

The Valley Profile

ISSN 2703-5700

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

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626 Pollen Street 07 868 6124

Issue 057 February 16, 2022

‘Can’t afford’ to be saved

Wendy Fergusson has lived through “horrendous” chemo for lung cancer. Now she faces an added worry about how to pay for her life-saving drugs. GORDON PREECE reports

A Waihi couple may be forced to sell their home to cover the cost of an unfunded drug to treat lung cancer.

Craig Fergusson recently launched an online fundraising page with a goal to raise \$208,000 to cover the full cost of an unfunded drug called IMFINZI to treat his wife Wendy Fergusson’s lung cancer.

Wendy said she really wanted people to be aware of her situation so they could promote Pharmac’s funding for the life-saving drug.

“I can only imagine being in my position how desperately people feel when they find out they could be saved but can’t afford to be,” she said.

“When the government is passing these things they need to think how would you feel if you had it [lung cancer] and this [IMFINZI] was your way to survive and you’re telling people they have to die because they can’t afford it.

“I’ve got new grandsons and I want to see them grow up.”

Wendy told *The Profile* she believed there was no big reason why Pharmac couldn’t



Craig and Wendy Fergusson need to raise \$208,000 for Wendy’s lung cancer treatment.

Photo: SUPPLIED

fund it. “When you’re faced with this situation, you actually learn about this sort of thing, and it’s sad because now I know many people have died unnecessarily - my sister being one of them,” she said.

“I lost my sister five years ago to sternum cancer and this drug [IMFINZI] could’ve saved her, but it didn’t because it wasn’t funded and she couldn’t afford it.

“And she was the woman who

raised me, not my mother.”

Craig, who has been with Wendy for 25 years, said “disappointed” would be a good word to describe how he felt about Pharmac not currently funding the drug.

“I respect their response to the pandemic but they throw a lot of money at that kind of thing,” he said.

“When you look at the two years the pandemic’s been

CONTINUED P2

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Home may be lost for cancer treatment

CONTINUED FROM P1

around and how many people in New Zealand have died with it, yet there's 1600-odd people a year dying from lung cancer unnecessarily," he said.

Wendy's had to undergo seven weeks of chemotherapy and radiation treatments, which she described as "horrendous".

"I didn't believe I would survive them to be honest.

"Because of the chemotherapy, which four out of the six days were eight-hour treatments, I couldn't eat, drink, even drink water. They put me on drips and [it] got very nasty, and in the end I just about quit," she said.

A former smoker, Wendy discovered she'd been diagnosed with lung cancer in July last year after her heart stopped.

"She went to her local doctor in Waihi about this pain in her shoulder she'd had for a while and was put on anti-inflammatories, which she was reacting to and put a big strain on her respiratory system. [This] caused a blood clot to release from her lung and went through her heart and stopped her heart.

"That was right in front of me," Craig said.

"I don't know CPR but I did what I could, and the doctor later told me what I managed to do restarted her heart.

"We then went to Thames Hospital where they discov-



Wendy and Craig Fergusson discovered Wendy had lung cancer after her heart stopped in July last year. Photo: SUPPLIED

ered a big mass in Wendy's lung, which they pointed to as lung cancer."

Craig said after Wendy's chemotherapy and radiation treatment, and because the cancer tumour was inoperable, the oncologist suggested they look into immunotherapy.

"I was looking it up... and at

that time [the drug] Keytruda was the number one thing they were using," he said.

Keytruda is funded in New Zealand to treat melanoma and bowel cancer but not lung cancer, which means Craig and Wendy have to find money for the drug themselves.

Craig set up a Givealittle page to raise funds toward the \$120,000 cost of Keytruda.

But before Wendy could start on Keytruda, her oncologist changed her immunotherapy drug to IMFINZI, which is specifically targeted to treat lung cancer. Also unfunded, the couple found they now had to raise \$208,000 for 12 cycles of IMFINZI, with just over \$10,000 raised so far.

Craig described the donations as "amazing".

"The neighbours have been great and even if people don't donate, just share the message and tell those people to share it, crowdfunding's about having a crowd," he said.

Pharmac is currently seeking feedback on a proposal that would result in IMFINZI being funded from August.

Craig said funding for IMFINZI would be "absolutely awesome".

"It'll give Wendy her last few cycles, because she should be finished by the end of the year," he said.

DETAILS: Wendy Fergusson's Givealittle page: [givealittle.co.nz/cause/help-wendy-finish-her-journey](https://www.givealittle.co.nz/cause/help-wendy-finish-her-journey)



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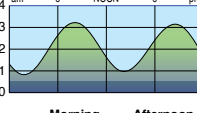
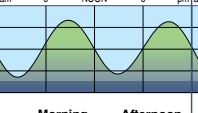
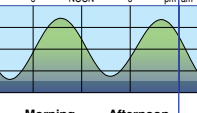
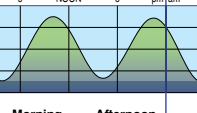
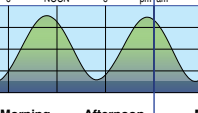
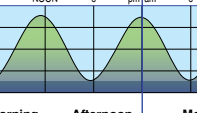
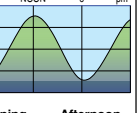
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Thames Tides

Wed Feb 16	Thu Feb 17	Fri Feb 18	Sat Feb 19	Sun Feb 20	Mon Feb 21	Tue Feb 22
 Morning: 1:49am 0.8, 8:07am 3.2 Afternoon: 2:11pm 1.0, 8:30pm 3.1 Sun: 6:49am 8:14pm Best At: 12:42am 1:06pm Full Moon: Set 5:44am, Rise 8:20pm	 Morning: 2:29am 0.7, 8:47am 3.3 Afternoon: 2:52pm 0.9, 9:11pm 3.3 Sun: 6:50am 8:13pm Best At: 1:30am 1:54pm Full Moon: Set 6:48am, Rise 8:51pm	 Morning: 3:08am 0.6, 9:25am 3.4 Afternoon: 3:33pm 0.7, 9:50pm 3.4 Sun: 6:51am 8:12pm Best At: 2:17am 2:40pm Set: 7:52am, Rise 9:19pm	 Morning: 3:46am 0.5, 10:04am 3.5 Afternoon: 4:13pm 0.7, 10:29pm 3.4 Sun: 6:52am 8:11pm Best At: 3:03am 3:25pm Set: 8:56am, Rise 9:46pm	 Morning: 4:25am 0.5, 10:44am 3.5 Afternoon: 4:54pm 0.6, 11:08pm 3.5 Sun: 6:53am 8:09pm Best At: 3:48am 4:10pm Set: 10:00am, Rise 10:12pm	 Morning: 5:06am 0.5, 11:26am 3.5 Afternoon: 5:36pm 0.6, 11:50pm 3.5 Sun: 6:54am 8:08pm Best At: 4:33am 4:57pm Set: 11:06am, Rise 10:40pm	 Morning: 5:50am 0.6, 6:19pm 0.6 Afternoon: 12:10pm 3.5 Sun: 6:55am 8:07pm Best At: 5:21am 5:45pm Set: 12:13pm, Rise 11:10pm

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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	LOW
Coromandel	-0	05	-0 04
Whitianga	-0	02	-0 06
Tairua	+0	10	+0 21
Whangamata	-0	07	-0 07
Waihi Beach	-0	12	-0 12

School kids take a stand against racism

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

A group of primary school students have taken it upon themselves to remove racist graffiti from a sign at the entrance to Thames.

They also branded their own signs which said: “Everybody’s Welcome Here!” and “We Do Not Stand For This” to counteract the vandal’s intent.

The graffiti, spray-painted on the billboard advertising Pollen St restaurant The Grahams-town Bar and Diner (GBD), said “stink a** curries”.

The choice of words was odd, owner Karl Edmonds said.

It seemed derogatory towards people from Indian descent, and neither he, nor his staff, had that background.

“It’s ridiculous because [the vandals] are not achieving anything,” he told *The Profile*.

“I don’t know if they’re aiming it at me, at my business, or my staff... using those words, who is it aimed at?”

Karl said the sign, near the Kōpū Bridge, had been targeted three times over the Christmas-New Year period, and the vandals had also tagged the bridge. The first two times, it was cleaned up by Higgins for free.

“It’s frustrating, because we’re all busy trying to run a business and you’ve got to deal with d*ckheads doing something like that, but good on the school for going and cleaning it.”

Thames South School year 7 and 8 students went out last week with the kura’s caretaker,



Thames South School pupils take a stand beneath the billboard they cleaned with some handmade signs of their own.

Photo: TERESA RAMSEY

Barry Priest, to take matters into their own hands and hopefully remove the graffiti for good.

Teacher and assistant principal Whaea Tineka Rhind said the students wanted to show everybody was welcome to Thames, and that the racism did not reflect the wider community.

“I commute from Auckland to work every day, and I’ve been seeing it since last month, so I

took a photo of it, and discussed it as a topic of discussion with my students, and I got their opinions,” she said.

“As you can imagine, they weren’t very happy about it.”

With most of her students being Māori, Whaea Tineka said one took a particular dislike to the words, highlighting the fact that they could be seen before the pouwhenua (carved posts)

on the Kōpū Bridge.

“It became a personal thing for them,” she said.

“They were very passionate about going up and trying to get rid of it.”

The kura (school) caretaker Barry Priest put together a concoction that would scrub the billboard clean, and though Whaea Tineka said they’d hoped to remove the graffiti before the Wait-

angi long weekend, it was good to finally have it gone. It was also good for “anybody else who has to pass that sign,” she said.

The GBD was now looking at installing electric wiring and cameras to deter the vandals even further.



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Council rejects plea to rescind lower speed limits

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

Hauraki councillors have rejected another council's call for support in its battle against lower speed limits. Hastings District Council has lodged a petition with central government, asking for Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency to rescind its decision to permanently lower the speed limit on State Highway 5, between Rangitaiki and Esk Valley, from 100kmh to 80kmh.

It believes a blanket approach to speed reduction on the state highway will negatively impact the region's economy, residents, and visitors.

But two Hauraki district councillors said they would "in no way" provide any support due to the road's known dangers.

"On Waka Kotahi's website, it says that between 2010 and 2019, 16 people were killed and 75 were seriously injured in crashes on SH5 between Taupo

and Napier.

Since December, 2019, a further nine people have lost their lives in six fatal crashes. All but one of these occurred on that stretch of road - Rangitaiki to Esk Valley," Waihi councillor Anne-Marie Spicer said at a meeting on February 9.

"So, on that alone, I'm sorry, but I'm against signing this petition and supporting them on it."

Her fellow ward councillor, Duncan Smeaton, agreed.

"New Zealand's road fatality rate per 100,000 people (4.4 per 100,000) is nothing to be proud of whatsoever. Having lived in a family where there was a fatality when I was a very young person... once someone is dead, they're dead forever, and the effects and impacts of that go on forever," he said.

"So, there's no way that I can put away any support for this petition."

The petition brings to mind Hauraki's own deadly highway - State Highway 2 which

"Having lived in a family where there was a fatality... the effects and impacts of that go on forever, so there's no way that I can put away any support for this petition."

- Duncan Smeaton



Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

Two Hauraki councillors say they would "in no way" support another council's call to lower speed limits.

flows through the Karangahake Gorge. A *Valley Profile* series last year reported that in the past five years, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency figures showed there had been 68 crashes in the Karangahake Gorge, including one fatal, two serious, 18 minor and 47 non-injury crashes.

Around 15 years ago, community members successfully advocated to reduce the gorge's speed limit from 100kmh to 80kmh, but now called for the area surrounding The Talisman Cafe to be permanently reduced to at least 60kmh.

This past summer, the speed

was reduced temporarily to 50kmh around the entrance to the gorge's popular walking tracks. Mayor Toby Adams agreed the highway would be better suited as a scenic route, with intervals of 50km/h speeds, earlier saying that "everybody in this world just works at a ridiculous pace".

Now, with NZTA currently reviewing the speed limits along State Highway 2, Mayor Adams last week stood firm on his stance that speed contributed to deaths on the road.

"As much as mayors and councillors can say it's not speed, it's the road... it's speed.

The road doesn't make a difference. If you're travelling at 100kmh, you have more of a chance of dying than you have if you're travelling at 80kmh," he said.

"So, I actually support the dropping in speed."

Elected members voted unanimously not to allow Mayor Adams to sign the petition on behalf of council. The petition closes on February 18 and as of February 9, had obtained 8000 signatures.



Measures help students adjust to masks

By GORDON PREECE

Miller Avenue School in Paeroa is holding regular outdoor mask breaks in an effort to control students' emotional wellbeing during the current mask mandate.

Under the Covid-19 red traffic light setting, masks must be worn indoors by all staff and students years 4-13.

Miller Avenue School principal Richard Wilkinson told *The Profile* the outdoor mask breaks would take place for 20 minutes during classtime for year 4 to 8 students, who will keep to their bubbles.

"Kids aren't used to wearing masks and a lot of them don't know why they have these anxieties around mask wearing, especially students year 4 and upwards," he said.

"You could have a child who's sitting behind a mask who's absolutely freaking out and we won't even know until their eyes start watering.

"So for them to just go outside for 20 minutes, take their masks off and run around gives them some sort of normality."

When students re-enter their classroom, they must sanitise, and anytime they touch their masks, they must sanitise again.

Richard said students were gently reminded to keep their masks on indoors.

"It's so new to them and will take them some time to adjust," he said.

"We've got a very good cul-



Miller Avenue School's year 4 to 8 students need to wear masks at school under the Covid-19 red traffic light setting.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

ture in this school where if someone isn't wearing their mask properly, the kids will be very gentle about telling them."

Richard said some students had applied for mask exemptions.

"We have a number of parents whose children suffer from asthma and the trauma of wearing a mask can bring on an attack," he said.

"So we've given them a link

to the official channels to apply for a mask exemption."

Richard said the school communicated the mask mandate message to parents from December, using different channels to cater to all accessibilities. "Rather than throwing out the information all in one hit, we did it in snippets," he said.

"We used our social media page to remind parents they have to send their kids to

school with their masks, and we did that three or four times."

Miller Avenue school also used the Skool Loop app and newsletters or notices to communicate with parents.

Richard said his school had a plan of attack set out by the Ministry of Health to capture all details of a student or students who got Covid-19.

"The student or students have to be isolated, and then

we'll work through a process of identifying which kids were in that class and then we'll work on a plan to advise the parents and then expect them to get their kids tested," he said.

Richard said although he couldn't legally ask students if they had been vaccinated, he knew a lot of the year 7-8 students were vaccinated over the holidays in preparation for getting back to school.

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Thames ‘cafe boy’ in new doco series

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

A week of being followed around by a camera crew, sharing an inside look at his life at his parents’ cafe, made Brooklyn Jiang realise that “family always has your back”.

The 12-year-old Thames High School student was part of the creation of a new documentary series called *Takeout Kids*.

Directed by Julie Zhu, it offers an intimate glimpse into the everyday lives of four young people growing up in their parents’ restaurants and takeaway shops - and the way this impacts their own coming of age.

Spanning the length of Aotearoa and ranging from the introverted to the extroverted, each standalone episode follows the life of a different take-out kid, including Brooklyn, from Sunburst Coffee Lounge in Thames.

Brooklyn’s parents, Lim Heng Yuen and Tola Bo, are originally from Cambodia and have had the cafe on Pollen St since Brooklyn was 10 months old, he said.

He’s grown up in the family business, but told *The Profile* he preferred the quiet moments in the cafe, when the customers had gone and the doors were closed.



Brooklyn Jiang is part of the creation of a new documentary series called *Takeout Kids*.

Photo: SUPPLIED

“After the shop closes, we just run around and hang around here,” he said.
“But everyone knows me as

‘The Cafe Boy’.”
Brooklyn has two younger siblings, Katelyn and Kaycee, and speaks highly of his par-

ents, whom he said started from “nothing”.
“Mum had a hard time; she came here as a teenager and

had to learn a whole different language. I’m very proud of how [mum and dad] made

CONTINUED P7

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CONTINUED FROM P6

something from nothing.”

And when asked what he learned from the documentary process and growing up in the Sunburst Coffee Lounge, Brooklyn said: “your family always has your back, no matter what”.

Takeout Kids launched this week, with all four episodes available to view on *The Spinoff* online.

Director Julie Zhu said the series showed how the kids moved between home and school, at times juggling multiple languages and responsibilities.

“Some of them are close with their parents, some have more distance. Some love working and showing off their professionalism, while others are just waiting for shifts to be over,” she said.

“What excites me about these young people and their stories is the ordinariness of their lives, but the uniqueness and unexpected moments that occur regardless, making the point that everyone’s lives are rich and complex if you dig deep enough to understand.

“On a more subtle level, the series questions the cost to families, very often immigrant families, who work so hard to provide for their children,” she said.

“The kids bear witness to their family’s sacrifices, whether they are conscious or not of this.”



ABOVE: The series follows Brooklyn Jiang, 12, as he grows up in his parent’s cafe in Thames.

RIGHT: Brooklyn says “family always has your back” - he has two younger siblings, and a mum and dad originally from Cambodia.

Photos: SUPPLIED



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Winners announced in Paeroa art awards

By GORDON PREECE

Two winners of this year's Annual Art Awards exhibition hosted by Paeroa Society of Arts "couldn't believe" they'd won for their artworks.

Kathy Bland of Paeroa won first prize in the spring section with *Spring Tui* and Shirley Thomas of Te Aroha won first prize in the painting section with *West Coast Beauty*.

The pottery section was won by Denise Judd with *Black Sculpture*, and the other media section was won by Elise Belovic with *Metal Eden*.

Kathy told *The Profile* her inspiration for *Spring Tui* came from a photo she took of a Tui in her kōwhai tree.

"I planted a kōwhai tree in my garden a few years ago and last year a tūi came in. I stood behind my curtains and poked my long lens out the window and it got a bit used to me so I could take a few photos," she said.

"I work out the composition and the lighting first then because I take photos in raw format, I tweak them a little bit to give them contrast and make them stand out."

Kathy said she got into photography during her 20s when she belonged to the Henderson Camera Club and used to go to Speedway and wanted to learn how to take better photos.

"After I bought my first digital camera in 2004, I went to a class run by a guy who used to be president of the Manu-



Spring section winner Kathy Bland, left, with *Spring Tui*, Paeroa Society of Arts director, Jessica Lines, painting section winner Shirley Thomas with *West Coast Beauty*. Photo: GORDON PREECE

kau Camera Club, which I later joined and joined the Howick Camera Club as well, and from there it was about learning and more practice," she said.

Kathy also participated in the awards last year with two of her photos, picking up second place and commended prizes.

Shirley said her inspiration for *West Coast Beauty* depict-

ing the Fox Glacier area came from an AA Travel Book.

"Something about the West Coast is special. I've been through the West Coast and I think the scenery's beautiful," she said.

"Every minute of the day the scenery changes, it's better to paint a morning or evening one with mist and [art's] been my

whole world and enjoyment."

Shirley said she'd done art for 43 years.

"I'd come off a farm in Te Aroha and was very homesick from the farm and the sheep, and after a year I plucked up courage and went to a German artist who was traveling around the Waikato giving art lessons," she said.

"He taught me how to paint skies, trees and reflections and I kept getting lessons from him for six years."

"My paintings grow as I start them, from my heart through my head and out through my hands."

Shirley had previously won a first place prize for one of her paintings eight years ago when the awards were called the members exhibition, has has won the Thames Summer Festival Art Award twice and received many national awards.

Paeroa Society of Arts director Jessica Lines said she was "overjoyed" by this year's awards.

"We put in so much hard work and in these Covid-19 times I was nervous because I didn't know if we would have enough entries," she said.

This year's awards consisted of 103 entries plus the guests' artwork.

"All the art gives me joy, just to see all the variety of different styles and levels, I just love it," Jessica said.

"The public have had some really good reactions to all of the artwork and pretty much every day since opening we've had a sale, so that's awesome for us. May it continue for the rest of this month."

Jessica said the public also really like that they can participate in voting in the people's choice award which is set to be announced on February 25.

The awards will continue until February 28.

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Rural Life

*Students
enjoy fruits
of labour*

A young woman with glasses, wearing a white short-sleeved shirt, a black neckerchief, an orange high-visibility safety vest, and a dark plaid skirt, stands in a grassy field. She is smiling and holding a small yellow object in her right hand, reaching towards a leafy plant. The background shows more greenery and a clear sky.

Katie Pope gets started on picking the fruit.



Students are hard at work weeding.

Photos: SUPPLIED/HPC



Kyle Beaver, left, gets to work with the crew.



Dylan Adams finds some fruit to pick.



Brock Jackson, left, and Tyler Tahitahi with a huge pile of weeds.



Teacher Brett Harris, right, gives some direction.

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Father and daughter die within hours



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

Elizabeth Wilson and her 24-year-old daughter Maggie found the city of Auckland in 1923 quite a change from their hometown of Paeroa but were successfully negotiating their way to where their husband and father, George, lay seriously ill in a private hospital in Grafton Rd.

As the outward bound Dominion Rd tram car left the Grafton Bridge stop, they both went to the front platform and, with the tram travelling at a fair pace, inexplicably stepped off it. Motorman John Parks saw Mrs Wilson fall first and as he applied the brakes, saw someone else come off the tram. Mrs Wilson was not hurt but Maggie had severe head and back injuries. She was rushed to Auckland hospital where she remained unconsciousness, dying the next day at 2.30pm.

In a terrible coincidence, 60-year-old George had died the night before. Elizabeth Wilson had lost both husband and daughter within hours of each other. At the inquest Mrs Wilson said she thought the tram had



The Wilson's grave at Pukerimu cemetery, Paeroa.

Photo: SUPPLIED

stopped. When Frederick Butler, conductor on the tram, asked why she had not rung the bell, she said she had overlooked it.

The coroner found that Maggie's death was caused by a skull fracture, due to getting off a tram when it was in motion. There was no blame attachable to the motorman or the conductor. The bereavement blighted a family life that started with so much promise.

George and Elizabeth had married in 1888 in the first marriage ceremony to take place in the new Presbyterian Church at Clevedon.

Reverend Norrie presented the pair with a family bible, advising them to follow its teachings. As the bridal party drove away, their friends threw showers of rice after them.

The Wilsons lived at Paparimu, Hunua, for a time and had three children. In 1912, the family took up residence at a property in Paeroa, which they had purchased some time previously. George also purchased Gibbons' farm of 1100 acres at Netherton, which was named the Wirihana Estate.

George was considered "one of the right kinds of settlers" for the area who took a keen interest in local affairs. He founded the Paeroa Engineering Company, was a very active member of the Hauraki Agricultural Association and a staunch supporter of the Paeroa Presbyterian Church.

By 1919, son Reginald had married in Scotland, and daughter Elizabeth, her husband and small son were living at Wirihana with

George, Elizabeth and Maggie. In October of that year, George put the Wirihana Estate up for sale.

The 600 acre property, advertised as being in "the rich Hauraki Plains - a land of wealth", had been surveyed into 11 farms of 50 to 57 acres. The double funeral for Maggie and George was held at Paeroa's Pukerimu cemetery and was one of the largest ever seen in the district. "Only those who knew him can understand our loss," said a memoriam notice of George placed in newspapers a year later by family. Maggie was remembered as: "So dear, so sweet, so kind, so true, and was always good to you. Just too good to live, but not too good to die."

Wilson Rd, Netherton, is named after the family.

HDC donates to Tonga relief

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

Up to \$500 from each ward in the Hauraki district will be used to provide financial aid in the aftermath of Tonga's deadly volcanic eruption.

Hauraki District Council last week voted to contribute no more than \$1500 to the Tongan recovery, following a call to help from local community leaders. In January, the explosive volcanic eruption of Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai set off an atmospheric shockwave and generated metres-high tsunamis. It devastated much of Tonga and has led to the need for a humanitarian response, with both New Zealand and Australia taking a pivotal role.

The council was approached by Infrastructure New Zealand, who offered to coordinate an industry response, while the president of the Thames and Paeroa Tongan Fundraising Committee, Alby Tukia, also wrote seeking assistance by way of sponsorship, donations, or resources that would help with the recovery effort.

Mr Tukia, who earlier told *The Profile* he had family living in Tonga, wrote that "hearing from our families and seeing photographs of the damage has been difficult and tough". He was asking local businesses for "whatever assistance they can provide".

The council's governance leadership team will now meet to decide the appropriate organisation to receive the funds, and determine the funding level.



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Twists & Turns

By TERESA RAMSEY

Motorcycle riders improved their slow riding skills in a fundraising event at the Ngatea netball courts on Saturday.

Organiser Trevor Birchall said eighteen riders took part, including three instructors who volunteered their time for the annual Twists & Turns event, which raised \$260 for Hauraki Women's Refuge.

"Although we did not have as many attend Twist & Turns as I expected, I can definitely say everyone there improved their slow riding skills over the day," he said.

"I think many were put off because of the weather forecast, only we had no rain while training, it only started when I was on my way home.

"The venue we had was excellent, quite a lot larger than we have used in the past, however, we were able to use the whole area with different exercises."

Entrants came from Waitakere, Auckland, Pukekohe, Turua, Whangamata, Thames, Waihi Beach, Te Aroha, Paeroa, Morrinsville and Ngatea. Most were Ulysses Club members, with a few friends of members attending.

Bikes varied in size and style, and the ages of the entrants were also as varied, Mr Birchall said.

The event would not have happened without instructors John Heebink and Barry Holland, who came down from Auckland to help, he said.

"Really a big thank you to you both.

"Thanks also to Hauraki District Council for promoting the event and contacting Waikato Road Safety division for the donation of all the scarves the entrants received.

"Thanks must go Ngatea Netball Association for the use of the courts, thanks to both Hauraki Council and Ngatea Primary School for use of the cones, Bruz MacGregor for the loan of his trailer and my wife and Wayne Larson for reception and collecting the money.

"Thanks to all who donated generously."



Riders wait for their turn on the skills course held on the Ngatea netball courts.

Photos: TERESA RAMSEY



A rider makes his way around the skills course.



Instructor Barry Holland gives some tips.



Instructor John Heebink demonstrates the course.



Instructor Trevor Birchall, right, briefs riders about the day ahead.

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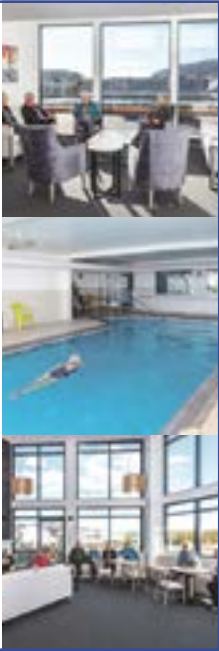


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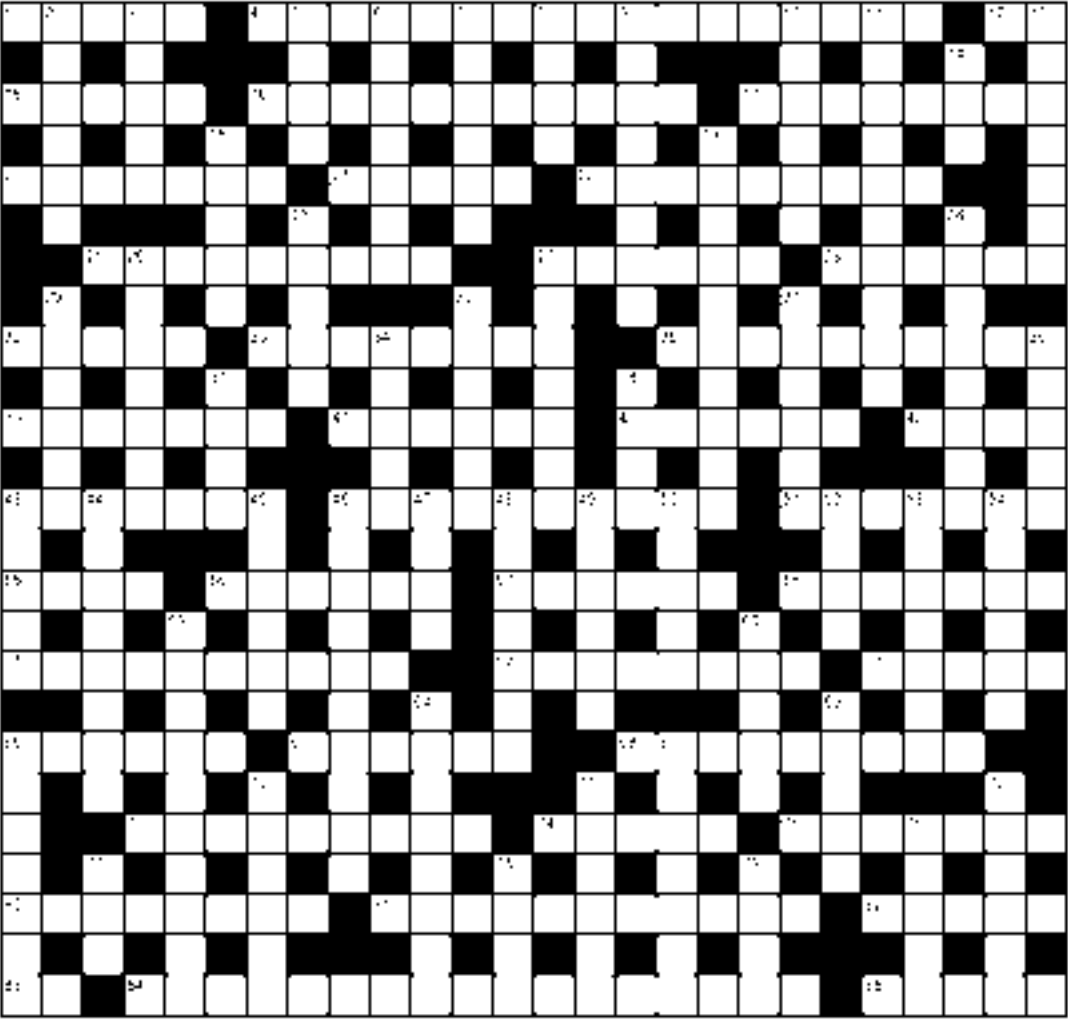
EASY

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57

- ACROSS**
1 Very small mark (5)
4 Offend further someone already wronged (3,6,2,6)
12 Upon (2)
15 Smell (5)
16 French construction (6,5)
17 Slimy cob (anag)(8)
20 Fruit tree flower (7)
21 Desiccated (5)
22 With prudence (9)
25 Protest (9)
27 Beer maker (6)
28 Underground workers (6)
32 Parable (5)
33 Increasing threefold (8)
35 Very careful and precise (10)
39 Restricted (7)
40 Large bottle (6)
41 Going by horse (6)
42 Food grain (4)
43 Hair cleaner (7)
46 Needleless warning given in error (5,5)
51 Liniment ingredient (7)
55 Church part (4)
56 Befuddled (6)
57 French brandy (6)
58 Got away (7)
61 Brew (10)
62 Turning (8)
63 High temperature (5)
66 Fashionable (6)
67 Help (6)
- DOWN**
2 Rainwater pool (6)
3 Hints (5)
5 Fall in drops (4)
6 Conflagration (7)
7 Morose, brooding (6)
8 Big cat (4)
9 Adolescent (8)
10 Elated (6)
11 Recalcitrant (10)
13 Kernel (7)
14 Antique (3)
18 Changed location (5)
19 Public vote (10)
23 Long-legged bird (5)
24 Knock down (8)
26 European country (7)
27 Flower (7)
29 Exile (6)
30 Burns superficially (6)
31 Dine alfresco (6)
34 Modeller's wood (5)
36 Pointed weapon (5)
- ACROSS**
37 Roman emperor (4)
38 Opera solo (4)
43 Of sound (5)
44 Moved forward (8)
45 Quirk (6)
46 Camaraderie (10)
47 Boys (4)
48 Selected passage (7)
49 Smooth and connected (mus)(6)
50 Cook in oven (5)
52 Too (4)
53 Level highland (7)
54 Unlocked (6)
59 Introduction greeting (3,2,3,2)
60 Bump (5)
64 Dodge (8)
65 Explosion (5)
66 Battles (anag)(7)
69 Decorate elaborately (7)
70 Profited (6)
71 Flavoured ice food (6)
72 Tempestuous (5)
76 Neighbourhood pub (5)
77 Towards the stern (3)
78 Reverberation (4)
79 Stir vigorously (4)



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DOWN: 2 Truncheon, 3 Tango, 5 Rare, 6 Canteen, 7 Bewilderment, 8 Evens, 9 Suffice, 10 Lime, 11 Mosaic, 12 Award, 13 Trigger, 14 Crystal, 16 Volunteered, 22 Trivia, 23 Cutlass, 24 Hobbled, 25 Untidy, 27 Porcine, 28 Vacuum, 30 Dais, 32 Sells, 34 Might, 36 Zero, 38 Era, 42 Carob, 43 Nuptial, 44 Idle, 45 Loiter, 46 Grave, 48 Pessimistic, 49 Trudged, 50 Nun, 51 Pegasus, 52 Svelte, 53 Brainwashing, 54 View, 57 Result, 64 Overthrow, 65 Enabled, 66 Sleeper, 68 Sugared, 70 Iciness, 71 Jurors, 72 Suede, 74 Tenor, 76 Rower, 78 Tyre, 79 Clue.

SPORTS

Carnival fun

Thames High School held its annual swimming carnival on Friday with plenty of fun, chanting and water-based action at the school pool. Students were also encouraged to bring a donation to raise money to support Tonga after the recent volcanic eruption. Reporter **GORDON PREECE** headed along to dive into the school spirit.



House captain Harry Oxford went cray cray at the carnival.



Roman Smith powers through the water in the noodle race.



Adams House students chant hard as the races unfold.

Photos: GORDON PREECE



Head prefect Luke Steward makes his voice heard.



The noodle race proves to be lots of fun.



Students have a laugh in the lifejacket race.



Students line up for the noodle race.

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A photograph showing the interior of a hair salon. There are several hairdressing stations with mirrors and chairs. The lighting is warm and modern.

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- Computer literacy;
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- A full current New Zealand Driver's license and clean Police check;
- That you be fully covid vaccinated in accordance with Government mandates;
- Have recently undertaken Te Tiriti training.

We would like the following:

- Experience with keeping KOPPS documents current;
- Experience with DHB Contracts and Funding Applications;
- Experience of working with a Governance Board would be very helpful.

This is a 32 hour a week position with negotiable hours and days of work.
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MASK EXEMPTIONS

Mask wearing and face shield wearing will help to stop the spread of Covid 19. While most people wear them and agree they are not the most comfortable thing to wear, especially all day, I cannot understand why we have mask exemption cards proudly worn by often smug and smiling people as they breathe past me in public places. What is the point? Why are they not made exempt from visiting public places as it makes a monkey of the rest of us who diligently don masks? If their medical condition renders them unable to wear a mask then they should not put themselves or the public at risk in public places and can surely arrange to have groceries etc delivered. I'm just saying....
- Alison Collings, Waihi

VACCINATE OR RESIGN

Hi Sandra Goudie, What sort of game do you think you're playing? As an elected public servant and an individual you are setting all the wrong examples and acting in a very irresponsible manner. You and I had a number of emails back and forth in October, 2021. If I were one of your constituents I would be at your road front gateway in the morning demanding you get vaxxed or resign. It wouldn't surprise me to read in the Herald tomorrow that there is a line up outside your home. Move aside and let Gary take over so he can act in a responsible manner.
- John Mead, Waiheke Island

OPPOSING PERSPECTIVE

In citizen Passmore's letter, (January 19, 2022), MDP expressed his/her comfort and satisfaction with their membership in the 'vaccinated majority', and contempt for the Mayor and presumably her like-minded fellow citizens. Mayor Sandra Goudie humbly and bravely holds an opposing perspective, never an easy position. She tries to separate 'political science' from 'real science' - as real as can be substantiated in the short time period since covid was let loose among us. She is wisely reticent about claiming to know all there is to know about it, and does not claim to. Unlike the less humble folk who profess to, some unfortunately in positions of power, and have no shame flexing and exploiting it. I am grateful to my mother for having influenced me in the direction of common sense, which included questioning whether any drugs or substances one considered allowing into one's body were really necessary or safe. Also, how many times did we all hear from our parents "if everyone else jumps in the lake, should you?" Very basic tenets, very true. I truly am sad for the generations who grow up without having common sense instilled in them, or armed with the bravery to stand against 'the Mob', ie the Majority. Bravo, Mayor Goudie! 1. The long term effects are yet to be revealed. 2. Each citizen has a very different health, moral and spiritual status, and each of us must be respected for the personal decisions we make, with as much 'credible science' as we can garner.
- Colleen Bricker, Thames

SPORTS



LEFT: Andy McCowatt, left, and Barbara Thompson compete in the Lion tournament. RIGHT: Ian Smith, left, and Ian Sara compete at the Local Bodies match. The current Covid-19 setting of Code Red meant the Kerepehi Bowling Club had to turn way 10 teams for the Local Bodies Optional Fours (Kerepehi Transport/Laser Electrical Ngatea/Leeda sponsored) on January 27. RESULTS: 1st 4 wins, (Huntly East) Browne team; 2nd 4 wins, (HDC) Hitchcock team; 3rd 4 wins, (WRC) Justin Sara team; 4th 3 wins, (HDC) Lorraine Putt team; 5th 3 wins (TCDC) Herb team; 6th 3 wins (WRC) Petley team. End of 4 game play. Played off to get above results. Club Booby Prize – Richard Crosland, Robin Povey, Des Stanaway, George Morehu. Lion Breweries-sponsored tournament with 23 teams, was played on February 6, with occasional showers trying to put a stop to play. RESULTS: 1st 4 wins +25 points, 23 ends (Tui Park) Ken Paul, Alison Honeyfield, Maureen Barker, Pat Bevan; 2nd 4 wins +21 points, 20 ends (Waihi Beach) Adria, Garry Hewitt, Kathryn, Darryl; 3rd 4 wins +19 points, 20 ends (Paeroa) Arthur Thorburn team; 4th 3 wins+ bye +10 points, 13 ends (Kerepehi). Alan Thompson, Barbara Thompson and team. Club Prize – Richard Crosland, Mike Hitchcock, Jon Stockman, Robin Povey. Coming up on February 20: Norm Allen-sponsored triples; February 23: Pairs Classic (already full with 32 teams); March 13: Option Fours (Hudson Family); March 17: Optional Triples (Bowers Brothers Concrete).

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New roof goes up for Thames church

By GORDON PREECE

Thames Baptist Church has received an anonymous donation of \$80,000 to go toward the \$160,000 cost of replacing their roof.

Pastor Chris Lee told *The Profile* the Mary St church's roof was damaged in August last year after strong winds caused the roof to peel off "like the wing of an aeroplane".

"The wind then sent bits of the roof across the road to Wenzlick's, bent their fence and broke a couple of windows at TCDC," he said.

"Luckily it was at midnight when there was no one around."

Work started on the new roof three weeks ago after the church's insurance company and an engineer looked into how the roof could be strengthened.

Mr Lee suspected one of the reasons the roof didn't survive the strong winds was because the iron installed fifty years ago wasn't secure.

"It was nailed in rather than screwed into the purlins and kauri planking," he said.

"Part of it may have been because buildings breathe and some decisions in the past meant there was an unequal pressure in the ceiling cavity, so that's why the builders rectified it this time and it will be



Thames Baptist Church pastor, Chris Lee says the new roof will be screwed in to prevent it blowing off again.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

on for another 100 years."

Mr Lee said the 175-year-old church's interior had also suffered water damage since the roof was damaged, which meant church services couldn't be held there.

"When they took the original shingles off, they left the nails

sticking out so instead of putting a tarpaulin on the outside to stop the weather, they put the tarpaulins on the inside so they wouldn't rip," Mr Lee said.

"We're not using our auditorium or our kids zone so we've been meeting at Thames Civic Centre. When the red traffic

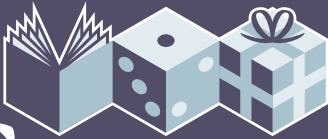
light came, we've been meeting at the church lounge, which is unaffected."

Mr Lee said over Waitangi weekend, six inches of water poured into the church.

The church's insurance company will pay \$80,000 for the new roof on the damaged side

and the new roof on the undamaged side will be paid for by the \$80,000 anonymous donation.


The new roof is expected to be completed by Easter before work begins on repairing the water damage, to be paid by the insurance company.



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