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Surgery refused



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

Ruby Wallace can no longer look at herself in the mirror.

At 34-years-old, she no longer goes swimming, wears singlets, or feels confident in her skin.

It's because back in June last year, she was diagnosed with an invasive ductal carcinoma - the most common type of breast cancer - and had her left breast removed.

Since then, she has tried unsuccessfully to arrange reconstruction surgery through Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand, but said she had been refused five times.

The mastectomy, and the visual reminder of it, had "ruined" her.

"I've continuously got it covered," she said, "and it's not even about how I look, it's about how it feels. I don't care about what other people think of it, but my personal opinion is that it's vile and I hate it."

Ruby is a mother-of-three and dairy farmer from Turua, but since the diagnosis, has had to put a pause on work.

In one of her refusal letters, seen by *The Profile*, Te Whatu Ora states that the Waikato DHB was "only able to make appointments for patients who have the greatest level of need compared to other patients with similar conditions".

But Ruby said she was told "right off the bat" she wouldn't get reconstruction surgery due to her history as a smoker.

"They shut me down straight away but then changed their tune and said they were understaffed due to Covid. Then, a day before my operation, they said they could put it off for eight weeks to give me a chance to give up smoking, but there was no guarantee they'd do the reconstruction and they didn't want to go down that road because they didn't know how bad the cancer was," she said.

CONTINUED P2

After being denied post-cancer breast reconstruction surgery, Ruby Wallace is now raising funds to get the operation done privately, but it'll cost upwards of \$40,000. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

We all know the drill...

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GREEN is a GO



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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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Businesses keen for more Cove consultation

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



As the anniversary of the Cathedral Cove walking track closure draws near, the Mercury Bay Business Association says local frustrations are reaching "new heights".

The Department of Conservation has recently announced the work it will undertake to determine "viable, safe, and resilient" solutions for visitor access to the Cove via the track, but association spokesman Ray Van Beynen believed the timeframe of the work would effectively keep the popular destination closed for another summer season.

In a Cathedral Cove update released by DOC on January 26, the department said a survey available to all visitors to the Cove had begun. It will see staff intercepting visitors disembarking from their water transport from Cathedral Cove, and inviting them to complete a short questionnaire. The survey would help the department understand people's attitudes towards Cathedral Cove, the preferred options, and the likelihood of success, DOC said.

While the results from DOC's land stability monitoring are to be expected in June, from February through to April, staff will work alongside Ngāti Hei to develop options and conceptual ideas, which will then be shared for wider public engagement.

Mr Van Beynen said DOC should also afford local communities and businesses the courtesy of

consultation alongside local iwi. "Being given options after effectively 18 months of inaction and virtually no consultation is disgraceful," he said.

"Furthermore, DOC could, and should, have continued Geotech monitoring over the past 11 months and appear unable to explain why that did not occur."

In a release, Mr Van Beynen said after two difficult years with Covid-19 and a third with severe weather events, Coromandel locals were ready for a "return to normal".

He said the sentiment among the majority of residents was that the Department of Conservation should "spend the required money to mend what's needed and then declare the track - and the Coromandel - open for business".

"That it has taken DOC nearly a year to come to this conclusion, and without any clear communications or consultation, is a slap in the face for local communities and key stakeholders," he said.

DOC said residents and businesses could expect more information about local engagement and feedback opportunities from February.



Hauraki woman faces \$40k surgery bill

CONTINUED FROM P1

Ruby had been exposed to cigarette smoking from a young age but said she's since cut back following her mastectomy.

According to a Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand spokesperson, breast reconstruction was seen as an important part of treatment and recovery for a significant number of women having surgery for breast cancer. They explained that all patients who met the criteria for reconstruction at the time of their initial surgery would have the surgery done at the same time.

However, smokers were not able to undergo reconstruction due to the microvascular nature of the surgery.

"These criteria exist because they define a group of patients at much higher risk of complications from breast reconstruction," the spokesperson said.

"Patients who do not meet the criteria for safe reconstruction at the time of breast cancer surgery are advised so they are able to address those factors and will be placed on a waiting list either at the time or when eligible to undergo delayed reconstruction."

Te Whatu Ora also said that due to high acute demand across its theatres, it currently had limited capacity to offer delayed reconstruction.

This meant that women who were not able to undergo immediate reconstruction, such as Ruby, were being advised

that while they were unable to receive an appointment for delayed reconstruction, they would remain on a waitlist - pending their meeting eligibility criteria.

There were 25 breast reconstruction surgeries during the past 12 months, Te Whatu Ora said. "People do tell me I should be thankful that I lived through cancer, but this makes me feel ill just thinking about it," Ruby said. "Unless it has happened to you, you don't get how it can affect you."

She and her husband James have started fundraising in a bid to get the reconstruction surgery done privately. However, this will cost the pair upwards of \$40,000.

One surgical procedure consists of a small, balloon-like device partly filled with saline being inserted under the skin and chest muscle.

They have launched a Givealittle page and have started a raffle to help accrue some funds.

"Everything else that's happened in my life I've taken with a grain of salt... but this is screwing with my kids, it's screwing with my marriage, and it's screwing with my work," Ruby said.

"I know this isn't going to happen tomorrow, but I just want something to look forward to."

DETAILS: To donate givealittle.co.nz/cause/breast-reconstruction-after-cancer or for raffle tickets, Ph 021 201 0280.



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Thames Tides

Wed Feb 7	Thu Feb 8	Fri Feb 9	Sat Feb 10	Sun Feb 11	Mon Feb 12	Tue Feb 13
Morning: 5:24am 3.0, 11:29am 1.0 Afternoon: 5:28pm 3.0, 11:59pm 0.8	Morning: 6:26am 3.2, 12:28pm 0.8 Afternoon: 6:34pm 3.1	Morning: 7:22am 3.4, 12:59am 0.6 Afternoon: 7:36pm 3.3	Morning: 8:14am 3.6, 1:53am 0.4 Afternoon: 8:34pm 3.5	Morning: 9:05am 3.7, 2:43am 0.3 Afternoon: 9:27pm 3.6	Morning: 9:54am 3.8, 3:31am 0.2 Afternoon: 10:17pm 3.7	Morning: 10:44am 3.8, 4:19am 0.1 Afternoon: 11:06pm 3.7
Sun: 6:39am 8:25pm	Sun: 6:40am 8:24pm	Sun: 6:41am 8:23pm	Sun: 6:42am 8:21pm	Sun: 6:43am 8:20pm	Sun: 6:44am 8:19pm	Sun: 6:45am 8:18pm
Fish: Best At 10:36am 11:08pm	Fish: Best At 11:40am	Fish: Best At 12:11am 12:42pm	Fish: Best At 1:12am 1:41pm	Fish: Best At 2:09am 2:37pm	Fish: Best At 3:03am 3:29pm	Fish: Best At 3:54am 4:19pm
Moon: Rise 2:42am, Set 6:31pm	Moon: Rise 3:48am, Set 7:25pm	Moon: Rise 5:03am, Set 8:11pm	Moon: New Moon, Rise 6:22am, Set 8:48pm	Moon: Rise 7:41am, Set 9:20pm	Moon: Rise 8:57am, Set 9:50pm	Moon: Rise 10:11am, Set 10:17pm

*Not for navigational purposes. Graphic supplied by OceanFun Publishing Ltd. www.tidewiz.com www.tidespy.com www.ofu.co.nz

MOON AND FISH KEYS



TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES

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

PLACE	Hr	Mn	Hr	Mn
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

Elephant attackers appear in court

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

Three men alleged to have done damage at multiple locations around Thames, including destroying the well-known elephant statue outside Gastronomics restaurant, have had their first appearance in court.

The men have been charged with intentional damage (no interest) and theft under \$500, and were remanded without plea until February 19.

Police initially sought a bail condition that no alcohol was to be consumed by the trio, but removed this after counsel Mark Sturm argued that a no alcohol clause would be “unjustified”, given the incident was a one-off event and there was no criminal history among the alleged offenders.

Police prosecutor Sergeant John Taaka instead put forward to Community Magistrate Ngaire Mascelle that a visitation ban be put in place to ensure the trio’s entry to Thames was limited.

“This has a high public interest, it’s all over Facebook, and there’s damage to property. I would consent to the alcohol, but I would argue that they don’t come to Thames,” he said.

“If they need to go shopping,



Elly the elephant, left, was popular with locals and visitors to Thames. ABOVE: What was left of the life-size elephant sculpture, which ‘didn’t survive’ being vandalised last month. Photos: SUPPLIED

they can do so in Paeroa.”

Mr Sturm said that non-visitation to Thames was too broad, so Sergeant Taaka recommended a curfew, telling the Thames District Court that the investigation was ongoing because there was “quite a bit of damage that evening”.

“[The defendants are] suspect for a whole raft of different

damages that may be filed,” he said.

CM Mascelle agreed with a curfew, saying she understood there was a lot of “community angst over what has occurred”.

“And they’re still under the microscope for other things.”

The men will reside at their residential addresses and will be subject to a curfew at that

address, commencing at 9pm and finishing at 7am. They are not to be within five metres of Gastronomics, Thames Valley Toyota, and Art Effects, or to threaten violence to any person or property.

The curfew can be reviewed at their next court appearance.

Gastronomics owner Kishan Raikwar told *The Profile* the

past week had been “tough”.

He had been trying to source a local replacement for the elephant, named Elly, but found an option to import a similar sculpture from China.

It would cost around \$20,000, he said.



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First-time book fair a success for Paeroa Lions

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

Paeroa Lions' very first book fair was such a success that the charitable organisation is already planning a "bigger and better" event for 2025.

Around \$6000 was raised from the two-day book fair held at the Paeroa Memorial Hall over Auckland Anniversary Weekend.

Club president Wei Zhang said on the first day they had "a long queue from the hall entrance to the main road" before the doors were set to open.

"I didn't expect it at all," she said, "because I had no experience of running a book fair. All of the Lions were thrilled."

The money raised is going to be donated to the Lions Cancer Lodge in Hamilton, which had been struggling financially since the Covid-19 pandemic, Wei said.

She commented on the generosity of the community over the two days, and also said the fair would not have been as smoothly run without the help of Lions members - and their wives.

Wei said thanks to Annette Buchanan, wife to Alistair, for "baking for the crew" over the event's duration; to Bev Sharp, wife of Kevin, and Heather Brown, wife of Walton, for helping to sort the books in the summer heat; and thanks to Kerry Christensen, wife of Gavin,

Raewyn Wood, wife of Graeme, and Justine Cook, wife to Adam, for all having hands on deck.

She also wanted to thank Ian Meredith, whose daughter travelled from Kerikeri to help with the fair, as well as Paeroa Info Hub and Caltex Paeroa for collecting the donated books.

"It became not just a Lions event, but a whole community event," Wei said.

There were about 90 boxes of books left over from the fair, and Wei said they will be stored by Lions members until the next event in early 2025, which would be "bigger and better".



Paeroa Lions president Wei Zhang at the inaugural book fair held over Auckland Anniversary Weekend. Photos: KELLEY TANTAU




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\$1.3m for Thornton Bay slip stabilisation

Thames-Coromandel District Council will receive \$1.3 million to fund slip stabilisation work in Thornton Bay on the Thames Coast, where a significant landslide red-stickered one home and damaged another after the summer storms of 2023.

The funding comes from the government's Cyclone Recovery Unit's Local Government Flood Co-investment Fund, and council chief executive Aileen Lawrie said it was "fantastic" to have received it.

"This funding is a significant contribution towards the design and construction of an engineered solution to stabilise the complex area affected by the slip.

"This will go a long way to alleviate anxiety for our local residents by adding much-needed resilience to the properties and infrastructure located above the slip site which are at risk from land instability issues," she said.

During the early-2023 storm, a large volume of material slipped from predominantly public conservation land on to multiple private properties, significantly damaging two of them.

One of the homes had been owned by 95-year-old Dennis Raines, and was put up for auction after the slip rendered it uninhabitable in January.

It sold for \$375,000 on October 28 last year - a drastic mark-up from the reserve



The early-2023 storm caused a large slip on to multiple private properties at Thornton Bay on the Thames Coast.

Photo: SUPPLIED/TCDC

price of just \$1 and well above the agent's initial appraisal of \$150,000 - \$350,000.

Family members earlier told *The Profile* they were keen to wash their hands of the home and help Dennis move on from the experience.

He had since moved to Thames, and while he missed the sea views, family said they

were happy he was now living in a more manageable situation.

According to council, there was "ongoing land instability" at the Thornton Bay site which posed a risk to private properties and public infrastructure including roading, freshwater, stormwater, and wastewater networks, and telecommunica-

tions and power networks.

"Our application was among 35 from councils affected by last year's North Island Weather Events.

"A total of \$73.7 million was applied for, from a fund with \$42.1 million to allocate. Councils in Waikato region submitted applications for \$22.5 million, of which \$5.6m was ap-

proved.

"We congratulate Waikato Regional Council for the approval of \$3.3 million funding for flood resilience work in several parts of the region, including the Coromandel," Ms Lawrie said.

The Thornton Bay project was approved for the full amount of funding council applied for.

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Quartz discovered under fallen Kauri tree



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.

1873

During a severe storm over Tararua a centuries-old kauri tree which had been growing on the ranges was overturned by the force of the gale and a quartz lode, some 4ft in thickness, was partially uncovered.

A few days later a party of miners chanced to be passing the spot when they observed nodules of quartz among the upturned roots of the ancient forest giant.

After some fossicking they discovered a gold bearing lode and at once marked off claims.

A lode was opened up and a quantity of quartz was sent to a battery to be crushed. If the crushing proved payable, there was no doubt this windfall would be the means of reviving mining operations, especially in the Tararua district.

The timely discovery induced those miners not profitably employed to spread themselves over the ranges where many windfalls might be discovered as well as adding to the general prosperity of the Province.

Meanwhile, unrest amongst



Russell's Quartz Crushing Battery, Tararua Creek.

Photo: SUPPLIED

local Māori caused the proprietors of Austin's Hotel at Paeroa great alarm. Sometime towards midnight the report of a gun was heard, and it was found that the shot had been fired near the hotel.

They got up and armed themselves, but no one was to be found about.

Meetings between Europeans

and Māori were being constantly held and Te Moananui had said he would be the first to spill blood in Ohinemuri.

Mr Mitchell, who also had a hotel at Paeroa, deserted it as it was not safe to remain there any longer.

He packed up goods and chattels and made his way to Shortland.

He was the bearer of anything but reassuring news, bringing word of a possible night attack on the Thames goldfield.

As soon as he arrived, Mr Mitchell advised Captain Fraser of what he knew; and, although such an attack was regarded as improbable, Captain Fraser deemed it to be his duty to transmit the intelligence to the government in Wellington.

Also in 1873, a large portion of the land at Pukorokoro Miranda owned by the New Zealand Coal Company was good agricultural land and it was their intention to set apart some 6000 acres or so for small farms on easy terms in order to encourage settlement.

The company was to work the coal seams in the Wharekawa Valley, lying between the Miranda and Surrey redoubts.

Not only were the coal seams to be opened but a railroad was to be laid down from the pits to connect with the Auckland and Waikato Railway on the one side and on the other side with Pukorokoro Creek.

The creek was navigable for ordinary-sized vessels, and provided an easy way of conveying the coal to Grahamstown, Coromandel and many of the other mining districts on the seaboard.

A township was to be laid out at the mines, extensive plant was on its way from London, and a screw collier had been built for conveying the coal from Pukorokoro to Grahamstown.

The seam was 10ft thick and was believed to extend under nearly the whole of the company's property. Ironstone, timber, limestone and flax were also all found on the land in great abundance.

Park upgrade begins

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

Work on the million-dollar Destination Playground at Porritt Park is about to begin.

According to a post on the park's Facebook page, preparation works will be underway this week, with the actual installation of equipment not taking place "for some time".

"It's been a long time coming and we're sure the end result will be worth the wait," the post said.

The Profile earlier reported that \$900k of recreation equipment was on its way from Europe. Aboard the ship was the centrepiece of the project - a replica of the *Wakatere* paddle steamer.

The new playground, an innovative Destination Playground like those often seen in bigger centres, will also feature an all-accessible carousel and see-saw, as well as water and sensory play.

Thames-Coromandel District Council said construction was scheduled to last three months, finishing in May, 2024. During this time the park will be closed to the public. However, the toilets will remain open, except for occasional closures while vital work takes place.

The redevelopment has been made possible by a significant donation from a philanthropic couple who wish to remain anonymous.

DETAILS: To contribute to the ongoing fundraising, email porrittpark-project@gmail.com.



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Street fest fun

The Waihi Art and Street Festival, held at the war memorial hall on January 26-27, was a chance for people to explore all kinds of creative endeavours. There were performances from musical groups, dancers and puppets; "have a go" craft tables; and plenty of stalls to browse. The rain held off, allowing the festivities to spread down the street, and the free event drew quite a crowd. Reporter ALICE PARMINTER joined the fun.



The Katikati concert band charmed the crowd with some favourite tunes.



The hall was packed with handmade goods from paintings and knits to honey and soaps.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER



Evie Horn, 10, was fundraises for camp with her handmade bath salts.



From left: Isabelle, 5; Chloe, 10; Sarah, 7; Sana, 9. The girls show off their body art and zines.



Glenn Poultney, demonstrates at the Hauraki Woodturners Club stall.



Mike and Alison from Quarter Acre.

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Rural Life

Ecological corridor helps native wildlife thrive

Dairy farmers, sheep and beef farmers, iwi and other community members are working together to create an ecological corridor in the Waikato and have high aspirations for 2024.

The Taiea te Taiao project will link Maungatautari and Mt Pirongia by planting along the Mangapiko Stream and its tributaries, on farms and other properties. A wide range of other environmental work is also underway, including restoring wetlands and predator control.

“A key goal is to create stepping stones along the corridor that provide attractive stopping points for native birds and bats to rest and feed, mostly by planting trees. This will help increase wildlife numbers and biodiversity,” project co-ordinator Bexie Towle said.

The mountains are more than 40km apart, so the whole community is involved.

Dairy farmer Bush Macky said it was a fabulous project at the heart of the community. “It’s so rewarding working with the hundreds of people and more than 20 organisations involved, including DairyNZ and dairy companies, to help native wildlife thrive and enhance local waterways.”

Key project goals for 2024 include researching native trees and plants unique to the area that have disappeared due to predators like possums and creating a plan to bring them



Taiea te Taiao ecological corridor project co-ordinator Bexie Towle and school children plant for future generations as part of the project. Photo: SUPPLIED

back in the long term. A similar initiative has been launched by DOC, with the support of local iwi, hapū, and the community, to reintroduce tāpia/mistletoe on Mt Pirongia.

In other project goals, iwi will work to enhance treasure species within the corridor including freshwater mussels and lampry.

On his dairy farm at the Mt Pirongia end of the corridor,

Bush has planted more than 15,000 native trees and plants. He created a duck pond surrounded by planting and retired some land from farming. Bush says there’s been no loss in farm production and no impact on business viability.

“It’s a win-win. We’ve added value to the community and our property. We’re seeing more native birds on our farm than ever before,” he said.

So far, more than 200,000 plants have been added to the corridor. Nine kilometres of waterways have been fenced to protect them and native trees planted alongside.

The corridor planting is regularly maintained, with weed control across 22 hectares. A comprehensive pest management programme includes trap lines and bait station networks on both maunga, and traps on

private property.

Four iwi are closely involved in the project: Ngāti Apakura including Pūrekireki Marae, Te Ruranga o Ngāti Apakura, Ngāti Korokī Kahukura and Ngāti Hikairo. Nine tohu whenua/Māori heritage sites including pā, lie along the Mangapiko Stream, signifying the relationships between nature and people who once lived between the two maunga.

Clare St Pierre, co-chair of the Maungatautari to Pirongia Ecological Corridor Incorporated Society, said it was amazing to be creating biodiversity strongholds for birds. “We’re providing an environment for our iconic species so people can see them on their back doorstep.”

More than 20 organisations are involved in the Taiea te Taiao project including funders, sponsors and supporters. The Ministry for the Environment provides funding through the Freshwater Initiatives Fund for two employees, and NZ Landcare Trust co-ordinates the project.

Industry organisation DairyNZ supports farmers in their work to reduce environmental footprint and organises on-farm field days for the project.

Fonterra, Nestlé and Open Country Dairy contribute funding to the project, and the dairy companies support their farmers with on-farm environmental work.

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Rural Life

Farmstrong comedy shows planned for pick me up

Following the success of events in Hawke's Bay last year, Farmstrong are taking their comedy shows on the road to flood-affected Pukekohe and Te Aroha next month.

The 2024 event series is supported by FMG, Ministry for Primary Industries and the Rural Support Trust and will see comedians John Carr, Pax Assadi, Courtney Dawson and Tarun Mohanbai line up for a night of entertainment in front of a crowd of farmers and growers.

Farmstrong ambassador and All Black Sam Whitelock visited Pukekohe last year and reflected on the need to keep the community coming together in good times and bad.

"Pukekohe and the Waikato region in particular were badly impacted by last year's cyclone and severe weather," he said.

"There were large crop losses, slips on farm and many roads impassable resulting in isolated communities.

"Following a tough season, this region is getting back on its feet and the Farmstrong comedy nights are a great opportunity to come together as a community to celebrate the good times".

Staying connected with mates is one of the five ways to wellbeing highlighted by Farmstrong.

The comedy nights are designed to do just that.

"The Five Ways to Wellbeing make a big difference. They have a positive, cumulative effect over time and gives you something to draw on when you are under pressure. They also make you healthier and more productive on the



Farmstrong ambassador Sam Whitelock. Photo: SUPPLIED

farm" Sam said. The shows both include a barbecue or supper and there is a cash bar at Te Aroha and the Pukekohe event is fully licensed.

DETAILS: February 21 – Silver Fern Farms Event Centre, Te Aroha, tickets \$20 Doors open at 6.30pm. Show starts at 7.30pm; February 22 – Franklin Club, Pukekohe, tickets \$20 Doors open at 6.30pm. Show starts at 7.00pm. More information: farmstrong.co.nz/events.

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Rural Life

Survey prompts calls for more rural police

A Federated Farmers survey shows rising rates of rural crime and underlines a strong case for more police resources in rural areas, Feds national board member Richard McIntyre says.

Of more than 1000 farmers who responded to the 2023 Federated Farmers Rural Crime Survey, 67 per cent said they had experienced an incident in the past two years. That's a 14 per cent increase from the 2021 survey, and a 26 per cent rise from the first survey in 2016.

While this year's tally was boosted by the inclusion of a question on illegal street racing, Mr McIntyre said that accounted for only a small part of the increase.

He also noted a marked overlap with the burnouts and dangerous driving of 'boy racers' and instances of property damage and theft.

The number of surveyed farmers reporting a single incident of crime (or a suspected incident in the case of hard to trace crimes such as theft of livestock) fell from 28 per cent in 2021 to 19 per cent this year. But those who experienced two or more incidents in the past two years increased from 71 per cent to 81 per cent.

"Alarmingly, the number of farmers who told us they've been hit by five or more criminal incidents has nearly doubled to 33 per cent," Mr McIntyre said.

The most common incident in the 2023 survey is illegal street racing, reported by nearly two-thirds of respondents. Illegal hunting or poaching is next highest at 47 per cent, and property theft at 35 per cent.

The new government has pledged that no fewer than 500 more frontline cops will be trained over the next two years.



Federated Farmers national board member Richard McIntyre. Photo: SUPPLIED

As well as his pitch for a fair share of police resources to come to the provinces, Mr McIntyre has a message to farmers: "Report all crime".

"That's how we can put in front of government an accurate picture of the level of offending rural communities are bearing the brunt of."

The 2023 survey showed, of those who experienced or suspected a crime, nearly half hadn't reported the incidents to police, which is higher than in the 2021 survey. Mr McIntyre said while there wasn't enough data to confirm a trend yet, it seems likely that farming families and businesses suffering multiple incidences of crime were less likely to call police each time due to isolation and other factors.

"When we don't report rural crime, it lets the government off the hook in terms of sufficiently resourcing rural police."

Police had said time and again that reports of stolen property, suspicious activity and vehicles help them build a picture of where and when offenders were active, increasing the chances of an arrest, he said.

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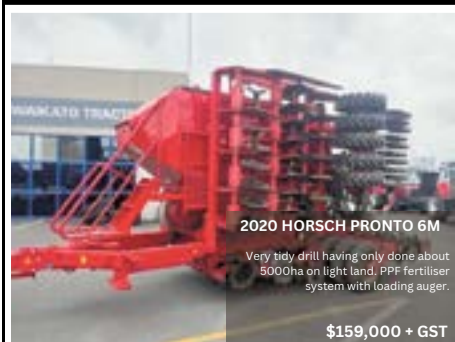
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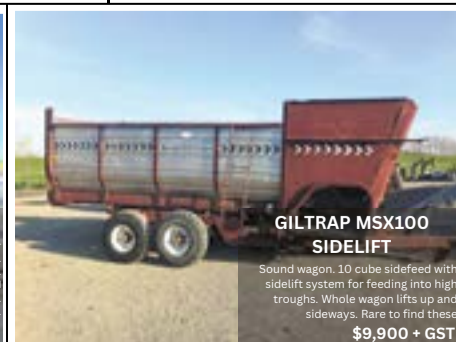
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Women in history inspire author

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

Inspiration can come from many places for Coromandel author Stephanie Parkyn, from the gannets swirling lazily in the air above Little Bay, to a travel journal from a Victorian-era lady traveller.

Formerly an ecologist, Stephanie now lives with her husband in an off-grid home tucked away in the bush. She spends her days “falling down rabbit-holes” of research on whatever topic has taken her fancy as she works.

“I’ve started by looking at historical women and their stories, and how they haven’t been able to speak for themselves,” she said.

“Something in it will grab me as a possible story idea I guess, or some injustice that I will have read about.

“I just like learning stuff and being able to share what I’ve learnt, really, in an entertaining way, [and] it’s giving a voice to their stories and opening our eyes a bit.”

Stephanie currently has three published novels: *Into the World*, about a woman who disguises herself as a man to escape a bad situation; *Josephine’s Garden*, exploring the life of the woman who married Napoleon Bonaparte; and her latest offering, *The Freedom of Birds*, which follows a performing troupe searching for a place in the world.

The trio of novels are all set against the backdrop of the French Revolution.

“I was living in Tasmania at the time and encountered this true story of a woman who had been on one of those early expeditions



Stephanie Parkyn is inspired by the experiences of women in history, ecology and love of nature. Photo ALICE PARMINTER

[to Australia] disguised as a man,” Stephanie said.

“I just sort of fell into that French history era, and each book led to the other.”

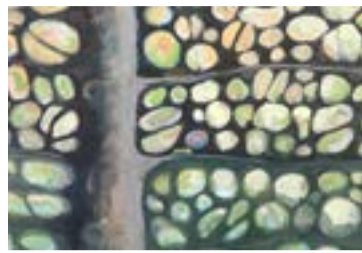
Stephanie’s interest in the stories was with the little people who were affected by the revolution: “not the big famous people but what it would be like to live in countries that have been colonised by a big empire, being used in the wars”.

She’s keen to move on from that

era though, and her move to New Zealand six years ago has sparked a ton of new ideas.

“I feel like I’ve got these bubbling ideas for contemporary novels, and they all are coming out of this sort of bush environment,” she said.

“The spookiness of it, being lost in the bush - our human impact on it, the ecology and the future.”



Clockwise from top left: Artwork by Gary Tricker, Murray Rainer, Julie Dann and Elisabeth Carter. Photos: SUPPLIED

Retrospective to feature in Coro

A retrospective of an artist considered “New Zealand’s best” by his friend Barry Brickell when it came to railways is going on show in Coromandel town along with work by three local artists.

Painter and printmaker Gary Tricker, who died in 2021, is well-known here and overseas for his whimsical and witty style. His pieces often featured trains, black cats and quotes from literature about our landscape.

His work will this month be exhibited alongside that of local painters Elisabeth Carter and Julie Dann, and potter Murray Rainey, at Hauraki House Gallery, Kapanga Rd, Coromandel.

It runs from February 15-25 and is open from 10am-4pm daily. Entry is free. Carter, who is also the town’s florist, paints in a variety of mediums. The vibrancy of her work brings landscapes, flowers and portraits to life.

“Creating has always been essential to me,” she said. “My work is highly emotive, often with many layers and texture.”

Julie Dann loves being free to paint after years in a busy career. She has a passion for capturing local seascapes and delves into the world of abstract.

“The buzz I get from painting when it works is worth all the missteps,” she said. “I have found my own unique style and keep developing.”

Coromandel is not only renowned for its painters, of course. One of the town’s talented potters is Murray Rainey, who believes art is about expressive intent.

“When at my pottery wheel, I feel part of me is imbedded into the piece,” he said.

“Whether it’s a single piece or a repeat form, it still carries on. A lot of my art is functional, so typically has a use.”

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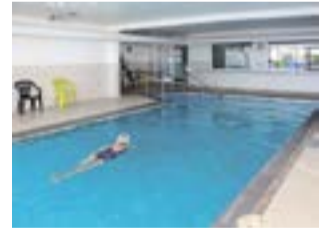
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100 YEARS OF PAEROA TENNIS

ADVERTISING FEATURE

100-year milestone for Paeroa Tennis & Squash Club

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

It's not every day people get to attend a 100-year birthday, but members of the Paeroa Tennis & Squash Club will do exactly that in a few weeks to celebrate the club's centenary.

Former, current and lifelong members of the club are invited to gather on February 24 along with friends, family and anyone who wishes to celebrate the momentous occasion.

President Bruce Nicol told *The Profile* the event would kick off at 3pm with a mix and mingle, including tea and scones.

Photos, speeches and stories will be shared about the club, the people and its history, followed by a special cutting of the cake by Cliff

Pett, the club's current longest standing member, and his wife, Rita.

"We'll just have photos of old presidents, and old club champs and old committee people," Bruce said.

"Just an afternoon of photos and remember[ing]."

An early supper will be served at 5pm, which people need to register for.

"People can have a chat about things and we'll have a bit of a demo tennis game in the evening at 6 o'clock," he said.

The club's top players will be taking part in the exhibition tennis match. The first game will be a singles set between area coaches Sven Van

Touw and Bodin Aleksic, who will then team up and play a doubles set against club champs Brad Van Hellemond and Paul Bowman.

Past and present members will be invited to have a hit on the day as well.

When asked what had kept the club strong for 100 years, Bruce said overall, tennis and squash were good sports.

"It's a good physical outlet and so people have liked doing it," he said.

"We've always had a well-run club."

DETAILS: To find out more information about the centenary and to register for supper tickets at \$25 per person, contact Mandy Souchon at mandysouchon@gmail.com or 027 431 1640.

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President Bruce Nicol. INSET: Celebrations at the 50th jubilee, top, an expansion begins, 1940s.

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100 YEARS OF PAEROA TENNIS

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Champ helps build club over 68 years

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Cliff Pett may be Paeroa Tennis & Squash Club's longest standing member, but when he joined in 1956, he knew nothing of the popular sport.

"I couldn't even play tennis," he said. Now, after 68 years of playing tennis at the club, he's been instrumental in helping build the club from the ground up.

"I've been here the longest, I'm not sure if I'm the oldest," he said.

Cliff was just 17-years-old when he became a club member.

He was playing cricket at Thames High School before switching to tennis, and just "learnt from there," he said.

Before joining the club, Cliff said there were some older guys playing tennis who were "a bit snobby".

"I thought 'to hang with this', so I started [using] a door at my place at home in George St... I used to hit up against that," he said.

"I didn't know which hand to use because I'm left handed, but I throw right handed."

Cliff said fellow club member and 14-time club champion ACE Williams told him to buy a book and he'd teach him how to play.

"Nothing like they play today," Cliff said. The grip was different, flicking the ball with the racket wasn't allowed, and they didn't know anything about a two-handed backhand, he said. "That's the way it was back in '56 when I joined."

A retired builder, Cliff said he first worked at the club when he was an apprentice for a local building firm, which worked on the clubrooms over many years.

"I got the job as foreman... we did all



Cliff Pett stands proud as Paeroa Tennis & Squash Clubs longest standing member.

Photo: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

the upstairs [at the club]. Everything you see, I helped build," he said.

Even now, he regularly turns up at the club with tools in hand to fix anything that needs attention.

Cliff went on to become club champion seven times, with his wife, Rita, and their three sons, Kevin, Steven and Ross, also having turns at holding club champion titles.

Kevin won the club championship three times, and Stephen won five. "[Stephen] was a very good player - even if he was here today, nobody would have beaten him," Cliff said.

Ross was about 19 when he won the club champion title, he said.

"And my wife. She won."

Cliff said Rita only recently found out about a championship win she had with a friend in the ladies doubles back in the 1960s. Back then, only Rita's friend was informed of the win.

Cliff also gave squash a go after a squash court was built at the club in 1960, but as tennis players, they had their own style, he said.

"We didn't need to go to the back wall much," he said. "We played squash like we played tennis."

When asked about the greatest thing he had learnt in his years of playing tennis, Cliff said it was "comradeship".

"After you've finished playing, [you] just get on with the people so much - you make friends for life," he said.

Timeline

- 1900s Tennis played at Paeroa Domain.
- 1923 Three new tennis courts and small pavilion started by Hal and Fielden Thorp. Club then owned the land.
- 1930s Four more grass courts developed.
- 1940s Four more green courts developed on council land. Now 11 in total. Bigger single level pavilion built.
- 1960 One squash court built by tennis members, fourth in Waikato.
- 1962 Second squash court built.
- 1973 50 year reunion.
- 1979 Upstairs lounge area added.
- 1981 The official name of the club was registered as Paeroa Lawn Tennis and Squash Racquet Club Inc.
- 1989 Two new astroturf courts were laid over the bitumen courts to provide a modern surface.
- 1995 A new balcony was built to overlook tennis court one.
- 2000 Replaced five green courts with modern painted hard surface courts. Put in eight light towers. Replastered the two squash courts. Put in new furniture and recarpeted the lounge. Won the Hauraki District Club of the Year and Waikato District Club of the Year.
- 2008 85-year reunion.
- 2011 The car park was upgraded with hot mix, lines painted and a new fence. 50 year squash reunion.
- 2012 The five painted courts were repainted.
- 2013 Astroturf installed on four green courts, lights on two courts.
- 2014 The men's and women's showers were upgraded and gas hot water was put in.
- 2015 Upstairs kitchen was upgraded.
- 2021 Downstairs carpet renews.
- 2022 Upstairs carpet renewed. Tennis Court one resurfaced with a fast astroturf to be our championship court.
- Future plans include funding for more junior coaches and development; computerised lights, key entry and connections to NZ Squash and NZ Tennis, replacing the squash court floors and modernising the painted courts; and maintaining the buildings and grounds to a very high standard for future club members.



Paeroa Lawn Tennis Club 50th Jubilee men's and ladies Champions, with Cliff Pett, front left.

Photos: SUPPLIED

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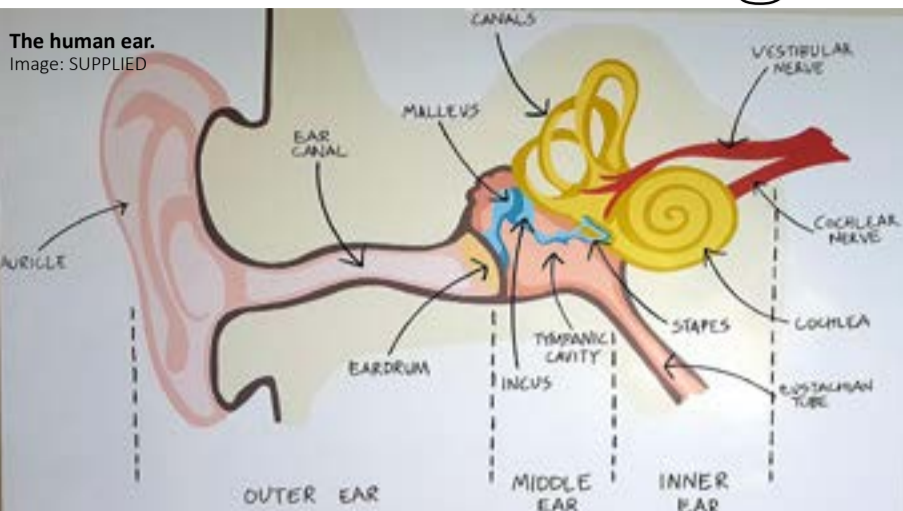


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Vape figures rising, survey shows

Vaping addiction is on the rise with daily vaping rates amongst teenagers nearly doubling in one year, increasing from 8.3 per cent to 15.4 per cent for 15-17 year olds, according to new figures released by the NZ Health Survey.

Vape-Free Kids NZ co-founder Marnie Wilton said the new data confirmed what they had been hearing from thousands of concerned whānau joining the group.

"The stories from families grappling with their children's addiction to vaping are heartbreaking. We are devastated that this issue is continuing to be left to grow unchecked, while the government focuses on repealing the legislation that would have started to make a difference. They are dismissing all the research and providing absolutely no evidence for their path," she said.

"Families are desperate, they are turned away from stop smoking services and have no control over the proliferation of vape retailers turning up in every place their children frequent."

Vape-Free Kids NZ had been calling for the

government to do better and were appalled the issue had not been given priority in the government's 100-day plan, she said.

"We need the government to step up with more support for struggling families. Smoke-free services are not funded to support vapers or those under 18," Wilton said. "Availability of vapes also needs to be addressed with urgency. They are so easy for children to get their hands on with ... woefully inadequate enforcement of the regulations."

"Both major parties promised crackdowns on vaping before the election, but now that the dust has settled, all of that has evaporated like a vape cloud. What's worse, the repeal of the Smokefree laws will just make it even easier for children who are already addicted to nicotine from vaping to access cigarettes."

"These numbers tragically show what we have been warning since the beginning. Their inaction is not good enough, and our children are paying the price."



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Last month's winner of the lotto ticket was Mary Jamieson, who found Pete in the January 31st edition in the Quinn Engineering advert. Go to page 2 for details on how to enter.



Paeroa prepares for a piping good time

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

The essence of Scotland is piping its way back into Paeroa this weekend, with the return of the annual Highland Games and Tattoo.

Now in its 31st year, the Games promises to be a feast for the eyes and ears, with entertainment, competitions and activities running for a full 12 hours on January 10. This year's event includes a larger entertainment stage and a Highland Bar.

A three-hour evening tattoo spectacular will round off the festivities, featuring musical guests Marian Burns &

McSweeney Brothers, Two Many Chiefs, and Sarah Spicer & the Blue Riders, as well as 12 pipe bands, the caber toss event, and the Farmers Walk.

Committee president Richard Hornell said they were expecting around 6000 people to descend on Paeroa Domain for the event. "We've got 270 pipers and drummers coming, [and] different people to see all over the domain," he said.

"We use the slogan 'Twelve hours of family fun with a Scottish flavour', which really sums it up."

DETAILS: January 10, 9am-9pm at the Paeroa Domain. See paeroa-highlandgames.co.nz.



CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12pm Monday

Death Notices	Death Notices	Gardening	Painter	Storage	Trades & Services	Situations Vacant
<p>CORR, Patricia Anne (Pat): Peacefully at Thames Hospital, on 3rd February, 2024; aged 79 years. Dearly loved wife of the late Brian. Loved Mum of Paul and Gaye, Leighton and Judith. Special Nana Bear of Jordan, Nikki, Autumn, Jesse, Leon, Stephan, Alys, and Shane. Loved Great-Nana Bear of Ava, Harper, Kyla, Ella, Cleo, Tosh, Bentley, Anthony, and Aria. In accordance with Pat's wishes a private cremation has taken place.</p> <p>TWENTYMANS</p>	<p>TALBOT, Gary John (QSM): Gary passed away peacefully at his home, surrounded by his loving family, on 25th January 2024; aged 67 years. Our lives have been enriched by his gentleness, love, generosity and care and will continue to be sustained by treasured memories. Moe mai rā e te Rangatira. At Gary's request, there was no funeral service. He spent time at our family home until Tuesday 30th January followed by a private cremation. We would like to thank all of those who visited, gifted flowers, koha, food, aroha and support before and since Gary's passing. Wendy, Amalia, Aston, Clare, Isaac, Henery, Bruce, Angela, Carolyn and Steve Wilkinson, Ian Cunningham, Desley Edwards and whānau. Donations in lieu of flowers to Thames Community Cancer Support, c/- Maureen thscommunitycancer@gmail.com or Thames Volunteer Fire Brigade, c/- Siobhan thamesfirestation@gmail.com.</p> <p>TWENTYMANS</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 We solve your stump problems. 027 439 0367</p>	<p>Professional roof painter. Mario Kerkhof 027 961 4055</p> <p>Public Notice</p> <p>NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHER CLAIMANTS</p> <p>Any Creditor or other claimant who asserts a right or interest in the Estate of Eric Robert Madgwick, late of Waihi, Retired Farmer, who died on 19 December 2022 at Katikati must give notice of their claim to Harkness Henry, Private Bag 3077, Hamilton 3240 or email harknesshenry@harkness.co.nz within thirty-one days from the date on which this notice is given. Distribution of the estate may be made without regard to any claim of which the trustees of the estate do not have notice before the notice deadline.</p> <p>Claims due and owing at date of death should be so certified.</p> <p>This notice is published pursuant to Section 79 of the Trusts Act 2019.</p>	<p>Thames Valley Storage – secure, dry units available, two sizes. Call Trev 027 4076966</p> <p>Wanted To Rent</p> <p>Room to rent Thames. \$200 plus exp/week. Ph 021 053 1620</p> <p>Vehicle For Sale</p> <p>Mazda Ute, 1993. Double cab, excellent cond. \$4,500. Ph 07 868 6398</p>	<p>FENCING CONTRACTOR Residential & Rural Retaining walls & more High quality workmanship Competitive prices Call Matt 021 1727 148</p>	<p>Automotive Technician/Mechanic Wanted:</p> <p>Thames based workshop looking for an experienced mechanic. Preferably with WOF Authority (but not essential), Great variety of work specialising in Muscle cars & Hot Rods. Current Drivers Licence required. If you are looking for a good working environment with a great crew, please apply to:</p> <p>Barrie Richards Auto Repairs 801 Pollen St, Thames Or Contact Barrie on: 078683441 – 0272921599 E-Mail: brar@xtra.co.nz</p>
<p>LAWN, Wayne Phillip: Peacefully, surrounded by family on 28th January, 2024; aged 77 years. Loved husband of Jean. Treasured Dad of Steven and Sarah, Tracy, Mark, Jodi and Chris. Loving granddad of 9 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. In accordance with Wayne's wishes a private cremation has taken place.</p> <p>TWENTYMANS</p>	<p>Health</p> <p>Plains Healing Centre Since 1989 now in Paeroa & Thames as Romoco Wellness. Gentle therapeutic manipulation as per Harley Blows 07 862 9167</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>Storage</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>Proposed Temporary Road Closure</p> <p>Pursuant to the Section 11(e) of the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974, notice is hereby given that for the purpose of Beach Hop 2024 Waihi Annual Classic Car Parade and Show event organised by Go Waihi it is intended to close the following roads to ordinary vehicular traffic for the period indicated hereunder. During the proposed period of closure provision will be made for ordinary vehicular traffic, which would otherwise use the road, to use alternative routes.</p> <p>Period of closure: Wednesday 20 March 2024, 6:00am to 3:00pm.</p> <p>Roads to be closed in Paeroa:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SH2 (from Seddon St/SH2 intersection to Kenny St intersection) • Seddon St (from School Ln/SH2 intersection to entire Seddon St) • Gilmour St (from Kenny St/SH25 intersection to Seddon St) • Muller St (from property no. 3 Muller St to Seddon St roundabout) • Haszard St (from property no. 24 to Martha St) • Moresby Ave (from property no. 80 to SH2 roundabout) <p>Alternative provision for ordinary vehicular traffic will be made with signs, cones and barriers to redirect traffic on detour.</p> <p>It will be an offence under the above regulations for any person otherwise than under authority of an authorised permit to use the road for ordinary vehicular traffic during the proposed period of closure.</p> <p>Any objections should be directed to the Transport Manager on 07 862 8609 or info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz by 23 February 2024.</p> <p>L D Covers Chief Executive Hauraki District Council</p>	<p>Public Notice</p> <p>Pedlars Motel</p> <p>Is looking for a cleaner on a casual basis. The person we are seeking will have the following attributes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be honest and reliable - Be available to work at short notice - Be available on call and weekends/public holidays - Work well in a team or individually <p>If this sounds like you, to apply email your CV to The Manager, Pedlars Motel, stay@pedlarsmotel.co.nz, or drop off at our reception desk.</p>	
<p>Church Notice</p> <p>Assembly of God 10am Sundays. Scout Hall. Baker St, Waihi</p>	<p>For Lease</p> <p>Yards for lease, Thames and Kopu. Suitable for trucks, vehicles or trade business base. Ph 027 440 7101</p>	<p>Mowing, hedges, fencing, gardening, carpentry, painting, retaining walls, welding, waterblasting. Work is good quality and I will not attempt to work outside of my skills. Insured. Dennis Schuler 022 129 0169</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>Handyman</p> <p>THAMES HANDYMAN & BUILDING SERVICES Building, home maintenance & general gardening services Phone: Fleur or Crighton • 0273 913 283</p>	<p>Storage</p> <p>TOTAL STORAGE LTD KEREPEHI / PAEROA</p> <p>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>	

Bounce back from adversity

OPINION



By BILL SHAW

When did you last encounter adversity and how effectively did you deal with it?

The pop band R.E.M. in their song *Everybody Hurts* reminds us that life at times can be difficult, no one is exempt from the ups and downs of life. Setbacks, misfortune and painful experiences are common. Our ability to bounce back from challenging life experiences is known as resilience and refers to the ability to cope with and recover from difficulties and stresses. It is a trait that can be learned and developed through practice.

Some strategies you can use to build resilience in your life are:

1. Acknowledge that adversity does not discriminate; we all must deal with confronting times. Pay attention to your self-talk as our evolutionary inclination is to watch for negative events. Consequently, we sometimes respond to setbacks with pessimistic thinking which hinders us from noticing the good things.

2. Every night before you go to bed, write down three good things that went well during the day and why you are

grateful for them. Research highlights that when individuals do this consistently for a period, they feel less depressed and better about themselves. Count your blessings whether they are small or big.

3. Some of you may have seen the film *Pay it Forward* where an act of kindness is repaid by doing something good for someone else. Random acts of kindness are small and thoughtful actions that you can do to make some else's day a little brighter. They can be done for strangers, friends and family. Studies have linked the practice of random acts of kindness to the release of dopamine in the brain which is known as the "feel-good" hormone.

4. Cultivate hope and optimism as they are powerful positive emotions associated to feelings of wellbeing. There is a line from the movie *The Shawshank Redemption*, which states "Hope is a good thing. May be the best of things. And no good thing ever dies". Believe in yourself, a concept known as self-efficacy which is the belief that you can achieve your goals. It can enhance your motivation and performance.

5. Imagine your best self, recognise your strengths and how you can use them as levers for positive change. Identifying and employing your personal strengths can help you navigate challenging situations that require you to use your skills and talents to overcome obstacles.

These strategies seem straightforward, it takes discipline and practice to incorporate them into your daily life. The US Army concerned by the number of soldiers experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder has incorporated them into the training of their military. This training is known as "Hunting the Good Stuff". I wish you well for hunting the good stuff in your life.

- Bill Shaw is a registered social worker and psychologist



A team of volunteers helped run the Chabeel Day in December.

Photos: SUPPLIED

Chabeel Day connects community

Nearly 1000 food and drink items were served to residents and travellers during Thames' first Chabeel Day in December.

One of the organisers, Jaspreet Kaur, said the idea for the event started as a conversation among friends that they should commemorate the Martyrdom of Chaar Sahibzaade in Thames.

"As first generation migrants from India, we all have great memories of our childhood where free food and drinks were served on the side of roads by multiple community groups," she said.

"The purpose is to give back to the community and remember the sacrifices made by our ancestors so that we have the freedom to make our own choices and not be forced to any religion."

Chabeel is a traditional Indian drink served during the summer months to relieve the heat. It is made by mixing water

and/or milk with rose syrup.

"On the day, we served nearly 1000 parcels of food and drinks to the local community and travellers passing by. [Travellers on] four big double decker buses that made their stop at Thames were also served on the hot, sunny day."

Jaspreet said the group was "very fortunate" to have support from Thames-Coromandel District Council and local businesses. A team of volunteers came from Waikato Shaheed-E-Azam Bhagat Singh Sports and Cultural Trust to serve our community. "Gatka (Sikh Martial Art) Akal Khalsa Martial Art Trust gave a colourful demonstration of the warrior art, which was enjoyed by locals and visitors," she said.

"We aim to work together and make this an annual event in Thames so we can become an example for our Kiwi-Indian generation and remember Chaar Sahibzaade with acute sadness and great vigour."



Nearly 1000 food and drink items were served to residents and travellers during Thames' first Chabeel Day in December.

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HARD

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8	1	2	5	4	9	3	7	6

EASY

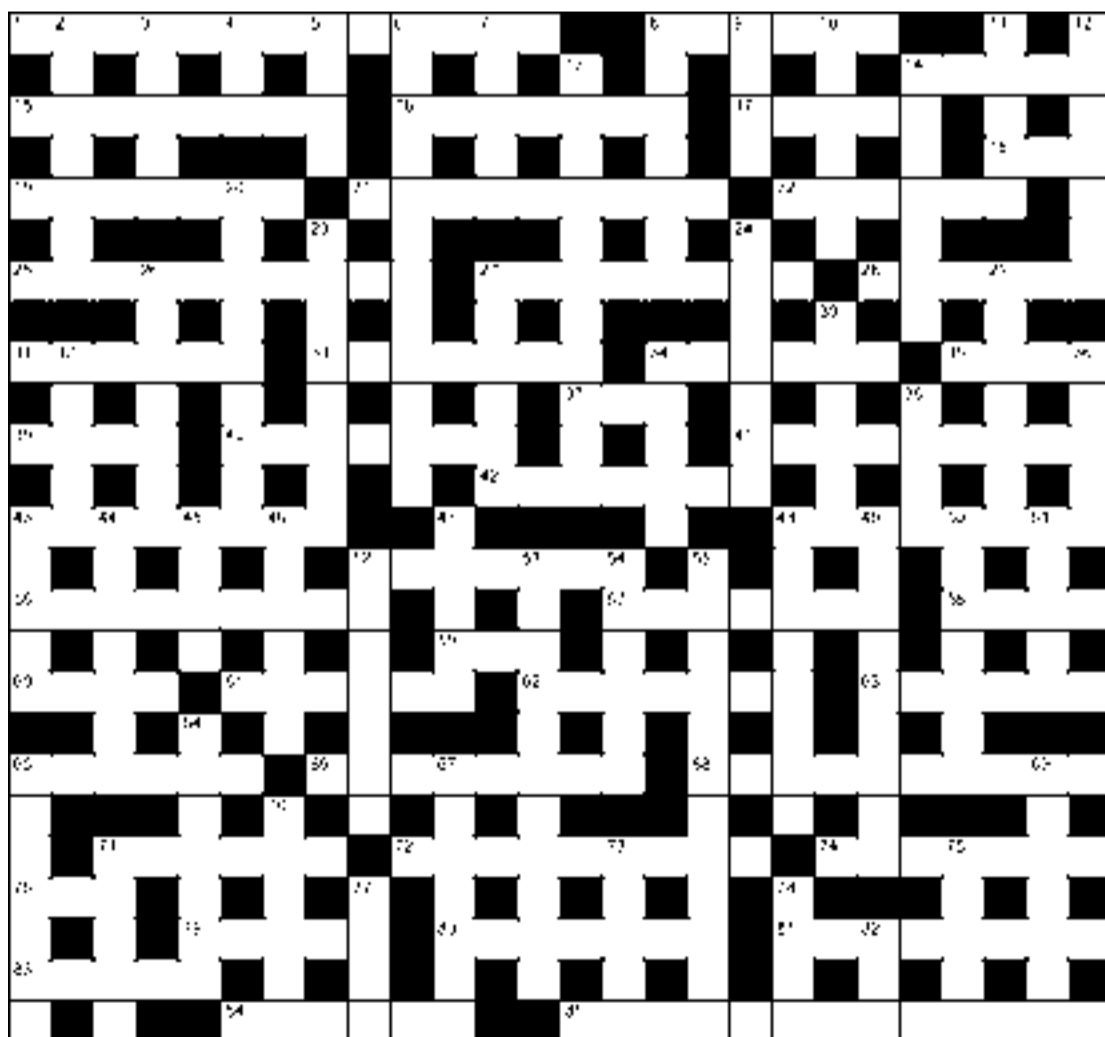
2	1	3	6	5	9	4	7	8
4	6	9	7	2	8	1	3	5
5	7	8	1	4	3	2	9	6
8	4	7	9	6	2	5	1	3
6	2	5	4	3	1	7	8	9
9	3	1	8	7	5	6	4	2
7	8	6	5	9	4	3	2	1
3	9	4	2	1	6	8	5	7

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JUMBO CROSSWORD

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- ACROSS**
- 1 In a favourable or advantageous position (7,6)
 - 8 Fight against (6)
 - 14 Anger (5)
 - 15 Multiplied by eight (8)
 - 16 Comes next (7)
 - 17 Burn suddenly brightly (5)
 - 18 Family and relations (3)
 - 19 Crux (7)
 - 21 Interpret (9)
 - 22 Pie covering (6)
 - 25 Make three copies (10)
 - 27 Raw (8)
 - 28 Emergency (6)
 - 31 African expedition (6)
 - 33 Do well (7)
 - 34 Mason's mixture (6)
 - 35 Added advantage (4)
 - 37 Female deer (3)
 - 39 Hemispherical roof (4)
 - 40 Batting spell (7)
 - 41 Retinue (9)
 - 42 Produced (7)
 - 43 No tinsel (anag)(8)
 - 48 Outlook (8)
 - 52 Downs tools (7)
 - 56 Figurine (9)
 - 57 Live together (7)
 - 58 Tall story (4)
 - 59 Monetary unit of Romania (3)
 - 60 Departure (4)
 - 61 Cheerful and friendly (6)
 - 62 Confectionery flavour (7)
 - 63 Chant (6)
 - 65 Reduce the strength of (6)
 - 66 One injured or killed (8)
 - 68 Use vague or ambiguous language (10)
 - 71 Artist's workshop (6)
 - 72 Most lethal (9)
 - 74 Curt (7)
 - 76 Bite (3)
 - 79 Scoundrel (5)
 - 80 Pen again (7)
 - 81 Vision (8)
 - 83 Vista (5)
 - 84 Scarcity (6)
 - 85 Behave inappropriately or disobediently (4,3,2,4)
 - DOWN**
 - 2 Cutting tooth (7)
 - 3 Ceasefire (5)
 - 4 Zero (3)
 - 5 Seed vessels of leguminous plants (4)
 - 6 Fizzy (12)
 - 7 Hooked claw (5)
 - 8 Italian rice dish (7)
 - 9 Out of danger (4)
 - 10 Large dung-beetle (6)
 - 11 Slightly adhesive (5)
 - 12 Modifications (7)
 - 13 Cosset (11)
 - 14 Cowboy film (7)
 - 20 Find faults (9)
 - 23 Small bed (8)
 - 24 Receded (anag)(7)
 - 26 Sugar pill (7)
 - 27 Apprehensive (6)
 - 29 Dried seedless grape (7)
 - 30 Military pageant (6)
 - 32 Oak nut (5)
 - 34 Repairs (5)
 - 36 Perfume (5)
 - 38 Deception (4)
 - 43 Children (5)
 - 44 Staying power (7)
 - 45 Extol (4)
 - 46 Whim (6)
 - 47 Boring machine (5)
 - 48 Wonderful (8)
 - 49 Hunter's dog (9)
 - 50 Obscure in meaning (7)
 - 51 Warning device (5)
 - 52 Conference (7)
 - 53 Apply oneself seriously to a task (7,4)
 - 54 Vitamin C deficiency disease (6)
 - 55 Flue cleaner (7,5)
 - 64 Need (7)
 - 65 Looker-on (7)
 - 67 Dig up (7)
 - 69 Reinforce (7)
 - 70 Unmarried (6)
 - 71 Binge (5)
 - 73 Nincompoop (5)
 - 75 Wet pig-food (5)
 - 77 Prophet (4)
 - 78 Sweetheart (4)
 - 82 Self-image (3)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Shorten, 4 Fire escape, 9 Massive, 13 Even, 14 Grumpy, 15 Polite, 16 Ejected, 19 Lettuce, 20 Land of milk and honey, 21 Remote, 22 Utmost, 24 Character, 29 Earliest, 30 Strong, 31 Eternal, 35 Shocking, 36 Tavern, 37 Away, 38 Plain, 39 Lag, 41 Taste, 43 Target, 47 Abhor, 50 Hod, 54 Cruel, 55 Gale, 56 Enamel, 57 Daffodil, 60 Headway, 61 Dawdle, 62 Treasure, 65 Altimeter, 67 Seemed, 68 Gnomon, 72 Blow one's own trumpet, 75 Louvres, 77 Thirsty, 78 Lining, 79 Seized, 80 Slur, 81 Studied, 82 Decelerate, 83 Summary.

DOWN: 1 Steal, 2 Overtime, 3 Nursed, 4 Family tree, 5 Rayon, 6 Exploit, 7 Column, 8 Petal, 10 Adjudicate, 11 Sucrose, 12 Viewer, 17 Dust jacket, 18 Hair, 21 Refusal, 23 Outlast, 25 Hangar, 26 Blends, 27 Trance, 28 Casino, 30 Swear, 32 Rule, 33 Long, 34 Jamb, 40 Agreed, 42 Thaw, 44 Agenda, 45 Glaze, 46 Theatre, 48 Hoarse, 49 Referendum, 50 Hide, 51 Dolphin, 52 Weld, 53 Berate, 58 Marionette, 59 Repertoire, 63 Sense, 64 Umbrella, 66 Lowered, 67 Smuggle, 69 Old hat, 70 Strike, 71 Alters, 73 Write, 74 Pasta, 76 Stray.

Lockdown hobby finds home in Paeroa

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

Barbara Kellerman's bag is always much heavier at the beginning of a walk than at the end, and as she strolls around Paeroa, she leaves surprises in her wake.

The former teacher spends her days painting inspirational messages and quirky pictures on rocks, before hiding them in public spaces for others to find.

Her inspiration came from a worldwide movement called "Kindness Rocks", and a walk with her granddaughters in 2018.

"They'd found a couple of rocks somewhere and they'd brought them home," she said.

"It started in the United States... Somebody started painting positive statements on rocks and leaving them for people to find, and that's where this 'Kindness Rocks' came about."

Barbara was enamoured with the idea, and began painting rocks of her own. At first picking up a few pebbles from her garden and stones from beaches, she began leaving them near her former home in West Auckland.

"When I first started I just used Resene testpots and the grandchildren did too," she said. "As we were walking and hiding [the rocks] we would meet other people doing the same thing."

It wasn't until the lockdowns of



Barbara Kellerman wants to inspire other locals to join in with the creative hide-and-seek trend. Photos: ALICE PARMINTER

putting teddy bears in windows. We lived down a right-of-way and I couldn't put my teddy bear in my window, so I painted rocks and put them round my letter box at the top of the driveway," Barbara said.

"It did keep me going through lockdown."

With the rocks came an online

community as well, and a way to stay in touch during the pandemic. Barbara joined a Facebook group called Westie Rocks, which issued painting challenges to keep people's spirits up.

When Barbara moved to Paeroa, her thoughts turned instantly to rock hunting.

"I saw that there was a Waihi

rock hunting group... I thought, well yeah, but that means I've got to travel all the time," she said.

"So that's when I started hiding them around [Paeroa] domain."

In the 18 months since she's been in Paeroa, Barbara estimated she has decorated and hidden thousands of rocks in the area - at the Domain, in the library, at the playground and in many other places.

"I buy mine at Mitre10 in sacks... This is at least my second, if not my third, big bag of rocks."

Finding no dedicated Facebook group in Paeroa, Barbara invented the hashtag #PaeroaRocks to keep track of her stones, along with her personal tag #bk2020.

"I thought, 'well there's no such thing as #PaeroaRocks so I shall make [it],'" she said.

"It sort of has gathered momentum. It would be nice if other people painted them too, [but] I also realise that it's not necessarily a cheap thing to do."

It's the teacher in her that keeps her going now, Barbara said, and although she loves it when people tag her on Facebook with a found rock, it's not her main motivation.

"I like doing them for the children to find. It appeals to anybody no matter what their capabilities are," she said.

"And I always say thank you when someone shares my rock. People will say, 'I found this rock today and it made me so happy'."

"That is the point of them, it lifts someone's spirits."



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