

Hilary marks half a century with St John, P3

# The Valley Profile

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089 September 28, 2022

## RATES TRIPLE

By KELLEY TANTAU and GORDON PREECE

A new rating scheme introduced by the district council has come as a shock to residents of a Waihi retirement village, with one fearing she'll soon be "out on the street" due to the price hike.

In this year's annual plan, Hauraki District Council voted to introduce set charges for each inhabited part of a property - the technical term being: Separately Used and Inhabited Parts, or, SUiPs.

Retirement villages, farms, and lifestyle properties were likely going to be impacted.

But when Vivienne Harper, who has owned a cottage at Waihi Lifecare for more than 10 years, saw her new rates bill in August, she told *The Profile* it was a "terrible blow".

Her rates in the 2021-22 financial year were \$822.64. Her new rates bill for 2022-23 had increased to \$2379.21.

And even though residents at the Toomey St village could apply for a \$700 rebate, the rates were still \$1000 more than the previous year and were "unfair", she said.

"I feel that this is a terrible blow to people like me who have lived in these villages for some years, and I feel that I'm just going to be kicked out. It's causing me a lot of stress.

"This is my home and we feel that old people are being abused with [the rates] and all of a sudden, my home could be taken from me and I'm out on the street."

Another Waihi Lifecare resident, Dawn Sinclair, whose rates bill has had a similar hike, said the retirement village was not like others - it hosted a mere 25 units and each unit paid for its own Hauraki District Council rates. She questioned whether it was "fair and reasonable" for SUiPs to be imposed on the village when affordable housing for the elderly should be encouraged and supported.

Either way, the SUiP impact on residents would be "huge", said Waihi Lifecare director Steven Wallace.

"There are residents here that rely on their

pension so that's going to hit them very hard, which is not good.

"When you've been in the village a long time the rates have been pretty good, and when they jump up by that amount, it's a shock."

Steven said he had engaged with Hauraki District Council to try resolve the issues, and was hoping they could come up with "some sort of arrangement".

"My hands are tied a little bit in terms of what decision they make. I can't guarantee anything."

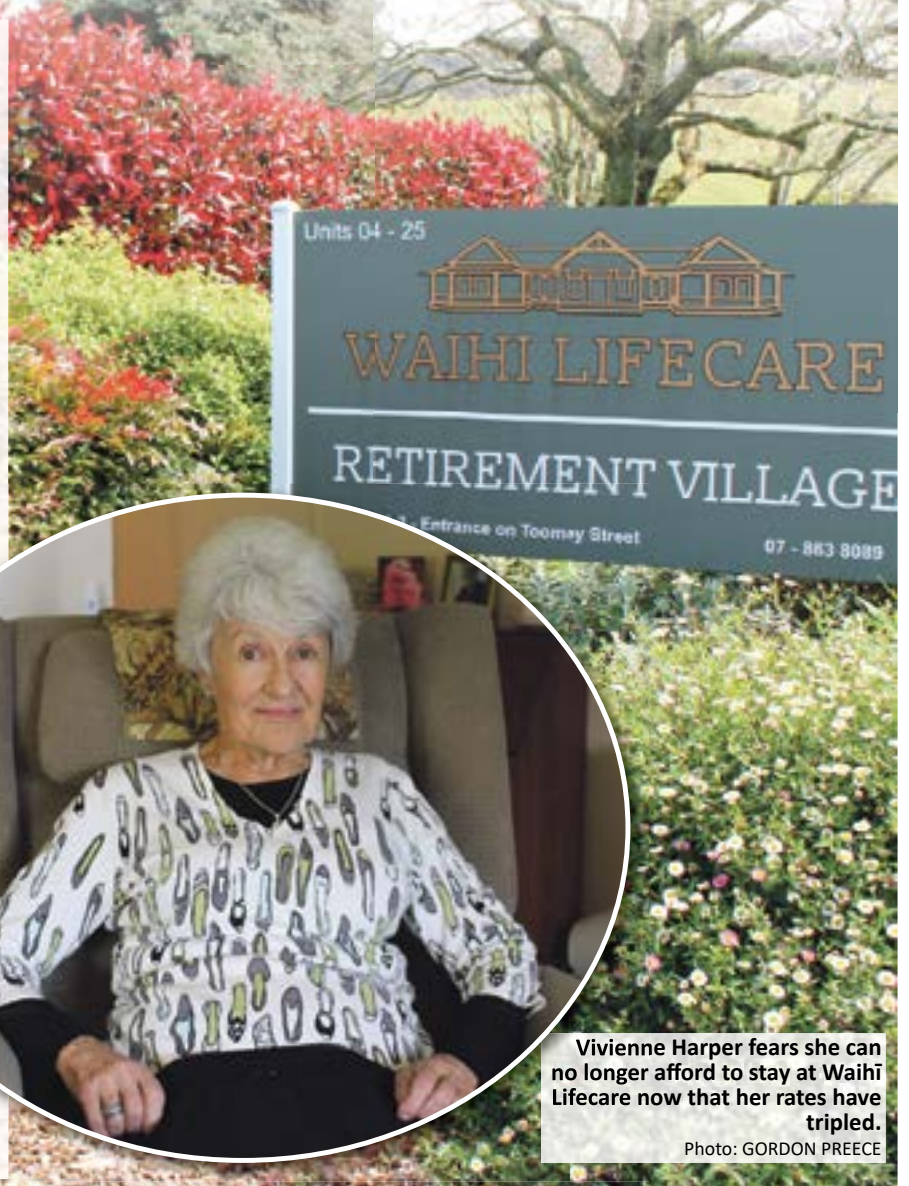
Council's group manager business support Duncan Peddie told *The Profile* all ratepayers were sent a flyer explaining the proposed changes in April. Plus, all of those who were negatively affected by the changes, including residents at Waihi Lifecare, were written to at the start of July. For the past 12 years, council said it had a remission policy which meant individual unit owners did not need to contribute towards activities such as libraries and swimming pools, and Waihi Lifecare ratepayers also only paid 37 per cent of a wastewater charge of a normal residential property.

Now, all properties - whether they were in retirement villages or elsewhere - were being treated the same and contributed to all activities they benefited from, he said.

"Although the village has always been separate properties, council has, for the last 12 years or so, had the remission policy that treated the whole village as if it were one.

"With the change to SUiPs, council removed this policy so all village and non-village type properties are now treated the same."

Council was offering a payment plan so residents could spread the increase over two years, he said.



Vivienne Harper fears she can no longer afford to stay at Waihi Lifecare now that her rates have tripled.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

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### TATTY AND TORN TOWN FLAGS

In November, 2020, Go Waihi organised flags to decorate Waihi's main street for the Beach Hop event. Battered by Waihi's wicked westerly wind, they didn't survive and rapidly became unsightly. After much toing and froing in March-April of 2021, the tolerant residents of Waihi were relieved of this eyesore and fresh flags appeared. However it didn't solve the problem. Within a very short time the new flags rapidly deteriorated again. Once again Waihi residents endured tatty and torn flags in their award winning town centre. Finally last Friday September 4, the offending (and offensive) flags were removed. My question to our decision makers, elected councillors, council staff and the council appointed Go Waihi volunteer group is are we going to try ornamental flags again or is it time to call it quits and

realise our town centre actually looks okay without them? Surely it is within the power of someone to make an executive decision and just say enough is enough. From one exceedingly frustrated resident,

- Dawn Sinclair (nee Sutton)  
Waihi

### COUNCIL RESPONSE

GO Waihi, as owner of the main street flags in Waihi, is looking into options for how to improve the situation by making the flags easier to put up and take down. Council (as the service provider for putting the flags up and taking them down) and GO Waihi have agreed that flags will be used during some events. The flags will go up shortly before events and taken down shortly afterwards. This will help prolong the life of the flags and ensure that when they are up, they show off Waihi's main street to its best advantage.



Ngatea students help Mayor Toby Adams plant the tōtara tree. Photo: HDC

## Trees planted for Queen

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

In commemoration of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Hauraki District Council planted three tōtara trees in each of its main town centres, Paeroa, Ngatea, and Waihi, enlisting help from local students along the way.

The Queen, whose reign lasted 70 years, died aged 96 at Balmoral Castle early on September 9, New Zealand time.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has since confirmed that the timing of the holiday weekend in June, formerly known as Queen's Birthday, will remain the same but will be known as King's Birthday weekend.

In Paeroa, two Paeroa College

leaders - Arihia Morehu and Hamish Buchanan, had the privilege of planting the tōtara tree in the Paeroa domain on Thursday.

It was a joint effort from Ngatea Primary School and head students from Hauraki Plains College to help plant the tree in Hugh Hayward Domain in Ngatea.

In Waihi, it was students from Waihi East, Waihi Central, and St Josephs primary schools who got stuck in. Monday, September 26 was a one-off national public holiday to mark the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, and was the same day as New Zealand's state memorial for the sovereign.





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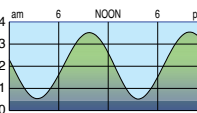
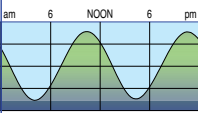
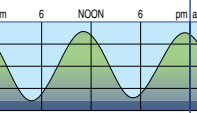
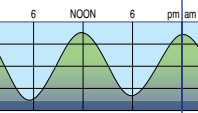
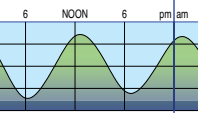
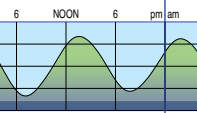
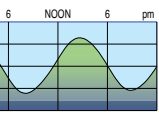
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## Thames Tides

Wed Sep 28	Thu Sep 29	Fri Sep 30	Sat Oct 1	Sun Oct 2	Mon Oct 3	Tue Oct 4
 Morning: 3:24am 0.5, 9:43am 3.5 Afternoon: 3:39pm 0.5, 9:52pm 3.5 Best At: 2:25am 2:49pm Rise: 8:09am, Set: 9:41pm	 Morning: 4:05am 0.5, 10:22am 3.6 Afternoon: 4:20pm 0.5, 10:35pm 3.5 Best At: 3:13am 3:38pm Rise: 8:38am, Set: 10:49pm	 Morning: 4:46am 0.4, 11:04am 3.6 Afternoon: 5:05pm 0.6, 11:20pm 3.5 Best At: 4:04am 4:31pm Rise: 9:11am	 Morning: 5:29am 0.5, 11:49am 3.5 Afternoon: 5:53pm 0.7 Best At: 4:59am 5:28pm Set: 12:01am, Rise: 9:52am	 Morning: 12:08am 3.4, 6:16am 0.5 Afternoon: 12:39pm 3.4, 6:46pm 0.8 Best At: 6:53am 7:22pm Set: 1:10am, Rise: 10:41am	 Morning: 12:59am 3.3, 7:07am 0.7 Afternoon: 1:34pm 3.3, 7:45pm 0.9 Best At: 6:52am 7:23pm First Quarter: Set 2:19am, Rise 11:40am	 Morning: 1:55am 3.2, 8:04am 0.8 Afternoon: 2:37pm 3.3, 8:50pm 0.9 Best At: 6:50am 7:24pm Set: 3:19am, Rise 12:47pm

### 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	LOW
Coromandel	-	05	-0 04
Whitianga	-	01	-0 06
Tairua	+	10	+0 21
Whangamata	-	07	-0 07
Waihi Beach	-	12	-0 12



# Hilary marks half a century with St John

By GORDON PREECE

Hilary Haysom has responded to 1175 callouts, represented St John New Zealand at Singapore and assisted a woman in labour amongst the America's Cup crowds at Auckland.

The former St John Paeroa emergency nurse has now been honoured with a 50-year service medal for her dedication to the organisation.

Hilary told *The Profile* her parents inspired her to join as a St John cadet in 1961 while her family was living in Mangakino.

"My mother and father were in St John and my father used to teach people how to fire guns, and when he came back from the war he used to bake the cakes and everything for the cadets," she said.

Hilary, whose husband Ray also served with St John, said she then served with St John in Tūrangi in 1966 before shifting to Waihi Beach in 1970.

"My mother was an incredible lady, everybody loved her at Waihi Beach, she loved kids and she set up a [St John] office at the surf club," she said.

"They used to have to call the ambulance in Waihi but they needed somebody on at Waihi Beach and that was mum when all those things came out."

After departing Waihi Beach in 1973, Hilary worked as a nurse at Thames Hospital before



Hilary Haysom has served at St John Paeroa for 34 of her 50 years with the organisation.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

fore rejoining St John in Paeroa in 1977 where she has remained ever since. Her main highlight has purely been "helping people".

"There was one lady who had asthma and she collapsed on the floor and her mother was calling me. I spoke to her very loudly and said 'you're going to be alright'," she said.

"What you do with people with asthma is you get them to breathe with you and that works because they're slowing down."

"There was also a lady I was asked to look after and she was a crabby old woman and no one could get to her, and she said 'I hate people but you could come in and try'."

"But in the end I just treated

her like a lovely woman and she said to me 'you are the best best person I've ever had'."

Hilary's other highlights included winning the St John national trophy at a national competition in 1980 while representing Auckland, and representing St John New Zealand at an international competition at Singapore in the 1980s.

She also assisted a woman who went into labour amongst the America's Cup crowds at Auckland in 2000.

"Sir Peter Blake was there saying 'hello St John'... and when we won it a lady started to have a baby in the middle of the crowd and we had to run to get her out but we couldn't because of the crowds," she said.

Hilary responded to 1175 callouts during her time as an emergency nurse until she stepped down from the role 10 years ago.

One incident she will never forget was a crash between a car and a motorbike on Rawhiti Rd near Te Aroha.

"The car actually crossed the centre line and the motorbike hit the front and was embedded in the front of the car."

"There was petrol all over the car and the car was on fire and the guy actually got flung from his motorbike over the top of the car."

"He died before he hit the ground... it was very traumatic," she said.

Hilary acknowledged Shirley Moleni, Peter Young, Jackie Thorne and Angie Howard, who she had worked with during her time at St John Paeroa.

She now serves as a volunteer at St John Paeroa Opportunity Shop and will officially be presented her service medal on October 8.



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# Deputies discussed

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

Shots were fired at both sheriff Sand deputy at the second Meet the Candidates event in Thames, but whether there were any hits will be seen come election day.

Hosted by Transition Town Thames on September 18, those vying for a job within Thames-Coromandel District Council gathered to introduce themselves and answer questions.

MC John Morrissey - who has been reelected unopposed for the Coromandel-Colville ward - asked the six mayoral candidates in attendance: "How will you build a strong governance team at council?"

This turned the focus on to who the mayoral hopefuls would choose to be their deputy if elected, and highlighted anxieties over a potential 'East versus West' divide.

"I believe the deputy should not be picked by the mayor," Eric Carter said. "It should be picked by the council at the time because that person must effectively run the council if the mayor's not around."

Cherie Staples disagreed, and said if she were the mayor, she'd be selecting a deputy from the eastern side of the Peninsula.

"I'm not going to have any council appoint a deputy, because that person needs to be the person that's with me going forward," she said.

John Freer made note that fellow mayoral hopeful Len Salt, from Whitianga, had already announced he'd be selecting South Eastern ward candidate and cur-

rent councillor Terry Walker as his deputy, if both were successful this October.

"That means down that side, we'll have both the mayor and deputy mayor on the East Coast," he said. "You might need to have a balance."

Len Salt told the audience he stood by his decision to vouch for Terry Walker.

"I'm very, very proud of that man and the contribution he's made... he deserves support and he gets my 100 per cent support."

Len said he was "very anxious" about a "parochial split" - East Coast versus West Coast - and said he'd "make it very clear" that a council under his watch would work for the whole district.

Meanwhile, Steve Hart told the crowd that being the mayor was an "extremely important role" to hold the governance team together.

"It's about people power and how you can communicate with people... I have no difficulty with that whatsoever."

Peter Pinkham said within his first few weeks in the top job, he'd talk to all council staff to "get to know" them and their dreams.

"I have utmost respect for people who are willing to put their name forward as a councillor, and there is nobody so far who I've seen running for council who I'd be unhappy to work with."

Ron Julian apologised for not being able to make the meeting.

**DETAILS: Vote before midday this October 8.**



Waihi candidates answered questions from the public on Friday.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

## Waihi meets its candidates

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

Waihi candidates hoping for a seat around Hauraki District Council's table were asked whether or not they had attended a public meeting in the three-years leading up to the local elections.

They were also asked about Three Waters, the Treaty of Waitangi, and their favourite thing about the town at the well-attended Meet the Candidates event hosted by Waihi Greypower.

There are five vacancies for the Waihi ward, and seven vying for the spots. They are: Sarah Holmes, Sara-Ann Howell, Josh Martyn, Bhavesh Ranchhod, Austin Rattray, Amanda May Ryan, and Anne Marie Spicer.

The ward is as hotly contested as the Plains ward - which only has room for four seats - and in-

cludes current councillors Anne Marie Spicer and Sara-Ann Howell hoping for reelection.

Austin Rattray, who was a councillor for the ward in 2016-2019, is also vying for a return to council.

At the meeting on September 23, those new to local politics were asked by a member of the public if they had ever attended a council meeting or hearing in the past three years.

Sarah Holmes, a former HDC staffer, said she couldn't "count the number of council meetings" she had been to, adding that she had organised hearings for council's Long Term Plan.

Josh Martyn said he had not been to any local council meetings, but had attended council meetings in other districts, such as Wellington, where he used to reside.

Amanda May Ryan said she also

had not been to a HDC meeting, but would be attending the next one.

Bhavesh Ranchhod said he had attended "a few" meetings and had made submissions on the various policies the council had proposed.

Austin Rattray said since leaving council at the end of 2019, he had taken on a role of district plan commissioner, and had submitted on "a lot" of the council hearings.

Anne Marie Spicer is hoping for a third term on Hauraki District Council, while it would be Sara-Ann Howell's second term, if successful.

**DETAILS: Votes must be in by midday, October 8. For more info about your candidates, visit [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz)**



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# Teens have ‘no clue’ about council

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

Young people know who Jacinda Arden is - they even follow her on social media - but when it comes to district councillors, a high schooler has discovered that more often than not, minds go blank.

That’s just one thing Waihi College student Viatolose Taulafo has found after surveying her peers ahead of the local body elections.

On October 8, people will take to the voting booths to elect new mayors and councillors across the Thames Valley, and Viatolose wanted to see how many voters were of the young demographic.

She sent out a survey to her fellow Year 13s at Waihi College, and of the 25 responses, most came back saying they had “no idea” who was a councillor, or what the district council was.

“Wouldn’t have a clue,” one said, while another stated: “I don’t know who or what the district council do”.

Viatolose also asked the students who were eligible to vote if they were planning to partake in this year’s elections.

“Maybe,” was a response. “Depends how much information I’m given,” said another. “Not district elections, but



Waihi College student Viatolose Taulafo surveyed her peers ahead of the local body elections.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

national elections,” said one more.

Viatolose was not surprised at the answers.

“I understand where they’re coming from. If you just turn 18, you don’t really think about voting,” she said.

“I know more about [Jacinda

Arden] than I do about our own councillors. I follow her on Instagram and I see all my friends following her, too, so they definitely know who she is.

“So, I think we need to have more knowledge on the district council.”

The survey came to mind af-

ter Viatolose’s teacher Carolyn Graveson suggested she take her interest in communications to Hauraki district councillor and Waihi ward chair Anne-Marie Spicer.

Cr Spicer took Viatolose through the council offices in Paeroa, where she learned

“We are the next generation, and the things that are happening now in this world, with Covid and climate change... that’s [up to] us.”

- Viatolose Taulafo

more about the communications aspect with staff. It inspired her to conduct a survey to see how interested the youth was in local politics.

“I also wanted to know what they knew about the district council, because that’s not really known enough at this school,” she said.

“I thought if I got their point of view on the district council, I could get the council to come in and talk about what they do.

“We are the next generation, and the things that are happening now in this world, with Covid and climate change... that’s [up to] us.”

Viatolose will turn 18 just in the nick of time to vote before midday on October 8. She encouraged other eligible young people to do the same.

“I’ve learned that the younger people just don’t feel like they’re being listened to, and we need to do something about that.”



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# Waihi parade canned

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

One of the organisers of Waihi's Christmas events says it'd be cheaper to give every retailer along the main street money, than to have to pay for traffic management costs for a parade.

It's this reason that this year there will not be a Santa Parade in Waihi, but a Christmas in the Park event in its place.

"We're disappointed; we would've liked to have a parade... but we really think that we can have a Christmas in the Park that will give everyone something even better," Go Waihi chairman Max McLean told *The Profile*.

The parade would have required traffic management to be in place, and it could have cost the town promoters at least \$4600.

Mr McLean said running a Christmas in the Park event would likely give organisers more bang for their buck.

It is set for December 3 and will be held at the Gilmour Lake Reserve, with eight performers - from singers to stilt walkers to balloonists - already scheduled to appear.

"We knew we had to get a traffic management plan, but it used to cost around \$1000 or \$1500, but with the increases we know we won't be able to afford it," he said. "We thought it'd probably be a waste of money compared to what we could get down at the park."

Go Waihi has hosted Christmas Parades for a number of years, Mr McLean said, but that was when the town promoters used to get



The 2020 Waihi Christmas Parade.

Photo: VICKI BEVERIDGE/WAIHI LIONS

a substantial amount of funding from Hauraki District Council.

"Four years ago we were getting about \$100,000 a year and we could employ a full-time coordinator, and their job was to run these events," he said.

"The funding dropped down to \$70,000... and now it's around \$12,000 a year."

Mr McLean said that was just enough to pay the bills, and didn't cover the cost of putting on events over the Christmas period.

In 2021, Hauraki District Council decided to set aside \$411,000 for town promotion, visitor information services, and a new district events coordinator role within council.

According to an October 2020 report, the need for a new district events coordinator role was identified to fulfil some of the tasks the town promotion organisations

were currently responsible for, but with a "whole of district" approach.

Mr McLean said organisers were hoping to establish a committee for Christmas in the Park, and would enlist the assistance of the council's district events coordinator.

"We do hope it's going to cost less for Christmas in the Park; different businesses in town do help us with sponsorship," he said. "We'll certainly know after this Christmas in the Park if we'll want to do it again."

**DETAILS:** *Waihi's Christmas in the Park, December 3, 4pm-8pm, at the Gilmour Lake Reserve. If you're interested in helping out or taking part, contact Go Waihi at [info@waihi.org.nz](mailto:info@waihi.org.nz) or visit [www.waihi.org.nz](http://www.waihi.org.nz).*



Robyn and Peter Levet will feature in the exhibition. Photos: LYN MCHUGH

## Golden Oldies set to open

By GORDON PREECE

Approximately 130 photos of Paeroa senior citizens will be on display at Paeroa former racecourse on October 1. Paeroa resident and community volunteer Lyn McHugh told *The Profile* in May she set out on the project to give back to the elderly community of Paeroa and highlight the International Day of Older Persons, which raises awareness of issues affecting the elderly.

"I just got thinking I've lived

in Paeroa for around 30 years, and I've worked for a lot of people, I volunteer with a lot of people and our elderly get very little recognition," she said. "For me to give back something to this community I thought I could do these portraits of our senior citizens, they're so beautiful." The exhibition will be open from 10:30am to 4pm and any donation is required for entry. The donations will go towards the Paeroa RSA building fund.



Brian and Nancy Tukerangi.



Jane Warren.

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# Ducks in a row

Around 100 people waddled to Thames Coast Community Kindergarten on September 17 for The Great Te Puru Duck Race. The event returned after a one-year hiatus and featured duck and homemade boat races, raffles, food stalls, face painting and other kids activities. More than \$2500 was raised on the day and the money will go towards a new mural, resources and building restoration for the kindergarten. Reporter **GORDON PREECE** headed along to snap the event.



Chloe Booth made use of a face mask for her homemade boat.



The crowd cheers on the ducks and boats.



Richard Battson, left, Gerard Houlton, and Jason Bithell are set to tip the ducks over the Te Puru bridge.



Gerard Houlton tips a basket of decorated ducks.



Esme Sutcliffe wins first prize.



Mike Peters and daughter Manawa.

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Rural Life

# Worm farm donated to Paeroa school

Paeroa Central School students now have their own worm farm as part of their aim for zero food scraps to landfill. The worm farm was donated by Hauraki District Council recently after Mayor Toby Adams heard in the No Time to Waste Tiakina a Papa Mimiti te Para community engagement last year that schools were really keen to get involved with worm farming as a way to deal with food scraps. Council takes the bonus points received from purchasing Parks and Reserves supplies, and uses them to buy worm farm bins to donate to local schools. Council's waste manager then uses funds from the waste levy to purchase the worms and education sessions for the schools from Zero Waste Education, making it a "win-win for the schools and the environment". "Inspiring our youth to look after Papatūānuku is priceless," Mayor Adams said. "Our waste audit showed that close to 50 per cent of what goes to landfill is food scraps and we wanted to help change that. "And it's not just food scraps that the worms love, they also eat the hair that gets stuck in



Mayor Adams, staff and students with the new worm farm.

your hairbrush and if you have pet rabbits or guinea pigs, the worms eat herbivore poo too," he said. Students were surprised to learn that although there are 194 worm species in New Zealand, it's Tiger worms from Europe that are used in the worm farm because they are excellent eaters and reproduce quickly. They also learnt that worm farm bins needed to be kept

cool in the shade, but compost needed to be in a hot spot in the garden. Lenny from Zero Waste Education was on hand all week to work with the students, who she found to be very engaged and interested in learning about reducing rubbish and food waste to landfill. "What a wonderful week it's been – so much enthusiasm and participation from the stu-

dents and teachers," she said. In September, 2023, council will introduce kerbside food scraps collection as part of the No time to Waste Tiakina a Papa Mimiti te Para strategy to reduce organic waste to landfill by 100 per cent before June, 2027, including food scraps. "It's clear that our district is right behind these reuse, reduce and recycle initiatives after we received a big tick

from our contractor congratulating the communities on their soft plastics recycling results," Mayor Adams said. "Since we introduced our collection bins in March, 2022, over 1880kgs or 1.88 tonnes of soft plastic has been diverted from landfill to go to Future-Post to make fence posts instead – what a great effort. "We couldn't ask for a better outcome."



Students learn more about the worms.



Students get up close to the worm farm.

Photos: SUPPLIED

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Rural Life

Fonterra announces record payout

Fonterra last week announced a strong set of results for the financial year ending 31 July 2022, reflecting a 2021-22 Farmgate milk price of NZ\$9.30 per kgMS and normalised profit after tax of NZ\$591 million.

With a total dividend of 20 cents per share to our fully shared-up farmers – comprising of an interim dividend of 5 cents per share and a final dividend of 15 cents per share – the final cash pay-out for farmers is \$9.50.

Total Group normalised Earnings Before Interest and Taxes (EBIT) was NZ\$991 million, up NZ\$39 million or 4 per cent on the prior year.

Chief executive Miles Hurrell said despite the challenges, including increased costs associated with supply chain volatility, 2021-22 was a good year for the co-op.

“These results demonstrate that our decisions relating to product mix, market diversification, quality products and resilient supply chain, mean the co-op is able to deliver both a strong milk price and robust financial performance in a tough global operating environment.

“The co-op is pleased to be able to pay a total dividend of 20 cents per share for our farmer owners and unit holders. And this year’s higher Farmgate milk price is the strongest it has ever been, which is great news for our farmers. New Zealand also benefits from this, with \$13.7 billion returned into the economy in milk price payments alone this year.

“Importantly, one year on, the co-op is making tangible progress against our strategy – namely to focus on New Zealand milk, be a leader in sustainability and

a leader in dairy innovation and science.

“As part of the strategic review of the ownership of our milk pools outside New Zealand, we continue to make progress, with the sales process for the Soprole business progressing.

“Meanwhile, we’ve looked at a number of options for our Australian business and have decided that it’s in the Co-op’s best interests to maintain full ownership.”

Australia played an important role in the co-op’s consumer strategy with a number of common and complementary brands and products and as a destination for our New Zealand milk solids, he said.

“The business is going well, and it will play a key role in helping us get to our 2030 strategic targets,” he said.

“As part of our strategy to 2030, we set a goal of a return of about \$1 billion to shareholders and unitholders which anticipated divestments including Soprole and a stake in our Australian business. Even though we have decided not to sell a stake in our Australian business, we are still committed to targeting a significant capital return to our shareholders and unitholders. The amount of any capital return will ultimately be determined on a number of factors including the successful completion of the divestment programme as well as our ongoing debt and earnings levels.

“Our positive performance in 2021-22 would not have been possible without the continuing hard work of employees and our farmer owners, and I want to thank every one of them for their commitment and support.”

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# Landslide engulfs man's hut in storm



As part of a Valley Profile series, **MEGHAN HAWKES** explores our local history by seeking out stories of life and death in the Thames Valley

When the barometer fell fully half an inch on 22 June, 1898, it heralded the beginning one of the severest storms to sweep across New Zealand. By 9pm the easterly gale strengthened and rain began to pour in torrents. The tempest continued until early the next morning, only easing at dawn. Two inches of rain had fallen and at Paeroa the whole county was under water. Many families had had to leave and others waited with boats ready to escape. The railway line ballast was washed away and the river was just level with the top of the railway bridge. It was impossible to get from Paeroa to Karangahake, owing to the high level of the creeks. The Waitekauri, Komata, Puriri and Hikutaia bridges were washed away. The flood was the worst seen in the district for sixteen years. Landslips were frequent and it was no surprise to a group of bushmen on their way to Karangahake when they came across a large one in Scotchman's Gully. But what did alarm them was that



The Karangahake Gorge.

Photo: SUPPLIED where the hut of Alfred Thomas once stood there was nothing but mud. At Karangahake they made inquiries and discovered Alfred had not been seen in the township since the gale. Fearing that the slip had overtaken him in the night and that he was trapped, they alerted Constable Sefton, who immediately left for the gully with twelve miners. The men worked energetically and by midday the side of the hut was struck. Work continued until two o'clock, when the hut was cleared and the body of Alfred discovered. He evidently had gone to bed and had been asleep when the slip occurred. Alfred was taken to Ryan's Tramway

Hotel, Karangahake, where an inquest was held and a verdict of 'death by landslip' returned. Not much was known about Alfred but he was thought to be about 40 and single. Alfred's real name was David and he was 31. He was born in Tasmania and worked as a shoemaker. He came to New Zealand in 1896 leaving behind a wife and child and a bizarre web of bigamy. He had married 18 year old Matilda Lankester in Hobart in January 1890 and they were together about four years. When he left her with one child, Matilda had to support herself. She never saw David again but heard that he had died. In 1894 she married Charles Hamer at Hobart. Sometime after marrying her Charles met David Thomas who accused him of having married his wife. Charles confronted Matilda but all he could get in reply was "Tut, Tut!" Charles continued to live with her and they had two children but by 1900 they had separated. Matilda placed an ad in the Mercury Hobart newspaper inquiring after the whereabouts of David Thomas which aroused suspicions as to whether her marriage to Charles was valid. At the resulting court case bigamy was proved - despite Matilda thinking when she married again that her first husband had died, this was not sufficient in law. In the meantime David Thomas, calling himself Alfred, had actually died, in the landslide at Karangahake, in June 1898. He was buried at Pukerimu cemetery, Paeroa.



The Kauaeranga Hall in 1923, when it was used a school. Photo: SUPPLIED

## Fair for historic hall

The Kauaeranga Valley Hall is holding a good old-fashioned fund-raising Country Fair on Saturday to celebrate the arrival of spring. And this year's fair promises to have even more activities and stalls than the last fair in 2021. Built by the Kauaeranga Valley settlers in 1902 and leased by the Department of Education for use as a school until 1943, the Kauaeranga Valley Hall is the focal centre of the vibrant Kauaeranga community. Valley residents have been preparing for the fair for many months. Inside the hall will be the Kauaeranga Café with a variety of food options and of course Kauaeranga's own Pinnacle

Coffee. Also in the hall will be the "Bring & Buy" tables with a large array of produce, baking, crafts and plants. There will be raffles and an ever-popular silent auction of goods and services donated by local residents, including artwork, B&B overnight stays, and trailer loads of firewood. It is hoped the fair will raise sufficient funds to further improve the hall and its surrounds, including improvements to the toilets and water supply. This will be a fun-filled event for all the family. Everyone is invited. **DETAILS: The Kauaeranga Hall Country Fair will start at the hall on Kauaeranga Valley Rd at 11am on October 1.**

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SPORTS

Big day out in Ngatea

Nearly 2000 students across Thames Valley headed to Ngatea Hockey Club armed with their hockey sticks for the annual Hockey Big Days Out from September 19 to 23. The event celebrated its 20th anniversary this year and Thames Valley Hockey Association chief executive Alison Ratcliffe said it had always been about introducing kids to hockey and sparking their interest to compete in the sport for years to come. Reporter **GORDON PREECE** headed along to the opening day to capture the action.



Ngatea Primary School student Luke Crawford gets ahead of the play.

Photos: GORDON PREECE



Ngatea Primary School student Courtney Ross gives her best.



Ngatea Primary School year 6 student Sole Barshai-Sherrock tries to get through the defence.



Black Sticks Casey Crowley and Alex Lukin with Mason Hanson, Harry Lang and Mieke Staudinger.



Kaihere School students James David-Mays and Alexa Kasey Jordan take a load off.



Kaihere School student Sophia Quilla.

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# Gardening

## No need to wait until Labour Weekend

While Labour Weekend is traditionally the time to start planting summer vegetable plants, we can start planting in early October. Daylight saving has begun therefore giving us more time in the garden. The temperatures have started to rise increasing growth rates of everything in the garden including the lawns.

### Vegetables

Once you have prepared your garden beds you can start planting your seedlings for the summer crops when available in your garden centres. Plant out all the longer growing and hardy vegetables such as main crop potatoes, carrots, beetroot, onions, lettuce, peas and lots of salad greens. Another sowing of broccoli before the arrival of the white butterfly. Try covering the brassicas that you have planted to prevent infestation. Beans – dwarf, climbing and scarlet runner – Early sowings can be made. Cabbages, parsnips and celery – Sow seedlings in well cultivated and fertilised soil. Cucumbers, zucchini, melons and pumpkin – Containers grown seeds can now be planted out from the middle of the month. Provide well composted cultivated soil and mulch



Plant out all the longer growing and hardy vegetables such as main crop potatoes, peas and lots of salad greens.

once planted. Eggplants, capsicum, tomatoes can be planted out towards the end of October once the soil warms. Garlic – Regular careful cultivation is required with the addition of a side dressing of a balanced fertiliser. New herbs planted now will establish in readiness for summer picking. Try parsley, sage, rosemary, thyme, rocket, marjoram, dill and chives. Herbs are so good to have in the garden to incorporate into

our meals and provide additional nutrition. Remember to incorporate plenty of compost, blood and bone and sheep pellets prior to new planting. This will give your new seedlings a head start. Vegetables ready for harvest – Asparagus, broad beans, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, leeks, lettuce, onion (spring), peas, potatoes, rhubarb, silverbeet, spinach and kale. Seeds to sow – Beans, cabbage, lettuce, spring onions, peas,

radishes, silverbeet, spinach and zucchini.

### Flower Garden

Bulbs and Perennials – Daffodils, jonquils and many others can be left undisturbed to naturalise in permanent growing positions. Where there is overcrowding, they can be lifted later in the season and replanted in Autumn. Remove all late winter, spring flowering annuals and add to the

compost. Dig in fresh compost, blood and bone and sheep pellets before planting your summer flowering annuals.

Roses - Earliest blooms start to appear. Bushes start to make rapid growth and constant watch must be kept so that protective measures may be taken at first sign of pest (aphids) and diseases.

### Fruits

Citrus – Fruits of most varieties will now have reached full maturity although tangelos will still improve if left on the tree until next month. Fertilise all fruit trees starting in early October. Passionfruit – Plant out young vines. A hot north facing sunny position is best suited to their growth. Strawberries – These are starting to flower well and the growth rate is increasing.

### Lawns

Rapid spring growth necessitates more frequent mowing.

### Compost Heap

Stimulate rapid breakdown of compost by adding additional garden lime and nitrogen fertiliser.

Enjoy your garden.

- Ngatea Garden Circle

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31 Plant above ground crops	October 2022 Moon Planting Calendar			1 Non planting Day	2 Non planting Day	
3 Plant above ground crops	4 Plant above ground crops	5 Non planting Day	6 Non planting Day	7 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	8 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	9 Non planting Day
10 Full Moon	11 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	12 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	13 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	14 Non planting Day	15 Non planting Day	16 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed
17 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	18 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	19 Non planting Day	20 Non planting Day	21 Non planting Day	22 Non planting Day	23 Non planting Day
24 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	25 New Moon	26 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	27 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	28 Non planting Day	29 Non planting Day	30 Plant above ground crops



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John McGill says Placemakers Thames does "the very best" for clients. Photo: GORDON PREECE

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Branch operator John McGill, who has held the role for 24 years, said Placemakers' 16 staff do "the very best" for retail and commercial clients, especially during recent periods of supply chain issues due to Covid-19.

"We've all been through the ups and downs of the whole thing and it's been testing for everybody and the builders themselves... but it looks like it's starting to improve slowly," he said.

"We're very well rounded, I think we've got a lot of expertise within our business, the Placemakers brand's been around for a long time."

John said he hoped to expand Placemakers' trade and retail supply.

"I think the industry itself would stand up for a period of time in terms of record house builds and in the Coromandel.

"We're very much seeing a lot of that where people from out of town come and build, especially on the eastern [Coromandel] border," he said.

**CONTACT: Placemakers Thames, 79 Kopu Rd, Monday to Friday 7am - 5pm, Saturday 8:30am to noon, Sunday closed, Ph 07 868 0130.**

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**Death Notice**

**Reddy; Colleen**

In loving memory of Colleen who passed 17/09/22. You will be dearly missed by family, friends & the wider community.

We were so lucky to have a woman of great nature in our lives to laugh with and create memories with - from childhood to adulthood. Auntie Colleen was never short of words - one of the things we loved most about her. However, as uncle Keith would always say 'Cheerio' Auntie Colleen. Forever in our hearts. May you rest in peace. Lots of love Lisa, Anne-Marie, Marie Gamble & Lionel.

**Church Notice**

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The Thames Valley Rugby Football Union Inc. is looking for a General Manager to lead the development of rugby in the region.

As the GM you will enjoy a varied role providing leadership to the organisation and will be responsible for the financial sustainability and strategic direction of the union. This will be through managing stakeholder relationships, growing participation and delivery of successful events. The office is based in Paeroa and requires the GM to be on site several days a week. There are numerous meetings after hours and a few Saturday game days which will require your attendance.

The successful candidate must demonstrate the following skills

- Success in a senior management role, having operated at this level for at least several years
- An ability to engage key stakeholders including clubs, community funders, sponsors, NZ Rugby, the Chiefs, local authorities, RSOs and other participants in our game
- Proven experience in building the capability of staff to achieve
- Strategic and business planning
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If you have what it takes and would like to join us to ensure rugby continues to play a vital part in the Thames Valley community then we want to hear from you.

**For a job description or applications please email [swampfoxes@xtra.co.nz](mailto:swampfoxes@xtra.co.nz)**

Please note all candidates must be legally entitled to work in New Zealand. As this role can involve working with children, we will be asking for a criminal convictions check.

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**For job description and application contact Rory 027 200 4413 Or [rory.v@pukepine.co.nz](mailto:rory.v@pukepine.co.nz)**

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Successful applicants will be required to pass a pre-employment medical including drug and alcohol screening



CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 1pm Monday

**Public Notices**

**AGM**

The Hikutaia 1G2B1 & 1C Trust  
Annual General Meeting will be held via  
Online ZOOM on the Ngāti Pū Facebook Page  
On Sunday the 16th October 2022 at 10am


**AGENDA**

- Karakia
- Notice of Motion to confirm the interim Chairperson Susan King as Chairperson of Hikutaia 1G2B1 & 1C Trust.
- Minutes of the AGM 20th February 2021.
- Correspondence.
- Finance Report.
- Chairperson Report
- Marae Building Committee Report
- Consider replacement of vacant trustee position.
- General Business

**Public Notices**

**Historic Kōpū Bridge Society AGM**

Saturday 8th October  
2022 at 2pm  
St Georges Church Hall  
MacKay St, Thames



**Public Notices**

**Te Hape 3A1B2 and Lot 5DPS 51540.**

**Hui.**

Date: 02/10/2022  
Venue: Paeahi Marae  
Agenda: Support Ahu Whenua Trust  
04/09/ 2021 to 27/08/2022  
Appraise and support Trust Deed  
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General: General

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SPORTS

Great win at Whiti

**HEARTLAND RUGBY**

After an entertaining 26-21 victory over North Otago at Whitianga, Thames Valley is well placed to be semi-finalists in the Meads Cup section of the Bunnings Warehouse Heartland Championship. The Swamp Foxes remain in third place on the points table and are now seven points clear of two teams in fourth place.

The Mercury Bay Rugby and Sports Club, well supported by its community, responded magnificently to the challenge of hosting the first ever first-class rugby match in Whitianga. Lyons Park was in excellent condition, the weather was perfect and the largest crowd in recent years to witness a Thames Valley match enjoyed a first rate game.



Mercury Bay Swampfoxes celebrate after the game, from left: Connor McVerry, Cody Muir and Trinity McQueen.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Both teams entered into the spirit of the occasion with the backs spinning the ball wide and the forwards joining in with some great support play. The defence of each side was also of a high standard and it took 24 minutes before the Thames Valley backs and forwards combined to enable Tayne Tupaea to score the first try of the match. There was no conversion but eight minutes later Cameron Dromgool was over for a try, which Todd Doolan converted. Down 0-12, the pressure was on North Otago and they responded with a try to Ben McCarthy, which he converted to make the half time score: Thames Valley 12 North Otago 7. Just after halftime, Harry Lafituanai made a brilliant break from inside his own half. The move was carried on by Lea Mau Fangufangu and Sam McCahon ended up scoring under the posts. Doolan converted to give the Swamp Foxes a 19-7 lead. This was extended to 26-7 when McCahon scored his second try which Doolan again converted. With nearly three quarters of the game gone, Thames Valley looked to be set for a convincing win but the pesky South Islanders had

different ideas. They attacked strongly and with less than ten minutes to go had scored two converted tries and closed the gap to 26-21. There was an air of apprehension in the crowd – could North Otago score a fourth converted try and steal the game? The answer was, no. Thames Valley are not called the Swamp Foxes for nothing and they used their guile to close the game down and secure their 26-21 victory.

The crowd roared their approval and were thrilled their provincial team had a win in their first ever match at Whitianga. After full time, the players spent a lot of time acknowledging the support of their fans with Mercury Bay team members Connor McVerry, Trinity McQueen and Cody Muir being much in demand.

Thames Valley play Poverty Bay at Gisborne next week before returning to Boyd Park. Te Aroha for their final round robin match against Horowhenua Kapiti on October 8.

The top five teams are: 1. South Canterbury, with 29 points; 2. Whanganui, 26; 3. Thames Valley, 25, 4. Mid Canterbury, 18; 5. North Otago, 18.

**Scott Simpson**

MP for Coromandel

**Contact me anytime**

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# SUDOKU

69

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

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

EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

69

Puzzles © The Puzzle Company  
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WARD	1	4	2	5	9	3	8	7	6
	7	5	8	6	2	4	1	3	9
	3	6	9	1	8	7	2	4	5
	6	3	5	2	1	9	7	8	4
	2	7	4	3	5	8	9	6	1
	9	8	1	7	4	6	3	5	2
	4	2	7	9	3	5	6	1	8
	5	1	6	8	7	2	4	9	3
	8	9	3	4	6	1	5	2	7

**HARD**

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

**MEDIUM**

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

## EASY

# JUMBO CROSSWORD

89

**ACROSS**

- 1** Coloured arch (7)  
**4** At the management's expense; free (2,3,5)  
**9** Wordy (7)  
**13** Financial institution (4)  
**14** Conviction (6)  
**15** Scientific study of plants (6)  
**16** Flier (7)  
**18** On the side of (3)  
**20** Solid ground (5,5)  
**21** Short amusing account (8)  
**22** Tag (5)  
**25** Fishing line weight (6)  
**26** Ill will (6)  
**28** South African antelope (9)  
**33** Cheeky (8)  
**34** Procession of vehicles travelling together (6)  
**35** Cutting tooth (7)  
**39** Postscript (8)  
**40** Not injured (6)  
**41** Biblical garden (4)  
**42** Trivial (5)  
**43** Soft and pulpy (5)  
**46** Having wide hips (5,2,3,4)  
**53** Horse (5)  
**56** Effervescent (5)  
**57** Invites (4)  
**58** Detective (6)  
**59** Reels (8)  
**62** Live longer than (7)  
**63** Explosive exhalation (6)  
**64** Dampness (8)

**67** Plan or trick to

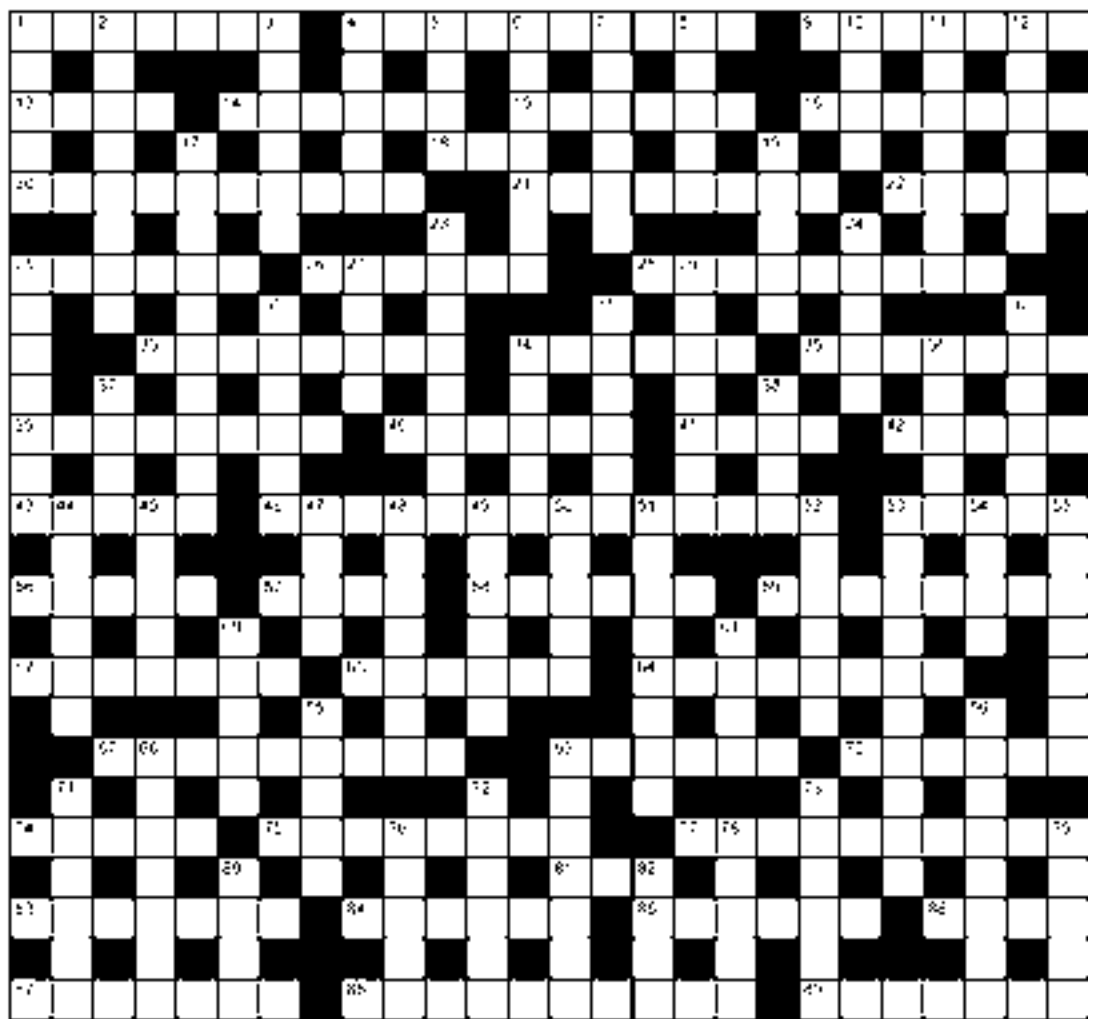
- 69 Motor fuel (6)  
70 Fierce (6)  
74 Desert green spot (5)  
75 Interrogate (8)  
77 Unruly (10)  
81 Wildebeest (3)  
83 Evolve (7)  
84 Fortified building (6)  
85 Indicates direction (6)  
86 Brink (4)  
87 Large amount of money (7)  
88 Self-willed, obstinate (10)

**DOWN**

- 1 Automaton (5)
- 2 In the dark about (8)
- 3 Cereal pest (6)
- 4 Poppy drug (5)
- 5 Minor quarrel (4)
- 6 Hug (7)
- 7 Beginning (6)
- 8 Church council (5)
- 10 The green-eyed monster (4)
- 11 Swaggering show of courage (7)
- 12 Exhibited (6)
- 17 Spending notes (5,5)
- 19 High-up room (5)
- 23 Concentrated on hearing something (8)
- 24 Sales representative (5)
- 25 Insulting witticism (7)
- 27 Skater's jump (4)
- 29 Saying (7)

### 30 Residential district

- 31 Grab (6)  
 32 Detest (6)  
 34 Butter-making machine (5)  
 36 Chemically unreactive (5)  
 37 Likelihood (4)  
 38 Second Greek letter (4)  
 44 Without equal or like (6)  
 45 Eye colour (5)  
 47 Baby's biscuit (4)  
 48 Non-attendance (7)  
 49 Foot part (6)  
 50 Subject (5)  
 51 Rough guess (8)  
 52 Change genetically (6)  
 53 Rich old man who keeps a young woman (5,5)  
 54 Large pitcher (4)  
 55 Argument (7)  
 60 Normal (5)  
 61 Grain store (4)  
 65 Monetary worth (5)  
 66 Dog breed (8)  
 68 Three-pronged spear (7)  
 69 Acrid (7)  
 71 Summerhouse (6)  
 72 Drooped (6)  
 73 Accommodation building (6)  
 76 Support for plant (5)  
 78 Cake topping (5)  
 79 Give in (5)  
 80 Connect (4)  
 82 As far as (2,2)



### PREVIOUS SOLUTION

**CROSS:** 1 Alien, 4 On the road to ruin, 14 Drake, 15 Steam, 16 Discovered, 17 Shone, 19 Ewe, 20 Panther, 21 Sleepwalk, 22 Senior, 25 About-turn, 27 Carrot, 28 Tissue, 33 Saccharine, 35 Tar, 36 Ginger, 37 Wand, 39 Din, 41 Prelude, 42 Safari, 43 Exclusive, 44 Femur, 45 Flagpole, 50 Of, 51 Headland, 55 Abhor, 58 Conundrum, 59 Defeat, 60 Statute, 61 Rye, 63 Skit, 64 Reward, 65 Rue, 66 Proprietor, 68 Mayhem, 69 Plucky, 71 Pseudonym, 76 Seldom, 77 Kilometre, 79 Unequal, 81 Rut, 84 Spade, 85 Bottleneck, 86 Banal, 87 Bulge, 88 Rooted to the spot, 89 Offer.

**DOWN:** 2 Lethal, 3 Exact, 5 Nail, 6 Heckler, 7 Review, 8 Arrow, 9 Toddler, 10 Risk, 11 Ironed, 12 Waver, 13 Referee, 14 Deficit, 18 Get-up-and-go, 23 Stein, 24 Founder, 26 Backlog, 27 Cardiff, 29 Stamina, 30 Barrel, 31 Atlas, 32 Rescue, 34 Edam, 36 Gnome, 38 Dread, 40 Fund, 45 Focus, 46 Annuity, 47 Pond, 48 Larder, 49 Shard, 50 Orderly, 52 Afternoons, 53 Lottery, 54 Nation, 55 Amiable, 56 After, 57 Gasp, 62 Rogue, 67 Recluse, 68 Microbe, 70 Climbed, 72 Shrinks, 73 Potato, 74 Health, 75 Vacate, 76 Stale, 78 Outdo, 80 Quaff, 82 Deft, 83 Echo.



# Interactive garden mural brightens reserve

By GORDON PREECE

It took ten years for the new garden-themed mural in Ngātea to sprout at Dudding Reserve.

The mural was painted by Thames-based artist Kylie Gunn with support from Positively Promoting the Plains, Creative Communities, and a private family donation.

Positively Promoting the Plains committee member Ann Clark told *The Profile* the vision for the mural was to draw more people to Ngātea.

“We did it so it brightened up the Dudding Reserve because at the time [Hauraki District Council] weren’t going to be putting any gardens in there,” she said.

“I took the bull by the horns and I decided myself [the garden theme] was how it’s going to be because we needed something to draw people to Ngātea to make them stop and take time in our town.”

Ann said the mural featured many interactive paintings of things found in gardens for children and adults to take photos in front of.

“As an adult you could put your hand underneath the Kea so the Kea’s on your hand, there’s a butterfly for adults, there’s a bike to stand by and a seat to sit on,” she said.

“For the kids there’s a but-



Dylan Thompson, left, Stella Loft, Maddison Brunt, Kalie Taaffe, Cruze Keane, and Patricia Te Uruti-Te Toko enjoy the new mural.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

terfly to stand in front of and a watering can and kite to hold on to.”

Ann said funding for the mural included \$2000 from Creative Communities, \$1500 from Positively Promoting the Plains

and a private donation.

The funds went towards the paint and the commission for Kylie to paint the mural.

Ann said she also planned to have the oak tree at Dudding Reserve lit up every month to

commemorate events, such as blue for Blue September and red for Anzac Day.

Kylie, who has painted six murals in Thames, said the Ngātea mural would “bring smiles to people’s faces”.

“I know the kids seem to like it and different ages as they walk past and I’m going to be painting a lot of ladybugs all over the wall as well so the pre-schoolers will be able to count them,” she said.

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