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

Scott Simpson still remembers his first election night back in 2011.

He says 12 years on, the excitement hasn't faded - nor have the nerves.

"You always have butterflies in your tummy leading into election night, but I had a really good and large team of supporters and volunteers from the National Party around the electorate," he says.

"Politics is an addictive drug... the adrenaline pumps, the excitement builds, and the thrill of the contest and the opportunity to use the result to do good, doesn't go away."

Throughout the years, the number of ticks marked next to Scott's name have been steady, but this weekend's general election saw him rake in one of his highest - 20,950.

That's 14,596 ahead of the second highest-polling Coromandel candidate, Labour's Beryl Riley - who Scott says sent him a "very nice" email following the preliminary results.

But with roughly 567,000 special declaration votes still to be counted, Scott tells The Profile that the National Party will "wait and see" if there's any shift.

So far, they have just obtained the 61 seats needed to form a government alongside the ACT Party.

"I think a lot of the overseas votes will be from people who are still more than a little bit grumpy about the way they were treated during the Covid lock-outs," Scott says.

"And working with ACT is not unusual - we have a traditional and good working relationship with the party."

Scott mentions the "blue wave" that swept over the country on election night, and when he's asked what the core differences are between a blue wave and a red



Success for Scott Simpson

Coromandel MP Scott Simpson thanks voters after retaining his seat during this year's general election. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

wave, he says there are some "very basic differences" between the two major parties.

"We on the centre-right have the view that the less government in your life, the better. On the centre-left, the view is usually that centralising and running things out of Wellington is best.

"We think New Zealanders are the best stewards of their own finances and money. We think that individuals and families know how to better manage their own budgets. We think that taxpayers' money needs to be more respect-

ed than has been over the last six years. We also think we need to send some much stronger messages about people's responsibilities as citizens - respect for law and order, respect for individual rights and freedoms... these are basic fundamental differences between us and the political left."

But Scott also welcomes a difference of opinion, and says politics by nature is a "team and tribal exercise".

"There's nothing wrong with having views and opinions and expressing those, but what is in-

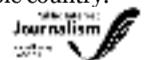
creasingly problematic is that these days many people seem to find it difficult having discussions and debates about policies that might be different to their own views without playing the person," he says. "Just because someone has a different political view or opinion to you, doesn't make them a bad person."

He says overall, this year's election campaign was "very negative", but he thanks the Coromandel voters for their "personal endorsement".

"Sadly there was, in my view, too

much discussion and playing of personalities rather than policies and I don't know if that is helpful," he says.

"But I really love the job - for me, it's actually not work, it's a passion. It's something I never take for granted... and I'm looking forward to instead of being in Opposition, being part of a new government, a new direction, and I know it will be of as much benefit to Coromandel people as it will be to the whole country."



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Our focus is 100% local community news.

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NEWS/EDITORIAL

Publisher/Editor Teresa Ramsey

Ph 0204 0944 853

editor@valleyprofile.co.nz

Senior Reporter Kelley Tantau

Ph 022 619 4889

kelley@valleyprofile.co.nz

Reporter Alice Parminter

Ph 022 527 0988

alice@valleyprofile.co.nz

ADVERTISING

Ad manager Nikki Sanders

Ph 022 130 3885

Email: nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz

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Maipi-Clarke becomes youngest MP in 170 years

The Pāti Māori candidate Hana-Rawhiti Maipi-Clarke has won the Hauraki Waikato electorate, making her the youngest elected Member of Parliament in Aotearoa since 1853.

Her victory marks the beginning of a political career for the 21-year-old, and the end for Nanaia Mahuta, who held the Hauraki Waikato electorate for eight terms and was the country's longest-serving female MP. Maipi-Clarke received 8825 votes, ahead of Mahuta's 7459.

Maipi-Clarke (Ngā Puhi, Ngāti Porou, Te Atiawa, Ngāi Tahu) comes from a strong background of kaupapa Māori activism. "We are here again and never will we be oppressed again," she told *Te Ao Māori News*.

Maipi-Clarke is the daughter of Māori broadcaster Potaka Maipi, and granddaughter of Taitimu Maipi, whose activism contributed to the removal of the Captain John Hamilton statue in Hamilton's Civic Square.

She is also mokopuna of Hana Te Hemara, a Māori language activist who delivered the Māori language petition on the steps of Parliament in 1972 and called for Te Reo to be taught in schools. Wiremu Katene, the first Māori MP to be appointed to the Executive Council in 1872, was her great-great-great-grandfather.

Maipi-Clarke received her education at Te Wharekura o Rākaumangamanga in Huntly, and when she was 17, she published a book, *Maahina*, about māramataka – the Māori lunar calendar.

"Plant trees you'll never see. Rangatahi are the future, and we need to be at the decision-making tables to make sure the trees are being planted from the ground up," Maipi-Clarke said.



Te Pāti Māori's Hana-Rawhiti Maipi-Clarke has won the Hauraki Waikato electorate.

"This movement is intergenerational. The decisions we make affect our uri whakaheke. This is why I'm standing."

Mahuta conceded and congratulated her opponent, following a tight race between the two candidates throughout election night on Saturday, October 14.

Mahuta is a senior member of the Labour Party who became the first woman to hold the Foreign Affairs portfolio in 2020. She was also Minister of Local Government, and associate minister for Māori Development. Despite her seniority, she decided not to go on the party list which means she will not be returning to Parliament.

During the campaign, Maipi-Clarke was subject to alleged home invasions, which Te Pāti Māori referred to as politically motivated. An elderly man alleged to be a well-known National Party campaigner was issued a trespass notice by police.

Thieves get away with 'bugger all'

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

A passing customer's quick call to 111 allowed Police to quickly apprehend three offenders who targeted service stations in Paeroa and Matamata in the early hours of October 11.

The smash and grab follows a similar burglary at the family-owned service station in August last year. Caltex Paeroa manager Paul Milner told *The Profile* that his service station on Belmont Rd was one of the two broken into last week.

He said five offenders were caught on CCTV smashing through a window near the counter, but it "took them ages" to get through as it was laminated security glass.

A passing customer saw the incident unfold and called 111.

In the end, the offenders got away with "bugger all", Paul said - a few chocolates and the Starship donation box with roughly \$80 inside.

He said the police did a great job catching up with three of the offenders.

The trio - aged between 15 and 18-years-old, were due to appear in the Youth Court in Hamilton last week charged with aggravated robbery, burglary, and unlawfully using a motor vehicle.

Police allege that after the Paeroa break-in, the trio travelled to Matamata where they carried out an aggravated robbery at a service station which was open for business. The two store attendants working at the service station at the time were shaken but uninjured.

The three offenders were located at an address in Waharoa later in the day, along with property stolen from the two service stations.

Police said enquiries were ongoing to locate two other people who were involved in the offending.



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Thames Tides

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
Oct 18	Oct 19	Oct 20	Oct 21	Oct 22	Oct 23	Oct 24
 Morning: 4:06am 0.5, 10:25am 3.4 Afternoon: 4:23pm 0.6, 10:36pm 3.3 Sunrise: 6:30am, Sunset: 7:37pm Best At: 3:10am (3:36pm) Rise: 8:07am, Set: 11:16pm	 Morning: 4:45am 0.5, 11:05am 3.4 Afternoon: 5:06pm 0.7, 11:19pm 3.2 Sunrise: 6:29am, Sunset: 7:38pm Best At: 4:04am (4:32pm) Rise: 8:48am	 Morning: 5:26am 0.5, 11:48am 3.3 Afternoon: 5:53pm 0.7 Sunrise: 6:28am, Sunset: 7:39pm Best At: 5:01am (5:30pm) Set: 12:21am, Rise: 9:38am	 Morning: 12:06am 3.2, 6:11am 0.6 Afternoon: 12:37pm 3.2, 6:46pm 0.8 Sunrise: 6:26am, Sunset: 7:39pm Best At: 6:01am (6:31pm) Set: 1:23am, Rise: 10:38am	 Morning: 12:56am 3.1, 7:01am 0.7 Afternoon: 1:32pm 3.2, 7:44pm 0.8 Sunrise: 6:25am, Sunset: 7:40pm Best At: 7:01am (7:30pm) First Quarter: 2:20am, Rise: 11:46am	 Morning: 1:50am 3.1, 7:59am 0.8 Afternoon: 2:34pm 3.2, 8:46pm 0.8 Sunrise: 6:24am, Sunset: 7:41pm Best At: 7:59am (8:28pm) Set: 3:07am, Rise: 12:59pm	 Morning: 2:51am 3.0, 9:06am 0.8 Afternoon: 3:39pm 3.2, 9:51pm 0.8 Sunrise: 6:23am, Sunset: 7:42pm Best At: 8:55am (9:22pm) Set: 3:46am, Rise: 2:13pm

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

MOON AND FISH KEYS

New Moon, First Quarter, Full Moon, Last Quarter

Good Fishing (G), Fair Fishing (F), Not So Good (N)

TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES

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

PLACE	Hr	Min	High	Low
Coromandel	-0	04	-0	04
Whitianga	-0	01	-0	05
Tairua	+0	10	+0	21
Whangamata	-0	03	-0	05
Waihi Beach	-0	12	-0	12

Mothers 'let down' by birth centre closure

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

Women who have used the Waihi Birthing Centre are saddened by the lack of services its closure will mean for their side of the gorge, and the danger it could pose to expecting mothers.

In a letter to the community published on September 26, the centre's maternity manager Ashley McKay said it was with a "heavy heart" that the Toomey St facility would be closing.

Since then, a national petition has been launched to fund and reopen the birthing centre, which has amassed more than 2400 signatures.

Waihi mother Caroline Pater-son said the closure would be a "loss" to the community.

She had her youngest child - now aged one - at the centre, not too long after moving to the Hau-raki town.

"It was so reassuring to have a safe and comfortable place close to home for both antenatal appointments and for the postnatal stay," she said. "Everyone I encountered at the centre was so caring and did everything they could to accom- modate the families here."

Katikati local Kirti Marshall also gave birth to her daughter at the centre in 2013. She said it was a great option she was "lucky" to use.

"I believe it's such a shame and actually a dangerous move to close the birthing centre for so many māma. The lack of options between Whangamatā/Waihi through to Bethlehem/Tauranga



The Waihi Birthing Centre closure will impact expectant parents, midwives and mothers say. INSET: Midwife Belinda Beetham says there are "a large number of calls every day" from women concerned about the closure.

will definitely leave the over- stretched and understaffed, over- worked hospitals with an influx of catching babies being born on the side of the road en route to hospi- tals," she said.

"What are the other options for pregnant māma in the future? Drive to either Thames or Tau- ranga while in labour? Many won't make that distance, as labours can progress at very different speeds and are not always predictable."

Kirti said while she was "defi-

nately done" with having any more children, she loved the feeling her daughter got when they drove through Waihi, seeing where she was born.

In Ashley McKay's public letter, she said when new owners took over the birthing centre six years ago, the building was "showing its age" but had a "rich legacy" of more than 80 years.

"Our shared vision was to mod- ernise and update the facilities while preserving the essence of

love and community that had al- ways been at the heart of this place. With a lot of dedication, we set out to revitalise the space, blend- ing modernity with the heritage of the building, and the results were nothing short of remarkable," she wrote.

"However, just as the birth- ing centre began to flourish, we were confronted with the unpre- cedented challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Mandates and restrictions hit our vulnerable

birthing community hard, and we suffered the loss of valuable mid- wives and maternity staff.

"Despite our best efforts and ap- peals for support from Te Whatu ora, we faced an uphill battle."

Waihi midwife Belinda Beetham said in a statement that she and her colleagues were receiving "a large number of calls every day" from women concerned about the closure.

"Some from places like Whangamatā are worried about how they will afford to travel the two-hours through the Karanga- hake Gorge up to two times a week for antenatal checks and to give birth. And that gorge can often be closed in winter," she said.

"Some of our mamas don't have cars; they have relied on commu- nity-based services and they have no idea what they are going to do. Some are changing their birth plan and are choosing a home birth."

Ms Beetham said Waihi's birth- ing centre accommodated around 70 women using the post-natal service last year. She said they were being let down with mater- nity choices being removed and "barriers going up".

"It's terribly upsetting. What could be more important than providing our babies with the best start in life and supporting mamas on their maternity journey? Noth- ing. There's nothing more impor- tant than that."

DETAILS: Petition: www.change.org and search for Waihi Birthing Centre.



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Education

Head shave success at Waihi College

The students of Waihi College braved the scissors and razor on September 21 as part of the Shave for a Cure charity fundraiser. Several students participated, raising an impressive \$4000 for Leukaemia and Blood Cancer New Zealand. The students took it in turns to rid their classmates of their locks during a school entertainment evening.



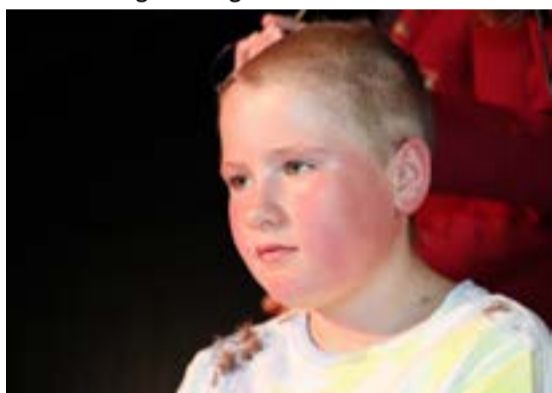
Alex Hickson faces the razor.



Eli Townsend shaves Travis Nagel during the event. Photos: SUPPLIED



Zac Moulder, Alex Hickson and Travis Nagel line up.



Leighton Allen takes his turn under the blade.



Aiming high at AIMS Games

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

Thirty-eight Waihi College students headed to Tauranga on September 2-8 to participate in the Zespri AIMS Games in Tauranga, with the students returning tired but happy at the end of the event.

The year seven and eight students were selected to compete in a number of sports, including netball, basketball, rugby sevens, mountain biking and gymnastics.

Year seven student Breeze Clothier did particularly well at the games. She competed against 91 other students to come out 5th overall in the twisters gymnastics event, with a total score of 28.50 across three categories - the floor, the vault and the beam.

The students said they were all pretty worn out at the end of the week, with some codes

playing up to three games a day. Although the competition was tough, they all gave it their best shot, with the younger students saying they were looking forward to attending again next year.

The AIMS Games is one of Australasia's largest junior sporting events and sees schools from across New Zealand competing in sporting competitions.

The event promotes diversity and allows adolescents from all demographics and education contexts to compete, meet others from outside their normal peer group, and learn and build on their social interaction skills. The 2023 games saw 11,733 competitors from 374 schools, competing in 25 different sporting codes.



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www.waihicol.school.nz

Now that Term 4 has begun, we have all our end of year Prizegivings and events to look forward to.

Here are some dates you might want to put in your diary:

- 18th October Cultural Prizegiving
- 24th October Police Graduation
- 27th October Sports & Service Prizegiving
- 30th October Senior Effort Prizegiving
- 31st October Senior Academic Prizegiving and last day of school for Year 11-13
- 11th December Junior Effort Prizegiving
- 12th December Junior Academic Prizegiving and last day of school for Year 7-10

To keep informed with everything going on at Waihi College, keep an eye on the Keeping Informed section of our website. From here you can check Latest News, Daily Notices, the School Calendar as well as photos taken throughout the year www.waihicol.school.nz



At the end of last term, we filled in our last few days with hilarity and flair by celebrating with the much loved Spirit Days. Winners this year were Empire! This term we have a Food Drive Mufti Day where students can wear mufti clothes and bring in a can or non-perishable food for the Salvation Army, along with our annual Talent Quest to look forward to.

'Closure' imminent for owner of damaged home

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

Ninety-five-year old Dennis Raines can no longer drive past his red-stickered home in Thornton Bay.

"He's still really quite upset about the whole thing," Dennis' son Neil said.

"He's been through a lot." Dennis has not returned to the house since a sea of debris and dirt smashed through his back ranchslider during cyclone Hale in February, prompting a gardener next door to help him stage a speedy evacuation.

Instead it sits empty, uninhabitable and adorned with caution tape.

"Dad said ... he was evacuated from London in World War II to the south coast of England and it basically reminded him of that whole thing. It's almost like his house had been bombed and he had been evacuated away from it.

"He's mentioned that a couple of times," Neil said.

"He's got a great little unit in town [now] but it hasn't got the sea views.

"He's still settling in, he finds it really strange. And of course the older you get the harder it is to adjust to new environments."

The family is ready to put the whole ordeal behind them and has put the home up for



Dennis Raines says his evacuation from his slip-damaged home during Cyclone Hale was like reliving evacuation due to bombings during World War II.



File Photos: SUPPLIED

an auction with Harcourts, in a \$1 reserve auction scheduled for October 28.

Neil and his brother Clive have been dealing with the insurance company, lawyers and geotech specialists investigating the landslide to take the pressure off Dennis, who Neil said was overwhelmed with the media attention garnered by the unusual auction format.

"It's really hitting a raw nerve," Neil said.

"Dad doesn't even want to be at the auction, it's just too stressful for him."

Although the location - on the seafront along the coveted Thames Coast - is a winner, the issues the property faces could make it a challenging sale.

Disclosure statements on the home's Harcourts listing state

the property is being sold on an "as is, where is" basis, and note the still-existing landslip and red-stickered status of the house.

But the family doesn't care about the price: they want closure.

"We've done all we can to market it and [Harcourts agent] Steven's done a pretty good job of that - it's been in all the pa-

pers, it's probably been a bit of overkill," Neil said.

"If someone's prepared to wait and look on it all as a bit of a landbanking thing - it's a great position.

"As long as it goes for \$1 it doesn't really matter, and the market will decide what it's worth."

Neil said Dennis was coping well, despite the changes in his life.

"He's still got all his marbles - we took him out for lunch on Sunday and we had a great old time," Neil said.

"And he's still cracking jokes. He's doing pretty well, considering."

Although the circumstances were difficult, Neil said moving into town had also been helpful in some ways, with Dennis' new home being more manageable and closer to friends.

"The osteoarthritis is beginning to affect him a bit more and the mobility," Neil said.

"Really, it's actually worked out probably for the best because it was a big house, and had a steep path to get up. He sort of tipped over his wheelbarrow once when he was heading up with his shopping and ended up in the bushes.

"[Now] it's all on the level, he can drive into the garage."



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Our Coromandel

News from Thames-Coromandel District Council



18 October 2023

Road to Recovery

It's all go on road repairs this spring with great progress being made on SH25a and a good start to fixing the Tapu-Coroglen Road.

Waka Kotahi report that the first two sets of bridge steel beams (weighing around 20 tonnes each) were delivered to its Taparahi site earlier in the month.



The view from one of the Taparahi abutments.

They'll be spliced together to form the base of the bridge deck for the first span. The new bridge will be three spans in total. The final two bridge beams are arriving mid October.

Work to improve SH25 at Ruamahunga, Thornton Bay, Manaia, Wharekaho-Kūaotunu culvert slip, Whirititoa Hill and Pumpkin Hill is also due to start this month.

On local roads, our Council's contractor Kelsey Construction is busy on the Tapu-Coroglen Road repairs. Please note that the road

will remain closed during construction for safety reasons until its completion in December.



Luke's Kitchen, Kūaotunu. Felicity Jean Photography

DISCOVER OUR REGION

The sun's out and we're encouraging visitors to sample the delights of the Coromandel over the holiday weekend and into summer. Our tourism partner Destination Hauraki Coromandel have recently re-launched their website, making it easy to plan a trip to our region. They also have a map of drive times for all major routes. For food destinations, check out their guide to local producers and artisans. Visit thecoromandel.com to start planning your journey.

PUTTING A DAMPER ON WILDFIRE RISK

Your home and everything up to 30 metres surrounding it will determine if a fire can burn your house down. Clearing away winter debris can reduce the risk of outdoor fires spreading.



Find out more about how you can protect your home at fireandemergency.nz

Learn-to-swim fund launched

Our Thames Centennial Pool team are making sure more students have access to swimming lessons with the launch of a learn-to-swim fund.



Thanks to our generous sponsors, our Learn to Swim Coordinator Libby Gray has been able to offer free swimming lessons and gear to eight students.

The students, nominated by their schools, will receive two terms of free lessons at our Swim Cool Swim School, followed by a half-price discount.

The fund is sponsored by Valley Toyota Thames, Stirling Sports Thames, Aqualine Swim, PAK'nSAVE Thames and our Council.

For more information on our Swim Cool Swim School, visit tcdc.govt.nz/pool or email learntoswim@tcdc.govt.nz

COMMUNITY DROP-IN SESSIONS

We're holding a series of informal Long Term Plan drop-in sessions for the public from Thursday 26 to Saturday 28 October. Elected Members and staff will be available to help answer any questions you have about our Council's Long Term Plan – our main planning document for the next 10 years. Come in for a chat and a coffee and bring your ideas for our region's future. Find out more at: tcdc.govt.nz/LTP-2024-2034

Thames Community Board UPDATE

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

"Welcome visitors to Thames and beyond. As your elected representatives we wish you a relaxing Labour Weekend and hope it's the start of a summer that reinvigorates you, our visitors, as well as the local economy. We're working hard behind the scenes to make sure our roads are fit for the purpose of conveying holidaymakers safely to their chosen destinations. Tapu-Coroglen Road is on track to reopen before Christmas and the contractors are working hard on SH25a making a huge effort to have this important link open as soon as practicable. Have a safe and enjoyable Labour Weekend."

adrian.catran@council.tcdc.govt.nz

The Board's next meeting is on Wednesday 29 November, 10am in Thames Council Offices. tcdc.govt.nz/meetings



LABOUR WEEKEND

Some rules, regulations and schedules may change.



Kerbside collections

Rubbish and recycling collections are one day later following Labour Day Monday 23 October. Check your local kerbside

collection schedule at: tcdc.govt.nz/bindays
Our seven Refuse and Recycling Transfer Stations are open every day during daylight savings from 8.30am-5.30pm. tcdc.govt.nz/rts



Alcohol Bans

Alcohol bans are in place over Labour weekend from 4pm Friday to 4pm Monday. tcdc.govt.nz/alcoholcontrol



Dog Rules

Dog restrictions are in place on some beaches this Labour weekend. Look out for Council's traffic light signage or go to our website to see what rules apply in your area.

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Legging it to Waikino for 23rd annual show

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

Waikino artist Rod Hawkins stands proudly in his back garden, next to a surfboard adorned with a pair of disembodied prosthetic legs.

The unusual sculpture is one of his entries into this year's ARTWaikino art show, taking place over Labour Weekend at Waikino Hall.

"That surfboard, that's my entry this year for the sculpture. Last year I entered those legs on a set of running blocks ... I've recycled those again," he said.

"The sculpture category, that was originally my idea. I've been involved in Art Waikino since I got here 13 years ago."

As well as his sculpture, Rod will be entering a hand-crafted copper whale and a photograph, and he will also be opening his studio on Victoria St to the public.

"I try to do lots of things," Rod said of his work.

"I get random inspiration. I just like to make things. I don't do it for the money, I do it because I like doing it. And I like it when somebody goes, 'oh that's really nice, can I have one?'"

"That really strokes my ego." Rod's works are mostly pottery, metalwork and woodwork - the retired builder said he prefers tactile mediums.

I like doing the sculptural



Artist Rod Hawkins with his surfboard sculpture, one of three pieces he will be entering in ARTWaikino's exhibition this Labour Weekend. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

stuff," he said. "I love working with copper, it just appeals to my brain. And wood. And clay. So everything really, so long as I can get my hands bruised and burnt."

His work is eclectic, he said, and he tries to inject humour into his pieces.

"I made hundreds and hundreds of ceramic gnomes ... for ARTWaikino [in a previous exhibition]. It was our first ever

sculpture exhibition. I had them all lined up, ten rows of ten and then I poured sand over them so [they were only partially showing]. I wanted them to look like the terracotta soldiers because that was my original inspiration.

"I thought, wouldn't it be great if they were gnomes? And then of course as soon as I thought it, I had to do it," he said.

Rod is also the chair of the Waikino Hall committee.

ARTWaikino, the largest art exhibition in the Hauraki and Coromandel area, was conceived by former committee member Helen Wilson 23 years ago as a fundraising event.

"The reason we have ARTWaikino is to have money for the maintenance of the hall," Rod said.

"There was a time when the hall was the centre of the village. We want to ensure it's maintained in

a way that people can use it and it benefits the community."

This year, more than 60 artists from Waikino and across the North Island have registered for the show.

Their works will be arranged by category - painting and drawing, handicraft, sculpture or photo - with the winners of each section announced on Friday night.

Every art piece is also for sale to the public, with a percentage of the sale price going back to the hall.

Organiser Nola Boldy said the committee was expecting close to 800 people to pass through their doors over the weekend.

"ARTWaikino is for everyone, young and old, and the place to visit if you are looking for a gift for a special someone - or even yourself," she said.

Rod said the art show was a platform for artists, and a place for people to find inspiration of their own.

"Somebody may go into the exhibition and go, 'ooh, I can do that'. So it's like a catalyst to ignite that spark in just one person's brain," he said.

DETAILS: ARTWaikino, October 20 from 6pm-9pm and October 21-22 from 10am-4pm at the Waikino Hall. Gold coin entry; all artworks are for sale.



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Julie McMillan uses Waiomu Beach Cafe's new milk tap, inset, which saves around 5000 plastic bottles from going into landfill.

Photos: KELLEY TANTAU

Coastal cafe meets rural ingenuity

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

A waterfront cafe along the Thames Coast has connected with a dairy farm in rural Waikato, and now its plastic waste has been reduced by the thousands.

The Waiomu Beach Cafe has recently installed a milk tap from Kaipaki Dairies, a rural business in Ōhaupō that aims to encourage cafes, hotels, and other hospitality venues to tackle sustainability by replacing plastic bottles with milk straight from the pail.

“Sustainability is the underpinning value of my business,” Waiomu Beach Cafe owner Julie McMillan said, “and I’d heard about the milk taps and wondered how long it would be until they came our way.”

“But then John [co-founder of Kaipaki Dairies] came in one day and asked if we wanted to know more, and I dropped everything and said: ‘Yes!’”

Julie said the installation of the milk tap will stop at least 5000 plastic bottles per cafe per year from heading into landfill.

It also meant her staff didn’t have to continuously undo lids.

“The plastic bottles used to come in cardboard boxes... the milk got put into them, it took five minutes for it to be used, and then it was thrown out. That’s exactly what was happening.”

Julie said she had always been mindful of sustainability “right from the get-go”.

When she took over the Waiomu Beach Cafe - which is now up for sale - around 15 years ago, being environmentally-friendly was always front of mind.

“Sustainability for me is about community, environment, and

ethical business. We live in the most stunning environment; it’s our playground, it feeds us, and it deserves respect.”

All single-use coffee cups at the cafe are compostable. There’s also a collection point on the porch that collects the used cups and lids which the staff then send away to be composted.

Julie said with the milk taps, “change was effective immediately” and she encouraged other businesses to give it a go.

“The recycling bin is no longer full of plastic bottles which means we can be more con-

scious of our rubbish and be smarter at the back end of the businesses with our waste management,” she said.

“And the team has really embraced it.”

Kaipaki Dairies’ milk tap is designed to sit right next to a cafe’s coffee machine.

The milk is delivered in either 10-litre or 20-litre reusable pails that sit in the fridge, with old pails taken back to the factory for deep cleaning, sterilisation, and refilling.



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Rural Life

Group day cuties

Despite the grey morning, the children gathered at Matatoki School were in good spirits as they put their calf club animals through their paces. They were taking part in the calf club group day for the Ohinemuri cluster of schools. Calves, kids and lambs of all sizes and colours were tethered around the school field, waiting for their turn to show how nicely they could take a stroll around the show ring. ALICE PARMINTER popped in to watch them promenade.



Emilee Reynolds, Riley Richards and Chloe Scott hang out with their kids.



McKenzie Read and Holly Thomas-James with Milky and Buddy, left, and Elise Scott and Jessie Thompson.



Thames South School students Anahere Wright, left, and Belle Wright-Ngeru.



Matatoki School twins Brae and Paige Hunt get their calves BFG and Daisy prepared for the ring.



Holly Short and Jorja Walmsley represent Hikutaia School.



Netherton's Leah and Kayden Drent.

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Rural Life

Coromandel to host first-ever 'Festival'

Predators and invasive species beware - the NZ Landcare Trust Ngā Mata-popori Whenua is holding Coromandel Peninsula's first community predator control and conservation "Festival".

The Boosting Biodiversity Festival, to be held this Thursday at the Thames Memorial Civic Centre, will provide the latest information, advice, and traps to encourage new and existing community trapping groups in the Hauraki-Coromandel area.

"The Hauraki-Coromandel area is a jewel of New Zealand, but we need to take care of it," NZ Landcare Trust catchments coordinator Ric Balfour said.

"On the edge of Thames and other towns we have quite low numbers of native birds and high numbers of rats, mustelids and possums.

"We've had feedback from a range of individuals and neighbourhood groups that they are eager to start backyard trapping but needed support.

"This Festival is a way to kickstart the process."

Ric said the Boosting Biodiversity Festival would be a "fun event to demystify predator management and trapping", as well as to provide support and advice on how to get started.

It will be an opportunity to learn about traps, baits, lures, monitoring, recording (TrapNZ), and sharing successes, he

said.
"Our goal is to help establish Predator Free groups that support and grow the network of backyard trappers."

NZ Landcare Trust, the Thames Community Centre, DOC, and Thames Coast Kiwi Care, and PF Hauraki Coromandel Community Trust, were supporting the event to inspire more residents to get involved in trapping and gain advice on best practice, Ric said.

DETAILS: Boosting Biodiversity Festival, Thursday, October 19, 1pm-4pm at the Thames Memorial Civic Centre, 200 Mary Street, Thames.



NZ Landcare Trust catchments coordinator Ric Balfour. File photo: KELLEY TANTAU



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ADVERTISING FEATURE

From grungy cottage to 'grande dame'

Leanne Grinder's heritage home perfectly blends history with vibrancy. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

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

There's a motley collection of colours, textures, and eye-catching items; an aesthetic of excess that can't be seen from the roadside.

A step from the quiet footpath of Davy Street in Thames, where a buzzing reverberates from the lavender bushes, there is a quaint cottage that looks a picture - its white facade a fresh backdrop against the roses that have not yet bloomed.

But inside there is an eclectic fusion of neon and floral; the maximalism effect of interior design that makes each cor-

ner of the restored villa interesting.

There's a lamp in the shape of a gold pineapple, a neon flamingo and an ornamental rabbit. As *Born to be Wild* plays around the room, a tiger-printed cushion makes itself known.

"I'm not a shrinking violet when it comes to colour," Leanne Grinder says.

Leanne and her husband, Peter "the paperhanger," purchased the property back in 2015.

Early photos show it being a high-ceiling fixer-upper that was on its way to becoming someone else's sanctuary - with the pinks filtered throughout the home either on wallpaper or rugs or

throws having a stronger significance than just their shade.

The villa's previous owner was diagnosed with stage four breast cancer, and ended up being tended to by Sweet Louise, a New Zealand service that provides support for those living with incurable breast cancer.

When she passed away, Leanne and Peter took over the house as a deceased estate.

"Proceeds of the sale were donated to Sweet Louise," Leanne says, "and I just thought: 'You know what, I'm going to do this place justice'".

In mid-2022, Leanne was given her

own breast cancer diagnosis. She says she caught the cancer early and, after six months of treatment, is now clear.

"So, there is this strange kind of synergy with the home," she says, "but when I first walked in, it had this amazing feeling to it. I mean, the kitchen bench was still sitting in the lounge room, but it had all 'the feels'."

Passing into the dining area, there is a large bouquet of flowers that sits proudly when cats Dexter and Felix aren't trying their paws at floral arranging.

Opposite it, there's an ornate gramophone, and on the other side of the

CONTINUED ON P14

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

New interior design company brings fresh perspectives

A fusion of creativity and craftsmanship

A new interior design company is making waves. The recently established Berns & Co brings together two seasoned professionals in the field, each with their own unique expertise, to offer residents a fresh perspective on interior design.

The brainchild of two passionate individuals, Berns & Co is set to revolutionize the interior design landscape in our community. The company's co-owners, Bernadette du Plooy and Malcolm Paton, have joined forces to blend creativity and craftsmanship like never before.

Bernadette du Plooy, the creative genius behind Berns & Co, possesses an impressive resume with more than seven years of interior design experience, specializing in Kitchen and Bathroom design. Her keen eye for aesthetics and a natural flair for design have led to numerous successful projects that have left clients in awe.

Her passion for creating functional yet visually stunning spaces has made her a sought-after designer in the region.

On the other hand, Malcolm Paton brings a wealth of practical experience to the table. With an astounding 25 years in the industry, he has honed his skills as a joiner and cabinet maker to perfection. In addition to co-owning Berns & Co, he also owns his own



The brainchild of co-owners Bernadette du Plooy and Malcolm Paton, Berns & Co is set to revolutionize the interior design landscape in our community.

Photo: NIKKI SANDERS

kitchen manufacturing business Paton Kitchens, making him an invaluable resource when it comes to turning design concepts into tangible, beautifully crafted spaces. His commitment to quality and precision is the driving force behind the company's motto: "Crafting Dreams into Reality".

Together, this dynamic duo aims to transform homes and businesses into havens of style, functionality, and comfort. Berns & Co offers a compre-

hensive suite of services, ranging from conceptual design and space planning to material selection and project management. Their goal is not only to meet but exceed the expectations of their clients.

In a recent statement, Bernadette said: "We believe that the perfect interior space should not only be visually appealing but also reflect the personality and needs of its inhabitants".

"At Berns & Co, we strive to create

designs that resonate with our clients on a personal level, ensuring that every project is a true reflection of their individuality."

Malcolm added: "Craftsmanship is at the core of what we do. We take pride in our ability to bring our clients' visions to life with meticulous attention to detail. Our experience in kitchen manufacturing and woodworking sets us apart, allowing us to create custom pieces that add a unique

touch to every project."

Berns & Co is already gaining recognition for its innovative approach to interior design. Their portfolio boasts a range of projects that showcase their ability to blend aesthetics with functionality seamlessly. Whether it's a modern kitchen makeover, a luxurious bathroom redesign, or an entire home transformation, Berns & Co is equipped to handle it all. The company's commitment to sustainability is also commendable. Berns & Co sources eco-friendly materials and implements energy-efficient design principles whenever possible, aligning with the community's growing awareness of environmental issues.

As Berns & Co opens its doors to the community, residents can look forward to a new era of interior design that marries creativity and craftsmanship. Whether you're seeking to revamp your home or spruce up your business space, Berns & Co promises to bring fresh perspectives and innovative solutions to the table.

To learn more about Berns & Co and explore their portfolio of stunning projects, visit their website at www.bernsandco.co.nz. You can also schedule a consultation to embark on your journey toward a more beautiful and functional living or working space. With Berns & Co's arrival, our community can look forward to a vibrant and inspired approach to interior design, where creativity knows no bounds, and craftsmanship reaches new heights.

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CONTINUED FROM P11

room, sitting on the custom built-in, is a record player.

Leanne says the gramophone works but sounds a bit scratchy, while the record player has around 700 different records to choose from.

“Music has been a part of my life since I was a teenager. I was the girl who made the mix-tapes. I’m the one who makes the playlist for the party,” she says. “Music has been the one constant throughout my whole life.”

There are also items of nostalgic significance for Leanne, like the gold standing globe in the living room.

“When I was growing up, I had a school desk with a world map on it, and instead of doing my homework, I used to study the map and I got really good at knowing all the capitals around the world,” she recalls.

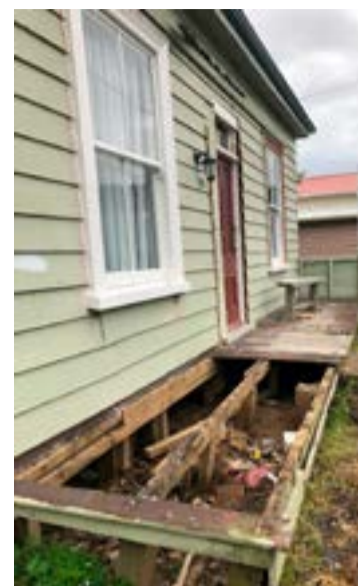
“I just wanted to create my own vibe here and then I discovered there was a word for it.”

That word was maximalism, and it describes an interior design trend that mixes different colours with different patterns and prints. It pays homage to ‘more is more’.

“The house is full of things I just really love,” Leanne says, “and I wanted to embrace the heritage, too.”

“I think if we moved out, and you didn’t have all this stuff here, it would still look like a really beautiful house in tones that suit the age of it. The decor is what’s giving off another vibe.”

The couple had to completely remove and reinstate the front verandah because people had to be careful where



ABOVE: The home was in poor condition at the time of purchase. RIGHT: Leanne has added fretwork to separate the living and dining areas, and the quality harks back to the home’s 100-year history.

they stepped. They took all the walls back to the exterior to be able to install insulation, and they also put in new windows and doors.

Leanne has even added fretwork to separate the living and dining areas, and the quality harks back to the home’s 100-year history. There’s also a study and a bathroom at the back of the house that has been rebuilt from the ground up.

“Heaps of people have watched this [renovation] since day one, and they always comment on how much they love what we’ve done to it.”

CONTINUED ON P15



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Inside there is an eclectic fusion of neon and floral; the maximalism effect of interior design that makes each corner of the restored villa interesting. Photos: SUPPLIED



CONTINUED FROM P14

It's really lovely and rewarding," Leanne says, "and I think this house will be good to go for another 100 years".

Leanne has spent some time studying towards an interior design diploma, and her goal is to finish it off now that she has the "all-clear" regarding her cancer diagnosis.

"When I was in high school, I did technical drawing, and my career goal was to actually go into drafting or

something to do with plans," she said.

"So, all of the things I've done here, these projects, I've pretty much made those plans."

While not an architect, Leanne still dabbles in colour and design on the daily. She owns the Pollen St salon Walter & Co, but says her public-facing job can sometimes be akin to a goldfish bowl. That's why it's so important for her home to be her sanctuary.

"This job needed to be done right. You can't cut corners on a house this

old," she says. "I'd love to know its whole history - it's got a story of its own to tell - but I just wanted to turn it from a grungy miners cottage into a grande dame."

And when it comes to the feminine aspects of the villa - the floral wallpaper and duvets, and the lavish pink bouquets, Leanne says her husband doesn't feel emasculated by any of it.

In fact, her design flair has even rubbed off on visiting tradesmen.

And for people who want to expand

their design know-how and move away from minimalism, Leanne says to take it one step at a time.

"If you're a little bit scared of colour on the walls, then be a bit braver with your furnishings perhaps," she says.

"I do think homes like this do suit colour, so if you've got a heritage home and you ever want to be brave with it... it really is so lovely to live within."



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Love YOUR HOME

ADVERTISING FEATURE

The kitchen is the beating heart of any home

No matter what the design or layout of a house, the kitchen is its beating heart. So it's vital that the kitchen works seamlessly – to facilitate the meals that will be prepared there, along with the more mundane tasks like washing up.



A well-designed kitchen will encourage easy social interaction and provide an element of theatre. File Photo: PIXABAY

But more than that, a well-designed kitchen will encourage easy social interaction and provide an element of theatre.

For good kitchen design to take place, early consideration of appliance selection is crucial.

“The rapidly expanding range of appliance formats, shapes and sizes means that one-size-fits-all no longer holds for good kitchen design”, says Mark Milmine, owner of 100% Thames and 100% Whitianga.

“In spite of having the largest range of kitchen appliances on the peninsula, our stores can only display a small fraction of the products available.

“Our highly trained team will hunt down the right appliances for your lifestyle, to ensure you get the kitchen of your dreams,” he said.

Early consideration of freestanding versus built-in ovens is critical. In premium kitchens, twin ovens and companion products are growing in popularity.

“And customers shouldn't leave choice of rangehood format until it's too late for options,” Mark said.

Whilst almost all dishwashers fit the same cavity, integrated dishwashers (hidden behind cabinetry) or twin single Dish-Drawers™ are finding favour among discerning renovators.

Possibly the largest trend in kitchen ap-

pliances, literally, is the rapid growth in demand for large format French-door and quad-door fridge-freezers.

Having more than 700 litres of capacity in the kitchen is appealing but, with some models over 1800mm high and 900mm wide, early product selection is vital.

“Our team is committed to helping customers secure their first-choice appliances, in a timeframe that fits their renovation project.

“Customers can no longer assume that every model is always in stock in New Zealand, however we can help them navigate the challenging supply landscape – and together we can ensure their project is successful,” Mark said.

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Love YOUR HOME

ADVERTORIAL

New local team, same quality service at Totalspan

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

It's a new era for the team at Totalspan Coromandel.

New owners Kyle Sheppard and Nicola Olesen took on the franchise in February this year and since then, the couple have been busy building up their connections with the community.

And while they offer the same quality, steel framed building solutions as other Totalspan franchises nationwide, they're keen to bring a more local feel back to their store.

"We've got strong family values, and we know how to treat people right," Kyle said.

Hauraki and the Coromandel have always been home for the pair - Nicola grew up on a farm in the tight-knit community of Ngatea, while Kyle is a fifth-generation Thames-ite. And with plenty of family still in the area, as well as a sports-mad son, they plan to remain a part of the community for some time to come.

"I've grown up with a family that's always been involved in the community and have recently completed 17 years in the Thames fire brigade myself," Kyle said.

The couple are also both firm believers in family activities and organised sports, and are proud to be able to support some local clubs and teams in their endeavours.

"We both benefited from people and businesses supporting



The new Totalspan Coromandel team are keen to bring more local feel back to their store.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

clubs when we were young and are happy to do our bit now" the couple agreed.

Kyle and Nicola's local, family-centric philosophy has followed them into the workplace as well.

"The business wasn't owned locally for a long time - but now we're all from here," Kyle said.

"We've been fortunate enough to retain the existing quality people, and we are working hard to

wards building a fantastic team for the future."

Alongside Nicola and Kyle, the team also includes Charles Kempster, sales consultant, and Amanda Richards in sales support/project administration, as well as three builders and other contractors.

With more than 25 years' experience in the building industry between Charles and Kyle, they really know their stuff.

"We're now consistently getting good feedback, which was one of our main aims after taking over," Kyle said.

"Now, our goal is to be the preferred solution for steel frame buildings in the residential and commercial market for the Coromandel and Hauraki Plains."

Kyle and Nicola are happy to welcome the community into their site at unit 1, 46 Main Road Kopu,

Thames for a chat.

"We value our amazing community and aim to bring a local focus to our business.

"We believe in the Totalspan brand and look forward to discussing your building needs with you and bringing your dream to life," they said.



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Yvonne & Henri Schipper



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Hauraki District Libraries team leader Marion Kroukam said the afternoon saw the library “abuzz with people”. Photo: SUPPLIED

Launch of *True Tales of Waihi*

On Saturday, October 7, Hauraki District Libraries hosted an auspicious occasion at Waihi Library with the launch of the latest collection in a “fantastic” range of books.

The Treasury Research Centre and Archive has published *True Tales of Waihi*, a collection of local stories by local people.

This complements the other 11 books in the series.

Hauraki District Libraries team leader Marion Kroukam said the afternoon saw the library “abuzz with people from all walks of life”.

“The excerpts being read by some of

the authors certainly made the audience want to buy a copy.

“Who wouldn’t want to hear how the Pumphouse was moved metre by metre across town by men and women and not machinery?”

“The proceeds from the sales of the books are used for keeping the Treasury Research Centre and Archive open, as they have unfortunately lost some funding in recent times,

“Every cent counts at the moment,” she said.

DETAILS: *If you would like a copy, visit www.thetreasury.org.nz/book-shop, or pop into any local bookshop.*

Change to Kerbside Collection

Week - 23 to 27 October
All recycling and food scraps



Tuesday 24 October

Whiritoa and Waihi Zone 1

Wednesday 25 October

Waihi Zone 2, Waikino, Mackaytown and Karangahake

Thursday 26 October

Kerepēhi, Turua, Kaiaua, Ngātea and Waitakaruru

Friday 27 October

Paeroa

Kerbside collections will be one day later than normal for 23-27 October



Remember - Place your bins facing the kerbside by **7.30am**

Don't flip your lid in the windy weather!

Get a free bin clip for your recycling wheelie bin from one of our service centres.



Find out more about refuse and recycling and view the kerbside collection calendar at www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/rubbish-recycling

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Hato Hone St John

Hato Hone St John Thames

Youth program

Our St John youth programmes continue for the year. We have the Penguin Programme that caters for the 5 to 8 year olds to introduce these young people into fun and adventure in a controlled and supervised environment. The Cadet Programme is for the 8 to 18 year olds and provides a focus on first aid, healthcare, leadership and general life skills.

Both are popular and aid with increasing community resilience.

- > make positive impacts on today's youth
- > developing leadership, life skills and fun
- > we mentor and coach in life skills
- > build self-esteem and confidence
- > provide exciting leadership development

If you have children looking for fun and development, there are currently some vacancies on each programme.

Youth Leader vacancies

We are also keen to expand our Youth Leadership team to assist our Youth Divisional Manager run these programmes. If you are 18 years or older and keen to assist, we would like to hear from you.

St John - local people serving the needs of our community.

For further information phone Shane Deverill on **021 955 860** or email: auraki.community@stjohn.org.nz



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1000 babies born in Paeroa



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.

1948

The 1000th baby to enter the world at the Paeroa Maternity Hospital since Matron W Moore and Sister D Moore had been in charge was born in December.

The baby boy's mother was a resident of Paeroa and to honour the occasion she was presented with a suitably inscribed card by members of the hospital staff. The Moore sisters had been at the Paeroa Maternity Hospital for seven and a half years.

Thames's popular constable J G 'Gerry' Williamson was farewelled at a function in the Thames Courthouse. Constable Williamson had been a member of the Thames police force for 12 years, and during that time he had made many friends and very few enemies.

The town could ill-afford to lose one of his type. Mrs Williamson had always been a good sport. A policeman's wife did not always have an easy life, but she had been a friend to all the police staff and on occasions when it was most needed there was always a cup of tea ready.



The official opening of the Paeroa Maternity Hospital in 1930. Photo: SUPPLIED

Constable Williamson was presented with a fire screen and wood box and Mrs Williamson a dressing table set. The police force gave them a sum of money.

Constable Williamson thanked everyone for their good wishes, and stated that he had always been very happy at the police station. He and his wife would be very sorry to leave Thames, as they had come to regard it as their home town. During his service there had been six sergeants at the station, and the work of the police had always run smoothly because of the co-operation of the members of the force who had been stationed there.

Newly introduced African kikuyu grass was found growing in patches on the Hauraki Plains. One or two farmers had scattered areas of it on their farms and a patch of it had also been identified growing on the runway of the Thames aerodrome at Parawai. Mr Banfield, agriculture instructor, reported that the grass could be farmed with success under certain conditions. As the grass made severe demands on the soil, it must be top dressed. It must

be grown in conjunction with clovers, which were necessary to provide adequate nitrogen. It must be intensively grazed; otherwise it became coarse and unpalatable. It was most aggressive, spreading rapidly by both surface and underground runners. For this reason it should never be introduced where cultivation for crops was intended. The grass was high in feed value and production when properly farmed.

A worrying whistle from one of the engines using the rail track to the Waihi mine had a most disturbing tone and pitch. It was causing suffering and annoyance to sick and aged folk and also to very young children living near the rail track.

It was used to much greater excess than the whistle of the other engine and made more noise than the mine whistle, Akrad's Radio's siren and the Taneatua Express put together. How men were able to work with it all day was hard to understand; children were seen crying in fear as the crazy abomination went by. What with smells and noise, Waihi was becoming very backward and neglected.

ENTERTAINMENT



Corvine will air at Show Me Shorts film festival in Thames. SUPPLIED

Show Me Shorts returns

New Zealand's leading international short film festival, Show Me Shorts, is coming to Thames this month.

The Thames Coast Community Kindergarten is excited to be hosting two screenings from the festival at the Thames War Memorial Civic Centre on October 21.

Previously held by Thames South School, the festival has not screened locally for several years, so organiser Kerry Daniel was really pleased to be bringing the event back to Thames.

The 3pm screening "Whanau Friendly" (PG) is a collection of eight animated short films for children and their families to enjoy together.

Join the Prime Minister's daughter at parliament buildings. Discover a floating world in danger. Meet an eccentric boy with a love of crows, a space dog and a

spider. Bring cash for popcorn and icecream and share an enchanting cinematic experience with the whole family.

At 7pm, "The Sampler" (M) will screen, which includes some of the top short films from this year's Show Me Shorts Film Festival.

The collection is designed to entertain, delight and show off rising talent in the filmmaking scene from Aotearoa and abroad.

Four international films feature, including 7 Minutes, directed by Ricky Gervais with his trademark awkwardness. Three homegrown shorts follow a runaway fiancée, a failing mind and a quirky government department. Wine and beer will be available for purchase, along with home baking, tea and coffee in the intermission.

DETAILS: Tickets: humanitix.com or Carson's Bookshop (cash). Whanau Friendly \$10, The Sampler \$20.

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- Are supported directly by the ground
- Are not plumbed into a house
- Meet all other legislative requirements such as district plan requirements before they need consent

Find out more at building.govt.nz

THAMES COROMANDEL DISTRICT COUNCIL

tcdc.govt.nz/savewater

Bookarama planned at St James

The books are sorted, the tables have been erected, and the Zonta Club of Thames Valley is anticipating its next Bookarama this Friday and Saturday.

The annual fundraiser helps projects locally, nationally, and internationally, and will see hundreds of books for sale at the St James Church hall in Thames.

Previous years have seen the club raise thousands of dollars for valuable causes, such as grants for new midwives, as well as supporting Grandpar-

ents Raising Grandchildren in the area.

Every year, Zonta organises Bookarama – to make quality books and publications available to the community at low cost, and a Pink Walk - to raise money for NZ Breast Cancer Foundation.

The group has also helped pregnant women with petrol vouchers to go to Waikato Hospital for check-ups; Thames Foodbank and toiletry packs at Christmas for Thames Hospital and women's refuge.

It also gives individual grants to women for course fees and related expenses for further education, short courses, participating in sports events (e.g., travel costs), participating in artistic or cultural events outside the Waikato region, educational field trip/camp, facilitating/enabling learning and /or skill development.

DETAILS: The Bookarama kicks off at 9am both days and browsers are sure to find a bargain. Find Zonta Club of Thames Valley on Facebook for more information.



Zonta's Bookarama opens this weekend at St James Hall. FILE PHOTO

Where to find help

Talk to someone you trust - a friend or someone in your family/whānau

Talk to someone you see regularly - a doctor, nurse, member of your church or spiritual leader

Make a free confidential appointment to see a financial mentor or local budget service

Talk confidentially with an agency experienced in dealing sensitively with elder abuse. Eg: Age Concern

Call either the abuse helpline 0800 EA IS NOT OK or free phone Age Concern 0800 652 105 for free and confidential support

Call the national elder abuse 24 hour free phone line on 0800 32 668 65 or text 5032 or email support@elderabuse.nz

If you or an older person are in immediate danger, call the police on 111.

Watch this space for weekly updates



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Stan Reihana of That Painter Ltd says it's time to spruce up indoor living spaces and dull exteriors.

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- Ruth (Thames).
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Public Notices

ZONTA
THAMES VALLEY AREA

BOOKARAMA
Fri Oct 20th 9am - 5pm
Sat Oct 21st 9am - 3pm
St James Church Hall
Pahau St, Thames

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CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12pm Friday

Church Notice

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• E - Waihi105@gmail.com

Public Notice

AGM
Friends of the Historic Kōpū Bridge
Saturday 28th Oct 2023
PLEASE NOTE
STARTING TIME IS 2pm
NOT 3pm as previously advertised.

St. George's Church Hall
Committee Room
Mackay Street, Thames
All Welcome

Public Notice

Hauraki Plains Netball Centre
Annual General Meeting
Sun 19th Nov 2023 4pm
Ngatea Rugby & Sports Club
All welcome : email haurakinnetball@gmail.com
for full agenda
Followed by - Planning Meeting 2024 5pm
(RSVP for catering)

Public Notice

As next Monday is a Public Holiday, please note classifieds need to be in by 12pm this Friday, October 20th

The Valley Profile

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The Valley Profile
CoromandelApp

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A qualification in journalism or equivalent and experience in a newsroom environment is preferred, but not essential. Sales experience is an advantage.

We are looking for a reliable, hard working creative writer who:

- Is seriously organised - a planner and forward thinker
- Has superior time management - remains calm under deadline pressure
- Is an ideas person - creative and passionate about local community news
- Has a can-do attitude - happy to pitch in and get things done
- Loves writing and talking to people
- Has a keen eye for detail, with excellent spelling/grammar
- Has basic computer/web/social media skills
- Is a self-starter: Can take initiative and work without supervision

The successful applicant will be required to find and write features, advertorials, business profiles, cover events/breaking news and take quality photographs/video for the Valley Profile and Coromandel App. Some evening/weekend work may be required occasionally. Hybrid working environment. Clean driver licence essential.

Please send applications, including a resume and samples of your writing and photographs, to editor@valleyprofile.co.nz. Position description available upon request. Applications close October 27, 2023.

"Now that I'm 60, every morning I look in the mirror and say, 'I don't know who you are, stranger, but I'm gonna shave you anyway.'" - Presidential speechwriter Milton Friedman

"You have to stay in shape. My grandmother started walking five miles a day when she was 60. She's 97 today, and we don't know where the hell she is." - Ellen Degeneres

CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12pm Friday

Public Notice



Enrolment at Netherton School is governed by an enrolment scheme. Information and forms are available on the school website www.netherton.school.nz

Limited places for out of zone children are available for 2024 and 2025 year.

Applications close midday Friday 27th October 2023 and are to be emailed to principal@netherton.school.nz

Public Notice

CAPS HAURAKI INC.
The Annual General Meeting of CAPS Hauraki Inc.

Will be held on:
Tuesday 21st November 2023
at 7.00 pm,
At the CAPS Hauraki Office, 205 Willoughby Street, Thames.

Please RSVP by the 17th November 2023 to:
Phone: 07 868 8644 or
reception@capshauraki.co.nz

Public Notice

Temporary Road Closure

Pursuant to the Section 11(e) of the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974, notice is hereby given that for the purpose of a Motorsport Rally Tarmac Sprint event. The following road will be closed to ordinary vehicular traffic for the period indicated below. During the period of closure provision will be made for ordinary vehicular traffic, which would otherwise use the road, to use alternative routes.

Period of closure: Sunday 22 October 2023, 9.00am to 6.00pm.

Road to be closed: Golden Cross Road, Waikino.


Alternative provision for ordinary vehicular traffic will be made with signs, cones and barriers to redirect traffic on detour.

It will be an offence under the above regulations for any person otherwise than under authority of an authorised permit to use the road for ordinary vehicular traffic during the proposed period of closure.

L D Cavers
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council

Public Notice

DISTRICT LICENSING COMMITTEE MEETING



Pursuant to Section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, public notice is hereby given that the following meeting will be held during the month of November 2023 in the Council Chamber, Hauraki House, 1 William Street, Paeroa.

District Licensing Committee
Hearing: Application - 131 Restaurant and Bar, Normanby Road, Paeroa – On Licence
Thursday, 2 November 2023, 10:00am

L D Cavers
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council



www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz

Cannabis stolen from station



By **RON AGNEW**

There weren't so many hard drugs around in Thames in the 1970s and 80s. So cannabis was the big deal for Police in those days; and an annual fly over of the peninsula by hired helicopter by Police occurred, with a constable lowered by winch to pull plants out. There were quite a number of plantations uncovered each year on the peninsula, with some plants well over 2 metres high. They were winched back up and flown back to Thames.

Because a prosecution was pending, I secured a quantity of very large plants in our storeroom at the old police station at 760 Queen St. It has internal bars and grills on all the internal doors (or used to!), and the outside window facing Queen St had solid bars over the window. Unfortunately, I placed the plants against the window that night.

The next morning, we found a car jack had prised all the bars apart, and had been used to smash the reinforced glass in. The plants were all missing, pulled out through the window! I thought afterwards, what a silly thing to do, to place them against the window.

Some years there were too many plants to deal with. So we piled them all up out the

back of Thames airfield, and with a little petrol, set fire to them. Made quite a few, although I don't think we ever checked which way the wind was blowing to preclude the possibility of cannabis fumes and smoke wafting over and through Thames.

Funnily enough, we did have a wonderful and enthusiastic young co-ordinator at our Neighbour Support Group at Waikawau. He took all the reports from the locals up the of suspicious activity.

Sadly, he was arrested the following year by the CIB for running a large cannabis growing and distribution operation from his small hill farm and three-storey house up there. It was so big, a special bush surveillance team came from Wellington to survey and film his operation to obtain the evidence. I think his home was taken under the proceeds of the crime legislation. He had so much cash, he didn't know what to do with it all. There were empty sealed 20-litre paint containers of cash hidden around the farm, and in the wall linings of his home.

However, mostly our Neighbourhood Support Groups, created in town and through the area, worked well. We had wonderful co-ordinators in town and up the coast, and southwards too.

Elain Bycroft and Noel Mcfarlane helped me get Victim Support started in Thames. Their energy to the project was amazing and we ended up with a wonderful group of volunteers available for call outs from home all hours of the day and night to assist with fatal accidents, sudden deaths, homicides, etc. From memory, I think we had five homicides in one year, from the far north of the peninsula involving a hunter, to south of Waihi, involving a gang dispute.

Graeme Wood was a Victim Support volunteer, who served the community for decades in this role. We are so grateful to people like Graeme, who selflessly serve the community.

- Ron Agnew is a former Thames Police officer

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SUDOKU

122

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

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

EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

HARD

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

MEDIUM

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

EASY

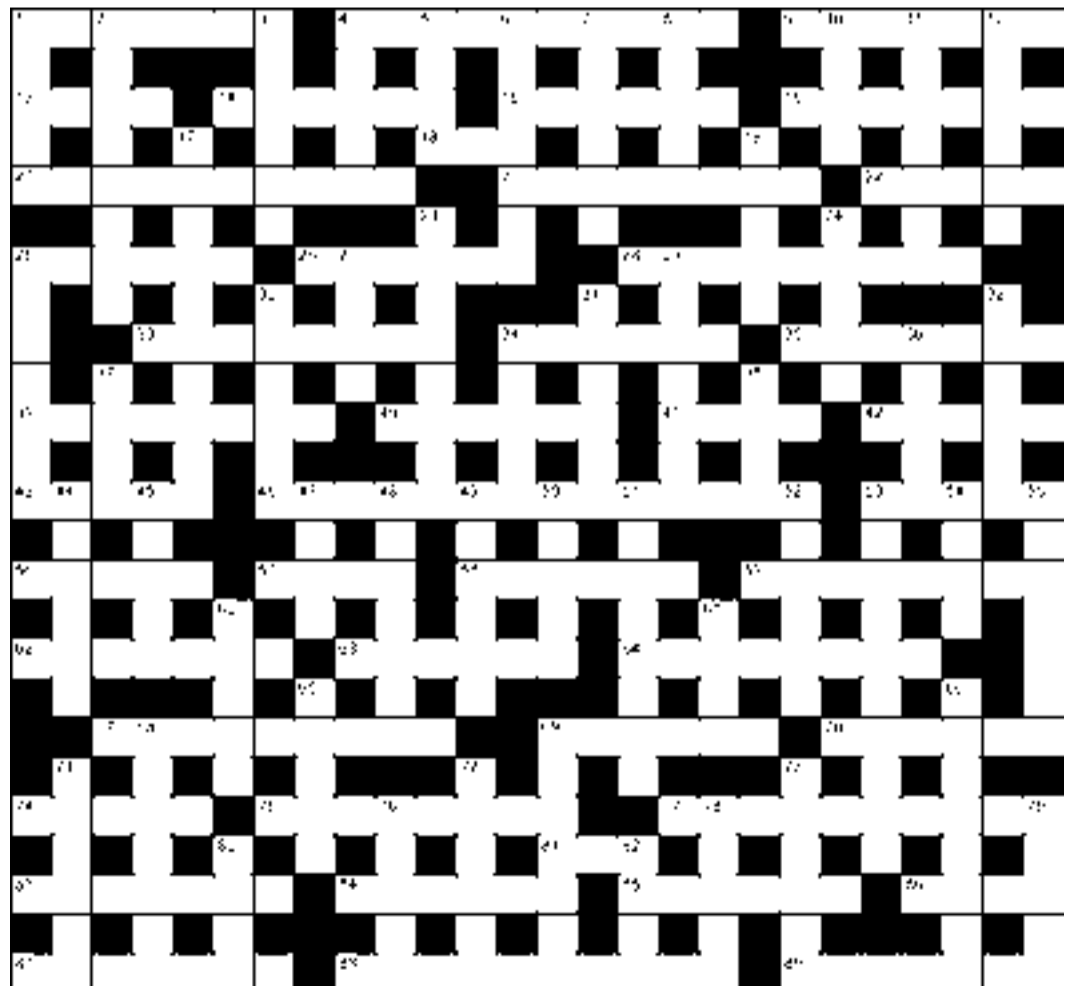
8	2	9	4	7	3	5	1	6
4	7	5	1	6	8	3	2	9
6	3	1	9	2	5	4	7	8
9	4	2	7	3	6	8	5	1
1	8	7	5	9	2	6	4	3
3	5	6	8	1	4	2	9	7
5	9	4	3	8	1	7	6	2
7	6	8	2	4	9	1	3	5
2	1	3	6	5	7	9	8	4

Puzzles © The Puzzle Company
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JUMBO CROSSWORD

142

- ACROSS**
- 1 Marriage ceremony (7)
 - 4 Faster than sound (10)
 - 9 Foresee (7)
 - 13 Italian white wine (4)
 - 14 Up-to-date (6)
 - 15 Thwarted (6)
 - 16 Wild cat (7)
 - 18 Consume (3)
 - 20 Countryside pursuit (3-7)
 - 21 Diplomatic envoy (8)
 - 22 Fake (5)
 - 25 Conquer (6)
 - 26 Starter's shells (6)
 - 28 Doubting (9)
 - 33 Mammoth (8)
 - 34 Orb (6)
 - 35 Intones (anag)(7)
 - 39 Scholarly (8)
 - 40 Clay worker (6)
 - 41 Exhale hard (4)
 - 42 Strengthening strut (5)
 - 43 Abates (5)
 - 46 Something worthy of careful consideration (4,3,7)
 - 53 Expanse of short grass (5)
 - 56 Pungent flavouring powder (5)
 - 57 Deep singing voice (4)
 - 58 Empties (6)
 - 59 Court (8)
 - 62 Book (7)
 - 63 Break in a series (6)
 - 64 Swing the lead (8)
 - 67 Habitual gesture (9)
 - 69 Curving outward (6)
 - 70 Counterbalance (6)
 - 74 Trité (5)
 - 75 Work (8)
 - 77 Cave projection (10)
 - 81 Lie (3)
 - 83 Sunshade (7)
 - 84 Reprimand (6)
 - 85 Bumpy (6)
 - 86 Work party (4)
 - 87 Came to rest (7)
 - 88 Incarcerated (10)
 - 89 Eternal (7)
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Jetty (5)
 - 2 Remove poison from (8)
 - 3 Size increase (6)
 - 4 Rear part (5)
 - 5 Window glass (4)
 - 6 Roof beams (7)
 - 7 Source (6)
 - 8 Things (5)
 - 10 Stink (4)
 - 11 Certificate (7)
 - 12 Cloud type (6)
 - 17 Nausea (10)
 - 19 Burial place (5)
 - 23 Finish work for the day (5,3)
 - 24 Passenger ship (5)
 - 25 Let air out of (7)
 - 27 Overdue (4)
 - 29 Reindeer (7)
 - 30 Duty (6)
 - 31 Kirk (6)
 - 32 Agree (6)
 - 34 Goat-man creature (5)
 - 35 Threaded fastener (5)
 - 37 Girl (4)
 - 38 Night insect (4)
 - 44 Astuteness (6)
 - 45 Eagle's nest (5)
 - 47 Ellipse (4)
 - 48 Sack (7)
 - 49 Quirk (6)
 - 50 Salty drops (5)
 - 51 Salve (8)
 - 52 Crowd (6)
 - 53 Ruse (10)
 - 54 Relation (4)
 - 55 Glee (7)
 - 60 Happening (5)
 - 61 Run away (4)
 - 65 Tiler's filler (5)
 - 66 Guess (8)
 - 68 Unshakeable in purpose, determination, opinion (7)
 - 69 Own up to (7)
 - 71 Table wine container (6)
 - 72 Alcoholic spirits (6)
 - 73 Assert, claim (6)
 - 76 Butter ingredient (5)
 - 78 Flecked woollen fabric (5)
 - 79 Boundaries (5)
 - 80 Manage (4)
 - 82 Heat injury (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Here's mud in your eye, 10 Acrimony, 15 Bakery, 16 Anticlimax, 17 Anaconda, 19 Textile, 21 Limps, 22 Blueprint, 25 Espionage, 27 Garnish, 29 Proved, 33 Medal, 34 Bookworm, 36 Collateral, 39 Imp, 41 Scuttle, 42 Bazaar, 43 Energy, 44 Calm, 45 Headway, 48 Satellites, 53 Trisect, 57 Moat, 58 Cavity, 59 Nectar, 60 Fanatic, 62 Sad, 64 Dotted line, 65 Intrepid, 66 Strip, 69 Tailor, 70 Divulge, 71 Optometry, 76 Defective, 77 Regal, 78 Prosper, 83 Original, 84 Evaporated, 85 Squirm, 86 Diligent, 87 Bring home the bacon.

DOWN: 2 Erased, 3 Erect, 4 May, 5 Dear, 6 Netting, 7 Occupy, 8 Raid, 9 Yearling, 11 Centre, 12 Incinerate, 13 Owns, 14 Yearned, 18 Pensioners, 20 Lair, 23 Ingot, 24 Overtake, 26 Started, 28 Admiral, 30 Rescue, 31 Voyage, 32 Slight, 35 Koala, 37 Limit, 38 Flea, 40 Pest, 45 Humid, 46 Abattoir, 47 Yearly, 48 Scientists, 49 Toys, 50 Landing, 51 Incite, 52 Evade, 54 Real, 55 Scatter, 56 Critic, 61 Recovering, 63 Pivot, 67 Survivor, 68 Gear, 69 Twofold, 72 Phantom, 73 Regain, 74 Search, 75 Weirdo, 79 Sauna, 80 Bill, 81 Spin, 82 Edit, 85 Sue.

Ceremony to break ground on new Barnardos Early Learning building in Turua



The Turua and wider community are invited to join staff from leading children’s charity Barnardos for a blessing and ceremony to break ground for their exciting new Early Learning Centre (ELC) building. The event will start at 5pm on 18 October at Turua ELC, on the corner of Raupoiti Street and Piako Road, and will be followed by refreshments.

The project is a fantastic example of Barnardos’ work and its long standing in this rural Waikato district. However, Barnardos is working proactively to fill a significant funding shortfall and has, at this stage, been able to commit only to the groundwork for the new centre.

“The breaking of the ground marks an important milestone for the project. We’re delighted to kickstart the work and will strive hard to bridge the funding gap,” said Chief Executive Matt Reid.

If full funding is achieved, an existing Barnardos building, formerly the Te Totara Early Learning Centre in Hamilton, will be divided into nine pieces and relocated to Turua by road. The disassembled building will be rebuilt and renovated on a new site owned by Hauraki District Council adjacent to the current ELC. The new service will be accessible for parents to easily drop off and pick up

their tamariki, suitable for those on the daily commute to and from work. The new building will also allow the ELC’s capacity to increase from 38 to around 55 babies and children, better serving local whānau and the growing community in and around Turua.

Subject to funding, the relocated building will be kitted out with new furniture, and more resources and equipment. A new playground will also be created that will be available to the local community during the long summer evenings and weekends. The current centre will continue to operate until the new building is ready to open.

Matt Reid said, “Recycling our Te Totara building is a fantastic opportunity to upgrade and expand our Turua ELC sustainably and cost-effectively. Once funding is secured and the building can be refitted, it will be a modern, fit-for-purpose centre providing early learning to the community that will give tamariki the strongest foundations for their

future and help them shine bright. I’m also pleased to say we’ll be gifting the existing ELC building to the Turua Community Trust to be repurposed as part of a new library and sports facility. I would like to thank the Turua community for their help with and support for this project.”

Barnardos’ Turua ELC is the only early learning centre in the area that provides for under 2s, as well as 3–5-year-olds. It operates from 7.30am to 5.30pm on weekdays. Barnardos offers financial support for parents who are unable to afford the full fees, subject to conditions.

Barnardos seeks support from local businesses, trusts, and philanthropists to help complete this project. If you are interested in supporting it, come along to the event or contact Barnardos on 0800 005 437 or email fundraising@barnardos.org.nz.

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