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ENABLING BETTER BUSINESS

Roaming Paeroa streets

The clip-clop of hooves is becoming a familiar sound throughout the streets of Paeroa, where a horse named Ninja Boy draws attention wherever he goes. **DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA** reports



Santana Walters and his horse, Ninja Boy.
Photo: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

It was his intrigue with a few equestrian videos on social media that sparked Santana Walters' desire to get in the saddle and become a horse owner.

"I saw these Māori guys up [in] the far North riding on Tik Tok," he said, and the rest is history.

People might recognise the 34-year-old as the man who trots around the streets of Paeroa with his horse, Ninja Boy.

Santana, who is also the owner of Hauraki Boats, said he always knew he was going to ride Ninja Boy around town.

"That's why I've been trying to get him used to the traffic. [I'm] still learning myself," he said.

The 11-year-old Standardbred horse came into Santana's life at the start of the year, from a woman in Hikutaia.

"She couldn't get out on him as much as

she wanted to." But since Ninja Boy had been with Santana, he'd been on a few walks around town, sometimes down the main street but "mainly on the back streets, unless there isn't much traffic".

Santana said he'd also taken him to the bottle store to pick up drinks after a day out training and exercising "and to another mate's panel beating shop".

Whenever he rides through town, Ninja

Boy always draws attention.

The biggest responses Santana said he and Ninja Boy have received from the public were photo requests, and also lots of elderly couples stopping to "have a good yarn".

"They had horses back in their days," he said. Some young people have also asked Santana if they can go for rides, which he's happy to do. There was no comparison for

CONTINUED ON P2

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Roaming Paeroa streets with Ninja Boy

CONTINUED FROM P1

Santana though, who said it felt a lot better to be riding out in the bush by yourself than in town. He said his family love Ninja Boy because he is a chill and "gentle giant".

"My four-year-old son and one-year-old nephew like sitting on him for rides around the house."

A friend of Santana's had recently become interested in horses too "so he's picking one up next weekend", he said.

With a vision to "help me get better" and understand his horse more, Santana said he was looking at getting some training through Hauraki Horsemanship, just outside of Paeroa.

"Because I don't have a float, he's gonna pick [Ninja Boy] up from me."

When asked if he'd been for a gallop with Ninja Boy yet, Santana said: "not so much of a fast gallop. I can get him to sort of run".

"That's why I need that training course," Santana said. "I think [Ninja Boy's] more of a pacer. It's just sort of harder to sit in the saddle because he's more bouncy."

Santana said due to his own fault, he'd already fallen off Ninja Boy once before as he was "riding him too late in the dark".

Ninja Boy initially stopped and waited for Santana to get back up, but got spooked by a car and "buggered off home", he said.

Birds or pheasants jumping out of bushes at night would also startle Ninja Boy.

"[It] doesn't make him spook and run... it just makes him spook and stop."

Santana said Ninja Boy didn't have much of a daily routine: "just as long as he's fed".



Santana spends a lot of time looking after his horse, Ninja Boy. Photo: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Hay, silage and "feeding on grass paddocks" are his primary sources of food.

A few farmers around town offered paddocks for Ninja Boy to graze on, Santana said. "Between those two - he also mows my neighbours lawns."

When Santana had a float, he said the furthest he'd taken Ninja Boy was to Mackaytown for swims.

It was evident that Ninja Boy needed a lot of attention. "If I'm not working, this fella just chews up all your time".

And when it comes to cleaning up af-

ter Ninja Boy: "I don't know if it's a good thing... But he'll probably fill a wheelbarrow full [of manure] a day - that's a shitload of horse shit."

One thing Ninja Boy really likes to do is play in the mud. After he's been rolling around in it, had a bath and put back into the paddock: "he'll go and roll in the mud again", Santana said.

But even though it requires a lot of time and work, Santana said he gets a lot of enjoyment out of owning Ninja Boy.

"It's sort of a therapy too."

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Thames Tides

Wed Jun 19	Thu Jun 20	Fri Jun 21	Sat Jun 22	Sun Jun 23	Mon Jun 24	Tue Jun 25																								
 Morning: 4:31am 3.0, 5:22pm 3.0 Afternoon: 10:54am 0.9, 11:21pm 1.0 Sunrise: 7:31am, Sunset: 5:08pm Best At: 9:34am, 9:58pm Moon: Set 4:27am, Rise 2:35pm	 Morning: 5:19am 3.0, 6:10pm 3.1 Afternoon: 11:43am 0.8 Sunrise: 7:31am, Sunset: 5:08pm Best At: 10:24am, 10:51pm Moon: Set 5:32am, Rise 3:12pm	 Morning: 12:06am 0.9, 12:30pm 0.7 Afternoon: 6:08am 3.1, 6:54pm 3.2 Sunrise: 7:31am, Sunset: 5:08pm Best At: 11:19am, 11:48pm Moon: Set 6:38am, Rise 3:58pm	 Morning: 12:51am 0.8, 1:15pm 0.6 Afternoon: 6:58am 3.1, 7:38pm 3.3 Sunrise: 7:32am, Sunset: 5:08pm Best At: 12:18pm Moon: Full Moon, Set 7:43am, Rise 4:54pm	 Morning: 1:37am 0.7, 1:59pm 0.5 Afternoon: 7:48am 3.2, 8:22pm 3.4 Sunrise: 7:32am, Sunset: 5:09pm Best At: 12:48am, 1:18pm Moon: Set 8:41am, Rise 5:59pm	 Morning: 2:24am 0.7, 2:44pm 0.5 Afternoon: 8:37am 3.3, 9:07pm 3.5 Sunrise: 7:32am, Sunset: 5:09pm Best At: 1:48am, 2:17pm Moon: Set 9:31am, Rise 7:10pm	 Morning: 3:12am 0.6, 3:29pm 0.4 Afternoon: 9:26am 3.3, 9:54pm 3.5 Sunrise: 7:32am, Sunset: 5:09pm Best At: 3:14pm Moon: Set 10:12am, Rise 8:24pm																								
<p><small>*Not for navigational purposes. Graphic supplied by OceanFun Publishing Ltd. www.tidewiz.com www.tidespy.com www.ofu.co.nz</small></p> <p>MOON AND FISH KEYS ● New Moon ● First Quarter ● Full Moon ● Last Quarter 🐟 Good Fishing 🐟 Fair Fishing 🐟 Not So Good</p> <p>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.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>PLACE</th> <th>Hr</th> <th>HIGH</th> <th>LOW</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Coromandel</td> <td>-0</td> <td>04</td> <td>-0 04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Whitanga</td> <td>-0</td> <td>01</td> <td>-0 05</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tairua</td> <td>+0</td> <td>11</td> <td>+0 21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Whangamata</td> <td>-0</td> <td>02</td> <td>-0 05</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Waihi Beach</td> <td>-0</td> <td>11</td> <td>-0 12</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>							PLACE	Hr	HIGH	LOW	Coromandel	-0	04	-0 04	Whitanga	-0	01	-0 05	Tairua	+0	11	+0 21	Whangamata	-0	02	-0 05	Waihi Beach	-0	11	-0 12
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Tairua	+0	11	+0 21																											
Whangamata	-0	02	-0 05																											
Waihi Beach	-0	11	-0 12																											

Waihi's \$3.3m ambulance station underway

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

June marked the beginning of a new era of emergency services in Waihi, with construction beginning on an estimated \$3.3 million state-of-the-art ambulance station.

However, a \$700,000 shortfall means Hato Hone St John isn't done fundraising.

This year the agency's annual appeal, Light the Way, is focused on repairing or rebuilding 14 stations across the country, including Waihi.

The new station, due to be completed in June, 2025, has been a project two decades in the making.

With the work finally underway, staff were relocated to temporary premises at 32 Haszard St ahead of the old station's demolition in May.

Coromandel South group operations manager Julia Te Huia said the new building would enable staff to carry out their roles more safely and efficiently.

"The old [station] was mouldy and leaky - basically, it was not fit for purpose," Julia said.

"It's been a long time coming, and the staff and everybody's really excited about it."

The new station will house three ambulances, 12 full-time staff, and 10 volunteers.



As well as emergency responders, the community health shuttle and Waihi's St John area committee will also operate out of the space.

"We need to acknowledge that we have had lots of generous donations from the community - there's just a few things we still need to fundraise for," Julia said.

"We appreciate the support that the community's given us




so far."

DETAILS: Hato Hone St John Light the Way annual appeal month is on now. See lighttheway.stjohn.org.nz for more information.








ABOVE: The old Waihi ambulance station was torn down at the end of May. RIGHT: An artist's impression of the new purpose-built facility. Images: SUPPLIED



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Our Coromandel

News from Thames-Coromandel District Council



19 June 2024

PUBLIC MEETING THAMES PROTECTION OPTIONS

Your chance to give feedback on options for coastal protection from Hape Stream to Victoria Park.



**MONDAY
24 JUNE
5-7.30PM**

Thames War Memorial Civic Centre

tcdc.govt.nz/ProtectThames

Engineers Royal HaskoningDHV will be outlining design concepts for the protection of Thames against the risks from sea-level rise at a public meeting on 24 June.

The designs are aimed at providing protection against coastal inundation during 'one in 100 year' storm events, which are becoming more frequent.

Public feedback will be sought at the meeting, including on:

- design options for each section of foreshore from Hape Stream to Victoria Park
- potential alignment options in each section
- how the structures might tie in with existing recreational facilities and environmental features that already exist along the foreshore.

tcdc.govt.nz/ProtectThames



Thames Community Board UPDATE

Board Chair, Adrian Catran JP reports:

"The Board supported the gift of new equipment for Porritt Park and is heartened to note the number of children using the area. We're counting down to the boost the opening of the Kōpū facility will give to the district's economy. The Board was privileged to recently host young people from T-RAP (Thames Rangatahi Advisory Panel) and listen to their kōrero about their proposed role in local decision-making. The Board intends to ask them to speak in the public forum section at future Board meetings." adrian.catran@council.tcdc.govt.nz



The Board's next meeting is on Wednesday 17 July 10am, 10am in Thames Council Chamber. tcdc.govt.nz/meetings

Kōpū Marine Servicing and Business Precinct

We're looking forward to opening the brand new recreational boat ramp up to the public on Saturday 22 June, after an official launch on Friday 21 June with local iwi, central government representatives, and some of the community members who helped bring the project to life.



with an enhanced haul-out facility slipway. The facility will provide a vital boost for our local aquaculture and marine servicing industries, attracting fleets from our district, and as far afield as Auckland, Tauranga and the Bay of Plenty.

For recreational boaters using the public boat ramp, there'll be parking for up to 34 boats and trailers. Like many of our other boat ramps, you'll need a one-off

The 80-metre-long commercial wharf and a floating pontoon will enable in-water servicing, loading and unloading of vessels. There's also an unsealed haul-out area along

or annual pass to use the recreational boat ramp and trailer car park. tcdc.govt.nz/kopu

MATARIKI

WHAKANUIA TE PAKI O MATARIKI KI HAURAKI

CELEBRATE THE WIDESPREAD CALM OF PLEIADES IN HAURAKI

Our Council service centres are closed on the Matariki public holiday, Friday 28 June.



YOUTH VOICES

A group of young people from T-RAP (Thames Rangatahi Advisory Panel) seeking to have a voice in local decision-making were given a warm welcome at the Thames Community Board meeting on 5 June.

The newly-formed group spoke to the Board about their vision for young people in the Thames area and how they'd like to play a part in including young people's perspectives in the provision of services.

"You guys are amazing," Mayor Len Salt told the group. "The voice that you can contribute to the decision-making around important things for the future of our district is absolutely vital."

Applications open

Applications are open for The Richardsons Hauraki Coromandel Business Awards. The awards are delivered biennially by Hauraki and Thames-Coromandel District Councils and supported by the business community.



The awards celebrate excellence and creativity in the business sector, offer an opportunity to gain recognition for your organisation and the chance to benchmark and gain expert advice on how your business can continue to prosper.

Award categories and application information are available at www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/community/business-awards

MATARIKI HOLIDAY RUBBISH AND RECYCLING

On the Matariki public holiday, Friday 28 June, Rubbish and Recycling Transfer Stations (RTS) will remain open as usual (from 8.30am-4.30pm).

Red week kerbside collections of rubbish and food waste will take place on the usual days from Monday 24 June – Thursday 27 June. The week after Matariki, the usual yellow week schedule for recycling bins, glass crates and food waste will resume.

Check out your calendars at tcdc.govt.nz/bindays or pick up a copy from your nearest Council office.



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Finding purpose and employment in Hauraki

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

A group of rangatahi from the Hauraki district have had a chance to dream big for their future, through a mahi-ready programme run by Gr8 Job Hauraki.

Gr8 Job Hauraki is part of the nationwide Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Community Employment initiative, a partnership between Local Government New Zealand and the Ministry of Social Development with a strong focus on getting young people into sustainable employment.

Gr8 Job Hauraki community employment liaison Julie Stephenson said she was thrilled with how the nine-day mahi-ready programme, named Kei a Koe Te Tikanga, went.

"[It was] basically everything to make our rangatahi job-ready," she said.

"They're a really good bunch of young people, and it was really interesting to watch them from day one to day nine."

The programme kicked off with a hāngi and a frank chat about where each of the seven participants, aged between 15 and 18, saw themselves in the future. "We had an aspirations morning where we had people from different ages with different careers come in, and it was just a fun exercise of them trying to guess who might have done what within their career," community employment officer Nicola Poutu said.



A visit to the Fonterra transport depot in Morrinsville.

Photo: SUPPLIED

"That's where we started the whole journey, to show them what was possible."

The group was taken on field trips to various companies, such as Fonterra, OceanaGold and the Port of Tauranga, where they were introduced to roles across a variety of fields.

They also visited training facilities including Major Oak and Industry Training Solutions; had a budget and finances day; spent time volunteering at a local school; went shopping

for interview outfits; and did mock interviews.

"It's [about] realising their potential and that they absolutely can dare to dream," Julie said.

"A couple had - as a lot of young people have - disengaged. They just seemed happy to settle for mediocrity... That was the one thing that I felt quite sad about."

Nicola agreed, saying many of them just hadn't realised the opportunities that were out

there. "That's what this programme was about, look[ing] outside of our own wee bubble," she said.

"That was a big, big push this time - what other industries can we show them and how much can we show them in one space? For example, the ports. You're seeing all of those professions under one roof, and what the entry level looks like for them."

This is the second time Gr8 Job Hauraki has run the nine-

day programme. The first iteration saw six of the 12 participants going into employment within three months of attending. The most recent cohort is also doing well.

"One of our young people is already in full time employment, two are booked to sit their restricted licence in July and one other is doing their learners. Two of them have accepted our offer of the eight-day Whakatipu Course at Outward Bound in August," Julie said. "We have facilitated a connection for one of our younger participants with staff at Waihi College and he is now doing work experience and trades. We have stayed engaged with them all and have seen them from time to time - it is like seeing good friends."

Nicola said Kei a Koe Te Tikanga enabled them to show rangatahi how their journey so far had real value and they had a lot they could bring forward into being a good employee or a student.

"Catching them when they're transitioning from school, whenever that may be, and not only being mahi-focused, it might be about them staying in school or going into training - that's really important," she said.

DETAILS: The free Gr8 Job Hauraki Career and Job Market will be held at Paeroa War Memorial Hall on September 19, 1-4pm.



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Authorised by Scott Simpson, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.



Workers clear debris and install soil nails and mesh on the cliff face. Photo: SUPPLIED

\$6m Ruamahunga fix almost complete

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

Cliff stabilisation work at Ruamahunga is almost complete, and Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Authority says the newest slip at the site on June 10 will not impact the road's scheduled reopening.

State Highway 25, also known as the Thames Coast Rd, is due to be restored to two lanes at the end of June. The road has been a construction site at Ruamahunga Bay since October, 2023, with traffic management in place to keep a single lane accessible to the public. Periodic full closures of the road have been a regular occurrence, as helicopters have brought in and removed supplies and equipment from the top of the slope throughout the works.

The \$6m recovery project, made necessary after 2023's storm events in January, February and June, has seen workers clearing debris and stabilising the cliff to prevent further landslides at the site. Waka Kotahi said its team had removed around 2500 tonnes of material from the slope, as well

as installing over 500 soil nails and around 1500 square metres of mesh.

The June 10 slip, 500 metres down the road from the main slip site, saw a large tree fall 30 metres down the bank on to the road, closing the road for most of the day.

The tree root, weighing over 20 tonnes, was removed late that evening and the traffic management cordon was extended to include the new slip site.

Meanwhile, State Highway 25 has been fully reopened at Te Kouma, Pumpkin Hill and Whiritoa Hill after underslips were repaired. Construction of a sea wall alongside the highway at Kuranui is planned to begin by the end of June, and work to repair highway damage near Kuaotunu, Pumpkin Hill and between Hikuai and Opoutere is expected to be underway from August.

State Highway 2 through Karangahake Gorge is also expected to be restored to two lanes at Victoria Battery by Matariki weekend, once construction on a new retaining wall is completed.



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Seven schools set to sing

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

A combined mass choir concert is set to take place at the Waihi College Hall on June 26, organised by the Waihi Kāhui Ako - a cluster of schools in the area who work together to achieve educational outcomes for their students.

Seven Schools Sing is an initiative that will showcase students, between years five and eight, who will perform for their families, friends and community.

Led by musical director Roshan Tuivavalagi, with the support of Waihi College music teacher Mr Randall, kids from the following schools will take part in the event: Waihi Central School, Waihi East School, Waihi Beach School, Waihi College, St Joseph's Waihi, Waimata School and Te Wharekura o Te Waitangi o Ohinemuri.

The evening will also include special guest artists - the Waihi College music department.

Project leader Dorette Hartley said a big focus for the Waihi Kāhui Ako was children's well-being and giving them an opportunity to do things they love.

"We noticed how much the kids loved singing and music so we looked at how could we offer that experience to kids in a collective way."

Dorette said tickets to the concert were free, but need to be booked through the Hu-



A cluster of Waihi Schools gather to practice for their upcoming mass choir concert on June 26. Photos: SUPPLIED



A combined mass choir meets for practice at Waihi College with musical director Roshan Tuivavalagi, centre.

manitix website to "make sure there's seats for everyone".

There will be a private matinee for the participating schools cohorts, who will get to support their peers before the evening's

event. **DETAILS: Seven Schools Sings concert is at 5.30pm on June 26 at the Waihi College Hall. Find tickets here: events.humanitix.com/seven-schools-sing**



Customers check out selection at Waihi Lions' book fair. Photo: SUPPLIED

Annual book fair a success

By TALLIS AUSTEN, Gateway Journalism Student

Yet another popular Waihi Lions' Book fair was held over the king's birthday weekend in the Waihi Memorial Hall.

Turning out plenty of loyal supporters and book lovers from the Waikato area and beyond, the event raised a total of just over \$14,000 for the community.

Event co-ordinator Doug Longdill told *The Profile* the amount raised this year was, "a very similar figure to what was raised last year, we think that's quite a good result, given the challenging economic conditions that many in our commu-

nity are facing". All funds raised will be used to contribute to various community causes.

"Typically it goes to helping schools with their academic and sporting groups, and also other local groups which are worthy of some financial support," Doug said.

"The Waihi Lions have conducted this event for a number of years now, it's become somewhat of an institution, both locally and for people outside the area. We thank the community for the continued support that they provide us and the businesses that allow us to use their premises as drop off places for our books."

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Carpet and curtain connoisseurs move to Thames

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

The new Carpet Court and CurtainStudio stores officially opened their doors at 217 Pollen St, Thames on June 10, bringing the best of both worlds in a joint location.

Owners Taz and Murtuza Karachiwala always wanted to own a business at some point in their lives and said they were pleased to open their new and exciting store in Thames.

Taz's knowledge of flooring products from her previous work background and Murtuza's experience in operations has enabled the pair to hit the ground running with their new business venture.

Carpet Court and CurtainStudio were the largest flooring and window furnishing retail brands in New Zealand, with a presence in close to 100 locations across Aotearoa, Taz said.

Servicing areas throughout the Hauraki District, Miranda, across to Thames and right up along the coast all the way to Waikawau - Taz said customers should choose to shop with us because we have the entire offering.

Whether you are doing a home renovation or looking for quality flooring and window furnishing for your new build - we have got you covered, she said.

She also said that in case you are looking to purchase something in particular either in flooring or curtains or blinds, that isn't in store - they can look at ordering it in for you.

Heading a team of four, including herself, Taz will work across both businesses, supported by Michael the flooring specialist, Saloni the CurtainStudio design consultant, and Rob the part-time flooring specialist.

With a selection of domestic flooring brands, Taz said their specialties were their exclusive brands - Rhino Carpets,



Carpet Court and CurtainStudio Thames owner Taz Karachiwala, centre, with Michael, left, and Saloni from her team.

Photo: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Rhino EverCore hard floor, Malmo Carpets and Malmo Scandia hard floor.

"You can see a wide range when you come into our showroom," Taz said.

"We also do premium quality rugs which are from Weave."

Additionally, on the CurtainStudio side, customers can choose between ready-made curtains and blinds or opt for a

custom-made option, which in some cases can be made in 10 business days.

Though Taz said she was fairly new to the area after making the shift from Auckland, she was feeling like "more of a Thames person", and said the community was helpful and welcoming.

"I'm loving it - I love the beauty of Thames and I love the culture of starting

early and finishing early," Taz said.

"Not sitting in the traffic - that's a big deal." Head in store to welcome Taz and the team, and see the great deals on offer for the month of June.

DETAILS: Open weekdays from 8.30am to 5pm and on Saturdays from 8.30am to 2pm. Visit Carpetcourt.co.nz and curtainstudio.co.nz.

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Improved roading leads to Paeroa boom



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.

1922

Farmers had begun flocking to Paeroa from the Hau-raki Plains due to improved roading. Trade with the Plains was growing every week, and the increase promised a great boom for Paeroa.

The growth in Paeroa business was evident with five applications in one month for new shops to be built. The installation of an up-to-date drainage and sewerage system was also well under way.

The Paeroa Beautifying Society had been giving attention to the large section adjoining the Paeroa railway station and some exceptionally fine work completed. The two acres had been in a very rough state but now was cleared, levelled and ploughed. An unsightly fence had been removed and replaced with a rustic one.

The section was seeded in grass and it was proposed to sow flower beds and plant a number of palms.

Trouble though was brewing for Waihi and Karanga-



Paeroa and the Ohinemuri River, taken from the air 1922.

Photo: SUPPLIED

hake. Almost in the same way that the big mining industries in Australia had been laid low, so was Waihi - once one of the greatest gold-producing districts in the world - fading into the merest shadow of its former greatness. No fewer than 170 workers were paid off from the Martha Mine.

Formerly companies, when reducing staff, had managed to keep on the married men of settled habit with homes in the town, but now the Martha Mine layoffs included a fair proportion of married men, who had worked and had their own homes in the district for years.

The dismissals were said to be due to the inability of the company to pay the wages demanded by the men, who want-

ed a six hour day, and a five day week. Not only was work decreasing at Waihi but the town was disappearing.

Owing to high building costs, it was more economical to buy a cottage in Waihi for removal to another district than to build. One agent in Waihi confessed to having sold 33 houses for removal in one month. These were being re-erected in Te Puke, Whakatane, and other towns in the southern Auckland district.

Karangahake was infinitely worse. This once flourishing mining township, where the stamper used to thunder night and day, was dead. There was nothing doing at all there as far as serious mining work was concerned, and the atmosphere

was that of a deserted village. Karangahake's once tidy bowling green now had cattle grazing on it.

Meanwhile, the Dandy Dixie Minstrels were to play one night only at Thames' Miner's Union Hall. Judging from press notices, Thames could look forward to seeing a really capital show. Mr Jolly John Larkins headed the company, and his work had earned his title of the 'Rajah of Mirth.' His comedy was clean, clever, and original, and he had a style of presenting humorous songs and amusing patter that never failed to cause roars of laughter.

In Hikutaia, a large motor truck owned by Mr Manson made its initial journey from The Wires sawmill at Maratoto to the Hikutaia railway station with a full cargo of sawn timber. This was the first occasion on which a motor lorry had successfully made such a hazardous trip.

The road zigzagged in several places, and was none too wide, and several people had stated that no inducement could make them attempt this trip on the lorry. Previously the timber had been brought from the mill about five or six miles by horse drawn wagons, and then to the Hikutaia railway station by the motor truck. Mr Manson intended to purchase two motor lorries with a view to carting the timber by motor driven vehicles the whole of the 11 miles from The Wires to Hikutaia.

Chris' Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parminter

1. The National Agricultural Fieldays, now held at Mystery Creek, began in which decade? a) 1940s, b) 1960s or c) 1980s?
2. Which region of New Zealand contains the largest raised peat wetland in the southern hemisphere?
3. New Zealand band The Exponents featured which lead singer?
4. The te reo Māori term Paihamu refers to which marsupial animal?
5. How many episodes of the original Mr Bean series were made? a) 5, b) 10 or c) 15?
6. How many New Zealand zoos contain squirrels?
7. Which element is often added to salt to combat the medical condition goiter?
8. In New Zealand, which police rank is one higher than a Senior Constable?
9. Which European country has the highest coffee consumption per capita? a) France, b) Albania or c) Finland?
10. When referring to the CV joint of a vehicle, what does CV stand for?



ANSWERS: 1. b) 1960s (the first show was in 1969 in Te Rapa); 2. Hau-raki - the Kopuatai peat dome; 3. Jordan Luck; 4. common brushtail possum; 5. c) 15; 6. Zealand (including for zoos); 7. iodine (as sodium or potassium iodide); 8. Sergeant; 9. c) Finland; 10. constant velocity.

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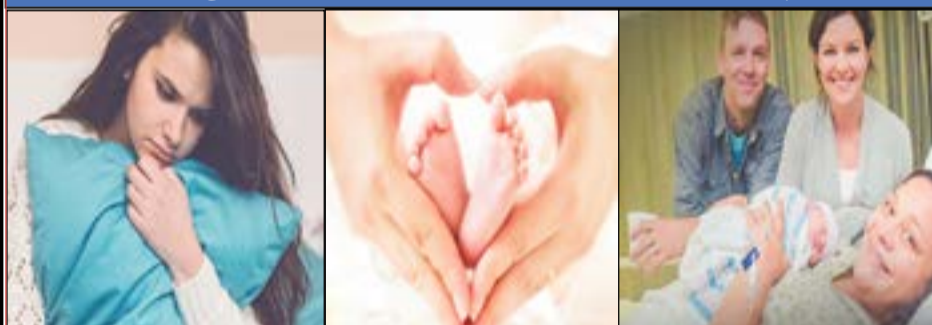
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Rural Life

Agriculture dropped from emissions scheme

Rural advocacy groups have welcomed the government's decision to keep agriculture out of the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (NZ ETS).

Last week the government announced it would amend the Climate Change Response Act 2002 by January 1, 2025, to ensure agriculture does not enter the NZ ETS.

The government will also establish a Pastoral Sector Group to address methane reductions on-farm.

Federated Farmers, Beef + Lamb NZ and DairyNZ welcomed the decision, however, Labour and the Greens are among those who are critical.

DairyNZ chair Jim van der Poel said the announcement was positive, following a huge amount of uncertainty for dairy farmers.

"New Zealand's dairy farmers are among the world's most GHG-efficient producers of milk, and inclusion in the NZ ETS could have shifted production to less-efficient producers offshore, hurting farmers, the economy and the country. That outcome would also increase global emissions.

"To remain internationally competitive, all paths forward must be grounded in a science-based approach. This will ensure a profitable and sustainable future for dairy – and for the rest of New Zealand," he said.

"While there are currently no significant technologies to reduce methane emissions from New Zealand pastoral farms, our farmers continue to make strong progress towards measuring on-farm emissions, and we look forward to contributing to the government's methane-reduction work. Methane emissions continue to reduce on-

farm thanks to farmer action.

"DairyNZ continues to work alongside farmers and research partners to accelerate affordable and effective tools and technologies for reducing emissions at farm level – including testing methane-reducing compounds and delivery options for our pasture-based farms, and exploring low-emissions forages and genetics," Jim said.

"We also welcome continued investment in R&D across the agriculture sector to develop new technologies – but it remains critical that a well-resourced and co-ordinated extension effort sits alongside this work."

The government has previously indicated it will introduce a fair, practical pricing system by 2030. "As a sector, we need clarity around targets and how a pricing mechanism would work with appropriate timeframes and incentives, as well as a selection of practical solutions for use on farm, before any emissions pricing system can be effective," Jim said.

The Labour Party said in a statement the decision would delay taking action on climate.

"The longer we wait to decarbonise our economy, the more expensive it becomes and the bigger the damage to our industries and farming sectors in the long run," Labour agriculture spokesperson Jo Luxton said.

"It puts market access at risk for our agricultural products. National's short-term thinking will hurt farmers, communities and livelihoods as the climate changes and the country endures more extreme weather events like Cyclone Gabrielle."

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Let's celebrate first day of 'play'

OPINION

By **DEBBIE MILLS**



June 11 marked the first official international day of recognising 'Play'. When first reading about the UN announcing the first official international day of play, my thoughts were "finally, play is being recognized world wide" I then got excited thinking if play through the UN is now recognized, maybe this will lead on to 'play therapy' being more recognised and more widely used.

A few people I spoke to in the field of 'play' had no idea about 'international day of play', I'm hoping by spreading the word, it'll have a ripple effect and next year, it will be celebrated more. It certainly lit a flame in my heart, as play and play therapy is my passion.

This year marks 20 years since I left the UK after I was invited by Hospice Waikato to initiate the first Community Play Specialist role supporting children and young people affected by life threatening/limiting illnesses and palliative care. Since then I've spread the word about the importance of play and now have my private practice based in Ngatea. I'm passionate about Play Therapy as it's still not a very well known therapy in New Zealand. There are various stages and types of play, all support a child's developmental progress, aid communication and can increase the ability to socialise. Believe it or not, some children need support to learn how to play; it doesn't always come naturally.

Play can occur alone, in groups and with all ages, cultures, within all social economical backgrounds and is used internationally for the purpose of a child's development and for FUN! As well as play being utilised for recreational purposes, it is a child's language. You can learn alot from observing a child's play.

Creative play, messy play, imaginative play, role play, physical play, social play, nurture play, exploratory play etc. the list goes on.

I personally believe we never stop playing, even within the workforce throughout the day at some point there is an element of 'play', it's just how you define it. Throughout my working life (over 30 years) I've been using play to support a child's developmental progress, preparing them for life's challenges, changes and traumatic events. I've used play to support a child with heart surgery, am-

putation, chemo, body image, death and the death of a loved one etc. Play is amazing for supporting children, young people (even adults) understand their own or their loved one's physical/mental illness, processing trauma, life's small and big events and for building connections between whānau and friends. It's an amazing 'tool' for building connections, learning life skills and for supporting those that are neuro diverse, have any kind of disability or are struggling with life skills. Play really does have no boundaries. Every day in my job as a child, youth, family therapist and group facilitator I use a variety of therapeutic play methods.

I'm very blessed to be able to utilise my skills at two local schools throughout a couple of days in the week, supporting tamariki and whānau process feelings, worries and emotions, build on relationships, learn social skills and to work through some of life's challenging 'obstacles'.

Further aspects of my career involve using my skills to support children and young people affected by blood disorders/blood cancers, immune deficiency disorders or liver transplants at certain times throughout the year, all over New Zealand in a group setting and inclusive environment. Play Therapy provides a safe way of expressing some really 'tough' stuff and is an opportunity to explore some really scary, big frightening feelings.

I'm passionate about what I do and the use of 'play', I'm a strong advocate for children and young people and really want to spread the message about the importance of play and how it can be utilised. I'm currently on a long journey to obtaining my Masters in Therapeutic Play, I'm only the second New Zealander to embark on this journey. It's only offered in Australia and whilst it is a financial, time consuming process, I'm doing it to gain more skills for my kete that I can pass on and share with the children, young people and families I support.

What can YOU do everyday, not just on 'International Play Day'? I'd encourage you firstly to think back to your childhood, what did you enjoy playing with? What feelings does this conjure up for you? Find an activity to do with your child/ren, all you need is imagination: Create a band using kitchen items; Make playdough and acknowledge the changes that occur whilst doing it, what does it feel like?; Play with cornflour and water; Create a volcano out of sand, vinegar, Bi-carb, food colouring. Observe quietly your child at 'play' or invite your child to show you how to play!

- Debbie Mills is a child, youth, family therapist and group facilitator

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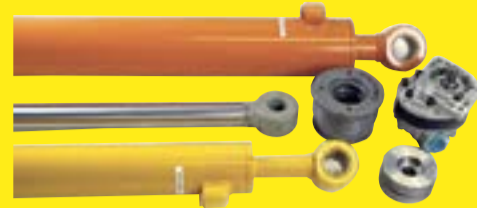
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The Hauraki Citizens Advice Bureau, or CAB, opened in Waihi in 1987 and transferred to Paeroa in 2019.

With a grant from the Hauraki District Council, we are fortunate to lease space from AE Electrical (in the old Post Office building) which allows CAB to continue to provide a much needed and valued contribution to the Hauraki community.

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Hauraki Citizens Advice, from left: Pam, Christine, Sally, Evelyn, Meirene, Sarah, Ian and Alison. Photo: SUPPLIED

significant increase in demand for CAB services to help clients resolve difficult situations.

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DETAILS: Hauraki Citizens Advice Bureau in the Old Post Office building, 101 Normanby Rd (entrance in Princes St opp Nga Iwi FM). Open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10am to 1pm. CONTACT: Ph 07 863 7640 or 021 318 946 (office hours only), Freephone 0800 367 222, email hauraki@cab.org.nz.

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Student volunteers make a difference in their communities

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Three high schools in the Thames Valley and Hauraki areas are running different initiatives to encourage students to volunteer in their communities.

Students from Waihi College, Thames High School and Hauraki Plains College talked with *The Profile* about the volunteering efforts with their schools.

Waihi College hosts a volunteer group called the Leo's Club, which runs in conjunction with the Waihi Lions Club. Community Leader and president of the Leo's Club Sabine Rush said she had been with the group for a few years and the numbers had "rocketed" this year from five people to 30.

The year-13 student said she loved the Leo's Club and wanted to get lots of students involved

by promoting and putting notices out: "and now we have this massive group".

The Leo's Club helped out at the Waihi Lions Book Fair on King's Birthday weekend by sorting books and setting up tables. With "hundreds and hundreds of books" donated every year, Sabine said it was one event the Lions needed help with, especially lifting all the boxes.

The group was also preparing for the Keep Waihi Beautiful Clean-Up, Sabine said. "Clean ups are so important. We love helping out with that." For students interested in joining the Leos, Sabine said: "it just makes you feel so fulfilled".

"I love volunteering. I love helping the Lions. I know that they appreciate our help everytime - and everyone else does, the community does."

Meanwhile, Thames High School students have been putting their hand up to volunteer in the community by joining a new initiative called

the Student Volunteer Army (SVA).

Year-13 students Ari-Ella Reed and Caitlin Jones are the facilitators of the SVA and have hit the ground running with 64 new recruits, with an even mix of boys and girls from year 9 through to year 13. Caitlin said it was cool seeing people get excited about volunteering.

Thames High career adviser Leanne Ardern said the group was a positive initiative that brought the school together.

She said Ari made a list of 15 volunteering opportunities where students could find something that interested them. Some of the options included: The Blind Association, SPCA, Land, Search and Rescue, and the recent grand opening of the Porritt Park playground.

Caitlin and Ari's main goal was get the group up to 100 members, they said. "It's the legacy we want to leave at Thames High."

When asked if they will carry on volunteering, even after they finish high school, the leaders said: "Definitely... anywhere we can, we will".

Across the Plains, five students from Hauraki Plains College took part in a native tree planting project on their teacher's farm, alongside Hikutaia School students, who grew the trees from seedlings. Year-12 students Ayden Dird, Kyson Drewet, Connor Yeager and Hamish Foster are seasoned volunteers, and part of the group who spent a day planting 700 trees on their teacher, Bronwyn Dyer's, land.

Mrs Dyer said the planting was along 300

metres of the length of a service drain, which linked to the main drain for the Hikutaia stream.

Some of the varieties planted were: Ti-tree, Cabbage, Ginger Wood, Ribbon Wood, Kauri, Titoki and Coprosma Karamu.

Prior to the planting, Mrs Dyer said one of her neighbours saw a penguin swimming up the stream. "It shows the importance of planting along water banks - they soak up nutrients."

Seventeen-year-old Kyson said: "it was really cool that we got to work with the younger kids, learning about why we need to plant the trees", while Aiden said the kids didn't ask many questions - they were just busy planting.

The cabbage trees and grasses could handle wetter ground, down on the lower parts of the bank, Connor said.

"They thrive in the muddy water".

Connor said his motivation for doing this volunteer work was being outdoors, "getting amongst it" and helping out the community.

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At the Paeroa Community Support Trust (PCST), we have been delivering social services for almost 30 years in the Hauraki District.

Operating from two sites: the PCST Carehouse, and Hauraki resource centre, both located on Willoughby St, Paeroa, we continue to support our community by building on capabilities that empower whānau - tamariki, young people, and seniors, who all come from diverse backgrounds, different life experiences and abilities. Being a volunteer with the PCST is a fulfilling and rewarding opportunity for you to make a meaningful impact within your local community.

You will have the chance to contribute your time, skills, and passion towards supporting various initiatives aimed at enhancing the well-being of individuals and families in Paeroa and surrounding areas.

By joining the PCST's volunteer team, you will become an essential part of a network dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of others, creating connections, and building a stronger, more resilient community. You will enrich the lives of those you help in a compassionate and supportive environment. Is this your time to give back and make a difference in our community?

DETAILS: For more info and enquiries please email: admin@pc.org.nz, Ph 07 862 6110, or visit www.pc.org.nz.

- Supplied by PCST



All aboard the volunteer express!

New volunteers are needed at Goldfields Railway – come and play on your own full size train set!

Goldfields Railway, which is based at the historic Waihi Railway Station on Wrigley St, was established in 1980 to preserve the rail heritage of the local area.

Since that time, the society has grown to now operate a popular tourist railway between Waihi and Waikino, at the start of the Karangahake Gorge, and caters for families and kids - young or young-at-heart.

Our objectives are not only to preserve an important part of the nation's rail heritage, but also to

preserve the railway as an essential part of the Waihi district's historical identity.

Today the society's objectives have not changed from the original concepts - we cater for people interested both in the tourism operation, and the preservation and reconstruction of railway artifacts.

The 30-minute trip between Waihi and Waikino travels along the original East Coast Main Trunk Line (ECMTL) rail bed alongside the Ohinemuri River, a route made redundant by the opening of the Kaimai Tunnel in 1978. The track used by Goldfields Railway is virtually all that is left of

the ECMTL, and offers views not only of fabulous scenery, but many of the original mining operation historical sites not visible from State Highway 2. New volunteers are always needed, from drivers and guards to engineering and track maintenance.

Come and help us keep our heritage railway alive, preserving the past for future generations, while at the same time having fun and enjoying the camaraderie that comes from like-minded enthusiasts.

DETAILS: For more info, contact: Martin Drew, email: mbsdrew@gmail.com or Ph: 027 494 7070.

- Supplied by Goldfields Railway

Hato Hone St John Thames



VOLUNTEER WEEK 16th - 22nd June 2024

We acknowledge and thank the valuable volunteers who willingly give their time back to the community through Hato Hone St John.

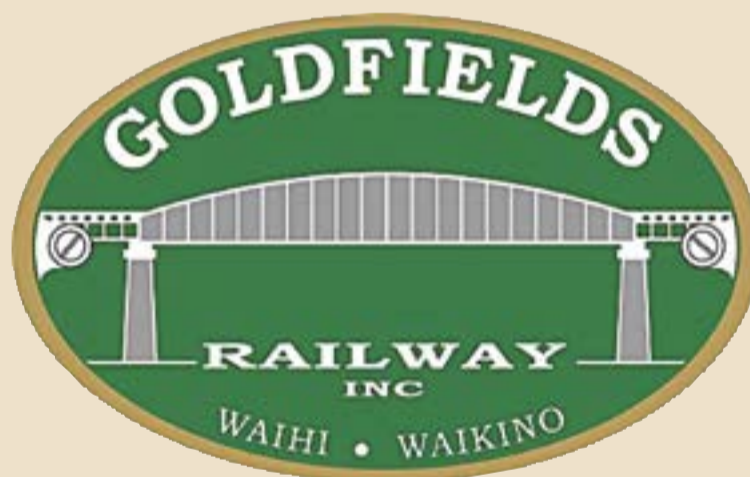
Without the support of the volunteers, Hato Hone St John would not be able to provide those programmes and services that help to reinforce our community's connectedness, resilience and strength.

Thank you to:

- > the volunteers of our Therapy Pets Reading Education Assistance Dogs programme
- > the volunteers that help with our Opportunity Retail Shop
- > the volunteers that run our Health Shuttles
- > the volunteer Friends of the Emergency Department / Hospital
- > the volunteers of the Thames Area Committee and our Patron
- > the volunteers on our Ambulances
- > the youth and their volunteer leaders in our Youth programme
- > the volunteer Caring Callers
- > the volunteer members of the Order of St John of Jerusalem

Thank you for your dedicated service and contribution to your community through Hato Hone St John.

St John - local people serving the needs of our community.



Travel back in time and enjoy a ride on our heritage train with Goldfields Railway. Journey between Waihi and Waikino at the eastern end of the spectacular Karangahake Gorge, and enjoy lunch or a snack at the Waikino Station café. Trains run from Thursday to Sunday, please check our website for departure details.

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Valley Education gets locals work-ready

Valley Education is now part of Mayoral Task Force for Jobs in conjunction with the Thames Coromandel District Council. Need work? Give us a call and we'll soon get you sorted. Just call or text the numbers below.

The Kōpū based tertiary education provider offers vocational training in agriculture, retail, health and well-being, foundation skills, horticulture and mechanical engineering, from level 1 through to level 4, as well as short courses in chainsaw and barista training.

Valley Education can also upskill your workforce with their Workplace Communication courses. These are free for employers and make a positive impact on your company's bottom line. Free transport is available daily from Paeroa, Kerepēhi, Ngatea and Thames.

Executive director Andrea McCartney said around 150 people came through their courses each year. "People can study locally with us and gain qualifications so they're work ready," she said.

"Quite often people who haven't finished their school education come in here and can get NCEA, plus specific qualifications, so that's pretty life-changing for them."

Andrea said Valley Education was open to anyone and they were all encouraged to do the best for themselves.

"We're happy to be a part of their learning process and see them on their way to wherever they want to go next."

Our Valley Education driving academy offers driver training, including learner licence courses and driving lessons towards restricted and full licences, along with defensive driving courses - to book, text or phone: 027 314 1577; 07 868 7892.

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Making room for new growth in our lives

OPINION

By MICHAEL WILKES



When we moved from the coast a few years back, we left behind two stunning young pear trees that would produce so many massive pears that we would have to support the branches so they would not snap. And when we moved, there was an old, gnarled pear tree. I was excited for the coming fruit season. I watched in anticipation as a few buds formed, and the spring flowers showed up. There were not as many as I

expected, but I figured the fruit would be great. Yet I was so disappointed when the fruit that formed were so few, and they were as hard as nuts and grew no bigger than a cherry. In response I took a saw to the old tree and grafted in shoots from the young pear trees back up the coast. The old becoming a platform for the new.

This tree recently got me thinking further about legacy. If that tree were left in its state, it's lasting legacy would have been a fruitless tree. Yet with a bit of careful planning and a willingness to remove most of what was there, the tree's legacy for my kids will be one that fruits in abundance.

We all have seasons where we need to lay things down or step aside for the greater good. When I got married, I stopped going out mountain biking as much to give time to that most important relationship.

We had six years of adventures together before having kids. Having kids meant laying down other hobbies for a season. Yet now as they are getting older, I am able to pick those hobbies back up with the family. And in my work as the team grows, I am having to step aside and let others take the lead in schools as I step back to support them.

And for all these areas to thrive,

something had to die or be cut back.

We have all seen the cost of holding on too long. A dad who's never home in the weekend because he wouldn't let go of his fishing, or a workplace that limps along because a leader won't step aside to support their succession.

I don't want my legacy to be like that old pear tree. Gnarled and fruitless and holding on, unwilling to make room for the next generation. So, my season is one where I am having to let go and support a new guard to shine.

A season where there is less of me and more of them. Both for my kids and for my team. And maybe

you too find yourself in a season where its worth considering what things need to be cut down to support something new and fresh.

Because our success is never truly our own and legacy starts to look more like helping others to succeed and allowing new growth to take place where we once were.

Michael Wilkes is a Living Well Trust Youth Worker. He and his team provide mentoring and resilience programmes across Thames and Paeroa to more than 300 students a year. They are passionate about supporting our young people to thrive. Much of this work is funded outside of schools and it becoming increasingly challenging in the current climate. Email michael@livingwell.org.nz to sign up to their quarterly newsletter or to become a supporter.



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Delicious raspberry, white chocolate cheesecake recipe for you to try at home.

Photos: SUPPLIED

Raspberry, white chocolate cheesecake

RECIPE

For this recipe, you'll need a standard cake tin, baking paper, hand mixer or cake mixer and food processor. Enjoy!

INGREDIENTS

- 1 packet of superwine biscuits
- 250gm butter, melted
- 500gm cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup condensed milk
- 300 gm white chocolate buttons
- 200ml cream
- 1/2 tsp gelatine
- 1 1/2 cup frozen raspberries

METHOD

Place biscuits into the food processor and pulse until fine coarse crumbs.

Then add melted butter and press into a greased or lined cake tin. Place into the fridge while you make the filling. Place the softened cream cheese into cake mixer and beat until soft, then add condensed milk and beat until well mixed and glossy. Microwave white chocolate, cream and gelatin for 1 minute, then mix together until all chocolate is mixed in. Pour into cream cheese mix and mix well, then fold in frozen raspberry. Place the mixture on to the biscuit base and put into the fridge for about eight hours or until set.

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HARD

155

HARD

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EASY

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9	3	1	5	8	4	7	6	2
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JUMBO CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

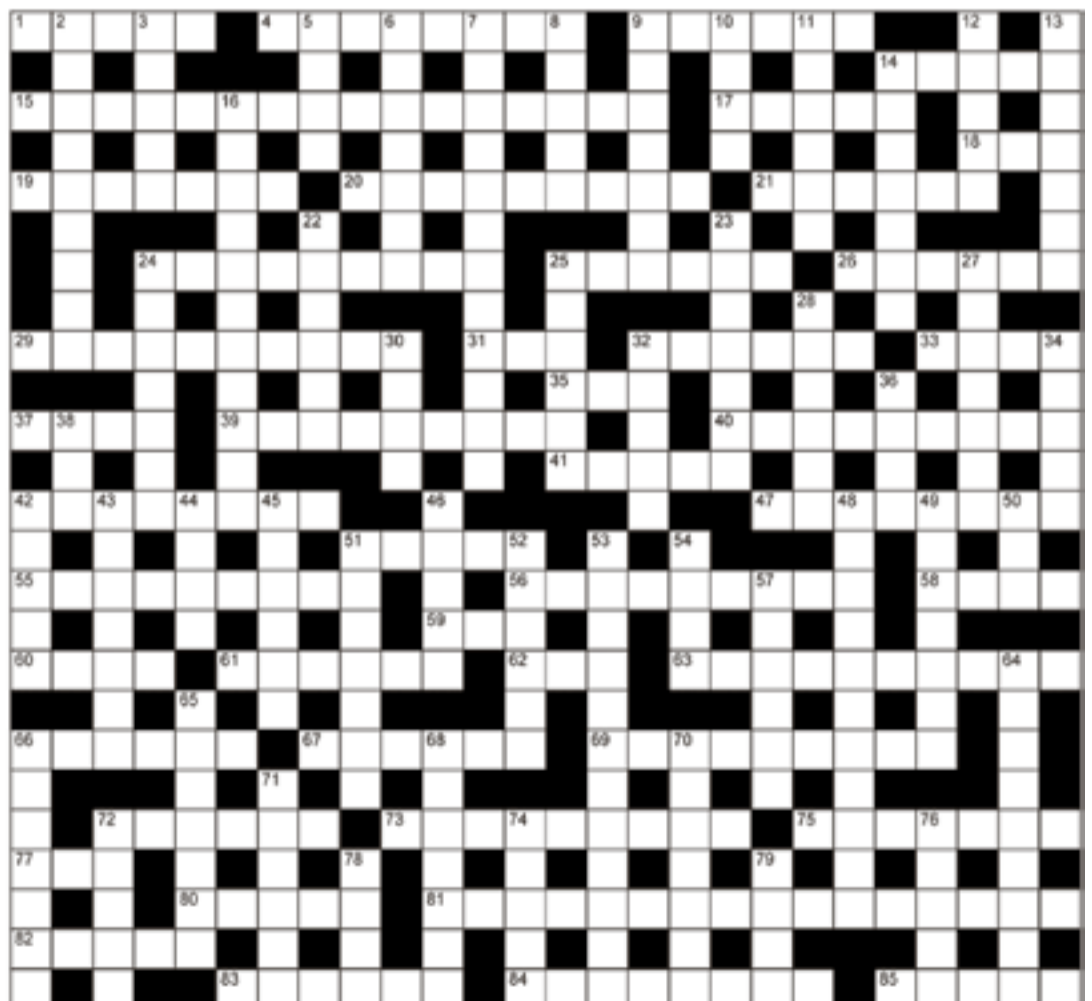
- 1 Wobbly dessert (5)
- 4 Cause to begin (8)
- 9 Bird of prey (6)
- 14 Lifeless (5)
- 15 Slim odds (6,2,1,7)
- 17 Waxed and dyed fabric (5)
- 18 Application (3)
- 19 Argument (7)
- 20 Pliable, able to be pressed into shape (9)
- 21 Warplane (6)
- 24 Raising in rank (9)
- 25 Surprise attack (6)
- 26 Ask to come (6)
- 29 High regard (10)
- 31 Stitch (3)
- 32 Stick (6)
- 33 Note (4)
- 35 Insect (3)
- 37 Villein (4)
- 39 Crisis (9)
- 40 Having sworn to be truthful (5,4)
- 41 Cut-price disposals (5)
- 42 Sexual infidelity (8)
- 47 Brown-haired woman (8)
- 51 Displayed (5)
- 55 Change (9)
- 56 Turned out (anag)(9)
- 58 Imprison (4)
- 59 Black sealant (3)
- 60 Bitter-tasting (4)
- 61 Prey (6)
- 62 Large water body (3)
- 63 Compensation, amends (10)

DOWN

- 2 Tired out (9)
- 3 Of the moon (5)
- 5 Not any (4)
- 6 Kettle-drums (7)
- 7 New Year song (4,4,4)
- 8 Heath shrub (5)
- 9 Group of admirers (3,4)
- 10 Tosses (4)
- 11 Alternative (6)
- 12 Thigh-bone (5)
- 13 Church tower and spire (7)
- 14 Art of Japanese flower arrangement (7)
- 16 Take revenge with a like punishment (3,3,2,3)
- 22 Submissive (6)
- 23 Narrow connecting land (7)
- 24 Sore (7)

ACROSS

- 25 Forever (6)
- 27 Not precise (7)
- 28 Merchant (6)
- 30 Henpecks (4)
- 32 Coral reef (5)
- 34 Yellowish pigment (5)
- 36 Wide smile (4)
- 38 Finish (3)
- 42 Accumulate over time (5)
- 43 Poorly balanced or matched (7)
- 44 Neaten (4)
- 45 Remorseful (6)
- 46 Loot (5)
- 48 Submarine (5,3,3)
- 49 Titillated (7)
- 50 Label (3)
- 51 Surprise (7)
- 52 Cared for while ill (6)
- 53 Deadpan expression (8,4)
- 54 Mix with a spoon (4)
- 57 Fix (6)
- 64 Sailor of long experience (3,3,3)
- 65 Time's up (anag) (7)
- 66 Wither (7)
- 68 Bullied into (7)
- 70 Recovery setback (7)
- 71 Writer (6)
- 72 Shirk a duty (5)
- 74 Volley of shots (5)
- 76 Horrify (5)
- 78 Remaining (4)
- 79 Check and correct (4)



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ACROSS: 1 False, 4 Golden handshake, 14 Khaki, 15 Scarf, 16 Headstrong, 17 Ladle, 19 Fah, 20 Logbook, 21 Eccentric, 22 Bathes, 25 Chanteuse, 27 Mayhem, 28 Planet, 33 Unoccupied, 35 Rim, 36 Mosque, 37 Scum, 39 Ego, 41 Wealthy, 42 Fasten, 43 Resilient, 44 Trunk, 45 Clarinet, 50 Do, 51 Cleanses, 55 Cacti, 58 Replenish, 59 Scenic, 60 Brother, 61 Ram, 63 Book, 64 Florin, 65 Ink, 66 Highly paid, 68 Sleuth, 69 Issues, 71 Interlude, 76 Latest, 77 Postnatal, 79 Instant, 81 Tea, 84 Opera, 85 Implements, 86 Lilac, 87 Onion, 88 As keen as mustard, 89 Fleet.

DOWN: 2 Anchor, 3 Shrub, 5 Over, 6 Deducts, 7 Nutmeg, 8 Abort, 9 Dignity, 10 Hull, 11 Kidnap, 12 Waifs, 13 Highest, 14 Keyhole, 18 John Buchan, 23 Denim, 24 Berserk, 26 Heckler, 27 Memento, 29 Nucleus, 30 Unreal, 31 Trité, 32 Mussel, 34 Draw, 36 Mogul, 38 Moths, 40 Flea, 45 Carob, 46 Approve, 47 Idea, 48 Edible, 49 Scorn, 50 Dismiss, 52 Errol Flynn, 53 Notepad, 54 Eyelid, 55 Cherish, 56 Pesky, 57 With, 62 Agree, 67 Stetson, 68 Station, 70 Utopian, 72 Nearest, 73 Assess, 74 Gateau, 75 Unsafe, 76 Latin, 78 Tapes, 80 Trial, 82 Fame, 83 Star.



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ENTERTAINMENT

Debut album a time-capsule of personal growth

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

Waiomu's Nur Peach is coming into her own as a musician on June 22, with the release of her debut album, *Syncopate*.

The 23-year-old singer-songwriter, daughter of Coromandel musician Dylan Wade, said the release was the fulfilment of a lifelong dream.

It's an autobiographical collection, chronicling her first year at the University of Auckland - finding independence, growing into her sound and learning to embrace herself.

"It was written while I was in my first year at uni, and it was also the year I turned 18, so it has a lot of themes about coming of age and about taking big risks," Nur said.

"I felt like I was coming into my own musically and learning a lot about who I was, because I've always struggled with fitting in. The title of the album, *Syncopate*, is a music theory term which means emphasising or accenting the offbeats. But I've used it metaphorically to mean daring to be different... [To] make big changes in your life and in the world."

The 10-track album is a departure from her folk roots, bringing in a funky electropop sound which Nur said was heavily influenced by her studies.

"There is quite a definite pop sound in a few of the songs,



Nur Peach is releasing her debut album, right, this month.

Photos: SUPPLIED

and that was something that was very new for me. Some of the songs were actually for my [Bachelor of Music] course, handed in as assignments," she said.

"The whole concept behind the album... That came from the song *Offbeat*, which was inspired by something my teacher said. He said something like, 'it helps to be a little bit offbeat', and the hook of that song just flared to my head as soon as he said that."

Although Nur wrote the entire

album in 2019, recording was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, with most of the studio work taking place in 2022.

Nur and her producer, Scott Seabright, worked hard to maintain the feel of the music even as her style evolved in the following years.

"It was really important for me to keep this one as it was, because it really felt like it was such a strong body of work and so much represented that particular year in my life. Adding stuff from other years didn't feel

right," she said.

"[It's] a time capsule of this really amazing, really beautiful year of my life where I was probably able to be the most independent I've ever been able to be."

Music has been a part of Nur's life from a very early age - she'd written more than 200 songs by the time she left Thames High School, and performed at the NZ Spirit Festival, Auckland Folk Festival and the Prana festival, as well as singing in Israel and busking on the streets of Paris.



In 2016, she was the Waikato regional winner of the Play It Strange Get Connected song-writing competition with her song *Feel The Sun*, and in 2023 her single release *Gift From Above*, featuring Dylan Wade, was playlisted on Coromandel's CFM. However, *Syncopate* had been life-changing, she said.

"It was really amazing seeing the album manifest into something that I could actually listen to all the way through, as opposed to just something in my head. It turned out better than I ever could have imagined.

"The whole experience just helped me accept myself a whole lot more. I remember question[ing] whether it was dishonest to release a song like *Offbeat* before I'd fully accepted myself. [But] it's releasing that brings acceptance."

DETAILS: *Syncopate* by Nur Peach debuts on June 22, pre-sales available now at nurpeach.bandcamp.com/album/syncopate.



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