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Life after the bottle

Alcoholics Anonymous members share their stories with reporter ALICE PARMINTER ahead of a public meeting in Paeroa aimed at offering judgement-free help to those struggling with drinking

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

Susan was, as she put it, a middle-class white woman. Married, had a job, had children. But she was also an alcoholic. “Right from when I could remember, I always felt like I never belonged. So I got married young and had children young. Because that will fix me,” she said. “Then I discovered alcohol. And for a long time, I could hold it all together.” Susan would stop drinking for weeks on end, to prove the alcohol wasn’t a problem. But she’d always find a way back. “[I] engineered how to get back to drinking - pick a fight or something. I was just

going through the motions of life, like a zombie.” Mike, a business professional, found himself on a downhill slide after losing his wife to cancer. Already accustomed to a heavy-drinking work culture, it was easy to disappear into a bottle. “The amount that I drank should have killed a horse. I just couldn’t cope with life. So alcohol became my default,” he said. “I became so mentally ill that I decided that it was time to follow [my wife], and I ended up in a mental institution.” For Piri, the attachment to alcohol came

early, and eventually landed him in prison. “The moment I picked up my first drink at eight years old, I went straight into blackout,” he said. “Our families made their own brew - I didn’t know what an alcoholic was. [But] if you weren’t able to hold your alcohol, then you’re not really that good.” Diane, meanwhile, was living on the streets before she’d even reached her teens. “I ran into a violent partner and ran into alcohol and drugs - at the age of 21, I was sitting in... Arohata [Prison] with a three-year-old son on the outside. A lot of that is

blocked from my mind, a lot of the trauma, because it was a very violent time. “I’d go for periods of time and not drink at all, and seemingly look quite normal on the outside and have a job and have a family and get my son off to school and pay the rent. And then I’d pick up that first drink, and it could be three days later before I came home.” These four very different people share one major similarity - they’re all decades sober. Each found their way to an Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) fellowship, and they

CONTINUED ON P2

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Public meeting to offer help

CONTINUED FROM P1

credit the movement for helping them turn their lives around.

As per AA's policy, their full names and faces are obscured to maintain anonymity. What's important, they say, is their message. Nevertheless, these individuals are comfortable sharing their stories - they are proud of how far they've come.

"We are anonymous, but we're not secret. And people need to know... where to come when they need help," Diane said.

AA was founded in 1935 and now has branches in hundreds of countries. It is run entirely by its members, and with no fees or religious or organisational ties, the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking.

Meeting locations can be found at www.aa.org.nz - currently there are regular AA meetings in Paeroa, Tairua, Te Aroha, Thames, Waihi, Whangamatā and Whitianga.

And come July, there will also be a public meeting in Paeroa, the first to be held in the town since 1996.

"Alcoholism is a family disease. So we let people know, hey, we're in your area, this is what we do, here's some of us. And you have an opportunity to come along in a confidential setting and get to know us, hear about the solution that we've found," Diane said.

"We'll be having two alcohol and drug counsellors, a family member from Al-Anon and three AA members sharing."

For Susan, Mike, Piri, and Diane, supporting others through AA is all part of their sobriety journey - paying forward the help they once received.

Piri, now a successful businessman, found

help when he accidentally joined an inmates' AA meeting. "I came out [of prison] in 2010. I had nothing... just the clothes on my back and the steps to freedom. Being out in the community was the challenge itself, because I hadn't done life without alcohol before," Piri said.

"One of the men in the fellowship helped me start my own business. It's a thriving business today, and I'm sober."

Mike found his way to AA through the Salvation Army and their version of the 12-step programme.

"When your life swings in the balance, it's said that man will stand on the edge of eternity for a lifetime before he'll jump. But fortunately, AA gave me the impetus to continue life," he said.

And for Susan and Diane, AA was the force that brought them back to their children.

"The whole family knew, but no one ever said anything. My son... was the only one that ever pointed out to me my alcohol. Through sobriety, we've spent time together and we've actually managed to talk about it, and we've got a good relationship now," Susan said.

"I only had one child. He was 11 years old and came into recovery. And he was really angry, and he was hurt," Diane said.

"[But] my son, who was born to violent alcoholic parents and grandparents... that life hasn't been for him. Whatever harm I may have done to my family with my drinking, I've been able to put right in my recovery. And that gives me a sense of peace and serenity."

DETAILS: Alcoholics Anonymous public meeting, July 13, 7.30pm at Paeroa College. All are welcome. For more information: Ph 022 062 7282.

Reports of teen wielding meat cleaver in Thames

By TERESA RAMSEY

A teenager was taken into custody on July 3 following reports of a person entering Pak'nSave in Thames with a meat cleaver.

A bystander said they saw a man yelling abuse at shoppers outside Goldfields Shopping Centre before entering the supermarket. Another witness said they believed the man was allegedly carrying a meat cleaver.

Police told *The Profile* officers were called to the incident around 2:40pm. "A man has been taken into custody following reports of a person entering a shopping complex on Mary St with a knife," a Police spokesperson said. "No one was directly threatened or injured."

Police said the 18-year-old man was expected to appear in the Morrinsville District Court on July 10, on charges of possession of a knife in a public place and disorderly behaviour, as well as other unrelated charges.

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Thames Tides

Wed Jul 10	Thu Jul 11	Fri Jul 12	Sat Jul 13	Sun Jul 14	Mon Jul 15	Tue Jul 16
 Morning 3:55am 0.8 4:03pm 0.7 Afternoon 10:13am 3.2 10:28pm 3.3 7:30am 5:16pm Best At 3:21am 3:42pm Rise 10:13am Set 9:22pm	 Morning 4:38am 0.8 4:45pm 0.8 Afternoon 10:54am 3.1 11:10pm 3.2 7:30am 5:17pm Best At 4:03am 4:23pm Rise 10:36am Set 10:21pm	 Morning 5:20am 0.8 5:27pm 0.9 Afternoon 11:34am 3.1 11:52pm 3.1 7:30am 5:18pm Best At 4:42am 5:02pm Rise 10:58am Set 11:15pm	 Morning 6:02am 0.9 12:16pm 3.0 Afternoon 6:13pm 1.0 7:29am 5:18pm Best At 5:21am 5:40pm Rise 11:19am	 Morning 12:35am 3.1 1:01pm 2.9 Afternoon 6:45am 0.9 7:02pm 1.0 7:29am 5:19pm Best At 6:00am 6:20pm First Quarter Set 12:13am Rise 11:40am	 Morning 1:19am 3.0 1:50pm 2.9 Afternoon 7:30am 1.0 7:56pm 1.1 7:28am 5:20pm Best At 6:41am 7:03pm Set 1:11am Rise 12:04pm	 Morning 2:05am 3.0 2:45pm 2.9 Afternoon 8:19am 1.0 8:53pm 1.1 7:28am 5:20pm Best At 7:25am 7:48pm Set 2:12am Rise 12:32pm

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TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES

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

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

Rotary funds new dash-cam for Paeroa patrol

By TERESA RAMSEY

A new high tech dash-cam unit for Paeroa Community Patrol's vehicle is helping keep Paeroa streets safe.

The dash cam, which records high resolution footage both in front and behind the community patrol car, was funded by Paeroa Rotary and installed a few weeks ago.

CPNZ Paeroa Community Patrol Group chairman Martyn Jones said Rotary's contribution for the high tech dash-cam unit was "brilliant". Having the camera made a difference to securing convictions for local crime, he said.

"By driving around and some nights if there's been nothing, then it's a bloody great night - everyone's in bed safe.

"But by being able to report things back to Police - in the Waikato area... they have a full time team that just puts pieces of the puzzle together from information coming in, and it's amazing what information will lead to arrests.

"You don't think you're doing much but in essence, when you go and see what they piece together, you realise exactly what you're doing - it just helps keep the community safe."

The new dash-cam unit, which has cameras front and rear, provided Police with valuable information if required for evidence, so it needed to be high quality, he said.

"After researching various brands and models, talking with our Police Liaison Officer, and with some other Waikato and



Paeroa Community Patrol co-ordinator Lyn McHugh and chair Martyn Jones with the patrol car, which has a new dash cam, inset.

Photo: TERESA RAMSEY

Auckland CPNZ Groups, we realised a cheap online purchase was not going to cut it regarding quality, performance, resolution.

"Especially night vision/recording capabilities to give NZ Police valuable intel if required for evidence, and more importantly for the safety of our patrollers who get approached in a none too friendly fashion from time to time."

The camera gave another level of safety for volunteer patrollers, he said.

"We do have some people that have a go at the car in the middle

of the night periodically, so that can be quite confronting if they're drunk or stoned or whatever, but at least now we've got high quality footage of them that the Police can use."

The Paeroa patrol, which was established in 2014, had just four trained patrollers in November last year, however, numbers had since boosted to 18, with another four currently being police-vetted.

Ideally, the patrol would need around 30 volunteers so the group could expand the patrol area to Ngatea and Turua, he said.

Having a community patrol was important for crime prevention, he said.

"The importance of the patrols in general, and why the police pushed so hard for it to continue, is that we're the eyes and ears for the police.

"Generally the people of Paeroa and the businesses thank us for what we do. The only ones that moan are the ones that are doing something they shouldn't be doing."

The community patrol relied on support from local businesses and



Martyn Jones presents Paeroa Rotary president Katie McLaren with a certificate of appreciation.

the community as it didn't receive any government funding, he said.

"Just to run the one car at the moment, patrolling four nights a week, is costing us over \$5000 a year, and in some cases, we put our own money in to put petrol in.

"As with most community volunteer groups, CPNZ Paeroa rely solely on funding and donations to cover operational and running costs," he said.

Paeroa Rotary president Katie McLaren said she didn't want to disclose the amount of funding given for the dash-cam, but it was part of \$34,000 Rotary had donated to the Paeroa community in the past year. "[Community Patrol] provides such a valuable service to our community and assisting the Police within the community as well," she said.

"The cops can't be everywhere all the time so it's a good service to have, and the volunteers that are involved are amazing. It's important to keep them safe as well."

DETAILS: Visit CPNZ Paeroa Give a Little page to donate: givealittle.co.nz/cause/paeroa-community-patrol-charitable-trust-help-us.

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Brendon steps up for leukaemia

By TERESA RAMSEY

Several family members and friends being diagnosed with leukaemia has motivated Brendon Guthrie to step up for a good cause.

The Thames man will take part in the public Sky Tower Step Up Challenge to raise funds for the Leukaemia and Blood Cancer Foundation on August 4.

It's a cause close to his heart, after the disease impacted several close family and friends over the years.

"We've got one of our family members, a cousin, who's just been diagnosed a couple of months ago, and we've had several family members before being diagnosed," he said.

"It just makes me train a bit harder."

Brendon aims to climb Auckland Sky Tower's 1103 steps over 71 floors to raise awareness and funds for the cause.

He planned to raise \$1 per step but has already raised around \$2600 by selling raffle tickets and holding sausage sizzles in the main street of Thames over the past six months or so, he said.

"I would like to thank all the local businesses that supplied me with prizes in my last raffle," he said.

"People that I've been talking to have been really generous and helpful."

He plans to continue raising funds until the day of the challenge through his fundraising page on the stepupchallenge.org.nz website.



Brendon Guthrie climbs Jacob's Ladder in Thames to prepare for the Step Up challenge. Photo: TERESA RAMSEY

Brendon, who is not a firefighter, heard about the public challenge on the radio last year. He was keen to take up the challenge when he learned it was open to the public, and not just for firefighters, who do their own annual fundraising Sky Tower Challenge in May.

"I didn't realise they had a public version," he said.

"I thought 'oh, I thought only the fire brigade did it', but then I looked into it a little bit more and... emailed them and asked them when the next one was."

Brendon's no stranger to pushing his limits, having run a marathon and several half marathons previously.

But training for the step up challenge was different, he said.

More than 30 colourful steps of Jacob's Ladder in Thames have dominated his training over the past year. Three or four times a week he runs from his Tararu home, runs to the top of Jacob's Ladder and back six times, then runs home.

On top of that, he also does calisthenics, such as squats and leg thrusts; and runs up the stairs three or four steps at a time at his work sorting recycling for Smart Environmental.

He said his legs were feeling strong now, but not when he first started.

"I thought I'd do better because I've done a couple of halves and a marathon but this is totally different training."

"I had to get out of my head marathon and half marathon training, which is distance, and this one I have to do stamina, which is slightly different, and leg strength."

Brendon hasn't set himself a time to complete the challenge on the day.

"I'm just really looking forward to it," he said.

"I just want to get up there without collapsing."

DETAILS: To support Brendon's campaign, donate at: www.stepupchallenge.org.nz/brendon-guthrie.

Chris' Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parminter

1. How many holes are there in a standard golf course?
2. Which rank is one above a Brigadier in the New Zealand army?
3. Which is the world's largest ocean?
4. Viticulture is the study of which fruit?
5. What is the colloquial name for a myocardial infarction?
6. Caitlyn Jenner won a gold medal at the 1976 Montreal Olympics for which sport?
7. In 1900, what was the world's largest city by population? a) New York, b) Tokyo or c) London?
8. The Irish-influenced city of Syracuse in New York state has an intersection with which unexpected colour at the top of the traffic lights?
9. Which well known New Zealander is married to Rita Ora?
10. What is the chemical symbol for Tin?



Answers: 1. 18; 2. Major General; 3. Pacific; 4. Grapes; 5. A heart attack; 6. Decathlon (competing as Bruce Jenner at the time); 7. c) London; 8. Green; 9. Taka Waititi; 10. Sn.

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‘Real world’ prep through HPC Gateway

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

The careers programme at Hauraki Plains College supports its students through various initiatives - one being the Gateway Programme.

Careers advisor Pippa Lawlor and Gateway Co-ordinator Lauren Scott told *The Profile*: “we aim to open up prospects and future pathways to students, helping them to broaden their horizons and become ready to be contributing citizens in their communities”.

Hauraki Plains College had a number of different programmes operating through the curriculum and subject choices, as well as through the pastoral care systems, they said. “Every student at HPC is a part of the careers programme for the duration of their time at school.”

The programmes are diverse and tailored to individual students - “it’s not one size fits all”.

Mrs Lawlor and Mrs Scott said the Gateway Programme offered students work experience within particular trades or sectors: “65 students have already completed a work experience placement”.

One student involved in the Gateway Programme is



HPC Careers advisor Pippa Lawlor, left, and Gateway coordinator Lauren Scott.

Photo: SUPPLIED

16-year-old Marty Shaw, who said he was doing his work experience at Hauraki Plains Motors every Thursday.

It’s “a lot of hands-on” work, but Marty said he was supported by the helpful staff there.

Fixing quad bikes, “taking the motor apart and also learning how to fix the brakes” were some of the things Marty said he had been learning.

One challenge so far was “remembering how to put stuff

together - it takes a long time to sink in”, he said.

For others thinking about doing Gateway, Marty’s advice was that it helped students prepare for the “real world”.

“I’m grateful for having this

experience,” he said.

“I can picture myself doing full time [work] in this area, so I can get my dream job - being part of a pit crew for motor sports.”

Meanwhile, 15-year-old Aimee Johnston-Biggs has been doing her gateway work experience at Annarehab Equine Rehabilitation and Therapy.

Some things Aimee said she had learned about were horse behaviour and welfare, how to be confident when identifying sand colic in horses and using a microscope to look at faecal worm count.

When asked what it was like working there, Aimee said:

“It’s amazing. I’ve learnt to believe in myself”.

The best part about the experience for Aimee so far was being around the horses and learning about how different they are from each other, she said.

It was Aimee’s “dream job” to be a dairy farmer or vet who worked with horses, she said.

For students interested in the Gateway Programme, Aimee’s advice was: “it’s really important to apply for opportunities as I didn’t know fully about this and it has really helped me”.

GATEWAY & CAREERS AT HPC

Pathways to the Future

More Than A School

Hauraki Plains College

Tiana Tanner pictured with Barbara Scott at Massey University, was offered a place at Massey Screen Arts.

"The floristry course has been really helpful for my pathway into being a florist and flower grower. Sunflowers grown on the school farm have been a fantastic hands-on experience, learning how to grow and sell products." - Cerys Hasler

Aimee Johnston-Biggs riding with Tamzin Forsyth-Lees leading at Annarehab.

"The trip to Girls in Infrastructure was a very good experience. There were heaps of things to go and see and the people were lovely to meet." - Zara Leaman

"The Auckland Aeroclub Gateway programme provided me with learning opportunities and assisted me in getting a foot in the door of the aviation industry, which I found really valuable." - William Barry

"I am grateful for the experience and being part of a team" - Marty Shaw

Preacher turned dangerous bank robber hanged



As part of a Valley Profile series, **MEGHAN HAWKES** explores our local history by seeking out stories of life and death in the Thames Valley

When Captain Moonlite, bush-ranger, was hanged in Australia in 1880 it had reverberations all the way back to Coromandel, for his father was the Reverend Thomas Scott, the town's unassuming Anglican priest.

The reverend had immigrated to New Zealand rather late in life – the Irishman bringing his wife Bessie and sons Andrew, the future Captain Moonlite, 16, and Thomas, 19, to the colony in 1861 when he was 47. The reverend had been trained for clerical life early on but was prevented from entering the ministry when his father died and he was called on to manage the property and affairs of a large family of brothers and sisters. He became a magistrate and was highly regarded and popular in County Down, Ireland.

On arriving in New Zealand he was appointed Resident Magistrate at Maungakarama in Northland and made a Justice of the Peace for the colony. The reverend had hoped that his youngest son Andrew would also join the priesthood but instead he trained to be an engineer and planned to try his luck on the Otago

goldfields. The New Zealand Wars interrupted his plans and he fought at the battle of Orakau where he suffered leg injuries. After a long recovery Andrew was charged with malingering and court-martialed.

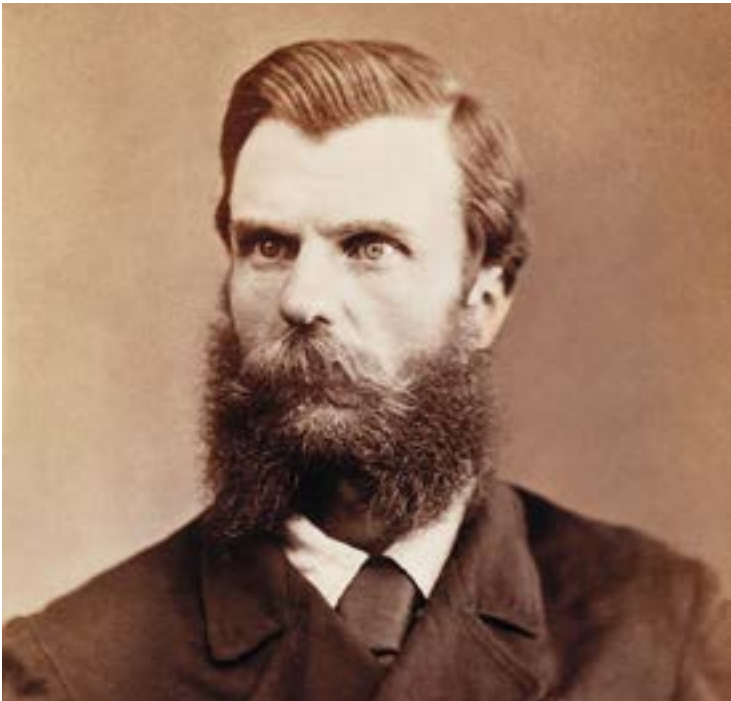
He objected to returning to service after witnessing the killing of women and children. He left for Australia where he was appointed lay preacher, intending to enter the Anglican priesthood. Instead, in a complete turnaround, he robbed a bank at Egerton, Victoria in 1869.

The bank manager was a friend of his, and despite Andrew's mask and cloak, recognised him. The manager was forced to write a note which said "Captain Moonlite has stuck me up and robbed the bank".

The police, unable to believe a preacher would rob a bank, arrested instead the bank manager and the local school teacher. Andrew, free to leave, said he was going to the South Pacific. He bought a boat and set sail for the South Seas with some companions. But the purchase cheque bounced and just as he sailed through the Sydney Heads the police launch caught up with him. He was sent to prison for 18 months.

The Reverend Thomas meanwhile was ordained in 1870 and appointed to Coromandel where the needs and wants of a small town kept him busy – performing marriages, funerals, holding church meetings, and presiding over scholars examinations. He was also the receiver of Gold Revenue. A very beautiful site near the harbour to build a church was donated by Peter, a local Māori.

In 1872 the reverend was presented with a horse by his congregation in a ceremony involving passing the reins over. A small speech expressed



Andrew Scott, aka Captain Moonlite.

Photo: SUPPLIED

a hope that the horse would aid the frequency of the reverend's visits to parishioners without increasing his personal toil.

Also in 1872 the cultured, charming but dangerous Captain Moonlite was released from prison. He was extradited to Victoria to face charges over the Egerton robbery. He escaped from Ballarat Prison but was caught and confined to Pentridge Prison for the next several years. Reverend Scott was a popular minister at Coromandel, the trials and tribulations over his wayward son largely unknown. His other son, Thomas, had gone on to be a school teacher. In 1873 his congregation

built him a handsome residence close to the church on Tiki Rd.

But by 1875 the reverend was in debt and his furniture and effects were sold off by auction under a distress warrant. The greater part of the furniture belonged to Joseph Cochrane, auctioneer, and was claimed by him.

The reverend resigned and accepted another position at Drury and Papakura. His loss was severely felt at Coromandel. By the end of 1875 the Reverend was made pastor of the Ngāruawāhia, Whatawhata, and Taupiri districts. In 1876 he was back at Coromandel and causing a fuss from the pulpit when he cen-

sured some parishioners for back sliding. A meeting was called to have him removed, and although the prevailing opinion was that it would have been better had the words been privately whispered in the ears of the delinquents, the resolution to remove him did not find a seconder.

In 1879 Captain Moonlite was released from jail. He spoke at meetings about prison reform, scraping a living with James 'Jim' Nesbitt, a youth he had met in Pentridge. The pair was thought to have been lovers.

But by November he, Jim Nesbitt and four other young men held up the Wantabadgery station, staying there for three days and detaining around 30 travellers along the road. One of them escaped and alerted the police who descended on the station. A bloody gun battle ensued; a senior constable was killed as well as a 15-year-old bushranger. Jim Nesbitt, 21, was killed too; a distraught Captain Moonlite reported to have embraced his lifeless body. Captain Moonlite gave himself up, the rest of the gang being captured a few days later. The police charged the bushrangers with the policeman's murder. In court Captain Moonlite tried to take the blame for the crime to save his friends. He and another gang member were found guilty and hanged. Reverend Thomas Scott quietly continued the ministrations to his Coromandel flock. In early July 1882 he held his usual Sunday service and the next day visited the township. On returning home he complained of feeling unwell and soon after became insensible.

He died two days later, aged 69, and was buried at Coromandel's Buffalo cemetery.

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 **FORSYTH BARR**

Rural Life

Lizards put Coastcare projects on hold

The start of the 2024 Coastcare Waikato planting season has played out a little differently this year, thanks to the pitter patter of tiny feet.

Last year, East Coast Coastcare co-ordinator Andrea Whitehead, who is employed by Thames-Coromandel District Council, started noticing a lot of lizards around.

“While I was catching up with one of our long-term volunteers, I even noticed a big fat pregnant skink basking next to us in the dunes,” Andrea said.

Native lizards and other native fauna are either threatened or at risk of extinction and are fully protected by the Wildlife Act (1953), which means they cannot be harmed or disturbed without a permit from the Department of Conservation (DOC).

While Coastcare’s work helps these species by creating and restoring habitat, this means extra care needs to be taken not to harm or disturb them during the restoration process.

A Waikato Regional Council biodiversity officer was called in to set up a monitoring programme to assess the lizard situation at beaches earmarked for restoration.

Coastcare Waikato also got in touch with DOC to inform them of these discoveries.

“The outcome of the tracking tunnels was that as well as lizard footprints, we also discovered we had loads of mice and rats,” Andrea said.

A decision was made to leave earthworks out of this year’s restoration season until more investigations had been carried out: “We’ll also be doing lots of physical hand weeding, which is not fun or easy for our team or our volunteers”.

What was positive though, was a height-



WRC biosecurity pest plant officer Benson Lockhart will be at the weed swaps. SUPPLIED

ened focus on coastal restoration to protect native wildlife and their habitats, Andrea said. “And that is actually what Coastcare is about – we’re about protecting what lives here as well as growing plants for dune resilience.”

In addition to lizards, dunes across New Zealand support native birdlife and threatened invertebrates, including the amber dune snail (*Succinea archeyi*) and the katipo spider (*Latrodectus katipo*). Many of these native species live only at the coast and may become further threatened or extinct if their habitat is lost.

“We’ll be putting in more traps now, to support what we’re already doing, and to help protect all our native species.”

Planting season has begun, with about 75,000 native plants already ordered for Waikato coastlines. For the east coast, 68,000 native plants are earmarked for the dunes. In conjunction with planting bees, two weed swaps for residents are being held during July and Coastcare co-ordinators are also going into schools in Thames and Mercury Bay to educate students about coastal restoration and get them involved.

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HDC NEWS



Mayor's message

Update on initial proposal for the Hauraki District Representation Review

On Thursday 27 June, Council heard submissions regarding our initial proposal for the Representation Review and based on feedback have amended the proposal to keep the Plains and Paeroa Ward boundaries the same, with the following make up of Councillors for the district:

- Plains Ward – 4 Councillors
- Paeroa Ward – 3 Councillors
- Waihi Ward – 4 Councillors
- Māori Ward – 2 Councillors (decision for a Māori Ward is not part of the Representation Review)
- One Mayor

We'll now put that final proposal out for consultation with feedback open from **5 July - 7 August**. We're standing by our decision to have a Māori Ward for the 2025 Local Government election, which means that decision is not part of this current Representation Review. However, depending on the outcome of a bill before parliament, a binding poll on Māori wards will be held at the next triennial election.

Find out more at <https://letstalk.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/representation-review-2024>



Make sure your dog is registered by 31 July

Hey, good news!

With proof of desexing, you'll pay a reduced dog registration fee. Dog registration must be renewed annually by 31 July to avoid penalties. Contact us now to register your pooch.

Find out more at <https://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/rules-regulations-licences/dogs-other-animals>



Love This Place? We sure do!

We know it was a labour of love for everyone involved in the Love This Place Long Term Plan 2024-2034 consultation. Sincere thanks to everyone in the community, the Councillors, Council staff and our Auditors who worked so hard to get this over the line.

It wasn't an easy one for us or our communities, but the hard decisions made now mean we can face the next ten years with confidence as a district. We're pleased to confirm the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan was adopted unanimously by Council on 27 June.



For a full summary of all the decisions, visit <https://letstalk.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/2024-ltp>



Winners of the Love This Place colouring competition

Thanks to everyone that entered in our colouring competitions. Congratulations to the following winners who won a \$50 gift voucher from Toy World, Waihi.



Ziggy, 3 years



Blake, 6 years old



Naomi, 10 years old



Toby Adams, Mayor Hauraki District



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Death Notice DALGETY ,Dot: passed away peacefully surrounded by family on 3rd of July 2024. Beloved mum and mother-in-law of Hilton, Linda and Nigel, Bev and Greg, and Michelle. Much loved Nana of Logan, Christina, Nick, Kieran and loved Great-Nana. For funeral details please contact the Dalgety Family. In Lieu of Flowers donations to the Cancer Society are welcomed. Messages may be sent to the Dalgety Family c/- Hope Family Funerals, 2A Loop Road, RD6, Tauranga 3176	For Sale Scooter and rain cover Good condition \$2,500 ono Ph Ted: 021 167 6777 Big double load of ti tree mix. Dry shed stored and free delivery. \$340 Ph: 022 386 0395 Firewood for sale Old Man pine \$140 per cube. Phone Mark 027 655 8661or Steph 027 385 2806 Firewood , dry, split, delivery available. From \$90-\$140. 0272888193. Gardening STUMP GRINDING. All sizes, all areas. Thames based. Ph 021 060 7659 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 Grazing Available Top Quality Grazing Hauraki Plains ex Dairy farm, 1st April 2024 - 31st May 2025 long term Grazing experienced Grazer Ph: 027 345 3432 Pets KENNELS WAITAKARURU Boarding Kennels and Cattery. "A great place for your pet to stay." Carol and Bill Bell, Ph: 07-867-3344, SH25 Waitakaruru, RD6 Thames	Public Notices We would like to hear from you if you would like to read the bible with us. If so phone 021 522 668. Waihi Bible Chapel ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING CPNZ Paeroa Community Patrol (Night Owls Community Patrol) 7.30pm, Wed 24th July 2024 at the St Johns Training Rooms 31 Belmont Street, Paeroa <i>All welcome - Member voting only</i> Grey Power Thames Assoc. Inc. AGM To be held at St. James' Church Hall, Pahau St., Thames, Thursday, 25 July 2024, 2pm Thames Land Search and Rescue Notice of AGM Monday 5th August, 7.30pm Thames police station Enquiries to Wayne, 0274 780 899	Storage STORAGE KOPU, PAEROA TE AWAMUTU "New Units" Ph 027 440 7101 07 868 3033 Safe n Sound Storage www.safestorage.co.nz Storage Unlimited 25 Ngati Maru Highway Kopu, Thames Clean, secure, dry Units available 7 x 3.6m and 7 x 5.5m Phone 07 868 9944 Trades & Services FENCING CONTRACTOR Residential & Rural Retaining walls & more High quality workmanship Competitive prices Call Matt 021 1727 148 Painter Painter available, houses, farm buildings, fences, etc. Experienced Quality work, Reasonable price. ph Greg 027 2142442 Tiler Professional tiling services. Ph Rob 022 408 4136
In Memoriam FOX, Keith Sinclair: 10 July 2022 Forever in our hearts, loved and missed. Mum, Bevin and Robyn.			
Church Notices Hauraki Plains Co-operating Parish Invites you to A welcome service For Rev. Phil Bettany and his family Sunday 21st July at 9 30 am Hauraki Plains Co-operating Church Darlington St, Ngatea <i>Refreshments to follow</i>			
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Public Notice

Notice of Representation Arrangements Review Final Proposal

Submissions

On 27 June 2024, Hauraki District Council considered the submissions received on its initial proposal regarding the representation arrangements for the Council to apply for at least the 2025 triennial local authority elections.

The Council received 82 submissions on its initial proposal, being:

- 26 submissions (or 32%) in support of the initial proposal; and
- 56 submissions (or 68%) opposed to the initial proposal.

Those who supported the initial proposal identified the following:

- It may encourage younger and more diverse councillors.
- It will significantly improve communication.

Those who opposed the initial proposal identified the following issues:

- Plains General Ward requires four councillors – three councillors are insufficient for the large geographical area;
- Fewer councillors will not lead to greater diversity or more effective representation;
- It is not a fair expectation for three councillors to meet the welfare and interests of seven widespread communities;
- Pekapeka and Hauraki Roads are part of the Kerepehi community – we are Plains people;
- Connection is with the Plains, not Paeroa;
- Change of boundary will increase rates for Plains rural residents;
- The rezoning will affect businesses in the township;
- Property will be split between two wards;
- Funding for the Plains could be lost;
- Rates and overheads would increase;
- Chose to live in the Plains, not Paeroa;
- The Paeroa general population growth could be considerably more than the Plains;
- Retain the status quo – allow time and governance to get things on track.

Final Proposal

Having considered all of the submissions, Council resolved on 27 June 2024 to amend its initial proposal to the following final proposal for at least the 2025 triennial local authority elections:

(i) Hauraki District Council to comprise the mayor elected at large and 13 councillors elected under the ward system, specifically 11 general ward councillors and two Māori ward councillors;

(ii) Hauraki District Council be divided into four wards, these being:

- Plains General Ward (four councillors) being the existing ward comprising the area delineated on LGC-012-2013-W-2 deposited with the Local Government Commission;
- Paeroa General Ward (three councillors) being the existing ward comprising the area delineated on SO Plan 57980 deposited with Land Information New Zealand;
- Waihi Ward (four councillors), being the existing ward comprising the area delineated on SO Plan 57979 deposited with Land Information New Zealand;
- Te Pakikau o te Ika Māori Ward (two councillors), comprising the whole area of the district as delineated on Plan LG-012-2013-W-1 deposited with the Local Government Commission.

(iii) no community boards be established;

(iv) In accordance with section 19K(2) of the Local Electoral Act 2001, the reasons for the proposed changes to the initial proposal are -

- four councillors for the Plains General Ward better reflects a greater number of communities, geographical distance and consequential workload;
- the majority of submissions supported the current number of councillors for the Plains General Ward (4) and no boundary change.

(v) The three general wards, the number of councillors per ward, the ward populations (estimated at 30 June 2023) and the population ratio per councillor are as follows:

Ward	Population	Councillors	Average	% Variation
Plains General	6,380	4	1,595	-8.33%
Paeroa General	5,430	3	1,810	4.02%
Waihi General	7,330	4	1,833	5.34%

(vi) In accordance with section 19V(2) of the Local Electoral Act 2001, the population that each general ward councillor represents must be within the population range of 1,740 +/- 10% (1,566 – 1,914). The number of Māori ward councillors complies with Schedule 1A of the Local Electoral Act 2001.

Appeals and objections

Any person who has made a submission on Council's initial proposal may lodge an appeal against the Council's decision. An appeal must relate to the matters raised in that person's submission.

Any person may lodge an objection against the Council's decision. An objection must specify the matters to which the objection relates.

Appeal/Objection forms, which are available at Council offices and from the Council website: www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz should state your name, address, telephone number and email address (if you have one) and should reach the Council **no later than 4.30pm on Wednesday 7 August 2024.**

Appeals or objections sent by post should be addressed to: John McIver, Community Growth Manager, Hauraki District Council, 1 William Street, Paeroa, or PO Box 17, Paeroa 3640. Appeals or objections can also be sent by email to info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz

For more information, see the consultation pages on our website: https://letstalk.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/representation-review-2024

5 July 2024

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ENTERTAINMENT

Danish vocal ensemble to perform

UngKlang will perform at Thames Music Group's next Sunday concert on July 14 at 2:30pm in St George's Anglican Church.

This highly acclaimed a cappella ensemble includes nine young women who share a strong background in the Danish National Girls' Choir and are bonded by a long-standing friendship.

Founded in 2020, the group has made a name for themselves in the Danish music and arts scene. UngKlang uses its platform to challenge the conventional expectations of choir and especially a capella music.

The ensemble creates and performs its own concerts and projects, ranging from traditional choir concerts to experimental setups.

Ungklang is based on a strong classical foundation and many years of learning and rehearsal, but aims constantly to challenge the ability

of their voices.

They have done several collaboration with art, dance, theatre, pop - and rock concerts, and their versatility and willingness to push boundaries help them connect with a new, broader audience not typically found at choir concerts.




UngKlang's big commercial breakthrough came in the summer of 2022 when they unexpectedly sang for former United States President Barack Obama, which led to viral success. Since then, they have maintained their high musical quality while continuing to build their brand.

At the heart of UngKlang is a strong sense of friendship and joy in making music together, which shines through in all their performances.

DETAILS: www.thamesmusicgroup.com.



UngKlang will perform at St George's Church in Thames. Photo: SUPPLIED



Thames Music Group's next Sunday Concert features UngKlang the Danish female vocal ensemble, who are to travel to Thames from Auckland, where they will be competing in the World Choir Games. Don't miss this unique opportunity to see this highly acclaimed a'cappella ensemble perform on July 14th at 2:30 pm in St. George's Anglican Church.

Thames Music Group's vision is to provide live, quality music performances as well as performance opportunities for members of our community of all ages. Thames Music Group (TMG) has been run by a small group of volunteers since its founding in 1977. The personnel has changed over those 47 years, but all committee members, past and present, have been committed to two of TMG's goals: to encourage local music performances and to foster music appreciation.

TMG is indebted to St. George's Anglican Church, which serves as TMG's concert venue, as well as home to TMG's grand piano. St George's is a beautiful, wooden, Gothic church with wonderful acoustics.

TMG's partnership with St. George's allows TMG to do what few communities the size of Thames can do, provide Thames with **two** March-October monthly concert series: the **free Friday concert series** (which began in September 1984 - forty years ago!) and the Sunday concert series.

Over the years the monthly **Free Friday lunchtime concert series, offered at 12:15 pm**, has become the showcase of local and amateur talent of all ages and admission remains free, though Koha is gratefully accepted. **The monthly Sunday afternoon concert series** features professional and other quality musicians and ensembles for a modest \$20 entrance fee – cash at the door on the day. Members pay \$15 and those aged under 18 have free entry.




TMG's Sunday concerts typically begin at 2 pm.

TMG produces a bookmark each year that provides details of our Friday concert series on one side and our Sunday concert series on the other. You can pick one up from Carson's Bookshop. TMG members not only get discounted admission to Sunday concerts, they also receive a voucher for a free coffee at Café Melbourne.

Look out for our fortnightly Face Book Posts and posters around Thames and Coromandel Libraries.

Visit us at <http://www.thamesmusicgroup.com> for information

CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12pm Monday

Public Notice	Situation Vacant
<div><div><div>Hauraki District Council Meetings - July 2024</div><div></div><div><p>Pursuant to Section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, public notice is hereby given that the following meeting will be held during the month of July 2024 in the Council Chamber, Hauraki House, 1 William Street, Paeroa unless otherwise stated.</p><p>Please note: Council will be taking a recess for the month of July therefore there will be no committee meetings held with the exception of the end of month Council meeting.</p><p>Council Wednesday, 31 July 2024, 9.00am</p><p>L D Cavers Chief Executive Hauraki District Council</p><div>www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz</div></div></div></div>	<div><div><div></div><div>Whānau Support Worker Role</div><div><p>Do you want to make a difference in the wonderful community of Paeroa? As a Whānau Support Worker, you would work in a tiny-but-mighty team of two, collaborating with students, whānau and schools to identify and overcome barriers to school attendance.</p><p>You would work closely with whānau to provide strength-based, trauma-informed support, to empower them to reach their goals.</p><p>You would also meet with school principals to collect attendance data and to build bridges between school and whānau.</p><p>If you love working with people, we invite you to join our team.</p><p>This position is for 17 hours per week, Monday to Thursday (with flexibility). This is a fixed-term contract that ends in December 2024.</p><p>A copy of the job description is available on request.</p><p>Please email your CV and cover letter to admin@pc.org.nz, outlining your relevant experience and qualifications.</p></div></div></div>

PAPER DELIVERIES

Although the Valley Profile endeavours to deliver our paper to everyone, sometimes we just cannot achieve this. If you are one of the few who did not receive your weekly paper, please note they are available here:

NGATEA
Ngatea 4 Square, HDC Council Offices , Ngatea Post Shop, Z Petrol Station, Ngatea Purple Dairy

PAEROA
Moore's Caltex, Countdown, HDC Council offices, Takenote, Paeroa 4 Square, Paeroa Information Hub

WAIHI
Maybelle Superette, New World, Toyworld/Takenote, Information Centre, Daffodil Dairy, Waihi Supervalve

THAMES
Totara Veggie Shop, Mobil Kopu, Gull Service Station, Martina 4 Square, Bin Inn, Tararu Dairy, Queen St Mobil, Goldfields Mall, Pak'N'Save, Paper Power, Thames 4 Square, Carson's Bookshop, Thames Council Offices, Kauaeranga Store

TURUA: Turua Dairy

KEREPEHI: Kerepehi Dairy



HG LEACH CLUB RUGBY FINALS 2024


Boyd Park, Te Aroha Saturday 13th July - Gates Open 10.30am



<div>11.00am</div> <div>Under 18 Boys Final</div> <div>Patrons Cup</div> <div>Hauraki Plains College</div> <div>v</div> <div>Paeroa College</div> <div>Field 3</div> <div></div>	<div>11:30am</div> <div>Senior C Final</div> <div>McDonald Cup</div> <div>Hauraki North</div> <div>v</div> <div>Thames</div> <div>Field 2</div> <div></div>	<div>12:00pm</div> <div>Senior B Final</div> <div>Lawrence Memorial Cup</div> <div>Coromandel</div> <div>v</div> <div>Te Aroha COBRAS</div> <div>Field 1</div> <div></div>	<div>2:00pm</div> <div>Senior A Final</div> <div>McClinchy Cup</div> <div>Waihi</div> <div>v</div> <div>Paeroa</div> <div>Field 1</div> <div></div>
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DIRECT CREMATION within 15kms of Thames: \$3100.00


DIRECT CREMATION requiring transfer from Whangamata, Tairua, Whitianga, Waihi, Paeroa, Ngatea and Coromandel: \$3345.00

DIRECT CREMATION requiring transfer from North of Coromandel or Waikato Hospital: \$3295.00

Outside all of these areas: \$3440.00 plus mileage

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SUDOKU

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

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

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MEDIUM

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	1	4			5	2		
		8					3	4
	6		4					1

HARD

158

158

HARD

MEDIUM

EASY

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

JUMBO CROSSWORD

178

ACROSS

1 Hold up, bear (7)

4 Pasta in slender threads (10)

9 Spectacles (7)

13 Standard (4)

14 Fire-breathing monster (6)

15 Nauseous (6)

16 Dead body (7)

19 Fat used for pastry (10)

20 Joined the military (8)

21 Hobbles (5)

24 Soak up (6)

25 Quantity (6)

27 Waterproof cover (9)

32 Italian navigator, explorer (8)

33 Attractiveness (6)

34 Futile (7)

38 Grape farm (8)

39 Motor fuel (6)

40 Storage building (4)

41 Once more (5)

42 Military blockade (5)

45 Dismissal notice (8,6)

52 Male deer (5)

55 Knock over (5)

56 Rescind (4)

57 Croaky (6)

58 Curved sword (8)

61 Manufacture (7)

62 Talents (6)

63 Balance in design (8)

66 Weedkiller (9)

68 Early cold period (3,3)

69 Wheedle (6)

73 Hessian (5)

74 Pleasant-smelling (8)

76 Winter crystals (10)

81 Temporary encampment (7)

82 Rounded hat (6)

83 Shrewd, perceptive (6)

84 Jealousy (4)

85 Acute (7)

86 General feelings or opinions (10)

87 Rumour (7)

DOWN

1 Ballads (5)

2 Sea mammal (8)

3 Sovereign's seat (6)

4 Animal product abstainer (5)

5 Ladder step (4)

6 Death inquiry (7)

7 Uniformly (6)

8 Endures (5)

10 Heavy metal (4)

11 African language (7)

12 Not liable to (6)

17 Pigeonhole (10)

18 Hurdled (5)

22 Rifle repairer (8)

23 Swear (5)

24 Gets there (7)

26 Unruly crowds (4)

28 Accumulated over time (7)

29 Least number of members for a valid meeting (6)

30 Son of Zeus (6)

31 Requesting (6)

33 Fire crime (5)

35 Ignite (5)

36 Long ago (4)

37 Handy (4)

43 Tainted (6)

44 Avarice (5)

46 Female relation (4)

47 Bent (7)

48 Breathe in (6)

49 Tumbler (5)

50 Withstood (8)

51 Holy, sanctified (6)

52 Acrobatic forward roll (10)

53 Industrious insects (4)

54 Food fish (7)

59 Diver's apparatus (5)

60 Self-satisfied (4)

64 Gain points (5)

65 Reservations (8)

67 Story instalment (7)

68 The meantime (7)

70 Activity (6)

71 Graceful dancing (6)

72 Circuit-breaking device (6)

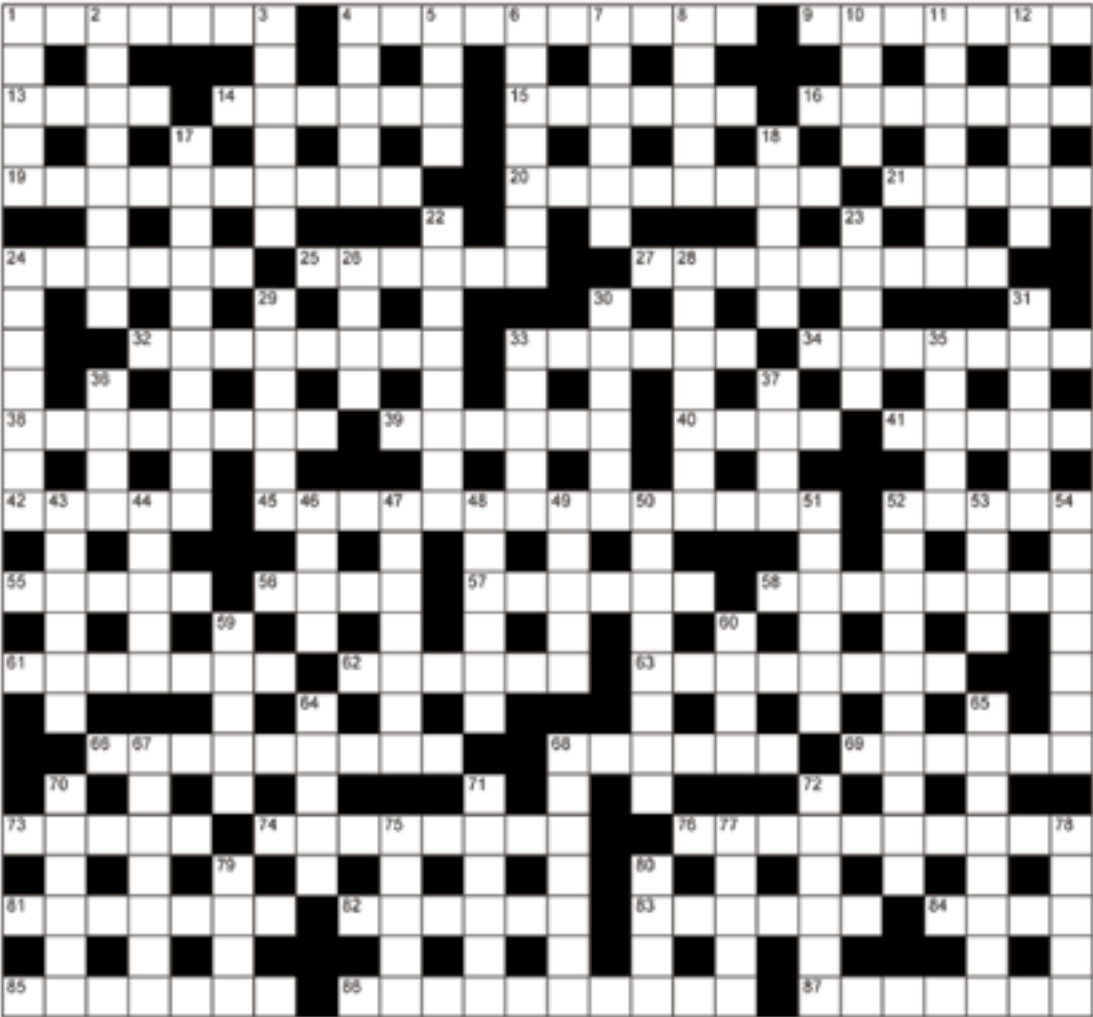
75 Garden figure (5)

77 Jottings (5)

78 Sneakily (5)

79 Deep voice (4)

80 Daybreak (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Aspic, 4 Gruesome, 9 Pestle, 14 Muted, 15 Generous to a fault, 17 Annoy, 18 Nap, 19 Stylish, 20 Dixieland, 21 Elated, 24 Obedience, 25 Oxygen, 26 Friend, 29 Profession, 31 Sap, 32 Foiled, 33 Numb, 35 Oil, 37 Plan, 39 Executors, 40 Threshing, 41 Elite, 42 Levelled, 47 Clippers, 51 Gouda, 55 Penetrate, 56 Crackling, 58 Lots, 59 Ski, 60 Lull, 61 Gently, 62 Doh, 63 Dispatched, 66 Drapes, 67 Arabic, 69 Obsession, 72 Settle, 73 Consumers, 75 Rubella, 77 Met, 80 U-turn, 81 Sell down the river, 82 Novel, 83 Stream, 84 Holidays, 85 Petty.

DOWN: 2 Spectator, 3 Ideal, 5 Ruse, 6 Emotion, 7 Off like a shot, 8 Equal, 9 Potency, 10 Seam, 11 Lonely, 12 Stand, 13 Adapted, 14 Mystery, 16 Oyster shell, 22 Divide, 23 Mediate, 24 Offence, 25 Oppose, 27 Elusive, 28 Petrol, 30 Nous, 32 Fluid, 34 Bogus, 36 RSVP, 38 Lie, 42 Lapel, 43 Vanilla, 44 Late, 45 Enamel, 46 Fussy, 48 Ingratitude, 49 Pelican, 50 Rot, 51 Gesture, 52 Acidic, 53 Fashion model, 54 Skid, 57 Insist, 64 Excellent, 65 Restful, 66 Dormant, 68 Blossom, 70 Screwed, 71 Flaunt, 72 Stove, 74 Sylph, 76 Exile, 78 Ante, 79 Stay.

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SPORTS REPORTS

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

RUGBY

Hot off Tighthead Ted's Olivetti. Well knock me down with a feather, who'd have thought, unbeaten Waihi and Paeroa, who have lost only to Waihi this year (x2), are into the final for the McClinchy Cup. Deserving, but ole Tighthead likes an upset, and a Whangamata versus Waihou final would have spoiled a few Sunday tea parties. Not to be though, and the final that the TAB would have backed, is happening. Not without a bit of puckering though, as Whangamata pushed the Green-Machine to the wire, and Waihou never let off against Waihi. Just like knockout footy should be. Roll on next week - all bets are off, Waihi to secure their second McClinchy, or the recently amalgamated Paeroa their first.

WAIHI ATHLETIC v WAIHOU
Kenny St Stadium, Waihi. Referee: D Tui
Waihi marched into the final, with no ticks in the loss column this season, and firm favourites for their second title. They were made to work though, with Waihou piling on the early pressure at Kenny St, rattling the hometown heroes. The opening 15 minutes was no holds barred finals rugby, before the deadlock was broken, and the pressure vanished like a deflating balloon on a Sunday after the 21st. It took an unfortunate pass to open the scoring, with Waihou's Scotty Day blotting his otherwise fine game with a pass to Waihi flanker Brett Ranga, that saw the veteran loosie scamper 45 metres for the first try of the match. Duly converted by Thames Valley's 'Mr Boot' Quinn Collard. Waihou replied at the 30 minute mark with a Todd Doolan penalty, before Waihi replied with a try to mid-fielder Kahu Craig-Ranga. The try topped off a quality game for Craig-Ranga, who controlled the rock solid Waihi defence for the full 80. Again, Mr Boot added the two.
Waihou continued to battle and put pressure on to the home team, but with their set pieces misfiring, the usually reliable scrum backpedalling, and lineout being picked to pieces by Matt Axtens, the points did not come. To cap it off, from some solid controlled phase play,



Paeroa's Tyrone Keith gets the pass away to team mate Harry Warren.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Waihi dotted down for a third try on the half to hard working number eight Isaac Seiuli. Surprise surprise, Collard again added the points after.
Waihi 29 (B Ranga, K Craig-Ranga, I Seiuli, B Nightingale tries; Q Collard 3 conversions, penalty) beat Waihou 17 (J O'Connor, S McCahon tries; T Doolan 2 conversions, penalty).
PAEROA v WHANGAMATA
Centennial Park, Paeroa. Referee: S Watts
Paeroa's best in a good all-round display were out wide May-Matefao, who must have made some metres on attack, he was always hard to pull down. The mid-field of Beazley and Malilegaoi got better as the match progressed, proving a handful with their footwork and hard running. In the pack, Faaou was lethal on both sides of the ball, brutal carries, crushing tackles, and on a couple of occasions showed some finesse by stripping the ball off Whangamata ball runners to dif-

fuse attacks. Lock Manusamoa Leota and flanker William Faasavalu became more prominent with ball in hand the longer the match went, their many hard carries over the advantage line setting the backs away. Whangamata saw yeoman service from the locking pairing of Tim Bond and Finn McCall, 80 minutes of grunt from the twin towers. Tonga at eight led the way with strong ball carries, while frontrowers Jordan Cordice and O'Halloran were not far behind in the tight exchanges. The back division had a tough day at the office, the best being Tiaontin Raoren and returning fullback Eli Byles, who was a rock on defence and made some tidy breaks with the ball in hand.
Paeroa 31 (K May-Matafeo 2, S Toloa, J Penu tries; N Emery 4 conversions, penalty) beat Whangamata 27 (T Tonga, J Janson, B Murphy, J O'Halloran tries; T Raoren 2 conversions, penalty).
SENIOR B Waihou 12 lost to Coromandel

34; Waihi 5 lost to COBRAS 43;
SENIOR C (semi finals); Hauraki North 14 beat Mercury Bay 3; Thames 30 beat Ngatea 28
UNDER 21 Suburbs 17 lost to Rugby United 25
WOMEN'S CLUB OF ORIGIN Ngatea 17 lost to Whangamata 47; Hauraki North 22 beat Thames 0; Te Aroha 40 beat Coromandel 5

FOOTBALL
Thames Football Club followed up last week's stunning comeback with a comfortable 8-3 win over a struggling Te Awamutu side. With club captain Mickael Dernoncourt away on international duty, Thames switched to a 3-5-2 system, with Sam Cox taking the armband in the heart of defence. Thames started with dark clouds looming over Rhodes Park and immediately pressed forward, hunting for the opening goal. Te Awamutu's plan

was quickly apparent - play a high defensive line to stifle the midfield space. This approach would prove detrimental, as Thames used their pace on the wings effectively to exploit the room behind.
Ten minutes in, Keegan Apperley's forward pass found its way to Harry Willisroft, who bore down on goal and finished expertly to give Thames an early lead. Micheal Kim was next on the scoresheet, winning the ball on the left before weaving to the byline and finishing high from a tight angle. Willisroft quickly added a third with a pinpoint volley following a Ryan Le Roux whipped cross. A few moments later, Willisroft completed a hat-trick with another impressive finish, following a brilliant reverse pass from Le Roux. The 16-year-old from Whitianga wasn't finished yet, adding two more before halftime, beating the offside trap and finishing clinically, with Kim and Le Roux providing the assists with some excellent vision.
Despite a 6-0 lead, the game was far from over. Te Awamutu displayed commendable spirit, making the next 45 minutes more competitive. The visitors began the half with their first goal as Jamie Bell applied the finishing touch to a crossed free-kick from the right. Thames responded by extending their lead as Le Roux smashed a penalty into the roof of the net, marking his 15th goal of the season. Willisroft then secured his sixth and final goal of the day with another trademark run from wide. A neat touch from Ben Taylor found Mark Reeves, who delicately played the ball into Willisroft's path. The winger fired home, completing his goal feast - a masterclass in finishing. Te Awamutu finished the game on top, pulling two goals back in the dying minutes. The first was a dubious offside decision, and the latter was a well-dispatched penalty.
Final Score Thames FC 8-3 Te Awamutu AFC. "The first half was a great display of our clinical attacking football. Young Harry had a game to remember, scoring six goals. We continue to pressure the top teams to be in contention for the title," player/manager Micheal Kim said.
- By Jonathan Coles



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