

The Valley Profile

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Serving the community on farm and bush

By GORDON PREECE

A week-long search for a missing British tramp is one call-out Neil Gray will never forget during his time as a volunteer with Thames LandSAR.

Neil is a recent recipient of a Hauraki District Council Onya Award for his community service with Thames Land Search and Rescue (LandSAR) and as a founding member of the Haurakian Charitable Trust.

His community service includes 20 years of tracking down the lost and injured as a Thames LandSAR volunteer.

"I joined because I was a Scout leader at the time and wanted to learn more map and compass skills to pass on to the kids," he said.

"Then a good friend of mine who was involved in Land Search and Rescue asked me to come along to one of their sessions and I've been hooked ever since.

"The reactions we get from people whose loved ones we've helped is unbelievable."

One of Neil's most vivid memories from LandSAR was in 2006, when he and more than 100 others spent seven days searching the Moss Creek area of the Coromandel Forest Park for missing British tramp, Robert Atkin.

"Unfortunately he died in that environment, which was very tragic, so that's one search which really sticks in my memory," he said.

"Then around three years ago, Robert's family contacted our group and said they would like to make a donation.

"I took that on with a group of others to utilise that



Onya community award recipient Neil Gray is a founding member of the Haurakian Charitable Trust.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

donation as a memorial for Robert, so we made a bench seat with a plaque and a safety message board which was quite special."

The bench seat now sits at

the Pinnacles Hut, along with safety information for hikers and trampers exploring the area.

Neil's other main community service passion is for the

Haurakian Charitable Trust, which he and a group of others helped establish in 2004.

"I was approached by Gill Leonard about this concept of a trust to support Hauraki

Plains College and make it an attractive college for future students," he said.

"That just clicked with me because I've always had a view

CONTINUED P2

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The Valley Profile is a community newspaper that delivers 100% local news in the Thames Valley region. We deliver 13,000 copies each Wednesday to every letterbox, reaching approximately 30,000 readers in Hauraki Plains, Paeroa, Thames, Thames Coast and surrounding rural areas, plus bulk distribution around the Coromandel Peninsula.

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Trust a ‘great asset’ for ag students

CONTINUED FROM P1

that if your school is strong your community's strong," he said.

"We identified Hayward's farm as a good fit and approached the owner, other farming families and Hauraki District Council for financial support, which then allowed us to get the farm up and running in 2006 with the farm's profits going towards the college."

Neil said the college used the Kaihere Rd farm for students' agricultural learning as part of their curriculum.

"When we bought the farm, we didn't see that happening, so that's been a real highlight. "They've now got a whole raft of primary industry facilities they can use to develop their skills, which has made it a great asset for the college," he said.

"Over 14 years, the trust has increased its capital base and we donate \$20,000 plus annually to Hauraki Plains College to provide them with extra services, support, infrastructure and resources."

Neil said the trust had since sold Hayward's farm as lifestyle blocks, with the trust still retaining a block of land leased by the college for the students to continue learning primary industry skills.

This allowed the trust to purchase another farm in Waitakaruru in June last year, increasing the amount of land used by the trust to support their strategy of supporting the college.



Neil Gray, right, with fellow Thames LandSAR volunteers on the bench seat at the Pinnacles Hut. Photo: SUPPLIED

Neil is also involved with the P3 Dairy Trust, which supports farming on the Hauraki Plains, and he also co-owns Buttercup Dairies on Hauraki Rd in Turua with his wife Glenda.

Council's Onya award acknowledges individuals who make a positive difference to their community through dedication and community spirit.

Neil said when he received the letter informing him he'd been awarded the Onya award, he said: "Who the hell set me up for that?"

"I go about doing my stuff and not really think about receiving any recognition, so to get it was

initially quite humbling," he said.

"Then the more I thought about it, I realised it's actually quite an honour because I've been to previous awards and seen the calibre of people who get recognised."

His desire to serve the community stemmed from his family connection to the Hauraki district and his agricultural roots, he said.

"Being an agricultural-based area, there's always been an ethic of working together and helping others."

"That's one of the things I like about our community and it makes it easy to be involved in

community work."

Neil said he was quite happy to continue with Thames LandSAR but said there would be a time for fresh blood to come through the Haurakian Charitable Trust.

"I really enjoy both roles, but with an organisation like a charitable trust, it's appropriate to allow more people to develop their leadership skills," he said.

"One of the legacies I'd love to leave with the trust is to try and make a bit more of a connection with the community and the college because it's not just the teachers raising the kids nowadays, it's the whole community."

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Thames Tides

Wed Jan 26	Thu Jan 27	Fri Jan 28	Sat Jan 29	Sun Jan 30	Mon Jan 31	Tue Feb 1
 Morning: 1:45am 3.2, 2:08pm 3.4, 7:51am 0.8, 8:22pm 0.7 Afternoon: 6:26am 8:34pm Best At: 7:23am 7:49pm Last Quarter: Rise 12:37am, Set 2:21pm	 Morning: 2:40am 3.2, 3:02pm 3.4, 8:50am 0.9, 9:19pm 0.8 Afternoon: 6:27am 8:33pm Best At: 8:15am 8:43pm Rise 1:09am, Set 3:32pm	 Morning: 3:42am 3.2, 4:00pm 3.3, 9:54am 0.9, 10:23pm 0.7 Afternoon: 6:28am 8:33pm Best At: 9:11am 9:42pm Rise 1:48am, Set 4:45pm	 Morning: 4:51am 3.3, 5:03pm 3.3, 10:59am 0.9, 11:30pm 0.7 Afternoon: 6:29am 8:32pm Best At: 10:13am 10:44pm Rise 2:34am, Set 5:58pm	 Morning: 5:59am 3.4, 12:03pm 0.8, 6:09pm 3.3 Afternoon: 6:30am 8:31pm Best At: 11:17am 11:49pm Rise 3:31am, Set 7:04pm	 Morning: 7:02am 3.5, 7:16pm 3.4 Afternoon: 6:31am 8:30pm Best At: 12:22pm Rise 4:37am, Set 8:02pm	 Morning: 7:58am 3.6, 8:17pm 3.5 Afternoon: 6:33am 8:30pm Best At: 12:53am 1:24pm New Moon: Rise 5:50am, Set 8:49pm

MOON AND FISH KEYS

- New Moon
- First Quarter
- Full Moon
- Last Quarter

- Good Fishing
- Fair Fishing
- Not So Good

TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES

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

PLACE	Hr	Min	LOW
Coromandel	-	05	-04
Whitianga	-	02	-06
Tairua	+	10	+21
Whangamata	+	07	-07
Waihi Beach	-	12	-12

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

Stolen plates pinged during December

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

New technology that alerts Thames Police of a stolen vehicle within seconds of it arriving into town is preventing serious crimes and creating fewer victims.

According to the Thames Business Association, 384,516 vehicles drove into and out of Thames during December. Of those, 33 were either stolen vehicles or had stolen number plates.

The pinched plates were picked up by Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras; however, Thames Community Constable and Acting Sergeant Youth and Prevention for Eastern Wairarapa Gareth Carter said the number could reflect the same person passing by the cameras multiple times, or even innocent victims whose plates had been used in a crime.

An ANPR camera in Thames was installed in late 2020 after calls from the business community, which had been struggling with ram raids and burglaries - most of which were committed using stolen vehicles.

With the camera installed, Thames Police were now alerted to a potential stolen vehicle within seconds.

"The first thing we do is look at the camera... and identify



Thames Community Constable Gareth Carter says picking up stolen vehicles before they're used to commit an offence means fewer victims are impacted along the line.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

whether it's a genuine stolen vehicle or an error with the plate reading," Mr Carter told *The Profile*.

"From that moment on, if we believe it's genuine, we'll try to intercept it, and the current policy in place of no pursuit means we will try to be smart about it.

"If we think we know where it's going to be, we'll try to ob-

serve it from a distance as opposed to trying to stop it and giving chase."

Mr Carter said a lot of the vehicles that had been recovered were found parked on the street or at an address. Quite often, they would be in a public place like at Goldfields Mall.

"So, you have to decide whether you're best to observe the vehicle for a while, or se-

cure the vehicle, and that's on a case-by-case basis.

"If we can recover that vehicle without it being touched, it will be forensically towed by a tow truck, and go to a fingerprint officer and get evidence that way."

In recent times, with the cost of petrol rising, Mr Carter said more criminals were stealing plates to be used in service sta-

tion thefts.

"There's been a growing trend around New Zealand where number plates are getting stolen from cars parked around homes. I've noticed in my career, the number plates may be exchanged," he said.

"So, your number plate may be swapped on your vehicle without your knowledge by an offender, and then your genuine plates will be used in the commission of offending, and often that's petrol drive-offs."

The criminal would then immediately swap the plates back, he said, which was why it was important for victims to request a new plate number, rather than keep their old one.

Doing the latter meant victims could be at risk of setting off ANPR cameras across the country, and being stopped by police.

"People are struggling, so it is an increasing trend that number plates are being removed," Mr Carter said.

"It is busier, but if we can prevent crime, then our [work] should be less. With the ram raids and stuff like that, if we can apprehend that vehicle prior to the incident, that will create less victims, which is what we are here for."



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WE'D LIKE TO KNOW:

How often you might use it?


How frequently?

What you would use it for?

How should it be funded?

If the service were not provided how would you travel?


What times would you like the service to run?



Go to tcdc.govt.nz/transportsurvey to complete a short survey before 31 January.

Or pick up a copy of the survey from our Thames or Coromandel Town service centres or Thames Library.

We'll be carrying out a separate consultation on a proposed service for Tairua to Whangamatā to Thames and Waihi at a later date.



Russell Mercer, left, Emma Thorburn, and Ron Lanning. File Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

Chess competition to go ahead

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

The first ever senior and junior Thames Valley chess championship will go ahead on its new date, after being cancelled by Covid-19 last year less than a week before it was set to begin.

The Thames-based tournament was planned for August 21, 2021, and had attracted around 80 players, but just five days before the event, all of New Zealand moved into Alert Level 4 lockdown after the Delta strain of the virus was found in the community. It's new date is Saturday, April 9, and organiser Ron Lanning said the venue and parameters remained the same; however, this time, players and spectators must either have a vaccination pass or be under 12-years-old, and abide by Covid-19 regulations.

"Personally, it was extremely disappointing [to cancel], not only because of the timing being the week before, but also I had to let - in a relatively short space of time - the 80-odd players, the accommodation, and the council know that I had to postpone," he said. "The disappointment wasn't dulled by the fact I had been trying multiple times during 2020 and 2021 to run the first ever


Thames Valley chess championship for juniors and seniors."

Mr Lanning, a chess savant from Auckland, started playing the game 49 years ago. He said the response to the postponed event had been just as positive as preparing for the first, with four juniors signing up to participate in just three days.

Around 36 juniors were gearing up for the event during his last attempt at hosting it in 2021. "I am looking forward immensely to bringing our event to Thames. My family has a history in Thames going back to 1873, and we have had multiple family reunions in Thames.


"I can't think of any other place in the Thames Valley region better equipped to hold and handle everything that goes into making an event such as ours a success," he said. "Thames is just right, isn't it?"

DETAILS: The tournament is free to enter, and there will be monetary prizes and trophies up for grabs, as well as the title of Thames Valley champ. It'll be held from 9am at the Thames War Memorial Civic Centre on April 9, and those interested in participating can contact Ron at ron-lanning@xtra.co.nz or on 027 212 8232.




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JOIN A CLUB

In the February 16th issue Valley Profile will be running a feature for clubs. Whether your club is a sports club, a social club or a service club you can use this opportunity to call for members and/or volunteers or to let our readers know more about what you are all about. If you would like more information on this please contact **Nikki** on either 022 130 3885 or nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz by February 1st.



Singer accepted to prestigious opera programme

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

Originally a pianist accompanying other singers during their performances, Hannah Ashford-Beck is now the one at centre stage, stretching her vocal chords as part of the prestigious New Zealand Opera development programme.

The former Paeroa performer was one of three artists selected late last year for the Dame Malvina Major Foundation Studio Artists development programme. Co-ordinated and administered by New Zealand Opera, it provides an opportunity for some of the country's most promising young opera singers to develop their craft.

Hannah, 23, told *The Profile* she had "absolutely no expectation" of making the cut, after auditioning for the programme for the first time in 2021.

"I had done well in a competition earlier that year, but

I still thought there were so many more experienced people. I was hoping just to get to the final round so that the [judges] could see me, and know who I was. So, it was so unexpected and such an exciting thing," she said.

The former Hauraki Plains College student was originally a pianist, but had been singing for as long as she could remember.

"My mum's a piano teacher, so music has always been going on in the house. My earliest memories would probably be singing in church, and putting on nativity plays and singing in those... I think I loved singing from quite an early age," she said.

However, discovering opera came when Hannah was 16, after taking singing lessons with a family friend.

"I didn't think I was a very good singer because at the time, I went to a school where everyone sang pop-rock.

"I don't sound like Adele... I don't have that kind of voice, so it wasn't until I started doing lessons... when it felt like, okay, this feels like the music I'm meant to be singing."

- Hannah Ashford-Beck



Hannah Ashford-Beck has been stretching her vocal chords as part of the prestigious New Zealand Opera development programme.



Hannah Ashford-Beck, far left, with her fellow Auckland University Bachelor of Music classmates.

Photos: SUPPLIED

"I don't sound like Adele," she said. "I don't have that kind of voice, so it wasn't until I started doing lessons with my mum's friend when it felt like, okay, this feels like the music I'm meant to be singing."

But for years, Hannah, a soprano, kept her newfound talent a secret.

"Most of my friends didn't know I sang opera," she explained.

"Hauraki Plains College had a thing called the Pinnock Cup, and on my second-to-last day of high school, I sang an aria from Carmen called *Habenera*. That was the first time most people had heard me.

"I got a really great response," she said. "I had people messaging me saying they'd never heard that kind of music. Everyone was so surprised [because] it wasn't a thing we had in my area."

After school, Hannah completed a Bachelor of Music from the University of Auckland, majoring in classical voice, following a gap year to Italy, where she attended Liceo Musicale Alessandro Manzoni, a music college.

She has sung with the New Zealand Youth Choir, Voices New Zealand, Auckland Chamber Choir, and Auckland Youth Choir. Last year, she



Hannah Ashford-Beck, second from left, is joined in the development programme by Katherine Winitana and Emmanuel Fonoti-Fuimaono, right.

received the Mayor of Napier Vocal Award for Most Promising Singer and first place at the North Shore Becroft Aria competition.

She said singing opera had taught her to allow people to see her "at such a vulnerable moment".

"When you're singing, you are so vulnerable; at any moment you could crack a note or forget your words, and some pieces are really emotional and you're putting those emotions out for people to see," she said.

"Doing it brings a sort of confidence, and you soon real-

ise it's not about you, it's about the music and what you can bring to people."

The final concert for the development programme will take place in July, while Hannah will also perform in NZ Opera's *Macbeth* in Auckland throughout September-October. Also selected for the programme was Katherine Winitana and Emmanuel Fonoti-Fuimaono.



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OUR COROMANDEL

THAMES COROMANDEL DISTRICT COUNCIL

News from Thames-Coromandel District Council

26 January, 2022

Meeting the cost of our boat ramps and wharves

Getting out on the water is part of the Coromandel dream. But boat ramps and wharves are expensive to maintain and replace or upgrade. How should they be funded?

Our Council has general goals of keeping balanced budgets, minimising costs to ratepayers, and retaining current levels of service for the majority of our district's infrastructure and facilities.

Right now, ratepayers shoulder most of the cost of boat ramps and wharves, with fees from parking at some boat ramps offsetting only a small portion of the costs. Most of our boat ramps are free to use, and we have more boating facilities than other councils our size. Our user fees – where they are charged – are lower than many other jurisdictions in New Zealand.

For example, ratepayers in Tairua-Pāuanui Community Board area subsidised boat ramps and wharves in their area by \$49.38 each in the 2020/21 financial year – whether they used the facilities or not. The total ratepayer subsidy across the district was more than \$400,000.

Should ratepayers continue to pay most of the cost of these facilities, or should the users pay more?

We're preparing our Annual Plan for 2022/23 and we'll



likely be proposing some changes in the fee structure for boat ramps and wharves to lessen the impact on ratepayers. Keep an eye out for the proposals once our consultation starts in mid-March because we'll want your feedback. In the meantime, there is more information at tcdc.govt.nz/boating



What are your thoughts on public transport?

Our Council wants your thoughts on the Thames Connector public bus service a possible new service from Coromandel Town to Thames.

WE'D LIKE TO KNOW:

How often you might use it?

What you would use it for?

If the service were not provided how would you travel?

What times would you like the service to run?

How frequently?

How should it be funded?

Go to tcdc.govt.nz/transportsurvey

Summer Kerbside Collections

Our summer Kerbside rubbish and recycling collection schedule continues until 12 February. Check the schedule for your area

tcdc.govt.nz/kerbside

THAMES COAST & MANAIA:

TUESDAYS

THAMES & SURROUNDS (Thames town to Puriri):

WEDNESDAYS – RECYCLING WEEK 1 AREAS

26 JANUARY 2 FEBRUARY 9 FEBRUARY

WEDNESDAYS – RECYCLING WEEK 2 AREAS

26 JANUARY 2 FEBRUARY 9 FEBRUARY

THAMES SOUTH RURAL (south of Puriri to Hikutaia):

THURSDAYS

27 JANUARY 3 FEBRUARY 10 FEBRUARY

Please put out your rubbish and/or recycling by 7:30am. If you're leaving town before your collection day, please don't put out your rubbish and recycling, instead take it to the nearest Refuse Transfer Station, which are all open longer hours over summer. Blue Council rubbish bags and recycling can be left for free. The Thames Refuse Transfer Station is at 102 Burke St.

Monday – Friday: 8.30am – 5.30pm

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

Transfer station hours and locations: tcdc.govt.nz/rtts

Thames Community Board UPDATE

A word from the Board Chairperson, Strat Peters

“Welcome to 2022, Thames. Our ward was certainly busy over the holiday period, with lots of visitors and locals alike out on the streets shopping and getting out and about on our parks and beaches. We've so far managed to avoid a spike in COVID-19 cases by social distancing, wearing masks, and using the tracer app. Thank you and keep up the good work. With this excellent start to the new year, the Board are looking forward to getting back to business in our February meeting.”

strat.peters@council.tcdc.govt.nz

Waiomu Domain vandalism – the toilet, picnic area and playground at one of most-loved seaside reserves were vandalised recently. The playground slide was broken and has been decommissioned until a replacement can be purchased and installed. The sheltered picnic area behind the toilet block was tagged with a lighter. The vandalism has been reported to police. If you see public property being defaced or damaged, please contact the police with details, then let us know too.

The Board's next meeting is on Wednesday 23 February 2022, 9am at the Council Chambers, 515 Mackay St. Recordings of all our Council and Community Board meetings are posted on tcdc.govt.nz/meetings, where you'll also find meeting agendas and minutes.



Long weekend reminders

Monday 31 January is Auckland Anniversary followed by the Waitangi Day long weekend observed on Monday 7 February.

While you're enjoying the break, don't forget:

Dog rules change for long weekends: tcdc.govt.nz/dogs

Alcohol bans in public places: We have year round, 24/7 town centre alcohol bans, plus additional long weekend bans on many of our beaches and seaside reserves. Find locations and dates here: tcdc.govt.nz/alcoholcontrol

COVID-19 restrictions: Your vaccine pass may be necessary to access events, retail, and hospitality venues. Please continue to follow COVID-19 guidelines including social distancing, mask-wearing, and scanning in.

More than just pub grub on offer at Tapu

Summer Series

In the final instalment of our *Valley Profile* summer feature to help boost the local hospitality sector, our readers shared their favourite spot to get a top feed of “pub grub”.

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

There’s a warmth to the Royal Oak Hotel in Tapu, a different warmth than the one you feel after taking a bite of the pub’s chicken and bacon burger, or a scoop of the ‘Prawn to be Wild’ salad.

It’s a feeling of being in good hands, of knowing that the people behind the counter or in the kitchen are passionate about what they do, and it’s been the goal of the business ever since Kaye Bunn took over in 2017.

“It’s like having a big family lounge, really,” she tells *The Profile* on a visit to the Thames Coast pub one sunny Tuesday. “Some great memories have been created here.”

The workers on shift gather around a bar leaner - there’s Kaye’s daughter, Amanda, who worked at the pub full-time before obtaining her university degree, Amanda’s partner Aaron Millar, and Shoaib Qureshi, who is affectionately known by locals as ‘Spud’.

It’s a take on the nickname his mother gave him as a child back home in India.

There’s also the pub’s chef, Karan Kumar, who has been with the business for four years.

Meeting Karan was one of the best days of Kaye’s life, she says.

“We put the menus together before Karan started; we did a lot of cooking ourselves, but with all the work to be done, I needed a chef,” she says.

“Karan sent his CV in, I met him in Morrinsville, and it was one of the best days of my life.”

The pub has since been named the best place to stop and eat by *Profile* readers, and Karan said it was nice to be able



to cook food people enjoyed.

On Christmas Day, he told Kaye he’d finally got his New Zealand residency after going through the process for more than two years.

“We’re one big family here,” Amanda says.

“The happiness that’s in here brings happiness when people come in,” Kaye adds. “They



Royal Oak Hotel owner Kaye Bunn, second from left, with staff Shoaib Qureshi, Aaron Millar, and chef Karan Kumar. LEFT: The pub’s architecturally put-together chicken and bacon burger, and ‘Prawn to be Wild’ salad.

they’re putting on as a tribute to a local DJ who passed away. The nine-hour event on Sunday, February 6, will see nine DJs from across the country perform at Royal Oak in honour of the man.

“We’re not here to make millions off people, we’re here to make people happy... and it’s an achievement because it’s been a long battle.”

Kaye says she couldn’t have achieved what she has without the help of her “fantastic” four full-time and three part-time

staff. And like their menu item ‘Wedges Meant to Be’ - the team appears to be just that.

REPORTER’S REVIEW: *Pub grub made with love. From the architecturally put-together chicken and bacon burger, to the refreshing prawn salad, the efforts of the chef are obvious. A huge dog-friendly garden bar and decent prices add to the pub’s charm.*



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Cattle graze a dry paddock near Netherton.
Photo: GORDON PREECE

Low rainfall prompts warning for farmers

By GORDON PREECE

Thames Valley could have a meteorological drought if the region doesn't have persistent rainfall within the next fortnight, NIWA says.

A meteorological drought occurs when dry weather patterns dominate an area, and NIWA forecaster Ben Noll told *The Profile* the Thames Valley's gone through a stretch of dry weather since December 15.

"That's been associated with some very hot conditions with temperatures reaching as high as 30.6 degrees on January 4," he said.

NIWA's New Zealand Drought Index, which measures the severity of dryness, showed the Thames Valley currently had dry to very dry conditions, Mr Noll said.

"The region experienced more severe drought conditions in the previous three summers compared to 2022, but regard-

less, we are seeing things drying out at this point, which is a bit of a red flag," he said.

Mr Noll said the region's dry conditions included only 3mm of rainfall for Thames Valley in the past month.

"That's led to the soil moisture levels in the Waikato region and the Thames Valley area decreasing rapidly with soil moisture in deficit," he said.

According to NIWA's January 13 Hot-spot Watch, the Thames Valley region's soil moisture levels were 30mm drier than normal on January 12.

In a statement, NIWA said 2021 was New Zealand's warmest year on record, which included Paeroa recording its highest ever daily minimum temperature of 19.1 degrees on November 14.

"While there's hope on the horizon for some moisture with a chance of rain [this] week, I'm not sure that'll be enough to break the region's long-term dry spell,"



NIWA'S Ben Noll. Photo: SUPPLIED

Mr Noll said.

If the Thames Valley didn't receive more rainfall soon, farmers would really start to feel the pinch of the dry weather, Mr Noll said.

"It'll be wise for farmers to consider what their plans would be if they didn't get that much needed rainfall over the next two weeks," he said.

Hauraki-Coromandel Federated Farmers president Robert Craw told *The Profile* while the district's rural areas were quickly drying up, a good late spring growth allowed farmers to go into summer with better feed cover and more feed supplements.

"We still have our worst months to go, which are February and March, so we're crossing our fingers for rain," he said.

"But from what I understand, most people's stock are in good condition and they have plenty of supplement so they'll find a way to get through."

Mr Craw said he wasn't aware of anyone experiencing drought but said Federated Farmers had initiated a non-logistical feed supply register for anyone in the district with excess feed for those who needed it in the event of dry weather

DETAILS: For more information about Federated Farmers' feed co-ordination service, go to: www.fedfarm.org.nz.

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One of the new cattlestops along the Hauraki Rail Trail. Photo: SUPPLIED

Cattlestops to be replaced

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

The final 50 cattlestops along the Hauraki Rail Trail should all be replaced come March.

The “massive” project will see more than 110 cattlestops along the popular cycling trail replaced with steel models over the past five years.

“Right from the day I started here in 2017, one of the first complaints I received was regarding the danger these cattle-stops posed to cyclists,” rail trail chief executive Diane Drummond said. “The rough corrugations and the narrow uprights were starting to catch out the wider handle-bars of a rapidly expanding uptake of e-bikes.”

Diane said an on-ground count identified more than 110 cattlestops to be replaced, costing more than \$200,000.

Replacing the final 50 has been funded from community donations, grants, and through the Ministry of Business Inno-

tion and Employment, and Thames-Coromandel District Council, Hauraki District Council, and Matamata-Piako District Council.

“The older-style cattlestops were made of concrete and were very rough and narrow,” she said. “[They] are being replaced with the new model being built by local provider Nigel Higgins and are made of steel and are much wider and safer to navigate.

“Nigel is working on them now with local company Quinn Engineering providing the steel. We are hopeful they will all be replaced by March, 2022.”

Meanwhile, the ministry also announced funding to support some surface upgrades on the Waikato Regional Council stop-banks, and some surfacing works around Cadman Road, near Tirohia, where an old train ballast was poking through the trail surface.



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Fears businesses will abandon Thames due to housing shortfall

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

The Thames Business Association is fearing for the progress of its town amid a lack of housing and commercial development, which it says will ultimately drive businesses away from the district.

The association this month called on its members to provide letters of support to be collated in a dossier and presented to local council and central government.

It's aim is to address Thames' housing shortfall and lack of development of commercial property, particularly in the Kōpū area, with "extreme urgency".

"It's really horrific," association chief executive Sue Lewis-O'Halloran said.

"Thames is being really negatively impacted by this housing crisis, and when you can't attract good people to do the jobs you have available because there's no housing, it makes it really impossible to progress your town."

Sue said the association had heard anecdotally of many roadblocks being encountered by businesses, even driving



Sue Lewis-O'Halloran

some of them out of the district to invest in other areas.

One such business had gone on to invest "millions of dollars" in another town, she said.

"Sometimes things are made so difficult for people in commercial development that they will go to another district, and I think when we make things difficult for commercial investors, they will just take their business elsewhere.

"We also don't have the infrastructure in place for housing developments," she added.

"We're asking developers to come in and build houses, but we haven't put in any infrastructure that should be in place before we, in my view,



Thames Business Association says Thames businesses are impacted by the housing crisis. File photo: TERESA RAMSEY

even approach them."

Fewer than 40 new houses a year have been built in Thames over the past decade, and a lack of forward planning and investment means the houses that are available are older and of low quality.

Mayor Sandra Goudie earlier told *The Profile* it was "imperative" new homes were built.

The new Thames and Surrounds spatial plan was de-

signed to inform changes to the district plan, and according to council, would signal to land owners, developers, and investors the council's growth intentions for the area.

"I think it's going to take a very concerted effort and a lot of collectively strong voices to change the culture and force the decision makers at both local and central government to help our town survive and

move forward," Sue said.

"I really worry about the businesses in the whole Thames ward, because we're not proactive in our approach. But I am hopeful, and there are people in positions of power who are on the side of business and commercial development."



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Housing shortage impacts Thames business

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

Some employees have had to leave their jobs because they couldn't find a new rental home, while newcomers to Thames are quickly turned off by the slim pickings of its housing market.

One of Thames' biggest employers has witnessed first-hand how the housing shortage is impacting on people's decision to move into the town.

He's hopeful things will change, but realistic about how long it might take for that change to be implemented.

"It's certainly challenging," Pak'nSave Thames owner Matt Heap told *The Profile*. "We've lost really good, experienced people who, for whatever reason, haven't been able to secure a rental replacement and have had to leave town."

"We've been recruiting for senior roles, and we're often limited on who we can look at because we're just not confi-

dent people can find housing, and for rentals for anybody, it's just impossible, as it is to buy," he said.

Mr Heap, who employs around 150 staff, said most of his workers lived outside of Thames, with many residing in the Hauraki district instead.

As at January 19, there were just two rental properties listed on a real estate website, both in the price range of around \$500 a week.

Mr Heap said for some senior roles, they've met with applicants who have come from out of town.

"A couple of times we've had people who have been really good, and when we speak about accommodation, and they say that they'll look for something, in my mind I know that's going to be a fruitless search, and that they'll quickly be turned off from the idea of moving when there's nowhere they deem suitable," he said.

However, remedying Thames' housing shortfall was imperative not only for businesses, but for clubs, associa-

tions, and other community services, he said.

"If an aged care facility is struggling to find people, or if schools have declining rolls because there's not many children and families can't move here... for the health of the town, having people is really important."

And when it comes to Thames-Coromandel District



A housing shortage in Thames is impacting people's decision to move to the town, local business owners say.

File photo: KELLEY TANTAU

tions, and other community services, he said.

"I'm realistic about the timeframes and what's involved, because it needs to be done well," he said.

"I just think it's caught everybody by surprise, but people

Council's new spatial plan that turns its attention south - to where "optimum" land could be developed - Mr Heap was optimistic Thames' housing could turn over a new leaf.

really like Thames, it has a lot to offer, and in some ways it feels like how New Zealand used to be.

"So, I am optimistic, and it feels like there's more and more enthusiasm for this to happen."

"We've been recruiting for senior roles, and we're often limited on who we can look at because we're just not confident people can find housing, and for rentals for anybody, it's just impossible, as it is to buy."

- Matt Heap



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Study tips will help give your brain a boost

Students throughout the district will soon need to start thinking about getting out of holiday mode and preparing for the new school year.

To break out of your same-old homework habits and start the new year on the right foot, have a look at these study tips to get the brain boost you need for back to school.

Firstly, you don't need one study space. Setting up a desk in a quiet place at home is important if you can, but sometimes you need variety. Coffee shops, libraries, parks, or even just moving to the kitchen table will give you a change of scenery which can prompt your brain to retain information better.

Start small - if you've got a big assignment looming, stay motivated by completing a small piece of the project every few days. Write one paragraph each night, or start with five maths problems from your assignment at a time, and then take a break.

Lose the distractions. Try turning off your phone notifications or blocking social media temporarily on your computer so you can concentrate on the homework tasks at hand.

Get into a routine. When can you make the time to do your homework every day? Find a time of day that works best for you to

hit the books, and this can change day-to-day, depending on your schedule.

Get real. When you're looking at the homework you have to get done straight away, be realistic about how long things actually take.

Knowing that reading a history chapter may take an hour and writing a response could take another 30 minutes will help you plan how you spend your time.

Use class time wisely. If your teacher is finished lecturing but you still have 10 minutes of class left, get a jump on your geography homework while it's still fresh in your mind. Or use the time to ask your teacher about concepts that were fuzzy the first time.

Review and refresh. Look over your notes each night to make sure you've got it. Fill in details, edit the parts that don't make sense, and star or highlight the bits of information that you know are most important. Looking over your notes will help you remember them.

Make a friend in every class. Find a few people you can contact from each of your classes if you have a homework question or had to miss class - and do the same for them! Then when it comes time to study for exams, you'll already have a study group.



Don't limit yourself to one study space, moving to the kitchen table can help with study.
Photo: KYLE GREGORY DEVARAS/UNSPLASH

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Student Life

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Get ready to go back to school

No matter your kid's age, the transition back to the classroom can be a tough one, even if you spring for a new backpack that looks like a unicorn. Here are some back-to-school ideas that your kids will actually be excited about.

Create a back-to-school survival kit. Get a small container, such as a pencil case or makeup bag, and fill it with things that you think your kid might find useful or comforting when they head back to class. Depending on their age, your back-to-school kit might include things like gum or fun pens and pencils, stickers, a hairbrush, lotion, lip gloss, hand sanitizer, a stress ball or an encouraging note from mom or dad. If you've got a teenager on your hands, try swapping the kiddie goodies for snacks, gum, mini lotion or hand sanitizer, a water bottle or a gift card.

Take a back-to-school shopping trip. This is a surefire way to get your kid excited to go back to school - because what kid wouldn't love to get brand new clothes and school supplies? Make sure you don't leave the house without a list of the essentials.

Bake up a batch of treats. Saying goodbye to summer and hello to the classroom can be a tough transition, but luckily, there's nothing that a batch of back-to-school cookies can't fix!

Pick up a picture book. For younger kids, reading picture books about the first day of school can help with any fear and anxiety they may have.

Prepare yummy school lunches. Break from tradition for the first week of school. Make your kiddo feel extra special by packing some of their faves for lunch - chicken and salad wraps, peanut butter pitas or pizza wraps.

Carve out a kid cave. Anybody who's ever picked up a grumpy kid from school knows they need some downtime after a day of rules to unwind. The first week back might be kind of stressful and tiring for your kids, so providing them with a special spot simply for relaxing might do the trick. This could be as simple as creating a cozy fort and gathering some new books, a juice box and one of those yummy snack ideas.

Decorate back-to-school essentials or make a back-to-school craft.

Add a personal touch to desks, planners, notebooks and binders. Younger students will love creating collages of photos and stickers on to their school essentials. Try out a more sophisticated look for high school or college kids by using washi tape and decorative felt pens.

Anybody who's ever picked up a grumpy kid from school knows they need some downtime after a day of rules to unwind.
Photo: NATHAN DUMLAO/UNSPLASH

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Student Life

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Programme prepares Valley students to work outdoors

Tipene* was working for Seal-ord based in Timaru.

At the start of the 2020 Covid pandemic, he was made redundant and made his way back to Paeroa to be with whanau.

While at home, he started to get bored and wanted something to do. He reached out to Valley Education and enquired about the Te Mahi Whenua programme.

"I just want to come off the boats and have an outside job," he said.

Tipene enrolled in the Te Mahi Whenua programme, which is a course full of those skills that would put Tipene right where he wanted to be - in the great outdoors.

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Our Valley Education tutors were only too willing to be referees for Tipene when he applied for a job at a local Kōpū-based company. Tipene is now enjoying



Valley Education's Te Mahi Whenua programme prepares students for jobs outdoors. Photo: SUPPLIED

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* Not his real name.

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‘Winged messenger’ missing



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

1880

Pigeons carrying reports for newspapers were mostly reliable but one for the *Thames Star* which should have arrived in time for the evening paper didn't. "Our winged messenger did not turn up till this morning," apologised the paper. The message detailed the progress of Mr Rolleston, a politician visiting the district. He was driven by the Thames Mayor to Hikutaia in the first buggy ever to travel that piece of road. They called at the Puriri Spring and tasted the water. At Hikutaia, refreshments were taken and Mr Rolleston's health was toasted. Mr Rolleston thanked the Mayor and said he hoped the next time he visited to ride by 'iron horse' – train. He expressed surprise at all he had seen, which had quite contradicted his former impression of the place. From Hikutaia, the party proceeded to Paeroa on horseback where they were supplied milk with rum.

The approaches to the Omaha punt crossing needed work before the Waikato Cavalry,



The original pigeogram services loft, Auckland.

Photo: SUPPLIED

who were attending the Easter Review, passed over it. Settlers asked the County Council to supply the timber and they would provide the labour. Contractors were pushing on with the County road between Paeroa and Omahu. Soon it would be an easy matter to drive a buggy from Paeroa to Omahu, and but for a bad piece of road at Komata, one could drive all the way up from Grahamstown. The Piako Swamp was sold by the Piako Swamp Company to the Waikato Land Association for the neat little sum of £300,000. This company had been formed in London with a capital of £600,000, for the purpose of investing in land in the North Island. This area had once been denigrated as a veritable bog, which, if trodden on by man or bullock, would heave and shake all round for miles, so wafer-thin was the surface and so water-gruelly the slush that served as subsoil.

For several weeks, millions of fish began coming ashore to die all along the east coast. They

came gasping to the surface and appeared poisoned. Three cats had also died, possibly from the effects of eating the fish. When opened, the fish had nothing in their stomachs and the phenomenon was attributed to the heat of the sea water. Someone who used to often walk from Grahamstown to Tapu Creek had, during the autumn months, noticed large quantities of dead and dying fish cast upon the shore. In many instances the scales were nearly all scratched off them. He thought the fish had some yearly distemper, which had assumed unusual proportions this season.

Some years previously, enormous quantities of shags died in the Hauraki Gulf; their death may have had some connection with the demise of the fish.

At Paeroa, a man was charged with using threatening and abusive language for the purpose of annoyance and provocation by saying to another: "You dirty little blackguard, only that I would not dirty my hands on you, I would put you in the gutter."

WI takes on potato competition

Cathie Haakma had invited us to her place for the Kerepehi Women's Institute meeting. The weather wasn't wonderful but we wanted to be outside if possible. President Elaine Jolliffe welcomed eight members plus Tina and Cathie. We had a minute of silence for all the people in the United States who had been hit by tornadoes.

We had a lovely thank you letter read out from the Paeroa Trust Food Bank as we had all donated cans of food to it from a Roll Call in November. Thirteen pairs of knitted slippers were donated to the Women's Refuge also. Elaine presented Cathie with her 40-year pin and there was also a 25-year pin for Karen Haakma to be given at a later date as she lives in Hamilton. Our thought for the month was supplied and read by Debbie Smith: "If you are brave enough to say goodbye, life will reward you with a new hello". Our fundraising raffle was drawn: first prize went to Judith West and second prize went to Kate Main.

We had all been growing a seedling potato in a bucket, which we had to take to Cathie's (pictured below). Tina helped us all bring our buckets of potatoes up their steep drive before they were emptied out and judged. Biggest potato: Jan Edmonds; smallest: Marion van Eyk; most edible crop: Elaine Jolliffe; smallest crop: Carolyn Giles. Christmas stocking: Bev Adamson, 1; Carolyn Giles, 2. Our institute Christmas raffle, which we all donated gifts to, was announced: Tina Haakma, 1; Carolyn Giles, 2; Elaine Jolliffe, 3. Homemade Christmas decoration: Elaine Jolliffe, 1; Jan Edmonds,

2; Bev Adamson, 3. We also presented Cathie with a bouquet of flowers. And she gave us all a homemade card and some daffodil seeds. It had started to rain so we all moved inside and had a sing along with Janice and Ian Coulloun, and Joanne and kids had arrived too.

It started to rain so we moved inside and had afternoon tea and a sing song with Ian and Janice Colloun and Joanne Haakma and kids. We finished the afternoon by playing a game of Mrs Right and Mrs Left with our Christmas presents we all brought. The next meeting is at Bev Adamson's home on February 8.

GOLDFIELDS WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The Christmas meeting of the Goldfields Women's Institute was held at The Melbourne Cafe in Thames on December 14. Members enjoyed a lovely lunch, good company and were pleased to be able to celebrate our final meeting of 2021 after all its frustrations, and look forward to 2022 with all members hoping for better things to come.

A Christmas card had been received from Jill Bridgman and also a thank you card from St John Ambulance for the box of toys that we had donated. This is to help a child who needs their assistance and is frightened so they are given a toy to cuddle to help them through their ordeal. After lunch, five really good raffle prizes were drawn and the lucky winners were Jill Affleck, Carol Cresswell, Carole Bridle, Sue Fah and Anne Bicknell. President Helen Udy then wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and was looking forward to seeing everyone back at the February meeting.



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St George's Church celebrates 150 years

Church to mark milestone with week-long celebrations

By GORDON PREECE

St George Church in Thames hopes for a big turnout during their 150th celebrations, which begin on Friday.

Paul Jennings, who's heading the Mackay St church's 150th anniversary committee, said celebrations would focus on two church services.

"A thanksgiving service will take place on January 28 led by Vicar Brendon Wilkinson at 6pm with Reverend David Cooper and his wife bagpiping us into the church, which will be a little take on what happened 150 years ago," he said.

"The service will then have a talk by Russell Skeet about the history of St George's, followed by a thanksgiving prayer and the congregation's oldest member cutting the anniversary cake."

St George's second main celebration will take place at the

church on February 5 led by a Bishop and will include another anniversary cake cutting, this time by a "special" member of the church. From January 31 to February 4, St George's will be open to the public from 11am to 1pm and 3pm to 6pm with photographic displays of the church's history, architecture and current mission work.

Paul earlier told *The Profile* celebration planning had been a frustrating exercise due to Covid-19. "We planned to hold a traditional dance in the church on February 4, but that's fallen over due to issues with social distancing, and we can't host a performance by a violinist and a pianist because one of them wasn't vaccinated," he said.

"Everyone's welcome to attend St George's celebrations as long as they have a vaccine pass."

More information: www.thamesanglican.com.



St George's interior, with gas lighting and swaths of vegetation and bunting for the initial celebrations.



LEFT: An early photo of St George's Church in Mackay St, Thames.

RIGHT: Vicesimus Lush was the first incumbent Anglican Minister and his residence is now the Lamp and Bite cafe. His journals have been published in four books.



Photos: SUPPLIED

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

- 1868 - The original St George's was built.
- 1871 - The congregation held events to raise funds for a second construction attempt after being destroyed by a storm
- 1872 - The current St George's Church opens.
- 2022 - St Georges's will celebrate 150 years in January-February.

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Arthur Read - 2nd from Left

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Many places get booked quickly during peak season so it pays to get that aspect sorted quickly if you have a preferred date.

Looking for your vendors and not sure where to start?

There is a great local directory of our amazing vendors www.yourcoromandelwedding.co.nz. Now more than ever it's

so important to support local businesses. There is also Marry Me Coromandel, a local wedding expo scheduled in Thames on June 12. Tickets are available here: marrymecoromandel.co.nz. It will be a great place to meet local vendors and start your planning journey or find the last few people you need for your day.

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The newly-built American-style barn with three large cedar doors opens up to an expansive grounds with large shade trees perfect for your guests to mingle before reception time. The barn can seat up to 100 guests. We have tables and chairs available for your reception and ample off-street parking.

The wedding chapel offers a traditional setting option for exchanging your vows. Situated right next door to Corbett House, you can choose to exchange your vows in the interdenominational chapel or simply say “I do” un-

der one of the many large trees throughout the gardens.

Our team here at Corbett house want to help you bring your vision of the perfect day to life. We offer the venue with all the essentials needed for creating the perfect day.

We also have a wedding planning service available if you want help working through the finer details of your day, including liaising with caterers, sourcing decorations and photographers.

Our team at Corbett house are here to help you bring your vision of the perfect day to life.

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Three variants and a wedding

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

As I write this, there are 35 days left until my wedding.

That’s 35 days to finalise the numbers, 35 days to choose the music playlist, and 35 days to learn how to walk in my shoes.

And even though the heels are short, the numbers are low, and the playlist has already been filled with requests from family members, the nerves are still lingering.

Because not only do I have to face the prospect of heaving myself up a flight of stairs to get on to a boat berthed in Auckland’s Viaduct Harbour, but I’m constantly aware of Covid-19 and the impacts it could have on the day.

Having a wedding during a pandemic means being conscious of the South Island guests wary of flying up to the super city. It means being aware of the regulations that could be altered at any moment. It means staring at the Countdown app on my phone and hoping it all

goes off without a hitch.

When my partner and I chose the date more than a year ago, perhaps we were naive in thinking that Covid-19 wouldn’t be around. Back then, there was no Delta, there was no Omicron. We’d heard stories of nuptials being cancelled and postponed, but only now do we greatly empathise with the couples who had to make those hard decisions.

Because planning a wedding is not easy for everyone. There are always the guests you need to chase for an RSVP, there are always questions you don’t know the answer to, there is always a debate with the caterer on the cost of the grazing platters.

Now, planning a wedding means there is always a chance the day might not go ahead. But, like everyone, we’ll simply wait and see what 2022 brings, and hope that our wedding is included.



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34

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

	2		3	9		4		
6	1					5		
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EASY

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HARD

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34

HARD

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

MEDIUM

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

EASY

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

JUMBO CROSSWORD

54

ACROSS

1 Canal boat (5)

4 Imbibe heavily regularly (5,4,1,4)

11 Smithy's block (5)

14 Dark beer (5)

15 Weapon (3,3,5)

16 Death notice (8)

19 Dentist's filler (7)

20 Less (5)

21 Violent upheaval or disaster (9)

24 Great indiscriminate massacre (9)

26 Horse's headgear (6)

27 Thinly distributed (6)

31 Fundamental (5)

32 Calculate roughly (8)

34 Study and treatment of mental disease (10)

38 Pancreas product (7)

39 Have in mind as a purpose (6)

40 Delicately pretty (6)

41 City transport (4)

42 Crux (7)

45 Panting (10)

50 Wide tidal river mouth (7)

54 Fluctuate (4)

55 Clothes (6)

56 Scamp (6)

57 Reduction in expenditure (7)

60 Sheepish, chagrined (10)

61 Revolt, rebellion (8)

62 Content (5)

65 Tree-lined street (6)

66 Grumpy person (6)

67 Club's administrators (9)

72 Person of unknown abilities who may surprise (4,5)

73 Sanctuary (5)

74 Thrown spear (7)

79 Albumen (3,5)

80 Noncompliant (11)

81 Glazier's filler (5)

82 Woollen fabric (5)

83 Change of mind; revised opinion (6,8)

84 Pip fruit (5)

DOWN

2 Season (6)

3 Thin porridge (5)

5 Space (4)

6 Eastern (anag)(7)

7 Accounts book (6)

8 Scottish church (4)

9 Pleasantly pungent (8)

10 Walk lamely (6)

11 Germ-killing solution (10)

12 Calf meat (4)

13 Clothes for newborn (7)

17 Conductor's stick (5)

18 Study of the flight of projectiles (10)

22 Maltreat (5)

23 Standards for judging by (8)

25 Free time (7)

26 Distance from side to side (7)

28 Pollutes (6)

29 Image-capturing device (6)

30 Reaping implement (6)

33 Interior (5)

35 Delicious (5)

36 Gramophone record (4)

37 Border (4)

42 Pixies (5)

43 Long paper ribbon (8)

44 Accessories (6)

45 Wedding partner (10)

46 Biblical garden (4)

47 Finished (7)

48 Gloss (6)

49 Hits with open hand (5)

51 Bitter-tasting (4)

52 Feeling of anger caused by offence (7)

53 Baking instructions (6)

58 Handed on by will (10)

59 Foe (5)

63 Interrogate (8)

64 Book of maps (5)

65 Very old (7)

68 Following orders (7)

69 Wheeled boots (6)

70 Summerhouse (6)

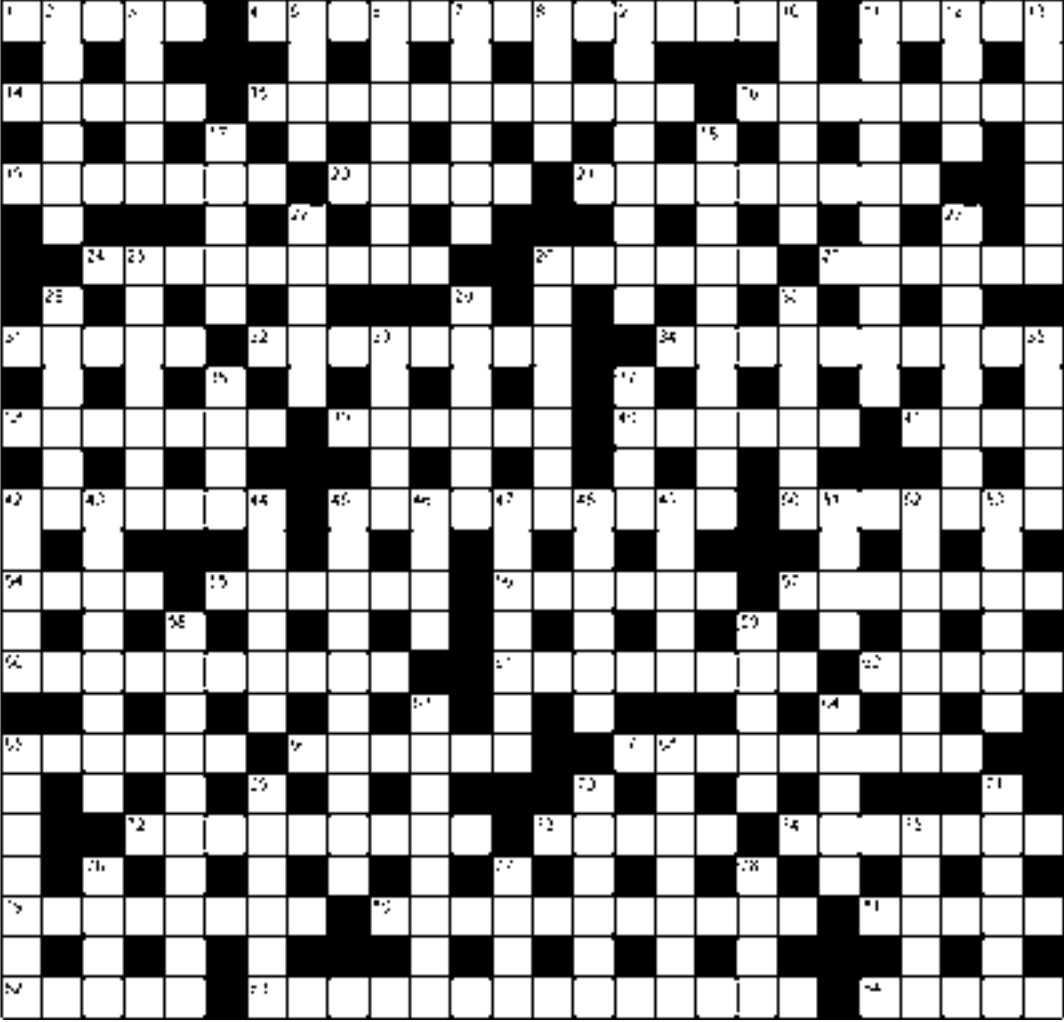
71 Handgun (6)

75 Kit out (5)

76 Monster (4)

77 Sudden jar (4)

78 Make with yarn and needles (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Cabbage, 4 Remembered, 9 Charade, 13 Barb, 14 Stamps, 15 Netted, 16 Harmony, 19 Adaptation, 20 Eventful, 21 Skull, 24 Balsam, 25 Proofs, 27 Shadowing, 32 Thriving, 33 Strict, 34 Uncouth, 38 Diameter, 39 Avoids, 40 Sack, 41 Stage, 42 Great, 45 Put in a good word, 52 Cream, 55 Stain, 56 Ugly, 57 Talked, 58 Scribble, 61 Monitor, 62 Alarms, 63 Diamonds, 66 Racetrack, 68 Mousse, 69 Apollo, 73 Cuffs, 74 Edginess, 76 Stroganoff, 81 Ignored, 82 Geisha, 83 Ponder, 84 Have, 85 Stately, 86 Asymmetric, 87 Trisect.

DOWN: 1 Cobra, 2 Barnacle, 3 Estate, 4 Romeo, 5 Mast, 6 Manners, 7 Esteem, 8 Erect, 10 Hoax, 11 Ramekin, 12 Dangle, 17 Attachment, 18 Guide, 22 Forgiven, 23 Swing, 24 Bulldog, 26 Ruin, 28 Hacksaw, 29 Lineup, 30 Fresco, 31 Stigma, 33 Sting, 35 Otter, 36 Face, 37 Scar, 43 Ration, 44 Alibi, 46 Urge, 47 Idyllic, 48 Artery, 49 Ogles, 50 Dreadful, 51 Doctor, 52 Child's play, 53 Ebbs, 54 Maestro, 59 Poker, 60 Bats, 64 Crude, 65 Allocate, 67 Affront, 68 Message, 70 Budget, 71 Jetsam, 72 Covert, 75 Ideas, 77 Tonic, 78 Fleet, 79 Tell, 80 Spar.

GARDENING

Harvest time arrives in the garden

Being one of the hottest months of the year, February is one of the main harvest periods. It's an in-between season in the garden, harvest time has arrived with vengeance and it is a time for preserving, freezing and storing produce for winter and spring use. There's much planting of winter and spring bulbs to be done.

VEGETABLES
Beans – dwarf and climbing. All must be sown very early in the month no later than the first or second week. Beetroot – Late sowings can still be made ready for winter harvest. Broccoli and cabbages seedlings can be planted in well prepared beds at intervals to provide a succession of late winter harvest.
Carrots – Harvest as required. Further sowings can be made but ensure you regularly cultivate and aerate soil for best results. Cucumber, eggplants and peppers and tomatoes – Continue to harvest crops and preserve and freeze excess quantities for later use. Onions – Harvest time has arrived. If wet weather is on the horizon set out onions on shallow trays indoors where they can dry and cure. Clip tops and roots and store in open mesh tray or boxes to dry. Kumara – Harvest once the leaves start to yellow. Cut back the foliage and carefully lift the kumara with a fork. Leave them on the ground for a few days to cure. Cover with a sack or newspaper at night. Store in a cool dry place.



The main harvest begins for many fruits, including peaches. Photo: PIXABAY

Plant seedlings of leeks, broccoli, capsicum, lettuce, rocket, silver-beet, spinach, spring onion to name a few.
FLOWERS
Gaps appear in flower borders as early season flowers die out and need replanting. Early autumn rain often causes mature plants to become disease ridden. Once foliage starts to deteriorate, old plants need to be removed to compost bins and the ground prepared for further planting. Bulbs and Perennials – Plant, divide, weed and cultivate throughout the winter months while plants are dormant. Prepare ground incorporating fertiliser. Plant out – Fuchsia, petunia, dahlia, verbena, alyssum, cosmos, gazania, marigold, nemesis, chrysanthemum, daffodil, tulip, hyacinth, pansy and viola, dianthus, gerbera and lavender.
FRUIT
Main autumn harvest begins.

Late season peaches and plums mature rapidly with the onset of cooler autumn nights and hot sunny days. Apples develop higher skin colour. Earliest maturing varieties will soon be followed by main season varieties. Main late season peaches and plums are now fully mature. Irrigate trees thoroughly to swell the fruit size before harvest if dry weather prevails. Continue with the pest control and watch for codling moth. Strawberries – With the completion of the main fruiting season, old plants can be dug out.
HERBS
Plant new herbs for a continued supply – basil, chilli, coriander and parsley.
LAWNS
Perfect time for sowing new lawn is late February. It is a busy time coming up for lawn mowing as growth rate increases.

- Ngatea Garden Circle

Highland whiskey and haggis in Paeroa

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

Although Paeroa's annual Highland Games and Tattoo was cancelled for 2022 due to Covid-19 uncertainty, residents will still be able to transport themselves to the Scottish glens come February. A 'Whiskey and Haggis' evening has been planned for February 12 at the former Paeroa racecourse to celebrate Scottish heritage. The night will include a full meal of haggis, neeps and tatties, ham, roast vegetables, and salads. There will also be a haggis ceremony, Scottish country dancers, and pipers. Back in November, the

Paeroa Highland Games committee said it had not taken the decision to cancel lightly, but due to issues such as the pipe bands not being able to practice during lockdown, and the uncertainty of Covid -19, it decided to instead concentrate on planning for the 2023 event. It will now take place on February 11, 2023. **DETAILS: Haggis and Whiskey evening, February 12, 2022, at the old Paeroa racecourse from 5:30pm, \$35pp with all profits going to The Paeroa Highland Games. Bookings a must. Please txt Lyn 027 681 8610.**



Plenty of action at last year's Highland Games. File photo: KELLEY TANTAU

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

February 2022 Moon Planting Calendar

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given as required by Clause 9.1 of the Thames Valley Rugby Football Unions Constitution that the Annual General Meeting of the Thames Valley Rugby Football Union Inc. will be held at the Unions Offices, 140a Normanby Road, Paeroa on **WEDNESDAY 23rd FEBRUARY 2022, commencing at 7.30PM.** A vaccine pass will be required

Situations Vacant

The Valley Profile

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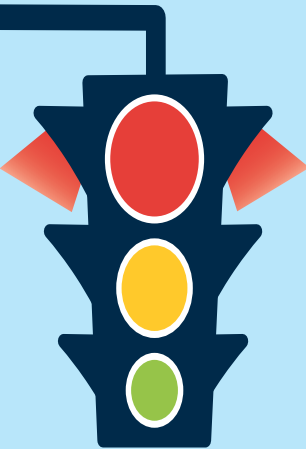


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HDC NEWS

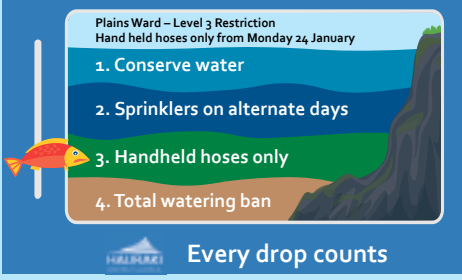
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The whole of New Zealand moved to traffic light alert level RED at 11:59pm on Sunday 23 January, to help stop the spread of Omicron. Our offices remain open and you can find updates to our services on our website. Keeping loved ones and the community safe means following covid-19 guidelines. Learn more at <https://covid19.govt.nz>




Plains Ward Water Restrictions

From **Monday 24 January**, the whole of the Plains Ward will be at Level 3 water restrictions, which means a total ban on the use of all sprinkler, unattended hoses and garden irrigation systems. Hand-held hoses can be used on alternate days: If your address is an even number you can use your hose on even numbered days, and vice versa for odd numbered houses.




Rubbish and Recycling Collection

Kerbside collections will be a day later than usual after Auckland Anniversary and Waitangi Day weekends. Don't miss the truck, check the collection schedule at <https://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/services/refuse/kerbside-pubhols/>



Council Meetings


Our first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 9 February. See our full 2022 calendar at <https://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/our-council/council-meetings/>



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SPORTS

Donations received for club's new roof

By GORDON PREECE

Thames Squash Club has been served several large donations to go toward replacing its 50-year-old roof.

Club president Rob Johnston, who's held the position for five years, said the club had received a \$14,380 donation from New Zealand Community Trust (NZCT) and a further \$15,000 from the Lion Foundation for the project.

"NZCT were our first funders when we started upgrading the clubrooms in 2018 where they funded \$20,000 to go towards the upgrade of our deck, which made a massive difference to the clubrooms and how we operate," he told *The Profile*.

"Then in 2019 they funded us \$15,000 to go towards the clubroom's exterior painting and now they're helping us with the roof, which is massively important for the club's outkeep, so they're a spectacular organisation."

Rob said it had been known for some time that the club needed to replace the roof after they identified part of the roof was rusting during regular clearance of leaves and tennis balls from the clubhouse gutters.

The quotes to replace the Brown St clubhouse roof



Thames Squash Club president Rob Johnston outside the club's Brown St building.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

are between \$34,000 and \$38,000, and so far they have raised \$29,000.

"The Lion Foundation also gave us \$15,000 to replace the roof, which is incredibly generous of them," Rob said.

"We have other funders we apply to and will try and raise the remaining funds if we can but we may end up paying for

it out of our reserve funds."

Rob said the club was also looking to upgrade other areas of the club to bring it up to a very high standard.

"We've managed to paint the interior of the squash courts, got new tables and chairs and it would be nice to upgrade the kitchen, which is from the 70s as well," he said.

Thames Squash Club won Squash Waikato Club of the Year and was nominated for Squash New Zealand Club of the Year in 2021.

Currently, the club has 110 members, which Rob said had grown over summer.

"In previous years, we've had around 70, including 20 juniors, but we've had some good

work done by our women's club captain running a ladies night and our treasurer running Business House Squash and some of the participants have come on board and become members," he said.

"We've got a very good junior programme as well with great help from the committee and parents."

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