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068 May 4, 2022

A tearful farewell

Hauraki councillor Rodney Garrett's commitment to community praised amid cancer battle



Rodney Garrett received 1066 votes to become a Hauraki District Councillor for the Plains ward back in 2019.
File Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

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

They told me I had less than 12 months to live," he said. "That was 14 months ago... I just rolled my sleeves up to fight."

Rodney Garrett has been battling cancer since the last local body election, when he received 1066 votes to become

a Hauraki District Councillor for the Plains ward.

"Probably in fairness, I'm not the man I was a while ago. I had this thing growing around the time of the election. Not many know that," he said. "But I took it on the chin."

Outgoing councillors are usually presented a token for their work after an election, either if they retire or did not

retain their seat. However, due to Rodney taking extended leave because of ongoing health issues, council staff acknowledged his "passion and empathy" with a tearful presentation during its April 27 meeting.

"Your commitment to turn up to these meetings has blown each and every one of us away," Mayor Toby Adams

said. "You've persevered... Not a lot of people do that."

"It's been a pleasure working with you and it'll be a shame to the community to not have you sitting around the table in the future."

Rodney, in his 60s, has lived within the Plains ward his whole life. He currently resides in Kerepēhi and his passion for the town was acknowledged by

his colleagues.

"You changed Kerepēhi from being a place I've driven past since the 70s, [seeing] a great big pile of tyres or a big heap of sawdust, and now I realise decent, real people live there and thanks to you for that - you've changed me for the better," Waihi councillor Duncan Smeaton said.

CONTINUED P4

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The *Valley Profile* is a community newspaper that delivers 100% local news in the Thames Valley region. We deliver 16,000 copies each Wednesday to every letterbox, reaching approximately 35,000 readers in Hauraki Plains, Paeroa, Waihi, Thames, Thames Coast and surrounding rural areas, plus bulk distribution around the Coromandel Peninsula.

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Tradespeople shortage causes stress

By GORDON PREECE

Hauraki Plains Motors are one of many trades businesses in the region struggling to attract qualified staff.

Co-owner Miles Shelley told *The Profile* Hauraki Plains Motors recently advertised for qualified mechanics and while a mechanical apprentice came out of it, they received no applications from qualified mechanics.

“If you advertised a few years ago you used to get two or three replies, people were out there... [today] it’s harder, I don’t know why but people just seem to not want to work or they’re not out there,” he said.

Miles said the qualified mechanic shortage was putting stress on the business, including delays for mechanical services.

“The customer gets grumpy because you can’t get the work done, and because there’s less mechanics, the garages are short so people can’t get [mechanical] work anywhere,” he said.

Co-owner Diane Shelley said Hauraki Plains Motors Warrant of Fitness (WOF) services were also affected by their qualified mechanic shortage.

“If you take on an apprentice, it’s going to be at least five years before they’re trainable to be WOF inspectors, so that puts pressure on everything as well. It’s very difficult,” she said.

Miles said Covid-19 was preventing mechanics from taking further courses.

“Because people are not prepared to knock around too



Hauraki Plains Motors owner Miles Shelley, left, and one of his mechanics Adam Shelley. Photo: GORDON PREECE

much, and once they’ve got a job they want to stick with it, they don’t want to move because of it,” he said.

Gr8 Job Hauraki’s Julie Stephenson said a number of things might be causing a shortage of qualified tradespeople shortage in the district.

“I think years ago, National probably did away with the apprenticeship scheme for some time, and maybe we’re seeing that little bubble moving through a lack of apprentices onboarding,” she said.

“Then to tie in... the automotive industry is booming a little bit so they’re really struggling to

meet demand with local people and then I guess there’s barriers for attracting people to the district... there’s limited housing resources and the price of petrol so people are now reluctant to travel to and from [work].”

Julie said Gr8 Job Hauraki’s “greater community awareness” and open door policy could make way for more qualified tradespeople.

“We work closely with the schools, identifying young people who might be looking at options out of school. It’s surprising the number of businesses that aren’t aware of apprenticeship boost or Mana in Mahi, which

are support schemes provided through MSD [Ministry of Social Development] so we can connect them to those opportunities,” she said.

Julie said it would be great to think the Hauraki District could attract that skilled workforce in the short term because there was a lot of development in the area.

“I know the district is really keen to attract skilled people and businesses here, I think they’re trying very hard to be proactive... I think once the Covid thing happened we envisaged there’d be this exodus of people out of cities. We haven’t quite seen it but it might be happening.”

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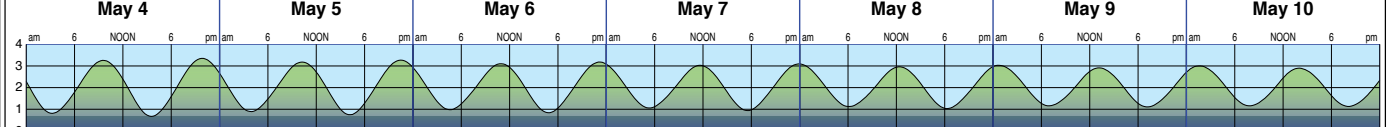
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<p><small>*Not for navigational purposes. Graphic supplied by OceanFun Publishing Ltd. www.tidewiz.com www.tidespy.com www.ofu.co.nz</small></p> <p>MOON AND FISH KEYS New Moon First Quarter Full Moon Last Quarter Good Fishing Fair Fishing Not So Good</p> <p>TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES To determine tide times at the following places, add (+) or subtract (-) the given time difference from the Thames times listed in the calendar.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>PLACE</th> <th>Hr</th> <th>Min</th> <th>Hr</th> <th>Min</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Coromandel</td> <td>-0</td> <td>05</td> <td>-0</td> <td>04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Whitianga</td> <td>-0</td> <td>02</td> <td>-0</td> <td>06</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tairua</td> <td>+0</td> <td>10</td> <td>+0</td> <td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Whangamata</td> <td>-0</td> <td>07</td> <td>-0</td> <td>07</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Waihi Beach</td> <td>-0</td> <td>12</td> <td>-0</td> <td>12</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>														PLACE	Hr	Min	Hr	Min	Coromandel	-0	05	-0	04	Whitianga	-0	02	-0	06	Tairua	+0	10	+0	21	Whangamata	-0	07	-0	07	Waihi Beach	-0	12	-0	12
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Two years, two deaths due to alcohol

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

Hauraki residents spent more than 480 hours at Waikato hospital emergency departments due to alcohol over the past two years, and two people died.

As Hauraki District Council asks for submissions on its Local Alcohol Policy, which is out now for consultation and contains no significant changes, one councillor has asked whether “any kind of effort” was being made to curb the availability of the “destructive” drug.

According to information provided by the Waikato District Health Board (DHB), from December 31, 2019, to March 1, 2022 there were 211 alcohol-related presentations to emergency departments by those residing in the Hauraki district.

There were also two alcohol related deaths during this period.

Sixty per cent, or 127 alcohol-related presentations were males, while 32 per cent, or 84, were of Māori ethnicity.

Fifty-seven per cent, or 120 presentations occurred on a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday night, while 46 per cent (98) occurred between 7pm and 3am the following morning.

The most at-risk within the district were those aged between 25 to 34 years, and the busiest time for emergency departments’ was in February, with 14 per cent of its alcohol-related presentations occurring that



HFVIN's Sally Christie, top left, and Te Korowai's Taima Campbell.

Photos: SUPPLIED

month.

Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki's interim manukura hauora (chief executive) Taima Campbell noted that the two-year period covered most of the Covid-19 response, in which there had been an increase in the use of alcohol reported nationally.

“So, I have no doubt that Hauraki is no different.”

She also confirmed the health provider had seen an increase in the number of people being referred, or people seeking help for their alcohol dependence and alcohol related harm.

It was the same over at the Hauraki Family Violence Intervention Network.

Spokesperson Sally Christie said alcohol was commonly a factor

in the scenarios they received from police reported incidents. However, for some, a crisis could be the catalyst for change.

According to the report, across all five Waikato DHBs, one in 31 alcohol-related presentations to emergency departments were coded as ‘secondary harm’ - the cause of someone else’s alcohol consumption.

Sally said she wasn't surprised by the numbers.

“In fact, my sense is the reality could be even higher. Survivors of violence, especially within the family setting, are experts at explaining the injuries away.”

She said everyone needed to act when they saw the consequences of alcohol abuse.

“From a community perspective, let's stop glorifying [alcohol] as an essential part of our lives. Support people who are trying to make changes. For example, always offer alcohol free options; don't question or ridicule a person if they turn down an alcoholic drink.”

She also said binge drinking no longer has to be a “rite of passage” for young people.

The DHB's report was presented to council at its April 13 meeting, ahead of its Local Alcohol Policy going out for consultation, which runs until May 20.

Waihi ward councillor Duncan Smeaton said the report indicated “quite clearly” that alcohol, violence, and incidents in hospitals were “closely related”.

“Alcohol is probably one of the most destructive products available... and I don't see any push to reduce the number of outlets, or any acknowledgement of how destructive it is,” he said.

“Probably a lot of people in this room have some alcohol, but it's the people who can't control it who are the problem.”

Council's policy states there is a “presumption” that new

CONTINUED P6



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Maureen Pull, left, Lynette Mapson and Judy Gould at one of their promotion days at Goldfield's Shopping Centre recently.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

Group knits for those in need

By GORDON PREECE

Operation Cover Up Thames has knitted and crocheted warm items for Eastern European families in need for more than 20 years.

The group, which currently has around 20 volunteers, was formed in 2000 after "several people" became aware some Ukrainian families "were in desperate need of clothing" during their harsh winters.

One of those people is volunteer Judy Gould, who told *The Profile* they always heard back from the families who received their donated items.

"They always write back and say when it's arrived," she said.

"[The items] all go out around November because that's when it

starts getting really cold in Eastern Europe."

Judy said the group met every Tuesday at Elim Church in Thames and was preparing for its display days at Thames Civic Centre on July 1 and 2 at Thames Civic Centre.

"The public's reaction is always amazement, when you see the [display days] you need to see how many every year go overseas, it sort of blows your mind a bit," she said.

"My role now is to put all [blankets] together. People can knit squares and they can hand them in and I'm busy weaving it into a rug and then we go round the edges to make it easy for the kids to get hold of."

Judy said display day preparations were always "frantic".

"We have a small storage at the back of the library and we store everything there packed into bags.

"However when the show is coming... we have to take all those bags from [the library] with the help of usually three kind gentlemen with their cars and trucks, load and unpack the bags and put them onto tables," she said.

Judy said more Operation Cover Up groups had woven overtime in Paeroa, Waihi, Whangamatā and Whitianga.

"The wool's gifted to us and some people like to buy their own, but we'll supply you with what wool we've got and if you can't knit or crochet we'll show you how," she said.

DETAILS: To contribute, contact Margaret Morritt, Ph 027 470 5250.

Cr takes extended leave

CONTINUED FROM P1

"Kerepēhi has been rather spoilt by the way you have presented on their behalf," fellow ward councillor Ross Harris added, joking that Rodney spent "far too much bloody time" at the town's bowling club - where Rodney was past secretary and president.

Rodney was also past secretary of Kerepēhi Rugby Club; past president of Thames Valley Bowls; and for more than a decade, president of Thames Bowling Club.

Fellow first-term councillor Rino Wilkinson, who was Rodney's former neighbour, said it was a "pleasure" to have seen Rodney walk up the council steps the same time as he did, while Waihi ward chair Anne Marie Spicer used the same word to describe sitting

next to Rodney this term.

"You are one of these rare breeds of councillors who speaks when it's only necessary, and when you do, it's always worth listening to," she said.

"You were a great reality barometer because when other people were talking or presenting, you'd mutter quietly: 'dead right, dead right'."

Rodney's family, including his daughters and a grandchild, were at the Wednesday presentation. He thanked them for their support, as well as council staff.

"When you're a district councillor, [you work for] the district, and I never lost sight of that," he said.

"It's actually broken my heart not to be able to stand again."



Mayor Toby Adams, left, presents Rodney Garrett with a certificate acknowledging his work for the district.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU



Hauraki District Reserve Management Plan Favourite places, future spaces

The Reserve Management Plan is our plan that guides the management of our parks and reserves to both protect them and to enable you to enjoy them.

It was last published in 2007. This review will result in an updated management plan to guide us over the next 10 years.

What do you think about our future plans for your favourite space?

The feedback period on the draft plan is open until 20 May 2022. For further information visit our website <https://weneedtotalk.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/reserve-management-plan/> or call into one of the Council offices or libraries.

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Mayor Toby Adams and the working party, along with staff, will be on hand to answer your questions about our plans for your favourite spaces.

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Tuesday 10 May 9:30am
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Using Paeroa toy library is child's play

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

There are toys at the Paeroa Toy Library waiting to be played with.

The purple-painted non-profit along the main drag is encouraging new and old members to take a peek inside, after the Covid-19 pandemic caused a drop in numbers.

But with new toys on the shelves and funding secured, the toy library's committee members are ready to welcome back its customers.

Two of the library's most loyal fans, Howard and Rynne Yang, completed an enthusiastic dash around the room last week, leaving with a child-size shopping trolley and groceries.

Their mum, Ting Heng, said her children go to the library every two weeks.

"I save a lot of money on buying toys, which don't last very long. Also, throughout the process, I keep telling them these are the toy library's toys, not our toys, and we need to learn how to look after them so that other kids can have a turn later," she said.

"They understand that and treat the toys with respect."

Howard and Rynne do have their favourite toys, which they might borrow a few times, but Ting said as they have got older, their selections have grown in complexity.

"I think because people haven't walked in here, maybe they have not realised that this



Howard Yang, 4, and Rynne Yang, 2, are two of the Paeroa Toy Library's biggest fans. Photos: KELLEY TANTAU

is such an awesome service and facility that they can utilise."

Pre-Covid, the library had more than 100 people use the service a month. Now, that number is sitting around 60-70, committee member Wei Zhang told *The Profile*.

"We really want to see more people using the toys here," she

said. "This area is not a wealthy area, and we want to give kids a fair chance to have access to the same kind of toys as those in the wealthier areas. Also, we want to help the kids learn better while they're younger, so we provide toys that teach kids how to spell, how to count, and

how to play music."

The library caters to children of all developmental stages, from newborn up to age five.

It recently secured around \$2800 in funding from the Government's Community Organisation Grant Scheme, which will be used to pay for the library's rent and operating



Toy Library committee member Wei Zhang and president Bill Reed are eager to welcome back new and existing customers.

costs. Wei chooses what new toys to buy - with input from the volunteers, she said.

Bill Reed has been the toy library's president for just over a year and said the library was a safe place to come to. The volunteers are masked-up and all the toys get cleaned before they get put back on the shelves, he said.

"It's such a good service and people appreciate it. I love seeing the kids come in - they have a ball."

DETAILS: Paeroa Toy Library, 120 Normanby Rd. Open Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday 10am-12pm, and again at 3.30pm-5pm on Tuesdays. Find them on Facebook.



Thames Art Gallery
Art work by Kay De Blaauw

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Echo walk

As part of the Echo Walking Festival, which ran from April 9-24, OceanaGold offered a walk inside the Martha mine pit fence in Waihi. Walkers came from near and far to take part, and were able to take a look at some of the town's "local icons" on the north-western side of the pit rim. Kicking off in 2003, the Echo Walking Festival is a non-profit event organised by town promoters in participating towns and districts. Reporter **KELLEY TANTAU** caught the participants before they set off.



Nate, Riley, Harlem, and Tory Twentyman were interested in the mine's history.

Photos: KELLEY TANTAU

Alcohol stats cause concern

CONTINUED FROM P3

off-licences will not be issued in Paeroa, Ngatea, and Waihi if, in the opinion of the District Licensing Committee, "the amenity and good order of the locality would be likely to be reduced to more than a minor extent by the effects of the issue of the licence".

There are six off-licences, five on-licences, and eight club licences in Paeroa even though Paeroa does not have the largest population in the district.

This was reflective of research which showed a proliferation of off-licence premises were seen in high-deprivation communities, council said.

Waihi, as the district's largest town, was also considered a "high-deprivation community" and has the second-most off-licences, with four.

As part of the policy review, council is proposing to add a clause that clarifies that RSA's may trade on Anzac Day from 4am to 1pm.

It will also remove a clause which sets a maximum number of special licences one applicant can apply for in a 12-month period.

Other changes were "purely administrative" to create clarity, council said.

DETAILS: Written submissions close at 4pm on Friday, May 20.



Lou Roke and Janet Williams take part in the festival.



Sam Bjerring, of Waihi College.



Xavier Motley, and Anna Powell.



Noel and Diane Huggard.

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Gold attraction in Karangahake Gorge

By GORDON PREECE

Located in the Karangahake Gorge is a tourist attraction drilling visitors deep into the area's gold mining history.

The Victoria Battery Tramway and Museum Society was formed in 1994 to preserve the battery site's history and importance in the production of gold from Waihi's Martha Mine.

The battery was one of New Zealand's biggest industrial sites in the early 1900s, and the country's largest gold producer.

Chairperson Kerry Single told *The Profile* the attraction had "plenty to do" - from tram rides around the battery site's foundations to tunnel tours underneath the site's ore roasting kilns.

"[The tram ride] gives you an idea of the magnitude of the site and a decent view of the foundations that are left," he said.

"The tour through the tunnel underneath the kilns is quite exciting. It's around 200m and you can see the bottom parts of the kilns where the hearths are, and we can tell you the story of why they were there and what they did.

"At the time they were some



The tram takes visitors through the battery site's foundations. INSET: Volunteers George Capper, Juliet Fisher, Kerry Single, and Rex Brown.

Photos: GORDON PREECE

of the biggest kilns in the Southern Hemisphere, and they're probably now the only kilns in New Zealand you can go underground and inspect."

Kerry said the society also offered tours through the museum, which housed many artefacts and information about the

people who worked at the site and the equipment used.

"We've had a heap of people coming in saying their father or grandfather was working in the battery site here: 'Have you got any information?' And we can look through the wage book and we may find their names," he said.

"It can take some people half an hour and it could take some people half a day and we have some people who actually come back the next day to do another tour because they didn't see all of it."

Kerry said like many tourist attractions, Covid-19 had impacted the society "drastically."

"Up until Covid we'd seen an increase of people coming through, but Covid put it on hold," he said. "Our income just canned out completely.

"We were off from June to nearly the middle of December [in 2021] because it was just too dangerous to operate."

Kerry said he hoped the society could rebuild from the impact of Covid-19, and attract younger volunteers to help with railway maintenance and artefact preservation so they're easier to find and understand.

"The membership's got older... and there's less members to be able to spend some time here," he said.

"The older members had the knowledge of how machinery worked and were easily adaptable to try and repair things, whereas today it's a bit more difficult because there's not the training and the old ways of doing things.

"We've got to now cope with that by introducing new skills within the society for the recording and presentation of the artefacts so that their preservation is going to be easier to find and understand."

Kerry said the society was worthwhile to visit in winter.

"If it's a lovely day during the winter, it's a place they can come to on their way somewhere, drop in, and have a look," he said.

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Rural Life

Trekkers saddle up

The weather held out beautifully for the RDA fundraising trek over Komata farmland near Paeroa over Easter weekend.

Organiser Georgina Lloyd said 71 riders took part in “an amazingly fun ride” that raised thousands for Te Aroha Group NZRDA for operating expenses and an arena. “The feedback from riders was extremely positive with riders and volunteers beaming,” she said.

“Riders who stayed on for the trek weekend were amazed with the quality of the rides and the hospitality and left with promises of returning.”

The weekend generated a

profit of \$4350 to go directly to Te Aroha Group NZRDA, combined from the funride, trekkers and generous associated donations.

This compares to around \$1500 raised in last year’s funride, however this year’s total fundraising included the additional two-day trek also.

“The Te Aroha Group NZRDA would like to thank the riders who participated and contributed and to the amazing community support received, particularly from landowners and sponsors to run this weekend.”

DETAILS: To make a donation, email georgina.eliz@gmail.com.



Tammy and Rosa Downer are ready to head out on the track.

Photos: SUPPLIED



Dawn Jones, left, and Lee Gumbley are back at base post-ride.



Rhonda Walch completes the ride with a smile.



A group of trekkers head out on their ride.



Kay Burt leads a group of riders around track.

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Rural Life

Second dwellings could cost farmers

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

Farm and lifestyle properties with more than one dwelling, such as those used for worker's accommodation on farms, could face a higher rates bill under Hauraki District Council's new annual plan.

It's all to make sure everyone is paying their "fair share", Mayor Toby Adams said.

The council is proposing to set charges per each inhabited part of a property - the technical term being: Separately Used and Inhabited Parts, or SUIPs.

Hauraki was "about the only council" in the country that had not introduced the charges, Mayor Adams said at a public meeting in Paeroa last week.

Those impacted could be retirement villages, like Longridge Estate in Paeroa, farms and lifestyle properties, and buildings with multiple commercial activities operating within them.

"The total amount of rates we collect, whether we have SUIPs or not, doesn't change. The amount we collect is no different, but the way we slice it up is," Mayor Adams said.

According to council, 94 per cent of properties in the Hauraki district only had one dwelling on them.

The proposal would mean these property owners would pay around \$90 less than they did in 2021/22 for the Uniform

Annual General Charge (UAGC) portion of their rates. The remaining six per cent of properties with multiple SUIPs will pay more - around \$930 per SUIP.

At the public meeting, held inside the Memorial Hall, a resident told Mayor Adams, deputy mayor Paul Milner, and councillors Carole Daley, Rino Wilkinson, and Jo Tilsley that he had two small dwellings on one block and had a "smaller footprint" for council resources compared with other households.

"How do we justify the increase?" he asked.

"It feels strange that all of a sudden we'll receive an extra \$1000 bill."

But Mayor Adams assured the man that he wouldn't, unless rent was being charged for the second dwelling.

The man said the words in the draft annual plan contained no "clear guidance" - as it stated SUIPs could apply where there were "two or more houses, flats, or apartments on one rating unit".

"If the plan changes in two years time, they could make a blanket rule for all the properties, so I think that needs to be clarified.

"I do hear what you're saying, I just think it's not stated clearly, and if there's a change of council, a change of planners, they could apply this rule to everything."



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Dress up day

Thames Coast Kindergarten in Te Puru held dress-up days last month to celebrate World Book Day's 25th Anniversary. Head Teacher Karen Bowie said it was great to see adults, parents, and teachers getting into the spirit of things and dressing up as well. "It was such a success that we have decided to have dress up days once a term," she said.



Skye Brightheart is a beautiful princess.

Photos: SUPPLIED



Karen Bowie, left, Charlie Rowe, Reid Woolridge-Foster, Xavier Kennedy, Claire Gavey and Margo Bullock.



Kyrie Paymani dresses up as spiderman.



Teacher Kate Coatsworth.



Rita and Anne Quinn.

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Celebrating 50 years MOANATAIARI SCHOOL



Moanataiari: A 'cosmopolitan' kind of school

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

Reflecting on where Moanataiari School has been and where it is going is a "thrilling" opportunity for those ready to celebrate its reunion later this year.

The Thames school was born 50 years ago out of the closure of three other schools in the town.

Old Thames North School, - formerly Tararu School - Thames Central School, and Kōpū School were in need of repair and were to be replaced by one new school on a five acre site at Moanataiari Flat.

The education board decided to call the new school Moanataiari after a parent vote on various names. It originally had nine classrooms, an administration block, and a dental clinic.

It opened on February 2, 1972 with a school roll of 312 students, increasing to 331 students after the first term.

The official opening was held on May 27, 1972 and was opened by Honourable HL Pickering, the then-Minister of Education.

According to newspaper reports from the time, word of a new school was met with "elation" by the staff, who had been working under "difficult and outdated conditions" for years.

"A new school is more than due," said the headteacher of Thames Central School, Mr L.D McIntyre.

His school had dropped a grade when its roll fell to below 270, but with the growth of the new Moanataiari subdivision, there would be "an increasing number of children in the district" and the roll was likely to be back near the 300 mark in the next two to three years, he said.

"If we can get the roll back



Moanataiari School was born 50 years ago out of the closure of three other schools in the town.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

to more than 270 from the present roll of 261, we will have a better grading which will be of advantage to the district."

Mr McIntyre said as far as he was aware, the new Moanataiari School would be the first in the North Island to have all of its classrooms fully carpeted.

'BIG, FANCY SCHOOL'

Thames man Allan Judd was a foundation pupil at Moanataiari, and is now the chairman of the school's 50th reunion committee.

His three older sisters went to Central School, and he followed in their footsteps even though he was living "200 metres" from Tararu School at the time.

"Eighteen months later, this [Moanataiari] school opened," he told *The Profile*.

"At six-and-a-half, you're pretty impressionable, and we came here and thought: 'Wow, what a big, fancy school this is'."

"We had come from a rickety, old, wooden building that creaked in the middle of win-

ter and was cold, so coming here where there was central heating and we didn't have to worry about burning our hands on the pot belly... it was little things like that; that was a big change."

The school's current principal, David Brock, said back in the 70s, the Moanataiari area was a bit like "nappy valley" - where all the young families came to live.

Since then, Thames had lost a lot of industry, he said, and the current roll now sat around

136 pupils. However, the school was a "microcosm" of New Zealand, made up of students with either a Māori whakapapa, NZ-European background, or Asian, Indian, and European ethnicities.

"It's a very cosmopolitan type of school," Mr Brock said.

A STEP BACK IN TIME

In August last year, the school's staff unearthed a time capsule that had been underground for more than 20 years.

CONTINUED P12

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Celebrating 50 years MOANATAIARI SCHOOL

CONTINUED FROM P11

Desperate to find the capsule ahead of the school's 50th reunion, to be held this September, office and project administrator Julie White set out on a search that involved using social media to track down past principal Mike Rzoska - who pinpointed them to the right location.

The school's caretaker Brendon Arnold got digging, and eventually pulled out a white tube with writing on it that said: Moanataiari School, December 16, 1997.

After 24 years in the earth, the tube had sustained some water damage, but some of the objects easily identifiable were old school badges, classroom photos, a Hairy Maclary calendar, and a Telecom calling card. There were also cassette tapes and a yo-yo.

Mr Brock said what was intact would be put on display during the reunion weekend, but there were other items identified that had an even larger flow-on effect.

For example, the school's current houses were named after birds, but originally, it was discovered they were named after waka.

"We're actually looking at the school reverting back to the waka names because not only were they originally the names that were used within



Moanataiari School students with the time capsule. Photo: SUPPLIED

the school, but they also link us to manawhenua, and probably if we had not dug that up, we might not have known that," he said.

Mr Brock also wanted to track down any of the carvers who had a hand in designing the school's gateway.

The original gateway came from Kōpū School, which was gazetted as a Māori school in 1883, and had since been returned to iwi, but Moanataiari was interested to know the

meanings carved into the new gateway, put up in 2007.

There were also original aspects that remained at the school, such as the swimming pool, while underneath the astroturf was the initial asphalt for the basketball courts.

DRIVE TOWARDS DIGITAL AGE

"In education, we've seen some significant changes. Clearly, there's more of an emphasis on health and wellbeing, and teachers are more sensitive to



Principal David Brock is looking forward to the 50th reunion, which has a new date of September 23-25. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

those sorts of issues and the underlying needs of a child," Mr Brock said.

"We're also more culturally responsive, but in saying that, there were things that were in place here previously that were quite important."

Mike Rzoska was the principal at Moanataiari from 1993 until December, 2007. This was the start of the "computer age", he said, in which basic curriculum such as language, maths, and science was enhanced through the use of technology.

"At that time, Moanataiari School established a digital learning centre as an adjunct to the school library using Apple computers.

"This innovation was a first

in the region," he said.

"A positive outcome was that everyone was learning together the possibilities available through information technology. In latter years, the technology was incorporated into individual classrooms. This development necessitated that fibre be installed throughout the school - a first for schools in the area."

Mr Rzoska said successive Boards of Trustees supported the drive towards the digital age, and without it, the school's vision would have "languished".

However, nowadays, technology was a "double-edged sword" which required the school to tackle the issue of

CONTINUED P13

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Celebrating 50 years MOANATAIARI SCHOOL



CONTINUED FROM P11

declining interests in numeracy and literacy head-on.

Mr Brock was aware the two subjects had become a “challenge” in education, due to the use of technology outside the classroom.

“One of the things we’re having to counter is, although it is useful, technology sometimes gets in the way of children experiencing books,” he said.

The school has therefore committed a “substantial” amount of time, energy, and funds into adopting programmes such as Better Start Literacy, The Writer’s Toolbox, and Prime - all of which have been “very successful”.

“Technology is a double-edged sword, because what we’re getting out of the [Writer’s Toolbox] programme are students really engaged in their writing.

“One little boy who wasn’t interested in writing for some years all of a sudden is experiencing instant feedback...and it’s making a huge difference,” Mr Brock said.

“Mathematics has also become quite enjoyable for the kids... and we’re anticipating going forward that these programmes will make a huge difference to the ability of children to cope more effectively at secondary school.”

A WELCOME REUNION



Reunion committee members Allan Judd, left, Julie White, and principal David Brock stand at the historic bell that used to be at Thames Central School.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

It’s an interesting and oftentimes humorous perspective for the likes of Allan Judd, who commented that he used to use

a slide ruler at school before calculators were introduced in 1982.

“It’s a great thrill, actually,”

he said, “having been away from Thames, to come back and to see the school so well-established and doing as well

as it is.”

With many of Moanataiari’s students coming and going from the town over the years, the school staff were excited to welcome past pupils and teachers back for its reunion, running over the weekend of September 23-25.

“You do wonder what’s happened to so-and-so,” Mr Brock said. “Some kids you’ve got an idea that they have huge potential and could make something of significance in their lives.”

One of those students, Gael Nagaiya (née Robinson), became a Silver Fern and will be a guest speaker during the reunion - which was to be held in March but postponed due to Covid-19 restrictions.

“We’re on track now, though it has been tricky with the different [traffic light] settings,” Mr Brock said. “The committee was quite smart and looked at it last year and said: ‘If we’re at such a level, we’d look at postponement’.”

Alongside Allan Judd, the Moanataiari School 50th Reunion Committee is made up of: Julie White, Kirsty Bain, Eileen Bain, Tracey Michelle, and Rita Moore.

DETAILS: Moanataiari School 50th reunion, September 23-25. More info: Ph 07-868 6504.



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Jockey dies after fall



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

Young Harry Berry, riding his little chestnut horse Rufus, was leading the field during the second steeplechase at the Takapuna races in February, 1902.

Harry, 26, was from Tararu and a well-known jockey. He had ridden Rufus in nearly all his races and together they had won the steeplechase at the Thames Jockey Club.

Now, as Rufus raced up to the sod wall, he made a false step and hit the wall, carrying nearly half of it away.

Harry was thrown from the saddle with great force, landing on his head and being knocked unconscious. Tragically the horse following Rufus then jumped on Harry.

Drs Sharman and Reid were quickly in attendance. Harry was seriously hurt and the ambulance was summoned to take him to a steamer which would convey him over

to Auckland Hospital but Harry died on the way.

The awful news was telegraphed from Auckland to Thames to inform his family. Harry had many friends in the district and the news was a great shock.

Harry had ridden Rufus in about ten races that season, and this was the first mistake the horse had made with him. He had won several jumping events in his time, and was looked upon as a capable horseman and a very decent young fellow.

He was well-regarded in racing circles from Tauranga to Gisborne. The inquest, held at Auckland's Prince of Wales Hotel, found Harry died from a skull fracture.

The funeral began in Auckland, where about 500 jockeys and trainers wearing Harry's colours of cream and crimson, gathered. A large number of relatives and friends followed his coffin to the Thames steamer.

Once at Thames, the hearse moved off from the Good's Wharf accompanied by several coaches, while others followed on foot or horseback. The cortege passed Tararu School, which had its flag at half mast mourning its past pupil.

Amongst the many wreaths was one from the

jockeys in the form of a circle with a horseshoe and anchor in the centre.

A wreath from the trainers was heart shaped with a horseshoe and whip in centre. Local jockeys and trainers donated funds towards a headstone.

In an eerie precursor eight years previously as Harry watched the races at Te Awamutu, a horse cannoned against the hindquarter of a spectator's pony and turned turtle, throwing its rider. The jockey fell on Harry.

As the race continued, the winning horse somehow crossed her legs and fell with her rider. A doctor was promptly in attendance but the 24-year-old jockey's skull was fatally fractured. Harry was called on to give evidence at the inquest. The death of Henry Berry, while following his profession as a jockey, reignited calls for an insurance scheme. The occupation was regarded as a great risk which insurance companies were reluctant to cover. Horse owners had to carry responsibility under the Employers' Liability Act and provide for the payment of £400 in case of death.

Harry, a happy-go-lucky young man, always full of fun, a game rider, straightforward and honest, is buried at Tararu cemetery.

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SPORTS

Player qualifies for national games

Special Olympics Thames Valley attended two tournaments last month, and chair Anna Walters said it was “wonderful” to be back training and attending competitions.

On Saturday, April 2, the squad - made up of Josh Allen, Matty Mikaere, Holly Jones and Stacey Cowdell - went to Mangere Bridge Bowling Club to join Special Olympics Mangere and Special Olympics Auckland in a tournament.

“It was a beautiful sunny day in Auckland and it was a pleasure to be able to play on the blow-up bocce courts,” Anna said.

“These will be exactly the same as the ones at the national summer

games in December in Hamilton.”

Player Josh Allen qualified for the summer games as a result of the event, while Special Olympics Thames Valley placed fourth overall.

The following weekend, on April 9, two teams attended an indoor bowls tournament in Tauranga.

Special Olympics Thames Valley athletes Josh Allen, Holly Jones, Kelsea Archer, and Sam Morrison came second in the event; while Matty Mikaere, Stacey Cowdell, and Myles Singleton placed third.

“This is the start of the indoor bowls season and we have lots of events coming in over the next few months,” Anna said.



CROQUET

Thames Croquet Club president Nola Leonard claims the first hoop on court five, watched by secretary Sheryl McConnell. The Thames Croquet Club is pleased to announce courts four and five are now open for play. They have been followed and had remedial work carried out over the past three years, following flooding by salt water. Over winter, there will be three courts available for games, allowing two courts to be detached and over-sown. On May 1, playing times change to winter hours; these are Monday, Thursday, and Saturday meetings at the club house on 101 Beach Road at or before 12.45pm.

BOWLS

KEREPEHI BOWLING CLUB
A good turn out again for Quinn Engineering sponsored optional fours on April 10. Prize winners were:- 1st 4 Wins, +33 points 20 ends, (Paeroa) Arthur Thorburn, Peter Rowling, Jim Erbacher, Lois Curd; 2nd 4 Wins, +18 points 19 ends, (Hauraki) Graeme,

Doug, Eddie Northcott, Peter; 3rd 3 Wins, +15 points 18 ends, (Kerepēhi) Leon (Mitti) Taipari, Garry Parker, Steve Death, Don Cooper. The club also hosted the breakfast for participants after the ANZAC Dawn Parade and dawn service at the War Memorial Hall. May is winter bowls; May 12, Opt 4s (Ravensdown, RMS Contracting, Valley Toyota, Tony Richards Toyota) and then May 26 Opt 4s Cockies/Stockies (Whyteline Ltd), with entries to include the minimum of one non-bowler per team. Entries to club after 4pm 07 867 6897, Peter 021 074 1802, Richard 022 603 1669.

WAIMATA BOWLING CLUB
On April 19, the Waimata indoor bowling club, based in Waihi, held its first tournament of the season with 10 teams entering. After four games, two teams each had three wins and a loss. The team of Peter Youngman, Neville Wiseman and Marie and Ken Martin won the night over Betty Thomas, Don Moir, Bruce Plummer and Anne Richards by two ends. It's good to be back holding tournaments. Ph 027 282 5699.



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SUDOKU

48

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

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

EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

48

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

HARD

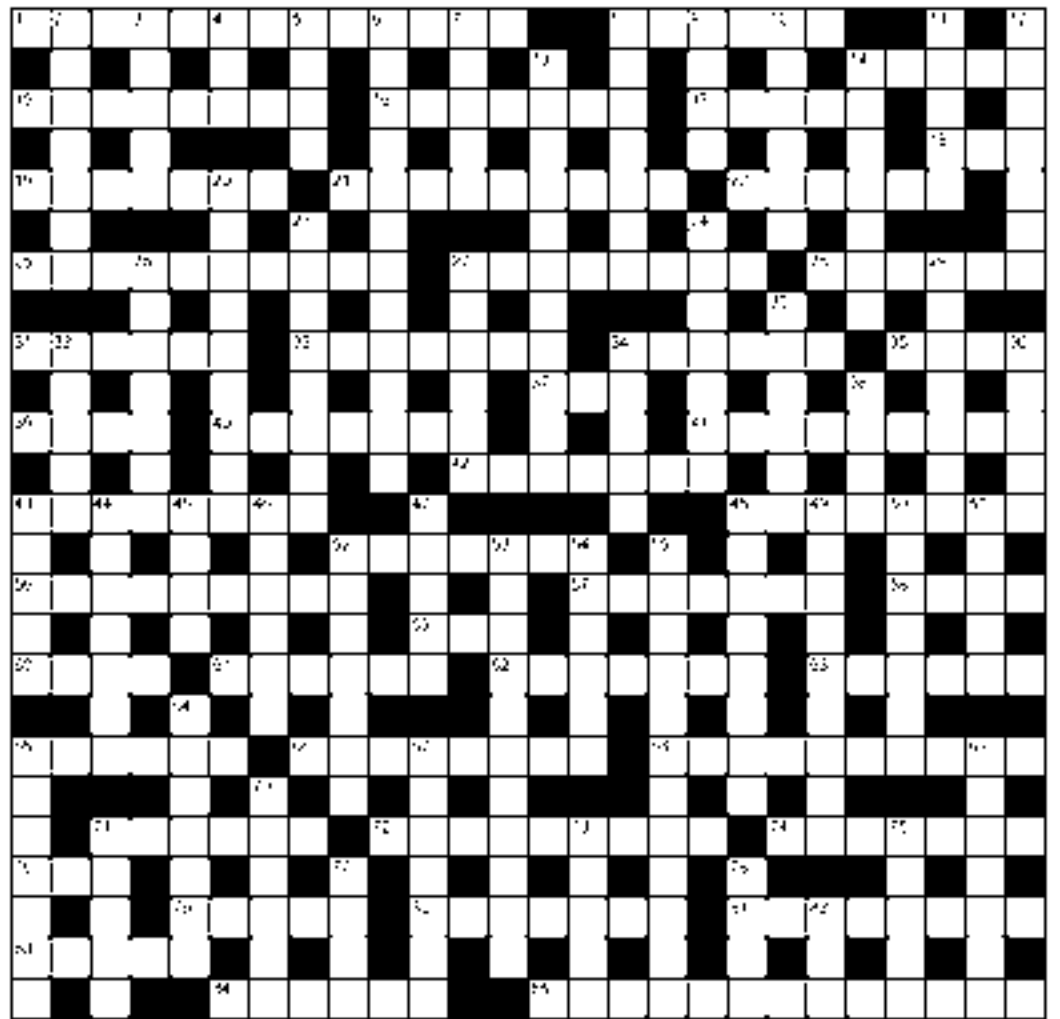
MEDIUM

EASY

JUMBO CROSSWORD

68

- ACROSS**
- 1 In difficulties with no retreat (4,2,3,4)
 - 8 Express disapproval (6)
 - 14 Left over (5)
 - 15 Splendour and impressiveness (8)
 - 16 Correspondence (7)
 - 17 Chemically unreactive (5)
 - 18 Drunkard (3)
 - 19 Move forward (7)
 - 21 Increased the tension (9)
 - 22 Day nursery (6)
 - 25 Gloomy person spoiling the enjoyment of others (3,7)
 - 27 Replied (8)
 - 28 Decapitate (6)
 - 31 Compels (6)
 - 33 Cradle song (7)
 - 34 Noon (6)
 - 35 Quick and neatly skilful (4)
 - 37 Female deer (3)
 - 39 Monk's hood (4)
 - 40 Extreme distress of body or mind (7)
 - 41 Person next door (9)
 - 42 Gave in (7)
 - 43 Piece (8)
 - 48 Fidgety (8)
 - 52 Windfall (7)
 - 56 Totally impoverished (9)
 - 57 Fragrant flower (7)
 - 58 Layer of paint (4)
 - 59 Long seat (3)
 - 60 Refuse to let have (4)
 - 61 Bisects (6)
 - 62 Indict before a tribunal (7)
 - 63 Tiny (6)
 - 65 Steal (6)
 - 66 Amiable (8)
 - 68 Corrections (10)
 - 71 Festering (6)
 - 72 Hillocks of mining waste (4-5)
 - 74 Praise publicly (7)
 - 76 Enjoyment (3)
 - 79 Populous country (5)
 - 80 Dry red wine (7)
 - 81 Pass (8)
 - 83 Less dangerous (5)
 - 84 Felt (6)
 - 85 In a favourable position (7,6)
- DOWN**
- 2 Shorten (7)
 - 3 Country with Nairobi (5)
 - 4 Be in debt (3)
 - 5 Cause pain (4)
 - 6 Carried two-way radio (6-6)
 - 7 Fastening for gate, door (5)
 - 8 Offensively or repulsively indecent (7)
 - 9 Connect (4)
 - 10 Stone fruit (6)
 - 11 Out of fashion (5)
 - 12 Skin-tight garment (7)
 - 13 Keep up courage, do not give in (5,3,3)
 - 14 Adhesive label (7)
 - 20 Fellow student (9)
 - 23 Roof window (8)
 - 24 Blind alley (4,3)
 - 26 Accumulation of jobs not done (7)
 - 27 Disinterest (6)
 - 29 Visually offensive thing (7)
 - 30 Widespread food scarcity (6)
 - 32 Distinctive smell (5)
 - 34 Repairs (5)
 - 36 Changes direction (5)
 - 38 Closed (4)
 - 43 Lost colour (5)
 - 44 Store of weapons (7)
 - 45 Chain armour (4)
 - 46 Chewy sweet (6)
 - 47 Metal-cutting shears (5)
 - 48 Felt indignant about (8)
 - 49 Occurring in brief irregular bursts (9)
 - 50 Permit document (7)
 - 51 Vertical passageway (5)
 - 52 Lodge-building animals (7)
 - 53 From time to time (3,3,5)
 - 54 Fight (6)
 - 55 I'm dot in place (anag) (7,5)
 - 64 Give up all hope (7)
 - 65 Abundant (7)
 - 67 Cleaned (anag)(7)
 - 69 Dense area of small trees, shrubs (7)
 - 70 Conundrum (6)
 - 71 Smell (5)
 - 73 Boredom, listlessness (5)
 - 75 Turning machine (5)
 - 77 Flying mammals (4)
 - 78 Ripped (4)
 - 82 Clairvoyance (1,1,1)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Ashes, 4 December, 9 Script, 14 Snare, 15 Come to a sticky end, 17 Strut, 18 Tie, 19 Smitten, 20 Tarnished, 21 Stuff, 24 Spaceship, 25 Mishap, 26 Helped, 29 Wrongdoing, 31 Way, 32 Scarab, 33 Crop, 35 Dip, 37 Edge, 39 Venezuela, 40 Economise, 41 Yacht, 42 Research, 47 Reckless, 51 Elite, 55 Surprises, 56 Xylophone, 58 Sank, 59 Ego, 60 Snow, 61 Rotund, 62 Toe, 63 Occasional, 66 Rascal, 67 Tragic, 69 Convinces, 72 Scales, 73 Pulsating, 75 Pollute, 77 Lop, 80 Osier, 81 More often than not, 82 Creel, 83 Defect, 84 Postpone, 85 Leash.

DOWN: 2 Shoemaker, 3 Event, 5 Easy, 6 Epitaph, 7 Baking powder, 8 Reeks, 9 Sadness, 10 Rose, 11 Pirate, 12 Tasty, 13 Receded, 14 Stiffen, 16 Over and over, 22 Resign, 23 Cabaret, 24 Sincere, 25 Mayday, 27 Porcine, 28 Cajole, 30 Gaze, 32 Speck, 34 Press, 36 Dock, 38 Due, 42 Rusts, 43 Serious, 44 Airy, 45 Custom, 46 Mixed, 48 Cheesecloth, 49 Lessons, 50 Son, 51 Estuary, 52 Exotic, 53 Altercations, 54 Up to, 57 Orchid, 64 Albatross, 65 Parasol, 66 Replica, 68 Gourmet, 70 Non-stop, 71 Recipe, 72 Spiel, 74 Scrap, 76 Lance, 78 Free, 79 Anon.

HEALTH & WELLBEING



Eco changes at Walter & Co

We at alter & Co Hairdressing have been making changes behind the scenes at our salon.

Hair salons as an industry use numerous products and produce waste that we haven't been able to repurpose or recycle until now.

Earlier in 2021, we united with the Sustainable Salons movement that sees most of our waste disposed of. We are the first and only salon in Thames that is working with Sustainable Salons.

Our hair clippings are collected to make hair booms - hair is stuffed into stockings that absorb oil spills along our coastlines or donated to community gardens.

Proceeds from recycled resources are donated to Kiwi Harvest to provide meals for those in need - a full head of foils provides one quarter of a meal to a disadvantaged person.

Our recycled plastic is repurposed into new products such as outdoor furniture or new packaging.

We can also donate ponytails to make wigs, each wig requiring 20 ponytails at least 20cm long. Even our excess chemicals are sent to

chemical recycling plants to be turned into water, this water is used in roadworks and construction.

Being a part of the solution doesn't have to cost the earth, our clients make a small \$2 green service fee which minimises the ecological footprint of your salon visit and supports a range of important sustainability and community initiatives.

We have also been exploring new advancements in hair care ranges and have introduced the Pure Organic range, which uses natural organic ingredients that are 100 per cent certified, and 100 per cent land waste to make their plastic bottles, have no sulphates or parabens and are vegan friendly.

We have also introduced Lust Hair Care, which are 100 per cent New Zealand owned and operated, using luxurious botanicals formulated to not contain SLS, Sulphates, Parabens or any harmful substances.

Lust is also Cruelty Free and Vegan, and also Peta certified.

We are doing our part to reduce our ecological footprint - every little bit counts.

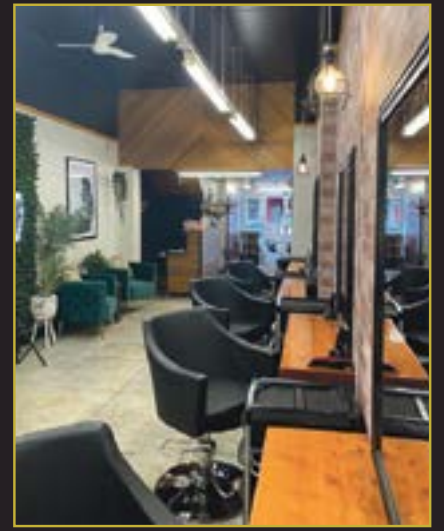


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Allens United owner Ted Milne offers septic tank cleaning and portaloos hire. Photo: GORDON PREECE

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“It’s one of those jobs that has to be done. There’s more houses being built in the rural areas now than ever before, there’s going to be an ongoing issue with septic tanks to be cleaned.”

Ted said he’d like to think the future of Allens United was with him and his staff continuing to provide an honest and reliable service for the district.

“Environmentally, we’ve got a lot better, we like to think we’re caring for the environment,” he said.

“The portaloos side of the business has grown especially, with increased building activity in the Thames Valley,” he said.

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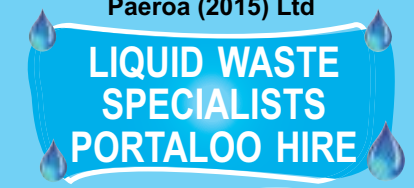
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THAMES WORKINGMEN'S CLUB (Inc).

Notice of AGM Saturday 21st May 2022 10:00am

AGENDA

- Apologies
- Minutes of previous AGM
- Matters Arising
- President's Report
- Manager's Report
- Presentation of Statement of Accounts
- Subscriptions
- Confirmation of Returning Officers
- Election of Board of Appeal
- Election of Auditor
- Election of Committee
- General Business

President J Gailbraith

CARD CHECK AT DOOR

Public Notice

Hikutaia Public Hall Committee AGM.
May 10th
7.00pm
Hikutaia Hall

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‘Memorable’ walk raises funds for Wendy

By GORDON PREECE

Waerenga resident Alison O’Callaghan walked the Tongariro Alpine Crossing on April 23 to raise money for Waihi lung cancer patient Wendy Fergusson.

Alison earlier said she had never met Wendy but wanted to do more after reading her story on the front page of *The Profile* in February.

“I read it and it stayed on the kitchen bench for about a week and I kept revisiting it and I just thought what a dreadful, awful predicament to be in, to have to possibly sell your home as well as contend with an illness,” she said.

“It just pulled my heartstrings, and I just thought I’m gonna have to do something here.”

Alison said the 19-kilometre Tongariro Crossing, which she did with her son, Rory, was a “fabulous day” with blue sky but very cold and windy at the top.

“It was very memorable, very challenging but out of the times I’ve done it, I managed it far better than previously, and I’d just like to say that was the encouragement and the advice from TCA [Fitness Club] in Thames - had I not gone, I would’ve been struggling.

“Rory was miles ahead sometimes, but we just caught up and we had lunch at the Emerald Lakes, which was magnificent.”

Wendy’s husband, Craig, set up a Givealittle page for online donations to cover costs of her lung cancer drug called IMFIN-

ZI, after she was diagnosed with lung cancer in July last year.

Craig said in February, due to the full treatment cost of \$208,000, he and Wendy were facing selling their Waihi home to pay for it.

However, since then, Pharmac decided to fund IMFINZI from August, bringing the costs of Wendy’s full treatment down to \$46,000, which means they no longer needed to sell their home to pay for treatment.

Alison said in a previous article, those wanting to support her fundraising walk could make donations to Wendy’s Givealittle page.

“It doesn’t matter how little, it all goes to Wendy, and that’s the pure reason,” she said.

Since that article, \$350 more had been raised for Wendy bringing the total amount raised so far to \$11,430.

Alison said while she didn’t have plans to raise more money for Wendy, she planned to meet with her and Craig after they sent her a “lovely email” asking her to meet them.

“I think [the crossing] was a substantial effort and I’ll call it a day at that, but maybe in the future if something comes up that pulls my heartstrings then I’ll be keen again,” she said.

“I wish Wendy all the very best and trust she will finish this journey and succeed in health and wellbeing.”

DETAILS: To make an online donation, go to: givealittle.co.nz/cause/help-wendy-finish-her-journey.



Alison O’Callaghan walks the Tongariro Alpine Crossing with her son Rory to raise funds for Waihi woman Wendy Fergusson’s cancer treatment. Photo: SUPPLIED

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