

Proposed bus routes include Waihī to Paeroa, Thames to Hamilton, Coromandel to Thames

Commuters could catch a bus between Hauraki and Thames-Coromandel towns as early as January next year if proposed new bus services get the green light. **GORDON PREECE reports**



The proposed new bus routes

Image: SUPPLIED/WRC

Waikato Regional Council have opened public consultation for proposed new bus services to connect towns in the Thames-Coromandel and Hauraki districts.

A council report said further community consultation would be required for exact routes, bus stop locations and operating times of the service, which could begin in

January, 2023. However, a council report showed possible routes included a return service every two-hours from Waihī to Paeroa and morning and afternoon services between Thames and

Te Aroha, with connections to Hamilton. It may also include connections for commuters from Ngātea and Paeroa into Thames, and routes from Thames to Coromandel, Whitianga, Tairua and Whangamatā.

The buses are expected to be the same size as the Thames Connector bus, and fares may cost as little as \$5, with seniors holding a Su-perGold Card travelling for free. The proposed bus services will cost

The proposed bus services will cost \$163,000 in the 2022-23 year if council can secure 51 per cent of the cost from Waka Ko-tahi NZ Transport Agency (NZTA). The cost of the service will be funded through a targeted rate for Thames-Coro-mandel and Haureki residents.

mandel and Hauraki residents. Coromandel MP Scott Simpson said his electorate was "sadly lacking" in public transport and the proposed bus service was a start but it was late and he suspected it was

going to be costly. "I'm always disappointed when I hear gov-ernment representatives talking about how they want to have more people using public transport and they want to have fewer cars on the road," he said. "When I look around the Coromandel elec-

torate, the opportunity to ride on trains or use public transport is almost non-existent." Thames-Coromandel councillor Denis

Tegg told *The Profile* there was a "real appe-tite" for more public transport.

"Frankly, for people in outlying towns or even in Thames itself getting from Coroman-del to Thames or the East Coast to Thames, public transport is just not possible," he said. 'So all that connectivity and social connec-

tion just doesn't happen. "Then there's the added problem with peo-

ple wanting to get to Hamilton - it's almost impossible to do that using [current] public transport.

The consultation also includes the public having their say on whether the proposed bus services are paid for directly through regional council instead of district coun-cil rates. This would mean district councils would no longer be responsible for raising public transport funds and passing them on to regional council.

Mr Tegg called this current process "clum-sy" and "cumbersome". "You're basically having a lot of confu-sion in the public as to who's responsible, so there's quite a strong support to change that model," he said.

The other thing to emphasise is that if the regional council took it over, the rating that the district council imposes would end, so it's not as if the ratepayers get it twice.

If the rating changes were enacted follow-ing public consultation, the rating for new public transport services in Thames-Coro-mandel and Hauraki districts would be col-lected by regional council from July 1.

The proposal is part of Waikato Regional Council's amendment to its 2021-2031 Long Term Plan. The public can have their say until April 30 before council hold hearings and deliberations on the amendment on May 23 and make their final decision on June 20. **DETAILS: A webinar will be held at 6pm on April**

7 to give residents and ratepayers with more detailed information about the proposals and an opportunity to ask questions. To register for the webinar and make an online submission, visit: waikatoregion.govt.nz/yourvoicematters.



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Hauraki Anzac parades canned

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

Anzac Day civic parades around the Hauraki have been cancelled to mitigate the spread of Covid-19, despite there no longer being limits on numbers of people for outdoor events.

Hauraki's public commemora-tion parades have ordinarily been held in Paeroa, Waihī, Ngatea, and Kaihere/Patetonga every

year on Anzac Day, April 25. However, Hauraki District Council made the "difficult" decision to cancel its civic parade events in light of the Omicron outbreak in New Zealand.

Dawn services, and other ser-vices run by each town's respective RSAs, will be able to continue under each RSA's judgement

The Thames civic parade will be held as usual in Pollen St at 9:45am, followed by a 10am service

Hauraki district Mayor Toby Adams 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.

However, case numbers in the Hauraki, which sat at 285 active cases on Sunday, were a factor that led to the decision to cancel.

We made the call quite early on and contended with: have we got enough time to get some road closures in place? But nothing has really changed as far as a health perspective... the health risk is still too great," Mayor Adams said.



There will be no Anzac parades in Hauraki this year.

Waihī RSA president Ellen Henderson believed the council had made the decision to cancel its civic parades too early, and possibly should have waited another four weeks.

she invited people to attend the Waihī RSA's service at 11am on April 25, where they would be having a small parade around the building, followed by lunch.

In a report presented to coun-cil at its meeting on March 30, around \$11,908 is spent on traffic management costs on Anzac Day - based on last year's services and parades throughout the district.

Around \$4660 is also spent on setting up town halls, band ser-

ices, advertising, and wreaths. With that in mind, councillors decided to donate \$1500 to the three RSA Poppy Day Appeals in the district - at Hauraki Plains, Paeroa, and Waihī.

They also voted to allocate up to \$1500 to work with actor Mark Wright on a video commemoration in lieu of the cancelled ser-

The video will include writing and recording a series of Anzac-related monologues, and work-ing with the local RSAs to record videos from returned servicemen and other members

The video would be for use on council's online platforms, and be

File Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

funded through existing budgets. Last year's civic parades were able to run as planned, but when Covid-19 first arrived in New Zealand in March, 2020, all Anzac Day services around the country were cancelled. The national Poppy Day appeal was also postponed for the first time since 1922

This led to people "standing at dawn" in their homes or at the end of their driveways - an act Mayor Adams said was "one of the most memorable services we've had"





Signatures amassed in support of widow

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

Good news could be just around the corner for Carrie Geng, who feared deportation following her husband's tragic death in February.

Now, progress has been made to grant a residency, though by Monday morning, it hadn't been made official, Carrie told *The Profile*.

Carrie, 30, and her husband Henry Lin were both injured when their car crashed into a tree along Puketaha Rd, east of Hamilton, in February.

Henry subsequently died from his injuries, aged only 31.

Carrie is originally from northern China, but has lived in New Zealand for eight years.

Last week, she told *The Profile* her partnership visa was set to expire this month, and that her residency application was in its "final few steps when Henry was taken".

That meant her New Zealand residency application was suddenly "in limbo".

Immigration New Zealand's general manager border and visa operations Nicola Hogg told *The Profile* that the agency empathises with the stress caused by the loss of a loved one.

"Unfortunately, in these circumstances when the principal applicant passes, and there's a



Carrie Geng with the 700-plus signatures received for a petition asking Immigration New Zealand to keep her in the country. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

residence application open, the secondary applicant is advised that they will need to reapply as the principal applicant.

"If the secondary applicant was dependent on the principal applicant for their right to remain temporarily in New Zealand, they are then given an opportunity to consider what changes to their visa status they will need to make to become eligible as a principal applicant."

Nicola said in the past when such situations have occurred, the application may be referred to a delegated decision maker who may decide to grant

r visa status they ke to become eliipal applicant." hte past when s have occurred. changes. "Immigration New Zealand works hard to be as facilitative as possible in these types of difficult circumstances." she said.

ficult circumstances," she said. Carrie said an official residency visa hadn't been granted as of Monday morning, but she

residence or temporary status

⁶⁶I can't make a big contribution to the whole country, but I've contributed to this local community. That's what I can do, and I try my best."

- Carrie Geng

is optimistic about the outcome. In the meantime, more than 700 people have signed a petition asking for Carrie to be able to stay in the country.

Signatures had been obtained from Te Aroha, Waihī, as well as the local community.

"All the people have shown their support, shown a big hug to me, and support me being here. Every day, they come in and buy something small and tell me it's good to have me back," she said.

"I can't make a big contribution to the whole country, but I've contributed to this local community. That's what I can do, and I try my best."

Carrie started work at Coin Save Paeroa six years ago, after studying business in Auckland.

It was in the city where she and Henry wed little more than two years ago at Settlers Country Manor.





Waihī 'dream team' supports Ukraine

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

unds raised from a school Funds raised from a second bake sale will be used to help those in need over in Ukraine during Russia's invasion of the country.

College Waihī students raised more than \$1460 through a school mufti day and lunchtime bake sale, with the funds being sent to Unicef, which will then distribute the money to those in need in Ukraine.

College student and service leader Divyash Swamy told *The Profile* that "due to the unfortunate and tragic events" that were happening in Ukraine, a fundraiser would be a good way for the school to contribute some assistance.

He also found it beneficial to raise awareness about what was happening around the world.

"People might know what's going on but maybe not know why it's happening, so to raise awareness while fundraising made it more worthwhile in my opinion."

Students brought in a gold coin donation for mufti, as well as any home baking for the bake sale. On offer were a range of cupcakes, cookies, and slices.

'I'm super proud of what Waihī College has accom-



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lln Brief

AWARD NOMS CLOSING Volunteering Waikato will host the annual Volunteer Excellence Awards in June. Non-profit organisations within the Waikato region are encouraged to nominate an outstanding volunteer, or an exceptional volunteer team. Nominations are now open, and will be closing on April 8. The results will be announced during National Volunteer Week (June 19-25). Enter at www. volunteeringwaikato.org.nz.

RATES AND ANNUAL PLAN

Consultation on the proposals in Thames-Coromandel District Council's draft Annual Plan for the coming financial year (2022/23) runs until Monday. April 11. Residents can have their say on the proposed average rates increase of 8.3 per cent at www.tcdc.govt.nz/ annualplan2022.

FOOD WASTE SURVEY

The Thames-Coromandel Food Waste Group are encouraging residents to voice their opinions as Thames-Coromandel District Council explores options to initiate a household organics kerbside collection service to minimise waste to landfill. A survey has been made to gauge whether the community would prefer a household kerbside organic waste collection (food waste and green waste combined) or a food waste collection only. The survey is available at: www.surveymonkey.com/r/ TCDCorganicwastecollection and is open until April 12.

Waihī College students raised more than \$1460 for Ukraine aid through a school mufti day and lunchtime bake sale.
Photo: SUPPLIED should always come from your

plished.

'I could not have done it without Wendy Shave, Waihī College's arts and services coordinator, and the other student leaders here, they were the absolute dream team," Divyash said.

"As for future goals, my main

one would be to just get in behind students and encourage them to give everything their all and to help raise awareness about any other events we're holding in the school such as Pink Shirt Day, Daffodil Day, talent shows, and more.

"I believe that acts of service

"And by keeping this in your mindset, I'm sure that people will have all the reasons to keep on helping others.'

heart," he said.



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One year on and 90 tonnes saved

One year has passed since the Hauraki Repair and Reuse Centre opened its doors and the site has grown threefold, as staff and volunteers continue to save good stuff from being sent to landfill.

The centre, located on Grey St in Paeroa, is the first of its kind in the Hauraki. It is a hub for reuse - accepting unwanted items that still have life in them, and matching them with new homes or a new purpose.

Whether it be furniture, clothing or renova-tion materials, there is lots to be inspired by. On Saturdays, Mike Harding is in the repair workshop specialising in metalwork and tool sharpening. Upstairs, Donna Hone is in the sewing room every second and fourth Saturday teaching people to sew and

upcycle clothing. Since its inception in 2021, it has saved 90 tonnes of resources from going into land-fill. The centre has a team of six paid staff (3 FTE) and many more volunteers, and site manager Alli Mitchell said people had been

"Everybody wants to be here; I have to tell the staff to go home," she said. "The volun-teers are also so dedicated and the people who drop stuff off or buy here... if it wasn't

for them, we wouldn't have anything to sell or to donate to other community groups.

"It's been awesome how everyone's got on board like Longridge Country Estate. We have helped them divert almost a tonne of reusable materials from the skip in just a few months

"Waihi Motors fix weed eaters and mowers for us - they get parts, we get reliable machinery to sell. It's a win for the environment, businesses and community.

"Mentors Seagull Centre, Envision and Xtreme Zero Waste have also provided hands-on help and invaluable advice.

Staff member Alison Collings, previously a Zero Waste educator, oversees the onsite Terracycle recycling programme and soft plastics - recyclables that aren't collected at the kerbside. E-waste is also collected and sent to resource recovery agents. The centre is growing and has eyes on fu-

ture projects, such as food waste diversion and repair workshops.

If anyone has a specialty skill, or is into repairing or repurposing, they can contact the centre at hrrcmanager@gmail.com or head down to 1 Grey St this week, April 7-10, to celebrate its first year of business.

Shop owner chases thief down street

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

The owner of a Crown Lynn store in Thames' main street handed out her own form of justice after catching a

woman stealing from her. Monica Grafton, who owns the Crown Lynn and More Store in Grahamstown, chased the sticky-fingered thief down the street and scolded her for attempting to steal a stash of DVDs from the front entrance of the store.

The confrontation occurred on March 12 during the Sat-urday morning markets, when Monica's husband Andy Lomax watched the woman hide DVDs in her handbag. "We have suspected her for

while," Monica told The Profile.

"My husband with his market stall has seen her a couple of times, and she's come in and bought something and left. He came to me once and said: 'Did she buy something?' and I said: Yeah, she bought some DVDs and he was sure he saw her put a handful in her bag.

"On Saturday [March 12] he saw her again and watched her and actually saw her do it, and she turned to walk away with them. He shoulder tapped her and asked if she was going to pay for them, and she panicked and put them back," she said.

"I was inside, so he came in and said: 'I've seen her, she's just done it' and I said: 'Where is she?'"



Monica Grafton dished out her own form of justice to a woman who was caught trying to steal from her.

Monica then "chased her up the street and told her what I thought about things".

"I did say a couple of choice things to her, and I said I'm not happy about her stealing and basically to not come back, and I said it all very loudly with some extra words in there so that various shopkeepers and that various shopkeepers and market stallholders could hear me," she said.

"It was pretty much in the middle of the street so I prob-ably embarrassed myself more than I embarrassed her Monica has owned the vin-tage store for three years, and

said this was the first instance of brazen theft she and Andy have witnessed.

After the incident, which Monica chose not to report to Police, the woman did ap-

proach her to apologise, but Monica fears the public sham-ing has done little to deter her from stealing again

"It's a real struggle right now, and it's only items worth a couple of dollars, but that's only from me. What's she taking from the inside of other people's places? We're all doing it real tough at the minute and that's just not something else

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

you want to deal with." According to a survey run by the Thames Business Association released in March, more than 52 per cent of businesses have experienced an increase in crime in the past two years while 32 per cent said they had been a victim of crime.



We need to talk Me kõrero ngātahi tātou



To make sure our community gets the full picture, we've got a flyer coming out to each ratepayer in the next week or so. Keep a look out for it in your post box or in your email inbox.

We're proposing some key changes for 2022/23

We're asking for your feedback on the following issues:

- 1. The proposed amendments to the budget and work programme for the 2022/23 year (the proposed annual plan).
- The rating impacts of the 2. proposed 2022/23 budget and work programme for the 2022/23 year.
- 3. The proposed changes to the way we rate annual charges – to SUIP (separately used or inhabited parts) and resulting minor changes to our revenue and financing policy.
- 4. Changes to our rates remission policies.
- The rating impacts of the 5. proposed change to SUIP.

Changes to rating annual charges (SUIPs)

We've signalled this for a while, but now is the time to talk about SUIPs

What's a SUIP, you ask? Great question! It 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. What we're proposing to change

Some of our rates are based on a set amount per property (called an 'annual charge'). We're proposing to charge our annual charge rates per SUIP, rather than charging per property. This change doesn't affect the total amount of rates that

Council collects, it is just a different way of 'slicing the pie'. For 94% of properties, this change means they will pay less, while the 6% of properties with multiple SUIP's will pay more. As things stand at the moment,

20 houses on separate sections pay 20 annual charges, while 20 dwellings in a retirement village only pay one between them, despite that retirement village being occupied by many individual households. We consider it's fair and equitable to charge the annual charges based on SUIPs.

Our proposal does not change the way capital value or land value rates are charged. These would continue to be charged on the value of the property.

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-draftannual-plan/ or call into one of the Council offices or libraries.

Photos: GORDON PREEC

Rates to rise while committee numbers drop

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

pposition to a district Ocouncil's decision to re-duce the membership of one of its committees was labelled a potential "conspiracy theory" around the table last week.

It followed Hauraki District Council floating an average non-water rates increase of 3.95 per cent for 2022-23.

At its March 30 meeting, present councillors, bar two, voted to reduce the membership of its Manaaki Toiora Committee to encompass Mayor Toby Adams and five councillors.

The councillors appointed to the committee were selected as Waihī ward councillor Anne Marie Spicer as chair; Plains ward councillor Ross Harris as deputy chair; Waihī ward councillor Paul Anderson; and Paeroa ward councillors Rino Wilkinson and Jo Tilsley.

Plains ward councillor Ray Broad, and Waihī ward councillor Brian Gentil voted against the change, voicing concerns over the unbalanced representation of elected members, and potential bias leading up to the local body elections in October.

Previously, the Manaaki Toiora Committee was made up of all elected members. Its primary role is to work alongside communities and key stakeholders to take action that positively influences the social, cultural, and economic wellbeing of residents.

The timing and process behind the committee changes raised questions for Cr Gentil, who noted that, with elections six months away, selection on to Manaaki Toiora could have the potential to raise one's public profile; however, Mavor Adams proclaimed there was "no secret squirrel stuff happening in this council".

Cr Ross Harris also said suggesting selection on to the committee was a "political rort to gain votes" was "totally out of order".

'Vote Day' for local body elections will be on October 8 this year, with Mayor Adams already expressing his desire to run for the district's top job for a second term.

Candidate nominations open

from July 15 until August 12. Meanwhile, council has re-leased its draft annual plan for 2022-23.

In it, council is forecasting a non-water rates increase of 3.95 per cent, and for water, an average increase of 7.5 per cent.

However, it is also consulting on the possible introduction of Separately Used and Inhabited Parts (SUIPs). According to Mayor Adams, SUIPs are 'separately used or inhabited parts' of a rating unit. That is, for example, retirement villages, or additional houses on farming or lifestyle properties. It would mean that households would pay their "fair share" of the cost of contributing to services.

Consultation closes on May 2, and council will consider the final annual plan in June for adoption to come into effect on July 1.

Also at the meeting was a unanimous decision to grant \$20,000 from the Plains Ward Community Recreational Facilities Development Fund to the Kerepēhi Bowls and Sports Club for their project to extend the clubrooms to enable it to be better used as a community hub and Civil Defence headquarters.

Council also agreed to grant a five-year interest free loan of \$20,000.

Journalism



Twenty-seven current and former members attended the celebrations.

50 years of crafting Former and current

members of Creative Fibre Thames celebrated the group's 50th anniversary with a high tea and displays of their crafts at St James Church on March 28. Reporter **GORDON PREECE** headed along for a yarn.

Pauline Belworthy

Mary Speedy and Meike Schmidt-Meiburg.







Members, Socheat Fallas, left, Margaret Morritt and Katherine Sangster.







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Teacher, counsellor, confidante for 29 years

A kindergarten teacher who has consoled, danced, and sung with hundreds of Paeroa children over the course of 29 straight years has officially hung up her hat.

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

Glenys McKain's last day teaching at Central Kids Paeroa was on Tuesday. Now she hopes she doesn't find herself staring at the fridge, wondering what to do with her days.

Glenys, who lives in Te Aroha, actually started teaching at Central Kids in 1978, after graduating from teachers college in Hamilton.

She worked there for little more than two years before she left Paeroa to teach in Whakatāne.

"I had planned on travelling overseas after two years... but I just enjoyed it so much that overseas never happened, and I continued teaching," she told *The Profile*.

She returned to Central Kids, on the corner of Arney and Wood Sts, 29 years ago, and has stayed ever since.

"I did either want to work with children, or be a vet -



Glenys McKain has resigned from her post at Central Kids Paeroa after 29 years.

children or animals - and what do they say? Never work with children or animals?" she joked.

"But it's what I do, it's who I am, and coming back to a place where you first started... those children have now started turning 49." Glenys has taught second generation families, and said the children were a "joy" to be around.

"There's no judgement with children, and they say such beautiful things and are such curious, creative people. What other job can you come to where you can have a laugh, you can dance, you can sing, you can run? You can be who you want to be."

She was part of a teacher exchange that took her abroad to South Korea for four weeks,

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

and, in 2010, she was a member of the Central Kids Paeroa team to win five awards from the organisation - with Glenys taking home the supreme award.

Throughout her tenure, she has stepped into the roles of nurse, counsellor, and confidante, and said it would take a bit of adjusting to adapt to life outside of the kindy.

"I'm really proud of what we've achieved here at Paeroa... one person doesn't make a place on their own, so I will miss that camaraderie.

"I've kind of taken a leap of faith," she said.

"I just came to the realisation that it was important to have some 'me time', to catch my breath, and spend time with my mum who is elderly.

"There are going to be days when I'm like: what am I going to do with myself? But I don't know, because I've never had this opportunity."

Although Ĝlenys has resigned from her position at Central Kids, she still has a spot of relief teaching up her sleeve. "I'm going to be real emotional, but I just know it's the right thing for me to do.

"It's a cliche, but I want to leave knowing I've given it everything I've got."





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Rotary builds shelters for Rail Trail

By GORDON PREECE

Rotary's new Hauraki Rail Trail shelters will soon provide a place for riders to rest on their journey.

The 16 new railway stationdesigned shelters are a centennial project by five Rotary Clubs, including Thames, Paeroa, Te Aroha, Morrinsville and Matamata, and will include long bench seats, station names and interpretations of community stories.

The shelters will be located every 10km on the full length of the 197km trail.

Rotary Thames president

Warren Sly said he came up with the idea to build the shelters in 2020 after riding the trail in 2019.

"I noticed there was no shelter and thought it would be a worthwhile project for Rotary to look at providing some shelters. So I put a proposal together and put it to the Hauraki Rail Trail Charitable Trust, and they were very happy with the concept," he said. "We've tried to make the pro-

"We've tried to make the project as inclusive as possible. Iwi are looking at decorating the shelters, gardening groups are looking at planting natives around the shelters, and we're ⁶⁶There's been a lot of feedback over the years for a need for shelter... Rotary came to us with a solution." - Diane Drummond

approaching primary schools to adopt a shelter."

Hauraki Rail Trail Charitable Trust chief executive Diane Drummond said she was "absolutely thrilled" with Rotary's community partnership for the shelters.

"There's been a lot of feedback over the years for a need for shelter," she said.

"It's a long trail and we have long, hot summers... and [Rotary] came to us with a solution, which is just what this trail is all about, it's all about community.

"We worked with [Rotary] to actually look at something that was trail wise and then the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) came in behind them and supported that.

"We've currently raised \$185,000 and are looking for

additional funding to complete them all but we're certainly well on the way."

Rotary Thames raised around \$35,000 for the project. Diane said Rotary began

Diane said Rotary began building the shelters 18 months ago and after some delays, they erected the first one six weeks ago at Miranda on the trail's Kaiaua to Thames section.

"All going well we're on target to have the first eight done probably by the end of June," she said.

"[Rider] numbers are growing... and trails throughout New Zealand are absolutely booming."

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OR

Rural Life Farmers could be affected by govt water proposals

any small water suppliers in the Mregion will be caught up in the proposed changes to standards of drinking water, the Waikato Regional Council says.

In its submission on the proposed amendments to the National Environmental Standards for Sources of Human Drinking Water (NES-DW) and the Improving the Protection of Drinking-Water sources discussion document, the council has asked the government to engage with communities and suppliers, so they are fully aware of compliance requirements.

At a recent council strategy and policy meeting, there was robust conversation around what the proposed amendments would mean for small water suppliers, including farmers, bach owners and those on small community supplies.

The amendments seek to correct gaps in the activities that pose risk to source water and provide adequate protection to water supplies serving less than 500 people, therefore there will be more registered "water suppliers" under the NĒS-DW.

The proposals will also require regional councils to map the default source water risk management areas (SWRMA) for all registered drinking water supplies in their region.

Strategy and policy chair Pamela Storey said the committee approved of the proposed amendments in principle, however more information was needed, and that information also had to be shared with those impacted.

'We want safe drinking water for everyone – we feel very strongly about the need to provide for the health and wellbeing of our communities," Cr Storey said.

"But we're concerned about how this will work in practice. There are many suppliers who will be caught up in this. Many farms in this region supply water to farmhouses, and that means they will need to treat those supplies and follow the standards.

"We don't want this to be over-complicated for our rural communities or costs to be too prohibitive, otherwise we will see wholesale non-compliance of a system that is set up to fail.'

As with all the council's recent submissions to the government, it was noted that sufficient resourcing needed to be provided by central government to ensure successful implementation and uptake.

'There will be a cost to the council to map the water areas and amend plans to align with the proposed amendments. And this cost is inevitably handed down to our ratepayers," Cr Storey said.

We want more tools in the toolkit to identify what constitutes a water supplier, and central government needs to connect closely with communities on this.



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Earthquakes shake district New Pātaka Kai at Thames kura



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

1930

Ashort, sharp earth-quake shock was felt in Thames, rattling windows and crockery and leaving people sit-ting at their lunch tables wondering what had happened.

It was so long since anything of the sort was felt in the area that most people did not recognise it as a quake. The shock was felt at Coromandel, Paeroa, Mercury Bay, and Waihī and all over the Plains, but no damage was reported. The novelty soon wore off though as the shakes kept coming over the following days.

Some were slight and others fairly severe, setting electric lights swinging. At Thames, seven tremors were felt over a fortnight.

A very fine specimen of Māori workmanship was found by Mr West, of Paeroa, who unearthed a beautiful old mere (weapon) while ploughing on George Bu-chanan's farm at Komata, seven miles from Paeroa. The mere was practically without a blemish, and was made of polished blue stone. The handle was uniquely



Te Puru shop and garage.

carved and the edges of the blade were wonderfully sharp and well preserved. The mere was put on display at Paeroa.

A new scheme for the Mi-randa to Waitakaruru road was outlined by the Hauraki Plains County Council. Originally it had been proposed to place nine inches of metal on the road at an estimated cost of £3000, two-thirds of which was to be found by the Public Works Department and $\pounds 1000$ by the settlers. This was too big a hurdle for the settlers, who could not find the money and the road had been left in a practically impassable state. The new proposal utilised country rock, known to the resi-dents as 'rotten rock,' as a foun-dation, which would raise the road above high water mark. On top of this would be a thick coating of shell deposits of which there was abundance.

This would make a fair road with light maintenance and give access from Miranda for settlers all the year round and allow

cream supplies to be brought to the Waitakaruru factory instead of the long distance to Pokeno.

When two stores at Te Puru were broken into, eight pounds in money and a quantity of cigarettes were stolen from Hill's store, while from Galloway's store, one pound and some ciga-

rettes were taken. Members of the Hill family heard sounds about 1am and investigated, but found nothing amiss. After returning to bed, however, they heard a car drive away and in the morning found that the store had been burgled.

A vacant farmstead at Owharoa caught the eye of a settler who, after an inspection, deter-mined to buy it. This necessitated a visit to Auckland to finalise details. On his return he found that the house had had its entire corrugated iron roof removed. He promptly contacted the police at Waikino who discovered plainly visible tyre marks and deduced that a motor lorry had been used to take the iron away.

Anew Pātaka Kai at Te Kura o Te Kauaeranga Thames South School aims to provide food for whānau in times of need.

Te Hapori Pātaka Kai is located at the front of the kura on Rolleston St and is available for all community members to access and support if they have excess fruit and vegetables or are in a position to donate nonperishable items, Whaea Janna Brewster said.

The free food pantry had its official opening on March 18, where it was blessed by kaumātua Wati Ngamane.

"Te Kura o Te Kauaeranga Thames South School is proud to be associated with and supported by some wonderful community-minded people who have established a pātaka kai,

Whaea Brewster said. "The aim is to enable whānau to share and access kai in times

of need. The creation of the Pātaka has been a team effort with many members helping out where and when needed."

She said the pātaka kai would not have been possible without the \$3110 raised from the out the \$3110 raised from the school's fundraising Givealittle page, nor without the help of key players. "A special mention to Malcolm Taylor, architect; builders Gail and Glen Loane; Johnny Shaw and Darren Merchant; Taylor and Andrew Con-naughton Roofing; Pātaka committee members for your hard work; Rika Turoa for his work alongside Andre Barlow on the design and building of the pou using totara from the kura.

"Thank you also to the local businesses for your support,' she said.

"This Pātaka is for the community of Thames and we wel-come you to give what you can and take what you need.



The Pātaka Kai kaimahi (committee) at the launch event last month.





Goldfield School's new van features the Swamp Foxes logo in appreciation of their support. Photo: GORDON PREECE New van for Goldfields School

BV GORDON PREECE

Paeroa's Goldfields School has a new set of wheels thanks to a \$30,000 donation by Thames Valley Rugby Union. Principal Cameron McKenzie

said the modified van, which carries seven students including two in wheelchairs, was "great" and would be "very important" for Goldfields.

There are 85 students all with different learning or physical disabilities but the students with physical disabilities are the ones who have the most trouble ac-cessing the community, so that's why the vans are so important.

We take the students out on community visits, we take them to supermarkets, we take them to work experience, and we go

to parks, so it's a big part of our lives," he said. "The school's grown over the

last few years, and our needs have changed but we've got a big drive to get out into the commu-nity for the students and it's been a good year in the making. Goldfields received

Goldfields received the \$30,000 donation from Thames Valley Rugby Union last year with the main source of it coming from an auction that included a Swamp Foxes jersey designed by Goldfields students.

Mr McKenzie said when the Swamp Foxes announced their donation for the school, he decided the best place to spend the

money was on a "big ticket item". "We asked them if it was okay that we use that money to contribute to pay for half the price of the van which was around \$60,000," he said. "Swampfoxes were really

happy to contribute in that way, because it directly affects the students and their schooling." Mr Mckenzie said the new van also featured the Swamp Foxes

logo for the school to acknowledge their support.

[The Swamp Foxes] thought that was a really nice idea, they've supported us now for five years so we just wanted to show pool that partnership," he said. "Thanks to the Swamp Foxes for their ongoing support and we really appreciate them thinking of us all students would like to

of us, all students would like to say thank you and we're proud to have their logo on the side of our van.'

Rail trail extension underway

Construction has started on the scenic Hauraki Rail Trail extension in Waihī.

The extension will continue from the current end of the trail at Goldfields Railway, to the central business area of Waihī, following the Ohinemuri River.

The project was highlighted in Hauraki District Council's long term plan, and ward councillor Anne Marie Spicer said it was largely supported by the Waihī community.

However, the exact route between the railway station and Victoria St, and from Gilmour Lake to the town centre, is still under consultation with some stakeholders.

Extending the route from Goldfields Railway into Waihī town via the beautiful Ohinemuri River will make the route clear and safer for cyclists to find their way to the boutique shopping, cafes, and bakeries on offer in the CBD, as well as our museum and Gold Discovery Centre," she said.

A post on council's social media said its works team had been hard at work digging out the route, and shaping the track's base-course with aggregate between Wellington and Montrose Streets and will lay aggregate along Riverbank Terrace next.

Extension works should have little to no impact on traffic, with most of the traffic management being a closed shoulder, council said.



HDC's works team have been busy shaping the track in Waihī.





www.valleyprofile.co.nz

The diamond years of Kaihere Cricket

CLUB PROFILE

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

SPORTS

Something has been stir-ring underneath Kaihere Cricket Club's "laissez-faire" appearance.

Whether it's the player's passion for the game, or the generational makeup of the club, or its "no d*ckheads" policy, the team known as the Cougars have tapped into something that makes their 100 years of operation a rare feat, but an unsurprising one.

"We're not flashy, but we play good cricket," Mike Davis says

This year marks the club's centenary, and with the cricket season's end, it also caps off another great result for the Cougars.

In March, the team won the Chairman's Trophy in the Waikato Valley B Grade Championship final against Pirongia. It's a back-to-back result after claiming the trophy in 2021.

Sam Aislabie, the club's onfield captain and team manager, says Kaihere has been successful in recent years.

They get two bites at winning two trophies of equal value, one post and one pre-

66We're not flashy, but we play good cricket." - Mike Davis

Christmas, and over the past 10 years, they've won either six or seven of them, he says.

"We're not trying to do anything crazy on the field, but we do like to be able to go out there and take it seriously for the time we're out there.

The Kaihere Cricket Club was formed in 1922, with AJ McDonald being its main instigator. He died in 1968 having been the club's president since its inception 46 years prior.

Through the 1920s-50s, games were played at school grounds and farmer's paddocks against teams from Waitakaruru, Hopai, Pipiroa, Ōrongo, Ngatea, Turua, Maramarua, Kerepēhi, and Kopuarahi.

The club went into recess for the duration of World War II, but when players such as Mike and Andy Davis joined the club in the 1960s, there were still eight rival teams on the Hauraki Plains alone.

"As the years have gone by, teams have disappeared,



Mike Davis, left, Graeme Beagley, and Andy Davis, have all had a hand in ensuring Kaihere Cricket has a good team culture on and off the pitch. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

because it takes administrators for the game to continue," Mike tells The Profile.

"We've been fortunate that when Andy and I have finished up, or Bob O'Dea finished running the place, Graeme [Beagley], Mark [Harris], and now Sam have picked up the baton.

"That's the key for a country sport.'

Sam, 32, played his first game for Kaihere back in 2004. He's from a family of Cougars, as are most of the players. In fact, the club is 'riddled with" generational influences, the men say, and they've often witnessed games where there were only three

families on the field. "As the older generation,

we really appreciate what the younger guys are doing and vice versa," Mike says. "The reason we do as well as we do is because we're loyal, and we stick to our guns, come hell or **CONTINUED ON P13**



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SPORTS

CONTINUED FROM P12

high water, and there's been a bit of high water."

Andy says cricket is a game where success isn't easily found, but at the moment, the team spirit is the best it's ever been.

It all boils down to having a good team culture, Sam says, and there's a recurring theme that players without good personalities never seem to stick around.

"You see a lot of club teams that have two or three good players that do everything: they do all the batting, do all the bowling, get all the runs, get all the wickets, and it's not like a selfish thing, but it is really hard to get people to come along who aren't going to be doing much," he explains.

"So, the way we've always run the team is that most guys will get a chance to have a bat or a bowl. Participation is really important, everyone's got a role in the team, and everyone's contributing, so I think that's a real strength of ours."

The others agree.

"There's been a lot of people in the club that haven't had a hell of a lot of success, but they've continued to play and have enabled the rest of us to carry on," Andy says.

"There's a pride in playing for a team," Mike adds, "and Kaihere has always been a team."

Throughout its 100 years,



In March, the team won the Chairman's Trophy in the Waikato Valley B Grade Championship final against Pirongia.

the club has been helped along by many players and administrators, including former All Black Bob O'Dea, who, in the record books, was said to have smashed five centuries in the 1952-53 season.

Now, with the likes of Graeme Beagley putting time and effort into secondary school and primary school cricket, more young people are becoming interested in the game, thus ensuring clubs like Kaihere can continue going strong for another century.

"What we would like to see is the return of more Thames Valley teams," Sam says.

"They've got a social competition that is around two years old, so it's starting, but a big win for us would be to see some social teams start playing Saturday club cricket again and just take it that one step further.

"But the reason we've stayed around is because we've had a good culture, and we've had our focuses in the right areas," he says. "We haven't been the best on the field, but we've made sure to keep going.

"I'm under no illusions that it's going to get hard again at some point, but at the moment, it's really, really good, so it's more about trying to enjoy these good times."





Former Cougar and All Black Bob O'Dea was said to have smashed five centuries for Kaihere in the 1952-53 season.

CLUB PROFILE: Want to be part of the Valley Profile's new Club Profile series? Email details to kelley@valleyprofile.co.nz for consideration.

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CRICKET

"History making", "impossible to imagine", "miraculous", "a batting perfor-mance never to be repeated".

These are just a few of the words or phrases which have been used to describe the highlight of the cricket match played in Hamilton between the Hauraki Plains College and Hamilton Boys High School Development XI recently. With Covid issues having ruled out several top players recently, the chances of Hauraki reaching the finals of the Division 1 Hamilton/Waikato Valley Secondary School's set up would have matched "Lotto" odds. When the players left the field after both teams had batted out 50 overs on March 26. there were facts and figures in the

scorebooks to prove that the era of miracles has not passed. After winning the toss and batting, Hauraki's run quest began slowly against a tight bowling line up but when Nihindu Wickramathunga strode to the wicket after eight overs, the game began to change immediately.

Forty-two overs later the record books had new figures to consider and his team had a chance to secure a previously unlikely spot in the cham-pionship final. Anthony Barker, Cullen Crowe and Logan Dodunski all provided support for the 17-year-old Wickramathunga as he smashed the luckless Hamilton Boys' bowlers to all parts of the field. His 263 runs, plus the team score of 413 for the loss of only four wickets, are thought to be the highest

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tainly in local competitions. Hauraki needed to restrict the opposition to less than 240 runs to secure finals spot over three other competition teams through run rate differ ences. This dream almost disappeared because of clumsy fingers plus sloppy ground fielding. Luckily, Cooper Green obliged with a great final three overs to allow Hauraki to scrape through to meet Cambridge High School on April 2.

Match details: Hauraki Plains College 413 for 4 wickets. Nihindu Wick-ramathunga 263 not out, Cullen Crowe 32. Anthony Barker 26, Logan Dodunski 25, Cooper Green 4/32, defeated Hamilton Boys High School Development XI 226 for 9 wickets. - Mike Cotter

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SPORTS Batter up

The Thames Valley secondary school softball tournament took place on Wednesday last week in perfect conditions. Students from Waihī, Thames, Paeroa, Coromandel and Mercury Bay schools displayed plenty of batting, pitching and home runs during the tournament. Valley *Profile* reporter **GORDON PREECE** headed along to Morgan Park in Waihī to catch the action.



Paeroa College year 13 student Amber Mckain throws a mean pitch.



Waihi College catcher Aidan Butler keeps his focus.



Paeroa's Kaleb Gurnick prepares to bat.



Thames High's Matthew Wilson takes a catch.



Waihi College student Daniel Oliver pitches.

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Thames High year 10 student Chloe Paynter takes a swing.

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he said.

essarily new builds, there's enough contractors in that market at the moment so I feel like this is a market that's quite lacking given the amount of people I've spoken to, some of which have waited up to two years to get the right contractor.'

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 Waihī Beach team members Grant Caskie, left, Lyn Brooks and Devon Brooks receive the Dunn

 Memorable Trophy from Gwen Dunn.
 Photo: SUPPLIED

Waihī Beach wins Dunn Memorial Trophy

BOWLS

Waihī Beach were dominant in the prestigious Dunn Memorial tournament played at Paeroa Bowling Club on March 18, taking out both top places in the Unichem Pharmacy and Paeroa Four Square-sponsored event.

Darryl Hawkins, (skip), Jenny Loveridge, (two) and Penny Meanie, (lead) were runners up to another Waihī Beach combination made up of Devon Brooks (skip), Grant Caskie (two) and Lyn Brooks playing lead, having four wins each and Brooks' team winning with a points differential. Paeroa Bowling Club's combination of Peter

Paeroa Bowling Club's combination of Peter Rowling, (Skip], Paul Cornish, (Lead) and Kevin Lockley (two) could only manage a third placing overall in the he tournament, which hosted 14 teams was held in excellent conditions on a good playing green.

Paeroa Bowling Clubs next tournament was the Blind Bowlers Day on April 3, sponsored by the Watton Family in conjunction with Peter and Heather O'Hagan. Paeroa Bowling Club's next open tournament will be held on April 8.

Public Notice

PAPER DELIVERIES

Please note that due to Covid-19

regulations, paper delivery over the

coming weeks may be affected as some

policy to deliver the Valley Profile to every

We are currently looking for relief paper

runners in Thames. Paeroa and Waihi.

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Last month's winner of the

lotto ticket was Margaret

Ramshaw, who found Pete

in the March 23 edition in the

Seagull Centre advert.

Go to page 2

for details on how to enter.

letterbox, but if on the rare occasion you

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one to vou.

delivery people are either isolating or

away with Covid-19. As usual, it's our

KEREPEHI BOWLING CLUB There were good weather conditions again for bowls on March 27 for the Bowers Concrete op-

bowls on March 27 for the Bowers Concrete optional three bowl triples. Six teams had a good run with three wins. Prize winners were: 1st 4 Wins 25 points 19 ends

Morrinsville) L Wynen, K Hansen, C Finlay; 2nd 3 Wins 24 points 22 ends (Kerepehi/Paeroa)Peter Glass, George Morehu, Peter Rowling; 3 rd 3 Wins 13 points 19 ends (Thames) Ken Harris, Bob Graham, Brian Fisher; 4th 3 Wins 13 points 18 ends (Kerepehi) Lorraine Putt, Glanda Brackenridge, Margaret Henderson.

Coming up on April 10, Smythe Engineering optional fours; April 21, Classic Pairs; April 24, Harrison Family optional thre bowl triples. This completes summer bowls tournaments and Club Colours) and winter bowls begin on May 12, 9:30am starts, mufti with multi sponsored optional fours (Ravensdown Products, RMS Contracting, Valley Toyota, Tony Richards Toyota). On May 26, Whyteline Cockie-Stockies opt 4s (Min one nonbowler per team). Entries or enquiries to club (after 4pm) 07 867 6897.

WI members recognised

The annual general meeting of the Thames Hauraki Plains District Federation of Women's Institute commenced on March 1 with the singing of The Ode, followed by the prayer, read by past president Noelene Kayes. Thoughts were given to members who had passed away during the past six months. Federation president Shirley Harding welcomed everyone and her thought for the day was: Listening to what others say, helps new ideas come our way. Visitors included national executive member Toni Brumby, past presidents, and representatives from Northern Waikato and Waikato East. Penny Curtis, president of Waikato East and past member of Kerepehi WI opened the meeting.

A 15-year certificate was presented to Clarice Beaumont of Waihi WI and a good service badge was presented to Shirley Harding of Waihi WI for her service to our organisation. Mrs Harding then presented Clarice Beaumont and Bev Schenkel gifts and thanked them very much for the work they have done over the past four years on Federation. The new committee for 2022 was introduced: president Shirley Harding, secretary Elaine Jolliffe, treasurer Christine Tuhakaraina, Shirley Rea, Carolyn Giles, Dawn Clark and Jill Clark. Raffles were won by M Hetherington, T Brumby, L Maguire, V Prince, C Beaumont, L Morris, N Kayes and P Curtis. Mrs Brumby then spoke about her experiences that she has had over

Mrs Brumby then spoke about her experiences that she has had over the past two years being a member of the national executive committee. There has been a huge amount of learning as far as the organisation is concerned as well as challenges that they have all faced with Covid, especially learning new technology with zoom meetings.



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Donations needed for 'backcountry destination'

MOUNTAIN BIKING

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

SPORTS

ncreases in the cost of build-Ling materials and fuel has left Thames Mountain Bike Club just short of their \$68,000 target to upgrade a 3km track in the hills behind Thames.

But obtaining the funds is needed to create the "backcountry trail destination" the club has been working towards for the past 10 years.

Club treasurer, track builder, and rider Barry Ingle told The Profile that Stage 2 of the club's Karaka Track upgrade is set to start on April 19 and will take six weeks to complete.

The route will take mountain bikers and walkers from the second bridge, located around 1.8km from the start of the track, up to what are known as the Red Rocks - also called Red Bluffs - rocks that have been dyed bright red by lichen. It's an "outstanding"

view that many people haven't had a chance to see, Mr Ingle said, due to the track's degeneration

The track is so bad it's only really enthusiastic people that walk up there," he said, "but the views of the Red Bluffs and all up the Kaueranga are amazing. That is the main feature of



Mountain Bike Club members make their way along the Red Rocks on the Karaka Track.

going up that track, they're just outstanding. As it is currently, the track turns into a "swamp" over winter and is almost unusable.

Having a new track - which will be a minimum of 1.5 metres

wide - means walkers, runners, and mountain bikers will be able to witness the backcountry vista year-round.

The club raised \$55,000 and were ready to start work on Stage 2 back in November, but the contractors weren't available until this month.

In that time, "huge increases" in track building material and fuel costs caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and world events meant the club was now

short on funds, Mr Ingle said. The club requires an additional \$13,277 to meet the \$68,277 needed to upgrade the link to Red Bluffs.

"It's definitely going ahead," he said. "If we don't get the funds, we end up just having to stop short of the Red Bluffs, that's our only option."

The club raised \$75,000 back in 2018-2019 to construct two bridges along the track as part of Stage 1 of the upgrade project.

Stage 3 of the project, from the Red Bluffs lookout to the Waiotahi Junction, is scheduled for late-2022, pending funding of around \$32,000.

"The club's sinking quite a lot of money into something the public can use for free," Mr Ingle said.

"Everything we're doing is community related. It's all for community use, community involvement, and getting people out enjoying the bush, mountain biking, and exercising.

DETAILS: Anyone wanting to help with funds can either become a paid member of the TMBC, or make a donation via its website. The club's Givealittle page can be found at: www.thamesmtb.club





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