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Quest to see skipping soar



Sacha Willetts will be skipping in Australia for the Queensland State Championships later this month. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

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

It's always an awkward conversation when Sacha Willetts tries to explain away her latest jump rope injury.

Doctors and physios look at her quizzingly when she says "skipping" is the cause of her ailment, and she does everything aside from pulling out her phone to show them videos of her impressive leaps to convince them skipping is an actual sport.

"We just don't know it exists in New Zealand," she says. "There's no progression, there's no coaches, and there are negative connotations around the term 'skipping'."

Sacha, 38, says skipping - or jump rope - is often thought of solely as a schoolyard game, when in reality, it is a "highly athletic and globally recognised sport on the verge of being added to the Olympics".

The Thames woman has been partaking in the sport for almost two years and will be on her way to Australia for the Queensland State Championships later this month.

Closer to home, she wants skipping as a sport to snowball.

"I would just love to see the day when we have a New Zealand team going to world champs," she tells *The Profile*. "There are a few hurdles to get to before we get to that - we don't have a national federation, we don't have membership to the international jump rope union - so even if we did have a team, at the moment we couldn't compete internationally."

Sacha's foray into the high-flying sport started in 2021, after the Instagram algorithm showed her a video of someone using a rope in a unique

way.

"It was something I'd never seen before," she says, "and that led me down a rabbit hole of this jump rope community and I found this amazing, really supportive, really talented group of people online."

After watching from afar, Sacha created her own online skipping page and contacted Australian world champion Luke Boon, who is now her coach.

"I wasn't sure if I wanted a coach because I was fine just bumbling along, and Luke had a very different style to what I saw myself doing."

A competitive style, she explains, is far different than the style of a free-style Instagram jumper.

"I actually originally unfollowed him on Instagram because he was too good. He was so far away from where I saw myself going with jump rope, but I contacted him, did one lesson with him, and just from that one lesson, I learned so much."

The president of Queensland Skipping later reached out to Sacha and asked if she wanted to head across the Tasman "to see how a competition works".

Then, Sacha was given a nudge to compete.

"At first, I was like: 'No, I cannot', but they've created a category called recreational which is pointed at people like me," she says.

"That in itself will be a challenge. Nerves are going to be a really big thing for me."

Sacha will have to perform a 60 second routine put to music, and will be judged on her skills and presentation. She has skipped with other jumpers in New York, London, and

CONTINUED ON P17

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Seawall options to buy Moanataiari 'time'

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

The question was heard loud and clear: "What are you going to do to protect us?"

Thames' Civic Centre was at capacity last week for a public meeting to discuss the state of Moanataiari's seawall.

The subdivision was built on reclaimed land, and with data showing that a "one in 100 year" storm event could overtop the wall between homes and the Firth of Thames from 2036, residents say the community has been receiving bad press and their property values are decreasing.

One attendee said real estate agents discouraged people from buying homes in the suburb.

"This is eating into the cost of my house," another said.

"My market value, it's bottoming out. You're pretty much making my house unsellable."

The concerns come after an earlier public meeting, hosted by Thames-Coromandel District Council, told residents that if the subdivision saw a sea level rise of more than 0.2m (200mm), the long-term defence would be managed retreat.

But at the recent meeting on March 29, three options were presented that could "buy time".

These included: increasing the seawall's existing timber parapet by 0.2m, offering short-term protection of up to 10 years at a cost of \$200,000-



Mayor Len Salt accepts a petition signed by around 195 people.

\$500,000; creating an additional 1m-high concreted wall, offering 20-30 years protection at a cost of \$2-4 million; or, increasing the embankment by a height of 1.7m, offering 100 years of protection and costing between \$13m and \$27m.

Alex Cartwright, Tonkin and Taylor's climate and risk consultant, said building a 10-metre high seawall was "just not feasible" because the pressure of the water could cause the wall to fail.

"And if that asset were to fail, we suddenly create a situation where the water is going to move much faster - think if you pulled a hole out of a full bath, that water comes flying out much quicker than if it just comes over the top if you leave the tap on.

"Yes, we're trying to prevent the water from coming over the wall," he said, "but at some point we have to accept that, potentially, we can't keep designing up and up and up to keep the water out. These options have all been about buying time."

When asked if council could publicly state managed retreat was not recommended, TCDC's asset and planning manager Amon Martin said long-term issues still faced the suburb - but it wasn't a solely Moanataiari challenge.

The difference was that the district council was forefronting the problem, he said.

"The point is - from today, we are focusing on options to buy us more time. In the long, long term, we still think it might not be a good place to live... and it's

not just Moanataiari, it's parts of Gisborne, parts of Wellington, it's all around the country.

"We can definitely say we're going to maintain the seawall and even look at improving what we're doing to maintain it, but that doesn't mean we can do it forever - or for 100 years."

According to council, there are 80 houses on the landward side of Centennial Ave, worth a total of around \$64 million.

TCDC Mayor Len Salt, who recently purchased a property in Totara Palms in Thames, said he had "skin in the game" because his home was also in a flood zone.

He reassured residents that whatever was decided when it came to options and costs, Moanataiari was not going to foot the bill alone.

"Nobody's pointing at Moanataiari and saying: 'Well, you guys live here so you've got to pay for everything'."

"Please don't think for a second that the people of Moanataiari - in all these challenges that we are trying to face - will have someone come to you and say: 'here's the bill'."

"We're in this together," he said.

Mayor Salt was also presented with a petition signed by 195 people, with a member of a newly-formed Moanataiari committee saying he looked forward to "further consultation and constructive dialogue".



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Thames Tides

Wed Apr 5	Thu Apr 6	Fri Apr 7	Sat Apr 8	Sun Apr 9	Mon Apr 10	Tue Apr 11
Morning 12:28am 0.8 6:40am 3.1	Morning 1:07am 0.7 7:18am 3.2	Morning 1:44am 0.6 7:57am 3.3	Morning 2:22am 0.6 8:36am 3.3	Morning 3:02am 0.5 9:17am 3.3	Morning 3:44am 0.6 9:59am 3.3	Morning 4:29am 0.6 10:45am 3.3
Afternoon 12:50pm 0.8 7:12pm 3.1	Afternoon 1:29pm 0.7 7:50pm 3.2	Afternoon 2:08pm 0.6 8:27pm 3.3	Afternoon 2:47pm 0.5 9:05pm 3.4	Afternoon 3:26pm 0.5 9:44pm 3.4	Afternoon 4:07pm 0.5 10:26pm 3.4	Afternoon 4:51pm 0.5 11:12pm 3.3
6:34am Best At 11:33am	6:35am Best At 12:15pm	6:36am Best At 12:36am	6:37am Best At 1:21am	6:38am Best At 2:09am	6:39am Best At 3:01am	6:39am Best At 3:57am
Set 5:11am Rise 5:47pm	Full Moon Set 6:12am Rise 6:10pm	Set 7:14am Rise 6:35pm	Set 8:19am Rise 7:04pm	Set 9:26am Rise 7:37pm	Set 10:36am Rise 8:17pm	Set 11:45am Rise 9:07pm

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

MOON AND FISH KEYS



TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES

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

PLACE	Hr	Mn	LOW	Mn
Coromandel	-0	05	-0	04
Whitianga	-0	01	-0	05
Tairua	+0	10	+0	21
Whangamata	-0	03	-0	05
Waihi Beach	-0	12	-0	12

Vet walks 3000kms for Fiji shelter

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

A Thames vet who has travelled all over the world is being a tourist in her own country, determined to complete the lengthy Te Araroa Trail to raise funds for a Fiji animal shelter.

Speaking to *The Profile* with still 400km left on her journey, Clare Marriott started her walk on November 22 from Cape Reinga. She has been able to take some time off the trail, though, like to go to a wedding in January, hastily swapping her fitness wear for more formal attire.

"I bought a dress about 30 minutes before the shops closed the night before the wedding... I thought as long as I show my face, it doesn't matter what I look like," she said.

The Te Araroa Trail is a long-distance tramping route that stretches around 3000kms along the length of the country's two main islands, from Cape Reinga to Bluff.

A seasoned hiker, Clare is also an intrepid traveller. From age four to eight, she lived in Kenya, Africa, and she has since visited a further 40 countries.

And, as a veterinary locum, Clare, 31, has been able to work around the world.

She moved to the United Kingdom in 2018 and used the nation as a "bounce pad" to see sites in Europe and Africa.

After "a year of good times" before the Covid-19 pandemic took hold, she worked in Sweden before returning back to

New Zealand for Christmas, 2021, securing a MIQ spot with her sister. From August to September, 2022, Clare went on to volunteer at the Pacific Animal Shelter and Hospital [PASH] in Fiji, an experience she said was "eye-opening".

"We're so lucky in New Zealand; you forget how different things are," she said.

"A lot of people can't afford the basic worming and flea treatment of their animals, so I saw a lot of diseases that you don't see in New Zealand."

PASH is a charitable organisation and Clare, who hails from Puriri, south of Thames, opted to walk the Te Araroa Trail to raise "vital" funds for the clinic, namely for a blood test machine which she said would help vets make "a rapid and accurate diagnosis of a disease in a sick animal".

Walking the route would also satiate her thirst for travel.

"When I got back to New Zealand, I realised how cool New Zealand was," she said. "I think I took it for granted. I met a few tourists who said they were going to a certain place and I realised I'd never actually been there yet. So, I thought I should get to know my own country a bit better before my next adventure."

Clare has been averaging around 15km a day along the trail, but her longest stretch for one day has been 48km. She hopes to be at the finish line in Bluff by Easter.

"It's been cool being a tour-



Claire Marriott is walking the Te Araroa Trail to raise "vital" funds for charity.

Photos: SUPPLIED

ist in my own country, getting to see all these little towns and meet some really awesome people along the way," she said.

"I am so grateful for my family and friends for all their encouragement and help they have given me, like sending food parcels and gear along the trail, and also for the kindness of random strangers I have met along the way."

DETAILS: To donate to Clare's epic voyage and her fundraiser for Fiji, visit: givealittle.co.nz/cause/fundsforfijianimals.



Clare started her walk in November and has since made her way down NZ.

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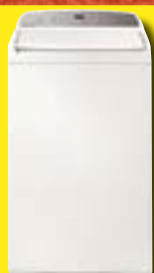


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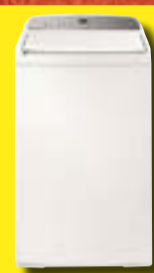


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Man sentenced for service station attack

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

A man has been sentenced to intensive supervision and community work for his “foolish” behaviour in intimidating a former employer.

Jeremy Aberhart, whose application for name suppression was denied by Judge Christina Cook, was sentenced in the Thames District Court on March 31.

He earlier pleaded guilty to four charges: intentional damage, intimidation, possession of an offensive weapon, and threatening behaviour.

Alongside his 14 months of intensive supervision and 150 hours of community work, Mr Aberhart also has to pay \$500 in reparation after damaging four terminals at Mobil Thames.

His offending began when, on September 16 and October 10 last year, he sent his victim multiple text messages that became “increasingly inappropriate” as time went on, the court heard.

On October 11, around 9.50pm, Mr Aberhart walked on to the forecourt of Mobil Thames, approached an outside payment terminal, and struck it several times with a metal bar.

He ended up causing “irrepa-

rable damage” to four terminals before leaving.

On November 7, Mr Aberhart sat outside the KFC adjacent to Thames Mobil and held a galvanised steel fishing rod holder as if he was holding a rifle, the district court heard. He aimed it at Mobil staff, imitating a gun firing and recoiling.

He then sat in the KFC’s outdoor dining area sharpening a fish filleting knife while staring across at staff.

According to victim impact statements, staff at the petrol station “felt anxious and nervous” as a result of Mr Aberhart’s behaviour.

They said the situation “had become very real and intimidating”, with some preparing to leave their jobs until Police stepped in.

Since the offending has occurred, no further issues have arisen with Mr Aberhart, court heard, and his transient lifestyle and his views about his former employer may have related to the offending.

In sentencing, a destruction order was also sought for the fish filleting knife.



‘No lack of resources’ for SH25A

By GORDON PREECE

There’s “no lack of money” to repair the massive slip that took out 130m of the Kōpū-Hikuai Rd, Transport Minister Michael Wood said last week.

The Minister met with Mayor Len Salt, Coromandel business leaders and a new advisory group he established for the district on March 30 to understand its issues moving through the cyclone recovery period.

The minister said the meeting was “a very good constructive discussion” to reassure the council and community that the government was committed to improving transport connectivity for the district including the vital State Highway 25A link.

“The hope is that we will reopen it and that we will turn over every stone to open it as soon as we can, no one is waiting around, there is no lack of resources, there is no lack of money,” he said.

“The government has put in \$250 million to Waka Kotahi and would put more in to make sure we get critical roads like this one open.

“I cannot give a guarantee that it will be open by December, we need to be honest with people about that, but we will be able to give a greater level of clarity once a preferred option is chosen and we will move with all speed to get it underway.”

Waka Kotahi earlier said it would decide by May whether a bridge, retaining wall or bypass would be the best repair option.

Mayor Len Salt said while there was always “a level of frustration



Transport Minister Michael Wood says he will ‘turn over every stone’ to open the slip-damaged SH25A. Photo: GORDON PREECE

that improvements couldn’t be made faster, he felt the district had good support to progress.

“We’ve got business funds coming through which we are able to distribute to the business community and to affected people but I would always like [the rebuild] to be a bit quicker, and that’s the frustration,” he said.

“It’s unlikely that [SH25A] would get fixed by Christmas so we need to be looking at what are the contingencies that we can put in place to support businesses through that period.

“It’s better to have the reality on the table than work on false hope and I found that quite refreshing.”

Minister Wood advised the district had been granted additional funding which follows an initial \$1.4 million Business Disaster Relief Fund by council to support impacted businesses.

Mayor Len Salt said the funding boost would allow its roughly 400 applicants, who had to apply for the funding before March 31, to receive support as applications had been “oversubscribed”.

“Now we’ve got confirmation on that second tranche of funding it means we can go ahead and finish those assessments and award that funding on the basis of the initial need that they applied for,” he said.

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Education

Teachers want pay to match inflation

By GORDON PREECE

No movement from the government to inflation-proof teachers' pay was the "sticking point" for Waihi College to join teachers nationwide in industrial action on Wednesday last week.

The college has roughly 45 teachers and around 90 per cent of them are members of the Post Primary Teachers Association (PPTA).

The union voted to take further industrial action on March 29 following the nationwide teachers strike on March 16.

Waihi College PPTA staff representative Peter Roy told *The Profile* its union members left their classrooms empty to continue supporting their claims for better pay.

"It's clear that the pay is the sticking point and it's because there has been no movement from the government to even move towards inflation-proofing our pay by paying us the rate of inflation," he said.

"Whether you're a beginning teacher or top of the scale, getting an increase that's the same as the rate of inflation means that we wouldn't go backwards, the current offer from the MOE [Ministry of Education] would see us going backwards."

The current offer includes a \$4000 pay increase from De-



Waihi College teachers took part in the nationwide teachers strike on March 16.

Photo: SUPPLIED

ember, 2022, and a \$2000 increase from December this year.

Mr Roy said there was around a \$40,000 difference between entry level teachers and teachers at the top of the pay scale, which takes seven or eight years to reach.

"If you're at the top of the scale and you accepted the govern-

ment offer... by July, 2023, our buying power would go down 9.38 per cent and by July, 2024, [it would decrease] 9.92 per cent... so in real terms it ends up as a pay cut," he said.

"The government two weeks ago increased the pay of all the beneficiaries... by the amount of the CPI [consumers price index]

or the rate of inflation, and said 'we don't want [beneficiaries] going backwards'.

"We put in our request to have our pay increased by the rate of inflation and we are being offered a whole lot less, so that's why we've got industrial action."

Mr Roy said the college planned more industrial action

in the coming weeks if the government did not provide fairer salary options.

"We're looking at rolling stoppages, which will mean that different parts of the country will be withdrawing labour over the week and there is potential that we won't teach a particular year level on a different day," he said.



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Waihi College bringing back the Twilight Gala!

Waihi College is bringing back its popular Twilight Gala! The first event of its kind for years will take place on Wednesday 5th April, from 3.30 – 6pm, on the Moresby Ave fields at the front of the college. The event is a fundraiser for a new Year 7&8 playground, and has been organised by "Hub Project" students, who have been doing some hands-on learning about the various aspects of event management. We are expecting at least 90 stalls – including food and drinks', fun games and activities which include a mountain

bike skills track, marshmallow roasting on a bonfire, a paddock train, water slide, bouncy castles, face painting and the emergency service vehicles for children to have a look at. Better still, the Gala will have a festival atmosphere with live music from our Rock Band plus very special guests The Dixie Chicks, who have agreed to play for our guests.

Thanks to the wonderful business owners in our community, we also have some awesome raffle prizes – tickets will be available for sale throughout the evening, and drawn at the end of the Gala. We are also very grateful to the large number of independent stallholders who have booked stalls so that there will be a large range of products for sale, including plants, art mats, bath and body products, make up and jewellery and even gourmet pet food! The Police, Fire and Ambulance services will be there with their vehicles to chat about the work they do and possible career pathways with the younger guests!

See you all there on Wednesday 5th April at 3.30! Entry is free – but when you arrive you will need to purchase tickets to use as "money" at the various sales. You can use cash or EFTPOS to buy these tickets.

Check out the Keeping Informed section of the Waihi College website to stay informed with all things Waihi College www.waihicol.school.nz



Hauraki Mayor to visit Beijing

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

Hauraki Mayor Toby Adams will visit China later this month to witness a “sea of peach blossoms” and strengthen council’s relationship with the district of Pinggu.

He’ll make the trip with former Hauraki Mayor John Tregidga, who told elected members last week that the voyage could establish a Sister City relationship with the Beijing province, and provide “real opportunities” back home.

Sister Cities, sometimes called twin towns, is a term given to two geographically and politically distinct localities for the purpose of promoting cultural and commercial ties.

In the 1970 and 80s, Paeroa had a twin town relationship with Nowra in the Shoalhaven District of New South Wales. In 1994, it established a Sister City relationship with Murray Bridge, South Australia, and, in 2001, council established a memorandum of friendship with the Jiading District in Shanghai, China.

Elected members heard on March 29 how Mayor Adams and Mr Tregidga were invited by Pinggu District Mayor Di Tao to attend the Pinggu International Peach Blossom Festival on April 17. A letter sent to the

mayor talked of learning about Pinggu’s industrial achievements, enhancing the districts’ friendship, and promoting co-operation.

Expenses incurred during the men’s stay, including accommodation and meals, would be paid for by the Pinggu district.

However, Mayor Adams’ airfare and visa costs would be paid for by Hauraki District Council’s extended relationships budget.

Council approved a one-off operating cost of \$6500, with no impact on rates.

Plains Ward councillor Ray Broad voted against the motion.

“Hauraki has been one of the leaders in being actively in a Sister City relationship with China,” Mr Tregidga said at the March council meeting.

“There are a number of councils that do have Sister City relationships - some are quite strong, but a lot of them are hit and miss. Hauraki has been consistent, and that has been well recognised by Beijing,” he said.

“Hauraki has had an extremely high profile relationship with China and is highly regarded, and personally, I’d like to see that continue.”

Council also approved staff investigating options for future Sister City relationships.



Neil John introduces a kiwi to enthralled students at Te Puru School.

Photo: SUPPLIED/RACHEL HOLMES

Nose-to-beak with Kiwi

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

Te Puru School students held a thushed welcome for a very special visitor on March 27.

The first of Thames Coast Kiwi Care’s (TCKC) muster of kiwi stopped by on its way home to the Te Mātā kiwi sanctuary.

Students were instructed to keep still and quiet so as not to startle the nocturnal creature. The kiwi was then carried among the crowd by experienced handler Neil John, sparking awe across the faces of the excited tamariki as they came nose-to-beak with New Zealand’s totem bird.

“It was beautiful,” principal Karla Hull said. “I think it was a really special occasion. It was lovely that we were included in it. And I hope it’s a tradition we can continue to be a part of in years to come.”

The kiwi, currently nameless, is estimated to be 18 months old.

Its sire is Kori, one of the original birds from Operation Nest Egg. The project aims to rebuild New Zealand’s wild kiwi population, by taking kiwi eggs from the protected sanctuary in Te Mata to Auckland Zoo for hatching, with the chicks then raised on predator-free Rotoroa Island.

Mature birds are brought back to live in the sanctuary. This year’s

muster aims to return up to 25 birds.

Neil said it had been a great year for the kiwi already in the sanctuary. He said they would be making a third pick up of eggs this season.

“Being wet for us has been good for them,” he said. “[It’s] pretty unheard of for us to do a pickup in April.”

TCKC also runs a trapping programme to help protect the returned birds. More than 60 volunteer trappers are involved, walking over 2000kms of tracks and performing 15,000 trap checks each year.



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Budding Einsteins

Year five and six students from seven Thames Valley schools gathered at Pārāwai School on March 24 to compete in the annual Epro8 science challenge. Host Andrew Thiel said the budding Einsteins could choose up to four different projects to work on including constructing a car wash, constructing a pendulum clock, creating electricity, or making a lightning rod. Reporter **GORDON PREECE** headed along to capture the event.



Aria Wood, left, Sasha Peacock, Dezyhl Duncan, and Damon Clegg.



Moanataiari School students Isabella White, left, Geonho Cho, Sherwin Joseph, Lily Roath.



Blake Bergersen, left, Alessandro Yamamoto, Kyran Moore, Jett Elliott



Puriri School students construct their project.



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60 years married: 'we're still young yet'

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

In 1958, a young woman from Paeroa threw a cup of water over a builder working nearby, as he stopped to grab a drink outside her college classroom.

Five years later, on March 30, 1963, the couple tied the knot.

It's a marriage that has stood the test of time, and Peter and Julia Lowe say there's no great secret to their union's longevity.

"You have your disagreements," Peter says, "but the strength is being able to get over them."

Peter and Julia have lived in and around Paeroa all their lives. Their family - three children, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren - all live nearby. It's family and community, it seems, that keep this couple thriving.

They have both been heavily involved in their local community over the years. Peter was a volunteer ambulance driver for St John and still plays golf three days a week. Julia was awarded a Queen's Service Medal in 2017 for services to the community; she has been involved with the Girl Guide movement, the Paeroa Support Trust, the Cooperating Church, and does tai chi and choir along with taking on babysitting duties for one of her great-grandchildren.

She's also a practising Justice of the Peace.



Peter and Julie Lowe, of Paeroa, have celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

"It's just been a steady marriage," Julia says. "He's still the best man in my life."

Shared interests have also been important. Peter spent much of his free time fixing up vintage cars, and the pair have travelled around NZ and the world on rallies.

"We went to Art Deco about eight or nine times in Napier and that's full costume from when you get there," Julia says.

"We went in the old car of course and we always dressed up the whole time. I love the old cars, we both do."

The couple both say there's no great secret to a happy marriage. They've simply honoured their marriage contract and committed to facing the ups and downs of life together.

"We wouldn't be here this long otherwise and putting up with each other," Julia says.

"We must have done something right. He might tell you a different story, perhaps you should interview him without me in the room (laughs)."

Peter agrees. "It's too easy nowadays to get out of a marriage, you just have an argument and say 'Oh hell, I'm off'," he says. "It's the old story, like any contract you work at it."

It's clearly an easy, practised relationship - the two are

comfortable and quick to joke around with each other.

"You're not a 'yes, dear' man," Julia says to him. Peter is quick with a reply.

"They're two good words you should learn though," he says. "And [there's] not much point in changing now. As long as she keeps cooking me dinner!"




Free concert at Whānau Day

"One of the best" Kiwi cover bands is taking time out of their North Island tour to play a free concert in Paeroa, coinciding with a Hauraki Whānau Day that's been planned to lift the spirits of locals.

It's been a tough few years for families, says one of the organisers, Rino Wilkinson, and so he and fellow Paeroa Bluelight committee member Jo Tilsley decided to fashion a Whānau Day that was fun - and free.

The event then expanded when a local businessman and Bluelight supporter arranged for a well-known band to come to town.

Dubbed White Chapel Jak, the touring Kiwi artists will now take centre stage following the Whānau Day, held at Paeroa Domain on April 16.

"They're one of the best cover bands going around," Rino says, "and they cater to everyone, all ages and all genres

of music.

"We'll get kids dancing, mums and dads singing... The hardest part will be trying to get them to go home afterwards."

The core members Bonnie Hurunui, Nathan Boston, and Dean Tinning will be joined by a host of the nation's top musos, while the Whānau Day will feature food, bouncy castles, and games.

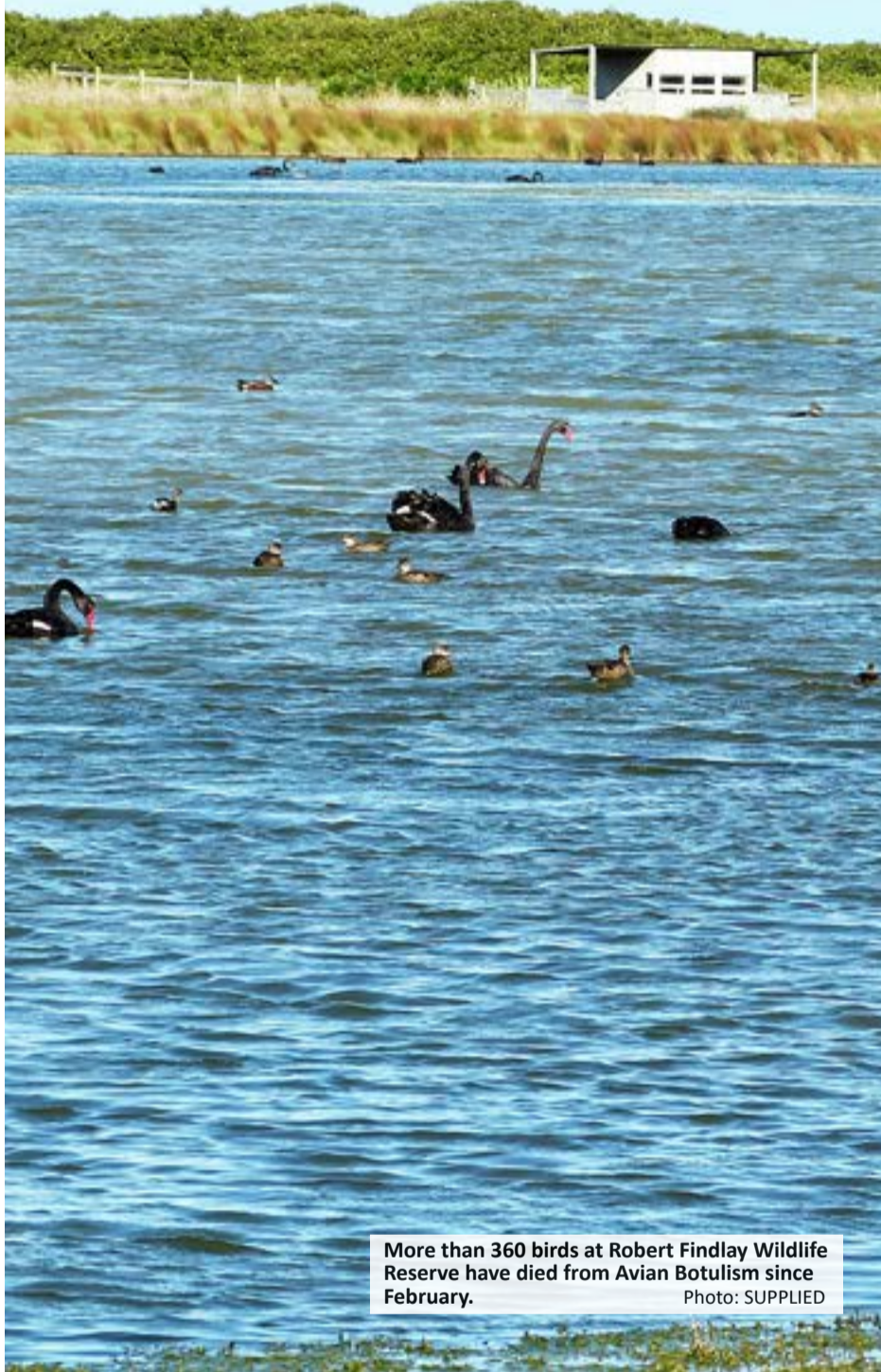
"It's a great initiative and we've got to have fun and laughter; we've got to enjoy ourselves," Rino says. "And why not be a part of a community that wants to celebrate having fun?"

DETAILS: Rino and the organisers are calling on residents throughout the Hauraki to be a part of the special event, with the free Hauraki Whānau Day kicking off at 1pm, and the White Chapel Jak performance starting at 3pm on Sunday, April 16 at Paeroa Domain.



Rural Life

Botulism kills birds



More than 360 birds at Robert Findlay Wildlife Reserve have died from Avian Botulism since February.
Photo: SUPPLIED

By GORDON PREECE

Hundreds of birds at the Robert Findlay Wildlife Reserve on the Firth of Thames have succumbed to a deadly disease since February.

The more than 360 affected birds, which include mallards and grey teal, were the victims of avian botulism which causes paralysis in birds and often kills them.

Pūkoro Mirinda Shorebird Centre manager Keith Woodley told *The Profile* the risk of the disease at the reserve had increased in recent times due to the area carrying too much water.

"It's an incredibly important high tide site for shorebirds but it's been unavailable to shorebirds in recent times because the area is carrying too much water," he said.

"The ponds should regularly flush with each tide, but for quite some time the outflow channel to the Pūkoro Stream has been silted up, sediment and mangroves have effectively blocked it.

"That has attracted huge populations of black swans and geese and ducks and all sorts of other waterfowl so that combination of the stagnating water with waterfowl on it has exacerbated the situation."

Keith said while the avian botulism cases had dwindled in the past few weeks and a Shorebird Centre ranger had managed the outbreak by burying the birds to prevent toxin growth, his concern was that protected shorebirds could fall victim.

"What concerns us is the fact that we had at least five or six stilts that seemed to succumb to this as well and they're a shorebird," he said.

"If there are other shorebirds in the area that could be affected then that would be of more concern to us because they are protected and some of

them are threatened species."

Keith said the conditions which allow avian botulism to emerge could be addressed as there had been regular outbreaks of the disease on the Hauraki Plains for "quite some time".

"We put a resource consent application into Waikato Regional Council [late last year] to dredge or clear the outlet from the silt ponds down to the stream so we can restore the area to its natural tidal cycle," he said.

"If the tides are regularly flushing in the area and the water is not allowed to pond and stagnate... that should really reduce the risk of [avian botulism] occurring in the future.

"We understand [the council] have to go through a due process and there's a statutory requirement they have to do for these consents, but we have tried to convey to them it's a matter of urgency to try and get this thing sorted, and the sooner we could get it done the better."

Waikato Regional Council said it received the application in January and it was put on hold until March 8.

"That hold was then extended as there were a number of matters the council required further information on to understand the nature of the proposal and any potential adverse effects it might have on the environment," a council spokesperson said.

"To date, Waikato Regional Council has not received this information, so is not in a position to progress the application."

Keith said the Shorebird Centre would work on co-ordinating with Waikato Regional Council to retain shorebird habitat in hopes it would process the resource consent application.

Meanwhile, council said it was also creating a 10.5 hectare migratory bird wading habitat at the Piako River mouth as part of its flood protection asset rationalisation project.

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Rural Life

Mangatangi sport horses trot to victory

By GORDON PREECE

A Mangatangi warmblood horse breeding station and equestrian centre was “euphoric” after two of its foals won first place for categories in the New Zealand Warmblood Association Classification Tour this month.

The Whangārei to Mosgiel tour, which was split into dressage, eventing and showjumping categories, entailed an international judge assessing mare conformation and movement.

The event provides New Zealand breeders with valuable feedback from international experts to help guide future breeding directions and decisions.

Southern Star Sporthorses, which the Doering family has operated for six years, went through a “lot of hard work” for its foal, Southern Star Prestige, to win first place for dressage and its foal, Southern Star Legacy to win first place for eventing.

Co-owner Nannette Doering told *The Profile* the family was “euphoric” by the win and the secret to producing champion foals was believing in the bloodlines, and ensuring its stallion, Rosari Fabio, was



Rosari Fabio and Southern Star Prestige.

crossing with “very nice” mares.

“You need a good eye for the cross, know what your stallion has and what he would cross well with, so the choice of the mares is quite important that you get a good cross,” she said.

“My eye always goes to the movement of the horse... I think with our stallion named

Rosari Fabio, he’s phenomenal in his movement, he’s got what you call a flexible, soft and very loose movement in his trot.

“These horses are quite challenging to ride because their spine is so soft and so flexible but then you get amazing movement in dressage.”

Nannette said six of their

foals also received merit and excellence rosettes in this year’s tour and had produced at least one champion horse in the past four events, which no other stud in New Zealand had done.

“I find it satisfying because you breed an animal that becomes your friend and you are then a team... the ability of the

horse is just as important as the ability of the rider,” she said.

“Because for competing, you both have to work together and our bloodline with Rosari Fabio has incredible temperaments.

“We’ve got some beautiful horses available for sale and if people want to come and have a look, they’re most welcome.”



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Rural Life



Members of Thames Garden Circle celebrated 65 years on March 15. Photo: GORDON PREECE

Thames green fingers flourish for 65 years

By GORDON PREECE

Thames Garden Circle celebrated its 65-year anniversary on March 15. The group, which has 20 members from Thames Valley, gathers once a month at a members home to exchange plants, discuss gardening methods and resolve gardening issues.

Member Pat Fargher told *The Profile* the group was planted in Thames in 1958 for friendship and women who had green fingers.

"[It's for] women who share garden-

ing interests, we exchange plants and encourage other people who haven't had as much experience as some.

"We get to see everyone's gardens and everyone grows different plants and does different styles of gardening.

"The reason we keep membership down to 20 is simply because any more than 20 in a home is pushing it too hard," she said.

Pat said the group also enjoyed regular garden-themed trips out of town and the members' husbands were relieved to "slip into the background" once a month.

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Rural Life

Pumpkin Festival

The annual Pumpkin Festival was held at Turua School on April 1. There was pony riding, face painting, raffles, food, and of course the highlight of the day, the giant pumpkin weigh-in, with the biggest pumpkin weighing in at 92.5kg. Other competitions included best decorated vegetable, and best decorated gumboots.



The decorated vegetable and gumboot competitions were highly contested.

Photos: JESS VAUGHAN



Arya Sutherland took out 3rd place in the giant pumpkin competition.



Isobelle Fisher was the grand winner with the heaviest pumpkin.



Nikki McClunie was the senior decorated vegetable winner.



Anakin McDermott won the preschool decorated gumboot competition.



Toby Vaughan enjoys a sausage.



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Information from Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority

If you're a firearms licence holder, you'll need to know about changes to the storage and transport rules for firearms and ammunition, and changes to the seven rules of firearms safety.

Regulations were updated in February 2022, and to help Kiwis make sense of those changes, Te Tari Pūreke, the new firearms regulator, published a Secure Storage and Transport Guide.

You can download a copy of the Secure Storage and Transport Guide from www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/firearms-safety



The 7 rules of firearm safety

- Rule 1 Treat every firearm as loaded
- Rule 2 Always point firearms in a safe direction
- Rule 3 Chamber a cartridge only when ready to fire
- Rule 4 Identify your target beyond all doubt
- Rule 5 Check your firing zone
- Rule 6 Store and transport firearms and ammunition safely
- Rule 7 Avoid alcohol or drugs when handling firearms

Storage and transport for firearms and ammunition, key points

Transportation

If you're driving to a hunting location, your firearm needs to be inoperable during your travel and, ideally, concealed from view. This means removing the bolt or an essential part (or if that's not possible, applying a trigger or cable lock), or transporting the firearm in a locked carry case.

The ammunition needs to be separately and securely stored in a locked glove box or similar storage area, if practical.

And please, whatever you do, once you've finished using your firearm, lock it away. Never leave any firearms in your ute, shed, home or vehicle unsecured at any time.

The only exceptions to the firearms and ammunition transport rules are if you're using the firearm on a farm for farm-related activities, or you're doing legally-authorized hunting or pest control (such as a regional council employed pest controller) and the licence holder is in the vehicle or the immediately vicinity of the vehicle with the firearms in it.

Make sure you read or download a free copy of the storage and transport guide to keep up to date with the details of the changes: www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/firearms-safety/storage-transportation



Ammunition

All ammunition must now be stored in a locked container. You can now only store ammunition with firearms in a gun safe that has a separate lockable compartment with a different key than the key for the gun safe. **You must keep these keys separate.**

If your safe doesn't have a separate lockable compartment, you need to store ammunition in its own secure storage container with a key, combination, or padlock, or in a stout locked cupboard.

Taking a break when you're travelling with firearms

For those who travel with firearms to hunt locations, your inoperable and secured firearm can be left in your vehicle unattended, for example during a break in a journey, for up to 60 minutes. But you need to lock your vehicle and stay within the immediate area or vicinity of the vehicle and meet other conditions.

Read the storage and transport guide for full details: www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/firearms-safety/storage-transportation.

Under no circumstances can firearms, ammunition or other arms items be left in a vehicle overnight.

The seven rules of firearm safety have changed.

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Hair today, gone tomorrow for charity

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

Zara Johnson has just had the shortest haircut of her life - and it's all for a good cause.

The 10-year old Moanataiari School student donated her hair for the first time, sending it off to a non-profit in Dunedin that makes wig prosthetics for people with hair loss-related medical conditions.

Mum Nicole also donated her hair - it was her third time doing so. "I think she'd heard me talking about where I send my hair, just when other people have asked," Nicole said. "She's heard me [talk about] some people who have medical conditions and that they either lose their hair or they can't grow hair."

Although Zara was excited to help, Nicole said she spent a lot of time making sure her daughter understood what she was doing and why.

"I made her wait until mine was long enough just in case she wanted to pull out. But for the last year she's been keen to do it."

"When it finally came to the day she was very excited."

On the day, their hair was more than 14 inches in length - enough for the donation itself plus some left over for their new 'dos.

With a family friend and former hairdresser lending her scissors, Zara and Nicole's freshly washed hair was sectioned, measured, and finally lopped off.

Zara was left with a short bob, while Nicole opted for a pixie cut. "She was really excited and



LEFT: Zara shows off her donation. ABOVE: Before the cut, with their long tresses. BELOW: Zara and Nicole with their new, shorter, hairstyles. Photos: SUPPLIED



obviously everyone noticed she'd had her hair cut," Nicole said. "She's still telling people."

The liberated locks were sent by post to Freedom Hair. Each wig takes 15-25 ponytails to make and can be styled just like regular hair. The company also uses silicon cap technology to ensure the wigs don't slip off, even while swimming.

Zara was sent a certificate of appreciation by the company,

which she took to school to show her class.

"It was a big change, she hasn't had hair that short since she was [a baby]," Nicole said.

"I don't think she's had any regrets with it, there's been a lot of positive response."

"She's a very outgoing little girl, so she loves telling people about it."



Quest to see skipping soar

CONTINUED FROM P1

Brussels, but coming home to New Zealand, she is hopeful she'll see the non-existent sport one day bloom.

She has recently run classes with kids around 8-9 years of age, and will do another free class for children and adults this month.

It's a sport for all ages, genders, and abilities, she says.

"My whole outlook on exercise, fitness, body image - everything has changed since I found jump rope. I used to be very focused on gym work, going for long runs, and as a woman, we always have hang-ups on our body, but jump rope has changed the way that I exercise," she says.

"It's my main form of exercise now - I can be out there for hours and I don't care so much about what my body looks like. I'm more concerned with what it's able to do."

DETAILS: Sacha's free 'give it a go' sessions will take place at the Jack McLean Centre in Thames on April 16; 1pm for adults and 2pm for kids. Her Term 2 kids classes start on April 30. To follow Sacha's state championship journey, visit www.sachaskips.com or find her on Instagram: @sachaskips.



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Quick build for billiard room



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.

1894

The billiard room at Waihi was almost finished, the building having been erected in the quickest time on record for the township. Waihi local amateur actors had been actively engaged rehearsing for a 'screaming farce'. They promised to electrify the Karangahake people with it.

CHEQUE FRAUD

A resident of Hikutaia, a few minutes after stepping aboard the return steamer from Sydney was approached by a gentlemanly looking individual who casually remarked that he was going to Auckland on holiday.

The man gradually drew him into conversation and it was not long before the two were great friends. The man spoke of several leading Auckland men who he intended calling on as he was most intimately acquainted with them. He

chatted pleasantly on until the steamer was about to leave, when he casually remarked that he had forgotten to cash a cheque.

Would the gentleman from Hikutaia oblige by kindly cashing a cheque for 15 pounds upon reaching Auckland? Such a pleasant gentleman, friend of leading Auckland citizens, could not be refused! His Hikutaia friend at once handed over fifteen pounds in hard cash, and placed the cheque carefully in his pocket book. Moments before the steamer began to depart for Auckland the gentleman vanished, having quietly stepped ashore again, the 15 pounds cash snugly stowed away in his pocket.

On arrival at Auckland the cheque was discovered to be worthless, but could be viewed in a neat frame in the drawing room of the Hikutaia resident, who vowed that he would never be 'had' again.

ELECTRICITY INSTALLED

The long contemplated improvement in the lighting of Bagnall Bros' Turua mill by electricity came to pass, the installation having been fitted up by Mr Crosher, an Auckland electrician. The electric current was generated by a Crompton dynamo, driven by an engine of 10 horse power, manufactured by Price Bros of Thames. The spectacle of the mill lit

up at night was planned to be a treat for those on a steamer trip on behalf of Thames hospital. The visitors were to land at Turua and, although the mill was not working the night shift, Bagnall Bros had all the men mustered in readiness for lighting up the mill. But to the great disappointment of everyone at Turua, the steamer lights, which were seen approaching, faded away and disappeared.

YACHT LAUNCHED

At Tapu, the Hawkes brothers launched their cutter yacht on the evening tide. Their wives, sisters, cousins and aunts all put in an appearance. As the craft glided into her element, the traditional bottle was smashed on her nose by Miss Annie Hawkes, who christened her the *John and Henry* to deafening cheers. Local opinion was that it would take a clipper to get away from her.

SOCIETY OFFENDED

'What would Christ see if he came to Paeroa?' asked the *Hauraki Tribune* after observing shenanigans at the Paeroa Band of Hope and Temperance Society's monthly meeting. Within earshot of the meeting were men playing billiards and occasionally swearing at which the Band of Hope and Temperance members made offensive imitations of the antics of drunken men.

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Walking our kids into the future

OPINION



By MICHAEL WILKES

Recently I took my daughter out for an adventure. Just me and her.

We have this tradition we started where we go on a 'big kid' adventure before first starting school. For my eldest son, we camped over night and then walked to the top of a mountain to abseil off and then climb back up.

We were going to do the same for my daughter, but all this rain has put a damper on that. So instead, we went exploring and tented overnight. This is a milestone in our family. It's a big deal. And so we do something big. Something scary.

Something that gives us the opportunity to say at school when things get hard: "remember when you abseiled off that cliff... remember when you went in that cave? Remember how you were scared? Remember how you felt once you started?" And my oldest, who is used to these questions will answer: "Once I start, I know I'll be okay." Once we start, so of-

ten the fear and anxiety fade.

This all got me thinking about rites of passage. What are the moments in our culture and our family where we celebrate significant moments towards maturity.

The Aboriginal people send their young on a "walkabout". The Jewish people have Bar Mitzvah. The Amish have Rumspringa, where a 16-year-old is invited to experience the modern world and choose which life they want.

Many cultures around the world mark certain stages of a young person's life as a turning point. A moment where we do something scary and celebrate a transition from child to adulthood (or from child to bigger child).

In our culture, we have the driver's licence, the prom, finishing school, graduating university, or maybe the 21st party. All steps to adulthood and independence, yet often not intentional, and often the significance of the moment is lost.

And there are many young adults searching for identity and seemingly uncomfortable with the reality that they are "adulting" it now. Maybe this falls on us as parents.

Have we prepared our kids for adult life, or have we operated on default and let circumstances and society shape our parenting?

One article I recently read described how rites of passage create a sense of renewal and belonging.

Whereas for many of our young adults their feelings could not be anymore different. The BBC's loneliness project surveyed 50,000 people to discover young



adults are just as lonely as the elderly.

It would seem to me that careful consideration in how we celebrate and mark transitions into adulthood may be of significant value.

Maybe we can create experiences for our children in such a way that fills them with excitement and anticipation for the next stage of life (renewal). And help them see and feel that this next stage is right where they are meant to be (belonging).

So a question I am considering,

and maybe one you could ponder too is... what traditions could we start in our family that offer our children rites of passage?

What moments are we intentionally creating where we can mark and celebrate key milestones in our children's life?

Because in doing so, we just might see our children stronger, more self-assured in themselves and ready to take on the next stage of life.

- Michael Wilkes is a Living Well Trust Youth Worker

GOLDFIELDS WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The Goldfields Women's Institute held its first meeting of the year, as Cyclone Gabrielle forced the cancellation of the February meeting. Our meeting commenced with the Aspirations and Prayer, and thoughts were given to past member, Glenise Meehan, whose husband Robin had passed away. The Motto for the month – The pure and simple truth is rarely pure and never simple; and the Good Deed was items for the Hospice Op Shop. The Roll Call was – An Irish Joke, which had members having a great time reading jokes off a tea towel, which Jean Brady brought along. Birthday girl this month was Val Bowen and Raffles were won by Jean Brady and Val Bowen. Thanks was given to the members who do so much knitting and sewing throughout the year, and also a thank you to the Racecourse Motel in Paeroa, which has donated a large number of soap and toiletries for our emergency toilet bags donated to Thames Hospital. A report on the Federation AGM was given and Goldfields was placed first for our Programme and first equal for the Two Minute Report. The Annual Meeting took place with Maureen Claasen reading the Annual Report. Throughout the year, we have donated 5777 items to 14 different community organisations with a total of 6728 hours of our time, which is amazing. We have also made monetary donations throughout the year and participated in all Federation Days. The Officer Bearers this year are President, Helen Udy, Secretary, Maureen Claasen, Treasurer, Kate Wood. COMPETITIONS: BLOOM: 1= Val Bowen and Helen Udy. CLUSTER: 1 Val Bowen, 2 Helen Udy. SHRUB: 1 Helen Udy, 2 Val Bowen. COMPETITION – Pre Baby Booties: 1 Carol Bridle, 2 Bev Schenkel.

KEREPEHI WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

A meeting with a difference was enjoyed by Kerepehi Women's Institute members when they gathered at Agrisea in Paeroa, in March. The day began with a look around their shop, followed by a tasty morning tea, during which our formal meeting took place. Our day was completed with lunch in a local café.

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Health & Wellbeing

The steps to our happiness

OPINION



By **BILL SHAW**

How Happy are you? We all have ideas and theories about what makes us Happy. It is a popular topic judging by all the self-help books on the subject.

Psychologist Martin Seligman used scientific research methods to investigate the secrets to Happiness. His theory called PERMA outlines some of the key ingredients that underpin Happiness.

The P in his model stands for Positive emotions such as joy, humour, hope, thankfulness, and awe.

Research suggests we need to experience three positive emotions to offset one negative emotion.

Experiencing positive emotions helps broaden our minds and helps us to build resourcefulness to counter adversity.

Ways to build positive emotions in your daily life can include listening to uplifting music, spending time with people you like, involvement in hobbies that you enjoy and spending time in nature.

The E stands for engagement which refers to activities which you enjoy and can completely capture your attention and focus.

This is known as “flow” or “being in the zone” or “following your bliss.”

Do you have activities that you find both rewarding and can become fully immersed in?

Pursue activities you are passionate about and totally capture your focus.

The R stands for relationships and connection with others which can include family, friends, neighbours and work colleagues.

As social beings we need to feel supported and valued by others. Loneliness is a major health issue in our society.

Social Support is a key factor to both physical and mental health.

So, invest in your relation-

ships with others. Join groups and clubs that help build social connections.

The M stands for having meaning and purpose in life. What is your reason for getting out of bed in the morning?

The Japanese call this Ikigai which refers to something that gives a person a sense of purpose and a reason to live.

This could be your family, job, helping others and hobbies.

The A stands for completing things which give you a sense of achievement and competence. Achieving a goal whether that be finishing a course or painting your house gives one a sense of pride and accomplishment.

It is important to set goals for yourself however small they may be and take time to celebrate your achievements.

Obviously, there are other factors which contribute to happiness including good health and exercise.

Research has shown that the PERMA model is a good starting point to increasing happiness in our lives.

- Bill Shaw is a registered social worker and psychologist, and tertiary educator in psychology, counselling and social work.

Whooping cough cases cause concern

You may be aware that there has recently been media coverage about the re-occurrence of whooping cough.

It has resulted in the death of two infants under the age of one, and doctors are concerned about the possibility of New Zealand being on the brink of the worst whooping cough epidemic in years due to low rates of childhood vaccinations.

Boostrix is administered as part of the National Immunisation Schedule at 11 years of age.

The vaccine is delivered in the school-based vaccination programme to children in years 7 in most parts of the country and in general practice.

This vaccine is funded from the second trimester of pregnancy and is recommended to be administered from 16 weeks, preferably within the second trimester, to help protect both the mother and her newborn infant against pertussis (whooping cough).

By immunising the mother in pregnancy, the baby can be protected from the whooping cough in two ways:

1. By the antibodies produced by mother following immunisa-



tion and passed to baby across the placenta;

2. The mother is protected from catching whooping cough and passing it to her baby.

This protection is temporary and the infant should receive their own immunisations on time, starting at six weeks, so they develop their own, longer-term immunity. Until the infant receives this first vaccine, it is at the highest risk of contracting whooping cough.

Boostrix vaccine boosts immunity against Diphtheria, Tetanus and Whooping Cough. Fully immunised children will have received previous doses of the three vaccines contained in Boostrix.

If you have an expectant family member, and will be in direct and close contact with the infant, this vaccine affords the best protection for both yourself and baby.

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Football frenzy

The Paeroa Rangers took to the field in the Paeroa Domain on April 1 for their pre-season seven-a-side tournament. Club president Bob Turlington said it was an initiative aimed to get kids outdoors and engaged with some physical activity. ALICE PARMINTER was there to catch the action.



The under-10 team corral the ball against Pāpāmoa FC.



Addison Cook gets ahead of the pack against Pāpāmoa FC.



Etuaire Jones and Liam Bell take on the Te Aroha Cobras.



Faith Anderson and Liam Rawnsley head for the goal.



Aidan Chandler takes aim.



Faith Anderson toes the line.

In Brief

GOLF FUNDRAISER

Ngatea Lions will host its annual golf tournament at Hauraki Golf Club on April 15 with all proceeds being donated to Netherton School. Tee off between 9am and 11am. Men's, women's and mixed teams of four can enter by visiting bookings@haurakigolf.co.nz or contacting 07 867 3197. Entries can also be made on the day.

FIRE STATION OPEN DAY

The Waihi Fire Brigade is hosting an open day on April 15 from 10am until 2pm. There will be raffles and a barbecue to raise funds for the brigade's Skytower climb for Leukaemia & Blood Cancer New Zealand. There will also be kitchen fire demonstrations, the escape maze, car cut out demonstrations, fire truck rides and more.

APPLICATIONS OPEN

Thames-Coromandel District Council's Creative Communities Scheme is offering funding for local arts groups and projects. The scheme, backed by Creative New Zealand, aims to increase participation in the arts, broaden the range and diversity of the arts available to communities, and enhance and strengthen the local arts sector. Applications close at 5pm this Friday, April 7.

ENGINEERING ASSESSMENTS

Owners of buildings identified as being potentially earthquake-prone have until June 15 to lodge an engineering assessment with Hauraki District Council. A one-off extension can be applied for by April 15.



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Brett Soutar says a well pruned tree will increase your property's value. Photo: SUPPLIED

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"Pruning is where art meets science... a badly pruned tree will always devalue your property whereas a very well pruned tree will increase your property's value. "We're trying to be the crystal ball for the client as far as how the trees will grow in the future... and we must be doing something right after 25 years because we keep getting the call backs." Brett said the business also offered milling and stumpgrinding services, log splitter and chipper hire, tree removals, and firewood, mulch, slab and smoking wood sales.
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Thursday 6th - 6pm

Good Friday Service:
Friday 7th - 9.30am

Prayer Vigil:
Saturday 8th - 7pm

Easter Sunday Service:
Sunday 9th - 9.30am

Thames Anglican Church
602 MacKay St, Thames

St John's Anglican Church

Sunday 2nd April
Palm Sunday - 9.30 am
Thursday 6th April
Maundy Thursday - 9.30 am
Friday 7th April
Good Friday - 9.30 am
Sunday 9th April
Easter Sunday - 9.30 am

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Saturday 6:30am
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SPORTS REPORTS

Send your sports reports and high resolution photos to editor@valleyprofile.co.nz

BOWLS

KEREPEHI BOWLS

Bowers Concrete sponsored bowls had a good turn out of 20 teams of three at Kerepehi Bowling Club on March 19, with good prizes for six teams after four games and a hearty lunch provided by the club. Winners were:- First 4 Wins 21 ends 33 points (Kerepehi) Arthur Thorburn, Lois Curd, Fatu Tausi ; second 4 Wins 21 ends 24 points (Kerepehi) Miti Taipari, Boozy, Don Cooper; third 3 wins 19 ends 21 points (Waihi Beach RSA) Lorimer Team; fourth: 3 wins 18 ends 7 points (Kerepehi/Hauraki); Margaret Henderson, Kelsie Trow, Anne. Two extra prizes: Dan McDowell, Bev/Lee, John Hogarty; Barry Felton, Sally Felton, Wal.

On March 16, 24 teams played in great conditions with a lot of very close games, with the winners on the day just getting by with one or two points on each game. Adams Electrical sponsored the Classic Pairs with prize winners: First 4 wins 23 ends 5 points (Kerepehi) Margaret Henderson, Graham Pyke; second 3 wins 24 ends 34 points P Ferguson team; third 3 wins 22 ends 22 points (Paeroa) Peter Rowling, K Lockley. Tuesday April 4 was the Classic Pairs (Smythe Engineering), and coming up are: April 16: Opt 4s (Quinn Engineering), April 30: Harrison Family (Three Dads) Opt 4s.

WAIHI BOWLING CLUB

Open Triples on March 22nd was a fine, relaxed competition, spon-



Ian Smith prepares to bowl.

Photo: TERRY KING

sored by Alton Drilling. There were seven visiting teams and seven Waihi Club teams. First place was Judith Wilson with Garry and Bev from Waihi Beach, second George Love, Noel Rae, Christine Bougher, third was Dave Rumney, Devon and Gwenda, Waihi Beach. March has been a busy month with club competition. The first year Singles for Women was between Robyn Wynands and Jude Campbell. Jude came from behind to win the first game, but Robyn got into her stride and won the second two games, making her the overall winner. Great bowls from first year players. Next up was the

Club Champ Singles on March 11. A strong field of competitors and a few surprise knock-outs saw Brian Knight rise to the top on day two, with Eric Jebb runner up. In the women's section the final between Emily Cox and Clare Boyd was close up to 16 points each, then Emily scored 4 plus the extra to make it to 21. Good consistent bowling from Emily. Then came the Club Junior Singles on Saturday 18th for players who have played 5 years or less. There again Brian Knight showed good concentration winning against Evan Bougher in the final. And after close games, Emily Cox managed

to hold out Jude Campbell, winning the final for the women.

CRICKET

HAURAKI CRICKET

After an exciting day's cricket on which the tide of battle turned a number of times, Hauraki Plains College, successfully defended their Hamilton/ Waikato Secondary School's Division 1 post Christmas Championship Trophy with a 24 runs triumph over St Paul's Collegiate School Development XI (Hamilton) at Ngatea last Saturday.

After posting a score of 395 for the loss of only six wickets a week earlier, against St Johns College, it was hoped that Hauraki's mediocre batting performances during its six post Christmas fixtures - five of which were won - had been reversed. Trent Ball (157 not out), Cooper Green (68) and Richie Gemmell (58) were the main contributors to that mammoth score. However, the badly needed batting improvement was not repeated last Saturday and a very modest score of 140 was what Hauraki's outstanding bowling unit, was yet again, required to defend.

To add to the challenge, rain began soon after the visitors started their run chase, making bowling, catching and ground fielding increasingly difficult. Eventually, conditions became impossible for play to continue safely. Ninety minutes later the rain moved away and with the game evenly poised, both teams agreed to restart play to achieve an on field

result, rather than have the championship trophy winner decided by some other means.

To their credit, the Hauraki bowlers and fielders, with their rapidly improving leg spin bowler Fergus Ball to the fore, gradually gained the ascendancy in spite of the challenge posed by the wet ball and slippery outfield. Runs required from remaining overs became an increasing issue for the visitors' batsmen as the home team re focused and ramped up fielding standards. Panic stations which were manned by the Hauraki players earlier in the St Paul's innings, suddenly became the sole possession of the batting side. Catches started to stick while better ground fielding helped tighten the screws. As the sun finally burst through and to the delight of the Hauraki players plus parents and supporters, the victory which appeared to be unlikely at several stages during the day was achieved.

A 'Man of the Match' award would have to be shared between Trent Ball - for his excellent batting for the second week in a row - and his younger brother Fergus following his four wickets secured under very difficult bowling conditions. Perhaps there was a healthy debate and a clear winner decided upon over the family dinner table that evening. Brief Match Details: Hauraki Plains College 138. Trent Ball 68, Richie Gemmell 46; defeated St Paul's Collegiate 114. (Fergus Ball 4/38 Andy Rogers 2/16, Richie Gemmell 2/17, Logan Dodunski 2/27).

Thames Squash Club to turn 50!

The Thames Squash Club opened on 14 April 1973 and 50 years later, to the day, past and current members will be celebrating the Club's Golden Jubilee. Jubilee organiser, Paul Silvester says "There are many stories to share, from the group of volunteers who worked hard to build the club, those who brought up families in the Club and on the court, those who coached juniors, those who revelled in the night life, travel and socialising, and those who went on to represent at regional or national levels."

To document the achievements of the Club over the last 50 years Paul has pulled together a book, drawing on the earlier effort of Maureen Brown who produced the 25th Jubilee book for the Club, in 1998.

The book lists the Club's officers and players over the 50 years along with their achievements and stories. There are numerous photographs to illustrate the first 50 years of the Thames Squash Club. "The names are a who's who of Thames township" says Paul.

Over the two day event there will be food and refreshments, socialising, exhibition games, a formal dinner and speeches on the Saturday evening.

All current and past members are invited to attend the celebrations.

Registrations are through Sarn 021 323 814 or Leigh 027 808 6406 at just \$50 for the two days with the book being available separately for \$20 per copy.



Photo of the Thames Squash Club today, Brown Street

Kauri ambassadors appointed

Ambassadors Emily Rich and Lillian Balfour clean their shoes at the start of a track. Photo: SUPPLIED

Being a Kauri Ambassador is a job that has seen four local students doing what they love and playing a vital role in protecting what is special to them.

Since 2017, the Department of Conservation in Whitianga and Hauraki have been working together to employ and train Kauri Ambassadors to educate the public about how they can keep our unique kauri safe.

This summer four university students - all of whom have grown up on the Coromandel - were employed to share knowledge on the special forests of their area and what people can do to keep them safe into the future. "I chose this role because it's important to me to give back to the forest park that I grew up enjoying," Thames' Lillian Balfour said.

Emily Rich, of Thames Coast agrees: "As a university student, it's great to have a summer job where you can be outside and interact with individuals who are as passionate as we are about caring for our forest

park". Although many people know kauri are under threat from a disease caused by a fungus-like pathogen carried in soil - and the need to clean their gear and keep to the tracks - some are unaware of why these actions matter. The ambassadors say sharing information - such as how kauri roots spread three times the width of the tree we see above ground, and it takes only a pin prick of soil to spread the pathogen - helps people understand the importance of their actions in saving this species.

Visitors have also been surprised to discover kauri trees are referred to as 'ecosystem engineers' because they create a unique forest environment around them that is found nowhere else on earth.

"Saving these trees is saving so much more as well" Kauri team lead and DOC Ranger Maree Limpus, said.

"It was wonderful to have such enthusiastic and capable people... take an active role in conservation."

Last month's winner of the lotto ticket was Bert Wade, who found Pete in the March 15th edition in the Advantage Tyres advert.

Go to page 2 for details on how to enter.





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SUDOKU

94

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

	1					5	7	9
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HARD

94

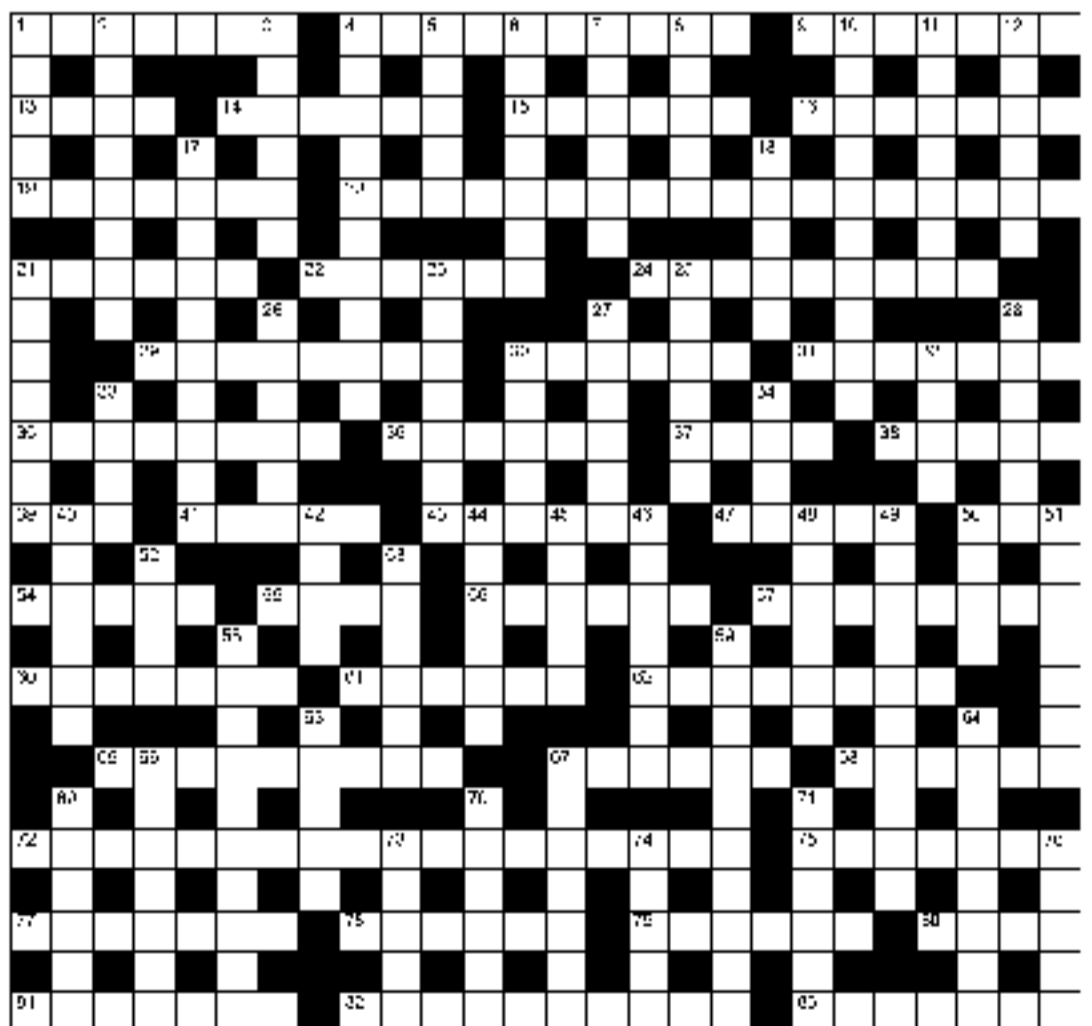
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2	1	4	3	6	7	5	8	9
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8	2	1	4	5	9	3	7	6
4	5	7	6	1	3	8	9	2
9	6	2	1	3	5	7	4	8
3	7	8	2	4	6	9	5	1
1	4	5	7	9	8	2	6	3

JUMBO CROSSWORD

114

- ACROSS**
- 1 Clumsy (7)
 - 4 Imposed limits on (10)
 - 9 Learning establishment (7)
 - 13 Connection (4)
 - 14 Abuse oneself (6)
 - 15 Austrian capital (6)
 - 16 Offer marriage to (7)
 - 19 Woodwind instrument (7)
 - 20 Leave well alone and refrain from stirring up trouble (3,8,4,3)
 - 21 Summerhouse (6)
 - 22 Adhesive (6)
 - 24 Make a copy of (9)
 - 29 Inherited object (8)
 - 30 Dam-building animal (6)
 - 31 Garden bird (7)
 - 35 Sanction (anag)(8)
 - 36 Reseller's profit (6)
 - 37 Nobleman (4)
 - 38 Humped animal (5)
 - 39 So far (3)
 - 41 Bomb (5)
 - 43 Fume with anger (6)
 - 47 Striped animal (5)
 - 50 One-legged jump (3)
 - 54 Desire greatly (5)
 - 55 Accurate (4)
 - 56 Dog breed (6)
 - 57 Small percussion instrument (8)
 - 60 Library section (7)
 - 61 Rule over (6)
 - 62 Tires out (8)
 - 65 Clapped (9)
 - 67 Respiratory disorder (6)
 - 68 Fierce (6)
 - 72 Unsightly thing; eyesore (4,2,3,9)
 - 75 Veteran (3,4)
 - 77 Try (7)
 - 78 Solve (6)
 - 79 Attraction (6)
 - 80 Grain storage tower (4)
 - 81 Make-believe (7)
 - 82 Component part (10)
 - 83 Stuffy (7)
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Speak impromptu (2-3)
 - 2 Very large (4-4)
 - 3 Adventurous courage (6)
 - 4 Cycle (10)
 - 5 Divided (5)
 - 6 Competitiveness (7)
 - 7 Smart (6)
 - 8 World-weariness (5)
 - 10 Exact likeness (6,4)
 - 11 Down payment (7)
 - 12 Inlaid design (6)
 - 17 Largest of the violin family (6,4)
 - 18 Nimble (5)
 - 21 Irritable (7)
 - 23 Direction indicator (7)
 - 25 Bumpy (6)
 - 26 Cower (6)
 - 27 Inaugurate (6)
 - 28 Spanish dance (6)
 - 30 Brass instrument (5)
 - 32 Harvest (4)
 - 33 Hair tangle (4)
 - 34 Impulse (4)
 - 40 Introduced from overseas (6)
 - 42 Fat (4)
 - 44 Go over (6)
 - 45 Claw (5)
 - 46 Manifest (7)
 - 48 Sailing ship (6)
 - 49 New; progressive (5-5)
 - 50 Gigantic (4)
 - 51 Introductory piece of music (7)
 - 52 Small depression (4)
 - 53 Meteor (anag)(6)
 - 58 Baker's utensil (7,3)
 - 59 Po (7,3)
 - 63 Japanese dish (5)
 - 64 Bloodsucker (8)
 - 66 Forbearing (7)
 - 67 Took for granted (7)
 - 69 Woodlouse (6)
 - 70 Fix firmly and stably (6)
 - 71 Musical composition (6)
 - 73 Find out (5)
 - 74 Proverb (5)
 - 76 Scum (5)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Like a bat out of hell, 10 Assemble, 15 Sprang, 16 Prima donna, 17 Figurine, 19 Orderly, 21 Dough, 22 Lucrative, 25 Maintains, 27 Hassock, 29 Octave, 33 Canal, 34 Muscular, 36 Watertight, 39 Ohm, 41 Leveret, 42 Scraps, 43 Immune, 44 Lava, 45 Startle, 48 Vacillated, 53 Strides, 57 Ream, 58 Shiner, 59 Notion, 60 Unusual, 62 Loo, 64 Meticulous, 65 Lingerie, 66 Alley, 69 Client, 70 G-string, 71 Impending, 76 Emergency, 77 Stage, 78 Measles, 83 Overcome, 84 Dotted line, 85 Anorak, 86 Fatality, 87 Sing for your supper.

DOWN: 2 Impure, 3 Erase, 4 Big, 5 Tape, 6 Unicorn, 7 Orange, 8 Hook, 9 Linguist, 11 Shifty, 12 Equivocate, 13 Brig, 14 Elevate, 18 Proclaimed, 20 Land, 23 Gamut, 24 Vanguard, 26 Amateur, 28 Aerosol, 30 Lament, 31 Alkali, 32 Tennis, 35 Cocoa, 37 Thaws, 38 Deal, 40 Mint, 45 Scrim, 46 Abattoir, 47 Exhale, 48 Vanquished, 49 Curl, 50 Lanolin, 51 Attend, 52 Evoke, 54 Tint, 55 Insulin, 56 Enamel, 61 Economical, 63 Liken, 67 Broccoli, 68 Idle, 69 Call off, 72 Magnify, 73 Prompt, 74 Studio, 75 Debate, 79 Stoop, 80 Best, 81 Stag, 82 Beau, 85 Ass.

SPORTS

Flat stick action

Thousands of primary students across Thames Valley headed to Ngātea Hockey Club armed with their hockey sticks for the Hockey Big Days Out from March 20 to 24. The annual event hosted by Thames Valley Hockey Association is about introducing kids to hockey and sparking their interest to compete in the sport for years to come. Reporter **GORDON PREECE** headed along to the opening day to capture the action.



Waihi East Primary School year 6 student Jimi Randell strokes.



Kaihere School students Morgan Lange, left, Cruz Hawkes, Harry Lange, Sam New and Jayden Caughey.



Ngātea Primary School girls Mia Farac, left, Amanda Paulo, and Paige Linton.



Waihi East Primary School students Elijah De Ocampo, left, and Noah McNiel.



Ngātea Primary student Jackson Taaffe.



Maramarua student Nick Duin.

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