

The Valley Profile

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UP IN FLAMES



A firefighter prepares to douse the fierce flames at the front of several shops in Paeroa's main street.
Photo: TERESA RAMSEY

By **TERESA RAMSEY** and **GORDON PREECE**

A charity opportunity shop owner in Paeroa's main street is determined to "rise from the ashes" after losing everything in a "devastating" fire last week.

Forget Me Not op shop owner Susan Turner said although the shop was gutted and she didn't have contents insurance, her team was determined to continue helping the community

and planned to reopen within a month.

"We will stay positive and we rise out of the ashes and keep moving forward, we will not give up and we will be back in business," she said.

"[It's] a big clean up but we'll just keep pushing forward. One door closes, many more open, as long as everybody's safe that's all that matters."

Susan and her husband, Bear, were standing out the front of the

shop on Wednesday afternoon when they noticed smoke in the rear of the shop.

"My husband saw white smoke, and then so him and the neighbour ran for the extinguishers, but it had already taken hold out the back," she said.

"They came back and said it's too much, it's already lapping out the kitchen door.

"So it was just get out and ring the fire brigade," she told *The Profile*.

Within minutes, the fire spread through the shop and broke glass windows at the front before quickly spreading along the street frontages of several neighbouring shops and destroying an ATM machine.

Fire crews arrived from around the district, and firefighters fought the blaze from the rear then front of the shop.

The fire service is still investigating the cause of the fire, however, Susan believed it was

caused by an electrical fault in the kitchen ceiling.

Susan said the op shop didn't sell donated electrical goods.

"I have electrical stuff in there but... I stockpile it for somebody else that takes it."

There was a fire wall between the shops, she said, however, neighbouring shop owners were concerned about damage to their premises.

The Mikkelsen Gallery, The

CONTINUED ON P2

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Op shop calls for donations after fire

CONTINUED FROM P1

Bakehouse Cafe and Midway Burger Bar were closed, and Old Mate's Pizza and Paeroa News Agents were also temporarily affected by smoke-damage.

A Bakehouse Cafe worker, who didn't want to be named, said she initially thought the fire was in her cafe.

"We were all in the shop and then I could smell something burning," she said.

"Then I went out the back to get something and then all of a sudden I saw smoke all up here and then I thought the fire was coming from our building.

"I came to the front and saw Sue, she was outside and someone told me a fire started in Forget Me Not store, and then we evacuated people from our shop and we exited the back door.

"So yeah, it's shocking."

Bystander Michelle Surgenor said she thought the fire came from Midway Burger Bar next door to the op shop.

"We just saw this very black smoke just pouring out and it was getting bigger and bigger but it was quite a while before you saw any flames," she said.

"But when the flames started, it just took off."

Paeroa Volunteer Fire Brigade Deputy Chief Fire Officer Lindsay Hill later told *The Profile* there was no major damage to the properties on each side of Forget me Not.

"Luckily there were pretty solid concrete walls between them," he said.

"The insurance guy's windows



Fire crews from Paeroa, Puriri, Ngatea, Te Aroha, Waihi and Hamilton attended the scene. Photo: GORDON PREECE

are broken, there was no real damage to the burger bar."

A Fire and Emergency spokesperson said the fire service responded to the commercial property fire at 12:36pm and crews from Paeroa, Puriri, Ngatea, Te Aroha, Waihi and Hamilton attended the scene.

The fire was extinguished two hours later and two fire investigators began a scene examination.

Susan took over the op shop in 2020 from Marise Carey, who established the shop, originally called the Paeroa Promotions Opportunity Shop, in Hughenden St.

Marise earlier told *The Profile* she opened the op shop to give back to the community, with all profits are donated to charity.

"We wanted to open another op shop that was community-focused and affordable and in the same token, put the money back into Paeroa town and the local Hauraki area," she said.

The shop was later moved to its current premises on Belmont Rd, and Susan said she had been planning on expanding again before the fire struck.

"It's not the end, it's not over, we've already found a bigger shop and we were getting ready to move," she said.

DETAILS: Forget Me Not op shop is currently accepting donations of hangers, clothes racks and shelving for its new shop, visit: facebook.com/paeroaforgetmenot for collection information.

MORE PHOTOS, P14-15

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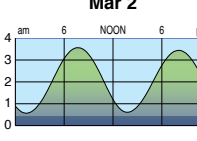
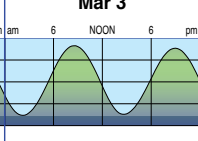
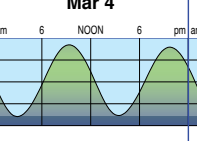
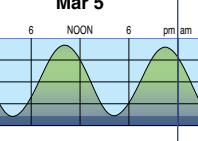
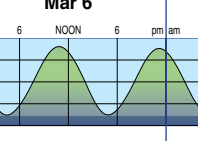
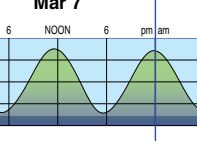
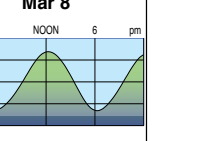
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Thames Tides

Wed Mar 2	Thu Mar 3	Fri Mar 4	Sat Mar 5	Sun Mar 6	Mon Mar 7	Tue Mar 8
 Morning: 1:21am 0.6, 7:42am 3.6 Afternoon: 1:45pm 0.6, 8:04pm 3.4 Sunrise: 7:03am, Sunset: 7:56pm Best At: 12:35am 1:01pm New Moon: Rise 5:54am, Set 7:58pm	 Morning: 2:12am 0.5, 8:33am 3.7 Afternoon: 2:37pm 0.5, 8:57pm 3.5 Sunrise: 7:04am, Sunset: 7:55pm Best At: 1:27am 1:51pm New Moon: Rise 7:04am, Set 8:29pm	 Morning: 2:59am 0.4, 9:21am 3.7 Afternoon: 3:25pm 0.5, 9:44pm 3.6 Sunrise: 7:05am, Sunset: 7:53pm Best At: 2:15am 2:38pm New Moon: Rise 8:12am, Set 8:57pm	 Morning: 3:43am 0.4, 10:06am 3.7 Afternoon: 4:10pm 0.5, 10:27pm 3.6 Sunrise: 7:06am, Sunset: 7:52pm Best At: 3:01am 3:23pm New Moon: Rise 9:17am, Set 9:23pm	 Morning: 4:26am 0.5, 10:51am 3.6 Afternoon: 4:53pm 0.5, 11:09pm 3.5 Sunrise: 7:07am, Sunset: 7:51pm Best At: 3:45am 4:07pm New Moon: Rise 10:20am, Set 9:49pm	 Morning: 5:08am 0.6, 11:34am 3.5 Afternoon: 5:35pm 0.6, 11:49pm 3.4 Sunrise: 7:08am, Sunset: 7:49pm Best At: 4:29am 4:51pm New Moon: Rise 11:21am, Set 10:16pm	 Morning: 5:50am 0.7, 6:16pm 0.7 Afternoon: 12:16pm 3.4 Sunrise: 7:09am, Sunset: 7:48pm Best At: 5:14am 5:36pm New Moon: Rise 12:23pm, Set 10:45pm

MOON AND FISH KEYS

TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES

PLACE

Rare white monarch hatches in Netherton

By GORDON PREECE

A Netherton butterfly lover “couldn’t believe it” when she recently spotted a rare white monarch butterfly chrysalis in her garden.

Megan Williams told *The Profile* the chrysalis blew off one of her trees during Cyclone Dovi recently, so she brought it inside and a white female butterfly hatched a week later.

“She was with another chrysalis which was orange, so it was quite weird that the other one was white,” she said.

“I thought maybe she was sick but her wings were fine and she could fly.

“My daughter Brea couldn’t believe it as well, she’s quite fascinated by it all.”

Two male white monarchs also hatched and Megan kept one and released the other one to “have a free life.”

Megan fluttered to social media to post photos of her rare discovery and said she received many reactions.

“A lot of people have been messaging me asking to share the photo, people have been talking to people in America about it, people have been wondering if anyone else is interested in it,” she said.

“I’ve spoken to all the butterfly [Facebook] pages and they’ve never seen one in New Zealand, but one lady said she



Megan’s children Max and Brea with the male white monarch. RIGHT: The female white monarch was the first to hatch.



Photos: SUPPLIED

saw one in America.”

Megan said she’d been growing plants to attract butterflies since she was a little kid with her grandmother, and continues the hobby as it reminds her of her.

“We get pollinators to try and encourage all the butterflies

and bees,” she said.

“I’m making a swan plant hedge at the moment to attract as many butterflies as I can and I’m planting more flowers as well.”

Megan said she knew white monarchs existed overseas but were very unknown in New

Zealand. She suspects they may have crossed the Pacific due to New Zealand’s humid summer.

“Maybe that’s starting to change their [the monarch’s] genetics,” she said.

According to Monarch Watch’s website, white monarchs have also been spotted

in Australia, Indonesia and the United States mainland.

While they’re extremely rare with only a few reported yearly, O’ahu, Hawaii, is the most common place to spot them, where it’s believed up to 10 per cent of the monarch population are white.

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Students study ready with free stationery

By GORDON PREECE

All Thames High School students were given the option of free stationery packs at the start of term, with all the books and pens they needed for the year.

Thames High School principal Michael Hart said the main reason for the stationery packs, which were funded by the school's Student Support Trust, was to provide equality for their year 9 students.

"We know that starting secondary school was a big burden for our parents so to ensure those people who had a real need would not feel shy about coming forward, we decided we'd offer [the stationery packs] to all," he said.

"It's really important they get a really good start up because without the basics, students are shy, they fall behind and that's not good.

"Teachers have been very positive about it as well and they've recognised this can make a difference to many people starting secondary school."

Michael said the school's Student Support Trust was established in 2005 and came from the proceeds of a former refugee residential centre in Thames.

"When it was sold they put the money into a trust for Thames High School in order to ensure students wouldn't be limited.



Students Codey Keane, left, Mina Harrison, Isaiah Boyd, Holly Bradley and Coby Franklin with their stationery packs. Photo: GORDON PREECE

"The trust has over the years supported students with going on trips, their uniforms, and other items which are essential for school.

"An average of between \$5000 and \$8000 a year gets dispersed with the trust and the trustees are really keen to ensure that continues, even though the interest rates for investments aren't that great at the moment."

Michael said the school emailed all parents with an offer of a stationery pack and the ones who accepted said "really great things" about the initiative.

"It was well appreciated there was a gesture of goodwill and equity," he said.

"There were some parents who took the time to say if you can, we'd much prefer to give the stationery pack to someone of greater need."

In addition to the Year 9 students, the school also had stationery packs available for all

year levels.

"Once we know they need them, it only means they can pop into the student support office and pick up a pack or a teacher will get it for them," Michael said.

"We've given out another 20 to 25 packs to students in other year levels."



Local artist wins national mural competiton

By GORDON PREECE

A Waeranga artist said she was “shocked” but “excited” when she won first for one of her murals in a national competition.

Claire DuBosky’s mural at Paeroa Central School won first place in the 2021 Resene Mural Masterpieces competition, announced in December.

Claire said she’d hoped to win first place after getting two third equal prizes and a highly commended prize in previous years.

“I didn’t really think I was going to get it but could only hope and it came true so I was very thrilled,” she said.

Claire said the inspiration for her winning mural, which is divided into four boards, came from Paeroa Central School principal Mona Hingston’s ambitious plan to revamp the school with more Māori themes.

“A lot of the names had Pākehā and gold mining themes and they wanted to get away from that and rebrand their school,” she said.

“The mural’s very personal to Paeroa, it involves their local history, their four rivers, the Māori way of life before colonisation, and the life of the rivers from the flora and fauna to the people who lived by the river and how they used it.



Artist Claire DuBosky, inset, said the winning Paeroa Central School mural depicted Paeroa’s local Māori history.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

“It was a good theme and I tried to make each board distinct from the other, and each board had the colours of each house reflected in the lettering.”

The school’s four houses were Tarariki, Waihou, Ohinemuri and Piako.

One of the school’s oldest buildings was used as Claire’s studio and many year 4 and 6

students helped her paint the mural. Claire said she and her husband Alan Bennett, who varnished the mural, unveiled it in July, 2021.

“The whole school attended the ceremony. Matua Larn Wilkinson did the blessing, I then talked about the starting point for each board and how the images evolved, the use of

colour, pattern and composition,” she said.

“Then Whaea Chrissy Te Teira furnished the narrative with the Māori and Pākehā perspective and relevance to the land and waterways.”

Claire also recently completed a 10m high mural for Te Kauwhata Community House, a mural for Waerenga School and

plans to create a mural at Hikutaia School.

“They’ve got to just go back to the drawing board and brainstorm what’s included for each board, so once I get feedback from [Hikutaia School] I can initiate each board,” she said.

Waerenga School also entered the competition with one of Claire’s murals.

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Covid-19 quickly spreads in region

Within less than a week, Covid-19 cases in the region went from zero to quickly multiplying throughout the region, with positive cases announced in the community and many of the district's schools.

Cases are now in the community in most towns, including 65 in Paeroa, 33 in Thames, 12 in Ngatea and many more in surrounding areas as of Sunday.

The Waikato District Health Board held a Covid-19 pop-up testing clinic at the former Paeroa Racecourse over the weekend as case numbers in the town soared.

Paeroa College announced its first positive Covid-19 case in the school community last week. In a letter to parents, principal Amy Hacker said a year 11 student who later tested positive for Covid-19 was at the school and infectious on February 21.

"As we are all aware, Covid-19 has been getting closer to home and is not surprising that we would see it here at the college," she said in a letter to parents.

"We understand this may be quite an anxious time for you all," she said. "Please know that we are here to support you in any way we can."

Goldfields School in Paeroa also announced a confirmed positive Covid-19 case in its community. Principal Cameron McKenzie said the staff member was at

the school on February 21-22.

Students not identified as a close contact could still come to school, but he understood if parents and caregivers wished to keep them at home.

A further two positive cases were reported at Goldfields' Te Aroha satellite classroom, which was closed until at least March 1.

Two teachers at Hikutaia School tested positive this week, and Hauraki Plains College announced a RAT-positive Covid-19 case within its school community.

"We have identified close contacts of the confirmed case and any casual contacts, and those students and parents have been notified," principal Ngaire Harris said in an HPC e-Bulletin.

"This reinforces the need for everyone to remain vigilant and stay home if unwell."

Two separate cases were also reported at Thames High School. The students were at school last Tuesday but were not symptomatic. "Because of the precautions we take at school, the chances of transmission at school are lower than in other settings," principal Michael Hart said.

Thames Valley Rugby Union closed its office and staff worked from home last week due to a close contact with a Covid-19 positive test at its World Rugby Developing Rugby Coaches Course held in Waihi on February 19-20.

For updates and information
visit: www.waikatodhb.health.nz.

Harsh conditions prove too much



*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*

Charles Pell was found lying on the floor of his tent on a Friday morning in December 1911. Unable to revive him, his work mates phoned the Thames police. Charles, 42, who usually lived in Thames with his wife and family, had been working on a drainage contract at Duck Creek, Turua and it was there that Sergeant Crean despatched Dr Lapraik and Constable Neal.

Charles had attempted to poison himself by taking a dose of Lysol, an antiseptic disinfectant. Dr Lapraik phoned Thames hospital with the message that the case was a most critical one and that there were grave doubts that the man would recover. Charles was brought to the hospital unconscious but then began to rally. The next he deteriorated, dying at 10.15 that night.

It had been observed by his workmates that Charles worried a good deal and had been somewhat down but his wife, Lucy, had no idea why he would take his life. Sergeant Crean though



Hauraki Plains drainage in 1910.

Photo: SUPPLIED

had taken a statement from him at the hospital in which Charles said he was tired of living under his present conditions.

Charles was part of the labour force working on the massive drainage operations on the Hauraki Plains. By 1911 the land drained amounted to 6800 acres. The works completed include 27 miles of stop banks, 35 flood gates, 19 miles of cart roads, seven wharves, 30 small bridges, 14 miles of private telephone line, and nine artesian bores. An average of nearly 300 men was employed and there were 187 separate contracts in progress.

Working conditions for these men were wretched. Tents were frequently flooded out and despite manuka wind breaks they shook alarmingly in the wind. Drain diggers had to work in water, while the surveyors splashed around bare-legged in the marshy ground. Men stood up to their knees in cold swamp water, throwing out the sodden squares of peat or clay. They are wet all the time. They couldn't dry anything and each morning pulled on soaked and muddy pants and

boots. Communication between the outside world and the workmen's camps was unreliable. The only connection with the nearest town was by launch to Thames. Life was harsh for this great body of physical workers and for Charles Pell it became all too much.

At the inquest it was found that Charles had a horse with a bad shoulder which he treated with Lysol. Dr Walsh said that Charles had died from shock from enteritis, due to taking a dose of Lysol. Both he and Dr Lapriak deplored the indiscriminate and unrestricted sale of such a deadly poison. A verdict of suicide from Lysol poisoning was returned, with a recommendation that it should be sold with legal restrictions. Lysol was stocked by grocers and others as a general disinfectant.

It had originally been introduced to help end a chorea epidemic in Germany, but instead of saving lives the misuse of this irritant poison caused many excruciating deaths.

Charles Pell is buried at Shortland cemetery, Thames.



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Donation warmly welcomed by Paeroa Fire

By GORDON PREECE

Paeroa Volunteer Fire Station's been ignited with a \$1000 donation from Nether-ton's Ballance Agri-Nutrients. Paeroa District Chief Fire Of-ficer Bill Rackham, who's been involved with the fire service for nearly 55 years, told *The Profile* he was "well and truly" appreciative of the generous donation.

"We haven't had a donation of that amount of money for a number of years, and they're really hard to come by these days so it's really good," he said.

Ballance Netherton service centre manager Mike O'Brien said they were pleased to give Paeroa Volunteer Fire Brigade the donation.

"Our area's broken up into 11 Balance stores and each month if we pass our KPIs [key perfor-mance indicators] and have no injuries on site, a business is nominated to give a charity in their area \$1000," he said.

"I've always had a soft heart for the fire brigade because I was in the fire brigade many years ago.

"They do a very good job... when people are asleep they're the ones fighting fires and tak-ing people out of cars, it's a very good organisation to belong to if you want to volunteer."

Mr Rackham said the bri-



Paeroa volunteer fire station received a \$1000 donation from Ballance Agri-Nutrients on February 18.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

gade needed to decide what the donation would go towards as it came "out of the blue" but was considering new uniforms and equipment.

"They [Fire and Emergen-cy New Zealand] provide fire fighting equipment and cloth-ing but there are some items of clothing they don't provide vol-unteers," he said.

"We were talking about pos-sibly updating our wildfire jackets.

"It's about maintaining the quality of our gear, obviously efficiency and health and safety comes into it as well."

Deputy Chief Lindsay Hill said the donation could also go towards fanning the flames of the fire brigade's van mainte-

nance costs.

"Our van's for the guys to go away on training courses and to carry additional people and equipment," he said.

"It also isn't provided by the fire service, so it has to be covered by our own resources."

The station has responded to 23 call outs so far this year and last year responded to 186, a re-

duction from more than 200 in 2020.

It currently has 18 to 19 staff but hope to spark up more numbers because they used to have 24.

"During the day a lot of us may be out of town so we're looking at increasing num-bers of volunteers who're more available in town," Mr Hill said.

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Gr8 Job Hauraki hits employment target early

A former part-time cook who realised being in the kitchen wasn't his future is one of 50 people now in full time employment thanks to help from Gr8 Job Hauraki.

The employment hub set out to get 50 locals employed by June, 2022, as part of their contract with Mayors Taskforce For Jobs through the Ministry of Social Development, but reached their target four months early.

Steven Dee, who's originally from Waihi, is one year into his marine technician apprenticeship at Paeroa Marine & Cycle Centre. He applied after seeing Gr8 Job Hauraki's ad for the position on Facebook.

"I just thought their help was a really cool idea, they're really organised - I didn't even know this place (Paeroa Marine and Cycle Centre) existed until I started talking with Gr8 Job Hauraki. Within a week they had lined up an interview for me," he said.

Paeroa Marine & Cycle Centre owner Gary Johansen, who's been with the centre for 42 years, said Gr8 Job Hauraki's employment initiative was "absolutely brilliant" and he "couldn't fault it".

"I'd been talking to my son, Sam, for about six months because I'm getting to the stage where I want to start slowly retiring and my son's going to slowly take over the workshop. I told him he'd need another ap-

prentice. I got talking to Positive Paeroa about it and they... teed it all up.

"Julie from Gr8 Job Hauraki came and saw me and I explained what I wanted. We got down to two applications and made the final decision from there."

And Steven couldn't be happier they chose him.

"There's a lot to learn and I'm busy all day which is great, especially in such a friendly environment. I thoroughly recommend Gr8 Job Hauraki," he said.

Mayor Toby Adams said he was absolutely wrapped results like Steven's helped Gr8 Job Hauraki smash their target of getting 50 people employed before June, but they're not stopping there.

"There's still four months to go to place as many people as we can The jobs are there so check out what's available on our website - auraki-dc.govt.nz/business-hauraki/gr8-job-hauraki.

"We've worked with some great employers like Gary and it's been awesome that they've offered some real opportunities. There's been a lot of entry level jobs for young local people so there are true partnerships developing in terms of finding your fit locally," added Julie.

While employment is the ultimate outcome, Gr8 Job Hauraki also gets people ready for



Gary Johansen, right, says he's very happy with new apprentice Steven Dee.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

employment whether that be upskilling, help with CV's or progression with drivers licences. The Mayors Taskforce for Jobs funding also includes support for employers.

"For instance, funding can be used for tools for a young apprentice or if an employer wants to take on someone but isn't quite sure if they can make it full time, we can offer a wage subsidy to make it happen," Julie said.

Helping Julie to smash the target of 50 locals in employment is Siobahn Soole, who has taken the lead on social media and engaging with youth.

"Meeting school leavers or young people like Steve who want to stay in the area - and giving them the opportunity to do that, is so satisfying," she said. "It's an opportunity I would have loved when I was growing up here."

The Mayors Taskforce For Jobs

(MTFJ) is a nationwide network of New Zealand's Mayors, working together towards the vision of all young people under 25 being engaged in appropriate education, training, work or other positive activity in their communities.

Find out more: mayorstaskforceforjobs.co.nz. Gr8 Job Hauraki-find your fit. Karawhiua Hauraki. Kei a koe te tikanga is Hauraki District Council's local brand for the MTFJ programme.

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Rural Life

Collaboration key for new koi carp control trial


A multi-agency partnership will see new methods and research approaches trialled for the control of the pest fish koi carp.

Koi are an introduced noxious pest fish species which breed prolifically and are found in lakes rivers and streams across the Waikato, including Hauraki.

Koi churn up sediment, impacting water quality, consume native aquatic plant species, and compete with other indigenous fish for food.

The new project, focused on several lakes which are part of the wider Waikato River system, sees the Department of Conservation (DOC) partner with Te Riu o Waikato, Waikato Regional Council (WRC) and Waikato River Authority (WRA). WRA has co-funded the \$1,319,600 project through a \$488,750 grant, with DOC, WRC and Te Riu o Waikato also contributing financially and with in-kind funding totalling \$830,930 over three years.

DOC freshwater biosecurity co-ordinator Kerry Bodmin said the four-year project will start this summer, and go beyond the existing work programmes DOC and WRC have in place for koi carp management.



Koi Carp is a pest fish found throughout Waikato.

File photo

“Our goals for this project include reducing the rate of spread of koi by prioritizing the

installation of barriers, and supporting two community-led koi removal projects,” Kerry Bodmin said.

“Partnering with mana whenua, through Te Riu o Waikato, is vital to this project and we’ll be working with them on trialling ways we can remove the koi from the waterways using long nets and disposing of the fish carcasses.”

Koi will also be removed from known spawning sites, and access to those sites will be restricted to hamper reproduction of the fish. Another important aspect of the project is biomass

counts – put simply, how the koi population can be measured.

WRC councillor Stu Husband said council worked collaboratively with DOC and other key stakeholders to manage and reduce the impact of pest fish – including koi – in freshwater systems at high-value biodiversity sites in the region.

“We’ve contributed \$250,000 for the 2022 financial year to efforts to manage koi carp – an investment we’re proud to make.”

WRC also provides landowners with advice and information on the threats posed by freshwater pests.

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School leaders respresent, support, motivate

As students settle into the new school year, *The Valley Profile* asked our new secondary school leaders their thoughts on the importance of school leadership, what they hoped to achieve and which New Zealand leaders inspired them.

HAURAKI PLAINS COLLEGE
Being named head girl was an incredible privilege and my high school dream. It made me feel proud to have been given this opportunity to be a leader at Hauraki Plains College, and as a leadership team, we endeavour to make sure everyone has the ability to reach out for success in their own areas. As a team, our goal is to connect all students across the school to come together as one, making the school environment a time of growth, fun, and an inspiring learning environment for all students.

I think it is important to have school leaders because it allows the student voice to be more clearly heard, providing a link between the student body and the management team.

It gives students an influence over future ideas about how the school can be improved. As a team, it allows the opportunity for us as students to gain skills and experience which will better equip us for the future outside of school.

Personally, for me I don't have a specific leader who inspired me but more or less when starting Hauraki Plains College in Year 9, I really looked up to the head students and knew I wanted to be there one day. This inspired me to work hard, and strive to reach this goal. Deputy head boy Hunter Crowe said John Key and Kane Williamson were both names which inspired him to reach his goals. Both names are direct with their views but also calm and composed in personality.

- Brooke McTaggart
Hauraki Plains College head girl

THAMES HIGH SCHOOL
We feel very proud to be named the head students of Thames High school for 2022.

It means a lot knowing that for most of us this was one of our major goals to achieve. When we were younger students in the school, we looked up to the senior leaders as role models and people we would want to grow up to be so achieving this goal has been

something we have aspired to from a young age.

Now we are able to inspire the younger students within our school to strive to achieve their goals. We are wanting to make the transition from primary school to high school a lot smoother for students. In doing so, the year 9s will feel more at ease, which in turn will promote a healthier and more positive learning environment throughout the school.

As leaders, we hope that by helping our year 9s to transition more easily our junior and senior students will become more unified.

It's important for students to experience leadership opportunities, to be able to learn the art of building relationships within teams, defining identities and achieving tasks effectively. It provides an opportunity to learn and display effective communication and interpersonal skills.

At Thames High School, having leaders builds stronger relationships between all our students. These relationships allow us to create a positive and safe environment for students in our school, especially our year 9s.

The New Zealand leader that inspires us the most is Richie McCaw. He was a very consistent leader in the All Blacks and led by his own example. He used his initiative and ideas to encourage his team to perform well along with his passion for the sport.

Using these qualities created a positive and hardworking environment resulting in the great achievements his team accomplished. This year, our leadership team will strive to create an environment like this, to the betterment not only of ourselves as individuals but also to give us the best chance of achieving our own goals as leaders.

- Thames High student leaders

PAEROA COLLEGE
We feel privileged and honoured to be given the responsibility of student leaders and the opportu-



Paeroa College leaders, from left: Grace Wright, arts and culture; Ariihia Morehu, Manukura; Sydney Stuart, wellbeing; Jasmine Lucero, learning; Amber McKain, sport; Hamish Buchanan, community.



Thames High leaders: deputy head girl Izzy Fox, left, head girl Nicole Reid, head boy Luke Steward, and deputy head boy Graeme Hodgson.



Hauraki Plains College head boy and girl with their deputies, from left: Molly Maitland, Hunter Crowe, head boy Aidan Craggs, head girl Brooke McTaggart, Niamh Hill and Sean Ea.

all wish to achieve throughout the course of this year, such as and not limited to: incorporating more arts and culture into our environment; interacting with different groups of people; making all things Te Ao Māori the norm; enhancing the hauora of students; integrating a wider range of sports into the school; establishing more ways to promote and celebrate divergent types of learning and achievements at school; creating a fun and safe environment and culture that incorporates everyone; having a blast and offering fun activities inclusive of everyone.

The key concepts behind why student leaders are so important can be described in three words - support, motivation, and representation. Student leaders are seen by other younger students as an ideal to work towards.

They are vital positions in order to project school rules and values to younger generations from another student's perspective. They are a support group for students and an example to look up to for guidance. They have the duty to push the school forward and create a safe environment as well as plan events.

Student leaders are there to open students' eyes to opportunities, to guide them and to motivate students to be the best "thems" they can be, all while being a support system, and representing the kura.

Aotearoa people are known for their can-do attitudes, their ingenuity, love to help nature and their efforts to fight and voice for what they believe in. We as kiwis therefore have the perfect basis for some world class leaders, a few of which we as head students look up to. This includes: Taika Waititi a Māori filmmaker, actor and comedian; Kate Sheppard, prominent member of the women's suffrage movement; Logan Williams, 25-year-old entrepreneur and inventor; Te Whiti o Rongomai, a Māori spiritual leader and founder of Parihaka; Mihingarangi Forbes and Torenui a Rua Wilson, Māori wahine who voice Māori kaupapa.

These leaders are all inspirational to us for their hard work and dedication in their field and during their time. These leaders all showcased their strong will, devoted mindsets, number 8 wire thinking, belief in their values, innovativeness, hard work and clear vision.

- Paeroa College student leaders

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Bunnies wanted for kids show

A photograph of four women standing in a row, each wearing a different colored butterfly mask (red, yellow, blue, and pink). They are all wearing lanyards with identification badges. The woman on the far left is wearing a pink shirt and dark pants. The second woman from the left is wearing a light blue patterned shirt and dark pants. The third woman is wearing a white shirt with a butterfly pattern and a matching skirt. The woman on the far right is wearing a white shirt with a butterfly pattern and blue pants. They are all smiling and appear to be at a social event.

Photo: SUPPLIED

This is a very pleasing result, especially with so many disruptions that have occurred during the year. Our annual presentation of trophies was held: Christie Vase, Most Points for Flowers: Sue Fah 1; Thames Coast CWI Trophy: Val Bowen, 2; Garden Circle Trophy: Anne Bicknell, 3. Wilton Tray, Most Competition Points: Sue Fah 1, Anne Bicknell and Carole Bridle 2=.

Scott Vase, Most Points Overall: Sue Fah 1, Val Bowen 2, Anne Bicknell 3.

The officers for 2022 are Helen Udy, president; Maureen Claasen, Secretary; Beryl Allison, Treasurer.

Committee: Val Bowen, Jean Brady, Carol Cresswell, Bev Schenkel and Kate Wood.

COMPETITIONS: Bloom: Helen Udy, 1; Val Bowen, 2. Cluster: Val Bowen, 1; Shrub: Val Bowen, 1; Helen Udy 2.

Rabbits on loan for the show will be registered with a tag with the owner's name attached so each item can be safely returned after the show. Rabbits can be dropped off at Future Te Aroha, 13 Boundary St, on or before March 17 and collected after the show finishes.

February 20 saw the Norm Allen-sponsored three bowl threes at Kerepēhi Bowling Club. There was a good turn out, with 24 teams registered, but one team unfortunately had to pull out, leaving a bye in each game again. Games were played over both greens, weather was kind and games were obviously enjoyed, by the laughter at times. RESULTS: 1st 4wins +17 points 20ends (Kerepēhi) Lorraine Putt, Glenda Brackenridge, Del Graham; 2nd 4 wins +14 points 17 ends (Tui Park) Peter Fergason, Geoffry C, Gary K; 3rd 3.5 wins +26points 21 ends (Kerepēhi) Leon Taipari, Garry Parker, Don Cooper.

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Refreshed education at Kauaeranga centre

Tactile play features with an emphasis on native species are a new development for the ever-evolving education offered at the Department of Conservation's Kauaeranga Valley Visitor Centre.

The centre, about 20 minutes drive from Thames, has offered educational experiences for children of all ages for more than a decade – and with the 2022 school year underway, the learning features have been refreshed as children return to classrooms.

DOC education ranger Maree Limpus said the new features focused on both native species found in the valley and the introduced predators who threatened their ongoing survival.

“Through play and learning, we want children to have a positive experience in nature to foster ongoing enquiry, engagement and taking action to protect nature and our unique wildlife. We’ve put a particular focus on tactile play and learning for children eight years and older,” she said.

“Over summer we had a group of university students working for DOC in the valley, and their seasonal roles gave us a chance to take advantage of their skills and knowledge to help us construct and refine some new play exhibits.”

Long renowned for its beautiful



Sofi Quax, 4, enjoys the Spinning Stories exhibit.

setting and diverse opportunities for families and schools, the 2022 additions at the visitor centre include nature quizzes - with the option for teachers to develop their own theme-based ones, and nature pou/posts, which present children

with the task of pairing wildlife facts with particular species.

The species selected for the new interactive exhibits have all been found across the wider Coromandel Peninsula at some point in time, and include wētā, geckos, dotterels, kererū, tūi,

kauri, kākā and tuna.

“We really wanted to focus on the species our visitors might encounter if they enjoy one of the nearby trails or streams – that connection between learning and real-life nature experience is very important to us,”

Maree Limpus said.

Another new interactive feature, the target boards, gives children a chance to knock down some of the introduced predators that have had a significant impact on Coromandel's native wildlife.

The target boards carry pictures of possums, rats, stoats and pigs, and children use a rubber ball to test their aim against the pests. If the target is hit, the board flips back on a hinge to reveal a series of facts about the pest – and the threat it presents.

“It’s a little bit metaphorical, as our operations team oversees work to target these pests in the bush to protect the native species.”

Maree Limpus said the new resources and ongoing developments focused on getting children outside and active - and away from devices, desks, tables and chairs.

A grass maze, covering an area the size of a football pitch, blends nature-based learning and a quiz with an opportunity for children to burn off excess energy.

“We’re striving to offer a rich learning experience for everyone that visits,” she said.

“All exhibits constructed are inter-changeable to ensure they can be constantly refreshed, and the learning experience always evolves.”

Photos: SUPPLIED/BLAIR QUAX, DOC

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Firefighters battle blaze in Paeroa

It took just minutes for a massive fire in Paeroa’s main street to take hold last week. Firefighters from throughout the region arrived within minutes to battle the source of the blaze at the rear of the Forget Me Not opportunity shop before the fire spread to the front, breaking through glass windows and quickly spreading along the shop frontages of at least four other shops. Fire crews from around the region then tackled the fire at the shop frontages, quickly bringing the blaze under control. The fire destroyed the op shop and several nearby shops were closed due to smoke damage. TERESA RAMSEY and GORDON PREECE captured the devastation as it unfolded.

CONTINUED P15



Black smoke spews out the front of the shop, while firefighters battle the blaze out back.



Within minutes, massive flames to take hold at the front of the shops. Photos: TERESA RAMSEY



A firefighter begins to battle the blaze.



It only takes minutes for a firefighter to get the flames at the front under control.

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A firefighter sets the hose on the shop frontages and quickly gets the fire under control.

Photo: TERESA RAMSEY



Firefighters team up to help.

Photo: TERESA RAMSEY



Firefighters dampen hotspots in the shop.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

Scott Simpson
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The Valley
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			1	6			5	

MEDIUM

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

HARD

39

39

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HARD

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

MEDIUM

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

EASY

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

JUMBO CROSSWORD

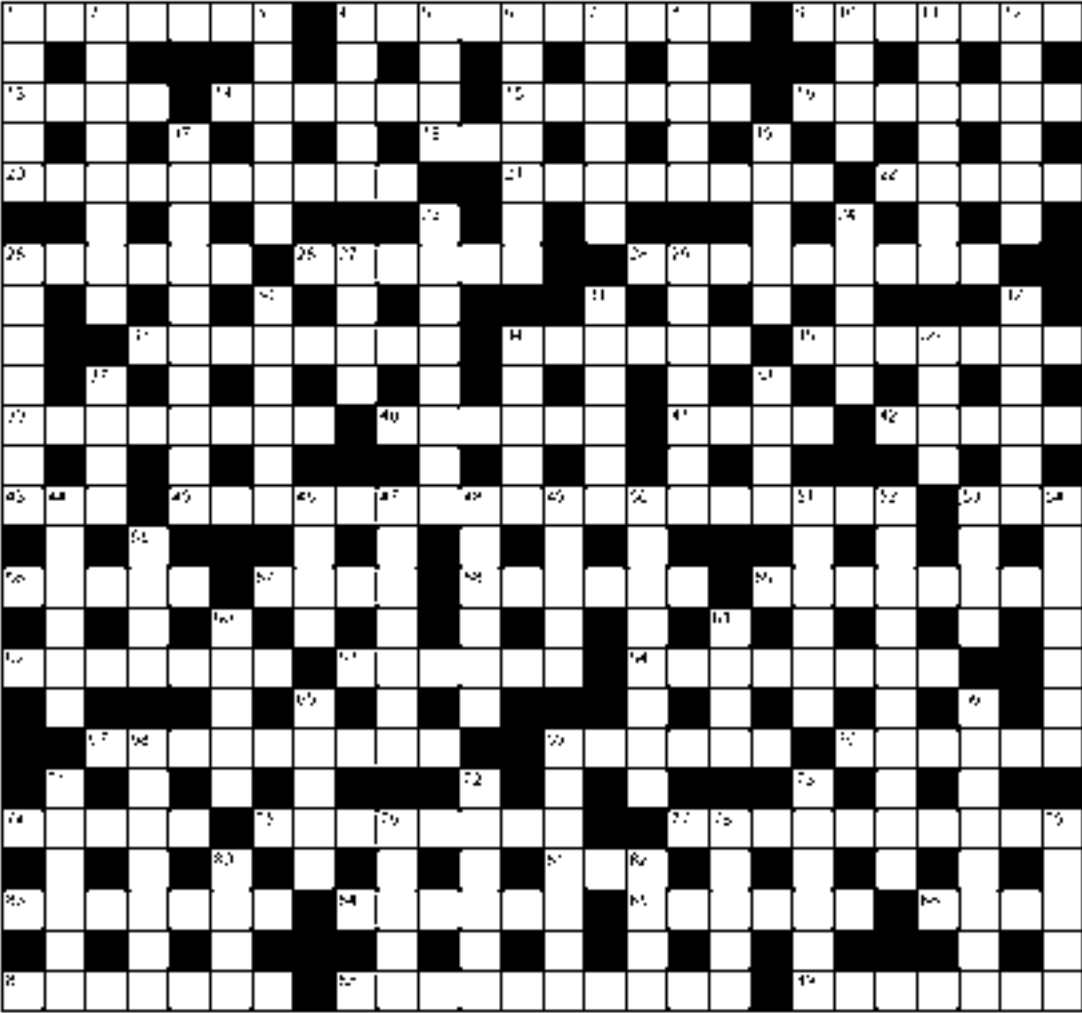
ACROSS

1 Rectify (7)
4 Enigmatic (10)
9 Lay down the law (7)
13 Stripped (4)
14 Halfway point (6)
15 Honorary (6)
16 Merge (7)
18 Father (3)
20 Innocuously (10)
21 Enraged (8)
22 Climb (5)
25 Inlaid design (6)
26 Explosive exhalation (6)
28 Choice (9)
33 Unaware (8)
34 Rouse (6)
35 Instructor (7)
39 Red suit (8)
40 Finale (6)
41 Lazy (4)
42 Perforated (5)
43 Alcoholic drink (3)
45 Work until very late (4,3,8,3)
53 Network (3)
56 Coil of yarn (5)
57 Top cards (4)
58 Give new life to (6)
59 Diamond-shaped sea creature (8)
62 Check the size of (7)
63 Wan (6)
64 Famished (8)
67 Recklessly rash (9)
69 Multiplies (6)
70 Go with (6)
74 Sailboat (5)
75 Scenic view (8)

DOWN

1 Large spiral seashell (5)
2 International humanitarian organisation (3,5)
3 Dryness (6)
4 Soldier's award (5)
5 Raced (4)
6 Learned (7)
7 Collision (6)
8 Workers' organisation (5)
10 Religious picture (4)
11 Plant powdered for snuff (7)
12 Knotted mass (6)
17 Doodlebug (6,4)
19 Insurgent (5)
23 Prison term (8)
24 Say (5)
25 Bullfighter (7)
27 Tidy (4)
29 Late day (7)
30 Meditate upon (6)
31 Reseller's profit (6)
32 Go back on one's word (6)

34 Defence of being elsewhere (5)
36 Cage for poultry (4)
37 Soothing ointment (7)
38 Ink stain (4)
44 Maintenance (6)
46 Pleasant (4)
47 Spouse (7)
48 Team spirit (6)
49 Swooped (5)
50 Turned upside down (8)
51 Excursion (6)
52 Of or relating to language (10)
53 Cautious (4)
54 Withhold patronage (7)
55 Intimate contact (4)
60 Cook under heat (5)
61 Enthusiastic (4)
65 Bringing death (5)
66 Indicating direction (8)
68 Play by Shakespeare (7)
69 Live-in school pupil (7)
71 Insect (6)
72 Tusked marine mammal (6)
73 Great fear (6)
76 Exterior (5)
78 Water lily (5)
79 Bird of prey (5)
80 Surrender up (4)
82 Roman garment (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION
ACROSS: 1 Pick one's words, 8 Ruined, 14 Image, 15 Scuttled, 16 Tigress, 17 Cross, 18 Eve, 19 Isthmus, 21 Unmarried, 22 Gullet, 25 Propaganda, 27 Pugilism, 28 Starch, 31 Marina, 33 Aviator, 34 Global, 35 Ibis, 37 All, 39 Guru, 40 Include, 41 Nectarine, 42 Dreaded, 43 Deranged, 48 Flinched, 52 Staying, 56 Nostalgia, 57 Emulate, 58 Most, 59 Ash, 60 Stir, 61 Unfair, 62 Entitle, 63 Killer, 65 Nugget, 66 Migraine, 68 Recitation, 71 Abacus, 72 Cowardice, 74 Asserts, 76 Gel, 79 Stile, 80 Cyclist, 81 Captured, 83 Tense, 84 Pewter, 85 In short supply.

DOWN: 2 Incisor, 3 Ketch, 4 Nil, 5 Suds, 6 Ostentatious, 7 Dogma, 8 Russell, 9 Itch, 10 Exodus, 11 Cadet, 12 Beneath, 13 Refrigerate, 14 Isolate, 20 Upgrading, 23 Enhanced, 24 Astound, 26 Primula, 27 Pitted, 29 Rubbish, 30 Cancel, 32 Azure, 34 Glade, 36 Speed, 38 Lawn, 43 Dunes, 44 Resting, 45 Near, 46 Engine, 47 Radar, 48 Flamenco, 49 Ice skates, 50 Camelot, 51 Ensur, 52 Satanic, 53 Inheritance, 54 Gentle, 55 Butterscotch, 64 Relapse, 65 Naughty, 67 Reoccur, 69 Oatmeal, 70 Pumice, 71 Alone, 73 Deign, 75 Equip, 77 Went, 78 Scar, 82 Pus.

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2018	Toyota Corolla GX, Alloys, 1.8 ltr, Auto	\$19,990
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Thames Market's team leader Jaini Stowe.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

Local focus at Thames Market

Thames Market, held every Saturday, is the heart of Grahamstown, bursting with locally-grown fruit and vegetables, fine foods, plants and arts and crafts.

The market's team leader Jaini Stowe, who's held the position for eight months, said the markets have become part of the local culture. "We have our regulars each week with a minimum of 30 store holders and during a busy week we may have a maximum of 50," she said.

"I take my hat off to the stall holders, they're really supportive, they'll come to me and give me ideas."

Jaini said the market supports organic produce and has a variety of items. "We have some good feedback from the market that people find really interesting items they can't find in any other shop," she said.

"Many people from other districts also come to sell their produce, and what I've learned over the eight months managing [the markets] is that even people from Auckland come to Thames on Saturday mornings for the markets."

Thames Markets, Saturdays, 8am-noon in Pollen St, Grahamstown, Thames.

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Go to page 2 for
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CLASSIFIEDS

Death Notice	Funeral Service	Accommodation Wanted	For Sale
MAKEEF, Richard Ian Born March 29 1960, passed away February 17 2022 peacefully in Thames after a short illness. Cherished son of Miriam Nicholson (Byrne, Makeef) and the late Robin Makeef. Be-loved father of daughter Hayley Sellars (Makeef). A memorial service, by invitation, will be held at a time when his family and friends can gather in celebration of a loved son, father, uncle and friend. Due to COVID restrictions, please express your interest of attending to Hayley - 0278594495	JONES, Kenneth Francis (Ken) A farewell service for the late Ken Jones of Ngatea will take place at 431 Pipiroa Road, Ngatea at 11am Saturday March 5th. The service will be outdoors in the garden and will be followed by a lunch. Covid number restrictions will apply so please register your attendance at kaypee-jones@xtra.co.nz or phone 021 891 669.	Kia Ora , I'm a young professional looking for a flat in Paeroa with young and social people. I currently live in Thames and work in Paeroa Monday to Friday. I enjoy sports, the great outdoors and travel and have always been a tidy non-smoking flatmate who pays rent on time. Maximum rent I'd be willing to pay would be \$200 a week including additional costs. Contact me on 021 186 0656 if you have any information.	Firewood , Pine, \$100 per cube. Ph Steph 027 385 2806 or Mark 027 655 8661 Garage Sale Front lawn & garage sale 9-3 Friday March 5th. 308A Campbell St, Thames. Cancelled if wet. Handyman Mowing, hedges, fencing, gardening, carpentry, painting, retaining walls, welding, waterblasting. Work is good quality and I will not attempt to work outside of my skills. Insured. Dennis Schuler 022 129 0169

Situations Vacant	Wanted
Caregiver for sleepover position and cook/cleaner for 3 hours per week minimum, includes personal care. Ph 027 237 4413 Logging Truck Driver Full Time position in the Hauraki Area. Must be punctual, honest & reliable. Hold a current Class 5 License. Logging experience preferred but not essential. Please phone Chris on 0210 229 3626	Motorcycles , 4 wheelers & side x sides. Going or not. Phone 027 216 6867. A1 Motorcycles Situations Vacant Home help required. Thames Coast area. Non-smoking, mature, reliable person. Excellent remuneration to the right person. Ph 868 2225. Reliable fit person wanted to mow lawns, mower provided. Ph 868 2225

Position Available – Young-Stock Manager A lead position is available for a Young-Stock and Bull Farming operation covering approximately 1,000 head across three properties on the Hauraki Plains. <i>Essential skills required for the role include:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pasture Management and Feed Budgeting skills• A high level of livestock management capability• Basic computer and spreadsheet skills• General farm maintenance skills• People leadership capability <i>Optional skills</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An interest in genetics and stud stock• A heavy traffic licence Housing and remuneration to meet requirements and skillsets. The ability for the successful applicant to have investment opportunities Contact – office@townshend.co.nz	Karangahake School Office Administrator This is a PART TIME position of 18hrs/week. The successful applicant will work at our reception. This is a key role for our school as the Office Administrator is often the first point of contact for new families and visitors to our school. The position is varied in nature and encompasses a broad range of responsibilities. <i>There is never a dull day in this job!</i> Previous experience working in school administration is desired but not essential. The successful applicant would need to be fully vaccinated. Applications Close Saturday 5th March 2022 Email the Principal for an application pack: principal@karangahake.school.nz
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SPORTS

Clay target shooters retain titles

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

The talented duo of Ashling and Graham Welch have retained their national titles in clay target shooting, making them the sport’s top young competitors in the country.

The siblings attended the NZ Sporting Clay Target Shooting National Championship at Hamilton last month, with the North Island champs on February 11, and the nationals on February 12-13.

Ashling, 17, retained her winning title in the NZ Ladies championship, while her older brother Graham, 19, kept hold of his NZ Junior title.

The wins mean Ashling holds the South Island, North Island, and New Zealand Ladies titles, while Graham holds the South Island, North Island, and New Zealand Junior titles.

They were also in the North Island mixed team, which came first against a shoot-off against the South Island.

It was a feat their dad Andrew and mum Carmel thought was “absolutely fantastic”.

“They’re both very determined and they both practise hard,” Andrew said.

Clay target shooting is a sport that involves shooting a



Ashling and Graham Welch have retained their national shooting titles.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

firearm at special flying targets. It took great hand-eye co-ordination to excel at it, he said.

The Waitakaruru family practise at Thames Clay Target Club every Wednesday afternoon, and are also all part of the club’s committee.

“Gun sports are frowned upon a bit... but if people want to learn to shoot, [the club] is a great place to come and learn. They’re taught all the safety aspects and how to do everything properly,” Andrew said.

“Both of my kids agree that

the more people that do it, creates more competition.”

Andrew said there was still plenty people could learn about clay target shooting. He wanted to see the sport grow in New Zealand, and hoped his children could one day lead the

charge. There was no reason for the sport not to have world champions hailing from New Zealand, he said.

“[New Zealand] has never had a world champion or anything like that, but we’ve had some very good shooters.

“We’re hoping that maybe later this year, or even the following year, we could look at going to a Worlds, but it’s just so hard with travel at the moment.”

As a duck hunter, Andrew started the sport of clay target shooting after years of racing motorbikes left him with a few injuries. He told *The Profile* his children were now shooting better than him.

“They both beat me at the North Islands, and everyone was giving me stick... I don’t like them beating me, but I was proud as punch that they did so well.”

The Welch siblings have also qualified to shoot for the NZ Junior team at the Oceanias in Australia in April.

DETAILS: To find out more or to get involved in the sport, call in to the club at the back of Thames Airfield on Wednesday afternoons.



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