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Whimsy and wonderland

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

November 7-10 will see Caroline Thomas embracing her whimsy, as this year's Steampunk Festival rolls into town.

The Steampunk The Thames committee chair has been involved in the festival for several years. But this year's theme, Down the Rabbit Hole, is an amalgamation of everything she loves about the genre. "The theme can be interpreted in many ways," she said.

"I mean, the basic way is *Alice in Wonderland*. But of course, we talk about people having conspiracy theories and going down a rabbit hole. So it's entering a world of fantasy, I guess - anything goes."

This theme in particular offered Caroline the chance to lean into her favourite aspects of steampunk.

"Many, many years ago when I was a student, I had a lecturer who told me I wrote like a Victorian. And it's the Victorian side of things which appeals to me, as opposed to the more avant-garde, *Mad Max* themes that people are into."

Caroline, like many others in the steampunk scene, plans to slip into her alter-ego persona over the festival weekend. As well as Victoriana, Lady-Break-A-Nail was heavily influenced by Caroline's love of Oscar Wilde.

"I based it on Lady Bracknell... Very proper, a bit of a social climber," she said.

"[She] was a fairly common person who married well and became a bit of a social snob. So I based my persona on her, which is partly me.

"It gives you the opportunity to express yourself in ways that in conventional society might be considered quite rude, you can call a spade a spade without offending people."

Caroline never intended to fall quite so far into the steampunk rabbit hole. "I sort of fell into steampunk

almost by accident. They were looking for a treasurer some years ago... My husband had passed away and I was at a bit of a loose end with what to do with myself," she said. "I thought, 'oh, well, it won't hurt to do this, it would be something that I could do from home. It wouldn't involve a lot.' At that stage, I had no intention of joining in."

Of course, the society members quickly encouraged her to give it a try, and she said she hasn't looked back since. The appeal, Caroline said, was that it's such a welcoming, inclusive and permissive space.

"Steampunk gives people, I think, an opportunity to step outside the ordinary and become someone that they would like to be but social convention prevents them from living that sort of life full time," she said.

This year's festival will include all the favourites - high tea, teapot racing, the Strut and the parade. But the committee has also planned a few surprises.

"This year a number of events are actually being held in the Civic Centre - we've brought them all together under one roof," she said. "And we are planning on having an illuminated structure outside."

Caroline wouldn't be drawn on the specifics of the sculpture, other than its name, *Full Spectrum*. But she tempered the mystery by offering up a hint of another new event, to take place on November 10 at Victoria Park. "For the first time, we are having hobby-horsing... We encourage people to make their own hobby horse and bring it along," Caroline said. "[It's] a very, very big thing overseas, they have international competitions and they adhere to the equestrian rules... They have to learn how to walk like a horse, to trot like a horse. And yes, it's a bit of frivolous fun as far as I'm concerned, but overseas, they take it very seriously."

DETAILS: The Steampunk Parade is on November 9, 11am on Pollen St, www.steampunkthethames.co.nz.



Steampunk The Thames chair Caroline Thomas. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

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Massive wildfire tears through wetland

A wildfire with a 19-kilometre perimeter burned through 1039 hectares of swampland near Meremere last week, threatening homes and clouding skies with smoke as far as the Thames Valley and Coromandel Peninsula.

Much of the fire was based in a Department of Conservation area of environmental significance, the Whangamarino Wetland.

The fire began near Island Block Rd on October 21, threatening homes in the area and burning for several days before it could be brought under control.

More than 50 Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) staff fought the blaze, with the assistance of helicopters and light aircraft.

Smoke and ash could be seen in the air and nearby residents were advised to close their windows and disconnect their roof water collection supplies.

FENZ incident controller Mark Tinworth said on Thursday that people near the fire should contact the Environmental Health Officer for advice before using food, feed or water from storage tanks for drinking as these might have been impacted by smoke and ash from the fire.

"We acknowledge people will be impacted by this fire and have worked hard to limit those impacts," he said.

"Our crews gave it their all to bring



The wetland fire had a 19km perimeter.

Photo: SUPPLIED/FENZ

this fire under control as quickly as they did, and I want to thank them for that."

The fire's spread was exacerbated by the peat in the wetlands. "Peat fires are particularly challenging, as they can continue to burn underground and can be hard to find and extinguish."

On Friday, Fire and Emergency drone crews identified 16 hotspots overnight, with crews focused on dampening them

down with three helicopters and 22 personnel on the ground in operation.

"The fire remains contained, and has not grown in size overnight," he said.

"A big thank you to our crews and helicopter pilots who will be working hard again [Friday] as we continue efforts to extinguish this fire."

The cause of the blaze is not yet known.

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Thames Tides

Wed Oct 30	Thu Oct 31	Fri Nov 1	Sat Nov 2	Sun Nov 3	Mon Nov 4	Tue Nov 5
 Morning: 12:21am 0.9 12:40pm 0.9 Afternoon: 6:42am 3.0 6:48pm 3.1	 Morning: 1:04am 0.8 1:20pm 0.8 Afternoon: 7:27am 3.1 7:29pm 3.2	 Morning: 1:44am 0.7 1:59pm 0.8 Afternoon: 8:07am 3.2 8:08pm 3.2	 Morning: 2:22am 0.7 2:36pm 0.8 Afternoon: 8:44am 3.3 8:47pm 3.2	 Morning: 2:59am 0.6 3:13pm 0.7 Afternoon: 9:20am 3.3 9:25pm 3.2	 Morning: 3:35am 0.6 3:51pm 0.8 Afternoon: 9:56am 3.3 10:04pm 3.2	 Morning: 4:11am 0.6 4:31pm 0.8 Afternoon: 10:33am 3.3 10:43pm 3.2
 6:15am 7:49pm	 6:13am 7:50pm	 6:12am 7:51pm	 6:11am 7:52pm	 6:10am 7:53pm	 6:09am 7:54pm	 6:08am 7:55pm
 Best At: 11:14am 11:34pm	 Best At: 11:53am	 Best At: 12:14pm 12:34pm	 Best At: 1:41am 1:18pm	 Best At: 2:05pm	 Best At: 2:29am 2:55pm	 Best At: 3:21am 3:48pm
 Rise: 4:59am Set: 5:40pm	 Rise: 5:20am Set: 6:38pm	 Rise: 5:43am Set: 7:37pm	New Moon Rise: 6:08am Set: 8:39pm	 Rise: 6:38am Set: 9:41pm	 Rise: 7:14am Set: 10:43pm	 Rise: 7:58am Set: 11:42pm

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

MOON AND FISH KEYS

New Moon	First Quarter	Full Moon	Last Quarter
Good Fishing	Fair Fishing	Not So Good	

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

PLACE	Hr	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

Hauraki Coro businesses shine at awards evening

Coromandel business The Waterworks was awarded the supreme prize at the Richardsons Hauraki Coromandel Business Awards 2024 in Thames on October 23.

The water-themed activity park was one of more than 30 finalists in 12 categories. The judges noted The Waterworks' strong commitment to environmental sustainability and their strong support of the local community.

"Their innovative, fun approach is reflected in the water park itself, and their bold pivot to diversify their offerings has already shown success, positioning them for future growth. Though a well-established business, The Waterworks has an impressive forward-thinking mindset, and core business acumen to match," judges said.

Judges said The Waterworks, which also won the Contribution to Tourism and Hospitality award, embodied the Hauraki and Coromandel essence through its vision, values, and culture which made a clear contribution to the region, particularly tourism.

Thames-Coromandel Mayor Len Salt said the awards and finalist placings were well deserved.

"Our businesses are integral members of our community, often making a huge contribution to all of those around them... I'm proud of what they have achieved and their contribution towards making the Coromandel a place where people want to live, work and play."



Supreme award winner: The Waterworks.

Photos: SUPPLIED



Barbara Berry.



Flowers on Pollen.



Major Oak Safety Training.



Monika Lange.



The People's Choice winners: Woof Woof Ranch & Dive Zone Whitianga.

Hauraki Mayor Toby Adams said the awards were a great way to showcase the local business community and he was thrilled with the calibre of businesses in the finals.

"Congratulations to all the finalists, a brilliant representation of the unique innovative, resilient, and high performing [businesses] across the Hauraki and Coromandel districts."

The awards are jointly hosted

by Thames-Coromandel and Hauraki district councils every two years.

AWARD WINNERS

Supreme winner: The Waterworks.

Category excellence awards: Community Contribution, Dive Zone Whitianga and EPL Construction (joint winners); Business Resilience, Hello World Travel Thames; Digital Strategy and e-Commerce, Flowers on

Pollen; Waste Minimisation, Wāhi Tukuruu; Contribution to Tourism and Hospitality, The Waterworks; People's Choice for Hauraki, Woof Woof Ranch; People's Choice for Thames-Coromandel, Dive Zone Whitianga.


Sector excellence awards: New and Emerging Business, Opito Bay Salt; Consumer Services, Coromandel Shelly Beach Top10 Holiday Park; Professional Services, Bayleys Coromandel;

Trades, Manufacturing and Primary Industries, Major Oak Safety Training; Pahiki Māori/Māori Business, Evolution Fitness.

Service to Business Recipients: Barbara Berry, Positive Paeroa; Jennifer Ashman, Coromandel-Colville Business Association; Monika Lange, Thames/Coromandel Newsfeed; Sue Lewis-O'Halloran, Thames Business Association.




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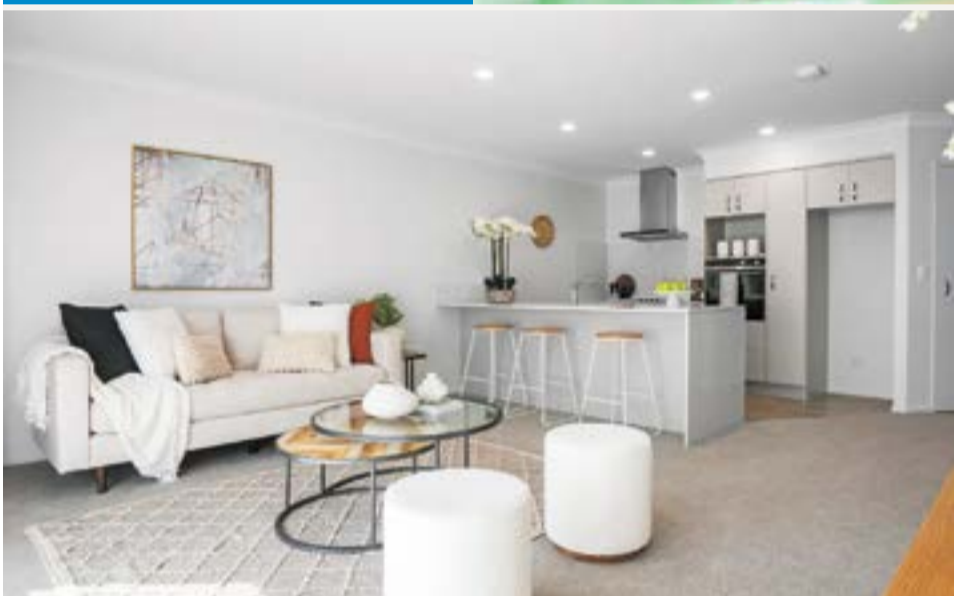
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[^]Price is for a licence to occupy under an Occupation Right Agreement for an apartment.

Fashion fundraiser

People from across the motu rallied together in Hauraki recently to raise funds for a social supermarket in the area.

A “vibrant, diversity-inspired” fashion fundraiser held at the Thames Civic Centre on October 19 was a runway hit and buttoned up \$10,000 for the Pātaka Kai social supermarket in Paeroa - which needs to raise at least \$50,000 annually to cover its monthly operational costs of \$12,000.

Te Whāriki Manawāhine o Hauraki (Hauraki Women’s Refuge) and Waste Management New Zealand, supported by HereforNZ, organised the event with a shared goal to support all diverse communities in Hauraki to ensure food reached those who needed it most.

Te Whāriki Manawāhine o Hauraki chief executive Denise Messiter said there was a really

good cross section of the community who supported the kaupapa and had a fun night.

“Even Hauraki whānau from Christchurch turned up.” But the main attraction - the fashion parade, was curated by internationally renowned Māori fashion designer Jeanine Clarkin of Paeroa.

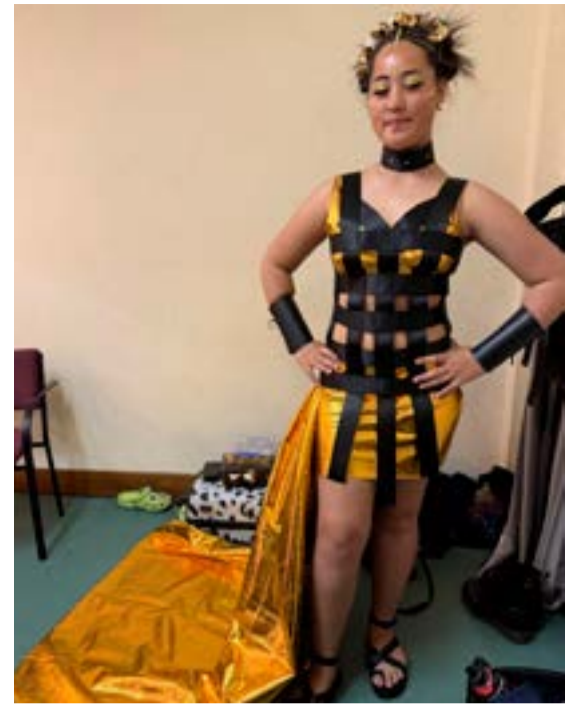
A trio of independent designers, Sandra Taipari, Hohepa Barlow, and Colleen Renata created 30 handmade garments showcased on the night. One of the collections by Sandra was sourced from recycled strapping and reflective paper, she said. “I’ve called it ‘from trash to treasure’, because it was all heading for landfill.”

Meanwhile, Colleen said she’d gone “really hard out” for the past few weeks with her pieces made from harakeke (flax).

Another ‘white tie dinner’ fundraiser for the Pātaka Kai is set for November 19.



Fashion models get ready for the runway walk.



Photos: SUPPLIED



Ready to go on show.



Fashion curator Jeanine Clarkin, right.



Colleen Renata’s three mokopuna models.



Models wear the Tino Rangatiratanga flag.

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Bags of ducks are set to make a splash for Thames Coast Kindy. File Photo: SUPPLIED

Duck dash to raise cash

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

It's almost time for friends and family of the Thames Coast Community Kindergarten to get all their ducks in a row.

The annual "world-famous-in-Thames" Te Puru Duck Race fundraiser event is set to make a splash on November 2 from 11am.

Kindy spokesperson and volunteer parent Kirstie Battson told *The Profile* the event was a much anticipated date in the calendar for the tamariki.

"It's just like a coming together of the community really."

People could expect to see lots of kids activities, opportunities to win prizes, food and beverages, and of course, the main attraction - the duck race.

Kirstie said community members could purchase a plastic duck at the event for \$5, or bring along a novelty boat for the separate boat race.

Event-goers walk from the kindy through the Te Puru campsite to the stream, she said, where children would

sit along the bank, while a few parents tipped the bags of ducks into the water to begin the races.

The aim of the event was to raise funds for maintenance around the kindergarten, such as the garden beds, she said.

They also hoped to put some money toward a new mud kitchen because at the moment she said the area "just needs a bit of love and TLC".

The Thames Fire Brigade was set to make an appearance with their fire truck, as well as volunteers from Thames Rotary Club on sausage sizzle duties, and Thames High School student helpers, she said.

Kirstie wanted people to head along and support the kindy, but mostly: "it's just a good day for children really".

DETAILS: Cash only event, Te Puru Duck Race on November 2, 11am to 2pm at Thames Coast Community Kindergarten, 4 West Crescent, Te Puru. Follow the kindy on Facebook to find out more.



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Floods devastate homes in Paeroa, Netherton



As part of a Valley Profile series, **MEGHAN HAWKES** searches through old newspapers to bring you the stories Thames Valley locals once read about themselves.

1924

Floods in the Paeroa - Netherton district transformed the whole area into a wide-spreading sea. Roads and fields vanished, and the tops of fences and hedges were all that could be seen of farm boundaries.

In some cases the water was right up to the window sills of farm houses. In others it had reached the level of the doors. A dray carried an entire family into Paeroa, their home having been flooded out.

There were a great many deep ditches in the district, and the water rushed down these in torrents.

Children were having the time of their lives, rowing about in boats or roughly-made rafts, but their mothers were much more concerned, standing in doorways calling to the youngsters to come back. Every house was isolated and the whole scene was that of some vast Venetian lake. The houses and trees were picturesquely reflected in the great sheet of water. Apart from the spectacular aspect, there were numerous pitiful scenes - a young pig swim-



At Netherton - a perilous journey with the bread.

ming along the main street, a kitten marooned in the branches of a tree and a terrier barking from the top of a fence. Calves and sheep had been hoisted up into a hay-loft and half-a-dozen turkeys stood on a roof. Farmers did all they could to get the cattle away - one wading knee-deep through the flood, carrying his bicycle on his shoulder, so as to ride after them when he got to dry land. A deserted cream wagon, still piled with cans, lay half submerged at the side of the road, telling of another farmer's difficulties. "When you see things like this, and then remember how city people grumble if they get their feet wet or have to stand for five minutes in the rain, it makes one feel we townsfolk do not know how much we have to be thankful

for," a reporter said.

Slips on the Thames Coast Rd were left uncleared for a month and only with great difficulty could vehicles get through. As all goods had to come from Thames, it meant running short for many residents.

One morning the populace of Te Puru and surrounding districts were awakened by the roaring and humming of what sounded like aeroplane engines, perhaps bringing supplies, and all hands were on a sharp look-out to sight the plane, but they were horribly disappointed as the hoped for plane hove in sight round one of the road bends and proved to be nothing more than a common road grader.

Meanwhile, the prospects of the mining industry and farming

in and about Waihi were encouraging, but some townsmen, instead of looking on the bright side of things, constantly ran Waihi down. Not only did they do it locally but when they are away as well and as a result the wrong impression of the town and its outlook was given. A Waihi trader, when in Auckland, had a merchant tell him he was sorry to hear that the town was on its last legs, and when asked where his information came from he stated that he had it in a letter from a businessman in Waihi. Nothing was to be gained by criticising one's home town, and if Waihi was not good enough for these pessimists to live in then there was plenty of room for them in other parts of the Dominion, or perhaps better still, outside it.

SUPPLIED

Chris' Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parminter

1. The hyoid bone is the only bone in the human body that is not connected to any other bones. Where is it found?
2. The te reo Māori term Kirikiriroa, translating to 'long stretch of river alluvial soils', refers to which New Zealand city?
3. 'Macaroni' was a term used in 18th-century Britain to refer to someone who was exceedingly a) hungry, b) fierce, c) Italian or d) fashionable?
4. Which is the only US state whose name contains the letter Z?
5. In 1871, Louisa May Allcott released a novel sequel to *Little Women*, named a) Little Friends, b) Little Children, or c) Little Men?
6. The Hindu deity known as Ganesha has the head of which creature?
7. Radiata, Ponderosa and Monterey are all species of which type of tree?
8. True or False? Jennifer Coolidge is an eighth cousin twice removed of the 30th President of the United States, Calvin Coolidge?
9. The next Summer Olympic Games will be held in which city?
10. The term rust usually refers to the oxide of what metal element?



ANSWERS: 1. Between the neck and chin; 2. Hamilton; 3. d) fashionable; 4. Arizona; 5. c) Little Men; 6. Elephant; 7. Pine; 8. True; 9. Los Angeles, USA; 10. Iron.

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Dancers En Pointe

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Dancers decked the Paeroa War Memorial Hall on October 4 for three days of rhythm, choreography and expression. The En Pointe Dance Competition, run by En Pointe Dance Studio Whitianga, hosted dancers from across the North Island competing in jazz, tap, and ballet.

Competition organiser and En Pointe Dance Studio owner Lisa Gifford told *The Profile* there were around 140 dancers aged four to 18 years. The competition judge was Angela Westerby McKellar from Wellington, who choreographed the *We Will Rock You* musical held in Wellington in August and September.

On day one of the competition,

jazz dancers 10 years old and over competed. Day two consisted of the under 10 year old jazz, and all the tap dance categories.

The champs were also held in the evening for both sections, she said, while Sunday was filled with ballet competitors and ended with ballet variations instead of champs.

Lisa said the weekend had run very smoothly with “very happy” competitors. To top it all off, En Pointe Dance Studio dancers walked away with a few senior awards. Most Promising award went to Tahlia Osbourne in the jazz section, and third place in the senior ballet variation section was snapped up by Indaria Bainbridge-Davies.



Competition judge Angela Westerby McKellar, left, poses with the senior variation winners.



A group of senior tap dance champs pose proudly with their awards.



The senior jazz champs prop up their peers.



Blake Gifford-Hill, 7, Indaria Bainbridge Davies, 18, and Paige Thackray, 11.



En Pointe Studios' Lucy Thackray, 12, performs her jazz piece.

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Rural Life

Racing pigeons home in on victory

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

It doesn't matter how far Dave Driver's birds soar - when they arrive back home "they look like they haven't been anywhere".

No matter the flight, they always come home looking sharp.

The 70-year-old Orongo pigeon breeder and racer is part of the Hamilton Invitational Racing Pigeon Group, which is part of the Waikato Racing Pigeon Federation alongside four other clubs.

However, Dave said the biggest group in the North Island was the Auckland Racing Pigeon Federation.

Every two years the Auckland federation holds a young bird race from Raumati, Wellington, called the Auckland Young Bird National, and this year the Waikato Federation was invited to compete.

Not only did the Waikato fanciers get a shot at racing against the Auckland league at the competition in May - but Dave also took out the top spot and title of Auckland Young Bird National winner for 2024.

Dave told *The Profile* his birds "did me proud".

His top pigeon snapped up first place for its 414 km flight from Raumati, back to its loft in Orongo, with a time of five hours, 43 minutes and two seconds, and a top speed of of 1207 metres per minute. The speed is determined by dividing the time taken for the birds to fly home by the distance



Dave Driver with his number one racing pigeon. LEFT: The loft where Dave Driver's pigeons live. Photos: SUPPLIED

travelled, he said.

But it wasn't just the number one spot Dave's birds managed to clinch. Of 17 birds he had in the competition, he scored the top nine positions for the overall

race, which he said had never been achieved before. When the pigeons arrive back to the loft after a race, they cross over a boundary line on the property which is synchronised with an electronic chip in a small

aluminium ring around the bird's leg called a life ring.

While Dave said it wasn't a common thing for a group of racing pigeons to land back together, "it is for me". "A lot of guys, they're hap-

py just to get one home," he said. Dave said he enjoyed all the birds being in good condition because "that's the major part of it".

Training the pigeons to race began about three weeks after they hatched, when he started putting the pigeons outside on a landing board in front of the loft, he said.

"And then what they do is they home themselves into that place, so they know that that's home."

Dave said it was also a "food thing" to start with so he needed to "keep them a little bit hungry", and would let them out everyday at a reasonable time, and made sure there were no strong winds.

Once the pigeons had done this five times they would start to find their wings, he said, and they'd fly around in half circles then land back on the landing board.

Around six weeks old, Dave said his pigeons would start "taking off" and flying around the neighbourhood, and once they got to 12 weeks old - "they're all flying in a group".

Dave said the pigeons would take off north and then come back from the south, or they'd take off out west and head back from the east direction.

And sometimes, depending on how fit they were, they'd stay away from the loft up to an hour and a half, he said.

"[They're] just exercising, finding their way home."

The process of getting them used

CONTINUED ON P11

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Young Bird National winner for 2024, Dave Driver, holds his award, with Chris Altimirano.

CONTINUED FROM P10

to being in a carrier box would begin, and after five times he would leave them in it overnight so they knew it was a safe place, he said.

From there, Dave said he would take them down the road to Ngatea a couple of times to fly home.

After that, he introduced them to "tosses", which was another term for training flights up to 15 kilometres away from the loft.

"I make sure that there's no headwinds or sidewinds - I make sure that the wind's going to be blowing them towards home," he said.

But once they got the idea, "once the penny's dropped" he would increase the distance and start taking them to Morrinsville, which is 42 kilometres, Tauwhare which is 65 kilometres, and then through to Karapiro, which is 85 kilometres, he said.

He would take them to Karapiro three times, and once they've done that - "they'll

find their way home, no problem at all".

For those interested in getting into pigeon racing, Dave said it required plenty of time.

"It takes years and years and years to build a team, you might get a bit of success to start with."

But Dave said it was important to read and learn as much as possible, and "don't get too passionate" to start with because things didn't always go to plan.

Dave believed pigeon racing was a minority sport in New Zealand which many kiwis had never heard of. One common attitude around the birds was that they scrounged for food and made messes on window ledges and bridges, he said. But that didn't happen in the world of pigeon racing.

After decades of selective breeding by passionate fanciers, Dave said there was nothing else anywhere that can do what racing pigeons do - the birds were capable of speeds up to 2000 meters per minute.

"These are athletes of the highest quality."

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Mixed media, pottery on display

Versatile artist Joanne Mahoney is the first of November's featured artists at the Thames Art Gallery. She recalls the first time she ever held a paint brush - Singapore, during a two-year stint in the 1980s, at a Chinese brushing painting class, and she was immediately smitten.

On her return to New Zealand, Joanne wanted to continue this new found passion so took advantage of watercolour classes. Her move to the Coromandel saw the beginning of her *Beachcombing* watercolour series, which continued until she met Paula McNeill, a renowned Coromandel area artist who introduced her to mixed media using acrylics, oils, pastels, collage and so much more.

Through Paula, several classes with Dr Carole Shephard, from Kawhia, were arranged in Hikuai where she introduced Joanne to printmaking in various forms. A press was purchased and the learning continued.

Joanne's contemporary mixed media work has evolved over the years to become what she describes as interdisciplinary mixed media - using water colour, acrylics, oils, cold wax medium, collage and the many different processes used in printmaking to create a unique individual piece, often seen in her intimate and intriguing collage pieces.

When Joanne is looking for inspiration, she often begins by making handprinted collage paper, using random colours on a gelli printing plate and anything she can find to make the imprints.



Artist Joanne Mahoney. Photos: SUPPLIED

She considers it almost addictive and very therapeutic. She also gets immense satisfaction from repurposing some of her art, reworking pieces that have been lying around in her studio awaiting further inspiration.

The second featured artist for November is Elise Belovic, who will be displaying her work at the north end of the gallery.

Elise is a local potter from the Thames coast and has won many awards over the past 10 years for her unique glazing and sculpture work. Her exhibition will include handmade Christmas decorations, bright garden pieces, ceramic wall hangings and a new homeware collection.

All Elises's pottery is hand built, as opposed to wheel-thrown, and



Pottery by Elise Belovic. are one-off pieces inspired by the latest trends. She uses glaze that she has made herself and her pieces are fired using gas.

NZ Chamber soloists to perform

The NZ Chamber Soloists will perform at St George's Church at 2pm on November 3.

The concert will be Thames Music Group's last one for the year, and feature Katherine Austin, James Tennant, Lara Hall and Dimitri Atanasov.

Since 2006, the New Zealand Chamber Soloists have undertaken a diverse spectrum of work across the fields of performance and recording, undertaking national tours under the auspices of Chamber Music New Zealand, several tours in Europe and the United States as well as performing in China, Singapore, South America and Australia.

In 2012, the ensemble gave the world premiere of two works written for them by John Psathas, *Corybas* and *Aegean*, and the European premieres of a number of compositions written for them by New Zealand composers Gareth Farr, Martin Lodge, Mike Wil-


liams and David Griffiths, in the Casa dei Mezzo summer music festival in Crete. The New Zealand Chamber Soloists have released two CDs of New Zealand works, *Ahi* (2008), and *Corybas* (2014), and a CD of trios by Rachmaninoff, Babajanian and Shostakovich entitled *Elegy* (2010), to international critical acclaim.

Joining the NZCS for this concert is Bulgarian-born and New Zealand-based violinist, Dimitri Atanasov, has served as a concertmaster of the Auckland Philharmonia and taught at the University of Waikato. Dimitri is a renowned violin maker, selling his instruments throughout the world.

Programme: Mozart - Quartet No.2 in Eb major K.493; Anthony Ritchie - Oppositions for Piano Quartet Op.116; and Brahms - Quartet No.1 in C minor Op.60.

DETAILS: Tickets: \$20, TMG members \$15, under 18yrs free. Cash only at the door on the day.

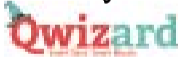





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November Featured Artists

<p>JOANNE MAHONEY</p>  <p>Joanne uses a variety of mixed media to express her creativity. She enjoys printing her own collage papers using a Gelli plate</p>	<p>ELISE BELOVIC</p>  <p>Elise prefers hand building with clay, her passion is in creating unique and interesting glazes for her creations.</p>
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Movies for week starting Wed 30 October

The Hundred Foot Journey (122 mins, 2014) PG. Coarse language. **Wed 10.30am; Fri 7pm:** Comedy. A family leaves India for France where they open a restaurant across the road from a Michelin-starred eatery.

The Miracle Club (90mins, 2023) PG. Coarse language. **Wed 1.30pm; Thu 11am; Wed 6/11 11am:** Maggie Smith. There's one dream for the women of Ballygar: to win a pilgrimage to the French town of Lourdes.

Six Inches of Soil (96mins, 2024) Exempt. **Wed 5.15pm; Sun 4pm; Wed 6/11 7pm:** Story of UK farmers standing up to the industrial food system & transforming the way they produce food for the good of the planet.

Thelma (98 mins, 2024) M. Offensive language. **Wed 7.15pm; Fri 11am:** 93-year-old Thelma gets duped by a phone scammer and sets out on a quest across the city to reclaim what was taken from her.

Let The Dance Begin (99 mins, 2023) R13. Offensive language. **Thu 1pm; Thu 7pm; Wed 6/11 1.30pm:** The reunion of three friends, and a trip down memory lane across the roads of Argentina.

Brimstone & Glory (67 mins, 2017) PG. Some scenes may disturb. **Thu 5.15pm; Sat 4.30pm; Tue 7pm:** Documentary about Mexican fireworks festival. Ecstatic ritual, danger and the beauty of fireworks.

Transformers One (104 mins, 2024) PG. Violence & scary scenes. **Sat & Sun 1pm:** The story of Optimus Prime and Megatron, known as sworn enemies, but were friends bonded like brothers & changed the fate of Cybertron. American science fiction action film based on the Transformers toy line.

The Nightmare Before Christmas PG. **Fri 3.30pm; Sun 11am:** Special Halloween re-release. A stunningly original and visually delightful work of stop-motion animation. Better than neighbourhood trick or treating.

Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome (107 mins, 1985) PG. Violence. **Sat 7pm:** Get ready for the Steampunk festival. After being exiled from the most advanced town in post-apocalyptic Australia, a drifter travels with a group of abandoned children to rebel against the town's queen.



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Fill the grid so every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9

	6		9		5	1	2	3
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EASY

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HARD

174

HARD

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EASY

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

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JUMBO CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

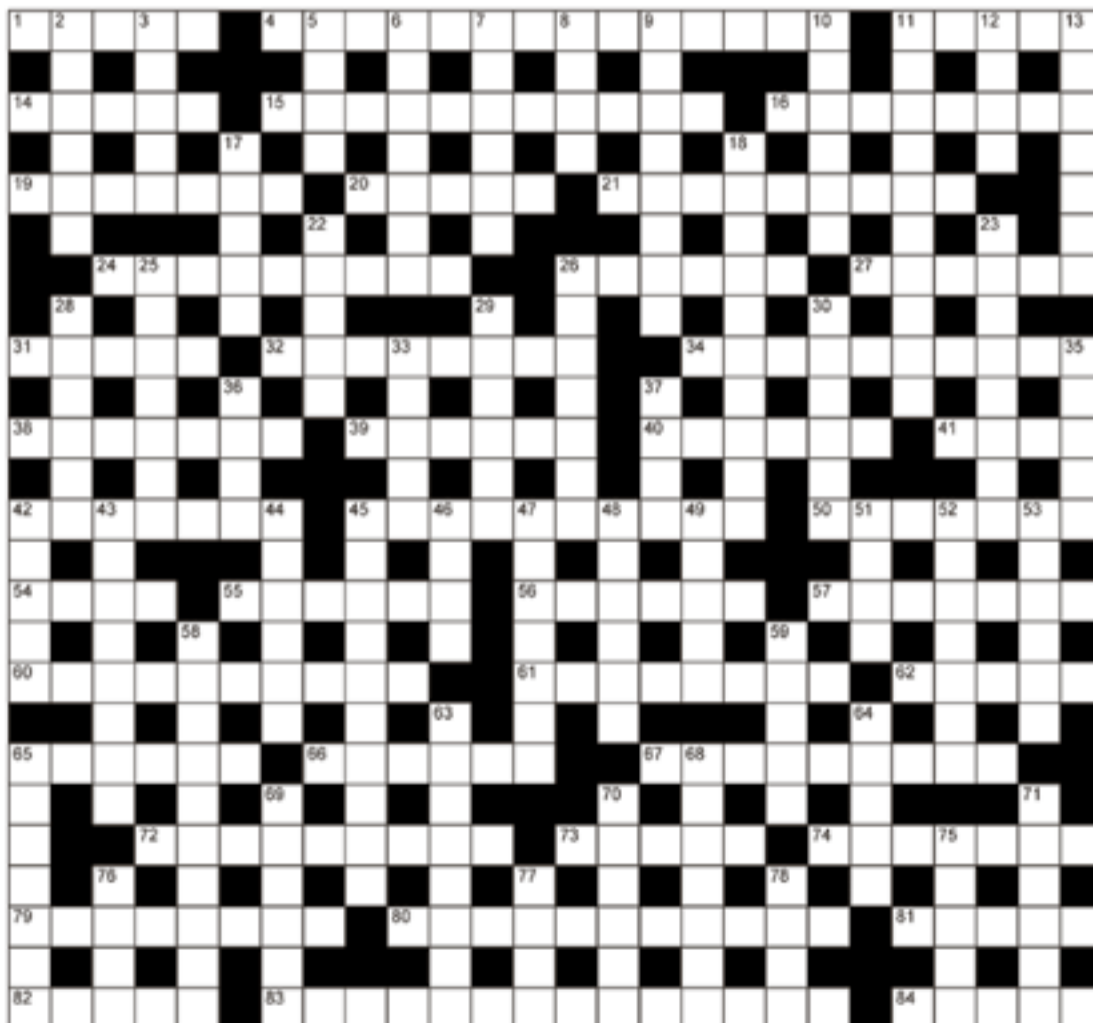
- 1 Incident (5)
- 4 Very healthy or in very good condition (2,5,2,1,4)
- 11 Metal mixture (5)
- 14 Law-breaking (5)
- 15 Seller of vegetables (11)
- 16 Empty (8)
- 19 Monotonous (7)
- 20 Supplement (4,2)
- 21 Water's edge (9)
- 24 Backer (9)
- 26 Be emphatic (6)
- 27 Steered (6)
- 31 Pass on (5)
- 32 Opening music (8)
- 34 Liking for sugary food (5,5)
- 38 Fish-woman (7)
- 39 Sheen (6)
- 40 Improvement (6)
- 41 Doorway side post (4)
- 42 Learner (7)
- 45 Wind-up music player (10)
- 50 Distinguished (7)
- 54 Repeat (4)
- 55 Stringed figure (6)
- 56 Natural aptitude (6)
- 57 Errant (7)
- 60 Bullet's path (10)
- 61 Repairing temporarily (8)
- 62 Intestine part (5)
- 65 Hungered for (6)
- 66 Drinks to (6)

DOWN

- 2 Against (6)
- 3 Wanderer (5)
- 5 Certain (4)
- 6 Late (7)
- 7 Nullify (6)
- 8 Tiny particle (4)
- 9 Purplish gemstone (8)
- 10 Full of spirit (6)
- 11 Emphasise (10)
- 12 Rich soil (4)
- 13 Gave way (7)
- 17 Young dog (5)
- 18 Timepiece (10)
- 22 Meat sauce (5)
- 23 Recommend publicly (8)
- 25 Without weapons (7)
- 26 Frozen mass (7)
- 28 Pick (6)
- 29 Sheep meat (6)
- 30 Extent (6)
- 33 Coarse (5)
- 35 Established practice (5)

ACROSS

- 36 Potter's oven (4)
- 37 Food fish (4)
- 42 Paid out (5)
- 43 Violent disturbance (8)
- 44 Reliable (6)
- 45 Notes (5,5)
- 46 Pledge (4)
- 47 Sea creature (7)
- 48 Tell (6)
- 49 Squeeze sharply (5)
- 51 Castle ditch (4)
- 52 Young baby (7)
- 53 Lacking breadth (6)
- 58 Ritual (10)
- 59 Acute, unspecific sense of anxiety (5)
- 63 Was Constantinople (8)
- 64 Fashion (5)
- 65 Alterations (7)
- 68 Say why (7)
- 69 Grossly overpriced article (3-3)
- 70 Comment (6)
- 71 Girdle (6)
- 75 Flooded (5)
- 76 Impulse (4)
- 77 Formal dance (4)
- 78 Makes a mistake (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Scold, 4 Too good to be true, 14 Recur, 15 Solve, 16 Magnifying, 17 Probe, 19 Rat, 20 Therapy, 21 Liberated, 22 Vision, 25 Impounded, 27 Futile, 28 Summit, 33 Balloonist, 35 Car, 36 Nectar, 37 Idea, 39 Tie, 41 Tension, 42 Safari, 43 Ballerina, 44 Forgo, 45 Consider, 50 My, 51 Acrobats, 55 Juice, 58 Nostalgia, 59 Supple, 60 Updated, 61 Gas, 63 Lair, 64 Pliers, 65 Ask, 66 Eventually, 68 Figure, 69 Liable, 71 Objection, 76 Settee, 77 Ultimatum, 79 Oversee, 81 Tip, 84 Extra, 85 Imprisoned, 86 Queue, 87 Rotor, 88 Annie Get Your Gun, 89 Added.

DOWN: 2 Clothe, 3 Lover, 5 Okay, 6 Gunfire, 7 Off-key, 8 Taiga, 9 Biggest, 10 Taps, 11 Utopia, 12 Scorn, 13 Protect, 14 Retinue, 18 Up to no good, 23 Undid, 24 Placebo, 26 Molests, 27 Fortify, 29 Madeira, 30 Gazebo, 31 Ocean, 32 Garlic, 34 Tear, 36 Nears, 38 Amass, 40 Hero, 45 Canal, 46 Nesting, 47 Ivan, 48 Engulf, 49 Wings, 50 Message, 52 Repetitive, 53 Bravado, 54 Treble, 55 Javelin, 56 Spoke, 57 Flue, 62 Fewer, 67 Brother, 68 Factors, 70 Balding, 72 Boudoir, 73 Beaten, 74 Casino, 75 Reduce, 76 Spots, 78 Input, 80 Round, 82 Taxi, 83 Peru.

GOLDFIELDS WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The October meeting of the Goldfields Women's Institute commenced with the Aspirations and Prayer.

The Motto for the month – "The best thing about getting old is that all those things you couldn't have when you were young, you no longer want" was read by Jeannine Oliver. The Roll Call – A shopping purchase disaster, had some members having some very interesting purchases, especially clothes and also a sewing machine experience.

The Good Deed was toothbrushes, combs, tissues, razors, pads and pens to help with our supplies for our emergency toilet bags for Thames Hospital.

The birthday girl this month was Jean Brady. Raffles were won by Helen Udy and Sue Fah.

We had a good amount of knitting and sewing which will be boxed up at a later date. Arrangement was discussed

regarding the upcoming 80th birthday celebrations of the Thames Hauraki Plains District Federation of WI, which is being held in November at Waihi Beach. A discussion was held on where we will go for our Christmas meeting as we always enjoy going out to lunch.

Before we had lunch a poem was read – Do you remember. Several of the Do you Remember were ones that England had, but there were a lot of them that we remembered from here in New Zealand. What a great time we had remembering them.

The meeting closed with the Institute Grace before sitting down to an enjoyable lunch.

COMPETITION RESULTS – Bloom: Helen Udy 1, Val Bowen 2, Sue Fah 3. Cluster: Helen Udy 1, Val Bowen 2, Sue Fah 3. Shrub: Sue Fah 1, Helen Udy 2, Val Bowen 3. Orchid: Helen Udy 1, Sue Fah 2, Val Bowen 3. COMPETITION – Adult Beanie Hat – Sue Fah 1.

Gardening

Enjoy a 'riot of colour' this spring

The garden at this time of year is a riot of colour with new season's growth on fruit trees, ornamental trees, summer flowering shrubs, bulbs roses and dahlia to name a few. With rapid spring growth under way it is important to maintain plant health in all sections of the garden.



Cultivate vegetables regularly and irrigate if soil is dry. Successive sowings of summer vegetables will extend summer and autumn harvests.

Planning ahead is important to ensure you get the most out of your spring garden. When deciding what to plant in your garden, consider what you like to eat, how much room you have and creating colour in your backyard. Feed, feed, feed.

Popular crops to grow for Christmas – Microgreens grown on a sunny windowsill, Radish seeds are quick to grow, Lettuces, lots of varieties. If you want a choice buy the mixed punnets these give you a good variety. Peas, Beetroot, Zucchini, Carrots, Potatoes and Cucumber.

Importantly, grow what you will eat. If you don't have much space, remember you can grow vegetables in pots and containers.

Get the grandies in the garden to help. If they get involved in the planting and harvest, they are perhaps more likely to want to eat them. Try a tepee in pot for growing some peas or sugar snaps. Then it becomes their project. Plant seeds about 2cm deep and about 10cm apart under the tepee. Water to keep the soil moist but not too wet. Feed with liquid feed once they are 5-10 cm high. Cover the soil with mulch or pea straw. Happy gardening kids.

Start tomatoes, peppers and eggplants as the soil warms. Seedlings you have grown indoors need to be "hardened off" before they are planted in the garden. Gradually ac-

climatise seedlings before planting by moving them outside in their containers during the day.

Filling your piece of paradise with vibrant floral displays will bring joy on a daily basis for both you and the BEES. Examples are Borage, Echinacea, Sage, Marigold, Chamomile, Purple Tansy and Nasturtium.

It is an exciting time in the garden with the blossoms bursting into life on the fruit trees followed by the transformation into tiny fruit. Don't be alarmed by some early fruit drop, it is normal with young trees experiencing vigorous growth. A side dressing of sulphate of potash can stimulate hardier growth and improve fruiting habits.

Nature is such a wonderful thing and brings so much pleasure into people's life.

Watering times in the garden are important to gain the most benefit from your precious water. Early morning just after sunrise is best so the warmth of the day will prevent fungal growth on the soil.

A well fed strong growing lawn will pose minimal weed problems. Apply a balanced lawn fertiliser to support main growth spurts in spring and again in autumn. Don't mow too low and try not to mow when the ground is wet. Enjoy your garden.

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November 2024 Moon Planting Calendar				1 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	2 New Moon	3 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed
4 Non planting Day	5 Non planting Day	6 Plant above ground crops	7 Plant above ground crops	8 Non planting Day	9 Non planting Day	10 Non planting Day
11 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	12 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	13 Non planting Day	14 Non planting Day	15 Plant above ground crops	16 Full Moon	17 Non planting Day
18 Non planting Day	19 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	20 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	21 Non planting Day	22 Non planting Day	23 Non planting Day	24 Non planting Day
25 Non planting Day	26 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	27 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	28 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	29 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	30 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	Calendar Supplied by Gilmer Farms

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Vern Harding of Scrappy Verns celebrates a mighty 20 years.

File Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

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CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12noon Monday

Birth Notice

NEWLAND, Maddison Ann:
Born 18-10-24, 8lbs 4oz.
Congratulations to Perrin and Natasha. A gorgeous little sister for Beau.
Love from all the family.

Birthday

100 yr celebration for ELSA HUGHES
Saturday 2nd Nov @ 11am
Pop in and say hello
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Death Notices



LOUDEN, Allan James:
1.1.44 - 25.10.24
It is with heavy hearts we announce the sad passing of our beloved husband, Dad and Poppy. Allan was the loving and much loved husband of Lynn for over 57 years. Devoted and amazing Dad of Eve, Paul and Teena. Dearest Poppy of Reuben and Matthew, Ethan and Olivia, Riley, Reece and Jess and Jodie. The eldest son of Alva and Amelia Louden (both deceased), brother of Esma (deceased), Colin, and Neville. He was a long-standing and respected engineer at Toyota NZ, Thames assembly plant (over 34 years), an accomplished rugby player, swimmer, diver, hunter, fisherman, and tennis player. He will be missed by his tennis family of Te Puru, and by friends he has had for many years, not to mention his beloved Fluffy and Sadie. He will be remembered also for his quick wit and smart mind. Thank you to all who gave love and support in the past months of Allan's illness. In accordance with Allan's wishes, a private family service will take place, followed by cremation. Messages to: The Louden family, 40 West Crescent, Te Puru, RD5, Thames.

Church Notice

Assembly of God
10am Sundays.
Scout Hall.
Baker St, Waihi

Public Notice

AGM THE MANGATARATA COMMUNITY RECREATIONAL RECERVE INCORPORATED
Monday 11th November 2024 7.30pm AT MANGATARATA COMMUNITY HALL / BOWLING CLUB
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Church Notice

Thames Spiritualist Church, Sunday November 3rd, 2pm
Grahamstown Hall. Speakers: Margaret & Eric.

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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:

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

Forged in fire: How challenges shape our character

OPINION

By MICHAEL WILKES



Have you ever noticed that every motivational speaker, every story that captivates us, every person of great success would seem to have at least one moment where things get hard.

The billionaire who was bankrupt multiple times, the inspirational speaker who freed himself from a life of gangs and drugs, the mum with parenting tips forged from the hard grind of raising three kids who are doing well in life. Almost every story of inspiration full of life's wisdom is forged in life's hard knocks.

I was recently in a conversation with a mentor at a discipleship school who discussed personal growth through biblical characters facing trials. When a student asked if we could learn lessons without challenges, my friend simply said, "No."

Our character is refined in adversity, and wisdom stems from depth of experience.

This resonates with my generation—we want growth and wisdom without the hardship. Yet, I've learned through my own journey that reflection on our struggles leads to insight.

When I was 13, my father suffered a life-changing head injury. For years, I blamed him, until I realized in my late teens that it wasn't his fault. The journey with my dad over the years taught me many things. Seeking to make amends taught me the power of forgiveness and the importance of empathy. The journey was painfully hard, but it shaped my character.

Recently, I heard a speaker say, "Life is hard. We can either choose to do hard things to improve our life or face the hard consequences." Avoiding challenges might seem easier, but it can ultimately hinder our growth. So today as I write this, I consider the hard things we face. If we shy away from it all, it may well be at our detriment.

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@living-well.org.nz to sign up to their quarterly newsletter or to become a supporter.



Hauraki Plains Probus members mark 50 years with the cutting of the golden anniversary cake.

Photos: SUPPLIED

Hauraki Plains Probus marks 50 years

The Hauraki Plains Probus Club celebrated the golden anniversary of Probus in New Zealand with a special morning tea meeting on Wednesday, October 30.

Members from the Thames and Paeroa clubs were also invited to attend, and 85 people were there to celebrate the day.

The guest speaker was Probus district chair Ian Young.

He spoke about the history of Probus and the future direction of the organisation.

Probus is a social network of clubs with over 10,000 retirees across New Zealand, participating in meetings, activities and trips. Probus is a non-sectarian, non-political organisation with a focus on fun, friendship and fellowship.



Keep pets flea-free this summer



By Dr Annalise Riley, BVSc (Dist.)

As summer approaches, the joys of longer days and outdoor adventures await both pets and their owners. However, with the warmth

and sunshine comes the inevitable rise in flea activity. Proactive flea treatment during this season is crucial to ensuring the health and happiness of our furry friends.

Fleas thrive in summer because of the warmer temperatures and increased humidity, which create an ideal envi-

ronment for flea populations to thrive. Fleas reproduce rapidly, with a single female capable of laying up to 50 eggs per day. This can lead to infestations that escalate quickly, especially in homes with multiple pets.

Health risks associated with fleas include: Flea Allergy Dermatitis (FAD): Many pets develop allergies to flea saliva, leading to intense itching, inflammation, and skin infections; Anaemia: In severe infestations fleas can cause blood loss, leading to anaemia, which in young and elderly pets can become life-threatening; Transmission of diseases: Fleas can transmit various bacterial and parasitic diseases, including tapeworms.

Essential tips for preventing outbreaks include: Regular treatment: Use

good quality flea treatments consistently throughout the summer; Treat the home environment: Fleas can hide in carpets, bedding, and furniture. Regularly vacuum your home and wash pet bedding to reduce environmental build-up. Grooming: Regular brushing helps reduce the number of fleas and allows you to spot any signs of flea activity early. Lastly, garden maintenance: Fleas thrive in tall grass and shady areas. Mow lawns regularly and treat outdoor areas if flea populations become problematic.

Every pet is different, so talk to your local vet clinic about the best option for your pet's lifestyle to ensure you and your pets can enjoy a happy, itch-free summer.

- Dr Annalise Riley is a pet vet in Waihi

CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12noon Monday

Public Notice

Thames-Coromandel District Council Meetings – November 2024

Pursuant to Section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, public notice is hereby given that the following meetings will be held during November 2024.

Committee Meeting

Sustainability and Community Resilience Committee Meeting
Wednesday 6 November 2024 09:00 am, Thames Council Chambers, 515 Mackay Street, Thames

Community Board Meetings

Tairua-Pāuanui Community Board
Monday 25 November 2024, 10:00 am, St Francis House, 248 Main Road, Tairua

Whangamatā Community Board
Tuesday 26 November 2024 10:00am, Whangāmata Service Centre, 620 Port Road, Whangamatā

Thames Community Board
Wednesday 27 November 2024 10:00 am, Thames Council Chambers, 515 Mackay Street, Thames

Please visit <https://www.tcdc.govt.nz/Our-Council/Meetings/Agendas-Reports-and-Minutes> for copies of agendas and order papers.

A Lawrie
Chief Executive
Thames-Coromandel District Council



www.tcdc.govt.nz

Public Notice

Hauraki District Council Meetings - November 2024



Pursuant to Section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, public notice is hereby given that the following meetings will be held during the month of November 2024 in the Council Chamber, Hauraki House, 1 William Street, Paeroa unless otherwise stated.

Planning Committee
Monday, 11 November 2024, 9.00am (if required)

Adaptive Planning and Emergency Management Committee
Monday, 11 November 2024, 1.00pm

Regulatory Hearings Committee
Monday, 18 November 2024, 9.00am (if required)

Citizenship Ceremony
Wednesday, 27 November 2024, 8.30am

Council
Wednesday, 27 November 2024, 9.30am
L D Cavers
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council



www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz

Public Notice

Proposed Temporary Road Closure

Pursuant to the Section 11(e) of the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974, notice is hereby given that for the purpose of the Ngatea Santa Parade event organised by Connecting the Plains Committee it is intended to close the following road to ordinary vehicular traffic for the period indicated hereunder. During the proposed period of closure provision will be made for ordinary vehicular traffic, which would otherwise use the road, to use alternative routes.

Period of closure: Thursday 12 December 2024, 5:45pm to 6:45pm.

Roads to be closed: SH2 (Orchard East Rd) from Kaihere Rd to Darlington St, Ngatea.

Alternative provision for ordinary vehicular traffic will be made with signs, cones and barriers to redirect traffic on detour.

It will be an offence under the above regulations for any person otherwise than under authority of an authorised permit to use the road for ordinary vehicular traffic during the proposed period of closure.

Any objections should be directed to Transport Manager on 07 862 8609 or info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz by 13 November 2024.

L D Cavers
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council



Boundary lines are indicative only



Whakatiwai 1181B East Coast Road

Peaceful retreat with modern flair

Nestled in the serene countryside, this charming Salvation Army home from Mission Bay was barged onto site in the 1950s, provides a warm and inviting atmosphere featuring wooden flooring throughout. The spacious kitchen comes complete with a large island bench and pantry, seamlessly connecting to the open-plan dining and lounge areas – perfect for family gatherings and entertaining. Boasting five well-appointed bedrooms, this home is ideal for growing families. Situated in the beautiful Hauraki District, Kaiaua is a sought-after location known for its stunning scenery, quiet lifestyle, and proximity to fishing spots. This is your chance to secure a slice of rural paradise. Act fast!

bayleys.co.nz/2316078

2,054_{sqm} 5 2

Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 14 Nov 2024

96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

View 9-9.30am Mon 28 Oct

Karl Davis 027 496 4633

karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz

Connor Davis 027 496 4622

connor.davis@bayleysngatea.co.nz

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Boundary lines are indicative only



Miranda 326 Front Miranda Road

Coastal lifestyle meets modern living

This stunning 23-hectare (more or less) lifestyle block in sought-after Miranda offers rural charm and modern comfort. The flat, fertile land, currently leased, complements the renovated two-bedroom home. A sleek kitchen with Smeg stove, large windows, and a cosy living area make it perfect for relaxation. Polished wooden floors and a modern bathroom with a free-standing tub add warmth and style. With a reliable metered council water supply to all paddocks, excellent fencing, and protected waterways, it's ideal for outdoor enthusiasts. Zoned for quality schools, and close to fishing, bird watching, and bush walks. Overseas vendors are motivated to sell.

bayleys.co.nz/2316049

23_{ha} 2 1 1

Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 14 Nov 2024

96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

View 4.45-5.30pm Sun 3 Nov

Karl Davis 0508 83 83 83

karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz

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Netherton 1216 Hauraki Road

Countryside escape

Escape to the serene countryside with this 4.87 hectare (more or less) lifestyle property in the heart of the Hauraki Plains. Featuring beautifully landscaped gardens, mature trees, and rustic charm, it offers a peaceful retreat. The spacious three-bedroom home includes a master with a walk-in wardrobe and ensuite, plus two more bedrooms and a family bathroom. The open-plan living and dining area flows into a rimu-cabinet kitchen and outdoor deck. With a wintering barn, disused cowshed, and well-fenced paddocks, this property is conveniently located near Ngatea, Thames, and Paeroa. Don't miss out!

bayleys.co.nz/2316061

4.8_{ha} 3 2 6

Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 14 Nov 2024

96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

View 11.15am-12pm Sun 3 Nov

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karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz

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Thames 57 Totara Valley Road

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The vendors are eager to sell, having found another property, offering you a prime opportunity to secure this fantastic home. Spanning 5,079sqm (more or less), this property provides ample space and privacy, ideal for a serene rural lifestyle. Large decking creates a perfect spot for outdoor entertaining or enjoying picturesque valley views. Excellent garaging offers room for vehicles, storage, or a workshop. The established gardens and fruit trees provide tranquility and fresh produce from your own backyard. A well-maintained driveway ensures easy access, enhancing the property's appeal. A couple of paddocks offer space for livestock, making it perfect for hobby farmers. Contact us today!

bayleys.co.nz/2180739

3 1 1 3

Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 28 Nov 2024

96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

View by appointment

Glenn Tanner 027 486 2399

glenn.tanner@bayleys.co.nz

Maddy Aislabie 027 780 4389

maddy.aislabie@bayleys.co.nz

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SPORTS

Cartwheel king entertains millions

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

When it comes to cartwheels, Harper Sandford's mum said it was very much "a Harper thing to do". But cartwheeling across a rugby field and becoming an internet sensation overnight was not something they expected.

Harper, 18, of Waihi, who was a big supporter of the Thames Valley Swamp Foxes rugby team, was responsible for running the ball on to the field for the second-half kickoff at the team's game at Lyon Park, Whitianga, earlier this month.

After Harper passed the ball to one of the Swamp Foxes, he turned, struck a World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) pose, and cartwheeled back across the grass before he made a few more WWE gestures as he exited the field in his gumboots.

Harper's Mum, Natasha Sandford said she wondered if he would do some cartwheels. "And the next minute... he did some cartwheels," she said. Natasha said they cracked up laughing because it was very much a "Harper thing to do - he just thought about it and just did it".

Natasha shared the video to her Facebook page for her friends and family, and shortly afterwards her phone "started going off the hook". Not only did friends and family get to see Harper's half-time performance, but the video of Harper was also shared on The Legend of Marty Banks Facebook page which has now racked up more than three million views.

The video also made its way to Natasha's family in America, she said. Even though it was "a bit danger-



Internet sensation and proud Swamp Foxes fan, Harper Sandford.

Photo: JASON BARTLEY/BART'S RUGBY PHOTOGRAPHY

ous" to go into the comments section, Natasha said, what she discovered was "100 per cent positivity" from everyone. The most common note Natasha saw was that people "really needed to see this today", she said.

"And it actually got me quite emotional. I just thought, man there's a lot of people out there hurting at the moment and finding things hard."

Harper liked to make people smile with his cartwheels, she said.

But Harper's cartwheels weren't just for the field. WWE and cartwheel enthusiast Harper told The Profile he also liked to do cartwheels while out

shopping, in the carpark and at the supermarket. When Harper found out millions of people had seen his cartwheel video, he said it felt good.

He told his friends and teachers at Goldfields School about it, and said his friends like the video too. The popularity of the video also landed him interviews on TVNZ's One News and Seven Sharp. But it wasn't Harper's first time running the ball out for the Thames Valley Swamp Foxes.

Harper had the opportunity to run out with team mascot, Swampy, for his debut ball hand-over. However, Harper thought he was there for a dif-

ferent reason. "You thought you were playing, and I started yelling at you to get off the field," Natasha said.

"Well, the reserves on the sideline were laughing at me, and they were like, 'run on Mum, get on there and get him - he's not coming off'."

It was just a testament to the relationship Harper had with the Swamp Foxes because he thought he was running on to go and play with them, Natasha said. "That's what they do when they go to Goldfields [School]."

"They're all mates, and they all play rugby together and touch, and all those types of things," she said.

The Swamp Foxes' friendship with Goldfields School meant the rugby players visited the kids, sharing their skills with the kids, running workshops, making and fixing things, Natasha said. Every year the Swamp Foxes auction off rugby jerseys to raise funds for the school, and this year's auction raised \$20,000.

In addition, Harper was invited to sign two special charity jerseys, raising a further \$3000 for the school.

Natasha said generations of Swamp Foxes and supporters who came from such a small province meant "we're all tied to someone". In Harper's case, his grandfather, Murray Butterworth, was a Swamp Fox from 1978 to 1980, Natasha said.

But aside from his interest in the Swamp Foxes, hanging out with friends and family, and playing basketball - Harper said one day he wanted to go to Las Vegas to see WWE.

Some of the moves Harper shared during the halftime video were from his favorite wrestling stars - Braun Strowman, Brock Lesnar, Hulk Hogan, and his crush, Rhea Ripley.

But Harper was also involved in another sport: Special Olympics powerlifting, which he trains for once a week and has competed in a few tournaments. He's currently training for the Special Olympics in Christchurch next year.

Harper and his mum wanted to do was thank everyone who had supported Harper in giving him his five minutes of fame, they said.

"We've really enjoyed it." DETAILS: To view the video, go to: Thames Valley Rugby Union on Facebook and search: Harper Sandford.

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