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PATIENTS 'AT RISK'

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

Ten new nurses have been approved for Thames Hospital's emergency department as Te Whatu Ora moves to address its chronic understaffing issues. But although staff are "ecstatic" over the win, they say they will still be well short of approximately 44 staff needed to manage their workload safely.

Currently, the department has only 21.51 full-time equivalent (FTE) nursing roles on its roster. Even with 10 more nurses, it will still need an additional 12.29 FTE roles.

ED nurse and NZ Nurses Organisation delegate Elizabeth Brundrit said working conditions had been unsustainable for some time, putting patients at risk.

"[The recommended] one-to-four patient ratio in emergency departments... we well exceed that," she said, adding that ratios often were as high as one-to-nine, or one-to-18 if staff took a break.

"Our matrix for night shift is only two nurses - a break on night shift is a bit of a luxury. It's stressful because you're constantly concerned that you'll miss something or you're wanting to get back and care for the patients in the waiting room, but you can't.

"And that's very scary. You feel like you're not doing a sufficient job."

In April the department underwent an analysis of patient data through workplace management

software Tendcare, one of the last health departments in Waikato to do so. The data showed it needed 43.8 FTE nurses in order to operate safely - a more than 100 per cent increase on current staff numbers. Elizabeth said the nurses were thrilled with the analysis, and welcomed an end to the strain of understaffing.

However in June, Te Whatu Ora announced a hiring freeze.

Despite the freeze ostensibly applying only to non-patient-facing roles, Thames ED found itself unable to recruit.

"To go through it all, to tick all the boxes that we need to do, and then at the end we're told no... It's very deflating for our nurses," Elizabeth said.

"We understand there are some budget cuts, [but] the staff, they're exhausted."

Elizabeth and the other nurse delegates have worked tirelessly to get some concessions from Te Whatu Ora. They organised a picket outside the hospital on July 30, highlighting the unsafe working conditions of the department. They also sent letters, one to Te Whatu Ora's new commissioner Professor Lester Levy and one to Waikato group director of operations Michelle Sutherland, highlighting the issues.

"Health New Zealand's primary duty of care [is to] ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of workers... You are failing in this duty," one of the letters read.

CONTINUED ON P2



Emergency department nurse Elizabeth Brundrit
Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

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ED short staffed, patients 'at risk'

CONTINUED FROM P1

"We are continuously rationing care, which has potential to lead to patient harm and clinical errors."

Elizabeth agreed, saying nurses were even having to cover multiple roles in one shift.

"We're having to prioritise the triage because the sickest patient in our department is a patient that's not been seen at all because they could have any issue," she said.

"You can't then prioritise patients in the waiting room. It's just too big a role for one nurse. And because [the nurses] don't get as far as the waiting room, that then also increases the length of patient stays because we can't go and pre-do bloods or pre-order certain x-rays or give pain relief. Patients can deteriorate in our waiting room without being seen."

Thames ED staff received a letter in reply from Michelle Sutherland on September 4, saying she was pleased to confirm the additional staff, and hoped it would "go some way to reducing the workload of staff and to provide quality and safe care to patients".

Te Whatu Ora Waikato's acting group director of operations and chief nurse Sue Hayward told *The Profile* she and Michelle Sutherland met with Thames nursing staff last month to discuss their concerns.

"This allocation will support recruitment of extra nursing staff to be allocated to shifts at the hospital and enable improved night duty cover and a dedicated triage nurse. A budget increase for health care assistants has also been approved, which will further support nursing workload."

The changes mean staff can now begin to address a number of health and safety issues caused by the understaffing, such as a lack of breaks on

night shifts, inadequate monitoring of patients, and long waiting times.

However, Elizabeth said the battle wasn't over. "We've had 10 nurses approved and that's in writing, which is fantastic," she said.

"We're all ecstatic, it's a huge win for Thames. This is going to make such a difference to patient care, to staff. [But] it's a partial win, we've still a long way to go."

The issues at Thames Hospital's emergency department are far from uncommon. New Zealand Nurses Organisation's Waikato organiser Nigel Dawson said Waikato Hospital's emergency department was also struggling. "Waikato ED had their calculations done at the same time [as Thames], so they're short staffed but they're nowhere near as dire as Thames was," he said.

"There's still no general recruitment available at all. The hiring freeze that nobody will admit to is still going on... [Te Whatu Ora] have just last week allowed for maternity leave cover to be recruited to. Maternity leave, long-term ACC, basically any absences weren't available to be recruited to, but the maternity one has changed. Obviously with a predominantly female workforce for nursing that's a big issue."

Meanwhile, Elizabeth said she would be returning to her delegate role with renewed energy.

"Us four delegates that have been in Thames have fought so hard to get this far...we're all obviously so pleased," she said. "It's not management, it's us who've made the change. We've had multiple meetings a week, there's so much we've done in our own time to get this. And we've done it for everybody - the community, for ourselves, for all of us. It's a very good win and it's going to make a significant change."



In Brief

CHILD DIES IN QUAD BIKE ACCIDENT

A child has died after a quad bike rolled on a Kaihere farm in the Hauraki District on Saturday, September 7, an Auckland Westpac Rescue Helicopter spokesperson confirmed. Police said emergency services responded to the scene around 4pm and one person was found dead. The Serious Crash Unit conducted a scene examination. WorkSafe had been advised and enquiries into the circumstances of the crash were ongoing, Police said.

ROAD CLOSURES

State Highway 29 over the Kaimai Range will be closed overnight for maintenance September 15-19 and November 17-21, 8pm-3:30am, with detours through Karangahake Gorge. Info: journeys.nzta.govt.nz.

BOOKARAMA

The Zonta Club of Thames Valley is holding its annual Bookarama event on Friday, October 25 and Saturday, October 26 (Labour Weekend) at St James' Church hall in Thames. There's something for everyone, including novels, cook books, New Zealand authors, and a great variety of books for children. Doors open at 9am. Drop books off at ANZ Bank in Thames or Paeroa Information Centre. To have books picked up, Ph 07 868 9970 or 027 273 7963.

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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.

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Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
Sep 11	Sep 12	Sep 13	Sep 14	Sep 15	Sep 16	Sep 17
Morning 6:05am 0.9 Afternoon 12:29pm 3.0 6:36pm 1.1	Morning 12:44am 3.0 Afternoon 1:22pm 2.9 6:52am 0.9 7:33pm 1.1	Morning 1:35am 2.9 Afternoon 2:23pm 2.9 7:49am 1.0 8:35pm 1.1	Morning 2:33am 2.9 Afternoon 3:28pm 3.0 8:55am 1.0 9:38pm 1.0	Morning 3:37am 3.0 Afternoon 4:30pm 3.2 10:04am 0.9 10:38pm 0.8	Morning 4:44am 3.1 Afternoon 5:26pm 3.4 11:07am 0.7 11:35pm 0.6	Morning 5:47am 3.3 Afternoon 12:02pm 0.5 6:18pm 3.6
Sun 6:24am 6:05pm	Sun 6:23am 6:06pm	Sun 6:21am 6:07pm	Sun 6:20am 6:08pm	Sun 6:18am 6:09pm	Sun 6:17am 6:10pm	Sun 6:15am 6:10pm
Best At 5:38am 6:05pm	Best At 6:33am 7:01pm	Best At 7:30am 8:00pm	Best At 8:29am 8:58pm	Best At 9:27am 9:55pm	Best At 10:23am 10:50pm	Best At 11:16am 11:42pm
First Quarter Set 12:56am Rise 10:16am	Set 1:59am Rise 11:06am	Set 2:57am Rise 12:07pm	Set 3:48am Rise 1:15pm	Set 4:32am Rise 2:29pm	Set 5:09am Rise 3:46pm	Set 5:42am Rise 5:02pm

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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	Min	Hr	Min
Coromandel	-0	04	-0	04
Whitianga	-0	01	-0	06
Tairua	+0	11	+0	21
Whangamata	-0	02	-0	05
Waihi Beach	-0	11	-0	12

Māori ward go-ahead for Thames-Coromandel

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

Passions ran high on September 3, as Thames Coromandel District Council affirmed its October 2023 decision to establish a Māori ward.

More than 100 people turned up to the meeting, which was moved to the Thames Civic Centre to accommodate the large crowd. The public forum gave attendees the chance to have their say directly to councillors, and there was a broad spectrum of viewpoints.

Te Whāriki Manawāhine o Hauraki chief executive Denise Messiter was firmly in support of Māori representation on the council. "We support whānau of all races, of all genders, to participate in a society they have been excluded from," she said.

"[This decision] is about you supporting all of us who are sitting in this room. The descendants of colonisers, and the descendants of tangata whenua... If you see us as [an] equal you will hold on to the vote that you made last year."

The Connecteen Rangatahi youth group also stood in favour.

"We were brought up by parents that were silenced as children... My life is about giving our rangatahi a voice. Please allow them to have a voice in this town. Please let our rangatahi have a future that they are a part of," group mentor Roanne Mitchell-Te Teira said.

There was also dissension in the room, both regarding the need for Māori wards at all, and whether the council's original decision had been fair and democratic.

"We're one people, we're one



Around 100 people showed up to the September 3 meeting at the Thames Civic Centre. Photo: SUPPLIED

race, and we're one humanity," Linda said from the public gallery. "What you are doing is dividing us."

"At the core is that you, councillors, must rescind the decision that you made... You did it without having a mandate. It's not about the outcome, it's not about the courage that has allegedly been shown. It's about the fact that you did something that you did not have the mandate to do," Flemming Rasmussen said.

"None of you went to the electorate... You must go back and ask the people."

In the end, the council did affirm its decision to establish a

Māori ward. However, this time the decision was not unanimous. Councillor Terry Walker abstained from voting and Councillor John Grant voted against, both saying they wanted a "democratic referendum" on the topic.

The councillors emphasised there would be no cost to ratepayers to fund a Māori councillor's salary, confirming the remuneration pool for councillors would not increase and they would effectively be taking a pay cut by adding another member.

The affirmation means council will now have Māori representation in the 2025 election.

As with Hauraki District Coun-

cil's affirmation on August 28, TCDC will also have to include a binding poll in its 2025 local body election. The poll is a direct requirement of the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2024, requiring councils which established Māori wards without a referendum to seek a vote on their decisions. The poll will ask voters whether they would like a Māori ward or not, and the outcome will inform the makeup of the 2028 and 2031 elections.

The council also approved its representation review proposal, which recommended the coun-

cil be made up of one Mayor and 10 councillors representing five wards. Appeals and objections to the proposal will close on October 25.

If the representation proposal is adopted, the 2025 election will see voters on the general roll electing nine councillors across the Coromandel-Colville, Mercury Bay, South-East and Thames general wards. Voters on the Māori roll will elect one councillor to represent the new district-wide Te Tara o Te Ika Māori ward, and all voters will be able to vote for a Mayor.



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John Bertrand Collectables Buying in Thames, Hauraki and Coromandel Regions This Week

Once again, the gold and collectables buyers from Wellington company John Bertrand Limited are visiting the Thames, Hauraki and Coromandel Regions this week. Mr Tony Grant from the company says, "If you are downsizing or wanting to dispose of things because they no longer serve any purpose to you or your family bring them in". "This week will be a great opportunity to have any items you want to sell assessed by our buyers" said Mr Grant. Particularly wanted are Gold and Silver (in any of its forms) and Collectables such as Coins, Banknotes, War Medals, Old Wind-up Watches and other interesting Small Collectables.

"We are keen buyers, especially of the items in the list below" said Mr Grant. "Nothing is too small for our consideration. We are just as happy buying 1 item as we are buying 1,000 items" he said. The buyers will be in the Thames, Hauraki and Coromandel Regions this week (see details below). As Tony Grant points out "If you are in doubt about any items you may wish to sell, bring them along for an instant appraisal."



Mr Anthony (Tony) W. Grant

Fellow of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand Incorporated
Director and Buyer
John Bertrand (Collectables) Ltd
Author of the John Bertrand NZ Coin & Banknote Catalogue

Gold & Silver At Near Record Prices

During these uncertain times we have seen a sharp increase in the price of precious metals. The gold price in New Zealand is at near record levels so gather up all your unwanted items and take them along to the buyers. Tony Grant says "We can buy old gold items in all forms, including Jewellery (Rings, Chains, Brooches etc), Coins (Sovereigns and the like), Alluvial (River Gold), virtually anything, even Gold Teeth! We also need all Sterling Silver including Cups, Tea Services, Cutlery and Old Coins" he said.



Interesting Small Collectables Wanted

The buyers from John Bertrand (Collectables) Ltd, visiting the Thames, Hauraki and Coromandel Regions this week, are happy to look at any interesting items, for example vintage pocket and wristwatches such as Rolex, Men's Omega, Breitling and gold watches etc. Also wanted, pre 1950's picture postcards, Maori and Pacific artefacts, old fountain pens and other small antique or historical items.

"If you have something unusual which you would like to sell, please bring it into one of our venues, we would like the chance to at least have a look at it" said Tony Grant, buyer for the Company. "We will consider anything which may be of interest to a collector" he said.

Some Big Dollars in Early Banknotes

Early New Zealand Banknotes dated before 1932 are currently fetching big money! This is according to Mr Tony Grant, author of the *John Bertrand New Zealand Coin & Banknote Catalogue*. Mr Grant is in the Thames, Hauraki and Coromandel Regions this week on a buying trip for John Bertrand (Collectables) Ltd and would be very keen to see any of these issues. "We will pay at least \$300 for any undamaged Ten Shilling or One Pound

banknote from a New Zealand trading bank dated 1932 or before.

Denominations of five pounds and higher would be worth from \$700. "Any banknote dated prior to 1900 would be worth at least \$1000" said Mr Grant.

Also purchased are any Reserve Bank of New Zealand pre-decimal issues, especially 50 Pound notes. All overseas banknotes are also wanted, especially early Pacific Island issues.

Collectors Need War Medals

Currently, throughout NZ and the world there is a big demand by collectors for war medals. These cover all wars right through from the New Zealand Land Wars and the Boer War, to the First and Second World Wars and the later Korea and Vietnam conflicts. New Zealand Servicemen and Women first served overseas in the Boer War in South Africa around 1900 and the war medals awarded for this service are needed by the buyers, as are any other Medals from early New Zealand and the New Zealand Wars.

General service medals from both the First and Second World Wars will also be purchased, but as can be imagined these were awarded in fairly large numbers. "If a group of medals has any special award for bravery such as the Military Medal, Military or Flying Cross or other medals for Distinguished Conduct or Meritorious Service, these can add great value to a group" stated Mr Tony Grant, buyer for John Bertrand (Collectables) Ltd. "Many families have old medals, some dating back to early Imperial days, that they are not sure what to do with. These are better off in the hands of collectors who will look after them. We will be happy to look at any war medals whatsoever, just bring them in to venues" he said.

Old Coins Can Toss Up a Rarity

Do you have a bunch of old coins sitting around in your drawers and cupboards? You just never know what rarities may be lurking there. The advice from Tony Grant from John Bertrand (Collectables) Limited is to "bring them in and let us have a look". "No need to sort anything out just bring them in 'as is' and please don't clean them! We can go through coin accumulations and collections fairly quickly" he said. The buyers are particularly keen to buy pre 1946 New Zealand Silver Coins for at least 10 times their face value (more for quantity). "In any event we will buy All Coins," said Mr Grant.

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- Gold Sovereigns
- Gold Half Sovereigns
- NZ Silver Coins 1946 & Before (at least 10 times face value)
- Also wanted NZ & World Coins after 1946
- Australian Silver Coins to 1963
- English Silver Coins to 1946
- NZ 1935 "Waitangi Crown"
- USA Coins up to 1964
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- Australian "Star" Notes
- Early Fijian and Samoan Banknotes
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- Postal Notes
- All other World Banknotes



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- Omega Gents Watches
- Any Breitling, Jaeger Le Coultre, Vacheron & Constantin, Patek Philippe, or IWC Watches
- Moon Phase Watches
- Chiming or Alarm Watches (Pocket or Wrist)
- Military Watches
- Divers Watches
- All other pre 1950s wind up watches (parts value only)
- *No Quartz or Battery Operated Watches Please*



No item too small for our consideration

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- Any other tokens relating to early New Zealand

COLLECTABLES

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- Old Fountain Pens
- Maori & Pacific Artefacts



WAR MEDALS ETC

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- 1st World War Medals
- 2nd World War Medals, Stars etc
- Orders and Decorations
- Korea & Vietnam Medals
- Antarctic or other Polar Medals
- Fire Brigade Medals
- Lodge Medals
- Shooting Medals
- Military Badges and all other Military Medals
- Gold returning Fob Medals or "Tokens of Honour" from residents of small town New Zealand

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Hauraki District Council chief steps down

Summing up 29 years of employment with Hauraki District Council, outgoing chief executive Langley Cavers said it was like “leaving his whānau behind”.

Mr Cavers has guided the council team through many highs and lows during his 23 years as chief executive, where he is well regarded for setting the tone for his “roll out the red carpet, not the red tape” philosophy.

He leaves his role on November 1, handing the reins to incoming chief executive, David Speirs.

For transparency and good governance, the chief executive’s role is reviewed every five years, which requires the incumbent to reapply each time.

At the last round, the elected members agreed to a one-off extension of two years, bringing Mr Cavers’ 23-year tenure as chief executive to a close.

“Being a regulatory body, we can’t always give people the ‘yes’ that they want, so the job comes with its challenges, but fairness, approachability and fiscal responsibility have always been my driving motivations,” he said.

With his background as an engineer, Mr Cavers also balanced the complexities of delivering rates affordability with necessary infrastructure maintenance and upgrades.



Langley Cavers, left, has been employed by Hauraki District Council for 29 years, 23 as chief executive.

Photo: SUPPLIED

“For all staff and elected members, affordability is the at the forefront of our minds. This year has been a particularly tough one to balance, but with some hard decisions made, like financing the new Paeroa Wastewater Treatment Plant, (the largest single infrastruc-

ture project that council has undertaken), the community will feel the benefits for many years to come,” he said.

Asked about his lasting memories, Mr Cavers said he had always appreciated the Hauraki people’s “get-stuck-in attitude”, which served him well

when one of his first jobs as the new chief executive was to manage the catastrophic 2001 event when Waihi houses disappeared into a 50 by 15 metre hole caused by old mine works.

“As I reflect on my 29 years with council, those early years as CE brought home just what

responsibilities lie with the role – at Hauraki it really is more than just a job,” he said.

Incoming chief executive David Speirs joins council on November 4. He is currently the Head of Regional Relationships for Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency.

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Education

HPC students and staff hit the dance floor

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Books and pencils were left behind on August 5 as students and staff at Hauraki Plains College laced up their boogie shoes for a night of dance glitz and glam.

The Dancing with the Staff fundraiser was put on by the college, raising \$1175 for its year 13 students to go to camp in term three.

Around 200 students, staff, parents and peers arrived to watch the inaugural show in the school hall.

Fourteen year 13 students and staff members were paired up and tasked with putting together a dance routine for the event. There were two sets of winners on the night, one duo chosen by the judges and one duo chosen by the audience.

The judges were made up of deputy principal Jaco Dreyer, former HPC department head of music Stu Green, Hauraki District Mayor Toby Adams and Whaea Moana Te Moananui.

Victors of the evening were head of department of the arts Jacqui-May Allison-Dodds, or Mrs A-D, and year 13 drama student Jordan Liversedge, who won the judges over with their performance of dancing



HPC principal Sharon Moller, left, with dance duo winners Mr Anish Chand and year 13 Paige Symes. Photo: SUPPLIED

through the decades. Mrs A-D told *The Profile* their dance routine started from a stylistic *Bridgerton* waltz, into the grease hand jive of the 50s, and ended with classic hip hop moves. When she found out about their win, Mrs A-D said she felt thrilled, relieved and “proud of my dance partner”.

“He just rolled with whatever I suggested and came up with his own ideas too.

“Even if it didn’t work in rehearsals, we were able to laugh

about it.”

Winners of the audience vote were year 13 dean Anish Chand and year 13 student Saige Syme, who said their theme was about the seasons of the year, with a different song and dance genre to fit each season.

“The lights on our costumes also changed to fit the seasons,” Saige said.

“I had a white tassel dress with colour changing lights which changed depending on the song [and] season and Mr

Chand had a vest to match.”

“We were lucky to have supporters that changed the lights by remote.”

While Saige was an experienced dancer, it was Mr Chand’s first time dancing in front of an audience - and the duo made it work.

Year 11 dean Tezhar Paymani said he and his dance partner, Jaymee Davies, wanted to share something from each of their generations’ dance.

The pair’s theme was ‘Who is

the king of pop?’ which included a mix of Michael Jackson and Bruno Mars, Mr Paymani said. “Both artists are super upbeat so we just wanted to have some fun.

“We had a mix of old school moves and TikTok moves.”

There were also some family ties in the mix of participants with the Tawa mother and son duo.

Whaea Jenny Tawa and year 13 head student Nikora Tawa performed a rendition of *The Blues Brothers’ Shake A Tail Feather* scene. Nikora said they wanted something to get people up and dancing.

Before the dance, Nikora said he just wanted to get it over and done with, “but I was proud of myself after”.

Meanwhile, Whaea Jenny said she was nervous and excited beforehand, but was “ready to sign autographs” after.

For their costumes, the pair “rocked” the classic *Blues Brothers* suits, shades, ties and “attitude”, she said.

“Imagine two penguins in suits, throwing out their best moves.”

Whaea Jenny said her goal was to “have a bit of fun with my son”.

“We nailed it.”

Dancing

WITH THE STAFF

“Dancing With The Staff was so successful! All I hope is the following head students carry on the tradition and continue hosting DWTS.” - Dana Lang

‘It was an awesome opportunity for staff and students to get to know each other and have some fun doing something outside of the classroom.’ - Jaymee Davies

Small school makes big sound-waves at Bandquest

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Everybody knows the hills are alive with the sound of music, but so is a little primary school tucked away in the Thames Valley.

Nothing can stop the tunes from pouring out of Kerepēhi Primary School, where not only one but two of the school's bands struck a chord at a music competition on August 15.

The Kere Taniwhas and 5 Starz bands competed at the regional event for Waikato Bandquest in Hamilton and went home with accolades in tow.

Kerepēhi students Malakai Anderson, Tori Tai, Faith Anderson, Logan Matete, Lyfe Kaneri-Taylor and Hinerau Castle-Toto, make up the band The Kere Taniwhas.

The group won the Rocking Drummer Award for Malakai Anderson, and Star Vocalist Awards for Logan Matete and Faith Anderson, who also won it last year.

The second band, 5 Starz, is made up of students Xemba Sadas, Karvell Kelly, Jahvarn Kaneri-Taylor, Lucy Tube, Krysia Watene-Joseph, Rose Bains and Hail Puata.

5 Starz won third place overall and a \$300 credit to buy an instrument from The Rockshop.

Music teacher Matua Stu Green told *The Profile* he was just "massively proud of them". "The two bands have been playing together since the be-



Kerepēhi Primary School music students say music brings them together.

Photo: DAMIAN ANDERSON

ginning of the year," he said. "They've come such a long way."

Matua Stu said the coolest thing was they were students from a small school who performed on a big stage and "these guys really stood up".

Matua Damian Anderson said they practiced hard and it was quite emotional because

both bands did well. "[There] may have been a tear in our eyes when they pulled it off," he said.

The students, who practice together every Monday and Wednesday in the school music room, said they were really proud of their achievements from the night.

Hinerau, 12, said she was

nervous to begin with, while 10-year-old Lucy also said she felt more confident once she got up there.

Jahvarn, 12, said it was pretty cool getting to perform, while Rose, 12, said it was fun to watch all the other bands do their soundcheck in the afternoon.

Logan, 10, said it was awe-

some to see their community come out to support them. "We had a big support base there."

One thing that helped Logan get over the nerves was "just doing it" he said, while Lucy said: "if you make a mistake, just keep on going".

Tori Tai, 12, said music was a safe space, while Hinerau said it was something that "brings us together".

And Krysia Watene-Joseph, 12, said it was something that helped create bonds.

Some things the students said they found difficult about being in a band was making sure they were all in time with each other, resolving different opinions and when you "can't get that one line".

The next thing students were working toward was getting some original music written and recorded, Matua Stu said.

And the plan was "we're going to release them on Spotify".

Matua Stu said they had started their own record label called KP Records.

All seven of the school's bands would write, record and release their music, Matua Stu said.

"If all goes well, there will be seven tracks altogether."

The students were aiming to have this done next term, he said. For others thinking about starting a band, the Kerepēhi musos said "just go for it.. it'll be fun as".

"Believe in yourself... just go out there and smash it".

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'Waihi dust' causes illness, death among miners



Dead Cert

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

As he entered Waihi on an October morning in 1895, the *Auckland Star* reporter met 14 miners marching out for Paeroa, four of them in turns carrying a mate on a stretcher. On asking what was the matter he was told the man was dying and wished to reach Auckland before he died. He wouldn't survive the journey by coach, so the 14 men were carrying him to Paeroa, a distance of 15 miles, to give him a chance of reaching Auckland by steamer alive. The cause of his illness was due to what came to be known as the deadly 'Waihi dust'.

The cyanide process of gold-saving was very much in vogue on the Northern goldfields. Ore was crushed in the dry and newly-calined condition, and consequently the air in the batteries was pervaded with an almost impalpable dust, which settled on the workmen, and was continually drawn into their lungs.

Anyone, said the Waihi reporter, who had experienced the battery dust and spent even half an hour under its influence could readily understand its fearful effects. It was a far sadder sight than any funeral to see

these men carrying so tenderly what a couple of years ago was a strong, healthy young fellow, now reduced to a skeleton. "Steps should be taken to compel those working in the battery to wear protectors over the mouth and nose in order to at least minimise the horrible effects of this dry dust," he wrote.

Initially reaction to the dust was nonchalant. A report on a Waihi football club dance noted: "The dust was flying rather thick, but being battery hands (dry crushers at that) we are used to it, though some of our dress suits suffered." News from the Waihi goldmines announced "a mountain of gold" was now being produced, the battery dust though was a great drawback, many men getting a lung disease they called 'stonemason'.

James Campbell, 28, single, once a strong able-bodied young man who had been working at the battery for six years, fell victim to the dry crushing process in June, 1895. In the tank shed where he worked the men were almost invisible in the fine dust; in fact the whole battery was described as being "in a complete fog". Nearly all of Waihi attended his funeral at Paeroa's Pukerimu cemetery.

"Is there no law to protect men's lives in dry crushing batteries?" asked a *Thames Advertiser* correspondent. Dry crushing, he said, was "a species of suicide, takes a little longer than putting a charge of dynamite in your mouth and firing it off, but is just as certain".

The mining company, it was reported, began taking steps to provide their employees with respirators, and stop as much dust as possible. They also sent some of their employees away for a holiday. These measures were too late for 31-year-old Charles



The grave of Hugh Hill at Shortland cemetery in Thames.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Pye, the man carried out of Waihi on a stretcher. His mates succeeded in getting him to a steamer and he made it home to Auckland to his wife Amelia and two small children. He died a few days later "after a long and painful illness, borne with Christian fortitude" and was buried at Howick.

By January 1896 there had been four deaths caused by the 'dust evil' at Waihi. Alfred Dance, 34, an Australian, became the fifth victim after suffering from acute lung inflammation. "No man", said the *Waihi Miner*, "can work in this dust longer than five years and live." Alfred, a married man with three children, had been employed in the Waihi Company's battery for just two years, and was only 10 days seriously ill before he succumbed. He was buried at Paeroa's Pukerimu cemetery.

"The number of deaths from 'Waihi dust' is becoming scandalous and shocking," said the *Observer*

newspaper. "No less than five deaths from inhaling the dust from the dry crushing of ore at the Waihi gold battery have occurred... Five strong young men have been sent away to die through Waihi dust. Surely the men working in the battery should be compelled to wear respirators, or else the management should take measures to reduce or obviate the danger due from inhaling this deadly dust."

Apart from providing gauze respirators for the use of battery hands, and allowing some of them a change of employment outside at reduced pay, the Waihi Company had done absolutely nothing to protect the health of their employees. The gauze respirators proved next to useless, becoming quickly choked up with dust, and requiring constant cleaning. As for the change of work offered to the men once in a while, there was not much inducement for men to change their occupation when they could earn

higher wages in the battery. Compounding the problem was dust storms which periodically swept through the township in great gritty clouds from the Waihi Plains. "Give us rain, mud and anything in preference to this dust laden atmosphere," cried the *Ohinemuri Gazette*.

In February, Julius Rene, a 30-year-old from Mauritius, whose surname was generally pronounced 'Ryan', became the sixth recorded victim of the Waihi dust. He was employed at the stone crusher. After working in the dust-polluted atmosphere for nearly three years, he felt the symptoms of lung disease overtaking him.

He at once proceeded to Thames Hospital, where he received the best treatment possible, but gradually sank and died. Julius was a generous-hearted and popular young fellow, and belonged to the Ancient Order of Foresters, members of which attended his funeral at Shortland cemetery. His death "adds but another victim to the man-slaying Waihi battery dust," said the *Thames Advertiser*.

There was great talk, prior to MP for Ohinemuri Mr Cadman's visit to Waihi, as to the alterations he had planned for reducing the battery dust to a minimum. But he came in the height of the dry season, when there were only some 10 out of 90 head of stampers actually working. No more was heard of the improvements. "Perhaps a few more victims will have to be offered up before any move is made in the direction indicated," said the *Thames Advertiser*.

Joseph Hicken, better known as Stamper Joe, had worked at the battery for five years but in June 1896 he was ordered to leave for the benefit of his failing health. Stamper Joe and

CONTINUED ON P9

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A sea of yellow

The annual Paeroa Daffodil Day fundraising luncheon was held on August 26 at the Paeroa RSA, raising \$3560 for the Cancer Society. Most of the fresh daffodils had been presold due to the early flowering season this year. Carol Linton welcomed everyone to the function, followed by speeches by Hauraki District councillor Carole Daley and Cancer Society Lodge Host Anna Irvine. Mel's Catering provided lunch for around 120 people, including volunteers. This was followed by spot prizes, raffles and an auction. The grocery raffle was won by Ginny Wilkinson, the gift basket was won by Gayle Coe and the picnic basket was won by Allison Beach. **KATHY BLAND** captured the colourful event.



Volunteers helped make the Daffodil Day fundraiser a success. SUPPLIED



Ruby Peke-Tupaea, Winnie Brownlee, Arthur Peke-Tupaea, Christopher Norman, Aimee Miller and Sam Morrison enjoy the luncheon.



Denise Stockwell, Michelle Grainger, Marcia Grainger, Jocelyn Davies, and Michelle MacDonald. Photos: KATHY BLAND



Hauraki councillor Carole Daley, left, with Cancer Lodge Host Anna Irvine.



Carol Linton welcomes participants.



Jeanne McNair and Allison Slavich.

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 the editor's discretion.

DAFFODIL DAY THANKS

On the 30th August, the Hauraki and Thames-Coromandel came together in support of Daffodil Day.

You may be aware that Daffodil Day is the Cancer Society's most important fundraiser. The funds we raise together help us continue our services for another year in the region, ensuring we are there to give support at the time it is needed the most.

But Daffodil Day is important for another reason as well. It unites the community, bringing us together to wear our daffodils in solidarity with those we know and love on the cancer journey.



I'd like to personally thank the Hauraki and Thames communities for the support they have given us this Daffodil Day.

I'd also like to acknowledge the many volunteers who donated their time to be on our collection stands.

I'd also like to express my gratitude to Pat and John Ridings of Ngatea, Jo and Allan Gradwell of Thames, and Jennifer Chappel of Waihi, who put in dozens of hours of their time as volunteer co-ordinators in the region and who are responsible for making sure their towns were painted yellow.

Thank you all so much for being there for us this Daffodil Day. With your support, we can be there for the one in three with cancer with cancer in Hauraki and Thames-Coromandel.

- Helen Carter
Chief executive, Cancer Society
Waikato/Bay of Plenty

Waihi's deadly dust

CONTINUED FROM P8

his mate Gibson took advantage of cheap steamboat fares and went to Sydney together. On their return Gibson resumed his employment at the battery, but Stamper Joe found himself physically unfit to again face the deadly battery dust.

He got worse, and went into Auckland Hospital but was subsequently discharged as incurable. Joe then decided to pass the remainder of his days amongst his Waihi friends, and he died at the house of Mr McDermott, sub battery manager. The funeral of Stamper Joe was well attended and his remains were followed to the Waihi cemetery by a large crowd. His mate Gibson left the Waihi battery shortly after, as did Henry Dance, brother of the late Alfred. Several battery hands fol-

lowed suit. The advent of powerful suction fans installed at the Waihi battery by mid 1896 miraculously rendered the air absolutely clear. But there was one last victim - Dick Holland, 29, single, a popular man who had recently won a billiard tournament at Waihi. He had worked at the battery for five years. His mates were very much cut up at his death which came as precautions being taken by the Waihi Company pointed to a cessation of the dismal death rate. Dick was buried at Auckland.

The suction fans, said the *Ohinemuri Gazette*, "will add enormously to the health and convenience of the battery hands, and we shall no longer hear of the 'Dust Blight', or of lives sacrificed... By the bye, I hear that the Waihi Company's next return will be a magnificent one."



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Rural Life

Eco-warriors

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

Students from 10 schools gathered at the Kauaeranga Visitor Centre on September 5, to celebrate National Conservation Week with an environment hui.

The hui, organised through Enviroschools and the Waikato Regional Council, was a chance for schools to showcase their environmental projects, hear speakers, and participate in workshops led by local experts.

Enviroschools groups from Hauraki Plains College and Moanataiari, Netherton, Paeroa Central, Pārāwai, Pūriri, Tairua, Tapu, Turua and Waikino primary schools attended.

Inspired by the Conservation Week theme 'taking action for nature', each school group began the day by hosting a "market stall" display.

Hauraki Plains College's display was run by four of the school's Year 13 leaders. They told *The Profile* they had been working hard to implement a recycling system on campus. The project was prompted by the results of their student-led survey and waste audit, which found the college had produced 55.3kg of waste in a single day.

"We realised our recycling was not that good at school," they said. "There was a general con-

sensus that there needed to be an improvement."

Following the market, students heard from Thames Coromandel District Councillor Robyn Sinclair, who has a Masters degree in ecological entomology and a special interest in conservation. She encouraged their efforts, asking them to "stay curious" and keep caring for the environment.

The rest of the day was filled with workshops. Students rotated between a number of different stations. They encountered native geckos; learned about water testing, Maungatautari Sanctuary Mountain, and kauri protection; heard the sound of a kiwi; tried their hand at recycling; checked stream traps for native fish; learned about pest trapping; spied for seabirds; and discussed native tree planting.

Experts from Predator Free NZ, Hillary Outdoors Centre, Maungatautari, Enviroschools, the Department of Conservation, Thames Coast Kiwi Care, Pare Hauraki Native Nursery, the Seagull Centre, Hauraki-Coromandel Predator Free, and the Pukorokoro Shorebird Centre were on hand to lead the students through each activity.



Hauraki Plains College students with their environment mahi.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER



Paeroa Central School kids sort recycling.



Moanataiari School's Maggie with a forest gecko.



Pūriri School kids learn about predator control.



Pārāwai School students learn about native seedlings.



A Tapu School student inspects a wetland insect.

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Rural Life

Farmers' market to return to Waihi Beach

Locals and visitors to the Waikato/Bay of Plenty region will be spoilt for choice of Farmers' Markets this spring and summer.

The popular Waihi Beach Saturday Market at Waihi Beach School is gearing up for its opening weekend on September 28.

Beach Market organisers are excited to bring back the popular market with many locals voicing how much they missed it over winter.

The market had many successful large events last year and aimed to bring back this positive community spirit to the region, organisers said.

The Waihi Beach Saturday Market has teamed up with Waihi Beach Community Events & Promotions to bring at least three large community-wide admission-free events planned for Waihi Beach locals.

"We aim to draw many visitors to the Waihi Beach area and economy," Beach Markets vendor manager Donna McDonald said. "We can't wait to share what we've planned for this season, it will be hard to top last season. We want people who visit Waihi Beach to stay longer, shop locally and consider Waihi Beach as a



The popular Waihi Beach Saturday Market at Waihi Beach School is gearing up for its opening weekend on September 28.



Photos: SUPPLIED

destination in its own right, a thriving farmers' market is one aspect of that."

Organisers said there were many stall holders who say they are travelling outside the area on Sundays to other markets because there is no dedi-

cated farmers' market in the region on Sundays. After much deliberation, they've decided to launch a new market, Katikati Sunday Farmers' Market, with a unique time of 11am to 3pm.

The market is expected to run year-round with several stun-

ning Katikati locations in the works. Organisers are calling out to anyone with produce, a food business idea or produce-related products to make contact and get ready for the expected opening on Labour weekend: October 27.

"Our markets are not run to make a profit, it's about creating an amazing space for the community to come together to trade, talk and feel proud of their towns."

Changes to Coromandel Community Market, details: P17

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TV RUGBY

Tighthead Ted report – Thames Valley v Whanganui

The Bill Osborne Taonga is off down to Whanganui after the visitors held out a Valley onslaught in the last 10 minutes to take the match 16-14. To be fair though, Valley had done everything they could to lose the match, and as much as it pains ole Tighthead Ted to say, Whanganui did deserve the win.

The Butcher Boys played an exemplary game into the breeze in the first spell, monopolising the ball after Valley started off with a hiss and a roar, a try to flanker Cam Dromgool, who showed more toe than a roman sandal, chasing down a Leroy Neels kick in the first five minutes. Then some fine forward work, the good old fashioned pick and go to the fore putting Whanganui under pressure, a nice break from Charlie Marsh that should have been converted to a five pointer, but the Swampies couldn't break some stoic defence. This was aided at times with some basic errors and wrong options, but it was looking promising that using the wind in the first spell would be rewarded.

But Whanganui are made of stern stuff, and they monopolised possession through the last 20 minutes of the first spell, before taking a kickable penalty in the final moments to go into the break down 3-7. Valley would have been disappointed with their return from the first 40, some fine work from their forwards unrewarded. Speaking of unrewarded, the Valley scrum was a dominant force once again this week, and once again not earning penalties. Not one to criticise match officials, so I won't, even when they deserve it. And don't talk to me about lineout throws. But that wasn't the losing of the match, we blew a few of our own throws too that are normally bread and butter for the our big grunTERS up front.

Moan over – second half kicked off and Valley again mixed some good play with some not so flash. Whanganui landed a penalty early in that second 40 to reduce the lead to one point, and with the wind



The Bill Osborne Taonga is off down to Whanganui after the visitors won the match 16-14.

Photos: TVRFU

picking up, it was looking like it could be a tough day at the office. The game turned into a bit of an arm wrestle through this stage, neither team able to crack open some solid defence. Whanganui earned themselves another kickable penalty, rewarded for their only dominant scrum of the match with a penalty (go figure), and took a two point lead into the final quarter 9-7.

The match was still there for the winning, but too many errors in core skills killed the chances – a missed touch for a regulation five metre lineout drive, a crooked throw (some were spotted), a missed tackle, wrong options, (don't kick it, run it, don't run it, kick it) and from these a loopy run from broken play saw the Whanganui fullback score Whanganui's only five pointer, and with 10 to go on the clock, the visitors took a commanding lead 16-7.

Thames Valley didn't lie down and die though, they got stuck in with some



2024 North Island Heartland Under 16 Champions, Thames Valley.

good into-the-wind rugby, the forwards taking control, and finally cracked the visitors defence, for Fletcher Morgan to crash over under the posts to take the score to 14-16. Time was almost up on the clock though, but the Swampies took the kickoff, and proceeded to batter the Whanganui defence through to the 87th

minute. There was no way through though, the Valley were unable to push through in close or out wide, and it was a matter of time before an error saw the ball coughed up and Whanganui kick the ball out to finish the match and take the Heartland points and the Bill Osborne Taonga.

Big matches upfront once again from the Valley pack, led by the young tackling machine prop Will Martin and his partner in crime Hiliau Latu. Both props prominent in defence, and also prominent with ball carries as they Valley looked to come back into the match late. Cam Dromgool was a machine in the loose, rewarded with an early try. The backline seemed a little off to this tight forward, lacking punch in close. They looked most dangerous when they got the ball out to wings Charlie Marsh and Alex Thrupp.

Marsh in particular was a handful for visitors with some long runs down that left flank. Jake O'Connor added some zing in the final minutes as the Valley pushed for the match winner, as did hooker Josh Tye with some rampaging runs down the touchlines.

All in all not a good day at the office for THT - it was windy, it was cold, the boys were not quite calibrated on the field, and we lost. Onwards and upwards though, a roady to the East Coast and match day at Ruatoria next week, bring it on!

Thames Valley 14 (C Dromgool, F Morgan tries; Q Collard 2 conversions) lost to Whanganui 17 (try, conversion, 3 penalties). HT 7-3.

Disclaimer: The opinions of your despondent correspondent Tighthead Ted are, as usual, his and his alone. They are in no way the views and opinions of the TVRU. Especially when THT delves into the murky ground of not criticising the match officials for not knowing enough about the dark arts of the front rows and rewarding good play. So any complaints, don't rattle the cage of the union, as they're so behind on correspondence they're still answering congratulation letters from the 1962 win over Australia (incidentally, a 16-14 scoreline also), so you'll get a reply in about 2080.

Meanwhile, congratulations to 2024 North Island Heartland Under 16 Champions Thames Valley, who won the following matches: Whanganui 17-5; King Country 3-0 and Eastern Bay of Plenty 34-8. The Vixens lost to Whanganui, 27-32; U19 Boys lost to Whanganui, 24-26; and U16 girls lost to Harlequins, 5-42.

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HOLIDAY AT HOME

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Thursday September 20

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Davidda: 022 174 3988 - davidda@valleyprofile.co.nz

Education

ADVERTISING FEATURE



Students plant 800 trees

By St Francis School student Jasmine Mariano-Lakhan
 This term, the St Francis School year 7-8 class ventured out to a farm in the beautiful Kauaeranga Valley to plant trees that we have grown so our kids and grandkids and future generations can enjoy the beautiful location.
 We wore mufti so as to not get our school uniform dirty. When we arrived, there were many pre-dug holes to be filled and plants to be planted.
 We rubbed the edges of the bags to make it easier to pull the plants out, then we put them in the holes and covered them in soil.
 We worked diligently to achieve our goal of 800+ plants planted by 2 o'clock.
 In the end, we drove back to our school in muddy clothing, having achieved our goal and we were

ready for a good night's sleep.
 In preparation for next year's planting, we recently transplanted seedlings in little bags for the students of 2025, so they can do what we did this year.
 We had 20 bags of potting mix and 15 kids working hard throughout the day.
 We ended up potting 829 seedlings with 51 left over.
 In my opinion, it was harder potting the seedlings than planting the bigger plants because we had to work sitting down for hours putting strain on our backs. In the end it was worth it because we get to help keep the native plants of New Zealand thriving for future generations.
 We were all given a cinnamon donut from our teacher for our efforts.

Mix 'n mingle at Tararu rest home

By St Francis School student Zurriel Regis
 Earlier this term, year 7 and 8 St Francis students went to Tararu rest home to mingle with and perform for the residents.
 Once we arrived we were told to be quiet then we got out of the school van and our teacher guided us toward the main entrance.
 We then somehow got lost for a while and I suddenly remembered that my aunty works there. If I was lucky, I could find her for directions but unfortunately, I didn't see her.
 Once we got out of the main building, we entered a lovely neighbourhood of villas and then managed to get lost again.
 Then right away there was a staff member passing

by so she led us toward what looked like a croquet court and just beside it was a new building.
 We went inside and heard the old folks singing beautifully then we were asked to be seated.
 Once they were finished our teacher introduced us all to them.
 We had some of our students play piano and one of them played the guitar.
 After this ended we realised we were in the wrong place.
 Finally, we made our way to the hospital area. The people here were very frail and they were hard to understand. The people did what they had to do.
 Unfortunately, we arrived there so late we missed our morning tea and we couldn't mingle with them.

Whole school speech and poetry finals held

We had our whole school speech and poetry finals recently, and each of the class finalists were able to present their winning speeches and poems from their class competitions. We had lots of parents come to support and watch their children and our special judges were Sister Paula and Sister Cathy.
 Our year 1 and 2 students were dressed up as characters from their poems which was amazing and fun to see and hear. Their poems were about helping others, peace, cats, watermelon and lots more.
 After the poems were recited, our older students presented a wide variety of speeches with topics such as artificial intelligence, the universe and even why we should have a dinosaur as a pet.
 It was a great occasion to share the many interesting speeches and ideas of the students here at St Francis.

- By Roy and Mr Fahey



RIGHT: Students take part in speech finals and poetry recitals.

St Francis School rippa rugby team makes the finals

By St Francis School student Aidan Tinto
 About two weeks ago some of the year seven and eight students were chosen to represent our school for Rippa rugby in Ngatea. About a week before the tournament, we started training during most lunch intervals. On Wednesday, the day of the tournament, we were putting on our sports shirts and shorts, getting ready for the big day to come. As we travelled to Ngatea, we went in our awesome school van.
 On arrival, we were very happy and surprised that the weather was not at all like last year's tournament, which was rainy, gloomy, wet, and muddy.
 It was a happy, cheerful, and beautiful sunny day. It was quite slippery, since it was early morning.
 We started to prepare for the first match. The game started and everyone was slipping around and dropping the ball.
 Sadly, we lost the first game by one or two points but as you people reading this would know, St Francis obviously doesn't give up.

We had a good attitude and were still happy. As another hour passed it was time for the second game.
 We made our way to the field and this time it wasn't slippery. As the match started, we kept in our heads that it's not about winning the game but about getting lots of points because that's how you win.
 When the game ended, we won and we got about six or seven points.
 We went back to our bags and took out a little snack and a drink to refresh before the final game. There were about five minutes left until the game started so we headed to the field.
 The match started and it was an easier game so we knew that we had to get as many tries as we could to make it to the finals.
 We won the game and got 15 tries.
 A couple of days later, we got a message saying we made it to the finals in second place out of the whole region.
 We will be going to Paeroa for the regional finals.



The St Francis School rippa rugby team.

Photo: SUPPLIED



Students perform at St George's Church.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Musical performance at St George's

By St Francis School student Charlotte Perry
 St Francis school went to the beautiful St George's Church earlier this term to perform kapa haka and musical items. Before we left, we got dressed into our kapa haka uniforms and got ready and organised to perform.
 We arrived at around 11:45am to do some practice and at 12.15pm, the concert started. To begin the concert, for 10 minutes, we performed a variety of dances and waiata. After that was finished, the senior class performed a haka.

Once the main part of the performance had finished, a few children did solo performances. Some played the piano, some played the guitar, and others sang beautifully.
 Lastly, to finish the performance we all sung the special waiata, *Pepeha*, by Six60.
 Once the performance was complete, everyone clapped and applauded.
 We all packed up our things and walked out of the church and back to school.
 It really was a very enjoyable, happy few hours for our school.

Lean into the fear and it will get a little less

OPINION

By MICHAEL WILKES



I set up a flying kiwi the other day. It's a swing that runs through a pulley.

As the kid on the rope runs one way, I run the opposite direction, and they fly sky high into the air.

Usually whooping and laughing. And my two-year-old boy joined in.

Harnessed up, eight meters off the ground hanging from a rope.

He protested when I started lowering him back down to the ground.

Fearless.

And I yelled back to my father in law, "this is how we eliminate the fear of heights. Expose them early."

"You know exposure is actually one proven thing to help with anxiety."

Kids are all so different. All parents learn this quickly. One approach works with one, but not with the other. One of my girls is the super cautious type.

By nature she gets freaked out by new things super easy.

She'll cry and protest and the

natural response for most, is to protect our child from those uncomfortable feelings.

Unfortunately for my kids, I learnt that exposure is one of the consistently proven ways to reduce anxiety.

Behind our house you will find a swing on a steep hillside.

When jumped on at the top of the hill, you end up with several meters of air between yourself and the ground at the other end.

With white knuckles clenched my girl protested.

There was no way she wanted to do this thing. I promised to start small and with each pass-

ing day we gradually pushed further and further.

With time and exposure the fear got less, and her world grew a little bigger.

And today she jumps on that thing absolutely fearless. Now the real gold is when we connect that lesson back to the fear of going to school, starting a new sport, trying a new food on the table, or any other thing they fear that may be good for them.

The lesson is simple. Each time we face our fear and go a little further, our world grows.

And interestingly, it is super common to discover that thing

we feared can become something we love.

So what fears do you see in yourself, or your kids. Maybe, just maybe, its time make a small change and lean into the fear a little.

Each time you do it, it will get a little less.

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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Saying goodbye offers an opportunity to express our emotions and feelings. It allows us to convey our gratitude, love,

and appreciation to those who have been a significant part of our lives.

Goodbyes provide closure, enabling us to move forward with a sense of resolution. When we take the time to say goodbye, we acknowledge the past and embrace the future.

This sense of closure can help us find peace in moments of transition and change.



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Death Notices

DORRINGTON, Brian:
Died suddenly at Browns Bay end of August, aged 83. Husband of the late Lynnette Gordon, father of Shaun and Anna (Finland) and Adrian and Belinda (Albany). Grandfather of James and Alex. Fourth son of the late Marion and Hector Dorrington. Loved and respected brother of Evan (Rotorua), Alan, John, Jocelyn and Jennifer (Thames).
Tramp on Curly.

GERRAND, Graham Bruce:
Passed away peacefully on 3rd September, 2024: aged 78 years. Dearly loved husband of Vivien, dearly loved father of Margaret and Kayne, father-in-law of Alana and loved Granddad of Dylan, Joel, Ayla, Keegan and Isla. Treasured Stepdad of Melissa and Jessie and family's. Graham's service was held on Saturday 7th September at the Paeroa RSA, followed by burial at Pukerimu Cemetery. Livestream link: https://www.youtube.com/live/HXnwb8Yr_SQ

LOWE, Thomas Henry (Tom):
Peacefully at home surrounded by family on 8th September 2024, in his 89th year. Much loved husband, soulmate and friend of the late Lorraine. Loving father of Lynette, Annette, Phillip, John and Nina, and a loving Grandad. "A smile, a laugh, a chicken coop or ninety-two, that's the way we will remember you." A celebration of Tom's life will be held in The Grahamstown Chapel, 102 Kirkwood Street, Thames on Thursday 12th September at 11am, followed by private cremation.

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3.30pm 5, 6, 7 year olds
5.00pm 8, 9 year olds
6.30pm 10,11, 12 year olds
All welcome
To Register email paeroabasketballasn@gmail.com
Phone 027 698 0012

Intended Agri-Chemical Application
HAURAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL

Weather permitting, herbicide applications will be made to property administered by Hauraki District Council. This will include our parks and reserves, footpaths and walkways. Both Roundup and Versatill will be used between the months of September 2024 and February 2025.

This work will be carried out by either Council's Works Team department or other contractors. All applicators will be Grow safe accredited.

For further details please phone Hauraki District Council on 07 862 8609 or 0800 734 834.

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Public Notices

AMENDMENT OF ANIMAL NUISANCE BYLAW TURE-Ā-ROHE KARAREHE PŌREAREA 2019 BYLAW

Notice is given that Thames-Coromandel District Council has recently reviewed and amended its Animal Nuisance Bylaw Ture-ā-Rohe Kararehe Pōrearea 2019. The amended bylaw can be viewed on our website <https://www.tcdc.govt.nz/Our-Council/Bylaws-Codes-and-Policies/Bylaws> and a copy can also be obtained from our service centres located at:

- 515 Mackay Street, Thames
- 355 Kapanga Road, Coromandel Town
- 10 Monk Street, Whitianga
- 620 Port Road, Whangamatā.

The amended Animal Nuisance Bylaw Ture-ā-Rohe Kararehe Pōrearea 2019 is reviewed and amended in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002.

The amendments to the Animal Nuisance Bylaw Ture-ā-Rohe Kararehe Pōrearea 2019 are minor changes and include:

- Amendment to Clause 4 Explanatory Note to reference current versions of the Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan and the Thames-Coromandel District Council Dog Control Bylaw 2023 - Te Ture ā-Rohe mō ngā Kaupapa Kurī and Dog Control Policy 2023 - Kaupapa mō ngā Kurī.
- Amendment to Clause 5 to:
 - Update reference in the definition of District Plan to the Thames-Coromandel District Plan – Operative in part – March 2024 and the Operative Version of that Plan, when it becomes fully operative; and
 - Update reference in the definition of Person to the meaning given by the Legislation Act 2019.
- Amendment to Clause 6.3 to correct typographical error.
- Amendment to Clause 7 Explanatory Note to include obligations under the Biosecurity Act 1993 and the Biosecurity (National American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan) Order 1998; and to include current working link to Management Agency website.
- Amendment to Part 2 heading to renumber as Part 3.
- Amendment Part 3 heading to renumber as Part 4.
- Amendment to include new Part 5 heading to improve format and provide clarity.

A Lawrie
Chief Executive
Thames Coromandel District Council



www.tcdc.govt.nz

PAPER DELIVERIES

Although we endeavour to deliver our paper to everyone, sometimes we just cannot achieve this.

If you are one of the few who does not receive your weekly paper, please note they are available here:

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TURUA: Turua Dairy **KEREPEHI**: Kerepehi Dairy

ENTERTAINMENT



The Auckland Youth Choir will perform at St George's this month. Photo: SUPPLIED

Three concerts to play

"Spoilt for choice" was a comment made by a concert attendee at a recent concert presented by Thames Music Group (TMG), which will host three big concerts at St George's Church in the coming months.

The next three Sunday afternoon concerts will provide exceptional classical and varietal music for audiences. TMG welcomes the Auckland Youth Orchestra (AYO) to the stage in St Georges Church on September 15 at 2pm.

Experience the thrill of 75 talented young musicians (ages 14-26) performing together with energy, precision and passion, directed by Antun Poljanich with Charles Sang on piano.

On September 22 in St George's Church, join us for an engaging choral celebration featuring 120 of Auckland's finest young singers as the Auckland Youth Choir (AYC), directed by David Squire, who will present

an afternoon concert of music. This will include its gold-winning recital from the World Choir Games recently held in Auckland, and the North Island premiere of Elaine Hagenberg's *Illuminare*.

Finally on November 3, NZ Chamber Soloists with Katherine Austin will play. This presents an excellent opportunity for audiences to enjoy a high standard of music in Thames at reasonable prices.

The aim of TMG has always been to provide the Thames and Coromandel area concert audiences with a range of top quality professional music at their Sunday afternoon concerts over the years.

Additionally, Friday lunchtime concerts are free and usually feature local musicians or students from schools and the Waikato University Conservatorium of Music.

DETAILS: www.thamesmusicgroup.com.

Market kicks off on Saturdays

After a busy summer season and well-deserved winter break, the Coromandel Community Market is back, starting on Saturday, September 14.

Market day is moving from Friday to Saturday this year to allow weekend visitors and working folk the chance to visit and enjoy the event as well, organisers say.

Being a weekend day, the new hours will be 9am to 1pm. In the past the market start date was in early October; this it has been pushed forward by a couple of weeks to get spring seedlings and plantings under way as well as to capture school holiday visitors.

"Recent years have seen our little market grow, now showcasing an interesting variety of homegrown produce, local artisans' creations, health and wellbeing solutions and much more.

"We are offering a safe, relaxed and friendly community space, where people can catch up with friends, sit down with food, enjoy the music and the wonderful, vibrant atmosphere in Coromandel Town," a spokesperson said.

"The ethos of the market, selling home grown and self-produced, is our core value and will remain the same going forward. We also prefer to be as plastic free as possible and refrain from retailing imported, mass-produced wares."

New stallholders are welcome, especially with spray free homegrown produce, plants and food products.

"Our commissions table will be set up as in previous years, and for a small commission we will sell on your behalf.

"Come on down to the market, pick up your local produce, have a bite to eat, maybe a late breakfast, brunch or early lunch, have a chat or introduce your visitors to what homegrown Coromandel has on offer."

The market venue is right in the heart of Coromandel Town, opposite the 4Square Supermarket, just look for the flags and gazebos.

DETAILS: Bookings, or more information, please contact 0211 596 487 or susanna.borgstede@gmail.com.

Chris' Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parminter

1. Kingi Tūheitia, who was laid to rest last week, was born in which decade? a) 1930s, b) 1950s or c) 1970s?
2. Which nationality is tennis player Michael Venus?
3. The term 'innocuous' is most similar to which term? a) harmless, b) capable, c) fashionable?
4. Which New Zealand city has an iconic cable car as a tourist attraction and form of public transport?
5. The Australasian swamphen is known by which name in New Zealand?
6. Cork for wine bottles are traditionally made from a species of which type of tree? a) Pine, b) Beech or c) Oak?
7. How many official time zones does China have? a) 1, b) 4 or c) 7?
8. Neavesville, a former prosperous gold mining and gum digging settlement, is closest to which Hauraki town? a) Thames, b) Paeroa, c) Ngatea or d) Waihi?
9. What is the only capital city of a European country beginning with the letter D?
10. Who is the patron saint of blackbirds? a) Saint Kevin, b) Saint Stuart or c) Saint Gru?



ANSWERS: 1. b) 1950s (1955); 2. New Zealand; 3. e) Wellington; 5. Pukeko; 6. c) Oak (Cork Oak or Quercus suber); 7. a) 1; 8. a) Thames; 9. Dublin; 10. (a) Saint Kevin.

LEFT BANK THEATRE

Ph: 07 868 3142 www.leftbanktheatre.co.nz 659 Pollen St, Thames

Movies for week starting Tues 10 Sept

Perfect Days (124 mins, 2023) M Nudity Subtitled **Tues 4pm**
Japanese screen legend Koji Yakusho in this Wim Wenders feature about a humble janitor.

Kawahawai Tonu (114 mins, 2024) M Violence, offensive language & content that may disturb **Tues 7pm; Fri 4.30pm** The story of a pivotal battle in the first NZ land wars in the Waikato region.

The Edge of the Blade (100 mins, 2023) M Violence **Wed 4pm; Sat 1.30pm**
French swashbuckling historical drama set in the 1880s.

Ghostlight (115 mins, 2024) M Offensive language & suicide references **Wed 11am**
A construction worker joins a local theatre's production of Romeo and Juliet.

Top Hat (101 mins, 1935) G **Thu 10.30am**
This 1935 classic starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers is widely regarded as the dance pair's best film.

We Were Dangerous (82 mins, 2024) M Offensive Language NZ **Thu 4.30pm; Fri 7.15pm; Sat 4.30pm; Sun 1.30pm**: A fiery trio of delinquent schoolgirls railing against the colonial system

A Great Friend (95 mins, 2023) PG Violence, coarse language & sexual references **Thu 7pm; Fri 1.30pm; Sun 4.30pm**: French buddy comedy with appealing countryside and cuisine

Home Kills (110 mins, 2023) R16 Violence & offensive language **Sat 7pm**
Desperate times for a small Waikato home kills and butchery service. In 2023 NZ film festival.

The Mountain (89 mins, 2024) PG **Sun 11am**
Drama about three children on a mission to find healing under the watchful eye of Taranaki Maunga.

For more information or to buy tickets, go to www.leftbanktheatre.co.nz or pop into the cinema when the doors are open at 659 Pollen Street, Thames.

Thames Music Group

Presents a feast of fabulous young performers

Auckland Youth Orchestra - Sunday 15th Sept, 2pm

Auckland Youth Choir - Sunday 22nd Sept, 2pm

Waikato University Performance Music Students
Friday 27th Sept, 12.15pm

Venue: St George's Anglican Church, door sales only

www.thamesmusicgroup.com



Ngatea 31 Costello Drive

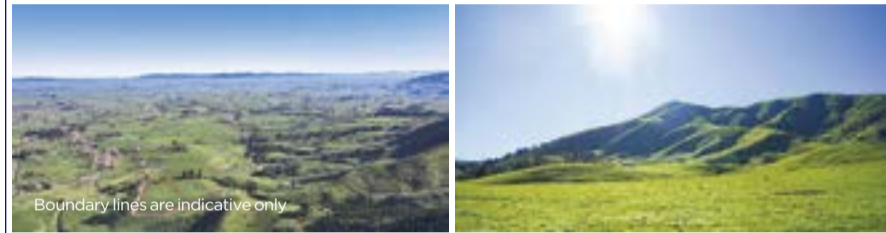
Functional modern living

Well positioned, in a sought-after neighbourhood, this 2021-built Classic home has quality fittings and finishings throughout, with every detail carefully considered to create a home that is low maintenance, functional, and stylish. Set on a generous 814 sqm (more or less), fully fenced, section, the 180 sqm home offers a spacious single-level floorplan with three bedrooms & two bathrooms while outside there are maturing trees everywhere and raised garden beds for growing your veges.

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 *REINZ Stats November 2020 - June 2024



SPORTS

Blind tennis player to serve up in Italy, Poland

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

As a child, Ellisia Cleave was told by her coach she couldn't play tennis because she was blind. But that hasn't held back the former Hauraki Plains dweller, who will soon serve up her European tennis debut on the world stage.

Forty four-year-old Ellisia Cleave, or Lissie as she likes to go by, will be competing at the IBTA Blind Tennis World Championships next month in Italy, showcasing her skills on the other side of the world despite being visually impaired.

Lissie, who was born legally blind, said she comes under the B3 classification in blind and low vision tennis. This meant generally Lissie's peripheral vision was okay but the sight acuity or sharpness was very low, she said.

Lissie, who is coached by Niki Le Mesurier, told *The Profile* she came to the attention of the International Blind Tennis Association, which offered her a "wildcard" into this year's world champs.

"This is such an amazing honor to be selected to represent New Zealand on an international stage - there are 20 countries attending with approximately 140 athletes invited," she said.

However, that's not all. A few days before Lissie steps foot on the world champ court, she also will compete at the European Open Blind and VI Tennis Championships in Poland.

Even though Lissie didn't think



Lissie Cleave will make her Blind Tennis World Championship debut later this month. Photo: SUPPLIED

she would come home as a world champion, she said she hoped to come back with a bit of motivation to be a "vibrant ambassador" for people to "just get out there".

Lissie, who has been living in Papanoa, Northland, since 2021, unlocked a pathway back to tennis a year ago through her involvement with her town's promotional committee.

The chair of the committee told

Lissie to grab a racket and ball and have a hit at the court, she said, and she hasn't looked back.

Lissie said her grandma loved watching tennis and used to play when she was younger.

"It feels amazing to finally have an opportunity to play something that has meant so much to my grandma.

"It's a shame she's not alive to see it, that's gutting - but I'm sure

that in some way she'll be there."

It wasn't until she did some research and came across the Ngatira Tennis Club in Auckland that she realised blind and low vision tennis existed, she said.

One adaptation for the sport was the tennis ball and another was the court size.

The ball is slightly larger than a tennis ball, made of foam like a pool noodle, she said.

It has a shell inside it with bells so when you hit it, or it lands on the ground - it rings, she said.

And the court is shorter because the ball doesn't go as far, she said.

Lissie said the game starts off with one person calling to see if the other is ready, the opponent replies, then the starter will announce 'play' just before they hit the ball.

"That is because we can hear where they're standing by where they speak from and then when they hit the ball, we can track it between there and when it lands."

Finding blind and low vision tennis "changed my life", she said.

Lissie would like blind people who wish to play tennis to become part of their community by joining mainstream clubs, she said.

It would be "our version of tennis" in a mainstream environment where people can get support and community spirit for themselves, she said.

Lissie's biggest support was her Mum, Jill Cleave, who encouraged her to try anything and take on "wild adventures" from an early age, Lissie said.

"I have carried that attitude with me my whole life."

Lissie's advice for other blind athletes is "don't give up" and "don't let people tell you you can't", she said. "You'll find people who can see that anything is possible."

DETAILS: Lissie has been raising funds for her trip through a givealittle page. To donate visit: [givealittle.co.nz](https://www.givealittle.co.nz) and search for: Lissie Cleave.

Forsyth Barr – Expert investment advice



Contact Investment Adviser, Brett Bell-Booth, for a no-obligation discussion on how he can help you achieve your future financial goals.

Brett Bell-Booth is visiting the Thames Valley weekly. Please contact Brett to make a complimentary appointment.

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