

# The Valley Profile

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The Valley Profile

## Paeroa's new presidents



Katie McLaren, left, and Wei Zhang have become the presidents of their Paeroa service organisations.  
Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

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

There's a change in the air at two Hauraki service organisations, and with it sees two females wearing the chains.

Katie McLaren, 36, has become the youngest ever president of Rotary Paeroa, while Wei Zhang, 48, has be-

come the very first female president of the Paeroa Lions.

The milestone marks a significant moment in which the charitable organisations expand their diversity.

"I think the membership is changing and we need to change with it," Katie told *The Profile*.

"Our community is age diverse and

ethnically diverse, so the club needs to change with the times. I may ruffle a few feathers in my presidency, but I think it needs to happen," she said, "while also honouring the traditions in the way Rotary has been run."

Katie became Rotary Paeroa's newest president on July 4, taking the reins from Margarete Ford. She said while

the club was evenly split with about a 50/50 male-female membership, she was keen to work with schools to encourage young leaders to come forward.

She was also "excited" to hear Wei had become Paeroa Lions' first ever female president in its 63 years.

Wei took over the position from Peter

CONTINUED ON P2

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Our focus is 100% local community news.

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Last issue it was in the Richmond Villas ad.

# Female presidents dominate in Paeroa

CONTINUED FROM P1

McNair at the end of June. At first, she wasn't sure if she could do it, she said, but she received encouragement from other members.

"Previously, they didn't even want female members. I think I joined the club at the right time."

She said the membership was still skewed - out of 41 members, only four of them were women - but Wei said all four were "great Lions".

"And I think that also gives confidence to the male Lions - showing that the girls can do stuff."

The two presidents are keen to work together going forward, with both hoping to focus on mental health awareness within the district.

Katie said the 2023-24 Rotary International Presidential Theme was 'Create Hope in the World'.

"Two of the main focuses are promoting peace and a focus on mental health. In my year as president, I will really be looking at how we can support mental health in our community," she said.

Meanwhile Wei, who joined Paeroa Lions in 2017, hoped to be the first in a long line of female presidents for the organisation.

"It's becoming a national trend," she said. "Females are



Katie McLaren, above, and Wei Zhang, below, have become presidents.

Photos: RICHARD HORNELL

taking more roles in community work.

"Especially nowadays, there are a lot of uncertainties in society, so we do need to send some positive signals to the youth and encourage them to get more involved with the community.

"It's going to be a good, long-term thing," she said.

**DETAILS: For more information on the clubs, find Rotary Paeroa and Paeroa Lions Club on Facebook.**



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## Thames Tides

Wed Jul 19	Thu Jul 20	Fri Jul 21	Sat Jul 22	Sun Jul 23	Mon Jul 24	Tue Jul 25
 Morning: 1:57am 0.8, 2:11pm 0.6 Afternoon: 8:16am 3.1, 8:32pm 3.3 Sun: 7:27am 5:22pm Best At: 1:04am 1:28pm Rise: 8:35am, Set: 6:28pm	 Morning: 2:38am 0.8, 2:50pm 0.6 Afternoon: 8:58am 3.1, 9:11pm 3.3 Sun: 7:26am 5:23pm Best At: 1:51am 2:13pm Rise: 9:06am, Set: 7:29pm	 Morning: 3:18am 0.8, 3:28pm 0.7 Afternoon: 9:37am 3.1, 9:49pm 3.2 Sun: 7:26am 5:23pm Best At: 2:35am 2:56pm Rise: 9:33am, Set: 8:28pm	 Morning: 3:58am 0.8, 4:05pm 0.7 Afternoon: 10:15am 3.1, 10:28pm 3.2 Sun: 7:25am 5:24pm Best At: 3:16am 3:36pm Rise: 9:57am, Set: 9:26pm	 Morning: 4:37am 0.8, 4:44pm 0.8 Afternoon: 10:52am 3.1, 11:07pm 3.2 Sun: 7:24am 5:25pm Best At: 3:56am 4:16pm Rise: 10:19am, Set: 10:24pm	 Morning: 5:16am 0.8, 5:25pm 0.8 Afternoon: 11:30am 3.0, 11:47pm 3.1 Sun: 7:24am 5:26pm Best At: 4:36am 4:56pm Rise: 10:41am, Set: 11:20pm	 Morning: 5:56am 0.8, 12:10pm 3.0 Afternoon: 6:10pm 0.9 Sun: 7:23am 5:26pm Best At: 5:16am 5:37pm Rise: 11:04am

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

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#### 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	HIGH	LOW
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

# Profile reporter signs UK publishing deal

Valley Profile senior reporter Kelley Tantau is still “pinching” herself as she prepares to publish her debut novel.

The Paeroa-based journalist signed with United Kingdom agency Cranthorpe Millner Publishers back in January. Now, her first book *The Runaway Man* will be available to purchase worldwide from September 26.

“It’s a surreal moment for me,” she said, “and one that I am still really nervous about. As a print journalist, I am used to having people read stories I’ve written, but a book... that’s a whole different ball game.”

*The Runaway Man* is a fast-paced narrative that follows the story of Nick Greene and his decision to start life afresh. When his missing persons case quickly turns into a man-hunt, the tale prompts readers to consider whether taking such a drastic action could ever be worth the repercussions that lay in its wake.

The novel is the launchpad for Kelley’s planned series and, while set in a fictional town, it is inspired by New Zealand’s - and particularly the Thames Valley’s - native flora and fauna.

“It’s hard not to write about what you see, and in New Zealand we’re very fortunate to have a diverse environment that lends itself well to any world-building,” she said.

Before starting her stint in community journalism back in 2015, Kelley earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from The University of Waikato, ma-



joring in Writing Studies.

This year she was named Best Senior News Journalist at the Community Newspaper Association Awards, and Joint Runner-Up for Community Journalist of the Year at the NZ Voyager Media Awards.

“I’ve always written creatively,” she said. “For as long as I can remember, I’ve always written stories and read them out to mum and dad. But when I first started writing *The Runaway Man*, I had no intention of anybody except my parents ever reading it.”

She took the leap in December last year to send her manuscript to Cranthorpe Millner, and now she has further novels in the works.

She’ll also be speaking at the Local Authors Fair on August 19, as part of this year’s Hamilton Book

Month.

Kelley, 28, said *The Runaway Man* was her first attempt at finishing a novel-length story, and at 74,000 words, it was a relatively “easy read”.

“It is as much about humanity as it is a mystery,” she said, “and while I’m really excited for what’s to come, I’m absolutely terrified, too.”

“It’s never easy putting something that has been inside your head since 2020 out into the world, but I’ve always been a believer of grabbing life with both hands.”

**DETAILS:** Kelley’s book is available to pre-order. She is also hoping to have the book stocked locally. For info and updates, visit [kelleytantau.com](http://kelleytantau.com).



Valley Profile reporter Kelley Tantau is releasing her debut novel this September. LEFT: *The Runaway Man* is “as much about humanity as it is a mystery”. Photo: SUPPLIED

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# Education

## Students develop green fingers at HPC

Students at Hauraki Plains College are privileged to be able to be involved in many different avenues within the horticulture spectrum, horticulture teacher Bronwyn Dyer says.

“Whether it is gardening in our designated garden area at school, propagating cuttings, sowing seeds, grafting or landscaping, or on Hayward Farm in our one hectare small orchard, students gain a wide range of learning opportunities,” she said.

“Horticulture is a multi-billion dollar industry and is in desperate need of skilled and motivated young people to work in it.”

At Hauraki Plains College, both Horticulture and Primary Industries are offered as subjects, where students learn about growing in commercial situations to discuss off-farm factors that influence on-farm decisions, she said.

Year 11 Students have spent two terms designing, developing and growing their own potager garden at school.

Students learn how to use garden tools correctly, learn how to control pests and diseases and how to harvest produce. There is also basic learn-



Students designed and planted gardens at Hayward Farm in order to improve the entrance way of the farm and to leave a legacy.

ing about soils and propagation.

Year 12 students enhanced their learning through trips to Wintec to learn about landscape design principles, to a dairy farm in Aka Aka to learn about native tree planting and to the Mystery Creek Fieldays.

Students also designed and planted three gardens at Hay-

ward Farm in order to improve the entrance way of the farm and to leave a legacy.

“In term three, the students will have access to all 300 fruit trees, where they will learn how to prune the fruit trees,” Mrs Dyer said.

The Year 12 Primary Industries class will be learning about management practices within a

commercial enterprise, including the importance of soil management practices.

Year 13 students have for the past three years been undertaking a sustainable action plan on the farm.

“This is where they take an issue, such as improving biodiversity, or improving drainage, and find a solution to the prob-

lem. The students then carry out the project on the farm.”

Students learn through hands on and theory lessons, a combination Mrs Dyer believes is a powerful way to learn and cement knowledge.

“We are very privileged to have such a supportive school board and teachers at Hauraki Plains College,” she said.

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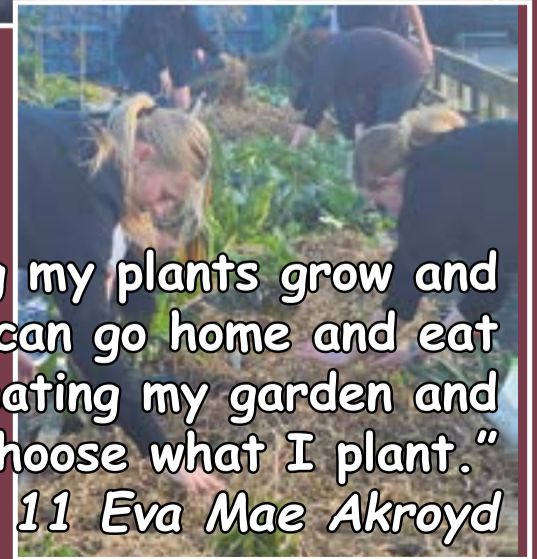
## “Happy in Hort”



“I find it so rewarding to grow my own vegetables and then to later on cook/make food with my own grown vegetables.”  
Year 11 Emily Strawbridge



“I enjoy watching my plants grow and harvesting them so I can go home and eat them. I really enjoy creating my garden and being able to choose what I plant.”  
Year 11 Eva Mae Akroyd



# Preservation treatment for Treasury taonga

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

A rare find at the Treasury Research and Archive centre will receive professional preservation treatment following a grant from National Services Te Paerangi.

The taonga or treasure in question is a logbook from a general goods store, dated 1877. What makes it special is its contents - the book is written entirely in te reo Māori.

“A lot of this job for us as staff was actually just going into the archive and having a look at what was in there, and we happened across the ledger,” Treasury trustee and collection digitiser Lise Cook said.

“And obviously because I’m Māori and a te reo Māori speaker, it piqued my interest because I’d never seen anything like it before.”

The writer of the fragile ledger, Hoani Nahe of Ngāti Maru, was from the defunct town of Kirikiri, situated where Kōpū now lies. Despite speaking no English, he was a prominent politician, becoming a minister in Governor Grey’s administration and serving on the Native Affairs Committee, which heard petitions on Māori matters. He was also a keen historian of his peoples’ culture, collecting as many Māori traditions and genealogies as he could.

Now, Hoani’s logbook is an



The book dates from 1877 and is written entirely in te reo Māori.

item of history too.

“For me, the te reo Māori contained within the book is so different from the te reo Māori we speak today, it was actually hard for me to understand,” Lise said.

“It’s an ever-evolving language.”

Lise and fellow archivist Kaa Te Uruti said finding the book was exciting, and they were thrilled to see their culture represented in the archive in such a powerful way.

“It’s just a really cool snapshot of time ... what people were eating, what people were buying, how much things cost,” Lise said.

“They sold everything from flour, salt, sugar ... I’m pretty

sure that I saw sheep and stuff in there. It’s hard to tell until we get it definitely into a condition where we can digitise it and send it off to someone who’s got better reo than me and can read that writing.”

The book’s disintegrating binding will now be conserved by a specialist conservator, to allow the text to be handled safely.

“For us as an archive, the first step is to just get it into a condition where there’s gonna be no more damage to it,” Lise said.

“[We’ve] taken a few pics just to show people but other than that it stays in its box.”



Archivist Kaa Te Uruti and Treasury trustee Lise Cook pour over the Hoani Nahe ledger, deciphering entries such as biscuits, jam, ladies’ hats, and a quarter of a pound of lemon.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER

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# Your new kerbside collection bins



**Your new rubbish and food scraps bin will be delivered by early August but don't use them yet - the new service begins on September 4.**

## New bin deliveries

**Your new para rubbish bin will be placed on the kerbside outside your property within the next two weeks.**

The new para kai food scraps bin will be inside the rubbish bin. And inside the food scraps bin you'll find a handy guide explaining everything you need to know about the new kerbside collection and what can go in each bin.

You'll want to get it out and have a good read, as it includes a lucky number on the back page to go in the draw **to win a six month's supply of PAYT tags for your rubbish bin** (drawn during August 2023)!

We'll publish the winning numbers in the Valley Profile and HC Post newspapers, as well as on our website and Facebook, so keep your guide handy.

Our recycling service has expanded the range of items that can be recycled, so we'll also give you a new sticker that explains what can and cannot go in the recycling bin. Please fix the sticker to your clean, dry recycling bin lid.

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### Remember...

You'll need a green \$8 PAYT tag on your para rubbish bin each time you put it out for collection, but just because it's collection day, you don't HAVE to put your bin out unless you want to. Save your tags for when your bin is full.

### HDC rubbish tags are lime green

Only this colour tag will be accepted at kerbside in Hauraki District. The tags have no expiry date, you can use them any time.

The tags will be available to purchase from our Council service centres in Ngātea, Paeroa and Waihi and from local supermarkets and dairies by mid August.



**Scan me** to keep up to date with changes to our new kerbside collection service starting 4 September 2023.

[www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/rubbish-recycling/kerbside-collections-new](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/rubbish-recycling/kerbside-collections-new)

## Tagging your recycling bins

While we're delivering the new bins, we're also retrofitting existing recycling bins with a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tag. The tag enables us to identify missed collections and if a bin is lost or stolen, we can return the bin to the correct property.

### How do I get my recycling bin tagged?

We need you to place your recycling bin out on the kerbside on the day shown below.

#### Sunday 23 July

Ngātea, Paeroa, Turua, Waitakaruru, Kerepēhi and Kaiaua

#### Sunday 30 July

Waikino, Waihi Mackaytown, Karangahake and Whiritoa



The tagging crew will retrofit your bin sometime during the coming week. If it's not your recycling collection week, the bin won't be emptied, just retrofitted. If it is your recycling collection week, make sure your bin is back out on collection day, once retrofitted.

The RFID tag is hard to notice so best to leave your bin out for the full week, unless you see the work being done.

### Didn't get your recycling bin out?

Don't worry, there'll be two more times that the crew will return. We'll advertise those dates once we know them.

## Para kai food scraps

If you're already composting your food waste, that's great, we encourage you to keep doing it!

The food scraps bin can still be used for things that don't go in your compost bin (like meat scraps, egg shells, bread crusts etc) and for things that don't compost well (like citrus peels, fruit stones, corn cobs etc).

Next month, we'll focus on the para kai food scraps bin and give tips for using it; what can go in it and what cannot and what happens to your food scraps after they've been collected.



# Team work makes the dream work in Turua

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

The Turua Hall Domain and Community committee are a formidable team.

Over the years, they have not only taken care of the hall off Hauraki Rd and the recreation reserve nearby, they have also been involved in community initiatives and town improvement projects.

In fact, the group has been dubbed “world famous in Turua” - and they’re only just getting started.

Made up of Dave Greenslade, Susan Taipari, Marina and Brian Wigmore, Jim Sutherland, Roger Brocklehurst, Paul Clayton, Cynthia Bates, and Stacey Frow, the incorporated society is taking things a step further and has plans to upgrade and modernise the 1955 building.

“It’ll give the hall about another 50 years of life,” Dave told The Profile. “That’s our big project. But before we can do that, we have to rehouse our library.”

The Turua library occupies a room within the hall but its current state is less than ideal, with a roof that often leaks, and a mouldy, unsuitable space.

The group will re-house the library into a portacom that has been acquired from the Barnardos Early Learning Centre in town.

The new building will be “dry, have air-conditioning, plenty of natural light, and plenty of parking,” Dave said. Resource and building consents and geotech reports are ongoing.

Following this project, the Tu-



The Turua Hall Domain and Community committee is sinking their teeth into its latest project. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

rua team wants to redevelop the toilets to incorporate a unisex facility with a shower and changing area.

They’ll then upgrade the supper room and kitchen, create a covered area for parking, insert ranch sliders and a porch facing out onto Matai St, and replace the stage and install acoustic curtains.

The cost estimate for the entire project is between \$1.3m to \$1.5m.

Hauraki District Council’s parks and reserves manager Paul Matthews told *The Profile* he’d never met another group like the Turua Hall committee.

“They get their teeth into something and are now moving on to the next big project,” he said. “A lot of groups come and go but these guys are still here, and they were the first community group I made contact with back when I started in

this role in 2016. I think the seeds that were sown in those early days are really bearing fruit now.”

The hall itself has a rich history. In September, 1926, to cater to the growing community, a public hall was erected on the corner of Hauraki Rd and Matai St in Turua. However, nine years later, the building was destroyed by fire.

Various representatives of the town board and other organisa-

tions from around the district banded together and organised a carnival fair in Victoria Park, Thames, and with the money raised, a new hall was opened on August 10, 1935.

After the addition of a kitchen, supper room, library and meeting room were completed, the building was reopened as the Turua War Memorial Hall in 1955.

It is now used by clubs and groups including ballet, indoor bowls, Zumba, patchwork, table tennis, music practice, youth waka ama, and the Sunday market.

Birthdays, concerts, funerals, farewells, fundraisers and special events are also held at the hall, making it the busiest hall in the Hauraki district.

When asked what lights a fire underneath them, the committee told The Profile that it was about honouring the legacies left behind by people such as the late Hugh Fisher - affectionately known as “the Mayor of Turua” - and leaving something “better than they found it”.

“I do what I do for the future of my children and their children,” Susan said. “I do it because I want the Matai floor in the hall to still be there when they want to have their 21sts. I do it for history, and for the future.”

**DETAILS: The committee’s next fundraiser will be a comedy night on Saturday, July 29. Doors open 7pm. Tickets \$25pp with money raised going towards the hall upgrade. Contact Marina 07 867 5193.**



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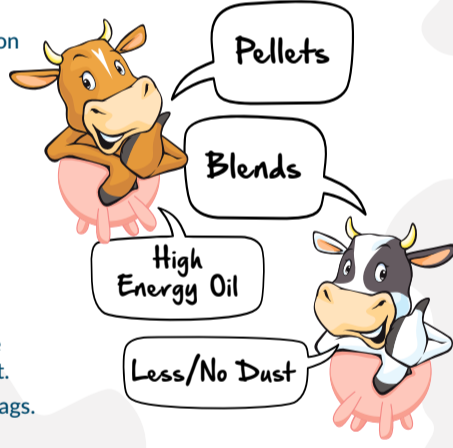
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# ‘Having a bash’ at mindfulness through art

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

For Waihi resident Rona Keith, it took a lifetime to come back to the true passion in her life, art.

The retired teacher spent her career in the fields of maths and IT. Deep down though, she was still drawn to creativity.

“I’ve always wanted to have a career that was to do with the arts, [but] when I was at school I was good at maths,” she said.

“I ended up [becoming] a programmer.”

Finding her career uninspiring, Rona turned to teaching maths, in a “spur of the moment decision”.

Now that she’s retired, Rona still finds her teaching skills useful. She spends her spare time running classes in papercraft, junk journaling, slow stitching, and embroidery under the moniker “Haveabashery” - encouraging people to simply give it a go.

“What do I get out of it? Total pleasure. I don’t understand people who don’t make things,” she said.

“I think everybody likes being creative. People enjoy it because it’s a mindfulness exercise.”

One of Rona’s favourite techniques is slow stitching - the art of using a needle and thread in much the same way as a painter uses a brush, to create deliberate works of art. It’s more about the process than the end product.

“I do very detailed quilting and people look at that and they say, ‘that’s such a lot of work, how did you manage to do that?’ Well, I



Rona Keith’s artworks are more about mindfulness than the final result.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

just get in the flow and just go for it,” she said.

“Just sewing away and not thinking about anything. It’s funny how having an opportunity not to think gets you out of your head.”

Rona’s joy, she said, comes from helping others find their own creativity. She’s worked with people of all skill levels to make something unique to them.

One of her recent classes was for a group of people with Down syndrome. She took them through making their own books, which then went on display in Paeroa library. “One of the mothers came along to my junk journal class,” Rona said.

“After, she said, ‘we’ve got a group, we’d quite like to do something’. We were just going to do a little one day thing, and

the leader of the group said she’d been thinking about a whole literacy project.

“One of the girls - every week she would just make my day. She’d come along and say ‘this is so cool, I’m enjoying myself so much.’”

The group made a book from scratch, including marbled endpages, covers and bindings.

“My idea was to share not only

what I know but share my stuff,” she said, gesturing to the wall of craft supplies behind the table.

“It’s something where you can be really relaxed and have fun. Granny’s my main job, [but there’s] enjoyment in sharing and helping others try creative things.”



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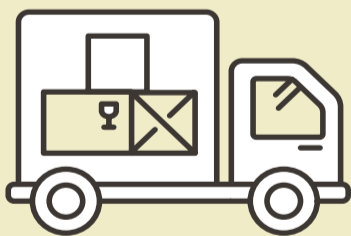
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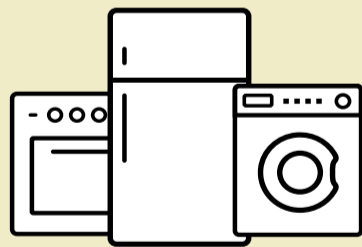
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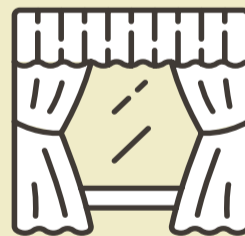
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# Rural Life

## Thames-Coro Kiwi call survey first in 30 years

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

More than 80 volunteers across the Thames-Coromandel have sat out in the dark to record kiwi calls. Now, a region-wide survey will be able to determine where New Zealand's national bird is - and is not.

For 12 evenings throughout June, Predator Free Hauraki Coromandel held a kiwi call survey at 50 different listening sites across the region.

Established by Katharina Hetch in 2022, it is the survey's second year of operation, and Kiwi I te Kāinga project manager Sasha Dowling said the results - when collated - will paint a picture of high Kiwi populations in the rohe [area].

"There's been a lot of kiwi surveys done by individual groups, but there hasn't been a region-wide kiwi call done for 30 years, so it's a really good way to get an overview of kiwi all across the Peninsula."

Sasha and Renee Denby co-ordinated this year's survey in which 11 new listening sites were established. Three of them were located near the beginning of the Waitohi Track and Crosbies Hut and, after

analysing the sample closest to Thames, Sasha said there were no kiwi picked up on the sound recording. However, the other recordings were yet to be analysed.

"We can pick up all sorts of birdlife and have heard some kiwi in places we didn't expect to, moreso on the East Coast," she said.

"It's fascinating listening to them because you can hear all the elements - the wind and the rain."

**"It's the volunteers that have made it happen - people are really committed to their listening sites."**

- Sasha Dowling

According to Sasha, kiwi emit a "unique series of shrill squeaks", and the females can sound quite "frightening".

Collating the data obtained from the survey is ongoing, with a report on the community trust's findings

still to come.

Sasha said she and Renee were grateful to the volunteers who made the survey possible - some of whom had to hike to get to their listening site.

"Kiwi are so elusive," she said. "Everyone knows about kiwi but very few people have seen or heard kiwi. We had one listener in Coromandel Town who heard a noise behind him and he turned around and the kiwi was right behind him."



"It's the volunteers that have made it happen - people are really committed to their listening sites."

DETAILS: To get involved in kiwi conservation, contact Predator Free Hauraki Coromandel at [volunteer@pfhc.nz](mailto:volunteer@pfhc.nz)



Sasha Dowling and Renee Denby co-ordinated the region-wide kiwi call survey.

Photos: SUPPLIED



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# Foodies

## Hearty, warming slow-cooked beef stew

**RECIPE**

Indulge in the comforting flavors of a hearty beef stew made in your crockpot. This recipe combines tender chunks of beef, an array of vegetables, and a rich savory broth that will warm your soul with every spoonful. Slow cooking allows the flavors to develop and the meat to become tender, resulting in a dish that is both satisfying and delicious. Whether you're seeking a comforting weeknight meal or a crowd-pleasing dinner for family and friends, this crockpot beef stew is sure to impress.

**INGREDIENTS**

- 900g beef stew meat, in 1-inch cubes
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 carrots, peeled and sliced
- 3 celery stalks, sliced
- 450g baby potatoes, cubed
- 2 cups beef stock
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 teaspoon dried rosemary
- Salt and pepper to taste

**METHOD**

In a large bowl, combine the flour with salt and pepper. Mix the beef stew meat in the flour mixture, shaking off any excess. Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Brown the beef in batches until nicely

seared on all sides. Transfer the browned meat to the crockpot. In the same skillet, add the chopped onion and minced garlic. Sauté for about 3-4 minutes until the onion becomes translucent. Transfer the onion and garlic to the crockpot, along with carrots, celery, and baby potatoes. In a separate bowl, whisk together the beef stock, bay leaves, dried thyme, and dried rosemary. Pour this mixture into the crockpot, covering all the ingredients. Cover the crockpot and cook on low heat for 7-8 hours or on high heat for 4-5 hours until the beef is tender and the flavors have melded together. Remove the bay leaves from the stew and taste and adjust the seasoning if necessary before serving. It pairs well with crusty bread or fluffy mashed potatoes.



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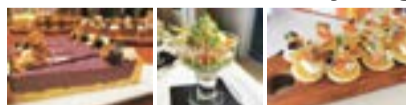
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# New lifesaving AEDs

By GORDON PREECE

New St John defibrillators have been installed in Hauraki-Coromandel as part of an initiative to improve its access in isolated, rural, and economically deprived areas.

The Hato Hone St John Paeroa Area Committee received \$34,315 from One Foundation last year for 15 new AEDs [automated external defibrillators] to be installed in the local area.

The AEDs had so far been installed at Karangahake Hall, Netherton School, Hikutaia School and the Paeroa Maritime Park and was working to place more at local primary schools.

The committee said the installation of these AEDs was part of its AEDs in the Community project in Paeroa.

“[It] will result in the wider Paeroa community having access to life saving cardiac emergency equipment in strategic locations that is publicly accessible 24/7 and is designed for easy use by everyday people,” the committee said.

Other components of the project included reviewing the status of the current AEDs around the district.

“Developing a checking and maintenance schedule, running the 3 Steps For Life programme, which teaches community members to use the AEDs,



The Hato Hone St John Paeroa Area Committee received \$34,315 from One Foundation last year for 15 new AEDs.

[and] rebooting our AEDs on marae work.

“[Also], implementing an ongoing communications plan to ensure there is good understanding of the location of the AEDs in our community.”

Hato Hone St John deputy chief executive for clinical services Dr Damian Tomic said early use of an AED when someone was suffering a cardiac arrest could save a life.

“Every minute of delay, without CPR and defibrillation, decreases the chances of survival by 10 to 15 per cent,” he said.

“Survival rates can more than double with community help when someone is having a cardiac arrest and bystanders can

save lives by starting CPR and using an AED until an ambulance arrives.

“If you don’t already know how to do CPR, please sign up to one of the many free courses that are available in the community today and once you’ve done that, sign up to be a GoodSAM responder.”

Dr Tomic said GoodSAM was an app which alerts people when someone is experiencing a cardiac arrest nearby, allowing them to possibly save a life.

**DETAILS: Hato Hone St John offers free programmes in communities such as the 3 Steps for Life and the ASB St John in Schools. For more information visit: [www.stjohn.org.nz](http://www.stjohn.org.nz).**

# Fizzing with history: The Treasury seeks Paeroa stories

The Treasury research centre and archive is in search of Paeroa stories to add to its collection. The organisation will be channelling the Antiques Roadshow with its upcoming event, Fizzing with History: Preserving our Past. But rather than antiques, the group is hoping to find treasures in the form of history.

Archive experts will be at the Paeroa Information Hub on July 21 and 22 armed with cameras, notebooks and recording devices. They’re looking for personal stories about Paeroa, and they will also be assessing people’s documents and offering advice on how best to preserve them.

Pundits are invited to bring along their photos, maps, diaries, letters and other paper records to the event. A limited number of appointments are available to have these records digitised, with those people receiving a complementary digital copy of their whānau’s treasure.

Those with anecdotes, local legends, cherished memories and other stories to share can record their recollections of the past with an audio-visual appointment.

The event is a first for the Treasury, which collects and preserves paper and oral records from people across the Coromandel Peninsula and Hauraki districts.

“It’s not about the dollar value, but rather the historical significance that makes these items invaluable,” Treasury manager Katherine Quinn said.

Selected stories will be featured in the Treasury’s upcoming book *True Tales of Paeroa*, the latest in the *True Tales* series of local history books. The books contain short stories of authors’ memories of life in their area, to serve as a record of societal norms and everyday life throughout the generations.

“Everyone’s got a story, everyone’s got a yarn. Us Kiwis love to yarn,” Treasury trustee Lise Cook said.

“It’s keeping those stories alive, that’s what it comes down to.”

**DETAILS: Fizzing with History: Preserving our Past is on at the Paeroa Information Hub, 10am-2pm on July 21 and 22. Visit [thetreasury.org.nz](http://thetreasury.org.nz) to book an appointment with the digitising team.**

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# General and Mrs Mite's connection to Kauaeranga



## Dead Cert

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

A sudden pain in her head sent 48-year-old Agnes Edwards falling to the ground as she was collecting gum at Hihi, fourteen miles up the Kauaeranga Valley, Thames, in October, 1895. She was found a few hours later by her husband Thomas, a bushman, and his mate as they were returning from work. They carried Agnes home where she was confined to bed for 13 days, slowly improving. But then she had a relapse, dying around 1:30 on a Saturday morning. The remote locality meant the coroner had to use the nearest building to hold an inquest, which was the Kauaeranga Hotel, but this was still eight miles from the Edwards' home. A group of eight men proceeded to the house, made a stretcher and carried Agnes from Hihi to the hotel through very rough country and bad weather in an act of kindness that was widely praised. The inquest found Agnes died from a ruptured blood vessel, a sudden end for the mother of Mrs Mite, the smallest woman in the world. Agnes, from Lancashire, Eng-

land, had two marriages and fifteen children over 25 years. It was the birth of Emily, who had dwarfism, in 1877 that changed her life. She and her second husband, Thomas, a labourer, faced a struggle with three children from her first marriage to support. As a little person, Emily was financially lucrative and she began being exhibited to the public when she was three years old.

In 1884, seven-year-old Emily was 'married' to Francis Flynn, a 20-year-old American dwarf, known as General Mite, in England. The wedding, a publicity stunt, fudged her real age and untruthfully stated her birthplace as Kalamazo, Michigan. Showmen were infamous for their deception, and fabrications followed Emily throughout her life.

The pair became known as General and Mrs Mite - the Royal American Midgets. They sang and danced together and were a novelty seldom seen in travelling companies. Both sets of parents travelled with the "smallest married couple in the world", their fathers acting as their managers. In the years that followed, Agnes had children in France, Belgium and Germany, as she accompanied Emily on the show circuit.

The Mites appeared before Queen Victoria, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and other notabilities, including President Hayes, who in 1876, at the White House, bestowed the honorary title of General on Francis Flynn.

In July, 1889, the two family groups arrived in Australia, but Agnes was not there for long - returning to England where she had a son who died shortly after birth.



The General and Mrs Mite - Emily Edwards and Francis Flynn. Photo: SUPPLIED

Agnes, who seemed perpetually pregnant, and having to leave children in her wake, was back in Australia by 1890 where she had a daughter; that same year her three-year-old son died in Eng-

land. Emily and Francis settled in Australia. In December, 1890, they began a tour of New Zealand with their parents and in March, 1891, made their first appearance

at Thames, performing over four nights at the Academy of Music, with an afternoon matinee for children. General Mite was described as an "entertaining little fellow" and Mrs Mite was "a dainty little morsel of a woman, with large, bright, and intelligent eyes", more modest and retiring than the General. It may have been now that Millie's parents decided to settle at Thames.

Three years after her mother's death, Emily's husband, General Mite, died in Australia one day before his 34th birthday after catching a chill. The shock to Emily was said to be so great that she retired from show business and moved to Thames, living with her father on a Kauaeranga farm for around eight years.

Emily returned to vaudeville life in 1906, now calling herself Mrs General Mite. Her father travelled with her and they were joined by one of her sisters, billed as being 13 years old and her size "a marked contrast" to Mrs General Mite. For the next six years, Emily criss-crossed the Tasman, performing in both Australia and New Zealand, taking with her a tiny hansom cab drawn by a pony, and driven by a small boy. In 1913 she, her father and sister toured the Far East, returning in 1914, World War I curtailing her travelling until 1918. Emily died in 1919, while touring the South Island, collapsing from heart failure on Christchurch's High Street. She was 42. She was buried at Bromley cemetery, Christchurch.

Agnes, the mother of a little person who once had a big place in Thames history, is buried at Shortland cemetery.

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# SPORTS

## Mud, sweat, and cheers

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Referee Nico Fox, left, watches closely.

Photos: KELLEY TANTAU



The boys in blue make a run for it.



An offload from Whangamatā continues play.



Hauraki North make a break for it in the final 15.



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Ben Specta plans to keep everyone electrically safe with his new business. Photo: SUPPLIED

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## CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 1pm Monday

<b>Death Notice</b> <b>WAKE, David Andrew:</b> Father of four boys, Salem, Jeremiah, Daniel and Benjamin. Cherished son of Ivy and Peter. Brother to Alan, Gordon, Chris and Robyn. Join in memory of David at the Thames Salvation Army church, 11am Thursday 20th July.	<b>Gardening</b> <b>STUMP GRINDING.</b> All sizes, all areas. Thames based. Ph 021 060 7659  Need stump grinding? Any size, any number, anywhere. Different machines for different applications. Over 20 years experience. <b>Short Back n Sides Ltd</b> <i>We solve your stump problems.</i> <b>027 439 0367</b>	<b>Storage</b> <b>Thames Valley Storage</b> - secure, dry units available, two sizes. Call Trev 027 4076966  <b>STORE 4 U Waihi.</b> Clean, dry, alarmed. Call Curly 021 746 608.  <b>STORAGE KOPU, PAEROA TE AWAMUTU</b> "New Units" Ph 027 440 7101 07 868 3033 Safe n Sound Storage www.safestorage.co.nz	<b>Public Notice</b> <b>Victoria Battery Tramway Society Inc.</b> <b>AGM</b> Sunday 30th July 2.00pm Victoria Battery Museum  <b>Public Notice</b> <b>PAEROA BLUELIGHT AGM</b> Thursday 20 July 2023 @ 6pm Paeroa Cafe, Bar & Brasserie 2 Seymour Street, Paeroa paeroabluelightsecretary@gmail.com
<b>In Memoriam</b> <b>FOX, Keith Sinclair:</b> Passed away one year ago on 10th July, 2022. Remembered every day, hope you find your rainbow. Love Mum and family.	<b>Handyman</b> Mowing, hedges, fencing, gardening, carpentry, painting, retaining walls, welding, waterblasting. Work is good quality and I will not attempt to work outside of my skills. Insured. Dennis Schuler 022 129 0169	<b>Trades &amp; Services</b> <b>TILER</b> Quality workmanship. Currently available. Enquiries ph Rob Ph 021 026 93064  <b>FENCING CONTRACTOR</b> Residential & Rural Retaining walls & more High quality workmanship Competitive prices Call Matt 021 1727 148	<b>Public Notice</b> <b>Wanted</b> <b>Possum Skins</b> Buyer at Pestpro 29 Ongare Point Katikati 10am to 12pm July 26th 2023 <b>Ph: 027 2412936</b>
<b>For Lease</b> Yards for lease, Thames and Kopu. Suitable for trucks, vehicles or trade business base. Ph 027 440 7101	"Arguing with a fool proves there are two." - Doris M. Smith "A witty saying proves nothing." - Voltaire		

# Road fatalities 'every 3 weeks'

## OPINION



By RON AGNEW

The year I joined the Police, 1972, 892 people died on our roads. I feel NZTA, which was then called LTSA, the MOT, especially the Traffic Officers, and the Police, should be commended. As since then, with new legislation, and powers coming; last year the toll was 378 deaths with just 318 in 2020 and 2021. That is a huge reduction, nearly a third since 1972.

In those days, on the peninsula and in Hauraki, fatal accidents were one of the most common incidents we attended as Police. From memory, one every three weeks. The Waikato was always hugely overrepresented in the annual report of fatalities. I recall on one occasion the nation's worst road for fatalities that year. Forty per cent of the total fatal accidents in New Zealand in one particular year occurred in the Waikato.

Police, MOT traffic officers, St John volunteers, Mike Moore with his tow truck and Max and his Twentymans staff developed a regular routine. In those days, the constable on duty completed the whole procedure at the scene after taking photos, making a scene plan, interviewing witnesses and completing the prosecution file.

This applied to simple accidents as much as to multiple fatal accidents.

There was a lot of support locally, however, as our traffic officers Colin Molloy and Alan Austin and the five local policemen sought to limit intoxicated people driving.

A 'blow in the bag' breath test was given at the scene. A 'fail' of that meant you could request the driver to come back to the police station where a doctor was called in to take a blood sample. However, on busy weekend evenings our duty doctor, Doctor Apthorp, never bothered leaving the police station, staying until about 1am when things quietened down. We had to keep his tea and biscuits going throughout the evening, mostly by our wonderful Community Civil Defence Police volunteers.

However, at the time, drinking and driving was largely socially acceptable and common on Friday and Saturday nights. And when we prosecuted people, there were huge loopholes in the legislation, which allowed solicitors to easily have cases dismissed. This even comes down to the police or traffic officers omitting a word when formally requesting a breath test from a driver or requiring him or her to return to the police station with them or requesting a blood sample.

Drs' Bob and Margaret Tennant at Ngatea were another shining example of selfless duty to the community. They were always called out with St John to accidents on the Plains and would follow the ambulance at speed to Thames Hospital, with the flashing green light on the roof of their car. The Transport Act at the time actually recognised this colour light flashing for medical staff in an emergency. At that time Thames Hospital had its own mortuary down in the basement, where the deceased were sadly taken. Postmortem examinations to determine cause of death were performed there by local surgeon Mr Hamilton. Thankfully attitudes have changed so much!!!

- Ron Agnew is a former Thames Police officer

## New treatment for arthritic pets

Around 80 per cent of dogs and cats over eight years old and 35 per cent of all ages suffer from arthritis pain.

Signs that your pet might have arthritis include: reluctance to jump up into the car, couch or usual favourite sleeping spot; lagging behind on walks; limping after exercise; stiff movements; slow rising from lying down or sitting; reluctance or refusal to climb stairs; accidents around the house; general irritability or grumpiness.

Although other conditions can cause these signs, an appointment with your vet is recommended. If arthritis is diagnosed, there are many medications, supplements and diets that can help.

Beransa (dogs) and Solensia (cats) are the newest treatment options and have shown excellent safety and efficacy for managing arthritis pain. The monthly injection is an antibody treatment that targets inflammation and pain at the source, not just mask-

ing the pain. Talk to your vet about whether Beransa or Solensia would be a good choice for your dog or cat.

A review from a satisfied owner and dog: "Layla was a bit slow in getting up off her bed off the ground and often needed a big stretch before she got going. Then at the end of the day, we would notice she was drained after walks from the day and appeared a little bit stiff. She would also sometimes need lifting up onto the bed or in the car if she had been on a walk or two that day. After treatment, Layla has more energy and enthusiasm to get up and play at the end of the day. Zoomies have made a reappearance, including rebounding off furniture and leaping up onto the couch and bed. She has also been able to keep up with her younger friends at the park for longer."

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### Situations Vacant

**Hato Hone St John Thames & Hauraki Plains - Area Committees 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 Hauraki Plains. 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 [auraki.community@stjohn.org.nz](mailto:auraki.community@stjohn.org.nz) in the first instance, or post to: Area Committee vacancies, Hato Hone St John, PO Box 701, Thames 3540**



### Public Notice



**NOTIFICATION OF MASS AND/OR SPEED LIMITS ON BRIDGES**  
Regulation 11, Heavy Motor Vehicle Regulations 1974

NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to regulation 11(3) of the Heavy Motor Vehicle Regulations 1974, the Hauraki District Council has fixed the following maximum mass and speed limits for heavy motor vehicles and combinations including a heavy motor vehicle on the bridge described hereunder:

Name of road	Name of bridge	Mass limits		Maximum speed limit (km/h)
		Maximum mass on any 1 axle	Gross mass (maximum sum of axle mass)	
Ferry Road (Komata)	Ferry No. 1 Bridge (ID 107)	8200 kg	90% of Class 1	15 km/h
Crown Hill Road	Crown Hill Road Bridge (ID 109)		44000 kg	
Waitawheta Road	Waitawheta No. 1 Bridge (ID 126)		44000 kg	
Frankton Road	Frankton No. 1 Bridge (ID 71)		44000 kg	

Attention is drawn to the applicable penalties and infringement fees set out in Schedule 1A or Part 3 of Schedule 1B of the Land Transport (Offences and Penalties) Regulations 1999, which apply to infringements of these limits.

Date issued: 19 July 2023  
Adrian de Laborde  
Group Manager Service Delivery  
Hauraki District Council

www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz

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To apply for these roles, please go to: [www.haurakidc.recruitment.co.nz/Vacancies](http://www.haurakidc.recruitment.co.nz/Vacancies)

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

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109

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HARD

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MEDIUM

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EASY

## JUMBO CROSSWORD

129

**ACROSS**

- 1 Tastes (7)
- 4 Bad behaviour (10)
- 9 Crime (7)
- 13 Small whirlpool (4)
- 14 Colonise (6)
- 15 Master, dab hand (6)
- 16 Fruit tree group (7)
- 19 Sentry (7)
- 20 An apparent misfortune that turns out later to be a boon (8,2,8)
- 21 Handwriting (6)
- 22 Vow (6)
- 24 Men-only do (4,5)
- 29 Spring flower (8)
- 30 Free (6)
- 31 Outfit (7)
- 35 Grandiloquence (8)
- 36 Habitual user (6)
- 37 Chew at (4)
- 38 Judge's hammer (5)
- 39 Plant fluid (3)
- 41 Surrender (5)
- 43 Fish (6)
- 47 Kingdom (5)
- 50 Label (3)
- 54 Water vapour (5)
- 55 Skin eruption (4)
- 56 Defensive covering (6)
- 57 Cross-examine (8)
- 60 Big cat (7)
- 61 Hissed (anag)(6)
- 62 Contestant finishing second (6-2)

**DOWN**

- 1 Tumefy (5)
- 2 So-so (8)
- 3 Detective (6)
- 4 Put into storage or on hold for an indefinite period (10)
- 5 Vista (5)
- 6 Supervise (7)
- 7 Fragrant flower (6)
- 8 Welsh dog (5)
- 10 Presage, indicate by signs (10)
- 11 Tire out (7)
- 12 Stroke lovingly (6)
- 17 Required by rule (10)
- 18 Proverb (5)
- 21 Residential areas (7)
- 23 Misleads, takes in (7)

- 25 Darting pain (6)
- 26 Swot up (6)
- 27 Military display (6)
- 28 Single-celled animal (6)
- 30 Interrogate (5)
- 32 City transport (4)
- 33 Seaweed (4)
- 34 Lose colour (4)
- 40 Off course (6)
- 42 Metal with symbol Pb (4)
- 44 Disinterest (6)
- 45 Viral disease (5)
- 46 Non-partisan (7)
- 48 Astuteness (6)
- 49 Masked ball (10)
- 50 Clip (4)
- 51 Bona fide (7)
- 52 Treaty (4)
- 53 Selection (6)
- 58 Public vote (10)
- 59 At risk (10)
- 63 Stratospheric layer (5)
- 64 Covertly undermine or damage (8)
- 66 Small glass balls (7)
- 67 Hugged lingeringly (7)
- 69 Black eye (6)
- 70 Gambling house (6)
- 71 Concentrated (6)
- 73 Way, course taken (5)
- 74 Country with Tripoli (5)
- 76 Ridiculous (5)

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**PREVIOUS SOLUTION**

**ACROSS:** 1 Keep one's nose clean, 10 Emphatic, 15 Wizard, 16 Aficionado, 17 Proposal, 19 Peckish, 21 Kapok, 22 Retaliate, 25 Eccentric, 27 Proceed, 29 Recede, 33 Guile, 34 Tranquil, 36 Skin diving, 39 Ape, 41 Prophet, 42 Pickup, 43 Adagio, 44 Kiss, 45 Synonym, 48 Denouement, 53 Nosegay, 57 Urge, 58 Balsam, 59 Nodule, 60 Leather, 62 Eve, 64 Bottom line, 65 Ruminant, 66 Queue, 69 Stamps, 70 Referee, 71 Altimeter, 76 Undecided, 77 Prime, 78 Portray, 83 Threaten, 84 Pigeonhole, 85 Bungle, 86 Disperse, 87 Clutching at straws.

**DOWN:** 2 Exited, 3 Prank, 4 Nod, 5 Snag, 6 Origami, 7 Editor, 8 Lens, 9 Audience, 11 Margin, 12 Hypothesis, 13 Task, 14 Collide, 18 Sauerkraut, 20 Stem, 23 Start, 24 Retiring, 26 Calypso, 28 Relapse, 30 Quarry, 31 Cuckoo, 32 Ensign, 35 Naive, 37 Gusty, 38 Very, 40 Ease, 45 Squab, 46 Nightcap, 47 Measly, 48 Disinherit, 49 Name, 50 Unnerve, 51 Madame, 52 Nylon, 54 Omen, 55 Enthuse, 56 Avenue, 61 Compensate, 63 Anvil, 67 Remedial, 68 Veto, 69 Sweated, 72 Lampoon, 73 Recess, 74 Drench, 75 Sallow, 79 Tenor, 80 Iris, 81 Dent, 82 Beta, 85 Bus.

# Ballet 'dream come true' for local dancer

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

A ballet dancer who had his start performing end-of-year shows at a Hauraki theatre has now signed with the National Ballet of Canada, achieving his dream of becoming a professional ballerino.

Former Kaihere local Aidan Tully, 19, has had a whirlwind six months.

In late-January, he took part in one of the world's most prestigious dance competitions, the Prix de Lausanne, in Switzerland.

Out of 429 applicants from 39 countries, Aidan was the sole New Zealander to be selected.

He then spent four months touring with The Royal New Zealand Ballet.

Now, Aidan has signed with the National Ballet of Canada, based in Toronto, marking the start of his career as a professional ballet dancer.

"It's a dream come true," he said. "I've been waiting for this day for I don't even know how long. It's made it all worth it - all the long nights and difficult rehearsals - and it's a culmination of all the work people have put into me and that I've put into myself."

Aidan started practising ballet at age seven, and was a former student of Pauline Germon's Thames Hauraki Ballet Theatre, based in Turua.

He finished up at Hauraki Plains College when he was 15 and moved, on his own, to Wellington to train at the New Zealand School of Dance.

He told *The Profile* he sent an audition video to the National Ballet of Canada and

got a response asking him to travel to Toronto to audition in person.

But, being busy with Prix de Lausanne preparations, Aidan told the company he would be unable to make it.

However, while over in Switzerland with his mum Sarah, dad Ciarán, his grandma, and relatives from England, he got another call saying the Canadian company was still interested.

He restructured his flight plan and made it to Toronto to audition, see the facilities, and get a feel for his future "day to day" life. Now, getting paid to do what he loves was him finally "reaping the rewards", he said, and he couldn't have done it without the support from his family and community.

"I can't express in words enough how much it means to me for the unconditional love and support that's come from them," he said. "I was just a little boy with a dream, asking: 'Can I do ballet?' They said yes, and now here we are."

Aidan, who was on a plane to Canada on Tuesday last week, said he once suffered with a lack of self-confidence and anxiety.

He wanted to remind people to "take care of the arts".

"Support it and keep feeding that growth because... there's a whole world out there full of beautiful, creative people putting incredible work into all shapes and forms."

"It hasn't always come easy showing people what I can do, so there's been a lot of learning and a lot of growth, and I'm really proud of myself for overcoming that."



Aidan Tully, 19, is now a professional ballet dancer with the National Ballet of Canada. Photo: GREGORY BATARDON

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