

# The Valley Profile

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## 'Horrifying' treatment of retail staff

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

Fears that confrontations over the use of vaccine passports could turn physical is plaguing the Thames Business Association as the country shifts into the new traffic light system.

Chief executive Sue Lewis-O'Halloran told *The Profile* the association had been made aware of "horrifying" treatment and phone calls made to businesses over the Covid-19 prevention practises of mask-wearing and vaccine passports.

"It's getting worse, and the treatment of shop owners simply because people don't like their rules is really disturbing.

"It says more about the people yelling at the shop owner than it does about the shop owner," she said.

On Friday, the Thames Valley moved into the orange setting of the traffic light framework. At this level, people are legally required to provide their vaccine passports to enter places that have vaccination requirements in place, including hospitality venues, events, gatherings and gyms.

You cannot be asked to provide your pass to access basic needs services, such as supermarkets and essential health care.

But even before the Valley moved into this framework, Sue had seen instances of custom-

ers "damaging the reputation" of businesses that refused entry to those not abiding by Covid-19 protocols.

She feared the confrontations could escalate and turn physical.

"It makes me feel disappointed, angry, concerned. Everybody's mental health is taking a beating," she said.

"But these are rules, and rules are in place to protect us.

"I'm just worried it's going to become a physical issue."

The Thames Valley's traffic light level was assessed based on vaccination rates, the capacity of health and disability services to manage cases, testing and contact tracing, and the impact of Covid-19 on the economy and society.

Cabinet will review settings and provide an update on Monday, December 13.

Sue said adjusting to the regulations was going to be the new normal, and she encouraged customers to "please spare a thought for those serving you".

"It's not a right to be served, it is a privilege accorded to people who follow the rules," she said.

"And when you are offending a shop owner or his or her staff, chances are that shop is supporting this community, and the 'karma caravan' eventually does come around."



Nunia Halalilu performs at St Francis School's cultural show on December 2. MORE PHOTOS: P9 Photo: GORDON PREECE

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# Call out bad behaviour this Christmas

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

In extraordinary times there needs to be “extra vigilance and extra respect”, says the Hauraki Family Violence Intervention Network, as Covid-19 and Christmas begin to cross paths.

With the holiday season fast approaching, normal Christmas stresses were starting to combine with “vaccinated versus unvaccinated” issues and people reconnecting after long periods of time, network team member and spokesperson Sally Christie said.

She was at a White Ribbon event in Thames on November 25, held by the network, and received a lot of interest from passers-by.

“I think people still find it challenging to think about their own relationships... and to reflect on what they can do within their own homes and within their workplaces to challenge old thinking,” she said.

“What I’ve found over the years is that young people are learning about relationships differently than what us older people did; however, the challenges remain for them, and the stereotypes are still there.”

Sally said people still sometimes looked for “authoritarian” partners; however, pursuing relationships with those who were kind, empathetic,



Hauraki Family Violence Intervention Network spokesperson Sally Christie at the White Ribbon Day event in Thames last month. Photo: SUPPLIED

and found peaceful resolutions, potentially provided “much better outcomes”.

And with Christmas right around the corner, she said normal holiday-season stresses were combining with “vaccinated versus unvaccinated” issues and people reconnecting after long periods of time.

“My message would be to think before you speak; look after yourself really carefully so that your trigger spot or your fuse is as long as possible; and keep it simple. This is a Christmas like no other, so don’t try and have everything you normally would have.”

White Ribbon Day, held an-

nually on November 25, is an international day when people wear a white ribbon to show that they do not condone violence towards women.

According to White Ribbon NZ, most violence by men against women takes place in the home, with an average of 14 women a year killed by their partners or ex-partners.

Every year, there are more than 3500 convictions recorded against men for assaults on women, and one in five women will experience sexual assault or sexual interference at some point in their lives.

Sally said the network acknowledged there were different sorts of abuse, including same-sex abuse, and LGBTQ abuse.

The one-day events helped to raise awareness and create opportunities, but it was “only the beginning” of their work.

“We, as a network, need to be influencing workplaces and homes to treat each other differently and call out behaviour that isn’t okay,” she said.

“I’m sensing a lot of stress and uncertainty right through our community, so now is the time for extra vigilance and extra respect.”

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## Thames Tides

Wed Dec 8	Thu Dec 9	Fri Dec 10	Sat Dec 11	Sun Dec 12	Mon Dec 13	Tue Dec 14
Morning: 4:40am 0.2, 11:07am 3.8 Afternoon: 5:12pm 0.5, 11:28pm 3.6	Morning: 5:30am 0.4, 6:07pm 0.6 Afternoon: 12:00pm 3.7, 6:07pm 0.6	Morning: 12:21am 3.5, 6:22am 0.5 Afternoon: 12:54pm 3.6, 7:03pm 0.7	Morning: 1:14am 3.3, 7:16am 0.7 Afternoon: 1:50pm 3.5, 7:59pm 0.8	Morning: 2:09am 3.2, 8:16am 0.9 Afternoon: 2:47pm 3.4, 8:56pm 0.8	Morning: 3:07am 3.1, 9:21am 1.0 Afternoon: 3:43pm 3.3, 9:53pm 0.9	Morning: 4:09am 3.0, 10:25am 1.1 Afternoon: 4:37pm 3.2, 10:49pm 0.9
Sun: 5:51am 8:28pm	Sun: 5:51am 8:29pm	Sun: 5:51am 8:30pm	Sun: 5:51am 8:31pm	Sun: 5:52am 8:32pm	Sun: 5:52am 8:32pm	Sun: 5:52am 8:33pm
Best At: 4:34am 5:03pm	Best At: 5:32am 5:59pm	Best At: 6:24am 6:49pm	Best At: 7:12am 7:35pm	Best At: 7:57am 8:18pm	Best At: 8:39am 9:00pm	Best At: 9:20am 9:41pm
Rise: 9:30am	Set: 12:29am, Rise: 10:41am	Set: 1:07am, Rise: 11:50am	First Quarter, Set: 1:38am, Rise: 12:55pm	Set: 2:05am, Rise: 1:57pm	Set: 2:30am, Rise: 2:57pm	Set: 2:55am, Rise: 3:56pm

\*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 (G), Fair Fishing (F), Not So Good (B)

**TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES**

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

PLACE	Hr	Mn	Hr	Mn
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

# New National leader spends time in Thames

Before heading off to a National Party lunch at Gastronomics in Thames on Saturday, the new Leader of the Opposition, Christopher Luxon, spoke to *The Profile* about politics, his connection to the region, and his plans for Christmas.

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

If a Christopher Luxon-led National Party was in power tomorrow, the biggest issues he'd want to tackle would be education and infrastructure, with an ultimate end-goal to raise the country's productivity.

Capping off his first week as new leader of the National Party, Mr Luxon sat inside Coromandel MP Scott Simpson's office and spoke of his plans if successful at next year's general election.

"The bottom line is New Zealanders are some of the hardest working people on planet Earth, we work long hours, but we don't generate enough income to support the quality of life we want to have.

"That's been the biggest challenge for New Zealand over the last 30 years, but if we can fundamentally lift our productivity, or the value of stuff we produce, we get higher wages."

Mr Luxon said the "most startling statistic" he'd come across in the past 12 months was that only 60 per cent of

Kiwi kids attend school regularly.

He said education was "a critical enabler" of social mobility, and also the ability to participate, and ultimately, get higher paying jobs.

"When you see New Zealand has slipped to the bottom of the developed country rankings for maths, science, and reading; when you hear issues about literacy... These are things I thought we always did quite well, but what we've discovered is our educational standards have been slipping, and as a result, that means a whole generation can't participate in a global economy in the same way."

Mr Luxon was elected National MP for Botany in the 2020 election. He was chief executive for Air New Zealand for seven years and previously acted as chairman of Jacinda Ardern's Prime Minister's Business Advisory Council.

The day before he arrived in Thames, the double-jabbed politician was pounding the pavement along Auckland's Viaduct, speaking to business owners who had opened their doors after 107 days of lock-



New National Party leader Christopher Luxon, right, stops to talk to passers-by in Pollen St, alongside Coromandel MP Scott Simpson. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

down. He said walking the length of Pollen St - during which he stopped to chat to passers-by - wasn't much different than what he saw in the super city, with people utilising the new traffic light system to shop local.

"I used to come here a lot as a little boy because I belonged to something called Boys' Brigade, which was a bit like Scouts.

"We used to come here most

weekends and do hikes in this area, like the Kauaeranga Valley, and up to the Pinnacles.

"Likewise, I came here with the whole family for my mother's birthday a couple years back, to Karangahake Gorge, so it's a pretty special area," he said.

And when it comes to the fast-approaching Christmas season, Mr Luxon, who has two children with wife Amanda, said he'd try to "find a

beach somewhere" to spend the holidays.

"We've decided to learn to fish very badly, but it's something [Amanda] and I do, go on a boat and put some lines over and try to catch some snapper.

"Not as good as some fishermen I've observed in this part of the country but we give it a go," he said.



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# From cowshed to college's long-serving principal

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

**N**gaire Harris began her teaching career in a cowshed. Now, she's become Hauraki Plains College's longest serving principal.

Mrs Harris' stint in education began 30 years ago - she had no training as a teacher but then-principal Norman Pratt approached her to ask if she could help out when he was short of staff.

"Between helping on our dairy farm and bringing up four kids, I spent a lot of time tutoring maths at home. Norman literally parked outside the cowshed and insisted I get out of my overalls and give it a go," she told *The Profile*. "It changed everything."

From that point and until she became principal 20 years ago, she taught both history and maths, saying she enjoyed the change of pace these subjects provided.

She still tutors her grandchildren and gets back into the classroom if the college is short of a teacher. She also runs every morning.

"[Running] keeps me sane and gives me thinking time to figure out the day," she said.

The past few years have been challenging for the education sector and for the Ngatea school. Some students were stuck on the other side of the Auckland border during the Covid-19 restrictions.

Mrs Harris was one of five college staff who crossed the



Ngaire Harris has become Hauraki Plains College's longest serving principal.

Photo: SUPPLIED

border to help the students complete their NCEA qualifications.

"In any time of change, you have to step out on a 'maybe' - often an idea or impression about something that strengthens and persists with no guaranteed outcome," she said.

"One's leadership decisions get judged on uncertain out-

comes, but you have to be courageous and clear in spite of that. When the decision turns out not to be right, then you have to front up to the fall-out and learn to live with that."

But Mrs Harris' highlights throughout her 30-year career was "undoubtedly" seeing the students leave school each year "with a sense of purpose and di-

rection".

"I love hearing how their lives unfold," she said. "And often it is the little things that count; the student who says thank you or the parent who acknowledges the hard work."

"Schools are definitely a collaborative effort and I've had great support over the years from boards and staff."

Mrs Harris, who admits to being "fiercely" proud of her nine grandchildren, said she felt very privileged to serve the HPC community.

"Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly is what I try to live by," she said.



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## Academic Senior Awards



### Bree McCowatt

Dux, Lynn Penrhys-Evans Memorial Prize and Leonard Cup.  
**Career Path:** Bachelor of Exercise and Sports Science, Bond University.



### Reeve Benny

All-Round Excellence, Maori Student.  
Vee Port Trophy.  
**Career Path:** Bachelor of Health Science, Auckland University.



### Jorjza Dalton

Good Citizenship, Hauraki RSA Award.  
**Career Path:** Bachelor of Nursing, Waikato University.



### Morgan Harris

Proxime Accessit, Hauraki Plains Jaycee Cup and Ngatea District High School Award.  
Contribution to Corporate Life of the College, Tennent Prize.  
**Career Path:** Environmental Science, Waikato University



### Brooke Douglas

Top Vocational Pathway Student, Vocational Excellence Award.  
**Career Path:** Building for a year, then off to Waikato University.



### Sarah Blake

Most Outstanding Student Work, Scoggins Hancock Trophy  
**Career Path:** Bachelor of Communications Waikato University.



### Alexander Veldsman

Manaakitanga Trophy  
**Career Path:** Bachelor of Communication, Waikato University.

### Samantha Jennings

Manaakitanga Trophy  
**Career Path:** Bachelor of Social Science, Waikato University.



### Joseph Goudie

Rangatiratanga Trophy  
**Career Path:** Bachelor of Psychology, Massey University.



### Nicholas Hutt

Kaitiakitanga Trophy  
Flocks Trophy  
Overall Top Student S.T.E.M (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).  
**Career Path:** Gap year



### Emma Gordon

Supreme Effort, Delia Cullen Memorial Cup.  
**Career Path:** Bachelor of AgriScience, Lincoln University



### Anastazy Rotzel-Hannibal

Kaitiakitanga Trophy  
**Career Path:** Gap year.



### Maggie Martin

Rangatiratanga Trophy  
**Career Path:** Business Law, Auckland University

# Pavs, cream, and custard on hot-ticket list

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

The Christmas season might be right around the corner, but for supermarket workers, a build-up plagued by Covid-19 has meant summer couldn't come soon enough.

Paeroa Countdown store manager Alice Davidson told *The Profile* she was looking forward to the impending holiday season, because while it did bring some added stresses, it was also the time of year to "have fun".

"This year, with the lead-up being the way it has been for the staff, I think it will be a relief to hit December and to be able to have some fun," she said.

"The resilience of the staff has been amazing. They're an incredible bunch of people."

The Covid-19 outbreak in August presented a "changing environment" for the team, she said, with outdoor queuing to abide by and social distancing measures and mask-wearing being the new normal when it came to supermarket shopping. There were also difficulties with stock, as international and national borders remained restricted.

"We have customers who are loyal who have been with us through thick and thin. There have been some struggles with supply, and they've still given us the chance to improve," she said.

"This year is going to be particularly different, with Covid being present at Christmastime where it wasn't last year."

Alice said when it came to ordering Christmas stock, Count-



Paeroa Countdown store manager Alice Davidson says strawberries, cream, custard, and pavlovas are always hot-ticket items over summer.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

down used an automatic system, based on growth and sales in comparison to the previous year.

She said strawberries, cream, custard, and pavlovas were always hot-ticket items. "We think about what's popular this year, what our customers will want to purchase, how hot it is... stuff like that. It can be hard to predict."

She hoped Auckland's border

opening would have a good flow-on effect for Paeroa, and encouraged shoppers to keep safe while shopping this Christmas season.

"Particularly with Covid, if customers could take their time when they're here, be organised, have a list, and be kind to the team, we will do our best to get you what you need."

Meanwhile, Thames Four

Square owner Nalin Patel said they ordered their Christmas stock back in June - and they've received "most of it".

"We've got the stock but I don't know whether we can reorder it if we run out. If customers want it, they'll have to grab it now," he said.

Typically, Aucklanders who visited Thames for Christmas or en-

route to their holiday destination didn't "stock up" on items, Nalin said. Instead, they bought products for their family.

"When they come here from Auckland, they usually have forgotten a gift, or they get an invitation to somebody's place all of a sudden," he said.

"When international borders open, then it will be busier."

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# Investment in housing ‘seriously lagging’

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

Thames is at capacity. Fewer than 40 new houses a year have been built in the town over the last decade, and a lack of forward planning and investment means the houses that are available are old and of low quality.

The district council’s new spatial plan turns its attention south - to where “optimum” land could be developed and where properties could be built in a town where homes are hard to come by. The Thames and Surrounds spatial plan will inform changes to the Thames-Coromandel council’s district plan, and will signal to land owners, developers, and investors the council’s growth intentions for the area.

Mayor Sandra Goudie says it is “imperative” new homes get built.

“You try buying a house in Thames,” she says. “We’ve got none.”

According to council, the average age of homes in Thames was around 55 years. It’s due to a “seriously lagging” investment in infrastructure, compounded by the fact that there is a high proportion of second homes which sit empty for most of the year.

Housing stock for working families is of low-quality and much older than the NZ average, it says.

There is an upside though, there is land in Totara Valley, Matatoki North, Puriri and



Creating more housing in Thames has been a long-term issue for Mayor Sandra Goudie. She stands up Totara Valley Rd where land could potentially be developed. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

Kauaeranga Valley. These greenfield areas have the potential to be readily serviced with infrastructure for residential development of up to 1000 new homes.

“People don’t see what’s available off the main trunk line,” Mayor Goudie says.

“Thames goes beyond the Kauaeranga River, it goes all the way to Hikutaia. People need to think a little more outside the confines of what they class as Thames, because Thames has got a greater breadth than that, and it’s real potential lies in going south.”

On a Tuesday morning up the

top of the Totara Valley, Mayor Goudie points out the land that has potential to be developed into mixed-density housing.

“There’s a number of people with property up here that would like to develop it... and if you were going to develop, there’s plenty of land that would be suitable for it.”

“It’s just getting the points of connection, the stars to align, to make it happen, hence the need for infrastructure for Totara Valley because the potential here is great.”

Mayor Goudie says 25 per cent of council’s own workforce lives outside the district, while police,

teachers, and hospital personnel are also struggling to find places to live, preferring to commute from elsewhere.

She says it’s urgent that new, affordable housing near Thames is built so that businesses can attract skilled employees.

To this end, council has applied for \$17.5m in funding from Kainga Ora/Housing New Zealand’s Infrastructure Asset Fund to pay for roading, water and waste-water infrastructure to unlock land for urban development in Thames’ south.

The next step is to submit a ‘Request for Proposal’ by early December.

Public meetings for the spatial plan are also being held this week.

“We need to plan for the long term, we need to plan for resilience, and we need to make sure [we build on] alleviated ground, and that’s why south of Thames on the eastern side of the state highway is the optimum,” Mayor Goudie says.

Housing has been a long-term issue for the two-term mayor. Back in 2018, she told Te Ao Māori News that Thames was facing a housing shortage that needed to be addressed immediately.

But perhaps the stars won’t align quick enough for Mayor Goudie to see a district plan change before she retires.

Council’s district plan controls the way land is used and subdivided in the district, and when asked whether she is hoping to see progress made on remedying the housing shortfall before she hangs up the mayoral chains, she says: “I would’ve loved to have seen a district plan change lodged before I retire”.

**DETAILS: Spatial Plan Public Meetings will be held on December 8 at the Thames Civic Centre; December 9 at the Kauaeranga Hall; and December 13 as an online meeting open to all. Email: mitch.king@tcdc.govt.nz. Drop in for a chat from 4pm. Presentation starts at 6pm with questions and discussion until 7.30pm.**



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# Moanataiari School students hit the capital

By GORDON PREECE

Protesters outside the Beehive was one of many experiences Moanataiari School students had on their recent trip to Wellington.

The three-day trip, which aimed to give 50 year six, seven and eight students the opportunity to see how government works, was described as “eventful” by staff member Julie White.

“We were supposed to fly down from Auckland and catch the train back from Wellington but we couldn’t because of Covid-19, so we ended up catching a bus there and back from Thames,” she said.

“We were also hoping to go into the debating chambers at Parliament to see the structure of society and see how we come to the decisions we make but that also came to a halt because of Covid-19.”

While much of the Beehive trip was plagued by Covid-19, teacher Andrea Saunders said the students were entertained by protesters and got to meet up with Coromandel MP Scott Simpson and New Zealand’s Business and Parliament Trust to ask questions and take photos on Parliament Grounds.

The students also took part in tenpin bowling, crocodile bikes and visited Wellington Zoo, Te Papa and He Tohu Na-



Moanataiari School students on Parliament’s steps with Coromandel MP Scott Simpson.

Photo: SUPPLIED

tional Library, which houses New Zealand’s most significant documents, including the 1840 Treaty of Waitangi, the 1893 Women’s Suffrage Petition and New Zealand’s Declaration of Independence.

Year eight students Khloe Nottingham, Jacob White and Eliza Carter described their Wellington trip as enjoyable.

“My favourite part was going to Parliament because I saw other people’s opinions and learned it’s okay to share your opinion,” Khloe said.

Asked whether she’d consider politics after her visit, Khloe laughed “probably not.”

Jacob said his favourite part was their scavenger hunt along Wellington’s Waterfront and

Eliza said hers was visiting Te Papa as it’s somewhere she’d always wanted to go and it was “very amazing.”

Mrs Saunders said the trip was overall a fantastic time and the school planned to make a city excursion every three years.

“We worked hard and fundraised right from pretty much February so it was a really col-

lective effort to get there, which we think was an awesome experience for the children but also connected all their families and us with the community,” she said.

“We ended up raising nearly \$20,000 on our own which was pretty amazing so it made it more meaningful for the children.”

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# Pinnacle Coffee roast for locals' coffee fix

Perched in the Kauaeranga Valley up a steep gravel driveway is Mangotahi Lodge, where the sound of coffee roasting has coexisted with the sound of native birds for the past three years.

This is where owners Stephen Cox and Karyn Russell formed Pinnacle Coffee after Stephen drew inspiration from coffee farms he saw on his motorbike trips to Vietnam and Borneo.

"I really enjoyed the Vietnamese coffee and a chance meeting through a mutual friend saw us racing up to Auckland Airport for a brief meeting and then before we knew it, we were bringing in samples of coffee from Vietnam," he said.

Stephen and Karyn went with Vietnamese beans because they wanted that point of difference – Vietnamese coffee is not very well known in New Zealand even though Vietnam is the second largest producer of coffee in the world after Brazil.

They then purchased a coffee roaster and espresso machine and took a few coffee roasting courses, read a lot and sought direction from a few contacts before being invited for a tour of the company that now supplies their beans from Vietnam.

"We visited some of the small coffee farms where they are all taught to grow organically and we also took a coffee roasting course in Thailand with a master coffee roaster," Karyn said.

Karyn then designed the Pinnacle Coffee logo, which was based on Mangotahi Lodge's logo representing the nearby



Stephen Cox with Pinnacle Coffee's roaster, left, bags of coffee beans, above right, and exploring Vietnam coffee farms, right.



Photos: SUPPLIED

Pinnacles and Kauaeranga river.

The name Pinnacle Coffee was suggested to Stephen by a guest staying at their lodge at the time.

"We had lots of different ideas for our brand name but Pinnacle Coffee made sense, it was right in front of us and we didn't even think about it," Karyn laughs.

Since Pinnacle Coffee first started roasting, they've been slowly gaining momentum.

"During lockdown last year, we had people phoning us asking

for our coffee and ordering our coffee online so we started delivering to letterboxes. It's just got bigger and bigger with more and more customers every week – we have amazing local support," Karyn said.

"We've already gone through a huge amount of beans we ordered in May so the growth is definitely there," Stephen said.

Pinnacle Coffee can be found in the following local stores – Lotus Realm and The Backroom

Café, Savour & Spice, Re-store Eco Market in Thames, and Aspire Refillery & Eco Store in Whangamata.

"Keeping our business local allows us to connect more with locals," Karyn said. "We wanted to sell direct to consumers so they can make and enjoy good fresh coffee at home."

Stephen, who is also a contract engineer in Thames, looks after the roasting while Karyn, who's also a business manager

in Hamilton, manages the orders, packaging, deliveries, and marketing – it's a team effort.

Pinnacle Coffee also has a strong focus on sustainability.

The couple have started making re-usable tote bags from their coffee bean sacks, their coffee grinds go into worm warms, gardens or fire starters and their packaging, which is locally sourced, is home compostable.

- GORDON PREECE



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**Kauaeranga Valley, Thames**





# Cultures celebrated

Many different cultures were celebrated at St Francis School's annual Cultural Show on December 2, including Pasifika, Māori, Indonesian, Tongan, Indian and Filipino. Principal Oliver Fahey said parents worked with children from several schools to create dances and costumes. "The songs and performances all tell important cultural stories," he said. Children also sang Christmas carols in the church. Reporter **GORDON PREECE** captured some of the colour and action on the day.



Luke Mason, centre, leads the haka.



Children take part in a Filipino flower performance.

Photos: GORDON PREECE



Tongan boys entertain the crowd.



An Indian performance delighted the audience.



Leiana, left, Alby Tukia and Lupe.



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# Rural Life



Max Laurie throws a pile of branches pruned from a pecan tree into the kiln to fuel the biochar.

RIGHT: Local biochar "expert" Shakēd From stands by a bag of finished biochar at another workshop.

Photos: SUPPLIED



## Biochar inspires up Kauaeranga Valley

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

A charcoal with an array of agricultural and environmental benefits was created in a kiln up the Kauaeranga Valley last month, as orchardists, farmers, and forestry workers watched on.

Biochar, a fine-grained, highly porous type of charcoal that has been used for thousands of years as a soil enhancer, was the star of the show at a field day hosted at Harry Parke's Pakaraka Organic Farm near Thames.

Landcare Trust's Ric Balfour told *The Profile* local biochar "expert" Shakēd From led the day, inspiring workshop attendees to undertake their own biochar production at home.

"I knew a little bit about biochar, but seeing and hearing how many different ways it can be used - even just fed to cattle - was the biggest impression I had."

Mr Balfour said biochar can be bought at the front gates of farms or at garden centres, but the workshop discussed the method and materials that could be used to make the charcoal at home.

"The fuel can just about be anything from branches, to prunings, to corn stalks or even dried grass. The main thing is that you're trying to keep the charcoal intact, rather than turning it to white ash, which doesn't have

**WHAT IS BIOCHAR?:**  
*Biochar is a fine-grained charcoal that is high in organic carbon and resistant to decomposition. It is produced from heating (generally burning) organic materials to hot temperatures under oxygen limited conditions. The resulting carbon is stable and will stay in this form for hundreds of years. It is used to improve soil and has many uses including as a supplement to feed livestock to improve growth rates, lower methane production, and reduce drenching needs.*

More information at: [www.bnnz.org.nz](http://www.bnnz.org.nz).

the properties biochar has."

He said biochar could be made from a pit in the ground, but it could be more easily controlled using an old bathtub - an object he was planning to acquire to test out the process. The hands-on demonstra-

tion during the field day had the attendees load a kiln that a group of landowners in the Kauaeranga Valley all chipped in to have made locally by Kōpū Engineering.

"At each stage, Shakēd explained the biochar production practices along with tips and tricks he had learned," Mr Balfour said.

"Depending on the scale of the biochar kiln, it can be simple or more complex depending on the end use and the amount of fuel at hand.

"For our demo, Harry Parke provided a pile of branches from pecan tree pruning that had been sitting since last autumn and were dry enough."

The kiln was lit and needed about six to eight rounds of feeding the flames before water was introduced to the bottom of the kiln - which helped "charge" the charcoal for its later release into soil, he said.

Charging the charcoal is done with a range of material including compost, urine, clay, and manure as a way of augmenting it into what is then technically biochar.

It then needs to sit damp for up to six weeks before it is applied to the soil, either directly or ground into fragments and mixed with stock feed or spread on the ground.



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# Rural Life

## Demand for raw milk grows year on year

By GORDON PREECE

A desire to allow public access to affordable milk and see why dairy farming is environmentally friendly were some of the main drivers behind Glenda and Neil Gray establishing Buttercup Dairies four years ago.

Neil, whose great grandfather settled on the Hauraki Rd farm in 1911, said the MPI-registered raw milk business in Turua had been growing every year, with roughly 2000 litres of raw milk sold weekly from two vending machines.

"We've had people come from Coromandel, Katikati, Morrinsville, Te Aroha, Hamilton and before the recent lockdown had a reasonable number of customers from Auckland come down to get 20 or 30 litres," he said.

"We keep our milk at a low selling price to provide an affordable product for everyone."

Glenda said Buttercup Dairies had a deliberately installed viewing window so people could see how dairy farming worked and prove they're not "dirty farmers".

"They can see our cow shed, they can see how our effluent is collected and sprayed on the paddocks and can see we're not polluting the waterways," she said.

"They've removed a lot of their misconceptions about dairying, so that's been a real positive story for the dairy industry for a lot of town people."

Buttercup Dairies operates on 7ha of Glenda and Neil's 180ha commercial dairy farm, with an



Neil and Glenda Gray on their Turua dairy farm.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

average of 20 jersey cows involved in the raw milk production.

Glenda said there were a few regulations involved with bringing the cows in from their commercial operation.

"We wanted to do A2 milk so we've DNA tested the bulk of our commercial herd and we have a group of young cows who produce the A2 protein," she said.

"We milk in a separate cow shed so the cows don't mix.

"Everything's a low stress envi-

ronment which makes them happy and healthy cows."

Buttercup Dairies is also Welfarm accredited, which is a new initiative through vets to help farmers with better animal welfare practices.

"Being Welfarm accredited is a big tick for us to prove we are walking the talk," Neil said.

"We don't want to make anyone sick from drinking our milk so we have strict processes in how we milk our cows so we're always top

quality milk," Glenda said.

"Every morning we wash the cows udders and teats and spray them with iodine spray to kill any bugs then leave them to dry before milking."

"We then spray them with chlorhexidine based spray to keep their teats clean."

Buttercup Dairies also have a lot of requirements for testing their milk.

"When we first started, every week we had to take our milk to

Hamilton and Auckland to check for anything which can impact the milk quality, including mastitis, coliforms, pathogens and contaminants.

"It was quite a substantial cost to get raw milk to them in a small time frame at a low temperature to get those test results. Because we've never returned a positive test, we now have a slightly reduced milk testing regime."

The couple have a 30-hour window to sell the milk, which is changed daily, and any left over is used to feed calves.

"For us it's quite a good model because our carbon footprint to produce this milk is extremely low. We don't have to transport it to a processing site, we don't have to spend energy to heat it up and cool it down and transport it back to a shop," Neil said.

Because Buttercup Dairies is grass-based only, summer is their biggest challenge for keeping a consistent volume of milk for their operation.

"That's when we feed our cows our silage supplement and if we need to we can bring two extra cows in," Neil said.

"A nice wet summer would be great."

Their customers enjoyed the reusable glass bottles, which saved around 600 plastic milk bottles being used each week, and they gave positive feedback all the time, she said.

"Once they've tasted [our milk] they'll never go back to buying anything else."

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## Rural Life

# Local vet clinics merge

On December 1, Waihi Vets became part of Franklin Vets, a New Zealand owned and operated veterinary practice with 10 clinics across Hauraki, North Waikato and South Auckland.

Franklin Vets chief executive Mark Hosking said Waihi Vets was a perfect fit for their practice.

“It has a strong service offering and a great reputation in the local area. We already have a strong presence in the Hauraki region with our Waitakaruru, Kōpū, Paeroa and Coromandel clinics, and Waihi brings a natural synergy, for both our existing clinics and the Waihi team,” he said.

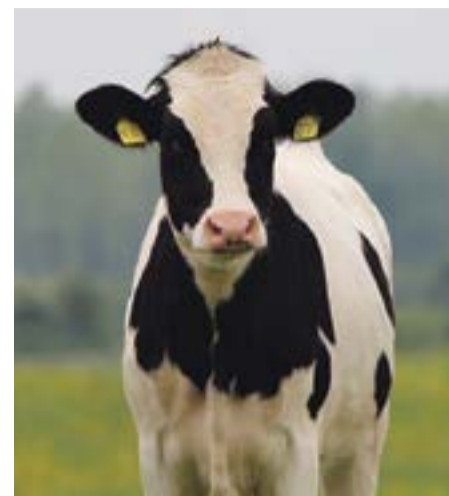
“I am pleased to announce that the Waihi Vets team will all be staying on and becoming part of the Franklin Vets team.

“This is great news for clients who will continue to see familiar faces but will also benefit from the resources and skills of the wider practice. The Waihi team will also provide much-welcomed support to the practice’s wider Hauraki veterinary team.”

Franklin Vets has a long history, having been established 77 years ago in Pukekohe with one vet who covered from One Tree Hill in the north to Kaiarau, Mercer and Waiuku in the south.

It has always been committed to excellence and has steadily grown and now offers expertise in commercial and lifestyle farms, companion animals and equine veterinary care.

Having expertise in a variety of areas



Waihi Vets has become part of Franklin Vets.

File Photo: PIXABAY

ensures a high standard of services and professionalism, (four of its clinics are BESTPRACTICE accredited), and the ability to attract the right people to the team.

Despite its size, Franklin Vets has retained its small team approach, allowing its people to build strong relationships with their clients.

The company is owned by 15 shareholders who all work within the business ensuring it is truly locally owned and operated – “boots on the ground” as they say.

The team is also passionate about the role it plays as a part of its communities, both rural and urban, and looks forward to supporting local schools and sports clubs in Waihi.



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# Colour Harmonics sculpture returns home

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

A popular and “way recognisable” Thames sculpture has been reinstated after high winds toppled it in early September.

The *Colour Harmonics: Homage to Richard Pearse* sculpture by artist Michael Smither was knocked over by rough weather and was removed from its location within the Burke Street Reserve, where it had stood for more than 10 years.

It was repaired, and with a new foundation by Watson Engineering and a new plinth poured by Thames Public Art Trust’s Paul Silvester and Rob Johnston, the sculpture was now stronger than ever.

“It’s perfectly stable. There’s no way that’s falling over,” Mr Johnston told *The Profile*.

Michael Smither’s colourful sculpture has been a focal point of the Thames waterfront for a number of years and was now “way recognisable”, Mr Johnston said.

“During the process of being down there and working, a lot of people were walking past asking when it was going back and what was happening. It’s certainly popular.

“It’s the only [sculpture] out there by Moanataiari, but you can imagine some more along there over time.”

The piece has been in the backdrop of many social media posts, and has become a form of play equipment, to some extent, but Mr Johnston said some sculptures were “begging” to be touched. “Some people think



A sculptural ‘focal point’ along the Thames coastal walkway has been reinstated after high winds toppled it in early September. Photo: SUPPLIED

it’s a terrible thing to touch and climb on it, but my take on sculpture is that it’s definitely a tactile thing. It’s something that should be touched,” he said.

“I know ancient Greek marble sculptures don’t like being touched because of oils on peoples’ hands, but sculptures, in

general terms, they’re not just for the eyes like a painting. I think, therefore, some of them are susceptible to being climbed on.”

In a post on social media, Thames-Coromandel District Council thanked Thames Public Art Trust and Watson Engineering for reinstalling the piece.

“The sculpture has been replaced on a new reinforced concrete plinth, which means it will stand up to the elements much better.”



# Police training in Paeroa

A police training exercise at the former Paeroa Racecourse on December 9 will be one of many taking place in the Waikato district as part of a recently announced Tactical Response Model.

Last month, Police Commissioner Andrew Coster announced Waikato was one of four policing districts that will trial the new model, which is designed around enhancing frontline training; improving frontline access to specialist capability; and strengthening risk-based deployment and technology.

The Waikato East Area training day was being held in Paeroa because it was centrally located, a police spokesperson told *The Profile*.

The exercise, held from 9am-3pm, will be undertaken by specially skilled and trained staff, and will focus on providing frontline staff with enhanced training to deal with high risk situations, police said.

It includes responding to critical incidents, planning responses, and scenario-based training, and will involve firearms and yelling and loud noises may be heard. There will be no live ammunition used and there will be no danger to anyone, police said.

“Over the past year, there has been a great deal of work undertaken by police’s Frontline Safety Improvement Programme that took onboard concerns and ideas to improve safety for more than 1250 staff,” the spokesperson said.

“The training will help provide our people with enhanced tactical skills to deal with dynamic and fast-moving situations, building on their capabilities to do their job and keep the public safe.”

There will also be some training days held in January and February.

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# Neavesville store levelled by fire



As part of a Valley Profile series, **MEGHAN HAWKES** explores our local history by seeking out stories of life and death in the Thames Valley

The sound of a falling tree during a Sunday night in November 1899 only slightly disturbed William Andrews of Neavesville. He had spent several busy hours that day with Ephraim Byrne, store-keeper and gum trader, who lived nearby before leaving at dusk. Silence once again descended over the night noises of Neavesville and he thought no more of it.

Early next morning some workmen were startled to come across the ruins of Ephraim's store which had been levelled by fire. On looking over the wreckage they were horrified to discover the remains of Ephraim. His dog has also been killed. A message was sent to Puriri and the police sent for. After inspecting the debris Detective McMahon brought Ephraim's remains over to Puriri in a small candle box.

At the inquest held at Laycock's Hotel, Puriri, Mr Kemp stated that he had last seen



Neavesville, 1896.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Ephraim alive at 3 o'clock on Sunday afternoon. He was then in his store, and appeared in good health. He had known him for the past 12 years and lived less than 50 yards from him. Kemp was one of the workmen who discovered the remains of the unfortunate man. Ephraim's body was not found where he usually slept and he was of opinion that he had tried to escape from the burning building. He had no idea how the fire originated; Ephraim was not in the habit of reading in bed. He had no reason to suspect foul play.

There were three huts near the store inhabited by gum diggers, and they were all friendly with Ephraim. William Andrews said that he now believed that the noise which he had thought was a tree falling had actually been the roof of the store caving in. Detective McMahon stated that the fireplace appeared to be a safe one, and was still standing. He had made inquiries, but had heard of nothing that would lead him to believe that the case was

one of arson. There had been a quantity of gum in the store.

The verdict was given that Ephraim died in the fire that destroyed his store but there was no evidence to show how the fire occurred. Ephraim was 60 and had lived by himself for a considerable time. He had relatives at North Head, Devonport, and also several friends at Thames where he had once lived.

The fire was quite likely caused by the spontaneous combustion of gum but questions lingered. When Madame Heller, who specialised in Somnancy, a type of clairvoyance, appeared at the Thames Miner's Union Hall she was asked how Ephraim Byrne of Neavesville had met his death. She gave what were believed to be the true facts of the case, adding that he made a struggle to leave the burning building, but was suffocated and burned to death - details that were easily divined from local newspaper reports.

Ephraim is buried at Shortland cemetery.

# Christmas tree appeal cancelled

The November meeting of the Goldfields Women's Institute commenced with the Aspiration and Prayer. Thoughts were given to any member who has not been well during the past month. The Motto - "Anyone who keeps the ability to see beauty, never grows old" was read by Kate Wood. Birthday girl for November was Helen Udy and in December, Carol Cresswell and Jeannine Oliver will be celebrating. The Roll Call - A Favourite Christmas present ever, had many members relating their childhood presents, especially receiving a precious new doll. Raffles were won by Bev Schenkel, Val Bowen and Jean Brady. A report was given on the great day Federation put on for the Bi Annual & Over 80's Luncheon which members enjoyed. Two lovely toys have been donated to a local baby who is having a liver transplant in the near future, and also over the next month, boxes of baby knitting are being prepared for the New Born Unit Waikato Hospital, Thames Birthing Unit and Women's Refuge. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 we are unable to hold our annual Christmas Tree Appeal this year. Members are upset that this will not happen, but hopefully life will return to normal by next Christmas. Over the past two months, members have been finding out a lot more history in regards to the Women's Institute to inform our new members. Helen Udy showed members books that have been produced over the years and other members also spoke about their experiences. Many other stories were related and hopefully this will help newer members to understand why we all enjoy being part of the Women's Institute in New Zealand.

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

**KEREPEHI WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**  
The Kerepehi Women's Institute's November meeting was held at the Kerepehi Bowling Club recently after four months away. President Elaine Jolliffe welcomed seven members, who observed a minute's silence as one of our members, Ethel Fowell, had passed away since our last meeting. RIP Ethel, we will all miss you. Bev Adamson read the thought for the month: A smile is the prettiest thing you can wear, and Elaine Jolliffe won our raffle. Our fundraising raffle books were also given out to members and will be drawn at our December meeting. Our final meeting for this Covid year will be held at Kerepehi Bowling Club on December 14, when we will be having a Christmas lunch we will all be catering for. Roll calls were: Christmas stocking: 1 Bev Adamson; 2 Carolyn Giles. Knitted slippers: 1 Bev Adamson; 2 Jan Edmonds; 3 Carolyn Giles. 13 pairs were given to the Women's Refuge. We also had a roll call for the food bank and 14 cans of tinned food were given. Debbie Smith delivered them to Paeroa trust food bank and they were pleased to get them. Flower Competitions: Bloom: 1 Jan Edmonds; 2 Marion van eyk; 3 Elaine Jolliffe. Spike: 1 Marion van eyk; 2 Bev Adamson; 3 Jan Edmonds. Shrub: 1 Bev Adamson; 2 Carolyn Giles; 3 Elaine Jolliffe. Vegetable: 1 Jan Edmonds; 2 Marion Van eyk; 3 Bev Adamson. Herb: 1 Jan Edmonds; 2 Kris Barnes; 3 Carolyn Giles.

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# Thames Coast Kindergarten gets new mural

By GORDON PREECE

The Thames Coast Community Kindergarten has been given the butterfly effect.

Janet Jones, who retired as Paeroa Central School's principal in 2018, was "volunteered" by her daughter Jess to paint a new mural for the Te Puru kindergarten, where her grandchildren Neko and Mae have attended.

"I'm very pleased to be able to give something back to the local community and to an organisation that helps small children," Janet said.

Janet, who lives in Thornton Bay, enjoys painting and drawing and was asked by Thames Coast Community Kindergarten to do a bright and cheerful mural.

"When I came and had a look there's swan plants out the front and there happened to be monarch butterflies the day I came, which all children love, so I thought it was a good mural topic," she said.

"I loved it when I was painting here and the children would come up and say what they liked about it and there's been a good positive response to it from the community as they've walked past.

"I thank the kindy who were so tolerant of me taking three months to paint it and providing the space to do it."



Janet Jones, far right, and Thames Coast Community Kindergarten are delighted with the new mural.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

So far, Janet's also painted murals with children at Puriri, Waitakaruru and Nether-ton schools, and most recently completed a mural at Te Puru School earlier this year. Next, she plans to paint a new mural on the Kopu Station Hotel wall.

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# Summer camp

It was that time of year when Ngatea Primary School students packed their sleeping bags and summer clothes and headed out on their Whetu Camp. The kids had fun swimming, go-kart driving, and bike riding.



Kids enjoy a sausage sizzle at the pool for lunch.



Haven and Shirley take on the pool toy.

Photos: NGATEA PRIMARY SCHOOL



The Wild Dogs tent group take a break.



Boys climb high on the playground.



The Devil's Suns tent group outside their tent.

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Rach Stewart Photography @rachstewartnz



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and uncovered outdoor play areas. The 1366m2 site area has two titles, 10 carparks and three road frontages. Kids Collective are excellent operators partway through a 10-year lease ending in 2025 and two x five rights of renewal. There is a current rent of \$156,066.00 + GST p.a. and built in CPI increases.

**Deadline Sale**

Tuesday 21 Dec 4:00pm (No Prior Sale)  
View By Appointment

**Matt Bowie**

M 027 337 2916  
matt.bowie@naiharcourts.co.nz



**Nature survey for Paeroa forest**

Paeroa Streamcare and Paeroa College will team up to carry out a nature survey of the Millennium Forest in the gully beside Aorangi Rd this week.

The Millennium forest was planted by Paeroa school students in September 2000 and the seedlings and saplings they planted have now grown into trees high enough to provide shade and shelter for ferns and other native plants.

But as well as the natives, the forest has also become home to a multitude of introduced plants, including problem weeds such as privet, honeysuckle, jasmine and wandering willy.

The nature survey, to be held on December 9, will involve a tally of most of the native and introduced plants to be found. The students will be asked to note and identify all the plants, native and introduced, in sample plots located at different points across the gully.

Despite its small size, the Millennium Forest supports three or four different types of ecosystems, including the stream itself, the swampy flat areas beside the stream, the steep gully sides and the tops.

Each of those areas have different conditions of light or shade, soil moisture and depth, and windiness; and those elements influence the kind of plants that like to grow there.

The plots will be located so they represent the plants and growing conditions at different points of the gully.

For example, plants near the stream but out in the sun, are likely to be wetland plants, such

as giant flax, cabbage trees, raupo and sedges.

Ferns will also be near the stream, but in the shady parts under the trees. Plants on the steep slopes are likely to be ones that can cope with dry conditions such as Lemonwoods, Kowhai, Karamu and Mahoe, while plants near the top may need to withstand both wind and drought.

The nature survey will help indicate the best site for different plants, and where to concentrate weeding efforts.

It will also act as a pilot study for a more sophisticated "bioblitz" next year.

A bioblitz is a more intensive survey that aims to find and scientifically identify all the species of an area, including plants, insects, birds, mammals, fungi and so forth.

Although a bioblitz does not need to cover a large area (it can apply anywhere from a backyard to a town or country), it generally needs to include night-time surveys and the knowledge of experts to identify the different kinds of plants and animals.

Needless to say, a bioblitz requires preparation well ahead of time, and should, as much as possible, involve members of the community as well as experts. It is an ambitious undertaking. But if we can raise community interest and awareness, and find experts who are willing to help, Paeroa Streamcare members believe it would be possible to organise a bioblitz for the whole town, and put Paeroa on the map as an eco-friendly community.

- Mairi Jay, Paeroa Streamcare

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**RN1388** 🏠 3 🚗 2 🚗 2 🚗 1

214 Rolleston Street, Thames **Deadline Sale**

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21 Washington Square, Paeroa **\$599,000**

Spacious open plan living with heat pump. Great indoor / outdoor flow. The bathroom is original yet functional. 704m2 (more or less) mature section. Sun-drenched outdoor living area with spa pool and Rural views. Double garage plus attached lean to (unpermitted) used as a mancave. Nice location.

**RG1935 - NATASHA DAWSON 027 200 6608** 🏠 3 🚗 1 🚗 2 🚗 1

12 Aputa Avenue, Thames **Deadline Sale**

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**NEW LISTING**

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 with plenty of parking. Recently repainted on the outside and redecorated inside.

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# SPORTS

## Three generations at Thames Gymsports

Reaping the successes of having three generations of one family teaching newcomers the ropes.

Janet Mischewski, her daughter Janet Monrad, and her two daughters Caeleigh and Haven, are all part of Thames Gymsports in Kōpū.

Centre manager Teresa Brownbridge said despite the difficulty of Covid-19, the club had many successes this year, including hosting a schools gymsports festival that featured rhythmic gymnastics and the mini trampoline for the first time.

"We had competitions in Hamilton and Cambridge where our team and many gymnasts placed well, and we also ended up having our own club competition in November as we felt the gymnasts had missed out on so much," she said.

"Our coaches also continued to study and upgrade qualifications throughout the year."

Janet Mischewski, from Thames, started gymnastics at age eight in Porirua. She later took up coaching primary school children in Waihi, as well as in Ngatea.

But it wasn't until her granddaughters started at Thames Gymsports Club six years ago that she "couldn't resist" helping out, and she hasn't left

since. "Janet currently holds the position of head coach at our gym and coaches boys and girls from the age of 2 to 12," Teresa said.

"Her daughter, Julia Monrad, was dragged along to gymnastics sessions when her mother coached, and attended the gymnastics primary school festivals.

"Julia also has a 10-year dance background and found that dance and gymnastics went hand in hand."

When Julia's own children, Caeleigh and Haven, started gymnastics, Julia went along to the club as a parent helper, and from there, she progressed to coaching.

"Julia currently coaches our team gym class where her wonderful dance, gymnastic, and choreography skills are greatly appreciated," Teresa said.

At age 13, Caeleigh became eligible to become one of the club's XTND gymnastics coaches - an accredited two-year programme through Gymnastics NZ.

She now coaches the younger, developing gymnasts, with an experienced coach by her side while she undergoes training, while her sister Haven, 10, is starting her journey as a junior coach and helper with some of the club's youngest gymnasts.

"This family has a wonderful mix of talents," Teresa said.



Keeping it in the family, from left: Julia, Haven, Caeleigh and Janet. BELOW: Three generations in action. Photos: SUPPLIED

"They were or are gymnasts, dancers, and trained coaches in diverse club situations.

"I believe they encapsulate all that is good about this club. They are passionate, committed and generally wonderful people."

Teresa said having entire families involved was what the club was all about.

**DETAILS: Any one interested in joining the club or becoming a coach can email: [thamesgymsports@gmail.com](mailto:thamesgymsports@gmail.com) for further information.**





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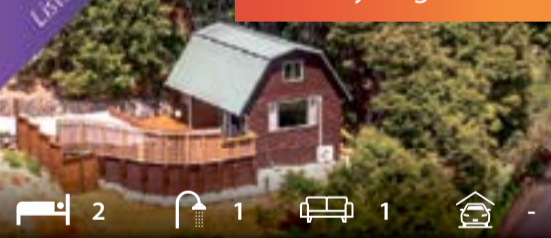
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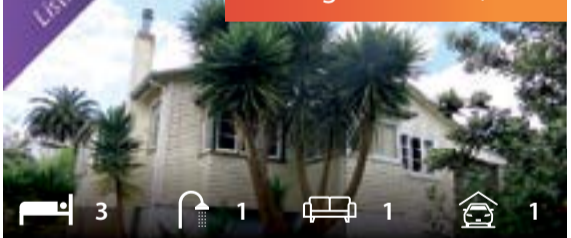
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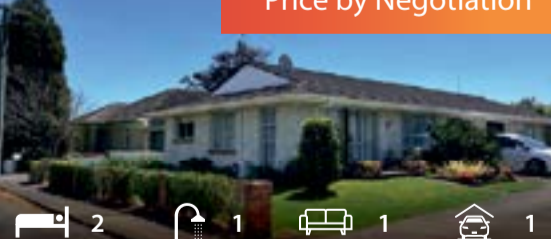
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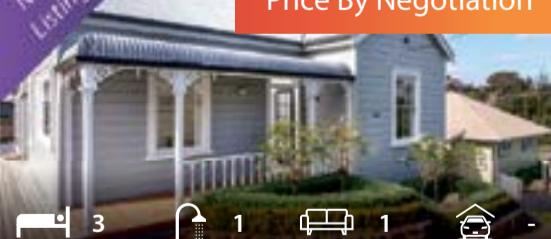
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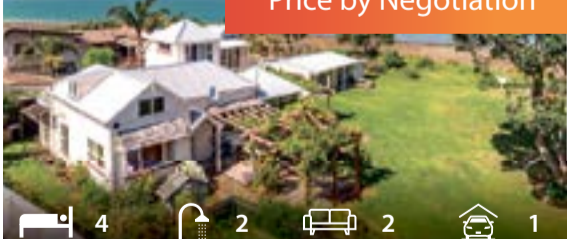
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29

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

2			5	9		6	8	
5	1	4	6			9		
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EASY

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HARD

HARD

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9	4	3	8	6	2	7	1	5

MEDIUM

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4	2	1	9	6	8	3	7	5

EASY

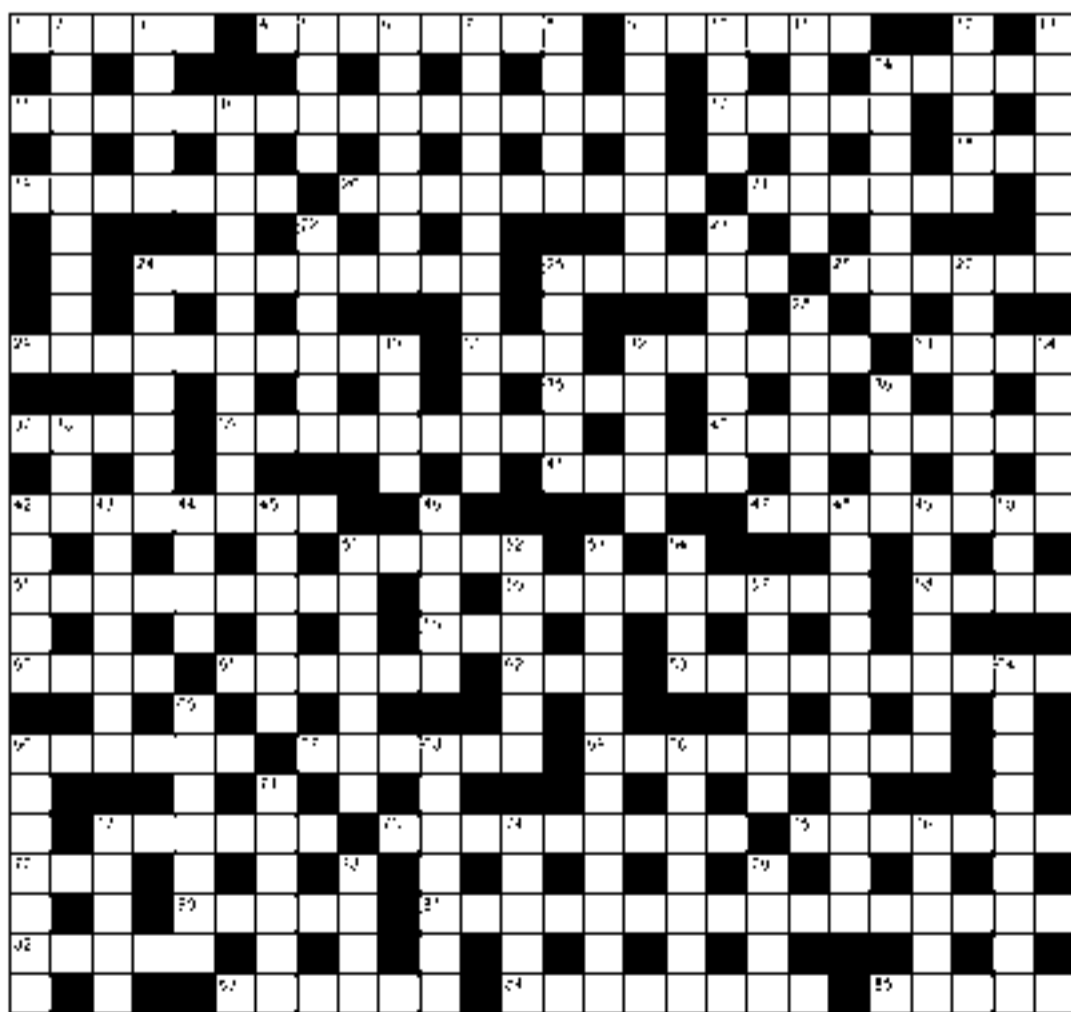
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4	2	9	1	3	6	5	8	7
3	5	7	4	8	2	9	1	6
8	6	1	7	9	5	2	4	3

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# JUMBO CROSSWORD

49

- ACROSS**
- 1 Adhere (5)
  - 4 Persuade with flattery (4-4)
  - 9 Technique (6)
  - 14 Lubricated (5)
  - 15 So big-hearted as to cause difficulties (8,2,1,5)
  - 17 Seaside (5)
  - 18 Not at home (3)
  - 19 Knock senseless (7)
  - 20 Keeps back (9)
  - 21 Relic repository (6)
  - 24 Person following another in office (9)
  - 25 Brass instrument (6)
  - 26 Race-starter's cartridges (6)
  - 29 Smuggled goods (10)
  - 31 Tapered rod used in billiards (3)
  - 32 Of the face (6)
  - 33 Feel the loss of (4)
  - 35 Long fish (3)
  - 37 Far up (4)
  - 39 Foundry (9)
  - 40 Earnest attempt (9)
  - 41 Go in (5)
  - 42 Conversation (8)
  - 47 Reaching a destination (8)
  - 51 Freight (5)
  - 55 With one's identity concealed (9)
  - 56 Abundant (9)
  - 58 Mature; fully developed (4)
  - 59 Distinguished guest (1,1,1)
  - 60 Students' test (4)
  - 61 Examination to determine seaworthiness (6)
  - 62 Sash for kimono (3)
  - 63 Extraordinary, remarkable (10)
  - 66 Pouch in clothing (6)
  - 67 Capital of Czech Republic (6)
  - 69 Inlaid work in wood, ivory, etc (9)
  - 72 Speech of praise (6)
  - 73 Loss of the ability to move (9)
  - 75 Housebreaker (7)
  - 77 Father (3)
  - 80 Paddled boat (5)
  - 81 With startlingly rapid progress (2,5,3,6)
  - 82 Say something (5)
  - 83 Wan (6)
  - 84 Bony framework (8)
  - 85 Rapid decline (5)
  - 14 Shakespearean tragedy (7)
  - 16 Presiding (11)
  - 22 Smoothly (mus)(6)
  - 23 Instructor (7)
  - 24 Shoulder bag (7)
  - 25 Dairy product (6)
  - 27 Capital of Kenya (7)
  - 28 Climbing aid (6)
  - 30 Fine soft feathers (4)
  - 32 Apartments (5)
  - 34 Small branch (5)
  - 36 Cab (4)
  - 38 3 in Roman digits (3)
  - 42 Ambition (5)
  - 43 Antiquated (7)
  - 44 Wild sex party (4)
  - 45 One and only (6)
  - 46 Hot meat sauce (5)
  - 48 Practical, rather than theoretical method (4,2,5)
  - 49 Diversity (7)
  - 50 Short sleep (3)
  - 51 Change condition (7)
  - 52 Be against (6)
  - 53 Reckless (5-3-4)
  - 54 Footfall (4)
  - 57 Unborn human (6)
  - 64 Clapped (9)
  - 65 Poisonous plant (7)
  - 66 Overly modest (7)
  - 68 Seized (7)
  - 70 Send out again (7)
  - 71 Meeting plan (6)
  - 72 Boundaries (5)
  - 74 Book of maps (5)
  - 76 Thin porridge (5)
  - 78 Whip mark (4)
  - 79 To the interior (4)
- DOWN**
- 2 Yards between cricket wickets (6-3)
  - 3 Inexpensive (5)
  - 5 Expel (4)
  - 6 Hot climate zone (7)
  - 7 Unofficially; not for publication (3,3,6)
  - 8 Planet (5)
  - 9 Bullfighter (7)
  - 10 Mark correct (4)
  - 11 Impervious to light (6)
  - 12 Flower (5)
  - 13 Steroid (anag)(7)



**PREVIOUS SOLUTION**

ACROSS: 1 Spear, 4 Do as the Romans do, 14 Putty, 15 Still, 16 Trespasser, 17 Slyly, 19 Lea, 20 Chewing, 21 Celebrate, 22 Unease, 25 Evaporate, 27 Iodine, 28 Tawdry, 33 Implacable, 35 Off, 36 Headed, 37 Alms, 39 Eye, 41 Erratic, 42 Zither, 43 Navigator, 44 Nippy, 45 Belonged, 50 So, 51 Addendum, 55 Elite, 58 Aggrieved, 59 Agreed, 60 Cavalry, 61 Law, 63 Spat, 64 Vestry, 65 Era, 66 Salmonella, 68 Seeing, 69 Foiled, 71 Enunciate, 76 Silent, 77 Unbalance, 79 Tactics, 81 Vie, 84 Miami, 85 Apologetic, 86 Kills, 87 Vogue, 88 Peaches and cream, 89 Verse.

DOWN: 2 Patchy, 3 Allow, 5 Oars, 6 Suspect, 7 Healed, 8 Riser, 9 Merited, 10 Nest, 11 Drying, 12 Style, 13 Dynasty, 14 Pyjamas, 18 Inspecting, 23 Grabs, 24 Uncanny, 26 Volcano, 27 Inferno, 29 Deleted, 30 Emerge, 31 Moths, 32 Served, 34 Emit, 36 Helps, 38 Serum, 40 Ogle, 45 Brass, 46 Luggage, 47 Nail, 48 Envied, 49 Silly, 50 Seaweed, 52 Diabolical, 53 Nearest, 54 Unruly, 55 Edition, 56 Broad, 57 Sets, 62 Blend, 67 Inflamm, 68 Survive, 70 Lineage, 72 Nuclear, 73 Inhale, 74 Harold, 75 Scales, 76 Serge, 78 Aloha, 80 Tribe, 82 Disc, 83 Visa.

# HEALTH & WELLBEING



## Shop small, shop sustainable, shop local

Re-store Eco Market is a locally owned and operated bulk wholefoods and household refill store located in the heart of Thames.

With a strong focus on sustainability and reducing unnecessary packaging, Re-store offers shoppers an extensive array of plastic free products including pantry staples, household and personal cleaning products and sustainable goods.

It also proudly displays a 'Homegrown in the Coromandel' wall of locally made sustainable items and products supporting local artisans from around the Coromandel Peninsula. With the Christmas season fast approaching, shopping sustainably and 'keeping it local' is the message co-owners Vita Dryden and Tash Donnelly are putting out there.

"It's been a tough year for many small local Coromandel and Hauraki businesses. We are surrounded by so many amazing artisans, experience providers, hospitality venues and services, and these are guys that need our support now more than

ever," says Donnelly.

"Present decisions can either support a brilliant local business with ethical and sustainable practices, or add to the problem of consumerism and the overwhelming amount of junk on this planet. When you shop small, you become truly accountable for the impact your festive buying makes," adds Dryden.

Every time you purchase from a small business, you are paying it forward. Not only do you get a gorgeous gift, experience, or special treat, you are supporting another person or family.

Re-store offers an excellent range of plastic free, sustainable and locally made gifts. Customised gift boxes or gift vouchers for all budgets, tastes and ages.

As an essential service Re-store will continue to be available to ALL customers under the new traffic light system, however standard Level 2 practices will still remain while shopping in store. Online shopping and delivery is also available around the peninsula and beyond.



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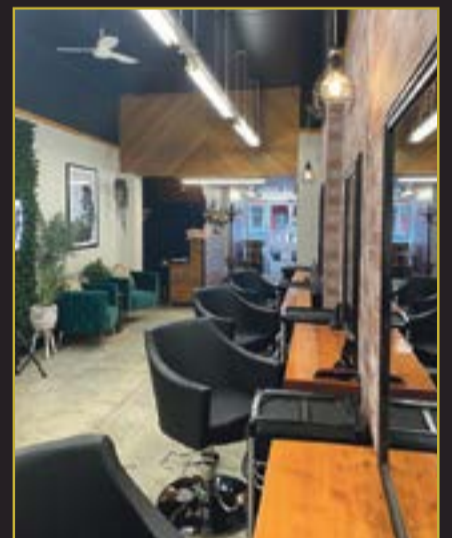


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- 1 - What year was the very first model of the iPhone released?
- 2 - Who is often called the father of the computer?
- 3 - Who discovered penicillin?
- 4 - How many molecules of oxygen does ozone have?
- 5 - Which infinity stone was located on Vormir?
- 6 - What was Superman's birth name?
- 7 - Which popular TV show featured house Targaryen and Stark?
- 8 - In what year was the first episode of South Park aired?
- 9 - Which actress won the Oscar for Best Actress in 2003?
- 10 - How old was Coco Gauff when she first beat Venus Williams?

## Answers

- 1 - 2007, 2 - Charles Babbage,
- 3 - Alexander Fleming, 4 - Three,
- 5 - Soul Stone, 6 - Kal-El,
- 7 - Game Of Thrones, 8 - 1997
- 9 - Nicole Kidman, 10 - 15

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The Valley Profile



**SPORTS**

# Ideal conditions for district cricket

**CRICKET**

After weather spoilt chances of play for the district's cricketers a week earlier, all were able to enjoy their sport in ideal weather conditions on November 28.

The slightly less restrictive Covid regulations also allowed teams from the Hamilton area to play for the first time this season. The Hauraki Plains College First XI as well as the school's Years 9 and 10 team, travelled to Hamilton's Hillcrest High School, where Covid rules and regulations were in place allowing Hauraki players a welcome chance to at last pit their skills against opposition from a strong cricketing environment.

To their credit, the host school provided a safe and well organized day with sunny skies and well presented playing conditions adding to the enjoyment of everyone involved.

The total of 142 off their 40 overs posted by Hillcrest after batting first in the First XI match proved to be a serious challenge for the Hauraki Plains College lads. The Hillcrest bowlers were accurate

and enthusiastic fielding ensured the visitors had to fight hard to progress the run chase. An exciting final half hour of play resulted as the gap between runs required and balls to be bowled lessened, but victory was achieved with five balls to spare.

Daniel Sproul provided backbone to the innings, which saw all five Hauraki batsmen dismissed, falling to poor shots rather than being beaten by 'unplayable' deliveries - an issue which will have to be addressed if the side's undefeated status is to be maintained for the final two pre-Christmas matches.

**MATCH DETAILS:** Hauraki Plains College First XI: 142 for five wickets, Daniel Sproul 66, defeated Hillcrest High School 141. Xavier Anderson 3/21, Quinn Smith 3/25. Years 9 and 10 Grade: Hillcrest High School defeated Hauraki Plains College, no match details provided. Late match result from the weekend: Primary Schools' Years 7 and 8 Grade. Thames 161, Fletcher 26, Cohen 24, Isaiah Anderson 2/16, defeated Paeroa 124, Anderson 20.

- Mike Cotter

# Tabbouleh rice with grilled steak

**RECIPE**

Once again this month, my recipe is a very versatile dish. The rice and quinoa can be substituted for just rice, barley, farro, or couscous. The herbs are totally interchangeable, as are the veggies once the summer ones are no longer in season and at their best. You don't even have to have steak with this recipe - it's equally delicious with lamb steaks or chicken drumsticks, or just piling the veggies up on top instead of a protein. It's also a wonderful salad addition to a barbeque, and should even work with a great flavoured, quality sausage. What does remain the same is the balance of flavours, and they're delicious! I am sure you will want to make this again and again with your own spin, so I hope you enjoy it as much as my family does.

Jaki Craig, Savour & Spice

**Ingredients**

- 175g (a flat one cup) Sunrice brown rice and quinoa mix, rinsed
- Bunch of fresh mint (20g approx.)
- Bunch of parsley (30g approx.)
- 3 spring onions
- 1 - 2 lemons
- Extra virgin olive oil
- Black pepper
- ¼ cup dried apricots chopped
- ¼ cup pumpkin seeds
- 2 capsicum (red & orange are great)
- 3 medium courgettes
- 1 bunch of asparagus
- 2 quality eye fillet steaks
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- Tio Pablo Salsa Verde (or pesto with added lemon juice and water to thin down slightly)
- Feta cheese to serve - 15-20g

**Method**

Bring the rinsed rice and two



Tabbouleh rice with grilled steak and summer veggies is a versatile dish.

cups of water to the boil. As soon as it boils, put a tight fitting lid on, reduce the heat to low and set your timer for 25 minutes. Turn off once done (do not lift the lid), and let it steam for a further 5-10mins. In the meantime, finely chop the mint, parsley, spring onions, and apricots. Stir them all through the cooling rice along with the lemon zest and juice, two tablespoons of oil and a pinch of black pepper. Slice the peppers and courgettes lengthways into batons, (not fine strips), and break the woody ends off the asparagus. In a separate bowl to the rice, add the red wine vinegar, 1 tablespoon of olive oil and salt and pepper. Preheat a griddle or frypan to a highish heat and add the pumpkin seeds once nice and hot. Once toasted add most of them to the



rice, reserving a few for serving. Using the same griddle pan, add a little olive oil and cook the peppers, asparagus and courgettes until nice and charred. Once each is cooked, add them straight away to the bowl with the vinegar dressing. Cut the asparagus spears into four pieces each. Rub a small amount of olive oil on to the steak, sprinkle with salt and pepper and cook in the same griddle pan to your preferred liking. Rest for five minutes after cooking. Take a large platter for serving and spoon the tabbouleh on to two thirds of it. Top with sliced steak, the reserved pumpkin seeds, crumbled feta cheese, and salsa Verde (or pesto) if using. Place the warm vegetables and the dressing in the reserved space on the platter and serve!

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# Christmas light show set to dazzle

By GORDON PREECE

Paeroa's Christmas light show is back after a one-year hiatus due to Covid-19.

The festive event held at the Historical Maritime Park will be opening its gates from December 10 under the new Covid-19 Orange Protection Framework with vaccine passes and social distancing from other bubbles.

Event spokesperson Jo Tilsley has described this year's event as a "leap of faith" given many of Paeroa's events have recently been cancelled, but organisers were grateful the light show could reopen this year.

"We also know people love the event so if we can do something that allows the majority of the community to come and have a lovely evening then we want to be able to do that," she said.

"It's the major annual fundraiser for the park with all proceeds going towards it's upkeep, so that's also why we feel the event's important."

Ticket sales will be limited this year to 500 people each night, and tickets will only be sold online.

"That's a way for us to manage the vaccine pass situation and also we want people to feel joyous and festive from the moment they get here.



The Paeroa Historical Maritime Park Light Show will go ahead this year with safety measures in place.

Photo: SUPPLIED

"Anyone aged over 12 years and three months must have their vaccine pass checked before going in," she said.

"It feels a bit scary to be doing it so we're asking people to be kind with their thoughts and their words."

Jo said a small handful of volunteers had been working through blood, sweat and tears since September putting everything together.

"You can appreciate with the incoming framework they've had a lot to get their heads

around," she said.

"I want to thank all the volunteers in advance who'll be putting in the hard hours for the 14-night event."

This year's light show, celebrating its 10th anniversary, was originally inspired by ideas

from Ellen Cooper and Robert Yeates.

**DETAILS: December 10 - 24, opens at 8.30pm, last entry 10pm every night, event closes at 11pm. Tickets: [www.iticket.co.nz](http://www.iticket.co.nz). More info: [Paeroa Christmas Lights Show Facebook page](#).**

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