

War interest drives community service

By GORDON PREECE

Establishing a commemora-tive wall to honour Waihī miners who built tunnels in World War II is the main community service highlight for Krishna Buckman.

The Waihī Heritage Vision secretary and treasurer was recently awarded the Hauraki District Council Tu Meke Onya Award for going above and beyond.

Krishna told *The Profile* she was "very humbled" by the award and it was dedicated to the "tremendous support" from the Waihī community.

'I couldn't do what I'm doing without the people in Waihi and my husband Warwick as

well, who has been a great sup-port," she said. "All the support you get makes your job of organising an Anzac Day or Armistice Day at the memorial easy.

"People come in, you tap them on the shoulder and they'll say 'oh I can do that' - so very lucky to have that tremendous support in our community

Originally from Whenuapai, Krishna said she had lived in Waihī since 1989 and had always had a connection with both world wars.

"My dad was Claude Hard-ing and he was in World War II over in the Pacific as an engineer, and my mother, Bar-bara Jones, was in the Wrens [Women's Royal New Zealand Naval Service] in World War II, so I've got a long family mil-itary history," she said. "[Dad] retired from the air

force and came to live in Waihī,



so that's how I came to Waihī." Krishna, who also served in the Wrens for five years, said she and Warwick joined Waihī Usritese Vicior in

Heritage Vision in 2014. The main project for the group, which aims to preserve Waihi history, was establishing the Tunnellers Memorial at Gil-mour Pacence in 2016 mour Reserve in 2016. "Sue Baker Wilson found out

there was no memorial to the Tunnelling Company in New Zealand at all, they have memorials in Europe and of course a lot of our miners went from Waihī to Arras, France to en-large the tunnels underground towards the German frontline,

she said. "So we have this lovely memorial now for Anzac Day and Armistice Day and telling the story of our tunnellers.

Krishna said the memorial was unveiled by Victoria Cross

recipient Willie Apiata and she made wreaths for the ceremony to commemorate the countries where the Waihī tunnellers came from, including Australia, Canada, Great Britain and the Cook Islands.

"The Australian wreaths depicted the wattles and the gumtrees, and the Canadian ones had the big maple leaf with a purple bow," she said. "Each wreath for each coun-

was personalised and the defence people of that country that were here in New Zealand laid their wreath on behalf of

their country." Krishna, who also volunteers at St John's Anglican Church, said she was also instrumental in the Armistice Day centenary commemorations in Waihī in

"We had a big display down in the Waihī Memorial Hall with some huge photographs of our Waihī boys and women, and I was asked to supply the knitted poppies between each of the photographs," she said. "I needed about 3000 hand-

crafted poppies so I went round all the women's groups around Waihī and asked them if they could make the poppies and the women in Waihī were

and the women in wann were just wonderful. "We also had Tauranga and RSA ladies help make us pop-pies, they heard of our project,

so we were very lucky." Krishna said the next big project for Waihī Heritage Vision was establishing a SAG mill with interpretation pan-els of the history of mining at Waihī.

"We have been gifted from OceanaGold a SAG mill which they had to replace and at this stage we're looking and work-ing towards getting it set up on Kenny St as you come out of Union Hill," she said. "The idea is you can walk or cycle through the SAG mill and wall have interpretation pap-

we'll have interpretation panels of the old mining days.

"It's a slow process at getting permits, drawings and con-sents but it's going to be quite a feature.



CONTACT US

The Valley Profile delivers 100% local news each Wednesday to every letterbox in Hauraki Plains, Paeroa, Waihī, Thames, Thames Coast and surrounding rural areas, plus bulk distribution Peninsula-wide, reaching approximately 35,000 readers. **NEWS/EDITORIAL** Publisher/Editor Teresa Ramsey Ph 0204 0944 853 editor@valleyprofile.co.nz Senior Reporter Kelley Tantau Ph 022 619 4889 kelley@valleyprofile.co.nz **Reporter Gordon Preece** Ph 022 174 3988 gordon@valleyprofile.co.nz **ADVERTISING** Ad manager Nikki Sanders Ph 022 1303 885 Email: nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz **MISSED PAPERS/ADMIN**

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Students given financial boost

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

students from three ve **Г** Thames Valley schools will be getting a financial boost to further their studies this year.

Jan Honza Andrews from Waihī College, Isabella Fox and Nicole Reid from Thames High School, and Alesha-Ann De Penning and Lara Forsyth from Hauraki Plains College are all recipients of the David Johnstone award.

The award comes in the form of a \$6000 scholarship to start their tertiary career in 2023, and comes from a trust honoring a pioneering Waikato farmer.

This year, an unprecedented 31 scholarships were given to school leavers from 17 schools across the district, and at the annual awards ceremony, held on December 8 at the University of Waikato, lecturer in health, engineering, comput-ing and science Dr Chanelle Gavin said receiving a scholarship had allowed her to find a

career she loved. "I received a David John-stone Charitable Trust scholarship in 2010 when I started my engineering studies at Waikato. Personally, I found it enabled me to focus more on my tertiary studies as I was less concerned about financial pressure," she said. "Additionally, this scholar-ship enabled me to take up

other opportunities that arose during my studies. This includ-



Clockwise from left: Students Alesha-Ann de Penning, Jan Honza Andrews, and Lara Forsyth, and late Waikato farmer David Johnstone.



ed a work placement in a differ-ent part of New Zealand where I otherwise may not have been able to afford accommodation.

'This scholarship ultimately placed me in an academic career that I love; the support was invaluable in helping me pur-sue my chosen field of study, for which I am incredibly grateful

The late David Johnstone was a pioneering Waikato farmer and philanthropist who sought to support the efforts of science, engineering, teaching, and tech students long after his lifetime, and in the 29 years of annual scholarship awards in his name, students have received a total of around \$3.7 million.

The David Johnstone Chari-table Trust, administered by Perpetual Guardian, began its operations in 1991, the year af-ter Mr Johnstone's death.

The first of the annual scholarships were awarded in 1993. This year, a total of \$186,000

was distributed to 31 recipi-ents. Six recipients will be studying at Wintec and 25 will ents. be studying at whitee and 25 win be studying at the Waikato University. It is expected that scholarship recipients, after their first year of study, make themselves available to mentor new students and return to their nominating secondary school to promote the scholarships to students and staff.





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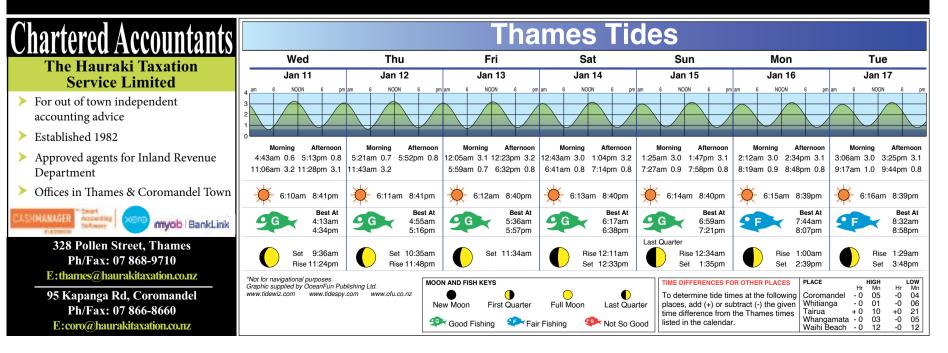
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District welcomes new Kiwi citizens

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

A mum and dad from Brazil now have the same citizenship as their Kiwi-born children, while for others, becoming a New Zealander has been a decades-long process.

Hugo Bonnel and his wife Anelise Muller are two of Thames-Coromandel's newest citizens, after receiving their citizenship certificate at an event last month.

"It's been almost 18 years," Hugo said, "and in this country we have our two beautiful daughters, and now I am the same level as they are, because they were citizens before me."

Len Salt, hosting his first citizenship ceremony as Mayor, said he was "thrilled" to see so many new Kiwis at the event on December 15.

"New Zealand is a unique community stemming from the uniting of two cultures... from early history, people of New Zealand have welcomed new residents and by doing so, have enriched the social, cultural, and heritage of this country," he said.

"Many people have undergone difficulties and hardship to come to this country. You have uprooted yourselves from your country of birth and the places and customs you have known. To do so required courage and determination, such qualities are valuable anywhere; in the future they will be of benefit to you and our country."

Of the 24 new citizens, one was Thames-Coromandel District Council's district manager Dean Allen, who has been in the country for more than 20 years.

"It's really great that we can all be here today," he told the crowd. "And I'm really pleased that my family was able to make it. They just happened to be on holiday from the UK, so it's good to see you here, mum and dad."

"I'm just very grateful," John Gaffikin-Cowan, from Northern Ireland, said. "Thank you all for allowing me to be a part of your wonderful country."

The citizenship ceremony was attended by roughly 80 whanau, and it was the first time the event had been able to be held since June, 2021, due to Covid-19 restrictions.

to Covid-19 restrictions. Citizens hailed from countries including Brazil, the UK, South Africa, Germany, and Uzbekistan.

One new citizen suggested the group get together for a reunion in "10 years or so". Meanwhile, on December

Meanwhile, on December 14, Hauraki District Council held its citizenship ceremony, where 20 new citizens were officially welcomed to the country.





Anelise Muller, top, recieves her certificate from Thames-Coromandel Mayor Len Salt. Below: Peter Shorten, left, and Philippa Lawlor are two of New Zealand's newest Kiwis.



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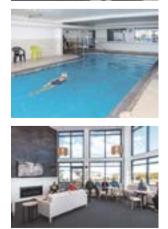














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Great swamp fire breaks out

THE OLD POST Vintage Valley News

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1931

Afire which broke in a large Atract of disused land known as the Thames Borough endowment area quickly assumed large and dangerous proportions. A light northerly wind drove the flames and it was estimated that the fire travelled some five miles in a single night. Peat provided fuel for the flames, but the fiercest portions of the fire were caused by huge areas of standing flax and scrub. The fires raged without in-terruption and passed over between 10,000 and 15,000 acres. Thousands of tons of flax were destroyed. A huge area was laid waste, including the whole of the Thames Borough endowment area, which contained many hundreds of acres of valuable flax. At night the fire showed up in a bright wall of flame some five miles in expanse, and at times resembled a city in the grip of a conflagration. The reflections were most awe-inspiring. The long curving bank of flames



A wall of flame that stretched for miles.

and the reflection in the lowering clouds made the country look as though it were in the throes of one of the old-time bush fires.The picking of blackberries at Paeroa provided nine of Auckland's unemployed with a lucrative source of revenue for a fortnight. The blackberries were of good quality in great quantity. The men worked seven days in the week and between 12 and 13 hours a day, and at the end of the fortnight had picked 70 kerosene tins full of berries. Each tin averaged about 301b. An Auckland firm paid them 2 shillings per Ib for the fruit. The residents of Paeroa treated the men exceptionally well, and they had been lent a house, where they camped the fortnight. At Karangahake a relief camp under the scheme for giving single men work under the Main Highways Board was established. The Public Works Department took over a county council shed and two old houses, and had them fitted up to accommodate 50 men. A Paeroa man was engaged as cook. The men were to widen and straighten the Paeroa-

Waihī Road on both sides of Karangahake. The popularity of the Thames Coast as a holiday seaside resort was very evident. Around 100 camping parties from all parts of the province were under canvas at Thornton's Bay, Puru and Waiomu, where the Thames Borough Council's 11 acre reserve was much appreciated. On New Year's Day over 2000 people thronged the beaches. The pohutukawa, for which the coast road was famous, were blooming later than usual, presenting a gor-geous picture. The danger of indiscriminately throwing fruit skins on the sidewalks was demonstrated when an elderly Waihī man fell as a result of slipping on a banana skin in Kenny Street. He said he thought the chief participators in the 'skin game' were secondary and primary pupils of the Waihi schools who walked about the town eating their lunches. In the absence of proper rubbish receptacles provided by the Borough Council he suggested that the young people might at least go to the trouble of throwing the refuse in the waterways.



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Cultures celebrated

Cambodian, Filipino, Indian, Māori, and Pasifika cultures were celebrated by the students, parents and teachers of St Francis Catholic School in Thames for its annual Christmas Cultural show on December 2. Principal Oliver Fahey said the performances were taught to the school's 82 students and some teachers and parents during Term Four and Christmas carols were also sung at the event.



Eve Wilcox, left, Maire Fahey and Uma Shakespeare perform.



Akira Sharma takes centre stage for her solo Indian performance.



Students, teachers and parents deliver a Filipino Performance.





Francis Fahey performs a Pasifika dance.



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Funding boost for educational screens

By GORDON PREECE

A Goldfields School learning tool has been given a financial boost after more than \$14,000 was donated by the New Zealand Community Trust (NZCT).

The Paeroa school received a \$14,303 donation to go towards installing more ActivPanel interactive touchscreens to allow its 87 students and 67 staff to use.

Principal Cam McKenzie told *The Profile* the donation was "great" and the school "really appreciated it".

"The class that gets the technology, the ActivPanel, they use it for their morning programme, for maths, for literacy, sensory lessons, songs, YouTube, and special programmes that we can put on there for students with diverse learning needs," he said. "A lot of them learn by

"A lot of them learn by touch, sound and sight, so these interactive boards are perfect, they're really big and most of them can adjust to any height so students in wheelchairs can use them.

"They're \$14,000 complete and the Board of Trustees had a plan to get a new one every year, so this funding helps us to get them sooner instead of waiting because we've got 13 classes."

Mr McKenzie said the ActivPanels were supplied by Active Vision and the school was installing more to replace



Goldfields School students Elijah Barrett, left, and Moses Wong-Tung with one of the school's ActivPanels.

"glitchy" older ones. "Because some of the old boards are 18 years old and they're glitchy, the students get upset when they're not working properly and so these new boards work really well," he said. "The past four years I've been here we've started installing them, we've had about six in the past four years, so this will be the seventh and eighth, one at Thames and one [in Paeroa]. "We also got \$10,000 from Photo: GORDON PREECE

The Lion Foundation at the same time as [NZCT] funding so we're getting two [ActivPanels] and paying for one so we're getting three."



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Small greens pack a big punch

By KELLEY TANTAU, Public Interest Journalism funded by NZ On Air Hikutaia woman on her

own health journey has es tablished a side hustle that will provide a more flavoursome and nutrient-rich alternative to salad.

Te Aroha McKain has started her small business, Mana Microreens, from her home in rural greens, from her nome in rura Hauraki, growing, harvesting, and packaging microgreens.

The greens are young seedlings of edible vegetables and herbs, and though more commonly found in boutique stores or garnished on top of fancy dishes, Te Aroha is bringing microgreens to the forefront of healthy eating. "People just see them as a

garnish, but they are more than that, they are a superfood," she told *The Profile*. "They are better than salad, they are packed with nutrients and flavour, and they're convenient.

Te Aroha said microgreens were the ultimate fast food, and could be used inside a sandwich or a wrap, a salad, soup, or a smoothie

Among the greens she has growing in her greenhouse just greens, basil, parsley, kohlrabi, bok choy, and pea shoots. Once harvested after around

10 days of growing, the greens are washed in a diluted apple cider vinegar mix and left to air

dry. Te Aroha does not use any chemicals during the process and said her business' ethos was to provide a smarter way to eat.

I'm on my own health journey with gut health and low iron levels, and I did a lot of reading and found that the only people who provide microgreens locally are up the Kauaeranga Valley," she

"Within the Hauraki area there's nothing that provides this locally, and I know most of the restaurants get their stuff from Tauranga or Auckland. I want to be able to provide the local nutri-tion," she said.

Mana Microgreens came to fruition after Te Aroha stumbled upon the Rebel Business School, a 10-day course that inspires and assists its attendees who are starting or developing a business.

She's "starting off small" and has been planting her greens to sell online and at markets, but once she is MPI certified, she is hoping to sell her micros to cafes and restaurants throughout the district.

"I want to have a side hustle that makes me feel like I'm giv-ing back," she said. "Being a mum and with the lifestyle that I live, I probably

don't eat the best, but I know if



Te Aroha McKain grows an array of microgreens in her greenhouse

dirty.

I have a handful of microgreens, I'm adding all of those daily nutrients that I need to keep me

going. "It's definitely been a learning journey... but there's nothing else like this available, and I've always enjoyed getting my hands

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Life Runal Earthquakes, cyclones for summer

A. H.

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

Movement underground and above the clouds has provided the region with shakes, slips, and surface flooding this summer season.

And there is another ex-tropical cyclone on the way this week. A series of earthquakes near

Te Aroha were felt by thousands of residents across the Waikato and Bay of Plenty districts, with the first major shake measuring M3.9 just before 7am on De-cember 29.

At the time, GeoNet said it was the largest quake between Tauranga and Hamilton since

2014. It was 7km deep and was felt as far away as Whitianga and Whangamatā, and also through-out the Bay of Plenty, Waikato and Auckland.

Another strong quake, with a 5.1 magnitude, also woke residents and damaged farm land at 5.39am on January 4. Waikato Regional Council

shared a series of images show-ing a Te Aroha maize crop sporting a new crack as deep as a fencing standard as a result of the shake.

Since then, there have been a series of quakes just outside of the Piako town, which sits near the Kerepēhi Fault Line. According to an article in the New Zealand Journal of Geology



A Te Aroha maize crop is sporting a crack after a 5.1 magnitude earthquake, while inset, another storm is on its way. Photos: SUPPLIED

and Geophysics, the Kerepēhi Fault is an active fault line with a total onshore length of up to 80km, and comprising six rupture segments, with four more offshore segments to the north.

The most recent shake occurred just past midnight on Monday, January 9. It was a magnitude 2.5 and had a depth of only 6km.

Meanwhile, wild weather has

continued to thrash the Thames-Coromandel, with the district council reporting more than 400mm of rain fell in just 72 hours during the first week of January, closing main roads and causing slips.

Another ex-tropical system, Cyclone Hale, is now expected to dump a further 230mm of rain in 24 hours, with easterly gales and gusts exceeding 110km/

hr, peaking Tuesday and pass-ing through by Wednesday afternoon. Coupled with this, Thames-Coromandel District Council's coastal scientists forecast storm surges of up to 30cm or more above the three high

tides over this time. "We are not sugar coating this one, it will hit hard and likely cause coastal damage as well as the usual slips, surface flooding,



and power outages" council's civil defence controller Garry Towler said.

'The main areas of concern are erosion and inundation at Brophy's and Buffalo beaches in Whitianga, erosion and structural damage across beaches all the way down to Whangamatā.' DETAILS: According to MetService, Cyclone Hale is expected to move south as a subtropical low on Tuesday, bringing severe weather to parts of northern and central New Zealand on Tuesday and Wednesday. Refer to www.metservice. com/warnings/home for the latest information on Severe Weather Warnings and Watches.





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Rural Life 'Helpful' changes to wetland legislation

Changes to freshwater regulations will help farmers continue to invest in wetland restoration, according to DairyNZ.

The changes are to the Essential Freshwater 2020 wetland regulations, which will come into effect later this year, and DairyNZ general manager sustainable dairy Dr David Burger said they will provide better wetland restoration, maintenance, and water storage options for farmers.

"We were concerned about initial Government proposals that had regulations applying to constructed wetlands," he said.

"It made getting consents for constructed wetlands difficult for farmers and could have discouraged them from creating wetlands that would benefit the environment. This has now changed, which is positive for farmers and the environment.

and the environment. "The changes are timely, as more farmers are looking to reduce their environmental impact, and there's growing interest in re-establishing and constructing new wetlands," Dr Burger said.

According to DairyNZ, Wetlands can significantly reduce nutrient and sediment losses on farms and improve water quality.

They also boost biodiversity and can provide a habitat for birds and fish. A constructed wetland about 1 per cent of the catchment size can remove an average 20-25 percent of nitrogen and



DairyNZ general manager sustainable dairy Dr David Burger. Photo: SUPPLIED

50 percent of sediment. "The change addresses concerns raised in DairyNZ's 2021 government submission on proposed wetland management changes to the Resource Management [National Environmental Standards for Freshwater] Regulations 2020," Dr Burger said. DairyNZ also made a joint submission with Fish & Game New Zealand on

sion with Fish & Game New Zealand on aligned positions. DairyNZ said it continued to support

farmers wanting to protect and restore existing wetlands.

Interested farmers should contact an environmental consultant to work through the guidance and seek regional council advice about consents and funding opportunities, it said.

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In Brief

Grant for Badminton Thames Valley

By GORDON PREECE

A^{\$5000} grant from the New Zealand Community Trust has been flicked to Badminton Thames Valley to cover the cost of its shuttlecocks.

of its shuttlecocks. Badminton Thames Valley president Jeremy Rout told *The Profile* the costs of shuttlecocks was always increasing in the current market. "We're always extremely

"We're always extremely grateful for any funding that we get and New Zealand Community Trust has been a massive supporter of ours over the last few years," he said.

supporter of ours over the last few years," he said. "Shuttles are obviously something we need to play badminton which is a huge cost every year, and to receive it is awesome. We're just so grateful to the community trust for providing that to us for another year."

Jeremy said around 12 shuttles were contained in each tube which cost between \$35 and \$40. They were used for trainings, the representative programme, and the interclub and junior programmes at Badminton Thames Valley.

"It's probably the most significant cost we have because you can't use them all the time," he said.

"Because once you use them quite a lot they start to fall apart and the shuttle slows down or it doesn't quite head in the right direction when you hit it.



The four Badminton Thames Valley clubs have 20 to 30 fully paid members and a "whole heap" of casual members. Photo: SUPPLIED

"You could go through a tube of shuttles per night and it certainly adds up."

Jeremy said Badminton Thames Valley received the grant last month, and also received a \$2200 grant from The Lion Foundation in March last year, which went towards new uniforms with the new Badminton Thames Valley logo.

minton Thames Valley logo. Jeremy said the organisation planned to maximise its junior players and coaching programme and competitions in 2023. "The last couple of years through covid has been quite challenging in terms of some of the events we've run," he said. "This season just gone has

"This season just gone has been the first season where we could run a full calendar of events, which is about eight events throughout the season.

"One of the big things we're really focusing on [in 2023] is our junior programme and we've been connecting with schools all around the region to try and get more badminton out into our community."

Badminton was a rapidly growing sport around the country, he said.

"There's a lot of people who want to get into some form of exercise and we want to make sure we have accessibility around the region to be able to have people try badminton," he said.

said. "One of the New Zealand Badminton strategic objectives is for people to love badminton for life because it's such a quality sport that is for all ages and abilities."

Jeremy said Badminton Thames Valley had four affiliated clubs in Thames, Paeroa, Waihī and Morrinsville, which have between 20 and 30 fully paid members and a "whole heap" of casual members.

"In terms of who plays representatively for Thames Valley Badminton, we have three teams that compete in the New Zealand Inter-Association competition, which is three age groups," he said.

groups," he said. "There's an open senior age group and we have about 12 team members, and we have our masters team which is 35 years and over, which has about eight to 10 players; and then the veterans which are over 50s and that has eight to ten players as well."

Jeremy said the Badminton Thames Valley 2023 season begins in March. ABRACADABRA IN THE FOREST The Abracadabra Arts and Music Festival will take place at a secret location in Paeroa between January 20 and 22. The event, hosted by The Busy Movement, will feature a handpicked platter of sound journey specialists, vinyl selectors, funk-swayers and pieces of New Zealand's best electronic DJs. Tickets available at Sic Entertainment.

TAKE A KID FISHING

The Kaiaua Boating Club Take a Kid Fishing Competition will cast off on January 14. Kids aged under 15 years can enter for \$5 for a great day on the water, goodie bags, spot prizes, cash prizes, bouncy castles and more at the clubrooms.

LEARN TO SWIM

Waihī Swimming Club will host 25-minute learn to swim courses between January 23 and January 27. Four lessons cost \$35 or \$5 for four lessons if swimmers are in Year 6 or 7. Email waihiswimmingclub@gmail.com to register.

WAIHI SUMMER EVENING BOWLS

Waihī Bowling Club on Kenny St will host summer evening bowls on January 11, 18 and 25 from 5:30pm. The events cost \$5 to enter and participants will compete in teams of three. For more information contact 027 254 4361.





Before the year ended, students Bat Waihī East School had the chance to see themselves on the big screen at the premiere of their very own film, *Ohinemuri*.

Waihī Baptist Church laid down the red carpet, and invited tamariki and their whānau to enjoy some popcorn and a special VIP screening in their hall.

The school worked hard on the collaborative movie project in term three, aiming to explore the local river and tell its stories. Tamariki went out on location to shoot scenes at important places such as Gilmore Lake, Waikino Tavern, and Karangahake Gorge.

Student Jimi Randall, whose voice features as the film's narrator, enjoyed being part of the project saying, "it's important to look after the river, and stop doing damage before it's too late".

"This is local curriculum in ac-tion," principal Briar Carden-Scott said. "The project was designed to give our tamariki the chance to find out about our awa [river], its uses past and present, and how it is relevant to the people who live near it, and also to honour those who have gone before us. The awa was here before us, and will be here when we are gone; our gorgeous tamariki will be its custodians for a time.

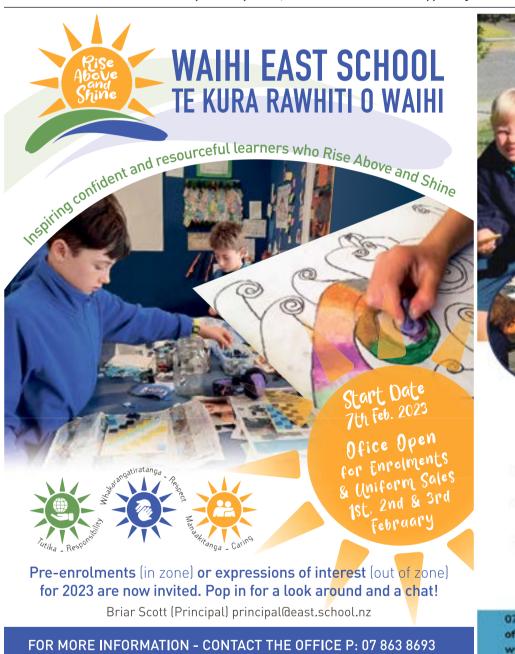
"It is so important that we instil in them a sense of guardianship and aroha for our land."

DETAILS: The school would like to gift the film to the wider commu-nity, and the link is available on the school website www.waihieast. school.nz.

- Supplied by Waihī East School



The school worked hard on the collaborative movie project in term three, aiming to explore the Ohinemuri River and tell its stories. Photo: SUPPLIED aiming to explore the Ohinemuri River and tell its stories.



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Back to School Information 2022 Senior Course Confirmation: Wed 25 Jan Year 12s 9am to midday: Year 13s 1pm to 4pm First Day of School: Year 9 and 13 Tue 31 Jan. Powhiri at 9am. Everyone Back: Wed 1 Feb For Stationery go to www.myschool.co.nz

For Uniform www.argyleonline.co.nz and for PE / Hapu uniform www.nzuniforms.com



PCST is proud to serve

The vision of the Paeroa Community Support Trust (PCST) is to meet the needs, enrich the lives, and encourage service to the community of Paeroa in a manner reflecting and consistent with the teachings of Jesus Christ.

The PCST was founded in 1996 as an outreach of the Paeroa Cooperating Parish and is proud to serve everyone in our community.

We achieve great outcomes through having devoted and trained staff and trustees and collaborating with smaller independent groups.

We engage with some 120 volunteers who selflessly ofer their time and help with various programmes.

We survive through the generosity of funders. Through the services we offer we direct clients to the support they require, answer queries they have and, where appropriate, support them to help themselves.

Our aim is to ensure all members of our community feel valued and supported, have better health outcomes, have opportunities to socialize, are helped materially where appropriate, and learn new skills.

We continually look for opportunities where we can Meeting the community's

needs discuss needs within the community that we may be able to help with through existing programmes or investigating new programmes, and by creating

new, beneficial relationships. The PCST is continually evolving to ensure we are making a positive impact in our community.

- Supplied by PCS1



Welcome to 2023

- Wednesday 1st February Year 11-Year 13 Course Confirmation. Online bookings available, further information will be emailed out.
- Thursday 2nd February Leadership Day (Head Students and House Leaders) 9.30am – 3.00pm
- Friday 3rd February Year 13 Day Camp and POET Training 10.00am – 3.00pm
- Tuesday 7th February Year 9 & all new students Powhiri starting at 9.45am – all new students need to be at school by 9.20am. Returning Year 10 - Year 13 students school year starts at 8.40am

Enrolments for new students from Tuesday 31st January 2023 Uniform Shop and Chromebook Distribution:

31st January – 2nd February 2023 8.30am – 3.30pm School is closed 30th January – Auckland Anniversary Day 6th February – Waitangi Day



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With the start of the new year here and so many dates and important events to remember, it's great to know you can find everything you need on the Waihi College website: www.waihicol.school.nz. Choose the 'Our School' tab in the top menu for all your back to school needs such as the 2023 stationery lists, uniform ordering and essentials, bus routes, start back dates and our staff directory; or head to Keeping Informed to check out our Latest News, calendar and daily notices.



Term 1 2023:

- 6th February Waitangi Day (Public Holiday)
- 7th February Year 11-13 start: Year 11 doing Kickstart Project & Year 12-13 at Camp
- 8th February Year 11-13 continue with Kickstart Project & Year 12-13 continue at Camp
- 9th February Year 8-11 start classes & Year 12-13 continue at camp

• 10th February – Year 7's start (powhiri) & Year 12-13 start classes You can also check out the Events Calendar in our Parent Portal. There are some handy instructions for how you can log on and use the Parent Portal if you're a first time user or need a re-cap

https://www.waihicol.school.nz/using-the-portal/

Health & Wellbeing Keep it close... Or cut it loose | Plan for a safe-as summer





By MICHAEL WILKES

I was listening to *The Gambler* by Kenny Rogers the other day. "You gotta know when to hold em, know when to fold them, know when to walk away, know when to run. You never count your money, when you're sitting at the table. There'll be time enough for count-

ing, when the dealings done." I love that song. It's funny though how sometimes we can hear or see something a thousand times and then suddenly some-thing hits us at a whole different angle or catches us in a different headspace and connects in a new way

This time Kenny caught me in one of those moments. We have a saying we all know well. "Keep your cards close to your chest." This is great advice in poker, and likely in a business deal... but maybe not so much for those hard

thoughts that undermine each and every one of us.

This last term has been hard for me. As you may know if you're a regular reader I am a youth worker for Living Well Trust. I lost my team for the term. One member got stuck overseas with Visa issues and the other had reconstructive surgery which will take time to heal. On top of that I found out we needed to secure another \$90,000 to ensure we can continue next vear

This left me carrying the load mostly on my own. And with hints of burnout mid-term, I was wanting to quit. To walk away... to run. It was all feeling a bit much, and I started to wonder. "Am I making a difference here?" "Is this worth it?" "Can I keep going?" But I am still here. And I will keep going.

Because I know that many of us struggle with similar thoughts at times. And just because I think it, does not mean it is true. We have a therapeutic model that underpins our work called DNA-V (google it to find out more). At the heart of it, its about teaching people how to get out of their heads and into building value in their lives. We do an activity with the students that explores the hard thoughts.

We sit in a circle and write down the regular negative or critical thoughts that we each struggle with.

After this we collect them up, shuffle them and hand them back out to the group. Students then are

invited to tick each comment that they have thought or struggled with and pass it round. The result as you can imagine is a revelation for many; they are not alone, that their struggles are normal, and that they can talk about these things with their peers, or adults they trust. We ran a workshop for school

staff and used this activity as an example of what we do with students. What happened next was a great release for teachers to realise the same thing. They too have hard and critical thoughts. They too can feel isolated and alone in those thoughts. But when we come with vulnerability, when we stop "holding our cards close to our chest", and instead "get it off our chest".

Things change. When done in the right context our vulnerability invites others to be vulnerable.

We spend so much time keep ing all the pain and the struggle to ourselves. We push it down so tight and hope to keep a lid on it. Most of us will be fine... but for some they desperately need to know they are ok, to know this is normal. Šo today if you are struggling or know of someone else who is finding things hard, maybe take a moment to check in. To be vulnerable and share the hard stuff.

Because in doing so you just may ease the burden or even help save a life.

- Michael Wilkes is a Living Well Trust Youth Worker

While people are enjoying a well-earned break, it is important we continue to look after each other, and take steps to prevent the spread of Covid-19, the Waikato health authority says. Te Whatu Ora Health NZ Wai-

kato Covid-19 directorate executive lead Maree Munro said with summer hotspots filling up, it was increasingly important that steps

"Unfortunately Covid-19 isn't taking a break. Around 160,000 visitors arrive at the Thames-Coromandel area over the summer break. This area normally has around 32,000 people so services

can already be stretched. "We are asking people to plan ahead for how they will manage any healthcare needs to avoid having to seek non-urgent care so they can continue to enjoy their holidays.

"Be prepared is our message. When travelling expect delays and ensure you have adequate supplies including water, sunscreen, RAT kits, masks and any prescribed medications you may require

"While most local medical centres and pharmacies will be open for non-urgent care, some may be closed, have limited hours and limited ability to see non-registered patients so check ahead as part of your planning." Healthpoint: www.healthpoint.

co.nz),provides details on the opening hours of local medical centres and pharmacies. Health-

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WALTER

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line, Ph 0800 611 116, is also a recommended first point of call for free, 24/7 healthcare advice.

Te Whatu Ora Waikato hospitals are open over the holiday period and emergency departments will continue to provide urgent care.

Ms Munro said those in the healthcare sector want to remind people the most effective was to keep Covid-19 at bay is keeping your vaccinations up to date and following guidance for mask use and isolation.

"This week there are over 3000 active cases of Covid-19 in the Waikato so it's important not to be complacent over the festive period.

"If you get sick, stay home and test immediately if you develop any Covid-19 symptoms.

Have enough RAT kits for your whole whānau for the holidays and, if travelling, take some with you."

Free RAT kits can be ordered and results should be reported online via covid19.govt.nz. ' "Even if you test negative, avoid

infecting others with whatever is making you ill, especially those who are vulnerable to infections.

"We continue to encourage people to wear masks when in crowded areas, and do everything you can to reduce the spread and protect your whānau." DETAILS: Free Covid-19 advice is

available 24/7 via the Covid-19 Healthline on 0800 358 5453 or via Covid19.govt.nz.

Ohu Hinengaro

- Mental Health and Addiction Services
- Te Kūwatawata ki Hauraki (Kaupapa Māori Approach)
- Whānau Pai (Integrated Primary Mental Health)

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Onlookers observe a display of motorcycles.





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January 11, 2023, THE VALLEY PROFILE 19



m coach named regional final

BV GORDON PREECE

POR⁻

anet Mischewski was "quite **J**anet Mischewski was "quite stunned" after becoming a community coach finalist in the 2022 Waikato Sport & Active Recreation Awards.

The 68-year-old, who has been a periodical gymnastics coach for 50 years, told *The* Profile patience, a passion for the sport and working with children kept her balanced.

"I really enjoy working with the young ones, just to watch their progress, and it takes a little while especially when they haven't had much to do with it and just their reaction when they do something that they didn't think they could do.

"The last school holidays, we went up to North Harbour and that's the first time we've gone to Auckland and we took a large group and it was the team gym plus individuals and they did very well, and of course the more they like it the more we enjoy it.'

Janet, who's fondly called Nana Janet by the Thames Gymsports community, said she first flexed her gymnastics

skills as an eight-year-old. "I started in Porirua and I always enjoyed it, then I went to eight schools because dad worked in the post office so we shifted all the time maybe for two and a half years, but it didn't matter where I went, I



Janet Mischewski said she'll continue coaching until she can't walk.

seemed to be able to get into a club," she said.

Janet said she competed in gymnastics while she and her family lived in Morrinsville and Opunake before she vaulted into coaching at Waihī Memorial Hall as an 18-year-old.

'Then I didn't start again

until my own daughter [Julia] started gym at Ngātea Primary School in 1990 and I used to go down at lunchtime in the winter and coach them for a few years and then it stopped.

Julia said she then coached gymnastics again at Ngatea Primary School for seven years

from 2006, which included a

two-year stint teaching gym-nastics at Thames High School. 'Then Julia said to me one day [in 2016] come and watch Caeleigh and Haven [grandchildren]. I've started them at gymnastics so I went and watched and they took one look at me

and said 'oh vou're back', so I was sort of roped back again.

Janet said she had now been a coach for five to six years at Thames Gymsports and said she'll continue until she can't walk.

"If we didn't have such a well organised club, I probably wouldn't have kept going. "If it wasn't for who I'm

working with, the other coaches and the other committee members, they're like a family and it makes it so much easier to work with people like that,² she said.

"It's all about balance the body and balance the mind.

"If you've done a term or two at gymnastics you'll be better at sports because it balances the body, and the kids get a great response.

Janet said Thames Gymsports chairperson Andrea Johnston nominated her for the community coach award, which noted Janet supported all the gymnasts to have a go, to achieve their goals and to have fun and be active.

She upheld the club's commitment to being inclusive, aiming to inspire, develop and challenge kids of all ages and skill levels, she said.

DETAILS: Winners will be announced at a special event on January 26 in Hamilton. For more information, go to: www. sportwaikato.org.nz.



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