

# The Valley Profile

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## Mangrove set back

### A stretch of mangrove wetlands could alter the fate of the Kōpū Marine Precinct

**An expert consenting panel appointed by the government is seeking independent legal advice over the removal of mangroves for the proposed multi-million dollar Kōpū Marine Precinct development. KELLEY TANTAU reports.**



Mangroves line the Waihōu River at Kōpū. Photo: SUPPLIED/TCDC

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

Roughly 125 metres of mangroves could be the difference in Thames getting a multi-million dollar marine precinct with a recreational wharf, or without one.

And as an independent expert consenting panel appointed by a government convener meets to determine whether the man-

groves should go, the business association chair is calling on the district council to throw their support behind doing just that.

Thames-Coromandel District Council wants to develop a marine precinct at the existing Kōpū boat ramp, which they say will generate employment by providing up to 78 new direct full-time equivalent jobs during the design and con-

struction stages of the project, and around 30 indirect jobs in marine servicing.

The government has fast-tracked the project, but only following a revised design - option 1 - which removes the recreational boat ramp attached to the initial plans.

This is to retain an area of mangroves that has been deemed a "natural wetland" by the government's national

policy statement for freshwater management.

However, business leaders are saying option 2 - the option with the recreational boat ramp - is the "only viable option".

"It's not just that there wouldn't be a recreational boat ramp, but there also wouldn't be any car parking," a Kōpū businessman, who did not want to be named, told *The Profile*. "There would also be no ability

in an emergency for other barges to be able to unload, which in option 2 they could.

"But the main thing is, if the marine industry expands the way it has been, and it's attractive to the area like we want it to be, that whole thing will be too small, so it needs to be able to grow in the future, and with option 1, if there's a big strip of mangroves in between the river

CONTINUED ON P2

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The *Valley Profile* is a community newspaper that delivers 100% local news in the Thames Valley region. We deliver 12,600 copies each Wednesday to every letterbox, reaching approximately 30,000 readers in Hauraki Plains, Paeroa, Thames, Thames Coast and surrounding rural areas, plus bulk distribution around the Coromandel Peninsula.

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# Mangrove decision looms for Kōpū

CONTINUED FROM P1

and whatever you're doing, it's never going to be good for anything."

According to the expert panel, the construction of the recreational boat ramp would result "in the complete or partial drainage of a portion of a natural wetland, being the area of mangroves".

In order to determine whether construction can go ahead or not, it has sought independent legal advice.

Thames Business Association chair Warren Sly recently met with the expert panel in Thames, and told them that option 2 was the "unanimous choice" of all affected parties.

He said it would: accommodate private boaties by providing undisturbed access to the river; allow mussel barges to unload, enabling Kōpū to become a distribution centre; allow for economic development opportunities to be fully realised; and bring much-needed commercial development to the area.

"It's the bedrock for future marine development," he said.

"If option 2 can be implemented, it will grow the industry... and open the gate to all these other possibilities."

According to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), the expert consenting panel has appointed Derek Nolan QC to provide



Roughly 125 metres of mangroves could be the difference in Thames getting a multi-million dollar marine precinct with a recreational wharf, or without one. Photo: SUPPLIED/TCDC

independent legal advice on the status of option 2 under the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater 2020. Once the panel has received this advice, it will meet to determine the next steps.

Mr Sly believed a decision could be made come March, and asked for Thames-Coromandel District Council to "openly push" for option 2.

He said if option 2 was not passed, he was "not going to let it lie".

Thames-Coromandel Dis-

trict Council chief executive Rob Williams said council supported both options for the Kōpū marine precinct - which received around \$8.2m from the government's Provincial Growth Fund.

He said council's original application was for a facility that included both commercial and recreational facilities, but it had to be withdrawn because of the "legal ambiguity" with the wetlands.

The new application has an option with a recreational

boat ramp, and an option that is for a commercial facility only.

"We'll have to see now which option the EPA is able to allow us to proceed with, and what the resulting consent conditions may be," he said.

"This is a complex process and I am sure the commissioners will do their best to provide the outcomes that the Thames community desires."



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**Thames Tides**

Wed Feb 9	Thu Feb 10	Fri Feb 11	Sat Feb 12	Sun Feb 13	Mon Feb 14	Tue Feb 15
<b>Morning</b> 1:52am 3.1 2:22pm 3.2 <b>Afternoon</b> 8:00am 1.0 8:25pm 0.9	<b>Morning</b> 2:43am 3.0 3:12pm 3.0 <b>Afternoon</b> 8:56am 1.2 9:18pm 1.0	<b>Morning</b> 3:42am 2.9 4:04pm 3.0 <b>Afternoon</b> 9:56am 1.2 10:17pm 1.1	<b>Morning</b> 4:45am 2.9 5:01pm 2.9 <b>Afternoon</b> 10:56am 1.3 11:18pm 1.1	<b>Morning</b> 5:46am 2.9 6:00pm 2.9 <b>Afternoon</b> 11:52am 1.2	<b>Morning</b> 12:15am 1.0 12:42pm 1.2 <b>Afternoon</b> 6:39am 3.0 6:55pm 3.0	<b>Morning</b> 1:05am 0.9 1:28pm 1.1 <b>Afternoon</b> 7:26am 3.1 7:46pm 3.0
6:41am 8:22pm	6:43am 8:21pm	6:44am 8:20pm	6:45am 8:19pm	6:46am 8:18pm	6:47am 8:17pm	6:48am 8:15pm
<b>F</b> Best At 7:21am 7:44pm	<b>B</b> Best At 8:07am 8:30pm	<b>B</b> Best At 8:54am 9:19pm	<b>B</b> Best At 9:44am 10:09pm	<b>B</b> Best At 10:35am 11:00pm	<b>B</b> Best At 11:26am 11:52pm	<b>F</b> Best At 12:17pm
<b>First Quarter</b> Set 12:17am Rise 2:36pm	Set 12:48am Rise 3:35pm	Set 1:23am Rise 4:33pm	Set 2:03am Rise 5:29pm	Set 2:50am Rise 6:20pm	Set 3:44am Rise 7:05pm	Set 4:42am Rise 7:45pm

**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	HIGH Mn	LOW Mn
Coromandel	-0	05	-0 04
Whitianga	-0	02	-0 06
Tairua	+0	10	+0 21
Whangamata	-0	07	-0 07
Waihi Beach	-0	12	-0 12

# Dogs die in regional parvovirus outbreak

By GORDON PREECE

Dog owners are being urged to vaccinate against parvovirus after several dogs have died within hours of being taken to the vet with the disease.

Paeroa vet Dr Ivan Petch told *The Profile* there had been cases of the highly infectious parvovirus in Paeroa, Ngatea and Thames since December, which can cause healthy dogs to die within 24 hours.

“It’s very difficult to treat, we’ve had two 4- to 5-month-old healthy dogs die within 12 hours of coming into the vet, despite treatment with electrolytes to keep them hydrated,” he said.

Ivan said black and tan dog breeds such as rottweilers were more at risk and symptoms, including vomiting and bloody diarrhea, could develop very rapidly.

“The virus attacks the capillaries in the bowel wall, causing hemorrhaging within the bowel, causing rapid death from dehydration,” he said.

“Often it’s the dehydration which kills them more than the virus itself.”

Parvovirus was more common in the summer months and was transmitted through infected dogs faeces.

“When the droppings dry out it releases the virus. Peo-

## SIGNS OF PARVO

Signs of parvovirus start with a reluctance to eat, a progression to fevers, marked lethargy, vomiting, and finally watery bloody diarrhoea.

In order to protect your dog against parvovirus, it is essential to vaccinate all puppies, ensuring vaccination programmes are completed and the final vaccination is given at 14 to 16 weeks of age.

Ensure all puppies that are yet to complete their vaccinations are kept off footpaths and parks (all public places) and remember that they are only safe to travel to these areas two weeks after the final vaccination is given.

Parvovirus is a very hardy virus that is passed in dog droppings and can survive for six months to two years in the environment.



Dr Ivan Petch, pictured with a canine client that doesn't have parvovirus, says two dogs have recently died from the deadly disease.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

ple carry it back home with them when they pick it up by the soles of their shoes, which then gets passed on to their dogs,” he said.

Ivan said like a lot of viral diseases, parvovirus is easily prevented by vaccination.

“It involves a relatively sim-

ple injection if they’re over four months and if they’re under four months, they require booster shots until they reach four months,” he said.

“Dogs should be vaccinated from as early as six to eight weeks old, then they need three shots, the last one being

at 16 weeks old, and then an annual booster shot and every three years from then.”

“If people have unvaccinated dogs, they should keep them at home and away from public areas where other infected dogs may be and could transmit it, but the main thing

is getting their dogs vaccinated as soon as possible.”

Ivan said Paeroa Vets also advised dog owners to get their parvo vaccine along with the vaccination against leptospirosis, which is another problematic disease on the Hauraki Plains.

## Affairs of the heart

### Funding for local arts

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Applications open 9am, Monday 14 February and close 4pm, Monday 14 March 2022

“In the last funding round we supported 16 projects with Creative Communities Scheme funding and this round we have over \$25,000 to distribute. That’s a whole lot of love for the arts to share around, so don’t wait – get creative Hauraki!”  
Mayor Toby Adams



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A new study recently published in the Journal of Physical Therapy Science brings good news to people struggling with sciatica and lumbar disc disease: surgery may not be your only option for relief. Researchers at Newcastle University found that inversion therapy with a Teeter inversion table offers back pain and symptoms relief in sciatica patients and may even allow them to avoid surgery altogether.

The case-controlled study evaluated the effects of regular inversion therapy on the pain symptoms of sciatica patients in line for surgery. The purpose of the study was to, "[measure] symptoms and [compare] the surgery rate following inversion for 85 participants with the surgery rate in 3 control groups."

**Researchers found that lumbar disc disease and sciatica patients in line for surgery who inverted with a Teeter regularly, were 78% less likely to need surgery than matched individuals who didn't invert, even as far as two years after the initial trial period.**

The study suggests, "...inversion therapy reduces symptoms and the rate of surgery in patients with lumbar disc disease and sciatica."

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This is pure logic, if a machine is out of alignment it does not last long, the only difference between the body and a machine is that the body is constantly repairing itself, however if the wear and tear on the body is greater than the body's ability to repair itself, it is a slow decline. The Teeter slowly brings the body out of its decline and allows the body to repair itself, resulting in a far healthier life.

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# Paeroa Lions Club gets children school ready

By GORDON PREECE

More than 120 new entrants starting school this year in the Hauraki District have received stationery packs from Paeroa Lions Club.

Paeroa Lions Club's second vice president and youth committee chair Wei Zhang told *The Profile* the idea for the stationery packs came from a desire for the club members to give back to the community.

"We saw education was important for the youth and there were some families we knew who were struggling to buy stationery, especially when they have multiple kids and are finding it hard during the pandemic," she said.

This was the third year Paeroa Lions supplied the stationery packs, which cost just over \$4000 and were funded through community donations and fundraising from slink (dead calf) collection. In previous years, proceeds from the club's annual fireworks event also went towards stationery packs, however, the event didn't go ahead last year.

"The Lions Club would like to thank the community for helping us, without their support we wouldn't be able to supply them [the stationery packs]," she said.

Wei said Paeroa Lions supplied stationery packs for nine



Paeroa Central School new entrants Reiya Williams, left, Alonso Mullans, Te Whetu Oka and Kahurangi Cooper were thrilled with their new stationery packs. Photo: GORDON PREECE

schools, including Miller Avenue, Paeroa Central, Karangahake, St Joseph's Catholic, Tirohia, Netherton, Kerepēhi, Hikutaia and Paeroa Christian schools.

Paeroa Central School principal Mona Hingston told *The Profile* the Paeroa Lions' sta-

tionery packs were highly appreciated and wonderful for her school's community and the new entrants' parents.

"A lot of our whānau come from large and blended families and almost 40 per cent of them struggle to buy their kids stationery," she said.

"I've been principal here for three years so every year I've been able to see when the kids start school on their first day, and we tell them they're getting a free stationery pack, their eyes light up," she said.

Mona said by week three, the school expected all new entrants

would have their stationery packs and they could take them home, and in previous years the pupils loved to individualise or decorate them.

Mona also acknowledged how grateful the school was that Paeroa Lions thought of them and what support they needed.

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# Paeroa water 'muddy' but 'safe to drink'

Paeroa's drinking water has been described as "muddy", "dirty", and "not even good enough for the dog". But why? Reporter KELLEY TANTAU takes a walk around the water treatment plant to find out more.

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

There's no "perfect, clear" bore system coming down from the Himalayan mountains to supply Hauraki residents with drinking water.

Instead, there's the Waitawheta River, in the Karangahake Gorge, and according to some, its water tastes "foul" and is "undrinkable".

But it is drinkable.

At the Paeroa Water Treatment Plant on Bennett St, there's an in-

door tap that can shoot out water straight from the reservoir.

The men who work at the plant drink that water every day, and have done so since they started there in 2019.

Of course, the river water has to first go through "a whole process" to make it compliant.

"Not everyone notices the taste," the district's mayor Toby Adams says. "It does affect some people more than others, but just because it's got a funny smell or a different taste, it's still 100 per cent safe to drink."

The men are aware of a recent social media post where residents criticised the taste of the

water - as well as recent water restrictions - with one saying they'd rather drink from the farm bore than from the tap.

Another said it was "not even good enough for the dog".

That "dirty" taste is due to the river getting lower in the summer, making it easier for algae to grow and produce "taste-forming compounds".

"We have very limited options for where we can have our intakes for our water, and our water source, so we do the best we possibly can with the known sources close to us," Mayor Adams says.

The council has a resource consent from the Waikato Regional Council to collect water from the Waitawheta River at a rate of 7000 cubic metres a day.

That's seven million litres, or more than 29.5 million cups.

However, a weekly snapshot of water usage at the Paeroa reservoir saw households use a maximum of 250,000 litres every hour.

Even at 2:30 in the morning, the reservoir loses 110,000 litres.

According to council, the reservoir levels are "critically low" - which is why a total watering

*"It does affect some people more than others, but just because it's got a funny smell or a different taste, it's still 100 per cent safe to drink."*

- Toby Adams



Mayor Toby Adams and treatment technician Luke Parish stand outside Paeroa's water reservoir.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

ban was recently issued for the town. The restrictions eased slightly on February 3 to hand-held hoses on alternate days.

It's likely one of the first times in 10 years Paeroa faced water restrictions, Mayor Adams says.

And the cause?

"Three years of very low rainfall, and dry, drought conditions in a row. It makes it hard to keep up and the river has never caught back up," he says.

"But some people are so used to turning their tap on and having water come out at every instant that as soon as there's a restriction of any type, they can't comprehend the process that it takes to get it from a low-flowing river, through the plant, through the pipes, and out their tap."

"It's a complicated process and it takes a lot of skill, and we're blessed to have the calibre of staff that we do at our council

who work when they're asleep."

It's not just a glib comment, either. The plants are monitored seven days a week and if chlorine levels get too high or too low, an alarm is sent to the staff's phones, sitting on their bedside tables.

Luke Parish, one of the treatment technicians, recently woke up at 3am to deal to a matter arising at one of the four

CONTINUED P7

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**2008 NISSAN TILDA 5DR HATCHBACK** 79,000kms, 1500cc Auto, All extras, Original **SOLD**

**2003 NISSAN BLUEBIRD SYLPHY** \$4,260  
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**1992 NISSAN MAXIMA** \$4,260  
2500cc Auto, Up in Kms, Very tidy in white **\$2,995**

**1999 NISSAN CEFIRO** \$4,495  
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**2000 NISSAN SUNNY EX SALOON** \$2,495  
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**1997 HOLDEN VF COMMODORE ACCLAIM** \$4,500  
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**CONTINUED FROM P6**

plants. He didn't get home until midnight that day.

He started in the role straight out of high school, as a council cadet in 2019.

"I didn't even know what water treatment was when I started... I live just down the road and I never knew there was a water treatment plant here," he says.

And with a lack of understanding likely the cause for most people's concern about the drinking water, he's inviting anyone to come for a supervised tour of the plant.

Doing just that, the team explains how the water travels from the Waitaheta River to the treatment plant, and gets sucked into a membrane filter unit.

Each filter contains 1200 "straw-like" lumens, and the gap of each lumen is one ten millionth of a metre wide.

That's like taking a millimetre on a ruler and cutting it into ten thousand pieces, treatment technician Tyrone Negus explains.

Anything bigger than that – dirt, mud, most algae - gets trapped in the lumens and doesn't make it through the system.

The men say the water is then drinkable, but to get it to safety standards, chlorine is added to the water. Chlorine is a disinfectant that kills water-borne viruses and bacteria.

However, Hauraki District Council's Paeroa plant also utilises a "UV taste and odour system".

In small amounts, hydrogen peroxide is sent through the UV system and reacts to anything it



**Luke Parish drinks fresh water straight from the reservoir.**

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

comes into contact with, except water.

Tyrone says they don't have to use the UV system to make the drinking water safe, it is just something council utilises to make the water nicer for the town.

However, during summer months, the river's algae can create chemicals that taste bad and

are tiny enough to get through the lumens.

"I get that there are frustrations about the taste of the water, but in comparison to how much you're using throughout your house, it's really not that bad," Mayor Adams says.

"It's all about where we get our water from. We don't have a perfect, clear, bore system that's

coming from the Himalayan mountains feeding our water intakes.

"Our water has got to go through a whole process, and it's a costly, expensive process, and the team works hard to get rid of any contaminants, taste, and odour before it gets supplied."

There are three other water catchments the council receives

its water from: Waihou River (15,000 cubic metres a day); Waitakaruru River (6000 cubic metres a day); and Walmsley Stream (3500 cubic metres a day). Around 587km of pipelines deliver water to 7500 properties.



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# Rural Life

## Cattle theft warning

Farmers are being warned to increase security after five calves with their ear tags removed were dumped on a rural road on the Hauraki Plains. GORDON PREECE reports



These five calves have now found a home in Waitakaruru after being dumped there on January 17. Photo: SUPPLIED/HDC

A recent case of suspected cattle theft has rustled up a warning for local farmers.

Hauraki District Council sought information from the public after five calves in a mostly fair condition were found dumped with their ear tags removed in Waitakaruru on January 17.

Hauraki-Coromandel Federated Farmers president Robert Craw said stock theft was unfortunately too much of a common occurrence in the district.

"I've had a couple farmers that I know of ring me last year and ask for our [Federated Farmers] involvement directly to work with the Police which I'm

more than happy to do, because Police are learning how serious and expensive this is for farmers," he said.

"I don't think the people doing this [cattle theft] fully realise the impacts this has on someone's farming business.

"It's a terrible thing to have a farmer find out their cattle have been stolen because to a farming business, that animal's value is far greater if it's going to be producing calves or milk."

Mr Craw said farmers should immediately report cattle theft

incidents so Police can have a profile and can properly investigate it.

"There's been tightening of rules and legislation around cat-

*"I don't think the people doing this [cattle theft] fully realise the impacts this has on someone's farming business."*

- Rob Craw

tle rustling and there's more to come, so therefore police have a lot more powers to act on it," he said.

Mr Craw said for farmers to avoid becoming victims of cow theft, they must ensure boundary gates are always secured,

ensure animals were clearly identified with ear tags and have cameras installed.

"Even though cameras on boundary gates and load out facilities aren't always practical, if you're in an area that's renowned for it [cattle theft], it's an

option," he said.

A council spokesperson told *The Profile* council was legally required to hold roaming stock for seven days before making a decision to rehome or euthanise.

Since council didn't have facil-

ities to hold cattle, the Mahuta Rd North property owners were happy to look after the calves while council tried to find their owners. After the calves were unclaimed in seven days, the property owners were allowed to keep them and decided to do so.

Council said this was the first suspected cattle theft incident reported to them.

Under legislation introduced to the Crimes Act in 2019, a person who commits theft of another person's livestock or other animal may face a maximum of seven years' imprisonment.

Police told *The Profile* the incident had not been reported.

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# Rural Life

## Celebrity chef flexes Coromandel mussels

By GORDON PREECE

A Coromandel delicacy will be showcased in an upcoming New Zealand social media food series.

Ganesh Raj, New Zealand restaurateur, cook, and star of TV show *Eat Well for Less*, dropped into the Coromandel as part of his nationwide Best Foods Foodie Roadie to pay homage to the farmers, growers and producers in our back yard.

In the Firth of Thames just before Christmas, Ganesh harvested and cooked the region's famous greenshell mussels with Peter and Pania James from Coromandel's James Marine.

The aim of the Best Foods Foodie Roadie is to highlight local producers and their unique produce, and encourage Kiwis to support local and eat delicious food.

Ganesh told *The Profile* it was his first visit to the peninsula and the way he saw it from the mussel farms off Te Kouma was 'incredible'.

"We were out there at 4:30am and got to see the sunrise across the water. When you see the footage you'll like it a lot because it made the peninsula look amazing, and was just a beautiful day."

Ganesh said he enjoyed his first time mussel farming experience.

"It was great to learn all about anchorages, water columns and sections of the sea that are yours for mussel farming from Peter [James], who's mussel farmed since he was 16," he said.

"For me Coromandel mussels are plump, sweet and delicious and you could have a whole diet based around them.

"We pulled the mussels fresh from the farm, took them in, cleaned them and I cooked a beautiful mussel fritter for the crew and for Peter, who's probably had a lot of mussel fritters in his time, and he loved them so thank god for that!"

Ganesh said what makes his mussel fritters unique is freshly grated ingredients.

"I grate garlic, ginger and lemongrass and add a little bit of fresh parsley and chilli and with the Best Foods mayonnaise and sweet chilli sauce, everyone seemed to love them on the boat - and they're the mussel fritter kings," he said.

Ganesh hopes viewers of the Coromandel episode of the Foodie Roadie can understand there's people like Peter out there who work hard to pro-



Celebrity chef Ganesh Raj with Peter James, of James Marine. BELOW: Ganesh's mussel fritters. Photos: SUPPLIED

vide the public with delicious mussels.

"I also want people to understand how mussel farming works and have an appreciation of how lucky we are to have this beautiful kaimoana in our backyard," he said.

The public can watch Ganesh's Coromandel mussel adventure from February 7 on Best Foods' Facebook page.



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# Rural Life

## Vaccine pass required at WRC

Waikato Regional Council will require a My Vaccine Pass for entry to all its premises from February 1 under the red and orange settings of the Covid-19 Protection Framework.

The policy covers all staff, councillors, committee members, service providers and members of the public aged over 12 years and three months.

Council chief executive Chris McLay said under the red setting it was business as usual for council, but with increased safety measures. "Our offices remain open to the public and staff, and council meetings continue to be a hybrid of in person and virtual," he said.

"But we've been told Omicron is the most transmissible variant of Covid-19 yet, and now there is a growing number of cases across New Zealand. So we are taking a cautious approach to protect our staff and community.

Mr McLay said council believed it was the right thing to do for right now.

"We're committed to protecting staff and members of the public from harm while undertaking our duties or while working on, or visiting our buildings, facilities and worksites and when undertaking field work or work in other places," he said.

"There are several ways we can protect ourselves and minimise the chances of getting Covid-19, including the use of face coverings, physical distancing and good hygiene practices. But vaccination is the vital tool in the toolkit.

"With vaccination such a focus for our government, and in turn our communities, we're providing certainty around our approach to Covid-19 vaccinations for our people and the community with this policy.

"But I acknowledge it will be incredibly hard for some of our people," Mr McLay said.

An anonymous staff survey in October found 95 per cent were vaccinated or planning to be, while 3 per cent were not vaccinated and not planning to be, and 2 per cent preferred not to answer. The survey was completed by 532 people, or an estimated 84 per cent of all regional council staff.

For councillors affected by the My Vaccine Pass requirement, their ability to participate in governance decision making will be unaffected due to the ability to join all meetings virtually. Recordings will be published on the council's website shortly after meetings are held, so members of the public will be able to watch and listen to the discussions and decisions of councillors: [www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/council-meetings](http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/council-meetings).

It's possible councillors may discuss their position on mandatory vaccination at the February 24 meeting of council. This will enable time for the impacts of the fast-moving Omicron variant to be better understood.

Mr McLay said council was also looking at whether rapid antigen testing had a place in council's toolkit.

"It may be added as a primary or secondary tool to help provide assurance of our safety at work in our premises. We will also monitor the use of PCR tests and what role these may play in the future for access to WRC work locations."

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## BUILDING & RENOVATING

The Valley Profile will be running an advertising feature in our March 23rd edition which will have advice and tips for our readers on building a new home and renovating existing homes.

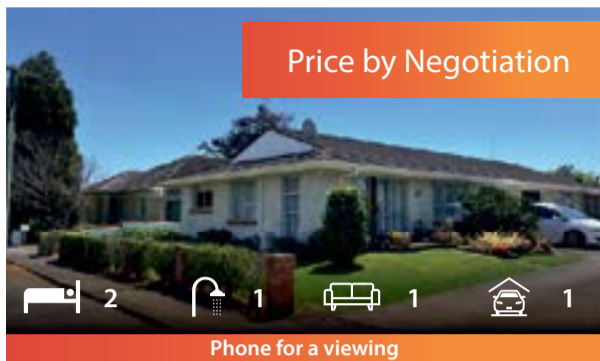
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Booking deadline is Friday March 11.






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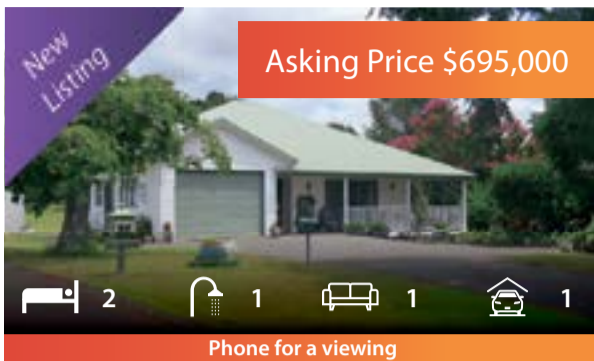


2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 1 living area, 1 car space

Phone for a viewing

**New Listing**

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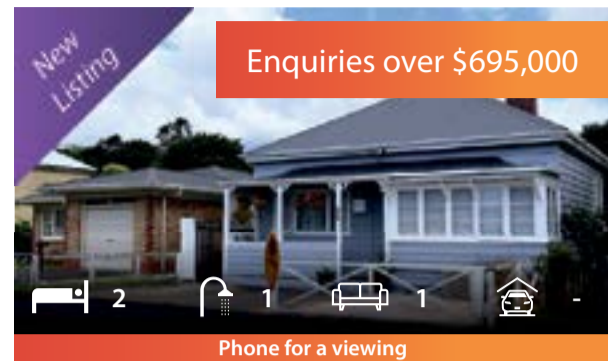


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Phone for a viewing

**New Listing**

**Enquiries over \$695,000**



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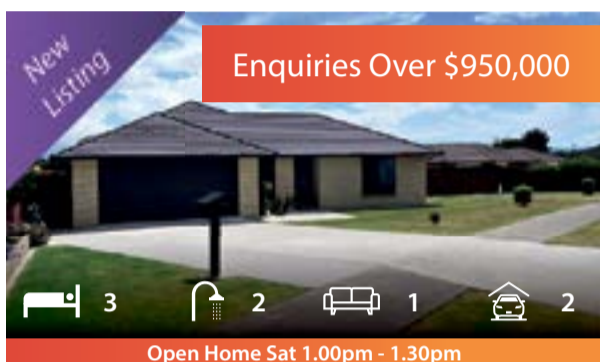
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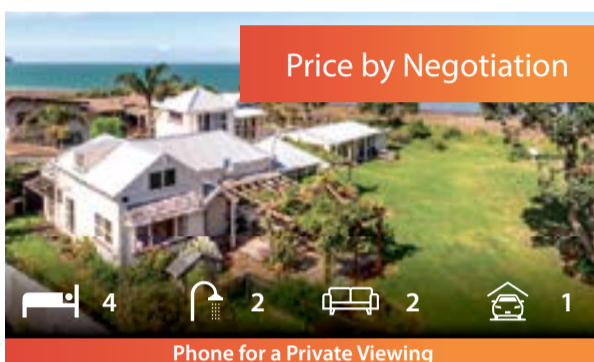
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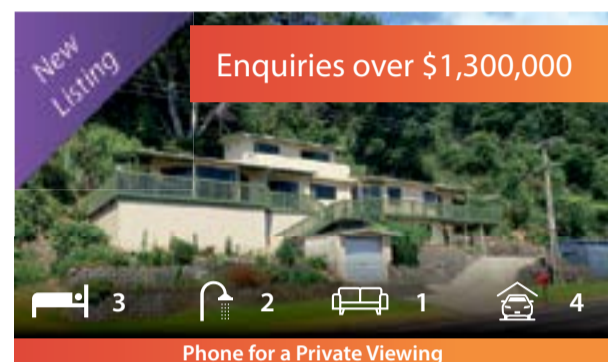


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**RN1412** 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 3 living areas, 1 car space

**264 Piako Road Offers Over \$779,000**

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**RN1413** 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 living areas, 1 car space

**23 Adams Road, Thames Deadline Sale**

**NEW LISTING**



Deadline Sale by 16th February 2022 (unless sold prior). Price guide: Offers in excess of \$890,000. Sitting above the glorious Thornton Bay beach.

**RT5678** 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 1 living area, 1 car space

**320 Ngati Maru Highway Deadline Sale**



Deadline Sale 9th Feb (unless sold prior). Offers in excess \$780,000. An exceptional opportunity to own this 4 bedroom, 3 bathroom home.

**RT5677** 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 living areas, 2 car spaces

**216 Strange Road Offers Over \$1,450,000**



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**RG1941** 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 living areas, 1 car space

**Paeroa Offers Over \$1,100,000 (Inc GST)**



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**RRP223** 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 living areas, 1 car space

**408 Tararu Road, Thames Deadline Sale**

**NEW LISTING**



DEADLINE SALE - Offers to be received no later than 4pm Wednesday 16th February. May be sold prior. Offers in excess of \$620,000.

**RT5679** 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 1 living area, 1 car space

**105 Coromandel Street Deadline Sale**

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	7			6				

HARD

36

**HARD**

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

**MEDIUM**

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

**EASY**

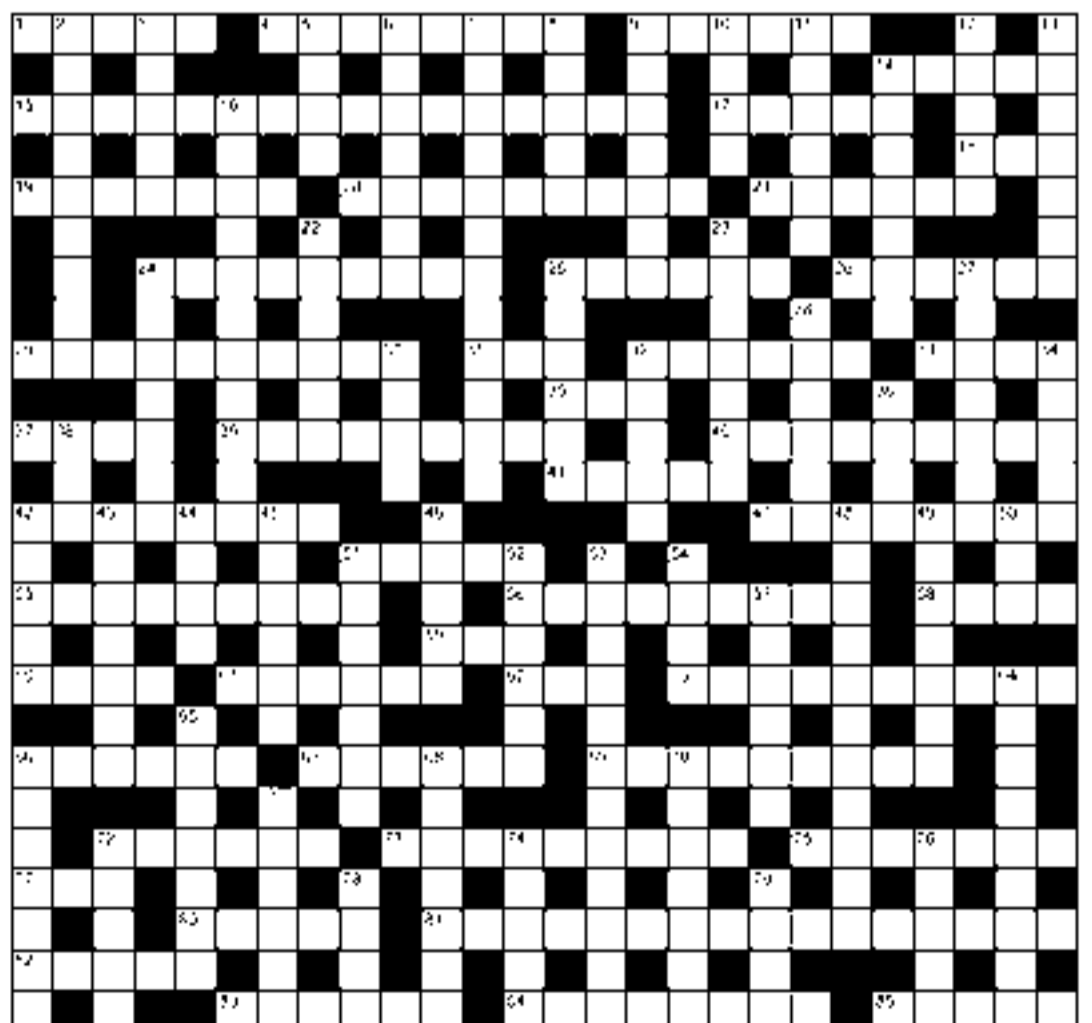
4	2	6	5	7	9	3	1	8
7	8	3	1	2	4	6	9	5
1	5	9	6	8	3	4	7	2
6	1	2	4	3	5	9	8	7
8	4	5	7	9	2	1	6	3
3	9	7	8	6	1	5	2	4
9	3	4	2	1	7	8	5	6
2	6	1	3	5	8	7	4	9
5	7	8	9	4	6	2	3	1

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# JUMBO CROSSWORD

56

- ACROSS**
- 1 Declare (5)
  - 4 Vessel for molten metal (8)
  - 9 Seasoned sausage (6)
  - 14 Cringe (5)
  - 15 Start behaving in a better way (4,4,1,3,4)
  - 17 Skinflint (5)
  - 18 Floor covering (3)
  - 19 Educates (7)
  - 20 Lifelike (9)
  - 21 One-sided (6)
  - 24 Impediment (9)
  - 25 Of service (6)
  - 26 Picnic basket (6)
  - 29 Not seen (10)
  - 31 Encountered (3)
  - 32 Muslim sovereign (6)
  - 33 Percussion instrument (4)
  - 35 Hard water (3)
  - 37 Cut down (4)
  - 39 Gin dealer (anag)(9)
  - 40 Applying compression (9)
  - 41 Shouts (5)
  - 42 Frankly (8)
  - 47 Powerless (8)
  - 51 Components (5)
  - 55 Hideous (9)
  - 56 Green deposit on copper (9)
  - 58 Arm bone (4)
  - 59 Contend (3)
  - 60 Lip (4)
  - 61 Act correctly (6)
  - 62 Garland (3)
  - 63 US city (10)
- DOWN**
- 2 Police club (9)
  - 3 Dance (5)
  - 5 Uncommon (4)
  - 6 Factory restaurant (7)
  - 7 Perplexity (12)
  - 8 Balances up (5)
  - 9 Be adequate (7)
  - 10 Citrus fruit (4)
  - 11 Inlaid design (6)
  - 12 Winner's prize (5)
  - 13 Set off (7)
  - 14 Fine glassware (7)
  - 16 Offered (11)
  - 22 Petty details (6)
  - 23 Sword (7)
  - 24 Limped (7)
  - 25 Messy (6)
  - 27 Of pigs (7)
  - 28 Space devoid of air (6)
  - 30 Speaker's platform (4)
  - 32 Vends (5)
- ACROSS**
- 34 Physical strength (5)
  - 36 Nil (4)
  - 38 Age (3)
  - 42 Chocolate substitute (5)
  - 43 Relating to marriage (7)
  - 44 Unoccupied (4)
  - 45 Linger idly (6)
  - 46 Serious (5)
  - 48 Always expecting the worst (11)
  - 49 Plodded wearily (7)
  - 50 Religious sister (3)
  - 51 Mythical flying horse (7)
  - 52 Gracefully slender (6)
  - 53 Indoctrination (12)
  - 54 Opinion (4)
  - 57 Outcome (6)
  - 64 Tumble from power (9)
  - 65 Made possible (7)
  - 66 Railway supporter (7)
  - 68 Sweetened (7)
  - 70 Low temperature (7)
  - 71 Courtroom twelve (6)
  - 72 Velvety leather (5)
  - 74 Singing voice (5)
  - 76 User of oars (5)
  - 78 Wheel cover (4)
  - 79 Inking (4)



**PREVIOUS SOLUTION**

**ACROSS:** 1 Scald, 4 Cool as a cucumber, 14 Enter, 15 Ledge, 16 Functioned, 17 Spoon, 19 Rag, 20 Balloon, 21 Highchair, 22 Mighty, 25 Cartilage, 27 Diesel, 28 Untrue, 33 Grapefruit, 35 Eel, 36 Reveal, 37 Data, 39 Ewe, 41 Topiary, 42 Tandem, 43 Liability, 44 Maize, 45 Jettison, 50 Ma, 51 Sickness, 55 Circa, 58 Principal, 59 Nudged, 60 Snigger, 61 Ass, 63 Nail, 64 Assist, 65 Ire, 66 Remorseful, 68 Runway, 69 Beacon, 71 Aggravate, 76 Bangle, 77 Librarian, 79 Unaided, 81 Rue, 84 Occur, 85 Nightshirt, 86 Adder, 87 Allow, 88 A drop in the ocean, 89 Expel.

**DOWN:** 2 Caesar, 3 Legal, 5 Onus, 6 Licking, 7 Slight, 8 Conch, 9 Codeine, 10 Most, 11 Exotic, 12 Story, 13 Fragile, 14 Enchant, 18 Coat of arms, 23 Album, 24 Servile, 26 Appoint, 27 Dilemma, 29 Realise, 30 Groove, 31 Leads, 32 Safari, 34 Thaw, 36 Resin, 38 Abyss, 40 Silk, 45 Japan, 46 Tuition, 47 Itch, 48 Oppose, 49 Treat, 50 Mansion, 52 Contravene, 53 Neglect, 54 Step up, 55 Claimed, 56 Added, 57 Fear, 62 Smirk, 67 Rainbow, 68 Retreat, 70 Chianti, 72 Graphic, 73 Placid, 74 Writhe, 75 Delete, 76 Belle, 78 Right, 80 Index, 82 Trio, 83 Aria.

# Increase in cardiac arrest concerns

St John is urging people to learn CPR after an increase in cardiac arrests in the region last year.

Every year, St John Ambulance treats more than 2000 people for a cardiac arrest nationwide, with only 31 per cent of those surviving to hospital arrival and only 13 per cent leaving hospital alive.

Last year, in the Hauraki-Coromandel District, St John Ambulance attended 59 cardiac arrest incidents in the community, up 20 percent from the 49 cardiac arrest incidents attended in the district in 2020.

St John hoped to save more lives in a cardiac arrest by driving up awareness of the importance of CPR and defibrillators.

Clinical Director Dr Tony Smith said most people were unaware of the importance of taking immediate action when someone goes into cardiac arrest, or that saving a life can be achieved in three simple steps.

"St John wants everyone to have the confidence to perform the three steps that can double a person's chance of survival: call 111 for an ambulance, start CPR and use an AED [automated external defibrillator]," he said.

"Using an AED is simpler than using a mobile phone. Anyone can do it, just turn it on and follow the voice instructions."

Cardiac arrest can happen to anyone, regardless of age or medical history, and statistics show that it continues to be New Zealand's biggest killer,

with ischaemic heart disease one of the main causes of death in Aotearoa each year.

Dr Smith said a person's survival rate dropped by 10-15 percent for every minute without CPR or defibrillation – but their chances dramatically improved the sooner CPR began.

"Last year, St John trained more than 67,000 people in CPR and how to use an AED," he said.

"If you want to learn these skills, you can sign up for a free programme called 3 Steps for Life or book a St John First Aid course."

For those who already have a sound knowledge of CPR and AED, St John offers the option of becoming a GoodSAM responder.

"This is a person who is alerted to cardiac arrests in the community, so they can provide help before emergency services arrive," Dr Smith said.

"New Zealand now has almost 6000 people registered as GoodSAM responders and the number of AEDs in the country has increased too.

"This has been bolstered by a number of marae taking part, as well as gifts of AEDs into vulnerable communities by ASB with the kind support of Phillips and St John."

**DETAILS: Book a St John First Aid course at St John Thames: [www.stjohn.org.nz](http://www.stjohn.org.nz), or Ph 0800 ST JOHN (0800 756 646). Locate the nearest public AED at [aedlocations.co.nz](http://aedlocations.co.nz) or download the AED Locations app.**

# First pony club established in Kerepēhi



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.

**1951**

Kerepēhi formed the first pony club on the Hauraki Plains. At one of its early rallies, there were a dozen horses and well over twice as many keen young pupils.

Several youngsters had rides on the horses available under the careful eye of the instructor. Later the learners would be sorted into classes and put through definite courses. There was a shortage of ponies suitable for teaching beginners to ride and it was hoped farmers with seldom-used hacks and quiet ponies might make them available.

Shoeing was also a problem as there was no blacksmith in the district, but at least one member had a good knowledge of the farrier's art, and the club's curriculum of training covered the simple principles of keeping a horse's feet and shoes in order.

There seemed every reason to hope that the club would grow rapidly. Close to Morrinsville and Te Aroha, and assured of the support of experienced organisers, the Kerepēhi Pony Club



Hauraki Plains, Netherpton area, 1951.

Photo: SUPPLIED

looked forward to a bright future.

Power cuts loomed for the district as the State Hydroelectric Department strictly allocated loads. Post World War II electricity use had exploded and infrastructure could not keep up. The Thames Valley Electric Power Board's power allocation was very high on account of the exceptionally heavy and lengthy dairying season for which no restriction could be made. Local residents were asked to economise with their use of power, and water heaters were switched off between 7am to 7pm daily. The Thames Valley Power Board was accused of playing with the voltage - an entirely erroneous idea protested the chief engineer. All they did was reduce the voltage regularly by four per cent each evening at 5pm and restored it to normal at 8.30am each day.

These alterations were carried out in two steps and were not readily noticeable by consumers. Any variation was due to the activities of the State Hydroelectric Department, over which the power board had no control. There would be many upsets as the State Department had to

keep making changes and had to juggle the supply in order to keep the service continuous for consumers.

An appeal for a District Nurse for the Hauraki area by the Thames Hospital Board met with a disappointing reply from the Department of Health. A District Nurse at Coromandel could give assistance to the Thames Borough and Plains said the department, who were not at all familiar with the area.

The Board decided to take the matter up again, pointing out the distance from Coromandel to the Hauraki Plains. A nurse should be stationed on the Plains, where the population was over 5000 and there was only one doctor, and sometimes none.

Gloomy school rooms at Paeroa led to a request to the Auckland Education Board for the provision for electric lighting in four prefabricated buildings at the secondary department. It was quite difficult to see in the room when the days were dull, said Mr Gubbins, headmaster, and the idea was to enable pupils to see to do their work. The request was declined.

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Smart Environmental staff Richard Cooper-Simon, Eddie Brass, Kopai Morunga, and Adam Matete.

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Smart Environmental Eastern Waikato area manager Kiri Carew said one of the company's unique things was not owning a landfill.

"Our main role is collecting residential waste, glass and recycling from the kerbside, and we also run a commercial division looking after commercial businesses for their waste and recycling," she said.

"Not owning a landfill allows us to focus on waste minimisation and diverting

whatever we can from going into landfill."

Smart Environmental's Kōpū branch covers the Thames-Coromandel, Hauraki and Matamata-Piako districts with close to 50,000 bins, 11 kerbside trucks, and six commercial trucks which are all fit for collecting glass, recycling, and rubbish.

Forty tonnes of recycling comes through their site per day.

Kiri said their staff made their business operate smoothly.

"We've got a great team of around 60 very passionate people who turn up, dig deep, get involved, and they're our number one asset," she said.

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# CLASSIFIEDS

## Situations Vacant

### MANAGEMENT POSITION

Stepping Out Hauraki is a peer support, not-for-profit organisation that works with adult mental health consumers to provide a wide range of services and assistance from our centre in Thames.

Stepping Out Hauraki is actively seeking a manager for our service that has excellent communication skills and is empathetic with a good sense of humour. Strong organizational skills are essential for this position as is the ability to promote a culturally diverse, inclusive, respectful culture within the organization.

We require the following:

- The ability to keep clear boundaries and maintain strict protocols for confidentiality;
- Computer literacy;
- Be prepared to liaise and network with other community organizations and mental health service providers;
- A full current New Zealand Driver's license and clean Police check;
- That you be fully covid vaccinated in accordance with Government mandates;
- Have recently undertaken Te Tiriti training.

We would like the following:

- Experience with keeping KOPPS documents current;
- Experience with DHB Contracts and Funding Applications;
- Experience of working with a Governance Board would be very helpful.

This is a 32 hour a week position with negotiable hours and days of work.

In the first instance, please submit a full page bio or curriculum vitae no later than **Friday 18th February to the Chairperson:**



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# SPORTS



Jake Tyrrell-Baxter shows off the new trail signs at the event.

Photo: SUPPLIED/RIC BALFOUR

## Kids learn bike skills at event

Twenty-six participants thought there was nothing better than utilising a sunny day up the Kuaeranga Valley to try out some new bike riding skills.

The Department of Conservation (DOC) and the Thames Mountain Bike Club (TMBC) put on an event at the Valley's visitor centre as part of its summer programme last month.

The day started with club vice president Ric Balfour providing a quick round of introductions, and a description of the morning's activities, before he handed it over to club president Jake Tyrrell-Baxter to talk about the club's latest projects. Then it was time for the fun to start.

"First up was a kind of 'shakedown' activity, borrowing the cool grass maze that the club modified slightly for the riding skills session," Mr Balfour said. "The instruction covered riding stance, gear shifting, eye position, and trail etiquette."

Participants ranged from TMBC riding parents, to toddlers on scooter bikes, but with quite a few young teenagers in the group, it

was clear they wanted to get on to the purpose-built "technical trail feature", he said.

"Thanks to Barry Ingle and the help of other club members, TMBC is the proud owner of a range of seesaws, ramps, and a modular wooden pump track.

"This is where the bulk of the instruction and fun was focused," he said. "[It] culminated with a special hot-day-appropriate activity of balancing a helmet-mounted cup of water. Amazingly, many kids managed to do a circuit on their favourite challenge and still have water left in the cup."

Prizes were handed out to all participants, Mr Balfour said.

Maree Limpus, from the Department of Conservation visitor centre, said she loved the energy of the day and enjoyed seeing everyone utilising the space.

She was keen to see the bike skills day offered again during the school holidays and the centre's next summer programme.

**DETAILS: For information and membership details: [www.thamesmtb.club/join-our-club](http://www.thamesmtb.club/join-our-club), or, find the club on Facebook.**

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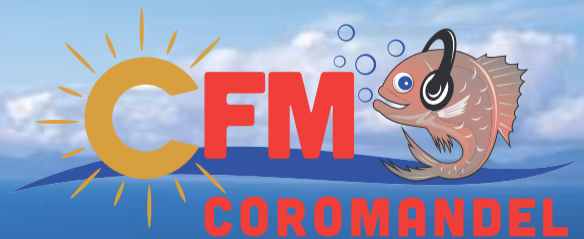
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# Locally-made gin revered on world stage

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

For Daniela Suess and Paul Schneider, creating a gin worthy of world-wide accolades is a bit like raising a child: there's a lot of effort and energy involved.

But within six years, their small-scale hobby has matured into a fully-grown business, succeeding on the international stage and putting Thames on the map for distilling.

The pair, who own Coromandel Distilling Company in The Depot at Grahamstown, were recently told their Coromandel Dry Gin was named the country winner in the Classic Gin category at the World Gin Awards. As did their Manuka Gin - named New Zealand's best matured gin.

It was the latter concoction which started Daniela and Paul on the path to distilling.

"Daniela is a hobby beekeeper, and we live 40km up the coast where it's basically manuka country, so by default, she was making this beautiful manuka honey," Paul explained.

"And when you make manuka honey on a hobby scale, you have a lot left over."

It was a "no-brainer" for the pair to ferment the honey and start making mead, but soon enough, the distilling "bug" took hold and their curiosity was piqued.

"We live in the only country in the world where home distilling is legal, so we set up a little home lab... We kept refining and refining and did some blind tasting events with friends and got



Daniela Suess and Paul Schneider at their purpose-built distillery in Grahamstown, Thames.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

some awesome feedback, and we thought: 'If we don't turn this into an opportunity, it's an opportunity missed'."

The award-winning manuka gin, off their Awildian label, has a "warm and spicy" flavour profile which comes from being soaked in manuka wood for three months. It was "absolutely unique" on the world stage, Paul said.

"There are 22 botanicals used in this recipe, and to have them in a fine balance is where art and

science come together, and that's also one of the key things that have fascinated us with distillation... the crossroads of art and science and alchemy," he said.

"But it's easy to live here and think, we've nailed it, so to submit it to awards in San Francisco, London, and now the World Gin Awards, really shows that this is a flavour profile that is acknowledged by experts around the world."

Distilling is a 10-hour process

which produces around 60L of gin per batch. The pair distil 2-3 times a week, and welcome people to peruse the shelves when the shop is open on Saturdays.

Daniela and Paul will also be waiting with bated breath for the outcome of the supreme award at the World Gin Awards - where their Coromandel Dry Gin and Manuka Gin will face top brews from distilleries around the globe.

"When you set out to do something right, there has to be an

alignment of factors, and gin is the one spirit that has excited us most," Paul said.

"We've tried to distil every spirit under the sun, but gin is the one that carries the most sensory excitement. In a way, it's a drinkable perfume... and we wouldn't want to miss it for anything in the world."



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