

Free \$1.5 million playground could come at a cost, P3

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088 September 21, 2022

JOB LOSSES LIKELY

Jobs are on the line after Smart Environmental lost its contracts to pick up rubbish in Hauraki-Coromandel neighbourhoods. KELLEY TANTAU reports



Smart Environmental will end its kerbside collection service next year, after losing its council contracts. Photo: SUPPLIED

Losing three kerbside collection contracts in a single stroke is “disappointing” for Smart Environmental, who may now have to cut jobs and relocate its Kōpū hub.

Hauraki, Thames-Coromandel, and Matamata-Piako district councils announced last week they had awarded 10-year contracts to Waste Management NZ to provide the three districts with kerbside collection and processing of recycling and rubbish.

It means Smart Environmental’s 10-year contracts end on August 31, 2023.

Smart Environmental chief executive Todd McLeay told *The Profile* losing the contracts would “absolutely” have an impact on workload and employment.

“The vast majority of our staff are involved in jobs related to those contracts, and we won’t have the same scope of population, so while we’ll have some things we’ll continue to do, we’ll have to work with our staff over the next 18 months around helping them transition.”

Mr McLeay said the Kōpū facility processed material from all across the North Island and was a “hub” for recycling.

It was at risk of being relocated, he said, though decisions on its fate had not yet been made.

“A reasonable portion of that product [at Kōpū] comes from the local area, and if we’re not the kerbside collector contracted to do that, then it would make more sense for us to relocate that [facility] closer to where the rest of the product is being sourced.”

Waste Management will take over from September 1, 2023, but until then, Smart Environmental will continue to provide its usual kerbside collection throughout the region, including over the busy summer season.

Mr McLeay said the company was disappointed not to retain the council con-

tract, but he was proud of the work they had done over the past nine years.

“And we’ll continue to do a good job until the end of the contract, and we’ll be looking after our staff.”

Both the Hauraki and Thames-Coromandel Mayors gave their thanks to Smart Environmental in statements.

Hauraki Mayor Toby Adams said the past decade had been a challenging time with many changes to the waste and recycling industry, and Smart had “done a good job”.

Thames-Coromandel Mayor Sandra Goudie echoed his sentiments.

“The Coromandel is a difficult district to serve, with lots of communities separated by hilly terrain, road closures from bad weather, and large numbers of visitors over summer and long weekends – it’s challenging and they’ve done a good job.” Mayor Goudie said Waste Management was selected for the contract following a “robust procurement and tender evaluation process”.

“At approximately \$80 million over the next 10 years, this is a hugely significant contract for our district. Tenders we received from companies interested in providing our solid waste services were very carefully scrutinised and evaluated.”

The new Waste Management contracts will also implement a food waste collection for each of the districts, with the company looking at “phasing in” electric trucks as battery technology improves.

General manager for the Lower North Island, David Howie, said his team was “delighted” to secure the contracts.

“Our aim is to provide services that are sustainable, user-friendly and people focused. We will give the people of eastern Waikato world-class waste services they can be proud of.”



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NEWS/EDITORIAL

Publisher/Editor Teresa Ramsey
Ph 0204 0944 853

editor@valleyprofile.co.nz

Senior Reporter Kelley Tantau

Ph 022 619 4889

kelley@valleyprofile.co.nz

Reporter Gordon Preece

Ph 022 174 3988

gordon@valleyprofile.co.nz

ADVERTISING

Ad manager Nikki Sanders

Ph 022 1303 885

Email: nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz

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Shovels out for Kōpū precinct

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

It was an event worth rolling out the red carpet for as instrumental players in the development of the Kōpū marine precinct picked up a shovel to mark the start of its construction.

The long-awaited project, which includes a new commercial slipway and wharf, pontoon, public recreational boat ramp, and parking area, will kick off with civil works in October, and is scheduled to be finished by April, 2024.

At a shovel ready ceremony at the site last week, Thames-Coromandel Mayor Sandra Goudie said the precinct would be beneficial to Thames, the district, and the wider Waikato region.

"I'm just so grateful for the fact that we can be here and be in such a beautiful place in an environment that we absolutely love; being with our sea, with our sky, and with the land, forest, and bush that surrounds us. "I feel so privileged to be a part of this," she said. "We have food, family, and friends in abundance and none of us are having to duck for cover."

The Mayor - who will hang up her chains following next month's local body elections - thanked the Government's Kānoa Regional Economic Development and Investment Unit (previously the Provincial Growth Unit) for its \$8.2 million investment into the project.



The main players behind the Kōpū marine precinct's development celebrate at the shovel ready ceremony last week.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

She also thanked the precinct's contractors, advocates, and supporters.

"This is very exciting. Finally, we're here. The only sad part is it's taken so bloody long to get here," she said. "I just wish all of the processes weren't so time-consuming and costly, but we did it, and it's been an extraordinary effort."

Coromandel MP Scott Simpson was also in attendance, alongside Hauraki Mayor Toby Adams, and shared Mayor Goudie's sentiments.

"In my time as a Member of Parliament, this project has been talked about, literally since the time I got elected," he said.

"For pretty much all of us, from the very first moment this proposal, this plan, this concept was put to us, we would nod very quickly and say: 'Yeah, it makes sense'. A decade later, we find ourselves here.

"If there's one lesson out of this, we've got to be able to do good projects faster."

The shovel ready ceremony began with a blessing and ka-

rakia by Ngāti Maru's Eru Wilton and was followed by a tour through Kōpū Engineering.

The major contracts for the precinct, off Queen St in Kōpū, have been awarded to Fulton Hogan, who will start roading (civil works) in October, and Heron Construction for the maritime infrastructure.

Council said local subcontractors would be used as much as possible throughout the build.



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Thames Tides

Wed Sep 21		Thu Sep 22		Fri Sep 23		Sat Sep 24		Sun Sep 25		Mon Sep 26		Tue Sep 27	
Morning	3:07am 2.8	Morning	4:09am 2.8	Morning	5:08am 2.9	Morning	6:00am 3.0	Morning	12:25am 0.9	Morning	2:05am 0.8	Morning	2:45am 0.6
Afternoon	3:48pm 2.9	Afternoon	4:43pm 3.0	Afternoon	5:32pm 3.1	Afternoon	12:01pm 0.9	Afternoon	1:42pm 0.8	Afternoon	2:21pm 0.6	Afternoon	2:59pm 0.6
	9:19am 1.2		10:22am 1.1		11:16am 1.0		6:14pm 3.2		7:45am 3.2		8:25am 3.3		9:04am 3.4
	6:10am 6:13pm		6:08am 6:14pm		6:07am 6:15pm		6:05am 6:16pm		7:04am 7:16pm		7:02am 7:17pm		7:01am 7:18pm
	Best At 8:32am 8:56pm		Best At 9:20am 9:44pm		Best At 10:07am 10:29pm		Best At 10:51am 11:13pm		Best At 12:35pm		Best At 12:57am 1:19pm		Best At 1:41am 2:03pm
	Rise 3:48am Set 1:20pm		Rise 4:25am Set 2:21pm		Rise 4:58am Set 3:23pm		Rise 5:27am Set 4:25pm		Rise 6:53am Set 6:27pm		New Moon Rise 7:18am Set 7:31pm		Rise 7:43am Set 8:35pm

*Not for navigational purposes. Graphic supplied by OceanFun Publishing Ltd. www.tidewiz.com www.tidespy.com www.ofu.co.nz

MOON AND FISH KEYS

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

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

PLACE	Hr	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

Free playground could come at a cost

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

A playground being gifted to the Thames community will come at no cost to construct, but ratepayers might be spending \$12.80 each per year to ensure its equipment is replaced at the end of its life.

Thames-Coromandel District Council has thrown its support behind the Porritt Park project in Thames, which will establish a Destination Playground and Changing Places toilet facility - all thanks to a philanthropic donation of up to \$1.5 million.

While construction of the playground comes at no charge to ratepayers, managing depreciation of the asset is in council's hands, and a report to the September 13 council meeting said it could cost \$12.80 per Thames ratepayer per year over a 25-year period.

This is in addition to an operational cost, which has not yet been confirmed but could equate to a further \$4.50 per ratepayer in the Thames Ward.

It is this detail that has been earmarked for future discussion by the Thames Community Board.

"Our challenge is that the community board hasn't discussed [the depreciation] because it is locally funded,"



Draft concept pictures provided to TCDC for the Porritt Park project.

Images: SUPPLIED/TCDC

Thames ward councillor and board member Sally Christie told the meeting.

"We're wanting to delay [the approval] until the Thames Community Board has had input and that'll give us a chance to be more clear about figures."

Back in 2021, the Thames Business Association and district council were approached by a member of the community who was interested in providing a philanthropic donation to Thames for the Porritt Park

project.

The innovative playgrounds, often seen in bigger centres like Hamilton and Auckland, are different to traditional playgrounds in that they provide more creative and challenging equipment, while the Changing Places facility will meet the needs of people who cannot use standard accessible toilets.

According to council, local firms and organisations have also shown an interest in contributing financially to the pro-

ject, though this would not increase the playground's price tag.

Initial approval for the project was granted at the February 23 Thames Community Board meeting, and subsequently by council at its March 22 meeting.

Mayor Sandra Goudie called the Changing Places facility coming with the playground "exceptional".

"It's hugely technological, but the advantage to those with

special needs is enormous, and I think this is an exceptional facility to have in the district," she told the council meeting.

"I think the Thames Community Board is doing the district proud in having a facility to this extent catering to high-needs individuals who can enjoy spending some time in our district.

"Further added to that, it's people who care who are contributing.

"That's outstanding."

Council has approved the receiving of donations for the project from the private donor, the Thames Rotary Club, and the Thames Business Association.

It will defer its decision about depreciation until the Thames Community Board has had input.



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The sun and the crowds came out for the annual Rotary Paeroa Vintage Classic Car and Swapmeet on Saturday. With stalls, entertainment, rock 'n roll dancing, an army display, live music, and food and drink, the event attracted hundreds of visitors and a wonderful turn-out of vintage vehicles. **KELLEY TANTAU** met some of the car enthusiasts.



Wendel Levens from Waikino and his 1984 Ford Capri MK3.



Roy Rowe stands by his 1932 Ford V8 Coupe, the same type of car he had as an 18-year-old in 1961.



Feeding the masses: Josey Hansen and Keleigh Wickliffe, of Paeroa College.



Henry Davidson sticks his head out the window of his granddad's 1966 Mercury Comet Cyclone, with mum Morgan and brother Hugo.



Lizzie Gilling and Django from the WWII Historical Reenactment Society.



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HPC's Tawio Emery and Te Wai Howie-Ward in front of the Police boat.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU



Police vessel cruises in

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

Students waiting on the Thames wharf for the large police boat to draw near worried they might get sea sick. Others were too excited to sleep the night before.

The anticipation was high on September 14, as pupils from across the Valley awaited the rare arrival of *Deodar III* - a police maritime unit vessel first launched in 2007. The morning was organised by Thames-Coromandel school community officer Senior Constable Brian Connors, who was joined by fellow Police staff and the local Coastguard.

“On one of my trainings with the maritime unit, I’d asked whether they’d be happy to come into Thames and they said yes.

“So, effectively, on one of their training days, they’ve sent one of their crew to bring the big boat down, and have allowed me to put 12 schools through the vessel,” he told *The Profile*.

“I asked the principals to choose up to 10 special students that might not be the top of everything all the time, but always aspire

to do the best they can and don’t always get recognised for it.”

Primary school students from Tapu to Hikutaia, and high schoolers from Paeroa, Hauraki, Thames, and Waihi were able to explore the vessel, while students involved in the Hauraki-Coromandel Secondary School Police Pathway Programme were also in attendance.

“Thames doesn’t very often see a big boat come in these days, so hopefully this will be an eye-opener,” Brian said.

“And I’m pretty sure there will be a few rubber-neckers driving down the road here coming to have a look.”

Matatoki School student Gracie Miller, 13, said her favourite part of the vessel was the helm of the boat.

“It felt like a helicopter,” she said. “It was really high.

“The boat was really cool and big and all the technology in it was really interesting... The [free] sausages were really good too.”



MORE PHOTOS: P7

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All aboard

Students from 12 schools throughout the Thames Valley were invited to hop on board the Police Maritime Unit vessel Deodar on September 14. The selected students were able to speak to the crew while viewing the entire vessel. The Coastguard and its volunteers were also on hand to educate the kids as well. Reporter **KELLEY TANTAU** went along to see the sights and excitement unfold.



A Titanic moment at the bow of the *Deodar III*.



Te Puru School students had fun exploring the boat.

Photos: KELLEY TANTAU



Local coppers Tash Snowden and Tony Mumford join in on the fun.



Students from the Hauraki Coromandel Secondary School Police Pathway Programme check out the *Deodar III*.



Matatoki pupils in front of the vessel.



Zach Paynter comes down the ladder.

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Jenni Baines hopes her exhibition will inspire others.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

Paeroa exhibition open

By GORDON PREECE

Copper foil, macramé, pottery and stained and fused glass works of art will adorn Paeroa Society of Arts for the month of September.

The artworks are part of the first solo exhibition for Jenni Baines since she joined the Normanby Rd gallery three years ago after moving to Mackaytown in the Karangahake Gorge from Hamilton.

Jenni, who is also the pottery convenor and the newly elected president of the society, told *The Profile* she hoped her exhibition would inspire the public to connect with the art society.

"I've got so many different forms of mediums out there, I like to dabble in a bit of this and a bit of that and see who comes along for the ride," she said.

"I want to draw people in, enthuse people, get them talking, get them thinking

about becoming involved in the society in whatever creative way they want to do it.

"We value [the community] support both in coming to see the exhibitions and we value their input, that is vital for this society to continue with the exhibitions."

Jenni said she began creating art in the early 2000s.

"I started it at a night course learning stained glass and copper foil work and then I was lucky enough to become a tutor there. I've always had the ability to live the dream of what I love to do," she said.

"I have at home two glass kilns and one pottery kiln and a big studio, which used to be an indoor diving pool up in Mackaytown.

"I've also done courses with some members here doing stained glass wind chimes and little bits and pieces."

Jenni's exhibition will be open until October 2.

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Three Waters causes concern

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

Candidates vying for votes in the Hauraki Plains all raised concerns about the Government's Three Waters Reform, fearing a loss of local jobs and control.

A Meet the Candidates event, hosted by Positively Promoting the Plains, was held in Ngātea last week for Hauraki District Council Plains ward candidates and Waikato Regional Council Waihou ward candidates.

Just two regional council contenders were in attendance - Ben Dunbar-Smith, and Robert Cookson - while six of the seven Plains ward candidates - Ray Broad, Phillip Buckthought, Stephen Crooymans, Neil Gray, Megan Sargent, and Luke van Vliet were on-hand to answer a "lucky dip" draw of questions.

Among them was: "What are your views on local government and Three Waters?"

The theme among the candidates was one of "concern".

Ray Broad, hoping for a second term on council, said he had been against Three Waters since "day one" - largely due to the fact that job losses within the district would be on the horizon.

Phillip Buckthought, also a standing councillor, said council staff had done "a pretty good" job of maintaining its water assets. They have to, he said, because the farming community was "totally reliant on it".

Stephen Crooymans said Three Waters had three parts: the cost, the jurisdiction, and the future.

Neil Gray preferred Three Waters didn't happen. Living on the Plains for the past 60 years, he said he'd been drinking "beautiful, fresh water every day" of his life.



The Plains candidates for Hauraki District Council at the Meet the Candidates event in Ngātea.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

"It might get a bit discoloured every now and again, but I can live with that because I know when I turn the tap on, the water will be there."

Megan Sargent said something needed to be done to stop the country's waterways becoming more polluted. Whether Three Waters was the right way to do that was "certainly up for debate".

Luke van Vliet said he was not in favour of the current set-up of Three Waters. The Hauraki district as a whole had "pretty good water" compared to other places in New Zealand, he said.

Ben Dunbar-Smith, vying for one of two seats on Waikato Regional Council's Waihou ward, said he was standing to oppose Three Waters and had resigned from his job in order to do so.

"We're in a crisis. We're having things stolen from us. Our democracy is being stolen; we've had no consultation on this issue. We have to fight back."

Three Waters encompasses drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater, and the central government reform would aggregate the water service delivery into four entities nationwide.

DETAILS: Four candidates will be chosen to represent the Plains ward of Hauraki District Council at the local body elections on October 8. To learn more about your Hauraki candidates, visit: www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz. For Waikato Regional Council candidates, visit: www.waikatoregion.govt.nz



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Hauraki Young Farmers Club is seeking new members.
Photo: SUPPLIED

Call for more young farming folk

By GORDON PREECE

Easing the mental health challenges of farming is one of the main aims of the Hauraki Young Farmers Club.

The club, which currently has 15 registered members, is open to young people aged between 18 and 31 from the Thames-Coromandel and Hauraki districts to meet other farmers and participate in farming activities.

Vice chair Stephanie Gray told *The Profile* the club was encouraging more young members to join, especially if they had recently moved to the area.

"There's not many young groups around this area, and

especially when you move to a new area, it's hard to find people to communicate with and get into groups and social clubs."

The group was strong on supporting mental health among young farmers, she said.

"Farming's definitely a lonely place and it can be quite isolating if you're on your own or there's not many [farm] workers.

"I know I've been on a farm recently and needed to call another young farmer because I was having a bad day - I got through it with a laugh and she helped me out which was pretty cool.

"So having that group of peo-

ple to lean on and communicate with and have a few drinks, it's really good."

Stephanie said getting more members was also important because low membership had nearly caused the club's gates to close four years ago.

"I know the Waihi young farmers has dissolved, and there's not that many around the country left," she said.

"It's been around for a very long time, I know my father was involved in the young farmers and it would be cool to keep it going for the next generation."

Stephanie said the club was also seeking financial support.

"We do a lot of hay jobs after

work, which is our main fundraiser, and that's picking up hay within our community, and we'll maize and silage stacks as well," she said.

"We've bought some jumpers recently from maize and silage jobs, but we are looking for sponsors.

"We've reached out to a few businesses but we haven't had time to follow up because calving's been hectic."

Stephanie said the club holds monthly meetings at Ngātea Hotel every second Wednesday.

"Every meeting we have a highlight of everyone's week or month so that gets everyone talking and we talk about events

going on at other clubs as well," she said.

"We've got [Morrinsville-Ngarua Young Farmers] and [North Waikato Young Farmers] who will come to our meetings as well, so you get to meet other people in that way."

Stephanie said some club members had also begun playing for the Thames Valley Women's Vixens rugby team.

"That's something we've all gone and supported, we go to the games and cheer them on so that's been another aspect to the young farmers," she said.

"We're also looking at putting together a touch rugby team as well which is pretty neat."

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Rural Life

Pasture testing is key



By Dr Danielle Thomson BVSc (Dist)

New Zealand dairy farming has always been based on turning grass into milk.

Nowadays, there are very few farms without an in-shed feed system, a feed pad or supplements fed directly on the paddock.

However, even with all these added feed options, dairy farmers know that the most cost-effective method of milk production is good pasture utilisation.

There are two key components when assessing feeds: quantity and quality. Quantity is important to ensure the girls are full and happy, but quality is the key for high performance.

Pasture covers can be accurately gauged with an experienced eye. Tools such as plate meters and satellite mapping are also widely utilised, so most farmers have a good measure of how much grass they are feeding.

Unfortunately, even the most experienced farmer can't tell what the grass is made up of just by looking at it.

So, when it comes to entering pasture nutrition values into a feed budget, 'go to' district averages are commonly used.

You wouldn't consider buying meal without knowing its specific ME value and mineral levels.

Yet many farmers have no idea what these numbers are for the bulk of their

cows' diet - the pasture.

The key components in any feed are energy, protein, fibre, dry matter and minerals.

There is a sweet spot for all these which enable cows to have a high feed conversion efficiency and good health.

Knowing the levels provided in the pasture allows any weaknesses to be identified and these met with strategic and cost-effective use of supplement feeds and mineral inputs (fertiliser and minerals given directly to the cow).

For example, pasture with high dry matter and neutral detergent fibre (NDF per cent) will result in cows being physically full before they have consumed all their nutritional requirements.

Adding in a smaller volume of a suitable supplement would allow these nutritional needs and thus production targets to be met before they fill up on grass. Assessing pasture quality also allows you to anticipate animal health problems such as metabolic issues, mineral deficiencies, or toxicities.

For instance, sampling spring pasture may reveal that high potassium levels are contributing to a down-cow issue.

Pasture testing is quite simple, samples can be taken by you and submitted to your vet or directly to the lab, no visit fee required!

So, if you want to refine your system and achieve your milk-solid, body condition and repro targets start by going back to your grass roots (literally!) and see what you can learn from them.

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Probus celebrates 32 years

Around 50 former and current members of Probus Clubs in Hauraki-Coromandel gathered at Richmond Villas in Thames on September 13 to celebrate Thames Probus Club's 32nd birthday. The celebration included a cake cutting, food and drinks and a speech by Reverend Lorelle Chapman from Hauraki Plains Co-Operating Parish. Reporter **GORDON PREECE** headed along to get amongst the fun and friendship.



Thames Probus Club foundation member Pat Fargher, right, cuts the cake with president June Baigent.

Event to celebrate elders

By **GORDON PREECE**

A Ngatea Lions event to celebrate World Lions Service Day will combine with the annual International Day of Older Persons next week.

The free event on September 28 is open to people aged 65 and over, and will take place at Ngatea War Memorial Hall from 12:30pm.

Ngatea Lions spokesperson Bruce Foster said the event had not taken place since 2020.

"Covid has interrupted it for the past two years so we're hoping to get it going again," he said.

"I know the [Hauraki District Council] has events for the elderly in Paeroa and Waihi but in Ngatea they didn't so they have combined with us and we've come together to celebrate the age group."

"We will cater for around 200 people because that's as many as the hall could hold."

Bruce said the event would feature an afternoon tea and entertainment provided by Hauraki Plains College students.

"In the past [Hauraki Plains College] had a piano player, choir, and solo items from students," he said.



Thames members Maureen Matthews, left, Alex Shirley and Natalie Shirley.



Elaine Bycroft, left, and Rita Lamb.



Rita Bayly, left, and Del Patten.



Paeroa members Alan Hughes, left, and president Elizabeth Beare.



Margaret and Len Smith.

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OUR COROMANDEL



News from Thames-Coromandel District Council

21 September, 2022

Voting begins in local elections

Voting packs have been posted to registered voters. Use the return, postage-paid envelope provided to send in your votes for Mayor, Councillors and Community Board Members. Or, drop off your ballots at one of our Council offices.

The full list of candidates and the profiles they provided are on our website at tcdc.govt.nz/elections

If you're not registered to vote, it's not too late. Ensure you're enrolled now at vote.nz and contact our Council to request a special vote.

Own a property in the Coromandel but don't live here? Complete the ratepayer voter enrolment form on our website AND contact our Council to ask for a special vote.

Voting closes at noon sharp on Saturday 8 October. Preliminary results will be posted on our website later that day. Final results will be announced between 14 and 19 October.

Go the TCDC website for more information tcdc.govt.nz/elections or call 0800 922 822.



FUNDING FOR LOCAL ARTS GROUPS & PROJECTS



Soft plastics recycling scheme off to a great start

More than 500kg of soft plastics – items like bags and wrappers – have been collected in Thames since the Packaging Forum's recycling scheme was introduced two months ago. This is enough to make 45 fence posts.



Now the scheme has been extended to Whangamatā and Whitianga.

The Packaging Forum worked with our Council and Smart Environmental to place the bins and have the plastic collected and sent to two companies that recycle it into fence posts and building materials.

The bins in Thames are at:

- Our Council office
- Pak'n'Save
- The Warehouse
- Thames Refuse Transfer Station

Check our website for more information on soft plastics and collection bin locations in Whangamatā and Whitianga.

tcdc.govt.nz/softplastics



TOTARA VALLEY ROAD SERVICES EXTENSION

Our Council is extending infrastructure up Totara Valley Road, off Ngāti Maru Highway (State Highway 25) immediately south of Thames township.

In three stages, the road will be widened and improved, and stormwater, drinking water and wastewater (the three waters) infrastructure will also be improved and extended up the length of the road.

This work will allow for housing growth in the area in the immediate short term, helping to alleviate the identified housing shortage in Thames. It aligns with the Thames and Surrounds Spatial Plan, which has identified areas in the Thames Ward where housing and commercial development could occur.

The stormwater culverts under Ngāti Maru Highway have already been upgraded to address potential flooding issues. Utility infrastructure provided by Chorus has been relocated and Powerco's is currently being undergrounded.

Work to install a turning bay from Ngāti Maru Highway into Totara Valley Road will begin in early October and is expected to be completed by Christmas 2022. This will involve stop-go traffic management and potentially brief road closures to allow heavy machinery to work.

tcdc.govt.nz/totaravalleyroad

Thames Community Board UPDATE



New sculpture graces Thames – The Thames Public Art Trust has erected a sculpture by artist Jay Hogan on the reserve at the north end of town where Campbell and Pollen streets join. The sculpture remains owned by Jay Hogan and the Thames Public Art Trust paid for the plinth it sits on and its installation. The old picnic table at the reserve has been removed and will be replaced by around mid-October with a wheelchair-accessible table.

The Board's final meeting of the electoral term is on

Wednesday 28 September 9am at the Council Chambers, 515 Mackay Street Thames. Agendas are published at least two working days before meetings at tcdc.govt.nz/meetings

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Rage over 'racist' road names

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

District councillors against prioritising te reo names for local roads and were told to "stop being racist" amidst heated discussions - all during Māori Language Week.

One line in Thames-Coromandel District Council's new road naming policy was the cause of the rift that divided councillors either side of the peninsula.

In the policy under selection criteria, it was said that appropriate road names should consider the following criteria "in order of priority". Topping the list was "a traditional or appropriate Māori name which is acceptable and approved by iwi in the rohe".

But four of the five district community boards wanted to remove the words "in order of priority", with Coromandel councillor John Morrissey saying some members believed it would give te reo "an edge" over a local name, an English name, or a commonly used name.

"Does that mean if a te reo name comes forward, as well as a couple of others, could it automatically make the name in te reo the preferred name to be used? Is that how you see it?" he asked council staff.

"If the local Māori name is appropriate then it should be used, no problems with that at all, but I didn't want it to take precedence."

Council's new chief executive Aileen Lawrie said it wasn't a cut and dried rule. "In the normal course of events, it looks to me like you would prioritise a Māori name that had been approved, but in circumstances

where there might be a prevailing community interest, you wouldn't necessarily have to run with that as a priority," she said.

But Mayor Sandra Goudie and deputy mayor Murray McLean feared the four words would create an expectation. "Look at what your community boards said. Take it out. Don't create an expectation," Cr McLean said.

Thames Community Board - which includes councillors Sally Christie, Martin Rodley, and Robyn Sinclair - was the only board happy to leave the words in, and they stood by that decision.

Cr Sinclair called the discussion "silly". "Let's stop being racist and just put the bloody thing in," she said, while Cr Christie wanted a more inclusive outcome.

"Aotearoa New Zealand is changing and te reo is one of our official languages, and we're just having that in the list," she said.

"It's just acknowledging they are mana whenua of this land and if we can find names that suit and are important... that would be really special."

However, it was decided by a slim margin - five votes to four - to remove "in order of priority" from the statement. Instead, the policy will read: Appropriate names should consider the following criteria in no particular order of priority.

Those who voted against the motion were Sally Christie, Robyn Sinclair, Martin Rodley, and Gary Gottlieb.



Regiment visits Maratoto



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.

1936

About 60 officers and other ranks of the Sixth Hauraki Regiment attended a weekend camp at Maratoto Valley.

The men bivouacked in tents provided by the Defence Department, which also supplied rations. In order that all trainees were able to take part, the Te Aroha and Paeroa branches of the New Zealand Territorial Association shared the cost of providing civilian cooks and arranging free transport of the men to and from the camp.

The men attending were drawn from the Thames, Te Aroha, Paeroa and Waihi areas of the regiment's district.

The training was largely devoted to tactical exercises and night operations, the country in the Maratoto Valley being especially suitable for this type of instruction.

When a police car arrived at Puriri on a section near the railway station where a drinking party was taking place, the gates were thrown open and the police waved on, the gatekeeper



The Sixth Hauraki Regiment machine gun squads at work during volunteer camp, near Tauranga. Photo: SUPPLIED

evidently thinking the car was occupied by friends.

As soon as the police were seen there was a scatter. A three-gallon jar of beer was found in a car and the matter taken to court.

Sergeant Daly said that parties similar to the one visited by the police had been going on frequently at different places. "These parties have got to stop, otherwise the fines will be more severe," thundered the magistrate.

A Patetonga motorist, on cresting the rise of the centre span of the Ngātea Bridge, was faced with a lorry climbing towards him. Faced with the possibility of colliding head on with the lorry or trusting the rail of the bridge to hold, he chose the latter course and ended up with one wheel overhanging the edge of the bridge. The car was extricated without trouble.

At Waitakaruru a collision occurred and two cars became interlocked. A car had backed out across the road from a gateway,

and in swerving to avoid this car another two cars collided. Structural damage was fairly extensive.

A combination of mishaps saw all three sources of electricity supply for Paeroa out of action together. Arrangements had been made for a shutdown from Waikino, the usual source of supply, but the feeder service from Waihou failed when an insulator broke at Mangaiti, near Te Aroha, and the third source at Kerepēhi failed through the breaking of another.

Power for the Thames Coast was the subject of a survey of residents. At a meeting of the Thames Valley Electric Power Board, the engineer said he hoped to have the full information before long, and there was every prospect of introducing power before Christmas.

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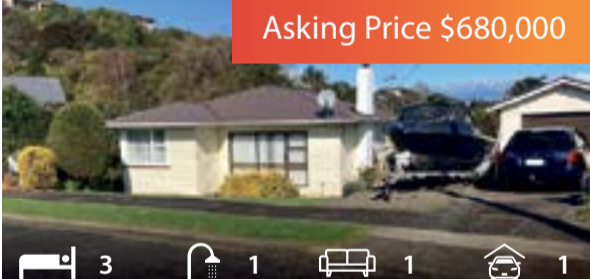
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SPORTS

Eight tries for Valley

HEARTLAND RUGBY

The Thames Valley rugby team had a most satisfactory trip to Westport where they defeated Buller 52-12 in round five of the Bunnings Heartland Championship.

Eight tries were scored by the Swamp Foxes, which gave them a bonus point. Thames Valley now have 20 competition points, which places them in clear third place, one behind Whanganui, 21, and four back from South Canterbury, 24.

Buller found Thames Valley's hard running difficult to defend and by half time the visitors had notched up five tries and four conversions to lead 33-0.

Will Newbold, Lea Mau Fangangu, Cameron Dromgool, Leroy Neels and Ben Stephens were the first half try scorers, with Todd Doolan adding the four conversions.

A more determined Buller team scored their first try after the break. It was not converted but soon after captain Connor McVerry dotted down for Valley's sixth try. Doolan again added the conversion and Thames Valley now led 40-5.

Buller then had their best period of play and mounted several strong attacks, and they were finally rewarded with a converted try. With the score at 40-12, the Swamp Foxes lifted their game to regain control. First Tui Toai-Key scored a try, which was converted by replacement



Ben Stephens scored two tries in Westport.

Photo: GORDON HENDERSON

Zac Stephens, and then Zac's brother Ben finished the game with his second try (unconverted) to give Thames Valley their 52-12 victory. Ben Stephens had an impressive all-round game and fully deserved his two tries.

In the backs, winger Will Newbold looked particularly dangerous on attack, and Todd Doolan controlled play extremely well from the first five eighth position. Next Saturday is an historic occasion for Thames Valley and the Mercury Bay community with the first ever first-class rugby match being played at Whitianga. Fresh from a huge 89-23 victory over Horowhenua Kapiti, the North Otago "Old Golds" will provide stern opposition for the Swamp Foxes.

North Otago are in fourth place on the points ladder – three behind Thames Valley. The Mercury Bay Rugby Club and the wider community have put in a huge effort to host this game and a large crowd is expected.

Meanwhile, the TVRFU Secondary School Awards winners were announced last week: Female Player of the Year: Alice Hill; Male Player of the Year: Max Baker; Māori Player of the Year: Cullen Bevan; Manager of the Year: Emily Chwesik; Volunteer of the Year: Lester Te Ohaere Fox; Coach of the Year: Matt Walker; Team of the Year: Paeroa College Youth Boys; School of the Year: Te Aroha College.



Robin Povey puts up the first bowl of the season at Kerepehi Bowls & Sports' summer opening day on September 11. Eighteen teams played four games each on the carpet green, starting in foggy conditions, followed by a mostly sunny day of the well sponsored day from the Sutherland families for the Summer Opening Day Bowls. The 'kitty' was thrown up by the club's new and youngest member, Maddy Beaufill, with Robin Povey putting the first bowl up close to the kitty. A lot of high scores in one game, followed by high losses in the next were quite common. The prize winning teams were: 1st 4 wins +39 points 25 ends (Paeroa) Peter Rowling, Kevin Lockley, Tony Watt, Jim Erbacher; 2nd 3 wins +27 points 25 ends (Kerepehi/Thames) Herby Lawson team; 3rd 3 wins +18 points 25 ends (Kerepehi) Des Stanaway, Lorraine Opler, Michael Crosland, Geoff Sanders; 4th 3 wins + 14 points 21 ends (Tui Park) Garry Hewitt, Earle, Lloyd, John. Club Prize : Arthur Thorburn, George Morehu, Lois Curd, Danny Te Iri. On September 17-18, the first of Club championships was held, men and women 1-5 year singles. Open events in October include: October 2 Kopu Engineering sponsored optional 4s, October 16 Hudson Families optional 4s. Contact Tournament Secretary Peter 021 074 1802, Match Committee Lorraine 0221 255 4527. Clubrooms are only being manned on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays (When no bowls) from 4pm, mainly due to renovations/extension of the clubroom building. Good bowling to all, a great welcome to all the new club members.

WAIHI BOWLS: The final day of winter indoor bowls at Waihi Bowls clubrooms on September 13 was a special singles contest, and was won with a brilliant final bowl from Emily Cox, circling around the shot bowl which was close to the top of the mat. Well done Emily and runner up Jenny Leahy. Thank you to all those who have participated this year. Outdoor bowls at the Waihi Bowling Club, cnr Clarke and Kenny Streets, start on Saturday, September 24, at 12.30pm for introductions and a 1pm game. Bowlers new to Waihi and new players are welcome.



2022 BUNNINGS WAREHOUSE HEARTLAND CHAMPIONSHIP

Saturday 24th September at Lyon Park, Whitianga
Gates open at 11.30am

12pm
**Thames Valley U18 boys
v
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2pm
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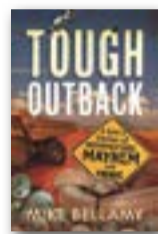


BETTER, BOLDER, DIFFERENT by Kate Hall

Kate Hall, environmental activist and educator, shares her philosophy of joy-filled living with people and the planet in mind. All the daily decisions we make about clothes, food, transport, sleep, stuff, wellbeing and relationships can be tweaked to benefit not only the environment, but also ourselves and others. Doing simple things differently and more sustainably can be freeing. Kate shows us how to embrace sustainable living in all facets of life. She shares clever consumption tips, encourages us to do things differently, like sleep upside down, to look after what we have, prioritise wellbeing and to live with less waste. As Kate says, we can all live life a little better. And better is enough. 'Kate's book is just like her; brimming with energy, colour, information and a lot of fun. It's a brilliant read and a vital new resource as we look to empower ourselves and the planet.' Miriama Kamo

DARK ROOMS by Lynda La Plante

Helena Lanark is an elderly woman, living in a luxurious care home. The heiress of an immense family fortune, she keeps the secret to the horror which once occurred within the Lanark family house. Jane Tennison is leading a murder investigation into the recent brutal death of a young girl, her decomposed starved body discovered in an old air raid shelter in the garden of the Lanark's now derelict house. Initially the focus is on identifying the victim, until another body is found, hidden in the walls of the shelter. As the investigation and search for answers intensifies, Jane travels to Australia. There she discovers the dark secret, that the Lanark family has kept hidden for decades. A secret, that not only threatens to bring down a family dynasty, but also places Jane Tennison in mortal danger. Linda La Plante is as reliable as ever in delivering another Detective Jane Tennison crime thriller.



TOUGH OUTBACK by Mike Bellamy

In 1989, Mike Bellamy set off for the remote town of Wiluna on the edge of the West Australian Desert. Keen to make a buck from Australia's mining boom, the fledgling Kiwi soon realised he'd walked across a frontier into a roughshod world where anyone trying to last longer than a desert sunrise had to watch their back, play by the rules, and keep their wits about them. Bellamy's stories of dongas, dozers and diggers is a window back in time to work-hard, play-hard land, where snakes, spiders and flies were the least of your worries. This honest memoir paints a vivid picture of the tough mining country of Western Australia.

JUMPING SUNDAYS: The Rise and Fall of the Counterculture in Aotearoa New Zealand by Nick Bollinger

In *Jumping Sundays*, award-winning writer and broadcaster Nick Bollinger tells the story of beards and bombs, freaks and firebrands, self-destruction and self-realisation, during a turbulent period in New Zealand's history and culture. 'A compelling and important history of the counterculture in Aotearoa New Zealand. Meticulously researched and full of vivid details and memorable photographs, this book is an immensely readable and absorbing account of an important era in our recent history.' — Sue Kedge



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Foodies

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A team dinner at The Public Office with one of our set menus is always popular. A range of traditional and modern menu choices are available along with our beautifully paired wine list and selection of craft beers. Let us do all the work and book in with us. The Public Office has facilities to cater for groups of up to 30 people. Our fully offsite catering menus provide you with a huge variety of options.

If you are after a lunch spread, nibbles to go with drinks or a full buffet dinner, we can help you out.

Our platters are an excellent option for off site casual events or to have a catch up with friends before the Christmas break. Are you hosting Christmas this year? We provide a full menu for pick up throughout December to cater for the whole family.



The Public Office has facilities to cater for up to 30 people, and their fully offsite catering menus provide a huge variety of options. Photo: SUPPLIED

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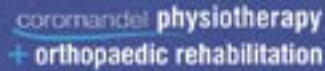
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'Keen' hunter, fisherman stands for WRC

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

The president of a sports fishing club is hoping to take his governance to the next level following next month's local body elections.

Tairua-based Warren Maher is standing for the Thames-Coromandel representative on the Waikato Regional Council. He told *The Profile* he would bring the right attitude to strengthen relationships with Thames-Coromandel District Council, iwi, and community.



Warren Maher

"These relationships are strained at the moment and are constraining a number of projects around the peninsula. I will work hard to support the huge potential for economic growth in aquaculture and rebuild our tourism income opportunities both on land and sea," he said.

Growing up in Taupō, Warren said his backyard was his playground.

"From the bush to the lake was where mates and I would spend as much of our time as possible."

Since moving to Tairua, he said he enjoyed the same kind of lifestyle, such as fishing, diving, and hunting, with golf recently becoming an outlet as well.

"I have lived in Tairua for 28 years and run an electrical contracting business operating throughout the peninsula. I am currently in my ninth year as president of the Tairua Pauanui Sports Fishing Club and vice president on the board of the NZ Sports Fishing Council; also chairing their Youth Fishing Committee.

"With my governance experience and knowledge gained from 30 years fishing and diving on both sides of the peninsula, I have a lot of local knowledge and common sense to offer the ongoing Waikato Regional Council Coastal Plan process, as well as their policies around harbour use and access, navigation and safety, river and flood management and Aquaculture," he said.

"Continued access is critical to our coastal and marine environment for

those who derive social, cultural and personal wellbeing from being able to gather seafood from the intertidal zone, fishing from the shore, in local waters or around our many islands, and for our future generations."

As one of the founders of the Hikuai Hoghunters Club and a "keen hunter", Warren said pest control was another important aspect of his campaign.

"Community input is critical; community based solutions have more potential for success due to local support and monitoring," he said.

"Councils and communities must have a strong working relationship with a good level of trust and a great deal of communication. I feel this is something which can be improved on."

Warren said he had enjoyed the Meet the Candidates events held across the district so far. "I congratulate those who have worked hard to put these events together."

DETAILS: Voting packs for local body elections are now arriving in the mail. Voting closes at midday on October 8.



Students from the University of Waikato's Conservatorium of Music. Photo: SUPPLIED

A homage to opera

Students from the University of Waikato's Conservatorium of Music will entertain opera lovers with a selection of songs from Mozart and other composers this week.

and an opera studio focused on career readiness for the young singers has recently been launched at the campus.

Called Te Pae Kōkako – The Aotearoa New Zealand Opera Studio, the programme is headed by New Zealand soprano, Madeleine Pierard, the inaugural Dame Malvina Major chair in opera at the university.

The performance, Homage to Opera, includes moments and scenes from three of Mozart's operas, as well as other arias from different composers.

Ms Pierard is an internationally-recognised opera singer who has recently returned from London to take up this position.

This free lunchtime concert will be held at 12.15pm at St George's Anglican Church in Thames this Friday, and hosted by the Thames Music Group.

DETAILS: Homage to Opera, a free lunchtime concert, at St George's Church, Thames, 12.15pm, September 23. Masks are now optional. Hot soup and a bun after for \$5.

With support from The Dame Malvina Major Foundation, the university's conservatorium has produced a high number of voice graduates who are forging professional careers abroad,

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- Janella

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

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68

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JUMBO CROSSWORD

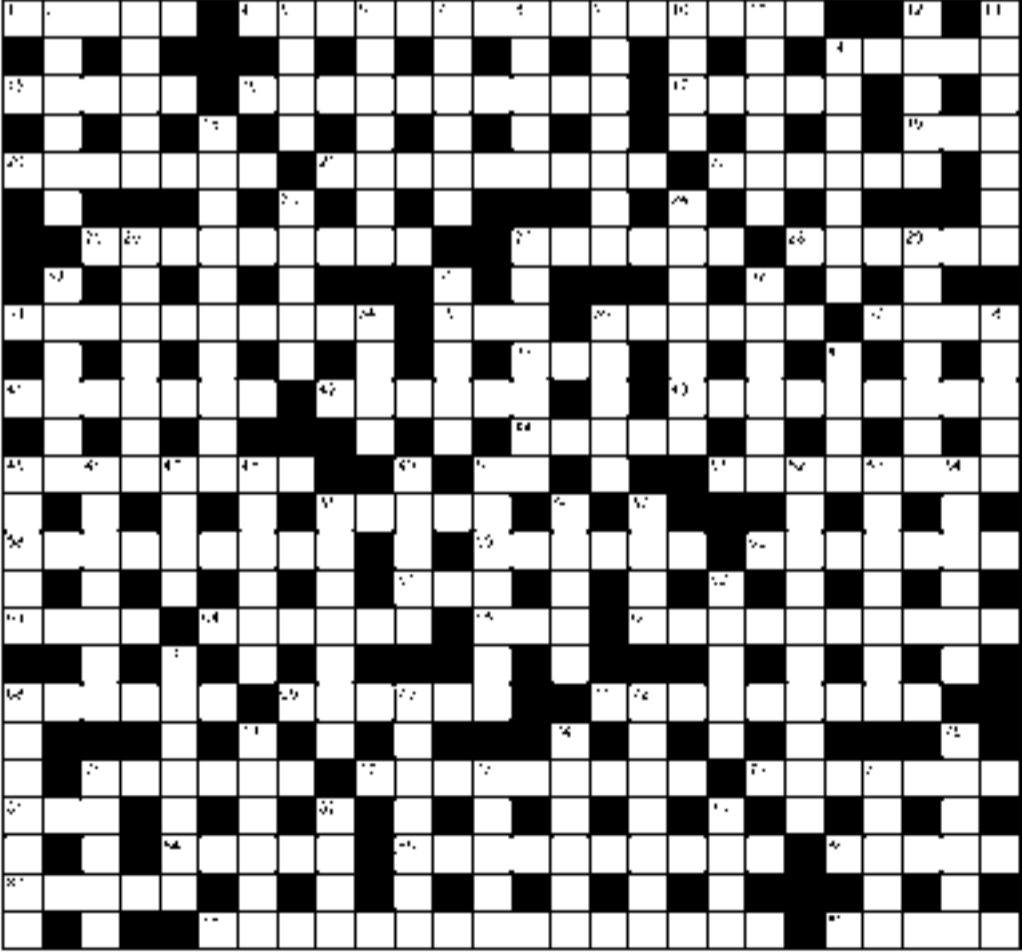
ACROSS

1 Foreign (5)
4 Heading to financial disaster (2,3,4,2,4)
14 Male duck (5)
15 Water vapour (5)
16 Found unexpectedly (10)
17 Glowed (5)
19 Female sheep (3)
20 Wild cat (7)
21 Somnambulate (9)
22 Higher in rank (6)
25 Complete reversal (5-4)
27 Orange vegetable (6)
28 Thin paper (6)
33 Excessively sweet (10)
35 Road-making liquid (3)
36 Hot fragrant spice (6)
37 Magician's stick (4)
39 Clamour (3)
41 Introductory music (7)
42 African expedition (6)
43 Story published by only one newspaper (9)
44 Thigh bone (5)
45 Standard mast (8)
50 Representing (2)
51 Promontory (8)
55 Detest (5)
58 Riddle (9)
59 Beat (6)
60 Law (7)
61 Cereal crop (3)
63 Short burlesque (4)

DOWN

2 Deadly (6)
3 Precise (5)
5 Steel pin (4)
6 Audience pest (7)
7 Critical assessment of a book, film, play, concert (6)
8 Direction indicator (5)
9 Young child (7)
10 Put in jeopardy (4)
11 Pressed (6)
12 Be indecisive (5)
13 Umpire (7)
14 Shortfall (7)
18 Vitality, dynamism (3-2-3-2)
23 Earthenware beer mug (5)
24 Maker of metal castings (7)
26 Work build-up (7)

27 Capital of Wales (7)
29 Staying power (7)
30 Keg (6)
31 Book of maps (5)
32 Save from danger (6)
34 A Dutch cheese (4)
36 Garden figure (5)
38 Fear (5)
40 Money reserve (4)
45 Camera adjustment (5)
46 Yearly allowance (7)
47 Garden lake (4)
48 Food store (6)
49 Fragment of broken glass (5)
50 Hospital attendant (7)
52 On seafront (anag) (10)
53 Sweepstake (7)
54 Country (6)
55 Friendly and pleasant (7)
56 In search of (5)
57 Catch one's breath (4)
62 Scoundrel (5)
67 Hermit (7)
68 Germ (7)
70 Ascended (7)
72 Contracts (7)
73 Root vegetable (6)
74 Bodily soundness (6)
75 Empty (6)
76 Musty (5)
78 Surpass (5)
80 Drink down heartily (5)
82 Quick and neatly skilful (4)
83 Reverberation (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Mouse, 4 For the high jump, 11 Sleet, 14 Stain, 15 Linguistics, 16 Adjusted, 19 Joggers, 20 Stoop, 21 Genealogy, 24 Saxophone, 26 Modest, 27 Manage, 31 Bandy, 32 Cauldron, 34 Politeness, 37 Air, 39 Ripcord, 40 Dowser, 41 Useful, 42 Pile, 43 Dossier, 46 Oesophagus, 51 Toaster, 55 Vary, 56 Affair, 57 Crabby, 58 Penalty, 60 Tea, 62 Repeatedly, 63 Deterred, 64 Skint, 67 Smelly, 68 Doctor, 69 Component, 74 Temporary, 75 Month, 76 Destroy, 81 Two-timer, 82 Searchlight, 83 Trait, 84 Naked, 85 Hot and bothered, 86 Money.

DOWN: 2 Option, 3 Swing, 5 Omit, 6 Tighten, 7 Editor, 8 Into, 9 Hacienda, 10 Puddle, 11 Sour grapes, 12 Eats, 13 Tadpole, 17 Proof, 18 Pensioners, 22 Cheap, 23 Facelift, 25 Addicts, 26 Monarch, 28 Casino, 29 Fresco, 30 Minuet, 33 Loose, 35 Spear, 36 Free, 38 Rung, 43 Dover, 44 Shrapnel, 45 Rafter, 46 On all fours, 47 Sort, 48 Picador, 49 Adapts, 50 UMBER, 52 Over, 53 Slacken, 54 Extent, 59 Fall behind, 61 Keeps, 65 Sturgeon, 66 Unwed, 67 Shorten, 70 Outline, 71 Speech, 72 Top hat, 73 Motive, 77 Torso, 78 Lock, 79 Crab, 80 Ghee.

ENTERTAINMENT

Leaving a legacy and lasting impression

REVIEW

Legacy

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

Doug Harrison is a nasty piece of work (his family would call that a compliment compared to what they'd really like to say).

He seems to spend every day of his quickly-diminishing life determined to make those around him miserable, as if he is one insult away from being crowned the world's most hated man.

With that comes jibes about weight, religion, feminism, gender, race, sexism... you name it, and something feels so wrong about watching someone so awful stand in front of you for 150 minutes, and yet it feels so right.

Legacy, written and directed by Thames playwright Kristina Walton, shows us a man many people would have met at some point throughout their lives.

Even the way Doug, played impeccably by Ewan Grant-Mackie, walks gruffly around the stage triggers a natural avoid-at-all-costs response.

In fact, Doug's personality can be boiled down to one scene in particular that tells the story of a bird in a cage who died staring longingly at food it could not eat.

So, yes, there is an ugliness to Legacy - but it is molded so delicately into its beauty.

Because although the play features an unlikeable lead, it is storytelling in its finest form.



Sam Rogers, left, plays Simon, and David Bull plays grandson Reece.

Not only is it nice and refreshing to see a miserable man as the star of a narrative, it is also fun.

It is fun to watch the youth of the family gossip and laugh at their old granddad they've tried - and failed - to connect with.

It is fun to watch the earnest perseverance of Doug's only grandson, Reece [David Bull], as he discovers a Lotto ticket with all the numbers in a row encir-

led. It is fun to see a large family come together under one roof to figure out what's really going on, even if most of them have relationship strains of their own.

Legacy has a cast of 21, and its run-time is close to 150 minutes, but the pace is kept consistent and the scene changes are as you'd like them to be - done in a blink of an eye.

The set itself is creatively craft-

ed and makes good use of the historic Tararu Arts Centre.

But the lasting impression Legacy leaves is in thanks to the writer's realistic, relatable, unique, funny - let's just say stellar - script. It's not often the words actors speak can be followed with nods of 'I've been there'.

Overall, the show has touching moments. It deals with loss and

Photos: KELLEY TANTAU



The mean Douglas Harrison is played impeccably by Ewan Grant-Mackie.



Touching moments from Vera, played by Sheryll Baynes.

love and hardship and hate, and just as respect is earned and not given, Legacy reminds us that so too is family.

DETAILS: Legacy is showing now at the Tararu Arts Centre. For information about Thames MAD, and to see their upcoming productions, visit www.thamesmad.co.



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