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STRANDED BY RIOTS

'It was quite surreal, sitting on the balcony, sipping fine French wine, listening to gunfire.'

By **TERESA RAMSEY**

Attending a travel conference in New Caledonia recently landed Thames man Geb Owen in the middle of deadly protests that stranded him in Noumea for just over a week.

The riots and protests broke out in the capital in May, resulting in nine deaths, deployment of the French army and a declaration of a state of emergency on May 16, with the unrest causing damage estimated at more than NZD\$2.6 billion. The violence broke out following a controversial voting reform aiming to change existing conditions which prevent up to one-fifth of the population from voting in provincial elections.

Geb, who works in insurance, was in New Caledonia with a group of 42 delegates from a New Zealand travel company for the four-day conference when the riots broke out.

"To be honest it was more odd than scary. It was unusual. When we got there, we left the airport and there was a lot of flag waving with the locals and we didn't really know what was going on, we thought that was unusual but didn't really think too much of it," he said.

The conference was in a remote area outside of Noumea, so the group was unaware the protests had escalated until they travelled back to their hotel in Noumea the

day before their scheduled flight home.

"As we were driving back, there were these roadblocks where they'd been burning fires in the middle of the road and tyres and all manner of stuff - they were pulling stuff down and chucking it into these fires and waving their Kanak [indigenous] flags.

"We got a general idea from the bus driver of what was happening... but it got progressively worse as we got into Noumea," he said. "The funny thing is, you'd think of 42 people involved in the travel industry, if anyone was going to be aware of the potential issues, it'd be us - they hadn't really communicated what was happening."

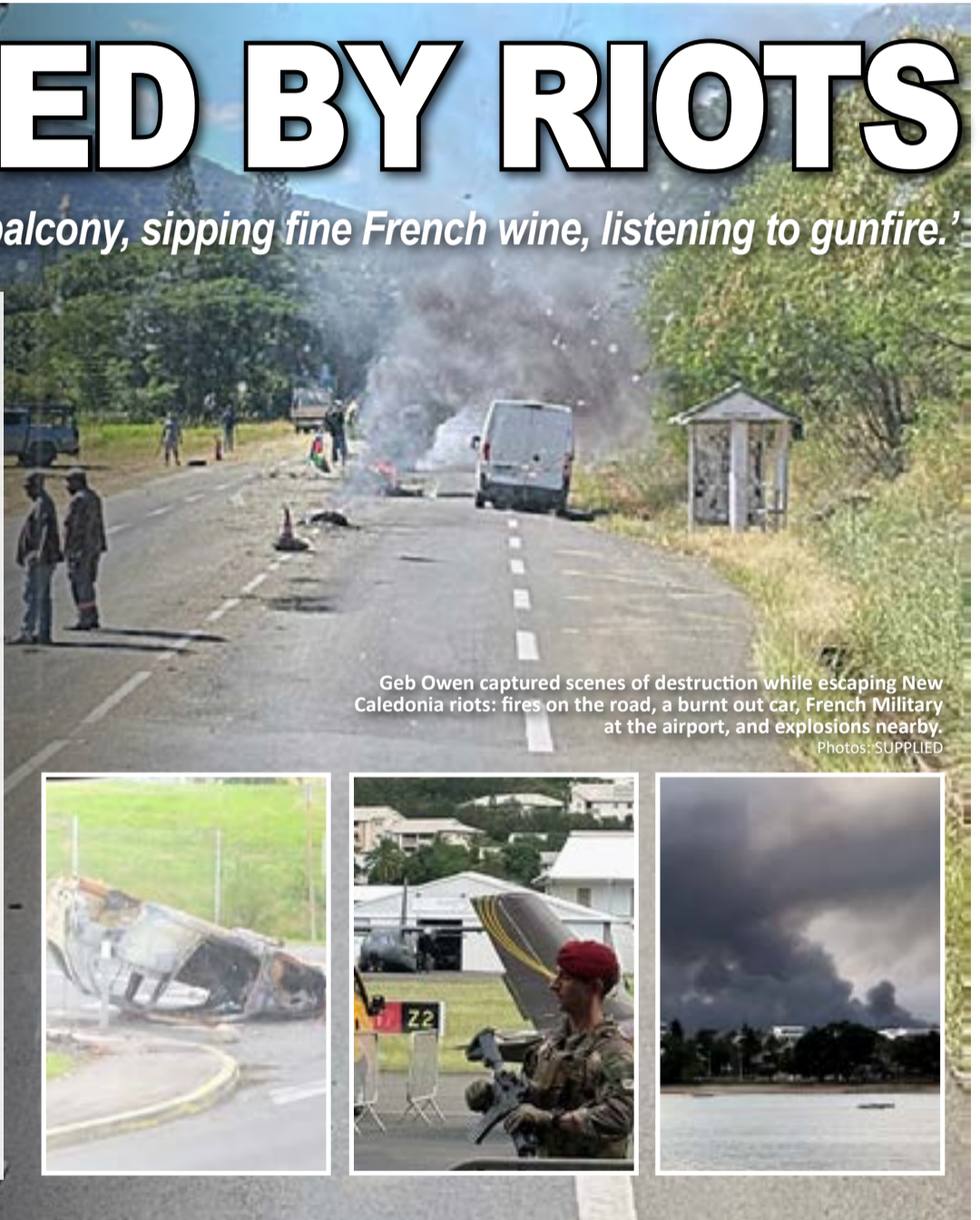
His company's emergency assistance service later told him the unrest had been "bubbling away and this riot has been on the horizon" but there was no information in the media while he was at the conference, he said.

"It did come as a bit of a surprise. That night we said 'well we hope we can get out tomorrow', sort of tongue in cheek... but the next morning they said the road's been closed and no-one can get to the airport.

"That's when it became quite surreal."

Geb's hotel was in a tourist area in south Noumea, a few

CONTINUED ON P2



Geb Owen captured scenes of destruction while escaping New Caledonia riots: fires on the road, a burnt out car, French Military at the airport, and explosions nearby. Photos: SUPPLIED

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Stranded by New Caledonia riots

CONTINUED FROM P1

kilometres from the riots, and about 20km from the most violent protests to the north.

"You could see the military presence as the days went by. You could hear helicopters and you could hear explosions, you could hear gunfire. It was quite surreal, sitting on the balcony, sipping fine French wine, listening to gunfire."

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Air New Zealand staff also staying at the hotel were able to give the stranded New Zealanders and Australians regular updates, he said.

Around a week later, around 50 New Zealanders with children or medical issues were flown home on a New Zealand Defence Force recovery flight.

The following day, Geb and several hundred other New Zealanders and Australians were offered a flight to Brisbane on a French government plane that had transported around 200 soldiers to Noumea.

Though the tourist area he was staying in wasn't the target of any protests, the father of three was keen to return home to his family. "If you can imagine, my main concern really was [wife] Jo and the boys. I felt there were definitely times she was doing it tougher than me."

The journey home was the "most interesting part", Geb said. "We went down to the local domestic airport, so we saw a lot of burnt out buildings and cars as we drove to the airport. We were greeted by the French Berets, who were all fully armed, and



Geb Owen was flown from New Caledonia to Brisbane Airport, where he and about 80 other Kiwis were flown home on a New Zealand Defence Force recovery flight.

Photos: SUPPLIED

we were transported military-style through the airport into a hangar."

From there, the group flew to a military airport and boarded the French plane to Brisbane, then Geb and around 80 Kiwis were flown to Auckland by the NZ Defence Force. "It was amazing to see the way the Kiwis came together, the way they supported one another in that sort of scenario. We all gravitated towards one another and made sure they had what they needed, it was really cool to see."

Geb said the riots were ongoing in New Caledonia. Protests flared up again last week, with several buildings set on fire, including a police station and town hall, after pro-independence activists were arrested and taken to France.

"It's still going on... Air New Zealand has just cancelled all their flights to New Caledonia [until September 28]. It's still happening, there are a lot of local businesses that are really suffering."

However, despite his ordeal on his first trip to the French Pacific territory, Geb said he would go back in the future.

"It's actually a beautiful, beautiful country. If you can imagine the [Pacific] islands but with some proper infrastructure... roading and all that sort of stuff, [which] comes from French money."

"It's a beautiful spot and Noumea itself is a lovely city, I definitely would go back. I do hope they can find some peace or resolution, however, it's going to take a long time to rebuild their tourism. It's a real shame."

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Thames Tides

Wed Jul 3	Thu Jul 4	Fri Jul 5	Sat Jul 6	Sun Jul 7	Mon Jul 8	Tue Jul 9
Morning 4:11am 3.3 10:27am 0.6	Morning 5:10am 3.2 11:26am 0.6	Morning 6:09am 3.2 6:45pm 3.4	Morning 12:49am 0.7 7:05am 3.2	Morning 1:39am 0.7 7:57am 3.2	Morning 2:26am 0.7 8:45am 3.2	Morning 3:11am 0.7 9:30am 3.2
Afternoon 4:53pm 3.3 11:03pm 0.8	Afternoon 5:52pm 3.3 11:58pm 0.7	Afternoon 12:20pm 0.5 6:45pm 3.4	Afternoon 1:11pm 0.5 7:33pm 3.4	Afternoon 1:57pm 0.5 8:19pm 3.4	Afternoon 2:41pm 0.5 9:03pm 3.4	Afternoon 3:22pm 0.6 9:46pm 3.4
7:32am 5:13pm	7:32am 5:13pm	7:32am 5:14pm	7:31am 5:14pm	7:31am 5:15pm	7:31am 5:15pm	7:31am 5:16pm
Best At 9:33am 10:02pm	Best At 10:31am 11:01pm	Best At 11:30am 11:59pm	Best At 12:28pm	Best At 12:56am 1:23pm	Best At 1:48am 2:13pm	Best At 2:37am 2:59pm
Rise 4:42am Set 2:20pm	Rise 5:53am Set 3:08pm	Rise 6:57am Set 4:04pm	Rise 7:53am Set 5:06pm	Rise 8:39am Set 6:12pm	Rise 9:17am Set 7:17pm	Rise 9:47am Set 8:21pm

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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	Min	LOW
Coromandel	-	0	04
Whitianga	-	0	05
Tairua	+	11	21
Whangamata	-	0	05
Waihi Beach	-	0	12

Stuck residents not sold on red sticker

Continuing the Valley Profile's investigation into life for those with red-stickered homes, reporter ALICE PARMINTER speaks with a couple struggling to sell their storm-damaged Kuranui Bay property.

Nelly Morrison hates the red sticker adorning her home. For 25 years, the little cottage in Kuranui Bay next to the dairy has been a sanctuary for Nelly and her husband Jack. It's got views of the sea, it's close to the hospital, they know everyone in their little community. But that red sticker, acquired after the February, 2023, storms, is a symbol of the stress and hardships the elderly couple have faced since.

"The problems that evolved through having that red sticker, from start to where we are now... I think I've aged 10 years," Nelly said.

The problems began one morning in February, 2023, at around 6am. Nelly was having trouble sleeping after radiation treatment for her cancer, so she was up early. "I was standing there ironing. Then I saw this crack," she said. "It came right across the bottom of the door there - it was just going along as I was ironing. I thought, my goodness, I think I've had too much medication."

Immense amounts of water had come down the cliff behind the house, they were told later. With



Nelly and Jack Morrison love their Kuranui Bay home, but they are unable to face the mental and financial strain caused by cyclone damage.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER

nowhere to drain, it pooled under the building.

"The floorboards heaved up. It was really uncanny. I carried on ironing, and then the next thing the carpet rolled up in that corner."

Nelly woke Jack and they called Civil Defence. Within minutes, she said, there was a group of people standing on the road outside their home.

"We had Civil Defence, we had fire brigade, we had [the Earthquake Commission], we had coun-

cil people. And they were all across the road, standing there with their hands in their pockets... Looking up towards the hill," Nelly said.

"I thought, what are they doing? Nobody actually came in to see us. And then the next thing, a guy got out.

"[He] came running in with the red tape and put it all on, and somebody was slapping up a red sticker on the door. And then two guys came in with their dirty filthy gumboots, just walked straight

through the house and said, 'it's time for you to get out... It's dangerous. The hill up there might slip down'."

The couple were sent to a hotel on Rolleston St in Thames. It was nice enough, Nelly said, but they just wanted to get back home.

Meanwhile, there were new problems at their property.

"For nine months, our house went to the pack - we had rats coming up through the hole in the wall there, and you could smell



Jack Morrison stands next to the red sticker marking the property as a safety risk.

that," Nelly said.

"[Someone] burgled the house while it was empty, took all [my] cancer pills... It was awful. I was angry.




"And then [Jack] had a stroke." Eventually, Nelly said, her son convinced the council to let them move back in. But the family had had enough of the stress, and in March this year they decided to put the home on the market.

"Every corner we seemed to turn was costing a lot of money, but we had no solutions to fixing the wall and moving on. My daughter-in-law said to me, 'why don't you try and sell it as-is?' She rang and spoke to Steven [Bridson, at Harcourt Thames]. Well, you know, he's just been an absolute blessing to us," Nelly said.



"He's turned up when he's heard that there's about to be a weather [warning] - he's down here, checking all our pipes to make sure they're not blocked up. He's been a breath of fresh air.


"We've got a couple of people

CONTINUED ON P8

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Wearable wonders

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

A group of Waihi College students took the stage by storm at the Toi wearable art competition in Tauranga last month.

The competition is part of Showquest, which is a nationwide performing arts platform for schools, and runs in collaboration with the World of Wearable Art.

The Waihi College student designers who competed are: Kate Townsend, Aysheia Domasing, Izzie Cannell, Abi-Mae McHardy, Kyle Sorley, Yukumi Kato, Amy Harris, Zoe-Beth Naisby, Bella Paulsen and Leslie Brillantes.

A few awards were snapped up by Zoe-Beth, who was awarded best use of recycled materials for her garment Recycled Romance, before also taking out the overall prize for the senior division as Star of the Night. Recycled Romance was based on a rose in its fully blossomed state, she said.

It was made out of recycled aluminum lunch containers, which were shaped and paint-

ed to create a petal effect.

Zoe-Beth said she was most proud of the fact that she repurposed more than 200 lunch containers and “gave them a new life”.

Meanwhile, Kyle was awarded excellence in garment construction for his Steampunk Astronaut, which he said was based in the year 3024: “where the whole world is a wasteland”. He was “going for a vibe” of the suit being constantly patched up with anything he could find, Kyle said.

“I love detailing,” he said, and added that he made the buttons out of clay, and even fired and painted them himself.

Waihi College visual art teacher Paige Kingston said it was rewarding to see the students’ work exhibited on stage in front of 1200 people.

“We watched from the audience and hearing the cheers from the crowd was awesome.”

Students Bayley Goddard, Erana Keelan and Ruby Welhemi also went along as helpers and models for their peers.



Waihi College student designers and helpers ready to storm the stage.

Photos: SUPPLIED



Zoe-Beth Naisby is the 'Star of the Night' in Recycled Romance.



Kyle Sorley visits the year 3024 as a Steampunk Astronaut.



Yukumi Kato is ready to showcase her garment.



Izzie Cannell, left, Bayley Goddard and Kate Townsend.



Abi-Mae McHardy floats across the stage.

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Grave concerns for Waihi cemetery plots

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

Subsiding gravesites are posing a health and safety risk at Waihi Cemetery, Hauraki District councillors heard at their June 26 meeting.

A tabled report said the subsidence affected a roughly one-hectare area, and was particularly evident in the RSA section.

“Although some grave subsidence is normal at cemeteries, the sheer number of affected graves at the Waihi Cemetery has the potential to negatively impact public perception of how council maintains its cemeteries,” the report said.

“There is also a risk that a visitor to the cemetery may suffer a fall due to the unevenness of the ground.”

A recommendation was made for grave levelling to be carried out over the RSA section, section A, and section B over a three-year period, with a soil stockpile to be subsequently established at the cemetery for future maintenance.

The cost for the project was estimated to be \$230,000 if carried out over three years, or \$195,600 if completed in one go.

Councillors were divided on whether the work should be completed over time to avoid unnecessary disruption at the cemetery, or whether the health and safety risk and lower overall cost warranted an “all at once” approach.

“We’re very mindful that



Subsidence at Waihi Cemetery.

Photo: SUPPLIED/HDC

works of this nature in the cemetery we’re going to have to manage with care and dignity,” chief executive Langley Cavers said.

Deputy Mayor Paul Milner said his preferred option was to “get it done as soon as possible”, and suggested the cost be spread

over the next 10 years to minimise the impact to ratepayers.

The council has deferred a decision until further information can be gathered.

Meanwhile, councillors have approved a \$10 a week increase in rent for residents of the 57

council-run elderly housing persons’ units in Paeroa, Waihi and Ngatea. Rent is currently set at \$198 per week for a studio unit or bedsit and \$205 per week for a one bedroom unit.

A council report said there was a \$61,000 deficit in net operat-

ing costs for the units over the 2023/24 financial year.

Councillors rejected a second option to increase rent by \$21 a week, saying although a larger increase would better cover the shortfall, they were mindful of the need to avoid undue financial pressure on the residents.

“The most important thing for elderly people is to have a safe roof over their heads,” Cr Daley said.

The increase will take effect on October 1.

Also on the council’s agenda at the meeting was the offloading of the sports buildings in Paeroa Centennial Domain.

The buildings, consisting of the rugby clubrooms, boxing gym building and toilet block, were temporarily vested to the council following the dissolution of the Paeroa Centennial Park Board in 2023.

The council voted to transfer ownership of the buildings to the Paeroa Sports Club Incorporated Society, a “like-minded sporting organisation” to the park board, as mandated by the former park board’s constitution. The move will see council absolved of liability for the buildings, which are in need of extensive maintenance to repair moisture and weather damage.

Council also granted \$5000 to Kerepehi Brass Band for the replacement of several instruments that were coming to the end of their useful life.



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Engineers take in the sights at conference



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.

1911

The Australasian Institute of Mining Engineers held a conference at Waihi, the delegates making several rounds of visits to local mines and batteries.

One of them, Lord Islington, descended the Waihi mine to the thousand feet level, taking a great interest in the workings.

The Australian delegates were much interested in the methods of ore extraction, and also the metallurgical processes adopted at Waihi. In the evening, several technical papers were discussed and the next day on their way to Thames the delegates took in the sights of Karangahake.

Meanwhile, a Waikino boarding house proprietor tried to blame his thirsty family for suspicious deliveries of alcohol, one of which included six cases spirits, one case wine, two kegs ale, and two cases stout, all addressed to members of the family.

Consignments of liquor of 62 gallons of ale and stout, one bottle of gin and twelve gallons of whisky to the family had also been received during a three month pe-



Mining conference delegates visit mines in the Waitawheta gorge, Karangahake, in ore tubs. Photo: SUPPLIED

riod. Charged in the magistrate's court with illegally keeping liquor for sale, the defendant swore that members of his family and his servants consumed between them four gallons of ale and eight bottles of whisky per week.

The Magistrate said he doubted the truth of this and considered it an unreasonable explanation that such a large quantity of liquor should be required for family consumption.

On the Hauraki Plains, an epidemic of crickets was proving dis-

astrous to settlers. Several of them had sown large quantities of grass seed with dire results - the crickets devastated the crops causing severe financial loss. One settler said that the crickets had "chewed up pretty well all he had".

Some settlers had spent a considerable amount on grass seed. The crickets meant to ruin them, the settlers said, and asked the Lands Board to recommend the Minister of Land's remit them 12 months' rent. The Crown Lands Ranger agreed that the losses

caused by crickets had been considerable.

The Board, after taking note of the petition, stated that it would be forwarded to the proper authorities for consideration.

A party of gentlemen set out from Thames' Shortland wharf in Mr Kerby's new passenger launch for a visit to Miranda. The weather was all that could be desired, the tortuous entrance to the Miranda Creek navigated without the least trouble, and a landing easily accomplished at the miniature wharf.

Word of the party's coming had been spirited across the water and a vehicle was waiting on the beach to take the visitors up to Mr Robert Coxhead's homestead on the big bluff. Luncheon was partaken of and the visitors set out to see the farm, the orchard, and finally the hot springs on the swamp. The springs, of which there were hundreds, varied from lukewarm to almost boiling.

The curative properties of these waters were well known to back country residents, and many farmers from places miles inland found relief by visiting these curious baths. The Thames party returned to the homestead greatly impressed with this, one of Nature's most wonderful works.

On the trip home the wind had chopped round to the north and the voyage on the trusty little launch driving at full speed on a black night was no joke.

However, like the enjoyable day, the bad voyage came to an end and within an hour and three quarters of leaving Miranda the party disembarked at Shortland Wharf.

Chris' Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parminter

1. In 1995, which New Zealand news outlet was the first to create a website for news? *NZ Herald, The Press or Sunday Star?*
2. Who did Lisa Marie Presley marry in 1994?
3. Which is the largest planet in our solar system?
4. Dick Fosbury introduced which technique to the sport of high jump?
5. What was Ash Ketchum's starter Pokémon in the Pokémon franchise?
6. What is the rarest blood group of the main eight blood types?
7. In which ocean are the Maldives?
8. Polenta is made from which cereal crop?
9. Which is the only bird to have four kneecaps?
10. When Alma de Bretteville married Adolph B Spreckels in 1908, the heir to a sugar fortune, she was the first to use which phrase to describe their relationship?



ANSWERS: 1. The Press (Christchurch); 2. Michael Jackson; 3. Jupiter; 4. Fosbury; 5. Pikachu; 6. AB Negative; 7. The Indian Ocean; 8. Ground corn (maize); 9. The ostrich; 10. Sugar daddy.



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ENTERTAINMENT

Flamenco guitarist strums up success

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

It was his love for flamenco guitar playing that led a Thames High School student to victory at a music competition last month in Pukekohe.

Thirteen-year-old Luca Yamamoto left the New Zealand Modern School of Music Competition on a high note after strumming up a storm and securing two golds and two silvers.

He took home gold for his cover of *Malaguena* in the open choice category, snagged one silver for his original song *Open Seas* in the open composition, and another silver for his cover of *Someone you loved* in the text piece category.

But it was his gold winning original song *Spanish Nights* that Luca said really made the difference in the open performance category.

Luca told *The Profile* he was up against 15 "really amazing" musicians, and wasn't sure if he would place, let alone win.

"It was a really tough performance right at the end of the day."

Luca said he shared a speech before he played, which "really helped the judges tilt towards my favour".



Year 9 student Luca Yamamoto sweeps up at NZ Modern School of Music Competition. Photo: SUPPLIED

"I wrote this piece and I just told them about my love of the flamenco genre," he said.

He played it "pretty close" to how he was supposed to, but said: "I did add a little bit extra in some of the parts though".

Even though Luca said he knew his song was one of the

more technical pieces out of the group: "I knew if I wanted to win it - I needed to play it with a lot of emotion to sway the crowd and the judges".

Luca said he added a piece while playing in the moment because "it just felt right at the time".

For the open compositions

category, Luca said he competed against a pianist he played against in 2023.

Last year Luca beat him by one point, and this year the competitor came back and beat Luca by the same amount.

"I got a score of 95 to his 96."

That would not stop Luca though, who said he was spending his time: "just learning pieces and trying to just get better".

It was his father's words that encouraged Luca to embrace flamenco style of guitar playing in the first place: "if you can master, or at least semi master the genre - everything else later on will just become a whole lot easier".

Luca said if he gets into playing with bands in all the other popular genres, it would "just feel really easy".

One thing about playing flamenco is: "there's a very significant and iconic strum style - and you need to have long fingernails for that".

A couple of days before the competition, Luca said he had a basketball match and snapped off two fingernails, which meant he "stuffed up one of my pieces, but still managed to get a score of 98".

For students thinking about playing the guitar, Luca said: "the best thing you can do is play everyday".

"The first part is tricky, that's when a lot of people stop I think.

"But if you can push past that first bit, then yeah, that's when you really get it."

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Tararu couple not sold on red sticker

CONTINUED FROM P3

looking at [the property] now. But, you know, we're still not able to make any progress because the people who are buying, they find it quite daunting when they see things like the wall."

Steven said it was difficult to sell red- or yellow-stickered properties, with buyers wary and real estate agents expected to have some knowledge of the technical issues. Nelly and Jack's home could have been worth \$800,000, he said; now it's on the market for \$375,000.

"The boxes have to be ticked before that sticker can be removed - it's going to be a mark on the property until that gets solved," he said.

"We don't really make any money off it [either] because a lot of time and effort goes into it and having to understand to a certain degree what the documents mean."

But the opportunity was there for someone willing to do the remedial work, Steven said. He pointed to the sale of another red-stickered home he was involved with last year. The Thornton Bay home was damaged by a slip during the same storms and required demolition. It was sold as-is at a highly-publicised "\$1 reserve" auction, eventually making \$375,000.

Steven said he was aware of a few people on the Thames Coast who wanted to get away from red-stickered properties.

"I've sold one. I've got one on the market and I've been approached



Nelly with the displaced cobblestones in the back garden. TOP RIGHT: The damaged corner where the floorboards heaved, and the Tararu home.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER

by three other people that are affected," he said.

Meanwhile, Nelly and Jack have had multiple engineers and professionals look over their home since the storms. The property itself has suffered only minimal damage.

Water pressure during the storm made some of the piles unstable under the back corner of the house, and caused a few cosmetic issues inside. In the back garden, the cobblestones were heaved upwards, and one of the retaining

walls in the terrace garden also moved. But the main concern, and the reason for the red sticker, was the possibility of further damage from slips and a lack of drainage.

"The most traumatic part of it was for me, finding out that you'd been paying insurance all your life. Big insurance policies. You find out that you don't even have enough to... cover just the retaining wall," Nelly said.

"[And] we got a letter... Our insurance policy was cancelled

because it's red-stickered. So anybody that is buying the house, they're going to find it difficult to get insurance until the retaining wall [is installed] or the red-sticker's lifted."

Their daughter-in-law, Samantha Morrison, has also spent hours on the phone to try and get the situation resolved.

"What the frustration has been for them throughout is that there's nobody really to sit you down and say, 'Look, this is step A, this is



step B, this is step C'. They've been flying blind," Samantha said.

"It feels like they've been fighting an uphill battle from the beginning... Looking at engineers and engineers reports and builders and then the council - it's just - gosh, it's a million different parties."

The end is in sight though, Samantha said, with the house now on the market.

"It's been a long road for them and it's not nice for anybody to go through, I'm sure, but especially for them at their stage in life and with their health," she said.

"We thought, well, this is a great place for our old age," Nelly said.

"The feelings that go with this house - you know, you do get emotional about it."



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BY HILARY RODLEY

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Knitted squares warm those in need

By TERESA RAMSEY

An Age Concern Hauraki Coromandel call for knitted woollen squares for blankets has seen a huge nationwide response resulting in hundreds of blankets and dozens of quilts for those in need.

Community engagement and fundraising co-ordinator Jo Sanderson said a display of blankets, quilts and knitted squares was held at their office in the Thames Civic Centre on June 21 as part of the inaugural campaign.

"It was absolutely unbelievable, it was incredible - people's generosity has just been absolutely outstanding, some of the quilts were just exquisite," she said.

"When you're hard up and you haven't got money, people are really generous in giving you things, but they're usually second hand, which is great. But now, someone's going to get something that's brand new and really beautiful, and I just think it adds that extra little special touch for someone receiving it - they're going to just feel so wonderful getting this beautiful item."

Age Concern had 125 blankets on display and had already given some out, she said. There were also a lot to come in and hundreds of squares still to be put together to make more.

"I've had courier parcels from the bottom of the South Island come up with blankets in them... all over New Zealand.

"People have loved the fact that



Francine Hills, left, and Jo Sanderson with some of the donated blankets. INSET: Quilts and blankets on display.

the blankets are staying here... this is tangible, this is going to our people and I think that's what's touched the heart of everybody."

Jo is currently delivering the blankets to medical centres and agencies to pass on to their clients.

She said there was a "huge need" for the blankets, which were being distributed to people of all ages.

"We haven't been age-discriminative - we've got children's blankets right up to the older so we're catering to anyone that needs

some warmth."

The campaign is now ongoing, with donations of 17cm by 17cm knitted squares being accepted throughout the year so they can have the blankets in stock for people who wanted them, she said.



Age Concern now needed volunteers to crochet or knit the squares into blankets.

"The thing that'll be needed most now is some more people to actually help to join the squares, we've got so many."

The simplicity of the campaign had contributed to its success, she said.

"So many knitters have said 'I just love knitting squares without having to think about big projects', there are so many who will just keep ticking over slowly, which is going to be perfect."

Because the organisation doesn't receive government funding, it was currently also running a "5 For 5" fundraising campaign, where donations of \$5 per week can be made for five weeks.

The campaign was to raise money to go towards celebrating The International Day of the Older Person, which included stalls, dancing and activities at the Thames Civic Centre on October 2, she said.

DETAILS: For more information, visit: www.achc.org.nz/donate-now.

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Rural Life

Thousands of natives planted at reserve

Members of Thames Coromandel Youth Search and Rescue (YSAR) volunteered to help plant trees and shrubs in the Robert Findlay Wildlife Reserve on June 23, following on from their successful efforts in May last year.

Pūkoro Naturalists' Trust ranger Tansy Bliss said in addition to planting the natives sourced from nearby Te Whangai Trust nursery, the group also spread more than 15 cubic metres of mulch, which came from Premium Forest Products in Mangatāwhiri.

"Their input is greatly valued and it is a real pleasure to have the younger generation involved."

The members of the YSAR

team included: Robin Douglas, Dirk deJong, Max McLean and Kim Court, with students: Godpitt Deon Dollera, Marcel deJong, Harvey Allen, Austin Court, Cullen Remnant.

On June 15, 34 volunteers planted more than 1000 native trees sourced from Native Plants Waihi and the Pūkoro Shorebird Centre nursery.

"Having such volunteer input makes restoring the mauri of the Robert Findlay Wildlife Reserve possible," Tansy said.

"Since 2019, over 30,000 native plants have replaced the exotic vegetation.

"Biodiversity gains are being recorded by looking at moth, butterfly and lizard species recorded over time."



Members of the Thames Coromandel Youth Search and Rescue (YSAR) volunteered on the day.

Photos: SUPPLIED



Volunteers help spread mulch in the Robert Findlay Wildlife Reserve.



More than 30,000 natives have been planted at the reserve since 2019.



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Te Puru students show others matter

By TERESA RAMSEY

A group of Te Puru School students entertained residents at Tararu Rest home recently, with a kapa haka performance and meet and greet to hear stories from the elderly.

The visit was part of the Living Well Trust's Thrive programme.

Trust youth worker Michael Wilkes said the theme of the visit was "others matter", where students carried out a community project as a class to show someone else that they matter to them.

This was a key pillar in E Tū Tāngata, which was a movement in New Zealand that talked about tall poppy syndrome, he said.

"It was such a wholesome time and the residents were so thankful for the visit and asked that we would come again. For the students, they experienced mixed emotions of joy and sadness," he said. "It was just stunning to see the residents come to life and the kids connecting and learning from a generation that is often forgotten."

Prior to the visit, the students practiced waiata, karakia and a kapa haka to perform and prepared some interview questions to ask the residents.

"We were blown away by all the baking and goodies they brought to share too.

"We discussed what it means to show that others matter, and how this may be a really great way to show the elderly that the life they have lived and who they are matters."

The performance elicited



Te Puru School students performed kapa haka at Tararu Rest Home recently, top, followed by sharing stories and morning tea as part of the Living Well Trust Thrive programme.

Photos: SUPPLIED

some tears from staff and residents alike, and one of the men was so moved that he got up and danced, he said.

Following the performance, residents shared a broad range of stories, with a mix of funny stories, heartbreaking stories,

and great life advice shared.

"Residents expressed their gratitude, and many said they had been quite lonely, so this was a pleasant experience for all of them, and many were eager to have us back."

Students then served the resi-

dents some morning tea.

"We were blown away by the kids' willingness to help, share, speak, sing, and give back to their community.

"We are so proud of them and can't believe the way they have grown as a class."

In Brief

CALL TO ALL QUILTERS

Patchwork Unlimited Turua is a group of quilters that meets every second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the Turua Memorial Hall from 9.30am to 2pm. The next quilting session will be on July 10 with a \$2 entry fee. The group is gearing up for its exhibition Quilt Show on August 2-3 at the Ngatea Memorial Hall. The event will be an exhibition of members' quilts and club challenges. A \$5 entry fee will include a cuppa and scone or muffin. For more details contact Kirstin MacBeth by Ph 021 211 0857 or email turuaquilters@gmail.com.

FUNDRAISER QUIZ

The Paeroa Lions Club is raising money for the Paeroa Volunteer Fire Brigade by way of a Quiz Night on July 5 at the Paeroa Memorial Hall. Entry is \$120 per team of four to six people with all money raised going to the fire brigade. Doors open at 6.30pm with the quiz kicking off at 7pm. There is limited space so make sure to register a team by heading to: paeroalions.org.nz.

HOLIDAY ESCAPE

Escape rooms are returning to Thames-Coromandel District Libraries these school holidays, which begin on July 6. Thames Library will be hosting a Cat in the Hat-themed room, while Tairua Library is asking punters to escape the Minions-themed room. See tcdc.govt.nz for details.

CORRECTION

In an article on P2 of last week's paper, Pidgin English was spelled incorrectly. *The Profile* apologises for the error.

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SPORTS

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FOOTBALL

A misty Saturday began with a drive west across the Waikato to Korikor Park. Thames Football Club secured a memorable 6-4 victory over Northern United Humblebees, gaining three valuable points. Slow starts have come to epitomize Thames' performances of late, but on a pristine playing surface, they started with a bang. Ryan Le Roux's pass found Mike Kim out wide on the left; the winger expertly cut inside and fired a pinpoint shot inside the near post, giving the visitors an early lead and setting the tempo for the day.

Northern United quickly retaliated as an ill-timed tackle resulted in a penalty following a fine move. Sok Ven converted the spot-kick, restoring equilibrium. The hosts, locked in a tight title race with Claudelands Rovers Stallion, started to show their prowess with some fluid passing moves, pulling players out of position before going for the jugular. Nick Cheum, Brynmor Davies, and Callum Barr all applied the finishing touches, giving Northern United an unassailable 4-2 lead at halftime.

The second half began with Thames desperately needing an early goal, and Ben Taylor obliged with a glancing header following a Le Roux cross, kick-starting a memorable comeback. Ten minutes later, Thames drew level, with Kim, once again played in by Le Roux, making another trademark run down the left before striking low into the near corner. With momentum firmly in their favor, Thames completed the comeback when Taylor cushioned the ball through to Kim, who bore down on goal; another clinical finish secured a brilliant hat-trick for the talisman. The cherry was added to the cake when Le Roux, already with three assists to his name, attempted an audacious lob from 30 yards out dipping over the floundering keeper and into the net - capping off an impressive half. Final Score Northern United Humblebees 4 - 6 Thames FC.

"The boys put in a huge shift today to make a comeback after going 4-1 down. This could prove to be a very important win for our season" player/manager Mike Kim said.



Thames Football Club's Mike Kim, right, with a trademark run down the left.

Photo: MARK BROWN

will have something to say about that in next week's semifinals, but on form, a repeat is in the offing. After an early exchange of penalties, Paeroa landing the first via the boot of Nathan Emery, then Waihi a couple via Quinn Collard, the match swung Waihi's way. Paeroa started to wilt under the constant pressure as wave after wave of forward runners dented their defence, and finally captain Brett Ranga crashed over after a strong Isaac Seiuli run off the back of a scrum. Paeroa compounded this lapse from the kickoff, when they shelled a return bomb off Waihi's Collard, only for Waihi wing Petoru Pouri-Lane to gather and scamper 50 metres to score in the corner. Paeroa was looking in all sorts of bother at this stage, but Waihi couldn't crack the visitors again, and in fact the Green Machine were unlucky not to add to their score prior to halftime after securing some rare attacking possession late in the half.

A scoreline of 18-3 at half and the game looked gone, but Paeroa regathered their composure at halftime, ran on some subs, and from the kickoff, charged down the Collard attempted clearing kick for a converted try - 18-3 became 18-10 in the blink of an eye, and it was game on. Paeroa kept hammering away, with big flanker Silao Talimao and number eight Oneone Faafou leading the comeback. Shortly after in a brief visit to the Paeroa half, Collard landed another penalty to extend the lead again - 21-10.

Then the try of the match, from a messy Paeroa lineout slapback, Faafou tidied up the loose ball, and from 30 metres out burst through the Waihi close in tackle line before turbo-charging to the tryline. A regulation conversion to Emery, and 17-21, and again the visitors looking set to take control.

Waihi did not panic though, they kept to their patterns, and earned another penalty in Collard's range, and the lead extended to seven points once again. With twenty minutes to go, the game became an arm wrestle, Paeroa perhaps on top, Waihi holding strong though, and doing enough to keep the



Waihi Athletic's Brett Ranga scores an important try for his team.

Photo: TVRFU

visitors at Bay. Something had to crack though, and finally it did, another Collard kick was charged down, and Faafou dotted down for his second five pointer. Not after more drama though, with the referee and two assistants conferring before the try awarded. Emery shaved the posts, but duly converted the try for 24 each.

Four minutes to go, and Waihi stormed back on to attack, shaken out of their slumber, some big charges from fresh players saw Paeroa pushed back to their line and finally they were cracked open again, the ball swung wide for Ethan Seymour to clinch the match in spectacular fashion. Collard put the icing on the cake, slotting the conversion from the sideline, final score 31-24.

Waihi 31 (B Ranga, P Pouri-Lane, E Seymour tries; Q Collard 2 conversions, 4 penalties) beat Paeroa 24 (O Faafou 2, T Malielegaoi tries; N Emery 3 conversions, penalty).

WAIHOU vs WHANGAMATA

Boyd Park, Te Aroha. Referee: D Tui

With both teams qualified for next week's semi-finals, and the result of this match moot, what could have turned into a nothing match became a cliff-hanger, decided with a try to Whangamata's Jake Barfoot in the 80th minute. But not the final act of the match, referee Dali Tui deeming time enough for

a kickoff to add more drama to a topsy turvy fixture!

It was all action over the opening minutes, with two tries each, a yellow card and a scoreline of 14-12 to the home team. The match developed into a bit of slug fest through the middle portions of the game - both sides trying hard but being unable to break through some solid defence. Whangamata finally broke the deadlock with prop Brad Laurenson crashing over from in close to put the visitors ahead 21-14.

A try in injury time to first five Ben Clarke then saw Whangamata go into the break with a handy 26-14 lead. Waihou rang the changes at halftime and hit the ground running - a try to hard working second rower Tim Erceg, followed by a five pointer to Todd Doolan saw the hometown heroes claw back to tie the match up 26-26 after just five minutes. A TJ Wise penalty, from one of the sixteen conceded by Waihou saw the red 'n' white sneak back in front 29-26 with a half hour still showing on the scoreboard.

The lead changed again after Todd Doolan scored, and with a quarter of the match to go Waihou led 33-29.

Whangamata then set up camp in the Waihou twenty-two, and launched attack after attack, only for the home team to repel the threats time and time

again. In a final quarter that was almost a replay of the 2023 McClinchy final, Whangamata, after showing great patience, and about 3000 pick and goes, cracked the Waihou defence for the match winner, eighty minutes showing on the clock.

So in what was really a dead rubber, both teams managed to get through relatively unscathed. Although Whangamata looks to have lost hard working lock Ben Laurie to a knee injury which is a shame as the young tyro has been going great guns over the last month.

Standing up and being counted for Waihou were their solid second row pairing of try scorer Tim Erceg and Caleb Hazelton, reserve lock Todd Arnold, and hooker Scotty Day also off the bench. The backline were well served by hard charging Chad Bracey, moving into the twelve jersey this week, Adam Ratcliffe, Todd Doolan, and also off the pine this week, Jake O'Connor, getting back into the form that saw him make the Valley Heartland squad in 2023.

Next week Whangamata are away to Paeroa in one Semifinal, facing Paeroa who beat them 38-15, while Waihou are away to Waihi, on the back of two losses to the only undefeated team in the 2024 Premiership. Waihou 33 (C Bracey, T Doolan, T Erceg, J O'Connor 2 tries; A Ratcliffe 4 conversions) lost to Whangamata 36 (E Byles, T Tonga, B Laurenson, B Clarke, J Barfoot tries; TJ Wise 4 conversions, penalty).

MERCURY BAY vs THAMES

Lyon Park, Whitianga.

If this had been a boxing match, It would have been the Thames heavy-weight champion taking on the welter-weight division champ. When Thames could get the Bay side in close, they landed some big blows, with their forwards winning the close quarter combat phases. However, when Mercury Bay had possession, and moved the ball wider, their pace and accuracy proved too much for the bigger pack.

Thames started the match well, putting pressure on to the home side, and it looked ominous for the home side. However, once Mercury Bay started moving the ball wider from breakdowns and the game opened up the writing was on the wall for the visitors. Connor McAuley at halfback had a field day, cutting open the Thames defence at will as the match progressed, and was rewarded with three tries. Owain Leeming and winger Colville Green were also prominent. Thames were led by number eight Laulea Mau, who also scored a fine try. He was backed up by fellow forwards Tate Payze and try scoring machine Corbin Saunders. Saunders, after Thames reached out to Ali Williams for a counselling session, put away his kicking boots this week and concentrated on doing what he does so well, running the ball forward with venom, and knocking ball carriers over.

Mercury Bay 43 (C Green, L Lipa, A Clague, C McAuley 3 tries; C Curran 5 conversions, penalty) beat Thames 24 (C Duffin, PJ McLean, L Mau C Saunders try; M Murphy 2 conversions).

SENIOR B COBRAS 17 beat Whangamata 16; Coromandel 54 beat Waihi 12; Waihou the bye

SENIOR C North 22 beat Thames 14; Ngatea WBD v Mercury Bay

TV RUGBY

From international man of mystery, Tighthead Ted

The sun was shining, the crowds turned out, and some entertaining rugby was played as the four semifinalists clashed a week out from doing it again in knock out games. Positions were confirmed at the end of the 80 minutes, with Waihi to host Waihou, and Paeroa to welcome the fast-finishing Whangamata side. Both Whangamata and Waihi won this week scoring after the hooter - let's hope next week's matches can live up to the billing. Thames travelled to Mercury Bay for those teams' final hit outs of the season, and a massive crowd were also entertained to some great rugby.

WAIHI vs PAEROA

Kenny St Stadium, Waihi. Referee: S Watts

A large crowd were treated to a match that would not have disappointed as a final, and in a fortnight's time, could be repeated, as the McClinchy Cup Final showdown. Waihou and Whangamata

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Thames Valley Club Rugby

SENIOR A

Saturday July 6th

Semi Finals

Waihi V Waihou

Paeroa V Whangamata



All Senior A games start at 2.00pm (unless stated)

Teams named first indicate home team



SENIOR B

Waihou	V	Coromandel	Sat July 6th	12.25pm
Waihi	V	Te Aroha COBRAS	Sat July 6th	12.25pm
Whangamata	-	Bye		

SENIOR C

Semi Finals

Hauraki North	V	Mercury Bay	Sat July 6th	12.25pm
Thames	V	Ngatea	Sat July 6th	12.25pm

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Stay at home if you're unwell

Flu season has hit and winter is upon us. The actual flu (influenza) is a viral infection so antibiotics do not help. Self-care is appropriate in most situations, which you can do at home.

Rest until you feel better. Stay home from work, school and other people while you are unwell. Keep hydrated to replace fluids. Take paracetamol in combination with ibuprofen to manage symptoms and fevers. Lozenges and gargles help relieve symptoms.

Most cold and flu medicines are not suitable for children under 6-years-old.

Ask your pharmacist for product advice, and do a Covid-19 test.

Influenza and Covid-19 are both contagious respiratory illnesses, meaning they affect your lungs and can be spread to others. The symptoms may present as similar,



but they are caused by different viruses.

If you or your child need urgent medical advice, please phone the practice and use the phone triage list. A doctor will call you so please be available to take the call.

It will be coming from a private number so if your phone is set to block unknown or private numbers, adjust your settings so we may reach you.

Flu vaccines are still available. Contact the practice to book an appointment with the nurse.

Take care of yourselves and each other.
-Team Health Ngatea.

Mental health therapy groups



Learn and practise mindfulness-based activities to improve your mental health wellbeing. Come along to FREE kanohi ki te kanohi / in person therapy groups, run by a trained health professional.

Attend a group

Thames: Thames Community Centre, Thursdays, 9-10am
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Whangamatā: War Memorial Hall, Fridays, 11am-12pm
Paeroa: Paeroa Care House, fortnightly Tuesdays, 10-11am



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Stan Reihana of That Painter Ltd says it's time to spruce up indoor living spaces. Photo: SUPPLIED

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Get fresh with That Painter Ltd

Firstly, a big thank you to all the happy customers in Ngatea, Paeroa, Te Mata and Thames – the work was much appreciated!

The moody weather is now presenting some challenges to completing exterior projects efficiently, so a logical shift to interior painting is taking priority.

Call now if you have a room or two that needs sprucing up and to organise your free quote!

Contact Stan on 022 313 7911.

Here's what some happy customers had to say: "We've been planning to get the painting work on the exterior and interior of our precious home for a while now, and Stan of That Painter Ltd, came highly recommended!"

"We were immediately impressed with Stan's personable and professional manner.

"His knowledge, skill and attention to detail, not to mention the overall finish of his work, was well worth the relatively small investment!"

"Thanks Stan – although our home isn't worth a million dollars – it certainly looks it now!" - Cilla and Troy, Thames

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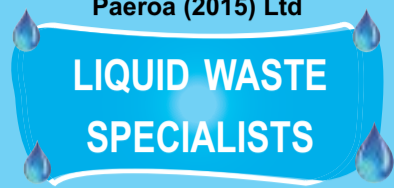
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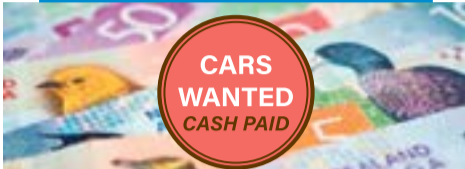
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Go to page 2 for details on how to enter.

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Death Notice

MORRISON, Cam: Chris, Leigh, Kyle, Jodi, Abby and Families would like to sincerely acknowledge all the people who were involved in caring for Cam during his illness. Thankyou to Paeroa Medical Centre, especially Loretta, Kaye and Helyn. The District Nurse Paeroa and Thames. Staff at Paeroa Pharmacy and St John's Ambulance. To Family and Friends who provided meals, baking, phone calls, texts, cards, visits and everyone who attended Cams service. Words cannot express our families gratitude to you all. We have been overwhelmed and humbled. Thankyou.

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Assembly of God

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- NGATEA** Ngatea 4 Square, HDC Council Offices, Ngatea Post Shop, Z Petrol Station, Ngatea Purple Dairy
- PAEROA** Moores Caltex, Countdown, HDC Council offices, Takenote, Paeroa 4 Square, Paeroa Information Hub
- WAIHI** Maybelle Superette, New World, Toyworld/Takenote, Information Centre, Daffodil Dairy, Waihi Supervalue
- THAMES** Totara Veggie Shop, Mobil Kopu, Gull Service Station, Martina 4 Square, Bin Inn, Tararu Dairy, Queen St Mobil, Goldfields Mall, Pak'N'Save, Paper Power, Thames 4 Square, Carson's Bookshop, Thames Council Offices, Kauaeranga Store
- TURUA:** Turua Dairy
- KEREPEHI:** Kerepehi Dairy

Public Notice

TE PAI O HAURAKI MARAE - SPECIAL HUI TO NOMINATE TRUSTEES

A Special Hui will be held on Sunday 11 August 2024 at 10am at Te Pai o Hauraki Marae, Papatūroa Avenue, Paeroa to nominate new trustees. Nominees must be present at the hui and speak to their aspirations for our marae. The current trustees will provide a marae update to whānau, hapū, and iwi. We are looking for trustees who are committed and with governance experience. For any enquiries and RSVP email: **tepaiohaurakimarae@gmail.com** Kaitahi (Please bring a plate)

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Contact Nikki Ph 022 130 3885 email nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz

DEADLINE: 12 Noon Monday

Online health support hits the road

DORA Te Waka Matihiko Hauora, a mobile learning centre, will be touring throughout the Waikato region helping people join the growing numbers who are benefitting from having online access to their health records.

DORA will visit Paeroa Library on July 22, Ngatea Library on July 23 and Waihi Library on July 24, promoting the benefits of online access to health information, and helping people use their digital tech such as smartphones or tablets.

Most practices in the Waikato region offer an online health portal; most use either Manage My Health or My Indici 2.0.

The online portals provide patients access to their health records, such as blood test results, and also enables them to order repeat prescriptions and book appointments. The trainers on DORA will be able to help people use their digital devices to access these services.

The Digital Inclusion Alliance Aotearoa (DIAA) has reached out to Pinnacle Midlands Health Network as well as library and other community organisations to bring DORA to the Waikato.

DIAA Operations director Laurence Zwimpfer said the main goal for the visit was to ensure communities throughout the Waikato could learn about the benefits of having online access to their health records as well as get any help with their digital tech.

“We were most impressed with the strong interest in on-



DORA all set up and ready for visitors at Fieldays.

Photo: SUPPLIED

line health at the recent Mystery Creek Fieldays; around 1000 people visited us on DORA and 650 engaged in our online health quiz.

Online health services are available to anyone with a smartphone, tablet or computer and internet connection.

However, it is up to individual medical practices to determine the scope of services that they can provide, so while the trainers on DORA explain what is possible, everyone is encour-

aged to check what their own GPs offer when they sign up.

Pinnacle clinical director Dr Jo Scott-Jones said the surge of online health information, including access to our own medical records, highlighted the critical need for digital health literacy.

“Like many industries, health is adopting technology to make the flow of information easier, but we don’t want to leave people behind.

“This is a great opportunity

for people in the Waikato to get help accessing their health information online, and it’s commendable to see so many general practices supporting this work.”

DETAILS: Anyone interested in getting help with online health services is welcome to visit DORA between 10am and 4pm when DORA is in your area. No booking is needed. Just drop in and the trainers will provide help to use digital devices to connect with online health services.

Goldfields WI celebrates 55 years

The 55th birthday celebration of the Goldfields Women’s Institute was held at Melbourne Café in Thames on June 11.

A short meeting was held before lunch, with arrangements being made for the upcoming Thames Piako Group Day which will be hosted by Maramarua/Kopuku Women’s Institute on July 4.

The big news for the month was Our 2023 Programme, which is compiled by our president, was entered in the National competition which resulted in Goldfields coming 1st.

The Programme Cup was presented on our behalf to federation president Dawn Clark at the 103rd AGM/Conference in Palmerston North at the end of May.

This is a real honour, as we were competing with Institutes throughout New Zealand.

There was plenty of chatter as this was a very social occasion and at one stage, we were reminiscing over drama items that we had performed during years gone by. After lunch, four really nice grocery raffles were drawn with the winners being Jean Brady, Maureen Claason, Kate Wood and Bev Schenkel. A great day celebrating our birthday.

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HARD

157

HARD

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3	7	8	1	4	2	5	6	9
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MEDIUM

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2	9	4	7	5	8	1	3	6

EASY

EASY

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

Puzzles © The Puzzle Company
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JUMBO CROSSWORD

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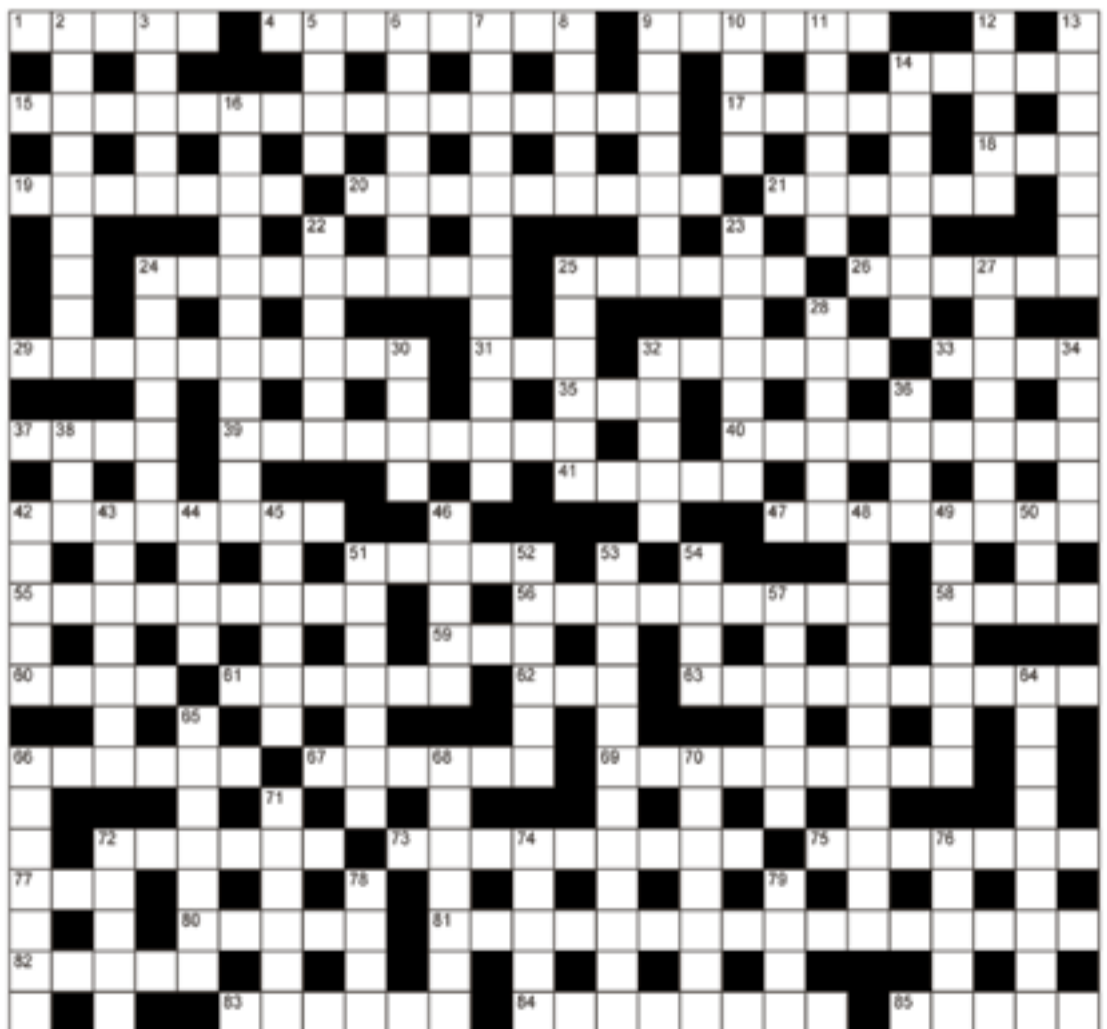
ACROSS

- 1 Meat jelly (5)
- 4 Macabre (8)
- 9 Chemist's grinder (6)
- 14 Toned down (5)
- 15 Excessively big-hearted (8,2,1,5)
- 17 Irritate (5)
- 18 Snooze (3)
- 19 Fashionable (7)
- 20 Type of jazz (9)
- 21 Thrilled (6)
- 24 Dutiful behaviour (9)
- 25 Vital gas (6)
- 26 Ally (6)
- 29 Paid occupation (10)
- 31 Fluid in plants (3)
- 32 Thwarted (6)
- 33 Lacking sensation (4)
- 35 Lubricate (3)
- 37 Blueprint (4)
- 39 Those carrying out the terms of a will (9)
- 40 Beating the seeds out of grain (9)
- 41 Select group (5)
- 42 Razed (8)
- 47 Shears (8)
- 51 Dutch cheese (5)
- 55 Pierce (9)
- 56 Crisp roast pork skin (9)
- 58 Auction items (4)
- 59 Snow runner (3)
- 60 Quiet spell (4)
- 61 With care, softly (6)
- 62 First note (3)
- 63 Sent (10)

- 66 Curtains (6)
- 67 A language of the Middle East (6)
- 69 Unhealthy preoccupation (9)
- 72 Come to rest (6)
- 73 Users (9)
- 75 German measles (7)
- 77 Encountered (3)
- 80 Policy reversal (1-4)
- 81 Betray (4,4,3,5)
- 82 Book (5)
- 83 Watercourse (6)
- 84 Periods off work (8)
- 85 Trivial (5)

DOWN

- 2 Watcher (9)
- 3 Model (5)
- 5 Stratagem (4)
- 6 Feeling (7)
- 7 Departing rapidly (3,4,1,4)
- 8 Peer (5)
- 9 Strength (7)
- 10 Join line (4)
- 11 Missing companionship (6)
- 12 Rise (5)
- 13 Modified to fit a particular purpose (7)
- 14 Puzzle (7)
- 16 Pearl container (6,5)
- 22 Split (6)
- 23 Umpire a dispute (7)
- 24 Crime (7)
- 25 Defy (6)
- 27 Slippery (7)
- 28 Motor fuel (6)
- 30 Common sense (4)
- 32 Liquid (5)
- 34 Fake (5)
- 36 Invitation instruction (1,1,1,1)
- 38 Falsehood (3)
- 42 Coat part (5)
- 43 Ice cream flavour (7)
- 44 Overdue (4)
- 45 Tooth coating (6)
- 46 Overparticular (5)
- 48 Thanklessness (11)
- 49 Water bird (7)
- 50 Decay (3)
- 51 Signal with hand (7)
- 52 Bitter-tasting (6)
- 53 One displaying new clothes (7,5)
- 54 Unexpected slide (4)
- 57 Take a firm stand (6)
- 64 First-rate (9)
- 65 Fluster (anag)(7)
- 66 Hibernating (7)
- 68 Fruit flower (7)
- 70 Twisted (7)
- 71 Display ostentatiously (6)
- 72 Cooking/heating device (5)
- 74 Slender graceful young woman (5)
- 76 Deportee (5)
- 78 Gambler's stake (4)
- 79 Sojourn (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Moist, 4 Bed and breakfast, 14 Power, 15 Odour, 16 Starvation, 17 Solve, 19 Fun, 20 Naughty, 21 Make sense, 22 Nougat, 25 Altimeter, 27 Rhythm, 28 Tissue, 33 Deliberate, 35 Rug, 36 Eulogy, 37 Drum, 39 All, 41 Jugular, 42 Bisect, 43 Coalition, 44 Theme, 45 Streaker, 50 Ra, 51 Etcetera, 55 Agile, 58 Ingenious, 59 Cherry, 60 Clarify, 61 Too, 63 Took, 64 Sicily, 65 Vat, 66 Proficient, 68 Gossip, 69 Pilfer, 71 Biography, 76 Mosaic, 77 Pragmatic, 79 Bandage, 81 Cue, 84 In-law, 85 Sabbatical, 86 Prank, 87 Strap, 88 Bronze medallist, 89 Pedal.

DOWN: 2 Ordeal, 3 Swung, 5 Eats, 6 Airfare, 7 Draper, 8 Raise, 9 Amnesty, 10 Fist, 11 Seldom, 12 Swift, 13 Granite, 14 Penguin, 18 Strike back, 23 Delay, 24 Chalice, 26 Leisure, 27 Regatta, 29 Service, 30 Result, 31 Creel, 32 Aghast, 34 Evil, 36 Elver, 38 Mania, 40 Rife, 45 Shift, 46 Regions, 47 Aunt, 48 Exotic, 49 Dirty, 50 Recover, 52 Call it a day, 53 Tarnish, 54 Refund, 55 Aspirin, 56 Jetty, 57 Drop, 62 Dodge, 67 Kinship, 68 Glucose, 70 Foresee, 72 Initial, 73 Pillar, 74 Banana, 75 Agenda, 76 Metre, 78 Gable, 80 Dirge, 82 Swan, 83 Pass.

ENTERTAINMENT

Strings that soothe: an introduction to harp

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

When Anna Dunwoodie asks the question, “Have you ever played a harp before?”, the answer is almost always, “No, but I’ve always wanted to”. It’s an instrument that appeals to the romance in the soul, conjuring images of frolicking nymphs or intimate Victorian waltzes.

Anna, a professional musician, fell in love with the instrument at the age of 10. Now, she seizes any opportunity to share that passion with others.

Upon my arrival at Anna’s studio in Thames, I find myself enveloped by that same enthusiasm as I am swiftly seated behind a wooden lever harp, almost as tall as I am, for an introductory lesson.

Instrument nestled against my shoulder, Anna takes me through basic hand positions - “thumb goes there, and use your second finger to go up,” - and we are away.

Coming from a musical background, it’s easy enough to follow along with a rendition of *Frère Jacques* and a simple Celtic folk tune. Straight-forward notes, but they are soothing and melodic. That’s where the appeal of the harp lies, Anna says.

“It’s actually really easy to make a really pleasant sound - there’s no bum notes on the harp,” she says. “I think it takes away a degree of the inaccessibility when people can actually make a great sound on it straight away.”

Between chords, we talk music. Anna is heading to New Jersey in the United States in July - she’s been invited to the Somerset Folk Harp Festival, a massive gathering of harpists from across the world.

“I’m teaching four workshops. One’s called *Kiwi Celt Tunes*, so I’m teaching them things like the *Wellerman* and *Pokarekareana*... And then another one I’m doing is called *I Hate Sight Reading*.”



Harpist Anna Dunwoodie will soon be leading workshops at one of the world’s largest harp festivals.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

She’s also running a workshop on memorising music, and a session called “Rounds”, with participants getting the chance to try each others’ instruments in a relaxed setting.

While the four-day festival is a great opportunity for professional development, Anna is also excited about the networking opportunities. She’s been instrumental in the revival of the harp in New Zealand, she says, and she’s keen to keep up the momentum.

“There’s probably going to be, I don’t know, four or five hundred harpists there - all the top names and teachers and performers coming from all around the world,” she says.

“We had our first New Zealand harp festival at the start of 2023 - I was the artistic director for that. I’d been watching overseas for years and going, I’d love to have a festival here.

“The silver lining of Covid was that all the overseas harpists that I’d connected with

over the years [were] suddenly saying, we want to come to New Zealand. And we got 12 international harpists out here.”

Now she’s working on planning for Harpfest 2026, but meanwhile, Anna’s finding other ways to bring harp music to the people. One of her favourite ways is through school visits.

“It’s great to get in there and just let kids play them,” Anna says. “Some teachers look at me in horror when I rock in with like seven or eight little harps. I always say to them, the most challenging kid in your class would be the one who sits at the harp, and you just see them drift off. They get the sort of seven-mile stare as they’re playing. I’ve seen that for years... I suspect it’s to do with the vibrations, and the fact that you’ve put an expensive instrument in their hands, and trusted them with it.

“That’s quite empowering.



“Sometimes the pretty little girls in the classroom start singing with it, too... they’ll be happily singing away, and I think, oh, my God, girl, hold on to that. You need confidence to sing and play.”

My confidence is building too. By the end of the lesson I’ve learnt the folk tunes

and produced some passable chords and glissandos. But my beginning fumbles pale against the soft music that accompanies me as I leave, a taste of what a skilled performer can coax from the instrument.



Club Manouche to play

After a six month self-imposed recess, Kauaeranga Music is back for the second half of 2024, and celebrate this with Club Manouche on July 26 at 7:30pm.

Featuring Professor James Sneyd on violin, Craig Denham on accordion, foot percussion and vocals, Phil (the shredder) Beatson on guitar and Aaron Coddell on bass, Club Manouche play an intoxicating live set of gypsy swing classics, mixed with an eclectic selection of odd sorts.

With the tangible camaraderie of seasoned players and long friendships, their performances are filled with passion, gusto, a sense of humour and mischievousness.

They’re certainly not beyond taking a well-known tune down

the wormhole of contagious improvisational outbursts to see what’s there.

The recommendation from the artists is to turn up with your best bohemian spirit and your dancing shoes. These guys know how to have fun with music and to give everyone a smile that only comes from a night out with great live music.

DETAILS: Kauaeranga Hall, 437 Kauaeranga Valley Rd, Thames, Tickets: Door sales \$25; Pre-paid \$22 txt: 021 912 993 or kauaerangahallmusic@gmail.com or Garden Music, 712 Pollen St, Thames.

Club Manouche, from left: Aaron Coddell, Craig Denham, James Sneyd, Phil Beatson.

Photo: SUPPLIED



SPORTS

Kick-off for Karly's memorial cup

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

Women from across Thames Valley took to the rugby field for a new competition that began on June 30, competing for the Karly Forsyth Memorial Cup.

The first round of Thames Valley Rugby Union's inaugural 10-a-side Club of Origin competition saw Ngatea take on Hauraki North, Whangamatā challenge Te Aroha, and Thames face off against Coromandel.

The wins were claimed by Hauraki North, Te Aroha, and Coromandel. The competition was officially kicked off with an opening ceremony on June 10. Family members of former Hauraki North Diamonds player Karly Forsyth, who passed away from cancer at the age of 17, were in attendance to unveil the trophy named in her honour.

Thames Valley Rugby Union community rugby manager Scott Day said it was an emotional event.

"It was a mixture of laughter and tears, especially when we announced the Karly Forsyth Memorial Cup," he said.

"We talked about how Karly's contribution to women and girls' rugby in the Thames Valley will forever live on, and that her contributions will be acknowledged



Hauraki North take on Ngatea in the new competition. Photos: TAMSIN ARMSTRONG

through this competition."

Scott said the development-level competition's purpose was to celebrate and encourage women in the sport.

"The trophy will be great and well-deserved to the winner, but that's not the aim," he said.

"We know that there's people of all ages, abilities, experiences

wanting to play. [The] numbers are really, really positive - every squad had over 20 players, which is just phenomenal."

RESULTS: Hauraki North 39 v Ngatea 0; Te Aroha 29 v Whangamatā 14; Coromandel 87 v Thames 0.



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