

# The Valley Profile

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ENABLING BETTER BUSINESS

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

## 'Worth remembering'

One hundred years to the day, Estelle Walsh walks through Waihi Cemetery placing flowers on the headstones of the boys who lost their lives in New Zealand's first and only school shooting.

It was October 19, 1923, when a gunman, John Christopher Higgins, entered Waikino School, wounded the headmaster, and shot at the children.

Headmaster Robert Theodore Reid survived. Nine-year-old Charles Alan Stewart, and 13-year-old Kelvin Maurice McLean did not.

"They've got to be acknowledged," she says.

Estelle's dad Johnny Monehan was 11-years-old when the shooting broke out at the school, tucked within the Karangahake Gorge.

"He heard the gunshots and the kids either climbed out or jumped out [of the windows], but he and his friend Harry Shaw hid under the table first.

"Then, they went and hopped into a cupboard and stayed there until everything had calmed down."

Eventually, the boys climbed out a window and ran to where their teacher was. But then, Johnny remembered his lunch and raced back inside to fetch it.

It sounds humorous, and when Estelle and her brothers first heard the story, it was, but the reality, she learned, was much more serious.

"His step-father used to beat him for anything, and he didn't want to get beaten for not eating his lunch," she recalls.

"My father said that his teacher was horrified when he ran back to the classroom, but happy when he got out safely. She told him off real good."

Estelle says her dad didn't talk about the death of his classmates, choosing to "keep that to him-



Estelle Walsh places flowers on the headstones. INSET: The gravestone of Charles Alan, left, and an old photo of Waikino students. Photos: KELLEY TANTAU

self", but his trauma continued when he and school friend Harry Shaw enlisted in World War II in their late-20s.

"They went overseas and were together when they heard the Germans coming. Dad went one way and Harry ran the other and stood on a mine.

"Dad had to leave him there, and that hurt him even more."

On the day Estelle walks through the cemetery, placing the flowers on the headstones of Charles and Kelvin, the sun is out and shining.

She, and other members of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists' Waihi branch, agree that the shooting should be remembered more often than not.

"It should be remembered, definitely," branch convenor Vicki

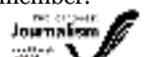
Beveridge says. "You're talking 100 years ago now and there's people who don't know about it, and I think that's quite sad - because these are still someone's children."

Around five years ago, comments were made regarding whether or not there should be a memorial at Waikino, and fellow genealogy member Harriet Taylor

stands by her belief that it should be up to the people of Waikino to make that decision.

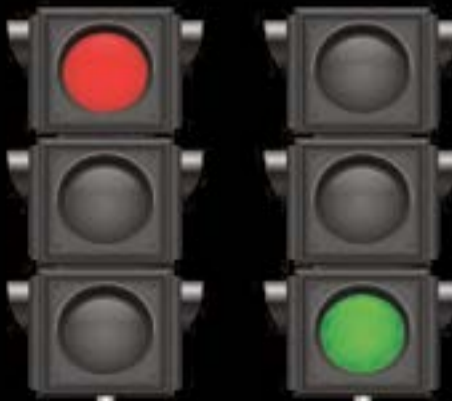
"I do know that there's some for and some against the whole thing," she says.

"There's some who don't want to know, but there are others who want to remember."



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The final beam (girder) was lifted into place on October 18.

Photo: SUPPLIED/NZTA

# Kōpū-Hikuai Rd bridge girders complete

The final beam, or girder, was lifted into place on the new State Highway 25A bridge on Wednesday, October 18, the transport agency says.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency said the girders were the long steel beams that spanned the abutments and piers, and supported the bridge deck.

"The next challenge for the team is forming the deck surface and installing the precast side barriers," Waka Kotahi told *The Profile*.

"There are 138 precast deck slabs and 44 side barriers to install

on the girders, weighing around six tonnes each. The deck will start to take shape in November."

Waka Kotahi confirmed that the \$50 million project was on track to be completed in March, 2024.

Contractors installed the girders over the past few weeks.

The girders are spliced together in combinations of 18 metre and 29m sections, and then lifted into place.

There is also steel bracing between the steel girders, which is progressively installed as the team work their way across from abut-

ment A (the western abutment) to abutment D (the eastern abutment).

Fabrication continues on the 138 concrete pre-cast panels, which will be placed on the steel beams to form the bridge deck, and 52 pre-cast side barriers.

Meanwhile, maintenance and recovery work is underway at various locations around the peninsula, including the Tairua and Takatakahia bridge strengthening.

"If you're out on the road, please keep an eye out for our traffic management and crews – and don't

forget to give them a wave. Waka Kotahi is committed to a safer Aotearoa New Zealand where no one is killed or seriously injured on our roads," Waka Kotahi said.

"This includes keeping our road workers safe – the people working on the country's roads who are doing their best to make them safer for you.

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## Thames Tides

Wed Oct 25	Thu Oct 26	Fri Oct 27	Sat Oct 28	Sun Oct 29	Mon Oct 30	Tue Oct 31
 Morning 3:57am 3.1 4:43pm 3.3 Afternoon 10:18am 0.8 10:55pm 0.7 Sunrise 6:21am 7:43pm Best At 9:48am 10:13pm Set 4:19am Rise 3:27pm	 Morning 5:07am 3.2 5:43pm 3.4 Afternoon 11:26am 0.7 11:55pm 0.5 Sunrise 6:20am 7:44pm Best At 10:38am 11:03pm Set 4:48am Rise 4:40pm	 Morning 6:12am 3.3 12:25pm 0.5 Afternoon 6:38pm 3.5 Sunrise 6:19am 7:45pm Best At 11:27am 11:52pm Set 5:16am Rise 5:52pm	 Morning 12:50am 0.4 1:17pm 0.4 Afternoon 7:11am 3.5 7:30pm 3.6 Sunrise 6:18am 7:46pm Best At 12:17pm Set 5:43am Rise 7:04pm	 Morning 1:42am 0.2 2:06pm 0.3 Afternoon 8:03am 3.6 8:21pm 3.6 Sunrise 6:17am 7:47pm Best At 12:42am 1:08pm Full Moon Set 6:12am Rise 8:16pm	 Morning 2:31am 0.2 2:53pm 0.3 Afternoon 8:52am 3.7 9:10pm 3.6 Sunrise 6:15am 7:48pm Best At 1:34am 2:00pm Set 6:44am Rise 9:29pm	 Morning 3:18am 0.2 3:39pm 0.4 Afternoon 9:38am 3.7 9:58pm 3.5 Sunrise 6:14am 7:49pm Best At 2:27am 2:55pm Set 7:21am Rise 10:39pm

\*Not for navigational purposes.  
Graphic supplied by OceanFun Publishing Ltd.  
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#### MOON AND FISH KEYS



#### TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES

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

PLACE	Hr	MIN	Hr	MIN
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

# ‘Green shoots’ showing for Thames

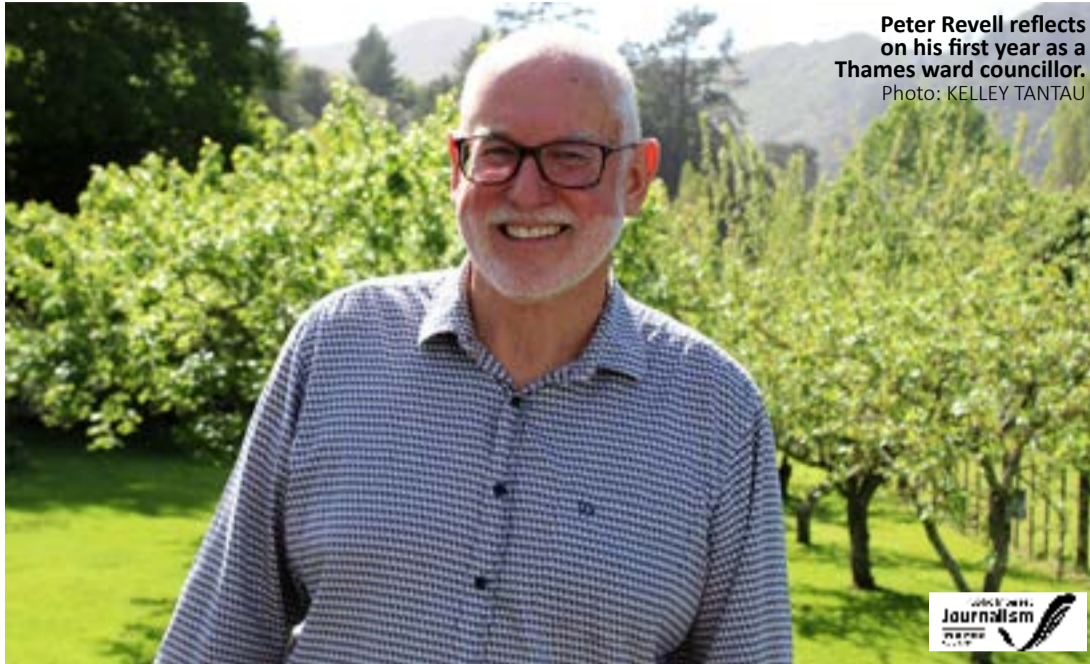
By KELLEY TANTAU, Public Interest Journalism funded by NZ On Air

One year has passed since Peter Revell transitioned from community board member to district councillor, and he says he has “absolute optimism” for the town that has faced some “obvious big challenges” recently.

Peter was voted in as one of three Thames-Coromandel District councillors for the Thames ward in last year’s local body elections. He sits alongside second-term councillors Martin Rodley and Robyn Sinclair.

It was hard sometimes, he said, to hear a “seemingly endless stream of negative comments” about Thames and the wider district when so much good was happening. “In one sense, there are some people who are always looking at what’s wrong rather than what’s right, while in some cases, there are people for which you understand their frustration and their difficulties,” he said. “But in the next six months, there are going to be all these things happening that will be good for Thames.”

Peter’s excitement stemmed from projects such as the restoration of State Highway 25A; the Kōpū Marine and Business Precinct; the Porritt Park playground redevelopment; new businesses such as a movie theatre and aviator experience opening in Pollen St; the Thames Public Art Trust’s final two sculptures being installed on the Hauraki Rail Trail; and the work to promote Thames as “a place to visit” being launched.



Peter Revell reflects on his first year as a Thames ward councillor. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

He also anticipated other, longer-term initiatives such as: an aquatic centre to replace the existing Thames pool; sea-level rise protection initiatives for Te Puru, Moanataiari, and Thames; the housing development in Totara Valley; and a bike trail following the Kauaeranga River.

“In my election campaign, I unashamedly banged on about the fact that I saw that we had the opportunity that a ‘new beginning’ presents – a new mayor, new chief executive, new councillors. That ‘new beginning’ has materialised,” he said, “and we are seeing the green shoots of a much brighter future.”

Peter and his wife Keri bought their property up the Kauaeranga Valley in 2008, completing the move to the district in 2012.

He admitted that it wasn’t his idea to relocate from the big smoke. “I came very willingly, but I enjoyed my life in Auckland, and I came here with not particularly high expectations,” he said.

“But I tell you, I’ve become an absolute evangelist for Thames. I know we have challenges, but let’s bite them off one at a time.”

Peter said he was yet to have success in getting the Kōpū roundabout to the top of the “relevant priority list” - he hoped it would someday get a purposeful inter-

vention to make the arrival to the Coromandel Peninsula a “wow” experience. He also said the “plethora” of ram raids in Thames had been yet another handbrake for businesses, and dealing with the impacts had been disappointing.

“Keri said to me about a month ago: ‘Is this council thing working out how you expected?’ and I said, ‘I don’t know what I expected’.

“I knew what it was like on the community board, and there were some frustrations on the previous community board for a variety of reasons, but we’ve got a refreshed board which is fantastic and I feel I am now able to make a bigger contribution to Thames.”

## Arrests made following ram raid, Police chase

Police have taken four people into custody following a ram raid burglary at a Waihi Beach store that was followed by a chase where offenders rammed a Police car.

Police said a vehicle was used to gain entry to the on Wilson Rd store around 3:40am on October 18.

“Following the burglary, Police sighted a vehicle of interest travelling on State Highway 26, Tirohia. Police activated lights and sirens around 4:30am, but the driver continued,” Police said.

Police followed the vehicle through Te Aroha on to Te Aroha-Gordon Rd, where a Police car was rammed, before continuing to Alexandra Rd.

“Luckily there were no injuries, and only minor damage to the Police vehicle,” Police said.

The vehicle continued through Wardville, Matamata, before coming to a stop in Waharoa, where the offenders left the vehicle on foot around 5:10am.

Police with the assistance of the Police dog unit tracked four people to residential addresses on Ward St where they were taken into custody around 5:30am.

Charges are being considered for two youths, a 23-year-old man and an 18-year-old woman.

A scene examination will be conducted at the store and of the vehicle. Enquiries are ongoing.



Villa 301/2 Sealey St, Thames. Asking price \$625,000

“This two bedroom Villa is available for sale under an occupation rights agreement. There is a capital gain sharing arrangement that is within the disclosure document. The asking price is \$625,000. The Villa has a road frontage on Sealey Street opposite the High School with an internal access garage alongside. It is one half of a duplex with both garages next to each other between the Villas ensuring quiet and privacy. The rear of the property features a conservatory opening out onto a neatly laid out fenced private North facing garden. The property is currently furnished and the vendors are willing to on-sell any of the furniture.

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# Education

## THS top Spirit of Adventure voyage

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

Thames High students proved they were one with the sea on a Spirit of Adventure voyage that saw them dolphin-watching and winning top points against three other schools.

The Spirit of Adventure Trust is an initiative that provides opportunities for youth development in New Zealand.

It provides classmates with a taste of adventure, challenges, and a healthy dose of competition within the Hauraki Gulf.

It was established in 1972 and Thames High students have been involved intermittently over the years, teacher Jasmine Yorke said.

“The five-day development voyage that we went on has four different school groups on board the ship. Each day they work together to complete a variety of challenges for points. The team with the most points on the fifth and final day wins the trophy,” she said.

The Spirit of Adventure’s development voyage runs over five nights on board its tall ship.

Activities in the programme include ship-handling, team-



Thames High students proved they were one with the sea on a Spirit of Adventure voyage that saw them winning top points against three other schools. Photos: SUPPLIED

work, problem-solving, debating, and water sports - in and on the water.

Students also go ashore and complete tasks and participate in competitive games, includ-

ing quizzes during night watch, raft racing, knot-tying, and raising sails.

“Myself and the students enjoyed the opportunity to make new friends from the other

schools, being away from the city, and getting the chance to try new things and learn new skills,” Miss Yorke said.

“[Highlights were] seeing dolphins as we sailed through



The school took home the Spirit of Adventure’s Trophy Voyage Award.

the harbour, winning the challenges, and exploring Kawau Island.”

The school also took home the Spirit of Adventure’s Trophy Voyage Award.

To go on the voyage, secondary students must be aged between 14-16, and spaces for participants are managed via ballot.

“We will express our interest next year,” Miss Yorke said.

“Because the voyages are so popular, there is a ballot and each school gets a chance at winning a spot.”



Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kaueranga  
**Thames High School**



Kia kōtahi ai te piki ake, kia ikeike rawa ki te taumata  
We grow together to achieve ones true potential

### CELEBRATING SUCCESS



#### Spirit of Adventure WIN

In a triumphant display of resilience, leadership, and teamwork, the students of Thames High School, led by the dedicated Kaiako Jasmine Yorke, embarked on an unforgettable voyage aboard the Spirit of Adventure. This week-long sailing adventure, which commenced on Sunday 17 September, took our young taiohi on a journey of a lifetime, circumnavigating the waters of Tikapa Moana o Hauraki. Our team was rewarded the prestigious Spirit of Adventure Trust Trophy Voyage Award. This accolade is a testament to the outstanding qualities displayed by our students throughout the voyage. Congratulations.



#### Sports Awards 2023

Tuesday 17 October Thames High School community celebrated the accomplishments of its young athletes which was diligently organised by Kaiako Head of Sport Carolyn Green and Tess Watts and supported by Student Leader’s Lauren Boersen, Hunter Rodgers, Holly Muir, Logan Smith and Karlana Lee. While many taiohi were acknowledged, Year 13 student Finely Lyon, claimed the coveted AMP Trophy: Colin Barlow AMP Cup for his outstanding contribution to school team sports. What a day of recognition and pride for Thames High School’s athletic community!



#### New Student Rep on Board

Abby Greenwood is duly elected as Student Representative on Thames High School Board. Abby took office on Thursday 21 September 2023. It’s also commendable that there were four candidates who put themselves forward for election, showing a strong commitment to the school’s governance and leadership. The Thames High School Board collaborates with parents, staff, and students to set strategic direction and review policies. Congratulations to Abby Greenwood and the candidates for their involvement in this process!



#### New school counsellor

“Kia Ora, I’m Kylie. I transitioned from a nine-year RTLB role in Paeroa to become a school counselor, having previously been a classroom teacher. My consistent approach involves nurturing meaningful relationships, fostering trust, and embracing curiosity to explore better ways of life. I counselled Paeroa College students one day a week while pursuing a Master of Counseling at Waikato University. Upon its completion next year, I will hold this qualification alongside a Master of Specialist Teaching and a Communications degree.”  
Haere mai Kylie.



#### Looking Ahead

We expect to have a pōwhiri for our new tumuaki tuarua / deputy principal, Mr Christopher Ashforth, on Monday 6 November.

Senior Prize Giving Wednesday 1 November 7pm. The newly elected Senior Leaders for 2024 will be announced

Year 8 Orientation Day Wednesday 15 November.

# Ground broken for Turua's new Barnardos

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

The sod has been turned on a piece of land in Turua, marking the start of a project three years in the making.

Barnardos' Turua Early Learning Centre held a blessing and ground-breaking ceremony on October 18 to anticipate the arrival of a new building which will replace its old one.

General manager Heather Taylor told The Profile that, once full funding has been 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 early learning centre.

The relocated building will be kitted out with new furniture, and more resources and equipment, while a new playground will also be created that will be available to the local community during the long summer evenings and weekends.

"We have known for about three years that this [current] building was coming to the end of its life as an early learning centre, so this project has been



Beccs Aislabie and Heather Taylor stand at the new Barnardos site with shovels ready.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

underway since then - with Covid interjecting in that planning and decision making," she said. "But certainly for us, it's been on our radar as something that needs improving."

One part of the existing building will be gifted to the Turua Hall Domain and Community Trust to be repurposed into a new library, while another part

will remain on site to be potentially used for sporting club rooms and toilets.

"We are a not-for-profit, so money is always the balance with what we want to do and what we want to achieve in communities, so that's why it is important to come together as a community to build our early learning services," Heather

said.

"But it is very exciting. It's been three years in the making and it's nice to finally get it moving."

Centre manager Whaea Becs Aislabie said she was also looking forward to the upgraded space.

"It's amazing to be working with a non-for-profit organisa-

tion and [the building] is going to be three, four, five times bigger. The roll size is also going to increase," she said.

"This has been a home to so many people, and even though we're moving, we're still close and we're still connected."



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# Education

## Tribute after rugby girls named Team of Year

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

Hauraki Plains College's Girls First XV Rugby Team was named Team of the Year at its Sports Prizegiving on October 19.

The team received a trophy donated by Mahurangi College in honour of 50 years of sports exchanges held between the two schools.

Principal Sharon Moller told *The Profile* the Team of the Year was selected based on its regional or national successes, the culture it demonstrated in representing the college with pride, its overcoming of challenges, and how it showcased a positive team spirit.

"Our girls have won both the Thames Valley Secondary Schools Girls First XV competition, and the Thames Valley Secondary Schools Open Girls Rugby Sevens competition.

"The girls also won these competitions last year, and we know that backing up titles is not easy," Sharon said.

"The numbers are growing in girls wanting to play rugby and there is a lot more support across our school and community for it - because of our wonderful girls' team."

At the prizegiving on October 19, which was livestreamed and sent out to the college's whanau, team captain Dana Lang gave a "heartwarming tribute" to Karly



Hauraki Plains College's Girls First XV Rugby Team was named Team of the Year at its sports prizegiving on October 19.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Forsyth, who is battling a rare and aggressive cancer at Starship Hospital.

"While the red card that you have been dealt puts you temporarily out of the game you love, we know that you will be right there following and cheering us on," Dana said.

"We want you to know, as you line up for your next treatment, as you face your next opposition, we as a team, as a school, stand right beside you to play the game and fight it together.

"You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, smarter than you think, and

loved more than you know."

Karly and her mum Angela - who is coach of the rugby team, and has been a physical education teacher at Hauraki Plains College since 1999 - watched the prizegiving on the livestream.

A Givealittle page has been set up and has so far raised more

than \$60,000 to cover any ongoing expenses, as well as Karly's immunotherapy and possible future funding of other treatments.

**DETAILS: To donate, visit [givealittle.co.nz](http://givealittle.co.nz) and search for 'Karly's Fight'.**



On Thursday the 19th of October we celebrated sporting success at our annual Sports Prizegiving.

With over 75 teams and 300 students competing in a variety of Local, Regional, National and International competitions - it has been another hugely successful year of sports at Hauraki Plains College.

Our top sports awards went to:



Fair Play:  
Joshua Tagomoa



Leadership Contribution  
Award:  
Cooper Green



Tina Dickin Cup for  
Sporting Achievement:  
Ryan Denize



All Round Sporting  
Excellence:  
Cooper Green



Sportsperson of the  
Year:  
Bailey Cruse

### Merits - Junior Achievement Award

- Vienna Syme • Water Polo
- Cayden de Graaf • Water Polo
- Lenny Torrens • Skateboarding
- Hamish Paterson • Yachting
- Paige Tevita-Williams • Taekwondo
- Ruby Green • Taekwondo
- Regan Hayward • Taekwondo
- Rylee Sayer • Athletics

- Taylor Batchelor • Swimming
- Tyler Fitzgerald • Motocross
- Kyle McMillan • Motocross
- Amelia Sanson • Shooting
- Georgia Holtham • Shooting
- Angela Cotter • Shooting
- Alex Carter • Shooting

- Tamzin Forsyth-Lees • Equestrian
- Samantha Denize • Motor Sport
- Jessica Broadbent • Rowing
- Paige Tevita-Williams • Rowing
- Ruby Van Hellemond • Rowing
- Kate Bond • Rowing
- Zara Siddins • Rowing

### Blues

- Matthew Strickland • Waka Ama
- Manaia Taipari • Waka Ama
- Ryan Denize • Motor Sport
- Bailey Cruse • Motor Sport

Rylee Sayer was welcomed to the Wall of Fame, for representing NZ in Para Swimming at the Virtus Global Games and Virtus Oceania Asian Swimming Championships



# From Thames to Malta for Sir Keith supporter

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

An email sent one night to the Governor of Malta led to Geoff Furkert speaking at two RAF commemorations on the Mediterranean island.

There, he spoke of Sir Keith Park and was in the presence of dignitaries - a "great chance to show the flag and get something done", he said.

Geoff is the president of Thames' Sir Keith Park Memorial Airfield, and he has been a strong supporter of the late Royal Air Force pilot whose leadership was pivotal to winning the Battle of Britain.

And once Geoff learned that Sir Keith was also instrumental in the Mediterranean, he took his advocacy across oceans.

"I was at my computer one night and was thinking: 'Park went to Malta', so I Googled the Governor of Malta, and there was an email address, so I emailed him.

"He put me in touch with the right people and it all stemmed from there," Geoff told The Profile.

One event was held on September 21 at a new RAF Memorial at the Ta' Qali Aviation Museum. The second was held the following day at the Malta Memorial - which commemorates almost 2300 airmen who lost their lives during World



Geoff Furkert delivers his keynote address. TOP RIGHT: Lesley Park, great niece of Sir Keith Park, lays a wreath at the commemorations in Malta. TOP LEFT: Thames-born Sir Keith Park.



Photos: SUPPLIED

War II while serving with the Commonwealth Air Forces.

Geoff laid a wreath at the memorial and spoke of Thames-born Sir Keith, explaining that the defence of Malta and the region was "quite a large part of the Allies winning North Africa".

"He was assigned there in early 1942 because Malta was

getting very heavily bombed.

"At that stage, Malta was at the point of giving up, basically, but Park was assigned there and he very quickly applied the tactics that won the Battle of Britain, and within literally a matter of days, the German bombing stopped," he said.

Geoff also told of how Park's aircraft cut off the supply lines

from German general, Erwin Rommel.

He said it was a "huge honour" to be at the commemorations. "I was in the company of Lesley Park, who is the great niece of Sir Keith, and she has been very supportive of what we are doing here.

"It was absolutely amazing to have that tribute," he said.

When the siege of Malta was lifted, Sir Keith transitioned the island's RAF forces from a defensive role into an offensive role, before retiring from the RAF in 1946.

He died in February, 1975, in Auckland.



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# Rural Life

## Sun shines for Ag Day

Under a bright blue sky and blazing sun, Waihi East School hosted its Interschool Agriculture Day. Held on October 19, pupils from across the rohe [area] came together to partake in classic calf club activities in the ring. These included leading and handling, calling, and rearing and grooming. *Valley Profile* reporter **KELLEY TANTAU** caught all the fun.



Anders, 4, leads his calf Angus in the ring.

Photos: KELLEY TANTAU



Charlotte guides Speckle through the course.



Austin Wild wins a 1st place ribbon with Cookie.



Gabriel, 6, from Waimata School, waits his turn.



Mila and Ruby, from Waihi Beach, earn a ribbon.



Young winners line up for their ribbons.

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# Rural Life

## WIEL fined for river pollution

A Waikato industrial processing company has been convicted in the Hamilton District Court for permitting the unlawful discharge of wastewater into the Waitoa River in May, 2021.

A fine of \$102,000 was also imposed by District Court Judge Melinda Dickey in a sentencing decision released on October 16.

Waitoa Industrial Estate Ltd operates an industrial processing site in Waitoa, 10 kilometres west of Te Aroha. According to the sentencing decision, Waitoa Industrial Estate Limited (WIEL) is the current owner of the former Wallace Group Ltd Partnership industrial processing site at 266d Wood Rd, Waitoa.

The site sits alongside the Waitoa River and has been home to a rendering plant and tannery business over a number of decades, supporting the meat industry principally by processing offal biproducts, hides and fallen (dead) stock.

Due to a series of failings by the company, they unlawfully discharged approximately 2.2 million litres of wastewater over a 46-hour period into the Waitoa River, Waikato Regional Council said.

As a result of this incident, downstream water user Fonterra Waitoa was forced to shut down its dairy factory processing operations for three days and was unable to sup-

ply treated water to the residents of 180 homes in the Waitoa Village.

Council compliance manager Patrick Lynch said it was an avoidable pollution event.

"The infrastructure on site was not fit for purpose, there were equipment failures and staff errors, which all contributed to a very significant event.

"There has been a huge rise in penalties for environmental offending that has come from recent changes to legislation. If this type of incident was to occur today the company would be facing a maximum fine of \$10 million as opposed to the previous maximum fine of \$600,000.

"The government increasing these penalties so dramatically is a clear message to all to have good infrastructure and manage it well," Mr Lynch said.

WIEL was established as a joint venture company with three equal shareholdings owned by Greenlea By-Products Ltd, Wilson Hellaby Ltd, and Wallace Proteins Ltd.

WIEL was incorporated in 2020 to take ownership of the site, the wastewater treatment plant, and the composting operation and to provide equitable services, such as electricity, gas, engineering support, wastewater treatment and environmental management for the site.

## A wonderful woolly term

Junior students at Kaihere School enjoyed learning about wool this term.

Principal Richard Reid said this had seen students venture from seeing sheep being shorn, to learning how to spin wool into yarn, through to learning how to knit and felt with wool.

"Students were fortunate to have Kitty Johnson come to Kaihere School to show students how to spin, a skill she has mastered as a young girl," he said.

"Students took turns trying their hand at the spinning wheel as they gained an insight into this traditional craft."

Knitting needles were also taken up by the students with help and thanks to grandparent Janice Gower, and members of the Thames Creative Fibre Group led by Meike Schmidt, who taught students the basics of knitting, finger knitting, and how to Felt over two weekly sessions.

The Creative Fibre Group, which meets twice a month at The Public Office in Ngatea, worked alongside students and were able to give students personal support in small groups.

Mr Reid said community support for the rural school had an incredible positive impact.

Teacher Rachel O'Neill said it was a great learning experience for students to see the progres-



Students show off their woolly creations.

Photos: SUPPLIED



Students learn how to felt with wool.



The craft of knitting is explained.



Knitting is part of the activities



A spinning demonstration enthral.

sion from the shearing shed to spinning, knitting and felting thanks to Thames Creative Fibre group and members of the community who gave their

time to pass on these skills to the younger generation.

"Students were even keen to continue knitting during their lunchtimes," she said.



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Peter Roberts, Stu Hill, and Bay View Hotel publican Quinton Dale tackle the giant mallow weed ahead of the main crew. Photo: SUPPLIED

## Restoration rewards for Kaiiava

Farmers, residents, parents, and children all showed up on October 5 for a community working bee to continue the Haurahi Stream restoration work led by the Western Firth Catchment Group.

In addition to locals, this time around a carload of Westpac Bank staff came over from Auckland to lend a hand and sponsor some of the costs of the event.

In all, 35 people were in attendance, co-organiser and NZ Landcare Trust's Ric Balfour said.

"The tasks at hand were weeding the grass around each of the seedlings planted in 2022, then reapplying daggy wool and topping it off with wood chips as mulch to keep them healthy through the coming summer.

"The volunteers managed to clear and mulch 1114 square metres, or a tenth of a hectare, in just two hours," Ric said.

"The long-term goal is to revegetate the edges of the stream and side channels to provide spawning habitat for our inanga and other native fish we call whitebait.

"What they need are cool, clear, shady streams with overhanging vegetation to lay their eggs into, to hide under during the day and to catch insects off at night."

The Haurahi Stream project is seeking funding to continue this work upstream to the edge of the bush in the Hunua Ranges.

Ric said looking after what was planted each year was "critical" to the success of the project.

"And to restoring habitat that has been diminished over the last century," he said, "and this group of farmers, volunteers, and businesses showed that they are committed to helping make this happen."

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# \$1m funding boost for flood resilience

The government has approved more than \$1 million in funding for Waikato Regional Council to improve community resilience to flood risk in the Coromandel Peninsula.

Waikato Regional council applied for government funding made available earlier this year to regions affected by the North Island's extreme weather events: \$3.3 million towards its river management programme across the peninsula and \$330,800 to remediate damage to its Graham's Creek catchment flood scheme in Tairua.

The council was awarded \$708,000 towards river management, which includes erosion protection works, the removal of obstructions and planting to stabilise banks, as well as the full amount requested towards upgrading and repairing the spillway and weir in the Graham's Creek catchment.

Councillor Warren Maher said numerous wet weather events in the Coromandel Peninsula since late 2022, particularly the Auckland Anniversary event and cyclones Hale and Gabrielle earlier this year, had left communities and catchments vulnerable.

"Building stability and capacity into these river systems is a critical action needed to support improvements in roading, infrastructure, sediment reduction and flood mitigation in the mid to lower reaches of catchments," Cr Maher said.

"However, the council is not in a position to fund the large-scale amount of work required across the peninsula in a short term. The cost is also something that our local ratepayers would struggle with considering the flood recovery impacts they're already experiencing, so this funding is a welcome boost to recovery activities. The havoc caused across the Coromandel is still very real, and in the meantime our river systems remain vulnerable due to saturation and continuous rain."

The constant state of soil saturation and significant stream flows also resulted in damage to the spillway embankment and weir structure at Graham's Creek and caused infilling of the main channel.

The scheme, which was completed in 2016 and diverts flooding away from residential areas into a designated floodway across a floodplain and into the estuary, will be relocated further downstream to reduce their vulnerability to similar damage and washout.

"We'll be reviewing the design and construction of the scheme's structures to make sure they are more robust and stable under severe flood conditions, as well as being easy and cost effective to maintain," Hauraki and Coromandel Catchments Manager Emily O'Donnell said.

"It is important to note that, as it stands, the flood scheme is fully effective... despite the damage," she said.

# Gallery celebrates 50 years

The 50th anniversary of Thames Art Gallery was celebrated in fine style with a high tea at its Tararu premises on October 14.

Gallery president Paul Heffernan said early guests were fortunate to snaffle a small table dressed with dainty daisy posies prepared by gallery specialist flower and plant arranger Diane Carter.

"Tea was served in lovely china and porcelain cups by debonair committee and weed specialist Gary Nevin, who looked stunning in his white pinny," he said.

"A special birthday cake was made by Detka's Goodies of Ngatea and the delightful cakes by Stacey Dunlop. Sue Marsh prepared her famous sausage rolls and there was also lashings of fresh cream and raspberry jam for the scones. Gosh, this sounds like something out of an Enid Blyton story."

Special guests included Thames-Coromandel district Mayor Len Salt and his wife, Svargo. Councillor Martin Rodley represented the Thames Music and Drama group, which also shared the recently painted building. Mr Heffernan said there were past presidents, secretaries, past pupils and folk who had stories to tell.

"The afternoon was really all about wonderful reunions and colourful characters, like Gin Clay and Edith Duric, catching up and having a good old chat," he said.

"The cake was cut by founding and life members Phillipa Christie and youngster Dennis Raines, 95."

Other life members in attendance were Barby Barclay and Hel-



ABOVE: Paul Heffernan, also known as Mr Heff, and Gary Nevin catch up over high tea. RIGHT: The 50th anniversary cake.

Photos: SUPPLIED

en Stuart. Helen had also collated some historic photo boards with much appreciated contributions from Angeliq Delano and Jan McIvor.

"Glorious old photos of members who shaped and worked to make the gallery what it is today - a valuable heritage building and something very special and unique on the waterfront at Tararu."



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# Mini roadie visits

The Kiwi Kids Charity mini roadie convoy swept through Paeroa on October 13, visiting Paeroa Central School, Goldfields School and Karangahake School to meet the kids. Crews later worked on a number of projects at these schools and several others. At Paeroa Central School, the convoy danced, played handball, and shared a barbecue breakfast with the students, before presenting the school with a grant for new basketball hoops and a swing. "Our tamariki had a wonderful time with the crew of colourful characters and friendly volunteers from The Kiwi Kids Charity," principal Mona Hingston said. "They received a delicious breakfast and giveaways. We thanked them with waiata and hugs at the end of the event."



The happy students of Paeroa Central School.



The kaphahaka group performs for their guests.

Photos: SUPPLIED



The charity cooked up a barbecue breakfast for the students.



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# ENTERTAINMENT

## New gold rush for Thames, but with a 'punk twist'

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

"There are different types of gold."

For Steampunk the Thames committee president Caroline Thomas, there was an obvious choice for this year's festival theme.

"Gold Rush" harks back to the town's origins as a mining outpost for prospectors looking for their fortune, evoking images not only of nuggets in the minefields and sparkling jewellery adorning shopfronts, but also of black gold: the oil and coal which powered the industrial revolution so integral to steampunk's aesthetic.

The theme is also an homage to Thames itself. The town was constituted as a borough in 1893 - 100 years ago this November - and Caroline said the committee wanted to celebrate that history.

At the Gold Rush 2023 Steampunk Festival, then, punters looking for a good time will be spoilt for choice.

"It's an opportunity to adopt a persona that you probably wouldn't have in everyday life," Caroline said.

"This year we had the opportunity to go even bigger."

One of the major draws for this year's festival is the Vesica Structures. The free art installation will be located outside the Bella St Pumphouse during the festival.

Three of the patterned geometric structures were at last year's festival. This year, however, the entire work, consisting of four smaller structures and one enormous one, will be displayed together for the first time in New Zealand. All will be brightly lit in the evenings, and Caroline said they were likely to be very popular.



The Vesica Structures, created by Ukrainian Yelena Filipchuk and Canadian Serge Beaulieu, will be on display in Thames this November.

Photo: SUPPLIED

"The large one, which is called Deep Thought, has an opening which you can actually go inside," she said. "It will make for a great photo opportunity."

Another new event is the introduction of dance classes in the afternoon before the Victorian Masked Ball. The ball itself

is making a return after being on hiatus for a few years.

"Attendees will be able to get the basics of the various types of dances we'll be doing - a steampunk quadrille, a Spanish waltz, a two-step..." Caroline said.

Also on offer over the weekend are the staple events the festival is known for, such as the steampunk parade, high tea, a rave at the Pumphouse, teapot racing, fashion show, and various markets and get-togethers.

Caroline said the annual event

should provide a welcome boost to Thames' economy ahead of the summer.

"It's really quite fascinating. The wonderful array of costumes and getup that people have ... for someone like me who's relatively new to this, the amount of detail and time and effort that people put into producing their costumes [is] really quite amazing."

"I would like to see more people get involved. Each year it's been a reasonably small committee that's been tasked with organis-

ing these things and it would be nice if there was some new blood coming along that had some new ideas.

"This is a way for [people] to get away from their everyday existence and become someone totally different."

**DETAILS: Gold Rush 2023 Steampunk Festival, November 9-12 in Thames. See steampunkthames.co.nz for details.**



## Students to perform final free concert

Thames Music Group will host its final free Friday concert on October 27 at 12.15pm at St George's Church.

The vocal department from the University of Waikato is excited to present Harmonious Horizons' end of year finale at the lunchtime concert.

A Thames Music Group spokesperson said the show was to feature the efforts of the students' academic journey study-

ing classical voice this year.

"Prepare to be captivated by the sensational showcase of stunning arias, Brahms' *Liebesslieder Waltz*, musical theatre, and jazz, with works spanning from the late 16th century to the early 20th century, and influences from Germany, Italy, France, England and America."

Entry is free, koha is appreciated. Soup and a bun will be available after the concert for \$5.



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# Gardening

## Maintain soil health in your garden

With rapid summer growth now under way, it is important to maintain plant health in all sections of the garden.

Cultivate vegetables regularly and irrigate if soil is dry. Apply side applications of a balanced appropriate fertiliser to stimulate sturdy new growth.

Successive sowings of summer vegetables will extend summer and autumn harvests.

Planning ahead is important to ensure you get the most out of your spring garden.

When deciding what to plant in your garden consider what you like to eat, how much room you have and creating colour in your backyard.

Enrich the soil by adding generous helpings of compost to all vegetable beds before planting or as a mulch around plants.

Popular crops to grow for Christmas – Microgreens grown on a sunny windowsill, Radish seeds are quick to grow, Lettuces, lots of varieties. If you want a choice buy the mixed punnets these give you a good variety. Peas, Beetroot, Zucchini, Carrots, Potatoes and Cucumber.

Importantly grow what you like. If you don't have much space, remember you can grow vegetables in pots and contain-



Cultivate vegetables regularly and irrigate if soil is dry.

File Photo: PIXABAY

ers. If your children or grandchildren like to garden, build a teepee in a large pot and get them to plant peas.

The teepee can be made of sticks or bamboo stakes, three is probably enough, pushed into the soil and tied together at the top. Wind some more string around

the stakes for the pea tendrils to cling too. Plant seeds about 2cm deep and about 10cm apart under the teepee.

Water to keep the soil moist but not too wet.

Feed with liquid feed once they are 5-10 cm high. Cover the soil with mulch or pea straw. Happy gardening kids.

Start tomatoes, peppers and eggplants as the soil warms. Seedlings you have grown indoors need to be "hardened off" before they are planted in the garden. Gradually acclimatise seedlings before planting by moving them outside in their containers during the day.

Filling your piece of paradise

with vibrant floral displays will bring joy on a daily basis for both you and the BEES. Examples are Borage, Echinacea, Sage, Marigold, Chamomile, Purple Tansy and Nasturtium.

Spring is also the perfect time to sow seeds for bedding plants like Begonia, Chrysanthemum, Cosmos, Dianthus, Geranium, Gerbera, Petunias and Impatiens.

It is an exciting time in the garden with the blossoms bursting into life on the fruit trees followed by the transformation into tiny fruit.

Don't be alarmed by some early fruit drop, it is normal with young trees experiencing vigorous growth.

A side dressing of sulphate of potash can stimulate hardier growth and improve fruiting habits. Nature is such a wonderful thing and can bring so much pleasure into people's life.

A well fed strong growing lawn will pose minimal weed problems. Apply a balanced lawn fertiliser to support main growth spurts in spring and again in autumn. Don't mow too low and try not to mow when the ground is wet.

*Enjoy your garden.  
- Submitted by Ngatea Garden Circle*

## A forgotten little bonsai, a thriving community



OPINION

By MICHAEL WILKES

There was a season in my life when I was really into bonsai. I brought the books, the cute little pots, the wire and pruning tools for training; the works. I was fascinated by these mini versions of their colossal counterparts. Time

and patience were the name of the game. I used to check it daily, shaping, pruning, adjusting. Trying to get it perfect. But then life got busy. We moved from West Auckland to the Thames Coast, built our home and had to figure out life in a new region.

Needless to say, the little bonsai stood forgotten. The daily care slipped from weekly to monthly. Shaping and pruning ceased. Until one dry summer I looked out the window to see a brown and very dead looking little tree.

And what was my response? Did I look at that little tree and consider how dishevelled it looked? Did I get my pruning scissors out and wire and begin to reshape it once again? Of course not. For it to have any chance of survival it needed water. So, I uprooted it and planted it in the veggie garden to be watered and fed regularly. And you

wouldn't believe it, after months of looking dead, the green returned and it came back to life.

The funny thing is we all know enough about plants to realise that a dry and undernourished plant needs a change to its environment.

Yet strangely enough we don't seem to realise that about people. Our mental health statistics for young people in New Zealand are staggering. Over a 12-month period, almost one in four teenagers experience crippling anxiety.

An overseas research paper estimates 49.5 per cent of adolescents have had a mental health disorder at some point in their lives. I wonder if we would be worse. These figures are staggering, and I wonder if these figures reflect more on the 'soil' our young people are planted in. And yet too often we still look at a young person and wonder what is wrong with them.

We, in a sense, take them out of their pot, prune them, shape them, and put them back in. We look at a person and consider what is wrong with them. We deal with trauma, destructive thinking, and teach them strategies and skills to do better. And then we put them into the same environment that is suffocating them.

But what we are doing is not working. Statistics continue to rise. And maybe at some point we need to look at ourselves and say what is the problem with us. We can't do much to change the global context that affects our young people. But we can change the local one. And I would go so far as to bet if our community could become more of a healthy place for our kids to grow up in, it would be more of a healthy place for all of us to live in.

So today as I write this I consider, how can I be more generous



and more encouraging? How can I love first and cast judgment less, and how can I be a picture of hope for a brighter future? How can I help others succeed and show they matter? And maybe, just maybe, if enough of us ask these questions and act on them, we will see the soil become richer and, like my little bonsai, we will see life and hope slowly returning to the generation that comes behind us.

*- Michael Wilkes is a Living Well Trust Youth Worker*

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20 Non planting Day	21 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	22 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	23 Non planting Day	24 Non planting Day	25 Plant above ground crops	26 Plant above ground crops
27 Full Moon	28 Non planting Day	29 Non planting Day	30 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	November 2023 Moon Planting Calendar		

# Unsecured heavy timber ends in tragedy



As part of a Valley Profile series, **MEGHAN HAWKES** explores our local history by seeking out stories of life and death in the Thames Valley

A sudden heavy gust of wind rushed in the door of the blacksmith's shop at the Waihi Gold mining company on a Wednesday in late July, 1925.

The blacksmiths were having lunch, apart from William Angell, a tool sorter, who walked from the sharpening bench to the door and back again. He was moving slowly and seemed to pause, and it was at that moment the wind swept in and a piece of timber fell from overhead. "Good God, Angell," called out Robert Broadfoot. Daniel Wilson, an engineer, also saw the falling timber and shouted out a warning.

The timber struck and broke on William's head. Robert rushed first to the fallen man, and then ran for help. The piece of timber was dry and very brittle kauri, 4in x 6in and 11 feet long. Dr McMurray Cole found William in the second stage of concussion. He was admitted to hospital and treated there for



A Smithy hard at work.

Photo: SUPPLIED

skull fracture but it was felt an operation would be no use. William, 59, died the following day at 5pm.

After formalities, the inquest jury were taken to the mine to inspect the scene of the accident. They visited the company's workshop twice, made exhaustive tests and took measurements within the building. At the resumed inquest, Robert Broadfoot said he thought machinery vibration loosened the beam, and the heavy gust of wind finished it off. The timber had been used for hanging a block and tackle when lifting machines. It had been skew nailed - a method of driving in a nail at a roughly 30

degree angle to fasten two pieces of wood together.

Patrick Garvey, tool sharpener, said he had been long enough employed by the company to know that if anything was pointed out of a dangerous nature they would at once remedy it. William Angell, tool sharpener, and William's son, was suspicious as to the safety of some beams, occasionally looking up at them. Daniel Wilson, engineer, said at the time of the accident there occurred one of the heaviest blasts of wind he had experienced.

Frederick Malyon, chief engineer, said that skew nailing, with plenty of overlap, was a perfectly proper way of fixing the beams.

The cause of the beam coming away was the high gust of wind. He also found that internal wind pressure had contributed largely to a bulge in the smithy wall.

While everyone deplored this regrettable fatality, said the coroner, it had been nearly three years since the last mining fatality at Waihi. This was due to the united action of employees and employers. Unforeseen things though, he said, happened and sometimes they occurred in the most unlikely places.

The jury returned a verdict that William died from injuries caused by the fall of a piece of timber from overhead. A rider was added that the beam was not properly secured, and all overhead beams and staging should be securely cleated and bolted.

William lived at Bulltown, Waihi with his second wife, Julia, and children. His first wife, Anna, had died in 1900, aged 30, after a long and painful illness, leaving him with three children.

At the next meeting of the Waihi Oddfellows, of which William had been a member, it was decided to pay the family's medical fee.

Nearly a year after William's death, damages of 1250 pounds was paid to his widow, including 800 pounds for his four youngest children. William, whose death resounds with 'if only's', was buried at Waihi cemetery, his headstone inscription describing him as 'a man among the few'.

# Mayors support Pink

Breast Cancer Foundation NZ has the backing of Thames-Coromandel Mayor Len Salt and Hauraki Mayor Toby Adams, who are encouraging locals to donate to the charity's Pink Ribbon Street Appeal this week.

On October 27-28, 10,000 volunteers will be hitting the streets all over New Zealand to raise vital funds for breast cancer research, education and patient support.

Mayor Salt says: "Through the Pink Ribbon Appeal, we can not only raise funds for vital research but also show our support to those facing the battle against breast cancer. Together, we can bring hope, awareness, and progress in the fight against a disease that affects 1 in 9 women in New Zealand. Let's continue to paint New Zealand pink, one ribbon at a time, and strive for a brighter, healthier future for all."

Mayor Adams says: "I wholeheartedly support the Pink Ribbon Street Appeal to raise much needed funds for breast cancer research.

"With your help, research can continue to advance and I urge you to support this appeal. Remember, it could help save your family and friends in the future."

Breast Cancer Foundation NZ chief executive Ah-Leen Rayner was grateful grateful to have Mayor Salt and Mayor Adams join the call.

"As a charity that doesn't receive any government funding, it's only thanks to the generosity of New Zealanders that we can carry out our life-saving work. Your donations will bring us closer to our vision of zero deaths from breast cancer."

**Donations can also be made online at [bcf.org.nz/streetappeal23](http://bcf.org.nz/streetappeal23).**

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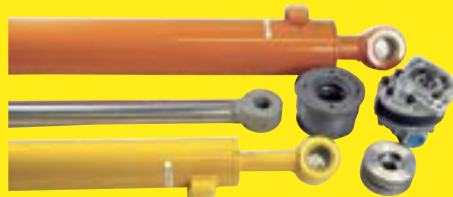


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# CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12pm Monday

## Public Notice

**2023 A.G.M**  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 8pm  
Whales Park, Ohiwhenua

All current members welcome

Annual Reports  
Election of Officers & Committee  
General Business

New members needed

Enquiries to  
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## Public Notice

**Hauraki Plains  
Netball Centre**  
Annual General Meeting  
Sun 19th Nov 2023 4pm  
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- Applications close **Monday 30 October**  
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- Written applications **only** are accepted.
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# CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12pm Monday

<b>Death Notice</b>	<b>Death Notice</b>	<b>Church Notice</b>	<b>Car For Sale</b>
<b>SHAW, James Roger (Jim):</b> (NZ Fire Service Double Gold Star and Life Member): 4th November 1940 to 18th October 2023, at Waihi Lifecare, with his family by his side. Dearly loved husband of Lynnette for 59 years. Much loved father and father-in-law of Jan and Brendon, Gael and Chook, John and Vicki. Adored Pop to Jaydon, Shayna, Bradley, Mitchell and Trent and their partners. Great Poppa Jim to Maddison (his "little girl"). Father to Adele and Pop to Kerrod and Torban. The struggle is now over and you are at peace. Special thanks to the amazing staff at Waihi Lifecare you were all so loving and caring towards him. As per Jim's wishes a private cremation has been held. All Communications to: 24a Mackay Street Waihi 3610	<b>VERRAN, Sandra Frances (Francie, Fran):</b> Passed away suddenly 11th October. Much loved daughter of Claire and the late Colan Verran. Loved and respected sister and sister-in-law of Judith and Stuart; Steven (Sam) and Pauline; Neil and Sharon (Aus). Dearly loved aunt of Rachel, Andrea, Joshua, Sarah, Rebecca, Brett and their families. Dear friend of Felix Tattersfield. A private cremation has taken place, with a Memorial Service to be held at a later date. All communications to Valley Funeral Services, 3 Hall St Paeroa 3600	<b>Assembly of God</b> 10am Sundays. Scout Hall. Baker St, Waihi	<b>Toyota Passo, 2008,</b> Good cond. New Wof. Under 30,000ks. \$6,500. Ph 0211676777
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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Back in my Day

St Joseph's School in Paeroa shield its full school production at the Paeroa Little Theatre recently, performed by children aged Year 0-8 - the youngest having been at school for just two weeks.

The main script for the production, called *Back in my Day*, was written by principal Emalene Cull, with scenes created by teachers and children as part of the school's inquiry learning in the arts, dance and drama; and technology, design process.

The show was about school holidays, and time to visit Grandma and Grandpa. While settling into their grandparents house, the children discover a long forgotten photo album.

Although Grandma's memory may be fading, on seeing her photo treasures, she recalls a bygone era.

"Along with the ramblings of Grandpa, the stories of Grandma and the inner feelings of their two cats, *Back in my Day* is a celebration of the dance, music and themes throughout the decades," she said.

"It was hugely successful - pure fun and joy. Lots of stand



St Joseph's School students perform *Back in my Day* at Paeroa Little Theatre.

Photos: SUPPLIED

out performances from our children."

The technical production team consisted students from Paeroa College and St John's College, in Hamilton.

"The three of them were awesome young men, who were polite and enthusiastic role

models for our children. They, along with our children, had the theatre pumping.

"This school production was a true celebration of learning, with the children fully involved in choreography, prop and costume design and script writing.

"The stories presented

through drama and dance captured some of the big moments in New Zealand's history, including Sir Edmund Hillary conquering Mt Everest in 1953, the bombing of the Rainbow Warrior in 1985 and New Zealand winning the America's Cup in 1995."

### WOMEN'S INSTITUTE REPORT

The October meeting of the Goldfields Women's Institute commenced with the Aspiration and Prayer.

Thoughts were given to three members who was not able to be present due to either illness or a bereavement. The Motto for the month - "When I am right no one remembers me - when I am wrong no one forgets" was read by Sue Fah.

The Roll Call - Bring along a novelty salt & pepper shaker resulted in a table full of wonderful sets. The Good Deed - Toothbrushes, combs, tissues, razors, pads and pens for our emergency bags we donate to the Thames Hospital.

Our birthday girl this month is Jean Brady and raffles were won by Jean Brady, Maureen Claasen and Sue Fah. Two boxes of rugs etc have been donated to the Tararu Rest Home.

Again, there was a lovely array of knitted baby clothes donated and also a supply of toilet bags that a past member had made for us.

Arrangements were made for the Federation's Over 80s and Officers Luncheon on the 24th October in Ngatea with eight members attending. After voting for the competitions was completed everyone enjoyed a friendly and relaxed lunch before the meeting came to a close.

COMPETITION RESULTS: Bloom: Val Bowen 1, Helen Udy 2. Cluster: Sue Fah 1, Helen Udy 2. Shrub: Helen Udy 1, Val Bowen 2, Sue Fah. Orchid: Sue Fah 1, Val Bowen and Helen Udy 2nd equal.



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	5		4					
		4	5			7		
1					6	4	3	
					4	6		8

HARD

123

123

HARD

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

MEDIUM

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

EASY

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

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## JUMBO CROSSWORD

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### ACROSS

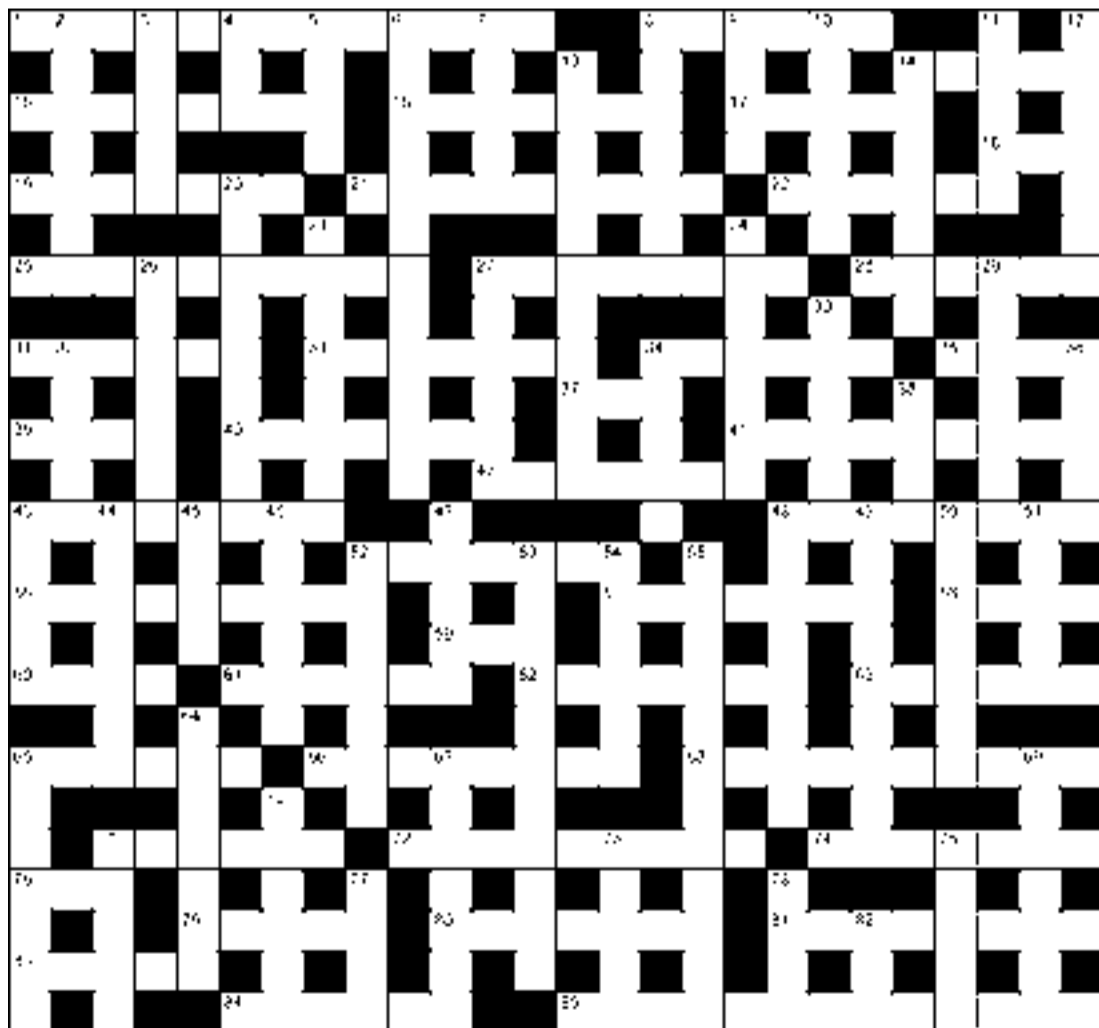
- 1 Suffer without making a complaint (4,3,4,2)
- 8 Ringed planet (6)
- 14 Trunk (5)
- 15 Knitted garment (8)
- 16 Curative treatment (7)
- 17 Happen again (5)
- 18 Large vehicle (3)
- 19 Fool (7)
- 21 Lifelike (9)
- 22 Royal son (6)
- 25 Appraisal (10)
- 27 Wizard (8)
- 28 Amalgamation (6)
- 31 Brief outfit (6)
- 33 Fruit farm (7)
- 34 Young cow (6)
- 35 Impulsive (4)
- 37 Utilise (3)
- 39 In addition (4)
- 40 Modernised (7)
- 41 Know-how (9)
- 42 Gave in (7)
- 43 Ancestor (8)
- 48 Benchmarks (8)
- 52 Ancient two-handled jar (7)
- 56 Crowned head (9)
- 57 Minor weaknesses (7)
- 58 Whip (4)
- 59 Flow (3)
- 60 Egg centre (4)
- 61 Preference (6)
- 62 Torpor (7)
- 63 Frivolity (6)
- 65 Shelter (6)

### DOWN

- 2 Library users (7)
- 3 Poke with an elbow (5)
- 4 Henpeck (3)
- 5 Stopper (4)
- 6 Establish the genuineness of (12)
- 7 Perfect (5)
- 8 Horizon (7)
- 9 Mountain lake (4)
- 10 Phonograph disc (6)
- 11 Buy off (5)
- 12 File (7)
- 13 Manufacture in quantity (4,7)
- 14 Bauble (7)
- 20 Lobby (9)
- 23 Blown instrument (8)
- 24 Sullied (7)
- 26 Story part (7)

### ACROSS

- 27 Beer-lemonade drink (6)
- 29 Glass fitter (7)
- 30 Aide (6)
- 32 Snow house (5)
- 34 Coin toss call (5)
- 36 African scavenger (5)
- 38 Worry (4)
- 43 Over-particular (5)
- 44 Competition (7)
- 45 Farm building (4)
- 46 On fire (6)
- 47 In reserve (5)
- 48 Deserving blame (8)
- 49 Made heatproof (9)
- 50 Pep up (7)
- 51 Picture in picture (5)
- 52 Firedog (7)
- 53 Study of birds (11)
- 54 Have an impact on (6)
- 55 Half (5,7)
- 64 Absconder (7)
- 65 Permitted (7)
- 67 Noughts (anag)(7)
- 69 Looking for (7)
- 70 Looking-glass (6)
- 71 Secret store (5)
- 73 Precipitous (5)
- 75 Muscle convulsion (5)
- 77 Breaker (4)
- 78 Indian garment (4)
- 82 Floor mat (3)



### PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Wedding, 4 Supersonic, 9 Predict, 13 Asti, 14 Modern, 15 Foiled, 16 Leopard, 18 Eat, 20 Fox-hunting, 21 Emissary, 22 Bogus, 25 Defeat, 26 Blanks, 28 Sceptical, 33 Gigantic, 34 Sphere, 35 Tension, 39 Academic, 40 Potter, 41 Blow, 42 Brace, 43 Eases, 46 Food for thought, 53 Sward, 56 Curry, 57 Bass, 58 Drains, 59 Tribunal, 62 Reserve, 63 Hiatus, 64 Malinger, 67 Mannerism, 69 Convex, 70 Offset, 74 Banal, 75 Function, 77 Stalagmite, 81 Fib, 83 Parasol, 84 Rebuke, 85 Uneven, 86 Gang, 87 Settled, 88 Imprisoned, 89 Endless.

DOWN: 1 Wharf, 2 Detoxify, 3 Growth, 4 Stern, 5 Pane, 6 Rafters, 7 Origin, 8 Items, 10 Reek, 11 Diploma, 12 Cirrus, 17 Queasiness, 19 Crypt, 23 Knock off, 24 Liner, 25 Deflate, 27 Late, 29 Caribou, 30 Tariff, 31 Church, 32 Concur, 34 Satyr, 36 Screw, 37 Lass, 38 Moth, 44 Acumen, 45 Eyrie, 47 Oval, 48 Dismiss, 49 Oddity, 50 Tears, 51 Ointment, 52 Throng, 53 Subterfuge, 54 Aunt, 55 Delight, 60 Event, 61 Flee, 65 Grout, 66 Estimate, 68 Adamant, 69 Confess, 71 Carafe, 72 Liquor, 73 Allege, 76 Cream, 78 Tweed, 79 Edges, 80 Cope, 82 Burn.

# From racing to walkies for 'ideal' pet breed

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

In Jan Curran's Waihi home, an entire sofa and several outdoor cushions are reserved for her greyhounds, Rihanna and Molly. The slender, elegant canines spend much of their time lounging here, far from the racecourse where they spent their early lives.

The retired racers, sometimes dubbed "professional couch potatoes", make ideal pets, Jan said. "They're not running, jumping, barking, licky dogs," she said.

"They are quiet, gentle, intelligent, quick to learn and eager to please."

Jan's two hounds recently participated in the annual Great Greyhound Global Walk, an event raising awareness of the breed's suitability as a household animal after retiring from racing.

This year's September 24 event saw a record 36 countries participate, with 11,818 dogs going for walkies around the globe. Just under 500 of those hounds walked in New Zealand, at 30 registered walk events across the country.

Among the New Zealand events was a Waikino ramble to Victoria Battery, followed by lunch at the Station cafe.

Molly and Rihanna were happy to lead the pack, and although the turnout was small Jan said the dogs were happy to make the most of it.

"I can't do the walks now because of health issues ... but [partner] Tom does them all," she said.

"Since the Great Global Greyhound walks started about eight



Six hounds, along with their owners, were among the 11,000 greyhounds on a global walk in September.

Photo: SUPPLIED

years ago our old girl [Rihanna] has done every single one of them."

Jan's own greyhound journey began in 2010, when she adopted ex-racer Beyonce.

At the time, greyhounds weren't considered pet material, and Jan said there were only two of the breed in the Waihi area.

"Unfortunately a lot of trainers had to have them put down. Beautiful, healthy dogs. And it was really, really sad," Jan said.

"When I found out there were adoption kennels operating, I ap-

plied to adopt and I don't regret it. I've got [Beyonce's] ashes here.

"She was so good, just fitted in and I still get a bit teary when I think of her."

Now, there is a "no kill" policy in greyhound racing, so dogs unsuited for racing are also put up for adoption.

Molly, Jan's youngest dog, is a rehabilitated hound due to an injury requiring pins in her front leg.

Jan said more retired people were now adopting greyhounds as well, and said their docile nature

and need for only 30 minutes of exercise a day made them easy to manage.

"They can take them walkies without being pulled off the lead," Jan said, also noting that they would run well alongside a mobility scooter.

"And they're so good as therapy dogs. We used to go to the rest homes here ... the residents' faces would light up. The dogs would go right up alongside the bed and stand there so they could have a cuddle and a pat."

Jan said the walks were a great opportunity to clear up common misconceptions about the breed.

"It's to show Joe Public that these dogs make wonderful pets, that is the idea. There is life after racing," Jan said.

"I've met so many people through this. The hounds all love to get together. We've had a lot of lovely experiences with them, and wonderful times."



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