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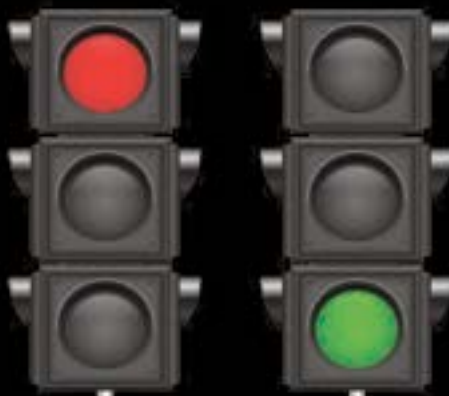
*Santa made a stop on the Hauraki Plains on December 12 for Ngatea's first Christmas parade since 2019. Reporter **KELLEY TANTAU** captured the excitement.*

MORE PHOTOS: P21

Santa catches a ride on the Ngatea Volunteer Fire Brigade's vintage fire truck during last week's parade. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

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State Highway closure to impact rural communities

State Highway 26 will close for four weeks early next year while the Onetai Stream Bridge is replaced.

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi said the bridge, between Puriri and Hikutaia, was built in 1976 and had reached the end of its economic life.

NZTA acting regional manager of infrastructure delivery Bruce Waugh said as SH26 was the only through route between Paeroa and Thames on the eastern side of the Waihou River, the detour route would be via State Highway 2, Hauraki Rd and State Highway 25 for northbound traffic and the reverse for southbound traffic.

“We recognise the impact this closure will have on road users - particularly those from local communities, and are ensuring they are given early advice of these works,” he said.

“Given the narrow width of the existing bridge and its approaches, it cannot be replaced in stages, so the highway will need to be closed at the worksite for up to four weeks while the old bridge is demolished, and its replacement is installed.

“We expect this to be from mid-February.”

NZTA said it would provide more information and timings in the New Year, once the construction programme had been finalised.

The new bridge would be wider and stronger making this key route more resilient and safer, he said.

“The existing bridge was designed and constructed in 1976 and has reached the end of its economic life.

“Its replacement will be 3m wider, giving drivers more lane space, and with additional safety features including a new type of side barrier.”

Although bridges in New Zealand are generally built with concrete, this bridge will be built with a timber deck and bridge beams.

“Timber deck bridges are built successfully overseas and we are now piloting this approach in New Zealand.

“The off-site prefabrication of key bridge components allows for rapid on-site construction.”

Fatal shooting on 309 Rd

A 77-year-old man has been charged with murder and attempted murder following a shooting on The 309 Rd on Friday that left one person dead and another seriously wounded.

The man appeared in Hamilton District Court on Saturday. *Stuff* reported he was granted name suppression and has been remanded in custody until December 17, when he will appear in the Hamilton High Court.

Police said a person transported to hospital with gunshot wounds on Friday remains in hospital in a serious condition, and a post mortem on the deceased victim was to be carried out on Saturday.

The 309 Rd reopened on Saturday, however Police said a scene examination at a property on the road was ongoing and nearby residents could expect to see a continued police presence in the area.

Inspector Andrea McBeth said Police were called to The 309 Rd just after 2pm on Friday, where two people were found with gunshot wounds.

“Members of the public provided CPR to one person, but sadly they died at the scene a short time later.”

Police said they were not seeking anyone else in relation to this incident and enquiries into the circumstances leading to the incident were ongoing.

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Reporter Alice Parminter, Ph 022 527 0988, alice@valleyprofile.co.nz.

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

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Thames Tides													
Wed		Thu		Fri		Sat		Sun		Mon		Tue	
Dec 18		Dec 19		Dec 20		Dec 21		Dec 22		Dec 23		Dec 24	
4	3	2	1	0	1	2	3	4	3	2	1	0	1
6 am	NOON	6 pm	am	6	NOON	6 pm	am	6	NOON	6 pm	am	6	NOON
Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon
3:44am 0.3	4:14pm 0.6	4:29am 0.4	5:03pm 0.6	5:14am 0.5	5:51pm 0.7	12:05am 3.2	12:26pm 3.3	12:51am 3.1	1:13pm 3.2	1:36am 3.0	2:00pm 3.1	2:25am 2.9	2:48pm 3.0
10:07am 3.6	10:33pm 3.4	10:54am 3.5	11:20pm 3.3	11:40am 3.4		5:58am 0.6	6:38pm 0.8	6:44am 0.8	7:25pm 0.9	7:33am 0.9	8:12pm 0.9	8:27am 1.0	9:02pm 1.0
☀️ 5:53am	8:36pm	☀️ 5:54am	8:36pm	☀️ 5:54am	8:37pm	☀️ 5:55am	8:37pm	☀️ 5:55am	8:38pm	☀️ 5:56am	8:38pm	☀️ 5:56am	8:39pm
🐟 B	Best At 3:21am 3:49pm	🐟 B	Best At 4:15am 4:40pm	🐟 G	Best At 5:04am 5:26pm	🐟 G	Best At 5:48am 6:09pm	🐟 G	Best At 6:29am 6:49pm	🐟 F	Best At 7:09am 7:28pm	🐟 B	Best At 7:48am 8:07pm
🌙 Set 8:09am	Rise 11:20pm	🌙 Set 9:17am	Rise 11:53pm	🌙 Set 10:23am		🌙 Rise 12:20am	Set 11:25am	🌙 Rise 12:44am	Set 12:24pm	🌙 Last Quarter	Rise 1:06am	Set 1:27am	🌙 Rise 1:27am
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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 HIGH Mm LOW Mm													
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													

Centenarian celebrates 'positive outlook on life'

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Elsa Hughes has always been a positive person.

It's something she believes contributes to her good health and longevity.

And while it's not everyday someone gets to celebrate a 100th birthday, it's exactly what Elsa did last month at the Paeroa Cooperating Parish Church surrounded by friends and family.

The centenarian, who received not one but two birthday cards from King Charles III and Queen Camilla because one was lost in the post and arrived later, told *The Profile* she couldn't believe the large crowd at her celebration.

"The hall was full," she said, with around 80 guests there to celebrate Elsa.

It's evident Elsa is cherished by many.

She is a mother of five, grandmother of 10 and great grandmother of 25.

Elsa, who lives independently in Paeroa, said she only recently stopped driving her car - but instead of selling it, she would let her family use it.

She was child number six in a family of seven children, who were all born in Opotiki, she said.

"The others have all gone. My youngest sister, I think she went about 10 years ago, so I've been the only remaining one of that family."

One of Elsa's biggest life lessons is to just take each day as it comes.

"You don't know what's going to turn up, but I'm happy to accept whatever happens," she said.

"I think I'm quite happy to take the good and the bad.

"It's no good complaining when you can't do anything about it."

Elsa got married in 1945 to her late-husband, Ken, who she met while working at a bookshop in Opotiki when she was a teenager.

They moved to a farm in Whakata where Ken had a sharemilking job.

"And that's where my first two children were born, Robert and Adele."

It was 1951 when Elsa and Ken shifted to the Hauraki, and purchased some

land of their own on Rangiora Rd, Komata.

Back then it was all just mud and not developed at all, Elsa said, and the villa needed a lot of work done to it - "but we got that done".

Ken sorted out all the drainage on the farm and got it up and running for sharemilking.

"I always used to say to Ken he should have been an engineer, not a farmer, because he could make anything. He'd be over in his shed welding, and he could fix anything," she said.

The couple welcomed three more children to the family, and each of them attended Komata North School.

It was around 1975 when Elsa and Ken shifted to Paeroa - into their first new build, a two-storey brick home.

The couple lived there until Ken

"It's no good growling about things that have happened that shouldn't have happened."

- Elsa Hughes



Elsa Hughes with her children, from left: Terry, Adele, Philip and Stephen.

Photo: SUPPLIED

passed away in the year 2000, and then Elsa shifted into a smaller house built for her.

Elsa's most important principle to live by was to be positive and take what life brings you.

"It's no good growling about things that have happened that shouldn't have happened," she said.

"I don't dwell on bad things." But Elsa has had her fair share

of tragedy. "Our worst thing was losing our son [Robert]... but he's watching over us," she said.

Just after Robert died she joined the golf club, where she played for 25 years.

When Elsa's mother died, she took up outdoor bowls.

But Elsa said she had to stop the sports as she began to lose her balance.

Something Elsa never managed

to lose though was her passion for music and playing the piano.

When she was a young girl, she would ride her bike out on gravel roads in the country to get to her lessons with her teacher, she said.

One day her teacher asked her if she'd like to take on some of her own pupils, so Elsa ended up with her own piano teaching gig.

Elsa said her mother must have been very keen on music because Elsa and two of her siblings learned instruments.

Elsa's mother would listen from the kitchen while Elsa would play the piano and she'd call out when something sounded wrong, Elsa said. "She must have had a good ear for music."

Elsa used to play songs for people at the Ohinemuri Rest Home.

"But I wasn't this age, it was years ago, and some of them were younger than me then. I'd just play the old songs by ear, no [sheet] music," she said.




She also used to attend a music group once a month where everyone had a chance to play. But now Elsa's shoulders are sore, she found it difficult to play. "I find it hard to lift my hands and play. This is the longest I've been without playing."

Even though it was hard, "I can still get there and make a bit of a tune," she said.





But Elsa's outlook on life was noted by many.

Philip Hughes, Elsa's second son, said people just wanted to be around her because of her positive attitude and nature.

"It's like a train station here sometimes [Elsa's home], people coming and going," he said.

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Wrapping up 2024

“It’s been a tough year for people on many fronts and we really appreciate everyone who has come on the journey with us to tackle the hard decisions. But it has also been a year of getting things done for the community and we’re very proud of that.

Our Love This Place Long Term Plan Consultation set the scene for the next ten years, focusing on infrastructure upgrades. Some wins this year for building resilience in our water and wastewater systems include the start of the new Paeroa Wastewater Treatment Plant; the new raw water pipe line project in Kerepēhi feeding into two new raw water storage tanks; the Waihi Water Treatment Plant upgrade and a district wide pipe renewal programme.

Thanks for joining us in the kōrero this year. There’s been a lot to decide at a time when cost of living pressures are high and we are very mindful of that. We’ll continue to focus on the key issues that matter to our communities in 2025 – it’s going to be a big year.

For now, on behalf of all of us at Council, we wish you a safe and happy holiday season with friends and whānau. Take care on our roads and look out for each other – it’s the Hauraki way.”

Toby Adams

Mayor - Hauraki District

Coming up in 2025

- Local Waters Done Well
- Ngātea Library and Service Centre rebuild
- Vote 25 – Triennial Local Government Elections
- Golden Valley and Hauraki Roads rehabilitation
- Placemaking Plans – putting them into action

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Some plumbing fittings have the potential to allow minute traces of metals to accumulate in water standing in the fittings for several hours. Although the health risk is small, the Ministry of Health recommends that you flush a mugful of water from your drinking water tap each morning before use to remove any metals that may have dissolved from the plumbing fittings.

We recommend this simple precaution for all households, including those on public and private water supplies.

Council Services Holiday Hours 22 December 2024 to 6 January 2025

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Closed from 12 noon Tuesday 24 December 2024 to Friday 3 January 2025.
Normal office hours resume on Monday 6 January 2025.

Council Libraries

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Normal office hours resume on Monday 6 January 2025.

Refuse Transfer Stations - Paeroa and Waihi

Closed Monday and Tuesday and all Public Holidays.
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Swimming Pools

Closed Wednesday 25 December 2024 and Wednesday 1 January 2025.
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Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays: 11am - 5pm Public swimming

Kerbside collection days

23 to 27 December - Rubbish and Food scraps

Monday 23 December - Whiritoa, Waihi (Zone 1)
Tuesday 24 December - Waihi (Zone 2), Waikino, Mackaytown, Karangahake
*Thursday 26 December - Kerepēhi, Tūrua, Kaiaua, Ngātea, Waitakaruru
*Friday 27 December - Paeroa

30 December to 3 January - Recycling and Foodscraps

Monday 30 December - Whiritoa, Waihi (Zone 1)
Tuesday 31 December - Waihi (Zone 2), Waikino, Mackaytown, Karangahake
*Thursday 2 January - Kerepēhi, Tūrua, Kaiaua, Ngātea, Waitakaruru
*Friday 3 January - Paeroa

*Collection day is one day later than usual

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Social Parkrun event set to be a legacy

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

Every Saturday morning at 8am, groups of people gather all over New Zealand to tackle a five-kilometre course. Some walk and talk, some push prams, and others hoof it to the end like they're taking on the Olympics.

The recurring social event is known as Parkrun, and local man Chris Kemp wants to bring it to Thames as a legacy as he faces a terminal illness.

"This is a beautiful spot. I think this community is just singing out for it," he said.

"You're not competing, it's not a race - although there are people there that want to win it and they want to be first across the line. That's their goal, that's their thing. But you get what you want from it."

Chris already has a course in mind - he plans to begin at Victoria Park, doing a couple of laps of the field before heading along the waterfront to Shortland Wharf and back.

He's hoping to establish the event in the New Year, but needs a group of around 10 volunteers to help him get started.

Chris, who was diagnosed with motor neuron disease in October, 2023, will eventually need to step down as organiser of Thames' Parkrun. But he said the ongoing commitment



Chris Kemp is looking for volunteers to help him set up a Thames version of the event that has brought him years of joy.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

would be minimal.

"You can be someone that just comes and helps out. You can be the person who sits here doing timekeeping [or] who sits at the end giving people a word of encouragement as they turn around halfway."

Since Parkrun began in 2012, it has seen more than 15,000 people volunteer worldwide. Around 135,000 people have completed a Parkrun in New Zealand.

The events are open to anyone, and participants can walk,

run, spectate or volunteer to man the course.

It's always free, and members are issued a barcode which they can scan each time they participate to see their times.

Chris said Parkrun was his favourite way to start off the

weekend. "I've been doing it for over 12 years. When you get up, Parkrun in the morning, it just starts you off... I get out, I'm motivated. And I'll start the day with a good intention like that," he said.

"Whenever you finish you always go for a group coffee together. So the idea is to do it here so it's connected to the markets on a Saturday morning. I'm just trying to get that whole community vibe."

Chris has done Parkrun all over the world, he said, but having one at home was his dream, especially now his health is beginning to decline.

"I can't run anymore. My body wants to, but knees say no - I always get beaten by a small child or a pram. [But] I want to do this for the community," he said.

"As I deteriorate, I want to be able to come here if I'm in a wheelchair. I want to be the [marshal] down here that does the turnaround and get everyone to wave at me. There's nothing that will motivate you more if you've lost that ability, than to know that I was here and I was one of the people that helped set it up."

DETAILS: Email support@parkrun.com to get involved.



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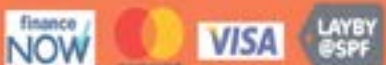


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Destitute man lay dying at Fishtown in Thames



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

Fishtown, a unique community of one roomed shacks, was once a well known spot near Shortland Wharf, Thames.

During its heyday of the 1870s it lay behind the Thames Hotel, between Harry Kerby's residence and the site of the old Duke of Edinburgh Hotel. The sea washed up to the footpath and punts were launched on to the beach from Smardon's boat builder's shed. Parker's stables, near Mr Kerby's, housed racing whaleboats bearing the names Hauraki, Jubilee, Total and Outsider. The calls of the fish hawkers, the slap of the sea, the clanking chains, cries of gulls, and the arrival and departure of boats made for a lively place, made even more vibrant by an illegal coin gambling game regularly broken up by local constable, Dick Stapleton, who arrived on the scene and made a scatter.

Some of the hawkers had seen better days; among them one had been a draper, another a skilled iron and brass moulder. German Charley (Charley Schultze) sold fish, and bought zinc and lead from boys who visited him on Sunday mornings to

change silver for coppers. Among his companions were Red Charley, Stuttering Billy, and Tom Davis pushing hand carts and barrows of sea food to and from Fishtown. But by the late 1880s a darker undercurrent had swept through these men's lives pulling Tom in particular down with it.

In 1887 Tom lived in his dilapidated Fishtown hut at the rear of the Thames Hotel. He was destitute and receiving rations from the Charitable Aid Board. A rumour was abroad that he was in an almost dying state and being treated with no charity at all.

The *Thames Star*, having got wind of this, despatched a reporter, who on his way to Fishtown met Dr Williams, Medical Officer to the Charitable Aid Board, going in the same direction.

The men found Tom sitting behind the door in a pitiful condition, seemingly oblivious to the state he had been living in. Tom said he was occasionally able to procure food for himself from the Charitable Aid store, which was dealt out fortnightly. Lately, however, exhausted by illness, he had been obliged to send a messenger for his bread.

He had no food in the hut, and water was collected from a dirty barrel. Dr Williams examined the poor fellow and supplied some medicine, which the doctor knew would be of little use while Tom was in such dire circumstances. Tom suffered as well from an old-standing complaint, which was incurable. It was absolutely necessary that he should be at once removed to a pure atmosphere. In the meantime the Charitable Aid Board decided to wait until Monday to see if the doctor would attend to Tom or take him into the hospital. Tom was left where he was for the weekend. On the Monday



A tale of the sea, Shortland wharf, Thames.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Mr Rowe, Charitable Aid's Relieving Officer, obtained an indoor patient's ticket and took Tom to the hospital in a cab but Dr Williams would not admit him. Tom's unfortunately pungent condition meant all the other patients would leave as soon as he came in. The doctor felt the Old Men's Home at Tararu was the place for Tom. Mr Rowe took Tom back to Fishtown, and engaged a man to look after him at 15 shillings a week. The *Thames Star* published a scathing report of the situation sparking fiery meetings between both the Thames Hospital Board and the Charitable Aid Board. Meanwhile, Tom, unwanted by the hospital or the Old Men's Refuge at Tararu, suffered on at Fishtown. Two months later he died aged 65. He had once been married to Elizabeth Fox and they had a daughter, Emily, but Tom appears to have been estranged from his family who weren't men-

tioned at all during the squabbling of his final months at Fishtown.

Fishtown was probably established during the early years of the Thames goldfield. Progress brought changes for the fish hawkers and by 1878 a fish market had been built on piles on the beach between Stone's shipbuilding yard and the Shortland wharf. Now Thames residents could procure fish at any time, without waiting for it to be brought round to their doors by hawkers. The market consisted of two ventilated sheds. Water was laid on and channels made for the water to run away. There were tables for cleaning fish on and receptacles for the fish. The market buildings were painted and a good substantial fence built round them. A jetty was built in front of the sheds by the Harbour Board. George Reddish was the proprietor. By the early 1880s, Thames fishermen were carrying on a very

profitable business. They proceeded to sea with their smacks and fishing nets, and every day at Shortland wharf large numbers of residents waited for the fishing boats, in order to purchase straight from the fishermen.

The arrival of a 'refrigeration apparatus' - introduced by two Thames fishing smack owners - was a further blow for the fish hawkers. Previously, with fish being so perishable it had to be sent away to Auckland at once and sold there without delay. The fish hawkers had had a monopoly - when a large supply of fish arrived they simply bid their own price for it, knowing it must be sold, or else it would go bad. An ice-making machine was erected in a shed near Shortland Wharf and proved a great advantage to the fisherman. Fishing flourished at Shortland - about 20 boats were engaged, while Mr Savage, boat builder, was kept busy fitting up craft. The fish, chiefly flounder, found a ready market at good prices in Auckland where large quantities were sent by almost every steamer.

In 1895, the license of the Thames Hotel, behind which were once the Fishtown huts, was transferred to a new large hotel being built at Grahamstown and it became a boarding house. In 1914 Mr Hayward opened a fish shop at Shortland wharf. It kept a regular supply of fresh fish, notably flounder, schnapper, and hapuka. Fresh oysters could be obtained in season. He also sold hot fish and chips. By the 1930s Fishtown was just a memory, the mayor of Thames, Syd Ensor jocularly receiving honours at a Queen Carnival for his costume of 'Lord of Fishtown'.

Tom Davis was buried at Shortland cemetery, Thames.

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White ribbon event raises \$8k for supermarket

More than \$8000 was raised at a white tie fundraiser on November 23, with proceeds going to the Hauraki Pātaka Kai Social Supermarket.

The event was hosted by Te Whāriki Manawāhine o Hauraki Hauraki Women's Refuge and held at the Thames Civic Centre. It featured auctions of handmade kākahu and kete from local weavers Colleen Renata and Aroha Kapi, and entertainment by showtunes band The Māori Side Steps.

The event was themed around the White Ribbon movement, which aims to eliminate violence against women.

Women's Refuge CEO Denise Messiter said it was a chance to celebrate those working hard to reduce violence.

"We want to celebrate all the tane toa who are on their healing journey, celebrating their strength, their whānau, and their commitment to growth and transformation – so they continue on their journey," she said.

The refuge had supported thousands of wahine, tamariki and tane over the years on their own healing journeys from abuse, Denise said.

"For us, our whānau includes our tangata whaikaha disabled whānau, our takatāpui rainbow whānau and our gang whānau."



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: The Māori Side Steps. Myra Te Hemara, left, with Te Whāriki Manawāhine o Hauraki CEO Denise Messiter. Back: Wal Peihopa, Michael Barlow, Graham King; front: Fay Harding, Terri-Anne Sands. Hand-woven items were auctioned on the night. Photos: SUPPLIED

The refuge has also had a long working relationship with gang whānau, supporting their gang-led healing programmes.

The Abuse in Care Royal Commission released a report in July, outlining the abuse

faced by people in state and faith-based care between 1950 and 1999. Up to 90 per cent of gang members who identify as Māori were abused in state care, the report said, and the gangs were formed as a way of

forming social connections.

"Gang whānau leaders are unequivocal in that healing solutions must come from them and not the state," Women's Refuge senior researcher Paora Moyle said.

"This contributes towards their ultimate objective of every gang whānau in Aotearoa and their mokopuna being free from family violence, sexual violence, and intergenerational trauma."

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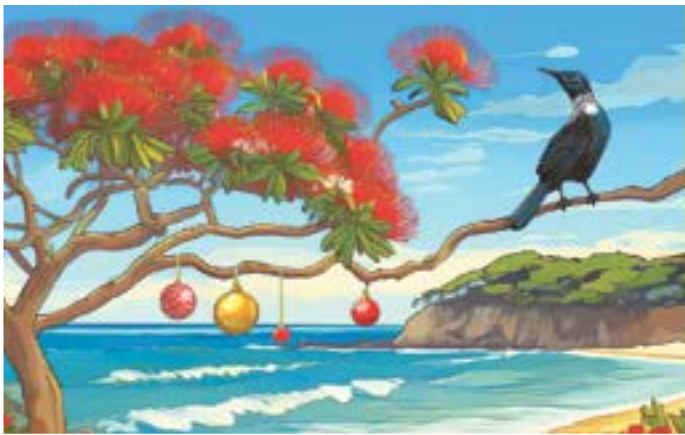
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Our Coromandel

Meri Kirihimete

~ AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS ~



News from Thames-Coromandel District Council

18 December 2024

Meri Kirihimete

~ NGĀ MIHI O TE TAU HOU ~

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all the elected members and staff at Thames-Coromandel District Council.

2024 was a challenging year for the entire Thames-Coromandel community as we worked to achieve a new normal after the difficulties of the last few years. We'd like to acknowledge the hard work that so many in the Coromandel put in this year to our ongoing storm recovery and making our district thrive. We know it hasn't been easy.

Take care over the holidays, and here's to continued progress and partnership in the year ahead.



From all of us at TCDC

Boer War Memorial: Repair work will be underway soon to restore the spire of the memorial in Victoria Park which was vandalised a few years ago. It's expected to be completed early in the new year. The salvaged parts weren't able to be restored, and sourcing the correct materials has been a lengthy process.



THAMES PROTECTION UPDATE

Work to better understand river flooding risks in Thames is close to completion, as part of the Thames Protection and Resilience project.

Final river modelling reports are expected in February. The results will be presented at a public meeting, along with a project update.

The Thames Protection and Resilience project aims to manage the risks to the Thames area from flooding and storms, which are likely to worsen as a result of climate change and sea-level rise. The initiative is part of the Shoreline Management Pathways (SMP) planning project.

Proposed protection for Thames includes stopbanks along the foreshore from Hape Stream to Victoria Park. A shell or sand-based ridge to boost resilience and create habitat is also likely to be proposed.

The river report will detail the intersecting risk from streams and includes work to understand the effectiveness of pumping stations.

Find out more at tcdc.govt.nz/protectthames



Thames Community Board UPDATE

Board Chair, Adrian Catran JP reports: "It's wonderful to see Thames buzzing with events over the holiday season and our Visitor Information Centre up and running, showcasing all the great things the area has to offer.



The Board's been right in the thick of it, supporting initiatives that'll give the town the boost it needs, such as the Explore Thames campaign, new visitor signage, activities for children and young people, and ensuring Porritt Park is a drawcard for visitors. On behalf of the Thames Community Board, I'd like to wish you all a joyous festive season and a happy and safe new year."

The Board's next meeting is on Wednesday 5 February at 10am, in Thames Council Chamber. tcdc.govt.nz/meetings

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

The tourist trade in Thames is benefiting from new signs installed recently, and others are set to go up over the next few weeks.



Four new blue and white signs have been put up at various parts of the town pointing to amenities such as refreshments, toilets, electric vehicle charging points, the hospital and picnic areas.

Two large 2-metre signs using the new Explore Thames branding (also in the design of the Visitor Information Centre) are being installed in Porritt Park and Grahamstown by late January.

The signs are in the shape of the Pinnacles and a poppet head reflecting the town's mining history. Information includes a map and historical information.



CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR

Kerbside collections

New kerbside collection calendars for 2025 are available at tcdc.govt.nz/bindays and printed copies from Council offices, many of our Pay As You Throw tag retailers and at Refuse and Recycling Transfer Stations (RTS).

Thames Coast and Manaia – collection day continues to be Wednesday. In the holiday period there is no Christmas Day collection: red week collections will take place on Thursday 26 December. The following week, yellow week collections will move to Thursday 2 January.

Thames Rural South, Thames & Surrounds – collection day continues to be Thursday. In the holiday period, red week collection moves to Friday 27 December and yellow week collection moves to Friday 3 January.

Our Refuse and Recycling Transfer Stations are closed on Christmas and New Year's days, and open daily from 8.30am–5.30pm until 5 April. tcdc.govt.nz/rts



Summer dog rules – Some rules have changed. If in doubt, remember dogs must be on a lead unless specified otherwise. tcdc.govt.nz/summerinfo



Service centres – Our offices (and AA services) are closed from noon on Tuesday 24 December, resuming normal hours on Friday 3 January 2025. You can contact us 24/7 at [07 868 0200](https://tcdc.govt.nz), customer.services@tcdc.govt.nz



Alcohol bans – Alcohol bans are in force from 4pm on Monday 23 December until 4pm on Monday 6 January. tcdc.govt.nz/alcoholcontrol

Totara Valley development

Our Council is set to continue to extend infrastructure up Totara Valley Road, in order to open up the area for housing development. Over the next two financial years (2025/26 and 2026/27), the road from the State Highway to Sawmill Road will be widened

and improved, and stormwater, drinking water and wastewater infrastructure will be improved and extended up the road in two stages. This will allow for housing growth in the short term, to help to alleviate housing shortage in Thames.

For more info, visit tcdc.govt.nz/totaravalley

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Mr Woolcock bids farewell to the classroom

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

The recipe for “the best teacher”, according to Brian Woolcock, is someone whose teaching styles, methods and interactions are based on their personality.

It’s something the former Hauraki Plains College English and media studies teacher incorporated across his 42-year career.

One of his speciality teaching tools was humour, which he said he used often. Even though Brian’s sense of vocation to become a teacher wasn’t there to begin with, it soon caught up to him when he was on his first teaching practice and found out “I wasn’t that bad at it” and he enjoyed it, he said.

But in October, the 74-year-old teacher turned in his lesson plans for the last time and retired after spending decades in the classroom, driven by his love for teaching.

Brian, who grew up in Christchurch on the boundary suburbs of Waltham and Sydenham, told *The Profile* the thing that inspired him to become a teacher was his interest in “learning stuff”.

He came from a family of “great readers”, he said, and learnt to read before he went to primary school.

“My father would read to his children every night and I made the association between the written word and its sound.”

When Brian got to primary school, he was surprised to find other five year olds couldn’t read, which “piqued my interest in the reading process” that continued to this day, he said.

Brian studied for an arts degree at Canterbury University in 1968 to 1971, and then went on to study at Teacher’s College in 1972.

His career kicked off a year later at South Otago High School in Balclutha, where he taught remedial reading, social studies and geography, before finding his way to Hauraki Plains College in 1978.

Brian taught at Hauraki for 10 years, before he left to pursue other interests, he said, but returned in 1997 for a “one year stint” as cover for the head of languages.

But what started as a one year stint carried Brian through to October, 2024.

Over the years, Brian managed to take on several roles within the school, wearing a selection of different hats such as: dean of international students, learning support coordinator, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme organiser, teacher in charge of Te Kura Correspondence students, member of the head of department committee that introduced the Diploma of Learning, humanities and mathematics teacher and also producer of several school musicals.

The thing that helped Brian maintain his passion for teaching throughout the years came down to the fact “I enjoyed it”.

“I liked facing challenges and overcoming them or doing my best to overcome them.”

One of the most rewarding things in the classroom for Brian was when he could make a difference, he said, whether it was helping students to advance their skills and knowledge, getting them through exams, or seeing them



Brian Woolcock retires from teaching after a 42-year career. Photo: SUPPLIED

grow in confidence or maturity.

One major challenge for Brian was adjusting to technology.

“When I was cleaning out my office, the last thing I did was to take down a list of notes I had on the wall with little lists of how to do techie things.”

His teaching methods adapted over the years with each different

technological advancement.

For example, Brian said when he started teaching the most advanced piece of tech was coloured chalk.

The common teaching method at the time was chalk and talk where there would be a discussion with the class while the teacher wrote notes on the blackboard,

and students would write down notes, he said.

Other advancements went from reels on film projector to whiteboards, and then to overhead projectors followed by “the next big thing” which was computers, he said.

But the final major technology advancement was Google Classroom, he said, where teaching content could be displayed and the teacher could see students’ work in real time on the teacher’s computer.

But Brian said challenges were what made teaching and anything else interesting.

“I love problem solving. That might involve deep thought on my part,” he said, and included things like asking for advice or to simply “google it”.

The reason he stayed in the career was because he was “always finding new things to do” and also “how to do old things better”.

And his reasons “never did change”, he said.

Principal Sharon Moller said Brian was her English teacher and she loved being in his class.

“He was so passionate about the books, plays, and literature we studied. Brian is the reason I gained a scholarship in Bursary English,” she said.

“I am sure that hundreds, and likely thousands of other people have been influenced and inspired by Brian in a multitude of ways.”

“Brian has dedicated 35 years of his life to us, and Hauraki Plains College is forever grateful for his generous contributions.”

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- > the Patron, volunteers and staff of the Thames Area Committee
- > the volunteers and staff on our Ambulances
- > the youth and their volunteer leaders in our Youth programme
- > the volunteer Caring Callers
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Thank you for your dedicated service and contribution to your community through Hato Hone St John.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous and happy New Year

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Rural Life

Like it or not, we're in the data age

By Dr Greg Lindsay



Season's greetings from Franklin Vets. The prolific flow-ers of the Po-hutukawa up the Thames Coast this Christmas

reflect what has been a prosperous year for the region. Improving business confidence and strong on-farm performance have brought renewed energy to the region.

With cow wearable technology being one of the bigger game changers in recent times, there is understandably plenty of activity in this space.

I recently spoke at the P3 field day about how vets are adding value to farms using wearables data.

Like it or not, we are in a data age; metrics and benchmarking are key to staying at the top in all business, including farming.

With margins tightening in every industry, it is more important than ever to make accurate decisions and invest time in the right areas.

Wearables, alongside Infovets, Wel-Farm and other tools (i.e., scanning and pasture walks) collect a range of valuable data that our vets are comfortable pulling apart and breaking down to help farmers identify areas

deserving of particular focus.

Analysing these streams of information and combining this with our intimate knowledge of farm systems and the farmer's personal goals means we can offer insights, direction and novel approaches that potentially would have otherwise been missed.

Wearables add two valuable streams of information: rumination minutes and pre-mating cycling activity.

At critical times of the season (transition/pre-mating/peak milk) we can track these remotely and identify problem areas before they impact a farm's bottom line.

There are plenty of stories emerging as to how this information is being used to transform and amplify farm performance.

Talk to one of our vets if you want to understand how these approaches could benefit you.

With mating coming to what appears to be a successful close, the teams are booking in herd scans for summer. Scanning provides one of the best opportunities to review whole farm performance.

It is a great entry point for starting the process of tuning up business performance. Make sure you're making the most of your information!

Wishing everyone a great Christmas and a safe holiday period.

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Rural Life

Coastguard Old4New campaign to kick off

Coastguard is running its Old4New water safety initiative again this summer.

The campaign will travel across the country, visiting 74 boating spots between November 30 and February 2, including multiple locations in the Coromandel Peninsula from December 28 until January 2.

This year has been one of New Zealand's worst for drownings in boating incidents, with only one of the 17 fatalities wearing a lifejacket, according to Water Safety New Zealand.

Now, as summer approaches and Kiwis get out on the water, Coastguard is urging everyone to carry out one simple step before hitting the water: just wear your lifejacket.

Coastguard head of operations Rob McCaw said the charity was astounded people were still not making this one simple behaviour change.

"Lifejackets save lives. We've seen far too many preventable tragedies, and the message is simple: if you're on the water, wear a lifejacket," he said.

"It's not just about boaties or open water. We're urging everyone - jet skiers, paddle boarders, rock fishers and kayakers - to wear fit-for-purpose lifejackets.

"No matter what your waka, make sure that you are prepared on the water, whether it's a lake, a river, or the



Coastguard's Old4New campaign will be in the Coromandel Peninsula from December 28 until January 2. Photo: SUPPLIED

ocean."

Rob urges people to wear the right lifejacket for the occasion and person.

"Too often we see children in adult lifejackets or lifejackets that are long past their best. It's not going to help them stay alive if they fall into the water unexpectedly."

DETAILS: Whangamatā Boat Ramp, Beach Rd, December 28, 8am to 11am; Mercury Bay Marine Whitianga, 14 Moewai Rd, December 28, 1pm to 5pm; Pauanui supervalue store, Jubilee Dr, December 29, 9am to 3pm; Pak'nSave Thames, 100 Mary St, December 30, 9am to 1pm; Coromandel Keltic Fair, January 2, 9am to 3pm. More info: old4new.nz.

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SPORTS

Setbacks won't stop Thames swimmers

Community members recognised

SWIMMING

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

A swimming community in the Thames Valley has had its fair share of setbacks recently, but it has not stopped them from continuing their work.

The Thames Amateur Swimming Club faces new challenges after the disestablishment of the Thames-Coromandel District Council-funded coaching roles in September.

Volunteer committee member Rebecca told *The Profile* the club was trying to overcome that - "then the break-in happened".

A break-in at Centennial Pool, where club members train and attend race nights, resulted in a GoPro camera, iPad, computer, touchpad cables and \$150 of petty cash going missing from the premises, she said.

The touch pads, which were used for recording race times, could not be used without the cables, which meant the club needed to have two people per lane keeping time of the races, she said.

Even though the cables for the touchpads were later found - they unfortunately would still not work because they didn't have the computer, she said.

But another setback was the disestablishment of the council-funded coaching roles.

A Thames-Coromandel District Council spokesperson said the council had previously employed two coaches for the Thames Amateur Swimming Club, but did not



The Thames Amateur Swimming Club is looking for support. File Photo

fund the club directly.

"To recover the costs of the coaches, council charged the club a fee per swimmer," they said.

Council said the club had roughly 400 active members when they began funding coaches more than 10 years ago, but over time club numbers declined considerably with around 50 swimmers now.

The assistant coach position was vacant and the head coach resigned in June this year, and with the reduced number of swimmers, council could not adequately recover the ongoing salary costs of the positions through the fees paid by swimmers, council said.

"We advised the club in July,

2024, that we wouldn't be employing new coaches once the current staff had worked out their notice period and that the club would need to provide their own coaching from Term four, 2024, onwards."

Council also did not provide coaching staff for any other sporting club in the district.

"Other clubs provide coaching through volunteers and parents or self-funding. It wasn't considered fair for Thames ratepayers to fund coaching for just one club.

"The monthly fees from the club's swimmers for coaching are now going directly to the club instead of to council."

The club, which has now employed its own coach, was seeking support from the community, such as booking signage spots at the pool for advertising.

Funds raised would go towards coach fees and training equipment, she said.

There are already a few people who have reached out to offer support to the club.

Someone offered their time for training swimmers, such as strengthening with weights and doing exercises safely, she said.

While another person also offered their help if the swim coach was away sick.

Volunteers were motivated by making sure the kids could still swim, she said.

They were very fortunate to have a coach that was passionate, had great rapport with the kids, and wanted to see them succeed, Rebecca said.

And the club's success was evident. Twelve-year-old Thames Swimmers Boe Leach and Kian Rangihika were recently chosen to represent Waikato at an annual relay challenge between Waikato and Auckland called The Caro Cup. Rebecca said the best swimmers were selected from clubs in each region.

"[The swimmers] do work really hard, and it would be a real shame for them not to keep doing it."

DETAILS: Follow Thames Amateur Swimming Club on Facebook to stay up to date, and to find out more about booking a signage spot, contact thameswimnz@gmail.com.

Members of the Thames and Coromandel community were recognised recently for their services to their local communities.

The 2024 Community Service Awards were distributed at each community board's final meeting for the year. Each recipient was given a certificate and medal to acknowledge their efforts to make their community a better place to live.

"These honourees truly exemplify the very best of what it means to serve others," Thames community board chair Adrian Catran said at the Thames board meeting.

"Your efforts don't go unnoticed and today we're here to shine a light on well-deserved remarkable achievements."

The 10 recipients were recognised for a range of reasons, including graffiti removal, volunteer work at historical societies and emergency services, conservation and town beautification work, music and fitness outreach programmes and more.

This year's Community Service Award Recipients: Coromandel-Colville: Donald Hughes and Michael Noonan; Mercury Bay: Tina Bartlett and Tonga Loumoli; Tairua-Pāuanui: Tina Larsen and Les Sinton; Thames: Carolyn McKenzie and John Sanford; Whangamatā: Graeme Webb and Rob Boston.

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Dancing a Life Beyond

An end of year performance called *Life Beyond* took place on November 30 by the Paeroa Contemporary Dance group.

Artistic Director Helene Burgstaller said there were 52 dancers from Paeroa, Waihi and Thames involved. "The story was based on the book *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry as well as the Greek Gods after which the planets in the solar system are named," she said.

The dancers performed choreography by Helene, as well as presenting their own choreography, she said. Helene wanted to thank the Hauraki Creative Communi-

ties Scheme which funded the show. It helped make the show accessible for dancers and the audience, she said. "Aerial silk was used in the opening scene, performed by lead dancer Aislinn van de Wetering, who took her performance to new heights."

The director said life music was integrated into the show with Angelina Loveridge and Jessica Lines, who sang a duet, and with musician Roshan Tuivavalagi, who created a soundscape with her voice and saxophone for the dancers to interact with.

"The shows were a great ending to the dancing year."



Arms reach out for Planet Venus: Goddess of beauty.



Planet Mercury: Messenger of the Gods and God of Thieves and Trickery. Photos: TOMÉK FRIEDRICH/ ARTZENTAO PHOTOGRAPHY



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Peter Revell to stand for Thames-Coro Mayor

Thames-Coromandel District Councillor and former Thames Community Board member Peter Revell has announced his candidacy for the Mayoralty of the Thames-Coromandel District at next year's local government elections.

The decision comes after much reflection and discussion with family and friends, he said.

"After three years on the community board and now two years as a councillor, I believe I have the passion, energy,

experience, and skills that our district needs for this role," he said.

Citing his ongoing focus and commitment to his current role of district councillor, Cr Revell advised he would not be making any further comments at this stage.

"Ratepayers can count on me to continue doing the job I was elected to do, to the very best of my ability," he said.

"Our council is facing a number of crucial decisions over the coming months.

"These decisions demand

appropriate discernment and consideration to ensure the right, common sense decisions are made at the council table.

"I will not be distracted from doing that."

Cr Revell added that he was making the announcement now as transparency was key to his approach.

"Being open, honest, and upfront are essential values for me," he said.

"Therefore, I believe that it is appropriate for people to know my stance on such a significant matter."

Councillor Peter Revell.
Photo: SUPPLIED



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Kaimai Distillery launches world first sugar-free liqueurs

The world's first sugar-free liqueurs range has just been released by the award-winning Kaimai Distillery team.

Head distiller Wayne Chowles and Co-distiller Leah James designed the Oracle Liqueurs range to provide a healthier alternative for the creation of cocktails.

All of the liqueurs, available at Waikino Hotel, are dairy free, fat free, keto friendly, low to no carbs and sugar-free.

"They're perfect whether you're a health warrior, gluten-free guru, keto champion, or just on a health kick," Leah says.

"We've compromised on sugar, not flavour, so people can enjoy their favourite cocktail creation, guilt free."

Wayne says the development has been over a year in the making.

"With 11 flavours to choose from our Oracle Liqueurs are perfectly designed for people to make their favourite cocktails or they can be enjoyed on their own, over ice."

Flavours include raspberry, coconut, strawberry, lime, pineapple, coffee, chocolate, Irish crème, orange, black forest and hazelnut.

Within a week of the release Kaimai Distillery picked up two medals in the 2024 New Zealand Spirit Awards; a silver medal for their Oracle Sugar Free Irish Cream Liqueur and a bronze for their Oracle Sugar



Kaimai Distillery owner and head distiller Wayne Chowles and co-distiller Leah James sample one of the new Oracle Liqueurs range. Photo: SUPPLIED

Free Hazelnut Liqueur.

"We knew we were on to something pretty special with this range," Leah says.

"Industry awards recognition

makes the hard work all worthwhile."

DETAILS: Find out more about this exciting range at www.oracleliqueurs.co.nz.

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WAIHI COLLEGE CELEBRATES SUCCESS

JUNIOR PRIZEGIVING AND SERVICE RECOGNITIONS 2024

Waihi College recently celebrated their Juniors in their Sport, Service, Endeavour and Academic Prizegivings. Well done to all our students who achieved their goals this year, whether small or large, personal or public. Special congratulations to those that won our top awards. We are looking forward to seeing you all back next year to continue on with your learning journey with Waihi College.

Te Orokohanga Trophy (Māori Role Model in Year 7&8)	Kaea Tane (for a year 7-10 student)	I can, I will, I did Award	Sarah Parish Cup	Year 7 Sports Person of the year	Year 7 Sports Person of the year Runner Up	Year 8 Sports Person of the year	Year 8 Sports Person of the year Runner Up	Te Arawa Citizenship Award	Tainui Citizenship Award	Rotary Service Award for Year 7-10	Mozart Award for Contribution to Music for Year 7 - 8
Ngatara Magee	Jacob Adams	Lucas Pennell	April Telekolio	Lachlan Hewlett	Jack Kayes	Hunter Pert	Thierry Smith	Marlie Cochrane	Zeplyn McKenzie	Kate Goodwin	Jimi Randell
Hayden Cup for Best All Round Boy	Hayden Cup for Best All Round Girl	Year 7 Endeavour Award	Year 7 Placings 1st	2nd	3rd	Year 8 Endeavour Award	Year 8 Placings 1st	2nd	3rd	Jack Morgan Shield for Leadership	
Jack Kayes	Brielle Michalchuk	Pippa Bartram	Jimi Randell	Jack Kayes	Beau Wilson	Ngatara Magee	Samuel Davison	Kate Goodwin	Brielle Michalchuk	Brooklyn Archer	Jaylah Rolleston
Year 9 Sports Person of the year	Year 9 Sports Person of the year Runner Up	Year 10 Sports Person of the Year – the Nigel Cotter Cup	Year 10 Sports Person of the year Runner Up	Year 9 Endeavour Award	Year 10 Endeavour Award	Te Kaihōpara Rangahau Award for a Year 9 or 10 role model	Manaakitanga Award for a Year 9-10 student	He Taonga Whakataki Award	Year 9 Citizenship Award	Year 10 Citizenship Award	
Stanley Anderson	Leah Kelly	Lachlan Osborne-Sole	Jazmine Jones	Tessa Menary	Aleera Castro	Truman Alexander	Truman Alexander	Mitchell Paynter	Anakah Lewis	Jessica Yeh	
Contribution to Music for Year 9 & 10	Sharp Note Award for Excellence in a Musical Performance	Excellence in Solo Performance Year 9 & 10	Best All Round Year 9 Student	Year 9 Placings 1st	2nd	3rd	Best All Round Year 10 Student	Year 10 Placings 1st	2nd	3rd	Lauris Nobilis Award for outstanding individual achievement
Jenny Yeh	Jayne Pervan	Keara Randall	Eli Townsend	Daria Galey	Travis Nagel	Ariana Michalchuk	Jaylah Rolleston	Sami Hug	Johnathan Stronach	Carlee Huang	Lachlan Osborne-Sole

Junior Service Recognitions

Service is a huge part of Waihi College. The College proudly boasts many students who serve either the school or community, or often both, in a multitude of ways. This year, the following students were celebrated for all they do to help make Waihi a great community.

Anakah Lewis	Student Council, Leo Club, Service to Community	Logan Cooper	Service to Sport
Anetta Otene	Student Council	Marlo Nopper	Service to Sport
Beau Wilson	Service to Music	Mitchell Paynter	Service to Sport
Jack Kayes	Service to Sport, Service to Community	Nicita van der Merwe	Student Council
Jack Lawrence	Service to Community	Noah McNeil	Service to Music
Jayne Pervan	Service to Music	Ruby Dysart	Service to Sport, Service to Community
Jenny Yeh	Service to Music	Rueben Carey	Service to Music
Jessica Yeh	Service to Music	Ryan Fletcher	Service to Music
Jimi Randell	Service to Music	Samuel Davison	Service to Music
Johnny Buskermolen	Service to Sport	Tate Randell	Hall Tech
Jordan Holmes	Service to Sport	Tessa Menary	Service to Sport, Service to Music
Jordan Holmes	Service to Sport	Thierry Smith	Service to Music
Kate Goodwin	Student Council, Leo Club, Service to School	Tobin McArthur-Dye	Service to Sport
Lennox Fathers	Service to Sport	Xavier Motley	Student Council, Leo Club
		Zeplyn McKenzie	Service to Sport

Colourful fundraiser

A sea of Waihi College students became splattered in bright colours on December 6 for the school's Colour Run fundraiser. The event, which was held on the school field, raised \$5000 toward the new school playground. The afternoon kicked off with students getting splashed with water, crawling under commando nets, running through fields, firing basketballs in shooting challenges and sliding down the waterslide, all while getting bombarded by clouds of colour. Reporter **DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA** was there to snap the vibrant hues of colourful chaos.



Students are targeted with colour during their commando crawls.



Kate Goodwin, left, Aubree Leslie and Brooklyn Archer have fun.



Students have a splashing time.



Students slip and slide in clouds of colour.

Photos: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA



Twelve-year-olds Jackson Van Etten, left, and Parkes Atkins get colourful.



Year 8 Isla Freeman gets a piggyback from Harlow Davis.

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Gardening

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Maintain your soil moisture ahead of Jan

Not long now before we welcome in the New Year - 2025. I hope you have an enjoyable and safe festive season.

My pre-Christmas check on the long term weather forecast indicates we may experience a hot dry January after some good rain through December. Moisture is a critical component of gardening at any time but especially so if it's very dry. A liquid feed is worth the effort to help plant health. It's about having the right balance, which is often out of our hands.

Maintaining soil moisture is so important to enable a continual and abundant supply of fresh summer vegetables. Considering the ever increasing cost of fresh fruit and vegetables, it makes good sense to produce as much from your garden if possible. Including a few fruit trees is also worth consideration.

Vegetables grow best in full sun and a sheltered position. Our local garden centres will give good advice for the most cost effective methods and your requirements.

Crops for harvest are beetroot, beans, cabbage, carrots, corn, cucumbers, lettuce, zucchini, peas, potatoes, spinach and tomatoes. It is a time of extreme growth so



It's harvest time for raspberries, as well as blueberries, strawberries, apricots, and plums. File Photo: PIXABAY

if your harvest is more than you can cope with remember your neighbours, family, friends and the community garden table.

It's also harvest time for nectarines, passionfruit, blueberry, strawberries, raspberries, apricot, peaches and plums. Plant new strawberry plants or trim long runners back to the centre of the

plant to encourage another batch of fruit.

Revitalise plants after their growth spurt and keep them looking great through summer by giving them a homemade organic tea break. You can either make your own or alternatively, you could buy liquid fertiliser from your garden centre. I have

a worm farm, so we collect lots of worm tea which is also a good option. Dilute before use.

Keep an eye out for Black Spot - large irregular black spots on leaves. Rust - brown pustules on the underside of leaves. Powdery Mildew - a white or light grey coating on foliage and stems. Make sure that plants aren't

crowded to ensure they have maximum air circulation. Always water around the base of the plants to avoid wet foliage and water early morning when possible. If despite your efforts powdery mildew does strike, remove diseased foliage or whole plants immediately to help stop the spread. Crop rotation also helps to avoid spreading disease.

In the flower garden, to keep summer flowering annuals looking beautiful, dead head regularly and provide regular deep watering especially those in pots. Cut back any that have become straggly.

Don't forget to give your houseplants the attention they need in the hotter months and mist frequently.

Summer is hard for roses if the humidity increases. If black spot becomes a problem, spray immediately and continue fortnightly. Dead head and give a light summer prune to encourage more flowering. Keep well-watered and mulched.

Lawns - Water lawns weekly and avoid cutting them too short. Compost Heap - Turn frequently and keep moist.

Enjoy your garden.

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January 2025 Moon Planting Calendar		1 Non planting Day	2 Non planting Day	3 Non planting Day	4 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	5 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed
6 Non planting Day	7 Non planting Day	8 Non planting Day	9 Plant above ground crops	10 Plant above ground crops	11 Non planting Day	12 Non planting Day
13 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	14 Full Moon	15 Non planting Day	16 Non planting Day	17 Non planting Day	18 Non planting Day	19 Non planting Day
20 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	21 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	22 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	23 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	24 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	25 Non planting Day	26 Non planting Day
27 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	28 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	29 Non planting Day	30 New Moon	31 Non planting Day	Calendar Supplied by Gilmer Farms	

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

January guest artists offer painting, pottery and woodturning

The first of the Thames Art Gallery's featured artists for 2025 is Tairua-based artist Susan Dunster, who works in both painting and printmaking.

Susan's interest in the arts was piqued in her early childhood, with influence coming from her mother and grandmother, both avid craftswomen, whose skilful hands wove in colour and stitches. Susan paints in a fluid, fragmented and abstract manner.

She has a passion for colour which is evident in her current work, where she explores relationships between shapes and colour juxtapositions, weaving vibrant colours and shapes across the picture surfaces so that things dissolve into each other.

Susan seeks to express a deeper emotional and spiritual reality beneath the surface appearance of things. Susan's exhibition history dates from the early 1990s and she has exhibited regularly, both in solo and group shows since then. Her works are held in collections in New Zealand, Australia and abroad. Susan considers her work to be intense and joyful, and a selection of her work will be on exhibition on the southern wall of the Thames Art Gallery during January.

Husband and wife team, potter Dianne and woodturner Mark Caton, will be exhibiting their work at the northern end of the gallery. A chance meeting, through a "blind date", brought New Zealand-born Dianne and United States-born Mark together while he was on a visit to New Zealand. A passion



Potter Dianne Caton, left, woodturner Mark Caton and painter and printmaker Susan Dunster, inset, are January guest artists at Thames Art Gallery at 604 Tararu Rd, Thames, open daily 10am to 4pm.

Photos: SUPPLIED

for travel and warmer climates saw them return to the United States, where they spent a number of years before returning to New Zealand and settling in Waihi in 2017.

Dianne's dream of becoming a potter began as a teenager. Her dream, at 15, was to

attend the Elam School of Fine Arts, but instead she enrolled in a Business College at her father's insistence as "it was not something for a 15-year-old". Not to be deterred, Dianne attended evening classes and her long love affair with clay began. Her work

has evolved over the years from the basic casseroles, bowls and cups to raku with intricate cutouts and now sgraffito (a pottery technique that involves applying a layer of contrasting color to a piece of pottery, drying it, then scratching away parts of the layer to reveal the base colour). She says she cannot leave a piece of clay plain. An uncontrollable urge to carve, embellish, scratch or alter takes over. Driftwood also seems to find a home on a lot of her pieces.

The majority of Dianne's work is slab built and the most valuable thing she's learned over the years is patience and knowing when slabs are just leatherhard enough to work with. Having always loved anything to do with wood, upon their return to New Zealand, Mark joined the Hauraki Woodturners, and said that he hasn't looked back. He was able to purchase a used lathe and tools and learned how to turn bowls. He was absolutely hooked with woodturning after making his first bowl.

Mark said that he's been lucky enough to be given some beautiful native New Zealand wood including Kauri, Rimu, and Pohutukawa to work with. After a couple of years of turning, he started experimenting with adding inlays and inserts, using turquoise, silver, aluminum and even some black sand from Waihi Beach, to his pieces. Mark says that the challenge of pushing himself, to learn and grow as a wood turner and craftsman, really motivates him.

End of year wrap up: The best songs of 2024

POP CULTURE



By ALI KOIA-HAMLING, Paeroa College student

This year has been one of the best for music in a while. There have been massive stars like Taylor Swift, Billie Eilish and Beyonce drop new albums, while pop stars like Sabrina Carpenter and Chapelle Roan have risen to stardom with their hit single.

Amongst this, we also witnessed a historical rap beef between two huge rappers - Kendrick Lamar and Drake, as well as Megan Thee Stallion and Nicki Minaj at the beginning of the year. That's only a few things that happened in the music world this year. Today, as we near the end of the year, we count down my top five picks for the best songs of this year, based on critical reception, public reception, its earnings and my overall liking of the song. What was your favorite song from this year?

Not Like Us - Kendrick Lamar

Kendrick Lamar's *Not Like Us* is in my

opinion the best song of the year. The song ended the beef with Drake, after a week of drops from both artists. *Not Like Us* is a catchy rap tune that has brilliant bars that take shots at Drake as well as an addictive chorus everyone probably knows the words to by now. Over an incredible beat produced by Mustard, *Not Like Us* is a cultural anthem that has literally been bringing cultures together this year. The song is a club banger that will live on as one of the best rap songs of recent memory. The single topped charts worldwide, reaching Number 1 here in New Zealand and in the US on the Billboard Hot 100.

Not Like Us was also the most listened to song globally on Apple Music this year. The success of this song catapulted Kendrick Lamar to new heights, as he played with a different sound than his usual one in this diss track. Overall, whether you love Kendrick or you are the biggest Drake fan on the planet, you have to agree, this song was monumental as it changed the landscape for rap.

Die With A Smile - Bruno Mars & Lady Gaga

Die With A Smile is an incredible song that puts together two of the biggest

"Kendrick Lamar's Not Like Us is in my opinion the best song of the year... a cultural anthem."

- Ali Koia-Hamling

pop stars of all time, and shows off their amazing songwriting, versatility and vocal ability. *Die With A Smile* is a song that I loved the first time I heard it. Its chorus is so good and Bruno and Gaga's voices sound so soothing. It is very uncommon these days to see a song crafted with big artists like Bruno Mars and Lady Gaga turn out to be so impressively good! The song made history for the fastest song to reach 1 billion streams on Spotify ever, reaching the milestone in only 96 days!

It also topped the New Zealand music charts for a whopping 10 weeks. *Die With A Smile* is a song everyone can enjoy, no matter what age you are. Overall, it is just a beau-

tiful song that will forever be a classic.

Good Luck Babe! - Chapelle Roan

Who had ever heard of Chapelle Roan this time last year? Not Me! However, this year she came out of nowhere with huge hits like *HOT TO GO!* and *Pink Pony Club*. However, it was this song here - *Good Luck Babe!*, which had everyone's attention. *Good Luck Babe!* is an intriguing song and has a type of beat and flow that is very different to songs out in the world currently. On first listen, I could not get into the song. As I said, it had a very unique sound and stood out as a very different type of song compared to other hit songs on the radio. *Good Luck Babe!* However, it grew on me and its catchy hook, bridge and chorus became stuck in my head. Chapelle's vocals throughout the song are incredible as well, and the ending of the song, with it getting deeper and deeper, is truly different to other songs in this century, which makes it stand out as a great song. Overall, we need more songs that sound like this one!

Temporary - Eminem, featuring Skylar Grace

Eminem is for sure a controversial

rapper, however that doesn't mean he is not a good rapper. *Temporary* is an emotional song which is written for his daughter Hailey Jade, and is meant to be a song telling her all the things he wants to do before he dies.

Skylar Grace's vocals are beautiful on this song, elevating this song to a whole other emotional level. On first listen, it is hard not to cry. Eminem delivers great bars and lines in this song as well, proving he hasn't lost his writing talents. The overall message of this song is beautiful and the chorus is just amazing. Overall, this is an underrated song that deserves more praise, and in my opinion is one of the best songs of the year.

Beautiful Things - Benson Boone

Benson Boone out did himself on this song. I had heard of Benson Boone before, but had not looked up to him as a very good singer. *Beautiful Things* changed this. His vocal abilities on this song are just remarkably impressive, which elevates this song to new heights. The songwriting and message of this song is truly a thing to admire as well. The song has become one of the biggest hit songs of 2024, and there's no question why.

Thames Art Gallery
604 Tararu Road, Thames Coast
www.thamesartgallery.co.nz

January Featured Artists

SUSAN DUNSTER

Susan is enthusiastic about colour and considers her work to be both joyful and intense. Susan is based in Tairua and has exhibited and sold widely

MARK CATON & DIANNE CATON

Creative duo Mark and Dianne Caton are exhibiting woodcraft (Mark) and pottery (Dianne). They are both meticulous in their unique pieces

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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

181

HARD

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EASY

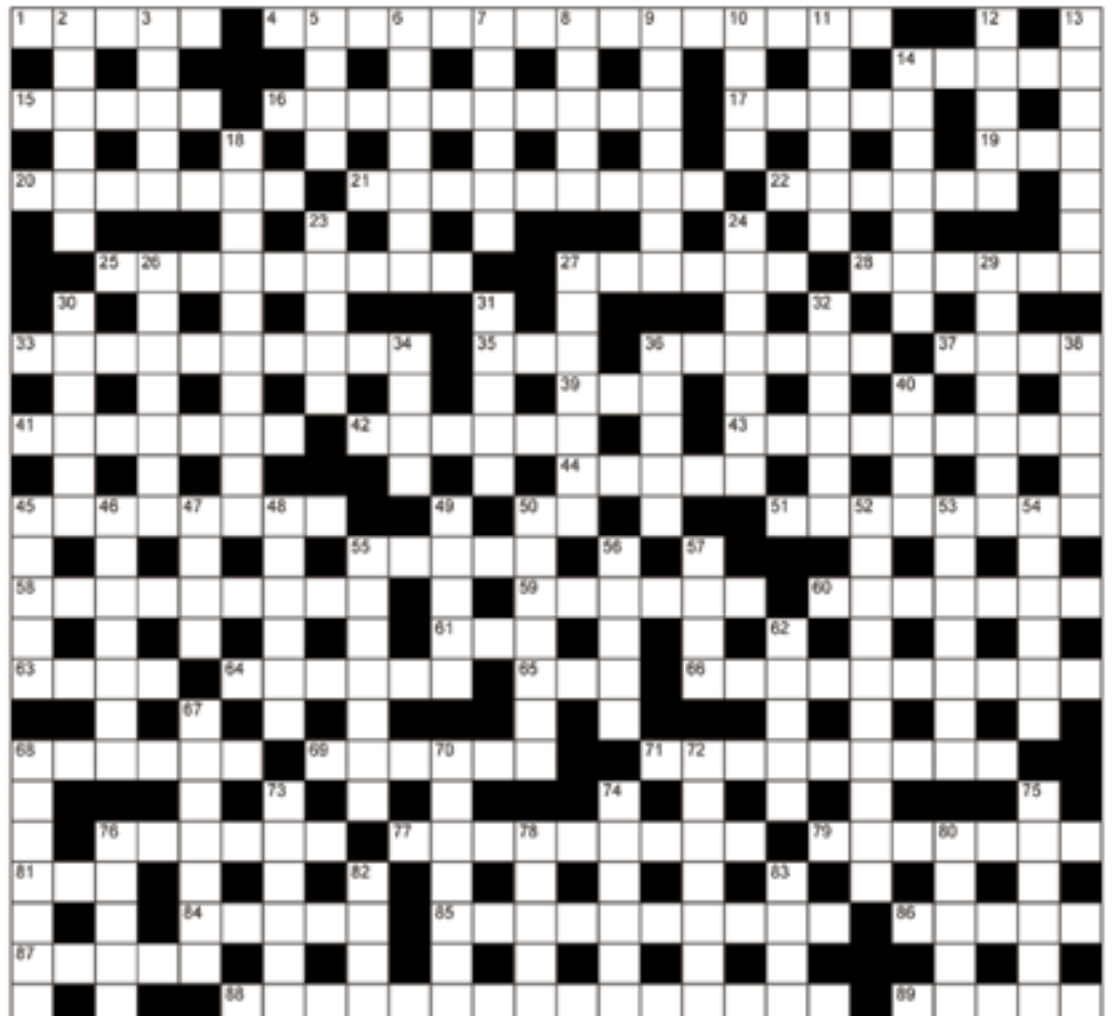
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JUMBO CROSSWORD

201

- ACROSS**
- 1 Opium flower (5)
 - 4 Feeling great (2,3,2,3,5)
 - 14 Happening quickly (5)
 - 15 Military officer (5)
 - 16 Sale bid taker (10)
 - 17 Distinguish oneself (5)
 - 19 Intestine (3)
 - 20 Underground cell (7)
 - 21 Build (9)
 - 22 U-shaped fastener (6)
 - 25 Forthright, frank (9)
 - 27 Colour remover (6)
 - 28 Disrepute (6)
 - 33 Not known or experienced (10)
 - 35 Pixie (3)
 - 36 Cautioned (6)
 - 37 Black marketeer (4)
 - 39 Adversary (3)
 - 41 Become less loud or strong (3,4)
 - 42 Fleet of warships (6)
 - 43 Coins come (anag) (9)
 - 44 Ignite (5)
 - 45 Charlotte Brontë novel (4,4)
 - 50 Social event (2)
 - 51 Gemstone (8)
 - 55 Rub sore (5)
 - 58 Bold reckless outlaw (9)
 - 59 Mute (6)
 - 60 Insect's antennae (7)
 - 61 Groove (3)
 - 63 Coloured (4)
 - 64 Singer (anag)(6)
 - 65 Kind (3)
 - 66 Greeting (10)
 - 68 Flock of geese (6)
 - 69 Powerful (6)
 - 71 Egyptian queen (9)
 - 76 Postage stickers (6)
 - 77 Meal break (9)
 - 79 Level high ground (7)
 - 81 Merriment (3)
 - 84 Earthenware beer mug (5)
 - 85 Drunk (10)
 - 86 Char (5)
 - 87 Reflection (5)
 - 88 Concede defeat (5,2,3,5)
 - 89 Austere and bare (5)
 - DOWN**
 - 2 Non-transparent (6)
 - 3 Tine (5)
 - 5 Common sense (4)
 - 6 Result (7)
 - 7 Orchestra member (6)
 - 8 Of them (5)
 - 9 Head pain (7)
 - 10 Portent (4)
 - 11 Find (6)
 - 12 Pivot (5)
 - 13 Impressively regal, dignified (7)
 - 14 Oblique (7)
 - 18 Secret plot (10)
 - 23 Invigorating medicine (5)
 - 24 Bright red colour (7)
 - 26 Ignorant of (7)
 - 27 Bison (7)
 - 29 Make louder (7)
 - 30 Chest pain (6)
 - 31 Team race (5)
 - 32 Twist out of shape (6)
 - 34 Uncommon (4)
 - 36 Assess (5)
 - 38 Call on (5)
 - 40 Mislaid (4)
 - 45 Tired-out (5)
 - 46 Savings (4,3)
 - 47 Large pitcher (4)
 - 48 Harvested (6)
 - 49 Memorial stone mound (5)
 - 50 Fate (7)
 - 52 In the end (10)
 - 53 Gun holder (7)
 - 54 Moralistic lecture (6)
 - 55 Will addition (7)
 - 56 Lucky accident (5)
 - 57 Responsibility (4)
 - 62 Inundate (5)
 - 67 Purify (7)
 - 68 Lion-bird monster (7)
 - 70 Famous escapologist (7)
 - 72 Back pain (7)
 - 73 Oration (6)
 - 74 Deprive of food (6)
 - 75 Peril (6)
 - 76 Creep (5)
 - 78 Defraud (5)
 - 80 Screw (5)
 - 82 Rescind (4)
 - 83 Deliver up (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Occur, 4 Identical twins, 11 Trout, 14 Brain, 15 Documentary, 16 Garrison, 19 Console, 20 Thigh, 21 Audacious, 24 Pseudonym, 26 Sturdy, 27 Shrill, 31 Trait, 32 Princess, 34 Thoroughly, 38 Staunch, 39 Stable, 40 Uneasy, 41 Code, 42 Accepts, 45 Charitable, 50 Settled, 54 Path, 55 Mutate, 56 Forbid, 57 Resolve, 60 Carelessly, 61 Navigate, 62 Ebbled, 65 Jargon, 66 Astray, 67 Oppressed, 72 Straining, 73 Demon, 74 Advance, 79 Au revoir, 80 Harpsichord, 81 Sloop, 82 Sober, 83 As mad as a hatter, 84 Cycle.

DOWN: 2 Cordon, 3 Units, 5 Drop, 6 Naughty, 7 Ice age, 8 Acts, 9 Tortuous, 10 Static, 11 Throughout, 12 Oast, 13 Tuneful, 17 Cloud, 18 Hard cheese, 22 Mourn, 23 Night owl, 25 Seizure, 26 Suspect, 28 Critic, 29 Member, 30 Crisis, 33 Notch, 35 Yield, 36 Scot, 37 Numb, 42 Aspic, 43 Caterers, 44 Squash, 45 Cradle song, 46 Apex, 47 Infancy, 48 Arrive, 49 Lying, 51 Eyed, 52 Trouble, 53 Envied, 58 Almost over, 59 Stern, 63 Drunkard, 64 Aside, 65 Jigsaws, 68 Prophet, 69 Marina, 70 Perish, 71 Scroll, 75 Alley, 76 Grub, 77 Opus, 78 True.



That's a wrap

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

It was all hands on deck at the Paeroa Baptist Church hall with Santa's helpers ready to wrap Christmas gifts for the annual Paeroa Toy Appeal on December 12.

The event draws in support and donations from people, organisations and groups to "make Christmas special" for families and children, who might otherwise miss out.

Toys, puzzles, books, stationery, sports equipment, board games, and more were spread around the room at various gift wrapping stations.

Organiser Carol Millar told *The Profile* just over 220 gifts

were donated this year.

She wanted to thank the volunteers and everyone for the donations and gifts, and also the gift drop off points, she said, which were: The Hauraki Bike Hire/Paeroa Information Hub, the Paeroa Library and Paeroa Pigeon Post.

"Without those, it doesn't work." A special thank you to the Paeroa Pigeon Post, who donated proceeds from the letter posting to the Toy Appeal, she said, which were used to purchase more gifts to fill the gaps.

The Paeroa Rotary Club also made a donation which was really helpful, she said.



Organiser Carol Millar is ready to wrap.

Photos: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA



Louise Ingle is careful and precise.



Bryce Millar and Ingrid Geerlings work together to get the job done.



Top elves Sarah and Hana lend a helping hand to wrap the donated gifts.



Expert elf Lois Waugh is quick.



Heather Browne is on the job.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from the teams at Thames Valley Kia, Valley Toyota Thames & Tony Richards Toyota Paeroa.

Closed December 25th - 29th, open December 30 & 31, closed January 1st - 5th, normal hours from January 6th.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all the team at Burton's Butchery. We are closing on the 23rd December at 3pm and re opening on the 6th of Jan 2025

Blessings to you all. Have a magical Christmas filled with love, joy and peace

The shop will be closed Christmas Day only.

The Valley Education team wishes everyone a very *Merry Christmas* and a *Happy New Year*. Thank you for your support.

The office closes 20 December and reopens 20 January 2025.

Valley Education
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1/46 Kopu Rd, Kopu, Thames Ph 07 869 0400
coromandel@totalspan.co.nz

Seasons Greetings from the team at Totalspan Coromandel

We will be closed Dec 20 - reopening Jan 13

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas & safe travelling

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Tuesday 24 Dec; 7 - 3pm
Closed 25 - 29 Dec
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Happy Holidays

Wishing you a safe & festive season
From Des, Christine & the family

Thank you to all our loyal customers for your support. Merry Christmas & a safe and happy New Year. We will be closed from the 24th December and will be back on the 6th January

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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Plains on parade

The Ngatea community braved a rainy day on December 12 to enjoy the town's first Christmas Parade since 2019, organised by the newly-formed business association, Connecting the Plains. Valley Profile reporter **KELLEY TANTAU** went in search of Santa.



Beauty contestants are dressed to impress.



Ngatea Playcentre 'minions' enjoy the parade.

Photos: KELLEY TANTAU



Reindeer and elves in vibrant colour.



A colourful float wows the crowd.



Santa leads farmers through town.



This participant is hot to trot.

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A big thank you for your continued support.

Our Xmas/New Year hours will be:
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EXTREME DUKATI MAC

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Celebrating Christmas

Christmas music was heard throughout the village of Turua recently.

The small community pulled together for a celebration of the coming holiday season with its Turua Christmas in the domain.

The Turua Events Committee told *The Profile* Christmas music and live entertainment created a festive atmosphere with hay bales to rest on.

Many community groups set up stalls, including a "delicious range" of food on offer from a sausage sizzle, mussel fritters, hamburgers, to ice cream, skoffles and more.

"Previous fundraising enabled two bouncy castles to be there for younger children free of charge," they said.

A complimentary water slide complete with bubbles was available for children thanks to the Turua Fire Brigade.

St John medic Julia was also on hand with CPR dolls for people to learn about resuscitating.

People were also able to head over to the therapy horses and say hello.

"From individuals [and] groups, such as the Turua Lawnmowahs, and businesses coming together - it was a night to remember."



Bouncy castle buddies.



A few pats for the therapy horses.



Bex Armstrong and friends entertain.



A large crowd enjoy food and music.



Nate and Rhys make the most of the waterslide. Photos: COLLETTE DOHERTY

Christmas colour in fun



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Thanks for all your support in 2023.

We wish everyone a safe & Merry Xmas. Happy New Year !!

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Merry Christmas Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season



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We will be closed from Friday Dec 20th and back on Monday Jan 13th



MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR LOYAL CUSTOMERS. WE WILL BE CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY ONLY.

AEROVIEW

We wish you a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

Thank you to all our valued Customers and Tradesmen.

We will be closing for business this year from 12.00pm Monday 23rd December & reopening on Friday 3rd January.



Wishing Our Burton's followers a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. We will be closing for a well deserved break. The shop will be closed from December 20th till January 7th. Look forward to seeing everyone in the new year.





MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS

The warm down into the Christmas season

OPINION

By MICHAEL WILKES



The mad rush of the Christmas season is in full swing.

We pile event on event, add the pressure of finding the perfect gifts, juggling family gatherings, and scrambling to finish everything before the year ends.

We do this to ourselves every year. Some of it is valuable and meaningful - and some of it, not so much.

A few years ago, I was wiring up our home with an electrician mate. My wife had a baby on the way, and we were racing the clock. My mate was hungry for lunch, but I insisted on finishing the wire runs I was working on. He stopped me and said: "Mike, come have lunch. The wires will still be there when you get back".

It was such a simple moment, but it stuck with me. So often, we feel the need to keep pushing - to do just one more thing. But in many cases, pausing isn't the end of the world. The wires can wait, the tasks can wait, and sometimes, the best thing we can do is take a moment to rest and connect.

This Christmas season, I'm reminded of that. Instead of rushing headlong into the holidays, what if we eased into them like a warm down? Just like a runner who finishes a long race by slowing their pace,

we can transition gently into the season of joy and togetherness. Because if we arrive at Christmas burnt out, we'll have little left to give to the people who matter most.

Christmas is meant to be a time of peace, love, and joy. For me, it's about remembering the story of Christ's birth - a moment of hope and light.

It's about sharing laughter, hugs, and quiet moments with my wife and kids. It's about recharging, finding warmth in togetherness, and appreciating the blessings we already have.

So, as we move toward Christmas, let's ask ourselves: What does this season mean for me?

If we can keep what truly matters front and centre, maybe we'll enter Christmas not with exhaustion, but with hearts full of joy.

Let's slow down, breathe in the magic of the season, and warm down into Christmas. The tasks can wait - the joy, the connection, and the wonder of Christmas shouldn't.

Have a great Christmas!

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.

Chris' Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parminter

1. The first commercial Christmas cards, produced in 1843, featured children drinking what beverage?
2. In the song *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, what was given on the fifth day?
3. According to the Gospels of Matthew and Luke in the Bible, the birthplace of Jesus Christ was in which city?
4. Which of Santa's reindeer has a name starting with V?
5. Which of Santa's reindeer has a red nose?
6. In the movie *Home Alone*, where do the McCallister family travel to for Christmas? a) London, b) New York or c) Paris?
7. Which actor played Buddy the elf in the

2003 movie *Elf*?

8. In which country did the tradition of Christmas Trees begin? a) United Kingdom, b) Germany or c) Netherlands?
9. What Christmas song did astronauts broadcast from space in 1965?
10. Which North Island city has hosted the Coca Cola Christmas in the Park festival since 1994?



ANSWERS: 1. Wine; 2. Five golden rings; 3. Ferrell; 4. Vixen; 5. Rudolph; 6. c) Paris; 7. Will Ferrell; 8. b) Germany; 9. Jingle Bells; 10. Auckland.

Merry Christmas
Meri Kirihimete

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Sunday 29th Dec	CLOSED
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Saturday	28 th December	Closed
Sunday	29 th December	Closed
Monday	30 th December	Normal Surgery Hours (8.30am - 5.00pm) 2 Doctors on duty
Tuesday	31 st December	Normal Surgery Hours (8.30am - 5.00pm) 2 Doctors on duty
Wednesday	1 st January	Closed
Thursday	2 nd January	Closed
Friday	3 rd January	Normal Surgery Hours (8.30am - 5.00pm) 2 Doctors on duty
Saturday	4 th January	Closed
Sunday	5 th January	Closed

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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Merry Christmas from the team.

Hauraki Plains Motors Ltd

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ENTERTAINMENT

Kerepēhi School musos release EP on Spotify

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Songwriting, playing instruments and singing up a storm are things Kerepēhi Primary School embraces.

It's something the school recently celebrated with the release of its music students' new 6-track EP called *Kerepēhi School 2024*, which is now available on Spotify.

Kerepēhi music students and teacher Matua Stu Green were busy this year writing and recording the music from six of the school's bands: Fabolicious, Mana Music, Kōtare Dreamers, Kere Kings, 5 Starz and Māori Panda's.

The young musicians told *The Profile* the best spot to listen to the music was in the car on the way to the beach.

People could look forward to hearing the lyrics and beats in their "groovy" and "mean as" music, they said.

The most challenging part of the recording process was staying silent while others re-



Some of the Kerepēhi School musos run through their songs.



File Photos

corded their vocals, they said. But the best part of the process was "hearing the finished result".

The students were able to showcase the music in their official EP release concert, which took place on December 11, during the schools final assembly for the year, where each

band performed their tunes for whānau and friends.

The Kerepēhi School Music Cup was a new trophy donated to the school by Matua Stu and set to be awarded to the band with the best original song.

Guest Judge Davidda Hikatangata, who was invited to mentor the musos in October,

had the hard task of choosing the best song.

After hearing the crowd sing along to one catchy tune in particular - it was a clear indication Mana Music was the winner with their song *When I Grow Up*, she said.

"I'm blown away by the talent and music coming from the

students at Kerepēhi.

"It's awesome people can listen to their new EP on Spotify," she said.

"I'm calling it the soundtrack to summer."

DETAILS: Search for Kerepēhi School 2024 on Spotify to listen to the students' newly-released music.

CALL THE EXPERTS - Continued

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The Valley Profile

CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12noon Monday

Death Notice	Builder
PAWLEY, Nola Elaine: Dearly loved Mum of Joanne and Peter, adored Nana of Richard and Kim, Nadia and Simon, and loved Old Nana of Justin, Bianca and Abigail. A life graciously lived. <i>The last green bottle has fallen.</i>	Reno's , decking, fencing. For free quote ph Phil 021 088 63559
Church Notice	For Lease
Assembly of God 10am Sundays. Scout Hall. Baker St, Waihi	Yards for lease , Thames and Kopu. Suitable for trucks, vehicles or trade business base. Ph 027 440 7101
	Gardening
	STUMP GRINDING. All sizes, all areas. Thames based. Ph 021 060 7659
	Painter
	Professional roof painter. Mario Kerkhof 027 961 4055

Church Notice

Christmas at St James



Christmas Eve – 7pm – Christmas carols and the Christmas story

Christmas Day – 9.30am – Family service

All welcome

Where? St James Union Church,
Cnr Pollen & Pahau Street, Thames

Any queries phone Daryl – 027 6989 526

Handyman	Public Notice
An experienced handyman covering all trades with over 20 years exp building trade. Please contact Laurie King 0212510246. ktpropertyservice.com	Rodney Spence please call Lyn - Store 4 U, 027 575 9173. If no contact by January 10, 2025 contents will be disposed of.
Mowing , hedges, fencing, gardening, carpentry, painting, retaining walls, welding, waterblasting. Work is good quality and I will not attempt to work outside of my skills. Insured. Dennis Schuler 022 129 0169	Pets
	KENNELS WAITAKARURU Boarding Kennels and Cattery. "A great place for your pet to stay." Shane & Sherrin Hansen. Ph: 07-867-3344, SH25 Waitakaruru, RD6 Thames

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Situations Vacant

Church Office Reception

Thames Union Parish – St James Church.
Part-time position, possibly job-shared, helping to keep our Parish Office running.
Position to start mid-February.
For details and queries please phone Daryl on 027 6989 526

We are currently seeking a part time general hand to join our team, with the potential to transition to full time for the right candidate.
While a mechanical background is beneficial it is not a requirement.
If you're interested in learning more about this opportunity please reach out to Miles at 027 227 1121 or via email at miles@hpmotors.co.nz
We look forward to hearing from you.

Public Notices

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 Highland Games and Tattoo event organised by Highland Games and Tattoo Committee it is intended to close the following roads 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: Saturday 8 February 2025.
Times of closure for roads detailed below.

Roads to be closed in Paeroa:

- Willoughby St, from intersection of SH26 (Arney St) to intersection of Corbett St from 6am to 6.30pm
- Mackay St, from intersection of SH2 to intersection of Willoughby St from 6am to 6.30pm
- Hall St, from intersection of SH2 to intersection of Willoughby St from 6am to 6.30pm
- Corbett St, from intersection of Albert St to King St from 6am to 10am
- King St - entire length from 6am to 10am

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 January 2025.

D A Speirs
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council

www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz

Thank you to our angel in the little grey car coming to our rescue on Sunday morning at GAS Paeroa. We really appreciate your kindness and wish you and your family a beautiful Christmas.

Please note that this is the last Valley Profile for 2024. Our next issue will be January 7 2025. To our readers and advertisers, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year



Profile
CoromandelApp

Boating safety team out in force

Waikato Regional Council maritime officers will be patrolling coastal and inland waters in force this summer as part of the annual Operation Neptune.

"We want boaters to have fun when they're heading out onto the water, but there will be plenty of others in and on the water and we want them to stay safe," Waikato Regional Harbourmaster Chris Bredenbeck said.

"While the boating public will notice our personnel out and about on the water, conducting boating safety checks and enforcing the boating bylaws, the reality is that boating safety education stops at the boat ramp. It's the skipper's responsibility to ensure they know the rules and comply with them on the water. We'll be looking closely at whether boaters are following the rules including around personal flotation devices (PFDs), speed limits and the need for towing with an observer."

For example, people on vessels six metres or less need to wear their PFDs while the vessel is underway. Larger vessels are required to have a PFD for each person on board, but they're only required to be worn under certain circumstances such as bar crossings or times of heightened risk. This is a different rule to some other regions. Boat users are responsible for being fa-

miliar with Waikato region boating rules before they head to the water. Boating rules can be found on Waikato Regional Council's website, the MarineMate mobile phone application and are prominently displayed on signage at boat ramps around the Waikato.

Maritime officers on patrol may issue breach notices that can result in fines of up to \$200 per offence. Last summer, Operation Neptune staff had over 1000 interactions with the public with 393 bylaw breaches identified, with 94 formal warnings issued and 299 infringements.

The annual Operation Neptune programme will run during the summer boating peak between Boxing Day and January 12, covering popular coastal, lake and river boating areas across the Waikato region.

For the three weeks of Operation Neptune, the council's year-round maritime services team will be boosted by about 25 staff from other parts of the organisation along with two summer students. Staff will be deployed on nine council-branded vessels, ranging from jetskis to the 6.7m *Tūtaita* which joined the fleet in October, and on selected boat ramps.

DETAILS: Boating rules and safety information is available at waikatoregion.govt.nz/maritime-services.



COROMANDEL CATIO COMPETITION



CREATE A CATIO (CAT PATIO/ENCLOSURE) AND BE IN TO WIN A FABULOUS PRIZE

- A family pass to ride the train at Driving Creek Railway
- A night for four in the DOC Kauaeranga Valley house
- Hauraki Vets prize pack
- A bunch of other cool prizes

Why have a catio?

- Peace of mind.** Know your cat is safe and happy - not lost, injured, or getting into cat fights.
- Great for wildlife.** Know your cat is not hunting our native taonga (treasure) including birds, geckos and skinks.

It can be as simple as a netting between the top of a fence and the roof of your house, a small outside addition to a cat door, or a mobile pen for taking on holiday.

How to enter

Build your own catio and send us photos of your design and finished product to kauaerangavc@doc.govt.nz. Incomplete catios can also be entered. **All entries must be received by the 1st of March 2025.** Please include your name, phone number and email address. Check out our Facebook page for more information: www.facebook.com/DOCHaurakiCoromandel

Generously supported by Driving Creek Railway and Hauraki Vets



Photo: DOC

Terms & Conditions: The Competition is organised and run by the Department of Conservation (DOC) Hauraki Offices. Any questions in regard to the Competition should be directed to community.coromandel@doc.govt.nz. Any persons in the photograph must give their consent for the image to be used in the competition in line with the conditions of entry. DOC retains the right to publish any image submitted for the Competition in electronic or printed promotional material at its cost. The photographer will retain copyright. The winning entries will be notified via email by 15th March 2025 and feature on the Hauraki/Coromandel Facebook page. Photos may also be displayed elsewhere. By entering the Competition, entrants grant DOC the right to display their entry, including their name, to the public in any manner. DOC reserves the right to exclude any person from participating in the Competition on reasonable grounds. By entering the Competition the participant fully accepts the terms and conditions. Disclaimer: The Promoters reserve the right to change the Competition or any or all of the prizes at any time without notice. The Promoter reserves the right to amend, entry, extend or discontinue the Competition at any stage, for any reason. To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Promoter will not be liable for any loss or damage whatsoever (including but not limited to direct or consequential loss) or for personal injury as a result of Competition entry or winning of a prize. The information provided by each entrant is used by DOC Hauraki to sort applicants into the appropriate category, and contact applicants if they are selected as a winner. The information will be stored in a secure email address and deleted upon completion of the Competition. Details of entrants may be shared within DOC to arrange prizes or judging.



Puriri 107 Neavesville Road

Serene rural haven: family home with panoramic views

Escape to rural tranquility with this three-bedroom lifestyle property on 3.2 hectares (more or less) of rolling hills and lush greenery. The home features a master bedroom with ensuite, two additional bedrooms, and an open-plan kitchen, living, and dining area with modern appliances and an island bench. Large sliding doors lead to a spacious deck with stunning rural views. With 6.8kW solar panels, a double garage, fully fenced paddocks, extra shedding, and a private river beach, it's perfect for hobby farming or equestrian pursuits. Just a short drive to Thames, this property blends serenity and convenience. 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.

bayleys.co.nz/2316214

931_{sqm} 3 1

Asking Price \$649,000
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‘Most memorable season’ for Swamp Foxes

RUGBY

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Something the Thames Valley Swamp Foxes value is strengthening their team bonds.

Before the rugby team even thinks about doing anything on the field, their goal is to connect as a unit.

It was clear the strong team ties contributed to their on-field successes with the tight-knit crew’s recent triumph in the Bunnings Warehouse Heartland Championship Draw 2024 in October.

The champions took home the Meads Cup for the second time since 2018.

Swamp Fox head coach David ‘Harry’ Harrison, who shares the role with Joe Murray, told *The Profile* it was really important to build the team culture of getting to know each other.

Harry said something the team prides itself on was setting a theme each rugby season.

For example, the theme for the Swamp Foxes this year was about making memories, and they aimed to make it “the most memorable season” so far for the players and management, he said.

They did it by making training enjoyable, and also enjoying all the opportunities the team



Meads Cup Heartland Rugby Championship winners TV Swamp Foxes.

Photo: BART'S RUGBY PHOTOGRAPHY

had such as travelling around the country, playing rugby and meeting people, he said.

“And if you get that good team culture going, then it makes that on-field stuff a lot easier – the boys buy in.”

Harry said it was their biggest philosophy.

It should come as no surprise the team received a nomination for the adidas National Men’s Team of the Year award as part of the 2024 ASB Rugby Awards held on December 12.

The strong heartland team shared the category with the Wellington Lions and the Blues,

who swept up the win for this year.

Harry said the boys were really proud to be nominated, they were all sharing messages in their group chat when they heard the news.

It was a privilege to be a Heartland team there next to

two professional rugby teams, he said.

When asked what the key factor behind the nomination was, Harry said he assumed it was their success in winning the Meads Cup.

“I’d like to think community support might be in there, but I think they basically would go on results [and] winning competitions.”

The Blues and Wellington Lions also won their championships this year, he said.

“I think we had amazing community support this year and yeah, that was maybe our point of difference.”

And it was evident the team was grounded in its community.

Harry said they were very grateful and proud of their supporters this season, “not just in the final, but we always had people at every game this year, even if it was down in Gisborne or Masterton”.

“It means a lot. The boys get a lot out of that, looking out and seeing our crowd.”

Harry said they’d never forget the championship final crowd of around 5000 people.

“That was special when we ran out and saw the crowds,” he said.

“It’ll definitely sit in our memories for a very long time.”

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