

Ngatea's top dog named national grand champion, P3

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075 June 22, 2022

A toast to Paeroa's 'pizza man'

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

A gentle smattering of rain dripped on to a pizza with a cranberry sauce swirl, and into colourful shot glasses filled with Greek liquor.

It dripped on to the flower bed behind Arkwrights Antiques, where pink petals poked out from under red shrubbery.

As the shot glasses of ouzo were raised 10 years to the day since Jordan Voudouris was murdered in Paeroa, rain dripped on the heads of mourners of the town's beloved "pizza man".

"As we stand here on this pretty overcast day, it reminds us in life there are things that are a bit miserable, and that we'd rather not have in our lives but they're a part of our lives," Paeroa Bible Chapel pastor Bill Tissingham said at the memorial on Saturday.

"When a death comes, a tragic death, one of the things we need is a sense of closure, and it's really hard for family and friends to get closure when there is no closure to it."

Ten years ago, in the early hours of June 18, 2012, popular Paeroa resident Jordan Voudouris was fatally shot outside the back of his Belmont Rd business, Mykonos' Pizza and Pasta Restaurant.

According to a NZ Police report from 2020, there were more than 10,000 documents in the case file; however, no one has been held accountable for the murder of the restaurateur, killed a week before his 56th birthday.

The Saturday commemoration, held at the memorial plaque off Hall St, close to where Jordan was murdered, was organised by Ryan Wolf, who launched the podcast *Guilt: Who Killed Jordan Voudouris?* in 2021, with the goal of revisiting every aspect of the homicide case.

The final episode was released the morning of the 10th anniversary of Jordan's death. "We're going to have a shot of ouzo," he said.

"The last memory [Jordan's brothers] have of him, was having a shot of ouzo at Nikos Pizza Bar in Auckland."

Mr Tissingham, who officiated at Jordan's memorial in 2012, remembered him as being "vivacious".

He said the connections people made in Paeroa were long-standing. "Small communities like Paeroa, we hold on to that, and that's part of our strength and value as a community," he said.

In 2020, police revealed a .22 firearm was used to kill Jordan at close range.

Finding the firearm that killed Jordan had always been

the key to solving his murder, police said. The podcast *Guilt* can be found on Apple Podcasts and Spotify.

RIGHT: Pizza and Greek liquor was handed out to mourners at the 10-year commemoration of Jordan's murder in Paeroa.



Ryan Wolf and Viv Leonard have a shot of ouzo for Jordan Voudouris, pictured left.



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HDC councillors reveal election intentions

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

Six Hauraki district councillors have chosen to stand again in this year's local body elections, while others' personal circumstances have made the decision a difficult one to make.

As part of ongoing election coverage, *The Profile* contacted the 13 elected members of Hauraki District Council, asking them of their campaign intentions ahead of voting day on October 8.

Two councillors did not respond, and one chose not to comment.

Plains ward councillor Rodney Garrett passed away on June 6 after a battle with cancer. He was thanked for his service by council in April.

Jo Tilsley gained 1356 votes in 2019 ahead of her first term as a councillor for the Paeroa ward.

Until 2021, Jo was Positive Paeroa's town promoter. She said it wasn't an easy decision, but she wouldn't be standing again this year.

"My personal circumstances have changed, making it difficult to give the time the role deserves," she said.

Rino Wilkinson was elected as the Hauraki district's first Māori councillor in 2019. He was the third-highest polling candidate for the Paeroa ward, with 1368 votes.

He is re-standing as councillor for the ward this year.

"I have enjoyed my first term experience; I have great admiration for everyone involved



Jo Tilsley says she's standing down, while Paeroa's first Māori councillor, Rino Wilkinson, says he will be re-standing.



Deputy Mayor Paul Milner says he'll stand again this year, along with Anne Marie Spicer, Waihi. Photos: KELLEY TANTAU



throughout the entire HDC on all levels. The respect I have for all is overwhelming," he said.

"I've always stood by what I believe in – you're always learning... After creating history as the first elected Māori, I want to walk proud and represent all."

Ray Broad gained the most votes of the Plains candidates, 1290, back in 2019.

He is a first-term councillor and will be re-standing this October.

"This first term representing

the Hauraki Plains Ward, has demonstrated there is a lot to be achieved... Our ward is unique, with more than six towns to represent. Each town and the ward has a number of projects to be completed and issues that need to be addressed, and if re-elected, [I] would work together with the other ward councillors to ensure these are achieved and resolved," he said.

With 1611 votes, Paul Milner was the highest-polling candidate for the Paeroa ward in

2019. He was appointed deputy mayor and has been the chair of council's District Licensing Committee and Hearings and Judicial Committee.

He will be standing again. "The reason for standing is pretty simple.

"I really enjoy being able to do my bit in making our community a great place, and we have a wonderful team of elected members and staff so it is a pleasure to work with them."

CONTINUED P6

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Thames Tides

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
Jun 22	Jun 23	Jun 24	Jun 25	Jun 26	Jun 27	Jun 28
Morning 1:20am 3.4 7:28am 0.7	Morning 2:15am 3.3 8:24am 0.8	Morning 3:09am 3.3 9:19am 0.8	Morning 4:02am 3.2 10:14am 0.9	Morning 4:54am 3.1 11:06am 0.9	Morning 5:44am 3.1 11:54am 0.8	Morning 12:21am 1.0 6:32am 3.1
Afternoon 1:41pm 3.2 7:53pm 0.9	Afternoon 2:40pm 3.1 8:57pm 1.0	Afternoon 3:41pm 3.1 9:56pm 1.0	Afternoon 4:39pm 3.1 10:49pm 1.0	Afternoon 5:32pm 3.2 11:37pm 1.0	Afternoon 6:20pm 3.2 11:01pm	Afternoon 12:39pm 0.8 7:03pm 3.3
7:31am 5:08pm	7:32am 5:08pm	7:32am 5:09pm	7:32am 5:09pm	7:32am 5:09pm	7:32am 5:10pm	7:32am 5:10pm
Best At 6:54am 7:15pm	Best At 7:37am 7:58pm	Best At 8:20am 8:42pm	Best At 9:04am 9:26pm	Best At 9:49am 10:13pm	Best At 10:37am 11:01pm	Best At 11:26am 11:51pm
Rise 12:39am Set 1:00pm	Rise 1:42am Set 1:25pm	Rise 2:43am Set 1:50pm	Rise 3:43am Set 2:18pm	Rise 4:44am Set 2:49pm	Rise 5:44am Set 3:26pm	Rise 6:43am Set 4:07pm

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MOON AND FISH KEYS

New Moon	First Quarter	Full Moon	Last Quarter
Good Fishing	Fair Fishing	Not So Good	

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

PLACE	Hr	MIN	HR	MIN
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

Ngātea's Tui named top dog

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

Tui's pedigree name is Merry Maker, and it's a name that "suits her very well", her owner says.

In fact, the black labrador's tail wags so much that it often knocks over the signage during the Rally-O competitions she takes part in. Now, there's even more to wag about.

Tui has been named a national grand champion in Rally-O, a timed obedience challenge that the 12-year-old lab takes part in with her Ngātea owner, Sally Felton.

"Yes, she's stiffer than she used to be... age is showing with her, but there's no stopping her at this stage," Sally told *The Profile*.

According to Dogs NZ, during Rally-O, a dog and their handler are required to perform a different exercise every few metres, including combinations of turns, changes of position, heeling around cones, halts, and jumps.

The goal is to gain a score of at least 90 per cent to earn a qualifying certificate, and once a pair has enough certificates, the dog can gain a Dogs NZ Rally-O title.

There are several levels of title to work towards, each level more challenging than the last, with longer courses, more difficult exercises, and a stricter criteria for success.

"[Tui] is in the advanced and the excellent classes, the highest in Rally-O, so she had to have 100 [points] in all of them," Sally said. "She had to get 10 match-ups of 100 [scored] certificates to get to grand champion, which was very hard work, but she did it in the end."

Tui is known for her merry presence throughout the Rally-O circuit, and has even won a spot prize for being the happiest dog in the competition.

Sally puts it down to teamwork.

"She likes doing anything we do together. She'll follow me around just to see I'm not going to get out and leave her,"



Sally Felton, from Ngātea, and her black lab Tui.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU



she said. "For me, it's a competition that keeps me awake and thinking... and we get to do it together."

The call was made by Dogs NZ for Tui to be named a grand champion on April 30, after years of rising up the ranks alongside her younger sister, Merlot, who is 6.

"There is not a heap of grand

champions," Sally, a former vet nurse, said.

"It really comes down to people who go to enough competitions to get the certificates. You have to make the time to do it.

"I had to work around where I could find the Rally-O competitions, and in between lockdowns I went down to Levin, to Rotorua, to Taupō, because I needed to find ones I could go in for."

As a youngster, Tui was put through basic training with Netherlton dog trainer Christine Nielsen, who Sally said was "brilliant".

However, now she's grand champion, Tui is not going to rest on her laurels.

"She'd get most upset if I left her out of things," Sally said.



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OUR COROMANDEL



News from Thames-Coromandel District Council

22 June, 2022



Our Council is thinking about developing new aquatic and sport facilities in the Thames area and we would like your feedback.

New facilities are being considered because:

- The current Thames Centennial Pool is located on an urupā and the facility is reaching the end of its life.
- The sport fields and facilities at Rhodes Park are highly susceptible to flooding and some of the facilities are not fit for purpose.

This survey asks questions about your use of and opinions about aquatic and sport field facilities. The survey will help our Council to decide what type of new facilities are needed in the future.

Complete the survey by 30 June and you could win one of 10 Family Passes (2 adults and 2 children up to 15 years) to Thames Centennial Pool. Enter your email address at the end of the survey to enter the prize-draw.

The survey will take about 10 minutes to complete.

Hard copies of the survey are available at our Thames customer service desk (515 Mackay St), Thames Library and Thames Centennial Pool.

Plastic bags now recyclable

Help protect our beautiful environment by recycling your soft plastic waste such as bags and wrappers in the new soft plastic recycling collection bins that have been installed at key places in Thames.

The recycled soft plastic will then be turned into fence posts or planter boxes.

The collection bins are the result of a partnership between local Thames businesses, our Council and the Packaging Forum.



The collection points with the new soft plastics recycling bins are at these Thames locations: Pak'nSave, The Warehouse, our Council offices at 515 Mackay Street and the Thames Refuse Transfer Station.

The new recycling bins will take soft plastic bags like bread bags, cling film-type wrapping and other soft plastics.

These bins don't collect:

- compostable plastic bags (even if these bags also say recyclable)
- coffee cups
- food or drinks
- glass, cans and plastic bottles
- general rubbish.

Please do *not* put these items in the new soft plastics recycling bins as they will 'contaminate' them and cause problems with the recycling process.

tcdc.govt.nz/softplastics



June 2022 Public Meetings

We are holding public meetings as we prepare for the impacts of sea level rise.

This is the final stage of our three-year project. After we get feedback from these meetings, the Shoreline Management Plan will be updated and presented to Council for adoption.

This is your chance to hear about the proposals for your area, and to give us your feedback.

tcdc.govt.nz/smp

LOCATION	DATE	TIME
TE PURU - Te Puru Hall	Saturday 25 June	9.30am



Community Board grants are open for applications from 1-31 July. Thames Community Board has a \$75,000 contestable fund to encourage and support not-for-profit organisations that have a positive impact on the community. Criteria and application forms are on tcdc.govt.nz/cbgrants2022

We are also running community funding workshops in July in collaboration with Funding HQ: tcdc.govt.nz/fundinghq

ALL GO FOR DOG REGO



SHOUT OUT TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

The Thames Community Board would like to acknowledge the collective energy and mana of the volunteers in our community as part of National Volunteer Week - Te Wiki Tūao ā-Motu (19-25 June).



Thank you volunteers for your amazing generosity and dedication. Our Thames community wouldn't be the same without you.

WHAT DO YOU STAND FOR?



GET READY FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS

Local elections take place across New Zealand this year with voting closing on Saturday 8 October.

REGISTER TO VOTE

Go to tcdc.govt.nz/election for information on how to make sure you can vote.

Own a property here but don't normally live here? You can still vote here. Go to tcdc.govt.nz/election for information on enrolling as a Ratepayer Elector.

STAND FOR ELECTION

Thinking about running for Mayor, Councillor or Community Board Member? Nominations open Friday 15 July.

Candidate information session:

Sunday 10 July - Thames War Memorial Civic Centre, 200 Mary Street at 2pm-4pm.

Thames Community Board UPDATE

A word from the Board Chair, Strat Peters

"Volunteers are the backbone of our communities, doing so much to make our district a vibrant place. Limited funding is available through our Community Grants but our Council has also partnered with Jenni Giblin from Funding HQ to host workshops around the district in July to help community groups diversify their funding options. You'll see information elsewhere on this ad and on our website." strat.peters@council.tcdc.govt.nz



The Board's next meeting is on Wednesday 22 June at 9am, at the Council Chambers, 515 Mackay, St Thames.

If you wish to speak to the public forum, contact governance.services@tcdc.govt.nz Recordings of all our Council and Community Board meetings are posted on tcdc.govt.nz/meetings where you'll also find agendas and minutes.

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Community spirit leads principal to Paeroa

By GORDON PREECE

A fond memory of Paeroa drew Deborah Eastham to take on her new challenge as principal of Miller Avenue School.

Deborah, or whaea Debs, told *The Profile* after 18 years as Papatoetoe West School's deputy principal, she thought she'd like to take the next step as a principal.

She was contacted about Miller Avenue School's upcoming principal vacancy and met with former principal Richard Wilkinson, who departed in April to take on a leadership role at Kaitaia Abundant Life School.

"[Richard] said to me when we met, before I even applied, 'I think you'll be a great fit here, you'll love it and the kids are great,'" she said.

"I had a look around the school and I just had a really strong feeling of, I think this could fit me, this place."

Deborah said Richard asked her if she had any knowledge of Paeroa and she told him of a fond memory she had of the town. "A very long time ago, a group of us from teachers' college cycled all through the Coromandel area. We cycled through the Karangahake Gorge and it was pouring with rain, and we arrived into Paeroa," she said.



New Miller Avenue School principal Deborah Eastham says she's "very excited" about her new role.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

"We went to a local dairy and one of our group was very slight and she was shaking and wet, and the lady who owned the dairy said 'come on in, I'll make you a hot cup of tea and here's some towels'.

"We were blown away as Aucklanders, we thought that was amazing, so that's the strongest memory I have... I was like if that's what repre-

sents the area then I'd love to be part of that area.

"So it's not the L&P bottle or any of the other things...it was that community feel and that's what drew me here in the first place."

Deborah said she felt "very excited" in her new role in a school with 500 fewer students.

"I love the idea of a smaller

school where I know every single child and can build something with the local community, that's what I'm really excited about," she said.

"It's all about the kids... how can we make sure they feel strong as learners and ready to go out there in this strange world we've been living in with all these uncertainties - that's my number one goal."

Deborah said she also wanted to build strength in the school's Māori kids so they could "succeed as Māori".

A pōwhiri (welcoming ceremony) was held for Deborah on June 7. Her husband Rick, teenage daughters Charlotte and Madelline, and Papatoetoe West School students and staff were among those who attended.

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Hauraki Mayor to throw hat in the ring

CONTINUED FROM P2

Toby Adams, who became Hauraki District Council's third mayor after securing 5036 votes at the 2019 election, is standing for the top job for a second term.

"My decision was based on the passion and drive I have for my community, and with the raft of changes from central government, providing a strong voice for our community is important," he said.

"The current councillors have been absolutely awesome to work with and [I] would look forward to working with them again if they are also successful, and whoever decides to join the council."

Waihi was the most contested of the Hauraki wards in 2019. Anne Marie Spicer was the highest-polling candidate with 1893 votes. For the 2019-2022 term, she has been the Waihi ward chair and has decided to stand again.

"The two terms I've served have certainly had challenges, given the proposed changes and reforms to local government and other challenges here in Hauraki and New Zealand. But I've enjoyed working with council on some good projects... and it's been an honour and a pleasure to serve a second term. I still feel I have much more to give and do, not just in Waihi but in the district, so I hope I'm voted back for a third term."

Phillip Buckthought received 1139 votes in 2019, securing his



Hauraki District Councillors after the 2019 local body election, with Mayor Toby Adams, centre, and chief executive Langley Cavers, right.

place on council for a second term. For the past three years, he has been the chair of the Emergency Management Committee. He hasn't yet made a decision on putting his hat back in the ring.

"Initially I wasn't going to stand but decided I needed to step back and take some time to think about things a bit," he said. "At this point, I am undecided."

Carole Daley stood for a second term in 2019 and received

1430 votes to her name. This term, she has been chair of the Paeroa ward and the Community Housing Working Party. The week before being contacted by *The Profile*, she made the decision to put her name forward for a third time. "I have made my decision based on the support I have been given to do that once more," she said.

First-term councillor Paul Anderson received 1754 votes back in 2019. A businessman for more than 25 years, Paul

established Diamonds on Seddon in Waihi's main street close to two decades ago. He was still undecided on whether or not to re-stand.

"I need to weigh up the time the role takes and the toll it takes on my business and family," he said.

After six years and two terms, Ross Harris told *The Profile* in April he will not stand again for Hauraki District Council.

His absence means for the first time in more than a decade,

there will be no 'Harris' around the council table.

Duncan Smeaton, representing the Waihi ward, did not wish to commit on his intentions "at this point", and responses were not received from either Brian Gentil or Sara Howell, who also represent Waihi.

DETAILS: Local government election nominations open July 15, more info online at: vote.nz.



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Ngātea op shop opens 'with a bang'

By GORDON PREECE

A new Ngātea op shop is quickly becoming the town's new hub and aims to give back to the community.

Thrifiers, next door to Hammer Hardware, offers low-priced donated items.

Manager Sally Johnstone told *The Profile* she and fellow managers Kate Main and Wendy Reid had "taken it upon themselves" to establish a community charitable trust.

"All the profits will go into that community trust and groups will apply to that community trust and we'll distribute that money back into the community," she said.

"It might be someone like the calf club at Ngātea Primary School and [if] they need money for raffles, and instead of going to businesses for donations, we'd like them to come to us to apply.

"Then we will give them vouchers for the businesses so they can go and spend those vouchers to get their raffle prizes." Kate said Thrifiers, which opened on June 7, had "gone off with a bang".

"They love the shop because it's nice and bright... we virtually had a queue when we opened," she said.

"We've been very well supported so it's fantastic - as long as there's a need and there's a big surge of people wanting to thrift, that's why we're called Thrifiers.

"We have really good quality but we keep the prices right down, and we hear that all the time, we're not a second hand



Sally Johnstone, left, Kate Main, and Wendy Reid inside Thrifiers.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

shop, we're a pure op shop."

Kate and Sally said Thrifiers was also a community hub with 15 volunteers from all walks of life contributing and willing to help out.

"We would love more volunteers to join us, even if it is for a morning or afternoon once per fortnight."

"A lot of them are newcom-

ers to Ngātea and they've actually gelled here and formed these amazing friendships."

Kate said Thrifiers also had a no waste approach.

"We have very good avenues of distributing the stuff that's overrun from what we're needing... so we have very minimal landfill through this shop," she said.

"We put a lot of donations

out for free back to the community if they have a bit of marks on it... we have two people that send donations to the [Pacific] Islands... [and] all the sheets, duvets and towels we can't use are cut into rags." Sally said they also planned to send surplus material to Taupō for underprivileged children who learn to sew and make items for shows.

In Brief

SHRINE TO PEACE

Lotus Realm is hosting a Shrine to Peace art project to raise money for the Buddhaloka/Thames Buddhist Centre. The Pollen St music shop and emporium donated 19 blank shrine boxes to the project, and a diverse selection of Thames artists were invited to take one and use it to express concepts of peace. A Lotus Realm spokesperson said the professional and self-taught artists had generously donated their time, skill, vision and materials to create their works. "The plain white boxes have been transformed into an amazing selection of individual artworks. All have given us their unique take on the concept of peace, and it is evident from the work that it is a theme that is at once universal and intensely personal."

WOMEN'S CHOIR CONCERTS

Waihi Women's Choir is holding concerts at 10:30am on June 29 at the Baptist Church, and 5pm on July 7 at St John's Anglican Church. The choir's musical director said the women's choir formed in 2004, and the group sang a wide variety of songs. "We really enjoy singing together and a few times a year we love to show and share this with our community." The choir's programme for the concerts include uplifting, soothing, jazzy and sentimental songs. Entry is by koha/donation.

KIWI FUSION FUNDRAISER

Kiwi Fusion Thames is having a garage sale/clothing clear out fundraiser on the Saturday June 25 at the Grahamstown Hall, 8am until noon on Matariki weekend.

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Rural Life

Te Whangai Trust co-founder honoured

By GORDON PREECE

A desire to continue her late daughter's legacy and address issues facing youth, the unemployed and people at risk led Adrienne Dalton to establish Te Whangai Trust in Pūkoro/Miranda.

The trust, which she established with her husband Gary in 2007, provides an alternative route for those at risk or on a benefit to develop their skills, work ethic and ability to contribute to the community through environmental projects.

Adrienne, who was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) for services to conservation and youth in the recent Queen's Birthday and Platinum Jubilee honours, told *The Profile*, the idea for the trust was inspired by her daughter Leigh, who died in a car accident in 2007.

"She was the sort of kid who brought home stray people instead of stray animals," she said.

"She talked about doing something like this [the trust]... we looked at her legacy and we looked at how we could set up a community-based organisation that focused on people's needs.

"But it had to be hand up not hand out, and had to cover social, environmental, economic and cultural outcomes.

"We took her business model, which was a native plant nursery."

Adrienne said she also noticed a need for alternative services for youth, the unemployed and people at risk during her early years working in justice and education.

"We had a sector of our community that were beneficiaries and they were locked in a dependency cycle and their kids were also missing out on education because of their family circumstances," she said.

"The government services weren't reaching our kids, or there was a conflict between those services.

"I'd go to court with the kids or the person concerned and advocate for them to show the judiciary that there was a conflict in



Adrienne Dalton said her honour was acknowledgement of Te Whangai Trust's people.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

the system. They weren't aware of the circumstances of each individual... and people would just give up and say 'I may as well go back to prison', and then you had that compounding issue and recidivist offending."

Adrienne said after discussing the idea for the trust with local iwi, a local kuia gifted them the name Te Whangai, which means to nurture people as your own.

"We went and took out a mortgage on the [family] farm and started the trust with 100 per cent debt," she said.

"We looked at the model, and it had to be collaborative because it couldn't rely on government for funding. Whoever arrived and wanted support, we looked at their skill set and said 'okay, this is what we have to achieve as a group, how we're going to do it?'

"It's the Te Whangai people who actually create the legacy, and through their mahi they actually help create the mahi for someone else to follow in their footsteps."

- Adrienne Dalton

and from then the nursery grew.

"We had this hairy audacious goal that we generate at least 60 per cent of our own income and we're now generating 80 per cent and employing 74 people in the communities in need."

Adrienne said the trust had also expanded into Auckland with hubs in Pukekohe and Mt Roskill, and was establishing hubs in Panmure and Huntly.

"We're looking at how each of our community hubs create a village where you provide pastoral care for people," she said.

"As a human being they have worth and you just have to grow them so that worth can be developed, and then they can contribute to the community and the community starts to respect them.

"Unless the community starts to respect what they can do, and what they can contribute, our gangs are going to get bigger, [and there will be] more violence and social unrest because we're alienating and isolating so many people."

Adrienne said her honour was acknowledgement of all her supporters, including philanthropic groups, corporates and the trust's senior management team.

"It's the Te Whangai people who actually create the legacy, and through their mahi they actually help create the mahi for someone else to follow in their footsteps and give another family the opportunity to grow themselves," she said.

"They can take their kids and grandkids back and say: 'see that forest there? I planted that'."

Adrienne said she also felt a "tinge of sadness" that her husband Gary wasn't also honoured.

"I feel very guilty being given [MNZM] when it should be a joint one, because it's very much a partnership," she said.

"We've been married 52 years and built on each other's strengths and weaknesses, [and] whatever we've done we've worked together... so to me his contribution was equal to mine."

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Rural Life

Hemp industry could grow in region

By GORDON PREECE

An event to introduce businesses, iwi and entrepreneurs in Hauraki-Coromandel to industrial hemp's economic and sustainability potential was scheduled to be held in Thames on Tuesday.

New Zealand Hemp Industries Association chair Richard Barge, who lives in Paeroa, told *The Profile* he'd like to see the industrial hemp industry grow in the area for food, fibre and health products.

"We're just trying to promote the industrial usage of low THC industrial hemp and try and create that end user demand," he said.

"That will create a pull effect for the industry because growing's not so much the problem, it's what we're going to do with the product that the farmers can grow is the issue.

"We need investment in the value chain at the primary processing level all the way through to new product development and all the associated new technology that might be required to produce those products."

THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) is the psychoactive compound found in cannabis.

Richard said a licence issued by the Ministry of Health was required to grow industrial hemp and could last up to three years.

"It costs \$511 including GST... and you'll need at least one responsible, you'll need a police check, and the location of your crop can't be visible from



The industrial hemp is being promoted in the region. File Photo: PIXABAY

the road is the main consideration."

Richard said a Hauraki and Thames-Coromandel district hemp industry could look different.

"The Hauraki area we're a rotational crop so we'd grow [hemp] over the summer, similar to maize, and therefore it could really work well in crop rotation for a dairy farmer or another arable producer," he said.

"But we do need free draining soil, we don't like wet peat, so we may need varieties that go better on the peat out there in the Hauraki Plains.

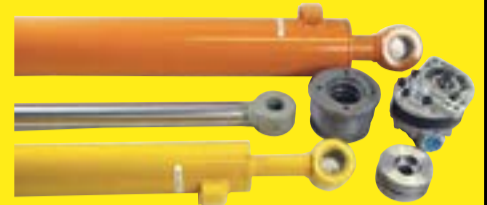
"The Thames-Coromandel area is different in the sense that they should be in my opinion concentrating on the health industry as opposed to the food and fibre, because that grows a different way."

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Grant for kiwi protectors

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

Thames Coast Kiwi Care's success in obtaining a \$270,000 grant all comes down to "astounding community support", its chairperson says.

The society, which protects kiwi across 5000ha behind Te Mata and Tapu along the Thames Coast, received the four-year grant from Waikato Regional Council's Natural Heritage Fund.

Thames Coast Kiwi Care chair Moira Coatsworth told *The Profile* the grant was a tribute to the group's record of trapping and kiwi recovery, as well as its support from the community.

"I'm humbled and just grateful to all the people who contribute to it, that's why we've got [the funding]," she said.

The society has a grid of more than 800 traps targeting stoats, weasels, ferrets, and feral cats. A team of volunteers clear, service, and re-bait these traps at least 16 times a year.

"We've been concentrating on kiwi protection by trapping mustelids, which are a direct threat to kiwi, but when we started 16 years ago, there was a project called The Peninsula Project, which trapped possums and rats.

"So, the whole habitat was being protected," Moira said. "But that stopped in 2010."

For the past 12 years, the society's focus had been on protecting kiwi, she said, but the grant would now double their current operation, enabling them to protect the whole forest habitat.

"As well as kiwi, we'll be able

to protect all the other species by bringing in possum and rat control. We've always wanted to have that joint focus and this gives us the opportunity," Moira said.

With the grant, the trust will utilise recently developed, automatic, self-setting traps which can be used for both possums and rats. These required less maintenance than the current traps and were an "exciting breakthrough", Moira said.

The grant also allows them to recruit a part-time project leader, who, across the four-years, will oversee the new technology being put in place.

Waikato Regional Council's Thames-Coromandel representative Denis Tegg said Thames Coast Kiwi Care had shown "amazing perseverance" and had received "huge" community support over its 16 years.

"This commitment is reflected in the 15 per cent annualised increase in kiwi numbers – an outstanding result in comparison to a two per cent national decline and four per cent increase across the Coromandel in the kiwi population," he said.

"The group's persistent predator control programme has helped the local kiwi population on the Thames Coast increase from an estimate of 28 birds in 2006, to an estimate of approximately 250 in 2021.

Without the Thames Coast project, the local kiwi population would almost certainly have disappeared."



Neighbours save home from fire



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.

1929

A large peat fire in the Pateatonga district covered the Hauraki Plains and Thames Valley in a gigantic smoke screen.

Sparks from a bush fire had ignited grass and peat and hundreds of acres burned.

Bands of settlers dammed drains in order to flood the land and trenches were dug to stop the spread of flames.

At Tapu, bush fires driven by light winds swept down on the homestead of Mr J Roscoe.

Mr Roscoe was absent but three neighbours attempted to save his house. Small patches of fern were fired to form breaks but this failed to stop the fierce onrush of the flames.

The trio carried furniture to a swamp and then spent the night quenching outbreaks of fire on the weatherboarding with buckets of water. At dawn, the fires died away, enabling the tired fighters to retrieve the furniture from the swamp.

Settlers of the district gave the highest praise to the trio for their heroic work in saving the



Peat fires - an anxious time for Hauraki Plains settlers.

Photo: SUPPLIED

property of a neighbour.

A bush fire on the Komata Hills reached serious proportions and the property of Mr Schmitt, of Hauraki Flax Growers and Hemp Producers, was threatened. Two gangs of fire fighters were rushed to the scene, the flames diverted and the flax crop saved.

Smoke from fires on the Hauraki Plains covered the whole district and in many places was so thick that motorists had to slow to a crawl.

Thames businesses had begun trading for the whole of Saturdays, irking fellow businesses at Paeroa.

Paeroa, it was argued, was the logical shopping centre for the district, but through sticking to half day Saturdays, it had lost a golden opportunity.

Thames businessmen were offering special attractions in the way of sales and entertainments.

They provided buses to bring in people from the country and take them home late at night. An area where children could be left to play in perfect safety while their parents were left free to do their shopping was provided.

Te Aroha also had successfully instigated the long shopping day.

A penny-in-the-slot cabinet street telephone was needed in Waihi. Having no such telephone service caused daily inconvenience to residents who had no option but to use shopkeeper's telephones.

This led to private conversations being overheard.

The corner of Seddon St and Rosemont Rd would be an ideal site for a telephone cabinet. It was a busy intersection and under an electric street light.

Application was made to the Post and Telegraph Department.

While bathing in a tidal creek near the Miranda Wharf, Mrs Foote, from Pipiroa, and a female companion were attacked by a shark.

Mrs Foote's friend was bitten first, receiving a nasty bite on the thigh. She screamed for help and Mrs. Foote went to her assistance. As she got closer she was bitten on the right forearm. Both women lost no time in getting to the shore.

Later, the fin of a shark was observed cutting through the water before disappearing.



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FLU 2022

SPORTS

100 games in pocket ahead of cup clash

CLUB PROFILE

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

Now they've each earned 100 caps, Corbin Saunders and Nigel Williams have their eyes fixed on something else: clinching the McClinchy Cup for Thames.

For three of the past four years, the team in black and blue has made it to the finals, but the cup has eluded them.

They played in heavy rain and high winds last year to lose against Mercury Bay by a mere two points.

But on June 11, the club's Senior A team faced much the same conditions to beat the Bay, 43-12.

With two games before the semi-finals, Corbin, who has been Thames' captain for eight years, said winning the cup would be the cherry on top of his 100 caps.

"My grandfather, Jim Darrah, was a bit of a hero, he played for the club, my uncle Ian Handcock played for the club, and my old man [Mark Saunders] played for the club.

"They also won championships, too. I've had my shot but I haven't got one yet, but hopefully this year," he said.

Corbin, who has played for



Corbin Saunders with his kids, Case, 6, and Greer, 2, on the sidelines.

Thames Rugby for 10 years, said he's been at the bottom and "almost at the top", witnessing three McClinchy finals and three tight losses.

But winning the cup this year was "definitely achievable," he said.

"The 100 games are special to me, but my main goal is to win the McClinchy final this year. We've got a really good squad and it's definitely achievable."

Corbin's 100th game was played in Thames on May 28 against Waihou, and his side won 39-12.

A few weeks earlier, on May 7, Nigel Williams played his 100th game in a win against Paeroa. His first game for Thames was back in 2011.

"I was the youngest in the team by about three or four years, but they took me under their wing," he said.

Nigel started as a second



Corbin Saunders says winning the McClinchy Cup would be the cherry on top of his 100 caps.

Photos: SUPPLIED

five-eighth, but after playing "about 12" positions for Thames over his 11 years, he now sits in the front row as prop.

His 100 games is an impressive feat after he tore his ACL half-way through his first season with the club. He was out for the next year and had to

get knee surgery. After a stint playing in England in 2016, he returned to Thames Rugby in 2017. Both he and Corbin said the rugby club, which celebrated its 150th year with a Covid-19-delayed event in August, 2021, was "family-oriented" with a "cool culture".

"They've been massively sup-

portive," Nigel said. "You don't get to play 100 games without being helped along the way."

Acknowledging the 100-capped players is a new tradition for the club, in which athletes receive a blazer in the clubrooms following their games.

CONTINUED ON P13

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SPORTS



CONTINUED FROM P12

Club president Steve Gooder said they haven't followed up with century players in the past, but that they would, going forward.

"We've probably got 20 past players that have done it, some are close to 200 games, and we're going to follow up on that and get them recognised as well," he said.

The Senior As were tipped as the favourites to win the McClinchy Cup this year, but Steve said "you never know" what finals day holds.

"We've got to get through, hopefully, four games and win all four," he said. "We haven't won it since 2012."

Steve has been the club's president for 14 years, and

said while there hadn't been a first XV in Thames for around four years, it was growing, while player numbers remained steady.

There were 130 juniors, 60 senior players, and two teams at Thames High School.

He said like most clubs throughout the country, long family histories were connected to Thames, with Nigel's father Moe Williams also a past coach, and his brothers, past players.

He said both Corbin and Nigel were good "club guys", while Corbin called Nigel a "top bloke".

Nigel shared the same sentiments, and said it had been "an honour" to run out on to the field alongside Corbin, a captain who led "from the



Corbin Saunders, left, and Nigel Williams run out on to the field for Thames.

Photos: SUPPLIED

front".

The 100-capped players also had their families and friends at the sidelines of their milestone matches, with Nigel pointing out the fact his girlfriend, Shannen Middleton, had "put up with a lot" during his 11 years in the jersey.

The McClinchy Cup final is set for Te Aroha in July.

The cup was won by Waihi in 2018, Te Aroha in 2019, Whangamata in 2020, and Mercury Bay in 2021.



Nigel Williams, left, celebrates on the sidelines during his 100th match.








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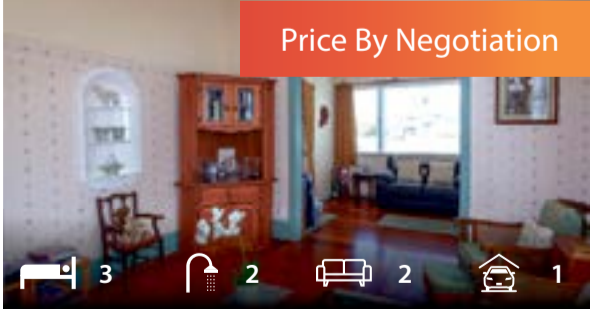


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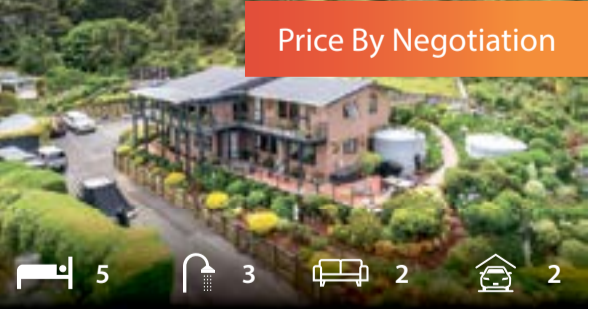


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SPORTS

Sports briefs

Trophy tour highlights work in girls' sport

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

Despite the Black Fern's absence from their Trophy Tour to two Hauraki towns last month, work continues to be done in the Valley to encourage girls into sport.

The Women's Rugby World Cup Trophy Tour was promoted as providing an opportunity for the public to get "up close with the silverware" and "meet some of their women's rugby heroines".

The tour came to Paeroa for the primary school ripa rugby day on May 18, and was in Ngatea for the Thames Valley secondary school girls ripa tournament on May 25.

Although the young players - of which there were more than 100 in Paeroa - were not able to "meet women's rugby stars of the past, present and future", Thames Valley Rugby Football Union's rugby development officer Scott Day said the two events were "absolutely fantastic".

"It gave girls an opportunity to network with girls from other schools, clubs, and towns. It also gave them a safe and fun 'girls only' environment to excel and enjoy their rugby experience," he said.

"Because the girls were



The Trophy Tour made two stops in the Hauraki with hundreds of young players turning out for the events. File Photo: GORDON PREECE

enjoying their experience, the parents were as well, which is hugely important for any child's sporting experience."

Since its launch in March, there have been more than 40 Trophy Tour activations from as far north as Ahipara and as far south as Stewart Island.

Before the world cup tournament begins on October 8, there will be more than 100 further activations due to take place throughout Aotearoa.

A New Zealand Rugby

spokesperson told *The Profile* the trophy was present at every activation, and where possible, current and former Black Ferns and other influential rugby women attend, too.

However, due to the Black Ferns' playing and training commitments, it was not always possible for them to attend.

"We are unable to guarantee Black Ferns' attendance at our Trophy Tour activations, although always endeavour to put on a thoroughly enjoyable

experience for those attending," they said.

"We are proud of the role the Black Ferns play in inspiring tamariki and place significant value on community engagement as their high-performance schedule permits."

Mr Day said the rugby union continued to work on encouraging young girls into sport.

"The TVRFU believes that it is important for girls to feel encouraged and positive about any opportunities to play rugby.

"Rugby is a game that some girls have never been exposed to, and our goal is to make that trend less common and more of a regular experience that they look forward to," he said.

"If rugby is not their chosen sport, we would hugely encourage them to grab any sporting experience with both hands."

The union is hosting a number of specific girls rugby events over the 2022 season in the junior, secondary school, and women spaces.

DETAILS: Head to the Thames Valley Rugby Union Facebook Page for information.



GOOD SPORTS LAUNCHED

New Zealand Rugby, Sport Waikato and the three Waikato provincial rugby unions (Thames Valley Rugby Union, King Country Rugby Union, and Waikato Rugby Union) came together on May 31 to sign a three-year Memorandum of Understanding. The MoU formally outlines their commitment to 'Balance is Better' philosophies through the delivery of the Good Sports programme. Balance is Better aims to support quality sport experiences for all young people, regardless of ability, needs and motivations. It is about helping young people stay involved in sport for life and realise their potential at the right time. Good Sports is a culture change programme designed to promote positive experiences for young people in sport. It is designed to raise adults' awareness about their behaviours in children's sport through supporting parents and whānau as well as other key influencers in young people's sporting experiences, such as coaches and other local leaders, to better understand and deliver to the needs of tamariki.

TVRFU CLUB RESULTS

Tom Jordan Cup: Waihi Athletic 8-62 Mercury Bay; Whangamata 37-19 Hauraki North; Coromandel 7 -17 Paeroa; Waihou 21-23 COBRAs. Leach Cup: Waihi Athletic 19-24 Ngatea; COBRAs 29-25 Mercury Bay; Waihou 3- 35 Thames.

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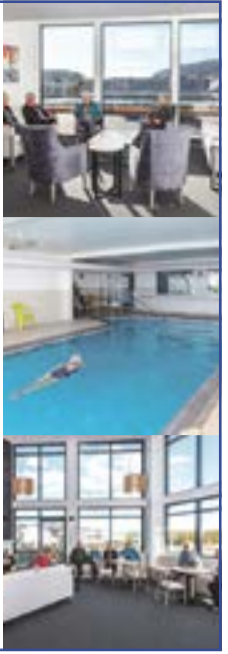
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4					3	8		1
7	6						2	
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HARD

55

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9	3	5	4	6	2	7	1	8
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HARD

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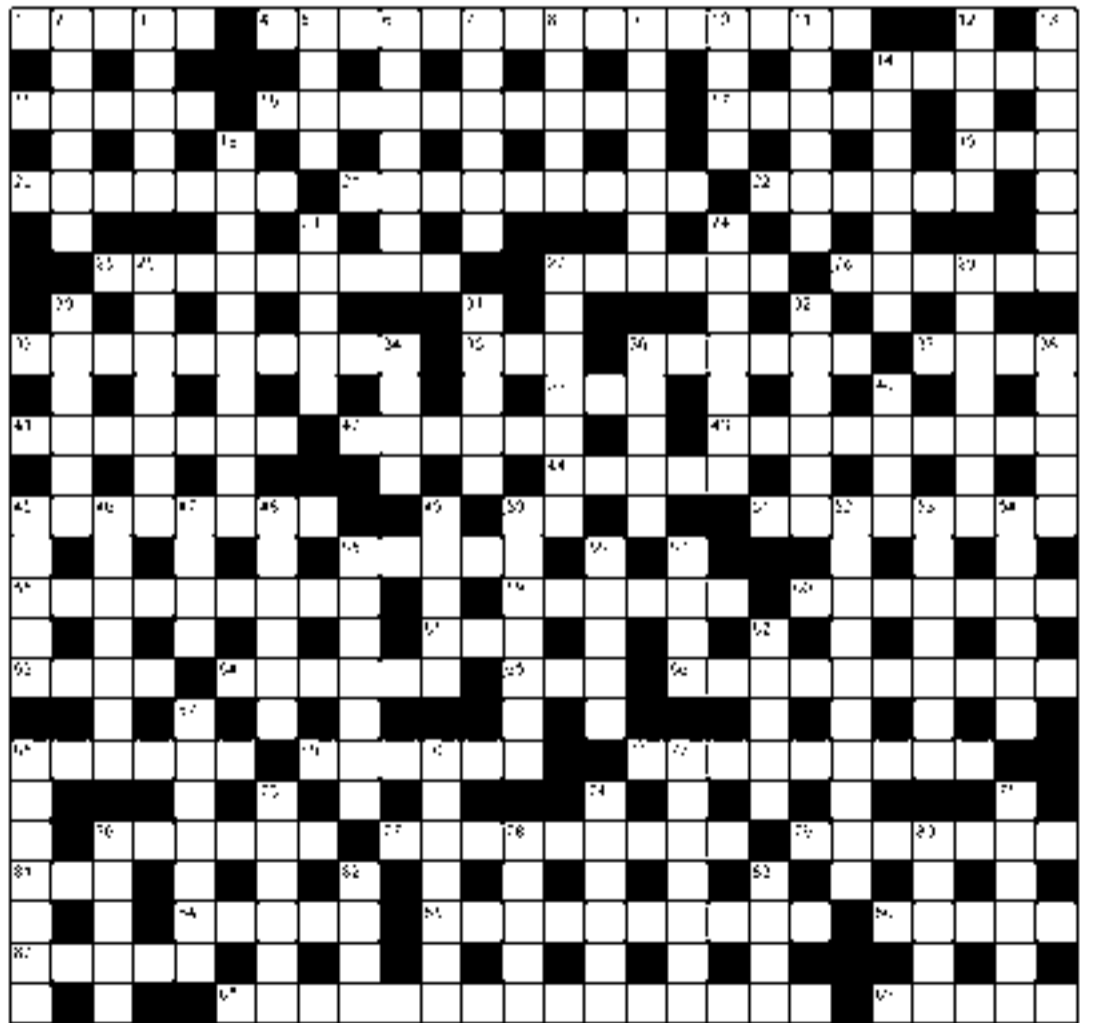
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9	8	4	6	1	7	3	5	2

EASY

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75

- ACROSS**
- 1 Near (5)
 - 4 Make an effort to do better (4,4,5,2)
 - 14 Vertical passageway (5)
 - 15 Dark (5)
 - 16 Sudden rainstorm (10)
 - 17 Add up (5)
 - 19 Anger (3)
 - 20 Envious (7)
 - 21 Engaged woman (5-2-2)
 - 22 Made ready (6)
 - 25 Top flat (9)
 - 27 Buccaneer (6)
 - 28 Tranquil (6)
 - 33 Hot-air travelling (10)
 - 35 A shout to frighten (3)
 - 36 Radio crackle and hiss (6)
 - 37 Male deer (4)
 - 39 Pledge (3)
 - 41 Pressured into doing (7)
 - 42 Breakfast fare (6)
 - 43 Amateur (9)
 - 44 Hessian (5)
 - 45 Happy-go-lucky (8)
 - 50 Company (abbr)(2)
 - 51 Troops on foot (8)
 - 55 Fan-shaped river mouth (5)
 - 58 Rule of personal conduct (9)
 - 59 Silver tray (6)
 - 60 Morally depraved (7)
 - 61 Fifth note (3)
 - 63 Watched (4)
 - 64 Sponge-like (6)
 - 65 Kind (3)
 - 66 Entranced (10)
 - 68 Dog breed (6)
 - 69 Film cutter (6)
 - 71 Say sorry (9)
 - 76 Astuteness (6)
 - 77 Divvy up (9)
 - 79 Pursued stealthily (7)
 - 81 Unmatched (3)
 - 84 Gloss (5)
 - 85 Plait, twine together (10)
 - 86 Muggy (5)
 - 87 Skilled (5)
 - 88 Flagrant over-charging (8,7)
 - 89 High temperature (5)
- DOWN**
- 2 Touched down (6)
 - 3 Wet feed for pigs (5)
 - 5 Grotesque (4)
 - 6 Parallel window slats (7)
 - 7 Person of no importance or influence (6)
 - 8 Bracing bar (5)
 - 9 Month (7)
 - 10 Flying device (4)
 - 11 Improvement (6)
 - 12 Swift (5)
 - 13 Church tower (7)
 - 14 Sleep (7)
 - 18 Bid taker (10)
 - 23 Stitched design (5)
 - 24 Layer (7)
 - 26 Magnify (7)
 - 27 Contract condition (7)
 - 29 No longer existing (7)
 - 30 Eastern temple (6)
 - 31 Overly fat (5)
 - 32 Young cat (6)
 - 34 Overabundance (4)
 - 36 Expanse of short grass (5)
 - 38 Dizzy (5)
 - 40 Computer input (4)
 - 45 Small wood (5)
 - 46 Clothing (7)
 - 47 Actuality (4)
 - 48 Use (6)
 - 49 Ecstasy (5)
 - 50 I search (anag)(7)
 - 52 Stage illumination (10)
 - 53 Jittery (7)
 - 54 Sniper (anag) (6)
 - 55 Fan (7)
 - 56 Lucky accident (5)
 - 57 Camera part (4)
 - 62 Retail (5)
 - 67 Ask for (7)
 - 68 Student (7)
 - 70 Young tree (7)
 - 72 Saying (7)
 - 73 Membrane in eye (6)
 - 74 Home sound-system (6)
 - 75 Swot up (6)
 - 76 Said further (5)
 - 78 Group of eight (5)
 - 80 Parasitic insect (5)
 - 82 Sense (4)
 - 83 In excess of (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Spade, 4 Horrible, 9 Refuse, 14 Seine, 15 At sixes and sevens, 17 Shape, 18 Ass, 19 Mislays, 20 Platitude, 21 Fetus, 24 Spotlight, 25 Bleach, 26 Insult, 29 Chardonnay, 31 Kid, 32 Slowed, 33 Mill, 35 Get, 37 Stun, 39 Insurance, 40 Anthology, 41 Trout, 42 Expected, 47 Prisoner, 51 Clout, 55 Vice versa, 56 Renovated, 58 Shed, 59 Emu, 60 Yolk, 61 Treaty, 62 Ski, 63 Nosy Parker, 66 Medley, 67 Grumpy, 69 Petulance, 72 Climax, 73 Entertain, 75 Beguile, 77 Air, 80 Unity, 81 Best bib and tucker, 82 Cases, 83 Zephyr, 84 Elements, 85 Broth.

DOWN: 2 Patriarch, 3 Drill, 5 Oval, 6 Red flag, 7 Breathtaking, 8 Erect, 9 Residue, 10 Fast, 11 Shadow, 12 Midas, 13 Persist, 14 Sextant, 16 Etymologist, 22 Clones, 23 Acrobat, 24 Strange, 25 Budget, 27 Unicorn, 28 Jester, 30 Yarn, 32 Stool, 34 Layer, 36 Cogs, 38 Tax, 42 Envoy, 43 Pickled, 44 Cove, 45 Errors, 46 Honey, 48 Independent, 49 Observe, 50 Ewe, 51 Cavalry, 52 Trusty, 53 Indisputable, 54 Oven, 57 Tussle, 64 Excellent, 65 Serious, 66 Monarch, 68 Minibar, 70 Thimble, 71 Native, 72 Crust, 74 Ensue, 76 Ulcer, 78 Myth, 79 Knot.

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Tamariki Station Ainslie staff and tamariki are excited about new fruit forest.

Daycare kids connect to ‘food from the sky’

By GORDON PREECE

One of Matariki’s stars provided inspiration for a new fruit forest for some Paeroa preschoolers.

Tamariki Station Ainslie childcare centre will have more than 30 fruit trees each worth \$40 to \$60 planted to provide its tamariki (children) and the community with fresh fruity treats.

The fruit trees are sponsored by Hauraki and Thames businesses and individuals, and include citrus, grapes, berries, apples, stonefruits, feijoas and garden beds for vegetables.

Head teacher Christina Drent told *The Profile* the idea for project came from the daycare’s kaiako (teachers) researching one of Matariki’s nine stars, and discovered the star Tupu-ā-rangi was connected to food that came from the sky.

“It’s all about recognising the harvesting above ground and the berries and the birds,” she said.

“So I went to Jackie [the daycare’s manager] and said how about we have a donation box out the front for our whanau and see if we can at least raise enough money for five fruit trees and it’s turned into what it is now [more than 30].

“What’s come in so far is over \$1200 and that’s not all - there’s still more coming in and donations from gift

cards.”

Christina said the donations allowed the daycare to purchase the plantations from Country Dog Garden Centre.

Manager Jackie Williams said Elite Garden Care were in charge of blueprints for the project, Vision Build and Scotty’s Bobcat Services prepared the land for planting.

She was “just so humbled with how many people have come to support the Tamariki, it’s been amazing”, she said.

Director Erin Staples said the donated trees made the daycare aware of the support from businesses in Paeroa and surrounding areas.

“When something like this happens everybody steps in to be there and support each other which I think is the best [thing] about being in Paeroa is that everyone’s there to help each other out,” she said.

Jackie said once the fruit and vegetables grow, they would be picked by the daycare’s tamariki for their whanau, and donated to the community through its Pataka Kai community pantry.

A karakia by kaumātua Larn Wilkinson was held before the first five trees were planted by Netherton School students, Richardsons Real Estate Paeroa, Elite Garden Care, and Vision Build.

The remaining trees will be planted for the daycare’s Matariki celebration on June 23 at 4pm.



Volunteers, including Netherton students, plant the fruit trees. Photos: GORDON PREECE

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If you have asthma, speak to your GP, Māori or Pacific health provider to make sure you have an asthma plan.

Get connected

Winter can be an isolating time for many of us. It’s important to keep reaching out or checking in with friends and loved ones. Kōrero with whānau and check their immunisations are up to date.

Visit your GP before you get too sick or phone Healthline on 0800 611 116 for FREE 24-hour health advice.

For mental health support FREE call 0800 50 50 50 or txt 1737 anytime.

Get protected

Getting immunised is the best way to protect yourself and your whānau from serious illnesses like COVID-19, flu, measles and whooping cough. Every year we get new flu variants so we need a new flu vaccine.

Visit a mobile vaccination clinic, your GP, local pharmacy, Māori or Pacific health provider to get your immunisations up-to-date.

Contact your GP or local pharmacy for all your vaccinations. Waikato DHB community and mobile vaccination clinics are offering COVID-19 vaccinations, plus FREE flu and MMR immunisations to those eligible.

For more information and to find a vaccination site near you, go to waikatodhb.health.nz/immunise or call 0800 220 250

TOP TIPS TO STAY WELL THIS WINTER

- ✔ Eat well
- ✔ Stay hydrated – inside and out
- ✔ Keep active
- ✔ Wash and dry your hands often
- ✔ Keep up with personal hygiene
- ✔ Allow your body to get good rest
- ✔ Stay home if you are sick
- ✔ Dress for the weather
- ✔ Keep your home warm
- ✔ Check-in with friends and loved ones



SPORTS

New goals for netball's Josey and Steve

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

After more than 25 years involved with the Paeroa Netball Centre, it literally took losing the ability to walk to keep Josey McKain off the courts.

After suffering an array of health setbacks, from breaking her tibia and fibula bones in her lower leg, to contracting Covid-19 and having a heart attack, all within six months, Josey and her husband Steve decided to take a step back from their roles at the centre, where Josey was president.

"I think this was telling me something," she told *The Profile*, alluding to the broken leg doctors said could take 18 months to completely heal.

"When I think about it, so many people have told me to slow down. I never thought I was doing it fast but this has definitely slowed me down."

Josey used to play, coach, and umpire netball, and in the time she's spent involved with the centre, she's estimated they've fundraised, or have been granted funding of at least \$200,000 to install fences, lights, and shelters.

"I was only young when I took over, and the only reason I did was [because] my aunty told me to come along and coach her daughter's team. I was the primary co-ordinator,

slowly went to vice president, and then to president," she said.

"I've been there ever since." Steve has also helped with maintenance at the centre, as well as in its canteen.

"If I wanted to spend time with my wife, I had to go to the netball centre," he said. "That's how much time she spent there when she took over."

In September, Josey was in Hamilton when she broke her tibia and fibula bones during a fall. In March, she caught Covid-19 and subsequently suffered a heart attack.

She is still getting around with the use of crutches and a walker.

"I'm getting used to rods and pins and pain, but it's the way it is," she said.

She officially resigned as president from the centre in early April, while Steve resigned from his post with Thames Valley Touch. The couple will still be involved with the Paeroa Basketball Association.

"We're the type of people that if you can't do your job properly, then don't do it," he said.

They were also acknowledged with life memberships at the Paeroa Netball Centre alongside three others, including Meirene Gillett, Kereana Parata, and Ruth Aitken, who was recently named a Dame.



Steve and Josey McKain have resigned from their posts at Paeroa Netball Centre after being involved for more than two decades. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

"These are the first [life memberships] I've known of since I've been involved," Josey said. "Before I thought about resigning, I knew of people stepping down so I thought we needed to acknowledge them, because you have people who have been in-

involved for a while who get left behind and forgotten about that need to be thanked.

"All of a sudden, we were getting our life membership, too."

Josey and Steve said sporting clubs would always face the challenge of maintaining

membership numbers, but they looked forward to seeing the continuing progress of the Paeroa Netball Centre.

"Change is good," Steve said, "but so is history."



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