

Mayoral candidate denies Voices for Freedom link, P3

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086 September 7, 2022

'Urine' water plea

By GORDON PREECE

"Strong urine" coloured water has led Ngātea residents to have brown stains on their laundry and switch to bottled water.

Residents have complained to Hauraki District Council about the brown water from their taps in Ngātea and other Hauraki Plains homes in recent months, and are now demanding a long-term solution.

However, council says the water is safe to drink, and health and safety has never been an issue.

Ngātea resident Carole Rudd told *The Profile* there was "no way" she would've attempted to drink the "strong urine" coloured water.

"The council insists that it's drinkable but I don't want to try and drink a glass of water that looks like somebody's urine," she said.

"In the end I got fed up and I bought a water filter for the kitchen, but of course that doesn't affect the washing machine or the bathroom."

The retired primary school teacher said although council gave her "special" laundry powder, she had to throw away some of her towels after brown water left them stained after washing.

"I was angry because even though it was a couple of hand towels and a pillowcase and it didn't break the bank, I thought why should I have to do that because I've washed them?"

Carole believed brown water had been an ongoing problem in Ngātea for several years but this was the worst she had ever seen.

"It was like a third world country as far as I'm concerned, I may as well have walked down the road and tried to do my washing in the river. Since this incident, I've had to try and remember to

turn the water taps on in the laundry to check first before I do any washing."

Carole said she had brown water four or five times over the 10 years she'd lived there and always noticed other residents' complaints on social media.

"If somebody complains, [council] try and flush the pipes, and normally I've never bothered because it's Ngātea and you get brown water when it rains or when people do work on water pipes," she said.

"It's only when it got to this stage [in August] it was just too much - that [water] colour was beyond a joke."

Carole said she visited council with her complaint and a worker immediately visited her address to flush the water pipes in her home.

"Even [the worker] said it was the worst he'd ever seen, he couldn't understand why it had happened because we hadn't had heavy rain and there was no one working in the area.

"But then the council never rings you back and says we found out it was whatever and we've fixed it, I just wish the council would sort out the water-works."

Susan Goodwin, who also lives in Ngātea, said she was also left with stained items after brown water in her home in July, and she was also hesitant to drink it.

"We are now purchasing bottled water to drink and I have grandsons who come over and I won't let them have a bath," she said.

CONTINUED P2



"The council insists that it's drinkable, but I don't want to try and drink a glass of water that looks like somebody's urine.

- Carole Rudd

Carole Rudd's laundry is left stained from brown water even after washing with "special" laundry powder.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

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Residents seek solution to brown water

CONTINUED FROM P1

A council worker had previously visited her home to flush her pipes when she had brown water but she had no response from council after lodging her brown water complaint back in July, she said.

"When the council workers flushed the pipes, we had to turn on our tap, which is on our side of the metre, to flush the lines coming into the house," she said.

"We've done this on several occasions and the council worker has actually come out and put a flushline in now so we can do it ourselves but I really don't feel that it's up to us to rectify the matter. "I just wish the council would do something about it and at least admit there is a problem with what's coming through and get back to me with a resolution. Our water rates are very high on the Hauraki Plains and I think we deserve drinkable water."

Hauraki District Council told *The Profile* brown water was caused by high levels of manganese and iron in the water supply.

The water, collected from the Waihou River and Mangatarata Stream, is treated at the Kerepēhi and Waitakaruru water treatment plants. "Council does treat the raw water to remove as much manganese as possible, though some does make it into our pipes," council said.

"Due to the variable nature of the manganese and water use in the Plains, it can mean that we do have periods when manganese oxidises and causes the water to turn brown."

Council said while the brown



Hauraki Plains residents are complaining to Hauraki District Council about brown water staining their laundry. Pictured: Carole Rudd's towels were ruined after washing them in the brown water.

Photos: SUPPLIED



water is off-putting for many, the water was safe to drink and health and safety had never been an issue.

"Treated water gets tested every day before leaving the treatment plant and the quality needs to conform to the National Drinking Water Standards," council said.

"Our treatment plants are automated and will shut down if the

treated water does not meet with these standards for safe drinking water.

"The laundry powder is given to affected residents when requested for removing of stains. We are onto our third 20kg bag over the last eight to 10 years."

The Profile asked the council how many complaints it had re-

ceived about the brown water but council did not provide an answer.

Council said it was investigating long-term solutions to the brown water including replacing older pipes in the network, making improvements to treatment plants to remove more manganese and increasing its pipe-cleaning programme.



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Thames Tides

Wed Sep 7	Thu Sep 8	Fri Sep 9	Sat Sep 10	Sun Sep 11	Mon Sep 12	Tue Sep 13
 Morning 3:13am 3.2 4:08pm 3.3 Afternoon 9:38am 0.8 10:17pm 0.8 Best At 9:10am 9:41pm Set 4:24am Rise 2:00pm	 Morning 4:23am 3.2 5:12pm 3.5 Afternoon 10:48am 0.7 11:19pm 0.7 Best At 10:11am 10:40pm Set 5:14am Rise 3:15pm	 Morning 5:32am 3.3 6:09pm 3.6 Afternoon 11:49am 0.6 Best At 11:08am 11:35pm Set 5:54am Rise 4:30pm	 Morning 12:16am 0.5 12:43pm 0.4 Afternoon 6:34am 3.5 7:02pm 3.7 Best At 12:01pm Full Moon Set 6:29am Rise 5:43pm	 Morning 1:09am 0.4 1:32pm 0.4 Afternoon 7:28am 3.6 7:51pm 3.8 Best At 12:26am 12:51pm Set 6:58am Rise 6:53pm	 Morning 1:58am 0.3 2:18pm 0.3 Afternoon 8:18am 3.7 8:39pm 3.8 Best At 1:14am 1:38pm Set 7:26am Rise 8:01pm	 Morning 2:45am 0.3 3:03pm 0.4 Afternoon 9:03am 3.7 9:25pm 3.7 Best At 2:01am 2:24pm Set 7:52am Rise 9:07pm

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

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

Hart denies Voices for Freedom link

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

Mayor candidate Steve Hart denies being involved with Voices for Freedom despite saying on social media in November last year he was “active” with the advocacy network.

At a Meet the Candidates event in Thames on Saturday, Mr Hart was asked whether he was “actively involved” in Voices for Freedom, an organisation that aims to protect “all freedoms under attack from an overzealous and oppressive Covid-19 response”.

Mr Hart, who is the founder of The Ecologist Party, told the capacity crowd he wasn’t part of the group and the allegation was “probably just a media beat-up”.

This is despite his November 15, 2021, Facebook post on his mayoral candidate page that says: “I have become active in the ‘Voices for Freedom.co.nz’ network and facilitating face to face meetings to assist in creating solutions”.

When asked to clarify his stance by *The Profile* on Monday, Mr Hart said the operative word in his post was “network”.

“I involve myself in a wide range of networks to develop my professional information and research and data... and also, I’m a political animal; I’ve been involved in politics since I was at school, so I enjoy searching out and digging and digging all of these comments and views,” he said.

When asked if it was accurate to say Mr Hart supported Voices for Freedom, he said he did support “quite a lot of their comment”.



Steve Hart told the Meet the Candidates meeting he wasn’t affiliated with Voices for Freedom. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

The candidates event, hosted by the Thames Business Association on September 3, invited attendees to anonymously pose questions to the seven mayoral contenders.

One question read: “*Stuff* recently ran an article cautioning that supporters of Voices for Freedom are wanting to undermine democracy. Are any of the local candidates affiliated or receiving funding from Voices for Freedom?”

All seven mayoral candidates, including Mr Hart, Eric Carter, John Freer, Ron Julian, Peter Pinkham, Len Salt, and Cherie Staples – said they weren’t associ-

ated with the group.

A second question, directed solely at Mr Hart, was: “Steve, you’re running a slick campaign in the interest of transparency, why have you not then trumpeted your active involvement for Voices for Freedom?”

“Who says I am active in Voice for Freedom?” he asked, to which a member of the public replied: “You do”.

“This is probably just a media beat-up, so that’s a total false call,” he said.

“I’m active in a whole range of circles, actually, right across the board for political activism from a

range of areas... I do enjoy research and if we have a look at the Voices for Freedom website, there’s some phenomenal material there that certainly helps us support our own viewpoints on many things.

“I enjoy researching,” he continued. “It’s been part of my career path all my life, and just like any activity we need to go through in the future, we must research all that detail and get it correct.”

According to its website, Voices for Freedom is an organisation founded in December, 2020, with “a focus on protecting New Zealanders’ fundamental human rights: particularly freedom of

speech, health and medical freedom, and all freedoms under attack from an overzealous and oppressive Covid-19 response”.

A blog post on the site said the group was “encouraging people to participate in democracy”.

A “manifesto” on Mr Hart’s Ecologist Party website states: “we have been designed as slaves and locked into a world of slavery at every level to feed an elite. [The Ecologist Party] exposes this and offers the leadership to gain our own enriched freedoms”.

Also discussed at the Meet the Candidates meeting was the controversial council project ‘The Vibe’, which closed part Mary St to through traffic. Thames Community Board candidates were asked if they would reopen the road, if elected. Fiona Cameron said she liked the idea of the Vibe, but it was in the wrong location and Kara-Leah Grant said she wouldn’t open the street both ways.

Adrian Catran said The Vibe “cuts the town in half”.

“With regards to the Vibe, if that was [voted] the best street in New Zealand, I can only think of two things: one, it was self-nominated, or, it was the only entry,” he said.

“Of course The Vibe’s got to go. You can recreate a much better system anywhere else. That is [the poorest] example of urban landscaping I’ve ever seen.”

DETAILS: Voting documents will be sent to all enrolled voters starting from September 6. Voting day is on October 8, closing at midday.



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Aileen Lawrie's first month in top job

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

The culture of Thames-Coromandel District Council for the next three years will be set by those elected by the public this October, says its new chief executive.

Aileen Lawrie started in the top job at the council in August. She said it was the councillors, who will be chosen by voters in this year's local body elections, who had the important task of creating the culture and tone of the organisation.

"However they come together as a group will determine how that culture flows on down through the organisation. It's the key thing, actually, for a CE," she said.

Ms Lawrie moved to the district after spending 12 years as chief executive of Opōtiki District Council. Her experience in local government is vast: before Opōtiki, she was employed by Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Environment Canterbury, and said a common theme in all of her employment experiences was coastal planning. It was the same theme that attracted her to Thames-Coromandel.

"Where I came from, there wasn't a lot of resource in the system. I've come here and I've found there's resource, there's people, the community is amazing, and there's just more of everything here."

She said the Kōpū Marine Development was an exciting project - and before she took on the



Aileen Lawrie is the new chief executive of Thames-Coromandel District Council.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

role of chief executive, she had dredged out geological maps and learned about the history of the Peninsula.

When asked if relationship building between council and the public was important to her, she told *The Profile* it was.

"The thing about local government is it's really complex. People think about 'the council' as a single business, but it sort of isn't," she said.

"Depending how you want to slice and dice it, we're probably about 40 different businesses all

glued together, and I think we administer something like 123 acts of Parliament across our business, which all have different drivers and objectives and skill sets.

"That's what makes it so difficult for the public, because that's not obvious from the outside. They come in and interact with one of those businesses, and sometimes it can be at odds with other parts of the business, and the role of our management team and the organisation is to try to make that cohesive, which can be challenging."

Within the past three years, Thames-Coromandel District Council spent more than \$100,000 on a High Court case for its refusal to sign a national climate change declaration. It was recently called "a sham" by a member of the public for its decision to spend \$221,069 on land in Mary St.

When asked about transparency within the organisation, Ms Lawrie said there were rules councils needed to follow.

"When you go back and look at the 40 businesses we make up,

some of them have an absolute right to not be in the public arena. There are other things we do that absolutely should be in the public arena, and there's quite a challenge getting it right across those 40," she explained.

Ms Lawrie said the CEO was responsible for the council's agendas right up until the point they were in the hands of the elected members. Chief executives, she said, would always err on the side of caution when it came to public excluded items.

"My approach will be to play by the rules that the various legislations set for us, and they are not always easy," she said.

Outside of the political realm, Ms Lawrie has a musical background. In fact, her first leadership role was as the principal cornet player of the Marlborough College boy's brass band.

She has played in brass bands throughout New Zealand, was in the Air Force band, and in recent years, has played The Last Post at Anzac Day events.

One month into the role, she had "preliminary" goals for the rest of the year.

"We have to get a mayor elected, and an elected membership pool together, and the period of time through October to December is going to be really, really important," she said. "One, for me to pull together a cohesive team, and secondly, to start articulating visions for the future for Thames-Coromandel as a district."



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Walkathon to raise funds for youth

By GORDON PREECE

“Our rangatahi [youth] don’t walk alone” is one message organisers of an upcoming community fundraiser hope to deliver.

The newly formed Rangatahi Ora Hauraki is set to host a 24-hour walkathon at Rhodes Park in Thames on November 4 and 5 to raise funds for I Am Hope’s Gumboot Friday.

Rangatahi Ora Hauraki is a collaboration of Thames Kāhui Ako, Oranga Tamariki, Off Grid Native, Teen Esteem, Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki, CAPS Hauraki, Living Well Trust, Ngāti Maru Rūnanga, Te Whāriki and other agencies that support young people.

Event organiser and CAPS Hauraki youth worker Roanne Mitchell-Te Teira told *The Profile* Gumboot Friday was a nationwide event. “We just wanted to change it up this year and think outside the box and run a community event where we can all come together as services and work together,” she said.

“Teen suicide is something that we deal with in terms of rangatahi and we do have rangatahi who access those services.

“We’re just trying to help raise money so they can access those free counselling sessions through I Am Hope.”

Roanne said people could enter the drug and alcohol free event as individuals or teams with any koha (donation) and are required to walk for a minimum of two hours.



Organisers Jordan Palfrey, left, Lisa Barnett, Roanne Mitchell-Te Teira, Jacinda Karaitiana, Absalom Turua, and Tina Paki. Photo: GORDON PREECE

She also encouraged live entertainment to register for the event.

“On the Friday [November 4] between 10am and 3pm the focus is going to be on our rangatahi because we want them to come so we want to have a talent

quest, kapa haka, face painting and gumboot throwing,” she said.

“Into the early evening we want some more adults to come down and we want to have some live bands and raffles.

“We want to try and get every

business on board to donate prizes for us to raffle off because it’s a massive community event.”

Roanne said a 24-hour barbeque was also planned.

Details: 24-Hour Walkathon Community Fundraiser hosted by Rangatahi Ora Hauraki, Rhodes Park

Thames, November 4 at 10am to November 5 at 10am, individuals and teams can enter with any koha (donation), all proceeds going towards free youth counselling with I Am Hope, for more information or to enter contact: rangatahi.ora.hauraki@gmail.com.

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Court date deferred

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

The man charged with allegedly ram-raiding two Thames businesses last month did not show up to court because he was arrested again the day before his appearance.

The man, hailing from Auckland, was set to appear at Thames District Court on August 30, but community magistrate Ngaire Mascelle was told he was in custody at Manukau.

It is alleged that sometime between August 9 and 10, the man stole a car to the value of \$20,000.

On August 10, court documents state he entered Thames Jewellers and Sunburst Cafe on Pollen St, without authority and with intent to commit an imprisonable offence, which carries a maximum sentence of 10 years. The man is expected to reappear at Thames District Court in early October.

Meanwhile, a man and a woman pleaded guilty to separate charges of driving with excess breath alcohol.

The Thames District Court heard that on Sunday, July 31, Bradley Rogers was stopped by

Police while driving in Pipiroa, in the Hauraki Plains.

He had drunk three Steinlager beers at home, and was caught throwing the fourth drink out of the car window when signalled by Police.

According to his counsel, Rogers, whose breath test result was 448mcgs, made a "wrong decision" to leave home in search of his partner.

He was sentenced to six months' supervision, and ordered to attend and complete a drug and alcohol programme. He was also fined \$300 and disqualified from obtaining or holding a licence for six months.

On Thursday, August 4, around 9.25pm, Karen Hart went through a police checkpoint on Jellicoe Rd, Thames. She admitted to having six glasses of wine and had an excess breath alcohol level of 537mcg.

The court was told there was no driver fault identified, and that Hart regretted her decision to drive home that night. She was fined \$500 and disqualified from holding a licence for six months.



Help for 'urgent' new turf

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

Hauraki district councillors have agreed to continue their financial support of the Thames Valley Hockey Turf Society, with the granting of a \$156,726 contribution for refurbishment.

This will increase district rates by eight cents.

The commitment to the society stems back to 2005, when council resolved to financially support future artificial turf renewals for the trust.

At the time, it provided funding of \$200,000 - half of which was taken from council grants, the other half through annual rates funding.

This year, the society has been quoted a cost of \$829,095 to replace the turf, which it hopes will be majority-funded through the national Lottery Community Facilities Fund.

Society president Julie Stephenson told council that the resurfacing of the facility, located at the Hugh Hayward domain in Ngātea, was "urgent".

"Over the last few years, there has been an issue with the sub-base due to a build-up of fines which has caused a rippling effect on the top layer. This has become a significant safety issue to the point where neighbouring associations will not play on our turf, and we have been unable to host any regional or national games or tournaments.

"As there is no way to fix this without lifting the turf and shock-pad, the society has care-



Thames Valley Hockey is facing a \$829,000 bill to replace its turf.

File Photo: SUPPLIED

fully considered their options and have agreed to look at a different product for the resurfacing," she said.

The new turf chosen by the society is made from recycled rubber from old car tyres, and end-of-life plastic. These components are grounded down and refined into pellets which are then processed into a porous pavement.

Hauraki Mayor Toby Adams said it was "a shame" that the current turf had got to the stage where it couldn't attract regional or national tournaments, and said it was a "fantastic asset" to the community.

Plains ward councillor Ray

Broad also supported the project, and said that continuing with the funding "made sense".

According to a report, council has accumulated funds of \$156,726 for the replacement of the turf and councillors unanimously voted to utilise this money at its meeting on August 31.

Continuing support for the future meant there would be a slight impact on rates, with an increase of 8c per ratepayer under the district rate, and 28c per ratepayer under the ward rates, totalling \$18,000 per year.



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THE TRANSFORMATIONAL COMMITMENT OF THAMES COAST KIWI CARE

The work of the Thames Coast Kiwi Care (TCKC) group has been truly transformational to the area they operate in. Due to the work of its volunteers trapping mustelids (stoats, weasels, ferrets) along the Thames Coast, the kiwi population was saved from the brink of collapse. When the problem of dwindling kiwi numbers was identified in 2006 there were an estimated 28 remaining kiwi in the area. This number has now grown to an estimated 250 – a 15% average annual increase – thanks to the dedication of TCKC's volunteers.

The long-term commitment of the group's volunteers – some who have been clearing traps for 16 years – has seen more kiwi thriving across a wider area. It is an incredible achievement from a group that itself also continues to thrive. According to the group's chair, Moira Coatsworth, "we have achieved extraordinary results because of the extraordinary commitment of our volunteers". Some trappers have been with the group from the start and their dedication to the cause shows no signs of wavering, even 16 years down the track.

Part of the secret to the group's ongoing success is diversity. TCKC have a good mix of ages in the group, with the youngest two members being 19 and 21. These two young trappers, Tiana Smallfield and Collette Wise, were told about the group by a co-worker of Tiana's who was planning to join. When the co-worker pulled out, Tiana pulled in her mate Colette, knowing that their shared love of the outdoors would make them a good team.

Tiana says that their involvement is as simple as them hearing about what the group did, and wanting to help. Both love being in the bush but hadn't been sure who to approach about involvement in conservation. Colette and Tiana have now been with the group for about 18 months and already talk like grizzled trappers as Colette explains that nothing smells as bad as rotten hedgehog left in a sunny trap for a week in summer!

On top of time in the bush, Tiana and Colette love the chance to give back to the community. They also have a personal goal – both would love to one day be able to hear kiwi from their own backyards along the coast.

Fin Buchanan, a self-described 'DOC lifer', founded TCKC in 2006 with his wife Carol. Due to his involvement with the Moehau Kiwi Sanctuary and DOC, Fin was aware both that there were kiwi living along the Thames Coast and that their numbers throughout the

Coromandel and the rest of the country were perilously low. The Thames Coast Protection Society, originally formed to protect the area from mining, also took an interest in the problem, and helped to sow the idea of a group forming to save the national icon from the edge of extinction.

According to Fin, the first step was to call a public meeting to gauge interest from the community. When 60 people showed up to that meeting at the Tapu Hall, the next step was to form a steering committee and from there, says Fin, "the rest is history".

Fin credits the longevity of the group and its members to those coordinating the team. The first coordinator was his wife Carol, and Sheena Beaton now performs this crucial job. As Fin says, "you're not paying these volunteers, so you need to have someone who is really good with people looking after them." Having someone approachable, knowledgeable and organised who is at the centre of things gives the group someone to rotate around, and means the volunteers always feel up with the play and looked after.

Bob Carr has also been trapping since that meeting in 2006. Bob recalls the start of the group and how he wondered, will this make a difference? Sixteen years later, the signs of the change the group has wrought are all around him. Bob has heard kiwi calling closer and

closer to his house, and last summer he even found physical evidence of the birds. After snapping some shots of the probe holes he found, Sheena confirmed that yes, kiwi were now poking around right outside Bob's place!

Being involved for such a long time has given Bob a unique perspective on the success of the group. As well as the huge increase in native birdlife he has seen over this time, there have also been literal signposts along

the rocks at a beach where Little Blue Penguins once nested, and once while floundering at night, he was surprised to see by the light of his head torch a colony of rabbits munching on the seaweed exposed by low tide!

This awareness that there are still pests and predators out there has led to the group expanding its approach. Thanks to Natural Heritage funding from the Waikato Regional Council the group will soon double its impact.



Along with the support from their treasured volunteers (some pictured here) and supporters, TCKC acknowledges their major partners – Ngāti Tamaterā, DOC, Waikato Regional Council, WWF NZ/The Tindall Foundation and Save the Kiwi.

the way by which progress can be tracked. The new road signs warning drivers to look out for kiwi at night may seem like just another sign to most driving the Thames Coast, but these signs going up was like a public announcement of success: the group's trapping programme had worked so well that kiwi were now abundant enough to warrant a sign announcing their presence!

Of course, the mahi didn't end when the road signs were erected. Bob knows just how pernicious and persistent pests can be. During the first lockdown, Bob spotted a stoat slipping through

The funding, which amounts to \$270k over four years, will mean that the group can now also trap for rats and possums in their rohe which will improve conditions for all native flora and fauna in the area. Things will not only get even better for kiwi, but all other endemic birds and bush will also greatly benefit from this expanded trapping. You can expect to see many more signs, both literal and figurative, of the bird population growing in the area thanks to the indefatigable efforts of these extraordinary volunteers.

Article by: Carolyn Wadey-Barron
Photography by: Rachel Holmes Photography

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LEFT: iLOVE staff Josh McCarthy, left, and Paora Raharaha display their t-shirts.

ABOVE: Paul Bains with his toy animal barns which are part of his new business.

Photos: GORDON PREECE

New businesses present their services

By GORDON PREECE

Around 20 vendors gathered in the Paeroa War Memorial Hall on August 30 for the Eastern Waikato Rebel Business School Trade Show. The event aimed to intro-

duce new local businesses ways to develop through selling and promoting their products and services.

Paora Raharaha was one of the vendors with his new Paeroa-based t-shirt business called iLOVE and told *The*

Profile he intends to donate some of the profits to Mike King's charity I Am Hope.

"I love helping people, I've run ultra marathons and fundraise money for whoever needs it," he said.

"We're looking to set up an

online store through a website and at the moment we only have t-shirts but we'll look to get hoodies and other clothing."

Vendor Paul Bains said his new Waihi-based toy animal barn business called Kea

Play was developed from a weekend at a Paeroa bed and breakfast with his daughters.

"We couldn't ride the rail trail because it was raining so we built a toy stable out of cardboard and the owners of

CONTINUED P9

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CONTINUED FROM P8

the bed and breakfast gave us some medium-density fibre-board and hence the first stables were built," he said.

"People said they like them so we thought we would have a go at selling them and that's what we're doing, it's a bit of fun."

Rebel Business School chief kiwi Tony Henderson-Newport acknowledged the local businesses for attending the event.

"This is the first time the event's been held in this region. Our attendees here will form into our alumni programme and they'll join over 1000 graduates from around Aotearoa getting access to more tools and processes to support their businesses," he said.

"We're very grateful we've had the support of three different district councils to fund all of our attendees coming for free to learn how to build their businesses."



Rebel Business School chief kiwi Tony Henderson-Newport.



Paeroa-based Shed Cut Gifts owner John MacErlich.

Photos: GORDON PREECE



Paeroa-based Ruru Renata owner Colleen Renata.



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Rural Life



Pressure will increase on farmers' expenses if the district experiences a dry summer, Federated Farmers says.

Photo: File Photo: PIXABAY

Record high for farm expenses

By GORDON PREECE

Hauraki-Coromandel Federated Farmers hope “the gods play the game right” for the upcoming spring and summer seasons after farmers experienced the highest increase in farm expenses in nearly 30 years.

A Statistics New Zealand report released in August showed the June, 2022, quarter had the largest single quarter increases in the capital goods and farm expenses price indexes since 1993.

Statistics New Zealand business prices delivery manager James Mitchell said expenses for all farm types were 13.4 per cent higher on average com-

pared to the June, 2021, quarter.

Recent increases in fuel and fertiliser prices and interest rates had been significant factors contributing to the increase, Statistics NZ said.

Hauraki-Coromandel Federated Farmers president Robert Craw told *The Profile* pressures would increase on local farmers' expenses if the district experienced a dry summer.

“The cost of everything is increasing but what I suppose is alarming is the rate that it's increasing at the moment, that's a big concern,” he said.

“Recently fuel has been a major increase, it's cut back a little bit now but it hit a lot of guys when they didn't have any

“If we end up with another dry summer, that's going to put a lot more pressure on everyone's systems because we're already on the back foot.”

- Rob Craw

cash flow coming in, and fertiliser price has gone through the roof.

The district had an autumn drought which also played a role on farming expenses, resulting in farmers buying more feed and getting rid of stock, he said.

“If we end up with another dry summer, that's going to

put a lot more pressure on everyone's systems because we're already on the back foot.”

Mr Craw said compliance costs were also increasing for Hauraki-Coromandel farmers and said there needed to be more understanding of the issue by the government.

“Farmers are doing the best they can with what they've got and they're doing hugely advanced and beneficial things in the environmental space,” he said. “The government needs to recognise that and maybe back off from those bits so the extra costs are being landed on them.”

Mr Craw said Hauraki-Coromandel farmers were “re-hashing budgets” to combat

increasing costs but still remained mindful of farm productivity.

“Everyone's just going back to their budgets and just looking at where they can make little tweaks that might make the bottom line stack up right across the board,” he said.

“So far the Hauraki District has had a good spring and therefore there's not the need to use some of those fertiliser products to increase grass growth or to grow enough supplements to get them through the summer.

“Our future is still looking very bright and people need to keep reminding themselves of that, we'll come through on top.”

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Rural Life

New tool for farmers

Federated Farmers has released a new tool designed to help arable farmers understand their “true cost” of production to ensure continued financial viability.

The cost of production spreadsheet offers growers a unique tool with which to analyse all relevant costs associated with growing ryegrass and white clover seed crops and running the farm.

It even allows for a return on investment.

Its release coincides with a recent Foundation for Arable Research (FAR) gross margin analysis for ryegrass seed production.

That analysis showed a break-even result on seed production but a profit from associated lamb trading.

Federated Farmers Herbage Seed chair, John McCaw said herbage seed production was a risky business.

“Farmers deserve better than break even,” he said.

While the Federated Farmers spreadsheet includes lamb grazing income, McCaw concedes that not all arable farmers are willing or able to trade lambs.

“Grazing lambs requires capital, labour, and infrastructure quite separate to that of seed production,” he said.

“Having ryegrass in the system facilitates lamb grazing but this should not be used to justify a lower seed price to growers.”

While gross margins had their place, McCaw was concerned they were not the right tool in this instance.

“It’s all about the cost of production,” he said.

“Gross margin analysis is simplistic and useful only for considering one

crop option against another.

“Each crop must carry its fair share of the unseen cost of running a farm including wages of management, rates, insurance, and administration.”

Being able to allocate a share of all those other costs (approximately \$1300 per hectare) to an otherwise simple gross-margin assessment was a lightbulb moment for McCaw.

“I’ve been doing gross margins on our farm for 20 years, thinking I understood our cost of production. I wish I’d had this tool earlier - I think we would be farming very differently now if we had.”

McCaw suspects the plant breeders’ focus on herbage production has come at the cost of seed yield.

Later heading varieties often yield less seed and require additional water and fungicides. Yield gains have plateaued while grower prices have languished. “It’s been happening over many years but now production costs have risen steeply, and we have a ‘cost of living crisis’ in the herbage seed industry.”

“The extent to which prices must increase to return growers to profit is of concern to both growers and merchants. We need a reset not just an inflation adjustment. The question is how to achieve that without pricing ourselves out of the international market.”

“Rather than demanding a certain price per kilogram, Feds are looking to raise awareness of the ‘true cost’ of seed production.” The spreadsheet available at fedsnews.co.nz helps to achieve that aim by ensuring both sides have the information they need to make an informed decision.



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Rural Life

A cat's battle with hyperthyroidism

Hyperthyroidism is a condition that affects many older cats. Often the symptoms are subtle, with many being overlooked and associated with "old age". However, regular health checks and screening allow early detection, resulting in the best outcomes.

A client's story...

"Meet Dude. Two years ago, he was living at home with my family. Unfortunately, they had to move to a new house and couldn't take Dude with them, so he came to live with me.

When Dude moved in, he was 17 (that's equivalent to 84 in human years!). He was very talkative and had a good appetite, but even though I fed him a premium diet of quality food from the vets, he didn't seem to put any weight on – some might say this is lucky; he could eat what he wanted and not get overweight – but something wasn't adding up.

I decided to take him to Anexa Vets for a senior pet consult to check his overall health. The consult included a health check, and advice about his changing needs. A blood sample was also taken and tested to assess the health of his kidneys and thyroid, as it is very common for older cats to have diseases that affect these organs.

Thankfully, the clinic was able to test the bloods in-clinic. Not even 20 minutes later, we found out Dude had hyperthyroid disease (overactive thyroid hormones). It was great to have the results so quickly – it meant Dude's treatment could start ASAP and it was time efficient for us not having to bring him back a couple of days later.

While some hyperthyroid disease can be managed by putting the cat on a special diet or topical cream, the treatment plan chosen for Dude was daily medication. The prescribed tablets would help keep his thyroid working as it should. A second vet visit was booked a month later. At this visit, another blood sample was taken and tested to check if the medicine was working. Thankfully it was working perfectly.



Hyperthyroidism can affect older cats.

File Photo: PIXABAY

Dude now visits his vet every six months for blood tests to check if his medication needs adjustment and to see how his overall health is going. It has been nearly two years, and this plan is working well for us and Dude. Regular health checks, screening, a good diet and managing his medication well have been crucial to ensuring Dude's good health is maintained. It has also been great to have the support of Anexa's staff, I know they are only a phone call away if I need advice."

What are the symptoms of hyperthyroidism in cats?

In the beginning, this client didn't see many symptoms that led them to believe that Dude had this condition. But if you have a cat, especially if they are over seven years old – these are the signs you need to look out for: Sudden dramatic weight loss; Inappetence/eating too much and not gaining weight; Sunken in eyes; Dehydration; Low activity levels; Change in behaviour; Excessive drinking; Being extra vocal or talkative, especially around food.

Clinical signs can vary from pet to pet; they may show some or none. This is why yearly check ups and screening at your vets is important, especially when your pets are starting to get into their twilight years. The best outcomes are from early detection!

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ENTRY DEADLINE:

5pm, 14 September 2022

Terms & Conditions: The Competition is organised and run by the Department of Conservation (DOC) Whitianga & Hauraki Offices as part of Conservation Week 2022. Any questions in regard to the Competition should be directed to community.coromandel@doc.govt.nz. Submit photos in high quality as JPEG file. Minimum file size is 1MB, maximum file size is 10MB. Any persons in the photograph must give their consent for the image to be used in the competition in line with the conditions of entry. DOC retains the right to publish any image submitted for the Competition in electronic or printed promotional material at its cost. The photographer will retain copyright. The winning entries will be notified via email by Monday 19 September 2022 and feature in The Mercury Bay Informer & Hauraki Herald. Photos may also be displayed elsewhere. By entering the Competition, entrants grant DOC the right to display their entry, including their name, to the public in any manner. DOC reserves the right to exclude any person from participating in the Competition on reasonable grounds. By entering the Competition the participant accepts the terms and conditions. Disclaimer: The Promoters reserve the right to change the competition or any or all of the prizes at any time without notice. The Promoter reserves the right to amend, carry, extend or discontinue the Competition at any stage, for any reason. To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Promoter will not be liable for any loss or damage whatsoever (including but not limited to direct or consequential loss) or for personal injury as a result of Competition entry or winning of a prize. The information provided by each entrant is used by DOC Whitianga to sort applicants into the appropriate category, and contact applicants if they are selected as a winner. The information will be stored in a secure email address and deleted upon completion of the Competition. Details or entrants may be shared within DOC to arrange prizes or judging.

Is your older cat?

Old age? Maybe... but these symptoms indicate an underlying issue, many of which can be easily managed – ask about a senior pet consult.



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Luncheon reblooms

Daffodils adorned Paeroa RSA tables for a Daffodil Day fundraising luncheon on August 29. The event was attended by around 120 people and raised \$4200 for the Waikato/Bay of Plenty division of Cancer Society New Zealand so it could continue supporting people living with different cancers. Reporter **GORDON PREECE** headed along to capture the event.



Bev Sharp and Maggie Gribble took donations on the day.



Elaine Lally, left, and Kathleen Scratchan beam through the day.



Beverley and Bryan Major enjoy their time.



Trish Mayer, left, Lois Waugh, Sheryl Dymock with daffodil smiles.



Sonia Waterhouse, left, with Barbara Hargreaves.



Raywin Tuihy, left, Dianne Fenwick.

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- Rensha Bouwer

022 130 3885 | nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz **The Valley Profile**

Fears plague to hit Paeroa



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.

1892

The 'Black Death' (Bubonic plague) was possibly on its way to Paeroa.

A resident warned that it was rampant in Europe and parts of Asia and it was all very well to sit and read reports calmly, but the world was like a "ball of soap being washed smaller in the hands of time." Vessels came direct to New Zealand from Europe and how easy it would be for the Black Death, thought to be carried by fleas on rats, to come with them.

It was a wonder that some epidemic had not already visited Paeroa considering the state of its sanitation. Situated at the bottom of a gully, the town's water wells were perilously near cesspits, and the river was rapidly becoming a sewer.

The Waihi Gold mining Company's battery was lit with electric light for the first time. The apparatus worked smoothly and the light was a vast improvement on the old candle power. Building at Waihi was in full swing, carpenters were in demand, and the hammer and saw could be heard up to nine



A cartoon of the time shows a giant bubonic flea.

Photo: SUPPLIED

or ten o'clock most evenings. Bradley's new stable was quite an ornament to the township, and when lit up in the evenings on the arrival of the late coaches, it gave the town quite a lively and business-like appearance.

The Minister of Lands inspected the Piako swamp with a view to having it drained for settlement. A large portion of it had been acquired by the Government but local feeling was that the Minister took it for granted that the soil was similar to the swamps in the South Island, only requiring to be properly drained to be converted into rich and fertile country capable of producing heavy crops.

The Piako swamps however consisted of peat, from fifteen to forty feet deep, and even when the upper ten or fifteen feet were drained, the soil sunk to such an extent that the fall for the water was lost and nothing more could be done. Vast sums of money had been thrown at reclaiming other

swamps with notoriously disastrous results. Visitors to Te Aroha, travelling across the country by train, were familiar with the brown bare surface of the peat, growing nothing but moss, and apparently incapable of ever carrying anything else.

If the government really contemplated draining the Piako Swamps, the most searching inquiry must be made before Parliament was induced to devote a sum of public money to an undertaking which had been attempted by the largest capitalists in Auckland with such disappointing results.

At Thames Mr Quigley, while digging a hole at the corner of Albert and Queen Streets for a telephone pole, uncovered a Māori spade made out of puriri wood. It was embedded in the sand at a depth of seven feet and had evidently lain there for a number of years. The wood was in good condition but unfortunately the handle was broken in taking it out.

ENTERTAINMENT



Katherine Austin, left, and Maria Mo will visit Thames.

Photos: SUPPLIED

Pianists to perform

Two renown, accomplished pianists will perform in Thames on September 11, at St George's Church.

Pianists Katherine Austin and Maria Mo will perform as part of Thames Music Group's Sunday concerts, starting at 2pm.

Katherine Austin is an honorary fellow of the Institute of Registered Music Teachers of NZ (Hon-FIRMT) and Head of Piano Studies for the University of Waikato Conservatorium of Music. She is one of New Zealand's leading pianists and performs regularly around New Zealand and overseas, touring frequently for Chamber Music New Zealand, and broadcasting regularly on Radio New Zealand Concert.

Pianist of the Tennant-Austin Duo for the past 23 years, her work with the New Zealand Cham-

ber Soloists now occupies a large portion of her performing and concert life, with regular tours to Europe, the United Kingdom, Asia, North and South America, and Australia.

Maria Mo has performed in New Zealand, Australia, the United Kingdom, and across Europe as both solo recitalist and chamber musician.

She was associate artist at the 2014 Australian Cello Awards in Sydney, Australia, and guest artist at the 2010 Semaine Internationale de Piano festival in Blonay, Switzerland, as well as the Gesellschaft für Musiktheater in Vienna.

In December, 2018, Maria had the honour of being selected to perform for the South Korean President Moon Jae-In during his inaugural trip to New Zealand.

DETAILS: Tickets at the door.

/Richardsons

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It's time to call out the good we see in our teens

OPINION



By MICHAEL WILKES

Teenagers are getting a bad rap at the moment, locally we see the effects of ram raids and read about an assault in the mall.

At times you will hear the deep sigh and the question "what is wrong with this generation?"

We throw everyone together into the same group. Rebels without a cause. And yet our extreme generalisations are not helpful.

I am a youth worker at Living Well Trust. We run wellbeing programmes in local primary schools using adventure as well as providing presence-

based youth work in the local high school.

We are connecting with Tai-ohi (students) and journeying with them through the transition to high school and the years that follow.

And today I would simply love to say that the general feel to our youth is not true.

The reckless and bored few are not a reflection of the masses.

Currently I have a group of students trying to find an opportunity to give back.

The project they are hoping to achieve is to give some temporary art work in place of the plywood that covers our ram raided shops.

Their message is simple: others matter. They see the pain and the destruction caused and they want to do something to help.

When we give young people the time, the opportunity, when we trust them and support them, we get to see the best of them.

We need to change the narrative; we need to begin to speak life and encouragement to our young people.

Heck, we need to do it for each other. Our culture is one that is riddled with sarcasm, one that reflects the tall poppy syndrome.

We are quick to judge at times, to criticise and to shoot down.

We do it to each other and we all know the feeling of succeeding at something and then being pulled down by the very people we love. So maybe today

we can take a moment to speak and call out the good we see in our young people.

Encourage them in the talent, the skill, the character you see in them.

Because I bet for most of our young people; the good you see in them will not be how they see themselves.

- Michael Wilkes is a Living Well Trust youth worker

"We are quick to judge... to criticise and to shoot down.

We do it to each other and we all know the feeling of succeeding at something and then being pulled down by the very people we love.

- Michael Wilkes



Chris Lee, the Pastor of Thames Baptist Church Pastor Chris Lee collects some of the donations from Pak'nSave. Photo: SUPPLIED

Foodbank supported

Thames Foodbank has benefited from the Can Drive carried out by Pak'nSave recently.

This amounted to three trolley-loads of food for the food bank plus some cash donations.

Manager Caroline Talbot said the Foodbank supported people requiring food in the Thames and surrounding areas. Other foodbanks support people outside the area.

"With the rising cost of food, the use of the foodbank

is growing and it supports around 130 people a month – including families and singles," she said. "People using the Foodbank say: 'with the rising cost of food and petrol it is hard to make ends meet and we are so thankful that you are here to help'."

Shoppers can place donations in the foodbank box by the entrance of Pak'nSave, which also supports the foodbank. The Foodbank is run by Living Well Trust, based at Thames Baptist Church.

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Slide operator sentenced

The operators of an inflatable slide have been fined \$350,000 after its mammoth slide became overloaded and collapsed at the Whangamata Summer Festival in December, 2020.

JTK Trustees Ltd, trading as Fun Solutions, was sentenced at Waihi District Court on August 29.

A fine of \$350,000 was imposed, along with emotional harm reparations of \$40,000, and consequential loss reparations of \$12,958.

According to WorkSafe, the incident sent a dozen people, most of whom were children, falling from heights of up to 12 metres. One victim broke both his ankles and has required 11 surgeries, and was still at home recovering.

Witnesses said there were no rules displayed for riding the mammoth slide, no instructions were given, there were also no weight or age checks done, and there were no workers at the top of the slide at the time of its collapse. Afterwards, people who were on the slide were not evacuated effectively or safely.

Expert reports also found the slide was electrically unsafe, had air leaks via holes and seams, and poor anchoring.

WorkSafe, which has had 11 prior interactions with the

company, said its investigation concluded the slide did not comply with required standards, and the operators should have had safe systems in place for operating the slide.

In 2015, a JTK mammoth slide became overloaded and collapsed, injuring six children at the Masterton A&P show.

The director, Eric Gerritsen was fined \$115,000 for obstructing WorkSafe's investigation.

In 2016, a JTK slide collapsed at an event in Hamilton Gardens and 10 children fell about 10 metres.

In response, WorkSafe issued a directive letter, and Hamilton City Council later banned the company from operating at the site.

"On top of the latest incident, this company's safety record is extremely concerning", WorkSafe's area investigation manager Paul West said.

"When people are on an amusement device, they have an expectation their safety is being looked after by the operator. Most operators in Aotearoa are aware of this expectation and strive to meet it, but this business has had numerous failings which is unacceptable.

"For that reason, WorkSafe expects improvement from the operator and will take further action if necessary."



Some of the artists from Vessel Art Co-op stand outside their new gallery in Thames.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Art co-op moves next door

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

Eleven "environmentally-minded" artists have moved one step over into their new premises along Pollen St, Thames.

Vessel, which has been operating for just under a year, is now at 752 Pollen St, and metal artist John McKeown said the space had been good for "spurring" them on.

"We pretty much started in the middle of the pandemic, so we've

been toughing it out," he said. "We find [the co-op] has spurred us all on, making sure there's enough stock and variety in the gallery, and giving us the inspiration to lift our game."

John said since the cooperative first kicked off, they've become more established and now knew what they wanted out of it.

This included having pieces for sale within the gallery, and rotating through 'meet and greets' with each artist once a fortnight.

"The strength of our gallery

is our variety," he said. "We've got jewellers, potters, painters... something to offer for everybody, and we're all very community minded. We do it for the love of art."

John said they were always interested in hearing from more artists, and hoped Vessel would help transform Grahamstown into an arts and culture hub.

DETAILS: To enquire, find Vessel Art on Facebook.



New car awaits Waihi community patrol

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

The Waihi Community Patrol will be able to purchase a second-hand car, meaning members won't have to use their own vehicles when on the beat.

The patrol asked for a \$5,000 grant from Hauraki District Council which was approved unanimously last week.

The need for a new vehicle has come about after the sponsor of the patrol's current car, which has been with the group since 2014, needed to recall it.

Before the sponsor came on board, members used their own

cars, but Community Patrols Waikato Police district chair Allan Sole said the practice was no longer considered safe, due to some of the sensitive work patrols do, and the risk to patrolers' homes and families.

"The patrol is a group of volunteers who have to meet certain police vetting and training levels under an MOU [Memorandum of Understanding] between Community Patrols of New Zealand and New Zealand Police," he explained in a letter to Hauraki Mayor Toby Adams.

"Their work largely involves being out at night helping with the police crime prevention pro-

gramme for safer communities. This involves being eyes and ears for police, to protect people and property."

"This involves being eyes and ears for police, to protect people and property."

- Allan Sole

Mr Sole told council he had located a patrol car in Te Awamutu for sale. The car would come with reflective livery, a GPS, camera,

light bar, and built-in spot light. The Waihi patrol would have to install a police radio.

At its meeting on August 31, councillors voted unanimously to grant up to \$5,000 from the Waihi Ward Community Assistance Fund towards the purchase of the new patrol car.

Mayor Adams said an amount would also be contributed from his Mayoral Fund, in order to complete signwriting on the vehicle.

Councillors also agreed to provide a grant of \$420 towards the cost of hall hire for the Waihi Art and Street Festival, hosted by the local Lions Club.

The event will be held from midday Friday, January 27, 2023, to 5pm on January 29, with all profits going back to the local community.

Meanwhile, the Waihi Art Centre and Museum, which is working on a range of upgrades and enhancements, requested assistance towards the purchase of a projector.

The Waihi Ward Committee discussed the request and recommend that \$1000 be granted from the Waihi Ward Community Assistance Fund towards the costs.



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- Stan, That Painter



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SPORTS

Gym success for Thames girls

By GORDON PREECE

Two young girls' gymnastics teams were "ecstatic" and "super happy" with their results in the inaugural Thames Gymsports Team and Tumbling Competition on August 21.

The event, held at Thames Gymsports in Kōpū, saw intermediate and junior teams from Thames, Cambridge and Hamilton compete in tumbling, and Team Gym which featured the springboard vault, and choreographed dances with aerobics.

The Thames Titanium team, aged between 11 and 15, won first place in the team gym category for the intermediate division.

Spokesperson Paige Aitcheson told *The Profile* the team were "ecstatic" with its win.

"They had worked so hard for so long and especially with Covid-19 not being able to get to as many competitions," she said.

"So to finally host one in our own gym and the girls to be able to win that, they outskilled the other teams and they were wrapped."

Paige said Thames Supers team, who were aged between nine and 12, also won second in the team gym category for the junior division.

"They were super happy as well, they're all a little bit



Thames Titanium won first place in the Team Gym category.



Thames Supers won second place in their category.

Photos: SUPPLIED

younger with a little less skill and for a lot of them it's their first season doing Team Gym, so second place for them was big,"

she said. "Team Gym works to each individual gymnast's ability and everyone fits in somewhere."

BOOK REVIEWS



KAWAI: For Such a Time As This, by Monty Soutar (*Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Awa, Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki, Ngāti Kahungunu*) Respected Māori historian Monty Soutar turns his hand to historical fiction with the first novel of a trilogy spanning the 1700s right through to 2018. This epic historical adventure tells the story of pre-colonial Aotearoa New Zealand like it's never been told before. A young Māori man compelled to learn the stories of his ancestors, returns to his family marae on the east coast of the North Island to speak to his elderly grand-uncle, the keeper of the stories. What follows is the enthralling account of the young man's tipuna, the legendary warrior Kaitanga, after whom his marae's whare puni has been named.

ONE: SIMPLE ONE PAN WONDERS by Jamie Oliver



In our busy modern age where saving time and keeping things simple is highly valued, what could be better than a kitchen companion that provides 120 simple recipes that can be cooked in one pan! Whilst one pan recipe books are not new - in *One*, Jamie Oliver has delivered a great cookbook packed with budget-friendly dishes you can rustle up any time. *One* has everything from delicious work from home lunches to quick dinners the whole family will love; from meat-free options to meals that suit novice cooks.



UNDER A BIG SKY: Facing the elements on a New Zealand Farm by Tim Saunders

Author and farmer Tim Saunders writes about his life and work on the farm that's been in his family for five generations. He encompasses drought, farming during lockdown, illness, financial pressure and the drive to become more viable and environmentally friendly. Woven throughout is Tim's love of, and respect for, the land, animals and the environment. He describes how farming is intertwined with the weather, how the weather has changed, how the changes affect farmers and what they are doing to counteract this.

DARK MUSIC by David Lagercrantz



From the bestselling author of *The Girl in the Spider's Web*, *Dark Music* is book one of a new series which is a modern Swedish crime-thriller take inspired by Conan Doyle's famous duo of Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson. A murder investigation brings together two unlikely allies in a race to uncover a shadowy international conspiracy. Translated from Swedish by Ian Giles.

- Book reviews by Carson's Bookshop



2022 BUNNINGS WAREHOUSE HEARTLAND CHAMPIONSHIP

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Gates open at 11.30am

12pm

Women - Thames Valley Vixens vs Wairarapa Bush
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Field 2

Thames Valley Emerging XV vs Waikato Divisional XV
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Thames Valley Swampfoxes vs Wairarapa Bush

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As a rural Iwi-based, not-for-profit incorporated society, Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki continues to provide comprehensive kaupapa driven hauora (health and wellness) services across the Pare Hauraki rohe.

Its drive to respond to the health and wellbeing needs of whānau Māori, achieve better health and wellbeing outcomes for Hauraki whānui, and its commitment to delivering quality affordable hauora services has seen Te Korowai making some progressive changes with its community-based locations.

The recent relocation of its Paeroa Whānau Health Centre, into a fit-for-purpose building at 15 Princes St, Paeroa, was opened on August 29.

This is a direct response to the whakaaro voiced by whānau Māori in Hauraki, seeking more accessible services for their whānau. In addition to its Paeroa site, Te Korowai also has Whānau Health Centres located in Thames at the Thames Hospital Clinical Centre, Coromandel, Whitianga and Te Aroha.

In 2022, Pito Hauora, as a prevention and screening services hub, was opened and operates from one of several buildings owned by Te Korowai on Richmond St, Thames. This hub



A dawn blessing was held at Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki's new Paeroa Whānau Health Centre in Princes St. Photo: SUPPLIED

hosts a wide range of services, such as Breast Screening, Cervical Screening and Winter Wellness vaccinations accessible to all whānau (people/families) from across the Thames, Coromandel and Hauraki districts - regardless of enrolment status.

The presence of Te Korowai Mobile Whānau Health Clinics moving around the various communities and currently offering a range of available vaccinations,

is but one of the many other proactive and equitable services offered by Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki.

Te Korowai Clinical Director, Dr Martin Mikaere, says "the focus point for Te Korowai is ensuring the same access to care and the same quality experience for Māori, leading to provision of great service across the Pare Hauraki area" - Mō tātou o Hauraki.

Meet our newest team member at Health Ngatea, Physician Associate Chris Daugherty PA-C, MPAS.

Who is Chris?

Chris is a Physician Associate (PA-C). He has recently moved here with his wife and son from Colorado, United States.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in Biological Science and a Masters degree in Physician Assistant Studies. He is nationally certified (the "C" in PA-C) through the NCCPA in the United States.

Chris was previously a Physician Associate in Pediatric Neurosurgery for a little over three years and General Family Medicine for the last five years.

What is a Physician Associate?

Physician associates are highly trained healthcare professionals who work as a part of the medical team.

PAs are trained under the medical model like doctors and are hired to work as an extension of a doctor under the doctor's delegation.

They have existed in the United States since the mid-1960s and are currently working and being trained all over the world.

PAs typically obtain medical histories, perform examinations and procedures, diagnose illnesses, prescribe medication, order and interpret diagnostic tests, refer patients to specialists as required and first or second assist in surgery.

Because New Zealand is in the early stages of registering PAs as



Chris Daugherty is Health Ngatea's newest team member.

a medical profession here, there will be limitations on their scope of practice.

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SPORTS

Victory for Valley in captain's 50th match

HEARTLAND RUGBY

Last Saturday, captain Connor McVerry led the Swamp Foxes on to the Taumarunui Domain, ready to take on the King Country Rams, in his fiftieth game for Thames Valley - and what a contest it turned out to be with both sides scoring three tries in a very even match.

The difference was Todd Doolan's two conversions which resulted in a 19-15 victory for the Valley. There was satisfaction for McVerry to win in his fiftieth appearance but also disappointment that it was not a more convincing, as one more try would have given his team a vital bonus point.

The game was played in light rain throughout resulting in a greasy and slippery surface. Thames Valley got off to the best possible start and led 14-0 at the end of the first quarter.

Lalea Mau Fangufangu and Todd Doolan scored tries, both of which Doolan converted.

King Country then had a long period on attack with the Swamp Foxes defending stoutly before the Rams were rewarded with the first of their three unconverted tries. Doolan responded by demonstrating great speed to cut through the defence. An attacking lineout followed and Lea Mau Fangufangu scored his second try. With no conversion, Thames Valley went into the half time break leading 19-5. A completely different King Country team came out to play in the second half.

They displayed more vigour and determination in all phases of play and kept Thames Valley from mounting dangerous attacks.

The home team are not named the Rams for nothing. They consistently held the ball in tight as they bashed and battered their way towards their opponents' line.



Connor McVerry receives an engraved tankard from Matt Bartleet. Photo: SUPPLIED

They gained two more tries and in the final minutes had narrowed the gap to four points but the Valley prevented any further scoring and retained the Centurions' cup.

The win places Thames Valley equal third with North Otago and Buller in the Bunnings Heartland Championship.

These teams sit on ten points, with Whanganui in first place (15 points) and South Canterbury second (14 points).

After the match, presentations were made to Connor to mark his fifty games.

Coach Matt Bartleet paid tribute to Connor and stated that he was a key player in the resurgence of Thames Valley rugby in recent years. Connor was also named as Thames Valley's player of the day.

On Saturday, Thames Valley will play for their third trophy in a row. The Presidents' Cup will be at stake when they meet Wairarapa Bush at Te Aroha. Kick-off is at 2pm.



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Photo: SUPPLIED

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Caravan Club rally at Kaihere

Kaihere School students “relished” the opportunity for a visit from the Akarana Caravan Club last month.

The club called into the Hauraki school on a Friday and stayed until Sunday, where they performed a story called *Tubby the Tuba*, and interacted with the students.

“We have a beautiful school, supportive community, and a fantastic group of students, and relish any opportunity to share that with our school, local, and wider community, so when the Akarana Caravan Club asked if they could hold a rally here at school we jumped at the chance,” principal Richard Reid said.

“With the help of parents, staff and students were able to put on afternoon tea, dinner, and pudding. Our guests very generously made a donation of \$710 to the school for this.”

Mr Reid said many of the children had not seen or heard a tuba or piano accordion before in person, so they “really enjoyed”

the *Tubby the Tuba* performance.

“Others also really enjoyed chatting with our guests and having a look inside their caravans and motorhomes.”

Mr Reid said the donation from the club would be used to further enrich learning and experience opportunities for students.

“As much as the Akarana Caravan Club members would like to return to our precious little school, we look forward to welcoming them back in the future.”

The Akarana Caravan Club told the school the Kaihere weekend came with a “welcome to remember”.

“The highlight was meeting your super-friendly, very articulate students, who were keen to check out our caravans and motorhomes and show us around their school.

“We loved hearing about their learning and exploring the playgrounds, bee hives, hen house, gardens and the bush walk,” they said.

“Thank you for your hospitality.”

Rebel with a Cause

John McKeowen is a bit of a rough diamond, but also a social justice warrior - a rebel with a cause. He passionately cares for young people in his job as assistant caretaker for Thames High School (THS), a job which he has done since 2019. This is why he is running for the THS board.

John will bring fresh perspectives to the board. As groundsman, he says, “I have a unique position in the school because I’m not in a position of authority. Young people are open with me. All day, every day I get feedback from both students and teachers.”

“I can act as a conduit for other board members. I am a listener. I can provide a voice to the people who don’t usually speak out.”

“I try to understand everyone’s position. Get every angle and then go for agreement and resolution. What’s important for all young people is stability, consistency and respect.”

As a solo father, John wants THS to be the place where his son Keenan (7) will be able to thrive. “When

Keenan leaves high school, I want him to be able to think for himself, have practical skills and get on with people so he is ready for the world.”

Neighbour and friend, Donna Fry, nominated John to be a parent representative on the board because

“my daughter goes to Thames High and I want the best for her.”

“What I know is that the teachers talk to John. The students talk to John. Everyone talks to him and the students respect him. And because he interacts with everyone, he knows what’s going on and can put forward solutions which are best for the school.”

“I’m really happy to have John at school because I know when things go down, John will provide a safety net.”

Tree hugger and petrol head, these



John, Keenan, Chloe and the Hemi

threads run through John’s working life: deep sea fisherman, forester, arborist, builder, CYPFS truancy officer, scrap metal recycler, DOC island caretaker (Raoul, Stephens, Little Barrier, and Kauwau), site manager at the Seagull Centre, community volunteer (President of Steampunk the Thames, President of Totally Thames Inc., Vice President of Bella Street Pump House), VETEL instructor and large heavy metal artist.

“I’m passionate about riding my motorcycle and planting trees. I like fixing stuff. I like making stuff.” **John**

McKeowen is a person who gets things done. He is happy for you to contact or text him on 021 063 5483.

Please note

VOTING CLOSSES TOMORROW, 4pm Wednesday 7 September.


If you did not receive the electronic voting instructions from Thames High School in the email to eligible voters on Wednesday 10 August, please cast your vote for John at the office.

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"At Hauraki District Council ... it's more than just a job!"



Paeroa Christian School students rehearse. INSET: Rohan Tuivavalagi. Photos: GORDON PREECE

Students set to burst into song

By GORDON PREECE

More than 70 local students will ignite the Paeroa War Memorial Hall stage on September 14 for a performance as part of a new initiative.

The Paeroa Music Project was tuned by music teacher Roshan Tuivavalagi in May after Paeroa Christian School received \$16,000 from the Ministry of Education Creatives in Schools funding scheme.

Roshan, who previously taught music at Paeroa Christian School, told *The Profile* her involvement with the Auckland Primary Principals' Association (APPA) music festival as a primary school pupil amped her to put a proposal forward for the project.

"The festival was so foundational in terms of the experience of how positive it was

being involved in music," she said. "I wanted to create the same opportunities for kids in Paeroa because I've been here for six years and nothing like that has happened in our community on a regular basis.

"I believe every child has a voice and if there's a willingness, they were welcome to join, it was definitely not based on their ability, it was more about their enthusiasm."

Roshan said the participating students were years four to eight and attended Paeroa Christian, Paeroa Central, Miller Avenue, St Joseph's Catholic, Hikutaia and Karangahake schools.

"The students have learnt choral singing, waiata and popular songs they know," she said. "It's exciting for them and from the combined rehearsals you get a sense they're all startled

by how they sound together because for a lot of them it's their first time being involved and contributing to a musical experience at this level.

"The hope is that this becomes an annual initiative for our region and help raise the profile of the arts and give the children who probably have a positive experience with music an idea of the opportunities they have to take it further."

Roshan said the Paeroa Music Project concert would take place at Paeroa War Memorial Hall from 6pm to 8pm on September 14.

"It's primarily for whanau of the children participating, however extra tickets may be available at the participating schools," she said.

Two acts from Waihi College are also expected to perform at the concert.

WI makes donations to Foodbank

The August Meeting of the Goldfields Women's Institute commenced with the Aspiration and Prayer. Thoughts were given to Carol Cresswell who had recently passed away. Carol was a great member as well as serving of the current committee.

The Motto for the month – "Love, trust, friendliness and courage are some of the lessons a mother teaches you" was read by associate member, Colleen Schnuriger. Our good deed was for the Foodbank, of which 25 items were delivered to them. The roll was Sing, Say or Pay \$1. The members were in fits of laughter from some of the poems etc, and then Dot McHardy read a most beautiful poem that Carol Cresswell had written for us, something that we will all cherish. During the month of July, 20 items of rugs and twiddlemuffs were delivered to the Tararu Rest Home, 240 items of prem baby knitting to the newborn unit at Waikato Hospital and 36 toys to St John Ambulance for the children to comfort them when they are in their care. Arrangements were made for us to look after all the kitchen needs for the volunteers on Daffodil Day on August 26.

This has been done for many years, which we know is much appreciated. Arrangements were also made for the upcoming Federation Bi Annual Meeting on September 6. Raffles were won by Bev Schenkel, Sue Fah and Val Bowen. August

is usually our soup lunch, but we decided to have a change this year, and we bought pizzas from Pizza Hut which everyone enjoyed. Unfortunately, as we went out for lunch in June for our birthday, and then we were unable to hold our July Meeting due to Covid isolation, Helen Udy finally presented her report from the 101st New Zealand Federation AGM/Conference. COMPETITIONS: BLOOM: 1st Sue Fah, 2nd Helen Udy. CLUSTER: 1st Sue Fah, 2nd Helen Udy. SHRUB: 1st Helen Udy, 2nd Sue Fah. ORCHID: 1st Sue Fah.

WAIHI
The Waihi Women's Institute, in conjunction with Waihi Beach Institute, held a Group Day in August. The theme for the day was "Around the World in eighty Minutes". Members brought along mementos of their travels and gave a short talk about them. We certainly have some well travelled members. Our guest speaker, Sherelle Lincoln, shared her experiences regarding travelling and gave us many a tip regarding the navigation of airports (especially if travelling on your own,) what to pack, and some dos and don'ts to make your experience memorable.

A couple quizzes and some games of Bingo were also enjoyed by all. Lynne Maguire was our speaker at our August meeting, giving us an insight into the art of patchwork and showing us examples of the many quilts she has made. Members took

part in the various competitions, with the winning items to be entered in the Thames Hauraki Federations Bi-Annual competitions to be held in September.

KEREPEHI
President Elaine Jolliffe welcomed five members to the Kerepehi Women's Institute's August meeting. We didn't get started until noon as there was a problem with the alarm going off. Apology from Marion Van Eyk, who had supplied our raffle and our thought for the month. Bev Adamson won the raffle. Our birthday lady was Carolyn Giles, and she had her pick from the birthday bag.

The council meeting was September 2 and was discussed as we are on morning tea. After lunch we had a talk on what we had brought along, our hobbies we had collected.

Elaine has elephants, Bev diamond art pictures she had done, Carolyn teddy bears, Debbie souvenir teaspoons, Jan had red glass ornaments and Kris cats. COMPETITIONS: Sundress: 1st Bev Adamson; Pickle: 1st Marion 2nd Jan Edmonds; Flowers Bloom: 1st Elaine Jolliffe 2nd Bev Adamson 3rd Jan Edmonds. Spike: 1st Jan Edmonds 2nd Bev Adamson 3rd Elaine Jolliffe. Shrub: 1st Elaine Jolliffe 2nd Jan Edmonds 3rd Bev Adamson. Vegetable: 1st Jan Edmonds 2nd Carolyn Giles. Herb: 1st Elaine Jolliffe 2nd Jan Edmonds 3rd Carolyn Giles. Next meeting in Bowling Club September 9.



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HARD

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4	8	1	5	2	9	7	3	6

EASY

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ACROSS

1 Haunt of wrongdoers (3,2,8)

8 Bricklayer's slurry (6)

14 Lively dance (5)

15 Duteous (8)

16 Gun ammunition (7)

17 Steam bath (5)

18 Capture (3)

19 He was duped by Brer Rabbit (4,3)

21 Narrow escape from disaster (5,4)

22 Argue (6)

25 Make amends for loss, injury (10)

27 Serene (8)

28 Gentle breeze (6)

31 Automatic reaction (6)

33 Gemstone (7)

34 Underneath part (6)

35 Stringed instrument (4)

37 Ailing (3)

39 Ballad (4)

40 Coincide partially (7)

41 Australian parrot (9)

42 Thick dark brown syrup (7)

43 Mesmerism (8)

48 Sledge (8)

52 Lawlessness (7)

56 Put into bank account (9)

57 Place of study, training (7)

58 Principal (4)

59 Possess (3)

60 Befoul (4)

61 Activity (6)

62 Student (7)

63 Source (6)

65 Volcano opening (6)

66 Bread factories (8)

68 Passing (10)

71 Helix (6)

72 Charming, enchanting (9)

74 Author's initial payment (7)

76 Reduce (3)

79 Merge (5)

80 Gathering together of livestock (7)

81 Easy conquest (8)

83 Gains by work (5)

84 Secretly follow (6)

85 Eager; full of enthusiasm (4,2,7)

DOWN

2 Trade ban (7)

3 Sequence (5)

4 Frozen water (3)

5 Ninth Greek letter (4)

6 Beyond belief (12)

7 Speaks (5)

8 German white wine (7)

9 Foolhardy (4)

10 Good luck charm (6)

11 Carpenter's tool (5)

12 Anchorage (7)

13 Goods for sale (11)

14 Universal remedy (7)

20 Objectionable, extremely unpleasant (9)

23 Hairlessness (8)

24 Judge, magistrate (7)

26 Many-sided figure (7)

27 On time (6)

29 Title (7)

30 Blanket-like cloak (6)

32 Hard dark wood (5)

34 Clog (5)

36 Power cable tower (5)

38 Mexican dish (4)

43 Underworld (5)

44 Red condiment (7)

45 Eject (4)

46 Whole (6)

47 Breakfast meat (5)

48 Hypotheses (8)

49 Refused to trade with (9)

50 Publicity-attracting contrivance (7)

51 Defence of being elsewhere (5)

52 Naval officer (7)

53 Strikingly visible (11)

54 Sailboats (6)

55 Writing instrument (9,3)

64 Monotonous (7)

65 Firework (7)

67 Facial hair (7)

69 Atomic (7)

70 Diocese subdivision (6)

71 Long-legged bird (5)

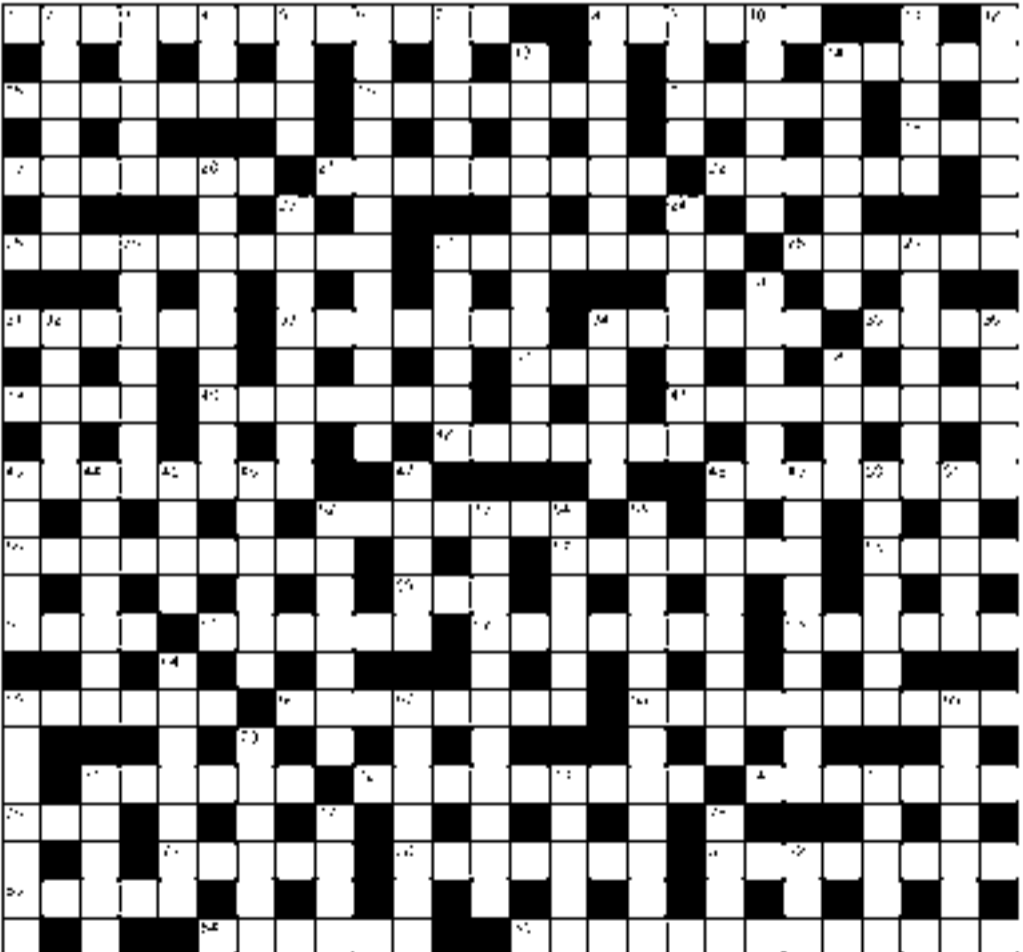
73 Shelf (5)

75 Approximately (5)

77 Honey drink (4)

78 Musical work (4)

82 Former French coin (3)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Put in a good word for, 10 Scimitar, 15 Estate, 16 Asphyxiate, 17 Farthing, 19 Reverse, 21 Rebel, 22 Dog eat dog, 25 Uppermost, 27 Capable, 29 Boards, 33 Sloop, 34 Sri Lanka, 36 Identified, 39 New, 41 Inspid, 42 Abroad, 43 Ounces, 44 Afar, 45 Scholar, 48 Salmonella, 53 Sampled, 57 Urge, 58 Upturn, 59 Income, 60 Colonel, 62 Tin, 64 Fraudulent, 65 Overseer, 66 Hedge, 69 Stable, 70 Defrost, 71 Cataclysm, 76 Recovered, 77 Extol, 78 Red tape, 83 Elevated, 84 Illuminate, 85 Debtor, 86 Disperse, 87 Benefit of the doubt.

DOWN: 2 Unseen, 3 Irate, 4 Ale, 5 Oval, 6 Depress, 7 Oxygen, 8 Dais, 9 Optional, 11 Crafty, 12 Metropolis, 13 Trio, 14 Regrets, 18 Belladonna, 20 Shed, 23 Smart, 24 Fruitful, 26 Proviso, 28 Abandon, 30 Clinic, 31 Inform, 32 Angers, 35 Libya, 37 Dared, 38 Diva, 40 Wool, 45 Snuff, 46 Hogmanay, 47 Ripple, 48 Squandered, 49 Lint, 50 Ominous, 51 Exceed, 52 Limbs, 54 Agog, 55 Prowess, 56 Energy, 61 Adulterate, 63 Delay, 67 True-blue, 68 Flee, 69 Succeed, 72 Avocado, 73 Lovers, 74 XXVIII, 75 Aplomb, 79 Taboo, 80 Mess, 81 Mute, 82 Felt, 85 Dye.

ENTERTAINMENT

Thames playwright making ‘magic happen’

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

Playwright Kristina Walton wrote her new show *Legacy* for a cast of 13, but after witnessing so many “gems” at auditions, the story was rewritten to make room for eight more.

All 21 actors will now perform *Legacy* at the Tararu Arts Centre this month, and Kristina has promised no more changes in the weeks before opening night. But being able to adjust the script on the fly was probably the biggest advantage to being the playwright and director, she said.

“Sometimes magic just happens,” she told *The Profile*. “People get on-stage together and they look really good, so you want to make the most of it, and I’ve got the ability to come home and add or change. But it’s very frustrating for the actors, I’m sure.”

Legacy follows in the footsteps of Kristina’s original piece, *The Manbox*, which was written before the first Covid-19 lockdown and also performed by Thames Music and Drama.

It tells the story of Doug, played by Thames High School teacher Ewan Grant Mackie, who “ends as miserable as he starts” amid winning \$23 million.

His children can’t stand him, he is fighting with his neighbours, and he has no friends.

Summed up, Ewan’s character was an unlikeable lead. “But unfortunately, Ewan is so good that I still like him even though he is awful,” Kristina said. “I don’t redeem [the character] in any way, I’m more of a pragmatist, and I don’t think people tend to change a great deal.”

Kristina, who lives in the Kauaeranga Valley, started writing plays when she was working at Huntly College. As a “brand new” teacher, she had no budget to buy a play, so she decided to write one.

She taught at Thames High until 2017, and she wrote the school plays there, too.

Legacy was written at her mother’s bedside while she was recovering from an operation in hospital, and Kristina said it



On stage will be a mixture of familiar faces and some actors new to Thames Music and Drama. INSET: Director and playwright Kristina Walton. Photos: SUPPLIED

was nice to reconnect with community theatre.

“In Thames, particularly, there is not a lot that happens where you can go and be entertained, so I think it’s really nice to go and support the people that are trying to make that hap-

pen for you. Our cast is incredible. They are really well worth seeing.”

Joining Ewan Grant Mackie on stage will be a mixture of experienced, familiar faces, and some actors new to Thames Music and Drama, she said.

DETAILS: *Legacy* will be performed in the Tararu Arts Centre from September 17-24. Seating is limited, so people are encouraged to get their tickets early from www.thamesmad.co.



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