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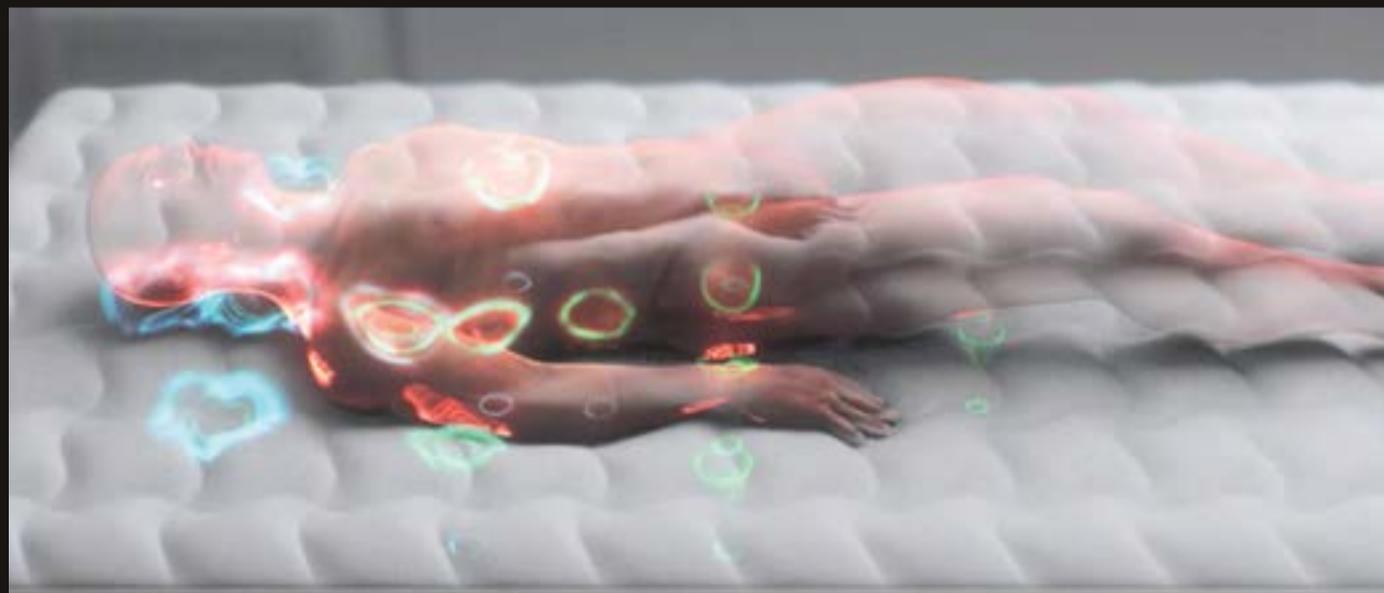
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The Valley Profile

## The sound of summer

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

Taylor Sol has spent the summer sharing the sound healing properties of handpan and Native American Flute.

From showcasing the instruments at festivals and schools, to releasing an ancestral album on the summer solstice, the former Tairua resident has taken inspiration from the nature around him and is now embarking on a South Island roadie.

Taylor, 29, stumbled across the handpan around two years ago during a trip to Bali. As a seasoned drummer who grew up competing in regional music events such as the Smokefree Rockquest and Battle of the Bands, he was attracted to a "spaceship-like drum" in a shop called The Drifter.

"They had sticks there to drum it with, and it was quite mind-blowing because, as a drummer, you're only really playing rhythm, there's no melody. This tongue drum had notes on it that you could play like a drum," he said.

"It was combining the rhythm with the melody, which was a first for me."

The tongue drum was tuned to a 432 hertz frequency, which Taylor said was the "planet's frequency - the sound of nature".

He ended up buying a small version of a handpan and back home in New Zealand, started taking it to friend's gatherings and barbecues.

"I'd be jamming out, and it would cultivate a really beautiful space; it drew a lot of people in.

"I thought: 'Maybe I can offer this more often?' and it just evolved from there."

CONTINUED ON P2

Sound alchemist Taylor Sol has taken inspiration from the nature around him and is now embarking on a South Island roadie. Photo: SUPPLIED



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The *Valley Profile* is delivered weekly to letterboxes in the Hauraki Plains, Paeroa, Waihi, Thames, Thames Coast, plus bulk distribution peninsula-wide. Our focus is 100% local community news.

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# Drummer's new journey

CONTINUED FROM P1

Taylor went from playing at yoga studios to market fairs, and in mid-2021, launched his sound healing workshops and performances which consist of native and contemporary healing instruments such as Native American flutes, handpans, Shamanic drums, crystal quartz singing bowls, and taonga pūoro.

He said even first-time listeners resonated with the sound,

*“Playing in nature is something else... There's nothing quite like connecting nature with music.”*

- Taylor Sol

especially young tamariki. He shared the instruments with students at Hikuai School and has offered private and public workshops to people across the Thames-Coromandel.

And while he heads south on a new sound healing journey, Taylor also has plans to facilitate a 10-day wellness retreat in Bali in the coming months. He's also been invited to play at a wedding in India.

“Playing in nature is something else,” he said. “It's beautiful to play inside but there's

Taylor Sol has spent the summer sharing the sound healing properties of handpan and Native American Flute.

Photo: SUPPLIED



nothing quite like connecting nature with music.

“All of the instruments I play are tuned to the sound of nature, so, for

me, it's like coming back to the nature within and the nature without. I don't know what's coming next, but it's all beautiful.”

**DETAILS: To get in touch with Taylor or for more info, visit [taylorsol.love](http://taylorsol.love)**



**In Brief**

**THREE LIVES LOST ON ROADS**

While most residents and visitors to the Coromandel over the holiday period enjoyed a well-earned summer break, TCDC said it was sad to report that three people lost their lives on roads in the Coromandel over the holiday period, with one more person in critical condition in hospital. Nationally, 21 people lost their lives on the roads over the Christmas holiday period, with eight in the Waikato region. TCDC said as a district, Thames-Coromandel was over-represented in these figures, and it was a fact that needed to be changed.

**ARRESTS AFTER ROBBERIES**

Waikato Police's Operation Smelter, which targets a group of prolific offenders responsible for multiple aggravated robberies and commercial and retail burglaries in the district, has had immediate success. On January 10, Police executed a series of warrants in Hamilton and Thames. A total of eight offenders aged between 14 and 20 were arrested and appeared in court. Warrants were executed at several addresses in Hamilton, where offenders were arrested and charged with the aggravated robberies of the Gull service station in Thames and Mobil service station in Hamilton. At the same time, Thames CIB executed a warrant in Thames, where further evidence was obtained in relation to the aggravated robbery of the Gull service station.

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**Thames Tides**

Wed Jan 17	Thu Jan 18	Fri Jan 19	Sat Jan 20	Sun Jan 21	Mon Jan 22	Tue Jan 23
Morning: 12:14am 3.5, 6:17am 0.4 Afternoon: 12:46pm 3.6, 6:54pm 0.4	Morning: 1:05am 3.4, 7:10am 0.5 Afternoon: 1:38pm 3.5, 7:46pm 0.5	Morning: 1:59am 3.3, 8:08am 0.7 Afternoon: 2:32pm 3.4, 8:41pm 0.6	Morning: 2:57am 3.2, 9:11am 0.8 Afternoon: 3:28pm 3.3, 9:39pm 0.7	Morning: 4:02am 3.1, 10:17am 0.9 Afternoon: 4:26pm 3.2, 10:41pm 0.8	Morning: 5:09am 3.1, 11:21am 1.0 Afternoon: 5:26pm 3.1, 11:44pm 0.8	Morning: 6:12am 3.1, 6:27pm 3.1 Afternoon: 12:19pm 1.0, 6:27pm 3.1
Sun: 6:16am 8:39pm	Sun: 6:17am 8:39pm	Sun: 6:18am 8:38pm	Sun: 6:19am 8:38pm	Sun: 6:20am 8:37pm	Sun: 6:21am 8:37pm	Sun: 6:22am 8:36pm
Best At: 6:03am 6:27pm (B)	Best At: 6:51am 7:15pm (B)	Best At: 7:39am 8:04pm (G)	Best At: 8:29am 8:55pm (G)	Best At: 9:21am 9:48pm (G)	Best At: 10:16am 10:43pm (F)	Best At: 11:11am 11:39pm (F)
Rise: 12:28pm	Set: 12:17am, Rise: 1:37pm	Set: 12:45am, Rise: 2:46pm	Set: 1:15am, Rise: 3:55pm	Set: 1:49am, Rise: 5:03pm	Set: 2:30am, Rise: 6:08pm	Set: 3:19am, Rise: 7:06pm

**MOON AND FISH KEYS**

- New Moon, First Quarter, Full Moon, Last Quarter
- Good Fishing (G), Fair Fishing (F), Not So Good (B)

**TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES**

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

PLACE	Hr	Min	HIGH	LOW
Coromandel	-0	04	-0	04
Whitianga	-0	01	-0	05
Tairua	+0	11	+0	21
Whangamata	-0	02	-0	05
Waihi Beach	-0	11	-0	12

# Spirits earn self-taught distiller silver

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

A distillery that takes inspiration from the land around it has received national and international recognition not only for its spirits, but for its mindset.

Kaimai Brewing and Distilling has its home inside the historic Waikino Hotel, a bar and restaurant opposite the Victoria Battery in the Karangahake Gorge.

Manager and distiller Wayne Chowles is a former miner himself, and the two gins that recently won silver on the international stage pay homage to the industry.

Kaimai Brewing's Eliza's Claim Gold Gin and Eliza's Claim Dry Gin were aptly named after a woman called Eliza Earl, who was born in Greerton, Tauranga in 1868.

After giving birth to her first child in Te Aroha, Eliza's husband vanished, and she had to move back home to the family farm near Katikati, where she caught the fancy of a young miner by the name of William Tilsley.

In 1896, William discovered a gold-bearing vein and registered a claim over an area that he named 'The Eliza'. In January, 1900, Eliza and her newborn daughter Violet passed away and were buried in an unmarked grave in the Totara Cemetery in Thames.

Wayne's recent success at the 2023 London Spirits Competi-



Waikino Hotel manager and Kaimai Brewing distiller Wayne Chowles has been recognised on the national and international spirit stage.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

tion, in which his Eliza's Claim Gold Gin and Eliza's Claim Dry Gin both won silver medals, comes after the distiller won a gold medal for his gold gin at the 2021 NZ Spirits awards.

Those awards acted as Wayne's "graduation certificate," he said.

"The [gold gin] was the first

gin I ever made commercially and, imposter syndrome, I had it in a big way. I'm self-taught, and I thought: 'Do I really belong in this circle?'

"The NZ Spirits Awards were a good judge as to how we were doing in New Zealand and how we compared locally, but it didn't benchmark us against the

rest of the world."

The London awards scored the gins 81 and 78 points, respectively, against roughly 2500 spirits which were entered into the competition.

Not only that, but Kaimai Brewing has also been named 'Best Hand-Crafted Single Batch Gin Distillery 2023 - North

Island' in *Lux Life Magazine's* brewery and distillery awards.

Wayne said that competition had "nothing to do with the spirits themselves" and was more about the company's involvement in the community and its ethos.

"I'm probably more proud of that than any of the other [awards]," he said.

"I've got the recognition internationally and locally to say, yes, the gin that we make is, at the very least, above average, but it's quite cool to be recognised for the person I am and the company I've built."

The magazine's write-up included praise for Kaimai Brewing using locally-sourced ingredients, its use of a Soxhlet Extractor to distil and isolate flavours from complex botanicals; and sourcing water from a 50,000 year old artesian aquifer.

Wayne, who continues to dabble in new spirits and flavours, is now looking ahead to a festival he's running which is dedicated to all things craft brews. It will be held on February 17 at the Waikino Hotel and will feature craft drinks from Wilderkin Spirits in Waihi Beach, Manaia Craft Brewers, and Bootleg Brewery, among others. The distillery also offers informal or formal gin tastings for groups. To get in touch, visit [kaimai-brewinganddistilling.co.nz](http://kaimai-brewinganddistilling.co.nz).



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# 'Ramped up' Wings and Wheels returns

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

A replica of a plane flown by Sir Keith Park will be one of the aircrafts on display at Thames' Wings and Wheels event, which is returning after a two-year hiatus.

With aerobatic displays, historic military vehicles, and a myriad of entertainment, the showcase on January 27 will be a "ramped up" version of past Wings and Wheels events, Thames Business Association chief executive Sue Lewis-O'Halloran said.

"We're going all out to make it the best - it's been a major team effort with lots of thought put into it."

The New Zealand Warbirds will be making a return to the show, and president and experienced pilot Frank Parker said it was always good to showcase military aircraft and acknowledge people from the past - such as Thames-born Royal Air Force officer Sir Keith Park.

Frank, who is a former Thames local himself, said a Bristol Fighter would be in attendance at Wings and Wheels - a replica of an aircraft Sir Keith flew during his World War II service and with which he obtained aerial victories.

"The aeroplane was donated



With aerobatic displays, historic military vehicles, and a myriad of entertainment, the showcase on January 27 will be a "ramped up" version of past Wings and Wheels events. File photo: TERESA RAMSEY

to us by a gentleman who wanted to commemorate the end of the Great War [World War I]," Frank told *The Profile*.

"Around 30 years ago, they built five of the aeroplanes for a movie, and the movie was

called *The High Road to China*. The movie was made but they used other aeroplanes, and the ones they built disappeared into a shed somewhere.

"They were found maybe 10 years ago, and three of them

came to New Zealand."

New Zealand Warbirds obtained one of them, he said.

"It was a bit of a wreck, so we had it rebuilt and it was obvious that we should [paint] it in the colours of an aeroplane as-

**"We're going all out to make it the best - it's been a major team effort with lots of thought put into it."**

- Sue Lewis O'Halloran

sociated with Keith Park."

Frank, who attended Thames High School, went on to spend 16 years in the New Zealand Air Force, and another 34 years flying with Air New Zealand.

For roughly nine years, he has been the president at NZ Warbirds, of which there were around 550 active members, he said.

"What we try to do is show our aeroplanes off and remind people of their history and the history of our military people, and we're having fun doing it, anyway," he said.

**DETAILS: Wings and Wheels, Saturday, January 27 at Sir Keith Park Memorial Airfield, Thames. Gates open 10am-3pm. Entry adults \$15, children under 12 free. Airshow at 12pm. Food and drink available all day. For more information, visit [www.wingsandwheelsthames.com](http://www.wingsandwheelsthames.com).**



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# Leading the way on youth leadership

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

A call has gone out to the youth of Thames to join a new community initiative called T-RAP - the Thames Rangatahi Advisory Panel.

Young people between the ages of 12 and 24 are eligible to join the panel, which aims to be a safe space for all rangatahi [youth] to develop their voice within the wider Thames community by providing a platform for youth-oriented events, mentoring, community involvement and leadership.

The initial stages of the group will be facilitated by Olivia Kororia and Absalom Turoa, who both fall within the panel's target age range, along with mentors Tina Marea-Waite and Ro Mitchell-Te Teira, who will provide guidance and experience.

The bulk of the mahi [work], though, will be led by the recruited youths themselves, who will be expected to shape the panel into a group that meets their needs.

"Our youth are so used to being spoken to, not being spoken with. So [we're] giving them the opportunity to lead," Tina said.

And the panel is welcoming everyone - regardless of skills, interests or life experience.

"Maybe you're good at IT or public speaking or singing... We're not just focusing on sport. We've got art, music and drama. For the older ones it



T-RAP founding members Tina Marea-Waite, Olivia Kororia, Ro Mitchell-Te Teira and Absalom Turoa want to bring the youth voice back to Thames.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

could be careers, it could be CV writing," Ro said.

Mentoring will be a large part of the panel. The group has deliberately opened its doors to a wide age range, working towards an organic tuakana-teina [older person-younger person] role-modelling system.

"I remember being 12, 13 and not having role models," Absalom said.

"Hopefully it becomes like a revolving door where the kids are meeting older kids and having the opportunity to learn

something. All of a sudden all of the kids in the area have a voice and the rangatahi are independent enough to be taken seriously."

Olivia agreed, saying she was excited to help give her peers a place to connect.

"I remember being that age and being so bored... [that's] when you get into trouble, so you give them a place to go and things to do," she said. "It sets them up for the future."

While the shape and purpose of the panel is yet to be

fully fleshed out, the founding members all said they had high hopes it would help rangatahi develop a sense of belonging, in a community which has often been at odds with its younger members.

"A level of fear has developed, with ram-raids and all of those sorts of things, [but] not every rangatahi is going to bash down your door," Tina said.

"We all have to live in one community. We need to connect. If we get that positive swing happening, who knows

*"Not every rangatahi is going to bash down your door... We need to connect."*

- Tina Marea-Waite

what happens to our younger ones that are playing up? Giving them a little bit of pride in our town - when you have all of that stuff within you then you tend to look after stuff a bit more."

Already community interest in the initiative is strong, and Ro said one of the panel's first steps would be hosting a meeting with community leaders and business owners.

"We're really going to focus on our rangatahi being more involved with the community and business owners being more involved with the youth," she said.

"There's gonna be mistakes on the way, but it's the only way they're going to learn."

Tina agreed, saying a mind-shift was needed to help bridge the societal divide.

"Our rangatahi have just got so much untapped potential," she said. "[But] nothing's going to change if we can't start working together."

**DETAILS:** Visit [facebook.com/rangatahihauraki](https://www.facebook.com/rangatahihauraki) or search @connecteenrangatahi on TikTok.



2024

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# William's small misstep has big consequences



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

William Medhurst was pre-occupied with his chores on a late December morning in 1924.

The 66-year-old had just had breakfast with his wife Emily and son Reginald and was quite cheerful as he left the house, remarking that he was going to light the copper.

He swept the yard and paths, catching the attention of his neighbour Jakob Bertelsen, who was sitting on his verandah. He watched William finish sweeping and drop the broom and then walk through the front gate carrying a benzine tin.

William had recently had an eye removed and the sight in the other was impaired so he used a walking stick to assist him in getting about.

This did not hinder him though – he and Emily had gone to the pictures on Saturday night and the evening before the two of them went for a walk.

He was also looking forward with keen anticipation to a holi-



The thriving coaching business at Paeroa, 1900s.

Photo: SUPPLIED

day with Emily in the New Year.

But now Emily couldn't find him and called out to Reginald asking if William was in the garage; Reginald replied that he had left his father in the yard.

Reginald and his mother made a complete search of the property but William was not there. Reginald then went into the street and asked several people if they had seen his father. Jakob Bertelsen had seen William walk towards the river, but he took no particular notice as it had been William's habit for years to collect ashes and rubbish into benzine tins and carry them across the road and tip them into the river.

When Constable McClinchy was notified that William was missing he went to the river

bank at the end of Queen St and found footprints indicating someone had slid into the water.

He organised a boat and some grappling irons and began searching the river. William's body was recovered after about an hour.

During the dragging operations, a number of benzine tins were recovered, including one containing ashes that were dry underneath.

William had been a highly respected resident of Paeroa for many years. In the early days, before the advent of the railway, he was connected with the coaching business between Tirau and Rotorua, Cambridge and Hamilton. Later he came to Paeroa and was engaged in the

Ohinemuri Coaching Company service between Paeroa and the Thames goldfields.

William eventually purchased a large livery and bait stables and conducted them in conjunction with a taxi service.

He retired from the business in 1920 and, with his son, Reginald, established a taxi service at his residence in Queen St.

William, an Englishman, had married Emily in New Zealand in 1881 and they had five children but tragically had lost a son at four days old and a daughter at three-years-old. Several years later another daughter died from childbirth complications.

At the inquest, pains were taken to establish that William had not deliberately gone into the river. Reginald said at no time had his father complained of his sight affliction, nor did he show any signs of depression.

There was no cause for worry. He was a great friend of his father, and home life had been very happy. William enjoyed reasonably good health, had no financial worries, and possessed his full mental faculties.

The coroner concluded that William accidentally drowned while tipping rubbish as had been his custom, and owing to his impaired sight had misjudged the distance from the bank to the river.

He was taken by train to Cambridge where he was buried.

William, who was of a retiring disposition, was content with his lot despite his vision difficulties, when a small misstep had big consequences.

## Beach-side scavenger hunt returns

The eagerly anticipated 'Waihi Beach Scavenger Hunt' is set to make its return on Auckland Anniversary weekend, January 27 and 28.

Organised by Waihi Beach Events and Promotions, the free event promises an exhilarating experience for the entire family while showcasing the charm of the picturesque beachside town.

A maximum of 100 teams can participate, comprising up to five individuals aged 16 years and older. An unlimited number of support crew under the age of 16 are additionally welcomed to each team.

"This free community event is not just about the thrill of the hunt; it's an invitation for families and teams to uncover the lesser-known treasures that dot the stunning landscape of Waihi Beach," events co-ordinator Matt Nicholson said.

Participants will navigate through 12 clues and challenges scattered across the beach. Teams must creatively display their solutions on Instagram through captivating photos.

Those who successfully solve all twelve clues qualify for the chance to be selected as one of the three teams for the 'Dig Off' finale, with the winning teams walking away with cash prizes.

**DETAILS: Registrations are now open and are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. For detailed information and registration, visit [www.waihibeach.co.nz/events](http://www.waihibeach.co.nz/events).**

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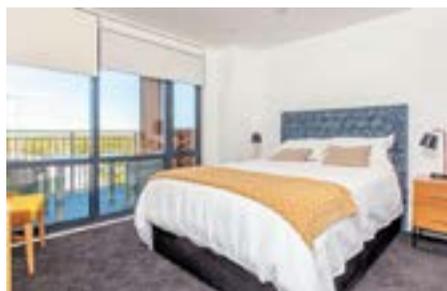
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Some of the organisers behind the Waihi Street and Art Festival: Carolyn Trebilco, Thea Ris, Duncan Smeaton, Jennifer Chappel, and Marg Meyle. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

# Art festival music to the ears of Waihi

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

A street and art festival coming to Waihi this Auckland Anniversary weekend will be a visual and aural showcase of creatives from near and far.

Organisers behind the event, which is backed by Waihi Lions, have been working for almost a year to put the festival together, bringing a fusion of entertainment which will be spread across two days.

The event was the brainchild of Thea Ris and Jose Jebb, who wanted to expand on their local art group exhibition. Now with seven additional volunteers, the festival has continued to grow - with this year's fun including a Friday evening spread of entertainment.

"This is a family day out for Waihi and visitors, young and old.

"Everyone can enjoy themselves."

The festival had its beginnings before the Covid-19 pandemic and went ahead despite the summer cyclones that hit the district in 2023.

Thea said she was looking forward to having a bigger and better event this year that will feature performers such as

West African Style Drumming ensemble, Kra KoTo Kra; puppetry and circus company, Naranjarte; local bands and musicians; and face painters and storytellers.

There will be a road closure throughout the day on Saturday, January 27, in order for visitors to be able to walk safely between the performances, the stalls - inside and outside the Memorial Hall - and the exhibition held at Waihi Museum, Kenny St, which contains artworks from local school children.

The organisers said it was "not a small task" to host the event, but they enjoyed continuing to curate it each year.

Last year, around \$2000 was raised from a raffle that went towards the Waihi Lions Club's community efforts. They hope to raise a similar amount for the organisation this year.

**DETAILS: The Waihi Art and Street Festival, Friday, January 26 from 4pm to 8pm, and Saturday, January 27 from 9am to 3pm. For the full performers list, find the festival on Facebook, or, to volunteer for next year's event, contact Thea at thea.parish.ris@gmail.com.**

*"This is a family day out for Waihi and visitors, young and old. Everyone can enjoy themselves."*

- Thea Ris



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# 'More books the better' for first-time Paeroa fair

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

The Paeroa Lions Club will partake in its first book fair this summer, with hopes that funds raised can go towards helping the Lions Cancer Lodge in Hamilton. Club president Wei Zhang was inspired to organise a book fair in Paeroa after witnessing other Lions clubs run their own successful bookish events.

"The Waihi Lions have been doing one for quite a few years and have raised quite a lot of money to help with community projects," she said, "so I thought: 'why not have the Paeroa Lions do that as well?'"

Wei said the Waihi Lions run their book fair in the winter season, so as not to conflict with their dates, she thought a summer fair could cater to local bookworms as well as those passing through Paeroa en route to their holiday destinations.

"We are going to donate any money raised to the Lions Cancer Lodge in

Hamilton," she said.

"We got a letter from the lodge during Covid saying they were struggling financially, and we know some locals who have been to the lodge.

The feedback we got was that it was excellent, so I think this is quite a good thing for the Lions to support."

Wei asked that residents wanting to donate books do so before Friday, January 26. They can be dropped off at the Paeroa Information Centre or Caltex Service Station.

"I'm hoping that this year, the book fair is successful so we can run it in the future as well," Wei said. "That will just give us another opportunity to contribute to some of our local community projects, so fingers crossed."

**DETAILS: Paeroa Lions Book Fair, this Auckland Anniversary Weekend, January 27 and 28, at the Paeroa Memorial Hall, doors open 9am-4pm.**



# Rural Life

## Meet Charlie, self-styled 'community pet'

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

The Hauraki Plains village of Netherton is home to farmers, families, and a parakeet with wanderlust.

Charlie, a two-year-old Alexandra ringneck parakeet, is a socialite, poking his beak in at doors and windows across the area. Owner, 10-year-old Mia Schulte, and parents Dean Schulte and Amy Danyali, are used to his roaming tendencies.

"It's been a hell of a journey really, we've met a lot of people through Charlie," Amy said.

"Lots of people have 'claimed' him, it happens all the time. He's had quite a few names. [A neighbour] named him Chico; he's got the name Brendan... I do get a little worried, but less now that he's got [a] ring around his leg with my phone number."

When the hand-reared fledgling joined Mia's family at six-weeks-old, he was already full of personality.

"He's incredibly intelligent," Amy said. "He will mimic what you're doing. He's picked up 'hello', 'whatcha doing', 'good boy Charlie', and he calls the chickens as well."

It wasn't long though until Charlie decided to widen his social circle.

"He got outside and we got all worried," Mia said.



Charlie the Alexandra ringneck parakeet might belong to Mia, but the fields of Netherton belong to him.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

The taste of freedom left Charlie wanting more: even clipped wings didn't stop his forays into the world.

"He'd just circle around the house... it became a regular thing because he didn't want to be inside. So we were like, 'what's the harm?' And then all of a sudden it just got wider and wider."

Luckily, Charlie prefers his own bed, heading for home as soon as it nears dark.

"He doesn't like staying out at night - he wants to go in his cage, that's pretty normal for them," Amy said.

On the rare occasions Charlie doesn't make it home, he's usually at his 'second home' down the road with a neighbour.

"When he wants to go outside, he starts screaming at you. He'll do a little fly around and then he'll come and land on the porch... Then he does a big squawk and you know he's going to take off."

Next it's off down the road to assist the neighbour with milking, and he'll often stop in at the local businesses as well.

"He goes on the honey truck and... sits on their shoulder while they do the beehives," she said.

"He started going as far as Ballance, the fertiliser place, and he sits on their shoulders while they're working and says hello to everyone as they come in."

Charlie's latest haunt is nearby Netherton School, where he has made a game of perching on parents' cars and peeking in on lessons from the treetops, much to the delight of the children. And Amy has no doubt he will continue to search for friends across the neighbourhood.

"He is incredibly friendly, and he is harmless. He's never hurt anyone," she said.

"You can just flick him off if you don't enjoy having a bird on you; some people don't. And if you ignore him he will go away. [But] he's such a character and he just wants love."



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## Rural Life

# Bountiful show for floral fans

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

The Waihi Memorial Hall will be burgeoning with floral sights and smells for the Waihi Dahlia show this Saturday.

The Waihi Dahlia Club will be hosting this long-running event, but the day encompasses more than just dahlias. Club president Jennifer Chappel said there would also be marigolds, lilies, fuchsias, sweet-peas, and a whole lot more.

There would also be almost every kind of vegetable on display, from potatoes to cabbages to rhubarb.

Jennifer said the event had been running for "60-odd" years, and she remembered taking part when she was a child.

"It used to be run by the Waihi Horticultural Club, years and years ago, and when I was a kid, they used to do posy bowls, so I would do that."

She has been the club's president for roughly 20 years but has had a passion for growing flowers for much longer.

"I like growing them all - the giants and larges are more of a challenge," she said.

The Waihi Dahlia Club is seeking new members to keep the group - and the show - in



There'll be more than just dahlias on display this weekend.

Photo: PIXABAY

operation.

Jennifer said her oldest member was aged 92.

"I need some younger members to come and help because it's getting too much."

**DETAILS: The Waihi Dahlia Show, Memorial Hall on Seddon St, Waihi, Saturday, January 20. Hall open to the public between 12.30pm-3pm. Flowers available from 2.30pm for a gold coin donation. There's also a cut flowers and vegetables section for anyone to enter. Hall opens for entries 6.30am to 10.30am on the day. Judging begins at 11am. Inquiries to Jennifer: 0272040488.**



# Survey: Rural crime rates continue to rise

Stop going lightly on those convicted of illegal hunting and the killing or stealing of livestock, Federated Farmers rural policing spokesperson Richard McIntyre says.

And to keep pressure on the government to ensure rural areas get a fair share of police resources, farmers needed to report all instances of criminal activity, he said in reaction to the findings of Federated Farmers' recently released 2023 Rural Crime Survey.

Of more than 1000 farmers who responded to the questions, 67 per cent said they had experienced a crime or suspected they had, in the instance of hard-to-prove incidents such as livestock killing or theft.

That's a 14.7 per cent increase from the 2021 survey, and a 26 per cent rise from the federation's first survey in 2016.

This year's tally was boosted by the inclusion of a question on illegal street racing, reported by just under 62 per cent of farmers. However, that accounted for only seven per cent of the rise and McIntyre said there was a marked overlap with 'boy racer' burnouts and dangerous driving, and instances of road and fence damage.

"The often-dangerous antics of sometimes hundreds of boy racers in isolated rural areas is very intimidating for families.

"Too many farmers are having to keep stock out of road-adjacent paddocks because animals are being spooked and injured."

While the number of surveyed farmers reporting single incidents of crime has dropped

**"We've got people shooting semi-randomly about the place without any understanding of the safety risks."**

- Richard McIntyre

slightly since the 2021 survey, McIntyre is alarmed that the number who have been hit by five or more criminal incidents has nearly doubled to 33.4 per cent.

After illegal street racing, illegal hunting or poaching is the next highest reported crime at 47.1 per cent, and property theft at 35.5 per cent.

McIntyre is particularly worried by the high rates of illegal hunting, as well as theft and killing of livestock (at 33 per cent

and 23 per cent respectively), because they involve offenders coming on to farms with firearms.

He says when hunters ask the landowner for permission to come on to the property, there's an opportunity to let them know where houses are, where staff are working and where livestock are located.

"With people hunting illegally, or looking to steal livestock, that whole safety element is out the window. We've got people shooting semi-randomly about the place without any understanding of the safety risks."

McIntyre also admits some exasperation that nearly half of those farmers hit by crime had not reported it because they thought police were too stretched or wouldn't be interested.

"All crime, and even suspicious vehicles and activity, needs to be reported. Police have told us time and again it helps them pick patterns of offending that boost the chances of an arrest. Just 15 per cent of farmers who experienced crime in the last two years said police had investigated and prosecuted the offender. It's only when we have more police dedicated to rural areas that we'll boost that figure."

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**ENTERTAINMENT**



*Chicago, on stage in May.*  
Photo: SUPPLIED

**Bringing 'Roaring 20s' to life**

Thames Music and Drama are once again taking theatregoers on a journey back in time.

*Mamma Mia* went to the 70s; *Judy White and the Seven Dwarfs* went to the 60s; and this year's show, *Chicago*, will go even further back - all the way to the Roaring 20s.

In fact it will be exactly 100 years since the real life trials of Beulah Annan and Belva Gaertner, whom the characters of Roxie Hart and Velma Kelly are based on.

In the 1920s, at the height of prohibition, *Chicago* seemed to be run by criminals and the press sensationalised the scandals as entertainment.

Maurine Dallas Watkins, a reporter for the *Chicago Tribune*, who covered the trials of Mrs Annan and Miss Gaertner, was so affected by what she witnessed that she penned the satirical play *Chicago*.

While many may believe that the musical version, developed by Bob Fosse and Fred Ebb for Broadway in the 70s, is all about booze, broads, and the evils of jazz

music, Thames MAD director Asha Peppiatt says her focus will be on how celebrity status and the media play a huge role in public opinion and whether some people literally "get away with murder".

"We still see this occurring nowadays. Even more so since the advent of social media," Ms Peppiatt said.

"It's pretty dispicable and I wanted to use the show as a subtle way to highlight the modern dangers."

Ms Peppiatt has gathered together a team of creatives to support her vision. Key roles include musical director Edwin Randell, costume designer Natalie Callard, and choreographer Sherrie Roue-Walker, who will collectively add to the spectacle audiences can expect when the production hits the stage in May.

"I am thrilled to have the calibre of talent I have in the creative team. Not forgetting our amazing set construction team, led by Case Kruitof. I can't wait for everyone to see how it comes together down at the Thames Civic Centre."

**Scott Simpson**  
MP for Coromandel

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# Foodies

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Waikino Hotel offers gin tastings to groups of all sizes.  
Photo: SUPPLIED

## All things gin at the Waikino Hotel

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an award-winning craft distillery. A few years ago, Kaimai Brewing and Distilling set up its operation at the hotel and released its first gin, Eliza's Claim Gold Gin. Crafted using pure artisan spring water and botanicals complimented with organic rosemary and manuka honey, this gin glitters with real gold flakes (just like the land it's made on). This went on to win a gold medal in the New Zealand Spirits Awards. More recently, the distillery's Gold Gin and Dry Gin both earned silver medals at the 2023 London Spirits Competition, while Kaimai Brewing itself was named 'Best Small Batch Gin Distillery in North Island' in *Lux Life Magazine's*

brewery and distillery awards. The company now boasts a range of six distinctive gins, a spiced rum, and the newest release, a beautifully crafted Apple Pie Moonshine. It offers formal and informal tastings to groups of all sizes where the distillers themselves guide guests through the tasting process, and help them to discover and appreciate the unique flavours of each gin. Something to look forward to is an event that celebrates all things craft spirits, set to be held at the historic tavern on February 17. Enjoy the best of both worlds – a relaxing atmosphere and a delicious, smooth gin.

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## SPORTS RESULTS

### KEREPEHI BOWLS

Another successful series of tournaments was held at Kerepehi Bowling Club recently with good turn outs and kind weather. Murray Fisher Memorial (Eileen Fisher) optional fours prize winners: First: (Kerepehi/Hauraki) Graham Pyke, Margaret Henderson, Lance Trow, Michael Trow. Second: (Kerepehi) Lorraine Putt, Rod Pettifer, Tania Pettifer, Denis Putt. Third: (Tui Park) Ken Paul, Alison Honeyfield, Julitte Wright, one other. Fourth: (Kerepehi) Geoff Sanders, Shaun Miller, Dave Lyes, Mike Proctor. Christmas Hams (Linn Motors, Pak n Save Thames) Opt 4's prize winners: First: (Thames) Bruce G, Rodney, Herby, Wayne. Second: (Kerepehi/Hauraki) Andy McCowatt,



Del Graham competes.  
Photo: SUPPLIED

### PAEROA BOWLS

The winners of the Paeroa Bowls recent championship tournaments are as follows: Championship Pairs winners: Peter Rowling and Tony Watt; and Championship Triples winners: Ken Paul, Paul Cornish and Tony Watt. Both championships were very keenly fought by all participants, with these two teams eventually winning out. The bowling was well contested by all participants



Peter Rowling and Tony Watt.  
Photo: SUPPLIED

and narrow margins made for fantastic competition and viewing.

## Summer festival draws a crowd

More than 1000 visitors attended the Waipaopao Anzac Bay Summer Kick-Off Festival on December 2. This was the free event's second year running, with organisers saying it delivered a magical day in the popular picturesque bay. Reon Tuanau, of Te Whānau a Tauwhao of Otawhiwhi, opened the festival, speaking of the significance of Waipaopao and encouraging the crowd to be kai-tiaki [carers] of the land. He also shared this year's festival focus: he oranga taiao, he oranga tangata – a healthy environment, a healthy people. The Waihi Beach School kapa haka group entertained their home crowd with performances, followed by the live music line-up featuring the Harmonic Resonators, Stylus, and Matty and the Buxtones. "The collaboration between Waihi Beach Events and Promotions and Te Whānau ā Tauwhao enabled the community and visitors to come together in a significant spot here at Waipaopao, to learn more of the history and to celebrate the start of the summer season," Reon said. "The kaupapa around this event is so positive, we can encourage our tamariki to care for our whenua for the future."



Waihi Beach School entertains a large crowd. Photo: SUPPLIED



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**DETAILS: Paeroa Early Learning Collective, Ph 07 862 9202, paeroaelcollective@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

## Barnados on the move!



A Barnados early learning centre building has been moved from Hamilton to Turua.

Photo: SUPPLIED

In a tightly co-ordinated sequence of steps involving cranes, large trucks, and pilot vehicles that would make *Mission: Impossible* look simple, a Barnados early learning centre building has been split into nine pieces and moved from northern Hamilton to Turua on the Hauraki Plains.

Starting with carpenters and electricians making the final preparations for the building's move, it was all go on January 9.

A crane arrived in Rototuna

at midday to load the first two parts of the building on to flatbed trucks. At 3pm, pilot vehicles appeared ready to escort the trucks on their slow, 90-kilometre drive to the building's new home. Once there, the trucks and crane parked up for the night and discharged the building segments on to new framing the next morning. Once the trucks and crane had returned to Rototuna, this meticulous process was repeated until January 12, when all parts of the building

had been successfully relocated to Turua.

The refitted building will be a modern, fit-for-purpose centre providing early learning to the Turua and surrounding community that will give tamariki, like the building itself, strong foundations for the future.

Barnados is still looking for financial support for the project. Contact them on 0800 005 437 or fundraising@barnados.org.nz if you'd like to help out.

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[www.ngateaeearlylearningcentre.co.nz](http://www.ngateaeearlylearningcentre.co.nz)



**Paeroa Early Learning Centre**  
8am- 4:30pm

9 Nowra Cres, Paeroa  
Ph 078627669

or 0272481199

Email: [paeroaelc@gmail.com](mailto:paeroaelc@gmail.com)

[www.paeroaeearlylearningcentre.co.nz](http://www.paeroaeearlylearningcentre.co.nz)



**New enrollments only are offered 3 MONTHS FREE for over 2's and 6 MONTHS FREE for a second child! Offer valid until 31 January 2024**  
Please email or phone us to inquire. Some terms and conditions apply.



**Paeroa Early Learning Collective**  
7:30am- 5:30pm

65 Belmont Road, Paeroa  
Phone 078629202

email: [paeroaelcollective@gmail.com](mailto:paeroaelcollective@gmail.com)

[www.paeroaeearlylearningcollective@gmail.com](http://www.paeroaeearlylearningcollective@gmail.com)



## Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kavaeranga

# KEY DATES 2024

Tuesday 16 - Thursday 18 January Uniform Pop Up

Tuesday 16 ~ 10:00am-5:00pm  
Wednesday 17 and Thursday 18 ~ 8:30am-2:00pm

Wednesday 24 January Office Open 8:30am-3:30pm

Enquiries & Enrolments

Monday 29 January Auckland Anniversary. School closed

Tuesday 30 January Course Confirmation Day

Year 12 & 13 ~ 10:45am - 1:00pm / Year 11 ~ 1:15pm to 3:00pm

Wednesday 31 January Year 9 Start & Orientation 8:45 – 3:15 pm

Thursday 1 February Years 10-13 Start School 8:45am – 3:15 pm

Friday 2 February School Starts at 8:45am Pōwhiri Whole School

Time of Pōwhiri 10:00am

Monday 5 February Teacher Only Day

Tuesday 6 February Waitangi Day. School Closed

Wednesday 7 February School Resumes 8:45am-3:15pm

If you have any questions please contact the school office 07 868 8688 or email [office@thameshigh.school.nz](mailto:office@thameshigh.school.nz)

 Thames High School Events and Celebrations

# Student Life

ADVERTISING FEATURE



Thames High School students are ready to hit the ground running.  
Photo: SUPPLIED

## Holistic highlights at THS

In the upcoming year, we anticipate exciting events, beginning with the orientation of Year 9 students and our school-wide pōwhiri.

Notable highlights for 2024 include a revamped uniform in collaboration with NZ Uniforms, introducing a more contemporary design for Years 9, 12, and 13. Additionally, we proudly announce the establishment of a Goldfields School Satellite Class, fostering inclusive education in our community.

Emphasising holistic well-being, Thames High School is privileged to offer the Ka ora Ka ako, Healthy School Lunches Programme, offering nutritious daily lunches at no cost to parents or caregivers, promoting their overall health. In a commitment to a focused learning environment, the school extends the existing 'no phone use at class time' rule to a complete ban on phones and accessories throughout the school day. This decision, stemming from consultations in 2023, underscores our dedication to a focused and safe learning environment and positive social interactions.

Further, as one of six schools in the Waikato participating in the Active As programme, supported by Sport Waikato and Sport NZ, Thames High can enhance its resources for promoting healthy activities, both in and outside school hours.

This initiative aligns with our commitment to fostering an active and vibrant school community.

- Supplied by Thames High School

## New school year tips for teens

While the back-to-school season might stir a mix of emotions in teens, here are some tips to ignite your spark and infuse your upcoming high school experience with enthusiasm.

**Set personal goals:** Take a moment to reflect on what you want to achieve this year. Whether it's acing a challenging class, joining a new club, or making new friends, setting goals can give you a sense of purpose and motivation.

**Try something new:** High school is the perfect time to explore your interests. Join a club, sports team, or art class that you've never tried before. You might discover a hidden talent or passion that adds a whole new dimension to your high school experience.

**Connect with peers:** High school is all about building connections. Don't be afraid to reach out and make new friends.

**Attend school events, strike up conversations in class, and be open to meeting people with different interests and backgrounds.** You never know the friendships you might form.

**Get organised:** Stay on top of your assignments and commitments by keeping a planner or using digital tools. Being organised not only reduces stress but also frees up time for the activities you love.

**Embrace positivity:** Approach the school year with a positive mindset. Focus on the opportunities for growth and learning rather than dwelling on challenges. Surround yourself with uplifting people and engage in activities that bring you joy.

**Take breaks and have fun:** Take breaks, enjoy your hobbies, and spend time with friends and family. Balancing work and play contributes to a more fulfilling high school experience.



## Tapu School

Thames, Coromandel

"Where thinking and learning are fun"



Welcoming New Enrolments for 2024

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20 minutes from Thames and 30 minutes from Coromandel

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We have an open door policy so you can drop in anytime during school hours 8.30am – 2.30pm.

Check out our website [www.tapu.school.nz](http://www.tapu.school.nz)

Or contact us during school hours on 07 868 4838

Or email: [office@tapu.school.nz](mailto:office@tapu.school.nz)

TERM 1 2024 begins 30th January 8.30am

COME  
CHECK  
US  
OUT!





## Waitakaruru School





At Our School we have

- Positive Behaviour for Learning programme
- Opportunities to improve te reo maori and learn about our local histories
- A Sustainability Focus
- Passionate teachers who all are child centred
- A family vibe where we look out for each other

We are a School that

- Has a rural outlook
- Uses technology to improve our engagement of learning
- Support all learners
- Builds strong relationships with our students
- Has strong links to our community

School start date Friday 2nd February 2024

New enrolments and Stationery pick up is Wednesday 31st January (9am-2pm)

Or phone us to come for a visit. More details on website

**Waitakaruru School**  
Canal West Road,  
Waitakaruru RD 6 Thames 3576

E: [admin@waitakaruru.school.nz](mailto:admin@waitakaruru.school.nz)  
W: [www.waitakaruru.school.nz](http://www.waitakaruru.school.nz)  
P: **07 867 3155**



ADVERTISING FEATURE

# Robin Hood a rousing success

Moanataiari School's *Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies* production late last year was hugely successful, teacher and director Debbie Trenwith said. "The play was funny and action-packed, and the students performed exceptionally in their acting roles, singing and dancing. The whole school was involved, and we had fantastic support from our families and the community, with sold-out performances on both nights," she said. Costumes, sound, and lighting support were supplied by Thames Music and Drama, and the school also received funding from the Creative Communities Scheme, backed by Creative New Zealand.



The whole school joins together for the opening number, *Sherwood Forest*.

Photos: SUPPLIED



Nursie, played by Isla Higgs, with some villagers and Merry Men.



Cleo Challis as Robin Hood and Jacob Kidd as Will Scarlet.



Sapphire Taurua-Stoneham as narrator/storyteller Billy Wigglestick.



The junior students perform a song dressed as woodland creatures.

## PROGRAMMES AVAILABLE FOR 2024

If school wasn't your scene, or if you want to learn to earn, these are some of the **FREE** options we have for you:

**Retail Level 2 - Upskill your customer service, learn how to deal with the public.**

**Foundation Skills L1, Mechanical Engineering L2, Intro to Agriculture L2**

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## 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



## PAEROA COLLEGE

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

# Unique 'haven' for learning

Nestled amidst lush green spaces, shaded by trees, and dotted with well-loved and well-used natural and structured play areas, Kopuarahi School provides a distinctive and unique haven for learning.

Embedded in the principles of kaitiakitanga or guardianship and sustainability, our school has a strong commitment to delivering a balanced, responsive curriculum.

Our educational focus centres on robust foundational literacy and maths learning, while foster-

ing a deep connection with our surroundings as an extension of formal classroom learning.

Our curious, active, creative students are encouraged to explore and collaborate through hands-on, real life learning opportunities.

Learning is an ongoing journey. We consider it our responsibility to guide and inspire students to 'point them in the right direction.'

What sets Kopuarahi School apart is our commitment to maintaining small class sizes, providing a unique position that allows us

to build meaningful connections with our students and their families. Recognising the power of personalised learning, our dedicated and professional team works to cultivate the unique talents and untapped potential within each child.

With a proud vision for preparing children for the challenges of tomorrow, our curriculum is designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge necessary to navigate a dynamically evolving world.

We aim to foster resilience, adaptability, and a strong sense of social responsibility, preparing our students to become active contributors to society.

Placing students at the heart of everything we do, we view each student as a valued member of our community.

Kopuarahi School is a place where the joy of discovery, the beauty of education, a forward-looking vision, and the principle that everybody is somebody converge to shape well-rounded individuals poised to make a positive impact on the world. Why not contact us to find out more?

- Supplied by Kopuarahi School



Students enjoy learning and having fun at Kopuarahi School. Photo: SUPPLIED

# Welcome to our village

Nestled between Ngatea and Thames in the small rural town of Turua, Turua Playcentre provides a place for parents with babies and young children to come together for two mornings a week.

The Playcentre philosophy values parents as the first and best educators for their children so that families are strengthened, and communities enriched.

As an option for early childhood education, Playcentre supports parents and caregivers to play and learn alongside their children.

Playcentre strengthens the bond between each child and their parent or caregiver.

Beyond that, it grows connections between parents and whānau in a community – creating a "village" of support for young children and their families that will stay with them during their Playcentre years and beyond.

A focus on child-led learning means that each day Turua Playcentres offers a variety of learning and play experiences such as building, baking, painting, dressing up, singing, sand and water play.

The activities change every day as Playcentre parents all bring different skills, interests, and cultural backgrounds to add to the rich learning environment.

Turua Playcentre has a roll of 15 children and cater to families with tamariki from birth to school age. They offer three free visits before you join and invite families to come along and see what they're all about.

They are open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30am-12pm at 12 Raratuna St, Turua, or you can contact Brianna on 027 880 2724 or turua.playcentre@gmail.com.

- Supplied by Turua Playcentre



Turua Playcentre is here to help strengthen bonds. Photo: SUPPLIED



- \* Focusing on engaging children in real life learning
- \* Rural school environment close to town
- \* Small class sizes
- \* One to one digital devices
- \* Personalised learning
- \* School van pick up and drop off with door to door service within the local area of a 6km radius, or by negotiation

## KOPUARAHI SCHOOL

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At Playcentre children do what they do best - PLAY!  
 Our Playcentre offers endless opportunities for children to explore, create, jump, run, get messy and grow.  
 With a huge variety of quality play and learning resources, there's plenty to do for children 0-6 years.  
 A friendly welcoming whanau-led environment where tamariki and their whanau play and grow together.



TUESDAY & THURSDAY 9.30AM - 12PM  
 12 RARATUNA STREET TURUA

COME ALONG AND JOIN THE FUN - SEND US A MESSAGE OR POP BY  
 027 880 2724 BRIANNA OR TURUA.PLAYCENTRE@GMAIL.COM



ADVERTISING FEATURE

# New tech sets Pārāwai School up for the future

Students are looking forward to benefiting from creative and modern education at Pārāwai after their latest round of grant funding.

In the 2023 school year, Pārāwai was able to secure funding to ensure that all classes from Year 4 and above have 1:1 access to iPads, and the Year 0-3 students have at least a 1:3 ratio.

This will allow the students to access the wealth of creative tools that come with this technology.

The school is now aiming to become an Apple Distinguished School in the 2024/2025 school years, which will 'inspire students to imagine new possibilities, but also be committed to making positive change in our world'.

This sits well within the school's vision of 'Be Courageous, Strive for Excellence, and be of Big Heart.' Apple Distinguished Schools are centres of leadership and educational excellence, and with the school previously purchasing a number of STEM resources (Spherobots, makerbots, beebots, lego and EPro 8 Kits, including the electronic components), the opportunities for students to learn through a range of experiences is endless.

This on top of modernised classrooms, full accessibility upgrades, a heated pool and a won-



Pārāwai students using Apple pens and iPads: James Heap, left, Felix Milner, Alex Atrill, and Cavika Booth. Photo: SUPPLIED

derful school library and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) learning space, ensures the school is fully equipped to provide quality teaching and learning at the forefront of education.

This new technology will only enhance the learning programmes and exciting adventures that Pārāwai already has.

As part of Pārāwai's current localised curriculum, students are able to access the immense learning opportunities within the local

area, with a specialist EOTC (Education Outside The Classroom) teacher running class trips each term.

These trips provide contextualised learning opportunities which help students consolidate their learning.

These components, alongside the structured literacy programme, and sound classroom practice, set up Pārāwai's learners well for their future in an ever changing world.

- Supplied by Parawai School

# Global brand campaign launched to attract international students

Education New Zealand Manapou ki te Ao has launched a new international advertising campaign called Learn New Every Day.

The campaign aims to build awareness and preference for a New Zealand education with prospective international students.

It delivers a student's point of view of the first-time experiences international students could encounter in a single day when they study with New Zealand.

ENZ general manager of marketing and communication Geoff Bilbrough said Learn New Every Day was designed to cut through in a very competitive market.

"We wanted to capture the essence of what it is really like to study with New Zealand, taking the perspective of a learner as they encounter new experiences, and convey the excitement and emotion as they go through their day," he said.

"What makes the campaign more memorable is its high energy, positive, contemporary feel. And the first-person point of view approach is unique to the category."

Learn New Every Day was pre-tested in in-depth, one-on-one interviews with students and parents

from China, South Korea, India, and Vietnam.

Feedback was also sought from across New Zealand's international education sector, who also responded positively to the concepts, their relevance to the young learner, and the clarity of the idea, ENZ said.

ENZ global brand manager Nick Sinclair said the campaign involved a mix of current international and domestic students from primary, secondary, and tertiary institutions.

"We had a wonderful time interacting with the international students while capturing these 'first-experience' scenes," he said.

"They were really excited about the opportunity to take part in the decision-making process for other students and their parents as they choose their overseas study destination."

The campaign will run for at least 18 months.

It is running initially in China, India, South Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, and Japan, targeting students aged 16 to 24 and their parents across all sectors including high school, university, Te Pūkenga, English language schools and private training establishments.



## ENROLMENT | 2024








"Students learn in caring and inclusive environments."  
(Education Review Office)

We provide a well rounded, rich curriculum with plenty of opportunities and resources for all of our learners.

www.parawai.school.nz    Facebook: Proudly Pārāwai

Enrolment days: 1st February 2024 9am-12pm  
2nd February 2024 9am-12pm

Our Vision:  
Kia Māia, Ki Hiranga, Kia Ngākau nui  
Be courageous, Strive for excellence, Be of big heart.



# MOANATAIARI SCHOOL

Learning & Growing Together

- No Enrolment Zone
- Committed to Excellence
- Garden for Life Programme
- Writer's Toolbox
- Prime Maths
- A Safe and Happy Environment

New Enrolments Welcome

Term 1 starts: 30th Jan 2024  
Family Fun Night & School  
Beginners' Evening: 5th Feb 2024  
5:30 pm




office@moana.school.nz  
www.moana.school.nz  
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"[Clients] are quite happy with the work I do and the team usually gets good feedback," he said.

"[The key is] hard work, good work ethic, and just knowing the trade inside and out."

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# CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12pm Monday

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# CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12pm Monday

**Death Notices**

**BURR, Owen Rex (Rex):**  
Passed away on January 10th 2024 in Thames. Died unexpectedly, surrounded by family, aged 89. Loving husband of Beth for 65 years. Father of 5, grandfather of 10, and great grandfather of 18. As per Rex's wishes, a private cremation has taken place. A Celebration of Rex's life will be held at a later date.

**Death Notices**

**ROBERTS, John Arthur:**  
12/6/40 - 25/12/23  
Passed away on 25th December 2023, suddenly and tragically as a result of an accident. Dearly loved only brother of Barb and the late Alec Biggs and nieces Chris, Anne and Karen.  
*Will miss you Johnny.*

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*Forever in our hearts.*

**Acknowledgement**

**MOLLOY, Colin:**  
Marilyn and family would like to extend heartfelt thanks for the caring, love and support shown to us and our much loved husband, father and granddad. Colin passed away on December 4th, 2023. Special thanks to Dr Hennessy, Waikato Hospice and District Nurses.

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Loving Dad of Brenda and Phil, much loved Poppa of Tash and Shannon, Nicole and Ricci. Treasured Poppa Rex to JD, Fynn, Indii, Fern, Byron, Zara, Hayley, Alexis and Drew.  
*We have wonderful memories that we will treasure, you will be forever in our hearts and missed dearly xx*

**Unveiling**

**RACKHAM, William James:**  
Family and friends are invited to gather in memory of Bill at Paeroa Cemetery on Sunday 21 January 2024 at 12pm for an informal unveiling, followed by afternoon tea at Paeroa Fire Station.

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**The Valley Profile**  
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# Reputation precedes Coromandel cop

OPINION



By RON AGNEW

When posted to Thames Police Station in the 1970s, I found I was the relieving Constable, a task I really enjoyed.

I relieved the single constable stations of Coromandel, Whitianga (there was no station at Tairua) and Ngatea. The late Hori Chesnutt, who had been a soldier in the Korean war, was at Coromandel, Dave Wall at Whitianga, and Bob Cuthbert at Ngatea. I stayed in the motel nearby, to which all the Police calls were switched over.

There were no Police cars at these stations, we had to use our own private car on mileage. It is fair to say I was never the flavour of the month at Coromandel with Hori and Peggy.

I arrived with my family at Hori's Police house, which served as the Police Station as well, to introduce myself, but when I opened the car door, our little dog took off, chasing Hori's ducks and chickens roaming on his front lawn.

The dog chased them round the back of the house before I could



Thames Police staff in 1979, including Hori Chesnutt, right, back row.

Photo: SUPPLIED

stop him. Next I heard screaming and shouting at the back, and our dog came screaming back pursued by a high-flying hammer and then an axe! Hori was ropeable.

"Get that mongrel dog off my property!!" Then Peg came to the front door, ordering us off the property. I told them who I was, and things settled down a bit.

Hori showed me around his police office, which was a separate room on the front deck. He gave me the keys to the room and the old wooden cell block and the Post

Office Box, but said "DO NOT lose it as it was the only ONE I have!!".

The old wooden kauri cell block at the side of the house, which is now at the Coromandel Museum, was the oldest I had ever seen. It was bare wood and very grimy and smelt strongly of smoke.

There was the outline of a body along the wooden bench prisoners sat on and slept on. Hori said a prisoner had set fire to his mattress while Hori was out dealing with other matters, which had then charred the interior of the

room. Sadly, the prisoner did not survive.

Hori had quite a reputation within Police circles. The previous decade, he had been called out in the early hours to a youth burgling the chemist shop.

Hori arrived as the offender ran from the scene. He yelled for the offender to stop and stand still. When the offender ignored this advice, Hori drew his old police revolver and shot the offender in the backside.

Hori drove the offender, in ag-

ony, to Thames Hospital, where the bullet was removed, and the offender was later discharged. However, Hori never had another burglary in town for four years after this incident.

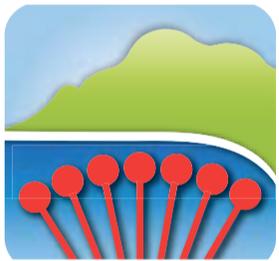
Police hierarchies were not too impressed with Hori's methods of Policing, and he was charged at a police tribunal. Hori was fined the maximum allowed then: 40 pounds was a lot of money in those days. A *Sunday News* reporter offered Hori a lawyer to appeal the charge, in exchange for the story. On appeal, the fine was reduced to 20 pound. The local Coromandel community held an appeal to pass the hat around to pay Hori's fine.

I enjoyed relieving Hori. His children Russell, Joanne and Raewyn, would pop in the office to check out the new policemen doing Hori's work.

However, even though I had to deal with a number of fights in the pubs and main street on Friday and Saturday nights and also complaints of assault by the publican at the top pub, and one fatal accident on the gravel road to Colville, I don't think Hori ever forgave me because I lost his post office box key! I couldn't think where I last saw it.

In 1979, the Police built a new station in Coromandel for Hori and gave him a Police car. I continued relieving him on his holiday time but would continually get calls to help him shift the sheep at the golf club. I had to put the blind ones in the boot of the Police car, while slowly following the mob down the road to new pasture.

- Ron Agnew is a former Thames Police officer



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## SUDOKU

133

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

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

EASY

	4			1				
			5			8	6	
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MEDIUM

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HARD

HARD

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

MEDIUM

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

EASY

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

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## JUMBO CROSSWORD

153

**ACROSS**

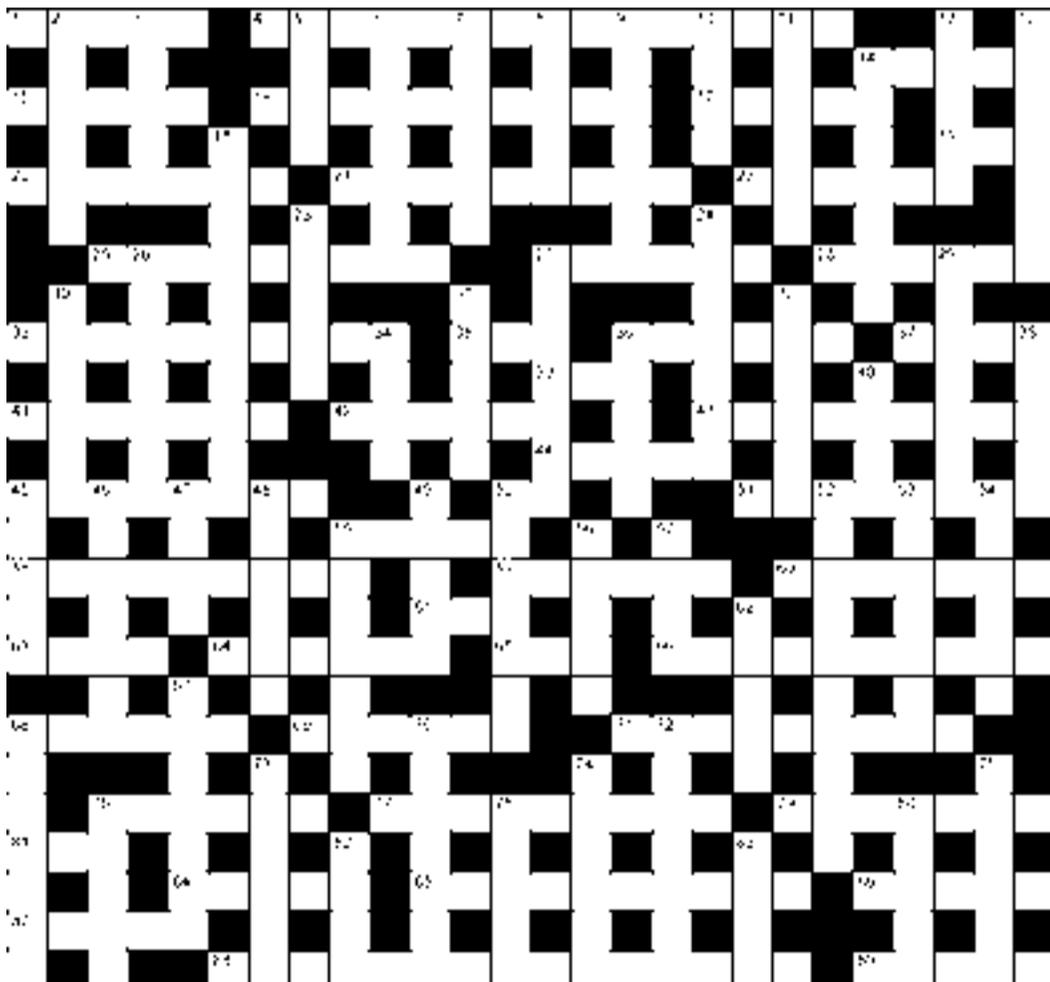
- Maltreat (5)
- Not young any longer (2,6,7)
- Form (5)
- Cringe in fear (5)
- Handwritten book, document, piece of music (10)
- Gag (5)
- Twosome (3)
- Married state (7)
- Red pen art (anag) (9)
- Feeling of hostility (6)
- Intermediary (2-7)
- Accident (6)
- Return to custody (6)
- Narrow section restricting flow (10)
- Lubricate (3)
- Disperse widely (6)
- Grotesque (4)
- Pretend (3)
- Russian tea urn (7)
- Grey alloy (6)
- Hand over to the authorities of another country (9)
- Bring upon oneself (5)
- Frailty (8)
- Symbol for sodium (2)
- Inaugurated (8)
- Satirical comedy (5)
- Coast unpowered (9)
- One-and-only (6)
- Volunteered (7)

**DOWN**

- Out of order (6)
- Drop bombs on (5)
- Colourful gemstone (4)
- Feathers (7)
- Egg on (6)
- Cunning (5)
- Bareheaded (7)
- Complain pettily (4)
- Draw out (6)
- Temper tantrum (5)
- Committed, loyal (7)
- Wither (7)
- Speed up (10)
- Proprietor (5)
- Obstacle (7)

**ACROSS**

- Prospect for the future (7)
- Tropical disease (7)
- Extreme pain or misery (7)
- Find (6)
- Paint layers (5)
- Meditation chant (6)
- Longitudinal vessel beam (4)
- Jammed (5)
- Harvest (5)
- Young deer (4)
- Thin biscuit (5)
- Breathtaking (7)
- Tidings (4)
- Meat pin (6)
- Unrefined (5)
- Impartial (7)
- Not known (10)
- Open-ended cigar (7)
- Lace hole (6)
- Squash (7)
- Droll (5)
- Coagulated milk (4)
- Hessian (5)
- Provide funding for (7)
- Bike user (7)
- Forsake (7)
- Faithful, resolute, and dependable (7)
- Sex drive (6)
- Reptile (6)
- Ill-judged (6)
- Lukewarm (5)
- Confused, uncertain (2,3)
- Freight (5)
- Difficult (4)
- Eastern sailing vessel (4)



**PREVIOUS SOLUTION**

ACROSS: 1 Smash, 4 Clutched, 9 Purest, 14 Route, 15 Rub up the wrong way, 17 Scare, 18 Tin, 19 Utensil, 20 Hackneyed, 21 Stripe, 24 Endeavour, 25 Dither, 26 Centre, 29 Best-seller, 31 Hem, 32 Drapes, 33 Brat, 35 Owe, 37 Coma, 39 Resurrect, 40 Supersede, 41 Erode, 42 Flattery, 47 Stopcock, 51 Slash, 55 Bloodbath, 56 Amendment, 58 Dogs, 59 Gap, 60 Eddy, 61 Source, 62 Pop, 63 Artificial, 66 Budget, 67 Lessen, 69 Cathedral, 72 Bitter, 73 Keepsakes, 75 Pattern, 77 For, 80 Leave, 81 Chilled to the bone, 82 Elate, 83 Recoil, 84 Maddened, 85 Coven.

DOWN: 2 Moustache, 3 Spurn, 5 Lied, 6 Tornado, 7 Handkerchief, 8 Dowse, 9 Payment, 10 Rush, 11 Shanty, 12 Quote, 13 Penname, 14 Retired, 16 Third degree, 22 Dallas, 23 Relapse, 24 Entrant, 25 Demote, 27 Torpedo, 28 Despot, 30 Rare, 32 Demon, 34 Tweak, 36 Drop, 38 Owl, 42 Fibre, 43 Avoided, 44 Tidy, 45 Reason, 46 Range, 48 Out of breath, 49 Codicil, 50 Cog, 51 Shorten, 52 Happen, 53 Bespectacled, 54 Idea, 57 Entrée, 64 Assurance, 65 Textile, 66 Baffled, 68 Stencil, 70 Treadle, 71 Behave, 72 Broad, 74 Prism, 76 Taboo, 78 Zero, 79 Home.

SPORTS

# Young runner finds feet with new sport

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

A Waikino 10-year-old who was told to find himself an individual sport took up running four months ago. Since then, he has run in 10 events and has amassed an impressive display of medals.

Emily Livick said her son, Tamahau, used to enjoy playing rugby, but doctors told him that his medical condition that affected his sight, meant he should pursue a different sport.

She came across Achilles International New Zealand, an organisation which provides Kiwis with disabilities the opportunity to participate alongside able-bodied athletes in local, national, and international events.

“Because of their encouragement,” Emily said, “[Tamahau] ran in 10 events in four months and placed in the top three in his age group in nine of them.”

Tamahau came third in his age group for the Auckland Marathon, third in his age group for the Queenstown Marathon, and first in his age group in the Kinloch Off-Road Challenge.

Earlier this month, he won five gold medals in the under 15 years para at the Colgate Games North Island Athletics Championships.

It’s the biggest athletics event for children, with the games at-



Tamahau, 10, runs with a guide from the Tauranga chapter of Achilles International New Zealand. INSET: He won five gold medals at the Colgate Games North Island Athletics Championships. Photos: SUPPLIED

tended by hundreds of athletes aged 7-14 years old.

Emily said she was proud of her son for pushing through his barriers time and time again.

“When he runs, it’s like having vertigo,” she said. “Everything goes blurry. He doesn’t get it when he sits still, so when

he runs, he looks at the ground most of the time so he doesn’t get sick.”

Tamahau has a guide from Achilles’ in Tauranga joining him along every long-distance running event, and Emily said he loves these opportunities because the guide can warn

him about obstacles.

“And he has more freedom to just run,” she said.

“Athletics track running is very challenging for him as he doesn’t have a guide to warn him about people cutting into his lane.

“They sometimes trip him



while racing, and concentration on staying in his lane when his vision is low can be very taxing.”

Emily said he was now looking forward to participating in the Wellington Round the Bays in February, as well as the Run Away Hawke’s Bay Marathon in May.

“We’d love to see more kids with disabilities out there running because there are options available to them. That was one of the reason’s Tamahau did the Colgate Games, so that kids with disabilities could see him and decide that maybe they’d like to compete too, because just because you have a disability, it doesn’t mean you can’t participate.”



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