

Three-decade radio career expands into community, P3

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078 July 13, 2022

CHAPLAIN COMES HOME

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

By her own definition, Lorelle Chapman is a rather "unorthodox and outspoken" chaplain.

During the three years she spent working with Australia's third-largest iron-ore mining company, her best relationships were made over a beer at the wet mess.

A few years later, after being deployed into the middle of New South Wales' worst bushfire season, she was awarded with the state premier's emergency citation for her service.

No, Lorelle is no "banner-waving, street corner preacher". She is the Hauraki Plains Co-operating Parish's new resident minister, and she has an open-door policy.

"It's the people who can't afford to put bread and milk on the table. It's the bottles I see in the gutter, smashed to bits. It's the people I saw lurking in the shadows down by the takeaways who didn't have anywhere to go. It's the person who was moved on from sleeping in his car because he couldn't afford a motel. It's the domestic violence, the mental health... it's all of that stuff."

"So, how does the community see the role of the church?" Lorelle, originally from Auckland, was living in Ohakune when she encountered "inexplicable and interesting" circumstances that lead to her becoming a registered baptist minister.

In 2013, she was called into Western Australia to work as a chaplain for a multi-million dollar mining company in the Pilbara desert outback.

Her role was to provide support and spiritual well-being for the 2000 personnel, in what could be a stressful and dispiriting environment.

"It is really isolating, and it was the most challenging time professionally and personally in my ministry life to date, and I was incredibly homesick, and I spent a lot of time on my days off flying back to New Zealand," she told *The Profile*.

Lorelle kept up that routine for nearly three years, and said although the role did have its "use-by date", she did miss it, to some extent.

"You're in 48 degree heat, and you're sweating, and you're living in a donga, you're filthy and isolated, and you'd all go up to the wet mess and were given a daily allocation of mid-strength beers," she recalled.

"Some of my best conversations and connections and relationships were formed over a beer at the wet mess... and there were tonnes of things you'd rather not have seen or experienced."

CONTINUED ON P6

Chaplain Lorelle Chapman has returned home to a new role with a Hauraki parish. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU



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Car park confirmed for Cornes Paddock

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

It wasn't an "easy decision", but Hauraki district councillors have stuck to their guns on their commitment to create a new car park in the Karangahake Gorge. Elected members unanimously made a decision back in November, 2021, to develop the gorge in a staggered approach, which included creating a car park off County Rd into Cornes Paddock.

This was to alleviate safety concerns on the state highway that has seen 68 crashes occur in the past five years.

But residents who neighbour the chosen site, on the corner of Crown Hill Rd and County Rd, came up against councillors on numerous occasions, continuously calling for the project to be scrapped, or put in another location.

At its meeting on June 29, "it was time" for councillors to choose: listen to what council said was a "minority" of those against the project, or continue on as planned.

"This issue has been before the council for eight years with no permanent decision on it... this is the time to make the decision. We are either going to do it or we're not," Paeroa ward chair Carole Daley said.

"For this council, over the eight years, could we calculate how much money has been spent on indecision, looking at things again, all the plans that have been done, the staff time... can we count that money? No, we probably can't and we cannot



Cornes Paddock in the Karangahake Gorge will be turned into a permanent car park to accommodate visitors to the area. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

continue to do it."

Hauraki Mayor Toby Adams said it was his decision to open Cornes Paddock for parking about 18 months ago, after being "inundated" with requests from the public to alleviate the "safety hazards" surrounding the state highway.

"I made the call as mayor to open the paddock... and I don't apologise for opening it. It is a real safety issue and I'm not having somebody die on the road there because we didn't open the gate."

A report was presented to council to consider whether Mackaytown Reserve could be

used as an alternative car park for the Cornes Paddock car park; however, staff concluded that the 100kmh speed zone surrounding Mackaytown, as well as its poor access to the Hauraki Rail Trail meant the option wasn't viable.

All councillors, except Plains ward councillor Ray Broad, and Waihi ward councillor Brian Gentil, voted to proceed with council's plans to install a metal car park, a perimeter fence, and planting at Cornes Paddock, to be opened seven days a week.

Cr Gentil said he would "stick with the ratepayers" and vote against the project.

Eva Mayor, a spokesperson for

the Karangahake residents, told *The Profile* immediately after the decision that she was "disappointed", but had prepared the community for the outcome.

"I do understand what Carole Daley said about the work, time, and effort put in, not only on the council's part, but on our part as well."

"We have done so many submissions, been to so many meetings, so it is good it has come to a close around making a decision. It's not the option that we wanted," she said, "but it is what it is."





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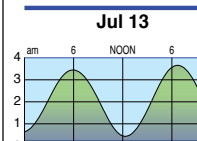
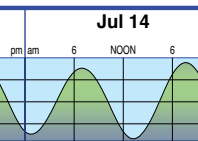
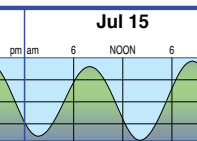
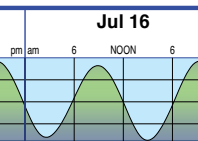
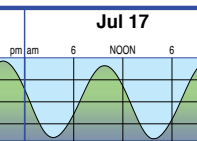
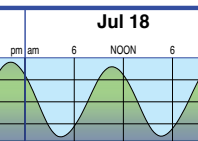
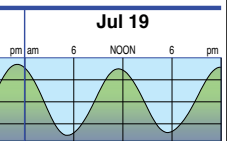
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Wed Jul 13	Thu Jul 14	Fri Jul 15	Sat Jul 16	Sun Jul 17	Mon Jul 18	Tue Jul 19
 Morning: 5:55am 3.4, 12:18pm 0.4, 6:42pm 3.7 Afternoon: 12:46am 0.5, 1:14pm 0.3, 7:37pm 3.8 Sun: 7:30am 5:18pm Best At: 11:35am Full Moon: Set 6:53am, Rise 4:20pm	 Morning: 12:46am 0.5, 1:14pm 0.3, 7:37pm 3.8 Afternoon: 1:41am 0.4, 2:06pm 0.3, 7:57am 3.6, 8:30pm 3.8 Sun: 7:29am 5:19pm Best At: 12:09am, 12:42pm Full Moon: Set 7:56am, Rise 5:33pm	 Morning: 1:41am 0.4, 2:06pm 0.3, 7:57am 3.6, 8:30pm 3.8 Afternoon: 2:36am 0.4, 2:57pm 0.2, 8:53am 3.6, 9:22pm 3.9 Sun: 7:28am 5:20pm Best At: 1:15am, 1:46pm Full Moon: Set 8:48am, Rise 6:51pm	 Morning: 2:36am 0.4, 2:57pm 0.2, 8:53am 3.6, 9:22pm 3.9 Afternoon: 3:29am 0.4, 3:47pm 0.3, 9:46am 3.6, 10:14pm 3.8 Sun: 7:28am 5:21pm Best At: 2:16am, 2:44pm Full Moon: Set 9:31am, Rise 8:06pm	 Morning: 3:29am 0.4, 3:47pm 0.3, 9:46am 3.6, 10:14pm 3.8 Afternoon: 4:22am 0.4, 4:37pm 0.4, 10:37am 3.6, 11:06pm 3.7 Sun: 7:27am 5:21pm Best At: 3:11am, 3:37pm Full Moon: Set 10:05am, Rise 9:19pm	 Morning: 4:22am 0.4, 4:37pm 0.4, 10:37am 3.6, 11:06pm 3.7 Afternoon: 5:13am 0.5, 5:28pm 0.6, 11:27am 3.5, 11:58pm 3.6 Sun: 7:27am 5:22pm Best At: 4:02am, 4:26pm Full Moon: Set 10:35am, Rise 10:27pm	 Morning: 5:13am 0.5, 5:28pm 0.6, 11:27am 3.5, 11:58pm 3.6 Afternoon: 7:27am 5:22pm Best At: 4:49am, 5:11pm Full Moon: Set 11:02am, Rise 11:31pm

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TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES

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

PLACE	Hr	Mn	Hr	Mn
Coromandel	-0	05	-0	04
Whitianga	-0	02	-0	06
Tairua	+0	10	+0	21
Whangamata	-0	07	-0	07
Waihi Beach	-0	12	-0	12

Radio career expands into community

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

Michelle Johns’ radio career was not as fleeting as her stint in pageantry. It was the early 90s, and Michelle was working as a nanny at the Goldfields Shopping Centre in Thames during the Miss Thames Valley pageant. “I was about 17 at the time, and I did the pageant with [Kiwi supermodel] Kylie Bax - it was the year Kylie won,” she told *The Profile*. “She was so graceful walking down the catwalk, and I was ‘stomp, stomp, stomp’. I was just not graceful at all.” During the pageant training, the contestants went across to Hamilton for radio interviews, and it was there Michelle was told she had a good voice for the medium. “We did the pageant, Kylie won - which was a forgone conclusion anyway - and I thought about it afterwards and gave [the radio] a call.” She started working for Coromandel FM, and while she never entered another pageant, her “fall” into radio lasted more than three decades. It came to an end in March when she was made redundant from Coromandel’s More FM, where she was the breakfast host alongside Mike Plant. “It was a bit of a shock to the

system,” she said, “but sometimes change is good.” “I was brought up by a very strong woman, a solo mum, and we go way back, like five generations, within Hauraki and Thames-Coromandel. “My mum’s always said to me: ‘If all else fails, you clean toilets’. So, I knew there was always going to be a job available to me because I’d be able to just do anything,” she said. “But there was that sinking feeling for a short time.” “I kind of was here forever, and even though I knew I’d get too old to work for Coromandel’s More FM, I still chose to move back to my roots, to live here for the rest of my life.” After being made redundant, Michelle was contacted and supported by different people who opened her eyes to an array of other career possibilities, she said. One of them was Toby Adams, Mayor of Hauraki District Council, and he encouraged Michelle to work for them in a new role as community advocacy officer, which Michelle said encompassed her passion



Radio announcer Michelle Johns has found a new career path. LEFT: Michelle congratulates Kylie Bax, who won the Miss Thames Valley pageant in the 90s.

for the towns she grew up in. “One of the key roles is to find external funding sources for local community groups, organisations, sports teams, and clubs. “It’s really good because it kind of coincides with what you do on the radio,” she said. “You’re talking about people’s events and you’re talking

with all these groups, and now with HDC, the role has evolved into helping them within their club or organisation to find some funding out there and help them do what they do.” Michelle can also still be heard on the radio, after Coromandel’s CFM invited her to have her own Saturday morning show from 8am-1pm. The combination of roles was

a perfect marriage of past and future. “I just want to keep doing what I’m doing now, day-in and day-out,” she said. “Meeting new people, helping them out, and advocating for the little people in our region who do big things.”





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Winter Woollies

Operation Cover Up held its annual blanket display on July 1 and 2 at Thames Civic Centre, with more than 1800 colourful items knitted and crocheted by volunteers from Te Kauwhata, Thames and Coromandel. All items on display will be sent to Eastern Europe with a special focus this year to support Ukrainian refugees in need. Reporter **GORDON PREECE** headed along for a yarn.



Trina Cullen rugs up warm with a purple blanket.



Volunteers amongst their knitted and crocheted work.

Photos: GORDON PREECE



Co-ordinators Margaret Morritt, left, and Judy Gould.



Ruth Porter displays one of her crocheted blankets.



Cute teddy Bears were on display.



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Te Korowai CE brings experience to role

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

Te Korowai’s new chief executive aims to expand on the work already done by the health provider in ensuring the Hauraki rohe stays well. Tammy Dehar (Ngāti Tamaterā, Ngāti Maru) has taken on the role of manukura hauora (chief executive) of Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki. The Rotorua-born mother-of-seven said her contribution to the organisation will come from a strategic point of view. “This is hugely exciting, but I’m not going to kid myself thinking that it isn’t going to be a challenge as well,” she told *The Profile*.

“A significant part of my career has been watching, observing, and relaying what I have seen through experience.... but what I need to ensure I have a clear understanding of, is what rurality looks like for Hauraki; to ensure I have an understanding of what the whanau are identifying as their needs.”

Tammy comes to the role with more than 20 years experience in the Hauora Māori domain, most recently as leader, strategic projects with the National Hauora Coalition.

Te Korowai chairperson Harry Mikaere said there had been wide interest in the role, which became available when previous chief executive Riana Manuel moved to lead the newly formed Māori Health Authority.



Tammy Dehar started her role as Te Korowai’s chief executive in late-May.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

Tammy said her own values aligned with Te Korowai, and her goals would enhance the commitment the organisation had already made to the district, through its kaimahi (staff).

“It’s always great when you walk in the steps of those that have done such great mahi, like Riana and the likes of [interim CE] Taima [Campbell].

“They have done some great work in the organisation, and I guess my inclusion into the mix is from a different perspective.

“My longer term goal is to build Hauraki as its own system... to provide services that ensure that whānau are at the centre of our focus.”

On June 20, Te Korowai, alongside the Waikato District

Health Board, officially opened Pito Hauora, a breast and cervical screening for wāhine (women), and a dental service for tamariki.

Tammy said that rather than being the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff, Pito Hauora was a much-needed preventative option for residents.

“We should be looking at how we can encourage whānau

to prevent their conditions from worsening.

“We should be able to empower them to support whānau to understand what their options are... Options are key because it ensures that there isn’t an assumption of ‘one size fits all’.”



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Lyn McHugh hopes her exhibition can highlight Paeroa’s community elders.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

Paeroa seniors wanted for exhibition

By GORDON PREECE

A desire to highlight Paeroa’s “beautiful” senior citizens is the latest photography project for a community volunteer. Lyn McHugh has set out to capture as many of Paeroa’s senior citizens as she can for a one-day exhibition at Paeroa’s former racecourse for October’s International Day of Older Persons. Lyn told *The Profile* she wanted to give back to her community through the exhibition. “I was looking for a project so what I did was I looked up all the days we have dedicated to different things and I came across this day for the elderly,”

she said. “It’s a fairly new one that’s done through the United Nations. I just got thinking I’ve lived in Paeroa for around 30 years... and I’ve worked for a lot of people, I volunteer with a lot of people and our elderly get very little recognition. “I love taking spontaneous photos, I love going out and seeing people at their work and snapping them... [so] for me to give back something to this community I [thought I] could do these portraits of our senior citizens, they’re so beautiful.” Lyn said she planned to take photos of Paeroa’s seniors aged 60 years and over in environments where they felt

most comfortable. “At the last Paeroa RSA mini market, I set up a stand there, and instead of doing these posed portraits where everyone looks so stiff with forced smiles, I took down their names and phone numbers,” she said. “I’ve only had four or five people come to me directly but I do have a whole pile of names and addresses now that I’ve accumulated. “I’m going to be going to different organisations and put it out there as well.” Lyn also hoped the project would also highlight the purpose of the International Day of Older Persons, which is to raise awareness of issues affecting

elderly. “Loneliness has been one of the big ones... not many of them are into the digital world,” she said. “I’m classed as an elderly person which I find is quite strange and I took up the digital world in 1990 and actually taught it to the elderly through Wintec at one stage, so I know there are quite a lot of people who don’t have that ability. “There are also families who forget that it doesn’t take much to pick up the phone and just say ‘hello, how are you doing? Can I do something for you?’” **Details: Exhibition of Paeroa’s community elders, Paeroa’s Former Racecourse, October 1.**

In Brief

SOFT PLASTIC RECYCLING
A soft plastics recycling scheme has started in Thames, and the recycled items - such as bags and wrappers - will be turned into fence posts or building materials. The soft plastics recycling bins are at: Thames Pak’nSave, Thames Refuse Transfer Station, The Warehouse, and the council offices at

515 Mackay St, Thames.
LAND FOR TENDER
A 187 hectare block of land is up for tender at 9528 Paeroa Kopu Road, just south of the Thames Golf Club. Currently zoned rural, Thames-Coromandel District Council has “identified the address should be rezoned for future medium density housing under its long-term Thames and Surrounds Spatial Plan” to address the housing shortage. The

property goes to tender, unless sold prior, on July 28.
APPLICATIONS LODGED
OceanaGold has lodged consent applications to expand their mining operations with Hauraki District Council and Waikato Regional Council. The anti-mining group Coromandel Watchdog of Hauraki has said it will fight the applications in the Environment Court. Public submissions will be called for once the councils

have assessed the applications.
COMMUNITY GRANTS OPEN
Applications for TCDC Community Board grants are now open. Thames Community Board has a total grants pool of \$75,000 available to encourage and support not-for-profit organisations that have a positive impact on the community by providing a community service, activity or event. Applications close July 31: tcdc.govt.nz.

Mining chaplain at home in Ngātea

CONTINUED FROM P1

“I used to say nothing would surprise me, but boy, I was constantly surprised.” In 2016, Lorelle joined the “incredibly progressive” Uniting Church in Australia, and was working as a hospital chaplain before becoming involved in the church’s Disaster Recovery Chaplaincy Network. As a specialist arm of chaplaincy, Lorelle’s job was to “hold up” the people affected by a traumatic event, as well as those working on the frontline. She was back living in New Zealand when she was sent to Kempsey during New South Wales’ ‘Black Summer’ - the state’s worst recorded bushfire season that occurred across 2019–2020. Over the course of a few months, 26 lives were lost, 2448 homes were destroyed and 5.5 million hectares of land was burnt. “What hit me was just the difficulty I had breathing,” Lorelle said. “The air was so thick.” She received a Bushfire Emergency Citation, an award issued by the Premier of New South Wales, for her emergency service during the bushfire season. “I did nothing. I got a citation for talking to people and having cups of tea and drying their eyes,” she said. “It was the fires, and the ambos... they’re the heroes.” Lorelle said her work with the network was a very “humbling experience”, but something was beckoning her home. She returned to New Zealand in March and was appointed by the Presbyterian Church of NZ to be the Hauraki Plains Co-operating Parish’s new resident minister. In her first few weeks, she arranged a free community sausage sizzle at the front of the church “just because we could”, and her goals continue to expand outside the church doors. “Slow and steady wins the race,” she said. “I’m just interested in people... and I think there’s something really special and significant about the Plains.”





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Girls run 48km for World Vision

By GORDON PREECE

A group of Ngātea Primary School students has raised more than \$1100 in this year's World Vision 40 Hour Famine by running 48km between them.

The annual fundraiser, held this year between July 1 and 3, involves young Kiwis participating in a 40-hour challenge to raise money and bring hope to children living in poverty in more than 40 countries.

Serena Hammond, whose year eight daughter Lily participated in the fundraiser, told *The Profile* Lily and her seven friends, who are also in year eight, decided to take on the 40km in 40 hours challenge rather than take on the traditional challenge of taking no food for 40 hours.

The 40km in 40 hours challenge aims to raise awareness of children living in Asia and Africa who carry water an average of 42km every week.

"They decided... what they could do with the number 40 and the main part of it was fundraising so they thought anything they can do is positive," she said.

"I definitely think nowadays it's to make people more aware that there still needs to be fundraised money for these good causes and [running's] definitely a healthy approach to getting to the number 40 rather than starving yourself."

Serena said the girls de-



Year eight girls raised more than \$1100 after running 48km between them.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

signed their own flyers and went door knocking after school on June 30 to encourage residents to donate, and also established an online donation page with the help of their teacher.

"They got some really positive responses and they've raised \$1127," she said.

"They were very pleased, they gave themselves a goal of

\$1000 and I even think none of them thought they would get to \$1000. They've gone beyond that, so I think they've done very well.

"For them at a young age to make money through good habits now is only a positive for the future."

Serena said the girls, who all participate in hockey and netball, ran 6km each in 3km

increments on July 2 and 3 around the Ngātea area including the township, River Rd and the nearby Hauraki Rail Trail.

"It was nice that they ran together... a bit of a bonding, experience between the girls' friendships," she said.

"Exercise is so good for not just their physical but also their mental well being."

Local election noms open

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

Nominations open this week for future Thames-Coromandel and Hauraki District councillors and community board members.

Voting day for this year's local body elections is on October 8, but voting can be done from September 16.

Local Government New Zealand president Stuart Crosby said there "had never been a more important time in our history to get involved by standing for election".

"Councils and boards have a critical role to play in supporting the resilience and prosperity of all our people, whānau, and communities. In the face of societal change, disruption from Covid-19, the impact of climate change, and radical reform in the sector, delivering positive local outcomes matters now more than ever."

Candidate nominations are open from July 15 and close at noon on August 12. Candidates must have nominations from two people; they cannot nominate themselves.

In the Thames Valley, candidates can stand for either Thames Community Board, Thames-Coromandel District Council, Hauraki District Council and Waikato Regional Council.

"Councils make decisions that affect our daily lives, on things like rates, rubbish collection, and public transport, so it's important that you're enrolled and ready to have your say this October," Ross McPherson, of The Electoral Commission, said.

DETAILS: More info online: vote.nz.



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Rural Life



Graeme ‘Gunner’ Wright, left, with Jeremy Welsh. INSET: The model of Miss Stacey Jade.

Photo: NIKKI SANDERS

Wright Transport model truck shifts into gear

By GORDON PREECE

The driving force of a Puriri trucking company says a model of one his stock trucks was a “pretty neat” promotion after around 54 years in the business.

Graeme Wright Transport’s model truck is a Volvo FH16 750 named after one of Graeme’s granddaughters, Miss Stacey Jade, and features a four-axle truck and five-axle trailer, which are unique for New Zealand’s narrower roads.

The model was one of two new Kiwi Replica FH16 Volvos launched at Model Barn on July 2 as part of general manager Jeremy Welsh’s project to produce

New Zealand-branded model stock trucks. The other model launched was for Southland trucking company Transport Services Ltd.

Graeme ‘Gunner’ Wright said Model Barn did a “brilliant job” with developing the model, and felt fortunate his business could be the first one for Jeremy’s project.

“It’s been a good thing for our business, I’ve been in business for over 50 years now... and with a big promotion like that it’s pretty neat,” he said.

“We do most of the livestock fertiliser all over the Coromandel Peninsula, and our customers are like family to us.

“A 750 Volvo is probably one

of the best trucks you can buy in the world, they’re top of the range, they’re top of the horsepower and they’re really an exceptional truck.”

Jeremy said he chose Graeme Wright Transport for his first model truck because the trucking business was close to the Model Barn and he’d known Gunner for a “very long time”.

“Gunner made the whole process so easy and smooth and I’m extremely happy that he was on board right from the outset,” he said.

“We didn’t sort of wake up and say ‘I’m going to do a model of Gunner’s truck’, we decided we’d do a model of a particular truck and Gunner had one of those

trucks, so it worked out great.

“[The model] puts him on the map and it’s a chance for us to say Gunner Wright’s done a great job in this district for so many years.”

Jeremy said the model took two years to complete, which included setting up manufacturing company Kiwi Replicas to produce it and obtaining a licence from Volvo.

“After that we had to create a 3D model of it and then there were a number of improvements throughout the time... and then there’s all the colour markings that have to be accurate on the truck,” he said.

“Gunner’s was nice and simple because it was so close we could

just go out and take photos and get all the graphics... I even had to get drone footage.”

Jeremy said there was a “good atmosphere” at the launch of the model truck, and many who attended had prepaid for one.

“There were cars up and down the road and the carpark was full,” he said.

“[Gunner’s] not a man who likes to stand up and give accolades... but he was very happy, he thanked me quite a few times for me producing them and the thanks go to him for allowing us to do these trucks.”

Jeremy said he planned to release two more model trucks by the end of the year, then another two every six months.

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Rural Life

Planting days in Kaiaua celebrate Matariki

Matariki was celebrated in the form of more than 700 native trees being planted in Kaiaua recently.

In an area known as the Bowling Green Reserve at the Kaiaua Community Centre, hundreds of native trees, harakeke, ti kouka/cabbage trees, and sedges were planted along the edge of the drain that connects to the Hauarahi Stream.

Fifteen “super volunteers” went to help the “neglected and weedy” corner of Kaiaua get some much-needed attention, NZ Landcare Trust’s Ric Balfour said.

Funding for the plants came from the Matariki Tu Rākau Grant from MPI’s Te Uru Rākau - NZ Forest Service, which helped pay for the native plants supplied by Te Whangai.

Hauraki District Council’s parks and reserves manager Paul Mathews paid for the fertiliser tablets, while Chris Burns of Franklin Trees donated the mulch.

NZ Landcare Trust supported the event by writing the grant, organising the day, and laying out the plants ahead of time.

DETAILS: The Western Firth Catchment Group has another planting day scheduled for August 6 to complete the planting along the Hauarahi stream closer to the bridge. To get in touch, contact Ric at ric.balfour@landcare.org.nz



Fifteen volunteers helped plant hundreds of natives in Kaiaua.

Photos: SUPPLIED



Pump station project ends

Waikato Regional Council has formally ended its Muggeridge’s pump station project after direct beneficiary landowners expressed a preference for more cost-effective options to be considered.

This follows earlier confirmation from the government that a Shovel Ready funding application had been declined.

At a recent council meeting, it was heard the landowners preferred to look at a lower priced, drainage-focused solution after tenders for the construction of the pump station returned prices that exceeded the agreed budget.

In lieu of this, Hauraki District Council, with input from local Waikato Regional Council operations staff, are developing alternative drainage options that would service the catchment for another 20- to 30-year period.

The alternative drainage options will be presented to the community this month following an inter-agency technical workshop to refine the preferred options. The Muggeridge’s pump station project aimed to improve drainage services for around 1100 hectares of land comprising 19 landowners near Ngātea due to the ongoing effects of ground settlement.

To date, about \$2.3 million has been spent on the project. That includes about \$500,000 for two fish-friendly pumps, which will be repurposed within the region.

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Rural Life

Bridge lifts for first time in 7 years

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

For the first time in roughly seven years, the half-scale, working model of the old Piako River Bridge was raised.

The Millennium Bridge, which was constructed in 2002 at Tilbury Reserve in Ngātea, was lifted after students at Ngātea Primary School learned about its history.

“I have never taken much notice of the bridge and why it’s there,” pupil Jack Moyes said. “It was crazy how it came up, I thought it would come up on both sides. There was a pulley system with metal cables that [wound] the bridge up when you cranked the handle.”

To celebrate the start of the new millennium, the Ngātea community raised funds to create the replica adjacent to the original site.

While they sought to make the pedestrian bridge as exact as possible, some new materials, such as stainless steel nuts and bolts, had to be used to make it safe.

The replica of the centre span is 6m long by 1.8m wide, while the tower is 6m high from the deck.

According to Hauraki District Council, the original Piako River Bridge opened in 1917,



Students watch as the Millenium Bridge lifts for the first time in seven years. Photo: SUPPLIED/PAUL MATTHEWS

when all transport and access to and from the land was by sea, river, or canal.

With the gradual development of the first roads, it was essential that a crossing be made over the Piako River, and the new thoroughfare quickly became the main route between Auckland and Tauranga.

In contrast to the more commonly used swivel system, the central span of the Piako River Bridge was lifted up when larger boats needed to travel up the river. As the roads improved, the need for river transport slowed, and in 1952, the bridge

lifting mechanism was removed and the central span fixed in place.

In 1963, after 46 years of service, the bridge was demolished and replaced by the present structure.



7.7% increase for WRC rates

Waikato Regional Council has confirmed that it will be sticking closely to the programme signalled in its 2021-2031 Long Term Plan (LTP).

In a vote of 11-2, the council yesterday approved its 2022/23 Annual Plan. The \$121.797 million rates revenue budget means an increase of 7.7 per cent for current ratepayers – slightly below the increase proposed in the LTP. For the majority of Waikato Regional Council ratepayers, that equates to an increase of \$50 a year.

During debate, concern was raised about the affordability of the rates rise for the community.

Council Chair Barry Quayle said: “Global uncertainty is making economic conditions increasingly difficult, and we have been mindful of the impacts these pressures are having on both communities and the cost of delivering services.

“We are also conscious that public transport is a fundamental part of connecting and ensuring resilient communities, while flood protection and river control works enable our communities to be safe and enduring. These are the two areas of the more substantive spend in the council’s budget.

“With this in mind, this rates increase is realistic and constrained and honours the promises we had already made through our long term plan last year. It also follows a net zero rates rise in 2020, the first year of this council, in response to the impacts of COVID-19.”

Property rates can be checked: waikatoregion.govt.nz/ratescalculator.

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Matariki at Te Kura o Te Kauaeranga

The energetic atmosphere was infectious at Te Kura o Te Kauaeranga Thames South School's Matariki day celebration on July 6. There was a photo booth, bouncy castles, and an exhibiton of artworks made by the tamariki. Teacher aide Liz Muirhead also put traditional tā moko on the students and guests. The school said they would plan do another Matariki event next year - "bigger, better, brighter!" Reporter **KELLEY TANTAU** went along to the event and took part in the festivities.



Valley Profile reporter Kelley Tantau, left, takes part in the day's events alongside Thames South tamariki.



Leilandra Dixon gets creative at the paint station.



Nyla, 5, plays around on the jungle gym.



Zach Paynter shows off his tā moko.



Te Kaea Rapana-Kokiri waits for the bouncy castle.



Liz Muirhead stamps on a tā moko.

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MP for Coromandel

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Brothers catch dreaded mining disease



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

After William Guy buried his brother at Thames in October, 1923, he returned to his home in Ngātea.

William, 47, had been employed by the Lands Department for many years, working all over the Hauraki Plains. But now he handed in his notice, drew his wages and paid up his account at the store. He told his friends he was leaving. William talked of the great suffering that his brother, James, had endured. James, 50, had had the dreaded miners' phthisis, or miner's complaint - a lung disease caused by inhaling crystalline silica dust. Now William, who had also at one time worked as a miner, had it too.

Twelve years earlier an investigation into miner's complaint had been held at Thames. Dr Lapraik said that impure air, faulty ventilation, absence of sunshine, temperature changes, dampness, poisonous gases, decomposing timber and insanitary surroundings contributed to miner's phthisis.

The remedies were good ventilation, cleanliness, and the use of



Thames mines. Photo: SUPPLIED

water spray wherever quartz was being broken. He advised a hot bath, followed by a cold shower immediately on coming to the surface. Dr Walshe said that chronic lung disease amongst miners was very prevalent in the Thames district and miners should be prevented from spitting indiscriminately about a mine.

In 1915 at a parliamentary discussion, the compensation for cases in which miners died of miner's complaint was declared utterly inadequate. It was considered an absolute scandal that nothing had been done after the matter had been discussed for so many years. The government was urged to provide invalid pensions.

Dr Thacker pleaded that in addition to the soldiers at the front, these "industrial soldiers" should also be looked after.

After William Guy had said goodbye to his friends, he was found a few hours later lying on the bed in his hut, having taken his own life. At the inquest, a verdict of suicide while in a depressed state of mind was returned. William was a single man, well and favourably known throughout the

district. Suicides by men suffering from miner's complaint were quite frequent; it was a grim and frightening disease.

The year after William died, a Bill was passed that miner's incapacitated by miner's phthisis be entitled to a pension, together with the necessary medical comforts and medicines.

The Bill was supported by Mr Rhodes, member for Thames, who said it had been most unreasonable that a man was not allowed to receive the miner's pension if he were able to do any work at all. Many of the men could do light work, but the average miner, who had been mining all his life, was a miner, pure and simple, and how could he be expected to do anything else? Thames men who were almost at their last gasp had been having to make a journey to and from Morrinsville to prove whether they had the disease or not. If he was suffering from miner's complaint, a man had quite enough to do in finding the next breath.

William died just 10 days after James. They are both buried at Shortland cemetery, Thames.



Carolyn McKenzie, left, and Craig Solomon cut the ribbon. Photo: SUPPLIED

Taonga Māori Gallery opens

By GORDON PREECE

Close to 100 people came through Thames Museum for the opening of the Taonga Māori Gallery on July 2.

The new permanent gallery features Gottfried Lindauer's portraits of ancestors of local iwi, a model pā constructed in the 1960s by Hamiltonian Doug Pick, and cabinets with various taonga.

Thames Museum Society chairperson Carolyn McKenzie said the opening went "very well" and she was "very pleased" with the gallery's reception.

"Everybody I would say was delighted and many people said it was much more impressive than they had imagined."

The opening included a "very moving" blessing led by Kaumātua Walter Searancke and speeches about the gal-

lery's significance from Thames-Coromandel district councillor Robyn Sinclair, Coromandel MP Scott Simpson and Ngāti Maru and Koro Ngāpō representatives.

Carolyn and Ngāti Maru Advisor Craig Solomon cut the ribbon to open the gallery.

She previously told *The Profile* the gallery had been an ambition for the museum's administration for many years.

"For us the history of this area doesn't just begin with the arrival 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."

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Plans for year-round glow

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

It could feel like Christmas every day with Paeroa Maritime Park’s plan to be lit all-year round.

The museum at the entrance to Paeroa has started working towards installing permanent, colour-changing lights around the park. It is famous for its Christmas Light Show which attracts thousands each December, but assembling and dismantling the twinkling decorations had become unsustainable for the ageing volunteers, chairman Colin James told Hauraki District Council.

They would need around \$40,000 to fully equip the park, and this year, they set a target of \$10,000 which was reached after a donation by Mayor Toby Adams in June.

Mayor Adams added to the \$2,200 already raised by the park by granting \$7800 from his Mayoral Fund.

“This is something that is going to last, it’s not a one-off fix, it’s an investment into the 10, 15, 20 years of the maritime park, so I felt it was a good, worthy cause,” he said.

Over the last two years, the Historical Maritime Park has created new pontoons and pathways, and organisers are now planning its 2022 Christmas Light Show.

While the holiday-season



While the Christmas Light Show would always remain the maritime park’s priority, all-year lighting could be utilised throughout the year for other events.

show would always remain the park’s priority, Mr James said the new lights could be utilised throughout the year for other events.

“An example could be Anzac Day,” he told *The Profile*. “If we wanted to dedicate the day to our Anzacs, we’re hoping to be able to turn the whole park red. You could do green for Saint Patrick’s, you could do pink for Pink Ribbon Day... so we’re aiming to be able to create an event around the lights.”

Mr James said receiving the “large sum” of money donated by Mayor Adams had a huge effect on the park’s fundraising efforts, and they had now extended their \$10,000 target.

“I think getting that Mayoral Fund straight away just was a huge sigh of relief. That’s huge for us and just ensures [the park’s] future.”

Paeroa ward councillor and maritime park volunteer Jo Tilsley said the park had “been a labour of love” for a small group of “incredibly dedicated” people for quite some time.

“This group is working really hard to future-proof the park beyond their tenure and into the future,” she said.

“It is definitely one of the jewels in our tourism crown and so very deserving of support.”



Robyn Wilson’s mixed media exhibition is her “first major opportunity” to showcase her art in Paeroa. Photo: GORDON PREECE

Debut exhibition opens

By GORDON PREECE

Colours and shiny things provide inspiration for Robyn Wilson’s artwork currently on display at her exhibition at Paeroa Society of Arts.

The former Kāpiti Coaster, who moved to Paeroa in 2020 to be closer to family, told *The Profile* it was her first exhibition and “first major opportunity” to showcase her mixed media artworks including cushions, jewellery, mosaics and ceramics for the local community.

“Everyone’s art is unique to themselves because everyone has their own interpretation of what they like and what’s different,” she said.

“Because mine’s just a mixture, people get a choice of seeing lots of different things... [and] I do love colour... [and] I often try to bring bling in if I can to my art.”

Robyn said her passion for art came from her love of drawing

and colouring when she was a child and being around her father who was a self taught greenstone jewellery maker and wood carver.

“From there as I’ve gone through my working life I’ve had art right the way through,” she said.

“I’m in my happy place when I actually create things and it’s the creative side that’s very important.”

Robyn said she’d enjoyed being part of Paeroa Society of Arts and participating in its regular art classes.

“Paeroa’s a great place and we’re very lucky to have such a great art society for the local artists, it’s fantastic to actually showcase our wares and it’s a great community thing,” she said.

“It’s also a lovely place for people to come and buy gifts and shop around, and every month there’s a new exhibition.”

Robyn’s exhibition will be open until the end of July.

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Beaming gymnasts

Close to 280 local primary school students competed in the Thames-Coromandel Gym Festival at Thames Gymsports in Kōpū on June 22. The day's events included vault, beam, mat, mini tramp, rhythmic, floor routines and group performances. Reporter **GORDON PREECE** headed along to capture the day's final events.



Moanataiari School year 6 student Hayley Gabb keeps her balance.



Coaches from Thames High School, Hauraki Plains College and Ngātea Primary School helped with the day's events.



Pārāwai's Melodie McClaren tip toes across balance beam.



Georgia Court steadies herself to perform on the beam.

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Thrills & spills

Waihi College were named First XV boys Coulter Cup Champions on Sunday after a nail-biting 26-22 finish with Mercury Bay Area School, who nearly got a try in the final few minutes of the game. Hauraki Plains College won the TVSS Trophy for First XV Girls in a convincing win over Mercury Bay during the Thames Valley secondary schools finals day. The Major Chamberlain Cup Future First XV Boys Champions were Whangamatā Area School after beating Thames High; Paeroa College won the youth boys Passey Cup over Mercury Bay; and the L Berry Esq Cup Plate Winners were Hauraki Plains College youth boys after defeating Te Aroha College.



HPC's Sameera Hayes evades a tackle in the First XV Girls final.



Waihi's Savantte Selwyn fends off a First XV Mercury Bay player.



Paeroa's Kaleb Gurnick powers through Mercury Bay's defence.



Waihi College's Max Baker encounters strong defence from the Bay in the Coulter Cup final.

Photos: TERESA RAMSEY



Kellim Ropiha dives over the try line for Waihi's First XV.



Te Tahi Herekiuha gets the first try for Paeroa youth boys.



Thames High Future First XV players tackle Whangamatā's Kauri Peke.



Hauraki First XV players make the tackle.

HG LEACH CLUB RUGBY FINALS 2022

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12:00pm

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Lawrence
Memorial Cup

Mercury Bay
v
Thames

Field 1

2:00pm

Senior A Final
McClinchy
Shield

Thames
v
Te Aroha
College Old Boys

Field 1

12:15pm

Senior A Plate
Patrons Cup

Coromandel
v
Waihou

Field 2

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SUDOKU

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

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

EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

58

58

HARD

MEDIUM

EASY

Puzzles © The Puzzle Company
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JUMBO CROSSWORD

78

ACROSS

1 Make every effort, especially to be fair or helpful (4,4,9)

10 Trader (8)

15 Meal (6)

16 Very talkative person (10)

17 First showing (8)

19 Do (7)

21 X-rated (5)

22 Height instrument (9)

25 Welder's gas (9)

27 Abducts (7)

29 Eight-note interval (6)

33 Forepart (5)

34 Leftover waste from an ore-crushing plant (8)

36 Lizard-like amphibian (10)

39 Application (3)

41 Cautious (7)

42 Peril (6)

43 New recruit (6)

44 Religious picture (4)

45 Ghost (7)

48 Excessively particular (10)

53 Brief look (7)

57 Spoken (4)

58 Stocking band (6)

59 Calm (6)

60 Golf course stretch (7)

62 Promissory note (1,1,1)

64 Wed (3,8)

65 Restrictive (8)

66 Less (5)

69 Penal institution (6)

70 Wither (7)

71 Oddball (9)

76 Letter holders (9)

77 Large blood vessel (5)

78 First (7)

83 Graphically detailed (8)

84 Pickled cabbage (10)

85 Scottish dish (6)

86 Scatter (8)

87 Withdraw rapidly; run away (4,1,5,7)

DOWN

2 Balanced up (6)

3 Stunt the growth of (5)

4 Tub (3)

5 Food grain (4)

6 Storybook lamp-rubber (7)

7 Water heater (6)

8 Measure of land (4)

9 Scrawling idly (8)

11 Endear (anag)(6)

12 TV, radio advertisement (10)

13 Assist in wrongdoing (4)

14 Playhouse (7)

18 Sheer, translucent (10)

20 Assess (4)

23 Fabric fold (5)

24 Impediment (8)

26 Factory restaurant (7)

28 Covered against loss (7)

30 Sermonise (6)

31 Chessman (6)

32 Losing colour (6)

35 South American cud-chewer (5)

37 Wash soap out (5)

38 Board game (4)

40 Therefore (4)

45 Tine (5)

46 Slaughterhouse (8)

47 Paltry (6)

48 Paternity (10)

49 Indian garment (4)

50 Sudden urge (7)

51 Revenue (6)

52 Out of condition (5)

54 Heavy metal (4)

55 Cocktail (7)

56 Sculpted figure (6)

61 Salad dressing (10)

63 Photo in photo (5)

67 Set free (8)

68 Astound (4)

69 Play make-believe (7)

72 Sailor's sword (7)

73 Mental giant (6)

74 Oriental smoking pipe (6)

75 Yacht harbour (6)

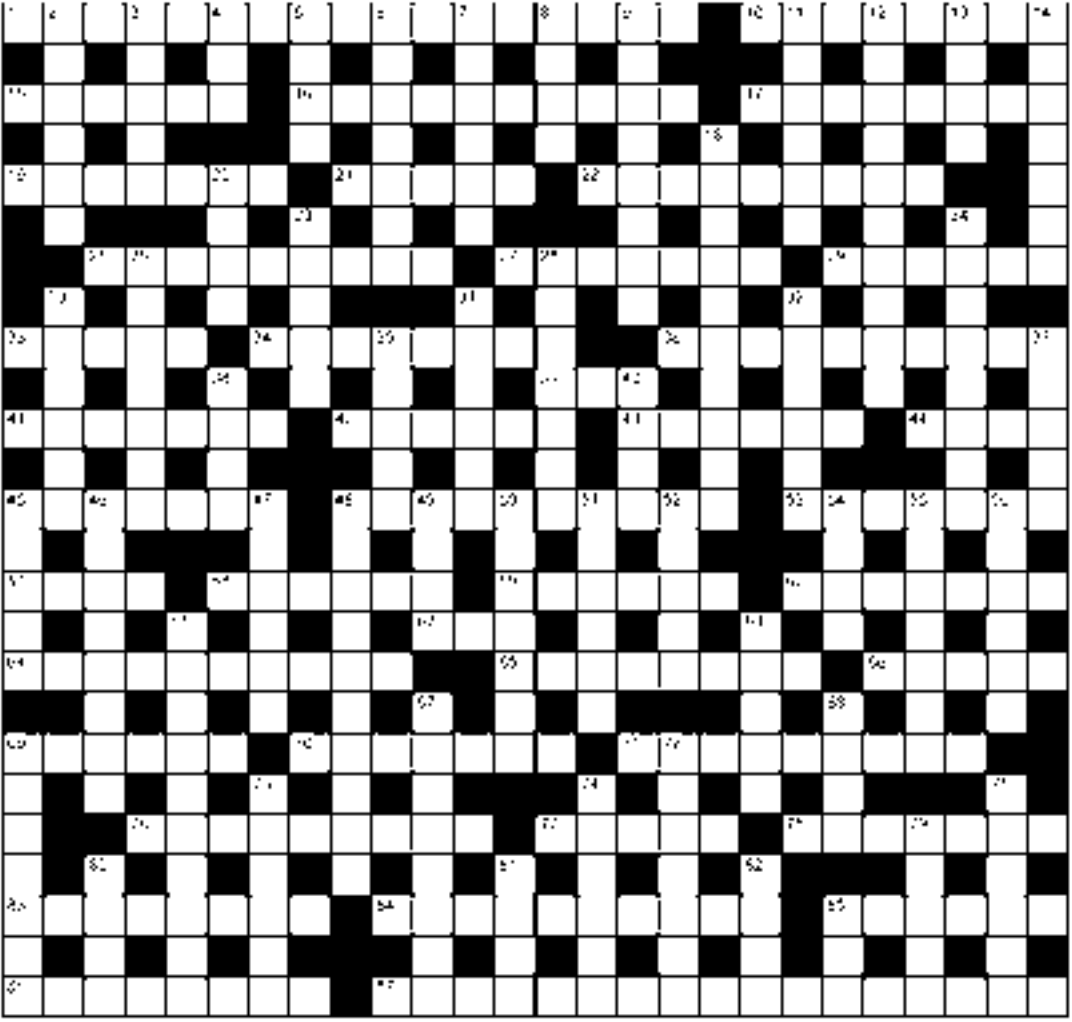
79 Big cat (5)

80 Musical work (4)

81 Not straight (4)

82 Don't go (4)

85 Garden tool (3)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Spinach, 4 Applicants, 9 Absence, 13 Edit, 14 Matter, 15 Ticket, 16 Usually, 19 Dwindle, 20 Queue someone's pitch, 21 Detour, 22 Ransom, 24 Cancelled, 29 Etcetera, 30 Coarse, 31 Feather, 35 Roulette, 36 Spares, 37 Runt, 38 False, 39 Map, 41 Tryst, 43 Drapes, 47 Split, 50 Gas, 54 Aphid, 55 Bare, 56 Absorb, 57 Intrigue, 60 Caption, 61 Vacate, 62 Epidemic, 65 Destroyer, 67 Hungry, 68 Valour, 72 Pull out all the stops, 75 Precede, 77 Servile, 78 Grille, 79 Trough, 80 Fair, 81 Amongst, 82 Family tree, 83 Thistle.

DOWN: 1 Speed, 2 Initiate, 3 Heated, 4 Antiquated, 5 Puree, 6 Interim, 7 Anchor, 8 Theme, 10 Best-seller, 11 Examine, 12 Calico, 17 Adjustment, 18 Knack, 21 Diagram, 23 Swapped, 25 Absurd, 26 Sentry, 27 Hassle, 28 Geisha, 30 Circa, 32 Thaw, 33 Jump, 34 Snap, 40 Appeal, 42 Seal, 44 Reagan, 45 Paste, 46 Surgeon, 48 Linger, 49 Terminates, 50 Gags, 51 Shelter, 52 Kilt, 53 Debate, 58 Portcullis, 59 Microscope, 63 Topaz, 64 Forecast, 66 Enliven, 67 Hosiery, 69 Museum, 70 Chill, 71 Spigot, 73 Larva, 74 Outer, 76 Eerie.

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Simon Rodley owns and operates Rodley Cleaning Services (RCS). Photo: GORDON PREECE

RCS cleans up the Thames Valley

Rodley Cleaning Services (RCS) has cleaned across Thames Valley for more than a year offering both residential and commercial cleaning services.

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Hauraki Plains College students with the new pioneer garden. Photo: SUPPLIED

Students design pioneer garden for college

For the past two years, Hauraki Plains College Year 12 horticulture students have been given the opportunity to plan, design, and make a garden for the school in Ngatea.

This year, students needed to find out what the school desired in a garden, and come up with a plan to fill the space by the college's music room.

They designed a pioneer garden, and used rushes and reeds and native bush to fulfill their scope.

The gate was donated by Chris deBeer, the totara posts by Amanda Fitzpatrick, and the rocks were donated by Miles Shelley.

The planting has been done with the help of Kevin Place.

CLASSIFIEDS

Church Notices	For Sale	Public Notice	Public Notice
<p>Hauraki Plains Co-operating Parish Presbyterian - Methodist Anglican</p> <p>Sundays 09:30 a.m Holy Communion 1st and 3rd Sunday</p> <p>An inclusive, encouraging community of faith 'Come and See'</p> <p>Church Office : 07 867 8466 www.haurakiplainscooparish.com</p>	<p>FREE Top soil or fill. 100 cubes. View any-time. Ph Pete 027 496 7034 Ngarimu Bay</p> <p>Gardening</p> <p>Stump Grinding. All sizes, all areas. Free quote. Ph 021 060 7659</p>	<p>Notice of the 4th AGM for Thames</p> <p>Menz/WomenzShed to be held at 4.30pm Saturday 30th July at the Shed 412 Queen St Thames Ph 021 29 000 23</p>	<p>Historical Maritime Park Inc AGM Sunday 24th July 2pm at the Park All Welcome</p> <p>NEED STAFF? Advertise with the Valley Profile and get results Ph 022 130 3885</p>

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SPORTS REPORTS

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Debbie Siddens represents the sponsor family in the Gordon O'Brien Memorial optional fours. Photo: TERRY KING

BOWLS

There was a good turn out of 21 teams for Martyn Barriball Memorial optional fours on June 5 at Kerepehi Bowling Club. It was aclean sweep for Kerepehi teams for prizes.

RESULTS: 1st 3 wins 34 points 20 ends (Kerepehi); Mitti Taipari, Garry Parker, Don Cooper, Norm Allen; 2nd 3 wins 16 points 17 ends (Kerepehi); Richard Crosland, Mike Hitchcock, George Morehu, Robin Povey; 3rd 3 wins 16 points 15 ends (Kerepehi); Graham Pyke, Margaret Henderson, Colin, Sandy. 24 teams showed up the thick fog for Gordon O'Brien Memorial optional fours on June 26. **RESULTS:** 1st 4 wins 44 points 24 ends Ray W,Simon, Carole, Lois ; 2nd 4 wins 38 points 23 ends G Hewitt, A Brian, Kathryn, Darryl; 3rd 4 wins 23 points 20 ends K

Bunn, Adele, Hoppy, Amanda; 4th 3.5 wins 27 points 21 ends Keith Collins, Richard Purdy, Velco, Jim Newman. Club prize: Shaun team. Coming up 24 th July, Tunncliffe Nissan opt 4s. Entries to Club 07 867 6897, Peter 0212 074 1802.

TVRFU RUGBY

RESULTS: McClinchy Cup SF: Mercury Bay 17-22 COBRAs; Thames 27-11 Whangamata. Patrons Cup SF: Hauraki North 27-54 Waihou; Paeroa 18-19 Coromandel. Lawrence Memorial Cup SF: Mercury Bay 27-22 COBRAs; Thames 39-6 Waihi Athletic;

FINALS: July 16 at Boyd Park, Te Aroha. Patrons Cup final, 12:30pm: Coromandel vs Waihou; McClinchy Cup final, 2pm: COBRAs vs Thames. Lawrence Memorial Cup final, 12:30pm: Mercury Bay vs Thames.

Goldfields WI celebrates 53 years

The 53rd Birthday Celebrations of the Goldfields Women's Institute was held on June 14 at The Melbourne Café in Thames. The meals that were served were all delicious and members enjoyed this very social occasion. It is amazing to think we still have one foundation member, Jill Bridgman who lives in Auckland, an associate member, which we keep in touch with regularly. As a treat for our birthday, four good size raffles were won by Bev Schenkel, Val Bowen, Carole Bridle and Jeannine Oliver. Other members received some chocolate bars. Arrangements were made to attend the Thames Piako Group Day at Kerepehi on July 5. If anyone is interested in joining our Group, please contact Helen on 0274 386 692.

KEREPEHI WI

President Elaine Jolliffe welcomed seven members to our June meeting. The thought for the month and raffle were supplied by Elaine: "Success is only failure turned inside out". We had one birthday, Sue Watson, who was away on holiday. Elaine received her birthday gift for May as she was away last month. We all bought something for prizes for group day, which we hosted on July 5 at Kerepehi Bowling Club, 14 items altogether. Roll call was knitted TV slippers, with seven pairs to be donated to Women's Refuge. Set competition was jam tarts: Jan Edmonds and Vicky Fulton had done knitting for the Middlemore Wool Programme: 29 cot blankets, 20 beanies, five pairs booties and jumpers. After lunch we all made a table arrangement with artificial flowers for group day.

COMPETITIONS: Artificial Arrange-

ment: 1st Mario van Eyk; 2nd Bev Adamson; 3rd Jan Edmonds. Jam Tarts: 1st Bev Adamson, 2nd Carolyn Giles. Flowers Bloom: 1st Carolyn Giles; 2nd Marion van Eyk; 3rd Jan Edmonds. Spike: 1st Carolyn Giles; 2nd Marion van Eyk; 3rd Bev Adamson. Shrub: 1st Jan Edmonds; 2nd Marion van Eyk; 3rd Bev Adamson. Vegetable: 1st Marion van Eyk 2nd Carolyn Giles, 3rd Jan Edmonds. Herb 1st Marion van Eyk; 2nd Carolyn Giles; 3rd Jan Edmonds.

FEDERATION

A meeting, on the 16th May, of the Thames Hauraki Plains District Federation of Women's Institutes was held at the Ngatea supper room to discuss the upcoming National Conference Remits and for final arrangements for the delegates heading to Lower Hutt. Members enjoyed a soup and buns luncheon put on by the federation, and raffles were won by eight lucky members. On May 29, ten members of the Thames Hauraki Plains Federation and two members of the Northern Waikato Federation travelled to Lower Hutt to attend the 101st GM/Conference of the NZ National Women's Institutes. The conference commenced on the Monday afternoon with National President Fay Leonard welcoming everyone. The rest of the afternoon was taken up with business along with nominee speeches for both the national president as well as the national executive committee. On Monday night, we were welcomed to Lower Hutt by Mayor Campbell Barry, who gave us an insight on the different places that were worthy of a visit, as well as he hoped there would be plenty of retail therapy

carried out. Five ladies received their Gold Honours Badges, our highest award, which is extremely special. One very special lady is Margaret Bartle, who used to belong to Whangamata WI and now resides in Matamata. The guest speaker was Ranjna Patel, Gandhi Nivas who was extremely interesting. The evening concluded after the national competitions prizegiving. Although we didn't win any prizes, Noelene Kayes, a member of Maramarua/Kopuku WI received a third placing for her Christmas Tree decoration, which was one of three items in the Robert Young Rosebowl competition. Tuesday morning was business and remits before the announcement of the election results. The new national president of the NZ Federation of WI is Jude Vaughan from Mid-Canterbury. The new national executive committee is Adrienne Allen, our own Toni Brumby from Maramarua/Kopuku-WI, Judy Cathcart, Jessie Hopkinson and Mary Reet. The speaker was Angelic Jefferies, who received a \$10,000 grant from Women's Institute for her research into Cerebral Palsy in babies and young children. Tuesday night entertainment was an Eisteddfod, which we all enjoyed with great entertainment put on by so many ladies. One of the Northern Waikato ladies was in the impromptu reading, which is really hard to do as you are only given the piece to read moments before you go on stage. Wednesday morning was back on to the plane homeward bound, and although it was rough leaving Wellington, we left before the rain, hail and tornado hit the area, so we were all pleased to arrive home safely.

LETTERS

Send your letters to the editor to editor@valleyprofile.co.nz or post/drop in to our office at 2 Queen St, Paeroa, 3600. Letters must include your full name and address, be 250 words or less and may be edited, abridged or rejected at the editor's discretion.

MĀORI WARDS

Matamata-Piako District Council are including a Māori ward in the upcoming local government elections. Will Hauraki District Council do the same?

I've been doing some sums. Just under 23 per cent of Hauraki's population identify as Māori with another 3 per cent as Pacifica.

That's 26 per cent of Hauraki population and yet, looking at our local government representation there's been a long, long trail of pakeha males with the occasional pakeha female thrown in. Isn't it time to move into the 21st century and get real diversity among our decision makers? Why should first-nation people be given a say in the running of their own country I hear you say. How unfair is that.

Well, for a very long time, first nation people have had to sit back while our colonial ancestors have trampled on their culture, stolen their land and systematically tried to achieve their aim of a 'little England' in the South Pacific. Those with a good knowledge of Aotearoa/New Zealand history know that.

As a country we pride ourselves on being 'fair', practical and pragmatic. For anyone who still clings to stereotypes of a native population in need of being civilised by a superior culture I suggest you study history. There was nothing civilised in the actions of the English empire in their pursuit of power and resources. And in today's chaotic world we desperately need Māori wisdom, their cultural ethos of long-term thinking and their amazing generosity of spirit.

Māori also know how to select and train leaders – something missing from our current political system and sorely needed if we are to transition successfully through the global climate crisis. So how about it HDC – fair representation for first nation

people would be 2.9 Māori seats – probably best to round it up to 3.

- Dawn Sinclair, Waihi

COUNCIL RESPONSE

The Hauraki Rohe is made up of 12 Iwi with seven of these iwi having Mana Whenua Status within the Hauraki District Council area. We are one of the few Council regions where there is not one dominant Iwi that all Iwi descend from. Instead we have multiple Iwi who stand under their own mana.

With the current Legislation changes that made establishing Māori wards easier. Council erred on the side of caution and will first seek engagement form Hauraki Māori about what representation best looks like and suits Hauraki Iwi. It is not Councils preference to decide for Māori what that looks like and Council will be guided by Māori on that process.

Under the current law changes. Hauraki District Council will only be allocated one seat (two if we are lucky). This is based on the number of Māori on the Māori roll. In Council view, rather than predetermine an outcome which may be detrimental to the mana of Iwi.

Council instead will embark on engaging with iwi to determine what the model going forward looks like. Council are very keen to engage in developing a partnership model with Hauraki Iwi.

Too often the mistake is made that there is only one Iwi per region. This is not the case with Hauraki and the current legislation changes don't reflect the make-up of Hauraki.

Council looks forward to beginning the process of developing a partnership model with Hauraki iwi and developing a model that best works and enhances the mana of Hauraki Iwi and Council.

- Hauraki District Council

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