

Special Olympics torch run ignites excitement for games, P3

The Valley Profile

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626 Pollen Street 07 868 6124

ISSN 2703-5700

NUMBER ONE IN LOCAL NEWS | 100% LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED

093 October 26, 2022

Circus, steampunk combine

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

A quest to create a circus-themed steampunk calendar included elaborate costumes, camera-ready locals, a company of canines, and a culmination of “wild ideas”.

With 20 models, three dogs, two make-up artists, and one photographer, Leanne Grinder had to make the entire process run like clockwork.

The end result? A steampunk-circus mash-up that promotes and raises funds for Steampunk the Thames’ annual festival, kicking off in November.

The photoshoot took place in Thames over one day and was the brainchild of Leanne, who is the owner of Walter & Co Hairdressing.

“I thought about it a while ago because I was just so sick of work and how it’s been for the last three years; the same narrative with this Covid stuff. So, I started planning with the [Walter & Co] girls to do something fun,” she said.

“We’ve done photoshoots before, and with [Steampunk the Thames] doing CircusPunk this year, we would do a photoshoot themed around that.”

Karen Woodhall from Steamy Sisters heard about the idea and asked Leanne if she’d like to “carry it a bit further”.

“I can’t help myself - I said yes,” Leanne told *The Profile*.

It was decided that the photoshoot would be used to construct a calendar which will be ready for distribution ahead of the four-day festival.

Leanne posted a call-out for models on social media and was “flooded with enquiries”.

The photoshoot was then shot inside Steamy Sisters, with two sets at each end of the shop, and another in the middle.

The photographer was Richard Hornell from Thames Camera Club - who Leanne said understood her vision and ran with it. “What is CircusPunk? You know? That’s what I was trying to figure out, and I just hoped for the best and

CONTINUED P2



Thames High School student and real-life bodybuilder Alex O’Grady portrays a circus strongman for the calendar. Photo: RICHARD HORNELL PHOTOGRAPHY

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Queen's tōtara tree vandalised in Paeroa

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

A tōtara tree planted in the Paeroa Domain to mark the passing of Queen Elizabeth II was vandalised only six days after it was put in the ground.

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.

District Mayor Toby Adams told *The Profile* that just a few days after being planted, vandals broke the Paeroa tree

out of the ground and threw it away. "We are hugely disappointed that anyone would vandalise any part of our parks and reserves, particularly a newly planted native tree," he said.

The tree was planted with the help of two pupils from Paeroa College - Arihia Morehu, head student of manukura; and Hamish Buchanan, head student of community.

The council earlier acknowledged that the event was something Arihia said she would "always remember".

None of the other memorial trees were vandalised, and a replacement tree for the Paeroa Domain has since been planted.



The tōtara tree was broken and thrown aside a few days after being planted in memory of Queen Elizabeth II. Photo: SUPPLIED/HDC



Models pose for the circus-esque steampunk calendar. Photo: RICHARD HORNELL

Circus punk calendar shot

CONTINUED FROM P1

hoped it was well-received."

The photos within the calendar depict familiar circus themes with a steampunk twist.

There is a bearded lady, a ringmaster, a knife thrower, fire performers, and a fortune teller.

There is also a circus strongman, portrayed by Thames High School student and real-life bodybuilder Alex O'Grady.

The calendars will be available from Steamy Sisters on Cochrane St, and Walter & Co on Pollen St, with hopes for a bigger roll-out ahead of the festival. The funds raised from

the sale of the calendars will go towards the cost of running the free events around town over the steampunk weekend.

"I want to encourage people to get into it and have fun," Leanne said. "It's been so gloomy and it'll be good to get back out there, get your costumes on, and let your hair down."

DETAILS: Steampunk The Thames' CircusPunk Celebration will take place with multiple events around town between November 10-13. For the full programme, visit: steampunkthames.co.nz



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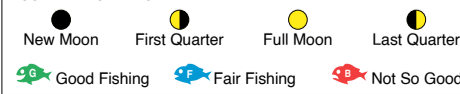
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Thames Tides

Wed Oct 26	Thu Oct 27	Fri Oct 28	Sat Oct 29	Sun Oct 30	Mon Oct 31	Tue Nov 1
Morning 2:14am 0.5 2:31pm 0.6 Afternoon 8:34am 3.5 8:41pm 3.5	Morning 2:56am 0.4 3:14pm 0.5 Afternoon 9:17am 3.6 9:26pm 3.6	Morning 3:40am 0.3 4:00pm 0.5 Afternoon 10:00am 3.7 10:13pm 3.6	Morning 4:24am 0.3 4:48pm 0.5 Afternoon 10:45am 3.7 11:02pm 3.5	Morning 5:10am 0.4 5:39pm 0.6 Afternoon 11:33am 3.6 11:53pm 3.5	Morning 5:59am 0.5 12:26pm 3.5 Afternoon 6:34pm 0.7	Morning 12:46am 3.4 1:23pm 3.4 Afternoon 6:52am 0.6 7:34pm 0.8
6:20am 7:45pm	6:19am 7:46pm	6:17am 7:47pm	6:16am 7:48pm	6:15am 7:49pm	6:14am 7:50pm	6:13am 7:51pm
Best At 1:05am 1:30pm	Best At 1:56am 2:23pm	Best At 2:51am 3:20pm	Best At 3:50am 4:21pm	Best At 4:52am 5:24pm	Best At 5:55am 6:26pm	Best At 6:57am 7:26pm
Rise 6:38am Set 8:35pm	Rise 7:10am Set 9:46pm	Rise 7:49am Set 10:59pm	Rise 8:36am	Set 12:09am Rise 9:33am	Set 1:12am Rise 10:38am	First Quarter Set 2:09am Rise 11:50am

*Not for navigational purposes.
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MOON AND FISH KEYS



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	HIGH	LOW
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

Torch run ignites excitement for games

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

Athletes and supporters of Thames Valley's Special Olympics squad strutted their stuff down the main street of Paeroa as part of a torch run anticipating the national summer games.

Formed in 1981 in the United States, the Law Enforcement Torch Run showcases and raises awareness of the Special Olympics - which is happening in Hamilton this December.

The torch has already been to Southland, Dunedin, Christchurch, and Whangārei, and on October 19, it was Thames Valley's turn to carry it from the Paeroa Information Hub, to the Paeroa Domain.

Local constable Paige Keith was the law enforcement representative selected to carry the "flame of hope".

Thames Valley Special Olympics chairperson and Goldfields School teacher Anna Walters said the parade highlighted the sporting achievements of the 14 athletes heading to the national summer games.

Following a four-year cycle similar to the Olympics and Paralympics, the summer games is Special Olympics New Zealand's largest national event.

More than 1400 athletes and coaches take part from across

the country in sports such as swimming, bocce, athletics, and indoor bowls.

Hauraki District Mayor Toby Adams walked alongside the athletes and said they put their "heart and soul" into their chosen sports.

"I know some of these guys; I've swam next to them a couple of times - they beat me."

He encouraged them to "bring back some bling" from the summer games, which kick off on December 8 after being postponed in 2021 due to Covid-19.

DETAILS: To keep up to date with the athletes, find Special Olympics Thames Valley on Facebook.



Goldfields School student Harper Sandford was the flagbearer, while Paeroa constable Paige Keith was selected to carry the "flame of hope" during the torch run through Paeroa. Photos: KELLEY TANTAU



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Education

International students return to Waihi

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

After a year without international students, Waihi College is preparing to roll out the welcome mat for overseas pupils, beginning in January, 2023.

But in order to give the students a sought-after Kiwi educational experience, host families are needed to come on board.

The college's international director Shelley McArthur-Dye has put the word out that the school has reopened its doors to overseas students, and already, nine teenagers are set to arrive from countries such as Japan, Taiwan, and Germany in January, with a further four arriving in June.

Shelley said the outdoors, as well as the college's good educational reputation, attracted international students to stay in the Hauraki.

"They really love the outdoor experience, and funnily enough, there are a few of them coming through that have connections to New Zealand in some way; either their siblings have been here or a family member has been here," she said.



Waihi College will roll out the welcome mat for international students next year.

Photo: SUPPLIED

"A handful are interested in Māori culture, while some are coming for the Kiwi experience, and a lot like the idea of being close to a beach."

To complement the incoming arrivals, host families are needed to provide housing for the students while they are in the country.

Shelley said being a host family was "a wonderful opportunity to be a tourist in your own backyard".

"It's about building those

memories for your family and international students, as well as being introduced to new cultures. It can also build life-long friendships," she said.

"A lot of host families that I talk to say they still stay in contact with the students."

Hosts do receive weekly payments, and there are no prerequisites to apply, but family members over the age of 18 must be police vetted.

Host families also receive helpful guidelines about the process.

Shelley said the return of international students to the college marked an exciting chapter following the past two years of Covid-19 restrictions.

"It's bringing back some normality. New Zealand is open for business again and it's good for the school to have some diversity back in," she said.

"The school is looking forward to it and the international students are excited, as well."

DETAILS: If you've ever considered hosting an international student, please contact Shelley at shelley@waihicol.school.nz or phone 021 2787 519.



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Ngatea nonagenarian writes children's tale

By GORDON PREECE

An accidental fall down a flight of stairs led Elizabeth Preston to write Nana Bet's Big Trip.

The 91-year-old great-grandmother from Ngātea told The Profile her children's book was about how her trip to Wellington to meet her sixth great-granddaughter Georgina in February was cut short.

"My son [Peter] who lives in Nelson, who's the grandfather of the great grandchild, they rent this house when they go to Wellington to see their family and they said to me when you come upstairs you use your [walking] stick," she said.

Elizabeth, who is a retired primary school teacher, said after a visit to a bird park she needed to use the stairs but thought she would be ok holding onto the rail.

"I got up as far as the landing, went to reach the balustrade and I think it might've run out instead of going round the landing then I tumbled backwards down the stairs, bump bump, bump, to the bottom" she said.

"I was conscious, I remember the fall."

Elizabeth said she was then rushed to Wellington Hospital where she discovered she had broken two ribs.

"That didn't worry me," she



Elizabeth Preston with her new children's book, Nana Bet's Big Trip.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

said.

"Luckily as one of my sons said to me there's a lot of people who would survive it like young people but not little old ladies in their 90s."

Elizabeth said she remained in Wellington Hospital for two days before she was trans-

ported by a Life Flight plane to Thames hospital where she stayed for ten days to recover.

It was here she put her experience into words.

"I had no intentions when I left home that I would be writing a book about it but because

of how things turned out, I

didn't get very long in Wellington," she said.

"I started [writing] and it had vehicles, mobility scooters, airplanes, ambulances, so I thought that would keep children interested.

"It didn't take me very long to write but it was about 1000

words so a granddaughter, [Adele], shortened it so it's useful for a six year-old to read."

Elizabeth said other family members helped her process the book and she was "very proud" of them.

"I asked my daughter-in-law [Sue Preston] if she would do the illustrations for me, she's a very good artist, and then one day she said I think we'll do scribble pictures," she said.

"My grandson [David Preston] who trained as a graphic designer also designed the book, so it's been a family effort."

Elizabeth said she had sold around 50 books around Ngātea to mostly family and friends for \$25 and planned to sell "as many as she could".

"I've got one little great granddaughter [Chloe] who is six and her mother has to sit down everyday and read it to her," she said.

"Some have bought three or four books to give to their families."

The book concludes with special thanks to Thames and Wellington Hospital staff, St John, Life Flight and Wellington Free Ambulance.

"I'm just an ordinary great-grandmother who's had a bit of adventure and enjoyed writing a book about it," Elizabeth said.

DETAILS: For book purchases contact Elizabeth, Ph 07 867 7578.

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Work begins on Ngatea retirement development

Work is underway on a new retirement village complete with rest home and childcare centre in a \$40 million development for Ngatea.

Developer and civil engineer Eric Au said three of the two-bedroom units in the retirement village had already been sold, and work on the rest home part of the development was set to begin in 17 months' time.

Each unit in the retirement village will be 100 to 110 square metres, including two bedrooms and a single garage on a minimum of a 300 square metre fee simple section. These units will be available for purchase upon completion.

The rest home will be a contemporary, purpose-built complex with 40 ensuite rooms (including dementia units), complete with staff accommodation and outdoor living spaces. There will be a further 32 serviced apartments for independent living in the rest home complex, which will be sold under the unit title instead of right to occupy.

The development will also include a childcare centre catering for 50 children, a cafe and six residential dwellings, which sit on a 3 hectare site in the Ngatea North subdivision.



“It matters to me that it is a pleasant environment for the community. I’m putting quite a bit of effort into making that happen.”

- Eric Au

LEFT: Developer and engineer Eric Au with one of the units under construction.

BELOW: A plan of the Ngatea development, which is being built in the Ngatea North subdivision.

The development holds special meaning for Mr Au, who plans to name the rest home after his late wife Cella, who died in 2015.

Originally from Hong Kong, Mr Au moved to Auckland in 1996 and recently moved from Miranda to Ngatea, where he is enjoying living in one of the recently completed residential dwellings.

He believes the development will be great for Ngatea and a “good transition” for

many residents who want to stay in the Hauraki town.

“It matters to me that it is a pleasant environment for the community. I’m putting quite a bit of effort into making that happen,” he said.

Mr Au said work on the development was currently progressing well, with subdivision infrastructure such as roading, power, drainage and fibre already installed.

ENQUIRIES: Ngatea Development Ltd, Ph 022-1343189.



Ngatea Retirement Village ON SALE SOON



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Udderly delightful

More than 30 students and their animals took part in Matakoti School's annual calf club on October 20. It was the biggest turn-out in numbers for recent years, with 11 calves, 10 lambs, and 11 kids taking part. Reporter **KELLEY TANTAU** attended on the day and caught up with some of the pupils and their new pals.



Lola Richards cuddles Little Tot.



Brayden Bloor says hi to a friendly kid.



Charley Courtney and her lamb, Bindy, take part in Calf Club.

PHOTOS: KELLEY TANTAU



First-time calf-clubber Kade Angus with his goat, Oreo.



Gracie Miller leads Lilly.



Principal Hine Viskovich.

PUBLIC MEETING

Scott Simpson MP for Coromandel, welcomes Chris Bishop MP and our National Spokesperson for Housing and Infrastructure. We'll be discussing the ongoing issues of Infrastructure, Roothing, Bridges, Potholes. We really do want to hear your views!

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ENTERTAINMENT



Dancing Queen: A Tribute to ABBA is to perform in Thames.
Photo: SUPPLIED

ABBA tribute to perform

ABBA fans will be able to dance their way into the festive season this year when Dancing Queen: A Tribute to ABBA performs at the Thames Civic Centre on November 5 as part of a nationwide tour.

Direct from Australia, the well-travelled show returns for its first NZ performances since 2020 and will stop at a mammoth 33 venues in 46 days.

The show brings new cast member Brit Jess Driver - in the role of Agnetha - to perform alongside Australian Zac Coombs as Bjorn and South Africans Giselle Bouwer as Anni-Frid and André Behnke as Benny.

Producers Showtime Australia

used the forced "downtime" during the Covid-19 pandemic to revamp production on the show so even repeat attendees will find the show fresh and fun.

"Abba is famous for having those catchy classic tunes that never get old so it's a hard show to get sick of," vocalist Bouwer said.

The show promises more than two hours of Abba's biggest hits each night, all performed live on stage by a hand-picked 8-piece international cast, with world-class production and visuals to accompany. Tracks such as *Mamma Mia*, *Dancing Queen*, *Waterloo*, *Knowing Me Knowing You*, *Money Money Money*,

SOS, *Fernando*, *The Winner Takes It All* and *Thank You for the Music* have all made the set list and are bound to turn each event into a joyous singalong.

TICKETS: Eventfinda.co.nz or dancingqueenshow.com.au for more info.

TICKET GIVEAWAY!

The Valley Profile has a double pass to give away, email editor@valleyprofile.co.nz by 4pm, November 1, to enter the draw!

Fireworks set to light up Paeroa sky

By GORDON PREECE

Fireworks will boom once again at Paeroa Domain on October 29 after two years of Covid-19 extinguishments.

The Paeroa Fireworks Display, which has been hosted by Paeroa Lions Club for around 20 years, will take place from 5pm with the fireworks set to dazzle the night sky at 9pm.

Paeroa Lions member and head of the fireworks display committee Phil Hughes told *The Profile* he hoped there would be "plenty of support" from the public.

"It's a pretty spectacular show, and people come from all over like Hamilton for it, you'll be

impressed if you haven't seen it before," he said.

Phil said the event would feature food stalls, kids activities, raffles, a competition for best dressed, and live entertainment by the L&P Rockers and Paeroa Central School prior to the fireworks. The event costs \$8 for adults, \$4 for children and \$20 for a family (two adults and two children).

President Oliver Taylor said the event raised around \$15,000 from entry fees in previous years. The majority of the funds raised from the event would go towards fireworks costs and any money leftover would go towards Paeroa Lions projects and local charities, he said.



Paeroa Lions Fireworks is back.

File Photo: RICHARD HORNELL

25

Hikuai River Bridge closure



The Hikuai River Bridge on State Highway 25 (SH25) between Tairua and the Pauanui turnoff will be closed to all traffic for a series of nights in October and November while the bridge deck is replaced.

From Tuesday 25 October the bridge will be closed from 8pm to 6am, Sunday to Thursday, for an expected period of up to four weeks. The bridge will be open to traffic during the day with temporary traffic management and a speed restriction of 10km/h in place.

There is no local detour, with the only available alternative route using SH25 and State Highway 25A around the Coromandel Peninsula, therefore motorists are advised to travel during the day to avoid the overnight closures, where possible.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency thanks motorists and residents for their patience during this essential work.

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Rural Life

Thousands of hectares retired

Coromandel and Waihou-Piako landowners have retired land through planting native plants and building fencing in the past five years to prevent stock access and reduce soil erosion, flooding and sediment in waterways.

Waikato Regional Council said 234 Coromandel properties retired 934ha of land, planted close to 190,000 plants and built 90km worth of fencing and 228 Waihou-Piako properties retired 212ha, planted close to 400,000 plants and built 116km of fencing.

In total, landowners in the Waikato have in total retired the equivalent of 21 average-sized farms of unproductive land and planted over 3 million trees in the past five years.

The voluntary catchment and river restoration work was part of a Waikato Regional Council integrated catchment management directorate and was funded differently across the Waikato region.

This included through collected rates and by the council applying for funding for various work programmes from the Waikato River Authority, the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust and ministries.

The amount of funding

available to landowners depended on whether landowners lived in an identified priority catchment or whether the council had secured additional funding for work programmes outside business hours.

Waikato catchments manager Grant Blackie said the council had financially assisted 1823 landowners in the past five years.

"Landowners are doing a phenomenal job taking care of their land and unfortunately we always have more landowners wanting to work with us than we have funding available," he said.

"In the past five years, with our help, landowners have retired 5777 hectares of land, remnant native bush, steep slopes, wetlands and riparian margins.

"All of this work to retire unproductive land helps to contribute to cleaner water, increased biodiversity and improving the climate resilience of each farm."

Mr Blackie said the value of the work completed in the region in the past five years was conservatively estimated to be about \$27 million, based on the average costs of fencing being \$12 per metre and \$4 for a tree in the ground.

National awards for PFS

By GORDON PREECE

Paeroa Farm Services staff have been credited for the business winning two national dealer awards.

The business, which has operated for more than 35 years, won the best customer satisfaction and best product knowledge categories at this year's Waikato Milking Systems Dealer Awards held in Nelson on October 13.

Owner Warick Buchanan told *The Profile* he was "a little bit surprised" by winning the awards, but it was a "really great feeling".

"I felt it was a real pat on the back for the staff, it was a real credit to them and what they've been able to achieve," he said.

"I always go out of my way to make sure I tell my staff how valuable our customers are and how important they are to the business.

"I spend a lot of time supporting and sponsoring local community groups usually in youth and sports but also calf club season and having my staff know that that's how I value things, I certainly think it helps us reach our goals in supporting the customers."

Warick said the criteria for the best customer satisfaction award was based on a customer survey of major projects that 23 dealers had been involved in with Waikato Milking Systems.



Warick Buchanan dedicated Paeroa Farm Services awards to its staff.

"We were involved in a few major dairy conversion jobs this year where we've replaced the majority of the milking machines on the dairy farms that we worked on," he said.

"We've also had other bigger projects where we've done major component changes and upgrades within our local and wider base customers, and we received the best results from those surveys which was very rewarding."

Warick said the best product knowledge award was based on how many staff had received Waikato Milking Systems training through its online

manuals and helpline.

"Because we rated well on all of those parameters and other requirements we won that award," he said.

"We're always ongoing with training, the majority if not all the products that we have within our business the staff know all about and Waikato Milking Systems is our major provider for on farm dairy solutions." Warick said the awards would also add to the Waikato Milking Systems trophy cabinet after winning its award for best effluent dealer in 2019 and its tier three dealer of the year award in 2018.



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From ashes to art after Paeroa fire

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

Wendy Mikkelsen is painting again.

For the first time in three years, the Paeroa woman and gallery owner is able to pick up a brush and turn her grief into art.

“The painting I’m working on at the moment is going to be: ‘my soul is searching for the one I love, but I cannot find him’.

“It’s a way to express how you feel but in a way that brings beauty, because death and love go together.”

Wendy and her children, Jon and Jacob, have faced adversity in recent times.

Her husband and their dad, Stephen, passed away from cancer in June, 2021, and in February this year, their gallery and insurance office on Belmont Rd was destroyed by a blaze.

But on November 4 at 5pm, the gallery will have its grand reopening, and Wendy told *The Profile* it was the start of a new era. “It’s like giving birth to a baby, and the last couple of weeks of a pregnancy are your worst,” she said with a laugh, “but it is giving birth to a whole new era.

“The past was with Stephen, and now I’ve got my two sons on board. It’s a new beginning and it’s a beautiful time to do



Wendy Mikkelsen, pictured with her son Jon, is excited to reopening her Paeroa art gallery.

File Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

it.”

Back in February, a fire completely gutted the Forget Me Not op shop and damaged the facades of The Bakehouse Cafe - now Paeroa Roast and Bakery - Midway Burger Bar, Old Mate’s Pizza, and the Paeroa News Agents.

The fire broke out around 12.30pm, and emergency crews from Paeroa, Puriri, Ngātea, Te

Aroha, Waihi, and Hamilton attended the scene.

The fire, believed to have been caused by an electrical fault, was extinguished two hours later.

No one was injured in the blaze.

The name of the gallery’s reopening exhibition is called Beauty for Ashes, which Wendy said was inspired by a piece of scripture which acknowledges

how sorrow can make way for strength.

“Because I’ve been through a fire and my husband passing away, I have been through grief. But this is an exchange. Out of the gallery is going to come beauty,” she said.

“Instead of ashes, we will have beautiful art.”



Walkathon to support youth

By GORDON PREECE

Hundreds of people will walk across Rhodes Park in Thames for the I Am Hope 24-hour walkathon between November 4 at 10am and November 5 at 10am.

The event, hosted by Rangatahi Ora Hauraki, intends to raise funds for I Am Hope’s Gumboot Friday and would also feature kids activities, food stalls, raffles and live entertainment.

Organiser Roanne Mitchell-Te Teira said registrations would remain open until November 4 for any koha (donation) and she thanked the community for its support.

“We’ve had a great response not just in Thames but the wider community like Paeroa, Waihi and Coromandel,” she said.

“The event is about our rangatahi knowing there is always someone walking beside them and that’s the kaupapa [principle] we want to push.

“Can’t wait to see you all on November 4.”

Roanne said participants could walk for as long as they would like and encouraged the public to follow the Rangatahi Ora Hauraki facebook page for updates in the lead up to the event.

DETAILS: To register for the walkathon contact rangatahi.ora.hauraki@gmail.com.

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- anyone with three or more high-risk medical conditions.

For the full list of high-risk medical conditions, visit [Covid19.govt.nz/medicines](https://www.covid19.govt.nz/medicines)

When to get antiviral medications

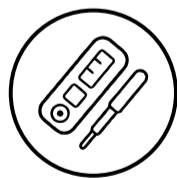
To get the COVID antiviral medicines, all of these must apply:

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How to get antiviral medications

If you have COVID you must isolate for 7 days. You can arrange to have medicines delivered by friends or whānau. If needed, pharmacies that provide COVID antiviral medicine can have them delivered to you, for free.



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Free rapid antigen tests (RATs) are available for everyone, and you do not need to have COVID to get them. You can order them online at [RequestRATS.Covid19.health.nz](https://www.requestrats.health.nz) and collect them at community providers, marae, testing centres, and some pharmacies, or have someone collect them for you.

Upload your test results, positive or negative, to [MyCovidRecord.health.nz](https://www.mycovidrecord.health.nz), or call 0800 222 478 and choose option 3.

Find out more at [Covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz)

Exploding gun causes fatality in Thames



Dead Cert

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

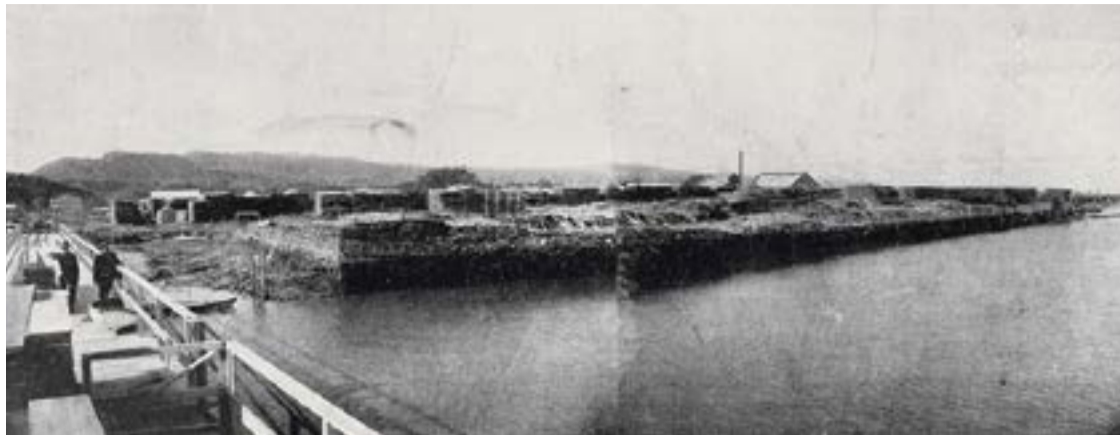
John Duncan, straddling the wild pig he'd just killed, lit his pipe with satisfaction.

It had been a good Sunday morning in April, 1874, hunting with his wife Riripeti (Elizabeth) at Opani Point on the swampy land opposite the mouth of the Waihōu River. John told Elizabeth they would carry the pig to where the other ones they'd caught were.

He drew the gun, which was lying on the ground in front of him, by the muzzle to give to her. Suddenly the gun exploded, a bullet entering the left side of John's chest.

Elizabeth rushed to him and he lay his head in her lap. The last word he spoke was her name.

Distraught, Elizabeth went to the bank of the river opposite Mr Gibbons' new mill at Kōpū. She called to the people she could see there but they didn't



Gibbon's sawmill, Kōpū, on the Waihōu River. From an opposite bank Elizabeth's desperate calls for help went unheard.

Photo: SUPPLIED

hear her. She then attempted to swim across the Waihōu.

Looking back she saw a canoe lying in a creek. She swam back to the shore, and dragged the canoe into the water, subsequently reaching the other side.

She asked the Kirikiri Māori to go back with her to where she'd left John, about a mile from the river, in a swamp, but they were afraid to.

Elizabeth, exhausted and shocked, then walked to Shortland, arriving in the dark, and informed the police.

As it was too late to do anything, it was arranged to send over a boat at daylight.

Constable Madill and a boats crew, after great difficulty, found John's body the next morning. At the inquest, held in Shortland's police courtroom, the Coroner said that if the

jury were satisfied with Elizabeth's evidence, that death resulted from a gunshot wound, it would be unnecessary to call any medical evidence.

Elizabeth told the court that she and John had always lived together on good terms except when either of them had taken liquor, but he had not been drinking lately, and they had had no quarrel.

She had saved his life from drowning once. Her deposition was read back to her, which she signed with her cross. Constable Madill described the difficulties of the search and how John's two dogs were by his body and couldn't be persuaded to leave it. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

John Duncan was well known in Shortland.

A Māori language interpreter,

he had extensive dealings with local iwi. He and Elizabeth had married in Northland in 1863, possibly arriving in Thames with the 1867 opening of the goldfield.

John was a Roman Catholic but the priest refused to have anything to do with the funeral. Father O'Mahoney had asked Elizabeth when it was on Sunday morning that they went over to Opani Point to shoot pigs. Elizabeth replied that it was early. Father O'Mahoney then asked if John had been at mass that morning and on being answered no, he replied that he could have nothing to do with the burial. Local Māori had no such qualms and John was buried in a small piece of tapu ground at the back of the Shortland sawmill on the corner of Grey and Pollen Streets.

Halloween alternatives planned

By GORDON PREECE

Alternatives to Halloween are set to take place in Paeroa and Waihi on October 31.

Paeroa War Memorial Hall will open its doors on October 31 for a family friendly Halloween alternative event with an inventors and inventions theme.

Organiser Bob Turlington said the event, held since 2011, gave kids the opportunity to break away from traditional trick or treating and indulge in "silly" games, fun, food and lollies.

"Kids get upset when they go to the door and no one answers and they don't have lollies so I came up with the event and each year has had a different theme," he said.

"A lot of parents don't like the scary themes, plus kids quite often just wear a lot of old hats, so I gave these kids a theme outside the box, dress up as an inventor like Einstein, or an invention like a car or a plane.

"In previous years we've had wild west, L&P, and best dressed hats."

Bob said the event would take place from 5pm to 8pm and a gold coin donation is required for entry.

Meanwhile, a free Halloween light party will also take place at Waihi Baptist Church on October 31 from 4:30pm to 7:30pm.

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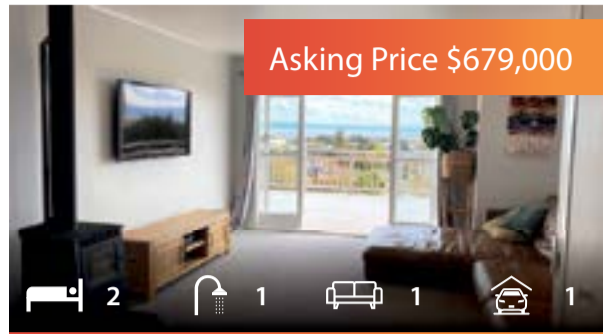
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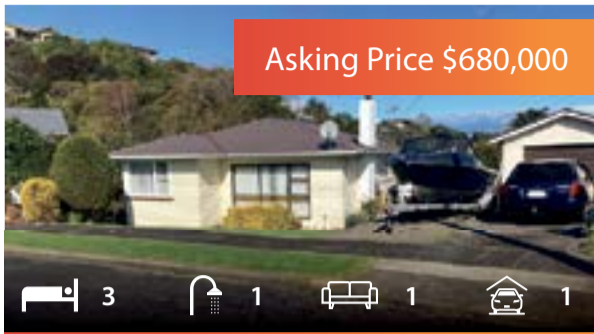
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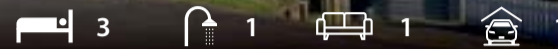
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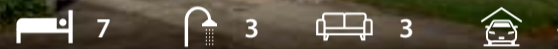
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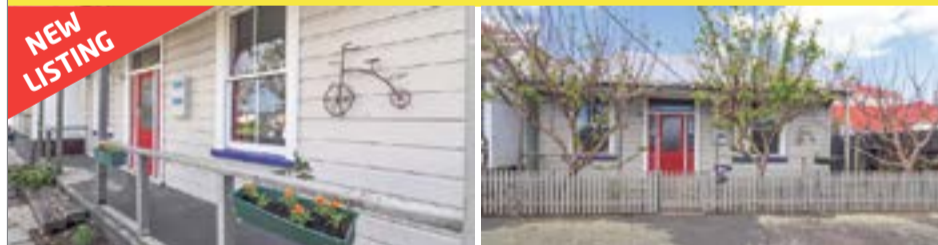
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Gardening

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Ready, set plant! November is prime time for summer veges

November is the prime planting time for your summer vegetable garden. Now we should be safe from devastating frosts as we had at the beginning of October.

Many of us suffered losses and damage. Replace anything that cannot be saved, trim frost-burnt leaves and feed liquid seaweed to help rejuvenate your plants.

Tomatoes, cucumber, pumpkin, courgette, basil, capsicum, chillies, eggplant, kumara and sweet corn can all be planted now. Hold off until near the end of the month for rock melon and water melon, these will thrive in more consistent

warmth. Melons need regular feeding to achieve best results. With the rising cost of food a burden on families, have a go at growing some vegetables. You don't need to have much space nor experience to harvest your own food. Grow vegetables in pots or incorporate them in your flower garden, it is fun and rewarding.

With last summer's prolonged drought conditions still in mind, get your garden water wise. Use a quality mulch to help retain moisture and suppress weeds. Our choice is Tui Mulch and Feed. Add Saturaid to your garden and pots to ensure

your plants get full benefit from watering. Capture any rain water you can when it does rain. Water deeply every few days rather than a little bit often. Make use of your grey water adding Yates Grey Water Fertiliser to remove bacteria and balance soap residue, use this recycled water on your flower beds and pots not on your food crops.

Encourage bees into your garden to pollinate your food crops. Hebes, Grevillea and Lavender are excellent for attracting bees. They are all hardy shrubs that have stunning flower displays over an extended period. Hebe 'Catherine' is easy to

grow and always looks good, just like the Princess of Wales herself.

The glossy deep green foliage stays clean and compact all year round. The new leaf shoots are burgundy-red in colour maturing to deep olive green. Masses of brilliant purple flowers will appear across the top branches through the summer months, making a very attractive garden display.

November is Garden Ramble month. Starting with Ngatea Garden Ramble on Saturday, November 5, with 10 gardens, cost of \$20, a fundraiser for Hauraki Plains Co-operating Parish. Waihi Lions

Ramble is November 12-13, cost of \$30, proceeds to the Waihi Beach Lifeguard Services and Waihi College Waka Ama. Finally the Rotary Paeroa Ramble is on November 19, cost \$25, proceeds to Rotary funded projects in Paeroa community.

Take a day out and enjoy an array of different gardens at your leisure.

November is also Country Dog Garden Centre's birthday. Come along and help us celebrate on November 2 from 9am to 5:30pm. Grab a bargain, eat some birthday cake, you might even win a prize.

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Nourish your garden

Rejuvenate and nourish your garden with a good balanced fertiliser followed by mulch. Spring is a time of rapid growth, so this is an important task. Liquid feed container plants and keep well-watered. Don't let your plants compete for nutrients with weeds.

This is the time to plant those warm season crops that will provide us with the makings of many a delicious meal over the summer months to come. Hopefully we have had the last of the frosts. I hope you didn't suffer too badly with the couple of unexpected frosts we had last month.

Vegetables

Beans, and root vegetables should be sown directly into the garden now. They will germinate quickly in the warm soil and will benefit from having their roots undisturbed thus growing strong root systems. Sow direct now – beetroot, carrots, celery, spinach, brassicas (protect from white butterfly).

Also sow pumpkins, zucchini, eggplants, basil. Regularly plant the salad greens, radish and spring onions to keep a continual supply. Potatoes – Continue to mound up earlier planting as crops start to make rapid growth to protect new tubers from light. Sweet Corn – Sow short and long maturing varieties at the same time to give a spread of harvest. Plant them in blocks rather than rows so they will provide support for each other. Once established keep weed free and water regularly. It is also time to start planting your tomato seedlings. Just remember to protect all your seedlings from slugs and apply mulch.

Flower Garden

Bearded iris – These are starting to come into their own, flowering beautifully. Once

flowering is complete late in the month, divisions can be taken from the main plant and transplanted immediately. Bulbs to plant out now - Begonia, canna, carnation, chrysanthemum, dahlia, delphinium, gerbera, gladiolus, hippeastrum. Just remember slug protection. Roses – Continue with pest and disease sprays. Water frequently if dry, weed and mulch.

Fruits

Earliest varieties of plums and cherries mature by late November. Feed fruit trees and water when necessary. Mulch to help retain heat and soil moisture. Apples and Pears – Early season varieties will need thinning if necessary. Do this after the initial fruit drop which is usually 10 to 14 days after petal fall.

Grapes – New growth is rapid, tendrils which becomes excessively long should be trimmed back to five or six buds above the bunches of fruit. Citrus – After fruit set, tree nutrition is important. Apply citrus food and a good handful of sheep pellets now and again late summer. Water when required and mulch. Berries – Keep well-watered and cultivate to remove weeds. Spray when necessary. Strawberries – Cultivate to control weeds. Water well and feed with strawberry food. Keep mulched.

Lawns

Lawns withstand hot, dry summer conditions if there is a thick mat of turf. Don't cut lawns too short.

Compost Heap

Turn over heaps. As the warmth increases the composting is much more rapid. If they are dry add a little water to further the decomposition. Enjoy your garden.

- Ngatea Garden Circle



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

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Brian Robinson of Turua-based Mobile Mechanics.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

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Brian, who previously worked at Terry Jeffcoat and Trevor Masters Transport in Kōpū, said because he operated from home, he could keep prices down for his clients. "So far we've had positive feedback from everybody," he said.

"I picked up one customer the other day and he said he'd heard good things about me and thought he'd give me a call so I was quite pleased with that."

Brian is able to travel to help clients with services and repairs or they can bring their vehicles to his house, which is cheaper as they don't have to pay him to travel.

"Caroline [his wife] and I would like to extend our appreciation to everyone who has supported us with their business and local suppliers who have been a great help," he said.

CONTACT: Mobile Mechanics: Ph 021 259 4779, or 07 876 5401.

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The Valley Profile

Public Notices

Positive Paeroa AGM

26th October 6pm
Conference Room
Peddlers Motel

CAPS HAURAKI INC.

The Annual General Meeting of CAPS Hauraki Inc. will be held on:
Tuesday 15th November 2022
at 7.00 pm,
At the CAPS Hauraki Office, 301 Pollen Street, Thames.
Please RSVP by the 11th November 2022 to:
Phone: 07 868 8644 or reception@capshauraki.co.nz

Garage Sales

Paeroa Co-op Church Hall, Mackay Street, Paeroa, Saturday 5th Nov @ 8 am.
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2022 A.G.M

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Hours are Monday to Friday, 35 hours per week, 8.30 am to 3.30 pm term time only.

Key qualities and attributes for this position include:


- Strong commitment to equity, excellence, and Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- Like working with the community and young people
- Multitasking within a busy workplace
- Excellent communication ICT and organisation skills
- A mature manner with a sense of humour and who shows initiative

Applications close: Friday 28 October 2022 (4.00 pm)

A role description and application form are available from our website:
www.thameshigh.school.nz/vacancies

Public Notice

Proposed Temporary Road Closure



Pursuant to the Section 11(e) of the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974, notice is hereby given that for the purpose of a **Christmas Float Parade** organised by **Positive Paeroa** it is intended to close the following roads to ordinary vehicular traffic for the period indicated hereunder. During the proposed period of closure provision will be made for ordinary vehicular traffic, which would otherwise use the road, to use alternative routes.

Period of closure: Friday 2 December 2022, 5.30pm – 7.00pm

Roads to be closed:

- Wharf St Paeroa
- Normanby Road/Belmont Rd (SH2), (from Arney St intersection to Corbett Road intersection)
- Corbett St from (Belmont Rd intersection to King St intersection)
- King St (from Corbett Road intersection to Park St intersection)

Alternative provision for ordinary vehicular traffic will be made with signs, cones and barriers to redirect traffic on detour.

It will be an offence under the above regulations for any person otherwise than under authority of an authorised permit to use the road for ordinary vehicular traffic during the proposed period of closure.

Any objections should be directed to the Transportation Manager on 07 862 8609 or info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz by 8 November 2022.

L D Cavers
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council

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Public Notice

Proposed Temporary Road Closure



Pursuant to the Section 11(e) of the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974, notice is hereby given that for the purpose of a **Motorsport Hillclimb event** organised by Thames Valley Car Club it is intended to close the following road to ordinary vehicular traffic for the period indicated hereunder. During the proposed period of closure provision will be made for ordinary vehicular traffic, which would otherwise use the road, to use alternative routes.

Period of closure: Sunday 11 December 2022, 10am to 5pm.

Road to be closed: Golden Cross Road, Waikino

Alternative provision for ordinary vehicular traffic will be made with signs, cones and barriers to redirect traffic on detour.

It will be an offence under the above regulations for any person otherwise than under authority of an authorised permit to use the road for ordinary vehicular traffic during the proposed period of closure.

Any objections should be directed to the Transportation Manager on 07 862 8609 or info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz by 11 November 2022.

L D Cavers
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council



Office Administrator/Secretary

Due to relocation, we are looking for a new office administrator to start with us at the beginning of the 2023 school year.

A friendly and welcoming manner, good computer skills and the ability to learn new systems is a must. Experience with school related systems would be helpful, but is not essential.

If you have a love of children, a good sense of humor and the willingness to uphold and live our Catholic character, this could be the job for you!

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The person
Tertiary qualification in relevant field or equivalent experience; Has strong business acumen and keeps up to date with changes in the industry; Experience in leading a team and developing direct reports; Being a mentor and encouraging professional growth within a team; Excellent organisational and time management skills; Has initiative and comfortable making decisions when required; Strong interpersonal skills with excellent relationship building skills.

If this sounds like you, please call Sharyn at Everest people on 027 7019 585 to discuss the role further.

SPORTS



Cullen Crowe, left, has his eyes fixed on the ball as he plays a classic cut shot; Nihindu Wickramathunga adds to his score with a powerful off-drive; and Trent Ball watches the ball clear the boundary again during his whirlwind innings. Photos: SUPPLIED/LEON SMITH

Hauraki cricketers dominate higher-ranked opponents

CRICKET

Something akin to Thames Valley playing for, and winning the Ranfurly Shield, is how the performance by Hauraki Plains College cricketers in defeating Whangarei Boys High School in the third round of the national secondary schools Gillette Cup competition last week could be regarded.

In the fixture played at a neutral venue - the picturesque Kaipara Flats cricket oval - Hauraki completely dominated their higher-ranked opponents in all aspects of

the game, winning by more than 150 runs.

Hauraki made a slow start to their innings against accurate bowling by the experienced Whangarei Boys bowlers. The well-groomed but heavily-grassed outfield also made run scoring difficult, but once Nihindu Wickramathunga and Hunter Crowe came together and began finding gaps in the field, the momentum changed.

For the rest of the innings, the Hauraki players showed the benefits of intense pre-season preparations and completely dominated

proceedings against their bewildered opponents.

As the innings progressed, Anthony Barker and Cullen Crowe continued the run gathering at an increasing rate. When Trent Ball came to the wicket with nine overs remaining, he settled in for a minimum number of balls before launching an all out attack with clean straight hitting which completed silenced the 'chirpy' bowling line up from earlier in the day. Whangarei's openers made a solid start to the team's innings before brilliant catching, secure ground

fielding and accurate throwing from the outfield simply squeezed the life out of the run chase. Jaxon Haskall was outstanding in this aspect, while his team mates lifted their work rate also. All Hauraki bowlers were rewarded for their accuracy and enthusiasm, supported by well set fields by captain Hunter Crowe, with Dan Sproul again to the fore with four wickets to his credit.

If this game was a "Ranfurly Shield" victory, the next game for Hauraki Plains College - against Hamilton Boys High School always

rated near the top of New Zealand's cricketing secondary schools, will be like playing the "All Blacks". However, David did defeat a giant many long years ago. It's time it happened again!

Match details: Hauraki Plains College 263 for five wickets off 50 overs. Nihindu Wickramathunga 70, Trent Ball 53 not out, Cullen Crowe 45 not out, Anthony Barker 30, Hunter Crowe 25, defeated Whangarei Boys High School 112. Dan Sproul, 4 wickets for 16 from six overs.

- Mike Cotter

BOWLS

Bowlers got off to a good start at Kerepehi Bowling Club on October 16.

Players were almost ready to go and find have an extra team, so after a redraw, 19 teams ended up playing on a beautiful sunny day in the Hudson Family sponsored optional fours on the grass green. Visitors from Katikati and all around Thames Valley played against Kerepehi teams.

Two games were played before enjoying lunch provided by the club as part of the entry fee.

Prize winners:- 1st 4 wins, 39 points, 27 ends, (Kerepehi) Leon Taipari, Garry Parker, Steve Death, Don Cooper; 2nd 4 wins, 28 points, 23 ends, (Kerepehi) Graham Pyke, Lance Trow, Margaret Henderson, Kelsie Trow; 3rd 3 wins, 23 points, 28 ends, (Katikati) Ian Burwell, Robin Pierce, Raewyn Burwell, Erica Miranda; 4th 3 wins, 7 points, 17 ends, (Kerepehi) Richard Crosland, Lorraine



Carolyn Mai-Topine rolls up at Kerepehi Bowling Club. Photo: SUPPLIED

Putt, Glenda Brackenridge, Robin Povey.

Coming up every Thursday evening is Business House bowls until mid-December; on November 13, Murray Fisher Memorial Opt Fours; November 27: Pak'nSave

Opt Fours Christmas Hams. Hopefully before Christmas the club will see the extension and renovations completed and the new clubrooms back to normal. Good bowling to all.

- Terry King



Waihi Bowling Club is happy to have completed our first Open Triples tournament for the season on October 16. There were seven drawn teams from the Waihi club, and five visiting teams. Sorry to those visiting teams, Waihi had the advantage on our heavy greens, and so took home all the prizes (good trick eh). However it may be a bit different next time as the green speeds

up with regular play. First place (pictured) was Neil Lovell, skip, with K Scahill and S Sincoc; 2nd was Steve Sincoc with B Knight and Graham Palfrey; 3rd was Rick Perkinson with E Jebb and Jude Campbell. Excellent results considering that both Graham and Jude are still in their first year of bowling. Yes, it was the survival of the fittest.

- Clare Boyd

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73

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

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HARD

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EASY

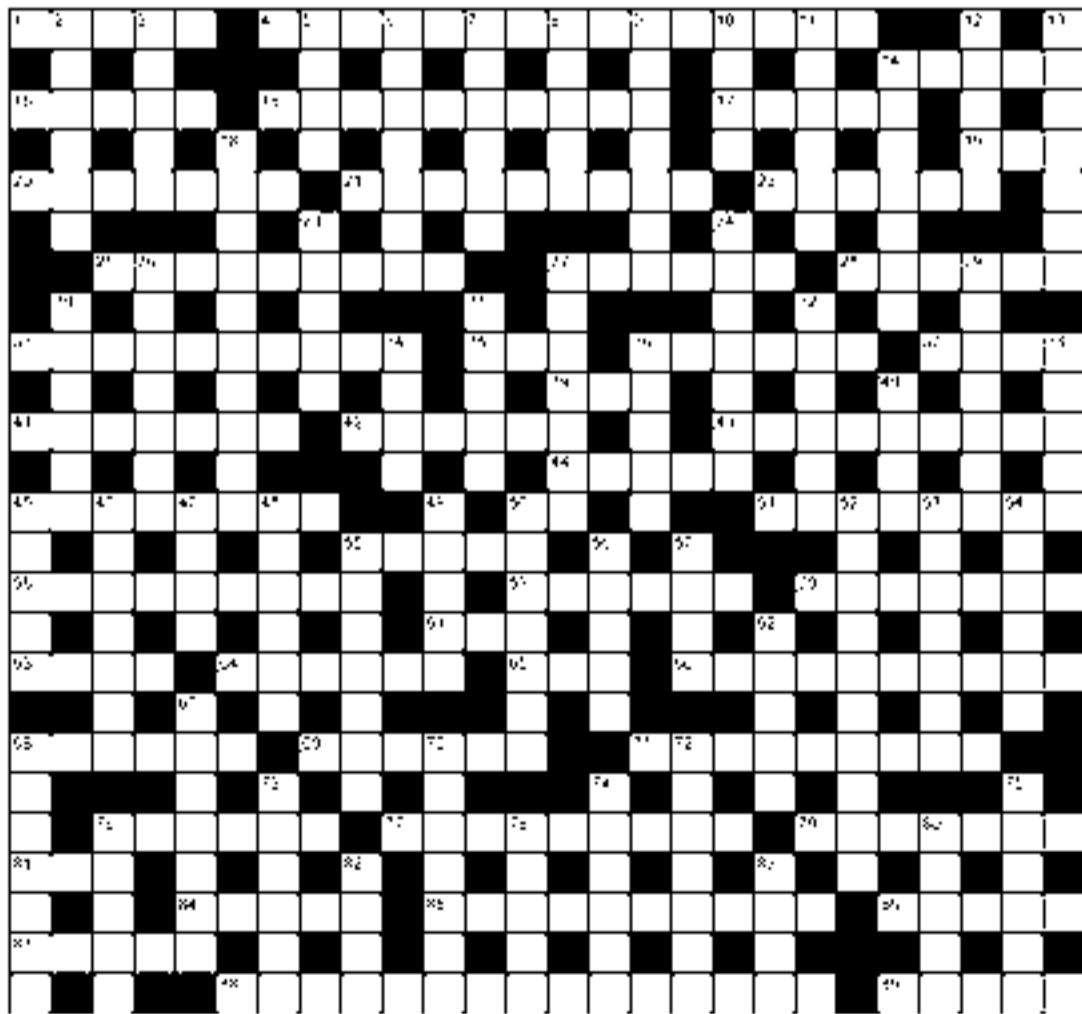
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8	1	3	4	5	2	6	7	9
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JUMBO CROSSWORD

93

- ACROSS**
- 1 Acne (5)
 - 4 Lose one's temper (2,3,3,4,3)
 - 14 Hanker after (5)
 - 15 Full amount (5)
 - 16 Circular road junction (10)
 - 17 Waterproof jacket (5)
 - 19 Top (3)
 - 20 Clumsy mistake (7)
 - 21 Figurine (9)
 - 22 Hole (6)
 - 25 Exaggerated self-opinion, haughtiness (9)
 - 27 Favour (6)
 - 32 Clay blocks (6)
 - 33 Fibs (10)
 - 35 No points (3)
 - 36 Pushed (6)
 - 37 Sketch (4)
 - 39 Ignited (3)
 - 41 Cradle song (7)
 - 42 Confound (6)
 - 43 Racket (9)
 - 44 Fine net fabric (5)
 - 45 Drink (8)
 - 50 While (2)
 - 51 Elastic (8)
 - 55 Reinforcing bar (5)
 - 58 Defensive roadblock (9)
 - 59 Intimidatory remark (6)
 - 60 Book collection (7)
 - 61 Small (3)
 - 63 Leave (4)
 - 64 Quit (6)
 - 65 Drinking vessel (3)
 - 66 Ad libbed (10)
 - 68 Tight-fitting necklace (6)
 - 69 Team's lucky charm (6)
 - 71 Ruler (9)
 - 76 Sour-tasting (6)
 - 77 Swear word (9)
 - 79 Self-restraint (7)
 - 81 Automobile (3)
 - 84 Competitor (5)
 - 85 Game played on a court (10)
 - 86 Records cinematically (5)
 - 87 Outdated (5)
 - 88 Temporary hoarseness (4,2,3,6)
 - 89 Apparition (5)
- DOWN**
- 2 Humans (6)
 - 3 Coach (5)
 - 5 Woodwind instrument (4)
 - 6 Zealot (7)
 - 7 Characteristics (6)
 - 8 Wear away (5)
 - 9 Give the right to (7)
 - 10 Bursts (4)
 - 11 Usual (6)
 - 12 Premature (5)
 - 13 Red seal (anag)(7)
 - 14 Gun barrel diameter (7)
 - 18 Deep dislike of foreigners (10)
 - 23 City leader (5)
 - 24 Exult, jubilate (7)
 - 26 Firm determination (7)
 - 27 Young hens (7)
 - 29 Of the heart (7)
 - 30 River in Europe (6)
 - 31 Smell (5)
 - 32 Licence (6)
 - 34 Exchange (4)
 - 36 Single shot from a cinema film (5)
 - 38 Circuitous (5)
 - 40 Nucleus (4)
 - 45 Authoritative handbook (5)
 - 46 Giddiness (7)
 - 47 Surprise attack (4)
 - 48 Chewed at (6)
 - 49 Suntanned (5)
 - 50 Try (7)
 - 52 Horned animal (10)
 - 53 Changing direction (7)
 - 54 Set (6)
 - 55 Conference (7)
 - 56 Medicinal substances (5)
 - 57 Hired car (4)
 - 62 Binge (5)
 - 67 Enterprise (7)
 - 68 Abstract idea (7)
 - 70 Mobile home (7)
 - 72 Month (7)
 - 73 Lodge builder (6)
 - 74 Six-legged creature (6)
 - 75 Universe (6)
 - 76 Lively (5)
 - 78 Repugnant dirt (5)
 - 80 Upper leg (5)
 - 82 Garden pest (4)
 - 83 Begging request (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 In the lap of the gods, 10 Foxglove, 15 Harmed, 16 Perceptive, 17 Prisoner, 19 Headway, 21 Cider, 22 Adversary, 25 Accessory, 27 Sponsor, 29 Infect, 33 Green, 34 Santiago, 36 Diplomatic, 39 Pal, 41 Hoodlum, 42 Angina, 43 Active, 44 Lair, 45 Retreat, 48 Beforehand, 53 Romance, 57 Brag, 58 Grille, 59 Shanty, 60 Braking, 62 Sup, 64 Interviews, 65 Overhead, 66 Layer, 69 Warm-up, 70 Demands, 71 Foolhardy, 76 Cartridge, 77 Girth, 78 Neutral, 83 Diamonds, 84 Artificial, 85 Ritual, 86 Exterior, 87 Go against the grain.

DOWN: 2 Neared, 3 Humid, 4 Lad, 5 Pips, 6 Farrier, 7 Heeded, 8 Gate, 9 Dividend, 11 Onrush, 12 Gastronomy, 13 Owns, 14 Earnest, 18 Negotiated, 20 Apex, 23 Assay, 24 Restrain, 26 Cheddar, 28 Propane, 30 Groove, 31 Calico, 32 Clever, 35 Tense, 37 Carve, 38 Tuba, 40 Lava, 45 Rabbi, 46 Traitors, 47 Turnip, 48 Boll-weevil, 49 Fees, 50 Respond, 51 Healed, 52 Notch, 54 Ours, 55 Awkward, 56 Canter, 61 Troubadour, 63 Rally, 67 Kangaroo, 68 Tale, 69 Wheedle, 72 Obtains, 73 Studio, 74 Bikini, 75 Salami, 79 Tutor, 80 Raft, 81 Wing, 82 Flat, 85 Roe.

SPORTS

Squash player strikes ‘surprising’ result

By GORDON PREECE

Charlize Davy was “quite surprised” when she placed fourth in New Zealand at a recent national squash tournament while representing Waikato under 15 girls.

The Thames High School year 10 student claimed her spot over 12 other players in the 2022 GJ Gardner Homes New Zealand Junior National Individual and Inter-District Teams Championships.

The tournament was held at Hutt City Squash Club at Wellington between October 7 and 12.

Charlize told *The Profile* she was “quite surprised” with her result given it was her first national tournament.

“I didn’t think I would do that well, I went in expecting not to win because it was my first national and I was quite nervous but I definitely enjoyed it,” she said.

“I think my main highlight was getting to meet new people.”

Charlize, who has played squash for “three or four

years”, also represented Waikato in the under 19 team category of the tournament.

“It was definitely much harder than the individuals because I competed against people a lot older than me and a lot stronger but I definitely enjoyed it and had a few good hits,” she said.

Charlize said she qualified for the tournament after competing in an interclub tournament held at Thames Squash Club.

“I did quite well and I’m pretty sure there was one of the Waikato selectors who was paying at-

tention to my scores and they saw how well I did,” she said.

Charlize said she would now compete for Waikato in the C Grade category at the 2022 Champion of Champions in Invercargill on October 28.

“Hopefully I will win a few of my games. I think I can do well and I’m definitely going to be training hard.”

“I have a hit with one of my training partners, Sarn Kennedy, and then I do training with my coach, Phil Buscke-Somervell, and sister Alyssa.”

“I went in expecting not to win because it was my first national and I was quite nervous but I definitely enjoyed it.”

- Charlize Davy



Charlize Davy will continue “training hard” for her upcoming squash tournament..

Photo: SUPPLIED

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