

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

promise made in honour of a childhood friend has been fulfilled by the Turua Hall Do-main and Community committee

After five years, their memorial wall project - spearheaded by Susan Taipari - has come to fruition and now Turua locals have a place to be memorialised. The inspiration for the wall,

which had its grand unveil-ing late last month, was a man named Michael Stephens, who passed away from cancer in 2018, aged just 58.

2018, aged just 58. "I first met Michael when we were eight-years-old," Su-san told The Profile. "Several months after he passed, [his wife] said to me: 'I guess it's time for me to start thinking about getting a plaque on the about getting a plaque on the Ngatea wall... we don't have one here'

"So I said: 'Okay, we will have one here. I'm going to get us a wall of our own'."

Susan approached the then-Turua Hall committee and added the item to its agenda, and eventually, they secured funding from Hauraki District Council.

Straightline Brick and Block Laying donated the blocks, the mortar, and a day's work to construct the wall, while Roger Brocklehurst and Richard Cox Contracting worked on the foundations. Cole Ehrhorn also helped out with the concrete block work.

Since its unveiling on Septem-ber 23, Susan said she's already obtained 12 paid-for plaques to be made. Michael's will take pride of place on the wall, while Brian Wigmore's plaque will sit above it.

Brian, also known as 'Wiggy', was a Turua Hall committee member who passed away un-

TURUA MEMORIAL WALL UNVEILED 23 SEPT. 2023

all day every day, I probably would." expectedly after a short illness

on September 20. Hugh Fisher, affectionately called "the Mayor of Turua", and his wife Bev - who also died in September - will have a plaque on the wall as well.

"To me, this is the most beau-tiful block wall I have ever seen," Susan said. "If I could hug it

Susan said the project really gained momentum after a new committee was formed - made up of herself, Dave Greenslade, Marina and Brian Wigmore, Jim Sutherland, Roger Brocklehurst, Paul Clayton, Cynthia Bates, and Stacey Frow.

She was proud of the group for "really driving it forward" for the town. "About 12-18 months after I initially started to put this together, nothing was happen-ing, and I went to Hugh and Bev Fisher and said: 'I don't think "Huey said to me: 'Don't give up, keep going. Promise me

emorial wa

Committee members Susan Taipari, Cynthia Bates, and Dave Greenslade stand by the new memorial wall at Turua Hall. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

you'll put that wall up in Turua' "I promised him there would be a wall in Turua... and now there is.

DETAILS: To enquire about getting a plaque on the wall, email susan. taipari@yahoo.co.nz





CONTACT US

The Valley Profile is delivered weekly to letterboxes in the Hauraki Plains, Paeroa, Waihī, Thames, Thames Coast, plus bulk distribution peninsulawide

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Council's Larn Wilkinson, Michelle Johns, and Mayor Toby Adams unveil the copy of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, which now hangs inside chambers. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

Treaty of Waitangi copy hung

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

auraki District Council has Hauraki District Council revealed a copy of Te Tiriti o

▲ revealed a copy of Te Tirti o Waitangi to hang within its cham-bers, bearing the signatures of rangatira of the time. The historic print shows the Herald (Bunbury) copy of the Treaty of Waitangi, created after Major Thomas Bunbury sailed around New Zealand in 1840, acquiring signatures for the treaty.

According to the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, Bunbury left the Bay of Islands on HMS Herald on April 28. A week later he met with chiefs [rangatira] at Coromandel Harbour.

Some signed the treaty, but others felt that more time should

have been allowed for discussion and refused to sign.

Two chiefs signed when the ship anchored off the Mercury Islands - Te Pūnahi, who was a rangatira of Ngāti Maru; and Ngātaiāepa, who was a rangatira of the Te Rapupō hapū [subtribe] of Ngāti Pāoa. In total, Bunbury obtained

27 signatures on this Māori-language copy of the document. Council's takawaenga iwi and

Māori liaison officer Larn Wilkinson said it was a "rarity" for council to have been given a print of Te Tiriti from the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa.

He also pointed to the bottom of it - where mice had eaten away sections of the original print. "The reason for that is because

the copies of Te Tiriti o Waitangi were actually lost - they couldn't find them," he explained. "During the 60s, nobody knew where they were.

"It wasn't until the early 70s that they found them in the cleaner's cupboard at Auckland Museum.

Hauraki Mayor Toby Adams said receiving the historic treaty copy was "special" and didn't happen at every council chambers.

"This is part of our history, and we're a really young country but we seem to have forgotten it re-ally quickly.

"Hopefully we'll give this the respect it deserves.'



SH 25A bridge piling complete

The piling on the Kōpū-Hikuai Rd bridge is now complete, with earthworks and slip stabilisation also nearly finished, the transport agency says.

Both the crew and rig are off to another project. They were a dedicated team who worked in both challenging and difficult condi-tions," Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency said. "Other activity nearing completion is the earth-works and slip stabilisation. This is a great achievement, especially after working in muddy and chal-lenging conditions for the first two months of the project.

Construction continued above ground last week on the bridge abutments, with the first set of steel bridge girders due to be delivered to site early October.

This set of girders will be lifted and placed between Abutment A and Pier B, forming the base of the bridge deck.'

The team was making great progress on the construction of the bridge, Waka Kotahi said, however, there were a lot of vari-ables in construction. "At this ables in construction. "At this point in time there are still uncertainties in the programme – such as fabrication of the beams, deck construction and impacts from the wind on our crane lifts.

"We're working really closely with our contractor to accelerate delivery. The contractor is currently delivering to the proposed programme.

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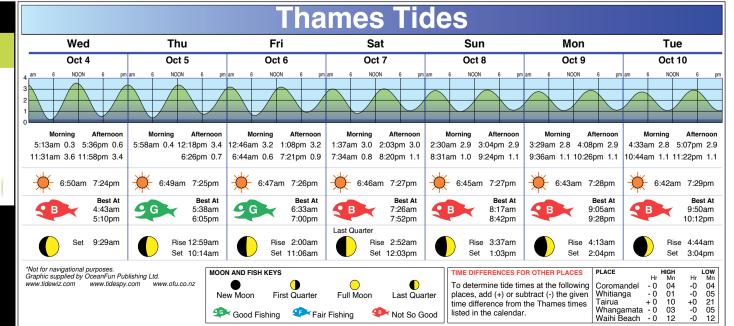
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Thrifters donates \$42k to Ngatea community

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

Since its opening little more than a year ago, Thrifters in Ngātea has donated \$42,000 to community groups and initiatives in the area.

The op shop and charitable trust, which offers low-priced donated items, is intent on "spreading the love". Managers Sally Johnstone

Managers Sally Johnstone and Kate Main told The Profile the ethos of the store stemmed from a desire to "take the pressure off" other businesses in the Hauraki town.

"There are 12 communities that feed into Ngātea, so the businesses can sometimes get hounded for sponsorship," Kate said. "But now, we give vouchers to groups rather than them going and asking [the businesses] to sponsor."

The op shop, along the main drag, has 15 volunteers, and Kate and Sally said the team was "not idle".

"They are very proud of the shop, so we're proud because they are proud."

Since its opening in June last year, Thrifters has fed \$42,000 in cash back into the community by supporting groups such as Lions and Probus clubs, the Kerepēhi Brass Band, basketball teams, and playcentres and schools.

They've also given items away to local individuals and groups in need.

"We like to spread the love," Sally said. "We do a lot of nonmonetary giveaways."



"The more we support locals," Kate added, "the more the locals realise what we're doing and support us."

ing and support us." Thrifters also accepts deceased estates, and has a "popup" shop operating across the road where larger items, like furniture, is kept.

Tammy Angell, originally from Canada, has been volunteering since the end of June this year.

She was manning the pop-up shop when *The Profile* visited one Wednesday morning and said she "really enjoys" helping

out. "I like the philosophy of stuff coming in locally, it gets sold, and the money goes back into the community you live in," she said.

"I am familiar with that phi-

losophy and I like it and get behind it, so for me, it's really good."

DETAILS: To enquire about Thrifters, phone: 07 867 7763.

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Splinta's Reprieve

After closing the business a few weeks ago and completely walking away we have been fortunate that someone from the Waihi community has appreciated how much work has gone into building a reputable business here in the Hauraki district and wider Coromandel.

It is with great pleasure and a few conversations with Ted (the mascot teddy bear) that we can now say that Splinta's Firewood will continue to grow under new ownership, beginning October 1st.

The phone number will continue to be 0800 Splintas. Facebook will continue under the new owner and so will the web page and of course the high level of service that was provided, plus Ted's smoking range and Wood boxes.

We wish Earl Mathew all the best (and Ted).

SPLINTA'S FIREWDOD

Earl is running a spring special, for more information please contact him by phone or Facebook.

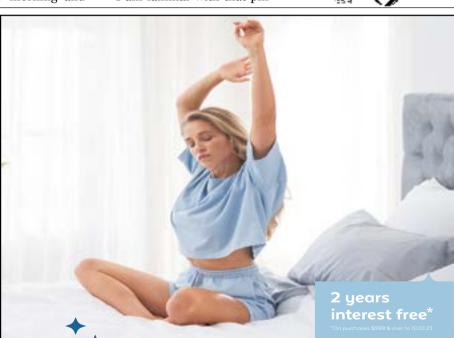
Once again from our family to all of you, thank you so much for supporting Splinta's Firewood over many years.

Go well (remember if you can believe in yourself then dreams can happen)

Janella Munns

SPLINTA'S FIRE

Former owner of Splinta's Firewood





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Council adopts plan for Seabird Coast

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

Hauraki District Coun-cil has adopted its draft Wharekawa Coast 2120 Community Plan which will now head out for consultation.

The plan has been developed over the past three years in collaboration with the local community, Hauraki District Council, Waikato Regional Council, Waikato District Council, key stakeholders, and Ngāti Pāoa and Ngaati Whanaunga.

It comes after climate change and its possible "severe effects were brought to councils' attention, calling on local government organisations to "plan ahead" to minimise conse-quences and build community resilience.

In the Hauraki District Council's 2018-28 Long Term Plan, the Wharekawa Coast was identified as an area that needed community planning, and was chosen as a pilot project.

The project area spans more than 20km, from Waharau to Pūkorokoro/Miranda, and

THE 2023 GENERAL ELECTION

has experienced severe coastal inundation and flooding, the most recent being during a storm event in January, 2018.

Often referred to locally as the Seabird Coast, council said it was the first place in the Hauraki district that saw the arrival of waka from Hawaiki.

At the September 27 meeting, councillors unanimously adopted the plan and ap-plauded the staff members who worked on creating it.

"It's great to see this evolving from the early days," Waihī ward councillor Anne Marie Spicer said. "It's come so far.'

Council's next steps are to engage with the Wharekawa Coast community - dependent on its partner councils adopting the community plan - then, in early-to-mid November, a summary of community feedback will be presented to a joint working party.

By the end of November, council will be finalising the draft community plan.

Journalism

Contractor Contractor

week. The first, an official launch at Paeroa Library, was followed by a book signing at Waihi Paauthor Q&A at Carson's Book-

Kelley said the support she nouncement of her novel had

"I couldn't have done any of it

Library team, Stephan and Petra Bosman, and Greg Hampton we are very lucky to have such supportive people in our communities.'

DETAILS: Information about the book can be found at kelleytantau.com, with it also available to purchase in-store locally.

Book launch tour of Thames Valley

shop in Thames.

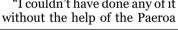
had received since the anbeen "really heartwarming".





Kelley Tantau with the Paeroa Library team and Hauraki Mayor Tony Adams at the book launch on September 26







Carson's mullet lopped off for cancer

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

A mullet that has been grow-ing since New Zealand's first Covid-19 lockdown has been lopped off for a worthy cause.

Carson Fletcher and his mum Jen had the idea to donate his "awesome blonde hair" to Freedom Hair, a company in Dunedin that makes wigs for people who have experienced hair loss from cancer treatment.

In September - Child Cancer Awareness Month - the locks were finally lopped off and more than \$2500 was raised for the Child Cancer Foundation.

"This has been a massive achievement for me," Carson said, "and I am so appreciative of all the support I have received. It has been a very grounding, humbling experi-ence for me and I would definitely encourage others to do the same or something similar to help others in need. "It makes me feel good to

know that [the hair] will go to kids and their whanau to help them through the tough times of the cancer battle."

Carson, a Year 9 at Thames High, got his mullet chopped at school and invited some important people in his life to help with the makeover.

They included Taryn Baines, Mitch Murphy, David Harri-son, Raewyn Grey, Millar Morton, Tyla Pere and mum Jen.

Tyla Pere, Carson's barber from Makawae Hair, also grew



Carson Fletcher, a Year 9 at Thames High, got his mullet chopped at school and invited some important people in his life to help with the makeover. otos: SUPPLIED

his hair and donated it in sup-

port. "It was also really cool 'cause the school kapa haka did a haka to tautoko my efforts. It was a great way to finish the mullet being cut off," Carson said. Mum Jen said she "couldn't be prouder" of her son. "He is a humble young man who is always looking to help

who is always looking to help others, and when he came up with this, I was in full support."

But when it comes to the question of missing the identifiable mullet, Carson and Jen

are of two minds. "I don't miss my mullet because it was getting to the annoying point and was very high

maintenance," Carson said. "I do miss the mullet a little bit, especially when watching him on the rugby field," Jen added. "I can't see his flowing blonde

locks anymore so sometimes he's hard to see.

"One of the good things about it being gone is my conditioner bill has dropped dramatically." DETAILS: Even though the fundraiser has closed, people can still donate directly to the Child Cancer Foundation through their website: childcancer.org.nz

> Journalism status 🔪

In Brief

TAPU-COROGLEN REPAIR

Coromandel town company Kelsey Construction has been appointed to complete the repair of Tapu-Coroglen Rd. Work is set to begin on October 2, reopening mid-December, weather dependent. The current road closure will remain in place during construction.

SOCIAL RECOVERY FUND

Recipients of the Mayor's Social Recovery Fund have been announced, with 55 community and voluntary organisations receiving an average of \$5660. The fund was developed to address the needs of community organisations who are supporting those affected by this year's adverse weather events.

RESILIENCE KITS DISTRIBUTED

Civil Defence has started distributing dozens of resilience kits in Thames-Coromandel, to ensure isolated communities can stay connected and safe until help arrives during severe weather. They include generators, Starlink communication systems and batteries, blankets, radios, hygiene products, cooking equipment, tarps, and other essential items, and are funded through the Lion Foundation, the Ministry for Primary Industries, National Emergency Management Agency, and the Ministry of Social Development.

PASTOR APPOINTED

Eastgate Te Kauwhata has appointed Andy Shudall as their new senior pastor from October 8. He succeeds senior pastor Allan Taylor, who is retiring after many years of dedicated service. Eastgate Te Kauwhata welcomes everyone to join the service and meet Pastor Andy on October 8, 10am at the Te Kauwhata Rugby Club.



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



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IN IT

FOR YOU





Hetherington House residents take part in activities. Photos: SUPPLIED Continuing contributions to community

Celebrating National Diversional and Recreational Therapy Day on September 18 was Carol Wert and Davina Kemp, who offer their activities at Hetherington House in Waihī.

The pair said diversional and recreation therapists played "a huge part" in the lives of many people within the community - people of all ages, cultures and abilities.

They co-ordinate, plan, and implement therapeutic recreational activities that are person-centred, and help people remain independent, maintain confidence, and be themselves.

"Many Hetherington House residents have at some point in their lives been a volunteer or have belonged to organisations linked to the community," they said.

"[We] have offered activities that give



back to the community and continue the residents' contribution to the community they are part of."

Some of the activities have included: knitting hats, bunnies, and teddy bears; making play dough for a local kindergarten; and painting rocks and hiding them at Gilmore Lake.



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16 months and counting in SPCA

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

Adog who was brought to Thames' SPCA as a puppy is now nearing two-years-old, pending more time in the animal shelter than she ever was outside of it.

Melissa Donoghue, Thames SPCA's animal attendant, says it's now Laney's turn to find her forever home.

Laney, a female mixed breed, was handed in to the shelter off Ngati Maru Highway after her owner could no longer take care of her.

That was 16 months ago, and Melissa said Laney who has a maternal nature - deserved to find

"her person". "She has been like a foster mum for so many of our abandoned puppies that have come into the centre," she said. "They just don't know how to act as they get a bit older - bad behaviour which a mum would usually sort out.

'Laney always straightens them out, and she's done that for at least five lots of puppies. She's gentle but firm and she's got an energy about her but she can also lax out.

In the 16 months Laney has been in the care of Thames SPCA, she has had only two applications from families interested in being her forever owners.

Melissa said the lack of interest

turn to find her forever home. thinks that's why people have preferred to adopt other dogs. But she said there's many qualities to Laney that would make a new owner very happy

She's described as a type of dog "that just loves to do everything" running, playing, or hanging out with her humans. She enjoys playing fetch, frisbee, tug-of-war, and going on hikes.

was

'heart-

breaking". "She's been in here for so long.

She was a puppy - she was so young when she first came here. It

would be good to see her with her

person.

While there's no time limit on Laney's stay at the SPCA, and while Melissa does bring the dogs presents over Christmas, she would like to see Laney - who is vaccinated and desexed - have a new home by the New Year.

Melissa Donoghue, Thames SPCA's animal attendant, says it's Laney's Photos: KELLEY TANTAU

"I really want her to have her person everyday," she said. "I give her what I can give her, but I'm only here for so many hours, and t's then when I wish for them to have their own person and their own home.

We make it the best for them while they're here, but we do shed a tear when they head out the gate

DETAILS: To enquire about Laney, phone Thames SPCA on 07 868 6830 or visit www.spca.nz/centre/ thames-centre



Treasury goes online

A new chapter in exploring the Hauraki-Coromandel history unfolds as The Treasury Research Centre and Archive launches its online archive catalogue, a digital gateway to a wealth of historical

records and captivating stories. The online archive catalogue opens the doors to a trove of historical records, including digitised images of the Coromandel Peninsula and Hauraki District. With the ability to search by names of individuals, organisations, and places, users can explore whether The Treasury holds any records related to their interests.

The Treasury general manager Katherine Quinn said digital ac-cess was "especially important in a region like ours where travelling to Te Kauaeranga Thames to view physical items can be challeng-

"Now people can view many re-It has the added benefit of reducing handling with what are often fragile items, helping preserve them in our specialist archive."

Only approximately 40 per cent of The Treasury's extensive archive collection had been catalogued so far, she said, with new records continuously added as funding was sourced.

The purchase of specialist ar-chival software, which powers this platform, was made possible through funding from the Lottery Environment and Heritage grant and Thames-Coromandel and Hauraki district councils.

Users also have the opportunity to obtain high resolution copies of images.





By ALICE PARMINTER, Public Interest funded by NZ On Air

he tamariki [kids] of Miller The tamarıkı [kuus] of America are working towards a cleaner, green-er school that they can be proud

of. The school is striving to re-ac-quire its Enviroschools accreditation after a lapse of several years, and its efforts have aligned well with the new localised school curriculum.

Teacher Jane Lupton said the Enviroschools project began after a number of changes at the school, as teachers and students began reconnecting to their cultural identity and the environment around them. "It's something that I'm quite passionate about, and we could see a need," Jane said.

"It was encompassed in our Positive Behaviour 4 Learning [programme] about caring for our environment as well, so it was a natural step.

Work on becoming an Enviroschool began in term one, with a specific focus on "me and my en-vironment". So far the students have turned their attention to reducing waste on campus, as well as beautifying their surroundings. Every class participated in an enviro-showcase at the end of term two, with contributions ranging from brainstorming ways to improve the school, to building a "cancer remembrance" daffodil

garden for a student who survived leukaemia. "The kids really ran with it in the

first and second term," Jane said. "We tried to maintain our focus on what was achievable ... it's nice for the kids to actually see something come to fruition from their

ideas Now, the school boasts an envirogroup for interested students in years four and up, on top of school-wide activities. They help resource teacher Judith Woodham with all the gardens, weeding, composting

and replanting. "We do painting, we do gardening, over there we have a worm farm," said envirogroup member Bayley Kovacevich-Adams, 11.

The group has big ideas for the school, Bayley said, explaining plans for a music board made from recycled items, extra planting, and colourful gutterboards. Nine-year-old Alfie Snowball

said they were also working on having a cleaner school. "Recycling [is] one of the main things that we do," Alfie said. Further plans down the road in-

clude a Pataka Kai, extensions to the composting and worm farm area, revamping the waste station and replanting the wild area at the bottom of the field with natives as well as flax, which will then be

used for weaving. Jane said the kids were learning a lot about sustainability as well,

FOR CARTIN

and she was hopeful the changes would flow on to the wider community as students became used to being environmentally aware.

"It's about using what we've got and being clever about what we've got, making the most of the re-

sources that we have," Jane said. "We're really pleased with the way the students have embraced

"We're just looking forward to growing that side of our lo-cal curriculum and raising that awareness, hopefully the fingers will spread out into whānau and then into the wider community as well."



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Rural Life Leptospirosis: protecting your herd and your people



By Danielle Thomson, BVSc If you have lived on the Hauraki Plains, chances are you know someone that has been affected by Leptospirosis.

'Lepto' is caused by a bacteria that is shed in the urine of infected animals, whose kidneys act as a host for the infection.

neys act as a host for the infection. These bacteria can penetrate soft mucosa and damaged skin, and once inside they cause infection. Signs can range from mild flu like symptoms, right through to extremely serious illness such as kidney failure.

Once in the environment the bacteria can survive in fresh water, soil and mud for days to months at a time. Survival is enhanced by humid environments and high temperatures, with periods of high rainfall and warm weather recognised as being the highest risk factors. Consequently, New Zealand has seen a spike in human cases this year after our extreme 'summer' conditions.

Farmers are at particular risk as they can be exposed both through rodents and their cattle, either through direct or indirect contact with urine from an infected animal.

Main risk activities include: Milking, Calving assistance, AI, Pregnancy testing, Herd testing, Dry cow/teatsealing, Reproductive exams (Metrichecking), Effluent spreading, Keeping pigs on the property, Rodent exposure (storage of feed or concentrate), Environmental (standing contaminated water).

Given the mode of infection, practicing

good shed hygiene is obviously important to help avoid exposure. Things like not eating, drinking, or smoking in the shed, wearing gloves, and covering cuts are all good habits that reduce the risk of Lepto infection.

As rats are also hosts for several strains, having rodent control programmes and thinking about areas that may have contamination with rat urine is also important.

Vaccination of dairy cattle is now routine practice and since it was introduced in the late 70s numbers of hospitalised people have fallen, with most cases being attributed to infection from rats.

However, a new strain of Lepto, called 'Pacifica', has recently been identified as the cause of increased rates of disease, especially among dairy farm workers. A New Zealand-wide study of 200 herds has shown that 27 per cent are shedding this strain in the urine. Cattle are a maintenance host for Pacifica, which means that they don't show outward signs of clinical disease, but for people it is highly pathogenic and often results in hospitalisation. Lepto cases are also likely underdiagnosed as symptoms can be variable (some even resembling covid) and it's not always tested by doctors.

it's not always tested by doctors. Unfortunately, there are no human equivalent Lepto vaccinations, so rodent control, good hygiene practices and vaccinating stock are the best ways to combat human health issues.

The good news is that a new four-way cattle vaccine which provides protection against this new Pacifica strain will soon be available. So, talk to your vet about which vaccination programme is going to work the best for you.

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Entries to select the top Māori dairy farm for the prestigious Ahuwhenua Trophy competition are being invited from around the country.

The competition is held annually and rotates between dairy, sheep and beef, and horticulture. In 2024, the competition is for dairy.

tion is for dairy. The initial judging of entrants takes place early in the new year with the finalists announced at Parliament in late February. The finalists then stage field days during late March and early April. The winner of the competition will be

announced at the awards dinner on Friday, May 17 in Hamilton.

Ahuwhenua Trophy chair Nukuhia Hadfield said the competition was "an excellent opportunity" for Māori to showcase their dairy farming operations.

She said not enough people in Aotearoa knew about or understood the contribution Māori make to the economy - more than 10 per cent of the total earnings of the dairy industry.

She and her husband Bart were previous winners of the Ahuwhenua Trophy for sheep and beef, and she said as farmers being just entrants, let alone winners was hugely beneficial to them

ers being just entrants, let alone winners, was hugely beneficial to them. "As part of the judging process, each farm is carefully evaluated by an experienced team of rural professionals and as part of the process, they offer insightful comments that will benefit the owners. "We certainly found this to be the case

and others who have entered have said the same thing," she said.



The Ahuwhenua Trophy. File Photo: SUPPLIED

Nukukia said the organisers hoped to see a significant number of entrants for the 2024 competition and she urged industry groups and rural professionals to encourage Māori farmers, trusts and incorporations to enter.

DairyNZ chair Jim van der Poel was also keen to see what comes out of the 2024 competition. "It's an extremely important event on the agricultural calendar and that's why our organisation is a strong supporter and sponsor of the event."

He said the Ahuwhenua Trophy competition recognises Māori agribusinesses who were doing some great things.

"If you think about some of the winners over the past few years and what they have done and are doing, and how proud they are of their achievements, it is really positive. Every year more amazing stories emerge from the entrants in this competition." **DETAILS: To enter, visit www.ahuwhenuat**-

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Akarana Caravan Club members work on the chicken coop.

Caravan club helps out at Kaihere

Members of the Akarana Caravan Club took part in a working bee at Kaihere School recently. Club member Judy Parr said a visit by

the Akarana Caravan Club to Kaihere School last year led to a partnership that resulted in another visit in 2023.

This time the visit was more than a normal weekend club rally, it turned into a working bee, aimed at supporting the school's students, staff and community," she said.

Club members were welcomed by students on September 8 with a song, *Tutira* Mai Nga Iwi, and a formal welcome by student leader, Sophia John. An after-noon tea of scones, cream and jam was then served.

"It was great to reconnect with everyone but the focus soon turned to the work ahead," Judy said.

"Prior to the visit, discussions with the principal, Richard Reid, had established some key tasks, so the tools were unloaded from our vans and work began."

Club members did gardening, pruned trees in the orchard and tidied paths in the bush area, leaving colourful knickknacks hidden in the trees for the children to find on their return. They also remodelled the sandpit and

completed some major work on the chicken run, repairing the wire netting walls and, in some areas, replacing them, and a roof was constructed. The group worked tirelessly on Friday afternoon and Saturday, stopping only for a barbecue lunch cooked by Richard and Melanie.

"All club members really appreciated the warm welcome from the students and staff," she said.

"We enjoyed the work and were delighted with the end result. Richard's communication and full involvement during the weekend was superb.

"Akarana Club considered it a privilege to partner with the school and we hope to visit again.'





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Nichola Genn Harriswith her range of Taonga Puoro, flute and picolo. Photo: SUPPLIER

Unique concert for Thames

Looking for a new challenge to keep her occupied as she finished her PhD, Nichola Genn Harris enrolled in a Māori language course, which ultimately led to a new passion.

She has joined a growing number of musicians using taonga puoro, and while she does not consider herself an expert in these, she enjoys sharing her journey of discovery with these instruments, and often uses them in combination with her western flutes in performance.

Together taonga puoro and her four flutes create what she laughingly refers to as her "one man band", that she will per-form with at St George's church at 2pm on October 8 as a part of the Thames Music

Group Sunday concert series. Combining bass, alto, concert flutes and piccolo with taonga puoro and electro-

acoustic backing tracks, Nichola will pre-

sent Soundscape Aotearoa. With music almost exclusively by New Zealand composers such as Anthony Ritchie, Peter Adams, Helen Fisher, and Martin Lodge, the programme depicts our landscape, our history, and our culture, and highlights the uniqueness of the language of music in New Zealand, with its fusion of western art music, cross-cultural inspiration, and the sounds of our land-

scape. Nichola recently moved to Thames to take on the role of head of department, music, at Thames High School. She holds degrees at the NSW State Conservatorium of Music, University of Canterbury, and Otago University, and holds Fellowships from both Trinity College and the Royal School of Music in London.









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OPINION



VICHAEL WILKES

 $R_{\rm young\ man}$ who was keen to catch up and get some advice on how to move forward. As we sat and talked, he shared of his frustrations and the painful journey of seeing how, at times, he can be his on worst enemy. I was able to encourage him in his journey.

The first step to any change is to admit that something in us, or around us is not quite right. To realise our need for things to change

But the next step can be the hardest to take. So often we find ourselves stuck. Stuck between the faults we see and the solution we can't. We find ourselves stuck on repeat. Doing the same stupid things and wondering how it is that we find ourselves right back there again. I not only see this all the time with

young people, but with parents, and even in my own life.

For myself a simple example of this is busyness leading to a shortness towards my kids, and a distance between me and my wife. It could go on for weeks or months but at some point, one of us will shine the light into the distance that has grown. And once we realise it, we actively take

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steps to move towards what we want in our relationship and in our family. This is the key in the next step, to look towards what is important to us. towards what and the who we want to be. I sat with this young man and we explored what was important to him and who it was that he wanted to

be for others in his life. There is something valuable about considering what are the things we value in life, what are the things that give us life, who is the person we want to be. Too often we get stuck seeing the things we don't want in our life and becoming that very thing.

We see it over and over again when a person looks at their parents and says "I never want to be like that". And we watch as those we love begin to reflect more of the thing they never wanted.

We tend to reflect that which we give our focus to. For this young man, he went away hopeful with a picture of the person he wants to strive to be and a sense of what was important to him. He went away with practical ideas because we had focused on how to increase the good stuff as opposed to eliminating the bad. When we lean into the stuff that gives us life and choose to pursue the things that matters, we are then able to be proactive in shaping both ourselves and our families towards the things we really value.

In my marriage, when we notice the shift and then lean into the things we value. Quality time, words of kindness, aroha, building each other up. When we lean into those things, the negative stuff fades out. Don't beat yourself up about the stuff you never wanted, instead lean into the stuff you do want.

- Michael Wilkes is a Living Well Trust Youth Worker

All welcome

SPORTS

Thames Valley faced up to the challenge provided by a powerful Ngati Porou haka at the start of their Heartland Championship match at Waihī last Saturday and defeated East Coast by 31 points to 26.

However, the Swamp Foxes were unsuccessful with a second challenge in this match and that was to gain a bonus point by scoring four or more tries. As a consequence, they have ended up in third place on the points ladder and will now travel to Whanganui to meet the Butcher Boys in a semi-final for the Meads Cup. South Canterbury will host Ngati Porou East Coast in the other semi-final.

Thames Valley had the use of a strong wind in the first half, and by half time had scored 19 points with Fletcher Morgan kicking four penalty goals and converting a try by Calum Wood. East Coast scored a converted try to make the score 19-7 at the break. Morgan's 14 points at this stage enabled him to pass the cen-tury mark for the 2023 season. He added another seven points in the second half, with a try and a conversion, to give him a grand total of 116 at an average of 14.5 per game. In the 65th minute, Mosese Mafi scored what was to be Thames Valley's third and final try in this game.

With the wind at their backs, after half time, it was not long before East Coast took over the lead at 21-19 with two converted tries. The Swamp Foxes fought back into the wind with determination and vigour and were rewarded with Morgan's try along with Mafi's, which he converted. Thames Valley now led 31-21 with fifteen minutes left to go. Apart from one lapse, when East Coast managed to score a try, the Valley's defence was strong and they won their sixth

Fletcher Morgan about to cross the line for his try.



Mosese Mafi scores between the posts. match of the season, 31-26.

While it is disappointing for the Swamp Foxes, and their fans, not to have a home semi-final, at least they have played well at Cooks Gardens in recent times having notched up three wins at the Whanganui fortress.

These include the 2018 Meads Cup semi-final and the 36-33 victory earlier this year. The Foxes have built up a large group of supporters this year and those who can't make the trip south will be with the team in spirit.

Photos: SUPPLIED/TVRFU Unusual Incident: after he had scored his try, Fletcher Morgan's conversion attempt was into a very strong wind. As he ran into to kick the ball it blew over. The natural left footer quickly picked up the ball and dropped kicked for goal with his right foot. The kick was right on target and landed on the centre of the crossbar but unfortunately it bounced back into the field of play. Fletcher's skill

and quick thinking deserved a better result.

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Health & Wellbeing

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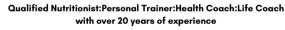
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Whānau whānui (wider community) interacted with stall holders varying from health services to community engagement, to social services and more.

Hei painga mō te rohe o Hauraki – for the betterment of our Hauraki rohe

An event held by Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki - Whānau Ora Navigation Service on September 26 saw a number of whānau arrive with such excitement in their eyes and huge smiles with the bonus of added knowledge to their kete as they left.

Whānau whānui (wider community) interacted with stall holders varying from health services to community engagement, to social services and more.

The Paeroa War Memorial Hall transformed into an energetic setting filled with laughter, conversations, and tamariki exploring and interacting with all of the services and stall holders – meeting, greeting and enjoying free kai for all.

The Whānau Day Out Event gave various roopū (groups) a chance to once again come together, to connect, to support and

provide whānau with information to better access to their services.

For whānau around the peninsula there are numerous barriers to accessing a wide variety of services, we're glad so many of these services were available to participate on the day, providing a fun interactive event for all.

As we farewell yet another spectacular whānau event, we are left with fantastic memories and even more ideas and visions for the next event.

Of course, the 2023 Whānau Day Out would not have been successful without the many contributions and definitely not without the support and sponsorship from so many pākihi (businesses) and services.

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Pre-election jitters for property market

Apre-election snapshot of the New Zealand property market revealed a softer-than-expected "spring swing", according to data from realestate.co.nz.

September saw new listings down year-on-year in most regions. The Coromandel region was down 24.8 per cent on last year, much lower than the average national decrease of 0.9 per cent. However, the region bucked the national trend in total available housing stock, with a 41.8 per cent increase compared with September 2022. The data also showed the na-

The data also showed the national average asking price stayed flat during September at \$871,400, down just 0.1 per cent month-onmonth. In the Coromandel though, the average asking price was down 9.2 per cent to \$1,044,866.

Vanessa Williams, spokesperson for realestate.co.nz, said it was typical for Kiwis to hold off on making significant financial decisions in the face of uncertainty. "We see it all the time that Kiwis

"We see it all the time that Kiwis hold off on making big decisions ahead of an election while they wait to see who comes into government and how expected policies might impact them."

Election promises that would make it easier for overseas investors to purchase property over \$2 million has left some Kiwis asking what that could mean for their homegrown property dreams.

But there are currently more than 23,500 homes for sale on realestate.co.nz, with only around 7 per cent priced at \$2 million or

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above. Vanessa said that given how niche this part of the market is, it's likely the majority of property seekers will be unaffected by this change if it goes ahead.

"We are talking about the higher end of the market, where there is less demand. Homes priced over \$2 million tend to spend more than twice as long on our site than those priced closer to the national average asking price, telling me that demand is not currently satisfying supply in this area of the market," she said.

She said we needed to focus on the first home market, ensuring Kiwis have more affordable living options at the beginning of the ladder.

der. "I believe in every market there are opportunities for everyone to find the perfect property. A quick search on our site shows over 3200 houses listed for \$500,0000 or less right across the motu. Buyers looking for more cost-effective housing may need to look a little beyond their backyard to find them," she said.

Meanwhile, nine out of 19 regions saw the lowest new listing numbers for any September on record last month.

Waikato, Gisborne, Hawke's Bay, Wellington, Otago, Southland, Central Otago/Lakes District, Wairarapa, and Manawatu/ Whanganui all fell short of typical September numbers. Vanessa said the combination

Vanessa said the combination of high interest rates and the election was likely behind lower-thanexpected new listings.

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SPORTS REPORTS

PAEROA BOWLS

On September 23, Paeroa Bowling Club had its 'Have-A-Go Day'. The weather was not that pleasant but despite that we had an excellent turn out with 10 people arriving at the Clubrooms. The day started with a welcome from our president Kevin Lockley who then started with a classroom session. We then moved out to the Greens, and everyone "Hada-Go". Much Laughter was heard and happy faces were evident. As time went by the lessons were becoming well worthwhile and everyone completely enjoyed themselves. I am pleased to report that, with the 10 people who came along we had interest from a further four people who have shown interest but were unavailable on the day. We are very pleased with the result and look forward to welcoming these people into our club.

PAEROA CROQUET

The Midlands League is an interclub golf croquet event played with teams from Thames Valley and Waikato. Twenty teams entered the 2022-23 event, with the top four playing off in the finals. The Paeroa team lost to Whangamata at Whangamata 4-6 in the first round. In round two, it was a win to Paeroa 8-2 against a Morrinsville team in Paeroa. It was off to Matamata in round three, where the Paeroa team had a 6-4 win. The final pool game was a home game for the Paeroa team, who came away with a 9-1 win



Keen bowlers participate in Paeroa Bowls' Have a Go day. Photos: SUPPLIED

against Claudelands. The Paeroa team travelled to Whangamata for the semifinal and came away with a close 6-4 win. The final was held in Te Aroha against Morrinsville, and after the first eight games, Paeroa led 6-2. There was no need to play the last two games as Paeroa had already won the trophy. The team who played in the final were John O'Neale, Dawnry Slavich, Heather Prince and Kevin Waterson. Others who played during the season were Mila Coventry and Anne Williams.

GOLDFIELDS WI

The Motto this month – "Do your little bit of good where you can; it's the little bits of good put together that help the world" was read by Val Bowen. The Roll Call – "A tongue twister" proved that tongue twisters are very hard to say, and there was lots of laughter. The Good Deed will result in a good supply of tin or packet of cat food or bedding for animal rescue being donated. There was a good display of knitting at the meeting and during the month two boxes of prem baby knitting was donated to the Newborn Intensive Unit at Waikato Hospital. Raffles were won by Sue Fah and Jean Brady. A report was given from the recent Federation Bi Annual Meeting held in Ngatea. This was a real highlight for Goldfields members as two members received their 60 Year Badges.

Jill Bridgman came down from Auckland for the occasion, and Jill is the only surviving Foundation Mem-ber of Goldfields which was started in 1969, so it is a real achievement for Jill. The other member who was honoured was Val Bowen, who was for many years a member of Kaihere WI until they went into recess. Since joining Goldfields WI, Val has become a very valued member. Their badges were presented by Federation President Dawn Clark, and both ladies received a spray of fresh flowers. Bev Schenkel received a second place for her colouring competition. Members were informed about the Over 80s and Officers Luncheon, which will be held in October in Ngatea, and details will be finalised next month. RESULTS: Bloom: Val Bowen 1, Helen Udy 2, Sue Fah 3. Cluster: Sue Fah 1, Helen Udy 2, Val Bowen 3. Shrub: Sue Fah & Helen Udy 1=. Orchid: Helen Udy 1, Sue Fah 2, Val Bowen 3. COMPETITION: A knitted article using 50gms of wool, Bev Schenkel 1, Sue Fah 2. Maureen Claasen 3.

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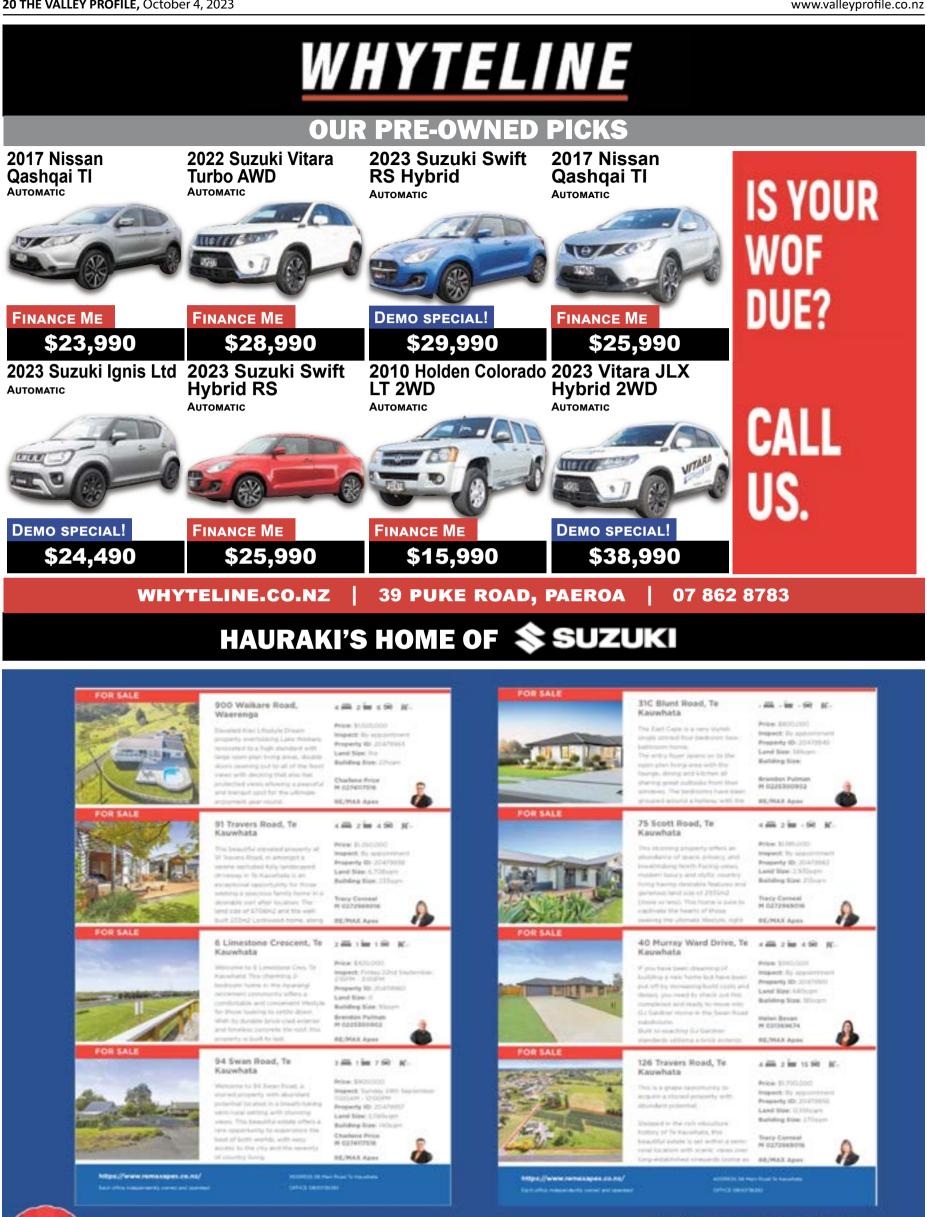
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October 4, 2023, THE VALLEY PROFILE 19



ACROSS: 1 Tempt, 4 Bright as a button, 14 Ample, 15 Pedal, 16 Commercial, 17 Ahead, 19 Duo, 20 Deposit, 21 Manifesto, 22 Recipe, 25 Immediate, 27 Tedium, 28 Defend, 33 Circuitous, 35 Emu, 36 Silage, 37 Sill, 39 Nip, 41 Develop, 42 Marina, 43 Small talk, 44 Minds, 45 Intended, 50 Hi, 51 Marathon, 55 Aloha, 58 Persuaded, 59 Ruined, 60 Visible, 61 Top, 63 Lane, 64 Family, 65 Odd, 66 Misfortune, 68 Oxygen, 69 Deacon, 71 Dividends, 76 Skewer, 77 Prototype, 79 Portray, 81 Eel, 84 Solar, 85 Interviews, 86 Mimic, 87 Chore, 88 Sweet Fanny Adams, 89 Ready.

DOWN: 2 Eleven, 3 Piano, 5 Riot, 6 Gymnast, 7 Turnip, 8 Seize, 9 Belated, 10 Tear, 11 Opened, 12 Spade, 13 Devoted, 14 Admirer, 18 Likelihood, 23 Pilot, 24 Cutlass, 26 Machete, 27 Tsunami, 29 Epitaph, 30 Pigeon, 31 Tepid, 32 Iguana, 34 Spat, 36 Spine, 38 Liken, 40 Plea, 45 Impel, 46 Tyranny, 47 Nous, 48 Endear, 49 Booty, 50 Harpoon, 52 Rhinoceros, 53 Tainted, 54 Oblong, 55 Admired, 56 Giddy, 57 Beam, 62 Aspic, 67 Reverse, 68 Offence, 70 Cardiff, 72 Implied, 73 Bellow, 74 Stormy, 75 Varied, 76 Sloop, 78 Titan, 80 Twine, 82 True, 83 Swim.



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