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Native birds killed

A flock of protected native birds were killed by an inexperienced student pilot at Thames Airfield last week during a “touch and go” landing.

The Department of Conservation told *The Profile* 22 South Island pied oystercatchers were killed when struck by a plane taking off at the airfield on either the evening of February 15 or the morning of February 16.

Often seen roosting on the beach at Kuranui Bay, just north of Thames, the oystercatchers are a protected native species under the Wildlife Act 1953 and have a conservation status of “declining”.

DOC Hauraki operations manager Avi Holzapfel said rangers identified the dead birds as South Island pied oystercatchers when driving around the edge of the airfield on February 17.

“DOC accepts the plane striking the birds was an unfortunate incident and pilots do all they can to avoid striking birds,” he said.

The oystercatchers began roosting there recently and hadn’t done so in previous years, he said.

“The oystercatchers are known to roost at high tide on grassy areas of the airfield and neighbouring rugby club.

“We plan to work with the council and aero club to look at measures that could deter oystercatchers from roosting there and reduce the chances of planes striking the birds.”

Hauraki Aero Club caretaker Roger Wilson said the incident happened when a student pilot, who he believed was from Ardmore, briefly landed on the runway then took off again without stopping.

“This was a young student pilot who wasn’t aware or hadn’t asked us, and he came in and apparently did a touch and go instead of just stopping, back-tracking and then taking off where the area would be clear,” he said.

CONTINUED ON P2

A large flock of protected birds were killed at Thames Airfield in a bird strike event DOC says was an “unfortunate incident”.
TERESA RAMSEY reports



DOC rangers identified a flock of dead birds at Thames Airfield as protected South Island pied oystercatchers.
Photo: SUPPLIED/DOC

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Pilots warned after bird strike

CONTINUED FROM P1

“He was inexperienced and so what happened is he literally did, unfortunately, at low level he actually flew into them.

“From time to time, we do get birds that settle on the runway. We’re well aware of that and we know how to work around it because they congregate in various parts and we can work our way around them.”

Nobody was injured in the incident and the plane suffered minor damage, which was repaired at Thames Airfield before flying home, he said.

Pilots landing at the airfield knew to avoid the areas where birds were roosting, which meant bird strike seldom occurred, he said.

“It’s only at certain tide times and certain times of the year that we have this proliferation of birds,” he said.

“The birds usually congregate en masse at various parts and there’s nothing we can do - if we shoo them off, they turn round and come back again.”

Birds on airfields were an international problem, he said.

“There’s not much we can do about these incidents. We try and avoid them and... normally we’re successful but occasionally there’ll be an accident.

“No-one likes to do that and the other thing of course, it’s quite dangerous if you hit birds because it can stop an engine.”



DOC caught and tagged the protected oystercatchers at Kuranui Bay last year to find out more about the birds to better protect them.

File photo: SUPPLIED/DOC

Thames Coromandel District Council, which owns and operates the airfield, has updated the Thames Airfield Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP) to warn pilots of the new roosting behaviour two hours each side of high tide between January and April.

Council operations group manager Bruce Hinson said council was concerned about the bird strike incident.

“Council is always focused on the safety of aircraft, as well as, at this time, the welfare of the birds. However, as the birds are protected we can’t cull them,” he said.

“The Thames [AIP] already warned pilots that birds are present – the updated AIP will provide them with more specific information allowing them to time their flights accordingly.”

In June last year, DOC researchers caught and tagged oystercatchers at Kuranui Bay in a joint project with Landcare Research, Birds NZ and the Pūkoro Miramira Shorebird Centre. The aim of the project is to find out more about the birds in order to provide better protection because of their declining numbers.

Before being safely released, 115 of the birds were fitted with red tags and 22 were fitted with solar-powered tracking devices connected to a mobile phone.

Oystercatchers breed in riverbeds and farmland in the South Island and then, as winter approaches, they fly in their thousands up to warmer places like the Firth of Thames.

More information about the species can be found at nzbirdsonline.org.nz/species/south-island-pied-oystercatcher.







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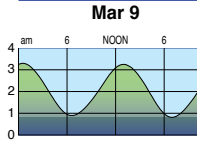
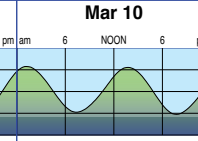
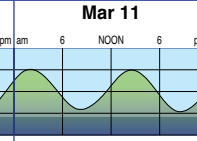
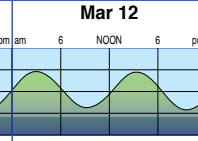
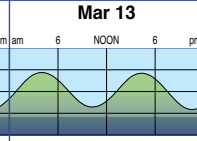
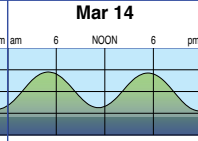
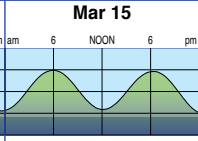
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Thames Tides

Wed Mar 9	Thu Mar 10	Fri Mar 11	Sat Mar 12	Sun Mar 13	Mon Mar 14	Tue Mar 15
 Morning: 12:31am 3.3 12:59pm 3.2 Afternoon: 6:35am 0.9 6:58pm 0.8 Sunrise: 7:10am 7:46pm Best At: 5:59am 6:23pm First Quarter: Rise 1:23pm Set 11:18pm	 Morning: 1:14am 3.2 1:44pm 3.1 Afternoon: 7:22am 1.0 7:43pm 0.9 Sunrise: 7:11am 7:45pm Best At: 6:47am 7:11pm First Quarter: Rise 2:23pm Set 11:57pm	 Morning: 2:02am 3.0 2:31pm 3.0 Afternoon: 8:14am 1.2 8:33pm 1.1 Sunrise: 7:12am 7:43pm Best At: 7:36am 8:01pm First Quarter: Rise 3:20pm	 Morning: 2:57am 2.9 3:22pm 2.9 Afternoon: 9:12am 1.3 9:31pm 1.2 Sunrise: 7:13am 7:42pm Best At: 8:26am 8:52pm First Quarter: Set 12:42am Rise 4:13pm	 Morning: 3:59am 2.9 4:19pm 2.8 Afternoon: 10:13am 1.3 10:35pm 1.2 Sunrise: 7:14am 7:40pm Best At: 9:17am 9:43pm First Quarter: Set 1:32am Rise 5:00pm	 Morning: 5:01am 2.9 5:20pm 2.8 Afternoon: 11:12am 1.3 11:37pm 1.1 Sunrise: 7:15am 7:39pm Best At: 10:08am 10:33pm First Quarter: Set 2:29am Rise 5:42pm	 Morning: 5:58am 3.0 12:05pm 1.2 Afternoon: 6:20pm 2.9 Sunrise: 7:16am 7:37pm Best At: 10:58am 11:22pm First Quarter: Set 3:30am Rise 6:19pm

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

Trust cracks on with helping local youth

By GORDON PREECE

A 15-year-old boy who'd been expelled from three schools is one of 11 Paeroa kids Falling Thru The Cracks Charitable Trust have helped over six years.

The trust, which was established in Whanganui in April, 2016, fundraises to pay for children's private psychology sessions and speech and occupational therapy.

The trust's treasurer and secretary John, who didn't want to use his surname, told *The Profile* the trust began helping Paeroa youth in November, 2016, after seven of their trustees shifted to other North Island areas.

"A family may come to us with an autistic child who's non verbal so we get a speech therapist to go and work with the child and the family," he said.

"Or a family may come to us and say their child has some real behavioral issues, so we get the psychologist to come and work with them and try and get to the bottom of why they have the issues.

"The families are very grateful."

John said one of the Paeroa children they've helped has gone through speech therapy for five years, and the first one they helped benefited from psychology sessions.

"We were sitting outside the Countdown fundraising and this lady came up to us and



Kirsty and John collect for Falling Thru The Cracks on the main street of Paeroa.

Photo: TERESA RAMSEY

she was quite distraught and we asked her what the problem was," he said.

"She then told us a story about how her 15-year-old son had been kicked out of three schools and she was at her wits end."

John said the trust then got

their psychologist to work with the boy and after six sessions he was able to return to school.

"We were talking to the mum about two years later and the boy had passed NCEA Level 1 and 2, he fitted in and he was awesome," he said.

"Having those six sessions of psychology had put him on the right track."

John said the boy now works full time on a farm in the Waipa district and he loved it.

"It makes you feel good when you hear those success stories," he said.

The trust, which also helps families in Thames, Te Aroha and Waihi, is currently helping four children from three Paeroa families, mainly with speech therapy.

John said Covid-19 had made their work difficult.

"At the moment it's been hard because it's mainly Zoom and Skype meetings but prior to Covid, the therapist would come to Paeroa from Tauranga and work with the children face to face and help with their speech therapy," he said.

John said the trust also couldn't fundraise outside their normal spot at Countdown Paeroa due to Covid-19 restrictions so they had been fundraising outside places like Paeroa's ANZ bank.

The other day they raised just under \$400 in four hours.

"At the front of a supermarket we can normally [fundraise] an average of \$170 or \$180 an hour," John said.

"The speech therapist costs are \$80 plus GST per hour and a psychologist costs \$170 per hour."

"So it's big money but the public are very generous...and we're so grateful."

John said the trust was also grateful for the people who had transported children in need to Tauranga when the psychologist couldn't travel to Paeroa.

DETAILS: For more information or to make a donation to Falling Thru The Cracks, visit: fallingthruthecraacksct.org.nz.

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SPORTS

On your marks

Thames High School held their athletics finals on February 28 with plenty of nail-biting track and field events. *Valley Profile* reporter **GORDON PREECE** took his marks to snap the action.



It was a tense boys' 200m final.



Senior boys sprint hard in the 100 metre final.

Photos: GORDON PREECE



Intermediate girls power through the 100 metre race.



Henry Baverstock jumps for glory in the triple jump event.



Lincoln, Ffin and Tate dash in the 100m.



Kyla Wilson takes a leap of faith.



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Scholarship awarded for St John staffer

By GORDON PREECE

A part-time paramedicine student and member of St John Thames was “elated” after receiving a new St John scholarship.

Donna Thomas, who’s currently an emergency medical technician at St John Thames, received the Porter-Gordon scholarship in December last year.

The new scholarship, named in recognition of two lifelong Ngatea St John supporters, Lesley Gordon and Dave Porter, supports St John’s Hauora education pathway.

Donna, who is also the volunteer manager for Maramarua St John, told *The Profile* she didn’t think she’d receive the scholarship because she might’ve been “too old”.

“Most people who study these days are younger and I’m 48,” she laughed.

“But whatever age you are, you should just do what you want to do.

“I knew I wanted to be an ambulance officer when I was seven...and this scholarship is really going to help me heaps.”

The scholarship covers 75 per cent of community health students’ course costs and Donna said the costs of her paramedicine papers this year were around \$8000.

“So when I pass, [the scholarship] will pay 75 per cent of that for me, which is great,” she said.

Donna joined St John as a volunteer in Maramarua and



St John Chancellor John Whitehead, left, with Lesley Gordon, Donna Thomas, Dave Porter, and Julia Te Huia.

Photo: SUPPLIED/ANNE GUMMER

Ngatea seven years ago while she was a fire performer and caring for her father, which she did for 18 years.

“Then they put me through my courses and I became an [emergency medical technician] and then two years ago I got a full time job at Thames Station,”

she said. “From there my manager said I should do my paramedicine as I was more than capable... and I thought ‘why not?’ because I love learning and would be able to give more life saving skills within the community so I went for it.”

Donna said she still interact-

ed with everyone at Ngatea St John.

“In the Hauraki district, we’re a lot like a big extended family and I’ve made some really close friends since joining St John,” she said.

Ngatea Station was also where Donna was presented her schol-

arship by Hauraki Plains area committee chair Richie Saunders on December 9.

On the same day, the station also celebrated the graduation of 35 new recruits from an innovative training programme put together by Ngatea paramedic, Julia Te Huia.

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Mangroves could go

By TERESA RAMSEY

A recreational boat ramp at Kōpū may now be considered after an Environmental Protection Authority independent panel sought legal advice on the matter.

The preservation of about 125 metres of mangroves put into question the legality of Thames-Coromandel District Council’s plan to include a recreational boat ramp in “option 2” of its multi-million dollar marine precinct development.

The government planned to fast-track the Kōpū Business and Marine Precinct project, but only following a revised design - “option 1” - which removes the recreational boat ramp attached to the initial plans. This was to preserve the stretch of mangroves deemed a “natural wetland” by the government’s national policy statement for freshwater management.

After seeking independent legal advice from Derek Nolan QC, the independent expert panel confirmed option 2 of the project, which includes the removal of mangroves for a recreational boat ramp, could be considered as it was “not a prohibited activity”.

This is because option 2 was considered regionally significant infrastructure under Resource Management Regula-



The existing Kōpū boat ramp may be upgraded in TCDC’s Kōpū Business and Marine Precinct project.

Photo: SUPPLIED/TCDC

tions. TCDC said the decision was a “positive milestone”, and the next step was for the panel to provide copies of its draft conditions to the applicant and those who commented on the application, and invite comment from those parties on its draft conditions. There was a five-day timeframe to provide those comments.

The panel has also asked for a plan of the wetland that is overlaid with the Mean High Water Springs (MHWS), which is being prepared by council’s project ecology team.

Council said the panel was still hoping to meet the March 9 deadline, but depending on

comments received on draft conditions, there may be a small extension of time.

Council wants to develop the marine precinct at the existing Kōpū boat ramp, which they say will generate employment by providing up to 78 new direct full-time equivalent jobs during the design and construction stages of the project, and around 30 indirect jobs in marine servicing.

Chief executive Rob Williams earlier said council supported both options for the Kōpū marine precinct - which received around \$8.2 million from the government’s Provincial Growth Fund.



Eight-year-old Brooklyn Henderson captured this stunning sun halo over his Paeroa home last week. The photo of the halo, which Brooklyn described as “a cool ring around the sun” was taken around 4:15pm on February 28. Sun halos are formed by hexagonal ice crystals refracting light in the sky at 22 degrees from the sun. This is also commonly called a 22 degree halo.

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PEDAL POWER

Hikutaia School kids applied their passion for pedal power last week on ramps, seesaws and balance boards provided by Thames Mountain Bike Club. They were the first school in the district who had the opportunity to use them and were also encouraged to bring a gold coin donation for equipment maintenance and more biking projects at the club. Reporter GORDON PREECE headed along for the ride.



Evan Brett, year 3, plants safely off the ramp.



Denvor Kisling, year 5, rides up the ramp.



The Hikutaia kids had fun having a go on the bike facilities.

Photos: GORDON PREECE



Henry Van Hellemond pops a wheelie to get over the ramp.



Jaydon Good cruises over the seesaw.



Nat Whitney goes down the ramp.

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Rural Life

Plains trees damaged

Thousands of trees on the Hauraki Plains currently have dead leaves on one side and healthy leaves on the other. GORDON PREECE investigates



Damaged trees line State Highway 2 near Ngatea. Photos: GORDON PREECE

Trees on the Hauraki Plains are showing signs of severe damage weeks after ex-tropical Cyclone Dovi blasted the district. The mid-February storm brought strong winds with gusts around 100km/h to many parts of the country, with a number of trees blown down on the Plains. Several weeks later, thousands of trees throughout the Plains now have dead leaves on one side and healthy leaves on the other. The affected trees are mainly deciduous, such as poplars, maples and golden elms, but some evergreen trees, such as conifers, are also damaged. A Hauraki District Council spokesperson told *The Profile* the trees affected were those in range of salt laden air blown from the Firth of Thames during the cyclone's strong winds. "Not all trees were damaged, those with thick waxy leaves remained undamaged," she said.

The damage from the cyclone wouldn't affect the tree's long-term health since the damage was "cosmetic" and they would make a full recovery, she said. "With autumn approaching, many of the trees will drop their leaves and in both cases [deciduous and evergreen], the fresh spring growth will not be affected." Council hasn't received any service requests about the damaged trees but received service requests directly after the storm to remove fallen trees and clean up storm debris caused by the strong winds, she said. NIWA forecaster Nava Fedaeff said trees by the coast could get saltwater spray but she couldn't say how far it travelled inland. "I also know places on the coastline may get salt water intrusion where the sea floods the area, bringing salt into the soil, which is no good for plants," she said.



A badly damaged tree on the Hauraki Plains. "But other than if you're living right on the coast, the damage is mostly going to be from strong winds," she said. Nava said New Zealand currently experienced an average of one tropical cyclone per year, and NIWA expected there would

be more intense tropical cyclones as climate change became more prominent. "Changing rainfall patterns and more extensive dry spells can also affect some trees and vegetation," she said. "A lot of growers are looking into growing more plants which are more suitable for warmer climates." In its latest seasonal climate outlook, NIWA predicts temperatures are very likely to be above average from March to May. Marine heatwave conditions will likely contribute to elevated humidity and warm temperatures during March, delaying the seasonal transition to cooler temperatures during April and May. Extended dry spells are likely, especially during March, and an elevated chance for atmospheric rivers and ex-tropical cyclone activity may increase the risk for heavy rainfall events later in March or early in April.

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Rural Life

Pirie Farms succeeds at national event

By GORDON PREECE

Ngatea-based Pirie Farms has earned championship titles at this year's New Zealand Dairy Event in Fielding. The annual event, which was held under strict Covid-19 protocols in January, exhibits New Zealand's best cattle. Pirie Farms director Julie Pirie said Pirie Farms sponsored her daughter, Ella Pirie, to attend with her three milking shorthorns and one jersey calf.

Ella's animals won the junior and intermediate championships in the combined breeds sections. She also had a team of four who represented JerseyNZ and came fifth in the youth challenge, where each team clipped an animal, paraded them and were then judged. Lincoln Vitasovich and Chloe Sargent helped Pirie Farms at the event and placed third and fourth in the Young Handlers event.



Ella Pirie wins the intermediate championship with Westell Jedi Saddle.



Ella Pirie, front left, wins the junior championship with her calf, Laurendale Arlo Francie.

Photo: MUD MEDIA



Lincoln Vitasovich and Chloe Sargent compete.

Photos: SUPPLIED



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Rural Life

Rural broadband to be upgraded

The announcement of a big push to upgrade capacity on congested rural broadband networks gets a big thumbs up from Federated Farmers.

A major effort to upgrade capacity on congested rural broadband networks has been unveiled by Minister for the Digital Economy and Communications David Clark.

The Rural Capacity Upgrade will see existing cell towers upgraded and new towers built in rural areas experiencing poor performance, as well as fibre, additional VDSL coverage and other wireless technology deployed in congested areas.

“By the end of 2024 around 47,000 rural households and businesses should experience faster internet speeds and better reception than they do right now,” Mr Clark said.

“The Covid-19 pandemic has shown us reliable internet is critical to being able to work, learn and socialise from our homes. Having been through lockdowns, it’s clear some rural networks had real trouble adapting to the extra usage.”

Federated Farmers NZ president and telecommunications spokesperson Andrew Hoggard said Feds surveyed its members every year about broadband and cell phone coverage in rural areas to gather data on the worst blackspots and inform its advocacy to the government.

“The frustration of farming families whose businesses, distance education and everyday activities are hampered by poor or sometimes non-existent services comes through loud and clear,” he said.

“So news that upgrades to existing cell towers and construction of new towers should see 47,000 rural households and businesses experience faster internet speeds and better reception by the end of 2024 will come as a relief.”

Agricultural production, not to men-



Andrew Hoggard

tion meeting the swathes of new regulations and requirements coming at farmers on freshwater protection, greenhouse gas emissions and more, increasingly relied on fast and reliable internet connectivity, Andrew said.

As the government acknowledged, Covid-19 restrictions - with more remote health consultations, remote learning and maintaining family connections - has added new layers of demand, he said.


“The Rural Capacity Upgrade will help, so kudos to the government,” Andrew said.

As part of the initiative, 13 private sector contractors have signed contracts with Crown Infrastructure Partners to carry out the work. The programme will be funded with the \$47 million from the Government’s Covid Response and Recovery Fund.

Mr Clark said the initiative would help with economic recovery after Covid-19.




“With these upgrades, rural businesses will have the tools to be more innovative and productive.”

At the completion of all current connectivity initiatives in 2024, 99.8 percent of New Zealanders will have seen an improvement to their broadband services.



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

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

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MEDIUM

9		4				2	6	
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HARD

40

HARD

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

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

EASY

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JUMBO CROSSWORD

60

ACROSS

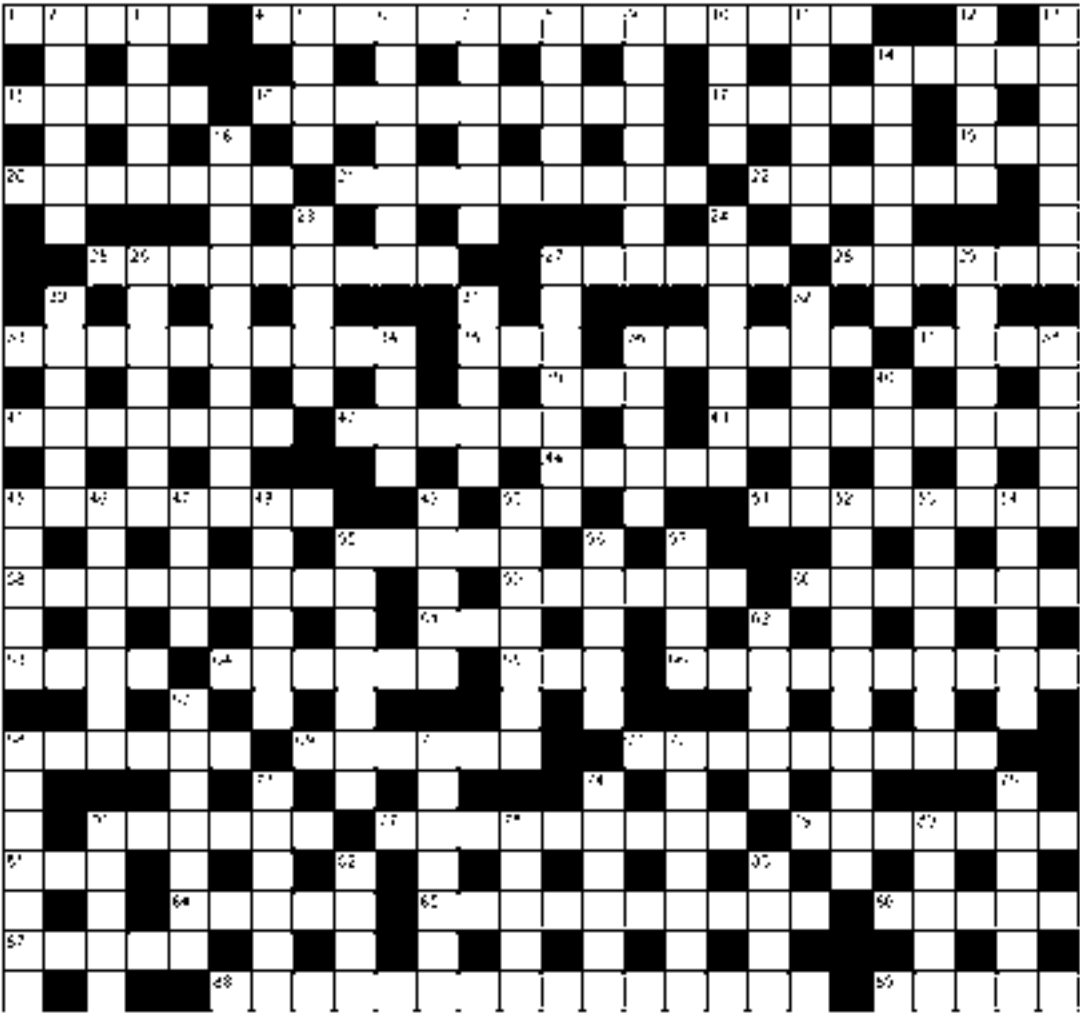
1 Confined (5)
4 Shy, self-effacing person (9,6)
14 Silly (5)
15 Theatre platform (5)
16 Ratio (10)
17 Comedian (5)
19 Bolt (3)
20 Actor's clothes (7)
21 Spring flowers (9)
22 Stone fruit (6)
25 Timetabled (9)
27 Meagre (6)
28 Toothed fastener (6)
33 Earthquake echo (10)
35 Toss (3)
36 Nudges (6)
37 Young cow (4)
39 Lacking in care or strictness (3)
41 Community of nuns (7)
42 Norway lobsters (6)
43 Inform about, make aware (9)
44 Requirements (5)
45 Made jump (8)
50 Symbol for silver (2)
51 Highly respected (8)
55 Sorcery (5)
58 Financial obligation (9)
59 Debated (6)
60 Accumulated over time (7)
61 Jotter (3)
63 Follow orders (4)
64 Shelled insect (6)

65 Consume (3)
66 Found (10)
68 Goal (6)
69 High-spirited (6)
71 Graceful dancer (9)
76 Roman dictator (6)
77 Fallen space rock (9)
79 Lawlessness (7)
81 Snake (3)
84 Russian drink (5)
85 Copy out (10)
86 Practice (5)
87 Subject (5)
88 Make an irrevocable decision (4,4,7)
89 Dwarf planet (5)

DOWN

2 Choice (6)
3 Darkness (5)
5 Difficult (4)
6 Whim (7)
7 Heart (6)
8 Sound (5)
9 Ice cream flavour (7)
10 Long ago (4)
11 Eras (6)
12 Linger (5)
13 Zigzag aimlessly (7)
14 I earn it (anag)(7)
18 Lime aprons (anag) (10)
23 Private instructor (5)
24 Horse accommodation (7)
26 Butcher's chopper (7)
27 Brother or sister (7)
29 Spectre (7)
30 Exertion (6)

31 Culpability (5)
32 Resides (6)
34 Gun recoil (4)
36 Kick out of school (5)
38 Penalised financially (5)
40 Eye amorously (4)
45 Volley of shots (5)
46 Non-professional (7)
47 Work hard (4)
48 Left (6)
49 Open-mouthed (5)
50 Educational establishment (7)
52 Percussion instrument (10)
53 Oriental (7)
54 Cricket team (6)
55 Enigma (7)
56 Type of quartz (5)
57 Repair (4)
62 Sacred song (5)
67 Merit (7)
68 Eulogy (7)
70 Sugar (7)
72 Amended (7)
73 Four-wheeled horse-drawn carriage (6)
74 Rubber (6)
75 Mountain hut (6)
76 Tossed pole (5)
78 Students' tests (5)
80 Agrarian (5)
82 Increase (4)
83 Woodwind instrument (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Correct, 4 Mysterious, 9 Dictate, 13 Nude, 14 Middle, 15 Unpaid, 16 Combine, 18 Dad, 20 Harmlessly, 21 Incensed, 22 Scale, 25 Mosaic, 26 Sneeze, 28 Selection, 33 Ignorant, 34 Awaken, 35 Teacher, 39 Diamonds, 40 Ending, 41 Idle, 42 Holed, 43 Rum, 45 Burn the midnight oil, 53 Web, 56 Skein, 57 Aces, 58 Revive, 59 Stingray, 62 Measure, 63 Pallid, 64 Ravenous, 67 Foolhardy, 69 Breeds, 70 Escort, 74 Yacht, 75 Panorama, 77 Allegiance, 81 Rut, 83 Swollen, 84 Stared, 85 Outcry, 86 Ring, 87 Ignored, 88 Crossroads, 89 Refugee.

DOWN: 1 Conch, 2 Red Cross, 3 Thirst, 4 Medal, 5 Sped, 6 Erudite, 7 Impact, 8 Union, 10 Icon, 11 Tobacco, 12 Tangle, 17 Flying bomb, 19 Rebel, 23 Sentence, 24 Utter, 25 Matador, 27 Neat, 29 Evening, 30 Ponder, 31 Margin, 32 Renege, 34 Alibi, 36 Coop, 37 Balm, 38 Blot, 44 Upkeep, 46 Nice, 47 Husband, 48 Morale, 49 Dived, 50 Inverted, 51 Outing, 52 Linguistic, 53 Wary, 54 Boycott, 55 Kiss, 60 Grill, 61 Avid, 65 Fatal, 66 Pointing, 68 Othello, 69 Boarder, 71 Earwig, 72 Walrus, 73 Terror, 76 Outer, 78 Lotus, 79 Eagle, 80 Cede, 82 Toga.

SPORTS



Kerepehi Bowling Club had a turn out of 32 teams for the first of a series of three tournaments with the format of classic pairs, playing on both greens. Results after four games were:- 1st 4 wins +38 points 31 ends (Thames Coast) K Bunn, Val Mathews; 2nd 4 wins +29 points 25 ends (Thames Coast) P Sargent, M Sargent; 3rd 3.5 wins +13 points 22 ends (Whangamata) Jim Jones, Peg Jones; 4th 3.5 wins +8 points 20 ends (Peter Glass, Andy McCowatt. Club prize – George Morehu, Danny Teiri. Coming up – Sunday, 13 March, (Hudson Family) optional fours, Thursday 17 March Pairs Classiv, Sunday, 27 March, (Bowers Concrete) optional 3 bowl triples. Sunday, 10 April, (Smythe Engineering) optional fours. Entries to Club 867 6897 (after 4pm), Fiona 021 811 077, Richard 022 603 1669.

Cricket in full swing after delays

With holidays and then poor weather conditions causing an unfortunately extended break in their season, our primary and secondary schools cricketers were delighted to be able to begin post-Christmas play on February 19. Secondary schools competition - senior grade: The second series of matches in the post holiday section of the Waikato Valley/ Hamilton Secondary cricket competitions was completed on February 26. The Hauraki Plains College team travelled to Cambridge and although the hosts took the major points from the match, the less experienced Hauraki players especially would have hopefully learned something about themselves when facing pressure situations. Cambridge batting first, lost wickets at regular intervals during their first 35 overs. With eight Cambridge wickets down and only 150 runs on the board, the visitors appeared to be in the box seat. However, a series of missed opportunities to wrap up the innings followed. Bowling and fielding standards fell away sharply and as a result a further fifty

runs were added in off the next twelve overs. The Hauraki innings progressed steadily but with a frustrating pattern of several of the team's more experienced batsmen gathering early runs from well executed cricket shots only to then display a lack of patience resulting in "soft" dismissals. Trent Ball again showed that his shots selection processes are developing nicely before being caught after an unforced error. Anthony Barker then took over Hauraki's push towards victory but unfortunately a number of his well-struck shots went straight to fieldsmen throughout his innings. Debutante Jaxon Haskell made an excellent start to the Hauraki senior team - he and Barker also produced another promising partnership. However the lower order players were unable to support Barker's fine batting effort and the runs "gifted" to Cambridge's lower order batsmen earlier in the game proved the difference to the outcome of the match. Cambridge High School: 206 Cooper Green 2/31, defeated Hauraki Plains College 153, Anthony Barker 45, Jaxon Haskell 31.



Covid delays property revaluations

There's been a delay with the valuers being able to complete the revaluation for Hauraki District Council, and consequently we haven't been able to get your valuation notices out in February as promised. The revised date for valuation notices to be in the post is mid to late April.



Learn more about property revaluations at www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/news-page/2022/february/24/update-on-property-revaluations/

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Qualified Tree Shapes arborists, from left: Finn, Mathew and Elijah. Photo: SUPPLIED

Tree Shapes: a cut above the rest

Tree Shapes offers a grove of arboriculture services including chipping, stump grinding, pruning trees and hedges and, most recently, clearing damage after ex-tropical Cyclone Dovi.

Janella Munns has co-owned the arboriculture business with her husband Colin since December last year after buying it from its previous owner, Matt Elliot.

Janella said she was “grateful” the business had a team of qualified and friendly arborists who were prepared to look after their customers and carry out their work safely and respectfully.

“You may be a regular who’d been with Matt for years but we still like to come and say hey this is who we are, give them a free quote and then we book the work in so they know they’re getting what we say,” she said.

“We have a tight crew who get to travel as far as Pauanui, Te Aroha, Ngatea, Kaiaua, and Coromandel Town, so they get to experience a huge variety of work.”

Janella said Tree Shapes also supported their team to grow their skills and acknowledged Matt for his continued support.

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The Valley Profile

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Mahjong tournament first of its kind

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

Roger Kennerley's passion for mahjong started with an unsuccessful game of scrabble.

"My sister was staying in town and she was right into scrabble, so I went down there to play with her and nobody else turned up," he told *The Profile*.

"I knew a few people at the mahjong club and they said: 'Come along here, give this a go' - and I've never stopped."

Mahjong is a tile-based game that was developed in the 19th century in China.

The game is played with a set of 144 tiles based on Chinese characters and symbols, but regional tournaments like the ones held throughout New Zealand have the ability to add their own unique hands.

Roger said it was essentially a "gambling game" - and it can be addictive. He knows of people who can stick with a game for 72 hours straight.

"It's like what [video] gamers do these days," he said. "In the old days, it was their first form of gaming, and in China, it's still very much a betting game, and it can be very, very fast."

According to a rule book in Roger's trove, mahjong was likely developed in the late 1800s, and because the



Roger Kennerley is gearing up to host a mahjong tournament in Paeroa.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

Chinese learned the game by watching play during childhood, there was no written instruction, nor recognised rules.

"It's interesting because in China, it's mostly a man's game. Here, it's probably 95 per cent women," Roger said.

"It is fairly tricky; there's a whole assortment of hands you can play. There are recognised

ones, plus, a tournament can make up a couple. You get extra points for doing those."

The goal of mahjong is to make matching sets and pairs. In turn, players draw and discard tiles until they complete a hand to form four sets and a pair. A player can also win with a small class of special hands.

Roger, who has played the

game for eight years, is gearing up to host a mahjong tournament in Paeroa next month - the first tournament of its kind in the town, as far as he is aware.

Set for March 26, the tournament will feature three sessions of games, with four players to a table, and because it will be held in the Paeroa RSA, all

"In the old days, it was their first form of gaming, and in China, it's still very much a betting game, and it can be very, very fast."

- Roger Kennerley

players must be double-vaccinated against Covid-19.

Roger said the tournament should be able to go ahead under the red light settings, as tables would be spread out, and less than 100 people would be attending.

"I've got people coming from Hamilton, Otorohanga, Tauranga, Whangamatā, and around the Peninsula," he said.

"It's a very social game, though when you're concentrating you don't get much time to chat."

DETAILS: Mahjong Tournament, March 26 at the Paeroa RSA. Entry fee: \$30, includes lunch at the RSA, and there will also be raffles available and trophies up for grabs. Any surplus funds raised will go towards the earthquake-proofing and renovating of the RSA building. If anyone is interested in taking part, phone Roger on: 027 272 4600.



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