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TANGATA ORA TO CLOSE

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

After seven years of providing people with the help to navigate systems in the health and disability, work and income, and social service sectors, the Thames Valley Tangata Ora Trust is shutting its doors.

It's due to the downturn of the country's economy, a lack of funding, and an increasing amount of shoppers buying online, centre manager and founder Robyn Pengelly said.

"It's definitely the economy, that was inevitable," she told *The Profile*.

"People just haven't got the money to buy products, and the people who have got money are not spending it."

The trust was established in 2017 and moved into its showroom at 607 Mackay St in late-2020. Providing mobility products from the site was the organisation's "bread and butter", Robyn said.

But with the decrease in sales and a Lotteries application for funding that was declined, the trust's board made the decision on April 28 to wind up the organisation by June 30.

"We're all pretty gutted because we've really strived to make it work over the last seven years," Robyn said.

"The downfall has only been in the past year or so, and if we had got the Lotteries funding at the end of last year for wages, we would be okay. That's the crunch of it."

Trust chairperson Neil Coleman

"If we had got the Lotteries funding at the end of last year for wages, we would be okay. That's the crunch of it."

- Robyn Pengelly

said the closure of Tangata Ora was sadly a sign of "where many voluntary organisations are at".

"Who is going to do this work? Whether it's the long-term results of Covid or other changes... the result is that there will be fewer people putting their hands up to help. We've seen this trend in many communities."

The products in the Mackay St showroom will be for sale as the operation winds up ahead of June 30, and Robyn said she was appreciative of all of the trust's board members, particularly original trustee Lena Fisher, and Christina Beattie, who had been involved for around six years.

She also wanted to give thanks to former Pak'NSave Thames owner Bill van Dammen, who was the trust's patron for its lifespan.



The Thames Valley Tangata Ora Trust will wind up by June 30, due the downturn of the country's economy, a lack of funding, and an increasing amount of shoppers buying online. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

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Primrose Hill in Paeroa was a prime viewing spot for the aurora. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER



The old pumphouse in Waihi was a striking juxtaposition to the colours in the sky beyond. Photo: SUPPLIED/ANNE-MARIE SPICER

Aurora Australis paints sky pink

The skies turned pink across New Zealand over the weekend, as a geomagnetic storm caused the Aurora Australis to flare brightly. The rare and striking visual phenomenon was caused by flares and coronal ejections from the Sun's surface, which threw material into the Earth's atmosphere.

Clear skies in the Coromandel and across the Hauraki Plains meant that people across the district were able to see the resulting aurora with the naked eye. Social media quickly filled up with images of the event.

across the Hauraki Plains meant that people across the district were able to see the resulting aurora with the naked eye. Social media quickly filled up with images of the event.

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Thames Tides																																																																		
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<p><small>*Not for navigational purposes. Graphic supplied by OceanFun Publishing Ltd. www.tidewiz.com www.tidespy.com www.ofu.co.nz</small></p> <table style="width: 100%; font-size: small;"> <tr> <th colspan="4">MOON AND FISH KEYS</th> <th colspan="4">TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES</th> <th colspan="4">PLACE</th> </tr> <tr> <td>🌑 New Moon</td> <td>🌒 First Quarter</td> <td>🌓 Full Moon</td> <td>🌔 Last Quarter</td> <td colspan="4">To determine tide times at the following places, add (+) or subtract (-) the given time difference from the Thames times listed in the calendar.</td> <td>Coromandel</td> <td>Hr -0</td> <td>Mn 04</td> <td>Hr -0</td> <td>Mn 04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>🐟 Good Fishing</td> <td>🐟 Fair Fishing</td> <td>🐟 Not So Good</td> <td></td> <td>Whitianga</td> <td>-0</td> <td>01</td> <td>-0</td> <td>05</td> <td>Tairua</td> <td>+0</td> <td>10</td> <td>+0</td> <td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Whangamata</td> <td>-0</td> <td>02</td> <td>-0</td> <td>05</td> <td>Waihi Beach</td> <td>-0</td> <td>11</td> <td>-0</td> <td>12</td> </tr> </table>														MOON AND FISH KEYS				TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES				PLACE				🌑 New Moon	🌒 First Quarter	🌓 Full Moon	🌔 Last Quarter	To determine tide times at the following places, add (+) or subtract (-) the given time difference from the Thames times listed in the calendar.				Coromandel	Hr -0	Mn 04	Hr -0	Mn 04	🐟 Good Fishing	🐟 Fair Fishing	🐟 Not So Good		Whitianga	-0	01	-0	05	Tairua	+0	10	+0	21					Whangamata	-0	02	-0	05	Waihi Beach	-0	11	-0	12
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Sufferers' dilemma: 'die or fund ourselves'

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

Every day is a struggle for Athenree resident Pam Coburn, who sometimes doesn't have the energy to get out of bed. The once-active and outgoing woman has classical Ehlers-Danlos syndrome (cEDS), a disorder affecting her connective tissue.

"It's the glue that holds our body together. When you've got EDS, everything is stretchy," Pam said. "Most people will have just the basic effects, like [being] double-jointed. For unfortunate people like me, it means that not only is our skin stretchy and our joints stretchy - our organs are also."

May is EDS awareness month, and Pam is among those calling for the medical community to become more familiar with the disorder.

According to the Ehlers-Danlos Society of New Zealand, EDS is relatively unknown in New Zealand and is characterised by wide-ranging and seemingly unrelated symptoms, which can often result in patients fighting for years to get a diagnosis.

"I got told it was all in my head, there's nothing wrong," Pam said. "I refused to believe that. I know my body, and I knew that there was something wrong [so] I kept researching."

Pam eventually found a small community on social media with similar symptoms, who were able to point her medical team in the right direction.



Ehlers-Danlos syndrome is taking its toll on Pam Coburn, pictured with her sons. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

Beyond the medical understanding of EDS though, there was also a need for treatment, she said.

Pam's EDS is accompanied by a raft of comorbidities, the worst of which is abdominal vascular compression syndrome - some of her veins are being crushed by other tissues within her body. She also requires a nasojejunal feeding tube as her stomach is elongated and unable to process food.

Without specialist surgery, Pam said, her body will continue to deteriorate.

"It's terminal in New Zealand," she said.

The surgery is available overseas, and Pam and her family are desperately fundraising for the \$180,000 it will cost to get her to Germany. Despite this, Pam said she's one of the lucky ones; she and her husband do have some savings to fall back on, although she doesn't know

how they will be able to retire in the future. For some sufferers though, the cost makes overseas treatment unreachable.

"There are 17 of us who need the surgery that I know of," Pam said. "I just don't understand how we've just been left to either die or fund ourselves."

A Te Whatu Ora Health NZ spokesperson said the severity and complexity of EDS can vary significantly from patient to patient, making diagnosis dif-

ficult. "The diagnosis can only be made after criteria are met," the spokesperson said. "It is normal practice to consider common conditions before those that are less common."

A high cost treatment funding pool was available under specific conditions, they said, including for some very rare conditions not otherwise funded by the public health system.

Those treatments have to be evidence-based and supported by clinical experts in New Zealand.

"We recognise that sometimes accessing all the multidisciplinary components of care in our current health system can be a challenge for patients. We regret where patients have a delay in diagnosis and acknowledge how distressing this would be. However, the nature of health conditions means that this will occur at times, especially with rare complex conditions."

Pam's hope is that by sharing her story, she will help raise awareness of the often-debilitating condition, and encourage the medical community to develop options for New Zealand-based treatment.

"I want to help as many people as I can to figure things out," she said. "Because that's the only way I found out."

DETAILS: More info on Pam's journey at: positivelyfulllife.com-pam.site.



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Dance school's resurgence at new site

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

Since taking over the Thames Hauraki Dance Theatre in 2022, Sarah Fitzsimons has seen a growth in the number of children and adults wanting to tread a measure.

Sarah, who originally trained in Sydney before going on to the Royal Ballet School in London, got in touch with the owner of what was then called the Thames Hauraki Ballet Theatre, Pauline Germon, two years ago to ask about casual teaching positions.

Instead, an offer to buy the school - which had been based in Turua - was presented.

Since the handover, Sarah said student numbers had grown from eight seniors to now more than 100 dancers across all age groups.

"I started moving things towards Thames... and over the last 12 months, it's kept building and we've had the opportunity to put on more classes for children and adults," she said.

Not only is Sarah working on projects with the local gymnastics club and Hauraki Plains College, her dance theatre has



Sarah Fitzsimons, inset, has moved the Thames Hauraki Dance Theatre into Thames.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

the Thames area so it made more sense to have [the school] closer."

The dance theatre was first shifted to Grahamstown before moving to Parawai Rd and finally, to the bigger site of Thames Racecourse.

Sarah said the location was "fantastic".

"It's got two beautiful big spaces so we can actually run

two classes at a time," she said.

"We look out over the river and the sunsets are amazing. It's so great for the kids to have a large space to move in, it makes it feel so much better for the dancers to not be confined by walls."

After performing internationally as a ballerina, Sarah moved into contemporary dance with the Darc Swan Dance Company

"Everyone's been so supportive... It's been truly phenomenal and I'm very grateful."

- Sarah Fitzsimons

and then to musical theatre as a cast member of the Australian production of *Phantom of the Opera*.

She moved to Wellington in 2001 for a job teaching at the New Zealand School of Dance, and it was in the city where she met her future husband, Jeremy, the youngest son of the late Jeanette Fitzsimons, former Green Party co-leader and environmental trailblazer.

Sarah said she was grateful to the community for their continued support of herself and the school.

"I know it's hard when it's someone new and someone [originally] from outside of the town," she said, "but everyone's been so supportive and there were working bees before we moved into the racecourse where everyone was so kind."

"It's been truly phenomenal and I'm very grateful."

DETAILS: To get in touch with Sarah and to see the course on offer, visit stage.thdt.co.nz.



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SPORTS

Communication, culture and coaches key

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

There are changes afoot at Ngatea Rugby and Sport Club, with growing club numbers and a culture shift seeing the club's committee excited about its future.

The Hauraki Plains Youth Rugby Club in particular has seen rapid growth over the past three years, and club vice president Chris Spilsbury said they were now facing the welcome problem of not having enough field space to accommodate all the teams.

"Registered within our youth rugby club [are] 163 members, including players and coaches," he said. "It was 30 per cent growth last year. And the senior rugby club, we're sitting on 60 registered members.

"Because we're growing, we always need more space. We need more support, more referees, more volunteers."

The committee had changed its approach to a lot of things, in an effort to become a family-friendly, inclusive space, Chris said. One of the biggest changes on the list was transparency and communication with club members.

"Communication has been one of the things we've worked massively on," Chris said.

"We are conscious that people do stuff outside of sport, and that we need to be making sure that we can give them



The Hauraki Youth Rugby Club is experiencing huge growth in its membership this year. Photo: SUPPLIED

"Because we're growing, we always need more space. We need more support, more referees, more volunteers."

- Chris Spilsbury

talk about all the kids and the rugby and what's positive and negative."

The committee said they had noticed an increase in entire families becoming involved across the codes.

"What I find really cool is the crossover," club treasurer Shelley Spilsbury said.

"A lot of those mums from our youth rugby training that are standing there watching their kids are actually running for the women's rugby.

"[We] try and make our trainings fun and skillful at the same time, it's not just all fitness or skills, it's a bit of everything all mixed in together. They never want to go home."

The growth was made easier with the support of the community as well, she said.

"I've got a massive thank you to our sponsors, all of them. We've got a pretty amazing community."



enough information early to plan outside of your two hours of whatever you're doing on a Saturday morning."

Youth club president Simon Stratford agreed, saying the increased communication had also allayed parents' concerns about other issues.

"We have a big, big responsibility about the safety of the children, and that is [managed] through the communication, through coaching courses," he said.

"Coaching courses weren't really pushed with the old committee, whereas we're very,

very big on it. So I think parents knowing that their kids are safe is massive for us."

The extra support for coaches has also been welcome.

"We brought in coaches' catch-ups," Chris said.

"We get round the table and we have a beer and just sort of

In Brief

HAURAKI LIBRARY CHANGES

Hauraki District Libraries is making changes to the system it uses for its library catalogue and customer records. Currently, library membership details are held in data centres located in Christchurch and Auckland. From May 16, this data will be moved to data centres in Melbourne and Adelaide. Libraries staff said the reason for this change was so it could "continue to offer modern library services and to maintain robust security of library and customer information". From 8pm on Wednesday, May 15 through to Thursday, May 16, access to customers' library accounts and the library's electronic resources will be unavailable while the changes are being made.

FUNDING CALL FOR SCULPTURE

The Thames Public Art Trust has its next

sculpture ready for installation at an approved spot on the Hauraki Rail Trail. However, it has put a call-out on Facebook as the team works to raise funds. 'Miners Gates' is the artwork next in line, created by Thames sculptor John Mckeowen. It will be a "light and shadow interactive tall sculpture to cycle or walk through or around". The trust has a shortfall of \$7,500 for installation work and said any donations would be "gratefully appreciated". Contact the team at: tpatsculpture@gmail.com

BREATH TESTS CATCH CORO DRIVERS

On Wednesday, May 8, while conducting breath tests in the Coromandel township, Waikato road policing staff stopped four drivers with alcohol in their system. In another Coromandel instance, a driver was stopped not wearing their seat belt and also blew nearly four times over the legal limit.

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Review 2024

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- Paeroa General Ward (3 councillors)
- Waihi Ward (4 councillors)
- Hauraki Māori Ward (2 councillors)

The proposal will need a slight change to the Paeroa and Plains Wards area to cater for a fair representation of Councillor per Ward population.

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For further locations please visit our website www.liquidlaundromats.com

Four steamers simultaneously debark



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.

1898

A holiday excursion to Thames from Auckland saw the almost simultaneous arrival of four steamers - the *Wakatere* and *Waimarie* at Kōpū Wharf, and the *Rotomahana* and *Wellington* at Grahamstown's Goods Wharf - an unprecedented event in the history of the gold-field.

There was a huge demand for tickets and 1000 were issued for the *Wakatere* so as not to crowd her. The *Rotomahana* left Auckland earlier and left later in the evening, so those who wished to spend a long day with their friends could do so.

Soon after 10am, people began to congregate on the Goods Wharf and little groups arrived every few minutes, adding to those waiting to welcome their Auckland friends. By half past ten, both sides of the wharf were lined with people.

Mr Bruce, of the Harbour Board, Mr Schofield, wharfinger, and Constable McPhee were the guardians at the barrier. The *Wellington* arrived off the



Kopu Wharf, with the *Waimarie* to the right.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Goods Wharf at 10.35am. She had a splendid trip down, and carried 530 passengers, which were transferred to the wharf by the *Patiki* and *Kopu*. The *Rotomahana* arrived at 11.35am.

When the *Wakatere*, carrying 1025 passengers, was opposite the old Curtis wharf she stuck after getting too close to shore.

After a few minutes, however, she got off and proceeded to Kōpū, where her passengers were landed at 12.30pm. At the Kōpū wharf, precautions were taken to prevent accidents.

A barrier was thrown across the wharf, and Captain Bayldon, Harbour Master and Constable Flavell were present in order to direct the landing of passengers.

Despite the fact that the tide was rapidly running out when the steamers arrived, all of the excursionists were landed without much difficulty.

Trams and buses met the steam-

ers on arrival to take the revelers to the Pārāwai Gardens where the heat of the sun was tempered with a nice breeze. It was estimated that there were more than 2500 visitors, in addition to a large number of residents.

Meanwhile, disgraceful scenes were observed at Karangahake when a disastrous fire broke out just after midnight destroying nine buildings.

It appeared the fire started in James' bake house, and rapidly spread to the adjoining buildings. The alarm was at once given, and the Karangahake Fire Brigade was quickly on the scene. The Paeroa Fire Brigade also proceeded to the scene in a buggy.

Three cheers were given for the Paeroa Brigade on their arrival but the greater part of the crowd refused to help with working the engine.

People began plundering the rescued stock with men taking

off old coats and putting on new, fitting on boots in the middle of the road, carrying off clothes and bags of sugar, in fact anything they could get their hands on.

The police could not prevent the thefts, though the names of a dozen of the most prominent offenders were taken.

Several ladies rendered valuable assistance in protecting the goods.

Disastrous, also, at Tapu was a flood but it came with a silver lining - residents with carts collected stacks of firewood from the beach.

The coast road resumed a passable condition although at Te Mata Bridge strangers from Coromandel might, on a dark night, get an unpleasant surprise.

Mr Jamieson, in trying to cross the creek with a sack of chaff on his horse, came to grief and had a narrow escape and Constable Rist didn't find matters too pleasant on one of his journeys.

Chris' Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parminter

1. Which of Stephen King's novels has sold the most copies?
2. What year was LeBron James drafted into the NBA?
3. Who holds the record for the most test points by an All Black?
4. What is the least densely populated country in the world?
5. What is the title of Charlotte Bronte's unfinished novel?
6. ZQN is the airport code for which New Zealand town?
7. In the 2004 movie *Mean Girls*, what answer did Cady Heron give (correctly) to win the Mathletes final for her team?
8. Who is the host and 'taskmaster' of the New Zealand TV series of *Taskmaster*?
9. What is the French term used to describe someone's 'purpose or reason for living'?
10. The *Radio New Zealand* 'pips' - used to signify the start of a new hour via the radio - were originally created for what purpose?

ANSWERS: 1. *The Shining*; 2. 2003; 3. Daniel Carter; 4. Greenland (0.03 people per square km); 5. Emma; 6. Queenstown; 7. "The limit does not exist"; 8. Jeremy Wells; 9. raison d'être; 10. to synchronise chronometers aboard ships.

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In Brief

DIPROSE MILLER FUND OPEN

Thames Valley not-for-profit organisations are encouraged to apply to the Diprose Miller Community Fund for help with any of their upcoming projects or events. Grant applications are reviewed on a quarterly basis - March, June, September, and December - and in the past, local groups such as Thames Coast Bowling Club and Thames Coast Community Kindergarten have been successful in their applications. The key outcomes of the fund are to ensure that community wellbeing is protected, and that Diprose Miller is supporting its local community and cultural identity. For more details or to apply, visit www.diprosemiller.co.nz/community-fund.

FIREFIIGHTERS NEEDED

Fire and Emergency New Zealand is looking

for compassionate and energetic team players to become career firefighters. The agency said there were plenty of opportunities to progress through the ranks or branch out into one of the many career pathways available, and extensive training and development will be available for all roles. See www.fireandemergency.nz/join for details.

OPEN AUDITIONS FOR UPCOMING SHOW

Waihi Drama Society is calling for musicians, singers, and actors for its upcoming musical *That Bloody Woman*, a historical story of Kate Sheppard. Auditions are being held this Saturday and Sunday, with those vying to be part of the main cast having to prepare a song in the style of the show. For the ensemble auditions on May 19, applicants are asked to prepare to sing *Ride On* from the show. For more details and to book your time slot, visit: www.waihidramasociety.co.nz.



The Te Tara o Te Whai team with Dental Planet general manager Alfred Rico. Photo: SUPPLIED

Oral health initiative launched

Hauraki locality Te Tara o Te Whai has announced the launch of an oral health initiative that will provide “accessible and essential” dental care to eligible locals aged 19 and above.

The initiative is in collaboration with Dental Planet and is called ‘Niho Ora ki Hauraki’. It has been crafted in response to the “resounding” need for oral health to be one of the Hauraki’s top health priorities.

“By leveraging place-based planning and grassroots decision-making, we are proud to deliver a service that directly responds to the voices of our whānau, Te Tara o Te Whai programme manager Michelle Paekau-Neho said.

The oral health initiative will offer exams, x-rays, extractions, fillings, and hygiene procedures. To date, it has delivered oral health care to 108 individuals across Thames and Manaia.

Niho Ora ki Hauraki will target areas within the region that have the highest levels of unmet need, Michelle said, including Manaia, Kaiaua, Paeroa, Waihi, and Thames.

The mobile service will rotate through these priority rural areas during the remaining school holiday breaks, delivering two weeks of dental care to each location.

DETAILS: For more info, or to contact Te Tara o Te Whai, visit www.tetaraotewhai.nz.

New equipment for Patetonga motocross

MOTOCROSS

The Patetonga Motorcycle Club has received an \$18,000 grant from the New Zealand Community Trust for the purchase of a new side-by-side vehicle.

The vehicle will play a pivotal role in the club’s activities and will ensure the swift transportation of medics to attend to injured riders.

The vehicle will also be used for helping recover bikes and to maintain the club’s renowned clay-based track.

Club president Phil Bryan said having their own side-by-side vehicle meant the club could put on better and safer events for members and visiting participants, while secretary James Harvey said it would “greatly enhance the club’s ability to support its members, volunteers, and the broader community”.

The Patetonga Motorcycle Club is run entirely by volunteers. It offers a thrilling and family-friendly sport for riders of all ages. With a diverse membership ranging from mini riders (up to 6-7



The Patetonga Motorcycle Club has received a \$18,000 grant. Photo: SUPPLIED

years old) to senior riders (16 and up), the club has experienced a steady 10-15 per cent annual growth in recent years.

NZCT’s general manager grants, marketing and communications Ben Hodges said he was happy the trust’s fundraising partnership with the Paeroa Hotel helped provide the grant to the Patetonga club.



The All New Hyundai Santa Fe is hitting the road.



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Rural Life

Productive planting

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

A large contingent of volunteers turned up to Kopuarahi School on May 7 to assist with the planting of seedlings along the edge of the field.

Among the 50 helpers were friends and parents of the school, a team of environmental education students from Hauraki Plains College, a rangatahi work experience group led by Hauraki District Council's Gr8 Job Hauraki job-ready work programme, and several local community members with no connection to the school. Many answered the school's call for assistance to plant around 900 seedlings in a previous story by *The Profile*.

Tim Cruickshank from Trees For Survival was on hand to guide the process. The team spent the morning drilling and digging holes in the soil and mulch, before recruiting the students to bed in the plants.

Principal Chris Patel said she was "humbled" by the overwhelmingly positive response from the community.

"I think it's just awesome," she said.

"It's showing our kids the way forward - it's great for our kids and the environment."

The school also received assistance and loans of equipment from Thames High School and Scotty's Bobcats Service. The seedlings were planted along the perimeter of the 1.62 hectare boundary of the property, with space marked out for an eventual nature trail and bike track.

Tim said they were now looking for landowners along Bush Rd who would be interested in forming a close association with the school, to provide land for future plantings to assist with the "bringing the bush back to Bush Rd" restoration project.



Plenty of volunteers showed up to help the school on planting day.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER



Tim Cruickshank on the auger.



Students planted the seedlings.

Photo: SUPPLIED



Students also grew the seedlings.

Photo: SUPPLIED



Mickey Jordan prepares kai for the helpers.



Hauraki Plains College pitch in with the digging.



Several of the volunteers had no connection to the school, and simply wanted to help.

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Rural Life

Proposed change to Waihou boundary

Waikato Regional Council will continue to have 14 elected members, but the boundary for one of the constituencies is proposed to extend to ensure balanced representation.

The council is required to review its representation arrangements every six years, with the last review conducted in 2018 for the subsequent elections in 2019 and 2022.

Pou Tūhono Mali Ahipene told councillors at the April meeting that electoral population statistics indicated non-compliance with fair representation guidelines for the Waihou general constituency, which currently has two elected members.

"The current arrangements have served the council and its communities well for the past decade. However, based on the latest electoral population statistics, the Waihou general constituency is over-represented when the +/- 10 per cent rule is applied," Ms Ahipene said.

"To address this, we must explore options to achieve balanced representation, considering factors like community interests, demographic trends and effective representation."

The Waihou constituency comprises the entirety of the South Waikato and Matama-

ta-Piako districts, Arahiwi (a small area within the Rotorua Lakes district) and part of the Hauraki district.

Councillors voted 11-1 to modify the boundary of the Waihou constituency to include the Waihi and Paeroa rural areas – currently in the Thames-Coromandel constituency – to meet the requirements for fair representation.

Public consultation on the proposal will kick off in May, followed by hearings and then a final determination within two months of submissions closing.

In discussion, some councillors expressed frustration that their decision making would be based on electoral population data derived from the 2018 census. Councillors heard relevant census data from Statistics New Zealand would not be available until later this year – outside the statutory timeframes for decision making.

Waikato Regional Council Chair Pamela Storey said it was important to councillors that another representation review be undertaken as soon as legislatively possible.

"While detailed 2023 census data won't be available until after the current representation review, we will revisit arrangements in 2027, which is earlier than the mandated timeframe."

Otawhiwhi Marae has recently been awarded funding to help eradicate pests.

Photo: OTAWHIWHI COMMUNITY



Marae teams with Predator Free

Otawhiwhi Marae has joined forces with Predator Free Waihi Beach, creating an "intersection of culture and conservation" to help bring native birds back to the region.

Predator Free Waihi Beach is a community-led backyard trapping initiative that removes introduced predators like rats, stoats, and possums.

Otawhiwhi Marae has recently been awarded \$4000 in funding from its Backyard Community Programme, which will help protect tūturiwhatu (northern dotterel) and kororā (little penguin) eggs and chicks.

Predator Free NZ Trust community funding advisor Janine Hearn said the buzz around the predator free movement on the eastern side of the Hauraki district was "growing and growing".

"When Predator Free Waihi Beach applied to expand efforts at Otawhiwhi Marae in partnership with local hapū Te Whānau a Tauwhao, we were excited to get behind their mahi.

"With support from Predator Free Waihi Beach, a well-established trapping group, and keen trappers at the marae, we think it's a fantastic community col-

laboration to protect nature."

The Predator Free NZ Trust runs two funding rounds open every year. Community groups, existing or new, can apply and, if successful, can receive up to \$5000 for the purchase of humane traps, tunnels or materials.

"We get hundreds of applications each year, and we'd love to fund everyone," Janine said.

"It's a good problem to have. It's great to see so many people who are keen to remove introduced predators from their neighbourhoods so native species can thrive."

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Floki is fired up to test out the new turf at Turua Playcentre. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

Playground glow-up for rural playcentre

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

Turua Playcentre has received a fun makeover, and the colourful building is now ready to welcome back the district's preschoolers.

The centre was in need of a spruce-up, and spent the end of term replacing the old soft fall material around the playground with a more durable and usable astroturf. The new surface includes a bike track around the playground's perimeter, which has already proven to be a hit with the centre's littlest members.

"We didn't actually have everything finished [at the beginning of the term] because our contractors didn't put some of the bits and pieces back on for us - but that was okay, the kids did not care, they were just on it," centre president Brianna Powell said.

"I honestly think the turf is one of the best things we could have ever done."

The renovation project also included fixing the roof, and repairing and extending the back deck. The changes follow work done earlier this year by Playcentre Aotearoa, to repaint the exterior of the building in the association's iconic purple and yellow colours.

The renovation project was made possible with grants of \$5000 from Grassroots Trust; \$15,000 from NZ Community Trust; and \$3000 from Waikato Farmers Trust. The centre also does plenty of internal fundraising, with flower bulbs and socks, relief milking packages, and their current offering of a firewood raffle.

Next on the agenda, Brianna said, is replacing the front fence, and refreshing the interior along with a complete overhaul of the centre's resources.

"We have had a big clean out... we just got rid of stuff that was broken. [And] with the turf being laid, we've just done quite a big purchase of balance bikes and scooters to provide some wheels," she said.

"And at one stage we were quite worried that we didn't have a good enough baby area. But the reality is, they don't need a huge area because they would rather be where the action is. That [was] one of our biggest pushes for the turf instead of bark, because now the babies can be outside on the turf with no issues around parents being worried about them eating bark."



Caleb claims a spot on the new track with the big kids.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

\$200k car park fix preferred over managed retreat

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

Thames-Coromandel District Council has opted to fix a coastal car park at a cost of \$200,000 rather than trigger managed retreat.

The quandary came about following the October, 2023, rain event which saw significant damage made to a car park retaining wall at Wyuna Bay, Coromandel.

Elected members had to decide between bearing the brunt of the wall's repairs - as it would not be co-funded by Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency - or to progress to the next stage of council's Shoreline Management Plan and choose to abandon the asset in a managed retreat.

While opinions differed across the council table, with Cr Terry Walker voting against paying the \$200,000 and Cr Gary Gotlieb abstaining, elected members ultimately chose not to trigger a managed retreat "decades ahead" of when it was anticipated.

"I don't think it's appropriate that we start implementing the [Shoreline Management Plan] in this manner for this work when in all reality, it is storm damage," Coromandel-Colville ward councillor John Morrissey said. "We don't want to be retreating 40 years ahead of time because that has huge impacts for our communities."

"We don't want to be retreating 40 years ahead of time because that has huge impacts for our communities."

- Cr John Morrissey

According to a report presented to council's April 30 meeting, while the car park lay within road reserve, repairs would not be co-funded by the New Zealand Transport Agency as the asset served "no purpose for the protection of the adjacent road".

Thames ward councillor Peter Revell said he was "gobsmacked" at council solely having to pay the estimated \$200,000, which would come with a district-wide rating impact of 70 cents per ratepayer.

In the report, staff also noted that the decision may now set a precedent for the repair of similar assets in the future; however, the cost of fixing the wall would reduce the ongoing maintenance of the recreational car park in future years.



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SENIOR B

Waihi	V	Mercury Bay	Sat May 18th	12.25pm
Thames	V	Te Aroha COBRAS	Sat May 18th	12.25pm
Coromandel	V	Ngatea	Sat May 18th	2.00pm
Waihou	V	Hauraki North	Sat May 18th	12.25pm
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Adviser to Achievers

Options to access Cove announced

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

A variety of options to reinstate the Cathedral Cove walking track have progressed through to feasibility testing after months of “gathering and analysing information”, the Department of Conservation has announced.

The popular walking track to the picturesque beach in Hahei has been closed since February, 2023, due to damage caused by extreme weather events.

But on April 30, as part of DOC’s wider engagement work with the Coromandel community, a presentation was released showing a range of options including long-term and short-term fixes.

For walking access to the beach, three options were said to be under consideration. The short-term fix would see construction of new steps and a boardwalk to reinstate a section of the existing track, while two long-term repair options would involve installation of new infrastructure.

The presentation also looked into accessing the beach from the ocean, with one option providing insight into “marine-only access” and the other offering “voluntary managed marine access”.

Positives to the marine-only access were that it would: potentially lower the visitor risk from rockfall hazards; mitigate future damage to infrastructure; and improve aspects of the visitor experience on the beach, such as fewer crowds.

Its negatives were that it could: expose low-skilled visitors to ocean hazards; diminish the visitor experience from the viewpoints throughout the track; shift visitor pressure to marine and boat launching sites; and create exclusivity

and cost barriers.

Other options explored as part of the development work included visitor entry points from the Hahei Short Walk, making best use of an existing entrance at Grange Rd, and whether access over adjacent farmland was feasible.

“We need to balance out aspects including costs and investment risk, resilience against future weather events, as well reducing the environmental and social impacts on what has been a heavily visited site,” DOC’s Hauraki Waikato Taranaki regional director Tinaka Mearns said in a statement.

“Upholding the values of Ngāti Hei has been a key factor as we work through the options. Alignment with several pieces of conservation legislation, and community perspectives provides both great opportunity and creates a shared awareness for compromise.

“As an example, we’ve had to examine pros and cons for each of these options and also factor in an historic pā site which is significant to Ngāti Hei.”

The department was currently in phase one of its three-phase approach: assessing the walking track options and entry points to the Cove recreation reserve. Phase two would see potential building and application of visitor risk mitigations and transport links if applicable after July, 2024, while phase three would be the management of visitor pressure, in which discussions would be had alongside council and regional tourism organisations.

DETAILS: More info is available at www.doc.govt.nz.



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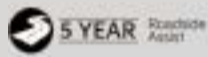


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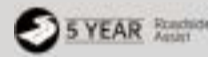
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FOOTBALL

THAMES FOOTBALL CLUB

Under a bright autumnal sun, Thames Football Club embarked on a journey across the Waikato to take on Cambridge in their fifth Division 2 fixture of the season on May 11. With the hosts holding a slender one-point advantage before kick-off, anticipation was high for a riveting contest.

Thames controlled the game from the start, maintaining possession well and moving the ball with confidence. It took just three minutes for them to grab the impetus. Ryan Le Roux, a persistent threat to the Cambridge defense throughout the afternoon, embarked on a trademark run down the left flank. Maneuvering skillfully, he weaved through defenders until finding an opening to shoot. His deflected shot caught Patrick Espin off guard in the Cambridge goal, slipping past him at the near post. A fortunate finish but no more than Thames deserved for their superior start. Ten minutes later a loose ball found its way to Harry Williscroft. Espin rushed out well, saving the initial shot but Jonathan Coles was quickest to the rebound but was clumsily bundled over.

Coles converted the resulting penalty and Thames were two up inside 15 minutes. A settled period of the game followed as Thames continued to dictate proceedings, assured in possession and limiting their hosts to speculative long shots. A quick-fire Le Roux double would confirm a first-half hat trick for the agile winger. The first, a neat left-footed finish following some intricate play and a clever Ben Taylor pass. Then a flowing move down the left courtesy of Mike Kim and Keegan Apperley freed Le Roux, who was chopped down with an ill-timed tackle. Le Roux brushed himself off and tucked away the penalty with ease. A fourth was added just before the break a Mark Reeves cross from the right found the run of Williscroft, whose volley trickled into the far corner. A more resilient Cambridge side emerged in the second half and was successful in stemming the Thames tirade, who were forced into changes with Cox and Coles withdrawing through injury. The hosts would pile on the pressure with a series of counterattacks but were denied by the legs of Riyan Rattan, who had commendably taken up the gloves following the midweek injury to Luke Steward. Alas, there would be no clean sheet today as a penalty box scramble would present Jared McCarthy with an opportunity and his low left-footed shot found its way through a host of players and into the Thames goal.

Conceding was the wake-up call Thames needed as they finished the game strongly. An intricate move down the left between Apperley and Kevin Hyun split open the defense with a Le Roux shot going just wide. Kim, who was imperious all afternoon in the Thames midfield, carried the ball out of defense before drinking a well weighted pass into the path of Le Roux who rounded the keeper to rack up his fourth of the game. A third consecutive league win for the visitors sees them rise to fourth with a title charge in full flow.

Final Score: Cambridge 1 - 6 Thames FC; McCarthy (79) Le Roux (3,40,43,90) Coles (14) Williscroft (45).

- Jonathan Coles

WAIHI FOOTBALL

After 90 minutes of trying neither the Waihi Division 4 side ResiNation or Melville could manage to score the vital goal in their clash at Waihi College on the weekend. Despite no scoring action the final 20 minutes of this game had plenty of near misses.

Waihi forced a corner and a shot was heading into the top corner of the net until a last gasp header from a Melville defender deflected the ball wide. Then a strong individual Melville attacker raced with the ball at his feet and only had the goalkeeper to beat. Yet his low shot flew wide of the goal. For Waihi full backs Kahu and Ra both defended strongly and also added to the Waihi attacks. Up front Braden continually asked questions of the Melville defence. And Nick showed good ball skills as he tried to unlock the Melville defence.



Thames FC's Keegan Apperley lunges for the ball.

Photo: SUPPLIED/MARK BROWN

RESULTS: Division 4 Waihi ResiNation 0 v Melville United 0. Division 2: Waihi 2 v Northern United 4. DRAW: May 18: Division 2 Waihi v Bailey Ingham Otorohanga 2.45pm kick off at Waihi College; Division 4 Waihi ResiNation v Eastern City at Hamilton 2.45pm kick off; May 19: Waihi women v Claudelands Rovers in Hamilton, 11am kick off.

- Don Mackay

RUGBY

HAURAKI NORTH DIAMONDS

Hauraki North Diamonds vs. Taupiri: The Karly Forsythe Cup
A sunny Saturday afternoon saw the Waitakaruru International Stadium host the next round of the Waikato Women's Rugby Championship, and the inaugural Karly Forsythe Cup, between the Hauraki North Diamonds and Taupiri. The Cup competed for was in honour of Karly Forsythe, a Diamonds player who tragically passed away last year.

The game was intense, with both teams giving their all. Hinemoana Collier scored an early try for the Diamonds, putting them in the lead. Taupiri responded swiftly, levelling the score at 7-7. Another brilliant run by Hinemoana Collier and offload to Carmen Samson led to a try, and another successful conversion by Josey Hansen gave the Diamonds a 14-7 lead. Again, Taupiri's pack fought back, resulting in a tied score of 14-14. A remarkable individual effort by Emer Cafferkey, off the back of some great turn over work by the Diamonds forward pack, saw her slice through from 30 metres out, scoring a try, with Hansen's conversion extending the Diamonds' lead to 21-14 at halftime.

Taupiri struck back early in the second half, leveling the score at 21-21. Taupiri maintained pressure, keeping the Diamonds pinned in their own 22. However, resilient defence and determination by the Diamonds prevented Taupiri from scoring. A crucial turnover moments later, allowed the Diamonds to regain momentum. Natasha Forsythe executed a brilliant backline move, covering 40 metres to score under the posts. The Diamonds led 28-21. From the restart, the Diamonds continued their dominance. Natasha Forsythe scored again, widening the lead to 33-21. As time ticked down, Cory Middleton added the final try, sealing the Diamonds' victory with a 38-21 scoreline. Both teams showcased excellent rugby skills, entertaining the crowd with spectacular tries. The Karly Forsythe Cup was a fitting tribute to a talented player and a thrilling match for fans.

- Dan McGrath

CLUB RUGBY

Round 6, Silcock Shield, by Tighthead Red and Whispering Will.

It was pouring down with sunshine across the Valley for the latest round of matches. Hard and fast conditions led to some exciting rugby and



Whangamata loose forward Jake Barfoot.

Photo: SUPPLIED/TVRFU

plenty of points. It was business as usual for the three front runners, with Waihi, Paeroa and Waihou continuing their winning ways. In a tussle for the last spot in the top four, Whangamata wanted to lose slightly less than Thames did, and took the win to claim the position - for now, with Thames and COBRAS all within two log points.

MERCURY BAY v PAEROA

Lyon Park, Whiti City. Referee: R Rogers. A huge crowd and glorious conditions greeted the front running Paeroa Green Machine at Lyon Park for their match against the mighty Mercury Bay Marlins. After Paeroa's last match under lights in almost completely opposite conditions, the visitors turned on some good running rugby - as did the home side, a great advertisement for day time rugby! Paeroa, on the back of a wrecking ball disguised as a hooker, had control of the first half, Oneone Soiso was a hard man to stop as Paeroa took a 28-5 lead into the break for oranges. It was looking ominous for the home team, but on the back of some powerful Dane Mathew carries, Mercury Bay battled back into the match. Two tries early in the second half gave the Marlins some hope, but 15-28 was as good as it got as Paeroa regained control and ran out 45-15 winners after the full 80.

Mercury Bay 15 (M Save, C McAuley, J Finnerty tries), lost to Paeroa 45 (O Siosio 2, S Taloa, P Ioasa, C Sipa, L Tia-tia tries; N Emery 6 conversions, penalty).

COBRAS v WAIHI ATHLETIC

Boyd Park, Te Aroha. Referee: D Tui-Taylor. In a match closer than the scoreboard indicated, Waihi continued their unbeaten run, but were made to work hard by a COBRAS team that was rebounding from a spanking at the hands of Whangamata a week earlier. The Snakes scored early

through Leroy Neels to put the pressure onto Waihi, but thanks to the boot of first five Quinn Collard, Waihi eased their way back into the game, advancing the scoreboard by threes before winger Bellamy added to his season's tally of five pointers. COBRAS battled well, and kept the scoreline to 14-16 at the half, and were giving the Waihi scrum troubles, tighthead prop Jahvani Loilesi having a top match at the set piece, disrupting the Waihi scrum throughout. Eventually Waihi's superior fitness told, with the COBRAS set piece running out of steam, and with possession getting better as the match progressed, Collard took control. It was not a one sided battle though, halfback Neels for the Snakes did everything humanly possible for the home side, a masterclass of halfback play - two tries a deserved reward. Waihi's battle-hardened co-captain Brett Ranga led by example with some bone crushing tackles, and a neatly taken try. COBRAS Neels, and first five Etoni both were class acts, and their fullback Segio Schuler was also in fine form. Moment of the match - a cross field kick from Collard to wing Tayla Turnbull, who collected the pinpoint kick and dotted down. As fine a kick and receipt as you would see on any field at any level.

COBRAS 21 (L Neels 2, S Etoni tries; Neels 3 conversions) lost to Waihi Athletic 38 (A Delany, D Bellamy, B Ranga, T Turnbull tries; Q Collard 3 conversions, 4 penalties).

WHANGAMATA v THAMES

The Boom Pitt, Whangamata: Referee: Z McCormick. In a match that had big implications for the race for fourth spot on the Thames Valley ladder, Whangamata were narrow victors over Thames in a tight game at the Boom Pitt. The game had lead changes, a yellow card, and tries to please



Diamonds' Dana Lang, left, and Naketa-Rose Tauatevalu.

Photo: SUPPLIED

the forward and the back enthusiast.

Thames looked sharp from the outset and applied real pressure to Whangamata which the home side weathered until Stacey Ili scored from close range. Then two tries came from rolling mauls. Penalties either side of half time gave Whangamata a 16-13 lead and saw Thames reduced to fourteen men. At times it looked like neither team wanted to win, with lineout mishaps and handling errors halting their chances of getting into scoring positions. In the end it was ill discipline that cost Thames, gifting Whangamata field position who set up camp and went to work. Eventually Finn McCall broke the line and rounded under the posts for the five points, Tiaontin Raoren added the extras, and Whangamata hung on for the win, 23-20. For now, Whangamata move into that coveted fourth spot. Thames drop one place to fifth but both teams will know they have a battle on their hands to stay in the mix, especially with COBRAS also sniffing around. These are two teams to keep an eye on as the season heads towards the business end.

Whangamata 23 (J Barfoot, K Gilbert, F McCall tries; T Raoren conversion, 2 penalties) beat Thames 20 (L Mau, C Saunders, S Ili tries; T Tutapu conversion, penalty).

HAURAKI NORTH v WAIHOU

Waitakaruru International Stadium, Waitakaruru: Referee S Watts. Waihou ran away comfortable winners over a struggling North at Waitak International, with the highlight of the match being Waihou hooker Sam Van der Valt dotting down for four tries in a 20 minute spell of super subbing. Not only lineout drive tries either, with three coming from being in the right place at the right time to finish off a purple patch of scoring for the Mongoose. Waihou led at the half 20-3, and North were in danger of conceding a massive score, but dug deep, and scored a couple of tries in the final ten minutes to give respectability to the score sheet.

After the Van der Valt onslaught, it looked like the floodgates were going to open, but North found another gear and made Waihou work hard for their win. Big games in the Waihou pack from stalwart lock Time Erceg and number 8 Hamish McLennan, while Adam Ratcliffe, back from a nasty hamstring tear was straight back to form for the brylcreem boys out back. North lost stalwart halfback Matty Fisher, who was in fine form again, to a leg injury that may see him out for the remainder of the season, a huge loss. Stepping up and having big games were Harry Ratcliffe at fullback, while in the engine room, prop Tristan Tahitahi continued his vein of good form, along with opensider Isaac Broad, and the evergreen centurion Ants Corbett. North 15 (H Ratcliffe, J Lowe tries; E Fiavaai conversion penalty) lost to Waihou 44 (S Van der Valt 4, L Gilbert, E Sicinilawa tries; R Stephenson 3 conversions, penalty).

SENIOR B RESULTS | Round 6

Mercury Bay 41 beat Waihou 7; COBRAS 50 beat Hauraki North 21; Waihi 28 beat Thames 19; Ngatea 12 lost to Whangamata 31; Coromandel: bye.

WOMENS

Hauraki North Diamonds 38 beat Taupiri 21.

UNDER 21

Rugby United 14 lost to Hautapu 29.

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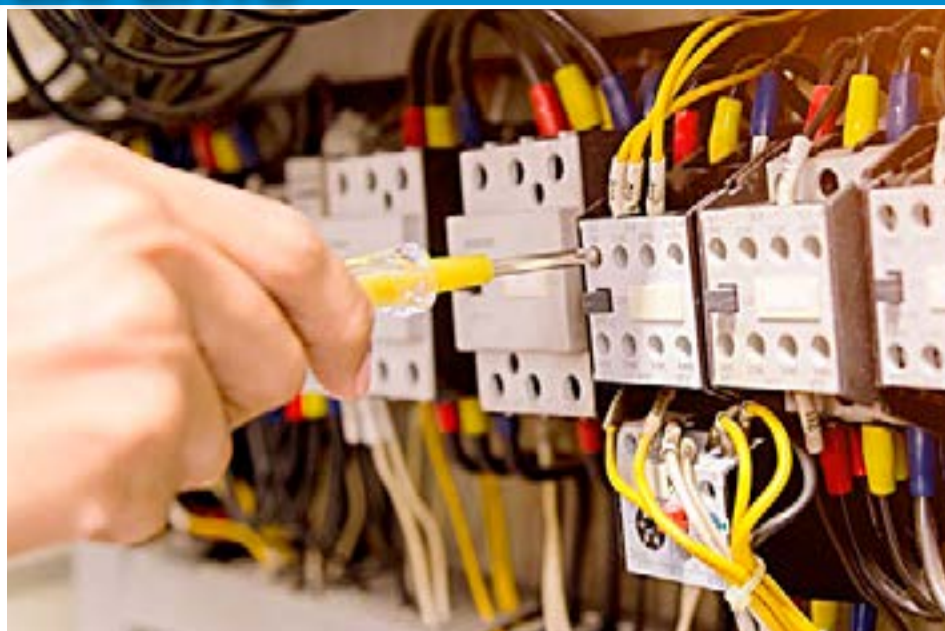

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MOLD, Beverley Joy (nee Heapey): 22.10.39 - 2.5.24 Passed away peacefully surrounded by her family. Aged 84 years, Dearly loved wife for 65 years of Doug. Much loved mum of Kevin and Margaret, Greg and Missy, Chris (dec), Ali and Harry, Susan and Reg. Loved Nana to her 11 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. Bev's warm smile and gentle heart touched everyone leaving a legacy of many beautiful memories. A private farewell was held on 5th May at home. All communications to 10 Manuka Street, Matamata.	GRAY, Margaret: David and Family would like to thank everyone for the lovely cards, flowers, food and making Margaret's Funeral service celebrating her wonderful life such a memorable occasion.	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	NEW ZEALAND FIRST COROMANDEL ELECTORATE AGM To be held at the St. John Hall (main street) PAEROA on SUNDAY 19th May 2024 @ 11 AM ALL WELCOME
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HAWKESWOOD, Kenneth Noel (Ken): Unexpectedly at Matarangi, on 10th May, 2024. Dearly loved partner of Jenny. Much loved Dad of Deby and Doug Bloxham, Andrew and Kelly, and the late Rochelle. Cherished Granddad of Jed, Jasmine, Sam, Maddie, Jack, Ella, Mary-Anne, Ruby and Grandang of Fyn, Lachie, and Zach. Loved brother of Terry, Roslyn and Jacko. A celebration of Ken's life will be held in the Grahamstown Chapel, 102 Kirkwood Street, Thames, on Thursday 16th May, at 1pm, followed by private cremation. Messages to: thebloxhams@hotmail.co.nz	For Lease Yards for lease, Thames and Kopu. Suitable for trucks, vehicles or trade business base. Ph 027 440 7101	Storage STORAGE KOPU, PAEROA TE AWAMUTU "New Units" Ph 027 440 7101 07 868 3033 Safe n Sound Storage www.safestorage.co.nz	Painter Experienced Painter available, houses, farm buildings, fences, etc. Quality work, reasonable price. Ph 027 2142442
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Roman McCaskill at work at Fairview. Photo: SUPPLIED/TDCD

'I don't like being broke'

A scheme to match unemployed young people with local jobs has found success at Fairview Windows and Doors. Business owner Mike Veal told Thames-Coromandel Mayor Len Salt that there was a skills shortage in his company's area of work: fabricating and installing aluminium joinery. "We're the only ones that do what we do. We can't poach [staff] from our opposition. We have to train them," he said. Utilising the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs community employment programme, Mike employed then-23-year-old Roman McCaskill, on a referral from


Ngāti Maru. Roman had just moved to the area, seeking better prospects than the seasonal horticulture or farming he'd done in South Waikato. "I didn't really have much of a career pathway. I didn't really focus too much in school. "After high school I realised times were a bit tough. I've had times when I couldn't even pay some of these bills." Roman didn't know anything about aluminium, but thought: "I don't like being broke. I'd give it a shot." Now 24, he sees his future with Fairview. **DETAILS: More info about the programme can be found at: www.lgnz.co.nz**

Business awards make a return

The Hauraki Coromandel Business Awards are back for 2024, with entries opening on June 10. With Richardsons Real Estate as naming rights sponsors, categories this year include: 'Overall Excellence in Sector' for a New and Emerging Business (a business started after April 2021); Consumer Services (retail, leisure, hospitality, health, and education); Professional Services; Trades, Manufacturing and Primary Industries; and a Māori Business. There's also a 'Category Excellence'

award for: Community Contribution; Business Resilience; Digital Strategy and Ecommerce; Waste Minimisation - Environmental; and Contribution to Tourism and Hospitality. There are also two standalone awards for Service to Business and People's Choice. The Hauraki-Coromandel Business Awards recognise and celebrate excellence in business in the Hauraki and Coromandel districts. This year's awards evening will take place on October 23 at the Thames Civic Centre.

CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12pm Monday

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Two new alpacas and the fear of the unknown

OPINION



By MICHAEL WILKES

This week we acquired two alpacas for the back yard. We reversed the trailer up to

the deck and the plan was to simply lead them through to the little paddock out back. In this paddock was lush green grass, yummy weeds, fresh water, more shade and shelter than where they had come from, and a household of kids who would soon be serenading them with songs. Seriously, their mum read that alpacas like to be sung to and so the kids jumped right in. It was too cute to watch. Yet before they saw the value of the change, they had to take a risk and step into unknown territory, they had to walk across the deck and around the corner. And so, they bucked and

kicked, they spat green loogies at anyone close enough and made enough noise to break your heart. Yet once they were settled into their paddock, they were sunning themselves, enjoying those weeds (yay for me) and loving scratches on the neck and songs from the kids. Whenever we are around, they spend more time reaching over the fence for a scratch on the neck than they do eating. And it got me thinking about a conversation with a friend. He wants to make some changes to their property that would be good. He can see the value. He can see how the light would add

to the section and the home. He can see that there will be less mould growing on the house and better grass for his younger siblings. Yet it is his father's home, and the change is not welcomed. It caused me to pause and consider change. Change is something we can often fear even when it would be good for us. Our advisor in our mind pushes, fights and tries its best to convince us to stay in our 'paddock'. We are safe here. There may be unhealthy things but at least I know them and am comfortable with them. Yet change is inevitable. The

choice is not whether to make the change or not. The choice is whether we choose the change. Do we choose the paddock or have it chosen for us. Do we choose what our backyards look like or have nature continue to increase the darkness and block out the light. Do we grow old with intention or is it something that merely overtakes us. We are fooling ourselves if we think we can avoid change. So, lets lean in and choose the change with intentionality instead of letting the changes shape us.
- Michael Wilkes is a Living Well Trust Youth Worker



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Culinary cascades at The Falls Retreat

The Falls Retreat is an unforgettable food destination! Whether it's date night, a special birthday celebration or anniversary, a get together or family gathering, we would love you to join us to experience incredible food in a beautiful setting with warm hospitality! From the special dining experiences we offer, to the fresh sourdough loaves we bake in our wood fired oven, housemade sodas we make using garden herbs and our range of homemade pickles and chutneys, we are focused on making everything from scratch, using homegrown seasonal produce. What days are we open? Every Friday and Saturday - The Long Table Feast. This is a unique foodie experience not to be missed where our chefs create

a 3 course set menu showcasing our homegrown produce and local suppliers. It's a leisurely affair suitable for friends, family, couples and even solo diners with the opportunity to wander around our kitchen veggie gardens, enjoy the outdoor games and kids playground and relax in our beautiful setting! Lunch sitting at 11.30am and dinner at 6.30pm with a complimentary welcome drink on arrival. Sundays are dedicated to cooking and gardening workshops and special events. What's coming up? Floral Bouquet workshop and lunch, May 19, June 16; Kombucha Brewing Workshop, May 19, June 16; Full Monty Edible Gardening workshop, May 19 and June 9, July 7; Pickling & Preserving Workshop, June

9; Sourdough Bread Making, June 23; Pasta from Scratch Masterclass, July 7; Locals Night: June 2, July 7, August 4, from 4pm. Once per month and no booking required. Just rock on up and order at the bar for wood-fired pizzas, organic salads and chips. Great food with casual vibes! Accommodation is available seven days per week so why not escape for a quick getaway! We offer bed and breakfast and gourmet hampers to be enjoyed in the comfort of our three charming cottages. Private venue hire is also available for weddings, elopements and special events, so get in touch now to experience The Falls Retreat for yourself!
-Supplied by The Falls retreat

Join our monthly *Foodies* page and receive a feature article about your food business and a listing on the *Coromandel App*

Contact Nikki
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"A recipe has no soul. You, as the cook, must bring soul to the recipe."

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SUPPORT LOCAL



SUDOKU

150

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

			3	1				
	7	9			8		3	5
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HARD

HARD

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MEDIUM

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5	4	9	7	8	6	3	1	2
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EASY

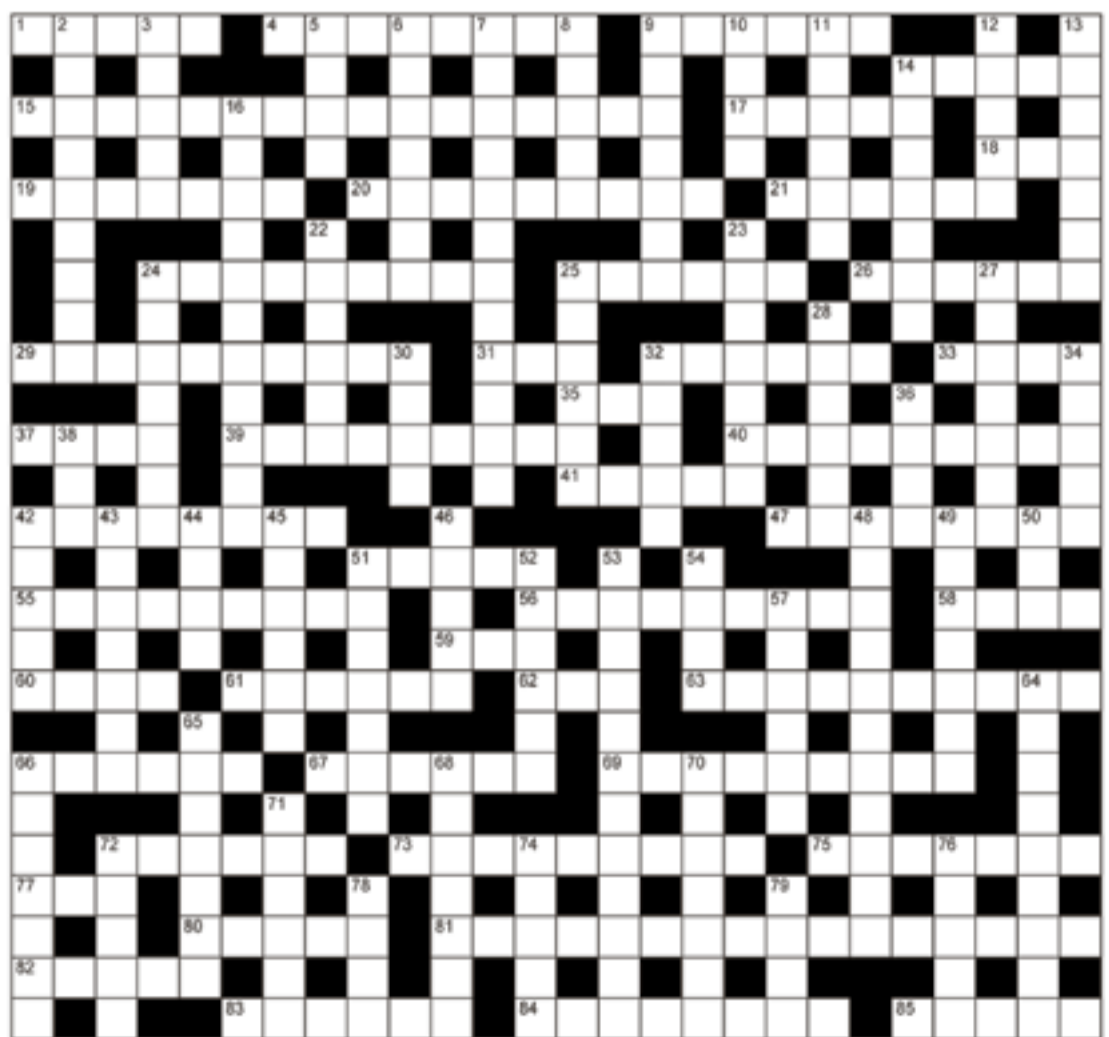
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6	8	5	3	7	2	9	1	4
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7	3	2	1	4	9	5	8	6

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JUMBO CROSSWORD

170

- ACROSS**
- 1 Repaired (5)
 - 4 Melting pot (8)
 - 9 Rule over (6)
 - 14 Grain crop (5)
 - 15 Unthinking automatic response (4-4,8)
 - 17 Follow as a result (5)
 - 18 Hair mousse (3)
 - 19 Bliss (7)
 - 20 Autograph (9)
 - 21 Sailboats (6)
 - 24 Showing signs of wear and tear; shabby (4-5)
 - 25 Bell tower (6)
 - 26 Lure (6)
 - 29 In advance, earlier (10)
 - 31 Self-image (3)
 - 32 Dwell (6)
 - 33 Horse command (4)
 - 35 Small (3)
 - 37 Himalayan enigma (4)
 - 39 Edible spears (9)
 - 40 Circus act (4-5)
 - 41 Banished person (5)
 - 42 Red wine (8)
 - 47 Still sealed (8)
 - 51 Tell off (5)
 - 55 Building designer (9)
 - 56 Improving after illness (2,3,4)
 - 58 Take notice of (4)
 - 59 Lavatory (3)
 - 60 Door out (4)
 - 61 Eerie (6)
 - 62 Lair (3)
 - 63 Red tape exponent (10)
 - 66 Refuge (6)
 - 67 Eight-note interval (6)
 - 69 Murderous (9)
 - 72 Genesis (6)
 - 73 Sworn declaration (9)
 - 75 Worry, fretfulness (7)
 - 77 Recede (3)
 - 80 Peer (5)
 - 81 Denounce publicly an illegal or dishonest activity (4,3,7,2)
 - 82 Progeny (5)
 - 83 Sculpted figure (6)
 - 84 Stall at a fair or circus (8)
 - 85 Browed bread (5)
 - DOWN**
 - 2 Guiltlessness (9)
 - 3 Build (5)
 - 5 Garden tool (4)
 - 6 Live in peace with each other (7)
 - 7 Breakfast fare (5,3,4)
 - 8 Decree (5)
 - 9 Army rank (7)
 - 10 Opinion (4)
 - 11 Imp (6)
 - 12 Pilot's badge (5)
 - 13 Use up, exhaust (7)
 - 14 Marsh gas (7)
 - 16 Relieve suffering (4,3,4)
 - 22 Patch up or renovate (6)
 - 23 Swelter (anag) (7)
 - 24 Anchorage (7)
 - 25 Read superficially (6)
 - 27 Barbarous (7)
 - 28 Abut (6)
 - 30 Highlander's dagger (4)
 - 32 Gum (5)
 - 34 Pungent (5)
 - 36 Cease (4)
 - 38 Large bird (3)
 - 42 Burn fiercely (5)
 - 43 Set straight or right (7)
 - 44 Single undivided whole (4)
 - 45 Dull (6)
 - 46 Foolishness (5)
 - 48 Miscellaneous remnants (4,3,4)
 - 49 Morally correct (7)
 - 50 Night before (3)
 - 51 Pull longer (7)
 - 52 Absent-minded scrawl (6)
 - 53 Quite devoid of feelings for others (5-7)
 - 54 Pavement edge (4)
 - 57 Increase the wealth of (6)
 - 64 Aspirations (9)
 - 65 Special anniversary (7)
 - 66 Deadly poison (7)
 - 68 Good-natured, sociable (7)
 - 70 Sad mine (anag)(7)
 - 71 Stately ballroom dance (6)
 - 72 Grossly overweight (5)
 - 74 Worshipped images (5)
 - 76 Snow house (5)
 - 78 Excess of supply (4)
 - 79 Scare away (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Annoy, 4 Weather the storm, 14 Alloy, 15 Rugby, 16 Masquerade, 17 Offer, 19 Awl, 20 Neutral, 21 Fire alarm, 22 Stress, 25 Fanatical, 27 Lawyer, 28 Canvas, 33 Anne Boleyn, 35 Toy, 36 Avenue, 37 Grub, 39 Err, 41 Malaria, 42 Hamlet, 43 Put on airs, 44 Tempt, 45 Deceased, 50 Be, 51 Cesspool, 55 Diner, 58 A dog's life, 59 Ignore, 60 Amplify, 61 Met, 63 Edge, 64 Novice, 65 Tar, 66 Sustenance, 68 Kidney, 69 Pursue, 71 Wrongdoer, 76 Diesel, 77 Defective, 79 Swindle, 81 Cue, 84 Viola, 85 Bear malice, 86 Diary, 87 Amuse, 88 Armed to the teeth, 89 Vesta.

DOWN: 2 Nausea, 3 Orbit, 5 Edam, 6 Tequila, 7 Eleven, 8 Trail, 9 Eyebrow, 10 Tool, 11 Refute, 12 Alias, 13 Cyclops, 14 Arsenal, 18 Lavatories, 23 Eider, 24 Receipt, 26 Average, 27 Layette, 29 Vertigo, 30 Inmate, 31 Stilt, 32 Turtle, 34 Neat, 36 Aroma, 38 Basil, 40 Onus, 45 Drake, 46 Clogged, 47 Also, 48 Editor, 49 Gnome, 50 Brittle, 52 Simmer down, 53 Pulsate, 54 Office, 55 Devious, 56 Snare, 57 Iris, 62 Using, 67 Reserve, 68 Kneecap, 70 Sherbet, 72 Revolve, 73 Devour, 74 Stymie, 75 Claret, 76 Debut, 78 Exact, 80 Naïve, 82 Late, 83 Scot.



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 027 320 6937 / seth.roe@bayleys.co.nz



SPORTS

Ohinemuri football fever

The Ohinemuri Schools Football Tournament kicked off at the Paeroa Domain on May 3, hosted by Paeroa Christian School. Five primary schools in the Ohinemuri cluster stepped on to the pitch for the day, including Paeroa Christian School, Hikutaia School, Karangahake School, Paeroa Central School and Paeroa St Joseph's Catholic School. Paeroa Christian School principal Royce McMurtrie said one of the things he liked about the event was that it was an even playing field. "The kids will just come out and give it a go - that's really what today's about." Reporter DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA was there to score some shots of all the fun.



All eyes are on the ball as Hikutaia School vs Paeroa Christian School.

Photos: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA



Karangahake and Paeroa St Joseph's in action.



Paeroa Central keeps Hikutaia players on their toes.



A huge battle for the ball.



Karangahake celebrates a goal.



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