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# Lights, camera, action



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

Dim the lights, grab the popcorn - the big screen is returning to Thames.

Newly-established independent cinema Left Bank Theatre will be throwing open its doors on August 21 to allow the public a sneak peek at the screening room. The walkthrough opportunity will be accompanied by an art exhibition, featuring pieces by Jutta Humpfer. Due to the small size of the premises, only 30 people will be allowed onsite at a time. Those wanting an extended experience won't have to wait long though - the screen lights up for the first time on August 22.

Owner David Mulholland said he was beginning as he meant to go on, with films chosen to appeal to a wide variety of people.

"I really want to cater to what our community wants," he said.

"I do like the idea of putting on a range of material that most people will be happy with. And I've got some more mainstream movies the next

day and on the weekend."

The initial screening will be the New Zealand film *Whetū Mārama-Bright Star*, at 10am. It will be followed by the 1935 movie *Top Hat*; and the Japanese film, *Perfect Days*.

Regular screenings begin thereafter, although David said he was only planning the schedule about a week ahead.

"I'm going to put a clipboard in the foyer asking what people would like to see... Because I'm such a little cinema, I'm really aware that it may well be booked out a lot, especially at the beginning," David said.

"There's movies people will really want and [I'm] more than happy to screen them according to demand."

David, whose tastes lean more towards foreign films, said requests and feedback would be particularly helpful as he finds his feet.

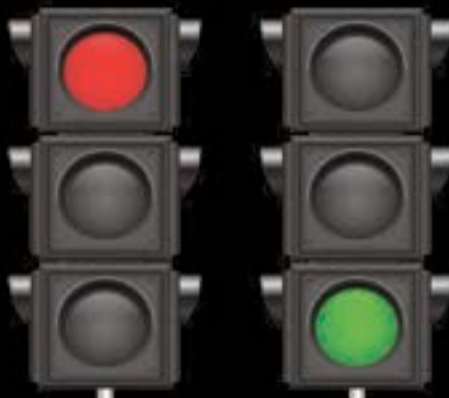
"I need a bit of help with mainstream content, and particularly family and child-friendly stuff. I really want the community to tell me what to [show]."

David Mulholland is looking forward to bringing movies back to Thames.  
Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

CONTINUED ON P2

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# Lights, camera, action set to begin in Thames

CONTINUED FROM P1

The outfitting of Left Bank Theatre has been a steep learning curve for David, and he's very proud of what he's achieved.

"It's very Thames," he said of the cosy green and wood-panelled viewing room.

Roughly 55 square metres in size, it features an eclectic mix of sofas and armchairs that seat 28 people.

Despite the living-room feel though, behind the scenes everything is top-notch.

The cinema is fitted out with a digital projector, surround sound, heating, air conditioning and soundproofing.

"I had to do a lot of work with soundproofing... I had a sound engineer here, and an acoustic engineer," David said.

"I took a tape measure to quite a few cinemas and basically copied what they did. And I think it's just generally more comfortable and I love the way it looks.

"It's like a cinema that a grown-up

made, so I don't know how I did it."

It's also accessible, with wheelchair seating, accessible toilets, a lowered counter and headphones for the blind or hearing-impaired.

There are still a few kinks to work out, and food and liquor licences to acquire.

But once David has a feel for the demand, he's planning a more formal opening.

"When I've got my liquor licence I'll do a big thank you for the tradies, and invite the dignitaries and all that kind of stuff... I've had such good tradespeople," he said.

"It's turned out much better than I'd hoped. It's

blown [the budget] completely, [but] cinemas are very, very expensive to set up, and it's just the way it is. But I hope it's an asset that lives in Thames for a very long time."

**DETAILS: Left Bank Theatre opens to the public August 21, 5-7pm for a look and art exhibition (free entry).**

**Screenings begin on August 22.**

*"It's turned out much better than I'd hoped. It's blown [the budget] completely, [but]... I hope it's an asset that lives in Thames for a very long time."*

- David Mulholland



## In Brief

### ART SHOW

Entries are now open for Art Waikino's annual art exhibition and competition. The show will take place on Labour Weekend - October 25-27 at the Waikino Victoria Hall on State Highway 2, with all pieces available for purchase. Artists may enter up to three pieces across several categories: painting, photography, sculpture, craft, and mixed media. Entries are \$15 per piece, and close on October 11. See waikinohall.org.nz for more details.

### HAURAKI ROADS

Hauraki District Council has approved funding to remediate a slip site on Golden Valley Rd, which has been closed since the slip occurred in May 2023. Kaiaua Rd will also undergo remediation to repair an underslip. The affected section of Kaiaua Rd, which has been reduced to a single lane, will be rerouted slightly and a 20 metre long retaining wall installed. Timing for the repairs is yet to be confirmed.

### COMMUNITY AWARDS

The Thames-Coromandel District Council Community Service Awards are open for nominations until August 23. The awards are a chance to recognise the unsung heroes of the community. Details: tcdc.govt.nz.

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**PLACE AN ADVERTISEMENT:** Advertising Manager Nikki Sanders, Ph 022 130 3885, nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz;

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**LETTERS:** Send your letters to the editor: editor@valleyprofile.co.nz or 2 Queen St, Paeroa, 3600. Letters must include your full name and address, be 250 words or less and may be edited, abridged or rejected at editor's discretion.

**THE VALLEY PROFILE** is independently owned and operated. It is delivered weekly to every letterbox in the Hauraki Plains, Paeroa, Waihi, Thames, Thames Coast, plus bulk distribution peninsula-wide, with an estimated reach of 35,000 readers. **OFFICE: 2 QUEEN ST, PAEROA, Ph 07 862 7077 | ISSN 2703-5700**



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## Thames Tides

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
Aug 14	Aug 15	Aug 16	Aug 17	Aug 18	Aug 19	Aug 20
Morning 1:21am 3.0 Afternoon 1:59pm 2.9 7:32am 1.0 8:09pm 1.1	Morning 2:10am 2.9 Afternoon 2:59pm 2.9 8:27am 1.0 9:09pm 1.1	Morning 3:04am 2.9 Afternoon 4:02pm 3.0 9:30am 1.0 10:09pm 1.0	Morning 4:05am 2.9 Afternoon 5:02pm 3.1 10:34am 0.9 11:06pm 0.9	Morning 5:08am 3.0 Afternoon 5:56pm 3.3 11:33am 0.7	Morning 12:00am 0.7 Afternoon 12:26pm 0.5 6:09am 3.2 6:46pm 3.5	Morning 12:52am 0.5 Afternoon 1:15pm 0.4 7:06am 3.4 7:35pm 3.6
7:03am 5:43pm	7:02am 5:44pm	7:00am 5:45pm	6:59am 5:45pm	6:58am 5:46pm	6:57am 5:47pm	6:55am 5:48pm
Best At 6:54am 7:20pm	Best At 7:48am 8:16pm	Best At 8:46am 9:16pm	Best At 9:46am 10:16pm	Best At 10:46am 11:15pm	Best At 11:44am	Best At 12:12am 12:39pm
Set 2:05am Rise 11:39am	Set 3:10am Rise 12:25pm	Set 4:12am Rise 1:21pm	Set 5:09am Rise 2:27pm	Set 5:58am Rise 3:41pm	Set 6:40am Rise 4:57pm	Full Moon Set 7:15am Rise 6:14pm

\*Not for navigational purposes.  
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www.tidewiz.com www.tidespy.com www.ofu.co.nz

MOON AND FISH KEYS			

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

PLACE	Hr	HIGH	LOW
Coromandel	-0	04	-0
Whitianga	-0	01	-0
Tairua	+0	11	+0
Whangamata	+0	02	-0
Waihi Beach	-0	11	-0

# Interrupted Thames burglary saves safe

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

An interrupted burglary at the Thames Workingmen's Club in the early hours of August 6 saw the thieves abandon a safe in the street during their hasty getaway.

Around 2am, club president Bruce Harper received an alert on his phone from the club's alarm system. Cameras inside the building showed a single intruder.

"[I] said to the security camera people, 'ring the police', and then I came down, and I interrupted them," Bruce said.

"Luckily I just live around the corner and was able to get here and stop them from stealing the safe. Didn't know it at the time."

Bruce said the burglars had parked in the Thames Museum carpark across the road from the Cochrane St club. Only one of them broke in, he said; they appeared to have jimmed open an upstairs window.

"I reckon there was three guys here, I think they would have been in their twenties," Bruce said.

"But it was dark, and they were dressed dark. And then probably an hour later, a couple of guys came wandering up the street, two of them on pushbikes, reckoned they were looking for their dog.

"Who looks for a dog at 2



The thief made away with between \$1000 and \$2000 in \$2 coins from the Thames Workingmen's Club.

File Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

o'clock in the morning? But [the burglars] dropped their cell phone, and I'm wondering if they'd come back looking for the cell phone, but I was standing right beside it."

The thief made away with between \$1000 and \$2000 in \$2 coins. The large, cube-shaped safe they carried out was aban-

doned on top of a wheelie bin in nearby Martha St.

"You can see the guy stuffing his pocket with these bags of coins," Bruce said.

"The safe's wrecked, but they never got into it then. Now we can't get into it but it's still got \$1000 in it," Bruce said.

"They probably did a couple




of grand's worth of damage. They've damaged the doors, the walls, where it was attached."

The data tool on police.govt.nz shows there have been 308 reports of theft and burglary in Thames township so far this year, compared to 322 reports over the same period in 2023.







A police spokesperson con-

firmed they were investigating the Cochrane St burglary, which they confirmed occurred at 1.55am on August 6. Anyone with information to get in touch via 105 and quote file number 240806/9041.



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# Education

## HPC celebrates 62-year sports exchange

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

A 62-year companionship between two secondary schools is celebrated every year in the form of friendly competition.

On June 25, Hauraki Plains College hosted friend and rival school Mahurangi College for a series of sports events called the Mahu Exchange.

Students from Mahurangi College travelled from Warkworth to take part in the two-day event, and were billeted out to different homes in Hauraki for the duration of their stay.

The sports events included netball, football, hockey, basketball, rugby and dance performances.

With Mahurangi and Hauraki students battling it out for the "Mahu-raki" trophy - it was Mahurangi who came out on top, holding on to the prize for another year.

Hauraki Plains College sports development officer Cindy Berridge, who organised this year's event, said she enjoyed "the continuation of the exchange, whilst creating lifelong memories and friendships between the two schools".

"[It was] nice to see students requesting to be billeted with



HPC students, right, with Mahurangi College students, left and the "Mahu-raki" trophy. Photo: SUPPLIED

students they had met previously," she said.

The schools take turns hosting the event, so Hauraki students will make the trip north for next year's challenge.

The exchange was started by former Hauraki Plains Principal AV O'Brien in 1962, Cindy said.

"[It's] very rare these days to

have an overnight sports exchange, especially one that has continued for 62 years.

"The kids always look forward to these annual events... school spirit is high and sportsmanship is fiercely competitive - but all are very humble no matter who wins," she said.

When asked what the most significant part was about

the connection between the schools, Cindy said it was the friendships.

Meanwhile, Hauraki students took part in another sports exchange with Te Kuiti High School on July 30. Hauraki students travelled to Te Kuiti to compete in a one-day event of sports challenges, and went home as victors with a 5-3 win

up their sleeve.

Hauraki Plains year 13 student Melissa Barker said it was always an honour to compete in both the Mahurangi and Te Kuiti exchanges.

"These events are more than just sports competitions as they represent tradition, school spirit and pride within the schools.

"I love competing as it's an opportunity for students to showcase their skills and talents while playing in a friendly rivalry."

Melissa said the billeting side of the exchange was "one of the best parts of having friendships already made from previous years and then reconnecting with them the following year".

"It will always be a pleasure to host other schools on our turf, but also a privilege to be welcomed on to their grounds and experience their school's culture.

"The only advice I have for future students who will be competing in these exchanges is to not hold back," she said. "Take the opportunity to go outside of your comfort zone and most importantly have fun."

# 2024 MAHURANGI SPORTS Exchange



"I think that the exchange between Mahu and Hauraki is always a great event and allows the students to form new friendships" - Melissa Barker



"I loved seeing everyone have a great time playing sports and being active" - Matthew Simpson

# CELEBRATING 62 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP

# ‘Call me Martin’ - the down-to-earth doctor

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

The Korowai Hauora o Hauraki’s clinical director, Dr Martin Mikaere, is not one for accolades. Recently awarded a community services medal from the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (RNZCGP), he hoped it would be just a quick handshake.

“I thought it would be a small thing over dinner,” he laughed.

“Yeah, I was a bit unprepared. I was in a T-shirt and shorts... I had to call my wife to bring over some pants and a shirt.”

Martin said receiving the award, given to GPs who have made outstanding contributions to general practice in their communities, was an honour, if a little embarrassing.

The Thames doctor is much happier behind the scenes - seeing patients, overseeing the rohe’s health programmes, and generally doing his best to provide a holistic, community-based approach to wellbeing. “I’ve always said that GPs are tools, we’re there to be used.

“I don’t let people call me Doctor. I know what my job is, I don’t need to hear it every day. Not everybody likes my style, but that’s okay. I’m just happy to be able to provide the services that I do.”

Martin is the clinical director of Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki, and also of the Hauraki PHO. The two iwi-centred organisations offer a wide range of medical and wellness services and outreach programmes in the Hauraki-Coromandel region.

His role is to oversee policies and staff, as well as treating patients.

It’s a lot of work. Martin estimates he’s had roughly five weeks



Dr Martin Mikaere has an holistic approach to healthcare.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

of leave in the last five years. But his passion for the people of Pare Hauraki is what has kept him going.

“It’s been a real pleasure looking after the people, especially when I’m from the area. I was born in Thames Hospital, raised in Manaia, Coromandel. I whakapapa back through Ngāti Pukenga and Ngāti Maru,” he said.

“Māori do have some of the worst health rates around. So by us focusing heavily on Māori, it means that all people that are in similar situations will be risen... The stuff that we put our time and effort into is to affect everybody.”

And although the services are Māori-focused, they are also inclusive. “We don’t keep people out,” Martin said.

“I remember when I first started working here, people would say, ‘oh, I think you’ve got to be a Māori to go to that practice’. I was like, ‘no, you can go. Anybody can go.’”

Martin has seen many challenges in his eight years with the clinic. One of the most difficult times was the Covid-19 pandemic.

“A lot of people were shutting their doors. We kept ours open, and set up mobile swabbing stations everywhere - those three years were

pretty busy making sure that the people in Pare Hauraki had everything that they had a right to.”

Te Korowai completely overhauled its practice to ensure patients could still be seen, Martin said; setting up red room/green room spaces, doing virtual and telephone consults, and opening an acute walk-in clinic.

“We had a massive influx of Aucklanders coming down after Covid. I think the most patients I saw in one day was 54,” Martin said.

“There’s a whole lot of balls that are in the air that you have to juggle, and just as soon as you get over

one problem, another one presents itself.”

A lack of available locums is another ongoing struggle, Martin said, and some tough calls have had to be made, including the temporary closure of the Te Aroha clinic. “We rely heavily on locums in order to staff ourselves just because there is a lack of general practitioners throughout the whole of New Zealand,” he said.

“It was really horrible to shut Te Aroha, but we tried pretty valiantly for about 18 months to find somebody to come and work with me. I was having to do [Paeroa and Te Aroha] as well as being on call for Coromandel... I took a lot on during that period.”

Through it all though, Martin has continued to push for more and better health services. This, along with his focus on Māori-centric healthcare, was a large part of the reason for his acknowledgement from RNZCGP.

“Despite the many challenges Te Korowai faces as a rurally isolated region, Dr Mikaere continues to exhibit a refreshing and optimistic view that encourages all health workers of Te Korowai to strive for excellence,” a statement on the RNZCGP website said.

Still, Martin insists the recognition is not solely his. “All of the team are fantastic, and they put a lot of energy and time into the patients, they’re all valuable. I probably should tell them that a bit more often, but they are, I appreciate all the work they do.”



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# 'Sea monster' caught and exhibited in Thames



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.

## 1901

A great sea monster, said to be part shark, part whale and part seal, was caught at Thames and then exhibited in Pollen Street by Mr E Targett, a local fisherman.

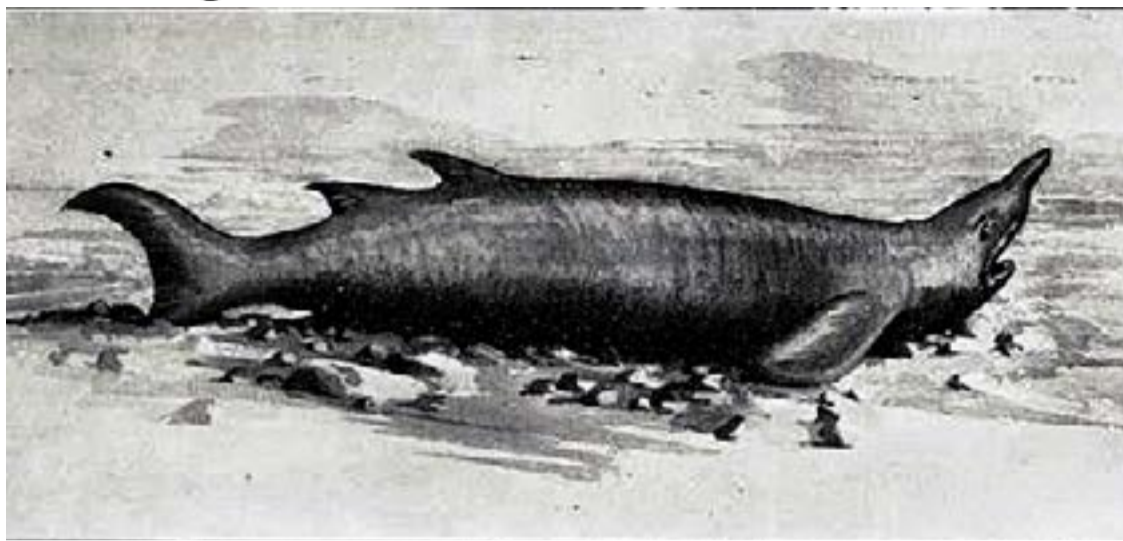
The unique creature attracted considerable attention and was visited by hundreds.

The monster when opened contained one shark 4ft long, one dog fish, one yellow tail, and 10 snappers.

The liver when boiled down gave six gallons of oil.

At Karangahake, which had always been noted as being a rather lively place, disturbances were occurring making respectable citizens feel unsafe after dark.

One Saturday evening - Saturday being pay day at the mines—the scenes in Karangahake were disgraceful. A local resident inadvertently offended a group of men who doubtless thought they owned the town,



The 'sea monster' caught at Thames.

Photo: SUPPLIED

and then endeavoured to make his escape.

He was, however, pursued and captured, and severely knocked about. His injuries were not dangerous, but were sufficiently painful to make him very careful on future pay nights.

Karangahake was not a safe place after dark for anyone but a champion fighting man, and it was high time that another policeman was stationed there.

Constable Moffat, in charge at Karangahake, was a capable and energetic officer, but one policeman amongst the crowd of desperate ruffians that infested that place was not sufficient.

Meanwhile, the residents of Nether-ton thought it high time they kept pace with the outside

world by having a daily mail service.

Now that they had a creamery, and the cream delivered daily to the Paeroa Station, the mail could easily be sent by that carrier.

The distance by road between the Paeroa and Nether-ton Post Offices was barely four miles, but by the present mode of transit the mail was sent by rail to Thames to there await the steamer *Pātiki's* departure for Nether-ton.

A letter posted in Paeroa on Tuesday evening arrived at the Nether-ton Post Office the following Monday, after making a detour of some 36 miles.

Over at Omahu, a concert and dance in aid of a fund for a school flag was held in the Oma-

hu School. A varied programme of patriotic, sentimental, and comic songs and musical selections enlivened the whole of the evening and the hours passed pleasantly, only too quickly.

Many of the items were so highly appreciated that nothing but an encore would satisfy the audience, the largest seen at Omahu yet. From the surrounding townships, as far as Thames and Paeroa, talented performers graced the stage, and a patriotic audience came to help the cause.

The singing of the National Anthem closed the concert part of the programme.

The dance, interspersed with songs, was kept up until break of day, all present enjoying themselves thoroughly.

## Chris' Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parminter

1. The 2024 Paris Olympics surfing event was held in which group of Pacific islands?
2. Daffodil Day in New Zealand is held on the last Friday in which month?
3. Does the Te Reo Māori term whakawhanaungatanga refer to making and maintaining: a) stories b) relationships or c) gardens?
4. When it is 8am on mainland New Zealand, what time is it on the Chatham Islands? a) 7:15am, b) 8am, or c) 8:45am?
5. Who was the previous leader (excluding acting leaders) of the National Party before Christopher Luxon?
6. Which was the first town in the southern hemisphere to have electric street lighting installed? a) Dunedin, b) Reefton or c) Sydney?
7. The main road connecting Paeroa and Waihi, through the Karangahake Gorge, is known as which State Highway?
8. Which US state has the smallest population, at just 581,381 in 2022? a) Washington, b) Wisconsin or c) Wyoming?
9. How many members were there in the 'Spice Girls' band?
10. What whole number is the square root of 169?



ANSWERS: 1. French Polynesia (specifically Tahiti); 2. August; 3. b) Relationships; 4. c) 8:45am; 5. Judith Collins; 6. b) Reefton; 7. SH2; 8. c) Wyoming; 9. Five; 10. 13.

# Get creative HAURAKI

FUNDING NOW OPEN!

## Creative Communities Scheme Funding for local arts

*If you have a creative arts project that needs funding, then this will be music to your ears!*

We can help with funding for projects that provide creative opportunities for your community. If that strikes a chord with you, and hits the right notes then don't delay!

Applications are open to individuals and all age groups whose projects engage with young people (under 18 years) or celebrates and promotes the diverse arts and cultural traditions in the community.

Learn more and download the application form from our website [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/community/grants-funding/creative-communities-scheme](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/community/grants-funding/creative-communities-scheme)

Projects must take place between 1 October 2024 and 30 September 2025.

Applications close 4pm Friday 13 September 2024

*Little Raconteurs with Amelia - a story music workshop performance*

"I'm so stoked to have received funding - it's been amazing!"

Amelia Willcox



## Love the ARTS?

### Join our Assessment Panel!

We're looking for people to help assess local applications for Creative Communities Scheme (CCS) funding.

#### Who is needed?

Anyone with a passion for local arts and culture, from any community and any age!

#### What's involved?

Be a part of the selection process by attending assessment committee meetings twice a year in March and August.

#### The Creative Communities Scheme

Each year Creative New Zealand provides Creative Communities Scheme funding to local and district councils throughout New Zealand to distribute in their area. The scheme supports more than 1,800 projects every year.

#### Interested?

We'd love to hear from you! Contact Katie McLaren, the CCS Administrator for Hauraki District Council at [info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz](mailto:info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz) or phone 0800 734 834.

To learn more go to

[www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/community/grants-funding/creative-communities-scheme](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/community/grants-funding/creative-communities-scheme)

Hauraki District



# T-RAP launched

Thames youth enjoyed a fun-filled day of celebration at the official T-RAP (Thames Rangatahi Advisory Panel) launch at Porritt Park on Sunday, August 11. The playground was buzzing as children of all ages and their whānau enjoyed free candy floss, food, music, a 3v3 basketball competition and giveaways. T-RAP announced its next events at the launch - an Amazing Race event on September 22 and a Halloween Escape Room in October.



Hazel and Kiiser Houia are chuffed with their goodie bags.



Hayden gets some air in the friendly basketball competition.

Photos: TERESA RAMSEY



Izzy Fitzsimons and TJ Judd give out the goodie bags and tickets for the prizes.



Alonzo Poliko with his candy floss.



The free sausage sizzle was a hit.



Jason Prak shows off his ball skills.

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# A 50-year history of history recorders

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

Fifty years of history preservation will be celebrated this week as Thames Museum Te Whare Taonga o te Kauaeranga approaches its anniversary.

And of course, the people of Thames are invited along, with free entry to the museum from 10am - 12.30pm on August 17.

The museum was opened by the Thames Museum Society on August 17, 1974.

It was initially housed in the old Methodist Church on the corner of Sealey and Mackay streets, but a lack of space and concerns about potential fire risks saw the society raise funds for the building on its current site on the corner of Pollen and Cochrane Sts.

The museum has always been run entirely by volunteers - there are currently around 30 people involved - and every effort has been made over the years to grow and preserve the collections.

Society chair Carolyn McKenzie said a lot had changed in museum management practices over 50 years. "In the olden days, the idea of a museum was maybe just to put some things in a cabinet... there wasn't very much connection with the donor or the use of the object," she said.

"Over the years, museum practice has evolved and we have evolved with it."

These days, some of the vol-



Carolyn McKenzie says volunteers are proud of what they have achieved in 50 years.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

unteers have certificates in museum practice, and the society regularly liaises with Te Papa's small town museum branch National Services te Paerangi.

The museum uses specialist preservation materials such as acid-free paper and boxes, museum-grade cabinets, and has recently installed an HRV system and heat pumps to better control humidity and temperature within the building.

"We know now how to better

care for the artefacts and how to better display them. There's very much this idea now of 'less is more' in a cabinet," Carolyn said.

"Often the people who are involved with doing the displays will spend quite a lot of time researching an item and its use, and then the family, and maybe get in touch with any descendants of the donor... sometimes they have a photo."

The improvements had been

especially valuable for some of the collection's more fragile items, Carolyn said.

"We have textiles that are over 100 years old.

"In fact, we have Mrs Copley's dress - she's the wife of one of the four men who discovered the gold in the Shotover [Mine, at Kuranui Creek] - so that dates right back to the very beginning of the goldfield," Carolyn said.

"We have some very old

wedding dresses as well. To preserve and protect, it's a responsibility. [People] entrust their treasures to us because they believe that we will look after them, and that's what we strive to do."

The society's members will spend the anniversary celebrating all their successes over the years, as well as looking ahead to future plans.

"This is a celebration not only of the museum but of all the volunteers that allowed it to happen, that enabled it," Carolyn said.

"We've got a dream idea of what we would like... we need to increase our footprint because we need to upgrade our storage facilities, and we would like to have a learning room where we could have groups of children.

"And since we started doing our talks on the last Wednesday of the month, it's been really neat because different people come to all the talks and so we're really widening our contact with the community, and that's important for us as a museum. We should be a community service, that's what we try to be."

**DETAILS: Thames Museum 50th anniversary celebration: Free entry, 10am-12.30pm on August 17. Followed by the society AGM and member celebration: 1.30pm at St James Union Church Hall on Pahau St.**



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# Competing cadets

The Counties Manukau and Hauraki Coromandel senior and intermediate St John youth competition was held in Thames on August 4.

Activities were held at the Thames ambulance station and Moanatairi School, with the main event taking place at the Thames Goldmine Experience.

The buildings and mining tunnels were set up with various emergency scenarios requiring the cadets to test their skills with CPR, amputations, burns, hypothermia, respiratory degloving, lacerations, broken bones, gas leaks, head

wounds, and more.

Those posing as patients had casualty simulation wounds - realistic stage makeup - to aid with the scenarios.

Seventy cadets from school years 7 to 13 took part in the day, competing individually and in teams of four. They were tested in first aid, drill (marching) and communication.

The competition day was made possible by the support of a large number of parents and volunteers, who served as the judges, marshalls, record keepers, patients, team managers and a planning team.



The Thames Goldmine Experience provides a unique setting for the emergency scenarios.

Photos: SUPPLIED



Two cadets take a break between scenarios.



A 'patient' is seen in a storage shed during the exercise.



Judges look on as the cadets assess their 'patients' for injuries.



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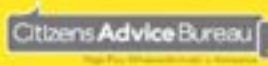
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## Rural Life

# Trial sheds light on forest canopy health

Advanced high-definition cameras trialled to monitor the health of the forest canopy in Coromandel Forest Park show stark differences where possums are controlled.

The use of the small high-resolution cameras – fitted to a fixed-wing aircraft – is a new method for collecting forest canopy data, an important measure for Department of Conservation (DOC) work to assess forest health.

DOC monitoring science advisor Terry Greene said the cameras allowed for a comparison of forest canopy health between two adjacent tracts of land in the Papakai area of the park, totalling 2016ha between Te Mata Bay on the Thames Coast and Whitianga.

“The aircraft’s flight path took it over two distinct areas of Papakai – a 1300ha strip we’ve treated with 1080 to control possums, and a 716ha area where we haven’t,” Terry said.

“We analysed the images to determine the extent of dead and living trees in the canopy.”

“The differences between treated and untreated areas are stark – with more than eight times the amount of dead wood seen in the untreated area compared to the Papakai predator control area.”

The high-resolution images allow individual trees to be identified within the forest canopy. Images were collated



Small high-resolution cameras fitted to a fixed-wing aircraft were used in the trial.

Photo: SUPPLIED/DOC

into a seamless picture or ‘orthomosaic’ and analysed using computer algorithms to group pixels with similar characteristics, enabling trees to be classed as either dead or alive.

The difference in the size of the treated and untreated areas (1300ha compared to 716ha)

was factored into the analysis so they could be more equally compared.

The trial results correlate with long-term predator control in the Papakai area.

Where possums are controlled, the forest canopy is much healthier in the images

captured and where there is no possum control, there is significantly more dead wood.

Possums are known to go for the most appetizing species first – and in Coromandel, that’s tōtara and kamahi. Possums will continually target these trees, eating all their fo-

liage and eventually killing the tree, DOC said.

Over time, possums will impact the structure and composition of a forest as the canopy trees are replaced by less possum-palatable species.

The reduction of healthy forest canopy trees means the wider forest is more susceptible to disease and storm events which cause further dieback and can ultimately lead to complete collapse of the forest ecosystem.

Possum control keeps the possums from building up to levels where they are causing canopy dieback which means the forest is more resilient.

Terry said more work was needed to assess the relative contribution of other factors, such as drought and disease, to assessments of forest canopy mortality.

The protected Coromandel forest is home to important native species such as Archey’s frogs, Coromandel striped gecko and Coromandel brown kiwi.

Forest canopy monitoring is part of DOC’s broader programme to monitor the outcomes of its predator control work for the native species and forests that it’s designed to protect.

However, DOC has confirmed there are no current species monitoring programmes for Papakai.

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# Luncheon connects service providers

By TERESA RAMSEY

A luncheon was held recently to connect Thames service providers who offer care and support for mothers, babies and whānau.

Thames Plunket nurse Charlene Frey said she organised the get together after observing a growing disconnect among services for mothers, babies and their whānau since the onset of Covid-19.

Recognising the abundance of new and old services that are often unaware of each other, she decided to take action.

“This initiative aims to foster better collaboration and awareness among these essential services,” she said.

“Plunket believes that fostering strong relationships between our teams can lead to improved outcomes for the families we serve.”

The lunch, which was held at the Thames Plunket rooms in Cochrane St, was an informal yet valuable gathering that was attended by around 30 service providers, she said.

“The insights and experiences shared were incredibly important, it really gave everyone involved a chance to connect and learn from each other.

“It was a really successful turn out, I was really rapt. It was so good, it was just sharing ideas and services and making



The luncheon was held at Thames Plunket rooms and attended by around 30 essential service providers.

Photos: SUPPLIED

contacts.”

Charlene said she was thrilled with the success of the luncheon, which initially began with Well Child nurses and midwives and soon expanded to include social workers, public

health nurses, breast screening nurses, children’s clothing volunteers, and youth workers.

She was also supported by Plunket Whanau Awhina’s clinical services manager for the central region, Waikato, Bay of

Plenty, and Taranaki, Carena Nagle, as well as her clinical leader, Jenna Sneddon.

The group collectively decided that this should not be a one-time event, Charlene said.

The group of service provid-

ers plan to meet at least three times a year and encourage any other services interested in joining to get in touch.

**DETAILS: To find out more, contact Charlene Frey at Thames Plunket, Ph 0800 184 803.**

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**Perfect Days (124 mins, 2023) M Nudity**  
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**Ghostlight (115 mins, 2024) M Offensive language & suicide references**  
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**The Mountain (89 mins, 2024) PG Parental guidance is recommended for younger viewers**  
A heartfelt drama about three children on a mission to find healing under the watchful eye of Taranaki Maunga and discover friendship in the spirit of adventure.

**Kawahawai Tonu (114 min, 2024) M Violence, offensive language & content that may disturb**  
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# Education

ADVERTISING FEATURE

## Matatoki students perform in Matariki production

By Hine Viskovich, Matatoki School principal

Last term, we had an arts focus which culminated as our Matariki School Production – *The Lost Little Chick*.

It was a whole school goal to make our production a success, and I believe at Matatoki School we achieved that and more. The feedback from other schools and our community was amazing. Every student performed.

Teaching the arts gives opportunities for students to experience and collaborate with a specific set of skills they might not normally develop and use. It gives students the chance to shine in new ways that go beyond usual classroom programmes.

It is a great boost for students to experience performance in a quality way and to share their talents and hard work with friends and whānau.

We had great support from our school community as well.

I took great pleasure in leading this production, and the level of performance we achieved was something to be truly proud of.

The memories we created through this mahi will stay with us for many years. These learners from Matatoki School have written these articles from different perspectives, about our production.

I hope you enjoy reading them. Ngā mihi, Hine Viskovich- Principal Matatoki School.

*“The Arts as a Teaching and learning area: Arts education explores, challenges, affirms, and celebrates unique artistic expressions of self, community, and culture. It embraces toi Māori, valuing the forms and practices of customary and contemporary Māori performing, musical, and visual arts.” (NZ curriculum Statements)*



Matatoki School students perform *The Lost Little Chick* to celebrate Matariki.

Photos: SUPPLIED



Matatoki star dancers on stage.

## Star dancers take to the stage

My name is Savannah Paskell and this is my experience as a Star Dancer in Matatoki School's production: *Our Matariki Story - The Lost Little Chick*.

I was excited to be picked as one of the star dancers, but nervous as well. I don't usually get stage fright but this was nerve racking for me. We did constant practices with Renee Bergess, the dance teacher who taught us all the choreography.

I enjoyed doing the dance and hanging out with the girls. When she started teaching us the second dance I was scared that I wouldn't be able to remember both dances but I did and I was glad.

Another thing I was nervous about, was that if I mess up one thing I could ruin the whole dance? But luckily that didn't happen and we all did great. After lots of practises it was finally the dress rehearsal and it was the first time we wore our makeup

and outfits while dancing.

But it also meant there was another school coming to watch us! What if I mess up? What if my skirt doesn't fit? What if they think it's bad?

All these things were going through my head but I wasn't that scared because I reminded myself that everything was going to be fine, and it was (except my skirt was too loose) but I noticed it before we started performing so Amy got that fixed and the skirt felt fine. Amy is a parent at our school who made our beautiful Star Dancer skirts. We looked like ballerinas.

The makeup was a lot but I think it looked good. The makeup didn't bother me except for when before the performance my mascara smudged and Laura fixed that for me. Laura was another parent who did all our make up.

At first Mrs V (Mrs Viskovich) wanted

us to wear these tinsel colorful wigs but honestly I did not want to wear them (no offense Mrs V), they didn't match our costumes and they seemed like they would be really distracting while we were dancing.

All the other girls agreed and so did Mrs V, so we decided not to wear them. We had LED lights and tinsel around our hair buns. We felt so excited and looked so glamorous. All the teachers, and students worked on their costumes for their characters.

I really liked the main kiwi costume.

Sharleigha Burton was the lead character - the lost kiwi. Her costume looked great and you could tell she was a kiwi. She had on a mask, attached to it was a long beak just like a kiwi. Her outfit was a nice brown colour and feathery like a kiwi.

By Savannah Paskell



**Interview with Sharleigha Burton - the main character, Kiwi chick**

**Did you have any worries about being on stage?** "I worried about missing a move or if I tripped up or fell."

**What are your thoughts on your costume?** "It was very big and warm. I got very hot during the night time show but it was really comfy."

**What did you like about the costume?** "I liked the lights underneath my outfit and how they shone through my jumpsuit."

**Is there anything you would change about your dance or your outfit?** "Maybe I would change up the kiwi walk a little bit."

**Did you like your role as the Main Character?** "Yes, it made me more confident in myself being the main character. It was an amazing experience being the main character, I still remember all my lines they will probably stick with me forever"



**Interview with Eiva Brotherston - the narrator**

Another main character in our production was Eva. She was the narrator who told the story and she did great as well and also looked great.

**Did you enjoy your role in the production?** "Yes I really did"

**Is there anything you would like to say about your outfit?** "The korowai I wore made me feel very special (it belongs to Mrs V), and I felt I had an important role. My Kapahaka dress is beautiful and my make up made me feel pretty -and gorgeous"

**What were the hard parts for you, as the narrator?** "It was really hard talking in front of a lot of people"

**What helped you?** "Practicing a lot, and Mrs V helping me. I really enjoyed performing at our production"

By Savannah Paskell

## Behind the scenes of our production

**The script:** By the end of term one, our principal, Mrs V (Mrs Viskovich) started and finished writing the script for the production. The script for the narrator was written in rhyme. Mrs V did this because she thought it would help the characters remember their lines. She spent days and nights picking and choosing the right words for each speaking part, and planning how the story would be performed. Each dance we participated in had a selected background and music that Mrs. V chose. Running out of time, Mrs V still managed to find the perfect songs and backgrounds to match each bird's personalities.

**Mrs V's Thoughts:** "I wanted to make a production with a New Zealand flavour that celebrates our unique birdlife and beautiful native environments. I intentionally made the script rhyme to make it easier for students to memorise their parts, and make it nice and easy to listen to from the audience perspective."

**Getting the perfect fit for the main roles:** Mrs V hosted the auditions in the school hall during class time. She started with the star dances and around 12 people auditioned. Seven students got selected to be star dancers - representing the stars of Matariki. The next audition she did was the main Kiwi. They were told to say a few lines to see if they would be good at the speaking parts. After a few minutes, one person was chosen to be our Kiwi by Rene and Mrs V. By the end of the day we had



every main character sorted and picked.

**Collecting resources for costumes:** Going to her old school in Auckland, Mrs V politely asked for the leftover boxes of fabrics that the school had from their old production. She approached the Matatoki Sewing Group ladies and they agreed to help her. Mrs V recruited some parents to help as well. Over the school holidays, Mrs V sewed and sewed. Mrs Walmsley cut out hundreds of feathers for her, and teachers got great ideas for their class dances.

**Venues:** Mrs V had a hard time getting a venue to let us perform in. She visited other schools with halls in the Thames area, but they didn't have the right tech setup that she needed. Then she visited the Thames Civic Centre and they had everything we needed for the production. But sadly, Mrs V couldn't get the dates right for when to use it. So she decided to buy more staging for the hall and also hire the lighting, projector, and screen needed. We borrowed some trees from Mrs Aryn's old school in Eureka. Haura-

ki Plains College loaned us some screens. Students and teachers made all the props for the staging. We made trees from cardboard carpet inners and banana leaves, and made native flowers. It looked just like a real native forest.

**Practising:** We practised about once a week over the start of term two, but in the last three weeks before production we started practising altogether and more often. With eight groups of dancing, Rene would have had a hard time but she nailed it and it all managed to work out. The practices were quite tricky and being on time was a difficult thing to do. We had to learn how and when to come on and off the stage in time with the background movie. Our timing had to be perfect. Sometimes people would give up, but other students would encourage them. It was troublesome with the dance because there were multiple changes in them. At the end of practising we had everything perfect and were ready for the production.

**Our thank you:** When we finished our production everyone was tired and exhausted but they were also so proud of what we accomplished. At the end, everyone ran to their friends and family to receive compliments. They did have to come back to stage for photos. Overall we had a very great time going through all those twists and turns to accomplish what we did.

By Pippa Jones-Honeybun, Neyra Aranui

SPORTS

# New hockey officer takes to the turf

By TALLIS AUSTEN, Gateway Journalism Student

Laura Stephenson is picking up her coaching stick as the newest Thames Valley Hockey development officer.

Laura, who is a founding member of the Thames Hockey Club, grew up watching her mother, aunt and two older brothers play.

However, her own love for the sport blossomed by chance, when in her first year at Hauraki Plains College, the First XI needed a fill in.

“My older brothers were both playing representative age hockey for New Zealand at the time, so when they needed someone to fill in, I was like why not? I thought that I should give it a go too,” she said.

From that moment on, Laura was hooked, and the game of hockey has been a permanent fixture in her life.

She went on to captain the Hauraki Plains College First XI and compete in the Marie Fry secondary school’s tournament.

After finishing college, Laura moved to Wellington, where she played premier grade and Wellington under 21s.

While she was there, she had the opportunity to play with



Laura Stephenson is the new development officer for Thames Valley Hockey. Photo: SUPPLIED

many past and present Black Sticks, including Nin Roberts, Aniwaka Roberts and Suzie Muirhead.

“I have been really lucky to have followed my brothers playing hockey around the world and learnt from some of the very best in the sport - Darren Smith [Former NZ Black

Stick coach and Thames Valley Development Officer] was one of my favourite coaches.”

Since returning to the Valley, Laura has captained the Thames Valley Intercity women’s team and coached the Thames Valley under 15 representative teams, while also coaching at the Thames Hockey

Club.

Laura said hockey for her was all about “playing with other people”.

“Particularly now, having kids, it’s such a nice way to get out and do something you enjoy,” she said.

Laura’s role as development officer will include working

with Thames Valley primary schools, running in-school visits where she’ll be busy teaching kids basic hockey skills and running training development programmes.

“I’m definitely feeling it out, looking forward to the new challenge and seeing what will happen,” she said.

**Scott Simpson**  
MP for Coromandel

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# SPORTS

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

## FOOTBALL

Thames Men FC slipped to fourth after a lackluster 5-2 defeat to Waihi AFC on Saturday, hampering the chance of securing a top-three finish.

Prior to kickoff, just two points separated the two east Waikato teams, with Thames making their final and shortest away trip of the season to Waihi. The game, set on a fine day, began with a series of chances for Waihi. A ball deep from the left found Bryn Simpson in front of goal, but his powerful effort was brilliantly saved at point-blank range by Slade Costello, who was in for a busy afternoon.

Thames weathered an initial period of pressure but eventually conceded the opening goal. Aman Sandhu's clever turn and pass put Simpson through, and the winger made no mistake with a low finish. The Waihi wingers continued to cause problems for Thames, which was reminiscent of the earlier fixture this season. The second goal came from Paul Sharland, who used his strength and pace to wriggle free and fire a powerful shot low into the near post, making it 2-0.

Thames pulled one back in style as James Harvey curled a stunning 30-yard free-kick into the far corner. However, their comeback was short-lived as Sharland responded soon after with a powerful free-kick of his own that was fumbled into the net by Costello, a rare handling error from the young keeper.

As the half progressed Thames struggled to make an impact, relying on individual runs that were frequently snuffed out by an organized Waihi defense. With halftime approaching, Sharland completed his hat-trick, giving the hosts a 4-1 lead.

The prolific winger found space down the left and drove a powerful shot through Costello.

Waihi continued their dominance in the second half. Sandhu's whipped corner was somehow headed over from a few yards out by the unmarked Richard James. A few moments later,



James Harvey scores a stunning free kick. BELOW: Slade Costello with a brilliant save. Photos: MARK BROWN



Costello tipped over a curling effort from Dylan Corlett. Thames got their second with help from the youngsters: Williscroft made a majestic run down the left, weaving past three defenders and into the box before being cynically chopped down. Ryan Le Roux converted the resulting penalty to cut the deficit to two.

Thames desperately sought another goal to set up a grandstand finish but were continuously frustrated with their wingers and striker tightly marked. Costello kept them in the

game with a world-class one-handed save high to his left. Waihi sealed the game a few minutes later when a cross from the left found the unmarked Sandhu, who directed his header into the far corner. Final score Waihi 5-2 Thames.

"Unfortunately with this second defeat in a row, our chance to finish in the top three has disappeared - we must learn from it and stay focused on our final games," captain Mickaël Derroncourt said.  
- Jonathan Coles



## Volunteers sweep up

After reading about the Thames High School student volunteers in *The Profile* recently, president of the Thames Croquet Club Sheryl McConnell contacted them and asked if they would help the club. August 6 saw six students arrive at the club with shovels and work gloves. They tackled a large pile of earth, sorting it into an empty compost bin to provide soil for the lawn. They also tidied up the entrance, sweeping up buckets of leaves dropped from the Pōhutukawa trees in Victoria Park just outside the grounds.

"[They gave] a little over two hours of work. That may have taken our club members many more hours than that," Sheryl said.

"We are very pleased with the cheerful way they tackled the jobs and look forward to having them back again. Thank you to the students for their enjoyable company and hard work."



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# ENTERTAINMENT



Andrew London has been entertaining for quarter of a century.

Photo: SUPPLIED

## Andrew London returns

Andrew London's quirky satirical songs have been the backbone of swing trio Hot Club Sandwich, Tui-nominated country-rockers the Catlestops, and his self-named Andrew London Trio for more than a quarter of a century.

*I Hugged My Mate, Let's Talk About Me* and *My Daughter's Got a Boyfriend* have had audiences in stitches for decades, but the songwriting is multi-faceted. Songs like *Emily Bay*, about the 1846 convict uprising on Norfolk Island, *Forty Winters*, a discussion with a bricklayer from Newcastle-on-Tyne, and *You Just Count it Off*, his reminiscence of collaborations with Taranaki muso Keith Cramer, all evoke degrees of pathos and poignancy that belie his reputation as a writer of comedic songs.

London's delivery is wrapped in an eclectic mix of styles with Andrew's swing-era guitar

style accompanying, while partner Kirsten underpins solidly on bass and backing vocals. The duo regularly play jazz, blues, country and folk festivals and clubs, with no obsession or preference for any of those particular musical umbrellas. 'They're just annoyingly limiting'.

The duo's current show sees them tighter than ever, the songs more concise, with the accent on acerbic satire, tongue-twisting word-smithery, and lovingly crafted vocal harmonies. Someone once said "I've never seen anyone sing so many words, so fast, without swallowing his own tongue."

**DETAILS: August 17 at 7:30pm, 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.**

## CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12pm Monday

Public Notice	Public Notice	Public Notice	Public Notices
<b>Victoria Battery Tramway Society Inc. AGM</b> Sunday 1st September 2024 1.00pm Victoria Battery Museum	<b>Hikutaia Hall AGM</b> Hikutaia Hall 6.30pm Wednesday 11th September Garage Sale & Swap meet Sat 2nd Nov	<b>Waihi Arts Centre and Museum AGM</b> 2pm Sunday 25 August at 54 Kenny St Waihi	<b>Thames Museum Society Inc AGM</b> 1.30pm 17th August 2024 St James Church Hall, Pahau St, Thames. Followed by Museum's 50th Birthday Celebration at 2pm Carolyn 027 868 6072

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<b>STORE 4 U Waihi.</b> Clean, dry, alarmed. Call Lyn 0275 759 173.	<b>KEREPEHI / PAEROA</b> 10FT CON. \$125 per mnth 20FT CON. \$240 per mnth T&C's apply 021 67 67 99 info@totalstorage.co.nz	Paeroa Society of Arts. 10am Wed 21st August 2024. 109 Normanby Road, Paeroa in the art room. All are welcome.

## CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12pm Monday

Death Notice	Church Notice	For Sale	Pets
<b>LAMONT, Lesley Joy (née Roe):</b> Our beloved mum, nanny passed away at Thames Hospital, on Friday 19th July, 2024: aged 78 years. Reunited with her husband David. Loved mum of Leanne (Annie) and Brian (Carlos) Ward-Walker, Karen (George) and Ricci Peyroux, Kelly (Ted) and Ross Lamont-Bennett. Best nanny ever of 7 grandchildren, and 2 great-grand kids. A Service for Lesley was held in The Grahamstown Chapel, Thames, on the 23rd July. Thanks to family and friends for their support. Communication to: 159 Ngati Maru Highway RD1 Thames.	<b>Assembly of God</b> 10am Sundays. Scout Hall. Baker St, Waihi	<b>Hay and baleage,</b> located at Kerepehi. 027 288 8193	<b>KENNELS</b> WAITAKARURU Boarding Kennels and Cattery. "A great place for your pet to stay." Carol and Bill Bell, Ph: 07-867-3344, SH25 Waitakaruru, RD6 Thames
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	<b>For Sale</b> Firewood for sale Old Man pine \$140 per cube. Phone Mark 027 655 8661 or Steph 027 385 2806	<b>Situation Vacant</b> A position has become available in our busy spare parts department. Any age considered. Working with a wide range of... <i>motorbikes small engines farm machinery cars tractors ... and all sorts!</i> Apply with your CV to miles@hpmotors.co.nz 027 227 1121	
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## Public Notice

**MARINE MAMMALS PROTECTION REGULATIONS 1992**  
**APPLICATION FOR A NEW MARINE MAMMAL PERMIT**

Mercury Bay Discoveries Limited have applied for a new permit to operate commercial tours to view marine mammals by motorised vessel from Mercury Islands to Rabbit Island (including Aldermen Islands).

Application details can be obtained online at [www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/have-your-say/](http://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/have-your-say/), received by email on request from [permissionschristchurch@doc.govt.nz](mailto:permissionschristchurch@doc.govt.nz) or from a Department of Conservation office.

Any submissions on the application are to be sent to the Director-General of Conservation, Department of Conservation, Christchurch Shared Services, Private Bag 4715, Christchurch Mail Centre Christchurch 8140, Attention Levi Barton, to be there by 3 September 2024.

Once submitted, submitters' information is subject to the Official Information Act 1982 and may be released under that Act. If you wish to keep any part of your submission confidential, you need to state this in writing when making your submission.

Note: Submissions are part of a statutory process and may be commented on by the applicant.

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## ENTERTAINMENT

## New film festival to kick off Coro Artbeat

A brand-new Coromandel-centric film festival is blossoming this spring in Whitianga.

The CoroCine Film Festival is the first event in the Coromandel Artbeat Spring Festival, which will pull together a series of creative events mapped out across the peninsula.

The festival will for the first time bring together Coromandel films and filmmakers in an exciting programme over three days, in a collaboration between Creative Coromandel and Twin Cinemas Whitianga. CoroCine will also kick off the Coromandel Artbeat Spring Festival, a three-month online programme of creative events.

The thriving arts scene in the Coromandel is beginning to rival the beaches for a reason to take a trip down SH25. But while there are a number of art festivals and open studio events that take place around the rohe, with the amount of talent that is bursting out of the peninsula it was only a matter of time until local filmmakers were coaxed out of their darkened viewing rooms to take their place in the limelight.

The CoroCine Film Festival will take place from September 6 – 8 at the Twin Cinemas in Whitianga. Anne-Maree McDougall, who owns the cinema with her husband Matt, has been a key driver in pulling the festival together. As well as celebrating local film, the festival aims to be a catalyst for people to start making their own films, and to inspire those who have always wanted to make a film to see that there is a local venue keen to screen what they have made to an



The CoroCine Film Festival will kick off this year's Coromandel Artbeat Spring Festival.

Photos: SUPPLIED

audience.

The impressive programme includes international award-winning filmmakers James Muir, *Mauri o te Kauri*, Amy Taylor, *Milked*, and Kirsty Griffin and Viv Kernick, *The House of Champions*, alongside emerging filmmakers and a collection of short films. The festival will kick off on September 6 with a screening of Anton Steele's *The Z Nail Gang*, which is based on real events that happened in Kūaotunu when a group of locals fought back against an international mining company with plans to dig an open cast gold mine in the area. Daniel Leo Max's documentary *Baring Our Souls* tells the story of a local Tairua man healing himself through art, a topic that reflects the themes and genesis of the festival itself which celebrates art as a way to bring people together.

Earlier this year, Anne-Maree offered the use of the cinema to Ian Preece, a local photographer who was putting together a film of his night photography.

Anne-Maree's generosity meant Ian could see how his film looked on the big screen and adjust as needed – an invaluable experience for a first-time filmmaker. When both showings of the final version of Ian's film *Starry Starry Night* sold out, the seed for CoroCine was planted as Anne-Maree realised what an appetite there was to see local films by local filmmakers on the big screen. After sending out a couple of emails, within 48 hours Anne-Maree had three major works to show and a film festival was born.

Eventually Anne-Maree would like the festival to extend to Q&A sessions and workshops to provide

a strong platform for local filmmakers to network and to learn more about their craft. Anne-Maree sees the festival as an investment in the future and is already looking forward to the day the cinema is thanked by a new Oscar winner who got their start at the CoroCine Festival.

CoroCine is supported by Creative Coromandel - He Mana Toi Moehau, a charitable trust that champions the area's arts, artists and creative industries.

The inaugural CoroCine Film Festival will kick off another Creative Coromandel venture – the Coromandel Artbeat Spring Festival, which celebrates the beating pulse of the abundance of art and artists all around this rohe.

This will be the second year of the coromandel artbeat spring festival, following a successful launch of the

festival in 2023. Fiona Cameron, Chair of Creative Coromandel is excited to see the momentum gained in the first year is still building: "The Coromandel has always been a haven for creatives who have made their homes here and forged art careers. This creative spirit was evident last year when we had 70 events who had signed up to be part of our artbeat Spring Festival throughout the three-month festival".

Fittingly for a spring event, artbeat is an umbrella festival, designed to provide cover and promotion for all creative events on the Coromandel between September and December (when hopefully summer will mean umbrellas can go back in the cupboard).

The programme is designed to be a 'choose your own adventure' art trail that can be used to map trips around the peninsula and to plan a creative (and scenic) journey that could be as short as a day or as long as the whole three months. Pencil-ing in stops for coffee and food is enthusiastically encouraged for a true Coromandel experience.

The coromandel artbeat spring festival will bring together and promote a diverse range of artists and creatives. From the CoroCine Film Festival to experimental community music events, and from the Steampunk Festival in Thames to a chemistry course for making pottery glazes, there will be something to inspire and interest everyone. The festival is free for any creatives to register an event and will give everyone a chance to meet the fascinating artists that live in the Coromandel Hauraki rohe.

## Stories told in song in Thames concert

Music group Unsung Heroes will be transporting Thames concert-goers through time on August 16, with a performance that weaves history and music together for an immersive theatrical experience.

The group tells stories from New Zealand's distant past in song, using newspaper clippings and poems to provide context, along with a visual presentation of historical images accompanying each piece.

Narrator and compere Peter Elliott will lead the audience on their journey, accompanied by Cameron Bennett on vocals and dobro guitar, Chris Priestley on vocals and guitar, and Nigel Gavin on the seven-string guitar.

The group brings together members

with decades of experience in the music scene both in New Zealand and internationally - as well as a wealth of historical knowledge, with an avid historian, a current affairs journalist, and a seasoned stage and television actor among their ranks.

With reviews calling the show "the most entertaining New Zealand history lesson you're likely to encounter this (or any) year" (*The 13th Floor*) and "a fascinating musical concept, based on actual people and events that occurred in our colonial history" (*NZ Musician Magazine*), it's likely to be a unique experience.

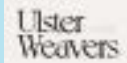
**DETAILS: Unsung Heroes, August 16, 7.30pm at the Thames Squash Club. Tickets \$25 from Carson's Bookshop or at the door.**



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HARD

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## JUMBO CROSSWORD

**ACROSS**

1 Rob or defraud someone of all their money (4,2,3,8)

10 Baffle (8)

15 Tax on imports or exports (6)

16 Impulse to travel (10)

17 Advance troops (8)

19 Ninepin (7)

21 Suit fabric (5)

22 Degraded (9)

25 Exclude from society or a group (9)

27 Evenly spaced (7)

29 Mute (6)

33 Bogus (5)

34 One in public office (8)

36 Salad dressing (10)

39 Mid-stream island (3)

41 Predict (7)

42 Mariner (6)

43 Provoke (6)

44 Lose colour (4)

45 Of the heart (7)

48 Popular book (4,6)

53 Believe to be guilty (7)

57 Swoop (4)

58 Household manservant (6)

59 Amount manufactured (6)

60 Set fire to (7)

62 Large beer cask (3)

64 Temperature regulating device (10)

65 Surreptitious, furtive (8)

66 Bottomless pit (5)

69 Weak (6)

70 Domestic fowls (7)

71 Wake late (9)

76 Court game (9)

77 Indications (5)

78 Teheran (anag)(7)

83 Tincture of opium (8)

84 Frequented as a customer (10)

85 Shunting track (6)

86 Endured pain (8)

87 Rueful comment on narrow failure to achieve an aim (2,4,3,3,2,3)

**DOWN**

2 Cold US state (6)

3 Be (5)

4 Dolt (3)

5 Bird of prey (4)

6 Own up to (7)

7 Vigour (6)

8 African river (4)

9 Busy city time (4,4)

11 Deleted (6)

12 Component (10)

13 Attract (4)

14 Beaming (7)

18 Indian Ocean island country (10)

20 Bird (4)

23 Jeer (5)

24 Pause (8)

26 Dangle (7)

28 General (anag) (7)

30 Eastern temple (6)

31 Small scented flower (6)

32 Unborn offspring (6)

35 Fatuous (5)

37 Occasion (5)

38 White cheese (4)

40 Money drawer (4)

45 Trainee (5)

46 Appraised anew (8)

47 Pleasure sea trip (6)

48 Deadly nightshade (10)

49 Type (4)

50 Financial backer (7)

51 Soap froth (6)

52 Peer (5)

54 Compulsion (4)

55 Bendy (7)

56 Fold line (6)

61 Combine together (10)

63 Allotted portion (5)

67 Place of great abundance and wealth (2-6)

68 Chimney (4)

69 Minor weaknesses (7)

72 Deer meat (7)

73 Tainted (6)

74 Victor (6)

75 Strain injury (6)

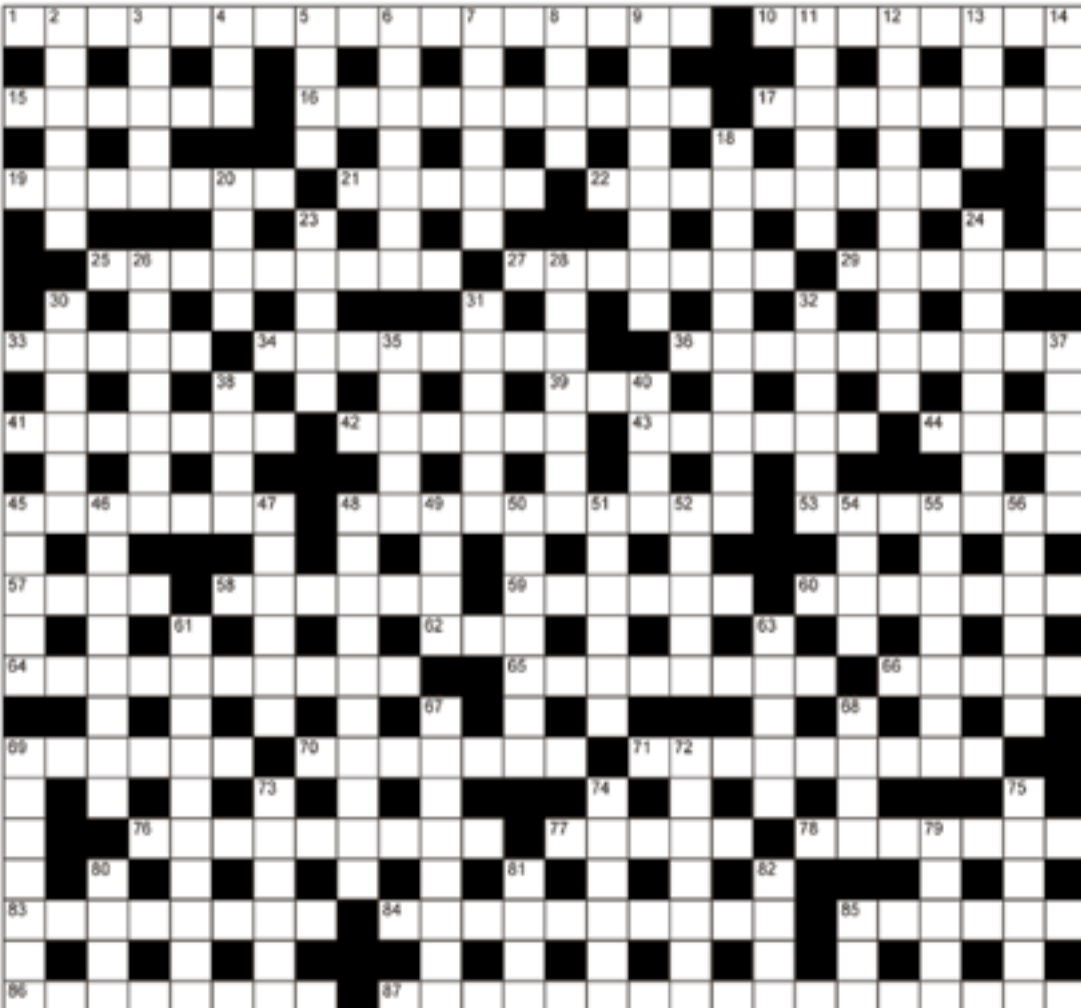
79 Communication device (5)

80 Large sea inlet (4)

81 Accurate (4)

82 Nervous (4)

85 Drunkard (3)



**PREVIOUS SOLUTION**

ACROSS: 1 China, 4 Once in a blue moon, 14 Droop, 15 Climb, 16 Inspection, 17 Siege, 19 Tin, 20 Humdrum, 21 Monastery, 22 Genius, 25 Fortunate, 27 Alerts, 28 Quiche, 33 Horizontal, 35 Hip, 36 Mirage, 37 Snow, 39 Ice, 41 Bayonet, 42 Copper, 43 Continued, 44 Inept, 45 Measures, 50 On, 51 Pancreas, 55 Attic, 58 Mousetrap, 59 Tennis, 60 Awesome, 61 Duo, 63 Chic, 64 Galley, 65 Bee, 66 Pretending, 68 Bleach, 69 Summer, 71 Propeller, 76 Quorum, 77 Precipice, 79 Infancy, 81 Emu, 84 Asset, 85 Competitor, 86 Clout, 87 Offer, 88 Birds of a feather, 89 Sweet.

DOWN: 2 Helium, 3 Nomad, 5 Nuns, 6 Exploit, 7 Nectar, 8 Built, 9 Unnerve, 10 Mask, 11 Obeyed, 12 Boots, 13 Spindle, 14 Devious, 18 Auctioneer, 23 Unite, 24 Attract, 26 Ominous, 27 Aspirin, 29 Censure, 30 Voyage, 31 Shape, 32 Agenda, 34 Loot, 36 Meter, 38 Wades, 40 Disc, 45 Mimic, 46 Abusive, 47 Used, 48 Earwax, 49 Study, 50 October, 52 New Zealand, 53 Residue, 54 Almond, 55 Applaud, 56 Enter, 57 Limp, 62 Helps, 67 Scholar, 68 Boredom, 70 Morocco, 72 Receipt, 73 Muesli, 74 Sphere, 75 Accuse, 76 Quaff, 78 Comma, 80 Allow, 82 Stud, 83 Doze.

# Considering a three-legged table



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.

**OPINION**

By MICHAEL WILKES



Recently I supported a young man through a mental health crisis. In part he found himself there because he felt bad about looking after himself. In his mind it was selfish, and so he kept giving and giving until he experienced burn-out. I was talking with a teacher about Te Whare Tapa Wha.

It is a concept used heavily in education and health and uses the example of a whare (a house) to consider our different areas

of wellness and how it's all connected. The concept explores the idea of four pillars holding up the roof. Spiritual, physical, mental and emotional, and social (family, friends, community). The idea is that we need to be healthy in all these areas to thrive.

We discussed how often it would seem many of us function with at least one of those four pillars being neglected. And we can function, with a careful balancing act, rather well. But the challenge is that we find ourselves completely toppled when something unexpected knocks hard at one of our three healthy pillars.

As I considered what he shared I

felt it an important idea to consider. It may be simply due to my line of work (I suspect it is not), but I meet a lot of people who are playing this balancing act. They are dancing on the edge and hoping that nothing more gets piled on.

I meet students who are hurting and anxious and struggling with the separation of their parents. Or parents who are isolated and have no family support because they live in a different region.

So many of us racing around so fast that we have completely neglected our own wellbeing.

We can sustain it for a time, but as soon as another major thing gets piled on, the house of cards

can come tumbling down.

If you can relate or know someone else in this situation maybe it's time to stop and reflect.

Take a moment for yourself or do it with a friend and simply draw a four by four square. In each area write down the four pillars mentioned above. Consider what area is being neglected. Consider what you could do, or who you could connect with to bring strength to that space.

Like my friend I mentioned at the start of this, we simply cannot afford to keep going and going.

In order to give the best of ourselves, we need to ensure we look after ourselves.

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# SPORTS

## Finals day

Some tense final matches took place at the Thames Valley Secondary School rugby finals day at Rhodes Park on Saturday. **PATSY ROBINSON** captured the excitement. RESULTS: First XV Boys Coulter Cup final: Hauraki Plains College 27 v 10 Paeroa College; First XV Girls Allison Stewart Memorial Cup final: Hauraki Plains College 27 v 17 Paeroa College; U15 Boys Bob Passey Cup final: Waihi College 36 v 20 Hauraki Plains College; U14 Boys Berry Cup final: Paeroa College 17 v 5 Te Aroha College.



Paeroa's Shiah Taylor battles through Hauraki defence.



HPC's Hadlee Marshall faces a solid line of Paeroa College defence.



Hauraki Plains College First XV celebrates winning the Coulter Cup.

Photos: PATSY ROBINSON



Tamehana Gurnick, of Paeroa College, powers through the pack.



Keileigh Wickliffe runs for Paeroa.



Hauraki's Chris Lourens slips away.

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