

The Valley Profile is taking a break - next issue: January 12

# The Valley Profile

ISSN 2703-5700

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

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626 Pollen Street 07 868 6124

Issue 051 December 22, 2021



Santa Claus (Vic McWatt) and his granddaughter and part-time elf Pearl McWatt visit Turua.  
CHRISTMAS FEATURE: P8-11. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

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# Temporary speed change welcomed

By KELLEY TANTAU, Public Interest Journalism funded by NZ On Air

Karangahake Gorge residents are welcoming a decision to reduce a stretch of the dangerous state highway to 50km/h over summer, but those who traverse the road daily hope to see it become a permanent change.

The speed reduction between Crown Hill Rd and School Rd began on Monday and will remain in place over the Christmas and New Year break.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency said the short-term reduction from the normal 80km/h speed limit was being put in place to ensure the safety of motorists, as well as people walking and cycling through the popular Karangahake Gorge Historic Walkway area during the busy summer period.

The team at the Talisman Cafe, Karen, Dave, and Leanne Drake, told *The Profile* they were pleased that “finally” after 40 years as part of the community, the transport agency had recognised there was “a massive issue around safety, especially with the ever-growing popularity of the gorge”.

“The volume of traffic here and issues around parking, plus entering and exiting the reserve, were extremely dangerous so it’s great to see it dropped to 50km/h,” they said.

“Ultimately, having this permanent and not short-term is the best and safest option.”

However, the family and other residents of the community believed the speed reduction would

have to be policed, in order for it to have full effect.

One resident asked for cameras to be installed by the Talisman Cafe, which sits opposite the main entrance to the Karangahake walkway area, as well as signs placed before each corner and markings on the road.

“It has been a long push from the community, and even [district] council, so we are pleased NZTA have started something to make the road here safer,” the Drakes said.

The speed reduction comes months after Waka Kotahi released their engagement summary for its safer speed review of SH2, Mangatarata to Katikati.

Twenty-one 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.

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



# Students carve seasonal change calendars

By GORDON PREECE

Thames High School outdoor education students have carved their understanding of seasonal changes.

Massey University researcher, Paul Schneider and local carvers Fatu Feu’u and Darin Jenkins guided 13 students on a three-day carving workshop in Mid-November as part of Paul’s climate change research and the Calendars Project, which explores relationships between how institutions in Coromandel and Bergen, Norway live by seasons.

“It’s all about building relationships with people overtime and getting a feel for the seasonal rhythms underlying their yearly, daily and monthly activities,” he said.

“When you look at how people live by seasons, a very important question is what if these seasons are no longer how you’d expect them to be?”

“If climatic conditions change, what does this mean for institutions like schools where there is talk to change when the summer holidays take place because increasingly what people are experiencing is that it gets hotter when kids go back in February.”

Paul, who lives on the Thames Coast, was invited by Thames High’s outdoor education coordinator Trif Sitnikoff to key seasonal activities, including their winter survival camp. During the camp, when students were sitting around a fire and telling stories, Paul observed they were naturally drawn to wood carving so the idea came up to get the



Thames High School Year 13 outdoor education students on the first day of the workshop. Photo: SUPPLIED/JAMES MUIR

students to carve their own calendar with a Coromandel spin.

“The interesting thing with children is they don’t have an agenda and they’re not really shaped by things like the working routine. They still have a potentially innocent view of the seasonal rhythms, so that’s why we thought it would be a great opportunity to get them to be creative and understand how they think about the year,” Paul said.

“Does the year for them start in January or at another time and what are the key symbols they can think of as part of those seasonal rhythms which they look forward to or feel anxious about?”

Paul said students found carving their calendars rewarding.

“The outcomes were in a lot of cases very beautiful where some took the lunar calendar as their underlying motto and others kept it simple by using two or three symbols throughout the year,” Paul said.

“We found that some children really look forward to summer because its longer days, its warmer and it’s more of an easy life whereas others really look forward to winter because that’s when they have key activities like sport.”

Paul also conducted monthly bush walks with Te Puru School’s year eight class this year and plans to do the Calendars Project with them in the future. The 16 students took details of what caught their attention in certain locations and then on the next trip would revisit those locations and take note of any changes.

“While there were only subtle changes, they were still able to pick up on things like bird song, moisture in the ground, water temperature, the green tones of the fresh groves, and the fruiting of kawakawa trees,” he said.

“So over the year their awareness was sharpened in understanding the seasonal rhythms in a natural setting.”

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# OUR COROMANDEL

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News from Thames-Coromandel District Council

22 December, 2021

## Your Thames, Tomorrow takes off

We held three well-attended public meetings, plus a video meeting, on our Spatial Plan recently, and our communities were eager to discuss how they want Thames and surrounds to grow over the next 30 plus years.

It is an important umbrella project which brings together our efforts to accelerate housing growth for Thames with our critical Shoreline Management work that will help us adapt to the coastal inundation and erosion risks that our district is facing.

It's not too late to get involved. An online survey and lots of background information is on our website:  
[tcdc.govt.nz/yourthamestomorrow](http://tcdc.govt.nz/yourthamestomorrow)

### SUMMER TIPS & INFORMATION

There are lot of things you may need to know about our Council services over the summer. It can all be found at [tcdc.govt.nz/summerinfo](http://tcdc.govt.nz/summerinfo)

#### • Council Facilities and COVID-19

##### My Vaccine Pass

The Pass will only be required to enter our Council's public facilities if the Coromandel has cases of community transmission of the virus. Under the government's traffic light system we are in ORANGE. [tcdc.govt.nz/COVID-19](http://tcdc.govt.nz/COVID-19)

#### • Water conservation

Water restrictions are likely to be in place this summer. In our district our water comes from rivers, streams and aquifers. For water saving tips and restriction updates [tcdc.govt.nz/waterrestrictions](http://tcdc.govt.nz/waterrestrictions)



#### • Alcohol bans in public places

Our district has year-round, 24/7 town centre alcohol bans, plus additional Christmas and New Year alcohol bans on many of our beaches and seaside reserves. Find locations and dates here: [tcdc.govt.nz/alcoholcontrol](http://tcdc.govt.nz/alcoholcontrol)



#### • Fire in Summer

A total fire ban applies in the Coromandel from late December to early February each year. Explore permits and rules here: [checkitsalright.nz](http://checkitsalright.nz) and stay safe over summer.



#### • Events

At Orange, events can go ahead, but need to be managed under the COVID-19 protection framework with the event organiser responsible. Check out what's happening around the [coromandel tcdc.govt.nz/events](http://coromandel.tcdc.govt.nz/events)



## MERRY Christmas from TCDC



### Our Council Christmas operating hours

- Friday 24 December – 8am–3pm
- Monday 27 December – Tuesday 4 January – Closed
- Wednesday 5 January – Open regular hours  
*Applies to all our offices and district libraries.*

Our call centre, bylaws staff and contractors will be available during this period to attend to urgent matters. Call us on 07 868 0200.

## Christmas at Create the Vibe

The Create the Vibe Thames area on Mary Street is looking festive with the addition of a Christmas tree and laurel wreaths on the streetlights.

The safety barriers around the tree have been removed and there has been lots going on, already:

- Christmas display, storytelling, music.

To book the space, return the form on [tcdc.govt.nz/createthevibethames](http://tcdc.govt.nz/createthevibethames)



## Government cuts roading funding

A cut in the Waka Kotahi (NZ Transport Agency) subsidy for improvements to Council roads and footpaths means that many of the projects in this category identified in the Long Term Plan will be delayed, reduced in size or scope, or potentially not carried out.

Waka Kotahi has approved funding of up to \$4,940,000 over this period, with approved projects already confirmed by the transport agency totalling \$3,615,500. This leaves \$1,325,000 of subsidy available for other Council projects valued at \$7,018,272.

Our Council has decided that the available subsidy should go towards the improvement of the Te Kouma Road intersection with State Highway 25, to support the expansion of Te Ariki Tahī/Sugarloaf Wharf – an economic development project which has investment from the Provincial Growth Fund (\$19.95 million) and Waikato Regional Council (\$2 million). The wharf expansion will allow for growth in the mussel farming and aquaculture industry and create jobs in the region.

## What do you think of the Thames Connector?

Our Council wants your thoughts on the existing



Thames Connector public bus service, how you use it, and whether it should be extended – possibly to Kōpū or Te Puru.

We'd also like your feedback on a possible new public transport service from Coromandel Town to Thames.

Go to [tcdc.govt.nz/transportsurvey](http://tcdc.govt.nz/transportsurvey) to complete a short survey.

## Summer Kerbside Collections

Starting from 28 December until 8 February 2022, the Thames Coast and Manaia area has weekly wheelie bin and glass crate recycling collections to go with the blue Council bag pick-ups.



Thames town and Thames Rural South down to Hikutaia collection schedules don't change over this period.

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

Thames Refuse Transfer Station has extended hours from 17 December to 20 February 2022.

Mon-Fri: 8.30am-5.30pm

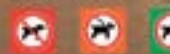
Sat, Sun and public holidays: 10.30am-5.30pm

Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day

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

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Private Bag, 515 Mackay St, Thames, Phone: 07 868 0200



# Swampfoxes donate \$30,000 to Goldfields

By GORDON PREECE

Paeroa's Goldfields School has received a \$30,000 donation from Thames Valley Rugby Union.

Thames Valley Swampfoxes Head Coach David Harrison said the reason for last Monday's donation began four years ago when former Head Coach Matt Bartleet wanted to create more community connections.

"We were searching for a group we thought we could connect with and help make a difference and Goldfields School was an obvious choice for us," he said.

Mr Harrison said the main money maker was from the auction of their Goldfield students-designed jersey after their 50-15 win against King Country in a charity match in October.

"We've got some great communities who support it and some of the money people pay is pretty humbling," he said.

Mr Harrison also said they were lucky this year to have a jeweller donate diamond earrings that were raffled off, which gave them a bit more money, with the union also topping up to give them \$30,000.

"It's the most we've raised in a single season," he said.

Goldfields School principal Cam McKenzie said the donation was "great" and would be spent on a contribution toward the school's \$60,000 new disabled van, an important asset for the school.



Goldfields School's students and Swampfoxes Head Coach David Harrison with TVRU's \$30,000 cheque.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

"We're going to put the Swamp Foxes logo on the side of the van to recognise their contributions and take them around with us," he said.

"Our students go all round the community in the van for work experience, class trips, horse riding and the park."

Mr McKenzie said while the school loved donations it

was the relationship with the Swampfoxes that was more important.

"They really care about our students and they want to give back, and their whole mindset is they want to make their players better men. They think that being involved with us helps keep those players grounded and think of other people who

aren't as advantaged as them," he said.

"Thanks to the Swampfoxes and congratulations for getting through a tough season."

Goldfields School students also helped design the charity jersey in 2018 for their match against Horowhenua-Kapiti, and in 2019 for their match against South Canterbury.

## Council passes vaccine mandate

All Waikato District Council staff and visitors must now be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 to access its facilities, offices or out in the field, effective immediately.

Staff will have until January 31 to comply with the requirement but will not be able to enter council workplaces unless they are fully vaccinated.

Visitors to the council's corporate offices will also need to show proof of vaccination.

During a two-week consultation with staff, the council heard from around half its workforce. Of those who responded, 74 per cent agreed with the proposal, 20 per cent disagreed and a further 6 per cent were unsure.

Council chief executive Gavin Ion said a risk assessment carried out in all areas of the organisation showed the inherent risk posed to staff while carrying out their duties was too high without vaccination.

"Our council vision is to build liveable, thriving and connected communities and we believe that implementing this policy for the protection of our people, their whanau, our customers and communities, remains the most important part of us being able to achieve this vision in the world that we now find ourselves living in."

Council said its policy will be reviewed and adjusted as needed to reflect up-to-date public health advice and any new requirements introduced by the government.

**I would like to thank all my clients, suppliers and contractors who have supported us over the last 16 years.**

**All the best to Colin and Janella from Splinters Firewood for the future.**

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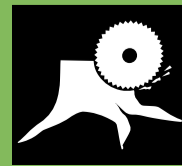
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*Kiingi Tuheitia Pootatau Te Wherowhero te tuawhitu*

# KIA PAINGĀ HARAREI – HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

## Plan for a fun and healthy Waikato summer



### A MESSAGE FROM WAIKATO DHB



Kia ora e te whānau,

We are all looking forward to a great summer with our whānau, after a year when we have had to work hard together as a community to meet challenges.

As Kiwis get out and about over the holidays we expect to see increased numbers at our local summer destinations. It's important that while we're enjoying the break, we also take steps to protect ourselves, our whānau, and those communities we are visiting. The best thing you can do is to get your COVID-19 vaccination and ensure you follow the guidance in line with the local traffic light settings.

Health providers across the region are preparing to support additional numbers, just as they do every summer.

At the same time, visitors should be aware that they are coming to smaller communities so need to take care and

be prepared while on holiday.

It is important to have a plan in case you or your whānau need to isolate following a positive COVID-19 test or you're notified of a close contact with a case.

This means having enough food and any health supplies readily available where you are staying, or a plan for how you will return directly home to isolate. If you are unable to return home safely, you will be supported to isolate in accordance with the COVID-19 Care in the Community programme.

We wish you and your whānau a safe and happy Christmas and wonderful New Year.

*Dr Kevin Snee – Chief Executive*

**CHECK SETTINGS BEFORE YOU GO**  
For what to do under each traffic light setting visit [covid19.govt.nz/traffic-lights](https://covid19.govt.nz/traffic-lights)



### BE PREPARED

#### Make sure you have everything you need

- **Know you're healthy before you go.** If you are unwell, stay at home
- **If you or someone travelling with you tests positive for COVID-19.**

Have a plan for how you will return home and make sure you have everything you need for you and your whānau for 20 days. The local area you are visiting may have limited services.

You and everyone you are staying with should not leave the place where you are isolating for any reason, unless advised to do so by the health team, or in an emergency when you have called 111.

### Supply checklist



#### General hygiene and safety

- Face masks/covering
- Hand sanitiser
- Disposable gloves
- Cleaning products
- Ziplock bags to store food
- Tissues
- Toilet rolls
- Extra supplies of prescriptions in case of a longer stay
- Non-prescription medications (e.g. pain relief, fever reducers)
- Toiletries
- Sunscreen
- First Aid kit
- Ice packs
- Rubbish bags
- Batteries

#### Food and drinks

- Canned food
- Rice, pasta, lentils
- Flour
- Butter, cheese
- Long Life milk
- Eggs
- Meat to put in freezer
- Sauces and seasonings
- Tea or coffee
- Instant noodles
- Fruit and vegetables that will last
- Non-perishable snacks
- Clean drinking water

#### For baby

- Baby food and snacks
- Baby formula
- Milk bottles
- Nappies
- Ointments, medicines
- Baby wipes

#### For pets

- Pet food

Stock up on any prescriptions before you travel!



### STAY SAFE THIS SUMMER



#### Get vaccinated

Vaccination is the best protection against COVID-19, so we encourage you to be fully vaccinated before you go on holiday.

Walk-ins are available at many sites throughout Waikato, with vaccinations provided at DHB sites, from GPs and pharmacies. To find a walk-in today or book go to [BookMyVaccine.nz](https://BookMyVaccine.nz) or call **0800 28 29 26**.

Keep up healthy habits to help protect you, your whānau, and your community.



Stay home if you are unwell.



Wear a mask or face covering.



Sneeze and cough into your elbow.



Regularly wash and thoroughly dry your hands or use hand sanitiser.



Keep your distance from people you do not know.



Clean or disinfect shared surfaces often.



#### Get a test

If you have cold, flu or COVID-19 symptoms you should get a test.

If you or anyone in your home is sick, do not host gatherings or invite people over. Do not place pressure on people to attend events if they are sick. Encourage friends and whānau who are unwell to get tested for COVID-19. Continue to check the locations of interest at [www.health.govt.nz/locationsofinterest](https://www.health.govt.nz/locationsofinterest) and follow the instructions on what to do.

Contact **COVID-19 Healthline on 0800 358 5453** for advice and to arrange to get tested or visit [www.healthpoint.co.nz/covid-19](https://www.healthpoint.co.nz/covid-19) for details of the nearest testing service. For local Waikato updates visit [www.facebook.com/WaikatoDHB](https://www.facebook.com/WaikatoDHB)

**REMEMBER**  
when you're out



**Mask**



**Scan**



**Pass**

More info [covid19.govt.nz](https://covid19.govt.nz) | [www.waikatodhb.health.nz/covid19](https://www.waikatodhb.health.nz/covid19) | [www.health.govt.nz/covid-19](https://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19)

### HEALTHCARE IN THE WAIKATO DURING SUMMER

Local medical centres will be providing some health services during the holidays for non-urgent health care, however some may be closed or have limited hours. Check [www.healthpoint.co.nz](https://www.healthpoint.co.nz) for local details. We recommend visitors check in with their GP at home to see what telehealth services they may be able to provide.

#### Unwell? unsure? GP clinic closed?

Call **Healthline 0800 611 116** and talk to a health professional – free 24 hour advice. They will tell you the best place to go.

#### Visit a pharmacy

Visit a pharmacy if you want advice on a broad range of minor medical issues or health concerns. A pharmacist is a qualified health professional who can give advice.

#### Need to talk? 1737

**Free call or text 1737 any time** to talk with a trained counsellor. It's completely free and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

#### Healthcare options in Thames

Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki have a summer clinic for non-urgent health care at Thames Hospital that will be open Monday to Friday 8am to 4.30pm.

Thames Medical Centre will continue to provide a general practice clinic at the Thames Hospital Emergency Department on Saturdays 9am to 3pm. Charges may apply for clinic services.

#### Dial 111 for emergencies

For emergencies and urgent medical attention dial 111 or go to your nearest hospital Emergency Department.



### HOT SUMMER TIPS

#### BE SUN SMART

SLIP-SLOP-SLAP-WRAP

Don't forget to cover up, slop on plenty of SPF 30+ sunscreen (even if it is shady), slap on a hat and wrap on some sunglasses.

- Drink lots of water – keep hydrated

#### WATER SAFETY

- Don't leave children alone near water, even for a minute
- Use life jackets when doing water sports or on a boat
- Obey all the safety signs and warnings

#### BE FOOD SAFE

- Clean surfaces, utensils and hands with soap and water
- Wash all produce under running water before eating, cutting or cooking
- Keep raw seafood, meat and chicken away from fresh produce
- Don't leave food at room temperature for longer than one hour





# Deadly roads, protests, Covid-19, awards and medals

CONTINUED FROM P2

in public meetings, get both sides of an issue and provide accurate, unbiased, independent facts to our communities.

Without our team of qualified and experienced journalists, our communities would not have known about the proposed bus route changes that put children at risk on our deadly highways back in April, or how the community and businesses were feeling about closing the main route into Thames' main street to create The Vibe. In March, we published a road safety campaign investigating the state of our deadly roads, including the number of fatalities and serious crashes, and informed locals of our most deadly roads and what they can do to keep safe.

We were the only reporters to sit down with our Queen Service Medal recipients, Rowan Garrett and Louisa Humphry, who have selflessly done so much for our communities over many decades. And in June, we were the only news organisation with a reporter on the ground covering the Ngāti Hako protest outside the Hauraki District Council hearing to renew resource consent at the Tirohia landfill.

Our excellent journalism continued with coverage of our Paralympic medallist, Danielle Aitchison, and we pulled some very seriously long hours to inform our communities when Covid-19 crossed the Auckland border into Kaiua and Mangatangi School. Our Covid-19 coverage continued when we broke



Photographic highlights from 2021 - *The Profile* has continued to provide our communities with accurate, fact-checked and trusted information.

the national story of TCDC Mayor Sandra Goudie refusing the Pfizer vaccine in October, a story that resulted in several angry phone calls and emails from readers who insisted on "shooting the messenger". But it's our job to inform our communities of the vaccination stance of our publicly elected representative, which is why we ran the story and which is why our story was chased by every other major

news organisation in the country. We were also the only news organisation to attend and give full coverage of the Hauraki-Coromandel Business Awards, sharing the story of the supreme winner and celebrating our business leaders throughout the region.

And we are also the only ones to cover education, sport, local government and events in our region. So when the Rotary

Goldrush Market charity event didn't go ahead for the first time in decades because of exorbitant traffic management costs, we were the ones who found out why and let the community know it was the children who usually benefit from that event who suffered.

So it really has been a huge year for *The Profile*, and we will keep pushing hard to get those stories our readers need

to know about and sharing accurate, fact-checked and trusted information that needs to be public.

For those readers and advertisers who understand this and support us, thank you, we really appreciate it. Without advertising, none of this would be possible. For those who don't, I wish you well in your search for the truth.

- Teresa Ramsey, editor

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# MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Not long now until Santa pays a visit! The Valley Profile team wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year - thank you to all our readers, supporters and advertisers. In this Christmas feature, businesses throughout the region post their Christmas messages as we wind up for the big day on Saturday and the holiday break. This is the last Valley Profile for 2021 and our next issue will arrive in your letterbox on January 12.

**Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year from us all at Thames Autos.**

*We will be closed from Friday Dec 24 and back on Monday Jan 17th*

The Valley Education team wishes everyone a very **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year**. Thank you for your support.

The office closes 17 December and reopens 17 January 2022.

Merry Christmas from the team at **HMR HAIRAB FLAINS MOTORS LTD**

Thank you for your continued fantastic support over the tough year we've had. We will be closing at 3pm Friday Dec 24 & stat days only.

Merry Christmas **READ BROS.** EST. 1867 Hardware THAMES, NEW ZEALAND

**Meri Kirihimete** Wishing everyone safe and happy holidays from the **Read Bros team**

**PAEROA FARM SERVICES**

**Thank you!**

THE TEAM AT PAEROA FARM SERVICES WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL CUSTOMERS A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND SAFE NEW YEAR. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT DURING 2021.

07 852 8283 paeroafarmservices.co.nz

**BURTON'S BUTCHERY**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all the team at Burtons Butchery. We will be taking a break from Christmas day and re opening on the 5th of January so get in early to avoid missing out.

Happy holidays to all our valued customers. Thank you for your ongoing support. Merry Christmas from our family to yours!

**HAMMER HARDWARE** 07 867 7393 Ngatea

**insider INTERIORS**

Thank you to all my wonderful dedicated customers. Have a lovely Christmas and see you next year. I will be closing Dec 24th and reopening Jan 10.





# Christmas Carols top off brass band's 75th year

By GORDON PREECE

The Kerepēhi Brass Band has spread Christmas cheer to local communities with Christmas carols.

The carols are the main fundraiser for the band to pay the rates for their band hall, keep on top of equipment costs, and keep its more than 30 band members happy.

Band president Luke van Vliet said the Christmas carols were more important this year given the band's performances to celebrate their 75th anniversary were muted due to Covid-19.

"We had originally put huge amounts of planning into a big reunion for our 75th anniversary that was due to happen in September but three weeks beforehand Covid-19 caused it to shut down," he said.

"So we postponed it to November hoping to scrape it in but sadly we've had to postpone it again till August next year.

"So it'll now be our reunion for our 75th plus one anniversary."

This year, the band's first Christmas carols were held in Kaiāua on December 8 with the biggest crowd the band's seen in the past three years they've performed there.

Mr van Vliet said this was surprising given Kaiāua was put in a snap Level 4 lockdown in September after a positive Covid-19 case was detected in the area.

"They were spread far and wide all on their picnic blankets with a barbeque going and everyone keeping their distance, which was good to see," he said.

The band have also performed carols in Ngatea,



Kerepēhi Brass Band perform at Ngatea's Late Night Shopping on December 10. INSET: Band president Luke van Vliet.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

Paeroa, Waihi and Thames, with *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer*, *Jingle Bell Rock*, *Away in a Manger* and *Silent Night* proving the most popular. Mr van Vliet said they had focused on keeping the band's performances outside post-Covid, as some band members weren't vaccinated.

"At this stage we're allowing people in the band to keep their distance if they feel a bit

insecure and we also make sure the public keep their space," he said.

"We don't have a vaccine requirement at this stage but if a venue requires it, the members are more than happy to let only vaccinated members attend."

The band will also be performing their biggest yearly event on December 23 with its fifth annual carols in the

Karangahake Gorge's mining tunnels. "It's a multi-band event with bandsmen from the Hauraki and Waikato districts coming together to perform," Mr van Vliet said.

"In the last couple of years we've had huge crowds turn up where we've looked down the gorge and can't see the end of the crowd. It's a one of a kind experience and we encourage everyone to come along."

**ARKWRIGHTS ANTIQUES PAEROA**



**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.**

We will be closed Christmas Day only

PAEROA - ANTIQUE TOWN OF NEW ZEALAND

**THAMES VALLEY TANGATA ORA TRUST**

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.**

We will be closing on 24th December and opening again on 24th January



Leanne, Sophia & Rachel would like to thank all our loyal supporters for the past year.

Have a Merry Christmas and a safe & Happy New Year.



We will be closing for a break on Dec 23rd and reopening Jan 11th



"City styling in the heart of Coromandel"

**Floor Solutions & Furnishings**

Merry Christmas to all and we wish you a joyful summer. In-home consultations begin early January. Pippa & Dee

www.floorsolutions.co.nz



The Placemakers team wish you Merry Christmas & happy holidays.

Christmas Trading Hours are  
 Dec 24th 7.00am - 4.00pm  
 Dec 25th - Dec 28th CLOSED  
 Dec 29th - Dec 31st 8.00am - 4.30pm  
 Jan 1 - Jan 4th CLOSED  
 Jan 5th - 7th 8.00am - 4.30pm  
 Jan 8th 8.30am - 12.30pm  
 Jan 9th CLOSED  
 Jan 10th Back to normal



The Team at Trinity Network Real Estate wish everyone a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year

We are out and about over the festive season if you do require our services.




Licensed REAA 2008

Wishing all my customers Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

The Good Yarn Store  
021 332 649




Earth Angel Magic



Blessings to you all. Have a magical Christmas.



The shop will be closed Christmas Day only.



# MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS

**FRANKLINvets**

**Season's Greetings**  
Thank you for supporting our business.

Friday, 24 December	OPEN
<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>Boxing Day</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>Monday, 27 December</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>Tuesday, 28 December</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
Wednesday, 29 December	OPEN
Thursday, 30 December	OPEN
Friday, 31 December	OPEN
<b>New Years Day</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>Sunday, 2 January</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>Monday, 3 January</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>Tuesday, 4 January</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>

We wish everyone a wonderful Christmas season. Thank you to all our loyal customers for your ongoing support. We look forward to continuing to offer you exceptional quality food and products and friendly service in the new year.



PROVIDENCE PANTRY  
The art of food



Wishing Our Burton's followers a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. We will be closing for a well deserved break. The shop will be closed from December 22nd till January 10th. Look forward to seeing everyone in the new year.

Thanks to all our clients for your loyalty throughout 2021.

*Merry Christmas*

See you in 2022 to book your well deserved holiday.

We will be closing Dec 23rd at 3pm and reopening 9am Jan 10th



642 Pollen St, Thames  
Ph 868 9260

Emergency after hours 24/7 for pets & farm animals. Please call the phone numbers below.



**KOPU** 07 868 5007  
**PAEROA** 07 862 7295  
**WAIHI** 07 863 8684  
**WAITAKARURU** 07 868 9030  
[WWW.FRANKLINVETS.CO.NZ](http://WWW.FRANKLINVETS.CO.NZ)



**Cielo Hair**  
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from the team at Cielo Hair. We look forward to seeing you all next year when we return on Jan 11th.



**TCA FITNESS CLUB LAUNDROMAT**

WE WISH ALL OF OUR AMAZING CUSTOMERS A SAFE AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS!  
OUR STAFF WILL BE BACK 10 JAN '22.

Merry Christmas from our kitchen to yours! Wishing you all stress free cooking and lots of fun and laughter!

From the team at



INSPIRED BY FLAVOUR  
[www.savourandspice.com](http://www.savourandspice.com)

**Unichem Paeroa Pharmacy**  
Christmas Opening Hours  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

Thursday 23rd Dec 8:30am - 5:30pm  
Friday 24th Dec 8:30am - 4:00pm

**Saturday 25th to Tuesday 28th Dec - CLOSED**

Wednesday 29th Dec 8:30am - 5:30pm  
Thursday 30th Dec 8:30am - 5:30pm  
Friday 31st Dec 8:30am - 4:00pm

**Saturday 1st to Tuesday 4th Jan - CLOSED**

Wednesday 5th Jan normal hours resume 8:30am - 5:30pm

Merry Christmas

**Health Ngatea** wishes everyone a Merry Xmas and a happy healthy New Year.

Merry Christmas



The GBD team would like to thank all our customers for 2021. We look forward to seeing you in 2022. Closed stat days only.  
**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year**

The Plantery  
*'plant based living'*

Merry Christmas to all Thank you for 2021

I will be taking a break until January 10th, I look forward to seeing you then.

[www.theplanterystore.co.nz](http://www.theplanterystore.co.nz)  
The Depot, 715 Pollen St, Thames. Behind Café Melbourne

**Thames Medical Centre Festive Season Hours**

Day	Date	Hours
Saturday	25 <sup>th</sup> December	Closed
Sunday	26 <sup>th</sup> December	Emergency GP Clinic at Thames Hospital 9am – 3pm
Monday	27 <sup>th</sup> December	Closed
Tuesday	28 <sup>th</sup> December	Closed
Wednesday	29 <sup>th</sup> December	Normal Surgery Hours (8.30am – 5.00pm) 3 Doctors on duty
Thursday	30 <sup>th</sup> December	Normal Surgery Hours (8.30am – 5.00pm) 3 Doctors on duty
Friday	31 <sup>st</sup> December	Normal Surgery Hours (8.30am – 5.00pm) 3 Doctors on duty
Saturday	1 <sup>st</sup> January	Emergency GP Clinic at Thames Hospital 9am – 3pm
Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup> January	Closed
Monday	3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Closed
Tuesday	4 <sup>th</sup> January	Closed
Wednesday	5 <sup>th</sup> January	Normal Surgery Hours (8.30am – 5.00pm) 3 Doctors on duty
Thursday	6 <sup>th</sup> January	Normal Surgery Hours (8.30am – 5.00pm) 3 Doctors on duty
Friday	7 <sup>th</sup> January	Normal Surgery Hours (8.30am – 5.00pm) 3 Doctors on duty
Saturday	8 <sup>th</sup> January	Emergency GP Clinic at Thames Hospital 9am – 3pm


We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Coromandel team at Milestone.

Stay safe, have fun and make memories. Take care and see you all back on 10th January 2022.

Merry Christmas to all of our community. Thank you for supporting local.



We will be closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day only.

600 Pollen St, Thames  
07 868 6301  
[www.carsonsbkshop.co.nz](http://www.carsonsbkshop.co.nz)





# MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS

## Stay safe this Christmas Jaki's summer salmon salad

As another year comes to an end and New Zealanders make the most of the summer break, St John is reminding everyone to stay safe and look out for their whānau, friends and neighbours.

While it's a relief to be able to travel freely across Aotearoa this season, albeit with restrictions, it's the busiest time of the year for St John ambulance teams, who respond to many car crashes and water incidents which could have been avoided by taking care on the road and in the water.

Last year, St John responded to over 1000 emergency incidents on Christmas Day across the country, with the most common being falls or back injuries, unconscious people and breathing problems.

St John deputy chief executive ambulance operations Dan Ohs said while it was understandable many people would be heading away or outdoors, it's important to take care and be mindful of whānau, friends, and people in our communities.

"The festive season can be a difficult time for people with financial problems or those who live alone. We've noticed an increase in patients presenting with mental health problems around this time, so please check on those who are vulnerable.

"There is some uncertainty as to what impact Covid-19 will have, as people reconnect and travel – and what impact that will have on emergency incident volumes," Mr Ohs said.

"Please remember our paramedics will respond as soon as possible to life-threatening and time critical

emergencies, but if your condition is not urgent, there may be a delay in getting an ambulance to you and we ask for your patience.

"In addition, if you interact with our frontline call handlers or ambulance staff – be kind. Our people are here to help you and we have a zero tolerance for verbal or physical violence towards our people."

As Covid-19 remains in the community, St John urges New Zealanders to continue to observe Ministry of Health guidelines and make sure you scan the NZ Covid Tracer app wherever you go, have your vaccine pass ready, wash your hands regularly with soap and water, wear a face mask, and stay home if you are sick.

St John wants everyone to have a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas and offers some useful tips: Drive to the conditions, be patient, eliminate distractions and ensure everyone wears a safety belt in the car.

If you venture to another part of the country, familiarise yourself with your location before you set off. Know your exact address in case you need to call for help. Find out where the closest hospital or A&E centre is and be aware that you may have to travel a long way to access medical help in rural or remote areas.

Take care around water, wear life jackets when boating and supervise children at the beach or swimming pool. Be sun smart! Slip, slop, slap and wrap! And drink responsibly.

**Free health advice is available from registered nurses, 24/7 through the Healthline number, 0800 611 116. Always call 111 in an emergency.**

### RECIPE

As we are sliding fast into the season when we will have friends and family visit or stay, I thought I would share my beautiful salad that always feeds a crowd. The flavour combinations are just delicious, it's a doddle to make. Even though it's great for just two, it's even better to share with others and will easily feed six to eight people – even with seconds! It's a great dish to place in the middle of the table and let everyone serve themselves. With the addition of your favourite sour dough bread, it's a real winner! Merry Christmas to everyone – happy cooking, eating and sharing with loved ones.

- Jaki, Savour & Spice

#### INGREDIENTS

- Salmon mix
- 2 tins salmon
- 2 tablespoons good mayonnaise (I use Best Foods)
- 2 teaspoons mustard (I use our Farmhouse French)
- 2 teaspoons capers chopped
- 3 spring onions
- Lemon juice
- White or black pepper
- Salad ingredients**
- Fresh salad greens (as much as you like)
- Baby roasting potatoes – 1 bag
- Olive oil
- 2 tablespoons our Garlic Mustard Pepper spice blend
- 1 orange capsicum cut into four pieces
- 1 bunch of asparagus rinsed and woody ends removed
- 1 cucumber peeled, deseeded and chopped
- 1 400g tin cannellini beans rinsed and drained
- 3 to 5 boiled eggs (depending on serving size)
- 1 avocado, sliced
- Parsley
- 1 tablespoon white wine vinegar or



Jaki's summer salmon salad always feeds a crowd.

Photo: SUPPLIED

- lemon juice
- Olive oil
- Salt and pepper

#### METHOD

Preheat an oven to 180 degrees celcius and line a baking tray with paper. Make the salmon mix that will be dotted through and over the salad by combining the salmon, mayonnaise, mustard, capers, a spring onion and a squeeze of lemon juice into a bowl and mix gently. Add the pepper to taste. Place the potatoes on the baking tray and combine with a drizzle of olive oil and the Garlic Mustard Pepper blend. Fit each one of the capsicum pieces on each of the corners. Place in the oven and bake for approximately 20 minutes, then place the asparagus spears on top and roast for another 10 minutes.

The capsicum needs to be charred, the potatoes tender, and the asparagus cooked but still with a bit of firmness. When cooked, leave the potatoes and asparagus to cool, and place the capsicum pieces in a plastic bag (or tightly

covered bowl) to steam. Once cool, peel off the skin leaving the lovely sweet flesh below, and rip into strips.

Place the eggs into a pan of boiling water and boil for five minutes. Cool, peel then cut in half lengthways. Using a large platter start layering the ingredients. Firstly add the salad greens, then sprinkle over half the cannellini beans, followed by half the chopped cucumber, spring onions, some sliced avocado and some of the pepper strips. Add some of the salmon mix. Next add the potatoes, along with a couple of the cooked, cut eggs, and more salmon mix. Continue from the beginning again until you have used all of the ingredients. Finally, add the whole spears of asparagus and the parsley.

I always drizzle over some acid in the form of a vinegar or lemon juice at the end, with some olive oil and seasoning – a little sprinkle of the Garlic Mustard Pepper is delicious!



**Merry Christmas from The Public Office**

We will be closed during the stats only and will be taking a break later in January.

We wish everyone a happy and prosperous 2022

Shane, Chelsea and Natalie would like to wish all our Customers a very Merry Xmas and Prosperous New Year.

A big thank you for your support over a difficult 2021.

Our Xmas/New Year hours will be:

December 25th- 28th – Closed  
December 29th – 31st 9.00 – 2.00  
January 1st – 4th- Closed

606 Queen Street, Thames  
Phone 07-8686644

**fairview THAMES**

EXCEPTIONAL WINDOWS & DOORS

Seasons Greetings to all our valued clients.

We are excited to announce that over the Christmas/ New Year period we will be relocating to new premises.

From the 10th January you will find us at 10 Millar Place, Kopu (beside Placemakers)

**Papreeka**

Hair Salon in Ngatea

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our valued clients.

Thank you for your support & loyalty through 2021.

We will be closed from Dec 23rd until Jan 11.

Ann & Lucy.

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year**

Legal & Business Consultant

- Relationship Property Division
- Business Planning & Start-Up

Susanna Kruger

027 538 9789  
susannakruger20@gmail.com  
Professional Profile on LinkedIn

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the team.**

We will be closed from Dec 23rd to Jan 17th.

**PTS NZ**

PROFESSIONAL TRADE SERVICES

**MERRY CHRISTMAS with Love**

NEEDLES N PINS

A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Megan, Brendon and Zeus at Needles N Pins.

Thank you all for your continued support. Look forward to seeing everyone in 2022.

We are closed from 25th of December and reopen on the 3rd January.

**HAIRAKI TYRE and BATTERY**

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas & safe traveling

We are open 24th til 2pm, 29th-31st Dec 8am-3pm, 5th-7th Jan 8am-3pm, Sat 8th 8-12.

Thank you for supporting our small local business, we appreciate you

314 Pollen Street, Thames  
Ph 868 8182



This advertisement is authorised by the Hauraki District Council

# HDC NEWS

Wishing you a happy and healthy holiday from all of us at Hauraki District Council



It's been another big emotional year with Covid-19 still in the picture. The real work starts now with managing our relationship with Covid-19 if and when it gets into our community. The good news is there is light at the end of the tunnel and it's Orange.

If we all stick to the simple rules of wearing a mask, signing in, good hygiene practices (hand washing, drying and sanitising and coughing into your elbow etc) and staying home (get tested if you're sick with cold, flu or COVID-19 symptoms), we can keep enjoying our stunning outdoors and all of our awesome council facilities.

As of going to print we don't require vaccine passes at any of our public spaces like libraries, pools and council offices. That may change, so keep checking in on our website for updates and let's all continue to look after each other, stay safe and keep smiling – it's the Hauraki way.

Mayor Toby Adams

## Aren't you glad you live and play in the Hauraki District?

There's a world of things to do and see in Hauraki over summer and we want you to have a summer filled with great memories. Here's some tips to help you stay safe and keep up the good times.

## Walkies?

Although some of our reserves are dog free zones, especially over summer, we still have plenty of great spaces to take your best friend walkies. Check out our website for locations, times and who leads who. [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/dogs](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/dogs)

## Getting festive?

Alcohol bans are in place in all of our towns, and in some other places like beaches and reserves. Plan before you party - check out the rules at [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/alcohol-bans-hauraki](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/alcohol-bans-hauraki)

## Water restrictions likely over summer

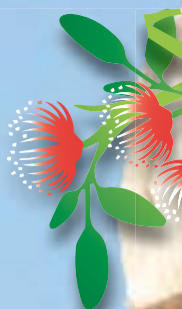
Summer is going to be a scorcher. Water levels in our local rivers are already low so we're asking everyone to start using less water where possible. It's important to have enough water for our communities, our livestock, emergency fire services and our frogs and fish too. When water restrictions kick in, we'll let you know by radio, Facebook, our website and e-newsletter. Sign up at [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/e-newsletter](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/e-newsletter).

## Keep an eye out for leaks

Just like 'Where's Wally', leaks can be hard to find. We really appreciate it when you let us know if you spot a suspicious puddle or patch of green where it shouldn't be. Call us 24/7 on 0800 734 834. For ideas on smart water use visit [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/smartwateruse](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/smartwateruse)

## Building inspection paused

There will be no building inspections between Friday 24 December to Monday 10 January. The regulatory clock for processing building and resource consents stopped at 5pm Friday 17 December and resumes again on Tuesday 11 January 2021.







## Council service hours for the holiday season

Ace the changes to our Christmas office and library hours and refuse collection days with this handy list. If it is urgent you can still reach us 24/7 on 0800 734 834. But if Santa gets stuck in the chimney, you'll have to call 0800 NORTHPOLE!

### Our Council offices

20 to 23 December - 8am to 4:30pm  
 24 December - 8am to 12 noon  
 25 December to 4 January - Closed  
 5 January - 8am to 4:30pm

### Our Libraries

20 to 23 December - 9:30am to 5pm  
 24 December - 9:30am to 12 noon  
 25 December to 4 January - Closed  
 5 January - 9:30am to 5pm

### Ngatea

\*8am to 4:30pm Mon to Fri only

### Swimming pools

23 & 24 December - 6am to 6pm  
 25 December - closed  
 26 to 28 December - 11am to 5pm  
 29 to 31 December - 6am to 6pm  
 1 January - closed  
 2 to 4 January - 11am to 5pm  
 5 January - 6am to 6pm

We now accept Eftpos at our pools  
 Please wear a mask on entry.  
 No vaccine pass required, entry limited to 50 people at a time.  
 (as at going to print)

### Paeroa Refuse Transfer Station

Mask wearing is mandatory on these sites.  
 25 to 29 December - Closed  
 30 & 31 December - 12:30pm to 5:30pm  
 1 to 5 January - Closed  
 6 January - 12:30pm - 5:30pm  
 7 January - 12:30pm - 5:30pm

### Waihi Refuse Transfer Station

25 to 28 December - Closed  
 29 December - 10am to 4pm  
 30 December - Closed  
 31 December - 10am to 4pm  
 1 to 4 January - Closed  
 5 January - 10am to 4pm  
 6 January - Closed  
 7 January - 10am to 4pm

### Kerbside refuse and recycling

#### Whiritoa

MON 27 December Rubbish bags and all recycling  
 WED 29 December Rubbish bags and glass  
 MON 3 JANUARY Rubbish bags and all recycling  
 WED 5 JANUARY Rubbish bags and glass  
 SAT 8 JANUARY Rubbish bags and glass

#### Waihi, Waikino

THU 30 December Rubbish bags and all recycling  
 THU 6 JANUARY Rubbish bags only  
 Karangahake, Mackaytown, Paeroa  
 THU 30 December Rubbish bags only  
 THU 6 JANUARY Rubbish bags and all recycling

#### Ngatea, Kaiaua, Waitakaruru

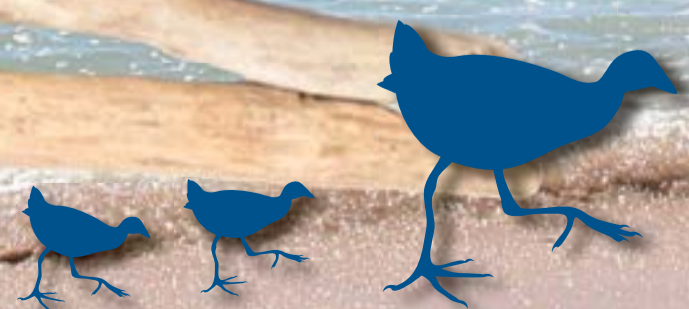
WED 29 December Rubbish bags only  
 WED 5 JANUARY Rubbish bags and all recycling

#### Kerepehi, Turua

WED 29 December Rubbish bags and all recycling  
 WED 5 JANUARY Rubbish bags only

## No more searching for loose change down the back of the couch!

Paeroa, Ngatea and Waihi Community pools now have **Eftpos** and don't forget, under 5's are free and \$1 entrance fee for seniors (65+) between 7:30am – 9am Monday – Friday. Now that's good old fashioned value for money.





**Merry Christmas to all my loyal customers and thank you for your support during 2021.**

*The shop will be closed the stat days only.*

**Lynne's**

500 Pollen St, Thames - 868 8725



**PROGRAMMES AVAILABLE FOR 2022**

*If school wasn't your scene, or if you want to learn to earn, these are some of the FREE options we have for you:*

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**Foundation Skills L1, Mechanical Engineering L2, Intro to Agriculture L2**

*(these 3 programmes will help you achieve NCEA Level 1 and 2)*

**Agriculture Level 3 - Te Mahi Whenua (15 weeks)**

**Farming Systems (29 weeks); Horticulture Level 3**

*We also offer some fee paying short programmes – Barista and Driving lessons from learners through to full license options. Call us for pricing.*

**Valley Education & Training  
50 Kopu Road, Kopu, Thames 3578**

**Tel: 07 8687892**

**Mob: 027 314 1577**

**admin@valleyeducation.co.nz**

**www.valleyeducation.co.nz**

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Kaeleigh and Briana with the giant sunflowers. INSET: The centre's first flower. Photos: SUPPLIED

**Sunflowers bloom for kindy kids**

Central Kids Ngatea has entered the biennial Dalton Sunflower competition to see which kindergarten nationwide can grow the tallest, widest and heaviest sunflower.

Teacher Jenny Bell said it was "all systems go" as the kindy took on the challenge.

"The tamariki have shown a keen interest in gardening this year and this is another fun way to extend their learning," she said.

The children began the project in August with a "propagation station" where they planted seeds into small cardboard containers, which once sprouted were transferred into the garden.

"The tamariki have taken ownership

of this project. They have been busy watering the sunflowers with the worm tea from our worm farm, helping to hammer in stakes, tying the plants and weeding the garden," she said.

"The sunflower competition is a great way to extend the children's gardening interest as they have planted putiputi and hua whenua seeds throughout the year that have resulted in lovely flowers and vegetable seedlings to brighten our environment and share with kindergarten whanau.

"Gardening is a wonderful way for children to take responsibility, sustain an interest, explore science and investigate maths concepts through measuring and comparing the different plants."



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**201 Pollen St • www.saundersmitsubishi.co.nz**

A/h: Warren Hurley 021 941 963

Paul Saunders 021 220 0098





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Phone for a Private Viewing

**Managatarata, 249 SHWY 27**  
www.trinitynetwork.co.nz/136882/

**Price By Negotiation**

Phone for a Private Viewing

**Pauanui, 10/600 Hikuai Settlement Road**  
www.trinitynetwork.co.nz/600-hikuai-settlement-road-pauanui

**Asking Price \$509,000**

Phone for a Private Viewing

**Paeroa, 16 Nahum Street**  
www.trinitynetwork.co.nz/16-nahum-street-paeroa

**Price by Negotiation**

Phone for a Private Viewing

**Thames, 103A Clarence Street**  
www.trinitynetwork.co.nz/103a-clarence-street-thames

**Price By Negotiation**

Phone for a Private Viewing

**Thames, 402A Sandes Street**  
www.trinitynetwork.co.nz/402a-sandes-street-thames

**Price by Negotiation**

Phone for a Private Viewing

**Waiomu, 611A Thames Coast Road**  
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**Amy Bustard**  
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E: amy.bustard@trinitynetwork.co.nz

**Adrienne Crawford**  
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E: adrienne.crawford@trinitynetwork.co.nz

**Kerry Trainor**  
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**Richardsons**  
Ngatea / Paeroa



**Richardsons**  
Thames



29 River Rd, Ngatea **Offers Over \$749,000**

**NEW LISTING**

- 4 Double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms
- Exterior renovated, New decking
- Double garage, Carport, Central location

**RN1407** 🛏️ 4 🚗 2 🚗 2 🛏️ 1

Paeroa **Offers Over \$1,100,000 (Inc GST)**

**NEW LISTING**

- Rural House and Land Package
- 5990 sqm (more or less) sloping section
- 4 bedroom home to be built on site

**RRP223** 🛏️ 4 🚗 2 🚗 2 🛏️ 1

12 Aputa Avenue, Thames **\$770,000**

Built in the 1950's this 2 bedroom Kauri weatherboard home boasts a spacious lounge with Metro wood burner fire, large kitchen and a bathroom with a wet floor shower. Flat fully fenced 612m2 section. Recently repainted on the outside and redecorated inside.

**RT5669 - EVELYN LOWRY 021 828 384** 🛏️ 2 🛏️ 1 🚗 1 🛏️ 1

49 Wood Street, Paeroa **Offers Over \$670,000**

Lockwood home 1586m2 (more or less) section with priceless views. 4 brms upstairs, open plan kitchen/dining/lounge with wood burner, functional kitchen & dual decking areas. Original bathroom, extra-large hobby room downstairs. Single internal access garage. Spiral staircase or internal lift entry.

**RG1936 - NATASHA DAWSON 027 200 6608** 🛏️ 4 🚗 1 🚗 1 🛏️ 1

214 Rolleston Street, Thames **Deadline Sale**

This one won't be on the market long! Beautifully presented 3 Bedroom home situated on a flat, sunny, easy care section and walking distance from town. Double internal access garage, off street parking, master bedroom with ensuite. Built in the early 2000's this home is ready for new owners.

**RT5668 - PHILIP JUDD 027 449 7132** 🛏️ 3 🛏️ 2 🚗 2 🛏️ 1

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# Rural Life

## Mapping the forest

A nature survey was undertaken by Paeroa College students and members of Paeroa Streamcare on December 9 at the Millennium Forest in the Aorangi Stream gully. With help from Waikato Regional Council's Ruairi Kelly, the students were allocated different plots in which to identify plant species. There was also a visit from Landcare's Ric Balfour who took water samples from the stream. Reporter **KELLEY TANTAU** was there.



Kevin Waugh assists with Azariah and Keileigh's research.

Photos: KELLEY TANTAU



Trish Waugh helps out Toby and Stanley.



Travis Cox, science teacher Darcy Knyvett, and Laith Ngatai.



Students Rebecca Harris and Natavia Metekingi, with Paeroa Streamcare's Mairi Jay.

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File photo: STEPHEN ANDREWS/PEXELS

# Rural Life

## Stay safe on the water

Waikato Regional Council's new harbourmaster is urging boaties to be vigilant, with visitor numbers expected to spike this summer.

The warning comes following the eagerly anticipated opening of the Auckland border on December 15 and as the council gears up for its routine increase in patrols over the peak season.

Regional Harbourmaster Chris Bredenbeck said: "It's been a funny old year, so we're excited to see locals and visitors alike getting back to it and having fun on the water this summer."

"But we're already seeing higher than usual activity as people blow off the cobwebs, and we're expecting it to get a lot busier still. Anecdotally, it looks like there'll be more vessels – understandably there's enormous demand for people to do things locally, and we've been told new jet skis coming in from overseas are already pre-sold."

"So, we're calling on people to make sure they know the rules before they head out. Always wear a lifejacket. Always

watch your speed. And always carry two types of waterproof comms so you can call for help if you need to."

Mr Bredenbeck recently took over from former Regional Harbourmaster Richard Barnett, who retired this month after 15 years with the regional council.

"Richard played a major role in influencing positive behaviour change in our region, with lifejacket compliance now sitting at about 96 per cent," Mr Bredenbeck said. "Those are some big shoes to fill, but it's a privilege to be able crack on, build on that good work and continue keeping our waterways safe for everyone to enjoy."

The council takes a no excuses approach to rule breaking. Anyone caught speeding or not wearing or carrying a lifejacket as required can expect to receive a breach notice that could lead to a \$200 fine.

*Unsafe behaviour on the water as well as maritime hazards and incidents should be reported to the Maritime Services team at Waikato Regional Council on 0800 800 402.*

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# Helping each other through COVID-19



With more cases of COVID-19 in the community, it's possible you and your whānau will be exposed to the virus. To make sure you're ready, have a plan in case you or someone in your house tests positive and needs to isolate.

Everyone who tests positive for COVID-19, and those who live with them, will need to isolate for at least 10 days to stop the spread of the virus. If someone else in your house tests positive for COVID-19, they'll be advised how much longer they need to isolate.

## Make a plan

If you're travelling and away from home, know how you will get home or self isolate where you are.

While isolating, you will need to have all of your food and necessities delivered. You cannot go to work, school, church or any community or private events or gatherings. No one outside of the people you live with can visit or enter the home.

Most fully-vaccinated people with COVID-19 are likely to have a mild to moderate illness and will fully recover at home.

## Who can help out

Be prepared in case you're exposed to COVID-19. Speak with a neighbour, friend, or whānau about the support you could need. For instance, dropping off food and supplies, and help with activities outside the house. Being ready is about people, conversations, connections and knowing what to do, so your whānau and community can help each other when needed.

## Support while isolating

It's normal to feel anxious about isolating with COVID-19.

You'll have a support person who will contact you often to check that you and your whānau are safe and supported – even if you're travelling and away from home. You will also get a telephone number for 24-hour health support.

If you need more help or support to manage at home, you can access a COVID-19 welfare line.

## What you'll need

To help you get through, you will need to have food, medications and supplies available to you. Find a detailed checklist to help you prepare at [Covid19.govt.nz/prepare](https://www.covid19.govt.nz/prepare)

Check what support is available for self-isolating at home and find more preparation tips at [Covid19.govt.nz/prepare](https://www.covid19.govt.nz/prepare)



# Narrow plank concern after death



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



A dredge at work on the Hauraki Plains. Photo: SUPPLIED

A splash and a cry for help startled those working on a dredge in the Waihou River near Paeroa during a June night in 1922. Although illuminated by the dredge lights of around 300 candle power, the surrounding area was very dark.

The Public Work department's dredge was engaged in stop bank work - part of the vast Hauraki Plains drainage scheme which included flood control of the Waihou River. By 1922, a number of men were employed in clearing away the willow trees from the river banks and constructing stop banks to keep flood waters from the farm lands.

Work often continued into the night and now Stephen Hughes, a winch man on the dredge who had been helping to connect one of the two pontoons, had fallen overboard. Donald Young, dredge engineer, immediately jumped into the river and swam to where he heard the cry but when he got there, there was no sign of Stephen. Hiram

Crompton scrambled into a boat with John Fox and they rowed towards the spot but could find no trace of him either. Dragging operations the next day eventually discovered Stephen's body in 18ft of water about 22 yards from where he was last seen.

It seemed Stephen had been walking over the connecting plank between the two pontoons when he slipped and fell. At the inquest, dredge fireman John Fox said he thought the plank should be wider.

Constable McClincy said he had heard complaints about the plank and he thought it dangerous for men to work on the dredge at night time in winter. William Dykes, overseer and dredge master, said he never had any complaints in regard to the plank. More planks might, however, be used. A verdict of "accidental death by drowning in the Waihou River by falling off a pontoon while following his usual occupation" was given. A rider was added recommend-

ing the provision of more planks on the pontoons. The coroner highly commended the bravery of the engineer, Donald Young, in plunging overboard on a dark night and also commended the promptness of John Fox and Hiram Crompton in launching the boat and endeavouring to locate Stephen.

The mammoth Hauraki Plains drainage scheme, begun in 1908, had required strong hard-working men.

Workers included Dalmatians from the gum-digging fields, Australians based in camps at Turua and Ngatea, and local Maori. Working the dredges could be dangerous and there were many terrible accidents. Stephen was 39, a married man with six children who had lived at Mill Rd, Paeroa. Sadly his widow, Ethel, died just five years later. Their orphaned children were then cared for by their maternal grandmother, Mrs Mary Pitkethley, a local midwife and nurse. Stephen and Ethel are buried at Paeroa's Pukerimu cemetery.

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The Valley Profile

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# SUDOKU

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

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

EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

31

HARD

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

31

MEDIUM

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

EASY

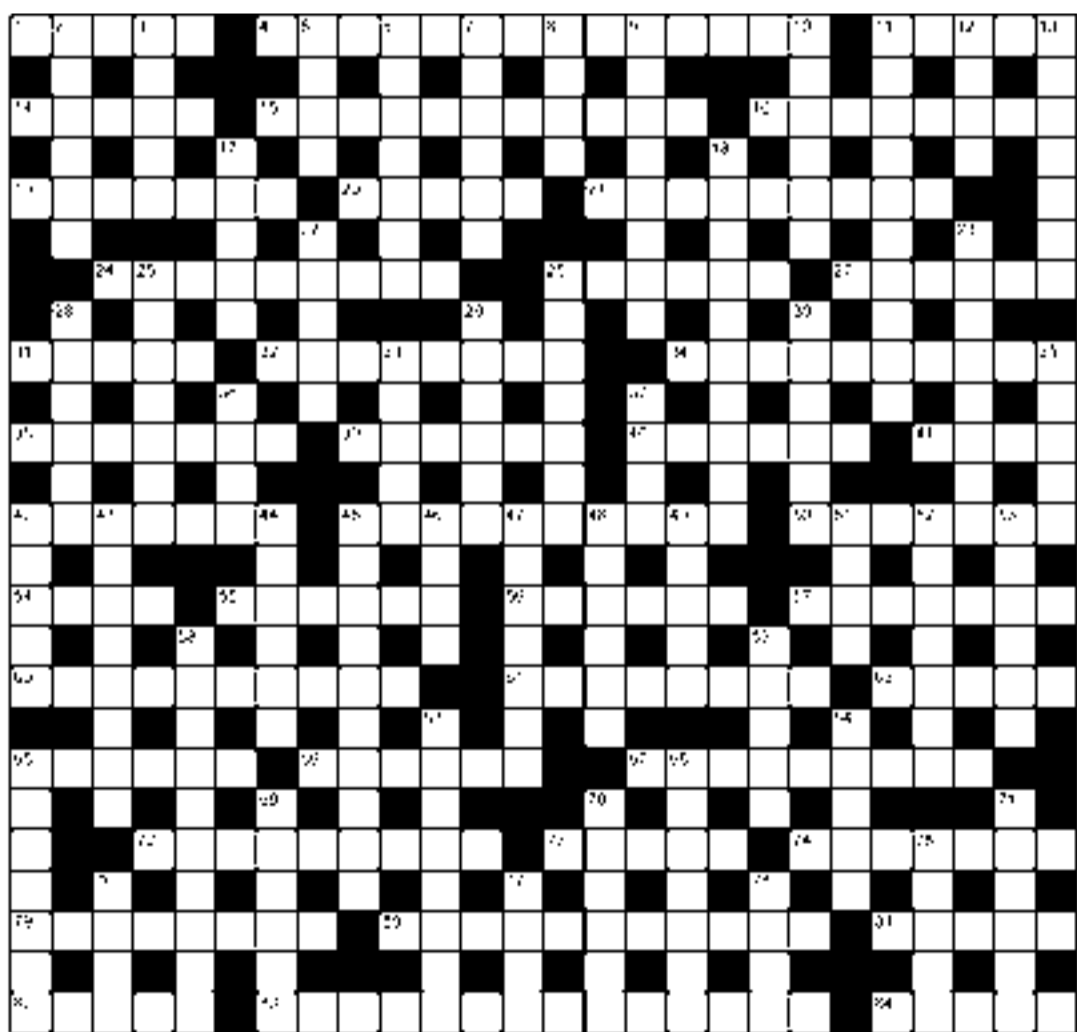
9	1	7	6	5	8	4	2	3
3	6	8	4	7	2	9	1	5
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5	3	9	2	4	1	6	7	8
2	7	6	9	8	5	1	3	4
8	4	1	7	3	6	2	5	9
7	2	3	1	9	4	5	8	6
1	8	4	5	6	7	3	9	2
6	9	5	8	2	3	7	4	1

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# JUMBO CROSSWORD

51

- ACROSS**
- 1 Inexpensive (5)
  - 4 One's home turf or place regularly visited (8,6)
  - 11 Illuminate (5)
  - 14 Mental picture (5)
  - 15 Problematic (11)
  - 16 Large snake (8)
  - 19 Common, widespread (7)
  - 20 Allegation (5)
  - 21 Inundate (9)
  - 24 Upward (9)
  - 26 Kindly (6)
  - 27 Break-out (6)
  - 31 Cat type (5)
  - 32 Intense unfounded suspicion (8)
  - 34 Made too low an estimate of (10)
  - 38 Long dry spell (7)
  - 39 Summer flower (6)
  - 40 Hard hat (6)
  - 41 Yonder (4)
  - 42 From Stockholm (7)
  - 45 Magnanimity (10)
  - 50 Knotted (7)
  - 54 Mountains (4)
  - 55 Dives (6)
  - 56 Improvement (6)
  - 57 At last (7)
  - 60 Electric torch (10)
  - 61 Spring flower (8)
  - 62 Over-particular (5)
  - 65 Songbird (6)
  - 66 Senseless talk (6)
  - 67 Light social conversation (5,4)
  - 72 Card game
- DOWN**
- 2 Hitting tool (6)
  - 3 Bandy words (5)
  - 5 Change direction (4)
  - 6 Foolishly tearful or sentimental (7)
  - 7 Set into surface (6)
  - 8 Long deep cut (4)
  - 9 Taking away (8)
  - 10 Rowboat (6)
  - 11 Dull, lifeless (10)
  - 12 Vanished (4)
  - 13 Tread on roughly (7)
  - 17 Lost colour (5)
  - 18 In the beginning (10)
  - 22 Model (5)
  - 23 Loyal (8)
  - 25 Toned down (7)
  - 26 Swaggering show of courage (7)
  - 28 Small in breadth (6)
  - 29 Dog breed (6)
  - 30 Least (6)
  - 33 Not sleeping (5)
- ACROSS**
- 35 Challenged (5)
  - 36 In this manner (4)
  - 37 Siamese (4)
  - 42 Neck warmer (5)
  - 43 Makes clear (8)
  - 44 US state (6)
  - 45 Got her meal (anag) (10)
  - 46 Construction in tree (4)
  - 47 Circular identifier on military aircraft (7)
  - 48 Cause to explode (3,3)
  - 49 Trunk (5)
  - 51 Corrosive liquid (4)
  - 52 Happening by degrees (7)
  - 53 Sign up (6)
  - 58 Temperature regulating device (10)
  - 59 Heading (5)
  - 63 General survey (8)
  - 64 Shop's merchandise on hand (5)
  - 65 Picks (7)
  - 68 African country (7)
  - 69 Move about restlessly (6)
  - 70 Winged child (6)
  - 71 Board (6)
  - 75 Ambition (5)
  - 76 Protracted (4)
  - 77 Netting (4)
  - 78 Soft cheese (4)



**PREVIOUS SOLUTION**

**ACROSS:** 1 Baffled, 4 Delphinium, 9 Possess, 13 Away, 14 Pupils, 15 Squabs, 16 Adjourn, 19 Entomology, 20 Eternity, 21 Visit, 24 Visual, 25 Theory, 27 Swifts, 32 Skeleton, 33 Poetry, 34 Offbeat, 38 Murderer, 39 Stride, 40 Itch, 41 Eyrie, 42 Spout, 45 The third degree, 52 Droop, 55 Adage, 56 Ludo, 57 Outlaw, 58 Pristine, 61 Gladden, 62 Uneasy, 63 Poignant, 66 Chorister, 68 Pledge, 69 Meagre, 73 Quill, 74 Bachelor, 76 Affiliated, 81 Admiral, 82 Opened, 83 Hollow, 84 Omen, 85 Begging, 86 Asphyxiate, 87 Reverse.

**DOWN:** 1 Brake, 2 Flautist, 3 Double, 4 Doing, 5 Loss, 6 Hosiery, 7 Nausea, 8 Urban, 10 Odds, 11 Stories, 12 Sprain, 17 Embankment, 18 Staff, 22 Top-notch, 23 Snuff, 24 Volumes, 26 Hits, 28 Working, 29 Client, 30 Behead, 31 Calico, 33 Prior, 35 Buyer, 36 Ergo, 37 Ache, 43 Puddle, 44 Urged, 46 Haul, 47 Trounce, 48 Isobar, 49 Ditty, 50 Examples, 51 Errant, 52 Disinherit, 53 Omit, 54 Precede, 59 Tears, 60 King, 64 Assay, 65 Egg timer, 67 Helping, 68 Paradox, 70 Muddle, 71 Plinth, 72 Vigour, 75 Hopes, 77 False, 78 Dense, 79 Main, 80 Whoa.



# GARDENING

## Weather looks good for gardening

Wishing you all a lovely Christmas with family and friends and a Happy New Year.

Niwa recently predicted the likelihood of above average temperatures and the possibility of a cyclone passing near the country, bringing heavy rain and strong winds. In general though the weather is looking good for gardening.

Keep up the watering if it is dry. If you are going away on holiday try to organise someone to water your garden, it would be a shame to let the produce go to waste.

### VEGETABLES

Continue sowings of dwarf and climbing beans for an extended harvest, and continue with further sowings of beetroot as well. Carrots - main season sowings made in November-December will be growing rapidly. Thin the small finger sized seedlings and use. This will encourage growth of those left behind. Midsummer is a time when carrot rust fly attacks. Protect crops with insect control, consider Neem granules also. Celery - Harvest outer stalks so plants can continue to grow through summer. Plant out further seedlings. Cabbage, Cauliflower and Broccoli: seedlings can be planted out but it is advisable to cover and protect from white butterfly caterpillars. Continue to harvest cucumbers and zucchini, watch the zucchini as they require daily picking. Early season pumpkins and squash will be ready for harvest. Eggplants and capsicum should be ready for harvest later



Harvest tomatoes as soon as they begin to colour. Photo: ROMAN ODINTSOV/PEXELS

in the month. Continue three-weekly sowings of lettuces and take advantage of any gaps in flower gardens also.

Potatoes - Continue harvesting once flowering is complete and the plants have died down. If not ready for harvest mound up the foliage to protect from the sun. Sweet Corn - October-November sowings of early maturing varieties will be ready for harvest by the third or fourth week of January. Harvest once the tassels have begun to shrivel and dry. Tomatoes - Harvest fruit as soon as they begin to colour, unless covered. Trim off bottom leaves as the fruit ripens progressively up the vine. This improves air circulation. Trim off laterals for the same reason.

### FLOWERS

Summer flower borders, including marigolds, petunias, nemesia, cosmos, delphinium and lavender, are in full bloom. Little atten-

tion is needed at this stage. Dead heading and keeping beds weed free is important, mulch if possible to retain moisture. Water in the early mornings or early evening. Also in full bloom will be gladioli, carnations, chrysanthemums. Dahlias and canna and calla lilies are starting to bloom.

### FRUIT

Main season harvesting begins for stone fruits, peaches, nectarines, plums and late season apricots. Early season apples start to ripen later in the month. Citrus will need constant irrigation if possible. Summer prune early season stone fruit trees. This replaces winter pruning and helps prevent silver leaf disease. Continue to harvest available fruits, apples, citrus, berries and grapes enjoy the fruits of your labour. Keep soil moist around all fruit trees if weather is dry and consider mulching.

- Ngatea Garden Circle

## Take care on our roads

Another Christmas is upon us and for many this brings an opportunity to spend time with the special people in their lives.

We have had another strange, unsettled year and finally borders are down and travel is largely unrestricted.

We definitely welcome visitors to our beautiful area and we ask everyone to plan ahead, take care, and to keep yourselves and everyone else safe, whether it be on our roads, on the water, or Covid-19 related.

Unfortunately, this early summer period has already seen a number of families dealing with the loss of a loved one, or coping with serious injuries from incidents on our roads. Our sincere thoughts and condolences are with these families.

That is why we do what we do as road policing members to try and prevent families having to go through that pain.

The message is simple and for us all: make it click, don't

move off before everyone's seatbelt is on, turn your phone off, and enjoy the scenery; slow down, don't speed.

It may not be you who makes the mistake, but the faster you go the bigger the mess.

Don't drink and then drive at all. Plan to get a sober driver, call a friend, or mum or dad - just don't get behind the wheel or on a motorcycle after drinking.

And parents: don't relax the rules just because it is summer; keep our young people safe. It's hot, we're out of lockdowns, school is finished, and there's a feeling of freedom, but this mixed with alcohol, cars, and water can be disastrous. As a community, we pulled together and weathered the Covid-19 storm. Let's do it again to overcome the summer challenges. From our blue family to yours, have a safe and happy Christmas.

- Sergeant Rachel Holmes, Thames-Coromandel and Hauraki Police



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3 New Moon	4 Non planting Day	5 Non planting Day	6 Non planting Day	7 Plant above ground Crops, Liquid Feed	8 Plant above ground Crops, Liquid Feed	9 Non planting Day
10 Non planting Day	11 Plant above ground crops	12 Plant above ground crops	13 Plant above ground crops	14 Non planting Day	15 Non planting Day	16 Plant above ground Crops, Liquid Feed
17 Plant above ground Crops, Liquid Feed	18 Full Moon	19 Non planting Day	20 Non planting Day	21 Non planting Day	22 Non planting Day	23 Non planting Day
24 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	25 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	26 Plant root crops, Liquid Feed	27 Plant root crops, Liquid Feed	28 Non planting Day	29 Non planting Day	30 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs

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SPORTS

# Trust Games 'imperative' for Life Stylers

By KELLEY TANTAU, Public Interest Journalism funded by NZ On Air

To make up for the loss of this year's Special Olympics, which was cancelled by the latest Covid-19 outbreak, the Supported Life Style Hauraki Trust hosted its own week-long 'Trust Games'.

Across five days, athletes performed in different disciplines: indoor bowls, athletics, swimming, bocce, and equestrian, and the trust's people and culture executive Tamara Marsden said it was "a week of smiles and laughter".

"We made it a fun event where Life Stylers and staff could participate if they wanted to, but [there was] no pressure. It was relaxed and more about joining in than concentrating on winning."

Back in August, *The Profile* reported on the 22 athletes from Special Olympics Thames Valley who were gearing up for the National Summer Games.

Of them were Carla Van Deventer (swimming), Henry Munro and Simon Ashby (bocce), Jonathan Read (athletics), and Kim Forrest (indoor bowls), who had been training

weekly.

But in October, the Special Olympics New Zealand board was "forced" to make the "heart-breaking" decision to postpone the games, held in Hamilton, to December 2022.

Chief executive Carolyn Young earlier said the latest outbreak and subsequent lockdown had put the games "at serious risk and could even jeopardise Special Olympics New Zealand".

So, the trust held their mini games, and Tamara said it helped to encourage other Life Stylers to participate and potentially join

the Specials Olympics team next year.

"The trust has two clear objectives: to provide quality support services for people with mixed abilities, and to promote and maintain the personal and cultural identity of Life Stylers, assisting them to achieve maximum physical, psychological and spiritual well being.

"These kinds of events are imperative," she said.

"The Trust Games brings all of this together through activities, teamwork, learning, growth, and fun for everyone involved. Whenever we ask

*"We made it a fun event ... It was relaxed and more about joining in than concentrating on winning."*

- Tamara Marsden



Competitors enjoyed the five-day event. INSET: Swimmers compete in the pool.

Photos: SUPPLIED

staff why they enjoy working at the trust, they reply because of Life Stylers, and events like these enable us to share the fun together and see Life Stylers enjoying life."

Tamara also commented that although the trust encouraged eating healthy foods, the participants requested pizza for dinner at their disco celebration.



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