

Police meet with business owners concerned about crime, P3

The Valley Profile

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Tornado wreaks havoc

By TERESA RAMSEY

Bonnie Hogben was relaxing on her sister's deck in Paeroa when the skies darkened and the weather became "moody".

"It was so scary," she said. "It was so calm and then it turned black, and then it started getting windy and pouring down... it was so strange."

She had no idea she was just seconds away from a destructive tornado lifting the two-bay boat shed just a few metres away high into the air before being dropped into a mess of twisted iron and splintered wood.

The freak storm last Wednesday afternoon caused damage to about a dozen properties in Washington Square, and also flipped a transportable cabin from another neighbour's yard on to its roof as well as damaging boats, vehicles and fences.

"I had to run - you could see things flying through the air and I could see stuff flying at me," Bonnie said.

"I ran inside and the windows started smashing."

Originally from Christchurch, Bonnie and her sister Sammy Rae, who owns the home with her fiancé, Shane Jordan, said they knew what to do in an emergency, but admitted they were completely unprepared for the tornado.

"We've gone through the Christchurch earthquakes so you'd think we'd know what to do - duck and cover," Bonnie said.

"I didn't know what to do, I didn't have anyone here."

Over the fence at the back of the section, the tornado broke a large



Shane Jordan and Sammy Rae with the remains of their two-bay boat shed after a tornado ripped through.

Photo: TERESA RAMSEY

tree in half and threw it on to her elderly neighbour's car 15-20 metres away. "He's so lucky it didn't go through his house, he's got a few of our wood palings through his house - at the top of that window was a massive piece of wood just hanging out."

Sammy, who was at work at the time, said she was relieved nobody was hurt and her children, aged 18

months and 10 years, weren't at home when the tornado struck.

"I'm so glad, especially seeing as one of them has been sick and we have been home a lot, so I'm very glad he was well because I hate to imagine."

"I was just sitting at work and I thought 'oh that's a gust', I didn't think anything into it... but until people see it - we were in the vor-

tex of it.

"It's not going to be a quick fix."

She said the damage to her shed and home was covered by insurance. "It's not what you expect, how do you prepare for a tornado? I can't now say I want a tornado-proof shed."

"It makes people realise they need insurance, I feel for anyone that's not insured."

The tornado went on to spread debris over Thames Rd before felling mature trees on the hills behind the former Paeroa Racecourse.

Moments before, it had wreaked havoc at the Paeroa RV Centre on Coronation St, and prior to that, the wild front loaded with lightning and thunder had caused damage to multiple homes

CONTINUED ON P2

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Tornado tears through Hauraki

CONTINUED FROM P1

and businesses in Kerepēhi. RV Centre treasurer Michele MacDonald told *The Profile* a roof of one of the cabins on site was “peeled back like a sardine can”.

“It was raining so heavily that no one could go outside to see what had happened, it was a downpour, and the chairperson here, they were trapped in their van because their awning fell over their door so they couldn’t get out,” she said.

“There was lightning and thunder and then instantly the tornado came through. It was quite frightening but I’m grateful no one was hurt.”

Michele said they planned to get an insurance company in to assess the damage.

Powerco said a total of 595 Paeroa customers lost power at 1.46pm, while 947 Ngatea and Kerepēhi customers lost power a minute later at 1.47pm.

Several homes and businesses in Kerepēhi were damaged by the wild weather, with large trees uprooted and several rural homes near Kerepēhi losing their roofs.

A worker at a business in the industrial precinct reported seeing a “big, blue flash” during the storm’s onset, and a nearby business received damage to its roof and windows.

The Karangahake Gorge was also temporarily closed due to a fallen tree.

- Additional reporting, Gordon Preece and Kelley Tantau



A rural home near Kerepēhi lost its roof during the storm.

Photo: NIKKI SANDERS



The tornado flipped a transportable cabin.



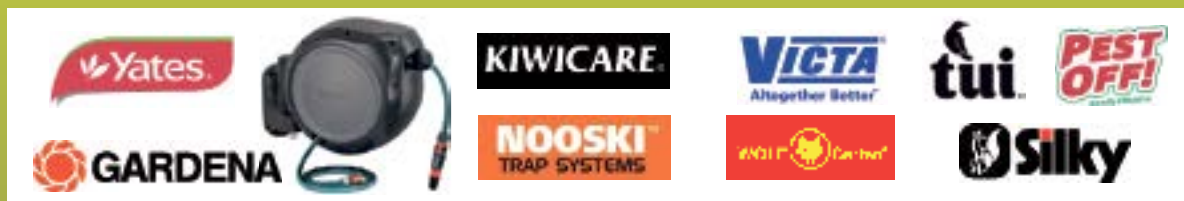
Michele MacDonald with some of the damage.



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Thames Tides

Wed Dec 7		Thu Dec 8		Fri Dec 9		Sat Dec 10		Sun Dec 11		Mon Dec 12		Tue Dec 13	
Morning	1:03am 0.7	Morning	1:49am 0.6	Morning	2:31am 0.6	Morning	3:12am 0.6	Morning	3:51am 0.6	Morning	4:29am 0.7	Morning	5:07am 0.7
Afternoon	1:28pm 0.8	Afternoon	2:11pm 0.8	Afternoon	2:53pm 0.8	Afternoon	3:34pm 0.9	Afternoon	4:15pm 0.9	Afternoon	4:57pm 0.9	Afternoon	5:39pm 1.0
	7:28am 3.3		8:12am 3.4		8:54am 3.4		9:33am 3.4		10:12am 3.4		10:51am 3.3		11:31am 3.3
	5:51am 8:27pm		5:51am 8:28pm		5:51am 8:29pm		5:51am 8:30pm		5:51am 8:31pm		5:52am 8:31pm		5:52am 8:32pm
	Best At 12:09pm		Best At 12:34am		Best At 1:25am		Best At 2:17am		Best At 3:08am		Best At 3:59am		Best At 4:47am
	Set 4:48am	Full Moon	Set 5:24am		Set 6:06am		Set 6:54am		Set 7:47am		Set 8:45am		Set 9:44am
	Rise 7:41pm		Rise 8:42pm		Rise 9:40pm		Rise 10:32pm		Rise 11:17pm		Rise 11:55pm		

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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	Min	Hr	Min
Coromandel	-0	05	-0	04
Whitianga	-0	01	-0	05
Tairua	+0	10	+0	21
Whangamata	-0	03	-0	05
Waihi Beach	-0	12	-0	12

Police meet with business owners

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

The criminals committing ram raid offences in Thames are generally the “overflow” of felons targeting bigger centres like Hamilton and Auckland.

The youngest being 10-years-old.

Around two dozen people attending a crime meeting organised by the Thames Business Association last week were also told that social media and rivalry among offenders was a motivator behind the raids.

“It’s almost like a competition between the Hamilton group and Auckland group,” area prevention manager and acting Senior Sergeant John Reid said.

“A few months ago there was a ram raid into a shopping mall in Auckland, and a few nights later, the same thing happened in Hamilton. So, there’s certainly a social media element; it’s like they’re trying to one-up each other.”

Criminals also live-stream the ram raids for kudos, but Senior Sergeant Tony Mumford said the offenders targeting Thames were not local to the area.

“What we need to have a look at is who is doing the ram raids - Hamilton has literally been smashed by ram raids; we get the overflow,” he said.

“When ram raids take place, generally the offenders will steal two or three cars, travel in convoy, one will drive through the door, the rest will get out, grab what they can, and get in the

cars that are still there.

“Pressure was put on the group of offenders that predominantly came from Auckland, and spread to Hamilton, so they started looking elsewhere, which is why they came here.”

A report presented by Police to the business association in November said five offenders had recently been charged with a total of 81 offences.

One was a deportee from Australia, two were responsible for a large number of thefts from supermarkets and other shops, and one focused on thefts, burglaries, and frauds within Thames.

The November 30 meeting was a private forum for members of the business association to ask what they could do to protect themselves and their business from crime, but Thames Community Board member Kishan Raikwar said he wasn’t sure how he could stop illegal activity from occurring at his restaurant, Gastronomics.

“We’ve always been soft on the people doing the silly things,” he said.

Thames-Coromandel District Mayor Len Salt attended the meeting and said conversations he’s had with business owners had centred around criminal activity in the area, and what could be done to curb it.

He said while the numbers at the meeting were smaller than expected, he was encouraged that it could mean Thames was not yet at “crisis level”.

“However, if you walk down



Senior Sergeant Tony Mumford spoke to a group of business owners concerned about crime.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

the main street of Thames, you will see boarded up shops, and that to me is heartbreaking.”

He said people in the community needed assistance to put tools in place to prevent the town from “getting any further down the road to where Hamilton is or Auckland is”.

Thames Community Constable Gareth Carter said technol-

ogy such as Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras were an asset to local police, but on-the-ground work done by the likes of the Thames Community Patrol was another tool in the prevention tool belt.

“I’m the police liaison officer for the patrol and the problem is that the community doesn’t really know about them - eve-

ryone calls them ‘night owls’ - but they’ve been around for 20 years and we’ve been trying to put a bit more of a public view on it and get young ones joining in.”

MORE ON THE COMMUNITY PATROL, P13.



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ENTERTAINMENT

Funding cuts risk art 'in the sticks'

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

The effects of a decision to cut a nationwide touring arts programme will be felt out in rural communities, with one gig promoter labelling it "disappointing".

In its latest funding round, Creative New Zealand decided to drop its support for Arts on Tour - a touring agency which has been providing music and drama to outlying centres in Aotearoa for 27 years.

Instead, Creative NZ gave it transition funding of \$88,000 - but Kauaeranga Music's Peter Revell said this was likely enough for just four shows out of the 12 Arts on Tour hoped to offer provincial promoters in 2023.

"I get disappointed because I feel that there are a lot of things that impact on the smaller communities way more than big cities," he said.

"This Arts on Tour thing is something else. It's just taking a little something away from the rural communities."

Arts on Tour provides an annual "menu" of top-quality performers, promotional material, guidance, and tour management to local gig presenters, including to Peter and his wife, Keri, who have been putting on gigs at the Kauaeranga Hall in Thames since 2015.

Each year, locals and visitors alike watch between four and five shows at the hall which have been provided by Arts on Tour. The



Kauaeranga Music's Peter Revell hosts a yearly catalogue of events at the Kauaeranga Hall.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

other monthly performances provided by Kauaeranga Music are supplemented by resident musos, previous performers, and international acts.

With Arts on Tour's funding being cut, it means Peter may only be able to host half of his usual calendar of events.

"If I had to put on 12 gigs a year and create all the marketing material and negotiate with the musicians, I wouldn't be putting on 12 gigs a year," he said. "I can handle the four or five I have to do myself, but this will just take something

away, so rather there being a gig every month in the Kauaeranga Hall it becomes: is there going to be a gig this quarter?"

Creative NZ's Toi Uru Kahikatea investment programme will support 58 organisations over the next three years, and in a release,

arts council chair Caren Rangī said the programme was "expanding the range and reach of the arts in New Zealand".

However, a petition has been launched and signed by more than 2200 people calling for an "immediate reinstatement of Creative New Zealand ongoing funding to Arts On Tour".

Peter pointed frustrated fans to sign the petition and even wrote to Creative New Zealand, telling them that Arts on Tour was "crucial to the wellbeing in our town".

"It's been fantastic for us because here we are, in a little hoki mai hall in the back of nowhere, getting these absolutely outstanding musicians who have been vetted by Arts on Tour for quality... we get them way out here in the sticks, as does Reefton and Hokitika and other rural places," he said.

"Now, I'm sensing that all the funding will end up gravitating all of these acts to the bigger population centres, and not to the Reefton's, the Thames's, the Coromandel's.

"Is this the end of Arts on Tour in New Zealand? I really hope not," he said. "I hope that the [Arts on Tour] board sits down and figures out a new business model that could work."

DETAILS: To sign the petition, search for 'Arts on Tour' at: our.actionstation.org.nz



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Forget me Knot to close before Christmas

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

Susan Turner is sad to be closing the doors of her opportunity shop in Paeroa, but recovering from the effects of Covid-19 and a fire that devastated her first store hasn't been easy.

The last day of trade for Forget Me Knot's New Beginnings will be on December 20.

"We were staying open, hoping we would bounce back, but it hasn't eventuated and now I have to admit that I have to let it go," she said.

Back in February, Susan's op shop along Paeroa's main street caught ablaze, caused by an electrical fault.

There were no injuries, but the store was gutted and neighbouring businesses Mikkelsen Gallery, Paeroa Roast and Bakery, Midway Burger Bar, Old Mate's Pizza, and Paeroa News Agents were also affected. All have since reopened except Midway Burger Bar.

Susan remained positive, and within a month, her new shop - Forget Me Knot's New Beginnings - opened at a premises down the road.

But in November, Susan announced that the shop had struggled to bounce back financially after the fire, and she had exhausted all outlets to keep the doors open.

It was time for a new chapter, she said.

"I've had a lot of people pouring in who are not very



Susan Turner is sad to be saying goodbye to her opportunity shop, but the time has come for her to head in a different direction.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

happy, and saddened that it is what it is. I have put a lot into it and there's been a lot of effort, sweat, blood, and tears - and coming back after the fire drove me even more, I wanted to bring it back from the ashes," she said.

"But I need to change paths and head in a different direc-

tion."

Susan will be moving back home to Bland Bay, north of Whangārei.

She's also looking forward to having a Christmas holiday away from work for the first time in years.

"For the last four years it's been Christmas, then Boxing

Day, and then I've been back at the shop, so I'm looking forward to having some quality time with my family and my mum."

Susan told *The Profile* she's hoping to sell around \$9000 worth of items in the store so that she is able to pay final bills and "walk away with a clean

slate".

"In the last two weeks, I'm going to have a \$1 sale on everything, just to clear as much as we can. I've also reached out to local charities offering them to take a big chunk of whatever's left."



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ENTERTAINMENT

Waihi kids ready for fruitful performance

By GORDON PREECE

More than 30 youth will take the Waihi Drama Society stage for a slice of a Roald Dahl classic.

The newly formed Youth Theatreworks Waihi will host three *James and the Giant Peach* performances at the Boyd Rd venue on December 9, 10 and 11.

Trustee and stage manager for the production Victoria Menary told *The Profile* the hour-long performance was authentic to the Roald Dahl story originally published in 1961.

"James is an orphan... and he goes to live with Aunt Sponge and Aunt Spiker who are very horrible and one day a mysterious man comes along with a bag of little wriggly green things," she said.

"He tells James that they're magic. The next day Aunt Sponge and Aunt Spiker notice a peach growing on this old tree and it grows to massive proportions, and James discovers a little hole in the side of the peach and goes in and meets all the gigantic insect characters."

Victoria said Youth Theatreworks Waihi, which has five other trustees, was established around four months ago to build on the successes of the youth programme originally run as a branch of Waihi Drama Society.

"We saw a need for the chil-



Youth performances of *James and The Giant Peach* are set to entertain Waihi.

Photo: SUPPLIED

dren and young people in Waihi to have an opportunity for performing arts so we wanted to create a space that was safe, welcoming and inclusive," she said.

"Around 30 students are involved in the play and they attend Waihi Beach School, Waihi East School, Waihi College, one from Waihi Central School and a little handful who are homeschooled."

Victoria said *James and the Giant Peach* was picked be-

cause the director Sandra Timlin had used Roald Dahl stories for previous Waihi Drama Society performances.

"Last year she did *Fantastic Mr Fox* and the year before that it was *The Twits* and they're familiar stories with great characters and they're really well adapted to the stage and very suitable for the age group we've got," she said.

Victoria said by the time of the first performance, the kids aged between seven- and

14-years would have rehearsed for 10 weeks.

"We've been amazed at how well the kids have learned their lines, there's a lot of dialogue to learn, and a lot of the main cast are quite young, they're only eight or nine. They've really impressed me with their ability," she said.

Edwin Randell from Waihi College wrote some music for the show, along with two original tunes, she said.

Some costumes and props

were also donated by Waihi College and the trust received a \$2006 grant from Creative Communities to go towards extra ones.

Victoria said Youth Theatreworks Waihi was also preparing its 2023 programme for workshops so kids could practise theatre skills.

DETAILS: *The Theatre Boyd Rd, December 9 at 6pm, December 10 at 11am and 2pm, December 11 at 2pm. Tickets: gold coin donation available at Waihi Stationery*

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Paeroa kicks off Christmas fun

More than 30 floats were witnessed by hundreds of spectators as they made their way down Paeroa's main street for the 2022 Christmas Parade, put together by Positive Paeroa. The event brought the festive cheer to the Hauraki town on Friday, December 2, and there were awards for the best floats. Kapai Krafts won best business float, the Scouts won best community float, Karangahake School won the best school float, Hikutaia School won the best eco float, and the Paeroa and Thames Tongan Community won people's choice. Valley Profile reporter **KELLEY TANTAU** witnessed all the fun.



Harold the giraffe from Life Education was popular with the crowd.

Photos: KELLEY TANTAU



The Tongan Community had a 'royal family' theme to their float.



Kevin and Victoria Logie represent Logic Leathers.



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The Kerepehi Brass Band opens the parade.



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Jan Wright, left, Hilary Falconer, Fiona Cameron at the event. Photo: GORDON PREECE

Arts strategy to be reviewed

By GORDON PREECE

More than 50 creatives gathered at the Grahamstown Bar and Diner on November 29 for the Creative Coromandel Mix and Mingle event to connect the Coromandel art community.

One of the main topics discussed at the event was the review of the Coromandel Arts & Creative Industries Strategy, which was first adopted by Thames-Coromandel District Council and an Advisory Board in 2016 to support Coromandel artists.

Former Matarangi art consultant Hilary Falconer, who is undertaking the review process, told the audience the reason for the review was because there had been a change in people's attitude towards art.

"Maybe Covid has made us all rethink our priorities in life, but I think the increase in interest and acceptance of the value of arts and creativity from all sectors of society could be forged to support a creative community," she said.

"The Coromandel is alive with artists, it's an integral element of this area of Aotearoa, and keeping the vision of art as part of all of our lives is important for economic and social well being.

"What we want to look at is what has been achieved from the strategy, what still needs to be achieved, what areas have been successful and where more work needs to be done."

Hilary encouraged Coromandel creatives to provide their input for the review to gain support for their art projects.

"We need to take the temperature of the Coromandel arts community after a challenging few years and to find the supporting evidence relevant to your needs and your plans for the future," she said.

"So when a community consultation is being held in your area, I hope you treat it as so many people did in 2015, as an exciting opportunity to meet with other creatives where great ideas developed, enthusiasm was sparked, collaboration began, and a sense of community was fostered.

"I look forward to seeing you all in February when I'll be carrying out the consultation workshops."



Scott Simpson
MP for Coromandel

Season's greetings to all and a warm welcome to visitors to our region.

There will be plenty of summer community events planned and I'm looking forward to attending lots of them. I hope to see you there!

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Funded by the Parliamentary Service. Authorised by Scott Simpson, 614 Pollen St, Thames.

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Rural Life

Coastal monitoring begins

The summer monitoring programme of Waikato region beaches and estuaries is due to get underway at the end of the month with help from two environmental science university students.

Every year, Waikato Regional Council staff monitor coastal water quality, estuary benthic macrofauna (sediment-dwelling organisms), stream water quality, freshwater fish and water levels of key lakes and wetlands. They're helped during the peak monitoring period by students employed from November to around March.

Much of this testing is part of a council drive to gain better information about what's happening in the region's coastal waters and to make the latest results for the coast, rivers and lakes available to the public on the LAWA website – www.lawa.org.nz – under Can I Swim Here?

The number of faecal bacteria present in the water indicate the likelihood of contracting a disease from many possible pathogens in the water such as bacteria or viruses.

Coastal and Marine Science Team Leader Dr Michael Townsend said that, as a rule, the water quality at Waikato region beaches is generally good for activities like swimming and surfing.

“But people should exercise caution for up to 48 hours following heavy rain, because it flushes contaminants from urban and rural land into waterways, which then make their way to the coast. These contaminants may be present in the water for up to two days after heavy or prolonged rainfall.

“Last summer we recorded two exceedances – at Buffalo Beach and Sunset Beach – and that's likely due to their proximity to large freshwater sys-



A Water sample is collected as part of Waikato Regional Council's beach and estuary monitoring programme. Photo: SUPPLIED

tems which will have been impacted by heavy rain.”

He said providing the public with the best quality information is important. “So we work together with district councils and Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand (Waikato) to identify any results that may have public health implications and then communicate them.”

Te Whatu Ora Waikato's Medical Officer of Health, Dr Richard Wall, recommends that where Public Health warnings are in place, the water at these beaches should be avoided for all recreational use.

In addition to the coastal water quality testing, over summer the students will be sorting benthic macrofauna (sediment-dwelling organisms such as shellfish and marine worms) samples collected from estuaries and looking at the characteristics of the sediment to evaluate ecological health.



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Construction begins on gorge car park

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

Work is about to begin on a new car park in the Karangahake Gorge, after the district council sought legal advice to put any opposition to the project “to bed”.

Hauraki district councillors unanimously made a decision back in November, 2021 to develop the tourist hotspot along State Highway 2 - starting with the creation of a car park off County Rd into Cornes Paddock.

But residents who neighbour the chosen site came up against council on numerous occasions, continuously calling for the project to be scrapped, or put in another location.

They also argued that because the reserve was classified as a recreational reserve, a permanent car park was not legally allowed.

However, Mayor Toby Adams has announced that there is no need to change the reserve classification, and that construction will soon be underway at the site. “The project has been a long time in the making, and there has been some opposition to the development.

“To put the matter to bed, council has had legal advice to ensure that we are able to construct a car park on the site, without the need to change the reserve classification.”

Construction will be finished in time for the Christmas period, and council has asked that visitors stay away from

the construction site, for their safety, until the work is finished.

The Profile earlier reported that under stage one, a metal car park, a perimeter fence, and planting would be installed at Cornes Paddock. Stage two would see the car park sealed. It will be open seven days a week.

The reserve has previously been used as an alternative car park, but only in dry weather.

The project will now offer a permanent, alternative overflow car park for the busy summer period as well as other busy times, council said.

In a November 27 letter to the editor, Karangahake resident Claire Flanery said the current overflow parking was not used during the week; when it’s raining; and only barely on public holidays.

She said reserves were in limited supply and Cornes Paddock was a green space for future generations.

“So seeing as it’s not utilised by tourists, and unwanted by the community, and questionable as to whether it’s compliant with the district plan or reserves management plan, and causes safety issues of Karangahake residents, who is this car park for?”

Council stated it would like to work with iwi in the future to develop the area and provide a safe off-road link to the Hauraki Rail Trail.



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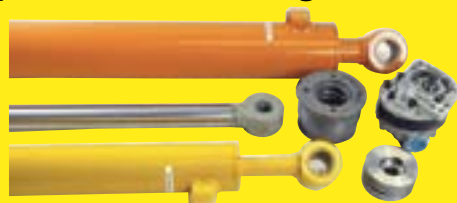


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Letter released after long delay

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

A letter written by former Thames-Coromandel Mayor Sandra Goudie stating her opposition to her council's Covid-19 policy has been released to *The Profile* one year after it was first requested.

On December 10, 2021, Thames-Coromandel District Council signed off on its TCDC Covid Vaccine Policy, which required all TCDC workers to be vaccinated against Covid-19 in its council workplaces, including all elected members.

Then-Mayor Sandra Goudie made a submission to this policy, in the form of an email, to all councillors and community board members.

On December 14, *The Profile* requested an electronic copy of this email under the Local Government Official Information Act.

Two days later, council's then-group manager strategy and governance Rex Capil declined to respond "on the basis that all feedback received from staff and elected members on the policy is confidential".

The Profile lodged a complaint with the Ombudsman,

and on January 26, 2022, investigations commenced about the council's decision to refuse the request.

However, it wasn't until October, 2022, when the complaint was transferred to the Ombudsman's Investigation and Resolution Team.

On November 23, 2022, an Ombudsman staffer was advised that TCDC would be providing *The Profile* with a revised decision on its request.

Shortly after, Sandra Goudie's letter was released to *The Profile* in full.

After being asked why council decided to release the letter now rather than when it was first requested in December last year, a spokesperson said council had revised its decision "as Sandra is no longer Mayor and the policy is not in effect".

"On review, we acknowledge former Mayor Sandra's Covid vaccination views were already publicly known and she provided them for the elected member and staff consultation process late and outside of the consultation process."



Author releases animal tales

By GORDON PREECE

A devotion to animals led Ngātea author Kathy Gallimore to begin writing animal books for children.

The former Middlemore Hospital clerk told *The Profile* she had written three animal books for children and her first one titled *Doggie Tales* emerged from "a whim one day".

"I've had horses, dogs and cats for most of my life and I can't write dialogue very well for humans but I seem to be able to write it for animals," she said.

"I thought I would write a book about dogs... then when I retired and moved to Ngātea in 2016 I was looking after a friend's dog while they were on holiday in England and I bumped into [Thames illustrator] Pam Mayos.

"She invited me to her place and I looked down the hallway and saw all these beautiful drawings of animals of hers... and the next time I saw her I told her I've written this dog book, I've got the manuscript, and would you be interested in illustrating it?"

Kathy said her new companion agreed she could use her illustrations and a United Kingdom publisher later agreed to publish *Doggie Tales* in 2019.

"It's about a dog who runs away from a cruel home and meets up with another dog who



Kathy Gallimore with her animal tales.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

has had an unfortunate start in life and they decide to go for a wander together and come across the property with some other dogs in a farming community," she said.

"They have all sorts of adventures and then at the end I thought children need to know animals don't last forever so there's a sad ending.

"One of them passes away and all the dogs are very upset of course but they all live happily ever after."

Kathy's book, *Erica's Story*,

which was also published in 2019, was inspired by her time as an SPCA volunteer.

"It's about a cat that's abandoned in a remote area and she becomes pregnant, has two kittens and tries to find somewhere to look after them."

Kathy said *Milk, Wool and Cheese*, published this year, was "dreamt up" between her and Pam to give children an opportunity to learn that all animals could live together comfortably.

Kathy said her books were currently available online.

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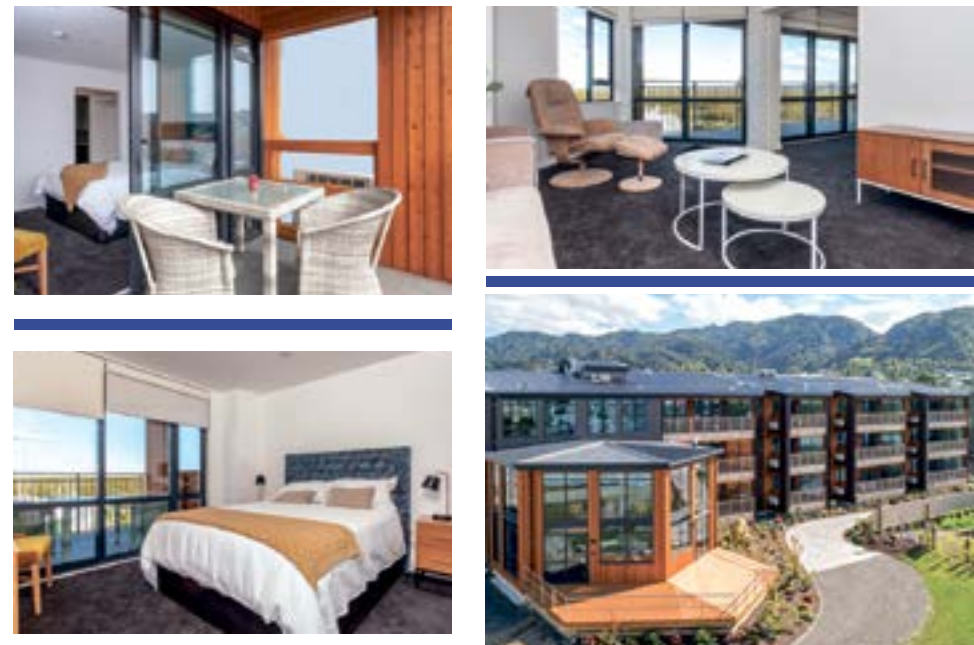
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Missing man found after search



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



Workers at the Waihi Gold Mining Co's Battery, Waikino, in July 1904.

A casual remark aroused the interest of Constable George Bevan of Karangahake.

A man was missing at Waikino and the constable thought it was worth further investigation. Edward Bramble told him that the previous morning he had picked up a hat floating in the Waihi Gold mining company's water race close to the Waikino stamper battery. Several men identified the hat as belonging to Donald McMillan, a Scotchman who was a little eccentric in his habits.

The water was cut to the race and soon after, Donald's body was discovered. On searching it the constable found a recent Waihi Daily Telegraph dated Saturday 6 August, 1904, a flask full of whiskey, watch and chain, a rule, one shilling, three pence and a pocket knife. The watch had stopped at seven minutes past eight. He later inspected Donald's hut and everything appeared to be in order. But not everything was quite in order with Donald or Waikino.

At the inquest, Edward Bramble said he had known Donald for about a year. He saw him last on Saturday afternoon. He was quite sober and

Edward didn't think he drank to excess. Andrew Aukin, who worked at Montgomery's Owharoa hotel, had seen Donald on Sunday morning at 6.30. Half an hour later Donald brought a bag over and said he would call for it in the evening but Andrew didn't see him again. Donald did not ask for a drink nor did he get a drink. Grace McGregor, servant at the Owharoa hotel, said she never served drink on Sundays. Not a soul asked her for a drink on Sunday morning. William Hicks,

Donald's next door neighbour, sometimes saw him the worse for liquor, but not what he would call drunk. It was frosty on Sunday morning and William thought Donald may have slipped into the water race. Ralph Montgomery, hotel publican, saw Donald on Saturday night at closing time. He asked for a bed, but Ralph was unable to give him one; he had already seventy boarders at the hotel. Ralph told Donald to stay the night by the fire in the sitting room. He often gave Donald a bed, because he was afraid of the track to his home in the dark. Donald was none the worse for drink.

Much of the evidence attesting

to Donald's sobriety appeared to be an attempt to divert suspicion away from the Owharoa Hotel illegally selling liquor on Sunday's and the fact that Donald may have been drunk when he went into the water race.

This evidence though crumbled when Samuel Fraser, battery manager at Waikino, had his say. Samuel had dispensed with Donald's services owing to his coming to work when intoxicated.

He had given him many chances and took him on several times because he seemed so poor. He had to dismiss him finally because he could not depend on him. It was not safe for him to work in that state. "There has been a considerable amount of heavy drinking in Waikino," he said "but a better class of men are now coming on, but there is still too much drinking to my liking."

The jury returned a verdict that Donald McMillan was accidentally drowned in the Waihi Company's water race at Waikino. Constable Bevan was praised for his promptness in acting on unofficial information and tracing and recovering the body.

Donald, 42 and single, was buried at Pukerimu cemetery, Paeroa.

ENTERTAINMENT

Messiah 'enthraling'

St George's Church in Thames was the fitting venue for St George's Community Choir's performances of Handel's *Messiah* as it celebrates its 150th anniversary.

Traditionally sung at Christmastime, the much-loved 280-year oratorio drew record crowds with the Sunday performance, packing the church to capacity, requiring extra chairs to be found.

The musical director and conductor, Nichola Genn Harris, has rehearsed the 53-strong choir weekly since July, and later the choir was joined by an orchestra of 16 musicians including Michael Bell, organist, and Jono Dunlop on the harpsichord. Eleven-year-old Sophia Haakma, of Thames, was one of the

violinists. It is testament to St George's Choir that three of the professional soloists, Gina Sanders, Elisha Hulton and Iain Tetley, together with Micael Bell, (organ), delight in singing and playing with the choir in St George's Church, and return regularly for performances.

New to singing with the choir was soloist Samuel McKeever, who astounded the audience with his rich bass-baritone voice. Two grateful audiences have been enthusiastic in their praise: "Enthralling, outstanding, magical", and "Thank-you for bringing such beautiful music to Thames - it has brought joy to the town".

Standing ovations were well deserved for these high quality, polished performances.



Soloist Gina Sanders (soprano) performs.

Photo: DAVID RUDDOCK



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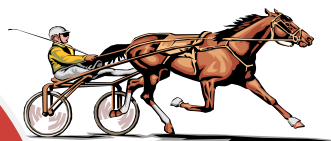
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Community board chair, deputy named

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

Former deputy mayor Adrian Catran was named chairperson of the Thames Community Board at its inaugural meeting last month.

With no other nominations received, Mr Catran moved seamlessly to the head of the table and, inspired by the words of the 35th President of the United States, John F Kennedy, told fellow members to “ask not what Thames can do for you, but what you can do for Thames”.

“Thank you very much for having the faith in me to be the chair of the Thames Community Board. I know we have a difficult road ahead of us... we have less than 1000 days to sort things out, and I want the board to be a very collective board, one that works together unitedly,” he said.

“The personalities amongst us here - it will be a very strong community board, I’m sure of that.”

Mr Catran has 18 years of local government experience - nine as a district councillor and six as deputy mayor. He nominated Rob Johnston, trustee of the Thames Public Art Trust, to be his deputy chair and said he’d be relying on him “heavily” throughout the term. Thames ward councillor Peter Revell, who was elected to the community board back in 2019, told the table - including new members Holly MacKenzie and Kishan Raikwar - that he “came

in largely not knowing what I was doing, certainly not knowing what I was getting into, and not knowing any of the people around the table”.

“But one of the things that has convinced me is that the Thames Community Board can be a hugely significant contributor to the well-being, culture, and feeling of this town.

“I believe that in the last term, we didn’t manage to quite grab that opportunity, and one of the things that has excited me both during the election campaign and subsequently, is the people that are represented around this table,” he said.

“The potential for us to make a difference to this town is really huge. It’s a diverse group of people and I think we need to make sure we grab that opportunity and work together in trust and cohesion and make a difference, because our people, our community, deserves it.”

Meanwhile, the Whangamatā Community Board elected Dave Ryan and Denis Beaver to be chair and deputy chair, respectively; with Warwick Brooks chair of the Tairua-Pāuanui Community Board and Chris New as deputy chair. In Coromandel-Colville, Gavin Jeffcoat is chair and Jean Ashby is deputy chair; while Mercury Bay Community Board’s chair is Krissy Robinson.



Thames Community Patrol volunteers.

Photo: SUPPLIED/MONIKA LANGE

Patrollers call for more support

By **GORDON PREECE**

Thames Community Patrol is “desperately” seeking more volunteers and public donations to continue operating its service to keep Thames safe.

Secretary and treasurer Dianne Leather told *The Profile* the organisation had established a Givealittle page and held raffles at Thames Saturday Markets to boost funds to cover fuel and other upkeep costs.

“Any donation you can manage to give, we would be very grateful, and we’re hoping to get sponsors to help replace the vehicle for us.”

Dianne said the organisation, which had operated in Thames for around 20 years, currently had 13 volunteers but were seeking more to enable more active patrols.

“We’re particularly interested in trying to get some younger volunteers who may be able to look at doing early hours of the morning,” she said. “Because most of us are retired and we’re not quite into doing early hours.”

Dianne said the organisation was also considering daytime patrols if more volunteers came on board.

The role of volunteers was to patrol all streets between Tararu and Kōpū to be the extra eyes for the police and ensure everything was in order, she said.

“When we start our patrol, we log in with police communications so they know we’re out there and anything that we see that doesn’t look quite right, we can contact them and they in turn will send police out on to the job,” she said.

“If something’s happening, sometimes police might contact us and ask us to standby until they arrive.”

“We can also keep our eyes peeled for any stolen cars because when we start our patrol, we’ve got a phone and it might have messages on it to say police are watching out for certain stolen cars and registration numbers.”

Dianne said for safety reasons, two volunteers were required to be in the patrol vehicle and they couldn’t exit the vehicle unless they were first to arrive at the scene of an accident to assess whether emergency services would be required.

DETAILS: To volunteer: Graeme Wood 027 417 0224 or 07 868 80915. To donate: givealittle.co.nz/cause/patrolling-to-help-keep-thames-safe

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Health & Wellbeing

Tips to prepare you for summer

The blooming Pohutukawa trees decorating our coastlines are a good indication that the festive season is just around the corner. This a time that is all about getting outdoors, heading to the beach, taking summer roadies, and gathering for the many summer-break and whānau events happening across Aotearoa.

To support whānau to be in the best shape for the summer break, Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki have organised for their Summer Roadie (SMR Ora) team to be out and about in our Hauraki rohe over the next few weeks - starting with the Peninsula.

To kick things off, our Summer Roadie team are keen to support local Marae around the peninsula with supplies of hygiene kits, RAT kits and just being available to support whānau and communities with any health information that they should need to prepare themselves for the summer break. If your Marae would appreciate some support from our team, please contact Kath Makiri (Service Development Lead) | Phone: 0508 835 676 or 021 902 826 |email: kathleen.makiri@korowai.co.nz.

In the meantime, and for those of our whānau who are already planning their summer holidays, here are a few prep tips from our team...

For those heading away from home for the holidays: Having a Plan in place for your whanau, should someone become ill, is im-



Te Korowai has organised its summer roadie. Photo: K WHITE PHOTOGRAPHY

portant. By adding some "Covid essentials", like Rapid Antigen Test, to First Aid kits is a good option. The Rourou Kit, available on our website, has many tips and tricks to help prepare whānau for times of self-isolation.

Test, Register and Rest - If anyone in your whānau starts to experience symptoms of Covid:

Registering Covid-19 test results is very important, especially for accessing support if you should test positive. Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki provides both clinical and welfare support throughout Hauraki. If you should require any advice with how to register your results or just need some support whilst resting (in self-isolation) then contact the

team on 0508 835 676.

Check on repeat prescriptions and to book in for any boosters

Important Reminder: The second Covid-19 booster is now available for anyone over 50 years of age. For whānau who are Māori and Pacific, the second Covid-19 booster is now available to those over 40 years of age.

Whānau, we know the holiday period can be quite stressful - especially when health concerns arise. Please know that you can contact Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki on 0508 835 676 for assistance and advice. For those of our whānau in distress, please call our Hinengaro Hotline on 0508 111 555.

- Supplied by Te Korowai

Stay sun smart for summer

With the warmer weather heading our way as summer approaches it feels an appropriate time to share and reinforce reminders to protect you and your family from sun damage and its consequences.

STAYING SUNSMART FOR SUMMER

Most skin cancers are caused by too much exposure to ultraviolet rays from the sun. There are three types of radiation; UVA, UVB and UVC. They all have the potential to cause skin and eye damage.

Sunscreen is only one part of your defence against UV radiation. Cover up with suitable clothing, a wide brimmed hat and UV protective sunglasses.

Even on cloudy days or while enjoying water activities you need to take the same care and precautions. Limit your time outside, seek shade and keep well hydrated. All our farming community please sunblock those ears and wear a hat!!

CHOOSING YOUR SUNBLOCK

Look for sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or above, is water resistant and gives broad spectrum protection.



- Apply sunscreen at least 20 minutes before going outside.
- Use plenty - about nine teaspoons is the average full body application.

Sunscreens should be applied often - every two hours when you are outside.



Mopping up sweat or towelling dry reduces protection. Reapply another layer.

The active ingredients should contain titanium and zinc oxides.

Be proactive and make an appointment to see your GP if you notice any changes or bleeding of moles, sores that won't heal or new spots. Being sunsmart and having regular skin checks saves lives and may be the difference between a small manageable removal of a skin cancer opposed to having it become a significant problem.

Take care of yourselves and each other. Team Health Ngatea

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ers, and mental stimulation.

"I also refuse to use commercial packaging, so it's cellophane and handwritten labels."

Debs said she sold her dog treats online, with free delivery to Hauraki-Coromandel dog owners. She also has a stall at Thames Saturday Markets.

"I have a natural rapport with dogs, my knowledge of dogs is quite extensive in their food and their training - my whole thing that I'm doing is for the dogs," she said. "All visiting dogs [to the stall] get free treats."

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Last month's winner of the lotto ticket was Martin Barber, who found Pete in the November 16th edition in the O'Hagan Visique advert. Go to page 2 for details on how to enter.



CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 1pm Monday

<h3>Death Notice</h3> <p>Richards, Heather (née Dickson): 18/02/1946- 03/12/2022 Passed away after a fierce battle with cancer. Treasured wife and best friend of Bruce, dearly loved mum of Shane and Sandra, Vanessa, Peter, Kristina and Roger, and Martin, precious nana of Tamara, Joshua, Corey, Jesse, Shannon, Hayley, Owen, Shaun and Olivia, (and their partners), adored great grand nana of Finley, Merida, Charlotte and Quinn, cherished sister and sister in law of those already gone before her: Dick and Gwen, Carl and Janet, Gayle and Alister, and Bill, and of those who survive her, Malcolm and Sis, Valerie, Barbara, Bruce, Paul and Linda, beloved Aunty of many, best friend of a few, good friend of a great deal more. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Hospice Waikato may be left at the service or via www.hospicewaikato.org.nz/donate-online who nursed mum with great compassion till the end. A service to be held Friday 9th at 2pm at the Kauaeranga Hall</p> 	<h3>Business For Sale</h3> <p>Lawnmower round for sale. 40 push mow lawns, all located in central Paeroa. For more info ph: 0210702844 after 7pm.</p> <h3>Gardening</h3> <p>Stump Grinding. All sizes, all areas. Free quote. Ph 021 060 7659</p> <h3>Handyman</h3> <p>Mowing, hedges, fencing, gardening, carpentry, painting, retaining walls, welding, waterblasting. Work is good quality and I will not attempt to work outside of my skills. Insured. Dennis Schuler 022 129 0169</p> <h3>Storage</h3> <p>Thames Valley Storage - secure, dry units available, two sizes. Call Trev 027 4076966</p> <h3>Wanted to Buy</h3> <p>Caravans, horse floats, boats, trailers, motorbikes, outboards, quads. Any condition, anywhere. Ph Steve 027 622 0011</p> <p>Motorcycles, 4 wheelers & side x sides. Going or not. Phone 027 216 6867. A1 Motor-cycles</p>	<h3>Public Notices</h3> <p>Hauraki District Council Meetings - December 2022</p> <p>Pursuant to Section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, public notice is hereby given that the following meetings will be held during the month of December 2022 in the Council Chamber, Hauraki House, 1 William Street, Paeroa unless otherwise stated.</p> <p>Audit and Risk Committee meeting Tuesday, 13 December 2022, 9.00am</p> <p>Council meeting Wednesday, 14 December 2022, 9.30am (following the Citizenship Ceremony)</p> <p>L D Cavers Chief Executive Hauraki District Council</p> <p>www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz</p> <p>Temporary Road Closure</p> <p>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, the following road will be closed to ordinary vehicular traffic for the period indicated below. During the period of closure provision will be made for ordinary vehicular traffic, which would otherwise use the road, to use alternative routes.</p> <p>Date of closure: Sunday 11 December 2022 Time of closure: 10am to 5pm Roads to be closed: Golden Cross Road, Waikino</p> <p>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.</p> <p>L D Cavers Chief Executive Hauraki District Council</p>	<h3>Situations Vacant</h3> <p>Person required to drive a tractor launching a boat for a charter fishing business. This is a casual on call position and ideally would suit a retired person living in the Te Puru/Waiomu/ Tapu areas. Please call Bob 027 242 0924</p> <p>Looking for Taxi/Mini bus drivers for Thames Taxis with P license, to work in evenings and/or weekends. Please send your resume to thamestaxis@xtra.co.nz or phone 027 943 3692 to discuss.</p> <h3>Situations Vacant</h3> <p>APPRENTICE ELECTRICIAN Due to continued growth and demand we are seeking to employ an apprentice electrician to join our hard working team. If you have the following attributes, we would love to hear from you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent written and verbal communication skills • An attention to detail • A great 'can do' attitude • Ability to work under pressure • A team player • NZ drivers licence <p>Please email your CV and cover letter to tramp@on2itelectrical.com</p> <p>PAPER RUNNERS We have vacancies for reliable paper runners in Thames to deliver the newspaper that is being read. Please contact Geoff on 021 100 8709 or email admin@valleyprofile.co.nz for more information.</p> <p>The Valley Profile</p>	<h3>Situations Vacant</h3> <p>We are looking for an OFFICE STAR Sole Charge</p> <p>We require a versatile office person to manage our busy office workload. You will be a quick learner, be able to multi task, have excellent communication skills, are well organised, totally trustworthy and an interest in gardening would be an advantage.</p> <p>Responsibilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MYOB accounting & payroll • Daily banking and reconciliation • Social media posts and advertising • An overview of Health & Safety • Staff records • All daily office duties • Timely ordering of product (not including plant material) <p>This is an 8.30am to 5pm full time position, Monday to Friday Salary negotiable depending on experience</p> <p>Applications close Friday, 9th December Please send a CV with your application to Paulette, Aeroview Garden Centre PO Box 333 Thames 3640 or email to aeroviewgc@xtra.co.nz</p> 
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HAURAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL

HAURAKI DISTRICT PLAN PLAN CHANGE 5

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991

NOTIFICATION OF THE DATE ON WHICH PLAN CHANGE 5 TO THE HAURAKI DISTRICT PLAN SHALL BECOME OPERATIVE

At its meeting of 30 November 2022 the Hauraki District Council resolved to make Proposed Plan Change 5 (rezoning of former Paeroa Racecourse) to the Hauraki District Plan 'Operative' pursuant to clause 17 (1) of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). In accordance with clause 20 (1) of Schedule 1 of the RMA, Plan Change 5 shall become 'Operative' on 16 December 2022.

Langley Cavers
Chief Executive
7 December 2022




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CRICKET

Hauraki Plains College First XI's run of success in their Waikato/Thames Valley Secondary School's competition came to an abrupt halt on Saturday.

In the match played on their home ground, the more focused Hamilton Boys High School Development XI cruised to an easy victory with overs and wickets to spare.

Hauraki top order batsmen struggled against steady bowling from the visitors during the first ten overs. Fortunately, Richie Gemmell and Trent Ball helped restore some semblance of normality to the run gathering process. The team's most improved player, Andy Rogers, with support from two inexperienced but determined young players - his brother Michael and also Fergus Ball - then added sufficient runs to allow a respectable total to be posted.

Any thought that the target set could be de-

fended evaporated as the visitors enjoyed their good fortune and reached the runs target with ease. One bright spot for the Hauraki team came when Richie Gemmell pulled off another wonderful slip catch. After his good batting earlier in the day, this enabled "Pies" to secure the Hauraki team's Man of the Match award for the second time in three weeks. Details of play: Hamilton Boys High School Development XI, 152 for 2 wickets defeated Hauraki Plains College 151. Richie Gemmell 40, Andy Rogers 31, Trent Ball 20.

- Mike Cotter

BOWLS

WAIHI BOWLING CLUB

November has been a busy month for Club Championships, and coping with the inclement weather conditions, but we'll be able to relax now and have some fun with Christmas celebrations.

Men's Champ Triples on fifth and sixth winners R Perkinson, P Perkinson, B Knight; runners up N Lovell, E Jebb, G Vercoe. Women's section first place, B Cairns, C Bougher, J Campbell; runners up C Boyd, E Cox, R Wynands. Women's Champ Pairs on November 12: 1st place after an extra end, C Boyd, N Tainui; runners up K Scashill, H Parsons. Men's Champ Fours November 26-27: 1st place N Lovell, E Jebb, G Vercoe, Tom Petterd; runners up N Rae, T O'Flaherty, G Love, D Howell. The Women's Fours have been postponed until next year. Men's Champ Pairs Final played on December 1. Both teams level on the 7th end, then Steve's pair managed to stay ahead right up to the 18th end and although two ahead on the board, went down four on the head. First place: N Lovell, E Jebb; runners up S Sincock and John Witt, a first year player.

Well done, after an exciting game. So next up is our Open Triples, Christmas Hams tournament on December 4, so watch this space.

- Clare Boyd

Policing in the 'old' days

OPINION



By RON AGNEW

Things don't always go according to plan in the Police as in life.

I was the Constable on duty on a Saturday night in the late 70's when a Thames Coast resident came in to the old Police Station on Queen street, when the voluntary civil Defense policeman and I were having a cup of tea out the back about 7pm.

He was travelling by minivan to a concert in Hamilton, and asked where a safe place to leave his car would be. I told him to leave it on Queen St opposite the station, and we would keep an eye on it while in and out of the station during the night.

We were back in the station about 1am having another cuppa, when there was an almighty CRASH outside the station! We ran out the front door to find a drunk driver getting out of his car, asking what happened. He had driven his vehicle into the rear of our friend's car, causing quite extensive damage to both vehicles. It ended up a late night's work, by the time he was processed and after which, we ran him home. We then waited for the car owner to return from Hamilton to find his damaged car. Embarrassing to say the least. We then ran him home. There were certainly no cellphones around in those days!

Although really; the police were very fortunate in those days, in that they mainly had to concentrate on crime and disorder, as traffic enforcement was undertaken by the dedicated team of Ministry of Transport Traffic officers in the area. Although police had to deal with the fatal accidents.

The two very experienced Traffic Officers in Thames, were Colin Molloy and Alan Austin, who were very diligent and hardworking and sympathetically had to deal with all sorts of people and traffic situations.

In the 1970's Ngatea was served by traffic Officer Gavin Ballantine, who worked closely with the local policeman Bob Cuthbert, who was renowned for each year taking all his annual leave during duck shooting season, he went shooting each day out on the Hauraki rivers and ponds.

Bob kept a well-armed police house with his five personal rifles and shotguns, as well as the station revolver and rifle. Bob had been a NZ wrestling champion prior to joining the Police.

Paeroa was served by Vietnam Veteran Traffic Officer, Wayne Robson and Owen Rouse and the Area Traffic Sergeant Bob Clarke, who worked with the Police Constables, Paul Sherribb and Brian Dunn.

The sole detective covering all of the Coromandel and Hauraki was Detective Smith who was also Stationed in Paeroa. Waihi was covered by Traffic Officer Don Lockwood.

Vietnam veteran Traffic Officer Bob Williams, had an interesting role of Traffic Education and Training, and travelled to Manaia each year to work with the children who attended Manaia School on horseback to school and home each day and worked with them on road safety on SH25 while on horseback... wonderful days.

- Ron Agnew is a former Thames Police officer

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HARD

79

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EASY

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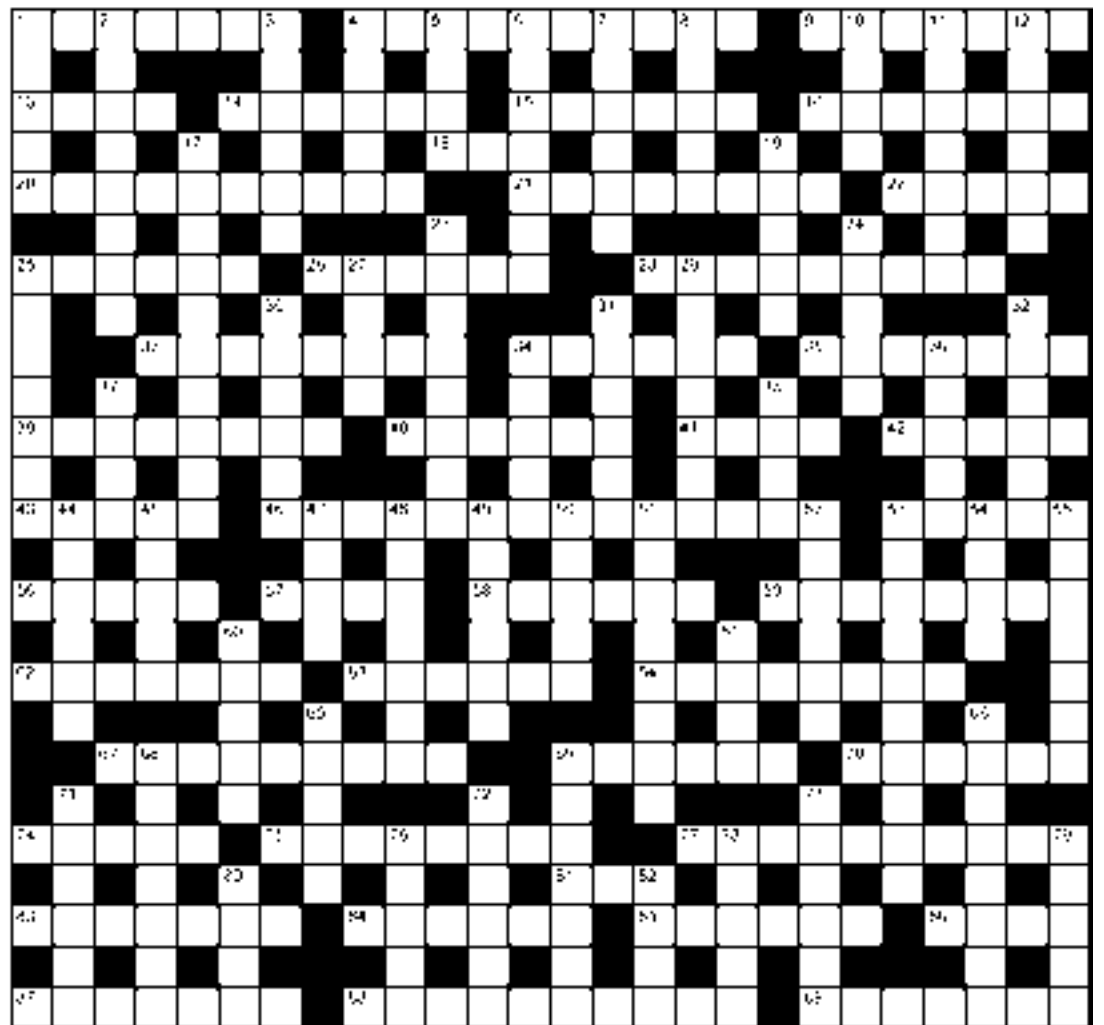
ACROSS

- 1 Brief look (7)
- 4 Disappointing conclusion (10)
- 9 Daydream (7)
- 13 Achieved without effort (4)
- 14 Disinterest (6)
- 15 Open to all (6)
- 16 Afternoon performance (7)
- 18 Harden (3)
- 20 Lexicon (10)
- 21 Continuous (8)
- 22 Open-mouthed (5)
- 25 Scour (6)
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- 28 Travel plan (9)
- 33 Cosseted (8)
- 34 Noisy quarrel (6)
- 35 Console (7)
- 39 Abnormally obsessive (8)
- 40 Of cattle (6)
- 41 Public building (4)
- 42 Dapper (5)
- 43 Boundaries (5)
- 46 Sell very quickly (2,4,3,5)
- 53 Vote in (5)
- 56 Simple song (5)
- 57 Marries (4)
- 58 Suave (6)
- 59 Bowl-shaped strainer (8)
- 62 Covetous (7)
- 63 Small harpsichord (6)
- 64 Widespread

DOWN

- 1 Avarice (5)
- 2 Wobbly (8)
- 3 Grow larger (6)
- 4 Thespian (5)
- 5 Playthings (4)
- 6 Nab (7)
- 7 Take a drink (6)
- 8 Spanish friend (5)
- 10 Slightly open (4)
- 11 Set off (7)
- 12 Drowsy (6)
- 17 Fine and translucent (10)
- 19 False blow (5)
- 23 Wrestler's hold (8)
- 24 Evidence (5)
- 25 Queer (7)
- 27 Fat (4)
- 29 Windpipe (7)
- 30 Season (6)
- 31 Song of mourning

- (6)
- 32 Reviewer (6)
- 34 Confidence (5)
- 36 Physically delicate (5)
- (5)
- 37 Stopper (4)
- 38 Run away (4)
- 44 Foolish or senseless talk (6)
- 45 Praise lavishly (5)
- 47 Follow orders (4)
- 48 Lacking flavour (7)
- 49 Of or like a horse (6)
- 50 Circular flight (5)
- 51 Make more compact (8)
- 52 Brief fall of rain (6)
- 53 Wiped out (10)
- 54 Small whirlpool (4)
- 55 Despotism (7)
- 60 Healed (5)
- 61 Nip (4)
- 65 Meat jelly (5)
- 66 Confused, untidy state (8)
- 68 Vertical (7)
- 69 Sunshade (7)
- 71 Cubbyhole (6)
- 72 Display ostentatiously (6)
- 73 Swiss city (6)
- 76 Bring about (5)
- 78 Was optimistic (5)
- 79 Lobby (5)
- 80 Expensive (4)
- 82 Nearly all of (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Jump to conclusions, 10 Paranoia, 15 Barrel, 16 Route march, 17 Criminal, 19 Players, 21 Usher, 22 Ill at ease, 25 Facsimile, 27 Paucity, 29 Theory, 33 Gauge, 34 Trifling, 36 Authorises, 39 End, 41 Watered, 42 Miller, 43 Impure, 44 Cave, 45 Festoon, 48 Crystal set, 53 Shutter, 57 Rind, 58 Sturdy, 59 Direct, 60 Penalty, 62 Old, 64 Metropolis, 65 Locality, 66 Spurn, 69 Parody, 70 Sojourn, 71 Character, 76 Influenza, 77 Amend, 78 Fortune, 83 Landlord, 84 Vulnerable, 85 Tongue, 86 Adequate, 87 Ride roughshod over.

DOWN: 2 Unable, 3 Party, 4 Oil, 5 Ogre, 6 Counsel, 7 Uneven, 8 Iran, 9 Necklace, 11 Agreed, 12 Atmosphere, 13 Ows, 14 Allergy, 18 Ear-trumpet, 20 Risk, 23 Smart, 24 Constant, 26 August, 28 Algeria, 30 Vacate, 31 Fields, 32 Chorus, 35 Friar, 37 Swear, 38 Veto, 40 Dies, 45 Forum, 46 Sanitary, 47 Notion, 48 Carcinogen, 49 Yo-yo, 50 Toddler, 51 Lyrics, 52 Excel, 54 Heed, 55 Traipse, 56 Extort, 61 Cordon bleu, 63 Stern, 67 Bouzouki, 68 Echo, 69 Patella, 72 Handbag, 73 Claret, 74 Embryo, 75 Endure, 79 Tango, 80 Knee, 81 Once, 82 Gets, 85 Too.

SPORTS

Rugby mates selected for world squad

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

Two Hauraki Plains College students who have played rugby together for five years have both been selected for a “once in a lifetime opportunity” in Thailand.

Jason Collins, 17, and Aidan Craggs, 18, have been selected to become part of a First XV rugby team put together by players from New Zealand, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and Fiji.

The team will compete in the World School Festival of Rugby, held in Thailand from December 11-18.

The boys told *The Profile* that the news came as a surprise. They found out just two weeks ago and they’ve been hastily raising funds before they embark on December 9.

A raffle organised by their school provided them with \$600 total, but the whole trip will amount to roughly \$5000 each.

“The response has been really positive over this short amount of time,” Aidan said. “We’re surprised at a few things some people have done for us.”

Jason and Aidan have been sharing the field since 2017, when they were both Year 8 students playing in an U13



Jason Collins, left, and Aidan Craggs are off to Thailand as part of a First XV rugby team. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

squad. They continued to play rugby together before both becoming players in Hauraki Plains College’s First XV side.

The squad had a successful first season playing in the Counties Manukau competi-

tion, where they finished as runners-up.

“We pulled through and we did a lot better than a lot of people thought,” Aidan said, “so, it was good to get to the final.”

“No one had expectations

for us to win the comp,” Jason added, “but we wanted to prove everybody wrong.”

The boys said it was “pretty cool” to find out that both of them had been selected for the world team.

“It’s something you dream of,” Jason said. “I could barely sleep; I was just too excited.”

The World School Festival of Rugby aims to give young, talented players the opportunity to gain international exposure and play against other players from different cultures and backgrounds.

The team Jason and Aidan are a part of is called Odyssey XV, and is an invitational side featuring players from around the world.

Jason and Aidan, who both play in the forward pack, said they were keen to see South Africa in action, as well as the team being sent from Hamilton Boys’ High School.

They’re both hoping to up-skill themselves in rugby in the future, and said the sport has provided them with camaraderie and support throughout the years.

“There’s a really positive culture and it just clicks every time,” Aidan said. “It’s using rugby as the vessel more so than the actual end-goal.”

DETAILS: To help out with Aidan and Jason’s fundraising, contact Cally Collins on 021 146 3563 or email: callycollins75@gmail.com



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