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# Ine Champ

#### By GORDON PREECE

**P**aeroa has a new homegrown boxing champion after Francis Waitai scalped the World Boxing Council Australasia Silver Super Middleweight title on May 6.

Super Middleweight title on May 6. The 27-year-old told *The Profile* he was "stoked" with his latest win against Queenslander Tangariki Mauri, and his supporters including his family, Thames-based Never Surrender Fitness Club and his coach Shaun George were "buzzing".

"On the day I just felt really good and I just knew that I was going to win it," he said.

"I was wary of [Tangiariki's] power that he had coming off two knockout wins. So it wasn't easy, but everything went according to plan."

Francis, who's also the current New Zealand Super Middleweight champion, said he won the fight, which was held at YMCA Hamilton, after four of its scheduled ten rounds by a technical knockout, which is ruled when the referee believes a fighter can not continue safely. "The ref [Josh Nyika] said before the fight if you're taking too

"The ref [Josh Nyika] said before the fight if you're taking too many shots and you need a rest you should just take a knee but [Tangiariki] took all the shots so the ref ended the fight," he said. "[Tangiariki] was definitely gutted."

Francis said he will return to his regular training schedule to prepare for more boxing opportunities which may arise this year and hoped the latest win would allow him to gain sponsorship from his workplace at Silver Fern Farms in Te Aroha.

Francis Waitai is "stoked" with his latest title belt. Photo: WAYNE SPEEDY

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#### Club thefts renew security gate debate The Valley Profile is delivered weekly to letterboxes in the

#### **By GORDON PREECE**

A security gate suggestion has Aresurfaced after Hauraki North Rugby Club became the target of its second burglary in space of five months.

The burglary, which occurred at around 9am on May 7, left a freezer full of donated meat empty and damage to the Waitakaruru clubroom doors, including one worth \$3000 that had replaced a damaged door from a robbery in January.

President Andrew Williams told *The Profile* the latest in-cident had caused "continued frustration" for the club as the meat provided dinner for its 93 registered players after Wednesday and Thursday night trainings. "When it does get stolen, it

just affects the guys making the commitment to us and it affects the farmers and the generous community who supply the meat for us - that's what frus-trates us," he said.

'Tell the perpetrator to come to training on a Wednesday or a Thursday night when we actually feed all of our players if they are hungry." Andrew said a screen monitor

as also stolen though the club did not use it. He said the club would contact its sponsors for replacement meat and "put a bandaid" on the damaged doors since it can't afford to constantly replace them. "[Offenders] could be back next week and that is the issue," he said. "We should just leave our doors unlocked because then

they don't do the damage getting in. We've got high excesses, our excess is \$1000, so for us to go and claim everytime, we end up just wearing it." Andrew said since the pre-vious burglaries, the club had

installed alarms which alert its committee members when they're triggered.

He said while the alarms were effective on May 7, security gates could provide extra security.

'[Gates] would be the ultimate because if people could get in but not get close I think that might help definitely," he said.

"We would have loved to put gates in in the past but we're not allowed to because it's a community domain which provides

"With technology, you can grant access with apps for peo-ple who can open and shut gates or you could put things on tim-ers like you see in a lot of re-gional parks, but oom on Sun gional parks, but 9am on Sun-day morning the gates probably would be open.

Andrew said the club would contact Hauraki District Council again to suggest installing security gates.

Police said it had received a report on May 8 of a burglary at the rugby club.

Photo: SUPPLIED

"The inquiry is in its early stages but Police has reviewed some camera footage," Police said. "Initial information does suggest the car used by the of-fenders was stolen."

For anyone who may have information which could as-sist Police with its inquiry into the Hauraki North Rugby Club burglary on May 7, visit www. police.govt.nz/use-105, click on Update Report, quoting file number 230508/3151

Burglaries at Hauraki North Rugby Club have caused "continued frustration" for the club.



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ness name and page number of the ad by the following Monday to go in the draw to win a Lotto ticket. Last issue it was in the Thames Music & Drama ad

### Bridge first step towards future-proof roads

#### **SH25A UPDATE**

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

Abridge is the chosen option to reconnect State Highway 25A between Kōpū and Hikuai, Transport Minister Michael Wood announced on May 9. The minister said the bridge bridge is the chosen option

was slated to open in early 2024, at a cost of approximately \$30-40 million. But with the Coromandel re-

gion experiencing an increase in the severity and frequency of extreme weather events, it's not just SH25A which is coming under scrutiny. Minister Wood said future-

proofing was a key part of the process Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency was undertaking with the repair of the slip, and the agency was also looking at the Coromandel as a whole.

"We do anticipate seeing a lot more weather events causing disruption on our roads - this is the reality of living in an era of climate change," he said. "There's further work going on

in terms of the broader roading networks.

We are increasingly building climate change adaptation into our infrastructure planning."

Waka Kotahi general manage of transport services Brett Glid-don said work would be ongoing along the entire closed stretch of SH25A, as well as at the slip site itself.

"We are going to look at the whole corridor as well because

[the bridge] will actually end up being very resilient and some of the other parts of the corridor not so resilient," he said.

In other parts of the penin-sula, work has been ongoing to restore as many access points as possible. The Tapu-Coroglen Rd, also closed due to slips, will have also closed due to slips, will have a temporary bypass available by June, restoring access between the east and west coasts. "It's a slightly challenging road, but it will provide a little bit more connectivity and resil-ience," the minister said. "The route will be single land

"The route will be single-lane, it will have limited visibility and does have tight corners.

Work is also being undertaken along SH25, alongside the work

to clear storm damage. In Ruamahunga, Waka Kotahi is installing a 40 metre long rockfill seawall to shore up the erod-ed embankment. In Kūaotunu geotech drilling was undertaken last week to investigate permanent repair options for the storm damage. The Onetai bridge on SH26 will be upgraded to a cli-mate-friendly laminate timber material designed to be safer, more durable and harder-wearing than traditional concrete or steel bridges. And Waka Kotahi has also spoken of the need for increased resilience works in the slip-prone Karangahake Gorge on SH2. "Further stabilisation of the

bank will be carried out this year on SH2 near Crown Hill Rd,' Waka Kotahi system manager Cara Lauder said. Temporary speed restrictions

YOUR THOUGHTS: IS A BRIDGE THE RIGHT SOLUTION?

"A bridge is not a silly idea. I think it's a far more permanent option than anything that will slide down the hill. They've got to make tough decisions, there's only so much money to go around." - Cathy Edwards

'I think they should build a tunnel. That's it! I think [the bridge is] ok but they still have to maintain the road for the next 100 years, because it will keep slipping.

"Don't just do it because they've got a lot of pressure on to get it open. They have to get it right, they have to make sure there are no other areas beyond that that are going to go as well." Trisha Andrew and Bronwyn Edmunds



*"If it's going to future proof that road, that will be perfectly acceptable."* I think it's a pretty important road given the fact that it's a big holiday destination for probably thousands of people." - Kevin Munro

"As long as the rest of the road doesn't collapse as soon as they put the bridge in - as long as they've done a good study on the road and we're not just gonna end up in the same situation in 5 years' time. - Dave Rouse

are also likely to be established on SH25 for safety and to protect the road from damage caused by increased traffic volumes.

Thames Coromandel District Mayor Len Salt has long been vocal about the need for a resil-

ient and future-proofed roading network in the region. "Our district has struggled with decades of under-investment in our roading and infra-structure networks," he said. "We have amplified our efforts

at a regional and national government level to get investment in our entire district for a roading network that helps to prepare us for future events, to make us cli-mate change resilient and able to cope with what is coming.

Hauraki District Mayor Toby Adams said the closure of SH25A was also having a knock-on ef-fect on Hauraki roads.

"We're seeing an increased load of traffic coming through our areas, which also puts pres-

sure on our network and our local roads, and also the state highway," he said. Coromandel MP Scott Simp-

son was also worried about the state of the roads, warning that times would still be tough for a while longer. "Alternate routes around the

Peninsula remain fragile, with communities vulnerable to to further closures over winter," he said. "The government and NZTA must be focused on getting SH25A reopened as soon as possible."

Waka Kotahi has previously stated: "beyond the initial emer-gency response, our focus also includes long-term solutions so that SH25 and SH25A remain resilient".

In 2022, the agency released their national adaptation plan aiming to reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, enhance adaptive capacity and strengthen resilience across New Zealand's roading network. THF BRID

SH25A will receive a bridge to repair the crater in the road caused by Cyclone Gabrielle in January. It is estimated to cost

between \$30-40 million, and is forecast to open in early 2024. "This work is being funded through the government's \$250 million top-up to the National Land Transport Programme fund to support the recovery," Minister Wood said.

Tenders are already under-way, and formal construction is expected to begin at the end of June. CONTINUED ON P6



### Education Cricketers spin Waikato division win

**By GORDON PREECE** 

The Hauraki Plains College up" this season to defend the Waikato Secondary School Boys

Division 1 title. The team triumphed over St Paul's Collegiate School, from Hamilton, on home turf on April 1, scoring the school's second

vin in the division's history. Coach Waynne Dodunski told *The Profile* the squad had taken a bit of a hammering" by their final opponents in the opening match of the season in February, but it bowled them a benchmark

to be competitive. "To be fair, we weren't that much of a batting squad, al-though we had some real high-

"We were a really good bowl-ing and fielding unit and so we actually played to our strengths," he said.

We had some guys who had performed okay previously, but they really stepped up this season, and we had some really great captaincy from Cooper Green.

We also saw other teams having some on-field coaching but our guys were able to make deci-sions off their own bat, and to be able to actually bring that to the fore was great to see that devel-opment in them."

Waynne said another star player this season was Trent



Team members Trent Ball, left, captain Cooper Green, Richard Gemmell, and Logan Dodunski.

Ball, who topped the batting list with 303 runs over the eight matches in the season, including 157 runs in one match. The team of 11, who were all

between year 11 and 12, were

'pretty stoked" to defend the ti-"With some new blood in the team we weren't expecting to be able to [achieve first], but

that was our goal, so to be able

to achieve that, they were pret-ty happy about that," he said. "There were some players who lived over the hill in Tairua and for them to stump up every week was pretty tough on them.

Photo: BEVIN JENKINSON

'We hope that the team will stick together - some of the guys have left school - but we'll re-group in the coming season and try to build to defend our title again.



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### ountry house hunt comes to Paeroa

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

Nome early 2024, Paeroa Cand its homes will be showcased on one of Aotearoa's top-rated television series.

Country House Hunters: New Zealand, hosted by Matt Gibb, was in the Hauraki district last week filming an episode for its second season.

The Aussie film crew and the host himself ventured to locations around town, highlighting one local's journey to find a house outside the hustle and bustle of the big city.

There has been a huge wave since Covid of people realising that they can live and work anywhere,' Matt told The Profile during a break from filming. "There definitely a movement towards living

somewhere you want to live rather than somewhere you have to live.

For the first season of the show - which is based off of the Australian version - 20 episodes were filmed, from

TV host Matt Gibb calls into Paeroa to film an episode of Country House Hunters: New Zealand. INSET: Melbourne-based producer and showrunner Cass Dennis. Waiheke Island to Banks Pen-

insula. The Kiwi iteration will give audiences 30 episodes for its next season, and could be airing in January, 2024. We do move through towns quickly, but I love Paeroa," Matt said. "I've been here so many times over the years for

other TV shows... It's a great place to be.

hotos: KELLEY TANTAU

"Part of the great thing about making TV like this is you stop at a small hotel, you go to the

pub for a feed, and chat to the locals, and that's something I'll never get sick of.

Melbourne-based producer Cass Dennis was at the Paeroa filming alongside two camera-men and said she "fought" for the role of the series' showrunner so she could explore New Zealand.

"We pretty much see what we shoot, but in the [Australian] office, they all fight over who gets to go to New Zeashe said. land,

"I really wanted to travel around this country, I think it's beautiful, and when I'm in the pre-production phase, I pretty much get the choice of where we're going.

Cass, who was 15 episodes into filming the second series, said she enjoyed researching and showcasing towns that didn't get focused on that much. That included the Hauraki district and neighbouring Te Aroha.

"It's kind of handy being an Aussie doing a show about New Zealand because you learn about all these towns for

the first time," she said. "The crew put a lot of effort into making that first season -I think it was rated the second highest TV show in New Zealand in January when it aired - and it's a show we really care about so we want people to love it.





### connecting community through Connections

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

The gallery room at Waihī Mu-seum has received a youthful, whimsical makeover with the introduction of Waihī East Primary School's *Connections* exhibition.

The display "celebrates the relationships and connections be-tween people and across boundaries that have shaped us all".

Every class in the school con-tributed a piece, with different themes reflected in each work.

Teacher Dorette Hartley said the exhibition was an innovative way to get students engaged with the new histories curriculum.

"We started looking at when-ua, and from there we looked at 'where did we come from?' and what are our connections to the

and and to each other?' and that's why we called the exhibition *Con-nections*," she said. School principal Briar Scott said the project gave students and their whanau a way to understand their own histories

We don't often know our own stories so it prompted a lot of us to

start digging," she said. Stepping away from the tradi-tional dense textbooks and rote learning, the students instead embarked upon learning a variety of new skills for the exhibition, including cross-stitching, videog-raphy and a range of art mediums. "It builds a rich context that

makes sense to each of them, in whatever way works for them," Dorette explained.

"The learning just makes more sense. It can link back to their individual previous experiences and



Josiah and Jimi with their class' handmade cross-stitch quilt.



James shows his handiwork. the knowledge that they already

have. Dorette said the students were learning just by being in the gallery space - seeing things differently, finding out things they didn't know about their classmates.

'For us it's quite important - the whanaungatanga [kinship] con-nections, the networks, and mak-ing these links between the second ing those links between the people

Briar floated the idea for a for-



Charlie engrossed in the exhibit.

mal exhibition with the museum coordinators after seeing a similar display on a study trip to the South Island.

"The ladies at the museum were all quivery about how cool it is to have the [youthful] energy and everyone here enjoying and being exposed to it," she said.

The teachers said it was exciting to be able to share their students' work with the wider community, as well as being a unique experi-



Ambre and Jenica explore a work.



Katalina and Dorette Hartley



Room 4 with their display. ence for the kids.

"We always do these amazing things and then no one sees it," Dorette said.

"I just think we're really really proud to be able to share this with the community, because our learning is so much richer when it's not just confined to the four walls of our school. And the whole of Waihī can enjoy it and be part of it." Student Jimi Randall, 10, was

excited to welcome people into the

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER

gallery. "It's pretty cool, they can come specifically to see our school stuff," he said.

His classmate Josiah Matautia, also 10, said they put a lot of effort into creating their works.

"The cross stitch took really long, it took ages," he said. "It was hard work [but] it was relaying."

relaxing.

#### until road reopens Helping to

#### **CONTINUED FROM P3**

"A bridge was selected as it will A bluge was selected as it will reconnect the Coromandel Pen-insula in the shortest period of time possible, and it is the safest and most resilient option," Minister Wood said.

"Another key advantage of the bridge option is that it means work can continue over the win-ter period, because much of the construction of the bridge can occur offsite.

The bridge will be two lanes, and at a minimum will reinstate the portion of road which is miss-ing. Walking and cycling options will be looked at as part of the design process.

Mayor Len Salt said he was still focused on helping businesses survive until the road was open.

"We've got an idea of that time-line so it's really good to have that certainty," he said. "What we need now [is] to make sure we do everything

we can to try and get support for those businesses affected through this period. Knowing that there's a bridge being built is part of it, surviving until the road is open is the next part of it."

Mayor Salt said he needed the community to continue to reach out to him, and he would continue to press the government to ensure relief was available.

"The minister's saying the support that needs to come through to specific businesses will be more targeted," he said, adding that he knew the communities along the East Coast were strug-

gling particularly hard. Mayor Salt said around \$7 mil-lion had already been distributed to businesses throughout the district, through the mayoral relief fund and the government's business support grant.

A third round of government funding is currently being distributed to councils in affected regions to aid with business recovery.





Minister of Transport Michael Wood announced the bridge for SH25A at a press conference in Thames on May 9.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

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### The gift box that keeps on giving

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

When Waihī's The Gift Box was taken away from the spot it had sat for five years, Tina Wright couldn't watch. She created the community

sharing shed in September, 2018, and since then, she and her husband Keith have put food in the mouths of hundreds of people. But with Tina needing two

knee replacements, and a sur-gery set for August, the time had come to pass the Gift Box baton. Thankfully, mother-and-

daughter duo Carol and Arabella O'Hanlon stepped up to bat, and on April 28, a crane came to shift the community pantry to its new home at 5

Waitete Rd. "I used to use it quite often - I grow my own vegetables, so me and the

kids would bike down and drop those off and pick up breads or bagels,' Arabella said. So, we knew it was

of value to the community and that a lot of people use it." Arabella's two children, aged

11 and nine, are homeschooled, and another aspect of taking over The Gift Box was to be able



, and fresh produce.

expect to get even busier, and

things off."

to teach them how to give back. "It's important to give rather than /e," she said, "and this

just receive, has opened our eyes as to how many people use it. It's quite surprising how many people do come and grab stuff and drop

it's knowing the community's Arabella and Carol refill the sharing shed about five times a day and rely on community

need for food that drives them. "We didn't want [The Gift Box] to die," Carol said. "Tina's donations of staple items, such as pull-tab canned goods, toiletdone the hard work, and we're just coming in and facilitating ries, and fresh produce. With the cost of living increas-ing throughout Aotearoa, they it all

"No matter what comes our way, we will try our best to keep this going," Arabella added.

The Gift Box used to be located on Mackay St, and in 2022, Tina received a Hauraki District Council OnYa Award for her service to the Waihī community. But with severe osteoarthritis

in her knees, carrying 40-litre bins of food out to the stall was getting "really difficult". "And when I'm on crutches, it will be impossible," she said.

Tina admitted she couldn't

watch The Gift Box go. "It was a really, really hard decision to make in a lot of ways. I kind of felt like I was letting people down, because the use of the stall has just increased so much, and you worry then, about where those people are going to get food from." But she will still be involved,

helping the pantry's new operators with advice, recipes, logis-tics, and raising money.

[The Gift Box] is not something that is straightforward; it has all sorts of tentacles," she said. "It's kind of like running a shop without ever knowing what stock you're going to have and whether you'll have enough. But we've got to the stage now where it is a necessity. DETAILS: To donate, drop off any goods at 5 Waitete Rd or use the buzzer on the Gift Box table to talk to Arabella or Carol about becoming a financial supporter of the stall. Winter hours: 9.30am-5pm.

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### Farming, from Philippines to Hauraki

#### By GORDON PREECE

Isidro Quilla Jr first brought his Filipino farming heritage to New Zealand in 2013 and since then, he has developed a devotion to producing dairy products for the world from a 270 hectare Patetonga property.

The current manager of the farm, which has 850 cows in the winter months, told *The Profile* farming was in his blood, through growing up on a sugar cane and rice farm in the Philippines, and learning stockman-

ship from his cowboy father.

"Î did livestock farming also. We had beef cattle, pigs, and chickens and ducks... it was already part of my life that I'm a farmer so that's the passion that I've got and the confidence of having this way of life," he said. "I think farming is the high-

est occupation you can have because we are feeding the people around the world. "It's a lot of work that you need to do to deliver the food to the people in the whole world

need to do to deliver the food to the people in the whole world, so being involved in it, you get the crown." Isidro said prior to relocating to New Zealand in 2013, he completed a brisk 18-month farming internship in Denmark.

"The first weather I experienced up there was -36 degrees. We were in the northern part of Denmark, it was really tough for me and technology-wise, I was a little bit behind because I grew up in the Philippines where everything is run the manual way," he said. "Their English is also not very

"Their English is also not very good there and my English is not that good so we were communicating through sign language... but I benefited from my dairy experience up there and started up my knowledge about dairy in a practical way."

Isidro said after holding dairy manager roles in Ohinewai, north of Hamilton, and Matamata, he took his current job in Patetonga in 2017 where he has developed a sustainability focus and an influx of 80,000kg of milk solids per year from the historic 190,000kg level for the farm.

"We convert the pasture into milk solids and avoid too much wastage, and we do not com-

promise the cows and the environment, because the reality is, if you do too much wastage in the feeding of the cows, then the cows cannot turn it into energy," he said.

"We're very practical in food efficiency conversion... so the main driver of having the system is to avoid wastage."

Isidro was named runner-up in the dairy manager category in this year's Auckland-Hauraki Dairy Industry Awards for his sustainability efforts, and one day hoped to become a dairy farm owner.

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**Rural Life** Treating parasites in the herd



By Dr Dave Curnow BVSc

Do adult dairy cows get worms? Yes, they do. Adult cattle generally have good natural immunity to internal parasites, however, the energy and

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Discussion with your vet relating to the specifics of your farm situation and how this relates to New Zealand trial work is recommended.

Herd factors that may increase the likelihood of a positive response to drenching include: Herds below target body condition score and under nutritional stress; Lots of young cows in the herd; Pasturebased systems, especially with high-production cows; Farms with a high risk of increased environmental parasite exposure e.g. farms where calves are grazed on the dairy platform after weaning or properties with a history of being used primarily for young stock grazing.

Does the product I use make a difference and when should I drench?

NZ research has shown that the response is not the same between products.



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turn on investment. Drenching at calving produced an extra 0.03kg MS per cow per day over the season. For most herds, this equates to ~ 8kgMS per cow over the season and represents a net return of around \$65-70 per cow treated.

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A section of the damaged stream

### Farmer's appeal dismissed

The High Court at Hamilton has dismissed an appeal by a north Waikato farming company who argued that a fine imposed upon them for damaging a stream was "manifestly excessive".

Gregan Farms Limited and earthworks contractor Steve Barker Limited were both convicted in the Hamilton District Court last October for damaging almost 1.5 kilometres of stream bed in February 2021.

Gregan Farms Limited was subse-quently fined \$31,500, with the contractor fined \$45,000

Only Gregan appealed the amount of their fine to the High Court. This week Justice Mark Woolford dismissed that appeal. The maximum fine available under

the Resource Management Act for a company convicted of unlawfully excavating a stream bed is \$600,000.

The prosecution arose from a com-plaint by a member of the public to Waikato Regional Council of works being undertaken in a tributary of the Waitakaruru River.

The follow up council inspection discovered extensive damage to the stream for approximately 1390 metres, with large sediment deposits in the water course and significant fish kill. Fortyeight dead eels were located within 50 metres of the illegal works.

Council Regional Compliance Man-ager Patrick Lynch said: "This simply should not happen. The earthworks contractor in this case has over 40 years' experience and should be well aware of the protections in place for our streams and the eco-systems they support. Likewise, the farmer should not have engaged the contractor to do the works in the first place.'

### **On farm learning helps** to retain dairy workers

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Giving team members the opportunity to gain an on-the-job qualification means farmers can retain both staff and their skills longer, says Hauraki District dairy farmer Ilona Pohlmann.

Ilona and partner Mike Green operate a dairy unit at Paeroa, where farm assistant Jasmine Tauri is completing the New Zealand Apprenticeship in Agriculture Level 3 and 4.

Ilona says she offers staff the opportunity to learn so that they can understand their job better and thrive in their roles. "We invest in people who have little knowledge about farming but who want to learn."

Ilona speaks from experience. Originally from Poland, Ilona began working on the farm after she met Mike while on a working holiday in New Zealand. "I found it difficult when I started working on the farm because I didn't understand what I was doing."

Interested in on-the-job learning? Contact Kirstin Anderson on 027 658 3392 or kirstin.anderson@primaryito.ac.nz

At Mike's suggestion, Ilona began learning entry level programmes with Primary ITO | Te Pūkenga. "It completely changed my perspective. I started to understand what I was doing and why."

Now she offers training in all job advertisements. "We find giving staff the opportunity to upskill means they build skills and stay longer."

Jasmine is progressing and applying knowledge she has learnt on the farm. Ilona says a key part of Jasmine's success is the support she receives from Primary ITO Training Adviser Kirstin Anderson, a former contract milker who is completing the final paper of the New Zealand Diploma in Primary Industry Business Management.

"I love helping farmers develop their teams and achieve their goals and supporting learners to further their career," says Kirstin.

Primary ITO training advisers are in regular contact with learners to support their progress, and meet with employers and learners at least four times a year to set a training plan.

Learners attend classes once every month to six weeks and attend study days and nights. A learning support team and mentors are available to learners who require additional support.





**Primary** ITO

#### May 17, 2023, THE VALLEY PROFILE 11

### Rural Life Support available for primary industries

he Waikato and South Auckland The Waikato and South Auchana Primary Industries Adverse Event Cluster continues to connect agencies supporting the recovery by farmers and growers to the flooding events of January and February. "We have had more settled weather

through March and April, helping our region to dry out and clean up after a rough start to 2023, although for some there is a longer recovery pathway ahead," group chairperson Neil Bateup said.

The torrential rainfall and localised flooding across the Waikato and Auckland regions, power and telecommu-nications outages, slips, and extensive damage to the roading network, made life very challenging right across the primary sector.

We have all seen and heard about the destruction caused in other regions, and from experience we know some people will be feeling guilty that they were less impacted and will not want to ask for help.

Neil encourages people to look after their own wellbeing and take a moment to check on 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 these events," he says. The Waikato and South Auckland Pri-

mary Industries Adverse Event Cluster was set up in 2016 to bring together

agencies from the primary industries, central and local government to pre-pare for and coordinate responses to adverse events.

Meanwhile, the first set of highly accurate 3D mapping data for the Waikato region has just been released and will be a "gamechanger" for councils and the wider community.

LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) technology is being used to create exact 3D maps of the surface of the entire region.

It's part of the Provincial Growth Fund LiDAR data capture project and will improve Waikato Regional Coun-cil's ability to more accurately model natural hazards and climate change, design better infrastructure, support better land use planning, and improve environmental outcomes for the regional community.

This set of data is Waikato's first to be published on the Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) Data Service. Remaining data for the region will be released progressively over the next few months, with the en-tire region to be available by mid-2023. Technical lead on the project, Waika-

to Regional Council's Bryan Clements said LiDAR presents a paradigm-shift for regional councils.

Previously we could only access data at sub-catchment scale, other than for small, localised projects.

It was either too expensive or impractical to acquire region-wide data at closer scales.



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### Head students blessed with ceremonial cloaks

#### By GORDON PREECE

Generations of Thames High School head students can now wear ceremonial cloaks in times of formality.

times of formality. The kākahu cloaks were presented at an assembly on April 26 by Reverend Brendon Wilkinson to head boy Millar Morton, deputy head boy James Harvey, head girl Kyla Wilson and deputy head girl Jess Sara.

Thames High School te reo Māori teacher Rawinia McLean told *The Profile* the inspiration for the kākahu cloaks design was to unite Mana Whenua and Tangata o te Tiriti cultures and represent the school colours and the Thames environment.

"The kākahu are done in deep blue colours to represent our kura but also to reflect the environment of Thames itself being by the sea," she said. "The gold toned feathers [are to] denote land and to

"The gold toned feathers [are to] denote land and to denote Mana Whenua in this area which also reflects in our Thames High School colours of navy blue and gold. "It was about teaching our

"It was about teaching our school community the beauty of what Māori has to offer, so we've taken our time to do that and we believe that our school and school community really understand that we're ready to embrace it." Rawinia said more kākahu were planned to be introduced later this year as well



Deputy head girl Jess Sara, left, head girl Kyla Wilson, head boy Millar Morton, and deputy head boy James Harvey.

as locally made piupiu (skirts made of flax) which have been designed for the school's Māori performing arts team. "Kākahu in the broader scheme is not just the feathered cloak but also a Māori performing arts costume as well." she said. "Eventually I would like one made for our principal as well so that it gets passed through

principals.<sup>3</sup>

Thames High School head boy Millar Morton said being the first Thames High School head boy to wear the kākahu gave him a "real sense of pride". "It made me feel very respected Photo: SUPPLIED

**EVES** 

and hopefully that will open up younger years' eyes of how important it is to be a senior leader and hopefully inspire them to be in that position one day," he said.

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The tree was planted by Hauraki District Council staff and pupils from Ngātea Primary School on May 11.

### Patrollers on volunteer look-out

#### By GORDON PREECE

**P**aeroa Community Patrol are seeking more volunteers to ac-commodate its ageing member-ship. The organisation has helped keep the peace in the town by be-ing outer areas for the Police cines ing extra eyes for the Police since

1991. Ray Haysom, who has been a member alongside his wife, Hilary, since the inception, said the majority of the work undertaken by the organisation involved patrolling streets and alleyways between the Puke Bridge and Karangahake in a Suzuki Swift.

"We do night patrols usually on Friday or Saturday night, you can pick your own time, you could do 7pm to 9pm or 9pm to 10pm or midnight to 2am," he said. "All

you need [to become a member] is a police clearance and get a lit-tle bit of paperwork done. We will support you all the way if you want to join our little society... the more the merrier and it's a great organisation to be in.'

Ray said the role also involved volunteers writing a report of what they had witnessed at the end of their shift. These then get docu-mented at Paeroa Police Station.

If another ten volunteers joined the patrol's current seven, it would allow the organisation to have a more comfortable roster, he said. They will be going out maybe

once a month... or every six weeks depending on how many people we actually get," he said. Incoming member Lyn

Incoming member Lyn McHugh, who will be in charge of

promoting the patrol in the hopes of recruiting more volunteers, said if more could join, it would help them hold regular training sessions. They are also open to receiving community donations to go towards vehicle operating costs - equating to around \$1000 each year

"Normally we use [funds] from Hauraki District Council, some people [donate], but we actually have gone outside Countdown and have done our own things and I've done that every year," Hilary Haysom said.

DETAILS: To join the Paeroa Community Patrol, contact Andy Richards 07 862 6453. Interested volunteers are also welcome to attend the patrol's AGM on May 24 at the St John Paeroa Ambulance Station, 7pm.

**Fotara for King** 

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

second totara tree went Asinto the ground in Ngātea last week, right next to the one planted in honour of the late Queen Elizabeth II.

This tree, the one placed carefully into the earth by Hauraki District Council staff and pupils from Ngātea Primary School on May 11, was to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III and acknowledge the environment and those who strive to protect it.

Having the two totara stand side by side, honouring the monarchy and the volunteers of Aotearoa, was a special occasion, Mavor Toby Adams said.

He, with the help of school students, also unveiled a plaque which read: "Māku te rā also unveiled a e tō ana; kei a koe te urunga ake o te rā" - a Māori whakataukī (proverb) that translates to: Let mine be the setting sun; yours is the dawning of a new dav".

Two more plantings were held on May 11, one in Paeroa and another in Waihī.





### hibition closes hotels



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.

#### 1909

**1909** Fourteen hotels in the Thames Valley were ham-mered by Prohibition. Those to be closed were four hotels at Waihī, four at Paeroa, two at Karangahake, two at Wait-ekauri, one at Mackaytown, and one at Waikino. On their final night, the Paeroa ho-tels had a particularly busy time, but there was an entire absence of the anticipated drunkenness. Although there were more people than usual were more people than usual in the streets who stayed out until about 11pm there wasn't any kind of demonstration. At Waihī a spirited crowd gath-ered after 10pm but by the next morning three of the four ho-tels – the Rob Roy, Sterling, and Central - were reopened as respectable boarding houses and all remaining liquor re-moved moved.

#### **NETHERTON FLOOD**

A flood at Netherton left al-most the whole district under a vast sheet of water. Despite the rain ceasing, the flood alarm-ingly increased and panicky



Doomed - hotels that lost their oto: SUPPLIED

messages from there stated that the water was still rising and although water had not en-tered any of the residences, it was right up to the floor of the verandahs

#### NARROW ESCAPES

MARKOW ESCAPES Mr J Feeney, who was re-turning to his home at the foot of Primrose Hill, Paeroa with his horse and empty dray, was ejected from his seat when the turning dray capsized Mr the turning dray capsized. Mr Feeney fell underneath, miraculously escaping injury by be-ing completely covered by the dray, the sides of which missed hitting him. His perilous position was observed and willing helpers soon put the dray the right way up and dragged Mr Feeney out. Another narrow escape occurred at Matatoki when Mr O'Shea, engine driver, was making the return journev in the excursion train from

Miss Ada Crossley's concert at Paeroa. A number of draught horses were on the line and he immediately applied the West-inghouse brakes and pulled the train up with some suddenness. Had it not been for his promptitude a serious accident might have resulted, but as it was the passengers suffered only the inconvenience of a sudden jerk.

#### **127 MILES OF DRAINS**

Excellent progress was be-ing made with the drainage works on the Hauraki Plains. One hundred and twenty seven miles of drains had been constructed, and forming roads and access tracks was being proceeded with. From the Piako river mouth to its junction with the Waitoa, all snags had been removed; the river cleared of logs to a width of 25 feet, and all willows removed along the whole distance. The main canal, fifteen miles long, had been opened along its en-tire length by a drain 9ft wide at surface, 6ft wide at base, and 3ft deep. Of the two Priestman dredges, of special design and imported direct from the man imported direct from the manufacturers, one was at work at the north, or Waitakaruru end, and the other at work at the south end. Eight floodgates had been erected, and twenty more were to follow. Two wharves had been constructed, and two more were under construction. One office, one cottage, and nine workers dwellings had been built at Waitakaruru and a cookhouse was to follow. About 145 men were employed on the works.



Waihi Beach Art and Craft Fair is back again this year.

#### Photo: SUPPLIED

### Craft fair returns

Back again after years of suc-and Craft Fair is ready to welcome people this King's Birthday weekend.

Organisers Colleen Low and Trish Coates said the fair was "fully booked with exciting stall-holders" including lots of new faces and popular returns.

"The interest in this fair has grown so much that people trav-el from all over the North Island to visit this one day event," they

said. "This year the variety is enor-mous, [there is] something for everyone." Colleen said the stalls on offer

supplied hand-sewn garments, knitting for the whole family, jewellery of all kinds, dog and animal attire, retro and vintage

recycled items, candles, diffusers, and beeswax. "Stallholders have a treasure

trove of different products too many to name and don't forget those with a sweet tooth," she said. "Lollies and licorice treats

are back again this year." A new on-site café will also be available, providing hot and cold food and barista coffee.

"You may have been before, but every year this fair changes. It is a great opportunity to sup-port local crafts people," Colleen said. "The talent at this event always amages me." always amazes me.

DETAILS: Waihī Beach Art and Craft Fair, held Sunday, June 4 at the Waihi Beach Community Centre, doors open 10am-3.30pm. Entry fee \$4, children under 15 free. Cash only.



THAMES VALLEY CLUB RUGBY SENIOR A 20TH MAY COBRAS v WHANGAMATA PAEROA MERCURY BAY ν WAIHOU WAIHI ATHLETIC ν HAURAKI NORTH THAMES v ALL SENIOR & GAMES START AT 2.35PH UNLESS STATEDI TEAMS NAMED FIRST INDICATE HOME TEAM EACH/ 8 BUCAY UNITED NITED - LOOPH SENIOR B COBRAS V WHANGAMATA BOYD PARK, TE AROHA 1.00PM WAIHOU V TAIRUA BOYD PARK, TE AROHA NGATEA V COROMANDEL HUGH HAYWARD DOMAIN, NGATEA **MEET THE LOCALS** Moving day for the share milkers is fast approaching.

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**ENTERTAINMENT** 

### Actress to sit in directors chair for show

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

A Thames woman who has flexed her acting muscles on stage will now display her might behind the scenes.

Hilary Rodley, who has been a member of Thames Music and Drama for roughly five years, will earn her playwright and director credentials with her new show 'Number Five Birdwell Road', running from June 16-24. "I've surprised myself by

Tve surprised myself by how enjoyable I've found the process. Even when I thought I'd finished [writing the play], I saw a movie that made me think of one of my characters - and I had to go and change a line," she told The Profile. "It's quite

interesting how the characters live in your mind."

Hilary describes 'Number Five Birdwell Road' as being a mash-up of comedy and poignance. The main theme is one of friendship, explored through the eyes of different people within the play. It's



Svargo and Jan Paton will act in the lead roles of Dolly and Molly, while, inset, actress-turned director Hilary Rodley will see her first play come to life on stage. Photos: SUPPLIED

also based in Yorkshire, northern England, she said, and so the cast have been practising their accents. "Although it's helpful that a lot of them are actually from Yorkshire, bizarrely, so that's really serendipitous."

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Playing the lead of Dolly is Thames MAD newcomer Svargo, wife of Thames-Coromandel Mayor Len Salt. Joining her in the role of Molly is Jan Paton. The play - which has a cast of 13 - will be Hilary's first time directing adults, and she said it has been a "big process"

time directing adults, and she said it has been a "big process getting her work to the stage. "It was certainly amazing, even in the auditions, to hear

even in the auditions, to hear words that I've written being spoken by actors," she said. "When we did our first

read-through, one of the cast members just burst into tears because she was so affected by the ending.

"There are lots of laughs [in the show], but it has those moments that catch you, too." As a first-time director and

As a first-time director and playwright, Hilary said she's felt "really supported" by Thames MAD and other directors.

"I wouldn't say it's something I've always dreamed of doing, but I have always enjoyed writing, and I find writing dialogue a lot easier than writing whole stories," she said.

she said. "So, this plays on that enjoyment."

DETAILS: Thames Music and Drama's latest production 'Number Five Birdwell Road", directed by Hilary Rodley, will be running from June 16-24. Tickets available now from www.thamesmad.co







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1 litre vegetable or chicken stock 2 sprigs of thyme (don't worry about picking the thyme, just put the whole sprigs in, the leaves will fall off when you pull the stems out) 2 fresh bay leaves 500ml whole milk (give or take) 150ml cream

#### METHOD

building your seasoning. Adjust seasoning to taste. Add potatoes, stir through, and then

Photo: SUPPLIED

the stock. Bring up to simmer and cook until potatoes are soft.

Remove the thyme stalks and bay leaves and blend until smooth. Return to heat and add enough milk to

reach required consistency. Add the cream and bring to tempera-

ture without boiling. To serve (the magic comes together):

Finish with a generous drizzle of truffle oil or truffle zest, and fresh baguette or crostini. Voila!

### Potage bonne femme with truffle

#### RECIPE

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4 leeks, dark leaves removed and 1 large onion (white, not red)

250gm agria potatoes, chopped

CHEESE BARN

Melt the butter in a saucepan and sweat leeks, onion and garlic down until soft, making sure not to colour. This should take around 10 mins. Add half a teaspoon of flaky sea salt and a pinch of white pepper to start

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> "Laughter is brightest where food is best."

Irish Proverb



### Thames Scouts prepared to return

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

**B**<sup>e</sup> prepared, Thames -Scouts Aotearoa is looking to reopen its doors for the first time since Covid and a lack of volunteers forced its closure in 2020.

Local mum and former Scouts and Girl Guides leader Sarah Moffitt took to Facebook earlier this year to gauge interest in the reopening of the community youth group. She said Scouts was a valuable resource for the community, and she wouldn't let it disappear without a fight.

"I want it to be there for my kids," she said. "And also, I have fun doing it. I've been through Scouts

"And also, I have fun doing it. I've been through Scouts and Guides as a leader - I've been on three international trips [and] two national ventures, which is the 14-18 year old big national camp - I get enjoyment out of it too." Following a public meeting, Sarah found she had enough

Following a public meeting, Sarah found she had enough interest to begin the process of reinstating the group. She said the prospective volunteers also believed in the importance of scouting.

"I got quite a few who were like, 'oh, I'll just help out sometimes,' but I've got a good bunch of people that hopefully can make this work," she said.

can make this work," she said. "A lot of them are previous members of Scouts. One of them was a Cub leader overseas, she's about to retire and wants to stay involved. An-



The Thames Scout group has enjoyed a wide range of outdoor activities in the past, and it hopes to bring that adventurous spirit back to the youths of the town. Photo: SUPPLIED

other person is about to retire and just wants the community involvement."

Sarah said there was a misconception that volunteering would take a large amount of time and effort.

"We're quite happy to have someone come in just as a parent help, or someone who might want to come in one night to teach one skill they know," she said. "It's not a full time commitment, there's roles for everybody."

for everybody." Scouts is a worldwide movement aimed at everyone between the ages of 5 and 18. Members can learn new skills and try outdoor activities such as camping, kayaking, abseiling and hiking, along with indoor activities like cooking and crafts. They can also make connections throughout NZ and overseas through group camping events. "Basically anything they

"Basically anything they want to experience or want to do, they can get that chance through Scouts," Sarah said. "The purpose of scouting is to empower youth through ad-

"The purpose of scouting is to empower youth through adventurous experiences to lead lives that make a positive difference." Sarah plans to have the organisation up and running again by term three this year.

"We are talking to the zone team and we're getting everybody up to speed ... [we will] start enrolling youth later in the term," she said. "We'll have a couple of open nights later in the term for parents and kids to come check it out."

To get in touch or find out more, contact Sarah on 022 048 4031, scoutsthames@gmail.com or on the Thames Scouts Facebook page.

#### In Brief

#### KING COMMEMORATED

Paeroa Christian School recently commemorated the coronation of King Charles III. The children made crowns and tiaras and came to school dressed as Kings, Queens, Princes and Princesses. There was a royal parade for the different age groups with a prize for the best crown. This was followed by singing of "God Save the King" and a prayer for the monarchy. Finally, they enjoyed an English afternoon tea while watching highlights from the coronation. The whole school had a great time creating and decorating the classrooms and learning about the history of the British royal family and the importance of this in New Zealand's history.

#### FATIGUE CAMPAIGN

It's Road Safety Week from May 15-21 and Thames-Coromandel District Council is part of the Fatigue Campaign launching across the East Waikato.

"Fatigue is a danger for us all," council said. "After recent weather events many of us are driving longer distances with delays en route, and driving is a very complex activity."

Its road safety partners and the NZ Police will also be focusing on fatigue across the East Waikato and running their own fatigue stops. Businesses or organisations can also book a free driver refresher course which includes the fatigue campaign. To find out more or to make a booking call 07 868 0200.

### St John Thames

#### **Retail store dumping.**

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### **SPORTS** Riders learn the ropes

Around 56 people took part in a free beginners dirt bike riding day last month, where two of them were able to take home their own two-wheeler. Hosted by Tony Ngawhika from Thames Labour Hire, the free event aimed to give beginners a safe environment to learn how to ride dirt bikes. Two of the attendees were then rewarded with their own motorcycles. The event is in its second year and attracted more than double participants than its first year, Tony said.



First-time rider Shivawn Elliott nabbed herself a Honda 125CC.

Some of the participants show off their certificates



Javden Marris helped out teaching on the day.

hotos: SUPPLIED



Charlie Josey, 13, on his Yamaha 60CC



Tony Ngawhika and grandson, Ace.

Send us your sports results and photos: email editor@ valleyprofile.co.nz

#### SPORTS RESULTS

#### WAIHI BOWLS

Achance not to be missed, our May 6 closing day and prizegiving was a good oppor-tunity for our "King", President Gary Vercoe, to present the Certificates of Achievement to the Championship winners.

Evan Bougher received his for winning the Junior Pairs along with Paul Perkinson.

With Paul Perkinson. The person voted to be the Most Improved player of the season was Emily Cox. She re-cieved a trophy that was donat-ed by the late Graeme Hinton.

With a very damp end to the season, and tournaments and club days cancelled, there was still plenty of camaraderie and anticipation for the year to

come. Indoor bowls in the clubrooms over winter will start off on a Friday this year; three games starting at 1.15pm sharp, afternoon tea, and an invitation to socialise in the lounge afterwards.

Supplied by Waihi Bowling Club



Most Improved Player: Emily Cox.

#### **THAMES CROQUET**

n Thursday, April 27, the Thames Croquet Club, at 101 Beach Road, hosted players from all over the Waikato, Coromandel, and Auckland region for their 'Autumn Fun' Golf Croquet tournament.

The weather played ball with balmy, sunny conditions; the greens were in good shape; and the clubrooms were abuzz with activity, as were all five courts.

President Sheryl McConnell said: "I'm very happy with the success of the last tournament of the season. Thank you to our sponsors and thank you to the Thames Croquet Club members for their support, either welcoming our visitors, playing,

helping with kitchen and club room facilities, or greenkeeping duties.

Club captain Jill Maw said seeing players going home hap-py after an enjoyable day made the effort in running such an event "rewarding". "I'd like to commend the club

for how our members all pulled together to make the day such a success, for the hard work on the lawns and surrounds, to the two members who were woken early to fill in for two players who couldn't make it, and for those who subsequentially filled in the gaps in the kitchen.

Results were: First Division: 1st Place - Dick Wilton & Stephen Bibby; Runners Up - Brian and Marie Kendrick; 3rd Place - Geor-

gie Jones and Earl Mclarnen. Second Division: 1st Place - Ruth and Ian Henderson; Runners Up - Merlene and David Walker; 3rd Place Dot Sharpe and Lin Parsons.

Supplied by Thames Croquet Club



Ruth and Ian Henderson with club president Shervl McConnell





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#### May 17, 2023, THE VALLEY PROFILE 21





More than 500 hooded students form an 'A' to raise autism awareness.

### Students raise funds for autism

Hauraki Plains College students threw on their hoodies for a partial mufti day on May 5 to raise funds and awareness for people living with autism as part of Autism Awareness Month.

The college said the reason for wearing hoodies was because autistic individuals often experience more intense sensory input from light and sound, and hoodies could help block any discomforting stimuli.

"Hoodies are [also] usually made of soft materials, which is beneficial for those with sensitivities to touch and texture," a spokesperson said. "By participating in Autism NZ's Hoods Up event, we can raise awareness about the use of hoods as a tool to help autistic individuals navigate an environment that may not cater to their specific needs."

Photo: SUPPLIED

The college raised \$846 and 550 students formed an 'A' for autism for a drone photo.

#### Women's Institute makes donations

The Kerepehi Women's Institute's April meeting was held in the Kerepehi Bowling Club on April 11. Our presi-dent, Elaine Jolliffe, welcomed all present. Our thought for the month was read and supplied by Jan Edmonds: "Life is like a coin; you can spend it an-yway you like but you can only spend it once". There were no April birth-days, though Marion van Eyk's was on March 28 and will receive her present at the next meeting. Our Mother's Day raffle books were given out for us to sell and return at our next meeting. On April 16, two members attended Middlemore Hospital's wool programme and supporters' morning tea and they delivered 52 knitted and cro-cheted items for the babies in need programme. This consisted of 22 cot blankets, 15 jumpers and cardigans, 7 beanies and eight pairs of bootees. Competitions: Limericks: 1 Elaine Jolliffe, 2 Jan Edmonds, 3 Bev Adamson; Gift Tags: 1 Jan Edmonds, 2 Bev Adamson, 3 Debbie Smith; Decorated Stone: 1 Bev Adamson, 2 Jan Ed-monds, 3 Debbie Smith; Felt Decoration: 1 Jan Edmonds, 2 Bev Adamson. Our Birthday raffle which we all do-nated something for was drawn and won by Carolyn Giles. No Flower competitions today as we were going out to lunch to celebrate our 69th birthday. We went to Glory Café in Ngatea. It was very busy there as it was the school holidays. Our next meeting was on May 9 at the Kerepehi Bowling Club.

#### GOLDFIELDS WI

The April Meeting of the Goldfields Women's Institute commenced with the Aspirations and Prayer. Thoughts were given to any member who had not been well during the last month. The Motto – "Happiness is not having what you want, but wanting what you have" was read by Jean Brady and there were no birthday girls this month. The Roll Call - Bring along a decorated potato had several mem-bers going to a lot of trouble, with one member making her potato into a bear. A \$50.00 donation has been sent to the St. John Thames Health Shuttle. Raffles were won by Carole Bridle, Sue Fah and Maureen Claasen. We keep in contact with two members who live outside the area, and President Helen read an article from Jill Bridgman about the flooding at her Retirement Village in Auckland she experienced at the end of January. Jill's apartment was not flooded. but all the ground floor was, so it did impact on a whole range of services that had to be changed. Life is slowly returning to normal for Jill and people in her Apartment block. Presenta-tions were made for our Annual Trophies. Most Points for Flowers - Christie Vase - Sue Fah, Most Competition Points – Wilton Tray – Sue Fah, Most points Overall - Scott Vase - Sue Fah and President Choice – Heather Cryer Cup – Jean Brady. Jean Brady then presented Helen Udy with a gift, thanking her for what she does for Goldfield WI. Arrangement was made for the upcoming Federation Social Day/International Day at the end of April. The Theme is "Wales" with several members interested. Goldfields W.I. is again applying for funding to Trust Waikato for helping us to provide the goods for our Emergency Toilet Bags we donate to Thames Hospitals and also Wool for our knitting. Lunch was a very social affair, with a great catch up with all the members. COMPETITIONS. BLOOM: Kate Wood Helen Udy & Sue Fah 2=. CLUS-TER: Helen Udy 1, Sue Fah 2. SHRUB: Helen Udy 1, Sue Fah 2. ORCHID: Sue Fah 1. COMPETITION – Knitted Peggy Square – Carole Bridle 1, Sue Fah 2, Bey Schenkel 3.



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#### TAKING OWNERSHIP IS HIGHPOINT IN AGENT'S CAREER

The talented and highly respected RE/MAX Apex team welcomed new owners this month when Tracy Corneal handed ownership to Brendon and Jennifer Pulman.

Already a familiar real estate face in Te Kauwhata and surrounding areas, and an award-winning agent on the RE/MAX Apex team, Brendon joined RE/MAX New Zealand in March 2020. His 2021 achievements earned him the network's 'Rookie of the Year' award, which was announced in February last year.

A record sales month in March this year is a great testimony to his ability and his love of real estate sales, will continue to see him an active part of the sales team.

Tracy, who opened RE/MAX Apex in 2016, also



has a passion for real estate sales and remains part of the experienced RE/ MAX Apex team, helping both new and past clients achieve their real estate goals.



RE/MAX New Zealand CEO, Don Ha, said he supported Tracy's decision and was delighted she had recognised leadership potential within her team.

"Tracy clearly recognised Brendon as a potential business leader and has been confident in placing her team in his hands," Don said.

Brendon says the great strengths of RE/ MAX Apex will continue to shine while he takes the business forward, growing the team and expanding its marketplace.

"We have salespeople recognised in the top 10 RE/MAX agents in New Zealand,

and our Helen Bevan is the network's current Rookie of the Year.

"Our real estate team has customers at its heart. Our local knowledge, experience and longevity in the market, our reputation for honesty and integrity, and the successful outcomes we achieve for our customers provide an amazing platform for growth.

"I am grateful to Tracy for bringing RE/MAX Apex to where it is today and excited with this opportunity to own my own real estate business, and to do so as part of this phenomenal global brand."

Year on year both the office and our sales team gain awards within the RE/MAX network as we strive to always do the utmost for both vendors and sellers.

Brendon is committed to his office delivering an exceptional real estate experience. Contact him at brendonpulman@remax.co.nz. Visit https:// www.remaxapex.co.nz/ and drop in and meet the team at 5B Main Road, Te Kauwhata.



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