

# The Valley Profile

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066 April 20, 2022

## Jungle sticks with 'sig'

It was thanks to John Wayne that Waihi man Ian Thompson faced a barrage of bullets in the jungle of Malaysia. **KELLEY TANTAU** reports

Ian Thompson was watching a war movie starring John Wayne with his fellow "sigs" - the Royal New Zealand Corps of Signals - when the sheet they'd hung up in the middle of the jungle "exploded".

They'd been watching the film on a projector somebody had purloined.

"These are Kiwis we're talking about," he said.

The group was getting attacked by communist terrorists, but a company protecting Ian, who was a radio and telegraph technician, and his fellow men took control of the situation.

"We had a 44-gallon drum with ice and beer in it, which we'd obtained through the Brits, and as we went down, I pulled it over so we could continue drinking," Ian said with a laugh.

"I still remember that. You could hear the bullets going crack overhead."

It was 1969 when Ian arrived in Malaysia, after the conclusion of the Indonesia-Malaysia confrontation, or Borneo confrontation, which was a three-year armed conflict that ended in 1966.

However, his service started when he was 16, after he joined the RF Cadets as a boy entrant.

After graduating, he became part of the Royal New Zealand Corps of Signals, who were responsible for providing, co-ordinating, and operating the communications networks of the New Zealand Army. He was posted to Papakura, Auckland, before he was sent to Haddington in Christchurch.

"We used to do our exercises

**CONTINUED ON P2**

Ian Thompson will be remembering the servicemen and women behind the scenes this Anzac Day. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU



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**CONTACT US**

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 and surrounding rural areas, plus bulk distribution around the Coromandel Peninsula.

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# Delivery issues announced

Stuff has warned *Hauraki Herald* readers it expects problems with the delivery of its community newspapers from next month.

The delivery problems come after the company delivering its papers, Ovato, announced it was closing its distribution service from April 29, which will also affect many independent newspapers nationwide.

A notice published in the latest *Hauraki Herald* said deliveries were expected to become more "sporadic" as it developed a new distribution network, which "may take a bit of time".

*Valley Profile* editor/owner Teresa Ramsey said delivery of the *Profile* was not affected at all.

"Since we began nearly two years ago, we have worked hard to employ our own local newspaper delivery personnel as we believe reliable delivery is a crucial part of a successful community newspaper," she said.

"As a result, readers and advertisers can depend on *The Profile* to be delivered every Wednesday. Our dedicated delivery experts ensure 16,000 copies of *The Profile* reach all letterboxes in Thames, Thames Coast, Paeroa, Waihi and the Hauraki Plains, plus bulk dis-

tribution throughout the Coromandel Peninsula every week without fail."

Stuff also said Covid-19 had been causing "some disruptions" to the delivery of its community newspapers.

In contrast, there had been no disruption to *Valley Profile* delivery at all during Covid-19 with all runs delivered each week as staff pitched in to cover if delivery people had to isolate, Teresa said.

"We are your truly 100 per cent local community newspaper."

"We're the only one with reporters based in the area covering local news and events, I believe we're the only one ensuring delivery to all areas each week and we have the most competitive advertising rates for display ads, advertorials and classifieds."

"*The Profile* is run by passionate locals determined to endeavour every one of our 16,000 copies is delivered each week so important local news and information reaches every household in our region," she said.

**DETAILS: To find out more about supporting the Valley Profile with advertising, contact Nikki Sanders, Ph 022 130 3885, email nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz or visit our website: www.valleyprofile.co.nz.**



Ian Thompson's job was to sit in the back of a Land Rover with his "encoding stuff".

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

## Jungle sticks with 'sig'

CONTINUED FROM P1

in Malaysia once a year... I did one that was three months long, just before the confrontation ended. That was fun," Ian said, "stuck in the middle of the jungle, miles from anywhere".

After he left Christchurch, Ian, originally from Tawa, spent four-and-a-half years in Singapore, working on a transmitting station. He returned to New Zealand in 1973 and that year he married his wife, Diane.

He was posted to the Defence Headquarters as a computer engineer before leaving the army in 1977.

"The reason I got out was because they wanted to post me to the School of Signals in Waiouru, and I had three young kids, so I said 'no'."

After many "escapades", the returned serviceman arrived in Waihi, and on his first Friday in the Hauraki town, he signed up to its RSA - where he is now the vice president.

Every week he has a beer with friend Collin Stephens, who, co-

incidentally, spent a year in the bed next to Ian in the barracks all those years ago. The Waihi RSA will have a service this Anzac Day at 11am, with a small parade around the building, followed by lunch.

Ian said his time in the army likely gave him more discipline than he would've had otherwise, recalling the two weeks he spent as a 13-year-old, push biking across the top of the South Island with a neighbour.

He also looks back on those days in the jungle with fond memories.

"For me, Anzac Day is a day of memory more than anything," he said. "It's remembering the small men, the people who did all of the grunt work and in a lot of cases, didn't actually want to be there."

"It's not just the signals, it's the truck drivers, it's the foremen, it's the cooks, it's everyone. That's who you remember on Anzac Day."

**ANZAC FEATURE, P10-13**



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 text 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 Tangata Ora Trust ad.

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**Thames Tides**

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
Apr 20	Apr 21	Apr 22	Apr 23	Apr 24	Apr 25	Apr 26
<p>Morning: 3:25am 0.4, 9:42am 3.6 Afternoon: 3:51pm 0.3, 10:11pm 3.7</p> <p>6:48am 5:46pm Best At 2:49am 3:19pm</p> <p>Set 10:26am, Rise 8:09pm</p>	<p>Morning: 4:15am 0.5, 10:32am 3.6 Afternoon: 4:39pm 0.4, 11:02pm 3.6</p> <p>6:48am 5:44pm Best At 3:50am 4:22pm</p> <p>Set 11:38am, Rise 9:05pm</p>	<p>Morning: 5:08am 0.6, 11:24am 3.5 Afternoon: 5:29pm 0.5, 11:56pm 3.5</p> <p>6:49am 5:43pm Best At 4:53am 5:25pm</p> <p>Set 12:43pm, Rise 10:09pm</p>	<p>Morning: 6:05am 0.7, 6:24pm 0.7 Afternoon: 12:19pm 3.4, 6:24pm 0.7</p> <p>6:50am 5:42pm Best At 5:56am 6:26pm</p> <p>Last Quarter, Set 1:38pm, Rise 11:19pm</p>	<p>Morning: 12:56am 3.4, 7:07am 0.8 Afternoon: 1:16pm 3.2, 7:26pm 0.8</p> <p>6:51am 5:41pm Best At 6:55am 7:23pm</p> <p>Set 2:24pm</p>	<p>Morning: 2:00am 3.3, 8:11am 0.9 Afternoon: 2:19pm 3.2, 8:36pm 0.9</p> <p>6:52am 5:39pm Best At 7:50am 8:16pm</p> <p>Rise 12:29am, Set 3:01pm</p>	<p>Morning: 3:06am 3.3, 9:16am 0.9 Afternoon: 3:27pm 3.1, 9:48pm 0.9</p> <p>6:53am 5:38pm Best At 8:41am 9:04pm</p> <p>Rise 1:39am, Set 3:33pm</p>

**MOON AND FISH KEYS**  
New Moon, First Quarter, Full Moon, Last Quarter  
Good Fishing (G), Fair Fishing (F), Not So Good (B)

**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	02	-0	06
Tairua	+0	10	+0	21
Whangamata	-0	07	-0	07
Waihi Beach	-0	12	-0	12

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

# Cost of living puts strain on charity stall

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

An elderly man reduced to living on one pension after the passing of his wife; Alzheimer sufferers who have forgotten how to cook; and people who steal toilet paper from public bathrooms because it's either that or going without bread.

These are the stories told to Tina Wright, who runs The Gift Box in Waihi.

In her almost-four years of manning the community food stall, she's seen mothers pull up with hungry children in the car, and couples who have fallen on hard times.

Lately, the need has grown.

"People who thought they were doing well for themselves, through no fault of their own, are now really struggling, and you can't tell that from the sort of car that comes in, you need to actually talk to them and find out what their back story is," Tina told *The Profile*.

"But twice in the last six weeks, we've run out of food completely."

The rising cost of food and petrol, among other things, is an issue Coromandel MP Scott Simpson doesn't believe people will see any relief from this coming winter.

He expects charitable organisations, food banks, and pātaka kai will "continue to see record demand for their services".

The Gift Box was established in 2018, and Tina never expect-



Tina Wright, inset, says the need has grown for the community food stall, The Gift Box. Photos: KELLEY TANTAU

ed there to be such a need in the community.

She said 20kgs each of potatoes, carrots, and onions would last for two days out in the stall, which she and her husband Keith continuously restock.

She also works with Sandra Fisher, who makes between 80-100 meals a day using the stall's

excess meat and veg, which are then frozen and distributed.

"I think the need is just so great that it's overwhelming," she said.

"We're having to ask for donations much more often... and even those of us that are still managing, we're not buying meat - the closest we get is chicken drumsticks, because they are

the cheapest thing."

Mr Simpson told *The Profile* he called in to Thames Pak'nSave recently and bought some groceries, and was shocked by the total at the checkout.

"You know when you go to the supermarket, and you have a mental calculator about how much you think the bill is going

to be? The nice person on the checkout said the amount, and I just stood there with my mouth open," he said.

"I thought: how can this small pile of groceries in my trolley be almost \$100? And these were ordinary things - milk, bread, butter, cheese - those sorts of staples that are part of everybody's weekly grocery shop.

"If products like that are going up in price literally every week, then New Zealanders are having to make choices about what they cut out of their weekly budget."

Mr Simpson said, sadly, there was no immediate hope on the horizon.

"It means that people will continue to be under pressure, and charitable organisations, food banks and the like will continue to see record demand for their services and goods they provide.

"There are lots of fellow citizens in our communities who have lost their jobs, lost their business, don't have the financial certainty of a permanent job, and they are under real pressure..."

"This is going to be a very difficult winter for far too many people in our area."

**DETAILS: The Gift Box warmly welcomes any monetary or food, produce, and toiletry donations. The stall is located at 20 Mackay St, Waihi. For larger donations, contact Tina on 07 863 8588 or find The Gift Box on Facebook.**




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# Embroiderers' ruby birthday

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

The 40th anniversary of the Thames Valley Embroiderers' Guild will be marked by an exhibition displaying needleworks of all kinds, all techniques, and all colours.

April, 2022, marks the ruby anniversary of the establishment of the guild, which has a permanent home at the St James Centre in Waihi.

Before settling down at the centre, the guild - which encompasses members from Waihi, Paeroa, Thames, Ngatea, Te Aroha, and even Katikati and South Waikato, moved around the region. It was in 2018 when membership had grown to more than 70 when the guild found its home at the centre.

Some of the guild's highlights throughout the years include: the creation of a panel for the Tapestry Trust, which now resides in Dunedin; the involvement of the stitching of Shakespearian-themed curtains for the Globe Theatre in Hamilton; a large stitched puaa piece which was a mosaic of pieces stitched by 18 members of the guild; and a Tunnelling Company Cloak created for an Armistice event, featuring all the names of the Waihi tunnellers.

On April 9, the guild held its 40th birthday at the St James Centre, and members celebrated

with a cake cutting. They also announced the winners of its Ruby Challenge Embroidery Competition.

The guild's exhibition will showcase the pieces from the competition, as well as creations made by the members over the past couple of years.

**DETAILS: The Thames Valley Embroiderers' Guild's 40th anniversary exhibition will be held at Waihi Museum from April 26-30, 10am-3pm (closes 2pm on Saturday).**



Founding and long-standing members cut the cake at the 40th birthday party.

Photos: SUPPLIED



Committee members and friends arrive early to set up for the celebrations.



Sherrill Milne and Patti Wickstead.



Karen King celebrates the 40th.



Flora Sandbrook and Jan Jackson.

## We need to talk Me kōrero ngātahi tātou

We're proposing some key changes for 2022/23



Have you heard?  
Council is proposing to rate us SUIPs\* the same as you!

Sounds fair, what do you think?

### Have your say Kei a koe te korero



The feedback period is open until 4pm 2 May 2022.

For further information visit our website <https://weneedtotalk.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/2022-23-draft-annual-plan/> or call into one of the Council offices or libraries.

### Got questions - need answers Talk with us

If you're a ratepayer in the district, you should have received a flyer explaining more about SUIPs. If you want to find out more about SUIPs call us on 0800 734 834 or 07 862 8609 or attend one of the following events.

#### Join our Community Zoom Webinar

Mayor Toby Adams, Councillors Paul Milner and Anne Marie Spicer, along with a panel of staff will be on hand to answer your questions and discuss how these changes may affect you.

When: **Wednesday 20 April 5.30pm**  
Zoom link to join Webinar: <https://haurakidc.zoom.us/j/86726669637>  
Webinar ID: 867 2666 9637

#### Open forums at Ward meetings

Join us at one of our meetings to discuss any queries you may have.

**Ngatea: 21 April - 10-11am**  
Ngatea Memorial Hall - supper room  
**Paeroa: 26 April - 2-3pm**  
Paeroa Memorial Hall  
**Waihi: 28 April - 10.30am-12pm**  
Salvation Army - meeting room

\*SUIP stands for Separately Used or Inhabited Part. In other words, one or more parts of a property that can be separately used or inhabited. For example separate dwellings in a retirement village, multiple houses on a section or farm, or multiple shops in one building.

We're proposing to rate multiple houses on one property the same as houses on separate properties. We'll do that by adding a Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC) for each dwelling/business (SUIPs) on the same property.

#### What's a UAGC rate?

The UAGC makes up a portion of the overall rates bill and is the one-off rate that all properties pay regardless of their size or value. It is used to fund activities that deliver benefit to the whole district. For example, the UAGC covers most of the operating costs of running the libraries, swimming pools, the Memorial halls and cemeteries and it partly contributes to a number of activities such as footpaths, road safety initiatives and emergency management.

"Currently we only charge one UAGC against a property, no matter how many dwellings or businesses it contains. By charging a UAGC on each separate dwelling/business on the same property means that each household/business will pay their fair share of the cost of services covered by the rate. This proposal doesn't change the way capital value or land value rates are charged. These would continue to be charged on the value of the property."  
Mayor Toby Adams.

# Full steam ahead

The trains at Thames Small Gauge Railway started their engines again on April 10 after a long period of disruption caused by Covid-19. Trains from Auckland also rode the rails on Thames' foreshore with many cheerful people aboard. **GORDON PREECE** headed along to track down the action.



Passengers wait for their train to depart.



Train driver David Giles from the Manukau Live Steamers takes locals on his 1969 steam train, *Enterprise*.



Locals catch a ride on the steam train, *Enterprise*.



Train driver Andrew Park drives the *Murihiku Express*.



Train driver Mike Orange.

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# Grant helps club's expansion plans

By GORDON PREECE

Hauraki District Council has bowled a \$20,000 grant to support Kerepēhi Bowling Club's "very exciting" project.

The club, which has just under 100 bowlers, plans to expand its clubroom after president Richard Crosland and some of the club's life members noticed in 2020 the club was becoming more of a community hub with more people using it.

Richard, who has been president for two years, told *The Profile* the grant to support the project was "brilliant".

"The last time anything was done to this club was in the 70s... apart from in the early 90s we put in new astroturf and in 2017 we ripped them out and put in international standard [bowling] carpet," he said.

"We're going to put new toilets and a shower block in and we're going to move the bar back so it becomes one big room rather than the impression of two rooms as we are at the moment, so it's a very exciting project."

Richard said he approached council in early 2020 with his idea for the project, which they supported, and council granted them resource consent to expand the clubroom.

The club then spent \$20,000 on blueprint plans and a building permit and engineers reports.

"In the meantime, Covid came along and it really put the brakes on everything but we persevered. The trouble is not only



Richard Crosland says Kerepēhi Bowling Club has more and more people using it.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

Covid but the building boom that's gone crazy," Richard said.

"We realised the amount of funds we allocated in 2020 wasn't going to be enough so I approached the council to see if they would help us out... and we're very grateful the council have now come to the party [with the \$20,000 grant]."

Richard said they also applied for funding from the Lottery Grants Board in 2020 and were granted \$160,000 from them in September last year which together with the club's \$80,000 gave them enough funds to proceed with the expansion.

Richard said it would take three months for builders to complete the \$260,000 expansion but had been warned it could increase to around \$300,000.

"Our application to lotto was based on the quote we got at the time which was \$250,000, and that's what that grant owes the money on," he said.

"The fact that it's gone up since then, is after they granted us the money so I don't think lotto will be too concerned, it's up to us to raise any further funds.

"What we're hoping to do is approach some of our local businesses and get sponsorship on

materials and things and hopefully that will bridge the last bit of the shortfall."

Richard said the club was used by the Kerepēhi Women's Institute, Environment Waikato, was the designated Civil Defence headquarters for Kerepēhi, and was used by Police for their first aid courses this year.

The club had also introduced a darts night.

"We're now recognised as a very serious bowling club and we're encouraging more and more groups to come along and use it, that's our plan for the future," Richard said.

## In Brief

### ROTARY FUNDRAISER

Thames Rotary Club will hold a fundraiser at Goldfields Shopping Centre on Saturday, April 23, by replacing licence plate screws for \$10 to deter thieves. Event spokesperson Monika Lange said Rotary decided to hold the event after they heard people in Thames and surrounding areas had their licence plates stolen. The event will take place from 9am to 1pm.

### RIPIARIAN CORRIDOR WORKSHOP

NZ Landcare Trust has teamed up with Walking Access Commission and the Waikato Biodiversity Forum to present a workshop on Good Management Practices associated with riparian corridor projects. It will cover the legal side of project planning, biodiversity gains from riparian planting, and the potential for carbon sequestration and credit.

**Details: April 28, 10am-3.30pm at EcoQuest Education Foundation, Whakatiwai. RSVP to ric.balfour@landcare.org.nz**

### GOLD FM RADIO SOLD

NZME's chief radio officer Jason Winstanley last week confirmed to *The Profile* that NZME purchased the Gold FM frequencies from Brian and Glenis Gentil in November 2021 to extend the ZM music radio station to the Thames-Coromandel community. Gold FM was launched in Waihi in 2007 by Brian and Glenis and broadcasted to the local area, as well as Paeroa, Thames, and around the Coromandel.

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# Record shave

Hauraki students raised just under \$13,000 for this year's Shave for a Cure event in support of Leukaemia and Blood Cancer NZ.

The Hauraki Plains College social leadership team organised this year's event, held at the school on April 8, with help from staff. Spokesperson Alyson Hood said the theme of the day was to dress like someone who inspired you.

"The reason for this theme was that the social team believes that there are people in your life who inspire you and push you to become the best version of yourself no matter what is happening around

you," she said.

The participants fundraised prior to the event as well as on the day, placing third out of all schools participating in New Zealand, which Alyson said was a record for HPC.

The social leadership team included Alyson Hood, Courtney Perrett, Mikayla Perrett, Sharlese Bull, Hayley Gibbons, Amber-Leigh Williamson, Lily Lockwood and Toni Taylor.

Leukaemia and Blood Cancer NZ is a national charity supporting patients and their families living with blood cancer or a serious blood condition.

**DETAILS: More info or to donate: [shaveforacure.co.nz](http://shaveforacure.co.nz).**



Alyson Hood shaves her sister Jayde's head, while Mrs Courtney shaves her daughter Isabelle.

Photos: SUPPLIED



Teacher Mr Thom shaves Connor Green.



Josh Vesper has his legs waxed by Mikayla Perrett, left, and Lily Lockwood.



Alysha Read shaves her brother Marcus.

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5. Privately let them know their behaviour is not okay: "That joke you made in yesterday's meeting was not funny, and actually wasn't okay."

**Watch this space for helpful tips week by week.**

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# Rural Life

## Additional international workers welcomed

The government has announced it will open the border to an additional 1580 experienced primary sector workers, which has been described as a "shot in the arm" for those struggling to recruit enough staff locally, Federated Farmers says.

"They say good things take time, and Feds has been ratcheting up the pressure for this necessary step for many, many months," Federated Farmers employment spokesperson Chris Lewis said.

"Let's hope the system is agile enough to get these people

into New Zealand and out into workplaces by the time we need them - particularly for the super busy spring dairy calving season."

The new settings include an increase in the current border exception for assistant dairy farm managers, 2ICs, dairy herd managers and dairy farm assistants by 500 to a total of 800 for those earning at least the median wage plus \$1 per hour (currently equates to \$28 per hour).

"The Federation's message to farmers is to take up these places," Chris said.



Borders open for an additional 1580 primary sector workers. File photo

"We know that with fuel and fertiliser price rises, concerns in some districts about sup-

plementary feed, and other factors, there may be a temptation to try and struggle through with workforce gaps.

"But just remember the stress that puts on you and the rest of the team, the health and safety factors, and the difficulties of rostering to give people decent time off when your staff complement is deficient."

Also good news for farming is that the meat worker border class exception cap will be extended by a further 500 workers on top of previous agreed figure of 150 workers.

"There are very real meat

supply chain constraints and while some districts are in drought, in other parts of the country farmers have possibly been holding back stock.

"More of them will send animals to the works to get down to wintering numbers and it will be very positive to close up workforce gaps so that plants can again operate at full capacity," Chris said.

Border class exceptions have also been approved for up to 300 silviculture forestry workers and up to 280 wood processors and manufacturers to enter New Zealand.

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- Pregnant



# Cancelled civic services 'disappointing'

By GORDON PREECE

Organisers of Ngatea's Anzac Day memorial service were "disappointed" but could understand why Hauraki District Council cancelled the town's civic parade.

Council recently announced the district's civic parades in Ngatea, Paeroa and Waihi would not go ahead on April 25 in an effort to slow the spread of Covid-19, despite no limits for crowd numbers at outdoor events.

Ngatea RSA president Chris Whitton told *The Profile* he was "certainly not negative" about council's decision.

"I can completely understand why the council [cancelled] it and to be honest I back them," he said.

"There's been a whole lot of uncertainty for so long and no one's crystal ball works 100 per cent."

Kerepehi Brass Band president Luke Van Vliet, who is working with Chris for Ngatea's Anzac preparations for the first time this year, said he was "disappointed" with council's decision but could respect it.

"It wasn't looking too promising and when it comes to closing the road for the parade... they need 40 days' notice for NZTA [Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency]."

"So I can definitely respect the decision they made, disappointed, but at the same time if I was in their position I probably would've had to make a similar call."

Chris said while council cancelled its civic parade, normally held on the town's main street on State Highway 2, the Ngatea RSA had received a \$1500 donation from council for the Poppy Day Appeal and help from council for their preparations. "Anything we get back from the council's good. Some



Ngatea RSA president Chris Whitton, left, and Kerepehi Brass Band president Luke Van Vliet have worked together for this year's Anzac Day memorial service in Ngatea. Photo: SUPPLIED

people will look at it and say that's a cheap and easy way to pay us off but I don't look at it like that," he said.

Council also donated \$1500 each to Paeroa and Waihi RSA's Poppy Day Appeals and allocated up to \$1500 to work with actor Mark Wright on a video commemoration.

Hauraki District Mayor Toby Adams earlier said having to cancel civic parades was a "crying shame".

"We know that Anzac brings out some of our most vulnerable members of the public, and

we didn't want to put them at risk," he said.

Ngatea's memorial service will begin with a parade from Ngatea Hockey Club at 11am on April 25 to Ngatea War Memorial Hall for a memorial service.

"A big open invitation to anyone and everyone who's able to attend, there will be 120 seats for the elderly and those unable to stand," Chris said.

Luke also hoped many Ngatea locals would attend the service.

"There's a lot we've been through recently and with the ongoing Ukraine war, I think

this year we're hoping for a good turnout to remember those who fought in the battles New Zealand's been involved in but also those who are fighting overseas," he said.

Luke said Kerepehi Brass Band had also helped Paeroa RSA prepare for its dawn service and would also perform at it, something they didn't normally do.

"From the start we said whatever events go ahead we would do our utmost to support them... due to there not being a civic service," he said.

## ANZAC DAY SERVICES

APRIL 25

### TAPU

Dawn Parade, 5:45am from Tapu Fire Station to the Cenotaph, to Tapu Hall, followed by a service. Breakfast will be provided afterwards.

### THAMES

Dawn Parade, 5:45am from the BNZ in Pollen St to Mary St footpath to Thames War Memorial Civic Centre for 6am service.

Breakfast at Thames Workingmen's Club.

Civic Parade, 9:45am from BNZ in Pollen St to Thames War Memorial Civic Centre, Mary St, for a 10am service.

### PAEROA

RSA Dawn Service, 6am at the Primrose Hill Cenotaph

### WAIHI

RSA Dawn Service at 6am at Waihi RSA memorial area  
 RSA Wreath Laying at 8am at Waihi Cemetery  
 Waihi Heritage Vision and Tunnelling Company Descendants, 9am at the Waihi Tunnellers Memorial Gilmour Reserve  
 RSA Memorial Service, 11am at the Waihi RSA Clubrooms

### NGATEA

RSA Memorial Service and Parade, 11am from Ngatea Hockey Club to Ngatea War Memorial Hall.

### KAIHERE/PATETONGA

Service, 9am at Kaihere Hall.

### KEREPĒHI

Dawn service and parade, 5:30am at Kerepēhi War Memorial Hall.

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# War veteran remembers Asian conflicts

**Witnessing warplanes spreading the defoliant chemical Agent Orange in the Vietnam War was one of many memories for a Paeroa war veteran. GORDON PREECE reports**

Danny Te Iri joined the army after getting a taste of it as a Paeroa College student in the 1950s.

"They had what they called school cadets and every Friday - they'd take us for drills and we'd go out shooting," he said.

"Then when I left college I joined a power company, who put the power through from Whitianga to a place called Te Rerenga. After that I gave it a miss and I thought I'd go join the army because I had it in my blood."

In 1963, aged 20, Danny travelled with the New Zealand Regiment to Malaya for the Indonesia-Malaysia confrontation.

"We weren't allowed to fly over Indonesia, we had to go way up into the Indian Ocean and come back down through the Malacca Strait into Singapore and we caught the train from there to Malacca [in Malaysia]," he said.

"In 1964 we went up on the very rough Thailand-Malaysia border... and we spent three months up there... where I was a lead scout."

"It's one job that I liked because I'd rather be out in front where your ears are tuned into whatever's happening and you could pick up different sounds you weren't supposed to hear like... reloading a gun."

Danny said they then returned to Terendak Camp in Malaysia for a four-day holiday, but the battalion was recalled when Malaysia's Prime Minister declared a state of emergency after Indonesian paratroopers landed on the Malay Peninsula.

"We travelled down to a place called Johor Bahru because that's where the Indonesian paratroopers had landed. They had troops down there, the Gurkhas, the Brits, and the Singapore Regiment," he said.

"We'd just come off border pa-



Danny Te Iri says Anzac Day is a time to reflect on those who never came home.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

trol... but we turned around and said battalions be ready for action."

Danny said all fellow soldiers in the heat of confrontation were "terrific guys".

"We looked after one another, when you were in a strike, they'd pull you out of it, but other than that we worked as a regiment," he said.

"When you're in a firefight, anyone who says they're brave, don't believe them, because the initial firefight you got a shake, and once you fire that first round, it all comes together and you feel good again."

"It's either him or us, we try to get the first two shots first."

Danny was then sent to Borneo

along with 300 soldiers to train New Zealand's next battalion before returning home in 1966.

Three years later, he rejoined the battalion as the sixth commander for New Zealand's Victor 4 Company in the Vietnam War.

"It was a scary life with the boys because some of them had just come straight from New Zealand," he said.

"They said: 'have you got live ammunition?' I said yes and I said get your bloody head down otherwise it's going to get blown off."

Danny said it was "very hard" to witness his mates get killed and injured.

"A lot of our guys got hit between their knees and their belly button by booby traps called punji

sticks," he said.

"[The enemies] grabbed a branch, pulled it round and put spikes on them and next minute you'd trip on them and [the spikes] went right into your stomach."

Danny said he had no idea of the dangers of the Agent Orange he saw being sprayed from war planes during the war. The chemical defoliant caused many serious health problems to anyone exposed to it, such as cancer and birth defects in their children.

"We were flying out from our taskforce area to the fire support base on helicopters and we looked out and could see these hercules. We thought they must've been culling all of the mosquitos but lit-

tle did we know it was Agent Orange," he said.

"We didn't know anything about it until we came home... and learned that if it gets in the water and you drink it, you get cancer... terrible thing."

Danny travelled back to New Zealand in 1971 and after working at the railways in Otāhuhu, Auckland, for ten years, he moved back home to Paeroa in 1981, where he's lived ever since.

He's remained a Paeroa RSA member since 1966 and never missed an Anzac Day.

"I look at [Anzac Day] as a time to reflect, not only on myself but all those guys who went overseas, and a lot of them never came back," he said.

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# Soldier awarded medal for bravery in WWI



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

They were the pick of the tribe, those young men who were selected to serve in the Māori Battalion in World War I.

Although many were not trained, it was noted that they quickly picked up soldiering skills; their rural lives ensured there was "none of your town softness about them."

Three of the Angel brothers, Edward, William and Richard were by 1915 at the Māori Training Camp at Auckland's Avondale racecourse, ready to ship out as part of the 1st Māori Contingent on the *Warrimoo* bound for Suez, Egypt. Richard, pictured right, was a 26-year-old farmer living at Thames before he and his brothers became part of the 500 strong Māori Battalion.

On the *Warrimoo*, they gained their sea legs, practised rifle and physical drills, guard duty and kit inspections. Messages were put in bottles and optimistically thrown overboard. Once at Port Suez, they took the train to Cairo, many sitting on the carriage roofs enjoying the novelty. The journey to Zeitoun, a huge military camp, took 10 hours.



The New Zealand Māori (Pioneer) Battalion perform a haka for Deputy Prime Minister Sir Joseph Ward at Bois-de-Warnimont, France, 30 June 1918.

Despite requests by the Minister of Defence and Māori MPs, the battalion was not sent to Gallipoli with the first invasion force in April, 1915. It was kept in reserve and placed on garrison duty on the island of Malta. To the battalion's delight there was plenty of kina and puha at Malta.

At the beginning of May, due to increasing casualties among the Anzacs at Gallipoli, the Māori contingent was put on active service. In preparation for Gallipoli, the men wrote wills and sent letters home. The contingent was noted to be "in great trim, hard as nails and itching to be taken".

When the order to move was announced in the officer's mess, a great commotion began – plates, spoons, bully beef, bread and potatoes flew through the air amid cheering. This may have been regretted as the provisions on the ship to Gallipoli consisted of rotten meat and potatoes and not enough bread. As they neared Anzac Cove, the men heard the rumble of artillery fire and saw sporadic flashes on the horizon.

The battalion camped at No 1 Outpost. Their accommodation was ledges cut into slopes and the small settlement was named Māori Pa or Māori Ridge.

The men worked at sapping - digging short trenches (saps) across No Man's Land towards enemy trenches in preparation for a big offensive in August. They also dug communication trenches and wid-

ened the only sheltered route by which provisions and ammunition could be brought from Anzac Cove.

There was continual noise – shells exploding, machine guns rattling, and planes overhead all shrouded in a haze of smoke. At the outpost, men used tunnels to move to and from the trenches but they still had to be cautious of Turkish snipers. Sapping in trenches about 50 yards from the firing line was a dreadful combination of flies, contaminated food and corpses.

The Māori contingent coped well, although some of them suffered from the constant work and trying to avoid rifle and shell fire. The diet was poor, water was tainted from being boiled in kerosene tins, and there were infestations of lice.

On August 4, the enemy was reported erecting wire entanglements in Chailak Dere – a narrow valley falling down from Chunuk Bair. The men were informed of their role in what would later be called the "August stunt". The Māori contingent was to be part of the first phase of the breakout in the Anzac sector. Two covering forces would capture the foothills above the entrances to three Deres (valleys). They had just 2.5 hours to seize the foothills.

Before going into battle, their chaplain, Wainohu, spoke to them - "Fellow members of a brave family . . . you are the descendants of . . . warlike ancestors . . . I know that some . . . now here will never again stand together with us. But it would be better for us all to lie dead in these hollows and on the tops of mountains than for a whisper of dishonour to go back to the old people at home".

The success of the attack on Chailak Dere depended on the removal of barbed wire entanglements that blocked the entrance to the valley. Richard Angel was part of this offensive. The mass of barbed wire was high, deep and solid and an enemy track ran right



Members of the World War I Māori Pioneer Battalion taking a break from trench improvement work, near Gommecourt, France, 1918. Photos: SUPPLIED

across the opening. The men came under heavy but erratic fire as they pulled up stakes. One man broke his arm and another was set alight by a flare.

They then went over the trench shooting and bayoneting Turks. When the first ridges and trenches had been taken, the Ngapuhi platoon broke into a haka.

After a week's rest, many of the contingent were back in action again. By September, they were down to fewer than 250 men. By October, one of the Māori Battalion observed: "Ours was a lonely looking party, about 100 out of a force of 500". In December, 1915, all New Zealand troops were evacuated from Gallipoli. Richard Angel embarked for France and in June, 1916, he was admitted to the French No 7 General Hospital.

In October, he was promoted to lieutenant and presented with a Military medal awarded for "bravery in attack on Turkish trenches on Bauchops Hill and removing wire entanglements in Chailak Dere, Gallipoli, on August 6".

Richard had "led his section with the utmost dash".

In April, 1917, he was invalided back to New Zealand but in January, 1918, Richard went back to the front as a Second Lieutenant with the 24th Māori reinforcements.

He was part of a group who helped the NZ Tunnelling Company in Arras, France, refurbish a cavern

system for possible use when the Germans launched an anticipated offensive. While there, Richard carved his name into one of the tunnel walls.

World War I ended in November, 1918, and in April, 1919, the Māori Contingent returned home, welcomed with parades and parties across the country.

Richard returned to civilian life and in 1920 married Margaret Elsa Price of Dargaville. They settled in Thames and had three children, a son and two daughters.

Known locally as Athelstan or Dick, he was a keen wood chopper, regularly participating successfully in competitions at agricultural shows, sports days and axeman carnivals. An athletic man with a remarkably fine physique, he became well known across the North Island.

In June, 1930, grim tragedy overshadowed Thames when, within twenty-four hours, four residents met with sudden deaths. Among them was 43-year-old Richard Angel, who had been working in the bush at Mokai, near Rotorua, when a wire rope snapped fatally striking him.

Richard was brought back to Thames and buried at Shortland cemetery. He left a widow and three children under ten. His son would go on to serve with the 28th Māori Battalion in Italy during World War II. He died in 1966, at the same age as his father.

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# Lest we forget

## School delivers special service

On April 12, Waihi East School commemorated Anzac Day with its own special service. Hymns, waiata, and national anthems were sung, wreaths were laid, a minute's silence was observed, and *The Last Post* was played by Edwin Randell. The school has its own connection to Anzac Day - a former headmaster, Captain William Houkanau Stainton, was in the first NZ Māori contingent in WWI, and in the Home Guard, Waihi Battalion, in WWII. *Valley Profile* reporter **KELLEY TANTAU** attended the special event.



HemiKupa Aupouri-Ederveen, left, and Paitoa Peka have the important job of flag bearing.

Photos: KELLEY TANTAU



Students sing a waiata.



Nevaeh de Ocampo and Fern Goodwin carry a wreath.



Isla Honey and Gus Bolderston with their wreath.



Invited guests and Waihi East staff with the wreaths.



A drone shot looks down on the students. Photo: SUPPLIED/KIT WILSON

*They shall grow not old,  
as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them,  
nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.*

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# SPORTS

## CRICKET

To have the use of the same dressing rooms at Hamilton's Seddon Park and play on the same pitch used by the Black Caps a week earlier was the 'thrill of a lifetime' for Hauraki Plains College and Cambridge High School First XI cricketers recently. While the result of the Gillette Cup qualification match was obviously very important, the venue and the never to be forgotten atmosphere on the sun blessed day, was of equal value for players, parents and supporters. After claiming the Waikato Valley/Hamilton Secondary School's championship title over Cambridge a week earlier, the Hauraki players approached this game with quiet confidence, which proved to be justified at the end a wonderful day's cricket played in an excellent spirit by Waikato Valley's top two secondary school teams.

Led by "senior professionals" Hunter Crowe and Nihindu Wickramathunga, the Hauraki innings developed steadily after an excellent

opening partnership by Cooper Green and Daniel Sproul. While Crowe was compiling another innings of high quality, Trent Ball, Anthony Barker, Cullen Crowe and Jackson Haskell all provided additional runs towards a very challenging target for Cambridge.

After a rapid burst of scoring early on, the Cambridge batsmen found runs increasingly difficult to come by. Hauraki's bowlers, led by Cullen Crowe and supported by thoughtful field settings and generally improved concentration levels by fieldmen, gradually turned the tide. The comfortable victory for Hauraki was naturally celebrated with the usual end of game exuberance. However, it will surely be the memories from the entire day at Seddon Park which will remain with everyone involved from both teams forever.

**MATCH DETAILS:** Hauraki Plains College 271 for 6 wickets (50 overs) Hunter Crowe 96, Nihindu Wickramathunga 38, Cooper Green 28, Daniel Sproul 27, Anthony Barker 20, Trent Ball 20. Defeated Cambridge High School, 149, Cullen Crowe 5/38, Hunter Crowe 2/20, Xavier Anderson 1/30. Daniel Sproul 1/20. Jason Collins 1/1.



Cullen Crowe in action. Photo: LEON SMITH

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**2001 MERCEDES-BENZ AVANT GARDE**

5 door hatch, Auto, 161,000kms, New WoF & rego **REASONABLE OFFERS**

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**1991 MITSUBISHI LANCER GLX \$2,500**

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**Enquiries Over \$735,000**

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## SUDOKU

46

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

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

EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

46

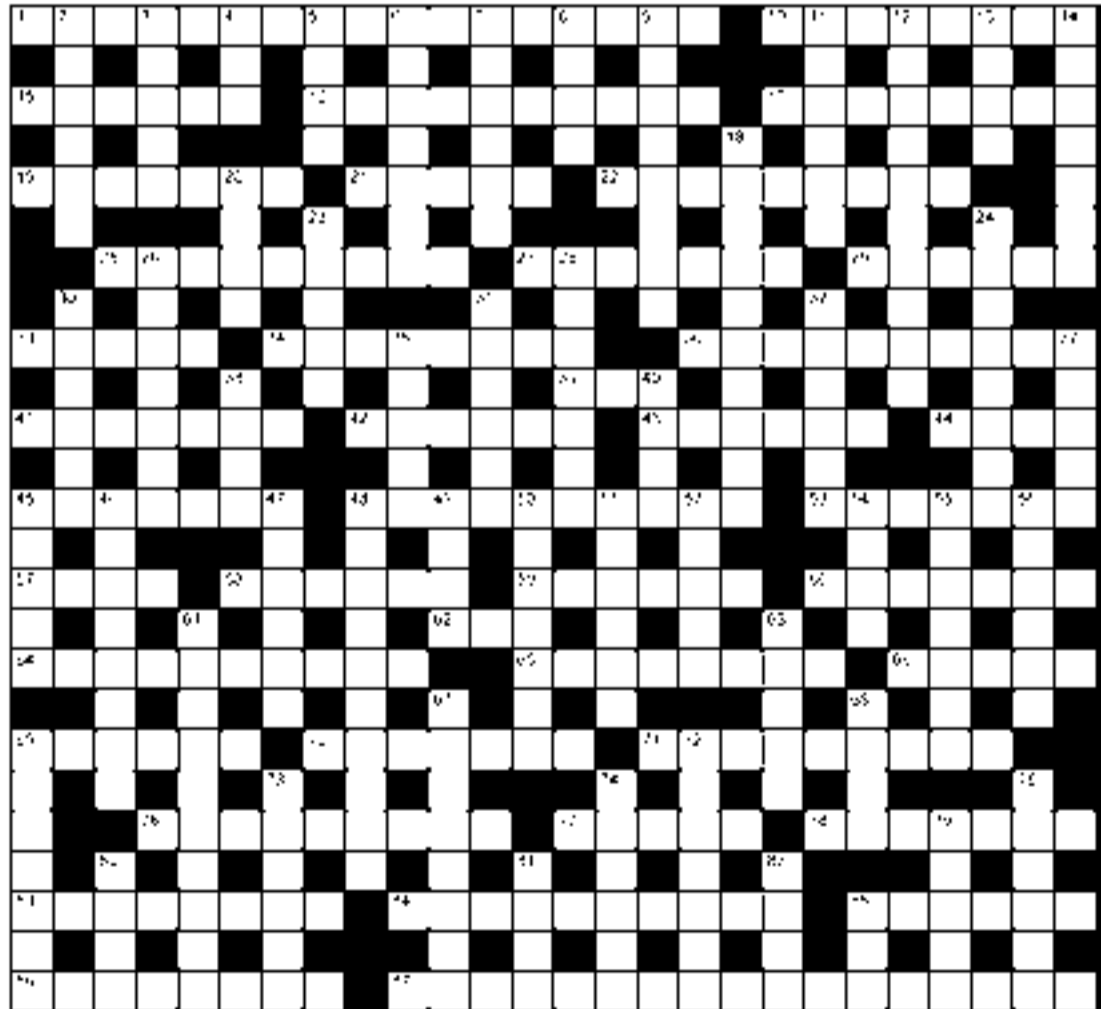
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7	3	6	1	4	5	9	8	2
9	2	1	8	7	6	4	5	3
8	4	5	3	9	2	1	7	6
2	8	9	7	3	1	5	6	4
5	7	4	9	6	8	2	3	1
6	1	3	2	5	4	7	9	8
4	9	7	6	2	3	8	1	5
3	5	8	4	1	9	6	2	7
1	6	2	5	8	7	3	4	9

## JUMBO CROSSWORD

66

- ACROSS**
- 1 Overeat greedily (4,1,3,2,7)
  - 10 Roomy (8)
  - 15 Humorous play (6)
  - 16 Smart pithy remarks (10)
  - 17 Was Ceylon (3,5)
  - 19 Use over again (7)
  - 21 Indian instrument (5)
  - 22 Harmless (9)
  - 25 Of the greatest importance or significance (9)
  - 27 Abandon (7)
  - 29 Diverse (6)
  - 33 Trapdoor (5)
  - 34 Drink (8)
  - 36 Narrow place where flow is restricted (10)
  - 39 Uncooked (3)
  - 41 Pickling liquid (7)
  - 42 Grinding teeth (6)
  - 43 Writer (6)
  - 44 Fuse together with heat (4)
  - 45 Immediate (7)
  - 48 Public vote (10)
  - 53 Origin (7)
  - 57 Manner of walking (4)
  - 58 Headgear for a horse (6)
  - 59 Muscle seizures (6)
  - 60 Ask for (7)
  - 62 Age (3)
  - 64 Race official (10)
  - 65 Free (8)
  - 66 Whisky plant (5)
- DOWN**
- 2 Idolised (6)
  - 3 Foe (5)
  - 4 Snoop (3)
  - 5 Robe (4)
  - 6 Vogue (7)
  - 7 Drink of the gods (6)
  - 8 Celebrity (4)
  - 9 Similarity (8)
  - 11 Chase after (6)
  - 12 Determined mathematically (10)
  - 13 Has (4)
  - 14 Began (7)
  - 18 The very lowest (4-6)
  - 20 Pb, a metal (4)
  - 23 Insure (5)
  - 24 Radio set (8)
  - 26 Prehistoric (7)
  - 28 Supervise (7)
  - 30 Distribute sparingly (6)
  - 31 Cope (6)
  - 32 Concentrated (6)
  - 35 Wear away (5)
- ACROSS**
- 37 Glory (5)
  - 38 Increase (4)
  - 40 Room in hospital (4)
  - 45 Cast metal block (5)
  - 46 Minor short-term fight (8)
  - 47 Large serving dish (6)
  - 48 Misleading clue (3,7)
  - 49 Take flight (4)
  - 50 Brings to mind (7)
  - 51 Close (6)
  - 52 Shoe part (5)
  - 54 Balanced (4)
  - 55 Globe-circling line (7)
  - 56 Slight (6)
  - 61 Tall building (10)
  - 63 Undress (5)
  - 67 Desire for food (8)
  - 68 Dirty fog (4)
  - 69 Laid the blame on (7)
  - 72 Relating to marriage (7)
  - 73 Wall recess (6)
  - 74 Debated (6)
  - 75 Swallow up (6)
  - 79 Snow house (5)
  - 80 Common sense (4)
  - 81 Short skirt (4)
  - 82 Optical glass (4)
  - 85 Offer (3)



**PREVIOUS SOLUTION**

**ACROSS:** 1 Label, 4 Rain cats and dogs, 14 Leave, 15 Steel, 16 Commercial, 17 Maize, 19 Gas, 20 Fiction, 21 Uncertain, 22 Sentry, 25 Carpenter, 27 Saying, 28 Triple, 33 Sanatorium, 35 Lip, 36 Stream, 37 Colt, 39 Rut, 41 Javelin, 42 Pagoda, 43 Elevation, 44 Named, 45 Reprieve, 50 Go, 51 Sycamore, 55 Sauna, 58 Directory, 59 Shorts, 60 Unusual, 61 Lot, 63 Roof, 64 Peeled, 65 Rot, 66 Guidelines, 68 Bantam, 69 Mosaic, 71 Egg-shaped, 76 Sermon, 77 Clubrooms, 79 Crowbar, 81 Map, 84 Curse, 85 Grovelling, 86 Limit, 87 Seize, 88 The Scottish Play, 89 Feast.

**DOWN:** 2 Attain, 3 Elect, 5 Atom, 6 Nominee, 7 Agreed, 8 Shift, 9 Nullify, 10 Damp, 11 Glider, 12 Tangy, 13 Message, 14 Lectern, 18 Compromise, 23 Anvil, 24 Unarmed, 26 Amateur, 27 Soprano, 29 Proviso, 30 Manage, 31 Aloof, 32 Bakery, 34 Mead, 36 Stump, 38 Tense, 40 Saga, 45 Rider, 46 Purloin, 47 Inch, 48 Violet, 49 Build, 50 Gastric, 52 Candelabra, 53 Missile, 54 Reared, 55 Symptom, 56 Booty, 57 Stag, 62 Rinse, 67 Caprice, 68 Blemish, 70 Allegro, 72 Gymslip, 73 Fourth, 74 Boxers, 75 Caries, 76 Spoil, 78 Boost, 80 Write, 82 News, 83 Inca.



# SPORTS



HPC rowers: Back: Coach Jeremy Cryer, left, Lucas Dowty, Ethan Claridge, Fraser Thompson, Danny Sayer, Matthew Simpson, coach Franklin Hamilton. Front: Maggie Morrison, Rhian Ball, Rebecca Adams.

## Maadi Cup success for HPC

The Hauraki Plains College rowing team competed successfully at the Maadi Cup in Twizel recently, with the girls under-18 double sculls coming claiming bronze and the coxed quadruple sculls coming in fourth place.

Eight Hauraki rowers competed at the New Zealand Secondary Schools Rowing Regatta from March 28 to April 2, with stiff competition from thousands of rowers from secondary schools around the country.

The Hauraki team included Maggie Morrison, Rebecca Adams, Rhian Ball, Lucas Dowty, Ethan Claridge, Fraser Thompson, Danny Sayer and Matthew Simpson.

Team member Maggie Morrison said this year's Maadi Cup was very successful considering the interrupted season for Hauraki rowers.

"We are so thankful for the Maadi Cup being able to still be held as previous regattas throughout the season have been cancelled because of Covid-19," she said.

"We all learnt so much from the experi-

ence, from learning the rules complying with Covid-19 and having our own zone and racing at a different venue."

Maggie said the team would like to thank Amanda Sayer, Franklin Hamilton and Jeremy Cryer for their support and encouragement throughout the week. "We would also like to say a big thank you to all our sponsors that helped get the team down to Twizel.

"Overall it was an amazing experience and everyone came home with something new they had learned."

RESULTS: Maggie Morrison, Rebecca Adams, Girls U18 Double Sculls, 3rd; Lucas Dowty, Ethan Claridge, Fraser Thompson, Matthew Simpson, Rhian Ball, Boys U18 Coxed Quadruple Sculls, 4th; Lucas Dowty, Ethan Claridge, Boys U17 Coxless Pair, 6th; Lucas Dowty, Ethan Claridge, Boys U17 Double Sculls, 10th; Maggie Morrison, Girls U18 Single Scull, 7th; Rebecca Adams, Girls U18 Single Scull, 12th; Fraser Thompson, Boys U18 Single Scull, 12th; Matthew Simpson, Boys U16 Single Scull, 11th; Matthew Simpson, Danny Sayer, Boys U16 Double Sculls, 11th.



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**St John - local people serving the needs of our community.**

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Viv Leonard says fairness is the key to Arkwrights' success.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

## Fair service at Arkwrights

Arkwrights Antiques on Paeroa's main street sells many antiques from Crown Lynn to "very popular" gold and silver jewellery.

Viv Leonard, who has owned the shop for nearly 30 years, said Arkwrights' service was about being fair.

"As you give you receive, I was taught that as a child... and if I was selling something I'd want the best price," she said.

"It's a wonderful trade to be in because recycling is something I am really passionate about. Trading antiques is just

glorified recycling.

"People know when they don't want their stuff to ring me... and get a price, and it goes from there."

Viv said the public loved Arkwrights and always returned to see what was new.

"If it weren't for the public coming in and supporting us we wouldn't be here... and everyone knows Paeroa's the antique town of New Zealand," she said.

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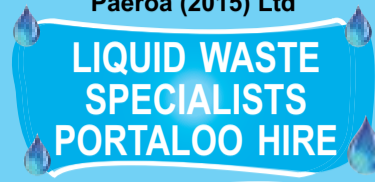
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## CLASSIFIEDS

### Death Notice

**Ryan, Gina.**  
7-5-1923 to 9-4-2022  
Peacefully at Kenwyn Home, Te Aroha.  
We say 'Arrivederci' to our beautiful Nona who has charmed and enriched our lives.  
We are so grateful for all that she has taught us, and the love she shared so freely.  
You can now reunite with your darling husband Ted, and daughter Margaret.  
We will make you proud Nona, because you will live through us, always in our hearts.  
Thank you to the staff at Kenwyn Home and Thames Hospital, who all filled Nona's days with so much care and love.  
'Addio Orsa Bellissima Angelo'  
Raymond and Celeste,  
Ben and Gabriella,  
Isaac and Aisha.

### Public Notice

#### ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATION PARADES AND SERVICES MONDAY 25 APRIL, 2022



Hauraki District Council organised Parades and Civic Commemoration Services at the Ngatea, Waihi and Paeroa Memorial Halls will not be going ahead this year.

Mayor Toby Adams says that while it was a difficult decision to make, especially in light of the changes to the Red Traffic Light setting recently, he is confident it is the right one.

"We start planning these events well in advance and when the call was made to cancel, it was because the guidelines in place were too tight. Now, even with the easing of restrictions, we're conscious of the importance of keeping the vulnerable in our community safe, given the current spread of Covid in the Waikato."

Despite the cancellation of the Civic Services, there are several other ANZAC services and parades being run throughout the district.

#### Paeroa

6 am - RSA Dawn service, Cenotaph, Primrose Hill

#### Waihi

6am - RSA Dawn service, Waihi RSA memorial area behind club, followed by

8am - RSA Wreath laying, Waihi Cemetery

9am - Waihi Heritage Vision and Tunnelling Company Descendants - Tunnellers Memorial Gilmour Reserve, Waihi

11am - RSA Memorial service, RSA Clubrooms, Waihi

#### Ngatea

11am - RSA Parade and Memorial Service - RSA Clubrooms, Ngatea. Parade to proceed from the Hockey Turf through the domain to the RSA clubrooms. Participants to be at the Hockey Turf before 10.45am

#### Kaihere/Patetonga

9am - Service at Kaihere Hall

#### Kerepehi

5.30am - Dawn service and parade, Kerepehi War Memorial Hall

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# Future looks bright for major events

By GORDON PREECE

Organisers of popular local events were “very happy” to learn unlimited crowd numbers could attend their events after a relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions.

New Zealand moved to Orange traffic light setting on April 14, which means there are no limits for gatherings, though masks still need to be worn.

Beach Hop and Hootnanny Country Rock Festival organiser Noddy Watts told *The Profile* he was very happy with the government’s decision and as long as New Zealand wasn’t back in the red setting by November, Beach Hop could rev up again.

“Because Beach Hop was held in a public space like the main street of Whangamatā or Waihi or Thames, we couldn’t restrict entry,” he said.

“It was only those who’ve been vaccinated [who could enter] and we weren’t comfortable with doing that with a community event, so traffic light systems when they were introduced last year weren’t going to work for Beach Hop.”

“So we’re happy now that the structure [the government] has got out is that we no longer have to do that... and that was the best news which is great because it’s for the community, we don’t want to be the vaccine police.”

Noddy said the inaugural Hootnanny Country Rock Festival was also “still on the cards” after the three day event set to



Organisers hope major events like Steampunk and Beach Hop, right, may get off the ground later this year.

File Photos: VALLEY PROFILE

rock Thames Racecourse in February was cancelled when New Zealand shifted to the red setting on January 23.

“We had to go through the cancellation process after all our hard work but it is what it is and the safety of the community comes first,” Noddy said.

“We were on target for where we wanted to be in terms of ticket sales and we were confident we’d have 8000 to 10,000 people there.

“It was a huge task to go through the cancellation, every ticket holder got a refund, we were lucky enough to receive some financial support from one of the government agencies, so people got paid, which was great.”

Noddy said Hootnanny could take place in February next year.

“We’re very passionate about [Hootnanny]... and all the artists have been fantastic and all the traders that had been booked all

want to do it... but we just have to take a breath and re-evaluate things,” he said.

“There were some things we could change anyway that we were maybe too committed to for this year so maybe we can tweak a few things, but we’re not going to commit to [Hootnanny] just yet.”

Steampunk The Thames Circuspunk celebration is now set for November after it was post-

poned due to Covid-19 restrictions. Committee member Karen Woodhall said while they preferred the event to be held in the green traffic light setting, there was a good chance they would return to a “post-Covid situation” in seven months.

“The last time we had a full [Steampunk] festival was in November, 2019, so the town is ready for this one... it’ll be just what businesses, accommodation providers and the town needs once we get over this hump.”

Karen said because of this year’s committee change, there would be old favourites that were always popular, like the parade.

“Our parade is massive... and we just want it to be fun and bright and for people to participate and come out after hibernation and be visually beautiful because the parade has that reputation,” she said.

“Also a big thing with our parade day is the day trippers, because we have half of New Zealand’s population, being Auckland, Hamilton and Tauranga within an easy drive so... they often come and spend the whole day in Thames.”



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