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In search of blood

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

Alex Church is a typical 18-month-old boy in many ways - happy, chatty, and laser-focused on grabbing the car keys. But the toddler's immune disorder means his life will always be a little bit different - and mum Lisa Church is calling on the public to help him, and others like him, thrive.

The New Zealand Blood Service is holding a blood drive in Thames on November 25-26, and Lisa said she was sharing Alex's story in the hopes that more people would step up to donate blood or plasma.

Alex has X-linked agammaglobulinemia (XLA), an inherited immune system disorder which affects his ability to fight infections.

"His white blood cells never develop into adult cells, so then they don't ever develop the antibodies that the immune system needs to fight off germs and bacteria," Lisa said.

"He has to have weekly infusions of plasma, which is a blood product, to basically boost his immune [system] each week."

Alex will need the infusions for the rest of his life. While it's part of their routine now, Lisa said the diagnosis was still scary for their family, and she worried for her son's future. Luckily, he should be able to lead a relatively normal life.

"As long as you keep up with the treatment, it's not going to impact him in any way," she said.

"If people keep donating, he'll be fine."

Alex currently needs five millilitres of plasma weekly, though the amount will increase as he grows. The plasma is delivered by an automatic

CONTINUED ON P2



Alex and Lisa Church hope people will give generously at Thames' next blood drive. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

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Alex's search for blood

CONTINUED FROM P1

pump over 30 minutes, via a subcutaneous injection in his thigh.

"To start off with, I was doing it while he was feeding, and then it suddenly changed to him being more active, and so then it changed to putting him in a front pack, and then doing the injection and having the machine as a fanny pack kind of thing on me. And then now we just do it while he's eating... I feel like every month it suddenly changes to finding a new way to do it," Lisa said.

"It's just one of those things you just have to get on and do it."

Alex was diagnosed with XLA at just two months old. With a family history of the disease, Lisa said they were able to get a diagnosis relatively quickly.

"My twin brother was actually diagnosed with the same condition, and so it's been easier for me to know what's to come because I've watched [him] grow up and go through the same kind of treatment," Lisa said.

"We were so lucky with Alex - because we knew my brother [had it], we were able to test for it straight away, whereas my brother went through being really sick as a child before they could find out what it was because it's such a rare condition."

The prevalence of XLA is estimated to be between one in 350,000 to one in 700,000

people. It almost exclusively affects males, and can cause severe issues like organ failure if left untreated.

The NZ Blood Service said the demand for plasma in New Zealand was increasing by 10 per cent each year, but only four per cent of the eligible population are blood or plasma donors.

The pale straw-coloured liquid, which is extracted from a donor's blood, can be used to treat more than 50 illnesses.

"Each week we're falling short of the 2100 plasma donations we need by around 250 donations. And in the next 12 months, we need 1500 more people to start donating plasma regularly," a statement on the website said.

Lisa urged the people of Thames to consider contributing to the blood drive for Alex's sake, and for others in need.

"I feel like everyone would know at least one person that's needed a blood transfusion before."

"If it's not themselves, it's someone close to them."

DETAILS: Mobile blood drive, Thames Civic Centre, November 25 from 2-7pm and November 26 from 8am-1pm. Call 0800 448 325 or visit nzblood.co.nz to book an appointment. Walk-ins welcome but space is limited.



Information sought following firearms incidents

Police have opened an investigation after two firearms incidents in the Waikato region in the early hours of November 11. The first report was received just before 3am on Orchard West Rd, Ngatea, after a man reportedly assaulted another man and threatened him with a firearm. The second incident was reported in Kerepēhi, minutes later, just after 3am.

A male in a vehicle reportedly presented a firearm at a person along State Highway 2.

The vehicle, described as a silver ute with a canopy, left the scene and is yet to be located.

Police would like to speak to anyone who was in the Orchard West Rd area, or along State Highway 2 in Kerepēhi at around 3am. This includes any dashcam or CCTV footage.

Police are treating these as separate incidents.

DETAILS: If you have any information, call 105, reference number 241111/3896, or anonymously via Crime Stoppers, Ph 0800 555 111.



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Thames Tides

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
Nov 20	Nov 21	Nov 22	Nov 23	Nov 24	Nov 25	Nov 26
 Morning 4:49am 0.3 Afternoon 5:22pm 0.6 11:13am 3.6 11:40pm 3.3 5:56am 8:11pm Best At 4:41am 5:09pm Rise 12:04am Set 9:21am	 Morning 5:37am 0.5 Afternoon 12:03pm 3.4 6:15pm 0.7 5:56am 8:12pm Best At 5:36am 6:02pm Rise 12:50am Set 10:29am	 Morning 12:30am 3.2 Afternoon 12:54pm 3.3 6:25am 0.6 7:09pm 0.9 5:55am 8:13pm Best At 6:26am 6:50pm Rise 1:26am Set 11:35am	 Morning 1:21am 3.1 Afternoon 1:47pm 3.2 7:16am 0.8 8:04pm 0.9 5:55am 8:14pm Best At 7:12am 7:33pm Last Quarter Rise 1:55am Set 12:38pm	 Morning 2:13am 2.9 Afternoon 2:42pm 3.1 8:12am 1.0 8:59pm 1.0 5:54am 8:15pm Best At 7:54am 8:14pm Rise 2:20am Set 1:37pm	 Morning 3:09am 2.9 Afternoon 3:36pm 3.0 9:13am 1.1 9:55pm 1.0 5:54am 8:17pm Best At 8:34am 8:53pm Rise 2:42am Set 2:35pm	 Morning 4:09am 2.8 Afternoon 4:29pm 3.0 10:16am 1.1 10:48pm 1.0 5:53am 8:18pm Best At 9:12am 9:32pm Rise 3:03am Set 3:32pm

MOON AND FISH KEYS
 New Moon First Quarter Full Moon Last Quarter
 Good Fishing Fair Fishing Not So Good

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

PLACE	Hr	MIN	Hr	MIN
Coromandel	-0	04	-0	04
Whitianga	-0	01	-0	05
Tairua	+0	10	+0	21
Whangamata	-0	03	-0	05
Waihi Beach	-0	12	-0	12

Kauaeranga studio finds art in nature

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

There's something quite magical about the way Emma Cowan and Sarah Nicholson make art. The Kauaeranga Valley-based artists are the creators of Wild Studio, an experimental research and art-teaching business.

Nature is their inspiration, their tool and their passion - for this duo an afternoon in the garden yields not only dinner, but also inks in a rainbow of colours, along with brushes, pens and other hand-made tools.

"We call it a research studio, we are researching ways to make all of our own art materials," Emma said. "We've always been gardeners, [and] I think it's in our nature to be quite resourceful and thrifty."

"So looking at ways that we can make things ourselves rather than buying them has been our practice always. This new way of working has been really inspiring for us... There's so many possibilities."

Having spent much of their working lives as traditional artists - Sarah as a commercial illustrator and Emma in fine art and design - the pair said Wild Studio had also brought the joy back into their work.

"It's really given me so much more inspiration," Sarah said.

"Coming at it from this angle of creating everything from scratch ourselves, it's so much fun. And there's so much discovery and experimenting."

Wild Studio began when the duo decided to try and distil the colours of nature into their work.



Artists Emma Cowan, left, and Sarah Nicholson in their workshop. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

"We thought initially that we'd have kind of quite a neutral palette of orangey, yellow, earthy tones, but we've gotten the whole spectrum of colours, which has been really exciting for us," Emma said.

"Blue is one of my colours, and I thought, well, that's not going to be possible. But then I thought, well, indigo is made from a plant, so maybe I can."

"One of the brightest yellow and orange colours we get is from the weed [Montbretia] that grows in the valley, which I've been pulling

out for years but now realise that you can make really cool colours from it."

For Sarah, making their own tools was also a must.

"For painting with, they're actually more satisfying to use than buying plastic brushes, and the pens just work really well with the inks, to the point where that's what we prefer over other tools."

The pair have spent countless hours experimenting and cataloguing their created materials. The technical data they have col-

lected, from testing the paints for colourfastness, longevity and reactions with other materials, has been carefully noted down with the aim of one day developing a book, thesis, or in-depth teaching classes.

"It's an interesting space because we've got a lot of technical capacity now - when we teach workshops, we have to kind of slow ourselves down because we've got so much to share."

And Wild Studio has become a key support for the duo's work,

allowing them to fund their research with workshops, classes and an online shop. "We've just started selling some inks... Developing a bit of a shop that supports our research because we're not selling artwork, we're wanting to build [the] business by sharing our knowledge," Emma said.

The inks Emma and Sarah sell have all been hand-made.

"From an art perspective, they're like liquid watercolour," Emma said.

"We've kind of developed our basic extraction method, but then by altering different aspects of how we use the ink, you can change the colour, so you get more than one colour from one plant. Yeah, it's super exciting."


Alongside their research, Emma and Sarah also run art workshops for kids and adults. As they work with participants to develop their own unique art supplies, they encourage them to view the world with "foraging eyes".

"It feels like we're building stronger connections by integrating plants and their uses into our art practice, as we have done into our kitchens," Emma said.

"It's really changed the way that I see. And I've noticed that with our workshop participants, how it changes the way that you then see when you're out in the world," Sarah said.

DETAILS: Wild studio art workshop: January 18 in Thames. See www.wildstudio.co.nz for details.




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HDC NEWS



20 November 2024



Nau mai haere mai to our new Chief Executive, David Speirs. Welcome to our Hauraki District whānau.

"The last two weeks have been a whirlwind of facts and figures, finding out all the urgent things I need to know and seeing the places I need to see, but among all that there have also been many friendly faces, hands to shake and words of encouragement. So thank you for making me so welcome and I look forward to meeting more of you over the coming months. Harikoa taku noho mai ki kōnei me te whai wāhi ki tēnei hāpori."

David Speirs

If a Building or Resource Consent is on your wish list for Christmas, you'll need to get a jingle on...

Did you know...

By law, the period from Friday 20 December 2024 to Friday 10 January 2025 is excluded from the 20 working day processing period (statutory processing clock) for building or resource consent applications.

This means applications received 'after the clock has stopped' at close of business on Thursday 19 December, may not be processed until Monday 13 January 2025.

Current applications that are not signed off by Council by Thursday 19 December may also be paused until Monday 13 January 2025.

There are a few things you can do to plan for delays:

- When submitting new applications make sure you've included everything as we can't accept incomplete applications.
- Book a free appointment with our Duty Planner and Building Officer as soon as possible.
- If your application is affected by the statutory shutdown period, let your agent or builders know to expect a delay.

Land Information Memorandum (LIM) applications

If you want a LIM report before Christmas, we'll need your application by:

- 9am Friday 6 December for a Standard LIM (10 working days).
- 9am Tuesday 17 December for an Urgent LIM (2-3 working days).

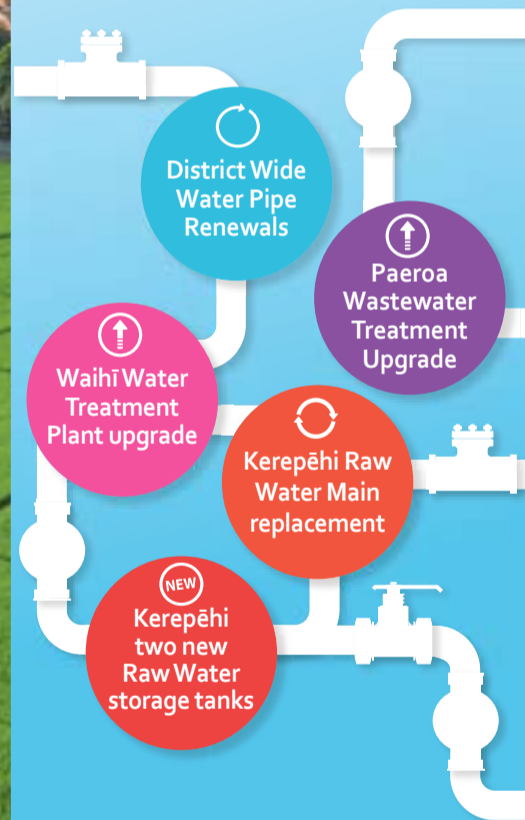
We will still accept applications after these dates but there is no guarantee that a LIM report will be issued before Christmas.

Building inspections

There will be no building inspections from Friday 20 December 2024 until Monday 13 January 2025.

Water infrastructure updates

If you're interested in all things technical, you'll love seeing the progress on numerous water infrastructure projects we have on the go. When complete, they'll increase resilience in our water network and provide security of the supply for our communities. Head to www.letstalk.hauraki-dc.govt.nz



Alcohol Licensing deadlines

Don't let Christmas deadlines take the fizz out of your season – note these important dates for applications:

- Special License – 22 November (for events planned up until the end of February 2025)
- Temporary Authority – 22 November
- New Manager's Certificate – 2 December.



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If not, you're missing out on important Council alerts, notifications and reminders direct to your mobile phone! Download the free app and use it to report issues to us too – now that's handy!



Road Resealing programme

Check if your road is receiving some love this construction season. Sign up to the free Antenna app or check our website for weekly updates.

www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/roads/road-maintenance



Turua 'Lawnmowahs' make their mark

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Around 12 lawn-mowing legends certainly made their mark when they showed up to the Turua Domain on November 3 on their ride-on mowers to help give the town's field a trim.

The Turua Lawnmowahs were joined by a few extra helpers on the day, who made their joint effort of tidying up the domain prior to their next event a memorable one.

Brendan Walsh, better known as The Rocker Warrior, organised a working bee earlier in the year to help get the domain ready for a Family Fun Day, and was back at it again to get the site ready for the upcoming Turua Christmas at the domain on November 22.

Brendan told *The Profile* he "put the call out" on the community Facebook page for people to head along to the domain on their ride on lawn mowers and help cut the lawn.

It was a time to "get together" he said, followed by a barbecue and light refreshments afterward.

Brendan said Cole Harrison, who used to live in Turua but now lived in Hamilton, reached out to him through the notice on Facebook and asked if he could help.

Cole, who works for Brandt John Deere Hamilton, turned up with three mowers and three



Turua Lawnmowahs pitched in to mow the domain ahead of their Christmas event.

Photos: LUKE MITCHELL CHILLED EDGE PHOTOGRAPHY

people to help, Brendan said.

"It blew me away, blew everyone away."

But that's not all.

Cole and his crew were tasked with the final touch and mowed 'Turua Lawnmowahs' into the grass, and Brendan said the group appreciated their help so asked them to put their branding on the top.

But it was clear Brendan's motivation was for Turua.

"The reason I do it is it's just really a community initiative."

The next event for the small town was set to kick off from 5.30pm to 7.30pm on November 22 for the Turua Christmas at the domain.

People can expect to see coffee carts, food stalls, live entertainment, raffles, bouncy castles, therapy horses, a slip and slide, and more including an appearance from the man in the red suit at around 6pm.

The event is organised by the Turua Community Committee, which is seeking more members so they can continue to run community initiatives.

DETAILS: Turua Christmas in the domain, Cnr Raupoiti St and Piako Rd, November 22, 5.30pm to 7.30pm, cash only event for food stalls, all kids activities are free. For more information about joining the committee, contact turuacommunity@gmail.com.



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Education

ADVERTISING FEATURE



Orchard and garden provides kai

Tapu School students have planted an orchard and a vegetable garden so that we are able to provide produce for our kura and local community.

The Thames-Coromandel District Council supplied us with trees, vegetables and soil to plant in our orchard and garden.

We and our whānau helped to prepare the land for cultivation and then planted the trees and crops.

We are caring for the plants by checking on

them, watering them and removing weeds.

We have already been able to share some produce with our students and whānau.

"The broccoli tasted way better than that at the supermarket," Year 4 student.

"I liked picking the broccoli and eating it," Year 1 student.

"I like how the orchard helps us with fruit and helps nature because the leaves suck up carbon dioxide," Year 4 student.

Tapu School - Kaitiaki o te Ngāhere

Stories by students of Tapu School and the Principal

Here at Tapu School we have been exploring the biology and ecology of plants in the context of forests and gardens.

We have also been learning about the use of plants and our forests over time, from the first settlement by Polynesian peoples to the present day. We are developing an understanding of weeds and pests, their impact on our forests and gardens, and ways of managing them.

We have also been thinking about future scenarios and developing possible solutions to gardening and the sustainable use of the forest. We have completed a range of projects to increase the sustainability and biodiversity of our school and have several underway.

Please get in touch if you are interested in your child attending Tapu School.

Ngā mihi,

Ryan Abbott,

Email: principal@tapu.school.nz



A group of Tapu School students on the forest path.

Photos: SUPPLIED

Forest Path

We have created a path through our school's little native forest to make it a more welcoming place and to protect the native seedlings from being trampled.

We plotted and measured out the path to see what materials we would need.

We then cleared the forest of invasive plants and rescued the native seedlings from where the path would be made.

Then students moved bark and split logs to the site and built the path.

We will plant the native seedlings around the school when they are a bit more established.

It has been great to see locals and visitors walking the path and enjoying our little native forest on the weekends.

"I like going on the forest path and on the little bridge." - Year 1 student

"It is good that we helped the seedlings." - Year 4 student

"I like going on the path because we don't hurt the plants." - Year 4 student

Robotics challenge students

This term we have been learning about Digital Technology through Scratch and robotics.

We have been "thinking like a computer" (computational thinking) so that we are able to give specific instructions to create technological outcomes using computers. The most recent robotics session involved programming a robot to navigate a maze and avoid obstacles.

This was challenging, however everyone came away with a greater understanding of computational thinking and a passion to learn more.

"I like that we get to control where it is going." - Year 1 student

"It is important to be very accurate with your coding." - Year 4 student



Students save their robot from crashing into the wall of the maze.

Ruamahunga Reserve

We went to the Ruamahunga forest to explore and to develop a deeper connection with the forest.

We carefully observed the leaves, flowers and fruit of different plants and then used plant identification keys to discover which plants are present in our local native forest.

Once upon a time, Tapu School was de-

clared the guardian of the Ruamahunga forest north of Diehard Stream.

We are looking forward to working with DOC, TCDC and manawhenua to reestablish and strengthen our connection to the forest.

"I learned a lot about plants and trees." - Year 1 student.

"It was fun to discover plants we didn't know the name of." - Year 4 student.

Drum specialist visits

As part of the music curriculum we took part in several half-day sessions with a drum specialist, Jaqui Barrett.

Students had the opportunity to learn how to use a wide range of percussion instruments from around the world.

They also created their own music in small groups and individually

and then performed it in front of an audience.

"I liked the big drum" - Year 1 student.

"It was cool that we could make up our own beat and the class followed it." - Year 4 student.

"I liked the music we made with Mrs Finlay and playing with new instruments." - Year 4 student.



Students hone cricket skills

We have been learning about and playing cricket as part of physical education.

We were fortunate to have the Northern Districts Cricket Association visit to teach us new ways to hone our cricket skills.

One of our most recent students found out that they have the making of an amazing cricketer.

"I liked learning how to bowl at the wickets." - Year 4 student.

"It was cool to learn from a pro." - Year 2 student.

"I liked everything about it." - Year 4 student.

Hard work pays off for Paeroa dux

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Gracie Owen was in disbelief when she snapped up her greatest achievement at her school's senior prizegiving.

The 17-year-old Paeroa College student was honoured on October 30 as she received her award as Paeroa College Dux for 2024.

The top honours student told *The Profile* it was a surreal but "very proud moment".

It was like "seeing the hard work pay off", she said.

Gracie appreciated all her peers, the parents and teachers who offered support and congratulations following her big win, she said.

She was blown away to be in good company with past dux achievers, which included familiar people such as Grier Buchanan and Jamie McGahan, she said.

And the history behind the dux cup was something Gracie was in awe of.

It was cool how so many people before her had held it and whose names were etched into it as far back as 1958, she said.

"I've always thought, you know, I've worked hard at school, but I think this has kind of validated that."

But the thing that "drove me to do well" was to take subjects she enjoyed, she said.

Biology, health and chemistry were subjects she said she loved, and her teachers also made a big difference.



Paeroa College dux Gracie Owen sees her "hard work pay off".

Photo: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

"When the teacher is genuinely interested in teaching you and wants you to do well, that's a really big [and] helpful thing."

Gracie, who currently has around 60 excellence credits up her sleeve, said one of her proudest moments was when she received excellence for an English assessment.

"English is not my strong sub-

ject," so she was almost in tears when she found out the result, she said, and gave her a "new-found confidence".

Since year-11, Gracie has aimed to do as well as possible and "try my hardest - that's the best you can do", she said.

School in general taught her to work hard and push herself, she said. "And it does feel good

to push yourself."

The leading academic said she would continue to push herself throughout university too, which is where she will head next year to study physiotherapy at Auckland University of Technology.

In the meantime, Gracie said she would work at her Subway job over the summer to save up

some money for next year.

But something else Gracie was also interested in was sports.

Gracie said playing sports at Paeroa College "shaped me" to enjoy moving her body.

Her passions were running and rugby she said, and she was also part of the Thames Valley Vixens 7s women's rugby team.

"It's good to kind of unwind [and] just have time to be myself."

One thing Gracie said she was "definitely going to miss" about school was getting to see her friends everyday, and also the cool teachers.

"I'll always remember Miss Muller and Miss Dunser - they're my favourites."

But something she said was a highlight from her time at Paeroa College was when her sister, Jamie-Lee, organised the 'Run for a Reason' event last year alongside Grier Buchanan.

To see Jamie-Lee grow as a person and as a head student was something Gracie said "inspired me to do well".

Gracie's advice for other students who would like to work hard and aim for dux was to "try your best".

Whether in sports, school-work or any personal goals: "it's a good feeling when you try", she said.

"Just try because it does feel good to achieve those things.

"But also, have fun." Meanwhile, Milah McGahan was named Proxime Accessit.

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Rail Trail shelter project officially opens

The Rotary Shelter Project was officially opened on last month at Te Aroha West.

Officials and representatives from the Hauraki Rail Trail Trust and local Rotary groups celebrated the installation of 16 bike shelters along the cycle network.

The Rotary Shelter Project started in 2020 as part of the Area 4 Rotary Clubs' centennial celebrations.

Rotarians from the Thames, Paeroa, Te Aroha, Morrinsville and Matamata chapters initially planned to build a single shelter on the trail.

However, the expansion of the project saw the group acquire funding for 16 shelters.

These were installed at various points along the trail, providing shelter, seating, and signage with local and historical information for users of the trail.

The final shelter was installed in Pipiroa in September.

The project has seen the involvement of numerous community groups, local iwi, councils and many others. The seats were built from scraps of macrocarpa by the Thames Menzshed, while iwi were commissioned to carve the apex carvings.

The majority of the funding for the \$365,000 project came from Rotary; the Ministry of



Officials stand in the Te Aroha West shelter. TOP RIGHT: The project was officially opened by Coromandel MP Scott Simpson, left, Matamata-Piako District Council Mayor Adrienne Wilcock, and Thames Rotary Club ex-president Warren Sly. RIGHT: The completed Kōpū shelter. Photos: SUPPLIED



Business, Innovation and Employment; and Trust Waikato.

Artists, historians and other community groups contributed to the signage and landscaping of each shelter.

"These shelters have been game-changers for the Hauraki Rail Trail," trust chair Diane Drummond said.

"They have given us a real

focal point to tell our stories. People are stopping, enjoying the respite they provide, but what has been fascinating is the engagement with the storylines.

"And while we have already completed some panels, many of the shelters have a panel waiting for a gem of knowledge to come our way."



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National



Authorised by Scott Simpson, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.

Miners trapped by falling timbers at Waihi



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

A fall of timber in the No 2 level of the Waihi Company's mine was the first warning Daniel Wilson and Arthur Mathias had that something was wrong.

It was around 1pm in late June, 1904, and the men were in the act of putting in a bearer. Then the lights went out. Daniel, a single man with six or seven years' mining experience, suddenly found himself jammed between the cribbing – the timber framework lining the mine shaft – as rock and wood crashed down on the men. He miraculously escaped injury or death due to the cribbing locking all round him. Arthur, though, who was working just below Daniel, received all the weight of the falling debris. Soon after, Arthur said "I'm done" and never spoke again. Daniel was now in the dark, entombed with his dead mate. His terrible plight was not known until the afternoon shift came on at 4pm.

A rescue party was immediately formed and began cutting away the fallen timbers under great difficulties.

The greatest care had to be taken in removing the cribbing, which formed its protective barrier over and around Daniel, for fear that the removal of any



Arthur Mathias, left, and Daniel Wilson.

Photos: SUPPLIED

piece of timber might cause a further collapse. The rescue work was necessarily very slow, and watched carefully by Waihi mine officials. Hundreds of miners gathered around the mouth of the shaft anxiously waiting for news. The suspense was very great.

Daniel, who was buried for four hours before anyone knew of the accident, and for four hours afterwards during the rescue, showed great bravery. He could talk to the men working on the relief party and stimulating drinks and a candle were passed to him. At a quarter to eight, after heroic efforts by the rescuers, he was safely taken out and carried to the shaft chamber on a stretcher. Daniel walked with assistance down the short ladderway but was stretchered over the 1000ft of level between the scene of accident and the cage, which took him to the surface. His injuries were light, but the shock great.

It was clear Arthur Mathias had

worked his last shift. His body was taken to the Sterling Hotel. Arthur, 28, was greatly liked, and well known on the football field. He had married only in the past 12 months. He left a widow, Agnes, and a baby son. Originally from Tauranga, Arthur was related to the late Archdeacon Mathias, of Canterbury, and Colonel Mathias, late of the Gordon Highlanders.

At the inquest, the jury visited the mine to inspect the scene of the accident. The court was packed with miners. Daniel said that everything seemed safe previously. Mr Stewart, shift boss, stated that he had gone to the shaft the previous evening. Though not actually in the shaft, he was within a few feet of it and the works then seemed to be perfectly safe. He thought it might have been advisable to put in a few props to secure the ground when taking out the cribbing. Mr Coombe, assistant manager, said miners could always get tim-

ber necessary for their safety from the company. It would be the men's own fault if they did not use it. The accident might have been avoided had they secured the ground above.

Other evidence was taken, and then owing to a statement by a jurymen that there were rumours about town regarding a dangerous part of the mine where the accident occurred, the inquest was adjourned to obtain the evidence of the contractors. Mr Cornes was summoned and said that he was the previous contractor. He did not consider the area dangerous; neither did he give up his contract because of the danger involved. It was not true that men had frequently left his contract because of the dangerous state of the ground. The place where the accident occurred was one of the safest areas. Mr McConochie, shift boss, was recalled and stated that the hanging wall of the reef was weak, but not shaky.

The Coroner remarked, in closing the inquest, that the accident was one of those inevitable occurrences which happened in the dangerous occupation of mining. He considered the Waihi Company took every precaution in this case. The jury found that Arthur accidentally met his death in the Waihi mine through the collapse of the pass.

A rider was added that where men were working in an isolated part of the mine, they should be visited more frequently by mine officials.

Arthur was buried at Waihi cemetery, a large number of friends from Waikato, Tauranga, Karangahake, and surrounding districts attending.

Representatives of the Miners' Union and local Football Clubs were also present, and many wreaths were sent. Arthur's workmates were pallbearers and the funeral one of the largest held in the district.

Chris' Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parminter

1. In a 2005 interview with Oprah Winfrey, Tom Cruise famously jumped on her couch to express how happy he was in his relationship with which actress?
2. The band Crowded House, currently touring New Zealand, formed in which decade?
3. Which part of the plant do we commonly eat when consuming broccoli?
4. Which famous painter is known for painting *The Last Supper*? a) Leonardo da Vinci, b) Michelangelo or c) Vincent van Gogh?
5. The term gelastic refers to relating or causing which human reaction? a) embarrassment, b) hiccups or c) laughter?
6. Which Caribbean island nation is distinctive for having the only national flag in the world that does not contain the colours red, white or blue?
7. Who is the highest paid football player in the world in 2024? a) Lionel Messi, b) Cristiano Ronaldo or c) David Beckham?
8. In which year did Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay reach the summit of Mt Everest for the first time? a) 1943, b) 1953 or c) 1963?
9. True or false: giraffes have the same number of neck vertebrae as humans?
10. If a bridge was built between the North and South Island's closest points, where would it rank in terms of the world's longest bridges? a) 1st, b) 36th or c) 136th?

ANSWERS: 1. Kate Holmes; 2. 1980s; 3. The flower; 4. a) Leonardo da Vinci; 5. (c) laughter; 6. Jamaica; 7. b) Cristiano Ronaldo - he will earn the equivalent of \$472 million NZD in 2024; 8. b) 1953; 9. True - they both have seven neck vertebrae; 10. b) 36th.

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Rural Life

Hauraki prepares to 'Crank Up' at domain

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

A day to celebrate vintage machinery in the Hauraki Plains was just around the corner for eager enthusiasts from near and far.

The Hauraki Vintage Machinery Club will kick off its annual Crank Up Day event on November 24 from 10am at the Kaihere Domain.

Event organiser Robin Hill told *The Profile* people could expect to see vintage machinery, tractors, motorbikes, classic cars, and stationary engines.

Even an old milking shed belonging to the club would be on display, plus tractor and trailer rides and sheep shearing "which the kids enjoy", Robin said.

Yesteryear memorabilia would also be on display.

Families are encouraged to take a picnic lunch or purchase some of the food on sale at the grounds such as sausages, cakes, tea, coffee, cans of drink or ice cream, he said.

Members from other clubs were expected to be there, including a good friend of Robin's, who built his own motor from scratch, he said.

Robin, who said he'd been involved with the club for more than 20 years, had 35



Club president Neil Fitzgerald at a previous Crank Up event.

File Photo: SUPPLIED

tractors. "I would have the biggest collection in the district."

He planned to take four of them to the event, he said.

"I've got a lot of different makes of tractors, I think my oldest tractor is [from] 1926."

But there was a spanner in the works.

Robin said the 1926 tractor wasn't actually operating at the moment, and he couldn't find out the reason why - "but we'll get it going".

Robin said the vintage ma-

chinery community in New Zealand was it was a lot bigger than people thought.

"You know, we're all a little bit mad, I think..."

"We've got rust in our veins, picking up this old machinery," he said.

DETAILS: Crank Up Day, gold coin entry, 10am to 4pm on November 24 at the Kaihere Domain 1559 Kaihere Road (just off State Highway 27). For further information, phone or text Neil Fitzgerald on 027 497 3865 or Robin Hill on 027 280 7687.

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Rural Life

Haurakian Trust to celebrate 20 years

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Boasting is not something the Haurakian Charitable Trust is known for.

But as the Trust approaches its 20th anniversary, the impact of its involvement and support within the Hauraki community is something worth celebrating.

The Haurakian Charitable Trust was created by a group of past students from Ngatea District High School and Hauraki Plains College in 2004, and would celebrate its 20 year anniversary on November 21.

The Trust's purpose was to provide additional resourcing and opportunities to strengthen the educational, social and well-being outcomes for young people of Hauraki Plains College and the community.

Hauraki Plains College principal Sharon Moller told *The Profile* The Haurakian Charitable Trust (HCT) is a dedicated group of community members with a close connection to "our school".

They also embodied the school's values, she said, which are to teach students to be their best selves (rangatiratanga), to look after each other (manaakitanga), and to care for their environment (kaitiakitanga), she said.

Principal Sharon said HCT provided resources such as the Performing Arts Lodge, the Centennial Centre, the Hayward Farm, and heritage buildings to



HPC students walk to Hayward Farm.

Photo: SUPPLIED

enhance the school's learning programmes.

HTC also awarded financial scholarships and donated funds annually which allowed the school to support projects beyond their ministry funding, she said.

A recent example of their support included scholarships for the Hauraki Plains College Dux and Proxime Accessit, as well as funding for their Restricted Ready driving programme, she said.

"Hauraki Plains College is 'more than a school' because of our partnership with the Haurakian Charitable Trust."

HCT chairperson Ciarán Tully told *The Profile* he enjoyed being part of a team that continued to develop the original vision of the Trust in enhancing the Hauraki Plains community in education, social and wellbeing areas.

Ciarán said the upcoming anniversary was about recognition and celebration of the vision of the original trustees who wanted to make a positive difference in the lives of the college staff and students, and community on the Hauraki Plains.

"If the college is going well, so is the community, and vice versa."

He also said it was an opportunity to share "our vision for the future".

Ciarán said they were looking to develop a community facility at Number 11 Orchard Road, that Hauraki Plains "can be proud of".

"It will be great to share that vision when we celebrate our anniversary."

HCT Trustee Gill Leonard, who was the first chairperson and led for eight years, said the trust was formed after a few school reunions.

While Gill and the group of past pupils had a bit of money left

over, she said there was "a really good vibe happening" in regards to the school doing well and being part of the community.

They wanted to "keep that spirit" going, she said - "so that's how it started really".

Gill said they aimed to be the best rural secondary school in New Zealand.

"That was our vision."

But their mission was and still is to be the guardians of the Haurakian spirit, which was about being good neighbours, good community people with basic morals who looked after each other, she said.

"And we also wanted to use that trust to be able to access funding from outside the school's capabilities because they're really quite limited."

"And to ensure that the community has a legacy of excellence."

Gill said they also wanted to use it to celebrate the past, but also to invest in the future.

"So that was the basics of it, why we started it."

The trust would also hold its AGM on the evening of its anniversary event, Gill said.

While the anniversary celebration wasn't a public event, Gill said it would be a dinner for past trustees, and a few speeches.

"It's just low key, and that's something that we, as a trust, has recognised - that we do not blow our own trumpet. We just get on there and do it."

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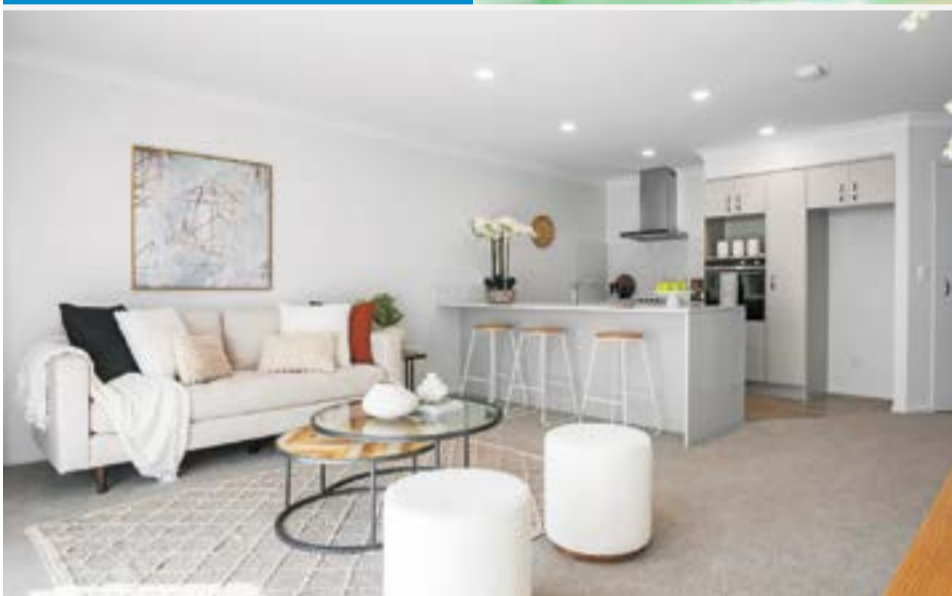
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New book release by Thames historian

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Dave Wilton's interest in history started when he was around five years old.

But now, the 72-year-old historian was getting ready to release his new 210-page book based on the Thames Goldfield.

The launch of Dave's new book, *Archaeology of 'The Thames' Goldfield - Volume 1*, which is published by Te Whare Pātaka The Treasury, is set to be released and celebrated on November 24 at Carson's Bookshop from 1pm.

The Thames author and historian told *The Profile* he enjoyed putting the book together.

It's based on many decades of "exploring the hills" around Thames as a kid, he said, then later on as an adult, getting involved in archaeology and getting the chance to write them up and record them as archaeological sites.

"So it's a kind of a selection of the best 30 or so sites that I've recorded over the years or over most of my life, really."

But Dave couldn't pick just one particular part of the book that really stood out to him.

"There's a number of them," he said.

A few highlights of the book, Dave said, were parts about the Crosbie Settlement, the



Thames author and historian Dave Wilton is set to launch his new book on Sunday.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Pārāwai Mission Station and Hall's Arboretum - but people would need to get a copy of the book to find out more.

The Treasury Publications team member Beth McKay said

Archaeology of 'The Thames' Goldfield - Volume 1 would be the first academic book they had published.

"We're really excited to see how it sells. It's a little bit dif-

ferent and a little bit exciting."

Beth said they were very grateful to Dave for his generosity as the author was also donating all profits to The Treasury.

"He's been so supportive of the Treasury for a long time."

With potential for a further two volumes of the book to be published, Dave said the books were already written and "ready to go".

"We were just going to try and launch Volume 1 just to see what interest there is."

People who are planning to go to the book launch could expect to hear a bit from the author, who will share about the book and a little bit about archaeology. Dave said Beth from The Treasury was scheduled to speak, and Carson's Bookshop would also share a bit of information, followed by an afternoon tea.

But the number one thing the author hoped people would take away from the book was enjoyment, and also "appreciation of the rich history of the area".

While Dave said the book was focussed on archaeology, which is a study of places and things that humans leave behind: "it's primarily about people".

DETAILS: Dave's book launch at Carson's Bookshop, 600 Pollen St, Thames, November 24 at 1pm. *Archaeology of 'The Thames' Goldfield - Volume 1* will be available to purchase at the launch, and afterwards at Carson's or online at www.the-treasury.org.nz.

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Highway maintenance planned

Over the next three years, the Waikato region is benefiting from the national funding injection of over \$2 billion for pothole prevention and maintenance, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi says.

More than 180 lane kilometres of road will either be rebuilt or re-sealed across the wider Waikato region, including around the Coromandel Peninsula.

Work includes repairing a 30m-wide underslip on SH25 near Sailors Grave Rd, just north of Tairua, which will take six months to complete.

Work has begun to replace four bridges in the Coromandel district, including three single lane bridges on SH25. Funding was allocated in the 2024-27 National Land

Transport Programme to progress the replacement of Pepe Stream Bridge in Tairua, the Ramarama Stream Bridge near Whiritoa and the Boundary Creek Bridge on the Thames coast.

The Boundary Creek Bridge is currently reduced to a single lane to manage weight restrictions and a new bridge deck will be installed to enable the resumption of two-way traffic.

Meanwhile, construction to replace the Onetai Stream Bridge on SH26 near Hikutaia is expected to begin in 2025. The replacement bridge will be three metres wider than the existing bridge. Waka Kotahi said the replacement will improve safety and efficiency of the highway.

SPORTS

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



Paeroa Croquet Club recently hosted a Thames Valley Croquet Association fundraiser at their greens. Thirty Six players from the Thames Valley clubs, plus players from Mount Maunganui, Katikati and Hamilton and Matamata enjoyed the occasion. The money raised is used to send two teams to a regional tournament over Anniversary Weekend in January. Twentymans were the sponsors and Burtons Butchery donated the sausages for the sausage sizzle lunch. There were three sections and the winners were: Section One: Martin and Teresa Jessop (Katikati) Vanessa Hanna (Hamilton East) and Neil Constable (Katikati); Runners Up. Section Two: Chris Batton and Earl McLarnon (both from Waihi) Anne Hatton (Katikati) and Lesley Chapman (Waihi) Runners Up. Section Three: Lindus Parsons and Wendy Wilson (both from Thames) Colin Hicks Rini van Riel (both from Matamata).

Photo: SUPPLIED

Quacking good fun

Family, friends and folks gathered for a day of fun at the “world-famous-in-Thames” Te Puru Duck Race fundraiser on November 2, which raised \$2102 for the Thames Coast Community Kindergarten. Chairperson Kate McGee told *The Profile* they were really pleased with the turnout this year. It was great to see so many kindy families, past and present, who enjoyed the day, she said. “We were so impressed with the creativity of the kids’ decorated ducks and handmade boat entries. The kids had a blast taking part in the activities and the duck race winners went home with wonderful prizes,” she said. The event couldn’t have happened without the efforts of the kindy community, she said. “A big shoutout to our generous sponsors for the wonderful prizes and donations and to the volunteers from Thames High and Thames Rotary Club who helped on the day.”



Lakey is in position to watch the duck race.

Photos: SUPPLIED



Eloise is the winner of the Best Dressed Duck competition.



Kindy kids watch ducks float down Te Puru creek.



Sadie enjoys some candyfloss.

St John Thames

Holiday closure for Health Shuttle Operations

Hato Hone St John Health Shuttle bookings across the country will close for the Christmas holiday period from 18th December 2024 to 8th January 2025.

Our Thames based shuttles covering the Thames, Paeroa, Ngatea, and Kaiaua area may be able to provide a limited service during this period, but it is essential that the bookings are confirmed before December 18th. There will be no provision for bookings to be made during the closure period and patients who do not have a confirmed booking will need to make other arrangements.

For Health Shuttle bookings please call **(07) 868 0567** or **0800 934 287** to discuss your needs with us.

Hato Hone St John has taken this step to provide for annual holidays of our admin staff and to give our valuable volunteer drivers a break at this time when most of the hospital clinics are also closed.

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SPORTS

Pedal power to the top for BMX champ

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

A moment Danika Bergerson won't forget from her recent BMX competition is when the crowd chanted her name as she finished her final race.

The 15-year-old bicycle motocross racer competed in the BMX North Island Titles on October 25 to 27, held at her home track in Cambridge.

She told *The Profile* she was relieved and "over-the-moon happy" when she wrapped up her seventh and final race of the weekend.

That's because the BMX enthusiast, who rode in the 15- to 16-year-old girls' group, won six out of seven races and claimed the North Island number one title.

The champion rider said all her friends gathered around "giving me hugs" and congratulations.

When she crossed the finish line, she said she felt "a wave of fulfilment" and exhilaration knowing she secured the number one spot.

Danika, who is a year-10 student at Hauraki Plains College, said the competition used a points-over format where riders earned points based on their finishing positions in each race.

"The rider with the lowest



Danika Bergerson has claimed the North Island number one BMX title.

Photo: SUPPLIED

total points across all heats wins."

The most challenging part for Danika was when another rider "took me out" in the second race, she said.

To secure the final win, she needed to place first in each of her remaining five races, she said.

To "overcome the mental side" of the situation, she refo-

cussed herself and was able to place first in each of the races that followed.

A good night's sleep, a warm up on the track, a good breakfast and a review of her race strategy were all things Danika said she would do to prepare for a day of racing.

"And then dad checks my bike for no problems."

But if she's not out on her

bike, "you'll probably still see me at the track", she said.

Danika, who has been riding since she was six years old, spent time coaching younger riders and helping out at the Cambridge BMX Track.

"But if I'm not doing any of this I'm probably at the beach with family."

When it comes to needing bike advice, Danika said she

usually asks her dad - "he knows a lot about how it works", as he used to ride motorbikes and do trail-riding.

And for encouragement, she leaned on her dad, mum, sister Kiarna, and a couple BMX friends.

The latest skill Danika was working on was the double manual, she said.

"This trick is where you manual two jumps in a row without the front wheel touching the ground."

The next thing Danika said she was working towards was the Oceania BMX Championships in New Plymouth in February, followed by the 2025 BMX Nationals in Invercargill in March.

While it would be "pretty expensive", Danika said she would love to be able to attend the World Championships in Denmark next year, or the following one in Australia in 2026.

But the best part about BMX was "the thrill of pushing my limits", meeting new people, and trying new tracks, she said.

"When I'm riding, it feels like an exhilarating rush of adrenaline and freedom, as if I'm completely in sync with the bike and the track."

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Dancers offered places at NZ School of Dance

Thames Hauraki Dance Theatre dancers Kolbie Fraser and Liarah Anderson have been offered places at the New Zealand School of Dance in Wellington.

The school is recognised as one of the Southern Hemisphere's leading dance conservatoires and has become New Zealand's foremost training establishment for classical and contemporary dancers. It is also the official school for the Royal New Zealand Ballet.

Kolbie Fraser, of Cooks Beach, will join the classical ballet programme and Liarah Anderson, of Ngatea, will join the Contemporary Dance programme.

Both girls, aged 16, have worked extremely hard and are thrilled to be taking another step closer to their dream of becoming professional dancers.

Kolbie has also been offered a place in Sydney at the Tanya Pearson Academy, and at the Alberta ballet School in Canada. "Getting in to NZSD has been a long term dream of mine," Kolbie said.

"I'm so incredibly grateful to all my teachers and family. My Dad has driven me from Cooks Beach to Thames four times a week, even when the road was closed and it took us two hours each way."

Liarah said it was her dream to get in to the New Zealand School of Dance.



"It hasn't been easy but I am so excited about this new chapter and moving to Wellington," she said.

Liarah is also an accomplished choreographer and has choreographed one of the pieces in Thames Hauraki Dance Theatre's upcoming show in December.

The school is thriving after moving from Ngatea to Thames under the directorship of Sarah Fitzsimons, a former dancer

with the Royal Ballet Company in London. Continuing Pauline Germon's legacy in the area, Sarah moved from Wellington and has built up student numbers from eight in January, 2023, to now more than 120. Students range from as young as four years up to the Senior Swans Ballet class, a weekly ballet class for those over 50.

Sarah has secured a venue at the Thames Racecourse with plans to lay a new dance floor,



Ballerina Kolbie Fraser, left, will live out a "long term dream" of hers at New Zealand School of Dance. RIGHT: Contemporary dancer Liarah Anderson has landed a spot in the New Zealand School of Dance.

Photos: SUPPLIED

and has entered her first dancers into the Rambert Grades Contemporary exams, a progressive and inclusive contemporary dance syllabus.

They recently had the privilege of a visit from the Royal New Zealand Ballet's Education unit dance educator, Neve Pierce, which really inspired the students, she said. The workshops helped develop understanding of the elements of dance, choreographic techniques and clas-

sical and contemporary dance, she said.

The school is currently preparing for this year's production, *The Nutcracker*.

A real Christmas treat, the *Nutcracker* with a difference will feature Ballet, Contemporary, Jazz and Hip Hop.

DETAILS: December 7 at 2pm and 6pm at the Thames War Memorial Civic Centre. Tickets are available at Carsons Bookshop or at www.thdt.co.nz.

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Biggest TikTok dance trends for 2024

OPINION

By ALI KOIA-HAMLING, Paeroa College student

TikTok is one of the biggest smartphone apps in the world, and songs can become dance trends within a short period of time. This week, we look at the biggest TikTok dance trends of this year.

Megan Thee Stallion and Yuki Chiba's hit single *Mamushi* spawned a worldwide dance trend, which saw the song become one of Megan Thee Stallion's biggest songs to date. Furthermore, the song's success resulted in Thee Stallion creating a music video which included the ionic dance.

Tinashe was catapulted to stardom earlier this year when her single *Nasty* became a viral sensation on TikTok. The mesmerising chorus had everyone up on their feet, resulting in it becoming one of the biggest songs of the year and finally giving the long-time R&B singer a much deserved hit.

Tell Ur Girlfriend, by Lay Bankz, became a huge hit on Tiktok, spawning a massive viral dance which spread across the world. The song became such a huge hit, that it even charted in some countries.

The iconic *Apple Dance* was actually made by a creator online, which then resulted in a huge number of people learning the now iconic *Apple Dance*, which was so popular it was incorporated in Charli XCX's Sweat concert tour.

As well as that, the dance reached the likes of TV host Stephen Colbert, who performed it live during an episode of his massive TV show, *The Late Show With Stephen Colbert*. Even the Team USA Women's Rugby Team performed the dance following their bronze medal at the Olympics.

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Movies from Thursday 21 November to Wednesday 27 November

My Favourite Cake (97 mins) M. *Thu 11am; Sun 4pm*: 70yo solitary Mahin chooses to revive her love life. A chance encounter becomes an unforgettable evening. Iranian - in Persian with English subtitles. "Deeply endearing, [with] general joie de vivre... a crowdpleaser through and through" Hollywood Reporter.

A Different Man (112 mins) M. *Thu 1.30pm; Sat 7pm*: An aspiring actor undergoes a radical medical procedure to transform his appearance. But his dream new face soon turns into a nightmare.

Here (104 mins) M. *Thu 7pm; Sat 1.30pm*: A generational story about families and the special place they inhabit, sharing in love, loss, laughter, and life. Starring Tom Hanks, Robin Wright, Paul Bettany.

Quartet (98 mins) M. *Fri 10.30am*: Billy Connolly, Maggie Smith and Michael Gambon star in this comedy about a retired group of opera singers who put on a fund-raising concert to keep their home running.

The Critic (101 mins) M. *Fri & Wed (27th) 5.15pm*: Ian McKellen (Lord of the Rings) stars as a powerful London theatre critic who lures a struggling actress into a blackmail scheme with deadly consequences.

Lee (117 mins, 2023) M. *Fri 7pm; Sun 1.30pm; Wed (27th) 7pm*: Story of photographer & model Lee Miller who became a war correspondent. Includes a photo of Miller herself posing defiantly in Hitler's private bathtub.

Gut Instinct (84mins) M. Flashing images that may cause seizures, drug references **Special screening with NZ director Q&A Sat 4pm**: After the alien gut microbe invasion brought the collapse of civilisation and the death of 93% of humanity, life has been less than ideal. But no longer! Our revolutionary Gut Instinct purification programme will free your mind - and your guts - forever! Straight from the Terror-Fi Film Festival. A trippy post-apocalyptic sci-fi, where you are an active participant in this eye-popping experiment.

Bookworm (103 mins) PG. *Sun 10.30am*: 11-year-old Mildred's world is turned upside down when her estranged father takes her camping to find a mythological beast known as the Canterbury Panther.

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SUDOKU

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

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HARD

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MEDIUM

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EASY

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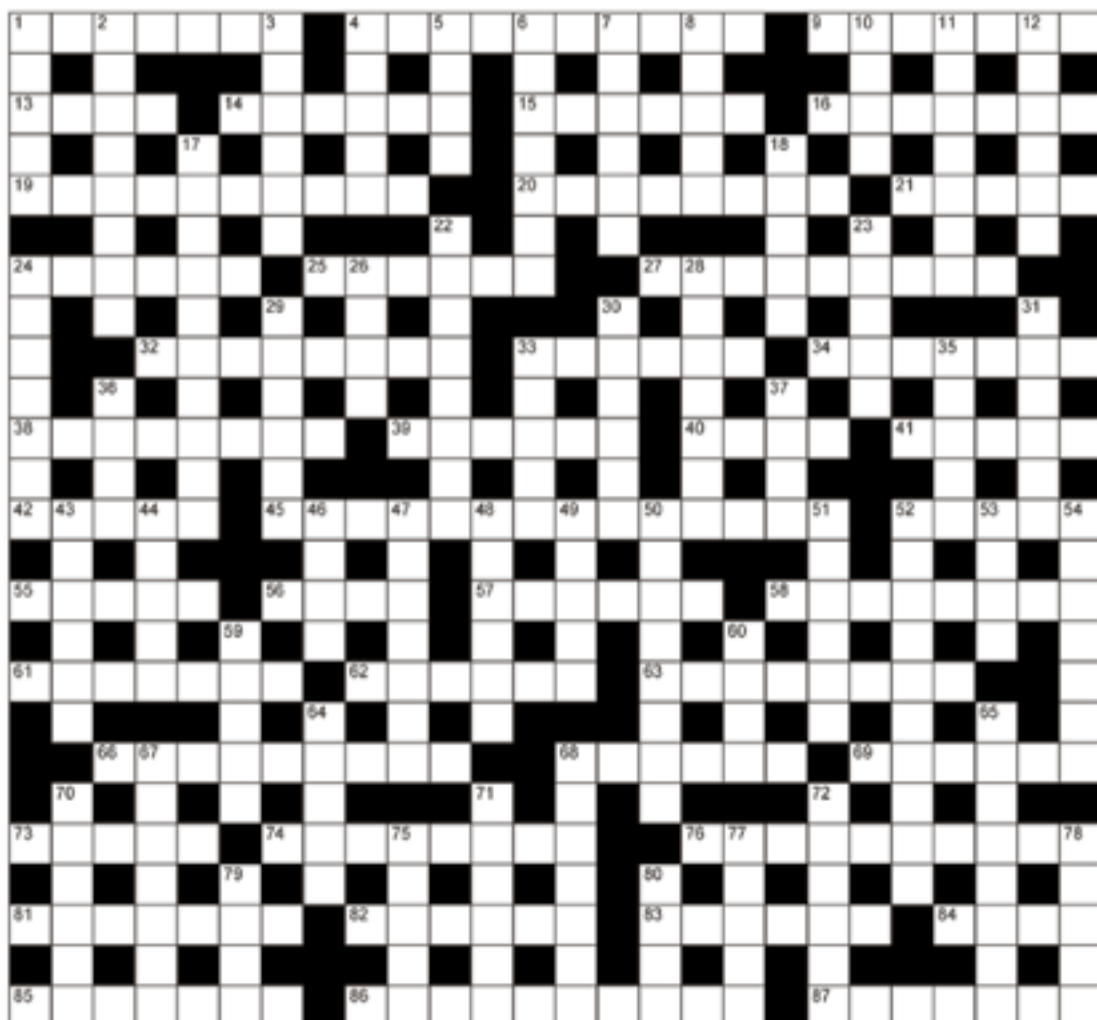
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www.thepuzzlecompany.co.nz

JUMBO CROSSWORD

197

- ACROSS**
- 1 Boxed (7)
 - 4 Humiliation (4,2,4)
 - 9 Of extreme importance (7)
 - 13 Long fishes (4)
 - 14 Queasiness (6)
 - 15 Matchless (6)
 - 16 Lack (7)
 - 19 Puppet (10)
 - 20 Heightened (8)
 - 21 Porcelain (5)
 - 24 Building blocks (6)
 - 25 Handwriting (6)
 - 27 Goal (9)
 - 32 Notorious (8)
 - 33 Provide (6)
 - 34 Politely refuse (7)
 - 38 Every twelve months (8)
 - 39 Sexual desire (6)
 - 40 Wicked (4)
 - 41 Portly (5)
 - 42 Church instrument (5)
 - 45 Cause a decisive end to (3,3,6,2)
 - 52 Leaves (5)
 - 55 In reserve (5)
 - 56 Roman garment (4)
 - 57 Catastrophic (6)
 - 58 Coming to a halt (8)
 - 61 Rogue (7)
 - 62 Medium's meeting (6)
 - 63 Reveals (8)
 - 66 Hurry up! (5,1,3)
 - 68 Food store (6)
 - 69 Fraudulence (6)
 - 73 Tickle (5)
 - 74 Fire-starting material (8)
 - 76 No longer under suspicion (2,3,5)
 - 81 Soldier's blade (7)
 - 82 Film theatre (6)
 - 83 Mooring cable (6)
 - 84 Protracted (4)
 - 85 Firm, tangy cheese (7)
 - 86 Gold miner (10)
 - 87 Held up (7)
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Water vapour (5)
 - 2 Hypersensitive (8)
 - 3 Merchant (6)
 - 4 Hungarian composer (5)
 - 5 Wound crust (4)
 - 6 Luxurious (7)
 - 7 Air trip (6)
 - 8 Butter-making vessel (5)
 - 10 Red gemstone (4)
 - 11 Russian dramatist (7)
 - 12 Go up (6)
 - 17 Seek without result (4,2,4)
 - 18 Soft hat (5)
 - 22 Metal worker (8)
 - 23 Aquatic animal (5)
 - 24 Blustering swagger (7)
 - 26 Cage (4)
 - 28 Ammunition (7)
 - 29 Horse gait (6)
 - 30 Poise (6)
 - 31 Abuse, offend (6)
 - 33 Smile derisively (5)
 - 35 Rubber tree sap (5)
 - 36 Unexpected drawback (4)
 - 37 Grain store (4)
 - 43 Mend (6)
 - 44 Month (5)
 - 46 On (4)
 - 47 Circus swing (7)
 - 48 Degree (6)
 - 49 Fatuous (5)
 - 50 Death notice (8)
 - 51 Endemic (6)
 - 52 Practical knowledge (10)
 - 53 Eye part (4)
 - 54 Piece (7)
 - 59 Fraught with danger (5)
 - 60 Measure of land (4)
 - 64 Herb (5)
 - 65 Ritual (8)
 - 67 Bygone times (7)
 - 68 Traveller's belongings (7)
 - 70 Make imperfect (6)
 - 71 Arm muscles (6)
 - 72 Protect (6)
 - 75 Less wet (5)
 - 77 Less old (5)
 - 78 Felt intense anger (5)
 - 79 Equipment (4)
 - 80 Closed (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Clock, 4 Pleasant, 9 Behind, 14 Topsy, 15 Cock and bull story, 17 Cigar, 18 Cut, 19 Massive, 20 Aggressor, 21 Perish, 24 Barcelona, 25 Return, 26 Notify, 29 Beer-making, 31 Elm, 32 School, 33 Gnaw, 35 Eye, 37 Pond, 39 Dislodged, 40 Residents, 41 Yield, 42 Climbers, 47 Arkansas, 51 Cargo, 55 Conductor, 56 Churchill, 58 Game, 59 Set, 60 Eats, 61 Report, 62 Ass, 63 Encumbered, 66 Modern, 67 Centre, 69 Rembrandt, 72 Glazed, 73 Fireproof, 75 Sapling, 77 Awl, 80 Onion, 81 Nasty piece of work, 82 Learn, 83 Attend, 84 Emerging, 85 Erect.

DOWN: 2 Lookalike, 3 Cakes, 5 Lobe, 6 Allegro, 7 As sure as eggs, 8 Tools, 9 Boycott, 10 Hack, 11 Nugget, 12 Epoch, 13 Mystify, 14 Traitor, 16 Never say die, 22 Genius, 23 Orchard, 24 Boredom, 25 Remedy, 27 Innings, 28 Dowser, 30 Good, 32 Sewer, 34 Wasps, 36 Idea, 38 Owl, 42 Cycle, 43 Ignited, 44 Bout, 45 Rotten, 46 Trust, 48 Kilimanjaro, 49 Neglect, 50 Aim, 51 Crooked, 52 Octave, 53 Nursery rhyme, 54 Ache, 57 Incurs, 64 Eccentric, 65 Treason, 66 Manacle, 68 Thinned, 70 Mooring, 71 Resist, 72 Gleam, 74 Ensure, 76 Lower, 78 Once, 79 Icon.

It's stories that change us

OPINION

By **MICHAEL WILKES**



Last term, we took a group of students from Te Puru to the Tararu retirement village. The students performed a stunning kapa haka, and there was a gentleman there who, sadly, has since passed away. He was so excited about the visit that he jumped up to celebrate with the kids, overflowing with gratitude. I can't help but think that this may have been one of his last joyful moments. As the students connected with

residents after their performance, they listened to the stories of a generation in their twilight years. It was both confronting and inspiring. The amount of wisdom and experience in that room was mind-blowing—definitely one of the richest places in Thames. As they shared their stories, something shifted for some of the students. These tales opened up their world, teaching them about life and, ultimately, about themselves. Often, our teaching style leans towards lecturing because it feels effective, but stories are what truly captivate us. Experiences shape our reality in

a way that lectures often can't. So today, before you dive into a lecture, pause and think: do you have a story from your past that could teach this lesson so much better? Sharing our stories can connect us in profound ways and enrich the lives of those around us.

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.

Trespassers slow progress

The Department of Conservation is warning reopening of access to Mautohe Cathedral Cove in the next few weeks will only be possible if people stay away and allow workers to complete construction. "We're continuing to make really good progress reinstating the walkway, having flown in prefabricated stairs and other building materials", regional operations director Tinaka Mearns said. DOC staff and contractors were still intercepting dozens of visitors a day, she said. "Continuing to stop work and redirect people away from the site slows progress, while walking through the work site may result in someone being hurt. The next few weeks are crucial, with key infrastructure being

installed, reliant on both weather and visitors playing ball. "While we can't control the weather, it's really disheartening to see people deliberately putting the work and themselves at risk by accessing the closed track." The problem would become more acute as work progresses through narrow points of the landscape, with walkers either going through active work sites or navigate highly hazardous cliff and rockfall sections, she said. "Thank you to the many people who are showing patience and good sense by staying away. To continue to help us please encourage others to do the same." Mautohe Cathedral Cove Walking access is on track to open in December.



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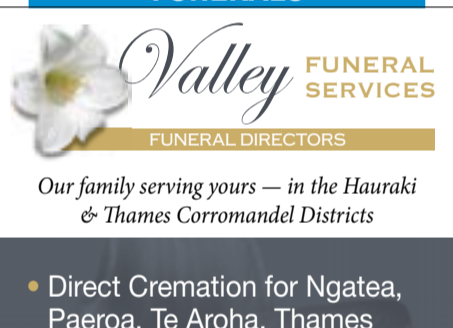
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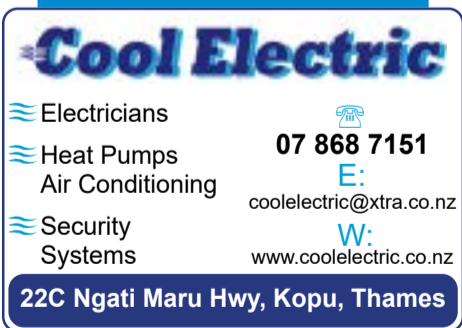
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Death Notice

SPEEDY, Guy James Weston (Speed):
Born 29th September 1931. Died peacefully in the sunroom at home on the farm, on 17th November 2024; aged 93 years.
Cherished husband and "My Guy" to the late Bev for over 68 years. Adored Dad and caring father-in-law of Dale and Rhonda Speedy (Ngatea), Mary and the late Mike Speedy (Ngatea), Sharon and the late Richard Laurenson (Whangamata). Cheeky, fun and admired Poppa Guy of Rebecca, Sam, Caitlin, Emily, Stephanie, Brad, Nick, Theresa, Georgina, Sarah and their partners. Loved Great Poppa of Lachlan, Elijah, Harper and Malaya. True and Trusted friend to many. A service to celebrate Guy's long life will be held at Hauraki Plains Co-operating Parish Church, 3 Darlington Street, Ngatea on Friday 22nd November at 11am, followed by interment at Totara Memorial Park Cemetery.
One of life's characters to be celebrated.

TWENTYMANS

Public Notice



Protecting native species from introduced predators in Southern Coromandel Forest

The Department of Conservation (DOC) in Thames is going to control possums, rats & stoats over 25,600 ha. The pre-feed phase for this aerial operation was completed on the 16th October 2024 and is now in its toxic phase, which is scheduled for the first clear weather window.

Native wildlife and forests need protection

The Southern Coromandel has large and rare native forests that are valued for their diverse flora and fauna.

These forests have mixed podocarp and broad leaf trees, remnant kauri, coastal pōhutukawa, and kanuka shrub land. Coromandel brown kiwi live on the Peninsula along with many other endemic and threatened native species including invertebrates, bats, birds, frogs and lizards.

Why we are controlling introduced predators

Native species are fighting for survival due to predation from rats, stoats and possums. Without protection, we risk losing the unique natural heritage and biodiversity within the Southern Forest.

Through sustained predator control using 1080, there is a big increase in breeding success for native birds, their food source is more abundant, and the forest canopy is healthier.

Our plan to protect native species

The safest and most effective method we have to control possums, rats and stoats over large areas is to use biodegradable cereal bait pellets containing 1080. This bait targets rodents and possums. Stoats are also controlled through secondary poisoning as they feed on the carcasses of the dead rodents.

Helicopters distribute bait pellets across the forest area along pre-determined and monitored flight paths using technology that enables accurate placement. This is the only viable method to control predators in this area due to the vast and rugged terrain.

This operation begins with the distribution of non-toxic pre-feed bait pellets (sandy coloured). This prepares possums and rodents to eat the toxic bait (died green) that is applied afterwards. Both baits are about 16 mm in diameter and cylindrical shaped.

Consultation and permissions

DOC has consulted with hapū, iwi and key stakeholders including landowners adjacent to the treatment area.

DOC is delegated authority by the Environmental Protection Agency to decide applications for permission to use 1080 on land administered or managed by DOC. EcoFX has obtained permission from DOC and the Ministry of Health. DOC ensures that all legal and policy requirements are met, and that any potential risks of the operation are managed.

Managing risk

1080 is poisonous to humans, domestic and game animals. In areas where the toxin has been applied, dogs are highly at risk until poisoned carcasses have disintegrated. This takes four-to-eight months or longer.

There will be warning signs placed at entrances to the treatment area immediately prior to the operation.

Risks can be eliminated by following these rules:

- DO NOT touch bait
- WATCH children at all times
- DO NOT EAT animals from this area or within the buffer zone outside the treatment boundary. The buffer zone is 2 km for deer and pigs, 200 m for rabbits, and 1 km for hares and possums.
- Poison baits or carcasses are DEADLY to DOGS

Observe these rules whenever you see warning signs about pesticides. These signs indicate pesticide residues may be still present in baits and poisoned carcasses. When signs are removed, normal activities can resume. If in doubt, check with your local DOC office. Please report suspected vandalism or unauthorised removal of signs.

Map of predator control area within Southern Coromandel Forest

This map shows the area we are controlling possums, rats & stoats to protect native species. You can also see operational updates and detailed maps of predator control on public conservation land on the DOC website. www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/pesticide-summaries



If you suspect poisoning, please contact:

- Your local doctor or hospital OR The National Poisons Centre: 0800 764 766 (urgent calls) or 03 479 7248 OR dial 111
- Seek veterinary advice for suspected poisoning of domestic animals.

For more information

Please contact: Operational planner Biodiversity Ranger, DOC Thames Office, 3/66 Ngati Maru Highway, Thames 3578, 07 867 9180 or EcoFX Aerial Operations Manager, 32 Huiputea Drive, Otorohanga 3900, admin@ecofx.co.nz, 07 873 8130.

Visit the DOC website: More information about DOC's National Predator Control Programme is available on our website www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/national-predator-control-programme

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Cherry blossom 'tunnel' to commemorate friendship

The Waihi Cherry Blossom Festival Society (WCBFS) carried on the age-old tradition of giving and receiving cherry blossom trees on November 10, with a ceremony commemorating the contribution New Zealand's Tunnelling Company made to World War I.

The ceremony, held at Gilmore Reserve in Waihi, saw 18 cherry blossom trees planted to form a "cherry blossom tunnel".

Nine of the trees are the Prunus yedoensis 'Mountain Ice' variety, while the other nine are the Prunus yedoensis 'Awanui' variety.

The trees were gifted to the people of New Zealand by the Japanese community and were planted just 50 metres from the World War 1 Tunnellers Memorial.

They will eventually form a natural tunnel of branches as they grow and extend out above the walkway.

During the ceremony, the nine Mountain Ice trees were ceremonially watered to the accompaniment of the Mori-san Here Mai Taiko Japanese style drummers. Scottish Pipers performed while the Awanui trees were watered.

Special guests at the ceremony included the Consul General of Japan in New Zealand, Shinji Matsui, and his wife, Yuka Matsui; Elisabeth Page from Avignon, representing the Mayor of Arras, France, where the Tunnellers fought; Captain Daisy Jensen from the Royal Army representing the British High Commission; WCBFS president Max MacLean; Japan Library director Jillian Yorke; WCBFS member Dorothy Baker; Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture treasurer Chris Webb; Japanese



Guests reach out to form a "friendship tunnel" where the cherry blossom trees will grow.



Shinji Matsui left, with the Mori-san Here Mai Taiko Japanese style drummers. Photos: SUPPLIED

teacher and drummer Michiyo Mori; and WCBFS member Mr Rogers representing Hauraki District Council. Waihi ward councillor Sarah Spicer

was the MC. A plaque unveiling ceremony is planned by the society at 2pm on Anzac Day, 2025.

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- Deadline 12noon Monday

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Council Land Drainage Maintenance Programme

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the Hauraki District Council Drainage Bylaw Clause 10.1, that Council's annual drain maintenance programme will operate from November 2024 to June 2025.

During this time council staff and contractors will be entering onto private property to spray aquatic weeds by vehicle or helicopter using an approved weed control chemical or to clear drains using an excavator. Work will take place in these areas:

Drainage District	Town
Western Plains	Ngātea
Eastern Plains	Kerepēhi
Kōmata North	Tūrua
Opukeko	Paeroa
Tirohia	Waihi
Rotokohu	Whiritoa
Taramaire	Kaiaua

Individual property owners will be advised only when the excavator is in their area, before work starts.
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Public Notice

PĀTETONGA COMMUNITY HALL MEETING

Join us for a discussion about the future of the Pātetonga Community Hall.
Wednesday 27 November, 7:30pm
Pātetonga Community Hall, State Highway 27, Pātetonga

Unlike our Memorial Halls, community halls are managed by the community, usually with a volunteer hall committee. This is a follow up meeting from what was proposed at the first meeting earlier this year.

See you there!

www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz

Public Notices

HAURAKI PHO NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Hauraki Primary Health Organisation (PHO) is to be held on **Friday 6th December 2024 at 1:00 pm at Hauraki PHO Thames Office, 106 Sealey St, Thames and via Zoom**

This meeting will be held via zoom and in person. Please RSVP via email to admin@haurakipho.org.nz by Tuesday 3rd December 2024.

FOR ALL ENQUIRIES:
Phone: 07 868 9686 or
Email: admin@haurakipho.org.nz

NGAHUTOITOI MARAE TRUST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the AGM for Ngahutoitoi Marae Trustees will be held on Sunday 1st December 2024 at 9.45am at Paeroa Scout Hall, 4 Wood Street, Paeroa 3600.

AGENDA
9:45am - Registration
10:00am – Karakia Whakataua

1. Apologies
2. Minutes from previous AGM
3. Chairman's Report
4. Financial Report
5. Ngaati Tara, Tokanui Iwi Representative Report
6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS
7. General Business

12:00pm - Karakia whakakapi KAI HAKARI



Miranda 1152A Miranda Road

Scenic Coastal Lifestyle in Kaiaua

Welcome to this exceptional property in the serene coastal town of Kaiaua, renowned for its scenic surroundings. This property represents an extraordinary opportunity to embrace a lifestyle that combines rural peacefulness with the convenience of key amenities and a flourishing community nearby. This property is built with functionality and charm, crafted to fit its scenic surroundings. Offering spacious living areas and well-designed bedrooms, it's ideal for those seeking a family home or a peaceful lifestyle change. Thoughtful design touches ensure comfort, with modern conveniences seamlessly integrated to support everyday living. Call today!

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Puriri 17 Station Road

Modern Lockwood in the heart of Puriri

Located in Puriri, this 2016-built, three bedroom Lockwood home on 931 sqm (more or less) blends classic charm with modern convenience, ideal for families seeking comfort and lifestyle. Spacious, light-filled living and dining areas open seamlessly to an expansive deck, perfect for entertaining. The well-equipped kitchen offers scenic views, while the bathroom features stylish finishes. With ample off-street parking, the property has room for future additions. Council water is supplemented by a 5,000L tank with Puretec filtration. Just 350m from Puriri Primary, and with Thames amenities 15 minutes away, this home offers a superb lifestyle. Sold under the hammer—don't miss out!

bayleys.co.nz/2316214

931_{sqm} 3 1

Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 5 Dec 2024
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Ngatea 55 Puhunga Island Road South

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bayleys.co.nz/2316195

85.96_{ha}

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 96 Ulster Street, Hamilton
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Paeroa 30 Ryall Road

Private lifestyle with room for two families

Just minutes from Paeroa on a quiet, no-exit road, this 6,666 sqm (more or less) property offers an idyllic rural lifestyle. The family home features a spacious open-plan living area, a large kitchen/dining space ideal for gatherings, and three bedrooms, including a master suite. The bathroom includes a shower, bath, and separate toilet. A covered patio offers year-round outdoor dining with views of the Maratoto Hills. The property also provides ample garaging, a workshop, and a carport. The renovated two-bedroom flat with kitchenette and bathroom offers guest space or Airbnb potential. A 60,000L pool enhances the entertaining appeal.

bayleys.co.nz/2316017

6,666_{sqm} 5 2

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SPORTS

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

A big 'yeehaw' for Western Up challenge

EQUESTRIAN

The Hauraki Western Riding Club Western Up Triple Challenge event was held at the Omaha Valley Sports Arena on November 9-10.

The event was dreamt up by three friends with a love and passion for the Western Riding equestrian discipline. It was inspired by a special girls trip to Melbourne where they went to make memories together after a cancer diagnosis of one of the friends.

During the trip, they visited the small town of Tatura, two hours north of Melbourne city, to attend Australia's Greatest Horsewoman competition. A five-day spectacular consisting of multiple Western disciplines, one horse and rider combination, all competing for the exclusive title of Australia's Greatest Horsewoman.

As executive committee members of Hauraki Western Riding club, on their return to New Zealand, they were determined to incorporate a version of what they had seen in Australia into the 2024 HWRC event calendar.

So, after getting matching tattoos of a horseshoe on each of their forearms representing their sisterhood, a few lengthy discussions over wine, and armed with the knowledge of what they had seen in Australia, the HWRC Western Up Triple Challenge was born.

Three friends, three classes, an event showcasing the versatility of the Western horse across three Western disciplines - the Western Up Obstacle Challenge, Ranch Riding pattern and Cattle Boxing.

Participants enjoyed a weekend of



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Open Adult Triple Challenge Champion Lisa Ritchie and Apache's Quest; PJ Rendell and Ted; Bill Hutton and Boots; Open Youth Champion Aiyana Webb and Sweetly Dun.

Photos: GEORGINA LLOYD

competition at Omaha. Each horse and rider combination competed across all three disciplines chasing the coveted title and Champion buckle prize. The weekend was well received with riders enjoying the camaraderie and competition. Points were awarded according to placings across the multiple disciplines with one rider coming out tops in each section - Youth, Rookie and Open Adult. After the success of the weekend and lots

of positive feedback, the club plans to make it an annual event.

Ribbons, prizes and spot prizes were awarded for all classes and a very flashy custom western buckle was awarded for the Open Adult Competition Champion donated by Barden & Co Legal. HWRC would like to thank all of the competitors, who came from far and wide, for attending over the weekend. Thank you also to our hosts at Omaha Valley Sports

Arena, PJ and Geny Rendell, all of our judges and the generous sponsors who supported our event: Barden & Co Legal, CoroVets Whangamata, Farmlands Paeroa, Franklin Vets, The Warehouse Thames, Farm Source Paeroa and Saddlery Warehouse.

DETAILS: For more information, search Hauraki Western Riding Club on Facebook or email: hauraki-wrc207@gmail.com.

By Laurie Webb

RESULTS: Open Adult Champion: Lisa Ritchie and Apache's Quest; Reserve Champion: Kelly Keenan and Savvy; Rookie Adult Champion: Kelly Smeath and Bee My Honey; Reserve Champion: Sara-Grace Taylor and The Perfect Last Shot. Open Youth Champion: Aiyana Webb and Sweetly Dun; Res Champion: MacKenzie Bell and Lexie. Ribbons: Western Up Obstacles Open: 1st Lisa Ritchie and Apache's Quest; 2nd Laurie Webb and Smoky Haze; 3rd PJ Rendell and Ted; 4th Keri-Leigh Patterson and James. Rookie: 1st Kay Burt and Maddy; 2nd Kelly Smeath and Bee My Honey; 3rd Kelly Smeath and Spirit of Aroha; 4th Karena Faber and Zar. Youth: 1st Aiyana Webb and Sweetly Dun; 2nd MacKenzie Bell and Lexi. Ranch Riding: Open: 1st Kelly Keenan and Savvy; 2nd Keri-Leigh Patterson and James; 3rd Lisa Ritchie and Apache's Quest; 4th Laurie Webb and Smoky Haze. Rookie: 1st Kay Burt and Maddy; 2nd Kelly Smeath and Bee My Honey; 3rd Sara-Grace Taylor and The Perfect Last Shot; 4th Kelly Smeath and Spirit of Aroha. Youth: 1st MacKenzie Bell and Lexi; 2nd Aiyana Webb and Sweetly Dun. Cattle boxing: Open: 1st Lisa Ritchie and Apache's Quest; 2nd Kelly Keenan and Savvy; 3rd Ingrid Ormandy and Playchex Chrome; 4th Steph Thompson and Indie Indeed. Rookie: 1st Kelly Smeath and Bee My Honey; 2nd Haleigh Bird and Flying Colours Electra; 3rd Sara-Grace Taylor and The Perfect Last Shot; 4th Marianna Haworth and Cherry. Youth: 1st Aiyana Webb and Sweetly Dun; 2nd MacKenzie Bell and Lexi. Lead rein: 1st Auroah-Leigh Rendell on Ted. Beginner youth: 1st Saskia Palmer on Rocky; 2nd Cameron Bell on Lexi.

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