

The Valley Profile

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COVID NIGHTMARE

The hospitality industry continues to be hit hard by ongoing Covid-19 shutdowns and restrictions. **KELLEY TANTAU** talks to the owner of a Thames motel, who says her revenue drops up to 100 per cent each time the Auckland border is closed.

A Thames motelier hopes the latest Covid-19 lockdown will be the country's last.

For Carol Murphy, the ongoing alert level restrictions and the continuing Auckland shutdown feels as if her future is being taken away from her, one week at a time.

She owns and operates Tuscan on Thames and told *The Profile* that as soon as regional borders close, her occupancy "basically goes to zero overnight".

"This current lockdown has seen me with the odd essential worker, but every lockdown until this one has seen me with a 100 per cent income loss at level 4, and [it] slowly crawls back as the levels come down."

Carol, who lives in Thames, has owned the 14-unit motel on Jellicoe Cres since 2017.

The first week under alert level 4, her revenue went down 92 per cent, falling to 100 per cent in week two.

In alert level 3, she lost 70 per cent of her income, and 60 per cent in level 2.

"Level 3 and 2 have changed this time, and this has made things harder again," she said.

"Until we go to the old level 2 and Auckland is also out, my business will continue to make a loss every month."

Carol, who employs three staff and a handyman, said she usually spent between \$30,000 and \$40,000 a year on maintaining the motel.

However, to counteract her losses, she had not been able to spend any money on maintenance for more than a year.

"I am getting to the end of my working life, and these last few years are for me to secure my future but it feels like it is being taken away from me," she said.

"I would like nothing more than to have the freedom to run my business the way it should be run."

Carol said the hospitality industry had received "very little" government help, and she hoped this lockdown would be the country's last.

"Not one sector has been hit as hard as the hospitality sector and we can be as 'kind' as much as we want, but at the end of the day we need a solution or some help," she said.

"I'm not saying that what we've done is wrong. What I'm saying is that it cannot continue, and we have to learn to live with it."

Carol Murphy has owned the 14-unit motel on Jellicoe Cres since 2017 and feels as if the Covid-19 restrictions are robbing her of her future.

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Ratepayers ‘not happy’ with Three Waters proposal

By KELLEY TANTAU

While Thames-Coromandel District Council have not yet decided on whether to opt in or out of the Three Waters reform, it has made it clear to central government that its ratepayers are not happy with the proposal.

Councillors and staff spent three hours working on a comprehensive 25-point resolution at its meeting on September 14. A handful of other resolutions were added, including one that would inform the government that the majority of ratepayer feedback was for council to vote to opt out of the reform.

South East Ward councillor Terry Walker said the issue was “bigger than Ben-Hur” and called for his fellow members to make a decision.

“Honestly, our ratepayers are saying to me clearly: ‘What are you doing?’

“We need to make a decision where we’re going because they are not happy. No calls I’ve ever had have supported this in any way at all.”

Central government proposes to take ownership of the country’s drinking water, wastewater and stormwater systems from local councils.

Currently, 67 different councils own and operate the majority of these services, and the reform proposes to estab-



TCDC will respond to government on Three Waters reform. (File photo)

lish four new publicly-owned, multi-regional entities which would take over from July 1, 2024.

The district council had been asked to consider the issues over an eight-week period, and provide feedback to Local Government Minister Nanaia Mahuta, the Department of Internal Affairs, and Local Government New Zealand by October 1. At its meeting, which opened with ratepayer Benjamin Dunbar-Smith telling councillors “a bold statement needed to be made”, elected members worked through the resolution that would go back to central government.

In it, were requests to the government, including a call for ongoing meetings between relevant parties; a request that the new entity governance board

must recognise the continued role of local government; and that water itself must retain public ownership.

Chief executive Rob Williams said the resolution acted as a “mission statement”.

“There is a very simple issue here in terms of the lack of information that we have at this point in time to make any reasonable decision.

“The important aspect is: what bills are our communities going to be facing?” he said.

“The biggest piece of feedback to Wellington is: until you are clear about where the money is coming from for all of this stuff, we cannot as councils make a good recommendation back as to where it should go.

“This is not just about water,” he said. “This is about how much people can afford to pay.”

Hunt on for Youth MP

Coromandel MP Scott Simpson is encouraging young people aged 16- to 18-years-old across the electorate to apply to be the area’s Youth MP.

“This is a terrific opportunity for those who feel they can make a difference by raising awareness of the issues facing young people in New Zealand,” he said.

“The successful applicant does not need any prior experience in politics. All that is required is a willingness to engage with your community and desire to learn more about politics.

“I will offer support throughout their time as Youth MP, this involves advice and the chance to shadow me during a typical day of engagements.”

Mr Simpson said the role culminated in a two-day Youth Parliament event in July next year, which gave participants the chance to experience the workday of an MP.

Youth MPs would debate legislation, sit on select committees and ask oral questions of ministers, he said.

“It is a unique chance to get first-hand experience of how parliament works and to bring the views of your community straight to the decision makers in government.”

Those wanting to apply are asked to email a video titled ‘Why you should select me to be Coromandel’s Youth MP’ to mp-coromandel@parliament.govt.nz or tag Scott Simpson in a post on Facebook. Entries close November 12, 2021.



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Wed Sep 29	Thu Sep 30	Fri Oct 1	Sat Oct 2	Sun Oct 3	Mon Oct 4	Tue Oct 5
 Morning: 1:21am 3.0, 7:20am 1.0 Afternoon: 1:41pm 3.0, 7:54pm 1.2 Sun: 6:57am 7:20pm Best At: 6:56am 7:22pm (B) Last Quarter: Rise 2:13am, Set 11:39am	 Morning: 2:08am 2.9, 8:09am 1.1 Afternoon: 2:35pm 3.0, 8:51pm 1.3 Sun: 6:56am 7:21pm Best At: 7:47am 8:13pm (B) Rise 3:06am, Set 12:31pm	 Morning: 2:59am 2.9, 9:07am 1.1 Afternoon: 3:35pm 2.9, 9:51pm 1.2 Sun: 6:54am 7:22pm Best At: 8:39am 9:05pm (B) Rise 3:54am, Set 1:29pm	 Morning: 3:56am 2.9, 10:11am 1.1 Afternoon: 4:35pm 3.0, 10:50pm 1.2 Sun: 6:53am 7:23pm Best At: 9:31am 9:56pm (B) Rise 4:36am, Set 2:31pm	 Morning: 4:58am 2.9, 11:14am 1.0 Afternoon: 5:30pm 3.1, 11:44pm 1.0 Sun: 6:51am 7:23pm Best At: 10:21am 10:46pm (B) Rise 5:14am, Set 3:37pm	 Morning: 5:58am 3.0, 12:09pm 0.9 Afternoon: 6:21pm 3.3 Sun: 6:50am 7:24pm Best At: 11:11am 11:36pm (B) Rise 5:47am, Set 4:44pm	 Morning: 12:35am 0.8, 12:58pm 0.7 Afternoon: 6:53am 3.2, 7:08pm 3.4 Sun: 6:48am 7:25pm Best At: 12:00pm (F) Rise 6:18am, Set 5:53pm

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PLACE	Hr	Mn	Hr	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

Community ‘left in the dark’ in snap lockdown

By KELLEY TANTAU

The sudden lockdown that put a ring around an upper Hauraki community is being described as a week-long guessing game by those within it.

Confusion about travel restrictions and accessing essential services was rife when the Kaiaua/Whakatiwai area, including part of Miranda and Maramarua, was put into an Alert Level 4 lockdown early last week after positive cases of Covid-19 were found in the community.

Community leaders, such as Kaiaua School principal Karlos Bosson, were left in the dark.

“I felt way out of touch, because I was always waiting for the 1pm briefing,” he told *The Profile*.

“Everybody got caught on the hop when we were at level 4, and then it was level 3 and nobody knew.”

On September 19, it was announced that three members of a Kaiaua/Whakatiwai household tested positive for Covid-19 after coming in contact with an infected remand prisoner.

At least one of two primary school children had Covid-19 symptoms when they attended Mangatangi School, quickly sparking fears the deadly virus had spread throughout the district. A bespoke level 4 lockdown and Section 70 stay-at-home or-

der was immediately issued for the area, but by Saturday night, restrictions eased after negative test results.

Matua Bosson said it felt that because they lived in a “small little pocket in the northern part of Waikato” there was a “she’ll be right” attitude from central government. “It brought to the fore that a small rural town... it didn’t matter. It was as if: ‘They’ve been tested, so that’s okay, let’s just carry on’. A bigger centre? ‘We’ve got to watch this closely, get all the services in there’. A small town of less than 2000? ‘Eh’.”

Coromandel MP Scott Simpson said it wasn’t just the Kaiaua/Whakatiwai community that felt abandoned - but the whole country.

“The level of communication coming from Dr Bloomfield’s team, and indeed the government, was atrocious. There were mixed messages, there were confused messages, there was a lack of clear direction or commonality in terms of the messages that were being received, and people like [Waikato] Mayor Allan Sanson, [Hauraki] Mayor Toby Adams, and myself, had to often rely on second-hand information - some of which at times seemed unreliable.”

Mr Simpson said Wellington operated in “its own little bubble” and said there had been



All close contacts from Mangatangi School tested negative for Covid-19.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

times during the Covid-19 crisis where he felt “people of the Coromandel and Hauraki had been completely left wondering by those in Wellington who think they know best”.

“But actually, often they don’t even know where the geography is, they don’t understand where district and electoral boundaries are, they don’t understand where marae and roads are.”

“We had this right from the very beginning when we had that positive test result from the man who spent the weekend in Coromandel town. Even then, we had the same level of confusion for several days, so I was terribly disappointed that when we had another situation in another part of the Coromandel electorate, clearly Wellington bureau-

crats had absolutely no clue of the communities of interest,” he said.

“It’s no wonder locals were confused and concerned.”

Kaiaua School has had to cancel its annual Calf Club and Gala Day set for October 24 due to the flow-on effects of the sudden shutdown.

Getting back into routine after the August lockdown had been “challenging”, Matua Bosson said, but he gave credit to staff and locals who were “working their backsides off” to keep the community running.

“We were all doing our bit, but what was really frustrating was the lack of communication. It’s just not good enough.”

The Ministry of Health was contacted for comment.

School contacts test negative

The upper Hauraki area dropped from Covid-19 Alert Level 3 to level 2 on Saturday night at 11:59pm.

In a press conference on Friday, Director of Public Health Dr Caroline McElroy said all Covid-19 tests from the upper Hauraki area came back negative, except for four household members of the remand prisoner.

Deputy Prime Minister Grant Robertson said more than 1000 tests had been taken in the upper Hauraki area since September 20.

“All the close contacts from the Mangatangi School exposure event, including staff and students, have been tested, with all tests returning negative.”

“We’ve had an incredible response from the upper Hauraki community, with people getting tested, following the health advice and sticking to the alert level requirements,” he said.

Widespread wastewater testing in Maramarua, Ngatea, Paeroa and Waitakaruru last week produced no unexpected Covid-19 detections, he said.

There had also been a good uptake of vaccinations in the Hauraki Plains so far, with 60.1 per cent of residents now having their first dose and 23.9 per cent have had two doses.

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Employers support students amid Covid-19 disruptions

BY KELLEY TANTAU

For those students who find their strengths lie outside of the classroom, Hauraki Plains College careers co-ordinators can help pave a way to the workforce.

Stu Green, Joy Carter, and Lesley Spencer have witnessed students walk out of school grounds with their “heads held high” after gaining some form of employment through the college’s Gateway programme.

With two pathways out of the college - the vocational trades employment pathway, and the university/tertiary pathway - Gateway played a big part in the latter, Stu told *The Profile*.

There were at least 81 students enrolled per year, he said, and 20 already signed up for next year’s course.

“The idea of it is to give students experience in the workplace, but we also want them to give possible trades or employment opportunities a go.

“We have students that go out and find that they love what they’re doing, and there’s another group that realise the job is no longer what they want to do, and to me that’s just as

successful as the ones who find out what’s for them,” he said.

The students head out into the workforce one day a week for eight weeks. It means the college’s relationships with local employers is invaluable.

“This whole thing swings on 81 employers saying yes,” Stu said.

“[Lately], it’s been really hard for employers. We went into lockdown and everything grinded to a halt. We came back from lockdown, and some employers were able to take students back straight away, some had to wait until level 2, and we’ve even got a couple who have to wait for level 1.

“Currently, we’re also in that uncertain situation where some employers are stuck in different alert levels,” he said. “We’re just really appreciative of them, because without the employers this whole thing wouldn’t happen.”

The college also provided the students with “employment soft skills” such as punctuality, communication, and teamwork. Cell phones were also a big issue - when students could and could not use them while on the job.

“We met with local employ-



Jenna Humphrey is doing work experience in administration at Milestone Homes in Ngatea through her school’s Gateway programme.

Photo: SUPPLIED

ers over the Christmas break last year, and asked them how our young people were prepared for the workforce, and [cell phones] was one of the things they brought up that they weren’t prepared for,” Stu said.

“That’s something we’ve built into our preparation for Gate-

way students, plus the feedback from employers was that some of our students haven’t been 100 per cent prepared for financial decisions, so we’ve built that into it as well, looking at some of the basics around Kiwisaver and savings and avoiding debt.”

Other students couldn’t read

a payslip or understand what an employment contract was, while employers valued “the old fashioned stuff” like making eye contact and shaking hands, he said.

There were many Thames Valley businesses on board with the Gateway programme, including builders, plumbers, electricians, mechanics, engineers, early childhood centres, law firms, and retail businesses.

More businesses were welcome to contact the careers coordinators, as were students or parents wanting to know more about the programme, which has grown in popularity over the past five years.

“When students sign out of school, they have to come see us in the careers department, and I had a student just the other day who got an engineering apprenticeship who just left the school humming,” Stu said. “And that has to be one of the highlights really, seeing that.”

“We have students who maybe aren’t so successful in school, and I think that’s the really great thing about Gateway, they go out [into the workforce] and they absolutely shine,” Joy added.

“They come in here with drooped shoulders, and they walk out with their heads held high and a spring in their step and it’s just hugely rewarding.”



Work Ready - World Ready

Leaving school is a big deal with decisions to make about future pathways. HPC students describe their plans for their next steps into the world of work.

Jorzja Dalton



“I am heading to the University of Waikato to study nursing. The main thing that motivated me to look at a career in nursing is that I like to help people and give back. My Aunt works in re-hab so that was an inspiration to me as well. Having careers

interviews helped me to clarify what kind of pathway I wanted to follow. It is kind of scary thinking that I’ll be in the real world next year and having to figure out everything for myself, but I’m as prepared as I can be.”

Alec Doddrell



“My plan is to go to Massey University in Albany. I had an option of going into the Trades and was looking at being a Sparkie, but my Mum saw something about Quantity Surveying and after discussing it with Mr Green (Careers Co-

ordinator), everything fell into place. I also talked with a friend and former HPC student who is doing the same course that I have enrolled in. The course also gives me the option of going into project management so it gives me some options.”

Osten Hull



Osten recently completed NCEA Level 3 and is looking to take up an apprenticeship with Peninsula Marine after a Gateway experience there as a Year 11 student. “Mr Green (Careers Co-ordinator) helped me a lot with future options as I had either Trades or studying Business at university in mind.” After a trip to Waikato University,

Osten decided it wasn’t for him. “I’ve always loved fishing and boating so I took the opportunity to gain employment at Peninsula Marine, where I am currently learning how to service outboards. Osten is looking to start a Marine Apprenticeship with a long term goal of becoming a qualified Marine Mechanic.”

Sarah Blake

Sarah is planning on going to the University of Waikato to study a Bachelor of Communications. “I really enjoy writing and media subjects and there are good opportunities in the creative industries. This year I’ve studied photography, music

media and English extension which has a focus on writing. I’m excited about the courses I will be studying and the opportunities available. My long term goal is to work in an industry where I can promote environmental issues.”



Brooke Douglas

“My plan for next year is to take up a building apprenticeship. Once I’ve completed my apprenticeship I intend to study property management. I took Building and Construction as a subject in Year 9 and really enjoyed the hands on aspect of the

work, so have been doing this subject right the way through college. I did a lot of research to make sure that this was the right pathway for me. I’ve also spent time on a construction site which has given me a real understanding of what is in store.”



Hayden Adams

Hayden has nearly completed Level 3 as a Year 12 student. “I am keen on Horticulture - growing, cultivating and harvesting - and have chosen this pathway because I enjoy being outside and being hands on. Horticulture gives me the opportunity to follow the process from ground work through to exporting the produce as well as

maintenance on the machinery. I have learnt things like fencing and chainsaw skills and in my Trades course, fabrication and welding to give me a taste of this.” Hayden has been offered a full time position at Hinemoa Produce in Pukekawa and is intending to study towards a qualification in Horticulture through Primary ITO.



Needle phobia leads to vaccination cold feet

One man’s fear of needles is something he has “grown into” not out of, preventing him from staring at the pointy end of the Covid-19 vaccination. KELLEY TANTAU reports.

A Hauraki Plains man says his phobia of needles likely stemmed from an early onslaught of jabs.

“By the time I was five, I’d had my tonsils out, pneumonia three times, and a tetanus needle. So I seemed to have grown up in a very short period of time with needle, needle, needle,” he told *The Profile*.

“In my teens, I used to get the flu jab every year, and I hated it, and as I’ve got older and have had needles, they haven’t been anywhere near as bad as I remember them to be.

“But just this thought of a piece of metal breaking my skin and going inside me is something that sends me into a cold sweat.”

The man, who wished to remain anonymous, said he’d since stopped having the flu jab, but has had, “under sufferance”, blood tests over the years as well as an injection to help with back ache.

If he has to have one, he will.

“But if I don’t have to have it, I can tell you I’ll find any way not to have it,” he said.

That’s where the Covid-19 jab came in.

The man said, although there were pressures by vaccinated people and the media, there was no mandatory vaccine roll-out - yet.

“The main reason is that I am scared sh*t of needles of course.

“I’m not a conspiracy theorist,” he said. “I’m a coward.”

His story is not uncommon. Trypanophobia - an out-of-proportion fear of needles, is thought to affect up to 10 per cent of adults.

U n i c h e m Thames owner and pharmacist Anas Wadood said the pharmacy started its vaccination roll-out on August 2, and it initially “took off”, with many people coming in to get their first and second Covid-19 jabs. He’s only had one person get cold feet.

“I’ve personally only had one patient who got into the room, was ready to get vaccinated, but then saw the needle and decided not to.

“That was absolutely his choice, and I just said to him that if he changed his mind at any time, we’d be happy to book him again.”

Mr Wadood understood that people did have phobias of nee-

“The main reason is that I am scared sh*t of needles of course. I’m not a conspiracy theorist... I’m a coward.”



Trypanophobia, an out-of-proportion fear of needles, is thought to affect up to 10 percent of adults. (File photo)

COVID-19 VACCINATION TIPS

The Immunisation Advisory Centre says those with a fear of needles should talk to A healthcare professional so appropriate mitigation strategies can be put in place. These include: bringing a support person; having the vaccination first thing in the morning to avoid worrying all day; not looking at the needle - distract yourself by reading or looking at your phone; practicing slow, deep breathing exercises, and using anaesthetic cream to numb the injection site.



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‘Black Doctor’ claims to discover Golden Cross mine



Golden Cross mine, Waitekauri. Photo: SUPPLIED



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

“I am the Golden Man!” shouted the ‘Black Doctor of Maratoto’, not that many could understand him as the words were in Spanish and garbled with alcohol.

The Black Doctor was a mysterious character - said to be a swarthy Mexican, raised at one of the silver-mining centres in that country. He was educated, spoke English fluently, and was knowledgeable about mining. He claimed to be particularly lucky as a prospector. His ‘doctor’ title came from his skill at making medicines and lotions from herbs. Sadly alcohol was his great weakness.

During the mid-1870s he traipsed about the district from Thames to Waitekauri gold prospecting and gum digging. Later, in the 1880s, he is said to have worked as a cook at Hikutaia’s Pioneer Hotel when under the management of the Corbett’s.

It was on one of his well-lubricated journeys that he stumbled across a magnifi-

cent gold bearing reef.

A legend grew around the discovery and the facts are now murky. One version has him drinking up large at Hikutaia’s Pioneer Hotel after weeks of digging for gum near Waitekauri. On his return journey, he got lost in the bush and came across a reef which outcropped so much it made a waterfall over which he clambered with some difficulty.

The lode was about 10ft thick, the stone rich in gold as well as what he called ‘sulphureth’ of silver. He had no pick to take a sample but managed to bash off a few pieces with a hard stone. He wrapped the samples in a handkerchief and attached it to his belt. Alas the little parcel was knocked off and lost as he passed through scrub. Another account has him returning from a spree in Thames via a pack-horse track over the ranges, drinking a bottle of rum when he became lost and came across the reef.

The first person he told of his discovery was a well known prospector, Hone Werahiko, who was fossicking in the Waitekauri area. Hone was sceptical from the first and became even more so after weeks of searching failed to find the reef. “Porangi te taketa - the Doctor is mad!” he declared. Others set out to find the reef with no suc-

cess and it was considered a swindle. The Black Doctor, however, was determined to find the reef again and when last seen was setting out on another expedition to reach it. Nothing more was heard of him.

Sixteen years later, in 1892, the Lowrie brothers discovered a reef that became the Golden Cross mine at Waitekauri. It was rich in both gold and silver, especially where it outcropped, and it evidently in every detail matched the Black Doctor’s description of his find. Legend has it that the Black Doctor’s skeleton was found on a rocky ledge near the reef in 1895. But it was in April 1893 that the skeleton of a man was found under a rock about a mile and a half from Lowrie’s claim, at Waitekauri. Constable Beatty made inquiries.

No person was missing, and the remains were unidentifiable. An inquest was not held as skeletal remains were often found and to hold inquests on all of them would have been an expensive operation. The skeleton was widely believed to be that of the Black Doctor who appeared to have sat down under the rock to die.

Ironically in death he did become the ‘Golden Man’. The Golden Cross yielded large quantities of gold and ultimately produced bullion to the value of £373,000.



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Santa Claus to return to Ngatea

By TERESA RAMSEY

A newly-formed committee of keen volunteers will bring Santa back to the Hauraki Plains this Christmas after the annual Ngatea Santa Parade failed to get off the ground last year for the first time in decades.

Committee member Shannon Stratford said though this year's Christmas on the Plains event was still in the planning stages, it will include a Santa parade on December 11 at 2pm through Ngatea to the Hauraki Plains College outdoor stage for Christmas in the Park, where there will be food and entertainment on offer.

The annual Santa parade didn't go ahead last year after volunteers who had organised it for more than 20 years retired in 2019 and new volunteers weren't found in time to run the event.

"I think it was just a bit disappointing that there wasn't one last year... but it actually takes volunteers," Mrs Stratford said.

She decided to get the ball rolling a few months ago and the group is currently in contact with Hauraki District Council to organise consent.

"All I did was simply ask a question on the Ngatea Noticeboard [Facebook group]: 'are there any groups doing the Santa parade this year' and a whole pile of people put their hands up and said 'we'll join a committee'. Once we



Santa will return to Ngatea this year after the annual Santa parade was cancelled in 2020.

Photo: SUPPLIED

got that committee together, we found out the high school was in the process of doing a Christmas in the Park... so we joined the two together," she said.

This year's event will be slightly different, with more of a focus on entertainment rather than the activities held by Lions in the past, she said.

"We just want people to focus on sitting down and enjoying some music... we're going

to have food stalls and people can bring a picnic or get something to eat there and sit down and enjoy."

Students from the college, Hauraki Plains primary schools and the Brianna Maree School of Dance in Ngatea will put on performances during the event.

"It's not just for Ngatea, it's the whole Hauraki Plains area. It includes Kerepahi and Kaihere, Kopuarahi, Wai-

takaruru, Pipiroa - all those areas can come together as a community and have a good, fun time.

"We're really trying to encourage the whole town to really get into the Christmas spirit, especially after Covid, we probably need that even more than ever."

DETAILS: Christmas on the Plains, December 11, 2pm. To enter a float, or find out more, email: shanandsi@xtra.co.nz.

High winds topple sculpture

High winds and rough weather in early September toppled the Michael Smither sculpture, *Colour Harmonics*, which has stood within the Burke Street Reserve, in Thames, for more than 10 years.

Thames-Coromandel District Council will relocate the sculpture to a secure location to check for damage, it said in a statement. It was unsure when the piece would be reinstalled as some items might take longer to procure than normal due to the backlog of supply issues caused by Covid-19 restrictions.

Council's community facilities manager Derek Thompson said although it was a shame to see the installation negatively affected by weather, it was also a "really good opportunity to carry out any long term maintenance on this piece of work as it had been exposed to the elements for almost 10 years".



The damaged sculpture.

Photo: ALANA MARSH

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Rural Life

\$2.8m Green Corridor project begins



Waikato Regional Council
Hauraki Coromandel restoration
lead Emily O'Donnell (centre)
plants a kahikatea tree after a
blessing in June.
Photo: SUPPLIED

The first kilometre of a 17km-long ecological corridor connecting Kopuatai Wetland with the Firth of Thames has been planted with 18,000 plants along the Piako River. The five-year Piako River Green Corridor project, led by Waikato Regional Council, received \$2.8 million through the Ministry for the Environment's Jobs for Nature funding last year. The project also includes planting out drainage systems between the lower Piako and Waihou rivers to provide shade for native fish and bird species during the dry summers. In total, a quarter of a million plants will go in the ground and 35 hectares of

land will be retired along 36 kilometres of riparian margins. Ministry for the Environment's Secretary for the Environment, Vicky Robertson, said central to the new essential freshwater package was the principle of Te Mana o Te Wai: protecting the life supporting capacity of fresh water. "These plants will reduce sediment by stabilising the banks and create a healthier environment for the life this awa [river] supports," she said. Planting started in June following a site blessing led by Ngati Hako. Waikato Regional Council Hauraki Coromandel restoration lead Emily O'Donnell said the project brought to life along-

held dream of iwi to reconnect the Kopuatai Wetland to Tikapa Moana (Firth of Thames). "Most of the land is council flood scheme land, and this is an opportunity for us to meet

"These plants will reduce sediment by stabilising the banks and create a healthier environment for the life this awa [river] supports."

- Vicky Robertson

the aspirations of iwi and showcase how planting can become part of a flood scheme without compromising capac-

ity and integrity," Emily said. "We had talked about doing a project like this but under the council's current funding it would take us probably 50-60 years to deliver. "The Jobs for Nature funding allows us to deliver it in five years." Waikato Regional Council established a working group for the project, consisting of representatives from iwi, the Department of Conservation, Hauraki District Council, Fish and Game, the Thames Valley Land Drainage Advisory Subcommittee and the Waihou-Piako Flood Protection Advisory Subcommittee. The Hauraki Plains, known as Tikarahi by Ngati Hako,

was once a huge wetland forest dominated by kahikatea, totara and swamp maire. Napa Otimi, of Ngati Hako, said the project was "very special" to all the iwi of Hauraki. "We're trying to reconnect to all of those things that we've lost over the generations." All the plants will be eco-sourced with a preference to them being grown by local nurseries and social enterprises. The project is expected to create 16 new jobs over its duration. The \$1.219 billion Jobs for Nature programme is a government initiative, creating nature-based jobs to benefit the environment and support the economic recovery following the Covid-19 pandemic.

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Rural Life

Entries open for Young Māori Farmer competition

Entries are open for up and coming young Māori working on sheep and beef farms around the country to enter the prestigious Ahuwhenua Young Māori Farmer Award (AYMF).

The award was inaugurated 10 years ago and is designed to recognise the achievements of young Māori in the farming and horticulture sectors.

In 2022, the competition is for sheep and beef – in a three year cycle, young Māori involved in horticulture and dairy are also recognised.

The competition is run in conjunction with the senior Ahuwhenua Trophy, which in 2022 is also open to Māori sheep and beef farmers.

Pouarua Farms, near Ngatea, was named a finalist for the Ahuwhenua Trophy this year. The farms are jointly owned by Ngāti Maru, Ngāti Paoa, Ngāti Tamatera, Ngāti Tara Tokanui and Te Patukirikiri. It comprises 10 farms throughout its 2200ha: nine dairy units and one drystock unit, and is the largest single dairy platform in the Hauraki region, in which 4600 cows are milked across 1775ha.

Nukuhia Hadfield, chair of the management committee which oversees both the Young Māori Farmer and Ahuwhenua Trophy competitions, said continued growth within the Māori agribusiness sector had opened up new career opportunities for rangatahi.

In the relatively short time the competition has been running, it had brought to the fore some outstanding young Māori men and women who had already excelled in their careers, she said. Since becoming finalists or win-



Former Ahuwhenua Young Māori Farmer Award finalist Tumoana Harrison-Boyd. Photo: SUPPLIED

ners they have moved up to new and more responsible roles and many have become inspirational role models.

"I would encourage young Māori men and women to enter this competition. They will find, like others have in the past, that it opens up new opportunities and networks and gives them the self-confidence to achieve their full potential.

"The Ahuwhenua whānau that runs the competition is both welcoming and supportive and not in any way intimidating. They will have a great time," she said.

DETAILS: Entry forms and further details are on the Ahuwhenua website: www.ahuwhenuatrophy.maori.nz. Entries close February 11, finalists will be announced late March 2022. The winner will be announced at the Ahuwhenua Trophy awards dinner on Friday, May 27, 2022.



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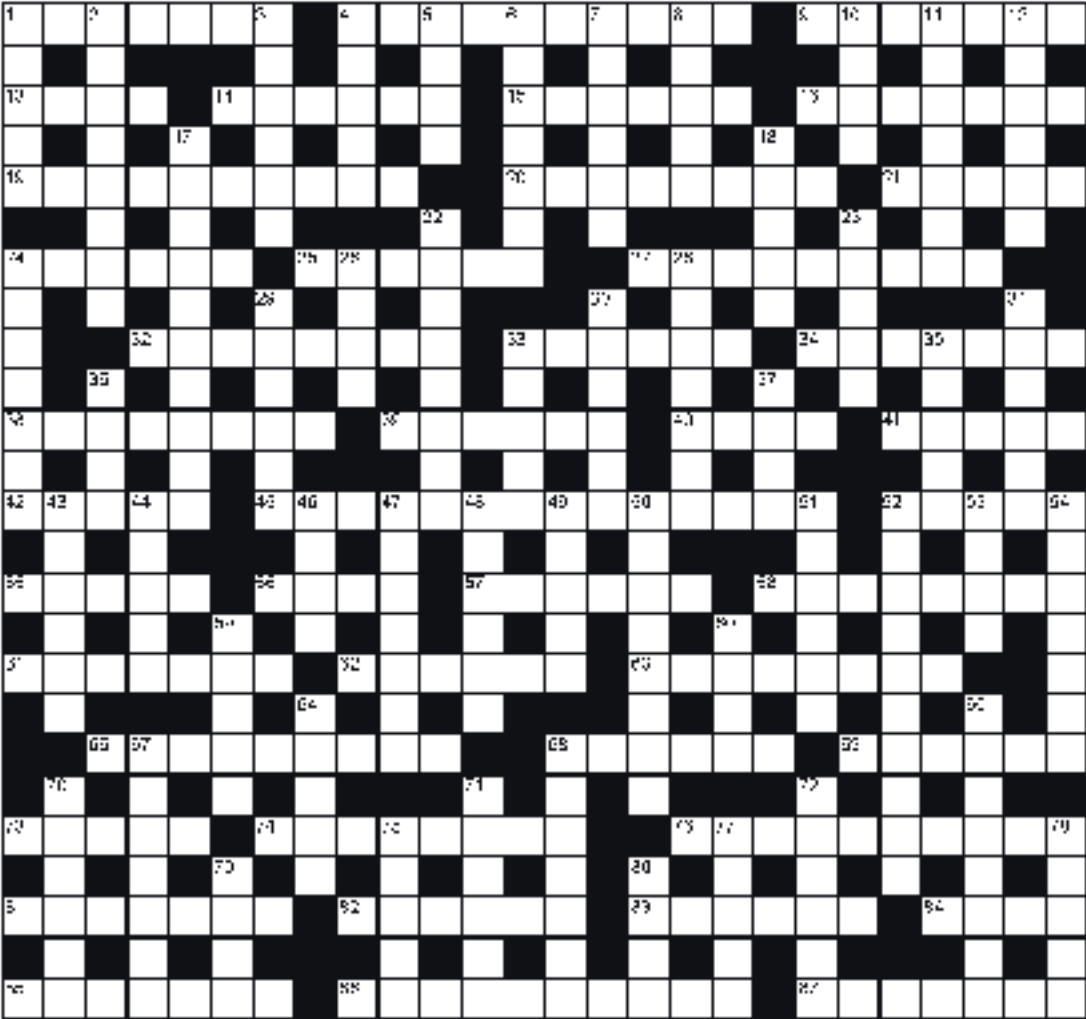
1 Funny (7)
4 Harbour a grudge (4,6)
9 Rendezvous (7)
13 Soft cheese (4)
14 Earnings (6)
15 In tears (6)
16 Penned (7)
19 Salad sauce (10)
20 Bawdy house (8)
21 Alphabetic reference (5)
24 Light gas (6)
25 Creamy dessert (6)
27 Dutiful behaviour (9)
32 Grand Spanish country house (8)
33 Quick look (6)
34 Cold-shouldered (7)
38 Train stops (8)
39 Accompany (6)
40 Appearance (4)
41 Model (5)
42 Immature (5)
45 Attempt relentlessly (3,3,3,5)
52 Ensnare (5)
55 Person who refrains from using any animal product (5)
56 Visible aura (4)
57 Run naked in public (6)
58 Empty (8)
61 Jute fabric (7)
62 More equitable (6)
63 Remedial drug (8)
66 English city (9)
68 Painful to touch (6)

69 Plan (6)
73 Hot drink (5)
74 Platform for executions (8)
76 Duty (10)
81 Lends a hand (7)
82 Spotted tile (6)
83 Bracelet attachments (6)
84 Pitch (4)
85 Branch of mathematics (7)
86 Without a hat (10)
87 Line of hereditary rulers (7)

DOWN

1 Book for photographs (5)
2 One-wheeled vehicle (8)
3 Cheerful, easy-going (6)
4 Navigation floats (5)
5 Region (4)
6 Gruesome (7)
7 Tiers (6)
8 Boat (5)
10 Goes wrong (4)
11 Of enormous size or strength (7)
12 Required (6)
17 Wavy (10)
18 Forest clearing (5)
22 Killer (8)
23 Sandy fawn colour (5)
24 Rumour (7)
26 Has possession (4)
28 Work build-up (7)
29 Ingest (anag)(6)

30 Provisions room (6)
31 Abscond (6)
33 Crow about (5)
35 Sequence (5)
36 Japanese lead-glazed earthenware (4)
37 Northern China desert (4)
43 Started the batting (6)
44 Moves towards (5)
46 Paper quantity (4)
47 Alligator pear (7)
48 Covet (6)
49 Less common (5)
50 Shocking (8)
51 Beginner (6)
52 Laboratory employee (10)
53 Absent (4)
54 Church tower (7)
59 Military trainee (5)
60 Margin (4)
64 Room (5)
65 Fraught with danger (8)
67 Put on a pedestal (7)
68 Immature frog (7)
70 Commercial attaché (6)
71 Coiled (anag)(6)
72 Caught on camera (6)
75 Region's plant life (5)
77 Insipid (5)
78 Mean, vicious (5)
79 Play the lead (4)
80 Etching liquid (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION
ACROSS: 1 Diary, 4 In mint condition, 14 Erase, 15 Tokyo, 16 Statistics, 17 Gleam, 19 End, 20 Gateway, 21 Antenatal, 22 Soften, 25 Pay packet, 27 Jungle, 28 Youths, 33 Telescopes, 35 Ass, 36 Reagan, 37 Iron, 39 Toe, 41 Chablis, 42 Banzai, 43 Amendment, 44 Franc, 45 Anecdote, 50 By, 51 Infamous, 55 Barge, 58 Caretaker, 59 Adroit, 60 Florist, 61 Doc, 63 Duck, 64 Entire, 65 Hot, 66 Economical, 68 Eleven, 69 Placed, 71 Spaceship, 76 Duties, 77 Capacitor, 79 Pianist, 81 Rye, 84 Cairn, 85 Elliptical, 86 Ochre, 87 Leave, 88 Sow your wild oats, 89 Kenya.
DOWN: 2 Isobar, 3 Rhyme, 5 Nets, 6 Intense, 7 Tasted, 8 Ouija, 9 Disdain, 10 Tags, 11 Oregon, 12 Haven, 13 Reddens, 14 Emotion, 18 Cappuccino, 23 Scope, 24 Almanac, 26 Acerbic, 27 Justify, 29 Torpedo, 30 Peahen, 31 Maize, 32 Tavern, 34 Seam, 36 Relax, 38 Notes, 40 Idea, 45 Arced, 46 Earache, 47 Data, 48 Taking, 49 Bride, 50 Beached, 52 Fellowship, 53 Martini, 54 Unseat, 55 Braille, 56 Wrath, 57 Vice, 62 Voice, 67 Lettuce, 68 Emerald, 70 Chateau, 72 Proviso, 73 Mexico, 74 Dispel, 75 Osprey, 76 Decay, 78 Aglow, 80 Niche, 82 Only, 83 Vast.

Plant more now for summer

October means we are mid-spring and there is plenty to be done in the garden. New season crops and flowers will be starting to appear so it's time to plant more ensuring a continuous supply of fresh vegetables, lovely fruit and fragrant flowers to last you through the summer months.

VEGETABLES

Once you have prepared your garden beds, you can start planting your seedlings for the summer crops when available in your garden centres. Asparagus plants less than two years old must now be allowed to grow on to fern. Cultivate carefully and fertilise. Broadbean harvest usually starts at the end of the month. When very young, eat pods and all but when seeds have reached the size of a 10c piece, only the shelled beans are eaten. The tips of young shoots can be eaten as a green vegetable.

Early sowings can be made of dwarf beans, climbing and scarlet runner. Beetroot – sow seedlings now. Cabbages, carrots, parsnips and celery – sow seedlings in well cultivated and fertilised soil. Cucumbers, zucchini, melons and pumpkin – container-grown seeds can now be planted out from the middle of the month. Provide well composted cultivated soil and mulch once planted. Eggplants, capsicum, tomatoes can be planted out towards the end of October once the soil warms. Garlic and onions – regular, careful cultivation is required with the addition of a side dressing of a balanced fertiliser. Make regular sowings of lettuces at three to four weekly intervals to give you a regular supply of fresh salad greens. Potatoes – main season plantings should be made in all warmer districts. Enrich soil with well-made compost before planting. Continue to mound up.

Rhubarb – transplant seedlings into their permanent location. Plant at least 150mm apart. Vegetables to harvest –



It's time to plant beetroot now.

Asparagus, broad beans, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, leeks, lettuce, onion (spring), peas, potatoes, rhubarb, silverbeet, spinach and kale. Seeds to sow – Beans, cabbage, lettuce, spring onions, peas, radishes, silverbeet, spinach and zucchini.

FLOWERS

Bulbs and perennials, such as daffodils, jonquils and many others can be left undisturbed to naturalise in permanent growing positions. Seeds to sow – carnation under cover, alyssum, Canterbury bells, cornflower, poppy, hollyhock, lobelia, phacelia (outdoors). Roses - earliest blooms start to appear. Bushes start to make rapid growth and constant watch must be kept so protective measures may be taken at first sign of pest (aphids) and diseases.

FRUIT

Citrus fruits of most varieties will now have reached full maturity, although tangelos will still improve if left on the tree until next month. Plant out young passionfruit vines. A hot north facing sunny position is best suit to their growth. Strawberries are starting to flower well and the growth rate is increasing.

COMPOST HEAP

Stimulate rapid breakdown of compost by adding additional garden lime and nitrogen fertiliser.

- Ngatea Garden Circle



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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
October 2021 Moon Planting Calendar				1 Non planting Day	2 Non planting Day	3 Non planting Day
4 Non planting Day	5 Non planting Day	6 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	7 New Moon	8 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	9 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	10 Non planting Day
11 Non planting Day	12 Plant above ground crops	13 Plant above ground crops	14 Non planting Day	15 Non planting Day	16 Non planting Day	17 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed
18 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	19 Non planting Day	20 Non planting Day	21 Full Moon	22 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	23 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	24 Non planting Day
25 Non planting Day	26 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	27 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	28 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	29 Non planting Day	30 Non planting Day	31 Non planting Day

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Valley Profile among award nominations

The Valley Profile has been nominated for two categories in the Hauraki-Coromandel Business Awards - Service to Business and People's Choice.

This year's Service to Business nominees include the Valley Profile, Coastal Bins, Jo Tilsley, Jocelyn and Stuart Read and Thamesonline. The Service to Business award winner is decided by a panel and the finalists will be announced on October 8.

The Valley Profile was also nominated for the People's Choice category, along with 28 other businesses, which is open for public vote until October 1.

Valley Profile editor Teresa Ramsey said it was a nice surprise to learn the Profile had been nominated for the award categories.

"It's an honour to be nominated alongside these fantastic local businesses and individuals who do so much for our local communities," she said.

"The team at the Profile has been working hard to support our local businesses during this difficult time with Covid-19 restrictions.

"Our role is to keep the community informed and help businesses get their message across with affordable advertising, plus our very popular advertorials and news stories that celebrate our local business people."

After votes are counted, the

top three nominees for the People's Choice award will be announced, receiving two tickets each to the awards evening on October 28 where the winning business will be named.

Nominees for the Community & Not For Profit category have also been announced, and finalists will be chosen by a public vote. Nominees include: Hauraki Animal Rescue Team; Mercury Bay Cancer Support Trust; Nicole Fisher; CAPS Hauraki; St John Paeroa Store; Stepping Out Hauraki; Te Whariki Manawahine O Hauraki Women's Refuge; Thames Animal Rescue Team; Thames Museum Society; Turua Animal Rescue; Waihi Town Cats and Whitianga Community Services Trust.

Meanwhile, award judges are busy going through applications from entrants in the other categories: Emerging Business, Hospitality, Manufacturing & Trade, Professional Services, Retail, Rural and Primary Industries, and Tourism.

Winners will be announced at the Hauraki Coromandel Business Awards gala evening on October 28 at the Grand Mercure Puka Park in Pauanui.

DETAILS: Voting for People's Choice and Community & Not For Profit categories close on October 1 at 5pm. Public voting for both categories take place online: haurakicoromandelbusinessawards.co.nz. Finalists in all categories will be announced on October 8.

SPORTS

Second win for Valley rugby

HEARTLAND RUGBY

A bonus point 35-19 victory over East Coast at Ruatoria last Saturday has placed Thames Valley equal first with South Canterbury at the top of the Heartland Championship points table.

The match was played in excellent conditions at Whakarua Park, but it was a rather disjointed game not helped by Thames Valley being on the receiving end of three yellow cards.

The Swamp Foxes managed to run in four good tries and the score could have been higher but for some sterling defence by East Coast.

In fact, the first yellow card resulted in an automatic seven-point penalty try which enabled East Coast to be only four points behind at half time.

Todd Doolin had opened Valley's scoring with a penalty goal and then a fine break by Leroy Neels led to a try by Josh Kaho.

The conversion was unsuccessful but shortly afterwards Connor McVerry, playing his fortieth match, scored his first ever try for the Swamp Foxes. Doolin converted to give Valley a 15-0 lead.

East Coast responded with a converted try but a further



Tevita Halafihhi scores his first try against East Coast. Photo: TVRFU

penalty goal to Doolin extended Thames Valley's lead to 18-7.

Then came the penalty try for East Coast when the referee ruled they would have scored but for a knock-on intercept by Sione Vakapuna Etoni, bringing the half time score to: Thames Valley 18, East Coast 14.

Early in the second half, Doolin kicked his third penalty goal and then Tevita Halafihhi scored a try from a Thames Valley counter attack.

Doolin's conversion made the score 28-14 to the Swamp Foxes. Mid way through the half, Valley were again reduced to 14 men when Muir was yellow carded - as was Masirewa for the final ten minutes. During this period, Halafihhi again demonstrated his speed and strength to score his second try which Doolin converted.

East Coast had the last say with one further try making the final score: Thames Valley 35, East Coast 19.

Tiaontin Raroren from Whangamata was named player of the match. He is not a regular half back but turned on a fine performance in this position when he replaced the injured Leroy Neels.

Next week Thames Valley play Buller at Te Aroha. Attendance is limited to 200 people but the match will be live streamed on the Thames Valley Swampfoxes Facebook page.

Thames Valley Swampfoxes




VS



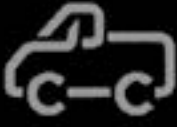
Round 3 of the 2021 Bunnings Warehouse Heartland Championship Competition.

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Actor's *Lord of the Rings* dreams dashed

By KELLEY TANTAU

A Thames actor stopped shaving and cutting his hair for a year in preparation for a role in the *Lord of the Rings* TV series that has since moved offshore.

Allan Judd was hired as a recurring actor in Amazon's still-untitled *Lord of the Rings* series almost two years ago, for which he was to play a merchant character audiences could "get to know".

"Then it all went pear-shaped with Covid and so my hair got all cut back," he told *The Profile*.

However, it wasn't all lost. Mr Judd was contacted again to instead play another part, which he said "turned into quite an integral little role within the show".

He had completed around 30 days of filming for the first season before it was announced the series would leave New Zealand for the production of its second season, and would instead be shot in the United Kingdom.

Mr Judd, who said he couldn't "give too much away" due to contractual agreements, said he was one of around 40 people cast who were a vital

part of a particular city. "You might be there from 4.15am until 6pm... so 14 hours on set and you might film maybe two minutes of work," he said.

"They'll do a scene that takes 20 seconds but they may shoot it 10 or 12 times.

"It's amazing the money being spent on it."

The series, which will be set prior to the events of the *Lord of the Rings* novel and films, has a budget of US\$1 billion, and is understood to be the most expensive series ever made. "The security was over-

the-top," Mr Judd recalled.

"You'd get into a van to go from the costume room over to the set and all the windows on the vans were blacked out.

"You couldn't go to the toilet without putting a robe on in case there are people outside with cameras, so we had to be very vigilant about where we went and what we said."

However, Mr Judd said it was disappointing the production of the show had been pulled from New Zealand for its future seasons.

He'd been "booked in" to film the next season, so it was "gut-wrenching" to hear the news

"It's not only the actors, it's the film crew, the sound, the lighting people that are all going to be out of employment as well."

- Allan Judd



Thames actor Allan Judd stopped shaving and cutting his hair in preparation for a role in the still-unnamed *Lord of the Rings* TV series.

Photo: SUPPLIED

over the radio that his role in the series was uncertain, he said.

"It's not only the actors, it's

the film crew, the sound, the lighting people that are all going to be out of employment as well.



Allan Judd has been working in television for the past five years.

"It's right across the board. [The show] was very valuable to New Zealand."

Mr Judd has been working in television for the past five years, and had roles in *Shortland Street*, *The Brokenwood Mysteries*, and *The Panthers*.

He was also a familiar face on the theatre stage.

The *Lord of the Rings* series' first season - featuring Mr Judd, will premiere on Amazon's streaming service Prime Video on September 2, 2022.

And while he was still hoping for the email asking him to head to the UK to recommence filming, Mr Judd said he was also focused on putting on some events locally.

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