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FULL STEAM AHEAD

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

Paul Green's famous last words before finding himself at the helm of Thames' Destination Playground project were: "Is there anything else you need?"

The owner of Aeroview Garden Centre met with Thames Business Association chief executive Sue Lewis-O'Halloran to discuss planting for the new million-dollar playground - which could be completed by the end of the month.

Upon utterance of his six-word sentence, the door was opened for the business association to "push the envelope" and get more locals involved and working on the project, Sue said - starting with Paul.

Paul established AGW Landscaping back in 2001 and has not only provided his expertise, but also local landscapers to help push the project along.

He said it's been great to feel the excitement brewing among the community.

"We get a lot of children hanging on to the fence and wondering when it's going to be finished," he said.

"They're itching to get in here."

The playground has been designed by Auckland-based Philippa Muir and her daughter Renee.

They earlier told *The Profile* they were inspired to construct a space which reflected Thames' history and the needs of its community.

CONTINUED ON P2



Thames landscaper Paul Green, inset, has been helping out at the site of the new Porritt Park playground.
Photos: KELLEY TANTAU

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Local hands involved in park build

CONTINUED FROM P1

A lighthouse and boat design, reminiscent of the *Wakatere* paddle steamer which linked the Thames goldfields and Auckland from 1896 until 1926, has been erected, as have other items including hamster wheels and an all-accessible carousel.

There's also hopes to include a Changing Places public bathroom, which will meet the needs of people who cannot use standard accessible toilets, but Sue said more support was still needed.

"Not only is this a community project, we also have to remember that this is the first Destination Playground in a small town in New Zealand - ever," she said.

"It's a huge gift, and the more money we save, the more likely we are to get the Changing Places toilet done sooner rather than later."

Sue said that having a collaboration between workers from Auckland and local staff helped Thames take ownership of the initiative - which has been majority



Sue Lewis-O'Halloran and Paul Green hope Thames gets behind the playground project. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

funded by philanthropists.

Mike Hobson, the playground's site manager from Decker Landscapes, is one of the workers travelling from the city daily to assist.

He said he couldn't "speak highly enough" of the crew

involved in the construction works.

"I've been doing playgrounds for 20 years now and this is one of the best ones," he said.

It's hoped the completed playground will be opened to

the public by the end of May.

DETAILS: To keep up to date, find Porritt Park Project on Facebook or email porrittpark-project@gmail.com.



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Wed May 1	Thu May 2	Fri May 3	Sat May 4	Sun May 5	Mon May 6	Tue May 7
 Morning 12:04am 3.2 12:23pm 3.1 Afternoon 6:15am 0.9 6:29pm 0.8 Sun 6:58am 5:32pm Best At 6:01am 6:29pm Last Quarter Set 1:35pm Rise 11:30pm	 Morning 1:00am 3.2 1:18pm 3.1 Afternoon 7:13am 0.9 7:29pm 0.8 Sun 6:59am 5:31pm Best At 6:56am 7:22pm Last Quarter Set 2:11pm	 Morning 2:00am 3.2 2:18pm 3.1 Afternoon 8:13am 0.8 8:36pm 0.8 Sun 6:59am 5:30pm Best At 7:48am 8:14pm Rise 12:43am Set 2:43pm	 Morning 3:02am 3.3 3:23pm 3.2 Afternoon 9:14am 0.7 9:44pm 0.8 Sun 7:00am 5:29pm Best At 8:39am 9:04pm Rise 1:56am Set 3:11pm	 Morning 4:02am 3.4 4:30pm 3.3 Afternoon 10:14am 0.6 10:47pm 0.6 Sun 7:01am 5:28pm Best At 9:28am 9:53pm Rise 3:08am Set 3:38pm	 Morning 4:59am 3.5 5:32pm 3.4 Afternoon 11:12am 0.5 11:43pm 0.5 Sun 7:02am 5:27pm Best At 10:18am 10:43pm Rise 4:21am Set 4:05pm	 Morning 5:55am 3.5 12:08pm 0.3 Afternoon 6:29pm 3.6 Sun 7:03am 5:26pm Best At 11:09am 11:36pm Rise 5:35am Set 4:35pm

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

Skipping 'superstars' set to hop to town

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

The "superstar of jump rope" will be in Thames this weekend to show off his skillset and inspire a future generation of skippers.

Seventy-two-time world champion Australian Luke Boon will be joined by Hong Kong champion Timothy Ho and Thames local Sacha Willets as they host a Kids Jump Rope session at the Jack McLean Centre.

Sacha, who is pioneering the sport in New Zealand, said the May 5 event will be a chance for children and adults to witness the talents of jump rope's most decorated athlete.

"Luke has been [skipping] for over 20 years and he's been at the top of the game the entire time, so it's really impressive and he's just so passionate about growing the sport.

"Last year was the first time that I got to watch him compete in real life... and you could feel the vibe in the room change when Luke took to the floor," she said.

"There's a reputation around him and his skills."

Not only is Luke a 72-time world champion, he has also broken 16 world records, holds six individual freestyle world titles, and three three-minute speed world titles.

He was 11-years-old when he first witnessed a team of competitive jump ropers perform



Seventy-two-time world champion, Australian Luke Boon is jump rope's most decorated athlete. He'll be in Thames alongside two other skippers this weekend. Photo: SUPPLIED

a demonstration at his school fete. He told *The Profile* he was "immediately blown away".

"I actually remember that moment - because when I was 11, I was still looking for my niche - and I was thinking: 'I've found it. This is what I want to

do for the rest of my life'. "Now I always wonder what if I didn't go to school that day? What if I missed that performance by 10 seconds? I wouldn't be in the position I'm in right now doing something I'm so passionate about."

Sacha's own foray into the high-flying sport started in 2021, after the Instagram algorithm showed her a video of someone using a rope in a unique way.

After watching from afar, Sacha created her own online

skipping page and contacted Luke, who has been her coach ever since.

Together, they are continuing their efforts to see the sport snowball, and they hope youngsters of all ages and abilities, boys and girls, will come along to the jump rope session this Sunday.

"When I think of New Zealand jump rope, I think of Sacha," Luke said. "She's the pioneer of rope skipping in New Zealand which is amazing, because to have somebody like Sacha doing that, you know it's going to move in the right direction."

"We just want as many kids as possible to come along," Sacha added. "There's only so much you can talk about - you have to witness it to really understand what the sport is and why I'm always harping on about it."

Timothy Ho, meanwhile, is a world record holder in speed skipping, and is the first athlete in history to crack 1000 jumps in three minutes.

DETAILS: To witness Timothy, Luke, and Sacha in action this weekend, head along to the Jack McLean Community Centre in Thames this Sunday, May 5, 2.30-4pm. Cost: \$20 per child, under 5s free, beginners welcome, ropes provided. Email sachaskips@gmail.com for more info.



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'Godsend' volunteer drivers secure \$20k

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

The Paeroa Community Support Trust - labelled a "godsend" by the people who use its Volunteer Drivers service - was one of 18 community transport providers across the rohe that gained a share of \$209,500 from the latest round of the Waikato Regional Council Community Transport Grant fund.

The service received \$20,000 to support the operational costs of its hospital transport shuttle, which takes people to and from medical appointments.

Val Sparks, who has been involved with Paeroa Volunteer Drivers since it was established, said the service's 13 drivers always went "the extra mile" for their passengers.

They each use their own vehicle, and said she was "very happy" for the service to receive the council funding as it now enabled them to take passengers to appointments outside of Waikato Hospital, including dental and chiropractic appointments, for example.

Now in its second year, the fund supports community organisations that help residents with transport needs which aren't met by the public transport network, generally in rural and remote areas or where specialised support is needed.

The providers generally rely on volunteers, donations and



Some of Paeroa's volunteer drivers - including Gary Jarvis, who has been volunteering for 20 years, second from right.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

community goodwill, which they use to provide significant benefits like access to health-care, education and social opportunities when cost or distance prove too much.

Last year, the 14 organisations that received funding collectively travelled 857,900 kilometres making 23,662 one-way trips, including 1087 trips for wheelchair users in acces-

sible vehicles.

Meanwhile, volunteer drivers donated 52,019 hours of their time.

People who utilised the Paeroa Volunteer Drivers service Trust called it "a godsend".

"[In four years] we have found them very reliable, never late. [They] take us to the department we need to be at and always wait for us no matter

how long it takes. A service like that in our town is a godsend.

"As we are an ageing community, having volunteer drivers to call on is one less worry for us," one person said, as noted in the trust's application to the regional council.

"I couldn't do without them, it's been great. I have no complaints at all, each and every one of them have been fantas-

tic.

"I'm unable to drive and don't own a car. To me they are a godsend and affordable," another added.

"Paeroa is very lucky to have these wonderful people."

Waikato Regional Council community transport lead Amantha Bowen said the funding supported some important and impressive work.

"If you look at the number of volunteer hours that go into these services, you can see that these organisations are working really hard on a shoestring budget.

"We love being able to support them to keep supporting their communities."

The council's 2024-2034 Long Term Plan includes a proposal to increase the fund to \$300,000 per year, which will cost around 50 cents more per household.

Waikato regional councillor and chair of its Regional Transport Committee Mich'ael Downard said the committee unanimously recommended the increase based on the impressive work last year's recipients produced and the way it complemented the region's public transport network.

DETAILS: Anyone needing to find out about Waikato community transport services in their area can visit: waikatocommunitytransport.org.nz



Wanted: Daffodil Day volunteer coordinator

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Council tables changes as Māori Wards welcomed

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

Hauraki District Council wants to reduce the number of its elected members by one per ward for the next local government elections, while adding two Māori ward councillors to the table.

The decision comes after council made the "historic" decision to include Māori Wards for the 2025 and 2028 triennial elections back in October, 2023.

At the time, Mayor Toby Adams said the change was "a step in the right direction".

"These are brave decisions, because there will be people who feel like it's a wrong decision, but they are not always armed with the right information," he said.

The proposed change will reduce the Waihi ward down to four elected representatives; and Paeroa and the Plains down to three.

The two Māori ward councillors - which will make up one additional ward - will bring the total number of councillors to 12, plus the mayor, for 2025.

Mayor Adams said the council's representation review decision, made at its April 24 meeting, showed "courage and common-sense". The next step, however, was for council to take its preferred ward make-up to the community for feedback, as it sat outside the guidelines for "popu-

lation vs councillor ratio".

"Here's where being bold comes in," he said. "With the support of the community, we can achieve something quite unique. We've seen that 13 elected members can get the job done, we don't think we need more councillors, so [the] decision means more inclusivity for the same effectiveness. We think that's a win-win for council and the community."

To achieve the "population to councillor ratio" for council's proposed option, there would need to be a tweak to the Plains and Paeroa ward boundaries.

"We think it makes sense to go with these numbers. We're proposing to slightly amend the Paeroa/Plains border to meet the population to councillor ratio and we're keen to hear what our communities think about this option when we go out for consultation in May," Mayor Adams said.

According to a report presented to the council meeting in April, 3210 of the Hauraki's 22,350 ratepayers were on the Māori roll. Staff also noted that the change, if it went ahead, would not increase forecasted rates or change the total remuneration pool for its councillors. Councils are required to review their representation arrangements every six years.



New town, new school for new principal

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

Waihi East school is welcoming its new principal to the campus this term.

Timaru-born Andrew Wilkinson said he was looking forward to the change of scene after a decade in his former role as principal of Christchurch's Gilberthorpe School.

"My wife is a born and bred North Islander, so she was born in Mata-mata," Andrew said.

"[We wanted] to be around her family and friends. And we've got three kids; four, seven and nine, so wanted to get up somewhere that way before the kids get too old as well."

With the logistical challenge of moving a family cross-country completed, Andrew is now keen to get settled into life in Waihi.

"We're just really excited to get up and join the community and get to know people," he said.

"[I want to] make it clear that I really want to build on the strengths in the school as well. I'm certainly not coming up there to rip things apart and change a lot; more to just build those relationships, get to know people, work out where



Andrew Wilkinson is looking forward to getting to know the Waihi East School community as he takes to the principal's chair.

Photo: SUPPLIED

the strengths are and listen and talk a lot and go from there."

This casual, people-first philosophy informed Andrew's approach to leadership in general, he said.

"I believe quite firmly that if you have strong relationships then everything else has got a much better chance of succeeding," he said.

Also important, he said, was the need for specialised approaches to meet each child's individual needs.

"I'm really, really passionate

about trauma-informed approach and also using the neurosequential model of education - learning a lot about the brain, how our brain works and develops," he said.

"The needs that are coming to schools now, it's just incredible. It's very, very challenging for educators because the support's not really there or the expertise isn't there and there's a lot of children not able to get the help they need."

The trauma-based approach goes hand-in-hand with behavioural development and communication, and Andrew said part of his style was being open and approachable with the students.

"I'm the sort of person that'll be doing manus in the pool with them and I like to have a lot of fun; like to make a lot of Lego, love kids coming to show me their work, love visiting the classes all the time, like to be quite hands on so that the kids see me and I'm visible," he said.

"And obviously that's really important, particularly when you're starting in a new place."



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Services in honour

Thousands turned out across the region to commemorate Anzac Day in many dawn services and civic parades held on April 25.



A flag bearer stands to attention in Paeroa.



A lone bagpiper leads the Thames Civic parade down Pollen St.



Kerepehi Brass Band leads the Paeroa Anzac parade.



The dawn service at Kerepehi.



Thames High students join in.



The Paeroa Civic parade.



Cadets take part in the Thames parade down Pollen St.



Dignitaries lead the Thames Anzac parade.



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Anzac arch acknowledged a century on

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

Former Thames Central School pupils, Rotarians, volunteers, and RSA members gathered under a clear sky the day before Anzac Day to acknowledge the fallen.

Thames Museum Te Whare Taonga o te Kauaeranga unveiled a new storyboard to sit by the historic arch at its entrance - which was officially declared a World War I memorial 100 years ago.

Retelling the arch's history, the museum's management committee chairperson, Carolyn McKenzie, told the crowd that the structure was initially erected to beautify what was once Thames Central School, as well as to be a safety measure against passing traffic.

"The school, formerly Waiokaraka School, stood where the retirement village is now, and Martha St extended across and ran alongside it," she said.

"In 1923, this part of Martha St was closed off and incorporated into the school grounds.

"A wall and this archway were built to protect the

school children from passing traffic; you can still see the gate hinges.

"The decision was then made to include a plaque in the arch's keystone position, to commemorate the school's fallen."

Although the school's Roll of Honour board has been lost, the museum society has so far found the names of 44 former Central School pupils who died during World War I.

The names have been included on the new storyboard - the funds for which were donated by the Thames Rotary Club.

"All around the country, memorials were constructed to the fallen, and to those who had served and re-

turned.

"Hardly any New Zealand city, town, settlement, or district didn't construct some sort of public memorial, and many more were added in places such as halls, schools, churches and cemeteries," Carolyn said.

"Here, an enormous crowd gathered 100 years ago, on Anzac Day, 1924, when the [archway] memorial was offi-

"An enormous crowd gathered 100 years ago, on Anzac Day 1924, when the [archway] memorial was officially dedicated."

- Carolyn McKenzie



The arch contains a plaque commemorating the fallen pupils from the former Central School. Photos: KELLEY TANTAU

cially dedicated."

Thames Rotary president Jaquie Mitchell said the club was "only too happy" to support the commemoration of the "formidable" archway.

"Thames Museum has put so much work into the storyboard and Rotary was pleased to be able to provide the funds to put it together," she said.

"Congratulations to the museum for doing such great work researching this."



Thames Museum's Carolyn McKenzie speaks to the crowd on April 24.

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Rural Life

Young farmers compete in Kerepēhi

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

A Piarere farmer came out on top after two days of competition during the search for New Zealand's FMG Young Farmer of the Year.

Dennis Main, 30, was one of 24 competitors who took part in the Waikato/Bay of Plenty FMG Young Farmer of the Year round at the Kerepēhi Domain in April.

He'll now face six other regional finalists at the Grand Final in Hamilton this July.

Caitlin Logan, event co-ordinator for the FMG Young Farmer of the Year competition, told *The Profile* that there was a good turn-out at the Kerepēhi Domain for what was round six of seven of the annual series.

Hosting the Waikato/Bay of Plenty event in the Hauraki also supported FMG's aim to tackle isolation in rural communities, she said.

The contest acts as a chance for NZ Young Farmers members to challenge themselves, have a bit of fun, and show their fellow club members what they're made of during a series of agriculture-related challenges.

Dennis - a first-time competitor - received top points in the agri-skills and agri-sports

sections, clinching the number one spot. Hamilton City Young Farmers member Stephen Brunskill came in second place and Morrinsville Ngarua Young Farmers member Cam Clayton placed third.

New Zealand Young Farmers chief executive Lynda Copper-smith said it was the regional communities and volunteers who made the FMG Young Farmer of the Year the prestigious event it was today.

"We simply couldn't do it without the tireless work of our local committees, communities, and volunteers. These are people who support us year in, year out, and we're incredibly grateful to everyone who has played a part."

Last year, for the first time in the contest's 55-year history, a female took out the title of FMG Young Farmer of the Year.

Emma Poole, representing the Waikato/Bay of Plenty region, took out the top spot on the podium following her Grand Final efforts.

DETAILS: More info about the contest series can be found at: www.youngfarmers.co.nz.



Stephen Brunskill, second, with winner Dennis Main, and Cam Clayton, third.

Photos: SUPPLIED



Waikato/Bay of Plenty winner Dennis Main at the completion of the contest's farmllet phase.

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Rural Life

Wormalicious at Miller Ave School

The enviroschools team at Miller Ave School received its much awaited worm farm in the last week of term one from Hauraki District Council.

Representatives Callie Hally and Deputy Mayor Paul Milner delivered the donated worm farm and helped the students con-

struct it.

Zero waste facilitator Whaea Lenny was in house to talk to the select group on the construction and set up of the worm farm, and also deliver the all-important worms that had travelled all the way from Tauranga.

“The delivery fits in well with the new vegetable

garden area that has been designed by Judith Munro, who is the learning assistant that guides the school’s Enviro School group,” deputy principal Jane Lupton said.

“Students treated the worms with care and a karakia welcomed them as they were introduced to their new home.

“Fed and watered, it is now the hope of the group that the worm farm will not only help reduce food waste but also provide nutrients for the gardens.

“More worm farms are planned to assist with the food waste from the kura, however this is a great start.”

‘Careless’ company fined

A Waikato based farming company has been convicted and fined \$80,500 in the Hamilton District Court for the unlawful discharges of farm animal effluent to land that occurred in August and December 2020.

Darach Dairy Limited was sentenced on 20 March 2024 by District Court Judge Melinda Dickey on two charges under the Resource Management Act as a result of a prosecution taken by Waikato Regional Council.

The council inspected the Tauhei property in August 2020 after being notified by a member of the public of effluent discharge issues on the farm.

Council staff found large volumes of animal effluent overflowing from a sand trap and a large area of ponded effluent from irrigation which had flowed to a neighbouring property.

In December that same year, the council found similar over-irrigation issues and evidence that historic discharges had occurred. The discharges were a result of poor effluent management and inadequate effluent infrastructure.

In passing sentence, Judge Dickey stated that “the company was careless and failed in its responsibilities to provide a safe and effective disposal system, and in its oversight of their contract milker”.



Putting the bin together.

Photos: SUPPLIED



The new worm farm is delivered to the school’s enviro group.

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Health & Wellbeing

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Re-evaluating what success looks like

OPINION



By MICHAEL WILKES

My style of youth work is done with a basketball in the hand, a bike between the legs or a walking track under foot. It's often so much easier to talk with guys when we are doing something. Although this current season I have not had the luxury to go offsite so much, and so the basketball has become the favoured option.

We chat and shoot hoops, we play one-on-one and sit down for a breather and talk some more.

The funny thing is though if I am honest, I ain't very good at basketball. And for some of the students it's the same. For every 10 shots, we may get one in. And if the success of our time was measured on how many hoops we got

in, most of the boys would consider our time together a failure. Yet they don't. Because the number of hoops shot is not the measure of success. I used to do high rise abseiling for a job. At the time I considered it the best job in the world.

But window cleaning day in day out began to wear thin. I loved rigging, and hanging on ropes, but I struggled with the cycle of cleaning the same windows every three to six months. I needed a new measure of success. And I remember the moment where I realised for me, a good day was when I'd had a good conversation on rope.

That realisation was gold for me. It helped me realise what I valued at work. I valued connection, going deep, and sharing life.

And it was the sort of job where we could achieve the task well and still have a good chat.

That light bulb moment changed how I measured success for me at work and breathed life into what was becoming stagnant.

So today I hope that if you too are feeling like things are a little dry, maybe take a moment to consider what success looks like for you. What are the bits that give you life. And maybe it's time to lean in and focus on those bits a little more.

- Michael Wilkes is a Living Well Trust Youth Worker



Supporting Rangatahi and their whānau with Kia Piki te Ora

Kia Piki te Ora in Hauraki has a focus on rangatahi.

Connecting with rangatahi and their whānau in the spaces and places they choose is one of the approaches Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki, Ngā Wai Tāpara a Rangatahi takes to reach this priority population.

Our kaupapa revolves around supporting rangatahi to aspire to become the best versions of themselves.

What that looks like in practice is in-kura programme delivery, community events, and four-day Noho Marae on local Hauraki Marae held three times every year. These popular noho engage rangatahi to share in Te Ao Māori approaches to resilience, understanding relationships and being physically active.

Kia Piki te Ora is a National programme and Te Korowai Hauora o

Hauraki is one of 11 Kaupapa Māori providers across Hauraki-Waikato that delivers this service to whānau.

"We are 11 months into the delivery of a two-year programme, with regional collaboration being the key to ensuring we provide a consistent approach for the prevention of suicide for our Pare Hauraki rangatahi and their whānau," Gypsy Roberts, Poukura Oranga, Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki, said.

If you would like to connect with our Ngā Wai Tāpara a Rangatahi crew who deliver this kaupapa, please contact us on 0508-tekorowai (835 676), ask for Wai Tāpara, email waitapara@korowai.co.nz, or check our Ngā Wai Tāpara Instagram page for all upcoming events www.instagram.com/wai_tapara.

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New cervical screening option

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If you have a friend or whānau member who is eligible for screening, let them know about the new cervical screening self-test option. It's quick and easy and might just save their life.

Head Lice

Anyone can get head lice. It does not matter how clean or dirty a person's hair is. It is spread by crawling from one person's hair to another, usually between people who are in close contact such as family or in a school classroom environment.

If your child has live head lice they should stay away from kura or school until treatment has started. Chemical treatments or wet combing are the usual ways to treat head lice. You can buy over the counter treatments at your local pharmacy, some supermarkets offer treatments or you can speak to your healthcare provider or nurse for advice. Ordinary shampoo or soap will not kill head lice.

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Kia piki te ora in Hauraki has a focus on rangatahi

If you would like to connect with our Ngā Wai Tāpara a Rangatahi crew, who deliver this kaupapa, please contact us:



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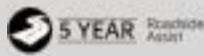
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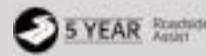
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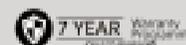
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Maypole dance celebrates unfurling of flag



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.

1900

Twenty four of Thames' Waiokaraka school children danced the Maypole dance as part of a ceremony of unfurling the flag – a custom designed to instill national identity and pride in children and encourage them to appreciate the honour of the Union Jack.

The Maypole was decked with red, white, and blue ribbons and the effect as these were plaited round the pole by the children was very pretty.

The performance reflected great credit on the children and teachers and was loudly applauded by the spectators.

Meanwhile, the progress of Waihi was very apparent when viewed from coaches crossing the plains from the Karangahake Gorge. Where only a few cottages stood a few years previously, a large town now spread from the flat all up the rise and high up on the Martha Hill.

The cottages and shanties had iron roofs that shone in the sun like flames. Beyond these, the town extended another mile



Dancing the Maypole dance at the unfurling of the flag ceremony, Waiokaraka School, Thames.

Photo: SUPPLIED

towards the north beyond the Grand Junction mine.

Allotments were pegged out and some very nice cottages had been built in this neighbourhood which was shaping up to be the swell part of the town.

The Waihi Company's property was quite a hive of industry, with five shafts and their steam machinery going night and day, their three lines of railway and the batteries both at Waihi and Waikino in full swing.

On all sides was heard the hum of machinery and at night the noise of the Silverton battery sounded exactly like the roar of the surf.

People were predicting a great future for Waihi and that it would be the biggest town in the colony, outside of the chief cities. But there was a seamy side

to the town - public abattoirs were badly needed there, as well as the introduction of a night soil service. A sound sanitary scheme needed to be instituted at once to prevent the plague and fever germs.

Mr Slevin was doing his bit – he opened the Waihi City Baths which provided hot and cold baths and showers from 9am to 9pm or 11pm on Saturdays. Towels were provided and the service was much appreciated by all residents.

The only excitement at Turua for awhile had been a tin can reception given by some larrikins (of whom Turua had a few) to a newly married couple. The larrikins made night hideous for a couple of hours and then quietly dispersed.

Also at Turua, new stables

were nearing completion. They would accommodate between 20 and 30 horses and traps so people coming via the Turua-Nethererton road, instead of having to put up their horses and traps as best they could, would have comfortable stabling for one and dry housing for the other.

At Paeroa, some of the hats worn by ladies in public places of amusement came under fire.

At a recent concert, the hats, like a tipsy man, obstructed the view with their broad brims and lofty feathers spreading like eagles wings.

An unfortunate patron, who happened to be behind one of these monster hats, could not see the performance and declared that his wife's hat was now in jeopardy.

Chris' Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parminter

1. After nitrogen and oxygen, what is the third most common element in the atmosphere?
2. Cattle are referred to as 'bovine'; what are pigs referred to as?
3. The court case of Nix vs Hedden in the US Supreme Court in 1893 made the unanimous decision to classify the tomato as a.) a vegetable, b.) a fruit or c.) both?
4. What is the te reo Māori name for *Leptospermum scoparium*, also known as Tea Tree?
5. True or False? Planetary scientists have theorised that it 'rains diamonds' on Neptune.
6. The word SCUBA is an acronym that stands for 'self contained underwater __'. What does the BA stand for?
7. Which team won the New Zealand Super Rugby competition in 2012?
8. A 1961 novel by Joseph Heller coined a phrase describing a paradoxical situation from which an individual cannot escape because of contradictory rules or limitations. What was the name of the novel?
9. In which month/year were Paeroa's Criterion Bridge flood gates closed for the first time since their installation in 2018?
10. What is the common name of the acid that gives lemons their sour taste?

Answers: 1. Argon (around 1%); 2. Citric acid; 3. True; 4. Mānuka; 5. False; 6. a) a vegetable; 7. The Beatles; 8. Catch-22; 9. February 2023; 10. Citric acid



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Saturday 4th May

Mercury Bay V Whangamata

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BYES



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Teams named first indicate home team



SENIOR B

Whangamata	V	Te Aroha COBRAS	Sat May 4th	12.25pm
Coromandel	V	Waihi	Sat May 4th	2.00pm
Waihou	V	Ngatea	Sat May 4th	12.25pm
Thames	V	Mercury Bay	Sat May 4th	12.25pm
Hauraki North	-	Bye		

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Brian Robinson of Turua-based Mobile Mechanics.

Photo: SUPPLIED

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"We also supply batteries, and brake disc machining," owner Brian Robinson said.

Brian has been running the business since 2019, with a vision to "help out as much as we can".

Being on the clock most hours of the day, "people ring up when they break down [and] I'll go out".

"If someone rings up on a weekend and

I'm around, I'll do it," he said. Travelling to clients is a big way Mobile Mechanics can help make an inconvenient situation a little more convenient.

"Being mobile means I can come to you, or you can come to our Turua base."

It is evident that Brian is doing something right as "the business has grown again this year, we keep growing". Brian and wife Caroline would like to send out a huge thank you for the continued and growing support for Mobile Mechanics.

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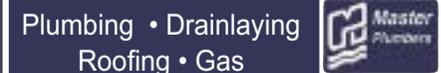
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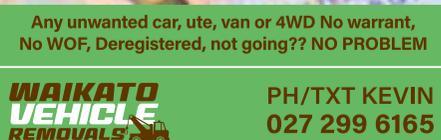
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Kaiwhakahaere Matua | Chief Executive Hauraki District Council

Kia ora, Talofa lava, Bula, Malo e lelei and Hello! Local Government New Zealand is working in proud partnership with Hauraki District Council (HDC) on this critical role. In accordance with the Local Government Act, this role is offered as a fixed-term for a 5 year period.

Kō wai mātou | About Hauraki District Council

Here is your opportunity to make a real difference in the community, working to deliver the essential services that make the Hauraki District a great place to live. The Hauraki District is made up of 3 main wards, with over 20 villages/settlements, accessible to beautiful beaches, walkways, cycle tracks and easy access to major cities.

HDC provides services across a range of areas including roading, waters, parks and recreation, libraries, cemeteries, animal management, rubbish and recycling, community events and so much more!

The Council is also responsible for ensuring that all activities are conducted with a Te Ao Māori lens, building strong relationships with Iwi, Hapū and other Māori/Māori organisations.

Te ahuatanga a te tūranga | About the role

The Chief Executive at HDC reports to the Council through the Mayor. The CE has 5 direct reports, and indirectly leads a team of around 230 people. The CE is responsible for an operating budget of approximately \$58mil, and a capital budget of approximately \$38mil.

The CE is responsible for the delivery of HDC's Strategic Plan, including all Council operations. The role acts as a strategic advisor to the Mayor and Council.

The CE leads in a way that embodies the HDC values of Kōreoro (Communication), Whakaute (Respect), Manawanui (Commitment) and Ngākau reka (Positive Attitude) that form the core of how HDC kaimahi carry out their mahi and conduct interactions with others. These values shape the culture of HDC and demonstrates what is important within HDC. This is 'The Hauraki Way'.

Ko koe tēnei | About you

You will be a senior leader, with demonstrated experience in developing and leading high performing teams. You will be financially competent, have experience in developing and delivering to strategic plans, and working with a governing body.

With a strong understanding of the history of Aotearoa New Zealand and a good understanding of the significance of and obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi, you can apply Te Tiriti principles in a meaningful way. You will also have a competency with Te Ao Māori, Tikanga, and Te Reo Māori or a commitment to starting your journey and taking ownership of your learning and growth. Ideally, you have strong experience building relationships and partnerships with Māori.

Experience in local government processes would be an advantage but it is not necessary - political awareness and sensitivity is a must as is experience working in a complex and regulated environment.

Most importantly, you will be invested in the Hauraki District, and either reside within the district or nearby.

What next?

If you're interested in hearing more, great, we'd love to hear from you! For more information please contact us via email at HaurakiCE@lgz.co.nz or phone Erica Thomas, People & Culture Manager LGNZ on 0273435734. Alternatively if you're ready to apply, please send your application to HaurakiCE@lgz.co.nz.

Applications close at 5pm on Wednesday 15th May. We will respond to applications with more information as they are received.

Please note, we are only able to consider people who have the right to live and work in Aotearoa New Zealand.



CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12pm Monday

Death Notice

MAPSON, Raymond Hartley (Chappy):
Passed away on 26th April, 2024, after a long illness; aged 70 years. Cherished second son of Charlie and Jean Mapson and much loved husband of Araceli. Loved brother of Rob (deceased) and Lynette, Ngaire and Greg, Barbara and Bob, Peter and Tracy, Bruce, Kevin and Bobbi. Heartfelt thanks to the staff of Ohinemuri Home for their wonderful care of Chappy. A service for Chappy will be held in the Grahamstown Chapel, 102 Kirkwood Street, Thames, on Saturday 4th May, at 1pm, followed by private cremation.

Church Notices

Thames Spiritualist Church, Sunday May 5 speakers are Eric and Margaret

Assembly of God

10am Sundays.
Scout Hall.
Baker St, Waihi

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Competitive prices
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Public Notice

Thames-Coromandel District Council Meetings - May 2024

Pursuant to Section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, public notice is hereby given that the following meetings will be held during May 2024.

Council meetings:

Long Term Plan Hearings

Wednesday 1 and Thursday 2 May 2024, 09:00 am, Thames Council Chambers, 515 Mackay Street, Thames

Long Term Plan Deliberations

Tuesday 21 and Wednesday 22 May 2024, 09:00 am, Thames Council Chambers, 515 Mackay Street, Thames

Committee Meeting

Risk and Assurance Committee Meeting

Thursday 23 May 2024 09:00 am, Thames Council Chambers, 515 Mackay Street, Thames

Please visit <https://www.tcdc.govt.nz/Our-Council/Meetings/Agendas-Reports-and-Minutes> for copies of agendas.

A Lawrie
Chief Executive
Thames-Coromandel District Council

www.tcdc.govt.nz

Public Notice

NOTICE TO PREFERRED CLASS OF ALIENEES AS TO RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL

Section 147A and 152,
Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993

SUBJECT OF APPLICATION

Hapururakahu B, being the land contained in Record of Title 315907 with an area of 7.6890 hectares.

The land is located on Wainui Road in the Waikato Maniapoto Māori Land Court District.

NOTICE

- We, Laing Farms NZ Limited, have applied to the Māori Land Court at Hamilton for confirmation of a sale of the above Māori freehold land.
- That sale cannot proceed unless the owner gives to the preferred classes of alienees a right of first refusal.
- Any member of the preferred classes of alienees who wishes to be considered by the owner as a prospective purchaser of the land must give written notice of their intention to pursue a right of first refusal at the hearing of the application and put forward a tender.
- That written notice and tender must be filed in the Maori Land Court not later than 16 July 2024.
- If no notice is filed by the date set out above, the Court may confirm the alienation of the land by way of sale.
- A copy of the terms of sale can be obtained from Tiana Barker at tiana.barker@mccawlewis.co.nz.
- Further information about the application may be obtained from the Court at mlcwaikato@justice.govt.nz or Level 2, BNZ Centre, 354 Victoria Street, Hamilton

**NEED STAFF?
GOT SOMETHING TO SELL?**
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and get results!
Phone Nikki: 022 130 3885

Last month's winner of the lotto ticket was Rochelle Monkley, who found Pete in the April 24th edition in the Thames Art Society advert. Go to page 2 for details on how to enter.



ART & ENTERTAINMENT

Exhibition to raise funds for Project Mammogram

Whitianga Lions Club's Art Expo is returning this year to the Whitianga Town Hall on King's Birthday Weekend, from opening night on May 31 to June 3, with all profits going to Project Mammogram.

"The Art Expo committee is pleased to provide this fabulous opportunity for artists to showcase their work," Art Expo committee chair Mike Brown said.

"Its central location makes it very accessible to the public, and we hope with SH25A now open, that there will be lots of visitors to our area over the long weekend.

"Entry is free and that encourages people to come and have a look at the talent we have in this community, and hopefully buy something to take home."

Artists who have previously exhibited at Art Expo will be invited to the 2024 exhibition. Contact will also be made with artists who have expressed an interest in taking part.

"We know that there are so many talented artists in the Coromandel community and rather than risk missing them with an invite, we'd like them to contact us by emailing us at whitibrown4@gmail.com, and we will send them an entry form with details of the event.

"Whether you paint, sculpt, work in mixed media, are a potter, jewellery artist, wood turner or wood carver, photographer... basically if you create visual art then this expo is for you.

"This year we also have an exciting new competition for Coromandel Peninsula school students in years 11-13 with \$500 as the first prize for the winning artwork, second \$250 and third \$100, which will be judged by the Whitianga Art Group committee.

"We're asking students to create a visual artwork that depicts life on the Coromandel Peninsula either 'past or present'. If this sounds like something you could do, either talk to your school art teacher or email us at whitibrown4@gmail.com and we can send you the entry details."

The winners of this competition will be announced on opening night and all student entries will be on display. If students want, they can even sell their artwork at the event.

"This year we are giving artists, who sell an item during the Art Expo the ability to refresh their stand with a replacement piece of art during the event. We want artists to have as much opportunity as possible to sell their artwork."



The NZ Highwaymen will come to Thames this June.

Photo: SUPPLIED

NZ Highwaymen to visit

The NZ Highwaymen will perform in Thames on June 19 at the Thames War Memorial Civic Centre as part of a nationwide tour.

Brendan Dugan, Eddie Low, Gray Bartlett, and Dennis Marsh are the NZ Highwaymen.

Between them, New Zealand's Highwaymen have recorded more than 100 albums, many of which went Gold and Platinum.

It's a once in a lifetime opportunity to see four of New Zealand's most loved Country artists performing together live on the same stage.

Their shows have delighted, and the music is familiar, belting out the biggest hits from international legends along with their own hit songs.

Although the NZ Highwaymen are known individually in their own right and have toured the country many times in various groups, including the sell-out Highway of Legends tour along with the recent NZ Highwaymen Tour, which took them from Keri Keri to Invercargill last year.

The legends are back in June and July in both the North and South Islands with some new

songs as well as each star's favourites along with a humorous and entertaining show.

The NZ Highwaymen will also be launching a live DVD filmed at the James Hay Theatre in Christchurch.

The original home of the TV programme, That's Country. The DVD includes performances and interviews and will be on sale at the shows.

It's a very special country music event not to be missed.

DETAILS: Visit www.nzhighwaymen.com to find the outlets where you can buy tickets.

SPORTS REPORTS

Send your sports reports and photos to editor@valleyprofile.co.nz

Football friendlies

The junior football teams at Hauraki Plains Football Club took to Paeroa Domain recently for a tournament against players from as far away as Waikato, Bay of Plenty and Auckland. Paeroa Rangers Soccer Club president Bob Turlington said the club played host to teams from Omokoroa, Papamoa, Waipuna and Papakura City. "The point of the tournament is giving kids an opportunity to play other New Zealand kids who they would never play," he said. "Our small club did very well. We lost in the semi-finals to Papakura City in a penalty shoot out."



Papamoa plays Papakura City.



The Paeroa Rangers team played well, just missing out in the semi-finals.

Photos: SUPPLIED



Max Van Eyk fights a Waipuna player for the ball.



Visiting teams enjoy the tournament.



Sofia Van Eyk makes a key save.



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

SUPPORT LOCAL

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



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



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

SUPPORT LOCAL



SUDOKU

148

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

				8	3	7		
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HARD

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7	9	4	1	8	3	2	5	6
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www.thepuzzlecompany.co.nz

JUMBO CROSSWORD

168

ACROSS

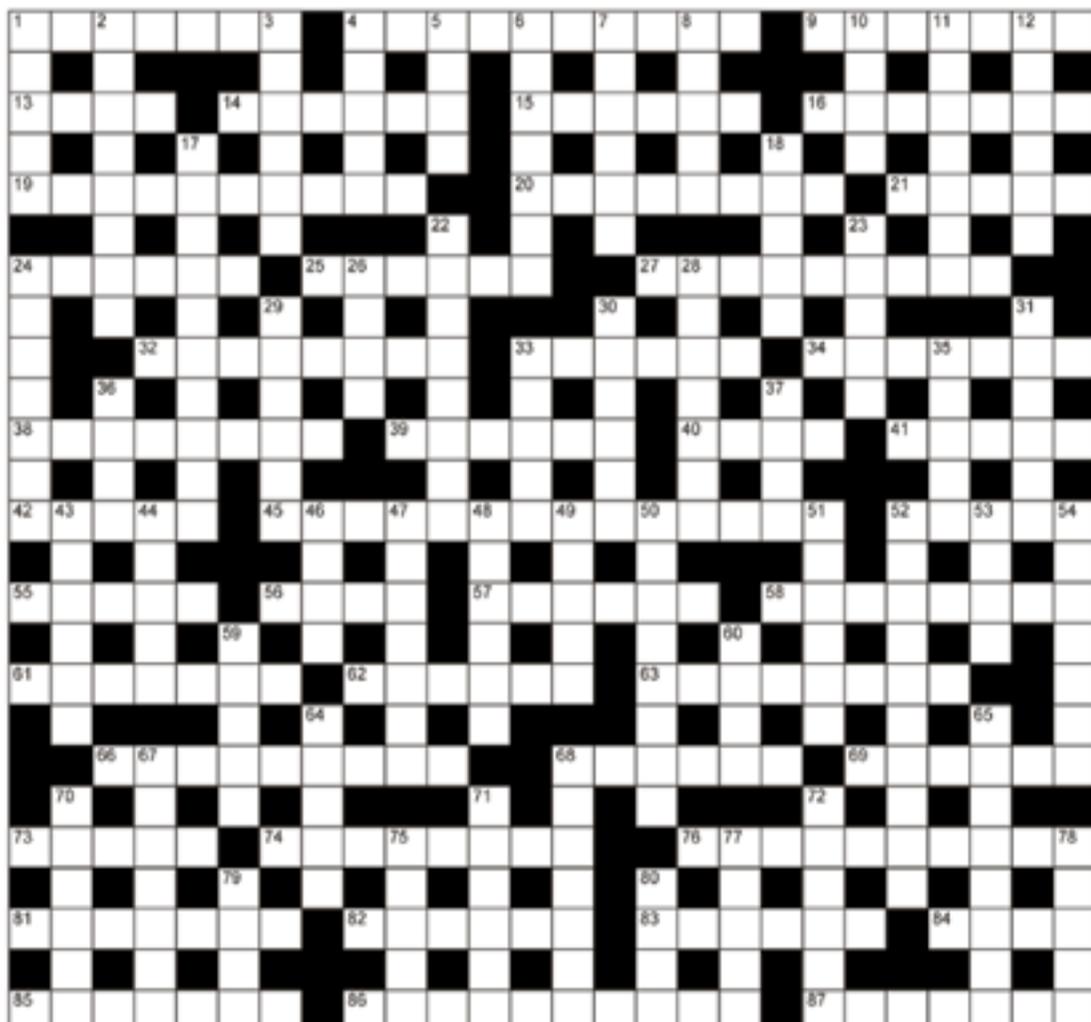
- 1 Horizon (7)
- 4 Synthetic (10)
- 9 Mystify (7)
- 13 Loyal (4)
- 14 Writer (6)
- 15 Very seldom (6)
- 16 Defy (7)
- 19 Failing in what duty requires (10)
- 20 Criminal (8)
- 21 Shelf (5)
- 24 Sheen (6)
- 25 Schedule (6)
- 27 Exact copy (9)
- 32 Mishap (8)
- 33 Deadly epidemic (6)
- 34 Optimistic (7)
- 38 Drapes (8)
- 39 Ludicrous (6)
- 40 Reverberation (4)
- 41 Stop (5)
- 42 Citrus fruit (5)
- 45 Letters (14)
- 52 Precipitous (5)
- 55 Let in (5)
- 56 Disarray (4)
- 57 Affront (6)
- 58 Carving artist (8)
- 61 Skull (7)
- 62 Brawl (6)
- 63 Competition winner (8)
- 66 Met Monroe (anag) (9)
- 68 Issue sparingly (6)
- 69 Decrease (6)
- 73 Grinding tooth (5)
- 74 Abnormally sensitive and obsessive (8)

DOWN

- 1 Glossy fabric (5)
- 2 Last-born (8)
- 3 Arouse (6)
- 4 Farewell (5)
- 5 Layer (4)
- 6 Recipe (7)
- 7 Ring (6)
- 8 Permit (5)
- 10 Wicked (4)
- 11 Objection (7)
- 12 Vigour (6)
- 17 Mischievous elf (10)
- 18 Erect (5)
- 22 Shaky (8)
- 23 Thespian (5)
- 24 Melodic, songlike (7)
- 26 Delight (4)
- 28 Musical instrument (7)
- 29 Eat alfresco (6)
- 30 Infuriate (6)
- 31 Disorderly struggle (6)
- 33 Chubby (5)
- 35 Oust (5)
- 36 Clip (4)

ACROSS

- 37 Elegant and stylish (4)
- 43 Tolerate (6)
- 44 Vegetable (5)
- 46 Portent (4)
- 47 Dais (7)
- 48 Runner's pain (6)
- 49 Fertile patch in desert (5)
- 50 Fragile, easily broken (8)
- 51 Break loose (6)
- 52 Outline (10)
- 53 Consumes (4)
- 54 Steal (7)
- 59 Protect (5)
- 60 Pudding cereal (4)
- 64 Smile contemptuously (5)
- 65 Rough costing (8)
- 67 Study (7)
- 68 Miracle (anag)(7)
- 70 Reddish metal (6)
- 71 Pour through sieve (6)
- 72 Field (6)
- 75 Attain (5)
- 77 Subdue (5)
- 78 Requirements (5)
- 79 Nil (4)
- 80 Render semi-conscious (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Put up or shut up, 8 Ambush, 14 Deter, 15 Bulletin, 16 Amorous, 17 Crime, 18 Ego, 19 Clothes, 21 Acetylene, 22 Devour, 25 Pythagoras, 27 Uncle Sam, 28 Devoid, 31 Apollo, 33 Crooked, 34 Acquit, 35 Stow, 37 Doc, 39 Bout, 40 Squeeze, 41 Economise, 42 Prevent, 43 Porridge, 48 Fragment, 52 Foresee, 56 Retriever, 57 Funnier, 58 Lewd, 59 Nib, 60 Sink, 61 Bruise, 62 Student, 63 Nearly, 65 Prefer, 66 Showcase, 68 Settle down, 71 Slices, 72 Condiment, 74 Anomaly, 76 Hit, 79 Aside, 80 Perturb, 81 Long shot, 83 Plain, 84 Jester, 85 Under the knife.

DOWN: 2 Usually, 3 Unlit, 4 Opt, 5 Song, 6 Unaccustomed, 7 U-boat, 8 Absence, 9 Back, 10 Spinet, 11 Utter, 12 Drooped, 13 Mollycoddle, 14 Devoted, 20 Engrossed, 23 Brochure, 24 Banquet, 26 Holster, 27 Upkeep, 29 Outside, 30 Vigour, 32 Photo, 34 Ached, 36 Wheat, 38 Gong, 43 Parts, 44 Retinue, 45 Ibis, 46 Govern, 47 Prone, 48 Frittata, 49 Adrenalin, 50 Mallard, 51 Newel, 52 Freight, 53 Substandard, 54 Effuse, 55 Unreasonable, 64 Pelican, 65 Perhaps, 67 Whopper, 69 Well-off, 70 Demise, 71 Straw, 73 Mourn, 75 Mason, 77 Deft, 78 Flat, 82 Née.

SPORTS REPORTS

Send your sports reports and photos to editor@valleyprofile.co.nz

RUGBY

HAURAKI NORTH DIAMONDS

The Waitakaruru International Stadium witnessed a gripping clash as the Hauraki North Diamonds clashed with Matamata under radiant sunshine this weekend, marking a stark departure from the previous week's inclement weather. The return of Cory Middleton at 10 from injury injected fresh vigour into the Diamonds' lineup, setting the stage for an intense showdown.

The Diamonds burst out of the gates, asserting their dominance with a relentless display of possession and territorial control in the initial 20 minutes. However, despite their concerted efforts, they faltered in converting crucial phases near the try line into points. Matamata seized the momentum shift, leveraging their physicality to notch two quick tries, heading into halftime with a 10-0 lead.

The second half witnessed a resurgent Diamonds side, with fullback Naketa-Rose Tauatevalu igniting their scoring with a sublime try, narrowing the deficit to 5-10. Another display of skill saw scrum-half Josey Hansen cross the line for a crucial try, complemented by her flawless conversion kick, swinging the score to 12-10 with 20 minutes remaining.

In a dramatic turn, the match was momentarily halted as the referee sustained an injury, necessitating a brief substitution before the original referee resumed duties. However, a lapse in the Diamonds' defensive line allowed Matamata to clinch a decisive try in the dying moments, sealing a narrow 15-12 victory.

Reflecting on the spirited encounter, Hauraki North Diamonds manager Vita Dryden commended her team for their resilience and unity amidst a challenging contest. Aisling Hahessy and Chloe Burgess stood out for their exemplary performances in the forwards, while Josey Hansen earned accolades for her stellar contribution in the backs, receiving the coveted Karly Forsyth Award.

Despite the heartbreak of defeat, the Diamonds departed the field with heads held high, embodying the essence of integrity and teamwork that defines the spirit of rugby.

- Andrew Connaughton

CLUB RUGBY

Round 5, Silcock Shield, by Tighthead Ted

After last week's rain and miserable conditions, blue skies and near perfect conditions greeted the two Senior A matches on the weekend, Waihi hosting Thames and Waihou playing COBRAS at Boyd Park. With the split round, Whangamata, Paeroa, Hauraki North and Mercury Bay enjoyed the weekend off.

WAIHI v THAMES

Waihi Athletic Rugby Club, Kenny St, Waihi. Referee: R Rogers

A hard and fast track greeted the teams as they ran out on to the field, then after a minute's silence and the last post observed, the match started. Thames must have still been observing that minute, as Waihi cut them open and had their first five pointer



James Mahe - another barnstorming performance for Waihi Athletic.

Photo: SUPPLIED/TVRFU

after 120 seconds. A Matty Axtens surge up the middle, a classy offload to Dylan Horne, and then an even classier offload off the ground from Horne to tighthead prop Siosaia Fifita saw the big man crash over by the posts. A missed conversion from usually reliable kicker Quinn Collard, and Thames were chasing the game from then on in. Waihi dominated proceeding for the next 20 minutes, with tries to man of the match Axtens and winger Bellamy - courtesy of a lovely kick through from Collard - and a penalty. Twenty-two nil after 21 minutes and Thames looked in deep schisse.

The Taniwha dug their way out though, and after being starved of possession and position for the opening quarter, they finally started to get some pill. With their midfield of Joji Tavura and Laulea Mau running hard and making inroads into the tough Waihi defence, they were rewarded with a try to big lock Corbin Saunders. A lovely sideline conversion from Samuels Tutapu, and the first spell ended 22-7 to the home side.

Waihi started quickly in the second chapter of the match, energizer bunny flanker Kenan Gillson claiming a five pointer from a lineout drive, and then eightman Isaac Seiuli repeating the dose from another. The middle period then turned into an arm wrestle, Thames battling hard, but with a faltering lineout, they were unable to apply pressure for long periods. In this time, big Waihi lock Ben Mellow looked like he should have been wearing a black and blue jersey, snaring four in a row off their throw.

The final ten minutes almost overheated the scoreboard, Waihi piled on three more tries, and Thames snatched their second. Lock Horne was rewarded for a non-stop effort with a five pointer. Man moun-



Hauraki North Diamond Josey Hansen was awarded the Karly Forsyth Award for back row player of the day.

Photo: WHA OUT PHOTOGRAPHY

tain midfielder Kevin Inoke crashed over by the posts, and then Bellamy with his second try out wide - laid on by some Inoke magic.

Thames put a full stop to the match, scoring after the hooter, substitute hooker Weston Waite busting over under the posts. Thames would have been disappointed with their lineout, having to revert to trick-plays after Mellow's dismantling of that set piece, but their scrum shaded the locals.

Meanwhile the Waihi lineout was a different beast from a week previously, hooker Ethan Bentley doing the mahi and rewarded with a near per-

fect record after a top 80 minute shift. There were a few players who must have caught the eye of Thames Valley coach Harrison, (who was multitasking with Daddy-Day-Care duties also). Thames fullback/halfback Seth Roe, who battled a never-ending tide of red and black, and the midfield pair of Mau and Tavura, who were a handful for 80 minutes.

Among the low numbers to put in quality shifts were the too many times mentioned Saunders, and tough as teak flanker Caeleb Duffin. Waihi's entire pack was on song, loose forwards Axtens and Gillson standouts. Prop

James Mahe was always dangerous with ball in hand, and veteran front-ranker Brad Nightingale produced a tackling masterclass in his 40 minutes. The Waihi high numbers showed at times how lethal they can be, with no one putting in a bad game - Collard ran well, and wing Petoru Pouri-Lane showcased his versatility taking over at halfback.

Waihi 51 (D Bellamy 2, K Gilson, D Horne, K Inoke, I Seiuli, S Fifita, M Axtens tries; Collard 4 conversions, penalty) beat Thames 14 (C Saunders, W Waite tries; S Tutapu 2 conversions). HT: 22-7.

COBRAS v WAIHOU

Boyd Park, Te Aroha. Referee: D Tui-Taylor

In the Friday Morning Rugby Chat on The Valley's FaceBook page, soothsayers Scotty Day and Leon Holden predicted that goalkicking would be the winning and losing of this clash, and so it was. A sideline conversion from Ronin Stephenson, in an ugly duckling of kicks, snuck over the cross-bar to give Waihou the victory. This was also the first time Waihou held the lead in the match, after trailing 0-7 at the change of direction, and 6-12 with time up on the clock.

COBRAS will be ruing three missed kicks through the game, all "sitters". But on the other side of the same coin, Waihou will be kicking themselves after butchering two dead set try opportunities in the first forty, a knock on with the line open, and number 8 Dan Pearce dropping the ball in the process of forcing it. So perhaps fourteen points done cold by Waihou, and nine by the Snakes - but then where would the drama have come from!

COBRAS started like a house on fire, winning collisions and out-enthusing the Mongoose, but were not rewarded for their early dominance over the first 20 minutes. It became a wrestling match from then on in, as Waihou warmed into their work. Neither side was able to put the other into a headlock and exert any constant pressure to keep the scoreboard moving. COBRAS scrum was taking control of the game, and perhaps this could have been used more.

The game battled on, a tough affair, no quarter asked or given, either side in with a chance of the win. Waihou were the team to find another gear though in the last few minutes. With captain Sam McCahon leading the way, phase play saw Waihou finally break the COBRAS defence for their first five pointer, and a one point deficit, kick to come. The rest is the stuff of legends - the day of the miracle conversion! Sergio Schuler at fullback one of COBRAS best and Waihou got full value from halfback Devyn Sheehan. Soothsayer Scotty Day gave punch from the bench for Waihou, as did the Snake's Rowan Dare.

COBRAS 12 (L Neels, K Paseka tries; S Schuler conversion) lost to Waihou 13 (D Morgan try; R Stephenson conversion, 2 penalties). HT: 7-0

SENIOR B RESULTS | Round 4

Waihi 25 v Whangamata 23; Coromandel 39 v Waihou 10; Mercury Bay 27 v Hauraki North 29; Ngatea 17 v COBRAS 27.

MEET THE LOCALS

MOVING DAY IS FAST APPROACHING

If you want to be part of our annual feature and let the new families arriving in our area know about your business, or just remind the locals that you're still around....

Contact Nikki: 022 130 3885

Publishing June 5th - Booking Deadline May 11th



SPORTS

Smooth rolling to State Wars for inline hockey star

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

Age has never been a barrier for Waihi's Hunter Pert when it comes to setting and achieving goals.

The keen inline skater and ice hockey player has dreams of playing for the Pittsburgh Penguins in America's National Hockey League, and at only 12 years old, he is already well on his way.

Hunter is heading to St Louis, Missouri, in July to play in the 20th anniversary State Wars roller hockey tournament. It's billed as the biggest event in roller hockey, with teams participating from across North America and the world.

Hunter will be playing for Australia's Aussie Roos, an 11-and-under team, as a forward.

"He is the only [New Zealander] on the team, they're from all around Australia," mum Bonnie Pert said.

His selection for the team came off the back of his success at the Bendigo Cup tournament in Melbourne in March, where he played for the Bendigo Blaze on both the 11-and-under, and 13-and-under teams.

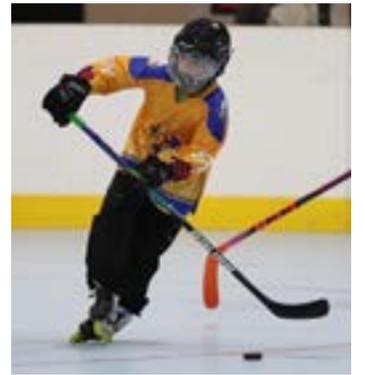
"It's the first time I've been anywhere international," Hunter said.

"I played in two grades... we played around 15 [40 minute] games. It was nerve-wracking."

As well as being named in the Aussie Roos, Hunter also returned from Australia with a couple of medals for his team's performances - second in plate for the under-11 team, and fifth overall for



Hunter Pert is only 12 years old, but he's already playing in international tournaments. Above: with his awards from the Bendigo Cup in Melbourne. Top right: going through his paces on the rink (photo supplied). Bottom right: Hunter dreams of one day playing in the NHL.



Photos: ALICE PARMINTER

the under-13 team, and a trophy for most valuable player on the under-11 team.

The wins are validation for Hunter, who has wanted to be a professional player all his life.

"He learnt how to walk holding a hockey stick," Bonnie said.

"He's been a goal-setter right from an early age... He never gave up. He kept training, he kept getting better, he kept trialling."

Currently, Hunter plays inline

hockey for the Mt Maunganui Mustangs, and travels to Auckland for ice hockey. "We've kind of got to go where the players are, and [we] travel a lot," Bonnie said.

"I never thought I would travel the world thanks to my kids, but I'm happy that they're doing it."

Bonnie said the family is also looking ahead to next year's Bendigo Cup, and is hoping to raise the profile of the sport in New Zealand and take some other players along

with them. "We'd like to get some more exposure and try and bring some more competitive, for the juniors, hockey to New Zealand," she said.

"There's a lot of kids in New Zealand who are talented. They just didn't know about the tournament, and since we've come back, they're all kind of like, 'we're keen'."

Meanwhile, Hunter is brushing up his skills ahead of the July tournament. "We've had to catch up

and work out how we can support him," Bonnie said.

"Being so young, it can be a bit of a block because normally we're looking at older kids who have these kinds of goals.

"And when he first started, his body had to catch up with where his head was already at. Now we're just trying to keep the ego in check."



Advertisement for Carswell Construction Ltd. The ad features a collage of images: a building under construction with scaffolding, a white Kiwispan garage, a white Skyline Building, a blue metal building, a white garage door, and various garage door openers. Logos for Kiwispan, Skyline Buildings, and Garador are visible.

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