

The Valley Profile

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Bronze plaques stolen from graves

By KELLEY TANTAU

Scrap metal dealers across the country have been asked to keep an eye out for anybody bringing in bronze plaques, after more than a dozen were stolen from service people's graves recently.

Chris Fraser, owner of Bronze Plaques NZ in Thames, told *The Profile* the plates marking the graves of returned service people had been stolen from the Waihi Cemetery on two occasions last month.

Eight plaques were stolen on October 7, and a further eight on October 19.

The thefts have been reported to police, while scrap metal dealers nationwide have also been alerted, he said.

One of the dealers told of the theft was Vern Harding, at Scrappy Vern's in Paeroa. He's been in the trade for 18 years and has seen some unusual items come through his doors.

"When I first started, the police rang me up, because there was a bronze statue in the main street of Waihi, and someone had cut the arm off," he told *The Profile*.

"So they wanted to know if I had an arm come in."

At one stage, he also saw an influx of hot water cylinders, as well as copper power lines and pipes, but being in the business so long has helped him develop a sharp eye.

"Stolen scrap metal sticks out so obviously," he said.

"Someone will have too much of something. A plumber



Waihi RSA president Ellen Henderson said the thefts were upsetting.

Photos: KELLEY TANTAU

rang up one day because he had brass joiners and things that got stolen. He asked me to keep an eye out. An hour later, two young boys came in with them."

Only once before has he heard of bronze plaques getting stolen - from the RSA Cemetery in Paeroa. And while scrap bronze fetches more than brass, he

doesn't think the thieves would rake in much money for them - maybe \$30 a plaque.

Bronze Plaques owner Chris Fraser said that's "pittance" compared to what the plaques retailed for - around \$1000 a piece.

His company is the only place in the country where one

can recycle a service person's plaque - and those who try to do it illegally are often caught.

"The last one was a couple of years ago down in Christchurch and that person was charged. The plaques were found because they tried to sell them and that's how they got caught."

Mr Fraser said defiling a

service person's grave was one of the lowest things a person could do, and hoped that following Armistice Day - held on November 11 to commemorate the sacrifice of those who died serving New Zealand - someone would come forward and return them.

CONTINUED P2

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Paeroa scrap metal dealer Vern Harding has only heard of bronze plaques being stolen from the area once before.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

Scrap dealers keep an eye out for bronze plaques

CONTINUED FROM P1

“In the past, the majority of plaques have been found, but at this stage, nothing has come through. Hopefully somebody knows something,” he said.

There was another theory that the stolen plaques could get melted down - a speculation

told to Waihi RSA president Ellen Henderson.

She said the plaques had been in the cemetery for around 50 years, and those who had stolen them were “very cheeky” and had no pride.

“To think what these service people had done in their lives... they served the country to make

it what it is today,” she said.

“It’s upsetting, and it upsets your veterans, because they risked their lives to fight for the country, and then scallywags want to do this sort of thing.”

The names of the service people have been identified and plaque reinstatement is underway.

Police told *The Profile* it received a report on October 22 that plaques had been stolen from headstones at the Waihi Cemetery.

“Staff are actively investigating this incident to determine the circumstances and identify those involved.”

PAEROA MARKS ARMISTICE DAY, P19

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Thames Tides

Wed Nov 17	Thu Nov 18	Fri Nov 19	Sat Nov 20	Sun Nov 21	Mon Nov 22	Tue Nov 23
Morning: 12:17am 0.8, 6:40am 3.2 Afternoon: 12:44pm 0.9, 6:53pm 3.3	Morning: 1:03am 0.7, 7:27am 3.3 Afternoon: 1:27pm 0.9, 7:38pm 3.3	Morning: 1:46am 0.7, 8:09am 3.3 Afternoon: 2:07pm 0.8, 8:20pm 3.3	Morning: 2:26am 0.6, 8:48am 3.4 Afternoon: 2:45pm 0.8, 9:01pm 3.3	Morning: 3:04am 0.6, 9:25am 3.4 Afternoon: 3:23pm 0.9, 9:41pm 3.2	Morning: 3:42am 0.6, 10:01am 3.4 Afternoon: 4:01pm 0.9, 10:21pm 3.2	Morning: 4:19am 0.7, 10:38am 3.3 Afternoon: 4:41pm 0.9, 11:00pm 3.2
Sun: 5:58am 8:08pm	Sun: 5:58am 8:09pm	Sun: 5:57am 8:10pm	Sun: 5:56am 8:11pm	Sun: 5:56am 8:12pm	Sun: 5:55am 8:13pm	Sun: 5:55am 8:14pm
Fish: Best At 11:21am 11:42pm	Fish: Best At 12:03pm	Fish: Best At 12:25am 12:47pm	Fish: Best At 1:09am 1:32pm	Fish: Best At 1:56am 2:20pm	Fish: Best At 2:44am 3:09pm	Fish: Best At 3:34am 4:00pm
Moon: Set 4:50am, Rise 6:02pm	Moon: Set 5:15am, Rise 7:01pm	Full Moon: Set 5:42am, Rise 8:00pm	Moon: Set 6:13am, Rise 9:00pm	Moon: Set 6:48am, Rise 9:58pm	Moon: Set 7:29am, Rise 10:53pm	Moon: Set 8:16am, Rise 11:44pm

*Not for navigational purposes. Graphic supplied by OceanFun Publishing Ltd. www.tidewiz.com www.tidespy.com www.ofu.co.nz

MOON AND FISH KEYS

- New Moon
- First Quarter
- Full Moon
- Last Quarter
- Good Fishing
- Fair Fishing
- Not So Good

TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES

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

PLACE	HIGH Hr	LOW Hr
Coromandel	-0 05	-0 04
Whitianga	-0 02	-0 05
Tairua	+0 10	+0 21
Whangamata	-0 07	-0 07
Waihi Beach	-0 12	-0 12

Running dream starts with shoes on feet

By KELLEY TANTAU

When Paora Raharaha got out of prison in 2016, all he had was a pair of running shoes from The Warehouse.

“I just ran, and I found myself wanting to go out every day. I used it to help me with my frustration, my anger issues, and the negative thoughts in my head.”

He competed in his first running event that same year, and saw his dad waiting for him at the finish line.

“That was the first time he saw me achieve something - and I wasn’t going to do another one, but my dad was proud, so I started doing it [for] him too,” he told *The Profile*.

Since then, Mr Raharaha has participated in various running events, at times helping to raise thousands of dollars for charities with fellow local runners Caleb Koia-Hamling and Jack Keeyes.

He is now teaming up with Harcourts realtor and Karangahake local Matt Bowie for a project they’re both passionate about - getting young people into the right footwear so they can get on the path to mental and physical wellbeing.

“There’s a few kids that struggle to get into running just because they can’t afford footwear, primarily,” Mr Bowie



Matt Bowie, left, and Paora Raharaha have teamed up for a fundraising run for kids. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

said. “They just do with what they have,” Mr Raharaha added, “and to be honest, it’s pretty much nothing... but I know that with the right gear you can do a lot better.”

When running shoes don’t fit right, you can feel it through

your whole body, he said. “I’ve run in things I’m not supposed to run in, and it just affects your whole body.”

Back in February, Mr Raharaha, from Paeroa, ran the Tarawera Ultra Marathon in gumboots, finishing the race within 20 minutes of its cut-off

time of 36 hours. He also completed more than 1600 burpees along the way. Now, he and Mr Bowie have a goal to get as many young people as possible into physical activity.

“If they’ve got the right gear and they’re able to get into run-

ning, it’s keeping them off the streets and helping them work towards something,” Mr Bowie said.

“They may not necessarily be that keen on school, but a lot of them are extremely able physically, so it’ll be great to use that energy for positive things.”

The pair are calling for donations of quality children’s second-hand running shoes, athletic wear and sporting equipment. This can be dropped off to Harcourts Thames or Paeroa, or at the Hauraki Repair and Reuse Centre on Grey Street, Paeroa.

Harcourts will then pay for the items, with the gear being made available to any children in need for free. The pair have also set up a Givealittle page.

“I think [exercise] is not just important for your physical wellbeing but your mental wellbeing,” Mr Bowie said.

“I think if [the kids] are guided in the right way, they can become very, very successful,” Mr Raharaha added.

The pair are also putting the feelers out for anyone interested in helping to run, or set up, a youth running group in Paeroa.

DETAILS: To get in touch, contact Matt Bowie at Harcourts Paeroa, or, to donate, visit: [givealittle.co.nz/cause/kids-cant-afford-to-play-sport](https://www.givealittle.co.nz/cause/kids-cant-afford-to-play-sport).



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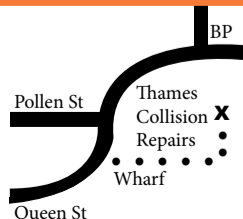
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OUR COROMANDEL



News from Thames-Coromandel District Council

17 November, 2021

Council roads getting a lick of seal

Our annual road network reseal programme has begun and is expected to be completed before Christmas, weather dependant.

Every year at about this time we reseal some of our Council roads in the district. This makes them last longer.

Properties on urban streets about to be resealed will receive a letter with more information, including the planned date. Please follow traffic management instructions and make sure you park your car off the road on those days. This will allow the full width of the road to be resealed. Any vehicles parked on the road following notification may be towed at the owner's expense.

The road reseal programme is available on tcdc.govt.nz/roads, our Facebook page, and is announced daily on local radio Coromandel's More FM and CFM.



Plans are underway to develop the Sir Keith Park Memorial Airfield

Stage one of the development is open with six sites available to lease to build hangars. In the future there will be more sites for hangars, residential hangars and commercial activity.

The airfield development plan, hangar design specifications, lease information and documents, and the Thames Airfield Master Plan are available on our Council website at tcdc.govt.nz/thamesairfieldhangars

BOOK THE VIBE

The Create the Vibe container HQ in Thames on Mary Street is available to be booked for community use for events or activities. There is ample outdoor seating, nearby cafés and shops, and a convenient town centre location. Booking details: tcdc.govt.nz/createthevibethames



Local Alcohol Policy

When, where and how should alcohol be sold?

HAVE YOUR SAY
29 OCT - 29 NOV

tcdc.govt.nz/localalcoholpolicy

The policy controls trading hours and where and how alcohol is sold. The policy came into effect in 2016 and it's time for a review. It went through a robust process when it was originally drawn up and we don't see any reason to change it, but what do you think?

tcdc.govt.nz/localalcoholpolicy

Lead the way.

tcdc.govt.nz/dogs

Dog rules change for summer.

Summer rules about where you can walk your dog are in place from Labour Weekend to 1 March, with additional restrictions and prohibitions from 20 December to 31 January. These rules help to protect dogs, humans, and wildlife during peak periods and important nesting times for our precious manu Māori.

The most important rule to remember is that dogs must be on lead unless specified otherwise. So, when in doubt, put your dog on a lead.

Our bylaws team will be spending time talking to dog owners about our local rules, especially if dogs aren't on lead where they should be. If your dog is off-lead in an area that's not designated as off-lead, you could be fined \$300.

But don't worry, you'll get the chance to make it right. Our aim is to educate people about our rules and to encourage voluntary compliance by giving out free dog leads. Multiple instances of non-compliance can still result in a fine.

tcdc.govt.nz/dogs

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Thames Community Board UPDATE

A word from the Board Chairperson, Strat Peters

"Summer is nearly here and Christmas is just around the corner. At our last Board meeting of the year a couple of weeks ago, Thames resident Ted Egan was presented with a Council Community Service Award for his work representing the history of our community through his models of heritage buildings in Thames – many of which have been demolished. These models are in a gallery named for Ted in Thames Museum. If you haven't been to the museum lately, please give it a look."

strat.peters@council.tcdc.govt.nz



The Board's next meeting is on 23 February 2022, 9am in the Council Chambers, Thames. Recordings of all our Council and Community Board meetings are posted on tcdc.govt.nz/meetings, where you'll also find meeting agendas and minutes.



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Moanataiari School 'space junk' mystery solved

By KELLEY TANTAU

The mystery surrounding a flying object that crash-landed on to a Thames school under the cover of darkness has been revealed.

Back in May, the *Valley Profile* reported a mysterious object was caught on camera flying on to Moanataiari School's field. After crash-landing, the unknown object burned for roughly one minute.

It sparked an investigation by the staff and students, who wondered if it were the work of *Men in Black* or extraterrestrials, or if it were perhaps the remnants of a Chinese rocket or space junk.

The object - a thin chain, with a small hoop at one end - was swiftly sent to The University of Otago, where the Department of Geology analysed the chemical composition of the material using a scanning electron microscope to see what elements were present.

According to associate professor James Scott, the elements that were rich in the material were mainly magnesium and strontium, commonly found in flares.

"Therefore, we suspect that someone has fired a flare over the area and it landed on the school grounds," he wrote in an email to the school.

"This would also explain why you had a small fire on the ground, since the magnesium burns, and also why there



ABOVE: The fiery object was caught on the school's security camera.

BELOW: The object caused a small fire on the school field.



The mysterious object prompted a study of space in room 9.

Photos: SUPPLIED

is a small chain attached to it, which is usually included in the interior of the flare."

Moanataiari School Room 9 teacher Wayne Howes said the revelation was interesting for his students.

"They were fascinated by the forensic details," he said.

"The convincing information for the students was that evidence of magnesium was found on the junk. The chain was consistent with what you might find on the inside of a flare.

"Then the students were left wondering why someone would be letting a flare off in the vicin-

ity of the school."

Mr Howes said it was good for the students to hear about the flare because it provided answers to where the "space junk" would have come from.

Overall, the school has found this whole mystery interesting. "First of all we were worried

about what else might drop out of the sky and how much danger we might be in," he said.

"There was a sense of relief that it could have been a flare - although one student found it interesting that a safety device could cause a small fire on our field."

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Moa skeleton goes on display at Visitor Centre

A complete moa skeleton is now on display at the Department of Conservation's Kauaeranga Visitor Centre.

On long-term loan from local conservationist Doug Ashby – well-known as “The Lizard Man” through his voluntary work educating on New Zealand’s reptiles – the skeleton has been compiled from the bones of several specimens uncovered in Riverton, Southland.

The bones comprising the full moa skeleton were discovered when land near Riverton was drained for pasture.

The skeleton is of a Stout legged moa (*Eurypateryx curtus*) and is estimated to be 1000 years old. Stout legged moa were a medium-sized species, standing about 1.5m tall, and were found in Coromandel.

The Stout legged moa lived in shrubland, their beak shape and structure suggesting they preferred a diet of soft plant material and fruit.

Kauaeranga Visitor Centre Supervisor Wendy Hillerich said the moa skeleton was an exciting and interesting addition to the visitor centre, and it was the first time it had a moa skeleton on display.

“We’ve been working with Doug on this display for about 18 months,” she said.

“Doug’s a familiar face at the visitor centre so we’re delighted to be able to give this speci-



The moa skeleton at the Kauaeranga Visitor Centre.

Photo: WENDY HILLERICH/DOC

*“The skeleton is of a Stout legged moa (*Eurypateryx curtus*) and is estimated to be 1000 years old.”*

this specimen has been presented.

“Moa were long birds, not tall birds.”

When swamp deposits of sub fossil bones are found, they are often a jumble of bones, not articulated examples of the living birds. As a result, reconstructing can be a bit of a jigsaw puzzle, and many early examples of moa skeletons were not accurate.

Doug Ashby came into possession of the skeleton in 2005 after a trip to Southland.

The skeleton was owned by the proprietor of a local motor-camp and when Doug Ashby expressed an interest in the skeleton, the then-owner offered it to him.

The Kauaeranga Visitor Centre is a key asset for DOC in the Coromandel, acting as a gateway for the district and providing educational and camping experiences for visitors.

Its opening hours can be found on the DOC website: www.doc.govt.nz.

men a semi-permanent home.”

The moa skeleton is encased in a glass cabinet, alongside a related display showing the various sizes of eggs from the different moa species.

Display panels give a range of information about the species of moa in New Zealand.

One interesting feature of the skeleton is its posture, with the moa’s head at about the same

level as its body.

“Many depictions of moa show the birds with their heads held quite high – but the advice we have is they tended to keep their heads down, so that’s how

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- Less contamination of recycling bins
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- Supporting the Hauraki Repair and Reuse Centre
- Running a 12 month trial of public recycling bins around the district

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ENTERTAINMENT

Thames musical with global link inspires awe

REVIEW

All Together Now

Review by **KELLEY TANTAU**

The hardest thing about being an audience member at Thames Music and Drama's production of *All Together Now* was knowing the cast couldn't see the smiles reflecting back at them from underneath the face masks.

There were many moments that warranted such grins.

The performance was held in the quaint and acoustic Tararu Cultural Centre, and abided by Covid-19 regulations which included wearing face coverings.

With smiles obscured, it only meant foot-stomping and hand-clapping were more than permitted.

Global theatrical licensor Music Theatre International created the 15-song revue for theatres around the world to use as a local fundraising event, performed over the same weekend of November 12.

Thames MAD's four performances were sold-out, with the show being a "no strings attached" showcase of voices in their most organic form.

Presented were a selection of songs from shows including *Rent*, *Les Misérables*, *Into the Woods*, *Matilda*, *Hairspray*, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Mamma Mia!* and many more.

And while every ensemble

number provided the necessary awe, a highlight moment was the song *The Human Heart*, from the stage musical *Once on This Island*. It was headed by theatre company life member Noeline Loader.

Accompanied by musicians playing ukuleles and bongo drums, and harmonies from the varied cast, the performance was goosebump-inducing during what was a relatively warm night up the coast.

Then the company's younger cast members took to the stage to sing two impressive versions of *When I Grow Up* from the Tony award-winning Roald Dahl's *Matilda The Musical*, and the popular *Let it Go* from Disney's *Frozen*.

Then there were the soloists. Michael Diebet had the projection to carry him through *Jekyll and Hyde's This is the Moment*, while Harriet Marshall's rendition of *Meadowlark*, from *The Baker's Wife*, hit all the right notes.

Throughout the proceedings, MC Jo Haakma told the audience of the crucial role they play in allowing Thames MAD to continue to put on shows throughout what has been an uncertain time for the theatre industry due to Covid-19.

As she said - "Without 'u' there would be no 'us'," - and *All Together Now* was a demonstration of this valued relationship between thespians and theatregoers.



Thames MAD life member Noeline Loader leads the way in *The Human Heart*.

Photos: KELLEY TANTAU



Michael Diebet performs a *Jekyll & Hyde* song.



Harriet Marshall hits the right notes.

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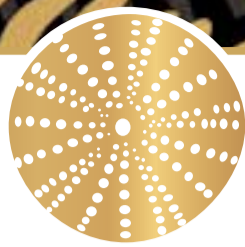
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Rural Life

Judge gives credit to schools amid Covid

By KELLEY TANTAU

Covid-19 restrictions may have changed the face of calf club days throughout the Thames Valley this year, but one person who remains a constant is praising schools for getting the job done.

The man in the white judge's jacket, Jeff Alley, said schools throughout the district did well to adapt to the ever-changing Covid-19 restrictions that have plagued the country since August.

The Hikutaia farmer judged calf club days at schools including Hikutaia, Matatoki, and Puriri, as well as the Hauraki Group Day held at Kaihere School earlier this month.

"The schools did a good job of managing things. It would have been a bit of a challenge to manage but they all did very well," he told *The Profile*.

Mr Alley started as an associate judge around 30 years ago, when he was 22.

"Back in those days, you just stayed in your district, and when you'd done enough, the other judges would write a report on you, and when they thought you were good enough, you'd go up to be a senior judge," he said.

"When you'd been a senior judge for a while, you'd get nominated by the convenors of the district - Waihi, Morrins-



Jeff Alley talks to Matatoki School students before they head into the show ring.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

ville, Hauraki, Ohinemuri, and Katikati - and then you'd get to go to a Group Day or A&P Show."

Mr Alley is now a senior judge for both events, and is also the convenor for the Ohinemuri group.

He participated in calf club days when he was at Hikutaia School, even winning the championship in leading for

the last two years he was at school, and said the events were good for kids to take part in. However, more judges were needed to keep the rural tradition alive.

"I think we've lost a lot of people because there are a lot more people who work during the week. Everyone's got more demands of them, I suppose," he said.

"[Covid] has also put a big halt on it. The shows are limited this year, and most Group Days have been pulled out. [At Hauraki's Group Day], they split the day in half to try and break it up so they could keep under that 100 people rule. They had calves and goats in the morning and lambs in the afternoon."

Mr Alley said typically

around 200-300 people could be at the Hauraki Group Day; however Covid-19 restrictions meant only 100 people could be on site at any one time.

Hauraki Group Day head organiser Michelle Lange, from Kaihere School, was determined to see Group Day happen for the students and the 68 animals, and set about making sure all new Covid-19 guidelines were followed.

"The students generally start bonding with their animals in July, and to get to October and say no to them was not an option I wanted to take," she told *The Profile*.

"While each school takes a turn organising and hosting each year, I was very fortunate to have the backing and support from parents from other schools to help make sure the day could happen."

Michelle said while the day was much quieter with no spectators and only one adult per child, it was "fantastic" to see the students in the rings with the judges.

"Calf club and Group Day could not happen without the judges and we are really appreciative of the efforts they made on their side to ensure we could run the event."

"It can be scary walking into the ring as a small five-year-old, but the judges made them feel comfortable and supported them to do their best."

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Ho Ho Ho!

Santa parades may have been cancelled this year because of Covid-19, but there will be plenty of other ways to catch up with the jolly man in red this Christmas.

As Santa dusts off his sleigh and gears up for the silly season, shoppers around the region are being encouraged to support their local retailers. Valley Profile reporter KELLEY TANTAU chats to some of the locals to find out what's happening leading up to the big day.



Santa Claus (Vic McWatt) and his granddaughter and part-time elf, Pearl McWatt, on the Thames Coast.
File Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Christmas on the cards despite parade cancellations

By KELLEY TANTAU

Festive events may still be able to line the calendar even after Covid-19 cancelled all three of the Valley's Christmas parades.

District councils and local businesses are planning a variety of events that may not take the place of a Santa parade, but provide a dose of Christmas cheer this silly season.

On December 11, Santa will make his way down Pollen St, Thames, in a horse drawn cart.

He will then be stationed at Goldfields Shopping Centre from December 13, 10am to 1pm each day, until Christmas Eve.

Thames Business Association chair Sue Lewis-O'Halloran said on the same day Santa arrives in Thames, there will be a Christmas treat from Mr Claus down at The Vibe on the corner of Mary and Pollen Streets.

She said the association would be working hard to make the Christmas season "positive and hopeful and the best it can be".

"It will just be different," she said, "as we won't have that one-off [parade] event - where we estimated at least 4000 would line Pollen St."



This year, Santa will make his way down Pollen St, Thames, in a horse drawn cart in lieu of a parade.

File Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

Meanwhile in Hauraki, the district council was aware of a list of events that included a storytime tour, a light show,

and a "Covid-proof" media series to "excite even the hardest Grinch heart".

It said the district libraries

were putting together a Christmas-themed story and song time event, while Paeroa and Waihi town promoters were

looking to support local business with 'buy local' promotions and smaller events.

CONTINUED P13

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Organise your Christmas list

When it comes to Christmas shopping, timing is everything.

Start planning early enough so you can not only get the right gift at the right time and the right price, but you also want to create a budget for your holiday shopping. After all, no jolly ol' Santa wants to hand out gifts only to head back to the North Pole with empty pockets and a hefty credit card bill.

Here are some tips on how to get organized and get a head start on your holiday shopping.

Plan ahead for your Christmas budget - the earlier you get started on your Christmas budget the better. Save money by snapping up gifts as sales pop up, such as Black Friday at the end of November, and Christmas sales leading up to the big day.

Make that Christmas list and stick to it. When making out your list of who's getting gifts, prioritize who must get a gift, all the

way down to those who it would be nice to buy a gift for, but not absolutely necessary.

Then write down what that person may like to get for Christmas and how much that item would cost. When you organize your Christmas shopping list by price, you won't get any surprises.

If there are some people on your list you simply can't afford to buy the gift you planned to buy, there are other ways to gift them that don't cost as much money.

Plan some DIY gifts for some people on your list or offer vouchers for free babysitting, pet sitting or some other help with some projects around the house that you're skilled at.

Budgeting for Christmas can be just as creative as your gift ideas. Organize your Christmas shopping list and make sure you set a realistic plan and find ways to make it work so you and everyone on your list are happy.

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Retail Therapy's Jodie Phillips says in lieu of a Santa parade, stores could collectively stay open for late-night shopping. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

Communities plan 'adapted' Christmas

CONTINUED FROM P11

Meanwhile, a team in Ngatea were working on a community event to replace the Santa parade; and in Paeroa, it was understood the Historical Maritime Park would be able to continue with a slightly adapted Christmas light show.

The LoveHauraki team were also planning a clandestine, Covid-proof social media series, council told *The Profile*.

"Not having that 'start of summer' [parade] tradition to look forward to, on top of Covid fatigue, means it's even more important to find ways to connect our communities and bring back that

holiday feeling," a council spokesperson said.

"The Hauraki district has wonderful volunteers who bring so many of our events, particularly the Christmas parades, to life. Being a part of the event that puts everyone into the summer holiday spirit and celebrating with our communities is always something special.

"Even without the parades though, there will be a sense of celebration and connection, that is the Hauraki way."

Paeroa business owner Jodie Phillips, from Retail Therapy on Belmont

Rd, said in lieu of a Santa parade, stores could collectively, even for one night, stay open for late-night shopping.

With Auckland's border remaining in place, she had noticed shoppers from Te Aroha, Waihi, and Thames "flocking" to Paeroa.

"Summer is on our doorstep... [and] people are shopping locally," she said. "We're very fortunate. Paeroa is a special little

place."

According to Goldfields Mall manager John Freer, the shopping centre would also have its decorations in place to be ready for the first day of December.

"Even without the parades though, there will be a sense of celebration and connection, that is the Hauraki way."

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Biannual WI meeting held

The Thames Hauraki Plains District Federation of Women's Institute recently held it's Bi Annual Meeting combined with the Over 80s and Officers Luncheon at the Ngatea Memorial Hall. The meeting began with the Ode followed by a presentation of a 70 Year Badge for Mrs Vera Sanson from Waihi Beach WI. Vera joined as a newlywed and has been a member ever since, which is a wonderful achievement. The Institute Annual Reports had been judged with Goldfields WI 1, Kerepehi WI 2, Waihi Beach WI 3. Each member was given a coin and members related what they were doing in the year on the coin. This was extremely interesting, especially one member stating she wasn't even born. During the course of the day, several quizzes were presented which meant that everyone had to use their brains, as some were quite easy but a Fish Quiz members struggled, so we decided we need to learn a lot more about fish species. Raffles were won by Kate Wood, Dawn Clark, Debbie Smith, Vivienne Prince, Ngaire Noone, Carolyn Giles, Jean Brady and Bev Schenkel. A wonderful luncheon was put on by the daughter of one of the Federation members, which was a great way to spend some quality time with each other. **COMPETITION RESULTS:** FLORAL: Waihi Beach WI 1, Kerepehi WI 2, Ngatea 3. **COOKING:** Waihi WI 1, Maramarua; Kopuku WI 2, Kerepehi WI 3. **SEWING:** Waihi Beach WI 1, Waihi WI 2. **HANDCRAFT:** Ngatea WI 1, Waihi WI 2, Waihi Beach WI 3. **ART:** Bev Adamson 1, Bev Schenkel 2, Dawn Clark 3. **KEREPEHI WI**
The Kerepehi Women's Institute's September meeting was cancelled



The Thames Ruby Redz Red Hat ladies celebrated a lovely day for the Melbourne Cup recently at Bev Adamson's home in Kaihere. Spokesperson Debbie Smith said the theme of the event was to dress as if you came from a Pacific Island. "We were all dressed in leis and lavalavas, which was very colourful," she said. "We played some horse games too outside in the lovely sunshine. We all had lots of fun and laughs as we always do." The group enjoyed a high tea around 4pm, with members all bringing along a cup, saucer and plate, plus another plate of food to share. They then enjoyed watching the Melbourne Cup at 5pm. "Three of our members were lucky enough to get first, second and third, and won some money. We all had a lot of fun." If anyone is interested in joining the Red Hats, please contact our queen, Ngaire Anne, Ph 07 868 3421.

all due to Covid-19 restrictions. Elaine Jolliffe welcomed seven members to our October meeting, which was held at Jan Edmonds place in Thames. Kris Barnes read us her quote for the month and supplied the raffle: "The day that you were born, everyone would have been laughing and only you would have been crying. Live your life in such a way that when you die, only you will be laughing and every-

one else will be crying" - Anon. Debbie Smith celebrated her 52nd wedding anniversary, and also won the raffle. Ninety five knitted and crocheted articles were donated for Middlemore Hospital's wool programme and have been couriered. Our afternoon programme was making a homemade Christmas card that Jan had organised for us. Everyone enjoyed doing this task and they turned out very well.

COMPETITIONS: Weeds in a jug: 1 Debbie Smith; 2 Jan Edmonds; 3 Bev Adamson. **Flowers:** Bloom: 1 Jan Edmonds; 2 Carolyn Giles 3; Elaine Jolliffe; Spike: 1 Jan Edmonds; 2 Bev Adamson; 3 Elaine Jolliffe. **Shrub:** 1 Bev Adamson; 2 Elaine Jolliffe; 3 Carolyn Giles; Herb: 1 Jan Edmonds; 2 Elaine Jolliffe; 3 Carolyn Giles. **Vegetable:** 1 Jan Edmonds; 2 Bev Adamson; 3 Carolyn Giles.

GOLDFIELDS WI
The October Meeting of the Gold-

fields Women's Institute commenced with the Aspirations and Prayer. Thoughts were given to any member that has not been well this month, as well as Jill Bridgman in Auckland's lockdown. The Motto for the month - "The power of friendship lasts forever" was read by Carol Cresswell. Birthday girls were Anne Bicknell for September and Jean Brady for October. Roll Calls for September - Your proudest moment and why? and October - A Talent that you thought you could never achieve proved to be very popular amongst the members with several achieving great sporting moments when they were younger. The Good Deed was items for our Emergency Toilet Bags. Raffles were won by Anne Bicknell, Helen Udy and Val Bowen. During the month 2 boxes of rugs and twiddle muffs were donated to The Booms Rest Home as well as 2 boxes of rugs and twiddle muffs donated to the Tararu Hospital & Rest Home. Also, a rug has been donated to a person in need and 26 Hospital Dolls have been donated for the children's ward at Waikato Hospital. Anne Bicknell and Carol Cresswell then read an article that was printed in the N.Z. Memories February/March 2021 Magazine called Lifting Horizons by Kay Morris Matthews. It was all about the history of the Women's Institute in New Zealand, which this year is celebrating 100 years. It was very important for every member to know all about our history, which also led to several questions that were able to be answered by members who have been involved for many years. Lunch was a social occasion after not seeing everyone for the past two months with all enjoying each other's company.

COMPETITIONS. BLOOM: Val Bowen 1, Helen Udy 2. **CLUSTER:** Val Bowen 1, Anne Bicknell 2, Helen Udy 3. **SHRUB:** Val Bowen 1, Helen Udy 2, Anne Bicknell. **ORCHID:** Helen Udy 1, Val Bowen 2.

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Art of kai gathering explored

One Waikato man is on a mission to reconnect divers with their whakapapa and traditional kaimoana gathering practices.

As urbanisation has taken hold, people have moved away from the traditional hunting and gathering methods, Deane Gage said.

The Te Wananga O Aotearoa masters student is completing a masters research project addressing the dying knowledge of kai gathering.

Gathering kaimoana was an instinctive part of growing up for Deane, who has whānau connections to Paeroa and Thames.

"We rode horses, we went fishing, we went diving, it's what we did as kids."

As a student, Deane, 49, started thinking about how that translated into life on the marae and the practices his father and nannies always followed.

It's driven him to complete a masters research project addressing the dying knowledge of kai gathering.

His purpose? To create an education programme resurrecting indigenous knowledge by connecting people back to their whakapapa, and to foster sustainable gathering of kaimoana.

And as someone who regularly dives and fishes in the Hauraki Gulf or the Coromandel, Deane didn't believe the marine decline was as bad in the region as some other areas of New Zealand, but said there was certainly room for better practices. His masters project could be the start of a grassroots movement.

"It's about food sovereignty. New Zealanders should be guar-



Masters student Deane Gage is on a mission to reconnect divers with their whakapapa. Photo: ERICA SINCLAIR

anteed fresh food and fresh meat, that should be a given, but we often don't have that choice in New Zealand."

As urbanisation has taken hold, people have moved away from traditional hunting and gathering, he said.

"There has been a loss of that kaitiakitanga, tikanga and whanaungatanga. It's easier to get takeaways than using our traditional methods of hunting, fishing and gathering," he said.

Deane has been interviewing marine biologists and local divers to determine how to form a community dive programme connecting people back to the land

by using Māori practices of kai gathering. His model is based on a kina and its five roe: manaakitanga: be a good person and kia gatherer and recognise how much one person realistically needs and take less or share to feed other people; kaitiakitanga: sustainably looking after the land and its people; mātauranga: using traditional knowledge to gather kai; whanaungatanga: sharing knowledge of sustainable kai gathering; and tikanga: doing what is right based on our practices and values.

Once complete, Deane hopes the education programme will be available for institutes and schools.

Cancer society fundraiser eyes 2022 comeback

By KELLEY TANTAU

Picking bunches of daffodils or selling seedlings by the roadside are two of the industrious ways Paeroa women have raised money for the Cancer Society, even after Covid-19 cancelled their original plans.

Paeroa's annual Daffodil Day fundraiser was to be held at the RSA on August 23, but just six days before the event, it was announced the country would head into an alert level 4 lockdown.

Co-ordinator Elaine Lally said roughly 170 people had planned to attend the event, so she and her team hoped to hold it at a later date. But Elaine told *The Profile* last week that the organisers have decided to put a pin in the fundraiser until next year.

"I think we've just got to move on," she said. "I was disappointed that we couldn't have it because we really thought we could, but Covid has made it impossible, so we'll just look forward to the next one."

Last year, the Paeroa fundraiser was postponed until October 30, but Elaine and her team still raised close to \$4000 from the day.

The 2022 event will take the form of a limited-seated function, she said.

But even though a physical event could not take place this year, Elaine said diligent team members and generous donors still raked in \$791 for the New Zealand Cancer Society.

"Joan Waterson raised \$315 from selling bunches of daffodils. She went around and picked them all and put them in bunches and sold them. Jackie McTier raised \$43.30 from selling plants and seedlings at her letterbox," she said.

"And because people couldn't come to the luncheon, they said they'd give us so much... and we got donations worth \$432.90."

Elaine wanted to thank all of the people who gave back to the cause. "We've all got family members or somebody we know who has had cancer or has got cancer," she said.



The team behind the Paeroa daffodil Day fundraiser. Photo: SUPPLIED

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Kids hit the trail

The littlest five-year-olds from Kerepēhi School to the oldest Year 8s, all went on a school camp to the Waitawheta area last month. The trip included walks and bike rides through the Karangahake Gorge, learning about the district's gold mining history, and a visit to the Bullswool Farm Park.



Students prepare to hit the Hauraki Rail Trail through the Karangahake Gorge.

Photos: SUPPLIED/KEREPĒHI SCHOOL



Hemaema Tai leads the way on the trail to the windows walk.



Catalina Toko explores the old Victoria Battery.



Rylee Fowler and Leah Riwhi enjoy the trip on the Goldfields Railway from Waikino to Waihi.



Teacher Shelley Johnson and Tawhero Luke-Nathan.



Legion Andrew and Aaliyah Fitzpatrick feed a rabbit at Bullswool Farm, Karangahake.

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SPORTS

Thames Valley rugby gallant in defeat

HEARTLAND RUGBY

South Canterbury deservedly won the Meads Cup when they defeated Thames Valley 35-16 in the final of the Heartland Championship played at Timaru on Sunday.

The Swamp Foxes got off to a very shaky start which enabled South Canterbury to rattle up two tries, a penalty and a conversion in the first fifteen minutes.

Thames Valley then displayed their strength of character and came back into the game with thirteen points of their own.

Doolan kicked two penalty goals and converted a try by Ben Stephens, which was the best of the match.

South Canterbury had kicked the ball deep inside the Valley's 22 and Will Newbold received the ball out wide.

He burst through and sent the ball on to Lafituanai who in turn passed it to Hemopo at the halfway line. A fast running, Stephens took the next pass and out paced the defence to run 45 metres and score in the corner.

The noisy Swamp Fox supporters were ecstatic and their beloved team was only two points behind.

South Canterbury came back with a penalty before the break

to make the half time score: South Canterbury 18 Thames Valley 13.

The Swamp Foxes started the second half strongly and after a sustained period of attack were rewarded with another penalty goal to Doolan.

Being only two points in arrears of South Canterbury was encouraging but that was as good as it got.

South Canterbury went on to dominate territory and possession, scoring seventeen unanswered points in the process.

Their first five eighth, Sam Briggs, kicked four more penalty goals and they were awarded a freak try when a kick through hit the corner post and was touched down just over the line – in days gone by the ball would have been ruled in touch after hitting the flag post but a rule change was not kind to Thames Valley in this instance.

The Swamp Foxes did their cause no favours by giving away a run of ten consecutive penalties and were further handicapped when Sam Van der Valk had to spend ten minutes in the sin bin.

The game ended with South Canterbury ahead 35-16 which enabled them to win the Meads Cup for the first time.

Thames Valley were gallant in defeat and it was a great ef-



Fred Kei makes a run for it for the Sampfoxes.

Photos: JAKOB ANDREW

fort by David Harrison and Joe Murray to take them to a Meads Cup final in their first year as head coaches.

South Canterbury: Sireli Buliruarua, two, and Cam Russell tries, Sam Briggs, six penalties and one conversion. Thames Valley: Ben Stephens try, Todd Doolan three penalties and one conversion.



RIGHT: The Swampfoxes at the Meads Cup final in Timaru.

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Newcomer places in clay-bird shoot



As part of a Valley Profile series, **MEGHAN HAWKES** searches through old newspapers to bring you the stories Thames Valley locals once read about themselves.

1947
Drovers on bicycles were the latest indication of the horse being replaced by machines on farms.

Many Hauraki Plains farmers were now seen shifting their cattle with the aid of a bicycle, signalling the end of time when cattle were moved by drovers on horseback.

The main cargo sea link between Auckland and the Firth of Thames for more than 60 years came to an end when the Northern Steamship Company ran its last trip to Paeroa, Thames and Ngatea. The company did not lose its connection with the Hauraki Plains, as permission was granted for a road service to be run as an alternative to the ships. This maintained a daily connection from Auckland to Ngatea, Netherton, Paeroa, Waihi, Wai-kino and Karangahake.

A rainfall of six and a half inch-



Clay bird shooting. Photo: SUPPLIED

es in just over 24 hours, the second highest for the period ever recorded in Thames, combined with a high tide caused severe flooding of the Kauaeranga River. Most of the residential area and farmland at Pārāwai was flooded. Two families were evacuated on the Thames side of the river at midnight and spent the night in the fire station. Two others had to leave their homes for the shelter of the Pārāwai railway station. Many homes in Fenton, Banks and nearby streets were surrounded with water.

Numerous sheep were drowned. The Thames Trotting Club's stables went under water but the waters began to



Paeroa returned servicemen Peter Fuller, left, Danny Te Iri, and Bob Pinker headed down to the Paeroa RSA on Belmont Rd at 11am on the 11th of November for Armistice Day commemorations. Observed around the district, Armistice Day marks the anniversary of the agreement that ended the First World War (1914 – 1918) and commemorates the sacrifice of those who died serving New Zealand in WWI and all armed conflicts. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

recede before it was necessary to evacuate the horses. Hape Creek also overflowed into the Thames Jockey Club's stables and flood waters swept through the Pārāwai sawmill, damaging machinery. Craft anchored at the mouth of the Kauaeranga River had a fortunate escape as the flood brought down huge logs but these were deposited in low-lying land before they reached vessels in port. For a while, the only road connecting Thames with the south was blocked at Kauaeranga Bridge by deep water on the ap-

proaches. Several cars were held up for hours till early in morning. The main business area escaped flooding completely.

A newcomer to the ranks of the clay-bird shooters in the district was Miss K Thomasen, of Waitakaruru, who proved she could handle a shotgun with no small degree of accuracy. At a Waitakaruru shoot, she made her first appearance in the novice event coming second place. She had a first-rate coach, her father, Mr EC Thomasen, being an ex-New Zealand clay-bird cham-

pion. The Thames Coast Progressive Association asked the Thames County Council to declare a stand of kauri three miles from Waiomu a scenic reserve. The stand was the largest area of kauri south of Auckland being about 2000 acres. Some of the largest trees were 10ft in diameter.

Eleven people were injured when two cars collided on the Thames to Paeroa road near the Omahu post office. All were treated at the Thames hospital, where three remained as patients.

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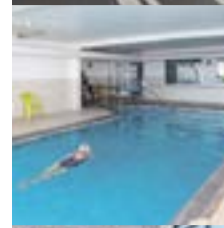
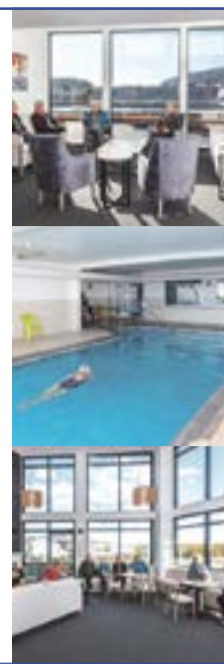
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	1			8	7	9		
7	9	5			3			
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EASY

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MEDIUM

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HARD

26

HARD

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

26

MEDIUM

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

EASY

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

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JUMBO CROSSWORD

46

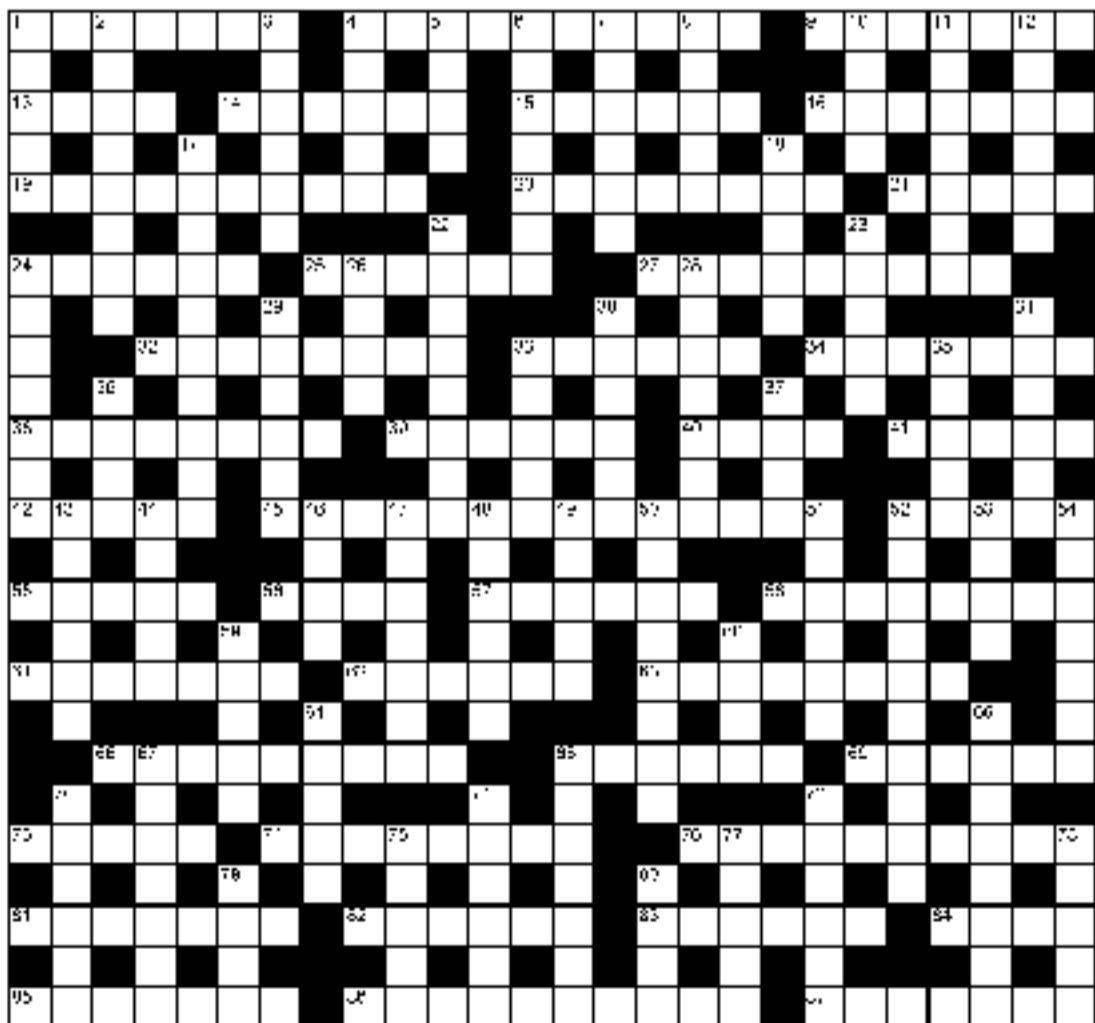
ACROSS

- 1 Smoked plant (7)
- 4 Misleading clue (3,7)
- 9 Small axe (7)
- 13 Tiny amount (4)
- 14 Look up to (6)
- 15 Take up where one left off (6)
- 16 Illicit romance (7)
- 19 Open-air stalls selling cheap goods (4,6)
- 20 Trade and manufacture (8)
- 21 Rogue (5)
- 24 Workshop (6)
- 25 Leapt (6)
- 27 Motor racing event (5,4)
- 32 Invention (8)
- 33 Motto (6)
- 34 Bunch of flowers (7)
- 38 Greatly enraged (8)
- 39 Window screens (6)
- 40 Ring (4)
- 41 Gemstone (5)
- 42 Stairway (5)
- 45 Cast flirtatious looks at someone (4,3,4,3)
- 52 House of wives (5)
- 55 Domesticated (5)
- 56 Chores (4)
- 57 On ship (6)
- 58 Island in West Indies (8)
- 61 Deliberately sink (7)
- 62 Doubtful (6)
- 63 Meal cooked outdoors (8)
- 66 Debts rile (anag)(9)
- 68 Going to the polls (6)
- 69 Sea mammal (6)
- 73 Care for (5)
- 74 Consent (8)
- 76 She ate porridge without permission (10)
- 81 Finished (7)
- 82 Old coin (6)
- 83 Lyrical (6)
- 84 Roman garment (4)
- 85 Grow wealthy (7)
- 86 Job applicant's documents (10)
- 87 Wide open (7)

DOWN

- 1 Shoplifter (5)
- 2 Flatter, pay insincere compliments (6,2)
- 3 Commands (6)
- 4 Elevate (5)
- 5 Affair of honour (4)
- 6 Jewellery item (7)
- 7 Dwell (6)
- 8 Identifies (5)
- 10 Dry (4)
- 11 Dry red wine (7)
- 12 Develop over time (6)
- 17 New settlers (10)
- 18 Lying face downwards (5)
- 22 Armoured glove (8)
- 23 Ladle (5)
- 24 Small shiny garment decorations (7)
- 26 Bucket (4)
- 28 Got to (7)
- 29 One of poor character (3,3)

- 30 Prehistoric plant, animal remains (6)
- 31 Threat (6)
- 33 Feel (5)
- 35 Allocated share (5)
- 36 Spots (4)
- 37 Duplicate (4)
- 43 Hypnotic state (6)
- 44 Fabric fold (5)
- 46 Worshipped statue (4)
- 47 Crux (7)
- 48 Temporary break in a series (6)
- 49 Small group of trees (5)
- 50 Circus tumblers (8)
- 51 Gained by work (6)
- 52 MP's courtesy title (10)
- 53 Impolite (4)
- 54 Interferes (7)
- 59 Conflict (5)
- 60 Broad smile (4)
- 64 Entice (5)
- 65 Vegetable (8)
- 67 Classes (7)
- 68 Settlement (7)
- 70 Writer (6)
- 71 Inflict retribution (6)
- 72 Peculiarity (6)
- 75 Red powder (5)
- 77 Makes the first move (5)
- 78 Jargon (5)
- 79 Evil monster (4)
- 80 Long heroic narrative (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Shots, 4 Go for the jugular, 14 Enrol, 15 Snout, 16 Fire engine, 17 Given, 19 Era, 20 Canteen, 21 Banisters, 22 Snoops, 25 Penetrate, 27 Dahlia, 28 Estate, 33 Unoccupied, 35 SOS, 36 Effect, 37 Omen, 39 Tax, 41 Hessian, 42 Landau, 43 Eccentric, 44 Raced, 45 Bludgeon, 50 Pb, 51 Recharge, 55 Abode, 58 Neglected, 59 Abides, 60 Pro rata, 61 Arc, 63 Sung, 64 Dismal, 65 Ore, 66 Longwinded, 68 Rhymes, 69 Unlock, 71 Officials, 76 Intact, 77 Appliance, 79 Shellac, 81 Aim, 84 Erode, 85 Surprising, 86 Razor, 87 Tiger, 88 At the drop of a hat, 89 Stand.

DOWN: 2 Hangar, 3 Trust, 5 Omit, 6 Overact, 7 Tennis, 8 Exist, 9 Unearth, 10 Urge, 11 Advent, 12 Cries, 13 Cleanse, 14 Endorse, 18 Deregulate, 23 Trail, 24 Wilfred, 26 Excused, 27 Disturb, 29 Admirer, 30 Unreal, 31 Aside, 32 Icicle, 34 Dear, 36 Exact, 38 Niche, 40 Inch, 45 Bonus, 46 Urgency, 47 Glee, 48 Outfit, 49 Loyal, 50 Peacock, 52 Cartwright, 53 Adrenal, 54 Gather, 55 Adamant, 56 Rivet, 57 Deal, 62 India, 67 Feather, 68 Regatta, 70 Opposed, 72 Fuchsia, 73 Accost, 74 Hairdo, 75 Lagoon, 76 Image, 78 Largo, 80 Least, 82 Mesh, 83 Inca.

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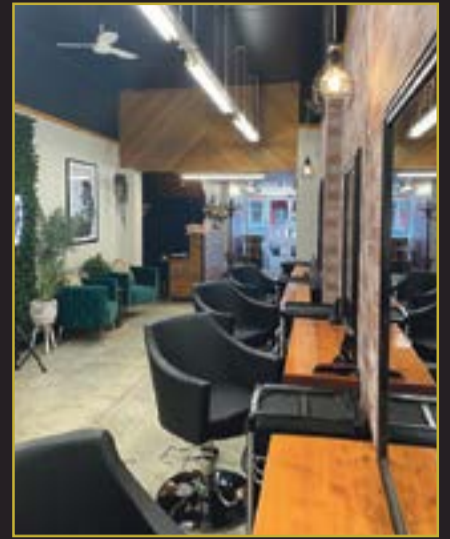


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SPORTS

Hauraki Bowls gears up for 75th anniversary

BOWLS

It's all happening at Hauraki Bowls Club. The club will be celebrating its 75th anniversary on December 18 this year and there is much to celebrate and be proud of.

Our greens are in excellent condition and the surroundings are looking a picture. A Business House bowls competition has been introduced and is proving to be very successful. Many of those taking part are already showing good skills and competition is strong.

Tournaments and club days have been well supported with skills days being part of the programme. Melbourne Cup Day provided an excuse to wear some finery, have a sweepstake and generally just have a good time. Our first tournament of the year saw full greens and close competition. Thanks to Karl Davis and his team at Bayleys for their sponsorship.

Finally though, we do have to

end on a very sad note. Mick Welch, one of our much esteemed Life Members, passed away recently. He thoroughly enjoyed bowls and was still playing last season. He will be sorely missed by us all, RIP Mick.

Results in Thames Valley events are another reason for a small club like ours to celebrate at this early stage of the season.

RESULTS:

Pat Ridings, Runner-up Junior Women's Open Singles; Ruth Hitchcock and Pat Ridings, Winners Women's Open Pairs; Men's Interclub B grade Winners Hauraki; Women's Interclub B grade 3rd Hauraki; Colin Demler and Vivian dela Cruz (Kerepehi) 3rd 2x4x2; Andy Mc Cowatt and Mike Proctor (kerepehi) 3rd= Men's Junior Open Pairs, Junior Rep Team Women Pat Ridings; Junior Rep Team Men Andy Mc Cowatt, Premier Women's Squad Ruth Hitchcock.

- Ruth Hitchcock



Hauraki Bowls Thames Valley Interclub B grade Winners.



Members enjoy Melbourne Cup celebrations.

Photos: SUPPLIED

Easy spring risotto to make your own

RECIPE

This month I thought we could celebrate the warmer weather with a really easy, simple and tasty risotto.

This recipe has none of the standing around adding a ladle of stock at a time – you add it all at once and pop it into the oven! It's versatile too because if someone isn't fond of pumpkin just swap it out for kumara or carrot.

If peas aren't their thing just make it corn kernels or chopped beans instead. I'm using organic chicken mince in this version for its lean protein, but even here you could make it another type of mince or just bacon, or even chickpeas for a vegetarian option.

There are so many ways you can change this recipe up to make it a new dish each time - I just had to share it so you can make it your own.

- Jaki, Savour & Spice

INGREDIENTS

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 large onion, chopped finely
- 1 capsicum chopped (I used red)
- 2 cloves garlic, grated
- Grated zest of 1 lemon
- 400g approximately organic chicken mince (I use Bostock's)
- 350g chopped pumpkin
- 1 cup risotto rice (such as Arborio or Calasparra)
- 2.5 cups chicken stock (or vegetable stock)
- 65 grams butter, cubed
- 1 cup frozen peas
- Half to 1 bag baby spinach
- Half cup grated parmesan (plus a little extra for garnish)



This simple and tasty risotto is really easy to make. Photo: SUPPLIED

Cracked black pepper and salt to taste
Parsley to garnish
Lemon wedges to serve

EQUIPMENT

You will need a large oven proof dish that has a firm fitting lid.

METHOD

Pre-heat your oven to 180 degrees Celcius.

Place olive oil in your large oven proof dish, and cook the onion, garlic, capsicum and lemon zest on a low to medium heat until soft and the onion is translucent.

Add the chicken mince and break up any lumps as you cook and mix with the vegetables.

Add the pumpkin and stir in for a few minutes before adding the

rice, the stock and the butter. Stir everything gently to combine.

Put the lid on the dish, place it in the oven and cook for 15 minutes.

Remove from the oven and add the frozen peas and spinach if using.

Place the lid on again and cook for a further 10 minutes.

Once out of the oven let it sit for 5 minutes or so, before adding the grated parmesan, a good grind of black pepper, and parsley.

We love it served in its dish, placed on a wooden board on the table where everyone can dig in.

Steamed asparagus with a light sprinkling of parmesan also goes wonderfully with the flavours, as does a lovely loaf of garlic bread.

Enjoy!

Cricket kicks off with mini competitions

CRICKET

The commencement of the 2021-22 senior grade competitions for most Waikato Valley cricketers has been delayed because of Covid-19 restrictions, involving teams from the Hamilton, Te Awamutu, Otorohanga and Cambridge areas.

However, in an effort to provide games for both primary and secondary school teams outside the Alert Level 3 zone, re-arranged mini-competitions have been successfully set up for the pre-Christmas part of the season.

The intense pre-season training sessions undertaken by the dedicated members of the Hauraki Plains College First XI is

already producing encouraging results in the hastily arranged programme involving Hauraki, Te Aroha, Matamata, and Morrinsville secondary schools.

Nihindu Wickramathunga, Trent Ball, Hunter Crowe, and Daniel Sproul have each contributed with the bat.

Sproul, Cullen Crowe, Cooper Green, Shane Speed and Logan Dodunski have had success with bowling opportunities as Hauraki has registered easy victories in both their matches.

RESULTS

Played at Matamata College: Hauraki Plains College Senior XI, 238 - Nihindu Wickramathunga 107, Trent Ball 55, Hunter Crowe 30, defeated

Matamata College 171. Daniel Sproul 3/10, Cooper Green 2/14. Played at Morrinsville College: Hauraki Plains College 89 for 3 wickets Wickramathunga 30, Sproul 25, defeated Morrinsville College 86. Cullen Crowe 3/11, Shane Speed 2/3, Logan Dodunski 2/5.

Thames Valley Primary Schools Grade: Played at Centennial Park, Paeroa. Thames 230, defeated Paeroa 178. Isaiah Anderson 40, Malakai Anderson 30, Alex Pont 20. Senior Sunday League: 1st round local derby clash at Tairua Domain: Tairua Mantarays 190/5 wkts (Sam Clark 54 not out defeated Tairua Stingrays 189 Hunter Crowe 48 not out.

- Mike Cotter

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Fundraiser shows heart of Valley rugby team

By KELLEY TANTAU

The winning jerseys auctioned off the back of a “polished” performance of Heartland rugby raked in \$28,000 for a special school in a small town community.

It’s a showcase of goodwill and good sporting culture, with benefits found not only within the school, but within the rugby squad as well.

Thames Valley Swampfoxes co-captain Ben Bonnar has seen a shift in the side since it teamed up with Goldfields Special School in Paeroa four years ago.

Over that time, the team has raised more than \$70,000 through a rugby jersey auction, designed with input by the students at Goldfields.

The jerseys are worn by the players during a charity match - this year, between King Country on October 30 - and auctioned off after the whistle blows.

Off the back of a seven game winning streak, the auction raised more than \$28,000.

“You have in your mind that every year you do it, maybe the appeal might be less and less, but I thought the jerseys looked absolutely fantastic this year, and when you’re playing well, and with it being such a good cause, people get behind it regardless,” scrum half Bonnar told *The Profile*.

The years-long partnership between the school and the rugby team started back in 2017, when the Swampfoxes were encouraged to get behind a good cause by mental skills coach Da-



LEFT: Ben Bonnar and Todd Doolan with their fundraising jerseys.

ABOVE: A special moment for the ball boy Elijah Barrett from Goldfields School and his Dad Josh at the charity match.

Photos: JAKOB ANDREW

vid Galbraith. Since then, Bonnar has seen the team go from strength to strength.

“In 2016, it was my first year with Thames Valley, and we didn’t win a single game that year.

“[Coach] Matt Bartleet convinced me to stay on, and I’ve seen a change from abysmal rugby to a really incredible team that is now probably one of the dominant forces of the Heartland competition.”

Bonnar said 2017 was a “massive turnaround” for Valley rugby as a whole, in terms of where the team was at with its perfor-

mances, as well as how it was viewed as a rugby union.

“It took a massive change through the coaches we still have, Matt Bartleet, who was head coach at that stage, to change the perspective of players and people outside the group on how Valley rugby was perceived.

“The first thing we needed to change was our culture within the team, as well as what we were trying to achieve,” he said.

The squad worked on creating “better men” - with Bonnar explaining that players had to be “a good bugger” to make the team, first and foremost.

“Now that’s developed into what we call the ‘Swampfox Man’.. and that is a man who shows attributes such as caring for others, being a better person, and making sure they put time into other people in our community.”

Goldfields principal Cameron McKenzie said the bond the school and squad shared helped the latter maintain its “good men” ethos.

“It shows that there’s more to life than rugby, and that [players] need to stay grounded, and being around students at Goldfields keeps them grounded,” he

said. “They could get caught up in their own hype being a representative rugby team, but it gives them someone to play for that is not as fortunate as they are.”

Matua McKenzie said the school was very appreciative of the money raised; however, having a solid relationship with the Swampfoxes was the most important thing.

“We’re more impressed that they want to engage with us. Our students love them being around because they are good role models, and you can see the players like being around the students too.”



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