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Running for rhinos

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

Mark Samson's living room floor is covered in running gear and survival supplies. The 63-year-old Waihi resident is preparing his 25 litre hiking pack for the experience of a lifetime - the For Rangers Ultra in Kenya, which is run by Save the Rhino International.

Billed as "an epic self-sufficient foot-race", the ultramarathon covers 230 kilometres over five days, beginning on September 4.

The trail will take 100 runners through five different wildlife conservancies, most of which are not open to the public.

The beneficiaries of this once-in-a-lifetime extreme event are the rangers who patrol the conservancies, defending the endangered wildlife from poachers.

During the race, they will also be patrolling, rifles out, to protect the runners as they trek through the heart of the savanna.

Mark, a graphic designer and photographer, found the

race on YouTube while researching ultramarathons.

Having already visited other parts of Africa in the past, he said signing up was a no-brainer.

"My wife and I, we're passionate about travel, we're passionate about wildlife photography and I'm passionate about running. And we're constantly doing different adventures that combine those things," Mark said.

"We're quite passionate about conservation as well. So yeah, it ticked every box for us."

Once the race begins, Mark won't be completely deserted.

Each night tents and cots are provided; fresh water stations are dotted along the course.

Still, it will be a long and difficult trek, with upwards of 40km of ground to cover each day.

It's mostly dirt roads and four-wheel-drive tracks with no tree cover, and the temperature ranges from about two degrees celsius overnight, to as hot as 30 degrees during the day. The terrain varies from rocky

CONTINUED ON P2



Sixty-three year old Mark Samson is taking on a 230 km ultramarathon in Kenya.

Photo: SUPPLIED

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Our focus is 100% local community news.

'THE PAPER PEOPLE READ'

NEWS/EDITORIAL

Publisher/Editor Teresa Ramsey
Ph 0204 0944 853

editor@valleyprofile.co.nz

Senior Reporter Kelley Tantau

Ph 022 619 4889

kelley@valleyprofile.co.nz

Reporter Alice Parminter

Ph 022 527 0988

alice@valleyprofile.co.nz

ADVERTISING

Ad manager Nikki Sanders

Ph 022 130 3885

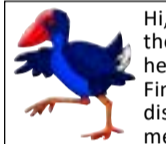
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Running to save the rhinos

CONTINUED FROM P1

outcrops to dry river beds; through ravines flanked by towering red rock, and across open grasslands under the shadow of Mt Kenya.

"I still haven't decided [whether to try and win or not] - I think that decision will get made in probably the first 5km," Mark said of his goals for the race.

"I'm not gonna bury myself in pain to try and win. I've got a camera that I'm taking with me, and if I see something spectacular, I'm going to stop and take pictures.

"But I don't think the event itself is really oriented around winning.

"It's an immersive experience and I figure I can't really lose, because even if something happens and I have to walk the whole thing, you're never ever going to get [another] chance to be in those wildlife conservancies with rangers around you, protecting you and just being surrounded by the wildlife."

Win or lose, though, training for the race has been intense.

"I downloaded a programme that was specifically designed for multi day stage races, so I've basically just been following that programme since April," he said.

"And just in this last week I've had a few signals that my training's on track, it's really starting to hit a sort of peak volume now."

Mark has been hitting around 100km a week, going through a pair of shoes every couple of months.

Luckily, his sponsor, Salming NZ, has helped him out with gear.

"I've gone through six pairs of shoes in training ... I can get about 1000 kms out of them and [then] the cushioning tends to go," he said.

The company has also made t-shirts for him to sell, as part of the fundraising portion of his preparations.

"People have [also] been making donations through the website, and we had

a fundraising event last week. In total the fundraising so far has reached about \$3500. I've been blown away," Mark said.

All the funds from the race and the competitors' own fundraising goes to the For the Rangers fund.

"The poaching thing is bigger than I ever imagined. It's massive cartels," Mark said.

"They're hugely funded, way more than the rangers themselves, who've got government funding plus backing from Save the Rhino and stuff like that.

"[But] the poachers come out there with all the latest technology. And the ruthlessness - they'll kill anybody."

Going up against the poaching cartels is a dangerous job: 1000 rangers have been killed in the past ten years alone. Fundraising helps them pay for valuable life insurance for their families, as well as providing equipment and uniforms.

"It's a full-on war, there's no prisoners," Mark said.

"A lot of the rangers live in what we would judge as pretty poor conditions, and for them to even have a uniform to wear is quite a big deal. So having life insurance and medical insurance for those people is really important."

Mark continues loading his pack, kitchen scales out as he painstakingly considers the benefit versus weight versus bulk of each item on the list.

He's eager to get going, especially now his training has hit its peak. The risk of injury and fatigue have him planning to taper off his training efforts, although he will take a few days to acclimatise in Kenya before the race begins.

"I'm conscious not to get too cocky - I'm better off going to the race undercooked than overdone," he said.

"[But] I'm beyond excited."

DETAILS: Search for Mark's Save the Rhino Ultramarathon Mission 2023 on Facebook to donate and follow Mark's journey.

No arrests after ram raid

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

Police have not said whether they've been able to apprehend the multiple offenders who smashed up Goldfields Mall in Thames around 2am on July 6.

Instead, enquiries are continuing as the impacted stores "work through the process" of repair.

On Monday, a police spokesperson told *The Profile* that enquiries into the crime - which saw multiple vehicles driving through a set of doors at Goldfields, smashing into The Warehouse, Vice Vape Co and a computer kiosk, and exiting out of the main entrance - were ongoing.

They asked to hear from anyone who had information about the incident or those involved.

Mall manager John Freer said he would like to see the offenders apprehended.

But the affected stores and customers had been "really understanding", he said.

"Obviously, at the time, they were interested in what happened, but they've been very accepting," he said.

"It's now up to the Police, and we can just hope that they do catch the people who were responsible for it."

Earlier, 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.

He had no time frame for when the mall's smashed doors would be replaced.

DETAILS: If anyone has any details about the July 6 ram raid, they can get in touch by calling the Police 105 number, or online at www.police.govt.nz/use-105 using "Update Report". Please quote file number 230706/3829.



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Thames Tides

Wed Aug 2	Thu Aug 3	Fri Aug 4	Sat Aug 5	Sun Aug 6	Mon Aug 7	Tue Aug 8
 Morning: 12:48am 0.5, 7:01am 3.4 Afternoon: 1:15pm 0.3, 7:36pm 3.7 Sun: 7:16am 5:33pm Best At: 12:14am 12:45pm Full Moon: Set 7:45am, Rise 5:53pm	 Morning: 1:43am 0.3, 7:59am 3.5 Afternoon: 2:06pm 0.2, 8:28pm 3.8 Sun: 7:15am 5:33pm Best At: 12:14am 1:43pm Full Moon: Set 8:25am, Rise 7:12pm	 Morning: 2:36am 0.2, 8:52am 3.6 Afternoon: 2:55pm 0.1, 9:19pm 3.8 Sun: 7:14am 5:34pm Best At: 2:11am 2:37pm Full Moon: Set 8:58am, Rise 8:28pm	 Morning: 3:27am 0.2, 9:44am 3.7 Afternoon: 3:45pm 0.2, 10:10pm 3.8 Sun: 7:13am 5:35pm Best At: 3:03am 3:28pm Full Moon: Set 9:27am, Rise 9:40pm	 Morning: 4:18am 0.2, 10:33am 3.6 Afternoon: 4:35pm 0.3, 11:02pm 3.7 Sun: 7:12am 5:36pm Best At: 3:52am 4:16pm Full Moon: Set 9:54am, Rise 10:50pm	 Morning: 5:08am 0.3, 11:23am 3.5 Afternoon: 5:26pm 0.5, 11:53pm 3.6 Sun: 7:11am 5:37pm Best At: 4:40am 5:04pm Full Moon: Set 10:21am, Rise 11:59pm	 Morning: 5:58am 0.4, 12:14pm 3.4 Afternoon: 6:21pm 0.6 Sun: 7:10am 5:37pm Best At: 5:28am 5:52pm Last Quarter: Set 10:50am

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MOON AND FISH KEYS



TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES

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

PLACE	Hr	HIGH	Min	LOW	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	

Ryan en route towards Toyota 86 campaign

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

Ryan Denize has done all the right things to get ready for the biggest race of his life.

The 17-year-old's stint in motorsport began around four years ago, when he started racing in autocross events.

He then moved on to track racing at Hampton Downs, time trials, dual sprints, and multi-car sprints, before he proved himself in the improved production cars category, claiming first overall during a recent North Island championship.

He's now gearing up for a premier-level event that attracts rising racers and some of the highest profile names in New Zealand motorsport - the Toyota 86 Championship.

"All of the cars are the same, which is why it's so competitive," he said.

"It 100 per cent comes down to the driver's skills."

The championship kicks off in November, and Ryan, from Patetonga, has shown his dedication by organising MacKenzie Motorsport to help run his car.

But the racing season will cost him \$150,000, and he requires sponsorship and donations to help get him over the line.



Ryan Denize needs the community's backing in his bid for a Toyota 86 series win.

Photos: SUPPLIED

will be - competing alongside people of all ages, most of them experienced adults who have been racing for a number of years.

But when he gets behind the wheel, he said any nerves about the race dissipate when his foot hits the accelerator.

"I know I will be competitive, and I know I'll have a chance of winning," he said. "I know what I want out of this."

The Toyota 86 series returns this year for its eleventh cham-

ampionship season, after making its debut on New Zealand's race tracks in 2013.

It will welcome a fresh draft of racers across a close-fought six-round battle, starting in November and finishing in April, 2024.

Ryan's car has been sponsored by Dayle ITM, which has a branch in Kōpū, and the Hauraki Plains College pupil hopes the race will be a stepping stone towards a professional career.

He said he was a "country kid

chasing a dream" but the cost of participating in the 86 series was an "enormous" financial hurdle for him to overcome alone.

DETAILS: To help Ryan with sponsorship or donations, contact dad Andy on 027 459 1293 or find Ryan Denize on Facebook. A Givealittle page has also been established to help Ryan. Visit givealittle.co.nz/ and search for 'Ryan Denize'.



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Spring festival aims to attract

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

A new festival aiming to bring more visitors to the Coromandel is calling on local creatives to come on board.

The Coromandel Artbeat Spring Festival is an umbrella festival promoting arts events, workshops, exhibitions, and performances happening across the Hauraki-Coromandel between September and December this year.

The programme already includes the Colville Festival, Steampunk The Thames, the Whangamatā Arts Collective's 'Art After Dark' exhibition, the Thames Heritage Festival and the Coromandel Open Studio Arts Tour.

"With the Coromandel Artbeat Spring Festival we want to create, connect and celebrate the creative people in our communities," Creative Coromandel - He Mana Toi Moehau chairperson Fiona Cameron said.

"By creating this 'umbrella festival' - a one stop shop for arts events in the region - we're making it easy for anyone, anywhere to plan a day, weekend, week or all three months exploring the Coromandel Peninsula and Hauraki rohe."

The Coromandel Artbeat Spring Festival is led by Creative Coromandel, a charitable trust that champions the area's arts, artists and creative industries.

Fiona said she hoped the festival would help strengthen and reinvigorate businesses and communities after the Covid-19 pandemic and severe weather events impacted the area both economically and socially.

Creative Coromandel recognised that art was at the heart of many communities around the peninsula, she said.



Fiona Cameron. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

"That's why this festival celebrates the 'artbeat' of our people."

Thames-Coromandel District Mayor Len Salt has also come on board with the springtime festival, and said he was "delighted" by the initiative.

"There are so many talented, creative people in our district, and bringing events and activities associated with the arts together under this umbrella will make it easier for people to build the arts into their visit to the Coromandel," he said.

Festival organisers are now calling on local creatives to get in touch with information about any events planned over the festival period.

DETAILS: If you have an event you would like promoted for free as part of the festival email info@creativecoromandel.co.nz.



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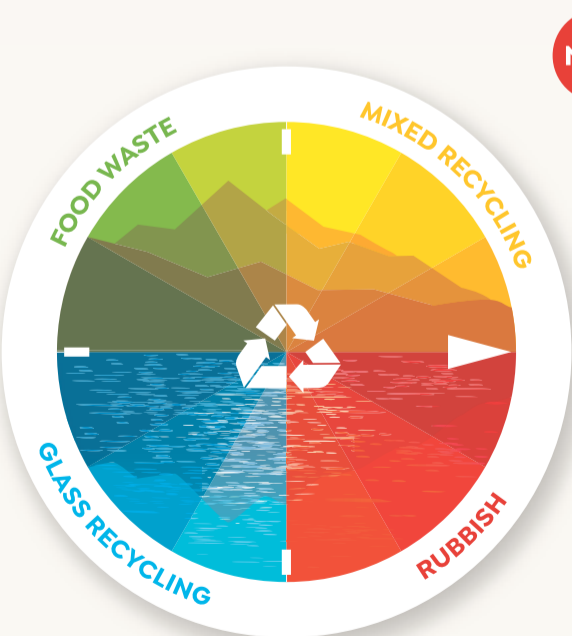
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Food donated after performance for homeless

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

A “car-load” of food supplies has been delivered to the Thames Foodbank after a performance dedicated to the marginalised members of the community.

St George’s Community Choir held a performance of Street Requiem last month, a “relatively new” work that the choir said was to remember those who had died on the streets, and to bring hope to communities struggling with street violence.

It had its premiere in Melbourne in 2014, and was brought to Thames audiences by the choir’s musical director and conductor, Sandie Davis-Roberts, who sung Street Requiem back in 2017 with another choir in Auckland.

The performance - which was in collaboration with seven other city choirs - raised funds for many organisations, including the Auckland City Mission.

“She’s now retired to Thames, and so she suggested we should do it here and it just fit,” committee member Karen Ruddock said.

“This is probably the first

time one of our performances has given back to the community.”

For the show, members of the choir wore an orange ribbon, which they said aimed to recognise the marginalised people of the community. They called for donations of money and food items to donate to the Thames Foodbank, located on Mary St.

Run by the Living Well Trust, the food bank acts as an essential donation and collection point for the area, and manager Caroline Talbot said she was grateful for the choir’s generosity.

“It’s important for the people who receive it - and that’s anybody who has a need,”

“Things happen in life where people end up being in need... and they can come in here or they can come in via other agencies.”

- Caroline Talbot

she said. “Things happen in life where people end up being in need... and they can come in here or they can come in via other agencies.”

The performance of *Street Requiem* was a timely one, with *The Profile* in May reporting that up to a dozen displaced people had erected homes made out of tarps and tents alongside Danby Field in Thames.

They said they venture to the Thames Baptist Church, which



Choir committee members Barbara Tegg and Karen Ruddock, with Food Bank manager Caroline Talbot, centre.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

the trust operates within, every morning for breakfast. They’re also provided with a hot lunch once a week which they said was “a big help”.

But Caroline said anyone in need could utilise the food bank service. It is open Monday to Thursday, 9am-11.30am.



St George’s Community Choir held a performance of *Street Requiem* last month.

Photo: SUPPLIED



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‘Vibe’ results to be presented to board

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

The results of a survey conducted to determine the vibe of Thames’ attempt at “adaptive urbanism” will be presented to the local community board on August 2.

The project was partly funded by Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency as part of its

Innovating Streets for People programme, which supported 32 councils across Aotearoa to deliver 78 projects aimed at creating “safer and more accessible environments” and reducing “vehicle speeds and volumes”.

But Thames-Coromandel District Council’s version of the adaptive urbanism - which it was given \$320,125 in Waka Kotahi funding for - has been met with varying opinions since it was established more than two years ago.

Two petitions - one ‘for’ and one ‘against’ The Vibe were presented to elected members, while businesses along Pollen St have spoken of the space attracting anti-social behaviours.



The Create the Vibe pedestrian space has been met with varying opinions since it was established more than two years ago. File Photo

When *The Profile* asked Waka Kotahi its thoughts surrounding Thames’ Vibe, its manager for urban mobility Kathryn King said the council was responsible for decisions around whether the project remained in place.

She said the Create the Vibe project came out of the council’s Long Term Plan, and it was the council that was responsible for community en-

gagement, design, and implementation of the project.

She did not provide comments as to whether the transport agency was aware of the public’s mixed opinions on the space.

Waka Kotahi provided funding of \$29 million to councils from Northland to Invercargill for the

Innovating Streets for People programme.

Using adaptive urbanism, projects were implemented in the form of pilots, pop-ups, or interim treatments, allowing people to test “living, breathing versions” of designs and provide feedback in real time.

This process allowed for continual improvement of the design while it was in place, Kathryn said.

How the design worked in practice and community feed-

back then informed future permanent street changes.

Of the 78 projects approved for funding as part of Innovating Streets for People, 16 projects did not install or withdrew from the programme, while 62 projects were installed.

At the end of the programme in 2021, an evaluation was carried out and at that time, 49 projects remained in place [63 per cent], three projects were installed permanently - with a significant adaptation or partial removal - four were removed earlier than their original proposed timeline and six were projects designed to be short term events and therefore were no longer in place.

“As councils are ultimately responsible for the projects they delivered, Waka Kotahi does not have more up to date information about which Innovating Streets for People projects are currently in place,” Kathryn said.

Thames-Coromandel District Council said it originally spent \$35,569 of community board funds to set up the space, but in June, 2022, elected members voted to retain the Create the Vibe trial for a further 12 months, replacing some materials as required at a cost of up to \$15,000.





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Warm PJs for Hauraki tamariki

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

At least 300 Hauraki tamariki have benefited from a cosy initiative that gifted each child a new set of warm pyjamas for winter.

Inspired by the Middlemore Foundation's Jammies for June fundraiser, Waihi woman Nathalie Visser took it upon herself to make sure the campaign created a positive impact closer to home.

After purchasing new pairs of pyjamas, Nathalie, who works for Hauraki District Council, approached her colleagues and council chief executive Langley Cavers - and they all came on board to back the campaign, setting up collection points in the district's libraries and service centres.

The fundraiser grew in size and strength, and by the initiative's end, almost \$1300 was raised from cash donations, and more than 280 pairs of pyjamas were donated.

There were also dressing gowns, bed socks, and blankets donated, too.

"A bit of a roadblock was distribution - finding who could distribute the pyjamas and making sure they were going to the kids that needed them," Nathalie said.

"I managed to get in touch with Plunket and the Hauraki Māori Trust Board... and we were able to identify families in need and they were really happy to get behind it."

The Hauraki Māori Trust Board, as well as local schools throughout the district, also took part in 'pyjama days' to raise funds.

"We only had three weeks because I started a bit late, but the response that we had and what we achieved in those three weeks was just amazing," Nathalie said.

"You can't beat getting into a snuggly pair of pyjamas at the end of the day, and I have grandkids now, so I love getting them warm for the night, so it's really nice to know that there are kids out there that are also going to benefit from this."

With the almost \$1300 in donations, Nathalie was able to head into Postie Plus in Thames to pick up the pyjamas - and she said the store had to outsource the night-wear from all over New Zealand.

Overall, she and the distributors felt like "Santa Claus" giving the children something to snuggle into over winter. They'd love to have another crack at it in 2024, she said.

"There were definitely some learnings from doing it this time round, but we'd love to do it again and perhaps start a bit earlier next year and extend it out to the businesses around the district."

"If we have a little bit more time to run the promotion, we may be able to get even more support."



Nathalie Visser led a campaign that saw at least 300 children gifted a new set of warm pyjamas.

Photo: SUPPLIED

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Historic home and shop available in Waitakaruru

An opportunity to lease or purchase The Country Store, comprising a fully operational café and attached four-bedroom home at 6 Front Miranda Rd, has become available due to a change in family circumstances associated with owner, former All Black Joe Karam.

Karam purchased the building in January 2022 and the café opened in October. The state-of-art ALLPRESS coffee equipment and Little-Gem Ice-cream machine, fridges, freezers, food warmer and POS are still in place ready to go for a new operator.

It is perfectly positioned on the intersection of SH25 and the Miranda road with ample parking, and is directly opposite the public toilets which are so convenient for passing travellers.

According to Karam, the toilets are very popular and have a reputation as some of the cleanest in the country.

"It's about halfway between Whitianga and Auckland. Passers-by stop here to go to the loo, let the kids and dogs stretch their legs, and get a coffee, cold drink, snack or ice-cream while they're at it," he said.

As well as general traffic and locals, it is on the popu-



Joe Karam inside the historic Country Store on Front Miranda Rd.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

lar Hauraki Rail Trail and the main route for Aucklanders travelling to and from Coromandel holiday spots.

"The customer base was steadily growing until my daughter moved on a few

months ago."

The comfortable and spacious attached house has a heat pump, HRV ventilation, a great wood-burner and has recently been reroofed. There is a large covered veranda at

the back looking out to the Firth.

Schooling is very convenient with Waitakaruru Primary just down the road and the bus to Hauraki Plains College picks up and drops off at the

front door.

The building was originally the Royal Harrison Hotel in Kuaotunu on the Coromandel Peninsula. It was dismantled and brought by barge to Waitakaruru in about 1916. The original post office building beside it has a bathroom and kitchen area, and with some refurbishment could make an ideal AirBnB or extended family space.

A few years ago the previous owner passed away, and the property became very dilapidated, Karam said.

"We removed a dozen 9-cubic metre bins of rubbish when we took over last January."

Karam is willing to negotiate an arrangement with a suitable applicant. He said it could be sold outright with a variety of vendor assistance terms or leased with rent holiday and minimal ingoing.

"Ideally, I would like to sell to or partner with a go-getter family who can see the potential, but the living accommodation and shop could be separated, if necessary, on lease terms. If I was 20 years younger I would get stuck into it myself!"

ENQUIRIES: Mr Karam can be contacted on the phone number in the advertisement below.

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Rural Life

Freshwater farm plans to be phased in

Freshwater farm plans to help farmers improve local waterways will be progressively phased in across the country, Agriculture Minister Damien O'Connor and Environment Minister David Parker have announced.

Cabinet has confirmed the freshwater farm plan regulations, which are part of the government's Essential Freshwater package, to improve freshwater health and management.

"Freshwater farm plans will be phased in region by region over the coming years to ensure they are practical, starting in parts of the Waikato and Southland on August 1," Damien O'Connor said.

"This step provides farmers certainty, and they will have 18 months to prepare their first plan after the regulations take effect in their region."

Freshwater farm plans would allow for flexibility and variability within farming systems, rather than a one size fits all approach, he said.

"We've listened to and acted on the concerns of the sector around how to make a system workable on the ground and roll it out in a way that gives farmers time to make the necessary preparations."

"Demonstrating our sustainability credentials is critical for future export growth and this is a key part of that story."

Over time, farmers and growers will need a freshwater farm plan if they have

20 hectares or more in arable or pastoral use, five hectares or more in horticultural use, or 20 hectares or more in combined use.

Legislation enabling freshwater farm plans was passed in 2020 as an amendment to the Resource Management Act.

There has been extensive consultation with farmers since then, including successful piloting and on-farm testing across the country.

"Industry businesses and groups such as Fonterra and Beef + Lamb New Zealand, along with regional councils, have led the way in encouraging the development of freshwater farm plans," David Parker said.

"The freshwater farm plan regulations are another step in the progression towards widespread adoption of these plans that will, over time, lift the quality of our rural waterways."

"The government is investing \$22.5 million from the Essential Freshwater fund to help farmers, growers and advisors develop the plans."

The rollout period for the remaining regions will be outlined before the end of this year.

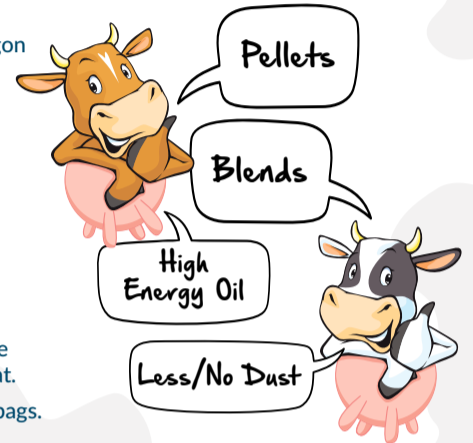
Who needs a freshwater farm plan?
All pastoral or arable land-use of more than 20 hectares; All horticultural land-use of 5ha or more; Any combination of the land uses above equal to or greater than 20ha.
More info: www.legislation.govt.nz.



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Museum calls for writers of Paeroa

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

Paeroa and District Historical Society Museum curator Lawrie Smith is searching for writers and researchers who like a challenge, as the society makes a push towards compiling years of history into written stories.

The museum, located on Paeroa's Normanby Rd, is currently overflowing with papers, memoirs, journals and scrapbooks, many brought in as people clear out family estates.

"Everybody's written about [Paeroa], you know, there's a number of writers that started something and they've died before they've finished it but their families just give us the work," Lawrie said.

"Well, it's almost as much work taking that and trying to recycle it."

The museum previously published the *Ohinemuri Regional History Journal* in conjunction with the Waihi Arts Centre and Museum Association. It's stories like these that Lawrie would like to see produced again.

"It's a voluntary thing, much like the Treasury, and we haven't got the people with the writing skills," he said.

"That's what I'm after, trying to find the people to come and help to add to the future. Somebody that can come in, we can give them a heap of stuff and say, 'what do you think?'"

The stories needed to be made available, Lawrie said, in a way that would make them accessible



Paeroa and District Historical Society Museum curator Lawrie Smith is on the hunt for writers.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

for people interested in the history of the area. "I just think the stories should be completed a bit more and kept at the museum because that's what it is, a repository of history," he said.

"If someone's moved into the town ... after six months they'll be thinking, well what can I do? Am I going to play bowls, am I going to

do this? Some people are writers." Lawrie said stories like the ones in the *Ohinemuri Journal* were as important a record as newspapers, providing a snapshot of everyday life in the region.

"A lot of work went into those too by various people over a long period of time," he said.

"We were putting this book [*Oh-*

inemuri Journal] out once a year, twice a year at one stage. These are all stories written by people from here, about the people here."

Lawrie said the museum also had plenty of resources already available, including a well-stocked library, for those who wanted to do research of their own.

"What I say to a lot of people is,

if you want to study history read the first six copies of [the *Ohinemuri Journal*]. I refer to the journals all the time."

DETAILS: To get involved, contact Lawrie Smith, Ph 07 862 8045 or visit the museum from Tuesday to Friday, 12-3pm.



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Activity ramps up on SH25A rebuild

KOPU-HIKUAI RD UPDATE

Momentum is building at the summit of State Highway SH25A where work to build the bridge reconnecting Coromandel communities is well underway.

Last week, a 100-tonne crane and 100-tonne piling rig were brought up to the eastern side of the site. They are set up ready for the main bridge construction to begin this week at what will become the eastern abutment of the bridge.

The first step will be to wind in the seismic casings for the piles – the large tubular metal sleeve that provides unrestricted movement of the top portion of the pile under earthquake loading. These casings are being cut to length in New Zealand and progressively delivered to Kōpū, where they are being stored ready for use.

Test drilling to determine the depth of the piles has already been completed.

Elsewhere on site, work continues laying more drainage on the hill above and below the bridge site, and stabilising access tracks with lime and cement so the machinery and rigs can be moved into position to drill the next set of piles.

Staff numbers on site are building as activity ramps up and specialist crews are brought onboard for specific tasks such as piling, reinforcing, stabilising, drainage.

Off-site, the prefabricated bridge beams being manufactured in Hawke's Bay by Eastbridge are taking shape in their factory. With 15 of these to be fabricated, the team there are working around the clock, seven days a week.

SPEED LIMIT LOWERED

Temporary speed limit changes are being made to sections of State Highway 25 to make the road safer while State Highway 25A is closed.

Traffic patterns on the peninsula have changed as more people use SH25 to get to and from the east coast of the peninsula.



The 100-tonne piling rig is delivered to the SH25A site. BELOW: The first of 15 bridge beams being fabricated by teams working around the clock in Napier. Photos: SUPPLIED/NZTA



A speed review was conducted after residents and stakeholders raised safety concerns about the impact the increase in traffic was having on them, especially the high speeds, in areas where there are pedestrians and cyclists and near schools/kura and marae.

Concerns have also been raised about the higher risk of crashes and near misses on the narrow, windy sections of road due to the increased traffic.

New speeds of 50km/h, 60km/h and 80km/h will be implemented primarily

through the many small communities and along the narrow and winding coastal sections between Thames and Coromandel.

On the east coast two new reduced speed zones are being introduced at Coroglen and Te Rerenga, and existing reduced speed zones will be lowered at Kōpū, Kūaotunu, Wharekaho and Whangamata.

Additional edge marker posts, cats' eyes, curve warning signs and road markings will also be installed to make the road safer, particularly at night. We are making these changes to ensure speed limits fit the cur-

rent use and conditions of the road. By making the road safer for everyone, we are minimising the risk and severity of crashes and consequent disruption to traffic, particularly along the narrow and windy sections of the road. These changes will begin taking effect in early August as new signage is installed. The speed limit is effective from the day the sign is in the ground.

The temporary speed reductions will be removed once the bridge reconnecting SH25A is open.

- Supplied by Waka Kotahi



The SH25A rebuild project team has brought two young engineers back home to the Coromandel. James Davies, left, has holidayed at Pauanui all his life and lived there while studying, and Taylor Auld is from Thames. Both joined the project as site engineers, and their local links mean they are both very aware of the urgency of the project. "I have family and friends impacted by the road closure so know just how important this project is for local businesses and communities," James said. "Our roles are towards the bottom of the org-chart, but we are part of a highly experienced team focussed on building the bridge as quickly as possible," Taylor said. A former Thames High School student, Taylor studied engineering in Christchurch and worked for Fulton Hogan on several projects in the South Island over the past three years before being shoulder tapped to join the project team. James finished his engineering degree at the University of Auckland last year and joined McConnell Dowell's Graduate Programme in February.

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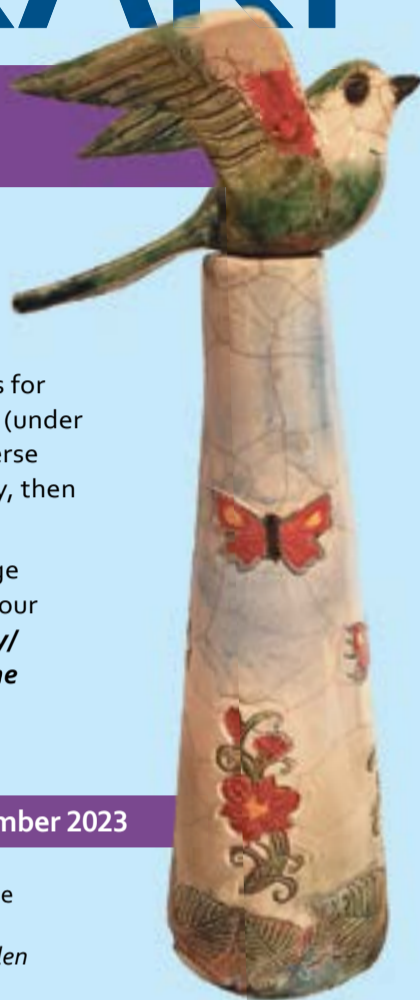
If your project provides creative opportunities for your community; engages with young people (under 18 years) or celebrates and promotes the diverse arts and cultural traditions of your community, then don't delay!

Applications are open to individuals and all age groups. Download the application form from our website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/community/grants-funding/creative-communities-scheme

**Projects must take place between
1 October 2023 and 30 September 2024.**

Applications close 4pm Monday 11 September 2023

This fabulous piece of pottery was on display at the 'Clear as Mud' art exhibition in Waihi - beautifully crafted by Dorothy Armstrong titled *Summer Garden*



CCS Festival Fund

Included in this year's CCS allocation is the CCS Festival Fund, which is a one-off funding boost from Government to support established festivals that celebrate the life experiences, stories, cultures, and regional identities of New Zealanders, that continue to be impacted by the effects of COVID-19 in 2023.

These funds will be distributed alongside our usual Creative Communities Scheme funding rounds. You can apply using the CCS application form, ensuring you include the word 'Festival' in the title or project description.

Love the arts?

We're looking for people to help assess funding for the Creative Communities Scheme

Who is needed?

- People who know what's happening in the arts locally
- People who have experience in one or more forms of art
- People from a range of communities
- People with specific cultural knowledge relevant to the arts
- People of all ages. We would particularly like to include young people on the committee

What's involved?

You'll help assess applications for funding from artistic individuals and community groups and attend assessment committee meetings twice a year.

For more information go to <https://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/community/grants-funding/creative-communities-scheme>

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SPORTS

Heaven fields family legacy 102 years on

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

When Max Heaven took to the field this season for the Hauraki North Rugby Football Club, he was following a family legacy that first began more than 100 years before.

The 21-year-old is the fifth generation of his family to play for the club, after his great-great-grandfather, William O'Neil, first donned the uniform in 1921.

Max's selection to the Senior B team makes him the 12th member of his line to play for the club.

"It's definitely a cool feeling knowing those generations have run out and played on the same field for the same club," Max said.

"I remember going down and watching North when I was really little, just going and watching the team. My dad wasn't playing then but he would take us down. So I've always seen North play."

The club was originally known as the Waitakaruru Rugby Football Club, opening its doors some time around 1909. Since then, the "Blue Bulls", as the players are known, have gone from strength to strength, in no small part due to the ongoing dedication of its long-standing families.

Max's great-uncle, Terry O'Neil, is the patriarch of the O'Neil family. He played in the 50s and 60s, and was still mowing the pitch as recently as last year.

"There's been a heap of clubs come and gone in this area," Max



Max Heaven takes to the field in his first season with the Blue Bulls. INSET: Max's great-great-grandfather, William O'Neil, played for the club, in 1921.

Main Photo: CHILLED EDGE PHOTOGRAPHY

said. "But you know, when you see the crowds here, on the days we have rugby, it still gets a big following."

Last season, the club fielded a girls' side for the first time, as well as Senior A and B teams, with the Senior A team placing second

in the premier final clash with Whangamatā on July 15. Club historian Peter Mitchell said the resurgence in interest was exciting after a lean year previously, where only one team was fielded.

"We've had crowds here like back in the 1970s," Peter said.

For Max, the game is a chance



ABOVE: Team photos show some of the generations of O'Neils and Heavens who played for Hauraki North, 1921 (top left) to 2023 (bottom).

Photos: SUPPLIED

to reconnect with old school mates and have a bit of fun.

"There's a lot of players that I played with at Hauraki Plains College and even junior rugby, so there's a lot of familiar faces out there," he said.

"It's been probably the most fun I've had playing rugby."

"This first year playing seniors was a good challenge for our team.

"We didn't really know what to expect, but we all had fun and ended up probably exceeding expectations for our first year playing seniors."





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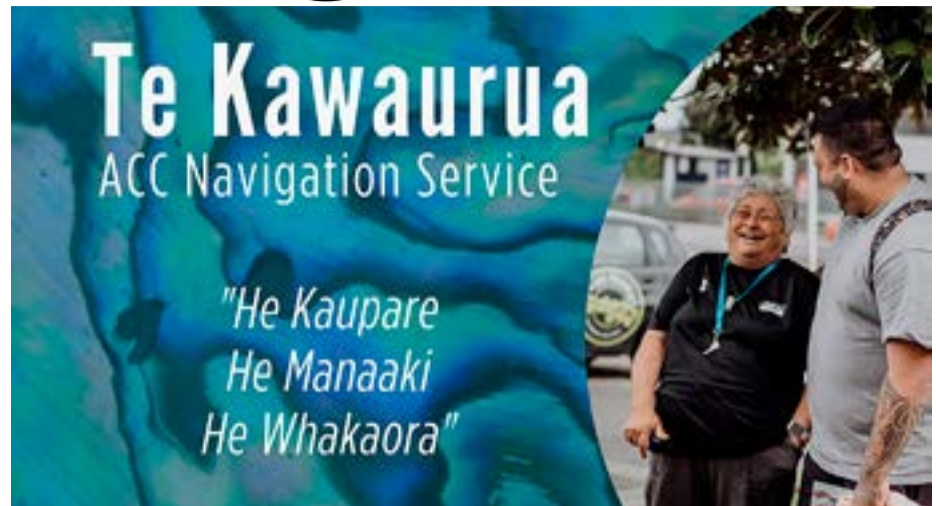
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Understanding asthma



People with asthma and their families need education to understand more about their medical condition. It is a chronic lung disease affecting people of all ages. It is caused by inflammation and muscle tightening around the airways, which makes it difficult to breathe.

Symptoms can include coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath and chest tightness. These symptoms can be mild or severe and can come and go over time. Although it is a serious condition, it can be managed with the right treatment.

Many factors have been linked to an increased risk of developing asthma: it is more likely if other family members also have asthma - particularly a close relative, such as a parent or sibling. It is also more likely in people who have other allergic conditions such as eczema and hay fever.

Asthma cannot be cured but there are several treatments available. The most

common, is to use an inhaler, which delivers medication directly to the lungs. Some people with asthma may need to use their inhalers every day and for children and during emergency situations, using an inhaler can be difficult. Using a spacer device makes it easier to use an aerosol inhaler. This helps the medicine reach the lungs more easily.

At Health Ngatea, if you would like to make an appointment to see our Nurse Prescriber Nadia, she is available to discuss your symptoms, make sure you are taking the correct medication for your asthma, and using your inhalers correctly. Although asthma can be a serious condition, managed correctly in combination with the medication that is right for you, will allow you to enjoy a normal, active life.

- Team Health Ngatea

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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



Edward Corbett. Photo: SUPPLIED

The news of the awfully sudden death of Edward Corbett caused a severe shock across the Thames Valley and at first was scoffed at as he had been in the best of health and spirits when last seen.

Edward, 55, a mining engineer and one of the landmarks of the district, had attended Paeroa's Warden's Court regarding a river claim application.

Before he left for his home at Waitekauri he declined an offer from Mr Montgomery, of Owharoa, to take a seat in his buggy - he had his own to take through the Karangahake Gorge.

The gorge road was in a dangerous condition that January of 1898 with the continuous falling of loose stone. He left Paeroa with Mr Marsland in his buggy arriving about 7pm at Karangahake, where he stayed till around 9 before leaving on his own.

Fifteen minutes later, Edward was lying on the road in the first turning of the gorge, his horse and buggy some distance ahead.

He told the man who found him, Patrick Cahill, that he had inexplicably fallen out of the buggy. A stretcher was immediately found and Edward was carried to Kelly's Hotel. He complained of shoulder pain and said: "Where are you taking me? - take me home". Dr Buckley was sent for but within half an hour Edward died.

Great sorrow was felt across the district and in Auckland mining circles. Edward was a man of integrity and greatly respected. He was director of a large number of mining companies, and his opinion on goldfields matters was held in highest regard.

He was born in the little village of Appleton, England, and spent his boyhood as an apprentice lad in a little country shoeing forge. He left England when he was 21, arriving in New Zealand with his first wife in 1864. He took part in the opening of the Thames goldfield, where he built the Moanataiari battery.

He and his family moved to Waitekauri, and for more than 20 years, the Corbett family had been

a link in the progress chain of the district. As well as his mining endeavours, Edward was also one of the original members of the Ohinemuri County Council, performing much valuable and zealous work. Although a shrewd and successful speculator, more than once he was reduced in circumstances through too confident investment which turned out badly.

Up to the day of his death, Edward felt the time would come when the Upper Thames would be an immensely rich and profitable goldfield.

At the inquest, it was established Edward had previously suffered sunstroke, the effects of which he always felt on hot days, especially when he wore a hard hat. The day he died he complained of it, but otherwise he was in his usual health. Dr Buckley stated that Edward had been attended by him for rheumatism and heart disease. He said heart disease, accelerated by the shock of being thrown out of the buggy, caused his death.

Edward, who left a wife and large family, was buried at Waihi cemetery. His funeral was one of the largest ever seen in the district, the cortege being fully half a mile long despite bad weather. He was buried with his son, also Edward, 21, who had died of typhoid fever the previous year.

Perhaps he was best summed up by his brother-in-law, who said the villagers back in Appleby still remembered and thought kindly of 'Teddy' Corbett. They would be gratified to learn that he became a man of mark. He carved his own road and no better heritage could a man bequeath to his children.

ENTERTAINMENT



Matiu Te Huki will open for local band Joy Collective. Photo: SUPPLIED

Concert to spread joy

Thames will be treated to an evening of "uplifting and joyful" music this weekend when Wellington musician Matiu Te Huki returns.

In town as part of his nationwide Upward Spiral tour, Matiu returns to Thames after his previous performance at the Back Room had the "whole room dancing away their cares".

His soulful music has a strong Māori flavor, and he uses haka, chants, and traditional Māori instruments in his performances, which are backed by grabbing grooves, beautifully crafted bass lines, funky rhythms and magical melodies.

This year, Matiu will be the opening act for local five-piece band Joy Collective.

Together they will put on a

show at Te Kura o te Kaueranga Thames South School hall on Saturday, August 5.

Consisting of Dylan Wade, Nur Peach, Alex Ivanoff, Seonaid Espiner, and Danley Tonkin, Joy Collective contains multiple songwriters and performs in a wide variety of genres. These include rock, soul, blues, reggae, funk, folk and pop, among others. Their lyrics take a positive and inspirational angle, getting real and honest about the human experience, but always designed to uplift.

The evening begins with a shared meal at 6pm, with the music beginning at 7pm when Matiu takes the stage. Tickets are \$30 on the door, with \$25 presale tickets available at humanitix.com/nz.

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Last month's winner of the lotto ticket was Neroli Matautia, who found Pete in the July 12th edition in the Richmond Villas advert.



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Public Notice

Hauraki District Council Meeting amendment



Pursuant to Section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, public notice is hereby given to the change in the August meeting schedule.

Citizenship Ceremony
Wednesday, 30 August 2023, 8.30am

Council
Wednesday, 30 August 2023, 9.30am

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Two injured in Waihi assaults

One person received moderate to serious injuries and another received minor to moderate injuries after being assaulted at two separate locations in Waihi on the weekend, NZ Police said.

A man was taken into custody on July 29 following two assaults and disorderly behaviour.

The man was reported to police around 11am as armed with a weapon.

It was not a firearm.

The person appeared to have been involved in two assaults,

and wilful damage to two residential properties, Police said.

Reports of wilful damage included a broken window and a broken security camera from a thrown object.

The man was arrested on the intersection of Gilmour St and Johnston St around 11.30am, after attempting to flee police on foot.

The 24-year-old is due to appear in Hamilton District Court next week. Charges are being considered.

Police did not have any further details.

Embrace it

OPINION



By MICHAEL WILKES

A few years back Thames High School had a very cool campaign created by student leaders. It was simply called Embrace It. There were posters all around school with images of different students and a statement declaring something different about themselves and the words "EMBRACE IT" below. It was a great idea and one that deserved more traction than what it got.

Recently I have been thinking about our culture and the idea of tolerance. We have been sold this idea of tolerance. One scholar writes "Tolerance is considered a critical and adequate response to the challenge of how conflicting ways of life can freely express themselves and peacefully coexist with each other." The problem we are seeing is that tolerance seems to have a time limit to it.

To tolerate something is not to accept difference, it is to try our best to cope with it. The problem is that when placed in a situation where we have to keep upholding tolerance, there is a time where something has to give.

Like a cat that won't stop meowing and getting under your feet, there comes a point for most where tolerance and patience runs out and we kick the cat (sorry cat lovers).

The reality I am seeing in society is that in many cases tolerance has run its course. Politically, socially, financially,

ideologically, religiously, we are seeing more and more frustration. And people are starting to 'kick the cat'.

We are seeing a shift where the majority, or those with the louder voice or bigger audience beginning to shut down the voice of others. This is what we have now come to know as the 'cancel culture'. And I wonder how we could do things differently. Because to shun, or discredit another's opinion does not make it go away, it simply forces it into the darker corners where it can grow and fester with likeminded or more extreme ideas.

I wonder if those high school students were onto something. I wonder if tolerance was never the long-term answer. I wonder if there is some way forward where we can embrace difference and celebrate it. I have often found value in hearing the extreme views of another. Showing love and respect and genuinely seeking to understand the person behind the idea.

We can vilify an ideology, a set of beliefs, or practices of people groups. But when we take a person, hear their story and their heart, sometimes it changes things. Sometimes even though I disagree, my ideas move a little. Sometimes there's more. Sometimes understanding the person helps embrace them, regardless of their extreme ends.

I don't know the way forward. There is a lot of anger and frustration being thrown at different groups of people in our community.

What I do know is that we need to take stock and consider how we respond. For me the best way forward is to love, and live believing that every person has intrinsic value and should be treated as such. For you, I simply ask you to take a moment to consider your position. If you feel like tolerance is running out, maybe it is time to consider a different approach.

ENTERTAINMENT



Flow State: A film about traversing the highest line of extreme sport 1000m above ground.

Photo: WILL NELSON

Film festival fundraiser returns

After a sell-out show last year, the Te Puru School PTA is hosting two screenings of inspiring outdoor adventure films at the Civic Centre on August 12.

The collection of award-winning short films have been selected from the Wanaka-based New Zealand Mountain Film Festival which took place in June and is in its 21st year.

PTA chairperson Kerry Daniel said the diverse local and international short films were open to all ages and would inspire and entertain a wide audience.

Films showing in the afternoon are: *Close to Home*, a friendly nudge to get out and explore your local mountains in New Zealand; *Janwaar* a rambunctious group of kids find their lives transformed when a skatepark is built in their small Indian village; *10 in a Weekend*; a Scottish ski mountaineering challenge to hike and

ride the 10 highest mountains in the UK in a weekend; *Momentum*; the extreme adventures of 18-year-old Australian rock-climber Angie Scarth-Johnson; *The Old School Coast to Coast*; Matty Graham tackles the 40th Coast to Coast race in old school 1983 gear, clothing and nutrition; and *Changabang: Return to the Shining Mountain*; three members of the New Zealand Alpine Team try their luck on the infamous West Wall of Changabang.

The evening screening has another outstanding collection: *Mitre Peak*; a multisport mission up Fiordland's landmark featuring highlining and paragliding, *Turn the Corner*; one man climbs Lake Hawea's Corner Peak 53 times over 53 days to raise awareness about mental health, *Flow State*; traversing the highest line of extreme sport 1000m above ground, *Mountain Turks*; the story of Erik Bradshaw and his

crazy idea to build backcountry huts out of water tanks, and *New Way Up*; the challenging first summit of Gulmit Tower in the Karakoram. Kerry said the Te Puru PTA was grateful for the support of its local sponsors, with funds raised from the film festival going back to the school.

The event will be held on Saturday, August 12 at the Civic Centre, Mary St, Thames. Afternoon screening doors open at 2pm, films start at 2:30pm. Evening screening doors open at 6.30pm, films start 7pm. Home baking and tea/coffee will be available in the intermission for koha.

TICKETS: Tickets are available from Re-store Eco Market in Thames (cash only) or by emailing TePuruPTA@gmail.com. \$25 adults/\$15 under 18s. Ticket price includes soda and popcorn or ice cream (afternoon screening), a wine or beer and canapés (evening screening).

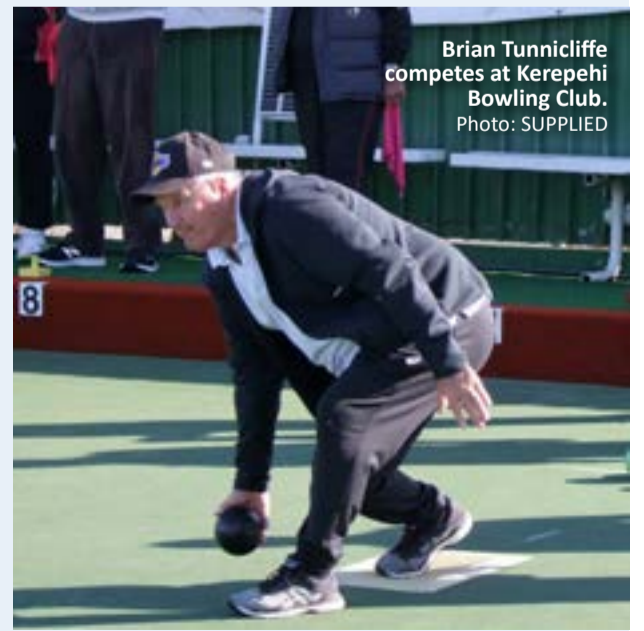
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BOWLS

A cool sunny morning saw 18 teams playing in Tunncliffe Nissan sponsored optional fours tournament on the carpet green at Kerepehi Bowling Club. Winners on the day were: 1st 4 wins 24 points 17 ends (Kerepehi) Arthur Thorburn, Lois Curd, Maise, Fatu Tausi; 2nd 4 wins 17 points 17 ends (Kerepehi/Thames) Mitti Taipari, Steve Death, Garry Parker, Dan Goodal; 3rd 3 wins 12 points 19 ends; (Paeroa) Noel Rae, Geb Rae, M Match, E Jebb; 4th 3 wins 11 points 15 ends (Hauraki) Shaun, Velco, Laurie, Ros. Coming up on Sunday, August 6, O'Hagan Vision Care Opt 4s; Sunday August 20 Harv's Butcher Shop-Paeroa Build Link Opt 4s. This concludes winter bowls and mufti dress, back to club colours for the summer opening on September 10 (Sutherland Family Opt 4s) and 9am starts. Entries are \$12 per person, with morning tea and lunches still provided all summer. Contacts for entries: Lorraine 021 25 4527, Mitti 021 101 8150, Graham 027 291 3500, Marg 07 862 6015. Good Bowling,

- Terry King



Brian Tunncliffe competes at Kerepehi Bowling Club. Photo: SUPPLIED

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

HARD

111

111

HARD

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

MEDIUM

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

EASY

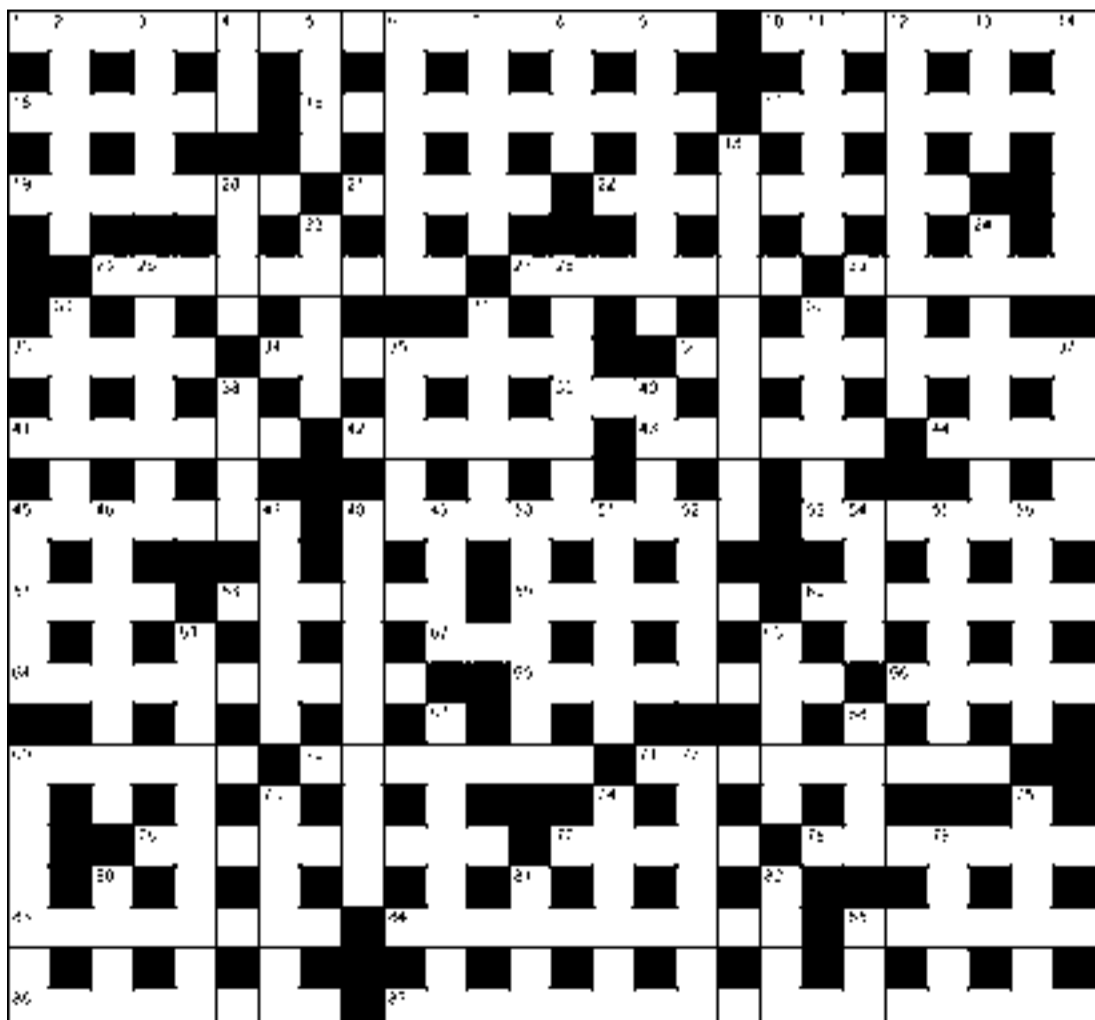
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8	6	2	4	5	7	9	3	1
9	1	5	3	2	8	6	4	7
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3	7	4	6	9	2	1	5	8
1	5	6	8	4	3	7	2	9
7	4	9	2	3	5	8	1	6
5	8	1	7	6	4	2	9	3
6	2	3	1	8	9	4	7	5

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JUMBO CROSSWORD

131

- ACROSS**
- 1 Totally wasted funds (5,4,3,5)
 - 10 Leather slipper (8)
 - 15 Go back on a deal (6)
 - 16 Declare ineligible (10)
 - 17 Maker of hats (8)
 - 19 Lecture to enthuse (3,4)
 - 21 Welded together (5)
 - 22 Rows (9)
 - 25 One giving remedial treatment (9)
 - 27 Easily bent, flexible (7)
 - 29 Furrow (6)
 - 33 Ornamented (5)
 - 34 Coffee stirrer (8)
 - 36 Grasp mentally (10)
 - 39 Fuel (3)
 - 41 Long eventful journey (7)
 - 42 Nightfall (6)
 - 43 Customer (6)
 - 44 Naked (4)
 - 45 Port in Belgium (7)
 - 48 Genealogy chart (6,4)
 - 53 Very loyal (7)
 - 57 Surprise attack (4)
 - 58 Gregarious (6)
 - 59 Soldiers (6)
 - 60 Medley (7)
 - 62 Top (3)
 - 64 Wagon builder (10)
 - 65 Singly (3,2,3)
 - 66 Hidden store (5)
 - 69 Repeated (6)
 - 70 One of the senses (7)
 - 71 Colleague (9)
 - 76 Bewildered (9)
 - 77 Deadly (5)
 - 78 Huntsman's cry (5-2)
 - 83 Asymmetrical (8)
 - 84 Put on a pedestal (10)
 - 85 Doubtful (6)
 - 86 Drew plans for (8)
 - 87 Concession that a person must be regarded correct, if the contrary has not been proven (7,2,3,5)
 - 28 Drawn-out (7)
 - 30 Set (6)
 - 31 Miniaturised tree (6)
 - 32 Unlocked (6)
 - 35 Steam bath (5)
 - 37 Fearful anticipation (5)
 - 38 Cherished (4)
 - 40 Skin mark (4)
 - 45 Direction indicator (5)
 - 46 Gloaming (8)
 - 47 Extreme abnormal fear of (6)
 - 48 Scared (10)
 - 49 Grain-grinding machine (4)
 - 50 Disappointment (7)
 - 51 Plasterer's tool (6)
 - 52 Drain (5)
 - 54 Check and correct (4)
 - 55 Live longer than (7)
 - 56 Ribald (6)
 - 61 Adding sugar (10)
 - 63 Merger (5)
 - 67 Hideous, grisly (8)
 - 68 Passport endorsement (4)
 - 69 Breathed out (7)
 - 72 Hair cleaner (7)
 - 73 Orb (6)
 - 74 Pacific island (6)
 - 75 Winged child (6)
 - 79 Catching-rope (5)
 - 80 Musical work (4)
 - 81 Small island (4)
 - 82 Horizontal mine entrance (4)
 - 85 Employ (3)
- DOWN**
- 2 Followed orders (6)
 - 3 Incident (5)
 - 4 Expected (3)
 - 5 Broad (4)
 - 6 Paper hankies (7)
 - 7 Gave the slip (6)
 - 8 Regulation (4)
 - 9 Unceremonious (8)
 - 11 So evil (anag)(6)
 - 12 Method of curing drug addiction (4,6)
 - 13 Ballad (4)
 - 14 Provide commentary for (7)
 - 18 Beheading device (10)
 - 20 Entice (4)
 - 23 Seller's chat (5)
 - 24 Weather prediction (8)
 - 26 Metal cutter (7)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Ashen, 4 Crocodile tears, 11 Dress, 14 Honey, 15 Sarcophagus, 16 Maltreat, 19 Western, 20 Entry, 21 Ice hockey, 24 Satellite, 26 Rattle, 27 Plucky, 31 Banal, 32 Matching, 34 Astronomer, 37 Aft, 39 Calibre, 40 Jovial, 41 Relief, 42 Stag, 43 Palette, 46 Separately, 51 Endorse, 55 Ring, 56 Hamper, 57 Turban, 58 Headway, 60 Era, 62 Sweetheart, 63 Traverse, 64 Baton, 67 Stigma, 68 Forked, 69 Infuriate, 74 Repudiate, 75 Amber, 76 Mansion, 81 Onlooker, 82 Silver plate, 83 Cadet, 84 Scent, 85 Marching orders, 86 Jeans.

DOWN: 2 Shovel, 3 Elect, 5 Real, 6 Coconut, 7 Depart, 8 Lead, 9 Truncate, 10 Search, 11 Dotted line, 12 Eyes, 13 Satisfy, 17 Brief, 18 Child's play, 22 Clear, 23 Scimitar, 25 Avarice, 26 Regalia, 28 Panama, 29 Silica, 30 Freeze, 33 Choke, 35 Rogue, 36 Brat, 38 True, 43 Pores, 44 Lingerie, 45 Enamel, 46 Supersonic, 47 Pure, 48 Rotated, 49 Tarzan, 50 Leave, 52 Need, 53 Old salt, 54 Shadow, 59 Stamped out, 61 Issue, 65 Skittish, 66 Rival, 67 Serious, 70 Needled, 71 Museum, 72 Embryo, 73 Modern, 77 Scare, 78 Flue, 79 Even, 80 Stir.

SPORTS

Nothing but net for Ngatea teen

BASKETBALL

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

Sebastian Dowd dreams of making it big on the basketball court - and the Ngatea teen's drive and talent have earned him a training spot on the other side of the world.

The 17-year-old has been awarded a full-ride scholarship to Florida Coastal Prep, a sports academy in the United States which prepares high school students for sports careers in college and beyond. Arriving at the end of August, he will spend the American school year studying, training, and showcasing his skills for recruiters.

Mum Suri Lee-Walker said her son has dreamed of a career on the court since he was little.

"He just said, 'Mum, I really want to play basketball one day in America,'" Suri said.

"He never gave up."

Sebastian started out playing for Thames Valley and for his former school Hauraki Plains College.

When looking for another challenge, he came across a tournament run by Hoop Nation, and reached out to see if there were any spots available.

"[The coach] was like, 'Yup, we have a roster spot available, you're going to need this, this, this, and this, and we'll see you on the bus at 12 tomorrow,'" Sebastian said.



Ngatea teen Sebastian Dowd is shooting for the stars with his US basketball scholarship. Photos: ALICE PARMINTER

"It was 10 o'clock at night and I set my alarm for 4 o'clock in the morning."

Suri woke to find her son, then 16, heading out the door to Whanganui for a week with a "bus full of randoms".

"I told him to take photos of

the bus and rego so if he went missing I'd know where to find him!" she said.

Sebastian competed in the tournament with West Auckland team Mana Moana, and from there continued to work with coach Alex Brown.

"He pretty much just put himself out there, [and] those coaches and kids that played with Sebastian, they're literally family and brothers now," Suri said.

Alex had sporting contacts overseas, and he sent footage of the teen's playing to Florida

Coastal Prep.

"We got offered the scholarship and they've given us things to work on, and ever since then we've just been going at those same things, building on them," Sebastian said.

For the last few months, Sebastian has been training hard to prepare for his move; cleaning up his diet, playing some scrimshes and refining his skills.

"Now, I think we're clocking up about 16 hours worth of training and it's still intense, but over there they take it to a whole new level," he said.

"I think we'll do two weights sessions, and then we'll do a team practice; some days we'll do one-on-one, every now and then we'll do beach trainings.

"We'll clock up about 24 hours of training every week - we've definitely got our hands full."

Sebastian said he owed a lot to his coaches, and encouraged anyone with a similar dream to keep reaching for opportunities.

"If any Maori kids or anyone are looking to go into the States ... work through Alex Brown," he said.

"[And] trust the process. It gets tough at times seeing everyone hang out and you're just there doing your own thing, but I guess that's what divides everyone from the people who are willing to do whatever it takes."



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