

# The Valley Profile

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## Shoppers support local

Coffees, muffins and home hardware supplies were top of the shopping list around the region when Covid-19 restrictions dropped to level 3 on September 1. During the past week, people could be found supporting their local businesses and adapting to mask-wearing and social distancing measures throughout the district. However, support for small businesses will need to be long-lived to make sure they get back on their feet, the Thames Business Association says.

**FULL COVERAGE: P2, 6-7.**

Phillip McCourt and his dog Zorro pick up a coffee from Paeroa's Courtyard Cafe.  
Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

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**NEWS/EDITORIAL**  
Editor Teresa Ramsey  
Ph 0204 0944 853  
Email: editor@valleyprofile.co.nz

**Reporter Kelley Tantau**  
Ph 022 619 4889  
Email: kelley@valleyprofile.co.nz

**ADVERTISING**  
Ad manager Nikki Sanders  
Ph 022 1303 885  
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### WHERE TO GET SUPPORT

Financial support is available for businesses who have experienced reduced revenue due to the current Covid-19 outbreak. This includes the one-off Resurgence Support Payment, and the second round of the wage subsidy among other packages designed to help businesses through Covid-19 alert level restrictions. More information can be found online: [covid19.govt.nz](http://covid19.govt.nz).



Customers keep their 2-metre distance while stopping in at Food for Thought, Thames.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

# TBA: ‘Spread hunger around’

By KELLEY TANTAU

Thames may have looked like “an absolute zoo” on its first day in Covid-19 alert level 3 conditions, but support for small businesses will have to be long-lived to ensure they get back on their feet, the business association says.

On September 1, the first day out of the alert level 4 lockdown, Thames Business Association chief executive Sue Lewis-O’Halloran told *The Profile* the town’s main street was “reasonably busy” and it had been “almost difficult getting a parking spot”.

Queues to the town’s takeaway restaurants, which can operate under level 3 provided they are contactless, were snaked around Goldfields Shopping Centre, she said.

“I just hope people spread their hunger around. Let’s go to McDonald’s one day and then maybe Sugar Cafe or Food for Thought or Grahamstown Coffee Shack, or any of the oth-

ers that are open, because they need support to survive,” she said.

When news broke that New Zealand would head into a nationwide lockdown from midnight on August 17, Sue said it had come as “a bit of a surprise”.

“We had our Business Breakfast and Lunch programme launch that day, and we had a full house both times. We also had a Kiwi Fusion dinner that night, but by that time, the word had started to trickle out that there was going to be a shutdown.”

Now under level 3, she encouraged people to shop local and utilise businesses’ click and collect services where applicable.

“I did click and collect with Carson’s Books and picked up my order. They had it ready at the front door and it was easy-peasy,” she said.

“I’m also doing a click and collect at Bed, Bath and Beyond in the Goldfields Mall. We’re all



Thames Business Association chief executive Sue Lewis-O’Halloran says local businesses need support to survive. File photo: TERESA RAMSEY

just doing the best we can with what we have,” she said.

“I do hope we get to level 2 soon because there are still a lot of businesses that cannot operate easily in level 3.

“However, Thames businesses are amazingly resilient, and it’s just outstanding what they can achieve in some pretty tough times.”

The business association has an online directory pointing customers to stores, businesses, and accommodation providers who are open under alert level 3 and lower. For information, visit: [www.tba.nz](http://www.tba.nz).

Ngatea and Paeroa were also busy when the alert levels changed last week.

CONTINUED P6-7

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### Thames Tides

Wed Sep 8	Thu Sep 9	Fri Sep 10	Sat Sep 11	Sun Sep 12	Mon Sep 13	Tue Sep 14
 Morning: 1:38am 0.6, 1:55pm 0.4 Afternoon: 7:57am 3.5, 8:09pm 3.6 Sunrise: 6:29am, Sunset: 6:03pm Best At: 12:47am 1:11pm (Green fish icon) Moon: Rise 7:19am, Set 7:13pm	 Morning: 2:22am 0.5, 2:38pm 0.4 Afternoon: 8:40am 3.6, 8:54pm 3.7 Sunrise: 6:28am, Sunset: 6:04pm Best At: 1:35am 1:59pm (Red fish icon) Moon: Rise 7:48am, Set 8:22pm	 Morning: 3:06am 0.4, 3:22pm 0.3 Afternoon: 9:24am 3.7, 9:39pm 3.7 Sunrise: 6:26am, Sunset: 6:04pm Best At: 2:24am 2:49pm (Red fish icon) Moon: Rise 8:18am, Set 9:31pm	 Morning: 3:51am 0.3, 4:08pm 0.4 Afternoon: 10:09am 3.7, 10:27pm 3.7 Sunrise: 6:25am, Sunset: 6:05pm Best At: 3:14am 3:40pm (Red fish icon) Moon: Rise 8:49am, Set 10:42pm	 Morning: 4:37am 0.4, 4:58pm 0.5 Afternoon: 10:56am 3.6, 11:16pm 3.6 Sunrise: 6:23am, Sunset: 6:06pm Best At: 4:06am 4:34pm (Red fish icon) Moon: Rise 9:24am, Set 11:55pm	 Morning: 5:25am 0.4, 5:51pm 0.7 Afternoon: 11:46am 3.5 Sunrise: 6:22am, Sunset: 6:07pm Best At: 5:02am 5:31pm (Green fish icon) Moon: Rise 10:04am	 Morning: 12:08am 3.5, 12:41pm 3.4 Afternoon: 6:16am 0.6, 6:50pm 0.8 Sunrise: 6:20am, Sunset: 6:08pm Best At: 6:00am 6:30pm (Green fish icon) Moon: First Quarter, Set 1:04am, Rise 10:52am

**MOON AND FISH KEYS**

New Moon First Quarter Full Moon Last Quarter

Good Fishing Fair Fishing Not So Good

**TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES**

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

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



# High demand for food during lockdown

By KELLEY TANTAU

The need for food from Paeroa's Pātaka Kai has more than doubled since the start of the latest Covid-19 lockdown.

The food rescue, run by Te Whāriki Manawāhine o Hauraki (Hauraki Women's Refuge), has seen more than 140 families a week utilise the service. That has grown from the 50-70 typically helped in a week pre-lockdown.

"There definitely is a need there," Te Whāriki general manager Denise Messiter said.

"We've also had people request support through kai packs, which we deliver to their homes contactless if they cannot get to the Pātaka Kai."

The rescue, on Paeroa's main street, was launched back in June, and was inspired by the country's first Covid-19 lockdown last year.

Te Whāriki chairperson Josie Anderson earlier told *The Profile* the lockdown brought to light the district's "seriously lacking" food security.

"Last year, with Covid-19, it came to the fore, and it actually gave groups like ours a chance to not only know it, but to take

actual steps forward to do something about it," she said.

"When we were delivering food and supporting whānau, one thing we found when we sat back to reflect, was that although this was about providing kai to our families, we saw that whānau were actually starting to participate in the decisions themselves."

"What that was saying to us was when our families have the resources, they are more than capable of making decisions for themselves."

Denise said this lockdown, those utilising the Pātaka Kai - which is considered an essential service across all alert levels - were people

**"The other thing we've seen that has been really awesome is people coming in with food... that's what we're seeing: just how caring the Paeroa community is."**

- Denise Messiter

of all ages.

"People really do just take what they need, and I think the Pātaka Kai supports people to remain connected to their communities. It also supports them to make choices around what they need in terms of what is available," she said.

"The other thing we've seen that has been really awesome is people coming in with food. Those who need to use the Pātaka Kai are using it, and then there are community members who are supporting



The kaiāwhina (helpers) of Te Whāriki's Pātaka Kai are keeping people fed during lockdown. Photos: KELLEY TANTAU

it by donating fresh vegetables, eggs, sausages.

"That's what we're seeing: just how caring the Paeroa community is."

**DETAILS: Pātaka Kai is located at 66 Belmont Rd, Paeroa. Covid-19 social distancing measures are in place. Food is to be donated only during opening hours. To contact Te Whāriki Manawāhine o Hauraki, free call 0800 868 3132.**



RIGHT: Donated food lines the shelves at Te Whāriki's Pātaka Kai.



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# Celebrating THE ARTS

## Artist's work draws from nature

By DEBORAH MACDONALD BROWN

Thames artist John McKeowen is a man on a mission - to make art and plant trees because he loves nature.

Nature is reflected in John's art in all its forms, whether it's his metal and wooden assemblages and furniture, costumes, or poetry. Much of his art is the bones of nature not fleshed out.

"What I make is based on nature. It's my passion," he said.

"Art's everything. It's the birds, the leaves, the wood, the trees. I like to know how things work whether it is a dinosaur or a classic car and reflect this back.

"I want people to get this."

John's working life began as a deep sea fisherman, then forester, mechanic, builder, recycler, arborist, heavy truck driver, fire-fighter and child tracker for social welfare.

"I was good at it because I could think like a naughty child," John laughed.

He came to make art later in life. "When I was a child I didn't know I was an artist. I couldn't paint or draw."

Then one day, on Raoul Island where John managed maintenance and supply for the Department of Conservation team, he wanted to make a present. With nothing there to buy, he decided to make a Pukeko from discarded bits and bobs. The team loved his work. Until then, he hadn't realised that he was an artist.

That Pukeko was the impetus for art making becoming an integral part of his life.

John has inspired artistic life in Thames whether fire breathing at the Thames Arts Festival, designing the Steampunk the Thames logo, decorating



Thames artist John McKeowen at his home, Rusthaven.

Photos: SUPPLIED

the Steampunk tractor or designing and making costumes for all the festivals.

His work can be seen at the Steamy Sisters store in Thames, or at the southern entrance to Thames where he contributed the Steampunk aesthetic to an art installation celebrating Thames 150th anniversary.

The Solarpunk aesthetic of transforming the future world through art has become a new focus for John.

He believes Solarpunk is the way to celebrate the world and educate people about the issues that face the planet and

the environment in a way that's engaging. A way to show people through visualisation and help them get a grasp of what can be done without telling them what to do.

John also wants to teach his son, Keenan, that art is a way for him to express himself, and it's the best way to get his ideas and passions across to the world. He will foster whatever art his son wants to do.

"I believe that art is necessary for our mental wellbeing and our physical wellbeing as well.

"Beauty and emotion are necessary for our state of being."



John McKeowen's metal art.



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Applications close 4pm Monday 20 September





# Shoppers support local after level 4 lockdown

CONTINUED FROM P2

In the days following the shift into Covid-19 alert level 3, people could be found supporting their local businesses and adapting to social distancing measures throughout the district. In Paeroa, Phillip McCourt called in to Courtyard Cafe to pick up a contactless takeaway coffee. He said it was “good to see” people wearing masks and keeping their distance. It was much the same in Ngatea and Thames, where Chris De Beer and Brian Morrow stopped by their regular jaunts, Hammer Hardware and Re-store Eco Market, respectively, to pick up some items and support local. Chris Spilsbury, owner of Hammer Hardware, said the latest lockdown had been a “struggle”, but those wanting to purchase items could do so safely by calling or emailing the store. *Valley Profile* reporter **KELLEY TANTAU** chatted to some of the locals - from a safe distance.

MORE PHOTOS: P7



Matthew Arnott gets some long-awaited coffees from Turua Bakery & Cafe.



Brian Morrow supports ReStore in Thames.



Chris De Beer picks up supplies from Hammer Hardware, Ngatea.



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Hammer Hardware Ngatea owner Chris Spilsbury keeps customers safe.



Courtyard Cafe in Paeroa opens, with co-owner Adele Harris-Ellis.



Bingo the dog has been awaiting a caffeine hit in historic Grahamstown.



Paeroa's main street had a few more people in it last week as shoppers venture out in the first days of level 3.



Getting a feed at Thames Maccas.



Long queues at Paeroa McDonalds.

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# Friendly, professional service with Floor Solutions

Daydreaming about new flooring doesn't have to stop in lockdown, with a new company able to help get the wheels turning on interior renovations remotely.

Dee Stirling and Pippa Jackson have been using the latest lockdown to their advantage, by growing their independent, mobile business, Floor Solutions.

The company services the Thames, Hauraki, and Coromandel regions, and can provide carpet, vinyl, or wood flooring for every budget and surface.

They've already sold products and ideas to customers online and over the phone.

"I think our model is a good one considering what is happening in the world," Pippa told *The Profile*.

"We're being proactive and keeping our customers informed, helping them look at products and booking appointments so that when we drop to lower levels, we can just head out and help."

With 50 years of combined experience, the Thames-based couple have the know-how their customers need.

For more than 25 years, Dee has completed many large and detailed flooring projects for a variety of clients across the country.

Pippa, who may also be recognisable through her work with DVS and the lovingly restored

Larimar Retreat in Brown St, Thames, has many years of experience in business and project management.

She has worked within many industries and for a variety of clients, from home-owners to architects, developers, and builders.

The couple have also renovated their own homes and understand how valuable it is to get people with experience and good advice.

"It wasn't an easy process to get people locally who could help, and I suppose you learn a lot from going through that," Pippa said.

"We just want to make the whole solution easy, from the sales process right through to installation, while ensuring great communication along the way, and an exceptional finished product.

"Keeping it fresh and current is also key," she said. "We're both really passionate about interiors and sustainability."

Floor Solutions aims to prevent as much waste going into landfill as possible, and will do that by utilising product and underlay more efficiently and recycling up-lifted carpets.

"We want to set things up so that it's more green," Pippa said. "We're looking at future-proofing our business further, we need to think outside the box and create positive change that



Thames couple and interior experts Pippa Jackson and Dee Stirling have established their independent, mobile business, Floor Solutions. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

truly helps. Our customers are really welcoming of this which is exciting."

Going forward, they also want to offer training and apprenticeship opportunities, and said the timing was perfect to bring all the facets of the business together.

"We're in that prime time of life to be doing something for ourselves, with all of our years of experience, but we also want to hand on our skills. We want to offer something back to our community as far as training goes," Pippa said.

Floor Solutions has a mobile showroom and is able to go out to customers for a free, non-obligation quote in lower alerts levels. In the meantime, virtual consultations can be had over the phone or online.

"We really want to give people that customised, tailor-made service and there will definitely be a more personal touch," they said. "We're always going to give you the best price we can give you. You don't need to wait for a sale with Floor Solutions."

For more information, visit the website: [www.floorsolutions.co.nz](http://www.floorsolutions.co.nz).

- KELLEY TANTAU



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# New signs for crossing confusion

Concerns about confusion and near-misses caused by the new red pedestrian crossings over Thames' busy main street have generated discussion within the community. KELLEY TANTAU reports

New signs will be installed to help ease confusion over the red "courtesy crossings" near Thames' main street.

The crossings were painted by the Mary and Pollen St intersection during the launch of the town's temporary Create the Vibe space in March.

According to a Thames-Coromandel District Council spokesperson, the red strips were courtesy crossings, and were recognised in the New Zealand Road Code.

Their use was common across New Zealand and other countries, and they had formed part of the driving test for New Zealand for a number of years, the spokesperson said.

However, to remedy any confusion over the crossings' use, the Thames Community Board requested council install some further signs to help pedestrians.

Board chair Strat Peters told *The Profile* that while there had been "little in the way of any formal complaints or concerns" relating to the courtesy crossings, the Community Board wished to note some



One of the red pedestrian crossings in Pollen St. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

of the concerns "expressed in other ways by some members of our community".

The requested signs would supplement the "stop, look" already painted by the kerb on each crossing, he said, and would be put in place after the Covid-19 lockdown ends.

"We hope that these new signs will help clarify the use of the courtesy crossings," Mr Peters said.

The New Zealand Road Code states that a courtesy crossing is not an official pedestrian crossing, and drivers did not have to stop to allow pedestrians to cross as they would at

zebra crossings.

However, drivers must give way to people already crossing at these points.

According to council staff, the entire works to create a pedestrian space on Mary St were subject to independent road safety reviews as part of its installation.

"Our council received a few calls initially after the courtesy crossings were installed earlier this year, but nothing recently, and no incidents have been reported to us," a spokesperson said. "There is no plan to remove the courtesy crossings."

# Gift baskets spread cheer

Members of the Turua Branch of Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) have taken up their Rimirui Regional Challenge to provide a thank you shout for their local hospital staff.

Twelve gift boxes with donated food and goodies were made up for most departments of Thames Hospital to recognise and thank the staff for their hard yards put in for their community during the response to Covid-19 and the recent cyber attack. Turua branch members hoped all staff were able to get something from the boxes presented just prior to the Covid-19 lockdown but, more importantly, that they know that others are thinking of them during tough times.

Turua member Lyn Staples told *The Profile* hospital staff

were happy to receive the gift boxes.

"The staff were just overjoyed and delighted that people had acknowledged the work that they had done," she said.

"To think that people had thought of them and done something for them."

RWNZ is a nationwide, membership organisation which seeks to strengthen, support and connect rural communities, and calls for the provision and access to health and well-being services, connectivity, education, safety and security and environmental awareness for all rural areas, a spokesperson said. "Rural women are the backbone of our rural communities and are vital in ensuring that the communities in which they live, work and play, are strong and resilient."



Rural Women NZ Turua members present staff with gift boxes. Photo: SUPPLIED

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Rural Life

Hard at work

The efforts of 70 volunteers undertaking 1050 hours of work has seen 10,000 more plants planted in the Findlay Reserve as the second major step in Pūkoro Mirānda Naturalists' Trust's restoration project. It followed last year's planting of around 11,000 plants, of which project co-ordinator Ray Buckmaster estimated some 70 per cent survived, with at least five species already producing seed.



Local farmer Joe de Jong, front, helps out with the planting.

Photos: PŪKOROKORO MIRANDA SHOREBIRD CENTRE



Kiri and her 9-year-old twins Amelia and Henry help with the planting.



Ann Buckmaster with Warren and Krishna Buckman from HELP Waihi.



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# GOLDEN YEARS

## ‘Staying Safe’ - a refresher course for older drivers

Have you got years of experience behind the wheel? When did you last have a refresher course for your driving? Have you kept up with changes to the road code? Do you know how ageing can affect your driving? Or do you just want to check in to see if you are still the best driver you can be?

Then ‘Staying Safe’ is a refresher course just for you. Age Concern NZ is working with Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency and New Zealand Police to make it possible for regions to deliver free Staying Safe refresher courses for older drivers.

Age Concern Hauraki-Coromandel is busy planning six courses that will be available across the region.

This theory-based course is an opportunity to refresh knowledge and build confidence to help keep safe on the road.

Age Concern Hauraki-Coromandel manager Glenis Bell said: “We want to help older drivers keep safe on the road and enjoy the independence driving gives them”.

“We know older drivers are



The Staying Safe driver refresher team at a previous course.

involved in fewer crashes than other age groups as they often drive conservatively and travel less distances.

“But if they are involved in an accident, it can take longer to heal and recover and often confidence is lost.”

A Staying Safe refresher course is a good way to refresh knowledge and build confidence, she said.

The courses are held in a friendly and welcoming class-

room-based workshop with plenty of opportunities to ask questions, she added. The 3.5 hour courses are being held in Thames, Tairua, Waihi, Paeroa and Whitianga, starting in September. Morning tea is provided, but if you have special dietary requirements please BYO.

**DETAILS:** Places are limited so don't delay, book today by emailing: [thamesmanager@ageconcern.gen.nz](mailto:thamesmanager@ageconcern.gen.nz) or phoning 07 868 9790 and leaving a message.

## Applying for a rates rebate just got simpler

Every year, eligible, low-income homeowners can apply for a rebate on their rates for the property they live in and this year the process just got simpler.



Council staff or a Justice of the Peace are no longer needed to witness the signed declaration. Qualifying homeowners can simply fill out an application form, sign it and return it to their local council by post or in person (when lockdowns allow). They can still book an appointment time with their council's friendly customer service team if they prefer.

There's a few criteria homeowners have to meet. Checking eligibility is easy at [www.govt.nz/browse/housing-and-property/](http://www.govt.nz/browse/housing-and-property/)

getting-help-with-housing. The rebate from the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) is calculated on the total household income and total rates bill (land, water and Waikato Regional Council rates).

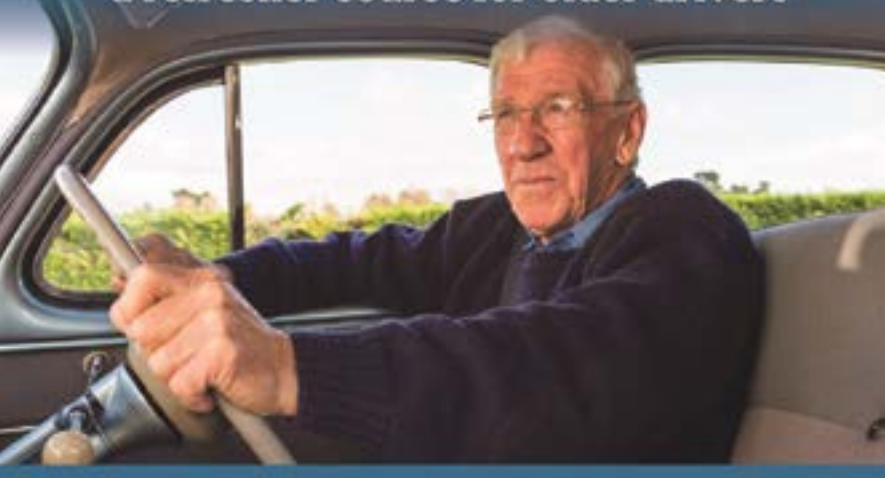
There's a calculator on the above DIA website to work out what the rebate might be. It could be up to \$665 off the household rates bill. Homeowners have until 30 June 2022 to apply for this rating year's rebate but if they pay rates by direct debit, then it's best to get in early so council can adjust their direct debit accordingly. The rating year goes from July 1 to June 30 the following year. Qualifying homeowners can apply for a rates rebate every rating year.





# Staying Safe

a refresher course for older drivers



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Sessions are from 9.30am to 1pm and being held at:

- |                                |                                    |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Thames, Thursday 23 Sept    | 4. Paeroa, Thursday 28 October     |
| 2. Tairua, Thursday 30 Sept    | 5. Whitianga, Thursday 11 November |
| 3. Waihi, Wednesday 13 October | 6. Thames, Thursday 18 November    |



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**Applications close 30 June 2022**





# GOLDEN YEARS

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Customers of the mobile medical alarm say it gives them confidence to stay active. It is the only medical alarm in New Zealand that connects directly to St John from any location with cell coverage. The compact device is simple to use and can be worn either around the neck or looped to car keys for convenience. Featuring built-in GPS and hands-free communication, it



St John Medical Alarms give peace of mind.

Photo: SUPPLIED

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gation trial so individuals can try before they buy. Whether you are interested in a St John Medical Alarm for yourself or for a family member, give the friendly St John team a call now on 0800 50 23 23 or visit [www.stjohnmedicalalarms.org.nz](http://www.stjohnmedicalalarms.org.nz) to find out more.

## Plan for your retirement

Depending on where you are in life, there are many things to consider when it comes to planning for retirement - which might be some way off, or you might be nearly there.

Firstly, you need to consider when you expect to retire, and how long retirement might be. Since Kiwis are living longer - 80 per cent of 65-year-old men can now plan to live until they're 90, and 65-year-old women until they're 94 - your funds will need to last. One way to estimate how much you'll need for your future lifestyle is to have a look at what retirees are spending now.

Online resources and tools, such as the retirement planner on the [sorted.org.nz](http://sorted.org.nz) website, will help you prepare for your retirement.

You will need to know the number of people you're planning for, your lifestyle choices, and where you think you'll live to make a start with the planning process.

In New Zealand, government superannuation is generous, but it still only goes so far. NZ Super is currently \$437 a week for individuals and \$672 for couples - but in some areas, that can be spent on accommodation alone.

For more information, contact the free financial helpline, Money Talks, Ph 0800 345 123, or [www.moneytalks.co.nz](http://www.moneytalks.co.nz).



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There is a high level of anonymity in this service. Caring Callers are only provided with your first name, sometimes age, telephone number and a short personal profile of you.

For more information, call 0800 780 780

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# Dead Cert

## PART ONE

But the manager then in-

lan, also on the scene, thought



**The grave of Hugh Hill at Shortland cemetery in Thames.** Photo: SUPPLIED

He was 32, married to Mary Jane and had no children. He

But they were not to rest in peace...

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# Battle of Britain commemorations canned

After six months of hard work, planning, and “scheming”, this year’s Battle of Britain commemorations planned for this month have been canned because of Covid-19.

Sir Keith Park Memorial Airfield Society spokesperson Geoff Furkert said the society would now commemorate the Battle of Britain in September, 2022.

“As with all of life’s challenges, it is not the challenge itself but the way in which we deal with these adversities which makes the difference,” he said.

“The cancellation has given us the opportunity to reconnect with the members of our incorporated society and previous benefactors to reinforce our commitment and funding needs to complete stage two of the Sir Keith Park Memorial at the Thames Airfield.”

Stage one of the memorial project included a replica of Thames-born Sir Keith’s Hurricane aeroplane installed at Thames Airfield last year. Stage two includes a statue of Sir Keith, sculpted by Joanne Sullivan, a world-renowned Helensville artist and sculptor.

The society has also recently been gifted a Queen Mary downed aircraft recovery trailer with Bedford OXC prime mover from Michael and Christine Kemp, the visionaries and major sponsors for the Sir Keith Park Memorial.

Mr Furkert said two Queen Marys were brought to New Zealand in World War II - one for the North Island, one for the South Island. Mr Kemp restored



ABOVE: Thames’ Battle of Britain commemorations have been cancelled, but work is well underway for next year’s event. RIGHT: A model of the finished Sir Keith Park statue, which will be 2.3m tall, cast in bronze with a patina finish.



the North Island unit in 2014, the second was currently being restored at the RNZAF Museum at Wigram, he said.

“Our Queen Mary is now being advertised in the United Kingdom, as there is no practical place to store this generous gift at the airfield. Proceeds from any sale will be applied to the memorial project.” Negotiations are also progressing with

an Auckland tertiary institution, the Business Faculty, which was considering taking up a lead role in the forward fundraising as a student project, Mr Furkert said.

“Not only would this be a huge boost for our project, but also help to spread recognition of Sir Keith and his achievements (both in conflict and in peacetime) to a younger generation of New Zealanders.”

A redeveloped website with connections to Facebook and Instagram will be launched early September. The website, [www.sirkeithparkmemorial.org.nz](http://www.sirkeithparkmemorial.org.nz), will have a payments gateway, and any contribution made will be greatly appreciated. “We need your help to recognise and pay tribute to a most worthy New Zealander – Sir Keith Park, a Thames boy and hero.”

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DOWN: 2 Adulation, 3 Bulge, 5 Aria, 6 Lectern, 7 Bewilderment, 8 Eaten, 9 Springy, 10 Colt, 11 Aisles, 12 Plead, 13 Startle, 14 Iterate, 16 Skulduggery, 22 Instil, 23 Endless, 24 Optical, 25 Pagoda, 27 Preview, 28 Beetle, 30 Dive, 32 Helen, 34 Synod, 36 Bans, 38 Hoe, 42 Duped, 43 Perplex, 44 Onus, 45 Erects, 46 Loose, 48 Electrician, 49 Aspirin, 50 Emu, 51 Cyanide, 52 Tattoo, 53 Easter Island, 54 Mate, 57 Creeps, 64 Tunnelled, 65 Ideally, 66 Toaster, 68 Grimace, 70 Creeper, 71 Tennis, 72 Angst, 74 Haste, 76 Arena, 78 Dodo, 79 Used.



SPORTS

Lucky break for senior men hockey finals

Thames Valley Hockey finished off its men's competition just one day before the Covid-19 level 4 lockdown kicked in. Thames Valley Hockey Association president Vicki Coles said they were "very lucky to get these games played" on finals night, held at its Ngatea ASB Hockey Turf on August 16. There were four senior men's teams in the competition, all based in Ngatea: Swampies, Ngatea Men, Stickmen and X-Men, with Stickmen taking out the competition on the night. The men's games were played at the Ngatea turf on Monday nights throughout the season. The teams competed in four rounds, playing each other four times during the season, and semi-finals were based on placings from each round. "It was a full season, with the two strongest teams ending up in the final," she said. "Umpires on finals night [were] Jeremy Cryer, Thomas Hayward, Rachael Aitchison, Sophie Millar - huge thanks to them."

RESULTS: Final placings for the Championship: Stickmen, 1; Swampies, 2; X-Men, 3; Ngatea Men, 4.



Stickmen are this year's senior men's champions.

Photos: RACHAEL AITCHISON



Swampies came in second place in the senior men's league.



X-Men took out third place in the championship.

New crowdfunding platform for grassroots sport

Sport NZ has launched a new crowdfunding platform to help clubs and local groups fundraise for community projects, whether that's new equipment, facilities upgrades or team travel. BoostedSport has been developed by Sport NZ on behalf of the New Zealand Sports Foundation Charitable Trust and in partnership with the Arts Foundation Te Tumu Toi, building on the success of its crowdsourcing platform, Boosted, which will now become known as BoostedArts.

Sport NZ commercial and philanthropy lead Shelley Empson said BoostedSport would provide a much-needed additional funding option for grassroots organisations. "Organisations at grassroots level are always looking for extra funds to ensure clubs, teams and local groups can keep providing for the needs of young people. This is another option – and one we believe will be easy to use and highly-effective," she said. "We're encouraging local clubs and groups to give this a go the next time they need to raise funds. Covid-19 has placed considerable strain at grassroots level and BoostedSport is here to help."

BoostedSport works in a similar way to other crowdfunding platforms where an organisation lists a project and reaches out to networks and communities for donations to reach a specific goal. There are a number of resources available on the website to help groups promote their projects. Sport NZ has licensed BoostedSport from the Arts Foundation Te Tumu Toi, where Boosted (now BoostedArts) has raised almost \$9 million through 80,000 donations to over 1,200 successful projects over the past eight years.

Arts Foundation Te Tumu Toi Lead Jo Blair said they were delighted Sport NZ and the New Zealand Sports Foundation Charitable Trust had chosen to work with Boosted. "Joining forces supports both the arts and sport, contributing donations directly to teams or athletes like we do to our country's creatives - all strengthening support for the sports and arts, which have such an important role to play for our wellbeing and identity as New Zealanders."

Shelley Empson said Sport NZ was thrilled to be working with the Arts Foundation and learning from the success of Boosted within the arts community. "It made sense for us to partner with Boosted and utilise a proven platform. Boosted has been a tremendous success in the arts and we believe grassroots sport and recreation bodies will also get behind BoostedSport. It's an exciting new opportunity to fundraise for local projects."

DETAILS: More information at: [boostedsport.org.nz](https://boostedsport.org.nz).

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DETAILS: More information at: [boostedsport.org.nz](https://boostedsport.org.nz).



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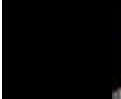
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## Thames takes part in global drum wave

Have you ever been walking along a street and been enticed to enter a business due to the sound emanating from the place?

This happened to me recently while strolling along Kirkwood St in Thames.

As I approached the back entrance of Steamy-Sisters, I could hear the most incredible drumming beats coming from within. I poked my nose in the door to find 15 to 20 people all sitting around playing Djembe, Surdo and Cajon drums (what some people call Bongo drums) and shaking Maracas. There were drums everywhere - I counted more than 30 of these incredible sounding instruments ranging in size from 250mm high (Djembe) to some standing close to a metre high (Djun Djun).

"Everything vibrates and has rhythm", drum therapist and facilitator Jaqui Barrett said.

"The earth, the ebb and flow of the sea, the seasons, the sun and the moon, our family, social, and working environments," she said.

"We have a physical body, emotions, mind, soul and spirit; each of which can be considered to be a vibratory field. Our bodies are a symphony of rhythms, the constant firing of neurons, our brainwaves, the rhythms of our breath and heart."

The drum session was in a wave that circled the globe. New Zealand started the event at precisely 11.11am and finished at 1.11pm. As they finished and the rain started to fall softly, they passed the rhythm on to the next destination, a drum group in Sydney. So, at 11.11am Sydney time they started up their own drum beats before passing it on again at 12.11pm to the next destination (Adelaide).

Mrs Barrett says there were many groups within New Zealand taking part in this Global Drum Wave with over 35,000 drummers from 40 countries all participating in the 24-hour event.

The focus of the drumming was to send healing vibes to Mother Earth and especially for our oceans, lakes and rivers, she said.

Ms Barrett, who is currently house sitting in Thames, is teaching her amazing skills to beginners and other more experienced drummers. She has been drumming both as a drum and rhythm therapist and performer in Auckland for more than 20 years.

She's happy for more people to join them at Steamy-Sisters on Friday afternoons from 1pm when Covid-19 levels allow, or by booking in for one of the other drumming classes being held in the community. Karen Woodall from Steamy-Sisters is part of a group learning the art of drumming in preparation for next year's Steampunk the Thames April Festival, "Circuspunk, Thames 2022".

- Allan Judd





Makayla Anderson, 10, left, Alicia Seng, 11, Blake Brown, 13, and Logan Parker, 12, are taught how to knit by Doreen Douglas. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

## Tamariki learn new life skills

By KELLEY TANTAU

Students with needles and yarn is not an uncommon sight at Turua School.

Since Term 2, the senior students have been learning to knit and to sew alongside volunteer and friend of the Hauraki Plains school, Doreen Douglas.

The lessons go hand-in-hand with the school's Garden to Table programme, which aims to teach the children "life skills for sustainable living".

The knitting project began after Doreen put the word out to the community that she needed needles and wool. The community responded in abundance.

The kids have already made an apron during the machine sewing part of the programme, and were now working on knit-

ting squares to make a blanket for the school's sick bay.

"The boys are as enthusiastic as the girls," Doreen told *The Valley Profile*. "And about 43 students have learned."

Doreen said she was taught how to knit at age eight by her mother.

She said all the Turua kids agreed knitting was a relaxing exercise and was a good skill to learn.

Turua School's Garden to Table programme has also seen its tamariki learn to identify New Zealand native trees and plants.

They also helped construct the school's new greenhouse.

In the kitchen, budding chefs have also learned to make vegetarian dishes such as pizza with a cauliflower base, and spring rolls.

# Lighter lamb shanks for spring

## RECIPE

I know it's officially spring, but the evenings are still a bit cool, so I thought I would start the first of the Savour & Spice recipes for the *Valley Profile* with my much lighter version of lamb shanks.

It's not as heavy and rich as most, but still provides comfort, so it's perfect for right now. I hope you enjoy.

- Jaki Savour & Spice

### Spice Roasted Lamb Shanks

Serves 4

- 4 lamb shanks – see Cook's Note\*
- 2 tablespoons of olive oil
- 2 onions, thickly sliced
- 2 teaspoons each of ground cumin, coriander, and smoked paprika
- 1 teaspoon each of ground turmeric, cinnamon and ginger
- 2 teaspoons whole caraway seeds
- ½ teaspoon chilli flakes
- 3 cloves garlic, crushed
- 400g tin crushed or chopped tomatoes
- 1 cup chicken stock
- 400g tin cannellini beans
- Sea salt and pepper

Season the shanks generously with salt and pepper. Heat the oil in a large sauté pan, (one with a heavy lid), brown the shanks on all sides, and then set aside on a large dinner plate.

Add the onions to the sauté pan with a pinch of salt and cook for 10 minutes on low-medium heat with the lid on. Stir in all the spices and the garlic.

Cook for a further two minutes



Spice Roasted Lamb Shanks with steamed broccolini and parsley.

then add the tomatoes and stock and bring to the boil. Season then add the reserved shanks back in. Cover and seal tightly with the lid.

Bake for three hours or until the meat is tender and lifting from the bone. Turn the shanks half way through or leave them if you like crispy bits. After three hours, or when the meat is tender, remove the shanks to the large dinner plate and cover to keep warm.

Add the cannellini beans to the pan and mash half of them into the sauce leaving the rest intact. Simmer for a few minutes longer to allow the sauce to thicken.

Serve on a warmed plate on top of pumpkin mash, with lashings of sauce spooned over. I accompanied ours with steamed broccolini and a sprinkling of parsley.

\*Cook's note – I usually buy and add one or two extra lamb shanks, depending on their size, to this recipe, so I have leftover lamb meat to make a delicious ragout the following evening.

Just sauté onion, garlic, and diced carrot in a large sauté pan, add a splash of red wine (optional), a bottle of tomato passata sauce, and half a teaspoon of dried oregano.

Leave to simmer for 10 minutes then add the shredded lamb meat with salt and pepper to taste.

Let it blip away gently on a low heat for 20 minutes or so.

Cook some wide pasta (tagliatelle is great) then add it to the ragout pan, giving it a swirl around to combine - and it's ready to serve.

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# Rural road rubbish free in lockdown

By KELLEY TANTAU

An enthusiastic six-year-old took to the streets this lockdown to collect rubbish that had been left in drains and ditches.

Ella Brown and her mum Shana, with help from dogs Dash and Max, walked their rural road in the Hauraki and collected 4kgs of rubbish.

Ella said she wanted to clean up her road after noticing “lots of rubbish” on her walks, and while cans made up a large number of the items collected, there were also glass bottles, coffee cups, and even a rugby jersey.

“We took a black rubbish sack not expecting to fill it,” mum Shana said.

“We only went 600m on both sides of the road, but we had an aim to go to the corner and we didn’t even get there because we would’ve ended up with too much rubbish for the sack.”

The bag weighed in at 4.2kg, and Ella, who goes to Moanataiari School in Thames, said she was “proud” of her accomplishments.

Keep New Zealand Beautiful’s annual clean up week is on from September 13-19 and Shana said it was a great opportunity for people to “do their bit”.

In 2020, 57,936 volunteers took part cleaning up an area equivalent to 4935 rugby fields and collecting a total of 561,979kg of litter.

“It’s lockdown and lots of people are out walking, so why not just take a rubbish bag?” Shana said.

Ella also had some words of encouragement: “Always pick up rubbish any day you’re free”.

Registrations for Clean Up Week are now open at: [www.knzb.org.nz](http://www.knzb.org.nz).



ABOVE: Six-year-old Ella Brown picked up 4.2kg of rubbish on her rural road, with help from her pet dogs, Max and Dash, and her mum Shana.



RIGHT: Ella Brown, 6, with dog Dash, walks her rural Hauraki road picking up rubbish.

Photos: SUPPLIED



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