

"[It] would've been about four or five metres deep and very dark but when we found him, there was a white light to say where he was - it was a very eerie feeling," he told The Profile.

TRY

IC

The underground project leader for Alton Drilling in Waihī was awarded a Waikato Commissioner Appreciation Award in May for rescuing the man from the Waitawheta River at Dickey Flat Waterfalls in February last year.

Kevin still doesn't know the identity of the man he saved, but said it was an Asian gentleman close to his 30s who "didn't speak English".

On the day of the rescue, Kevin had finished swimming with his two sons, Paitoa and Piriora, when he was told a man was submerged downstream.

"[I was] sitting on the other side of the river with my kids, and I'd seen three Asians come down and cross the river fully clothed.

"[It] would've been a good three minutes and then [one of the group] popped up and just casually swam towards us, pulled himself up on the rocks,

Keyin Peka, left, receives his award from Waikato District Commander Superintendent Bruce Bird, caught his breath and spoke to

the female, and she turned to me and said can you help my friend? "I was like where is he? And

[they] just pointed at the river and said down there. Kevin swam down the river

and dove under to scan the river floor for the man but couldn't find him. When he dove under again, he was joined by a by-stander named Adam, who'd been sitting on nearby rocks.

The pair found the man on the bottom shortly after - he was fully clothed in a tracksuit and jumper.

When they pulled him out of the water, the man was unre-

110

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sponsive with no pulse.

"It was quite scary, he was very pale white," Kevin said. "We both pulled him up, I took over and swam to the bank, pulled him on to the rocks, and started doing CPR. But where we had him placed, I wasn't getting full compression, so I had to drag him up

Photo: SUPPLIED

DUNTRY

"Once I got him up the bank to a flat surface [I] started CPR and another bystander, Ann, she came and did mouth to mouth while I did the compressions.

"That went on for about 20 minutes until we got him back ... CONTINUED P7



TO BE THE

the bank.

CONTACT US

The Valley Profile delivers 100% local news each Wednesday to every letterbox in Hauraki Plains, Paeroa, Waihī, Thames, Thames Coast and surrounding rural areas, plus bulk distribution Peninsula-wide, reaching approximately 35,000 readers.

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

espite three in-person pleas Despite three in-person prese and a petition signed by more than 600 to remove the "temporary" Vibe in Thames, the community board chose to keep it for another year and invest up to \$15,000. The Thames

Community Board meeting on June 22 be-gan with members of the public calling for decision makers to remove the "eyesore" that has closed Mary St to traffic for 15 months.

They argued there was inadequate consultation prior to the initial street closure; that in more than one year, neither the council and community board had formally approved the de-sign; and that the Vibe space was

"ugly beyond belief". Sheryl McConnell, who pre-sented a petition to the commu-nity board signed by more than 640 people in April, asked mem-bers to "please listen". Her petition was followed by one in favour of The Vibe that

amassed 100 signatures. During the hour-long discus-

sion about the space, two community board members poked holes in the public petitions, with one alleging people only signed against the space because they thought it was a Covid-19

"We've had two petitions, and if we're brutally honest - and I think we should be - both petitions had flaws," Thames ward



Community board members have voted to go out to public consultation for the Vibe.

"When I counted all the names, I saw that some people had signed the initial petition more than once... the other thing I'm aware of is that I know at least three people who signed the petition because they sort of felt

the pressure to." Cr Sinclair believed the vast majority of people who had an opinion about the Vibe didn't have an adequate opportunity to share their opinion, and called on council to create its own consultation.

titions.

of the signatures of those who are against Create the Vibe," she said.

"Particularly, I know of one business who had it on their front counter and people were signing it because they thought it was the Covid register." After lengthy discussion,

After lengthy discussion, members voted to retain the Create the Vibe trial as current for 12 months, replacing some materials as required at a cost of up to \$15,000.

Staff must report back by June 30 with its final recommendation, following a community consultation that would likely take place over the summer (January-March) period.

Board chair Strat Peters and against the motion.

Speaking to *The Profile* immediately following the decision, Carson's Bookshop owner Greg Hampton said the discussion was "very muddled" and ignored the financial and logistical aspects of Mary St's closure, raised by the public. "I don't think the petition-

ers have had any response from council since first lodging it.

"They spoke at the meet-ing again today and still there doesn't appear to be any mes-sage back," he said. "So, there's still no solution proposed for the roundabout which can't be accessed from town. It's completely ignored in the whole discussion and decision-making.

Journalism inclusion de majo

councillor and board member Robyn Sinclair said. here... I too understand there is member Peter Revell voted the question around the validity CATE -**Brett Harris a***tmotorcycles* ATIONAL ANDLES Servicing and Repairs Electrical 2016 Ltd Workshop or On Farm For all your Electrical **Road, Farm, MotoX** EST. 11867 Requirements 24/7 Ph: 027 2166867 Specialist in all Hardware Graham Cornes **Farm Installations** A Grade Motorcycle Mechanic graham@a1motorcycles.co.nz Quality and maintenance. kitchenware and **Parts and Accessories** Domestic - Rural gifts for all seasons. Commercial Road, Farm, MotoX 7 Mahuta North Road. Ph: 027 2166860 Hauraki Plains Alison Cornes Tel: (07) 867-5196 308 POLLEN ST. SHORTLAND, THAMES parts@a1motorcvcles.co.nz readbres.co.nz Mobile: 027 270 2804 07.989.8809 www.a1motorcycles.co.nz St.Good Serving the Hauraki Plains for 25 years Tides rterec ccoun hames Wed Thu Mon Tue Sun The Haurak

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Create the Vibe stays for another year

Member Cherie Staples also questioned the validity of the pe-

"Six-hundred people versus 100 in a petition, when we've got about 6000-7000 people living

Moanataiari 'can't be protected' forever

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

Eventually, the residents of Moanataiari will have to retreat

After a significant amount of sea level rise, which could occur within the next three decades, the suburb on Thames' coast-line won't be able to be protected.

It was news the district council said it knew would be difficult for the residents of Moanataiari to digest. If the subdivision, built on

land reclaimed from the sea, saw a sea level rise of more than 0.2m (200mm), the long-term defence would be managed retreat, rather than council spending millions to continu-

ously build up the sea wall. "One way to put it, and a very optimistic way, is if we do not get sea level rise and we do not have hazards affecting us, we may not have to do very much. We're effectively planning for the worst," Thames-Coroman-del District Council's asset and planning manager Amon Martin said.

"We think it will happen at some point, but there is uncertainty about how fast it will

"When things start to hap-pen, when you get 0.1m of sea level rise, you identify that as a trigger, and you monitor that, and then you take the action.

At a Thames-Coromandel District Council shoreline management plan public meeting on June 17, "being flexible" and



Moanataiari, along Thames' coast, was built on land reclaimed from the sea.

acknowledging uncertainty was key for the residents of at-risk Moanataiari.

According to data retrieved from Stats NZ, between 1899-2018, Auckland had seen a 1.67mm increase in sea level per year, or just under 0.2m.

This includes an increase of just over 100mm, or 5.3mm per year over the past 20 years.

Modellers were "largely con-fident" the country could see a sea level rise of 160mm-400mm by 2050 - a "best case scenario" based on low global emissions. The data became "less cer-

tain" after 2050. "There is quite a bit of uncer-tainty in our predictions; the timing when all the things are

going to happen, but we lean on and use the triggers and the flexibility that the pathways provide to make a plan, because that is a good way to help with the un-

certainty," Mr Martin said. When Moanataiari started to see a sea level rise of 0.1m (100mm), that's when council would start planning for a man-aged retreat, he said.

When it gets to 0.2m, it'll start initiating it. "That will prevent us from get-

ing to that unaccessible thresh-old of having 0.4m (400mm) of sea level rise," he said. "If there's one thing to take away, that is the key message: after 0.4, after a significant amount of sea level rise, we

Beds Rus

Photo: SUPPLIED/TCDC

don't think we can keep protect-

ing Moanataiari." Discussed at the public meeting was a scenario to increase the height of the current sea wall by around two metres, at an estimated cost of \$25 million.

But the option was just that, presenters said, an option, "not the most likely option", or the best way to protect Moanataiari

"This is the difficult part of this conversation," Mr Martin said. "We're not advocating that we continue to build up the sea wall; we're not advocating that putting two metres on the wall is a viable option for Moanataiari.

"There's a number of reasons

for that."

The reasons related to cost, the settlement of the land, and the residual risk that if something happened to the wall, the properties behind it could be jeopradised.

Mr Martin said talking in 100-year time-frames, council was not advocating the wall as being the sole protector of the suburb, which he acknowledged was "quite a difficult thing to di-

gest". Given that, council did not think retreating from Moana-taiari needed to happen tomorrow, he said.

Thames-Coromandel District Council's shoreline manage-ment plan was a three-year project working to understand the inundation and erosion risks to the area's coastline. It is due to

conclude this year. Mayor Sandra Goudie earlier said sea level rise was "a huge challenge facing many councils" but for Thames-Coromandel, it was even more challenging giv en its geography and 400km of coastline.

This will require difficult and confronting conversations for some of our communities over the next few months, but we know that understanding the risks now, and planning ahead now, is the right thing to do. DETAILS: For more information, or to offer feedback, visit the TCDC

website: www.tcdc.govt.nz.



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Hikutaia School celebrated Matariki on June 22 with students presenting what they'd learnt about Matariki's stars, waiata performances and hangi feasting. Reporter GORDON PREECE headed along to capture the talented students and experience Hikutaia School's manaakitanga (hospitality).



Etera Thomason digs into his lunch.



Year 5 pupils Edna Masima, left, Holly Shortt and Sian Wright present their Matariki stars with a splash of colour.



Lucas Kerr, Connor Perry and Trey Koia-Hamling present their work.



Year 3 pupil Shila Kaye during a waiata.



Sophia Banger, left, and Evie Murray



Jessie Wilton, left, and Harper Thorburn's stars align.



Students present their Matariki artwork.



Girls enjoy their hāngī lunch.

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'Groundbreaking' service opens

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

A "milestone" for Te Korowai and "groundbreaking" for the Hauraki rohe - a new preventative and health screening hub has opened in Thames.

Pito Hauora, introduced by Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki and the Waikato District Health Board, will offer breast and cervical screening for wāhine (women), and a dental service for tamariki.

At its opening on June 20, following a karakia and whakatau (welcome) led by Dr Korohere Ngapo, former Te Korowai chief executive Riana Manuel told her successor Tammy Dehar that the new hub was "a goodie".

"[They] are going to be ground-breaking for women, children, and whānau of this rohe.

"Remembering that there is a lot of Hauraki past Thames, there are a lot of people who live an hour, two hours, past this destination, so you can appreciate what it meant to have to go further to get to these services previously," she said.

"There's nothing I like better than when we say we're going to do something, and we follow through. That's the most impressive part about it, all of this kaupapa.

"We're saying what we're doing and we're putting it into practice."

Pito Hauora's aim is to reduce barriers by providing access to health screening and other intervention services closer to home.

Its mammogram machine was installed at the centre in May this year, and the service has already performed more than 400 screenings in its first four weeks.

Chief executive of Te Puna Hauora Matua o Hauraki (Hauraki PHO), and Pito Hauora project lead Taima Campbell said she was "really pleased" to be able to offer a service for all of Hauraki - but the job was not done yet.

"We've got plans for more here," she said.

"We're really looking at an opportunity to grow our workforce as well, and for us, having any kind of ear, nose, and throat services for our babies is really important."

There was also an opportunity to do something similar in Paeroa, she said.

"We need to have these hubs and these spaces for whanau to



At its launch on June 20, Pito Hauora project lead Taima Campbell said she was "really pleased" to be able to offer a new health service for all of Hauraki. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

come to in a number of different places. This is a really good start for us.

"Improving access to preventive screening services and early treatment for our population is part of what we put into our locality-based proposal, so this is just the beginning of that journey." Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki is the only Iwi health provider within Pare Hauraki, and the largest provider of holistic whānau-centred services within the rohe.

Pita Hauora's ingoa (name) was gifted by Dr Korohere Ngapo and Matua Wati Ngamane, and symbolises the potential of growth and, in this context, refers to the promise of a healthier pathway.

It will be staffed with a mix of Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki and Waikato DHB staff on weekdays.



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hump for Heart

Matatoki School students raised \$5625 for the Heart Foundation with an afternoon of jump rope event on June 17. Of the school's 91 pupils, 41 took part in the fundraising portion of the event, with the money being donated by 188 generous donors. Reporter KELLEY TANTAU did a hop, skip, and jump to catch the action.





Reave Richards has a go



Anekah Bennett practises her skills

Carlie Berntsen shows off her technique. Photos: KELLEY TANTAU Kayla Quinn partakes in the 'free jump' section. **JOCK MUNRO MOTORS LTD**

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Matatoki students Braye Hunt, Paige Hunt, Amber Bergersen, and Mackenzie Read.

Destination Playground for Thames

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

Move aside Hamilton, it's Thames' turn to get its very own Destination Play-ground. The innovative playgrounds, ove aside Hamilton, it's

often seen in bigger centres like Hamilton and Auckland, are different to traditional play-grounds in that they provide more creative and challenging equipment. They also typically come with

a million-dollar price tag. But Thames' state-of-the-art and accessible jungle gym will be majority-funded by philan-

thropists, who have asked to keep their identities a secret. Thames Business Associa-tion chief executive Sue Lewis-O'Halloran told *The Profile*, it was an exciting development for Thames, one that will see families travel to utilise it.

We've never done anything quite like this, and we're really excited to do it.

The Destination Playground will be located in Porritt Park, in between the skate park and Thames Citizens' Band Hall on

Thames Citizens' Band Hair on Queen St. It has the potential to include water play, flax weaving, bar-beques, swings, and wheelchair accessible features. "A playground should be for everyone, all ages and stages, regardless of their physical abil-ities or disabilities," Sue said. Also coming with the play-

Also coming with the play-ground is "the Rolls-Royce of bathrooms": a Changing Places bathroom facility that will meet



Thames is set to get its own Destination Playground at Porritt Park in 2023.

the needs of people who cannot use standard accessible toilets It will be the fifth of its kind in

the country, Sue said. "It's a huge deal and because there are so few of them in New Zealand, there will be fami-lies that will travel here to use them.

It is hoped the transformation of Porritt Park will take place in early 2023. The project has the support of Ngāti Maru and Thames-Coromandel District Council, with the latter committed to maintaining the space, Sue said.

"How often do we all get to work together in a positive, col-laborative way? That's one of the most exciting things about the project," she said. "Every-body is keen."

Across in Hamilton, there are eight Destination Playgrounds. The city's Hamilton Gardens and Dominion Park playgrounds had a \$1m budget, including associated facilities such as toilets and car parking. Hare Puke Park, in the suburb

of Flagstaff, also cost \$1m and was built in 2018.

While Sue would not disclose the budget for Thames' play-ground, the donors would provide "the bulk" of the funding, which meant there were fundraising opportunities within the community.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

"The more the community raises, the more we can do in terms of equipment and enhancements to the playground, she said.

"We'll be starting with each of the schools in the Thames ward, inviting them to give us an idea of what they'd like to see in the playground ... we'll also be meeting with community groups and local businesses to get their support and input.

"It's so important that everyone has a say in this amazing project.

Public Interest na les l'anagés Références

Award for river rescue

CONTINUED FROM P1

and put him in the recovery position.

Kevin said while he was performing CPR, two young guys who were walking past ran off to contact emergency services.

Within an hour, ambulance staff, police and the fire service arrived and the fire service carried the man to a nearby farm where he was airlifted to Tauranga Hospital.

Kevin said having first aidtraining did pay off.

"A lot of people do it but don't really take [it] in, thinking they're not going to be able to use it."

Kevin said he didn't learn of the man's fate until he received a text from Hamilton Police on April 27 saying he'd be receiving the award.

They had a message that the guy was alive, so that was a bit of comfort there after all these [months].

Kevin said his family and work colleagues were "over the moon" about his award.

"I'm not the guy to sort of put it out there, and they finally got it out there, and even [Waihī] mine had a big talk about it, he said.

"To receive an award, I thought: it's just the Kiwi way. 'If someone's in trouble, an-

yone would just help, [I] wasn't really expecting anything from

Depressed? Stressed? Out of sync with the world? Be like Richard...

Hi guys, just wanted to drop you a line and say thanks. I did some courses with you in 2014, a couple of level 1 courses and a level 2 mechanical engineering one.

I was at a pretty negative time in my life, bad relationship, lost job etc. I had previously always worked in less hands-on jobs and found work stressful. I gained so much confidence and enthusiasm for life in the time I studied with Valley Education. I was able to complete my work ahead of schedule and use the equipment to practice on my own projects. This got me really enthused with starting a business and working for myself. There was a small business workshop in Thames that we went to with Valley Education and by the end of the year I was full of confidence, enthusiasm and direction. Since then I have continued studying. I did my level 3 in Organic Horticulture and level 4 Small Business Management by correspondence through SIT. I used the confidence in my practical skills while I did correspondence, rebuilding an old sawmill and renovating a house in Tokoroa. I have continued studying, completing a diploma in sustainable development through Open Polytechnic in 2016, and am now only a couple of months away from completing my Bachelors in Applied Science (Environment).

In March this year I moved down south to Otago with my partner. We have bought 26 acres and begun the journey of starting our own farm and working towards organic certification. We began building our dream house in January with the sawmill I restored. I wanted to take the time to thank VETEL for the environment you provided back 4 years ago. To a degree I ended up on your door because I was depressed, stressed and out of sync with the world I was living in. In my time with you I met real people, I learned practical hands on skills. I developed confidence to go after both the knowledge and the skill-sets that I need. There are lots of places that will teach you what to think, or what to do. I feel Valley Education showed me how to access knowledge and apply it practically

Your contribution will always mean a lot to me. Cheers Richard

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Weren HALL WALKATO



Project to guide flood, drainage investment decisions

Aleading edge project to help councillors make best prac-tice decisions on investment in flood protection and drainage assets is attracting interest from agencies around New Zealand. The draft sustainable infra-structure decision making frame-

work (SIDF) received unanimous support when it was presented at this month's meeting of Waikato Regional Council's Strategy and Policy Committee.

Committee Chair Pamela Stocommittee Chair Pamela Sto-rey said: "Investment decisions the Waikato Regional Council makes today can have long term ramifications – including com-mitting council and communi-ties to inter-generational invest-ments ments.

"We have flood protection and drainage assets totalling \$643 million, and it's estimated that we'll spend about \$2.8 billion over the next 50 years on the reg-ular maintenance and renewal of

ular maintenance and renewal of infrastructure, like flood pumps and stopbanks," Cr Storey said. "We've got growing challenges – increasing maintenance and construction costs, increasing environmental regulation and community aspirations, and the significant impacts of climate change And many of the flood change. And many of the flood protection and land drainage assets were constructed several decades ago, when flood and drainage management goals were the primary objectives. "With these pressures, it's criti-

cal that we improve the way we assess proposed investments. Councillors have recognised this, and while it's not required by legislation, we've wanted to develop a framework that takes account of community needs but mini-mises legacy issues for future generations."

Project lead, science manager Dr Mike Scarsbrook, said the framework was now getting interest from other councils and

agencies around New Zealand. "Other councils are aware of the work we've been doing and are keen to learn more about it. We've now got to go out and discuss the framework with our communities, to ensure it's going "This is not a quick process



The pump station at Mill Rd, Paeroa, is part of Waikato Regional Council's flood protection infrastucture that falls under the draft sustainable infrastructure decision making framework. The Mill Rd pump station was recently upgraded together with the Roger Harris pump station, which are both critical in providing flood protection of the Paeroa community. The project cost \$4.5 million, including \$2.88m from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, and created 13 jobs over 20 months. The pump stations allow for primary use of land that's lower than the mean high tide level, and remove rain and flood waters to an agreed height. The work includes upgrading inlet bays, screens, handrails and platform access. The four pumps at the Mill Rd station combined give the largest protection in New Zealand, pumping 10.4m3 per second. The Roger Harris pump station pumps 4.4m3 per second. Photo: SUPPLIED/WRC

- there is a substantial body of work to be completed before the framework can be adopted into our long term plan process, and it could take up to five years to get it right," Dr Scarsbrook said.

At the heart of the framework is a set of objectives that aim to clearly identify what the council is trying to achieve for the Waikato region through its long-term infrastructure investments.

Development and testing of these objectives will be a major component of upcoming iwi part-ner, community and stakeholder

engagement. Ensuring the affordability of schemes was a critical issue raised by some councillors during the meeting, with a complementary piece of work underway that will provide a robust economic analysis.

Three quarters of the Waikato region benefits from flood protecion – that's around 3000km2 of land. It's funded through a combination of regional, zone and targeted rates. Those who benefit most (known as direct benefit), pay the most. Those who benefit least, pay least.

But the benefits of flood protection go beyond just the prop-erties located immediately be-hind a stopbank. The assets also protect community services and nationally significant infrastructure such as roads, railways, telecommunications, water supply, health facilities, electricity and schools.

While central government provides co-investment for flood protection works through one-off competitive funding and recov-ery funding after the fact, neither provides sustained government investment to reflect these national benefits. That's why Waikato Regional

Council, as part of a collaboration of regional and unitary councils, has recently renewed its call for the government to step up and help pay for future infrastructure investments.

Integrated Catchment Manage-ment Committee chair (north) Stuart Husband said: "We're taking a unified approach to get-ting the government to recognise greater national investment is critical.

"Having a robust decisionmaking framework in place will give all investors confidence that these long-term decisions will be the right ones for the Waikato region

Other committee decisions include the draft Waikato Regional Coastal Plan being endorsed for release to iwi and key stakeholders for consultation; Consultation on the draft coastal plan and council seeking feedback on the draft Aquaculture Strategy; the Waikato Regional Biosecu-rity Strategy 2022-2032 has been through a robust development process, and was endorsed by the committee.

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Rural Life Easing degenerative joint disease in elderly pets



By Dr Georgia Paterson, BVSc Degenera-tive joint joint (DJD), disease more comreferred monly to as arthritis, is often seen in older pets and

although signs are sometimes obvious, they can also be subtle and hard to pick

up on. Signs of DJD in dogs may include reduced exercise tolerance, a stiff gait which may improve a little as they move around, reluctance to be picked up or petted, and difficulty or reluctance to jump up on to things or into cars.

Signs your cat may be suffering from DJD may be subtle and include a more poorly kept coat due to grooming themselves less, becoming less active, and an array of behavioural changes to compensate for painful joints.

For example, a cat that normally jumps straight on to a table may first jump onto a chair to divide one big movement into two smaller ones.

Your veterinarian will be able to diagnose DJD via a thorough physical examination as well as potentially taking some x-rays. X-rays can be used to visualise the degree of degeneration in the joints and rule out other potential causes of pain. Management options include joint supplements several dietary supplements are available that can have beneficial effects in arthritis management. There is also an in-jectable formulation called Synovan,

which helps to promote the production of healthy joint fluid to help cushion and support joints. These are useful in pets that have already developed arthri-tis but are most beneficial in slowing the progression of the disease if started be-fore signs are apparent.

Specially formulated diets, such as Royal Canin Mobility, are also a great option to help support joint function as part of arthritis management. Environmental modulation – Provid-

ing a soft bed and warm blankets can help to ease aching joints. You can also purchase or make ramps to allow pets to still have easy access to their favourite spots or get into the car if jumping is too painful.

Maintaining a healthy weight also not only helps to take some of the load off arthritic joints to help ease pain, but it also slows the onset and progression of joint degeneration, which is also extremely important in younger animals that have yet to develop arthritis. Pain relief – several different types of

pain relief are available for pets which work best when used in conjunction with the other methods mentioned above. Most of these are safe to use long-term, provided that regular blood tests are performed to ensure kidney and liver function remains adequate to break down and utilise the edications.

If your pet is starting to show signs of DJD, contact your veterinarian to arrange an appointment to discuss how this can be managed to help your pet live a pain-free and active life for as long as possible.

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GET WARM STAY WARM

Warmly welcoming winter advice

Opening windows and curtains on sunny days and closing them at dusk can help trap the heat in your home.

This is one of many tips from the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) for keeping your home warm and healthy this winter.

MSD recommends the public to only heat rooms in their homes which people are occupying, and to keep the temperature between 18 and 21 degrees if their homes include elderly, the unwell and infants.

"Dress warmly for bed and make sure your bedroom is warm enough, it is very important to stay warm during the night," MSD said.

Insulation was the best way to save heating costs and keep your house toasty, MSD said.

"The government has subsidies available in many parts of the country to help landlords and homeowners save hundreds of dollars on ceiling and floor insulation, draught stopping and hot water cylinder wraps.

"The Energy Efficiency Conservation Authority offers EnergyWise Home Grants, which are targeted at people with low incomes and cover all houses built before 2000.

"Ask your landlord whether they know about this scheme." MSD recommends not drying clothes indoors as it creates

moisture in the air. "Drying on the outside is free and the sunlight kills bacteria, making your clothes healthier for you and your family," MSD said.

"Use a shed or garage if it is raining.

"If you must use a clothes dryer, make sure your clothes are properly spun first and leave windows open while you are using it."

MSD recommends checking fridge seals as if they are faulty, warm air can enter the fridge making it work harder and use more power.



MSD recommends the public to only heat rooms in their homes which people are occupying. "To test your seals, put a piece out, you may need to have the as it could

of paper in the door and close it. seals rep If the paper can be easily pulled "Do th

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seals replaced," MSD said. "Do the same with your oven, e occupying. File Photo: PIXABA as it could be losing precious heat energy whenever you cook."

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FORAGE











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ADVERTISING FEATU

GET WARM STAY WARM

New winter stock is adorning the shelves at The Good Yarn Store.

Keep warm at Good Yarn

Keep warm with hand knits from The Good Yarn Store, which has been going strong since opening at the end of July, 2020. I have met so many lovely talented knitters over this time,

learners and experienced alike. I'm happy to help where I can and love nothing better than when someone comes in to show me their finished project. Over the two years, I have managed to build up the stock supply and increase awareness of the fact the store is here - even though the pandemic has had some effect with the inability to get stock and a couple of short closedowns, all is good.

New stock for the winter is now adorning the shelves with more coming as time allows. Lovely

Rowan, Malabrigo, Broadway, Alpaca Yarns and then locally sourced Merino mohair and pos sum from Clvde NZ.

I am now also stocking beautiful hand made NZ soaps from the Merchant Soap Co - they make a great gift and team up very nicely with hand knitted cot-

ton washcloths. My store is conveniently tucked in behind Melbourne Café in Grahamstown, so pop in for a coffee and browse our little laneway of specialty shops.

Parking around the back in Kirkwood St is also available. I'm open from 9am Tuesday through to Saturday unless otherwise stated. Pop in for a yarn.

@thegoodyarnstore. - Supplied by The Good Yarn Store

Jaki's pizza with almond base

RECIPE

Savour & Spice is all about fla-Vour, in all things culinary.

We love sharing nourishing, flavourful food with loved ones. Taking time for conversation and eating good food is one of life's essential pleasures.

Not only is our Jaki a qualified nutritionist, she is also a very experienced home cook who loves creating tasty, seasonal dishes to share. Here is her pizza base that you really wouldn't pick as being cauliflower based and not a traditional dough.

JAKI'S PIZZA

INGREDIENTS

1 med cauliflower (roughly 700g) 100g ground almonds

2 eggs

2 tsp fresh or dried herbs

METHOD

Pre-heat the oven to 140 degrees celsius.

Whiz the cauliflower in a food processor to the size of rice granules. Transfer to a baking tray, spread out and bake for 15- 20 minutes until most of the moisture has gone.

While it's in the oven, make a quick, delicious pizza sauce by whizzing together a jar of roasted capsicums, a handful of pitted



You wouldn't pick this pizza base contains caulifower. Photo: SUPPLIED

green olives, one tablespoon of red wine vinegar, half a teaspoon of chilli flakes, half a teaspoon of smoked paprika, garlic and salt.

Once cooled, place the cauliflower in a bowl with the almonds, eggs and

Spread it all in a pizza tray of choice - I used a large rectangular

bake for around 20 minutes until 'set' and slightly golden. While still warm, cut down make a half and half

that everyone loves. Toppings can include: #1 frozen shrimp, mushrooms, onion, salami; #2 chorizo, onion, mushroom, olives - loaded

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herbs. Mix to combine.

baking tray with low sides, and

the middle so you can pizza with toppings



GET WARM STAY WARM ADVERTISING FEATURE

Whare Ora programme helps those in need

Mare damp, cold and unhealthy, and in winter, are on average 6 degrees celsius below the World Health Organization's recommended minimum indoor

temperature of 18 degrees. Waikato DHB says a cold, damp home can increase the risk of respiratory illnesses, such as asthma and serious chest infections, and damp, draughty and poorly insulated homes are also more expensive to heat. The DHB's Whare Ora team has

been working since 2018 to make homes warmer and healthier for whānau in an area stretching Hauraki-Coromandel to from Taumarunui, with its latest report showing it has helped 43 whānau in the Maniapoto area, 75 in Hauraki, 142 in South Waikato, 223 in North Waikato, and 2623 in Hamilton.

We're working with very highneeds whānau, especially those who come through to us from being hospitalised," Whare Ora case manager Ezra Dixon said.

"Our objective is to reduce Waikato's avoidable child hospital admissions by focusing on those

children who are most at risk. "Many of these children's homes are cold and mouldy, lack ventilation and insulation, and have inadequate heating, a healthy home needs to be warm, dry, smoke-free and free from allergens.



The Waikato DHB Whare Ora team.

Homes also needed to have good heating throughout, be free from pests like fleas, cockroaches and mites, and, where possible, be insulated underfloor and in the ceiling, he said.

As well as giving tips on how to keep homes warmer and dryer, the Whare Ora team gives

families who qualify products to help - everything from heaters to curtains and mould kits.

То qualify, whānau and individuals must meet certain criteria. such as having a pregnant mum or new baby in the house, or a child under four who was hospitalised with illnesses such

as pneumonia or rheumatic fever. The programme began in 2014 with a pilot of 30 Māori whānau in Hamilton, and has since grown to providing more than 4000 interventions, including beds, bedding, heaters, and draught proofing in homes throughout the Waikato in the past year alone.

TEXTURES OF

The programme gets Ministry of Health funding, but relationships with other companies, providers, and philanthropic organisations are vital. Habitat for Humanity is a big provider, and funding also comes from WEL Energy Trust and Waikato Health Trust. Safe Kids gave funding for

items like safety gates, TV straps, outlet covers, and a national deal with the Warehouse has garnered discounts on items for whanau.

Other organisations involved include the Waikato DHB, NZ Fire Service, and the Ministry of Social Development, along with the Raukawa Charitable Trust, Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki and Taumarunui Community Kokiri Trust.

The inexpensive interventions the Whare Ora team makes include using bubble wrap on windows as a cheaper alternative to double glazing, showing people how to use heaters efficiently, such as setting a timer, and tips such as dealing with mould, ventilation and not drying clothes inside.

In an uninsulated home, 30-35 per cent of the heat escapes through the roof, 18-25 per cent escapes through the walls, 12-14 per cent is lost through the floor, and 20-30 per cent heads out through the glass in windows, with 6-9 per cent lost through draughts or when doors are opened and closed.



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GARDENING

Welcome rain great for garden

We are almost to the middle of win-ter, temperatures are still relatively warm and there have been few frosts to speak of, so growth is still good. With the very welcome rain it be-

comes a bit gloomy, but many cheerful flowers begin to emerge in the garden: camellias, leucadendrons, daphne and some blossoming shrubs to brighten our days.

If the soil is dry enough, the empty spaces in the vegetable garden can be cul-tivated, fertilised with blood and bone and sheep pellets and then planted out. You can also apply a heavy dressing of compost and leave as a mulch on the surface to be dug in later if you don't want to plant straight away. Sow your favourite veges like arti-

choke, cauliflower, lettuce, potatoes, silverbeet, kale and cabbage. Protect where possible with cloches. Contin-ue harvesting bok choi, carrots, cab-bage, kale, leeks, lettuce, mesculun, peas, radish, rocket, silverbeet if lucky enough to have all this produce in your garden.

When planting new crops make sure you put plenty of slug bait and derris dust around the seedlings to protect from pests. In containers under shelter, plant seeds of – broccoli, cabbage, cau-liflower, lettuce, onions, carrots, pars-nips and beetroot.

FLOWERS

Now is the time to plant winter sweet, camellias, viburnum, winter roses, hellebores, dianthus, leucadendrons, violets, daphne, kowhai and flowering kale. Roses: To promote healthy rose bushes and a fabulous floral display, there are two simple steps to take during winter. prune and spray. Completely remove any dead stems (usually grey) then prune each stem to just above an outward facing bud. Spray with Conqueror oil and Copper Öxychloride and again in two weeks time to help break the pest cycle. FRUITS

In the fruit garden it is all about plant-ing new season fruit trees and getting those strawberry plants in. Check for earliest signs of bud movement on early season plums and peaches. Inspect terminal leaf buds critically. Green tip sprays are vital for control of leaf curl and bladder plum infections. Apply copper oxychloride or similar.

Prune your deciduous fruit trees now. Ensure that your cutting tools are clean and sharp and clean and protect cuts with a pruning paste.

Harvest citrus carefully. Cold temperatures are responsible for intensifying skin colour but it doesn't necessarily indicate full maturity. Provide protection against cold.

Grapes – select the strongest growing canes when pruning. Cut out old wood which bore last season's fruit. Remove hose which are thin and weak.

Passionfruit – apply copper oxychlo-ride to protect against grease spot disease. Berry fruits- complete prun-ing. Strawberries – carefully cultivate around plants, side dress with a bal-anced NPK fertiliser. Mulch with either peas straw or pine needles.

ORNAMENTAL SHRUBS AND TREES Winter colour when the leaves change can be stunning and berries such as idesia, holly and pyracantha brighten the garden as well. COMPOST HEAP

Cut up light prunings and twigs from fruit trees and include in compost with lawn clipping and aerate if possible. - Ngatea Garden Circle



Sow your favourite veges like artichoke, cauliflower, lettuce and potatoes. Photo: PIXABA

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'Extraordinary' centenarian dies at Tapu

Dead Lêrt

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

Miss Flora McLeod was 100 years old in 1874, an extraordinary age to reach for the times. But Flora, who lived at Tapu, was known for remarkable achievements at significant ages

She had been born on the Isle of Canna, in the Scottish Inner Hebri-des. Her family had suffered from the Highland Clearances where tenants in the Scottish Highlands and Islands were evicted.

They were relocated to the coast where farm sizes, known as crofts, were too small. Crofting communities struggled and many Highlanders fled to the island of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Canada, including, in 1830, Flora by then in her late fifties.

Flora became part of the McIsaac household. They had settled at Broad Cove, Cape Breton in 1812. Alexander and Mary McIsaac were to have ten children who Flora helped with.

Life on Cape Breton was dominated by the Reverend Norman McLeod, a tyrant of a minister whose followers were called Normanites. He imposed harsh punishments for trivial sins' but despite his fanaticism was faithfully obeyed. His devotees were



The Ellen Lewis, the last vessel to bring Normanite settlers to New Zealand.

God fearing Gaelic speaking crofters, fishermen and modest women. They were hard workers who built homes, developed farms, established busi-nesses and built ships. By the 1840s, the community was

flourishing but in 1845 it was hit with a disastrous famine. McLeod's son. who had gone to Australia, sent back details of opportunities and fertile land. Attracted by this, the Norman-ites began leaving for Australia in ships they built themselves, but Australia proved unsuitable. The quest turned to New Zealand.

The first group of Normanites arrived in Auckland in September, 1853. They settled around Waipū, a coastal area of virgin bush where their Highlander skills could be utilised.

After the death of Alexander McIsaac's wife Mary, the family left for New Zealand in December, 1859, aboard the *Ellen Lewis*, the largest of the Normanite fleet. Alexander's nephew, Angus, went with them.

Flora was an astonishing 86 years old when she undertook the 162 day journey along with the ten McIsaac children. By 1860, all the ships from Nova Scotia had arrived. The Gaelic

community at Waipū thrived and Norman McLeod continued to inspire a doglike devotion but many of his flock scattered to the timber and gold mining camps, the McIsaac's and Flora among them. In 1867, when Flora was 93, the Thames goldfield was officially opened and the McIsaac's established themselves at Tapu Creek with mining claims and in later years were referred to as a family 'of Thames celebrity.

In January, 1874, Flora died, aged 100, having retained her faculties until the last. Unusually, despite living amongst the English for so long, she could not speak or understand the language and only ever spoke in Gaelic. Although a staunch supporter of her church, the priests who were asked to come a few miles from Grahamstown to bury Flora refused, and she was interred with one short prayer being read by a mourner.

Two years before Flora's death one of her charges, Catherine McIsaac, had died aged 18. The same year Catherine's sister, Ann Gillies, named a daughter after her. Tragically this Catherine died in 1881 aged nine. All are buried at Shortland cemetery

ENTERTAINMENT



Karina Pascoe, of Postie, is looking forward to the talent quest.

Talent quest planned

Derformers aged five years to 15 years will soon have a chance to show off their talents on stage in Thames.

During the coming school holidays, Goldfields Shopping Centre has teamed up with *The* Valley Profile and Coromandel's CFM to stage a good old talent quest.

Goldfields spokesman John Freer said: "If you have a talent which can be demonstrated on stage inside the shopping cen-

tre, then start practising. "Singing, dancing, telling a story, reading poetry, playing an instrument, cultural activities either solo or as a group - we are providing the opportunity for our young community to get up and perform.

Heats will be held from Tuesday, July 19, until the final on Friday, July 22. The heats will be held during lunchtime with the final in the evening between 5pm and 7pm.

Talent quest organisers were looking forward to providing the chance for young people to per-form on stage before an audi-ence. Organisers will work with contestants should they require backing music or support dur-ing their performance and all entrants will be contacted by organisers before the heats. DETAILS: Entry forms are available from shops at Goldfields Shopping Centre, Coromandel's CFM and The Valley Profile - or email talent@cfm.co.nz. Entries close on Wednesday, July 8.

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Taonga Māori gallery set to open

By GORDON PREECE

Thames Museum's dream of **L** a gallery with local taonga is finally coming true.

The Cochrane St museum will open its Taonga Māori Gallery to the public on July 2 after 18 months of planning and construction.

Thames Museum Society chairperson Carolyn McKenzie told *The Profile* the new permanent gallery had been an ambi-tion for the museum's administration for many years.

"For us the history of this area doesn't just begin with the arriv-al of James Cook or the arrival of the missionaries but of course goes back way before that when Māori actually settled in this area," she said.

"Over the years, we've been given taonga that people have found in this area and it's long been a desire of the museum to put those taonga on display in an appropriate way."

Carolyn said planning for the gallery started in early 2021 when the museum contacted Ngāti Maru advisor Craig Solomon.

"He came in to talk to us about how we could proceed and we shared our vision and he shared his vision, and through a series of meetings we were able to get underway," she said. "Because the gallery had two concrete block walls... the first

step was to get them lined. That was in July last year, and we didn't really imagine Delta and Omicron were just around the



Thames Museum Society chairperson Carolyn McKenzie outside the new gallery. corner. "So it has been difficult be-

cause our income has dwindled

due to the pandemic but at the same time it has enabled us to

get on and get the job done with-

out being a disturbance to any

Carolyn said each part of the new gallery was significant and included Gottfried Lindauer's portraits of ancestors of local iwi, a model pā constructed in the 1960s by Hamiltonian Doug

museum visitors.

Pick, and cabinets with various taonga, including those belong-ing to the Ngāti Maru collection and those brought to the museum by Graham Bycroft, who

lived in the area. "He lived in Turua but actu-ally he was a teacher at Puriri Primary School and he had a great passion for the history of Māori in this area. Because of living near the river, he or people that he knew came across items that were in the silt on the river

bank," she said. Carolyn said the new gallery would also feature storyboards with many translated in te reo by Craig Solomon's extended fami-ly. The museum was "very grate-ful" for the community support, which included grants totalling to more than \$22,000 plus be-quests and donations totalling \$5500, she said.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

Details: Official Taonga Māori Gallery opening, Thames Museum, Cochrane St, July 2, 9:30am.

Third attempt for expo

one-day event to create pathways to employment will have its third attempt at running after being cancelled by Covid-19 - twice. The CanDo East Waikato

Careers and Employers Expo is co-produced by CanDo and the Thames Business Association.

The event focuses on matching the youth of the Thames-Coromandel, Hauraki, and Matamata-Piako districts with businesses to create pathways to employment.

The business association said this year would be "bigger than ever", with up to 600 students expected from Thames High School, Paeroa College, Hauraki Plains College, Mercury Bay and Coromandel Area Schools, and Waihī College.

From 2:30pm, the expo will also be open to adult job seekers. With 64 spaces available, businesses were encouraged to register a space at the expo, set for mid-August. DETAILS: CanDo East Waikato Careers and Employers Expo, Thursday, August 18, 9am-6pm

at the Thames Civic Centre. For info or to register, contact: warren.sly@prepress.co.nz



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Lack of volunteers closes education group

By GORDON PREECE

Avoluntary organisation that arranged university and local speakers to deliver informative topics to the Thames community has now discontinued.

The Thames Continuing Education Speaker Series hosted events most recently at the Thames Civic Centre, where topics like Anglo-China, the Hamilton Gardens and international travel were discussed.

Volunteer Thelma Chantrey told The Profile the organisation closed at the end of May because of a lack of volunteers.

"There was a Wintec organiser, Neil Coleman, who coordinated with setting up [the events]... and [I] finished up with Maureen Hill, so there were only us left and that's why we had to bring it to a close, she said.

"It's a general thing that everything is closing down, [Thames] Lions have closed, it's the end of an era. The age of the volunteers has gone because they're all older ones, the younger ones don't have time to volunteer, which is a pity."

said Thelma Continuing Education mainly benefited Thames' elderly community who were "very sad" when it closed.

Thelma said there was a list of around 200 who received newsletters for Continuing Education's events and had



Thelma Chantrey, centre, with Thames Library staff Shori Allan, left, and Shana Allan. Photo: GORDON PREECE

around 50 regular attendants who paid a small door fee to go towards petrol vouchers and other gifts for the speakers, and hire costs for Thames Civic Centre.

"Then Covid reduced the numbers to the 30s, that's what we contemplated in 2021 with a reduction in numbers, whether we could afford to keep it going. But then we decided we would so I booked the Civic Centre for 2022, but then things have changed," she said.

Thelma said Continuing Edu-

cation was originally called 60+ and operated under the sponsorship of Waikato University and the leadership of Bob Cox in Thames.

"The government at the time reduced financial help for senior education. As a result, Waikato University could not see their way forward to financially continue to support 60+," she

said. "[So] Wintec Thames very kindly came to the party and took over the reins to keep the group afloat. With expertise and contacts for speakers, it was re-named Continuing Education Group.

acknowledged She the Thames Connector bus for providing transport so the elderly could attend events.

Thelma said Continuing Education's remaining funds of \$875 were donated to Thames Library.

Thames Libraries manager Shana Allan said the donated money would go towards new sewing machines for the library's knitting classes.

In Brief

OPERATION COVER UP Operation Cover Up Thames will be hosting a blanket display at Thames Civic Centre on July 1 and 2 from 10am to 3pm. Spokesperson Margaret Morritt said the group had been sorting through hundreds of blankets made by its volunteers for the "bright and colourful" event. The group, which currently has around 20 volunteers, was formed in 2000 after several people became aware some Ukrainian families were in desperate need of clothing during their harsh winters.

CONSENT TRACKER OFFLINE

Thames-Coromandel District Council's Consent tracker is currently offline while the organisation does some maintenance and upgrades. It expects to have it back up and running by mid-July. In the meantime, council is operating an interim service through its customer services team, who can provide information on a current building or resource consent application, or historical information on a single property.

TVRFU RESULTS

June 25: Tom Jordan Cup Senior A: Paeroa 10-22 Whangamata; Mercury Bay 22-10 Waihou; COBRAs 66-3 Coromandel; Hauraki North 18-30 Thames. Leach Cup Senior B: Mercury Bay 17-12 Waihou. All other teams did not play that weekend in the Senior B competition. Next week is the final round of play off, and semi finals will start.



Thank you to the TCDC for supporting our Matariki Celebrations - your support has enabled us to hire a bouncy castle for pre-schoolers and an interactive pirate ship for 3 - 12 year olds (at no cost to the public)

Join us in our celebrations of Matariki and create / bring your own manu aute (kite).

Wednesday 6th July between 11 a.m. - 2.30 p.m.

Vaihī bookworms take on bookathon

By GORDON PREECE

Adesire to support its chil-dren's early literacy and raise funds was the prologue for Waihī's Somerset Early Learn-ing Centre to take on Blind Low Vision NZ's Great Kiwi

Bookathon. The challenge encouraged New Zealand's tamariki for the month of June to read or listen to as many books as possible and raise vital funds for Blind Low Vision NZ's support servic-es to keep the magic of stories alive for blind, deaf-blind and

low vision kiwis. The charity's support services include its fully accessible library, which features 36,000 audiobooks and adaptive technology services to translate text into speech or braille, and a youth library, which offers educational resources.

The charity also meets with individuals in their homes and local Blind Low Vision NZ offices to provide them personalised vision rehabilitation services

Teacher Takeisha Kelsey told The Profile the centre came across the initiative and thought it would be a "really good learn-ing opportunity" for its 23 tamariki to learn about fund-raising, the blind and low vision community and develop their reading skills.

"They love books, and it's good to do it for a cause, and it means they go home and read books at night time with their mums and dads," she said. "We aim to read one a day

Somerset Early Learning Centre's tamariki have "loved" reading new books.

at our nap time and spontaneously if they want to read more... sometimes Levi [one of the kids] reads us the books

Takeisha said it was mainly the centre's older tamariki, aged three and four years, who participated. The most popular books included The Wrong

Book by Nick Bland, House Mouse by Barrie Watts, What's in my House? by Roger Priddy and There Are Monsters Everywhere by Mercer Mayer.

Takeisha said the centre had raised \$278 so far, surpassing their goal of \$250.

"The parents of the children

donate and then they share the fundraising page with their other family members so they can donate," she said. "We've got very good parent support and input."

support and input." Blind Low Vision NZ chief executive John Mulka said he was excited to build on the Photo: GORDON PREECE

Great Kiwi Bookathon, which launched last year. "We are so thankful for the participation and donations enabling us to support children who are blind, deafblind or low vision, and their whānau live the life they chose. DETAILS www.bookathon.co.nz

