

The Valley Profile

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The Valley Profile

Profile scoops national awards

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

The Valley Profile has scooped up five accolades at the annual New Zealand Community Newspaper Association Awards, which celebrate the very best in local journalism.

Held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Auckland on May 19, The Profile's managing editor, Teresa Ramsey, advertising manager Nikki Sanders, senior reporter Kelley Tantau and junior reporter Gordon Preece all expressed their surprise and delight upon receiving recognition for their work in 2022.

"I was absolutely stunned," Nikki said.

"It's a team effort. Without our great journalism, we wouldn't have readers who see and act on the ads of our businesses - who also get great results."

Nikki was named Best Sales Professional for the second year in a row, with the judges commending her for continuing the huge growth of The Profile.

As the paper launched its digital platform, the Coromandel App, and expanded its distribution into Waihi during 2022, Nikki was congratulated for "working hard and successfully winning new businesses, competing against not one, but two existing papers in the area".

Meanwhile, senior reporter Kelley Tantau received the accolade of Best Senior News Journalist for her "versatile" portfolio of stories in 2022.



New Zealand Community Newspaper Association MC Kerre Woodham, centre, presented awards to junior reporter Gordon Preece, left, managing editor Teresa Ramsey, advertising manager Nikki Sanders and senior reporter Kelley Tantau on Friday night.

Photo: GLENN RAMSEY

The judges said her strong news writing was paired with the ability to become "lyrical" if a human interest story presented itself. She was a "deserving winner", they said.

"The Community Newspaper Association's awards evening is such a fun event, and it allows us to connect and celebrate with other like-minded people in our industry," Kelley said. "I have always strived to prove that community is at the heart

of all news stories, big or small, so to be named Best Senior News Journalist... I am just so grateful."

Junior reporter Gordon Preece, who started with The Profile in November, 2021, was named runner-up for two awards: Best Junior News Journalist and Best Headline Writer.

He said his "jaw hit the floor" when his name was read aloud not once, but twice.

"To receive any award seemed completely unattainable, but it was a very nice surprise to discover my work was award material," he said.

"I owe the awards to my amazing colleagues, the extraordinary work they do for the community, and their support in the past 18 months."

The Profile was also named runner-up in the Best Community Involvement category for its work on the

increasing spate of crime in the Thames Valley, including ongoing ram raids.

Judges said the series was covered "professionally" and "passionately" and provided a clear story on the impact the crime wave was having on local business owners.

Teresa said the success at the national awards reflected the huge talent and hard work of the Valley Profile team, whose main focus had always been journalism. "I'm so happy for Kelley, Gordon and Nikki, who are exceptional at what they do - they deserve the national recognition from their peers.

"It's a lot of work to produce a quality newspaper each week with such a small team, and in such difficult times for media, so I'm thankful to all our loyal advertisers who make this possible.

"It's an important job to continue to keep our communities informed and represented with top quality local journalism, especially after office closures and ongoing redundancies among our competitors, which impacted community journalism in our region.

"We are the only paper with staff who live and work here, and that clearly makes a difference."

Kelley has also been named finalist for Community Journalist of the Year at the prestigious Voyager Media Awards, which will be announced at an awards dinner in Auckland this weekend.



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NEWS/EDITORIAL

Publisher/Editor Teresa Ramsey

Ph 0204 0944 853

editor@valleyprofile.co.nz

Senior Reporter Kelley Tantau

Ph 022 619 4889

kelley@valleyprofile.co.nz

Reporter Gordon Preece

Ph 022 174 3988

gordon@valleyprofile.co.nz

Reporter Alice Parminter

Ph 022 527 0988

alice@valleyprofile.co.nz

ADVERTISING

Ad manager Nikki Sanders

Ph 022 130 3885

Email: nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz

2 QUEEN ST, PAEROA

Ph 07 862 7077

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Generosity returns to Waihi altruist

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

A Waihi woman who spends hours each week giving back to her community is now learning how to receive.

Emily Kay and her nine-year-old son, Tamahau, have been taken aback by the generosity of people after the pair were almost swept away amid rising floodwaters.

Heading back to Waikino on May 9 after completing food deliveries for their community initiative The Neighborhood Project, Emily and Tamahau were travelling from Waihi along State Highway 2 when they were met with surface flooding.

"We drove through about an hour before and the road was completely dry. We went and delivered all the food and when we came back, the road was like a river," Emily said.

"I watched other vehicles go through and they were all fine, so I started driving and a school bus came the other way. The weight of it pushed all the water high enough for it to go over the bonnet."

Emily said the car came to a stop "in the middle of the torrent" and she could feel the tyres starting to lift. Luckily, two Police vehicles appeared on the scene and the officers - alongside a helpful farmer - pushed Emily's car to higher



Tamahau continues to help his mother, Emily, deliver meals to those in need.

Photo: SUPPLIED

ground.

"It was fortunate that they found us so quickly," she said.

The portion of the state highway where trouble had befallen

the pair runs adjacent to the Ohinemuri River, and the rainfall of May 8 and 9 had also caused flooding and slips in the Karangahake Gorge.



Emily's car is towed after being caught in flood waters.

"It's horrendous, the poverty we've seen in our deliveries... and yet they care so much that they're giving their last little bit of money so that others can eat - it's just such a beautiful thing."

- Emily Kay

Emily and Tamahau were on the road because part of their Neighborhood Project initiative sees them picking up excess food from Waihi College and delivering it to community pantries and groups throughout the town. They've also created Covid-19 recovery packs, family seed packs, and hygiene packages - and their benevolence benefits people of all ages.

CONTINUED ON P3

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Thames Tides

Wed May 24		Thu May 25		Fri May 26		Sat May 27		Sun May 28		Mon May 29		Tue May 30	
Morning	4:07am 0.8	Morning	4:53am 0.9	Morning	5:39am 1.0	Morning	12:15am 3.0	Morning	1:04am 3.0	Morning	1:54am 2.9	Morning	2:44am 2.9
Afternoon	4:20pm 0.7	Afternoon	5:03pm 0.8	Afternoon	5:47pm 0.9	Afternoon	12:40pm 2.9	Afternoon	1:29pm 2.8	Afternoon	2:20pm 2.8	Afternoon	3:16pm 2.8
	10:27am 3.1		10:43pm 3.2		11:11am 3.0		11:28pm 3.1		7:17am 1.0		7:30pm 1.1		8:08am 1.0
	7:16am 5:13pm		7:17am 5:12pm		7:18am 5:12pm		7:18am 5:11pm		7:19am 5:11pm		7:20am 5:10pm		7:20am 5:10pm
	Best At 3:37am 4:02pm		Best At 4:27am 4:51pm		Best At 5:14am 5:37pm		Best At 5:59am 6:20pm		Best At 6:41am 7:02pm		Best At 7:22am 7:43pm		Best At 8:03am 8:24pm
	Rise 11:23am Set 8:46pm		Rise 12:02pm Set 9:47pm		Rise 12:35pm Set 10:47pm		Rise 1:03pm Set 11:47pm		Rise 1:28pm		Set 12:46am Rise 1:51pm		Set 1:44am Rise 2:14pm

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

MOON AND FISH KEYS
 New Moon First Quarter Full Moon Last Quarter
 Good Fishing Fair Fishing Not So Good

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

PLACE	Hr	Min	Hr	Min
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

CONTINUED, FROM P2

“We started The Neighbourhood Project six years ago to honour people in community service. My grandmother, [Jeannie Griffiths], was the St John lady in Waihi for 27 years... and so we started it for her,” Emily said.

“But during the first Covid-19 lockdown, people started ringing us to ask for help. The worse things got with Covid, and with the supermarkets not having food, the more phone calls we were getting.”

But now - with Emily’s beloved Toyota Corolla Spacio needing a new engine, leaving them stranded at home in Waikino - they’ve found themselves watching on as waves of goodwill return to them.

A Givealittle page has been established by two school teachers and has already raised more than \$2450.

A local woman has offered to lend them her car when she goes on holiday, while another raised \$175 by selling baked goods.

Paeroa Towing Services towed her damaged vehicle for free, while Hickson Motors has donated hours of time and energy trying to revive it.

Several others have also volunteered to chauffeur Emily and Tamahau around so they can continue delivering meals to the vulnerable people.



LEFT: Emily Kay and her nine-year-old son Tamahau. The Karangahake Gorge was closed recently due to flooding and slips. File Photo: SHARON KATE MCHARDIE-ROYCROFT

Tamahau being seriously unwell.

“Our community has been so generous and it’s really awkward because I’m not used to receiving,” she said.

“What has happened has revealed the generosity of our community. There are people

who have given us money who are broke - but they know so many people need the meals.

“It’s horrendous,” she said, “the poverty we’ve seen in our deliveries, and knowing that people are struggling and yet they care so much that they’re giving their last little bit of

money so that others can eat - it’s just such a beautiful thing.”

DETAILS: To donate to get Emily and Tamahau back out delivering, visit www.givealittle.co.nz and search for ‘Emily Kay’.



These acts of kindness have made Emily emotional.

She said it’s been a “really hard” couple of months with



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Trust ready to 'make waves' with tourism

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

Enriching and preserving vibrancy in small towns, building relationships with residents, and making sure tourism adds more than just economic value is all part of the plan for Destination Hauraki Coromandel.

The trust - funded by Thames-Coromandel and Hauraki district councils to promote the rohe as a visitor destination - has released its draft management plan.

In it, the trust states its intention to create a "positive future for Hauraki Coromandel, where tourism gives more than it takes".

It has established four plans of action: to work together as a coalition; guide visitation; become net positive; and enrich communities.

It has also listed transformational projects, localised projects, and town projects which will help achieve its vision.

"Most people we asked felt that visitors are good for Hauraki Coromandel, but everyone agreed that tourism must go beyond merely doing no harm," general manager Hadley Dryden said. "It must evolve to give more than it takes - a net positive future for our environment, society, and



Long-term, aspirational projects include a Grahamstown heritage precinct development.

(File Photo)

people."

One of the plan's main goals is to enrich and preserve vibrancy in the district's small towns. To do this, the trust will involve residents in tourism-related decisions and prioritise initiatives that allow the preservation of smalltown charac-

ter.

Long-term, aspirational projects include sports venues/a stadium for Hauraki Coromandel; a Ngatea visitor kiosk and street furniture; and a Grahamstown heritage precinct development.

The trust also wants to

support the development of experiences in the medium-term, such as the Pukorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre, the Paeroa Historical Maritime Park, and mountain bike trails around the rohe [area].

"We listened to how locals really feel about the future of

tourism in their town, and their aspirations for what tourism can become... There were many ideas for work to be done on all scales - region-wide, localised and town-based - but the projects in this plan surfaced time and again," Hadley said. "So that's where we will start, with this plan and these actions."

Hadley and his team are now encouraging people to read the draft management plan and provide feedback through an online survey. He stressed that the power for change lay within locals.

"Consultation is not about making sure everyone gets what they want, and it is not about creating a grand, unworkable, compromise, but we do need your assessment," he said.

"There are many projects that are already funded and underway - the repair and ongoing sustainability of our roads being the giant undertaking. This plan looks beyond what we know and requires us to commit to making decisions that truly lead to change."

DETAILS: To read the plan and provide feedback, visit www.thecoromandel.com and click under the 'Destination Management' tab.



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Cyclone recovery to take ‘many years’

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

Thames-Coromandel District Council is transitioning to its “recovery phase” following eight significant storm events that triggered an emergency response.

The period also saw stress, anxiety, intolerance, blame, and negativity emerge from within the community, but as more repairs and support is seen, council predicts a more positive outlook will soon develop.

Since July, 2022, the Coromandel Peninsula has been battered with heavy wind and rain, causing more than 110 slips, saturated ground conditions, and the loss of a major arterial route.

Cumulative rainfall recorded at the very top of the catchment for January and February totalled 2.5 metres, council said, and its recovery was expected to take “many, many years”.

It will develop a recovery plan which will integrate into council’s overall work programme and provide “the people who live on the Peninsula with clarity, confidence and certainty”.

It will focus on four work streams: thriving businesses; fit for purpose infrastructure; rural and communities support; and the natural environment.

The Recovery Plan is expected to be completed by the end of the month.

Addressing elected members on May 16, council recovery lead Stephen Town, who



Knowing the targeted opening date for State Highway 25A will offer certainty and allow different communities to make easier decisions, council said.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

has been contracted two days a week until the end of the year, presented a progress update.

He said the unusual challenge for council was that it was likely to have more storm events over the next year or two, hampering recovering efforts.

However, he said, certainty

helps. Knowing the targeted opening date for State Highway 25A, for example, would allow different communities to make easier decisions.

“We’re still in a bit of a transition, in my observation, of coming out of the response phase and trying to get really focused

on what we need to do to deliver as part of our recovery.

“If you think about TCDC being a recreational playground for many people... accessways, cycleways, walking tracks... access for recreational opportunities is really important as part of our transport network.”

In the report, council staff said TCDC would likely be in and out of response mode during the winter months, while also being engaged in recovery activities.

It said that, as with all major disasters, a phase of “emotions” would be felt by affected communities, and once the euphoria of the immediate event was over, a steady increase in disillusionment developed.

“This is often accompanied by widespread psychosocial issues - stress, anxiety, intolerance, blame, negativity - which spread quickly across all sectors of a community,” the report said.

However, council was now heading towards the end of the disillusionment phase, and as more repairs, restoration and support was seen, a more positive outlook would develop.

“The resilience of Coromandel communities has been increasingly tested in the last year - some are affected more than others,” the report said.

“Rural and isolated communities are often seen as the most resilient, but they are often the last to recover, and although small in population, require additional support with infrastructure repairs and restoration of services.

“These communities are high priority to install more resilient solutions.”



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Scheme recruits for the next generation

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

Hauraki and Coromandel students were given the chance to experience some hands-on, real world learning, as a rural health organisation kicked off its first round of visits for 2023.

Hauora Taiwhenua is a collective organisation advocating for the health and wellbeing of rural New Zealanders. As part of this aim, it developed a rural health careers promotion programme, to get students interested in working in the rural medical sector.

The volunteer-led programme involved seven tertiary students from across New Zealand, all studying a health-related discipline.

In early May, they spent a week in the Hauraki and Coromandel region, travelling to schools to talk about their studies.

Students at the schools they visited - Hauraki Plains College, Thames High School, Paeroa College, Te Aroha College, Waihi College, Coromandel Area School, Mercury Bay Area School, and Whangamatā Area School - were given the opportunity to talk to the visitors.

"We mainly want to inspire the future generation of healthcare workers to live rurally because of the shortage of healthcare workers we have right now," optometry student Sacha Rodenko said.

The visitors spoke at each school about their day-to-day lives at university and their future career paths, and gave the high schoolers an opportunity to try out some medical equipment - CPR dummies and stethoscopes, eye charts

and reflex hammers.

Physiotherapy student Keegan Grainger said the students had lots of questions, asking what their university course loads would look like and how much hands-on practice they would get during their studies.

"The long term goal is that they go away, become healthcare professionals and come back and help out their rural communities," he said.

Waihi College careers advisor Carolyn Graveson said the rural health careers promotion programme was a vital part of helping students decide their futures.

"It's important to me that our students have equality and equity in terms of finding out about career information, and so a team like this coming out to our school is just amazing," she said.

"City schools have this stuff all the time and we don't."

Carolyn said her students often weren't sure what they would like to do after they left school, so having these programmes gave them a chance to investigate all their options.

Social worker student Cayla McFadden agreed, saying it wasn't always obvious what each career path entailed. "I've had lots of questions, like what is a social worker, what do you do day to day, do you get to travel for work - lots of different things," she said.

"For myself at high school, I didn't really have a full understanding of all the different careers out there. But then learning about them you realise, 'Oh, I could totally be passionate about social work, like that's something I'd really enjoy doing'."



Waihi College students Kate Townsend and Izzie Cannell, both 15, with social worker student Cayla McFadden.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER

The health students emphasised there was help available to those interested in pursuing health careers, especially from rural areas.

"[There are] rural schemes, Māori and Pasifika, there's also disability schemes as well as low-socio economic; there's so many schemes you can apply to and that's just for entrance, that doesn't even apply to the support schemes that follow," they said.

"There's even groups that help you find housing. [We're] just making sure people are aware that there are supports available to them. They are there and they often go unused because people just don't know."



The rural students, from back left: Keegan Grainger, Sasha Rodenko, Liz Drennan, Raukawa Jefferies. Front: Cayla McFadden, Faith DeCourcy, Sascha Vesty.

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Rural Life

Goodwill hunting

More than 40 hunters young and old geared up for a hunting competition to shoot up funds for the Kaihere School parent teacher association. The fundraiser was held between May 12 and 14 with deer, pigs, hares, rabbits, possums, rats, mice and magpies weighed-in by the Thames Valley Deerstalkers Association. Kaihere PTA member Clare Ward said \$1700 was raised and every hunter enjoyed the thrill of the hunt.

RESULTS: Heaviest deer, 84.3 kgs, Sam and Charlotte Harris; best deer antlers, Sam and Charlotte Harris; heaviest pig, 62.6 kgs, Max Skiffington and Graham Carter; best pig tusks, Max Skiffington and Graham Carter; most possums, Ed and Ashley Reynolds with 36; most hares and rabbits, Ed and Ashley Reynolds with 10; most rats and mice, Charlotte Harris with six; and most magpies and peacocks, Clare and Henrietta Ward with 22.



Sam Harris, left, and Charlotte Harris with their champion buck.



TVDA members John Senk, left, and Maureen Coleman measure a wild pig's tusks.

Photos: SUPPLIED



Bowen Wharton brandishes a magpie.



Henrietta Ward with her prizes.



A hog is prepared for weigh-in.



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Rural Life

Hauraki farmers scoop dairy awards

Two Hauraki farmers have taken home second and third place awards at the National Dairy Industry Awards on May 13.

Patetonga-born Aleisha Broomfield was announced the runner-up for the Share Farmer of the Year award and Mangatāwhiri farm manager Finja Philips placed third in the Dairy Manager of the Year category.

Share Farmer category head judge, John Numan, said Aleisha, who is currently a 50-50 herd-owning share milker on an 86 hectare Te Aroha farm, was a “powerhouse”.

“She is full of energy and positivity and is very passionate about helping people,” he said.

Judge Michele Cranfield said Aleisha was “off-the-scale” from a financial perspective.

“She’s made a conscious effort to upskill in an important area and has a phenomenal ability to interpret her financial position,” she said.

“Her appetite for knowledge in all areas is strong, and she has educated herself in multiple areas of farming.”

The judges were also impressed with Aleisha’s desire to ensure clear communication



Patetonga-born Aleisha Broomfield was announced the runner-up for the Share Farmer of the Year award and Mangatāwhiri farm manager Finja Philips placed third in the Dairy Manager of the Year category. Photos: SUPPLIED

and transfer of information and noted she had an excellent understanding of environmental regulations.

Aleisha holds a Bachelor of Agricultural Science with first class honours from Lincoln University and a New Zealand

Diploma in Agri-business. Aleisha also won the DairyNZ People & Culture Award, the Federated Farmers Leader-

ship Award, Trelleborg Business Performance Award, the Meridian Environmental Sustainability Award and more than \$37,000 in total prizes.

The judges in the Dairy Manager of the Year category said Finja Philips, who also won close to \$8,000 in prizes, was an “asset” to the dairy industry.

“She’s very personable and has a great depth of knowledge which she shares with her team,” the judges said.

Head judge Renee Rooney noted Finja “loved” animals from her vet background.

“She really cares for and loves the cows and it’s a priority for her that she has healthy animals who are fed well and have good body condition,” she said.

Judge Janine Swansson also noted Finja had an “excellent understanding of financials”.

“She understands the importance of profitability and the operation and doing things well for her employers, and getting the basics right,” she said.

The judges believed Finja would also be “brilliant” to speak at schools and to groups and would be a “great” dairy industry ambassador.

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New kerbside bins are coming - 1 September

“Word is getting out that there’ll be two new kerbside bins from 1 September.”



New 140 litre landfill ruapara para bin with a pre-paid Pay As You Throw tag. Bins are to be collected fortnightly, replacing the prepaid 60 litre yellow bags.

New food scraps para kai bin to be collected weekly.

How does the pre-paid Pay As You Throw (PAYT) tag work for the landfill ruapara para bin?

The \$8.00 PAYT tag will replace the yellow pre-paid bags.

You’ll need to attach a new tag to the landfill bin each time it is put out for collection. Feed the tag through the handle on the lid.

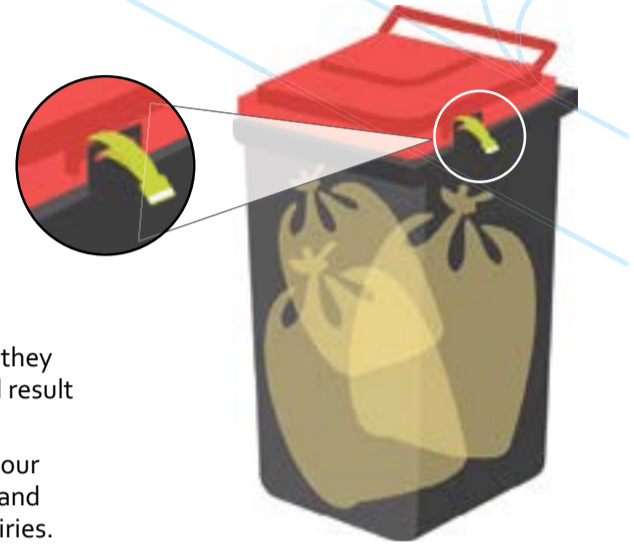
The tags have a built in security feature, so they can’t be copied. Falsifying a PAYT tag could result in a \$200 fine.

The tags will be available to purchase from our Council services centres in Ngātea, Paeroa and Waihi and from some supermarkets and dairies.

What does the \$8.00 fee cover?

The **PAYT tag fee covers** the total cost of waste destined to landfill including its collection, transportation, disposal and government fees (including Government waste levy and emission charges).

The **targeted rate** covers the collection costs associated with the organic, glass and other recycling collected from serviced properties.



The new landfill bin holds the equivalent of two and a third yellow pre-paid bags.

Did you know ?

The bins belong to the property, not the property owner? Every property that receives our kerbside collection is issued with the first set of bins for free.

The bins must stay with the property if you sell up or change rental addresses.

Each month we’re covering more aspects of the new service and answering your most Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). You’ll find all the FAQ’s to date on our website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/rubbish-recycling/kerbside-collections-new



The new food scraps para kai bin has a handle that locks the bin when in the upright position. Place the bin at kerbside with the handle in the upright, locked position.

Countdown to 1 September

February 2022

Waste Management and Minimisation Plan was adopted by Council and a new ten year contract for kerbside collections awarded to Waste Management.

April 2023

New kerbside collection campaign begins.

May 2023

Do’s and Don’ts of recycling; Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for the new service posted on HDC website.

June 2023

New weighbridge at Paeroa Refuse transfer station.

July 2023

Kerbside collection calendars advertised; what goes in food scraps and landfill bins; sign up to new 'Put my Bin Back Service'; Kate Meads school and community workshops.

August 2023

New bins delivered to properties with a booklet explaining the new service and what goes in the bins; current recycling bins retrofitted with RFDI number; Pay As You Throw (PAYT) tags available for sale.

1 September 2023

The new service starts; yellow pre-paid bags will no longer be collected at kerbside, but can be dropped off at the Refuse Transfer Stations until December 2023.

Bin overloading

The new collection service will use state-of-the-art trucks that use an automated ‘arm’ to pick up the bins, so it is really important that your bin lids are securely closed. If your new landfill bin or recycling bin is overloaded, it won’t be emptied.

The automated arm lifts the bin and turns it upside as it empties the contents into the truck. If the bin lid is not closed to begin with, your rubbish and recycling would end up all over the road and we don’t want that.

Another reason your recycling bin may not be emptied is if things are in it that shouldn’t be there. Only clean rigid plastics 1, 2, 5, cardboard, paper, tins and aluminium cans go in your recycling bin.



Did you know ?

The truck driver sits on the left hand side, not the right, like a normal vehicle?

That’s so they’re alongside the bins they’re collecting, for a better, safer kerbside view.



With good recycling practices and food scraps going in your new weekly food scrap para kai bin, you may only need to put your landfill bin out for collection monthly.

New chiefs for Paeroa Fire Station

By GORDON PREECE

The siren has sounded at Paeroa Volunteer Fire Brigade for its newly appointed chief and deputy chief.

Former senior station officer Paul Jackson takes over as chief from the late Bill Rackham, who died in January after 56 years at the Paeroa brigade and 32 years as its chief.

Paul's new deputy, former station manager John Lavery, takes over from 28-year Paeroa Fire veteran Lindsay Hill, who retired from the role at the end of last year.

Paul said he and John, who have a combined total of 62 years in the fire service, had "big shoes to fill" but their new roles were an "exciting time" for the brigade.

"It's going to be a big learning curve for both of us being a bit more in the public eye, but it's an exciting time for us and the brigade," he said.

"[Bill and Lindsay] were two of the most dedicated people I've ever seen... so big shoes to fill, but hopefully we can make them proud.

"Bill kept a lot of it under his own wing so we're learning quite a lot of stuff that we didn't know quite happened because he was so dedicated to the place."

Paul said he and John learned of their appointments in April after interviews with



Newly appointed Paeroa Fire chief Paul Jackson, left, and his new deputy John Lavery.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

Fire and Emergency New Zealand Eastern Waikato group manager Mark Tinworth and Waikato district manager Daryl Trim.

"I think they thought we were the right people for the job after the interviews, we were really the only two who put our names forward for each position but

we still had to go through the process just to make it," he said.

Paul, who is also a Fonterra milk tanker driver, said the focus for him and John in their new roles was sparking more involvement by its 22 registered volunteers.

"Hopefully we can make some changes for the better,

more involvement for the fire-fighters so the responsibilities are not on both of us so we can share the workload around a little bit," he said.

"We've got a good bunch of people here that are dedicated and hopefully we can do the best we can for the community."

In Brief

EMERGENCY ALERT

The emergency mobile alert system will be tested on May 28 between 6-7pm. The alert will be broadcast to all capable phones in New Zealand. The testing allows Civil Defence to evaluate the system, cell towers, and the ability for mobile phones to receive the alert. It also helps to familiarise the public with what an emergency mobile alert looks like. In a real-life emergency situation, an alert may be sent to target areas affected by serious hazards. If you get one, stop, read the message, and take it seriously. It will tell you what the emergency is and what to do.

PAPERS PAST

Archived copies of the Hauraki Plains Gazette (1921-1950) have been added to the Papers Past database. Papers Past is a fully digitised repository of New Zealand and Pacific newspapers, magazines, journals, books and other written media. Hauraki Libraries and Thames Coromandel District Council Libraries members have access to this database. Visit your local library for more information.

MARC DUFFY TO SPEAK

Gr8t Job Hauraki will host Marc Duffy during its Motivation MayDays Aspiration Day from 10am-12:30pm on May 23 at the Paeroa War Memorial Hall. The interactive morning will also include talks by a number of local identities.

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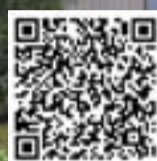
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'Forgotten again': budgeting for recovery

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

The Coromandel has been "forgotten again" in the cyclone recovery announcement during budget week, Coromandel MP Scott Simpson says.

The government's 2023 budget was announced by finance minister Grant Robertson on May 18. It introduced some relief for regions still struggling to recover from a stormy summer, when widespread destruction destroyed roads and communities.

However, Mr Simpson was disappointed with the budget and the \$1 billion cyclone recovery package, which was initially announced on May 14 because the package was almost completely aimed at the east coast of New Zealand.

"I was very disappointed to see nothing specifically allocated to the Coromandel," he said.

"It seems the Coromandel has again been overlooked for the support the region desperately needs.

"Roads are in need of urgent repair. Businesses are struggling, farmers are still cleaning up pasture and local residents are dealing with property damage."

Prime Minister Chris Hipkins said the budget "includes a massive boost to our nation's infrastructure which has been tested during the recent funding and cyclone".

"It is a practical budget that



Budget 2023 includes funding aimed at cyclone recovery, and building future infrastructure resilience. Photo: SUPPLIED/WAKA KOTAHI



Coromandel MP Scott Simpson does the basics well and makes investments where they are needed," he said.

Several rounds of emergency government funding have already been allocated to cyclone-ravaged parts of the North Island earlier this year.

This included a \$250 million top-up to the National Land Transport Programme fund, \$30-40 million of which will

be used to build the bridge over State Highway 25A's slip site, due to be completed in early 2024.

In the budget, additional funding has been allocated to a flood and cyclone recovery package. The package is part of the budget's focus on recovery and resilience, with the government "investing to meet the immediate needs of afflicted regions, including reinstating our roads".

A \$6 billion national resilience plan was included, developed to support investment in infrastructure. The budget summary noted this package "will initially focus on building back better from the recent weather events".

"The North Island weather events have added a level of

BUDGET 2023: WHAT'S INCLUDED

Recovery and resilience

\$6 billion for cyclone rebuild
20 per cent rebate for the game-development sector
Investing in horticulture, digital and tourism resilience
New science and innovation hubs

Cost of living

Extending 20 hours childcare to two year-olds
No \$5 prescription co-payment
Free public transport for under 13s, half price for under 25s
Lower household energy bills through expanded warmer Kiwi homes programme

Service delivery

\$4.9 billion investment in education, including new classrooms and schools

3000 new public housing places
\$1 billion for health, increasing pay and reducing waiting lists
Increasing supply of Māori housing, boosting Whānau Ora, education and Pacific wellbeing and languages

Fiscal sustainability

\$4.8 billion per year new operating package
\$10.7 billion new capital package
\$4 billion reallocated to fund higher priorities like cost of living and core public services
Trustee tax rate increased to 39 per cent
Return to surplus in 2025 or 2026

urgency to our infrastructure investment planning and highlighted the importance of building strong and resilient infrastructure," Mr Robertson said.

"It was unacceptable that basic lifeline services like telecommunications, power and transport links were knocked out for so long. It identified a serious

basic infrastructure problem that this investment will help to fix."

A \$100 million package was also included in the budget to help councils invest in future flood resilience.



Book fair set to raise funds

A team of Waihi Lions are well underway with their plans for this year's Book Fair, which will be held over King's Birthday weekend.

A spokesperson said most books would be on sale at \$2 per book, which represented "tremendous value given the quality of the books we generally handle".

"Get your fill of fiction, non-fiction, young adults and children's books. Jigsaws will be available at \$4 a puzzle."

A specialist table of collectable books at varying prices will also be included.

"The Waihi Lions Book Fair

has proven to be a very popular event over recent years and has attracted book lovers from outside the region as well as being very well supported by locals.

"Many regulars arrive well prepared with their bags ready for filling."

All proceeds from the Waihi Lions Book Fair go back into the community.

Committee member Doug Longdill was urging all those who might have spare books to donate to start sorting them now.

"We urge all prospective donors to start their sorting and saving activity," he said.

Books, DVDs, jigsaws and puzzles can be dropped off at BP Connect, Mobil Seddon St, Waihi Beach Home Hardware and Caltex Paeroa until May 29. "Last year the 'first pick' Friday from 5pm to 7pm at \$5 per book proved a very popular innovation, so we are repeating this format again this year," he said. "Waihi Lions Club looks forward to welcoming you to this event."

DETAILS: The book fair will be held in the Waihi Memorial Hall in Seddon St on June 2 from 5pm to 7pm, on Saturday, June 3, from 9am to 4pm, and on Sunday, June 4, from 10am to 2pm.



Proceeds from the Book Fair go back into the community. (File photo)

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Pretty in Pink

A Pink Ribbon luncheon was held at Paeroa's former racecourse on May 17 to support the Breast Cancer Foundation. Around 80 people attended the event with some who were pretty in pink for the occasion. — was raised to support breast cancer patients. Reporter **GORDON PREECE** headed along to capture the event.



Jenny Cox, left, Jeanne McNair, and Pauline Moore.

Photos: GORDON PREECE



Marcia Grainger, and her pink unicorn daughter Michelle Grainger.



Christine Mackenzie, left, and Shirley Wilson.



Kathy Bland and Noeline Posselt.



Robin and Craig Moore toast their day.



Rosalie Howard, left, and Julie Walsh.

Scott Simpson

MP for Coromandel

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A fear that was never my own

OPINION



By MICHAEL WILKES

I always used to love movies like *Indiana Jones* or *National Treasure*. They would find themselves in some ancient ruin or dark cave. Tear off a piece of cloth from their shirt, wrap it around a stick, and venture into the cave with the burning torch in hand. I always wanted the opportunity to try this. And so one day with two students we did exactly that.

We found a cave to explore, grabbed the perfect sticks to fit each of our hands, wrapped rags around the sticks, dipped them in kerosene, and lit them alight. We felt like *Raiders of the Lost Ark*... Well at least I did.

As we stepped into the mouth of the cave, I was suddenly aware of the gap between Hollywood and reality. Smoke quickly filled the cave and we had to crouch to stay below the smoke. Turns out the cave ceiling was littered with cave wētā who did not like the smoke either. They began to drop like

rain all around us.

The boys were feeling the fear before we even entered the cave, so as you can imagine a smoke-filled cavern with wētā raining down on us did not inspire confidence. The boys exited the cave in a flash, with no desire to return. With flashlight in hand and no more smoke to worry about they returned with me to the mouth of the cave. But no further. There was no way they were going to walk under the canopy of disturbed wētā overhead. So I stepped forward, gallant warrior ready to prove their fears irrational.

But there is something funny that happens when we are surrounded by strong emotions - we can take on the feelings of those around us. I began to feel nervous as I tried to make a point.

"These wētā are more afraid of us than we are of them."

So I moved my face close to one to show the boys how it would simply scurry away. Instead of doing as I expected it jumped onto my face! I screamed, the boys panicked and ran, and hot on their heels was me, swatting the wētā off my face.

The irony is I have no fear of wētā. I would hold one in my hand without much concern. Yet I share this story because it is a great example of how strong emotions can breed much of the same. When surrounded by joy, we can feel joy. When surrounded by anger, we can feel anger. When surrounded by fear, we can feel fear. And so it



Thames High School was one of many local institutions who participated in the annual Pink Shirt Day event on May 19. The day, which was hosted by the Mental Health Foundation, was about reducing bullying by celebrating diversity and supporting schools, workplaces, and communities to be safe, supportive, welcoming, and inclusive. The school raised \$150 and 235 students and staff formed a sea of pink for a bird's eye view drone photo. Photo: SUPPLIED

is when a student finds themselves surrounded by peers who are anxious, some will begin to feel anxious without truly knowing why.

We are strangely connected in this way. Our heart rate can increase when watching a runner race, or stomach turn to knots when some else sniffs a disgusting food, our spirit saddened when someone else cries.

I share this as a point to remember.

Empathy is a great ally when we are aware it is there, however when we take on the emotions of others around us without realising they are not our own, we can become enmeshed. Tangled in the emotions of those around us.

In my line of work, it is an easy mistake to make and one that often happens with young people.

Or maybe it happens with you. If you can relate to this, it can be

super helpful to take a moment to ask the question, "what has caused this feeling in me".

As you reflect, you may realise you are carrying someone else's burden. And once you name it, you can release it. And once you release it, you can help the other person without their burden pulling you down.

- Michael Wilkes is a Living Well Trust Youth Worker

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Housing market remains steady

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

While a cost of living crisis may be on buyers' minds when looking to purchase a new home, it hasn't impacted greatly on sales in the Hauraki, a local realtor has said.

Instead, the main influence on the market that agents have seen has been the increase of the number of properties available, and buyers taking more time to commit to a property.

Richardsons Real Estate Paeroa and Ngatea branch manager Rhys Carmichael told *The Profile* that since the beginning of the year, he and his team have seen the number of sales remain steady - and in a lot of towns, increase.

"Especially with properties priced under \$650,000," he said.

"We have seen a lot of enquiry from first home buyers and retirees looking to downsize, and this is consistent with the price category we are seeing being the most active.

"While the higher-end properties are taking longer to sell than those priced below \$650,000, we are still receiving genuine enquiry on these properties, but are also more likely to have agreements conditional on the sale of a property out of the area."

Rhys said while the Cost of Living Crisis was a factor people



A realtor says since the beginning of the year, the number of sales have remained steady - and in a lot of towns, sales have increased. (File Photo)

ple were being mindful of when looking to purchase, it was not the main contributing factor to the change in the market.

However, he was continuing to see banks being cautious when lending, in order to ensure buyers' affordability.

Also, buyers and their advisers were being more critical of properties to make sure it was "100 per cent the right property for them", he said.

On the Richardsons Real Estate website, there were 14 properties listed in Paeroa and 27 properties listed for the Hauraki Plains, which included Ngatea, Kerepēhi, and Turua.

A three-bedroom, 632m2 was for sale in Kerepēhi for \$440,000; while in Paeroa, a three-bedroom, 506m2 partially-redecorated villa was on the market for \$435,000.

There were only three properties with prices above \$650,000 in Paeroa, and 17 houses above

\$650,000 in Hauraki.

Rhys reminded buyers to talk to their local agent about the market and the true value of a property, as digital price guides on websites were only "vague indications" and often did not take into account the full detail of a specific property. "Which in some situations, leaves these 'estimated values' being unsubstantiated and providing buyers with false opinions of the value of the property," he said.

New hours for Treasury

Hauraki-Coromandel research centre and archive The Treasury will now open on Saturdays.

The Treasury's purpose is to collect, care for and share the diverse historical paper-based records of the whole Coromandel Peninsula and Hauraki District.

Visitors are able to explore collections, see exhibitions, research the history of an area or people, read real life experiences of people past, buy books and look at the Heritage building interior.

General manager Katherine Quinn said opening on Saturdays was a game changer.

"Our customers have been telling us for some time that they want to be able to visit our centre outside of the 9-5 working hours.

"It's really important to us that we make access to our services very easy for everyone," she said.

"We've already made huge improvements to our online offerings, and our archival catalogue will be launched online in June."

The centre was heavily supported by volunteers but it was only through a recent successful application to the Ministry of Cultural Heritage that it could now pay a staff member to welcome visitors, she said.

"Without such generous funding, we wouldn't be able to open, but we are still looking for Saturday volunteers to join our team to help our visitors do research.

DETAILS: The Treasury is now open Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays, 11am to 3pm; Saturdays, 10am to 2pm.

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Farmer pinned by large rimu tree



As part of a Valley Profile series, **MEGHAN HAWKES** explores our local history by seeking out stories of life and death in the Thames Valley

Emmerick 'Bill' Potoky had trees to fell in the bush on his Patetonga property to block cattle from getting through. He headed out around 9am on a Friday in June 1924 leaving John Millington, his sharemilker, and his mate, James Costello, at the house.

Bill, of Romanian descent, was a single 55 year old successful and experienced farmer and when he didn't come back after several hours John and James became anxious and went in search of him. About one and a half miles from the house they were horrified to discover him pinned under a large rimu tree.

Bill was conscious, and told John to send James back for a spade to dig him out. Eventually the two men succeeded in freeing Bill. He was alert most of the time, but when his mates extracted him from under the tree he collapsed and died before help arrived to carry him out.

An inquest found that death was due to accidental causes. Bill's funeral took place at Patetonga and



Rimu trees in New Zealand bush.

Photo: SUPPLIED

was attended by the whole community who held him in the greatest respect. He was understood to have two sisters in the Auckland district, but their addresses were unknown and an advertisement in the *NZ Herald* asked that they come forward.

The two sisters were Bill's only surviving siblings in a family of eight children. Their Hungarian father, Francis, was a military man who came to New Zealand around 1863, joining the 3rd Waikato Militia during the

Māori Land Wars. Two years later he was joined by his wife Harriet and a daughter. The family settled in Ōpōtiki where he worked as a tailor and several more children were born. One of the daughters, Isabella, was a talented musician regularly charming Ōpōtiki audiences. She married at the age of 16 but this family happiness was overshadowed a year later by the death of two of her little sisters from diphtheria.

The family stability began to disintegrate further when Fran-

cis, who had brought 102 acres at Puhoi, north of Auckland, was declared destitute in 1879. The Potoky's then washed up in Auckland where 9 year old Bill and his 7 year old brother Edmund were sent to an Industrial school as neglected children. Industrial schools provided shelter, food and clothing for children who were also taught to read and work but this homely appearance often masked a sadder reality. Bill's brother Edmund was hungry and he and others often absconded to steal orchard fruit. Called 'Straying lambs' in one newspaper report, the boys were punished with flogging or short term imprisonment. Despite this Edmund was bright and often commended for scholarly excellence.

In 1883 the Potoky's, now living in Avondale, had another son who only survived a few weeks and the next 10 years dealt further blows to the family. Edmund, the once clever little boy, ended up in the Wairarapa where at the age of 19 he committed suicide. Francis left Harriet and went to Australia where he died 1893.

Bill appears to have moved quietly on from his earlier troubled life and found security. He moved to Waikaka Rd, Patetonga, as one of the first European settlers in 1905 when he was 36. In the intervening years Bill's mother and two more sisters died, but the neglected little boy had done well. His past life never tripped him up but in the end Bill was caught by a supplejack vine - as the rimu tree came down he tried to jump clear, but the vine threw him back under the falling tree.

Harp concert

Islands in the North Atlantic, like Tory Island - the Irish island of legend and myth, the Hebrides in the Northwest of Scotland, and the Shetlands - are the places where Berlin-based harpist and photographer Thomas Loeffke spends a considerable amount of time every year to compose music.

On Sunday, June 11 at 2:30pm, Thomas will entertain at the Kauaeranga Hall with a harp concert, accompanied by a slideshow of some of his dramatic photos - coastal landscapes, the wide open space of the Atlantic ocean, and the rich wildlife of the North Atlantic.

Thomas' music gives expression to the sounds of the Celtic Middle Ages, the lively dances of Irish folk music, along with his own original compositions.

Thomas learnt his trade in Dublin from Ireland's leading harp players - Máire Ní Cháthasaigh, Helen Davies, Jeanette Harbison and Aine Ní Dhúill. Since 1984 he has been playing professionally and has won several international prizes.

"People are listening to quiet haunting music again," Thomas said. "It's amazing how the sound of the harp takes the speed out of everyday life and brings you back to a sort of tingling slowness."



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Career day held in Paeroa

Students and job hunters flocked to Paeroa War Memorial Hall for the Gr8 Job Hauraki Career Day on May 12. Around 15 exhibitors from universities, polytechnics, emergency services, the defence force, and local businesses were stationed at the hall poised to present study and career opportunities. *Valley Profile* reporter **GORDON PREECE** headed along to capture the event.



Paeroa College students Skye de Thierry, left, Georgia Major, Kaeleigh Wickliffe, and Shaniya Nand.

Photos: GORDON PREECE



HDC human resources manager Georgina Whittenham.



Paeroa College year 11 student Alex Cryer controls a virtual reality headset.



Gr8 Job Hauraki staff Julie Stephenson, left, and Lyn Randall.



McDonald's staff Nathan Withers, left, James Hughes, and Simon Gay.



Paeroa St John's Aakash Shah, left, and Sam Anderton.



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Garrett, Rodney:
Family and friends are invited to the unveiling of Rodney Garrett, Saturday 10th of June 2023, 2pm at the Kerepehi Urupa. Followed by afternoon tea at the Kerepehi Bowling Club.

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Public Notice

Thames Community Cancer Support Inc AGM
Wednesday June 21st 2023 @ 5pm
Thames Croquet Rooms 101 Beach Rd, Thames. All welcome

Public Notice

Nga Motu Aroha Ahu Whenua Trust
Annual General Meeting
Venue: Paeroa Scout Hall
Address: Wood Street, Paeroa.

Date: 27 May 2023
9am Owner Registration
10am: Meeting Begins
Agenda:

Reports, Financial, Ratification Trust Deed, Election New Trustees

Further information on Nga Motu Aroha Facebook.

Contact : Secretary. Tapi Caldwell 0278627792

Email: tapicaldwell@gmail.com

RSVP: by 17 May 2023 for catering purposes.

Public Notice

Serviceworx is advertising intent to sell 1990 Mitsubishi Pajero – PT213 due to no contact and abandonment of property since February 2022 with a debt of \$1,000.

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"The paper that is being read" Contact Nikki - 022 130 3885

SPORTS REPORTS

We welcome your sports reports and photos - email: editor@valleyprofile.co.nz

Athletics stars

Paeroa Amateur Athletics Club held its prizegiving at the Paeroa College hall on May 10 for its members who competed during the 2022-2023 season. A brief presentation of the previous season's awards was also held, as well as acknowledgement of members who competed in the 2022-23 Colgate Games and 2023 Waikato Champs.



Rylee Sayer won athlete with a disability and most committed athlete awards.



Paeroa Amateur Athletics Club members gather for a special night of celebration.

Photos: SUPPLIED



Jesse Thompson, left, received club awards for most track points and highest overall points for boys between ages five and seven years, and Lane Crawford received most improved athlete (jointly awarded to Mahalia Thompson).



Rylee Sayer, left, won most outstanding girl, and Liam Rawnley won most outstanding boy.



Kaelee Ferguson received the under five sportsmanship award.

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Thames Valley Club Rugby

SENIOR A Saturday May 27th

Waihi	V	Whangamata
Te Aroha COBRAS	V	Paeroa
Mercury Bay	V	Thames
Hauraki North	V	Waihou



All Senior A games start at 2.35pm (unless stated)

Teams named first indicate home team



**Rugby United Under 21s V Hamilton Old Boys at Willoughby Park
1.00pm on Saturday 27th May**

SENIOR B

Te Aroha COBRAS	V	Ngatea	Sat May 27th	1.00pm
Hauraki North	V	Waihou	Sat May 27th	1.00pm
Tairua	V	Whangamata	Sat May 27th	1.00pm

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SUDOKU

101

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

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

EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

HARD

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

MEDIUM

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

EASY

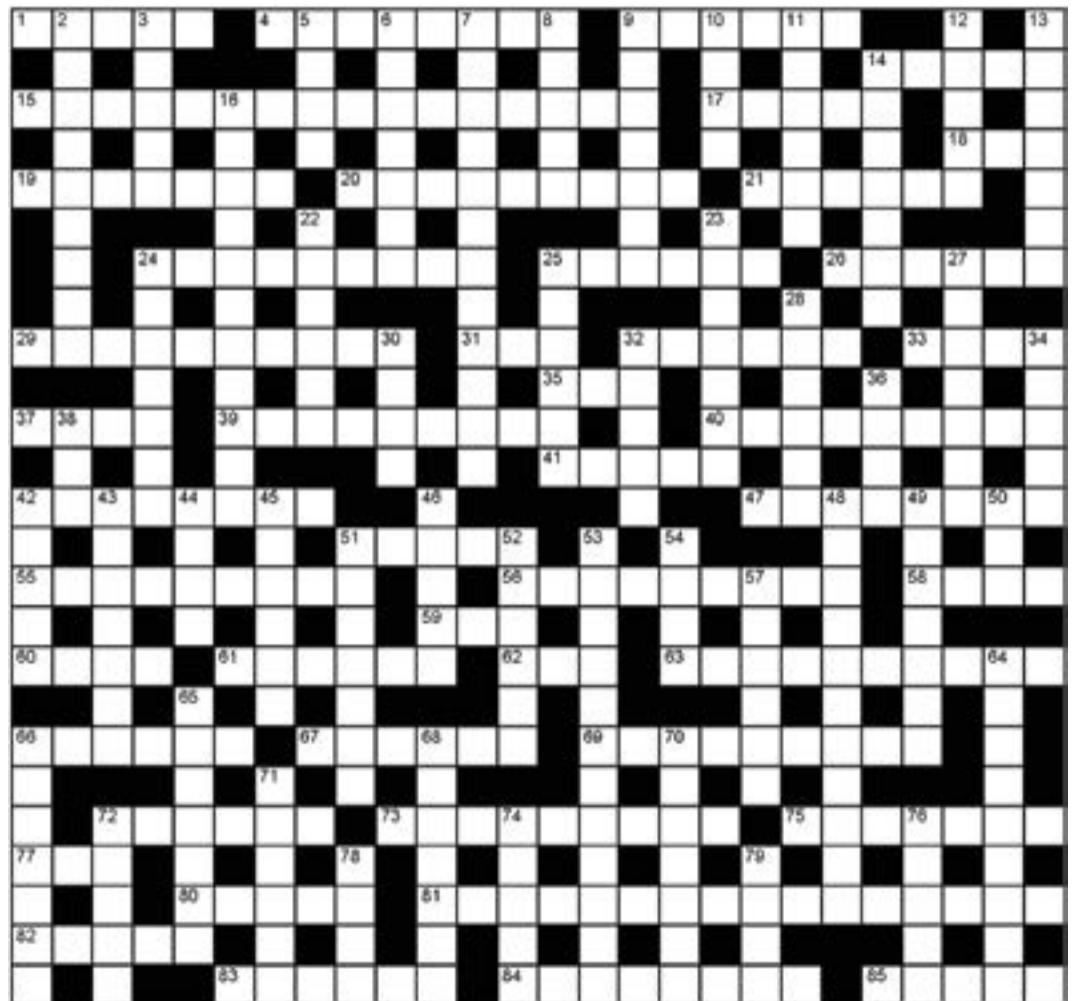
6	5	3	9	7	2	4	8	1
1	8	4	6	5	3	9	2	7
2	9	7	4	8	1	5	3	6
4	7	6	3	2	9	8	1	5
5	3	2	8	1	4	6	7	9
9	1	8	7	6	5	2	4	3
3	6	9	2	4	7	1	5	8
7	4	5	1	9	8	3	6	2
8	2	1	5	3	6	7	9	4

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JUMBO CROSSWORD

121

- ACROSS**
- 1 Bisect (5)
 - 4 "The boy who never grew up" (5,3)
 - 9 Struggle against (6)
 - 14 Core (5)
 - 15 Following soon after (4,2,3,5,2)
 - 17 Throttle (5)
 - 18 Age (3)
 - 19 Horseback soldiers (7)
 - 20 Writing untidily (9)
 - 21 Rubble (6)
 - 24 The common people (3,6)
 - 25 Steering board (6)
 - 26 Taste (6)
 - 29 Rock studiers (10)
 - 31 Insect (3)
 - 32 Cup-shaped sweet spongy cake (6)
 - 33 Second Greek letter (4)
 - 35 Mined mineral (3)
 - 37 Wind blast (4)
 - 39 In neutral (3,2,4)
 - 40 Trickery (9)
 - 41 Embezzlement (5)
 - 42 Stay of execution (8)
 - 47 Squeeze (8)
 - 51 Impudence (5)
 - 55 Pinball game (9)
 - 56 Makes queasy (9)
 - 58 Ditty (4)
 - 59 Frozen water (3)
 - 60 Require (4)
 - 61 Breathed quickly (6)
 - 62 Donkey (3)
 - 63 Fussy (10)
 - 66 Well again (6)
 - 67 Last exams (6)
 - 69 Multiplied (9)
 - 72 Drawing (6)
 - 73 Keeping (9)
 - 75 Strong distilled liquor (7)
 - 77 Share (3)
 - 80 Perfect (5)
 - 81 Hide; make secret (4,1,7,4)
 - 82 Tie up (5)
 - 83 Completely lacking (6)
 - 84 Ascertain, verify (4,4)
 - 85 Declare (5)
- DOWN**
- 2 Ski resort danger (9)
 - 3 Alcoholic drink (5)
 - 5 Sound repeat (4)
 - 6 Morally correct (7)
 - 7 Beat about the bush (12)
 - 8 Of the nose (5)
 - 9 Purified (7)
 - 10 Ill (4)
 - 11 Digging tool (6)
 - 12 Feels concern (5)
 - 13 Queer (7)
 - 14 Gossip (7)
 - 16 Accommodation for elderly (7,4)
 - 22 Girdle (6)
 - 23 Remove all faults from (7)
 - 24 Gun pouch (7)
 - 25 Distilling apparatus (6)
 - 27 Go before (7)
 - 28 Sex drive (6)
 - 30 Strongbox (4)
 - 32 Measuring device (5)
 - 34 Deep chasm (5)
 - 36 Twist out of shape (4)
 - 38 Application (3)
 - 42 Small bird (5)
 - 43 Colouring agent (7)
 - 44 To the interior (4)
 - 45 Gross (6)
 - 46 Lukewarm (5)
 - 48 American river (11)
 - 49 Saved from danger (7)
 - 50 Male child (3)
 - 51 Sure (7)
 - 52 Mixes by pressing (6)
 - 53 Punctuation symbol (8,4)
 - 54 Assistance (4)
 - 57 Christmas bird (6)
 - 64 Flat (9)
 - 65 Origin (7)
 - 66 Withdraw trade from (7)
 - 68 Modified for the better (7)
 - 70 Expresses agreement (7)
 - 71 Plot (6)
 - 72 Structural support (5)
 - 74 Warning device (5)
 - 76 Perch (5)
 - 78 Too (4)
 - 79 Mix up (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Sauté, 4 Over my dead body, 11 Molar, 14 Apart, 15 Merchandise, 16 Ladybird, 19 Maestro, 20 Guile, 21 Declining, 24 Alienated, 26 Busker, 27 Caries, 31 Banal, 32 Figurine, 34 Microscope, 37 Asp, 39 Uranium, 40 Shrink, 41 Outfit, 42 Idea, 43 Startle, 46 Gregarious, 51 Enlarge, 55 Rips, 56 Joined, 57 Astute, 58 Codicil, 60 Yam, 62 Bootlegger, 63 Abnormal, 64 Eager, 67 Starve, 68 Infant, 69 Truncated, 74 Gratitude, 75 Trick, 76 Caution, 81 Obedient, 82 Acquisition. 83 Ditto. 84 Shock. 85 As happy as a lark. 86 Fever.

DOWN: 2 Appear, 3 Turns, 5 View, 6 Recluse, 7 Yearly, 8 Ends, 9 Disperse, 10 Years, 11 Mayonnaise, 12 Lair, 13 Riddles, 17 Brief, 18 Alleviates, 22 Habit, 23 Disorder, 25 Learner, 26 Breaker, 28 Garret, 29 Siding, 30 Praise, 33 Usher, 35 Evade, 36 Pull, 38 Polo, 43 Shrub, 44 Approval, 45 Enough, 46 Gingernuts, 47 Eddy, 48 Adamant, 49 Intone, 50 Utter, 52 Nook, 53 Agitate, 54 Glider, 59 Clever Dick, 61 Taint, 65 Handicap, 66 Fatal, 67 Summons, 70 Recital, 71 Stanza. 72 Crisis. 73 Soothe. 77 Twine. 78 Memo. 79 Rubv. 80 Sour.

SPORTS

‘Bladerunner’ inspires Paeroa students

By GORDON PREECE

Two-time paralympic gold medalist Liam Malone gave a motivational wellbeing talk at Paeroa College on May 16 to inspire its students and staff to achieve their goals.

The retired New Zealand para athlete, who was nicknamed the bladerunner in his prime, told the college he faced many challenges growing up as a double amputee en route to the world stage.

He said sports weren't enjoyable due to his disability and he was unmotivated in school.

"When I was 16, I was living in a small town in New Zealand, and I had no idea what I was going to do with my life. I was getting into trouble, and most people thought I didn't have a huge future ahead of me," he told the crowd.

"I'm sure there's some of you who are in certain scenarios or positions for whatever reason and you have had people telling you that the world is against your limit.

"I would be very careful about buying into what those people say regardless of whether or not the world is against you, and sometimes it may be. Just go against it anyway and do what you want to do - it never helps to cave into



Retired paralympian Liam Malone encouraged a Paeroa College audience to stick to their goals for an extended time to realise their potential. Photo: GORDON PREECE

the negative."

Mr Malone said after leaving school, he had stints as a fruit picker and forklift driver before pursuing a business degree at the University of Canterbury.

He said he developed a binge drinking habit during that time and made "pretty average" decisions.

"I didn't feel like I had any

dreams or anything to aspire to, so I decided I would turn that all around," he said.

Mr Malone said one of his friends suggested he compete at the Paralympics, and after raising \$50,000 for running blades and moving to Wellington for better training facilities, the media questioned him after his heavy world championship

loss nine months before the Paralympics.

"In the next nine months, I built around improving on the blades and improving my body and I was able to drop another two seconds. That made me the fastest blade runner on earth and got me to the Paralympics - with the world's worst haircut," he said.

"What I did learn from going to the Paralympics was that it's very difficult to forecast your own capabilities. It's easy to try and do things for about a month and feel like you're not making progress and then give up and not realise your potential.

"So what I would encourage all of you to do, regardless of what that goal is, is stick at something for an extended period of time and just do that thing over and over."

Mr Malone also shared advice for students pursuing tertiary study.

"One of the most important decisions that you're going to have to make is what area of life you decide to compete in, and one of the things I would recommend to all of you is to move cities, go somewhere that's filled with optimism," he said.

"The reason why the paralympics made so much sense to me while I was at university was because there aren't that many people with no legs who make it to the paralympics - most of them get bogged down in life and they're never willing to take that next step.

"So choosing the right things to compete in throughout life is going to be extremely important."

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