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DOORS MAY SHUT FOR THE TREASURY

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

Thames' Treasury Research Centre and Archive is facing potential closure, after failing to secure funding for its operations.

The trust needs to raise \$81,600 by mid-August, which will keep its doors open until November. By then, manager Katherine Quinn hopes they'll have had time to find some sustainable funding solutions.

"The reality is that operating an archive is very expensive, even if it was entirely volunteer run. We have a lot of costs that other heritage organisations don't," Katherine said.

"We run a very lean organisation but there are some things we can't cut costs on."

Until now, the non-profit group has operated mainly from external community funding sources such as the Lottery Grants Board, the

Community Organisation Grants Scheme and community gaming trusts. It also receives regular funding from Thames-Coromandel and Hauraki district councils, and collects membership fees and donations from the public.

"We apply to everyone but they're all contestable funding grants," Treasury trustee Lise Cook said.

"Obviously the funding climate has changed, a lot of the pools of funding that we go for are really oversubscribed at the moment.

"Basically it means that once we are out of funding, we are out of funding. There are a number of things we are doing at the moment as a board to try not to let that happen, but the reality of the situation

CONTINUED ON P6



Treasury trustee Lise Cook, left, and archivist Kaa Te Uruti are hopeful the organisation will secure funding to continue their heritage conservation work.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

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Five vehicles used to smash stores in mall

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

Ram raiders have smashed through a Thames shopping mall, entering through one set of doors and out another, causing extensive damage along their path.

The Goldfields Shopping Centre was alerted to a ram raid attack - which involved five vehicles - around 2am on July 6.

Mall manager John Freer told *The Profile* the assailants drove through the front doors by Specsavers before continuing down the concourse and smashing into The Warehouse. They then turned around, hit Vice Vape Co and a computer kiosk, and exited out of the main doors of the mall.

He wasn't yet aware what had been stolen during the ram raid.

"It's always been in our minds that all shops are targets. It's

really disappointing," Mr Freer said.

"I'm really surprised at the extent of this. The fact that people have driven in and have driven right around inside the shopping centre..."

"What's really concerning is we've got businesses that have been really struggling. It's school holidays, which is when you get a spike in trade... and now all but three of our shops are closed."

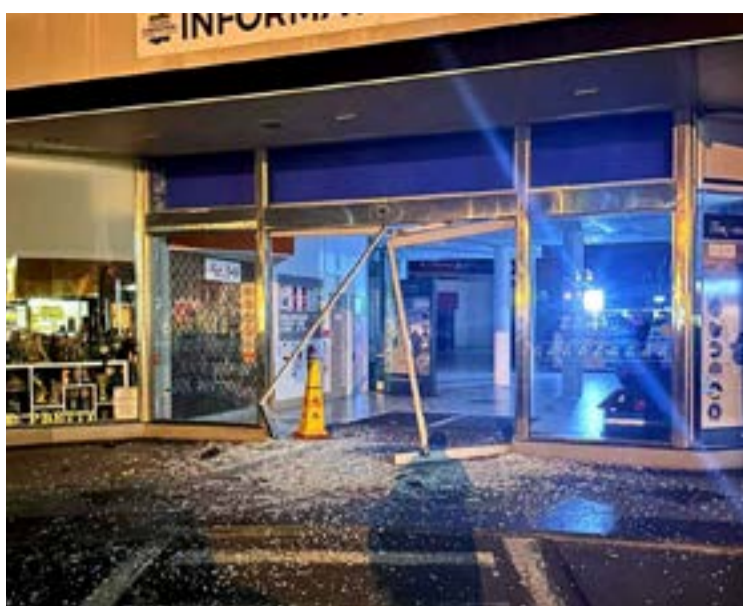
Mr Freer said some of the shops were run by solo business owners, and while he felt for the mall tenants, he did not

"have a lot of sympathy" for the ram raiders.

"All the security in the world is not going to stop these people, we can see that. You can put big bars all over the doors and windows, and I don't know whether they were opportunists, but obviously we're going to have to relook at what we've

"What's really concerning is we've got businesses that have been really struggling. It's school holidays, which is when you get a spike in trade... and now all but three of our shops are closed."

- John Freer



Thieves drove through both entrances of Goldfields Mall during a ram raid last week.

Photo: SUPPLIED

got here. "At this stage, let's get through the current situation and see where we go from there."

The Goldfields ram raid follows a spate of similar attacks that occurred in Thames Valley last year. In August, Thames Jewellers, Sunburst Cafe, and Caltex Paeroa were all victims of ram raid-style attacks which left storefronts smashed and items stolen.

Detective Senior Sergeant Kristine Clarke said last week that Police were investigating the Goldfields burglary.

She said five vehicles were used to gain entry and were driven carelessly through the shopping centre.

"Significant damage was

caused, and an unknown amount of goods and money were stolen. The offenders fled the scene a short time later."

Three vehicles involved have since been recovered and Police are continuing to follow positive lines of enquiry.

Police are conducting a scene examination and are working to identify and locate those involved.

DETAILS: Anyone with information that can assist Police with our enquiries is asked to contact us on 105 or online at 'Update Report' referencing file number 230706/3546. Information can also be shared anonymously through Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111.



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Thames Tides

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
Jul 12	Jul 13	Jul 14	Jul 15	Jul 16	Jul 17	Jul 18
Morning 2:07am 3.3 Afternoon 2:36pm 3.1 8:16am 0.6 8:52pm 0.9	Morning 3:03am 3.2 Afternoon 3:39pm 3.1 9:14am 0.7 9:54pm 0.9	Morning 3:59am 3.1 Afternoon 4:41pm 3.1 10:13am 0.7 10:50pm 0.9	Morning 4:55am 3.1 Afternoon 5:36pm 3.1 11:09am 0.7 11:42pm 0.9	Morning 5:50am 3.0 Afternoon 12:01pm 0.7 6:26pm 3.2	Morning 12:29am 0.9 Afternoon 12:48pm 0.7 6:43am 3.0 7:11pm 3.2	Morning 1:14am 0.9 Afternoon 1:31pm 0.7 7:31am 3.0 7:52pm 3.2
7:30am 5:17pm	7:30am 5:18pm	7:29am 5:18pm	7:29am 5:19pm	7:28am 5:20pm	7:28am 5:20pm	7:27am 5:21pm
Best At 7:32am 7:56pm	Best At 8:20am 8:45pm	Best At 9:11am 9:37pm	Best At 10:03am 10:30pm	Best At 10:56am 11:23pm	Best At 11:49am	Best At 12:15am 12:40pm
Rise 2:08am Set 12:48pm	Rise 3:15am Set 1:21pm	Rise 4:20am Set 1:58pm	Rise 5:23am Set 2:41pm	Rise 6:22am Set 3:32pm	Rise 7:14am Set 4:28pm	New Moon Rise 7:58am Set 5:27pm

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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	05
Tairua	+0	10	+0	21
Whangamata	-0	03	-0	05
Waihi Beach	-0	12	-0	12

Development's 'impact on modern Paeroa'

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

It was an "emotional" morning at the former Paeroa Racecourse on Monday.

Before dawn broke, local iwi, Hauraki District Council representatives, and developers Wayne and Chloe Wright were among those who blessed the "sacred site", pulling off a piece of the old grandstand to mark the start of the Paeroa Hills development.

The development will be constructed in nine stages. The proposed stage one includes installing a roundabout off State Highway 26 and replacing the grandstand with an apartment building.

Other stages of the development could potentially see a motel and commercial site erected, a chapel and multiple green spaces established, and roughly 230 houses built.

It will have a "huge impact on modern Paeroa", former Hauraki Mayor Basil Morrison said. The racecourse has sat largely vacant since the last horse bolted in 2012, but since the chains of the gates were cut in November, 2020, the public has since utilised the space, with events held, markets taking place, and workshops in use.

Some of the existing buildings - such as the members stand and function room sign-posted "The Argonaut Lounge" - will remain.

Hauraki Mayor Toby Adams



Wayne and Chloe Wright attended the blessing alongside their daughter, Belinda.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

told Wayne and Chloe Wright, who attended the blessing alongside their daughter, Belinda, that the development will have "an amazing impact on Paeroa and the Hauraki".

"You're going to leave your DNA here forever," he said. "Paeroa and Hauraki have been through some tough times over the years, but we're coming through it and we are going to see a new, modern Paeroa with

a whole new demographic of people, and we welcome them here."

Representatives from Ngāti Hako, Ngāti Tamaterā, and Ngāti Tara Tokanui said karakia and sang waiata as the sod was turned and a piece of the grandstand was dismantled before sunrise on Monday.

They said the former racecourse was a "special place" for all of the Paeroa community.

Chloe Wright also told *The Profile* that blessings meant "a great deal" to her family.

"It's a time to talk more with iwi about how we can work together and carry on creating history and creating a place that we hope is unlike any other."

The Wright family, from Tauranga, is the shareholder of WFT Finance & Investment Company and is also behind The Wright Family Founda-

PAEROA HILLS Former Paeroa Racecourse Development

STAGE 1:

Construction of a roundabout off State Highway 26
Replace the grandstand with an apartment building

STAGES 2-9:

Possible Motel and commercial site
Chapel
Multiple green spaces
Around 230 new houses

EXPECTED TIMELINE:

Work on site begins now, "start moving dirt" later this year, whole development: at least five years.

tion, which established the early learning childcare organisation, Best Start.

"We saw this as an opportunity to make a positive difference," Wayne Wright said.

"We think it'll probably take us a good five years from now, and we hope to start moving dirt later this year."



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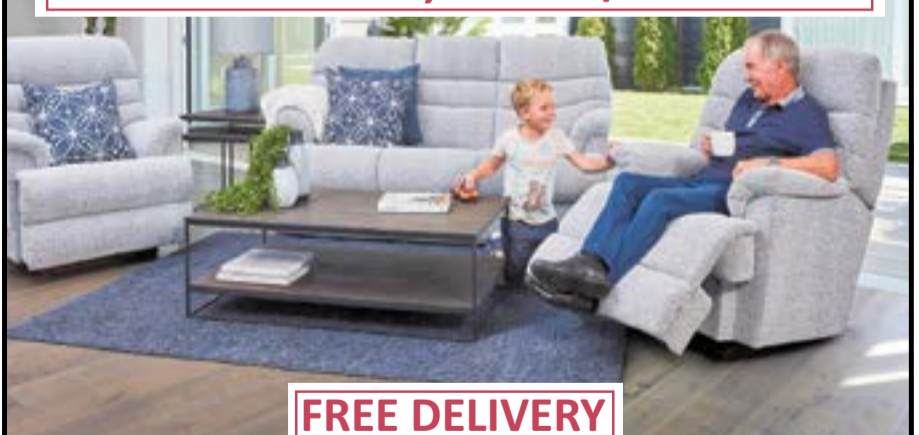
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Our Coromandel

News from Thames-Coromandel District Council



Create the Vibe survey

Close to 1,500 people contributed their ideas about the future of Thames' Create the Vibe community space in Mary Street through a series of engagement opportunities in June.

A two-week-long survey asking people about their experience of the Vibe gained over 1,300 online responses, one of the highest ever responses to a consultative survey our Council has had. In addition, members of the public took part in face-to-face interviews in four different sessions – three at the Vibe and one at Thames Market on a Saturday.

The Vibe was opened in March 2021 as a trial project, with 90 per cent of its funding from Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency and 10 per cent from ratepayers. It consists of creative play space, public seating, an activities hub and large artworks in a pedestrian-only area. However, despite winning an award for NZ's Best Street at the



Keep New Zealand Beautiful Awards in Wellington in February 2022, the Vibe space proved controversial due to the pedestrianised area being closed to traffic between Pollen Street and State Highway 25.

The insights gained through the engagement process are being analysed and a report will be presented to Thames Community Board at its 2 August meeting (see details below left) so a decision can be made on the what to do with the Vibe.

tcdc.govt.nz/create

Stormy weather impacts roading and rates

Reprioritising budgets and projects to repair our storm-damaged roading network has defined our Council's Annual Plan for the 2023/24 financial year.

Our Council formally adopted the Annual Plan at the end of June, setting an average district-wide rates increase of 11.6 per cent.

To avoid a higher increase, we've cut our operational costs, revised our capital works budget and deferred some of our non-roading projects. We've also used retained earnings (which are generated when our operational budgets have been underspent) to soften the rates increase by three per cent.

"The road to recovery may seem daunting at times, but we'll continue to advocate for ongoing central and regional support as we move through the recovery phase," says our Mayor Len Salt.

Find out more and read our full Annual Plan at tcdc.govt.nz/annualplan2023



ANNUAL PLAN 2023/24
REBUILD AND RECOVER

Rates rebate available

Applications for the 2023/24 rates rebate year from Te Tari Taiwhenua | Department of Internal Affairs are now available. You have until **30 June 2024** to apply for a rebate in the current rating year.

Rebates are calculated by the central government department, dependent on the amount of your household income and rates payable for the year. The maximum rebate this year has increased to \$750.

Need help?

Call 07 868 0200 to book an appointment between 31 July and 4 August 2023.

tcdc.govt.nz/ratesrebate



Our Council is investigating community views on the potential for a new trail in the Kauaeranga Valley. We are currently analysing the findings of a three-week long community survey which closes on 17 July. We'll be sifting through information gleaned through three participative drop-in sessions in late June.

For a number of years there has been concern about the need for safe access routes for children walking and cycling up Kauaeranga Valley Road and for other leisure users accessing the valley for walking, swimming or cycling.

After the needs assessment information from the survey and drop-in sessions has been analysed, Thames Community Board will consider whether the initiative should proceed to the feasibility stage.

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FURTHER DETAILS ON THE CHANGE AT tcdc.govt.nz/solid-waste-FAQs

PUT WASTE IN ITS PLACE

Thames Community Board UPDATE

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

"I'd encourage everybody to check out the Annual Plan for this financial year because some projects have been postponed. Roothing is taking up a big slice of spending to deal with damage from the cyclones. The other big change is to our rubbish and recycling services starting in September which includes the new weekly food scraps bins. We're also switching from blue bags to wheelie bins for rubbish. All the information you need is in a leaflet inside the new bins."

adrian.catran@council.tcdc.govt.nz



The Board's next meeting is on **Wednesday 2 August, 10am** in the Thames Council Chamber, 515 Mackay St. tcdc.govt.nz/meetings



~ Friday 14 July ~

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Lack of council communication ‘frustrating’

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

A Thames ratepayer has resorted to Facebook and the media to follow up a query to the district council, after facing seven months of inaction he thought may result in further damage to his property.

Chris Kemp contacted Thames Coromandel District Council in December, when he noticed erosion by a culvert behind his Brunton Cres property.

The property, which he bought in September last year, has a creek running through it. The bank was filled with weeds, and when he started clearing it out, Chris noticed the land below the house was beginning to erode.

“On either side of our property [the creek] is piped... it comes out at great force in the weather and it hits straight on to a sort of bank by us where the water pools out. You can see where it slowly erodes away at the land.”

Chris said he had initially found cracking in the land around the base of the house, and seven months after contacting council, he was concerned that it would deteriorate further, affecting his home.

“I’ve photographed it and dated things so I can track it,” he said.

“It’s not that bad but I just know ... that if things get left over time, erosion... can happen.”

Chris contacted the council to get the issue fixed.

“When I first started [Thames Coromandel District Council] messaged us back saying it’s not our issue, it’s the Waikato [District Council]; so we messaged them and they came back saying it’s not theirs, it falls under Thames. I thought, ‘Oh my god, here we go.’”

Since then, Chris said he has had minimal communication from the council, despite lodging multiple service tickets over email and phone.

“We’ve had two people turn up but unannounced. It’s just the weirdest way they communicate, I’ve never quite met anything like it,” he said.

“One day there was someone standing in the creek cleaning it out, and [he said] he was sent here by the council.”

On June 29, Chris resorted to a public social media post, naming the council and asking for a response.

He got an email from the council that same afternoon stating they had received his correspondence. After *The Profile* made further enquiries with the council on July 5, Chris received another email with a timeline and plan to get the issue rectified.

“It seems every time I mention our issues to someone, the council seems to step up its game. This email arrived today not long after

“We’ve had two people turn up but unannounced. It’s just the weirdest way they communicate, I’ve never quite met anything like it.”

- Chris Kemp



The culvert behind Chris Kemp’s property is eroding the bank. He has been trying to get it fixed since December. Photo: SUPPLIED

we spoke.

“The last email I got from [the council], they said they were looking to appoint a contractor to work through it. So I guess that’s taking responsibility, isn’t it?” Chris said.

Chris’ Facebook post garnered

several replies from community members stating they also had issues getting a response from the council.

“I know it’s not a big issue but if I would have just heard this one bit of correspondence back saying look, we’re aware of the situation,

we’ll get back to you - but there was nothing,” Chris said.

“I [now] have a name and a person to talk to, which I’ve never had before, but it’s taken probably seven months to get that. It could have been straight away.”

Chris, who works in property development, said the fix was a simple one requiring some sort of gabion rock wall or erosion cage to help dissipate the pressure from the flowing water.

“It’s a very simple thing to rectify but we just need clarity from the council because it is their responsibility, we can’t go in there and fix it,” he said.

“I know exactly what to do, I just think I would be charged with some environmental thing if I went and did it myself.”

Council confirmed the stormwater drain behind Chris’ property was part of the council’s drainage network, and said the repair work had now been approved.

“Due to the range of priorities around the district that the team and contractors have been resolving, this job was not progressed as quickly as we would have liked,” a council spokesperson said when asked about council’s lack of communication.

“In recent weeks, a design has been completed for improvement works that will aim to mitigate the issues experienced as a result of the high stormwater and debris flows. This work has been approved and is currently being programmed.”



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‘Undesirables’, Vibe not vibing in Thames survey

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

Thames town centre has been labelled as “tired” and “unfriendly” with concerns about intimidation by “undesirables”, a recent survey shows.

However, many respondents said they loved the town’s historic feel, saying it was “quaint”, “vibrant” and “inviting”.

The Visitors’ and Residents’ Survey, conducted by the Thames Business Association, received nearly 300 responses. It asked for people’s reasons for being in Thames, their impressions of the shops, eateries and attractions in the area, and suggestions for improving the town centre.

Several major issues were highlighted by the survey responses. One was an “intimidating” feeling in the town, with many respondents pointing to the rising visibility of “undesirables” along the main streets and in Goldfields mall.

“I am greeted with filthy homeless people hanging around our town. Shops are boarded up from ram raids and vandalism. Our town doesn’t feel safe anymore at all,” one respondent said.

“It’s so embarrassing to have a town centre full of people yelling, screaming, swearing and intimidating people,” another said.

Possible solutions suggested in the survey were to increase the police presence in the town, or move the Baptist Church food bank away

from Pollen St. Some who completed the survey were also keen to improve the shopping experience in Thames, calling for longer operating hours and a spruce-up of shop exteriors.

“Everything in the town is closed by 7 or 8pm,” one respondent lamented, while another said it was “only open limited hours, especially during long weekends”.

However, many felt the town

“People are passionate about this town ... they want to see it tidied up and looking smart, and ready to welcome visitors.”

- Sue Lewis O’Halloran

could become a real destination with a little bit of work.

“Some of the shops are quite rundown,” one respondent said; “needs a paint,” said another.

The Create the Vibe pedestrian space in Mary St also drew concerns.

“It’s a wasted space and looks terrible,” one response said, another saying, “it just attracts undesirable community. Including alcohol, drugs and yelling”.

Some respondents were in favour of the Vibe, but said it would work better in a different location.

“Mary St Vibe space is in the wrong place. Having a pedestri-

anised area is a great idea but more suited to Grahamstown,” they said.

“We lost count of how many people asked for the Vibe to be removed or Mary St reopened,” Business association general manager Sue Lewis O’Halloran said.

“And Pollen St’s looked tired for a while, I think that most people would tell you that, particularly because we haven’t had major investment in the infrastructure or anything for a really long time.”

Sue said she was impressed by the responses.

“They were thoughtful and in many cases, positive and encouraging, or contained practical advice,” she said.

“People are passionate about this town ... they want to see it tidied up and looking smart, and ready to welcome visitors,” she said. “We are different from other towns on the peninsula because we are actually a provincial/service town and that’s a slightly different role ... we need to learn to celebrate and promote those differences.”

Thames Coromandel District Council has also conducted its own survey on the future of the Vibe. The survey, which closed on June 25, received more than 1400 responses and results will be presented to the Thames Community Board on August 2.



Tough times ahead for Treasury archive

CONTINUED FROM P1

is, we are fully dependent on external funders.”

Ongoing costs make up a bulk of the trust’s expenses.

The specialist-built, temperature- and humidity-controlled archive costs \$12,000 a year to run; paid, trained archivists are needed to process the roughly 60 per cent of records yet to be catalogued and digitised.

Unexpected expenses have also cropped up - \$40,000 is needed to replace the about-to-expire fire suppression system, and the ageing IT system needs a \$55,000 upgrade to keep up with the workload. “We haven’t made any decisions on closure and won’t until we have a clearer idea of whether we’ve been successful in our short-term fundraising,” Katherine said.

“The final decision will be dictated by the amount of funding we have available. We will need to have guaranteed ongoing funding even if we have to cut back on some services and focus on keeping the archived collections safe.”

The Treasury’s role is to collect, house, and preserve oral and paper-based records detailing the history of people, organisations and businesses in the surrounding districts.

Its area of interest is vast, stretching from the top of the Coromandel Peninsula, across the Hauraki Plains and southwards to Te Aroha.

These records are made available for researchers and members of the public, and the Treasury has

plans to catalogue and digitise the entire collection to make it accessible online.

“This place contains a lot of local history, a lot of intrinsic knowledge that needs to be shared,” Lise said.

“We want people to use the resources that we have. And for us, seeing people discover family connections, finding their stories, is priceless.”

What the Treasury wanted now, Lise said, was for people to show their support by becoming a member or volunteer, buying a book about the local history, or simply popping in to see what the organisation was all about.

“With history you don’t know what you don’t have until it’s gone,” she said.

“[We] have the opportunity to tell the stories that are in here in a really cool and engaging and modern way ... but it all costs money.”

For now, the organisation’s priority is to keep the archive building going to protect all the collections inside it, Lise said.

“Supporters have contributed \$15,000 of donations in the last month. We’re really grateful for that support and we just want to say thank-you.”

DETAILS: The Treasury is open 11am-3pm, Monday, Thursday, Friday and 10am-2pm on Saturdays. Visit givealittle.co.nz/cause/help-protect-our-heritage to support their fundraising campaign.



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School fence nicked, since returned

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

It took Royce McMurtrie a couple of minutes to notice what thieves had made off with from his school last week.

Standing on the grounds of Paeroa Christian School on July 3, principal Mr McMurtrie was talking to a technician when he realised that around half a dozen panels of a school fence had gone missing.

“My brain couldn’t put it together for a few moments... I walked over and of course, the screws and the brackets were on the ground, and the panels were nowhere to be seen.”

The fence was constructed around three years ago after the school raised money for the materials.

It was erected by a retired dairy farmer, who volunteered his time and expertise, Mr McMurtrie said.

The panels were stolen under the light of a full moon between Sunday night and Monday morning.

They were returned a week later.

Before the panels were reunited with the school on Coronation St, Mr McMurtrie - known by his school community as Mr Mac - lodged a report to Police and obtained a quote for the replacement panels.

The cost amounted to around \$1500 - the same price as the



Panels of a fence at Paeroa Christian School were stolen early last week.

Photo: SUPPLIED

school’s insurance excess.

However, members of the community, upon hearing of the “unusual” theft, had offered to “sponsor a panel”.

“All small schools struggle financially, and to have something like this happen out of the blue is a bit frustrating,” Mr McMurtrie said.

“But we’ve had some really positive feedback from people

offering to sponsor a panel, so that’s really nice, and we take that as a win.

“The people who have reached out are not parents of my school, they’re just community members, and to me, that speaks volumes.

“There’s still a lot of good people here in Paeroa and it’s really appreciated.

“We are so proud to be part of

this awesome community.”

Mr McMurtrie said the school was happy to take back the panels after the thieves returned them, “but in all honesty... people are doing it tough at the moment”, he said.

“If [the panels] end up being a blessing for somebody, then that’s a good thing.”



Spending drops

Spending in the Coromandel in May was down 22 per cent compared to May, 2022, according to the latest data from economics consultancy Infometrics.

\$11.09 million was spent using credit and debit cards during May in the Thames-Coromandel district, compared to \$14.22m in May, 2022. The number of card transactions and their average value was also down.

Spending in most other visitor regions, such as Auckland, Christchurch and Queenstown rose in the same period, by as much as 36 per cent in the case of Queenstown.

“This is no surprise,” Thames-Coromandel district Mayor Len Salt said.

“These figures provide a sobering fact-check to what we all knew: that our economy is continuing to suffer as a result of the cyclones earlier this year and the long-term damage to SH25A as well as local roads like the Tapu-Coroglen.

“This is why we’re continuing to push the government for support to get us through until SH25A is reopened next year.”

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency said work had begun on building the bridge to replace the collapsed section of SH25A, which it expects will be completed by the end of March, 2024.

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Rural Life

Christine and canine pals make a good team



Christine Nielsen in action at the sheepdog trials. INSET: The Greenlea Rescue Helicopter.
Photos: TAKE THE MOMENT PHOTOGRAPHY

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

A Netherton dog trainer who has taken part in a myriad of canine sports across a four-decade career has obtained silver in her step into a different code.

Christine Nielsen took part in the first-ever Bayleys Greenlea Rescue Helicopter Sheepdog Trials last month, alongside her two New Zealand heading dogs, Team and Pal.

Held at the Fiber Fresh National Equestrian Centre at Aratiatia, near Taupō, the inaugural event attracted hundreds of competitors who mustered a total of 802 sheep.

Christine's friend Dave Schaw, the organiser of the trials, established the event to raise funds for the Greenlea Rescue Helicopter.

He was rescued by the helicopter after the motorbike he was riding overturned at the back of his farm in 2007.

The four-day event raised \$15,000 for the rescue service and Christine said she was "thrilled" to be involved with something so beneficial.

"I've done a lot of dog sports in my life - tracking, obedience, agility - but I've always wanted to get into this, and just before Covid, I thought: 'This is the time I need to do it'."

"After doing all these other dog sports and loving them - this has been our calling," she said.

Christine volunteered her time at Dave's home in the week before the event, helping to secure the sheep, putting up gear, and making sure the sheep were comfortable with



humans and the large, indoor arena.

"We started at dark and finished after dark every single day for seven days and it was amazing," she said.

"For seven days, I was absolutely buzzing. Everybody backed Dave, and even though it was sometimes minus-four [degrees celsius] in the mornings, and trying to find sheep in the fog was pretty hard, it was really, really cool."

The fundraising event saw

handlers having a maximum of 12 minutes to shepherd three sheep through a series of obstacles, such as gates, hurdles, and bridges.

Christine was in the Maiden class, and on the first day, she and four-year-old Team took to the arena.

Together, they got a good score and Team was "on the board".

However, on Day Two of the trials, it was Pal's turn and he knocked his own brother off the leaderboard.

"It was a little bit like sibling rivalry," Christine said.

"But I was delighted by how both dogs went. Pal managed to stay on the board for the whole four days and we ended up in the run-off."

After taking part in the run-off, Christine and Pal received

second place in their class.

She received \$300 in prize money plus spot prizes.

With the Sheepdog Trials set to become an annual event, Christine - who has rescued and rehabilitated a number of dogs and was once involved in running the Paeroa pound - said she "can't wait" to take part again.

"It was a fantastic experience, and my dogs and me will volunteer our services again and I can't wait for it. Even with those minus-four weather conditions, we did what we had to do and kept on going because we were just buzzing and busy."

DETAILS: To donate towards the Greenlea Rescue helicopter, visit give.rescue.org.nz/event/greenlea-rescue-helicopter/donate.



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Rural Life

Dietary management key for our senior pets



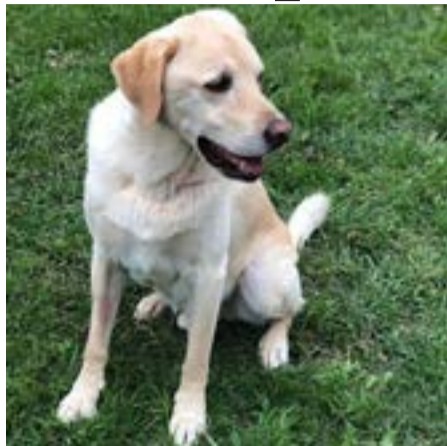
By Dr Georgia Paterson, BVSc

As our pets get older, they can become more susceptible to a variety of health conditions. If you have any concerns with your ageing pet it is always best to seek individualized veterinary advice.

However, one of the things we can do at home to help our beloved pets age gracefully is to get them started on a senior diet, which will help to meet all their changing nutritional needs. Just like a growing puppy or kitten has different nutritional needs from an adult animal to encourage appropriate growth and development, a senior animal's dietary needs will differ vastly from a healthy adult animal.

A good rule of thumb for when to transition your pet from a regular adult diet to a senior diet is based on their age. Switching to a senior diet is generally recommended for cats over the age of seven, small dogs over the age of eight, medium dogs over seven-years-old, and large breed dogs over five-years-old.

This may seem early as your pet may be this old and not show any obvious signs of ageing, however, a lot of the benefits of these senior diets come from slowing the progression of common age-related conditions to help maintain a good quality of life for as long as possible. These conditions include arthritis, dental disease, and muscle loss, as well as renal disease which is especially of



A senior diet will help meet all their changing nutritional needs. Photo: SUPPLIED

concern in cats. High-quality, veterinary-recommended senior diets such as the Royal Canin Mature range may include altered amino acid profiles to support and maintain healthy muscle mass, additives for joint

support such as chondroitin and glucosamine to assist with arthritis management, and other features specific to the needs of ageing animals of different types and sizes. For example, there is additional dental support in small breed dogs, and phosphorus restriction in cats to help slow the development of renal disease. It is worth noting that for cats with pre-existing renal disease, a renal support diet would be indicated instead of a regular senior diet.

Contact your local Franklin Vets clinic for advice on whether a senior diet would be the right fit for your ageing pet.

- Supplied by Franklin Vets, Paeroa



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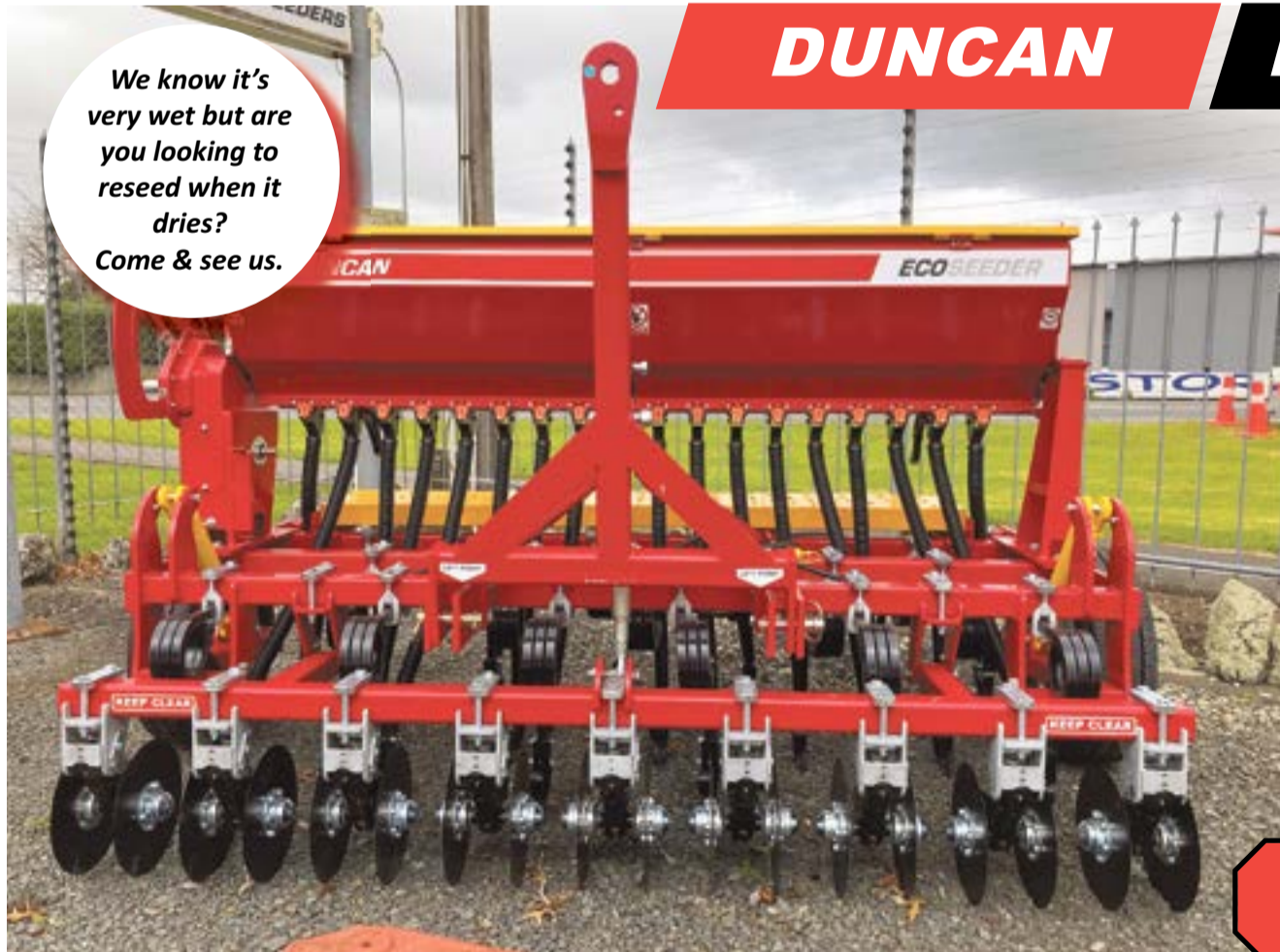
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Rural Life

Whispers of warmest year

El Niño is on its way, with whispers it could cause the Earth's warmest ever year. But what is it? NIWA scientists tell all.

Over the past three years, you may have heard about the rare 'triple-dip' La Niña that had its hands on the steering wheel of Mother Nature's car. It had strong influences on New Zealand's weather patterns - we experienced atmospheric rivers, extratropical cyclones, floods, droughts, record temperatures, high humidity, and multiple marine heatwaves.

But now a new driver is coming to town: El Niño. El Niño and La Niña are opposite phases of a natural global climate cycle. Typically, during an El Niño event, there is a weakening or reversal of the trade winds that blow across the equatorial Pacific. This allows warm water to move eastwards, creating hotter than average ocean temperatures towards South America. The opposite happens during La Niña, with unusually warm water pooling in the western Pacific, near Papua New Guinea. The ocean-atmosphere system seesaws between these states every few years, changing which side of the Pacific will experience more clouds, rainfall, and storms. This has a domino effect on global weather patterns.

In 2015, an exceptionally strong El Niño took hold in the Pacific Ocean, triggering a cascade of damaging weather. Indonesia was plunged into a deep drought that fuelled severe wildfires, while heavy rains inundated the Horn of Africa. Closer to home, several New Zealand regions experienced a very dry spring and start to summer, prompting concerns of drought. The event also helped make 2016 the planet's hottest year on record. During the last three years, a significant amount of warm wa-

ter built up in the western Pacific Ocean and is now sloshing eastward, so El Niño is building once again.

Markedly, ocean temperatures in key regions are warmer in June, 2023, than they were during June in previous strong El Niño episodes, such as in 1997 and 1982. This raises concerns for worldwide weather pattern changes over the coming year, which all depends on location. The closer a place is to the tropical Pacific, the more immediate and likely the effects will be. For a country like New Zealand which sits outside of the tropics, the effects of El Niño can take some time to build and often don't fully set in until spring or summer.

So, what should we expect? During El Niño, New Zealand tends to experience more southerly winds during winter, which began last week. During late winter, spring, and summer, south-westerly-to-westerly winds may become more prominent. This increases the chance for drier-than-normal conditions in eastern areas of the country and tends to cause more rain in the west. Such winds can also contribute to increased wildfire risk because of drying grounds in key agricultural regions, along with occasional hot air masses coming in from Australia.

El Niño has been associated with historically significant droughts in New Zealand, such as in 1972-73, 1982-83, 1997-98, and 2009-10, but it doesn't always bring one. The important thing is to monitor the situation carefully and have an action plan in case this we do get unusually dry weather later in 2023 or in 2024.

DETAILS: For up-to-date information, look out for the next Seasonal Climate Outlook July to September: niwa.co.nz/outlook.



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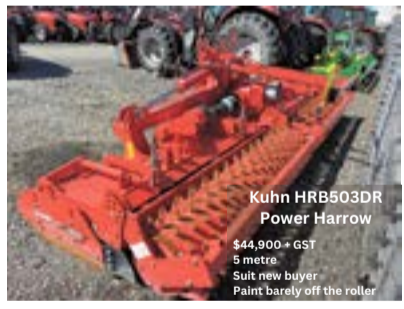
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Passion for the community a driving force

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

At Hato Hone St John, passion can be found in all corners of the organisation, from the staff who manage the country's ambulance officers, to the volunteers fundraising in the community.

Puriri's Roseanne Shaw and Paeroa's Helen Appleby were two of the ten Coromandel Peninsula and Hauraki Plains St John members inducted into the Order of St John in June. Their roles within the organisation, although very different, both centre around supporting the community any way that they can.

Roseanne is the general manager of ambulance operations for the South Island and Lower North Island, managing half of New Zealand's emergency ambulance service staff from her base in Thames. She came to the organisation as a volunteer.

"I decided to join St John as a volunteer ambulance officer in order to get to know some people ... and give back to the new community that I was joining," she said.

"That was June, 2004, and after about two months I decided this was something I wanted to do more of."

Roseanne worked her way through the ranks, studying to become an intensive care paramedic as well as joining the area committee and training cadets for their national competitions. Her passion for emergency medicine led her to becoming a tutor, teaching ambulance staff, helping develop programmes such as the



General manager of ambulance operations Roseanne Shaw, left, and Paeroa area committee treasurer Helen Appleby.



Photos: ALICE PARMINTER

RSI course - a rapid sequence intubation procedure - and eventually joining Auckland University of Technology as a paramedic lecturer.

"I really missed the camaraderie and the people within St John so I came back over as a territory manager in 2019," Roseanne said.

Being nominated for investiture was "just humbling," she said.

"I'm just a member of the whanau and I couldn't do what I do without everyone else around me."

Helen, meanwhile, was recommended to St John by a former area committee member after

helping them set up a cash book programme.

She has been the volunteer treasurer for the Paeroa area committee for 18 years. She helped with establishing the Paeroa Op Shop, funding an ambulance and a health shuttle, and developing an active community hall and drop-in centre, as well as supporting the ambulance and operations staff any way she could. She was especially proud of her work in getting AEDs - defibrillators - out into the community, Helen said.

"My parents have been big volunteers and I grew up with that," Helen said.

"The satisfaction of helping somebody, making some good friends, meeting some interesting people - [I feel] pretty humble actually that someone thought I was worthy of being nominated."

Being able to make a difference in people's lives is the impetus for both women.

"I mean, I'm in my 60s, so I'm at the end of my career. But I've been able to give back to the careers of the paramedics of the future," Roseanne said.

"And I've got a passion particularly for women in leadership and women in paramedicine.

"It's making a difference in the

community that you work in, it's getting to know the people in the community that you work in, it's being able to give back. It's being there in the time of people being at their most vulnerable and just being able to help."

Helen agreed, saying the region was lucky to have so many willing volunteers.

"It's pretty awesome that our small community has this many in one area," she said.

"We've obviously got some pretty good volunteers behind the scenes."



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SPORTS

Waitai displays power and resilience

BOXING

In a thrilling boxing match held in Melbourne on Friday, Francis Waitai showcased true grit and power in the highly anticipated bout that took place over eight intense rounds, captivating the audiences in both New Zealand and Australia. Despite the final decision not falling in his favour, Waitai's performance was nothing short of outstanding.

From the opening bell, Waitai showcased his skill and technique, unleashing a flurry of well-timed punches that tested Bowen's defence. Round after round, Waitai demonstrated his power and accuracy, as both men traded blows.

Waitai had Bowen on the canvas in the third with a great left to the ribs, but the referee called a 'slip'. Irrespective, Waitai continued to press forward, round after round, always on the front foot, and taking the fight to Bowen. The atmosphere crackled with excitement as both fighters engaged in a thrilling display of boxing prowess.

Waitai unleashed a great combination in the fifth, but that flurry was ended due



Francis Waitai in Melbourne. Photo: SUPPLIED

to Bowen losing his mouthguard, the fight having to be paused whilst it was replaced. Again, in the seventh, Waitai unleashed a punishing combination, culminating in a powerful left hook to the ribs, deflating Bowen.

Just as Bowen recoiled, Waitai

stepped in to finish the bout, but Bowen again lost his mouthguard, with the referee stopping the fight providing Bowen again with another much-needed break.

Bizarrely the referee didn't penalise Bowen or deduct any points. The judges' decision ultimately favoured Jack Bowen, but the outcome did not dampen the respect and admiration earned by Waitai. His ability to stay composed and focused throughout the match was a testament to his mental and physical strength.

Speaking after the match, Waitai expressed gratitude to his fans and supporters for their unwavering encouragement. He acknowledged the disappointment of not securing a victory but emphasized his determination to continue honing his skills and striving for success in the future.

Shaun George, Waitai's coach, spoke after the bout, expressing how disappointed the team was with the decision, however praising Bowen as a quality boxer.

Francis Waitai will return to the ring on September 23 at the highly anticipated Chaos On The Coromandel event in Thames.



KEREPEHI BOWLS REPORT

Wet weather has caused a few headaches and one cancellation on June 25 of Gordon O'Brien Memorial 4s. Successful days were: June 4 Martin Barriball Memorial 4s winners: 1st 4 wins 40 points 21 ends (Kerepehi) Danny Te Iri, Pat Ridings, John Ridings, Laurie; 2nd 4 wins 38 points 23 ends (Tui Park) Steve John, Graeme Howard, Tim Tighter, Craig Townsend; 3rd 3.5 wins 25 po ints 14 ends (Kerepehi) John Hogarty, Jason Tutuki, Michael Crosland, Murray; 4th 3 wins 14 points 19 ends (Kerepehi) Graham Pyke, Glenda Brackenridge, Margaret Henderson, George Morehu. June 11, Rodney Garrett Memorial Opt 4s: 1st 4 wins 40 points Colin Wilson, Todd, Dave D; 2nd 4 wins 31 points Arthur Thorburn, Maisie, Lois Curd, Mariah; 3rd 4 wins 16 points John Brooks, Mike Proctor, W Martin, M Cobb; 4th 3 wins 27 points Daniel Harrison, Tracy Harrison, Tania Harrison, Don Cooper. Coming up: July 23: Tunnicliffe Nissan Opt 4s. Wish for dry weather for a while, good bowling. - Terry King

Book fair raises \$10k for lodge

The Lions Club of Waihi will donate \$10,000 raised at its annual book fair to the New Zealand Cancer Society's cancer lodge in Hamilton.

A Book Fair committee spokesperson said the annual fair was a great success in terms of teamwork, with 34 members contributing 479 hours of volunteer work to stage the event.

"We had a tremendous response to the public donation of books. This resulted in... 750 plus people through the doors of the Memorial Hall to buy books, jigsaws and CDs."

Waihi Lions members were excited to support the Lions Cancer Lodge, she said.

"The Cancer Lodge has taken a big hit in being unable to fundraise through Daffodil Day for two years owing to the pandemic. We know this facility is vital to our community in Waihi, helping people in their time of greatest need.

"So, a huge thank you to all who helped make this possible. It certainly was a great morale booster for everyone - those who donated books, helpers and book buyers."

Waihi Lions spokesperson David Parish said the Waikato branch of the New Zealand Cancer Society currently found itself under severe financial stress and was concerned it might soon be unable to fulfil its services.

"It has sent out an appeal to all the Lions Clubs in the Bay of Plenty/Waikato area asking them for financial support," he said.

"Lions clubs have traditionally had a close working relationship with the society, assisting with the annual Daffodil Day collections, supporting Camp Quality, which is an annual summer camp for children living with cancer and, possibly, most importantly, involvement with the Lions/Cancer Society Lodge, which plays such a significant role in the caring for patients who are undergoing treatment at Waikato Hospital.

"There will be very few people in our wider community who have not had direct or indirect contact with the wonderful service that the Lodge provides. The club believes that this is money well spent."

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Matariki celebration amid new beginnings at Matatoki

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

New developments are underway to enhance the learning environment at Matatoki School, as the rural institution celebrates another new beginning: that of the Māori New Year.

The school held its Matariki celebration on June 30 with a hāngi and a showcase of the students' kapa haka skills. Each class presented their learning projects to the assembled parents, expounding on their knowledge of Matariki and the sun, stars and planets.

Outside, larger projects were also in progress.

Behind the classrooms, construction has begun on a sensory garden which will provide a quiet place for students to wander at lunchtimes.

The sensory garden was an initiative by the Friends of Matatoki School parent's group. It was sponsored by Bunnings Whangamatā, who donated the resources.

"They've been planning this for years and to see their vision finally come to reality is wonderful," school principal Hine Viskovich said.

"There will be little reading nooks where they can just take a book and sit quietly, there'll be plants they can eat, plants they can smell, plants they can touch ... classroom learning can be quite intense, and more and more children need that space just to take a breath and have a quiet chat with



Matatoki school celebrated Matariki in style. Outside, the school is working on a number of new developments.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER

their friends." A mostly-finished mural covers the classroom facing the road, welcoming visitors with a cheerful native bush scene. One of a pair of artworks commissioned for the school, the mural was painted by Thames artist Kylie Gunn.

"[We] got some funding through Creative Coromandel," Hine said.

"I wanted [Kylie] to depict what

the Matatoki area would have been like before people took over, the kahikatea swamp forest and flax plants that dominated this whole plain, and the birdlife and the rich natural environment that would have existed in those ancient times."

The second artwork, a waharoa or gateway, will be designed by the students of the school, with guidance from Puriri artist and

ex-student Rick Fisher.

The theme for the waharoa is ka mua ka muri - a Māori proverb which means looking back to the past to guide the future.

"Every child will be contributing artwork to the waharoa, and also having the opportunity to work alongside Rick Fisher like a true artist to create the artwork," Hine said.

"[It will] tell the stories of the

past of Matatoki School and the area.

"Next term our whole focus is about our learners building connections with the history of the local environment and the past, and they'll take those into the future with them, that's our big goal."

Construction is also underway on an extension to the staffroom, a build which Hine said was long overdue.

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Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand

Epic journey for young cadets



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

1965

Nineteen members of the Regular Force Cadet Unit, mostly 17 year olds, were to be dropped on the roadside away from Waiouru with orders to reach the Thames racecourse within three days. Each would carry one 24-hour ration pack and travel in light battle kit. Before leaving they were to be searched and relieved of extra money and food. The cadets would be taken into the army exercise area at Kauaeranga Valley for four days training in field engineering, ambush drill and casualty evacuation. On leaving the valley they were to tramp overland to Te Puru for a rendezvous with the fisheries protection launch *Manga*.

The launch would take them across the Firth of Thames to Whakatiwai, near Kaiarau, for another march through the Hunua Ranges to join trucks which would take them to Papakura Camp. After returning to National Park by train the group was to march all night over the flats of Mt Ruapehu to the Waihoheho area for further patrols and exercises. They would then tramp on to return to Waiouru,



Thames Racecourse, 1965.

Photo: SUPPLIED

having covered 600 miles.

LONG WAITING LIST

Auckland patients on long waiting lists for non-urgent surgery would soon find themselves in Thames Hospital. A scheme approved by the Auckland Hospital Board provided for the transfer of voluntary patients to Thames Hospital where there were available beds. Surgeons and anaesthetists from Auckland would travel to Thames to perform the operations. The most suitable patients were those who would stay in hospital for less than a week – mainly those with hernias or varicose veins.

ALLEGATIONS MADE

Allegations of listening in to telephone conversations were made against some operators at the Paeroa telephone exchange. A toll operator resigned because of animosity from other operators since he complained of their listening in to telephone conversations. The operator said that when he went on to day work, after two years on the night shift, it opened his eyes to how bad it was. After complaining to his supervisor it became impossible to work there because of outright hostility. "It is just a matter

of right or wrong," he said. "People expect to have their calls private." The chief post master at Thames said, "listening in is not condoned by the department in any way and if detected is taken up with the officer concerned". Operators were not allowed to extend the normal regular monitoring of calls to check if the parties were still on the line.

JOBS LOST

Seventy five workers in Waihi and Paeroa television factories lost their jobs three days after their employers had assured union officials no one would be dismissed from either factory. Three hundred employees agreed at stop-work meetings at the Waihi and Paeroa factories to protest at the recent dismissal of the television factory workers. A North Island Electrical Workers' Union official said "The assurances we received from the Akrad Radio Corporation that no redundancy was envisaged at Waihi and Paeroa meant absolutely nothing. In view of the developments we now want some concrete assurances about continuity of employment." The action revealed a lack of concern by overseas monopolies for the welfare of New Zealand workers.

AED for Thames MAD

Local community theatre group Thames Music And Drama, have recently taken possession of a Red Cross AED, or Automated External Defibrillator, after a fatal incident last year.

Committee member Sam Horne, suggested the society acquire one after a long term member of the society had a massive coronary incident and passed away onsite during the read through of the much-anticipated musical *Mamma Mia*.

Sam was one of many people present at the time who stepped up to try to save a life.

"We were very fortunate to have the calibre of skilled medically trained personnel amongst the cast," Thames Music And Drama President, Diane Connors said.

"We had a paramedic, a nurse, ambulance officer and two members of the fire brigade who sprung into action immediately."

Unfortunately, despite their best efforts and the quick arrival of the ambulance, there was nothing more that could be done.

Sam successfully applied to Grassroots Trust for funding to cover the cost of the AED. The unit was recently delivered to the Tararu Cultural Centre, where the Thames MAD group have their base.

The new unit has been installed in the foyer, where it is readily available to any member of the public. Ms Horne also ensured it was registered on the nationwide AED app, which tells you where the closest defibrillator is to your current location and how to access it.

Training for key personnel on how to use the AED will take place in the near future.

"We hope we never have the occasion to have to use it," Sam said, "but it's nice to know it's there".



Thames MAD committee member Sam Horne with the AED. Photo: SUPPLIED

Driver and volunteer programme wins award

The Thames Community Centre has won the most Outstanding Community Driver Education programme award at the recently held Driving Change national conference.

The network is a national driver education organisation with more than 500 members, including private sector, government and community groups.

Centre manager Jeff Whitfield said the award recognised the service the centre was providing and getting a driver's licence was a public good as much as a personal responsibility.

"The judges were swayed by the programme's philosophy of paying back through volunteering," he said.

The centre fundraises to pay for all stages of the licences, including learner courses, mentored practice for practical tests, lessons and defensive driving courses. Those receiving this support give back to the community through volunteer work, which the centre arranges.

"It was very affirming to win the award and says a lot about the team of people involved," he said.

"The driver-volunteer's commitment to both gaining the qualification and giving back makes for a very robust programme. We are especially fortunate to have the support of Valley Toyota for our practice vehicle and for the wonderful



Thames Community Centre drivers, mentors, board members and staff.

Photo: SUPPLIED

work our volunteer mentors do as they take the students through their practices to the test."

The judges were impressed the centre helped with all stages of getting a licence, from learners to full.

"We offer two-day learner courses at the local high school and at the centre for those who have left school. One of our vol-

unteers has developed a data tool that allows us to keep an eye on participants' progress, so when the time is right we have our restricted licence holders attend a Defensive driving course before sitting their full."

The centre is also pleased to welcome Cath Herbert to the team at the centre. Cath is employed to co-ordinate the pro-

gramme and will be at the centre Wednesday Thursday and Fridays.

Cath said she was looking forward to hosting the next learner course at Thames High School in August and a community-based course at the centre in October.

"Another focus for me will be to grow the mentored driving practice for those looking to

pass their restricted. We can't do this without mentors so anyone with a full licence who likes driving, has a couple of hours spare a week this is a way to help others," she said.

"Our mentors, some of whom made their living from driving, want to pass on their skills. Others enjoy the connection and the interesting people they get to meet."

Jeff Whitfield said it was "exciting" to have Cath on board.

"The Drive and Volunteer programme has been steadily expanding over the last few years and will be great to have additional hours being spent on increasing that growth."

The centre's board was also keen to see the centre broadening its collaboration with other organisations and offer other community education options to the people of Thames, he said.

The Centre is working with the Thames Menz Shed to provide rodent and mustelid trap building workshops, Thames Budget Service to share essential tools and strategies on how to get more from your dollar and Mindful Path Thames to explore how healthy emotional and mental wellbeing can help us get through the complexities of life.

DETAILS: To contact Cath Herbert: Ph 027 868 9797 or email: tccdrivermentor@gmail.com. More info: Contact Jeff, Ph 027 868 9797 or email: tccr@xtra.co.nz or find Thames Community Centre on Facebook.

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Situations Vacant

**Trustee Vacancies:
Thames Valley Tangata Ora Trust**

We are a Not-For-Profit Community Organisation, based in Thames which serves the locality, supporting particularly disabled and disadvantaged members of it who face physical or economic challenges. These can lead to difficulties for them accessing WINZ, Medical services advocacy etc. Our Social Enterprise Arm located at 607 Mackay St Thames helps those in need of physical or personal services, including access funding through grants for hire or purchase of electric scooters, wheelchairs, personal care items etc.

We are seeking new Trustees because it is our desire to enlarge the present Board of Trustees with a view to expansion of the Trust activities in terms of scope and scale, as well as to facilitation of succession in the roles of Trust Officers on the Board. We are looking for people with good skills in developing teamwork and professional relationships within the Community we serve, of good character and standing in the Community. Candidates will need to commit to attending Board meetings (typically between 2-4 hours a month), with other activities as needed. The positions are unpaid though out-of-pocket expenses are paid on Board approval. Its main reward is the unique governance and support provided to a valuable small team of Volunteers who, in turn, serve this vulnerable population in our Community.

Letters of Interest should be sent with C.V. to:
The Board Secretary
Thames Valley Tangata Ora Trust
P.O. Box 265
Thames.
Or by email to: Board.Secretary@tangataora.co.nz,
to arrive by
5 pm Monday 25th July 2023

Situations Vacant

Hato Hone St John Thames - Area Committee have vacancies for a Committee Secretary and a Committee Treasurer.

These are volunteer positions to support the work of the Area Committee and are appointed for a three-year term. A lesser term would be considered.

The committee's role is the local delivery of Hato Hone St John's vision for enhanced health and wellbeing for all, by working within the committee and wider Hato Hone St John structures, to meet the priorities within the Hato Hone St John Community Health Strategy for Thames. The expected time commitment is 60 to 90 hours a year although the Treasurer may need to commit to slightly more. Some paid admin staff support is available to assist.

The appointees will need to attend the regular Area Committee meetings and work collaboratively with the other members of the committee and wider organisational relationships.

We are seeking new volunteers for these positions that would either suit experienced people or those with some skill wishing to kickstart the development of their skill base and experience for their personal future ambitions.

Please email your expressions of interest to hauraki.community@stjohn.org.nz in the first instance, or post to:
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PO Box 701, Thames 3540



PAPER RUNNER

We have a vacancy for a paper runner in Paeroa, near the old racecourse.
Please contact Geoff via email admin@valleyprofile.co.nz for more information.



Lora Mountjoy, left, Julie Sargisson, Alison Carter and Catherine Delahunty have published a book of poetry. Photo: SUPPLIED

Book of poetry reflects environment

A group of Thames-Coromandel women has published a book of poetry called *On Our Watch*, which will be launched at Carson's Bookshop in Thames at 2pm on July 16. The book contains a collection of poems by Catherine Delahunty, Lora Mountjoy, Julie Sargisson and Alison Carter. Delahunty said the group had been writing stories and poems off and on

for 40 years. "Our themes reflect our years in the area and our love of the environment and our experiences as women in this community," she said. The first launch was in Kapanga Coromandel town, which was combined with an art exhibition interpreting the work. The Thames launch will include the readings of some poems.

SH25 fully open after multiple slips

State Highway 25 re-opened to two lanes on Friday following the final clean-up of the large slip at Ruamahanga Bay and a smaller slip at Waiomu between Thames and Coromandel. Temporary speed limits are in place. Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency said providing no further slips came down, the highway would remain open 24 hours a day from now, under regular supervision. SH25 also opened to two lanes on the other side of the Coromandel Peninsula between Hikuaui and Opoutere on Friday afternoon, following pavement stabilisation and the installation of temporary ramps. The highway had been greatly compromised by a major under-slip at Opoutere since March 6. Contractors cut into the bank to create a temporary lane before completing a permanent retaining wall. On the Thames Coast highway, there has been issues with cliff stability for a fortnight since two large slips fell on June 24. "It's been a huge job for our contractors, not only clearing the initial slips, but facing the on-going risk and challenge of slip material continuing to come down over the last two weeks," Waka Kotahi journey manager for the Waikato Liam Ryan said. "The job has involved clearing hundreds of cubic metres of material away from site and efforts to mitigate the risk of further slips with abseiling specialists removing

loose rock, arborists bringing down dangerous trees and sluicing of the cliff face using water dumped by helicopter. "The road has been fully closed multiple times for public safety and to enable the work to take place. Road users have put up with long delays until vehicles could be piloted through or the road was re-opened to one lane under stop/go. "In all of the work around the Coromandel, the priority for Waka Kotahi contractors has been clearing a pathway for emergency services then ensuring communities are reconnected as quickly and safely as possible," Mr Ryan said. The work done on all slip sites should improve ongoing resilience on the highway, but road users should expect wet weather to continue to pose a risk around the peninsula, he said. Work was planned to resume at SH25 Opoutere on Monday, which would require periods of one hour long stop/stop closures. Asphalt surfacing is planned to take place on Tuesday night, July 11, with up to one hour stop/stop closures required overnight from around 7pm. "We appreciate how inconvenient these major repairs works have been for the communities, visitors and businesses on the Coromandel Peninsula - especially with the long-term closure of SH25A, and thank everyone for their patience."

HG LEACH CLUB RUGBY FINALS 2023

Rhodes Park, Thames Saturday 15th July - Gates Open 10.30am

11.00am
Field 2
Coastal Women
v
Country Women
12.15pm
Field 2
T.V. United Under 21's
v
United Matamata Sports Under 21's

12:30pm
Senior B Final
Lawrence Memorial Cup
Tairua
v
Coromandel
Field 1

2:35pm
Senior A Final
McClinchy Cup
Hauraki North
v
Whangamata
Field 1

\$5 Entry - Under 18 FREE - CASH ONLY • No Alcohol, Glass or Dogs permitted at the grounds



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



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 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

108

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

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

EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

108

HARD

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

MEDIUM

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

EASY

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

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JUMBO CROSSWORD

128

- ACROSS**
- 1 Stay out of trouble (4,4,4,5)
 - 10 Forceful and definite in expression or action (8)
 - 15 Sorcerer (6)
 - 16 Serious devotee (10)
 - 17 Marriage offer (8)
 - 19 Somewhat hungry (7)
 - 21 Pillow stuffing (5)
 - 22 Strike back (9)
 - 25 Oddball (9)
 - 27 Move off, carry on (7)
 - 29 Ebb (6)
 - 33 Cunning (5)
 - 34 Calm (8)
 - 36 Wet hobby (4,6)
 - 39 Mimic (3)
 - 41 Seer (7)
 - 42 Small truck (6)
 - 43 In slow time (mus) (6)
 - 44 Intimate touch (4)
 - 45 Equivalent word (7)
 - 48 Final scene in which the plot is resolved (10)
 - 53 Sweet-scented posy (7)
 - 57 Impulse (4)
 - 58 Fragrant ointment (6)
 - 59 Small rounded lump (6)
 - 60 Treated hide (7)
 - 62 Day before (3)
 - 64 Ultimate criterion (6,4)
 - 65 Cud-chewing animal (8)
 - 66 Line up (5)
 - 69 Philatelist's interest (6)
 - 70 Sports official (7)
 - 71 Height instrument (9)
 - 76 On the fence (9)
 - 77 Make ready (5)
 - 78 Depict (7)
 - 83 Imperil (8)
 - 84 Classify according to a mental stereotype (10)
 - 85 Botch, mess up (6)
 - 86 Scatter (8)
 - 87 Resorting in desperation to utterly inadequate remedies (9,2,6)
 - DOWN**
 - 2 Departed (6)
 - 3 Practical joke (5)
 - 4 Indicate assent (3)
 - 5 Drawback (4)
 - 6 Paper-folding art (7)
 - 7 Magazine boss (6)
 - 8 Optical glass (4)
 - 9 Those watching (8)
 - 11 Seller's profit (6)
 - 12 Theory (10)
 - 13 Job (4)
 - 14 Crash together (7)
 - 18 Pickled cabbage (10)
 - 20 Stop flow (4)
 - 23 Begin (5)
 - 24 Withdrawing from the workforce (8)
 - 26 West Indian music (7)
 - 28 Recovery setback (7)
 - 30 Prey (6)
 - 31 Two-note bird (6)
 - 32 Flag (6)
 - 35 Unworldly, inexperienced (5)
 - 37 Blustery (5)
 - 38 Extremely (4)
 - 40 Abate (4)
 - 45 Cushion (5)
 - 46 Bedtime drink (8)
 - 47 Contemptibly small in amount (6)
 - 48 Cut out of one's will (10)
 - 49 Identify (4)
 - 50 Rattle, demoralise (7)
 - 51 French Mrs (6)
 - 52 Synthetic fibre (5)
 - 54 Portent (4)
 - 55 Rave about (7)
 - 56 Tree-lined street (6)
 - 61 Adjust or make up for (10)
 - 63 Engineer's block (5)
 - 67 Curative (8)
 - 68 Vote against (4)
 - 69 Perspired (7)
 - 72 Parody (7)
 - 73 Alcove (6)
 - 74 Saturate (6)
 - 75 Pallid (6)
 - 79 Singing voice (5)
 - 80 Part of the eye (4)
 - 81 Surface depression (4)
 - 82 Greek B (4)
 - 85 Passenger vehicle (3)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15				16					17				
18			20		21			22					24
		25	26				27	28					29
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80						81			82				
83					84								85
86						87							

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Muddle through, 8 Object, 14 Exile, 15 Globular, 16 Emerald, 17 Sires, 18 Top, 19 Red tape, 21 Spinnaker, 22 Deputy, 25 Stationary, 27 Startled, 28 Arrows, 31 Sprite, 33 Itemise, 34 Cactus, 35 Limp, 37 Rye, 39 Firm, 40 Traitor, 41 Marco Polo, 42 Spectre, 43 Lethargy, 48 Swansong, 52 Blossom, 56 Nostalgia, 57 Amorous, 58 Axel, 59 Any, 60 Said, 61 Elixir, 62 Angelic, 63 Mallet, 65 Stylus, 66 Stockade, 68 Needlework, 71 Expand, 72 Self-doubt, 74 Added up, 76 Pal, 79 Unite, 80 Proviso, 81 Assassin, 83 Edges, 84 Porter, 85 In the pipeline.

DOWN: 2 Ugliest, 3 Debut, 4 Eel, 5 Harm, 6 Overpayments, 7 Green, 8 Oddment, 9 Just, 10 Comet, 11 Ditty, 12 Peppers, 13 Camaraderie, 14 Estuary, 20 Projector, 23 Sanitary, 24 Welcome, 26 Triumph, 27 Skiers, 29 Orinoco, 30 Furrow, 32 Poise, 34 Cents, 36 Prong, 38 Horn, 43 Lanes, 44 Testify, 45 Away, 46 Giggle, 47 Molar, 48 Scorched, 49 Assembled, 50 Swallow, 51 Niece, 52 Bauxite, 53 Shy away from, 54 Mangle, 55 Polling booth, 64 Surplus, 65 Skipper, 67 Cheaper, 69 Reunion, 70 Indigo, 71 Elegy, 73 Onion, 75 Easel, 77 Deft, 78 Wasp, 82 Sip.

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