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Euphonium to the podium

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

It takes deep dedication to play the euphonium at a national level.

“If you want to compete, you have to practice a lot and be consistent or you will lose your progress.”

It’s a sentiment 14-year-old Kiara Curtis-Apeu values and upholds.

The musician from Te Kauwhata made that clear when she placed third in the Under 15 Instrumental Solo Section on her euphonium at the New Zealand National Brass Band Championships in April.

It was a significant and challenging moment for the young music maker, who was not only part of the Kerepēhi Brass Band but also the Jazz Band at her high school, Hauraki Plains College.

“This is my first year doing it [the competition], it was re-

ally stressful for me. I had to go outside in the rain and run to wash away my nerves, only 300 metres but it worked,” she said.

“I had to focus on my breathing just to keep calm.”

The award winner said she performed a difficult piece called *Rhapsody for Euphonium* and which had a “majestic” sound in the opening.

“I was really happy with how I played.

“[The achievement] means I have come a long way with all my learning with Clive Burnell, who is my music teacher.”

One moment where she was completely in the zone was during the piano solo.

“I came in with a slow melody through the middle and I felt really comfortable with that part. It was really soothing.”

Even though she felt she hadn’t yet mastered the song, she said her goal was to “play

CONTINUED ON P2



Kiara Curtis-Apeu with her euphonium. Photo: SUPPLIED

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Top three spot for Hauraki muso

CONTINUED FROM P1

to my best potential” at the regional competition later this year in Te Awamutu.

The young euphoniumist also performed a solo piece in the Hauraki Plains College ‘One Autumn’s Night’ concert on April 29.

“I’m really happy with how it went, it honestly couldn’t have gone any better in my perspective,” she said.

“It was great. I didn’t even need a mic because the sound was able to project so well. It was kind of unfortunate for me though because it went better than my solo at nationals.”

It was nerve-wracking to see everyone in anticipation for her to start, she said, but by the end she was “at peace”.

“It felt as if all my stress that had built over the week had vanished away.”

The star performer was first inspired to pick up the instrument around five years ago.

“My brother had said he wanted to play a trumpet in a brass band, so I got

“I’m really happy with how it went, it honestly couldn’t have gone any better in my perspective.”

- Kiara Curtis-Apeu

nosey and wanted to try it as I liked the size of the euphonium.”

Kiara gave the instrument a go, said it had a nice sound and the rest was history.

“My nan comes and picks me up once a week and takes me

to Kerepēhi for practice. My younger brother who is 12 is also in the band.”

She said there was a difference between the music she played for the brass band and the school band.

“In the brass band it’s more traditional marches and older songs.

“In the jazz band they are more well known songs and not as slow as the traditional ones.”

When it came to picking one instrument to play alongside, the music maestro found it hard to choose just one.

“I love playing with full bands because it sounds so much better,” she said.

The next musical mission for Kiara was to focus on the regional competition in September, where her goal was to get first place.



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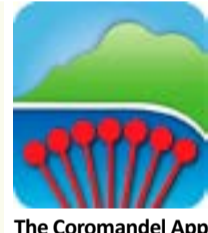
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Thames Tides

Wed May 13		Thu May 14		Fri May 15		Sat May 16		Sun May 17		Mon May 18		Tue May 19	
4 am	6 NOON 6 pm	4 am	6 NOON 6 pm	4 am	6 NOON 6 pm	4 am	6 NOON 6 pm	4 am	6 NOON 6 pm	4 am	6 NOON 6 pm	4 am	6 NOON 6 pm
Morning 3:23am 3.1 Afternoon 3:46pm 3.0		Morning 4:16am 3.2 Afternoon 4:46pm 3.2		Morning 5:08am 3.3 Afternoon 5:43pm 3.4		Morning 6:02am 3.4 Afternoon 12:18pm 0.4		Morning 12:44am 0.5 Afternoon 1:11pm 0.2		Morning 1:36am 0.4 Afternoon 2:02pm 0.2		Morning 2:28am 0.4 Afternoon 2:53pm 0.1	
9:36am 0.8 10:05pm 0.9		10:30am 0.7 11:01pm 0.7		11:25am 0.5 11:53pm 0.6		6:38pm 3.5		6:56am 3.5 7:30pm 3.7		7:52am 3.6 8:22pm 3.7		8:47am 3.6 9:14pm 3.8	
☀️ 7:08am 5:21pm		☀️ 7:08am 5:20pm		☀️ 7:09am 5:19pm		☀️ 7:10am 5:18pm		☀️ 7:11am 5:17pm		☀️ 7:12am 5:17pm		☀️ 7:12am 5:16pm	
🐟 Best At 8:45am 9:08pm		🐟 Best At 9:32am 9:57pm		🐟 Best At 10:23am 10:50pm		🐟 Best At 11:18am 11:48pm		🐟 Best At 12:20pm		🐟 Best At 12:52am 1:25pm		🐟 Best At 1:59am 2:32pm	
🌙 Rise 2:33am Set 2:48pm		🌙 Rise 3:41am Set 3:15pm		🌙 Rise 4:52am Set 3:45pm		🌙 Rise 6:08am Set 4:22pm		New Moon Rise 7:27am Set 5:06pm		🌙 Rise 8:46am Set 6:01pm		🌙 Rise 9:57am Set 7:08pm	

MOON AND FISH KEYS

● New Moon ● First Quarter ● Full Moon ● Last Quarter

🐟 Good Fishing 🐟 Fair Fishing 🐟 Not So Good

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	4	-
Whitianga	-	0	1	-
Tairua	+	0	10	+
Whangamata	-	0	3	-
Waihi Beach	-	0	21	-

Landowner concerned about river debris

By ALICE PARMINTER

A Pūriri landowner concerned about flooding is seeking answers about who's responsible for clearing debris in the river adjacent to his property.

Geoff Doman has lived on his low-lying Thames Valley property for around six years. It's bordered on one side by the Pūriri River, which passes under a nearby bridge on State Highway 26.

Geoff's concern is a roughly two-metre-high, 40-metre-long pile of gravel and other debris which has settled underneath the bridge and along part of the length of his property. Geoff said the build-up is putting the river at an increased risk of flooding - during Cyclone Vaiau in April, he said the river was threatening to burst its banks.

Geoff's property has flooded once before, during Cyclone Gabrielle in 2023. Geoff remembered fleeing in the middle of the night, after floodwaters reached 450mm high inside his shed and caravan. "I woke up at 2.30 in the morning in the caravan - I put my feet out and hit water," he said.

"Luckily I had my ute facing [the road] and I knew roughly where the driveway was, so I got out okay."

Geoff said he had been trying to get the latest pile of debris cleared for more than 18 months - he is not allowed to do it himself, he said, nor could he afford to do so.

But both Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Authority (NZTA) and the Waikato Regional Council (WRC) have told him it's not



Pūriri homeowner Geoff Doman. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

their responsibility. An email from NZTA to Geoff last year stated "NZTA's role is limited to maintaining the bridge structure itself... broader river management, including sediment and gravel build-up within the channel, sits with Waikato Regional Council."

Meanwhile, emails between Geoff and various WRC representatives have said "works to repair degradation or remove aggregation under the Pūriri bridge [is NZTA's] responsibility".

Both agencies have inspected the site in person. Following Cy-

clone Gabrielle, WRC carried out some remedial works, including clearing debris, removing fallen trees, widening and deepening the water channel, and building up the bank alongside Geoff's property.

This work was done with NZTA's approval and used central government funding, council told *The Profile*. "The landowner has acknowledged these works improved waterway capacity and reduced flood impacts," a council spokesperson said. "No further works are planned unless NZTA identifies a risk to the bridge asset. Council's

role in future works would be limited to providing regulatory advice if a private landowner seeks to undertake works."

The council said Geoff's property sat outside the direct benefit flood protection area of the Waihou Valley Scheme and was therefore rated as a Classification D property. "There is no rating or level of service for flood protection or channel capacity works at this site, and the works requested by the landowner fall outside council's responsibilities."

NZTA similarly said it had no

current plan to undertake further works at the site.

"The most recent inspection found the bridge to be structurally sound. While the build-up of material beneath the bridge was not assessed as a structural threat or to be adversely impacting the upstream environment at that time, NZTA has asked its contractor to complete an updated inspection to confirm the current condition and identify whether anything has changed. NZTA will consider any further action if the updated inspection identifies a risk to the bridge or the state highway asset."

Both organisations consider all their decisions to date to be compliant with the relevant rules and responsibilities.

Meanwhile, Geoff said he would continue fighting for someone to remove the debris as he believed the stream's current state was affecting his health.

"I cannot get into bed of a night time without putting my head on the pillow and it comes up straight away every single night now, so I've got to try and concentrate and think of something else so I can get to sleep. It's just affecting me that much," Geoff said.

"The doctor said, 'you're going to have to have a pacemaker'. So I ended up having to have this bloody thing in here... I just don't need this stress."

"I know there's so many more people that are worse off than what I am. But this has been going on for so long, and they've had the opportunity to be able to do it. But they just refuse to do it."

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STORYMAP



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'Triple threat' puts park future at risk

By KELLEY TANTAU

Rhodes Park is facing a "triple threat" of river flooding, coastal inundation, and a high-water table, leaving uncertainty over the future of Thames' main sporting hub and a few viable alternatives.

Last month, the Thames Community Board adopted the Thames Sport Precinct Feasibility Study, recommending council continue investing in Rhodes Park to keep the sports fields playable for as long as possible, while planning and budgeting for a future sports precinct elsewhere.

A future site would need to be to accommodate between four and eight playing fields, six netball courts and two or three cricket ovals.

About 850 people play sport at Rhodes Park currently; however, the fields are subject to regular flooding from three sources: the river, the sea, and from the high water table under the grounds.

According to calculations made in the council's Shoreline Management Plan, the fields are expected to become largely unplayable sometime between six and 11 years (2032-2037).

The Thames Sport Precinct Feasibility Study found Rhodes Park was already compromised by flooding and rising sea levels, but said the council had little choice but to keep the existing sports facilities there in the short term, largely due to a lack of suitable alternative sites around Thames.

As a result, the community board recommended to Thames-Coromandel District Council that maintenance funding for the Rhodes Park fields be significantly increased in the next Long Term Plan [2027-2037].

The recommendation would see the annual maintenance budget rise from \$68,822 to \$208,000 per year, allowing the fields to be maintained to a higher standard than is currently possible.

The board also recommended establishing a reserve fund of up to \$150,000 to help reinstate the sports fields following future flooding events.

The feasibility study investigated six possible sites for a long-term sports precinct, with several being ruled out.

A site at Maramarahi, also known as Airfield South, was removed from consideration in 2023 after it was noted as being culturally and historically significant to Ngāti Maru and Tōtara Hapu.

A lower racecourse site was found to face flooding risks similar to Rhodes Park. A Southbridge site in Kōpū South was considered too small, while a private Matatoki property was discounted due to its distance from Thames and uncertainty around availability.

A site in Kōpū South, known as the Wenzlick Block, was the only site identified that was both large enough and free from flooding risk, while still being relatively close to Thames.

The privately-owned site is signaled for mixed-use development in the Thames and Surrounds Spatial Plan; however, the availability timeframe of the privately-owned land is uncertain, the study said.

The community board asked staff to explore ways to extend the usability of Rhodes Park in the meantime, including improving internal drainage systems by creating deeper swales; changing the layout of the football and rugby fields to increase utilisation; and looking at the potential for lighting to increase evening use.

A flooded Rhodes Park during a recent storm.

File Photo: SUPPLIED



Teen arrested after Whangamatā chase

An 18-year-old man appeared in Court following a series of burglaries and a fleeing driver incident in Whangamatā earlier this month.

About 1am on May 5, Police received reports of a person unlawfully entering multiple commercial premises on Port Rd.

The alleged offender had taken a number of items, including cash, before Police arrived at the scene.

Inspector Mike Henwood, Eastern Waikato Area Commander, said a member of the public, passing by at the time, saw the unlawful activity and contacted Police with descriptions of the alleged offender and the vehicle.

At around 2.30am, a vehicle allegedly swerved to the other side of the road into the path of a Police unit travelling on Tairua Rd. Police did not pursue the vehicle due to the manner of driving, however kept observations of the vehicle.

A short time later, Police signalled the

vehicle to stop and pulled the vehicle over.

The driver then failed to remain stopped and fled, resulting in Police initiating a pursuit.

Inspector Henwood said some time later during the pursuit, the vehicle crashed on Waihi-Whangamatā Rd.

An 18-year-old man was taken into custody at the scene without incident, and there were no reported injuries.

During an initial search of the vehicle, Police located a number of items believed to have been taken from the Port Rd premises.

"Police would like to thank the member of the public for promptly contacting us at the time of the incident," Inspector Henwood said. "This allowed us to respond quickly and led us to this arrest."

The 18-year-old man appeared in Hamilton District Court charged with six counts of burglary, failing to remain stopped, and reckless driving.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Theatre to raise the roof with variety show

By ALICE PARMINTER

The show must go on at Paeroa Little Theatre, as its enthusiastic volunteers prepare for a variety show fundraiser extravaganza.

The committee has some ambitious plans to bring the theatre into the 21st century and make it a sought-after venue and community space for the town.

First though, there are some urgent repairs which need to take place - mainly a full roof replacement.

"We have a new committee this year, and we are looking at moving the theatre forwards, increasing our membership, tidying the place up," committee member Jo Adams said.

"But the roof - during the day you can actually see the rust on the outside, and there's a hole in the ceiling. Our kitchen actually needs a complete update as well, but we can only do one thing at a time."

Along with the structural issues, the committee also wants to revitalise the theatre itself, including its community. Committee members said they wanted the venue to be used not just for shows, but for functions and events as well. And they are also looking into ways to draw in youth.

The committee didn't know the total amount needed for repairs yet as they were still getting quotes for the work.

"It's probably one of the longest



Members of the Paeroa Little Theatre at rehearsals for a recent show.

Photo: SUPPLIED

theatres that's been continuously running as a voluntary organisation," committee member Kerry Single said.

"Over time, this has gone from a theatre to a hall, and we want to get it back into a theatre again. It's an old-style theatre, so there's really a lot that we need to now start looking at with future-planning.

"It's a place that you can't walk away from. Every suburban area, especially in the rural area, needs

a theatre that the public can come to and enjoy themselves."

Fundraising has already begun, with the committee raffling off a load of firewood and holding a high tea. Next on the list is a variety show, featuring some of Paeroa's hidden talent.

Several performers have already signed up, including comedians, magicians, dancers, singers, and musicians.

There are still performance

slots available, and committee member Mark Eifler said he was keen to hear from anyone who could tell a story and entertain an audience.

The theatre will also be holding auditions at the end of May for *Crazy Ladies*, a comedic play by NZ playwright Devon Williamson.

The play is centred around a 25-year school reunion with five friends, which soon devolves into

chaos. "And there's things like costuming, back of stage, building... there's loads of opportunities to help," Jo said. "It's a great way to meet people."

DETAILS: Roof fundraiser variety show, May 23, 7pm, at Paeroa Little Theatre. Tickets \$20, performers, a koha. Performers must register by May 18, Ph 021 275 4547. Crazy Ladies auditions, May 31, 2pm at Paeroa Little Theatre. See Facebook for more info.

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Cyclone Vaianu decimates social supermarket

By ALICE PARMINTER

Hauraki's Pātaka Kai Social Supermarket has been forced to temporarily shut its doors following weather damage from Cyclone Vaianu in April.

The Paeroa-based social supermarket has been closed since it was flooded out on April 12. Te Whāriki Manawāhine O Hauraki Hauraki Women's Refuge, which runs the supermarket, says it will remain closed for the foreseeable future, with no set date to reopen.

"We were wiped out, basically," director of research Paora Moyle said. "And we do this without funding, so it's really knocked us over."

The Pātaka Kai wasn't the only part of the refuge's operations affected in the storm, Paora said - its Thames premises, located on the second floor above BNZ Bank, also took a battering.

"Everything just got completely saturated. I think the weather came in sideways under the roof," she said. "Being an old building, the landlord has had some trouble with pigeons all the way along. It's

made it less than versatile.

"We're using one half of it and we're drying out the other half - there's been some repairs that have happened up there. But we are in the process of moving to new premises."

The relocation will also involve moving the Pātaka Kai back to Thames, which Paora said would be necessary to help reduce operational costs.

Meanwhile, the refuge's safe house, which helps women and children dealing with domestic violence, was unaffected by the cyclone.

Paora said the organisation would continue to operate as normal despite the disruptions.

"We're moving, basically, and reorganising. We can't stay where we are," Paora said.

"But we will continue to look after people as best we can. And it may mean a mobile service and going out to visit and that kind of thing... we will be back to the space we were before in terms of providing for the community.

"We're just going to have to get used to being better prepared and doing things better and differently."

Challenge seekers give it a go

By ALICE PARMINTER

Matatoki School students were visited by Thames-Coromandel District Mayor Peter Revell on April 21, as part of a school-wide Challenge Seeker programme.

The programme has seen students developing their abilities to give things a go, try hard with tricky things, and develop overall resilience in addressing and tackling the challenges of life.

"We were wanting to develop really positive learner dispositions in our students, and we noticed that their attitudes towards facing challenges would be a really useful skillset for them to grow," principal Hine Viskovich said.

"So as part of that, we invited people from our community to come in and talk about challenges that they face, and the kind of mindset and strategies they use to help them overcome something tricky or scary or challenging."

Among the school's other guest speakers were a competitive kickboxer, a firefighter, and a canyoning guide/outdoor instructor. Each shared their unique perspectives on overcoming challenges, as well as sharing a little about their jobs with the students.

Mayor Revell's visit saw the students learning about the particular challenges he faces in his local government role, and the strategies he uses to work through them.

"The kinds of things the children have learned from listening to those people is to give it a go, think about the end, don't give up, and take small steps, just one step



Thames-Coromandel District Mayor Peter Revell visits students as part of a school-wide Challenge Seeker programme. Photo: SUPPLIED

at a time," Hine said.

"In a classroom situation that would transfer to, for example, if someone doesn't feel confident about maths, rather than being overwhelmed, just do small steps and think about what it will feel like when you achieve well."

Hine said the difference in students' attitudes has been noticeable.

"Teachers were on the lookout for children who were taking on challenges in their learning... each week the numbers just grew, and some children have got multiple challenge seeker awards."

This term, the students will be focusing on having a good attitude, and showing more agency in their own learning.

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Paeroa high tea event raises \$3k for charity

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

A community high tea fundraiser in Paeroa on May 2 has raised just over \$3000 for the Breast Cancer Foundation NZ.

The Pink Ribbon FIKA High Tea Luncheon event at the Ohinemuri Club hosted 122 patrons, some of which were dressed from head to toe in pink wigs, accessories and attire to show their support for the cause.

Organiser Mel Huang, who runs Mel's Catering alongside husband Edilson Ponce, said it was a "huge effort" and he was really happy to hit the \$3000 target. "Everything went smoothly because everybody just chipped in to help make it successful."

Mel said he shared his "sincerest appreciation" to all who supported the event such as the Ohinemuri Club and all the sponsors who donated their time, skills, prizes and auction items.

Nurse practitioner Emma Hedgecock was also there to share a presentation about the importance of self-checking, what to look for, and how important it was to screen for early detection of breast cancer.

The high tea itself consisted of each guest being served 14 pieces of food, Mel said.

"Of course doing high tea on the high tea trays is really no joke, because it's the first time I'm doing that with that many people involved."



People show their support for the Pink Ribbon FIKA High Tea Luncheon fundraiser. Photos: AYLA NECKLEN



Edilson Ponce and Mel Huang.



Mel said there was a strong feeling of "community spirit" at the event.

"I think everybody just plays a part in it and that makes it so exciting. You can feel the community spirit where everybody just wants to help to raise the funds," he said.

"That's actually very important for any fundraiser, you want to fundraise because you

want to do it, not because you have to be there."

But the cause was important to Mel on a personal level.

"This is a really, really good cause. I have had many nice customers throughout the years who actually died of breast cancer, so I can actually feel that it's a thing that if we need to do something to help with the research, we just try our best to

give it all to the foundation," he said.

He said usually every month he hosted a high tea event for the seniors of Paeroa at a reasonable cost, which included live music, a quiz and spot prizes. The purpose of each high tea was to raise funds for charity, he said, such as Kids Can, Canteen and Starship.

The first fundraiser he hosted

was in March, 2023, and since then they had raised almost \$30,000 for different charities, he said. "We are really, really happy with what we've been able to do."

The next high tea fundraiser is set for June 6 to raise funds for Paeroa Blue Light.

DETAILS: To keep up with future high tea fundraisers, follow Mels Catering Paeroa on Facebook.

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Caterpillar (97 mins) M. Follows three women living in a leaky Wellington villa. 16yo Cassie; her mother, a filmmaker on the brink of a breakthrough; and her grandmother, who has an obsession with raising monarch caterpillars and one day seeing the butterfly migration in Mexico.
The Sheep Detectives (109 mins) PG. A witty new mystery about a shepherd (Hugh Jackman) who reads detective novels to his sheep every night, assuming they can't understand. But when a mysterious incident occurs, the sheep become the detectives. Investigating human suspects, they become brilliant crime-solvers.
The Devil Wears Prada (119 mins) M. Almost 20 years after their iconic turns as Miranda, Andy, Emily and Nigel—Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway, Emily Blunt and Stanley Tucci return to the fashionable streets of New York City and the sleek offices of Runway Magazine in the eagerly awaited sequel to the 2006 phenomenon.
Michael (130 mins) M. Musical biographical drama telling the story of Michael Jackson's life from lead of the Jackson Five to how his creative ambition led him to become the biggest entertainer in the world. Michael has surpassed Oppenheimer for the biggest opening day ever for a biographical film.
Coming from Thursday 21 May: Sgt Haane: True WWII story. Haane Manahi of the 28th Māori Battalion is told that taking the German desert fortress of Takrouna will be a 'cakewalk'. But when the chain of command collapses under enemy fire, Haane leads a small group of Māori Battalion soldiers – all related, all cousins – up a precipitous cliff face and into the pages of history – where his Victoria Cross recommendation and its downgrade continue to echo throughout his descendants today. **A Private Life:** French comedy starring Jodie Foster. When renowned psychiatrist Lilian Steiner learns of the death of one of her patients she is deeply troubled. Convinced that it was murder, she decides to investigate...

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On the Land

Feds welcome reform

Federated Farmers is welcoming the much-needed reform of local government announced last week, and says councils should get cracking.

The government has given councils a three-month window to put forward proposals to simplify and strengthen local government in their regions.

Federated Farmers local government spokesperson Sandra Faulkner says that'll be music to farmers' ears.

"New Zealand's local government structure simply isn't working for farmers, or any Kiwis really. It's contributing to rising costs, infrastructure pressure, and declining civic engagement.

"Ratepayers up and down the country have completely lost confidence in a system that doesn't recognise how our communities have evolved across the last 30 years," Faulkner said.

"We've long advocated for reform, so we're very pleased the government has now asked councils to get on with it."

The announcement offered councils a chance to fast-track their own reform proposals and bypass the Combined Territory Board model.

Federated Farmers encourages elected councillors to put aside parochialism and engage in open discussions on reform that will work.

"The clear message to councils from government is to seize the initiative and find more efficient structures that work better for ratepayers and communities.

"If councils don't front-foot this, government will make the decisions for them."

Faulkner said Federated Farmers would

only support reforms that locked in strong representation for provincial communities.

"Our consistent view has been that metropolitan and provincial areas have very different needs and priorities.

"We took the initiative early this year by publishing a proposal for reform, promoting the case for unitary councils, which would combine the responsibilities of current regional and district councils. We'd like to see metropolitan unitary councils centred on cities of around 50,000-plus, and provincial unitary councils that merge the district councils."

That model could see the current 78 councils reduce to less half that number.

"Our model achieves the streamlining, economies of scale and capability to shoulder the regional spatial planning the government wants," Faulkner said.

"Representation is key - having confidence that those elected to make the decisions understand, and are accountable for, the needs of their ratepayers.

"By structurally separating metropolitan and provincial governance, we would ensure councils reflect genuine communities of interest and have more consistent geography, land use, and rating bases."

There's a lot of work and discussion to happen in a relatively short timeframe, she said. "Federated Farmers urges councils to get on with it and be transparent with their communities as they make these important decisions.

"And if they're not sure where to start, go and read our carefully thought-out proposal."

Vet urges caution over bait toxicity

By DR GEMMA WITHERS

With winter rapidly approaching and temperatures cooling, it's the time of year when people set out rat bait to control rodents coming around houses and sheds.

As a result, we often see animals, usually dogs, that have ingested bait.

There are a few different types of rat baits. Anticoagulants (those that interfere with blood clotting) are the most common, but other types that affect the brain and organs also exist.

Dogs can ingest bait directly or eat a poisoned rodent and develop secondary toxicity. Rat bait is designed to taste like a treat so that the rodents want to eat it. As a result, so will your dog.

What does it look like if your dog has eaten rat bait?

For the first 2-3 days, nothing!

As blood clotting worsens, your dog may begin to bleed internally, which looks like pale gums, weakness, difficulty breathing, seizures, coughing, unusual bleeding, or lameness.

Clinical signs will depend on which body system is bleeding (into the brain vs a joint, for example) in the early stages of poisoning.

What to do if you suspect exposure to rat bait:

Act quickly. Remove access to rat bait. Do not wait for symptoms to develop; contact your veterinarian immediately. Treatment will vary depending on how long ago the exposure was, so give your veterinarian as much information as you can.

Take a photo of the poison's packaging



Dr Gemma Withers. Photo: SUPPLIED

so the veterinarian knows which type of poison it likely is and how it will affect the dog.

How to prevent exposure: Avoid using rat bait where pets can access it. If necessary, use pet-safe bait stations.

Store poisons out of reach of animals. Supervise your dog in an unfamiliar environment (e.g., at the neighbours' or a friend's) in case they have laid bait in an area the dogs can reach.

Rat bait exposure is serious and can be fatal. The key is prevention, and if that is unsuccessful, act quickly to get your pet to a veterinarian. It's far better to be cautious rather than wait and see what happens.

- Dr Gemma Withers is branch manager and veterinarian at Franklin Vets, Kopu

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On the Land

Widow's plea after forestry road death

Two more businesses have been held to account for the forestry road failures that killed Coromandel truck driver Greg Stevens, as his widow issues an emotional plea for worker safety.

Greg Stevens, 59, died when his fully loaded logging truck and trailer rolled while negotiating a bend on a private forestry road in May, 2023.

The road had no warning signs, road markers or berms, and its sharp corner was well outside any recommended specifications for the heavy vehicle he was driving.

The Thames District Court found the corner's turning diameter was 7.5 metres less than the minimum standard for the truck configuration. Wet surfaces, mud-caked tyres, darkness, and a steep downhill approach made the bend even more dangerous.

The forest owner, Specialty Timbers (1987) Ltd, and the transport contractor, Trevor Masters Ltd, have now been sentenced for their work health and safety failures. Judge Tompkins found each party assumed someone else was ensuring the road was safe, so nobody took responsibility.

"Greg's death was preventa-



Greg Stevens died when his fully loaded logging truck and trailer rolled in May, 2023.

Photo: SUPPLIED

ble, and if those companies had done what they should have done, my Greg would still be with me today," Caroline Stevens told the Thames District Court in a victim impact statement.

"Greg's death has left both mine, and the lives of our families, in limbo. Only someone who has experienced a loss like this in such tragic and horrible circumstances will ever understand. It is my hope that Greg's

death will serve as a reminder to prioritise safety in the workplace, so no other family has to endure this trauma. My plea is simple: let our loved ones come home from work safely," Mrs Stevens told the court.

Safe transporting of logs to the forest boundary is part of WorkSafe New Zealand's recently released approved code of practice for forestry and harvesting operations.

"No log load is worth a life. Forestry operators must understand that managing forestry roads isn't optional. If you're moving heavy vehicles through difficult terrain, you need proper risk assessment, proper consultation, and proper controls.

"If you're not sure your roads are up to standard, stop and check before the next truck goes out," WorkSafe northern regional manager Brad Duggan said. Forestry was a priority for WorkSafe as its fatality rate was about 20 times higher than the average for all sectors, he said. "Our role is to influence businesses and workers to meet their responsibilities to keep people healthy and safe. When they do not, we take action."

The forest managers, Forest360 Limited, have separately entered into an enforceable undertaking. This is a binding agreement with WorkSafe to invest more than \$400,000 in a range of safety actions in response to the death.

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Gaol escapee found in Ngatea cowshed



Vintage Valley News

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.

1919

Charles Bolton, a prisoner who had escaped from Auckland's Mount Eden gaol, was discovered hiding in a settler's cowshed at Ngatea.

Bolton was a 29-year-old unmarried miner, said to have formerly resided at Waihi.

The first trace of his movements was discovered near Clevedon and from there he had made for Ōrere and Miranda.

At Waitakaruru he acquired a hat and coat, being clad only in dungaree trousers and a singlet. When Warder Brophy and Constable Taylor found evidence of him at Miranda they followed his tracks finally discovering him exhausted at Ngatea.

He was taken to Pukekohe, and brought before the court there on a charge of having escaped from legal custody.

Meanwhile, at Karangahake a few miners on their way home from work just after midnight



Police discovered the exhausted gaol escapee at Ngatea, 1919.

Photo: SUPPLIED

met a man with a small child on his back and two little boys at his side.

They were wandering aimlessly in an almost destitute condition about the street.

The man's wife had died at Mangaiti, near Te Aroha, during the recent influenza epidemic, and he had been left with the children to care for.

He couldn't do this alone so had tramped over the ranges and was on the way to Bowentown where he had two brothers who had promised to help him.

Warm milk was obtained for the baby, who was wrapped in a thin shawl tied to his father's back.

Some bread, meat and hot tea were found for the others then

they were given blankets and somewhere to sleep in the Miners' Union Hall. A 'tarpaulin muster' - a collection of money - was then made amongst the miners which resulted in a nice handful of silver.

The Auckland-Thames road was opened for motor traffic via Pokeno, Maramarua, Waitakaruru, Ngatea and the Wharepoa Ferry.

The Thames County Council had completed laying pipes over a portion of the road near Maramarua which had been impassable for vehicular traffic for years.

By the new route it was possible to motor from Auckland to Thames in about five hours in fine weather.

On the Thames Coast road a mob of about 158 cattle purchased at a sale at Tapu was brought to Thames and lodged for the night in a paddock at Pārāwai adjoining the railway line.

They broke out and got on the line as the Auckland express train came along, stampeding before it, eventually running on to the railway bridge over the Kauaeranga River.

Three were drowned, or bogged in deep mud in the river bed. The remainder of the mob was saved after a great deal of trouble.

The train was held up over an hour before steaming into Shortland station, which was just across the bridge.

Chris' Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parminter

1. In 1992, Motorola, Nokia and NEC were the leading manufacturers of which now widespread product?
2. Which of these is not the name of a US state? a) New England, b) New Hampshire, or c) New Jersey?
3. Which famous cocktail is made by mixing ginger ale with orange juice and a splash of grenadine?
4. Which Canadian singer first performed under the stage name Mickey Bubbles?
5. Which is the most recent implement to have widespread usage: the spoon, fork, or knife?
6. On which day of the week do Seventh Day Adventists go to church to worship?
7. Complete the set of four Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle names: Raphael, Michaelangelo, Leonardo and

8. Which is larger: the Pacific Ocean, or all the worlds' landmasses added together?

9. Singer Harry Styles has four of which body part? a) Ears, b) kidneys, or c) nipples?

10. Which former Australian Rugby player was also the Bachelor for season six of The Bachelor Australia in 2018? a) David Pocock, b) Israel Folau, or c) Nick Cummins (also known as 'Honey Badger')?



ANSWERS: 1. Cellular phones; 2. a) New England (New England is a northeastern region of the United States comprising the states of Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island); 3. A Shirley Temple; 4. Michael Buble; 5. The fork; 6. Saturday; 7. Donatello; 8. The Pacific Ocean; 9. c) Nipples; 10. c) Nick Cummins aka Honey Badger.

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Bottle return a fundraising success

On March 15, the Thames Scouts, in partnership with the Seagull Centre, had the opportunity to see first-hand how effective a container return scheme could be in Aotearoa.

With support from the Thames community, the Scouts collected a total of 3928 beverage containers, made up of 635 plastic drink bottles, 1114 aluminium cans, 2106 glass bottles, and 73 beverage cartons.

This resulted in a total return value of \$785 to go towards future camps and activities.

The group reached their initial target of 2500 containers (equivalent to \$500) by 10:30am, thanks in part to a generous donation from a Thames restaurant owner.

“This was a significant achievement, especially considering the collection was completed before lunchtime,” Seagull Centre sustainability co-ordinator Lucci Scott said.

“To earn a similar amount through more traditional fundraising methods, such as sausage sizzles, could require as many as four separate four-hour sessions.

“The bottle drive clearly demonstrated how efficient and practical a container return scheme could be as a fundraiser for community groups.”

The event also saw strong



Thames Scouts supercharged their fundraising efforts with a container collection and refund scheme. Photos: SUPPLIED

community participation across all age groups.

Both young people and adults were involved in collecting, greeting, sorting, counting, and educating others about the process.

This highlighted not only the fundraising potential of such a scheme, but also its ability to

bring people together and encourage community involvement, Lucci said.

“A container return scheme would provide a practical and cost-effective way for New Zealanders to reduce litter, minimise waste, and improve recycling rates.

“Similar schemes are already

operating successfully in 57 countries and states, where they help recover drink containers and ensure the real costs of recycling are covered.

“Public support is also strong, with surveys showing that 76 per cent of New Zealanders want a container deposit return scheme introduced here,”

Lucci said. “For many people, the idea also carries a sense of nostalgia, recalling the bottle return systems of the 1970s and 1980s.

“Reintroducing such a scheme in Aotearoa would not only benefit the environment, but also create meaningful fundraising opportunities for schools, clubs, and community groups such as the Thames Scouts.

“The success of the Thames Scouts bottle drive shows just how valuable a container return scheme could be for communities across New Zealand.

“It is an initiative that would support fundraising, strengthen community engagement, and contribute to a cleaner, less wasteful future.”

Details: For more information about the container return scheme check out zerowaste.co.nz/container-return-scheme

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Feel like you're teaching people to suck eggs?

'Business as usual' after Profile office closes

OPINION

By **MICHAEL WILKES**



Ever been in a room sharing something and thought, "Everyone here probably already knows this. What's the point?"

I've been there. I used to really struggle running workshops for professionals. I'd stand there thinking I was the least experienced in the room, the least qualified—maybe only up there because I like to talk.

There was one workshop in particular. I was speaking my

heart out but silently cringing, convinced I was teaching everyone stuff they already knew. For many in that room, that simply wasn't true. But I didn't see it at the time.

At the end, I spotted a gentleman who I knew could have run circles around me on the topic. I sheepishly walked over, almost ready to apologise for wasting his time.

But he was grinning. Beaming, even.

"Mike," he said, "you don't get it. When I hear a message I believe in and agree with, it fires me up. It inspires me. I'm sitting there in the back, cheering you on. Even when we

know something deeply, there's something powerful about hearing someone else share it with passion."

That moment flipped something for me.

Here's the truth: your story, your wisdom, your insights—someone needs them.

For some people, it'll be completely new. For others, it'll be a reminder they didn't know they needed. And for a few, it'll be like cheering from the sidelines as someone else carries the message forward.

Sure, there will always be the ones in the middle—the critics, the complainers. But if we let their voices silence us, we

rob the ones who actually need what we carry.

So don't hold back. Don't assume you're teaching people to "suck eggs." Turns out, most people like eggs.

Your story could be the encouragement, the reminder, or the lightbulb moment that someone else has been waiting for.

Michael Wilkes is a youth worker with Thrive Trust, supporting mentoring and resilience programmes across Thames and Paeroa. To support his local youth work or follow stories and insights, find him on social media @michaelwilkes.kiwi. Enjoy these articles? Grab his book The Unschooled Life at michael-wilkes.kiwi.

The Valley Profile has closed its Paeroa office.

Editor/owner Teresa Maxwell said the closure was due to the recent completion of paper's Public Interest Journalism funding through NZ On Air and a recent drop in advertising because of the fuel crisis.

"We are a very small team who previously used the office only twice a week because we're busy out and about in our community talking to newsmakers and advertisers, so it didn't make economic sense to keep the office open."

The quality of the region's largest newspaper would not change, she said. "It's business as usual."

"Our three full-time staff and two part-time reporters will still be out and about and we will continue to represent our communities and produce our award-winning weekly newspaper."

The Valley Profile prints 16,000 copies every week, delivered to every letterbox in the Hauraki Plains, Waihi, Ngatea, Thames and Thames Coast, with bulk drops throughout the Coromandel Peninsula, including Whangamatā, Whitianga, Pauanui, Tairua and Coromandel township.

DETAILS: To place an advertisement or advertorial, Ph/Txt 022 130 3885, email: nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz or Ph/Txt 022 174 3988, email: david-da@valleyprofile.co.nz. For stories, email: editor@valleyprofile.co.nz.

Pet Profile

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For these two sweet 5-month-old boys, the shelter is all they've ever known.

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They long for something more — a warm lap, a quiet home, someone to call their own.

They're gentle, affectionate boys who can be a little shy at first, but with patience their playful, boisterous personalities begin to shine. Once they feel

safe, they become the cuddly companions they were always meant to be.

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- Supplied by Thames SPCA



They arrived as tiny kittens five months ago. Photo: SUPPLIED

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Price Reduction

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3 1 1 2

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Waihi
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3 1 1 3

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Price Reduction

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3				2		7		
2		7	6	4		8		
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HARD

250

HARD

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EASY

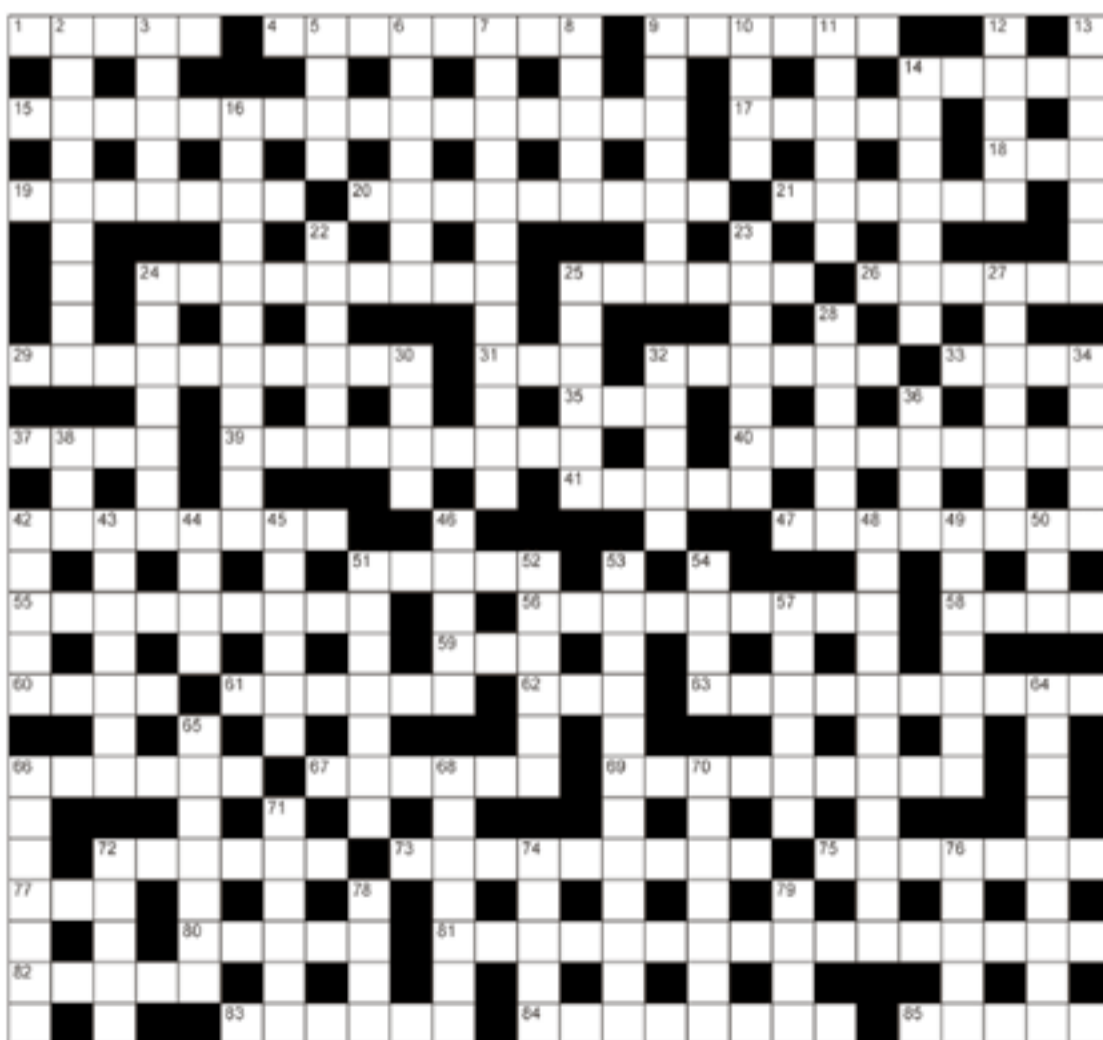
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4	3	2	9	7	8	6	1	5
1	7	5	2	3	6	9	4	8
9	6	8	4	1	5	2	3	7

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JUMBO CROSSWORD

270

- ACROSS**
- 1 Consumers (5)
 - 4 Mix up (8)
 - 9 Straightforward; frank (6)
 - 14 Oust (5)
 - 15 Dropped into an extremely dangerous or unpleasant situation (6,2,3,5)
 - 17 Roman love god (5)
 - 18 Long fish (3)
 - 19 Shutting (7)
 - 20 Cargo ship (9)
 - 21 Water channel (6)
 - 24 Run off hastily (9)
 - 25 Come to rest (6)
 - 26 Decomposed (6)
 - 29 Tumbling and acrobatic feats (10)
 - 31 Seventh Greek letter (3)
 - 32 Fearful (6)
 - 33 Pretends (4)
 - 35 Tear (3)
 - 37 Domesticate (4)
 - 39 Certain of (9)
 - 40 Absent-minded (9)
 - 41 Regretful (5)
 - 42 Cabbage salad (8)
 - 47 In reality (8)
 - 51 Electricity supply (5)
 - 55 Reduced-size copy (9)
 - 56 Digestion disorder (9)
 - 58 Canine animals (4)
 - 59 Self-esteem (3)
 - 60 Dry (4)
 - 61 In arrears (6)
 - 62 Humour (3)
 - 63 Sustenances (10)
 - 66 Yanked (6)
 - 67 Fried coating (6)
 - 69 Puts limits on (9)
 - 72 Tattered (6)
 - 73 Nerve-racking (9)
 - 75 Chaos (7)
 - 77 Extinct large bird (3)
 - 80 Bloodsucking insect (5)
 - 81 Immediate adoration (4,2,5,5)
 - 82 Surpass (5)
 - 83 Lookout (6)
 - 84 Auxiliary activity (8)
 - 85 Unwanted plants (5)
 - DOWN**
 - 2 Academic (9)
 - 3 Tree anchors (5)
 - 5 Chef (4)
 - 6 Stuck to (7)
 - 7 Aggressiveness (12)
 - 8 Era (5)
 - 9 Meal course (7)
 - 10 Torture frame (4)
 - 11 Mediterranean island (6)
 - 12 Less (5)
 - 13 Cheese type (7)
 - 14 Publication issue (7)
 - 16 Having no intelligible meaning (11)
 - 22 Food allowance (6)
 - 23 Exalt; worship (7)
 - 24 Earnest (7)
 - 25 Glass fragments (6)
 - 27 Diplomatic (7)
 - 28 Lemon acid (6)
 - 30 Comedy sketch (4)
 - 32 In pieces (5)
 - 34 Saline (5)
 - 36 Sweetheart (4)
 - 38 Fuss (3)
 - 42 Punctuation mark (5)
 - 43 Desire (7)
 - 44 Wound mark (4)
 - 45 Maltreated (6)
 - 46 Discussed publicly (5)
 - 48 Playing area divided by a net (6,5)
 - 49 Give a talk to (7)
 - 50 Diary (3)
 - 51 Claimed (anag)(7)
 - 52 Bathroom cubicle (6)
 - 53 Pacific site of sculpted heads (6,6)
 - 54 Astound (4)
 - 57 Improvement (6)
 - 64 Stained (9)
 - 65 Marine bird (7)
 - 66 Clipped (7)
 - 68 Completely (7)
 - 70 Expressing deep emotion (7)
 - 71 Safe and unthreatened (6)
 - 72 Big farm in US (5)
 - 74 Roof overhang (5)
 - 76 Cereal crop (5)
 - 78 Faction (4)
 - 79 Branding tool (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Chest, 4 Every now and then, 14 Trust, 15 Sleet, 16 Unfamiliar, 17 Ether, 19 Toy, 20 Formula, 21 Libellous, 22 Dismay, 25 Feathered, 27 Sherry, 28 Flying, 33 Cradlesong, 35 Toe, 36 Ramrod, 37 Comb, 39 Née, 41 Cake tin, 42 Ascent, 43 Consonant, 44 Elate, 45 Eyesight, 50 MD, 51 Reckless, 55 Alibi, 58 Aluminium, 59 Nitwit, 60 Enhance, 61 Ore, 63 Eats, 64 Fewest, 65 Rut, 66 Straighten, 68 Caddie, 69 Dispel, 71 Broadcast, 76 Titter, 77 Navigator, 79 Include, 81 Tar, 84 Eyrie, 85 Disgusting, 86 Jetty, 87 Mused, 88 Go off the deep end, 89 Chart.

DOWN: 2 Hollow, 3 Steam, 5 Vent, 6 Realise, 7 Noises, 8 Whirl, 9 Nurture, 10 Tier, 11 Ethnic, 12 Musty, 13 Staying, 14 Trample, 18 Glittering, 23 Below, 24 Grimace, 26 Endless, 27 Scented, 29 Isolate, 30 Treaty, 31 Utter, 32 Bounce, 34 Gust, 36 Regal, 38 Baths, 40 Hook, 45 Erase, 46 Erupted, 47 Iris, 48 Heifer, 49 Pivot, 50 Mineral, 52 Convincing, 53 Loathes, 54 Sacred, 55 Amnesia, 56 State, 57 Kiss, 62 Trial, 67 Dirtied, 68 Costume, 70 Plaudit, 72 Rooftop, 73 Weirdo, 74 Danube, 75 Editor, 76 Truss, 78 Issue, 80 Leech, 82 Reef, 83 Anon.

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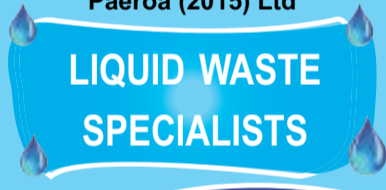
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Brodie returns for benefit concert

After years of silence and staying out of the spotlight, Te Aroha songwriter James Brodie is returning to the stage for a 30th birthday benefit concert in May.

The one-night-only concert, dubbed *30 And Alive*, will see James performing a setlist featuring stripped-back versions of music from his back-catalog alongside a selection of songs that he performed on the Future Te Aroha stage growing up.

The setlist will be paired with stories about growing up in his hometown and the lessons he learned along the way.

All tickets sold for the concert will benefit the Future Te Aroha Trust to allow them to continue the vital work they do in the community and the performing arts at the Future Te Aroha Centre, James said - something which he has both benefitted from and given back to regularly over the years. "Future Te Aroha has been a big part of my life since I started going there as a kid almost 25 years ago. Naturally, their mission has become a big part of my life, and it only feels right to do this show there," he said.

"Subsequently, all proceeds from the ticket sales will go directly to the Future Te Aroha Trust so they can continue doing the incredible things they do in our community through the performing arts. I have loved being a part of this mission over the years and if I can use this platform to give back to a place that has given so much to me, then that is a great way to spend my 30th".

James said his 30th birthday was a big milestone in his life, as well as marking his



James Brodie. Photo: SUPPLIED

return to the stage. "On many occasions, turning 30 came close to not happening, especially when I was struggling with my mental health in my teenage years," he said.

"If you've spent any amount of time in my orbit, you know the levels of what I've had to fight over the years to get here. But I've always maintained that should I make it to 30, I would share that story on stage with some of the songs I had started writing to act as the journal to my journey."

DETAILS: May 23, 7.30pm, Future Te Aroha Centre. Tickets \$15, email futureta@xtra.co.nz, Ph 07 884 9484.

SPORTS REPORTS



Darius King seals the game with a brilliant solo goal. Photo: MARK BROWN

FOOTBALL

Thames Men's Firsts unbeaten run continues with a win - Thames FC roundup

There was a buzz around Rhodes Park on Saturday, with five senior rugby and football games following a busy morning of junior sport. The packed car park reflected Thames Football Club's rapid growth since the turn of the year, with the seniors adding a Reserve team and junior numbers rising by 20 per cent. The first football double-header of the season began with the Reserves facing Hamilton Wanderers in Waikato Division 4.

A sloppy start saw Thames quickly fall 2-0 behind as Max Hazelton and Jordan Brown finished simple moves for the visitors. Thames gradually found their rhythm, with centre-back Martin Sutcliffe surging forward to fire just over the bar.

Jake Hudson then tested the defence from the right, while Eli Fale threatened down the flank before being smothered by Wanderers goalkeeper John McCosh. Thames rallied after the break and pulled one back when Neil Hope burst through midfield and released Amrit Thayyil, whose cross was neatly converted by Hudson.

However, the early damage proved decisive as Hamilton Wanderers ran out 4-1 winners, with Brown sealing his hat-trick late on.

Thames Men's Firsts continued their unbeaten start and claimed their first win of the season with a 3-1 victory over early table-toppers Waikato Unicol Black. The hosts made the perfect

start when a jinking Raegen Winslow run forced a clumsy tackle in the box. Ben Taylor stepped up and calmly converted the penalty to open his account for the season.

Goalkeeper Matthew Burchell continued his excellent start to the campaign with a series of fine saves, the best coming in the 33rd minute when he reacted quickly to tip a point-blank volley over the bar. Thames nearly doubled their lead when Taylor's close-range header from a Xavier Brown corner was well saved, before German Rodriguez Estefan clipped the crossbar with a 30-yard effort.

The second goal arrived when Brown found Mike Kim, whose snapshot slipped under the goalkeeper. Unicol responded through Nathan James to reduce the deficit, but Thames sealed the win when Yusuke Koizumi released Darius King on halfway. The speedy attacker outran two defenders before smashing home to make it 3-1.

"After a couple of draws, we wanted a complete performance to secure the three points," captain Mickael Démoncourt said.

"We were solid in all areas and put the game to bed with a strong team display."

Elsewhere, Thames Women's Kate Sheppard Cup run ended against a strong Waikato Unicol side. Stacey Palmer struck twice early with runs behind the defence, before Jordan Braid-Eley added two more on the counter. Thames responded through Jessica Rendall and Keltie McManus, but Jessica Sizer sealed a 5-2 win for Unicol.

- Jonathan Coles

SPORTS REPORTS

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

Show-jumping showcase

The Thames Pony Club end of season show-jumping competition was held on May 9, celebrating the end of a busy season of taking care of ponies, training, learning and competing at the club's weekly rallies. Club members said it was a great event for all their riders, ranging from those on the lead rein to senior riders.



Sophia Child and Blitzen jump the crossbar in style.



Arlo Gumbley jumps Skye on the lead rein.



Lucia Suess and her pony, Comet.



Sophia John flies with pony Chazz.



Tamzin Forsyth-Lees rides Paella.

Photos: SUPPLIED

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20.7.1944 - 5.5.2026. Aged 81 years. Treasured wife and soulmate of John for almost 60 years. Adored Mum of Gayle and Kevin, Katrina and Barry, Kim and Nik. Beloved Granny of Amanda, Arran, Jacinda, Ollie and Elise. 'A life well lived, and will be forever missed. Rest in Peace'. A Remembrance morning tea for Jan will be held in The Richmond Villas Lodge, Thames, on Saturday 16th May at 10.30am.

CLASSIFIEDS Deadline Mondays 12 noon

Death Notice	Gardening	To Let	Public Notices	Public Notice	Situations Vacant				
<p>EDMONDS, Jan Margaret (nee Davern): 20.7.1944 - 5.5.2026. Aged 81 years. Treasured wife and soulmate of John for almost 60 years. Adored Mum of Gayle and Kevin, Katrina and Barry, Kim and Nik. Beloved Granny of Amanda, Arran, Jacinda, Ollie and Elise. 'A life well lived, and will be forever missed. Rest in Peace'. A Remembrance morning tea for Jan will be held in The Richmond Villas Lodge, Thames, on Saturday 16th May at 10.30am.</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">TWENTYMANS</p>	<p style="background-color: yellow;">STUMP GRINDING. All sizes, all areas. Thames based. Ph 021 060 7659</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Handyman</p> <p>An experienced handyman covering all trades with over 20 years exp building trade. Please contact Laurie King 021 251 0246 ktpropertyservice.com</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">House Cleaning</p> <p>Castle on the Coast Cleaning Service. All housework, ovens, laundry, ironing. Ph 027 437 1195</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Land Wanted</p> <p>Wanted to Lease/Rent land while I look for another farm to buy anything considered Please call or text Richard 0279332015</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Lost & Found</p> <p>Gold ring found at Ngatea Domain on Sunday. Ph 021 292 6700</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Sheep Shearing Services</p> <p>Mobile shearing, crutching, hoof trimming & drenching. For lifestyle block owners, competitive rates. Call Richard 022 128 0852 or email richard.collier@xtra.co.nz for details</p>	<p>WAIHI Furnished private long-term cosy dwelling. Lounge, separate kitchen, bthrm, loft bdrm. Off-road parking, close to shops. Refs reqd. Ideal for single or working couple. \$400pw (incl electricity). For viewing 021 0273 4399</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p style="font-weight: bold;">NOTICE OF GREY POWER WAIHI INC</p> <p>Annual General Meeting Friday 22nd May 2026 Commencing at 10am Sharp Waihi Baptist Church, Kenny St, Waihi Secretary: Grey Power Waihi Inc.</p> </div> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Piano Tuner</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Sharyn Clark</p> <p>Piano Tuner & Technician 'Fully Qualified' and Covering all areas of Hauraki and Coromandel M: 0274 485 089 sharynclark22@gmail.com</p> </div> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Storage</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: red;">STORAGE KOPU, PAEROA</p> <p>"New Units" Ph 027 440 7101 07 868 3033 Safe n Sound Storage www.safestorage.co.nz</p> </td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Storage Unlimited</p> <p>25 Ngati Maru Highway Kopu, Thames Clean, secure, dry Units available 7 x 3.6m and 7 x 5.5m Phone 07 868 9944</p> </td> </tr> </table> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; background-color: #f4a460;"> <p style="font-weight: bold;">TOTAL STORAGE LTD</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">KEREPEHI / PAEROA</p> <p>10FT CON. \$125 per mnth 20FT CON. \$240 per mnth <small>T&C's apply</small> 021 67 67 99 info@totalstorage.co.nz</p> </div>	<p style="font-weight: bold; color: red;">STORAGE KOPU, PAEROA</p> <p>"New Units" Ph 027 440 7101 07 868 3033 Safe n Sound Storage www.safestorage.co.nz</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">Storage Unlimited</p> <p>25 Ngati Maru Highway Kopu, Thames Clean, secure, dry Units available 7 x 3.6m and 7 x 5.5m Phone 07 868 9944</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Thames Valley Basketball Assn</p> <p>Annual General Meeting Tuesday 26 May 2026 Jack McLean Rec Centre Thames 6pm All welcome to attend Contact R Ruka 021 121 1953</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">U3A Hauraki</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Lifelong Learners Interest Groups"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">This months talk by:- Rob Harley one of New Zealand's most experienced journalists Life's most amazing people <i>Snapshots from a 50yr journey with heroes and heroines.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday May 19th 10am to 12 noon \$10 cash at the door Paeroa Baptist Church 2 Wood Street Paeroa.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">All welcome.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">Please register by email to reserve your place at: event_registration@u3ahauraki.nz</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #004a99; color: white; padding: 5px;">Join interest groups, stay young and informed.</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Handyman Services</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div> <p style="font-weight: bold;">THAMES HANDYMAN & BUILDING SERVICES</p> <p>Building, home maintenance & general gardening services Phone: Fleur or Crighton • 0273 913 283</p> </div> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 50%;"> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Trades</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">FENCING CONTRACTOR</p> <p>Residential & Rural Retaining walls & more High quality workmanship Competitive prices Call Matt 021 1727 148</p> </td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 50%;"> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Painter</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">HAURAKI REGIONAL PAINTERS</p> <p>Over 12 years experience, interior/ exterior. 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<p>In Memoriam</p> <p>WATKINS, Lois: One year ago we lost a loving mum, nana and friend. In loving memory of Lois Watkins, 15 May 2025. Loved wife of the late Maurice Watkins (16 May 2010). Your love, strength and kindness remain with us every day. Though life moves on without you our hearts still ache for one more conversation, one more laugh, one more hug. Forever loved, deeply missed and always remembered. Love Barry and Fiona, Maurice, Kayla, Paul, Danny and Michael xx</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">For Lease</p> <p>Yards for lease, Thames and Kopu. Suitable for trucks, vehicles or trade business base. Ph 027 440 7101</p>								



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No off switch for lifeguards after big season

The red and yellow flags may be down for the season, but for Waihi Beach Lifeguard Services, there is no off switch for its members.

After another busy summer, the club has wrapped a season that brought together patrol service, rescues, lifeguard development, surf sport success, and major infrastructure progress.

Across the 2025-26 surf lifeguard patrol season, Waihi Beach lifeguards recorded nine rescues, 14 assists to safety, 777 preventative actions, more than 26,000 safety interventions, nine searches, 11 major first aids and 38 minor first aids.

Thanks to several supporters, the club was able to erect the Bowentown Rescue Hub in time for the start of the regional lifeguard season. The internal fit-out is still to be completed when funds are available, but once complete, the hub will shorten emergency response times and enhance capability at Bowentown.

It was also a standout season for Waihi Beach lifesaving surf sport. At the 2026 Aon New Zealand Surf Lifesaving Championships at Ohope Beach, Waihi Beach athletes showcased their skills by competing against some of the country's best. Max Page claimed silver in the U15 Board Race, Max Morley achieved two top-10 finishes in the U17 Board and Ski finals, and Georgia Walter finished 7th overall in the U17



Luke Butler was named Surf Lifeguard of the Year at the Waihi Beach Lifeguard Services awards night.
Photo: ALEX WILKINS

the season, with the Under 23 team bringing home silver in the short course.

Three Waihi Beach surf lifeguards also competed at the bp New Zealand IRB Championships 2026 in Gisborne.

Meanwhile, the club's Annual Awards of Excellence night recognised the people behind the patrol hours, rescues, coaching, training, events and quiet work that keeps the service running, as well as acknowledging sporting achievement.

Key honours included Luke Butler, named Surf Lifeguard of the Year, Andrew Cochrane, named Volunteer of the Year, Millie Watson, who received the Taylor Bros Cup for Junior Lifeguard of the Year, Chloe Poulter as Patrol Captain of the Year, Chiara Woodford as Instructor of the Year, and the Rescue of the Year which was awarded to Mitchell Robinson, Max Morley and one Coromandel Club lifeguard.

Christiaan Maarhuis received the President's Cup and the Butler Family Trophy for effort, attitude and achievement in surf sport and lifeguarding, Byron McIntyre received the McLaughlin Shield for U19 Sports and Lifeguarding Volunteer, and Sharlene Manukau was named Patrol Support Lifeguard of the Year.

The Spark Merit Shield - Most Improved Member - Sport and/or Lifeguarding went to a team this year, the "Four Men One Oar" Surf Boat Rowing Crew.

Board Race.

The club also made finals in several team events, including Board Relay, Surf Teams, Ski Relay and Taplin Relay.

The Masters team also de-

livered a strong national performance, finishing 16th overall against much larger clubs. Christiaan Maarhuis had a standout championships, finishing first overall in his age

group.

The Masters Surf Teams also won gold, while the Double Ski combination claimed silver.

The surf boat crew also added another proud chapter to

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