

# The Valley Profile

ISSN 2703-5700

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

Issue 034 August 18, 2021



## Antarctica calls Waikino chef

By KELLEY TANTAU

Dan Wheway's summer is going to look a lot different this year.

Instead of gazing out at the rolling hills of Waikino, he'll be staring across the polar desert of Antarctica, and instead of basking in high-20 degree heat, he'll be adjusting to the temperature on what is the planet's coldest continent.

Dan, 49, has been selected for a minimum five-month stint as a summer chef down at Scott Base, New Zealand's Antarctic research station.

He calls it his "Midlife Crisis: Part Two", after his first one eight years ago saw him donate a kidney to his mother-in-law.

But it'll also be a one-of-a-kind experience, which will see him return to his career as a chef.

Dan has been in the culinary industry since he was 16, starting as an apprentice back home in the United Kingdom.

After moving to New Zealand in 2005, he worked on-and-off for 10 years as a lecturer of professional cookery and professional bakery at the Manukau Institute of Technology (MIT) in Auckland.

After his wife, Jo Wheway, got a job as the principal of Waikino School, he moved down to be with her, telling *The Profile* he would rather be with the person he enjoyed being with, than work at a job he enjoyed doing.

In the Hauraki, he started working at Mitre 10 Waihi's trade yard, but at the end of February this year, he and Jo were watching a news segment



Dan Wheway, from Waikino, will return to his career as a chef, but this time, he'll do it in Antarctica.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

in which Scott Base was putting the word out for workers.

All it took was a knowing look between the pair.

Dan applied for the summer chef role and was shortlisted. He then went through a Zoom interview and psychometric testing.

"I became, for the first time in my life, quite pessimistic. I found the psychometric testing quite difficult and I just wanted to know whether I got the job or not. It all became very real," he

**"How often do you get the chance to use the skill set you have to go to a part of the world you could only dream of?"**

- Dan Wheway

said. "So when I got the phone call saying: 'Daniel, you're successful', I was so happy. Genuinely, 'raise the roof' sort of

happy."

But Dan still had to go through medical and dental checks.

"Being useless as a child with my teeth, and then being a chef working silly hours and constantly tasting foods, I had a crap dental history. I ended up having four fillings and one extraction," he said.

Now, he's all set to head down to Christchurch on August 15 for the start of a two-week training and bonding period.

He'll then be put in isolation for three days and be tested for Covid-19.

Once given the all-clear, he and the crew will fly to Scott Base on September 15.

Scott Base is located 3800km south of Christchurch and 1350km from the South Pole.

From October to February, it is a bustling hub of scientists, staff and visitors, and up to 86 people can be accommodated at any one time.

During summer, Antarctica is also in constant sunlight.

But Dan will go prepared. He's bought himself a blackout eye mask, he said.

"Being a very organised chef, I always have lists. A month ago, when I thought of something I should take with me, I wrote it down in a book. It could've been something as silly as Command hooks to hang things on a wall, or Blu Tack," he said.

"I even did a test back in March or April, how long a deodorant and toothpaste would last. Then I could take down what I needed."

Dan said he would miss the Waikino view and the sound of birds, as well as his three children and wife Jo, who he married back in 1995.

Email will be their next form of contact for the next five months.

"Jo has always been my backbone; we've always shared everything, and she's always supported me," Dan said.

"And I say it's a midlife crisis, but how often do you get the chance to use the skill set you have to go to a part of the world you could only dream of?"



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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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# Driver testing wait times ‘unfair’

By KELLEY TANTAU

Allegations that out-of-town drivers are taking up valuable driver licence test slots is simply “street talk”, training providers have said, with the root of the problem instead stemming from staffing shortages.

The *Profile* understands wait times to sit a restricted or full driver licence test in Thames can stretch up to three months.

While Gavin Buchanan, who has owned Thames Driver Training for three years, has seen the odd person from Auckland, Hamilton, and even Great Barrier Island utilise Thames’ streets to sit lessons and tests, he said the majority coming through were locals.

“I think there’s a bit of street talk with people saying we’ve been inundated with people from out of town, but I don’t think that’s the case,” he said.

“We all live in small communities around the area, and I think where people get it misconstrued is when they see people from Whitianga, Whangamata, or even Ngatea coming to sit their test. Sometimes they think: Why are they doing it here?”

“It’s because it’s the only place they can do it.”

Thames Driver Training offers everything from learner licence courses, one-on-one in-car driver training, defensive driving courses, as well as



Learner drivers are waiting for months to get an appointment to sit their restricted test. (FILE PHOTO)

preparation for restricted and full licence tests.

Mr Buchanan was a driver testing officer in Thames for five years before he started the business.

He said people travelling to Thames to sit their test wasn’t the cause of the long wait times.

Instead, he believed it was due to a shortage in staff.

When he was a tester, there used to be a wait time of around three-six weeks. Now, that time has doubled, he said.

“Certainly there has been and still is, a very long wait time, and that is a big concern for my clients and other people wanting to do their tests.

“They’ve done all this training, and then it’s another 3-4 months before they get to do their test, so now they go back-

wards, and that’s not fair on them.”

Valley Education and Training Enterprises (VETEL) has also taken it upon themselves to start driver training and education.

They provide driving lessons and regular courses for defensive driving around the eastern Waikato, with their instructor picking people up from their home and taking them for their lessons.

Administration manager Ruth Bliss said a six-week to two-month wait time for their students to sit their tests was “relatively acceptable” - but a three month wait was not.

“You can get your learner’s licence by completing the test at AA in Thames or Paeroa, that’s not a problem. It’s when you

need to go for your restricted licence that there’s a three-month wait.

“We’d certainly like to have that time-frame cut down,” she said.

VTNZ’s operations support manager James Law said the time spent in alert levels 3 and 4 across the country during the Covid-19 lockdown had resulted in a backlog of more than 42,000 driver tests nationwide.

They were still working through its flow-on effects, he said.

“Our target wait time is 30 days, and this is currently higher due to increased demand and the significant backlog. The Waikato is our main pinch point nationwide, with wait times sitting at 47 days,” he said.

“We are actively working to manage this backlog, and VTNZ is currently doing an additional recruitment drive to boost the workforce by 10 per cent. In addition to the recruitment drive, Driver Testing Officers (DTOs) are being moved around in their geographic region as required, in order to minimise branch wait times as much as possible.”

Mr Law said VTNZ had been recruiting for a permanent DTO to cover Thames and Morrinsville for more than a year. They hoped to have someone employed in the role within the next few months.

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## Thames Tides

| Wed Aug 18   | Thu Aug 19   | Fri Aug 20  | Sat Aug 21   | Sun Aug 22  | Mon Aug 23   | Tue Aug 24  |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| <br>Morning: 2:17am 3.3, 8:35am 0.7<br>Afternoon: 3:05pm 3.3, 9:16pm 0.9<br>Sun: 6:58am 5:46pm<br>Best At: 8:06am 8:37pm<br>Set: 3:14am, Rise: 12:56pm | <br>Morning: 3:20am 3.3, 9:43am 0.8<br>Afternoon: 4:14pm 3.3, 10:21pm 0.8<br>Sun: 6:57am 5:47pm<br>Best At: 9:07am 9:38pm<br>Set: 4:21am, Rise: 1:55pm | <br>Morning: 4:26am 3.2, 10:51am 0.7<br>Afternoon: 5:18pm 3.4, 11:22pm 0.7<br>Sun: 6:56am 5:48pm<br>Best At: 10:09am 10:38pm<br>Set: 5:20am, Rise: 3:01pm | <br>Morning: 5:33am 3.3, 11:52am 0.6<br>Afternoon: 6:14pm 3.5<br>Sun: 6:54am 5:48pm<br>Best At: 11:07am 11:35pm<br>Set: 6:11am, Rise: 4:10pm | <br>Morning: 12:18am 0.7, 6:34am 3.4<br>Afternoon: 12:45pm 0.5, 7:06pm 3.6<br>Sun: 6:53am 5:49pm<br>Best At: 12:02pm<br>Set: 6:53am, Rise: 5:19pm | <br>Morning: 1:10am 0.6, 7:29am 3.4<br>Afternoon: 1:33pm 0.5, 7:54pm 3.7<br>Sun: 6:52am 5:50pm<br>Best At: 12:28am 12:53pm<br>Full Moon<br>Set: 7:28am, Rise: 6:27pm | <br>Morning: 1:59am 0.5, 8:18am 3.5<br>Afternoon: 2:18pm 0.5, 8:40pm 3.7<br>Sun: 6:50am 5:51pm<br>Best At: 1:17am 1:40pm<br>Set: 7:59am, Rise: 7:31pm |

**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 | High Mn | Low Mn |
|-------------|----|---------|--------|
| 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  |



# New market to fund Puriri Hall upgrade

By TERESA RAMSEY

A rural hall is coming to life with a new Saturday market drawing in the crowds once a month.

The Puriri Valley Market Day, founded by Puriri local Tori Wilkie and her friend Rebekah Smith, is held on the first Saturday of the month from 8am.

Tori told *The Profile* the reason they established the market was to raise funds for the community-owned Puriri Hall.

“All the money from the stalls goes into helping the hall in some way, like getting paint or something like that to keep it going,” she said.

“The first lot is going towards the paint and the second is to get a new oven in there.”

Tori was raised in Puriri and has lived there most of her life.

“We set it up just to get something going in Puriri because it’s such a quiet little village and not many people really pay it any attention... and we’re trying to get the hall used more.

“I was just wanting to help out the locals a little bit.”

Despite some vandalism of their signage the night before the first market last month, a good crowd of people came through the doors to see what around a dozen stalls had on offer.

“We had quite a good flow of people all day, it was good.”



Puriri local Tori Wilkie is one of the founders of the Puriri Valley Market Day.

Photo: TERESA RAMSEY

The pair were “shocked” with the positive response they received after the first market, Tori said.

“As soon as we put the posts up to say that the second market was there, we had 101 messages straight away from people interested in coming along to support it, and a message from one lady who wanted to do face-painting

for the kids. It was quite cool really.” The second market held on August 7 saw 14 stall holders, with a wide variety of goods on offer, from hand-crafted soaps to women’s and kids’ clothing, toys, indoor plants, woven baskets, seeds and healing balms.

“We’ve got a good mix of just about everything really.”

Neither had any previous ex-

perience with organising a market, she said. “Between the two of us we came together and we’ve improved lots of things, like new signage... and advertising.”

The Puriri community has rallied behind the new market.

“Everyone’s volunteering to help, I’ve had a couple of people wanting to help put out signs and help set up,” Tori said.

“Everyone in the community’s been really supportive of the whole thing, which has been awesome.”

**DETAILS: Puriri Market, first Saturday of the month, 8am until 12:30pm. Stalls are \$5, book: Puriri Valley Market Day Facebook page or Ph 0274 903 714.**

**The Puriri Hall is also available for hire: Ph 027 868 1039.**



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SPORTS

# Old rivals meet

Hauraki Plains College students met with Te Kuiti High School last week in an age-old sports exchange that spans nearly 60 years. **DAVID WATKIN** and **SARAH BLAKE** caught some of the action.



HPC's Isabella Martin goes for the ball, with Lola Anderson in support.



HPC students compete in netball.



Hauraki basketball players team up to block a Te Kuiti player.



A Hauraki player takes a shot in hockey.



Rugby players in the line-out.



## Music Mentoring for Students



Possum Plows listening to HPC Year 13 band "Choccy Milk"

As part of the NZ Music Mentor program, HPC students recently had the privilege of two days of mentoring with Possum Plows. The Musicians Mentoring in Schools Programme connects New Zealand's top musical artists with emerging young talent in secondary schools. From the programme's establishment in 2001, more than 150 artists have shared their

expertise in song writing, instrumental and vocal technique, recording technology and musical industry insight.

In the two days of working with Possum Plows, an industry professional who specialises in songwriting and composition, students presented their original material to which Possum provided suggestions on how they could refine their ideas. Charlotte Macreath, Cultural and Arts Leader and Year 13 music student loved the opportunity. "It was pretty cool to have someone from the industry to teach us so our songs are the best they could possibly be." Students will be submitting their final songs for their NCEA Level 3 song writing assessment.

## Chainsawing Course



Ryan Cole

Twenty seven Year 12 and 13 students are currently learning skills in chain saw use as part of their Primary Industries programme. As well as learning about

chainsaw maintenance, correct PPE, and site set up, students have the opportunity for 'hands on' experiences on the school farm where they are learning how to do upper cuts, down cuts and bore cuts with mature logs donated by the community. Year 12 student, Hayden Adams, it is also good preparation for his future pathway. "It's good to have an opportunity to learn some practical skills. I'm keen on a career in horticulture, so the chainsaw course should be useful for when I leave school".

## The Te Kuiti Tradition

Last week saw the annual sports exchange with Te Kuiti High take place. The annual sports exchange with Te Kuiti High School was set up by the Principal of the time, Mr A.V. O'Brien, to mark the official transition from Ngatea District High School to Hauraki Plains College in 1963.



Celebrating 58 years of the Te Kuiti Tradition

Initially the exchange involved just three teams: First XV Rugby; Girls Hockey and Girls Basketball (now called Netball). This year Football and Basketball teams will also compete for school honours.

From the 1964 archives; First XV vs Te Kuiti: "The game was played in the morning and for the first 20 minutes the weather was fine, but then some heavy rain fell which turned the field to mud and made the ball very greasy...

After 32 minutes the ball went out along the Hauraki Plains backs, after a break by Brian McCollum, to Gary Wilson who scored in the corner, to bring the score to 5-6... The rest of the game saw no changes to the score in spite of Te Kuiti's repeated driving attacks and so the game ended in victory for the local team in one of their closest fought matches." While the rugby match was being played, the Girls A Hockey X1 won 11-0 and the Girls Basketball lost 22-32.

## Game on for Ania

Each student assembly, sports leaders choose one person as sports person of the month. This month the award went to Ania Ballantine. Ania placed silver at the Junior National Touch Championships with the Thames Valley U16 Touch Team and then went



Ania Ballantine

on to be Selected for the Thames Valley Open Mixed Touch Team where they also won silver at the National Touch Championships. Ania was awarded Most Valuable Player for the Open Mixed team among a team of adults. Congratulations Ania.



# Metal artist inspired by new home town

By DEBORAH MACDONALD BROWN

On the outskirts of Thames, you might be startled to see an extinct Spinosaurus from the Cretaceous era glaring out ferociously at passing cars.

Known affectionately as “Fugly”, this dinosaur, bigger and badder than Tyrannosaurus rex, is the work of metal artist Marti Wong, who recently moved to Thames.

Making art is in Marti’s DNA. From an early age he knew this was something he had to do - whether drawing, sketching and painting, and, throughout his career, he has experimented with carving, print-making, chalk pastels, wood burning and collaging. His primary love though is making fantastical imaginative creatures and objects from metal.

His metal work reflects the early inspiration Marti took from a rich pool of films and literature, in particular, he was exposed to the fantasy and the Sci Fi worlds of *Star Wars*, *BattleStar Galactica*, *Lord of the Rings*, 2000 AD Comics, Dungeons & Dragons and *Star Trek* to name a few. He is still drawn to the imaginative worlds of mythical beasts, chimaera, and the legends of Greek and Norse mythology, and it is their mythical creatures which are enjoyed by the people who love his art.

Marti’s early path to becoming a professional artist was not an easy one, but one full of twists and turns, setbacks and opportunities. The fact he achieved his dream of making art for a living is testament to the passion he feels about it as an important focus for life.

Marti said he dropped out of high school: “I was asked to leave for wagging, playing pool and listening to *Pink Floyd*”, and at his first flat, he hung out with other artists.

“We were experimenting with what was possible. Many of the people I hung out with have also gone on with art careers - in set design, movie making and writing,” he said.

After the reality of marrying and starting a family meant Marti had more responsibility, he decided to take a free government course in stainless steel welding, as he thought this would give him good future work options. Fortunately,



Thames metal artist Marti Wong and his Spinosaurus Fugly, with some other works, Polar Bear, below left, and Spiky Dragon, below right.

Photos: SUPPLIED



ly, next door was an automotive shop where he could get free machine parts to make art one day a week, using the gear provided by the course. He finished the one-year course in six months and, with the encouragement of his tutor, had the freedom for the next six months to make anything he wanted.

When the course wound down, Marti bought the equipment, which meant he could make art from a single garage at home and was on the way to

fulfilling his dream.

He then got a job working with wrought iron but repetitive strain injury (RSI) meant he had to take time out for a year. Unable to make art, he helped raise his babies instead.

After he healed, Marti returned to making his own art and, in the late 1990s, he began to exhibit his work and attend shows such as the Ellerslie Flower Show, Mystery Creek and Sculpture on the Shore in Takapuna. As his work became

recognised, he received both public and private commissions.

Moving to Thames was a new adventure for Marti. He is influenced now by his daily walks and inspired by the local natural environment – white faced herons, pohutukawa, tui, falcons, spoonbills and driftwood.

He and his family wanted to live in a community supportive of the arts and he’s already involved with two collaborative art projects – one at Te Puru

School and the other with the Thames-Coromandel District Council’s Create the Vibe project in the heart of Thames.

For Marti Wong, making art is a way of being, and he could not imagine living another life other than one making art.

“I have worked and done jobs and done other things. It wasn’t satisfying. It’s soul destroying working for someone else. I am lucky and privileged. I have the skills and abilities and I have done this for 25 years”.

**Scott Simpson**  
MP for Coromandel

**Contact me anytime**

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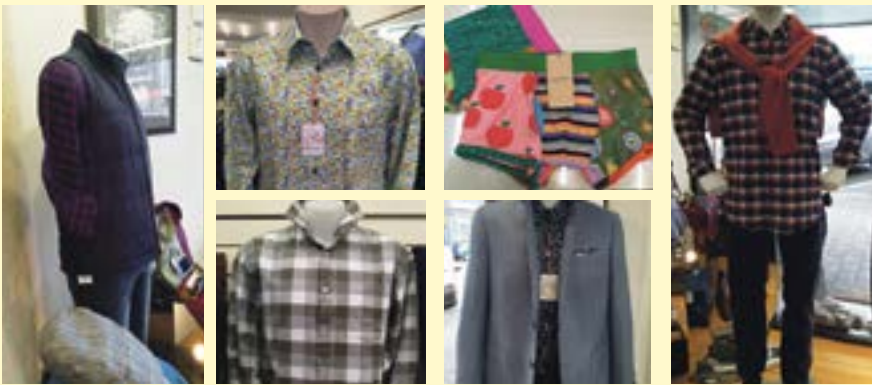
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WHAT'S ON

Email your community event or club or group notice to [editor@valleyprofile.co.nz](mailto: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 20-21: Zonta Bookarama:** 9am-5pm on August 20, 9am-3pm on August 21 at St James Church Pahau St, Thames. Second hand & collectible books. All welcome.

**August 21: Dog training for kiwi avoidance:** at the Kauaeranga Visitor Centre, Ph 07 867 9080, email [kauaerangavc@doc.govt.nz](mailto:kauaerangavc@doc.govt.nz).

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

**August 24-26: Paeroa Playcentre Messy Play Sessions:** Preschoolers with parent/caregivers welcome, 9.15am-12pm, 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 28: Free lunchtime concert:** University of Waikato Conservatorium vocal students *Murmurs of Spring*, St Georges Church Thames, 12.15pm - 1pm.

**August 29: T3 screening of High Tide don't hide,** 5pm at the Thames Civic Centre, \$10 adults, \$5 children, door sales only.

**August 29: Gitbox Rebellion:** Kauaeranga Hall, 2:30pm, door sales \$25 or prebook: 021 912 993.

**August 29: Kokomo:** The Back Room, Thames, 2:30pm. Tickets: 24.95 from Lotus Realm.

**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.

**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

**Paeroa RSA Building Fund Mini Market:** Second Saturday of the month, 9am-noon, indoor all-weather market. Book: 027 681 8610 or 027 543 6749. All proceeds go to the RSA building fund for renovations.

**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-2pm. Local crafters and artists. Book: Ph 027 222 0700.

**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 Mangatarata:** Pene Koch, Ph 07 867 3380

**Hauraki Cardiac Support Club Thames:** Ph 07 868 6148

**Hauraki Country Music Club:** Tina Haakma, Ph 07 868 3443

**Hauraki Golf Club:** Len Cameron, Ph 07 867 7660

**Hauraki Plains Co-operating 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:** Mangatarata, 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



Enjoy a free lunchtime concert on August 27 at 12:15pm at St George's Church, in Thames, where University of Waikato Conservatorium students will perform *Murmurs of Spring and Beyond* - beautiful melodies heralding the imminent arrival of the season of spring and more. The concert will feature vocal ensembles and solos featuring students from the vocal programme at the University of Waikato. The programme is known for its vibrant and diverse programmes and extensive community involvement, with numerous productions and concerts held throughout the academic year. With the valuable support of Dame Malvina Major, this conservatorium has produced a high number of voice graduates forging remarkable professional careers in England, Europe, the United States and here in New Zealand.

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

**Ngatea Garden Circle:** Alice Douglas on 07 867 7463

**Ngatea Indoor Bowling Club:** Ph 07 867 6082 or 07 867 8015

**Ngatea Lions Club:** Bruce Foster, Ph 021 043 9280

**Ngatea Playcentre:** President, Ph 027 327 5536

**Ngatea Pony Club:** Nicky Hamblyn, Ph 07 867 7078

**Ngatea Scouts:** Kim Donaldson, Ph 07 867 7350

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

**Ngatea Yoga:** Mondays, 5:15pm or 6:45pm, \$15. Register: [connect@karaleah.com](mailto:connect@karaleah.com) or via Facebook

**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 Playcentre:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9.15am to 12pm. Ph 027 515 5705

**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 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 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 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 Har-sant, Ph 027 495 5583

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

**Tramping in Thames area:** [www.sporty.co.nz/kauaerangatrampingclub](http://www.sporty.co.nz/kauaerangatrampingclub)

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

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

**Karangaleles 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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[www.hgleach.co.nz](http://www.hgleach.co.nz)



Winter woollies to warm those in need

AED device returned

By TERESA RAMSEY

More than 1700 hand-crafted colourful woollen blankets, jerseys, hats, scarves, slippers and socks brightened the Thames Civic Centre last week.

The annual display showcased the hard work of Thames-Coromandel and Hauraki volunteers, who knitted the woollen items for Operation Cover Up, an international organisation that sends blankets and warm clothing to those in need in the cold climates of Eastern Europe.

Co-ordinator Margaret Morritt said the colourful display was a popular attraction each year.

“It’s to get more people interested really, and get a few more knitters, but people just love to come along,” she said.

“It’s quite amazing really, the whole display.”

The woollens are currently being counted and packed into containers before being shipped to Amsterdam, where they’ll be sorted and distributed to Romania, then on to other Eastern European countries.

“It’ll get trucked around to wherever it’s needed in those countries, mostly to poor families,” she said.

The organisation donated the woollens through Mission Without Borders, a Christian mission with about 40 staff in each country who looked after poor families, children in orphanages and elderly who lived on the street, she said.

“So they always know who



Judy Gould, Margaret Morritt and Ruth Porter with the woollen donations.

Photo: MONIKA LANGE

needs the [woollens]. It gets down to -20 degrees so they’re very much in need of something warm.”

The Thames Valley branch also raised funds to help with the \$16,000 cost of shipping the goods to Eastern Europe, she said, so donations of funds and wool were welcome.

“Thank you to the businesses who gave us items for our raffles and thanks to all the women who have created so many wonderful warm garments and blankets to send to Eastern Europe.”

“We always need donations but also donations of wool are

### THE NUMBERS

Hard working volunteers donated the following to Operation Cover Up:

|              |                        |
|--------------|------------------------|
| 482 blankets | 343 jerseys            |
| 615 hats     | 130 slippers and socks |
| 184 scarves  |                        |



very acceptable because ... wool is quite expensive.”

Knitting the woollens also had a positive effect on Kiwi knitters who donated, she said.

“What we found was it was helping people over in those countries, but it was also doing something amazing for the women in New Zealand because ... suddenly they had a cause to start knitting for and it’s just given so much motivation.”

**DETAILS: To donate funds or wool to Operation Coverup, contact Margaret Morritt, Ph 07 868 1085.**

By TERESA RAMSEY

A life-saving device stolen from a regional park has been returned to the community.

The recent theft of an automated external defibrillator (AED) from Waharau Regional Park just north of Kaiaua was described as “appalling” by St John. However, after a public outcry, the device was left on the steps of the Pink Shop in Kaiaua overnight just a few days later.

St John Hauraki Territory Manager John Armitt said the service was grateful the AED had been returned in working condition. “We want to thank the public for their support and for heeding our call for it to be reinstated, so it can continue to be available to the community in the event of a cardiac arrest,” he said.

The AED, which cost around \$3000, was gifted for the benefit of the community thanks to the generosity of local supporters, including the Triumph club, Kaiaua Boat Club and members of the public. The site for the device was chosen because the park was 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, Mr Armitt earlier told *The Profile*.

“Stealing an AED is taking away a life-saving piece of equipment which is only useful in a cardiac arrest emergency.”

The theft had earlier been reported to the Police.

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# Survey seeks honest opinions about regional tourism

Local communities throughout the region will have their say in a new survey designed to help the region plan for the future of tourism.

Destination Coromandel project manager Whitney Steel said the regional tourism organisation wanted to know what people really thought about tourism in their backyard as part of the region's very first destination management plan (DMP).

"In plain terms, a destination management plan is a more holistic way of managing our region as a destination," she said.

"It's about building a direction from the community up - what do we want for our region? How do we manage all the visitors coming in the summertime? Do we want to see visitors pay more for facilities that are shared by us as locals? What do we need visitors to understand about protecting our environment?"

"And getting people's genuine opinions and feelings about it - the purpose of the survey is not to sway anyone to support tourism growth, it's to genuinely understand how they feel and provide the building blocks of a way forward."

The DMP brings together our priorities for the region under one umbrella, for example, conservation, infrastructure, views on tourism



Destination Coromandel project manager Whitney Steel says the regional tourism organisation wants to know what people really think about tourism in their backyard. Photo: TERESA RAMSEY

and more, and makes it easier to see what's really important to our communities and what actions to take.

After the survey closes on August 27, Destination Coromandel plans to run community workshops to present the results of the survey, discuss the ideas put forward and community priorities in the region.

"It's getting people's genu-

ine priorities for their town because we are one region but we're all so different based on where we live. Everyone's idea of who we are at our local level and then connecting that to how we see our region," Ms Steel said.

"The one common theme I've noticed chatting to locals is, the very reason people want to visit here, is the exact reason why we live here - we

love the sea and we love the bush. That's why we're all passionate about protecting our environment and ensuring our mokopuna can experience our place the same way we do."

Tourism in New Zealand was changing, with sustainability now a priority focus, she said.

"Some locals feel that tourism is only about bringing in

## BE IN TO WIN!

The survey is for all residents – permanent and holiday home owners throughout the Thames-Coromandel and Hauraki districts. Everyone taking part has the chance to enter a prize draw for two nights under the stars at Wairua Lodge near Whitianga, valued at \$450. The community survey is live now and closes on Friday, August 27, at [www.communitysurvey.co.nz](http://www.communitysurvey.co.nz).

numbers but that's not the case anymore - tourism has changed around the country. It's not so much about getting tourists here at all costs - it's about how we manage things sustainably, which includes our quality of life as locals who live here.

"To move to a destination management approach to tourism, which is an all-encompassing holistic view, including community and mana whenua, we must build it together. This is part of the process to achieve that.

"Our business owners have had their say with over 200 responses to our business survey.

"Now it's your turn."

# JOIN US IN SHAPING TOURISM FOR OUR REGION

Complete our **COMMUNITY SURVEY** and **WIN 2 nights under the stars at Wairua Lodge**



## Have your say now! Here's how:

- 1/ Scan this QR code on your phone using your camera
- 2/ Visit [www.communitysurvey.co.nz](http://www.communitysurvey.co.nz)
- 3/ Pick up a printed version at the Thames, Waihi or Whitianga i-Site

Survey closes  
Friday 27th  
August 2021



# Drowning in Paeroa river



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

Getting the children dressed for Sunday school was a busy and distracting time for Mrs Grant of Mill Road, Paeroa where the family lived on the banks of the Ohinemuri River. It was around 1pm in late January, 1905, and they were all gathered in an outhouse. As 11-year-old Willie put his boots on, Mrs Grant finished tidying up the other children.

Jane Grant, 9, gazing through the window of the outhouse, heard a splash and saw some waves in the river. She drew her mother's attention to the splash and waves, but said it wasn't Willie as he had gone inside the house.

When Mrs Grant had finished organising the children, she went out and called for Willie but got no answer. She went down to the river to see if the boy had fallen in, but she saw no sign of him. With rising panic, she ran to the nearby Māori settlement and told them she thought Willie had fallen into the river.



Paeroa children have an open air geography lesson. Photo: SUPPLIED

Willing helpers started searching by diving into the river and dragging it with hooks and nets. Mrs Grant also sent the other children to look for their brother. The children's father, William, was away from home when at about quarter to two one of his little girls came to him and said Willie was missing. William reported the matter to Constable Whelan then hurried home to help drag the river. Richard Willis and Mr Spinks were in a boat dredging the water with a pole and hook each. The search had begun around half past one and about ten past four Spinks caught the body of Willie with his pole. He was fully clothed in his Sunday best. An inquest was held at the Paeroa courthouse. Willie was described as a very healthy boy, not subject to fits or giddiness. He could not swim. It was thought he might have gone down to the river to wash his face as he sometimes did in fine weather. He had a toy boat, which was found alongside the steps lead-

ing into the river. He must have overbalanced and fallen in, and as he could not swim he was unable to get out again, the river being very deep at that part. The jury returned a verdict of accidental drowning. Willie, the only son of William and Jane Grant, was buried at Paeroa's Pukerimu cemetery.

A few days later, the Ohinemuri Gazette commented on the need for swimming lessons for children. "The art of swimming is one that everybody should know, and if the younger children are taken in hand and instructed, the easier will they learn. In a good many places swimming classes have been started, and we see no reason why something of that sort should not be initiated in Paeroa."

The results of a competition run by Messrs Collins Bros, publishers of educational books, were announced two months after Willie's death, with Willie winning the prize for the Best Written Copy Books No's 4 or 5.



## Thames Valley Swampfoxes

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## Mid Canterbury

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### at Waikato Stadium, Hamilton,

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# OUR COROMANDEL



THAMES  
COROMANDEL  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

News from Thames-Coromandel District Council

18 August, 2021

## Together, let's bin the bad habits

**Did you know the Coromandel produces more than 75 tonnes of waste each week that goes to landfill?**

That's the weight of 50 large cars.

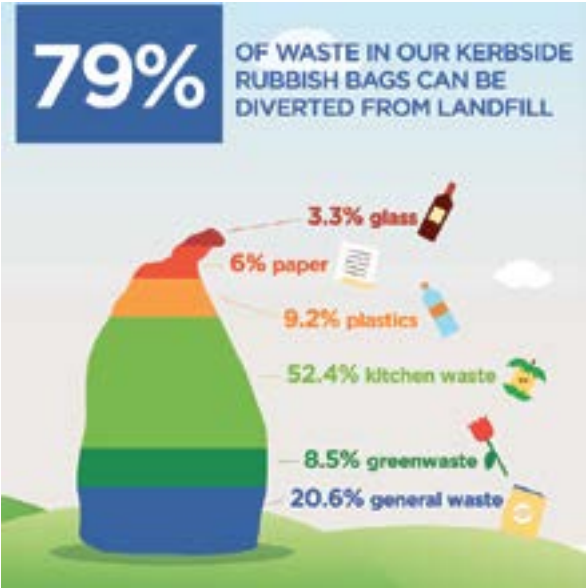
Nearly 40 of these 'cars' could be saved from landfill by either composting kitchen food waste or recycling.

More than half of every blue Council rubbish bag put out for Kerbside collection is kitchen waste that can be composted. And much of the rest is glass, paper or plastic that can be recycled.

This month we're running a waste minimisation campaign.

Go to our website for all the information you need about what can be recycled, how to compost, and we're also sharing our favourite recipes to use up the leftovers that otherwise sit in your fridge until you bin them.

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



### Camping on Private Property

HAVE YOUR SAY ON REMOVING THIS BYLAW UNTIL 23 AUGUST



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

### Representation Review 2021

Wards, Community Boards, Elected Members

What's the best mix to represent you?



Have your say  
9 August – 17 September

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

### EASTER SUNDAY Trading Hours Review

WHAT DO YOU THINK?



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



### INFORMATION CENTRES OPPORTUNITY

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

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

Expressions of Interest close 5pm, Friday 27 August 2021.

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

For more information or to download the forms, visit [tcdc.govt.nz/vic](http://tcdc.govt.nz/vic)

### What's the future of tourism?

Destination Coromandel (DC) are seeking local community input via an online survey to help shape our District's tourism industry.

The survey will help Destination Coromandel:

- Develop the District's first Destination Management Plan
- Understand the issues facing our region
- Capture perspectives and ideas from as many residents as possible in the Thames-Coromandel and Hauraki districts

The survey runs until Friday 27 August. Take the survey at [communitysurvey.co.nz](http://communitysurvey.co.nz)

### Library NEWS

**August is Family History Month** – Members of our District Library have free access to Ancestry Library Edition from any device. Go to our library web page and follow the link under 'Most Viewed Pages': [tcdc.govt.nz/libraries](http://tcdc.govt.nz/libraries)

**New Library App** – Manage your library account, browse the catalogue, place holds, and renew your books. You can even scan the ISBN barcode on non-library books with the app to see if our library system has the book. Download 'TCDC Libraries' from Google Play Store or the App Store and then sign in with your library card number and password. Contact your nearest District Library if you need to reset your password.

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



### Thames Community Board UPDATE

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

"I've had a few queries from people in the community about the courtesy crossings marked in red at the intersection of Mary and Pollen streets in Thames. These are in common use in New Zealand and internationally. Pedestrians should stop and look and cross only when it's safe. Drivers should stop for people who are already crossing and as a courtesy can stop for pedestrians waiting at the kerb if it's safe to do so."

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

**Te Puru Community Hall** – The upgrade to the toilets and the entry foyer is complete. The hall has a kitchen and can be booked for weddings, parties, anything. Contact the hall committee website to book: [tepuruhall.business.site](http://tepuruhall.business.site)



### events

**Gitbox Rebellion**  
Six-piece guitar ensemble  
Kauaeranga Hall  
Tix: 021 912 993 or [kauaerangahallmusic@gmail.com](mailto:kauaerangahallmusic@gmail.com)  
2.30pm 29 Aug

**Goldrush Rally of Coromandel**  
Roads around Mercury Bay and Northern Coromandel  
Check TCDC website for road closures  
[nzzrallychamps.co.nz](http://nzzrallychamps.co.nz)  
3-4 Sept

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customer.services@tcdc.govt.nz  
Private Bag, 515 Mackay St, Thames, Phone: 07 868 0200





See What's in Store For You



# Those behind the scenes at GSC

Goldfields opens 363 days of the year and to make this happen, there are many people who work behind the scenes. These are the people, often not seen, who are responsible for ensuring everything from the lights coming on in the morning to making sure the rubbish is taken away in the evening.

With a desire to employ local-based contractors, Goldfields recently changed its cleaning team, opting to use the Hauraki Plains-based Scrubs Cleaning Services.

Nikita Turnbull and her team undertake work in Ngatea, Waitakaruru, Kaihere, Kōpū and Thames.

Cleaning staff are located at Goldfields on average for more than 10 hours a day and besides undertaking cleaning, they assist shoppers with requests from help with wheelchairs through to getting cars started due to flat batteries.

Goldfields is very reliant on local electricians, air-conditioning specialists, plumbers, gardeners, a local maintenance person and waste and recycling removal staff.

Other areas, such as fire system control and servicing, specialist bathroom supplies,



The Scrubs Cleaning Services team at Goldfields Shopping Centre.

Photo: SUPPLIED

cooling tower maintenance and door servicing and maintenance is undertaken by Waikato-based companies.

Goldfields manager John Freer said the centre continued to work proactively to ensure people

visiting Goldfields and its 18 shops had an enjoyable experience.

"We realise there is still work to be done - we are addressing the matter of wet tile floors, while we are working with po-

tential new tenants," he said.

"At the same time, we are happy to assist any community groups that may wish to use the centre forecourt to promote coming events, please simply make contact."

# Support for farmers' market

Encouraging is the response to the recent announcement of a monthly Farmers' Market being established in Thames by the Rotary Club of Thames and Goldfields Shopping Centre.

Positive feedback has come from members of the public while several potential stallholders have made contact with the aim of joining the market.

Market organiser and Thames Rotary Club member Susanna Kruger said the aim was to have a minimum of 15 stalls to launch the market - the end of September is targeted as launch date. The focus of the market is locally-produced quality products. Food and beverages will headline the market while consideration will be given to other items which will enhance the market experience.

Anyone interested in finding out more and potentially having a stall at the market can contact Susanna Kruger, Ph 027 538 9789, [susannakruger20@gmail.com](mailto:susannakruger20@gmail.com), or John Freer, Ph 027 483 9426, [management@goldfieldsshops.co.nz](mailto:management@goldfieldsshops.co.nz).







# Rural Life



The volunteer crew in full swing at a community planting day for a section of land between the road and tidal zone of Hauarahi Stream, at Kaiaua. Photo: SUPPLIED

## Hauarahi Stream given a helping hand

The first day of August felt more like the first day of spring for The Western Firth Catchment Group and Landcare Trust. They had organised a Community Planting Day for a section of land between the road and tidal zone of Hauarahi Stream, at Kaiaua, putting 345 native seedlings in the earth in a pattern designed to mimic a wetland edge zone. “It was great to see a community event like this right in town and to restore native plants to a bare area recently landscaped as part of a flood management project,” Landcare Trust’s Waikato Catchment Coordinator Ric Balfour said. “It was fantastic to have great local support and to see such a professional job done of it too.” Mr Balfour said the day was a “real lo-

cal effort” with plants donated from Te Whangai Trust nursery, mulch donated by Franklin Trees Thames, wool provided from Stu Hill, and enthusiasm given from 15 locals who helped plant and mulch for a couple of hours in the sun. “While they were at it, the volunteers picked up a pile of rubbish, an assortment of recyclables and pulled out a bunch of weeds,” he said. Each plant received a fertiliser tablet, and a collar of daggy wool to act as a weed suppressor and moisture retaining layer. After that, chip mulch was spread between the plants to gain a similar benefit over the whole planting area. With that done by

11.30am, the crew knocked out another few hundred plants along the stream opposite the Domain on Justin Johnstone’s property. To cap off the event, the local fire station opened up the brigade’s BBQ facility so the hard-working volunteers could be rewarded in traditional Kiwi fashion. The streamside restoration project was an outcome of the May 15 community catchment meeting, held to look at what could be done to improve habitat conditions along the Hauarahi Stream. The meeting focused on developing an action plan for the catchment, but loud and clear was the message that action

meant boots on the ground with tangible results, Mr Balfour said. “This has been the style of the Western Firth Catchment Group since they got going about five years ago. “The group of local farmers have steadily worked on riparian planting, fencing and pest control along Pūkorokoro stream and other streams flowing into the Firth as part of the Living Waters Project. With that project winding down, the Hauarahi was the next sub-catchment these motivated local farmers wanted to focus on.” More restoration activities are being planned for this spring. For more information on the Western Firth Catchment Group Trust go to [www.westernfirth.org.nz/home](http://www.westernfirth.org.nz/home).

**“Local farmers have steadily worked on riparian planting, fencing and pest control along Pūkorokoro stream and other streams.”**

**- Ric Balfour**

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A Waikato Regional Council officer and farmer during an inspection. Photo: SUPPLIED

# Dirty farming halved

Monitoring by Waikato Regional Council has found the number of significantly non-compliant dairy farms in the region has halved compared to the previous year.

It's a result that has been applauded by the council, which says it reflects the industry's commitment to stepping up to address environmental issues.

"We call it as we see it, and we are very happy to say that our farm inspections over the last year show a significant drop in non-compliance relating to dairy effluent management in the Waikato," council Regional Compliance Manager Patrick Lynch said.

"Over the 2020-21 financial year, our rural compliance team monitored a total of 1172 farms – of these, 81 or just 7 per cent were found to be significantly non-compliant.

"In the previous year, our monitoring was impacted by Covid-19, but we still managed to inspect 820 farms and found 102, or 12 per cent, had significant compliance issues.

"This year's results clearly indicate a real improvement, and we would like to acknowledge all of the hard work being carried out across the dairy sector to achieve this," Mr Lynch said.

"The risk to the environment has undoubtedly been greatly reduced on individual farms by the investment in effluent infrastructure."

Waikato Regional Council Chair Russ Rimmington, acknowledged the positive result.

"This is a good news story and reflects what can be achieved when the council and industry work closely together on important environmental issues."

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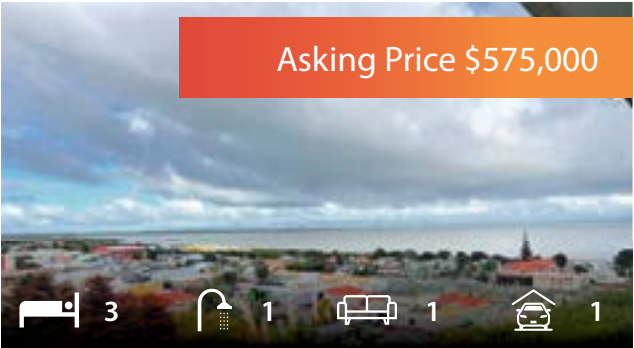
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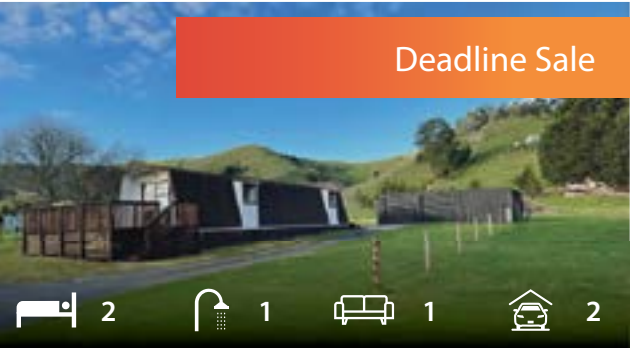
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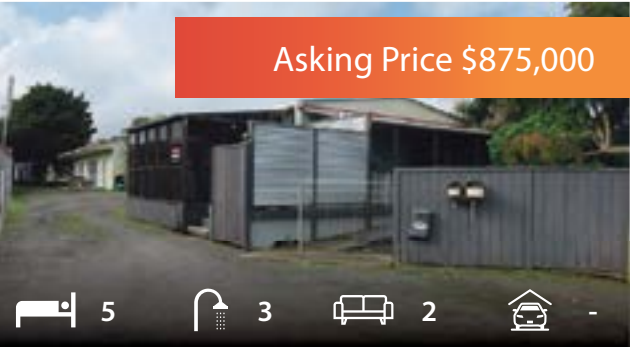
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Fill the grid so every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9

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HARD

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HARD

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MEDIUM

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EASY

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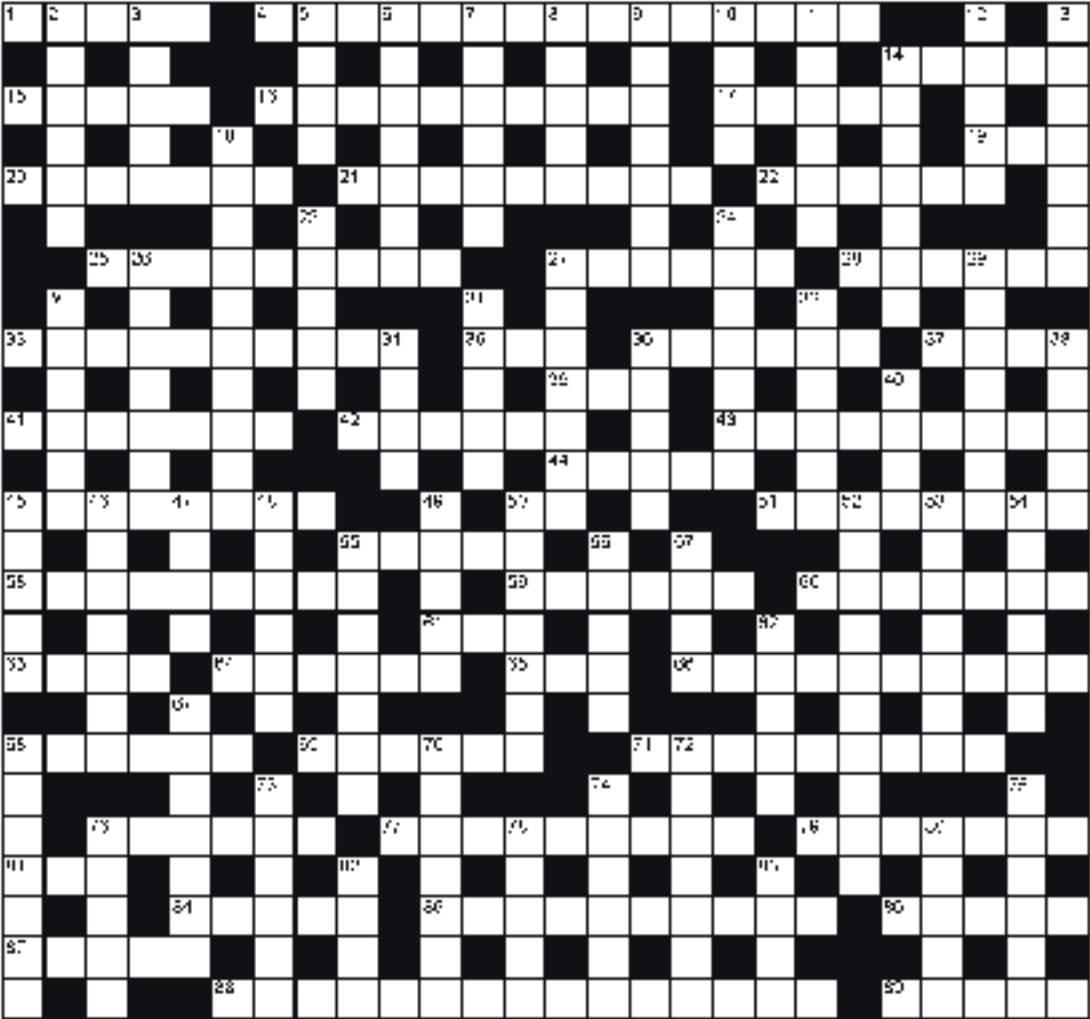
## JUMBO CROSSWORD

34

1 Horrify (5)  
4 Ancient (2,3,2,3,5)  
14 Thoroughfares (5)  
15 Of sedate and steady character (5)  
16 Intruder (10)  
17 Slight colouring (5)  
19 Big bird (3)  
20 Agreeably pungent (7)  
21 Unit of distance (9)  
22 Pay back (6)  
25 Undercover work (9)  
27 Hotheadedness (6)  
28 Tune mixture (6)  
33 Disrespectful (10)  
35 Hostelry (3)  
36 Judged tentatively (6)  
37 Poke (4)  
39 Muck (3)  
41 Moisture bead (7)  
42 Explosive exhalation (6)  
43 Unsettled, raging (9)  
44 Roadway divisions (5)  
45 Mental illness (8)  
50 Not any (2)  
51 Fibrous insulator (8)  
55 Merge (5)  
58 Celebratory function (9)  
59 Frolic (6)  
60 Faithfulness (7)  
61 Curative mineral spring (3)  
63 Tug (4)  
64 Most elderly (6)  
65 Large cask (3)

66 Putting together (10)  
68 Going by aircraft (6)  
69 A stage (anag)(6)  
71 Exit (9)  
76 Downright, utter (6)  
77 Large group of musicians (9)  
79 Score (7)  
81 Long fish (3)  
84 Overflowed (5)  
85 Bra options (anag) (10)  
86 Assumed name (5)  
87 Shine (5)  
88 The seabed which receives drowned sailors (4,5,6)  
89 Revolution (5)  
**DOWN**  
2 Foul-smelling (6)  
3 Farewell (5)  
5 Tender (4)  
6 Enduring (7)  
7 South American river (6)  
8 Sample (5)  
9 Tympanic membrane (7)  
10 Keen on (4)  
11 Touched down (6)  
12 Tired, worn out (5)  
13 Wide tidal river mouth (7)  
14 Boiled down (7)  
18 Originating naturally in a region (10)  
23 Wrath (5)  
24 Takes off (7)  
26 Svelte (7)  
27 Citrus fruit (7)

29 Of maximum size (7)  
30 Light wind (6)  
31 Defamatory written statement (5)  
32 Commits to memory (6)  
34 Melody (4)  
36 Functioning (5)  
38 Calendar digits (5)  
40 Positive (4)  
45 Highly strung (5)  
46 Eerie (7)  
47 Exclamation on making an obvious mistake (4)  
48 Frozen drip (6)  
49 Initial (5)  
50 Makes ineffective (7)  
52 Transport for witch (10)  
53 Littler (7)  
54 Excursion (6)  
55 Be subjected to (7)  
56 Alter (5)  
57 Duty roster (4)  
62 Written composition (5)  
67 Strip (7)  
68 Alien (7)  
70 Whirling windstorm (7)  
72 Fitful (7)  
73 Chest pain (6)  
74 Of the stars (6)  
75 Poor handwriting (6)  
76 Parcel out (5)  
78 Swiftiness (5)  
80 Metal mixture (5)  
82 Sojourn (4)  
83 Gown (4)



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ACROSS: 1 Buoys, 4 Stamp collector, 11 Allow, 14 Trout, 15 Predecessor, 16 Trapdoor, 19 Bargain, 20 Scout, 21 Vibration, 24 Tsetse fly, 26 Manage, 27 Accent, 31 Tempo, 32 Trickier, 34 Staggering, 38 Impasse, 39 Alkali, 40 Winter, 41 Memo, 42 Indoors, 45 Worshipped, 50 Swarthy, 54 Pews, 55 Frothy, 56 Relays, 57 Feather, 60 Lifeguards, 61 Location, 62 Unwed, 65 Velcro, 66 Taints, 67 Appetiser, 72 Overtaken, 73 Dread, 74 Jugular, 79 Inviting, 80 Reservation, 81 Divot, 82 Honed, 83 Sticks out a mile, 84 By-law.

DOWN: 2 Upoar, 3 Young, 5 Tart, 6 Medical, 7 Cactus, 8 Loss, 9 Emotions, 10 Rarity, 11 Approached, 12 Lion, 13 Warrant, 17 Diets, 18 Frightened, 22 Merry, 23 Sediment, 25 Soprano, 26 Martini, 28 German, 29 Rivals, 30 Agrees, 33 Cello, 35 Glory, 36 User, 37 Swap, 42 Impel, 43 Downfall, 44 Scream, 45 Withdrawal, 46 Rays, 47 Hurdles, 48 Palace, 49 Egypt, 51 Whey, 52 Retinue, 53 Heeded, 58 Aggravated, 59 Cover, 63 Kneejerk, 64 Minus, 65 Varnish, 68 Phantom, 69 Fronds, 70 Privet, 71 Pagoda, 75 Unity, 76 Oven, 77 Redo, 78 Foal.



# Full of hot air

Kaihere School students learned about floating and sinking with the help of a hot air balloon on their school field last Thursday morning. Principal Richard Reid said Gail Dryland and the crew from the Kiwi Balloon Company visited the school with her hot air balloon, *Phoenix*. "It was a beautiful sunny day and

in spite of the occasional gust of wind from the southwest all of our children were able to watch *Phoenix* inflate, walk and play inside the envelope, and help pack *Phoenix* away," he said. Gail then shared some of her exciting and funny stories with the children while answering their questions. "This term at Kaihere

School, our senior class is studying floating and sinking and because of Gail's generosity we were able to introduce the topic this way," Mr Reid said. "Our senior students will now experiment with hot and cold air before being challenged to design, build and test their own miniature hot-air balloon later this term."



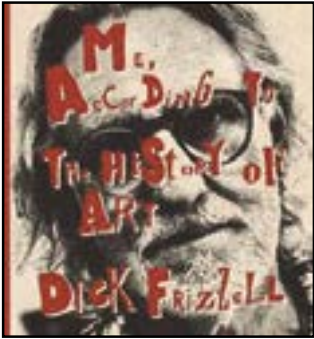
Students and staff walk and play inside the balloon envelope.

Photos: SUPPLIED



Students watch as the balloon *Phoenix* is inflated on their school field.

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## SPORTS

## Nominations open for regional sports awards

The newly developed Waikato Sport & Active Recreation Awards are here to stay following a successful revamped awards season in 2020 when Covid-19 forced Sport Waikato to reimagine the way it celebrated and acknowledged play, active recreation and sport in the Waikato region.

"Covid-19 threw us a curve ball in 2020, but the positive out of it was that it gave us an opportunity to re-align our awards season at a community level," Sport Waikato chief executive Matthew Cooper said.

"What eventuated was a very heartwarming, local and community focused celebration where we were able to acknowledge innovation, partnerships, collaboration, diversity and most of all the people doing the work. It was so successful and well received that we decided it was the new way forward."

This year's awards encourage nominations from those in the community who go above and beyond to deliver programmes and initiatives that meet the needs of the participant and create a more active region.

"We think it's time that we recognise those who do the work at a community level – those creating initiatives that are aimed at participation, the bootcamps in the local park, those providing inclusive opportunities, the collaborative partnerships and those innovating to meet the needs of the participants. And this year we've included coaching, unsung heroes and youth



Sport Waikato CEO Matthew Cooper

engagement to the categories," Mr Cooper said.

"We're also excited that while last year's awards were celebrated online, this year finalists will be invited to a special event to acknowledge and celebrate their achievements, and announce the winners."

This year, there are three new categories in the awards – Community Coach, Community Unsung Hero and Commitment to Youth Engagement. Other categories include: Community Connection Award; Sport & Active Recreation Partnership Award; Outstanding Active Space Initiative; and Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion.

**DETAILS: Nominations are now open for the 2021 Waikato Sport & Active Recreation Awards and close at 5pm on September 30. This year, all nominees will be judged and finalists invited to a special event on November 25 where winners will be announced. To nominate go to www.wsara.co.nz.**



ENTERTAINMENT

Love of country inspires festival

By ALLAN JUDD

When it comes to the country music scene in New Zealand, there are few people who haven't heard of Craig Robertson.

The Thames entertainer and musician, who founded the annual Thames Country Music weekend, picked up a ukulele at the age of five, and he thought he could sing and away he went.

In 1971, at the age of 18, he packed his bags and headed for the bright lights of Australia to chase fame upon the stage, which lasted a year before returning to New Zealand. While working around New Zealand, with *The Sett* and Bo Henri, he got a contract with Benny Levin, a major agent in New Zealand music. Six years later, he returned to Australia, where he became part of Gene Bradley Fisk's *White Lightning Band*.

A major player in country music Australia, Mr Robertson took over the band in 1982 and went on to play fulltime around Victoria and Melbourne until 1989. During that time, he met a girl from Thames, Donna, and the couple came back to Thames in 1986 to get married. Returning to Australia, he continued to play with the band and in 1989, he won the coveted Star-maker title in Tamworth. Things changed dramatically after that.

While living in Australia, Mr Robertson released two albums, writing with Australian producer Wayne Morrison, who now lives in Paeroa. Together they



Thames musician and entertainer Craig Robertson. Photo: SUPPLIED

recorded a third album in New Zealand.

Mr Robertson and his family moved back to New Zealand in 1997, settling in Thames. He set up his band *43 Holes*, which he says "has had about the same number of members". He now performs solo around New Zealand at country music festivals, or with Wayne Morrison and various musicians from around Thames and New Zealand.

Seven years ago, he decided to organise the first Toyota Thames Country Music Weekend, which

will be held at the Workingmen's Club on October 1-3.

This year Mr Robertson, with help from many local sponsors, is bringing more than 30 acts for the festival. This includes many award-winning artists, such as Dennis March, Kylie Austin, Cooper's Run and Trevor Stevens. Superb bands such as *Kol-train* and *Hired Gunz*, will also perform at this year's event.

"This popular festival is growing bigger every year with people lining up to join," Mr Robertson said.

SPORTS

Squash clubs host national event

By ALLAN JUDD

A national squash event was hosted by two Thames Valley clubs recently.

The Thames Squash Club hosted the A D Long Cup, a mixed Masters National Squash event, in association with the Paeroa Squash Club.

Thames President Rob Johnston said the Thames club was approached by the Waikato head office to host the event, which included 32 teams over five courts, with four divisions competing for the A-D1 divisions.

With 162 players competing, it was essential to host it at both Thames and Paeroa clubs.

Teams travelled from as far afield as the Pirates club from Dunedin, as well as clubs from Lower Hutt, Tawa, Whakatane, Hamilton and many Auckland clubs.

The tournament started on August 6 at both the Thames and Paeroa squash clubs, with the finals played in Thames, on August 8.

The Hamilton Club toppled the top-seeded Royal Oak A, and the Division three final was an all Red Beach affair with team B beating team A.

All competitors were subjected to a full-on weekend of Squash and other entertainment.

The Gala dinner on Saturday night consisted of a heroes and villains-themed party with local band *Radio Baby* supplying the sounds and the Moanataiari School PTA supplying the catering, and Thames Gym-sports supplying lunches over the weekend.

The best dressed person came from the Thames club, when president Rob Johnston had to don a pink shirt to fill in for an injured female Royal Oak player. "Fortunately they couldn't find a skirt to fit me," he said.

Squash Waikato General Manager Bruce Morgan said it was a very well-run championship. "Everybody can be very proud of their achievements and well done to all winners and competitors," he said.

**RESULTS:** Division one winners of the A D Long Masters Club Team Champions: Hamilton; runners up: Royal Oak A; division two winners: Mercury Bay A; runners up: Lugton Park; division three winners: Red Beach B; runners up: Red Beach A; division four winners: Kawaroa Park; runners up: Remuera A.



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SPORTS

150 years of rugby

The Thames Rugby and Sports club celebrated 150 years of rugby in the Thames region with a weekend of celebrations on August 13-15. Several games of rugby were played at Rhodes Park on Saturday, including a curtain raiser between past and present Golden Oldies members, followed by the main event: Thames vs Barbarians. The historic match marked the special relationship between the two teams, after the first NZ Barbarians game was organised by All Blacks Hugh McLean and Ron Bush in Thames in 1937. On Saturday, the invitational Barbarians looked to be too strong on paper with plenty of Tongan, Manu Samoan and NZ Sevens players in the team. Thames took it to the Barbarians though, and were fortunate to score first, shortly followed by two more tries, giving them a lead of 15-0 before the Barbarians scored just before halftime to close the gap 15-7. After the break, Thames took it up a gear and good teamwork saw No 8 Ryan Leopold stroll over the line in the corner. The Barbarians got back into the game with two quick tries to close it up to 25-21 with 10 minutes to play. Another Thames try saw the final score of 30-21 to Thames.

- Allan Judd



Great teamwork saw the Thames side score three tries before half time.



Thames took it to the Barbarians, scoring the first try.

Photos: TERESA RAMSEY



Both sides prepare for a scrum.



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