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ENABLING BETTER BUSINESS

Pound pups saved



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

A husband-and-wife team who fostered 70 children over 18 years have now taken it upon themselves to find safe homes for the lost dogs of Hauraki.

Chris and Darren are contracted animal control officers for Hauraki District Council, and while councils are only required by law to hold a stray dog for a week, the duo are serious about second chances, and have cared for dogs for up to four months while in search of forever homes.

Originally from Auckland, Darren told *The Profile* he and Chris made "seachange" from the city around five years ago.

After 25 years of shift work, running a small business and raising a family, animal management "found" them.

"This was never an industry I had ever been looking to join," Darren said. "I was quite hohum - perhaps this isn't my cup of tea - after three months in the job, but now we are both 110 per cent committed to this role and continuous improvement."

Chris and Darren were foster parents for 18 years, and over that time welcomed around 70 children into their home - alongside four of their own. Chris said the pair could see parallels between the two roles - where being non-judgemental and empathetic was "imperative".

"Dogs are similar to children, needing the basics first to enable them to trust again," Chris said. "The dogs settle into pound life knowing they are warm and fed. Where there is routine, there is a sense of safety."

One of Chris' "feel-good favourite" success stories was when she saved Toa, a "beautiful" male dog who was showcased in *The Profile's* very first 'Pet of the Week' series.

"[Toa] had been sighted hiding in the bushes by the Kōpū Bridge for multiple days. I spent a long time sitting in those bushes with

CONTINUED ON P2

In the almost two years that Chris and Darren have been Hauraki's animal management duo, they have rehomed every single dog that has been suitable to do so. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

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Our focus is 100% local community news.

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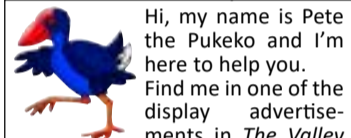
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Last issue it was in the Thames Autos ad.

Couple save Hauraki dogs

CONTINUED FROM P1

him, offering treats and gaining his trust," Chris said. "I did end up needing to secure him using a catch pole, yet he and I became firm friends. The look on his face when I showed him his own bed, blanket and bowl of food just melted me."

For Darren, setting up a rehoming and adoption programme, as well as seeing the public perception of animal control change, has been a real highlight.

"We have really pushed a 'reunite or rehome' - where possible - initiative, and this perspective fits well in modern society where transparency is a key factor in everything that is done in the public arena," he said.

Chris explained further that the adoption programme was really an "optional extra" the pair have chosen to bring to their animal management roles.

"The reality is, nationwide, that rescues and pounds are overflowing. Previously, a council could reach out to a rescue to rehome a dog, now, I can contact 20 rescues within the North Island and not one will be able to assist."

That, she said, was the catalyst for rehoming dogs themselves.

"A council is only required by law to hold a stray or roaming dog for seven days... We have cared for dogs for three-four months until their forever home has been found."

In the almost two years that Chris and Darren have been Hauraki's animal management duo, they have rehomed every single dog that has been suitable to do so.

That's just on 50 dogs - which have either been rehomed, adopted out, or sent to rescues all across the North Island.

"There is a huge amount of work behind the scenes to make it possible - not just physically caring for the dogs but promoting the available dogs, providing for them, and resisting taking them home ourselves," Chris said.

"We have started from scratch, creating policies and procedures to ensure the programme is successful."

All the dogs are monitored in the pound, the pair said. Behaviours are recorded and the dogs are temperament tested before being put up for adoption. Chris and Hannah also visit some of the dogs that have been adopted out, where possible.

"It's hard not to get attached; they all have such differing personalities," Chris said. "Dogs have an amazing capacity to forgive and heal; they can teach humans a lot. I personally have learned not to judge a book by its cover."

On top of this, animal control remains firstly a compliance role, and Chris and Darren also deal to registrations, roaming or rushing dogs, nuisance barking, and attacks on people and animals.

"The adoption and rehome programmes are the feel good side of the job," Darren said. "Any animal issue that is reported to council is investigated appropriately, and as this is an ever-changing role, we call on industry experience and input from other teams around the country."

However, Chris and Darren said

sourcing what they needed to ensure the dogs' needs were met, as well as "switching off" after hours were two of the job's biggest challenges.

Thankfully, working as a husband and wife team came with a built-in support network.

"We do have different skills which complement each other within the role and it does work," Chris said. "We also have amazing support from within the council and our staff and that helps to keep us sane - and married."

"Chris is the admin and funding guru of the partnership," Darren added.

"Through these strong points Chris has built partnerships between rescues, other councils, and suppliers that allow us to keep the pound dogs fed and warm. I am more hands-on although I will reply to the occasional email. Like Chris, I am grateful to have her as my main support when the going gets tough."

At the end of the day, Chris and Darren want people to take responsibility for their pets and to not be afraid to ask for help.

"We are very aware of the cost of living crisis and the impact that it is having on dog owners. Unfortunately this is showing in the number of dogs being dumped and abandoned," Chris said.

"If someone is struggling, please don't hesitate to reach out for help. We are here to give advice."

DETAILS: Follow the process by finding Hauraki Pound Pups on Facebook.



Pool sites shortlisted

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

A long list of potential sites for both an aquatic facility and separate sports facility was presented to the Thames Community Board and project stakeholders back in May.

But while the list won't be made publicly available, council's group manager operations Bruce Hinson said "in essence", any open space in the Thames area that was large enough was considered.

Many of the sites were no longer under consideration, he said, but those that were had now been filtered into a short list.

"The short-listed sites are being assessed against criteria that include property size, topography, ownership, accessibility, visibility, mana whenua input and more."

"It's very challenging in terms of both projects to find suitable sites given the topography of the Thames area and the limited area of developable land," he said.

The community board and project stakeholders will be briefed this week on the progress of the feasibility studies and the potential sites. Around mid-October, the board will review the sites. In Late October/November, council will go to the community to ask for feedback. "The results of that feedback will be included in the report to the board in their December public meeting," Mr Hinson said. "The report will recommend the preferred site/s."



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Thames Tides

Wed Sep 27	Thu Sep 28	Fri Sep 29	Sat Sep 30	Sun Oct 1	Mon Oct 2	Tue Oct 3
4 am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm	4 am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm	4 am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm	4 am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm	4 am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm	4 am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm	4 am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm
Morning 5:22am 3.1 6:05pm 3.4 11:45am 0.6	Morning 12:15am 0.5 12:44pm 0.5 6:29am 3.3 7:01pm 3.6	Morning 1:11am 0.4 1:37pm 0.3 7:29am 3.5 7:54pm 3.7	Morning 2:04am 0.2 2:27pm 0.2 8:23am 3.6 8:44pm 3.8	Morning 2:54am 0.1 3:14pm 0.2 9:13am 3.7 9:33pm 3.8	Morning 3:41am 0.1 4:01pm 0.3 10:00am 3.8 10:22pm 3.7	Morning 4:27am 0.1 4:48pm 0.4 10:46am 3.7 11:10pm 3.6
7:01am 7:18pm	6:59am 7:19pm	6:58am 7:20pm	6:56am 7:20pm	6:55am 7:21pm	6:53am 7:22pm	6:52am 7:23pm
F Best At 11:05am 11:32pm	G Best At 11:59am	B Best At 12:50pm	B Best At 1:15am 1:40pm	B Best At 2:05am 2:31pm	B Best At 2:56am 3:22pm	B Best At 3:49am 4:15pm
Set 5:48am Rise 4:33pm	Set 6:20am Rise 5:48pm	Full Moon Set 6:49am Rise 7:03pm	Set 7:17am Rise 8:16pm	Set 7:45am Rise 9:29pm	Set 8:16am Rise 10:41pm	Set 8:50am Rise 11:52pm

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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	HIGH Hr	Mn	LOW Hr	Mn
Coromandel	-0	04	-0	04
Whitanga	-0	01	-0	05
Tairua	+0	10	+0	21
Whangamata	-0	03	-0	05
Waihi Beach	-0	12	-0	12

Peters shouts down 'Aotearoa' challenger

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

A public meeting held by political party NZ First's leader Winston Peters was briefly interrupted by a member of the audience, who took offence to a statement from the long-term politician.

Mr Peters took to the stage in Paeroa's War Memorial Hall on September 23. The public meeting was part of his New Zealand First election campaign tour.

Following an introduction by Coromandel NZ First candidate Caleb Ansell, Mr Peters spoke to the packed hall for 90 minutes on a variety of topics, including his party's policies and campaign promises.

The crowd was mostly receptive to Mr Peters' rhetoric, however, in speaking on NZ First's commitment to "change all of the woke virtue-signalling names of every government department back to English", Mr Peters stated "this country's not called Aotearoa".

The declaration drew ire from an audience member, who loudly protested the point until he was shouted down by the seasoned politician.

The audience member was later allowed to speak during question time at the end of the meeting, when he asked what Mr Peters would do to better the country for younger people.

The campaign speech focused mainly around the country as a whole, although Mr Peters did mention the Coromandel di-



Winston Peters took to the stage in Paeroa for an impassioned 90-minute campaign speech. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

rectly a couple of times, telling the audience "you're being forgotten" while referencing the roads of national significance project.

Around 250 people turned up to hear Mr Peters speak. While the majority of the audience were silver-haired, there were a

number of younger faces in attendance as well.

One audience member, NZ First party supporter Ed Sinnott, told The Profile he was from Australia's Byron Bay.

As the owner of a property in Waiomu Bay he and his wife had travelled to New Zealand to

journey with the campaigners.

"We're seeing a lot of similarities of major parties not listening - we're getting sick of that narrative over there [in Australia]," he said.



Racecourse developer Chloe Wright dies

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

Chloe Wright, matriarch of the Wright family who purchased the former Paeroa racecourse in 2020, has died.

The Wright family released a statement on Sunday saying Chloe - who, alongside her husband Wayne established the Wright Family Foundation in 2014 - had passed away at her home in Omokoroa, in the Western Bay of Plenty.

"As a humanitarian, Chloe dedicated her life to helping others, particularly young mothers, and children, in overcoming disadvantage and creating positive pathways toward full and happy lives," the statement said.

Chloe and Wayne took possession of the historic Paeroa Racecourse in 2020, and in July of this year, the couple were in the Hauraki to mark the start of their Paeroa Hills development.

At the time, Chloe told The Profile of her desire to create "history" and a place "that we hope is unlike any other".

The Wright family asked for privacy as they came to terms with their "enormous loss".



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Education

Badminton blitz at Thames High School

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

More than 120 students from across the rohe had racquets in hand for the annual badminton competition held this month at Thames High.

Run over two days, the tournament featured 75 juniors and 52 seniors, playing both singles and doubles.

Thames High School head of sport Carolyn Green said that during the year, all schools in the area host different sporting events, with Thames High hosting the badminton competition for the past four years.

“We had a large number of entries from Thames High School as the physical education department had spent a large amount of time in Term 3 learning how to play badminton,” she said. “Hosting this event for all our schools to be able to get involved in is hugely important for everyone in the Valley.”

Thames High students volunteered to umpire during the two days, while Jeremy Rout from Thames Valley Badminton was also in attendance to lend a hand, which Carolyn said was a great way to build a connection between the schools, players, and the re-



Thames High School players faced off against other students from around the district.

Photo: SUPPLIED

gional organisation.

“One of the key aims of our Thames High School sport department is to ensure sport is accessible to every Thames High student, focusing on participation, fun, and development for all - no matter what level they are able to participate in.

“You get to see some amazing talent on the court and outstanding sportsmanship with everyone keen to help referee games and make connections,” Carolyn said. “I am super proud of everyone’s achievements on the day.”

RESULTS: Senior Boys Singles - Taurian McConnochie

(Katikati College); Senior Girls Singles - Emma Lowe (Matamata College); Junior Boys Singles - Taj Shiriwastow (Thames High School)

Junior Girls Singles - Shayne Diaz (Te Kauwhata College); Senior Boys Doubles- Zak Butterworth/Jordan Yuliana (Waihi College); Senior Girls

Doubles - Emma Lowe/Charlotte Sailsbury (Matamata College); Junior Boys Doubles - Arf Bartolone/Dean Matenga (Te Kauwhata College); Junior Girls Doubles - Sharmain Diaz/Shayne Diaz (Te Kauwhata College).



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Thames High School



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CELEBRATING SUCCESS



Badminton Tournament

Thames High School hosted and organised our annual secondary schools Thames Valley badminton competition on Friday 8 and Tuesday 12 September. It was great to see most of Thames Valley schools competing. Special thanks to Jeremy Rout from Thames Valley Badminton who assisted on both days. It's wonderful to be able to establish a connection between the schools, players, and the regional organisation. Thames High School had thirty students enter the competition this year, with nineteen of them being from our juniors.



Careers Expo

Friday 1 September Thames High School hosted the Careers Roadshow. Seeing the students engaged and curious about all the different career avenues was great to see. Here's what the organisers had to say about our taiohi: "The exhibitors highlighted some really good manners and the appreciation they [the students] showed for the opportunity provided by the roadshow. The student's willingness to listen and participate more deeply in the content of the exhibitors was a real credit to both your school and the community."



Nutter Exchange

Thames High School and Lycee Augustin Thierry High School in Blois, France have been exchanging students thanks the Raymond Nutter Exchange Trust since 1987. Oscar Pisoni's Nutter Exchange was actually meant to happen in 2020 but due to Covid19 restrictions at the New Zealand border it was postponed until this year. "The Music lessons have been my highlight here at Thames High School. Also visiting my exchange mate who now studies at Wellington University! I'm sad to leave but I've had a great time."



Child Cancer Fundraising

Friday 15 September Year 9 Thames High School student Carson Fletcher said goodbye to his mullet and raised funds for the Child Cancer Foundation. He donated his hair to Freedom Wigs and he has raised over \$2400 for the cause. Carson invited people who have been a huge support to him in his life to cut off his hair under the guidance of Tyla Pere of Makewe Salon in Thames. The event was made even more special by the performance of Te Rōpū Kapa Haka Te Puna o Te Pitamata. We are proud of you Carson!



Recipients of Seagulls Grant

Thames High School wishes to acknowledge Groundsman and Parent Representative on the Board John McKeowen for his successful application for the annual Seagulls community grants round. John is passionate about planting natives on the Thames High School grounds and this will go towards planting more. Year 13 student Levi Wilson also received a grant to plant grasses to help protect Brown Teal birds at Pauanui Lakes Resort on behalf of his dad who applied. Levi and his dad have trapped over 3000 pests in the last two years in an effort to save these birds. Nga mihi nui.

Fiery volunteer career for gold star recipient

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

In his 50 years of service with the Ngatea Fire Brigade, Edward Engebretsen, known as Ted, has seen a lot of changes.

The 79-year-old man joined the brigade as a volunteer in 1973. Already involved in a number of community organisations, he still wanted another way to contribute.

"I did want to join an organisation that enabled me to make an unselfish contribution to the community," he said.

"[I knew] full well that it was going to be a further commitment to my time ... it was a simple case of priorities."

When Ted signed up, the service was operating on the smell of an oily rag. The council of the time allowed them a meagre budget, but additional expenses required constant fundraising.

"On the Kōpū Bridge we would stop the traffic and collect a toll, for many years," Ted said.

"[And] we were running around in red bands."

In time, the service expanded their building from the small garage where they initially operated. The amalgamation of fire services across the country was a further boon, as suddenly the volunteers found they had plenty of specialist equipment for their work.

"We've got all new appliances in there, we've got all the latest gear," Ted said.

"The improvement of training instruction, equipment ... has kept up with the demand for better results in emergencies."



Ted Engebretsen was recently recognised for 50 years with the Ngatea Fire Brigade.

Photo: SUPPLIED

The emergencies have also evolved; where callouts were once mostly basic structural fires, the brigade now finds itself attending more car accidents and medical callouts, Ted said.

"Though we still put the cold stuff on the hot stuff."

One thing that has remained a constant, however, is the seriousness with which the team takes their work.

"We've always been very strict on people coming along to training. That hasn't changed right from day dot. Even though our

training might not have been as good right from the early days," Ted said.

"Now the training is real professional, we're sent away for [week-long] courses. Originally we would have had a training officer come from a local fire brigade and he

would just do a one-day demonstration with us. It's really become quite professional."

And through it all, the volunteers have been the heart of the service.

The social side of the force has always been a part of it, Ted said, and he was hopeful young people would continue to join up to find camaraderie and help their community.

"The most important thing that makes it all work is the word volunteer," Ted said.

"[And] I would like to thank all those brigade members past and present ... for your friendship and company."

Throughout the decades, Ted has worked his way through the service from a volunteer right up to deputy chief fire officer, a role which he held for 16 years.

Although he retired from the deputy position in 2008, he is still a regular fixture around the station in his current role as janitor and storeman, and he has also taken on the committee role of secretary.

"Because of health and other commitments, I decided to resign from the [deputy] position and remain in the brigade as a non-operational support person," he said.

"I must admit that after a long period with the brigade I often question my worth being here when I'm not fit and able to a degree ... but what else will I do on a Wednesday night, you know? So I come down to training."



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Education

Street skateboarder shows style, 'steeziness'

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

A 13-year-old skateboarder has rolled and kickflipped his way to victory.

Lenny Torrens, from Hauraki Plains College, took out the junior division of the secondary schools street skateboarding competition last month.

The two-day nationwide contest saw Lenny judged on style and "steeziness" - how he landed the tricks - and he finished up his final round with 89.30 points - 30 points ahead of the second place-getter.

"I was pretty stoked," he said, "because my first run, I basically carked everything up."

Street skateboarding is a skateboarding discipline which focuses on flat-ground tricks, grinds, slides, and aerials within urban environments and public spaces.

After making its debut on the Olympic stage at the Nanjing 2014 Youth Olympic Games, skateboarding was one of the five sports to make an Olympic debut at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

It featured the disciplines of street and park and had separate competitions for men and women.

Skateboarding New Zealand hoped to have its first representative at the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028, and Lenny said perceptions around the sport were starting to change in New Zealand.

"People know rugby players and



Lenny Torrens took out the junior division of the secondary schools street skateboarding competition last month.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

the rules and what a kick is, but no one really knows anything about skateboarding," he said. "They know Tony Hawk and that's it."

"But since it's been in the Olympics, people might see it as more of a sport now."

Lenny started skateboarding around age eight thanks to his dad, Simon, but he only recognised it was something to pursue

two years later.

Earlier this year he won a scholarship to attend Woodward West, a skateboarding camp in America. There, he met one of his skateboarding idols Jake Wooten.

He also skates with the Young Guns Skate School in Auckland and has now set his sights on other skateboarding milestones.

"Winning the nationals in Gis-

borne and getting a pro board would be cool," he said.

The 2023 Skateboard Nationals for Park, Street and Vert take place this week, and it'll be the biggest contest Lenny has skated in.

He has sustained injuries from the sport - such as a broken wrist, elbow, and one rib - but says he wants to skate for "the rest of my life".

"I'm always proud when I go into comps and do well in them because I put the effort in," he said. "My mates have supported me quite a bit, so thanks to them and my parents and to The Good Room and Young Guns for helping me learn."



A huge congratulations to our prize winners acknowledged at the annual Cultural and Arts Prizegiving on Monday 18th September.



Our Kapa Haka group began the evening with a haka pōwhiri as guests arrived. It was an incredible showcase of talent including the Jazz Band, Jacob King's original song, media clips, showquest footage, drama, dance.



Collecting our first Special Award was Eleanor Clarkin, who received a Cultural Blue for her leadership of Māori culture in our Kura. Our second Special Award was Joel Hunt, who received the Rhodes Green Cup for contribution to the Arts.



More Than A School



Hauraki Plains College

Circus time!

Jugglers, clowns, magicians, and strongmen all rolled into Paeroa's Elim Church on September 13 when Goldfields School showcased its bright and bouncy circus event. Principal Cameron McKenzie said the event ran smoothly thanks to everybody involved. "Our students can't just come to a venue and perform; they need practice," he said. "So, they've been coming for around six weeks. Getting used to something different is the first thing, getting on stage is the second thing, and performing is the third thing." The school raised \$200 at the door which Cam said would be going towards the Child Cancer Foundation's Wig Wednesday initiative. **KELLEY TANTAU** witnessed all the fun.



Koston Tuau from Pukeko Class gets into the circus spirit.



Keira Courtney, Abhayjeet Singh, Harper Sandford, and Luke Leigh-Lord.



Principal Cam McKenzie welcomes the crowd with ringmaster Keira Courtney.

Photos: KELLEY TANTAU



Eva Sao from the Miller Ave Satellite spins a hula hoop.



Boogie Wilson has a ball.



A glow in the dark dance-off.

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Thames pool launches swimming fund

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

The Thames Centennial Pool has launched a new fund to give children from low socio-economic backgrounds the chance to access "vital" swimming lessons.

Learn to Swim co-ordinator Libby Gray said the 'Swim Cool Swim School' fund was a re-launch of a similar initiative the pool ran a number of years ago, in which staff would "sponsor" a student.

"They wanted to try and get it up and running again and I was keen but I didn't want it to fall over," she said. "So, I spent a bit of time getting the behind the scenes stuff done so we could get the funds behind it to make it work."

Thanks to a number of local sponsors, the centennial pool team were able to approach four Thames schools, which then selected two students from each who hadn't taken swimming lessons in the past.

Those students were last week provided with a pair of togs, goggles, and a swimming cap.

Two terms of lessons - over the warmer months - will be

free of charge, while a further two terms will be offered to the selected students at half price.

"A lot of senior students at primary schools were coming back to us and saying: 'I don't need to learn how to swim'. But to combat it, I said: 'Just because you learn to read and write at school, it doesn't mean you'll have a job where you have to read and write.' It's the same as learning to swim," Libby explained.

"You don't need to do it the rest of your life, it just means that if something happens, you'll have the skills to save yourself."

Libby said the nation's drowning statistics and the fact New Zealand was surrounded by water were two reasons children should learn how to swim safely.

She said the selected students were "really quite excited" to dip their toes into the water.

"It does take a long time [to get comfortable], but then once they get their heads underwater, they don't stop swimming," Libby said. "Once they've got that confidence, it is amazing to watch."

"You don't need to [swim] the rest of your life, it just means that if something happens, you'll have the skills to save yourself."

- Libby Gray



Libby Gray is excited about a new fund that helps children gain 'vital' swimming skills.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

Running this week until September 29, children who have never had swimming lessons in the past are able to head down to the Centennial Pool on Mackay St, get assessed, and enrolled into classes.

Each term costs \$80 and consists of 10 lessons, which Libby said was good value compared to big-city swim schools. Plus, the lessons will provide "vital" learn-to-swim skills as the warmer months approach.



The students get two terms of swim lessons free of charge.

Photo: SUPPLIED



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Rural Life

Ag Day glee

Hikutaia School celebrated 80 years of ag days on September 21, with close to 60 students showing off their calves, lambs, kids, and house pets. The rural school thanked its officials for ensuring the day went off without a hitch, while also recognising its chairperson, Rose Walmsley, who hangs up her hat after many years organising the calf club. **KELLEY TANTAU** was in attendance to capture the fun.



Jayden Good and calf Nugget win in the ring.



Kenzie Walmsley and Daffy await their turn.



Tylah Darling and her baby goat Stormi participate at the 80th Hikutaia Ag Day.

Photos: KELLEY TANTAU



Peyton Abraham styles her lamb Rosie with a matching bow.



Ruby Walmsley competes in her last Hikutaia ag day with lamb Loofa.



Naomi Lowrie and mum Rachael Luckie pat Rosie after a second placing.

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Rural Life

Call for rural banking independent inquiry

Federated Farmers are calling on whoever forms the next government to commission an independent inquiry into rural banking.

“Farmers are doing it tough right now with rising costs, bad weather and falling payouts. The last thing they want to be worrying about is whether they’re getting a fair deal from their bank,” Federated Farmers domestic commerce and competition spokesperson Richard McIntyre said.

The Commerce Commission is currently carrying out a market study into personal banking, looking at the levels of competition, what is or isn’t working well and how things could be improved, but the terms of reference exclude rural business banking.

“Farmers and rural communities deserve to have the same assurances that their banking systems are operating in a fair and proper way.”

Federated Farmers’ latest Banking Survey, carried out in May, showed a noticeable upswing in the number of farmers who felt they had come under undue pressure from their bank. Numbers were up from 17 per cent in November, 2022, to 24 per cent in May, 2023, which is the highest level since the surveys began in 2015.

The survey also indicated that farm interest rates had increased sharply. “Farmers are also noticing that banks charge much higher interest rates for farm lending than home loans, but there seems to be no clear explanation why that’s the case.

“We want to know if higher interest rates for farmers are increasing banks’ profitability or cross-subsidising a much more competitive market for home loans. We also want to understand what role regulation plays in the higher interest rates farmers are paying.” Other emerging issues that an inquiry could look into include branch closures and new bank environmental requirements. “Farmers are running large and complex businesses and will often need to speak to their local bank manager face-to-face, particular in the tough times we are currently farming through. A strong relationship and access to working capital is absolutely critical.”

Feds also have significant concerns about whether New Zealand banks’ participation in sustainability initiatives like the Net-Zero Banking Alliance are reducing competition in agricultural banking.

Under this alliance, banks have collectively agreed lending strategies including setting 2030 targets for reducing the level of emissions associated with lending. The BNZ is the first bank to announce a target in New Zealand, stating they aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from dairy farming by 11 per cent in the next six years.

“This banking alliance raises some very serious questions about whether our banks are acting in a truly competitive manner, or if the joint commitment is effectively banks collaborating on a joint lending strategy,” Mr McIntyre said.

“Individual companies are free to put in place whatever requirements they like, but we have a real issue when the main competitors are collectively setting requirements that leave farmers without choices.

“There is potential for the Commerce Commission to consider what pre-competitive commitments banks in New Zealand can make before consumers rights to a competitive market place are compromised.”

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ADVERTORIAL

Ethos endures beyond 100 years

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

With a milestone of 100 years and a model that works “really well”, Anexa Vets is continuing to be a “confidant” to farmers throughout the district.

The incorporated society this month celebrated its centenary, and former chief executive Ross Harris said “a huge congratulations” was in order.

Ross has a family history with what was originally called the Farmers Vet Club, stemming back to 1923.

His grandfather became a member during its first year; his dad followed suit in 1950; Ross himself joined in 1969; his brother Greg joined in the mid-to-late 70s; and his nephew joined in the late 90s and remains a member today.

“It’s been a constant right throughout the Harris family,” Ross said. “It was a real privilege as far as I was concerned to be appointed chief executive in late 2000, given I wasn’t a veterinarian.

“But the Farmers Vet Club as it was originally called, only exists to service its members... and in the veterinary world, es-

pecially the large animal world, a veterinarian becomes almost a confidant to the client.”

FVC Veterinary Services merged with Anexa Vets in June, 2015, and Ross congratulated all who had been involved in the club’s history - including elected directors David Firth and Mike Karl, as well as current chief executive Terry Youngman.

“I’m just really happy that something that was put together 100 years ago is still flourishing and is still more than suitable for purpose,” he said.

“Congratulations to Terry Youngman and his staff on the continuation of the ethos of the club.”

Terry told *The Profile* that, as a collective, Anexa has “worked hard” over the years to provide the best service to its clients.

“We are proud of our strong ties within the community and are focused on offering evidence-based options.

“We thank all our supporters that have helped us achieve this 100 year milestone and look forward to continuing this legacy well into the future.”



Ross Harris shares stories of working with the vet club through generations. Photo: SUPPLIED

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SPORTS

Mallets & hoops

The Paeroa Croquet Club opened the season on September 12, with club patron and life member Dawnry Slavich running the ceremonial first hoop. Club members were then invited on to the lawn to begin their first games. Warm spring sunshine provided the perfect backdrop for the teams of four as they strolled around the lawn. Last year, the club won the Midland golf croquet league. The tournament was contested between teams from Thames Valley, Waikato's King Country and the Bay of Plenty. President Heather Prince said the win was a "real coup". The club, which has been running since 1904, plays at 10am on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays in the Paeroa Domain from September to May. **ALICE PARMINTER** popped in to catch the opening games. Contact Colleen McKee, Ph 021 734 099, for club details.



The whole club gathered for the first game of the season.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER



Club patron Dawnry Slavich, 95, takes the first stroke of the season.



Heather Prince, Miila Coventry, John O'Neale, Kevin Waterson and Dawnry Slavich, with their winner's plaque from the Midlands golf croquet league.



The weather was perfect for an opening game.



John O'Neale takes his stroke.

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IN IT FOR YOU

Authorised by Bob Salmond, 187 Featherston Street, Wellington

Deaf, blind Thames author Ellen Hudson beloved by all



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

Ellen Hudson died at an open window at sunset overlooking the Hauraki Gulf on the evening of her 53rd birthday. It was March 1907 and the demise of this forgotten Thames writer could have been the stuff of the fiction that she wrote.

Ellen was born in Australia in 1854 after her parents had emigrated there from England. Three of her siblings had died in infancy before she was born. Ellen appears to have been or became deaf fairly early on in her life. When she was eight months old, she, her parents and two remaining siblings moved to New Zealand.

Her father, Richard Hudson, whose working life would also take on a fictional quality, became a partner with Josiah Firth, brick maker, but by 1855 the partnership was dissolved. Richard then turned his hand to storekeeping, becoming a family grocer at Newmarket. He also had a farm at Beveridge's Swamp, near Onehunga. The family welcomed two more chil-

dren but in 1861 Richard's business failed and after auctioning their belongings – including bricks and potatoes – he took his family to Melbourne. Within months of arriving, 5-year-old Martha died on Christmas day. Richard did not succeed in Australia either and in 1865 the Hudsons returned to Auckland, where he opened another store in which the family also lived. But shortly after arriving, death struck again – this time his wife Ann died after a short and severe illness. The children were aged between 19 and 4; Ellen was 11.

In 1870, Richard remarried and by 1871 the family were living at Grahamstown, Thames. Richard became a mine manager. In a rags to riches story, his luck changed and he became known as a 'man among a million' for repaying old debts incurred when his grocery business failed, even though they could not be legally enforced. The family also donated a piece of land at the corner of Mary and Pollen Streets as a site for the Congregational Church. This gift was made modestly, typical of the family.

By her early 20s, Ellen was quite likely writing regularly. She would have been an avid reader of the illustrated weekly newspapers - one of which was the *Otago Witness* which published the stories and poetry of aspiring New Zealand writers offering them a crucial means of expression.

Richard, who had taken up work as an insurance agent and bought various properties around Thames, purchased in



The view from Parawai over Shortland to the Hauraki Gulf. Photo: SUPPLIED

1877 15.5 acres at Parawai which became known as Glen Orchard. There he experimented with preserving fruit, importing from Tasmania a tinning appliance.

In January 1879, Ellen's story *After fifty years* was published in the *Otago Witness*. It was noted as being "written by a Lady". Pictorial weeklies paid little for these colonial contributions which they headed as being 'specially written' for their publication. But none of this deterred Ellen who became a prolific author. Her stories concerned the lives of everyday people, their struggles, a moral lesson or two. She would go on to write children's stories and also made forays into spine-tinglers.

Eighteen eighty held tragedy for the family – Ellen's sister, Annie, 33, died at their Mount Sea, Parawai home after a long and painful illness. Ellen pressed

on – publishing several more stories in the *Otago Witness*, now with her full name and the endorsement that "The author is well and favourably known to our readers, several tales from her pen having already appeared in our columns".

When Ellen's father died in 1883, Ellen, now 33, moved to a house in Queen St where she lived with her older sister Sarah. Despite being a published author, Ellen would describe her occupation on electoral rolls as consisting of domestic duties.

Over the next few years, Ellen's eyesight began to fail but she still wrote and continued her work with the Congregational church as a Sunday school teacher. She also wrote papers which were read aloud for her at church meetings. As her world got dimmer, her imagination grew brighter and her stories

filled columns of the *Otago Witness*, the *Weekly News* and the *Thames Star*. By 1899, Ellen's vision was such that she, accompanied by her sister Sarah, went to Melbourne for six months so that Ellen could undergo optic treatment, but it was not a success. Ellen intermittently wrote and published her work over the next few years but her heart was now failing and nothing could be done for her.

Ellen was universally beloved, especially by young people. Although greatly handicapped by total deafness and very deficient eyesight, she saw her life as a blessing. The *Otago Witness* remembered Ellen as "a voluminous writer, principally of stories for the young, many of which have appeared in the *Otago Witness* and other New Zealand papers at intervals for many years past, and she possessed a peculiar talent for writing this class of literature."

Her death, said the *Observer*, recalled the days when Thames rejoiced in the possession of a little knot of woman writers. Was there something in the stir and hustle of a new goldfield that encouraged the taste for authorship? Of these women were Mrs Colclough ('Polly Plum'), Jane Harris ('Jenny Wren'), and Margaret Sinclair ('Roslyn'), who wrote an anguished poem on the death of her friend. Ellen's last story *Dick the Trapper* was published a month after her death.

Ellen was buried with her sister and father at Shortland cemetery, Thames, the creative knot finally unraveled.

Esmeralda - Dragon of Mirth

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Gardening

Spring has sprung in your garden

“Spring is nature’s way of saying lets party” and undoubtedly my favourite time of the year. It is so refreshing to see all the trees, be they fruit or ornamentals bursting into life.

If the weather plays ball and the bees are left to do their work, it should be a bumper year for the fruit trees. Walking around town observing the masses of spring flowers and bright new leaves on the trees in gardens is a delight.

In the vegetable garden keep planting popular spring plants such as peas, broccoli, cauliflower, beetroot, leeks and salad greens. Once the weather warms up you can then start planting cucumbers, chillies, capsicums and eggplant.

Give your herbs some attention by cutting back sage, thyme and mint to encourage new growth. Plant basil, coriander, parsley and dill to go with those summer barbecue dishes.

If you have already planted your potatoes continue to mound up with soil to protect them from wind and the possibility of late frost. It also encourages good tuber growth. Mound up until approx 300mm high.

Labour Weekend is traditionally tomato planting time, so if it is warm enough, get them in the ground so you have a bumper crop come Christmas. Remember to stake them at time of planting so you don’t disturb the roots once they are established.



Remember to feed your seedlings with a specific fertiliser for tomatoes and vegetables. Seaweed plant tonic can be used between fertiliser application. Remember to protect your new seedlings with slug and snail bait. Citrus fruit of most varieties will have reached maturity although there will be some late fruiters. Fertilise all fruit trees starting in early October. Plant out young Passionfruit vines in a sunny north facing position, this is best suited to their growth.

Keep an eye on your strawberries and pick some of the flowers off to encourage good plant growth and

delay the fruiting to help extend the season.

The roses will have early blooms starting to appear and plant growth will be rapid. Water well and be vigilant about the first signs of pests. Treat as applicable. Plant some popular spring flowers such as lobelia, dahlia, cosmos, gerbera, marigolds, sweet peas. It’s a good idea to have some of these in pots and place around or close to the vegetable beds to attract bees.

Don’t forget the slug and snail protection, and fertiliser.

Adding mulch to the garden will also help to add warmth to the soil

to encourage growth and also suppress the weeds.

Now is the time to spray the lawn with a specific prickle weed (Onehunga weed) spray, to retain the perfect playground for the kids. These sprays can be purchased at your local hardware stores or garden centres. Apply weed and feed to the lawn to keep it green and healthy.

Stimulate the compost bin with the addition of lime and nitrogen fertiliser and turn or agitate to aerate.

Enjoy your spring garden
- Ngatea Garden Circle

Spring brings start of Artbeat

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

With spring in the air so too is an arts festival that aims to breathe life into Coromandel’s creative scene.

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

The programme 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.

Creative Coromandel He Mana Toi Moe hau chairperson Fiona Cameron said the festival had a “positive” programme that could help to “reinvigorate and promote all our creatives around the peninsula”.

She hoped it would help strengthen businesses and communities following the Covid-19 pandemic and the severe weather events that impacted the area both economically and socially.

The Artbeat festival recently received \$40,000 for use over two years from Destination Hauraki Coromandel’s Regional Event Fund, and Fiona said the trust had been “very supportive” of the festival mahi.

DETAILS: New events are being added to the online programme daily. More info: coromandelartbeat.nz.



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The company also assists with the Thames Christmas display, lighting up the Norfolk Pine at Kuranui Bay, and other community events, and is an active participant in the Kirikiri Bird Corridor project, replanting indigenous species to support local bird life.

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RSA

Thames and District Returned & Services Association 2014 Inc.
Notice of Annual General Meeting
Sunday 19th November 2023
At the Thames Bowling Club,
Mackay Street, Thames
Commencing at 10.30am

Agenda:
Apologies.
Minutes of the 2022 AGM.
Matters Arising.
Presidents Report.
Treasurers Report.
Election of Executives for 2023 - 2024.
General Business.

Signed: Ken Last-Harris - President.

Situation Vacant

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Death Notice

HORSBURGH, Lillie Helena:
On 14th September, 2023. Dearly loved Mum of Leslie and the late Peter McMahon, Darryl Wenzlick, Arleen and Ross Thorburn, and Lawrence Horsburgh. Loved Nana of Jared and Marie, Shaun and Debbie, Nigel, Lisa and William, and Karl. Great-Nana of Oliver, Damien, Riley, Jayden, Sophie, and Wiremu. In accordance with Mum's wishes a private family service will be held. Communications to: PO Box 162, Thames.

TWENTYMANS

Death Notice

TOMLINSON, Albert Colin:
Passed away on September 11th, 2023. Much loved husband of Alix Tomlinson. Loved father and father-in-law of Doug and Annie, Joss and John, Felicity, and Greg and Debbie. Loving grandfather of 9 grandchildren and a great grandfather of 12. A life well lived in the Paeroa countryside. His infectious smile will be missed dearly by all. A private send off will be held by the family. Rest in peace Pop/ Poppa Colin.

TWENTYMANS

Church Notices

Thames Spiritualist Church, Sunday
October 1st, 2pm
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2- Walk around it twice
3- Sit down! Relax
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Applications close on the 6th October, 2023.

For further information contact Amanda Cook (027) 836 1936 or email to the above address.

A.D.B Cochrane, Principal

This advertisement can also be found on our website, in the Latest News section: https://www.waihicol.school.nz /teacher-aides-wanted/

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Tough loss to North Otago

HEARTLAND RUGBY

A converted try to North Otago in the last phase of play gave the Southerners a one-point victory over Thames Valley in their Heartland Championship match played at Maheno last Saturday.

The 34-33 score was a critical and disappointing loss for the Swamp Foxes. They now need a bonus point victory over East Coast at Waihi next Saturday to gain a home semi-final in the Meads Cup.

Depending on the results of the final round matches and how any bonus points are distributed, Thames Valley could end up in any place from second to fifth. Fortunately, if they are equal with Whanganui in second place, Thames Valley would be awarded the home semi-final because they defeated Whanganui in their round robin match.

The points for the top six teams with one round to go are: South Canterbury 35, Thames Valley 27, Whanganui 27, Ngati Porou East Coast 25, North Otago 22, and Wairarapa Bush 17.

The Valley made a promising start against North Otago, with Tim Erceg scoring a try which was converted by Fletcher Morgan. North Otago equalled the score with a try and conversion of their own before the Swamp Foxes set up a good lead. Mor-



Leroy Neels, Thames Valley's top try scorer so far this season in action against South Canterbury. Photo: TVRFU

gan kicked two penalty goals and this was followed up with tries to Leroy Neels and Ethan Dromgool. The tries were not converted but the 23-7 score line looked very promising for Thames Valley. North Otago lifted their game to score a converted try just before half time plus an unconverted five pointer soon after the break.

At 23-19 the Valley did not look quite so comfortable. Midway through the half, Leroy Neels crossed for his second try of the match which Morgan converted to extend the lead to

30 -19. Another try to North Otago narrowed the gap to 30-24. At the 74 minute mark, a penalty goal enabled Morgan to stretch Thames Valley's lead to 33-24. Three minutes later North Otago kicked a penalty of their own to be within six points of the visitors. A very determined home team then launched several attacks on the Valley line and were eventually rewarded with seven points in the last minute, which gave them their 34-33 triumph.

With two more tries to his credit, taking his total to six,

Leroy Neels is now the top try scorer for Thames Valley so far this season, and by kicking another 13 points at Maheno, Fletcher Morgan is now five points short of a century in first class games this season.

All eyes now turn to Rugby Park Waihi on Saturday for the all, important final round robin match against Ngati Porou East Coast. Please note the earlier start time of 1pm.

At Taupo the Vixens lost 10-12 to Wairarapa Bush to finish fourth in their North Island Heartland competition.

BOWLS

Paeoro Bowling Club had its new season opening day on September 16. The day was absolutely superb and the weather was most compliant. We had a good turn out of members, with lots of smiles and laughter, and the bowling was very good as well. The club facilities were beaming and our green keeper, Peter Rowling, laid on a stunner of a green. All were welcomed into the new season by our club president, Kevin Lockley. The new season certainly got off to a brilliant start and we are all looking forward to the bowling in front of us such as, Club Rollups, Sponsors Tournaments and Twilight Bowls.

- Martin Douglas






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Authorised by Miriam Ross, Level 5, 108 The Terrace, Wellington

SUDOKU

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

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

EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

119

HARD

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

119

MEDIUM

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

EASY

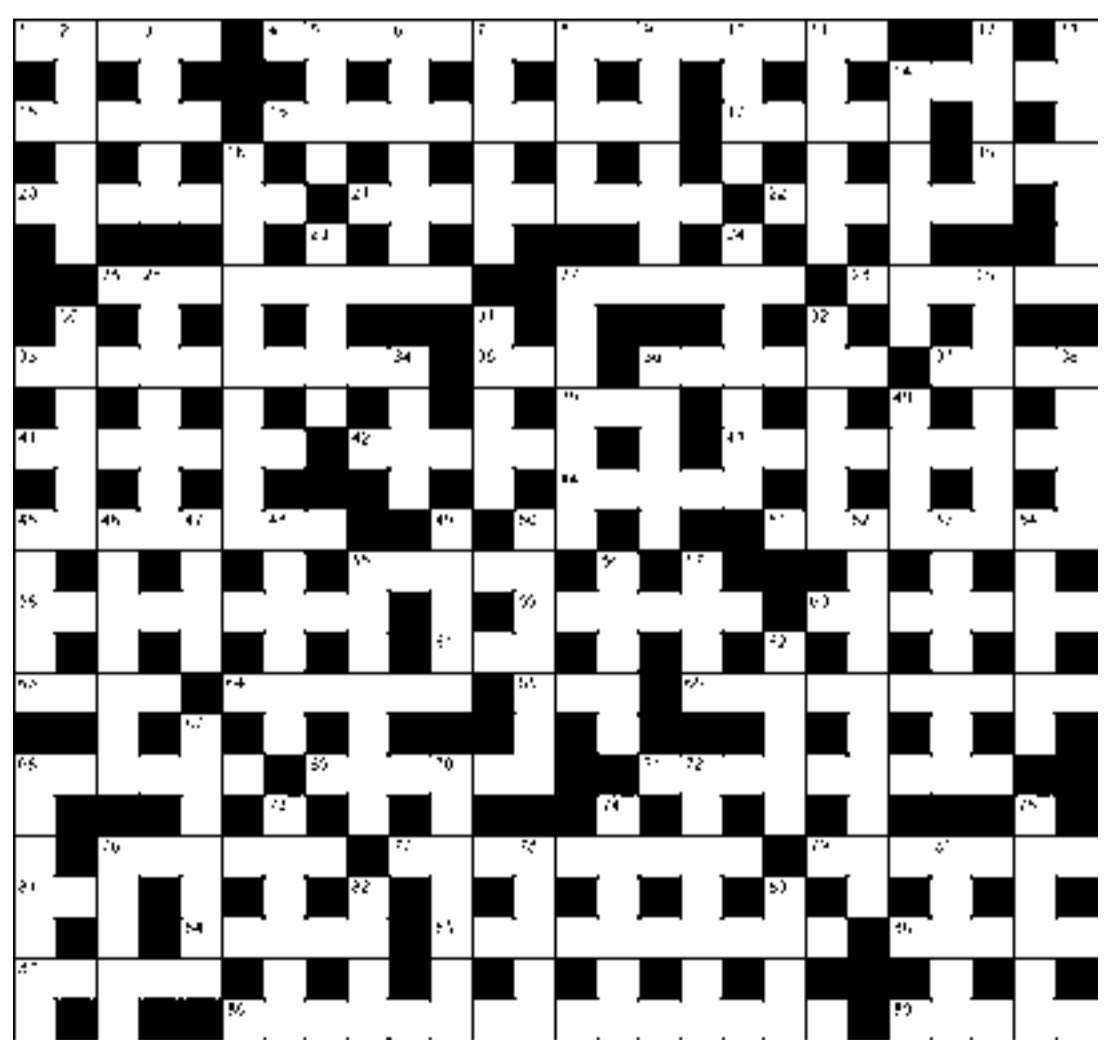
8	6	7	5	9	2	1	4	3
1	9	4	6	3	7	8	2	5
2	5	3	4	1	8	6	9	7
4	3	8	9	7	6	2	5	1
5	7	9	8	2	1	4	3	6
6	1	2	3	5	4	7	8	9
9	8	1	2	6	3	5	7	4
3	2	6	7	4	5	9	1	8
7	4	5	1	8	9	3	6	2

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JUMBO CROSSWORD

139

- ACROSS**
- 1 Entice (5)
 - 4 Intelligently alert and lively (6,2,1,6)
 - 14 Sufficient (5)
 - 15 Foot lever (5)
 - 16 Television or radio advertisement (10)
 - 17 Winning (5)
 - 19 Pair (3)
 - 20 Down-payment (7)
 - 21 Political party's declaration of policy (9)
 - 22 Cooking instructions (6)
 - 25 Instant (9)
 - 27 Boredom (6)
 - 28 Stand up for (6)
 - 33 Windy and indirect (10)
 - 35 Australian bird (3)
 - 36 Fermented fodder (6)
 - 37 Window ledge (4)
 - 39 Bite (3)
 - 41 Evolve (7)
 - 42 Yacht harbour (6)
 - 43 Light social conversation (5,4)
 - 44 Looks after (5)
 - 45 Meant (8)
 - 50 Friendly greeting (2)
 - 51 Running race (8)
 - 55 Hawaiian greeting (5)
 - 58 Talked into (9)
 - 59 Spoiled (6)
 - 60 In sight (7)
 - 61 Spinning toy (3)
 - 63 Road division (4)
 - 64 Clan (6)
 - 65 Queer (3)
 - 66 Ill luck (10)
 - 68 Vital gas (6)
 - 69 Cleric (6)
 - 71 Payments to shareholders (9)
 - 76 Meat pin (6)
 - 77 Trial model (9)
 - 79 Depict (7)
 - 81 Slippery fish (3)
 - 84 Of the sun (5)
 - 85 Oral examinations for job applicants (10)
 - 86 Ape (5)
 - 87 Task (5)
 - 88 Nothing at all (5,5,5)
 - 89 Prepared (5)
 - DOWN**
 - 2 Cricket team (6)
 - 3 Keyboard instrument (5)
 - 5 Mob violence (4)
 - 6 Athlete on bars, beam, vaulting horse, etc (7)
 - 7 Creamy-white root vegetable (6)
 - 8 Confiscate (5)
 - 9 Be dealt (anag)(7)
 - 10 Rip (4)
 - 11 Unlocked (6)
 - 12 Digging tool (5)
 - 13 Loyal (7)
 - 14 Fan (7)
 - 18 Probability of a specified outcome (10)
 - 23 Flier (5)
 - 24 Sword (7)
 - 26 Broad-bladed large knife (7)
 - 27 Huge sea wave (7)
 - 29 Tomb inscription (7)
 - 30 Homing bird (6)
 - 31 Lukewarm (5)
 - 32 Large tropical lizard (6)
 - 34 Minor quarrel (4)
 - 36 Backbone (5)
 - 38 Compare (5)
 - 40 Begging request (4)
 - 45 Drive forward (5)
 - 46 Despotism (7)
 - 47 Common sense (4)
 - 48 Cause to be loved (6)
 - 49 Swag (5)
 - 50 Spear (7)
 - 52 Large horned animal (10)
 - 53 Polluted (7)
 - 54 Rectangular (6)
 - 55 Looked up to (7)
 - 56 Dizzy (5)
 - 57 Girder (4)
 - 62 Meat jelly (5)
 - 67 Back (7)
 - 68 Crime (7)
 - 70 Welsh city (7)
 - 72 Suggested indirectly (7)
 - 73 Roar (6)
 - 74 Tempestuous (6)
 - 75 Diverse (6)
 - 76 Sailing vessel (5)
 - 78 Giant (5)
 - 80 Garden string (5)
 - 82 Accurate (4)
 - 83 Move through water (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Dice with death, 8 Advise, 14 Probe, 15 Bassinet, 16 Examine, 17 Craze, 18 Set, 19 Missile, 21 Dirt cheap, 22 Puppet, 25 Resolution, 27 Mastered, 28 Result, 31 Skates, 33 Essence, 34 Tutors, 35 Bias, 37 Ivy, 39 Halo, 40 Amateur, 41 Uppermost, 42 Suggest, 43 Nickname, 48 Cyclamen, 52 Glimpse, 56 Perimeter, 57 Javelin, 58 Rate, 59 Hue, 60 Look, 61 Mozart, 62 Decorum, 63 Reheat, 65 Casual, 66 Welcomes, 68 Battle plan, 71 Gender, 72 Front line, 74 Portico, 76 Cur, 79 Suede, 80 Antenna, 81 Hogmanay, 83 Sleet, 84 Prison, 85 Poetic justice.

DOWN: 2 Imagine, 3 Eases, 4 Inn, 5 Hats, 6 Eyewitnesses, 7 Toast, 8 Average, 9 Vice, 10 Statue, 11 Moist, 12 Sextant, 13 Sightseeing, 14 Perplex, 20 Louisiana, 23 Liberate, 24 Left out, 26 Outlook, 27 Miners, 29 Uniform, 30 Trophy, 32 Khaki, 34 Tyres, 36 Satin, 38 Oral, 43 Nepal, 44 Curious, 45 Numb, 46 Mutton, 47 Bight, 48 Calamity, 49 Contralto, 50 Airship, 51 Extra, 52 Greased, 53 Predominate, 54 Ejects, 55 Overabundant, 64 Earnest, 65 Concise, 67 Certain, 69 Archaic, 70 Veneer, 71 Green, 73 Lingo, 75 Trait, 77 Less, 78 Chic, 82 Gnu.

SPORTS

Sevens heaven

The Thames Valley secondary schools sevens tournament was held at Paeroa Domain on September 20. Boys' and girls' teams from across the region competed in a round robin format to contest the Condor Cup, Hare family trophy, TVSS 7s 4th Grade Cup and Ian Murphy Development Grade Cup. **ALICE PARMINTER** caught the action. RESULTS: Youth Girls: Champions: Hauraki Plains College; MVP: Amber Perry, Hauraki. Open Girls: Champions: Hauraki Plains College; MVP: Sameera Hayes, Hauraki. Youth Boys: Champions: Waihi College; MVP: Aiden Butler, Waihi. Open Boys: Champions: Paeroa College; MVP: Cooper Morrison, Paeroa.



Isabella Dryland from Paeroa College dodges a tackle.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER



Thames High School's Saelah Fowler grabs the ball in a lineout.



Rylee Morgan makes a run for it.



Lily Hammond defends the ball.



Waihi College's Johnston Coll.



Paeroa College's Monaro Wright.



Thames High School's Isayah Boyd.



Madison Finn from Hauraki Plains.

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