

# The Valley Profile

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# Living on the edge

The Thames Coromandel region is slowly recovering from severe damage caused by storms in the summer of 2023. The Kōpū-Hikua road has been repaired, tourists are coming back to the peninsula and life is returning to normal for most. For a handful of residents though, the devastation has left them locked in limbo. In the first of a series of stories investigating life for those still living in their red-stickered homes, reporter ALICE PARMINTER speaks to an elderly resident living on the edge of the Ruamahunga Bay slip.



Gale Carlson at her red-stickered home less than 2m from the slip, above. Photos: ALICE PARMINTER

Perched on a recliner in her second-story lounge, Gale Carlson feels as though she's aboard a ship in the ocean.

The 84-year-old has lived in the cliff-top home in Ruamahunga Bay on the Thames Coast for 45 years. An expansive tree-covered section once separated her home from the highway below, but over the years it has been slipping away in pieces.

Now, the house teeters on the very edge

of the cliff. The upstairs ranch slider is boarded shut for safety and the sea-facing verandah has been partially removed.

What's left of the deck dangles over the orange-clad construction workers who hang from the cliff face each day, installing concrete and soil nails to stabilise the slip. The space between the house and the slip is barely wide enough for a vehicle, and cracks between the concrete path and the

exterior walls are visible reminders of the home's instability.

But despite the issues - and an R2 red sticker declaring the property unsafe during storm events - Gale is still here.

"I'm not bloody well going," she recalled saying to a police officer who came to escort her off the property last year.

"There was no way I was going to leave my house [again]. Well, I'm still here and

I feel quite safe. I just keep looking at the cracks in the ceiling, and when they start to move too much I'll be staggering up the passage and out the back window."

The most recent slip occurred just this week in the early hours of June 10, bringing multiple trees down and closing State

CONTINUED ON P3

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The Waihi-Thames Valley branch of the Ulysses Motorcycle Club went on a special club ride on June 6. Thirty members visited four red-stickered properties along the Thames Coast, and presented each resident with cheques for \$425 in recognition of the struggles they have faced since the storm events of 2023. The money was raised at the club's fundraising event, the Icon 150, in November 2023, which saw participants riding a 150 kilometre course around the Thames-Hauraki region and photographing various points of interest. Club member Chris Good said they were heartwarming by the emotional responses they received at the visits. "They weren't expecting so many people," he said. "Some of them burst into tears... it's such a change from how they've been treated." Gale Carlson from Ruamahunga Bay was one of the club's chosen recipients. She said she was thrilled to open her door to the crowd of riders. "One man was standing there with a big certificate and an envelope," she said. "He said: 'This is for you to have a holiday or for anything that will take the stress away from you.' It was so lovely of them."

MORE PHOTOS: P7

### RED STICKERED HOMES

A red sticker or placard is a legal notice placed on a property deemed unsafe to enter. There are two types of red stickers: R1, indicating damage to the building structure itself; and R2, where a building is at risk of being affected by an external hazard. Red stickers can only be removed by the territorial authority after appropriate work has been undertaken and the building has been reassessed.

There are currently eight properties with red stickers in the Thames Coromandel district. A further 25 properties are yellow-stickered, indicating access is restricted.

Thames Coromandel District Council said there were initially 19 red-stickered and 27 yellow-stickered properties following the 2023 cyclones. "Our council has been working closely with the affected property owners to support them



The red sticker on Gale Carlson's home. BELOW: The view from her window.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER as they navigate the Earthquake Commission and insurance claims processes. This includes providing technical advice and support from our building staff, as well as social support and wrap-around services," council said.

Housing support immediately after the event was facilitated through the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's temporary accommodation service.



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## Thames Tides

| Wed                                    | Thu                                    | Fri                                    | Sat                                   | Sun                                   | Mon                                   | Tue                                    |
|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Jun 12                                 | Jun 13                                 | Jun 14                                 | Jun 15                                | Jun 16                                | Jun 17                                | Jun 18                                 |
| 4 am<br>6 NOON<br>6 pm                 | 4 am<br>6 NOON<br>6 pm                 | 4 am<br>6 NOON<br>6 pm                 | 4 am<br>6 NOON<br>6 pm                | 4 am<br>6 NOON<br>6 pm                | 4 am<br>6 NOON<br>6 pm                | 4 am<br>6 NOON<br>6 pm                 |
| Morning<br>5:08am 0.8<br>11:24am 3.1   | Morning<br>5:56am 0.9<br>12:09pm 3.0   | Morning<br>12:31am 3.1<br>11:56pm 2.9  | Morning<br>1:19am 3.0<br>7:31am 1.0   | Morning<br>2:07am 3.0<br>8:21am 1.0   | Morning<br>2:55am 3.0<br>9:12am 1.0   | Morning<br>3:43am 3.0<br>10:03am 1.0   |
| Afternoon<br>5:16pm 0.8<br>11:43pm 3.2 | Afternoon<br>12:09pm 3.0<br>6:03pm 0.9 | Afternoon<br>11:56pm 2.9<br>6:54pm 1.0 | Afternoon<br>1:46pm 2.9<br>7:49pm 1.1 | Afternoon<br>2:39pm 2.9<br>8:46pm 1.1 | Afternoon<br>3:35pm 2.9<br>9:42pm 1.1 | Afternoon<br>4:31pm 2.9<br>10:33pm 1.1 |
| 7:28am 5:07pm                          | 7:29am 5:07pm                          | 7:29am 5:07pm                          | 7:30am 5:07pm                         | 7:30am 5:07pm                         | 7:30am 5:07pm                         | 7:31am 5:08pm                          |
| F Best At<br>4:44am 5:06pm             | F Best At<br>5:27am 5:47pm             | B Best At<br>6:07am 6:27pm             | B Best At<br>6:46am 7:05pm            | B Best At<br>7:25am 7:45pm            | B Best At<br>8:05am 8:26pm            | B Best At<br>8:48am 9:10pm             |
| Rise 11:47am<br>Set 10:34pm            | Rise 12:12pm<br>Set 11:33pm            | First Quarter<br>Rise 12:34pm          | Set 12:30am<br>Rise 12:55pm           | Set 1:26am<br>Rise 1:16pm             | Set 2:24am<br>Rise 1:39pm             | Set 3:24am<br>Rise 2:05pm              |

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

MOON AND FISH KEYS

- New Moon
- First Quarter
- Full Moon
- Last Quarter

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

TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES

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

| PLACE       | Hr | Min | High | Low |
|-------------|----|-----|------|-----|
| Coromandel  | -0 | 04  | -0   | 04  |
| Whitianga   | -0 | 01  | -0   | 05  |
| Tairua      | +0 | 11  | +0   | 21  |
| Whangamata  | -0 | 02  | -0   | 05  |
| Waihi Beach | -0 | 11  | -0   | 12  |

# Pensioner refuses to leave red-stickered home

CONTINUED FROM P1

Highway 25 between Ruamahunga and Tapu. Prior to this, several storm events in 2023 were the catalyst for another series of slips.

Ex-tropical cyclone Hale and cyclone Gabrielle brought down part of the cliff face in January and February, 2023, forcing the closure of State Highway 25 at the bay. Last winter, heavy rainfall caused multiple trees, debris and rocks to cascade down, bringing the slip edge dangerously close to Gale's home and again closing the road below for several days.

The instability of the section has meant multiple red stickers and temporary evictions for Gale.

In 2011, ex-tropical cyclone Wilma swept through the region, and around 12,000 cubic metres of earth fell in what would be the first of the property's major slips. The highway was closed for four days, and Gale was sent to a motel for several weeks.

"The bad slip happened 12 years ago when they were dynamiting at the bottom of the cliff... I was standing here and suddenly, boom, and the whole house and the hill honestly shook," she recalled.

"These two men walked around the side of the house and down the hill, which was still there.

[One] yelled out 'don't come down here' to his mate; 'there's a huge crack'. After they went, I slipped down there to see... If you'd slipped down into that crack, you'd have gone down and been buried and nobody would have even known you were there."

Four days later, Gale said, the



The ground drops away into the large slip above SH25 less than two metres from the house. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

cyclone swept through. "The fence was standing in mid-air... The whole of the front of the section had dropped on to the road, blocked the main road for a week. And there were rocks as big as a small car," she said.

"Then they said I had to get out of my house because it was too dangerous to stay up here."

Later, in June, 2023, she was removed again after much cajoling from the local police.

"Two would come, trying to get me out of here... People kept coming and going here all the time," she said. "Then [a police officer] must have said, 'You have to come with us now,' and I said, 'If you don't leave me alone, I'll smack your bottom'. Oh my God, this police lady that was with him, she got hysterical. I thought, 'I better go with them, I've put them through enough', so they took me down to that motel, just around the corner

from here." Less than a week later though, she had returned to the house.

Over the past 12 years, Gale has dealt with ongoing health issues, including two heart bypasses and a damaged spine. She attributes them to the stress of the slips, and the physical labour she put herself through trying to rescue heavy planters and garden stones from the path of the clean-up crew.

"This place looked like a park -

there wasn't a weed in place, you know, and when I look at it now, it's heartbreaking," she said.

"But I feel quite safe now because my son has put these great big concrete squares 15 metres into the ground in front of the house... It's looking like the Hoover Dam up here now."

Meanwhile, Waka Kotahi workers have been stabilising the cliff face above the road over the past several months. They were doing a fantastic job, Gale said.

"I can look out the window and there's probably nine or 13 guys hanging on the side of the cliff. [They] work so hard; they get here at half past seven in the morning and they work hanging on ropes on the side of the cliff putting all those steel poles in," she said.

"When it's cold, it's really cold and windy up here. They have to tie themselves on to ropes to work on the side, and the mud... They're so nice."

Gale is hopeful her latest red sticker will be removed once the cliff has been stabilised. With the newly-installed retaining wall, and existing stabilising poles which were buried up to seven metres deep around the home after the 2011 slip, she said she doubted there would be any more movement of the dwelling itself.

"I really was scared [over the years] because things were falling," she said.

"But I've stopped worrying now because I can't handle the stress. I still love it up here."



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# Education

## Ākonga shine bright at Hauraki Plains College

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Gathering to celebrate “he Gkākano”, some of the seeds and successes developing at Hauraki Plains College, was exactly what the school’s Whānau Informational Hui was all about on May 15.

With a purpose to bring whānau Māori and anyone else wanting to join together, the Whānau Hui was a time to introduce kaiako, or teachers, share curriculum and goals, “showcase our wonderful ākonga”, or students, and to kōrero about how the school can better meet the needs of its Māori students.

Some of the seeds and successes celebrated on the night included an increase in the number of Māori staff as well as an increase in the number of students studying Te Reo Māori and Māori cultural studies.

Also celebrated were the re-establishment of a Te Reo Māori department, and more training across the school for kaiako and ākonga to learn Tikanga and Te Reo Māori through karakia, waiata, and haka pōwhiri.

Te Reo Māori teachers Matua Normie Tautoru Te Whanake Rehtai Anderson and Matua Te Waiheruata Hōhua Hēnare Rāwiri, who is also a former



Hauraki Plains College students share waiata at the Whānau Hui.

Photos: SUPPLIED

student from the school, hosted the evening.

Matua Te Waiheruata said being back at the college was about returning to serve the community who helped him discover his potential as a Māori person, and who helped him to reclaim his language. He was there to “help our ākonga Māori” to be

able to do the same, he said.

“I’m excited about helping to provide a stronger programme for te reo Māori across the school and to assist the school in being culturally responsive in today’s modern context.”

Matua Normie said he was proud of his continual journey to support “our kura, our

kaiako, our ākonga, our hapori [community]” in building strong connections and relationships with each other. He said he was proud to have Matua Te Waiheruata by his side and to share their knowledge and experience in support of their kaupapa within the kura.

“My purpose is to ensure that



Whānau Hui discussions at HPC.

we do not undermine the good work we have done and to continue to work alongside our Māori community and school to ensure that they have a voice and are heard,” Matua Normie said.

Head Student and co-leader in the Te Māngai Pāoho o Tikarahi Council (Māori student council) Daniel Sproul was at the whānau hui, and said it was “pretty important” to him because it offered parents and family members an idea about what was going on at school and what students would be learning.

His hope for other Māori students was: “being the best student they can be - just showing the Hauraki way”, Daniel said.

For anyone thinking about going to the next whānau hui, Daniel said: “just come with an open mind really - that’s it”.

“[An] open mind and don’t be shy.”

# TE MĀNGAI PAHO O TIKARAHI

*The Voices of Tikarahi*

More Than A School



Hauraki Plains College



DANIEL SPROUL  
CO-LEADER



WAIMANIA WATSON  
YEAR 12



ANARU ORMSBY  
YEAR 11



ARIANA PEKE  
YEAR 10



MANAWA WILLIAMS  
CO-LEADER



LINCOLN VITASOVICH  
YEAR 12



MALIA MASON  
YEAR 11



RUDY TUHAKA  
YEAR 10

# Tutor takes stress out of brain training

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

Calming thoughts are a way of life for mindfulness coach Deirdre Savage.

The Thames woman, founder of non-profit organisation MindfulPath, has used the practice for years to support the mental health of herself and others by developing new neurological pathways in the brain. Now, she's teaming up with the Thames Community Centre to bring her tools and tricks to those who need help reducing stress and feeling more in control of themselves.

"It's evidence-based," Deirdre said of her style of teaching.

"I draw from the science. I'm very interested in neuroscience, the psychology, even the sociology of it. Every day we're learning new stuff about what we're capable of... We can change our brains, we can rewire them."

It's this "rewiring" that Deirdre is most interested in. She describes mindfulness as a way of paying attention, compassionately, to your thoughts and impulses, and training yourself to take control of those thoughts.

"It's literally about which neural pathway you're going to go down - are my electrical impulses going to fire down that neural pathway towards that thought? [Or] let's cultivate another path. In Buddhism it's called bhavana, it's cultivating."

Deirdre fell into mindfulness around 20 years ago when



Deirdre Savage's "brain training" helps people deal with their stress through mindfulness. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

she was diagnosed with a serious cancer. Having already been a long-time practitioner of Buddhist-style meditation, she found mindfulness to be a useful addition to her mental health toolbox.

"At first I was very sceptical [but] it was a turning point for me," she said.

"It was like, okay, all the science stuff I'm learning actually tracks totally with the meditation I've been learning from a Buddhist perspective, which is a whole different vocabulary, and a whole different set of experiences."

That revelation has grown into a business which helps

others find ways to navigate through the stresses and challenges of life.

Thames Community Centre [manager] Jeff Whitfield said the concept of mindfulness was a perfect complement to the centre's tenets of learning, sharing and connecting - so when Deirdre moved to Thames, they

both saw it as the perfect opportunity to help the community.

"I trained as an occupational therapist, and I worked in mental health, so I've had a longstanding interest in working with groups of people, just sharing and supporting each other," Deirdre said.

"What I want to do is encourage people to try and just explore it a bit. We're so used to paying attention to ourselves and our thoughts in a critical way, and sometimes we just feel helpless in the face of that, but we can train to pay attention differently. [I] look specifically at that - practical, daily things."

Deirdre is beginning with a free "taster" course, introducing the ideas and basic techniques of mindfulness in a two-hour class.

For those who wish to learn more, the community centre has put together a highly-subsidised series of weekend workshops and longer courses.

"There's people in the community that need as many tools as they can to get through hard times," Jeff said.

"We want [the course] to be ongoing and sustainable, and realistically accessible."

**DETAILS: Free mindfulness taster session: June 19, 12.30pm at the Thames Community Centre. Weekend workshops June 15 and September 8. Limited places, contact 027 868 9797 or tcrc@xtra.co.nz for more information.**



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# Double tragedy befalls newlywed couple



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

In March 1902, amidst showers of rice and the best of good wishes, the newly married Margery and Caleb Robinson left Waihi for their honeymoon at Katikati. Margery, 19, and Caleb 21, had been married in a small ceremony at Margery's parent's home.

She looked pretty in a dress of blue, trimmed with white with stylish hat to match. Her bridesmaid, Miss Dick, wore a nicely finished costume of white with appropriate trimmings. Fred Maiden carried out the duties of best man. After the ceremony the guests sat down to a wedding breakfast provided by Margery's mother and the customary toasts were honoured.

The wedding presents were numerous and handsome. It was a quiet and simple start to the rest of their lives. A small report of the wedding was later written up in the paper under the heading 'Orange Blossoms' – a traditional marital symbol, a harbinger of health, fertility, good luck and eternal love.



Peter Pan playing the Pipes - Peter and Wendy by J M Barrie. Photo: SUPPLIED

Around four weeks into her marriage Margery ate some plums, after which she fell strangely and suddenly ill. Drs Porter and Guinness were called in and recommended her removal to Thames Hospital.

Margery underwent an operation where it was discovered that a small plum stone had ulcerated the lining of her stomach. After the surgery Margery rallied, but became worse until very little hope was held for her recovery. She died two days later.

Margery was the daughter of Mary Ann and Robert Henry, a

Scotsman, one of the pioneers of the printing craft in New Zealand. He had arrived at Auckland in 1861 on the ship Statesman, and was to become associated with several newspapers across Auckland, Waikato, Thames Valley and the Bay of Plenty. In 1872 he married Mary Ann Barrie and they had five children. The family moved around following Robert's newspaper employment, and eventually, in 1891, made their home in Paeroa. Mary Ann had a small claim to fame in that she was related to James Matthew Barrie, an author and playwright, who in

1902 was writing his first version of what would become the phenomenally successful *Peter Pan*. But for now she and her husband had to bury their daughter, a new bride of just a month.

Margery's young widower Caleb continued on but four years after Margery's death he suffered three successive attacks of rheumatic fever. After 12 months, and despite all that medical attention and care could do, Caleb died in 1907 at Waihi aged 26.

Caleb was the fourth son of Ebenezer and Catherine Robinson. Ebenezer, a carpenter, was born in Auckland and had gone to Thames in the early days of the gold rush. He later moved to Tauranga and took part in the Māori wars. He and Catherine, who was born in Tauranga, had a family of 11 children, seven of who survived.

Caleb was a twin – his sister dying close to or not long after their births. The year after Caleb was born, an older sister, May, 16, was ill only a few days when she died suddenly which came as a complete shock to the family. When Caleb was two, his 27-year-old mother died seven days after giving birth to Caleb's brother. Caleb's father, Ebenezer, remarried in 1897 – his wife was Agnes Nelson who may have been a sister of his first wife. Ebenezer died the year before Caleb got married, dropping dead in his garden at Waihi. By the time Caleb made it to the altar he was no stranger to life and the uncertainty of it.

Margery and Caleb are buried together at Waihi cemetery, both not long out of childhood – a time that in *Peter Pan* is depicted as somewhat tragic to leave.

## Chris' Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parminter

1. How many syllables must a haiku contain?
2. There are two remaining stores specialising in DVD rentals in the Waikato. One is in Morrinsville; where is the second?
3. Who is the only actor to appear in every episode of Seinfeld?
4. What TV show on Disney+ accounts for 29 per cent of the streaming service's viewership?
5. Which United States state flag contains the Union Jack?
6. What is the dot on top of the letters i and j called?
7. In which year did New Zealand vote to change the electoral system to MMP?
8. Who scored the only try for the All Blacks in the 2011 World Cup final?
9. Uwhi and uhi are names applied by Māori to which root vegetable?
10. Which planet in our solar system has the highest surface temperature?



Answers: 1. 17; 2. Paeroa; 3. Jerry Seinfeld; 4. Bluey; 5. Hawaii; 6. a tittle; 7. 1993; 8. Tony Woodcock; 9. yams; 10. Venus - due to increased greenhouse effect.

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Let's each do our part and together, we'll keep the lights on.

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|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
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| 11kV - high voltage            | 2.6m        | 1.6m              |
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For more information and to find an approved contractor, visit

[powerco.co.nz/safety/tree-safety-near-power-lines](http://powerco.co.nz/safety/tree-safety-near-power-lines)



# Bikies' show of support

On June 6 the Waihi-Thames Valley branch of the Ulysses Motorcycle Club went on a special club ride. Thirty of its members visited four red-stickered properties along the Thames Coast, and presented each resident with \$425 in recognition of the struggles they have faced since the storm events of 2023. **TREVOR BIRCHALL** captured the ride.



Paula Wallace receives a cheque at her Thames home.



Group members delivered donations totalling \$1700 to four home owners still living in their red-stickered homes.



Nelly Morrison at her and husband John's red-stickered Tararu home.



The group presents Phillipa Gavey with a payment at Waiotahi.



A cheque is presented to Gale Carlson.



Around 30 members took part.

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# New citizens welcomed

Hauraki District council welcomed a new cohort of New Zealand citizens to the region and country on May 29. The celebration recognised those who had undergone the process to become naturalised citizens of New Zealand. There were 19 people welcomed at the ceremony, where they affirmed their allegiance to New Zealand before being awarded their citizenship certificates. Mayor Toby Adams was there to conduct the official proceedings.



The Collins family were welcomed to the Hauraki District.



The 19 new citizens of Hauraki.



Manish Patel, left, was welcomed to Hauraki at the ceremony.



Mayor Toby Adams with the Howells family.



Tyrone Le Raux, right, and partner Lize.



Carolyn Runciman with husband Phil.

## OPEN DAY LAKESIDE TE KAUWHATA








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# \$250k playground planned for Turua

Barnardos Early Learning Centre is calling for donations for a new \$250,000 state of the art playground planned for Turua.

After splitting an existing early learning centre building into nine pieces and transporting them from Hamilton to Turua to expand the existing centre, Barnardos Aotearoa is now looking at the second stage of the project: building its playground, which will include swings, sensory paths, water play, sand pits, vegetable gardens and landscaping.

"We're calling on everyone, businesses, trusts, philanthropists and generous New Zealanders to swing into action and help us fund this beautiful playground and support children's learning through play in Turua," Barnardos Aotearoa chief executive Matt Reid said. "Sponsorships and donations aren't just about swings and slides; they are about creating strong foundations for the future and nurturing the next generation of leaders, thinkers, and creators right here in Turua."

Barnardos Aotearoa Turua ELC centre manager Becs Aisalbie said the centre played an important role for the rural community, helping link whānau together.

"With its growing waiting list and a forecasted population growth in the area, the demand for our early learning services from whānau in Turua and neighbouring communities continues to rise," she said.

"By investing in the redevelopment



Playground concept plan.

ment of our Early Learning Centre, donors are not only contributing to the educational development of Turua tamariki but also empowering families to thrive through providing accessible and reliable options for them to return to the workforce and strengthen the local economy.

"Together, we foster a nurturing environment where every child thrives and reaches their full potential."

Specifically designed for tamariki aged 0-5 years, with dedicated play spaces each for under twos and over two-year-olds, the playground would become the perfect spot for digging for treasures, sliding into endless fun and climbing the ladder of imagination, she said. The centre has so far received funding towards the project from the Ministry of Education and other supporters, such as New Zealand Community Trust and Grassroots Trust.

**DETAILS: To donate, contact fundraising@barnardos.org.nz, Ph 0800 005 437 or givealittle.co.nz/cause/turua-early-learning-centre.**



Operation Coverup members Carol Wilkes, left, Ruth Porter, Judy Gould and Elizabeth McCaughan with a recent display in Goldfields Shopping Centre. Photo: SUPPLIED

## Hand-made winter woollies on display

Operation Coverup Thames members held a small display of some of their knitted and crocheted blankets, jerseys, hats and scarfs at Goldfields Shopping Centre on May 29.

Since 2002, a group of volunteers from throughout the Coromandel Peninsula have knitted and crocheted blankets and other items to donate to those in need in the cold climates of Europe. The items will be shipped to Rot-

terdam, then transported by road to Romania, where they are dispersed to people in need in Eastern Europe.

Operation Coverup will hold its main blanket display at the Thames War Memorial Civic Centre from Friday, July 5 to Saturday July 6.

"All are welcome to attend and see what the volunteer knitters and crocheters have made," organisers said.

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# Rural Life

## Glasses raised to celebrate World Milk Day

The dairy industry toasted Kiwi dairy during World Milk Day on June 1.

DairyNZ and the Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand (DCANZ) said dairy had long been the powerhouse of the New Zealand economy, significantly contributing to local communities and regional economies, while providing quality and trusted nutrition around the world.

The international day was established by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to recognise the importance of milk as a global food and to celebrate the dairy sector.

The New Zealand dairy sector has more than 10,500 Kiwi dairy farms with around 4.7 million milking cows producing more than 20 billion litres of milk produced a year.

There are more than 1500 dairy products and product formulations, \$25.5 billion in export revenue in the year ended April, 2024, and around 55,000 people employed in dairy throughout the country, both on and off farms.

“World Milk Day is a great opportunity to celebrate the role of our farmers, dairy companies and the whole sector in progressing a positive future for New Zealand,” DairyNZ chief executive Campbell Parker said.

“The milk produced by New Zealand farmers is equivalent to two and half serves of dairy per day for 90 million people,” Mr Parker said.



Waikato dairy farmers Nic and Kirsty Verhoek and their children Ferguson, Isabelle and Lachlan, raise glasses of milk to toast World Milk Day.

Photo: SUPPLIED

“This nutritional contribution starts with our farmers’ commitment to their land and animals and flows through the whole value chain to benefit our customers, communities and the country.”

DCANZ executive director Kimberly Crewther said high-quality milk supplied by farmers was being transformed into more than

1500 different dairy products and product formulations, exported to over 130 countries, and provided one in every four dollars New Zealand earned from trade.

“The sector’s success is due to a huge team effort by farmers, dairy company employees and the many partner industries our dairy farms, processors and exporters

couldn’t function without,” Ms Crewther said.

Dairy generated \$25.5 billion in export revenue in the year ended April, 2024, and provided direct employment for approximately 55,000 people both on and off farm.

Dairy farmers and dairy companies’ contribution to economic

activity includes more than \$7.9 billion spent on goods and services in the local economy by dairy farmers and \$5 billion spent by dairy processors in addition to their purchases of milk from farmers in the year to March, 2023.

Dairy farmers are top 10 purchasers of goods and services from over one third of all other industries and dairy processors are top 10 purchasers of goods and services from one quarter of all other industries.

Ms Crewther said milk is a nutritional powerhouse and a top five source of supply of 23 out of 29 essential nutrients within the global food system. This includes 48 per cent of dietary calcium supply and 12 per cent of protein for only 7 per cent of calories.

“Dairy products make an important contribution to diets at every stage of life.”

Ms Crewther said the dairy sector was a source of a diverse range of careers for New Zealanders, from farming, advancing dairy science, manufacturing world class dairy products, connecting New Zealand products with global customers through sales and logistics, to one of the many other roles that support the whole sector to run smoothly.

“With our links around the world, there are exciting opportunities on farms, in dairy companies and dairy sector organisations. The sky’s the limit in our dynamic dairy sector.”

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# Rural Life

## Budget supports flood protection projects

Funding for flood management infrastructure as part of Budget 2024 will accelerate six projects in the Waikato region.

The government's Budget, released recently, dedicates an initial \$200 million for flood resilience infrastructure (with \$101.1 million committed), along with co-investment from regional and unitary councils, to 42 flood resilience projects nationwide that are close to getting started.

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

Six ready-to-go flood protection projects in the Waikato have been identified for support.

They are: a lower Waikato stopbank upgrade in the Waikato district; an Island Block pump station upgrade in the Waikato district; a Kirikiri Stream stopbank upgrade in the Hauraki district; Thames Valley Diversion Channel planting upgrades in the Hauraki district; a Mangatawhiri pump station upgrade in the Waikato district and a lower Waikato floodgate upgrade programme in the Waikato district.

Council said the government was working through the nature and size of support offered for each project.

"It's fantastic to see the government partnering with us to deliver these es-

sential services that protect our communities and significant Crown assets, such as state highways and the main trunk railway, from flood events," chair Storey said.

"These projects are part of our planned regular renewal and maintenance programme, but the funding relieves some of the burden of cost on our ratepayers and also brings peace of mind.

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

In the Waikato, 300,000 hectares of land is protected by flood protection infrastructure, enabling a boost of \$2.2 billion to the regional economy.

Te Uru Kahika - Regional and Unitary Councils Aotearoa welcomed funding from Budget 2024 for flood management infrastructure projects.

Te Uru Kahika river managers special interest group champion Daran Ponter celebrated the funding as another step towards building resilient communities and partnering with government on protecting communities and assets from the devastating effects of extreme weather events.

"Today is a good day for river-based communities," he said.

"We know that investing in flood prevention reduces the cost of recovery and safeguards people's lives, livelihoods, and critical infrastructure, such as hospitals, schools, roads and telecommunications."



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# SPORTS

## Muddy running

Secondary students from across the Thames Valley gathered at South Farms in Mangatarata on May 28 to compete in the Thames Valley Secondary Schools Cross Country Champs. Ongoing rain showers meant the course was muddy and slippery, but the students were in good spirits as they made their way across paddocks, up and down hills, along a gravel road and back to the finish line. Reporter **ALICE PARMINTER** popped along to catch the action.



Mud is not an issue for junior boys approaching the end of the race.



The junior boys tackle the road portion of the course.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER



Ella Morgan, of Hauraki Plains College, nears the finish line.



Still smiling despite the mud.



Thames High School's junior boys were ready to go ahead of their 4km run.



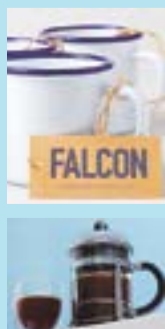
Hauraki's Ashley Steffek is determined to have a great finish.



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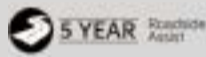
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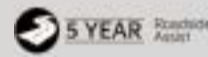
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# Overdose leads to Ngatea drugs bust

OPINION



By RON AGNEW

We relieved Ngatea Police Station every year while the sole charge Constables, Bob Cuthbert, Graham Peters, or Nigel Petrie took their annual leave.

Constable Sel Hunter relieved them many times, but on many of those occasions became synonymous with sudden deaths. He dealt with many fatal motor accidents on the Plains and sadly farmers involved in accidents with

their equipment and machinery.

The most unusual case involved the manager of the local motel, where the policeman stayed in a unit in which the Police phone calls were diverted to overnight. He approached Sel to tell him the travelling salesman in the unit next door to Sel's hadn't been seen for a couple of days and had missed his check out from the motel.

The manager opened the door to the unit, and Sel found the man had died, falling across his bed. Next to him was his open large briefcase of heroin, cocaine, a lot of money, and a loaded handgun.

A needle was nearby, and it appeared he had injected himself overnight and sadly overdosed. Quite the travelling salesman!

I had a call come in to the motel unit late one night, to attend a non-injury accident down Orchard East Rd. I queried why Traffic Officer Gavin Ballantyne wasn't attending and was told they couldn't raise him anywhere. I went to the scene where a local farmer had

been run off the road and into the drain, by a local from the pub. Neither were hurt, but the farmer was dressed quite strangely in a large black suit and bow tie.

The suit had very long tails at the back, nearly to the ground. He said he was going home from a local meeting in Ngatea. I started interviewing the other driver, until we were all alerted to sirens and flashing lights coming from Ngatea. Officer Ballantine pulled up and got out of his car, put his cap on, but blow me down he was also dressed in a large black suit, bow tie, with tails behind nearly reaching the ground. I wasn't aware of such formal meetings, in those days, and I didn't know what to say, but he told me he had also come from the same local meeting! I was just grateful he would take over the paperwork for the accident, as I had been working all day, after an early start on farm thefts.

I must say that I really enjoyed relieving at Ngatea Station during the annual inspection by the

District Commander from Hamilton. The Thames Sergeant had to do quarterly inspections, and the District Commander, annual inspections. It always amazed me, regarding the focus of these inspections.

It wasn't how hard the country policeman was working to a large extent, or the number of files he was putting through, and their severity, etc. The focus was largely, counting the station stamps, and the number of rounds of ammunition stored in the station safe.

There was trouble if the number of stamps or firearm rounds didn't tally with the station register. Obviously, it was to show policemen weren't pinching stamps for their personal use, or even going hunting on days off with the station weapons and ammunition!

However, I enjoyed the District Commander's visits because the station and house were cleaned and tidied, lawns mowed, and everyone was on their best behaviour. But Bob Cuthbert's wife, Freda,

was having none of it, and she was into the high-ranking officer from the start.

"Look at the state of this house! Look at the stove – you should be ashamed of living conditions in your district. What you going to do about it? Do you know how hard Bob works? He works seven days a week. The phone doesn't stop because it's his day off. What are you doing about this?"

I loved it, Bob couldn't get her to tow the line, and she was a force to be reckoned with. To their credit, the District Commanders were very accepting and often subdued when they left. Peg Chesnutt at Coromandel was of a similar vein. They were wonderful, we all loved them. Freda was right though, whether working or on his days off, Bob was always in his police trousers and shirt, in town or at the station. Even while we relieved him, he still wore much of his police uniform. Just habit, I guess!

- Ron Agnew is a former Thames Police officer

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# Pink posse at THS

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Students and teachers across the Thames High School campus were decked out in all shades of pink in support of Pink Shirt Day recently.

The school raised \$220 for the cause, which aims to eliminate bullying by celebrating diversity and promoting kindness and inclusion.

Student leader of welfare Kayla Speed, who helped run the event, told *The Profile* she was delighted to see everyone, including teachers, taking part in the day.

“Knowing that our school stands against bullying and does not support it, just gives me a sense of hope for my generation,” she said. “The atmosphere the school had that day was students who wanted to make a difference and stand up and support each other.”

Students took part in a few activities leading up to the day, including the opportunity for students to get creative and put forward a mural design, Kayla said.

“We had many submissions and finally decided to mix two of the designs. The mural will soon be hung up for all students to see and remind them to stand together and not be bystanders.”



Thames High School students and staff celebrate Pink Shirt Day.

Photos: SUPPLIED

Kayla said another activity was a tie-dye station where students who did not have anything pink could dye a piece of clothing to take part in the day.

It was a privilege to help plan and run the day, Kayla said. “However, it would have not been as successful as it was without the support of the other welfare leader, Paveyn Rous, and the staff at Thames High School.”



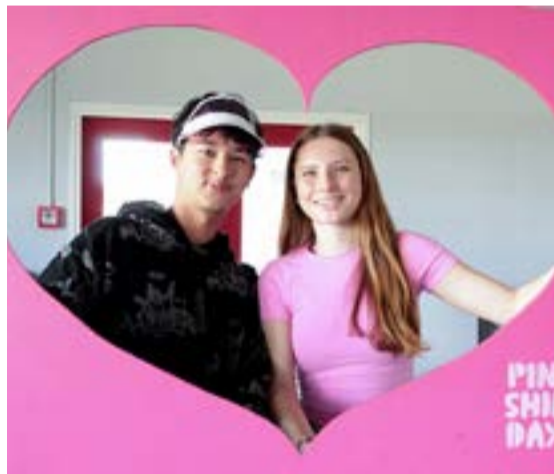
Bright pink wigs and accessories add to the fun.



THS peers pose with the iconic Pink Shirt Day heart photo frame.



Students arrived at school in pink clothes and pink paint.



Thames High Schoolers support the good cause.



The school raised \$220 for Pink Shirt Day.

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# SPORTS

## Generous donation boosts club after burglaries

### CROQUET

By TERESA RAMSEY

Thames Croquet Club has received a \$1000 donation to help with the cost of recent burglaries.

The club was struggling to raise around \$2000 for repairs, insurance excess and additional security following two burglaries last month, when thieves damaged sheds and a ride on mower and stole a push mower and other equipment.

Club president Sheryl McConnell said the donation was made following a story about the thefts in the *Valley Profile* on May 29.

*Valley Profile* reader Warwick Donaldson, who recently retired and moved to Thames, donated \$1000 to help cover the cost of the insurance excess, despite not playing the sport.

“Our committee is blown away by his generosity,” she said.

“He’s been on committees and he knows how hard it is to raise money. We’re really ec-

static about it because \$1000 is a lot of money out of our budget that really was lined up to be spent over the winter months on all our lawn maintenance programme.

“There’s a lot to do in between the rain... when not so many people are coming to play.”

Sheryl said the committee was “absolutely delighted” about the donation during a difficult time for the club.

“What a weight off our minds because that means all the fertiliser and the products that we need to buy for the winter season to keep the weeds away and the worms away, putting fertiliser on to get the spring growth - those are the things that we were concerned we were going to having to raise money to get those.”

The club was currently in the process of repairing the damage and installing additional security, she said.

**DETAILS: To donate or find out more about the club, email [thamescroquet@gmail.com](mailto:thamescroquet@gmail.com) or find Thames Croquet Club on Facebook.**



Every member of the Calibre Taekwondo Club received a medal at a recent regional tournament.

Photo: SUPPLIED

## Taekwondo club shines at tournament

### MARTIAL ARTS

The Calibre Taekwondo Club showcased their skills and sportsmanship at the Regional Taekwondo Tournament held in Auckland on May 19.

Coach Jon Sawden expressed immense pride in the team’s achievements.

Competing against several other clubs, the 18 members from Calibre participated in five different divisions, demonstrating their dedication and prowess in the martial art.

The tournament was a remarkable success for Calibre Taekwondo, as every member of the club came away with

medals, marking a significant achievement for both the individuals and the club as a whole. This impressive feat was a testament to the hard work and commitment of the athletes and their coaches, he said.

Highlighting the event, two club members earned special recognition for their outstanding performances. Kingston Welsh was awarded the trophy for the best overall green belt, a notable accolade that reflected his exceptional skills and determination. Louia Hart also shone brightly, receiving the trophy for the best overall yellow belt, celebrating her excellence and competitive spirit. “Our athletes

have trained incredibly hard, and their dedication has truly paid off,” Jon said. “To see every one of our members leave with a medal is beyond rewarding.

“Kingston and Louia’s trophies are well-deserved, and we are excited to see where their talents will take them next.”

The success of the Calibre Taekwondo Club at the regional tournament not only highlighted the club’s talent but also inspired the local community and aspiring martial artists.

“With such a strong performance, the club is set to continue its tradition of excellence and sportsmanship in future competitions.”



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# SPORTS

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## TV RUGBY

Round 10 - From the clattering keyboard of Tighthead Ted.

Mercury Bay's 54-7 win over Hauraki North, and Whangamata's 45-7 beating of COBRAS were both club records for the coastal clubs. I'm sure both clubs have memories of some large defeats in the past as they found their feet in the top division, so these wins will be savoured. But the question remains - can Waihi Athletic be stopped? This time Waihou felt the pain as the Goldminers earned another 'W'. While their performance was not at their usual level, it still appears the title is theirs to lose.

Perhaps slow burners Whangamata Irish, who have started to hit their straps, or Paeroa, who unfortunately had no match this week after another default can push the red 'n' blacks come finals time. These two teams, along with Waihou are perhaps the only sides able to challenge the Waihi dominance, although once the knockout matches hit, all bets are off.

### WAIHOU v WAIHI ATHLETIC

Boyd Park, Te Aroha. Referee: Stu Watts. Waihi absorbed the Waihou pressure to remain unbeaten as they continue their march to their first title since 2018. It was not without faults though as many errors blighted their performance. But pleasing to see, for Athletic, that their goal kicking machine Quinn Collard continues to punish any penalties given within 50 metres. Waihou replied in kind, taking the three pointers as they came also, thanks to the boot of the returning Todd Doolan. The second spell developed into a bit of a cage fight, an exchange of tries, to excellent Waihi flanker Matt Axtens and Waihou's Todd Doolan, along with a kick each in the first fifteen minutes wrapped up the scoring for the match. Waihou applied the blowtorch to the Waihi set piece which struggled at times, their usually reliable lineout creaking at the seams, but could not add to their points tally.

Big games for the visitors came from Dylan Bower at second five, the polished Collard running the cutter, and the loose trio. Kenan Gillson in a rare start at seven was his usual fearless self, throwing himself into contact with no regard to his own well being. Isaac Seiuli from number 8 was like a line-backer on angry pills, constantly getting his team over the gain line, and Axtens a class above in all that he did. Waihou's finest in an all-round top team effort were hooker Scotty Day, probably the best thrower in the Valley competition. Man mountain prop Siaoisi Lele- noa, who put in another eighty-minute shift, and the lanky Luke Gilbert who is in a rich vein of form. Out back, the brylcreem boys, Todd Doolan hit the ground running in his first match of the season, class in all that he did. Stocky centre Chad Bracey in his second match for Waihou was again hard to stop and he constantly dented the Waihi defensive line. The loss sees Waihou drop to a clear fourth on the ladder, putting their next week's clash against COBRAS into the must win category. Not that they'll need any more motivation for the Dr Dunn clash - Mongoose versus Snakes is always an epic encounter.

Waihi remain top of the standings, but with Paeroa breathing down their necks just three log points back they will have to keep winning with bonus points. Paeroa have the winless Hauraki North next week, and on form they should take a bonus point win. Waihi are away to Thames, but they too should have the home teams number and record a solid win. Waihou 19 (S Day, T Doolan tries; Doolan 3 penalties) lost to Waihi 28 (C Gerlach, E Seymour, M Axtens tries; Q Collard 2 conversions, 3 penalties). HT 11-21



Waihi's Kenan Gillson on the burst against Waihou.

Photo: SUPPLIED/TVRFU

Mercury Bay v HAURAKI NORTH  
Lyon Park, Whitianga. Referee: Angus Mabey.

The struggling Hauraki North team was put to the sword by Mercury Bay, for the home side to take their second win of the season. In an entertaining match at Whiti City, four tries in each half kept the large home crowd entertained. As the sun poured down on to Lyon Park, the Marlins ran in some long range beauties. The Marlins did not have it all their own way despite the score sheet saying it was a thrashing. The North set piece tested the hometown pack, but it was about all the visitors offered. The loss of veteran lock Ants Corbett to a serious looking injury, along with a few other replacements saw North limp through to the full time whistle.

Mercury Bay were able to get the running game going this week after struggling against Waihi seven days earlier, and after multiple phases would usually make inroads through the North defence. Enjoying the fruits of these breaks, and sharing four tries between them were recently turned eighteen Colville Green and Marcus Save. Dane Mathew was another to shine out back, along with his centre partner Maui Paurini, both dotting down for five pointers. The Mercury Bay pack enjoyed their work this week. Powerful displays from props Tyler Relph and Anzac Waterhouse, ably supported by lock and captain Jamie Finnerty and tireless Tyrese Meld at flanker saw the locals dominate in the loose. The home teams fitness saw the pace of the game take its toll on the depleted North team too.

Next week Mercury Bay head to Whangamata to take on the resurgent red 'n' whites for the Coastal Shield, which they haven't held for, "A bloody long time". Both teams with record wins this week, the match should be a cracker. Hauraki North are at home for their sponsors day, along with their B division side and the Diamonds. They have the Green Machine on the menu, a tough match for the Blue Bulls as the attempt to break their duck for the season. Mercury Bay 54 (A Waterhouse, C McLeod, D Mathew, M Paurini, C Green 2, M Save 2 tries; C Curren 7 conversions) beat Hauraki North 7 (S White try; F Adams conversion). HT 28-7

COBRAS v WHANGAMATA  
Boyd Park, Te Aroha. Ref: Stu Pinny.

Whangamata started this match looking a little ring rusty, not having fired a shot in anger for three weeks, thanks to the Match of Origin bye and a default by North. An early try, from a lineout drive, to flanker Jake Barfoot was negated a few minutes later by a try to the Snakes Leroy Neels. Shortly after Neels left the field with a head injury, and the COBRAS lost a little of their venom. Sione Etoni, in his 50th match, gave his all from first five, and made some nice breaks, and along with fullback Sergio Schuler took some containing, but Whangamata stopped all that the Snakes could throw



Thames' Mike Kim and Mark Reeves grapple for the ball.

Photo: MARK BROWN

at them through the middle period of the second stanza. In an action packed final ten minutes, Whangamata exploded into action, Kerepeti first grabbed a five pointer to celebrate his 50th match. This was followed two minutes later by Finn McCall being rewarded for a fine match with a score, and then fellow Irishman Ben Clarke also got onto the scorecard. All three tries converted by Bent. The twenty-one point burst in just six minutes saw Whangamata score their biggest win over the Snakes in the premier division.

Big games for the red 'n' whites from new hooker Jack O'Halloran, tireless in another 80 minute effort, the converted flanker has found his feet in the front row, making every post a winner. On the flip side of the same coin, last season's hooker Jake Janson, playing at flanker, also had a massive match. Leading from the front with his two try effort was Tonga, making many strong runs and getting Whangamata go forward ball seemingly on demand. Whangamata's Ben Clarke at first five is proving composed and hard to rattle as he, and the rest of the four leaf clover boys find their feet at the beach. Finn McCall, back for his second season, was again outstanding, his bending of the hard charging Snake prop Sualiasi Koroirua as good a head on tackle as you could wish to see. Kerepeti

on the wing enjoyed his best game for the season, making his 50th match for the red 'n' white would have seemed a long way off a few seasons ago, after a nasty ankle break. The Snake's best were Neels in his 20 minutes, Etoni, and Schuler. Up front prop Koroirua was always hard to stop, grabbing the tree trunked sized legs proving difficult at times, and flanker Etonia Naba was also strong throughout. But not enough of the big men in jerseys one through eight stood up in the continued absence of their spiritual leader Cam Dromgool. Dr Dunn next week for the Snakes against Waihou, and Whangamata have fellow record setters Mercury Bay at Whangamata. COBRAS 7 (L Neels try, conversion) lost to Whangamata 45 (J Barfoot, T Tonga 2, D Bent, T Kerepeti, F McCall, B Clarke tries; Bent 5 conversions). HT 7-12.

SENIOR B Coromandel 16 beat COBRAS 10; Waihou 15 beat Whangamata 11; Waihi Athletic - bye

SENIOR C Starts next week

UNDER 21 Rugby United 33 lost to Sub-urbs 38

WOMEN'S Putaruru 22 beat Hauraki North 19

## FOOTBALL

A bitter pill for Thames FC to swallow, tasting defeat on a Saturday afternoon at Rhodes Park, as their championship aspirations were dashed by a dominant Waihi FC side, who secured a resounding 5-2 win. Waihi started the game on the front foot with a direct style; pinpoint balls behind the fullback would turn out to be a key weapon, and it was this tactic that led to the opener as Bryn Simpson neatly finished off a move inside two minutes. Thames hit back ten minutes later as Harry Willis- croft latched onto a sweeping ball from Mike Kim, the young winger finished neatly and leveled proceedings. The momentary equilibrium was disrupted when the visitors swiftly countered with two goals in succession, accurate long passes unsettled Thames' defense once more - with Paul Sharland and Konnah Sas capitalizing, bringing the score to 3-1. Williscroft thought he had scored his second goal of the game after being played through by Ryan Le Roux; Yet, despite initial approval by the referee, the goal was ultimately disallowed following a lengthy conversation with the linesman. The second half continued in a similar ilk, with another decision a key talking point as Waihi were awarded a penalty after Mark Reeves was deemed to have handled the ball. Sharland added his second goal of the game as he dispatched the penalty emphatically into the top corner.

Thames started to commit more forward as they chased the game but were unable to penetrate the Waihi defense, who were strong and dogged all afternoon. Karl Budgen was on hand to stop any shots from the Thames attack, and likewise, Slade Costello pulled off a string of smart stops at the other end. An artfully placed free kick by Le Roux, low into the bottom left corner, proved only to be a consolation as Waihi wrapped up the game when Aman Sandhu curled a beautiful finish into the far corner. Final score: Waihi FC 5-2 Thames Senior Men.

## Thames Valley Club Rugby

### SENIOR A

Saturday June 15th

|                 |   |             |
|-----------------|---|-------------|
| Hauraki North   | V | Paeroa      |
| Te Aroha COBRAS | V | Waihou      |
| Thames          | V | Waihi       |
| Whangamata      | V | Mercury Bay |



All Senior A games start at 2.00pm (unless stated)

Teams named first indicate home team

### SENIOR B

|                  |   |        |               |         |
|------------------|---|--------|---------------|---------|
| Te Aroha COBRAS  | V | Waihou | Sat June 15th | 12.25pm |
| Whangamata       | V | Waihi  | Sat June 15th | 12.25pm |
| Coromandel - Bye |   |        |               |         |

### SENIOR C

|               |   |             |               |         |
|---------------|---|-------------|---------------|---------|
| Hauraki North | V | Mercury Bay | Sat June 15th | 12.25pm |
| Thames        | V | Ngatea      | Sat June 15th | 12.25pm |

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Smith & Sons Hauraki want the community to know that even if you can't catch them in their 8am to 5pm operating hours - they will help make it work. "Michael's happy to come and do a quote on a Saturday or when people are heading home after work."

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# ENTERTAINMENT



Mark Laurent and Brenda Liddiard will perform in Thames on June 16. Photo: SUPPLIED

## Musical maestro pair to play

A wave of musical brilliance is set to wash over the Thames community on June 16. Professional musicians Mark Laurent and Brenda Liddiard of Auckland are heading to Thames Baptist Church to showcase their sounds, musical sensibility, and “eclectic mix of material that can be ‘pin drop’ delicate, or sound like a full band”.

Mark said: “we’re doing a concert in Katikati on Friday night for the folk club, then doing something in Whangamatā before coming to Thames, so I guess it’s a mini-tour”.

The pair of indie musicians have been performing together for three decades playing grass-roots, “mostly unplugged” music across New Zealand, Australia and the UK.

With a cross over of Mark’s penchant for the blues, and guitar skills “as expressive as

his vocals” and Brenda’s voice emerging from a blend of folk, protest and alternative country - as well as her accolades as a 2013 Tui Awards Best Folk Album finalist, the duo are set to provide an evening of entertainment and expression.

But this isn’t their first rodeo in the Coromandel Peninsula. Mark said he and Brenda lived in Whangamatā for several years and used to perform regularly at a few Thames venues, including The Junction. “So it’ll be really nice to come back.”

“We’ll be doing a concert for about 45 mins with kai to follow,” he said.

**DETAILS: Entry by koha, 5pm, June 16 at Thames Baptist Church. More info: www.marklaurent.co.nz or www.brendaliddiard.co.nz.**

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|   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <b>Church Notice</b><br>Assembly of God<br>10am Sundays.<br>Scout Hall.<br>Baker St, Waihi                                  | <b>Pets</b><br><b>KENNELS</b><br>WAITAKARURU Boarding Kennels and Cattery. “A great place for your pet to stay.” Carol and Bill Bell, Ph: 07-867-3344, SH25 Waitakaruru, RD6 Thames        | <b>Situation Wanted</b><br>Professional Class 5 driver seeks work. 20+ years experience, clean licence and excellent references. Pressurised vehicle operator experience. Seeking work due to relocation. Ph Gavin 027 530 9180 | <b>Public Notices</b><br>Waihi Bowling Club AGM<br>29th June at 1.30pm<br>Venue: WBC.<br>128 Kenny St, Waihi   |
| <b>For Lease</b><br>Yards for lease, Thames and Kopu. Suitable for trucks, vehicles or trade business base. Ph 027 440 7101 | <b>Trades &amp; Services</b><br><b>FENCING CONTRACTOR</b><br>Residential & Rural Retaining walls & more<br>High quality workmanship<br>Competitive prices<br><b>Call Matt 021 1727 148</b> | <b>Storage</b><br><b>Storage Unlimited</b><br>25 Ngati Maru Highway Kopu, Thames<br>Clean, secure, dry Units available<br>7 x 3.6m and 7 x 5.5m<br><b>Phone 07 868 9944</b>   | <b>HAURAKI GOLF CLUB</b><br><b>STOCKIE COCKIES</b><br>Thursday 20th June, start 9am / 11:30am.<br>Proudly sponsored by Aon Insurance<br>Free barbeque lunch supplied by Valley Toyota<br><b>Non golfers welcome.</b> |
| <b>For Sale</b><br>HAY - small bales. \$12 each. Phone Charlie on 027 491 3327  | <b>Painter</b><br>Painter available, houses, farm buildings, fences, etc. Experienced<br>Quality work,<br>Reasonable price. ph <b>Greg 027 2142442</b>                                     | <b>Thames Valley Storage - secure, dry units available, two sizes. Call Trev 027 4076966</b>  | <b>We would like to hear from you if you would like to read the bible with us. If so phone 021 522 668</b>   |
| <b>Gardening</b><br><b>STUMP GRINDING.</b><br>All sizes, all areas. Thames based. Ph 021 060 7659                           | <b>Storage</b><br><b>STORAGE KOPI, PAEROA TE AWAMUTU</b><br>“New Units”<br>Ph 027 440 7101<br>07 868 3033<br>Safe n Sound Storage<br>www.safestorage.co.nz                                 | <b>Handyman Services</b><br><b>THAMES HANDYMAN &amp; BUILDING SERVICES</b><br>Building, home maintenance & general gardening services<br><b>Phone: Fleur or Crighton • 0273 913 283</b>   |  |
| <b>Storage</b><br>STORE 4 U Waihi.<br>Clean, dry, alarmed.<br>Call Lyn 0275 759 173.  |  | <b>Storage</b><br><b>TOTAL STORAGE LTD KEREPEHI / PAEROA</b><br>We will beat any legit quote for storage in 10ft or 20ft containers<br>T&C's apply<br><b>021 67 67 99</b><br>info@totalstorage.co.nz                            |  |

## CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12pm Monday

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Situation Vacant</b><br><b>HAURAKI PLAINS COLLEGE TEACHER AIDE</b><br>Needed to travel to Te Aroha for 14 hours a week to support an HPC student at home and at Northern Health School.<br>Fixed Term until end of year.<br><b>Applications to: laurad@haurakiplains.school.nz</b><br><b>Applications Close: Friday 21 June at noon.</b>   | <b>NEED STAFF? GOT SOMETHING TO SELL? Advertise in the Valley Profile and get results! Phone Davidda: 022 174 3988</b> |
| <b>Public Notice</b>  |  |
| <b>HAURAKI MĀORI TRUST BOARD</b>  |  |
| <b>2024 TRUSTEE BY-ELECTIONS FOR NGĀTI PAOA AND NGĀI TAI</b>  |  |
| <b>Notice to Beneficiaries inviting Nominations for:</b><br>(a) Nominations for election to membership of the Trust Board.<br>(b) Applications for inclusion in the roll of beneficiaries.  |  |
| Pursuant to section 46 of the Maori Trust Board's Act 1955, the above board hereby calls for nominations for the election of two (2) persons to membership of the Board to represent the following sections:  |  |
| Ngāti Paoa  | 1 Trustee  |
| Ngāi Tai  | 1 Trustee  |
| The Board also calls upon such of its Ngāti Paoa or Ngāi Tai beneficiaries as have not already enrolled, being persons who have attained the age of 18 years, to apply to have their names, occupations and addresses included in the Board's Roll of Beneficiaries. Any enrolled Ngāti Paoa or Ngāi Tai beneficiary who has changed his or her occupation or address since he or she enrolled is also requested to give the Board notice thereof.  |  |
| The last day for receiving nominations and applications for enrolment is at 5pm Friday 12 July 2024. All nominations and applications for enrolment should be addressed to the Secretary, Hauraki Māori Trust Board, whose postal address is PO Box 33, Paeroa 3640 or emailed to jm@hauraki.iwi.nz.  |  |
| Nomination forms can be obtained from the Hauraki Māori Trust Board office, 41 Belmont Road, Paeroa, or by phoning 07 862-7521 or contacting the election helpline on 0800 666 041 or emailing iro@electionz.com. The forms must be signed by at least 5 beneficiaries who are entitled to vote in respect of the election of that candidate, and be accepted by the candidate, and all signatures witnessed by one or more other adult persons. A candidate may at any time withdraw his or her nomination by notice to the Board. |  |
| An election will be held by postal ballot if the number of valid nominations for either of the above two iwi sections received by closing date exceeds the number of persons required to be elected for that section.   |  |
| Dated at Paeroa this 12th day of June 2024.   |  |
| <b>John McEnteer</b><br>Secretary   |  |
| <b>electionz.com</b><br>voting made easy  |  |

## Legacy - not just for the greats

### OPINION

By MICHAEL WILKES



I recently stood before the statue of Sir Keith Park in Thames, and I considered legacy.

Sir Keith led the air defence of London during the Battle of London. The successful defence forced Hitler to delay a land invasion of Britain. Sir Keith later was instrumental in the establishing of Auckland Airport.

Within my family history is a gentleman by the name of Thomas Wilkes. Another amazing man from Thames. He served in World War I and received several medals including the Military Cross. Thomas later went on to play pivotal roles in both establishing our New Zealand Air Force (separate from the army) and the Civil Aviation Authority.

With these gentlemen in mind, I consider legacy. Both Park and Wilkes would no doubt have been men of vision and men with drive. Both men served their country, both in and beyond the war, leaving a lasting legacy long after their names and faces are forgotten by most.

Their stories cause me to pause. What is legacy? And is legacy, for us mere mortals living in the shadows of these great men, something achievable? And I say "yes, it is".

Legacy for me is not about name or fame. It's not about being remembered in the future.

Legacy is about the ripple effects our lives have in the decades and centuries that follow.

Having children and how we raise them – that's a legacy. Or considering events in my life.

A man wasn't paying attention and crashed into my dad on the road setting off a chain of events. My dad is no longer with us today, and the life of myself and my family was altered forever.

I connected a young guy up with a job opportunity in Auckland a few years back and he excelled and is doing well.

These single moments that quite literally alter the direction of another person's life. Both for the good or for the bad.

And so, as I consider legacy, I don't think of it as something for the greats of the past who we remember, but instead something for all of us. Our choices and actions towards other people will ripple through generations. Our legacy is the generations that follow. Our Legacy is lots of small actions in the right direction.

Our legacy is doing our work in a way that helps those who follow after us succeed, it's raising our children with the long game in mind, its giving life to others through our actions. It's a question well worth considering.

What kind of legacy am I building in my family, workplace, and community?

*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.*



Angela Brutnall, centre, won the Dawn Elliott Encouragement Award for Moeraki Boulders.

Photo: SUPPLIED

## Paeroa artists celebrated at awards

By TERESA RAMSEY

The creativity and talents of artists throughout the region was celebrated recently during the annual Paeroa Society of Arts awards event.

Secretary Robyn Wilson said more than 50 people attended the awards evening on May 30, which saw members receive awards in pottery, painting and photography.

"It's to celebrate their work and the work they put in during the year. What they put in for the awards has to be a piece that's not been in the gallery before."

This year's theme was 'Blast from the Past', which gave mem-

bers something to work towards, she said. "We normally tell them [the theme] running up to the end of the year so they've got plenty of time to get their work in, because a lot of the work can take months to do."

Robyn said the society was strong, with around 55 members taking part in weekly art and pottery classes, and also either member or guest artist exhibitions each month. "It's going really well, we've got some fantastic renowned artists and most of them are local," she said.

The art society, which owns its Normanby Rd building, was currently fundraising for earthquake strengthening works with raffles

available in the gallery.

Votes for the People's Choice award can be made at the gallery this month, with the winning artwork drawn at the end of June.

Angela Brutnall won the Dawn Elliott Encouragement Award for Moeraki Boulders, and the Heather Dobson Creativity Award went to Jessica Lines for On the Sea Mosaic.

Dennis Baker's Renwick Garage won the theme, Blast from the Past, while Denise Judd won the pottery category for wood-fired pot; the painting category was won by Sandy Burdon for Wax Eyes; and Kathy Bland won the other media category for Welcome Swallow.

## ENTERTAINMENT

# Trapping, skills and track upgrade for club

The Thames Mountain Bike Club's Big Bike Film Night returns on June 14.

The annual fundraiser, together with grants and donations, helped the club raise more than \$100,000 towards one of its largest projects, upgrading the Karaka Track. The club also built mountain bike skills structures at Hikutaia School and started a new pest trapping programme.

Club vice president and trapping co-ordinator Ric Balfour said before the film night shorts got rolling, the club planned to screen a compilation of the activities it had been involved in over the past year or so. "Photos and video will feature our track maintenance work, our new digger, our kids' skills structures, our night rides and most recently our foray into pest control.

"The club has contributed more than 700 hours of recorded volunteer time in 2023, and we are well on the way to exceeding that this year."

The Karaka track behind Thames was one of the club's biggest projects since the club was established in 2011. Volunteers installed two large bridges and several smaller boardwalk-style bridges on the track, as well as hiring track building company Walkway Solutions to upgrade the track to make it much more user-friendly.

"This old county road reserve heads up the Karaka Valley to



The Red Bluff on the Karaka Track. TOP RIGHT: Skills structures at Hikutaia School. BELOW: Trapping volunteer Wayne Howes. Photos: SUPPLIED



a feature known locally as 'Red Bluff' which gives a fabulous view of the upper Kauaeranga Valley and Tabletop Mountain."

In late February, Predator Free Hauraki Coromandel Community Trust (PFHCCT) helped the club establish a trapline along the track and the club now has 20 DOC 200 traps designed to catch mustelids such as ferrets, stoats, and weasels.

"The club has assembled a small group of keen volunteers to check the traps and have managed a weekly routine over the

last three months. The tally so far is 65 pests taken out, four stoats, one ferret, and the rest rats.

"However, heavy damage is evident from possums, so the club is applying for grants to purchase the new possum trap called the AT220."

Funds raised from the Big Bike Film Night will go towards track maintenance and traps. To monitor the trapping success, the volunteers conduct a bird count at the Red Bluff each time they check the traps. "When we put the word out on our Facebook

page for volunteers, we expected mountain bikers to be interested, but what we have is five out of six trappers are local community members who are keen to help look after our native forest," Ric said. "We have a lot of support from the business community too, with great prizes donated for the raffle."

This will be the fifth time the club has hosted the film night and the third time it's combined a fundraiser with the short film showing.

"Bring some cash for the fun-

draiser which includes a raffle, snacks and non-alcoholic beverages. BBFN curator Brett Cotter has been a generous supporter of TMBC by donating some of the proceeds from the tickets back to the club."

**DETAILS: Tickets from [www.try-booking.com](http://www.try-booking.com) and search for The Big Bike Film Night - Thames. The TMBC action starts at 6:30pm at the Thames Civic Centre, and the films kick off at 7pm. For more information about the club, contact Ric Balfour via email at [thamesmtb@gmail.com](mailto:thamesmtb@gmail.com).**



**DIRECT CREMATION within 15kms of Thames: \$2950.00**  
**DIRECT CREMATION requiring transfer from Whangamata, Tairua, Whitianga, Waihi, Paeroa, Ngatea and Coromandel: \$3195.00**  
**DIRECT CREMATION requiring transfer from North of Coromandel or Waikato Hospital: \$3295.00**  
**Outside all of these areas: \$2950.00 plus mileage**



For additional information please refer to Twentymans website: [twentymans.co.nz](http://twentymans.co.nz) CONTACT: 07 868 6003



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# SUDOKU

154

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

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HARD

154

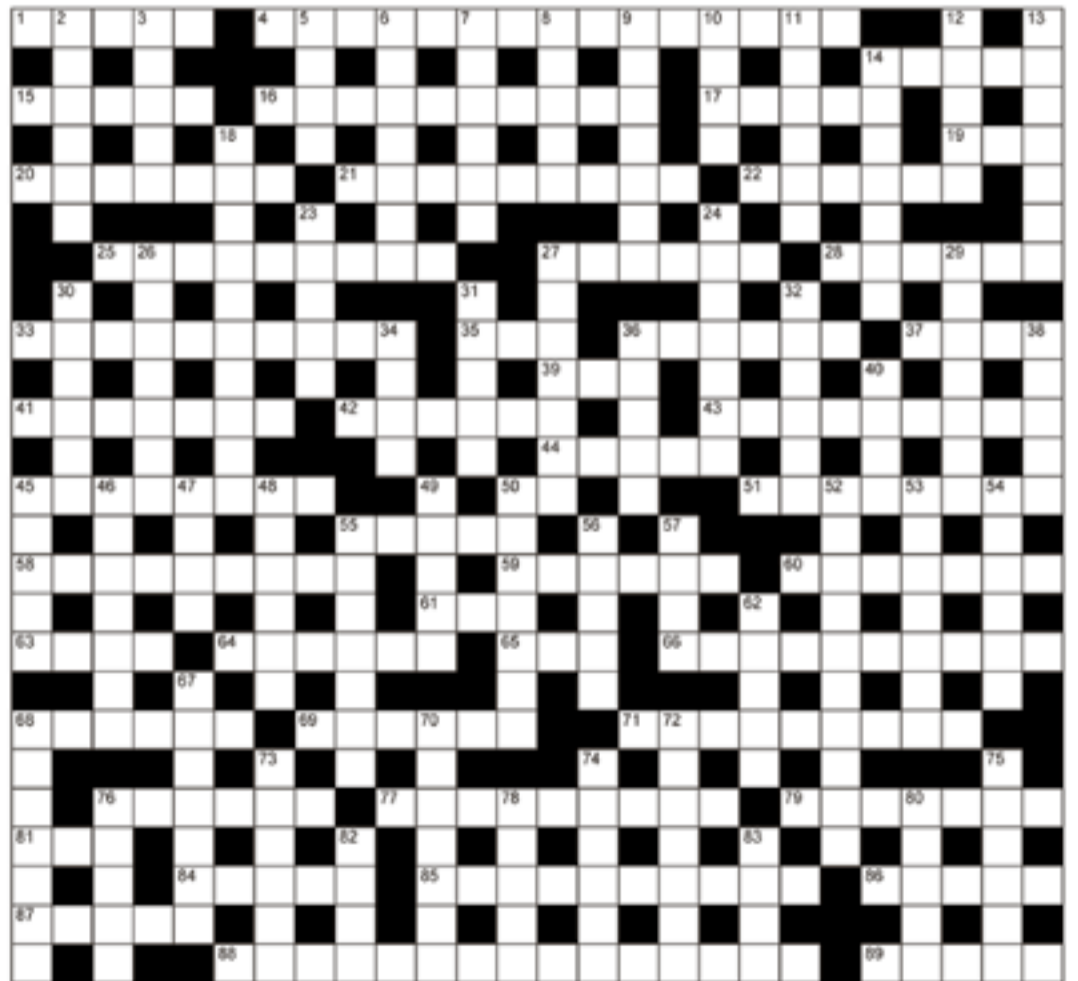
Puzzles © The Puzzle Company  
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| 7 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 3 |
| 5 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 6 |

# JUMBO CROSSWORD

174

- ACROSS**
- 1 Untrue (5)
  - 4 Redundancy or early retirement payment (6,9)
  - 14 Army colour (5)
  - 15 Neck warmer (5)
  - 16 Stubborn, obstinate (10)
  - 17 Serving spoon (5)
  - 19 Fourth note (3)
  - 20 Pilot's record (7)
  - 21 Person with an unusual or odd personality (9)
  - 22 Swims (6)
  - 25 Female singer (9)
  - 27 Chaos (6)
  - 28 Celestial body (6)
  - 33 Vacant (10)
  - 35 Lip (3)
  - 36 Place of worship (6)
  - 37 Dross (4)
  - 39 Self-image (3)
  - 41 Prosperous (7)
  - 42 Affix (6)
  - 43 Rebounds readily (9)
  - 44 Chest (5)
  - 45 Musical instrument (8)
  - 50 Accomplish (2)
  - 51 Purifies (8)
  - 55 Prickly plants (5)
  - 58 Fill again (9)
  - 59 Picturesque (6)
  - 60 Sibling (7)
  - 61 Male sheep (3)
  - 63 Reserve (4)
  - 64 Old coin (6)
  - 65 Printing fluid (3)
  - 66 Well recompensed (6,4)
  - 68 Detective (6)
  - 69 Matters in question (6)
  - 71 Idle tuner (anag)(9)
  - 76 Most modern (6)
  - 77 After birth (9)
  - 79 Immediate (7)
  - 81 Beverage (3)
  - 84 Musical drama (5)
  - 85 Tools (10)
  - 86 Fragrant flower (5)
  - 87 Vegetable (5)
  - 88 Very eager, enthusiastic (2,4,2,7)
  - 89 Armada (5)
  - DOWN**
  - 2 Boat weight (6)
  - 3 Small tree (5)
  - 5 Concluded (4)
  - 6 Takes off (7)
  - 7 A spice (6)
  - 8 Bring to a premature end (5)
  - 9 Tidying (anag) (7)
  - 10 Ship's body (4)
  - 11 Abduct (6)
  - 12 Ragamuffins (5)
  - 13 Uppermost (7)
  - 14 Door aperture (7)
  - 18 He wrote The Thirty-Nine Steps (4,6)
  - 23 Tough fabric (5)
  - 24 In a murderous frenzy (7)
  - 26 Pest in an audience (7)
  - 27 Keepsake (7)
  - 29 Core (7)
  - 30 Imaginary (6)
  - 31 Hackneyed (5)
  - 32 Shellfish (6)
  - 34 Sketch (4)
  - 36 Business big wheel (5)
  - 38 Night-flying insects (5)
  - 40 Jumping insect (4)
  - 45 Chocolate substitute (5)
  - 46 Sanction (7)
  - 47 Notion (4)
  - 48 Fit to eat (6)
  - 49 Derision (5)
  - 50 Give the sack (7)
  - 52 Swashbuckling 1930s film actor (5,5)
  - 53 Jotter (7)
  - 54 Eye cover (6)
  - 55 Hold dear (7)
  - 56 Annoying (5)
  - 57 Accompanying (4)
  - 62 Concur (5)
  - 67 Broad hat (7)
  - 68 Train stop (7)
  - 70 Idealistic (7)
  - 72 Most handy (7)
  - 73 Evaluate (6)
  - 74 Rich cake (6)
  - 75 Dangerous (6)
  - 76 Old language (5)
  - 78 Records electronically (5)
  - 80 Court case (5)
  - 82 Renown (4)
  - 83 Celebrity (4)



**PREVIOUS SOLUTION**

ACROSS: 1 Toxic, 4 Draughts, 9 Driver, 14 Maple, 15 A snake in the grass, 17 Cocoa, 18 Tea, 19 Firebug, 20 Opulently, 21 Assure, 24 Bullseyes, 25 Asylum, 26 Skates, 29 Heartbreak, 31 Rag, 32 Select, 33 Dive, 25 Urn, 37 Opal, 39 Indolence, 40 Narrative, 41 Douse, 42 Extremes, 47 Pamphlet, 51 Madam, 55 Full house, 56 Impromptu, 58 Game, 59 Red, 60 Nail, 61 Invite, 62 Due, 63 Split hairs, 66 Pigeon, 67 Raffle, 69 Dying wish, 72 Energy, 73 Pizzicato, 75 Beseech, 77 Jab, 80 Alien, 81 Winston Churchill, 82 Renew, 83 Gently, 84 Suspense, 85 Erode.

DOWN: 2 Obstinate, 3 Image, 5 Rung, 6 Unhappy, 7 Highly strung, 8 Slain, 9 Display, 10 Inca, 11 Excess, 12 Spate, 13 Pegasus, 14 Mazurka, 16 Equilibrium, 22 Ascend, 23 Outline, 24 Burglar, 25 Argued, 27 Trivial, 28 Scoria, 30 Kiln, 32 Snout, 34 Event, 36 Harp, 38 Pox, 42 Elfin, 43 Telling, 44 Echo, 45 Equine, 46 Adore, 48 Mountaineer, 49 Hogwash, 50 Elm, 51 Medical, 52 Middle, 53 Appendicitis, 54 Loss, 57 Phlegm, 64 Ridiculed, 65 Foresaw, 66 Perjury, 68 Fairway, 70 Intense, 71 Ignite, 72 Ebony, 74 Zones, 76 Ether, 78 Knot, 79 Thus.



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ENTERTAINMENT

# Hazy & the Jays rock the stage at Rockquest

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Being on edge about their performance didn't hinder a Thames High School band from landing a top 12 spot in a music contest.

Hazy & the Jays told *The Profile* they were nervous as they performed their song, *History*, at the Smokefree Rockquest Waikato Regional Heats in Hamilton on May 12.

"But as soon as we got on stage we felt great," they said.

"We've all had a fair bit of performing experience, so we were just happy to be there."

Hazy & the Jays consists of year 12 Arts & Culture student leader Izzy Fitzsimons on lead vocals, year 12 Manukura student leader Harris Elliot-Hogg on guitar, year 13 student Jacob Rush on bass and year 13 student Jacob Wenhold on drums.

The students were in different classes and "quite surprised" when they found out they'd be advancing to the next round at the Waikato Regional Finals on June 28.

"Our band text group chat went crazy when we found out," the band said.

After their performance, Hazy & the Jays said they watched the remaining acts



Izzy Fitzsimons, left, Harris Elliot-Hogg, Jacob Wenhold, Jacob Rush.

and were "blown away" with their talent.

"To be honest, we weren't that confident - but we are very glad to make it through."

"We are excited to show what we can do."

The group started working together last year during some school music performances and became interested in entering Rockquest.

"So this year we formed our own band with that focus."

While they said they loved the idea of a musical career, it was "just the love for music itself that makes it all worthwhile".

The band said they were working on a second song for the next leg of the competition, and if time permitted, they would write another one to perform instead of *History*.



Hazy & the Jays rock out at the Smokefree Rockquest Waikato regional heats.

Photos: SUPPLIED

Otherwise, they were focusing on "practicing, practicing and more practicing" to prepare. If that wasn't enough, the band were also currently working on an EP based on the five stages of grief.

"*History* represented the anger stage and we are currently working on *Lavender*, which represents bargaining," they said.

Even though Hazy & the Jays were unsure about which genre or sound they fit into - "we take inspiration from a range of groups and make it our own".

For others interested in starting a band and getting involved with Rockquest, Hazy & the Jays' advice was "just do it".

"Find like minded people

and give it a go," they said.

"It would be great to see a bit more Thames representation out there."

"Performing isn't for everyone but the more you do it the easier it becomes."

**DETAILS: To keep up with Hazy & the Jays and find out about upcoming gigs - find them on Facebook and Instagram: @hazyandthejays.**

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