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# 'I needed help'

A Thames man had to find his own way to hospital after pressing his medical alarm despite being in 'terrible pain'. GORDON PREECE reports

Thames pensioner Bill Malcolm was left in "terrible" pain while waiting for St John to respond after he pressed his medical alarm.

The 82-year-old, who suffers from multiple health problems, including diabetes and heart issues, has had a St John medical alarm for around 25 years.

He told *The Profile* he was at his home on the evening of May 15 when he began to experience pain "as if someone stabbed a knife in you" and breathing difficulties from a blocked catheter.

He said he pressed his medical alarm at around 9pm, which connected him to the St John call centre, and was told by St John they were "too busy" to dispatch medical staff and instead asked if Bill could get himself to hospital.

"I pushed [the medical alarm] three times because they kept cutting me off and still nothing, and I tried to explain to them I live alone, and

I needed help," he said.

"Then I had to struggle out there to get to my truck and then drive to ED... I was lucky I got there because the pain was so great."

According to the Ministry of Health, a catheter blockage must be dealt with immediately, as it can quickly become "very painful" and "potentially dangerous".

Around 10:15pm, when Bill was at Thames Hospital, he received a call from St John to ask of his whereabouts as staff were at his house to respond to his situation.

"They rang me and said, 'oh



Bill Malcolm has had a St John medical alarm for around 25 years.

Photos: GORDON PREECE



CONTINUED ON P2

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The Valley Profile is delivered weekly to letterboxes in the Hauraki Plains, Paeroa, Waihi, Thames, Thames Coast, plus bulk distribution peninsula-wide.

Our focus is 100% local community news.

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Last issue it was in the Paeroa Auto Electrical ad.

# Concerns over alarm response

CONTINUED FROM P1

we can't find you, you ain't home', and I said that's because I'm at the hospital, and I turned around and said 'you fellas are useless,' he said.

Bill said he was discharged on May 16 and on the same day attempted to take his complaint to St John Thames.

"I rang St John [in Thames] and asked to speak to the manager and you can't get him straight through, you've got to go through the channels," he said.

"So I said here's my phone number and get [the manager] to ring me, and I am still waiting today."

Bill said this wasn't the first time St John had failed to respond to his medical alarm. He pressed it in 2020 when he also experienced extreme pain from a blocked catheter. "At that time I rung my cousin that was around in Fenton St, not far from where I lived in Mackay St, and she had to walk around to my place to drive me to the hospital," he said.

Bill believed the issue was staff shortages at St John. "There's a half a dozen ambulances sitting in the yard [at St John Thames], they haven't got anybody to drive them, you've got a first responder and he should come and check when you get an urgent call," he said.

"This is the second time I've pressed the alarm and I'm not getting any service, so I feel the rest of New Zealand should know what St Johns are doing... refusing people when they pay them for [a medical alarm]."

Bill said his medical alarm cost \$31.50 a fortnight, which was funded through Work and Income.



Bill Malcom says he's concerned about the level service he pays for at St John.

Photo: GORDON PPRECE

Hato Hone St John head of telcare Nick Coley said a medical alarm was activated from Bill's address one minute to 9pm on May 15, when an emergency call handler assessed his symptoms as "non-urgent".

"At 9:08pm, an emergency nurse reviewed the incident and noted that whilst Mr Malcolm did not require an urgent response, an ambulance should be sent," he said.

"Another medical alarm activation was received from Mr Malcolm at 9:27pm. At 10:05pm, the next available ambulance was dispatched, arriving at Mr Malcolm's address at 10:15pm but he was not at home.

"We are sorry that Mr Malcolm was in pain while he waited for an ambulance. We have investigated his concerns and have found that

the medical alarm activation was appropriately prioritised, and that the next available ambulance was dispatched as soon as possible."

St John did not respond to questions about whether staff shortages were the cause of the delayed response when patients activated medical alarms.

In a letter to Bill, St John general manager clinical effectiveness Jon Moores said he was "sorry to hear that you were waiting, in pain, for an ambulance".

"I acknowledge that our previous response to you on 15 May, 2020, advised of 'implementing an additional process to facilitate appropriate ambulance dispatch for patient's experiencing high levels of pain'," he said.

"Since that time, we have continued to progress this focus on reduced waiting times."

# Burglary arrests made

Four youths were arrested in Hamilton on June 3, after a crime spree which began on Thames' Pollen St.

Police were notified of the first burglary at a commercial premises on Pollen St at about 2:35am. A stolen vehicle was used to gain access to the store.

At about 3:25am police were notified of a burglary of a service station in Patetonga and a short time later a burglary at another service station in Tahuna was reported. Police units located the offenders' vehicle acting suspiciously near a commercial premises in Morrinsville. It was signalled to stop but fled towards Hamilton. Police followed the vehicle at a distance.

The vehicle was later spiked and eventually came to a stop in Hamilton. The youths, aged between 15 and 17, were arrested and appeared in the Hamilton Youth Court on charges of burglary and unlawful taking.

Meanwhile, a stolen e-bike was recovered within 24 hours after photos of the alleged thief were shared on social media.

The bicycle was taken from Whangamatā Area School on May 30. Police said they found the bike at the suspect's address after clear photos of him were shared on social media. The man was taken into custody, and the bike returned to its owner.

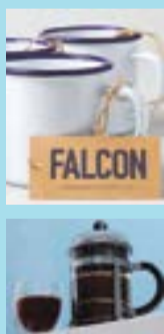
"This is a perfect example of our community standing up and not accepting crime in our neighbourhood," Whitianga police constable Worthington said.



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# Thames Tides

Wed Jun 14	Thu Jun 15	Fri Jun 16	Sat Jun 17	Sun Jun 18	Mon Jun 19	Tue Jun 20
 Morning: 3:30am 3.3, 4:04pm 3.2 Afternoon: 9:42am 0.6, 10:18pm 0.8 Sunrise: 7:29am 5:07pm Best At: 8:46am 9:10pm Rise: 3:09am, Set: 2:16pm	 Morning: 4:25am 3.3, 5:04pm 3.2 Afternoon: 10:39am 0.6, 11:12pm 0.8 Sunrise: 7:29am 5:07pm Best At: 9:34am 9:58pm Rise: 4:15am, Set: 2:46pm	 Morning: 5:19am 3.2, 5:58pm 3.3 Afternoon: 11:32am 0.6 Sunrise: 7:30am 5:07pm Best At: 10:23am 10:49pm Rise: 5:22am, Set: 3:20pm	 Morning: 12:02am 0.8, 12:22pm 0.6 Afternoon: 6:12am 3.2, 6:47pm 3.3 Sunrise: 7:30am 5:07pm Best At: 11:15am 11:42pm Rise: 6:28am, Set: 3:59pm	 Morning: 7:02am 3.2, 7:32pm 3.3 Afternoon: 12:08pm Sunrise: 7:30am 5:07pm Best At: 12:08pm New Moon Rise: 7:30am, Set: 4:45pm	 Morning: 1:34am 0.8, 1:52pm 0.6 Afternoon: 7:51am 3.1, 8:14pm 3.3 Sunrise: 7:31am 5:08pm Best At: 12:35am 1:02pm Rise: 8:28am, Set: 5:37pm	 Morning: 2:17am 0.8, 2:34pm 0.6 Afternoon: 8:37am 3.1, 8:55pm 3.3 Sunrise: 7:31am 5:08pm Best At: 1:28am 1:55pm Rise: 9:17am, Set: 6:35pm

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

#### MOON AND FISH KEYS



#### TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES

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

PLACE	Hr	HIGH Mm	LOW Mm
Coromandel	-0	04	-0 04
Whitianga	-0	01	-0 05
Tairua	+0	10	+0 21
Whangamata	-0	03	-0 05
Waihi Beach	-0	12	-0 12

# Ongoing cemetery desecration appals

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

Waihi's ongoing vandalism problem took a disrespectful turn on Friday afternoon.

Several graves in Waihi Cemetery's RSA Gardens were damaged, with mementos smashed, flowerpots overturned and debris strewn across the grass, with the damage centred around plot 62. No plaques were stolen.

"It's hard to find the words to convey the disbelief, distress and anger this shameful act of vandalism at the Waihi Cemetery will cause to the families affected, our staff, who take pride in maintaining this place of rest and the families who visit to pay their respects," the Hauraki District Council said in a post on their Facebook page.

"While we'll work quickly to gather up and save what we can, and identify the families affected, we wanted to let the community know in case you have a precious momento you'd like to remove to keep safe while we investigate this distressing event."

Hundreds of people commented on the post, sharing their disgust at the graves' desecration. Several were family members of those interred,



Several graves in Waihi Cemetery's RSA Gardens were damaged last week.



Photo: SUPPLIED/HDC

and they were appalled at the lack of respect.

Hauraki mayor Toby Adams told *The Profile* he was "immensely disappointed" in the actions of the perpetrators.

"It's really hard to know what goes through someone's head to be able to do that to a site like that, it just blows my mind," he said. "We've had a lot of vandals in and around the district and a lot in Waihi at the moment."

Vandalism has been an ongoing issue at Waihi Cemetery.

In November of 2021, *The Profile* reported the theft of more than a dozen bronze plaques from servicemen's graves, with scrap metal dealers across the country being asked to keep an eye out for the stolen goods.

Elsewhere in the district, the toilet block on Waihi's Haszard St was set ablaze in April, caus-

ing \$10,000 in damage. Last year, the toilet block at Waihi Cemetery was also targeted.

Waihi Cemetery has regular security patrols and gates are locked to vehicles at 8pm. Some people on social media have called for security cameras to be installed at the cemetery, but Mayor Adams said it wouldn't solve the issue.

"We can't have the whole place covered in cameras,

and whilst cameras may have helped see who it is, it may not have either," he said.

"Cameras don't stop people doing stupid things like that. And people need to be able to go to a space like that and not feel like they're being watched either, when they're going to sit with their families and what-not. So it's a really tricky one."



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# Hauraki district pensioner rents set to increase

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

Hauraki's pensioner housing rents will increase by \$18 per week from August in order to keep up with "ever-increasing" operational costs.

The district council's 57 elderly persons housing units were developed in Paeroa, Waihi and Ngatea between 1960 and 1985.

At its meeting on May 31, council voted to increase the rent for a studio unit or bedsit from \$180 to \$198, and from \$187 to \$205 for a one-bedroom unit.

Historically, council's view has been to not increase rents by more than \$6 a week per year in order to maintain affordability for residents.

However, with inflation at 7.2 per cent at the time of the meeting, and with an increase in material and labour costs,

elected members were told that there were now "significantly higher costs" involved in maintaining and renovating units in line with best practice standards for elderly accommodation.

**"Work and Income does have financial aid provisions to support people on low income, including older people."**

- HDC staff

Work and Income does have financial aid provisions to support people on low income, including older people, staff said.

The amount paid is dependent on what other benefits and supplements tenants already receive.

Hauraki District Council also decided to lobby central government to permit council to get the same funding that Charitable Housing Trusts do.

The funding allows affordable housing providers to charge market related rentals. The rent increase comes into effect in August.



**"We appreciate how vital it is to reconnect this lifeline. The storm damage to the Coromandel roading network is having a massive impact on travel time, cost and quality of life."**

- Kiri Allan

A 110 metre three-span bridge is planned for the SH25A slip.

Photo: SUPPLIED/NZTA

## Work set to begin on bridge

Work on the bridge spanning the huge slip on the Kōpū-Hikuai Rd will get underway within the next week, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency says.

Associate transport Minister Kiri Allan announced the construction plan for the bridge on State Highway 25A last week.

"The government is committed to reconnecting Coromandel communities quickly, and this plan to repair the damage along the highway gives us the confidence we can do that," she said.

The preferred tender selected by Waka Kotahi includes a joint venture between McConnell Dowell and Fulton Hogan, supported by Beca and Tonkin and Taylor.

"Their methodology is to build a simple bridge, using off the shelf designs, that can be partly

fabricated off-site," Kiri Allan said.

"This safe and efficient construction approach means the road will reopen sooner than otherwise might be possible."

The design is for a 110 metre three-span composite bridge with a concrete sub-structure, steel superstructure, and pre-cast concrete deck.

"It's simple and quick to build and utilises readily available materials, removing an otherwise lengthy delay to get construction materials into the country," she said.

"While the final cost and exact time-frame are still being worked through, announcing the construction team... means the design work and site establishment can progress imminently."

The first job will be to establish

site offices and build all weather access tracks for the machinery required. The project team had access to a vast in-house equipment fleet including a variety of cranes, which also ensured they fast track the process, she said.

"We appreciate how vital it is to reconnect this lifeline. The storm damage to the Coromandel roading network is having a massive impact on travel time, cost and quality of life for the people who live, work and visit this beautiful region," Kiri Allan said.

"This announcement gives everyone a sure path forward."

Meanwhile Waka Kotahi is continuing to ready the SH25A road approaches to the site for the project team to bring in the necessary equipment and materials to begin site set up.



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# Differences celebrated in pageant

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

A Paeroa woman is stepping outside her comfort zone and entering a pageant that promotes diversity, self-worth, and empowerment, hoping to inspire her two young daughters along the way.

Angelina Loveridge, 33, is a contestant in the Mrs Waikato New Zealand beauty pageant, which encourages women to be confident.

It will be the first time the Hauraki mum-of-two has stepped onto the pageant scene, but she hopes playing a small part will leave a positive impact.

“When I was younger, my cousins said I could do modelling but I had no confidence at all. I’m half-Indian, and I got teased at school about it,” she said. “Nowadays, it’s different, and we have so many different cultures, but back then, I struggled with the way I looked.”

Angelina said she didn’t start regaining her confidence and self-worth until she was 18-years-old, but then she faced another challenge.



Waihi musician Sarah Spicer, right, has teamed up with Angelina Loveridge for her first fundraiser. INSET: Papauta Elive, left, and Angelina pose by Paeroa’s L&P bottle.



She was diagnosed with synovial sarcoma in her right hand.

It is a rare cancer that can come from different types of soft tissue, such as muscle or ligaments.

“By the time they diagnosed it properly, they said they’d have to take [my hand] off. I

was told at 18 that I could die, but thankfully, [the cancer] hadn’t gone anywhere else.”

Angelina - who had to learn how to write with her left hand - said the biggest hurdle had been raising her two daughters, Faith and Shemaiah, lacking the lower part of her limb.

But with Mrs Waikato focused on raising awareness and advocating for sexual abuse and domestic violence

victims, Angelina said she felt compelled to get involved.

The pageant aims to raise funds for Te Whakaruruhau Waikato Women’s Refuge and Brave, a charity offering education and support to victims of sexual violence, founded in 2018.

“I’ve got two daughters who I worry about so much,” Angelina said. “I just want them to know their worth.”

Angelina has enlisted the help of Waihi musician Sarah Spicer to run her first fundraising event later this month.

Sarah has had her own history with Waikato Women’s Refuge and said the cause was close to her heart.

“I’ve written a lot of songs around the subjects of strength and women’s empowerment, and it’s all self-reflection,” she told *The Profile*. “That’s the way I’ve helped myself keep busy - to write positive music and share that with other people.”

The event will take place on June 24 at the Paeroa Café from 6pm, and there is a “tiaras, masquerade, and fancy dress” theme.

Preliminary judging for the Mrs Waikato pageant will be held on September 23, with the finale and crowning on October 14. Hauraki local Papauta Elive is also participating in the pageant this year.

“You don’t know what’s going to happen in life, the last few years have shown that, and we need to make the most of what we have now,” Angelina said.

“If I can help one person have hope, then I’m happy.” **DETAILS: For information on the event, or to get in touch with Angelina, find ‘Angelina Loveridge - Ms Waikato 2023 Candidate’ on Facebook.**



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# Education

## Hopelessly devoted to *Grease* as musical hits the stage

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

Waihi College is ready to rock and roll, as the students gear up for their musical performance of *Grease*.

The show runs from June 22-24, and rehearsals have been going since the beginning of term.

More than 60 kids have been strutting their stuff, learning the hand-jive and rolling back the clock to 1958 as they prepare for curtains-up.

"It's a really cool vibe," producer Wendy Shave said.

"There's lots of community involved, lots of staff involved. The kids are loving it."

The show features an unusual stage setup - from the main stage, a catwalk will extend towards a satellite stage placed right in the centre of the audience.

"The audience is really right in amongst it," Wendy said.

There's plenty of room for the large cast, along with the star of the show, Greased Lightnin' herself.

"We've got this amazing car which [musical director] Edwin organised," Wendy said.

"It doesn't have the engine in it so it's kind of the shell of the car but it looks completely legit and it's just the best."

Participation in the show is high; as well as the large number of performers on stage, many



Greased Lightnin' rolls into the theatre ahead of Waihi College's production of *Grease*.

Photo: SUPPLIED

students and community members are lending their skills to backstage pursuits such as costumes, set painting, props, and hair and makeup.

"We've got lots of staff and students involved, we've got students manning a food stall all of the evenings where we're doing popcorn and slices and drinks," Wendy said.

"Everyone's all over it."

And excitement is running high, with tickets almost sold out a fortnight before opening night.

The school has also opened the final dress rehearsal on June 21 to the local primary schools, allowing 200 year 6s to experience a live theatre performance.

"We're doing our final dress rehearsal in front of them," Wendy

said.

"To them it will look like a completed, polished show but for us it's our final run through and a chance for the actors to be in front of an audience before they open up the next night."

Wendy said the directors, drama teacher Ingrid Berry and music teacher Edwin Randell, have been putting their all into provid-

ing an unforgettable experience for actors and audience alike.

"Edwin and Ingrid are just doing an incredible job, the kids are just so lucky to have teachers that are so passionate and motivated to spend so much of their time outside of class working with them."



WAIHI  
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### Waihi College is rockin' n rolling towards their production of *Grease* later this month!

The shows run for three nights; Thursday 22nd, Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th June with each session starting at 7pm and finishing around 9pm. We also have

the older local primary kids joining us to watch the final dress rehearsal on Wednesday afternoon, and I know some of them will be bringing mum and dad back a few days later to watch again.

Everyone involved has been working incredibly hard to make it all come together and it's shaping up to be an incredible show. The whole school is involved, with both seniors and juniors in the main cast and chorus, so many staff have helped out in various ways too, along with members from the community as well so it's a real Waihi collaboration.

We are so lucky to have such talent in our school and incredible staff that are keen to put in the hard yards to bring it all together!

As well as fabulous entertainment, we will also be selling delicious sweet slices, popcorn and drinks; so bring some cash or your debit card if you'd like a treat to make the experience complete.

To get your tickets, head to <https://events.humanitix.com/waihi-college-grease> and buy online. This link can also be found in the Latest News section of our website <https://www.waihicol.school.nz/>. Tickets are selling fast so make sure you don't miss out.

Check out the Keeping Informed section of the Waihi College website to stay informed with all things Waihi College [www.waihicol.school.nz](http://www.waihicol.school.nz)

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# Above and beyond: St John staff receive Orders

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

John Armitt, the Hauraki-Coromandel area operations manager for Hato Hone St John, is one of nine people from the Thames-Coromandel and Hauraki districts to be acknowledged at an investiture ceremony on June 17.

The ceremony, to be held in Auckland's Holy Trinity Cathedral, recognises both paid and volunteer St John workers, with many undertaking volunteer work in addition to their paid roles.

Recipients are conferred membership to the Order of St John, an honours system recognising those who give back to St John and the community. It is the only organisation in New Zealand outside of the government with its own royal honours system. Admission and promotion in the order is based on exceptional service, rather than age or length of service.

Rachel Ross of Ngatea, Helen Appleby of Paeroa, Shane Deverill of Thames, Harvey Till and Sheila Cummings of Waihi and Brenda Reid of Whitianga are set to become members of the order.

Current members Peter Young of Paeroa and Rosanne Shaw of Thames will be promoted to officer, and John Armitt is receiving the title of commander.



Newly minted Commander of the Order John Armitt has loved every minute of his time with Hato Hone St John. "It's a great career and a great way to give back to your community." Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

"It's very humbling," John said.

"I wasn't expecting it. I feel it's more of a reflection on the area and how well we operate here in Hauraki-Coromandel than on myself, it's more of a reflection on everyone."

The Thames resident has been in the service for 32 years, beginning as a volunteer in his time off from the farm where he worked in south Auckland.

"I was looking for something to

do to get me off the farm a couple of hours a week, just to go and meet people," he said.

"And to help in the community. I was just looking for something to do that was useful. [Wife] Lyn and I did a first aid course, and then that sort of just grew from there."

What followed was a career progression through the ranks of St John; from volunteer he took on a paid role driving ambulances, and began sitting the neces-

sary courses to take him from ambulance officer to intensive care paramedic and eventually into management roles.

"It's more of a vocation than a job," he said.

"You get to enjoy helping people, and you always see the best of people in their worst circumstances."

John has also been involved with several other facets of the organisation over the years. He has worked with the Ur-

ban Search and Rescue team in Christchurch after the earthquakes, competed with the New Zealand team in the ambulance competitions in Australia, and spent countless hours writing grant applications.

It's been exciting, John said, to see the development in the organisation during his time there.

"Over the last 30 years, to where we are now, which is a state of the art ambulance service with state of the art ambulance equipment - we can certainly do a lot more," he said.

"Some of the stuff we're doing now has some really positive outcomes for people - like the stroke pathways. We get some very positive results with that."

John still spends some time on the road, keeping his practical skills up. But these days, he's mostly managing teams and staff across Hauraki and the peninsula.

"I enjoy the interaction with people and still being able to help, but there's other ways to help too - like having the right programmes in place, the right support for the staff, the right response," he said.

"It's not only patients but the staff themselves.

"They're a really nice team to manage. And I couldn't do my job without them doing theirs."



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# Rural Life



The Toa Trappers of Whiritoa have been using humane auto-traps to lessen the number of rats in the environment. Peanut butter is proving to have a good 'hit rate'.

Photos: SUPPLIED

# Peanut butter works wonders

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

The use of peanut butter is having a “really good hit-rate” when it comes to one conservation trust’s attempts to eradicate rats from the environment.

The Whiritoa Conservation Trust is a community-based volunteer organisation in the Hauraki district. It initiated the neighbourhood trapping project, Toa Trappers, around two years ago, and Mark Thetford has been its trapping co-ordinator for nine months.

He told *The Profile* that the success of the trapping has seen a more bountiful birdlife return

to the town of Whiritoa.

“A lot of people don’t realise how much of an impact the rodents do have. In the last six months, when the rat [population] figures have been right down, the bird life has really increased,” he said. “It’s just phenomenal.”

Mark looks after 30 of the trust’s 60 humane auto-traps. The rest are checked by others within the community.

Seventy-five per cent of them are scattered around the perimeter of Whiritoa, while 25 per cent are situated throughout the centre of town.

“We’re just using peanut butter as our bait for the rat traps, and they’re just going ballistic

for it,” Mark said. “We have half a dozen stoat

**“[The traps are] definitely having an impact, and everyone you speak to here says how the bird life has come back.”**

- Mark Thetford

traps around as well.” The auto-traps are ideally

suited to Whiritoa because they provide an electronic record of strikes and do not require resetting after each kill. However, the cost of consumables is quite high.

The trust recently asked Hauraki District Council for funding help, and in its report, explained that the consumables - such as replacement lures, batteries, gas canisters and replacement electronic monitoring devices - cost around \$2500 a year.

The council agreed to provide a grant of \$1,000 from its Waihi Ward Community Assistance Fund in order for the Toa Trappers to continue their work. “Since we’ve been using the

peanut butter, some of the rats that have only ever had one or two kills a month are now getting six to eight every couple of weeks,” Mark said.

Latest numbers show that from January to April, the traps averaged 30 kills a month, but May alone saw 93 pests - rats, hedgehogs, and mice - eradicated.

“[The traps are] definitely having an impact, and everyone you speak to here says how the bird life has come back, but a lot still don’t realise how much trapping there is and how much it plays a big part.”



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# Rural Life

## Waikato catchments 'vulnerable' - WRC

The Waikato's catchments are extremely vulnerable ahead of the winter season, a Waikato Regional Council report shows.

Regional resilience team leader Rick Liefiting, who wrote a report on the summer storm events for the council's Integrated Catchment Management Committee, said the game had changed with regards to being able to predict the impacts of rainfall events on our catchments and a precautionary approach is needed heading into winter.

"What we have been able to do in the past is to correlate a particular ARI – an average return interval – such as a 20 year event, and understand the likely impact of such an event, like how much flooding we may see ... but that's now changed because of our very saturated catchments," Mr Liefiting said.

"We had a significant amount of rain – more than normal – in the second half of last year, so our catchments were already quite saturated before the events of cyclone Hale and Gabrielle and Auckland Anniversary weekend.

"Since then, we've had more events, and each successive event changes our catchments to the extent that we're now seeing larger impacts from lower rainfall events. That's likely to continue for the remainder of this winter season, and perhaps beyond as well."

Rainfall data captured and available on the council's Environmental Data Hub shows record rainfall totals have been reached since the start of the year

at gauges sited at the Pinnacles, Waitanguru and Whangamarino. The Pinnacles already reached the historical annual average in early May 2023.

Data from NIWA shows the soil moisture deficit across much of the Waikato is at field capacity, meaning saturated, and in some instances at "water surplus", for example, across much of the Coromandel Peninsula and in the lower Waikato catchment.

Mr Liefiting said the seasonal outlook to July, also produced by NIWA, forecasted rainfall to be "above" or at "normal" levels.

"We are expecting to have a wet winter and the impacts are still uncertain in terms of how our catchments will respond and what impacts we might see.

"Given it's still very much a waiting game in terms of what events are coming, the council is focusing on being well prepared and informing our communities about what to expect."

As a result, the council's online Flood Room Live, a key communications portal for rain events and flood impacts, has been live for quite a while.

"We're constantly monitoring the situation because rainfall events, even if they are not accompanied by a heavy rain watch or warning, are something of a concern; even the scattered thunderstorms are a concern for particular areas."

Responding to questioning about whether this was the new normal, Mr

CONTINUED ON P11



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# Rural Life

## Sedimentation can deplete economy and environment



By Bala TikkiSETTY

This should be the decade to focus on sediment loss to reduce its impact on the wider environment.

Sediment is one of the consequences of erosion, which is especially an issue right now given the intensity and number of recent severe weather events which have resulted in soil saturation and no capacity for further absorption of new rainfall.

These factors are exacerbating the risks of landslides, slumping, mass-movement erosion and sedimentation.

Erosion is the process whereby the land surface is worn away by the action of water, wind or other geological processes. The resultant displaced material is known as sediment. Sedimentation is the deposition of this eroded material, the impact of which has been evident in the recent cyclones and other severe weather events.

Minimising natural and induced erosion and maintaining good soil quality are essential for maintaining soil ecosystem services such as nutrient and water holding capacity, main-

taining productive capacity, assimilating waste and minimising impacts of sediment and contaminants on water bodies.

There's a mix of factors influencing soil erosion – climate, soil characteristics, topography, ground cover and evapotranspiration – that can be addressed through your farm plans. The main soil quality issues in the Waikato region are soil compaction, excessive nutrient levels, and loss of soil organic matter.

Climate affects erosion potential both directly and indirectly. The direct relationship arises from the action of rain – a driving force of erosion – where raindrops dislodge soil particles and runoff carries them away.

Soil characteristics are important in determining soil erodibility. Good soil structure increases water permeability and water holding capacity. Soil permeability refers to the ability of the soil to allow air and water to move through it.

Soils with a higher permeability produce less runoff at a lower rate than soils with low permeability.

When soil surface is compacted or crusted, water tends to runoff rather than infiltrate. Erosion potential increases with increased runoff.

Topography – slope length and slope angle – are critical factors in erosion potential be-



Sediment is one of the consequences of erosion, which is especially an issue right now, Bala TikkiSETTY says. File Photo

cause they play a large part in determining the velocity of runoff.

Soil erosion can be managed by mechanical and biological methods. Mechanical measures – such as terracing, debris dams and other engineering structures – have an immediate effect and operate at maximum efficiency, but their construc-

tion and maintenance costs will be high. Biological methods, such as use of live vegetation established from cuttings, rooted plants and poles, are relatively cheaper but their immediate effect is smaller. However, once established the vegetation provides a self-perpetuating and increasingly effective permanent control.

Poplar and willow poles are ideal to plant on erosion-prone hillsides as their extensive root systems bind and hold the soil in place. Some varieties are also used to provide shelter and windbreaks.

Successful establishment of poles requires careful handling, storage, siting, planting and follow-up management. Waikato Regional Council can provide you with advice and assistance on planting willow and poplar poles/bare rooted plants to ensure the best possible strike and survival rates.

If planting is to be delayed to more than a day after delivery, cut the poles diagonally on the butt end with a sharp axe or slasher, to give two slicing cuts approximately 15cm long.

This will facilitate water uptake. Then place the poles in clean, well aerated water, or keep moist under a sprinkler, which assists future root, and shoot growth and also increases survivability. Some varieties are susceptible to over soaking, so contact the council for the best handling advice.

The council's catchment management officers are also available to provide advice on soil conservation, riparian management and other good land management practices.

- Bala TikkiSETTY is the principal sustainable agriculture advisor at Waikato Regional Council.

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# Rural Life

## Scanning results are in

By Dr Greg Lindsay

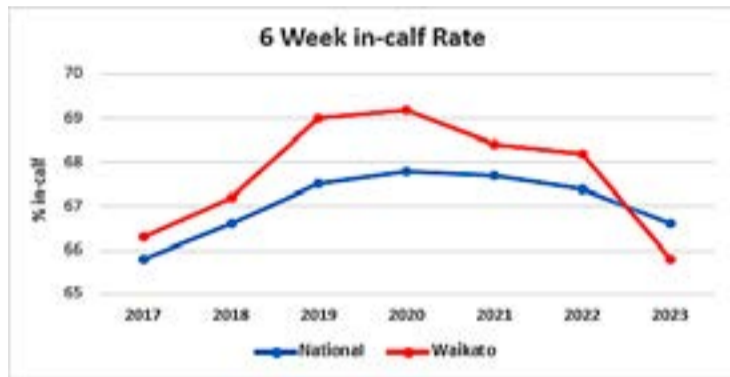
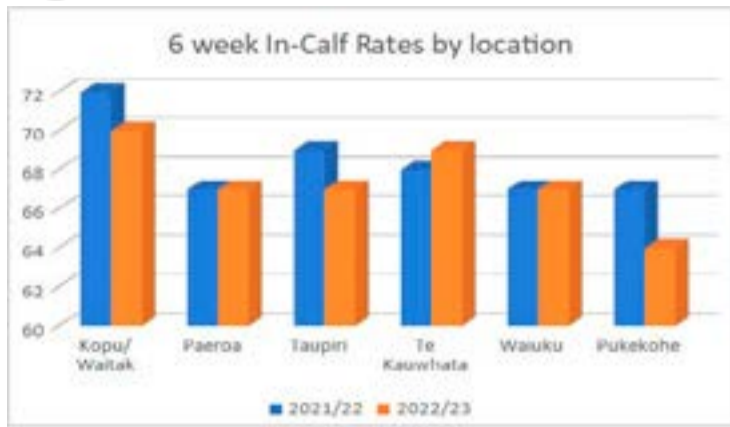
Our scanning results are in and those of us with statistical fetishes now get to have our way with the numbers! All-in-all it was not a great season in the Waikato (and NZ for that matter) for getting dairy cows in-calf.

The Waikato region saw the largest single year drop in 6-week in-calf rates for at least the last two decades.

This is the continuation of a downward trend in the Waikato that has persisted for the past three seasons. And, as you would expect when 6-week In-Calf rates go down, empty rates go up – with the same three-season trend being reflected in empty rate creep too. Although the average 6-week in-calf rate of Franklin Vets farmers was sitting somewhat prettier than the nation at 67 per cent we were unable to buck the downward trend with results having dropped by 1 per cent overall from last season's 68 per cent average.

Herd reproduction is a very multifactorial subject, so distilling poor performances like this year's down to a few common threads is difficult, nigh on impossible. We can look for trends however and when it comes to trends it pays to start with those that affect almost all farms – these being pasture and cow condition.

Last autumn we were still firmly in the grips of a drought, leaving cows to calve in poor body condition, pas-



tures with not enough time to build up reserves, followed by a spring that was a dreary, gloomy and cold affair.

If you're looking to improve herd reproductive performance, energy balance and cow condition is always a sensible place to start and, unfortunately, most farms had neither of these working in their favour. This appears to have led to very poor conception rates with slight reductions

in submission rates to boot. More agreeably, the second half of this season saw an abundance of green pasture. Cows and pastures are currently in a much better position heading into the new season and if both are looked after through winter, and mating is managed appropriately, we should be able to flip the recent trend on its head!

- Supplied by Franklin Vets

## Waikato catchments 'vulnerable'

CONTINUED FROM P9

Liefting said: "The answer is we're not sure. If we look at the soil moisture and where we were last year, which was very dry, no one was saying we'd be in this position this year. That's where climate changing is starting to show – we are getting these extremes starting to come through, and they're becoming more intense and frequent."

Committee chair and Waihou councillor Robbie Cookson said the information presented to the committee was sobering but reflected the reality for many communities.

"Some of us are feeling like we're in a state of emergency all the time. My farm is wet and it doesn't go away; every rainfall is an event at the moment."

Waikato Regional Council Integrated Catchment management director Greg Ryan said the council was having

many conversations with its stakeholders about resourcing and prioritising work resulting from the summer storms, and recovery would be a multi-year programme.

"We could be in for an exceptional winter, so now is the time to plan ahead and be prepared."

Waikato Civil Defence Group welfare manager Sia Tanaki said the recent wet weather events had brought members of communities closer together in many areas. "The more that people are involved in their communities, the better we will all be whatever comes our way this year."

She encouraged people to use the Waikato Regional Hazards Portal to see if their homes and businesses are in areas susceptible to flooding. "If so, find out from your local district or city council how they'll alert you if you need to evacuate."



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# LETTERS

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

## ENABLING CRIME

I'm grateful you're looking at the negative impact the "305 people" are having on the public (*Drug use, intoxication 'getting worse', Valley Profile, May 31*). I've been involved with them in times past, and did all I felt I could, within my limited means. I'm 73 and live solely on a pension, so money is scarce for me, but I never used to hesitate to pay for pies, cold drinks etc, for these people whom I know.

But I realised that I was only enabling them to buy their poisons. Also, they have far more money than I do, as they have no rent, electric or car bills. They don't even pay for food or clothes!! It ALL goes on drugs and alcohol! I've seen them loud and abusive, stoned or drunk; people were afraid to go into the little mall in Mary St because of one drunk, loud, aggressive male, who was shouting and cursing to himself, at no one and everyone. (They are proud when people fear them, it empowers them to continue like that.)

I've seen a female go into the Bakehouse Café where she accosted a very old gentleman, who'd only just sat down at a little table, with a sandwich and drink; she stood close to him nagging continually for money. He was so upset, he got up and walked out.

This same person bought a pie once in there, when I happened again to be there, and refused to pay the full amount, and she strode out with the pie while the lady called again and again for her to pay. (I paid for it, because around that time I felt somewhat protective of that particular person and I like the staff.)

I've been accosted many times for money by the 305 mob. They get free clothes at the 305 too, not just food and coffee, free lunch on Tuesdays, free meals and showers at the 7th Day

Adventist church too, as I understand. I hate to say this, because I'm aware Baptist Church pastor Chris Lee must have 'inherited' this mob of people when he took the job at that church, years ago: but he is an enabler to crime. Just as I was every time I helped them out!

He thinks he is being nice, but he is enabling their destructive way of life. At least one in his own congregation have said he is only helping them to get worse! No doubt among the other members, are those who feel that way too, but will not speak up for fear of offending.

I think the best thing that can be done, is they be made to go to a rehab centre and live there, using their Winz money. If there are no such things anymore, (I don't know,) then they must be given voluntary work, and have an appointed person (from Winz) put in charge of their money. Why are taxpayers forced to support their habits?! Voluntary work keeps them off their poisons for a while and gives them a bit of self respect.

I was in the Thames Library a week or so before this problem came to light, and a man came in, upset, and I heard him telling the assistant how he was abused by the addicts just before coming in. He said they hang out at the 305.

What "collaborative effort" does Chris Lee mean? They should be treated like \*all\* other members of the public, and arrested and jailed for abusive behavior, and for drinking and drugging in public places, when it occurs. They'd soon learn. The do-gooders are doing them actual harm!

So basically, I suggest rehab or jail. In both places, they can begin to get off the poisons. And someone to control their spending so they can't buy drugs or alcohol. I've heard conversa-

tions regarding these people and the basic feeling is, they're fed up.

I don't believe police are so short-staffed that they cannot arrest a person for being abusive or smoking a P pipe in public: I've seen them cruise up and down occasionally. It is being negligent in their duty to protect the public, to turn a blind-eye to the crimes committed openly. I still hope the best for the 305 mob, but I know that being 'enablers' to their addiction is \*not\* going to help them.

(Anonymous.)

## THAMES BAPTIST CHURCH

In response to the Letter to the Editor (above), let me introduce myself: My name is Chris Lee and I was a Policeman for 26 years rising to the rank of Senior Sergeant before becoming a pastor (which I have been doing for 21 years). I am married to Karlene Lee, a Social Worker for the past 20 years with a Masters degree in Mental Health. I don't think of myself as a nice do-gooder, but I like the recognition that the church is doing good. We after all have a Christian mandate to feed the hungry, give something to drink to the thirsty, invite the stranger in, clothe those in need, look after the sick, and visit those in prison (Matthew 25:34).

I am grateful to your correspondent for again raising these issues facing our community, as it is very timely. The arguments raised are not new ones, in fact ever since churches started working in the slums of the English cities in the 1800s, criticism and misunderstanding have reigned. Sadly, at that time, there was even a demeaning term coined referring to the "deserving and undeserving poor".

The deserving being the widows and women abandoned by their husband, the undeserving poor, those

who drank or were out of work. And many of our ideas about people needing to leave their communities of support to be "treated" or banished originated from this time.

I understand how the correspondent felt frightened by angry behaviour and frustrated by soliciting for food. Whilst I recognise that the actions of some people can be scary, to label all who are poor and disadvantaged as such is to label unjustly. I also suggest that feeding people a bowl of cereal in the morning four days a week, a hot lunch once a week, and clothing them with the discards from the St Johns op shop that they cannot sell, is hardly "supporting habits so they can spend their money on addictions".

But the correspondent rightly points to community issues such as unaffordable living costs and lack of social services, and I include poverty, family violence, racism and loneliness as catalysts for many of the coping and self-soothing behaviours we see presently – which seem only set to increase.

I recognise that what we do is not THE solution, but caring for people is part of it. Can I take the opportunity to highlight some of the activities that people say they come to 305 for: help with job applications, writing CVs, support to attend meetings, advice for the struggles of life, helping people to overcome stigma (being homeless, poor, mental health experience, or criminal convictions), helping people to find accommodation, providing food parcels, reciprocity, friendship and a cuppa, and spiritual guidance – and we invite compassionate volunteers to come and help us.

There are no simple solutions, and the Police rightly point out that many of the behaviours described by the recent articles are not illegal. And we are

all too aware that punitive measures - like "lock them up and throw away the key", hard labour, or mandated programmes – do not often change behaviour. We are, in fact, all the same, we want to be noticed, we want to be seen and heard, and cared for – this is what changes our behaviour.

We cannot hand our issues on to other communities, we must care for our own. What we aim to achieve is a creative collaborative community response to local issues. 305, the DHB Manaaki Centre, MSD, Thames Budget Service, Stepping Out and the Police already work together, along with many other agencies, and we invite the TCDC and the Community Board to be part of this.

- Chris Lee, Thames Baptist Church Pastor

## SUGGESTIONS

We have read your article about Thames, very enlightening! (*Drug use, intoxication 'getting worse', Valley Profile, May 31*). We have two suggestions.

Re the Food bank and meals. The JCD engineering has moved from the Wharf so the premises are empty. Can The Baptist church not relocate their food and meals to this premises, or alternately to the Elim church which is already on site? Secondly, we lived in Kaitia for five years recently, and there was a derelict hotel which was on the Main Road, which was bought by a Maori Trust, renovated and refurbished and is now a residence for beneficiaries.

The Brian Boru Hotel on the corner of Pollen St and Richmond St has been unused for years. Can something similar not be done about this, to assist the homeless problem?

Ever hopeful.

- Margaret and Barry van Niekerk

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# Hikoi, waiata for Matariki

Schools from around Waihi took part in a hikoi for Matariki on June 7. Hosted by Waihi East School, pupils met with their kura at Waihi Central School before departing on a trek down the main street of Waihi and up to the historic pumphouse. Kai was eaten, waiata was sung, and the tamariki learned about the history of Matariki and their local heritage. Reporter **KELLEY TANTAU** was with the students when they headed off on the hikoi.



Ashlyn, 4, from BestStart Waihi East does her best Spiderman pose.



Two friends from Waihi Beach School head off on the hikoi.



Students, staff, and whanau were all invited to take part in the special hikoi.

Photos: KELLEY TANTAU



Johanna enjoys the sunshine on Wednesday.



Matua Amaru leads the kura in a waiata.



Onyx and Jaysen from Waihi East School.



This Waihi Central School duo head off.



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# 'Mysterious fatality' in mine shaft

## ENTERTAINMENT



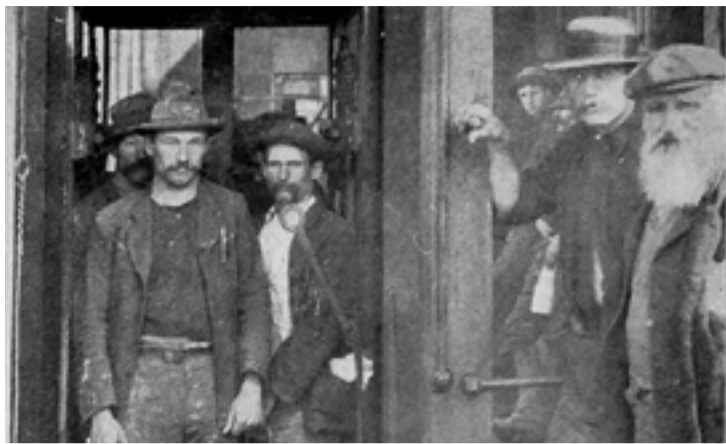
As part of a Valley Profile series, **MEGHAN HAWKES** explores our local history by seeking out stories of life and death in the Thames Valley

### PART ONE

The swift descent of the mining cage down the shaft gave fleeting glimpses of one level after another.

Silhouettes of men with lighted candles, flames shaded in their palms, and others pushing loaded trucks into the gloom beyond flashed by.

Waihi Company miners John Brown and John McIntosh held tight to the cage grip bars after it left the brace. It was October, 1916, and minutes before the men had asked permission to go down the mine to inspect a new contract. Consent was given, and the men went to No 5 shaft. Although this shaft was not used for lowering workers, because the men were old employees and experienced shaftsmen, the braceman let them use it. As the cage passed No 5 level something struck it. The blow appeared to come from under the cage on the chamber side. "In the name of God, what's that?" a startled John Brown asked John McIntosh but received no reply. Passing No 10 chamber a glimmer of light shone in the cage, and John Brown felt some-



Miners in a cage, Waihi mine.

Photo: SUPPLIED

thing with his foot. He thought it was John McIntosh but looking down saw it was an iron rail and a ladder. John McIntosh was not in the cage. John Brown had heard no cry and did not know where his mate had gone.

John McIntosh's body was found at the bottom of the shaft. The 47-year-old married father of six had worked in the Waihi and Grand Junction mines for around 18 years. How he came out of the cage was baffling and called a 'mysterious fatality' by newspapers.

The inquest, held over four days, became curiouse and curiouse. Mr Ostler, representing the Waihi Company, said it was their intention to leave no stone unturned to clear the matter up in the interest of the lives of miners. T Duschka, engine driver who lowered the men, said that the progress of the cage was quite normal. He observed nothing unusual. John Brown could give no explanation for how the rail and ladder came to be in the cage. Mr Gilmour, mine manager, also said he could not see how the objects could get into the shaft

accidentally. Such an occurrence was highly improbable.

Strange things had been happening in the subterranean world of the Waihi mine. On the morning of the accident a steel drill had gone down a shaft and on the previous Wednesday a number of articles came down No 2 shaft, nearly killing two men. There were certain marks at No 7 chamber near an opening about 12 inches wide. The marks indicated that something might have been put in there.

William Crimmins, mine electrician, said that on the day of the accident the wires connected with No 7 chamber were interfered with, causing the lights to go out in No 2 shaft. Another electrician, in the days before the accident, had seen two articles flash past the chamber he was in and had heard a third article striking the timbers overhead as it fell.

These disturbing developments were captured in newspaper headlines which announced *Peculiar circumstances, More suspicious features and the Mystery of the rail.*

PART TWO NEXT WEEK



Thames High students will perform this Friday.

Photo: SUPPLIED

## Students to perform

Thames High School Students will be performing at St George's Church for Thames Music Group's free lunchtime concert on Friday, June 23, at 12:15pm.

Thames High head of music Dr Nichi Voice said the programme was themed around Matariki, and included a mix of genres, including an original composition, singers, pianists, guitarists, and bands.

"The music department at Thames High School is currently supporting a number of junior students, having farewelled a group of talented seniors over the last two years," she said.

"These junior students have arrived with an exciting skill level, and together they are going to create a strong department over the next few years."

The school's piano department, taught by Sue Williams, had sev-

eral talented pianists who arrived within this year's Year Nine cohort, joined by two recently arrived international students, Dr Voice said.

"Our guitar and bass department, taught by Mr Shade Smith, consists of all NCEA performance students, including some quite senior players: several of these students also compose their own music.

"We have a small but committed vocal ensemble, taught by Mr Duncan Bower, and it is exciting to hear their voices mature and their ensemble skills develop.

"Our drum department, taught by Miss Hannah de Koster, comprises advanced beginners through to intermediate level.

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Mike Wright says barbeque cuts are "booming".

Photo: GORDON PREECE

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Mike said Hunts Home Kills had always aimed to be a "step ahead" with vacuum packing, which makes meat last longer in the freezer. "We're also getting right into our barbecue cuts... and they're booming at the moment," he said.

CONTACT: website: huntshomekills.nz, Ph: 0800 250 939.

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**Death Notice**

**SANDS, Brett:**  
On Sunday, 4th June 2023 surrounded by family, aged 76 Years. Much loved husband of Ngiera. Loved father and father-in-law of Duane, Kyle and Theresa, Carlene and Steve. Poppa to 8 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. A private family service has been held.



**SIMONS, John Arthur;**  
Passed away peacefully on 10th June at home surrounded by family. Loved Dad and friend of Teresa and Grant; Louise and Ian. Pop and Skipper to Nicole and Chris; Dylan and Tyla; Natasha and Jacob, and Jessica. Great Granddad to Charlotte and Isabell. Dad, you will be greatly missed. Knowing you will be with Mum (Eileen) again, and mates Mike and Gordon, gives us some peace. In accordance with John's wishes a private cremation has been held. Thanks to Hospice, and support carers.



**SIMONS, John Arthur:**  
5 April 1947 - 10th June 2023. My loving son has passed, but he will never be forgotten. Love Mum

**SIMONS, John Arthur:**  
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We have a great opportunity for a motivated administrator, with some supervisory responsibilities, to work in the Hauraki Resource Centre, part of the Paeroa Community Support Trust, based in Paeroa. We offer a part-time role of 25 hours a week, over 5 days.

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A position description is available on request from the Hauraki Resource Centre phone 07 8626110. Applications including a CV and cover letter should be emailed to [admin@pc.org.nz](mailto:admin@pc.org.nz)



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**CHURCH OFFICE MANAGER**

Hauraki Plains Co-operating Church is seeking to appoint a part-time Office Manager to be responsible for the general admin of this church.

**Deadline Application by CV and covering letter must be received by Friday 23 June 2023.**

The successful applicant will be responsible for the administrative management of the church's office, ensuring that an accurate database is maintained of church members, ensuring that accounts receivables/payables are processed timely, and providing administrative support to the Minister and Parish Council.

The Office Manager works part-time Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. The Office Manager reports directly to the Parish Council but must be able to work effectively with the Minister, church leaders, volunteers, facility users and members of the congregation.

**Please direct your applications to Jane Robinson: jdonrob@xtra.co.nz**

# Treasury co-founder appointed patron

By GORDON PREECE

The co-founder of The Treasury, which collects and preserves Hauraki-Coromandel history, has been appointed its new patron.

Thames resident Geraldine Dunwoodie, who founded the heritage and research centre with her late husband Morrie in 2003, takes over the role from Coromandel Town resident Sue Wright, who resigned from the role earlier this year.

Geraldine told *The Profile* the offer for the position from the Coromandel Heritage Trust was a "real surprise".

"It came as a real surprise because [my work] was set back after my husband's death [in 2016]," she said.

"One of the biggest things is to provide support and knowledge to whoever needs it. I'm encouraging people to become members to donate records to visit and see what the [The Treasury] is about.

"Quietly working in the background as well is really important, and doing what I can to help the board members achieve their goals."

Geraldine, who also instigated The Treasury's \$1.1 million archive building in 2014, said she would also play a part in securing more funding for the centre, which is located on Queen St in Thames.

"Finding funding to keep the doors open has always been difficult and more so now because we have some paid staff, their funding is coming to an end this year," she said.

"Other archives in New Zealand are free for people to go in and research but we can't do that because we don't receive the funding.

**GOLDFIELDS WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

The May meeting of the Goldfields Women's Institute commenced with the Aspiration and Prayer. Thoughts were for any member who has not been well during the month. The Motto – "The biggest things are always the easiest to do because there is no competition" was read by Kate Wood. Birthday girls this month are Carole Bridle and Beryl Alliston. The Roll Call – What were you doing in the 70s resulted in most of us bringing up the children and taking them to all their activities during their school life. The Good Deed was Toiletries for our Emergency Toilet Bags that we donate to the Thames Hospital. A report was given from the members who attended the Federation Social Day in Ngatea, which they all enjoyed. Jill Bridgman and Bev Schenkel entered the colouring in competition and as it was International Day, we all learnt a lot about Wales that some of us didn't know. Raffles were won by Jean Brady and Sue Fah. A presentation was made to Val Bowen who



Geraldine Dunwoodie says her new role as The Treasury patron is multifaceted.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

"So I'm very involved in discussions about finding more funding and how it can be approached."

The Coromandel Heritage Trust chair Tom Barker said the board was "thrilled" that Geraldine accepted its patron offer.

"Geraldine agreeing to become a patron is fitting as it recognises the gift

Geraldine and Morrie has given to the communities in the Coromandel and Hauraki areas," he said.

"It was a huge project to undertake ensuring the safe keeping and preservation of the history and records of our area. I am sure many generations to come will be appreciative of what the Dunwoodies achieved."

won the Thames Coast CWI Trophy for the yearly floral competition. Again, there was a wonderful display of knitting and next month's meeting will be our 54th Birthday celebration, hopefully booking in to The Melbourne for lunch. The members then had a good discussion regarding the Remits which will be presented at the 102nd National AGM Meeting in Timaru at the end of the May. One of them was concerning better coverage nationwide for mobile phones, and another was removing the special rate for rural deliveries for packages by NZ Post. **COMPETITION RESULTS: BLOOM:** 1 Val Bowen. **Cluster:** 1 Sue Fah, 2 Val Bowen. **Shrub:** 1 Sue Fah, 2 Val Bowen.

**KEREPEHI WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

Kerepehi Women's Institute president Elaine Jolliffe welcomed our ladies to our May meeting. Our thought for the month was read by Bev Adamson. "If someone doesn't have a smile, give them one of yours". A letter of thanks was received from Te Korowai for the

knitted clothes. Marion won the raffle. Elaine Jolliffe was our Birthday Lady and received a gift from the Birthday Bag. Our Mother's Day raffle we had all sold tickets for was won by Nola Leonard, a Thames Red Hat Lady. **Social Day Colouring in Competitions:** 1 Bev Adamson, 2 Carolyn Giles. **Slippers:** 1 Jan Edmonds. 16 pairs of Pyjamas were donated to Middlemore from our members for the Pyjama Scheme. In the afternoon programme we decorated a plastic pot which we all had to plant something in. We glued decorations on which everyone quite enjoyed doing. **COMPETITION RESULTS:** Decorated egg cup: 1 Jan Edmonds, 2 Elaine Jolliffe, 3 Carolyn Giles. **Flowers: Bloom:** 1 Marion van Eyk, 2 Elaine Jolliffe, 3 Debbie Smith. **Spike:** 1 Elaine Jolliffe, 2 Marion van Eyk, 3 Carolyn Giles. **Shrub:** 1 Marion van Eyk, 2 Jan Edmonds, 3 Carolyn Giles. **Vegetable:** 1 Rhubarb: 2 Jan Edmonds 3 Carolyn Giles. **Herb:** 1 Elaine Jolliffe, 2 Jan Edmonds, 3 Marion van Eyk. Our next meeting is Tuesday June 13 at Kerepehi Bowling.

## Thames Valley Club Rugby

**SENIOR A Saturday June 17th**

<b>Mercury Bay</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>Te Aroha COBRAS</b>
<b>Hauraki North</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>Waihi Athletic</b>
<b>Whangamata</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>Thames</b>
<b>Waihou</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>Paeroa</b>



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

Teams named first indicate home team



Rugby United Under 21s V vs Fraser Tech Under 21s, at Waihi Athletic 1.00pm on Saturday 17th June

**SENIOR B**

Coromandel	V	Te Aroha COBRAS	Sat June 10th	1.00pm
Tairua	V	Hauraki North	Sat June 10th	1.00pm
Waihou	V	Ngatea	Sat June 10th	1.00pm

*When I opened my shop Gothica Baby in November 2022, I chose to do an advertorial with the Valley Profile to introduce ourselves to the community.*

*I chose the Valley Profile over other local publications in our region because it is authentically local, not just "cut and paste" stories from outside our area.*

*I could not have been happier with the ad itself and the immediate response from shoppers who saw the ad and came in to have a look. A family came all the way from Waihi because they saw our ad.*

*I can not recommend Nikki and the team at Valley Profile highly enough.*

**Sooz Gilmer - Gothica Baby**



**022 130 3885 | nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz**





## DIRECT CREMATION

Thames: (15km radius) \$2750 incl GST  
Other areas: Whangamata, Waihi, Whitianga, Paeroa, Ngatea \$3045 incl GST



For additional information please refer to Twentymans website: [twentymans.co.nz](http://twentymans.co.nz)  
CONTACT: 07 868 6003



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CONTACT: Forever Pets 07 868 6003.

We guarantee the ashes you get back belong to your pet and only your pet.



## SUDOKU

104

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

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

EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

104

HARD

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

MEDIUM

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

EASY

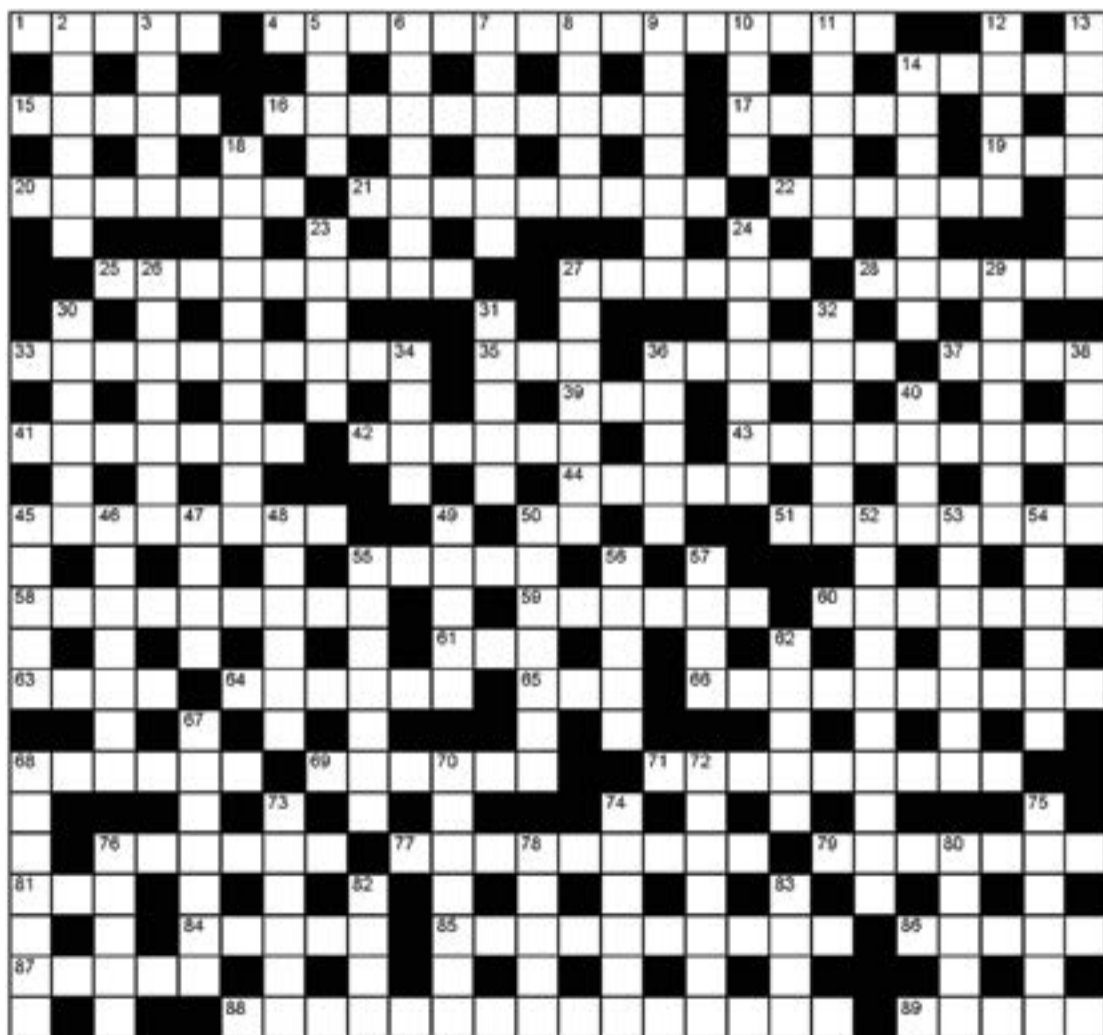
2	3	6	8		7		9	
7					6		2	8
8		9						
	8	3		1			4	6
1				2				3
9	6			3		7	8	
						5		2
4	2		3					9
	9		5		2	6	1	4

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## JUMBO CROSSWORD

124

- ACROSS**
- 1 Scatter (5)
  - 4 Small perceptible part of a much larger situation or problem (3,2,3,7)
  - 14 Prize money (5)
  - 15 Sword (5)
  - 16 Pirates' flag (5,5)
  - 17 Hot drink (5)
  - 19 Passenger vehicle (3)
  - 20 Chorus (7)
  - 21 Holds the attention of (9)
  - 22 Tell about (6)
  - 25 Large wholesale store (9)
  - 27 Technical language (6)
  - 28 Cooking instructions (6)
  - 33 Device to stop bleeding from arm or leg artery (10)
  - 35 Chinese cooking pan (3)
  - 36 Summary (6)
  - 37 Optical glass (4)
  - 39 Long fish (3)
  - 41 Forsake (7)
  - 42 Self-assurance (6)
  - 43 Formal assurance (9)
  - 44 Oily fruit (5)
  - 45 Least-favoured competitor (8)
  - 50 Former partner (2)
  - 51 Memento (8)
  - 55 Browned bread (5)
  - 58 Contestant, challenger (9)
  - 59 Accessories (6)
  - 60 Ghost (7)
  - 61 Black sealant (3)
  - 63 Uniform (4)
  - 64 Builds (6)
  - 65 Bite (3)
  - 66 Persisted (10)
  - 68 Strong coarse cloth (6)
  - 69 Crumb (6)
  - 71 Take the place of (9)
  - 76 Protect from danger (6)
  - 77 Breed of dog (9)
  - 79 File (7)
  - 81 Devotee (3)
  - 84 Peer (5)
  - 85 Makes holes through (10)
  - 86 Dromedary (5)
  - 87 Shoulder garment (5)
  - 88 Insolent audacity (5,2,3,5)
  - 89 Trifling (5)
  - DOWN**
  - 2 Merchant (6)
  - 3 Mistake (5)
  - 5 Household appliance (4)
  - 6 Rectangles (7)
  - 7 Serving dish (6)
  - 8 Score of two under par on a golf hole (5)
  - 9 Museum keeper (7)
  - 10 Reverse (4)
  - 11 Din (6)
  - 12 Buy off (5)
  - 13 Check with a ruler (7)
  - 14 Universal remedy (7)
  - 18 Odds, probability (10)
  - 23 Fashion (5)
  - 24 Pastille (7)
  - 26 Organise (7)
  - 27 Music machine (7)
  - 29 Lifelessness (7)
  - 30 Reel for yarn, thread (6)
  - 31 Faint (5)
  - 32 Fermented fodder (6)
  - 34 Ilk (4)
  - 36 Knitting stitch (5)
  - 38 Screen (5)
  - 40 Moist (4)
  - 45 Male relation (5)
  - 46 Underground cell (7)
  - 47 Stink (4)
  - 48 Commands (6)
  - 49 Throwing game (5)
  - 50 Endless (7)
  - 52 Countenance (10)
  - 53 Come after (7)
  - 54 Nucleus (6)
  - 55 Farm vehicle (7)
  - 56 Organ controls (5)
  - 57 Stringed instrument (4)
  - 62 Thin porridge (5)
  - 67 Afternoon performance (7)
  - 68 Befuddle (7)
  - 70 Hair cleanser (7)
  - 72 Ignorant (7)
  - 73 Furrowing implement (6)
  - 74 Caress (6)
  - 75 Flaw (6)
  - 76 Pry (5)
  - 78 Deserve (5)
  - 80 Musty (5)
  - 82 Smokestack (4)
  - 83 Abominable Snowman (4)



**PREVIOUS SOLUTION**

**ACROSS:** 1 Bailiff, 4 Substitute, 9 Despise, 13 Glee, 14 Cinema, 15 Errant, 16 Convict, 19 Surplus, 20 Calm before the storm, 21 Crafty, 22 Glance, 24 Pole vault, 29 Composer, 30 Garter, 31 Venture, 35 Airborne, 36 Loving, 37 Opal, 38 Brush, 39 Rat, 41 Suede, 43 Saddle, 47 Rests, 50 Job, 54 Stood, 55 Fawn, 56 Chance, 57 Disburse, 60 Caption, 61 Deputy, 62 Alopecia, 65 Buccaneer, 67 Satire, 68 Dismay, 72 A turn-up for the books, 75 Unearth, 77 Sangria, 78 Viable, 79 Bronze, 80 Glut, 81 Shutter, 82 Devastated, 83 Epitaph.

**DOWN:** 1 Bogus, 2 Ice cream, 3 Flimsy, 4 Speechless, 5 Brawl, 6 Tremble, 7 Tariff, 8 Tenor, 10 Exonerated, 11 Pivotal, 12 Secure, 17 Gluttonous, 18 Steer, 21 Centaur, 23 Nervous, 25 Ocelot, 26 Sponge, 27 Frugal, 28 Fresco, 30 Grind, 32 Tire, 33 Trot, 34 Fade, 40 Astral, 42 Deal, 44 Accrue, 45 Diary, 46 Enchant, 48 Spinet, 49 Subdivides, 50 Jury, 51 Brewery, 52 Soot, 53 Sneeze, 58 Conclusive, 59 Correspond, 63 Sniff, 64 Umbrella, 66 Upright, 67 Subject, 69 Attach, 70 Phobia, 71 Puzzle, 73 Raise, 74 Orbit, 76 Hitch.

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- multiple shedding



Tracy Corneal

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Tracy's extensive personal experience with home ownership, investment properties, building, renovating, and developing properties on both farm and residential land make her an invaluable asset in the real estate market. Her background in sales, combined with a commitment to planning and communication, ensures she delivers optimum results for her clients.

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