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New quarry 'outrage'

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

There's a quarry in the hillside of the picturesque Waitawheta Valley.

Residents are accustomed to its operations, which have been managed by HG Leach since the late 60s, but the proposal of an adjacent second quarry - one that would take the place of 113 hectares of farmland - has started to raise concerns.

"They've brought the fight over to our side now," one local said.

Environmental repercussions, lowering property values, as well as noise and visual impacts, are a few reasons why a group of Waitawheta residents are wanting to spread the word about the proposal, which is yet to have a resource consent application lodged with Hauraki District Council.

They want to make sure that when an application has been submitted, council will make it publicly notifiable, meaning the proposal would be open for submissions by all.

"There's about 30 people [concerned], and I think the majority of those people have already said something to council... and we're only just getting started," Steve Erickson

said.

"There's just no need to come over here when there's still rock over there," Lloyd Mercer added.

Steve and Lloyd are both long-term residents of the Waitawheta Valley. Lloyd - who was a previous employee at the Waitawheta quarry - has a property which will overlook the new site.

Not only do they fear the new quarry on Spence Rd - which adjoins the Waitawheta River - will lower property values, but they are concerned that there is a Significant Natural Area [SNA] on the proposed site, "as well as many rare species of plants and animals".

"They haven't thought it through," Steve said.

"We want to protect this place because we've got a beautiful spot here."

HG Leach chief operating officer Mark Baillie said the company's application for the new quarry, south-west of Waihi, avoided the SNA on the proposed site.

The company had sought advice from "a number of technical experts" in relation to the development of the quarry, he said.

"The resource is not something that we can control the location of; however, we have been mindful of the

CONTINUED ON P6



A second proposed quarry adjacent to HG Leach's existing Waitawheta operations would take the place of 113 hectares of farmland.

RIGHT: Steve Erickson and Lloyd Mercer are concerned about a second quarry in the Waitawheta Valley. Photos: KELLEY TANTAU

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Last issue it was in the Hauraki Plains Motors ad.

New Valley Profile feature writer called home

Family, community, and less time sitting in city traffic are some of the things that have called me back to my home town of Paeroa.

Kia Ora, my name is Davidda Hikatangata and I am the new Feature Writer at the *Valley Profile*. I am really passionate about working in the community I grew up in, finding out who people are and what they love to do.

The opportunity to talk with people from all over the region and find out their stories gives me a feeling of connectedness.

I cannot believe how much goes on in our region, so many wonderful events and inspirational stories from our people here.

At *The Profile*, I will be working closely with our editor, Teresa Ramsey, and advertising manager Nikki Sanders to gather those wonderful advertising feature stories, advertorials and news stories from local people, groups, events and businesses.

The majority of my schooling life was spent at Paeroa College, and prior to that, Ti-rohia Primary School, which is where I got to hone my love of writing with our Tuesday letter writing sessions. At one point I was pen pals with the late Sir Edmund Hilary (and I even received my fax license when he replied to my first ever fax!), received some tips from leg-



Davidda Hikatangata is *The Profile's* new feature writer.

Photo: DAVE MIDDLETON

head to the city.

Weekends and evenings were filled with the sounds of my favorite artists, and sometimes, a bunch of friends.

I met lots of people who were the same as me, wanting to spend time with other musicians, crafting songs and putting together big elaborate musical concoctions.

This was and is still one of my big passions! However, it does not replicate or come close to the feeling of being back home with the people I love. Lucky for me, I come from a musical family, so one or more of us are always giggling somewhere.

Speaking of family shin-digs, from time to time you will catch me on the drums and singing backing vocals with my cover's band, *King Cool*.

Led by my brother, Kristian Bennett, on guitar and vocals, and joined by our friend Ty Gage on the bass, we are gearing up for summertime corporate functions, weddings and other celebrations, so keep an ear out for us.

I'm happy to be back home, hoping to write more songs and hopefully meet you and hear your story.

DETAILS: Contact Davidda for information about advertorials or advertising features for your business, club or community organisation: Ph 022 174 3988, email: davidda@valleyprofile.co.nz.

endary news presenter Judy Bailey, and a postcard from my childhood hero, Suzy Cato.

I have lived in Auckland for the past six years, mostly for the music scene (and because

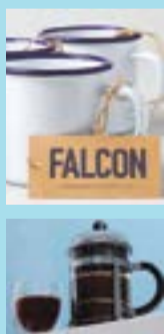
it saved me a bit of time and money not having to travel there every weekend!) Being a lover of music, going to gigs, and crafting my own music made it feel like a no-brainer to



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Thames Tides

Wed Nov 22	Thu Nov 23	Fri Nov 24	Sat Nov 25	Sun Nov 26	Mon Nov 27	Tue Nov 28
 Morning: 2:36am 3.1, 3:19pm 3.3 Afternoon: 8:49am 0.8, 9:31pm 0.7 Sun: 5:55am 8:13pm Best At: 8:33am 8:57pm Set: 2:51am, Rise: 2:26pm	 Morning: 3:41am 3.1, 4:19pm 3.3 Afternoon: 9:58am 0.8, 10:32pm 0.6 Sun: 5:55am 8:14pm Best At: 9:21am 9:45pm Set: 3:18am, Rise: 3:36pm	 Morning: 4:48am 3.2, 5:18pm 3.4 Afternoon: 11:04am 0.8, 11:32pm 0.5 Sun: 5:54am 8:15pm Best At: 10:09am 10:33pm Set: 3:44am, Rise: 4:46pm	 Morning: 5:53am 3.3, 12:03pm 0.7 Afternoon: 6:14pm 3.4 Sun: 5:54am 8:16pm Best At: 10:57am 11:22pm Set: 4:11am, Rise: 5:56pm	 Morning: 12:28am 0.5, 12:57pm 0.6 Afternoon: 6:52am 3.4, 7:07pm 3.5 Sun: 5:54am 8:17pm Best At: 11:48am Set: 4:41am, Rise: 7:07pm	 Morning: 1:20am 0.4, 1:46pm 0.6 Afternoon: 7:44am 3.5, 7:59pm 3.5 Sun: 5:53am 8:18pm Best At: 12:14am 12:41pm Full Moon Set: 5:15am, Rise: 8:18pm	 Morning: 2:10am 0.3, 2:33pm 0.6 Afternoon: 8:32am 3.5, 8:49pm 3.4 Sun: 5:53am 8:19pm Best At: 1:09am 1:37pm Set: 5:55am, Rise: 9:26pm

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

Remembering 'wahine toa' Karly Forsyth

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

In 17 short years, Karly Marie Forsyth left an impression on the people she met.

Evident in her family, proud of the woman she had become; in the friends, who will cherish the schooltime pranks and hilarity; and in the rugby teammates, who were awed by her physical prowess and passion, Karly Forsyth was an inspiration, in every sense of the word.

Karly was farewelled on November 3, and while there wasn't a dry eye left in the Ngatea War Memorial Hall, burgeoning with people who knew the teen "pocket rocket", there were also stories that elicited laughter, like the ones told from long-time friends Brooklyn Nicholson, Jamie Kennedy, Cade Paton, and Chris Lourens.

"We are going to miss pushing you into every bush we walk past. We are going to miss putting rocks and bark in your bag and seeing how long it takes you to notice. We are going to miss losing you in a crowd of Year 9s at school. We are going to miss playing with your crutches and slings every second week. We are going to miss you laughing at stuff that's not even funny.

"Most of all," they said, "we will miss you."

Karly, a 17-year-old passionate about sports and known for her wit and humour, had recently received a devastating diagnosis of a rare and aggressive form of cancer. She passed away on October 28. But in 17 years, Karly grew



In 17 years, Karly Forsyth became an inspiration to her peers and fellow rugby players.

Photo: SUPPLIED

into a dedicated and determined wahine toa. Hailing from a strong sporting family, Karly didn't let injuries stop her from making an impact on the rugby field.

Gavin Flint, from Hauraki North Rugby Club, told of how Karly became the first young woman to wear the Number 9 jersey when the club established its first women's rugby team in its history, dubbed the Diamonds.

She ran on to the field as part of the first ever Diamonds squad in their first ever game earlier this year, and played at half-back.

"She'd be an inspiration to every young girl coming through our school system at the moment," Gavin said. "If you want inspiration, look to Karly Forsyth. She had amazing determination, a lovely personality, a good work ethic... everything you want in a

good role model.

"Karly girl, no matter how many girls wear that Number 9 jersey in the future, you will always be the first. You will always be remembered. It will always be your jersey."

A 12-hour walkathon around the Hauraki North fields has been planned to remember Karly's spirit and legacy. It will be held from 8am on Saturday, December 2,

with all donations going to Starship Hospital and Ronald McDonald House.

Club president Andrew Williams said anyone of any age was welcome to take part. The 12-hour walk dubbed 'Ks for Karly' could even be divided between teammates, he said.

"We've got an opportunity here to get out in the community and acknowledge what has happened.

"[Karly's parents] Brad and Ange have done so much for us, so we wanted to create an event that did something for them and something for Starship as well."

Individuals and groups wanting to enter, and those interested in donating or providing spot prizes, can do so by contacting Hauraki North Rugby Club on Facebook.

Karly's family told *The Profile* they were grateful for the community's continuous support.

"On behalf of our family, we would like to say a huge thank you to family, friends and the local community for their aroha, support, and generosity during Karly's battle with cancer and the ongoing support we are still receiving."

Karly was the daughter of Brad and Ange (nee Hancock), and the strong and cheeky little sister of Lara. All of those who knew Karly agreed, her legacy will live on.

DETAILS: Ks for Karly, Saturday, December 2, 8am to 8pm at Hauraki North Rugby Club, Waitakaruru. Email haurakinorth@hotmail.com to enter and/or donate.



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Education

New deputy ready to make a difference

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

Thames High School's new tumuaki tuarua has started his tenure with a "rewarding" few weeks in the role.

Christopher Ashforth has taken over as the school's deputy principal this month, bringing his "vast experience" and "positive influence" to the job.

Mr Ashforth trained at Auckland University, gaining a Graduate Diploma in Teaching before moving on to work at Mount Albert Grammar, Selwyn College, and Saint Kentigern College, where he taught as a visual art teacher specialising in photography for senior students.

In 2017, he became the Head of Learning for visual art at Tangaroa College.

There, he took on new challenges, becoming a Dean and moving through the different year levels of Year 9 to Year 13.

In 2022, he started studying for a Masters degree in Secondary Leadership at Victoria University, which inspired him to make a difference in other communities.

"During a visit to Thames to see my mother and father-in-law, my family and I were captivated by the stunning mountains, scenery, and the close-knit and supportive



Thames High's new tumuaki tuarua Christopher Ashforth was welcomed at a powhiri at the school this month. Photo: SUPPLIED



Secondary School Leadership and apply the acquired knowledge and experience to support the continuous development of Thames High School. Lastly, I look forward to learning from my experienced colleagues in the Senior Leadership team, as they have a lot to offer."

Thames High tumuaki [principal] Michael Hart said it was "fantastic" to have Christopher joining the staff.

"Christopher brings a vast ex-

perience from a wide range of schools, and has great attributes for the role," he said. "His experience in both curriculum and pastoral care leadership means he has the right stuff to be an effective leader of our junior school, and provide leadership and support to our pastoral team. At the heart of all our roles is the ability to engage with our diverse community, and form caring and trusting relationships with staff, students and

whānau. Within the two weeks he has been with us, he has already made strong connections with our team, and has taken the time to connect with taiohi [young people]. We know he will make a great contribution to our team and school."

The deputy principal role became available as the school's incumbent, Natalie O'Neill, made the decision to dedicate herself to her family and the family farming business.

Mr Hart said the school was "lucky to have had a very strong field of candidates".

"Christopher exceeded the board's expectations for a passionate educational leader, who has a clear vision for education. He has a strong commitment to giving effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and strengthening our culturally responsive approach to wellbeing, learning and teaching.

"Our student council met all the candidates and were impressed with Christopher's interest in them, to form connections and listen to them.

"It is clear that his experience and his formal educational leadership studies mean he has a good grasp of the challenges and opportunities for our school. His insights into what works in other schools and understanding of best practice is an asset we are fortunate to have secured."



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Acknowledging the history of Pūkoro

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

A day of commemoration – He ARā Maumahara – was held by Ngāti Paoa earlier this month to remember the bombardment of its kāinga at Pūkoro 160 years ago by a naval warship.

On a journey to settle its grievances and strengthen its identity, the Hauraki iwi is sharing and acknowledging its “sad history”.

On November 3, 1863, boats from the HMS Miranda fired shells and rockets at a Ngāti Paoa kāinga [village] at Pūkoro, exploding a whare and killing Ngāti Paoa men, women and children, and causing the rest of the inhabitants to flee.

Twenty days later, on November 23, 44 officers and 922 men from the 12th and 70th Regiments, Waikato Militia, Auckland Naval Volunteers, and 54 cavalry of the Colonial Defence Force - dubbed the Thames Expedition - disembarked just south of Whakatiwai.

From there, the troops marched along the beach to Kaiua, crossed several streams and swamps, and ascended a fern ridge before descending to Pūkoro, the journey taking more than seven hours.

They found the area had been occupied by Māori who had decamped, leaving their equipment and with fires still alight. Tents were pitched and scouting parties sent out. Later, the troops set fire to the considerable area of fern around the camp, clearing several 100 acres of land.

The unjustified invasion in November, 1863, was part of a cam-

paign to take over land, set up military redoubts, and quash Māori Kingitanga resistance.

The bombardment of Pūkoro and the history of violence against Ngāti Paoa was acknowledged in Parliament in June this year, when the Ngāti Paoa Claims Settlement Bill was read for the first time.

The Bill gives effect to the Ngāti Paoa Deed of Settlement, which Ngāti Paoa signed with the Crown in March, 2021.

At the time, Coromandel MP Scott Simpson told Parliament that a “terrible act” was inflicted upon Ngāti Paoa people at Pūkoro, where a vessel of the Crown, of the Royal Navy, came into the Firth of Thames and fired cannon into the marae and into the pā. “There was death, there was desecration, and there was harm and damage that was done, and then they had the audacity to sail away having inflicted that terrible crime, to sail away then and rename that area Miranda in the name of that vessel. That was wrong,” he said.

At the 160th commemoration, a karakia was held at Pūkoro Bridge, and a pōwhiri drew together roughly 500 guests to Ray’s Rest Camping Reserve. Waka tāngata drew up to the shore and conducted a haka.

Preva Jackson, who helped organise the commemoration, said it was important the community, and particularly the tamariki, learned about Pūkoro’s “sad history”. Tamariki from schools across Kaiua, Mangatāwhiri, and Waitakaruru were in attendance.



At the 160th commemoration, a pōwhiri drew roughly 500 guests to Ray’s Rest Reserve.

Photo: AOREWA CREATIVE

Chair of the Ngāti Paoa Iwi Trust Herearoa Skipper said Ngāti Paoa was on a journey to settle its grievances and strengthen its identity as a people.

“It is important the wider community understands what happened at Pūkoro in 1863, and the impact this had on us as a people,” he said.

“The invasion and killing of our people was bad enough, but it was made worse by the fact a fort was built and given the name ‘Miranda’ after the warship, replacing the name Pūkoro. It was only in 2015 that the joint name ‘Pūkoro/Miranda’ was officially recognised.”



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Quarry proposal brings 'fight to our side'

CONTINUED FROM P1

environment throughout the design process."

In a letter sent to residents within 1km of the proposed site, HG Leach said its Spence Rd quarry would be designed to ensure compliance with Hauraki District Council's noise standards. It would operate between Monday-Saturday, 6am to 6pm, and Sunday, 7am-1pm.

The company is also proposing to undertake "screen planting" to reduce the visual impact of the quarry from nearby Franklin and Hume Rds.

Mark said HG Leach was not able to confirm the extent of the resource remaining in the existing quarry, and that the Spence Rd proposal was "more economically viable in comparison".

He said the company took "the wellbeing of the community seriously".

"At a local Waihi level, the Spence Rd quarry will service the local aggregate market, helping to contain input costs across the construction sector. In addition, the quarry will minimise overall costs associated with transporting aggregate to the Tauranga and Coromandel markets.

"It is important to retain the quarrying activity in the local economy, keeping the jobs locally

and supporting other businesses in the economy."

A Hauraki District Council spokesperson confirmed the presence of a Significant Natural Area on the Spence Rd farmland and said it was aware of HG Leach's proposal to establish a second quarry there.

They said no resource consent application had yet been received by council.

Once a completed application had been received, an assessment would be carried out to determine which processing path was required to be followed – non notified, limited notified (to specific potentially affected parties) or public notification (open for submissions by all).

If limited, or fully notified, a hearing will be held to consider the application and any submissions received, and to make a decision on the proposal.

"One big concern is that councils have the ability to make a consent for the quarry non-notifiable. This should not be allowed," Steve said.

"We're outraged, really, that [HG Leach] would even consider this, so we want to be sure it's publicly notified and the council doesn't just push it through, that's our emphasis for now."



New public housing for Thames

Work started last week on eight new Kāinga Ora homes in Thames, which the organisation is saying will help meet the need for public housing in the district.

The two and three bedroom single storey homes are expected to be completed early next year, adding to the 208 public housing Kāinga Ora homes in the Thames-Coromandel.

At 110-112 Harvey Crescent, four two-bedroom homes will replace two houses, while at adjoining sections at 736 Mount Pleasant Rd and 125 Harvey Crescent, two two-bedroom and two three-bedroom homes will replace two existing houses, with all four current houses built in the early 1960s.

The eight new homes are being built offsite in a factory and will be transported to the sites where they will be installed and connected to services, and have porches, decks and fencing built.

They will be low maintenance, fully insulated and have double glazing, carpets and curtains, along with a fenced outdoor area and allocated off-street parking.

A further four houses are also planned for 820-822 Mount Pleasant Rd, and a single house at 302 MacKay St, with work for these houses expected to start on site early next year with completion by the middle of 2024.



An artist's impression of the new home planned for 302 MacKay St, Thames. LEFT: Kāinga Ora's Darren Toy.

Images: SUPPLIED

Darren Toy, regional director of Kāinga Ora, said the houses would be welcomed by

those most in need of a place to call home.

"With 81 whānau on the Housing Register in Thames-Coromandel, there is a real need for these houses and it's great to see work starting, with quick completion of these first eight homes early next year through the innovative use of offsite manufacturing.

"By making better use of our existing land we can replace old houses built over 60 years ago on large high maintenance sections, with more warm, modern homes which are better suited to how whānau live today," he said.

"These are the start of a pipeline

of new public housing for Thames, with 38 houses currently either underway or in early planning stages."

According to Kāinga Ora, all proposed buildings will be built within the local council's district plan requirements and will take into consideration boundary lines.


The agency said it had a "specialist team" who matched homes to people most in need from the Housing Register.

Existing connections to the community, like work, schooling or family would be considered, as well as assessing who would "be a good fit" with those already living in the area, it said.

The whānau who lived in the old homes would move to other Kāinga Ora homes as suitable ones are found. They would have the opportunity to return to live in the new homes, if they wished.

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Recreational boat ramp completed at Kōpū

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

Recreational boaties envisioning an easier access into the Firth of Thames from Kōpū will have a clearer picture as construction finishes on the new ramp at the much-anticipated marine precinct.

Contractors and council staff were down at the Kōpū Marine Servicing and Business Precinct last week to hear the latest updates on the \$15.3m project.

Urban Solution's Lorenzo Canal said the two-lane recreational boat ramp was a regional one - meaning it also catered to boaties from around the rohe [area], and formed part of the "network of boat ramps" around the Thames-Coromandel district.

He said the contractors and workers on site had been "very diligent" as the project neared the final six months of construction.

"From the early part [of construction], we had some pretty horrendous weather, so the people on the ground have shown real grit and determination in getting this done," he said.

Work on the rest of the project is progressing well, with the piling barge having started the seaward-side pile-driving operations on the commercial wharf.

The target date for the commercial slipway to be complete is the end of December this year, while the commercial

wharf is expected to be completed by the end of March, 2024.

Fulton Hogan will return in early 2024 to complete the car park surface, King St paving and Quay St entrance widening.

When it's finished, the facility will consist of an 80m long commercial wharf and floating pontoon enabling in-water marine servicing and vessel loading; an expanded, unsealed haul-out; an upgraded, concrete reinforced slipway; and a public boat ramp and car park.

The whole precinct is now due to be completed by mid-2024 - with Mr Canal saying they wanted the entire facility to be finished before any of it was open to the public.

Thames-Coromandel Mayor Len Salt said he was excited to see the progression of the marine precinct, and that the development's milestones, coupled with news that the broken Coromandel roading network will soon be repaired, provided residents with an additional boost.

"This last week or two, we've reached a pivot point of news coming through that turns a corner [for the district]. There's a new sense of optimism and hope that I have not seen literally for 10-11 months."

He said council was building up the district so that it would be "in better shape for the future".



Urban Solution's Lorenzo Canal, left, discusses the boat ramp project alongside TCDC Mayor Len Salt.

RIGHT: The two-lane recreational boat ramp will form part of the "network of boat ramps" around the Thames-Coromandel district. Photos: KELLEY TANTAU



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Rural Life



Vintage tractors, machinery and memorabilia will be on display. File Photo: SUPPLIED

Well-oiled event on its way

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

The Hauraki Vintage Machinery Club is gearing up for its annual Crank Up Day to be held this weekend.

Featuring live displays of vintage tractors and machinery, memorabilia, and sheep shearing, club president Neil Fitzgerald said the day was for anyone interested in taking a look at the old classics.

Neil was an earthmoving contractor for 56 years and owns his own assortment of vintage machinery, including several tractors, bulldozers, draglines, a stationary baler, and other earthmoving "toys".

But those coming along to the Crank

Up Day, or who want to join the club, don't need to have amassed their own collection, he said.

Instead, both the annual event and the club are great opportunities for a social gathering for all ages.

With tractor rides for the kids, food and drink for sale, the Crank Up Day will have plenty to take in, he said. People are also encouraged to bring their own vintage or classic vehicles along.

DETAILS: Hauraki Vintage Machinery Club's Crank Up Day, Sunday, November 26 from 10am to 4pm at the Kaihere Domain, 1559 Kaihere Rd. Entry a gold coin donation.



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Rural Life

‘Save soil’: Capitalise with natural capital



By Bala TikkiSETTY

One teaspoon of soil contains more living organisms than there are people in the world and New Zealand loses about 192 million tonnes of soil to the ocean every year.

Without this “biological diversity” there would be no terrestrial life on earth. In addition to providing habitat for billions of organisms, soil acts as a water filter and growing medium. It contributes to biodiversity, solid waste treatment, acts as a filter for wastewater and supports agriculture.

Unlocking the secrets of this complex chemical, physical and biological powerhouse – a powerful source of “natural capital” – has had a huge impact on human life.

The transformation of this type of natural capital into resources that people value and use is generally called ecosystem services.

It is a concept gaining more attention as we see environmental pressure increasingly applied to the health of resources, such as soil, we once took for granted.

Functional land management is a resource management framework that seeks to optimise the

cropping and environmental returns from land. It focuses on soil functions related to agricultural land use: primary production, water purification and regulation, carbon cycling and storage, functional and intrinsic biodiversity, and nutrient cycling.

Building on that good work, some areas still need improvement.

Good practices needed include optimum cultivation and avoiding over-grazing and heavy grazing under wet weather, both of which can damage the soil’s structure and lead to compaction.

Others include carefully matching fertiliser applications to suit soil and crop requirements, practicing appropriate use of pesticides and other agrochemicals, managing pasture to maintain complete soil cover and careful application of farm dairy effluent to avoid saturation and to optimise organic matter and nutrient status.

Minimising human-induced erosion and maintaining good soil quality are essential for maintaining soil ecosystem services such as nutrient and water buffering, productive capacity, assimilating waste and minimising impacts of sediment and other contaminants on waterbodies.

Protecting sensitive areas on farms also benefits production. For example, wetlands deliver a wide range of ecosystem services such as improving water quality, flood regulation, coastal protec-



Without the biological diversity of soil, there would be no terrestrial life on earth, Bala TikkiSETTY says.

File Photo: PIXABAY

tion, and providing recreational opportunities and fish habitat.

Waikato Regional Council’s soil quality monitoring programme measures soil properties such as soil compaction, nutrient status, biological activity, soil carbon and organic matter at about 150 active sites (some sites are lost due to urban expansion etc, but new sites are added to keep the total number of 150). About 30 sites are sampled each year, so it takes five years to get around all 150 sites.

The sites covered include the major land uses and soil types within the region.

The results show issues such as compaction and excessive nutrients and a variety of trends, such as to an improvement in some indicators like macroporosity (a measure of the proportion of large pores in the soil that provide the air supply to roots). The latter is most likely attributable to good land management practices undertaken by our farming community.

The council is committed to working with farmers, the wider agriculture sector and other stakeholders to increase the understanding of soil issues and

to provide advice on sustainable agriculture practices that decrease impacts on our natural capital.

Soil is one of the most valuable assets that a farmer has. It is our collective responsibility to make use of soils without damaging either the soil or any other part of our environment, protecting them for our own use and use by future generations.

Let us name this decade as “Save Soil” decade.

- Bala TikkiSETTY is principal sustainable agriculture advisor at Waikato Regional Council.
Contact him on 0800 800 401.



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First novel a 'tonic in tough times' for writer

Finishing his first novel has been a tonic in tough times for writer Ron Murray, who is holding a book signing for his novel, *Coromandel Dreamin'*, at Carson's Bookshop in Thames on Saturday.

The novel has taken four years to write, roughly coinciding with an up-and-down battle against metastatic melanoma - first diagnosed in 2019 - for its 66-year-old author.

Set in the mid-north of the Coromandel Peninsula in the late 1970s, the book doesn't draw on the cancer struggle though.

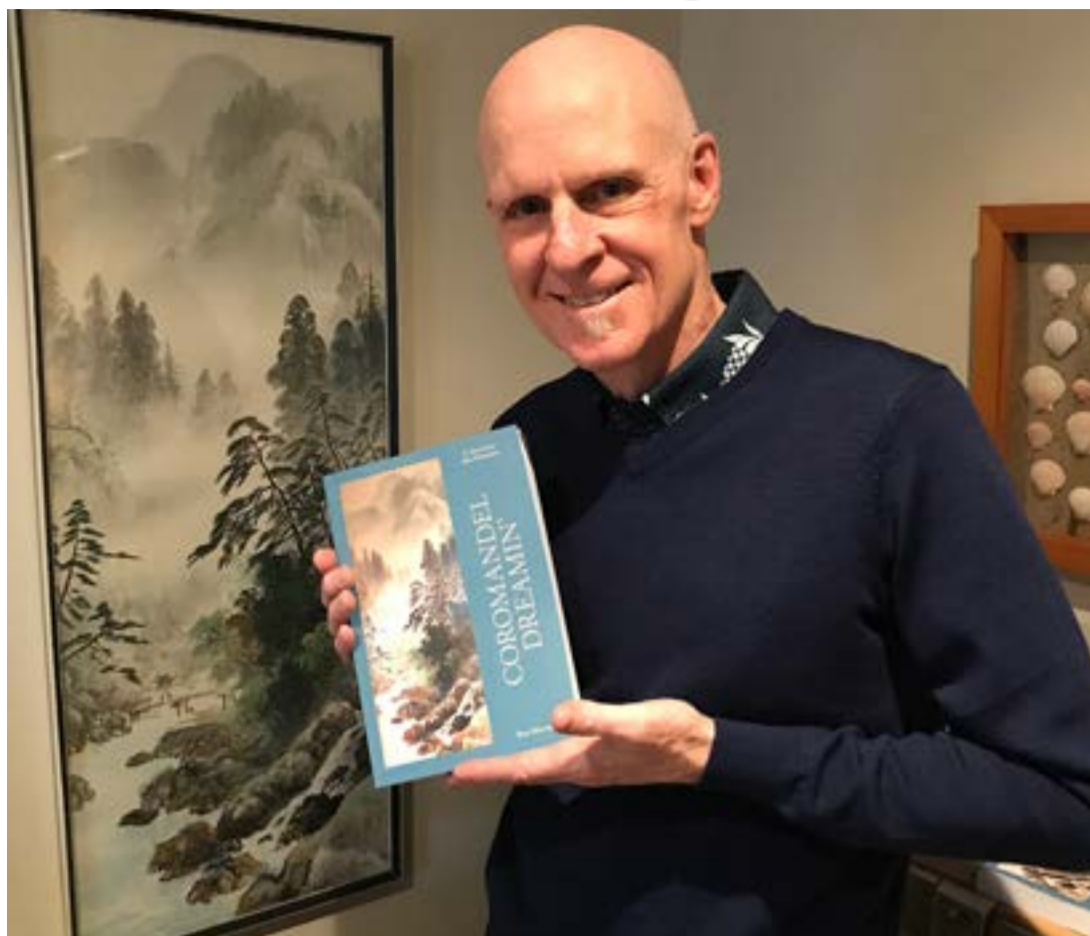
Coromandel Dreamin' is the first novel for Ron, who is a corporate communication specialist now living in Auckland. He describes the novel as "a love story with elements of high drama". He wrote it to reflect a little of the Aotearoa of the times - and the beauty and allure of the Coromandel.

"But it was also driven by my desire, as a writer all my working life really, to pen a novel," he said.

"More lately, I was driven by the urgency of the moment - I wasn't sure how much time I might have up my sleeve to achieve this.

"I'd written poems and published poetry books, as well as a couple of non-fiction books - but a novel is the holy grail. It's like being a runner and aspiring to a marathon - or an ultramarathon."

Ron says the novel jumped ahead of two other fiction



Ron Murray, with his sixth novel, *Coromandel Dreamin'*.

Photo: SUPPLIED

works he'd begun to write, grabbing his attention in 2019. The book's inspiration came from an old English ballad, *Thomas The Rhymer*, made famous by 70s folk-rock band Steeleye Span.

"It tells the story of Thomas,

who's a musician just kicking round on some side road in old England when a woman on a white horse appears and invites him to jump up and come back to her place."

The novel opens with a similar

pickup - the lead character and narrator of the story is hitching through the Coromandel on a wet autumn, late afternoon when he gets a ride with a woman who has a small settlement in the backblocks of the Peninsula

near Coromandel Town.

Ron, who began his career as a high school English teacher before switching to journalism, said the setting of the story was a no-brainer.

"I spent my youth in the Bay of Plenty, which is an area I know well and love, but the Coromandel always had a sort of wild allure for a young guy growing up in the Western BOP. As a kid, teenager, and young adult I went there a lot, first with my family then as a surfer - holidaying, camping, exploring, tramping, surfing, diving, partying, shopping - some of my most abiding memories have a Coromandel backdrop.

"It's my favourite coastline and the hinterland is utterly spectacular."

Writing *Coromandel Dreamin'* as a first novel was quite an experience, Ron said.

"Exhilarating but challenging. With non-fiction you work off your facts, observations and research and the content is relatively clear.

"Fiction is literally a whole new world; you can scope out the plot trajectory and character profiles but it's amazing how the imagination takes over - the muse feeds you quirky plot shifts and new people in the early hours of the morning.

"And working out how to end it. Now that's a challenge. But when it happens, it's a great moment."

DETAILS: Ron will be at Carson's bookshop in Thames on November 25 from 11am to 1pm.

Santa Parade + Whānau Day • Dec 9

10:50am • **Santa Dash** commences at north end of Pollen Street

11:00am • **Santa Parade** commences

12:00pm • **Whānau Day** at Te Kura o Te Kauaeranga

1:00pm • **Prize Giving** Commences



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WAIHI COLLEGE CELEBRATES SUCCESS

Waihi College recently celebrated the cultural, sporting, service and academic achievements of their students at their end of year Prizegiving ceremonies. The Cultural Prizegiving kicks off the celebrations, followed by the Sports Prizegiving (which is for Seniors and Juniors), then the Senior Effort & Service awards, followed by the Year 13 Leavers Breakfast and lastly, the Academic Prizegiving. The Junior Prizegivings follow later. These celebrations are an opportunity to proudly display our students amazing results, hard work and determination and end the year with a bang.

We farewell Alistair Cochrane this year after twenty-two years as Waihi College's Principal. He has led our kura with love, commitment and his ever-resounding motto of "it's all about the kids". He has been a massive asset to our school and community for over two decades, and his big heart and passion for always putting students first will be very missed. We are lucky enough to have the wonderful Briar Carden-Scott step into his shoes and we look forward to making her welcome at the start of 2024. Alistair won't be too far away though, and we are delighted that he will be stepping into the roll of International Coordinator three days a week – we knew he wouldn't be able to stay away! We also farewell Shafee Bhure, Charles Pipe, Joy Maclean and Johnnie Andrews-Nye – they are much loved by the students and staff and 2024 won't be the same without them. We wish you well for your next adventures. Lastly, we temporarily farewell Brian Hennessy who is taking a year sabbatical in 2024.

Dux this year went to Tyla Millar. She was closely followed by Meg Thomas who took away Proxime Accessit for 2023. Well done girls – a huge achievement.

Thank you to the incredible teachers and staff at Waihi College who continue to offer amazing opportunities and mentoring to our youth. We are so proud of their efforts in helping our students' reach their potential. The student's achievements, whether big or small, personal or public, are much valued and we look forward as always to seeing what 2024 will bring.

2024 STUDENT LEADERS



Leader of
Arts & Culture:
**Hamish
McKinnon**



Leader of
Community:
**Sabine
Rush**



Leader of
Environment:
**Hamish
Mudford**



Leader of
Service:
**Maya
Dodd**



Leader of
Te Ao Māori:
**Moana
McGee**



Leader of
Learning:
**Hayaat
Dass**



Leader of
Sport:
**Brooke
Kelly**



Leader of
Well Being:
**Zara
Davies-Young**

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WAIHI COLLEGE CELEBRATES SUCCESS

2023 ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS SPECIAL PRIZE WINNERS

Particular congratulations go to the winners of the 2023 Special Prizes which recognise academic, sporting or cultural success as well as leadership and community involvement. The night's key winners are:



The Shepherd Cup & Waihi Lions Scholarship for DUX:
Top academic achievement for Waihi College
TYLA MILLAR (ex Waimata School)



The Coombes Cup for PROXIME ACCESSIT:
Runner up to Dux
MEG THOMAS (ex Waihi East School)



Ara Poutama Award:
This award is presented by Whaea Tuihana Jack-Ainsley for someone who shows leadership qualities and is a positive role model for our Maori Students.
NAELENE DONALSON (ex Waihi Central School)



The Kurt Hahn Award:
Kurt Hahn established the Outward Bound movement, and this award is for a person who best fits the Outward Bound movement motto "to seek, to strive and not to yield".
DIVYASH SWAMY (ex Waihi East School)



The Chandel Cup:
This is for the student who has made the most consistent effort during the year.
MEG THOMAS (ex Waihi East School)



The Jack Silcock Memorial Cup:
This cup is named in memory of Jack Silcock and recognises students who have shown tremendous strength and resilience throughout their schooling at Waihi College. It recognises a person who has put others before themselves.
QUEENIE SU (ex Waihi Central School)



The Board Chairman's Award and the Waihi Beach Lions Trophy for Citizenship:
MEIKA LAMAN TRIP (ex St Joseph's School)



The Sel Baker Cup for Humanities:
For the student who has dedicated time and passion to helping others through community spirit and tackling current issues.
TYLA MILLAR (ex Waimata School)



The O'Leary Cup for Leadership:
For being an exceptional role model and showing leadership within the school.
DIVYASH SWAMY (ex Waihi East School)



Waihi Lions trades Scholarship:
This significant scholarship is to financially assist a student who is entering into a Trades apprenticeship.
ZAK BUTTERWORTH (ex Waihi Central School)



The Prime Minister's Vocational Excellence Award:
To gain this award students are nominated by their school in recognition of their work in a particular vocational field.
BRAYDON BURR (ex Waihi East School)



Penny Bowden Trophy for Performing Arts:
This award is in memory of Penny Bowden who was a former Head of English. This award is given to the student who has been a mainstay in the performing arts, worked hard to achieve their artistic talents while helping others do the same.
BAYLEY GODDARD (ex Waihi Central School)



The Rogers Calculus Cup:
First in Calculus
HAYAAT DASS (ex Zayed College for Girls)



The Golden Apple:
For Year 12 Art
PAIGE CAPPER (ex Waihi East School)



The John Combes Memorial Cup for Science and Mathematics:
This cup was presented to the College by the Combes family in memory of John Combes who was an outstanding student of Maths and Science
DIVYASH SWAMY (ex Waihi East School)



Grover Plate:
For Year 13 Art
CEYLIN BEKTAS (International Student - Germany)



The Rudy Sas Scholarship
This scholarship is for a young person with a connection to our local community who is going into the trades.
ACE CROWE (ex Waikino School)



The Ethel Madgwick Cup - Rural Women NZ:
This is awarded to a student who wishes to further their studies outside of Waihi College.
MEIKA LAMAN-TRIP (ex St Joseph's School)



Te Paewai o te Rangi scholarship from the University of Waikato
This award is given to a student who has shown commitment to learning and one who strives for excellence and distinction. It recognises students who have achieved to a particularly high standard and those who show outstanding potential.
TYLA MILLAR (ex Waimata School)



The John van der Zwan International Student Award for outstanding contribution
This trophy is awarded to the international student who has embraced opportunities and contributed to school life.
LENI WALTER (International Student - Germany)



The Bronwyn Wightman Memorial Trophy:
This award is for a student who has enthusiastically participated in school activities, has a bubbly personality and has a great sense of community.
JADE WAITE (ex Waihi Central School)



Maia Short Memorial Scholarship:
This is for a year 13 Girl with a top academic performance, who is a good citizen, friendly and helps others. Maia Short was destined for leadership and her Taha Māori was incredibly important to her.
JAYDA WILLIAMSON (ex Whangamata Area School)



Best All-Round Girl, Board Chairman's Award & Martha Women's Club Award:
For academic, cultural, sporting and service.
TYLA MILLAR (ex Waimata School)



Best All-Round Boy and Board Chairman's Award:
For academic, cultural, sporting and service.
DIVYASH SWAMY (ex Waihi East School)



The Kathleen Adams Memorial Award (also known as the Jubilee Award):
This is awarded to a student who is hard working and has a mature attitude and approach to their studies.
CIARA HENNESSY (ex Waihi East School) and OLIVIA ELLIOTT (ex Katikati College)



The Principal's Award:
For someone who has worked hard all year and made a significant contribution to the life of the school.
DIANNA OAK (ex Katikati College) and JACK DINNAGE (ex Great Marlow School, England)



Ko Te Tangata Scholarship for school leavers at the University of Waikato. This award is given to students who show great promise for tertiary education and are high achievers.
JADE WAITE (ex Waihi Central School)



David Johnstone Charitable Trust Scholarship for Tertiary Education. This award is designed to financially assist students who are going to WINTEC or Waikato University within the fields of Science or Technology.
JAYDA WILLIAMSON (ex Whangamata Area School)



University of Otago 150th Entrance Scholarship
This award is given to a student who shows academic ability, motivation and potential to achieve at university.
DIVYASH SWAMY (ex Waihi East School)



YEAR 11



First
Charlie Joyce



Second
Evah Carey



Third
Māhe North



YEAR 12
First
Maggie Gerbich Burroughs



Second
Hamish McKinnon



Third
Maya Dodd



The Ryan Family Trophy:
This trophy is for Service to school and community.
SETH FRAUENDORF (ex Waimata School)



WAIHI COLLEGE CELEBRATES SUCCESS

Cultural Prizegiving 2023

The Cultural Prizegiving celebrates our students who have shone in the areas of Art & Media Design, Digital & Tech, Music, Drama, Maori & Kapa Haka and the Culinary Arts. We have many talented students in these areas and it's always wonderful to see them celebrated for their achievements.

The winners for 2023 were:

ART & MEDIA DESIGN



Outstanding in Media Design
Hamish McKinnon (ex Waikino School)



Principal's Certificate for commitment and dedication
Ceylin Bektas (International Student - Germany)



Acts of Service to the Arts
Jack Dinnage (ex Great Marlow School, England)



Outstanding in Photography
Hamish McKinnon (ex Waikino School)



Top Tech
Campbell Douglas (ex Waihi East School)

MUSIC



Most Outstanding Musician
Bayley Goddard (ex Waihi Central School)



Most Improved Performer
Ceylin Bektas (International Student - Germany)



Contribution to Music
Queenie Su (ex Waihi Central School)



Composition Award
Hamish McKinnon (ex Waikino School)



Music Producer
Iain Hartley (ex Waikino School)



Musician of the Year
Naelene Donaldson (ex Central School)

DRAMA



Most Outstanding Performer
Rueben Snow (ex Waihi Central School)



Most Improved Performer
Cassidy Shaw (ex Mt Albert Grammar School)



Contribution to Drama
Oliver Goddard (ex Waihi Central School)



Best Self Devised Act
Rueben Snow (ex Waihi Central School), **Cassidy Shaw** (ex Mt Albert Grammar School), **Mei Takahashi** (International Student - Japan) and **Caprice Smith** (ex Waihi Beach School)

DRAMA



Dramatic Performer of the Year
Bayley Goddard (ex Waihi Central School)



Kapa Haka Kaitataki Wahine
Naelene Donaldson (ex Waihi Central)



Kaiawhina
Maya Dodd (ex Waimata School)



Maori Performer of the Year
Naelene Donaldson (ex Waihi Central)

SUPREME CULTURAL AWARD



Jack Dinnage (ex Great Marlow School, England)

Jack has been involved in almost every area of our creative subjects at Waihi College. Art & Media Design, Drama, Kapa Haka, the Culinary Arts and was one of the main cast of this year's school production, Grease. During his time at school he has been heavily involved in many of our cultural and artistic events, has been on stage for dancing, singing and acting, and given his time freely to many of the school activities throughout his school life.

CULINARY ARTS AWARDS



Culinary Rising Star
Leni Walter (International Student - Germany)



Commitment to Culinary Arts
Divyash Swamy (ex Waihi East School) and **Nicholas Mannix** (ex Ellerslie School)



Barista of the Year
Nicholas Mannix (ex Ellerslie School)



Culinary Student of the Year
Auskar Kong (ex Matamata College)

Service Prizegiving 2023

Service is a huge part of Waihi College. The College proudly boasts many students who serve either the school or community, or often both, in a multitude of ways. This year, the following students were celebrated for all they do to help make Waihi a great community.

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--|
| Alyssa Mouat | Amaranth House Leader 2023 | Kyrone Pakoti | Empire House Leader 2023, Services to School |
| Arnya Dixon | Coaching | Leni Walters | Services to School |
| Auskar Kong | Dominion House Leader 2023, Services to School, Leo's | Logan Brady | Amaranth House Leader 2023, Coaching, Reffing |
| Braydon Burr | Royal House Leader 2023 | Lucy Walton | Leader of Wellbeing 2023, Community Volunteer, Services to School, Leo's, SADD |
| Bree Coombridge | Services to School, Leo's | Lydia Pennell | Amaranth House Leader 2023, Services to School |
| Campbell Douglas | Hall Tech, Services to School | Maggie Gerbich-Burrows | Services to School |
| Ceylin Bektas | Services to School | Maya Dodd | Leader of Learning 2023, Services to School |
| Ciara Hennessy | Empire House Leader 2023, Leo's, SADD | Meg Thomas | Leader of Community 2023, Services to School, Leo's, SADD |
| Daniel Oliver | Amaranth House Leader 2023, Services to School | Meika Laman-Trip | Leader of Environment 2023, Services to School, Waihi Beach Lifeguard Service |
| Dianna Oak | Dominion House Leader 2023, Services to School, Leo's, SADD | Naelene Donaldson | Leader of Te ao Maori 2023, Services to School |
| Divyash Swamy | Leader of Service 2023, Leo's, SADD, Ball Committee, Kai Care, Services to School | Neesha Mayor | Services to Netball |
| Dora Hsing | Leo's, SADD | Nicholas Mannix | Dominion House Leader 2023, Services to School |
| Ella Ford | Services to School | Oliver Goddard | Amaranth House Leader 2023 |
| Emily Davison | Royal House Leader 2023, Coaching | Olivia Elliott | Services to School, Leo's, SADD |
| Farish O'Flaherty | Student Council Representative 2023, Services to School | Orewa Walters | Services to School |
| Felix Nome | Royal House Leader 2023, Services to Sport, Coaching | Queenie Su | Services to School, Leo's |
| Greta Spicer | Leo's | Sabine Rush | Leo's |
| Hamish McKinnon | Hall Tech, Services to School | Sam Bjerring | Services to Sport |
| Hamish Mudford | Hall Tech, Services to School | Samantha Morrow | Leo's |
| Hayaat Dass | Services to School | Sarah Low | Empire House Leader 2023, Leo's |
| Jack Dinnage | Leader of Arts and Culture 2023, Services to School | Scarlett Chambers | Services to School |
| Jackson Walker | Royal House Leader 2023, Coaching | Seth Frauendorf | Hall Tech, Services to School |
| Jade Waite | Empire House Leader 2023, SADD | Tatana King | Services to School |
| Jadore Holtz-Taylor | Empire House Leader 2023, Leo's, SADD | Toby van der Zwan | Services to Sport |
| Jayda Williamson | Dominion House Leader 2023, Services to School, Leo's, Coaching | Tyla Millar | Royal House Leader 2023, Leo's, SADD |
| Joseph Frew | Leader of Sports 2023, Services to School, Service to Sport, Reffing, Coaching | Xandrex Manaot | Dominion House Leader 2023, Services to School, Coaching |
| Justus Chapman | Services to Sport, Coaching, Reffing | | |



WAIHI COLLEGE CELEBRATES SUCCESS

SPORTS AWARDS 2023

Congratulations to everyone who has represented Waihi College at sport in 2023. Special thanks to all of the volunteers, including all of the coaches, managers and team supporters, as well as to all of those that run the events. Thank you also the community which continues to support our young athletes by sponsorship or by liking and commenting on our Facebook page. Special congratulations to the following athletes what have worked extra hard this year and have been rewarded for their efforts.

SPECIAL AWARDS

Surfer of the Year Beau Fitzgibbon	Cricket Player of the Year Miller Kaczon	In-line Hockey Player of the Year Ryan Williams & Zac Williams	Boxer of the Year Wesley Cameron	Fair Player of the Year Jade Waite & Braydon Burr	Contribution to Sport Emily Davison & Joseph Frew	Multidiscipline Cup Jade Waite & Emily Davison
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NZ REPRESENTATIVES - BLUES AWARDS

Boxing Wesley Cameron	Waka ama Jayda Williamson	Tai Kick Boxing Cody Melgren	Basketball Rylee Morgan	Basketball Aaliyah Hill	Boat Racing Kendall Tacon	Significant Service to Sport - student Xandrex Manaot	Significant Service to Sport - adult Shannon Hargreaves & Susie Hargreaves & Leau
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TEAM OF THE YEAR

Finalists:
College A Boys Thames Valley Basketball Team
College A Basketball Year 10 Netball
Winner: College A Boys Thames Valley Basketball Team



YEAR 7 SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR

Winner Thierry Smith	Runner Up Rico Edmonds
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YEAR 8 SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR

Winner Mateo Coll	Runner Up Byron Perkinson
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YEAR 9 SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR

Winner Jaylah Rolleston	Runner Up Aaliyah Hill
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YEAR 10 SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR

Winner Rylee Morgan	Runner Up Alex Maitland
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SCHOOL CHAMPIONS - ATHLETICS

Year 7 Girls Jenny Yeh	Year 7 Boys Tobin McArthur-Dye	Year 8 Girls Elizabeth McHardy	Year 8 Boys Dominic Bismark	Junior Girls Rylee Morgan
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Junior Boys Miller Kaczon	Intermediate Girls Nevaeh Vautier	Intermediate Boys Trent Ewing	Senior Girls Emily Davison	Senior Boys Wesley Cameron
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SCHOOL CHAMPIONS - CROSS COUNTRY

Year 7 Girls Jenny Yeh	Year 7 Boys Thierry Smith	Year 8 Girls Leah Kelly	Year 8 Boys Mateo Coll	Junior Girls Jaylah Rolleston	Junior Boys Bhima Meares	Intermediate Girls Brooke Kelly	Intermediate Boys Aidan Butler	Senior Girls Meg Thomas	Senior Boys Wesley Cameron
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SCHOOL CHAMPIONS - SWIMMING

Year 7 Girls Zoe Shave	Year 7 Boys Callum Morgan	Year 8 Girls Leah Kelly	Year 8 Boys Blake Smith	Junior Girls Zoe Walton	Junior Boys Lachy Osborne-Sole	Intermediate Girls Reese Neame	Intermediate Boys Ben Jarvis	Senior Girls Lucy Walton	Senior Boys Roman Harries
----------------------------------	-------------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	--	--	--	------------------------------------	-------------------------------------

SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR

Winner Rylee Morgan	Runner Up Jaylah Rolleston
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SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR

Winner Alex Maitland	Runner Up Leonardo Sydney
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SUPREME AWARD

Emily Davison	Jayda Williamson
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SCHOOL CHAMPIONS - BADMINTON

Year 7&8 Boys MJ Vehikite	Junior Girls Shaniah Manawat	Junior Boys Mace Harries	Senior Girls Brea Peka	Senior Boys Jordan Yuliana
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SCHOOL CHAMPIONS - TENNIS

Year 7&8 Boys Thierry Smith	Junior Girls Rylee Morgan	Intermediate Boys Nivek Smith	Senior Girls Lina Gotz	Senior Boys Braydon Burr
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SCHOOL CHAMPIONS - SQUASH

Year 7&8 Boys Dominic Bismark	Junior Girls (Snr Division) Rylee Morgan	Senior Boys Braydon Burr
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TEAM AWARDS

Kea Netball Contribution Fair Player Most Improved Most Valuable Player Libby Sammons Sam Manukonga Anakah Lewis Narisa Cox	Ruru Netball Contribution Fair Player Most Improved Most Valuable Player Lilly-Grace Naisby Anahera Osborne Alexis Mudgway Isla Freeman
Korimako Netball Contribution Fair Player Most Improved Most Valuable Player Aaliyah Houston & Marley Mapu Michaela Wickham Poppy Shave Tia Brightwell	Kereru Netball Contribution Fair Player Most Improved Most Valuable Player Rico Edmonds Jayne Phillips Daria Galea Rā-Anthym Selwyn
Year 9 Netball Contribution Fair Player Most Improved Most Valuable Player Isabelle Carey Isabelle Carey Kyla Muir Leonardo Sydney	Year 9/10 Netball Contribution Fair Player Most Improved Most Valuable Player Aliya Smith Sienna Lamont Maeva Ainsley Ocean Wallace
Year 10 Development Netball Contribution Fair Player Most Improved Most Valuable Player Malea Hutchins & Shayla Roycroft Whole Team Alexis Hughes Reese Neame	Year 10 Netball Contribution Fair Player Most Improved Most Valuable Player Nevaeh Vautier Rylee Morgan Gracie Tempelmeyer Dakota Cardie
Senior Development Netball Contribution Fair Player Most Improved Most Valuable Player Madison Muir Zara Davies-Young Leni Walter Evah Carey	College A Netball Contribution Fair Player Most Improved Most Valuable Player Brooke Kelly Jayda Williams Maya Dodd Jade Waite
Year 7&8 Girls Basketball Contribution Fair Player Most Improved Most Valuable Player Ruby-Rose Sandford Tessa Menary Rose Mathis Leah-Cim Pope	Year 7&8 Boys Development Basketball Contribution Fair Player Most Improved Most Valuable Player Max Walton Sam Manukonga Lockie Patea Rā-Anthym Selwyn
Year 7&8 Boys Basketball Contribution Fair Player Most Improved Most Valuable Player Truman Alexander Carter Edmonds Mitchell Paynter Mateo Coll	Junior Girls Basketball Contribution Fair Player Most Improved Most Valuable Player Charlize Moore Jaylah Rolleston Rylee Morgan Dakota Cardie Hannah Bismark Nevaeh Vautier
Junior Boys Basketball Contribution Fair Player Most Improved Most Valuable Player Kobe Phillips Chace Tawhiti Callan Dodd Aidan Butler	Girls College A Basketball Contribution Fair Player Most Improved Most Valuable Player Jade Waite Mei Takahashi Greta Spicer Emily Davison Jade Waite
Boys College A Basketball Contribution Highest Points Scorer Fair Player Most Improved Most Valuable Player Logan Brady Justus Chapman Tapene Ropiha Cassidy Shaw Jackson Walker Justus Chapman	College A TV Basketball Contribution Fair Player Most Improved Most Valuable Player Lukas Chapman Billy Lu Harlem Field-Hargreaves Justus Chapman Logan Brady
Softball Contribution Fair Player Most Improved Most Valuable Player Zac Williams Miller Kaczon Luke Butler Cole Nidogma Daniel Oliver	Turf Hockey Contribution Alex Townsend Eli Townsend
Bowls Contribution Fair Player Most Improved Most Valuable Player Farish O'Flaherty Luke Butler Rueben Snow Daniel Oliver	Equestrian Rider of the Future Team Spirit Daisy Burgess Briar Somers
Year 7&8 Rippa Rugby Contribution Fair Player Most Improved Most Valuable Player Mateo Coll Leah Kelly Raina Runge Ben Mathis	In-line Hockey Contribution Fair Player Most Improved Most Valuable Player Paige Capper Lucy Beach Jasmine Jones Hunter Pert
Youth Boys Rugby Contribution Fair Player Most Improved Most Valuable Player Johnston Coll Micah Frew Andre Buskermolen Aidan Butler	Youth Girls Rugby Contribution Fair Player Most Improved Most Valuable Player Palace O'Brien Savarna Brightwell Maeva Ainsley Isabelle Carey
Football Junior Colts Contribution Fair Player Most Improved Most Valuable Player Max Morley Tyler Sammons Nivek Smith Stuart Hartley Trent Ewing	Motocross Contribution Fair Player Most Improved Most Valuable Player Blake Smith Layla Hannah Mace Harries Alex Maitland
Football 1st XI Boys Contribution Fair Player Most Improved Most Valuable Player Daniel Oliver Oliver Goddard Thomas Low Braydon Burr	Football 1st XI Girls Contribution Fair Player Most Improved Most Valuable Player Arnya Dixon Moana Magee Ciara Hennessy Monika Vaughan
Senior Mixed Volleyball Contribution Fair Player Most Improved Most Valuable Player Maddie Oliver Ben Jarvis Zara Davies-Young Leni Walter Madison Muir Brooke Kelly	Junior Girls Volleyball Contribution Fair Player Most Improved Most Valuable Player Katie Twidle Zoe-Beth Naisby Hannah Bismark Rylee Morgan
	Senior Boys Volleyball Contribution Fair Player Most Improved Most Valuable Player Tapene Ropiha Cole Nidogma Nicholas Mannix Xandrex Manaot

Sudden death of housekeeper after stomach pain



Dead Cert

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

Patrick Farrell was too poor to give his housekeeper, Catherine Mackay, wages but he put a roof over her head at his house in Mangatangi, about six miles from the water at Miranda. By June, 1874, the 44-year-old Scotswoman had been with him for nearly four years, and when he came in on a Wednesday evening he found her uncharacteristically sitting by the fire complaining of stomach pain. He had never known her to complain of anything except toothache.

Patrick told her to take off her boots, and put her feet to the fire. Catherine stooped down to take off her boots then she raised herself up again before suddenly falling off the chair against Patrick who was sitting close by the wall.

He lifted her up in the chair, and then went to the kettle to get hot water to pour on a cloth to place on her stomach before he realised that Catherine was dead. He carried her to her room and laid her on the bed then went to look for a horse to go to Thomas Vining's, who lived about a mile off.



Emigration publicity particularly targeted unmarried women. Photo: SUPPLIED

The night was dark and wet, and he could not find the horse so he walked to Vining's, having to cross a river on the way. There was nothing anyone could do except arrange for John Peterson to transport the body by boat to Thames.

At the inquest, held at the Shortland court house, a few sad, stark facts about Catherine were con-

firmed by Patrick Farrell. She belonged to the north of Scotland, and had a brother who died suddenly.

She told Patrick she had no relations in the colony. He was not aware of anything of value she possessed. He could not afford to pay her. Thomas Vining said he had known Catherine for about three years and she and Patrick

lived on good terms.

Dr Lethbridge said it was three days before he examined her. There was a mere trace of food in the stomach but he didn't think insufficient food or exposure to wet contributed to her death. There was no mark of violence about her that he could see. He found she died from a spasm acting on a heart weakened by disease.

Catherine may have been part of the wave of 12,000 unmarried women who arrived in New Zealand on free or assisted ship's passages provided by the government to bolster its domestic servant labour force and balance the surplus of male settlers during the mid 1800s.

She was likely a spinster – single women of marriageable, child-bearing age - objects of pity with insecure lives, dependent on the men in their families, or poverty stricken due to employment difficulties. An excess of these women was thought responsible for many of society's problems, solved by dispatch to the colonies.

Emigration was fraught, with travel conditions being arduous on top of separation from all they knew sometimes without even the assurance of a job when they arrived. The colonies were not the 'promised land' for many single emigrant women - they were merely a substitute for the lives they left behind.

Whatever it was that brought Catherine into Patrick Farrell's life, four years after her death, he was described as still attempting to subdue the wilderness on his farm.

Catherine is buried at Shortland cemetery.

In Brief

FATAL CRASH

One person has died after a crash in the Waikato on November 19. The crash occurred on Waiti Rd, Tahuna, Matamata-Piako just before 2am. The Serious Crash Unit is investigating.

REOPENING DATE

A reopening date of December 15 has been set for the Tapu-Coroglen Rd, which has been closed since the storm events in January. Thames-Coromandel District Council says roadworks will continue on local roads and highways throughout the region, sometimes with traffic management, as other cyclone damage is repaired.

HAURAKI MAKES TOP TEN

Airbnb has ranked the Hauraki District the eighth most hospitable town, city or region in New Zealand. The accommodation website ranked the locations with the highest density of five star reviews. Carterton took out top place, followed by South Taranaki and the Waipa region in second and third respectively.

THAMES MSD CLOSED

The Ministry of Social Development's Thames branch is currently closed for urgent building repairs, after suffering storm damage earlier this year. Options are being explored for face-to-face appointments, TCDC said, and the building will be reopened once the issues have been resolved.

LANDMARK CELEBRATED

The Coromandel Town council building turned 150 this year, and a celebration was held with Mayor Len Salt unveiling a commemoration plaque. The building formerly housed the town's post office, courthouse and police station.

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Ho-ho-hoping to get festive this silly season

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Jingle bells are set to ring throughout the Thames Valley this silly season.

The jolly man in the big red suit has set his sights on our region, so keep your eyes peeled for all things Christmas in your town.

There is something for everyone to enjoy, from Christmas carols with the Kerepēhi Brass Band and the Ngātea Xmas Funday, to the Paeroa and Thames Santa Parades, Te Kauaeranga Whānau Day, and Waihi Christmas at the lake.

If you wish to join in the festivities happening in your area across the next month, here are some noteworthy dates to jot down on your calendar.

November 26: Kerepēhi Brass Band Christmas Carols at the Beach for the Kaiaua Seaside Market at 925 East Coast Rd, 11am-1pm. The band will also play Christmas Carols in Ngātea on November 29; Paeroa on December 6; and Thames on December 13, all from 6.30pm.

The Paeroa Santa Parade will kick off at 5pm on December 1 with the theme: 'Winter Wonderland'. The Thames Santa Dash opens the Santa

Parade at 10:50am in Pollen St on December 9, followed by Te Kauaeranga Whānau Day at Thames South School with the theme: 'The Environment - Loving the Earth'. Live entertainment, free activities, rock climbing wall, bouncy castle, food and market stalls.

Waihi Christmas at the lake begins at 2pm on December 10, with live music, creative kids activities, fun rides, stalls, food trucks, prizes and more. Santa will be there and so will his grotto. On December 15, Paeroa Christmas Lights at Maritime Park will open, bookings online at www.historical-maritimemarinepark.co.nz.

In Ngātea, celebrations begin on December 17 with the Xmas Funday at the Ngātea War Memorial Hall, 10am-3pm, gold coin entry. Entertainment all day, food trucks, more than 80 stalls, Santa, face painting, kids rides and lots more.

On December 22, enjoy Carols in the Karangahake Gorge hosted by Kerepēhi Brass Band from 6.30pm.

DETAILS: To find out more about what is happening in your town, check out our Events tab on the Coromandel App, free to download in your Smartphone app store.

A busy season is approaching for the Kerepēhi Brass Band.
File Photo: THE VALLEY PROFILE



Kerepēhi Brass at a venue near you

Much like the classic holiday carol *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, Kerepēhi Brass Band's upcoming calendar of events is plentiful and diverse.

The band has 16 events planned between now and Christmas, including four Santa parades, one each in Waihi, Thames, Paeroa and Mercury Bay; seven carolling sessions; three markets; and more.

The gigs are as far-flung as Hamilton and Mercury Bay, while carols will be played and sung in Waeranga, Kaiaua, Thames, Ngātea, Paeroa, in the Karangahake Gorge railway tunnel, and Waihi.

And as if members of the band are not busy enough, they will also attend their own Christmas party and a wedding of one of their former band members.

Co-vice president and band sergeant Fleur Weaver said November and December were busy months for the band's fundraising.

"We have a very diverse group of members, all of whom are amateur musicians who range vastly in ability and experience, but who all have one common reason for being there: a passion for making music, and first and foremost, sharing that love of music with our community," she said.

"As with most things these days, we can't rely on goodwill and freely giving of our time to achieve this.


"To keep growing, we require funding to purchase much-needed new instruments and that's not cheap. We want to reduce as many barriers as we can to players, especially the youth, getting involved."

Fleur said any support the band received would help enable it to continue to grow and develop the next generation of players.

She also praised band president Luke van Vliet's "leadership and drive to diversify the band and keep it moving forwards", as well as newly incumbent committee members Nicki Leventer, treasurer; Jacquie Mitchell, secretary; and Cynthia Bates, fundraising.

DETAILS: If you are a business, organisation or individual interested in sponsoring or donating to the band, contact kerepehibrass@gmail.com. To keep up to date with the band's happenings: www.kerepehibrass.co.nz, YouTube: [@kerepehibrass-band](https://www.youtube.com/@kerepehibrass-band) or follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

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Lead and coordinate a team of volunteers who will hit the streets in March to raise funds for the breeding and training of guide dogs.

#2 Community Carer Team Leader (Waihi)
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#3 Administrator (Waikato)
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#4 Bakers Needed (Thames)
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Christmas Messages



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Duck's away

Thames Coast Kindergarten's annual Duck Race Fundraiser was a flying success, raising more than \$2000 for the not-for-profit seaside kindy. Teachers said the combination of the kids' creativity - with decorated ducks and handmade boats racing in Te Puru creek - was a sight to behold. "A big shoutout to all the participants, sponsors, and supporters who contributed to the event's success," the kindy said. "Their generosity and involvement played a crucial role in reaching such an impressive fundraising total. The kids had a blast and won some spectacular prizes... it was especially lovely to see the wider community come and enjoy the day."



Complete with kitten face paint is Emmylou Houlten.

Photos: SUPPLIED



Decorated ducks float down Te Puru Creek.



Teachers, from left, Emma Corner, Kate Coatsworth, and head teacher Karen Bowie.



Harris Battson is all smiles.



The annual duck race raised more than \$2000.

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ENTERTAINMENT



Scholars Baroque and NZBAROK Orchestra are bringing the much-loved *Messiah* to Waihi. Photo SUPPLIED/EZRA NEWICK

Hallelujah as choir steps back in time

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

The Waihi War Memorial Hall is being transported back to the 18th century, as an authentic performance of Handel's *Messiah* takes to the stage this month.

Tauranga chamber choir Scholars Baroque Aotearoa and baroque orchestra NZBAROK will perform the sacred work, depicting the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, on November 26 alongside soprano Greta Claringbould, countertenor Coco Diaz, tenor Jeandré le Roux and baritone James Harrison.

With instruments, pitch and voices all authentic to the Baroque era, the concert promises to be a

unique experience, sounding as close to Handel's original vision as possible.

The historic instruments, including a baroque trumpet, harpsichord, timpani, and strings, are all tuned to the lower pitch of Handel's time, creating a fuller, rounder sound than that of modern instruments.

"None of it is amplified. So you get to hear right down to almost a whisper, and the softness of some arias, and then building up to the crescendo of soloists and the choir," chorist Rona Keith said.

"And then when the timpani comes in as well, it's visceral, it's actually inside you."

Messiah is a great place to start

for those new to classical music, Rona said, as much of the oft-performed music will already be familiar to listeners.

"The music's very relatable. Everybody knows the Hallelujah Chorus," she said. "[And] one of the things the conductor does is dress up as Mr Handel, the composer, and he really gets into it.

"We try to make it something that's accessible for anybody ... but at the same time we're absolutely serious about the music."

DETAILS: Handel's Messiah, November 26, 2:30pm at the Waihi Memorial Hall. See scholarsbaroque.com for more.



Waihi pauses to remember

An Armistice Day gathering was held on November 11 at the Tunnellers Memorial in Gilmour Park, Waihi.

Waihi Heritage Vision members and descendants of World War I tunnellers Pete and Vicki Beveridge welcomed 21 descendants of tunnellers to the commemoration.

"Armistice day in New Zealand is not as well attended as it is in Europe," Waihi Heritage Vision spokesperson Krishna Buckman said. "However, in Waihi at our Tunnellers Memorial in Gilmour Park, we have been commemorating Armistice Day since the dedication of the memorial in 2016."

People made the effort to attend, coming from Taranaki, Auckland and even Gore, she said.

The laying of the wreaths was presented by four descendants from the Cook Islands Maumahara Māori Pioneer Battalion, The Forgotten 43, who also shared a recital of *The Ode* in their Cook Island language.

Joh, Moe, Tia and Ben of the

Cook Islands also shared stories of their family members who served with the Māori Battalion.

"We also welcomed representatives from the Sappers Association to our ceremony," Krishna said.

"We heard stories from Ernie MacManus, from Otago, son of John (Jack) MacManus, who told us of his father's experiences in the tunnels, along with letters read by niece Diane Cooper."

Krishna said Taranaki woman Barbara Dargan was gathering stories of her grandfather's experiences as a tunneller for a book she was writing.

"All the descendants' stories were similar in that the father or grandfather who returned home didn't talk about their experience in the war, instead choosing to bury their experiences," Krishna said. "Some also spoke of mental and physical repercussions."

Guests were invited to continue catching up over lunch at the Waihi Memorial RSA after the ceremony had wrapped up.



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Messiah

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MP for Coromandel

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into a garden, weeding, edging and trimming," he said.

Paul said he was looking forward to growing his business.

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Sunday 3rd December 2023 at 3pm
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Public Notices

TE KOROWAI HAUORA O HAURAKI

Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki Hui ā-Tau - Annual General Meeting

Friday 8th December 2023, 10:00am
Whare Awhina, Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki, 210 Richmond Street, Thames

Agenda

- Welcome
- Apologies
- Minutes of the Last Meeting
- Items
 - Chairman's Report
 - CEO's Report
 - Financial Report
- General Business

Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

For rules of Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki Incorporated, please go to our website www.korowai.co.nz or contact Fiona Wasiolek 0508 835 676 or 021 902 461.

Nō reira koutou mā, nau mai haere mai.

Harry Mikaere CNZM
Tamana

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Proposed Temporary Road Closure

HAURAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL

Pursuant to the Section 11(e) of the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974, notice is hereby given that for the purpose of a Christmas Parade organised by Go Waihi it is intended to close the following roads to ordinary vehicular traffic for the period indicated hereunder. During the proposed period of closure provision will be made for ordinary vehicular traffic, which would otherwise use the road, to use alternative routes.

Period of closure: Saturday 2 December 2023, 10.00am to 2.00pm

Roads to be closed in Waihi:

- SH2 - Seddon St and Rosemont Rd, from School Lane to Kenny St.
- Seddon St - From Rosemont Rd to Gilmour St.
- Mueller St - From service lane to Seddon St RAB
- Haszard St - From Seddon St to Haszard St Service Lane (RP/0.220).
- Moresby Ave - From School Lane to Seddon St RAB continuing on to Kenny St.

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

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

Any objections should be directed to Transport Manager on 07 862 8609 or info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz by 24 November 2023.

L D Cavers
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council

www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz

Temporary Road Closure

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

Period of closure: Sunday 26 November 2023, 9.00am to 6.00pm.

Road to be closed: South Road, Mangatarata (RP 1.68 to end of road).

Alternative provision for ordinary vehicular traffic will be made with signs, cones and barriers to redirect traffic on detour. It will be an offence under the above regulations for any person otherwise than under authority of an authorised permit to use the road for ordinary vehicular traffic during the proposed period of closure.

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SH25A bridge barriers complete

SH25A BRIDGE UPDATE

Great progress was made on the Kōpū-Hikuai Bridge project last week, the transport agency says.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency regional manager of infrastructure delivery Jo Wilton said last week the SH25A Taparahi team had essentially completed the barriers for the new bridge, with only some finishing work to stitch the barriers together at the joints still to come this week.

"Soil nailing continues during night shifts, ensuring the bank alongside the bridge is as resilient as possible," she said.

"Road construction is well underway on the eastern side and the pavement team will start work on the western side early [this] week, ensuring there's a nice smooth road connecting to the bridge ready to open to traffic by Christmas."

Waka Kotahi recently confirmed State Highway 25A between Kōpū and Hikuai will be open to traffic by December 20 – a full three months earlier than anticipated.

Ms Wilton said while there was still a lot of work to do to finish the bridge by Christmas, getting traffic across as soon as possible has always been the aim for Waka Kotahi.

"We know how difficult the highway closure has been on local families, businesses,

schools and communities and the impact it's had on visitors to the region. That's why, along with our builders, McConnell Dowell and Fulton Hogan JV, we've pulled out all the stops to deliver the fastest and most resilient solution for the Coromandel.

"With the build beginning in June, getting it open in less than seven months is a huge achievement given a bridge of this type would normally take 12 to 14 months to construct. We've built the bridge in record time by accelerating our work programme, with teams working 24 hour shifts both on site and offsite at Eastbridge in Napier, where the steel girders were manufactured."

With finishing works still ongoing, the bridge will open under traffic management at a reduced speed. The project team will be completing drainage and planting, so the project won't be fully complete for a few more months. This work won't require the road to be closed, though traffic management will be required from time to time.

"We'd like to thank everyone who is working so hard to get this bridge open by Christmas and our special thanks to the Coromandel community for their patience and support. We know it's been a tough year and we hope this new bridge is the gift that helps get the Peninsula back on its feet," Ms Wilton said.



The SH25A bridge barriers are complete. Photo: NZTA

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

		8		6				7
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EASY

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HARD

127

HARD

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6	1	4	5	2	9	7	8	3
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127

MEDIUM

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

3	5	8	9	6	1	4	7	2
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JUMBO CROSSWORD

147

ACROSS

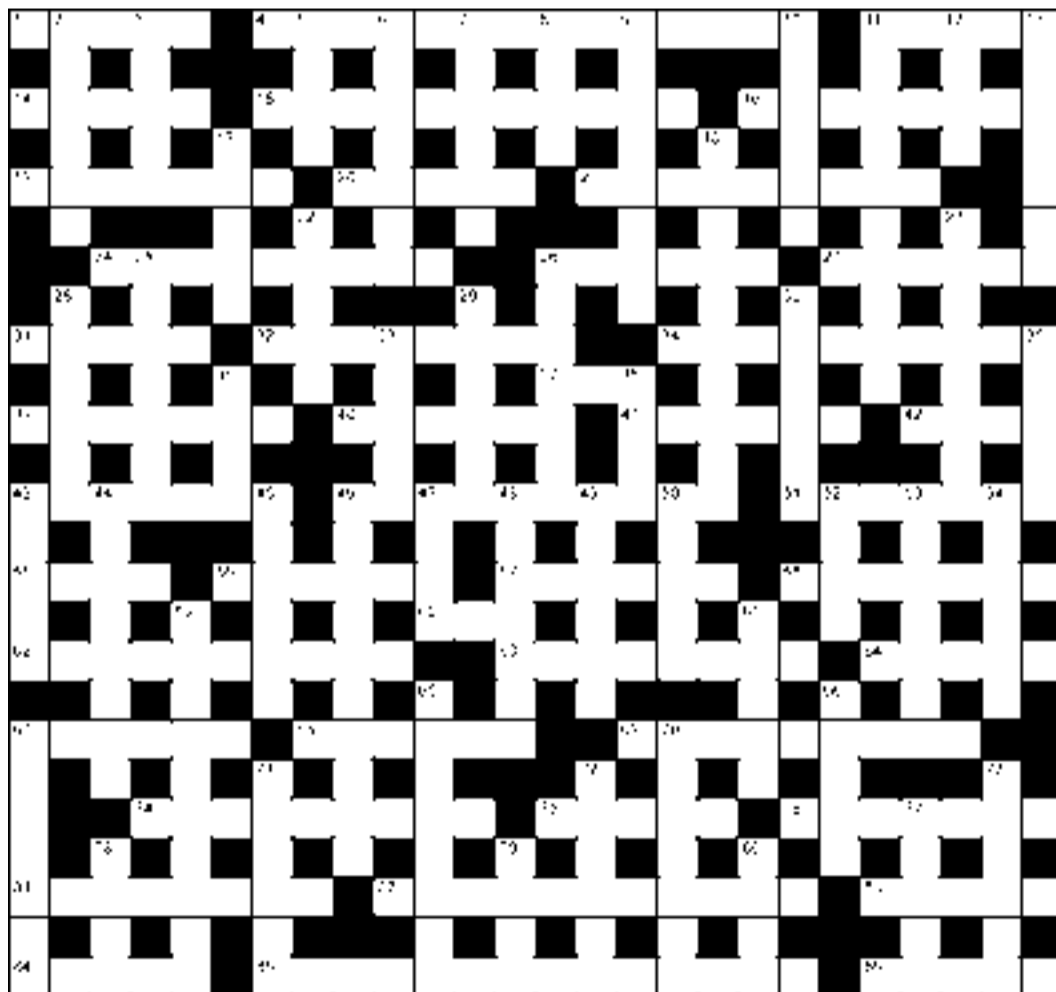
- 1 Modify for a new purpose (5)
- 4 Disapprove (4,1,3,4,2)
- 11 Cereal crop (5)
- 14 Rural holdings (5)
- 15 Inconsiderate (11)
- 16 Rough writing (8)
- 19 Perturb (7)
- 20 Undress (5)
- 21 Bed cover (9)
- 24 Unreal (9)
- 26 Dishonest act or statement (6)
- 27 Become wider (6)
- 31 Insure (5)
- 32 Brews up (8)
- 34 Intense dislike or fear of foreigners (10)
- 37 Small child (3)
- 39 Of the stomach (7)
- 40 Russian vehicle drawn by three horses abreast (6)
- 41 Incapable (6)
- 42 Dross (4)
- 43 Tuneful (7)
- 46 Proficiency (10)
- 51 Piece (7)
- 55 Dark blue colour (4)
- 56 Grinding teeth (6)
- 57 Lucky charm (6)
- 58 Crack (7)
- 60 Male cat (3)
- 62 Prepared (2,3,5)
- 63 On time (8)
- 64 Chocolate substitute (5)
- 67 Travelling show (6)

DOWN

- 2 Lethal (6)
- 3 Dancing shoes (5)
- 5 Throbbing pain (4)
- 6 Globe-circling line (7)
- 7 Summer flower (6)
- 8 Grind (4)
- 9 Sixth sense (8)
- 10 False front (6)
- 11 Wagon-builder (10)
- 12 Small island off Italy (4)
- 13 Thick sweet syrup (7)
- 17 Grass edging of road (5)
- 18 Think carefully (10)
- 22 Pry (5)
- 23 Meal cooked outdoors (8)
- 25 Distinguished musician (7)
- 26 Aloof (7)
- 28 Rummage for food (6)

ACROSS

- 29 Be frugal (6)
- 30 Loses feathers (6)
- 33 Collector's item (5)
- 35 Confess to (5)
- 36 Pacific country (4)
- 38 Change direction (4)
- 43 Craze (5)
- 44 Vary a lot (anag)(8)
- 45 Genetically copied (6)
- 46 Ornate lighting fixture (10)
- 47 Majority (4)
- 48 Instance (7)
- 49 Of or like a horse (6)
- 50 Large strong box (5)
- 52 Heinous (4)
- 53 Small wild horse (7)
- 54 Lacking width (6)
- 59 Enterprising or ambitious drive (3-2-3-2)
- 61 Stop up with filler (5)
- 65 Embrocation (8)
- 66 Snake poison (5)
- 67 Museum keeper (7)
- 70 Small axe (7)
- 71 Regain (6)
- 72 Painting in plaster (6)
- 73 Aliens (anag)(6)
- 77 Red powder (5)
- 78 Employee (4)
- 79 Complimentary (4)
- 80 Meal list (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Vanish into thin air, 10 Spotless, 15 Asleep, 16 Illuminate, 17 Flexible, 19 Recluse, 21 Skeet, 22 Arrogance, 25 Reprimand, 27 Abridge, 29 Clover, 33 Local, 34 Frontier, 36 Propaganda, 39 Gig, 41 Factual, 42 Fedora, 43 Rattle, 44 Fume, 45 Forceps, 48 Astronomer, 53 Stifled, 57 Belt, 58 Garden, 59 Twelve, 60 Warrior, 62 Gel, 64 Exacerbate, 65 Abnormal, 66 Denim, 69 Belief, 70 Compass, 71 Outskirts, 76 Cleopatra, 77 Nomad, 78 Station, 83 Hypnotic, 84 Nationwide, 85 Sinkers, 86 Dressage, 87 The cream of the crop.

DOWN: 2 Answer, 3 Ideal, 4 Hop, 5 Nail, 6 Oilskin, 7 Hamlet, 8 Nuns, 9 Intermix, 11 Pillar, 12 Toxicology, 13 Ebbs, 14 Smelter, 18 Songwriter, 20 Sire, 23 Smirk, 24 Eventual, 26 Elastic, 28 Bargain, 30 Potato, 31 Vigour, 32 Apples, 35 Needs, 37 Ahead, 38 Harp, 40 Grim, 45 Fable, 46 Reliable, 47 Shabby, 48 Additional, 49 Tang, 50 Outlaws, 51 Oceans, 52 Elver, 54 Team, 55 Fervent, 56 Exotic, 61 Rebellious, 63 Balsa, 67 Approach, 68 Kilt, 69 Blushed, 72 Uranium, 73 Boxing, 74 Bounce, 75 Bolero, 79 Tonic, 80 Apse, 81 Disc, 82 Reef, 85 Soh.

ENTERTAINMENT

Strong show as community comes together

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

The birds of Kerepēhi School's community flocked together to produce and perform the school's first production in nine years, and teacher Naomi Fisher said the experience had been empowering.

The 90 tamariki of Kerepēhi School spent most of two terms rehearsing the songs, dances and script for *Birds of a Feather*. The play, by New Zealand company Hi Hā StoryDance, was specifically written for primary-aged audiences and looks at the importance of protecting the environment.

It depicts several native birds learning to work together as they fight to protect their bush home from the "baddie" property developers.

It also introduces the concept of tangata whenua, and the bilingual script is uniquely Aotearoa, interspersing basic te reo Māori with English.

"It was important that we involve the whole school," Naomi said, "[and] that it's got the culture of our school."

For the teachers, it was also an opportunity to tie the play's theme back to their classroom lessons.

"We've been studying local ngahere [bush] for the last year, we've got a wetlands area we're developing at school ... we learnt about the kowhai plant and the different parts of the



Kerepēhi School students worked hard to produce *Birds of a Feather*, including making all the costumes, props and set.
Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

flower, the stamen, the leaves and petals," Naomi said.

Choreography was practised each morning, and the students all had a helping hand in making the costumes, props, and set.

"[The wings] were all second hand materials that we either had donated or got from the op shop ... The headbands we made with the feathers," Naomi said.

"We're an enviroschool as

well, so it's all interwoven within our curriculum."

The community rallied around the school to support the production, Naomi said, drawing parallels to the whakataukī [proverb] at the heart of the play's theme.

"Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini - it's not the strength of me alone but the strength of everyone," she said.

"It really is a real community effort. We even had some of the parent helpers painting some of the walls too, and helping to hang backdrops ... Even just shuttling the kids [to the hall] when it's been raining."

After three sold-out performances, the school is now looking ahead to more shows in future years.

"A few of us were keen on the

dance and drama side of things, and we felt like it was time," Naomi said. "We're wanting to do it every couple of years now."

"It's just amazing seeing the kids' confidence grow. Some of the lead roles are quite shy kids, and they've just really stepped up into those roles."



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2022 Suzuki Vitara Turbo AWD

AUTOMATIC
1.4L TURBO
PETROL



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TRADE-INS WELCOME **\$29,990**

2008 Toyota Vanguard 4WD

AUTOMATIC
2.4L PETROL



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TRADE-INS WELCOME **\$11,990**

2023 Suzuki Swift Hybrid RS

AUTOMATIC
1.2L HYBRID



FINANCE AVAILABLE
TRADE-INS WELCOME **\$27,995**

2023 Suzuki Swift Hybrid RS

AUTOMATIC
1.2L HYBRID



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TRADE-INS WELCOME **\$25,990**

2022 Suzuki Ignis Ltd

AUTOMATIC
1.2L PETROL



FINANCE AVAILABLE
TRADE-INS WELCOME **\$21,990**

2013 BMW X5

AUTOMATIC
3.0L DIESEL



FINANCE AVAILABLE
TRADE-INS WELCOME **\$36,995**

2021 Toyota RAV4 GXL 2WD

AUTOMATIC
2.0L PETROL



FINANCE AVAILABLE
TRADE-INS WELCOME **\$36,990**

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HAURAKI'S HOME OF SUZUKI