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Luxurious Robotic Hands

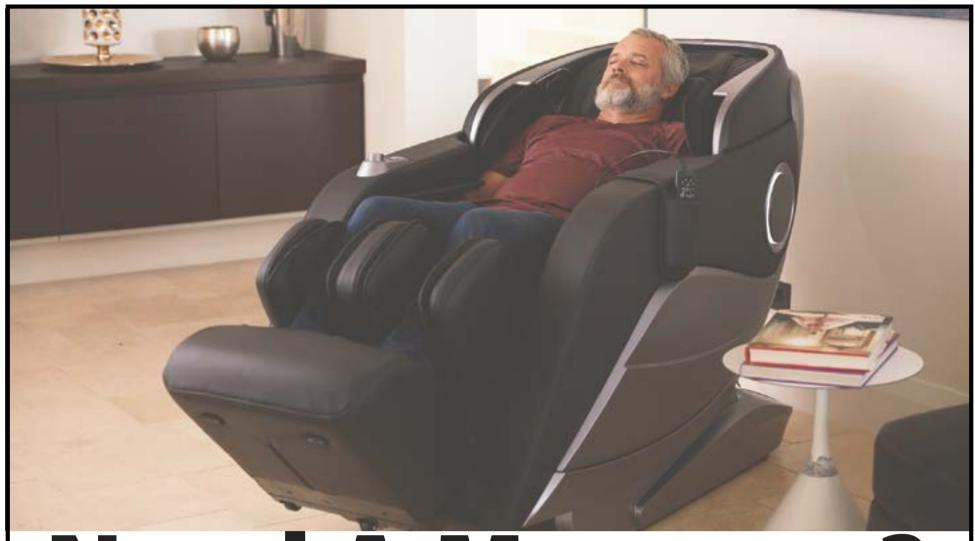
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Need A Massage?

Brand Developers are coming to open a three day pop-up shop in the Grahamstown Community Hall this Friday to Sunday only.

Spokesman Burt Turner says outside the restrictions have made it difficult for customers to experience the Tebo Elite Massage Chair and the Perfect Fit Adjustable bed, (which also happens to give an amazing full body massage!) after seeing

them on TV "Thames hasn't been able to experience these amazing products first hand."

'So we felt it was time we bought what they like to buy," he said.

"I've been wanting to do this for a while, go to the places our customers actually live and work in."

"Our phone sales are always very strong in this area but people like to have the chance to touch it, see it, feel it when they can, so that's what we're doing."

Burt himself comes from a background of farming and says he understands the importance of keeping

the body well. "If I ask most Kiwis what their biggest asset is most will list the house or property. But in reality, without a doubt, it's your body first and foremost. Your health is your wealth and without that all the land, machinery and toys don't add up to much if you can't enjoy them."

The Tebo Massage Chair has its history rooted in

Asian culture and Eastern Medicine. "Every second home in Korea has a massage chair. That's because they don't have ACC" he quips.

"It's regarded as an essential wellness item in those countries.

"Look the reality is people can seldom afford to pay for the benefits of a massage as often as they actually need one - which for people in acute

pain or with chronic conditions is at least twice week."

"What our customers love about

owning a Tebo is that they can use it when they want, as often as they want, right in the comfort of your own

home." "And any professional masseuses I've had try the Tebo will tell you it's the real deal and hits all the spots you could hope to get to in any massage session and more."

The online verified reviews rave about the Tebo with Gillian S saying "One massage and I was hooked. One massage hubby was hooked. Great any time of

Burt says not all chairs are born equal though and in his view Tebo Massage Chair encapsulates the best that any massage chair today can offer.

"The new Tebo Aura has 4D technology so it manipulates like a human hand. It works your shoulders, your back, your glutes, your legs – and its heaven on those aching calves and feet."

He says the air pressure massagers, coupled with the infrared heating, (which aids blood circulation and pain relief) aided by negativé ions which can assist the

cardiovascular system. "And it has fantastic sound system", he said.

This is a next generation chair with the latest programming innovations, and along with Zero Gravity it also has the zero space feature which means it takes up way less space than chairs of the

The Tebo is very easy to operate and this is where the sales and service both before and after comes into its own.

"Every new client can phone in if they want and one of our team will guide them through every aspect while in the same chair in our offices," he says.

"It's been a real selling point for us that we give our clients a strong point of contact if they want to know anything, or need any help." Burt says.



★★ Gillian S. | Verified Buyer One massage and I was hooked. One massage hubby was hooked. Great any time of day.

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The Valley

The Plantery 'plant based living'

It's all about Copper and Gold in the shop with beautiful planters and pots!

www.theplanteryshop.co.nz The Depot, 715 Pollen St, Thames. **Behind Café Melbourne**

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY ISSN 2703-5700 Issue 058 February 23, 2022 Neighbours Brigette Heymans and Michael Cathels have been trying to get Hauraki District Council to clean up a section of the Hape Stream for months, saying it'll soon flood their homes if left untouched. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

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

There's koi carp, eels, and oil slicks floating down a section of the Hape Stream in Paeroa.

There's long, unmaintained grass on either side of it, which nearby residents say is home to rats. There's a chance of saving the stream, though, if Hauraki District Council invests in it, the locals say, and the council isn't ruling that out. Michael Cathels

and Brigette Heymans are neighbours on Towers St, which crosses through a "highly modified watercourse" that makes up the Hape Stream.

For 18 months they've been trying to get the council to see it as more than an "eyesore" of a stream, and turn it into an innovation - an area where residents can safely walk and take in the wildlife. They told *The Profile* they haven't had much luck - yet.
"But it's not a pet hate for us,"

Brigette said. "This is more of a love for the stream. When you live close to it and you walk past it every day, you've got a connection with it, and I just see everything that's happening to it.

In more than 18 months of living along Towers St, Brigette and Michael said they have seen council staff maintaining the stream by lawn mowing either side of it: however, they have not seen the waterway being dredged to remove rubbish, weed-hacked

to mitigate poor aesthetics, or cleaned to promote water quality and remove oil slicks

There was a milky layer along the top of the stream when The *Profile* visited one Friday, as well as signs of piping and concrete underneath the dark water, but council said dredging the water was not "environmentally good practice", and so said it was working on alternative methods to better manage the stream's environment. But Brigette,

whose mother lives with her. and Michael fear their homes will flood before anything gets done to the stream. "My mum gets up-set every time it rains," Brigette said. "Our places will flood if this doesn't get done, and that's the bottom line."

The pair were happy to have a self-established working bee, but joked that while it would be easy to get down to the water, getting back out of it would be near-

CONTINUED ON P10



CONTACT US

The Valley Profile is a community newspaper that delivers 100% local news in the Thames Valley region. We deliver 12,600 copies each Wednesday to every letterbox, reaching approximately 30,000 readers in Hauraki Plains, Paeroa, Thames, Thames Coast and surrounding rural areas, plus bulk distribution around the Coromandel Peninsula.

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advertisements in *The Valley Profile*, then email admin@ valleyprofile.co.nz or Ph/txt 027 396 2459 with your full name and postal address, and the business name and page number of the ad by the following Monday to go in the draw to win a Lotto ticket. Last week it was in the Coromandel Commercials advert.

Chelsea's cacti collect coin for Tonga

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

Creating concrete cactuses has never felt so rewarding for Chelsea Cooper.

The nine-year-old Matatoki School student has been making them with her mum, Emma, and selling them to assist in Tonga's recovery, following the January volcanic eruption of Hunga Tonga—Hunga Ha'apai.

Chelsea and her mum were at her school, on State Highway 26, when they saw another student fundraising for the cause.

"She was making money for Tonga, and I thought that was really cool," Chelsea told *The Profile*.

"So, that gave me the idea." Chelsea's mum Emma runs her own business, Luluncat, creating concrete home decor.

The pair put their heads together and decided to create little concrete cactuses, which can be painted.

can be painted.

They've ended up selling hundreds of them, raising around \$700.

"It's a lot of work to be doing but she's stuck with it," Emma said.

"She got some money for her birthday the other day and I said: 'Do you want me to put it in your bank?' and she said: 'I want to give it to Tonga'.

"She's a beautiful soul."



The hand-made pieces have been selling for \$1 each, with a lot of buyers coming from community and plant-lover Facebook pages.

"Plants are so on-trend," Emma said, "and it was Waitangi weekend, and it was raining, and I thought kids could paint them and it would

Good Fishing

Fair Fishing

give the parents something to do."

Chelsea will give the money to the Tongan Community of Thames and Paeroa - whose president Alby Tukia earlier told *The Profile* that any help Kiwis could give would be "valuable".

"We just hope that they are



LEFT: Chelsea Cooper, 9, has so far raised more than \$700 for Tonga relief.

ABOVE: The pair have made hundreds of the concrete cactuses, which can be painted.

Photos: SUPPLIED

able to get back to better than how they started off," Emma said. "Every little bit helps." DETAILS: For information on how to buy the concrete cactuses, find 'Luluncat' on Facebook.







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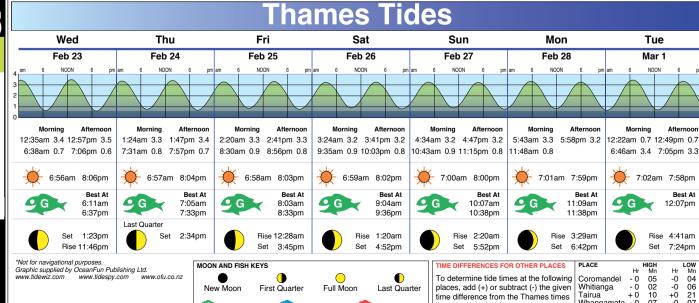


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Not So Good

Mary St closure sparks petition

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

T wo friends have "run out of patience" when it comes to the closure of Mary St.

The Thames street used to connect shoppers in Pollen St to travellers in Queen St and Goldfields Mall through the CBD's only roundabout.

However, in 2020, Thames-Coromandel District Council closed the high-traffic thoroughfare to create The Vibe - an open space with festoon lighting, tables, and garden planters that has just won a national award.

The friends say the road closure cuts off access between the town's eastern and western sides, and they have plans to launch a petition opposing it.

"Everyone I have asked does not like it. They don't like Mary St being closed," petition spokesperson Sheryl McConnell said.

"The roundabout was the perfect solution for people living on the east of Thames, coming across and wanting to go anywhere on the western side. They could always go down Mary St and use the roundabout to get safely across.

"Now, there is always traffic coming one way or the other."

Tuesday marked one year since construction on The Vibe began, and at the time, coun-



A petition is planned over the closure of Thames' Mary St - used to create 'The Vibe'.

Photo: SUPPLIED

cil said the temporary project could see Mary St closed to through traffic for up to two years.

But a vote of around 250 people back in 2021 saw 74 per cent of respondents preferred a partial closure design, while 26 per cent voted to keep Mary St open to one-way vehicle traffic.

There was no option to keep it as it was.

This was because the pro-

ject was 90 per cent funded (\$320,125) by the Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency through its Innovating Streets pilot. This was acknowledged by Thames Community Board chair Strat Peters when Mary St won the Best Street award in the Keep New Zealand Beautiful awards last week.

"It's a recognition of the community ownership of the Create the Vibe space on Mary St, and we'd like to thank and acknowledge the Thames community for being so involved in shaping the public space, for painting the planters and making creative use of the space to hold events," he said.

The pedestrian aspect of the area was created in March, 2021, and a council spokesperson told *The Profile* that council would like to see "how it works over a full year", so the Thames

community had a good chance to make use of the space in fair weather.

"The length of the trial public space and the Mary St closure will depend on how the space is used, its effects on traffic flow, and the feedback we receive on it... In the last few months we've had one complaint about Create the Vibe on Mary St, from somebody who doesn't live in our district," they said.

At the end of March, council will prepare a formal evaluation with input from experts, including its roading team and police.

With the planned petition in its early stages, council encouraged those opposing the Mary St closure to attend a community board meeting, and present any petitions or other documents during the public forum.

"Public feedback is one source of information to be considered as part of any decisions that are made, so any feedback, either positive or negative, is welcomed," the spokesperson said.

Since March 2021, one person has attended the Thames Community Board public forum to speak about Create the Vibe





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Kōpū marine precinct project

Our Council supports both options for the Kōpū marine precinct that are included in our Council's fast-track consent application that is now before the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Our original application was for a facility that included both commercial and recreational facilities. This was withdrawn because there appeared to be some legal ambiguity with the National Policy Statement as a wetland. The design was altered to accommodate this and the application resubmitted. This new application includes an option with a recreational boat ramp and an option that is for a commercial facility only.

The EPA is considering our application now and is



Waka Kotahi (NZ Transport Agency) has reduced the amount of its discretionary funding for capital works construction in the district, and as a result some projects will be reduced in scope or deferred.

In the past Waka Kotahi has subsidised capital projects including new footpath construction by about 51 per cent, with Community Board budgets making up the rest and setting the priority for the footpath and streetlight construction programmes.

Over the next three years the subsidy will be focused on road safety schemes previously approved by Waka Kotahi, with the remaining \$1.3 million allocated to support the economic development project to expand Te Ariki/Sugarloaf Wharf in Te Kouma.

Kerbside Collection

Our Kerbside collection schedule for the summer is now over and we're back to the usual weekly blue Council rubbish bag and fortnightly recycling collection schedule for the rest of the year.



Collections in your area:
Thames Coast & Manaia – Tuesday, recycling Week 1
Thames & Surrounds – Wednesday

Thames Rural South – Thursday, recycling Week 1

Please put out your material by 7:30am. Check out the schedule for your area at

tcdc.govt.nz/kerbside

The week beginning Monday 21 February is Week 1 of our fortnightly recycling schedule. Not sure if you're in a Week 1 or Week 2 collection area?

Go to **tcdc.govt.nz/smartmaps**, select "Refuse & Recycling" and enter your property's address. Or, call us on 07 868 0200.

Summer hours at our district's seven Refuse Transfer Stations ended on Sunday 20 February. From Monday 21 February, the Thames transfer station is open:

Monday-Friday: 8.30am-2.30pm Sat, Sun & public holidays: 10.30am-5.30pm

Hours and locations:

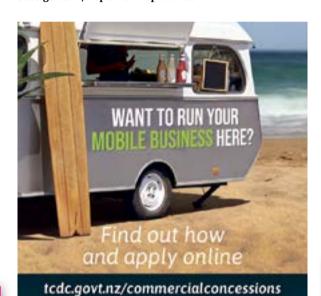
tcdc.govt.nz/rts





expected to provide a decision in March about whether it will allow us to proceed with either option, and what the resulting consent conditions may be.

Find out more about this project at tcdc.govt.nz/kopumarineprecinct





Fire season kicks in early

As a result of recent rain and current fire weather conditions, on Friday 11 February Fire and Emergency NZ moved to a Restricted Fire Season (fire by permit only) for the entire Waikato District including the Coromandel.

You can apply for a permit to light a controlled outdoor fire at **checkitsalright.nz** or by phone on 0800 658 628.



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

Right now, ratepayers shoulder most of the cost of boat ramps and wharves, with fees from parking at some boat ramps offsetting only a small portion of the costs.

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

We're preparing our Annual Plan for 2022/23 and we'll likely be proposing some changes in the fee structure for boat ramps and wharves to lessen the impact on ratepayers. Keep an eye out for the proposals once our consultation starts on 11 March because we'll want your feedback. In the meantime, there is more information at tcdc.govt.nz/boating

ক্তি

Thames
Community Board
UPDATE

A word from the Board Chairperson,

"It feels like New Year's was just a few days ago and February is already almost over. If January was meant to ease us back into being busy after a nice holiday. February took



Waiomu playground renewal – The renewal of the playground has been delayed due to supply issues and the availability of contractors, but we're hoping to have it open by 18 March. In the meantime, it will be closed and fenced off while work takes place. Apologies for the inconvenience.

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



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MenzShed 'delighted' with new space

Paeroa's community MenzShed finally has its own shed after six years searching for a suitable premises.

The organisation, where men and women can come together to share interests, like wood and metal work, and make items for sale or to donate to community groups, was recently offered a shed at Paeroa's former racecourse by its current develop-

ers, Wayne and Chloe Wright. MenzShed Paeroa spokes-person Neville Jamieson told The Profile he was "delighted" with the new shed.

"It's been a struggle to get any traction to getting the MenzShed established here," he said.

The first guy who tried suffered a fairly major stroke and then another chap took over and he and his wife pushed along as best they could, including holding raffles at Countdown to try and raise funds.

'So for Wayne and Chloe to have offered us this facility has really put us ahead of the eight

Neville said Wayne and Chloe weren't charging MenzShed for use of the building. "They've told us so far it's an open ended arrangement so things could change in the future but at this stage it looks like we're going to

be here for a while," he said.
"Wayne's also helped us along with various things which has made the whole thing more



Members Steve BlackBurn, left, Neville Jamieson and Les Cullerne encourage more people to be part of Menz Shed.

easily set up." Neville said Paeroa MenzShed, which currently has four active members, will now focus on developing the shed and getting more members so they can gauge their interests and get equipment needed to fulfill those interests.

In the past, Paeroa Hire have offered us use of some of their equipment and that kind of

thing is a big help.
"When you look at our shed, there's quite a lot of work to be done, so any help from local businesses would be very much

appreciated.
"In consultation with other MenzSheds, we discovered they have more gear than they actually use and tend to get cluttered. So the idea is to keep it as minimal as possible and find out what the community's interests are," he said.

'We've got this far, it's a huge step to get a new shed and it should now encourage quite a few people who've been interested but have been on the sideline to come along and make up the numbers so we can actually get it [MenzShed] off the ground."

Paeroa MenzShed will host

an open day at their new shed at 2pm on February 26 in the hopes of attracting new members. Neville said the event will have a Covid-19 QR code and prefered people wear masks and kept social distance.

DETAILS: Paeroa Menz Shed Open Day: February 26, 2pm to 4pm at the former Paeroa Racecourse. Contact Neville for more information: Ph 022 415 9101.



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Carpark concerns taken to council

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

The meeting started with a show of hands.

How many Hauraki District Councillors have been to Cornes Paddock, in the Karangahake Gorge - the site where a hard-surface car park is being proposed? Of the full house of 14 elected members, all but a couple raised their

"There are quite a few in the room that know where we're talking about, and that's important to

us," Eva Mayor said.
"We're supportive of a permanent car park in the area... but not in Cornes Paddock."

Eva, alongside other concerned Karangahake residents, sat in front of council during its meeting on February 9, to oppose its recent decision to develop the gorge in a staggered approach, which included creating a car park off County Rd into Cornes Paddock. Councillors unanimously made the decision back in December, in order to alleviate safety concerns on the state highway that has seen 68 crashes occur in the past five years. Eva told the room they supported activities to address road safety issues; however, they were disappointed to learn of council's decision through a Valley Profile article late last year.

She said they had been underrepresented on the issue.

"I feel it is important to convey the loss of trust in the council's consultation process by this com-munity, who feel blindsided by the

recent events.'

Council's proposal would see an entrance-way created off County Rd into Cornes Paddock, located on the corner of Crown Hill Rd and County Rd. Under stage one, it would install a metal carpark, a perimeter fence, and planting. Stage two would see the car park sealed. It would be open seven days a week.

The cost to do this work would

be around \$160,000.

In lieu of this proposal, Eva asked councillors to keep the "status quo" - a car park without a permanent surface, available during the peak usage months for over-

flow parking.

She suggested a pathway be created down Crown Hill Rd in order for users to get to the Hauraki Rail Trail. But because the meeting was not part of council's agenda for the day, staff could only listen, and offer up questions to the residents.

Mayor Toby Adams said a conversation would be had amongst elected members following the meeting to gauge whether there was an "appetite" to revisit the decision. He said not every decision made around the council table please everyone.

And after one Karangahake resident voiced concerns over the few councillors unfamiliar with Cornes Paddock, Paeroa ward councillor Carole Daley assured him that they only "want what is best"



'Magic wires' arrive at Piako



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

1870

The telegraph which was intended to connect Auckland and Thames was rap-The telegraph which was idly spreading its magic wires across the country and would soon make its appearance at the Piako side of the Firth of Thames. Two large turrets were to be built there, and two on the swamp land opposite, near Shortland, to carry the wires across the channel of the Waihōu River. The turrets were to be ninety feet at the base, so that they would serve as land marks or beacons for vessels passing underneath.

An application for a bush licence to run a hotel at Miranda was refused on the grounds that accommodation would not be provided. The Justices were not satisfied that Miranda even required a hotel. There was also the problem of the district being beyond the control of the police, no policeman being stationed within thirty miles. Change



The Royal Hotel/ Theatre Royal, Thames, scene of interesting and amusing spectacles, was destroyed by fire in 1903.

was in the air though, with the discovery of a coal seam in the bed of a creek near the Miranda Redoubt. A sample was brought over to Shortland to be tested.

It gave five and a half hours good steam for a seven head battery, burnt quick and fierce, had no clinker and was likely to be better at a greater depth. It was far superior to Whangārei coal, but not as good as that of the Bay of Islands. It was very suitable for Cornish boilers, and had no sulphur. The results were encouraging and there were hopes for a prosperous coalfield. The property consisted of 7000 acres, a magnificent kauri forest and a very large tract of flax land. Good specimens of copper had also been picked up in the neighbourhood of the coal pit. It was the intention of the proprietors to form a company to work the coal, flax and timber.

The amusing and interesting spectacle of a real baby show was enjoyed by the patrons of Thames' Theatre Royal at the conclusion of the drama 'Miriam's Crime.' When the curtain rose, there were 21 mothers or nurses seated on the stage, each holding a child. They appeared to be a fine lot of healthy, clean children, and were neatly dressed. They had the good taste not to squall.

Drs Croft and Sam officiated as judges, and awarded the first three prizes. The first prize, a beautiful plated silver teapot, sugar basin, and toast rack, was awarded to Mrs Thompson's little boy, aged six months.

The second prize, a round chimney clock and a child's frock, was given to Mrs Huxter's little girl, aged nine months, and the third prize, a pair of beautiful China vases and another child's frock, was given to Mrs Wetton's little girl, aged eight months. Each of the other children got handsome presents, some of which were almost as valuable as the main prizes, and the whole exhibition was an entertaining one.



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Youth members boost band numbers

By GORDON PREECE

More students will be blast-ing tunes during this year's brass instrument lessons hosted by Kerepehi Brass Band.
Band president Luke Van Vliet

said this was the second year the band was hosting the lessons and five or six more people were expected to take part.

"At the start of last year we had about five people, then that number grew to about 10, and just through the publicity we've done up until the start of this year, we're going to be starting with around 15," he said.

15," he said.
"The lessons are open to anyone but we've had students from Ngatea, Kerepēhi, Netherton and Paeroa and we've got a few coming over this year from Te Kauwhata so we're definitely expand-

ing."

Luke said the idea for the lessons came about last year when the band discovered the number of young members were dwindling and local primary schools weren't really offering instrument lessons.

"We thought this was something the band could pick up the slack in to help offer kids the opportunity to get lessons and to also help secure a future for the band," he said.

"If the lessons keep growing, we may look at options to form a jun-ior community band then look for conductor and bandmaster to lead them.

Luke said one of the benefits of the band's lessons was affordability. "Most lessons are about \$30



A junior community band could emerge if more students take part in Kerepehi Brass Band's lessons.

for a private lesson with a tutor and often you get good lessons for that price but for some people it's just not affordable," he said. "So we worked hard with our

teacher, Clive Burnell, who comes over from Hamilton and we're now offering lessons for \$5 for a half an hour group lesson, then there's instrument costs on top of that.

Luke said people could also gain good team building skills through having lessons and playing an in-strument was a skill they could keep for life.
"Most people do sports but let's

be real, by the time you reach 40, there's probably not much sporting left in you, but something like playing an instrument, it's a skill you keep for life," he said.
"We've got members in the band

who started when they were 12 and they're now in their 80s."

Luke said the number of members had also grown, and over the next couple of years, the band planned to seek funding to po-tentially expand their band hall, which was becoming too small.

"We've kicked off this year with a raft of new members and we're

now sitting at over 30 members which is great to see," he said.
"There's lots of enthusiasm within the band for the big year we have ahead and everyone's over the moon with the generosity we received over Christmas and we're very thankful for the donations we were given.

"That's our main fundraiser for the band for the year and it was just so great to see everybody out supporting after what had been a tough year

Luke said more than \$5000 was raised. Covid-19 red traffic light re-

strictions had made it difficult for

the band to practice normally, he

"We've had to implement the vaccine pass because it just wasn't possible for us to practice in our

hall with the numbers we had.

"But we're always looking for ways we can practice safely and make music together like outdoor marching practice."

DETAILS: Kerepehi Brass Band lessons are held every Tuesday at 4pm at the band's Matai St hall in Kerepēhi. For more info: email: kerepehibrass@ gmail.com or Ph 021 039 6183.

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08 THE VALLEY PROFILE, February 23, 2022 www.valleyprofile.co.nz Rural



By GORDON PREECE

Along time hobby of growing flowers has led a Hikutaia woman to blossom towards begonias.

Patsy Robinson told The Profile she's grown the colourful flowers for five years after deciding she'd like to try growing begonia bulbs.

"I got in touch with a guy from the Auckland Begonias Society and went and met him and he was very knowledgeable and showed me how to do cuttings. I bought quite a few bulbs off him to start with," she said. "Then I joined the Begonias Society

and met Mary Johnson, who I would say is New Zealand's top grower, and started buying from her and for the last few years she's sent me begonia seeds.

"Begonias are something a lot of people don't grow and it's amazing to see what a seed as big as a salt granule can grow into."

Patsy, a retired dairy farmer, said growing begonias with the help of her husband Glen was an interesting pro-

"We buy a basic potting mix and mix it with the river sand we get off the farm because it's good draining for the flowers," she said.
"You don't want them too wet, other-

wise they'll rot very quickly.

"Sometimes fungi can appear when the begonias start growing but I use a special spray to prevent that.'

Patsy said begonias start growing in September through a process called pipping and by October they pip and



One of Patsy's prized begonias. Photo: SUPPLIED

shoot out tubers from their bulb.

"When they finish in around April, you should just let them die down and break them off and put them on flowers of sulphur, which stops them rotting,' she said.

"If you're doing just a few begonias, you can just turn the pots over in the shed and leave them like that to dry during winter then in August you turn them over and re-pot them.'

Patsy said Mary Johnson told her the shed on her property was the ideal place to grow begonias.

"We get quite heavy frosts and our shed has a dry, even temperature, so that's why I keep them indoors before taking them outside," she said.

Patsy said from January through to the end of February next year, she planned to open her Robinson Rd property to the public to view her begonias by appointment only, Ph 027 457 1241.

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Rural Life

Farming awards impacted by Omicron

The 2022 Anuwhenua 110-phy competition to select the top Māori sheep and beef farm has been postponed due to the current risk of the Covid-19 Omicron variant.

The trophy, of which Ngatea's Pouarua Farms was a finalist last year, is one of the most prestigious agricultural events.

It has been 89 years since the competition was inaugurated by Māori leader Sir Apirana Ngata, and the Governor General at the time, Lord Bledisloe.

Management committee chair Nukuhia Hadfield said it was regrettable but necessary to postpone events given the current situation with Covid-19 and the uncertainty it created.

She said the judging panel had just started to judge entrants to select the finalists, but the committee deemed it unwise to continue in the rapidly developing situation, and decided to put the competition on hold until it can be safely reconvened.

This decision reflects the committee's wish to ensure the safety of our Whānau and wider communities across the country, as well as ensuring the safety and well-being of our judging

team and support staff.
"This also means the rest
of our programme is delayed,
particularly the upcoming parliamentary announcement, the field days and awards dinner scheduled for May," she said. The Ahuwhenua Young Māori



The Ahuwhenua Trophy competition has been postponed.

File Photo: JOHN COWPLAND/Alphapix Photography

Farmer Award would also be modified to align with the senior

competition accordingly.

Nukuhia said the committee would continue to monitor events over the coming weeks and would make further decisions on when judging can re-commence, and then also re-set the dates for the other key events in the programme.

She said the competition faced a similar situation in 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions, but the programme was eventually able

to run at a later stage.

"I am confident that we will be able to do the same again later in the year," she said.

Updates will be posted on the Ahuwhenua Trophy website: www.ahuwhenuatrophy.maori.

DAIRY NZ AWARDS TO GO AHEAD

With judging for the 11 regional programmes underway around the country, the New Zealand Dairy Industry Award's attention is turning to the regional

award dinners being held in March and April.

After consultation with regional teams and national sponsors, the much-anticipated evenings will continue, following government guidelines for events in Red level

'We know these award dinners are an important part of the rural community's dar on many levels, which is why we will follow government guidelines to deliver an evening where success can be recognised and celebrated," awards general manager Robin Congdon said.

This means the dinners will have a maximum attendance of 100 people, who will be required to show vaccine passes at the venue. We realise capping numbers means some will miss out, and for those who can't attend, the events will be livestreamed on the relevant regional dairy industry award facebook page."
Tickets will be offered directly

to finalists, their supporters, entrants and sponsors. Any remaining general admission tickets will be made available online. "Of course, in the current environment, we understant environment, we understant environment." rent environment, we under-stand some people may be hesitant about attending the dinners, and we respect their decision if they don't want to attend," Robin said.

The Award programme proceeds as normal, with judging continuing in all regions.

"Our remit is to deliver the awards programme and the benefits it brings to dairy farmers," Robin said.

ers," Robin said.
"The dinners are a great way
to announce achievements and celebrate - having to limit numbers and manage the allocation of tickets feels a bit like having to pick your favourite child."

DETAILS: Waikato award din-ner: March 14; Auckland-Hau-raki award dinner, March 18. www.dairyindustryawards. co.nz for more information.

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Could be 'dream stream'

CONTINUED FROM P1

impossible, as the overgrown grass obscured the bank by about a metre.

A close-by waterway opposite the Paeroa Old Boys Sports Club field had its own issues, with Michael once being witness to an elderly woman falling into the stream after her dog.

"Dream streams are what we really need to have, so it's nice for everybody," Brigette said. "Safety first, and then why not make it pretty?"

make it pretty?"

Hauraki District Council's group manager engineering services Adrian de Laborde said the modified stream formed a critical role in Paeroa's flood protection network. It was a "fairly complex" system, he said, but it was robust. He stated the areas adjacent to the stream were designated flood ponding zones, which did enter on to property boundaries, and work was be-

ing done to monitor the performance of this area, as well as the entire Paeroa network.

"This will enable us to better manage the network and address the effects of climate change. This work should be completed in the first part of this year."

He said there was "absolute-

He said there was "absolutely" a strong desire to improve the current biodiversity of the stream – and other waterways and areas of the town. "This includes providing walkways for the community [and] is part of a long term strategy," he said. Council was also working on

Council was also working on a planting and biodiversity programme for the Hape Stream based on recent planting trials undertaken by Waikato Regional Council, focused on improving the overall ecology of the water-



Versatile Spicy Summer Salad

RECIPE

My recipe this week is a family favourite at this time of year. It makes great use of some of our fresh produce from the garden. Right now we have an abundance of corn, beans, capsicums, chillies, new potatoes and zucchini – not to mention all my kitchen herbs. I'll use them any way I can, and this salad is a great example of how they work together.

Even if you don't have your own veggie patch, all of these ingredients are in season right now, so they will be good and fresh wherever you buy them from. This salad is also very versatile. It can be a great filling in wraps or tortil-las, used as a great salad for a barbeque, or just packed into chilled lunchboxes with tuna or salmon etc. This time we enjoyed it with leftover roast chicken shredded on top, (and a new potato salad), but it's also a fantastic flavour bomb served with seared prawns and chorizo. Whichever way you choose to use it, I'm certain you won't be disappointed with the flavours.

- Jaki, Savour & Spice

INGREDIENTS

2-3 corn cobs (depending on size)
2 tablespoons olive oil
3 capsigums sliged into strips

2 capsicums sliced into strips 2 zucchini sliced into rounds and half rounds

4 spring onions, sliced

2 tsp Savour & Spice's Spicy Mexican Blend ½ bag or 150g fresh spinach leaves

1 avocado, sliced 1/3 cup pumpkin seeds (or cash-

ews) Juice of 1 lemon



Use seasonal produce for this Spicy Summer Salad.

Photo: SUPPLIED

2-3 cups of shredded chicken ½ cup chopped fresh parsley 1 tablespoon chopped fresh mint

Savour

to coat for a couple of

METHOD

Place the corn in a big pot with water to cover and bring to the boil. Cook until tender, for 5-8 minutes depending on their size (you can pierce a kernel with the edge of a sharp knife to tell).

edge of a sharp knife to tell).

While the corn is cooking chop the spring onions, zucchini and capsicums, and add to a large warmed sauté pan with a little oil. Cook until tender (not soft), and with a bit of colour on the zucchini. When the corn is cooked, remove from the water and once cool enough slice off all the kernels. Add these to the sauté pan along with the Spicy Mex spice blend and a spritz of lemon. Toss

minutes. Place the spinach on the base of a large shallow bowl, and add the corn mixture on top. Add the avocado, pumpkin seeds, and

shredded cooked chicken. Finish with a sprinkling of the parsley and mint. Serve immediately!

My potato salad is 800g steamed new potatoes (unpeeled) added to a bowl that has a vinaigrette of olive oil, mustard, lemon juice, 2 chopped gherkins plus 1 tablespoon of the brine, a couple of chopped artichoke hearts (from a jar), 3 tablespoons fresh parsley and salt and pepper to taste.

Put all ingredients in the bottom of the bowl, taste to adjust, and whisk them together. If you prefer things a bit sweeter, just add half teaspoon of honey. Then you can just tip all of the steamed potatoes into it and mix gently.

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This can also be a good platform to meet potential employers. You will be able to participate in all of the networking events. These connections will be

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- Shannon Paki

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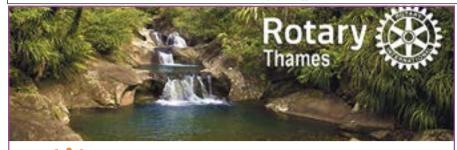
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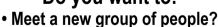
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Where: Rocker Box, Pollen Street Thames.



When: Wednesdays, Registrations from 6:00pm for 6.30pm start

Text 0274 761806 if you would like to know more or come on down on a Wednesday.

SPORTS

Cricket camp a great experience for Valley players

CRICKET

Valley Cricket sent six teams to the Hawke's Bay cricket Association annual cricket camps held during January for year 4-13 players.

The camps are held over three to four days for each age group, and teams get to play between four and six games of cricket for each age group.

This is a great experience for all the players involved, not only for the cricket side of things but getting to be in teams with people they don't know.

It is great to see the friendships that get formed, especially when they end up playing against each other during the local season. There is lots of good hearted banter.

The focus isn't on winning but giving the players opportunities to play cricket at a level above what they play on a Saturday. The Valley teams had players from all over the Coromandel Peninsula, Hauraki Plains, Te Aroha and Morrinsville. We couldn't have done it without the help of all of the parents and supporters.

We would like to thank our wonderful sponsors for helping us keep the costs down for our players, Miller Poulgrain for uniform support and Townshend Thomas Charitable Community Trust for covering the costs of our match balls. This was very much appreciated.

This was the first time that Valley cricket has entered a team year 4-5 team, which put together a very fine record in the age group games. The year 6 team, called the Valley



The Valley Demons were one of many teams to compete in Hawke's Bay for Valley Cricket.

noto: SUPPLIE

Allstars, was a great bunch of kids who didn't really know one another. This was the first time any of them had played where you were out straight away with no safe balls or batting for set periods.

They won three out of six games, and the third day was definitely the hardest when bodies were tired but they never gave up. Their attitudes were awesome and they finished the tournament with a win in the last over against Whanganui.

The Valley Venom year 8 team are a young team but acquitted them-

selves and the Valley name really well against some older and skilled opposition. There were some tough games but to their credit they never gave up till the very end. They all really enjoyed themselves, playing together really well with limited preparation and are all keen for another go next year.

Mixing with players from other schools and teams is such an awe-some opportunity. I do love the balance is better in the fact that there are not set positions within the team and kids are almost made to

play outside their comfort zones, which is good for them. The Valley Vipers is officially a

The Valley Vipers is officially a year 8 team but we had some accomplished year 7 members in this group. Most of the team had played together over the past couple of seasons and the value of having been to the camps before and learning from those experiences certainly showed through. The team had a great first day and second morning, winning both games. The next two games over the afternoon of day two and the full 50 over match on day three

did not unfold as well and ended up with a loss in each match.

Day four and the team rallied on a superb grass wicket to win against a previously unbeaten team. Each team member had moments of brilliance and moments to be forgotten but learned from.

A great team with so very much potential to do many great things in the future of Valley cricket.

The Valley Demons year 9-10 team is a real stitch together side of players, including some very courageous year 8 members. This team was a superb bowling side that battled with the batting aspect of the game, however there were some brilliant innings produced from various members.

While the side produced only one win, the manner in which that win was stitched together in a 50 over match was outstanding and showed just what the team could produce with more time together. Each team member had an outstanding moment across the tournament, while some had some not so good moments, they learned from them and addressed them in the next game.

The Hawke's Bay camp was exactly what we were after for the Valley Lions year 11-13 team. There were opportunities in all games for players to have different roles and scenarios. Four of our five games were down to the last 10 runs and provided nail-biting death overs. All the players thoroughly enjoyed the camp and the accommodation and meals were fantastic as well. Everyone is looking forward to next year.

- Anna Dodunski

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Family, friends farewell loving, loyal 'live-wire

Kirsti Grant-Mackie

There was music, poetry, tears, and laughter as friends and family of Kirsti Grant-Mackie farewelled the "loyal" mother, wife, and companion on February 13.

One week earlier, the belov-

ed Thames Music and Drama member passed away unexpect-edly during the company's first read-through of its upcoming show Mamma Mia.

Her farewell was as "legend-'as the woman herself, starting with her arrival into the Twentymans chapel in Thames to the song We are the Champions, by Queen, a band her husband Ewan said she'd loved.

But to be fair, it was a close call between *Queen* and *Meat Loaf*. I'll leave you to imagine the sorts of songs that could've

[been]," he said. His and Kirsti's children, Emily and Lucas, as well as friends of the family, spoke of a wife, mother, and godmother who was a good scrabble player, and who at one point had a crush on Dennis Quaid.

"For me, Kirsti was a person of contrasts and opposites," Ewan

"She claimed to loathe modern art, and yet, she played a big part in the selection of material for the Thames South [School] Short Film Festival. She was a very good cook, and learned to cook Thai food well, and yet she



Kirsti Grant-Mackie was remembered as being a talented "live-wire" who loved her family.

Photo: SUPPLIED/ THAMES MAD

was quite happy just having a can of baked beans for her din-

ner.
"She didn't suffer fools gladly," he said. "But she put up with me for more than 24 years.

Kirsti was born in Essex, the United Kingdom, but spent most of her formative years in Diss, Norfolk. She arrived in New Zealand in 1996, and met her husband Ewan through musical Diane Connors, from Thames Music and Drama, said Kirsti was a brilliant character actor and had amazing comedic tim-

"She knew just how to deliver a line, with just the right amount of 'pause for effect', and her facial expressions and physical com-edy were undeniably hilarious. "She was a triple threat; could

act, sing and dance - in her own style of course. I fondly remember her in Roger Hall's *Social Climbers*. The script called for her to appear on stage in little but a towel. But nothing phased her, she was prepared to do any-thing for the sake of the show."

Thames South School also farewelled Kirsti, who was a Board of Trustees member, then chairperson, and who served the kura over many years, involving herself in all aspects of school

"Always a laugh, a story that lifted spirits, straight-talking, a dear friend and supporter to

many."

In a letter written by Kirsti's mum and read aloud by her daughter, Emily, it was said that Kirsti, although a "live-wire", had a quieter side, too.

She loved to read, and by the time she was 10, she had finished reading The Lord of the Rings.

As well as being a loving and loyal friend, Kirsti was a loving and loyal member of a loving and loyal family, she said.

Kirsti was remembered as the friend to swap ghost stories, share the latest horror novels, and get obsessed over the The A-Team, and The Dukes of Hazzard with.

She was remembered for her humour, and her love for her

In his last phone conversation with Kirsti, her cousin Matthew recalled how they spoke of their

kids.
"She told me Emily was doing had got his degree. I joked with Kirsti that her side of the family got the brainy gene, and I got the tall gene," he

We spoke for about half an hour, and looking back, what came through was the love we both had for our families.

"It's a privilege to belong to a loving family," he said, recalling words spoken by his own father many years earlier.

"And it is."

Waikato Regional Council rates rise on the cards

Waikato Regional Council will seek public feedback on a proposal to pick up responsibility for rating for public transport services in the Thames-Coromandel, Hauraki and Matamata-Piako districts.
Councillors have also voted to

establish a contestable \$200,000 per annum community transport fund. It will be funded through a flat per property charge of ap-proximately \$1 through the ex-isting uniform annual general

The decisions were made at a recent council meeting to set the annual plan budget for the 2022/23 financial year. The annual plan would see total rates revenue of \$121.879 million and a proposed increase from current ratepayers of 7.8 per cent. It remains consistent with the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan, which signalled an increase of

7.9 per cent. If given the go-ahead following consultation, the rating for existing and new public transport services in Thames-Coromandel, Hauraki and Matamata-Piako districts would be collected by the regional council from January 1, 2023. That's to give the regional council time to negotiate for funding assistance from Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, as well as to plan the rollout of the new services.

If that negotiation is unsuccessful, ratepayers will be asked if they would be happy to cover 100 per cent of the cost of new



Denis Tegg

public bus services. It would amount to \$333,500 of rates revenue collected through targeted - 80 per cent of that would come from the urban areas directly benefiting from the services, with 20 per cent to come from the rest of the districts based on

an indirect benefit model. Councillors heard this would

be an interim step while the regional council investigates pick-ing up the rating responsibility for all public transport services

and infrastructure region-wide.
Currently, Waikato Regional
Council only rates Hamilton
ratepayers for public transport
services, but in the districts, the relevant territorial authority is responsible for raising funds and passing these through to the regional council.

This arrangement means co-ordinating funding for public transport services is more com-plex than it could be, making it less straightforward to provide equitable and regionally consistent service levels.

Cr Denis Tegg, an advocate for better transport options for his Thames-Coromandel constituents, supported the proposal. "Communities in Thames-Co-

romandel, Hauraki and Matamata-Piako are crying out for better transport, and the pressing need to reduce emissions means we can't afford to put off changes that can be fast-tracked.

"Our proposal doesn't just make transport funding more efficient, it gives us the flexibility to deliver better services too.

Waikato residents and rate-payers will be able to have their say on the proposal between

April 1-30.

The consultation document will include an indication of what the new services might include.

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The Valley Profile publishes an arts page every 2nd month. If you are interested in supporting this page, please contact Nikki for more information. There are limited spaces available. 022 130 3885 nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz



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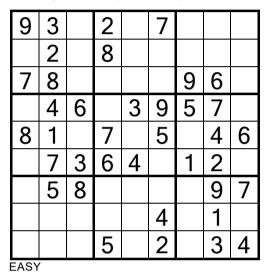
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SUDOKU

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



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MEDIUM								

ACROSS

- 1 Speak carefully after due thought (4,4,5)
- 8 Spoiled (6) 14 Reflection (5)
- 15 Deliberately sunk (8) (10)16 Big cat (7)
- Traverse (5)
- **18** Day before (3)
- 19 Narrow connecting
- land (7)
- 21 Single (9) 22 Throat (6)
- 25 Information to
- mislead or persuade (10)
- 27 Boxing (8) 28 Laundry stiffener (6)
- Yacht harbour (6)
- 33 Flier (7) 34 Worldwide (6)
- 35 Bird scared to the
- ancient Egyptians (4)
- 37 Every one of (3) 39 Revered mentor (4)
- Take into account (7)
- 41 Stone fruit (9) 42 Feared (7)
- Gardened (anag)(8)
- 48 Drew back, as with
- fear or pain (8) **52** Not going (7)
- 56 Sentimental remembering of things
- past (9)
- Do like (7) **58** Maximum (4)
- **59** Tree (3)
- Mix with spoon (4)
- Showing favouritism (6)

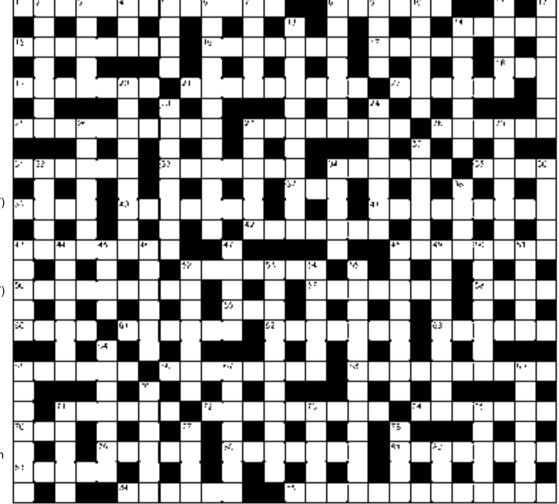
- **62** Give the right to (7) **63** Assassin (6)
- 65 Lump of gold (6)
- Sick headache (8)
- 68 I notice art (anag)
- 71 Beaded counting
- frame (6)
- **72** Chicken-heartedness (9)
- **74** Declares positively
- **76** Hair-setting cream (3)
- 79 Fence steps (5)
- Bicycle user (7)
- 81 Nabbed (8) 83 Wound up (5)
- Grey tin alloy (6)
- **85** Scarce (2,5,6)

DOWN

- 2 Cutting tooth (7)
- 3 Sailing vessel (5) 4 Zero (3)
- Lather (4)
- Vulgarly showy (12)
- Unquestioned belief (5)
- **8** Boy's name (7)
- 9 Hankering (4) 10 Mass departure (6)
- Trainee (5)
- **12** Under (7) **13** Chill (11)
- Set apart (7)
- 20 Raising to a higher
- standard or rank (9)
- 23 Heightened (8)
- 24 Amaze (7) **26** Flower (7)

- Pock-marked (6)
- 29 30 Litter (7) Call off (6)
 - Deep sky-blue (5) Forest clearing (5)
- Tempo (5)
 Clipped grass area
- 38

- Sandhills (5) Taking a break (7) Handy (4)
- Motor (6)
- 47
- Navigation aid (5) Spanish dance (8)
- Boots with blades
- 50 King Arthur's town (7) 51 Come after (5)
- 52 Of the Devil (7)
- Legacy (11) Mild (6) 53
- **55** Hard brittle sweet
- 64 Recovery setback (7) Badly behaved (7)
- Happen again or
- repeatedly (7)
- **69** Porridge ingredient
- 70 Light volcanic rock
- (6) **71**
- Solo (5) 73
- Condescend (5) Kit out (5) 75
- Departed (4) Skin mark (4)
- **82** Liquid from infection



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Speck, 4 Add insult to injury, 12 On, 15 Odour, 16 Eiffel Tower, 17 Symbolic, 20 Blossom, 21 Dried, 22 Carefully, 25 Objection, 27 Brewer, 28 Miners, 32 Fable, 33 Trebling, 35 Meticulous, 39 Limited, 40 Flagon, 41 Riding, 42 Rice, 43 Shampoo, 46 False alarm, 51 Camphor, 55 Nave, 56 Addled, 57 Cognac, 58 Escaped, 61 Concoction, 62 Rotating, 63 Fever, 66 Trendy, 67 Assist, 68 Off colour, 73 Dynamited, 74 Toast, 75 Isolate, 80 Effluent, 81 Stockbroker, 82 Scarf, 83 So, 84 Golden apportunity, 85 Player.

- 81 Stockbroker, 82 Scarf, 83 So, 84 Golden opportunity, 85 Plays.

- DOWN: 2 Puddle, 3 Clues, 5 Drip, 6 Inferno, 7 Sullen, 8 Lion, 9 Teenager, 10 Joyful,

- 11 Rebellious, 13 Nucleus, 14 Old, 18 Moved, 19 Referendum, 23 Stork, 24 Demolish, 26 Belgium, 27 Begonia, 29 Banish, 30 Singes, 31 Picnic, 34 Balsa, 36 Spear, 37 Nero, 38 Aria, 43 Sonic, 44 Advanced, 45 Oddity, 46 Fellowship, 47 Lads, 48 Excerpt, 49 Legato, 50 Roast, 52 Also, 53 Plateau, 54 Opened, 59 How do you do, 60 Knock, 64 Sidestep, 65 Blast, 66 Tablets,
- Festoon, 70 Gained, 71 Sorbet, 72 Stormy, 76 Local, 77 Aft, 78 Echo, 79 Beat.

Prepare for next season's planting

After an incredibly hot dry summer we will start to experience cooler nights and overnight dew during March, signalling the time to prepare the garden for the next season's planting. If it's still dry, keep watering to make the most of the late summer crops. The wel-come rain we got early February created a very welcome extension to the growing season.

VEGETABLES

Once crops have finished producing, it's time to remove spent plants and replenish the soil with a mixture of blood and bone, sheep pellets and a good general garden fertiliser. Dig well into the soil and water in then you are ready to start planting out your new seedlings. Just a note: If you collect your own seeds for later propagation, now is the time to do this before composting. Any old plants pulled out can be cut up and added to the compost bin. While any garden areas are empty take time to top up garden beds, replenish the soil with a new layer of compost, blood and bone and sheep

pellets.

Plant Now: Leafy greens: leeks, carrots, silver beet, spinach, celery, winter lettuce. Salad crops: lettuce, rocket, mesclun blends. Brassicas: broccoli, cauliflower, kale (cavalo nero and curly kale). Herbs: mizuna, parsley, coriander, chives and chervil. Protect all new seedlings from snail and slugs with a slug bait. If possible, cover your brassicas with mesh to protect from the



Start to plant your favourite winter flowering seedlings, such as snapdragon. Photo: M NIMBS/PIXABAY

white butterfly.

FLOWERS It is also time to replenish the soil in your flower gardens with compost, blood and bone and sheep pellets. Top up the mulch too, great for not only keeping weeds at bay but also to help plants with warmth over the cooler months. Start to plant your favourite winter flowering seedlings, pansy, viola, primula, polyanthus, calendula, cineraria, lobelia, poppies, alyssum, stock and snapdragon. It is also time to plant spring flowering bulbs. Daffodils can be planted out from late February to the end of May. Early planting gets them off to a good start for better root development. Plant in full sun and well-drained soil. Anemones and ranunculus are easy to grow, stagger planting for extended flowering season. Hyacinths are a beautiful addition to any gar-den. They are best planted out

March-April in a cool spot. Protect all new plantings with slug and snail bait.

Citrus trees are heavy feeders so feed with a specific citrus feed. This ensures healthy green leaves and better growth, flowers and fruits. Mulch around the roots to conserve moisture. Continue to harvest apples, pears, grapes, peaches and plums if you managed to get enough water on to the trees. Once stone fruit have finished, prune to shape and remove dead or diseased branches.

Autumn is the ideal time to sow or repair your lawn. Now is a good time to fertilise your lawn to promote nice healthy growth. COMPOST HEAP

The compost will benefit from all the addition of the trimming and pruning of spent crops.

- Ngatea Garden Circle

Top five plants for beginners

n my shop I find a lot of people are terrified their newly purchased indoor plants will be dead within a week! I certainly don't want that to happen, so I have my top five "easy peasy" plants for a beginner. Be careful though - five plants leads to ten, and before long you will be collecting rare plants!

Zamioculcas - a wonderful air pu rifying plant (I hasten to add so are most plants). This beautiful thing is very architectural and makes a great statement in a lovely pot where maybe you only want oneplant – kitchen bench – bathroom. Great in a bright or shady spot and, wait for it, water once amonth. Let plant dry out before watering fully.

Peperomia Tricolour – those who know me will know how much I value the Peperomia range of plants The tricolour with the lovely hints of cream and pink is a great hardy little plant for a shelf. Prune lightly to keep bushy – water once a week or when

Philodendron Brazil - this beautiful tropical plant with lime and green leaves is great hanging or on a shelf. East to grow, keep soil moist in summer and slightly drier in winter. Feed spring and summer.

Ficus – Black Knight – A striking

plant which will grow into a small shrub/tree. Likes a bright filtered light spot. Keep soil just moist and water weekly in summer and less in

Sansevieria (Mother in Law's tongue) - great for providing a different texture among your plants or put on a patio in part shade area. Great hardy plant, dry out between watering. Hint: wipe your leaves and keep them clean, this helps stop bugs and

diseases. Enjoy your plants!
- Morag Standbrook, The Plantery

The Plantery



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Funeral Service

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 restric-

tions will apply so please register your attendance at kaypeejones@xtra. co.nz or phone 021 891

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if you have any information

Cancer Society announced an alternative to their iconic Relay For Life event now the fundraiser, which was to take place at Claudelands Events Centre in March, can no longer go ahead.

The Waikato/Bay of Plenty

Fundraising events ordinator Shay Rout said the charity needed its supporters to stay the course and get behind Relay Your Way.

"While it is really disappointing that Covid has affected our plans once again, we have quickly adapted and are making the most of it. This year we will walk apart, but not alone."

The Cancer Society will launch an easy-to-follow video that will guide supporters through the parts of Relay For Life everyone loves the most, as they Relay when and where they like.

Lena Couchman is a regular participant at Relay For Life and is excited for the options the new format brings for her team, Mumma Couchman's Kids.

"We are looking at a few venue options, like the Karangahake Gorge, where we'll set up a gazebo and chairs, bring food and repeat the tunnel loop walk from the main carpark near the waterfall. And we will still be dressing up as normal," she said.

Lena Couchman, second from right, with her mum, Karen, and her team at Relay For Life 2020. Photo: SUPPLIED

The event is personal to Lena as her mum, Karen Couchman, passed away in February, 2021, six years after she was diagnosed with cancer.

"My mum always taught me that just because something gets in your way, that doesn't mean you give up.

"I want to show my support to other families that are on this cancer journey to stay positive and fight. And that's what this walk is for me. Walking for a few hours is nothing compared to what you actually go through,' she said.

As a community-funded charity, the Cancer Society depends on annual events like Relay For Life. The funds raised help local cancer patients and their whānau get the care and practical support they need: from safe transport to treatment, through to supportive care nurses, and accommodation for those travelling for treatment.

Supporters also help fund

ground-breaking cancer research and vital prevention programmes.

"Our events keep getting knocked down while need for our services go up, so New Zealanders' efforts to raise funds for our work are more vital than ever," Shay Rout said.

The concept of Relay For Life began in 1985, when Dr Gordon Klatt, a surgeon and American Cancer Society volunteer, spent a gruelling 24 hours circling a local sports track. Friends, family, and patients watched and supported him as he walked and ran more than 133km and raised \$27,000 through pledges to help save lives from cancer.

Since then, Relay For Life has taken place every year and is now the world's largest cancer fundraising event, with 29 countries taking part. The inaugural New Zealand

event was held in 2001. In 2021, more than 800 participants took to the Relay For Life track in Hamilton and raised more than \$150,000.

DETAILS: Sign up and make a difference for those affected by cancer: www.relayforlife.org.nz.





Casual Store Person wanted

We have an opportunity for a casual Store Person to join the team at our Ravensdown Kerepehi Store. This role would ideally suit someone with flexibility who is looking for part time hours, but has the ability to work full time during our peak seasons (Spring and Autumn).

The role involves customer service (in person and over the telephone); processing and loading orders; fertiliser mixes; and forklift and front-end loader operation.

To be successful in this role you will be physically fit, with great communication skills and a positive attitude. You will also be reasonably comfortable with computers and have a full New Zealand Driver's Licence (experience with mobile plant equipment preferred but the right person will be trained up!).

Go to our careers.ravensdown.co.nz website to apply.

Ravensdown is committed to a drug and alcohol free workplace. The successful applicant will be required to undergo a pre-employment drug test.

Covid-19 Policy: Ravensdown requires candidates to provide evidence of their 'my vaccine pass' as part of the recruitment process prior to commencing employment. The successful candidate will be required to continue to maintain their vaccination status in accordance with NZ government advice.

Positively Thriving

SPORTS

THS swimming supremo smashes records

By GORDON PREECE

A Thames High School year 13 student has come from a broken foot to breaking three school swimming records. Sienna Hall told *The Profile*

Sienna Hall told *The Profile* breaking three of the school's senior girls swimming records, which had been held for more than 14 years, was "just insane" after breaking her foot during the school's athletics day in February last year.

"I was off for so long and have only started swimming again in the last couple of months so it was quite a shock to get them [the records]," she said.

"I have my name on seven of the school's swimming records through my whole time of high school, so that's pretty cool."

Sienna broke the records on February 10 at Thames Centennial Pool for the senior girls 25m butterfly in 15.57 seconds, the senior girls 25m freestyle in 13.13 seconds and the senior girls 100m freestyle in 1.07.06.

The records were previously held by Jackie Goudie in 2002 for the senior girls 25m butterfly, Georgia McCormack in 2008 for senior girls 25m freestyle and Nicola Goudie in 2003 for senior girls 100m freestyle.

Sienna, who also competes in netball, running and ten-



THS year 13 student Sienna Hall, pictured here at the school's swimming carnival, now holds seven of the school's swimming records.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

nis, said she'd been swimming since she was born.

"My mum was really keen to get me swimming because she'd never learnt so it was more of a safety thing but then I just continued, found a love for it and just kept training and got into racing," she said.

"Don't push too hard to the

point you don't enjoy it, work hard, go to trainings but make sure it's still fun."

Sienna, who plans to attend Waikato University next year, planned to attend swimming competitions over the coming weeks to get qualifying times for the New Zealand Division II Swimming Championships in Dunedin in May.

"In 2018 I got three qualifying times and went down and ended up making the finals for two races and came eighth overall in the 50m and 100m freestyle," she said.

Sienna last competed in the championships in 2019 due to 2020's event not staying afloat

due to Covid-19 and her broken foot in 2021.

She also holds Thames High School records for Junior Girls 25m Butterfly, 15.96 in 2019; Junior Girls 25m Freestyle, 14.11 in 2019; Junior Girls 100m Freestyle, 1.06.04 in 2019; and Intermediate Girls 25m Backstroke: 17.60 in 2020.





Trouble Sleeping?

Beds have come a long way since the feathered ticks or kapok of our grandparent's days.

While hard beds were touted 30 years ago as being best for our backs, these days research shows they don't do a lot for lower back pain.

And for those of us who have a few miles on the clock - and feeling a bit of wear and tear, but who are still keen be as active and fit as possible – according to a recent study - a good bed is a necessity.

That's where Bambillo have come into their own. It's a well known and respected brand going from the early sales of more than a million pillows between New Zealand and Australia, then

the much-loved mattress toppers that will turn any hard bed into an acceptable soft one, to their piece-de-resistance, Perfect Fit Adjustable Bed by Bambillo.

'Ťhere's no doubt this bed is of the highest quality - yet we offer it for much, much less than the apples for apples bed range that's out there," Burt Turner **Developers** Brand spokesman says.

The bed features a new microcirculator massage system which Burt says from personal experience works a treat. "I've got a hill block in Banks Peninsula. I know what my body thinks of me after a day hauling firewood down. That

microcirculator system does wonders for me and I look forward to it at the end of the day.'

The system is based on a German designed product with 16 medical microcirculator motors, one for every 20 centimeters of body. There are twenty different programs to suit whatever the body might need. And it's not new technology.

"In the equine world this kind of thing is being worked into horse blankets, so race horses and show jumpers all over the world are known to get great benefit from them," Burt says.

As is usually the way, horses – with their huge monetary value in terms of top performers - are often the recipient of groundbreaking technology

to keep them at optimal health - and now that technology is something humans can benefit from too, he

There are many different programs you can use from rest and repair to re-invigoration and rejuvenation. even one designed to put you to sleep very quickly."

The point is whether microcirculator massage part is used or not - "it won't suit everyone" - the complete bed is one which will last a long time because of the quality.

"It's a strong, sturdy bed and base which comes in split king, split queen, one piece queen and king single.

"It has a full 28cm mattress, so that tells you of the quality factor right there. It's not a lightweight ensemble." Burt invites people to come in and try both the



Massage Chair for

themselves at the pop up shop at the Grahamstown Community Hall for 3 days only.

"It's the perfect opportunity to see how well these can become a necessary and welcome part of your life." Burt says.

"Sit on it, lie on it, try the massage options and ask any questions of my expert team, they will be more than happy to make sure you are fully informed." "This weekend is the perfect time to experience the

Perfect Fit Red"

Crezette | Perfect Fit Bed Customer

Had my Bambillo Bed for 12 months now and I still love it. This bed has changed my life. After more than fifty years I am able to drop off to sleep after couple of minutes after I adjust my bed for that night. After more than fifty years I have a bed that allows me the maximum sleep.

Days Only Grahamstown Community Hall | Friday 25 - Sunday 27 February

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* Up To 50% Off applies to Perfect Fit Beds only. Free Perfect Fit Bedframe and Headboard upgrade and Up To 50% Off offer only available at Grahamstown Community Hall popup store 25 - 27 February 2022. Additional delivery and installations fees may apply for the Perfect Fit Bedframe and Headboard in some delivery areas. Free upgrade available for first 10 customers only. Conditions apply