

The Valley Profile

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'We don't deserve this'

High crime rates throughout the region have business owners calling for more police support. KELLEY TANTAU speaks to victims of burglaries and ram-raids as part of a *Valley Profile* series.

Along the main roads of Paeroa and Thames there are signs of criminal activity.

An electronics store is getting its main entrance repaired after a holiday season smash-in; a superette and an antiques store are boarded up thanks to a spate of lawlessness; and the workers of a liquor store in Paeroa's south are working out how to strengthen their security.

Manbir Kaur owns Super Liquor Paeroa and works there alongside her sister Kiran.

They were the targets of an attempted break-in one Thursday morning recently around 3am, when five youths wearing hoodies tried multiple times to gain entry by smashing the front entrance.

"They were using their legs, using their arms, and then they used, like, a steel frame to try and break it," Manbir tells *The Profile*.

"It's just shocking. They've got no right to go on to anyone's property and cause any damage. They came with the intention of theft but we're lucky the motel [worker] across the road basically chased them away."

A box of beer was delivered to the motelier to say thanks but Manbir and Kiran, who only took over the business in October last year, have intentions to strengthen their security to ensure it doesn't happen again.

"It's really hard actually," Kiran says, "you're paying for your own safety."

Over at AA Antique Furniture in Paeroa's main street, there is a reasonably-sized smash in Adam Archer's front window, but he doesn't expect the instigators were after any of the items inside.

"They didn't steal anything, and they could have, but there's no point in them trying to steal this sort of stuff because it's worthless to those sorts of people," he says.

"It's not alcohol, it's not cigarettes, it's got no value to them, so it's just straight out being idiots."

In Thames, cigarettes appeared to be the motive behind a break-in at Nalin and Rasella Patel's Four Square superette. It was the first ram raid-style attack in their 22 years

CONTINUED ON P2



Four Square Thames owner Nalin Patel and staff member Janet Darrah outside the damaged storefront, which likely won't get repaired until mid-2022 due to building delays. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

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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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Hi, my name is Pete the Pukeko and I'm here to help you. Find me in one of the display 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 Autoworkz ad.

Business owners take on criminals

CONTINUED FROM P1

of trading in the town.

Four male offenders, seemingly adolescents, smashed their way through the main entrance in order to steal cigarettes, Nalin says.

"They took stuff, but they didn't get what they came for."

The couple say the police didn't arrive until four-and-a-half hours later, and even then, they had shown up to deal with another dispute.

"In our case, the kids were young, so I don't know if they put any effort into catching them."

According to Waikato Police, more than 50 arrests of people aged 12-18 years old have been made since February 1 throughout the Waikato region, and more than 500 vehicles have been stolen.

A number of the vehicles have then been used in other offending such as ram raid-style burglaries.

Nalin and Rasella fear that without a stronger police presence in Thames, crimes committed by youth will continue to take place in the town.

Their sentiments are shared by 98 per cent of poll-takers of a crime survey run by the Thames Business Association, with feedback stating businesses would like to see a manned police station in town.

According to the survey, more than 52 per cent of respondents had experienced an increase in crime in their business in the past two years, while 32 per cent said they had been a victim of



The window is smashed in AA Antique Furniture's shop frontage.

crime.

"We don't deserve this. We work hard seven days a week, and you try to help the community in these Covid times and then they come and do this," Nalin and Rasella say.

"People are going to give up calling the cops. They want us to report even the little thefts people do, but what's the point?"

"Instead, we try to catch them in the shop and get the property back... because by the time we ring [the police] and answer their questions, the driver who stole the things would've gone already."

Businesses throughout the two towns believe property crimes

"get lost in the woodwork", and a stronger approach to offending youth is needed.

Waikato Police has set up a dedicated team to investigate this type of offending and are taking a "district-wide" approach.

Waikato Eastern Area commander inspector Dean Anderson tells *The Profile* that young offenders are highly motivated and move around the district.

He says police are actively involved in youth-focused prevention activities in the Waikato Eastern area, which prioritises early intervention with youth who have a potential to reoffend or are simply in need of support.

"Our response to youth offending is in accordance with New Zealand legislative frameworks such as the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989, which dictates how we will proceed and progress with children and youth through the youth justice process.

"That being said, rest assured where we find repetitive offending – the offenders will be held to account."

Inspector Anderson says police have always operated within a "highly dynamic and challenging environment" and need to prioritise incidents where people may be in physical danger.

"This, on occasions, can delay our responses to property-related offences when an offender is no longer at the scene," he says.

"Our intention has always been to deliver the best service we can for the public. I can assure you all of our staff work hard to do the very best for their communities."

He encourages businesses to continue reporting incidents of crime, in order to identify, arrest, and prosecute adult offenders, and refer youths through the Youth Justice process in the area.

"We would always encourage people to report this offending to us – even if police are not able to attend immediately, there are often forensic and other investigative avenues available to us which allow us to follow through and hold people to account."





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Thames Tides

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
Mar 23	Mar 24	Mar 25	Mar 26	Mar 27	Mar 28	Mar 29
 Morning: 5:31am 0.5, 11:49am 3.6 Afternoon: 5:58pm 0.5 Sunrise: 7:23am Best At: 5:00am 5:29pm Set: 12:26pm Rise: 10:26pm	 Morning: 12:17am 3.5, 6:21am 0.6 Afternoon: 12:38pm 3.5, 6:46pm 0.6 Sunrise: 7:24am Best At: 5:58am 6:28pm Set: 1:38pm Rise: 11:15pm	 Morning: 1:08am 3.4, 7:16am 0.7 Afternoon: 1:31pm 3.4, 7:39pm 0.7 Sunrise: 7:25am Best At: 6:58am 7:29pm Last Quarter Set: 2:46pm	 Morning: 2:06am 3.3, 8:17am 0.8 Afternoon: 2:27pm 3.3, 8:39pm 0.8 Sunrise: 7:26am Best At: 8:00am 8:31pm Rise: 12:12am Set: 3:47pm	 Morning: 3:11am 3.3, 9:23am 0.9 Afternoon: 3:29pm 3.2, 9:49pm 0.9 Sunrise: 7:27am Best At: 9:01am 9:31pm Rise: 1:18am Set: 4:39pm	 Morning: 4:21am 3.2, 10:30am 0.9 Afternoon: 4:37pm 3.1, 11:03pm 0.9 Sunrise: 7:27am Best At: 9:59am 10:27pm Rise: 2:28am Set: 5:22pm	 Morning: 5:28am 3.3, 11:35am 0.8 Afternoon: 5:48pm 3.2 Sunrise: 7:28am Best At: 10:53am 11:19pm Rise: 3:39am Set: 5:58pm

MOON AND FISH KEYS

New Moon First Quarter Full Moon Last Quarter

Good Fishing Fair Fishing Not So Good

TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES

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

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

Paeroa op shop to give back after fire

By GORDON PREECE

Raising funds for emergency services will take place during a charity opportunity shop's grand reopening on Saturday after last month's fire engulfed its store on Paeroa's main street.

The op shop will reopen in a new premises on Normanby Rd, and with a new name - Forget Me Knot's New Beginnings.

Owner Susan Turner said her store would continue to support the local community after reopening.

"We do it for the love of giving, we donate raffle hampers for the elderly lunch at Paeroa Racecourse, we did a Christmas raffle last year for the Paeroa RSA building fund," she said.

"The first fundraising idea once we open is a money trailer on our new counter to raise funds for the fire service and then St John, because they were the services who helped us on the day of the fire."

Susan said she was initially devastated after the fire, and couldn't bring herself to go into what was left of the shop.

She then learned a safe containing around \$300 stolen from the charred remains of the charity op shop before the site was boarded up.

But she soon switched into "survival mode", she said.

"The focus has been on getting the shop open since the day af-



Susan Turner says she's "very excited" to reopen her charity op shop on Saturday. Photo: GORDON PREECE

ter the fire and I'm very excited to have the shop open again, not for myself but for the community," she said.

"Some have said I should take this opportunity to have a break and a holiday so there's no rest for the wicked, but I say no, I'm dedicated.

"One door closes and many more open, I look at everything in a positive light."

Susan said she had her new premises lined up before the fire and had brought forward her plan to move in.

"It turned out to be a blessing in disguise because we now have

a bigger premises."

Susan said since the fire, which was believed to be caused by an electrical fault in her store's kitchen ceiling, there had been "overwhelming" community support.

"People from as far away as Matamata, Tauranga and

"We do it for the love of giving. The first fundraising idea once we open is a money trailer... for the fire service and St John."

- Susan Turner

Whangārei have brought donations to get the shop off the ground again," she said.

"We've probably received six trailer loads of clothing, bric-a-brac, electronics, furniture and I had to say stop on the clothes because it was becoming ridiculous for the capacity of storage."

"We've also got a 20ft container and a five bedroom house where we've been storing stuff."

Susan said her husband Bear and nephew Arona had helped with reopening preparations.

She also had support from Thames Kiwi Rescue, Hauraki Resource Centre, Scotty's Wheels and Tyres, the Tongan Community, St John Thames and Ngatea, and Paeroa Refuse Centre.

DETAILS: Forget Me Knot's New Beginnings will open on March 26 with a blessing at dawn before doors to its new store on 80 Normanby Rd open at 8:30am. There will be a sausage sizzle outside the store throughout the day.



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OUR COROMANDEL



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DISTRICT COUNCIL

News from Thames-Coromandel District Council

23 March, 2022

Green light for Kōpū marine facility

The Environmental Protection Agency has granted our Council consent to build a commercial wharf and recreational boat ramp facility at Kōpū.

The project is thanks to the government’s Crown Infrastructure Fund, which granted our Council \$8.2 million to build a commercial wharf and pontoon, commercial slipway, and a commercial haulage access area. It also includes a wider road over the stopbank at the southern end of Quay Street, a new access road (and extension of King Street) as well as the construction of a public recreational boat ramp and parking area.

“A gobsmackingly fantastic outcome,” says our Mayor Sandra Goudie. “This course of action is going to make a real difference to Thames, our district and the region.”

“Right now, infrastructure builds have real challenges – supply chain, inflation, labour shortages and the effects of global hostilities – we will work through all of these to make sure we have a tangible asset that brings increased economic and social benefits for us all.”



The project will transform the existing boat ramp area at Kōpū

The facility will not only support employment in the Thames township, it will also provide alternative marine-servicing options for vessels from the Hauraki Gulf, Coromandel Town, Tauranga, Auckland and Whangarei. It will have immediate benefits for the local community by creating up to 13 jobs in the short-term. Another 19 jobs will be created through the precinct’s construction, with potential for dozens more downstream jobs when the project is complete.

It is estimated that the Kōpū Marine Precinct could bring economic returns of up to \$58.5 million over the next 30 years. It brings fresh opportunities to the boat repair and maintenance, aquaculture, trade and transport industries.

tcdc.govt.nz/kopumarineprecinct

Total fire ban lifted

The total fire ban has been lifted, but you’ll still need a permit to light an outdoor fire. Visit checkitsalright.nz for fire safety tips and to apply for a permit.



Local art groups and creative projects across the Coromandel are being offered a helping hand with funding from the Creative Communities Scheme. Our next round closes on 25 March. For more information on the criteria and to download an application form, visit tcdc.govt.nz/ccs

Easter Kerbside Collections

Kerbside rubbish and recycling collections will be one day later after the Easter Monday (18 April) public holiday. Check out your schedule at



tcdc.govt.nz/kerbside

All seven of our Refuse Transfer Stations will be closed Good Friday (15 April) and open to their Sunday hours on Easter Monday. On Anzac Day (Monday 25 April) they are all open from 1pm to 5:30pm.

Check the hours and locations: tcdc.govt.nz/rtss

Plastic type 5 now recycled

Put clean plastic type 5 items in your recycling wheelie bin or take them to your local transfer station. Common plastic type 5s include ice cream containers, large yoghurt tubs (not the small pottles), margarine, takeaway containers. Regardless of the product, always check for the number 1, 2 or 5 on the item before recycling.



WHAT’S CHANGING FOR 2022/23?

HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE FEES AND CHARGES, PROJECTS AND BUDGETS IN OUR PROPOSED ANNUAL PLAN

11 MARCH – 11 APRIL

tcdc.govt.nz/annualplan2022

Proposed Annual Plan

Consultation on the proposals in our draft Annual Plan for the coming financial year (2022/23) runs until Monday 11 April.

Do you support our proposal to change the way we charge for use of our **harbour facilities and boat ramps** to a user-pays-more model?

Provide your feedback on our revised **Matarangi Open Space Land Purchase** plan.

Check out our proposed changes to our **Capital Works Programme**, which are to take account of rising costs and delays due to supply chain issues.

Our consultation document *What’s Changing for 2022/23?* is now available to view or download from our website at tcdc.govt.nz/annualplan2022

Visit this page to find out how you can have your say today.



Commercial Operators Consultation

We’re wanting to make it easier for commercial operators to apply for licences to operate mobile businesses on our Council reserves, as well as reduce the cost to ratepayers by decreasing administration time and cost to assess these applications.

tcdc.govt.nz/commercial-licences

Household organic waste disposal

Should kitchen food scraps and garden clippings be included in Kerbside rubbish and recycling collections? Give us your feedback on the options in our consultation running now until 12 April. Go to tcdc.govt.nz/organicwaste



Thames Community Board UPDATE

A word from the Board Chairperson, Strat Peters

“We’ve got three important public consultations on the go, including one on proposed changes to the budgets and projects in the Annual Plan. Many people will also want to give our Council their thoughts on including organic waste as part of Kerbside collections – there’s been strong interest in this in the community. Please get involved and have your say.”

strat.peters@council.tcdc.govt.nz



The Board’s next meeting is on 6 April 2022, 9am. For now all our meetings are being held online. If you wish to speak in the public forum, contact governance.services@tcdc.govt.nz

Agendas are published two working days before meetings at tcdc.govt.nz/meetings where you’ll also find recordings of each meeting.



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Valley Profile to be delivered in Waihi

FROM THE EDITOR

Waihi locals will soon enjoy top quality news delivered to every letterbox as the *Valley Profile* community newspaper expands to cover the entire Hauraki District from next week.

Valley Profile owner and editor Teresa Ramsey said full coverage and distribution in Waihi was always on the cards as the independently-owned and operated free weekly paper was already covering the rest of the Hauraki district.

"Since we began in May, 2020, we have had many Waihi locals asking us to cover their patch as well as Paeroa, Thames and the Hauraki Plains," she said.

"And we've covered many big stories from Waihi, Waikino and the Karangahake Gorge over that time, so it's nice to finally be in a position to cover important stories and deliver to Waihi officially.

"Our qualified journalists are looking forward to reporting general news, covering local democracy and celebrating community champions in Waihi, during a time when many in the news industry are facing redundancies, cutbacks and uncertainty."

The announcement comes as some community newspapers were struggling because of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on advertising revenue, she said.

The *Valley Profile* understands Stuff was planning to temporarily reduce print num-



The Valley Profile will be delivered to every letterbox in Waihi from next Wednesday. Photo: TERESA RAMSEY

bers for 15 of its community titles nationwide, including the *Hauraki Herald*, with rural delivery deliveries stopped first.

Both NZME and Stuff have undertaken many redundancies, closures and mergers in the past few years, including closing the *Hauraki Herald* and *Waihi Leader* offices and merging the *Waihi Leader* with *Whangamata's Coastal News*.

In contrast, the *Valley Profile* has grown from a monthly paper with a staff of one to publishing

weekly and employing four full-time staff and two contractors within its first year.

The *Profile* also opened its office in Queen St, Paeroa, in November last year.

Teresa said this was thanks to loyal advertisers who believed in The *Profile's* commitment to local news, and also because advertising in The *Profile* was affordable and produced excellent results.

"Feedback from advertisers is consistently positive, they are

experiencing many regular direct sales as a result of their ads in the *Valley Profile*," she said.

"This is because we have engaging local editorial content throughout the newspaper, so readers spend time on every page and take in both stories and ads."

The latest Covid-19 outbreak had affected The *Profile* too, but Teresa said the publication would never abandon large parts of the communities the paper covered - especially those in ru-

ral communities who may not always have a reliable means of communication.

"We might take a hit along with many other local businesses, but we will work very hard to make sure important information reaches every household in the regions we cover, especially during this health crisis.

"In the midst of a serious pandemic, our readers rely on our quality journalism to inform and connect our communities.

"So, instead of cutting back on the number of papers we're delivering, we're increasing our circulation to more than 16,000 copies. And we will endeavour to make sure every one of them is delivered to every letterbox in the Hauraki and Thames Valley - even if it means we get out there and do it ourselves."

The latest Omicron outbreak had affected delivery of The *Profile* in recent weeks but nothing the title couldn't manage, she said. "As the virus quickly spreads through schools, some of our newspaper delivery superstars have either had the virus or were isolating as family members were sick," she said.

"This meant some of our delivery people couldn't complete their runs some weeks, however, our dedicated *Profile* staff and their family members stepped up to make sure every run was covered and every paper was delivered. It's an ongoing mammoth effort from our team, but it's so satisfying to know our local news has reached everyone."

- Teresa Ramsey, editor

LET The Valley Profile GROW YOUR PROFILE *Ask these businesses...*



Hauraki Plains Motors
Advertising with The Valley Profile is getting people in the door which gives us the opportunity to sell more. We advertised our bike conversions only in the VP & we are still amazed at how many people are coming in. We certainly didn't expect the response we have had. There are a lot of people reading the paper that you don't realise.
Miles & Diane



AJ's Clean Up Crew
I've been meaning to email you for ages just to tell you that I get at least three to four jobs a week off our little advert. Very impressive!!
Alaine

Floor Solutions
We have found that every week we are getting enquiries for our services and are well above what we've experienced with other papers
Pippa

RCS
I appreciate the Valley Profile, it's a great newspaper, if you're thinking of advertising I've had plenty of calls from people so far... so I would give it a shot.
Simon

Susanna Kruger
What I like about Valley Profile is that they provided a one-stop service including graphic design, photography, reporting and advertising. Their professional presentation of my life and work made me feel welcome to join the Thames-Coromandel business community.



Trinity Network
We have been advertising in the Valley Profile for about a year now with proven results, the feedback from our Vendors and purchasers are that it's a great local paper to advertise in because of the local news content and supporting a locally owned business. Nikki and the team are great to work with no hassles and a very professional approach, we would strongly recommend to anybody thinking of advertising to use the Valley Profile and reap the rewards.
Kerry & Adrienne





The Kōpū roundabout in Thames is victim to growing demands on the roading network, Waka Kotahi says.
Photo: GORDON PREECE

Roundabout clean-up planned

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

A roundabout that looks like “the entry to an abandoned town” will get its next clean-up before Easter weekend, the NZ Transport Agency has pledged.

The Kōpū roundabout, which links State Highway 26 with State Highway 25, has been described by a resident as “disgraceful” and showing “a severe lack of civic pride”.

The resident, who wanted to remain anonymous, said they noticed the roundabout looking untidy around Christmas, with overgrown vegetation and litter filling up the centre of the traffic circle.

“This is the gateway to the Coromandel. Currently, the roundabout looks like the entry to an abandoned town, showing

a severe lack of civic pride,” they said.

“Having travelled a great deal around New Zealand, this reflects badly on Thames, which is a lovely town with plenty to offer.”

In emails seen by *The Profile*, the resident contacted Thames-Coromandel District Council and Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency to determine whose responsibility it was to clean up the roundabout.

They said it had been difficult to establish culpability, but Waka Kotahi’s director regional relationships in Waikato and the Bay of Plenty David Spiers told *The Profile* it was the agency’s responsibility for the maintenance of vegetation on rural roundabouts on Waikato state highways, including the one at Kōpū.

“Waka Kotahi is working to optimise our maintenance and renewal work at a time when there is a finite amount of funding available and growing demands on the roading network.

“We are prioritising keeping our roads safe, avoiding disruption for users, as well as minimising future costs of restoring the network to sustainable levels of service,” he said.

“Unfortunately this means that vegetation maintenance doesn’t always get prioritised unless it is deemed a safety concern.” The last maintenance of the Kōpū roundabout was carried out just before Christmas 2021, and vegetation would be cleared again prior to Easter weekend, he said.



Plastic causes power cut

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

A power outage caused by plastic from a market garden tangled in a transmission line in Puriri meant residents, health care centres, and schools were without electricity for four hours last week.

According to Transpower, the owners and operators of New Zealand’s National Grid, the plastic was a hazard “that could cause a fire or unexpected electricity outage”.

It meant turning off the power from 10am-2pm on March 16 to remove the plastic safely.

Impacted areas were far-reaching: from Matatoki, Thames, Whitianga, Tairua, Kerepēhi, and Coromandel.

The outage caused busi-

nesses to close and delays for Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki’s Whānau Health Centres across the Thames Valley and Coromandel Peninsula, while some schools, including Waitakaruru and Thames High, had to send their students home.

However, a Waitakaruru School post to social media said there was a silver lining to the power outage. “It was a great opportunity to test our communication techniques with no internet or landline. We discovered our school phones are digital so do not work without power.”

The school has since put a call out for a landline phone that could be donated for use in emergencies such as the mid-week power cut.



Large pieces of plastic wrapped around a pylon and power lines in Neavesville Rd, Puriri.
Photo: GLENN RAMSEY

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**The Valley
Profile**

Kai packs provide isolation lifeline

By GORDON PREECE

Kai packs containing fresh local produce are being dished out to many isolating families in Kaiaua's community.

Organiser Te Wai Unasa told *The Profile* the initiative was put together by Wharekawa Marae in collaboration with Kaiaua Volunteer Rural Fire Force to prepare for Covid-19.

"We knew that Omicron was going to hit our community based on the increasing numbers of cases and the amount of locals who need to travel for work and especially up to Auckland," she said.

"So we needed to put things in place to provide support to whānau and community members who might not have access to support for shopping and food available.

"Our community have been somewhat prepared, some have been able to stock up but others might've run out because their shopping day is a specific day of the week then they've come down with Covid."

Te Wai said Wharekawa Marae sourced funding through Te Kotahi a Tāmaki to initiate their Kai Hub. They began distributing the packs on March 1 when they found out about Omicron cases in their community.

The packs, which are also distributed in Waitakaruru, Miranda and Whakatiwai, contain



The kai packs contained staples for those in isolation. Photo: SUPPLIED

canned goods, bread, butter and milk and Kaiaua Community Garden members donated fresh fruit and vegetables.

"Some of our community garden members who have chickens have also donated eggs and our local orchard has donated avocados and honey," Te Wai said.

"There's a few meals which can be made out of [the kai packs] in conjunction with pantry staples and other items people might have at home."

Organiser Tess Watts said the value of the kai packs was between \$60 to \$100 based on the number of family members.

"Now that the isolation period has dropped from 10 to seven days, we're still doing the same amount in each kai pack no matter how many days they're in isolation," she said.

Te Wai said families had been "grateful" and "very happy" to receive the kai packs.

"A lot of them don't know what support is out there... [for them] to know there's kai packs from our locals has been quite lovely as we are a community who try and support each other as much as we can because it's a small area," she said.

Te Wai said they would continue distributing the kai packs



Kaiaua volunteer firefighters Te Wai Unasa, left, Mike Laker, Tess Watts and Mark Crowther have helped with the packaging and delivery of kai packs. File Photo: SUPPLIED

for as long as the Omicron outbreak lasted. "Tess and myself are the main contacts as well as the [Wharekawa] Marae Reservation Trust, and when people reach out to us, we get a kai pack together and deliver it to them,"

she said.

"We would like to acknowledge, Wharekawa Marae, Kaiaua Rural Fire Force, Kaiaua Community Garden and Te Kotahi a Tāmaki for their funding."

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Sisters Aleisha Broomfield, left, and Stephanie Kay scooped Waikato Dairy Industry awards last week.

Photos: SUPPLIED

Hauraki farmers praised at awards

Patetonga born-and-raised sisters Aleisha Broomfield and Stephanie Kay were named runner-up and third placegetter, respectively, in the Share Farmer category at the 2022 Waikato Dairy Industry Awards this month.

Aleisha Broomfield is a 50/50 herd-owning share milker on Ian and Jim Dibble's Tauhei Farms Ltd 86ha Te Aroha farm, milking 250 cows. As runner-up, she won \$7928 in prizes and two merit awards.

The first-time entrant entered the awards programme to connect and grow, and learn more about her business.

"I want to grow my business and profile within the industry which will lead to further opportunities in the future," she said.

The 32-year-old was born and raised on a dairy farm in Patetonga and said farming was in her DNA.

"I'm passionate about the industry and I like to help others," she said. "I love the animals and I'm good at what I do. There are lots of opportunities with the industry to own your business and generate wealth."

Aleisha said she was excited about the future of the New Zealand dairy industry and that the country was producing top-quality products that "feed the world".

"My goal is to be a leading farmer and role model for others coming through the industry. We see ourselves as early adopters of innovation and hope to be part of the change."

Aleisha holds a Bachelor of Agricultural Science with First Class Honours from Lincoln University and is currently studying toward the New Zealand Diploma in Agri-business.

The former DairyNZ consulting officer and PrimaryITO tutor said her favourite part of farming was the cows.

She also identified a traditionally stressful time on-farm as her best – calving.

"I hop out of bed every morning and can't wait to see how many new babies there are. I love rearing the replacement heifers as you can see them grow and develop and see all of your hard work paying off."

She said she was grateful to her sister, Stephanie Kay, who placed third in the Share Farmer category and is a contract herd-owning sharemilker for Sue Broomfield on her 68ha property, milking 220 cows.

She won \$5779 and two merit awards.

Stephanie said she was excited to see how the industry would change with developing research and technology.

"I want to adapt new systems which will create a more profitable and sustainable farming business and be able to educate others to do the same."

DETAILS: The Waikato Dairy Industry Awards winners' field day will be held on April 5 in Putaruru. Presenting at the field day will be the region's Dairy Manager of the Year, Andrew Macky, and Dairy Trainee of the Year, Edward Roskam. Further details can be found at www.dairyindustryawards.co.nz.

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Rural Life

Two-year sea lettuce trial to begin in Kōpū

A nationwide first land-based seaweed trial aiming to clean up the country's waterways is about to get growing beside the Firth of Thames in the Hauraki Gulf.

Paeroa seaweed innovation company AgriSea is working with the University of Waikato on a two-year sea lettuce (ulva) growing trial at Kōpū.

Backed by the Ministry for Primary Industries' Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures fund, seaweed will grow for 12 months in three tanks drawing water from the Waihōu, with data collation and analysis in the final year.

The seaweed can be turned into high-value products while the process of growing it has a multitude of benefits.

AgriSea managing director Tane Bradley said seaweed didn't have root systems so grew by pulling nutrients from the water around it.

"In this case, as ulva grows, it pulls nitrogen from the water and incorporates it into its tissue."

Known as bioremediation, the project will use seaweed in an attempt to clean excess nutrients from the Waihōu.

"The seaweed in tanks will act as a sponge and filter feed on excess minerals like nitrogen, phosphorus and other heavy metals – in short cleaning up the water, which is then returned to the sea, filtered and clean," he said.

The two-year project is a col-



Sea lettuce (ulva)

lective effort, with University of Waikato Environmental research fellow Marie Magnusson leading the research team.

The locally present species of ulva will be cultivated at the university aquaculture facility, where researchers will use DNA barcoding to confirm its genetic identity.

It is estimated that up to 50 tonnes of dry ulva per hectare could be produced from a scaled-up facility, providing the biomass for added-value products.

The bulk of the investment of \$697,000 is from the Ministry for Primary Industries' Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures fund, with \$108,000 from AgriSea and \$150,000 from the Agricultural and Marketing Research and Development Trust.

Thames-Coromandel District Council is gifting the land lease worth \$40,000 for the project, with support from Ngāti Maru



Clare, Chris, Tane and Marie with the seaweed growing tanks. Photos: TOMEK FRIEDRICH/ARTZENTAO PHOTOGRAPHY

and Ngāti Hako. Hauraki District Council, Waikato regional council and Te Waka are also supporting the project.

"Local Iwi are heavily invested in the health and wellbeing of our waterways and if this pilot proves successful, will look to upscale the on-land bioremedial systems in the Hauraki area," Mr Bradley said.

AgriSea is already partnered with Farm Source, helping farmers improve soil and water quality using the company's seaweed bio-stimulants as an alternative

to chemical fertilisers.

Bio-stimulants made from seaweed are high-value macro-algal products used on dairy, sheep and beef farms as well as in the apiculture, horticulture and viticulture industries.

Agriculture Minister Damien O'Connor said the trial sought to address an important environmental issue.

"Currently the loss of nutrients not absorbed by plants enters the soil and drains into groundwater that leads straight to our waterways," he said.

"This promotes algal blooms which reduces oxygen levels, which then threatens animals such as tuna [eels], kākahi [freshwater mussels], kōura [freshwater crayfish], and inanga [whitebait]," he said.

Seaweeds were being increasingly recognised for their potential, Mr O'Connor said.

"If successful, this will be an environmentally-friendly way to improve water quality, create jobs in the science sector, revitalise our waterways and improve our on-land farming systems."

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Pārāwai pupils in the great outdoors

A new outdoor education programme is proving popular for Pārāwai School students, who are learning to see the environment through a different lens.

With the help of Department of Conservation education teacher Mareer Limpus, the recently-launched programme educates the tamariki on how to make the most of their local green spaces and form strong connections with the environment.

“The benefits of time in the outdoors, just being outside and in green spaces, for both our mental and physical wellbeing are well documented,” deputy principal Erin Bergersen said.

“As much as possible, the focus is not on using devices but on direct learning from exploring, experiencing, thinking, questioning.”

Each term will be made up of three 1.5 hour sessions per class where the focus will be on developing skills and experiences, culminating in a full day out of the classroom.

“Kaitiakitanga - caring for our environment - is an important part of the programme, as is exploring traditional connections people have to the environment of Aotearoa,” Mrs Bergersen said.

“Term one’s full day outside will involve visiting a beach... it will include a beach clean up and thinking about where the rubbish comes from and what we can do about it and with it.”

Classes have also been undertaking team building activities, exploring nature through craft, using magnifying glasses, and exploring a local green space and stream.

Going forward, the programme will include more visits to local green spaces and to the Kauaeranga Valley and visitor centre in Thames, Mrs Bergersen said.

“Some of the other ‘taking action’ activities that children may be involved in include supporting environmental groups through painting community trap boxes, and developing signage to help educate the public.”



Pārāwai School’s Kiwi Class of year 1 and 2 students, and Pīwaiwaka Class of year 4 and 5 students, went up to Waiomu to explore the beach and sea life as part of a new outdoor education programme.
TOP: Cosette Kahaki and Ava Fitzpatrick enjoy playing in the sand and LEFT: Eoin Reeves and Thomas Plum show off their creative efforts.

Photos: SUPPLIED



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Fourth generation at the helm at BuildLink

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

The hardware store that's been in the Paeroa community for 75 years will continue to provide good service, a variety of stock, and now timber for tradies from its new premises.

BuildLink Paeroa, formerly known as HandiLink that was located on Normanby Rd, has moved into a double-sized site on Taylor Ave which comes with its own timber yard.

The well-known hardware store has been in the Bowen family since 1947 - starting up shortly after World War II - with Grant Bowen in the business for close to five decades.

His daughter, Aimee Dunn, and her husband Nick are now at the helm - making them the fourth generation to contribute to the store's legacy.

With a background in fashion and horticulture, respectively, Aimee said the new role was "very different" for the pair.

"Dad's done a good job with the service, and we hope to carry the same service on and have his guidance and wisdom along the way."

Aimee told *The Profile* she recognised the growing



Michelle Bowen, left, Bill Thackeray, Grant Bowen, Aimee Dunn, and Nick Dunn out in the new timber yard at BuildLink. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

need for building supplies in the area after Bunnings Warehouse closed its Taylor Ave, Paeroa, branch for good in October, 2019.

"I've always taken an interest in the retail side of things, and I was doing my admin days at the store and realised how much of a need there was for timber in the community. When

this premises popped up, I ran some figures to see if it was worth doing for the area, and with the growth in Paeroa, I thought it was really important to provide the service, especially with the way things are at the moment," she said.

"It'll mean that people don't have to travel as much to get what they need."

As well as providing the same reliable service, the shop's range for the professional tradie and at-home handyperson will be broadened.

Moving to the new location, which had its official opening last week, was quite a hard transition for Grant and his wife Michelle, Aimee said.

The Normanby Rd site was the store's original location - meaning the family had seen the town develop from that position for 75 years.

"It's been quite an emotional process for everyone to shift everything over, but the feeling here is open and light and spacious and it's nice for everyone to come and feel a good atmosphere," she said.

Her grandparents, who are former HandiLink owners, as well as members of the community, helped with the move on shifting day.

"There was food and coffee dropped off and that made everything a little nicer for everyone, so a big thank you to the community for that," Aimee said.

The couple also want to thank tradies in advance for their patience out in the new timber yard.

"We're completely fresh into the industry, so it'll be a massive learning curve for us," she said, "so the tradies will have to teach us along the way, which is exciting."

DETAILS: BuildLink Paeroa is located at 10 Taylor Ave and is open six days a week. Contact admin@buildlink-paeroa.co.nz for info.



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Paeroa Lion awarded for 55-year service

By GORDON PREECE

Raising money for a girl's kidney transplant was one of many great memories for a Paeroa Lions Club veteran.

Gordon Shaw was recently rewarded for his 55-year service with Paeroa Lions and told *The Profile* while being made a life member about five years ago was more important to him, it was "probably still a big thing" to have served 55 years.

"I went to a zone meeting a while ago and most of them had been Lions for two or three years and I said to them I'd been a member for over 50 years and they looked at me like I was a dinosaur," he laughed.

Gordon said what attracted him to joining Paeroa Lions as a 31-year-old Netherton dairy farmer was the comradeship and treatment by fellow members.

"My father was a member so I knew a little bit about [Paeroa Lions]...and my wife was very keen that I joined," he said.

"When I accepted... most members were a lot older than me in their 50s and 60s...so I felt like I was a fish out of water, but they really made me feel welcome and I've made some great friends in Lions, unbelievable really."

Gordon, whose father Leslie was also Paeroa Mayor, said he's always enjoyed team meetings,



Gordon Shaw celebrates 55 years as a member of Paeroa Lions.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

heading along to Lions conventions and doing community projects.

"I've always admired what we do in Lions," he said.

"About ten years ago we raised \$150,000 in Paeroa for a girl called Kylie Strongman so she could go to Australia to have a kidney transplant.

"It only cost \$30,000 so we

had \$120,000 left and we gave it to Ronald McDonald House in Auckland."

Gordon said he developed confidence and became a "pretty good" public speaker when he was president in 1972 and 1973.

"My family always asked me to be the toastmaster at weddings so I knew I did a good job because otherwise they wouldn't

ask me," he said.

Gordon didn't think Lions had changed a lot during his 55 years but said it's probably not as strict now.

"When I first joined, we had a special night to find out what a Lion is and was, and some of those things have gone by the wayside, which is a shame because you've got to have this

"I've always admired what we do in Lions."

- Gordon Shaw

continuity about what goes on in Lions," he said.

Gordon said Covid-19 had been "terrible" for Paeroa Lions.

"We've lost a lot of members, some don't want to be inoculated, some don't want to be involved with people, so our membership is dwindling a bit now," he said.

"We were always around 40 to 45 but we're lucky if we get 20 to 30 now to a team meeting."

Gordon said he initially didn't like the idea of women joining Lions but had changed his mind.

"We've got about four young women in our Lions and they're some of our best Lions and I get on well with them," he said.

While Gordon finds the physical side of Lions difficult nowadays, the 86-year-old said he'll continue roaring as the organisation's treasurer until he "can't do anything".

"I worked for an accounting firm for about 15 years so accountancy to me is a piece of cake.

"I'm sure when I give my report to the meeting, half of them don't understand what I'm talking about," he laughed.

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SPORTS

BOWLS

There was a good turn out on March 13 for the Hudson Family-sponsored optional fours tournament. All games were played on the grass green, with the first three winning teams having decisive wins. Results: 1st 4 wins, 52 points, 26 ends (Hauraki) Grant Sharpe, Mike Hitchcock, Lorry Mairoko, Graham Heaphy; 2nd 4 wins, 42 points, 25 ends (Thames) John Pullan, Bruce Graham, K Lockley, M Miller; 3rd 4 wins, 40 points, 24 ends (Paeroa) Peter Rowlings, Trevor Watt, Jim Erbacher, Helen Watt; 4th 3.5 wins, 12 points, 25 ends (Kerepēhi) Dave Sutherland, Suds Sutherland, Postie Parfitt, Colin Wilson. There was a good

days bowling on March 17 with a bye, unfortunately, but 21 teams of two played well in fine conditions. Thanks to the new sponsor – Adams Electrical (and for fixing PA system too). Results: 1st 4 wins 14 points 18 ends (Thames Coast) Arthur Hopkins, Sandy Foyd; 2nd 4 wins 6 points 17 ends (Thames) K Harris team; 3rd 3 wins 27 points 21 ends (Kerepēhi) Peter Glass, Andy McCowatt; 4th 3 wins 10 points 21 ends (Katikati) J Broad, Helen Broad. Coming up on March 27, Bower Bros Concrete sponsored Opt Triples; April 10, Smythes Quarry Opt Fours, April 21, Pairs Classic. Entries to Club 07 867 6897 after 4pm, Fiona 021 811 077, Richard 022 603 1669.

- Terry King



Lee O'Brien, left, and Geoff Sanders line up their shots at Kerepehi Bowling Club. Photos: SUPPLIED/TERRY KING

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50 years of spinning and weaving at Creative Fibre

By GORDON PREECE

Creative Fibre will soon celebrate 50 years of knitting, spinning, weaving, felting, embroidering and crocheting.

Margaret Morritt, who joined Creative Fibre in 1977, told *The Profile* the group formed in Thames five years earlier after a group of ladies were interested in spinning wool and making beautiful things.

“Everything was done right from the raw fleece, so it was still very greasy, very dirty and had to be brushed with a dog comb and washed before spinning it,” she said.

“Some women had big floor looms which took up a whole room and wove amazing things like rugs and wall hangings.

“Originally we had just natural colours of the fleeces with various shades of grey, black and white but then we got into using leaves, branches and bark and made beautiful colours which added a lot to what we were doing.”

In a book containing Creative Fibre’s minutes from 1976, the first dyeing session used fennel, onion skins, kawakawa leaves, lichen with tin crystals and copper sulfate as mordants, or dye fixatives.

Margaret said the group, which currently has 32 members from throughout the district, “keeps you young”.

“It’s amazed me over the years. I’ve looked at older members than me and they’re



Creative Fibre Thames members, Margaret Morritt, left, Judy Wright and Lyn Barbour have enjoyed their years crafting different items in the club.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

all still wanting to learn more and learn how to do this and learn how to do that... it’s just so good for people’s wellbeing,” she said.

“Every year there was a festival somewhere around New Zealand and I’ve been to many places and they are amazing.

“There’s always an exhibi-

tion of everybody’s work from around the whole country and classes to go to and learn more things... and I’ve got to know so many people from the whole of New Zealand... I just love it.”

Judy Wright said she also joined in 1977.

“My mum was one of the first members and I just tagged

along soon after that,” she said.

“We had many dyeing days at my mum’s place and I’ve been a spinner and dyed, felt and spun heaps of things.”

Secretary Lyn Barbour, of Paeroa, said she joined in 2017 after a stint with Creative Fibre in Mt Maunganui.

“Back in the day there was

no television, no cell phones, so to entertain yourselves as children you did embroidery or knitting. My mum, grandmother and aunt were all knitters and crocheters so I just grew up with it,” she said.

“I’ve been tagged as the short row lady because I like knitting short rows.”

Lyn said Creative Fibre had diversified over time with more felting using very fine fleeces like merino to make chair backs, gloves, hats, slippers, purses and bags.

“We’ve also just restarted dyeing days, which we call colour days because everybody says dyeing days, no we’re not going to die!” she laughed.

Margaret said Creative Fibre hoped to attract more young and male members.

“We’ve had men at times but it’s usually the member’s husbands,” she said.

“But [men] are very good actually because they understand spinning wheels and how they work. It’s very valuable to have a man in the club.”

Lyn said Creative Fibre Thames will commemorate their 50 years with a high tea with local past members on March 28 at St James Church where the group meets on the last Monday of each month.

“In October we will also hold our open day with a 50s theme... and we will also have a display of work which we haven’t done in two years, as long as Omicron behaves itself,” she said.

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

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HARD

42

42

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HARD

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JUMBO CROSSWORD

62

ACROSS

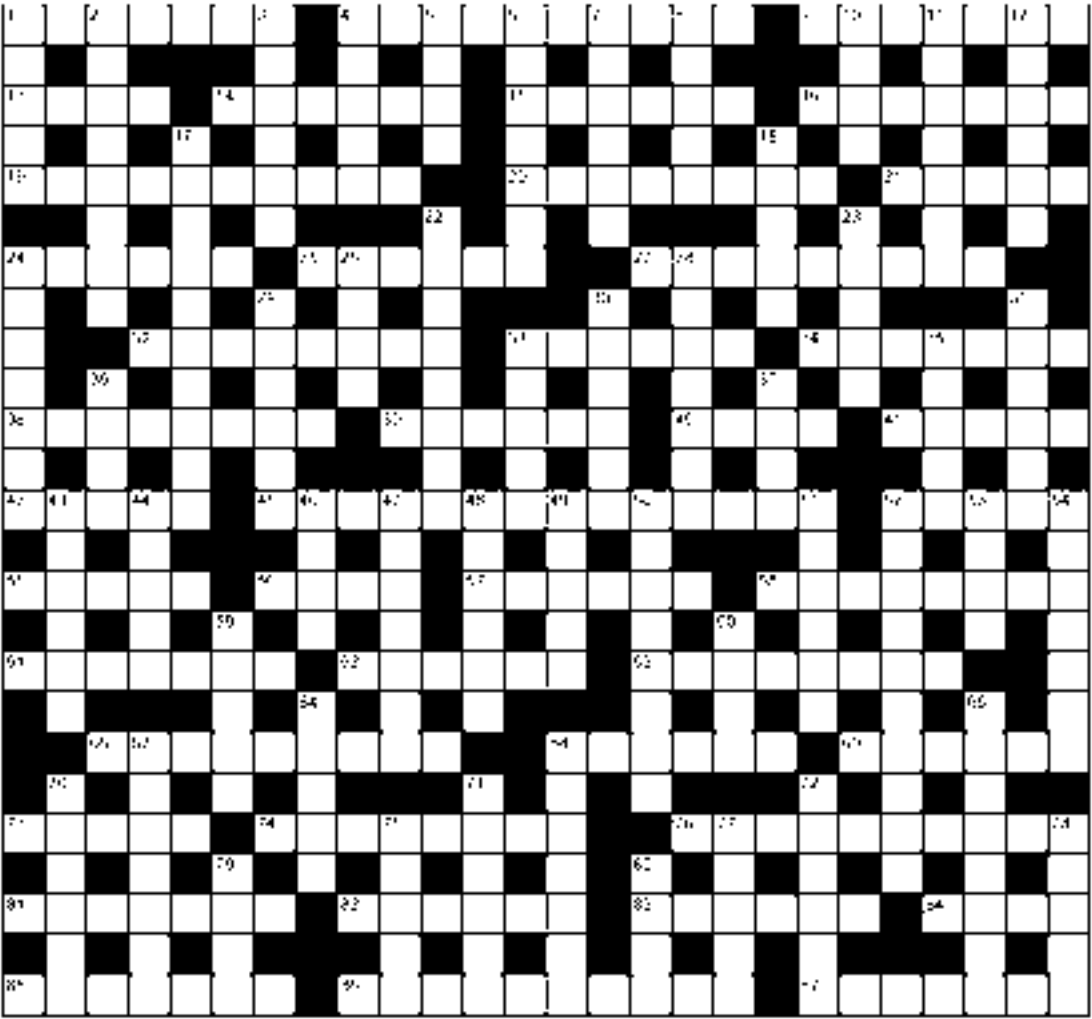
1 Line drawing (7)
4 Likely (2,3,5)
9 Playhouse (7)
13 Without feeling (4)
14 Light wind (6)
15 Lyrical (6)
16 Compensation money awarded for loss, injury (7)
19 Still (10)
20 Air force unit (8)
21 Totted up (5)
24 Detective (6)
25 Have enough money for (6)
27 Jazz style (9)
32 Wrap with lagging (8)
33 Was unsuccessful (6)
34 Confectionery flavour (7)
38 Jewellery item (8)
39 Samples (6)
40 Wheel shaft (4)
41 Waste drain (5)
42 Gains by work (5)
45 Deliberately confuse the issue (5,3,6)
52 Worries (5)
55 Savoury meat jelly (5)
56 Sink stopper (4)
57 Frozen drip (6)
58 Royal daughter (8)
61 Smeared (7)
62 Travel document (6)

63 Made complaining noises (8)
66 Belittle (9)
68 Pest (6)
69 Purpose (6)
73 Straining utensil (5)
74 Crowing (8)
76 Child minder (10)
81 Long steps (7)
82 Ebb (6)
83 Bends over (6)
84 Sweetheart (4)
85 Placate (7)
86 Obstinate (10)
87 Professional performer (7)

DOWN

1 Fabric for jeans (5)
2 Confessed (8)
3 Glass ball (6)
4 Cricket spells (5)
5 Layer (4)
6 Revealed (7)
7 Tree-lined street (6)
8 Removed moisture (5)
10 Stack (4)
11 Desert (7)
12 Stank (6)
17 Challengers (10)
18 Pick-me-up (5)
22 Of currency (8)
23 Genetic copy (5)
24 Trip (7)
26 Become tired (4)
28 Not precise (7)
29 Relic depository (6)
30 Fragmented puzzle (6)

31 Factory second (6)
33 Go get (5)
35 Take an oath (5)
36 Twosome (4)
37 Aspersion (4)
43 Property (6)
44 Childlike, trusting (5)
46 Grotesque (4)
47 Using a shovel (7)
48 Devious (6)
49 Oust (5)
50 Claiming (8)
51 Bushes (6)
52 Final reign (anag) (10)
53 Biblical garden (4)
54 Dubious (7)
59 Misses out (5)
60 Red gemstone (4)
64 Shepherd's staff (5)
65 Unsettled, anxious (8)
67 Sale document (7)
68 Malady (7)
70 Circus tent (3,3)
71 Hurt the feelings of (6)
72 Short-sightedness (6)
75 Soft leather (5)
77 Surrounded by (5)
78 Red powder (5)
79 Optical glass (4)
80 Norwegian capital (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Users, 4 Contempt, 9 Window, 14 Plane, 15 Teething troubles, 17 Molar, 18 Dot, 19 Perhaps, 20 Centenary, 21 Snacks, 24 Spaghetti, 25 Feline, 26 Adhere, 29 Regretting, 31 Era, 32 Seemed, 33 Spin, 35 Urn, 37 Flat, 39 Catamaran, 40 Vaccinate, 41 Twice, 42 Bachelor, 47 Entrance, 51 Smash, 55 Impromptu, 56 Abundance, 58 Open, 59 Sum, 60 Goad, 61 Magpie, 62 Lei, 63 Auditioned, 66 Annual, 67 Budget, 69 Tsetse fly, 72 Lights, 73 Saboteurs, 75 Crystal, 77 Ore, 80 Tibia, 81 Get to the bottom of, 82 Decay, 83 Hebrew, 84 Oddities, 85 Weird.

DOWN: 2 Stevedore, 3 Retch, 5 Orgy, 6 Torment, 7 Mountaineers, 8 Talon, 9 Wastrel, 10 Name, 11 Oblong, 12 Hands, 13 Neptune, 14 Precede, 16 Impractical, 22 Thrift, 23 Unnerve, 24 Stretch, 25 Flaunt, 27 Explain, 28 Deacon, 30 Game, 32 Snail, 34 Niece, 36 Pier, 38 Lea, 42 Bring, 43 Captain, 44 Eros, 45 Orphan, 46 Cause, 48 Twenty-first, 49 Apology, 50 Cue, 51 Surplus, 52 Hamlet, 53 Out in the cold, 54 Idea, 57 Nudism, 64 Endeavour, 65 Naughty, 66 Almonds, 68 Glasgow, 70 Earshot, 71 Stable, 72 Leech, 74 Outdo, 76 Scope, 78 Fair, 79 Able.

Seagull Centre’s community grants take flight

By GORDON PREECE

A desire to support people who support them is the Seagull Centre’s intention for one of their returning initiatives.

The Thames resource recovery facility will roll out local community funding grants to allow individuals and organisations to turn their environmental project vision into a reality.

Chairperson Ian Coatsworth said ten grants worth \$1000 each were part of Seagull Centre’s give-back policy.

“We support the customers who support us... and we decided quite some time ago we’d like to make tranches of community grants available, and we’ve had a few of them,” he said.

“We haven’t had one for two or three years because we were in a big dip in money... we are keen to do this one and we’re keen to do one next year.”

Individuals and organisations can apply for a grant if their projects create opportunities for locals to engage in local environmental issues or if they focus on community resilience through sustainable living practices, food security, education, or environmental kaitiakitanga (guardianship).

Ian said the last time Seagull Centre rolled out the grants,



Karen Woodhall and Ian Coatsworth hope Seagull Centre grants will make a difference. Photo: GORDON PREECE

the projects were diverse, from building cycle tracks in the hills behind Thames, people going into the Seagull Centre to up-cycle cloth into various things, and Steampunk’s art festival launch.

“Another tranche of money we gave away one year was to schools for composting so schools could use the money to build compost heaps and get the kids into composting.”

Ian said they also strongly encouraged youth to apply for a grant this year because it would be “really good” if youth could get involved in any environmental project.

Trustee Karen Woodhall told *The Profile* she was “very excit-

“There’s no ‘I’ in Seagulls; we’re a combination of great staff, great management, and great governance.”

- Karen Woodhall

ed” to see what might come of the funding.

“It’s an open invitation... a lot of people are using their own cash to get their projects completed so instead of saying we want you to spend the money on tree planting or stream upgrades, we just say just tell us what you want to do,” she said.


“There’s no ‘I’ in Seagulls; we’re a combination of great staff, great management, and great governance.”

Ian said after individuals and organisations received their grants, Seagull Centre would like their projects to be completed by December so they could get a sense of how they’d used the money.

DETAILS: More information at: seagullcentre.co.nz. Grants must include: who you or your organisation are; your history, including what you’ve achieved; a description of your vision or project, including your contribution; and why you should be considered for a funding grant. Applications close May 15.

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I had fantastic local feedback, people saw it, read it and came in. It reminded the community that we are here, and so many comments on Facebook. Thanks Valley Profile for enhancing my profile. - GBD



The Valley Profile

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2022 Seagull Centre ‘Local Community Funding Grants’ round.

Do you: Have a passion for the Thames / Hauraki environment?
Have a great idea / vision that could be accelerated with some financial support?
Need a seeding grant for your next environmental project?
Have a project that can be completed between June and December 2022?

The Seagull Centre is offering ten grants of \$1000 to help support you to turn your vision into reality.

Eligibility:
Your project must include at least one of the following as a central feature:

- Access and Participation - create opportunities for locals to engage in local environmental issues.
- Youth - enable young people to engage and participate in a local environment activity.
- Improve local habitats / outdoor space/s.
- A focus on community resilience through sustainable living practices, food security and Education.
- Environmental Kaitiakitanga. (Guardianship)
- Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rot.

Project ideas :

- Tackling noxious weed control.
- Local pest control.
- Putting on a Trash-to-Art show.
- neglected outdoor space, other.
- Using our Seagull Centre classroom (and Centre sale goods) to run your workshop.
- Increase the uptake of zero emission mobility. Walking/cycling.
- Help our community adopt more sustainable practices, e.g., berm gardens, looking after a
- Other.....
- Cleaning up a local stream.
- Tree planting.
- A reuse or refurbishing or upcycling activity.
- Inorganic collection service.


Your application should include:

- Who you are / your organisation.
- Your history including what you’ve achieved in any of the above or other areas.
- Description of your vision / project including your contribution and
- why you should be considered for a funding grant.

Get your application in to: info@seagullcentre.co.nz on no more than an A4 page.

For further information, contact: Karen or Ian at info@seagullcentre.co.nz

Application close-date: 15 May 2022
Grant payment date: 30 May 2022
Successful applicant list: Valley Profile during the week of 30 May.



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Brian Robinson of Turua-based Mobile Mechanics.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

Affordability focus for mechanic

A desire to do his own thing and offer a cheaper service prompted Brian Robinson to set up Mobile Mechanics two years ago.

The Turua-based business supplies batteries, offers service and repairs for trucks, cars, campervans and small engines and brake disc machining for half the price if they're within spec.

Brian, who previously worked at Terry Jeffcoat and Trevor Masters Transport in Kōpū, said because he operated from home, he could keep prices down for his

clients. "So far we've had positive feedback from everybody," he said.

"I picked up one customer the other day and he said he'd heard good things about me and thought he'd give me a call so I was quite pleased with that."

Brian is able to travel to help clients with services and repairs or they can bring their vehicles to his house, which is cheaper as they don't have to pay him to travel.

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Paeroa Greypower Inc.
Our AGM will be held on Monday, 11th April, 2022, 1.30p.m. at the Bible Chapel.
Gail Locke, Secretary

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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.

Public Notice

Hauraki District Council
Draft Reserve Management Plan
Open for Submissions 18 March 2022
The Reserve Management Plan is the council's plan that guides our management of parks and reserves to both protect them and to enable people to enjoy them. It was last published in 2007. This review will result in an updated management plan to guide us over the next 10 years.
In accordance with section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977, we are pleased to present the Draft Reserve Management Plan and look forward to your suggestions, comments or objections. Please provide your written feedback by **20 May 2022**.
Please refer to our website <https://weneedtotalk.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/> for all the documents and an on-line submission form. Alternatively, a copy can be requested by calling 07 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 (from within the District). You can email your feedback directly to us at info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz or post it to Hauraki District Council, PO Box 17, Paeroa 3600. Please remember to tell us if you want to speak to your submission at the hearing to be held in June 2022.
A hard copy of the draft plan is also available to inspect at council offices and libraries in Paeroa, Ngatea and Waihi during office hours.
LD Cavers
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council

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Experienced preferred but not necessary.
Please send a cover letter with your CV to Derrick.wharerau@placemakers.co.nz

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Hauraki District Council
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Notice is hereby given as required by Clause 9.1 of the Thames Valley Rugby Football Unions Constitution that the Annual General Meeting of the Thames Valley Rugby Football Union Inc. will be held at the Union's Offices,
140a Normanby Road, Paeroa on
WEDNESDAY 6th APRIL 2022,
commencing at 7.30PM.
A vaccine pass will be required
The meeting will also be held via Zoom. To request a Zoom invitation, please email swampfoxes@xtra.co.nz

Pizza chain delivers 20 new jobs in Thames

International pizza chain Domino's has opened a new store in Thames, providing 20 new jobs for the town.
Local franchisee Tushar Arora said he was "excited" to be opening his first store in Thames.
"Not only is the opening of this store a great opportunity to reach more customers and provide safe, hot meals, but I'm also proud to be offering 20 new jobs for locals in Thames," he said.
"Domino's is a people-first business, and our stores are a great place to gain important life skills and grow both as an individual and professionally."
Mr Arora said he was looking for 20 delivery experts and instore team members to join the store.
"I encourage anyone looking for a change, or even for their first job to apply."
Mr Arora is passionate about pizza, having begun his career working as a delivery expert at Domino's Bethlehem in 2014, before becoming a shift runner at Domino's Nawton a year later.
Knowing that a career in pizza was his calling, Mr Arora then became an assistant manager at Domino's Roto-

tuna in 2017, before making the leap to become a franchisee in 2022.
Passionate about being present with his new team and getting involved with the local community, Mr Arora said he was excited to provide Thames locals with donations of safe, hot meals.
"As a small business owner, I am passionate about giving back to the local communities in which I operate, and I feel incredibly lucky to be able to do so at this time.
"The Thames community has already been so welcoming, and I can't wait to return that support."
In the coming months, Mr Arora said he was looking forward to giving back to the local community through Doughraisers, with causes ranging from assisting sports clubs to charities and local schools.
"As part of Domino's new community-based programme, Feed the Knead, which aims to provide localised support in the form of free pizza, I would also like to encourage any Thames residents, businesses, or groups in need of a safe, hot meal to please reach out. I would like to know how we can help."

SPORTS

CRICKET

In complete contrast to the previous week's match and a batting run fest, the Hauraki Plains College Senior XI, secured victory on March 12, with accurate bowling and a much improved catching and ground fielding display. With over 200 runs less to defend, Hauraki showed the benefit of three intense pre-game training sessions on basic fielding skills, against a talented St Paul's Collegiate XI to secure a comfortable win in the match played at Hauraki Plains College.
Only Nihindu Wickramathunga and Cooper Green produced anything like technique and concentration levels be-fitting top secondary school cricketers, during the top part of the Hauraki innings. The majority of the Hauraki batsmen simply gave their wickets away through sub- standard shot selection against an accurate spin bowling attack backed up by clever field placements.
Prior to 14-year-old Fergus Ball joining Logan Dodunski at the wicket, any hope of a defensible score appeared unlikely. Their excellent last wicket partnership added precious runs and was indeed a lesson for earlier and more experienced batsmen. More importantly the opposition's expectation of a small run chase lessened considerably the longer the pair stayed at the crease. The onfield "chirping" lessened and frustration showed with fielding errors helping Hauraki's cause.
That decline in morale then carried over to St Paul's innings as it often does in such circumstances.
A brilliant wicketkeeper's "grab" by Trent Ball and later two equally amazing outfield efforts by Jaxon Haskell were the highlights of Hauraki's bowling and fielding on a day on which all bowlers showed they had moved up a level from previous matches over recent weeks.
The outcome of the last pool play match against Cambridge - equal to Hauraki at the top of the table - on March 19 will determine the finalists for the Division 1 competition for the season.
Brief match details: Hauraki Plains College Seniors XI 126, Nihindu Wickramathunga 31, Cooper Green 25, defeated St Pauls Development XI 86. Cullen Crowe 3 wickets for 19 runs, Jaxon Collins 2/3, Cruz Collins 2/11.
- Mike Cotter

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Games rider scoops silver at nationals

EQUESTRIAN

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

A 16-year-old Hauraki Plains College horse rider was one half of a pair that came second at a national mounted games event.

Heather Underwood, from Matatoki, took part in the National Mounted Games in Hastings in early March.

She and her partner Elena O’Leary, from Manawatū, came second in the Under 18 pairs division.

Mounted games is a fast-paced competition that showcases a horse rider’s athletic ability, agility, precision of riding, and general horsemanship as they navigate their way through a number of obstacles.

Heather has been involved with the Thames Pony Club for around eight years, and for five of those, she’s been participating in the sport.

She had previously competed in showjumping and eventing but was now focusing on mounted games, she said.

Heather told *The Profile* she and her pairs partner Elena only had one training together before clinching silver in the March nationals, and she was now hoping to attend the indi-

vidual games held in Tūrangi, in the Central North Island, in April.

In July, she’ll head over to France as part of the U18s New Zealand Mounted Games teams competition.



RIGHT: Heather Underwood picks up from the ground during an event.

BELOW LEFT: Heather, right, completes an effortless transition with her partner.

BELOW RIGHT: Heather reaches for the low ball at full gallop.

Photos: ALEXNAERA EQUESTRIANPHOTOS



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