

The Valley Profile

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Mayor waits for jab

Thames-Coromandel's mayor has not yet received the Covid-19 vaccine, despite the deadly virus creeping into the Waikato region and low vaccinations rates in the Thames Valley. **KELLEY TANTAU reports**

Thames-Coromandel Mayor Sandra Goudie says she's "not saying no" to the Covid-19 vaccine despite not yet having the jab.

Mayor Goudie told *The Profile* she's waiting for an alternative to the current Pfizer vaccine before getting her Covid-19 jab.

She admits this is a "calculated risk" as the government ditches its elimination strategy and steps up its vaccination programme to counter the increasing spread of the more contagious Delta variant of the virus in the community.

Her vaccination stance comes after she came under fire in August for not scanning the QR codes on the Covid-19 app, later telling *The Profile* she was "totally on board" with contact tracing, but had admittedly become complacent.

When asked if her delay in getting vaccinated would be contentious among her constituents, she said she was "not saying no to vaccinations".

"Everybody has to make their own decision," she said.

Mayor Goudie said she favoured the Novavax vaccine when it came to her coronavirus protection, despite it still awaiting Medsafe approval and having no set date for it being given the green-light.

She said waiting until the Novavax vaccine was approved was a "calculated risk" she was prepared to take.

A Ministry of Health spokesperson told *The Profile* New Zealand signed an agreement with Novavax for 10.72 million doses

(enough for 5.36 million people). Novavax has started its application and has submitted some data to Medsafe for review, with more data expected later this month.

"Following Medsafe's regulatory decision on the safety and effectiveness of the Novavax Covid-19 vaccine and once delivery schedules have been confirmed, we will consider the use of Novavax in New Zealand."

Meanwhile, the Z Service Station in Ngatea has been named a location of interest after a Covid-19-positive case stopped there twice while shifting house from Pukekohe to Kaitiaki. They have since tested negative, along with their family, and the Ministry of Health said the public health risk was low given the person was fully vaccinated and had been avidly using the Covid-19 tracer app.

However, those who visited the service station on Friday, October 8, between 6:15am and 7:20am are being advised to test immediately and stay at home until they receive a negative 5-day test. Those who visited on Saturday, October 9, between 10:50am and 12:15pm are advised to self-monitor for Covid-19 symptoms. More information at health.govt.nz.

Latest Ministry of Health vaccination figures show parts of the Thames Valley region have some of the lowest vaccination rates compared to other districts throughout New Zealand.

As at October 8, the Thames-Coromandel

CONTINUED P2



INSET: Thames-Coromandel Mayor Sandra Goudie



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Whangamata	- 0	07	-0	08
Waihi Beach	- 0	12	-0	13

Candidate's expenses under police probe

BY KELLEY TANTAU

A 2019 local government candidate for Hauraki District Council did not report their electoral expenses or donations - now the matter is with the police.

But Josie Anderson says she was unaware the files had not been returned, and that neither the electoral commission, the district council, or the police had informed her of the situation.

Josie Anderson ran for both councillor and mayoral positions at the 2019 local body elections but was unsuccessful, obtaining 1653 votes for mayor, and 883 votes for the Paeroa ward.

It is a legal requirement under the Local Electoral Act for all candidates to file a return of electoral donations and expenses within 55 days after election day. Failure to do so could see the candidate hit with a maximum \$1000 fine.

The issue was raised at council's September 29 meeting, when Deputy Mayor Paul Milner asked council's deputy electoral officer John McIver for an update on the candidate's expenses. Mr McIver told councillors and staff the candidate was first given the opportunity to comply before February, the year following the election, before the matter was referred to the police.



A Hauraki district candidate allegedly did not report their electoral expenses.

(FILE PHOTO)

Police confirmed it was making initial inquiries into a report received from the electoral commission, but Josie Anderson said she was "utterly surprised" when contacted by *The Profile* last week.

"I have not been contacted about any complaint from the electoral commission, Hauraki District Council, or the police, and am very surprised that I wasn't contacted directly, even out of courtesy," she said.

"It comes at a time when, I

would have thought, there are far more challenging issues affecting people across the whole country."

However, council confirmed the candidate was contacted at least four times - three by email and once by phone.

Josie said since hearing of the complaint last week, her then-campaign manager had attempted to contact the electoral commission to follow-up on their concerns.

At the time of print, they had

not yet returned her calls, she said.

At the meeting, Mr McIver told councillors and staff the candidate was still eligible to be a candidate at the next election.

Mr Milner told *The Profile* the ability to run for re-election seemed like a "strange loophole".

However, the main issue was about transparency.

"I think it's important that voters can see, albeit after the

fact, who has funded someone's campaign. Generally, for smaller areas, it's majority self-funded, but there could be candidates who get funded from large private donors or businesses."

Mr Milner said it was the first instance of failing to report expenses within council that he was aware of, though "a bit of chasing up" had been required from time to time.

In July, a similar case ended up in the Queenstown District Court after businessman Basil Walter Walker was charged with failing to file a return of election expenses and donations with the Electoral Commission between October 2020 and February 2021. Last month, Mr Walker was convicted and fined \$500 for failing to file the returns.

The Hauraki District Council 2019 elections had a mayoral expenditure limit of \$14,000, and a councillor expenditure limit of \$7000. If running for both, Mr Milner said the highest figure was deemed the limit. He said it was important for any candidate to know what was required of them.

"For me, I'd just like to see that any candidate would provide that information, especially if they were considering standing again, because it shows a person's good character if they were prepared to tidy things up."

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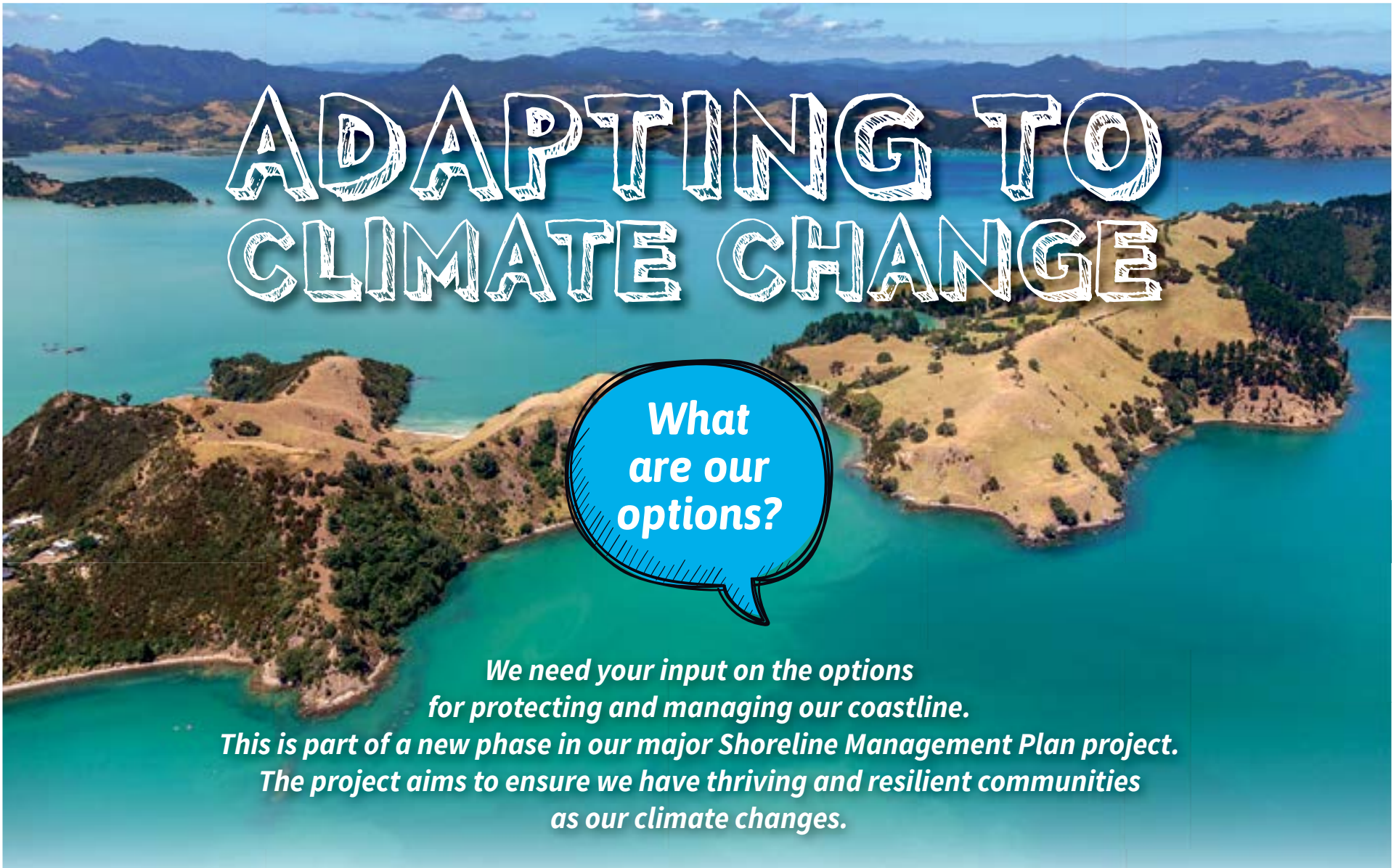
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This important work will decide which sustainable flood and coastal defence measures are appropriate in your area.

The options being considered range from hard engineering solutions like stop banks and rock walls, to soft options such as dune restoration and wetland regeneration.

We will be holding public meetings in October to help you understand which protection and management options are being considered for your stretch of coastline. We want to listen to your views.

What can you do?

Familiarise yourself with our Shoreline Management Plan project tcdc.govt.nz/smp

Come to the public meeting in your area:

Venue	Date	Time
Whitianga Town Hall	Saturday, 23 October	9am–12pm
Matarangi Fire Station	Saturday, 23 October	2pm–4pm
Whangamatā Community Hall	Sunday, 24 October	9.30am–12.30pm
Pāuanui Recreation Club	Sunday, 24 October	2pm–4pm
Tairua Golf Club	Monday, 25 October	9.30am–12pm
Cooks Beach Hall	Monday, 25 October	2pm–4pm
Thames Civic Centre conference room	Friday, 29 October	5pm–7pm
Te Puru Hall	Saturday, 30 October	9.30am–11.30am
Coromandel Town Citizens Hall	Saturday, 30 October	1pm–3pm
Colville Hall	Sunday, 31 October	10am–12pm

Public meetings will be subject to COVID-19 restrictions.

Each meeting will begin with a presentation on the risks and hazards in your area, and the potential management options. There will then be time for questions and discussion with the Project Team.

We need your input on how to protect our coastline.



tcdc.govt.nz/smp



Deadly highway speed review prompts petition

By KELLEY TANTAU

One person is so afraid of getting into a car crash along State Highway 2 that they no longer visit their daughter in Tauranga.

Another feels it is only a matter of time before someone gets hurt by a speeding vehicle.

Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency recently released their engagement summary for its safer speed review of SH2, from Mangatarata to Katikati.

It comes after 21 deaths and 95 serious injuries occurred along this stretch of road between 2010 and 2019.

In July, SH2 at the Karangahake Gorge was closed for more than seven hours after a crash critically injured two people and seriously injured another.

The same month, a pedestrian was seriously injured after being struck by a car along the same stretch.

NZTA director regional relationships David Speirs told *The Profile* the agency wanted to make the highway “safer for everyone”.

And while the speed review garnered both support and opposition for reducing the speed on the highway, which traverses through Paeroa, the Karangahake Gorge, and Waihi, Mr Speirs said the insights would help the agency finalise its recommendation for what the “safe and appropriate” speeds should be for this road.

The agency’s speed review attracted a petition signed by 46

residents of Karangahake who strongly supported a speed reduction in the gorge.

In it, they requested support for reducing the speed to 60km/h or less, as well as double yellow lines, turning bays and safer crossing points.

The Karangahake School Board of Trustees was also in favour of the proposed speed reduction along the stretch of road, starting at Rahu Rd in Mackaytown and along past School Rd through Karangahake Gorge.

“The area surrounding School Rd should be marked as the most important as there is a blind corner,” the board stated.

“Reduce to 60/50km/h and consider marking this area as a school zone.

“Tourism near the trail has increased the number of traffic accidents including fatalities. This can be attributed to multiple side roads and entrances to car parks along the small stretch and driver inattention.”

As well as the petition, the agency received 224 written comments at drop-in sessions held in March and April in Katikati, Mangatarata, Paeroa, Waihi and Ngatea; 29 emails; 45 comments and suggestions on an online forum; and 25 letters and drawings from Waihi Central School children.

“We also talked to businesses and organisations in the area, including the local councils, transport advocacy groups, Police, and Fire and Emergency. We also had discussions with iwi and schools in the area,” Mr



Karangahake Gorge residents want to reduce to speed limit to 50-60km/h.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

Speirs said.

“Changing speed limits is a legal process and there are numerous steps we must follow.”

The next step for Waka Kotahi will be to commence formal consultation on its recommendations, with consultation dates expected to be “announced shortly”.

Meanwhile, other measures have been put in place to help to reduce deaths and serious injuries through crashes along this particular stretch.

“Earlier this year, SH2 through the Karangahake

Gorge was part of our Safety Boost Programme, which aims to make regional state highways safer through a range of low-cost, high-benefit safety improvements. This included around 8kms of centreline rumble strips, 7kms of edgeline markings and 20 new signs,” Mr Speirs said.

The Karangahake Gorge is also regularly maintained by our contractors to ensure safety and reliability.”

Two speed cameras were installed on the highway near Waikino and Waihi in 2018.

“There are a number of important safety projects around the country, and Waka Kotahi needs to prioritise the timing and funding available for these so we can make the biggest difference in reducing deaths and serious injuries,” Mr Speirs said.

“We believe the improvements we are making and the changes proposed are appropriate for this stretch of road.”

DETAILS: Information on this speed review, including future consultation, can be found at: www.nzta.govt.nz

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Historic site's open day full steam ahead

By KELLEY TANTAU

Thames' historic goldmine is so much more than a "tin shed under a Pohukawa tree" and two steam days this weekend are setting out to prove it.

Planned for October 16 and 17, The Hauraki Prospectors Association, whose home is at the Goldmine Experience on Tararu Rd, hope the days will attract locals to the site, after Covid-19 restrictions put a pause on domestic tourists and school tours.

"Thames is the most historic town in New Zealand, and people need to be able to know what's here," association president Alan Young said.

As part of the two-day event, the public will be able to see in action the steam engines from the 1800s that have been restored by the prospectors.

Bringing the engines back to their original condition took around three years, Mr Young said.

"It's just an ongoing project. Every day, the goalposts shift further down the runway. There's always work to be done."

The public will also get a chance to learn about the history of the site, and donate, if they wish, to the prospectors' new project: a blacksmith shop that is currently under construction.

"Millions of hours have gone into this place," Mr Young said. "It means a lot to me. It means a lot to a lot of people."



Hauraki Prospectors Association president Alan Young says millions of hours of work has been carried out at the site. RIGHT: The public will be able to see the two steam engine's restored by the prospectors in action this weekend.

Photos: KELLEY TANTAU

The Hauraki Prospectors Association was formed more than 30 years ago by a couple of retired gold miners.

Nowadays, the group was made of a "varied bunch" of school teachers, lawyers, geologists, and engineers, Mr Young said.

They were used to getting thousands of tourists and school children through the

site each year, but the latest Covid-19 outbreak had significantly reduced the numbers.

Despite this, Mr Young was hopeful visitors from around the Thames Valley would pay the site a visit, in order for the prospectors to pass on their "wealth of knowledge" and passion for the project.

"Although we're about mining, our main objective has al-

ways been education," he said.

"This place has always had a future, and it will always have a future, and it will always have a place in the community."

DETAILS: Hauraki Prospectors Association Steam Days, October 16 and 17, 10am-3pm at Thames Goldmine Experience, Tararu Rd. For information about the goldmine, visit: www.goldmine-experience.co.nz.

Helicopter plans a return

The Auckland Westpac Rescue Helicopter hopes to return to the Coromandel region this summer.

The Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust (ARHT) is planning for crew to be based at the purpose-built Whitianga hangar after overwhelming community support, including that of the Coromandel Rescue Helicopter Trust, saw the charity operate a third helicopter and crew last summer.

Northern Rescue Helicopter Limited CEO Craig Gibbons said the ARHT team were delighted to be welcomed back last year having worked through some logistical issues that left the Whitianga base empty the summer prior.

"We recognise how important this service is to a community who have been so generous with their donations every year," Mr Gibbons said.

"The movement of approximately 100,000 people to the Coromandel Peninsula during the summer period is significant and needs to be matched with the same level of pre-hospital and retrieval medical care.

"We are working hard to ensure we have the resources and capacity to meet the demand for a third helicopter and crew in Whitianga and hope to extend our days of deployment this year.

"Once again, we appeal to our Auckland and Coromandel communities to help us achieve this."

DETAILS: To make a donation: coromandelrescue.org.nz



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Notes left at cafe tell tale of family’s travels

By KELLEY TANTAU

Hand-written notes scrawled on an old serviette and a piece of green paper have been a source of hide-and-seek for one unknown family for more than a decade. But with no entries hidden at the Hauraki cafe where the notes were found since 2017, the mystery over the authors remains.

Staff at Woodturners Cafe in Mangatarata, just west of Ngatea, used to watch out for the note-makers, and make sure none of the messages were ever cleaned up during the cafe’s many extensions and alterations over the years.

“They’ve moved around as we’ve grown, and yet the [writers] have found them every time,” owner Blair Mattock told *The Profile*.

The trail of notes started back in 2008 with: “Rebecca and Zane have left this note and if you see [it], right your name [sic].”

The pair returned in January, 2009, writing: ‘Rebecca and Zane came back on [the] way to the Mount, then Parihaka’.

Throughout the next year, the note was signed by Jan, Jude, Heather, Caitlyn, and Bradley.

Zane returned from Tauranga in October, 2012, while Rebecca headed down to Mount Maunganui again in December



Woodturners Cafe owner Blair Mattock says the mystery note-makers’ last entry was back in 2017.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

that same year. The last known entry was written by Elias and Oscar in November, 2017, who were having lunch before heading back to Te Kauwhata.

Mr Mattock said the letter’s clues pointed to the original authors being around eight-years-old and living in the upper or central North Island.

It appeared they visited Tauranga during summer or school holidays.

“Both of my girls worked here while they were going to uni, and they kept an eye on who went to the [hiding place].”

“They had a fair idea of who it was, but we haven’t seen them for years,” he said. “I hope everything is okay.”

Mr Mattock said he’d love it if the authors, who would quite likely be adults now, were located. “When you do this for a certain amount of years, you

find that you do get a lot of repeat customers and you get to know them, and you notice when they stop coming in.

“It seems sad that it’s now been four years since the last entry, and so it’d be great if anyone does know Elias, Oscar, Zane, or Rebecca.”

And although the cafe - which was identified as a location of interest following a visit by a Covid-positive man in

August - remained closed until lockdown restrictions eased in Auckland, it was looking forward to welcoming new and familiar customers when possible. And for those inclined to leave hidden messages, Mr Mattock said: “We’ll leave a notepad there so you don’t run out of paper”.

LET US KNOW: If you know who the letter-writers are, contact kelley@valleyprofile.co.nz.

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Netball courts now open to the public

By KELLEY TANTAU

A conflict that began three years ago between Paeroa's only netball centre and Hauraki District Council has ended with the gates of the courts being opened to the public.

The outcome meant more people would be able to pick up a ball and give the sport a go, Deputy Mayor Paul Milner told *The Profile*.

Back in August, 2020, a council agenda stated community netball had "suffered" due to a lack of access to the courts in the Paeroa Domain.

The issue had been ongoing since 2018, and shone a spotlight on the lease of the courts Paeroa Netball Association had held for 20 years.

"The lease had expired, and when we were trying to get a new one, there was a difference of opinion on what the terms should be," Mr Milner said.

"But it turned out that how the previous lease had been operating was probably breaching the Reserves Act."

According to the act, the administering body of a recreation reserve may, from time to time, exclude members of the public from the reserve for no more than 40 days in any year.

Mr Milner said that meant the gate at the courts had to be open outside of those 40 days.

However, he had heard of netballers from Paeroa going out of town to play the sport because of restricted access at the netball centre. The Paeroa Hall had also been used as an alternative loca-



The gates to the Paeroa netball courts will now be open to the public daily.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

tion for training.

However, Paeroa Netball Centre president Josey McKain said they did not intend to exclude anyone from the courts, but needed to ensure the centre's assets were looked after.

Covid-19 also played a part, she said, with netball centres in a difficult position of ensuring the public adhered to health and safety protocols.

"Covid has done a lot, and a lot of people can no longer afford to play any kind of sport. The centre tries to provide something that can suit everybody, and we'll

work with those people to get them back into playing netball."

Mr Milner also hoped the open-door policy at the centre would attract new players.

"Ideally, there would now be an increase in young people wanting to take up netball, and a boost to the numbers at the centre because it had dropped back in the last five years."

The netball centre would still have priority to run its tournament days and competitions, he said.

Hauraki District Council has funded four new goal posts to go

in the centre for public use.

It has also installed security cameras to deter vandalism.

Council staff will now open the gates in the morning when opening the Paeroa Domain toilets, while security services will close the gates and toilets in the evening.

Josey said "time would tell" if the new security measures would do the trick, but said she was happy both the centre and council could now work together going forward, crediting council's community services department for their help to date.

Biz awards finalists named

Thousands of votes poured in for the Hauraki Coromandel Business Awards, which will be decided at the end of the month.

Organising committee chair Kate Rigg said they had "fantastic candidates this year which made the judges' jobs very difficult".

The outcomes for the People's Choice and Community and Not For Profit categories decided by public vote were too close to call until voting ended.

"We had nearly 6000 votes for these categories," she said.

The winners will be announced at a gala evening on October 28 at The Grand Mercure Puka Park in Pauanui.

FINALISTS: Emerging Business: Coastal Bins, Coromandel Lifestyle Centre, *Valley Profile*; Hospitality: Gastronomics Restaurant & Bar, Two Tides Bakery; Manufacturing & Trade: Coromandel Distilling Company, Splinta's Firewood; Professional Services: Make Your Day Events, Tamariki Station, Woof Woof Ranch; Retail: Coastal Bins, Coromandel Lifestyle Centre, Re-store Bulk Foods Ltd; Rural & Primary Industries: Splinta's Firewood; Tourism: Cathedral Cove Kayaks, Historical Maritime Park & Museum Paeroa, Wild Wood Mini Golf; Community and Not For Profit: Mercury Bay Cancer Support Trust, Te Whariki Manawahine O Hauraki: Hauraki Women's Refuge, Turua Animal Rescue; Service to Business: Jo Tilsley, Jocelyn and Stuart Read; People's Choice Award: Maddcuttz, Sassy Sadie, Woof Woof Ranch.

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SPORTS

Domain Dash

Ngatea Primary School held a Domain Dash on the last day of Term 3, after their annual cross country event was cancelled due to Covid-19. The kids gave it their all as they climbed under and over obstacles, and ran and crawled through the fun course.



Bella Bear, left, Kiaana Toia, Olivia Lang, Maia Tahitahi, and Meah Maxwell.



Reuben Dodunski, Karstyn Burke, Kalie Taaffe sprint out from under the tarp.



Zac Steffek leaps over the mini hurdles.

Photos: NGATEA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Students sprint away over the hurdles in a race for the finish line.



Charlotte Yates crawls through a game.



Corbin Spilsbury, Dylan Allen have fun.

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
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
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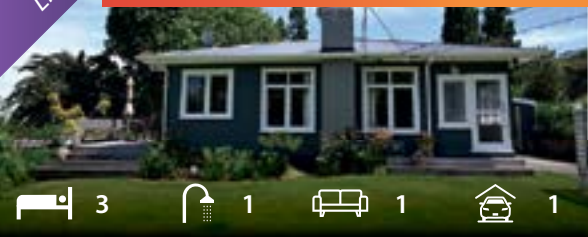
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Rural Life

Helping hands at event

By DEB MACDONALD BROWN

Loving, protecting and understanding nature were the themes of the community-focused conservation activities held at the DOC Kauaeranga Visitor Centre in early October.

DOC staff welcomed the community to learn from amateur herpetologist Doug Ashby about New Zealand's unique geckos and skinks, and to help begin restoration riparian planting beside a wetland.

Originally planned to celebrate Conservation Week 2021, the activities highlighted two important issues: the fact that unique reptiles were under threat from predation and loss of habitat; and the need to plant to protect diminishing wetlands.

"We need to protect what we don't see," Doug Ashby told his group.

"The geckos are so well camouflaged because they are perfectly matched to their environment. You need to look for their eyes."

The creatures have no natural defences against introduced rats and mice and cats.

After Doug's talk, about 20 community volunteers met on a grassy planting site next to the wetlands.

DOC heritage and visitor ranger Yvette Yule chose cabbage trees to plant because they were a fast growing species.

Their leaves fall, create a mat which suppresses the weeds and makes a beneficial environment for planting later on.



Community volunteers, Olive Aitken-Gummer and Manaia Henare-Ryland. INSET: Hands-on with gecko, Pounamu.

Photos: SUPPLIED

"We want to create a wetland wonderland," Yvette said.

Education ranger Maree Limpus too believed in protecting the beauty around her.

"The valley has a short history of intense destruction with Kauri logging. This is a stunningly beautiful place, with amazing wildlife," she said. "I love the thought of being part of caring for this beautiful environment and bringing it back to health."

DETAILS: DOC is planning ongoing care of the trees throughout the summer and are looking for volunteers to get involved. For more information, contact Maree Limpus, email: mlimpus@doc.govt.nz.



DOC rangers, Yvette Yule, Maree Limpus and Katerina Quax.

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Rural Life

Feds say no to three waters

Federated Farmers joins many council elected representatives and citizens up and down the country urging the government to go back to the drawing board on reform of three waters delivery.

Federated Farmers president Andrew Hoggard said while it was clear billions of dollars of investment were needed to get three waters infrastructure up to scratch, there were too many flaws and question marks over the proposed four new mega entities for the government to just press ahead.

The government proposes to take over drinking water, stormwater and sewerage infrastructure from 67 councils nationwide.

A range of deep concerns with the proposed model have been raised in the provinces, chief among them the risk rural voices and needs would be swamped in the enlarged set-ups, he said.

“Right now, we have a direct say in the appropriate level of investment and priorities for water infrastructure via our local council. If our elected representatives don’t deliver, we can eject them at election time - and they know it,” he said.

“That accountability is significantly watered down with the arms-length governance arrangements now proposed. Councils and iwi get to appoint a panel, which in turn appoints another panel, which selects members of an unelected board.”

The complexity of rural water scheme ownership and operations was creating uncertainty in many rural communities and the role of the new Crown entity, Taumata Arowai, needed to be clarified. Serious questions have also been asked



Andrew Hoggard

about the estimated costs and benefits of larger water authorities. “Experience has shown bigger is not always better,” Mr Hoggard said. Federated Farmers argues the government’s local government, Resource Management Act and three waters reforms are back to front.


“The three waters and RMA reforms should be parked until after the government’s current review into the future of local government.

“Advancing these huge and costly reforms prior to this review is like putting the cart before the horse.”

September 30 was the deadline for councils to give feedback on what changes would need to be made to the three waters model for them to ‘opt in’.

“Patently, with indications more than three quarters of councils are against or deeply concerned by the proposals, it would be extremely unwise and unfair for the government to make them mandatory,” Andrew said.

“New Zealanders need and deserve the time to debate these crucial water services issues. There is no case for rushing ahead and hoping for the best.”



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Time is right for Turua’s country pumpkins

By KELLEY TANTAU

This spring, there will be seeds, and come autumn, there will be giant pumpkins.

October is the month to start getting the garden ready for a gargantuan guest as Turua School prepares to sell its pumpkin seedlings.

The seeds are sown by the students in a greenhouse which was partly funded by the school’s first foray into giant pumpkin growing earlier this year.

They are then sold to families and community members eager for a friendly taste of orange competition.

“It’s a five month process for people,” Turua School garden co-ordinator Anikha Sanders said.

“From the end of October, we’ll have plants for sale for people to grow at home, and previously, we’ve held our giant pumpkin weigh-in around mid-March.

“We had 38 giant pumpkins last time, and more than 400 people came to the weigh-in on the day, and we’ve got a lot more interest this year.”

Anikha, an avid gardener herself, said the main purpose of the pumpkin growing and subsequent carnival was to get children and whānau outside in the soil, and trying new fruit and veggies.

This year, they are hoping

to attract participants from outside of Turua as well, and have considered the various Covid-19 alert level restrictions.

“It’s been a bit uncertain as to whether we’d look at doing this because people put in a lot of commitment to grow a pumpkin for five months,” she said, “but even if we do end up in a high-level lockdown in March, we can hopefully come to some sort of weigh-in at least.

“We’re just trying to be optimistic because it’s all about the process and getting families who wouldn’t necessarily garden growing something at home.”

The school is also hopeful they’ll be able to have a good turn-out at its calf club day on October 26, where the pumpkin plants are usually sold.

And while Anikha has had to deal with mice sneaking away with some of her seeds, there were plenty of plants to go around, she said.

“At the moment, I’ve got about 60, but we will have up to 100 plants available, and if there is interest it’s not too late for us to re-sow.

“It’s a nice, long growing season so no one will be behind.”

DETAILS: To register your interest in growing a giant pumpkin, contact Anikha, Ph: 027 823 8839.



Pippa Taipari, left, Tove Frost, Aaron Abraham, and Nevaeh Veal show off some pumpkin plants. Photo: SUPPLIED

GIANT PUMPKIN GROWING GUIDE

WHERE TO PLANT: Preferably a level location with full sunshine through the day, sheltered from the wind and close to a water supply. You will also need to consider how you can provide shade to the pumpkin later in the season and how you will access the site to move your (hopefully) massive pumpkin when it’s time for weigh-in.

HOW TO PLANT: Dig a hole up to a metre deep and fork in lots of compost and rotted manure. Dig a hole as deep and wide as the pot the seedling is in, place your pumpkin plant in, backfill with soil and water in well. Keep well watered to encourage root growth. Allow 3-4 metres if more than one pumpkin plant.





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Steampunk canned due to Covid-19 uncertainty



By ALLAN JUDD

I have had a lot of people asking lately: “What’s happening with Steampunk in Thames? Will there be anything happening in Thames this year?”

With all the upheaval due to Covid-19, it makes it very tricky to try and plan anything.

With positive cases being found in the Waikato area recently putting parts of Waikato into an Alert Level 3 lockdown with Auckland, and continuing to have positive cases recorded each day, this Delta variant could spring up again and we could all be back to level 4 lockdown in the Thames Valley.

Well, for all those committee people who are trying to pull events together, along with many other events, unfortunately the time has come where decisions have to be made, and it is with regret that the Steampunk the Thames have had to cancel their planned November event.

They will, however, be going ahead with their March-April event of Circus Punk the

Thames. It is not the only event Thames Valley has seen cancelled or postponed over the past month, and in upcoming months.

Craig Robertson, who was to be hosting his annual Country Music weekend at the Thames Workingman’s Club on October 1-3, has had to postpone the event for the third time in the past year.

Mr Robertson told me it was very disappointing to have to postpone this event again, especially with more than 90 tickets pre-sold, however, most of those sales came from the Auckland area.

That, along with the fact many of his artists such as Dennis Marsh, Kyli Austin and Cooper Run would not have been able to travel outside of their regions. The local sponsors of Mr Robertson’s event are the ones he feels for, such people as Toyota, Richmond Villas and Steamy Sisters, who are all feeling the pinch of this Covid-19 outbreak.

As chairperson of several organising committees responsible for hosting events in the Thames region, it’s currently very difficult to plan and co-ordinate an event with more than 100 people in attendance. The restrictions due to Covid-19 that have been put in place under different levels of lockdown put many constraints on organisers. It’s the uncertainty



Steampunk the Thames’ November event is one of many to be cancelled or postponed. File Photo: TERESA RAMSEY

of what is going to happen, will we get a serious outbreak again and be back at level 4? Who is going to pick up the tab for things like hall hire, band/entertainment, caterers, the lady who made the dress that can’t be worn, the list goes on...

This is where we start to feel the economic impact this Covid-19 virus has on us. The motels that were booked, the restaurants and cafes in town where visitors would dine, the taxi company. It’s not an easy time for the event manager out there, or local businesses.

So, if you are thinking of planning an event sometime over the next six months, make sure you get your planning underway in plenty of time with Covid-19 contingency plans as part of the agenda. It’s always important to remember where funding will come from, whether funding grants will be obtained, nominating a go-to person for dealing with Covid-19 contingency plans, if public liability insurance is needed, and whether the compliance costs make it viable to host the event at all.

I hope if you are looking at planning an event you have alternative dates up your sleeve.

- Allan Judd is the president of Steampunk the Thames

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Send your letters to the editor to editor@valleyprofile.co.nz or PO Box 550 Thames, 3540. Letters must include your full name and address, be 250 words or less and may be edited, abridged or rejected at the editor's discretion.

THREE WATERS PROPOSAL
With regard to the article: *Ratepayers 'not happy' with Three Waters proposal* published in the *Valley Profile* on September 29, about the three waters proposal, we would like to inform your readers that in the Matamata-Piako district a petition was circulated about two weeks ago. In that time, and under covid restrictions, we gathered over 900 signatures. In the petition we pointed out that the water infrastructure was owned by the ratepayers and was in danger of being transferred to central government without sufficient recompense. We stated: "We, the ratepayers and citizens of the Matamata-Piako district, refuse to hand over our assets and insist they be kept in the control of our District Council." We believe this is a subject that troubles not only us in MPD, but all citizens and we ask that residents of the Hauraki district join with us in making our position quite clear. We believe the petition only strengthens the hand of our Councillors in refusing to hand over our assets. Each district council needs the ratepayers to show their support and we appeal to residents of the Hauraki district to join us in showing our displeasure at such high-handedness. We live in a great country, but where is the democracy in this major reform?
- Ernie Bygrave and Howard Harrison, Te Aroha

COVID-19 CIRCLES CLOSER
It seems uncertainty is the only constant we have in life at the moment, as Covid-19 breaches the Auckland border into parts of the Waikato and slowly circles closer.

Let's hope this latest scare, a Covid-positive person filling up twice at Ngatea's Z station (Page 1), doesn't result in an outbreak in our area.
The Hauraki-Coromandel has so far had many lucky breaks, with positive cases recorded in Coromandel township, Mangatarata, Whakatūwai/Kaiaua, Mangatangi School, Paeroa, Ngatea and Maramarua in the past few months. I'm not sure how, but none of these resulted in outbreaks in our area, however, it has had a huge effect on business, events and everyone's nerves. Every time there's a Covid-19 scare, it affects all of us, and the *Profile* is not immune. You may have noticed a drop in page numbers lately, which is caused by advertising dropping off whenever Covid-19 rears its ugly head. Despite this, we have still been able to cram in a huge amount of news to keep our readers informed.
The government's elimination strategy is coming to an end as the Covid-19 Delta variant proves too tricky to contain. That means we now need to rely on high vaccination rates to keep our communities safe and prevent hospitals from becoming overloaded, with 90 per cent of the population vaccinated the magic number. However, with our region having some of the lowest vaccination rates in the country and a civic leader still waiting to get the jab, (Page 1-2) we'll have to work a lot harder before we can start to see a return to any kind of normality.
If you haven't booked your vaccination yet, go to bookmyvaccine.nz or Ph 0800 28 29 26. It's safe, it's easy and it's free.
- Teresa Ramsey, editor

Baked Gnocchi in Bolognese Sauce

RECIPE

I thought I would start this month with a little bit of my background. Apart from my gorgeous Savour & Spice shop, cooking and eating well are my biggest passions, and life! Both are borne out of my previous career as a clinical nutritionist. Not only does food need to be delicious, and full of flavour, but being well balanced and healthy is important to me too. My friends and family often refer to the dishes I cook as being 'Jaki-ized' because I'm always swapping out, adding, or changing ingredients in a recipe. Just like this month's recipe, which I adapted to make it my own. It's a lovely dish that will serve eight comfortably or freeze well for another easy meal. Even though its Daylight Saving time, the evenings can still be a bit cool, so this should hit the spot. Served with a simple salad and some garlic bread it's just yummy! I hope you enjoy as much as my lot did...
- Jaki, Savour & Spice

- Serves 8**
2 tablespoons olive oil
6 slices streaky bacon, chopped into chunks
1 onion, finely chopped
2 carrots, grated
250g Portobello mushrooms, peeled and chopped
2 cloves garlic, crushed
2 teaspoons dried oregano
2 tablespoon Savour & Spice Horseradish Mustard
2 tablespoons tomato paste
2 tablespoons Tamari or soy sauce
500g chicken mince (or lamb, beef, pork etc)



This baked Gnocchi dish is perfect for cooler evenings.

- 2 400g tins of Italian chopped tomatoes
1 cup chicken stock
1 bag of baby spinach
500g gnocchi (I use Rana brand)
1 cup of grated tasty cheese plus parmesan to serve
Salt and pepper to taste
- Pre-heat the oven to 180 degrees celcius on fan bake. Heat the oil in a large ovenproof saucepan on med-high, then add the bacon, onion, carrot, mushrooms, garlic and oregano. Season then cook gently for 15 mins or so, stirring occasionally.
Stir in the mustard, tomato paste, tamari (or soy), then add the mince, breaking up the meat as you go. Cook over a highish heat for 5 – 10mins.
- Add the tins of tomatoes, then rinse each tin with half a cup each of the stock and add to the pan. Stir in the bag of spinach, then place a lid on for a couple of minutes to create steam for wilting down.
Remove the lid, add the bag of gnocchi to the pan, and gently stir it through the sauce. Cook so it blips away at a gently simmer for another 10 minutes or so or until some of the liquid has absorbed.
Place the grated cheese on top, then transfer to, and bake in the prepared oven for around 20-30mins, until the cheese is brown and gooey and everything is bubbling.
Finish with a grating of parmesan and a sprinkling of chopped basil or parsley.



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Teen killed in train accident



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

The special holiday train from Thames to Te Aroha had stopped at Paeroa to take water.

It was New Years Day 1923 and sixteen-year-old Robert Thomson, travelling with his mother, two sisters and a brother, left the carriage to buy some lollies.

New Year's Day at Te Aroha promised to be fun-filled with the new recreation ground being used for the first time.

The Watersider's Silver band, touring New Zealand, was to play at the Fire Brigade sports and again in the evening at the Domain rotunda. William Redfern, shunter, stepped on to the engine to run the train up and bring it back again to dock.

At the end of the platform he saw two men running. He recognised one as Matty Crosby. He called out "Keep back; we are coming back." Matty



A train full of excursionists on the Thames to Te Aroha line. Photo: SUPPLIED

stopped but the other man kept running on. Half way between the platform and signal box he attempted to get on the car, but was bumped clear away from the train. Gaining his balance he tried to get on the car again but was once more thrown clear.

After the second attempt he caught hold of the carriage and appeared to go in between it and the next one. He then bumped against the tablet post and fell underneath the carriage. Horrified, William Redfern immediately gave the signal to stop.

Young Robert Thompson had fatally fallen beneath the train while his family sat on board. Railway employees and Constable McClinchy carried his body to the morgue.

Constable McClinchy found on Robert a 10 shilling note, a few packets of cigarettes, and a first-class railway ticket from Wharepoa, near Hikutaia, where the family lived and had

boarded the train to Te Aroha. At the inquest, it was determined that Robert had thought the train was moving out, when it was actually being sent back to the dock for berth.

The coroner returned the verdict that Robert "was accidentally killed whilst endeavouring to board a moving train, no blame being attachable to any of the train officials."

Robert was a cadet employed in the Survey Department of the Crown Lands Office at Kerepēhi, where his father also worked. He was the eldest son of William and Freda Thomson, who had until recently operated and collected the tolls for the Wharepoa Ferry.

The death of Robert was the third tragedy for the Thomson family. In 1915 Robert's siblings Mavis, aged 4 years 7 months, and Owen, 2 years, died within two months of each other.

All three children are buried together at Shortland cemetery in Thames.



Julie Stephenson, left, and Siobahn Soole at the entrance to the new employment hub in Paeroa. Photo: SUPPLIED

New home for Gr8 Job Hauraki

A Hauraki career facilitation programme that has already helped place more than 25 people into local jobs now has its own employment hub in central Paeroa.

Gr8 Job Hauraki, launched by Hauraki District Council to support community recovery after Covid-19, has a new home at 30 Belmont Rd, opposite the council building.

The space is funded by the Ministry of Social Development through the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs programme, and aims to create a unique employment hub for job-seekers and local businesses.

Siobahn Soole has joined community employment liai-

son Julie Stephenson, and the official opening of the space is set to take place once the district is back in Covid-19 alert level 1.

They also have a goal to place 50 sustainable job/training employments by June 30 next year.

DETAILS: The Gr8 Job Hauraki employment hub is open from 9am - 4pm Monday to Thursday. The team is available for individual appointments in council's Ngatea or Waihi offices and libraries, for people who can't make it to the Belmont Rd, Paeroa location. Expressions of interest from businesses for the career market are also welcome. Email: Julie.Stephenson@hauraki-dc.govt.nz





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5		9			1		7	

HARD

21

HARD

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

MEDIUM

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

EASY

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JUMBO CROSSWORD

41

ACROSS

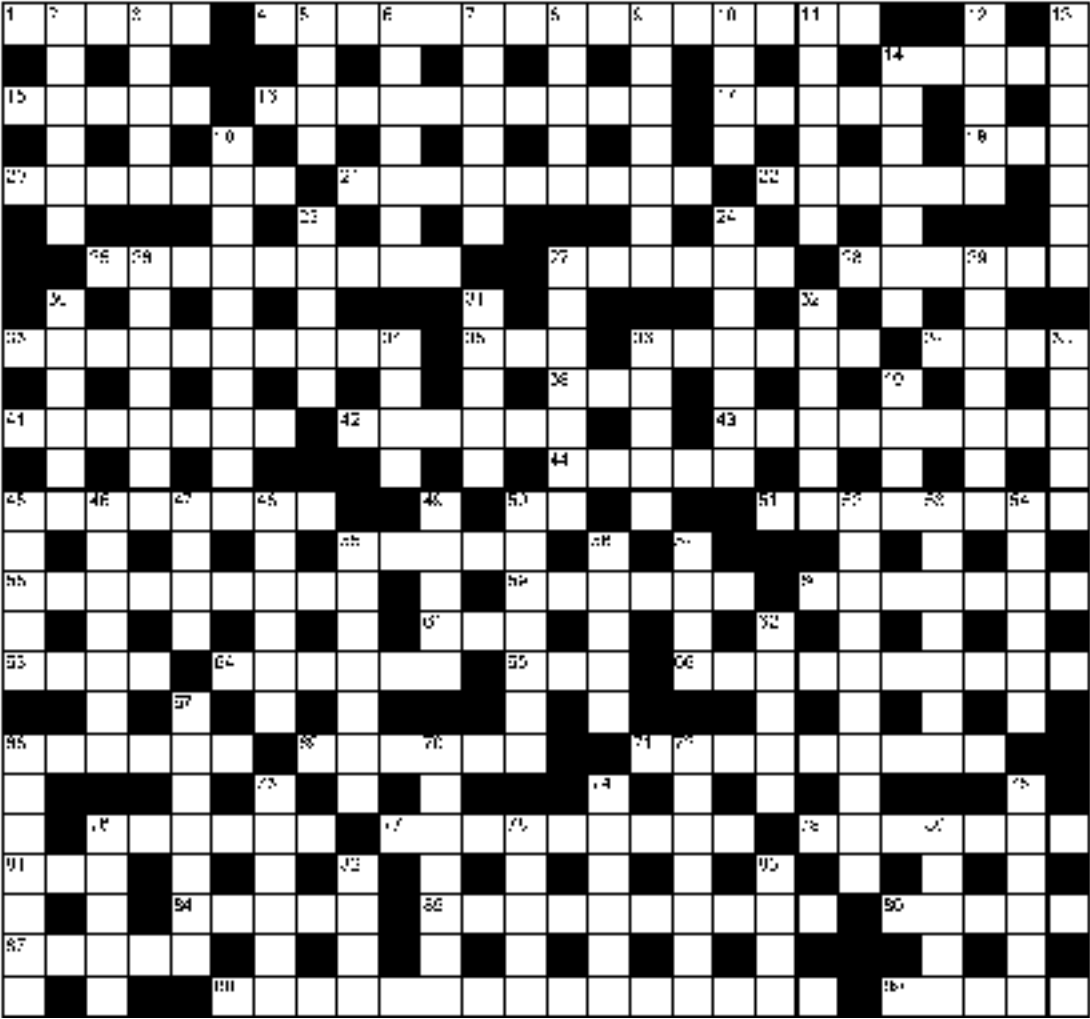
1 Peer (5)
4 Accidentally betray one's intentions (4,3,4,4)
14 Fruit pulp (5)
15 Competitor (5)
16 From corner to corner (10)
17 Collector's item (5)
19 Young goat (3)
20 Sharpened by rubbing (7)
21 Lie (9)
22 Cloak (6)
25 Enclosing line (9)
27 Weak (6)
28 Let out (6)
33 Leak-resistant (10)
35 Small (3)
36 South American country (6)
37 Standard (4)
39 Mongrel (3)
41 Bauble (7)
42 Board (6)
43 Vary (9)
44 S American cud-chewer (5)
45 Kitchen room (8)
50 Abbreviation for Maine (2)
51 Keep in good condition (8)
55 Roman country house (5)
58 Percussion instrument (9)
59 Cleric (6)
60 Supervise (7)
61 Sphere (3)

63 Check the flow of (4)
64 Offer for acceptance (6)
65 Statute (3)
66 Thai cartel (anag)(10)
68 Securing wedge in machinery parts (6)
69 The right to enter (6)
71 Carving (9)
76 Bright flashing light (6)
77 Every three months (9)
79 Game thief (7)
81 Boat fore-end (3)
84 Blemish (5)
85 Copy out (10)
86 Spiral (5)
87 Water sprite (5)
88 Out of public view (6,3,6)
89 Split, partly divided (5)

DOWN

2 Open savoury tart (6)
3 Separated (5)
5 Flower (4)
6 Inscribe (7)
7 Law-abiding (6)
8 Ravine, in the US (5)
9 Tall post with ribbons (7)
10 Architectural curve (4)
11 Antenna (6)
12 Stopping device (5)
13 Expressionless (7)
14 Share (7)
18 Half of the terrestrial globe (10)
23 Serf (5)

24 Lucerne (7)
26 Everlasting (7)
27 Skin spot (7)
29 Dried grape (7)
30 Material (6)
31 Vow (5)
32 Leg bone (6)
34 Stardom (4)
36 Snap (5)
38 Inexperienced (5)
40 Knock semi-conscious (4)
45 Genders (5)
46 Glues it (anag)(7)
47 Circuits (4)
48 Rabble-rouser (6)
49 Deck (5)
50 Glass balls (7)
52 Request to attend (10)
53 Small dog (7)
54 Polar covering (3,3)
55 Decision (7)
56 Frown (5)
57 Space inside roof (4)
62 Wobbly dessert (5)
67 Breathe new life into (7)
68 Old rifle (7)
70 Burst (7)
72 Unit of heat (7)
73 On fire (6)
74 Official count (6)
75 Conviction (6)
76 Hindu religious teacher (5)
78 Attain (5)
80 Basket for fish (5)
82 Opposed (4)
83 Competent (4)



DOWN: 2 Poncho, 3 Attic, 5 Nail, 6 Heckler, 7 Launch, 8 Neat, 9 Omelette, 10 Dollop, 11 Incendiary, 12 Lobe, 13 Textile, 17 Plume, 18 Sprinklers, 22 Stare, 23 Stopover, 25 Obvious, 26 Nairobi, 28 Guinea, 29 Sonata, 30 Escape, 33 Clone, 35 Range, 36 Anon, 37 Slat, 42 Cynic, 43 Unbroken, 44 Gambol, 45 Roundabout, 46 Tied, 47 Longest, 48 Arcade, 49 Enter, 51 Nile, 52 Ancient, 53 Greedy, 58 Assignment, 59 Angry, 63 Negative, 64 Avoid, 65 Choices, 68 Graphic, 69 Sauces, 70 Punish, 71 Siding, 75 Loose, 76 Rear, 77 Beef, 78 Peak.

SPORTS

Winning streak for Valley

HEARTLAND RUGBY

Thames Valley maintained their undefeated record in the Bunnings Warehouse Heartland Championship with a 27-8 victory over West Coast at Greymouth on Saturday.

The victory was all the sweeter for the Swamp Foxes as it was their first ever win over West Coast at Greymouth in the Heartland competition. The only disappointment is that they failed to gain a four try bonus point so now sit in second place on the points table behind South Canterbury.

West Coast put up a valiant defensive effort in trying to maintain their good home record against the Valley but the Swamp Foxes dominated territory and possession so the locals had few attacking opportunities.

Three key Swamp Fox players Josh Kaho Luke Masirewa and Tiaontin Raoren were unable to play because they were locked down in Hamilton. The coaches were able to find suitable substitutes in Sefa Monaiti (Athletic) Matty Axtens (Mt Maunganui) and Carlos Price, a former NZ Under 20 rep.

All made valuable contributions to the game with Price taking over the goal kicking duties to score 12 points. He started Thames Valley's scoring with



Valley's Will Newbold scores a try.

Photo: TVRFU

two penalty goals. West Coast replied with one penalty of their own. The score was 6-3 when Thames Valley attacked strongly with several phases of play, which were finished off with a try to Ben Bonnar. Price converted and Valley went into half-time with a 13-3 lead.

Early in the second half, Harry Lafituanai dashed down the sideline, kicked ahead and gathered the ball only to be held up over the line. West Coast replied with their best move of the game. Thames Valley could not defend a lengthy forward drive by the Coasters and they put their hooker, Troy Tauwhare over for a try which was not converted. With the score at 13-8 the Swamp Foxes lifted their game.

Joe Cooke proved how elusive he can be by evading several players before Fred Kei Fotofili received the ball and scored by the posts. Price converted and the extended 20-8 lead was a better indication of the run of play.

A crashing run by Sione Vakapuna Etione led to a quick ruck and replacement back Will Newbold received the ball to go over untouched for a try. Price converted to make the final score 27-8.

Next Saturday Thames Valley play Mid Canterbury at Te Aroha. The top six teams are 1. South Canterbury 20; 2. Thames Valley 19; 3. Horowhenua Kapiti 18; 4. Mid-Canterbury 15; 5. Whanganui 15; and 6. North Otago 14.

Fundraiser postponed

Paw applause to some truly amazing people with financial blessings for food and vet expenses.

The cats are truly grateful to these people, and the lady who came to our door - this has been a big relief to the unit and means food on table for the cats and the kittens being desexed, which will mean they can be adopted out.

Thank you also to those who have donated food to the bin at Pak'nSave Thames. Our current supplies of tinned catfood and sachets have dwindled very quickly through the lockdown but donations still came in.

With Covid-19 being so unpredictable, it was decided to postpone our Labour Weekend garage sale fundraiser until December. This is yet another loss of funds for the unit but we are doing internet sales which are few and far between. Covid-19 has knocked out so many charity fundraisers, and affected thousands of businesses as well. For the rescue, irrespective of what funds we do or don't have, the animals still need to be fed and cared for 24/7. There are no alternates, no funding packages from government for animal rescue units. Whether we have money or not, they still have to be fed every day and funds found somehow. The donations are truly our blessings and life line right now.

Tam Tam the cerebral tabby from Coro is a total delight. Her wonky back legs and wobbly gait do not stop her from running full

speed around the house; her tail serves both as a rudder and a propeller. It is absolutely hilarious to watch her and Kera play grand chasey games around the house and leaping up and over stuff is nothing for either. They would be an awesome team together if someone wanted to take on two special tabbies, one of which is cerebral special needs the other a classic tabby fur brat.

All other fur babies are doing what cats do best - annoying humans by running around on the house roof, climbing trees and watching the birds eating on the old aviary roof. They are so content to just sit and watch, doing nothing else but this keeps them amused for ages.

We are seeking a rural farm home for the black mum cat and her tabby son. As the boy kitten has refused to be sensible and his attitude has never got better and is totally unpredictable, we are looking for someone who needs two barn cats as neither are lap sociable cats.

Any financial blessings would be a massive help to us right now, donations of canned cat food, sardines, salmon and pet milk all appreciated. Items for garage sale, books, toys, clothes, shoes, linen, bric brac etc, clean and saleable please contact us, Ph 07 868 2907.

Thames Animal Rescue Team 06 0457 0095150 01 (reference where you want funds spent).

- Alice and John Parris
Thames Animal Rescue

Play A Sport This Summer

Hauraki Bowls Club

New members welcome!

Bowls available for those who want to have a try!!

For more information please phone :

Odette Harris (Pres) 027-4954-946

Ruth Hitchcock 021-2624-643

Registrations now open for Senior and Junior Cricket

Junior Cricket - year 3-8 boys and girls
Senior Cricket - open to all over the age of 16

- Junior Club Season: 30th of October till mid December and recommencing in term 1 2022. Saturday mornings
- Senior season: 7th of November till mid-December and recommencing early January. Sunday's - 30 Overs
- Junior Super Smash hub 6-week skills base programme begins 29th October through to 3rd Dec



Cricket is a great summer sport that can be enjoyed by the whole family so come and join the growing family at The Thames Cricket Club and watch your kids' skills grow with us!

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thamesseiorcricket@gmail.com 027 485 3685

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- Tues - Organised League Night Tennis
- Wed - Midweek Tennis
- Thur - Junior Coaching Vets Tennis
- Fri - Junior Club Night



Contacts - Coaching - Shannon Paki 021 0225 3308
Midweek Tennis - Tim Grove 868 9188
All other enquiries - Jon Ballantyne 027 243 5364 (Club President)
Maree Jamieson 027 217 1682 (Secretary)
E | thamestennisclub@gmail.com W | thamestennisclub.com
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Wednesday 27 October 5:30pm
Centennial Centre, Hayward Road Ngatea.
All welcome.

CAPS HAURAKI INC.

The Annual General Meeting and 35th Anniversary of CAPS Hauraki Inc. will be held on:
Tuesday 16th November 2021
at 7:00 pm
At 301 Pollen Street, Thames
Please RSVP for catering purposes by 2 November to
07 868 8644 or reception@capshauraki.co.nz

BOOKARAMA

Fri Oct 22nd
9am - 5pm
Sat Oct 23rd
9am - 3pm
St James Church Hall
Pahau St, Thames
Subject to Thames remaining in Level 2

Classifieds

Place your ad today!

Contact Nikki
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nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz

Public Notice

Hauraki Plains Netball Centre
Annual General Meeting
4pm, Sunday 21st November 2021
Ngatea Rugby & Sports Club
All welcome, email
haurakinnetball@gmail.com
for full agenda

Land Wanted

Local couple seek 2,000 to 10,000 sqm of flat to gently sloping land. We are not developers and are cash buyers. No real estate agents thank you.
Please call 021 181 7773 to discuss.

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THAMES SOCIETY OF ARTS

THAMES HIGH SCHOOL ART COMPETITION

The Thames Society of Arts is pleased to sponsor an art competition for Senior students
First Prize \$1000
Second Prize \$350 Third Prize \$250
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Admin & Support Services Team Leader

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We are looking for someone who:

- Is passionate about delivering timely and high-quality outcomes
- Has a minimum of 4 years' experience in a senior administrative role or one where comparable skills are demonstrated
- Has experience leading and coaching teams
- Is highly organised and experienced in improving and the maintenance of office systems and processes
- Has advanced ability to utilise Microsoft Office Suite and other I.T. Systems
- Has knowledge of the Treaty of Waitangi and bi-culturalism
- Is curious, solutions focused and excited about continuous improvement

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Applications close 15 October unless the role is filled earlier.

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Longridge Country Estate retirement village is a large development in Paeroa. We are seeking a person who can maintain our gardens and lawns to a high standard, and to maintain the exterior of our villas (clean exteriors including windows and roofs). Equipment will include water blaster, ride on mower, hand mower, weed eater. You need to be reliable, organised, have a can-do attitude, be well presented, and able to get along with people of all ages. This is a full-time position with some weekend work. To apply for this role, email your cv to eloise@longridgecountystate.co.nz or call **Eloise on 027 7795 796** for more information about the position.

Hauraki Plains Netball Centre has a governance level President position available in their strong netball centre based in Ngatea. In search of an approachable, team orientated, organised individual to assist a strong committee to continue to grow our volunteer organisation and the sport of netball.

Job description available, online meetings the preference, governance experience and netball knowledge advantageous.

Submit CV applications and cover letters to haurakinetball@gmail.com by 31st October 2021. Annual General Meeting to be held 21st November 2021.



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Thames Valley Swampfoxes



VS



Mid Canterbury

Round 5 of the 2021 Bunnings Warehouse Heartland Championship Competition.

Saturday 16th October, Boyd Park, Te Aroha - 2.00pm Kick Off



LIMITED TICKET SALES. Tickets must be collected from the TVRFU Office (140A Normanby Road, Paeroa) or phone 07 862 6352 to arrange pick up. Tickets \$5.00 each.



Scott Simpson

MP for Coromandel

Contact me anytime

0800 550 330
mpcoromandel@parliament.govt.nz
scottsimpson.co.nz
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Paul Schrader’s image of a tui was captured as part of Thames’ Kauaeranga Visitor Centre’s conservation week celebrations. Photo: CREATIVE IMAGES by PAUL C SCHRADER

Instinct and a keen eye helped a Pauanui photographer nab the top prize in the Kauaeranga Visitor Centre Celebrating Nature Photo Competition. Paul Schrader’s image of a tui was captured as part of Thames’ Kauaeranga Visitor Centre’s conservation week celebrations, running from September 4-12. He told *The Profile* that in the weeks before getting the winning shot, he had no-

ticed a spot near the Pauanui Waterways where he could get some height to peer into treetops, where he thought tui could be hiding out. “I took the opportunity to see if my intuition was right while I was walking back home after dropping my car off at the mechanics,” he said. “The shot looks as though it was shot in the bush, but in fact it was shot on a main

road with lots of traffic, and the height made all the difference. “Tui can be very fast and when using a telephoto lens, it makes it even harder to capture them. It was lucky that this one landed in a great spot, I took three shots in a fast session and then the tui had gone. The competition was judged by award-winning photographer Blair Quax, who said Paul’s image spoke of the “feel that the tui

has the innocence of a child, and as such we all have the responsibility to protect and care for it and its environment”. Paul, who started learning photography in 2017, said he was “over the moon” with the win. “It was fantastic to hear an award-winning photographers’ comments, and [I am] glad to know the image can be used to help promote our beautiful Coromandel area.”

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