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Backpacking tourists Sven Höglin and Heidi Paakkonen vanished in the Coromandel Range near Thames in 1989. Photo: SUPPLIED

## Swedish murders investigated

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

A Swedish investigative journalist is asking questions about a New Zealand murder case that he says has “connected” the two countries since the late 80s.

Love Lyssarides, 27, is travelling throughout Aotearoa for the next few months and, while here, he’s looking into the murder case of backpacking tourists Sven Höglin and Heidi Paakkonen, who vanished near Thames in 1989.

One year later, David Wayne Tamihere was convicted and imprisoned for their murders.

“This is one of those things that people just remember,” Love told *The Profile*.

“I started reading into [the case] and realised that it is much more complicated than I thought; there’s so many twists and turns, and it’s a big thing that happened here.”

Love works for Third Ear Studio, a Scandinavian podcast production company doing investigative journalism, based in Stockholm.

He said telling the story of Sven and Heidi for a Swedish audience was his main motivation for digging into the case.

“This thing has created a bond between our two countries... and the story is also naturally going to be about how it affected Thames, and I’m hoping, when I get back to Sweden, to portray how it affected Storfors [Sven and Heidi’s hometown].”

On April 8, 1989, Sven and Heidi went into the bush near Thames. The couple vanished and were reported missing in May.

Police, local residents, search and rescue, and military personnel carried out the largest land-based search undertaken in New Zealand,

performing grid-searches centred on Crosbie’s Clearing, 12km from Thames.

Sven’s body was found in 1991, but Heidi has never been located.

David Tamihere, who maintains his innocence, was granted a royal prerogative of mercy by the then-Governor General Dame Patsy Reddy in 2020.

The case will be brought back to the Court of Appeal later this year.

Love had just left Thames when he spoke to *The Profile*, and said he talked to “a lot of different people” in the town.

He’s considering making another visit to conduct further interviews.

“It was incredible talking to the people who were part of the search and rescue; people who got together in Thames. I don’t think a lot of people in Sweden know that - know how people were so engaged with it in Thames,” he said.

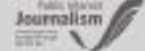
“It was heartwarming to see how the community got together to look for these two Swedes. “It really says something about a town.”

Love said New Zealanders and Swedes both deserved to get closure following the controversial case, and it was problematic to have so many “unanswered questions”.

To contact Love Lyssarides if you have information to share, email him at [love.lyssarides@thirdear.studio](mailto:love.lyssarides@thirdear.studio) or phone: 022 403 2743



Love Lyssarides



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*Our focus is 100% local community news.*

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Janice Purdie celebrates with friends and family after receiving the Onya Award from Hauraki Mayor Toby Adams, inset.

# Good Onya, Janice Purdie

Janice Purdie was finally presented with her Hauraki District Council OnYa Award this month.

The former Paeroa woman was nominated for the award for Caring for the Community last year, but as she had moved to a retirement complex in Hamilton, she wasn't able to

attend the awards evening.

So, on March 10, Hauraki Mayor Toby Adams took the award to Janice, and friends and family gathered to celebrate her 23 years of community service.

Council said Janice's work at the Paeroa Co-operating Parish and as a volunteer hospital

chaplain, along with being a Parish Councillor and worship leader for services at Ohinemuri House "went way beyond the call of duty".

After hearing how much she did for the community, Janice was asked: "What did you do in your spare time?" and Janice replied: "What spare time?!"

# Rotary fundraiser ready to rumble

By GORDON PREECE

Hundreds of classic cars and motorcycles will rev into Paeroa on April 15 for the rescheduled Rotary Paeroa V8 and Motorcycle Show and Swap Meet.

The popular fundraiser, which will also feature food stalls, a live band called The Action, a rockabilly fashion show and swap meet sites, was postponed in February after rainfall left the grounds at the Paeroa Domain sodden.

Rotary Paeroa secretary and president-elect Katie McLaren told *The Profile* the rescheduled event will now take place on the corner of Railway St and Lee Ave.

"It's concreted so it's an all weather venue where we'll be having the stalls, the band, the fashion show and all the cars [and motorbikes] will be parked up, so it will be great."

Katie said the swap meet stations will be open from 8am and the remaining activities will start from 10am and conclude by 2pm.

**DETAILS: The event costs \$5 per adult with free entry for those under 15 years. For stall bookings and enquiries contact: rotarypaeroa@gmail.com.**



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## Thames Tides

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
Mar 29	Mar 30	Mar 31	Apr 1	Apr 2	Apr 3	Apr 4
Morning: 1:28am 3.1, 7:40am 1.0 Afternoon: 1:57pm 3.0, 7:56pm 0.9	Morning: 2:22am 2.9, 8:38am 1.1 Afternoon: 2:49pm 2.9, 8:52pm 1.0	Morning: 3:22am 2.9, 9:39am 1.2 Afternoon: 3:46pm 2.8, 9:56pm 1.1	Morning: 4:25am 2.8, 10:39am 1.2 Afternoon: 4:48pm 2.8, 11:02pm 1.1	Morning: 4:23am 2.9, 10:35am 1.1 Afternoon: 4:49pm 2.8, 10:59pm 1.0	Morning: 5:14am 2.9, 11:24am 1.0 Afternoon: 5:43pm 2.9, 11:47pm 0.9	Morning: 5:59am 3.0, 6:30pm 3.0 Afternoon: 12:09pm 0.9
Sun: 7:28am 7:17pm	Sun: 7:29am 7:16pm	Sun: 7:30am 7:14pm	Sun: 7:31am 7:13pm	Sun: 6:32am 6:11pm	Sun: 6:33am 6:10pm	Sun: 6:33am 6:08pm
Fish: Best At 7:12am 7:38pm	Fish: Best At 8:04am 8:29pm	Fish: Best At 8:54am 9:18pm	Fish: Best At 9:41am 10:04pm	Fish: Best At 9:27am 9:49pm	Fish: Best At 10:10am 10:31pm	Fish: Best At 10:52am 11:12pm
Moon: First Quarter, Rise 3:04pm	Moon: Set 12:13am, Rise 3:51pm	Moon: Set 1:11am, Rise 4:31pm	Moon: Set 2:11am, Rise 5:05pm	Moon: Set 2:11am, Rise 4:34pm	Moon: Set 3:11am, Rise 5:00pm	Moon: Set 4:11am, Rise 5:24pm

\*Not for navigational purposes. Graphic supplied by OceanFun Publishing Ltd. www.tidewiz.com www.tidespy.com www.ofu.co.nz

**MOON AND FISH KEYS**

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

**TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES**  
To determine tide times at the following places, add (+) or subtract (-) the given time difference from the Thames times listed in the calendar.

PLACE	Hr	Mn	Hr	Mn
Coromandel	-0	05	-0	04
Whitianga	-0	01	-0	06
Tairua	+0	10	+0	21
Whangamata	-0	03	-0	05
Waihi Beach	-0	12	-0	12

# Cops crack down on bad driving

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

Thames Police is driving home the message that it isn't okay to drive unlicensed, unsafely, and inappropriately.

They are cracking down on people doing just that by impounding vehicles, applying for warrants through the courts, and issuing infringements for aiding and abetting.

Senior Constable Gareth Carter, Senior Constable Brian Connors, and Sergeant Rachel Holmes are often quizzed about what Police is doing about the poor driving behaviours on display around the urban areas within Thames.

With the Police's current pursuit policy meaning there has to be "immediate and serious concerns for life" for officers to give chase, there is sometimes the perception that cops turn a blind eye to offending.

Instead, they use a change of tack.

"It's human nature that when you see someone doing something wrong, you want to stop it," Gareth said, "but we need to justify whether it's appropriate to even attempt [a pursuit] in the first instance."

By obtaining evidence, reviewing nearby CCTV cameras, talking to witnesses and receiving snapshots provided by the public,



Senior Constable Gareth Carter, pictured, is one of the Thames Police officers cracking down on bad drivers. They recently impounded a dirt bike being ridden illegally, left.



Thames Police have had great success in identifying the drivers of cars or the riders of motorbikes who have broken the law.

Just one hour after speaking to *The Profile*, the officers caught up with a person riding a dirt bike along Thames' main streets, wearing no helmet, and driving without a licence, registration or Warrant

of Fitness. The bike was impounded. They also recently impounded a vehicle that had been responsible for burnouts around town.

"So, things may not be dealt with immediately at the time, but over the coming days, action does get taken," Gareth said.

The offenders are mostly young men seeking adrenaline, and Gareth said that while there had always been people who displayed anti-authority behaviour, they were perhaps getting "more coura-

geous" - such as riding their unregistered motorbikes and dirt bikes through Pollen St.

But it was up to the community to hold them responsible as well, he said.

"There are parents out there who know that this behaviour is happening, sometimes employers, and the behaviour that you let them get away with is the behaviour you accept."

"It only takes one split second of a mistake for something to go

wrong," Rachel added, "and then there's a major injury that not only puts them out of action but also their family has to cope with it as well."

Senior Constable Brian Connors is the school community officer in Thames, and he is letting secondary schools know Police are "watching and doing something about" the poor driving behaviours showcased by some students.

"Traditionally, every two or three years, we will go to a serious or fatal crash involving more than one child in a car, and generally it's licence breaches, guys showing off to females, alcohol, all that stuff. Warnings aren't working with regard to extra passengers in the car," he said, "so infringements will be issued for aiding and abetting, and that might go back through to the parents."

Rules need to be stuck to, the officers said, not only for members of the public, but for the drivers themselves.

"The reason why we go a step further now and help people become better drivers is because, unfortunately, in the past couple of years, two people we have assisted in getting their licence have passed away from accidents," Gareth said.

"Out of the several hundreds we have helped, two died as a result of a motor vehicle crash, so there is definitely a need to encourage safer driving behaviours."



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# Kōpū-Hikuai Rd slip ‘marginally stable’

## KOPU-HIKUAI UPDATE

By ALICE PARMINTER, Public Interest Journalism funded by NZ On Air

Geotechnical investigations into the massive slip on State Highway 25A are expected to be completed by the end of this week.

During several major storms and cyclones earlier this year, the slip destroyed around 130 metres of the Kōpū-Hikuai Rd near the summit, and is estimated to take up to a year to repair.

Diggers and drilling rigs have been cutting bore holes and test pits to check the soil composition, searching for ground stable enough to support the weight of an embankment or structure without risk of movement.

“The slip debris is very weak, there is a lot of water,” BECA’s lead geotechnical engineer Nathan McKenzie said during a media site visit on Monday.

“In the slip area itself there are areas that remain marginally stable, and one of the reasons things have taken a little while to get going is there’s a lot of material that has been moved to stabilise the site sufficiently to allow the drilling rig to get in there.”

Mr McKenzie said the soil in the slip site was also very variable, with consistencies varying from clay to sand.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency regional manager of infrastructure delivery Jo Wilton said there were currently three main solutions being investigated for viability - a bridge spanning the slip site; a retaining wall to enable a rebuild of the existing road; or bypass the road directly around the slip.

Ms Wilton said it was not yet possible to know which option would be best.

However, she said nothing was completely off the table yet, including the possibility of building a tunnel, though that wasn’t likely.

“There is a solution here that doesn’t necessarily require tunnelling. We can build a resilient road,” she said.

“The area that slipped here wasn’t an identified slip that we were watching or monitoring, so this is an unusual situation.”

“You can build the three options we are looking at in such a way that they won’t slip again in the weather that we’ve suffered to date.”

Ms Wilton said a solution would be decided by May, and at this point she was still expecting the road to be reopened

*“The slip debris is very weak, there is a lot of water... there are areas that remain marginally stable.”*

- Nathan MacKenzie



Jo Wilton and Nathan MacKenzie at the Kōpū-Hikuai Rd slip during a media site visit on Monday.

within the agency’s stated timeframe of 9-12 months.

Cost was expected to be a big factor in the final decision, as well as time.

The agency was well aware of the importance of the road for the local community, and was keen to see the road open again as soon as was viable, she said.



Nathan MacKenzie inside the slip, which measures around 130m long and 30m deep.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER



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# ‘Mammoth task’ to clear silt in Esk Valley

By ALICE PARMINTER, Public Interest Journalism funded by NZ On Air

When Tararua man Chris McCartney went to Hawke’s Bay on March 3, he was met with devastation.

It was a mere three weeks after the flooding events caused by cyclone Gabrielle. Chris, the owner-operator of local business Civil and Property Solutions, had decided to volunteer with the clean-up effort.

“[Tararua] got away relatively lightly from the latest storms from Gabrielle,” he said.

“I said to my wife, ‘Well, I think I should go down and give them a hand’.”

Armed with two diggers and other equipment, Chris was directed to the Hastings Sports Centre, where the Hawke’s Bay ManUp chapter had set up a volunteer base.

He was supplied with a bed and some food, and put to work.

“The first job was in Esk Valley, and one of the houses was basically devastated - water over the roof, silt up to the windows when everything receded,” Chris said.

“We were basically digging a three metre trench around the house. We then removed some windows and shovelled all the silt from inside the house to where we’d dug.”

That first home took 30 volunteers, two diggers and a couple of days’ work to clear.

“It’s quite a mammoth task for each property. We were only throwing [the silt] as far as the diggers could reach. So the property owner would still have the



Chris McCartney helps clean up in Esk Valley after devastating flooding caused by Cyclone Gabrielle.

Photo: SUPPLIED

onerous task to get the rest of the silt out of their property - which was probably another three or four thousand cubes. And I don’t know who was going to help them do that.”

Chris spent a week in the area, and helped clear four properties.

“A lot of these people were elderly people, and in their 70s - mostly retired so they had no real way of doing it themselves,” he said.

“It was pretty overwhelming for most of them. They weren’t getting much help out of the authorities,

so it was really only the volunteer labour that was getting them anywhere.”

Another property he volunteered on was a Christmas tree farm.

“A lot of the volunteers helped stand up - these were probably one year old trees - desilted just around them and stood them up, and so the guy at least will have a crop probably two years down the track. That was his retirement plan, he was saying.”

Chris was impressed by the

number of people who had come to help.

“There were quite a few local people who had come in, they had taken a week off work or had holidays,” he said.

“There were a couple of blokes out of Christchurch, there was about five ladies come down from Warkworth that I saw there - there were people from pretty much all the way around the country.”

The area still needed untold hours of labour, Chris said, and he was keen to encourage people to

see what they could do to help.

“If we weren’t volunteering, I don’t know how these people would be getting their properties cleared at all,” he said.

“They need thousands of people and hundreds of machines, even now. It’s incredible.”

Contact ManUp Hawke’s Bay at [facebook.com/manuphawkesbay](https://facebook.com/manuphawkesbay) to volunteer to be a part of the clean-up effort.



## HEY WAIHI. WE’VE BEEN WORKING ON SOMETHING A LITTLE DIFFERENT...

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# Our Coromandel



News from Thames-Coromandel District Council

29 March 2023

## Tough calls for 2023/24 budgets

**With multiple severe weather events so far this year, and costs to repair and rebuild our Council roads likely to pass \$40 million, we're having to make some tough calls in our Annual Plan for the 2023/24 financial year beginning 1 July.**

We're proposing to delay, defer or amend some infrastructure projects and reduce operational spending.

"A major focus is on repairing the extensive damage to our roading network to help keep our communities connected and accessible," says our Mayor Len Salt.

"Together we're going to have to make some tough decisions about where and what we spend on, in the next 12 months. Please get involved and have your say."

### Major proposals:

- Rates: Average district-wide rates increase of 11.4 per cent. This will vary according to area and individual property. The average rates increase proposed for residential properties in Thames is 12.2 per cent.
- Operational spending: Among other reductions is a proposal to not fund \$6.7 million in depreciation and use previously underspent operational budgets (retained earnings) to offset rates.
- Pollen Street, Thames, infrastructure: Defer replacing underground infrastructure.
- Kerbside pricing: A new solid waste contractor takes over on 1 September. We'll replace our blue plastic rubbish bags with wheelie bins and have a new food waste collection service. There are three pricing options.

### Have your say

[tcdc.govt.nz/annualplan2023](https://tcdc.govt.nz/annualplan2023)

Visit our service centres or libraries.

Submissions close 4pm Monday 10 April.

### Kōpū Marine and Business Precinct

Major work is being completed on the new marine and business facility at Kōpū, with the earthworks and roading almost finished. Steel poles totalling nearly 320 tonnes were brought down from Auckland by barge to support the wharf construction. The base for the commercial carpark area has been built. The marine contractors have now moved onto the site to start work on the commercial wharf. [tcdc.govt.nz/kopu](https://tcdc.govt.nz/kopu)

### Rubbish and recycling changes ahead



Household kerbside collections are changing from 1 September 2023.

- Instead of blue bags you'll get a **new** 140-litre wheelie bin for rubbish which'll be collected fortnightly.
- You'll also get a **new** 25-litre bin for food scraps which'll be collected weekly.
- Recycling will be collected fortnightly from your glass crates and mixed recycling wheelie bin.
- All Council Refuse Transfer Stations will be open seven days a week.

Find out more at

[tcdc.govt.nz/solid-waste-FAQs](https://tcdc.govt.nz/solid-waste-FAQs)

## Cyclone Support

We're working through applications to our Mayoral Disaster Relief Fund and the \$1.42 million portion of the government's Business Recovery Grants that our Council is administering. Other support:

**Business – [business.govt.nz](https://business.govt.nz)**

**Community – [msd.govt.nz](https://msd.govt.nz)**

**Mental Health – [heretohelpu.nz](https://heretohelpu.nz)**

## What's happening over Easter and ANZAC weekends?



### ANZAC SERVICES

ANZAC Day parades and services are taking place around our district on Tuesday 25 April. [tcdc.govt.nz/whatson](https://tcdc.govt.nz/whatson)

### KERBSIDE COLLECTIONS



There will be no Kerbside rubbish and recycling collections on Easter Monday 10 April and ANZAC Day Tuesday 25 April. Collections will be one day later after these public holidays. Check the Kerbside schedule for your area at: [tcdc.govt.nz/kerbside](https://tcdc.govt.nz/kerbside)

Our seven Refuse Transfer Stations (RTS) will be closed Good Friday 7 April and open Sunday hours on Easter Monday. ANZAC Day open from 1pm-5.30pm. [tcdc.govt.nz/rts](https://tcdc.govt.nz/rts)

### COUNCIL FACILITIES



Closed on Good Friday, Easter Monday and ANZAC Day. You can still contact us: [customer.services@tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:customer.services@tcdc.govt.nz)

### DISTRICT LIBRARIES



Closed on Good Friday to Easter Monday inclusive and ANZAC Day.

### THAMES POOL



Closed on Good Friday, Easter Monday and ANZAC Day.

### ALCOHOL BANS



Alcohol bans are in place over Easter weekend from 4pm Thursday 6 April to 4pm Tuesday 11 April. [tcdc.govt.nz/alcoholcontrol](https://tcdc.govt.nz/alcoholcontrol)

### DOG RULES



Dogs are restricted on the beach in some areas from 9am-6pm on holiday weekends and public holidays. Dogs need to be on-lead when walking around our local roads and town centres, and unless specified otherwise. When in doubt, please put your dog on a lead. There are off-leash dog exercise areas across the district on our website. [tcdc.govt.nz/dogownerguide](https://tcdc.govt.nz/dogownerguide)

## Meet and greet

Pop on down to Thames market on Saturdays for 'meet and greet' sessions every fortnight to have a chat with two Community Board elected members from around 10am. The idea behind it is to listen to community views, chat informally about what our

Council is doing and to signpost people to where to go for more information. The next one's on Easter Saturday 8 April.



## Thames Community Board UPDATE

### A word from our Thames Community Board Chair Adrian Catran JP:

"Making sure our communities and businesses are supported in these tough times is a priority. We've been listening to your views at our 'meet and greet' sessions at the Thames market every second Saturday morning. The Annual Plan is now out for review and Council is seeking comments on the proposed average 12.2% increase for Thames ratepayers, whilst ensuring we have an appropriate budget for essential services and maintenance work. One proposal is to defer the Pollen St infrastructure upgrade to minimise disruption to businesses and reduce overall expenditure this year. Please ensure you provide us with your feedback in our Annual Plan consultation."

[adrian.catran@council.tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:adrian.catran@council.tcdc.govt.nz)



The Board's next meeting is on **Wednesday 10 May 2023, 10am** in the Council Offices. Recordings of all our Council and Community Board meetings are posted on [tcdc.govt.nz/meetings](https://tcdc.govt.nz/meetings), where you'll also find meeting agendas and minutes.

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# Community connection for new principal

By ALICE PARMINTER, Public Interest Journalism funded by NZ On Air

Outside Puriri School's office, cheerful cries echo around the grounds - it's lunchtime and the kids are making the most of a sunny day.

It's all smiles indoors as well, where new principal Lydia Lester is settling into her office. She's been in the position since January, and while she's still finding her feet among the extra admin and paperwork that comes along with the role, she loves being a part of the tiny school community.

"[It's a] bit of a change but I really love the community feeling here, it's almost like a big whānau," she says.

"I went from a school of 120 to this school of 23 students - less than what was in my class last year."

Lydia has been teaching for 16 years, most recently at Te Aroha's Elstow-Waihou School. But when the opportunity arose to join the Puriri School team, it was a no-brainer.

"I think it's really important to serve in your community [but] there's no point in putting all your effort into someone else's community. I think that was the missing link with my old school - I absolutely loved working there but it was harder on the weekends to motivate me to travel half an hour to do a work-



The student and staffing body are a cozy, tight-knit whānau at Puriri School, which has welcomed its new principal, Lydia Lester, left. Photo: SUPPLIED



ing bee or something, where as here my whānau is here."

Her family has lived in Puriri for five years, and Lydia is already an active member of the local community - as a parent, with three children attending or formerly attending Puriri School; as a member of the Puriri volun-

teer fire brigade; and as a player on the Thames women's football team.

"We lived down Puriri Valley Rd in a caravan for a year and a half while we built, which was an experience in itself, with three boys. We just fell in love with the community as soon as we saw the piece of land - we've got the awa (river) down the back and just a really nice, small community which is what we were looking for," she says.

"I was already a parent in the school which made the transfer a little bit easier because I knew a lot of the families here already."

Lydia has grand plans for the little kura, and she says she was excited to learn the rest of the teaching staff was on the same wavelength as her.

"We've all got the same passion for the community and to see these kids grow," she says. "We came together and everything just gelled really well. It's a really great

team to work with."

One big project they're looking at is expanding the school's Te Kura o Awa river school programme.

"We want to just add to that, develop it further and make sure we've got those links with our local iwi and with the curriculum and making sure that some keen learning is happening there," she says.

"So getting them to have that feeling of mana for their community and kaitiakitanga - guardianship - for our local area. And it's hands-on, and then we go and talk about, well what's our next steps, and put it into writing and things like that - so we're making sure that we're covering the different curriculum areas."

"The other thing that I'd love to see is the community use the school a lot more, whether it's using one of our buildings to have a craft group or something like that. You know, it's here, let's use it. It all goes towards building the community," she adds.

"And it's great to see kids coming in after school and using the tennis courts. Whether they come to our school or not this is still their community."

As well as running the school, Lydia will be teaching the combined year 5-8 class three days a week. "I think you teach from who you are and so relationships [are] really important to me. It's probably number one. There's that classic saying: kids don't care what you know until they know that you care."



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# Hopping into town

Classic vehicles revved into Waihi, Thames and other Hauraki-Coromandel towns last week as part of the Beach Hop Warm Up Party and Power Cruise the Loop, which involved classic vehicles visiting towns in the Coromandel Peninsula at their own leisure. The Cruise the Loop event was put together by the Beach Hop team as vehicles couldn't safely travel in large convoys from Whangamatā to places like Thames due to the closure of State Highway 25A.



Waihi College teams enjoy the Warm Up Party.



Angie Walters, left, and Michelle Wise with their 1934 chev.



The Waihi Warm Up Party best dressed winners, with Hauraki Mayor Toby Adams. Photo: SUPPLIED/HDC



Richard and Diane Borthwick and their Dodge. Photo: GORDON PREECE



Women dress up for the day.

# Knitting on display

By GORDON PREECE

A quartet of Operation Cover Up Thames members displayed a strand of its knitted items bound for eastern Europe at Goldfields Shopping Centre on March 22.

The group, which has between 20 and 30 members, knit blankets, hats and jerseys at Elim Church every Wednesday for people in countries like Ukraine, Bulgaria and Romania to keep warm during its winter months.

Incoming co-ordinator Carol Wilkes told *The Profile* around 2000 knitted items had been prepared this year and the display at Goldfields highlighted

the work.

"The reason for all of this is to help people in eastern Europe in orphanages, people who are on the street, and also the refugees from Ukraine," she said.

"Last year the majority of it went to Ukraine and again this year we're seeing Ukraine is just as bad... [the items] will be sent to where the need is greatest."

Co-ordinator Margaret Morrirt said the main display would be held at Thames Civic Centre between June 30 and July 1.

Operation Cover Up Thames members Carol Wilkes, left, Margaret Morrirt, Elizabeth McCaughan and Wendy Wilcox.

Photo: GORDON PREECE



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# Rural Life

## College equestrians ride to cup glory

By GORDON PREECE

Four Hauraki equestrians “screamed and jumped for joy” when they were announced the winners of the inaugural Secondary Schools Pegasus Cup.

The event, which was held on March 20 and 21 at Takapoto Estate at Maungatautari near Cambridge, roped in 45 North Island secondary school teams to compete in showjumping and show hunter events.

Team manager Theresa Worters said the Hauraki Plains College team, named Hauraki Plains Gold, included her daughter Hannah van der Struys riding Cookie, Zara Culley riding Felix, Anna Hart riding Katy and Tamzin Forsyth-Lees riding Connie.

The team competed in equitation and accumulator classes during the event.

The equitation class was judged on the effectiveness, style, and execution of excellent horsemanship skills of the rider, and the accumulator class involved six to 10 jumps at various heights.

Theresa said on the first day of the tournament, Hannah sped to first place in the 80cm equitation class, Tamzin and Zara placed second and sixth in the 70cm equitation class and Anna competed in the



The Pegasus Cup winning team consisted of Anna Hart, left, Zara Culley and Tamzin Forsyth-Lees, top right, and Hannah van der Struys.



Photos: SUPPLIED

90cm equitation class.

By the end of day one, Hauraki Plains Gold were in fifth place.

Theresa said Tamzin and Zara “rode amazingly” in the 70cm accumulator class on day two.

“Tamzin and Connie scored themselves a smashing first, while Zara and Felix followed in just behind with the second,” she said.

Hannah also competed in the accumulator class on day two and the last class for the team,

before Tamzin had her second shot in the equitation, was the 90cm accumulator with Anna and her horse Katy.

“Katy was fantastic, and Anna rode so well. They came out with a very well-deserved third place,” she said.

“Tamzin and Connie rode out into the arena with quiet confidence. They executed a very well-ridden equitation round, maintaining their third place standing and receiving the ribbon and points for our team.”

Theresa said the results and prizegiving soon followed where it was revealed Tamzin scored the highest individual points and the team scored the highest overall total with 138 points, crowning them the first Pegasus Cup champions.

“Tamzin was surprised and overjoyed to find out she had collected the highest number of individual points, and had in fact won the Leading Rider Award,” she said.

“It was a very exciting moment to be with the girls near the stables and the horses when the overall places were announced.

“The girls screamed and jumped with joy... all the parents were there outside the stables in the pouring down rain, smiling and laughing and hugging with an overload of emotions.”

Theresa said the experience for the girls had been one of perseverance and determination.

“This sport takes grit and hard work and lots of tears. As a parent, I am so very proud of them all,” she said.

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# Student army inbound for cleaning battle

By GORDON PREECE

More than 20 Hauraki Plains College students armed with cleaning materials will hit the streets this year to improve the community image.

The student volunteer army at the Ngātea college was recently rallied by year 13 student Danny Sayer, who told *The Profile* the idea came from a desire to give back.

"The school has given me so many opportunities and I just want to do something to give back to the community that's given me all this," he said.

"During the recent [cyclones] and seeing all the damage on Facebook made me think about what I could do to help people around the community. "[I also] witnessed the Christchurch earthquakes, and that was originally where I saw the student army helping clean up the street."

Danny said after piecing together his plan, he presented it to his fellow students at an assembly in the hopes of recruiting troops for his army.

"At the moment we've got about 20 kids [all year levels] and we're hoping to bring in the whole year 13 cohort at one point because everyone needs 20 hours of community service to finish the year," he said.

"[The school has been] quite



The student volunteer army embarked on its first clean up session on March 6.

Photo: SUPPLIED

accepting of it and really wants me to push forward with it and bring in a lot more students to help and bring in more community service to the school."

Danny said the volunteers were deployed to Ngātea

streets on March 6 for the first clean up session where they collected litter, cleared drains and berms and painted over graffiti.

"We'll try to do it once a week or once every two weeks, be-

cause you've got to keep kids in school," he said.

"We'll try and do it in other areas as well around the Hauraki District... I'm planning to do some big events like beach cleanups.

"[We want to] make Ngātea and the wider Hauraki area a nicer place for everyone because with all the rubbish everywhere and the graffiti, it takes away the beauty of the area."

## We Care Community Trust Grant Funding

*In tough times we are here to help*

We Care Community Trust is a recently licensed gaming machines' society operating from **Punters Sports Bar** in Thames. We Care has funding available for qualifying organisations in the local community.

Applications are now being received and considered by the Directors of We Care Community Trust in accordance with their authorised purpose statement and the funds that are available. Applications close at the end of each month for consideration the following month.

Applications can be obtained online from:

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# Large turnout for fun day

The Ngatea Free Family Fun Day was held at the Hauraki Plains College fields recently. The annual event, run by the Lions Club of Ngatea, was a day out for families with “a real country feel”. With lots of rides, St John ambulance tours, family races, a bouncy castle and live entertainment provided by music students of Hauraki Plains College, the turnout was the largest the Lions had seen for a fun day they have hosted. The day out was completely free and was made possible with the support of Hauraki Plains College and the Ngatea business community.



Cute animals always draw in a crowd.

Photos: SUPPLIED/DAVID WATKIN



Emily Ryan and Miles Sargent dress up.



A tractor ride was included in the day's events.



A visitor gets her face painted.



The band entertains the crowd.

## In Brief

### AUTUMN GARAGE SALE

The Thames Community MenzShed is having its Autumn Garage Sale on Sunday, April 2 from 9am until 12.30pm. There will be surplus machines - like bandsaws, woodturning lathes, and power and hand tools - for sale, as well as nuts, bolts, and handy engineering and woodwork bits. Garage sale is at 412 Queen St, Thames, down the Chorus driveway to the back of the yard. Cash sales only.

### TOA FINDS NEW HOME

The star of our first Pet Profile, Toa, a dog that spent more than 60 days in the Hauraki District Council pound, has found his forever home. After *The Profile* featured Toa's story in the paper, a happy ending was found for the pup, with council staff telling *The Profile* that a loving family has since welcomed him in with open arms.

### FOCUS ON HUNTING SAFETY

Police are reminding hunters to prioritise the safety of themselves and their mates during this year's roar hunting season. Hunters can be prepared by: checking the weather forecast; carrying appropriate equipment for all conditions; carrying a map; informing someone of their plans; carrying an emergency communication device; and knowing and following firearm safety rules. Police also advise hunters identify targets beyond all doubt.

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# Building & Renovation

# Sleepy miner's cottage transformed

By ALICE PARMINTER, Public Interest Journalism funded by NZ On Air

Aloma Parker's home is unassuming from the road, just a sleepy little miner's cottage nestled behind trees. Inside though, the Paeroa home is modern, cozy and full of light.

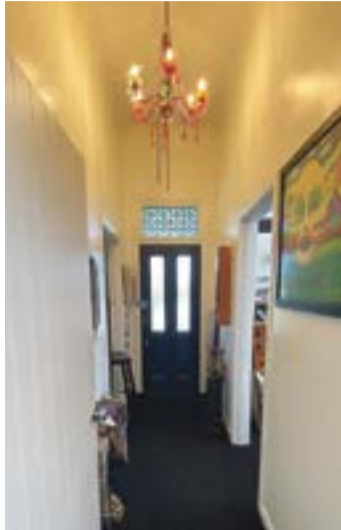
High-vaulted ceilings in the original cottage give way to an open plan dining/living/kitchen space in the lean-to at the back. Large bifold doors lead out to a deck almost as big as the indoors, with a private sheltered garden nestled under the fence.

Aloma bought the Wharf St property six years ago.

"I came here because I was on my own, my partner died and we had a lifestyle block that I wasn't going to manage," she says.

She went from a 320 square metre, 2.5 acre property to 100 square metres with a single garage.

"I don't think I've ever lived in a house that wasn't built in the 19th century. I spent time in the UK working for a firm that did a lot of work for an historic places trust. That was just amazing seeing some of the old buildings and houses there, but when I came back to New Zealand, we were pulling them all down," she says.



ABOVE: The hallway chandelier came from a local store.



RIGHT: The welcoming interior of the 19th-century home features original matai flooring, comfortable oversized furniture, and statement lighting pieces.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER

"So I've done a lot of buying of old houses and giving them a new lease on life."

When Aloma bought the home, it was contaminated with the drug, methamphetamine, so the interior had to be completely stripped out.

"[It] gave me the advantage that I could do it the way I

wanted it, the way that suited me," she says.

When it came to redesigning, keeping the home's history intact was an important consideration.

"I wanted to save the character, so the front rooms are pretty much as they were. And this lean-to ... had been redone in

the 1960s and was still in pretty good shape.

"The floor for example which I uncovered was matai, and the floor sander was willing to experiment with whitewashing it a bit."

The entire building was rewired and replumbed, with Aloma making significant

changes to the floor plan. She sacrificed the third bedroom to make way for a second, yet to be completed bathroom, and a walk-in wardrobe.

The biggest changes though, were made in the back of the house.

"The first thing I did was

CONTINUED, P13





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# Building & Renovation



The deck is a real highlight, providing indoor-outdoor flow and a space suitable for all seasons.

### CONTINUED FROM P12

open up the back," she says. "There wasn't much to open up to because there was basically a big concrete yard with an enormous broken down clothesline in the middle. It just wasn't attractive until I got the deck."

The deck, built by her grandson-in-law, is a room in its own right. Adjustable louvres and an outdoor heater create a welcoming space adaptable to any weather and season.

Indoors, the kitchen was relocated to the laundry, and the back porch and steps were con-

verted into a walk-in pantry, completing the renovation.

Along with adjusting the layout, Aloma has been sure to keep accessibility in mind throughout.

"I was nursing my late partner and became aware of all the things you need when you get old and sick," she says.

"It's almost accessible, I just need to build a ramp around the back if necessary. Things like the doors are all on magnets so you don't have to turn the handle; just general accessibility so you could get around here in a wheelchair."

As for interior decorating,

Aloma says she didn't have a particular theme in mind.

"I've got a lot of old treasures that I've sort of kept over the years that have travelled with me ... some of them are a bit quirky, collectible kind of things, not particularly antiques but just interesting," she says.

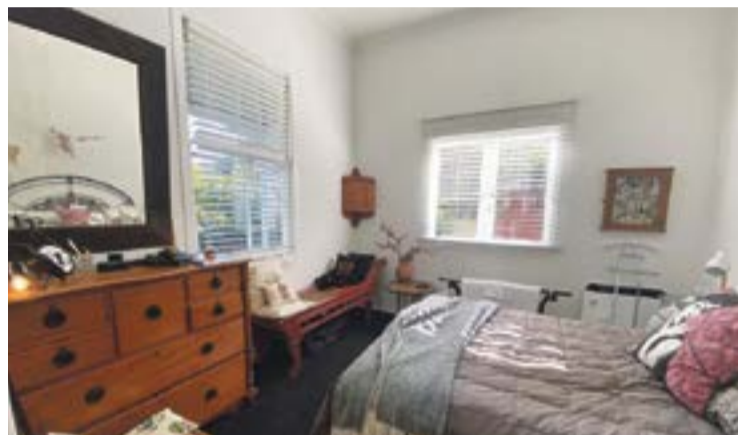
"I've got a few artworks, mostly New Zealand painters, so there has to be wall space for them."

Indeed, there are treasures to be found in every inch of the home. The faux-panelling wallpaper in the lounge frames two large cabinets filled with books,



An eclectic mix of art adorns the walls.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER



The guest bedroom is unchanged from the original dimensions, and a high stud ceiling creates a spacious, airy feel.

ornaments and photos. There's an old olive-collecting basket from France on the deck; Mardi Gras beads hang from the chandelier in the halfway. It's modern meets comfortable, yet still sympathetic to its roots.

"I love it," Aloma says. "It's a tiny house but it feels so much bigger, it feels like there's more space to breathe."



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[hauraki-dc.govt.nz/rules-regulations-licences/building/earthquake-prone-buildings](http://hauraki-dc.govt.nz/rules-regulations-licences/building/earthquake-prone-buildings)

\*Following the 2010/11 earthquake events in Canterbury a national system for identifying, assessing and managing earthquake-prone buildings came into effect on 1 July 2017. Under the national system, councils are required to identify earthquake-prone buildings in their area. The owner of the building must then have an engineering assessment done. If the building is found to be earthquake-prone the building must be brought up to earthquake-strengthening standards. Buildings that are used mainly for residential purposes are not covered by this system, unless they are more than one-storey in height or are comprised of three or more household units.

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## Building & Renovation

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## Create your sanctuary

Life has had its challenges for a lot of us. For a while!

Recovering from a worldwide pandemic was enough but the recent weather events have struck the heart of so many in New Zealand, our homes. I cannot imagine watching your house and precious possessions floating away with mud and contaminated silt replacing it.

Our homes are often the place where we feel comfort, calm and belonging. To have this threatened or worse is tearing at our core beings. The meaning of home cannot be underestimated.

So, being an interior designer and owner of a homewares store, how does this affect me on a personal and professional level?

When I consult with my clients around spatial planning, colours or even window treatments, I am thinking of the practical and functional impact as well as the aesthetic presentation - now even more so. None of us wish to think of environmental disasters and we often groan when restrictive rules are put in place around how we build our houses, but it seems we now have to take this possibility into consideration more than ever.

The word 'Simple' comes to mind with careful and considered design. Keeping furniture to a minimum and choosing quality that endures. Great storage solutions so items can be contained and organized. Robust materials that stand the test of time.

After the pandemic, we wanted our houses to be our sanctuary more than ever - we looked within during the lockdowns and concentrated more on the interiors of our home.

This is continuing but before as an interior design specifying for a client, I always look at the environment that surrounds a building.

Urban surroundings can inspire us to create pockets of softness and comfort among the hard lines, rural surroundings inspire the ability to bring the outdoors in with large openings and natural colours and textures.

Go with what you love. I'm sure after what others have lost, you, like me, are looking around and taking stock of where and how we live. Trends are there to inspire and present options based on a collective idea but in the end, your home is uniquely you and is to be treasured in your own way.

- Supplied by Robyn Forster, of Insider Interiors



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## Building & Renovation

ADVERTISING FEATURE



Once a clear plan has been established, it's important to hire a reputable contractor.

### Preparing for home renovations

Renovating your home can be an exciting and rewarding experience, but it's important to approach the process with a well-thought-out plan.

If you're preparing for house renovations, there are a few key things to keep in mind.

First and foremost, set a budget for your project. Renovations can quickly become costly, so it's essential to have a clear idea of how much you're willing to spend before you begin.

Make a list of the renovations you want to tackle and prioritize them based on your budget and timeline.

Next, do your research. Whether you're planning to hire a contractor or tackle the renovations yourself, it's important to understand the scope of the project and any potential challenges you may face. Look

up design inspiration online, and consider visiting local showrooms or home improvement stores to get a sense of what materials and products are available.

Once you have a plan in place, it's time to get organized. Create a timeline for your renovations, and make sure to build in extra time for unexpected delays. If you're working with a contractor, communicate regularly to ensure that everyone is on the same page.

Finally, don't forget to enjoy the process! Renovating your home can be a lot of work, but it's also an opportunity to create the space of your dreams. Celebrate small milestones along the way, and take the time to appreciate the progress you're making. With a little planning and a positive attitude, your house renovations can be a success.

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# Building & Renovation



## Choosing the best colour

Deciding on the perfect paint color when renovating your home can be a daunting task.

With so many options available, it's easy to feel overwhelmed and unsure of where to start. However, with a little guidance and some helpful tips, you can narrow down your choices and find the perfect color to complement your space.

First, consider the mood you want to create in the room. Do you want a calming and relaxing atmosphere or something more energetic and vibrant? Soft blues and greens are great for creating a peaceful environment, while bold oranges and reds can add excitement to a room.

Next, take into account the natural lighting in the room. Rooms with plenty of natural light can handle bolder colors, while rooms with little natural light may bene-

fit from lighter shades to brighten the space.

Another helpful tip is to consider the colors of your furniture and decor. If you have a lot of neutral or earthy tones, consider adding a pop of color with a bold accent wall. Alternatively, if you have bright and bold decor, a neutral color on the walls can help balance the room.

Lastly, don't be afraid to test out different colors before committing. Many paint companies offer sample sizes of their paint, allowing you to try out different shades before committing to a full gallon.

Remember, choosing the perfect paint color is all about finding what works best for your space and personal style. With a little bit of patience and some experimentation, you're sure to find a color that you'll love for years to come.



## Recessionary environment lowers appliance prices

Over the past two years, buyers of major home appliances have experienced a slow but steady increase in prices as manufacturers have sought to recoup increased costs of raw materials, components, labour, and sea freight - to name but a few cost pressures.

With constrained supply and a post-Covid spending boom, these price rises have been absorbed by the New Zealand market.

However, with supply constraints now largely resolved and demand rapidly falling due to a recessionary environment and cost of living crisis, appliance manufacturers and retailers are now scraping for customers with promotional offers and regular sales promotions. "I don't think I've ever seen so

many simultaneous promotional offers from manufacturers before," 100% Thames and 100% Whitianga owner Mark Milmine said. "Almost every major appliance manufacturer has a gift-with-purchase, cashback or some other promotion offer in play right now."

In this environment, customers planning a renovation or appliance upgrade are advised to ask about package deals and not be afraid to enquire as to whether they are getting the best possible deal.

Shopping early in your project will also help secure current deals and lock in supply of preferred models as most manufacturers are still experiencing periodic out-of-stock issues on a model by model basis. "Our team is committed to helping customers secure

their first-choice appliances, in a timeframe that fits their renovation project. We can help customers navigate this constantly evolving landscape - and together we can ensure their project is successful," Mark said.

In response to stock shortages, 100% Thames and 100% Whitianga both secured additional warehouse space during 2021 to ensure as many customers as possible can achieve an immediate delivery outcome. Carrying leading brands such as Miele, Bosch, Fisher & Paykel, LG, Samsung and Beko, 100% Thames and 100% Whitianga are the first choice for whiteware and cooking appliances on the Coromandel Peninsula and surrounds.

- Supplied by 100% Thames

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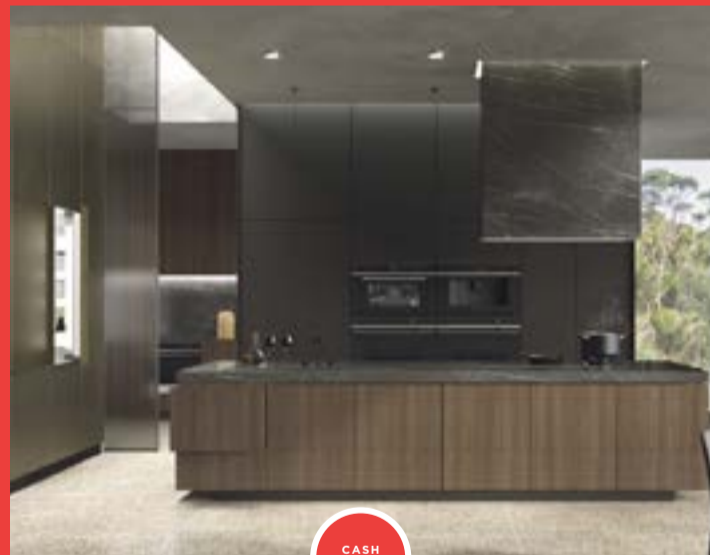
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# Cemetery caretaker buried at Tararu



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



Although the plaque on Alexander's grave notes him as first caretaker of Tararu cemetery there had been others before him, but he was most memorable.

"No one provokes me with impunity," wrote Alexander Connon during a flurry of furious letters to the *Thames Star* in August 1886.

The words were written in Latin, characteristic of the 67-year-old Tararu cemetery caretaker. Alexander was intellectual and cultured, a man of poetry and higher thinking, totally unsuited, some thought, to the rigours of cemetery upkeep.

Tararu cemetery was once the best in the province when under the care of a younger Alexander. Now, complained residents, it was the reverse.

Flowers were gone and graves were a mass of weeds. No one would refuse him cuttings from their gardens, if he asked for them, as he used to do. Alexander retorted that Tararu cemetery had been overwhelmed by vegetation. The ground was a network of roots and rootlets devouring the soil in all directions. He had informed the Cemetery Committee of his plan for improvements. He defied any man to charge him with dereliction of duty. The amount of labour he had provided for few shillings per week, no other man would have done.

Alexander was from Wales. In his

earlier years he enjoyed long and refined conversations with the Duke of Buccleuch, a Scottish peer, and Sir Bulwer Lytton, an English writer. He ran a ragged school in London – a charitable organisation dedicated to the free education of destitute children.

In 1865 Alexander, his wife and three young daughters immigrated to New Zealand. In a complete change of direction, the poet and philanthropist opened a butchery with William Messenger in Lower Queen St, Auckland. Alexander moved to Thames in 1868 but it is unclear what his occupation was.

He said of this time that he experienced the trials and privations usual in colonial life, but he was an honest worker, and did not grumble at his lot. He was an enthusiastic member of the Wesleyan Church as well as the debating society – noted for his poetic fire, lofty sentiment, lively interest and instructive essays. Around 1874 he became the sexton of the Tararu cemetery. In 1878 his wife Mary Anne died; two years later, aged 60, he married Phoebe Porter.

The complaints about Alexander

were rebutted by Thames council members who called him a diligent and painstaking workman. But the Cemetery Trustees resolved to give Alexander three months notice.

Fresh arrangements were made for improving the cemetery grounds. At the end of the three months, despite thirteen applications for the position of sexton, Alexander was reinstated.

In May, 1887, while making his way home during torrential rains, Alexander slipped into one of the water tables. He came down with a severe cold which settled into a lung inflammation. He had a premonition that he wouldn't recover, saying: "I am not going to get better, but I am ready if He wants me to go home". Four weeks later he died. Alexander was buried at Tararu cemetery.

He was remembered as a gentleman of considerable intellectual abilities. Local poet 'Jenny Wren' eulogised him in one of her poems. The Thames Debating Society said his life was a lesson that although a man may occupy a comparatively humble position in life, he could be looked up to with respect. They called him one of nature's noblemen.



The young pup, Tohu, is ready for a family to welcome him in with open arms and lots of cuddles.

Photo: SUPPLIED

## PET PROFILE

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

A young mixed breed male pup is searching for a better start to life.

He's so friendly and lovable, that the team at Thames SPCA are not sure why he hasn't yet been snapped up.

"Tohu came to us on January 11 this year with his mum, after they were surrendered to the SPCA as his previous owners could no longer look after them," Thames SPCA centre attendant Brent Thomas told *The Profile*.

"Tohu's mum has since found a home and we feel he needs a better start to life than being in a shelter."

Tohu has had a thorough

health check; he's desexed, microchipped; and his vaccinations, worming, and flea treatment is up to date.

Not only that, he is very well house trained for his young age.

"He loves to go for walks, play with people, other friendly dogs and by himself.

"His favourite toys are big ropes, he just loves them," Brent said.

"Tohu would be a great family member, being so well house-trained, as well as being full of love and cuddles. We can't quite understand why he's not been snapped up yet."

**DETAILS: To register your interest in giving Tohu his forever home, visit: [www.sPCA.nz](http://www.sPCA.nz), click 'adopt' and search for the Thames centre.**



## ENTERTAINMENT

### GUITAR WOLF IN THAMES

Guitar Wolf from Japan will make their first visit to Thames this Friday, March 31, on their ninth visit to Aotearoa.

The band's first visit here was in 1999. Since their origins in the early 90s, Guitar Wolf have travelled the globe taking their high energy Jett Rock and Roll performances internationally.

The sonic trio of Guitar Wolf are a combination of Link Wray, the Ramones meets Eddie Cochran, meets the MC5, meets Joan Jett. Seiji shares a birthday (Sept 22nd) with Joan Jett and the band has opened shows for Joan Jett in Japan.

Guitar Wolf has also been a huge influence on local legends The D4, whom they invited to tour

Japan in 2000. The D4 covered the Guitar Wolf song *Invader Ace* on their debut album 6/20 released in 2001.

Opening the show will be Auckland band Memory Foam.

**DETAILS: R18, doors open 6:30pm, gig starts at 7pm. Tickets from [www.undertheradar.co.nz](http://www.undertheradar.co.nz).**

### THE BOY WITH WINGS, WAIHI

A nationwide children's puppet show by an award-winning theatre company will swoop into Waihi on April 7.

The Boy With Wings, produced by Birdlife Productions Theatre, promises laughter, tears and thrilling adventure when a young man's epic journey unites with the miracle of bar-tailed godwit migration.

The performance, hosted by



Guitar Wolf will play in Thames on March 31.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Waihi Drama Society at The Theatre on Boyd Rd, involves the use of puppetry, songs, storytelling, and exquisite hand-crafted sets that magically unfold out of boxes

melded with a real-time ornithological lecture.

Birdlife Productions Theatre is operated by Nelson-based couple Bridget and Roger Sanders, who

have performed and toured their children's puppet shows around New Zealand and Europe.

Bridget established a career as a visual artist while working as a librarian in Nelson and after becoming involved in the local theatre company, she became interested in performing and creating theatre. She has developed her theatre skills through the John Bolton Theatre School in Melbourne, online courses with American and UK theatre companies, and bird-themed puppet performances since 2016.

**DETAILS: The Boy With Wings, hosted by Waihi Drama Society, April 7, The Theatre, Boyd Rd, tickets \$10, visit [www.waihidramasociety.co.nz](http://www.waihidramasociety.co.nz) to purchase tickets.**

## Scott Simpson

MP for Coromandel

Contact me anytime

0800 550 330  
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Authorised by Scott Simpson, 614 Pollen St, Thames.

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# Gardening

## Harvest time in your garden

April in the garden is a great time to finish harvesting the summer crops and then start to breathe new life into the soil. As the temperatures begin to cool it is easier to spend more time outside getting the garden prepared for the new plants.

### VEGETABLES

Harvest the last of your late summer vegetables – pumpkins, potatoes and onions and store in a cool place.

If you choose to give your vege patch a rest over the winter, add nutrients back into the soil by sowing a crop of blue lupins or mustard seed which will add nitrogen and improve the soil structure. Raised vege beds can be a bonus in winter increasing the drainage and help with growth rates due the warmth in the soil.

Replenish soil and add blood and bone, sheep pellets and mulch if you wish. Transplant your winter seedlings or sow seeds of beetroot, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, carrots, leeks, onions, spinach, swedes and turnips directly into your garden. Once you have cleared your tomato patch, dig in some compost, blood and bone and sheep pellets and plant leafy greens like spinach, silverbeet, broccoli, cabbage or cauliflower. A seaweed liquid fertiliser is an excellent plant starter. It helps to stimulate root growth.

### FLOWERS

Cultivate and side dress with fertiliser winter and spring flowering annuals and bulbs. It is not too late to plant some more spring bulbs. After late autumn annuals have finished flowering, remove old plants add to compost and replenish soils for new planting.

You can begin planting sweet peas seeds,

also alyssum, aquilegia, calendula, cineraria, cornflower, dianthus, hollyhock, livingstone daisy, lobelia, nemesia, snapdragon, statice and stock to name a few. Once seeds are sown water gently and keep the soil moist while they establish.

### FRUIT

Continue to harvest late season apples many can be left to tree ripen. These can be harvested through May and June. Leaf fall of most deciduous trees commences. A late autumn clean up fungicide spray is needed to give protection and prevent carry over of diseases into next season. Apply a copper spray and include your stone fruit trees as well.

Citrus trees require constant feeding and watering if rainfall is low. It's a busy time for the trees with fruit ripening over the next few months. Feed each week with liquid feed or with dry citrus food around the drip and watering well. Remove lower hanging branches to improve air flow around the trunk. Mulch well keeping it away from the trunk.

### LAWNS

This is the best month for sowing a new lawn or repairing your lawn. Mix in Saturaid with your grass seed and spread over prepared soil. This will help improve the water penetration through the soil and reduce any dry patches. Mow regularly, remove clippings and water in the morning. Aerate or core to improve drainage and feed.

### HERBS

Sow sage, rosemary, thyme and chives.

### COMPOST HEAP

Add fallen leaves, and prunings.

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

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## SPORTS

## Sense of belonging for women rugby players

## WOMEN'S RUGBY

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

Female rugby players have a “place to call home” in Hauraki North, with trainings a family affair as the women gear up for a more challenging premierships competition.

Paeroa farmer Kaz White, who spoke to *The Profile* just two weeks after having her second daughter, Maeve, is one of the Thames Valley Vixens players now training at Hauraki North as part of their new Diamonds squad.

As a lock, she's unsure whether she'll be ready for the grind come the start of the season in April, but she's been attending trainings and supporting from the sidelines - with her little one, who she welcomed by caesarean, in tow.

“At Hauraki North, we actually have a clubroom now, so the kids play together, run around, and it's a cool atmosphere,” she said.

Establishing the Diamonds stemmed from the success of the Vixens and a Whangamatā sevens tournament held in November last year.

Hauraki North approached the Valley and asked if they'd be interested in fielding a women's team, based out of the Waitakaruru club. Kaz said it was an amazing opportunity to get some game time ahead of the Vixens' Heartland contention, which kicks off later this year.

Hauraki North had also been “so supportive”, she said.

“They took us through the training runs and asked us what they would need to change to make it better there for women,” Kaz said.

“We said just little things like sanitary boxes - that was something we found was quite hard last year. There was never anything like that in any of the changing rooms, because, like any rugby club, it's just been men.

“It was awesome for them to ask us,” she said. “They took us through and said they'd be putting in a few more showers, maybe another individual toilet because again, in the changing rooms, it's all urinals.”

Kaz said some of the girls also requested a mirror be installed in the bathroom.

“And they said: ‘We've never thought of that but yup, we'll do it.’ So it has been amazing.”



Hauraki North's newly-formed Diamonds squad. Below: The players in action during training.

Photos: K WHITE PHOTOGRAPHY

Kaz, 29, had never played rugby before starting with the Vixens in 2022. At the first training she attended, there were just three players, but the club has since gone from strength to strength.

At a recent Hauraki North training, 30 girls turned up.

Coach Brendan Clark said this time last year, they were averaging about six players per training.

“Hauraki North has gone above and beyond to support the girls which has been really cool to see; to have the clubrooms and a place to call home,” he said.

“They open up the bar and have a barbecue most Wednesdays, so that's probably a big reason why a bunch of the girls are sticking around, because they've got a community there and that's something we lacked last year.”

Brendan said it was nice to have Hauraki North “chasing the girls” for the Waikato Women's Premier Competition - the first game for the Diamonds being against Taupiri on April 15 - as opposed “to us all trying to rally to get sup-



port”.

“I think the girls feel pretty cared for and that is a good start.”

Brendan said the simple things - like mirrors and showers - all contributed to creating a stronger rugby community.

“You've all of a sudden got guys who have their partners now play-

ing at the club, or vice versa - the girls come down and their partners have joined the men's team.

“There are kids running around most trainings and Hauraki North was already a pretty big club in the Valley and had a family reputation, and now they've gone out of their way to make the girls com-

fortable, and they feel like they belong.”

**DETAILS: To follow the journey or to be a part of it, find Hauraki North Rugby Club on Facebook or email: [haurakinorth@hotmail.com](mailto:haurakinorth@hotmail.com).**



## CLUB RUGBY

## Thames Valley Club Senior A Competition Preview 2023:

**Waihi Athletic (Dragons):** Player Gains: Steve Wild, Max Wirihana, Josh Wirihana, Cristopher Folau, Poasi Folau; Player Losses: Charles Pipe, Manawa Hill, Matthew Hart; Players to Watch: Reuben Meares (six games off his 200th for the club), Dylan Horne, Ethan Seymour, Dylan Bellamy; Coaches and Management: Matt Carden-Scott, Stu Pratt, Kahu Craig-TeRanga, Jason Topp.

**Cobras:** Player Gains: Boston Hale, Maliu Nonu, Jo Saukawa, Josh Mason; Player losses: Rupeni Vakacegu, Sione Vakapuna Etoni, Lewis Craik, Shakahn Tokana; Players to Watch: Cameron Dromgool, Ben Stephens, Zac Stephens, Leroy Neels, Shontayne Dare, Sireli Kuraduadua; Coaches and Management: Wayne Williams, Shayne Stephens, Mark Wilson.

**Waihou:** Player Gains: Jake O'Connor, Taine Wilson, Glen Mcintyre, John Smith, Jay Vucago, JP Josevata, Kini Namoumou, Michy Junior, Sammy



Cama, Scott Day; Player Losses: Daniel McQuoid, Damon Morgan, Rhys Manning, Todd Arnold, Joe Downey, Chad Belfield, Ben Bonnar, Nathan Bonnar, Todd Doolan, Cole Fahy, Adam Hallett, Tyrin Lyttle; Key Players: Patrick Aislabie, Brad Mitchell (Sticks), Hamish McLennan (Ohaupo), Sam McCahon, Dominic Gore, Hayden Mulgrew;

Coaching and Management: Jarrah Sheehan, Scott Day, Adam Martin, Andy Paul, Darren Conder.

**Hauraki North:** Player Gains: Luke McDuff, Josh Barker, Christian Rosewarne, Richard Rosewarne, Shaun Hill, Jerome Hill, Matty Fisher; Player Losses: Will Newbold; Players to Watch: Etiuefa Fiavaai, Guto Davies, Lee Carter,

Rikki Sherrock; Coaches and Management: Bill Cooksley, Mike Voykovich, John Corbett, Barry Matson, Tamsin Armstrong, Jacob Lowe.

**Whangamata:** Player Gains: Jacob Chaplin (Injury), Dylan Jeffries, Ben Laurie, Suliasi Lomavatu, Jake Barfoot, Fin McCall, Callum Wall, Sean Cullen, Christopher Tuilotolava; Player Losses: Zane Heath, Scott Day, Shaun O'Grady, Charlie Clarke, Oisín Haplin, Jordan Downs; Players to Watch: Tiaontin Raoren, Telly Hemopo, Tupou Tonga, Josh Law, Connor Emerson; Coaches and Management: John Corbett, Geoff Spargo, Lily Robertsen, Neil Evans.

**Mercury Bay:** Player Gains: Mark Bouma, Phil Lelievre, Joe Reynolds, Luke Thompson, Paddy Mckenzie, Anzac Waterhouse, Ryan Connell; Player Losses: Trinity McQueen (Northland), Jayden Tegg (moved), Ethan Brear (Overseas) Austin Brear (pig Hunting) Harley Haning (retired), Cody Hamilton (retired) Regan Crosland (Overseas) Tamehana Rees (Overseas), Harry Finnerty (Injured); Players to Watch: Matt Sinclair, Adam Clague, Dane Mathew, Connor

McVerry, Miller Vincent, Lucas Lipa, Connor Holmes, Charlie Best, Connor Mcleod and Ricky Cressy-Hamilton; Coaches and management: Beau Hamilton, Cody Muir, Don Edgcombe, Ted McVerry.

**Paeroa:** Player Gains: Michael McKain, Coel Kerr, Keanu May Matafeo, Brooklin Toia; Player Losses: Vaka Stanley, Nirai McCrae, Rimu Alexander; Players to Watch: Bryson Williams, Sam Tupou, O Shea Te-Oka Cox, Hendrix Beazley, Eilki Sicinilawa; Coaches and Management: Martin Ash, Chris Doak, Josh Firth.

**Thames:** Player Gains: Luke Chambers; Player Losses: Harry Semple (Player Coach), Laulea Mau, Sione Toa, Tavita Halafahi, Tui Jr Toai-Key, Bobby Motuliki, Sia (last name unknown), Richard Judd; Players to Watch: Fred Kei Fotofili, Ryan Leopold, Corbin Saunders, Seth Roe, Dwayne Hughes; Coaches and Management: Rory Mitchell, Mitchell Murphy, Wiremu Eketone, Craig Bradley, Hayden Williams, Jen Fletcher, Richard Barlow.

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# CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 1pm Thursday, April 6

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### Church Notices

**Thames Spiritualist Church**, Sunday April 2nd,  
 2pm Grahamstown Hall. Speaker: Clinton Arnold.

### Church Notices



## St John's Anglican Church

Sunday 2nd April

Palm Sunday - 9.30 am

Thursday 6th April

Maundy Thursday - 9.30 am

Friday 7th April

Good Friday - 9.30 am

Sunday 9th April

Easter Sunday - 9.30 am

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**St Georges Church Hall, Thames.**

### Public Notice

**Hauraki District Council**  
**Meetings - April 2023**

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 April 2023 in the Council Chamber, Hauraki House, William Street, Paeroa unless otherwise stated.

**Regulatory Hearings Committee**  
 Monday, 3 April 2023, 9.00am  
 (if required)

**Audit and Risk Committee**  
 Tuesday, 11 April 2023, 9.00am

**Finance Committee**  
 Tuesday, 11 April 2023, 1.00pm

**Community Partnerships Committee**  
 Wednesday, 12 April 2023, 9.00am

**Regulatory Hearings Committee**  
 Monday, 17 April 2023, 9.00am  
 (if required)

**Planning Committee**  
 Tuesday, 18 April 2023, 9.00am

**Council Meeting**  
 Wednesday, 26 April 2023, 9.00am

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# EASTER DEADLINE

**Classifieds for the Wednesday April 12th  
 edition must be received by  
 Thursday, April 6th 1.00pm**

022 130 3885 | [nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz](mailto:nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz)

## SPORTS

# Locals encouraged to pick up a racquet

By GORDON PREECE

Striking a chord with women is the motivation for Paeroa Squash Club to bolster its membership.

President Bruce Nicol told The Profile the club will reopen its women's nights from April 10 this year after the success of both initiatives in 2022.

"In April we'll run a women's only thing, mainly for new players to have a go in a women's only environment... It's more of a relaxed atmosphere to have a women's night and coaching for the ladies to encourage them to have a go," he said.

"[Squash is] a good sport, good for fitness and it's a pretty social club... the idea is for people to mix and mingle and we have a range of food and drinks available."

Bruce said 10 to 20 new female squash players became members from last year's women's nights.

"One of the main things we do to get members is a lot of people

play tennis in high school and it's easy to pick up whereas squash is a lot harder, it's a bit more of a physical game and takes you a few tries to get better at it," he said.

Bruce said other advantages of squash included being an indoor and non-time consuming sport.

Bruce said the club would also host more business house rounds later this year.

"Sometimes with the business house, we'll run a couple more during the year and often you find if they don't join the first time, they'll come back for the second or third time and they'll then get better at it and often they'll join [as members]."

Paeroa Squash Club Women's Night Details: Introduction for women new to squash or racquetball in a fun environment, April 10, 17 and 24, 7pm to 8:30pm, \$10 for three nights, complimentary food and drinks provided, contact Debbie Clarke: 021 111 9828 or debsclarke@hotmail.com to register your interest.

## Born to run

Paeroa Amateur Athletics Club hosted the annual Paeroa Ribbon Day on March 11. Event spokesperson Sarah Rawnsley said it was a "fantastic turnout" with clubs from Waikato and as far away as Wairoa after the Hawke's Bay Ribbon Day was cancelled due to cyclone damage.



Four-year-old boys give their all during their 30m sprint.



Athletes take off from the start line of the 1500 metre race.

ABOVE: A group of eight-year-old boys enjoy some shade and a bit of down time in between their events.

Photos: SUPPLIED

## CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 1pm Thursday

### Situations Vacant

## Te Whāriki Manawāhine o Hauraki



Te Whāriki Manawāhine o Hauraki Women's Refuge (Te Whāriki) is a tangata whenua responsive service. Te Whāriki is a leader of innovative, whānau-centred approaches that support whānau to address and heal from historical and intergenerational trauma, leading to the restoration of Mauri Ora.

Te Whāriki is seeking new staff members who are committed to healing and recovery from a decolonised perspective.

- **He Kaiārataki Wāhine** – a clinical leadership position, where you will be experienced in managing staff, and have the necessary qualifications in clinical supervision from an indigenous perspective.
- **He Kaiārataki Tamariki/Rangatahi** – this role is to provide culturally relevant tamariki and rangatahi support for whānau to keep their mokopuna safe.
- **He Pou Takawaenga** – this position requires someone experienced in the successful implementation of tangata whenua community development initiatives, enabling hapū/iwi Māori to implement their own solutions to whānau violence.
- **He Kaiwhakahaere o te Tari** – this role is **part-time** maternity cover for six months starting mid-April and requires an experienced senior administrator, who will ensure the administrative functions of Te Whāriki are sustainable and meet best practice standards.

For more information contact Marama Steele on 021 505 509, and to apply please email your CV, cover letter and application form to marama.atahaia@gmail.com. The Job Description and Application Form can be downloaded from www.atahaia.com.

Applications close 5pm, Friday 31 March 2023.



Valley Toyota team members Paul Griffin, left, Christo Carstens, Grant Lowe, Dale Muir, and Karl Garrett.

## Forty years for Toyota chief

The driving force behind Valley Toyota and Tony Richards Toyota has been congratulated for clocking up four decades with the brand.

Wayne Richards started his career at Valley Toyota in 1982 and he held mechanic and sales roles before accelerating to chief executive in the early 2000s.

Tony Richards Toyota administrator Julie Richards said the achievement was a "massive deal" for the family dealership.

"The biggest thing is that [the dealership has] been in the family because I believe there's not many franchises around where it started off and it's still in the same family," she said.

Julie said Wayne was appointed chief executive of Tony Richards Toyota in Paeroa in 2000 before also becoming

chief executive of Valley Toyota in Thames in 2002 when Tony Richards Toyota purchased Valley Toyota from the Muir family.

Julie said Wayne, whose favourite Toyota vehicle was a Land Cruiser, would remain the driving force behind both dealerships for the foreseeable future.

Toyota NZ said Wayne achieving 40 years was an "outstanding effort" and a tribute to his love of the brand and commitment to its family legacy.

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

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HARD

93

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## JUMBO CROSSWORD

113

### ACROSS

- 1 At top speed (4,1,3,3,2,4)
- 10 Put together (8)
- 15 Leapt (6)
- 16 Diva (5,5)
- 17 Statuette (8)
- 19 Hospital attendant (7)
- 21 Uncooked bread (5)
- 22 Very profitable (9)
- 25 Keeps in good condition (9)
- 27 Church kneeling cushion (7)
- 29 Eight-note interval (6)
- 33 Waterway (5)
- 34 Beefy (8)
- 36 Sealed against moisture (10)
- 39 Unit of electrical resistance (3)
- 41 Young hare (7)
- 42 Remnants (6)
- 43 Unsusceptible to (6)
- 44 Volcanic output (4)
- 45 Rattles (anag) (7)
- 48 Blew hot and cold (10)
- 53 Long steps (7)
- 57 Paper quantity (4)
- 58 Black eye (6)
- 59 Vague idea (6)
- 60 Extraordinary (7)
- 62 Lavatory (3)
- 64 Painstaking (10)
- 65 Women's underwear (8)
- 66 Lane (5)
- 69 Customer (6)
- 70 Brief garment (1-6) (4,1,3,3,2,4)
- 71 About to happen (9)
- 76 Crisis (9)
- 77 Theatre platform (5)
- 78 Contagious disease (7)
- 83 Overwhelmed with emotion (8)
- 84 Place to sign (6,4)
- 85 Waterproof jacket (6)
- 86 Death (8)
- 87 Earn a favour or benefit by providing a service in return (4,3,4,6)

### DOWN

- 2 Tainted (6)
- 3 Rub out (5)
- 4 Colossal (3)
- 5 Adhesive strip (4)
- 6 Mythical creature (7)
- 7 Citrus fruit (6)
- 8 Barb (4)
- 9 One skilled in languages (8)
- 11 Evasive (6)
- 12 Beat about the bush (10)
- 13 Prison on warship (4)
- 14 Lift (7)
- 18 Declared officially (10)
- 20 Touch down (4)
- 23 Entire range (5)
- 24 Advance troops (8)
- 26 Non-professional (7)

### ACROSS

- 30 Song of mourning (6)
- 31 Acid neutraliser (6)
- 32 Court game (6)
- 35 Hot drink (5)
- 37 Defrosts (5)
- 38 Business transaction (4)
- 40 Money plant (4)
- 45 Hessian (5)
- 46 Slaughterhouse (8)
- 47 Breathe out (6)
- 48 Defeated thoroughly (10)
- 49 Ringleet (4)
- 50 Wool fat (7)
- 51 Be at (6)
- 52 Draw forth (5)
- 54 Shade of colour (4)
- 55 Pancreas product (7)
- 56 Tooth coating (6)
- 61 Cost-effective (10)
- 63 Compare (5)
- 67 Green vegetable (8)
- 68 Unoccupied (4)
- 69 Cancel (4,3)
- 72 Make appear larger (7)
- 73 Punctually (6)
- 74 Artist's workshop (6)
- 75 Argue (6)
- 79 Bend over (5)
- 80 Finest (4)
- 81 Male deer (4)
- 82 Swain (4)
- 85 Donkey (3)

### PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Kitty, 4 Play gooseberry, 11 Class, 14 Loyal, 15 Resuscitate, 16 Scimitar, 19 Cabaret, 20 Agape, 21 Unsettled, 24 Artillery, 26 Rascal, 27 Ablaze, 31 Fatty, 32 Emphasis, 34 Screen test, 37 Tin, 39 Manacle, 40 Repair, 41 Oboist, 42 Long, 43 Vestige, 46 Paper money, 51 Sponsor, 55 Dirk, 56 Utters, 57 Lethal, 58 Harmony, 60 Era, 62 Alternates, 63 Pristine, 64 Unite, 67 Poncho, 68 Evolve, 69 Undecided, 74 Hibernate, 75 Heart, 76 Venison, 81 Arachnid, 82 Incinerator, 83 Jetty, 84 Sharp, 85 Storm in a teacup, 86 Slash.

DOWN: 2 Isobar, 3 Tiara, 5 Leek, 6 Younger, 7 Occupy, 8 Sate, 9 Botanist, 10 Yachts, 11 Cumberbund, 12 Acts, 13 Strange, 17 Debit, 18 Melancholy, 22 Slump, 23 Ravenous, 25 Retract, 26 Rostrum, 28 Facade, 29 Escape, 30 Census, 33 Hyena, 35 Tiger, 36 Plug, 38 Noon, 43 Vodka, 44 Scrutiny, 45 Extras, 46 Preserving, 47 Pose, 48 Relapse, 49 Outfit, 50 Exact, 52 Plan, 53 Nominee, 54 Ornate, 59 Archbishop, 61 Onset, 65 Platinum, 66 Vixen, 67 Perhaps, 70 Nirvana, 71 Merits, 72 Reject, 73 Foetus, 77 Ideal, 78 Saga, 79 Sign, 80 Tofu.

SPORTS

# Lewis flings to world frisbee championship

By GORDON PREECE

Lewis Goldby jumped the fence of his Christchurch flat to let his neighbours know of his national ultimate frisbee team selection.

The 22-year-old Former Hau-raki Plains College deputy head boy told *The Profile* he caught his selection for the Under 24 New Zealand Mixed Ultimate team in November last year after three years' competing in the sport while studying at the University of Canterbury.

"There was no one in my flat around but I jumped the fence to our neighbours, who were really good mates of ours, and ran up their stairs and got really excited and told them."

Lewis said he was introduced to ultimate frisbee in his first year at university, and became serious about the sport in his second year.

"I've really enjoyed the people who are involved in the sport, they are all super friendly, always wanting to go out of their way to help teach you things.

"Plus it keeps you fit and you get to do cool things, like getting a sick layout block, that feeling is unreal."

Lewis, who is now a graduate engineer in Wellington, said he became interested in joining the national squad when he caught wind that they were going to compete at the World Flying Disc Federation



Lewis Goldby will represent New Zealand in ultimate frisbee in July.

Photo: SUPPLIED/MIKE PARE

2023 World Under 24 Ultimate Championship.

"I found out about it very early last year and decided it was something I really wanted to do because I found that the best

way to develop is to play at that high level and be around lots of people that have been there for a long time," he said.

"I went to a gym and got a training programme developed,

one that was developed for other athletes competing at worlds a little earlier, and then while studying I trained hard outside of university and had team training for three months.

"Then after that three months I trialed for the [national] team."

Lewis said he and the team of 22 other ultimate frisbee players would jet to Nottingham, England for the championship, which is set to fling into action between July 2 and 8.

"Playing high level ultimate frisbee, that of itself is why I'm going there and what I'm most excited for," he said.

"I caught myself at the trails with this massive grin on my face because to me it felt like I had made it, it was where I wanted to be, and doing that at an international level would be unreal."

Lewis said his mother, Fiona Goldby, recently held a fire-wood raffle at Ngātea Four Square, where she is the duty manager, raising around \$1000 to go towards his travel and other costs related to the upcoming championship.

"I'm incredibly thankful for everything she's done... I was blown away by the support of my hometown," he said.

"Return flights are around \$3000 and all the training and preparation work is about \$5000 I think so the total would be \$8000."

He planned to continue the fundraising effort.

"At uni, I developed a bit of a passion for baking, bread making and pastries and I would love to do some bake sales around Wellington."

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