

# The Valley Profile

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  **The Valley Profile**

## Seizure gives principal 'insight'

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

When Alison Imrie heard that someone was having a seizure on the grounds of Goldfields Special School in Paeroa, she assumed it was a student. But then she saw her boss' shoes.

Cam McKenzie, 45, suffered his first and only seizure on August 22 at around 8.10am.

It was caused by a meningioma brain tumour that doctors said had been growing inside his head for around 10 years.

The principal has since recovered from a surgery to remove the tumour, and is back working at the special school on Norwood Rd.

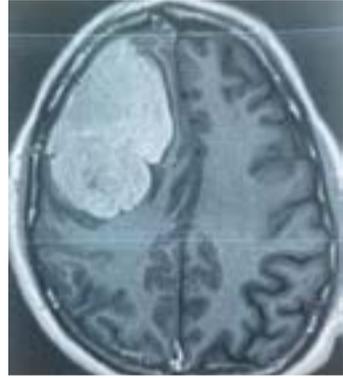
He told *The Profile* he's now armed with a greater appreciation of what some of his 87 students go through on a regular basis.

"They are the unsung heroes," he said. "A student could have three or four [seizures] a week and they don't make a big deal out of it."

On the morning of the seizure, Mr McKenzie, who lives in Ōmokoroa in the Western Bay of Plenty, drove through Katikati, the Athenree Gorge, and the windy Karangahake Gorge before reaching work.

He had the seizure just outside of his office 20 minutes before students were set to arrive.

"It was a Monday morning and I could hear all the staff, so I went over to our student cards



Cam McKenzie is back at work after a seizure led to the discovery of an "apple-sized" brain tumour, shown in the x-ray, right, and the large scar after the surgery, left.

to get the details for the ambulance, but then I saw my boss's feet and thought we better get the staff file instead," Alison said.

In what is a usual routine for the trained teachers at Goldfields, staff called an ambulance and timed the length of Mr McKenzie's seizure. It lasted almost four minutes,

during which he bit his tongue and chewed a hole through his crown, cracking his filling. An ambulance crew from Paeroa St John arrived on site within two minutes after he woke up.

Mr McKenzie said he was then taken to Thames Hospital, where they discovered the benign tumour the size of an apple.

He underwent an operation at Waikato Hospital on August 31, got 42 staples in his skull, and now has an impressive scar.

"The neurosurgeon said I'd hit the tumour jackpot," he said, "because it wasn't tangled around anything, it was just sitting right on top."

He cannot drive for 12 months;

instead, he has been catching a ride to school each day from a fellow teacher at Paeroa College.

The whole ordeal, he said, has left him with a greater appreciation of what his students go through on a regular basis - some of whom suffer from epilepsy.

"It gave me a greater insight into how vulnerable they are, because when you're down on the ground, you're really putting your trust in the people around you," he said.

"I also have a greater appreciation of what our parents go through with their children, knowing that something like that could happen at any time... they just trust us without question."

Mr McKenzie said he'd thanked his staff "at least three times each" for their support during and after the seizure, and also wanted to show appreciation to the staff at Paeroa St John and Thames Hospital.



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# Tree 'makes crochet cool again'

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

The crocheted Christmas tree that takes pride of place along Ngātea's main street is even "bigger and brighter" this year.

The tree - made up of more than 2000 crochet squares - has been erected at the Hugh Hayward Domain, and Ngātea Lions member Bruce Foster said the colourful icon continued to gain attention.

"When we were putting it together, people would stop on the side of the road, and they'd look, and they'd come over. One woman was with her children and said they loved the playground, but they also loved the tree, and each time they came through they stopped to have a look at it."

The tree now stands between 7-8 metres tall - two metres taller than last year thanks to a funding donation by the Hauraki District Council.

There are also new crocheted squares, made by more than 40 creative people throughout the community, and this made the tree bigger and brighter than ever before, Bruce said.

The crocheted angel on top of



The Christmas tree stands taller than ever - between 7-8 metres. Photos: KELLEY TANTAU

the tree is named Mercy. "In 2019, when this started, the Hauraki Plains Lionesses were the instigators, and Kathy Karl got the idea from something she saw on the internet - a tree like this one in Italy," Bruce said. "She said to the Lionesses:

"We can do that." The frame was made up of an old rocket ship from a playground, and while council's parks and reserves manager found the best site for the tree, Alex Quinn from Quinn Engineering crafted the support frame and mounting system, which is permanently embedded

in the ground. Four years on, the tree's construction has become a much-anticipated holiday tradition, and this year, more than 20 hands were on deck to help set it up on December 5. "It is just so neat when you walk up the domain and see people stopping, and kids and

families having a look at it," Bruce said. "We just want a huge thank you to go out to all of those who have helped out in some way. "We couldn't have done it without the public helping us." Hauraki District Council provided the Ngātea Lions with funding via an application to the Creative Communities Scheme, with \$575 used to raise the height of the existing structure, and \$1380 used to purchase 400 balls of wool which were distributed to the 40-plus crocheters. This year, it also funded the installation of a "cool burning LED upright" inside the tree which will provide a visual night-time experience. "This sort of community-led project that creates interest in our parks and provides an opportunity to collaborate is exactly the type of project we love," Mayor Toby Adams said. "Not to mention this unique Christmas tree is making crochet cool again and that's a real win for highlighting talents that are in danger of becoming a lost art."

Mayor Adams said there would now be stiff competition between the tree, the Paeroa L&P Bottle, and the Waihi Pumphouse for the best place in the district to take a photo to say: "I was here" this summer.



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# OUR COROMANDEL

THAMES  
COROMANDEL  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

News from Thames-Coromandel District Council

14 December, 2022

## Meri Kirihimete | Merry Christmas

from all of us at Thames-Coromandel District Council.



L-R: Kishan Raikwar, Rob Johnston, Holly MacKenzie, Martin Rodley, Mayor Len Salt, Peter Revell, Robyn Sinclair and Adrian Catran.

“Christmas is the one time that traditionally families get together to enjoy each other’s company, reminisce over the past year, give some thought for the reason for the season and a time remember those who are not with us this Christmas,” says Thames Community Board Chair, Adrian Catran JP. “On behalf of the Board, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all Thames residents and visitors a very special Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.”

## Thames Community Board ready for action

It’s all go for the new Thames Community Board, who are keen to make change happen. Newly elected Chair, businessman and JP Adrian Catran urged the Board to work together proactively to be a driving force for improvement.



Architect and Public Art Trustee Rob Johnston was elected Deputy Chair.

Board members and Councillors visited Kōpū

Marine and Business Precinct, Thames Airfield, Thames Football Club and Netball Centre, Moanataiari and Create the Vibe in Mary Street to assess progress. As well as inspecting construction at Kōpū, the group discussed initiatives underway such as Thames and Surrounds Spatial Plan (a blueprint for Thames’ future growth), Thames Sports Partnership Project (looking at alternative sports fields for Rhodes Park), Thames Sub-region Aquatic Facilities Project (developing a new swimming pool facility to replace Centennial Pool), Tōtara Valley infrastructure (to enable housing development) and the Shoreline Management Plan (to protect our communities from coastal erosion and flooding risk).

## Hauraki Rail Trail new sculptures

Two new vibrant sculptures are set to be installed on the Hauraki Rail Trail after a recommendation by Thames Community Board to commit \$5,432 for maintenance and repairs.

*Interwoven* (concept model by Chris Budgeon) and *Miners’ Gates* (concept model by John McKeowen), were entrants in the 2017 Thames Public Art Trust community sculpture competition in 2017.

At 3.1m high, made of macrocarpa beams, *Interwoven* will be installed on Ngāti Maru Highway, not far from the junction with Maramarahi Rd. *Miners’ Gates* is built of 12 frames using old railway sleepers forming a replica of entry gates to a mine shaft. The structure will be installed near Rhodes Park.



We wish you a safe and festive holiday season. Don’t forget some services and schedules change over summer.



### CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRES

Our Council offices are closed from 3pm Friday 23 December, re-opening to normal hours on Wednesday 4 January 2023. For opening hours see [tcdc.govt.nz/contact](https://www.tcdc.govt.nz/contact) We are available on 07 868 0200.



### THAMES CENTENNIAL POOL

- Closed Sat 24 to Tues 27 December
- Open Wed 28 to Fri 30 December
- Re-opening on Wed 4 January. Visit [tcdc.govt.nz/swim](https://www.tcdc.govt.nz/swim)



### LIBRARY SERVICES

Our district libraries are closed from 12 noon on Saturday 24 December, re-opening on Wednesday 4 January at 10am. Our book drop will be open during this time. [tcdc.govt.nz/library-hours](https://www.tcdc.govt.nz/library-hours)



### KERBSIDE COLLECTIONS

Our peak period summer kerbside rubbish and recycling collection schedule for the Eastern Seaboard and Northern Coromandel begins Monday 26 December 2022 and ends Friday 10 February 2023. The collections will be Monday to Friday (no weekends), with collections commencing at 7.30am (not 9am). See [tcdc.govt.nz/kerbside](https://www.tcdc.govt.nz/kerbside) for collections for your area. If you’re leaving the area before your collection day, drop your material at your local Refuse Transfer Station. [tcdc.govt.nz/rts](https://www.tcdc.govt.nz/rts)



### LEAD THE WAY THIS SUMMER

Summer rules about where you can walk your dog are in place from Labour Weekend to 1 March 2023, with additional restrictions from 20 December to 31 January. The most important rule is that dogs must be on lead unless specified otherwise. Find out about off-leash dog exercise areas on: [tcdc.govt.nz/dogownerguide](https://www.tcdc.govt.nz/dogownerguide)



### WATER RESTRICTIONS

Water restrictions may be in place this summer. Check our water conservation tips. [tcdc.govt.nz/waterrestrictions](https://www.tcdc.govt.nz/waterrestrictions)



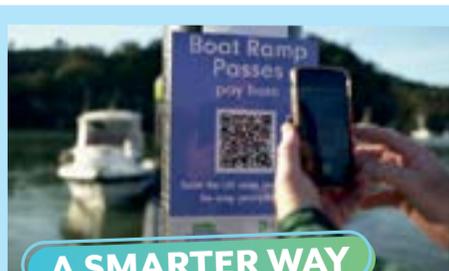
### ALCOHOL BANS IN PUBLIC PLACES

Our district has year-round, 24/7 town centre alcohol bans, plus additional Christmas and New Year alcohol bans on many of our beaches and seaside reserves. The ban for Xmas/New Year runs from 4pm on Friday 23 December to 4am on Monday 9 January. [tcdc.govt.nz/alcoholcontrol](https://www.tcdc.govt.nz/alcoholcontrol)



### SUMMER FIRE BAN

A total fire ban applies in the Coromandel from late December to early February each year. Check the rules here: [checkitsalright.nz](https://www.checkitsalright.nz)



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A reminder that the new QR payment system has replaced the physical ramp permits.

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# Carvers spend a year making float

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

It was back in 2021 when Alby Tukia and Sefo Tupou started working on what would become the hero piece of their 2022 Christmas Parade float.

The two carvers from Thames and Paeroa, respectively, crafted an 11-foot tall rimu chair to showcase during the yearly Santa Parades.

They've already completed the Paeroa parade - and won People's Choice while they were at it - and will be at the Thames Parade this weekend, ready to "smash it out of the park".

"My brother passed away up in Auckland, and he used to collect recycled things. I went up and saw [the rimu] and I never thought about carving it at the time, but I kept it and it came together," Alby told *The Profile*.

Alby is the president of the Paeroa and Thames Tongan Community, and this year, their float had the theme of 'The Royal Family', symbolising the British and Tongan monarchies.

The chair is named Tu'i Tonga - a line of Tongan kings that originated in the 10th century - and for the Paeroa parade on December 2, local Taufa Kaifa stood atop the float's highest point, thus making him "King for a day," Alby said.

He is not sure how much the chair weighs, but it takes "four or five Tongans to lift it".

"With Covid - we all know it



Taufa Kaifa was "King for a day" during Paeroa's Santa Parade on December 2.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

was a hard time - so to get the chair ready for last weekend was very special for us, in the sense that there was a hardship everyone in the world had gone through with Covid," Alby said.

"But the chair represents happy times."

Alby said the Tongan community was again ready to "smash

it out of the park" at Thames' Santa Parade on Saturday.

He said they were "very honoured and very blessed" after being named Paeroa's People's Choice winners.

"We were surprised because this is just our second year over in Paeroa taking part in the Christmas Parade, so we were

very, very happy to get the People's Choice and very honoured that the people of Paeroa see us as part of their community there."

The chair is for sale, and at the post-Christmas Parade whānau party at Thames South School, people are welcome to view it, and take photos with it,

Alby said.

**DETAILS:** Thames' Santa Parade, this Saturday, December 17 from 10.50am. Kicking off at the north end of Pollen St, then on to Thames South School for a whānau day event.



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# Waihi's lake-side Christmas

Go Waihi's Christmas at the Lake was a great success after being held instead of a Santa Parade on December 3. The emphasis was on children's activities, Go Waihi chair Max McLean said, as well as food, fun, and entertainment. Sarah Spicer was the MC and musical director, who helped organise more than four hours of stage entertainment. "Goodbye Christmas parade. Fun at the lake is here to stay," Mr McLean said.



A Troupe member from Thames High School dresses up.



A young attendee checks out the cake provided by Waihi New World.

Photos: SUPPLIED



A bouncy castle was supplied by Harcourts Waihi.



Rangi Wharawhara and THS students.



There were games galore.

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# That's a wrap!

It was a full house of helpers when volunteers got together at the Paeroa Baptist Church on Friday to wrap presents for children who might otherwise go without this Christmas. Co-ordinator of the toy drive, Jill Robertson, told *The Profile* she was "blown away" by the 257 gifts that were donated. The presents will now be distributed to schools and organisations, who will pass the presents on to the children. There were plenty of first-time wrappers this year, who had to navigate wrapping all sorts of quirky-shaped gifts. Friends Lois Waugh and Sheryl Dymock said "dinosaurs are definitely the most challenging". Reporter **KELLEY TANTAU** marvelled at the festive generosity.



Lois Waugh, left, introduces friend Sheryl Dymock to the wrapping day at Paeroa Baptist Church.



Mike Barr shows of his skills as a first-time wrapper.

Photos: KELLEY TANTAU



Julia Ross and her daughter, Hana, 12, help out ahead of the holidays.



Co-ordinator Jill Robertson.



The festive Patricia Kershaw.

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# Toy drive for Women's Refuge

By GORDON PREECE

Rotary Thames is hosting a present drive to bring Christmas joy to those at the local Women's Refuge.

The project encourages unwrapped gifts that are new or in good condition to be donated to the Christmas tree in the reception area of the Thames-Coromandel District Council (TCDC) office on Mackay St.

Rotary Thames volunteer Monika Lange, who's piloting the drive, told *The Profile* she thought the initiative would be "a good idea".

"I thought why don't we do something like that for Thames and I spoke to my fellow Rotarians and they thought it was a good idea too so I got some of my friends involved, and then I rang TCDC and spoke to them and they were quite open to it," she said.

"Rotary Thames always traditionally looks after children and teenagers and I thought Women's Refuge has a lot of children in there so why not choose Women's Refuge?"

"I then spoke to them and asked about what we were doing and they said they would be delighted."

Monika said the project, in collaboration with TCDC and her Thames/Coromandel Newsfeed Facebook page, would be open for gift donations until December 23.



Gifts are being dropped off at TCDC's Thames office as part of Rotary Thames' toy drive for Women's Refuge. Photo: GORDON PREECE

"We started on December 5 and we're hoping to get as many presents as we can for children, teenagers and of course women," she said.

"I go in every night to check what is there and take them home to make sure there's not

too many under the tree because you don't want them to be crammed in there because that's where the traffic for the council is.

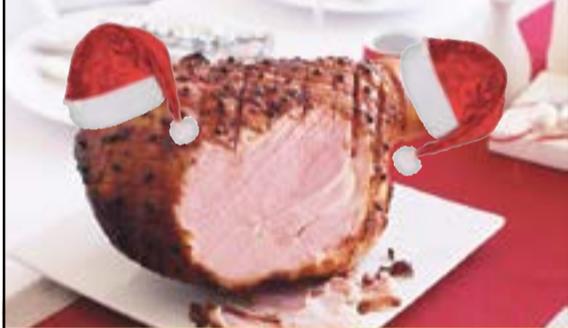
"Hopefully on December 23, we will bring it all to the Women's Refuge."



Henry Stilwell brought some festive cheer to Ngatea during his paper run last week. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

## Ho ho ho Henry

Valley Profile newspaper delivery person Henry Stilwell has been doing his December deliveries dressed up as Santa. Henry, 20, who delivers to letterboxes around Ngatea, said he liked the idea of donning a Santa suit to do his weekly run, and that he hoped everyone has a Merry Christmas and a safe holiday season. Valley Profile reporter **KELLEY TANTAU** caught up with him during his paper run last week.




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### PAEROA CHRISTMAS SERVICES CALENDAR

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**Sunday 18th** 7pm Carols at St Paul's Anglican

**Saturday 24th Christmas Eve**  
5pm service at Paeroa Elim  
7pm Mass at St Mary's Catholic

**Sunday 25th Christmas Day**  
8am at St Paul's Anglican  
9am at Paeroa Baptist  
9.30am at Paeroa Bible Chapel

Merry Christmas from the Paeroa Ministers to our Paeroa Community



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# Rural Life



Corey Petifer, left, and Brayden McMillan-Phillips with their truck driving awards.  
Photo: GORDON PREECE

## Truckers haul national awards

By GORDON PREECE

Puriri truck drivers Corey Petifer and Brayden McMillan-Phillips were “in shock” after hauling national awards at the national truck driving championships last month.

The Graeme Wright Transport drivers told *The Profile* they were entered into the Auckland heats of the TR Group NZ Truck Driving Championships 2022 by their boss, Graeme “Gunner” Wright, with both qualifying to compete in the final held in Christchurch on November 26.

Brayden went on to win TR Group Young Driver of the Year at the finals, and Corey, who has driven trucks for Gunner for six years, said he “fluked it” to win the TR Group Truck and Trailer Driver of the Year and New Zealand Truck Driving Champion.

“[I was] pretty shocked really, didn’t really expect it, [because I was] competing against some drivers from the South Island who had probably been driving for 30 years,” Corey said.

“I just went in and gave it what I got...and [the judges] were impressed - good driver, steady, and

focused.

“I’ve been told I’ve got an automatic entry into the finals in two years’ time when it’s held again.”

Corey, who previously worked for Kerepehi Transport, said competitors at the Auckland heats on October 15 had to undergo three trucking tasks.

These included a 35-question NZ Heavy Vehicle Road Code theory test, a pre-trip inspection, and completing a driving and maneuvering course.

“Gunner asked ‘would you be interested in doing it?’ so I was like ‘oh yeah, I’ll give it a go’.

“[The judges] were impressed and one of the judges was known to Gunner as well in previous years, he was an ex-Puriri local I think.

“I came first in the Auckland heats [for the truck and trailer category]... and that put me into the finals in the South Island [Christchurch].”

Corey said there were eight finalists in the final competition, who competed in a driving and maneuvering course and an on road test that was observed by a TR Group driving trainer.

Brayden, who returned to truck-

ing for Gunner six months ago after working for Alpha One Transport and Brett Marsh Transport, said drivers had to be 25 years and under to compete for the Young Driver of the Year award.

It was “a bit of a shocker” after he won TR Group Young Driver of the Year, he said.

“I must’ve scored the most points out of the young fellas.

“Meeting with the other drivers was bloody good, and all the staff running the thing was awesome.”

“Definitely something to look into and I encourage young fellas to give it a go.”

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# Rural Life

## Trees for Survival flourishes in Thames Valley

By GORDON PREECE

Thousands of trees have been planted by Thames Valley Schools in the past three years as part of a nationwide environmental initiative.

Trees for Survival is a charitable trust which works with more than 150 schools and local communities across New Zealand to grow and plant native trees along waterways and on erosion prone hillsides.

The programme provides an opportunity for school children to make a practical difference to their environment as well as learn about conservation, revegetation, wetland restoration and protecting stream quality.

Trees for Survival school facilitator for Hauraki and Lower Coromandel Tim Cruickshank told *The Profile* he had introduced the programme to 13 schools in Thames Valley over the past three years.

“With each school we develop relationships into mana whenua [territorial rights] and usually some local sponsorship if possible and anyone that would like to be involved in reforesting native plants in and around the school community,” he said.

“We look for a land holder associated with the school to try and do some restorative planting whether it’s stream edges or erosion prone banks or supporting as we do here in Hauraki.

“It’s the beginning of a long relationship year after year.”



Tim Cruickshank, centre, with Hauraki Plains year 13 horticultural students Ella Ashford-Beck, left, and Elaina Beagley.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

Tim said the Thames Valley schools that had engaged with the programme included Te Puru, Pārāwai, Thames South, St Francis, Puriri, Hikutaia, Goldfields, Kerepēhi, Netherton and Kaihere.

“We probably planted around 21,000 trees in the past three years. Last year we planted 4500 of those on the Hauraki Rail Trail with a majority planted by students in conjunction with HELP Waihi,” he said.

“Some students had never picked up a spade and they loved getting out of the school environment and into the real life planting situation on farms.

“We plant trees appropriate to the restoration site, so if it’s a stream edge, then we’re likely to plant sedges and grasses so they will better move with the flow of water.”

Hauraki Plains College was the latest school Tim had initiated the

Trees for Survival programme. Its horticulture students completed potting seedlings of native trees on October 26. “The small seedlings at the moment, they start at a few centimetres tall. We have a minimum planting size of 300 millimetres and depending on the variety and stage and height they were, they’re going to be passing that on to the first rain in autumn,” he said.

“Then maybe in May, June,

July and August next year, we’ll be planting 450 to 600 native trees.”

Tim said Te Uru Rākau New Zealand Forest Service had also commemorated Trees for Survival schools with stainless steel plaques and Hauraki Plains College had received one to honour teacher Logan Taylor for establishing and maintaining the Hayward Farm educational site.

“This was part of the Matariki Tu Rākau programme, it’s a celebration of Matariki and the planting of trees and it’s a national project to establish stands of trees across Aotearoa as places to honour New Zealand’s heroes,” Tim said.

“Four hundred and fifty seven trees were provided by the Trees for Survival programme and funded by Te Uru Rākau New Zealand Forest Service as part of the One Billion Trees programme and were planted by Hauraki Plains College in winter of 2022 to honour Logan Taylor.”

Tim said more trees planted on the Hauraki Plains would bring long term benefits to the area.

“The Hauraki Plains could do with a lot more native trees, the last three summers have been the driest on record.

“We need more shade and shelter and if we’re going to continue putting animals out on these plains, we need to help them out.”

Tim said he planned to introduce Moanataiari School to the Trees for Survival programme next year.

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**Rural Life**

**Damp summer predicted**

By GORDON PREECE

Hauraki-Coromandel rural residents have been prompted to stock up on essentials as ex-tropical cyclones are predicted to hit the area this summer, NIWA says.

NIWA meteorologist and forecaster Ben Noll told *The Profile* the opportunity for these types of rainfall events was higher compared to the previous December to February period due to a strong presence of La Niña.

“At the front end of summer we’re certainly not anticipating a drought to develop here early on in the summer season, so that’s good news for the locals, and the farmers and those on water tanks,” he said.

“However, on the flip side of that, the climate driver that we have is La Nina, the oceans around New Zealand as well as off to the north in the Southwest Pacific are warmer than average.

“That can be energy fuel for low pressure systems that form to the north and kind of drop down into the northern North Island including the Coromandel Peninsula and around the Eastern Waikato.”

Mr Noll said this weather pattern had created “equal odds” for normal or above normal summer rainfall and a normal to elevated risk for ex-tropical cyclones.

He said this could make way for Coromandel roads to be susceptible to floods and slips between December and February 2023.

“It does look like a wetter season compared to last summer, what we saw last summer was dryness kind of built up during January and then persisted into



Ben Noll says Coromandel roads could be susceptible to floods and slips this summer.

the Autumn season,” he said.

“I think this year the opportunity for rainfall events will come at a higher frequency compared to the previous year like sporadic downpours that can bring heavy rain and maybe even some localised flooding.

“If you hear of one of those strong weather systems tracking in, whether it’s SH25 or wherever you may be located and you do live in a very rural place, maybe stock up on essentials in case you are cut off due to slips or floods.”

Mr Noll said despite the predicted summer rainfall, it was “unlikely” to be a colder than average summer.

“That’s been a theme going on for the last several seasons, so there’s bound to be our fair share of hot days,” he said.

“That may even come with elevated humidity as well, sort of hot sticky nights that are tough to sleep, the frequency of those might be elevated.”

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# Smart bench to be trialled in Paeroa

Hauraki District Council is partnering with Smart City NZ to trial one of their smart benches in Paeroa this summer.

The smart bench will be installed in the quad in front of the Paeroa Information Hub for the community to try for three months.

The Smart Bench 1500 Ultra is powered by solar energy and stores energy for days where there is no sunshine and during the night.

With USB charging ports and a

wifi hotspot, the bench also measures temperature, air pressure and humidity.

“This trial is really about trialling the technology, if it is used and looked after, it could be something we will see more of in all of our towns,” Mayor Toby Adams said.

“I see the bench being a hit with our youth, but also encourage visitors to sit and recharge their phones and themselves, and perhaps stay a little longer.”



# Budgeting for your pet's care

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Bundle pet plan is available to cats, dogs and rabbits of all ages. It includes a pet's key veterinary care in an affordable monthly payment plan for less hassle and more joy. It offers the freedom of unlimited vet visits, and the peace of mind that the annual health care needs are covered, including unlimited consults, 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. Our vets take pride in tailoring each pet's healthcare to the individual pet's needs, it was essential to the team that Bundle did not override what was best for the pet. We had to be thoughtful about what was included. For example, medications have been excluded so the vet can provide the client and patient with the best options for their situation.

Anexa Vets are excited to be able to offer Bundle pet plan to our clients. The old adage “Prevention is better than cure” runs true in the veterinary world. A general rule of thumb is the sooner you identify a disease, the better the outcome for the pet – by taking the barrier away from seeing the vet, we hope to drive even better outcomes for our patients. For more information regarding Bundle, visit our website, [www.anexa.co.nz/bundle](http://www.anexa.co.nz/bundle), or chat with one of our friendly team.

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# Christmas 'grinch' conned residents



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

## Christmas

A Christmas Grinch in the shape of a woman imposter from Ngātea left a trail of chaos across Auckland in 1932.

In Christmas week she ran up an account with a taxi driver, and later called in a well-known surgeon, giving the name of a prominent farmer's wife at Ngātea. After arranging for an examination, she asked the surgeon for a loan until she could communicate with her husband.

He found the name the woman gave in a phone directory, and, being assured, lent her £2 5s.

She next went to an undertaker, gave the name of another Hauraki Plains farmer, and said that her husband's assistant had just died. She wished to arrange for the burial, she said. She described the body, gave measurements, and then borrowed £1.

She visited two other doctors, and, telling similar tales, obtained £2 5s from each. All the money was spent on drinking.

Meanwhile, in 1921, Kerepēhi school children enjoyed the rare treat at a concert which featured



A Christmas card from 1897.

Photo: SUPPLIED

a Christmas tree 'growing' in the middle of the stage bedecked with coloured balloons and presents. It looked the exact replica of trees read about in books and needed only the presence of a Santa Claus to make the picture complete.

When Mr Booth, school committee chairman, asked if any child had not received a present, a hand immediately shot up from the back of the hall and a gruff voice said "me".

A rather a portly gentleman, possessing not only a broad grin but a broad waistcoat, toddled to the chairman's table and to the amusement of all received his present, a balloon and bag of sweets.

St George's Church at Thames had a makeover in the lead up to Christmas, 1925. The steeple, which had rotted to such an alarming

extent that it rocked in windy weather, was plated in zinc and iron, and the timbering strengthened.

The shuttered windows were renewed and new buttresses were constructed throughout the building.

These and many other repairs were a severe drain on church funds but parishioners responded generously to special appeals and a substantial portion of the required money was raised. The church was one of the oldest and best known in the province.

Meanwhile, the train service at Waihi meant a large number of people could get away at their own convenience for the Christmas holidays in 1905.

The Railway Department appeared confident of carrying a lot of people during the holidays as they had many reserved carriages lined up in

the station yards, but the ride from Paeroa to Waihi through a three quarter mile tunnel, up a steep grade, with a small, smoky engine, was not likely to be very much enjoyed during the coming season.

Postal delays caused bewilderment in 1899. A Paeroa resident was sent a goose by railway on December 23 from Te Aroha and at the same time a postcard was sent "Meet the goose today at the railway station".

The goose reached Paeroa in half an hour, and, being expected, was met by the Paeroa resident on the arrival of the train.

The goose was killed, plucked, cooked, and about to be eaten and digested before the postcard was delivered next morning, the 24th, although it reached Paeroa by the same train as the goose.

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# Driver rips up racecourse

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

Reckless disregard of Paeroa's old racecourse has been described as "disappointing and sad" by a former Mayor who doesn't want to see the gates closed to the public.

In 2020, Wayne and Chloe Wright purchased the 33.5 hectare former racecourse with the intention of developing it commercially and residentially, as well as opening it up for community use after years of being closed to the public.

But an act of vandalism which saw the driver of a white station wagon do "wheelies" within its grounds could risk the private property's open door policy.

"I'm disappointed that there are some people in our community who would want to take advantage and do that sort of thing to generous benefactors of the town," Basil Morrison said.

"Someone must know who did it, and surely they must be disappointed because I certainly am."

Mr Morrison is a former mayor of Hauraki, and now is the "legs on the ground" for the Wright family. He keeps an eye on the racecourse and coordinates usage of the space.

Not only have markets and festivals been held on the



The lawn at the entrance to the old Paeroa Racecourse has been ripped up.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

grounds, but there have been luncheons hosted and organisations housed, and Mr Morrison said people using the space donate a koha which is given to the earthquake-strengthening fund at the Paeroa RSA.

The vandalism occurred around 11am on Monday, November 28 and was captured on video, which has been shown to

the Police.

Mr Morrison said he didn't want anybody "locked up" over the situation, but the offending was still serious.

"There was such a push-back when the previous owner shut the gate and no one was allowed in. The community was very upset about it," he said.

"The new owners got bolt cut-

ters, cut the chain and opened the gates, and they haven't been shut since.

"So, while I understand these things happen... surely when you hear of people doing good things, you'd be a bit more respectful."



## In Brief

### LATE NIGHT SHOPPING

GO Waihi will host a late night shopping event on December 23 from 6pm to 8pm with spot prizes, a Shop 'n' Win prize, Santa's Elves and Christmas music. GO Waihi is offering an opportunity for up to 10 Waihi businesses, charities or schools to bring a stall downtown so they can share in the Christmas buzz. Contact Mel, Ph 021 448 078 to book a space.

### CHRISTMAS AT THE VIBE

Thames Toastmasters is holding the Children's Colourful Christmas Read at Create the Vibe on Mary St on Saturday, December 17, 10am-11am for children aged 5-10 years and their parents and caregivers.

### THAMES SANTA PARADE

A Santa Dash at 10:50am will start off the this year's Thames Santa Parade on December 17. The parade floats will then spread cheer and goodwill from Cochrane St at 11am before making their way down Pollen St and end at Grey St, and parking in Te Kura o Te Kauaeranga Thames South School for activities from noon.

### CORRECTION

Incorrect contacts were published in the Thames Community Patrol story in The Valley Profile on December 7. The correct contact details for the Thames Community Patrol are: Graeme Wood, Ph 027 417 8224 or 07 868 8095. The Profile apologises for the error.

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# Thames High drama troupe steps up

By GORDON PREECE

Thames High School students have stood tall for their first public appearance on stilts.

The stilt walkers are part of the Thames High Troupe that was strapped in by drama teacher Luke Devery at the beginning of the year.

Luke told *The Profile* it was his passion project and he had introduced it to the students after teaching drama for 16 years at Waihi College.

"The reason for the troupe is so exciting - it takes the students out of the classroom into the real world and opens up professional and creative pathways that sometimes can be a bit hard to find," he said.

Luke said the troupe also stemmed from his early years as a roving performer.

"I started as a mime clown way back in the day, and after a few years I went to Melbourne to study and got interested in taking it further so I studied at the John Bolton Theatre School," he said.

"While I was at the school I got very interested in masks, physical theatre and melo-drama and Shakespeare, and I came back and started an undergraduate degree to become a teacher.

"It was always the fun part that got me excited about being in that world and I'm trying to share that excitement with these kids and give them that pathway that takes them



Luke Devery, centre, with Thames High School year 10 students Ellie Johnston, left, Kobe Brown, and Charlie Carr.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

beyond their school work into something a bit more real." Luke said the year nine to

year 13 students had been "very excited" to be part of the troupe.

"They've never seen anything like it before and it's wonderful to see them bringing their own

skill set into this work. They're already making up new acts and exploring new ways of getting out there," he said.

"With the mum and dad stilt walkers, it's supposed to be an old world colonial severe temperance woman with a slightly addled husband pushing a pram with a contemporary 21st century baby in it.

"The giant pram, that's a very old prop, it's been to the Edinburgh and Glastonbury festival many times."

Luke said stilt walking was also "not as hard as you think".

"The only trouble is you're strapped into them so you're more vulnerable than you look and one of the first things we do is we teach [the students] how to fall," he said.

"We also give solo performers another prop to give them a third point of balance, and they're always wearing knee pads."

Luke said the 24 hour Walkathon on November 4 was the first time the stilt walkers strutted their stuff to the public and new acts in the troupe would begin to follow.

"We put the stilt walkers out first because they are very visible, they look great in an environment because you can see them from a long way away, but there are a lot more masks, mime and character acts that we will put out as well," he said.

"We'll start to do events and festivals around the Coromandel and further abroad."

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# Simpson to restand in Coro

By GORDON PREECE

Scott Simpson has been reselected by the National Party to be its candidate for the Coromandel electorate at the 2023 election.

The incumbent Coromandel MP for 11 years told *The Profile* he was “thrilled and delighted” to receive the news of his reselection on November 30.

“It’s a great honour to have been selected once again to be the flag-bearer for the National Party in the Coromandel electorate,” he said.

“We’ve got a very big campaign ahead of us, and the good people of Coromandel have been kind enough to elect me at every election since 2011 and I’m hoping that they will do so again.

“But I have never taken it for granted, I always treat the Coromandel as if it’s the most marginal electorate in the country and for me everyday is a campaigning day.”

Mr Simpson, who retained the Coromandel seat in the 2020 General Election after beating Labour candidate Nathaniel Blomfield by 3,505 votes, said one of his highlights as the Coromandel MP had been implementing fibre broadband to Coromandel communities.

“I was able to work closely with the then minister Amy Adams and the National government to ensure that we have around our region a really good fibre fast broadband to most of our towns and

communities,” he said.

“It has meant people have been able to, for the first time in history many of them, have been able to have a work and income earning opportunity as a result of having access to fast fibre.

“But we still have some gaps so that’s an area I’m looking to continue working on.”

Mr Simpson said he had also campaigned to keep the Coromandel rescue helicopter in Whitianga for the summer period and long weekends. He also aimed to improve local roads, including fixing one-lane bridges, particularly around Tairua.

Mr Simpson said he had also worked on enlightened and practical approaches to environment, transport and climate change issues as the National spokesperson for the portfolios.

“National is the party of practical environmentalism, we like any other New Zealander want to protect and enhance our natural environment, we have a lot on offer, much of it is under threat and we need to have a better RMA [resource management act] system,” he said.

“We have to work with our farmers and our emitting sectors of the economy but also with individuals, families and communities to do everything we can to decarbonise our economy, to electrify our economy, and to bend our emissions curve quickly as we can before the end of this decade.”



The *Valley Profile* story, left, has been put in a zip-lock bag and placed in the wall lining.



Photos: SUPPLIED

## ‘Fitting touch’ for plumbing ad

By GORDON PREECE

Richard Battson has continued a family tradition by placing a recently published *Valley Profile* article in the same spot where a 130-year-old ad for his Thames family plumbing business was recently found.

*The Profile* reported on November 30 that Richard’s workmate Gareth Scott had found a newspaper advertisement for Francis Battson Plumbing inside the bathroom wall of an old Thames miner’s cottage on November 14.

The advert was published in the *The Evening Star* newspaper

in 1892 for the business, which was established in 1890 by Richard’s great-great-great-great-great-grandfather, Francis Battson.

Richard, who is the current director of the plumbing business, told *The Profile* placing the article about the find inside the wall on December 1 was a “fitting touch”.

“We thought that hopefully one day down the line if they do a renovation or something like that again on the property you just never know, it might be a future generation Battson plumber who might stumble across it,” he said.

“My old man [Gordon] was pretty chuffed with it and I’ve still got quite a few friends and family members saying they’ve seen me in the paper, so it’s been a bit of fun really.

“I put it in a zip lock plastic bag to keep it preserved.”

Richard said the 130-year-old remains of *The Evening Star* newspaper was “in pretty average condition” when it was found. He had passed it on to Gareth’s father, Jim Scott, to keep it preserved.

“I think Jim’s on the case to make a frame up for it from some of the kauri that was on site,” he said.

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McKenzie Northcott will deliver Cookie Time buckets to Hauraki-Coromandel emergency services on Christmas Eve.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

# Christmas cookies to be donated

By GORDON PREECE

Baked delights will be donated to Coromandel emergency services this Christmas Eve to spread Christmas cheer.

The charity drive initiative was established by Tairua resident McKenzie Northcott, who is the Cookie Time Christmas Cookie seller for Coromandel as part of her summer job.

McKenzie's aim is to donate 200 buckets of cookies to those at Fire and Emergency New Zealand, Hato Hone St John, and Westpac Rescue Helicopter around Hauraki-Coromandel.

So far, she has 44 charity buckets, which have been donated by her customers.

"On Christmas Eve, I'll do a drive along the Coromandel and divvy the buckets up between them all, I'll be starting in Tairua, then heading up to Whitianga, then around to Mataurangi, Kūaotunu, down the coast and then into Paeroa, Ngatea, doing the rounds," she said.

McKenzie decided to do the charity drive because many emergency services workers didn't get to spend Christmas with their loved ones because they were out rescuing on the beach, she said.

"I thought it would be pretty cool to donate buckets on Christmas Eve so at least they felt like they were having Christmas or have the opportunity to take

some buckets home for their whanau at the end of Christmas day.

"The population in the Coromandel goes from 0 to 100 over the summer, which means the amount of rescues also go from 0 to 100 and sometimes they're not recognised for all their hard work so it's nice to recognise them." McKenzie, who has just completed a management studies degree with honours in accounting from the University of Waikato, is selling cookies over summer prior to starting a full-time job at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Hamilton.

**DONATIONS: Ph 0800 XCOOKIE, email: mckenzie.northcott@christmascookies.co.nz.**

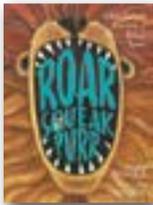
## BOOK REVIEWS



**Get Outdoors: Brilliant Boredom Busters for Kiwi Kids**  
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**ROAR SQUEAK PURR by Jamie Oliver**

A marvellous menagerie of more than 200 animal poems by Aotearoa's best writers, *ROAR SQUEAK PURR* shows just how fun poetry can be, and is sure to inspire a new generation of poets. In between the covers of this book you will meet creatures large and small. They might pad, or skitter, swoosh or soar. They could be fuzzy, feathery, suckery, scaly or spiky. These animals might ROAR or squeak or Purr. Just like the animals they are about, these poems come in all shapes and sizes!



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**Spaceboy, A Supersonic Adventure, by David Walliams**

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- Book reviews by Carson's Bookshop



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# Foodies

## Asparagus, avocado salad

### RECIPE

This salad goes together fantastically with ham and is a family favourite, so easy to prepare. Swaping out the blue cheese for shaved parmesan also works. Make the vinaigrette in bulk and you will always be ready to dress a salad.

- Supplied by Glory Cafe

#### INGREDIENTS

- 2-3 bunches of Asparagus
- 1 avocado
- 1/4 cup of walnuts chopped
- 3 tablespoons of blue cheese, crumbled
- 1/4 Cup of French Vinaigrette

#### French Vinaigrette

- 1/4 teaspoon of crushed garlic
- 2 tablespoons red- or white-wine vinegar
- 1/4 teaspoon fine sea salt, or to taste
- 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- 4 to 6 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- Freshly ground black pepper to taste
- Whisk to blend

#### METHOD

Cut asparagus into 5 cm pieces and cook in boiling salted water for 5 minutes, cool in ice water or just the cold tap would work. Place in a serving bowl, add diced avocado, scatter walnuts and crumble over the blue cheese.

Drizzle french vinaigrette over and serve.



This asparagus, avocado salad is a family favourite.

Photo: SUPPLIED

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- Mitch Hedberg

---

He was a bold man who first ate an oyster  
- Jonathan Swift

---

*Let food be thy medicine and medicine be thy food.*  
- Hippocrates

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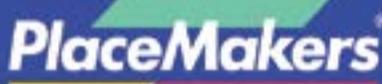
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Flash Excavations offers "pretty much anything you can do with a digger". Photo: SUPPLIED

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"We offer pretty much anything you can do with a digger from subdivisions, rural farm work to drainage, roading, house cuts, forestry work, civil works, retaining walls, stormwater, and heavy haulage," he said.

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Flash said the business planned to work with property developers on small and large subdivisions and railworks in the future.  
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# CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 1pm Monday

### Death Notice



**RUSSEK, Wain Michael (Nunga):**  
Born September 24, 1938. Passed away on December 2, 2022. There's only one Nunga Russek, and he died very peacefully. This dork was loved by many, including his wife Heather, his children Lynley, Angela, Peter and Melanie, and their respective partners James, George, Angela and Mitch. He was cherished by his grandchildren: Daniel (partner Bidi), Morgan (husband Jabe), Arianna (partner Greg), and Max. He was loved by his three great grandchildren Eva, Kaia and baby Boh. Dad was loved by close family friend Mike, and many friends and wider families and the community. Dad loved his family, his mates, his sports, his garden, his cats, and he loved a bad meat pie!  
The Memorial Service and Full Celebration of Nunga's life will be held on Tuesday 20th December 2022 at the Thames Rugby and Sports Club at 3pm.

### Wanted to Buy

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### Garage Sale

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### Public Notice

#### Proposed Temporary Road Closure



Pursuant to the Section 11(e) of the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974, notice is hereby given that for the purpose of a community event organised by the Waihi Lions Art and Street Festival committee it is intended to close the following road to ordinary vehicular traffic for the period indicated hereunder. During the proposed period of closure provision will be made for ordinary vehicular traffic, which would otherwise use the road, to use alternative routes.

**Period of closure:** Saturday 28 January 2023 between 8.00am and 3.00pm.

**Road to be closed:** Seddon St Waihi, between between Montrose Road and Haszard Street, not including the intersections.

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 Business Unit Administration on 07 862 8609 or [tmp@hauraki-dc.govt.nz](mailto:tmp@hauraki-dc.govt.nz) by 21 January 2023.

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# CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 1pm Monday

## Lost

### \$1000 reward for my safe return to my owner.

My cat Tinkerbelle (Tinkee) is missing. Last month I moved into Norwood Road Paeroa and she has been gone since 2/12/2022. She is very small & thin (thinner than pic) & has a tail that is a bit stubby at the end & extra toes on her paws. Microchipped & spayed. She is very very very timid and likely to be hiding - Please look around your neighbourhood for her. She may be hiding under or behind something or under your neighbours house/decks.

**PLEASE LOOK FOR HER & if spotted call/text me. 022 137 0145.**

**Any information gratefully received.**

**To me this cat is everything.  
Please help me bring Tinkee home.**





Jo Moriarty with one of the artworks that will be on display.

## Exhibition to raise funds

By GORDON PREECE

Hato Hone St John are holding an Art Exhibition and Sale in Waihi in the new year.

The two-day art event to be held at Waihi Memorial Hall will be a fundraiser for the new modern, fit for purpose, Waihi Ambulance Station which looks set to begin its build in 2023.

The Art Exhibition and Sale will feature new and pre-loved art works and some crafts, and the Area Committee is currently seeking donations of works for the event.

Jo Moriarty, from the Waihi Area Committee, said many beautiful pieces had already been donated, from both local artists and residents.

“Now we’d like to add to that. We’d really appreciate any new or pre-loved art you can donate.

Jo said the new Waihi Ambu-

lance Station will be built on the site of the current station in Johnston Street, and the concept plans will be on display during the event.

“The Art Exhibition and Sale is just the latest in many years of fundraising efforts,” she said.

“Alongside sausage sizzles, raffles, community events and grant applications there have been generous donations and bequests from the public.

Jo said canvas, watercolours, oils, pastels, posters, and framed prints would be on display at the event.

The community was encouraged to get behind the art event, with every piece donated to help fund the building of this essential community facility, she said.

**DETAILS: Waihi Art Exhibition and Sale, January 6-7, Waihi Memorial Hall, 10am-3pm, to donate art works contact: Jo Moriarty 021 066 3646 or Sheila Cummings 027 721 7711.**

## SPORTS RESULTS



TOP LEFT: Winners of the Primary Division: Mary-Ellen Weatherhead and Colleen Muir of the Pakuranga with club patron Claire Twentyman; BOTTOM LEFT: Winners of the Intermediate Division. Pam and Neal Henderson of Pakuranga; RIGHT: Winners of the Premier Division: Jim Dixon of Howick and John Wood of Pakuranga. Photos: SUPPLIED

### CROQUET

After a four-year hiatus following the devastating January, 2018, storm which inundated and damaged our lawns with seawater, the Thames Croquet Club, at 101 Beach road, held its first tournament on its home grounds to celebrate its 116th birthday on November 19.

The day dawned fine and 40 keen croquet players from as far afield as Warkworth enjoyed a full day of enjoyable and competitive tournament play. Other clubs represented were Pakuranga, Howick, Hamilton East, Claudelands, Waihi, Morrinsville, Whangamata, Paeroa and Thames. Following a sumptuous afternoon tea, the winners of each division were presented with their prize money by our club Patron, Claire Twenty-

man. The tournament was generously sponsored by Twentymans Funeral Directors.

### CRICKET

The unpredictable spring weather pattern which has extended into early summer this year, has spoilt cricket matches at all levels in recent weeks.

Hauraki Plains College First XI players had fortunately dodged the rain on match days more often than most but luck ran out for them and their Hillcrest High School opponents in Hamilton last Saturday.

However, rather than abandon play altogether, players and managers from both teams agreed to wait until the skies cleared and then a hastily arranged 20 overs per team was substituted for the

scheduled 50 over competition game. Hillcrest came out on top in this encounter. With the weather still holding off at the conclusion of this entertaining encounter, a further 10 overs per team game was called between two groups of cricketers simply wanting to play their sport.

Sadly the weather man again opened the flood gates and this match was abandoned after twelve overs had been bowled.

Details of the unofficial matches: Hillcrest High School 134 for 8 wickets off 20 overs. Logan Doudinski 2/15, Andy Rogers 2/19 defeated Hauraki Plains College 90 /8 wickets. Cullen Crowe 30. 10 Overs per Team Matchup: Hillcrest 61. Hauraki 28 after two overs Trent Ball 21 not out. (Match abandoned).

- Mike Cotter



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We guarantee the ashes you get back belong to your pet and only your pet.



**SUDOKU** 80

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

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

EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

80

80

HARD

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

MEDIUM

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

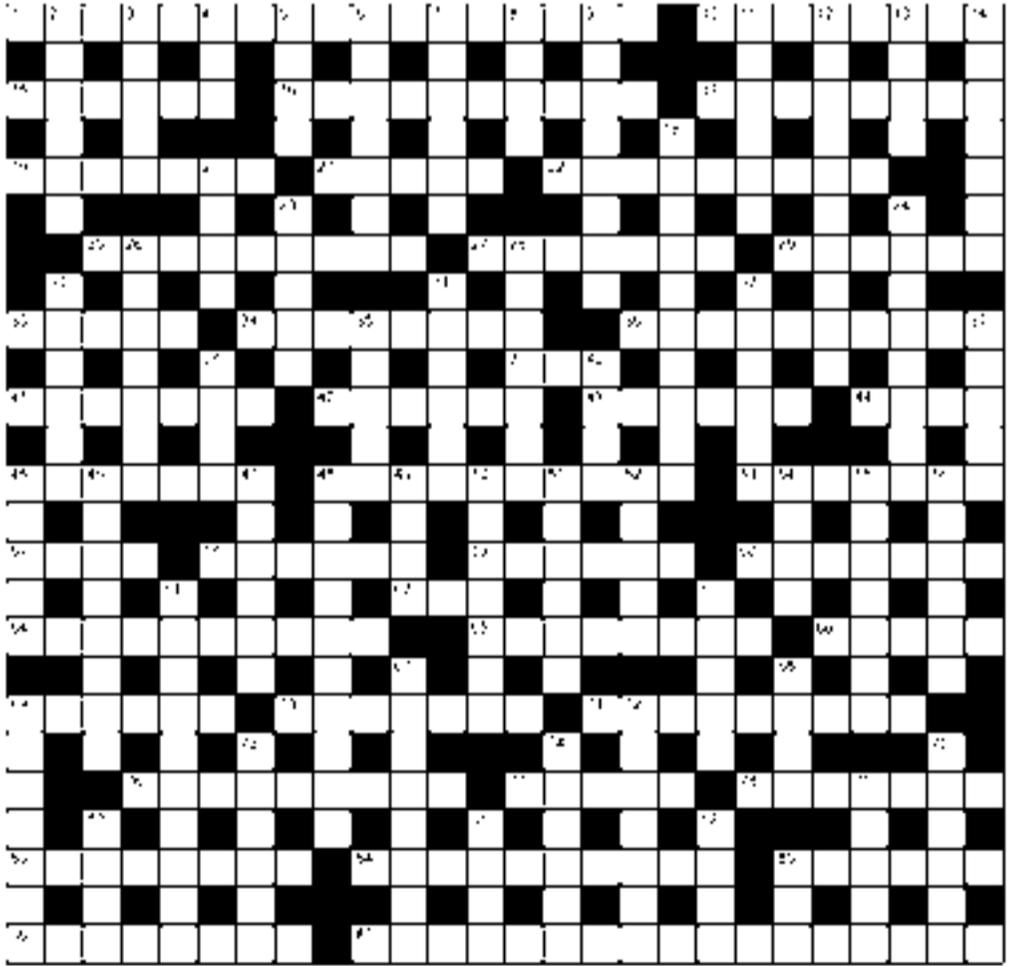
EASY

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

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**JUMBO CROSSWORD** 100

- ACROSS**
- 1 Angry (3,5,3,6)
  - 10 Unbent (8)
  - 15 Save from danger (6)
  - 16 Astuteness (10)
  - 17 Unlawful entry (8)
  - 19 Let go (7)
  - 21 Fret (5)
  - 22 Faulty (9)
  - 25 Of greatest importance (9)
  - 27 Quarantine (7)
  - 29 Old name for China (6)
  - 33 Foot lever (5)
  - 34 Recording tape container (8)
  - 36 Intentional (10)
  - 39 Racetrack circuit (3)
  - 41 Radioactive element (7)
  - 42 Go with (6)
  - 43 Rectangular (6)
  - 44 Break (4)
  - 45 Trace (7)
  - 48 Cloudy, fizzy, spicy drink (6,4)
  - 53 Competitiveness (7)
  - 57 Unctuous (4)
  - 58 Handwriting (6)
  - 59 Small dish (6)
  - 60 Energy sugar (7)
  - 62 Hole in needle (3)
  - 64 Appealing (10)
  - 65 Tobacco poison (8)
  - 66 Trainee (5)
  - 69 Option (6)
  - 70 Growled (7)
  - 71 Hearth (9)
  - 76 Crisis (9)
  - 77 Wide (5)
  - 78 Progress (7)
  - 83 Blunt criticism (8)
  - 84 Settle by concession (10)
  - 85 Religious witchcraft (6)
  - 86 Newspaper employee (8)
  - 87 Give a fresh start by cancelling the record of past offences (4,3,5,5)
  - DOWN**
  - 2 Unlocked (6)
  - 3 Male relation (5)
  - 4 Expected (3)
  - 5 Get up (4)
  - 6 Spear (7)
  - 7 Poltroon (6)
  - 8 Roadway division (4)
  - 9 Put together (8)
  - 11 Import or export duty (6)
  - 12 Affiliated (10)
  - 13 Pleased (4)
  - 14 Give evidence (7)
  - 18 Popular book (4-6)
  - 20 Drench (4)
  - 23 Faithful (5)
  - 24 Bomb fragments (8)
  - 26 Versus (7)
  - 28 Protect (7)
  - 30 Official order (6)
  - 31 Concentrated (6)
  - 32 Victor (6)
  - 35 Japanese dish (5)
  - 37 Unoccupied (5)
  - 38 Ladder step (4)
  - 40 Sit for (4)
  - 45 Stringed instrument (5)
  - 46 Answer (8)
  - 47 Arouse (6)
  - 48 Causes for complaint (10)
  - 49 Short letter (4)
  - 50 Crux (7)
  - 51 Rebound (6)
  - 52 Incident (5)
  - 54 Lazy (4)
  - 55 Very old (7)
  - 56 Bacon slice (6)
  - 61 Horologist (10)
  - 63 Alphabetic reference (5)
  - 67 Green vegetable (8)
  - 68 Adhesive (4)
  - 69 Iron lever (7)
  - 72 Sloping letters (7)
  - 73 Fold mark (6)
  - 74 Ornament pinned to clothing (6)
  - 75 Eastern temple (6)
  - 79 Witty (5)
  - 80 Hobble (4)
  - 81 Church recess (4)
  - 82 Second Greek letter (4)
  - 85 Compete (3)



**PREVIOUS SOLUTION**

**ACROSS:** 1 Glimpse, 4 Anticlimax, 9 Fantasy, 13 Easy, 14 Apathy, 15 Public, 16 Matinee, 18 Set, 20 Dictionary, 21 Unbroken, 22 Agape, 25 Scrape, 26 Fleece, 28 Itinerary, 33 Pampered, 34 Fracas, 35 Comfort, 39 Neurotic, 40 Bovine, 41 Hall, 42 Natty, 43 Edges, 46 Go like hot cakes, 53 Elect, 56 Ditty, 57 Weds, 58 Urbane, 59 Colander, 62 Jealous, 63 Spinet, 64 Epidemic, 67 Supersede, 69 Pester, 70 Pacify, 74 Alert, 75 Circular, 77 Cheesed off, 81 Aim, 83 Mongrel, 84 Queues, 85 Osprey, 86 Edgy, 87 Lectern, 88 Ventilated, 89 Admirer.

**DOWN:** 1 Greed, 2 Insecure, 3 Expand, 4 Actor, 5 Toys, 6 Capture, 7 Imbibe, 8 Amigo, 10 Ajar, 11 Trigger, 12 Sleepy, 17 Diaphanous, 19 Feint, 23 Headlock, 24 Proof, 25 Strange, 27 Lard, 29 Trachea, 30 Spring, 31 Lament, 32 Critic, 34 Faith, 36 Frail, 37 Bung, 38 Flee, 44 Drivel, 45 Extol, 47 Obey, 48 Inspid, 49 Equine, 50 Orbit, 51 Condense, 52 Shower, 53 Eradicated, 54 Eddy, 55 Tyranny, 60 Cured, 61 Bite, 65 Aspic, 66 Disorder, 68 Upright, 69 Parasol, 71 Alcove, 72 Flaunt, 73 Geneva, 76 Cause, 78 Hoped, 79 Foyer, 80 Dear, 82 Most.

## SPORTS

# \$20,000 raised from Swampfox socks

By GORDON PREECE

Thames Valley Rugby Union offloaded \$20,000 to Goldfields School on December 2 to go towards new projects to support its 87 students.

Thames Valley Swampfoxes head coach David Harrison told *The Profile* it was the fifth year the union had donated to the Paeroa school, with funds raised this year through sales of supporter socks.

"We've been doing jersey auctions I think the last four seasons and I think there's only so much of the one thing you can do, so we tried to change it up," he said.

"There's only 22 jerseys that people could win in auction and the socks were \$20 so it hopefully gave more people the opportunity to be a part of it.

"A lot of them knew the money was going towards Goldfields so that was pretty awesome to be able to support that."

David said just under 1000 pairs of socks were sold and the union topped it up to give the donation an even score of \$20,000.

He said the team also continued to strengthen its relationship this year with the school.

"We brought all our players into the school [in September]



Goldfields students, David Harrison, centre, and TVRFU game development officer James Higgins, left, with the \$20,000 cheque.

Photos: GORDON PREECE

and it was really cool to spend some time in the classrooms with the teachers and the students and our players get a taste of why we do it, the cause that we're supporting and it's always special," he said.

"Even players who had been in the team before they get to reconnect and the new ones can see what it's all about and

understand why we do it."

Goldfields School principal Cam McKenzie said the donation was a bonus point as the partnership the school had with the team and the union was important.

"The players are role models to the students and I think the students are role models to them," he said.

"Every year we work on ways to make [the relationship] better and we work on engaging the students more and the players meeting the students so they know who they're playing for and the students love it when they come into school."

Mr McKenzie said some of donated funds would go towards a new school library

**"The players are role models to the students and I think the students are role models to them."**

- Cam McKenzie

called the Foxes Den, which is planned to open in February.

"It's going to have the Swampfoxes logo on the front door and a mural inside with a fox on it and a place for students from all across the school to go and read, do literacy and be around books," he said.

"[It will cost] around \$3500 but that will be ongoing because books will be bought overtime and books would need to be replaced.

"We're going to invite the Swampfoxes and a kaumātua to open the room."

Mr McKenzie said the remaining funds would go towards another school van with the Swampfoxes logo on it, which is planned to hit the streets early next year.

The union donated \$30,000 to Goldfields School last year, which was used to purchase a new school van in March.

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