

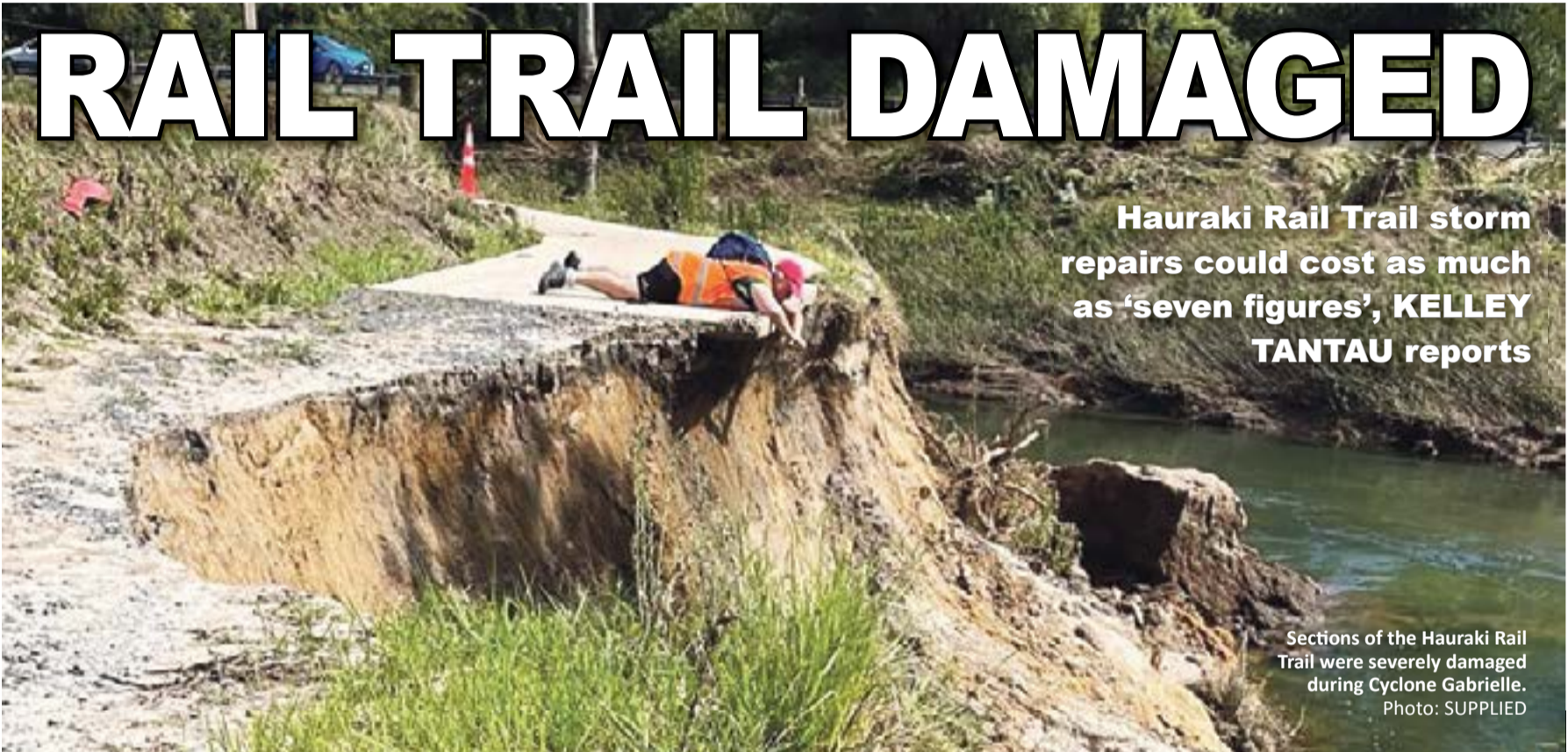
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RAIL TRAIL DAMAGED

Hauraki Rail Trail storm repairs could cost as much as 'seven figures', KELLEY TANTAU reports

Sections of the Hauraki Rail Trail were severely damaged during Cyclone Gabrielle. Photo: SUPPLIED

Parts of the Ohinemuri River that runs through the Karangahake Gorge reached a height of 7.11 metres during Cyclone Gabrielle, as opposed to the normal river level of 0.8m, Hauraki Rail Trail chief executive Diane Drummond said.

The impact on sections of the popular tourist attraction had been "soul destroying", but the charitable trust was now "working hard" to rectify the damage.

Cyclone Gabrielle hit the Thames Valley and surrounding areas in the early morning hours of February 14, causing the floodgates at Criterion Bridge, Paeroa, to be used.

Diane told *The Profile* the hardest hit spot along the 160km trail was Section C, Paeroa to Waihi; most remarkably, the Waikino to Waihi leg, which is currently closed. A section of the trail just past the Goldfields Railway in Waikino had slipped completely.

"That was a major failure of the trail," Diane said, "but the good thing is, the majority of the resilience works that we did last year, where we concreted, held up, but everything we put a natural surface on - what we call Map 20 - failed."

To add insult to injury, the trust had just finished paying off the bill for works repairing the

last storm damage in January.

"We know we don't want to concrete the whole trail, that's not ever our intention, but we do have to shore-up some of these areas that are really vulnerable," she said.

"The scale of Cyclone Gabrielle was so large, and we're not the only cycle trail damaged."

Diane said the Waikato River Trails, as well as trails in Hawke's Bay, had also suffered major damage from the storm, and the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment was working with all three to try and source funding for remedial works.

"The reality is that it's a big

job," she said, "and we might not be able to put the resilience works in that we necessarily like. But at the end of the day, yes, we've got damage, but we're not in the same situation as Hawke's Bay where they're pulling animals out of fences... so we're trying to be optimistic."

Diane said she "can't even begin" to surmise the cost to repair the storm damage, but it could be in the seven-figures.

The trust was working "very closely" with the ministry and its council partners to rehabilitate the trail after the severe impacts of the cyclone.

"Moving water is very, very

destructive, but the good thing is we are engaging with volunteer groups to help with the clean up and are starting some immediate but minor remedial works."

There is no timeframe for when the Waikino-Waihi section of the trail will reopen, but Diane is encouraging riders to utilise the Goldfields Railway and continue onwards to support businesses in Waihi.

"This is normally the time of year where businesses make money, and this sort of impact on the trail has a direct effect, so we're working as hard as we can."

Journalism

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Flood-prone home to get fix

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

It was a reputational "risk" opting to spend ratepayer money to fix a flood-prone home, but Hauraki District Council have decided to reinstate drainage to a property that's had more than seven years of water woes.

The home in question sits along Adams St in Waihi, and according to council, had been built in a naturally low-lying area, with the basement and garage sitting around 0.8m below the surrounding ground level.

This meant stormwater runoff from neighbouring properties drained into the basement, flooding it, and forcing the homeowner to purchase her own pumps which she used in times of heavy rain.

To fix the issue, council would have to spend more than \$118,684 installing around 90 metres of new public stormwater infrastructure, but a report presented to elected members said this could come with a risk to council's reputation.

"We have to be a little careful if we go around fixing problems that people had when they built their house 40-50 years ago," Plains ward councillor Neil Gray said.

"I do get very nervous, and it is mentioned in the report, too, about the perception around

council spending money to fix private issues, but there is a responsibility here, I think, to provide a drainage point."

Historically, the stormwater drainage for the Adams St property was from a catchpit via a private pipeline that crossed the front lawn of a neighbouring home.

Council had no details of how and where this pipe connected to the public network.

In around 2015, after com-

"For this lady, it's ongoing... she has obviously gone to great lengths to try and fix the problem as best she can."

- Cr Carole Daley

plaints from the property owner, council attempted to help minimise the effects of the flooding by installing a small pump in the catchpit which discharged to the kerb.

However, while the pump "performed well", it was unable to keep up with the volume of water that came into the property from runoff from neighbouring properties and ground water infiltration.

Paeroa ward councillor Car-

ole Daley said staff had to be "careful" about its options, but that she sympathised with the homeowner.

"For this lady, it's ongoing, and I can see she is doing everything in her power to try and cope with the situation.

"It's not like somebody who has done nothing; she has obviously gone to great lengths to try and fix the problem as best she can."

Before the vote went through for council to fund the new infrastructure - which will have no impact on council's debt as the money will be derived from the Waihi stormwater upgrades budget - Mayor Toby Adams said staff had to get the rationale right.

"We are not, in the sense, going to start piping drains through everybody's streams.

"This is solely to re-establish an existing outlet that was there prior... we're not helping an existing property owner with some drainage network," he said.

"We are putting in something existing that should've been there - which we have done in the past."

The Profile contacted the homeowner who declined to comment until the issue had been solved by council.



Record rainfall for January

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

Paeroa received a record amount of rain for January at 387mm - the highest since records began in 1914.

According to NIWA's Climate Summary for the first month of 2023, "above normal or well above normal" rainfall was observed across most of the North Island.

This resulted in 17 North Island locations having their wettest-ever January on record, which NIWA called "phenomenal". Whitianga also had its highest amount of rainfall for January, with 523mm.

"Rainfall extremes were a dominant feature of January," the summary said. "Northern and eastern parts of the North Island were subject to several consecutive rainfall events that each delivered a typical month's worth of rainfall, or more."

Thames-Coromandel District Council earlier reported that the rain the district experienced in early January had "broken all records". In the short space of 11 days, the rohe [area] had the level of rainfall it'd normally get in five months, it said.

Meanwhile, Paeroa had a minimum air temperature of 21 degrees on January 29, the third-highest minimum temperature for the town for January since records began in 1971.



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Thames Tides

Wed Mar 8	Thu Mar 9	Fri Mar 10	Sat Mar 11	Sun Mar 12	Mon Mar 13	Tue Mar 14
Morning 2:39am 0.7 8:55am 3.2	Morning 3:15am 0.6 9:32am 3.3	Morning 3:51am 0.6 10:08am 3.3	Morning 4:28am 0.6 10:45am 3.3	Morning 5:07am 0.6 11:24am 3.3	Morning 5:49am 0.7 6:13pm 0.6	Morning 12:30am 3.2 6:35am 0.7
Afternoon 3:03pm 0.8 9:22pm 3.2	Afternoon 3:40pm 0.7 9:57pm 3.3	Afternoon 4:16pm 0.6 10:33pm 3.3	Afternoon 4:54pm 0.6 11:09pm 3.3	Afternoon 5:32pm 0.6 11:47pm 3.3	Afternoon 12:05pm 3.3 5:38pm 0.6	Afternoon 12:50pm 3.2 6:58pm 0.7
7:09am 7:48pm	7:10am 7:47pm	7:11am 7:45pm	7:12am 7:44pm	7:13am 7:42pm	7:14am 7:41pm	7:15am 7:39pm
Best At 1:34am 1:55pm	Best At 2:15am 2:36pm	Best At 2:57am 3:18pm	Best At 3:39am 4:01pm	Best At 4:24am 4:48pm	Best At 5:12am 5:38pm	Best At 6:05am 6:33pm
Full Moon Set 7:21am Rise 8:20pm	Full Moon Set 8:21am Rise 9:06pm	Full Moon Set 9:21am Rise 9:06pm	Full Moon Set 10:23am Rise 9:32pm	Full Moon Set 11:28am Rise 10:01pm	Full Moon Set 12:35pm Rise 10:36pm	Full Moon Set 1:44pm Rise 11:19pm

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MOON AND FISH KEYS



TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES

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

PLACE	Hr	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

Cleanup needed under Criterion Bridge

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

Clean up work has begun across Hauraki and the Coromandel Peninsula following the devastation caused by cyclones Gabrielle and Hale in previous months.

At the Criterion Bridge in Paeroa, diggers last week worked to remove piles of silt left behind by high waters.

"There were major deposits of material left after the flooding on the inside corner of the river under the Criterion Bridge," Waikato Regional Council works supervisor Hayden McGregor said.

"This buildup significantly reduced the volume of water that can pass under the bridge. As a result of the river having to make room for itself, it also caused erosion on the north side of the river bank.

"This means there is not as much riverside berm remaining in front of the stopbank. As the stopbank protects Paeroa, the work we are doing is considered high priority – we cannot allow further erosion to happen."

Mr McGregor said the contractors would be removing excess material on the inside corner and installing rip-rap rock to prevent further erosion of the bank.

The Criterion Bridge is the location of Paeroa's blue flood control gates, which last month were closed "in anger" - used for their intended purpose - for the first time since being installed in 2018.

"The river came up far quicker than what was expected so it was great to be able to close the gates in half the time and with only half the crew," Mr McGregor said.

"It's a huge pressure situation. I'm really proud of the level of preparedness of the crew and how smoothly it went, and the monitoring of the incoming storm which allowed us to be ahead of the punch with closing the gates."

"As the stopbank protects Paeroa, the work we are doing is considered high priority."

- Hayden McGregor

Floodwaters rose to just 400mm below the top of the flood gates, proving how essential they were to Paeroa's flood response.

Although the town was safe, there was still plenty of damage between the stopbanks, and the council will be picking up the pieces for some time to come.

"We are still building a picture of exactly how bad the damage to the environment is, in terms of flood protection and river management issues," Mr McGregor said.

"The teams that are cleaning up are currently focusing on removing trees from the river as



Crews remove debris and excess material from below the Criterion Bridge.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER

they can create dams/bridges that exacerbate flooding. Once this high priority work has been finished we can pay attention to the general cleanup."

He said the damage appeared to be extensive along the hill streams and down on to the flats.



RIGHT: The banks of the Ohinemuri River were severely eroded during Cyclone Gabrielle and the ensuing flood event in February.



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Projects must take place between 1 April 2023 and 30 March 2024.

This fabulous piece of pottery was on display at the 'Clear as Mud' art exhibition in Waihi - beautifully crafted by Dorothy Armstrong titled *Summer Garden*



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Work begins on Kōpū-Hikuai fix

A temporary path is currently being made above the Kōpū-Hikuai Rd slip to allow geotechnical engineers to gather soil samples from above the missing section of road.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency said the temporary road would help determine the best way to restore the state highway, after a huge slip near the summit destroyed more than 100 metres of road after recent storms.

Three options are currently being considered to fix State Highway 25A Kōpū-Hikuai Rd: building a bridge to replace the lost section of road, building a road around the slip to bypass the lost section of road, or building a retaining wall and then rebuilding the road.

"We need good weather to do this work - we're hoping the tracks needed for access can be completed within two weeks," Waka Kotahi said.

A project team has been established and is focused on developing and assessing the options for the rebuild of the road, which could take up to a year. The project team includes a Waka Kotahi senior project manager, Beca as consultants, which will prepare the detailed options assessment report, and the contractor Higgins, which is currently managing the closure and constructing the access tracks for the geotechnical drilling rigs.

Other companies involved include consultancies to man-



An access track is being built for geotechnical drilling rigs at the slip site. INSET: The missing section of road.

Photo: SUPPLIED/NZTA

age the resource consenting and land access outside the road reserve, if it's needed.

Waka Kotahi estimates the access tracks will be built by mid-March, when geotechnical investigations on site will begin.

The options assessment report is expected to be completed and the best option determined in late April, with the option and contractor confirmed in May.

"Please note these times are an estimate. Weather and many other factors may cause delays.

"Meanwhile, other important work is underway, including investigations into construction material availability, bridge and retaining wall options, identifying any known archaeological sites and discussions with the consenting authorities on what other environmental investigations should be undertaken."

For more information, including the option to sign up for updates via email, visit: www.nzta.govt.nz/sh25-sh25a-thames-coromandel.

Meanwhile, State Highway 25 between Hikuai and Whangamata was closed on Monday morning due to a large wash out caused by severe weather on Sunday night. The downpours also caused seven homes to flood in Whangamata.

LETTERS

Send your letters to the editor to: editor@valleyprofile.co.nz or 2 Queen St, Paeroa, 3600. Letters must include your full name and address, be 250 words or less and may be edited, abridged or rejected at the editor's discretion.

FORESTRY SLASH

Paeroa readers of *The Profile*, please cast your eyes to the hills east of your town. Today, you see bare hills where once this forest stood. But, all of the slash remains behind.

Slash is the scrap timber, branches and off cuts left behind when pine plantations are harvested. It is often pushed or stacked in piles around the logging site. If it is not well-managed, it can be swept into streams in heavy rain.

Many of the larger pieces in our hills look the size of the logs that smashed their way through roads, houses and bridges on their way to the coast in a flood that devastated the Gisborne and Hawke's Bay regions.

Question: How long will we have to wait till the mess on our hills arrives down to the Ohniamuri River and so to the Thames Coast?

- Peter McNair, Paeroa



Forestry slash. File Photo: PIXABAY

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Heartache and relief as bird rescue closes

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

For more than fifteen years, Annemieke Kregting has rescued wild birds from all over the Coromandel Peninsula, nursing them back to health on her property in Kūaotunu.

Now, she's closing her doors. The Kūaotunu Bird Rescue Trust began shortly after Annemieke and her family moved to the Coromandel in 2005. A sick duckling was brought to her door and Annemieke, a veterinary nurse originally from Holland, was happy to help.

It grew quickly from there - these days, the trust sees around 500 birds a year.

"We've been working for 15 years from a Skylight garage that has been made into three rooms. And it's a pretty good clinic," she said.

Since the cyclone however, space has been tight. Patients have been stacked in plastic tubs along the clinic wall with clipboards tucked in between. It's been tricky keeping track of who's who.

Annemieke said the long hours, lack of space and privacy were taking their toll on her and her family, and at 65 years old she felt the time was right to step back.

"I've devoted all my working life to this," Annemieke said.

"When we moved to the Coromandel I wasn't planning this at all. I just wanted to be involved in school, around the vege garden, that sort of thing.

"This just happened because people just turned up with birds.



Veterinary nurse Annemieke Kregting has been caring for wild birds since 2005.

Photo: SUPPLIED

And it went from a few cages in the garden to a complete eight hour day, running a clinic."

The lack of privacy has also been a major concern. The clinic is on Annemieke's quarter-acre section, and each rescued bird means another two, three or four people trooping to her door.

"They all want to see what's happening to this poor penguin that they've brought in," she said. And while she sympathises, it's a lot for her family to handle. With more

than 140 birds brought to the clinic so far this year, Annemieke estimates she's also had upwards of 400 people through her gates.

Still, the decision to close was not an easy one.

Annemieke worried about turning birds away, and the impact the trust's closure this month would have on wildlife.

"We're the only centre in the Coromandel and it worries me," she said.

"There's nowhere else to go other

than to take the bird to the vet." It was not a great solution, Annemieke said. Because of the sheer volume of birds and lack of specialist avian knowledge, she said vet clinics were more likely to choose euthanasia over prolonged treatment.

"In a way I'm okay with that because at least I know the animal isn't suffering any more, rather than leaving them out on the beach, in the fields, on the roadside," she said.

Her ideal scenario though, is that someone will step up and open their own rehabilitation centre.

"In the future I'm hoping like hell somebody can start something new," she said.

"I wouldn't have a clue who that would be at this stage. An ex-vet or retired vet nurse would be ideal."

But, she said, there were a lot of challenges involved with establishing such a service.

"You've got to have money, support from the community, constant fundraising - you've got to have a team of people behind you," Annemieke said.

"This job can be learned, of course it can be learned and if anyone was willing to set something up I'll be behind them in support.

"We'll just have to wait and see if someone is willing to take that on. They need support, money and a lot of time. It's not easy."

For now though, Annemieke is looking forward to taking a break and spending some time with her family.

"I've had to say no to so many things - parties, events - because I can't get away from here. You can imagine what a relief that will be to be able to say I can lock the door and walk away," she said.

"It just came to a point where I thought if I don't do it now, I'll be completely run down and a wreck by the time I have to make the decision.

"[It] gives me a little bit of heartache to be honest, but it had to happen."

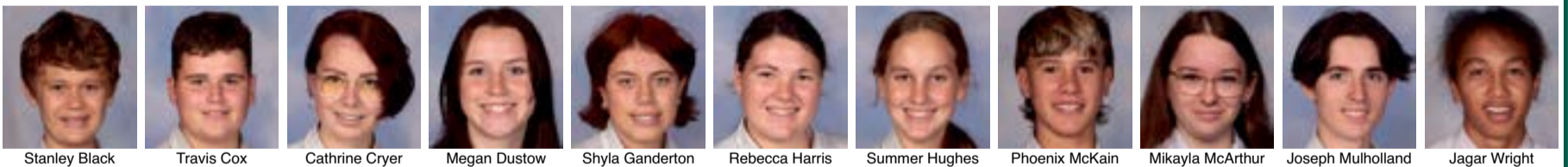


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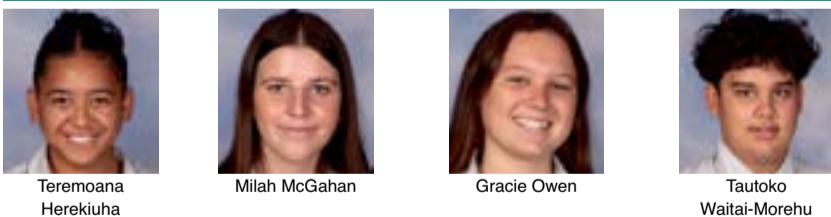
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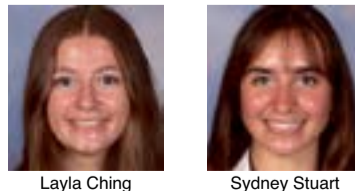


LEVEL 2 VOCATIONAL PATHWAYS AWARD

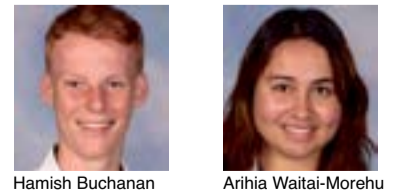


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Extracting Waikino's golden history

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

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

In a time-worn, antiquated room filled with the rusting relics of yesteryear, George Capper is settled comfortably in a chair, resident feline Blackie curled up on his lap.

This is the Victoria Battery Tramway and Museum in Waikino, and 85-year-old George is one of its most dedicated volunteers.

Beside him at the large-screen computer station sits the society's chairperson, Kerry Single.

The pair are dusty detectives, pouring over blown-up images of old photographs. The rise of digital tools has been a boon for them, revealing details not easily visible to the naked eye.

"We've got such a lot of history within the photographs we've got here," Kerry says. "You blow those photographs up and you can see things that you couldn't see before."

The society was formed in 1994 with the aim of promoting and educating the public about the rich history of the area. George joined the society in 1998 after moving to Waihi, and has had a hand in almost every role since.

"If it wasn't for George and what he's actually done for the society over the years, the place wouldn't have continued. He's been chairman,

president, secretary, treasurer, committee, general dogbody; and anything else that nobody wants to do, it's George," Kerry says.

"He would never admit to that, but it's a fact."

When George first set foot on the site, he says, there was nothing there but a bit of rubbish. The old transformer building still stood of course, between the ore kilns at the top of the hill and the cyanide tank ruins bordering the river, but the rest of the site was gorse and grass.

"They had the battery's locomotives just sitting on the concrete," George says.

"We put rails down and I drove the spikes into the sleepers. The next time we came out I helped put one of the locomotives off the concrete up on to the rails ... it sort of went from there."

These days there is an operating light-gauge railway through the site, as well as a museum inside the old transformer building where George now sits.

Among the displays and photos are shelves of tools, crockery and equipment. One of the original 100 stampers towers toward the ceiling; a mining skip rests in the opposite corner.

The artefacts were "begged, borrowed, stolen and otherwise acquired", Kerry says, and they show much of the local history of the battery itself - how gold was extracted from



Head on up to the Victoria Battery, and you'll be welcomed in by George Capper.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER

quartz; the evolution of buildings at the site as technologies progressed; what day-to-day life and work was like.

George says many of the irreplaceable artefacts are things saved from the rubbish - he once had someone bring in a box destined for kindling.

"He said, 'here, you can have them', and now we've got all these little patterns."

"[They're] used to make the moulds to make the castings of

the steel objects that were then formed into wheels, gears, pulleys, all sorts of things," Kerry adds.

"There wasn't much they couldn't make here. Typical Kiwi ingenuity, they bring machinery in from overseas and alter it with a piece of number eight wire to make it work how we wanted it to."

Information about the past is everywhere - including in the heads of its volunteers.

"This place was for many years the biggest producer of gold in the southern hemisphere," Kerry says.

"The records show it produced something like 35 and a half million ounces of gold in its time."

"This battery was the second largest gold processing plant in the world, so we believe," adds George.

The men continue talking as

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The foundations of the cyanide tanks still remain at the battery; an exciting place to explore or play hide-and-seek.

CONTINUED FROM P6

they pull out photo after photo - they have decades worth of knowledge to pass on.

As Kerry says, there's nobody better to run the museum than those who helped put it together in the first place.

These days, George spends his time at the museum in a variety of ways.

"I'm on the counter, I take the entrance money," he says. "I might start a museum tour or arrange someone to do the train trip or kilns.

"If there's nobody around, I'll mow the grass, weedeat ... do a bit of dusting. Feed the cat, and that's what I do."

In fact, George pops in every day to see to Blackie the cat, who's lived at the site since his litter was dumped there about 12 years ago.

The feline's a much-loved member of staff, even helping

out with customers from time to time.

"Over the Christmas period I ... was by myself and the cats helped me," George says.

"I'd be showing people through and I'd turn around and there'd be the black one looking at me. 'What's wrong Blackie?' and I'd walk out to the counter and there would be people there."

There aren't always a lot of people here at the museum - they've been struggling to attract volunteers.

"We've got a regular core of around five or six of us that are out here," Kerry says.

"We can't get the people to operate, so we're open mostly on the weekends."

They have plenty of help from people with engineering, mechanical or other specialised skills.

"But we want general Joe Bloggs as well, who's inter-



George is a fount of knowledge, with a story up his sleeve for almost every item on display. He has been interested in the history of New Zealand all his life.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER

ested in the history, who can come in prepared to learn [and] relate that history to our visitors and guests."

Kerry says their aim is to preserve and maintain the history of the Victoria Battery.

"It's got a significant history as far as New Zealand and the industrial industry is concerned," he says.

As for George? He's had a lot of satisfaction in volunteering and seeing the society grow over the years.

"[But] every time I think oh, I'll give it up, something happens and I have to stay on because we haven't got enough volunteers. So I'm sort of

stuck," he says.

"If we can get enough people to give us old fellas a bit of a rest occasionally, that would be lovely," adds Kerry.

"We're - average age [of] probably around 70. We're kind of limited to how much more we've got."

The Victoria Battery tramway and museum is located in Wai-kino, and is open 10am-3pm on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays. To get involved contact Volunteering Waikato at volunteeringwaikato.org.nz.



Blackie loves to lend a paw.

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Harry McClelland brandishes a red potato.
Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

Growing food grows minds at Turua

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

It's a sunny day and the year fives and sixes of Turua School are outside, wrist-deep in dirt.

Excited voices ring out - "I found another one!" - and handfuls of potatoes shoot into the air as the children bring in the harvest.

It's all part of the Garden to Table programme, designed to get kids out of the classroom and learning practical life skills.

Garden to Table, a charitable trust, has similar initiatives in schools across the country.

At Turua School, the programme is run by co-ordinators

Anikha Sanders and Estelle McCoid, along with parent volunteers. They also organise the school's annual pumpkin festival.

Anikha began as a volunteer, offering to rejuvenate the school's vegetable garden when her middle child began school.

Now, she guides the tamariki through an hour and a half a week in the garden.

"These guys garden, compost, manage the worm farm, do lots of seed sowing. And then we come together at the end," Anikha says.

"Sharing of the food, and sharing of the knowledge."

The programme begins with the year threes. Children are as-

signed to garden, kitchen or theory work, rotating through the roster each week.

"By the time they've finished, they've done five years of cooking and gardening in a school setting," Anikha says.

"A lot of the parents have said they are hoping their children will be more adventurous, especially with the food that they're eating. And we've noticed that: a lot of the kids by the end of the year are trying much much more, and in fact liking much much more."

It's a relaxed, organic environment. Discussions break out in different corners - two boys

compare their potato haul in one corner, while a parent aide helps students unearth vegetables in another.

Activity ceases for a moment as one of the girls surfaces with a giant leopard slug in hand and everyone gathers around to inspect.

Anikha sends someone off to find the bug book from the garden shed and with the creature relocated safely away from probing pitchforks, conversation turns to bugs and their role in the garden.

The benefits of real, hands-on experience can't be underestimated, Anikha says, pointing out the happy demeanour of the

group behind her.

"[It's] good for the mental health - how healthy is this for them to be out in the garden, hands in the soil? With the cyclone, how important is food security?"

There's always something new to learn - and with the pumpkin festival fast approaching, a relevant topic has been resilience and setbacks. "It's been a very difficult pumpkin growing season," Anikha says.

"We've had not much sun, we've had a lot of rain, a few people have lost their pumpkins from the cyclone or all the

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Rural Life

CONTINUED FROM P8

flooding on the plains.”

Although the pumpkins aren't expected to be as large as last year's 100kg+ whoppers, Anikha says the children can still have a fun day and celebrate their successes.

“We thought, we'll still have our big day ... bouncy castle, pony rides, face painting - we've had some awesome local businesses sponsor some of those activities.”



Cohen May with his haul of potatoes.

The pumpkin festival is a fun interlude, providing fundraising for Garden to Table's ongoing costs, but even the everyday sessions are filled with variation by their very nature.

“We're very emergent here based on what's happening in the garden. What we're doing week-to-week changes,” Anikha says.

“I try to get them to be slow and mindful and enjoy what they're out here with.”

Anikha is passionate about the holistic nature of the programme - from seed to produce to kitchen - and the connection with nature as a whole.

“There are a lot of discussions ... in terms of the wildlife, treating all of that with respect, understanding how it works within the ecosystem as well, and also trying to encourage that they are the kaitiaki or the guardians of our school environment and also their own home environment.”

In the kitchen, Estelle is similarly exuberant about the programme. She notices a dramatic change in attitudes each year.

“It's just giving them the confidence to do it, and that it's okay to do it,” she says.

Today she's guiding a group through the basics of pizza dough. A quiche sits in the oven, stuffed full of zucchini and tomato.

There's a lot that goes into working a kitchen, she says, and the skills she teaches build practical, life-long knowledge.

“Hygiene, safety, knife skills



Garden to Table co-ordinator Anikha Sanders discusses pitchfork safety with a group of students.

is a big one. And also different ways of cooking - what is frying, what is baking, what is poaching. Even things like boiling water and how to crack an egg. Different utensils and what they're all for. It's amazing how many kids don't know what to do with a whisk.” she says.

As morning tea approaches, everyone meanders through the garden beds towards the seating area, munching on apples, cucumbers and salad greens.

The kitchen contingent marches out with plates and platters, and everyone takes a seat, sharing a chat and a karakia as a group.

The smell of piping hot quiche wafts through the air.

It's the perfect way to spend a school day.

The Giant Pumpkin Festival will be held at Turua School on April 1 at 11am. There will be food stalls, raffles, and prizes for the weigh-in and other categories. All funds raised go back into running the Garden to Table programme.



RIGHT: Sam Martin and Aiya Watene measure out the yeast for a pizza dough.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER



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Rural Life

Support available for flood-affected farmers

The Waikato and South Auckland Primary Industries Adverse Event Cluster continues to meet to plan for and co-ordinate recovery support for farmers and growers following the Auckland Anniversary weekend flooding and Cyclone Gabrielle.

“It has been a pretty rough month for our farmers and growers in Auckland and Waikato, but also throughout much of the North Island,” says Neil Bateup, Chair of the Waikato and South Auckland Primary Industries Adverse Event Cluster.

“There has been widespread rainfall and localised flooding across the region, power outages, slips and the roading network has taken a hammering in places.

“Look after your wellbeing and take a moment to check on your neighbours. If you need advice and support, you can call your local Rural Support Trust, your rural professionals, or industry groups and supply contacts.

“We are all here and connected to support you to recover from this event.”

Neil, who also chairs the Waikato-Hauraki-Coromandel Rural Support Trust, says it’s important to plan ahead when it comes to animal feed, water, animal health and moving stock.

“The risk of slips is not yet over, take

care travelling on roads, traversing hills, and check bridges for structural damage after flood water recedes.

“Looking ahead, this unusual weather pattern is likely to continue for the summer, so clear debris, silt traps and check culverts to ensure they remained intact.”

The Cluster covers the South Auckland and Waikato regions and was set up in 2016 to bring together agencies from the primary industries and central and local government to prepare for and co-ordinate responses to adverse events.

The Waikato Rural Support Trust facilitators are rural people and work with industry bodies and partners to navigate, support and help access relevant, practical information, advice and support to the rural community. Its services are confidential.

More information can be found by contacting Rural Support Trust on 0800 787 254 or visit www.rural-support.org.nz.

Information about dealing with floods can be found at www.rural-support.org.nz/Adverse-Events/Flood; DairyNZ: www.dairynz.co.nz/business/adverse-events/flood; Beef + Lamb New Zealand: beeflambnz.com/news-views/flood-support; Farmstrong www.farmstrong.co.nz.

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Rural Life

Former Haurakians scoop dairy awards

Hauraki-raised dairy farmers took home major awards at the Waikato Dairy Industry Awards on March 1.

Aleisha Broomfield, of Patetonga, was announced the winner and first sole female winner of the region's Share Farmer of the Year and Natasha Price, from the Hauraki Plains was awarded Waikato Dairy Trainee of the Year.

Leamington contract milker Chloe Mackle was the Share Farmer of the Year runner-up with Te Awamutu farm assistant Lauren Randall achieving runner-up for Dairy Trainee of the Year.

Aleisha is currently a 50:50 herd-owning sharemilker at Te Aroha and believed working on her business was a key benefit of the awards programme.

"As well as learning more and improving my business, I enjoyed meeting the other entrants and regional teams," she said.

"It was great to have the recognition of hard work."

The 33-year-old believed the strengths of her business lay in the proven on-farm performance regarding cows and pastures.

"I have a genuine passion for all things farming, particularly pasture management which allows us to get good performance at a lower cost than others," she said. "Excellent cost



Natasha Price, left, and Aleisha Broomfield with their Waikato Dairy Industry Awards.

Photo: SUPPLIED

control in the business as well as personally has allowed me to make strong profits year-on-year and build equity."

Aleisha said she would like to improve the rural-urban divide to ensure others could see the "great work" farmers are doing.

"I'd like to help attract more people to the industry who can see the benefits of running their own businesses and provide

more support for those people as they progress up the ladder, so they stay dairying," she said.

"There are some headwinds and challenges but as an industry we need to work together to all pull in the same direction."

Natasha Price never considered work on a dairy farm despite growing up on one in the Hauraki Plains, but that all changed when she helped her

dad with farm chores during the 2020 Covid-19 lockdown.

"I always enjoyed spending time with the cows on farm and had many friendly pet cows, however my knowledge of running a farm or the industry as a whole was limited," she said.

"I spent a lot of time in lockdown researching farming as a career option on Dairy NZ and Primary ITO's websites and

the clear career progression and variety in day-to-day tasks were really compelling to me.

"I was also pleasantly surprised with the large female presence in the industry and the scientific research that forms the basis of everything we do as farmers."

Natasha, who is currently a farm assistant and second-in-charge of a 108 hectare Morinsville property with 280 cows, said she was interested in the development and integration of technology in the dairy sector.

"I am lucky enough to work on a farm that uses a cow monitoring system for cow health and mating," she said.

"Every day I see the benefits for staff and the cows and am eager to see how scientific technology in the dairy industry changes and evolves in the future."

Natasha said her future farming goals included agriculture work overseas before returning to New Zealand to sharemilk 50:50 and enter an agriscience role at a later stage to give back to the industry through scientific research.

"Another goal is to complete the Kellogg Rural Leadership Program as I believe this will be an important step in understanding the primary sector and developing my leadership skills," she said.



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Final whistle for Waihi mine



Vintage Valley News

As part of a Valley Profile series, **MEGHAN HAWKES** searches through old newspapers to bring you the stories Thames Valley locals once read about themselves.

1955

The sound of the mine whistle over Waihi marked the end of an era for the Martha Gold Mining Company Ltd. With the exhaustion of quartz reserves, a decision to close the mine had been made in 1952.

The 640 men formerly employed at its peak dwindled to only six remaining on closing day. They were mostly long term employees who had carried out administrative and demolition work.

Scrap metal from the abandoned Martha gold mine was loaded on the Norwegian vessel *William Charlick IV*. The ship took 800 tons of metal to Kobe, Japan. Much of the metal was to be used in parts of quartz crushers, roofing and machinery. During its working life the mine produced more gold and silver than any other mine in New Zealand. Waihi's future was expected to be that of a town for a steadily developing farming area and the centre for popular beach resorts.

BUS ACCIDENT

An Auckland-Tauranga Rail-



Waihi gold mine, showing the Martha lode in 1899.

Photo: SUPPLIED

ways Road Services bus plunged 20ft into the Waitakaruru River, injuring four people, after crashing through a small bridge three miles from the township. The bus was carrying about 10 passengers. The injured were taken to Thames Hospital by ambulance. The bus fell into the river bed on its back, and then rolled over on its side. There was only 2ft of water in the bus due to a recent dry spell. It was raining fairly heavily at the time of the accident.

FOUNDATION STONES LAID

The Minister of Health qualified for the title of New Zealand's fastest layer of foundation stones. At Thames Hospital he mounted a dais, declared a stone "well and truly laid" and disappeared—all in three minutes 30 seconds. A heavy shower of rain, which sent everyone scurrying for cover, was to blame. The ceremony - to mark the beginning

of a £273,000 construction job - was continued indoors. Having dried off, the Minister continued his speech.

CYCLIST REFUSED BED

A peevis police sergeant at Paeroa cast a pall over a pensioner's otherwise remarkable achievement.

Seventy one year old Alfred Brown from Christchurch had ridden 1000 miles on a power cycle of his own invention. The cycle used a 9hp Italian motor on an English bicycle frame, had its own power-generating plant and averaged around 12 miles an hour. Alfred visited tourist spots along the way and stayed mainly in hotels at night because it was too wet to use his tent.

Twice, however he had to make do with local Police stations, except at Paeroa where the police sergeant would not accommodate him and he had to sleep in the church hall.



Ann Stanaway and Ngaire Finlay with their creations.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

Call for keen creatives

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

Paeroa craft club is calling for members interested in quilting, sewing, fibre art, knitting, patchwork and other hand-crafts.

The group holds two sessions on Thursdays. The first session, held at the Paeroa Community Scout and Guide Hall from 9.30am-2pm, is primarily patchworking.

Ngaire Finlay said the group's space allowed them to bring their sewing machines in to work together, something that wasn't often done by other groups.

Meanwhile, the evening group meets at Paeroa College from 7pm. This group is more of a "come-as-you-are" type arrangement, organiser Ann Stanaway said.

"We have one that brings a spinning wheel, people bring knitting, people bring embroidery, people do quilting," she said.

The key focus for both groups though, is being able to provide

some social variety to the people of Paeroa, as well as passing on skills and knowledge to anyone keen to learn.

"It's just very low-key, but I feel it fills a need, a gap for people who want to meet others or people who need to have an escape route, and I think that's quite important," Ann said. "I've found it important for me. I've got a husband who doesn't keep great health, it's very good for me to be able to go out and meet others."

Ngaire agreed, adding that all ages and skill levels were welcome, including those who wanted to learn something new. "I've got a couple of ladies there who haven't done much, they're learning so we teach them and show them what to do and help each other out, that's what we all do," she said.

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SPORTS

Ribbon day success

By GORDON PREECE

Thames Amateur Athletics Club competed at the Bellevue Ribbon Day at Tauranga Domain on February 18.

Co-ordinator Paige Aitcheson told *The Profile* the event was the first ribbon day the club had competed in this year and the kids were “very happy” with their results.

“We had little Caitlin Kenny... she absolutely smashed it... she won her 100m which is not so common for her to do but she really stood out,” she said.

“Ryder Moore won two of his races where he usually likes to hang back... and Sienna [Moore] did her longest discus

throw yet and her fastest 100m sprint.

“We also had Olivia Kenny, she competed and placed second in the high jump which was really good for her.”

Paige said the competitors at ribbon days were guaranteed ribbons. “They run races according to what ribbons they have previously won so everyone gets a chance to really shine which is cool and we’ve got kids from two-years-old and our oldest is 12,” she said.

“The older kids from seven plus do the high jump, long jump, all the races, shot put and discus, and the little kids just do running races and relays.”



The athletes were “very happy” with their results.

Photos: SUPPLIED



Eight-year-old Ava Perez motors during her race.



Twelve-year-old Sienna Moore takes her marks for her sprint.



Ryder Moore beams at the start line.



Olivia Kenny prepares to set off.

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SPORTS

Magic Touch

High school students from throughout the region touched down at Ngātea Domain for the Thames Valley Secondary Schools Touch Tournament on March 2, where each player had an appetite for the try line. Reporter **GORDON PREECE** took to the sidelines to capture the action.



Miller Kaczon, left, Ryan Adams, Bhima Meares, and Lachy Sole.



Paeroa College junior boys and girls.

Photos: GORDON PREECE



Jess Rendal paces towards the try line.



Maika Church accelerates through the gap.



Romie Dargaville escapes the defence.



Aidan Butler slings the ball wide.



Abbie Silvester looks for support.

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Matt Highnam says the company offers top quality products at reasonable prices. Photo: SUPPLIED

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and set up the business to help reduce downtime and breakdown costs for businesses in Thames-Coromandel," he said. "So far we are getting a positive response. "We will go where we are required in the Thames-Coromandel, Waihi and Paeroa area with reasonable mileage rates and we offer top quality products at reasonable prices and provide great service to match." The company also accepts the Farmlands card and sells a good range of Caltex oils and lubricants. CONTACT: email: hydohosecompany@gmail.com, Ph: 027 412 3996 or on Facebook.

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SPORTS



Squash club to celebrate 50 years

On April 14, 1973, the Thames Squash Club opened to members for the very first time, and 50 years later, a 50th Jubilee celebration is being planned.

Attempts to establish squash in Thames began in the early 1960s when neighbouring town Paeroa built courts at the local tennis club, largely through voluntary labour.

It took another 10 years for a similar two-court facility to be built in Thames which, as was the case in Paeroa, ended up being located alongside the local tennis club, on Brown St.

It was the Thames Borough Council that made the Brown St site available for squash courts and the Waikato Savings Bank agreed to a loan of \$10,000.

A group of enthusiastic locals, led by surveyor Morrie Dunwoodie, got in behind the project and in 1970 the Foundation Committee was formed to prepare plans, organise materials, product and labour.

Just over one year from the time the footings were begun, thanks to working bees nearly every weekend, the courts were finished and squash was born in Thames.

Almost immediately the Thames Squash Club enjoyed enormous success and a third court and extended lounge area were built in 1976.

In the late 1980s-1990s the club had around 300 members, including juniors.

Jubilee organising committee chair Paul Silvester said: "The club still enjoys a healthy mem-

bership and is one of the premier squash facilities in the Waikato, perhaps New Zealand".

"The achievements of the club, and its members, are too numerous to list," he said.

The club has been home to players who have represented New Zealand, won national titles, and teams that have competed and won in regional and national events at all levels from juniors through to masters.

One of the really noticeable features of the Thames Squash Club has been the long involvement of local families.

"We've seen mums and dads introduce their kids to squash and a number of those kids have gone on to be really good players. It really is a family friendly and supportive club."

Over the celebration on April 14-15, there will be an informal get together, exhibition games of squash, fun events, a formal meal and interactive speeches to mark the occasion.

A 50th Jubilee book has been prepared to commemorate the people who have been involved in the club and to document all of the awards and achievements.

"We're really looking forward to it," Paul said.

"It's not everyday that you get to celebrate 50 years of a club being in existence, and for it to still be thriving".

All current and previous members are invited to attend the celebrations. Tickets will be on sale for the Saturday night meal with further information available from the club's Facebook page.

CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 1pm Monday

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<h3>Storage</h3> <p>STORAGE KOPU, PAEROA TE AWAMUTU "New Units" Ph 027 440 7101 07 868 3033 Safe n Sound Storage www.safestorage.co.nz</p>	<h3>Situation Vacant</h3> <p>INTERESTED IN WORKING AT ANY OF THESE SCHOOLS? TEACHER RELIEVERS - TEACHER AIDES GROUND STAFF / CLEANERS - ADMIN STAFF Please register your interest at shorturl.at/sAIP2 OR contact Neil Fraser (027 2767672 / principal@ngatea.school.nz)</p>			<h3>Situation Vacant</h3> <p>Saunders Mitsubishi Automotive Technician Saunders Mitsubishi are looking for an Automotive Technician to join our team in Thames. This is a full-time position. Apply to Paul Saunders paul@saundersmotorgroup.co.nz</p>							

Tamariki celebrated

Children and their families descended on Victoria Park in Thames on March 5 for the nationwide Children's Day. The event, which was hosted by CAPS Hauraki, featured tug of war, train rides, a climbing wall, a mechanical surfboard, basketball hoops, face painting, and live music. Reporter GORDON PREECE headed along to capture the festivities.



Eight-year-old Jett Carter rides the waves.



Kids apply all their strength in the tug of war.



Eleven-year-old Olivia Kenny shoots a basketball.



CAPS Hauraki's Alison Turoa, left, Stuart Black, Ro Mitchell-Te Teira.



Alexis Leroux reaches new heights.



Savanah and Charlotte Porter.

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1. Build a bypass around the top of the site.
2. Replace the lost section of road with a bridge.
3. Rebuild the supporting ground with retaining walls.

To determine which is the best option, we first need to know what the underlying ground is made up of. This investigation work is underway now.



 Find out more and stay up to date

Things are changing all the time, visit nzta.govt.nz/sh25a-rebuild and subscribe to our regular project updates.

Before you travel, use Waka Kotahi Journey Planner for the most up-to-date information on road closures at journeys.nzta.govt.nz

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90

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

5				3	4			
2		6		9				
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HARD

90

HARD

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MEDIUM

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7	1	6	9	2	8	5	3	4
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EASY

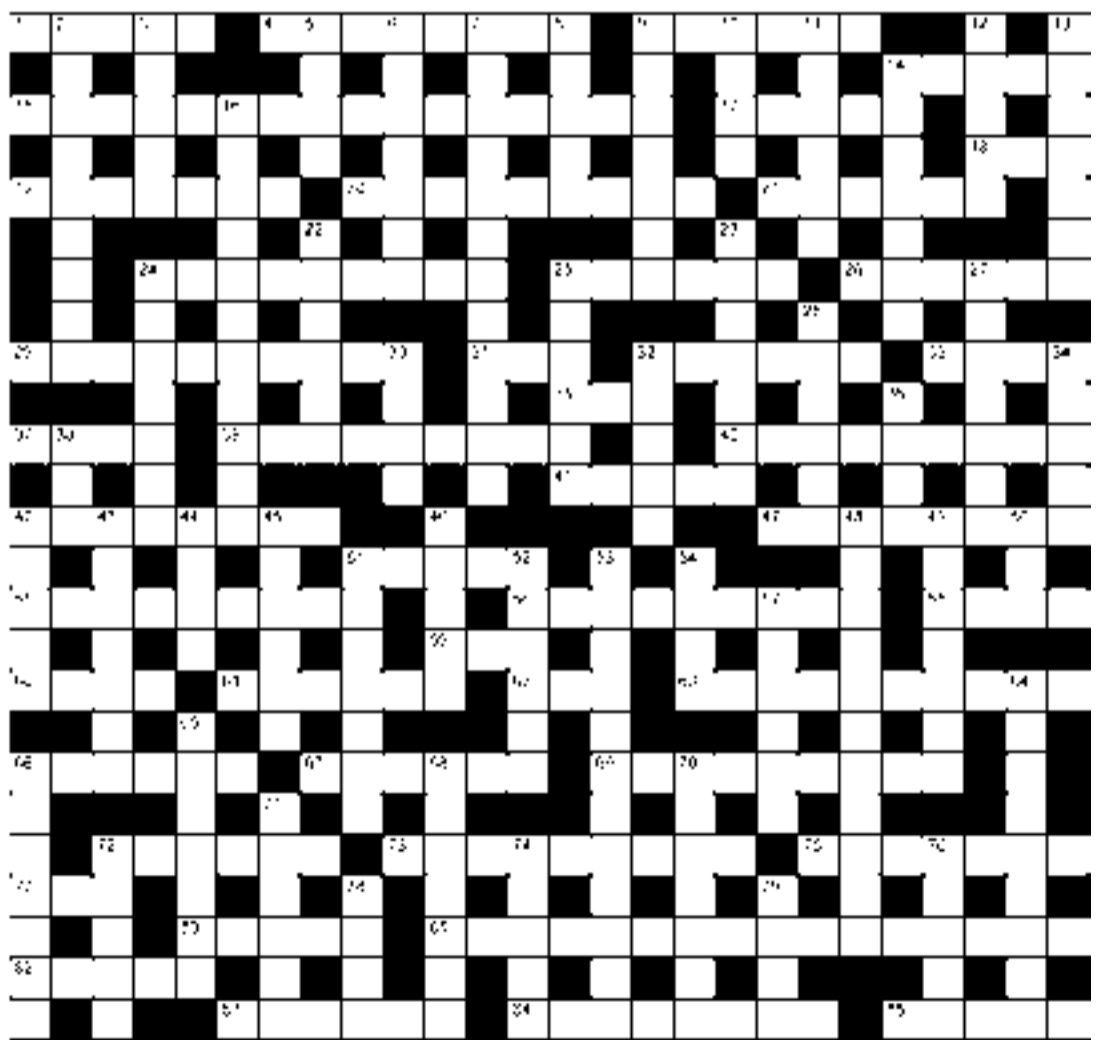
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9	6	1	4	3	8	7	5	2
3	4	2	5	7	9	6	8	1
6	9	7	1	5	2	8	3	4
1	2	4	3	8	7	5	6	9
8	5	3	9	4	6	2	1	7

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JUMBO CROSSWORD

110

- ACROSS**
- 1 Baggy (5)
 - 4 Elusive (8)
 - 9 Pick (6)
 - 14 Main (5)
 - 15 Speak plainly and bluntly (4,1,5,1,5)
 - 17 Duck for down (5)
 - 18 Winning serve (3)
 - 19 Disregarded (7)
 - 20 Saying aloud for the purpose of recording (9)
 - 21 Drawing implement (6)
 - 24 March stiff-legged (9)
 - 25 Club (6)
 - 26 Seat for two or more (6)
 - 29 Inward breath (10)
 - 31 Wane (3)
 - 32 Rotate (6)
 - 33 Lodgings (4)
 - 35 Pale (3)
 - 37 As well (4)
 - 39 Fondly recall the past (9)
 - 40 Delivery operation (9)
 - 41 Tree (5)
 - 42 Retaliatory action (8)
 - 47 Done again (8)
 - 51 Deep-seated anxiety (5)
 - 55 Refused to do business with (9)
 - 56 Very ill (2,1,3,3)
 - 58 Action (4)
 - 59 Track circuit (3)
 - 60 Large plant (4)
 - 61 Far away in space or time (6)
 - 62 Truss (3)
 - 63 Antagonist (anag)(10)
 - 66 Shared, common (6)
 - 67 River crossing (6)
 - 69 Tourist (9)
 - 72 Stringed instrument (6)
 - 73 Disbelieving (9)
 - 75 Sheath for handgun (7)
 - 77 Leather-piercing tool (3)
 - 80 Dark wood (5)
 - 81 Go out in bad weather (5,3,8)
 - 82 Wear away (5)
 - 83 Expose (6)
 - 84 Ghost expeller (8)
 - 85 Majestic (5)
- DOWN**
- 2 Large ape (9)
 - 3 Volley of shots (5)
 - 5 Jump (4)
 - 6 Foresee (7)
 - 7 Readily satisfied (4,2,6)
 - 8 Bread ingredient (5)
 - 9 Removed dirt (7)
 - 10 Portent (4)
 - 11 Soaked through (6)
 - 12 Last (5)
 - 13 Transgression (7)
 - 14 Noisy firework (7)
 - 16 Spiny-backed dinosaur (11)
 - 22 Light gas (6)
 - 23 Enchant (7)
 - 24 Alluring beauty, charm (7)
 - 25 Spun woven trap (6)
 - 27 Cut into three (7)
 - 28 Go back on a promise (6)
 - 30 Cat's lives? (4)
 - 32 Trap (5)
 - 34 Church council (5)
 - 36 Speed competition (4)
 - 38 Fib (3)
 - 42 Automaton (5)
 - 43 Disbursement (7)
 - 44 Pressing appliance (4)
 - 45 Song of loyalty (6)
 - 46 Nimble (5)
 - 48 Wages container (3,8)
 - 49 Accounts checker (7)
 - 50 Day before (3)
 - 51 Break from a meeting (7)
 - 52 Walk very quietly (6)
 - 53 Develop a liking for (4,1,5,2)
 - 54 Deep singing voice (4)
 - 57 Riches (6)
 - 64 Large musical group (9)
 - 65 Afternoon show (7)
 - 66 Mosque turret (7)
 - 68 Unit of sound intensity (7)
 - 70 Vividly descriptive (7)
 - 71 Wheedle (6)
 - 72 Murky darkness (5)
 - 74 Serenity (5)
 - 76 Strain (5)
 - 78 Funeral fire (4)
 - 79 Shambles (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Put up a smokescreen, 10 Dialogue, 15 Crèche, 16 Wanderlust, 17 Spirited, 19 Layette, 21 Beard, 22 Imprudent, 25 Faultless, 27 Ageless, 29 Biceps, 33 Angry, 34 Unctuous, 36 Apparition, 39 Tot, 41 Servile, 42 Gutter, 43 Hooves, 44 Pass, 45 Realism, 48 Stalactite, 53 Parasol, 57 Ache, 58 Coerce, 59 Raisin, 60 Summary, 62 Duo, 64 Suspicions, 65 Brickbat, 66 Least, 69 Review, 70 Thwarts, 71 Priceless, 76 Interlude, 77 Swamp, 78 Samovar, 83 Diagonal, 84 Undertaker, 85 Astray, 86 Espresso, 87 Vanish into thin air.

DOWN: 2 Unreal, 3 Uncle, 4 Ale, 5 Mown, 6 Kennels, 7 Sherry, 8 Rule, 9 Ensemble, 11 Impede, 12 Laryngitis, 13 Gate, 14 Endures, 18 Presuppose, 20 Tilt, 23 Blunt, 24 Recitals, 26 Arrival, 28 Gastric, 30 Sneeze, 31 Hostel, 32 Make-up, 35 Taunt, 37 Nasal, 38 Plus, 40 Thai, 45 Rears, 46 Adhesive, 47 Myopia, 48 Stronghold, 49 Aped, 50 Acrobat, 51 Trivia, 52 Think, 54 Agree, 55 Aimless, 56 Onrush, 61 Pigeonhole, 63 Patch, 67 Bandanna, 68 Plea, 69 Residue, 72 Ramekin, 73 Delays, 74 Switch, 75 Safari, 79 Often, 80 Damp, 81 Deli, 82 Trio, 85 Ash.

Chugging along with railway passion

By GORDON PREECE

After 20 years of displaying his model railway to the public, Allan Smith has decided the time has come for some of it to leave the station.

The former screenprinter told *The Profile* he had sold three quarters of the display to a Paeroa local, but planned to open the remainder to the public under the new name "The small world", which will include a small rail circuit.

"The rest is not to be sold, they were part of the display because they were my own private things that I made up."

Allan said it was always his dream to establish the model railway display, with the idea oiled by his father Wally.

"My father got a shift in the railway to Frankton with a railway house and he became a head car wagon inspector... in charge of about three hundred men," he said.

"That stuck to me and Dad used to take me to the railway on a weekend and let me wander round through big steam locos [locomotives] in the running shed opposite Mechanics Bay."

Allan said the display prior to being partly sold, was based on Paeroa geography.

"It had the old gold miners shops down the main road, the police station, the two storey hotel and I made a wooden two storied blacksmith building with doors that opened and



Allan Smith with his Kingston Flyer and AB Class model trains.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

closed," he said.

"It also had a railway station and a saw mill - the saw mill was pretty elaborate, the roof was made out of kauri and it was quite large... and next to it was a fairground with a merry go round and a ferris wheel."

Allan said six or seven steam locomotive engines and four rail cars operated in the display and they would be kept in his possession. He kept a book in the display for visitors to provide their reactions. "I have had mini buses in from Auckland

which came down several times and I've had old age pensioner people in from Waihi Beach, Hamilton and all around the shooting box," he said.

"People signed their name and thoughts, and there were quite a few lovely comments."

Allan said as well as keeping "the small world" open, he would also stay on track with crafting model trains including a Kingston Flyer and an AB Class model for an upcoming Auckland model train convention.

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