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070 May 18, 2022

Mayor won't stand again

Thames-Coromandel Mayor Sandra Goudie won't stand again this election after a term marred by controversy, but she has enjoyed the ride. KELLEY TANTAU reports

The last two years of Sandra Goudie's mayoralty have been marred with controversy following her refusal to get vaccinated against Covid-19.

A quick internet search will show you articles calling for her resignation, while online commenters said she was "selfish" and "not fit to be a responsible leader".

But Mayor Goudie remains indifferent. She avoids social media.

"I wouldn't touch Facebook with a bargepole," she says.

The two-term mayor has chosen not to stand again at this year's upcoming local body elections.

She's started a tab at the Matatoki Cheese Barn cafe, and tells *The Profile* that despite the contention of her second term, she has "loved" the past two-and-a-half years.

"I did what I wanted to do for me. It was interesting how people were so exercised about my body, but that's okay," she says.

"Every now and again the media would drive another story, which... great, fine, I'm okay with that. It never bothered me because it was my right to choose."

Back in October, 2021, 69-year-old Mayor Goudie told *The Profile* she was waiting for an alternative to the Pfizer vaccine before getting her Covid-19 jab, which she said was a "calculated risk" as the government tried to counter the increasing spread of the more contagious Delta variant.

Her stance copped criticism around the country, with television presenter Hilary Barry stating that "the people of Thames-Coromandel deserve so much better".

When asked if she enjoyed the controversy, Mayor Goudie, who is still unvaccinated, says she did.

"It was always a challenge, and I always enjoy a challenge."

She says she was "very careful" not to give an opinion about the Pfizer vaccine, or to "persuade people in one way

CONTINUED ON P2

Two-term mayor Sandra Goudie has chosen not to stand again at this year's upcoming local body elections. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU



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Mayor Goudie won't stand again

CONTINUED FROM P1

or the other".

"People were trying to force me into accepting that I had to take a different path because of my role, and I don't agree with that at all. We are meant to be representative and you can't always be representative of the majority," she says.

"Even though I'm a leader, why should I be denied my right?"

Sandra Goudie was born in Roxburgh in 1952, and lived in Meremere, Invercargill, Auckland, and Dunedin, never staying anywhere for more than five years while her dad Doyle worked in construction. She had three brothers and a sister.

"I think because of the moves that we made, we all became self-reliant and independent, but we were a very strong, incredibly close family," she says.



Thames-Coromandel Mayor Sandra Goudie will not vie to retain the top job this election.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

Even as a youngster, she was unapologetically self-assured, having been asked to stand in the corner on her first day of kindergarten for "smacking a boy".

She can't remember why she did it, but says she was "unrepentant".

She married her husband Bernard "around 1980" and together they have two sons.

After her more controversial statements, Mayor Goudie said her family called her "on occasion" but "on the whole, they took it in their stride pretty well".

"We don't always agree, that's for sure. Sometimes we stay off subjects or sometimes we explore a subject."

Her political career spans more than three decades. She started out in local politics in 1998 as a Thames-Coromandel District Councillor, before becoming the National MP for the Coromandel electorate from 2002 until 2011.

She returned to local council for one term under then-Mayor or Glenn Leach in 2013, and it was only after returning to the chambers that she began con-

sidering vying for the mayoralty.

"I could see what was happening within the council, I could see the calibre of the people who were standing, I could see what needed to be changed and what needed to be improved, and that's exactly what I set about doing," she says.

"I'm pleased to say I think I've just about achieved most things that I set out to do."

Mayor Goudie says she is in the "final throes" of resolving long-standing issues, such as

the Tairua Skatepark, and the Woollams Avenue car park in Coromandel Town.

Another goal throughout her tenure was to deal with the lack of housing in the district.

"For the last five-and-a-half years, the [TCDC] staff, and [former CEO] Rob Williams have pulled out all the stops to move this forward, not just because I thought it was a crisis that needed to be addressed, but because it actually is a crisis that needs addressing," she says.

And while she wouldn't single-out who she'd prefer to replace her following October's elections, "fiscal understanding and critical analysis" were both needed in the next mayor, she says.

"I need to see who's going to be lining up. It really concerns me about the level of capability, so in terms of an induction for any new or semi-new ones coming in, fiscal understanding and critical analysis are both absolutely essential."

And when she's no longer wearing the mayoral chains, Goudie says she'll be up at the beach, reading, fishing, planting trees, and teaching herself the piano.

"Can you see me doing nothing?" she asks. "No."

DETAILS: Candidate nominations for the local body elections open on July 15 and close on August 12. Voting day is October 8.



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Thames Tides

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
May 18	May 19	May 20	May 21	May 22	May 23	May 24
 Morning: 2:16am 0.4, 2:42pm 0.3 Afternoon: 8:30am 3.6, 9:04pm 3.8 Sun: 7:12am 5:17pm Best At: 1:35am 2:07pm Set: 9:19am, Rise: 6:53pm	 Morning: 3:07am 0.4, 3:32pm 0.3 Afternoon: 9:24am 3.6, 9:55pm 3.8 Sun: 7:12am 5:16pm Best At: 2:40am 3:12pm Set: 10:30am, Rise: 7:56pm	 Morning: 4:00am 0.5, 4:22pm 0.4 Afternoon: 10:17am 3.6, 10:48pm 3.7 Sun: 7:13am 5:15pm Best At: 3:45am 4:17pm Set: 11:32am, Rise: 9:06pm	 Morning: 4:56am 0.6, 5:14pm 0.5 Afternoon: 11:11am 3.5, 11:44pm 3.6 Sun: 7:14am 5:15pm Best At: 4:48am 5:17pm Set: 12:22pm, Rise: 10:19pm	 Morning: 5:54am 0.6, 12:07pm 3.4 Afternoon: 6:10pm 0.7 Sun: 7:15am 5:14pm Best At: 5:45am 6:12pm Set: 1:03pm, Rise: 11:30pm	 Morning: 12:43am 3.5, 1:04pm 3.3 Afternoon: 6:53am 0.7, 7:11pm 0.8 Sun: 7:16am 5:13pm Best At: 6:38am 7:03pm Set: 1:36pm, Last Quarter	 Morning: 1:44am 3.4, 2:04pm 3.2 Afternoon: 7:54am 0.8, 8:19pm 0.9 Sun: 7:16am 5:13pm Best At: 7:26am 7:49pm Set: 2:05pm, Rise: 12:39am

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TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES

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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

Aviator's avian invasion at Thames Airfield

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

A pukeko problem at Thames Airfield has one pilot reaching for the cookbook, but he may be able to avoid dining on pukeko casserole if the bird numbers get culled this duck shooting season. Hauraki Aero Club vice president Geoff Furkert had to spend \$3500 repairing his aircraft after hitting a pukeko with poor navigation skills. “They don’t move very quickly,” he said. “Quite a few move away, but every now and then you’ll have one run at you. They don’t seem to understand that’s not the best thing to do.”

Mr Furkert hit the pukeko just as he was taking off from Thames Airfield.

When he arrived in Tauranga, he learned the bird had bounced against the nose leg and hit the exhaust pipe.

“One leg was disconnected and was blowing very hot air on a box of electronics, so it could’ve been a lot more dramatic,” he said.

He understood Thames-Coromandel District Council, the operators of the airfield, had a dispensation to shoot pukeko at any time as a safety measure.

However, Mr Furkert said a nice recipe for the swampphen, such as those found in *The Mad Chef’s New Zealand Game and Seafood Cookbook* by Daryl Crimp, would help solve the problem.



Hauraki Aero Club vice president Geoff Furkert had to spend \$3500 repairing his aircraft after hitting a pukeko.

North Island hunters can shoot pukeko during the shooting season of May 7 to August 28, with a daily bag limit of 12. “So, I’m thinking if we have a nice recipe for pukeko, they’ll start disappearing by themselves,” Mr Furkert said.

According to Fish and Game New Zealand, pukeko were “underrated as table fare, and can be delicious in casseroles and pat-

ties”; however, they were held in “rueful affection” by New Zealanders due to their reputations as friendly, cheeky birds.

Thames-Coromandel District Council’s operations group manager Bruce Hinson said council was aware of the population of pukeko which frequents the Thames Airfield.

“We use a pest control contractor who has a permit from the De-

partment of Conservation to cull the birds,” he said.

“Our council is currently investigating additional options to assist with management of the pukeko population in the vicinity of the airfield.”

In March, *The Profile* reported that South Island pied oystercatchers were also making the Thames Airfield their home. A flock of 22 birds was killed by an

inexperienced student pilot during a “touch and go” landing that month.

Mr Hinson said pilots were kept up to date on airfield information through the Thames Airfield AIP (Aeronautical Information Publication), which stated that there was a bird hazard at all times.





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‘Get Back’ week proves successful

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

A ‘Get Back’ week aimed at encouraging students to return to school following the disruption of Covid-19 has seen positive outcomes for Waihi College.

The school, on Kensington Rd, hosted five-days of fun activities during the first week of term one to see if some of the college’s “un-engaged” students would reacquire with the school community.

“As previously reported, Waihi College and many schools across the country are struggling to get students to return to classes since the disruption of Covid,” Waihi College’s arts, services and communications co-ordinator Wendy Shave said.

“Not all kids who have stayed away are engaging with their online learning, and the Ministry of Education, principals, teachers and whānau alike are concerned for the students’ academic, social, and mental wellbeing.”

With that in mind, the school held fun events and gave away freebies throughout the week, and in the end, its attendance numbers “improved quite significantly”.

“Last term we had a low of 45 per cent attendance, a high of 71 per cent, and an average



Students were treated to a free sausage sizzle at lunchtime on the first day of ‘Get Back’ week.

Photo: SUPPLIED

of 63.5 per cent,” Wendy said.

“This term so far, the numbers are looking more positive with an average of 76 per cent, with each day having between 69 per cent to 80.4 per cent attendance.

“We are still looking forward to more of our students joining

us again on a permanent basis as the term continues.”

Waihi College principal Alistair Cochrane earlier told The Profile “a large number” of families were electing to keep their children at home due to anxiety around schools being a “super spreader” for the

Covid-19 virus.

However, the attendance data collated showed that wasn’t the case, he said.

As of May 10, there were 135 active cases in the Hauraki district.

Wendy said Get Back week was “all in all, a great week”.

“We are still looking forward to more of our students joining us again on a permanent basis as the term continues.”

- Wendy Shave

On Monday, May 2, students were able to grab a free sausage sizzle and enjoy music from the school band. On Tuesday, free Juicies and Mr Randell’s Spotify mix was the drawcard to the quad.

On Wednesday, students took part in a marble run where house teams had to design a ‘run’ for a marble to roll down. The team with the marble that covered the greatest distance won. There was also a friendly dodgeball competition held in the school gym.

Thursday saw a handball competition take place and to cap off the week, the school supported I Am Hope’s Gumboot Day on Friday.

“We held a mufti with all proceeds going to mental health, and encouraged students to wear their gummies and get involved in the gumboot throwing comp on at lunchtime,” Wendy said.



WAIHI COLLEGE

www.waihicol.school.nz



Keep informed, visit our school website

Lots will be happening at Waihi College this term.

To keep informed, head to the Waihi College website: www.waihicol.school.nz, and check out the Keeping Informed and Latest News sections. Here you can find snippets of what’s coming up so you don’t miss out.

We also have all the sporting codes under the School Life section. Here you can see the weekly sports draws, check who’s made the 2022 teams and get in touch with coaches and managers. We are looking forward to the school Cross Country on 19th May – now that we are in orange we are keen to see our community back and enjoying watching their kids get involved.



Public housing waitlist at ‘all-time high’

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

Within five years, the public housing waitlist in the Thames-Coromandel has increased by close to 100 people, while in the Hauraki district, 78 households are on the Ministry of Social Development’s housing register - up from nine at the start of 2017.

The figures resemble those across New Zealand, where the need for housing remains at an “all-time high”, Infometrics principal economist and director Brad Olsen told *The Profile*, following a presentation at Hauraki District Council last month.

According to the ministry, the demand for public (social) housing throughout the country was growing, and more people were experiencing “a severe and immediate need”.

The demand was generated by a shortage of affordable housing driving up house prices and rents, it said.

“Nationally, the housing register has skyrocketed from 4,865 at the start of 2017, to 26,868 at the start of 2022,” Mr Olsen said.

“The figures for both Hau-



Infometrics economist Brad Olsen.

raki and Thames-Coromandel districts are lower than the national average, relative to the number of local households.”

Hauraki and Thames-Coromandel’s housing register was around 0.8-0.9 per cent of total households, he said, compared to 1.5 per cent nationally.

The ministry’s data showed that at the start of 2022 up to March, there were 78 households on the register within Hauraki, up from nine at the start of 2017.

For Thames-Coromandel, there were 108 households on the register at the start of 2022, compared to 11 at the start of 2017.

“Both areas have seen consid-



File photo: KELLEY TANTAU

This year there are 78 households on the public housing register in Hauraki.

erable growth in need for housing support from a very low level, as has New Zealand more generally,” Mr Olsen said.

To apply for a serious housing need, the ministry looks at whether an applicant’s current housing situation was safe and suitable for medical or physical needs; as well as whether the applicant could afford to rent privately and “manage long-term in a private rental”.

“The housing register has risen massively over recent years,

with housing outcomes for some in communities becoming extremely difficult,” Mr Olsen said. “Current figures across New Zealand are generally at all-time highs. Thames-Coromandel’s figure was higher in December, but there can sometimes be seasonal trends around social support needs across New Zealand.”

But Mr Olsen said it was important to note the work underway to address the housing challenges, with housing con-

sents in both areas having risen “considerably” in recent times.

According to Hauraki District Council, its residential building consents were at the highest levels they have been since records began in 1991, with a 91 per cent increase on the previous year.

Thames-Coromandel’s consents were up 29 per cent, above the national average of 24 per cent per annum.



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Cambodian and Kiwi cuisine comes to Thames

A desire to fill a gap in the takeaway market has led Norm Rumble and his partner Lim Nguon to establish CamKiwi Takeout in Thames.

The Cochrane St takeaway offers hangi and Cambodian meals, which stem from the couple's heritage with Norm being Maori and Lim being Cambodian.

"We're the only ones doing hangi cooking with hot rocks... there's a lot of people doing hangis out there that are just using steamers, but we're the only ones who use hot rocks to cook the hangi, which is similar to the traditional way," Norm said.

"We don't dig a hole in our shop - we have a hangi cooker that we designed and built where we can heat the rocks to 700 degrees and then stack our hangi baskets on top of that just like a normal hangi."

Lim said she wanted to provide the community with Cambodian food as there weren't many New Zealand restaurants serving the cuisine.

"We use a lot of fresh herbs and spices like lemongrass, kaffir lime leaves and galangal, which are grown in our country," she said.



Lim Nguon, left, and Norm Rumble have had "really good" response from their customers towards their Cambodian and Kiwi takeaways.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

Norm said Cambodian cuisine was different to Thai cuisine.

"Thai food is spicy with a lot of chillies whereas Cambodian food is very mild but then you add your chillies on the side," he said.

"When you're in Cambodia, you'll get a little serving of chillies and spices which you can add to your meal."

Norm had visited Cambo-

dia for many years before meeting Lim. The couple operated a beachfront bar, restaurant and guesthouse between 2005 and 2011 in Sihanoukville on the Cambodian coast.

They then sold the establishment and came to New Zealand after Norm's father was diagnosed with cancer and the couple were expecting their first child together.

They settled in Thames,

where they operated a clothing store in Goldfields Shopping Centre before it was disrupted by Covid-19.

"That's when we decided we were going to get back into some sort of food business," Norm said.

"We kind of looked at what was available here, and no one was doing hangi and no one was doing Cambodian food so that's kind of how it came about."

Norm said they had a "really good" response from their customers for the first nine weeks they've been open.

"We're getting a lot of repeat customers coming back for the hangi because I think we seem to have cracked the taste, which is the important part," he said.

"Same with the Cambodian food, we're getting a lot of repeat customers and we're getting orders out catering as well now, people wanting birthday parties with Cambodian food."

"We've had a couple of customers come in and say that's the best tom yum they've ever tasted, so that's pretty good feedback."

Norm said they planned to have a dine-in area, more menu items and increased opening hours in the future.

"At the moment we're only 11am to 6pm, so we're kind of missing out a little bit on the dinner market," he said.

"It's all fairly new for us... and that's really why we only did the limited number of days to start off with Friday, Saturday and Sunday but this week, from May 19, our Thursdays start."

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Pretty in pink

A Pink Ribbon Breakfast High Tea was held at Paeroa’s former racecourse on May 11 to support the Breast Cancer Foundation. Around 115 people attended the event, with some who were pretty in pink for the occasion. Reporter **GORDON PREECE** headed along for the event.



One of the many pink dress up tables at the brunch.



Women don their pink Hawaiian accessories for the fundraiser.

Photos: GORDON PREECE



Jill Dobson, left, Bernadette Neustroski (who celebrated her birthday), Sheryl Krissansen and Christine Davern.




Lyn Sherwood, left, and Anne-Maree.




Thames Friendship Club members enjoy the event.

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Hauraki Vintage Machinery Club vice president Brendon Adams, left, club member Robin Hill and President Peter Williams in front of the mill's flax stripper. Photo: GORDON PREECE

Kerepēhi Flaxmill to Crank Up

By GORDON PREECE

“Something different and unique to the Hauraki Plains” will be cranking up on Queen’s Birthday weekend. Hauraki Vintage Machinery Club will host a Crank Up event at the Kerepēhi Flaxmill on Kaihere Road with their mechanical flax stripper and steam engine on display. Vice president Brendon Adams told The Profile the event was about promoting the flaxmill and its heritage.

“It’s the only original mill in the North Island which still operates,” he said. “There were a lot of mills on the Hauraki Plains, there were easily a dozen. “Kaihere was the original one, one in Patetonga, one in Tahuna and two in Waitakaruru.” Brendon said the Kerepēhi Flaxmill operated from the late 1930s to 1973 where locally gathered flax was stripped through the mill’s flax stripper machine before the flax fibres were left to dry on fences.

“The dairy farm across the road was 500 acres, and that had all native flax,” he said. “The flax was made into cordage, textiles, carpet, used a lot for making sacking, baling twine, so it’s quite a versatile product,” he said. “They used the flax in the beginning because Māori used it and when Captain Cook came here on The Endeavour he used it to replace a lot of the rigging under the ship.” The club, which has close to 40 members, hasn’t hosted its

annual Crank Up event for the past two years due to Covid-19 but have previously held Crank Up events at both Kaihere and Waitakaruru domains. Club member Robin Hill said they were hoping for “the more people the merrier” to attend as 300 or 400 people had attended in previous years. “Two or three thousand would be nice,” he laughed. “They’ll see the flax being stripped... the flax will be loaded on the back of the ute and we run [the flax stripper] every

half an hour or so,” he said. “I’ve [also] just been in and seen a lady who does flax weaving and hopefully she’ll be here doing that.” Brendon said people would need a gold coin donation for entry to go towards the flax stripping machine’s continued restoration. **Details: Kerepēhi Flaxmill Crank Up, June 5 from 10am to 3pm, 668 Kaihere Rd. Gold coin donation for entry. Food and drink on offer. More info: Contact Peter Williams, Ph 027 490 4649.**

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Rural Life

Council chair ousted

Barry Quayle has been voted in as the new chair of Waikato Regional Council, after a majority of councillors backed the removal of Russ Rimmington from the top spot in a meeting held on May 9.

The extraordinary meeting of council was called after a requisition signed by eight councillors was delivered on April 17 to deal with matters associated with the role of chair.

During the meeting, there was recognition of the extensive contribution made by Cr Rimmington to the Hamilton and Waikato communities over many years.

However, some councillors expressed concern about the culture amongst the governance arm and that the council position on many matters was not being well represented.

In an 8-6 vote, a motion to remove Cr Rimmington as Waikato Regional Council's chair was passed.

Following the vote, Cr Rimmington, who'd been chair for three years, said it was "disappointing" but "democracy has spoken."

The former Hamilton mayor indicated there could be a judicial review of the decision.

Nominations were then made for a new chair, with only Hamilton constituent Barry Quayle put forward as a contender.

The motion to formally appoint him was passed in a 11-3 vote.

Cr Quayle reassured the community that decision making would be unaffected by the leadership change.

"It is important going forward that this council acts as one and that we have cohesion. I am confident that all



Russ Rimmington has been ousted as WRC's Chair after three years in the role. File Photo

14 councillors will be able to continue to respectfully and robustly discuss issues affecting the region, and make decisions that are in the best interests of the Waikato," he said.

"Throughout this triennium, we've demonstrated that – despite at times divergent individual views – we can engage in full and frank discussions and make big decisions. That's been evident with matters like the 10-year budget, our position on local government and three waters reform, our Covid-19 response, public transport, and most recently the management of pests in our region."

"While there's just a few months left in this term of council, there's plenty more work to be done."

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The Valley Profile

Proposed Arms Act changes 'shocking'

By GORDON PREECE

Around 300 submissions on proposed new regulations under the Arms Act were made by Thames Valley Deerstalkers (TVDA) earlier this month. Police sought submissions before May 4 on their proposed new regulations under the Arms Act 2020 to extend oversight of target shooting clubs and ranges by requiring them to be approved or certified by the Police Commissioner.

The changes would be enacted on June 24 and allow clubs to apply for their range registration by June 24, 2023.

One proposed new regulation causing concern is banning youth members from participating in shooting activities organised by gun clubs because under 16s aren't eligible for a firearm licence.

However, under 16s will be able to use a firearm under the immediate supervision of a licence holder on private property, hunting or on a range.

TVDA, which has just over 500 club members, held open days at its clubrooms on Morrison Rd, north of Paeroa, on April 30 and May 2 so people could find out more about the proposed new regulations and to make submissions.

TVDA president Maureen Coleman told *The Profile* the open days were "great and very well supported".

"We had lots of people come through and certainly a number of them mentioned they had seen it in the paper and that's why they came along... asking on a range of things," she said.

"With the open days and the club night, there would've been at least 150 I would say come through. There were youngsters, there were hunters, there were target shooters and farmers."

Maureen said those who attended were "blown away" and "shocked" by the Police proposals.

"They were sort of shocked at the level the police were going to hammer the people who were doing the right things," she said.

"That is the one thing that really came through loud and clear, people were just blown away, this is just bloody ridiculous."

"They're talking about legal ranges that are certified by Police and yet they're trying to minimise who can use them."

Maureen said the regulation involving banning under 16s to use guns at shooting ranges could come into effect earlier.

"With the under 16s, whether that was something that was going to come into effect as at 24th of June or whether potentially there will be a phase-in period over that registration," she said.

"Because ultimately if we didn't apply until the 10th of May next year, which would be within that 12 month timeframe, we should still be able to keep operating under our range standing orders."

"But once the final say comes out, the Police may impose that under 16 criteria... on the 24th of June this year."

Maureen said she hoped police would reconsider the new regulations before June 24.

"Hopefully with the number of submissions and the voices heard they'll see sense and realise it's not a good move but all you can do is have your say and hope," she said.

"At this stage we've had no feedback or directive that [Police are] certainly reconsidering."

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In Brief

Waihi schools will be holding their annual Matariki Hikoi in town on Friday, June 3. The students will be meeting at the pumphouse at 11.45am, where they will gather for a karakia and storytelling, before walking down the main street. They will return to the pumphouse for waiata and lunch. All welcome.

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Boy Scouts find skeleton in bush



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

The discovery of skeletal remains in the Thames Valley was disconcertingly frequent and usually surrounded by mystery.

Bush craft for Boy Scouts took a nasty turn when they came across a skeleton in a patch of bush near the Komata Reefs Rd, about five miles from Paeroa, in 1940.

A hat with the name of a local merchant inside, a pair of light brown shoes, a pocket wallet and other personal belongings were recovered, but gave no clue to the identity of the man.

He was eventually identified as James O'Brien, aged about 52, gold prospector, who had lived at Paeroa.

He was identified by his false teeth by Charles A Blackwood, dentist, of Paeroa who had repaired them in 1938.

The skeleton of a Māori man was discovered in the gravel pit



Coromandel bush

Photo: SUPPLIED

on the Paeroa railway section in 1895 while men were loading gravel for ballasting the line.

The bones, which were only about two feet below the surface, were in a good state of preservation and from their size must have belonged to a very tall man.

Local Māori took possession of the bones and interred them in their adjacent burial ground.

In 1910 a skeleton was found on the beach at Waikawau.

No one was known to be missing from the district, and it was surmised that the remains had floated up the Hauraki Gulf from the sea.

The police made fruitless inquiries then took the remains to the morgue at Thames.

In 1932 two young boys came across a skeleton five miles down Waihi Beach in the sands close to Bowentown Heads. A rusty gun with a name inscribed on it was nearby.

It was thought the remains were those of a man who had

mysteriously gone missing from Waihi two years previously.

Although there was a fairly large hole in the back of the skull, investigators could find no trace of a shotgun.

Further questioning of the boys revealed that the story was a fabrication, inspired by a police reward of 150 pounds. It was believed that the skeleton was that of a Māori; where it was discovered was the site of an old Māori burial ground. It may have been buried in the sand for two hundred years.

A man travelling over the hills in the direction of Coromandel in 1913 came across a skeleton, a pair of boots, a few buttons and a pipe. Recent bushfires had cleared the area and exposed the remains.

Dr Craig thought it may have been laying there from 15 to 40 years. A man had gone missing from the area about 15 years previously but identification was impossible.



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As the cost for good health has become out of reach for most With horrendous waiting surgery times, life becomes so stationary We all enjoy our picturesque land from coast to coast The answers are beyond us all – a shame we can't eat nice scenery!

- Christine Forster, Waihi

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Ownership changes for community hall

By GORDON PREECE

Paeroa Community Hall has become a community-owned incorporated society after being owned by Scouts New Zealand.

Hall chairperson Joe de Jong told *The Profile* the hall, formerly known as the Paeroa Community Scout & Guide Hall, became an incorporated society in November, 2021.

The change was first thought of 10 to 15 years ago when the hall was undergoing a revamp with a new roof, new toilets and a wheelchair access pathway.

“We strongly felt... ownership should be here and [Girl Guides] eventually came on board and Scouts still didn’t want to because they thought they’d had an asset here,” he said.

“But over the years slowly but surely, Girl Guides realised that having property and looking after property is a big drain on their total finances.

“The Girl Guides realised that earlier than the Scouts but they’ve realised it too now.”

Paeroa Scout Group leader Jeremy King said being an incorporated society allowed the hall to remain a community asset and have the final say if any changes need to be made to it.

“It is now essentially a community hall owned by us as the



Paeroa Rock n Roll Club DJ Ron Ogle, left, Hall chairperson Joe de Jong and Paeroa Scout Group leader Jeremy King in front of Paeroa Community Hall on Wood St.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

community rather than being an outsourced hall that Scouts and Girl Guiding New Zealand down in Wellington have had on their books,” he said.

“We’ve had to pull in all the small users to become part of the incorporated society... by drawing in the rock and rollers,

the camera club and the dancers.

“Each of these groups has been happy to put somebody forward to help us out and the main thing is having their name written on a piece of paper saying they’re part of the incorporated society.”

Joe hoped more Scout leaders would join and Girl Guides could start again with the new ownership changes in place.

“There are kids here who want to be part of it, but we need the leaders... Jeremy is on his own basically at present,” he said.

“Young people have to come forward if they want to offer something to the kids, you can’t leave it to the seniors all the time.

“Guides can come back, if there were leaders around, a lot of their stuff is still here from five or six years ago.”



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HARD

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JUMBO CROSSWORD

70

ACROSS

- 1 Capital of Wales (7)
4 The taking and using of another writer's words (10)
9 Sports arena with tiered seats (7)
13 Waistband (4)
14 Pungent bulb (6)
15 Decrease (6)
16 Spear (7)
18 Shade of colour (3)
20 Vaporised (10)
21 Foliage (8)
22 Of sound (5)
25 Earthquake (6)
26 Gun kick (6)
28 Disbelieving (9)
33 Young ruffian (8)
34 Small harpsichord (6)
35 Intricate (7)
39 Authorisation (8)
40 Exertion (6)
41 Dilute (4)
42 Playing card (5)
43 Secret agent (3)
45 Come very close to breaking laws or rules (4,5,2,3,4)
53 Unmatched (3)
56 Arm joint (5)
57 Portent (4)
58 Repugnant (6)
59 Prevent from being known (8)
62 True (7)
63 Call off (6)
64 Food strainer (8)
67 Maintained at length

- without weakening (9)
69 Time to come (6)
70 Homing bird (6)
74 Outspoken (5)
75 Similarity (8)
77 Striptease (anag)
 (10)
81 Slump (3)
83 Mosque tower (7)
84 Rich cake (6)
85 Waterproof jacket
 (6)
86 Young female (4)
87 Severe (7)
88 Hamlet (10)
89 Cost incurred (7)

DOWN

- 1 Hawser (5)
- 2 Let go (8)
- 3 Noisy quarrel (6)
- 4 Heartbeat (5)
- 5 Curve (4)
- 6 Against the law (7)
- 7 Slice of bacon (6)
- 8 Vessel's rear (5)
- 10 Defrost (4)
- 11 Certificate (7)
- 12 Perfect place (6)
- 17 Dull, tedious and repetitious (10)
- 19 Lined chart (5)
- 23 Back and forth (2,3,3)
- 24 Fulcrum (5)
- 25 Intimidatory remarks (7)
- 27 Nervous (4)
- 29 Swiftest animal (7)
- 30 Acid neutraliser (6)

- 31** Small restaurant (6)
32 Stick up for (6)
34 Incline (5)
36 Stratagem (4)
37 Nimble (7)
38 Opinion (4)
44 Column (6)
46 Citrus fruit (4)
47 Ancestry (7)
48 Blacken with heat (6)
49 Spin (5)
50 Cut short (8)
51 Tropical lizard (6)
52 Decline in value (10)
53 Finished (4)
54 Reject with contempt (7)
55 Left at sea (4)
60 Confidence (5)
61 Aspersions (4)
65 Stiff (5)
66 Verdict (8)
68 Ignorant of (7)
69 Crack (7)
71 Movement (6)
72 Conquer (6)
73 Act properly (6)
76 Thrill (5)
78 Up in the air (5)
79 Work out (5)
80 Untidiness (4)
82 Donated (4)

[illegible]

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Tattoos, 4 Clever Dick, 9 Glucose, 13 Pair, 14 Hammer, 15 Bovine, 16 Harrier, 19 Conference, 20 Audience, 21 Diary, 24 Silver, 25 Allege, 27 Emergency, 32 Airborne, 33 Dangle, 34 Panacea, 38 Imprison, 39 Hobble, 40 Drag, 41 Hound, 42 Satin, 45 Blow hot and cold, 52 Renal, 55 Coast, 56 Brat, 57 Topped, 58 Scenario, 61 Allergy, 62 Futile, 63 Clavicle, 66 Serviette, 68 Sleuth, 69 Vacant, 73 Gavel, 74 Junk mail, 76 Beforehand, 81 Curator, 82 Godiva, 83 Chalks, 84 Moat, 85 Gladden, 86 On the alert, 87 Dossier.

DOWN: 1 Topic, 2 Triangle, 3 Shared, 4 Comic, 5 Earn, 6 Embrace, 7 Divide, 8 Canoe, 10 Lead, 11 Cardiac, 12 Sherry, 17 Repetition, 18 Scare, 22 Behemoth, 23 Delay, 24 Spirits, 26 Lard, 28 Melodic, 29 Absorb, 30 Unseen, 31 Hernia, 33 Debut, 35 Above, 36 Spit, 37 Fall, 43 Apollo, 44 Issue, 46 Lard, 47 Wetsuit, 48 Outwit, 49 Ample, 50 Drenched, 51 Deceit, 52 Ringleader, 53 Norm, 54 Lookout, 59 Agave, 60 East, 64 Venus, 65 Macaroni, 67 Emerald, 68 Sultana, 70 Manual, 71 Pariah, 72 Forked, 75 Known, 77 Exact, 78 Deter, 79 Doze, 80 Ache.

SPORT

New hub hopes to boost local sport

By GORDON PREECE

The newly formed Ohinemuri Sport and Recreation Hub hopes to encourage sport and recreation participation for all abilities and ages.

Spokesperson Te Aroha McKain told *The Profile* the new hub, which is supported through Hauraki District Council, Sport Waikato and Global Leisure, was about including everyone within the Ohinemuri community.

“The hub... is a new sport, recreation and community focused organisation, our vision statement is community-minded inclusive sport recreation and participation opportunities for the people of Ohinemuri,” she said.

“With the community in mind, I think that’s our major focus... getting everyone involved and really working with clubs to find their weaker points and how we can work collaboratively together to fill the void.

“Because we know that all clubs are struggling with volunteers.”

Te Aroha said the hub’s voluntary board had four appointed members and one elected member, and was now seeking more sport clubs and organisations to be founding members.

“We’re hoping that by the end of the year we’ll have a lot more on board and it’s all about being included, reading through the constitution, which if you’re a member there’s no major commitment,” she said.

“Once you sign up, if anything it’s just beneficial for your club or organisation and you can opt out at any time.”

Te Aroha said once clubs and organisations signed up, the board could focus on their long term goals, which included finding a location for the hub and its facilities.

“The idea with the founding members is to work cohesively to build, repurpose, develop, manage, lease and rent, and advocate for sport and recreation infrastructure [and] emphasising on sustainability.

“So it would be the idea of having multi use sport facilities rather than one fit for purpose, with the idea that you’re engaging in multiple sports for multiple events.

“If we’re able to apply for major funding for a multi-sport complex, a funder will look at us if we’re covering 20 to 30 clubs cohesively rather than one individual sport.”

DETAILS: Contact Te Aroha McKain for more information, Email: ohinemurisportandrec@gmail.com, Ph: 021 145 9628.

SPORTS RESULTS

WAIHI BOWLS



Ninety years old and not out, Tom Petterd, pictured left, is still bowling and competing at Waihi Bowling Club. In 1965 he won the First Year Singles, Junior Singles, and was in the winning Fours team, and between then and now, there have been a lot of bowling achievements. Being part of a team that won the Taranaki Open Fours is one of his proudest memories. The Waihi club’s closing day Patrons Drawn Tournament was held on May 7 in fine weather with prizemoney generously sponsored by our Patrons Tom O’Flaherty and Trish Hinton. This was followed by prizegiving certificates awarded for the seasons championship winners, with prizes for attendance sponsored by Tom Petterd. Work on the greens will continue over the winter and we look forward to a top notch green, and we will be inviting Tom to bowl the first bowl when we open our next season in September. We do play indoor bowls over the winter, which starts May 17.

THAMES VALLEY BOWLS

Thames Valley bowler Peter Sheehan celebrated his 99th birthday playing bowls with family and friends on May 7. This was the tenth time the Mercury Bay Bowls life member and patron has sponsored his birthday tournament since his 90th birthday. Bowling club teams throughout Thames Valley came to join in the celebration and we welcomed teams from Pauanui, Whangamata, Coromandel, Tairua, Thames Coast and Tui Park as well as individual players from Kerepehi, Thames and past MBBC members now resident in Cambridge. In perfect autumn conditions 18 teams of four - a total of 72 players, played

four games over 5 hours of bowls with Peter’s team of his daughter Pam Calder – a talented bowler from Invercargill, his son Peter junior and life member Pam Phillips – his daughter Chrissie was in attendance as a helper and avid spectator. Peter does not use what bowlers call a “pick up stick” used to pick up your bowl without bending down each time and he was seen many times throughout the day picking up the bowl of one of his team mates nearly 20 years his junior.

Peter’s team wear Rugby League golden oldies jerseys as their uniform in honour of PO’s association with Rugby League as an outstanding league player. There were many long time bowling friends of Peter’s as well as the president of Thames Valley Centre Wayne Heron (Tui Park), several Thames Valley board members and presidents of local clubs, a reflection of the manner in which Peter is recognised in Thames Valley Bowls.

WINNERS: First: Graeme Gunn, Eric Tebbutt, Richard Purdy, Jim Newman (Whangamata) – 4 wins, 21 ends, 48 points; Second: Peter Glass, Dale Tegg, Trevor Knight, Peter Mead (Mercury Bay/Kerepehi) – 3 wins, 23 ends, 38 points; Third: Mike Jackson, Adrian Wrigley, Mary Wrigley, Glenda Aitkenhead (Tairua/Thames) – 3 wins 22 ends, 56 points; Fourth: Mack Pene, Wayne Heron, Peter Burgess, Des Dwight (Tui Park/ Whangamata/Mercury Bay) – 3 wins, 22 ends, 50 points; Fifth: David Weatherly, Pam Harris, Colin Everett, Alan Roberts (Mercury Bay/Coromandel) – 3 wins, 21 ends, 38 points. Two lucky losers prizes were drawn with Peter Sargent’s and Sue McNeil’s teams being successful.



The winners with Peter Sheehan, centre. Photo: SUPPLIED

THAMES VALLEY RUGBY

TVRFU Weekend Round Up. Senior A: Hauraki North 10-8 Coromandel. Thames 38-13 Whangamata. COBRAs WBD-LBD Waihi Athletic. Paeroa 27-20 Waihou. Senior B: Mercury Bay 50-7 COBRAs. Thames WBD-LBD. Waihou. Ngatea 26-29 Waihi.

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The Valley
Profile

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Paul Hicks said he caters for his customers' gardening needs. Photo: GORDON PREECE

Avid gardener grows his business

Paul Hicks is Call The Gardener and said he planted his gardening business last month to fit in with looking after his son and coaching martial arts. "I've been planning [the business] since last year and did a few [landscaping] courses over the lockdowns," he said. "I've always been an avid gardener, I've had a veggie garden that I've always done, I've always grown plants...and cut flowers when I was younger." Paul said he is offering softscapes and small hardscape gardening services. "I'll do garden beds, lawn mowing, pruning, potting plants, turning your lawn into

a garden, weeding, edging and trimming," he said. Paul said he was looking forward to growing his business. "I'm trying to develop a personal service where I create a relationship with the owner," he said. "Our motto is Your Garden, Your Way, I'm not here to tell you how you should have your garden, I'm here to give you ideas of how you could have your garden and that's something I like." Contact Paul for more information: Ph: 028 4640 600 or www.callthegardener.co.nz.

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SPORTS

Mental focus sees rhythmic gymnast podium

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

Toning down the ‘pizzazz’ has proven to be the best thing for a rising star of rhythmic gymnastics.

Using the isolation of the nationwide Covid-19 lockdowns to her advantage, Hauraki Plains College Year 13 student Alysha Read has already won two championships this year - a personal record for the 17-year-old.

She placed first overall at the senior competition at her home gym of Counties Manukau, as well as at the Tauranga Midland Championship.

The wins have not only set her in good stead for the New Zealand nationals this July, but prove how sometimes silence can make the biggest noise.

“I love performing and I always want to do a little extra... [but that] is when things go wrong because then I throw too high,” she told *The Profile*.

“I get so excited and so crazy when I compete, just because of the crowd and the energy, but not having all those extra things [during Covid] really helped me use my mind.”

Alysha has been training in gymnastics since 2010, back when she was six, but admit-

ted she only recently realised how “massively mental” the sport is.

“It takes everything. You use everything,” she said.

“It’s massively mental because if you lose focus for even a second, or you drop something, you could ruin the entire routine, which has happened to me so, so many times.

“So, that’s something I’ve learned to manage this year.”

As a rhythmic gymnast, Alysha competes in four floor routines: ball, hoop, clubs, and ribbon.

The Counties Manukau competition was one of the first championships since lockdown that featured big crowds, she said, so keeping her focus was crucial.

What helps is listening to the music - and Alysha had a vibrant repertoire for her performances, including The Jackson’s *Blame it on the Boogie* for ball, and the unique choice of *Glory*, by alternative rock band The Score, for ribbon.

“It’s such a small community and everyone knows everyone’s routine, especially if they’re memorable,” she said.

“Even the judges said [the routines] were so fun to judge.”

And with each routine being 90 seconds each, Alysha - who is coached by Tracey Redhead



Rhythmic gymnast Alysha Read, 17, dazzles at a recent competition. BELOW: Performing her hoop routine. Photos: SUPPLIED

and Elena Pirozhenko - said the sport was also very “demanding” in terms of physical fitness.

“It’s full exertion for a minute and a half; you can’t slow down.”

The New Zealand nationals will be held in Invercargill this July, and Alysha’s goal is to win them.

She also encourages more athletes to give the sport of rhythmic gymnastics a go.

“It would be amazing to see the community grow, especially as a lot of competitors that I’ve been with for 10 years are starting to retire.

“People love to watch the sport, and it’s so different and really helps with everything,” she said.

“It’s given me a lot of confidence.”



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