

The Valley Profile

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063 March 30, 2022

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Looking after Waihi's town cats

By GORDON PREECE

A lifelong love of cats was the catalyst for Maggie Andreasen to begin her Waihi cat feeding and rehoming journey.

Maggie is a recent recipient of Hauraki District Council's OnYa community award for her work keeping stray cats fed and desexed, along with fostering cats in her Seddon St charity shop, Waihi Town Cats, until they're rehomed.

Maggie, who moved to Waihi from Maramarua when she was 14, told *The Profile* receiving the award was a "good surprise".

"I wanted to honour all the lovely volunteers of trappers, feeders and volunteers in the shop who've helped me," she said.

"I want to give a special mention to Victoria Dauphin from Whangamatā Cats... she's been a blessing, my angel... without her help, [opening the shop] wouldn't have eventuated.

"She's helped in so many ways with donations and food."

Maggie, who currently owns five rescued cats and five kittens being tamed, said she began feeding Waihi's town cats in 2017 after Hazel Stewart, who'd fed them for around 50 years, hurt her hip.

"I'm pretty sure it was her daughter, she came to me and said would you like to feed the town cats while my mum recoups, so I said yeah that's fine," she said.

Maggie said she currently had five feeding stations across Waihi where she and a volunteer provide food for the town cats.

"The cats have got to be fed, they need food everyday, I can't



Margaret [Maggie] Andreasen's always loved cats and feed's Waihi's town cats because she can't see any animal starve. Photo: GORDON PREECE

see any animal starve," she said.

"Because they weren't being fed, they'd come into town and be annoying for the businesses but because they're being fed they stay at the back [of the shops]."

After beginning to feed the town cats, Maggie then raised around \$340 through online donations to buy a cat trap, which

she uses to trap, desex and release town cats through New Zealand's trap-neuter-return programme.

"Since I was a child, I've loved cats and to see pictures on Facebook of cats not being looked after, I thought there was a need in Waihi - especially behind the shops, because they were breeding prolifically," she said.

"I've probably desexed over 30 cats now. If I hadn't, there'd probably be at least 1000 cats."

Maggie said a majority of the public had been grateful for her desexing programmes.

"If you breed a cat and dump it, they catch cat flu, feline AIDS, and that can be passed on to another cat that gets bitten," she said.

"So I would recommend if you get a cat or kitten, desex it, it gives them such a better life and stops all these diseases."

Maggie's cat feeding and desexing led to her opening the Waihi Town Cats shop in 2020, where she also provides these cat services and cares for cats until they're rehomed.

CONTINUED ON P6

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The *Valley Profile* is a community newspaper that delivers 100% local news in the Thames Valley region. We deliver 16,000 copies each Wednesday to every letterbox, reaching approximately 35,000 readers in Hauraki Plains, Paeroa, Thames, Thames Coast, Waihi and surrounding rural areas, plus bulk distribution around the Coromandel Peninsula.

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Mayor refuses to sign climate declaration

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

A Thames-ward councillor has been handed the pen to sign a climate change declaration in place of his Mayor.

Thames-Coromandel district councillor Martin Rodley will sign the Local Government Leaders' Climate Change Declaration, rather than Mayor Sandra Goudie, even though the document has traditionally been signed by more than 60 mayors throughout the country.

This is because Mayor Goudie is against signing the declaration, which she reiterated at council's March 22 meeting.

"I don't believe anyone should be signing this document... and I don't think we've ever quantified the benefits and costs of signing into this declaration, and that's always been my concern... the unknown quantum of costs."

In 2019, then-councillors voted not to approve Mayor Goudie signing the declaration, but a local body election that same year saw newcomers take to the council chambers, and it was three of them - Martin Rodley, Robyn Sinclair, and Gary Gotlieb - who encouraged their fellow members to "respect the decision of ratepayers" in December last year. The council voted 6-3 to approve the Mayor signing the Local Government Leaders' Climate Change Declaration; however, it remained Mayor Goudie's prerogative to sign it or not.

Now, the declaration will be

signed - but by Cr Rodley in her place.

"I have no support for signing this document at all, but I recognise I'm in a minority on this," Cr Tony Fox said.

Other councillors Robin Sinclair, Terry Walker, Murray McLean, and Gary Gotlieb indicated it was time to "move on".

"At the moment it's just hanging around our neck, and I support it, and getting it done," Cr Walker said.

Meanwhile, Hauraki Coromandel Climate Action, who took the council to the High Court over its decision not to sign the declaration, told *The Profile* congratulations were in order to most of the councillors for putting an end to "this debacle".

"Our members are justifiably proud of finally achieving this outcome, which is due in large part to our activism and commitment," action group chair Denis Tegg said. "Also, our successful High Court judgement is now cited as a landmark court case and is already positively influencing climate change decision-making by both central and local government."

Mr Tegg said council's focus should now turn to fulfilling the commitment it made to take ambitious action to reduce its emissions and to show leadership on climate change.



The *Valley Profile* team, from left: Teresa Ramsey, Nikki Sanders, Kelley Tantau and Gordon Preece.

Hello there Waihi!

The *Valley Profile* team is excited to be able to share the stories of Waihi locals from this week.

The *Profile* is an independently owned and operated local community newspaper that now delivers to every letterbox in Waihi, adding to its existing coverage area of Paeroa, Thames, Thames Coast and the Hauraki Plains.

The *Profile* also has bulk distribution around the entire Coromandel Peninsula. We are your truly local community newspaper with a full-time staff of four, two part-time contractors and around 45 paper delivery experts delivering 16,000 copies every Wednesday throughout the Thames Valley and Hauraki region.

Adding Waihi to our distribution area was always planned as *The Profile* had already been covering the rest of the Hauraki district since our first issue in May, 2020.

So it's fantastic to finally make it a reality, especially now as some other newspapers have been failing to deliver in some areas for some time.

At *The Profile*, we feel it's important our communities are represented with quality journalism, especially during a health pandemic. Our journalists attend council meetings, profile local achievers and champions, photograph sports and events and will keep you up to date with what's happening in our region.

Thanks to our engaging local content throughout each issue, our advertisers also have consistently excellent results, so if you'd like to support your truly local paper please get in touch to place your classifieds, trades and services or display ads. Contact details are published on page two of every issue.

We're all locals and passionate about the communities we cover, so let us know your news tips, upcoming events, sports news and achievements - we want to hear from you!

- Teresa Ramsey, owner/editor

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Thames Tides

Wed Mar 30	Thu Mar 31	Fri Apr 1	Sat Apr 2	Sun Apr 3	Mon Apr 4	Tue Apr 5
 Morning: 12:09am 0.8, 6:28am 3.4 Afternoon: 12:34pm 0.7, 6:52pm 3.3 Sunrise: 7:29am, Sunset: 7:15pm Best At: 11:43am (Green fish icon)	 Morning: 1:05am 0.7, 7:21am 3.5 Afternoon: 1:27pm 0.6, 7:48pm 3.4 Sunrise: 7:30am, Sunset: 7:14pm Best At: 12:31pm (Red fish icon)	 Morning: 1:53am 0.6, 8:10am 3.5 Afternoon: 2:15pm 0.6, 8:36pm 3.5 Sunrise: 7:31am, Sunset: 7:12pm Best At: 12:53am 1:16pm (Red fish icon)	 Morning: 2:37am 0.5, 8:56am 3.6 Afternoon: 3:00pm 0.5, 9:20pm 3.5 Sunrise: 7:32am, Sunset: 7:11pm Best At: 1:38am 2:00pm (Red fish icon)	 Morning: 2:19am 0.6, 8:39am 3.5 Afternoon: 2:42pm 0.5, 9:01pm 3.5 Sunrise: 6:33am, Sunset: 6:09pm Best At: 2:22am 1:44pm (Red fish icon)	 Morning: 3:00am 0.6, 9:22am 3.5 Afternoon: 3:23pm 0.5, 9:40pm 3.5 Sunrise: 6:34am, Sunset: 6:08pm Best At: 2:06am 2:29pm (Red fish icon)	 Morning: 3:40am 0.7, 10:03am 3.4 Afternoon: 4:02pm 0.6, 10:19pm 3.4 Sunrise: 6:34am, Sunset: 6:06pm Best At: 3:15pm (Green fish icon)
 Rise 4:48am, Set 6:29pm	 Rise 5:55am, Set 6:56pm	New Moon Rise 7:00am, Set 7:22pm	 Rise 8:04am, Set 7:49pm	 Rise 8:06am, Set 7:15pm	 Rise 9:09am, Set 7:43pm	 Rise 10:10am, Set 8:15pm

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

MOON AND FISH KEYS

New Moon	First Quarter	Full Moon	Last Quarter
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Good Fishing (Green fish icon), Fair Fishing (Blue fish icon), Not So Good (Red fish icon)

TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES

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

PLACE	Hr	Mn	Hr	Mn
Coromandel	-0	05	-0	04
Whitianga	-0	01	-0	06
Tairua	+0	10	+0	21
Whangamata	-0	07	-0	07
Waihi Beach	-0	12	-0	12

Residents battle council over damaged road

By GORDON PREECE

Goble Rd residents fear damage to vehicles and their grandchildren not being able to visit due to the “shocking” condition of their gravel road.

Terry and Yvonne Maitland, who have lived on the Komata road just north of Paeroa for 15 years, said the road was damaged by logging trucks in September last year following inadequate maintenance by Hauraki District Council.

“The [logging] trucks were going to come up and the road was already in poor repair before that, so it would’ve been a wise thing to upgrade it a bit before the [logging] trucks were going to come up,” Terry said.

“The logging has to go on... the logging trucks weren’t a problem on the roads but the road was damaged before they got here.”

Terry said contractors attempted to repair the road’s clay patches before logging began but said the job they did was “absolutely shocking”.

“Initially they were told to put in some heavy metal but the first patches they did was money down the drain because the truck just destroyed it,” he said.

“The biggest thing that concerns me is [council will] say they’ve used their budget up, which they probably have, because [the contractor] wasted the council’s money through sending people up who couldn’t do the job.”

Yvonne said it was “a mission”



Goble Rd residents are concerned about the poor condition of their road.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

to drive on the road.

“I would dearly love my grandsons to be able to drive up and visit... now they can’t come up because they have two wheel drive vehicles,” she said.

“Stock trucks don’t want to come up here anymore because of the road... and one of the neighbours had to tow the truck carrying new windows for his house from halfway down the road.”

Yvonne said this wasn’t the first time the road had issues.

“When we came here, the road was a good gravel road, and well maintained for about three or four years, and then it just turned to custard,” she said.

“I’ve regularly for the last ten years gone [to council] and complained and have gone in with previous residents who’ve since left as well.”

A resident, who didn’t want to be named and had lived on Goble Rd for 43 years, said the road wasn’t affected when logging trucks had used the road

previously. “It’s a lack of maintenance which has caused [the damage],” he said.

There were patches where road workers scraped 100mm through the metal, he said.

“There’s absolutely no need to and the foundations [have] gone over the side of the road into Hutchinson’s Reserve and waterways.

“The metal will have to be replaced and who’s going to pay for it - ratepayers.

“[Neighbours] can’t get any-

thing from the council, the council divert it to somebody else.”

A council spokesperson said Goble Rd was in “good condition” prior to the forestry operations, and a number of rain events during the forestry activity exacerbated the damage.

“Aside from making some temporary repairs, the very dry weather has meant that we have not been able to make good the damage to the road as yet,” she said.

“This is programmed to take place once we get more favourable weather.”

Council said it completed inspections of Goble Rd in January after logging had finished and a \$53,000 programme of work was approved, which will be billed to the forestry company.

This includes \$14,000 for drainage repairs already completed and a further \$39,000 for approved road repairs and re-metalling, which began late last week after enquiries by *The Profile*.

“When considering the entire network, there is typically more work to be completed than budget and resource allow, i.e. we can’t always complete the works we want, when we want to,” the spokesperson said.

“We are working to improve the condition of the entire unsealed network. Disruptions to our programme following the likes of forestry activity in combination with the effects of Covid-19 on available resource, cause delay to this.”

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Police investigate school speaker thefts

By GORDON PREECE

“Absolutely gutted” was how one principal felt after discovering his school’s brand new speakers were stolen.

Hikutaia and Thames South School became targets of theft in recent weeks when their outdoor speakers were stolen in the black of night.

Hikutaia School principal Wayne Whitney told *The Profile* the five stolen speakers - worth \$2000, had only been installed the day before as part of a new \$90,000 fire, smoke alarm and intercom system.

“To find out they were gone was gutting,” he said.

“It’s stealing from our kids and the safety of our kids as well... so it’s terrible.”

Wayne said parents reacted the same way to the speaker theft.

“I put a message out to our community on our Facebook page to inform our community what’s happened,” he said.

“I’ve had parents approaching me when they were picking up their kids and just saying how terrible it was to have this new system put in and all of a sudden gone.”

Wayne said the school noticed the speakers were missing when his students couldn’t hear the school bell.

“We were like why aren’t they coming in? So I said hang on, I’ll just take a quick look around the school and sure enough I noticed the



Hikutaia School principal Wayne Whitney was “absolutely gutted” when he discovered the school’s recently installed speakers had been stolen.
Photo: GORDON PREECE

speakers were gone,” he said.

Wayne said this was the first time the school had an incident like this in many years.

“We’ve been very fortunate, we’ve got a great community who come and use the school after hours and respect the place and that’s why it’s so out of character and why the com-

munity are feeling it as well,” he said.

Wayne said the school would continue allowing the community to use the school after hours.

Wayne believed the offenders had the gear and equipment to get into the spaces and take the mounts off the

school’s walls.

“In some cases the whole brackets are gone, professionally cut, unscrewed and taken away, and one’s been ripped off,” he said.

“There was nothing else taken or damaged, they were just in, took the speakers and gone again.”

Wayne said he looked through the school’s security footage but couldn’t detect anything. He had contacted Police and insurance, and had reordered new speakers with cages.

Thames South School Board of Trustees chairperson Michael Barlow told said the school was devastated by the theft of three of their speakers.

“It’s not the first time that they’ve been taken. Over the course of five years, we’ve had nine speakers stolen from the school,” he said.

“We rely heavily on the speakers on a daily basis, they serve the school bell, fire and smoke alarm and PA system.”

Michael said it looked as though the offenders also had the correct tools to remove the speakers “so they can use them elsewhere”.

The school got security footage of the offenders but it didn’t show their faces.

“It shows them backing up towards the camera so they obviously know where the cameras are, and as soon as they got under the camera, they would’ve been able to climb up and grab the speakers,” Michael said.

In a statement, Police said they were making enquiries into the speaker thefts at both schools.

Police encouraged anyone with information to call 105 or Crime Stoppers anonymously, Ph 0800 555 111.

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One of the ‘forgotten one million’

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

A Thames woman who was “outside of the country looking in” during the start of New Zealand’s Omicron outbreak was made to feel like an “enemy” as she battled with MIQ to return home.

Sue Lewis-O’Halloran, chair of the Thames Business Association, headed back to her native Canada in order to support her son and his family, after her daughter-in-law suffered a “massive” stroke on November 18.

“She is young and very fit and a mum to two little girls. A week later, when speaking with my son, we agreed that I would go there for Christmas, to support the family.”

Sue said their lives had been changed forever by the stroke, and again by the three months that followed.

With managed isolation (MIQ) being an unviable option for Sue due to her suffering from claustrophobia, she applied for a medical exemption, with a letter of support from her GP.

“Just prior to my departure in mid-December, Omicron started to spread in Canada, so pre-departure testing was joined by arrival testing, once on Canadian soil. At this point, we decided to proceed and take our chances that the MIQ medical exemption would come through,” she said.

“And then the MIQ lottery



Sue Lewis-O’Halloran is happy to be back with family and a job she loves.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

was halted.”

Sue was to return to New Zealand on January 7, but was advised two days earlier that her medical exemption application had been declined.

“The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) believed that a room with a window that opened would solve my problems, so I wrote back and said that was not the case.”

What ensued was an email correspondence that continued through to the end of February, with Sue sending letters from her dentist, the business association board chair, and local MP Scott Simpson.

“The answer was always ‘no,’” she said.

“I maintained a positive, upbeat attitude for the most part, particularly because I was with family and supporting them through a very challenging time, but what disturbed and discouraged me most of all was the vitriol spewed on Facebook by people who had no knowledge of our situation.”

Sue told *The Profile* how “shocking” it was to see the divide between Kiwis in New Zealand, and Kiwis trying to get home to New Zealand.

“It was: your fault, you’re an idiot, shouldn’t have travelled... and on and on. It was obvious that this was a very divisive issue.”

“I was home and happy to be here; however, I was sad and angry too.”

- Sue Lewis-O’Halloran

Then, on February 27, the country’s border opened to New Zealanders and other eligible travellers coming from Australia to return to New Zealand and self-isolate on arrival.

From March 4, the border opened to New Zealanders and other eligible travellers coming from anywhere in the world. They did not need to self-isolate when they arrived.

Sue said she was “ecstatic” and arrived back home on March 8, after testing negative for Covid-19 prior to departing Vancouver, again on arrival, and also on Day 5, March 13.

But the whole ordeal left her drained.

“I cried when I came into the arrivals area – the sound of the tui hit me hard. I was home and happy to be here; however, I was sad and angry too at my experience and those of the one million forgotten Kiwis,” she said.

“I do not talk much about this and prefer to focus on being back with family and at a job I love; however I will say that this experience has changed me forever.”



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Fatal mining accident after ‘great fall’ at Waihi



As part of a Valley Profile series, **MEGHAN HAWKES** explores our local history by seeking out stories of life and death in the Thames Valley

Something was coming down the shaft near where William Lawrence was working in the Waihi mine between No 5 and 6 levels.

It was around 2:25 on a Monday afternoon in April, 1903, and William was in a stope, an area where rocks were hauled out and excavations made.

Somewhere above him, John Hollis had been giving John Bennington a hand with taking a mine cart of timber along fixed tracks from No 2 shaft.

They had to cross over Elliott’s Pass and John Hollis, in front, called out to John Bennington to look out for the iron bar guard.

“All right,” replied Bennington as Hollis went on ahead with his truck.

But John Bennington never made it over the pass. William Lawrence, investigating the noise he had heard, was horrified to discover John head down on a heap of waste rock. John had fallen 125 feet. He was lifted out and his mates went for help.

Dr Guinness found John badly



Stoping in the Waihi Mine, 1900.

Photo: SUPPLIED

ly injured and unconscious. He had him removed to Nurse Arnaboldi’s private hospital*. About 8:30 that night Dr Slater joined Dr Guinness at the hospital and together they examined John.

His injuries were consistent with a great fall.

He died shortly after the examination. At the inquest, which was held after the jury had been taken to the scene of the accident, John Hollis said the guard iron was 10ft from the mouth of the shaft and a light was burning there. John Bennington had been over the pass several times before. Hollis considered that the bar and light were sufficient protection and he didn’t think better provision could be made for safety.

Dr Guinness said head injuries were the cause of death and the

jury’s verdict was that John Bennington had met his death by accidentally falling down a shaft in the Waihi mine. There was no blame whatever attachable to anyone and every precaution appeared to have been taken.

Thirty seven-year-old John was married with two children and his wife Ellen was pregnant with their third. For several nights John had been sitting up with his wife tending to one of their children who was very ill.

It was thought that he had been suffering from exhaustion when he fell down the pass.

John was a steady, reliable worker and well liked by his work mates and the community, many who attended his large funeral at Waihi cemetery.

In May, the Waihi Miners’ Union sent Ellen the sum of 50

pounds. Compensation of three years’ full wages was also paid to Ellen by the New Zealand Accident Insurance Company, a manager commenting: “We have never before had such a cyclone of accidents as during the past few months, not only at Waihi, but at all mines, small and large, all over the fields”.

In September, Ellen Bennington gave birth to a daughter.

Three years later John and Ellen’s son, Leslie, aged 5, was killed when he was run over by a spring cart at Mt Roskill, where Ellen had moved after re-marrying.

*Nurse Dora Arnaboldi, who exposed patient negligence at Auckland hospital and was named New Zealander of the year in 1891, opened her private cottage hospital at Waihi in 1895.

Looking after Waihi’s cats

CONTINUED FROM P1

“For two years, I was travelling from Waihi to Paeroa and running a shop called Market on Main, and the owner sold the business and for a few months... I was just selling online to raise money for the cats,” she said.

“Then I went to [Waihi shop owner] Mike Reehall and said ‘what are you doing with the back of your shop?’ and he said nothing and I said ‘well, can I open a little shop here?’ and he said yes, and on Christmas Eve, 2020, I opened.”

Maggie said charity shop donations went towards vouchers for cat owners, cat food and vet bills, and she encouraged more people and especially businesses to support her.

“I’ve asked on the Waihi Town Cats Facebook page for more people because at the moment I only have one volunteer who feeds Tuesday nights for me and the other six nights I’m doing it,” she said. “Help me by donating a bag of biscuits, some canned food or sponsor me with the running of my car.”



Maggie Andreassen



Primrose Hill track's touching tribute

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

If Les Smith could have seen the completed Lions Centennial Walkway, which wraps its way around Primrose Hill in Paeroa, he'd be "chuffed", his family said.

The proud Lions member kicked the project off before he died in November, 2018.

The walkway had its official unveiling on March 16, with a seat constructed along the trail to honour Les's hard work.

Graeme Wood, who was president of the Paeroa branch in 2016-2017, said all clubs worldwide were challenged by Lions International to create a project to celebrate 100 years of Lions.

"Les was our projects chairman, and he went off on his own and did some investigating to see if he could find something we could sink our teeth into," he said.

"Unfortunately Les passed away and he didn't see the completion of this project, but he was really satisfied with what he'd done on the first stage."

The centennial walkway connects Primrose Hill - the highest point in Paeroa - with surrounding streets, and is an easy route with slight inclines that cross under trees and over farmland.



The ribbon cutting

Lions first planted trees at the site in 1983 - and Les had a hand in that, too.

His family said he was a proud Lion and an advocate for the local community.

"It's a shame dad isn't here," his daughter Natalee Pearson said. "He'd be chuffed... and humbled that the chair is named after him."

Allan Jenkison became project chairman after Les, and said his predecessor got stuck into the job ahead.

"It was a passion for Les right from the word go and you could see it was written all over his face."

"It was a pleasure to get it done, a pleasure to get the track through the trees like Les always wanted, and I'm quite proud of it," he said.

Hauraki district councillor and Paeroa ward chair Carole Daley attended the opening and said it was a "wonderful



Family and Lions members walk the new Primrose Hill track.

Photos:KELLEY TANTAU

achievement".

"I've watched it over a number of years, like a lot of people have, and to see it like it is... it's an asset for Paeroa. I just want to say thank you to all the people who have ever been involved with it."



RIGHT: Les' family, back row, Mitch Pearson, Evan Smith, Natalie Smith, and front, Natalee Pearson, and Glenys Holden, take in the surroundings from Les' memorial seat.



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Rural Life

Abattoir labour shortage prompts warning for farmers

By GORDON PREECE

Farmers have been warned to be “well thoughtful” after some farmers face keeping their cows on farm for longer due to the Omicron outbreak. The issue comes after fewer stock can be slaughtered due to labour shortages at abattoirs. Hauraki-Coromandel Federated Farmers president Robert Craw told *The Profile* the issues had been “quite substantial” in drier areas. “Without people being able to get stock off to slaughter,

the backlog’s just been increasing the entire time,” he said. “With the dairy season coming to an end, there’s extra pressure, guys are needing to get some cows off and it’s putting pressure on the prime kill as well. “So there’s cost involved with holding on to them and that will impact on the animals and production and the rest of the operation too.” Mr Craw said farmers keeping their cows for longer may need to invest in more feed and would possibly need to

use their winter feed earlier. “Those guys that have got grass have been able to hang on okay but those that haven’t, it’s been quite costly for them to try and hang on,” he said. “We were warned about it so it was not a great surprise, but they’ll definitely have to be well thoughtful when they’re forward planning.” Mr Craw also welcomed news that international farm workers could now enter New Zealand to help for the next dairy season. New Zealand opened its borders on March 4 to vacci-

nated international travellers and vaccinated critical workers were allowed to enter New Zealand from March 13. “A lot of properties and dairy operations have been under staffed right through this Covid thing because of the lack of ability to bring skilled staff in from overseas, so it’ll make a big difference,” Mr Craw said. “There’s been an increased amount of stress on the staff, who are working on farms with longer working hours. “When you’re dealing with livestock, they’ve got to be fed they’ve got to be looked after

and someone’s got to do it, and guys are stressing about that which is not helping.” Mr Craw said he was also keeping a close eye on what impacts the Russia-Ukraine war could have on farming. “We’re unsure at this point how [the war’s] going to impact us down here, but it will have an impact,” he said. “Whether it’s going to be through escalation of fuel prices, you know farmers need diesel to feed out and make supplements, so it’s all in the back of people’s minds what it could mean.”

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Building & Renovation

Life inside a masonic hall: a ‘building with a difference’

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

You wouldn’t expect to find a modern kitchen inside a masonic hall, nor a Shanghai artwork made of wire and beads.

You probably wouldn’t expect to see roses adorning the front entrance, but in Paeroa, the historic Ohinemuri Lodge is being carefully carried into its new chapter by experienced creators of space.

With no connections to Freemasonry, John Eaglen and Linley Rose visited the lodge on the corner of Arney and Willoughby Streets three days before it went up for auction in 2021.

What they saw astounded them.

“We love buildings with a difference, and our first impression was the finishing in here - we thought it was superb,” Linley told *The Profile*.

“We also liked the fact it was a blank slate outside,” John added.

The couple said they were grateful for the building’s former owners, Karen and Alison, who had the “courage and vision” to turn the Hauraki District Council Category A historic site into a home, as well as builder Ian Buchanan.

All of the renovations had to be made in partnership with Heritage NZ, they said.



Linley Rose and John Eaglen

According to the Ohinemuri Regional History Journal, the lodge was opened in July, 1896. By December that same year, an urgent need emerged for the lodge to have its own building, which was later constructed on Normanby Rd.

However, disaster struck on the morning of August 3, 1918, when the lodge’s building was completely destroyed by fire.

The new building, on the corner of Willoughby and Arney Streets, was built in 1919.

It was purchased by John and Linley at the end of June last year, and by October, they were already planting the first plants at the front of the property.

They knew they wanted roses, as well as a mix of “formal gardens and informal natives”, but they enjoyed working collaboratively with landscape designer Trish Bartleet to hone the design, which includes a



Linley Rose and John Eaglen were taken aback by the finishing inside the masonic hall in Paeroa. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

grand brick fence facing out on to Arney St.

“The bricklayer was brought up in Sydney, and his father was a mason, so all through his growing up, all the birthday parties and all the events in the family were held at the masonic hall,” John said.

The couple have now turned

their attention to the back garden, which will feature an ornate path, an avenue of trees, a private courtyard, a fish pond and bridge, a pergola, and a Japanese garden with bamboo, maples, camelias, and magnolia.

To fill the space, plants have been shipped up from across

the country.

“It’s a lot of work and commitment, and it takes a lot of project management to keep things moving along,” Linley said. “You’ve got to be resourceful.”

The creative duo have backgrounds in design and

CONTINUED ON P11



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Building & Renovation



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In fact, with large parts of China re-entering strict lockdowns owing to the spread of the Omicron variant, the supply of critical electronic components used in a host of appliances and other goods has ground to a halt once more. Further, many assembly plants are only just recovering from the pause in production created by the Chinese New Year holidays.

Supply of home appliances into New Zealand have been further constrained by a lack of shipping capacity, shipping delays, and delays at port. In addition, domestic carriers have been operating at around fifty percent capacity owing to staff shortages from isolation protocols. Increased costs of manufacturing, sea freight and congestion charges have led to another round of price increases which are currently being absorbed in the New Zealand market.

In this environment, customers planning a renovation or appliance upgrades are advised to get in early; not only to secure limited stocks but to beat further price rises. “Customers should talk with one of our expert consultants for the latest stock availability”, says Mark Milmine, owner of 100% Thames and 100% Whitianga.

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Building & Renovation



John and Linley have been hard at work in the gardens of the former masonic hall.

CONTINUED FROM P9

architecture, with John also building stage sets for more than 80 operas and plays - some of which were “zero budget stuff” that required a lot of “problem solving”, he said.

They’ve undertaken big projects together and separately, including renovating apartments in Auckland, and the deconstruction and reconstruction of a prominent villa.

They also own a well-known property in northern Coromandel, famous for its ‘big tomato’.

“We’re used to doing things that are noticed,” John said.

And utilising space is something the pair encourage others to do more of.

“Every square foot of space costs you

a lot of money so it should be working for it. You shouldn’t have any spaces in your house that are not a joy to pass through or to be in,” John said.

The pair couldn’t pick a favourite spot in the house - which also features a foyer with original freemasonry items that were gifted to the building - but said they thanked Paeroa residents for their interest in the home.

“Thank you for being enthusiastic and caring about our garden,” Linley said. “Every day we’re out there people stop and say: ‘love what you’re doing; what have you planted there?’ Everyone wants to be involved in it... and we are the caretakers.”





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Building & Renovation

CCCFA stymies home upgrade scheme

Waikato Regional Council’s sustainable homes scheme, Eco Retrofit, has hit a roadblock with the Credit Contracts and Consumer Finance Act (CCCFA).

The scheme – confirmed last June through the council’s 10-year plan – was due to launch this year, providing ratepayers with support for the capital and installation costs of insulation, heating, double glazing, solar power and other improvements. Costs would be recovered through a voluntary targeted rate (VTR), with no impact on general ratepayers.

But due to challenges in complying with the CCCFA at this point, and the requirement for the council to set the voluntary targeted rate through the annual plan process, councillors reluctantly voted last month to defer implementation of the rate for 12 months.

Councillors also agreed that a delegation should meet with ministers as a priority to lobby for an exemption.

“It’s bitterly disappointing that a scheme developed to help our communities enjoy healthier homes has been unintentionally hamstrung by this legislation,” Waikato Regional Council chair Russ Rimmington said.

“We want to provide another way for homeowners to make sustainable improvements without having to pay the full cost upfront. In doing so, it supports sustainable forms of energy generation and heating, promotes healthy communities and reduces air pollution from ineffective forms of heating.

“It’s clear from reports that, under the CCCFA, applicants are finding the process of applying for a loan to be arduous and invasive. It goes against the intent of our scheme,” he said.

While CCCFA changes had been made to restrict predatory loan shark lending activities, there are increasing concerns nationwide about the unintended consequences of the CCCFA.

A report to council said staff had been work-



Russ Rimmington

ing with other councils to secure exemption of local government voluntary targeted rate schemes from the CCCFA.

But no resolution in favour of the councils was likely in time to implement Eco Retrofit at the start of the 2022-23 financial year, it said.

There was also no guarantee an exemption would be granted.

The report said it had become clear that “complying with the administrative requirements of the CCCFA – particularly recent amendments that came into force on 1 December 2021 – would be unduly onerous and costly”.

Failure to comply with new obligations relating to due diligence, responsible lending, record keeping and certification could incur penalties of up to \$600,000 for an organisation.

Reports from financial institutions and consultancy firms point to the new regulations driving higher costs into the lending process, loans increasingly being declined and approval times being extended.

In response to these concerns, Commerce Minister David Clark announced recently that the Council of Financial Regulators will bring forward an investigation into the CCCFA.



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

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

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MEDIUM

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HARD

43

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

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

MEDIUM

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

EASY

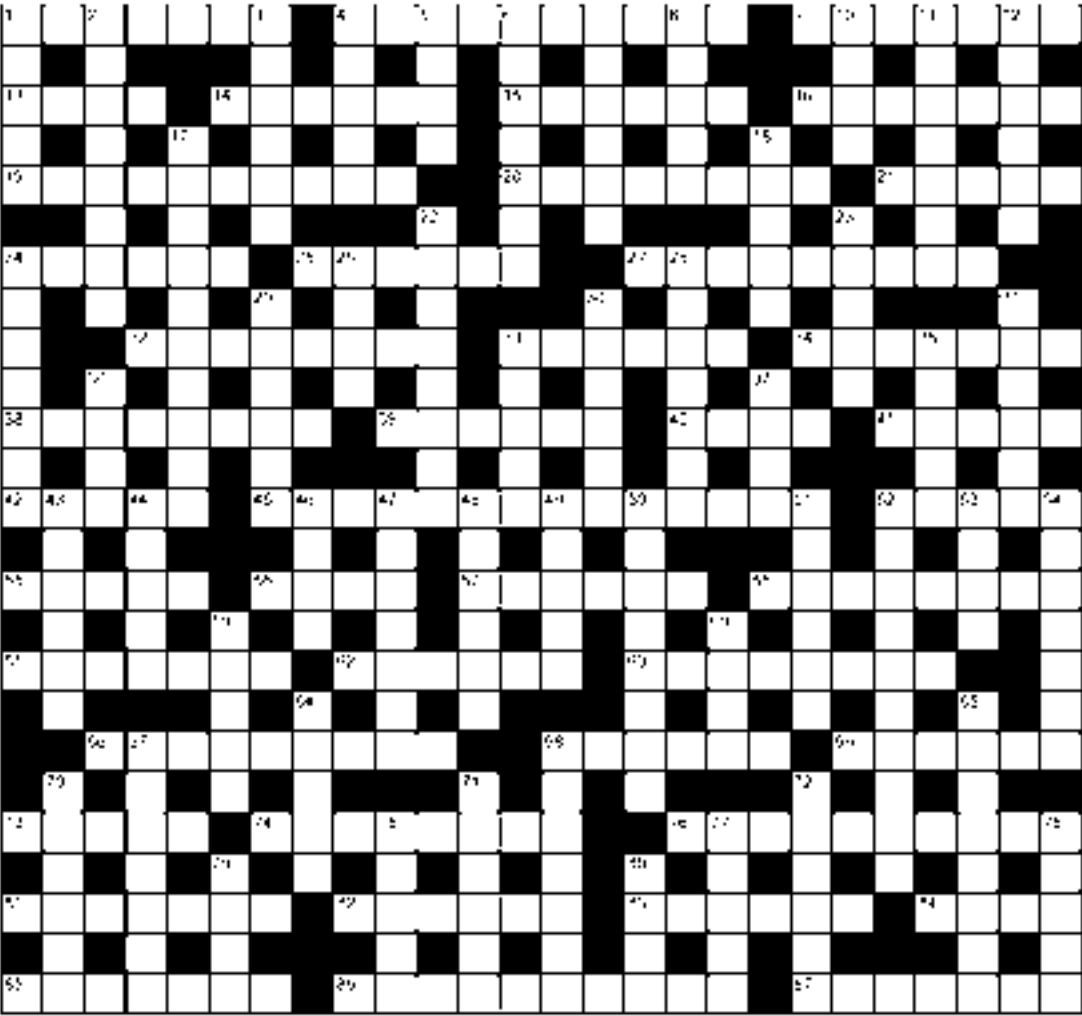
JUMBO CROSSWORD

63

ACROSS
1 Egg white (7)
4 Opposite one another (4,2,4)
9 Devise, invent (7)
13 Enquires (4)
14 Looked fixedly (6)
15 Toxin (6)
16 Predecessor of chemistry (7)
19 Work shirker (10)
20 Glassy volcanic rock (8)
21 Dark wood (5)
24 Amass (6)
25 Deep gorge (6)
27 Act as mediator (9)
32 Creative (8)
33 Text summary (6)
34 Out of the ordinary (7)
38 Secretes (8)
39 Young child (6)
40 Reserve (4)
41 Musty (5)
42 Bus garage, yard (5)
45 Apply pressure on someone to do something (3,3,6,2)
52 Move about stealthily (5)
55 Colourful tropical parrot (5)
56 XX minus XII (1,1,1,1)
57 Test for suitability (3,3)
58 Encircle (8)
61 To blame (2,5)
62 Horror-struck (6)

DOWN
1 Warning device (5)
2 Early plastic (8)
3 Gained after expenses (6)
4 Ludicrous situation (5)
5 Cipher (4)
6 Tropical storm (7)
7 Weak and insubstantial (6)
8 Horde (5)
10 Unctuous (4)
11 Live together (7)
12 Approaching (6)
17 Affectionate utterance (10)
18 Craze (5)
22 Bulb with fragrant flowers (8)
23 Complaint (5)

ACROSS
24 Looked briefly (7)
26 Play sections (4)
28 Colourful arch (7)
29 Stimulus, incentive (6)
30 Kitchen appliance (6)
31 Left uncultivated (6)
33 Blueprints (5)
35 Supply food (5)
36 Break (4)
37 Extinct bird (4)
43 Extorts payment (6)
44 Japanese city (5)
46 Single entity (4)
47 Lever on gun (7)
48 Crowd scene actors (6)
49 Burial place (5)
50 Schooled (8)
51 Zero (6)
52 Fire bug (10)
53 Musical work (4)
54 Books of accounts (7)
59 Dull-edged (5)
60 Magician's stick (4)
64 Attach firmly (5)
65 Bring out of savagery (8)
67 Supporter's badge (7)
68 Non-existence (7)
70 Predicament (6)
71 Previously (6)
72 Song (6)
75 Subject (5)
77 Sword (5)
78 Wanderer (5)
79 Discontinue (4)
80 Opera solo (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION
ACROSS: 1 Diagram, 2 On the cards, 9 Theatre, 13 Numb, 14 Breeze, 15 Poetic, 16 Damages, 19 Motionless, 20 Squadron, 21 Added, 24 Sleuth, 25 Afford, 27 Dixieland, 32 Insulate, 33 Failed, 34 Aniseed, 38 Bracelet, 39 Tastes, 40 Axle, 41 Sewer, 42 Earns, 45 Muddy the waters, 52 Frets, 55 Aspic, 56 Plug, 57 Icicle, 58 Princess, 61 Streaky, 62 Ticket, 63 Grumbled, 66 Disparage, 68 Annoys, 69 Intent, 73 Sieve, 74 Boastful, 76 Babysitter, 81 Strides, 82 Recede, 83 Stoops, 84 Beau, 85 Appease, 86 Headstrong, 87 Artiste.

DOWN: 1 Denim, 2 Admitted, 3 Marble, 4 Overs, 5 Tier, 6 Exposed, 7 Avenue, 8 Dried, 10 Heap, 11 Abandon, 12 Reeked, 17 Contenders, 18 Tonic, 22 Monetary, 23 Clone, 24 Stumble, 26 Flag, 28 Inexact, 29 Museum, 30 Jigsaw, 31 Reject, 33 Fetch, 35 Swear, 36 Pair, 37 Slur, 43 Assets, 44 Naive, 46 Ugly, 47 Digging, 48 Tricky, 49 Evict, 50 Alleging, 51 Shrubs, 52 Fingernail, 53 Eden, 54 Suspect, 59 Skips, 60 Ruby, 64 Crook, 65 Restless, 67 Invoice, 68 Ailment, 70 Big top, 71 Offend, 72 Myopia, 75 Suede, 77 Among, 78 Rouge, 79 Lens, 80 Oslo.

GARDENING

Prepare your garden for new plants

April in the garden is a great time to finish harvesting the summer crops and then start to breathe new life into the soil. As the temperatures begin to cool it, is easier to spend more time outside getting the garden prepared for the new plants.

VEGETABLES
Harvest the last of your late summer vegetables – pumpkins, potatoes and onions and store in a cool place. If you choose to give your vege patch a rest over the winter, add nutrients back into the soil by sowing a crop of blue lupins or mustard seed, which will add nitrogen and improve the soil structure. Raised vege beds can be a bonus in winter increasing the drainage and help with growth rates due the warmth in the soil. Replenish soil and add blood and bone, sheep pellets and mulch if you wish. Transplant your winter seedlings or sow seeds of beetroot, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, carrots, leeks, onions, spinach, swedes and turnips directly into your garden. Once you have cleared your tomato patch, dig in some compost, blood and bone and sheep pellets and plant leafy greens like spinach, silverbeet, broccoli, cabbage or cauliflower. A seaweed liquid fertiliser is an excellent plant starter. It helps to stimulate root growth.

FLOWERS
Cultivate and side dress with fertiliser winter and spring flowering annuals and bulbs. It is not too late to plant some more spring bulbs. After late autumn



This is the best month for sowing or repairing you lawn. File Photo: PIXABAY

annuals have finished flowering, remove old plants add to compost and replenish soils for new planting. You can begin planting sweet peas seeds, also alyssum, aquilegia, calendula, cineraria, cornflower, dianthus, hollyhock, livingstone daisy, lobelia, nemesia, snapdragon, statice and stock to name a few. Once seeds are sown, water gently and keep the soil moist while they establish.

FRUIT
Continue to harvest late season apples, many can be left to tree ripen. These can be harvested through May and June. Leaf fall of most deciduous trees commences. A late autumn clean up fungicide spray is needed to give protection and prevent carry over of diseases into next season. Apply a copper spray and include your stone fruit trees as well. Citrus trees require constant feeding and watering if rainfall

is low. It's a busy time for the trees with fruit ripening over the next few months. Feed each week with liquid feed or with dry citrus food around the drip and watering well. Remove lower hanging branches to improve air flow around the trunk. Mulch well keeping it away from the trunk.

HERBS
Sow sage, rosemary, thyme and chives.

COMPOST HEAP
Add fallen leaves, and prunings.

LAWNS
This is the best month for sowing a new lawn or repairing your lawn. Mix in Saturaid with your grass seed and spread over prepared soil. This will help improve the water penetration through the soil and reduce any dry patches. Mow regularly, remove clippings and water in the morning. Aerate or core to improve drainage and feed.

- Ngatea Garden Circle

SPORTS



Mark Thornton in play. Photos: SUPPLIED

CROQUET
The Thames Croquet Club held its in-house Day Cup golf croquet open singles competition on its greens at 101 Beach Rd recently. Twelve participants played five games, and with the winners in each section winning all of their games; they needed to have a play off on a second day. Keenly watched by many club members, the holder of the cup, Dennis Karl, played three games against Mark Thornton. Mark won 7-4, 3-7, 7-5 and now holds the trophy.



Dennis Karl, left, congratulates Mark Thornton on his win.

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4 Plant above ground crops	5 Plant above ground crops	6 Non planting Day	7 Non planting Day	8 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	9 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	10 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed
11 Non planting Day	12 Non planting Day	13 Non planting Day	14 Non planting Day	15 Plant above ground crops	16 Plant above ground crops	17 Full Moon
18 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	19 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	20 Non planting Day	21 Non planting Day	22 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	23 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	24 Non planting Day
25 Non planting Day	26 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	27 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	28 Non planting Day	29 Non planting Day	30 Non planting Day	

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Mike Wright says barbeque cuts are “booming”. Photo: GORDON PREECE

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Hunts Home Kills, based on the flanks of Paeroa, aims to provide top quality meats and pride in their products. The home kill business butchers and packages animals slaughtered on farms using Nick's Onsite Killing Services to customers' requirements. Mike Wright, who has owned Hunts Home Kills for nine years, said they worked with many types of animal carcasses. "There's a full list on the website - you can go through from pigs, sheep and beef... and we process a lot of wild game especially coming into the roar at the moment," he said.

"We also do a full range of small goods, bacon, ham, flavored sausages, kransky, chorizo, salami, biersticks and meat patties. "As long as everything goes well, everyone's wrapped, that's probably why we're so busy." Mike said Hunts Home Kills had always aimed to be a "step ahead" with vacuum packing, which makes meat last longer in the freezer. "We're also getting right into our barbeque cuts... and they're booming at the moment," he said. web: huntshomekills.nz, Ph: 0800 250 939

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The Valley Profile

Pumpkin fest

Students and parents alike had a gourd time at Turua School on Saturday for the annual giant pumpkin weigh-in competition. A fundraising initiative for the school's Garden to Table programme, the competition was a huge success, despite being downsized due to Covid restrictions. This year, Isobelle Fisher's winning pumpkin weighed in at a whopping 139kg, a marked improvement on last year's 49.5kg record. ALICE PARMINTER captured the winners with their orange giants.



Isobelle, left, and Isla Fisher with their winning pumpkins.



Sam and Toby Martin with their third-place pumpkin.

Toby De Groot surveys the competition.

SPORTS

CRICKET

While successful outcomes relating to sport encounters usually relate to winning on the scoreboard, an exception emerged at Hauraki Plains College on March 19 during the cricket match between the home school's Senior XI and the more experienced Cambridge High School XI. Cambridge won the match but Hauraki's players enjoyed genuine successes on the day also.

Prior to the game, a number of Hauraki's cricketers in both the school's senior and years 9 and 10 teams tested positive for Covid. It appeared likely that neither side would be able to take the field but a decision to withdraw the Junior side and pool resources proved successful far beyond expectations. In true 'Hauraki Spirit', year 9 players Austen Crowe, Reuben Dodunski, Jamie Hill and Charlie Tawhiti stepped up to the task in the school's time of crisis. All made important contributions towards their team's creditable showing in what was a David vs Goliath encounter on the day. Nihindu Wickramathunga again led the run scoring in dominating fashion but other top order players lacked the self discipline needed against a steady Cambridge bowling attack. Cometh the hour, cometh the man. Logan Dodunski, stepped up the task of rescuing the sagging innings and with Jaxon Haskell also playing well, valuable runs were accumulated as their full allocation of 50 overs was achieved. The most exciting part of the Hauraki innings then followed as the diminutive figures of Charlie Tawhiti and finally Austen Crowe bravely supported Donunski achieved his first half century as a senior team member. All three thoroughly deserved the praise of parents, friends and teammates. Indeed, several senior players may now be fighting to keep the young heroes from stealing their places in the pending Gillette Cup elimination match involving the school's best eleven cricketers.

Brief match details; Cambridge High School (batting first) 213 for 4 wickets, Cullen Crowe 2/42, defeated Hauraki Plains College 211 for 8 wickets. Nihindu Wickramathunga 78, Logan Dodunski 56 not out.

- Mike Cotter

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SPORTS

Ngatea BMX rider number one in NZ

BMX

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

Danika Bergersen’s commitment and dedication to the sport of BMX has seen her clinch her “best result” at a national competition.

Danika recently entered the BMX National Championships hosted by Hamilton BMX Club, where she finished first in all of her races and gained the title of New Zealand Number One for her age group, 13 girls.

The Hauraki Plains College student said she was “over the moon” with her result.

“Every race is basically a final,” she told *The Profile*. “I got told to take deep breaths and picture that you’re somewhere else, not trying to pressure yourself, otherwise your body starts freaking out.

“Before I go into the gate, I take two deep breaths, and once I’m on it, I take two more.”

BMX racing is a type of off-road bicycle racing, in which competitors sprint across purpose-built, single-lap race tracks.

Danika started racing at the Paeroa BMX Club when she was six-years-old, moving



Danika Bergersen

across to the Hamilton BMX Club three years later, where she was training up to six times a week in the lead-up to the nationals.

And living just out of Ngatea means the entire Bergersen family is committed to the commute, with mum Donna, dad Ron, and sister Kiarna, 11, involved each step of the way.

Danika said her family was “100 per cent” supportive, especially her younger sibling.

“When I’m on the track, you can hear her screaming across the other side. I haven’t been there that much at home, but it’s cool she doesn’t stay angry about it.”

Danika said while there were initial thoughts BMX riding might be a phase for the then-six-year-old, her parents saw she was “going to be quite good”.



Danika Bergersen, 13, competed at the BMX National Championships and gained the title of New Zealand Number One for her age group, 13 girls.

Photo: Alisha Lovrich/Hamilton BMX

Over the years, she has been acknowledged with a variety of accolades, including being named the 2020-2021 Waikato Region Sportsperson 13 yrs and under; receiving the Hamilton BMX Club Sportsperson Trophy for 2018-2019; and the Rika Family Cup for Most Improved female rider in 2015.

She also volunteers with the Hamilton coaches, helping train the younger club members.

However, the up-and-comer

did have to take a break from the intense sport for around two months after she fell off her bike during a race against seven other riders.

“Basically, whoever won it was going to get captain, and we all came down the hill, and two riders crossed over in front of me - and it’s an 8m hill, keeping in mind,” she explained. “When we came down, I fell off with the other top rider... and ended up with a broken elbow.”

But Danika’s ambition hasn’t

faltered, with the Hauraki teen eyeing up next year’s nationals in Tauranga, as well as the BMX Worlds in Scotland.

Her mum Donna told *The Profile* the family was proud of her accomplishments so far.

“When you see the achievements and the happiness, you don’t even think twice about taking her over (to Hamilton) and supporting what she’s doing.”



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