

The Valley Profile

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All lambs on deck



By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

A Waihi College science class has been embracing manaakitanga, hospitality and 'shearing the workload' in a very ewe-nique way.

Farmer and Waihi College co-leader of science Nicole Clare has been taking lambs from her farm to her classroom, where students have been holding, feeding and caring for them.

Miss Clare told *The Profile* teaching was all about connections.

"Baby animals are a fabulous way to build connections and often you might make a connection with a student just because of the animal," she said.

The lambs she had taken into school were either orphaned or in need of some care, she said.

"One set of twins was from a ewe that had died and the others were all one of triplets who had gotten too cold and weak so needed nursing back to health."

Another one was a newborn that had its ear eaten off by a stoat, so it needed to be taken into school for treatment, she said.

"The kids named him Vincent or Vinnie after Vincent Van

Gogh."

Having lambs in the classroom "definitely has a calming effect", Miss Clare said.

And it was evident that they were always welcome by students who would ask Miss Clare "all the time" when the lambs would be coming to school.

A few students were also lined up to take some home to rear for calf club or to have as pets, Miss Clare said.

But carting animals to school was not a new thing for Miss Clare, whose vehicle was more than a 'lamb-orghini'.

Goats, kittens and roosters have also been chauffeured to Miss Clare's places of work across the years.

"I don't bring kid goats in anymore... they want all the attention, they're not the most calming and they call out all the

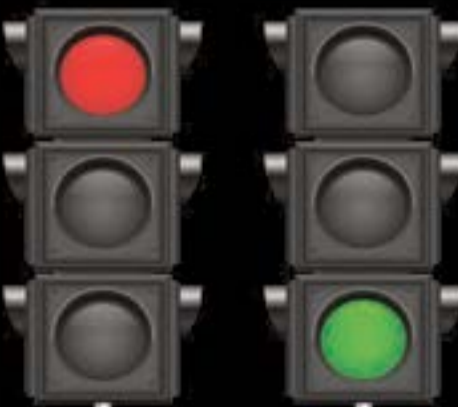


Science students nurture lambs while they learn. INSET: Nicole Clare with some lambs. Photos: SUPPLIED/ANNA DAHLKAMP

CONTINUED ON P2

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It's all lambs on deck at Waihi College

CONTINUED FROM P1

time," she said. While the goats were very cute - Miss Clare said they made too much noise. "The sheep are a lot more placid and more suitable to maintaining a good working classroom environment.

"Last year I had quadruplets that I reared and brought in," she said. However, the first animal Miss Clare took along to school was a rooster named George.

Miss Clare said she was teaching at Waihi East Primary School at the time and took George along for the kids to do observational drawings.

He was calm as he stood and posed for the students - and even let them hold him, she said.

Miss Clare said she also worked at Waihi Playcentre and would take goat kids in for human kids to feed and experience animals.

"Urban students don't get these kinds of experiences," she said.

But there was one animal in particular that had become an important part of the Waihi College community.

Keira the black labrador was "the lab in the lab" who had been going to school every day for several years, Miss Clare said.

Kids would go into her class and sit on the bean bag with Keira or take her for a walk to help regulate, Miss Clare said, and other teachers would do the same thing for that regulating effect of



A student with Keira the "lab in the lab" in her Dominion house colours, left, and lambs, kittens and goats on their way to Miss Clare's class in the 'lamb-orghini'.

Photos: SUPPLIED

pet therapy. "She's perfect for that. She's just so calm. It's great to be able to have that resource in the school."

Keira has been attending Waihi College for a few years now, taking part in school photos, and being a regular mascot at house events like swimming and athletics, Miss Clare said, where Keira also dresses up in green to represent her house, Dominion.

Miss Clare said she's heard students' conversations, saying things like: "I want to move to Dominion house - they have a dog".

But it was Miss Clare's upbringing,

animal science studies at Massey University and most of all - her love for animals that propelled her to share these opportunities with others.

And she's not a lone ranger in her nurturing qualities - Miss Clare said her gran also looked after orphaned lambs, even into her 80s.

Miss Clare's joy came from being able to care for animals and share these sorts of experiences with others, she said.

"[Waihi College] has been very supportive of animals in school.

"If I get an opportunity to share these experiences with students, I will."

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Thames Tides

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
Aug 21	Aug 22	Aug 23	Aug 24	Aug 25	Aug 26	Aug 27
<p>Morning: 1:42am 0.4, 7:58am 3.5 Afternoon: 2:03pm 0.2, 8:23pm 3.8</p> <p>Sunrise: 6:54am, Sunset: 5:49pm</p> <p>Best At: 1:06am, 1:31pm</p> <p>Set: 7:46am, Rise: 7:29pm</p>	<p>Morning: 2:32am 0.2, 8:48am 3.7 Afternoon: 2:50pm 0.2, 9:12pm 3.8</p> <p>Sunrise: 6:53am, Sunset: 5:49pm</p> <p>Best At: 1:57am, 2:22pm</p> <p>Set: 8:14am, Rise: 8:43pm</p>	<p>Morning: 3:21am 0.2, 9:36am 3.7 Afternoon: 3:38pm 0.2, 10:01pm 3.8</p> <p>Sunrise: 6:51am, Sunset: 5:50pm</p> <p>Best At: 2:47am, 3:12pm</p> <p>Set: 8:41am, Rise: 9:57pm</p>	<p>Morning: 4:09am 0.2, 10:24am 3.7 Afternoon: 4:27pm 0.3, 10:51pm 3.7</p> <p>Sunrise: 6:50am, Sunset: 5:51pm</p> <p>Best At: 3:38am, 4:03pm</p> <p>Set: 9:10am, Rise: 11:10pm</p>	<p>Morning: 4:58am 0.2, 11:14am 3.6 Afternoon: 5:19pm 0.5, 11:43pm 3.6</p> <p>Sunrise: 6:49am, Sunset: 5:52pm</p> <p>Best At: 4:30am, 4:56pm</p> <p>Set: 9:41am</p>	<p>Morning: 5:48am 0.4, 6:41am 0.5 Afternoon: 12:05pm 3.5, 6:14pm 0.7</p> <p>Sunrise: 6:47am, Sunset: 5:53pm</p> <p>Best At: 5:24am, 5:52pm</p> <p>Last Quarter Rise: 12:24am, Set: 10:18am</p>	<p>Morning: 12:36am 3.4, 6:41am 0.5 Afternoon: 1:02pm 3.3, 7:16pm 0.8</p> <p>Sunrise: 6:46am, Sunset: 5:53pm</p> <p>Best At: 6:20am, 6:49pm</p> <p>Rise: 1:36am, Set: 11:01am</p>

*Not for navigational purposes. Graphic supplied by OceanFun Publishing Ltd. www.tidewiz.com www.tidespy.com www.ofu.co.nz

MOON AND FISH KEYS

New Moon, First Quarter, Full Moon, Last Quarter

Good Fishing (G), Fair Fishing (F), Not So Good (B)

TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES

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

PLACE	Hr	HIGH	Mn	LOW	Mn
Coromandel	-0	04	-0	04	
Whitianga	-0	01	+0	05	
Tairua	+0	11	+0	21	
Whangamata	-0	02	-0	05	
Waihi Beach	-0	11	-0	12	

Police called after protestors frighten residents

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Police were called after a group of protestors who gagged and tied themselves up in the driveway of a Paeroa property “frightened” residents last week.

The group of eight Climate Liberation Aotearoa activists gathered to protest against mistreatment and silencing of climate activists by the government of Uganda, they said in a statement.

Activists protested outside New Zealand Honorary Consul of Uganda Basil Morrison’s home on August 12.

However, Mr Morrison said tensions were raised when the demonstrators frightened his wife, Kaye, when she asked them to leave and they refused, which led to Police being called in.

Mr Morrison told *The Profile* the group previously got in touch with him because they wanted to present him with a letter to pass on to the Ugandan government.

The letter was protesting the Ugandan government developing an oil pipeline and oil drilling in Uganda, as well as the arrest of some protestors there, he said.

Mr Morrison said he told them he was unable to meet with the group, so asked them to put the letter in the letterbox.

The protestors held a banner across the front of his house on the footpath and in his driveway, he said.

“Four of them laid down on the driveway on my property with their wrists tied and gags across their mouth, tape across their mouth, shouting about the Ugan-



Protestors gather outside the honorary consulate of Uganda in Paeroa.

Photo: SUPPLIED/PERĀ AMORE

dan government treatment [of] the protestors back in Uganda.

“My wife went out and told them to leave our private property and they argued with [her],” he said.

“It was quite frightening for her.”

A neighbour also went outside and told the group “in no uncertain language” to leave, Mr Morrison said.

The group was there for around half an hour, but had already left by the time two police cars arrived, he said.

The concern was that the Ugan-

dan vice president Jessica Alupo was coming to New Zealand on the way to the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Samoa in October, Mr Morrison said.

This was starting a protest for when she arrived because she might visit part of this district, Mr Morrison said.

He believed some of last week’s protestors were in the same group who glued themselves to the state highway in Wellington, hung off the gantries across the motorway and chained themselves to the roads.



Basil Morrison. FILE PHOTO

from him that no one would be home and we’d just go by to deliver the letter to his letterbox,” a protestor said.

The planned action was to take five minutes to get a photo and leave, he said.

“We left quite quickly because certainly we weren’t expecting to interact with anyone and we weren’t intending to upset anyone.”

The protestors said in a statement the Paeroa protest followed the Ugandan arrests of around 50 members of Students Against EA-COP (East African Crude Oil Pipeline) on August 9 while they were attempting to petition against the pipeline to the Ugandan government.

Climate Liberation Aotearoa spokesperson Zenith Rose-Wills said the group was asking the Ugandan government to release all the protestors, and “to cease their pattern of harassing peaceful climate protectors in Uganda”.

Zenith said they also called on the government to stop the EA-COP pipeline, which would harm the climate, environment, and displace many local people without fair compensation.

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In Brief

PLANE CRASH

An incident occurred at a Waihi Beach airfield on August 14 when a plane crashed into a stationary aircraft. A statement from the Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand said an aircraft lost control during take-off and collided with a parked, unattended aircraft. "In the coming days we'll make enquiries to understand what has happened and to determine if any further CAA action is required. No injuries have been reported." However, St John New Zealand said they responded to the incident with two ambulances and one manager, where a patient was assessed at the scene by the crew and transported to Tauranga Hospital by ambulance in a moderate condition.

ARREST MADE

A man has been arrested after being caught out by Police in Waihi. Waikato Police said they arrested a suspected repeat offender after he tried to sneak away from the scene of the crime in Waihi last week. Around 7pm on August 16, Police were notified that a known man, believed to have previously pilfered items from the Waihi Transfer Station along with the CCTV cameras, was onsite again. Police said cordons were established in the area but after a lengthy period of searching the area to locate him, units were stood down. "Thinking the coast was clear, the man left his hiding place and was quickly taken into custody by staff who had remained in the area," Police said. A 28-year-old man has been charged with burglary, possession of methamphetamine and possession of methamphetamine utensils. He was due to appear in Hamilton District Court on Saturday.

POLICE SCAMMER ALERT

Police are aware of reports emerging in several police districts where people have received a scam phone call from someone claiming to be a Police Officer. Waikato District Prevention Manager Inspector Hywel Jones is urging locals across the district to be alert to the scam. "The 'officer' will claim to be from a particular branch or police depart-

ment, tell you that you have been a victim of fraud or a scam, and begin to try and obtain further financial information from you." People have been directed to go to their bank and withdraw money for evidence of the supposed scam. "This is a scam – no legitimate Police Officer will ever ask you to hand over money, for any reason. If you want to establish if the 'officer' is genuine, ask for their full details, then hang up, contact Police on 105, tell Police you think you may be talking to a scammer and request someone check the 'officer's' details for you." Older members of the community were being targeted and Police urge anyone with older, vulnerable relatives or friends to make them aware of this unlawful activity. Three people are currently before the courts in relation to scamming vulnerable people in the Auckland and Wellington Districts, Police said. "One of these, a 26-year-old UK national, has since been convicted of scamming more than \$330,000 out of victims." Police urged people to be vigilant as enquiries into reports of such scams were ongoing. "New Zealand Police will also never contact people seeking their banking details, card numbers, PIN, or passwords. There are instances where legitimate Police Officers will contact you as part of their duties, but New Zealand Police will never ask you to withdraw money."

OPEN DAY


Te Kōhanga Reo ō Kerepēhi is holding an open day on August 23. The doors will open to the public from 9am until 3pm at 47 McGowan Ave, Kerepēhi. Paramanawa (morning tea) will take place from 10am, and kai nui at noon. Activities will include face painting, mahi nui (crafts), games and waiata.

POETRY APPRECIATION

The Thames Poetry Appreciation Group is now established and will meet once a month at the Thames Library, hosted by Melissa Ireland and David Benson. Local poetry lovers are invited to attend and, if they wish, can bring some of their favourite poems to share with others. This month's meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 28, from 10am until noon.



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Youth program

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If you have children looking for fun and development, there are currently some vacancies on each programme.

Youth Leader vacancies

We are also keen to expand our Youth Leadership team to assist our Youth Divisional Manager run these programmes. If you are 18 years or older and keen to assist, we would like to hear from you.

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

For further information phone Shane Deverill on 021 955 860 or email: hauraki.community@stjohn.org.nz

Baptist Church to mark 50 years of fellowship

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

Half a century of fellowship, community outreach and service to God will be commemorated in September as the Paeroa Baptist Church celebrates its 50-year anniversary.

The church began as a small fellowship of fewer than 30 members in 1974, operating from a small building on the corner of Corbett and Albert Streets.

One of the original members, 92-year-old Paul Ashford, said the congregation was small enough that whole-church outings to the beach were easy to organise. "We used to go down to Bowentown on a Sunday and have lunch down there. [Fellowship member] Graeme Lee and his brother, they both had speedboats and they would take our teenagers out skiing," he said.

"We always had a good time there, and we were small enough to be able to do that."

Over the years, numbers grew until the small premises was no longer able to hold everyone.

"It got to the stage that if you didn't arrive on time, you couldn't get a seat."

In the early 90s, the church bought its current premises on Wood St. Formerly owned by the Army, the main building required extensive renovations. Most of the church pitched in to help the hired builders.

"I happened to be a carpen-



Top left: Paul Ashford with photos from the fellowship's 1988 mission to Fiji, and the opening of the current church, right.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER

ter from very many years back and I'd retired," Paul said.

"When we sold the church, we went and met at the Scout Hall for a short while, while we were working on [the new building]."

Inside, there are traces of the church's beginnings, with a stained glass window from the original building taking pride of place in the foyer.

"One of the builders took it

out and they had to go and put glass either side of it, and we put it in our new building. Just as you go through the foyer, it hits you."

Church member Barbara Coxshall said the church had a lot to do with the Paeroa community over the years.

"We've always been trying to do outreach work to the community in different ways. We're very good as a church at doing

social engagements," she said. "We've had our ups and downs with population... even through my time, we had a wonderful teenage group."

The 50-year celebration on September 21-22 will feature a meet-and-greet event, dinner, and celebration service. Several former pastors will be there to join in the commemorations, along with as many current and former members as pos-

sible. The church is welcoming anyone along with ties to the church, and memories, photos and other memorabilia is also welcome.

DETAILS: Paeroa Baptist Church 50th anniversary, September 21-22, 2 Wood St, Paeroa. More info: paeroabapchurch@gmail.com or 07 862 8838.



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21 August 2024

Visitor Information Centre opening

Thames' new Visitor Information Centre could be up and running from Thames War Memorial Civic Centre by Labour Weekend, according to the new operators, Thames Business Association.

Thames Community Board allocated \$50,000 to fit out the new centre to make it attractive to visitors. The fit-out may include: display cabinets, brochure stands, new shelving, lighting and a front desk. The centre will use the design for Thames' new brand 'Explore Interesting'. The branding is thanks to recovery funding from MBIE accessed by our Council.

ExploreThames.nz



WORKSHOPS ON REDUCING WASTE

Our Council is pleased to announce that we have arranged for waste education sessions with Kate Fenwick (nee Meads) this August.

FOOD LOVERS MASTERCLASS evening session \$10

- Thursday 29 August, 6-8pm; Thames Civic Centre, 200 Mary St.



The Food Lovers Masterclass is a hugely popular seminar on food waste reduction that provides great advice on how to reduce food waste in your household. Topics include: shopping smarter, storing food tips and tricks, planning better, best before dates vs use-by dates, what can you freeze, and loads more.

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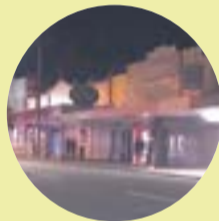
The topics cover: waste-free parenting, feeding & baby food, cloth nappies 101, washing cloth nappies and more. This course is available online today. You can collect a free gift pack at an informal coffee group catch-up on Thursday 29 August, 10-11am.



For more information and to register, please visit wastedkate.co.nz/thames-coromandel

Town centre night lighting

Thames Community Board has voted to spend up to \$20,000 to install under veranda lighting on Pollen Street to improve safety at night. This is in response to community concern about the risks of walking in the town centre after hours. The funding comes from the Thames Urban General Purposes Reserve (TUGPR) made up from revenue from endowment farms at Waihou as well as sponsorship and pledges associated with the Jack McLean Centre.



Thames Community Board UPDATE

Board Chair, Adrian Catran JP reports:

"We're really looking forward to the opening of Thames' new Visitor Information Centre before summer gets underway. It will be crucial in ensuring more visitors return to our district and tell others about the wonderful time they had. Our Board has funded a refit to ensure the centre looks appealing, and we've also been a key player in the 'Explore Interesting' branding campaign to drive more visitors to the town and surrounds. Here's to a thriving summer!"



adrian.catran@council.tcdc.govt.nz

The Board's next meeting is on Wednesday 11 September, 10am in Thames Council Chamber. tcdc.govt.nz/meetings

YOUR INPUT WELCOME



9 August – 9 September 2024

tcdc.govt.nz/traffic-bylaw



9 August – 9 September 2024

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Puriri residents succumb to typhoid fever



As part of a Valley Profile series, **MEGHAN HAWKES** explores our local history by seeking out stories of life and death in the Thames Valley

An outbreak of typhoid fever at Puriri in 1898 began with Paul Joachim, a gum digger, who had lain ill for seven days in his bush whare in the ranges. He was brought down to Puriri but could not be taken any further so was kindly allowed to stay a night in Mrs Brown's house. One of Mrs Brown's daughters, Mrs Reid, then came down with the illness which caused headache, chills, stomach pain, muscle aches, nausea and a rash of faint pink spots known as 'Rose spots'.

Several other Puriri residents succumbed to the sickness prompting a visit from the County Health Inspector, Mr Hollis. He carefully examined Mrs Browns premises which he found well kept, but her earth closet needed attending to and the cess pit needed to be treated with carbolic powder and covered with dry earth. He had no doubt the gum digger Paul Joachim's blankets accounted for the spread of infection.

The premises of Mr J Bedford were next inspected, Mrs Bedford being the sufferer. The back of the premises were very cramped and consisted of an outhouse used as a workshop, a



An illustration showing various ways that a water well may become infected by typhoid fever bacteria. Photo: SUPPLIED

cow shed, and a water closet. The closet was only a few feet from the back door and about the same distance from the water tank used for drinking. The closet cesspit had not been emptied for some months, and had been only occasionally treated with dry ashes. There was an overflow which, under the influence of a powerful sun, was decidedly insanitary. Mr Hollis directed the cesspit to be treated in the same way as at Mrs Brown's.

He felt this typhoid case originated from the unsanitary premises. The Jackson's residence was situated on the south bank of Puriri Creek, not far from the junction with the main river. Mr Hollis could find nothing conducive to infection surrounding the house but their well was dry and the Jacksons used water from the creek for drinking. The creeks were all affected by the rise and fall of the tide and became polluted for a considerable distance by sewage brought down the main river, rendering it totally unfit for drinking unless boiled. Mr Hollis could only attribute this case of typhoid to the use of this water.

At Mrs Ripley's house where there

had been five cases of fever, Mrs Ripley and two children were still in Thames Hospital, and two children were at home convalescent. There was little to complain of the cleanliness of the premises, apart from the untidiness resulting from the absence of the mistress of the house.

Here too, the creek was the supply of drinking water. It was bailed into three 40-gallon casks, allowed to settle and used without boiling. The creek was full at the time of Mr Hollis's visit and appeared saturated with sewage. He had no doubt these cases were caused by the use of the foul creek water. Mr Hollis gave strict orders to boil the water used for drinking and to treat the cesspit.

At a Thames council meeting, two samples of the water which Puriri residents had been drinking were shown. It was, said Mr Hollis, "bad enough to kill a thousand men." The *Thames Star* found it remarkable that "all those who have become victims have been accustomed to drink the water in the Puriri Creek, despite the fact that the drainage from the closets of some of the settlers, living on the banks of the

creek, flows into it, and thus contaminates the water".

Typhoid, like many diseases of the era, was dreaded and there was a great fear of epidemics. Mr Moss from Paeroa wrote to the *Ohinemuri Gazette*: "I wish to make one last effort to ask the Paeroa people if they cannot see what is staring them in the face." There had been 17 cases of typhoid fever in Paeroa in seven weeks, and Mr Moss said: "Unless the town is put in a thoroughly sanitary state before the winter rains have ceased, I am assured we will next summer have a typhoid epidemic. Could not the town be made a little cleaner?"

"What about the people who keep pigs in the town? What about the stacks of garbage to be seen outside of stables? What about a dust cart service so that all the kitchen refuse could be carted away from the town, instead, of being used to raise the level of the back yard or thrown into the streets?" Until the town was ruined by typhoid he felt nothing would be done.

One victim of the epidemic was Paeroa's 19-year-old David Henry. "The wonder", commented the *NZ Herald* was "that more deaths have not occurred, the sanitary condition of the place being most imperfect."

David was buried at Pukerimu cemetery. He had been a member of the Paeroa Lodge of Druids and it was Druids, wearing the funeral regalia of the Order, who headed the cortege, marching in front of the hearse. At the grave, the Arch Druid, Mr Edwards, read the ritual of the Order laid down for such occasions, after which the brethren deposited their traditional sprays of oak on the coffin, Druids believing that oak trees were sacred and directly from heaven and ironically had significant healing powers.

Chris' Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Par-minter

1. The term 'petrichor' refers to a) a pleasant smell after rain, b) a type of granite or c) a musical instrument?
2. Who was the number one pick in the 2024 NBA draft? a) Zaccharie Risacher, b) Victor Wembanyama or c) Alexandre Sarr?
3. Dolce & Gabbana released the perfume 'Fefe' this year, which is a fragrance designed for which animal?
4. Which word beginning with V can refer to a spice used to flavour cooking, but also something particularly plain?
5. Is Helium lighter or heavier than air (at normal atmospheric pressure)?
6. In which Scandinavian country was Lego first produced?
7. What was the name of Michael Jackson's pet monkey?
8. In the first season of Sesame Street, what colour was Oscar the Grouch? a) blue, b) orange or c) purple?
9. *Santa Maria*, Christopher Columbus' flagship on his first voyage to America, was how long? a) 16 metres, b) 36 metres or c) 66 metres?
10. New Zealand has seven Ramsar sites (internationally significant wetlands). How many are in the Hauraki District?



ANSWERS: 1. a) A pleasant smell after rain; 2. a) Zaccharie Risacher; 3. Dogs; 4. Vanilla; 5. Lighter; 6. Denmark; 7. Bubbles; 8. b) Orange; 9. b) 36 metres; 10. Two (The Fifth of Thames and the Kopuatai Peat Dome).

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Rural Life

Govt funds \$12.5m for flood management projects

The government has confirmed funding of \$12.5 million from its Regional Infrastructure Fund to accelerate six flood management infrastructure projects in the Waikato region.

As part of Budget 2024, the government dedicated \$101.1 million for flood resilience infrastructure as co-investment with regional and unitary councils to 42 flood resilience projects that were close to getting started.

The Waikato Regional Council will get: \$5.22m towards upgrading a lower Waikato scheme stopbank in Tuakau (Waikato district); raising the height of the stopbanks to accommodate climate change; \$1.68m towards upgrading the Island Block pump station (Waikato district): replacement of an old pump with a new one with increased pump capacity and that enables safe downstream fish passage; \$3.06m towards upgrading the Kirikiri Stream stopbank (Hauraki district): raising the height of subsided stopbanks back to the level of service for the Waihou Scheme.

It will also receive: \$1.08m towards Thames Valley diversion channel planting upgrades (Hauraki district): fencing, drain shaping, and planting of smaller drainage channels to reduce maintenance requirements and enhance instream and riparian ecological values; \$324,000 towards upgrading the Mangatāwhiri pump station (Waikato district): replacing dual inlet and enabling access to the pump for maintenance; \$1.2m towards upgrading a floodgate in the Mangawara catchment (Waikato district).

The six Waikato projects will cost an estimated total of \$21 million.

The council is currently working on design and procurement to enable these projects to start in this financial year.

Council chair Pamela Storey said the council was part of Te Uru Kahika – Regional and Unitary Councils Aotearoa, which submitted a business case (*Before the Deluge*) of 80 ready-to-go flood protection projects to government ministers for co-investment to improve community resilience against extreme weather events.

“These projects form a critical part of our planned regular renewal and maintenance programme, and it is a great outcome for the community to be receiving this from the Regional Infrastructure Fund to reduce the cost to ratepayers and improve the affordability of the council’s responsibility for flood protection,” she said. “We currently we have more than 100 maintenance and capital projects underway or planned, so it’s fantastic to see the government partnering with us to deliver some of these essential services that protect our communities and significant Crown assets, such as state highways and the main trunk railway, from flood events.

“You only have to look at the extreme wet weather events of last year, cyclones Hale and Gabrielle and over Auckland anniversary, to see how important good infrastructure is for the resilience of our communities.”

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Rural Life

Farm drains, wetlands critical for endangered Bittern

OPINION

By Wendy Hare



As a child walking down the road to catch the school bus, it was a regular treat to find a Bittern - frozen, large beak pointing skyward, almost taller than me, pretending it wasn't there.

A generation later, my niece and nephews enjoyed that same privilege as they too trod the gravel road to and from the bus. That swamp still remains, largely intact in the embrace of the Whenuakite River as it curves around Harebridge Farm thanks to the husbandry of my brother Ralph and the family farmers before him.

Sadly the same cannot be said for the rest of the river, where in many places pasture reaches right down to the water's edge. A circumstance reflected throughout New Zealand, with more than 90 per cent of our former wetlands lost, mostly to agriculture. Those which remain are in a sorry state through poor water quality and invasive species.

Australasian Bittern, or Matuku-Hurepo, is a flagship species for our wetlands.

Although a large heron-like bird, its streaked plumage, shy nature and cryptic behaviour mean there is much we don't know about its lifestyle. What we do know, and have known for years is that the population is in steady decline -



Eels are a staple for the critically endangered Australasian Bittern - which are shy, reclusive and susceptible to human disturbance.

Photo: IMOGEN WARREN

now believed to be only 800 birds throughout New Zealand and described as nationally Critical (DOC Threats Classification), the last step before extinction.

Hard to imagine that in the early 1900s there are descriptions of flocks of Bittern 100 strong!

But it gets worse, let me explain. Drones with thermo-imaging cameras can now fly known Bittern hotspots on early spring mornings searching for the birds and their nests. Last season's

search of 1300ha (27 wetlands) in prime habitat in Bay of Plenty, Waikato, Northland and the Coromandel yielded 50 adult Bittern but only three Bittern nests. Plenty of Pukeko and Harrier nests were also located.

Two of the Bittern nests were in Bay of Plenty in an area that has been managed for Bittern for the past two decades. The third was in a harbour on the Coromandel, a place which has the unenviable distinction of having lost at least

four Bittern to road kill in the last year. And in my own back yard, near Hot Water Beach, another Bittern lost its life on the road mere months ago. On one nest the female (who has sole charge) was observed off the nest for up to five hours at a time - presumably in search of food, leaving her offspring highly vulnerable.

Past survey methods have focussed on counting booming males, females are much more difficult to find, transmitter and

track. This new survey technique strongly suggests females are faring even worse than their males.

Starving chicks, as yet unable to fly, have been regularly handed in to DOC Tauranga, having been discovered emaciated in harbour-side gardens. It looks like chicks aren't doing well either. We don't know for sure, but the anticipated lifespan of our Bittern is 10-11 years, so, unlike Kakapo, we don't have a long time to work this out. A 2021 estimate has suggested as few as 125 pairs left.

I am grateful a chance conversation led me to the recent Coromandel Matuku-Bittern workshop and opened my eyes to the decimation of this iconic bird of my childhood. Join me in turning the tide for our Matuku-Hurepo.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

The endangered Australasian Bittern are starving and farmers drains are now a critical hunting habitat. Ideal conditions are clean clear water, 8-75cm deep (15cm best) with good fish passage to the sea. If you have eels in your drains, Bittern just need to be able to step into the drain to hunt them. Advocate with any lowland farmers you know, publicise in any newsletters that reach lowland farmers. Plant moderate sized shrubs along road margins in wetland areas to encourage Bittern to fly higher over roads, avoiding collisions with traffic. Saltmarsh Ribwort Plagianthus divaricatus has been used successfully for this purpose in the Bay of Plenty. More info: lovebittern.com.



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Harry Williscroft spots a gap. Photo: MARK BROWN

FOOTBALL

Thames FC could not stop Claudelands Rovers Stallions, who clinched the league title with a 4-2 victory at Rhodes Park on Saturday.

Another squelchy home game amid constant rain with Thames looking to bounce back following two consecutive defeats. A good start was needed and that's exactly what we got - Captain Mickaël Dernoncourt stepped in to stifle out a counterattack before floating a long ball down the right to Michael Kim. The winger weaved past a defender before picking out Ben Taylor who adjusted well and applied the finishing touch from close range. Claudelands, needing a win to seal the title, regrouped and soon hit back with an equalizer.

James Pidoke found space behind the mid-field and drove a brilliant shot into the bottom corner. It took the home side just a few minutes to respond as Harry Williscroft turned the full-back inside out with a mazy run and cross for his thirteenth assist of the season, the ever-present Taylor was again on hand to head home at the back post.

Goalkeeper Slade Costello was crucial in keeping Claudelands at bay, tipping over a powerful left-footed shot from Pidoke. However, after a sustained period of pressure, Harland Morris scored for Claudelands, levelling the game just before halftime with a powerful left-footed shot.

The second half saw a stark contrast to the

first. Thames started poorly after halftime adjustments seemed to disrupt their balance. Claudelands capitalized, scoring two quick goals. Ryan Jolliffe pounced on a loose ball and scored from a scuffed shot, while Ben Williams cut in from the left and finished into the far corner.

The pressure continued on the Thames goal, with John Flood twice coming close to adding a fifth, and the second a long-range effort that pinged off the crossbar. Thames regrouped somewhat and finished the game on top.

Williscroft burst through on the right before firing a shot against the post, and Ryan Le Roux came agonizingly close to turning in the rebound. James Harvey was next to try his luck again Williscroft the provider down the right, but his acrobatic effort sailed over.

Thames pushed forward in a bid to save the game, but Claudelands defended resolutely. Dernoncourt had the final attempt with a looping shot that forced the keeper into a good save. As the final whistle blew, Claudelands celebrated their well-deserved league victory while Thames reflected on a disappointing start to the second half that ultimately decided the game.

"We played some great offensive football today - particularly in the first half. Unfortunately, we couldn't hold on against a determined side who were going for the league title. There were lots of positives to take away and lessons to be learned," player and manager Micheal Kim said.

- Jonathan Coles

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No other path: Choice exists, even if elusive

OPINION

By MICHAEL WILKES



A few years back I was working with a young man and driving him to an alternative education school. Let's call the young man Nick. I asked him, "Nick, where do you see yourself in a few years." Now Nick went quiet and gave the question some real thought.

And then he looked at me, and with full certainty he responded

"Mike, I am going to be in prison."

I was lost for words. "What, aye, wait, you can't know that. What do you mean?" And Nick responded: "Mike, it's my path in life. Because everyone I know before me, who went to my primary school, and then to my high school. Everyone I know who then got kicked out and sent to the Alt-Ed have all ended up in prison."

Now we all know that prison was not the only option for this young man, but at the time, he

could see no other future ahead of him.

Nick's story is one I share often, not to evoke sympathy but to illustrate the critical importance of challenging our set ideas. Our programmes focus on instilling the belief that choice exists, even when it feels elusive.

We may not control our circumstances, but we can control our reactions and decisions. For Nick, and for so many of us, understanding this can be transformative. It's about shifting the mindset from inevitability to

possibility, and that's where true change begins. Society often labels and limits individuals based on their backgrounds, but it's our job to challenge these stereotypes and provide alternative narratives.

We must create environments where young people feel valued and capable of making meaningful choices. This involves not only education but also fostering a culture of empathy and understanding. By challenging preconceptions, we open up a world of possibilities for our youth. We

help them see beyond their immediate circumstances and envision a future filled with potential. And in doing so, we contribute to shaping our community into a place where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

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



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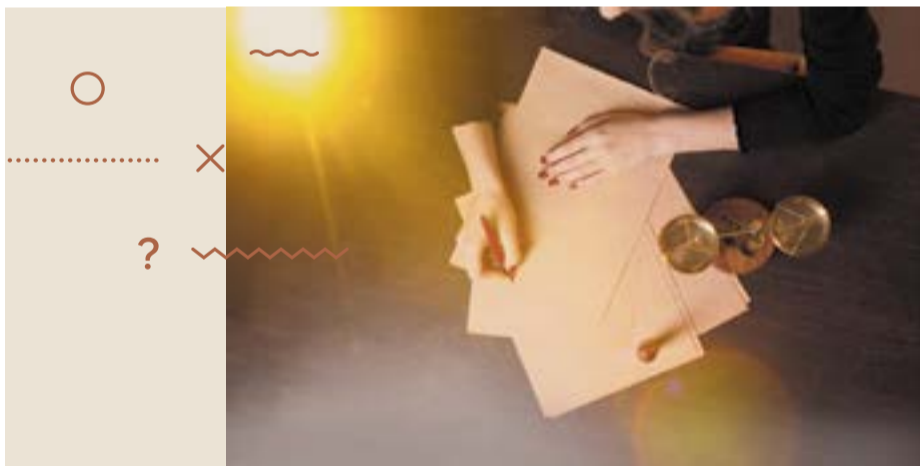
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Flowers on Pollen team from left: Jacqui Russell, Nicole Phillips and Bre Barker.

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Twentymans Funeral Services has withstood the test of time and is now an award-winning leader in the industry. Photo: SUPPLIED

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Established by William Twentymans in 1867, Adrian Catran purchased the business in 1993. Between Adrian's vision, innovative technology, and the loyalty of the local community, Twentymans has withstood the test of time and is now an award-winning leader in the industry.

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Twinwolf Plastering owner Shannon Woolfe is ready to help.

Photo: SUPPLIED

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Shannon's focus is on his clients being happy and "informed throughout the process".

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Shannon has sound knowledge when it comes to assessing and fixing cracked and damaged exterior plaster.

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Shannon enjoys doing the fun stuff too.

Plastering isn't just about houses - he's helped plenty of families transform their outdoor entertainment areas with plastered outdoor fireplaces and pizza ovens.

Shannon takes pride in his workmanship and leaves every work site clean and tidy throughout the process.

CONTACT: For all your exterior and interior plaster needs please contact Shannon, Ph: 022 428 2239, or email: twinwolfservices@gmail.com.

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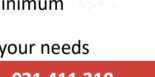
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Public Notice

Hikutaia Hall AGM
Hikutaia Hall 6.30pm
Wednesday
11th September
Garage Sale & Swap
meet Sat 2nd Nov

Public Notice

Notice of Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 17th September
at 5:30pm
at Gastronomics Function Room, Thames
For information on Nominations to the Board,
Ph TBA: 022 466 1031
or email: manager@thamesbusiness.co.nz

Public Notice

Victoria Battery Tramway Society Inc. AGM
Sunday 1st September
2024
1.00pm
Victoria Battery Museum

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Public Notices

Reserve Act Leases

In accordance with Section 54(2) and 119 of the Reserves Act 1977, and a resolution of the Thames-Coromandel District Council dated 6 August 2024, it is proposed to grant a new lease to the Whangamatā Equestrian and Social Group for part of the recreation reserve located at 128a Wattle Place, Whangamatā for a term of 12 years in accordance with Council's Community Leases and Licences to Occupy Policy.

Under Section 120 of the Reserves Act 1977, any person or organisation may object or make a submission to the proposal (in writing) to the Chief Executive of the Thames-Coromandel District Council, 515 Mackay Street, Thames by 4pm, 20 September 2024. Any objections and/or submissions received during the submission period will be considered by the Whangamatā Community Board where a decision will be recommended to Council for approval.

A Lawrie
Chief Executive

www.tcdcc.govt.nz

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Part Time Office Administrator
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Public Notice

COURT DIRECTED ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
For members of Ngāti Hei o Wharekaho
Part Kuaotunu 6C2B1 & Kuaotunu No 6C2B2 Blocks
Ko Te Ramatiti Maori Reserve Trust and Wharekaho Urupa Trust

Venue: Hamilton Māori Land Court, Courtroom
Level 2 BNZ Centre, 358 Victoria Street, Hamilton
Date: Saturday 14 September 2024
Time: 12:00pm (allow 30 minutes for registrations)

1. Background korero including the role of the Ngati Hei Charitable Trust;
2. Report from trustees of each trust;
3. Discussion and decision regarding whether two separate trusts are still necessary; and
4. Election of trustees (based on decision made above).

To register or to request details to participate via Zoom or for enquiries – contact Jamie Hemi
jamie.hemi@justice.govt.nz or 07 957 7880
Reference: Māori Land Court AP-2023-27276 & AP-2023-34296

CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12pm Monday

Church Notice	Garage Sale	Pets	Storage
Assembly of God 10am Sundays. Scout Hall. Baker St, Waihi	BBQ, chainsaw, 50 jigsaw, golf clubs, weatherboard and more. 9am Saturday 24th August, 200 Reservoir Rd, Thames.	KENNELS WAITAKARURU Boarding Kennels and Cattery. "A great place for your pet to stay." Shane & Sherrin Hansen. Ph: 07-867-3344, SH25 Waitakaruru, RD6 Thames	STORAGE KOPU, PAEROA TE AWAMUTU "New Units" Ph 027 440 7101 07 868 3033 Safe n Sound Storage www.safestorage.co.nz
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Firewood for sale Old Man pine \$140 per cube. Phone Mark 027 655 8661 or Steph 027 385 2806	STORE 4 U Waihi. Clean, dry, alarmed. Call Lyn 0275 759 173.	Dry Ti Tree for sale. Trees down 12 mths. \$180 per ute load. Txt John 027 220 5646	

Hauraki District Council
Citizenship Ceremony and Council Meeting

Pursuant to Section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, public notice is hereby given that the following will be held in the Council Chamber, Hauraki House, 1 William Street, Paeroa.

Citizenship Ceremony
Wednesday, 28 August 2024, 8.30am

Council
Wednesday, 28 August 2024, 9.30am

L D Cavers
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council

www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz

PLACE YOUR AD IN THE VALLEY PROFILE:
"The paper that is being read"
Contact Nikki - 022 130 3885

Fundraiser planned for feathered friends

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

A new event set to raise funds and awareness for the Pūkoro Mirānda Shorebird Centre will take place on August 31 at Ray's Rest, Kaiaua.

The Shorebird Coast Run will see 200 people taking part in the 5km or 12 km races along the Hauraki Rail Trail starting with the 12km run at 10am.

Even though the registrations for the races have already sold out, organisers say there is still plenty for people and families to do on the day.

Event organiser Tim Ashby-Peckham told *The Profile* the

event will run in collaboration with the Pūkoro Mirānda Shorebird Centre, which advocates for shorebirds with research, habitat restoration and education.

Tim said his hope was to raise funds for the centre - which was full of people who were passionate about nature, the environment and offered a lot of input and support for the local wildlife.

"And it's a really cool place to just learn about fascinating things that you never knew you probably would be interested in."

Tim said even though the main event had sold out, there was a lot more the day had to offer - "it's not just a fun run".

Coffee, food trucks, nature walks and

talks, the kids' game, and a bird costume competition for kids are some of the activities to be expected on the day.

People can still sign up for the talk and guided walk, where the centre planned to take some people down to the shore and "hopefully encounter some of the birds firsthand", he said.

Tim said the kids' game was still open for registrations, and would be open on the day as well.

"It's also a good opportunity to kind of go one step further and maybe learn a bit about something you didn't know."

Tim said he had been receiving a lot of emails every day from people asking if there were any cancellations so they could join in the race.

It was a good indicator that if there was enough interest, hopefully they could make it a bigger event and hold it again next year, Tim said.

For people wondering about heading along to the event: "it should be a good opportunity to just come down and have a day out on the reserve".

Hang out and enjoy nature, Tim said.

DETAILS: To see the event schedule, visit: theshorebirdcoastrun.weeblysite.com, and for more details about The Pūkoro Mirānda Shorebird Centre, visit: shorebirds.org.nz.

Two hundred racers will take part in the inaugural Shorebird Coast Run at Kaiaua on August 31. Photo: SUPPLIED

"It's also a good opportunity to kind of go one step further and maybe learn a bit about something you didn't know."

- Tim Ashby-Peckham





2024 BUNNINGS WAREHOUSE HEARTLAND CHAMPIONSHIP



Saturday 24th August at Boyd Park, Te Aroha

Gates open at 12.00pm

12.30pm - Field 1

Vixens vs Wairarapa Bush

1.00pm - Field 2

Jackals vs Waikato Divisional XV

2.30pm - Field 1

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 Outside all of these areas: **\$3445.00 plus mileage**



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164

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HARD

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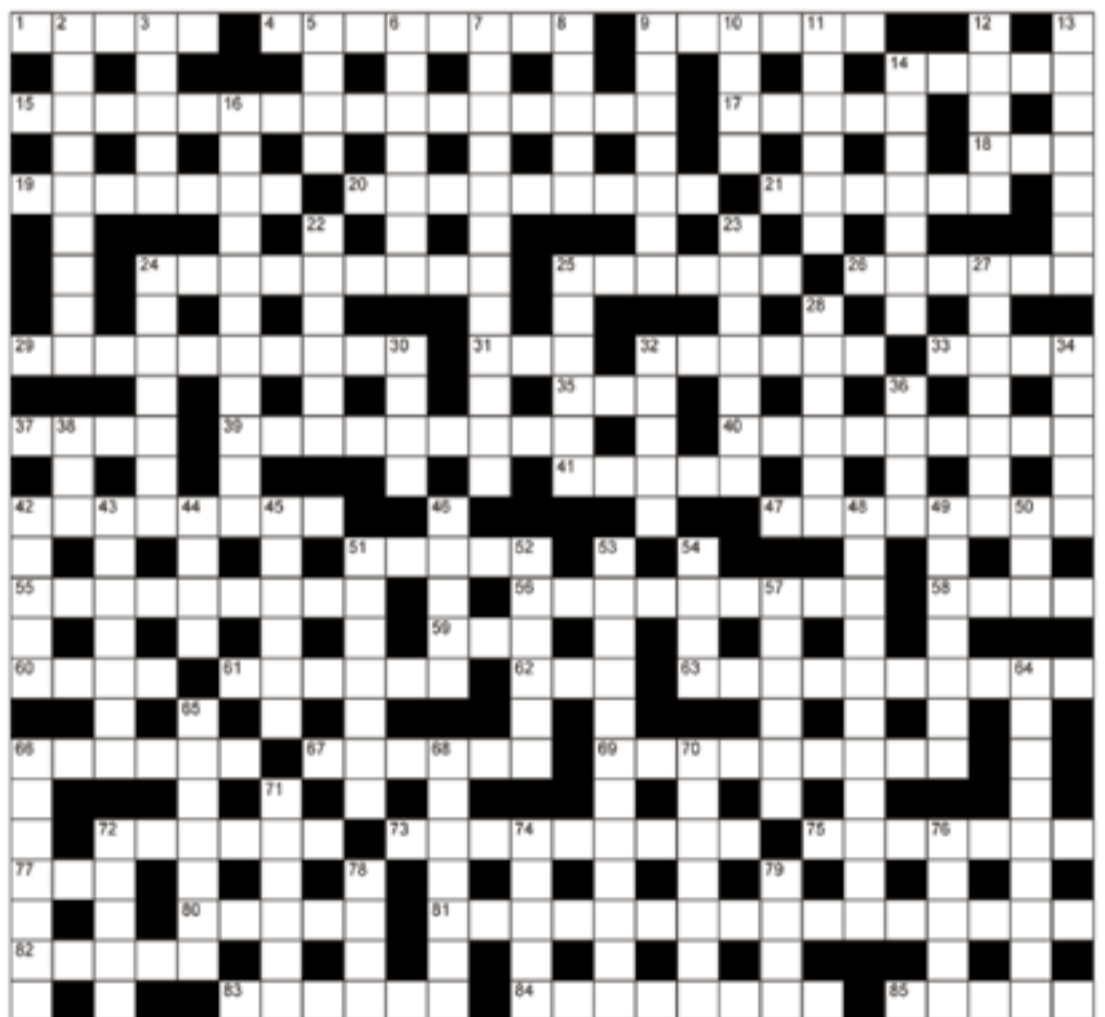
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 - 4 Intrude illegally (8)
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 - 14 Indicate direction (5)
 - 15 Methods learned from experience (6,2,3,5)
 - 17 Dog breed (5)
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 - 20 Travelled (9)
 - 21 Meagre (6)
 - 24 Water between Siberia and Alaska (6,3)
 - 25 Losing moisture (6)
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 - 29 Practical worth (10)
 - 31 Pub (3)
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 - 33 Seaweed (4)
 - 35 Ailing (3)
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 - 39 Those watching (9)
 - 40 One's closest living relatives (4,2,3)
 - 41 Established custom (5)
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 - 51 Steam bath (5)
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 - 61 Young pig (6)
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 - 63 Smother (10)
 - 66 Writer (6)
 - 67 Highway robber (6)
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 - 72 Beat (6)
 - 73 Planned to occur (9)
 - 75 Fleet commander (7)
 - 77 Hearing organ (3)
 - 80 Rub out (5)
 - 81 Charles Dickens work (5,11)
 - 82 Estimate (5)
 - 83 Stick up for (6)
 - 84 Campfire activity (8)
 - 85 Retard the growth of (5)
 - DOWN**
 - 2 Liver disease (9)
 - 3 Film award (5)
 - 5 Prevalent (4)
 - 6 Trains (7)
 - 7 Options (12)
 - 8 Room (5)
 - 9 Beer plant (7)
 - 10 Religious faction (4)
 - 11 Archimedes' call (6)
 - 12 Logbook (5)
 - 13 Bristly growth (7)
 - 14 Temping (anag)(7)
 - 16 Extra, unnecessary (11)
 - 22 Riles (6)
 - 23 Contestant (7)
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 - 42 Aviator (5)
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 - 44 Boy's name (4)
 - 45 Pulled (6)
 - 46 Sweeten (5)
 - 48 Pungent flavouring (5,6)
 - 49 Extramarital relationships (7)
 - 50 Poorly lit (3)
 - 51 Public disgrace (7)
 - 52 Away (6)
 - 53 Unexpectedly, without warning (3,2,1,6)
 - 54 Thought (4)
 - 57 Soft breeze (6)
 - 64 Waterproof cover (9)
 - 65 Tees off (anag)(7)
 - 66 Hypersensitivity (7)
 - 68 Resolved (7)
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 - 71 Vehicle shelter (6)
 - 72 Desiccated (5)
 - 74 Roof overhang (5)
 - 76 Nincompoop (5)
 - 78 Unit of heredity (4)
 - 79 Bridge (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Take to the cleaners, 10 Bewilder, 15 Tariff, 16 Wanderlust, 17 Vanguard, 19 Skittle, 21 Serge, 22 Cheapened, 25 Ostracise, 27 Regular, 29 Silent, 33 False, 34 Official, 36 Mayonnaise, 39 Ait, 41 Foresee, 42 Sailor, 43 Incite, 44 Fade, 45 Cardiac, 48 Best seller, 53 Suspect, 57 Dive, 58 Butler, 59 Output, 60 Ignited, 62 Tun, 64 Thermostat, 65 Stealthy, 66 Abyss, 69 Feeble, 70 Poultry, 71 Oversleep, 76 Badminton, 77 Signs, 78 Hearten, 83 Laudanum, 84 Patronised, 85 Siding, 86 Suffered, 87 So near and yet so far.

DOWN: 2 Alaska, 3 Exist, 4 Oaf, 5 Hawk, 6 Confess, 7 Energy, 8 Nile, 9 Rush hour, 11 Erased, 12 Ingredient, 13 Draw, 14 Radiant, 18 Madagascar, 20 Lark, 23 Scoff, 24 Hesitate, 26 Suspend, 28 Enlarge, 30 Pagoda, 31 Violet, 32 Foetus, 35 Inane, 37 Event, 38 Feta, 40 Till, 45 Cadet, 46 Reviewed, 47 Cruise, 48 Belladonna, 49 Sort, 50 Sponsor, 51 Lather, 52 Equal, 54 Urge, 55 Pliable, 56 Crease, 61 Amalgamate, 63 Share, 67 El Dorado, 68 Flue, 69 Foibles, 72 Venison, 73 Impure, 74 Winner, 75 Hernia, 79 Radio, 80 Gulf, 81 True, 82 Edgy, 85 Sot.

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SPORTS

Bush fire quenched by mighty Swampies

HEARTLAND RUGBY

From the touring Tighthead Ted Heartland Round 1, Wairarapa Bush v Thames Valley, August 17, Master-ton.

Well, a win's a win, but those buggers from the Bush just didn't know when they were beaten did they? The mighty Swampies took their time to warm into this match, before the boys from the Bush tore into them for a solid 30 minutes, just before half-time, and for the first period of the second half, going from 0-16 down to 21-16 ahead with 20 to go.

Thankfully though, Valley got their ducks in a row for the final 20, and with the bench making an impact, scored two late tries to take the win. It looked like it might be an easier affair though as Quinn Collard punished any and all offences from the home team, slotting three penalties and converting a fine counter attacking. That try, from a Bryson Williams turnover, a surging run from skipper Matt Axtens followed by a perfectly timed pass to John Penu, who clapped on the afterburners before giving the final inside pass to Toddy Doolan. Sixteen-nil and looking like the floodgates might open.

Not to be though, as the Bush eight rolled their sleeves up led by impressive number eight Joe Tako, and with their midfield starting to dent the home sides defence, scored a try just before half-time to big prop Jerry Junior Samania. This was followed rapidly by two more touchdowns in the opening 10 minutes of the second spell. A second to Samania, and after a shocker by the Swampies' high numbers letting the ball bounce, a long-range score to inside centre Charles Mataitai.

Through this period the Valley ball



The Swamp Foxes dug deep for a 37-24 win over Wairarapa Bush.

Photo: SUPPLIED/TVRFU

security at the breakdown was not the flashiest, with the Bush pilfering pill faster than Cookie Monster can gobble a cookie. However, with the scrum starting to gain ascendancy after a shaky first spell, a midfield break from winger Fletch Morgan saw a try to halfback Charlie Marsh, and the lead snatched back 23-21 after another Collard conversion. The battle was still on through, as the Bush was still not getting the memo that they are losing, and a penalty to the home side saw a 24-23 lead to Brain Lochore's favourite sons.

With 10 minutes to go, it was look-

ing like the TAB got this one wrong, with the favourites looking shaky and an upset on the cards. The mighty Swampies dug deep, and finally got some phases together after a fine snipe from substitute halfback Jake O'Connor saw the bush split wide open. A try looked on after a Collard crosskick was taken by Cam Gerlich, but he cut back in and the cover defence took him down. From the resulting rucks, reserve prop Te Huia Kutia crashed over for the five pointer, and the regulation conversion to Collard saw the lead taken back 30-24. A few minutes later the Valley lineout, from

about 18 metres, drove to the line, before being brought down on the line. O'Connor saw a gap and muscled his way through it for the five pointer that made the game safe. To put the icing on the cake, Collard slotted the extras from wide out, 37-24, and game over.

So, a win, but pretty ugly – in rugby speak, 'plenty to work on'. Great to see no drop off in effort or results as the bench was emptied, in fact the Swampies seemed to step up as the subs came on, which is what you want to see – certainly some depth there this season. But that is needed in the high impact combat sport that is mod-

ern day rugby.

I don't think the coaching staff will be resting on their laurels after this one. Ball security was a foreign concept at times, the scrum a little creaky in the first spell, and the lineout had a few hiccups in the second – until that drive for the O'Connor try! I'm picking there will be a few high balls put up over this weeks trainings too for the back three to sort out too, I'm sure 'YOURS' is not the correct call.

Up front, the piano movers in the low numbers, they were well led by skipper Matt Axten's at his preferred spot of number 8. He carried hard, distributed well, and just about had more first receiver carries than Collard at 10! Meanwhile, front-rankers, and Paeroa's favourite sons, prop Bryson Williams and hooker Oneone Faafou were making hits and taking names. Ball carries, turnovers, and big hits were the order of the day for this pair. Laulea Mau was also channeling Jerry Collins like a clairvoyant, with some ferocious hits that you could feel in the third row of the grandstand.

The piano players, watching all the hard work up front also got stuck in, with Quinn Collard at 10 driving the show – one missed kick off the posts, and a personal tally of 17 points. His midfield of Hendrix Beazley and Leroy Van Dam were also industrious with limited chances to shine. Van Dam busy all over the field, and on 'both sides of the ball', as Razor would say.

Five points banked, and straight to the top of the points table on points differential, we'll take it.

Wairarapa Bush 24 (J Samania 2, C Mataitai tries; L Walmsley 1, T Haira conversions, Haira penalty) lost to Thames Valley 37 (T Kutia, J O'Connor, T Doolan, C Marsh tries; Q Collard 4 conversions, 3 penalties).

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