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

Court five at the Hauraki Plains Netball Centre is underwater.

A moderate amount of rain the day before has rendered it unusable, while two more courts have puddles where the centre circles should be.

The sodden playing surface has become the norm for the sports club, but its committee members were excited for a change in status quo after receiving a significant amount of funding for refurbishment.

However, the cost of the project has increased by as much as \$340,000, leaving the centre on the back foot.

Tara Carter is not just the Hauraki Netball Centre's fundraising and facilities officer, but she also has the role of health and safety officer, so she hears first-hand how the flood-prone surface in the Hugh Hayward Domain affects her players.

"People report their incidents that have occurred, and most of them are related to water on the courts," she told The Profile. "Where the water pools, sediment builds up, and even when the water has drained away, it's really slippery."

The courts were constructed in 2008 by landowners Hauraki District Council, and Tara said their age, plus the subsidence that occurs underneath the surface, stopped rainwater from draining and caused the courts to flood.

"From five years ago, there's always been talks about the courts needing to be upgraded, so I started the ball rolling around two years ago, meeting contractors on-site and meeting with council," Tara said.

She obtained quotes from a number of contractors, which all gave her an indication that the work would cost between \$150,000-\$220,000.

\$340k shortfall for court repair



Tara Carter and her son Niko stand in the flooded court at Hauraki Plains Netball Centre. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

She began applying for grants and had all three approved, receiving \$30,000 from Trust Wai-kato, \$32,000 from Grassroots Trust, and \$209,000 from Lottery Community Facilities. Including the centre's own funds of around \$100,000, she had successfully accumulated \$370,000 for the

project. However, after bringing in surveyors and engineers to kick-start the resealing, they told her "it would be a lot more than we originally thought".

The latest quote, as of July, came to \$560,000.

Since then, Tara said she has been "back and forward" with

Hauraki District Council, and there's added time pressure as well. With the netball playing season running between April and August, it's ideal for the contractors to do the necessary work this summer, she said.

Not only that, but there was a time crunch on when the centre

had to use its funding - Tara said she had been told by Lotteries NZ that they had until August, 2024, to use the money.

"During the winter season, we write court five off and try to guarantee we've got three courts to play on out of our six."

CONTINUED ON P5

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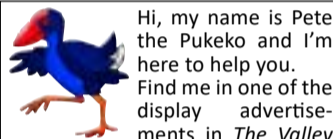
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Treasury to close its doors, jobs lost

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

After almost a year of fighting an uphill battle with funding, The Treasury Research Centre and Archive has made the "tough but responsible" decision to go into hibernation, resulting in a number of redundancies.

All public services and most volunteer activities at The Treasury will be suspended from the close of business on December 1.

The physical research centre and archive will be closed to the public, schools and researchers, but the website and online bookstore will remain operational.

Coromandel Heritage Trust chair Jan Wright told *The Profile* the number of paid staff had dropped from six staff totalling almost four full time equivalent positions last year.

"After April, 2023, one role was ended and the hours of another critical role were halved before it was put into abeyance in September," she said.

"At the end of this month, two further staff will have their contracts ended early. By April, 2024, without intervention, it is probable that The Treasury will have no paid staff.

"Because of the contestable nature of so much of our funding for staffing, all staff of The Treasury are on fixed term employment contracts, usually 12 months. In each case, the continuity or any extension of the contract is subject to funding being available."

It was a "tragic" situation not just for the popular facility which preserves Thames Valley heritage, but for other not-for-profit organ-



The Treasury Research Centre and Archive in Thames will go into hibernation.

File Photo: TERESA RAMSEY

isations around the country which served at "survival level", Jan said.

"Food banks, blankets, and essential medicines - that is where a lot of the public funding is going right now, and that is where it needs to go."

The Treasury, housed in the historic Carnegie Library in Thames, has faced unprecedented challenges in the recent charitable funding climate.

Despite successful fundraising efforts, including a 'keep the doors open' campaign that raised \$25,000, the organisation still struggled to cover its basic annual operating costs.

The first signs of trouble began back in March this year, Jan said, when the Treasury's Lottery Community grant application was "totally declined".

A few days later, The Treasury's Trust Waikato grant application was also denied. Despite being "deeply stressed", the trust con-

tinued to pursue funding solutions and were granted \$21,000 in total from the coffers of Thames-Coromandel and Hauraki district councils.

However, The Treasury was recently denied another grant application - this time from Lottery Environment and Heritage, which had granted them funds on three other occasions.

According to the government's websites for both the Lottery Community Committee and Lottery Environment and Heritage Committee, for the 2023-24 financial year, both committees had 46 per cent less funding available compared with the previous year. This meant they would not be able to fund as many requests as 2022-23 and were unlikely to make grants to the same levels they had previously.

The recent funding denial meant The Treasury's next steps were pretty clear, Jan said.

"This pause is necessary to ensure the long-term preservation of the invaluable collections we hold. It is our role as guardians of the irreplaceable records held within the research centre and archive to focus first on keeping those collections safe."

The trust will continue to actively pursue sustainable funding solutions, including considering the transfer of management and upkeep of The Treasury's archive.

"We are committed to exploring all options to secure the necessary funding to resume our services [and] to keep the collections readily accessible to the public. Most importantly, to keep the collections here in the rohe [area] where they belong, but we are unlikely to know whether we'll be in a position to reopen until June, 2024."

The \$21,000 in emergency funding provided by the two district councils was not enough to "buy any continuity of business", Jan said, however, it allowed the trust to fund "critical" actions, such as engaging an HR professional to work through the end of staffing contracts, paying for legal fees, and conducting a business case. However, Jan is optimistic about finding a resolution that will allow The Treasury to continue its mission of conserving and sharing the region's rich documentary heritage.

"We are deeply committed to our community and to heritage. We will do all within our power for this only to be a pause in our operations."



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<p>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.</p>																																						
<p>PLACE</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Coromandel</td><td>-0</td><td>04</td><td>-0</td><td>03</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Whitianga</td><td>-0</td><td>01</td><td>-0</td><td>05</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tairua</td><td>+0</td><td>10</td><td>+0</td><td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Whangamata</td><td>-0</td><td>03</td><td>-0</td><td>05</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Waihi Beach</td><td>-0</td><td>12</td><td>-0</td><td>12</td> </tr> </table>														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
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Report: Thames housing shortfall, rise in crime

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

If the people of Thames were elected Prime Minister, the improvements to their town would come in the form of stricter laws, an increased police presence, tackling homelessness, and addressing the cost-of-living crisis.

The aspirations come off the back of a Salvation Army 'State of our Community' report - which, at times, could make for "doom and gloom" reading.

It highlighted struggles such as the lack of housing in Thames (a deficit of 2537 dwellings); the increasing amount of criminal activity (an almost 50 per cent rise since 2019); and the shortage of employment opportunities and activities for youth.

But Salvation Army social policy analyst Ana Ika, who was in Thames last week to present the report at a public meeting, said it was "really important" to remain aspirational, and to not be "pessimistic" about the town's challenges.

For the report, 111 respondents, plus three community leaders, gave their feedback on questions such as: 'What do you like about your local community?', 'What are some of the challenges your community faces?', and 'In five years' time, what changes would you like to see in your community?'

The questions were supported by public data obtained by the social policy unit, and among the most telling was the correlation between people's desire for



The Salvation Army's Ben Willis and Ana Ika at the public meeting in Thames.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

the construction of more affordable homes, and the number of consent applications lodged for new builds.

The report said that: "according to the 2018 census, the occupancy rate is 1.2 people per dwelling in Thames, which is significantly lower than the national average of 2.6.

"Regardless of which occupan-

cy rate is applied, there remains a substantial shortfall in the number of dwellings required to meet the needs of the population.

"If we use the local occupancy rate of 1.2, there's a deficit of 2537 dwellings, and if we use the national rate of 2.6, it's still a shortfall of 468 dwellings. There aren't enough homes in Thames to meet the needs of the local

population."

Ana said between 1996 and 2009, there were 400 consent applications lodged in Thames, but since 2010, there had only been 104 consents lodged.

"In comparison to other areas of the country, when we're looking at these graphs, there's often an increase in consents to build houses, but there's a shift - so,

we're not building houses, we're building townhouses, whereas in Thames, we're not building at all according to these numbers."

Also discussed was the increase in crime.

Fifty-four per cent of respondents said they would be determined to reduce crime if elected Prime Minister - and their desires were again backed up by public data.

According to the report, in July, 2023, Thames had a crime rate of around 100 incidents per 10,000 people, representing a significant 45.7 per cent increase since 2019.

Theft from retail premises, burglary, motor vehicle thefts, and assault were among the highest reported criminal incidents. Meth use in the Waikato region had also increased by 88.5 per cent since 2020.

Ana said while a lot of the numbers could be "depressing and dark", it was important to be reminded that the community was optimistic about the future of Thames.

Ultimately, the report found that people were the glue of the town.

"Overall, the community is aspirational for Thames in the future," Ana said. "It's shooting for the moon and you'll end up in the stars."

DETAILS: To read the full report, visit: www.salvationarmy.org.nz/article/state-our-communities-report-2023



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Jump in cost puts flooded courts on back foot

CONTINUED FROM P1

"The playing nights are Mondays and Wednesdays because we can't accommodate all of the teams in one night. It's just a real mission," she said.

"It really affects our ability to have a competition, and that's not going to go away until we replace the courts.

"It's got to happen at some point - we've got this money now, we have a timeframe we have to use it by, so we're just desperate for more money from anywhere."

Not being able to receive any funding from the council to cover the shock shortfall had been a real "bone of contention," Tara said, but Mayor Toby Adams told *The Profile* that council just didn't have \$200,000 to spare.

"We had a meeting with them... and they said they needed to spend the [funding] money or give it back, and we said: 'Well, there's no guarantee you'll get any extra funding, so it's not wise to get a contract tendered out'.

"But I said: 'If you ask the council today for \$200,000, I can tell you the answer will be no. We've overspent everywhere and we don't have \$200,000 to spare'.

"What we did offer was to use myself and our staff to talk to

their funding providers and see if there was an opportunity to hold off for a little while we worked on other funding arrangements."

Mayor Adams said when council consults on its Long Term Plan next year, it would be "the perfect time" for the netball centre to put forward a submission for funding.

"For this financial year, the budgets are already set and spent, so we didn't have a spare \$200,000 for this financial year. We may be able to do something, or get a signal that the community was happy for us to fund this, through the submission process."

He did want to "take his hat off" to the netball centre's committee and "to the person who has really been driving the fundraising", he said.

"They've done an amazing job."

However, he said "the real killer here" was timing.

"It's been really unfortunate timing - getting the original pricing, and then when it's come time to do the work, there's been such a jump in cost - that's the unfortunate part."

DETAILS: To donate to the cause, contact haurakinetball@gmail.com.



Hauraki Family Violence Intervention Network spokesperson Sally Christie wants people to be a "book Santa" this Christmas.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

'Be a book Santa' for local tamariki

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

A Christmas initiative will this year put books in the hands of children who might otherwise go without.

Organised by the Hauraki Family Violence Intervention Network in collaboration with Carson's Bookshop in Thames, residents are being asked to help foster the love of reading among tamariki. While perusing the aisles at Carson's Book Shop ahead of Christmas, families wanting to give back can do so by purchasing a book at the counter for the store staff to collect and pass on to the network.

Organiser Sally Christie said the books will then be distributed to adolescents from around the district.

"The idea is to be a book Santa," she said. "Giving a child a new book and the treasure of that, as

well as the importance of reading to a child, or an independent reader having a world they can disappear into - this covers all of that."

Sally said books can be donated for new and young readers, as well as for older children who have a higher level of reading comprehension. She said the drive could also be a learning opportunity for parents to pass on the act of giving.

"In my family, books get eaten up," Sally said, "and owning a book is special."

"Libraries and second-hand book stores are really valuable places, but we want to trigger a passion in young children because we know that [reading] improves oral language, literacy, and engagement with the world."

Carson's Book Shop owner Greg Hampton said any book purchased as a donation to the drive will be

discounted by 10 per cent. He said the Pollen St store had been involved in book drives in the past, and that it was something they were "really happy to support".

"We love the idea of books getting into the hands of children who can't normally access them," he said. "If you get children reading and familiar with books earlier in their lives, it's proven they will do better at school and with literacy, and it's a real disadvantage for children who don't have access. So, the more we can encourage access to books in the community, the better off the community will be."

DETAILS: Books must be bought and dropped off at the counter of Carson's Bookshop before Monday, December 18.



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Where the price is always right

Black Fern to pop in to pop-up market day

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

Sports fans will have the chance to meet Black Fern superstar Katelyn Vaha'akolo in Thames this weekend, at the Whakatupu Tētēkura pop-up market.

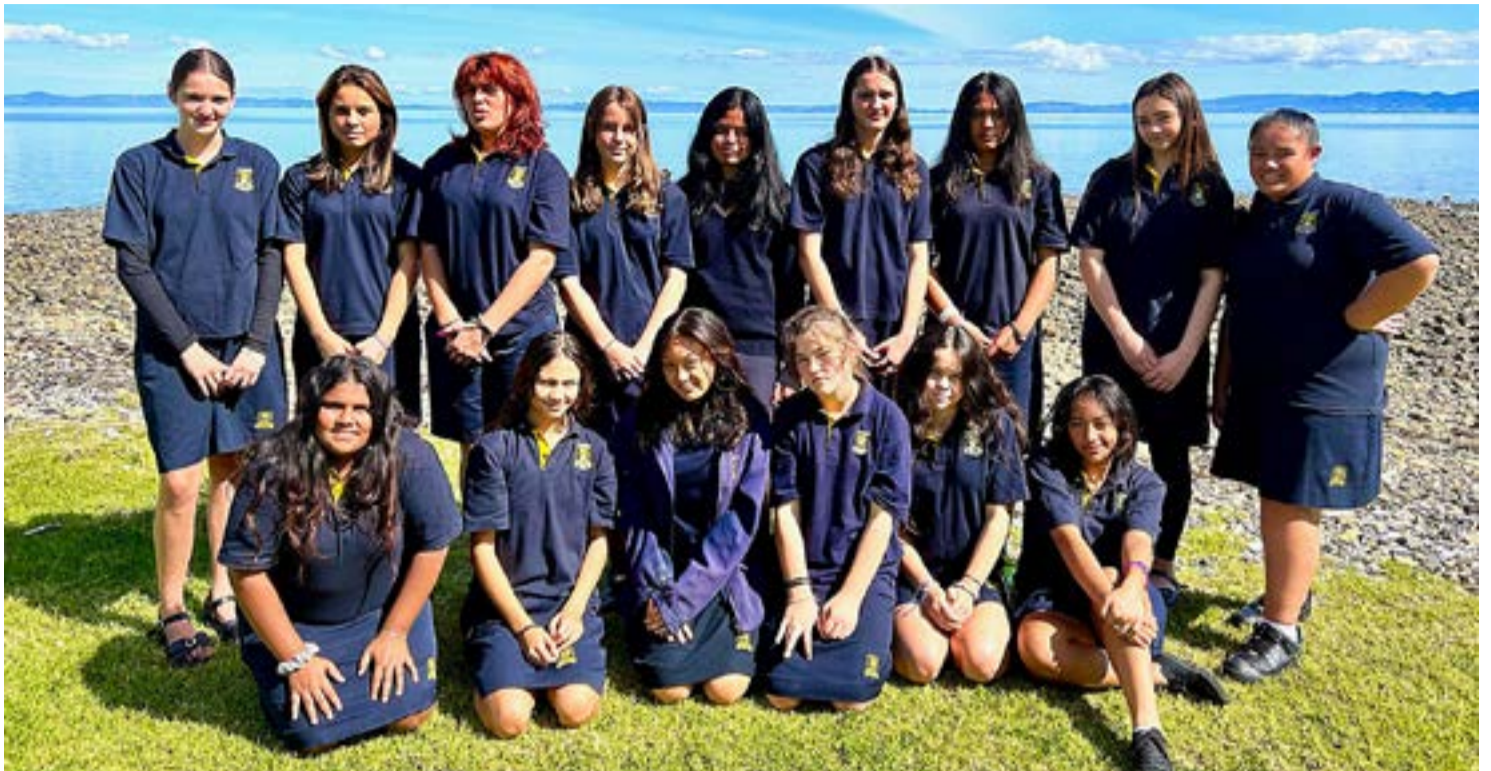
The carpark by Ngāti Maru Ruranga on Queen St will be transformed with food trucks, stalls and entertainment - and of course, a guest appearance by the recently-named World Rugby Women's 15s breakthrough player of the year.

Katelyn is just one of the reasons to visit the pop-up market, conceived and organised entirely by the Whakatupu Tētēkura rōpū [group].

The rōpū is a three-year marae-based programme beginning in year eight, which nurtures and mentors a group of rangatahi [youths] closely until the end of year 11.

The name of the group means "raising young warriors", and co-ordinators Tina Paki and Ro Mitchell-Te Teira said their aim was to help their members develop confidence, leadership skills and friendships in a safe space whilst navigating the often tricky transition to secondary school.

"It's connecting them back to their marae, their iwi, their whenua, their moana, their awa," Tina said.



The girls of Whakatupu Tētēkura rōpū are pulling out all the stops for an exciting fundraising market. It is their first foray into event planning, and developing the skills they will eventually use to plan a cultural exchange to Rarotonga. Photo: SUPPLIED

"It creates an identity for them as well before going into high school.

"And it was really beautiful to watch last year when we had our orientation, and our girls in our first year eight rōpū all gravitated towards each other."

This weekend's market was planned by the group's current year nines to raise funds for

a cultural exchange to Rarotonga at the end of their programme.

It's their first major fundraiser and an opportunity to practise their organisational skills.

"They have to organise everything [for the exchange]. When we say everything: passports, travel, itinerary, flights, the whole lot," Tina said.

Along with Katelyn, the rōpū have also hired DJ Kiwi Beats, another of Thames' rangatahi, to spin some tunes. And there will be plenty to entertain the whole whanau, with mussel fritters, face painting, candy-floss, a white elephant stall and much more.

"[It's] for rangatahi, by rangatahi," Ro said.

"We are big about giving our

rangatahi opportunities. And Katelyn is a massive draw-card ... that's also about giving our rangatahi opportunities to meet someone that's a role model, someone to aspire to."

DETAILS: Pop-up market, December 2, 9am-2pm at the Ngāti Maru Ruranga carpark, 111 Queen St.



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'End of an era' for Paeroa's The Depot

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

There was a lot of love inside The Depot, one of Paeroa's most well-known antique stores, in the week leading up to its closure.

The affection owner Vicky Brimblecombe, as well as her loyal staff, had for the expansive space was clear when they pointed out the kaitiaki owl perched on the rafters, and the walls that were painted by hand.

Vicky had owned The Depot for 20 years but the time had come to close the doors of the co-op, iconically housed in what used to be the old Paeroa bus depot.

Her whanau were at the store helping pack up the assortment of items when The Profile visited, and they said grandchildren and great-grandchildren were also armed with memories of the place.

"It used to be like a jungle for them," they said. "And they'd run around it at night when they were closing up."

Vicky was also joined by long-time friend Bev Rowe, and loyal workers Kim Clayton and Keith Newton. Kim has been helping at The Depot for 12 years, while Keith has been volunteering at the shop, seven days a week for 15 years.

"I needed some bookcases, so



Kim Clayton, left, Bev Rowe, Keith Newton, and The Depot owner Vicky Brimblecombe say goodbye after 20 years.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

I came wandering in here and got friendly, and [Vicky] said: 'Don't be a stranger'," Keith recalled. As a proficient fixer of clocks, he has been helping at the store ever since, and said The Depot's closure will be a big change for him.

The others agreed it was "the end of an era".

"I remember we used to go

up to all the auctions in Auckland and afterwards, we'd stop at McDonalds at the Bombays, pick up our burgers, and drive home," Bev said.

"Then the next morning it'd be unloading and pricing."

When Vicky and her partner moved from Kawerau in the Bay of Plenty to Paeroa, she said they sat outside on the main street all

day to watch the traffic flow.

They bought the lease from Tony and Joyce Webb 20 years ago, and opened the store up as an upmarket second-hand shop. The antiques came later, she said.

At the time of closing on November 19, the co-op had 12 store-holders.

Vicky will now be moving to

the wine-producing region of Hawke's Bay - where she once used to travel regularly to pick up wine barrels for the shop - and thanked the community, her staff, and her support team for their help and encouragement over the past two decades.



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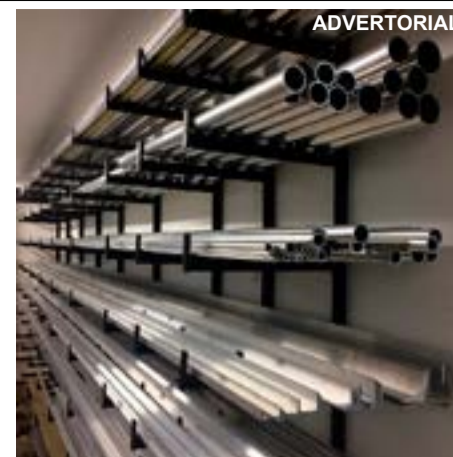
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cently celebrated 25 years as industrial supply specialists, are excited to have Read Bros join the group and know the store will make a great addition to the TradeZone Group. Meanwhile, TradeZone become part of the rich history of Read Bros Hardware Ltd.

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Rambling success for Rotary

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

Despite oppressive clouds and continuous rain, hardy green-thumbed garden enthusiasts took to the streets of Paeroa and rural surrounds on November 18 for Rotary's Garden Ramble.

Nineteen premises opened their gates, sheds, and homes as part of the fundraiser event, and attendees took the opportunity to admire their gardening visions. More than 250 tickets were sold, and organiser Janet Tye said the event was a resounding success, with around \$5500 raised. The funds will go towards Paeroa Rotary's community projects.

"An absolutely wonderful day out - people just loved it. And our host gardeners are all exhausted but they loved it too," Janet said.

"You would have got the vibe, people were so happy."

Janet said the inclusion of live music, talks, and demonstrations made the all-day event something special.

"It's raised us to another level, it's not just an ordinary ramble," she told *The Profile*.

"The balance of it was pretty perfect, I don't know how we could improve on it much, but we might come up with some ideas."



The vegetable gardens at Trish and Mike's property leads down to mature bush overlooking a stream.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER



Despite the weather, people turned out in droves to admire the gardens.



A Shaw Ave garden is a riot of colour.



A living sculpture draws the eye.



Many of the gardens have sculptures to complement the planting.



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Rural Life

Humeral fractures no joke

By NEIL MURRAY, Farm Vet, Paeroa

This current mating season has seen a farm on the Plains experience an outbreak of spontaneous humeral fractures.

The humerus is the upper forelimb bone between the elbow and the shoulder. At this stage, 4 per cent of the farm's first lactation dairy heifers (R3s) have suffered from fractures with no signs of external trauma or accidental mishap to explain the cause of the breaks.

Spontaneous humeral fractures in first calving heifers are a known issue in the dairy industry with the first outbreak being reported in 2008. It seems to appear only on New Zealand dairy farms with our seasonal pastoral systems.

Though it has been an issue for 15 years now, we still didn't have a full understanding of the disease process. The thought was that malnutrition/feed shortages, genetics and copper deficiency all have some level of effect in causing the disease.

Copper has an interesting part to play, while over half the affected animals are copper deficient, a good percentage of affected heifers had normal copper level. Heifers with broken legs also would not look like deficient animals who typically present with rough/dull coats, poor growth and low production.

A PhD study out of Massey University was published earlier this year with some further understanding of this disease process. A large number of leg bones collected from heifers with fractured humeri were compared to those of healthy heifers to see what differences occurred.

They found that all affected heifers were suffering from osteoporosis (pathologically thin bones). The bones of affected heifers also consistently had growth arrest lines present. These are physical lines in the bone

that occur when bone growth has stopped for some time and then restarted. The presence of these lines indicates that these individuals have suffered a period of underfeeding/malnutrition during their first two years.

It is thought that a protein calorie deficit in particular is responsible for the growth arrest lines and subsequent weak bones.

Interestingly, they found that although many affected animals were copper deficient, these same individuals had higher levels of copper in their bones compared with unaffected animals. Copper is important in the formation of cross-bridges in bone, providing support.

The increase in copper is indicative of the heifers attempting to lay down bone quickly to add structural support to the thin bones, however, it's poor-quality bone.

It was thought that it was copper deficiency that was involved in causing the osteoporosis. It now appears that the copper deficiency is occurring as a result of the weak bones instead. Affected animals are using up their liver copper stores to make new bone in an attempt to provide additional structural support.

The biggest take-home message from this new research is that it's one more reason why young stock need to receive good nutrition, particularly sufficient levels of protein to enable them to form good quality bones.

This is especially important going into summer as protein levels in pasture are at their lowest over the summer dry period.

Another takeaway is that it's important to assess the copper levels of young stock and not just that of the herd.

Young animals that are deficient in copper may be drawing copper into their bones in an attempt to strengthen them, forewarning possible problems once they enter the herd.

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Rural Life

Sport climbing champion wins water science prize

New Zealand sport climbing champion Sarah Tetzlaff has won the Waikato Regional Council Prize in Water Science for 2023. The prize recognises a University of Waikato student who shows outstanding ability in water science papers taught in the Faculty of Science and Engineering.



Joanne Ellis, left, presents Sarah Tetzlaff with her award.

Sarah combines full-time study with more than 20 hours per week training in her quest to qualify for the Paris 2024 and Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games, which means she often flies overseas to compete at international climbing events.

In fact, she has recently returned from Bern, Switzerland where she competed in New Zealand's first world championship climbing team. She broke her own New Zealand open female record of 9.29 seconds by completing a climb in 8.98 seconds.

Despite her busy training schedule, Sarah applies her passion for water science to tertiary study and has recently completed a Bachelor of Science degree majoring in environmental science. She's now studying a Master of Science (Research) degree she began in July at the University of Waikato.

Majoring in environmental sciences, Sarah's master's researches the link between

shallow groundwater and algae growth in the near-shore shallow water zone (<1m depth) along Lake Tarawera. She is investigating whether this groundwater influences algae growth and also quantifying the general level of energy production in this near-shore zone, which Sarah says has never been done before in New Zealand.

This knowledge may help us understand the energy production at the bottom of the food web (all the connected food chains) in lake ecosystems.

Sarah says her academic interest in water emerged from studying papers about Antarctica and water processes in rivers and glaciers: "I found these papers extremely fascinating. They really opened my eyes to how amazing water is and its importance in the climate, oceanic and terrestrial systems. Since then, I have taken all the available water science papers at Waikato University."



The school Envirogroup team with their bronze certificate.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Bronze Enviro award for Miller Ave

The students of Miller Avenue School's envirogroup were thrilled to receive confirmation of their Bronze Enviro School status at a ceremony on November 16. The school has been

working toward re-acquiring accreditation since the beginning of the year, and students have focused on reducing waste and beautifying their learning environment. Guests from Hauraki District

Council and EnviroSchools were greeted by a school-wide waiata and welcome karakia, before spending some time viewing the students' efforts and discussing possible future improvements.

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Elaborate welcome in Paeroa for Governor



As part of a Valley Profile series, **MEGHAN HAWKES** searches through old newspapers to bring you the stories Thames Valley locals once read about themselves.

1899

Lord Ranfurly, Governor of New Zealand, and party, arrived on an official visit to Paeroa by train and were met by members of the County Council and other leading citizens.

After a welcome by Councillor Cock, the party was driven up to the triumphal arch, where elaborate preparations had been made for a reception.

The arch, decorated with bunting, looked splendid, and about forty military volunteers formed a guard of honour. Around 400 children were present on a raised platform.

After a formal welcome to his Excellency, the children sang *God Save the Queen* led by a band. After addresses and speeches Lord Ranfurly thanked the gathering and also stated that the development of the mining industry afforded him great pleasure.

James Mackay, interpreter, then read an address from Hamora Tararenu, Haora Tupai and Mere Kuru greeting



The Paeroa Volunteers drawn up to welcome His Excellency, the Earl of Ranfurly, by the Royal Mail Hotel, Paeroa, 1899. Photo: SUPPLIED

His Excellency and welcoming him to Ohinemuri.

The Governor, in reply, stated that he would do all he could to cement the friendship between the two races and heartily thanked them for their address.

After a round of cheering he spoke a few words to the children, approving another holiday for them, an announcement that was greeted with applause.

His Excellency then drove to the Criterion Hotel and after a short stay there proceeded to Karangahake.

NEW PONTOON OPENED
An important function also

took place at Netherton when a newly constructed pontoon was formerly declared open for traffic. The ferry punt had been built by Mr Finch, of Paeroa, to the order of the Ohinemuri County Council. The punt and a new road direct from Turua to Paeroa brought Netherton within 1.5 miles of Paeroa, making it the nearest market for the produce of thousands of acres of land.

Hundreds of boxes of butter were sent from Auckland, Waikato, and Taranaki every week to Ohinemuri. This would now be largely eliminated.

Creameries were also to be

established at Netherton and Paeroa, and between the two places, there were guarantees of about 600 cows.

Mrs William Moore, wife of the worthy member for the district, christened the pontoon the 'Advance'. After several speeches and a song by Councillor Stackpole, an abundance of viands were produced and done ample justice to.

NARROW ESCAPE

John Davis, while out curlew shooting at Miranda, had a very narrow escape. While preparing to cross the mud in search of birds he laid his gun against a wire fence. A slight breeze was blowing, which shook the wire and the gun fell to the ground and went off, the charge ploughing through the muscle of the small of his back on the left side and inflicting a nasty wound. It was thought miraculous that he survived as had the charge entered a little higher it would have probably touched a vital spot.

WAIHI GROWTH

Waihi was regarded as a progressive little place and, although its buildings had not yet reached the sky scraper stage of New York and Chicago, they were beginning to evolve in that direction. Two storied buildings and even a three storied edifice were being erected.

There was talk of building booms in Auckland and Wanganui, but in Waihi for three years there had been great growth and now a movement was afoot to have the township lit up by electricity.

In Brief

STORM INQUIRY OPENS

The government has opened consultation for its inquiry into the response to this year's North Island severe water events. The independent inquiry looks at the preparedness and response of local and central governments, communities, businesses and people affected by the major weather events in Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Tairāwhiti, Hawke's Bay, and Taranaki earlier this year. They want to hear stories from people who experienced the storms and their impacts, to better prepare for future events. The consultation closes on December 15, more info: consultations.dia.govt.nz.

AA ON THE MOVE

Paeroa residents have a new home for licensing services as the Paeroa AA Driver & Vehicle Licensing Agency is on the move – just around the corner. From Tuesday, November 28, the Paeroa Agency will operate from 6 Wharf St. All the usual AA Driver and Vehicle Licensing services will remain in the community, including theory tests for learners, licence renewals and International Driving Permits (IDPs).

TRANSPORT SCHEME

Coromandel Independent Living Trust (CILT) has launched a new Transport Assistance Scheme, to support communities while our roads continue to be repaired. CILT will be offering fuel vouchers to assist with the cost of travel when attending medical or WINZ appointments that are not already covered by other Government or ACC funding. To qualify, travellers must provide a valid Community Services or Gold card and proof of appointment to the Resource Centre at 45 Tiki Road, Coromandel Town.

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Excitement brews for annual toy appeal

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

For organisers of Paeroa Baptist Church's annual Community Christmas Toy Appeal, the opportunity to provide children in need with presents is already putting a smile on faces.

It's soon to be that time of year when a group of Santa's helpers wrap and distribute gifts to local tamariki, but residents are first encouraged to drop unwrapped presents under a tree in the newly-relocated Paeroa Information Hub.

Gifts must be donated before December 8, and coordinator Jill Robertson expected no shortage of supply again this year.

"Last year we wrapped 260 gifts, and sometimes there were two or three things inside one present," she said. "The community was just incredibly, incredibly generous... and I'm hoping for the same, if not more, enthusiasm this year."

A dedicated team of volunteers will be wrapping the donated presents on December 13. Then, the gifts will get distributed to around 20 organisations who supply the volunteers with names and ages of the young recipients.

Gifts are given to children, aged from newborn to 12 years, and Jill - who is a retired teacher from Paeroa Christian School - said she's already received a list of recipients from one of the participating schools.



"I do it for the children in our community," Jill said, "and it just feels like the excitement is already there. This is something that allows people to feel like they're making a worthwhile contribution in our community... it's something people can be a part of, big or small."

DETAILS: Donated gifts are to be new, or in excellent condition, and donations of wrapping paper is also gratefully accepted. Drop-off to Paeroa Info Hub, situated in its new location at 6 Wharf St. Place unwrapped gifts under the Christmas tree by Friday, December 8. Make contact via 027 4144 853 or paeroabapchurch@gmail.com for further info.



December's featured artists at Thames Art Gallery.



Photos: SUPPLIED

Paintings, weaving and pottery to feature

Thames Art Gallery has quite an array of artists being featured for the month of December at its Tararu gallery, including Gary Nevin, Julie Burns-Nevin, Cassandra Nevin, Adam Wharekawa and Elise Belovic.

Gary Nevin is an artist, sculptor and potter from Whenuakite. He has been making art since the 1960s and finds inspiration in everything around him - he sees art in most things. He can turn any material he comes across into works of art, be it paint, steel, concrete, clay or wood.

Gary is now turning his hand to pottery domestic ware due to the economic climate, and because he says wheel work is "fun". But he'll still be turning out his trademark flying pigs and other unique-styled works he's renowned for.

Julie Burns-Nevin is a raranga, flax weaver. The open weave of some of her kete bags

represents Kupenga, a reference to fish nets. She is privileged to be the guardian, kaitiaki, of some varieties of harakeke flax.

Over the years, she has been inspired by the unique properties of what each variety carries and works accordingly with them.

Cassandra Nevin is the daughter of Gary and Julie and she could not help but inherit the artistic gene from her parents. Her upbringing on the Coromandel is the inspiration of her paintings.

She enjoys the challenge of finding the right colour combinations from nature, light, interiors and moments. She enjoys using these in her paintings, particularly of local scenes.

Cassandra has been learning to throw pottery and incorporates these vessels in her candle making ventures.

Adam Wharekawa is a painter, photographer and sculptor. He

grew up in South Auckland where he learnt to skate and his skill and love of the sport allowed him to travel, experience cultures and meet people from all walks of life. His story is reflected in all his artistic works. The varied works of these talented artists can be seen at Artists House, Whenuakite.

Elise Belovic is based on the Thames Coast, specialising in stoneware pottery, which she has been doing on and off for the past 10 years, in between other work.

She is renowned for her one-off pieces for the home and garden, featuring her uniquely distinctive colourful glazes. Elise is greatly inspired by the beauty of nature that surrounds her. Her creations have seen her placed highly in recent gallery awards in the area.

DETAILS: Thames Art Gallery, 604 Tararu Rd, open weekdays: 10am-2pm, weekends: 10am-4pm, entry is free.

Thames Art Gallery

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Community spirit a focus for Paeroa Dux

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Strengthening community spirit is something that Paeroa College Dux for 2023 Grier Buchanan holds dear.

It's no surprise that the 18-year-old Year 13 student was Head Student of Community and received an Hauraki District Council OnYa Award for service to the community this month.

When asked about a significant moment from her time at Paeroa College, Grier reflected on a special campaign she and a friend initiated and ran to promote mental health awareness, raising more than \$2000 for the I Am Hope Foundation.

"My friend and I, Jamie-Lee Owen, she's the head student of well being... we ran an event called 'Run for a Reason' this year in honour of two students from our school [who died] last year," she said.

Grier was moved by "seeing the community come together in solidarity around something that was not only significant to her, but also to those in the community. "A highlight [was] seeing what impact you can actually have," she said.

Grier is no stranger to giving her best and seeing the fruits of her labour come to fruition, but hearing her name called out during the Dux announce-



The future is bright for Paeroa College's 2023 Dux recipient Grier Buchanan. Photo: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

ment was something else.

"It was pretty overwhelming to be honest. That's the moment when it hit that I was actually finishing school. I think it was like a combination of all my hard work, and I'm not actually gonna be seeing these

people again," she said.

"The whole school got up and did the haka, that was cool. I was crying."

After a focused year of poring over her subjects and learning everything inside-out and back to front, she said it "felt good"

to have accomplished this academic endeavour.

"I've worked really hard over the year, so I think for it to pay off is really nice."

Her motivation for staying the course and studying hard was linked to "not putting too

much pressure on myself".

"I'm trying my best at everything I'm doing. You can only try your best, you don't have to go beyond that," she said.

With subjects such as physics, biology, and chemistry up her sleeve, it's a no brainer for Grier to follow her love of science at university next year.

"I'm doing a bachelor of science next year, potentially majoring in chemistry," she said.

When asked about what opportunities being Dux will bring, Grier said it would help with university scholarship applications, though she has already been offered a University of Auckland Academic Potential Tier 1 scholarship.

"I know that it has an impact on Otago scholarships which is really cool and exciting."

Grier wants next year's Year 13 students to make the most of their final year.

"Try not to put too much pressure on yourself.

"Year 12 is the stats that the uni's look for scholarships and stuff, so Year 13 is about enjoying your year and really soaking up what high school has left for you."

Mikaela Hossack was named Proxime Accessit and received the Endeavour for Year 13 award for Paeroa College, and third place went to Jamie-Lee Owen.

WAIHI EAST SCHOOL TE KURA RAWHITI O WAIHI

Inspiring confident and resourceful learners who Rise Above and Shine

Start Date
7th Feb. 2024
Office Open
for Enrolments
& Uniform Sales
from Wed. 31st.
January

Tutika - Responsibility

Whakarangatiranga - Respect

Manahitanga - Caring

Pre-enrolments (in zone) or expressions of interest (out of zone) for 2024 are now invited. Pop in for a look around and a chat!

Vanessa Maunder (Acting Principal): principal@east.school.nz

Welcome to 2024

School office open from 25th January

- Tuesday 30th January – Year 11-Year 13 Course Confirmation. Online bookings available, further information will be emailed out.
- Wednesday 31st January pm - Friday 2nd February - Year 13 Camp
- Thursday 1st February & Friday 2nd February - Year 11 and Year 12 Block Course 8.40am - 3.00pm
- Wednesday 7th February - Year 9 & all new students Pōwhiri starting at 9.45am - all new students please assemble in the gym by 9.00am. Returning Year 10 - Year 13 students, school year starts at 8.40am

Late enrolment paperwork due by Friday 26th January
Scheduled enrolment interviews available for new students from Wednesday 31st January

Uniform Shop and Chromebook Distribution:

Wednesday 31st January 11.00am-6.00pm
Thursday 1st February 8.30am-3.30pm

School is closed Monday 5th February - Teacher Only Day

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Student Life

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Fire safety focus for students

Puriri Volunteer Fire Brigade welcomed Puriri School students to the station to share advice with students about keeping safe over summer. Students have been learning about safety in all aspects related to their hauora/health and wellbeing, with a session on water safety the previous week.



Station Officer Leanne Cryer shows students the fire truck.



Students tour the station.



Denis Jouan oversees Joseph Shelford.



Penny Stewart tries the breathing apparatus.

Dive Into Learning

At Pūriri School

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Life is about learning, inside and outside, in every place and every context. If we're not inside learning literacy and numeracy, you'll find us by the river exploring and applying our learning.

It would be my honour to meet you and your child or children for a school visit or chat.

Ngā mihi nui, Lydia Lester - Principal
Enrolments available now for 2024,
start date: 7th February.

Visit: <https://www.puririschool.com>

Email: principal@puriri.school.nz

Call: 07 8681031



Ngatea Playcentre

Welcomes You!





Nau mai! We run sessions for children aged 0-6 years at 5 McMillan Street on Tuesdays and Fridays 9am - 11.30am.

Playcentre is run by parents. Our main goal is to learn and grow together with our tamariki and to build meaningful relationships with other families in the local community. We have amazing resources for our tamariki and offer lots of fun learning experiences. You can find more on our Facebook page.

Everyone is welcome to visit, get in touch via Facebook, phone/text, or email Hillary. See you soon!



@NGATEAPC



Hillary 027 253 5463



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Te Kura O Awa

River School

Our local awa (river) creates a unique learning environment where tamariki are immersed in hands-on outdoor learning experiences fostering values such as exploration, problem solving, discovery, collaboration, Tikanga Māori, environmental education and action.

Our dedicated teaching and support teams provide individualised learning pathways, bringing all children into the learning mindset, even when they don't realise it themselves.

Each child has their own unique strengths and challenges – let us help your child be happy and fulfilled at school as we work with whānau to model our **"be TRUE" values:**

Trust,
Respect,
Understanding
and Equity.





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Are you looking for a small home away from home setting for your childcare service? Or perhaps you would like your child to be in a space that caters to their specific age group?

With three local daycare centres in central locations, we can cater to the kind of childcare service that suits you and your family/ whānau needs. We are a wrap-around service offering care and education from 7:30am until 5:30pm.

Being family/whānau orientated, this partnership enables us to use your aspirations to help guide our curriculum, with school readiness being of great importance.

At Paeroa Early Learning Collective, we have specific rooms and spaces designed to cater for your child's age and stage of development.

At Ngatea Early Learning Centre and Paeroa Early Learning Centre we have mixed age spaces, enabling children to learn from one another and be able to share the same play space as their siblings.

Our highly qualified staff focus on a curriculum that is based on child centered fun, learning and outcomes.

We follow Ministry of Education policy, protocols and procedures.

Rostering for low child-teacher ratios, so your child gets the care and

attention they need while gaining a better understanding of your child's learning and interests.

Our teachers are an integral and valued part of our service, continually upskilling through professional development and utilising local support services to inform our curriculum. Our teachers will genuinely care for and nurture your child.

We continually self-review to improve the enjoyment and education of your child. We believe in sound values, always being honest, polite and respectful.

For a limited time- new enrolments are offered three months free for over twos and six months free for a second child! Please email or phone us to inquire. Some Terms and conditions apply.

Come in, feel welcome to have a look around, chat with our managers and teachers and see what our wonderful centres have to offer! Our priority is your children. So, your child can come and "Love, learn and laugh" with us!

Paeroa Early Learning Collective, Ph 07 862 9202, paeroaelc-
collective@gmail.com; Paeroa Early Learning Centre, Ph 07 862 7669, paeroaelc@gmail.com; Ngatea Early Learning Centre, Ph 07 867 7892, ngateaelc@gmail.com.

- Supplied by Nicola Ryburn, Centre Manager

Smooth transition at HPC

It is a big step from being a senior student in Year 8 at a small primary school to being a junior student in Year 9 at a large secondary School.

However, at Hauraki Plains College, staff are working with the primary schools who will be sending students to HPC in 2024 to make sure the transition to HPC is as smooth as possible for our new students and their whānau.

As ever, the emphasis is on the wellbeing of students and their whānau through the process. A big vote of thanks to the primary principals, Year 8 teachers and Kāhui Ako Learning Support Coordinators for their valuable input into transition which will be explained below.

A key factor in transition is the sharing of information between schools. Year 8 teachers have filled in a questionnaire for each of their students listing such factors as student strengths and interests to help HPC staff to engage the Year 9s in their learning. For the same reason, the students themselves have filled in a questionnaire for their personal input.

To familiarise the Year 8s with the large campus that is HPC, visits of small numbers of students have been arranged by the LSCs so they can get an idea of where everything is.

First bit of information - where the toilets are. A photo essay of HPC both inside and outside the buildings has been prepared and will be shared with contributing



schools so students and whānau can further their knowledge of the geography of the place.

Friday 1 December is Discovery Day where Year 8 students and whānau are invited to the College. The Year 8s will be put into their River Groups, meet their River Guide and have some valuable learning and some fun activities.

All this and food as well. Whānau will be introduced to members of staff who will play a vital role in tran-

sitioning students. A very valuable day that does a lot to calm nerves and begin the Year 8s' HPC journey.

The journey will continue on Thursday 1 February when the Year 9s and 13s attend HPC for the welcoming pōwhiri and further familiarisation of who everyone is, where everything is, how does this and that work. By the end of the day, Year 9s will be raring to get stuck into their time at HPC.

- Supplied by Hauraki Plains College

Hauraki Plains College

Back to School Information 2024

Senior students will be emailed timetables over the holidays

- 31 Jan & 1 Feb: Course Confirmation 11am-2pm in the Hub (optional)
- 1 Feb: Year 9 & 13 only
- 2 Feb: Year 10, 11, 12 only
- 5 Feb: Everyone back (New bell times: 8.45am-3.05pm)

Stationery: www.myschool.nz

Uniform: www.argyleonline.co.nz

P.E Uniform & Footwear: www.nzuniforms.com



Out of Zone Information Evening Wednesday 28 February at 6pm

www.haurakiplains.school.nz

A past that informs, not defines

OPINION



By MICHAEL WILKES

There is a well known whaka-tauki [Māori proverb] that speaks of walking backward into the future.

“Ka mu, ka muri.”
The idea that we should look to the past to inform our future. And yet I wonder if this is quite different from letting our past shape or dictate our future.

Several years ago, I remember sitting with a young man and asking him what his future looked like. His response was that he would be in prison. Perplexed I asked why.

“Because that is my path” he responded. He went on to explain that everyone he knew who had walked the path he was on, everyone he knew who had gone to the same schools he had been to, everyone he knew who had been kicked out and sent to alternative educa-

tion as he had been... all ended up in prison.

For this young man, the past was not something to grow and learn from. The past was the thing that would decide his future. The great news is that his path did not go that way because he learned a deep truth that we all need.

Our past is a great teacher, but our future is decided by the choices we make.

This is a key aspect of what we are teaching within our youth work. But before we can learn to choose well, we need to first consider what it is that brings us life. What are the things that we value and hold most dear. What are the things we hope for in life.

Because these are the very things that will get us out of bed each morning, these are the things that will help guide our decisions, and hopefully the things that can shape our families and our future.

If you have not considered such questions for yourself and your family; the time is no better than the present.

Consider the things most dear, write them on your heart, write them on the toilet wall, put them into art and introduce them to your kids.

Because the past can inform our steps but its our heart and vision that need to shape our homes and our future.

- Michael Wilkes is a Living Well Trust Youth Worker

Gardening

Catch problems while small

A daily stroll around the garden is one way of early identification of any problems that may be developing in the garden. Catch them when they are small makes for simple solutions. Squashing little groups of aphids or a few shield bugs can prevent later larger infestations.

This month is about succession of crops especially the ones that you are most likely to eat plenty of. Sow direct, summer salad greens, spring onions, cucumber, beans, carrots, beetroot, capsicums, and eggplants. Pinching laterals off your tomatoes and peppers leaves tiny wounds that heal in a flash preventing viruses and bacteria getting in. This allows the trusses of fruit to develop better and promotes better airflow.

Continue to mound up potatoes to prevent them going green. They should be nearly ready for Christmas Day harvest. It is also time for garlic and onions. These can be pulled and left to dry on the ground before storing.

Harvest and dry herbs before they flower. They can be hung in small bunches or laid out in single layers in a warm, dry, airy place out of direct sunlight. They can also be dried in a dehydrator. Some herbs are nice to use for flavoured vinegars, one example is Rosemary infused Apple Cider Vinegar. Ensure the herbs are completely dry so there is no chance of bacteria forming. Sterilise the bottle or jar, add 2-3 stems of rosemary, cover with a good apple



Pinching laterals off tomatoes and peppers leaves tiny wounds that heal in a flash preventing viruses and bacteria getting in. File Photo: PIXABAY

cider vinegar to the top then seal the container. Shake the jar/bottle a couple of times then keep in a cool place for 3 – 6 weeks before use. It is good for salad dressings. This makes a lovely Xmas present if you use attractive containers. Use whatever herbs you prefer, but ensure they are dry before starting.

If the weather predictions are correct for this summer you will need to be vigilant about feeding, watering and I advise mulching your gardens.

This applies to vegetable beds, around fruit trees and flowers gardens. Mulch is your soils shelter. It keeps the moisture in, provides a roof over the worm's heads, and drip feeds the soil life. Mulch comes in many forms so check out your local garden centres for advice. Pea straw is one of my favourites around

strawberries.

Liquid feed with seaweed will make your garden look very happy and promote good strong growth. Happy plants mean successful cropping. Plant cosmos, phacelia, calendula, cornflower and more sunflowers. Encourage the kids to plant sunflowers and see who can grow the tallest. These are all great for attracting nectar loving bees to help the pollination cycle. Whatever you are planting be it seeds or seedlings water well and prepare the soil with blood and bone and sheep pellets.

Avoid cutting the lawn too close it will dry out to quickly. Water the lawn in the evening to allow moisture to soak into the roots overnight.

Happy gardening and have a wonderful, safe Christmas and New Year. - Supplied by Ngatea Garden Circle

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December 2023 Moon			Calendar Supplied by Gilmer Farms	1 Plant root crops, Liquid Feed	2 Non planting Day	3 Non planting Day
4 Non planting Day	5 Non planting Day	6 Non planting Day	7 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	8 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	9 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	10 Plant root crops, Liquid Feed
11 Plant root crops, Liquid Feed	12 Non planting Day	13 New Moon	14 Plant above ground crops	15 Plant above ground crops	16 Non planting Day	17 Non planting Day
18 Plant above ground Crops, Liquid Feed	19 Plant above ground Crops, Liquid Feed	20 Non planting Day	21 Non planting Day	22 Non planting Day Summer Solstice	23 Plant above ground crops	24 Plant above ground crops
25 Non planting Day	26 Non planting Day	27 Full Moon	28 Plant root crops, Liquid Feed	29 Non planting Day	30 Non planting Day	31 Non planting Day

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In 2024, Vern Harding of Scrappy Verns will celebrate a mighty 20 years. File Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

Scrap metal master looks after regions

Scrappy Vern's is the local expert for all things scrap metal collection in the Hauraki-Coromandel area. Owner Vern Harding says, "anything metal, we take". "We're scrap metal collectors. We can do farm clean ups and car pick-ups, any scrap metal we buy, copper, brass, batteries, steel etc." With an extensive list of services including the collection, clearing, removal, and recycling of metals, Scrappy Vern's leaves no leaf unturned, or in this case, metal.

Scrap vehicles, old vehicles, tractors, machinery, anything metal they can take at "top prices." Vern is gearing up to celebrate a wonderful milestone in 2024 as "next year will be 20 years" since he opened the door and started providing services across Coromandel, Thames, Ngātea, Paeroa, Waihi and Te Aroha. CONTACT Vern on: 021 621 437, or pop in at 48 Coronation Street, Paeroa. Open Hours: Monday - Friday 8am-5pm, Saturday 9am-12pm.

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CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12pm Monday

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Public Notice

Hauraki District Council
Meetings - December 2023

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

Regulatory Hearings Committee
Monday, 4 December 2023, 9.00am (if required)

Audit and Risk Committee
Tuesday, 12 December 2023, 9.00am

Finance Committee
Tuesday, 12 December 2023, 1.00pm

Regulatory Hearings Committee
Monday, 18 December 2023, 9.00am (if required)

Council
Wednesday, 20 December 2023, 9.00am

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CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12pm Monday

Death Notice	For Lease	Storage	Public Notices
<p>DAWSON, Nui Elizabeth: Passed peacefully at Tararu Care Home, Thames on 23rd November, 2023. Dearly loved wife of Colin. Much loved Mum of Tekoa and Lisa, Kelly and Martha. Adored Nan of Alex, Kristina, Aaron, Kaitlyn, and Kallum, and great-Nan of Eila. A celebration of Nui's life will be held at the Hauraki Plains Co-operating Parish Church, 1 Darlington Street, Ngatea on Saturday 2nd December at 11am, followed by private cremation.</p> <p>TWENTYMANS</p>	<p>Yards for lease, Thames and Kopu. Suitable for trucks, vehicles or trade business base. Ph 027 440 7101</p> <p>Gardening</p> <p>STUMP GRINDING. All sizes, all areas. Thames based. Ph 021 060 7659</p> <p>Need stump grinding? Any size, any number, anywhere. Different machines for different applications. Over 20 years experience. Short Back n Sides Ltd <i>We solve your stump problems.</i> 027 439 0367</p>	<p>STORAGE KOPU, PAEROA TE AWAMUTU</p> <p>"New Units" Ph 027 440 7101 07 868 3033 Safe n Sound Storage www.safestorage.co.nz</p> <p>Thames Valley Storage - secure, dry units available, two sizes. Call Trev 027 4076966</p> <p>Painter</p> <p>Professional roof painter. Mario Kerkhof 027 961 4055</p> <p>Trades & Services</p> <p>Eazy-Blast water blasting. Small jobs. Steps, drives, paths, patios etc. Text Chris 021 0852 1825</p>	<p>SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING Community Patrol NZ - Paeroa (formerly Night Owls) for the election of new Committee 7.00pm, Wednesday 13th December 2023 at the St Johns Rooms 31 Belmont St, Paeroa</p> <p>Situation Vacant</p> <p>WOODTURNERS CAFE is looking for a college or uni student interested in weekend and holiday cafe work over the summer season. Year 11 and over. Variable hours and full training given. Contact Lorraine with expression of interest on 021 246 9376</p>
<p>Church Notices</p> <p>Assembly of God 10am Sundays. Scout Hall. Baker St, Waihi</p> <p>Thames Spiritualist Church, Xmas meeting Sunday December 3, 2pm Grahamstown Hall. Speaker: Kaye Moore. Bring a small plate.</p>	<p>Handyman</p> <p>Handyman Services • Waihi and surrounding areas • Building maintenance and repairs • Mobile - Grant 027 333 8331 • E - Waihi105@gmail.com</p>	<p>FENCING CONTRACTOR Residential & Rural Retaining walls & more High quality workmanship Competitive prices Call Matt 021 1727 148</p>	<p>Trades & Services</p> <p>Man with a Trailer Need something picked up or taken away? Text or Call: 021 049 4110</p>
<p>Cars For Sale</p> <p>Toyota Passo, 2008, good cond, new WoF, under 30,000ks. \$7,000 ono. Ph 021 167 6777</p>	<p>Health</p> <p>Plains Healing Centre Since 1989 now in Paeroa as Romoco Wellness. Makers of the famous Golden Skin Cream Burns, Bites, Grazes 2 or 4 legs... 07 862 9167</p>	<p>Handyman</p> <p>THAMES HANDYMAN & BUILDING SERVICES Building, home maintenance & general gardening services Phone: Fleur or Crighton • 0273 913 283</p>	<p>Trades & Services</p>
<p>For Sale</p> <p>Dining table and 6 chairs, deep freeze, fridge freezer, 2 china cabinets, double and single beds, washing machine, Ige range of garden tools and rotary hoe. All must go, make an offer. Ph 07 867 3222.</p>	<p>Storage</p> <p>Storage Unlimited 25 Ngati Maru Highway Kopu, Thames Clean, secure, dry Units available 7 x 3.6m and 7 x 5.5m Phone 07 868 9944</p>	<p>Storage</p> <p>TOTAL STORAGE LTD KEREPEHI / PAEROA We will beat any legit quote for storage in 10ft or 20ft containers T&C's apply 021 67 67 99 info@totalstorage.co.nz</p>	

Situations Vacant

Student Centre Administrator
Paeroa College

Due to the resignation of our long-term Student Centre Administrator, we are currently hiring a permanent part-time team member to work school hours during term time (approx. 30 hours/week). This position will begin at the start of the 2024 school year. We are seeking a friendly, industrious, and well organised person with office administration experience. The successful applicant will be excited to engage with young people and their families and committed to supporting the strategic goals of the college.

Applications for this position close on 7th December or when a suitable applicant is found.

Please mark "Confidential" and send or email to volandef@paeroacollege.school.nz
Attention: Principal's PA
Paeroa College,
Te Aroha Rd, Paeroa 3600

Waihi College is seeking multiple Teacher Aides

to work in the learning support centre of the school and who want to make a difference in the lives of our tamariki.

We seek people who are passionate about helping students to learn, are teenager friendly, can build positive relationships, work independently and are part of a team and who have an acceptable Police vet check. These positions will commence in Term 1.

Apply with a covering letter and CV including 2 referees to Mrs Amanda Cook (DP Learning Relationships) amandac@waihicol.school.nz or P.O. Box 72, Waihi.

Applications close on the 8th December, 2023.

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

A.D.B Cochrane, Principal

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

HAURAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL

Leading Hand (HRT)
Te Ringa Ārah (HRT)

Join our team as Leading Hand Hauraki Rail Trail (HRT), where your mahi will make a real impact on our community's outdoor spaces.

In this role you will be leading and overseeing the maintenance and improvements to the Hauraki Rail Trail (HRT) ensuring that maintenance tasks are completed efficiently and to high standards.

To be successful in this role you will need, Proven experience in park maintenance, with a focus on reports, estimates, budgets, procurement, competency assessments, Health & Safety and financial forecasting.

To apply for this job go to:
haurakidc.recruitmenthub.co.nz/Vacancies

"At Hauraki District Council ... it's more than just a job!"

Situations Vacant

Qualified Mechanic Wanted
Immediate start.

Email: miles@hpmotors.co.nz
or phone
027 227 1121

PAPER RUNNERS

We have a vacancy for a paper runners in Waihi and Tararu. Immediate Start...

Please contact Geoff via email admin@valleyprofile.co.nz for more information.

Profile

The pathways are strong within Valley Rugby

RUGBY

Yet another successful season of representative rugby within the Thames Valley Rugby Union (TVRU) has come to an end. Although not all results went our way, there have been many other things that we must celebrate. The player-pathway system is at the forefront of the celebrations with a number of players recognised for their outstanding performances, all starting within the Thames Valley.

Recently, Fletcher Morgan of Waihi Athletic Rugby Club was recognised from the Bunnings Warehouse Heartland Championship. This opportunity included training with the All Blacks 7s and playing three games against Tonga. His selection in the All Blacks 7s pre-season camp could lead to greater things, with the World Series and Olympic Games just around the corner. Fletcher also gained selection in the New Zealand Heartland XV; a team picked from local-players within the Heartland Championship. Fletcher amassed an impressive 116 points from just eight games, both from his extremely valuable goal kicking but also his ability to score tries from anywhere on the field.

Leroy Neels was also selected in the New Zealand Heartland XV. Leroy, who plays his club rugby for Te Aroha College Old Boys, had a fantastic season in the Swamp Foxes jersey, cementing the number 9 jersey and starting all nine Heartland Championship matches.

Leroy earned his Thames Valley blazer in 2023, surpassing 20 games for his province. This is an extremely

well deserved achievement for Leroy, plying his trade within the Thames Valley Club Rugby scene for five years and now getting the rewards.

Another noticeable achievement is the selection of Tim Erceg from Waihou Rugby & Sports Club who has been selected for the New Zealand Police XV. Tim has plied his trade within the Thames Valley since 2016, and again was awarded with Swamp Foxes selection after a great season within the Club Rugby scene. The NZ Police did play against NZ Fire and Emergency at College Rifles Rugby Club in Auckland at 2.30pm on Thursday 16 November.

Oli Mathis, another member of the Swamp Foxes training squad was selected as captain of the New Zealand Secondary Schools team that travelled to Canberra, Australia recently, winning both matches against the Australian U18s. Oli has come through St Josephs Primary School in Waihi, followed by Waihi College in Year 9.

Although going to Hamilton Boys High School from Year 10 onwards, Oli is an extremely proud Swamp Fox supporter and acknowledges the Thames Valley province is where it all started for him.

The Chiefs Heartland Under 20s was once again a very successful campaign to capture 18-20 year-old men out of our Club Rugby system. Exposure to a professional training environment, quality coaching, wearing the Chiefs brand, and playing two quality games against Counties Manukau U19s and the Hurricanes Heartland U20s bolsters players expectations and standards when



Leroy Neels, above, the Hodgson girls, top right, Fizz Gilbert and Tim Erceg.



Photos: SUPPLIED/TVRFU

they come back to us. Congratulations to Fizz Gilbert (Whangamata), Ihaka Harper-Dent (Coromandel), Torban Blok (Rugby United), William Hau Mirko (United), Aidon McKain (Rugby United), Rian Butler (Rugby United), Caleb Hazleton (Waihou), Adam Clague (Mercury Bay), Korbin Chwesik (Rugby United), Devyn Sheehan (Waihou), Kellim Ropiha (Rugby United) and Rhys Wiki (Rugby United).

The North Island Women's Heartland Competition (NIWHC) was influential in the growth of Women's Rugby within the Thames Valley. To be considered for selection in the Vixens, all Women either played for

the Hauraki North Diamonds or in the Coastal vs Country State of Origin series. This created a number of opportunities for Women who had previous restrictions to play because of where they lived, their age and also experience playing rugby.

The (NIWHC) then provided our Wahine an opportunity to represent their province, but also test themselves against the best from within the Heartland districts. Adriene Hodgson, Chey Utikere, Miranda Hodgson and Ruby Hodgson were all rewarded for outstanding performances, gaining selection in the MVP Tournament Team. Further to this Ruby Hodgson

also finished joint first-place on the competition MVP leaderboard.

As we now enter the official off-season period, the TVRU encourage all athletes to begin their goal setting and start working towards their targets. The TVRU staff are busy conducting competition structures for 2024 across all competitions, to ensure participants have every opportunity to achieve. We are also looking forward to commencing our Club Road Show next week which involves visiting every club and discussing all things operational, including player pathways.

- Supplied by Scott Day, TVRFU



**Friday
15 December
2023**

**TGIF night out
with the
Thames
Harness Racing
Club**

**Bus Trip to
Harness
Races at
ALEXANDRA
PARK**

**Fun night out for
all ages**

**Pick your horses,
get dressed up
and come enjoy
the fun**

The Thames Harness Racing Club will be running a bus to this meeting:

**Departing from
Thames High School
at 4.00pm.**

Members travel **FREE**, Non-members only \$15

Phone 868-6436 or email office@hdas.co.nz
to reserve your seats on the bus


ADOPTION

THE GIFT OF LOVE




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DIRECT CREMATION within 15kms of Thames: \$2950.00
DIRECT CREMATION requiring transfer from Whangamata, Tairua, Whitianga, Waihi, Paeroa, Ngatea and Coromandel: \$3195.00
DIRECT CREMATION requiring transfer from North of Coromandel or Waikato Hospital: \$3295.00
Outside all of these areas: \$2950.00 plus mileage



For additional information please refer to Twentymans website: twentymans.co.nz CONTACT: 07 868 6003



Please advise your Vet of your wish to use Forever Pets Crematorium



Forever Pets
PET CREMATORIUM

Visit the website: foreverpets.co.nz for further information.
 CONTACT: Forever Pets 07 868 6003.
 We guarantee the ashes you get back belong to your pet and only your pet.



SUDOKU

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

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HARD

MEDIUM

EASY

Puzzles © The Puzzle Company www.thepuzzlecompany.co.nz

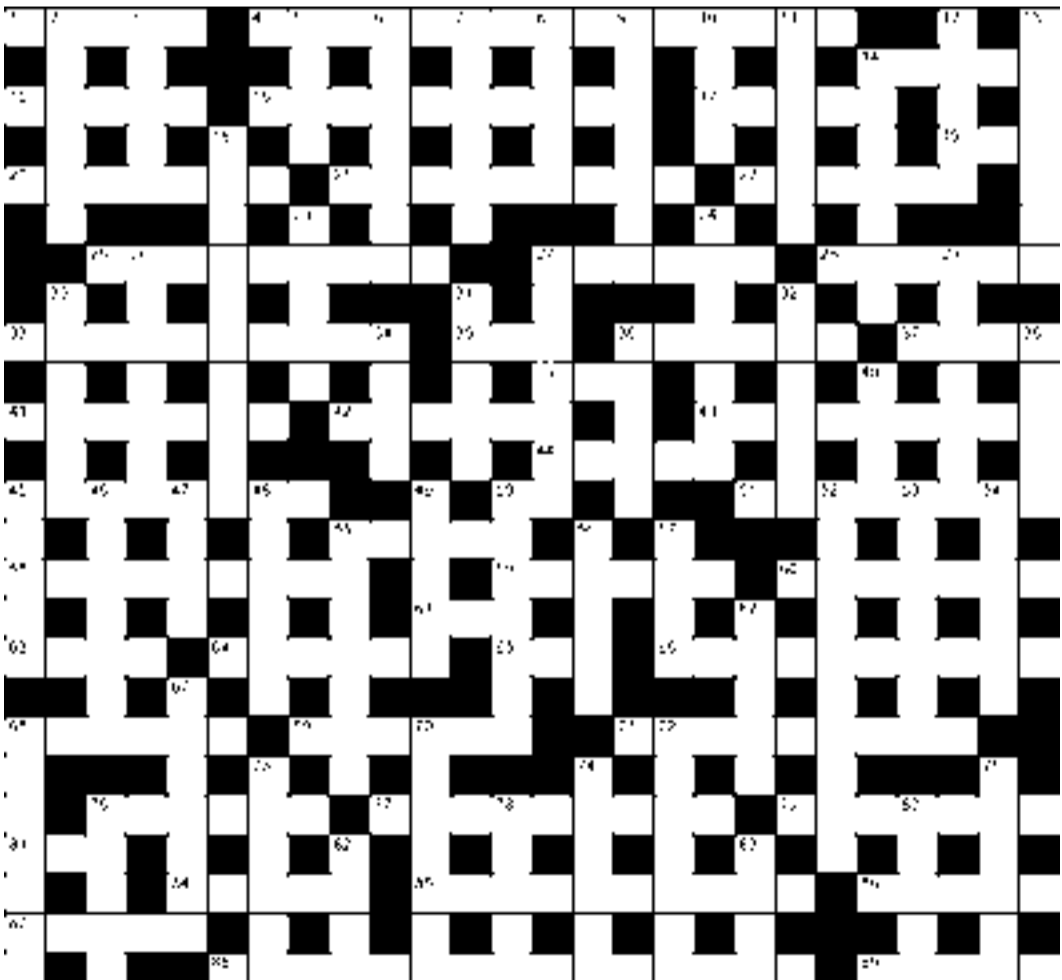
JUMBO CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Steam burn (5)
 4 A very long time (1,5,2,7)
 14 Undecorated (5)
 15 Navigation aid (5)
 16 Lopsided (10)
 17 Sky-blue (5)
 19 Mineral spring (3)
 20 Slippery (7)
 21 Inducement (9)
 22 Coins (6)
 25 Praised vociferously (9)
 27 Large serving dish (6)
 28 Earnings (6)
 33 Kept in good condition (10)
 35 LummoX (3)
 36 Trinket (6)
 37 Pine for (4)
 39 Evergreen conifer (3)
 41 Receive as a heir (7)
 42 Pointless (6)
 43 Tight-lipped (9)
 44 Topic (5)
 45 Lavishness (8)
 50 Sun god (2)
 51 Punishment set by court (8)
 55 Deposit in kettle (5)
 58 Blown instrument (9)
 59 Lined up (6)
 60 Exhibit (7)
 61 Promissory note (1,1,1)
 63 Margin (4)
 64 Gibes (6)
 65 Moose (3)
 66 Risky with an uncertain outcome (5-3-2)
 68 Rite (6)
 69 Licence (6)
 71 Campanile (4,5)
 76 Former Soviet leader (6)
 77 Too soon (9)
 79 Coarse fern (7)
 81 Track circuit (3)
 84 Bird of prey (5)
 85 Vexing (10)
 86 Riversides (5)
 87 Swindle (5)
 88 A very small amount compared with what is needed or expected (1,4,2,3,5)
 89 Dull-edged (5)

DOWN

2 Baby's bed (6)
 3 Power cables (5)
 5 Nautical pole (4)
 6 Candidate (7)
 7 Took notice of (6)
 8 Earliest (5)
 9 Reveal (7)
 10 Business transaction (4)
 11 Adolescents (6)
 12 Stop briefly (5)
 13 Make bigger (7)
 14 Tapering flag (7)
 18 Appraisal (10)
 23 Huge person (5)
 24 Beat back (7)
 26 Hide (7)
 27 Crisp smooth lustrous silk-like fabric (7)
 29 View (7)
 30 Short sleep (6)
 31 Stitched design (5)
 32 Bell-shaped hat (6)
 34 Percussion instrument (4)
 36 Short-lived (5)
 38 Military blockade (5)
 40 Notable achievement (4)
 45 Brownish-yellow pigment (5)
 46 Vertical (7)
 47 God of love (4)
 48 Culmination (6)
 49 Foundation (5)
 50 Ask for (7)
 52 Those next door (10)
 53 Obliterate completely (7)
 54 Indict (6)
 55 Walk leisurely (7)
 56 Looks for (5)
 57 Faction (4)
 62 Association of artisans (5)
 67 Low wall by a drop (7)
 68 Exact model of (7)
 70 Cocktail (7)
 72 Changing unpredictably (7)
 73 Circled (6)
 74 Sculpted figure (6)
 75 Sleeveless jacket (6)
 76 Seller's patter (5)
 78 Be worthy of (5)
 80 Progress very slowly (5)
 82 Note (4)
 83 Early Peruvian (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Adapt, 4 Take a dim view of, 11 Wheat, 14 Farms, 15 Thoughtless, 16 Scribble, 19 Fluster, 20 Strip, 21 Eiderdown, 24 Imaginary, 26 Deceit, 27 Dilate, 31 Cover, 32 Concocts, 34 Xenophobia, 37 Tot, 39 Gastric, 40 Troika, 41 Unable, 42 Scum, 43 Melodic, 46 Competence, 51 Segment, 55 Navy, 56 Molars, 57 Amulet, 58 Fissure, 60 Tom, 62 At the ready, 63 Punctual, 64 Carob, 67 Circus, 68 Alpine, 69 Challenge, 74 Cafeteria, 75 Broth, 76 Journal, 81 Trapdoor, 82 Ferris wheel, 83 Humid, 84 Radio, 85 Push the boat out, 86 Lever.

DOWN: 2 Deadly, 3 Pumps, 5 Ache, 6 Equator, 7 Dahlia, 8 Mill, 9 Instinct, 10 Facade, 11 Wainwright, 12 Elba, 13 Treacle, 17 Verge, 18 Deliberate, 22 Snoop, 23 Barbecue, 25 Maestro, 26 Distant, 28 Forage, 29 Scrimp, 30 Moults, 33 Curio, 35 Admit, 36 Fiji, 38 Turn, 43 Mania, 44 Lavatory, 45 Cloned, 46 Chandelier, 47 Most, 48 Example, 49 Equine, 50 Chest, 52 Evil, 53 Mustang, 54 Narrow, 59 Get-up-and-go, 61 Caulk, 65 Liniment, 66 Venom, 67 Curator, 70 Hatchet, 71 Recoup, 72 Fresco, 73 Saline, 77 Rouge, 78 Hand, 79 Free, 80 Menu.

SPORTS

24 hours of free-throws raises funds

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

Arms may have come with the territory, but the Hauraki Heat Basketball team's valiant effort to shoot continuous free-throws over a 24-hour period also scored them more than \$5000 towards a trip of a lifetime.

Between 3pm on Saturday, November 18 and 3pm on Sunday, November 19, the Hauraki Heat squad undertook the unique fundraiser, which had been a "childhood dream" of coach Rory Vitasovich.

"When I was 11, there was nothing more I could think of than basketball, and now being older I thought my dream could be these boys' reality," he said.

The teammates are trying to get themselves over to Los Angeles in 2025 to play basketball against three different high schools - a "once in a lifetime opportunity" to play the popular sport in the USA.

"We would also be able to watch the Los Angeles Lakers and take in the California experience," Rory said.

The team is made up of 15 and 16-year-olds from Hauraki Plains College, as well as Rory's youngest son, 13-year-old Dayton. During the 24-hour free-throw-athon, nine players shot consistently in 20 minute blocks.

They opened the challenge



Between 3pm on Saturday, November 18 and 3pm on Sunday, November 19, the Hauraki Heat Basketball squad shot continuous free-throws as a fundraiser.

Photo: SUPPLIED/BEVS BROADCASTING

up to the public on Sunday and had around 10 members of the community come and shoot in blocks of 10 minutes.

"The most difficult part of the challenge was the block between 6am until 9am as the boy's arms were feeling it by then, but having family and community support show up at 10am helped inspire them to make it through," Rory said.

"The most productive part was between 1am and 4am where the boys got on a roll, and Ryan Tagomoa managed to get 24 in a row and finish the challenge with 75 per cent accuracy over 1800 shots. Also around that time we were having streaks of 20, 18, 15, and a whole heap of eights in a row.

"I am extremely proud of these young men who showed

a whole heap of mental toughness and supported each other the entire time."

Rory, a basketball player himself, said he had always taken pride in his own free-throws, which are unopposed attempts to score points by shooting from behind the free-throw line.

"If you ask the boys what the coach says, it will be: 'The free

"Having family and community support show up at 10am helped inspire them to make it through"
- Rory Vitasovich

throw is the most important shot in the game'. They are way better free-throw shooters now and all of them improved each time they stepped to the line," he said.

The squad managed to raise around \$5500 undertaking the challenge and Rory said they would like to thank all those who sponsored the boys.

"We still have a fair way to go but are confident we will make it," he said. "We are available to do any odd job around the community for sponsorship, like painting, fire wood, help on farms, lawn mowing, anything that needs to be done."

"I would also like to thank Cindy Saxon and Karma Vitasovich, who helped make this possible but also again to the boys, who I believe embody the essence of teamwork and toughness."

DETAILS: To help with sponsorship and getting Hauraki Heat to the USA, contact the team by finding Hauraki Heat Basketball on Facebook or contact Rory on 027 200 4413.



RE/MAX APEX



NEW LISTING – 60 VINEYARD ROAD, TE KAUWHATA

\$1,400,000

Lifestyle living on a generous 5063sqm section, this 224 sqm home boasts 4 bedrooms, 2 bath, full security system across the property and a large 80sqm shed. Located in Vineyard Estate, the home is completed with a large north facing deck and hard wired spa pool, this all modern property, is waiting its new owners.

Don't hesitate to call Tracy for any further information.



Tracy
027 296 9016

NEW LISTING – 415B WAERENGA ROAD, TE KAUWHATA

AUCTION 14TH DECEMBER

This summer stunner has 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, plus a completed sleepout for extended family, teenagers or extra guests. Spanned across 1.08ha, the landscaped and raised gardens are just coming to fruition for the season. The heated in-ground swimming pool is a sure winner here, perfect for all seasons, complete with pool house.

With open homes Saturday and Sunday (12pm-1pm) until auction day, come check out the rural views for yourself.



Helen
021 369 634



<https://www.remaxapex.co.nz/>

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