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  **The Valley Profile**

# GOODBYE, VIBE

Money talks and so does the public - after more than two years, Thames Community Board members have looked in their coffers and listened to the controversy and have decided to remove Create the Vibe. KELLEY TANTAU reports.



It's been 28 months - four more than the initial "lifespan" of the trial - and elected members have now voted to remove Create the Vibe and reopen Mary St to traffic. The Thames Community Board was implored by its chair to vote with their "heads, not their hearts" at its meeting

on August 2, and after more than an hour of discussion, head prevailed. While some board members didn't jump at the chance to dismantle the Innovating Streets project, with one saying they felt "forced" to make the decision, others noted the Vibe's divisiveness and the

money it would cost to keep the space permanent - money they didn't have, Cr Peter Revell said. "Budget is a very significant thing we need to take into account and, personally, I think it would be reckless of us to spend one cent more than \$20,000 on this particular project.

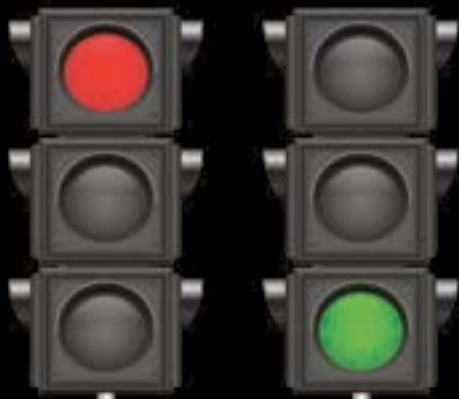
"I think we'd be crazy to look at half-a-million to one million dollars to make The Vibe permanent," he said. The financial figures come from a WSP report that collated survey results and overall recommended to elected members that Create the Vibe shouldn't be made permanent.

It said that the project didn't achieve its objectives to create a civic heart with vitality; to provide a safe and accessible town centre; and to create community ownership. Most concerning, the report said, there was a "resulting lack of buy-in from the wider community".

CONTINUED ON P2

**We all know the drill...**

*RED is a NO*



*GREEN is a GO*



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# Create the Vibe to go

CONTINUED FROM P1

Therefore, removing the Vibe would cost council just \$20,000 - as opposed to \$500,000 to \$1m to make it permanent.

According to council, the overall "adaptive urbanism" initiative cost \$336,587 and was 90 per cent funded by Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency and 10 per cent by council.

The agency recently told *The Profile* that as of October, 2021, 49 of its 62 projects remained in place, three projects were installed permanently, 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.

Cr Martin Rodley said he felt "let down" by Waka Kotahi, saying the agency promised support with things such as roading assessments back when the project first came to the fore.

"I felt that my decision to support the Vibe last term was based around those things happening, and it's fair to say that [following] the reaction that other communities have had towards Innovating Streets - people attacking them with tractors and vandalising them - that Waka Kotahi abandoned us a little bit," he said.

"I feel that we have been let down by them." Create the Vibe was touted as becoming "a shared civic hub space for people to gather on Mary St at the corner with Pollen St - right in the middle of things... and where a good town square should be".

The pedestrian area was declared 'Best Street' at the Keep New Zealand Beautiful Awards on February 17, 2022.

However, two petitions - one 'for' and one 'against' The Vibe were presented to elected members during its lifetime, while businesses along the main drag spoke of loss of income and of the space attracting anti-social behaviours and drug use.

Before a decision was reached, a well-

attended public forum exemplified the split response to The Vibe.

On behalf of the business community, Sue Lewis-O'Halloran from the Thames Business Association urged the board to "do the right thing" and immediately reopen Mary St, putting an end to the "divisiveness that has impacted so many businesses and our community for nearly three years".

Villager Cafe owner Jason Liddiard, however, said it would be "a total tragedy" to throw away The Vibe.

Nonetheless, after hearing from staff that "sometimes there's no good middle-road option", board chair Adrian Catran started discussions about dismantling The Vibe and reinstating Mary St to how it was 28 months ago. After a number of amendments to wording, it was unanimously voted to wave 'goodbye' to The Vibe and reopen the road.

Board member Holly MacKenzie said the project had been "tainted by terrible, negative vibes" and she was reluctant to vote on the option to dismantle.

"It's really hard for me to make a decision, and I feel like it's a forced decision because, unfortunately, the majority of the voices in here are negative ones," she said.

"I think the concept of The Vibe is a great idea and I love the purpose of it. I think it puts progression into Thames and I think that's why the older generation may be a bit frightened by it. Unfortunately, I'm only one voice."

The board also voted to ask its chief executive to investigate the implementation of traffic calming upgrades to improve the quality of the adjacent streetscape for active transport. It also sought an investigation into establishing a 30kmh speed limit in the surrounding area.

No date to reopen Mary St was announced as part of the decision.



# Assaults on slip-clearing workers

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

Thames-Coromandel District Council has had to "safeguard" its slip-clearing workforce after physical assaults and verbal threats were made on its staff.

The council said that after a physical assault on geotechnical staff reviewing the major slip on Tapu-Coroglen Rd, there was a second incident of contractors' staff clearing the slip at another site on the road being "verbally abused and threatened".

Details of both incidents have been passed to the Police, council said, while measures were also being taken to safeguard the workforce. Council said there had also been "repeated cases of traffic management signs being stolen" from sites on the Tapu-Coroglen, which endangered the public and required replacement. Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency has also reported a "noticeable increase in theft" of equipment from its work sites across the Coromandel Peninsula in recent weeks, which could cause delays.

The contract for repair works to the Tapu-Coroglen Rd was released to tender on July 28. Council hoped that works on permanent repairs would start in early October when weather conditions were more suitable.

Meanwhile, an additional \$76 million will be spent in the Coromandel to help improve State Highway conditions. The funding, which will go to Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency for the work, comes from the \$6 billion National Resilience Plan announced in the Government's May Budget.

**DETAILS: If you have any information regarding the assaults or thefts, contact the Police.**



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## Thames Tides

Wed Aug 9	Thu Aug 10	Fri Aug 11	Sat Aug 12	Sun Aug 13	Mon Aug 14	Tue Aug 15
 Morning: 12:45am 3.4, 1:08pm 3.2 Afternoon: 6:50am 0.5, 7:20pm 0.8 Sunrise: 7:09am 5:38pm Best At: 6:17am 6:42pm Rise: 1:07am, Set: 11:21am	 Morning: 1:38am 3.2, 2:07pm 3.1 Afternoon: 7:44am 0.7, 8:24pm 0.9 Sunrise: 7:08am 5:39pm Best At: 7:08am 7:33pm Rise: 2:13am, Set: 11:57am	 Morning: 2:33am 3.1, 3:11pm 3.0 Afternoon: 8:42am 0.8, 9:28pm 1.0 Sunrise: 7:07am 5:40pm Best At: 8:00am 8:26pm Rise: 3:18am, Set: 12:39pm	 Morning: 3:31am 3.0, 4:15pm 3.0 Afternoon: 9:45am 0.9, 10:28pm 1.0 Sunrise: 7:06am 5:41pm Best At: 8:53am 9:19pm Rise: 4:18am, Set: 1:27pm	 Morning: 4:31am 2.9, 5:13pm 3.0 Afternoon: 10:46am 0.9, 11:21pm 1.0 Sunrise: 7:05am 5:41pm Best At: 9:45am 10:11pm Rise: 5:11am, Set: 2:22pm	 Morning: 5:30am 2.9, 6:03pm 3.1 Afternoon: 11:40am 0.8 Sunrise: 7:04am 5:42pm Best At: 10:37am 11:01pm Rise: 5:57am, Set: 3:20pm	 Morning: 12:10am 1.0, 12:27pm 0.8 Afternoon: 6:24am 3.0, 6:48pm 3.2 Sunrise: 7:02am 5:43pm Best At: 11:25am 11:49pm Rise: 6:36am, Set: 4:20pm

\*Not for navigational purposes.  
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**MOON AND FISH KEYS**

New Moon  
 First Quarter  
 Full Moon  
 Last Quarter

Good Fishing  
 Fair Fishing  
 Not So Good

**TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES**

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

PLACE	Hr	HIGH Mm	LOW Mm
Coromandel	-0	05	-0 04
Whitianga	-0	01	-0 06
Tairua	+0	10	+0 21
Whangamata	-0	03	-0 05
Waihi Beach	-0	12	-0 12

# Stabbing leaves shop owners 'scared' to serve

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

A Waihi family is facing each workday with apprehension, after an aggressive incident at their business left the owner with a stab wound in his side.

On July 29, a shirtless 24-year-old man entered their shop and approached the counter.

The owner, who asked to remain anonymous for his family's safety, said he was in the store-room when he heard the door chime.

"He was just a regular fellow so I didn't bother to look at him, or profile him like what he was wearing," the owner said.

"I just looked into the camera, and as soon as I looked in the camera I was just held from [my shirt] and I was just pulled in front of him.

"And then I figured out, okay, he has got something in his hand."

The item in the intruder's hand was a walking stick with a knife attached to the end of it, he said.

During the scuffle, the intruder swung the stick at the shop owner, striking him in the side.

The owner was later taken to Waikato Hospital, where he received three stitches and contin-

ues to be in a lot of pain.

Managing to pull himself away during the attack, the owner set off the fog cannon and alarm.

The intruder was turning back towards him, he said, but once he saw the fog he ran out of the shop. He was later taken into custody by Police on the corner of Gilmour St

**"I'm scared to come out to the counter at the moment... same as my family."**

- Stabbing victim

and Johnston St, after a member of the public reported a man carrying a weapon.

The intruder was a local known to the shop owner, who said he never expected to be approached in this way.

"He didn't utter any single word," the owner said.

"As soon as anybody comes, what we do is [say] 'hey, hello, how are you?' That's what I did and he didn't respond."

There was no demand or threat, the owner said, indicating he wasn't planning a simple robbery.

"He didn't even grab a single bag of lollies," he said. "[We're] just assuming that he was not good at his mental health."

The incident has left the whole family rattled. Although their shop is open for business, the owner said they are still wary and watchful.

"I'm scared to come out to the counter at the moment," he said.

"Same as my family, but we are just distracting our minds somehow because you have to do it, you know? Have to do something for our living."

The owner said he was grateful for the support of the community, who had rallied around in the wake of the attack.

"I just really want to [give my] thanks to the community - they are big supporters of us," he said.

Police said a man was due to appear in Hamilton Court this week, though charges were still being considered. He appeared to have been involved in two separate 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.



Elaine Lally, Margaret Ramshaw and Joan Waterson. Photo ALICE PARMINTER

## 'Sea of yellow' fundraiser

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

A "sea of yellow" is heading to the Paeroa RSA, with the annual Daffodil Day luncheon scheduled for August 28 at 11am.

Organisers Elaine Lally, Margaret Ramshaw and Joan Waterson said they had a number of queries already from people keen not to miss out.

"It's a sea of yellow: we've got yellow flowers, yellow balloons, we wear yellow sashes and daffodils," Margaret said.

The cause is one close to their hearts - Margaret and Joan are cancer survivors themselves.

"I've lost a neighbour, I've lost so many people," Elaine said.

"So I think it's a really worthy cause."

There will be lucky door prizes, raffles and a guest speaker from the Cancer Society, followed by a 12.30pm lunch. Last year, the luncheon raised around \$5000.

Some of the funds raised came from bunches of daffodils, which were hand-picked by Joan and her team of helpers.

"[We'd like to] show our appreciation to Leanne and Derek who've opened their property for so many years and let us go and pick daffodils," Joan said.

"It's a fun day, everybody's happy and it's really quite nice," Elaine said.

**TICKETS: \$20, from Addictions Gift-shop, limited to 100 guests. No door sales or Eftpos on the day.**



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# Education

## Basketballers bounce into second place

### BASKETBALL

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

Waihi College students Rylee Morgan and Aaliyah Hill are national basketball finalists, coming in second place at the under 15 nationals on July 15.

The 14-year-olds were recruited for Tauranga's under 15 representative girls' basketball team earlier this year. Aalyiah was playing for the Tauranga B team, having just begun to play basketball this year. Rylee, who made the A team, has represented Tauranga since joining the under 11 team at eight years of age.

The team was up against Rotorua for the finals, and came away with 74 points to Rotorua's 92, earning them the silver trophy.

The girls said they had a great time playing in the tournament, and were both looking forward to playing again next year.

Both girls are enthusiastic sports players. Aaliyah has also played rugby and netball, while Rylee competed in the Waihi under 16 netball representative team and the Thames Valley under 16 rugby representative team, and is also Waihi College's school squash champion and sportswoman of the year.

Public Interest Journalism logo



Rylee Morgan holds off the opposition.

Photos: SUPPLIED/ MIKE HILL



Aaliyah Hill, left, looks to her teammates from mid court.



**WAIHI COLLEGE**

[www.waihicol.school.nz](http://www.waihicol.school.nz)

**Waihi College has several important dates coming up in relation to Juniors & new enrolments**

**Same Place - Different People, Different Stories: Wednesday, August 30th from 2:15pm - 4:30pm**

This open afternoon is an opportunity for parents and whānau of current Year 7 & 8 students and any Year 6 students and whānau to visit our Year 7 & 8 classrooms. Here, students will be presenting information about different cultures who live in our local area and telling us their cultural stories in their own words.

**Enrolment Dates, School Tours and Parent Information Evening:**

This year, the Waihi College **Enrolment Forms** are due back by **Friday, September 15th**. The early return of enrolment forms will ensure that the Waihi College team have plenty of time to organize the 2024 program. Please return all completed enrolment forms to the front office at your Primary School. These forms can also be found on our website and at all the local primary schools.

The **Waihi College School Tour** will be on **Thursday, November 2nd from 9am - 11:20am**. This is an opportunity for all students who have enrolled, to visit Waihi College and see how our school works. Parents are welcome to join their child on this tour. **The Parent Information Meeting** will be on **Thursday, November 2nd from 5:15pm - 6:15pm**. Parents are welcome to visit the Year 7 & 8 area of the school and find out how the program works. It is a chance to meet the teachers, see the waka environment and ask questions. The meeting will be in Te Arawa waka - there will be students to help you find the way!

**Waihi College**  
UPCOMING EVENTS FOR JUNIORS & NEW ENROLMENTS

- Wednesday 30th August: 2.15-4.30pm: Open Afternoon
- Friday 15th September: Enrolment Forms due back
- Thursday 2nd November: School Tour: 9am-11.20am
- Thursday 2nd November: Parent Info Evening: 5.15-6.15pm

**SAME PLACE; DIFFERENT PEOPLE, DIFFERENT STORIES**

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

# Late artist's sculpture to be his 'legacy'

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

A local artist will never get to see the sculpture he designed become a landmark, but his partner and the art trust working on its installation say it'll be his "legacy".

Chris Budgen passed away in January, 2019, after submitting a design to the Thames Public Art Trust's sculpture competition. He was never able to learn that his design was chosen to be installed as part of the trust's sculpture trail initiative, which has already seen a giant jandal and horseshoe spheres erected along the pathway.

But Chris' partner Saila Wood said he would have been "delighted and humbled by this news".

"I am thrilled for Chris that his sculpture has been constructed and is soon to be installed.

"It's a wonderful legacy for Chris to leave behind something creative of himself here in Thames."

Saila said Chris was an "incredibly talented man" who made complex three-dimensional origami and wooden working models with homemade gears, which were a delight to his eight grandchildren.

He was also an accomplished



The trustees of Thames Public Art Trust meet at Chris Budgen's piece Interwoven, which will be installed along the Hauraki Rail Trail. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

musician who set up the Thames Acoustic Music Club, which is still running today.

"I'm incredibly proud of Chris," Saila said, "and I am so grateful his sculpture will soon

be installed for future generations to enjoy. It will be a prominent piece along the rail trail which will bring joy to many, many people."

Titled Interwoven, Chris'

piece is made of macrocarpa and weighs two tonnes.

Its colourful beams are akin to another of the trust's installed pieces - Colour Harmonics, by Michael Smither.

"Some of our [competition] entries were massive, some were tiny, but this one... this was translatable," trustee Rob Johnston said.

Construction on Interwoven started in 2021, and it's been gratefully stored at Kōpū KiwiTranz "for some time".

There's no confirmed date for when it'll be installed opposite the Totara shops, along Ngati Maru Highway, but it "will look awesome", the trust said.

In June, the trust also appointed two new trustees - sculptor John McKeown and glass artist Jenny McLeod. They both have a passion for art in public spaces.

"When I came here 20 years ago, I was struck by the fact there was no local art," John said.

"Most towns had bits and bobs around the place, but in Thames, there was a lack of it. Now, there are demonstrable things that we can see being done in Thames."

Public art in the town has moved ahead "in leaps and bounds", John said, and it has been gaining more support, too.

**DETAILS: To follow along with the trust's work, find Thames Public Art Trust on Facebook.**



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# Waihi shines at Matariki event

A community-wide Matariki event saw Waihi College's hall packed to the gills, as students performed kapa haka and Matariki-themed items. The concert, held on July 26, was hosted by Waihi Beach School and the college. The free event was open to all, and a sausage sizzle out front raised funds for the college netball team. Children of all ages participated, from early childhood centres right up to late teens. It was a fun-filled night, with every act enthusiastic to show off their skills. **TĀTANA KING** and **JAZMINE JONES** captured the action.



The Waihi Central School kapa haka "looked so professional and lifted the roof", acting principal Annie Sims said.



The littlies of Te Kohanga Reo o Pukewa show their best moves.



Waihi Beach School prepares to take to the stage.



For many of the students at Waihi Central School, this was their first time performing on stage.



Waikino School kapa haka students perform.



Waimata School's unique glow in the dark routine.

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(L to R) Doleena Shelford, Jen Steen, Jo Robinson and Ashleigh Harrison

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# All aboard Deodar

It was a memorable Monday morning for students around the Thames Valley who were able to hop on board the *Deodar III* – a police maritime unit vessel first launched in 2007. The trip was organised by Thames-Coromandel school community officer Senior Constable Brian Connors, who was joined by fellow Police staff, emergency services, Rapid Relief Team and the local Coastguard. *Deodar III* crew member Senior Constable Matt Sheehan told *The Profile* the maritime unit left its base in Auckland in “complete fog”. There was “restricted visibility” until about Kawakawa Bay - with the boat and its crew relying on radar to navigate towards Thames. *Valley Profile* reporter **KELLEY TANTAU** was at the wharf to capture the action.



Students from schools around the Thames Valley were invited to see the boat on Monday.

Photos: KELLEY TANTAU



School Community Officer Brian Connors arranged the *Deodar III* visit.



Ellyse and Ruby from Ngatea Primary School have fun on the wharf.



Hunter, Daniel, and Mikayla.



School principals Wayne Whitney and Brook Hill.

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# Rural Life

## Eradication of M bovis on track

New Zealand has no farms infected with the cattle disease *Mycoplasma bovis* (M bovis) as the joint government and primary sector eradication effort moves into its next phase.

Biosecurity and Agriculture Minister Damien O'Connor announced the milestone last week as New Zealand moved closer to a world-first eradication of the disease.

The last known infected property in mid-Canterbury has been destocked and declared disease-free, taking New Zealand to zero confirmed infections.

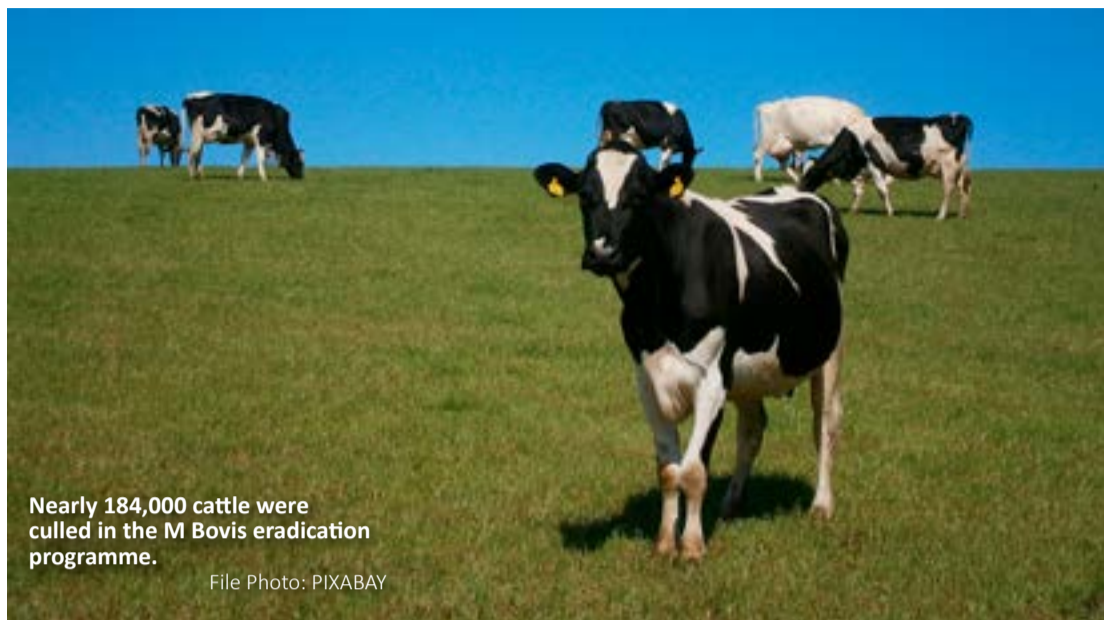
"Five years of hard work, sacrifice, and collaboration with MPI, DairyNZ and Beef+Lamb New Zealand have brought us to this milestone on the road to eradication," Mr O'Connor said.

"I want to acknowledge the hardship which affected farmers and families have felt during this time. I also want to thank the broader sector who've stepped up their animal tracing efforts, allowing us to move the programme on to a new surveillance phase.

"Allowing M bovis to become endemic was estimated to come at a cost of \$1.3 billion in lost production in the first ten years alone.

"At the height of the programme, there was a peak of 40 infected properties across the country and today we have none.

"While we've had brief periods in the past where we had no infections, we still had possible cases being investigated. This is the first



Nearly 184,000 cattle were culled in the M Bovis eradication programme.

File Photo: PIXABAY

time we've had no cases and no investigations."

In 2018, the government announced the decision with DairyNZ and Beef + Lamb New Zealand to be the first in the world to eradicate M bovis from New Zealand to protect the national herd, Kiwi farming businesses, and export growth, he said.

"Looking at what we have achieved together over the last five years, I am confident we made the right decision. We always knew it wouldn't be easy, especially for the farmers affected, but when you looked at the impact that living with M bovis has on animal wel-

fare and on farmers, we knew we had to try."

The government couldn't yet say they had reached eradication as new cases may be detected in the future, he said.

"However, with no confirmed infection from our background surveillance since April, 2022, we can be confident that we are moving in the right direction.

"All the indicators – from our bulk milk testing to beef herd surveillance – give us confidence our 10-year programme is working.

"Being the first in the world to attempt to eradicate, we have built a playbook over the last five

years with immense effort from everyone involved."

Nearly 184,000 cattle were culled in the eradication programme, including 280 farms depopulated, nearly 3000 farms subject to movement controls and many more tested on-farm. "The programme has touched nearly every farming community across the country," Mr O'Connor said.

The focus now was on next steps for the M bovis programme with a move to a national pest management plan (NPMP) – similar to what is used for Bovine Tuberculosis control, with OSPRI nominated as the management agency.

## Fonterra revises forecast farmgate milk price

Fonterra Co-operative Group reduced its 2023-24 season forecast farmgate milk price range on August 4 from \$7.25-\$8.75 per kilogram of milk solids, with a midpoint of \$8 per kg/ms, to \$6.25-\$7.75 per kg/ms, with a midpoint of \$7 per kg/ms.

Fonterra chief executive Miles Hurrell said the revised forecast Farmgate Milk Price range reflected ongoing reduced import demand for whole milk powder from Greater China.

"When we announced our opening 2023-24 season forecast Farmgate Milk Price in May, we noted it reflected an expectation that China's import demand for whole milk powder would lift over the medium-term," he said.

"Since then, overall Global Dairy Trade (GDT) whole milk powder prices have fallen by 12 per cent, and China's share of whole milk powder volumes on GDT events has tracked below average levels.

"This reflects a current surplus of fresh milk in China, resulting in elevated levels of local production of whole milk powder, and reducing near-term whole milk powder import requirements.

"The medium to long term outlook for dairy, in particular New Zealand dairy, looks positive with milk production from key exporting regions flat compared to last year," Mr Hurrell said.

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# Rural Life

## Focus on what you can control



By Dr Ilyse Jennens

The relentless rain has made the start to calving challenging and can at times feel like it will never end.

It is important to remember that

there are things that we can control and to focus our efforts on these. This is a quick reminder to continue this focus and looking forward to ensure you are well set up for peak milk production and mating.

How well cows are transitioned from dry to milking has a major influence on how well they come into peak milk production and get back in calf. Use of diet calculators, feed budgets and spring rotation planners alongside feed and blood tests can be used to regularly check and adjust diets and mineral dosing.

Most mastitis infections are picked up around the time a cow calves, so prevention measures are best focussed on freshly calved cows. Use of the cleanest pasture possible for springer and colostrum cows will minimise exposure of these cows to bugs. Milking freshly calved cows as soon as possible after they calve reduces their risk of developing mastitis. Trimming tails, washing and drying heavily contaminated udders, stripping quarters daily to identify and treat mastitis early and careful application of teat spray are also important mastitis prevention strategies.

Keep in touch with your veterinarian if you are experiencing more than eight cases of mastitis per 100 cows calved, high or rising bulk milk SCC or if any cows develop toxic mastitis.

Calf disease prevention – use of cleanest pasture possible for calves at birth, prompt



pick up from paddocks, spraying of navels with iodine prior to transport to calf sheds and feeding with good quality (tested), warm colostrum as soon as possible after birth (within 4-6 hours) are key steps. The use of Multimin as calves arrive in calf sheds can help prime calf immune systems. Continued attention to shed use and hygiene as the season progresses is also important.

Prompt detection and treatment of uterine infections by metrichecking – ideally metrichecking is done in two weekly batches of cows calved at least two weeks to allow early treatment and recovery before mating.

With all your careful focus, hopefully you will be set up for a disease-free spring. But do remember we are here to help. Contact your veterinarian to discuss how we can help or if problems do start to occur – the sooner the causes are identified, and prevention put in place, the smaller the overall impact.

Wishing you all a quick and smooth calving!

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# Rural Life

## Windy and dry weather forecast

National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) forecasters are expecting stronger than normal winds and drier than normal weather throughout Waikato from August to October.

The seasonal climate outlook reported temperatures are about equally likely to be above average or near average, with rainfall totals most likely to be below normal.

An increased frequency of high pressure systems near the region would likely lead to spells of drier than normal weather, NIWA said.

Seasonal wind speeds may be stronger than normal thanks to a lingering cell of rising air over the western tropical Pacific, a signature not typically associated with El Niño.

“Overall, this shift supports more frequent southwesterly-quarter winds for New Zealand over the next three months,” NIWA said.

Soil moisture levels are most likely to be below normal, while river flows are about equally likely to be below normal or near normal.

NIWA reported that El Niño Alert criteria continued to be met during July.

Central equatorial Pacific sea surface temperatures exceeded El Niño thresholds but the Southern Oscillation Index (an atmospheric indicator) was neutral.

Full ocean-atmosphere coupling for El Niño is expected in the next three months, likely persisting through summer, NIWA said.

Atmospheric pressure is forecast to be above normal to the northwest of Aotearoa New Zealand, and below normal to the south, leading to more southwesterly winds than normal across the country for the season as a whole.

“Westerly winds will bring warm air into the region from Australia at times,” NIWA said.

Coastal sea surface temperatures ranged from 0.3 degrees celsius to 1.8 degrees above average during July.

“The warmer than average seas may reduce the intensity of episodic cold, southerly air masses that typically occur during late winter and spring.”



Matatoki School students celebrate their new mural, brought to life by artist Kylie Gunn. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

## Matatoki’s new mural a nod to the past

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

A new mural on a relocated classroom has given Matatoki a bold new splash of colour.

Brought to life by Thames artist Kylie Gunn, the mural was based on the students’ learnings about the area, teacher Hine Viskovich said.

It was funded by the Thames-Coromandel Creative Communities Scheme, administered by Creative Coromandel.

“Our students have learned not only how to research the history of our area, but also see their

learnings expressed creatively in art form,” Hine said.

“We can describe these things in words, but sometimes a picture is much more effective”.

The rural school now plans to visit Auckland Museum to see remnants of the Oruarangi Pā – a significant site on the Waihou River in Matatoki.

Students are also working with another local artist to design and paint a new waharoa [entranceway] that celebrates the past.



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# Greatest shoreline erosion measured

Cyclone Gabrielle caused some of the greatest shoreline changes at more than half the sandy beaches in the Coromandel Peninsula since monitoring began by Waikato Regional Council.

The council has monitored shoreline change (erosion and accretion/beach building) at 102 sites on 27 beaches in the peninsula since the late 1970s, and measurements taken after the cyclone showed significant erosion at 14 of the 27 beaches. Some dunes had eroded the furthest since monitoring began.

Senior environmental monitoring scientist Nathan Singleton, who has been in his role monitoring the beaches for nearly 20 years, said the council usually monitored shoreline change annually in September, however, it had been out measuring shoreline change in the fortnight immediately after the cyclone.

Data relating to an extreme post-cyclone event was invaluable to assess the impact on Coromandel beaches and guide work on future adaptation planning, he said.

Erosion caused by storms often recovered naturally in the following months, however, it could take many years for a beach to recover from a major storm, he said.

"A lot of these beaches have long term cycles of erosion and accretion. Having long term data is important for capturing these



Nathan Singleton measures the shoreline at Hahei. Photo: SUPPLIED

cycles and capturing cycle variability," Nathan said.

Councils needed to understand the extent of natural beach change to sustainably guide existing and new developments on the coast, as reducing, and where possible avoiding, coastal hazard risk was an important part of regional and district council planning.

At the 102 specified sites, measurements are taken along a transect line, including at the dune toe and edge of vegetation, to determine vertical and horizontal shoreline changes over time.

"I saw some of the some of the biggest cuts in the dunes I have

ever come across in my time at council," Nathan said.

"Hahei, Whiritoa, Pauanui and Whangamatā had 2-4-metre-high sand cliffs and visually, it was wow, crazy, I almost needed a ladder to get down to the beach."

Walkways were also undermined at Matarangi and Whangamatā.

"The data collected over the years show the position of the dune toe along the Coromandel beaches fluctuates, but there is no clear widespread long term (permanent) shoreline change. It also shows that shorelines don't all respond in the same way to any one storm."



The Christian outreach group Evangelism Explosion was on Paeroa's main street on July 28, taking advantage of the sunny day to share their music. "We do preaching and outreach," they said, noting that they travel all over and try to get out every fortnight. The group has members local to Paeroa, and is part of a worldwide movement which uses gospel in its ministry. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

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SPORTS

# Black belt family a formidable force

MARTIAL ARTS

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

The Wood family are not to be reckoned with.

They've been asked whether or not it's true they can "make somebody go down with just a finger".

It is.

Four out of the five family members have all earned their black belts in Kiaido Ryu martial arts - and while they haven't used their abilities "in the real world", time and again they've shown their skills in the dojo.

"Growing up, my kids had never really been sporty," mum Jo said.

"They were happy to run around and play with a ball but they never did Saturday morning netball or soccer at that stage."

Jo told *The Profile* that when her eldest child Grace was around eight-years-old, the pair went to check out Kiaido Ryu. After a few moments of watching, Grace wanted to have a go, "and that was it".

The other Wood siblings followed as soon as they were allowed.

Olivia started Kiaido Ryu the day after she turned seven. Isaac was allowed to start at six-and-a-half because "he'd been hanging around, watching from the side for so long", Jo said.

It was mum's turn to try out the sport after her children encouraged her. Now Jo's husband Troy is the only one in the family who hasn't trained in martial arts.

"I think he's a bit intimidated by all of us," Olivia joked.

The Wood family train at the Thames



The Wood family, from left, Grace, Jo, Olivia, and Isaac.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Kiaido Ryu Martial Arts Dojo - which has recently celebrated its 40th year in operation.

It is run by experienced teachers Lance and Ava Strong, who have also developed 12 other Kiaido Ryu schools across New

Zealand.

The sport uses coloured belts to represent the rank and progress of its students, from white, yellow, orange, blue, purple, green, brown, and black.

"The hardest thing to do is to go in and

start as a white belt," Jo said. "You feel so unco-ordinated, and it looks much easier than it feels... I used to wonder how the others didn't laugh at you."

"But they've all been there and they've all done that, and they know how it feels."

For a decade, the Wood family have been dedicated to their martial arts training, and their passion for the sport can be proven in their ability to remember the exact dates they earned their black belts.

Grace got hers on July 6, 2018, while Olivia obtained her black belt on July 9, 2021.

Jo got hers on December 6, 2019, and the latest milestone belongs to Isaac, who earned his black belt on June 30, 2023.

The family members have come face to face on the mat but insist they don't spar outside the dojo, saying it was not a "natural thing" for any of them to "throw a punch at somebody".

But they were all very proud of their black belt-status, with Olivia admitting it was the most physically difficult thing she had ever accomplished, and Grace saying it was "a surreal experience".

"It was such a rewarding experience that left me blown away by my own achievements and with a new found confidence in myself," Grace said.

"You don't ever start out thinking: 'I'm going to get my black belt'," Jo added.

"You start out thinking: 'I'd be really pleased if I could just get my yellow'. But it's really quite empowering to watch your daughter flatten somebody."



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The Valley Profile

# SPORTS

## \$40k adds to grant windfall for Thames Bowls

### BOWLS

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

The strong membership of Thames Bowling Club can now await its new artificial turf after a successful round of funding grants.

The New Zealand Community Trust recently awarded \$124,000 of grants throughout the Waikato region - and the bowling club on MacKay St was the recipient of a \$40,000 piece of it.

"It's the cherry on top," club treasurer and vice president Karl Garrett told *The Profile*.

"The club's got funds but we rely on outside money from grants and businesses to help us retain a good, sizable chunk which you need for financial security going forward."

The club's new artificial turf is costing \$198,000.

It will replace the carpet laid 12 years ago at a cost of \$212,000.

"We commenced [the project] probably about three, four months ago," Karl said.

"We knew we had to get some funding to make it happen, so we put applications in, started getting the funding, and organised a company to lay it."

Not only did the club secure \$40,000 in funding from NZCT, they also received a \$50,000 grant from Pub Charity, and \$30,000 from the Lion Foundation.

They are also awaiting the outcome of a final funding application.



Vice president Karl Garrett says the new turf will add life to the popular bowling club.

Photo KELLEY TANTAU

"[The turf] is starting to get holes in it and the surface underneath has moved a little bit," Karl said.

"[The installation company] TigerTurf will replace the carpet and 50 metres of the surface as well to make it level."

The club is well-used, with high school students coming down in the winter time, and the social event, Business House Bowls, on during summer.

"It's a very popular club," Karl said.

"We've got about 120 playing members and 150-160 social members, so it's a busy little club and [the new turf] is definitely going to give it more life."

"We're proud of the fact we provide members with great facilities - grass greens, artificial greens - and the grounds go a long way to fulfilling what we're achieving."

It is hoped the new artificial turf will be laid by April, 2024.

Also a recipient of the recent NZCT grants was the Thames Squash Club, which was granted \$23,000 for its kitchen refurbishment.

Paeroa Golf Club was also granted \$20,000 for a new tractor, and the Whangamatā Summer Festival was provided with \$8976 to cover event costs.



## Paeroa Bowling Club enters 120th year

This bowling season, 2023-24, the Paeroa Bowling Club marks its 120th consecutive year in existence.

Club spokesperson Martin Douglas said the elected board were very much looking forward to contributing to the on going success and governance of Paeroa's community bowling club and also looks forward to welcoming new members - those new to bowls and experienced bowlers.

To start the new season next month, a "have a go day" will be held on September 23 for anyone who would like to try lawn bowls, he said. "Bowls is a game for any age and we would love to see you. So come on down and try bowling and enjoy the facilities."

The 120th Paeroa Bowling Club committee: Kevin Lockley, Gwen Dunn, Martin Douglas, Sherryl Waterman, Tony Watt, Peter Rowling, John Tarrant, Paul Cornish. Absent: Gary Barbour. Photo: SUPPLIED



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# Brass band performs at bazaar



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

## 1903

A bazaar in aid of the Paeroa Convent School was held in Ryan's Hall, Karangahake. Prior to the opening of the bazaar, the Karangahake Brass Band performed an excellent programme of music.

The hall interior presented a very pleasing picture. The ladies committee had fitted up the stalls exceedingly tastefully, and the array of goods, ornamental and useful, was displayed in an attractive manner and with picturesque effect. The sideshows did a thriving business but it was the sawing competition for ladies which proved most interesting and amusing. The ladies handled the saw in a workmanlike fashion, and "brought down the dust" right merrily. During the evening a Japanese fan dance was given by a number of Paeroa children which was excellently performed, the children having been carefully drilled by Miss Milgrew and Mrs Sanderson.

### CONCERT HELD

The Paeroa Mandolin, Banjo



The Karangahake Brass Band c 1906.

Photo: SUPPLIED

and Guitar Club held a highly successful concert at Hikutaia. An excellent programme was rendered, and the audience showed their appreciation by frequent applause and demanding encores. Mr Harston, the conductor, ran a very efficient club and his planned departure from Paeroa would be a severe loss to all music lovers. He was once district secretary of the London College of Music.

### PIAKO BLOCK SURVEYED

Surveying the Piako Block to open it for settlement was about to begin, the news being welcomed across the district, especially by farmers. Land speculators though were warned off. Many people had been waiting for years to obtain a portion of this ground to cultivate and settle on. There would be plenty of land left for people from other parts of the colony, but those in the vicinity of the Piako Swamp should not have to compete for sections. It was hoped the land would be taken up by those who would work it, and not by land speculators.

### BARN OPENING

Arthur Vowles, of Netherton,

had erected a fine barn and to celebrate its opening invited about one hundred guests from Netherton and surrounding districts. Hugh Morrison, in his fine oil launch *Dairymaid*, brought a large number from Hikutaia and lower Netherton. Dancing, interspersed with songs and recitations, commenced at 8pm on the upper floor, and was kept up with great zest till the small hours of the morning. The guests sat down at midnight to a splendid supper, the table running the full length of the lower floor. A toast praising Mr Vowles declared that it was such men as him wanted in new districts.

### SKATING CRAZE

The skating craze at Waihi had completely blotted out the earlier ping-pong craze; the ladies having caught the fever badly. Another feverish episode hit Waihi when, opposite the new fire brigade station, three kegs of tar ignited during tarring and sanding operations being carried out by the borough workmen. The frenzied blaze resisted all efforts for a considerable time to extinguish it, the town soon being enveloped in smoke.

## ENTERTAINMENT

# Barbershop set to croon

Mighty River Harmony, an auditioned, a cappella chorus of around 20 singers, mostly from the Waikato, will be performing in Thames this Sunday.

The group sings four-part harmony, often in the barbershop style, and for the past 30 years, the chorus has been one of the top barbershop harmony groups in the country.

Most of the singers are seniors but they also sponsor the mixed youth chorus Manu Mātātahi, which they said had a "promising future".

The chorus and some of its quartets perform regularly at both private and public functions. At the Thames concert, hosted by the Thames Music Group, the chorus will present a range of songs, old and modern, including two that they will perform on stage at this year's Pan Pacific Barbershop Singers' Convention in Auckland.

**DETAILS: Mighty River Harmony Barbershop Chorus, hosted by Thames Music Group, on Sunday, August 13 at 2pm, St George's Church, Thames. Admission: \$20; TMG members \$15.**



The Mighty River Harmony Barbershop Chorus.

Photo: SUPPLIED

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# CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12pm Monday

<b>Death Notice</b>	<b>Gardening</b>	<b>Storage</b>	<b>Trades &amp; Services</b>
<b>ANNESLEY-SMITH, Lorraine Elizabeth:</b> Passed away peacefully at Thames Hospital on 4th July, 2023. Dearly loved mother of Veronica and Gary, Jackie and Shane, and Stephanie. 'Grandi' to Benjamin, Caitlin, Alec, Cameron, Finn, and Kieran. A memorial service to celebrate Lorraine's life will be held at the Grahamstown Chapel, 102 Kirkwood Street, Thames on Monday 14th August at 11am	<b>STUMP GRINDING.</b> All sizes, all areas. Thames based. Ph 021 060 7659	<b>Storage Unlimited</b> 25 Ngati Maru Highway Kopu, Thames Clean, secure, dry Units available 7 x 3.6m and 7 x 5.5m <b>Phone 07 868 9944</b>	<b>TILER</b> Quality workmanship. Currently available. Enquiries ph Rob Ph 021 026 93064
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<b>For Lease</b>	<b>Grazing Wanted</b>	<b>Storage</b>	<b>Public Notice</b>
Yards for lease, Thames and Kopu. Suitable for trucks, vehicles or trade business base. Ph 027 440 7101	<b>Long term</b> 10 acres minimum between Paeroa and Thames. Ph Steve 0220 75 62 11	<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>Paeroa Society of Arts AGM</b> 109 Normanby Rd Paeroa 23 August 2023 @ 12.30 <b>All are welcome.</b>

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# CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12pm Monday

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**Public Notices**



**Hauraki Reuse Centre Trust**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
 Come and find out more about what we do - we'd love to share with you!  
**17 August 2023, at 6pm**  
**At the Hauraki Repair and Reuse Centre**  
**1 Grey Street, Paeroa**  
 @haurakireusecentre

**Public Notices**

Notice of District Court Proceedings In the District Court at Waihi/Waihi

CIV-2023-079-000036

Under the: Local Government (Rating) Act 2002

between: **Hauraki District Council** a local authority under the Local Government Act 2002 having its administration office at 1 William Street, Paeroa

Plaintiff

and **David Colin Hampton** of 168 Rahu Road, RD 4, Paeroa, occupation unknown  
 Defendant

**Notice of District Court Proceedings against David Colin Hampton**

**Situations Vacant**



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 (Multiple Roles)

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**Public Notices**

Notice of District Court Proceedings In the District Court at Waihi/Waihi  
 CIV-2023-079-030

Under the: Local Government (Rating) Act 2002

between: **Hauraki District Council** a local authority under the Local Government Act 2002 having its administration office at 1 William Street, Paeroa

Plaintiff

and **Christian Stephen Dennis** of 6 Johnston Street, Waihi, occupation unknown  
 First Defendant

and **Helen Christine Eriksen** of 6 Johnston Street, Waihi, occupation unknown  
 Second Defendant

**Notice of District Court Proceedings against CHRISTIAN STEPHEN DENNIS AND HELEN CHRISTINE ERIKSEN**

TAKE NOTICE that Hauraki District Council has filed a Notice of Proceeding, Statement of Claim and List of Documents Relied On ("Proceedings") in the District Court at Waihi for judgment against you for unpaid rates in relation to the property at 6 Johnston Street, Waihi being all the land contained in Record of Title SA24B/930 (South Auckland Registry).

This is to give notice that if you do not file a statement of defence at the District Court at Waihi and serve it on Hauraki District Council at 1 William Street, Paeroa within 25 working days from the publication of this advertisement, judgment may be entered against you. Copies of the Proceedings may be obtained from Samuel Charles Cowan, solicitor for Hauraki District Council at Cavell Leitch Limited, Level 3, BNZ Centre, 111 Cashel Street, Christchurch - telephone (03) 379 9940 or email: dispute.resolution@cavell.co.nz.

Any person knowing the whereabouts of either **CHRISTIAN STEPHEN DENNIS** or **HELEN CHRISTINE ERIKSEN** is requested to bring this notice to their attention.

**DEADLINE**

*We can take your classified ads anytime before 12pm Mondays*

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



TAKE NOTICE that Hauraki District Council has filed a Notice of Proceeding, Statement of Claim and List of Documents Relied On ("Proceedings") in the District Court at Waihi for judgment against you for unpaid rates in relation to the property at 168 Rahu Road, RD 4, Paeroa, being all the land contained in Record of Title SA71B/293 (South Auckland Registry).

This is to give notice that if you do not file a statement of defence at the District Court at Waihi and serve it on Hauraki District Council at 1 William Street, Paeroa within 25 working days from the publication of this advertisement, judgment may be entered against you. Copies of the Proceedings may be obtained from Samuel Charles Cowan, solicitor for Hauraki District Council at Cavell Leitch Limited, Level 3, BNZ Centre, 111 Cashel Street, Christchurch - telephone (03) 379 9940 or email: dispute.resolution@cavell.co.nz.

Any person knowing the whereabouts of **DAVID COLIN HAMPTON** is requested to bring this notice to his attention.

**NEED STAFF?**  
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 Advertise in the *Valley Profile* and get results!  
**Phone Nikki on 022 130 3885**

# Thefts delay Coromandel road works

## KOPU-HIKUAI RD UPDATE

There has been a noticeable increase in theft from Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency work sites across the Coromandel Peninsula over the past few weeks, the transport agency says.

"The theft of plant and equipment exposes road users to the risk of harm and/or injury as safety devices such as electronic warning and temporary traffic management signs are used to help manage everyone safely through our worksites.

"Theft also delays the completion of works, while our teams are distracted from the vital recovery works reinstating what has been stolen.

"We ask if you have any knowledge concerning these thefts, please contact the NZ Police."

Meanwhile, the team on site have had some great and not so great weather on the Kōpū-Hikuai Rd bridge project - last week was magic but there were a few downpours, however this week blue bird days and chilly.

Weather is an important factor in the ground stabilisation, which is what some of the teams are currently carrying out. When stabilising the ground, they need it to be reasonably dry to manage the quantities of cement being mixed in and the curing time.

Things are drying out and the team has been injecting 75 tonnes of cement, five metres deep into approximately 300m<sup>3</sup> (106 tonnes) of slip material at the base of the slip area to retain and stabilise it.

Another team has been mixing 6000m<sup>3</sup> (or 2119 tonnes) of slip material with over 1,000 tonnes of lime and cement on the slope to form a stable layer that will support the heavy machinery working there and eventually the new bridge.

A Kōpū yard is being used to store machinery and materials, and if you're local, you may have seen the first of the six seismic pile casings arrive. The oversized pile casings began arriving last week - but they



**We've been questioned many times why a temporary Kōpū-Hikuai Rd bypass can't be formed. As much as we hoped for it to be an option, and we did investigate it, a temporary bypass is not possible. The steep topography needs extensive earthworks and retaining to form slopes for regular vehicles, or temporary staging across the slip. Ground conditions are so poor even our drilling equipment needs a digger to assist when shifting location. Unfortunately, someone didn't quite believe us and gave it a go. As you can see, they needed a tow. Luckily it was wet and boggy, if they had made it over the top, there is a 6-metre drop off to the state highway. Trust us, we looked into it.**

- Supplied by Waka Kotahi

won't stay there long as work got underway this week on installing the casings at the eastern abutment.

Last week, the 100t piling rig started driving the first piles for the new bridge. First to be installed are the seismic casings and after that the permanent piles.

There are eight 22m long permanent piles that will sit in two sets of four, and with the two abutments, will support the new bridge

deck.

Each pile will be driven at least 10m into the rock to confirm it is a solid rock foundation. That means some piles will be driven at least 20m into the ground.

An auger or 'screw' method will be used to install the piles which minimises noise and vibration impacts on the ground and for the surrounding wildlife.

- Supplied by Waka Kotahi

## GOLDFIELDS WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The July Meeting of the Goldfields Women's Institute commenced with the Aspirations and Prayer. Thoughts were given to any member who has been ill with the flu or Covid. A warm welcome was extended to Federation President, Dawn Clark from Maramarua and Shirley Harding from Waihi. The Motto - "I'd rather be sorry for something I had done than for something I didn't do" was read by Kate Wood. Birthday girls for June were Bev Schenkel and Sue Fah, with Dot McHardy celebrating in July. The Roll Call - Sing Say or Pay \$1.00 had several members giving us plenty of laughs while the rest paid up. The Good Deed was renewing our stock of Well, Birthday, Sympathy or Thinking of You Cards. Raffles were won by Jean Brady and Sue Fah. A thank you letter has been sent to the Seagull Centre in Thames for all the new wool and baby clothes that they have donated to us which will be sent with items that we have knitted. A box of Used Cards, Calendars, Pictures, Stickers and other activity items has been sent to the Goldfields Special School in Paeroa. Dawn and Shirley then spoke regarding the 102nd New Zealand National AGM/Conference they attended recently in Timaru. Dawn and Shirley were very impressed with Waimate Federation who hosted the Conference and at the end of the Conference Waimate put on a bus trip for members which took them around the area as well as up as far as the White Horse. There was a lot of discussion with our members of different aspects that were discussed at the Conference as well as the remits. All the members were interested in what came out of the Conference and both ladies were presented with a gift. During lunch it was a good opportunity for members to get to know both Dawn and Shirley which was a good way to end the meeting.

COMPETITION: Bloom: Helen Udy 1. Cluster: Sue Fah 1, Helen Udy 2, Shrub: Sue Fah 1, Helen Udy 2, Orchid: Sue Fah 1, Competition, Garden Scene Photo - Helen Udy 1.

## SPORTS

# Heartland campaign to kick off

## HEARTLAND RUGBY

The Bunnings Warehouse Heartland Rugby Championship kicks off this weekend with Thames Valley playing Whanganui at Whanganui.

The two teams last met in a semi-final for the Meads Cup last year with the Butcher Boys defeating the Swamp Foxes 25-18.

Unfortunately, only 11 players who have previously represented Thames Valley are available for the team this year.

Cobras' Leroy Neels and the Waihou trio of Sam McCahon, Harry Lafituanai and Calum Wood will be key players in the back line with 110 caps.

The forward pack will benefit from the experience of Cobras' Cam Dromgool, Waihou's Tim Erceg and Mercury Bay's Tyler Relph, and the two returning loan players from Waikato - Tayne Tupaea and origin player Tui Paitai.

In recent weeks, the Swamp Foxes have played two pre-season games with a 29-21 win over the NZ Harlequins and a narrow 29-31 loss to North Harbour B.

Newcomers who have showed good form in these two games include: backs Declan Barnett (who has returned from playing overseas), Hendrix Beazley (Paeroa), and Jake O'Connor (Waihou). Forwards include Richard Rosewarne



Sam McCahon, the most experienced 2023 Swamp Fox, in action against the New Zealand Harlequins.

Photo: SUPPLIED/TVRFU

and Guto Davies from Hau-raki North and Sam Pou and Mosese Mafi, two loan players from Hamilton Marist.

Now in his sixth season, Sam McCahon is the most capped Swamp Fox in the squad with 45 games, and with his "never say die" attitude, he will be a great mentor for all the newcomers.

Following the success of taking a game to Whitianga last

season the TVRFU has decided to spread home matches around the union this year.

The pre-season games have been played at Paeroa and Waitakaruru.

The venue of the Heartland matches is as follows: August 19 v Poverty Bay at Te Aroha, September 2 v King Country at Thames, September 16 v South Canterbury at Whangamatā and September 30 v Ngati Po-

rou East Coast at Waihi.

Thames Valley has only had two wins over Whanganui since the Heartland Championship was introduced in 2006. The first was a 17-7 victory in 2018 and then by 36-30 in 2019 - both at Cooks Gardens.

This weekend's match is scheduled to be shown live on Prime TV at 2:30pm on Saturday.

- Supplied by TVRFU

## Sports awards nominations open

The Waikato Sport & Active Recreation Awards are open for the fourth year; celebrating, recognising and acknowledging play, active recreation and sport organisations, initiatives and people in the Waikato region.

Sport Waikato chief executive Matthew Cooper said 2022 saw a record number of nominations and some outstanding initiatives, coaches and volunteers from around the region.

The 2023 awards encourage nominations from those in the community who go above and beyond to deliver programmes and initiatives that meet the needs of the participant and create a more active region. Alongside the initiatives are Community Coach and Community Unsung Hero categories, which always attract a large number of quality nominations.

"We're really amazed by all those creating initiatives that are aimed at participation - last year we had community programmes supporting young people to be more active, stories of change from the traditional sporting models, programmes aimed at diversity and inclusion and wonderful stories from schools doing things differently to keep our tamariki active in a way that's positive and fun," said Cooper.

And this year there is a new category - Outstanding By Youth For Youth Initiative for those young people leading or co-designing opportunities.

MORE INFO: [www.wsara.co.nz](http://www.wsara.co.nz).



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 CONTACT: 07 868 6003



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# SUDOKU

112

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112

HARD

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1	6	3	8	4	7	5	2	9

MEDIUM

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

EASY

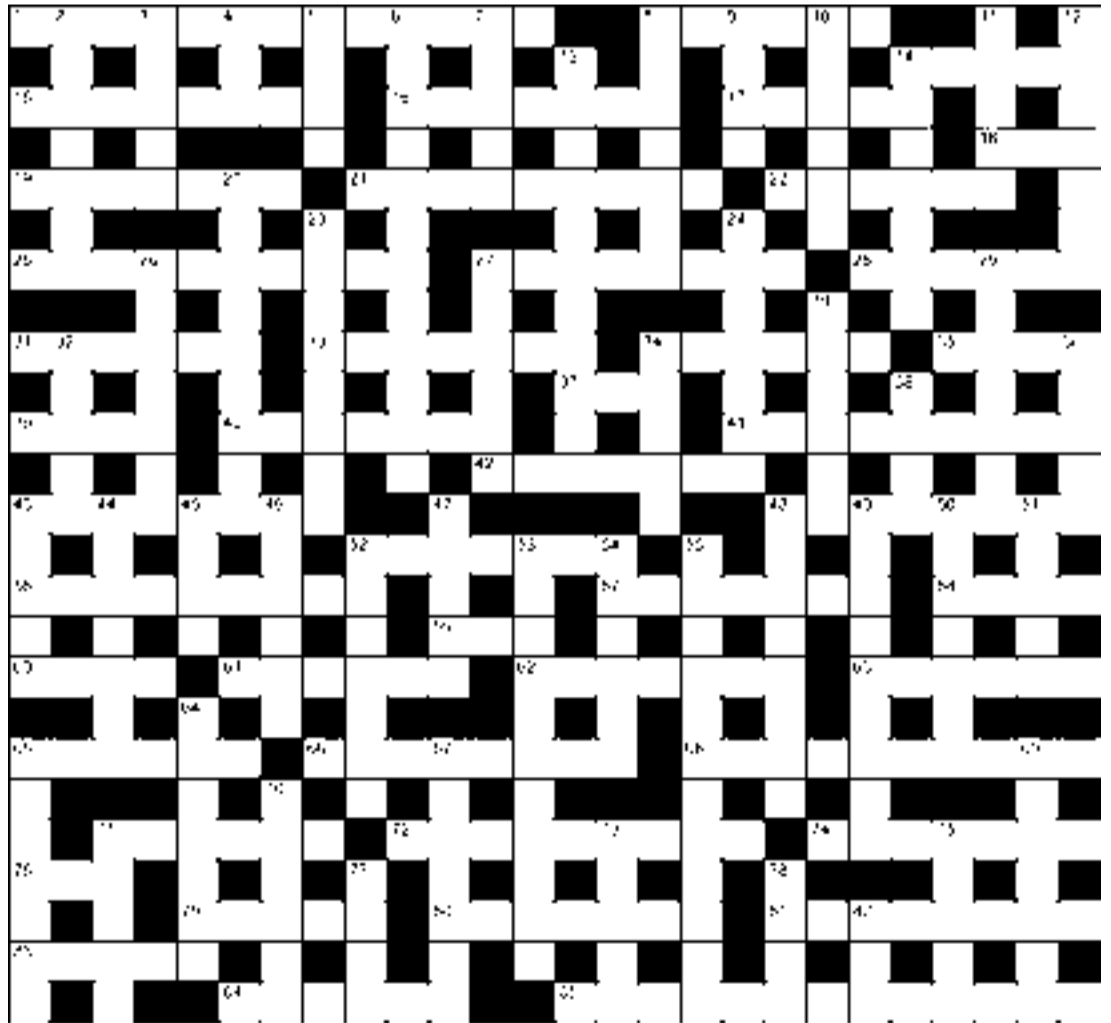
2	1	5	7	3	4	8	6	9
6	9	3	5	1	8	2	7	4
8	7	4	9	6	2	3	1	5
5	3	8	2	4	6	1	9	7
4	6	7	3	9	1	5	8	2
9	2	1	8	5	7	4	3	6
7	4	2	1	8	9	6	5	3
1	5	9	6	2	3	7	4	8
3	8	6	4	7	5	9	2	1

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# JUMBO CROSSWORD

132

- ACROSS**
- 1 Deal someone a fatal blow (3,3,5,2)
  - 8 Opportunity (6)
  - 14 Hindu religious teacher (5)
  - 15 Recent arrival (8)
  - 16 Immediate (7)
  - 17 Solo (5)
  - 18 Outlaw (3)
  - 19 Throb (7)
  - 21 Tried (9)
  - 22 Space to manoeuvre (6)
  - 25 Narrow escape from disaster (5,5)
  - 27 Three-wheeler (8)
  - 28 Bypass (6)
  - 31 Oil-rich sultanate (6)
  - 33 Embellish, decorate (7)
  - 34 Fishing weight (6)
  - 35 Pine for (4)
  - 37 Make a choice (3)
  - 39 Indonesian island (4)
  - 40 Porridge ingredient (7)
  - 41 Greenish-blue colour (9)
  - 42 Eternal (7)
  - 43 Boss (8)
  - 48 Bomb fragments (8)
  - 52 Various (anag)(7)
  - 56 Equivalent retaliation (3,3,3)
  - 57 Inconsistent and unpredictable (7)
  - 58 Malarial fever (4)
  - 59 Small round mark (3)
  - 60 Locale (4)
  - 61 Walk laboriously (6)
  - 62 Cynic (7)
  - 63 Favour (6)
  - 65 Shared (6)
  - 66 Take away mathematically (8)
  - 68 Wheeled ride-on (10)
  - 71 Savoury tart (6)
  - 72 Copper rust (9)
  - 74 Layer (7)
  - 76 Large bird (3)
  - 79 Alcove (5)
  - 80 Hold (7)
  - 81 Vision (8)
  - 83 Tie up (5)
  - 84 Sharp (6)
  - 85 Reveal secret information (5,3,5)
  - DOWN**
  - 2 Of different size, length (7)
  - 3 Carpet nails (5)
  - 4 Deciduous tree (3)
  - 5 Standard (4)
  - 6 Timid (5-7)
  - 7 Children, offspring (5)
  - 8 Table implements (7)
  - 9 Absent (4)
  - 10 Copied genetically (6)
  - 11 Domestic cat (5)
  - 12 Innovator, trailblazer (7)
  - 13 Keyboard instrument (11)
  - 14 Underwater plant (7)
  - 20 Evidence in court (9)
  - 23 Female child (8)
  - 24 Ten laps (anag) (7)
  - 26 Daytime clock (7)
  - 27 Dessert with sponge, custard, jelly, cream (6)
  - 29 Point of view (7)
  - 30 Fireplace floor (6)
  - 32 Domain (5)
  - 34 Scatter (5)
  - 36 Egg's outer covering (5)
  - 38 Wild cat (4)
  - 43 Additional (5)
  - 44 Forbearing (7)
  - 45 Woodwind instrument (4)
  - 46 Whole (6)
  - 47 Escape paying (tax) (5)
  - 48 Weekend day (8)
  - 49 One receiving (9)
  - 50 Sugar pill (7)
  - 51 Ooze (5)
  - 52 Sports arena (7)
  - 53 Owing (11)
  - 54 Mutiny (6)
  - 55 Non-amateur (12)
  - 64 Soldier's food allowance (7)
  - 65 Souvenir (7)
  - 67 Sugar syrup (7)
  - 69 Make coarse (7)
  - 70 Wedges (6)
  - 71 Line (5)
  - 73 Understand (5)
  - 75 Spry (5)
  - 77 Bill of fare (4)
  - 78 Departed (4)
  - 82 Female sheep (3)



**PREVIOUS SOLUTION**

ACROSS: 1 Money down the drain, 10 Moccasin, 15 Renege, 16 Disqualify, 17 Milliner, 19 Pep talk, 21 Fused, 22 Arguments, 25 Therapist, 27 Pliable, 29 Groove, 33 Fancy, 34 Teaspoon, 36 Comprehend, 39 Gas, 41 Odyssey, 42 Sunset, 43 Client, 44 Bare, 45 Antwerp, 48 Family tree, 53 Devoted, 57 Raid, 58 Social, 59 Troops, 60 Mixture, 62 Lid, 64 Wainwright, 65 One by one, 66 Cache, 69 Echoed, 70 Hearing, 71 Associate, 76 Perplexed, 77 Fatal, 78 Tally-ho, 83 Lopsided, 84 Worshipped, 85 Unsure, 86 Designed, 87 Benefit of the doubt.

DOWN: 2 Obeyed, 3 Event, 4 Due, 5 Wide, 6 Tissues, 7 Eluded, 8 Rule, 9 Informal, 11 Olives, 12 Cold turkey, 13 Song, 14 Narrate, 18 Guillotine, 20 Lure, 23 Spiel, 24 Forecast, 26 Hacksaw, 28 Lengthy, 30 Harden, 31 Bonsai, 32 Opened, 35 Sauna, 37 Dread, 38 Dear, 40 Scar, 45 Arrow, 46 Twilight, 47 Phobia, 48 Frightened, 49 Mill, 50 Letdown, 51 Trowel, 52 Empty, 54 Edit, 55 Outlast, 56 Earthy, 61 Sweetening, 63 Union, 67 Gruesome, 68 Visa, 69 Exhaled, 72 Shampoo, 73 Sphere, 74 Tahiti, 75 Cherub, 79 Lasso, 80 Opus, 81 Isle, 82 Adit, 85 Use.

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