

Tennis player's life saved at courts, P3

The Valley Profile

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ADVOCATE HONOURER

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

Speaking from her home in Matatoki, which she shares with her wife of eight years, Therry, Dr Miriam Saphira sits by a hearth similar to one from her childhood, with chairs either side of a roaring fire.

The shelves contain some of her own writings, like *Amazon Mothers*, and *The Sexual Abuse of Children* - which was the first book of its topic when it was first published in 1981.

But her story starts at "the beginning of hard projects", before she received diplomas in clinical psychology and educational psychology, and her PhD in psychology, and before she was named a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for her services to the LGBTQIA+ community in this year's Queen's Birthday and Platinum Jubilee Honours.

"I left school and was quite depressed at the time because I had read in an encyclopedia that homosexuals had arrested development... so, I thought they were all short, but I kept growing and growing."

A bottle of poison was the tool of choice in a suicide attempt which left her with a damaged throat and life-long breathing issues. But an internship and a lack of confidence in working with people saw her placed in a prison, a stint which started her discussions with sex offenders.

"I realised they didn't tell me everything, but I also realised that once I got them on-board to talk, they were very angry men," she says.

"They had been abused as children, physically and some sexually. It was just horrible; horrible, horrible stories, and I thought we had to try and stop it by bringing it out into the open."

It was an experience that led Miriam on a crusade to put taboo topics, like incest, sexual abuse of children, prostitution, and violence against women, under the spotlight.

In order for information to be available to help organisations receive grants, Miriam put a questionnaire into *Women's Weekly* calling for insight into abusive relationships. She received 280 responses.

Soon after, she placed another questionnaire into the magazine relating to sexual abuse and received 385 responses.

"And their stories were even more shocking," she says.

The answers were the basis of Miriam's pioneering book *The Sexual Abuse of Children*, which was published in 1981 and has become a key reference for those working with abused children and offenders.

Throughout her life, Miriam was told she was "opening a can

CONTINUED ON P7



Dr Miriam Saphira has been named a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for her services to the LGBTQIA+ community. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

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TCDC councillors reveal election plans

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

Five Thames-Coromandel district councillors have announced their intention to refill their positions at this year's local body elections, while two more have kept mum on the subject.

As part of ongoing election coverage, *The Profile* contacted seven elected members of Thames-Coromandel District Council, asking them of their campaign intentions ahead of voting day on October 8. Mayor Sandra Goudie, and Thames ward councillor Sally Christie, earlier announced they would not be throwing their names into the hat again this year, and two councillors, both hailing from Mercury Bay, did not respond.

Robyn Sinclair had a nail-biting first election in 2019. Progress results saw the first-time candidate down 78 votes against contender Alison Choppin, but a recount saw Robyn win the seat by a narrow five votes. She is standing again this year.

"I stood to make sure that there was a broader representation on council, and I am standing again to maintain the diversity and perspective I bring to the table," she said. "The Thames ward deserves consistent leadership and to be represented by someone who genuinely understands and cares about the issues and the people."

Terry Walker was the second-highest polling candidate for the South Eastern ward back in 2019, with 1380 votes. He said he was restanding for council because he was committed to representing



TCDC councillors, with former CEO Rob Williams, front right. Absent: Terry Walker.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED/TCDC

the ward and the people in it.

"As a councillor, I provide a bridge between the community and the council and have learned the many skills required to express the needs of the residents during meetings," he said.

"I am a strategic thinker with the ability to deal with a variety of issues and have always been available to the people to help negotiate and resolve any disagreements or conflict.

"As government introduces a plethora of reforms it is more important than ever to have an experienced voice at the table and I will continue to strive for the best outcomes for our community."

Practising barrister Gary

Gotlieb was the top polling candidate for South Eastern at the last election, with 1417 votes. He campaigned on keeping council accountable and said he would do so again this year.

"I objected to council agendas having so much of what is discussed not open to the public. I had some limited success in opening this up, but there has to be more transparency with council business," he said. "You can count on me to step in and remind council staff and councillors what their duties are to the law and to our community. This is why I am seeking one more term to help make TCDC an even more accountable, efficient, transparent

and user-friendly council."

Local politics newcomer Martin Rodley received 1787 votes to become a Thames ward councillor at the 2019 election. He is part of council's Sustainability and Resilience Group and is seeking another term around the table this year.

"One of my reasons for standing again is that I have really enjoyed the last three years. I believe I still have both more to offer and more to do," he said.

"I have always intended to have at least two terms in this position as it always takes some time to learn the processes and get more effective in a role like this.

CONTINUED P10

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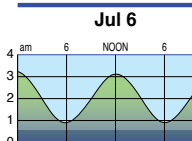
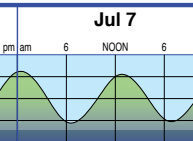
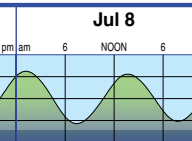
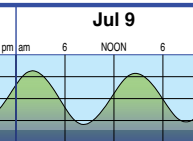
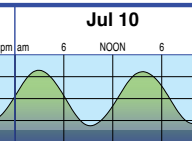
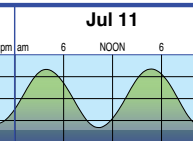
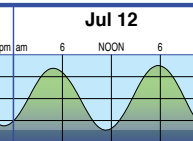
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Thames Tides

Wed Jul 6	Thu Jul 7	Fri Jul 8	Sat Jul 9	Sun Jul 10	Mon Jul 11	Tue Jul 12
 Morning: 5:51am 0.9 12:03pm 3.1 6:03pm 0.9 Afternoon: 5:14pm Best At: 5:19am 5:41pm F Rise: 11:42am Set: 11:50pm	 Morning: 12:24am 3.2 12:49pm 3.1 6:36am 0.9 6:53pm 0.9 Afternoon: 5:14pm Best At: 6:03am 6:25pm F Rise: 12:06pm	 Morning: 1:11am 3.3 1:40pm 3.1 7:24am 0.9 7:49pm 1.0 Afternoon: 5:15pm Best At: 6:47am 7:11pm F Set: 12:54am Rise: 12:33pm	 Morning: 2:01am 3.3 2:37pm 3.1 8:17am 0.8 8:49pm 0.9 Afternoon: 5:15pm Best At: 7:35am 8:01pm F Set: 2:01am Rise: 1:03pm	 Morning: 2:55am 3.3 3:39pm 3.2 9:15am 0.8 9:51pm 0.9 Afternoon: 5:16pm Best At: 8:28am 8:56pm G Set: 3:11am Rise: 1:38pm	 Morning: 3:52am 3.3 4:43pm 3.3 10:17am 0.7 10:51pm 0.8 Afternoon: 5:17pm Best At: 9:25am 9:56pm G Set: 4:25am Rise: 2:21pm	 Morning: 4:53am 3.4 5:45pm 3.5 11:19am 0.6 11:49pm 0.6 Afternoon: 5:17pm Best At: 10:29am 11:02pm G Set: 5:41am Rise: 3:15pm

MOON AND FISH KEYS

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Good Fishing	Fair Fishing		Not So Good

TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES

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

Tennis player's life saved at courts

By GORDON PREECE

Paul Silvester was playing tennis doubles at Thames Tennis Club recently when a fellow player suddenly “felt dizzy” and was short of breath. The retired doctor said the man, who is in his 80s, was helped by two people to sit down at a table beside the court but was still having breathing difficulties. He was then helped inside and laid down on the tennis club’s carpet. “There were plenty of people with some skills that might have been able to help but I was able to assist our man to become comfortable,” Paul said. Two tennis players then called for an ambulance because while the man was stable and responsive, he was still “quite dizzy” with “grunting respirations”. These conditions prompted Paul to make use of Thames Squash Club’s automated external defibrillator (AED), which is accessible to keyholders of the tennis club and the croquet and bridge clubs nearby. “We pulled the clothing off his chest to put the adult gel pads in place... ready to offer a defibrillation shock if that’s the appropriate thing to do,” he said. “It takes a minute or so to



Paul Silvester with Thames Squash Club’s defibrillator.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

read what’s happening... and our patient had a very fast heart rate, but [the AED] decided that he had enough movement, breathing activity and other signs of life. “So [the AED] made the announcement that defibrillation was not necessary.”

Paul said he reassessed the man with the AED two minutes later but it again returned a reading to say defibrillation wasn’t necessary. When ambulance staff arrived ten minutes later, they traced the man’s heart rate, which came back with a result

of just under 200 beats per minute and a defibrillation shock was again withheld. “By the time he was on the stretcher and in the ambulance they decided to give him a shock to get the heart rate back to something sensible,” Paul said.

“He was right on the edge of needing that sort of resuscitation, and indeed if he had really had a heart rate that was inadequate for perfusing his body then we would’ve liked to do CPR.” Paul said the man was taken to Thames Hospital and was later transferred to Waikato Hospital for further treatment. He is now back at his Thames home with a pacemaker, and could return to the tennis courts soon. Paul said the event, which happened on June 20, was a team effort and heightened the importance of access to AEDs. “It can be life saving in the right situation,” he said. “It’s probably true the squash club is least likely to use it but in fact it’s not impossible for young people to have a sudden cardiac event.” The AED has been available at Thames Squash Club since 2018 after it was purchased for \$2934, using a \$1500 grant from Trust Waikato and \$1322 from the NZ Racing Board, with the remainder paid for by the clubs. Paul said while the AED had been used for demonstrations and regular checks, it was the first time it had been used for its intended purpose. Heart Saver NZ, who supplied the AED, had since replaced its used gel pads so it could be used for future cardiac emergencies, he said.

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Leon du Toit says his local security installation and maintenance business will keep prices low for clients.

Security business opens in Paeroa

Techni-Call Security Solutions is a new security business based in Paeroa and servicing Hauraki-Thames Valley.

Leon du Toit established Techni-Call in 2016 while living in Te Kauwhata and contracted with large security companies before moving the business to Paeroa three months ago.

The business installs and maintains intruder detection, CCTV, access control, gate automation and garage automation for rural, residential and commercial properties throughout Hauraki Plains, Paeroa, Waihi and Thames.

Being based in Paeroa means lower travel costs and therefore better rates for Techni-Call clients.

Leon's 20-year security experience, which included providing security solutions to Covid-19 managed isolation and quarantine (MIQ) facilities in Auckland and Waikato, will also benefit Thames Valley clients.

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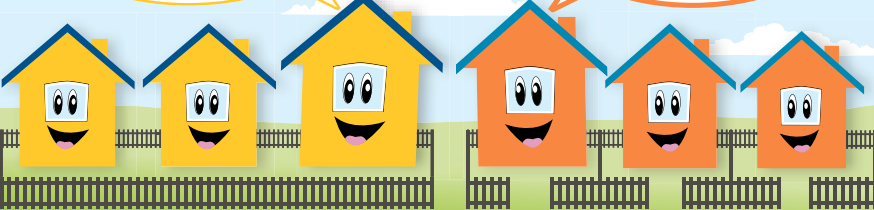
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From 1 July 2022, we're introducing a change to the way we charge some of our annual rates. We're moving from charging some rates per property to charging per separately used or inhabited part (also known as SUIP's). We're making this change to ensure the distribution of rates that contribute to the cost of running some services and facilities is more fair and equitable e.g. libraries and pools.


What's a SUIP?

A 'separately used or inhabited part' (or SUIP) is where dwellings or businesses on one property are separate from each other and can be used independently. An additional dwelling is a separate SUIP when it has a separate kitchen sink, separate bathroom facilities, separate living/sleeping area and separate entrance (not necessarily external) from the main dwelling.

If you have more than one SUIP on your property, you'll receive a letter from us during July explaining the changes and how they affect you.

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Govt money earmarked for Kōpū

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

Little more than \$4 million in “no strings attached” Three Waters funding has been earmarked to develop the Kōpū Marine Facility in Thames, after delays and cost increases left the project with a \$6.58 million shortfall.

It could be all the money Thames gets from the \$16m anticipated from the ‘Better Off’ fund, after councillors, including those in other Thames-Coromandel wards, wanted to note the town had now received its “fair share”.

The Kōpū Business and Marine Precinct would include a commercial wharf and pontoon, a public boat ramp and trailer parking area, and could bring economic returns of up to \$58.5m over the next 30 years.

In 2020, \$8.2m was approved by the Government’s Provincial Growth Fund for its development, but the final cost of the project has doubled to \$15.3m.

Although a council report said the facility had been consented as “regionally significant” and there could be a case for some of the shortfall to be funded through a district rate, Mercury Bay councillors put a stake in the ground and called for the project to be funded through local Thames rates instead.

“This is a Thames project, it has always been a Thames project - why in this late hour are we getting a district rate and where did it come from?” deputy mayor Murray McLean asked at the meeting on June 28.



Thames-Coromandel District Council is hoping to use \$4m in government funding for the Kōpū Business and Marine Precinct. Photo: SUPPLIED/TCDC

“This has huge ramifications around the district.”

A week earlier, the Thames Community Board set aside \$1.4m to make up some of the facility’s shortfall.

Now, elected members have voted to put an anticipated \$4.05m into the project, from the government’s Three Waters Better Off Funding, offered by the Department of Internal Affairs.

Thames-Coromandel District Council is expected to receive \$16m from this fund, and applications for the first tranche of \$4.05m are now open.

If council is successful, it could receive the money as early as this month. There are no obligations or “strings attached” to the government’s Three Waters reform, it said.

Thames ward councillor Sally Christie asked whether a note should be added to say Thames had “had its share” in the expected \$16m, as “fairness” to the other wards.

This was supported by councillors from Mercury Bay and Coromandel-Colville, but fellow Thames councillor Robyn Sinclair didn’t want to cut the town off from any future funding opportunities.

“I would argue that because we don’t know what the future projects are and we don’t know how much money is coming, we would be doing our ratepayers in this ward an extreme disservice to cut them out of any future funding,” she said.

“I’d like to think that we are all mature enough in our roles as district councillors to look at a district project and weigh it up against the merits of funding available, rather than trying to cut ourselves off at the knees now.”

A formal note to say Thames had received its share of funding was not added to the resolution.

Profile wins CNA awards

The Valley Profile has scooped two awards in the NZ Community Newspaper Association Awards announced last week.

The competition accepts entries from around 90 independent newspapers and magazines throughout New Zealand.

Valley Profile advertising manager Nikki Sanders was named best sales professional for her work in growing the paper during a difficult period for business and the media industry.

“An outstanding achievement in this current climate to source and maintain sales at a level sufficient to move the publication from monthly, to fortnightly to weekly over a 12 month period,” the judges said.

The Profile also won the best community involvement award for a successful road safety campaign, with a special mention for reporter Kelley Tantau. “A particularly poignant front page published on March 31 with the caption ‘Lucky to be alive’ after a horror crash, showed a mum and daughter recovering in a hospital bed,” judges said.

Valley Profile editor/owner Teresa Ramsey said she was “thrilled” about Nikki and Kelley’s achievements, which follow the paper recently being named finalist for two categories in the national Voyager Media awards to be announced in August.

“Nikki and Kelley’s hard work, talent and dedication has definitely turned The Profile into the paper that people are reading,” she said.

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Covid, winter ills impact Waihi College

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

Winter ills and chills, coupled with a “surge” in Covid-19 infections, has seen Waihi College without 25 of its staff in recent weeks.

As of July 1, the Hauraki district was the fifth-highest in the Waikato for active Covid-19 cases, with 126. This was behind Thames-Coromandel’s 278 cases.

In a letter to the school community on June 28, principal Alistair Cochrane said a Covid-19 surge was again rolling through New Zealand and Waihi.

“Up until now, we have been extremely fortunate that only limited numbers of staff have been affected and we have been able to keep the school open for face-to-face teaching,” he said.

However, with staff isolating at home, and the exhaustion of the school’s access to relief teachers, its Year 12 and 13 students were rostered home on Thursday, June 30, while all Year 10 pupils were rostered home on Friday, July 1.

In a second letter, Mr Cochrane said winter chills were also making an impact, and all Year 11 students were rostered home on Monday, July 4.

Mr Cochrane told *The Profile* the latest surge had a “significant effect” on the college.

“We currently have over 25 staff away from school at the moment, with 16 directly affected by Covid and the rest with other winter ills



A Matariki Concert was hosted by Waihi College and organised by Waihi Beach School last month.

Photo: SUPPLIED

(flu/gastro).

“We have needed to roster year level groups of students home so we can have face-to-face teaching.”

All teachers have an online programme for those students who have had to be rostered home, he said. “[We’re] not sure how long this surge is going to last, but we will endeavour to have the school open at every possible opportunity.”

Back in May, the college held a ‘Get Back’ week aimed at encouraging students to return to school following the disruption

of Covid-19. It saw positive outcomes, with attendance numbers improving “significantly”.

In term one, the college had a low of 45 per cent attendance, a high of 71 per cent, and an average of 63.5 per cent.

At the start of term two, following Get Back week, there was an average of 76 per cent, with each day having between 69 per cent to 80.4 per cent attendance.

However, the recent surge had seen 74 staff and students affected by Covid-19, with 44 being positive cases and 30 being household

contacts.

“We are endeavouring to keep the school as normal as possible,” Mr Cochrane said.


“Sports, trips and out of class activities have been proceeding, although some have been dramatically influenced.

“One of the highlights has been the collaborative ‘Matariki Hangi’ project, with three teachers from different learning areas (mathematics, food technology, Māori) planning together the learning around the production of a hangi to celebrate Matariki.

“It is fantastic to see the connections students are making and bringing the learning to life with an authentic learning experience focused upon local tikanga,” he said.


“Another of the highlights has been the annual Matariki Concert hosted by Waihi College but organised by Waihi Beach School, with many of the local school and pre-schools participating in a community display of Kapa Haka.”





WAIHI COLLEGE

www.waihicol.school.nz



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SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

TERM TWO OVER AND OUT

Waihi College is wrapping up term two already. The year is rushing by, and as always around school it's been action packed.

Recently they held the always successful Matariki Concert which is put on by Waihi College and Beach Primary School every year. This time they had three ECE's, four primary schools, one College group and one community group perform. It was a packed hall and all the performers were amazing. If you missed it and would love to see it, check out the Matariki Waihi Facebook page for the recorded link.


Waihi College is also on the lookout for new Board of Trustee members and nominations are open now. School Board members are active leaders in the school. They have an important role of supporting strong leadership and ensuring effective teaching for all students. Waihi College believes the School Board needs to represent the diversity of the school community to ensure a bright future for all children. If you think you can be part of this team please give Alistair Cochrane a call on 07 863 8349 or head to the Keeping Informed section of their website for more information.

The School Ball Committee are busy organising this year's Ball at the Waihi Beach Surf Club which is set down for 6th August at 7pm. The theme is 'House of Cards' and the students (Years 11-13) are so excited to have it at such a lovely venue. The DJ and Photobooth are all booked, so now it's all about buying dresses, suits and sussing hairdos. It will be a private function and being a school event, it will be drug, alcohol, smoke and vape free. All students wishing to go need to have 85% attendance (not including any days away due to COVID) and have a good behaviour record.

They are all looking forward to an incredible night.

Well done to all the Waihi College kids involved in this year's 40 Hour Famine. They managed to raise just under \$1,500 – amazing effort. And lastly, good luck to the Waihi College school rock bands that are off to perform at the weekend's Smoke Free Rock Fest!! Have a blast.

For all things Waihi College, head to their website and check out the Keeping Informed section. From there you'll find Latest News, Daily Notices, Calendar, Photos and Newsletters too <https://www.waihicol.school.nz/>





Dr Miriam Saphira at her home in Matatoki. PHOTO: KELLEY TANTAU

‘Taboo’ under spotlight

CONTINUED FROM P1

of worms” but her work persisted, with her books *For Your Child’s Sake*, and *Look Back, Stride Forward*. And it was in Berlin where she first thought about museums “not having much” to support the lesbian community.

“My friends took me to a museum and said: ‘You won’t find anything lesbian here’, but we were standing outside and I looked up and there were two female statues.

“I said: ‘They’re looking at each other, not looking at any men, or down looking for any men... so, there’s a possibility,” she says.

Miriam went on to establish New Zealand’s first museum of lesbian culture, The Charlotte Museum Trust, in 2007, which now holds 800 artefacts and 2100 books and magazines.

“We tried to write grant applications [for the museum] without using the word ‘lesbian’, using ‘women’ instead, but it’s fairly hard to do that and be honest, and I’m a very honest person,” she says. “Now, we are much more accepted and much more sup-

ported.”
Miriam’s successes include receiving the New Zealand Suffrage Centennial Medal in 1993, and being named 2010’s Lesbian of the Year for her contribution to the community.

When asked if she has always been unafraid of being outspoken, Miriam tells *The Profile* that early traumas and being bullied at school meant the opposite.

“Things would make me nervous and I would keep well away,” she says. “My brother would always be poking at me or punching at me, and kids at school didn’t like me and teased me, so I was used to being sidelined, I suppose.

“But working with sex offenders and at the prison, I thought: we had to do something and bring it out in the open.”

Miriam was honoured in this year’s Queen’s Birthday Honours alongside Thames Valley locals Wati Ngamane, Denise Messiter, Adrienne Dalton, Keith Woodley, and Ruth Aitken, who was made a Dame.



Ngātea toastie reaches national finals

By GORDON PREECE

The Public Office has toasted their way to the finals of New Zealand’s annual toasted sandwich competition.

The Ngātea cafe/restaurant is one of 13 finalists out of 180 entrants selected in this year’s Great NZ Toastie Takeover for their creation, The Smoky Pork and Pickle.

Co-owner Sarah Sheehy told *The Profile* she was “super excited” with the result after falling short of reaching last year’s finals with their toastie, The Pickle Ripple.

“We have learnt lots of lessons and figured out ways to perfect the technique,” she said. “There’s a few things like making sure that you’ve got the right fillings so you don’t want anything that’s going to be too fatty or that will soak through the bread too much, and having some sort of sauce or chutney in it is always good.

“Then having the best quality ingredients as well - all the ingredients in it other than the bread and the cheese are all homemade... and there’s lots of love.”

For toasties to enter the competition, they needed to be toasted between two slices of bread, able to be eaten by hand, needed to contain cheese (or a vegan substitute) and McClure’s pickles.

All remaining ingredients were for the toastie’s maker to choose.

The Smoky Pork and Pickle features apple cider braised pork, smoky wood sauce, melted gouda and McClure’s Sweet & Spicy Pickles topped with crispy fried pickles.

Co-owner and head chef Simon Sheehy engineered the toastie.



Simon and Sarah Sheehy with their toastie. Photo: GORDON PREECE

He said inspiration started with the pork and he found the pickles were a great product to work with.

“It’s one of my favourite proteins... slow roasting the pork in apple cider made it quite a nice flavour, and the pickles and the cheese complimented it so it was great,” he said. “The smoky wood sauce is a highlight, it’s almost like a smoky burger sauce.”

Sarah said the Smoky Pork and Pickle had been on the Public Office’s menu since mid-April and they had received “lots of good feedback” about it from the public.

“We definitely sell a lot more of them than other menu items.

“We loved the whole vibe of everything that goes on and people calling in and going: ‘I just want to try your toastie’ or ‘wow you’re in the competition, that’s really cool

I’m going to try your toastie’.

“We get a lot of people that travel through, so a lot of people spread the word.”

The competition began with all toastie entrants being scored out of 100 by a panel of anonymous judges before finalists were selected. Sarah said their toastie would now be judged again before the supreme winner is selected on July 27. “It’s really cool to see the other finalists and what they’ve put up and it’s really cool to be part of that group of people too,” she said.

“We make sure that everything is consistently perfect with the toasties, so it was pretty cool to be judged anonymously when something you’re serving from the kitchen all the time and then someone goes ‘wow this is awesome’.”

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Star performers

Goldfields School celebrated Matariki on June 23 with a performance from the school's kapa haka group. The group is open to any student who enjoys singing waiata and meeting with friends to share a cultural experience. The audience included whānau, local school students, local Iwi representatives and Hauraki District Mayor Toby Adams. Reporter **GORDON PREECE** headed along to capture the action.



Liam Rule gets stuck into the haka.



Logan Sisson displays confidence during a waiata.

Photos: GORDON PREECE



Keira Courtney twirls her poi while performing E rere taku poi.



Jendah Dyer, left, and Michelle Kleyhnans bond during waiata.



Shaneyce Cavanagh gives her best.



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Rural Life

Decision to ban youth from shooting ranges on hold

Thames Valley Deerstalkers says a “reasonable amount of common sense” has been applied to recent Arms Act changes.

Police sought submissions between March 23 and May 4 on proposed new regulations under the Arms Act 2020 requiring target shooting clubs and ranges to be approved or certified by the Police Commissioner.

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

One proposed new regulation which caused concern for Thames Valley Deerstalkers Association (TVDA) was banning youth members from participating in shooting activities organised by gun clubs because under 16s aren’t eligible for a firearm licence.

TVDA president Maureen Coleman told *The Profile* this proposed regulation was on hold because it was included in Police’s draft regulations yet to be finalised by Cabinet.

“In the meantime, existing clubs like ours and Thames Clay Target Club, we can just keep operating as per normal and then we’ve got to get our applications in for registration and compliance,” she said.

“We’ve got a draft range manual that we can sort of work to but with an open mind that there may be some little tweaks to it, so we can start getting stuff ready and looking at what we’ve got and what we need.

“We can’t actually make an application before those finals are finalised and that won’t be until the regulations are signed off in December.”

Maureen said even if the banning of under 16s signed off in December, it was her understanding it wouldn’t come into force until after June 24 next year because branches could still operate under their normal situation for that 12 month period.

This meant TVDA’s annual survival camps for its 75 members who are under 16 could still take place during summer.

“Survival camp will definitely happen this coming January and I’m quietly confident that we should be able to keep it running down the track,” she said.

“It’s become so much a part of our club culture and it’s such an awesome opportunity for the kids.”

Maureen said there had been a “reasonable amount of common sense” applied to the new regulations after a “very robust” submission process, which included new regulations for firearm storage and transport.

“What [Police] proposed there was just bloody ridiculous... you were going to have to have special cases bolted or welded into booted cars and they were to have double locks on them and it was completely prohibitive,” she said.

“They moved a long way from what they were proposing versus what we’ve ended up with, so hopefully that gives us something that’s the light at the end of the tunnel.”

Maureen also said under new regulations, firearms with lever action, like semi-automatic shotguns, needed trigger locks.

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This is what some students have to say...

This student had been depressed and in a dark place. He started at Valley Education and after a few weeks is now talking with his parents at home. They've seen a huge change in him and are very thankful for the change.

Welding Level 3 student completed her training in Christchurch after starting at Valley Education
How are you all? Just an update on how I'm doing.
I'm doing amazing at course. I passed my welding for term 1 last week this week on machining. I'm loving it, miss you all heaps xx
I made a toolbox and a bush punch, podger bar and centre punch set, woohoo! Wouldn't have done it without you all and Pete!!

Pete was an awesome tutor and I would come back in a heartbeat.

Agriculture...
Mark Dalton, Te Whangai Trust Farm has thanked us on numerous occasions in the past month for helping him out especially when all pitched in to help cover the silage stack.

I've got more skills, confidence and understand a lot more about health and safety.

I can now see myself in a job on a farm which is really positive for me.

I'm out of the house every day and meeting new people, having fun.

I learnt about fencing, which I didn't know before.

According to my family I am a lot happier now.

I'm looking forward to getting a job.

To get a certificate is going to be good.

I'm more confident with using machinery now.

I'm having to face my fears. I had a cry about having to drive the tractor, but I'm feeling way more confident now that I can drive a tractor. I do have my driver's licence but tractors scared me.

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Fire and floods across Valley

**Vintage Valley News**
As part of a Valley Profile series, MEGHAN HAWKES searches through old newspapers to bring you the stories Thames Valley locals once read about themselves.
1961
A violent electrical storm which lasted an hour hit the Thames area.
It was accompanied by a heavy fall of hail which lay inches deep on the hills and roads. In the gulf, a huge waterspout was seen feeding the swollen clouds. A fireball which landed in Franklin Street exploded in front of Mrs Millar's house but did no damage. "It gave me a terrible shock," Mrs Millar said. "I had such a peculiar feeling through my body. The whole house shook with the thunder that followed."
"The fireball was smaller than a dinner plate, and it looked like a reddish, orange glow. It burst and shot into the sky again when it was about level with my head. I ran inside — wouldn't you?"
After the storm, children built snowmen in the streets. Tragically, a farmer using a steel wheelbarrow was killed by lightning at Kōpū.
Two separate devastating floods deluged the Hauraki Plains. After the first, the worst in 30 years, farmers struggled to repair the damage and became angry at the Government who were slow in considering their calls for relief. Thousands of acres of rich pasture were ruined. Farmers had to move stock to higher ground and hand feed them. Nearly 7000 bales of hay were sent out to 28 of the farms which suffered the greatest damage.
The second inundation set off a chain reaction. First, stock suffered severely from acidosis and other diseases through lack of suitable feed. When pasture growth came away again the faster growing clover was predominant and farmers were on the lookout for bloat. There was concern that a dry summer would bring an infestation of crickets which could cause serious damage to weakened pastures. The prospects of cutting hay for the next winter were poor. Several farmers suffered severe financial setbacks - a few of them disastrously so.
Those who had just come into the industry couldn't stand many knocks, not even the loss of a few cows.
Two rubber dinghies drifted ashore on the small beach at Ngārimu Bay, along the coast from Thames.
Aboard were 12 men who were taking part in one of the toughest survival and evasion courses ever organised by the Royal New Zealand Air Force.
Their object was to make their way through some 600 hostile soldiers and 12 miles of densely wooded country in the Kauaeranga Valley. When the Sunderlandw flying boat landed in choppy water off Ngārimu Bay and the men, wearing flying uniform and yellow rubber lifejackets disembarked, intrigued local residents gathered on the normally deserted beach.
The men had until 5pm the next day to reach a field dressing station on the far side of the exercise area, and until that time all the forces in the area were to regard them as hostile.
Patrols had their first skirmish as a Bristol Freighter dropped food supplies. Gunfire echoed over the valley as patrols fought for ownership of the 24-hour ration packs.
Waiting wives were officially informed that the men would not be home for tea.

Councillors seek re-election

CONTINUED FROM P2
"I also think that with a number of current elected members standing down along with a number of central government reforms heading our way that we do need some continuity."
John Morrissey, who made a return to council in 2019, will be putting his name forward for re-election as councillor in the Coromandel-Colville ward "for several reasons".
"Firstly, I enjoy the role... I also believe that we are about to enter a different and exciting era from that of the previous three years. We will have a new mayor and CEO along with at least three if not more councillors who will come with fresh ideas and thoughts for the district," he said.
"This is a good thing, but I strongly believe there also needs to be a certain amount of continuity and experience retained in the new council and I can offer that with my experience."
"So yes, I wouldn't miss the opportunity to be part of the next three years if I'm given the chance."
Sally Christie, who had a political career spanning three decades, earlier told *The Profile* that she had chosen not to stand again as a Thames ward councillor at this year's local body elections. She will instead focus her attention on her role as co-ordinator with the Hauraki Family Violence Intervention Network.
Current TCDC Mayor Sandra Goudie also told *The Profile* she would not be vying for the top job again in October. She started out in local politics in 1998 before becoming a National MP from 2002 until 2011. She returned to local council in 2013, and has recently completed two election cycles as the district mayor.
Mercury Bay ward councillors Tony Fox and Murray McLean, who also acts as deputy mayor this term, kept mum on the subject, and did not respond to requests for comment.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Comedy wine tasting event comes to Thames

Comedy Cellar, New Zealand's largest amateur (team) wine tasting event and a huge night of laughs, learning and entertainment, is coming to Thames on Saturday, November 19.

Comedy Cellar combines two of life's great joys, comedy and wine, as teams (tables) compete with each other for the title of Coromandel Comedy Cellar Champions.

There is a catch, however. At the end of the night, all team scores are counted and averaged so the Coromandel can compare their collective score with other towns and regions around New Zealand as we find out who is the nation's best and most knowledgeable wine drinkers are.

All results are centralised and tracked through the Comedy Cellar website, comedycellar.co.nz, which is updated after every event.

Comedy Cellar is co-hosted by New Zealand's most knowledgeable wine expert, Bob Campbell and one of New Zealand's top entertainers and hosts, Michele A'Court.

Together they present a unique, fun and heavily entertaining evening that makes for a great night out or Christmas function.

"Comedy Cellar allows local friends, families, clubs and businesses from around the community to compete against each other on a completely dif-



Comedy Cellar is co-hosted by brilliant entertainer and comedy talent Michele A'Court alongside the nation's most knowledgeable and educated wine expert, Bob Campbell. Photo: SUPPLIED

ferent level while having a ton of fun. Participants also get to learn a thing or two about wine as Bob presents in his special and entertaining way, while Michele provides the jibes," Comedy Cellar owner Scott Palmer said.

Participants didn't have to be wine experts to attend, he said. "It's all about participating, competing and having a laugh. Formal wine experts are actually banned." Teams are typically colleagues, clients, friends and families who join forces and try

and lift the silverware to take home". The rules are simple, several wines are served blind to each table, and a series of questions are asked about each. Teams then taste, discuss and agree on one correct answer for each question to submit to

the judge within the time limit. Some questions are weighted, and some scores are hidden, resulting in a tense and exciting finish. The evening is fully licensed and catered, with an authentic Spanish Paella dish served on the night.

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HEALTH & WELLBEING

Save money, waste this July

There is a common misconception that shopping sustainably is more expensive.

Re-store Eco Market co-owners Tash Donnelly and Vita Dryden, want to use this 'Plastic Free July' to spread the message that this is not necessarily the case.

Based in Thames, Re-store Eco Market is a bulk wholefood and household refill store that focuses on sustainability and reducing unnecessary waste.

Stocking well over 800 products, from herbs and spices, to frozen organic fruit and veges, to shampoo and conditioner, this store covers all the grocery essentials, plus more.

"The beauty of shopping in refill stores like Re-store is that the customer is in control of how much they want or need to buy, thereby also helping to reduce food wastage. We have people coming in to buy one teaspoon of a spice they've just discovered and want to try in a recipe, and other people coming in to buy 25kg of oats or flour.

"We want to let people know that by shopping this way, they can not only drastically cut down their household waste, but simultaneously cut down their grocery bill too" says Donnelly.

"For too long there has been this idea that shopping in stores like ours is more expensive, when in actual fact the opposite is often true."

A quick 'Re-store vs Supermarket' comparison of seven identical, or equal quality, items shows



Save money and waste by shopping at Re-Store Eco Market, Thames.

a saving of nearly \$6 at Re-store versus the supermarket, even with all but one of the supermarket products on an 'extra low' special. This includes oats, white sugar, spelt flour, brown rice, pumpkin seeds, banana chips and oregano. What's more, all this can be purchased from Re-store without any of the plastic waste that comes with the traditional grocery shop.

With the cost of everything increasing, including food, they are keen to spread the word that savings can still be made by some careful and conscious shopping.

For those short on time, or patience, for the weekly shop, Re-store offers services such as click and collect and/or nationwide delivery via their website.

They also encourage people to use their 'drop your shop' service, where customers can drop their containers and a list and return at a later date to pick them up filled and ready to go. To check out how you can save time, money and waste this July, call in to Re-store Eco Market, Thames, or check them out online at www.re-store.co.nz.

- Supplied by Re-store

Low rates cause concern

Waikato DHB is encouraging everyone to get vaccinated to protect against serious illness after concerns about low vaccination rates as waves of flu impact communities throughout New Zealand.

The Ministry of Health's goals for the 2022 Influenza Immunisation programme are to vaccinate 75 per cent of the population aged 65-plus, improve immunisation coverage for people aged under 65 with certain medical conditions, and for pregnant people.

In Hauraki, 46.79 per cent Māori, 61.70 per cent Pacific peoples and 58.08 per cent overall of 65-plus age; and 25.39 per cent Māori, 24.14 per cent Pacific peoples and 17.91 per cent overall of 55-plus age have been flu vaccinated.

In the Thames-Coromandel area 60.66 per cent Māori, 54.69 per cent Pacific peoples and 62.41 per cent overall of 65-plus age; and 25.86 per cent Māori, 26 per cent Pacific peoples and 22.09 per cent overall of 55-plus age have been flu vaccinated.

The Waikato's Covid-19 rates for second doses are 96 per cent for 12-15 year-olds, 88 per cent for 16 and 17 year-olds and 95 per cent for 18-plus. However, for children aged 5-11 years, only 26 per cent are fully immunised, and only 13 per cent of Māori and 16 per cent of Pacific children. The uptake of important Covid-19 booster vaccinations is lower than desired, with the Waikato region still only at around 69 per cent; and lower again for Māori at 52 per cent and Pacific at 61 per cent. The national target is 95 per cent fully immunised and 71 per cent for boosters.

The DHB is increasing the mo-

bile community vaccination clinics throughout the rohe to reach more Māori and Pacific people, including those living in rural areas. The clinics offer free flu vaccinations for those eligible, free MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) for 3-years and over, as well as Covid-19 vaccinations for 5-years and over.

The flu vaccination is now free to everyone 65-plus, Māori and Pacific 55-plus, if you're pregnant, have a health condition such as diabetes or asthma, and to children 3-plus.

"Our Kaimanaaki workforce is working alongside Kaupapa Māori Health Providers to hold these in every area both as regular events and those run alongside sports and cultural events such as Matariki in June and July where we are at events in Hamilton, Huntly, Tokoroa, Raglan, Te Kuiti, Thames and Taumarunui," Waikato DHB Covid-19 and Immunisation Directorate executive lead Maree Munro said.

His immunisation campaign is also reaching into those areas and demographics where flu, Covid-19, MMR and childhood immunisation rates are lowest using the 'local faces' of individuals and whānau well-known in each area."

Health experts are warning that we are primed for potential outbreaks of other illnesses including measles, whooping cough and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). Alongside the possibility for some people to become infected with Covid-19 and flu at the same time.

DETAILS: For more information: Ph 0800 220 250 or visit www.waikato-dhb.health.nz/your-health/immunisation.



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

EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

57

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EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

JUMBO CROSSWORD

77

ACROSS

1 Green vegetable (7)

4 Job candidates (10)

9 Non-attendance (7)

13 Check and correct (4)

14 Be of importance (6)

15 Parking offence notification (6)

16 As a rule (7)

19 Grow less (7)

20 Thwart or spoil the plans of another (5,8,5)

21 Bypass (6)

22 Kidnapper's demand (6)

24 Off (9)

29 And so forth (8)

30 Rough (6)

31 Plume (7)

35 Gambling game (8)

36 Refrains from harming (6)

37 Smallest of litter (4)

38 Artificial (5)

39 Chart (3)

41 Rendezvous (5)

43 Curtains (6)

47 Divide (5)

50 Domestic fuel (3)

54 Greenfly (5)

55 Unclad (4)

56 Soak up (6)

57 Arouse the curiosity of (8)

60 Illustration title (7)

61 Move out of (6)

62 Widespread disease outbreak (8)

65 Warship (9)

67 Peckish (6)

68 Bravery in battle (6)

72 Make a tremendous effort (4,3,3,3,5)

75 Go before (7)

77 Obsequious (7)

78 Grating (6)

79 Feed box (6)

80 Equitable (4)

81 In the midst of (7)

82 Genealogical chart (6,4)

83 Scottish emblem (7)

DOWN

1 Tempo (5)

2 Cause to begin (8)

3 Warmed up (6)

4 Old-fashioned (10)

5 Pulp of vegetables or fruit (5)

6 Intervening time (7)

7 Weight dropped from boat (6)

8 Topic (5)

10 Popular book (4-6)

11 Study (7)

12 Cotton cloth (6)

17 Alteration (10)

18 Particular skill (5)

21 Drawing (7)

23 Interchanged (7)

25 Ridiculous (6)

26 Lookout (6)

27 Irritating inconvenience (6)

28 Japanese hostess (6)

30 About (5)

32 Defrost (4)

33 Leap (4)

34 Card game (4)

40 Attractiveness (6)

42 Make airtight (4)

44 Former US president (6)

45 Thick adhesive liquid (5)

46 Theatre doctor (7)

48 Tarry (6)

49 Main street (anag) (10)

50 Retches (4)

51 Refuge (7)

52 Highlander's garment (4)

53 Argue (6)

58 Vertical grating at castle gateway (10)

59 Scientific instrument (10)

63 Gemstone (5)

64 Predict (8)

66 Pep up (7)

67 Stockings, socks (7)

69 Relic repository (6)

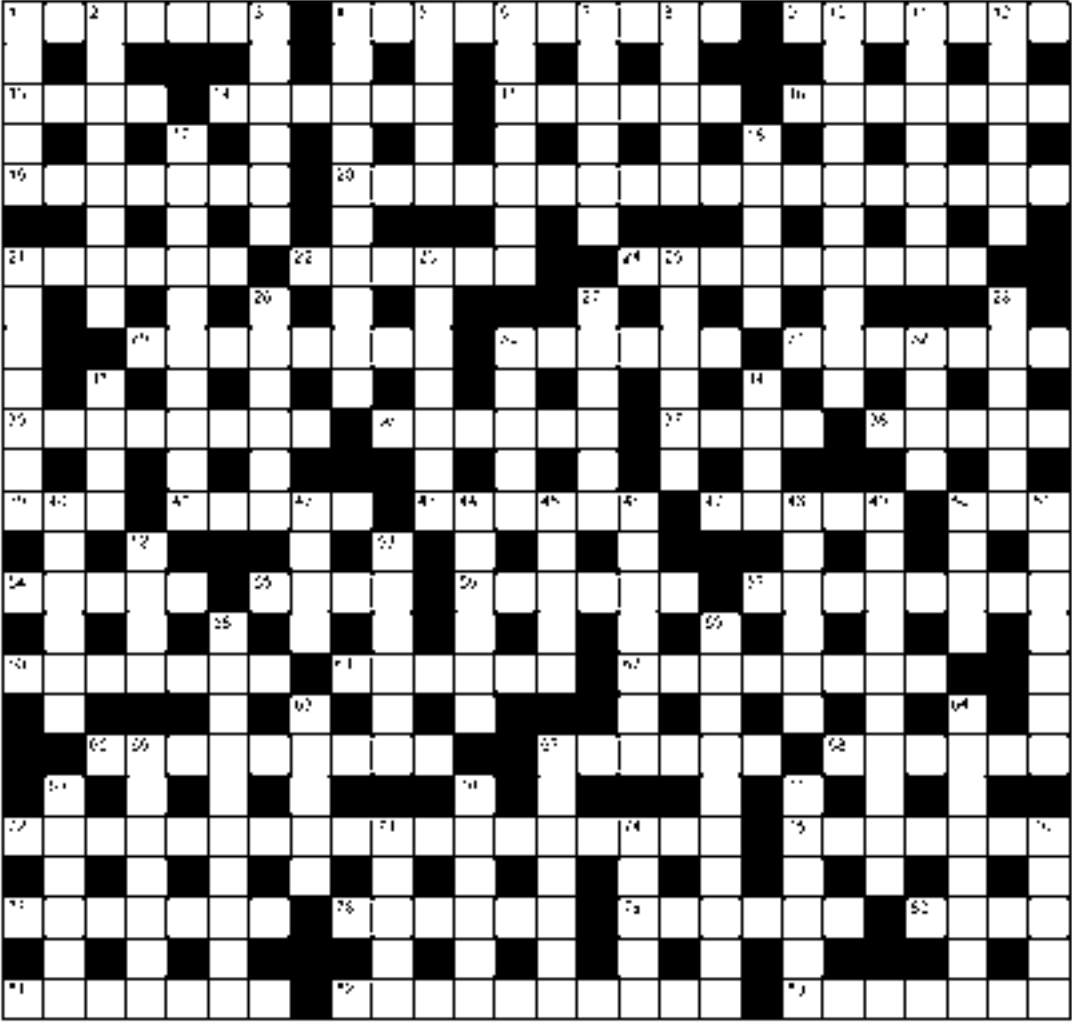
70 Hot pod (6)

71 Cask tap (6)

73 Grub (5)

74 Exterior (5)

76 Uncanny (5)



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ACROSS: 1 Have a heart of stone, 10 Vanishes, 15 Oblong, 16 Alarm clock, 17 Bandanna, 19 Orchard, 21 Meant, 22 Influence, 25 Embroider, 27 Stamina, 29 Stance, 33 Fault, 34 Montreal, 36 Omnivorous, 39 Lip, 41 Retinue, 42 Brainy, 43 Awning, 44 Team, 45 Incense, 48 Golf course, 53 Regatta, 57 Axle, 58 Object, 59 Craven, 60 G-string, 62 Elk, 64 Yesteryear, 65 Palisade, 66 Ashen, 69 Crabby, 70 Hirsute, 71 Bamboozle, 76 Tarpaulin, 77 Waste, 78 Tempted, 83 Sanskrit, 84 Rainforest, 85 Biking, 86 Abetting, 87 Rest on your laurels.

DOWN: 2 Auburn, 3 Epoch, 4 Hug, 5 Away, 6 Trapeze, 7 Famine, 8 Tilt, 9 Nickname, 11 Abated, 12 Indication, 13 Hand, 14 Startle, 18 Blancmange, 20 Rare, 23 Piton, 24 Insolent, 26 Malaise, 28 Tallyho, 30 Tavern, 31 Belief, 32 Winner, 35 Torso, 37 Samba, 38 Sums, 40 Pair, 45 Italy, 46 Coleslaw, 47 Embryo, 48 Gregarious, 49 Lute, 50 Cockpit, 51 Unable, 52 Sheds, 54 Easy, 55 Aerosol, 56 Tanker, 61 Wet blanket, 63 Adobe, 67 Estimate, 68 Code, 69 Canasta, 72 Art Deco, 73 Option, 74 Lagoon, 75 Kernel, 79 Poker, 80 Knee, 81 Knot, 82 Star, 85 Boa.

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A residential hedge before, left, and after a visit from Tree Shapes. Photos: SUPPLIED

Tree Shapes: a cut above the rest

Tree Shapes offers a grove of arboriculture services including chipping and pruning trees and hedges. Janella Munns has co-owned the arboriculture business with her husband Colin since December last year after buying it from its previous owner, Matt Elliot. Janella said she was “grateful” the business has a team of qualified and friendly arborists who are prepared to look after their customers and carry out their work safely and respectfully. “You may be a regular who’d been with Matt for years but we still like to come

and say hey this is who we are, give them a free quote and then we book the work in so they know they’re getting what we say,” she said. “We have a tight crew who get to travel as far as Pauanui, Te Aroha, Ngatea, Kaiaua, and Coromandel Town, so they get to experience a huge variety of work.” Janella said Tree Shapes also supported their team to grow their skills and acknowledged Matt for his continued support. For a free quote, call: 07 868 3985 or 0274 726 627.

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Kids care for kittens

Central Kids Ngātea Kindergarten runs a “ngahere programme” for its older tamariki one day a week, bringing in a range of animals for the students to care for and learn from.

The kindy’s latest long-term visitors have been two kittens that one of its kaiako (teachers) fostered from Kathy Sewell at H.A.R.T. (Hauraki Animal Rescue Team).

Named Garfield and Socks, the kittens have been teaching the tamariki not only the importance of gentle hands and patience, but the work and consistency it requires to care for animals.

Teacher Charlotte Hood said it was also great to be able to raise awareness for H.A.R.T who “need all the help they can get to raise funds for desexing and rehoming cats and kittens”.

While Garfield and Socks were not up for adoption, there were many more kittens and cats looking for loving homes, she said.

RIGHT: Ryder Haynes plays with Socks and a piece of string. FAR RIGHT: Kaliyah Paul cuddles Socks.

Photos: SUPPLIED



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CLASSIFIEDS - Booking deadline 1pm Monday

Death Notices	Church Notices	Accommodation Wanted	Handyman	Situations Vacant
MCMILLAN: Norman James. On Saturday, 12th February 2022 in his 99th Year. Much loved father, father-in-law and Poppa. A Memorial Service to celebrate Norman's life will be held at 11am on Saturday 16th July 2022 at the Paeroa Co-operating Parish, Mackay St Paeroa. All communications c/- 3 Hall Street Paeroa 3600.	Hauraki Plains Co-operating Parish Presbyterian - Methodist Anglican 'All Welcome' Sundays 09:30 a.m Holy Communion 1st and 3rd Sunday An inclusive, encouraging community of faith 'Come and See' Church Office : 07 867 8466 www.haurakiplainscooparish.com	Responsible , capable, able-bodied pensioner requires basic room, outer shed, caravan etc. Access services. Rent or 1x1 lease preferable, non drinker. Open minded, wide range experience, handyman, out of town ok, own transport, conservationist, Thames or Paeroa general area. 02108284934	Mowing , hedges, fencing, gardening, carpentry, painting, retaining walls, welding, waterblasting. Work is good quality and I will not attempt to work outside of my skills. Insured. Dennis Schuler 022 129 0169	We are hiring Support Workers in Thames Valley <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Build a long-term career• Earn a competitive hourly rate• Gain new qualifications• Access generous staff benefits <p>We are looking for people to join our team of Support Workers in Thames Valley.</p> <p>You don't need a qualification to apply - we support you to achieve these.</p> <p>IDEA Services supports people with intellectual disabilities to enjoy great lives as part of their communities.</p> <p>As a Support Worker, you will support individuals and groups of people with intellectual disabilities in their home, at work and in their community.</p> <p>Here are the must haves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be proactive and resilient.• Thrive in a team environment.• Availability to work on a roster that covers a variety of hours.• A full New Zealand drivers licence, or be able to gain this within three months. <p>Does this sound like you?</p> <p>Call us - 0800 WORK4IHC or apply online at careers.ihc.org.nz</p> 
	Public Notice HAURAKI KIDS INCORPORATED ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING The AGM of Hauraki Kids Inc. will be at 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday 26 July 2022 at Thames Education Services 404 Queen Street, Thames	Public Notice AGM of the Hauraki Prospectors Association will be held at the Battery at 2pm on Saturday 16 July 2022	Wanted to Buy Motorcycles , 4 wheelers & side x sides. Going or not. Phone 027 216 6867. A1 Motorcycles	
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Last month's winner of the lotto ticket was Alan Wenzlick , who found Pete in the June 15 edition in the Thames Centre Pharmacy advert.

Go to page 2 for details on how to enter.



ENTERTAINMENT

From Waihi streets to recording studio

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

Busking on the streets of Waihi and performing in his family's restaurant has paid off for teenage singer-songwriter Jacob King.

His song, *Can You Hear Me?*, has been selected as one of the Top 20 of the Youthtown Songwriting Competition, run by Play It Strange.

He will now record the song in a professional studio, and it'll be released on the national Youthtown album.

Jacob, 14, said he was excited to be a finalist in the competition - the first the Hauraki Plains College muso has entered.

"I've been doing music for about five years now and I've written some other songs.

"So, when I heard about this competition I thought, I may as well give it a try."

His parents, Emma and Brad King, own The Falls Retreat in the Karangahake Gorge, and playing his music at the restaurant and along the streets of Waihi has boosted Jacob's confidence.

"I didn't used to have a lot of confidence but busking and playing in the restaurant has given me more," he said.

"I'm the only musical one in



HPC muso Jacob King has written a song that is one of the Top 20 in the Youthtown Songwriting Competition. Photo: SUPPLIED

my family, and my mum always said I was obsessed with music from a really young age."

Jacob plays the guitar in his track, and said *Can You Hear Me?* is about young people feeling like their opinions are not being heard.

He encourages other young musicians to "go for it".

"Always practise - but it's okay if you don't do it for a week or so, but just make sure

you go back to it otherwise you'll lose your talent," he said.

DETAILS: The 20 finalist songs will be recorded and mastered for the 2020 Youthtown Songwriting Competition album

which will be available for free download and streaming on the Play It Strange website: playit-strange.org.nz



SPORTS REPORTS

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SQUASH

Thames Squash Club's Mens C Grade team will represent Waikato in this year's Superchamps National C Grade Finals in September.

The team qualified for the tournament, to be held in Whangarei, after coming from behind to beat Morrinsville on their home court in the Waikato District Superchamps on June 25.

Team member Tyla Pere said the team were "pretty stoked" with their performance as they didn't often reach the finals.

"We were down and out for a bit because you gotta win three matches out of the five and we'd already lost two and then we weren't really supposed to win another one," he said. "But then one of the boys just pulled it out of the bag and we went

on to win it so we were pretty happy... we probably ruined the Morrinsville pub to be honest, it was a big night."

Photo: Thames Squash Club Mens C Grade team Ian 'Pinga' Cameron (manager, coach), left, Bradley Jackson, Joshua Finn-Jones, Lance 'Maddog' Erceg (Captain), Tyla Pere, Dean Kennedy, Dylan Cameron.

TURFU RUGBY

Tom Jordan Cup Senior A: Waihi Athletic 26-20 Coromandel; Mercury Bay 17-22 Whangamata; COBRAs 17-15 Thames; Paeroa 20-17 Hauraki North. Semi Finals Top 4: Thames, Mercury Bay, Cobras, Whangamata; 1 plays 4, 2 plays 3, Leach Cup Senior B: Thames 35-0 Waihi; Ngatea 10-10 COBRAs; Semi Final top 4: Mercury Bay, Thames, Waihi Athletic, COBRAs, 1 Plays 4, 2 Plays 3.

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