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## 'Incredibly courageous'

### Hauraki school seeks help through horses



Joyce Ratahi, Caylin Mitchell, and Maria Angel give the experience a 'ten out of ten out of ten'.  
Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

By KELLEY TANTAU, Public Interest Journalism funded by NZ On Air

The kids at Kaiāua School were disconnected. There were cracks in their communication, and through all the stress of Covid, they had forgotten how to be kind. Seeing what was happening in

the playground and in the classroom, Kaiāua's principal, Matua Karlos Bosson, sought out ways to make things right again. And as it turns out, horses have been just the thing to remind the pupils what it means to be compassionate. On a sunny Monday morning at Annarehab in Miranda,

young students - aged between 10 and 13 - lead their blindfolded partners and their chosen horses through a series of obstacles. "You did it, you did it!" one of them cries out. "Good job!" It's a jovial exclamation, a verbal pat-on-the-back by a peer, and it's these sorts of interactions that had been missing from the

firth-side Hauraki school. "Last year, we had a few things happen at the school, and I know that it stemmed from Covid and other stuff," Matua Bosson tells *The Profile*. "And even though we've got a small class, the different types of behaviors that we were experiencing around the school, we

just knew something was going on that we needed to get to the bottom of. It was just that niggly communication that was coming through, and kids not treating each other respectfully." Hoping to rid the young students of their stress, anxiety, and trauma, and to better their

CONTINUED ON P2

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*Our focus is 100% local community news.*

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# 'No more niggles' at Kaiiua School

CONTINUED FROM P1

mental health and well-being, Matua Bosson contacted Maria Baigent, who, alongside her daughter Anna, runs the equine rehabilitation farm Annarehab.

The pair have taken in ex-racehorses with injuries or illnesses and have transformed them into therapy horses that work with a variety of people of all ages, genders, and outlooks.

Matua Bosson, who knows first-hand how a horse can work wonders on a person's well-being, asked Maria to present her team-building programme to the school's Board of Trustees.

The board committed to funding the programme for 14 of its students for seven weeks. However, there is hope that the Ministry of Education can share some, if not all, of the cost.

"I'm humbled that the school picked us and I am humbled that they were brave enough to go outside and find help for their children. I think that is incredibly courageous," Maria Baigent says.

"I am so proud to be involved with the school, but I am sad, because I've been a teacher and a deputy principal and the only sadness I have is that they are funding this themselves."

Maria is Annarehab's certified equine assisted learning facilitator, and with some 25 years of classroom experience, she's been drawn to helping children who experience difficulties learning in a traditional school environment.



Kaiiua School principal Karlos Bosson and parent Michelle Whakaari are proud of the students. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

Her 12-week course typically costs \$50 a session per pupil, but Maria is charging the school \$30 per student. They've just finished their seven weeks, and hope to find additional funds to complete the further five weeks.

"I want to see the kids helped," Maria said. "When we first started, they were disconnected, they were shut-down, you couldn't get a word out of them. Now, you can feel the change in the atmosphere."

Just ask the students: 12-year-olds Joyce Ratahi and Caylin Mitchell, and 11-year-old Maria Angel desperately want to see out another five weeks on the ranch.

"We're a small school and I would love the ministry to find the money to fund us to be in this programme, even for more schools because this is a great opportunity for us," Joyce says.

"You learn confidence, teamwork, leadership, trust... you

learn heaps of things from this programme and we're really lucky that our board has found the money to let us come here."

Caylin says the horses have been their teachers, and they've not only learned about courage, but consent, too.

Overall, the trio give the experience a "ten out of ten out of ten".

Parent Michelle Whakaari - whose son Nate is busy leading his friend through the course - drives a carload of Kaiiua students once a week to the Baigent Rd farm and says she hears all the "amazing things" the kids have to say about the programme.

"Nate was quite anxious about it, but he gave it a go and he was really proud of himself.

"I've seen really good things with all the kids that have come," she says. "From being a bit not sure... and now, they look pretty sure to me."

And though the term has all wrapped up and the students' return to the ranch is unknown, Matua Bosson and his principal relief teacher Darryl Manson, know one thing for sure: the mental well-being of the children has improved.

"There used to be elements of conflict, but on that very first session, there was none whatsoever on any level, and as a teacher, that is huge," Matua Manson says. "There's no longer any niggles."



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Wed Apr 12	Thu Apr 13	Fri Apr 14	Sat Apr 15	Sun Apr 16	Mon Apr 17	Tue Apr 18
<b>Morning</b> 5:19am 0.7 11:33am 3.2	<b>Morning</b> 12:04am 3.3 6:14am 0.8	<b>Morning</b> 1:02am 3.2 7:14am 0.8	<b>Morning</b> 2:06am 3.2 8:18am 0.8	<b>Morning</b> 3:13am 3.2 9:24am 0.8	<b>Morning</b> 4:17am 3.3 10:27am 0.7	<b>Morning</b> 5:16am 3.4 11:25am 0.5
<b>Afternoon</b> 5:39pm 0.6 11:33am 3.2	<b>Afternoon</b> 12:25pm 3.2 6:32pm 0.7	<b>Afternoon</b> 1:21pm 3.1 7:33pm 0.8	<b>Afternoon</b> 2:24pm 3.1 8:43pm 0.8	<b>Afternoon</b> 3:32pm 3.1 9:55pm 0.8	<b>Afternoon</b> 4:42pm 3.2 11:00pm 0.6	<b>Afternoon</b> 5:45pm 3.3 11:56pm 0.5
6:40am Best At 4:57am	6:41am Best At 5:59am	6:42am Best At 7:00am	6:43am Best At 7:58am	6:44am Best At 8:53am	6:45am Best At 9:44am	6:46am Best At 10:33am
Set 12:51pm	Set 1:49pm	Set 2:38pm	Rise 12:27am	Rise 1:42am	Rise 2:55am	Rise 4:06am

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Tairua	+	0	10	+	21
Whangamata	-	0	03	-	05
Waihi Beach	-	0	12	-	12



# Historic oak memorialised in sculpture

By **KELLEY TANTAU**, Public Interest Journalism funded by NZ On Air

It was once the site of school photos and assemblies; the long arms of a 100-year-old oak tree sheltering the tamariki at Te Kura o Te Kauaeranga Thames South School.

But with the old tree cut down for the sake of the students' safety earlier this year, organisers of an upcoming carving symposium say the oak will have its history memorialised through sculpture.

Ngākau O te Rākau Oki - The Heart of the Oak will bring together sculptors from around the Thames Valley and beyond for a carving symposium that will transform the tree's trunk and limbs into works of art.

"It was important for us to keep hold of those memories of past pupils, teachers, and everyone that had a connection to the tree," one of the organisers André Barlow told *The Profile*.

She, alongside Tes Rae, Jo Murray, and sculptors Rika Turoa, Darin Jenkins, and Jocelyn Pratt, all said they had their own memories of the tree - which had become a taonga for the kura.

"Those trees have been there since the school has been here, and so everyone who came here had to pass under the trees," Rika said.

A Thames-based sculptor, Rika said his great-grandkids were the fourth generation of his whānau to witness the welcoming beacon that was the



Thames carver Rika Turoa will take part in Ngākau O te Rākau Oki - The Heart of the Oak 2023 Carving Symposium.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

grand oak.

He held a stone carving symposium back in 2009, so instead of selling pieces of the tree off as firewood, he and the others opted to run a similar event, using the body of the felled oak.

Now, professional carvers from Hauraki and around Aotearoa will start transforming their pieces from April 17,

with the symposium culminating with a public auction on Sunday, April 23.

Carver Darin Jenkins said working on the oak would be a "privilege".

"It's all coming from the heart; it's not about the pūtea [money], it's just artists having an ability to create."

From 2pm until 6pm each day of the symposium, mem-

bers of the public are welcome to watch as the carvers work on their pieces.

And, in addition to supporting the artists in their creative work, some of the funds raised during the symposium will go to Te Kura o Te Kauaeranga, to assist with further learning opportunities for the tamariki.

"The idea is to put out the best artwork with the resources

we have," Rika said, "and by using the oak, I tend to think we've got a good shape going on here."

**DETAILS: Carving Symposium, April 17 to 23 at Te Kura o Te Kauaeranga Thames South School. For info contact: tes.rae@gmail.com.**



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# SH25A: a jagged scar across the Coromandel

## KOPU-HIKUAI UPDATE

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

Monday morning on March 27, and representatives of every media outlet from across the North Island are gathered in a huddle for a safety briefing before heading into the hills to inspect the slip on the Kōpū-Hikuai Rd.

The highway, once a main corridor for traffic to and from the Coromandel, has been closed since January 27, when cracks in the road's surface began to widen and slip.

It's a strain for local communities; many businesses are struggling, with some losing up to 90 per cent of their revenue. The lifeblood of the peninsula, tourists, are bypassing many small towns altogether.

We are among the few who have travelled this road since.

It's a sunny day, and as we line up into a convoy for the journey, it's hard to believe that two destructive cyclones have recently ripped through the area.

The road up to the site however, is still scarred from the wind and rain. Around every corner, sheer rock faces spill their guts towards the road, cleared now from the tarmac but still piled menacingly close to my tires as I drive cautiously towards the chasm.



Debris has flown into the valley.

And chasm it is. We pile out of the vehicles and make our way to the edge, decked out in protective vests, hard hats and safety glasses, eager to see what photos and drone footage have tried to convey to us for the past few weeks.

We're met with ... nothing, just the road dropping away beneath our feet. Where once there was lush, verdant bush and a winding black ribbon of road twisting its way through, instead we see a sea of orange and brown; the muddy, clay remnants of the cliff to the left of where the road once lay.

We're told the slip debris is variable, formed largely from clay and sand in some places, with rock found easily in some places and not in others.

"Over a rugby field in length," we're told by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency in the days and weeks following the storms.

But gazing upon it in person, the 130 metres it encompasses feels so much more vast, im-



Media trek down the slope to see the State Highway 25A slip in person.

Photo: SUPPLIED/WAKA KOTAHI

mense, monstrous.

Several metres below, a lone drilling rig is set in the base of the slip. It's drilling bore holes, which will reveal the layers of soil in the ground below.

The samples will be put together in a model of the site and analysed as part of the decision-making process.

Waka Kotahi has outlined the three possible fix options it is investigating; a bridge, a by-

pass, or a retaining wall in the original road's place.

In a few months, this site will be buzzing with activity as contractors work to fulfil Waka Kotahi's chosen fix. But for now, the rig and a couple of geotechnical engineers are the only other people on site.

The rig itself, nearly four times taller than a person, appears minuscule within the footprint of the damaged land.

Our media group is briefed just metres from the jagged edge of the chasm.

BECA lead geotechnical engineer Nathan McKenzie explains the technicalities of the testing, while Waka Kotahi regional manager of infrastructure delivery Jo Wilton talks us through the likely solutions and timeframe of the remediation project.

CONTINUED ON P5

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Geotechnical engineers have been taking borehole samples from the slip site. Photo: SUPPLIED/WAKA KOTAHI

**CONTINUED FROM P4**

Jo's confident the road can be reopened in 9-12 months from now, although she cautions that construction work heading into winter could be delayed by bad weather.

Then we're escorted down into the slip itself, walking several metres along a dirt path.

"Stay on the marked track," we're warned.

While there is no longer any significant movement in the slip, there is a lot of water still in the ground, and some of the earth is like quicksand - one wrong step and we could sink up to our knees or further.

It's clear that whatever solution is chosen to repair the road, this is no quick fix.

The gap is not just across, but 30 metres down as well - there's nothing left to support a road.

Even to a layman's eye, it's going to take much more than just some replacement gravel and bitumen.

A steep climb out of the slip, and I'm in my car, headed back towards the office.

In the rearview mirror, the muddy scar gives way to trees.

It's like it never existed.



Looking from the Kōpū side of the road to the other edge, 130 metres away.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER

**LATEST UPDATE: Geotechnical investigations at the site of the slip on State Highway 25A were completed on April 4, Waka Kotahi confirmed. Fourteen boreholes were drilled and five test pits dug. Material found above and in the slip was variable, with rock discovered quickly in some areas, and other areas consisting of wet and soft soil. Waka Kotahi is planning to make a decision on a permanent fix in May. Work will continue at the site in the meantime, with drainage material being installed to protect the area.**



The drilling rig is almost four times as tall as a person. Within the slip site, it looks almost toy-like against the backdrop of orange soil.

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# Cycle shelter set for monument site at Kōpū

By KELLEY TANTAU, Public Interest Journalism funded by NZ On Air

The district council has approved, in principle, the building of a cycle trail shelter on the former site of Thames' Captain Cook Monument - at a fee of \$1.

Back in June, 2021, Thames-Coromandel District Council approved a Licence to Occupy for the Hauraki Rail Trail Charitable Trust to build a cycle shelter on road reserve at Pakura Close, Kōpū.

Since then, no action has been taken by the trust, as the site of the original proposed shelter had been identified as a potential site for the position of a temporary shipping container "store" - to be used by the Kōpū Bridge and Community Trust in restoring the old Kōpū Bridge.

However, following the removal of the monument to British explorer Captain James Cook by the Ministry of Culture and Heritage, the Hauraki Rail Trail Trust has requested that the proposed shelter be relocated to that position.

"Do you foresee there might be any push-back from our... rate-payers, residents?" Councillor Martin Rodley asked group manager operations Bruce Hinson.

"I'm really not much of a betting man, but who knows which way that could go, there's always risk," he replied.

The Captain Cook monument was built in 1941 as part of the 100th Treaty of Waitangi celebrations, but was only installed at its former Kōpū site in 2020.

It was vandalised beyond repair in 2021 and was removed from Kōpū in October, 2022.

The rail trail shelters are a joint project between the trust and Rotary clubs from Te Aroha, Matamata, Thames, Morrinsville, and Paeroa.

The partnership will see 16 shelters erected along the network, and according to a council report, the site near Kōpū Bridge is still within road reserve and poses no safety issues.

Thames-Coromandel District councillors therefore approved that a Licence to Occupy be granted to the Hauraki Rail Trail Charitable Trust to erect and maintain a cycle trail shelter on the public road reserve at Kōpū Bridge, Thames.

It comes with a term of 99 years, a \$1 fee, and a Special Condition Licence which is terminable with six-months' notice.



# Missing miner sparks massive search



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



Men gather at midday meal time at a mining camp.

Photo: SUPPLIED

William Booker was keen to have a fossick for gold up the river after the midday meal. He was one of a mining party camped near Mackaytown on the Ohinemuri River in March 1875.

The 24-year-old, from Riccarton, Christchurch, had only been in the North Island a few days, having arrived with his mate John Morris. Their claim was close to one pegged out by George Clarkson and William Coble - men from the party who had discovered gold at Thames. They were set on finding another rich reef, and William Booker may have hoped some of their earlier good fortune would rub off on him.

After dinner the men had a smoke and then headed to work, except for William who followed soon after and asked John Morris for his telescope. John told him it was in the swag and William, puffing on his pipe, went up the hill for it, and then just vanished.

Once he was missed a search was made but no clue could be found as to where he was. After two days of fruitless looking a party of about 20 more men was got together at Mackaytown, including four of the Armed

Constabulary. James Morris, who came north with William, was very upset. He was convinced he had fallen into a creek but despite searching every creek and gully until nightfall there was no trace of William.

The next morning at Mackaytown a bellman walked round ringing for more volunteers and between 70 and 80 men turned out. A systematic method of work and signals, and a point of rendezvous were agreed on. They crossed the river, and began carefully searching through the unforgiving terrain. A gunshot signalled the find of William's hat. Ti-tree saplings were used to drag the creek. At Fern Flat, about two miles above Mackaytown, the body of William was finally found in a deep waterhole.

On the body was a watch (which had stopped at 1.25), a few pound notes, three pennies, and receipted bills from Riccarton, Canterbury, a knife, tobacco and a pipe case. A stretcher was improvised, and the body was carried into Mackaytown followed by over 70 weary men.

The efforts of the searchers were praised, particularly volunteers who

dived into the creek until they were nearly perished with cold. The Clarkson and Coble party were amongst the most tireless in the search.

At the inquest it was concluded William got into thick bush and fell over a precipice into the river and drowned. It seemed the accident happened only a few minutes after his mates resumed work.

His watch must have stopped at 1.25pm. His pipe was missing; most likely he was smoking it when he fell from the rock.

William, warned an *Auckland Star* correspondent, was only the first victim that year in the search for gold, in the coming winter, with its swollen rivers and long dark nights many more catastrophes would be recorded.

William is buried in an unmarked grave at Shortland cemetery, but at Riccarton is remembered on a family headstone which documents further Booker family tragedies following his death. His father died the year after him after being thrown from a trap, followed two months later by his brother who, while attempting to save a horse, also drowned.

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# Waihi hub could offer options for all

By KELLEY TANTAU, Public Interest Journalism funded by NZ On Air

An outdoor recreation hub could offer a safe, social space that gives the youth of Waihi more to do in town.

The Waihi Community Forum is partnering with Hauraki District Council to propose a new outside recreation area that features a much-needed modern skate park, pump track, playground area, and barbecue.

The hub - designed with all ages in mind - has received "generally very positive support", with the community calling for flat, shaded areas, a family space, and options for the town's youth.

"Many are telling us there needs to be more for young people to do in town," Waihi Community Forum chair Bindy Burke said.

"The skate park and pump track seem to be the most popular, but we've also had other good suggestions - like a flat, shaded area for residents to do Tai Chi, exercises, and picnic tables and a barbecue area for families, so that this becomes a safe, social fun space for everyone, and where everything is tied together."

The suggestions come as the forum conducts an online survey, asking residents what they think about the potential



The Waihi Community Forum has been involved in several successful community projects, such as creating a 3x3 basketball area at Morgan Park. Photo: SUPPLIED

space. So far, they've had more than 100 responses and have generally received very positive support.

"We believed this project could benefit people of all ages in Waihi and be a great addition to our community, so we attended a council meeting and presented our proposal to partner with council on an outdoor recreation hub, which received

full council support," Bindy said.

"We then met with council's community advocacy officer, Michelle Johns, who gave us great advice on applying for funding for a feasibility study, which we're in the process of doing."

The forum had been looking into a new pump track for Waihi since 2021 and received

"some strong support from the community".

Meanwhile, a group of students had approached the council requesting an upgrade of the skate park, which Waihi Ward Councillor and Community Forum member Anne Marie Spicer said was clearly in a poor state.

"We had a couple of meetings with local skatepark users and

asked them what worked, what didn't, and what they'd like to see. It soon became apparent that the current skate park area was not fit for purpose - it is too small, too dark and unsafe at night and too close to residents," she said.

"Given the forum had already been looking into building a pump track, it just made sense to tie these two projects together and create a hub where these and other activities were in one well-designed place.

"It also made sense to work in partnership with council to source as much external funding - and not ratepayer funding - as possible."

The forum has been involved in several successful community projects in Waihi, all designed to enhance the town.

Past initiatives include murals in town and by Morgan Park, creating a 3x3 basketball area, and the community playground at Waihi East School.

**DETAILS: The forum's survey closes on April 16. To complete it, visit: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/6G7V7C7](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6G7V7C7) or the Waihi Community Forum Facebook Page. Everyone who completes the survey and provides contact details will go into the draw to win one of two Prezy Cards valued at \$100.**



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# New owners to continue superior service

Central Motors is a well-known name in the Hauraki Plains. The Ngatea-based company has been committed to serving the farming community since it opened its doors more than 40 years ago.

Now new owners Carmel and Andrew Welch and Cameron McGill are planning big things for the business, and top of the list is continuing to offer the superior service the company has become known for.

They know they have big shoes to fill. Previous owners Mark and Jane Browne ran the business for 22 years, building a reputation for excellent service.

"We want to carry on being the successful business that it is, and continue to support and supply the local district with all its machinery and service needs," Andrew says.

Mark and Jane have been very supportive through the transition, helping the new leadership team to find their bearings, Carmel says.

"We'd like to thank them very much for the help they've given us."

Mark will be a familiar face around the shop - he and his son Chris are staying on within the company along with the rest of the staff in sales, parts and service.

Stock will remain the same as well, with the company continuing to offer their current large range of products and services.

Central Motors stock a wide range of construction machinery, agriculture implements and accessories. You'll find all the

big farming names on their shop floor; Kubota tractors, Yamaha motorbikes and Steelfort lawn mowers, plus a host of other brands and products.

Their motto is "we service what we sell". It's not just lip service - they have a full mechanical workshop on site and a parts sourcing team. And if they don't have what you want in store, Andrew says they can find it. As the trio get settled into their roles they have been thrilled to have the support of the community around them. Andrew has lived in the Hauraki Plains all his life, with wife Carmel joining him from Ireland in 2002. Meanwhile, Cameron is also a familiar face on the plains, with his accounting firm Rocam Accountants Ltd based in Thames.

"We have a lot of locals, lovely local people that are coming in that we know," Carmel says. "They're being really supportive."

The three directors stepped into their new roles in February - Cameron is in charge of accounts and Carmel is running the admin team, while Andrew has taken on the managing director and sales roles.

"It's a nice flow - we all have our own roles to play, it's a nice mix," Carmel says.

After being friends for over seven years, they say they are looking forward to the exciting new challenge of running a business together.

"We just want the whole of the public to know that we've taken over and that the business is still here."



Head in to Central Motors to meet the team and find out how they can help you with your machinery and servicing needs.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER



The Central Motors staff are staying on.

Photo: SUPPLIED



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# Signs take flight

By GORDON PREECE

A trio of protection signs designed by Moanataiari School students were unveiled and erected during a field trip to Kuranui Bay on March 29.

Principal David Brock said the signs were to let Kuranui Bay visitors know to protect the local birdlife.

“The children [who designed the signs] have displayed a passion for the area and they also have got some artistic abilities and clearly want to put their best foot forward,” he said.

The messages displayed on each sign include it’s not too late to decide our fate, birds are nesting here so be aware and birds aren’t food don’t let them be chewed.

Mr Brock said the trip, which was made possible by a \$1000 Seagull Centre grant donated to the school in 2022, also involved its 149 students collecting rubbish, participating in a scavenger hunt and observing birds like the local oystercatchers.

“It’s really important work, this is one of our key local environments and we need to act as guardians for it and that’s our connection to the whole concept of kaitiakitanga and guardianship,” he said.

“It’s really significant for us as a school and for the future and our children need to learn that actually there is certain mahi [work] that needs to take place if we’re going to look after our planet.”



Year eight student Cleo Challis with her sign.

Photos: GORDON PREECE



Year five students Sherwin Joseph, left, Denzal Corry, and Ruzgar Tosun.



Year seven students Mia McCaskill, left, and Maggie Carter with their sign.



Haeley and Sapphire with their sign.



Tajdeep, Ezra and Malachi clean up.

## In Brief

### MUSIC FEST

Thames Musicians club is holding a free music festival in conjunction with Creative NZ on April 16, 11am-4pm at the Thames Civic Centre. Come along and support live musicians Kooelio, the Andy Mac Trio, Crimson Coast, No Exit and Shades of Dark. The event is free, and food stalls will be on site.

### ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIONS

**PAEROA:** Dawn service at 6am at Primrose Hill, parade at 9am from Marshall St to War Memorial Hall via Belmont Rd and Normanby Rd, service at 9:15am at Paeroa War Memorial Hall. **WAIHI:** Dawn service at 6am at Waihi RSA, wreath laying at 8am at Waihi Cemetery, Tunnelling Company at 9am at Gilmour Reserve, parade at 10:45am from Seddon St to Waihi Memorial Hall, service at 11am at Waihi Memorial Hall. **NGATEA:** Parade at 11am from Pipiroa Rd to Ngatea War Memorial Hall, service at 11:15am at Ngatea War Memorial Hall at 11:15am. **KAIHERE:** Service at Kaihere Hall at 9am. **KEREPEHI:** Dawn service and parade at 5:30am at Kerepehi War Memorial Hall. **THAMES:** Dawn parade at 5:45am from Cochrane St, along Pollen St to Thames War Memorial Civic Centre, dawn service at 6am at Thames War Memorial Civic Centre, followed by breakfast at the Thames Workingmen’s Club, civic parade at 9:45am from Sealey St, along Pollen St, left into Walter St, left into Service Lane 8 to Thames War Memorial Civic Centre, service at 10am at Thames War Memorial Civic Centre. **TAPU:** Dawn parade at 5:45am from Tapu Fire Station to Tapu Hill cenotaph, dawn service at 6am at Tapu Hall followed by breakfast.

## PUBLIC MEETING

Talking - Economy, Roding and our Coromandel Recovery

Christopher Luxon Leader of the National Party  
Scott Simpson MP for Coromandel

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Thames Civic Centre  
Conference Room



Authorised by Christopher Luxon, Leader of the Opposition, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.

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# Rural Life

## Plans to form Maratoto enviro group

By GORDON PREECE

Maratoto Valley residents are joining forces to establish a catchment group under the authority of the New Zealand Landcare Trust to support its natural environment.

Group leader Tim Cruickshank, who's lived in the Hikutaia valley for around 20 years, told *The Profile* he aimed to bring the community together to take ownership of any landcare issues to improve the quality of the 50-square kilometre area.

"This is the first group of landowners within the Waihou catchment to work together to potentially form a catchment group," he said.

"It will be the formation of a not-for-profit organisation... to try and plan ahead and encompass the ideas and interests of everybody," he said.

Tim said he and NZ Landcare Trust Waikato catchments co-ordinator Ric Balfour held a meeting at Hikutaia Hall on March 31 to bolster membership.

"The group [of around 12 people] that turned up were very interested in sharing and being part of a group like this, they can

see the benefits of it," he said.

"It was a representative group of farmers and landholders who were keen to continue so we've set another date... and hopefully we will be able to get some of the bigger groups who have expressed interest."

Tim said the first environmental challenge facing the valley, which the catchment group was keen to resolve, was its "pretty nice" native bush being plagued by predators.

"We'll find possums, rats, stoats, weasels and ferrets in our catchment... they've

had a big impact on bush quality and as the bush quality fades, the loss of biodiversity lies," he said.

"So an area of interest in the group is to try and bump up the biodiversity protection within our land holding that adjoins the bush so that the bush is able to work as one to maintain water quality."

Tim said the second environmental challenge was track damage caused by some 4WD vehicles.

"That's an area of concern for locals because they then struggle to use the tracks for their own walking use and makes it

**"Possums, rats, stoats, weasels and ferrets... they've had a big impact on bush quality and as the bush quality fades, the loss of biodiversity lies."**

- Tim Cruickshank



Farmers and landholders were among those who attended the inaugural meeting. BELOW: The Maratoto Valley.



more difficult to take the family down to swim in parts of the [Hikutaia] river," he said.

"People are interested in track access in this Valley, people are interested in swimming in clean water and their family enjoying the native birds.

"So a lot of these projects [for the group] will all build towards maintaining this as a nice Valley to visit."

Tim said the second catchment group meeting would be held on May 3 at 5:30pm.

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# Hauraki develops new biodiversity strategy

By KELLEY TANTAU, Public Interest Journalism funded by NZ On Air

A new biodiversity strategy that aims to enhance and protect the environment of Hauraki has elicited excitement from elected members.

The district council voted last month to develop the strategy, which staff say will provide “higher-level goals and guidance that will lead into specific actions”. These actions will then be put into action plans for implementation.

According to a report presented to councillors on March 29, the Hauraki district contained a broad range of habitats, flora, and fauna, and it was “essential” that staff manage them all appropriately.

Around 35,454 hectares (or 29 per cent) of the district was covered in indigenous vegetation and habitats, council said, while there were at least 200 significant natural areas covering 32,677 hectares, containing habitat for 49 nationally-threatened plants and animals.

These species included: long-tailed bats, kiwi, New Zealand falcon, giant kokopu, native frogs, king fern, various native orchids, and *Sporodanthus ferrugineus* - giant cane rush, found only in four places in Aotearoa.

“A number of nationally

threatened vegetation units are under-represented within Hauraki,” the report said. “This is typical of districts with large components of flat and easy hill country, with

fertile soils which have been developed for agriculture.”

Historically, the entire Hauraki Plains most likely supported a mix of podocarp-dominant forests - containing kauri, kauri-beech and kahikatea - and raised peat bogs. The vast majority of this former forest cover has now been cleared to about one per cent of its former extent, with only small remnants, mainly kahikatea, surviving, mostly on the floodplains of the larger rivers and streams.

Waihi ward councillors Anne Marie Spicer and Sarah Holmes were excited about the strategy’s development and were “happy to support it”.

It will incorporate a Māori worldview, and it is hoped that it will be completed in time for the inclusion of actions in council’s Long Term Plan, due to be finalised in July, 2024.

Staff have applied for funding from the Lottery Environment and Heritage Fund for the strategy’s development.



The New Zealand Falcon. FILE Photo: PIXABAY

# A best friend in Buddy

## PET PROFILE

By KELLEY TANTAU, Public Interest Journalism funded by NZ On Air

A dog found roaming back in November has been lovingly cared for by a foster family, but the time has come for him to find his forever home.

Buddy was found by Hauraki District Council’s animal control team near the end of 2022, and over Christmas, he was lucky to be looked after by a foster family.

“Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end, and as much as his foster family absolutely adore him, he urgently needs to find his very own forever home,” council’s spokesperson said.

Buddy is described by his carers as being a lovely young dog with good manners and a fun personality.

“He really enjoys playing with other dogs and people, and splashing around in the water, but also happy just to laze around and relax. He loves people and enjoys lots of cuddles.”



Buddy loves splashing around in water.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Buddy has learned how to interact with stock, horses and chickens. He is still learning about cats but is a pro at picking things up quickly.

He has recently been neutered by his foster home.

“If you are looking for a loyal

dog and a best friend, Buddy is the dog for you,” they said.

**DETAILS: To enquire about adopting Buddy, phone the council on 0800 734 834 (in the district) or 07 862 8609.**



## Options for paying for pets’ health care needs

With the increased cost of living, budgeting has become more critical. Our pets are part of our families, particularly cats, dogs, and rabbits. Their care is not optional; therefore, we must allow their healthcare within the household budget.

While we are lucky to have a system in New Zealand where human health care is subsidised, animal health care is not. So, although it may be tempting to measure the cost of caring for your furry family member against your human family members - it is simply not comparative.

Anexa is passionate about your pets and will support you with managing your pet’s health care expenses by offering treatment options and providing the following pay-on-the-day choices: EFTPOS, internet banking, Visa and Mastercard; Bundle monthly pet plan offers unlimited consults and includes the pet’s key healthcare needs, as well as discounts and special offers; Anexa Vets also accept Afterpay, Q card and Smartcover

pre-approved finance options.

Another option could be to set up a bank account specifically for your pet and put money aside regularly, so you have a fund to draw from if your pet needs care over and above their yearly expenses. Anexa Vets also accept pet insurance.

Bundle pet plan is available to cats, dogs and rabbits of all ages. It includes a pet’s key veterinary care in a monthly payment plan. Once enrolled, the pet will receive unlimited consults, an annual health check including bloodwork and urine analysis, routine vaccinations, microchips and NZCAR registration, nail clips, and discounts on surgery, dental care, pet food, flea and worm treatments. Specific information can be found at [anexa.co.nz/bundle](http://anexa.co.nz/bundle). Medications are excluded from the cost of the monthly plan so the vet can provide the client and patient with the best options for their situation.

How can you help reduce pet care health costs? The adage prevention is

better than the cure runs true regarding health care. Help your pet stay healthy: Ensure your pet maintains a healthy weight – keep them not too heavy, not too light; Feed a quality diet specific to your pet’s needs - our staff are happy to help select a pet food that suits; Treat your pet regularly for fleas, worms and ticks – this will help prevent disease and skin irritation; Regularly handle your pet – note and investigate changes found; Opt for annual health checks and vaccinations; Opt for regular dental checks and maintain dental health to reduce the risk of disease; Opt for preventative care testing – a warrant of fitness for your pet’s internal function. Testing can pick up very early signs of disease, allowing much easier (and cheaper) management.

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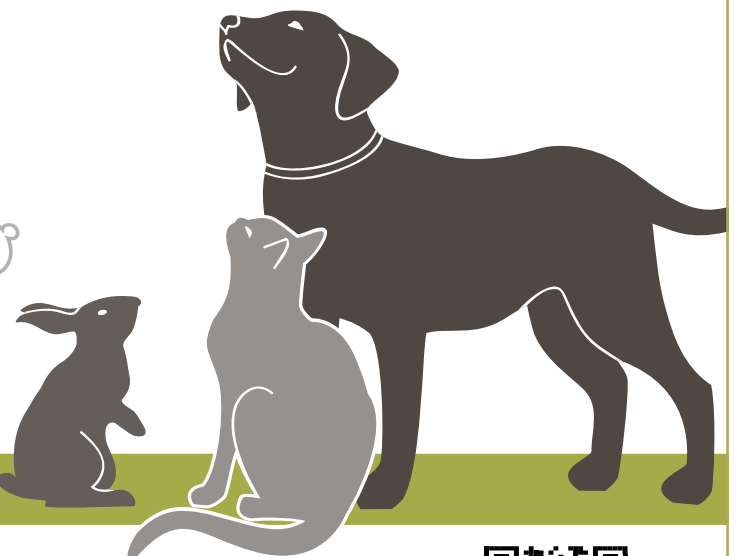
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# Lada station wagon served Police well

OPINION



By RON AGNEW

I still smile when I recall joining the Police with Constables Nig Paki Paki and Chris Dale in 1972 at the police Training School in Trentham.

We were issued with a siege black uniform, a small wooden baton, a whistle, small plastic torch and a pair of braces to keep the trousers up.

Most dumped the plastic torch and bought a large metal one. I don't think I ever drew the wooden baton in anger, the torch could be used much more easily.

The tired old grey 1972 Holden Belmont we had in Thames was worn out, but gradually the cars were replaced. The cities received the new cars, and we got the leftovers. I recall in the 1980s the Police were trying out Ford Falcons and had some converted to CNG fuel (Compressed Natural Gas), to save money. The Huntly car had blown its motor, shortly



The second-hand Lada station wagon gifted to Thames Police in the 1970s.

Photo: SUPPLIED

after going on to CNG. Late one night, the Ngatea Constable, Nigel Petrie, called to say he needed back up, at the Shell Petrol Station, where two carloads of gang members were causing problems.

I headed along Hauraki Rd on a dark still night as fast as I could go on CNG. When just before Turua, the front of the car lit up with screaming red hot metal shooting all over the place in all directions and up in the air.

It was an amazing sight and lit up the night!! I called for

Mike Moore, our terrific local tow truck operator, and we had lots to talk about on the way back to town after picking up as much hot metal as we could off the road.

The police discontinued using CNG shortly after. Years later, as Community Constable, I put feelers out to car dealers for a sponsored car to use to get around the Peninsula for meetings; Neighborhood support, Victim Support etc. At one of our regular Police social functions, to which the community was usually invited; I

approached Mike Saunders of Mike Saunders Motors (now Saunders Mitsubishi) and put the request to him.

He happily agreed.

I must say it was a shock the following month when I went in to get the car. It was a second-hand 1500cc Russian Lada Station Wagon. But I was grateful, and we had the car sign written as a Police car and it served us well for many years roving the peninsula, Hauraki, Hamilton. It even took part in a small chase one day to pull over a wanted car.

The only drawback was fifth gear, which, when engaged, slowed the car right down as there was not enough power in the motor to support fifth gear.

It sadly ended its days when I accidentally put it over the bank entering Waiomu; where we landed on the rocks below - it bellied on to a large rock on the beach. I called for assistance and Sergeant Peter French responded and amazingly drove it off the beach and back to Thames, very slowly.

Patrolling on a quiet night shift in Thames, we were mystified to find a driver on Queen St wearing a crash helmet. When stopped he turned out to be a Japanese tourist who explained that he finds New Zealand drivers aggressive and a bit dangerous, so he prefers wearing a helmet when driving in NZ. We did lose a police car for much of the day at one stage. Detective Sergeant Steve Lewis was the Thames CIB branch. He had recently joined the Thames Club and went for drinks and snooker after work one night. Later that evening, he called requesting a ride home, a little worse for wear.

Next day he sheepishly came in late for work, with a hazy memory and asked for a search of the general area, for the plain blue Holden CIB car. It wasn't in all the usual places, but was later found very discreetly parked out of sight from the night before!!

- Ron Agnew is a former Thames Police officer

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## ENTERTAINMENT

## Hauraki entertainers to perform

By GORDON PREECE

Up to 12 Hauraki performers will grace the Paeroa Little Theatre stage for its Pre Winter Knees Up on April 28.

Committee member Don Neil told *The Profile* the committee decided to hold the event after the success of last year's Friday Night at the Theatre performance, which attracted a full house. "The vibe in the theatre was just so lovely... people are realising we are becoming quite a popular venue for singers, poets, or evenings and that is a biggie too," he said.

"As a theatre we're here for the performers, it's a chance to enhance their reach within our community, that there are terrific musicians and poets within our community."

Don said the performers, consisting of musicians, storytellers, poets and a contemporary dance group, will entertain this year's audience.

"Quite a few from last year have returned because they enjoyed it so much even as performers or as part of the crowd," he said.

"The performers that we have are from within Hauraki, including Paeroa, Mackaytown, Karangahake, Waikino, Waitawheta, and Waihi catchment, so we've kept it very much local."

Don said doors will open at 6:30pm and the curtains will draw for the opening performance at 7pm.

An intermission will take place



Waihi local Caron Clay, left, and Beccy Dove will serenade the audience. Photo: SUPPLIED/TOMEK FREDRICH

at around 8pm with the show wrapping up between 9:30pm and 10pm.

Tickets are available at the door for \$20, which will go towards the upkeep of the Francis St theatre.

"We hope this will be as successful as it was last year and that would go a long way towards keeping us for the year," Don said.

**DETAILS: Paeroa Little Theatre Pre Winter Knees Up, 1 Francis St, April 28, doors open at 6:30pm, first performance at 7pm, intermission at 8pm, finish between 9:30pm and 10pm, Tickets available at the door.**



Rowena Buchannan, left, and Don Neil. Photo: GORDON PREECE

## Waihi Fire open day

By GORDON PREECE

The public have been ignited to rush to the scene at 69 Kenny St for the Waihi Fire Brigade open day on April 15.

Chief fire officer Moe Stevens said the station had undergone a close to \$2 million redevelopment for earthquake proofing and the open day was a chance for the public to see the "pretty flash" upgrade.

"It's the first time since it was built [in 1966] that we've had something spent on it by the fire service and so we're now looking pretty flash so we would now like to have an open day and give the locals a chance to have a look round," he said.

"We've got a couple of cars to cut up, we've got fire engine rides, barbecue, coffee, kids activities, an escape maze, and kitchen fire demonstrations," he said.

Moe said the event, which will be held between 10am and 2pm, would be free entry and a charge will apply for the sausage sizzle to raise funds for Leukemia and Blood Cancer New Zealand.

**DETAILS: Waihi Fire Brigade open day, 69 Kenny St, April 15, 10am to 2pm, BBQ, kitchen fire demonstrations, escape maze, car cutting demonstrations, fire engine rides, money raised from sausage sizzle sales will be donated to Leukemia and Blood Cancer New Zealand.**



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Applications are now being received and considered by the Directors of We Care Community Trust in accordance with their authorised purpose statement and the funds that are available. Applications close at the end of each month for consideration the following month.

Applications can be obtained online from:

<https://wecare.org.nz/> or from

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Thames



# SPORTS

## Round the ring

High school students saddled up for the Thames Valley Secondary Schools Show Jumping Day at Ngātea Pony Club on March 24, where each horse and rider had an appetite to rein supreme. Reporter **GORDON PREECE** headed along to snap the action.



Charlotte New paces with her horse Maisie Mouse.



Hauraki Plains College student Lucia Seuss takes a leap of faith.

Photos: GORDON PREECE



Waihi College student Kylia Muir and Comet prance over the jump.



Chloe Aithchison and PR Playboy.



Tamsin Douglas trots the course.

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Placemakers Thames' John McGill says staff do "the very best" for clients. Photo: GORDON PREECE

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Branch operator John McGill, who has held the role for 24 years, said Placemakers' 16 staff do "the very best" for retail and commercial clients, especially during recent periods of supply chain issues due to Covid-19.

John said he hoped to expand Placemakers' trade and retail supply.

"We've all been through the ups and downs of the whole thing and it's been testing for everybody and the builders themselves... but it looks like it's starting to improve slowly," he said.

"I think the industry itself would stand up for a period of time in terms of record house builds and in the Coromandel," he said.

"We're very well rounded, I think we've

"We're very much seeing a lot of that where people from out of town come and build, especially on the eastern [Coromandel] border," he said.

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Timeline for appointment process:

- 14 April: shortlisting, reference checks. Shortlisted applicants will be contacted to arrange an interview time.
- 17 April: interviews, successful applicants notified by phone, unsuccessful applicants notified in writing by email.

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### Situation Vacant

**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 a Motorsport Hillclimb event organised by Thames Valley Car Club 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:** Sunday 21 May 2023, 9.00am to 5.00pm.

**Roads to be closed:** Pukewera/Taiieri Roads, Waihi

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 the Transport Manager on 07 862 8609 or email [info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz](mailto:info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz) by 26 April 2023.

L D Cavers  
Chief Executive  
Hauraki District Council

### Public Notice

**ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATION  
PARADES AND SERVICES  
TUESDAY 25 APRIL, 2023**

Citizens are invited to attend Public Commemoration Services to be held in the Hauraki District on TUESDAY 25 APRIL, 2023.

**Paeroa Ward Civic Service**  
Public Commemoration Service to be held in the Paeroa War Memorial Hall at 9:15am.  
The Service will be preceded by the Parade, which will assemble in Wharf Street behind the RSA at 8:45am. Organisation Markers are requested to report to the Parade Marshal by 8:45am.  
The Parade will commence at 9:00am proceeding to the War Memorial Hall via Wharf Street, Belmont Road and Normanby Road.

**Plains Ward Civic Service**  
Public Commemoration Service to be held in the Ngatea War Memorial Hall at 11:15am.  
The Service will be preceded by the Parade, which will assemble in Pipiroa Road behind the RSA at 10:45am. Organisation Markers are requested to report to the Parade Marshal at 10:45am.  
The Parade will commence at 11:00am proceeding to the War Memorial Hall via Pipiroa Road and Orchard West Road.

**Waihi Ward Civic Service**  
Public Commemoration Service to be held in the Waihi Memorial Hall at 11:00am.  
The Service will be preceded by the Parade, which will assemble in Seddon Street beside the RSA at 10:30am. Organisation Markers are requested to report to the Parade Marshal at 10:30am.  
The Parade will commence at 10:45am proceeding to the Memorial Hall via Seddon Street.

**Services Dress – Mufti and Service Medals  
Wreaths** will be laid during the service

All organisations and persons wishing to present wreaths at each ward CIVIC service are asked to advise Katie McLaren, telephone 07 862 8609 no later than 4.00pm on Tuesday 18 April 2023.

**Other Non-Civic Services:**

Paeroa Dawn Service	6:00am	Cenotaph Primrose Hill, Paeroa
Kerepehi Dawn Service	6:00am	War Memorial Hall, Kerepehi (5:30am muster for parade)
Kaiaua Service	7:00am	Ruaoneone Urupa, F Lowry Rd, Whakatiwai
Kaihere/Patetonga	9:00am	Kaihere Hall, Kaihere
Ngatea Dawn Service	6:00am	Hauraki Plains College, Ngatea
Waihi Dawn Service	6:00am	RSA Club Waihi
	8:00am	Wreath Laying, Waihi Cemetery
Tunnelling Company	9:00am	Gilmour Reserve, Waihi

DA Adams JP  
MAYOR  
Hauraki District

*Lest we forget*



# SPORTS



Hauraki RSA captain Richard Coe, left, receives the McCarroll Cup from Hauraki RSA president Chris Whitton.



Teams observe a bowls match. Photos: TREVOR BIRCHALL



The winning Hauraki RSA team.



The Paeroa RSA team.

## Hauraki wins RSA sports competition

By GORDON PREECE

Hauraki RSA bowled, stroked and hit the bulls-eye to win the refreshed McCarroll cup competition against Paeroa RSA on April 2.

The cup, which was named after the McCarroll family who lived in Ngatea, involves teams from local RSA organisations competing in bowls, snooker and darts.

Hauraki RSA publicity officer Trevor Birchall said while the inaugural competition for the cup was held in 1963, the event had not been held since 2017.

"I came on the committee and wanted to find out a little about it and re-establish it so I invited the Paeroa team to come and play us and put a bit more life into it," he said.

"We're going to be invited back to Paeroa at a date still

to be finalised... so we can play twice a year and continue it as it traditionally has been."

Trevor said the Hauraki team, which consisted of 12 of its committee members, were "jubilant" when they won the silverware.

"There were no other words for it... Paeroa had won the snooker, darts was shared... and the bowls we happened to be slightly better," he said.

## Inaugural Paeroa night golf competition a big hit

Forty five keen golfers braved what might have been a cold dark night to play the inaugural Night Golf three-person Ambrose event on the evening of April 5.

It was a brilliant clear evening with close to a full moon. Some played their part with fully lit up trundles, bags etc to make like mobile lighthouses, clearly making their mark around the course.

Golfers played six holes from each nine in teams of three.

The flag pins and Tee blocks were made up with glow sticks and garden lights, and the glow balls surprised all entries.

It was an amazing finish to the Linn Motors Business house twilight summer series.

Next game will be a composite course nine-hole individual event.

- Colin Anderson



Golfers enjoy playing at night under a near-full moon.

Photo: MARGARET MACLAURIN



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		1	9	8	4		2	5
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HARD

95

HARD

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95

MEDIUM

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EASY

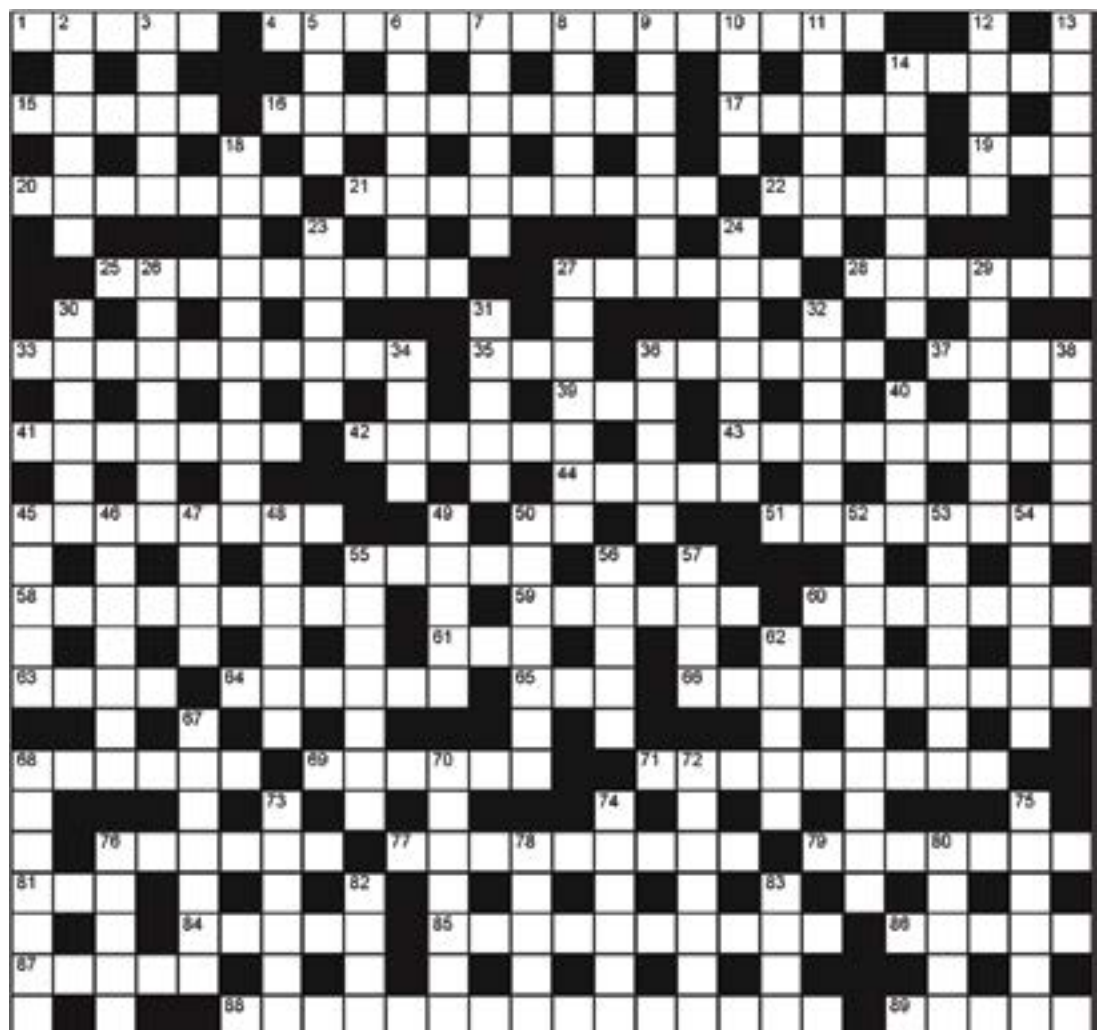
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5	4	6	1	3	8	9	7	2
6	1	4	8	5	7	2	9	3
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# JUMBO CROSSWORD

115

- ACROSS**
- 1 Ceasefire (5)
  - 4 Become more ambitious (5,4,6)
  - 14 Investigate (5)
  - 15 Seller's patter (5)
  - 16 Good poker hand (5,5)
  - 17 River freight boat (5)
  - 19 Boy (3)
  - 20 Spotted feline (7)
  - 21 Customer base (9)
  - 22 Hole (6)
  - 25 Thwart (9)
  - 27 Dexterous (6)
  - 28 Renowned (6)
  - 33 Place of restricted flow (10)
  - 35 Jamaican musical style (3)
  - 36 Undergo pain (6)
  - 37 Final (4)
  - 39 Intestine (3)
  - 41 Tycoon (7)
  - 42 Thin covering (6)
  - 43 Financial debt (9)
  - 44 Coral island (5)
  - 45 Mended (8)
  - 50 Expression of hesitation (2)
  - 51 Rebel; outlaw (8)
  - 55 Shepherd's staff (5)
  - 58 Abundant (9)
  - 59 Combined (6)
  - 60 Walk heavily or tiredly (7)
  - 61 Night flier (3)
  - 63 Platform (4)
  - 64 School non-attender (6)
  - 65 Go astray (3)
  - 66 Headland (10)
  - 68 Meat pin (6)
  - 69 Stinging plant (6)
  - 71 Going up (9)
  - 76 Floor covering (6)
  - 77 Allowed (9)
  - 79 Pair (7)
  - 81 Court (3)
  - 84 Backbone (5)
  - 85 Considerate (10)
  - 86 Soldier's decoration (5)
  - 87 Throw out (5)
  - 88 Very difficult to catch, pin down (8,2,2,3)
  - 89 Penniless (5)
  - DOWN**
  - 2 Sword (6)
  - 3 Inexpensive (5)
  - 5 Tiny particle (4)
  - 6 Bright red colour (7)
  - 7 Counterbalance (6)
  - 8 Burst (5)
  - 9 Learned person (7)
  - 10 Asian desert (4)
  - 11 Intimidating remark (6)
  - 12 Mirthful (5)
  - 13 Interferes (7)
  - 14 Fishing bird (7)
  - 18 Gold seeker (10)
  - 23 Basket for fish (5)
  - 24 Hidden or unsuspected difficulty (7)
  - 26 Circular building (7)
  - 27 Word puzzle (7)
  - 29 Egg-shaped musical instrument (7)
  - 30 Discover the position of (6)
  - 31 Grey-faced (5)
  - 32 Partial refund (6)
  - 34 Was aware of (4)
  - 36 Bend down (5)
  - 38 Culinary herb (5)
  - 40 Conceal (4)
  - 45 Quick (5)
  - 46 Childish (7)
  - 47 Jot (4)
  - 48 Exertion (6)
  - 49 Automaton (5)
  - 50 Stringed instrument (7)
  - 52 Reduce the number of options (6,4)
  - 53 Shine wetly (7)
  - 54 Crave (6)
  - 55 Meat chopper (7)
  - 56 Saltpetre (5)
  - 57 Retain (4)
  - 62 Pugilist (5)
  - 67 Thaw (7)
  - 68 Underwater plant (7)
  - 70 Playhouse (7)
  - 72 Add sugar (7)
  - 73 Story in episodes (6)
  - 74 Periods in development (6)
  - 75 Go onboard (6)
  - 76 Managed (5)
  - 78 Irritable (5)
  - 80 Diaphanous (5)
  - 82 Cry (4)
  - 83 Uncontaminated (4)



## PREVIOUS SOLUTION

**ACROSS:** 1 Awkward, 4 Restricted, 9 Academy, 13 Link, 14 Grovel, 15 Vienna, 16 Propose, 19 Bassoon, 20 Let sleeping dogs lie, 21 Gazebo, 22 Sticky, 24 Duplicate, 29 Heirloom, 30 Beaver, 31 Sparrow, 35 Contains, 36 Margin, 37 Earl, 38 Camel, 39 Yet, 41 Shell, 43 Seethe, 47 Zebra, 50 Hop, 54 Covet, 55 True, 56 Collie, 57 Triangle, 60 Fiction, 61 Govern, 62 Exhausts, 65 Applauded, 67 Asthma, 68 Savage, 72 Blot on the landscape, 75 Old hand, 77 Attempt, 78 Fathom, 79 Appeal, 80 Silo, 81 Pretend, 82 Ingredient, 83 Airless.

**DOWN:** 1 Ad-lib, 2 King-size, 3 Daring, 4 Revolution, 5 Split, 6 Rivalry, 7 Clever, 8 Ennui, 10 Carbon copy, 11 Deposit, 12 Mosaic, 17 Double bass, 18 Agile, 21 Grouchy, 23 Compass, 25 Uneven, 26 Cringe, 27 Launch, 28 Bolero, 30 Bugle, 32 Reap, 33 Knot, 34 Urge, 40 Exotic, 42 Lard, 44 Exceed, 45 Talon, 46 Evident, 48 Barque, 49 Avant-garde, 50 Huge, 51 Prelude, 52 Dent, 53 Remote, 58 Rolling pin, 59 Chamber pot, 63 Sushi, 64 Parasite, 66 Patient, 67 Assumed, 69 Slater, 70 Anchor, 71 Sonata, 73 Learn, 74 Adage, 76 Dross.



SPORTS

# National success relayed to junior riders

By GORDON PREECE

A Paeroa BMX Club coach hopes her second place finish at the recent national championships can inspire the next generation of young peddlers.

Caitlin Georgantas, who lives in Te Awamutu, first saddled up to coach in Paeroa in September last year.

She told *The Profile* she was “stoked” to pass on her skills and knowledge at the Taylor Ave club.

“I did a bit of coaching in Hamilton and I had done some [coaching] when I lived down in Wellington so when [Paeroa BMX Club] approached me, I thought why not help coach a different area of riders and hopefully provide as much knowledge as I can to them,” she said.

“I really enjoy the kids [at Paeroa BMX Club] and their will to learn about the sport and how passionate they are about the sport.

“I started from a small club down in Wellington and I wasn’t really good when I started and a lot of people don’t really believe that... I try to teach the kids that because they’re very much a small club that is very much like where I started.”

Caitlin said the Paeroa club was “very supportive” after her second place achievement at the 2023 BMX NZ National



Caitlin Georgantas, centre back row, says she is “stoked” to pass on her skills and knowledge to the BMX riders she coaches in Paeroa.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Championships held in Tauranga last month.

“They shared the post on Facebook and I could hear them cheering for me and it was quite cool for the kids to know a name in that class,” she said.

“I’ve been riding since 2009 and I think that might have been my 13th nationals... and

I was pretty stoked [to achieve second place], happy to still be out there and pushing it with the girls.”

Caitlin said she competed under Hamilton BMX Club at the nationals.

She coached up to 30 BMX riders once a fortnight at the Paeroa club, which was also

focused on getting its wheels spinning again with more members and volunteers, particularly after track damage caused by Cyclone Gabrielle.

“We actually spent one session we were supposed to be riding and coaching just fixing the tracks,” she said.

“Everytime it floods it just

puts more work on the small amount of volunteers and members that they have, so it’s a bit of a tough one with all the flooding that’s been going on out there.

“[The club is] constantly using social media to try and get more members and volunteers... it’s a fun sport.”

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