Ph 07 280 0631  
**Thames Heritage Network:** Margaret Cropp, Ph 07 868 1024  
**Thames Lions Club:** Ph 07 868 9873 or email: [pandb@xtra.co.nz](mailto:pandb@xtra.co.nz)  
**Thames Menz & Womenz Shed:** Tony Winter, Ph 027 290 0023  
**Thames PickleBall Club:** Tuesdays,

10-11am, Ph 027 290 0023  
**Thames Probus Club:** Meets second Tuesday of month, Ph 07 868 5573  
**Thames Rotary Club:** Warren Sly, Ph 021 772 351  
**Thames Ruby Redz Red Hatters:** Ngaire Potter, Ph 07 868 3421  
**Thames Senior Indoor Bowls:** Tuesdays 9.30am - 12pm, St James Hall. Ph Val, 021 054 2337  
**Thames Steady As You Go:** Falls Prevention group, Thursdays, 1:15pm, St Georges Hall, Ph 07 868 9790  
**Thames Tennis Club:** Contact Marree, 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/kuaerangatrampingclub](http://www.sporty.co.nz/kuaerangatrampingclub)  
**Turua Playcentre:** Estelle, Ph 027 371 8511  
**Turua Scouts:** Leanne Scott, Ph 027 329 7887 or 07 867 8388  
**Karangaleys Ukulele Group:** Wednesdays, 5:15pm, Ph 0204 0993 582  
**Ulysses Motorcycle Club:** Thursdays at L&P Bottle, Paeroa, 9:30am, Ph 021 028 28442 or 021 701 466  
**Women's Loan Fund:** Ph 07 868 7820

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# ‘Blown away’ by community support

By KELLEY TANTAU

A special school in Paeroa has been blown away by the support of its community after a car crash left one of their families without transport.

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

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

The school decided to rally and create a Givealittle page to raise funds for a new car for Kita. It has so far raised \$3285 of its \$4500 goal.

“I thought \$4500 was quite a lot, and we’re almost there,” senior school deputy principal Jillian Carberry said.

“The Paeroa community supports our school in the most amazing ways. We are very, very lucky.”

Loki, 16, has learning difficulties and has attended Goldfields for 10 years. Before the crash, he went to the school three days a week.

Routine was “paramount” for Loki, and being away from school for more than a month had been a challenge, but Jillian said Kita was “very excited” about the generous dona-



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

Photo: SUPPLIED

tions. Kita earlier told *The Profile* that Goldfields was Loki’s “favourite place”.

“He’s very happy there,” she said.

The online fundraiser was created by Kendall Heffernan, who has been Loki’s teacher

aide for five years. The Givealittle page will close on August 15, and once the school receives the funds raised, another donor has offered to chip in an additional \$1000.

One more has offered to pay the difference for a car he’s

looked into at Pascoe Motors in Paeroa.

It is hoped the vehicle handover will take place in the next couple of weeks.

“Kita is Loki’s only carer, and she isn’t physically mobile, so having a vehicle is their inde-

pendence,” Jillian said.

“We cannot wait to see Loki back.”

**DETAILS:** To donate, contact Goldfields school at [office@gfs.school.nz](mailto:office@gfs.school.nz) or Ph 07 862 7172, or online at [givealittle.co.nz/cause/help-me-get-back-to-school](http://givealittle.co.nz/cause/help-me-get-back-to-school).

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# TCDC's Easter trading policy goes out to public

By KELLEY TANTAU

Thames-Coromandel District councillors have given an initial nod to stick to the status quo for Easter Sunday trading.

However, members of the public will be able to have their say.

In 2016, council adopted a policy that allowed Easter Sunday trading to come into effect the following year, and since then, staff had recorded no issues.

At its meeting on August 3, councillors reviewed the policy and agreed the current state of affairs was working, in which shop trading in the entire district was allowed on Easter Sunday.

According to the report, during Easter weekend, the Thames-Coromandel district had a "population boom" and financially benefited from permitting businesses to operate.

The policy did not impact religious rights as it did not require people to work, open businesses or go shopping, it said.

Council was now undertak-

ing consultation on the policy to give the public and retailers and businesses an opportunity to tell elected members what they think of shops being open for trading on Easter Sunday.

This would inform a council decision on whether the policy should be rolled over, amended, or revoked.

Council is also proposing to add a te reo translation to the policy: Kaupapa Here - Tauhokohoko i Te Aranga.

A hearing is set for October 26, after which, council will consider a final Easter Sunday Trading Policy for adoption on December 7, 2021.

Submissions are now open and close at 4pm on September 6.

There were 40 submissions received during the consultation period for Thames-Coromandel District Council's Easter Trading Policy back in 2016.

Twenty-eight of them supported the proposed policy while 12 opposed the policy.

The policy does not force any retailers to open, and opening is at the discretion of the individual business owners.



The A&G Price fundraisers with members of St John Thames, from left: Barry Ingle, Jason Harvey, Peter Yates, Jake Tyrrell-Baxter, and John Armitt.

Photos: SUPPLIED

## St John receives life-saving donation

A mighty mountain bike challenge has resulted in an \$8000 donation to St John in Thames.

Barry Ingle and Jake Tyrrell-Baxter joined the Coromandel's More FM Mount Everest Challenge 2021 in a bid to raise funds towards a new ambulance in the Hauraki-Coromandel District.

The Thames pair climbed 8848 metres on their mountain bikes in the fundraiser, which is the height of Mount Everest. The challenge took place over a two-month period from March 8.

Both Barry and Jake are employees of A&G Price in Thames, and when general manager Peter Yates heard about their efforts, he was also keen for Thames company to support St John and the community.

A St John Thames spokesperson said the organisation wanted to acknowledge the very generous donation.

"St John would also like to thank those who donated to Barry and Jake's Givealittle page and to Coromandel's More FM for choosing

St John as this year's recipient of the challenge."

In the year to June, 2020, St John's emergency ambulance services in Thames responded to 2948 incidents in the Thames area alone.

Of those responses, about 75 per cent were supported by St John volunteers.

"Generous donations including those from A&G Price Ltd, enables the organisation to continue to be there for those in the community in their time of need."

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## Rural Life



Bala TikkiSETTY is a sustainable agriculture advisor technical at Waikato Regional Council.

## Protect water in winter

By BALA TIKKISETTY

Wet and wild winter weather can place increased pressure on the banks of waterways, increasing the risk of them being eroded. This can harm water quality and disrupt ecosystems that support biodiversity and water quality.

Some land management practices related to land uses like farming, forestry, roading and horticulture could cause soil erosion and/or a build-up of contaminants such as nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment and pathogens, which are washed into watercourses during heavy rain.

The practices include stock wading in water, poor cowshed effluent treatment, overgrazing, inappropriate fertiliser application, pugging and poor runoff control on cultivated land, and poor management of areas beside waterways. The way farm tracks are made and managed can have the potential to contribute to the contamination of water bodies.

Water-borne pathogens like giardia and cryptosporidium can lead to serious human health problems, while nitrates and phosphates can potentially create human, animal and environmental health problems.

Good management of the banks of waterways, in particular, can help avoid problems. Wide buffer zones between banks and other activities can reduce problems by stabilising the banks and providing a filter for contaminants washing off the land.

Careful selection of the mix of plant species planted within riparian areas is important. Shrubs and trees with extensive root systems, which tolerate moist soil conditions and frequent silt deposits, are ideal for stream bank erosion control.

They physically hold the stream banks together and some tree roots also protect the streambed, limiting the scouring effect of running water.

Streamside vegetation provides shade which cools the water, improves its dissolved oxygen levels, helps aquatic life and reduces the risk of algal blooms.

Aquatic invertebrates exhibit a wide

range of thermal tolerances. Some grazers (mayflies) are more temperature sensitive than others (snails). Many insects are killed by temperatures only a little greater than 200 degrees Celsius, and snails can survive at about 300C.

Algae are also temperature sensitive, but most filamentous forms can continue growing at high rates up to at least 250C.

During the summer, water temperatures in pasture streams often exceed 200C, and this could be the reason many insect species are absent from pasture streams. Pair the loss of these species with an increase in warm, calm weather events that are more common in summer, it is likely that these factors are promoting the algal blooms which can occur around the region.

Suitable plant species beside waterways also provide cover for spawning fish, and food and habitat for nesting and juvenile birds.

Such plantings help aquatic invertebrates become numerous, providing a better food supply for fish and reducing algae. Streamside trees can link areas of native vegetation together, extending habitat for native birds.

Besides these sorts of environmental benefits, riparian planting can also help a farm's economic bottom line.

Well-designed riparian fencing can be used to improve subdivision, help with mustering, and protect animals from drowning or getting stuck in wet areas. The shelter and shade riparian plantings provide can help with animal production and health. Improved milk grades are documented where dairy sheds no longer draw water from contaminated streams. On sheep and beef properties, stock are in better health and have faster weight gain when water sources are no longer contaminated.

Waikato Regional Council's catchment management officers are available on 0800 800 401 to provide advice on creating a riparian margin that when well-managed will filter out contaminants, such as sediment, pathogens and nutrients from farm runoff.

## Feds heartened by QEII funding boost

Federated Farmers is relieved to see the government put more money towards the Queen Elizabeth II Trust, to help landowner endeavours to protect and enhance areas of special native biodiversity on privately owned land.

Conservation Minister Kiri Allan has pledged \$8 million to go to the Jobs for Nature programme. This should allow the QEII Trust to increase the number of sites protected by covenants by 264 during the next four years.

Federated Farmers board member and environment spokesperson Chris Allen said the organisation had been asking for more help for the Trust for years, and the extra funding was very welcome.

More than 4600 unbreakable covenants have been established since 1977,

covering 180,000 hectares of private land. Willingness of landowners to voluntarily covenant and protect privately owned properties has long exceeded the ability for QEII to meet demand.

"This is sound investment and partnership by the government. QEII is an entity trusted and respected by farmers, and although the covenants involve protection of special sites in perpetuity, it remains a voluntary initiative. It's up landowners to decide if applying to the trust provides the best opportunities for their land," Chris said.

"Biodiversity, climate change and water quality are integrated issues, and funding to help incentivise native planting and protection can provide multi-faceted solutions."

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# Unusual object found on coast



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.

**1941**

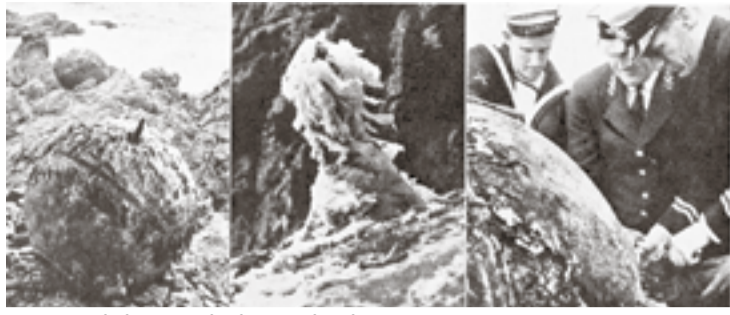
An unusual object which washed up near Kirita Point, 30 miles north of Thames, caught the attention of Mrs Noel Strange who started probing it with a knife.

As she was picking at the object she suddenly realised what it was – a mine covered with thick slime, weed and mussels.

It had come to rest on the rocks about 25 yards below the coast road. The discovery was reported to the military and naval authorities in Auckland, and local defence kept the mine under surveillance until it could be dealt with.

Great courage was shown by two members of the New Zealand Temporary Staff who waded into the water and secured the mine, which was bobbing dangerously close to the rocks, with lengths of fencing wire.

Thames fishermen were warned to keep a look out in case there were other mines in the Gulf. A naval party from Devonport were unable to ap-



An unusual object washed up on the Thames Coast.

Photo: SUPPLIED

proach the mine from the sea and landed at Coromandel, being driven to Kirita Bay. They displayed very cool courage as they tackled the 500lb of explosive contained in the mine.

Four of the lead horns had been bent over at right angles and two had been knocked off by the mine bouncing against the rocks. After the explosive had been removed, the mine was taken to Coromandel and detonated in a paddock.

When he first came to Turua, the clerk of the Hauraki United Drainage Board saw a 1000 ton ship come up the river and load timber before sailing direct to Melbourne.

“Can you imagine that now?” he asked. The Waihou River had been neglected to the detriment of the farm lands of the Hauraki Plains.

There was now a large island in the river near Turua which was about seven acres in extent. That island was once only a rush in the river. The river had silted up, the damage being done by the gold mines using it as a sludge channel.

Plans to begin rebuilding the

stop-banks along the foreshore of the Hauraki Plains from Waitakaruru to the Piako River and up the river to the Ngatea Bridge were announced. The job would take about five years to complete.

The bank would have a 20ft base and be eight feet high, all the material being taken from the inside. It was estimated the dredge would do about two miles a year. The work was started at Pipiroa as that was the most vulnerable section of the stop-bank.

When Mr Boles of Paeroa came in for a windfall he said “It’s just my lucky period. At the Paeroa races recently I backed a £63 dividend and thought I should carry on while my luck was in so I bought an Art Union ticket.”

The ticket won the first prize of £2000. Mr Boles, a married man with one child, was supervisor at the Paeroa Post Office.

When asked what he would do with the money, Mr Boles replied that he would “just box on as usual,” but would now have a feeling of greater security.

# Winter WI meetings held

Kerepehi Women’s Institute secretary Jan Edmonds welcomed four members to our meeting as our president was overseas and our vice president was away also seeing it was school holidays. Our numbers went up to five when Kris arrived later in the morning. We also had Max and Sophia Marion’s two grandchildren. They have been before and like coming to our meetings with their Nana. Sophia read Marion’s thought for the month: Be strong for today enough to stand alone, be smart enough to know when you need help, and brave enough to ask for it. Our roll calls were five Peggy squares or a ball of double knitting wool, a matchbox filled with items beginning with C. Set competitions: three pieces of cherry ripe slice, handmade glasses case, any medium. Our birthday lady was Jan Edmonds, who received a gift from our birthday bag. Three of our members had attended Group Day at Goldfields Institute and a report was given on that day too. Everyone had brought flowers so we had to call on Max and Sophia to do the judging, which they really enjoyed. They also sold the raffle tickets and enjoyed doing that too. Our raffle was won by Debbie Smith. Max presented it to her. We had all enjoyed finding items starting with C. We had a lovely shared lunch, nice soup, garlic bread, sandwiches and sweet cakes, which we all enjoyed as we had all bought something along. After lunch we played a card game called sequences, which the kids did very well at winning. We all signed a card for Ethel and Cathie who weren’t able to be there. Our next meeting is on 10th August at Carolyn Giles place.

1 Bev Adamson. Glasses Case: 1 Bev Adamson. Flowers: Bloom: 1 Debbie Smith; 2 Jan Edmonds; 3 Marion van Eyk. Shrub: 1 Jan Edmonds; 2 Marion van Eyk; 3 Kris Barnes. Spike: 1 Jan Edmonds; 2 Mario van Eyk; 3 Kris Barnes. Vegetable: 1 Marion Van Eyk; 2 Jan Edmonds; 3 Bev Adamson. Herb: 1 Bev Adamson; 2 Marion van Eyk; 3 Chris Barnes.

The July meeting of the Goldfields Women’s Institutes was held recently and commenced with the aspiration and prayer. Thoughts were given to Carol Cresswell, who had recently lost her husband, and Kate Wood who had lost a son-in-law. The Motto for the month: “Trouble is like muddy water, be patient, don’t stir it up and it will settle” was read by Jean Brady. The birthday girl this month is Dot McHardy. The roll call: Sing Say or Pay \$1 had some humorous sayings, although we did do quite well with members paying up. A presentation was held for Jill Affleck as she is shifting to Te Aroha. Jill was thanked for everything she has done for Goldfields since transferring from Thames Coast when it went into recess. Jill was presented with a shrub for her to plant in her new garden.

Members were thanked for all their work when we hosted the Thames Piako Group Day recently which was much appreciated especially when we were a bit down on members on the day. Next month will be our soup and bun Ddy, and arrangements were discussed. Raffles were won by Val Bowen, Carole Bridle and Helen Udy. Anne Bicknell was first for her photo in the competitions. Members enjoyed a social lunch with plenty of noise as everyone chatted away with all their news throughout the month.

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**RT5646**

**3** **2** **1**

712 Mackay Street, Thames \$599,000

OPEN HOME SATURDAY 12-12:30PM

1900's Villa situated in a sunny spot close to town. Large living area, separate dining & original joinery. Generous back yard with single garage.

**RT5638**

**4** **1** **1** **1**

9 Corbett Street, Paeroa \$425,000

- Three bedrooms, separate lounge, woodburner
- Open plan kitchen/dining, rear decking
- 397m2 established section very handy to town

**RG1919**

**3** **1** **1**

389 Back Miranda Rd Offers Over \$950,000

- Spectacular views, 5 double bedrooms
- North facing deck, mature trees & orchard
- 5 car garage, 5000m2 section subject to survey

**RN1377**

**5** **1** **5** **1**

210 Waikiekie Road, Thames Deadline Sale

OPEN HOME SAT & SUN 2-2:30PM

Enjoying a super sunny aspect & spectacular views this 3 double bedroom home is all set up for great family living. Tastefully refurbished recently.

**RT5656**

**4** **1** **1** **1**

25A Tapu Coroglen Rd, Tapu Deadline Sale

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**RT5651**

**3** **2** **6** **1**

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13

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

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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| 5 | 2 |   | 4 | 1 |   |   |   |   |
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EASY

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HARD

13

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

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MEDIUM

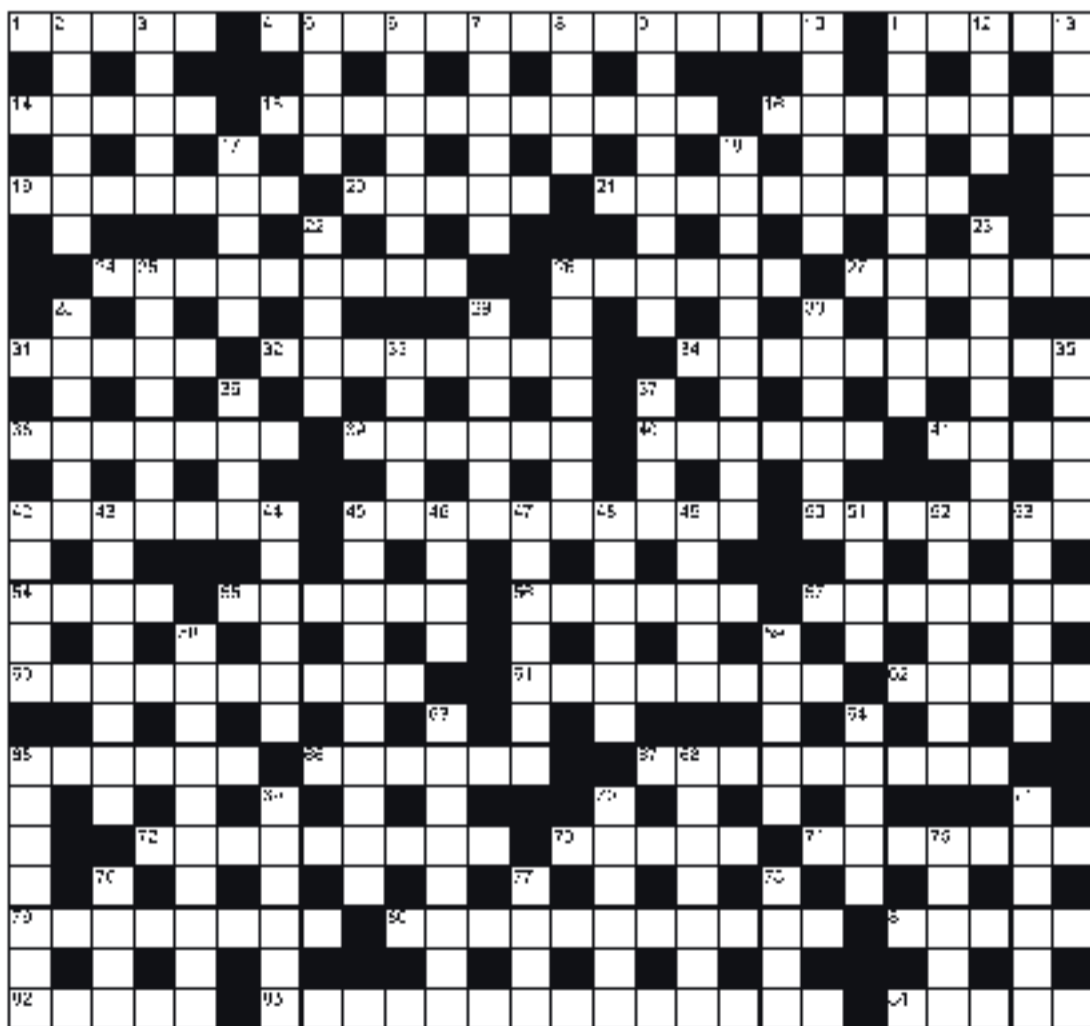
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| 7 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 5 |
| 6 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 2 |

EASY

## JUMBO CROSSWORD

33

- ACROSS**
- 1 Sea markers (5)
  - 4 Philatelist (5,9)
  - 11 Let (5)
  - 14 Fish (5)
  - 15 Forerunner (11)
  - 16 Hatch (8)
  - 19 Good buy (7)
  - 20 Outrider (5)
  - 21 Trembling motion (9)
  - 24 Spreader of sleeping sickness (6,3)
  - 26 Cope (6)
  - 27 Stress (6)
  - 31 Speed (5)
  - 32 More cunning (8)
  - 34 Reeling (10)
  - 38 Deadlock (7)
  - 39 Acid neutraliser (6)
  - 40 Season (6)
  - 41 Written note (4)
  - 42 Within a building (7)
  - 45 Adored (10)
  - 50 Dark-skinned (7)
  - 54 Long seats (4)
  - 55 Foaming (6)
  - 56 Passes on (6)
  - 57 Plume (7)
  - 60 Rescuers at pool, beach (10)
  - 61 Site (8)
  - 62 Single (5)
  - 65 Gripping fabric fastener (6)
  - 66 Pollutes (6)
  - 67 Pre-meal snack (9)
  - 72 Passed (9)
  - 73 Great fear (5)
  - 74 Neck vein (7)
  - 79 Tempting (8)
  - 80 Booking (11)
  - 81 Piece of dislodged turf (5)
  - 82 Sharpened (5)
  - 83 Is very obvious (6,3,1,4)
  - 84 Local regulation (2-3)
- DOWN**
- 2 Pandemonium (6)
  - 3 Adolescent (5)
  - 5 Sour (4)
  - 6 Claimed (anag)(7)
  - 7 Spiny plant (6)
  - 8 Deprivation (4)
  - 9 Feelings (8)
  - 10 Uncommon thing (6)
  - 11 Neared (10)
  - 12 Big cat (4)
  - 13 Official authorisation to arrest (7)
  - 17 Eats to slim (5)
  - 18 Scared (10)
  - 22 Jovial (5)
  - 23 Dregs (8)
  - 25 High voice (7)
  - 26 Cocktail (7)
  - 28 Teutonic (6)
  - 29 Competitors (6)
  - 30 Concurs (6)
  - 33 Musical instrument (5)
  - 35 Kudos (5)
  - 36 Consumer (4)
  - 37 Interchange (4)
  - 42 Drive forward (5)
  - 43 Ruination (8)
  - 44 Piercing cry (6)
  - 45 Extraction (10)
  - 46 Beams (4)
  - 47 Jumps (7)
  - 48 Royal residence (6)
  - 49 African country (5)
  - 51 Cheese-making by-product (4)
  - 52 Entourage (7)
  - 53 Took notice of (6)
  - 58 Made worse (10)
  - 59 Insure (5)
  - 63 Sudden involuntary kick (8)
  - 64 Less (5)
  - 65 Glossy coating (7)
  - 68 Ghostly figure (7)
  - 69 Fern branches (6)
  - 70 Hedge shrub (6)
  - 71 Eastern temple (6)
  - 75 Oneness (5)
  - 76 Kiln (4)
  - 77 Make anew (4)
  - 78 Young horse (4)



**PREVIOUS SOLUTION**

ACROSS: 1 Sutures, 4 Investment, 9 Prepare, 13 Rind, 14 Cicada, 15 Aerate, 16 Microbe, 19 Grievances, 20 Rigidity, 21 Index, 24 Belfry, 25 Sorrow, 27 Home guard, 32 Barracks, 33 Dearth, 34 Privacy, 38 Facelift, 39 Radium, 40 Rout, 41 Added, 42 Tread, 45 Babes in the wood, 52 Vocal, 55 Stage, 56 Zero, 57 Darken, 58 Hydrogen, 61 Rearing, 62 Giants, 63 Tribunal, 66 Titillate, 68 Amazed, 69 Dulled, 73 Poker, 74 Fearless, 76 Aquamarine, 81 Prairie, 82 Florin, 83 Avairy, 84 Anne, 85 Asserts, 86 Schoolbook, 87 Confess.

DOWN: 1 Sprig, 2 Tangible, 3 Skinny, 4 Inane, 5 Veal, 6 Sparrow, 7 Mirage, 8 Noted, 10 Ruin, 11 Partner, 12 Rabies, 17 Overhauled, 18 Steed, 22 Trespass, 23 Quire, 24 Benefit, 26 Orca, 28 Outgrow, 29 Prefab, 30 Warmth, 31 Eczema, 33 Deign, 35 Video, 36 Acme, 37 Ludo, 43 Rotted, 44 Auger, 46 Aped, 47 Egotist, 48 Iodine, 49 Tires, 50 Eventual, 51 Dry run, 52 Vernacular, 53 Cogs, 54 Linseed, 59 Snail, 60 Rise, 64 Sleet, 65 Alliance, 67 Itemise, 68 Arsenal, 70 Boards, 71 Weirdo, 72 Fabric, 75 Relic, 77 Quirk, 78 Evens, 79 Fist, 80 Halo.

# HEALTH & WELLBEING



## What works for the common cold

**T**here's no cure for the common cold, but here's what really works when a winter cold hits.

Though we all know nothing can cure a cold, some remedies might help ease your symptoms and keep you from feeling so miserable. Cold remedies that work include staying hydrated, resting, and a saltwater gargle or lozenges to soothe a sore throat. To combat stuffiness, try over-the-counter saline nasal drops and sprays. A cold remedy used in many cultures is sipping warm liquids, such as chicken soup, tea or warm apple juice, which may be soothing and might ease congestion by increasing mucus flow. Try honey, which may help coughs in adults and children older than one year. Try it in hot tea.

Adding moisture to the air may also

help ease symptoms. A cool-mist vaporizer or humidifier can add moisture to your home, which might help loosen congestion. Change the water daily, and clean the unit according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Try over-the-counter cold and cough medications, but only as directed. Some cold remedies contain multiple ingredients, such as a decongestant plus a pain reliever, so read the labels of cold medications you take to make sure you're not taking too much of any medication.

Take care of yourself. Rest, drink fluids and keep the air around you moist. Remember to wash your hands frequently.

Although usually minor, colds can make you feel miserable. It's tempting to try the latest remedy, but the best thing you can do is take care of yourself.



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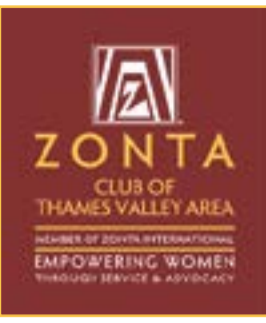
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Thursday 26th August 2021  
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2. Selection of Board Members  
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# SPORTS

## Close battles for senior women's hockey

Waitakaruru has taken out the senior women's championship for the 2021 season.

Thames Valley Hockey Association president Vicki Coles said there were five teams from around the district in the senior women's league, who competed in two rounds at the Ngatea ASB Hockey Turf on Thursday nights.

There were some close battles throughout the season, ending with a five-team play-off based on placings after two rounds, she said.

Finals night took place on July 22. "Umpires on the night [were] Shiralee Sayer, Jeremy Cryer, Rachael Aitchison, Taryn Slee - huge thanks to them," she said. Final placings for the Championship were: Waitakaruru, 1; Morrinsville, 2; Ngatea Strikers, 3; Ngatea Mystix, 4; Ngatea Slapsticks, 5.

**TOP RIGHT:** Waitakaruru are named the senior women's champions.

**RIGHT:** Morrinsville claimed second place in the senior women's league.

**FAR RIGHT:** Ngatea Strikers came in third place in the championship.

Photos: LAURA FAULKER





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## SPORTS

## Thames bowlers step on to national stage

By TERESA RAMSEY

A Thames Bowling Club team has cruised into winning a national title despite only playing together a handful of times in the past year.

The team, representing Thames Valley, took out the National Champion of Champion Fours silverware for the 2020/21 season at Pukekohe recently.

The talented team, skipped by Adam Haywood, with Matt Johnson at number three, Jason Prout at number two, and lead Mark Mathews, combined to take on more than 40 of the country's top performing sides at the event, which was hosted at the Pukekohe Cosmopolitan Club.

The men's final saw the line-up take a comfortable grip on proceedings, holding back a strong charge from Northland to storm home to win the title 16-11.

The Thames team were thrilled to receive their medal and get a New Zealand title under the belt.

Adam Haywood, who lives in Whitianga, said the win came as a surprise considering the team hadn't played together much in the past year.

He didn't play bowls that much due to work and family commitments, and only played with his Thames-based teammates around 10 times a year,



Thames Bowling Club national champions, from left: Adam Haywood, Mark Mathews, Jason Prout and Matt Johnson.

Photo: SUPPLIED

he said.

"I haven't touched a bowl in three months then we went there and ended up winning. It's a good team," he said.

"One of our players [Jason Prout], he only plays twice a year too - he's too busy fishing all the time."

However, it was good for a

small centre like Thames Bowling Club and for Thames Valley to win a national title, he said.

"I've come close a couple of times before but obviously fell short so I wasn't expecting that. But a bit of belief in the team can go a long way sometimes," he said.

"It's a big deal. Some people

play their whole lives and don't get [a national title] so... we felt pretty good, we were pretty hungry over the next day."

The team members were looking forward to the new season, which was due to begin in a few months, he said.

"We'll get back into playing centre events at different clubs

around the Thames Valley, playing for centre titles and there'll be club events."

Bowls was a great sport for meeting different people, he said.

"It's a pretty addictive game once you get the hang of it - because it's quite hard, and playing in team format is good - you're playing with your mates."



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