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The Valley Profile

Building body confidence on national stage

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

A mum-of-three who lost her athletic identity after damaging both her Achilles tendons is now breaking barriers and redefining perceptions in the world of bodybuilding.

Kristina Moore, who lives in Katikati but works for Hauraki District Council in Paeroa, is a 47-year-old mum and a competition-winning bodybuilder.

She recently competed in the ICN Great Lake Classic, winning the women's bodybuilding category and qualifying for the New Zealand Nationals this October.

But it's nothing she could've ever envisioned for herself back in 2021.

"A lot of women may have sporting backgrounds, but they kind of put things on the back-burner after they've had kids, and they gain weight, and life just carries on until there's a specific moment that makes them think: 'I actually wouldn't mind spending a bit of time on myself'."

"I used to be a runner and damaged both my Achilles," she said, "and since I was a die-hard runner, I thought: 'If I can't run, I can't do anything.'"

Kristina said she ended up weighing more than 100kg and suffered from health conditions such as fibromyalgia and herniated disks.

When a colleague encouraged her to take part in a free gym class, she said she was embarrassed to show up because she knew the gym owner from school.

"He only ever knew me as being really fit," she said. "I did the class and just went really hard and I ended up in the gutter throwing up. Two days later, I joined the gym."

Kristina then discovered the world of bodybuilding, but she only started competing on the national stage in September, 2022, after a postponement caused by Covid-19.

CONTINUED ON P2



Kristina Moore competes in the Women's Bodybuilding category. Photo: ROB CAVEN PHOTOGRAPHY

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Building body confidence on national stage

CONTINUED FROM P1

She said her perception of the sport changed completely after learning that female bodybuilders didn't have to wear high heels while competing.

"True women's bodybuilding is dying, and the perception is that you can't be beautiful - that you're like a man if you're wearing bare feet - but it's not like that," she said.

"You can still be glamorous and wear the jewellery and a bikini like everybody else - you just don't wear shoes."

Kristina's children - aged 19, 18, and 13 - all support her while she's on stage, which she says makes a big difference. And not only has she lost weight - she was 58kg while competing on May 27 - she has also built up her confidence.

"Over time, when you start training, your confidence will build. You see women out there who have cellulite, who have

stretch marks... they've got everything that a woman gets after they've had children, and it's part of being a woman," she said.

"Nobody goes out there absolutely perfect... and the tan covers a lot."

Qualifying for the New Zealand nationals means Kristina will now mentally and physically prepare for the October 14 event, and that includes training and practising posing for at least two hours a day, six days a week.

She also has to maintain a strict diet.

"I never, ever dreamed I would do this. I always had a perception that [bodybuilding] was just for butch women, and now I look back and realise that was me, uneducated," she said.

"I am proud of myself. My kids all came and watched me compete, and I could hear them saying 'go mum!' in the background."

"It's really cool to have the support of your family."



Kristina Moore, left, competes in the Figure category in the ICN Great Lake Classic.

Photo: ROB

CAVEN

PHOTOGRAPHY



St George's Community Choir will perform a contemporary work that gives a platform to the homeless and the displaced. Photo: SUPPLIED

Community Choir to perform *Street Requiem*

St George's Community Choir is "excited" to soon be presenting *Street Requiem*, a contemporary work that gives a platform to the homeless, the displaced, and to those struggling with street violence, war, and a loss of safety on streets.

Committee member Barbara Tegg said with this work, the Australian composers aimed to bring a sense of peace, remembrance and hope to such communities.

"The English, African and Persian lyrics are set to a range of musical styles to create an inclusive work to which people from various backgrounds can relate," she said.

"The work is essentially optimistic and uplifting. The complete work was premiered in Melbourne in 2014 and in New Zealand, it premiered in Auckland in 2017, sung by a combination of eight Auckland choirs."

Street Requiem was originally intended to be sung by commu-

nity choirs, Barbara said, and so St George's Community Choir was "fortunate" that Sandie Davis-Roberts introduced them to the piece and agreed to be the musical director and conductor.

St George's choir of more than 40 singers will be joined by ten choristers from Auckland. The performances will be accompanied by Jono Dunlop on piano, Elsa Klein playing the harp and Arnav Ram on percussion.

The Auckland performance raised funds for The City Mission, Rainbow Youth, and Lifewise. The Thames performances will be raising money for the Thames Foodbank.

Audience members will be asked to contribute a koha and/or a food item for the Foodbank.

DETAILS: *Street Requiem*, Saturday, July 15, 2.30pm and 6.30pm, St George's Church, Mackay St, Thames. Tickets: \$20 from Carson's Bookshop or at the door.

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Thames Tides

Wed Jul 5	Thu Jul 6	Fri Jul 7	Sat Jul 8	Sun Jul 9	Mon Jul 10	Tue Jul 11
 Morning 2:00am 0.4 2:23pm 0.2 8:14am 3.4 8:47pm 3.7 Sun 7:32am 5:13pm Best At 1:31am 2:02pm Set 9:11am Rise 7:01pm	 Morning 2:53am 0.4 3:13pm 0.2 9:09am 3.5 9:38pm 3.7 Sun 7:32am 5:14pm Best At 2:33am 3:02pm Set 9:54am Rise 8:19pm	 Morning 3:46am 0.3 4:03pm 0.3 10:02am 3.5 10:31pm 3.7 Sun 7:31am 5:14pm Best At 3:30am 3:57pm Set 10:29am Rise 9:34pm	 Morning 4:40am 0.3 4:55pm 0.4 10:54am 3.5 11:24pm 3.6 Sun 7:31am 5:15pm Best At 4:22am 4:47pm Set 11:00am Rise 10:46pm	 Morning 5:33am 0.4 5:48pm 0.5 11:46am 3.4 Sun 7:31am 5:15pm Best At 5:11am 5:35pm Set 11:27am Rise 11:55pm	 Morning 12:18am 3.5 12:39pm 3.3 6:26am 0.4 6:46pm 0.6 Sun 7:31am 5:16pm Best At 5:58am 6:22pm Last Quarter Set 11:53am	 Morning 1:12am 3.4 1:35pm 3.2 7:20am 0.5 7:48pm 0.8 Sun 7:30am 5:17pm Best At 6:45am 7:08pm Rise 1:02am Set 12:20pm

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

SH25A to re-open by end of March, 2024

Coromandel faces a fourth consecutive disrupted summer season with Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency confirming it will be late March next year before State Highway 25A is reopened, Coromandel MP Scott Simpson says.

The summit of SH25A between Kōpū and Hikuaī collapsed during major storm events in January and remains closed. Waka Kotahi said physical works for the construction of the bridge began following a private dawn blessing at the site last week.

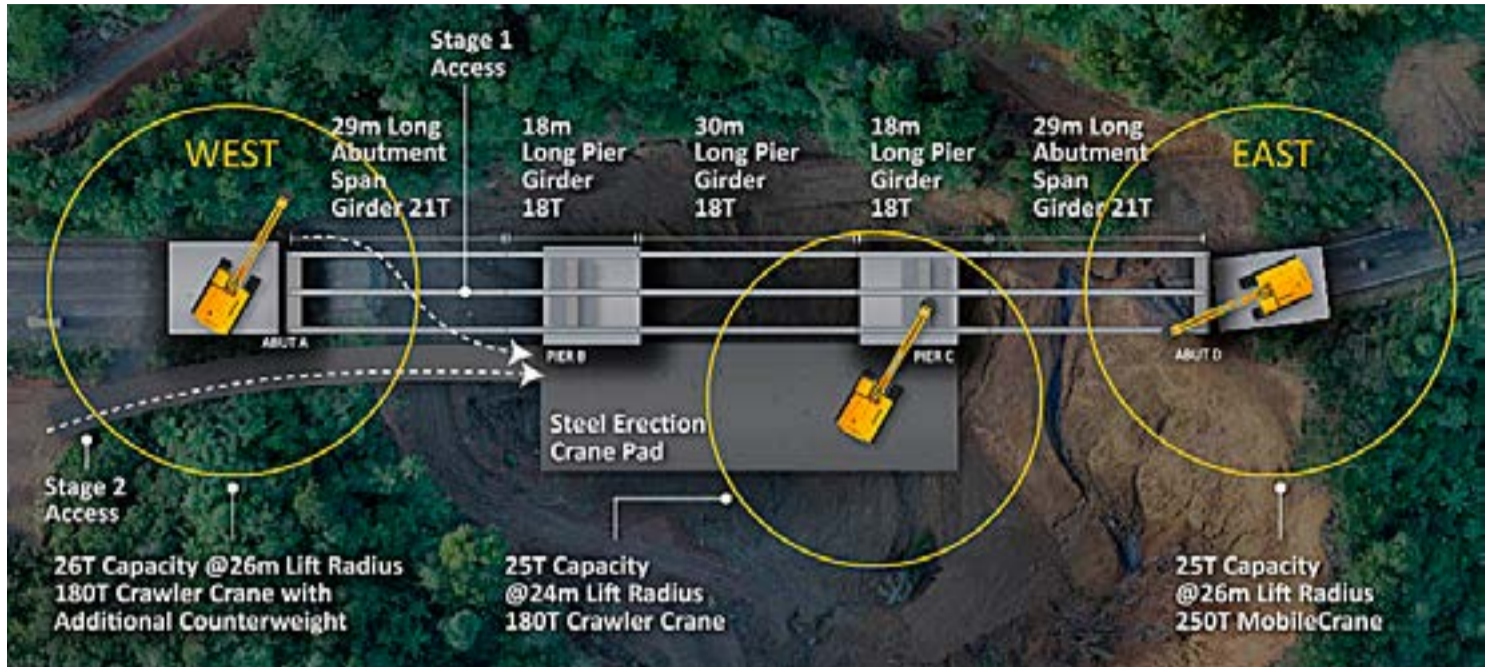
Up to 100 people will be working at the SH25A Taparahi site with additional labour dedicated to offsite works, such as prefabrication of bridge components.

Workers will be divided into two teams working two 10-hour shifts, with 80 percent of the crew housed locally on the peninsula.

Mr Simpson said the road closure was “a devastating blow to our community” and news of the delayed reopening comes after “months of inaction, excuses and dithering by the current government and NZTA”.

“We really needed the highway reopened before Christmas. While it’s good now to at least have a target date that will provide some certainty for people, the impact on our local communities between now and then mean continued distress for many.”

Mr Simpson said there had already been too many busi-



Artist's impression of the bridge design showing location of the cranes.

Image: SUPPLIED/NZTA

ness closures and jobs lost.

“Local people have been inconvenienced for far too long and news that it’s going to be at least another nine or ten months will be the last straw for many.”

“I don’t think the government or NZTA realise how important that road is to our region. They seem content to just be taking their own sweet time without regard to the negative impacts the closure has on so many people.”

“We’ve still got a lot of winter yet to come and other road closures [last] week around the

Coromandel Peninsula highlight how vulnerable we are.”

Waka Kotahi regional manager of infrastructure delivery Waikato/Bay of Plenty Jo Wilton said while contract negotiations with the preferred consortia were ongoing, there had been no delay to the work programme.

“Waka Kotahi is doing everything possible to further accelerate construction, which will include contractors working extended hours at the work site and working seven days a week where possible,” she said.

“A bridge of this type would

normally be expected to take 12 to 14 months to construct, but Waka Kotahi is working with the consortia to accelerate delivery and get the route open in nine months’ time, by the end of March, 2024.

“Drainage water management is underway, with earthworks to build all-weather access tracks for heavy machinery the next job ahead.”

Over the past fortnight, project ecologists and the design and construction team had been visiting the site to confirm design assumptions and develop construction methodologies,

she said.

“Drilling to confirm the founding depth of the piles at the location of the bridge abutments began last Wednesday [June 21] under the jurisdiction of Waka Kotahi contractors who remained in charge of the site until the consortium were given the keys following the blessing,” Ms Wilton said.

Over the next two months, a platform will be built to support the cranes required for the build. Pile casings will be in the country by the end of July, with piling getting underway in August.

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Education



Julia Deans of Fur Patrol was at Thames High School in June to impart her musical knowledge to the school's music students. From left: Jacob Wenhold, Jacob Rush, Julia Deans, Dr Nichola Voice, and Kayla Speed. Photos: SUPPLIED

Thames High students have all the right moves

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

Students from Thames High School's chess club are no rookies when it comes to the popular game. The club has earned spots in the Chess Power Nationals event, after sweeping the board at regionals on June 7.

Four students, Eric Lange-neckert, Immanuel Huwald, Jay Majaurey and Matthew Jones, attended the regional competition at Hauraki Plains College. Eric was placed first in the seniors with 6.5 points and Immanuel came second with 6 points.

Both students qualified for the Champions Trophy for individual players.

The foursome also took out the team event. They placed

first with a total score of 22 points, beating Ngaruawahia High School with 19.5 points, and Tuakau College on 19 points. They now qualify for the Chess Power Nationals team event.

The Chess Power Nationals will be held at Alfriston College on October 21 and 22.

Club coach Ruth Howes said the team was looking forward to nationals, and said their next goal would be fundraising to raise the \$460 needed to compete.

Meanwhile, Ruth said, the club will be running a series of organised games on Thursdays for students to practise their chess skills, following on from a successful mini-tournament in term one.



Matthew Jones, left, Immanuel Huwald, Jay Majaurey, and Eric Langeneckert.

Visit hits the right note

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

Music students at Thames High School were treated to mentoring from former Fur Patrol member Julia Deans, thanks to a mentorship programme run by the NZ Music Commission.

Julia spent two days with the school, talking to classes about her music career, and working closely with students on composition and performance skills.

Thirteen students in year 10 created a band with Julia and learned to play *Three Little*

Birds, by Bob Marley. Meanwhile, three of the school's senior bands received dedicated time with her, and 15 senior students, from beginners through to experienced composers, picked her brain on writing music.

"I asked for Julia again as she really made my department sparkle last year," Thames High music department head Dr Nichola Voice said.

"Because most of the students she saw this time she had worked with last year, we had a headstart as the rapport and trust was there - the taiohi [youth] loved that she remem-

bered them and was able to comment on their increased knowledge and ability."

Nichola said the experience was invaluable.

"One of the things that I love as I watch Julia work with the taiohi is that she makes comments and asks questions without taking any sort of creative control - she enables them to explore directions they could take their music without telling them what to do, thereby nurturing them as they find their own pathway and expression."



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Thames High School



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We grow together to achieve ones true potential

CELEBRATING SUCCESS



Qualified for Chess Nationals

Thames High School placed first in the top three overall teams during the Hauraki Plains Regional Chess Competition. This has given students Eric and Immanuel entry into the Individual Champions Trophy event and a team entry in the National Teams Chess Competition held on the weekend of Saturday 21 October. Congratulations to our team comprised of Jay Majaurey, Matthew Jones, Immanuel Huwald and international student Eric Langeneckert who has gone home to Germany but will compete online in both events.



Julia Deans Mentorship

Julia Deans, front woman in the New Zealand band Fur Patrol, mentored our students over two days. As part of the New Zealand Music Commission, Julia has been traveling the country with this initiative.

Head of Music at Thames High School, Dr Voice, was successful in arranging to have Julia visit for a second year running. Her time was spent helping students with composition and band performance.



Boulton Cup 2nd Place

Our Senior A team attended the annual TVSS Netball Tournament - Boulton Cup. This year it was hosted and held in Mercury Bay.

Congratulations to our Senior A team who were placed second overall after a narrow loss to Manaia in the final.

Congratulations to Head Girl Kyla Wilson who was named in the tournament team for 2023.



Concert at St George's

Thames High School students put on a brilliant concert at St Georges Anglican Church on Friday 23 June.

Performances included a vocal ensemble who sang Te Rahu Tapu a Tane set to Lorde's "Royal" composition. Piano recitals, guitar groups and solos and solo singing performances were enjoyed by all who attended.

A special thanks to Thames Music Group who facilitated this concert and to the members of the church for all their hard work.



UPCOMING: Open Evening

Monday 7 August at 6pm. We warmly welcome prospective students and their families and friends to our school open night on Monday 7 August.

The evening will start at 6pm in the school hall followed by a guided tour of our curriculum spaces and content. Meet our teachers and student leaders who will be available to answer all of your questions.

Gr8 Job to continue after funding ‘nightmare’

By TERESA RAMSEY

Gr8 Job Hauraki has received \$325,000 in government funding for the next year, after a “real battle” to keep the successful programme afloat.

The organisation, which has found work for nearly 250 Hauraki jobseekers since it began three years ago, has secured funding from the Ministry of Social Development’s Mayor’s Taskforce for Jobs for the next two years.

Hauraki District Mayor Toby Adams last week told those at a function to celebrate employers involved with Gr8 Job Hauraki that the programme wasn’t funded by Hauraki ratepayers, and it had been a “real battle” to get government funding to continue.

“We as a council were not prepared to let that go. The funding has been a real nightmare, and we’ve lost some really key staff in our own office,” he said.

“This year, we were lucky to get that funding guaranteed for the next two years, which has been just absolutely fantastic.”

Paeroa, Ngatea, Waihi and the surrounding areas had “just been thriving lately with employment”, Mayor Adams said.

“It’s been a huge initiative, not only for Hauraki but around rural New Zealand,



Gr8 Job Hauraki and HDC staff and elected members attend a function to celebrate employers involved with the programme.

Photo: TERESA RAMSEY

matching up good employees with good employers and having huge outcomes,” he said.

“We couldn’t be prouder of the amount of people that we’ve been able to place, and we’re even more proud of the people that have been willing to go that extra step and take on those workers, particularly when it comes to apprenticeships.”

Gr8 Job Hauraki employment liaison officer Julie Stephenson said retaining staff had been one of the challenges in the current funding model.

However, the organisation had reached and surpassed their target for the third consecutive year, placing 147 people in its priority group into jobs, plus supporting another 100 people

outside the priority group into work.

“We have a priority age group, 16- to 24-year-olds, and support for those affected by Covid pandemic, those who are disadvantaged in the labour market and people with disabilities,” she said.

“For us it’s been a journey of connecting with the communi-

ty, we’ve learnt a lot along the way and had some great wins, and we’ve had some challenges and lots of opportunities.

“Other highlights this year have been a career expo, job market, an aspiration day, we hosted the Re... Business School. We’ve just purchased a driving simulator for young people learning to drive.”

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

Hauraki District Council has agreed to allocate \$150,000 to the Waihi Community Forum, for the planned outdoor recreation hub in Waihi's Morgan Park. The funds, which will be taken from the Waihi ward's community recreational facilities fund, will give the forum seed funding, making it eligible to apply for further external grants to complete the project.

Stage one of the project will cost approximately \$1.6 million, and include a pump track with separate areas for wheelchair users and younger children, and a more challenging track for older children. It will also include a skate park, exercise equipment and wheelchair swing. A final cost for stage two is yet to be decided, but it will include a barbecue area and playground upgrade.

Council also agreed to Destination Hauraki Coromandel's request for an additional \$30,000 in funding, to match the contribution agreed upon by Thames Coromandel District Council. The funding is intended for the organisation's summer marketing campaign for the region. The Plains, Paeroa and Waihi wards will contribute \$3000 each and the council will fund \$6000, with the balance coming from the mayor's discretionary Mayoral Fund.

Meanwhile, Thames Coromandel District Council and Waikato Regional Council have announced their rates for the 2023-24 financial year.

TCDC ratepayers will face an increase of 11.6 per cent. The council's long term plan from 2021 had

forecast an increase of 7.7 per cent this year; however inflation, the addition of storm recovery projects, and the increasing costs of freight, materials, fuel and labour all impacted the final figure.

"It was a challenge to strike just the right balance between what we're delivering as a council and the cost of services our communities want and expect – especially when the cost of delivering those services is increasing," Mayor Len Salt said.

Waikato Regional Council has increased its rates by 5.4 per cent. The figure was lower than the 5.8 per cent figure signalled in February, and the council said most ratepayers would have less than \$50 extra to pay this year.

"Keeping costs down for ratepayers was at the forefront of councillors' minds this year. But we were also conscious of the commitments made to our communities and the costs associated with delaying prudent investment," regional council chair Pamela Storey said.

"This year, extreme weather events like Cyclone Gabrielle really demonstrated the risks to lives and livelihoods posed by climate change and the importance of the flood protection and catchment restoration work we do to help mitigate and address its impacts."

Both councils have said they were focused on minimising new expenditure, searching the budget for areas to make cuts. TCDC said it had cut operational costs, revised its capital works budget, and deferred some non-roading projects.



The slip site at Ruamahunga, Thames Coast.

Photo SUPPLIED/NZTA

Thames Coast Rd open under stop go

Thames Coast Rd was closed at Ruamahunga Bay for much of last week due to several slips following heavy rain.

On Friday, Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency opened State Highway 25 under stop-go traffic management from 7:30am to 5:30pm between Ruamahunga and Waiomu, which was expected to continue this week.

However, that access could change at any time as the road might need to close at short notice depending upon conditions.

Waka Kotahi journey manager for Waikato Liam Ryan said the highway had been compromised since June 24 when two large slips came down south of Tapu near Ruamahunga and Waiomu. Five

people had to spend the night in their cars after becoming stranded in between the two slips.

The larger slip site at Ruamahunga continued to slip last week, forcing road closures. An assessment was completed by geotechnical engineers and controls were put in place to minimise the risk to road users during daytime hours, providing they travelled on the outside lane. Active monitoring of slip face ongoing, he said.

"While the cliff face is stable enough to enable one lane to open for now, the risk remains that further material could slip and road users should expect delays or further closures here at any time."

Scaling work to remove loose material from the slip face was

underway all last week, with more work required to bring additional material further up the cliff face down in a controlled fashion.

"We will update road users as soon as our geotechnical experts have advised us on the best way to do this.

"We will continue to operate a daytime stop-go through the weekend and into next week, while the site will remain closed overnight. Access for Emergency services will continue to be provided.

"Waka Kotahi really appreciates how inconvenient the situation is and thanks everyone for their patience while contractors work hard to restore full access on the Thames-Coromandel road," Mr Ryan said.

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Pārāwai student to make mark in Denmark

By GORDON PREECE

Providing a youth perspective of global issues are the building blocks for a 10-year-old Pārāwai School student set to make her mark on the world stage.

Avé Te Teira-King will be jetting to the Children's General Assembly at the birthplace of Lego - Billund, Denmark, in September for her and 79 other 10 to 17-year-olds from across the globe, to develop democratic skills by creating solutions to current global issues.

The solutions the children develop are then put forward to global leaders at the United Nations General Assembly at New York City a week after the children's assembly.

Avé, who is one of two New Zealand children attending the event, told *The Profile* her mother, Roanne Mitchell-Te Teira, applied for a spot for her at the assembly in February and she was "quite shocked and happy" to be accepted.

To prepare for the three day event in Denmark, Avé participated in digital co-creation workshops, which ran between 6pm and 9pm since April with other children from the likes of South Africa and Southeast Asia.

"Every workshop we think of problems or issues and we break them down to questions,"



Avé Te Teira-King will apply her knowledge of global issues in Denmark in September. Photo: GORDON PREECE

she said.

"The questions we would have is inequality for genders, schools, we would also have the government, how can we persuade the government and we would have all those hard issues that we could find solutions to.

"[In Southeast Asia] they don't have much money so they have to have less education... they have a bunch of public schools with a bunch of free stuff and

for some reason they get taught less stuff than [Pārāwai School] would get taught."

The assembly, which is scheduled to take place between September 19 and 21, will entail the participants sharing their perspectives, solutions, and actions for a better world to a group of world leaders.

"In the end I'm really hoping to know more about the topics and get to know other topics,"

Avé said.

Roanne said her daughter's experience so far had "opened up her world".

"For a ten-year-old trying to come up with a solution of how you can persuade the government and business CEOs to have better pay equality and gender is quite a massive topic... but I think it's important they have a youth voice," she said.

"It's a little bit easier for her to

"It's opened up her world a lot... and how [the global issues] affect people in New Zealand."

- Roanne Mitchell-Te Teira

talk about culture and accepting others and their beliefs coming from a Māori background.

"It's opened up her world a lot... and how [the global issues] affect people in New Zealand."

Roanne said around \$7000 had so far been raised for her and Avé's travel costs through the raffle prize draw event, Batons Up, plus mussel fritter and sausage sizzle sales, raffles, whanau support and a Givealittle online fundraising page.

"We've had some fantastic community support and we would just like to say thank you to the community and certain businesses," she said.

Roanne also thanked the Hauraki Māori Trust Board for its support and that she and Avé aimed to raise a total of around \$12,000.

DETAILS: To donate to help with Avé's travel costs to attend the Children's General Assembly in Denmark visit: givealittle.co.nz/cause/help-ave-attend-the-childrens-assembly-in-denmark.

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Duke of Edinburgh awards achieved

By GORDON PREECE

Ten Paeroa College students have hiked, competed in sport, learned new skills and dedicated voluntary service to achieve their Duke of Edinburgh awards.

The internationally recognised award is a global non-formal education framework, with more than 60 years of experience challenging young people to dream big and discover their potential.

Paeroa College co-ordinator of the Duke of Edinburgh programme, Penny Cox, told *The Profile* there were ten recipients, who ranged from year 11 to 13. Nine of them achieved the bronze award and one, Travis Cox, received his silver award. The bronze award recipients were Jamie-Lee Owen, Grier Buchanan, Mikaela Bradey, Hayden Lance, Abigail Cox, Taya Bjerring, Savanna McBain, Mikayla Biesly and Kylie Harris.

The bronze award required students to take part in physical recreation, skills, and voluntary service once a week for three months, and the silver award required the completion of the same tasks once a week for six months.

Both award levels also required participation in an adventurous journey.

Penny said the students gained "a sense of achievement" in completion of the awards programme and the college was "very proud".

"It shows that [the students] are dedicated to not only achieving a goal for themselves, but actually giving back to other people," she said.

"To stay dedicated to something for an hour a week, for three



Jamie-Lee Owen, left, Grier Buchanan, Mikaela Bradey, Travis Cox, Hayden Lance, Abigail Cox, Taya Bjerring, Savanna McBain, and Mikayla Biesly. Absent Kylie Harris.

Photo: SUPPLIED

different activities for a period of time, for a lot of youngsters it's quite a challenge and so to actually do that is awesome.

Penny said the recipients participated in a range of activities to achieve each section in the award programme. These included hockey, lacrosse, tennis, cooking, sewing, playing guitar, trapping pests and volunteering at college groups and local charity shops.

She said the students hiked up Mt Karangahake, stayed overnight at Dickey Flat and hiked in the Maratoto Valley to complete their adventurous journey section.

"This is the most challenging part of the award.

"It is mentally and physically draining," she said.

"You have to be self-sufficient and navigate around different territory whilst working as a team."

Penny said it was "fantastic" that an influx of students had taken part in the programme.

"There's 25 kids wanting to progress and challenge themselves and be part of an international award that's recognised worldwide... we've got a very good Paeroa College Duke of Edinburgh unit here," she said.

"There's also heaps of people that are looking after these kids for an hour a week and signing them off and making sure they do these things for them.

"So a big shout out to all those people that are helping Paeroa College be part of this."



Paeroa Hotel regulars Phill Hill, Eri Mack, Danny Te Iri and Colin Miller cut the Kahlua cake to celebrate 125 years of the old pub.

Photo SUPPLIED

125 years - and still going strong

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

The Paeroa Hotel celebrated its 125th birthday in style in June, with a small gathering attended by the hotel's residents and regulars.

The Belmont Rd hotel, opened in 1898, is one of Paeroa's oldest buildings. Current owners Judy and Jack Young bought the hotel in 2011, drawn to Paeroa specifically because of the grand old structure.

"It just grew on us," Judy said.

"There's not many of them [old hotels], and it's a social thing. People come here for the social side of it. We pay the bills but it belongs to the locals; it's

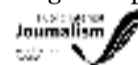
the locals' hotel."

The hotel boasts 18 rooms upstairs, half of which are occupied by long-term residents.

"It's more of a family," Judy said. "I always make a cake for the staff on their birthday, and anyone upstairs."

The bar downstairs is a gathering place, with the feel of a traditional rural pub. While the adjacent restaurant is currently shuttered, it's fully furnished and functional.

She'd love to see more life and energy in the place, Judy said; "the building's held up well, and we keep it in good repair".



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Contact Sue Merrick for your specialist dental prosthetic care needs. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

Meet Sue, curator of happy smiles

For clinical dental technician Sue Merrick, a confident smile is a matter of pride.

Dental prosthetics are Sue's speciality - from full and partial dentures to tightening, repairs and mouthguards, she provides the complete package.

"Your smile is important," Sue says. "People lose confidence without the smile."

Sue's clients are more like family, and the most important part of her service is making sure people are supported throughout the process.

"I care about the person that I'm dealing with, and I want to offer the best solution for them," she says.

"It's a personal thing, getting dentures made. Especially for women, it can be really upsetting being told that they've got to lose all their teeth."

After taking mouth impressions, Sue makes the dentures to a patient's specifications. She fits them to the client's mouth, and she then offers aftercare services; follow-up appointments and checking in to en-

sure the dentures are working well.

Aftercare is important, Sue says, and she's happy to see clients anytime to ensure the product is still working for them.

"It's an ongoing care," she says. "If you've got a problem, even if it's in six months' time, come and see me."

Sue's 30 years' experience in the field means she's an expert on the perfect smile.

"When done well, the denture disappears into the patient's face and becomes part of the person."

And having the perfect smile can make anyone smile.

"I just want [my clients] to be happy and have a good quality denture for what they can afford."

DETAILS: Sue runs clinics from Paeroa's Wellness Clinic on the corners of Hughenden and Marshall Sts, and at the Waihi Family Doctors on Kenny St. She also does house visits. Call 0800 295 900 or email denturesbysue@gmail.com to arrange a free consultation.

Rural Life

Rural Recharge event planned

A free Rural Recharge event for farmers is to be held in Thames on July 6 for a rural catch up after a “tough season”.

The event, held by the Waikato Hauraki Coromandel Rural Support Trust, will include a complementary dinner at the Thames War Memorial Civic centre, followed by a Q&A session with sports leaders and a guest speaker.

The DairyNZ team will also be available to answer questions and offer any advice for the new season.

Trust spokesperson Wanda Leadbeater said the evening was a relaxed dinner, a great chance to come together and catch up with friends, neighbours and colleagues.

“We know it has been tough in the Hauraki-Coromandel area and the relentless wet weather did not help, so we wanted to run a free event to show support for our farmers and growers and rural folk,” she said.

Guest speaker and MC Julia Jones is Head of Analytics at NZX, a former KPMG farm enterprise specialist, and the chair of Meat the Need, a food security charity. Wanda said Julia had a passion for global trends and their impact on New Zealand’s prosperity.

“Change is inevitable and Julia works hard to help others have confidence in

navigating an uncertain future,” she said.

The panel of guests for the event also included Waikato Ranfurly Shield winning captain and former Waikato Chiefs player Alex Bradley, and Waikato Tainui Men’s and mixed New Zealand netball team coach Tania Anderson.

Tania has been involved in men’s and mixed netball for 25 years and was awarded a service award for her commitment in 2021.

The Waikato Hauraki Coromandel Rural Support Trust was a not for profit organisation that offered one on one, free, confidential support to those who work on the land, Wanda said.

“We also try to promote wellbeing and build resilience by offering rural-focused events to get people off farm and connect, and hopefully have some fun too.

“Dinner is complimentary, but to help with catering we would be most grateful if people could register via Humanitix to help with an indication of numbers.”

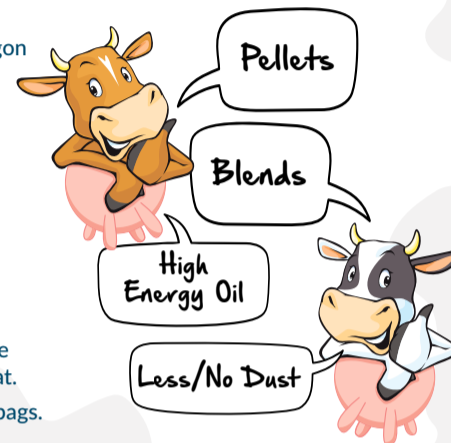
DETAILS: Register for the Rural Recharge - post flood/pre calving dinner online at: events.humanitix.com/post-flood-pre-calving-dinner-rural-resilience. For more information about the trust, go to: rural-support.org.nz.



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Citizens sworn in

Citizenship ceremonies were held at Thames-Coromandel District Council on June 15, and Hauraki District Council on June 28. Thames-Coromandel Mayor Len Salt said he was "delighted" by their decision to become citizens and to call the Coromandel their home. "This merging of different cultures enriches our own New Zealand culture and provides a platform from which we can launch tomorrow's heritage," he said. "Some of you may have been living in New Zealand for a short time while others have made the Coromandel their home for many years. Whatever your personal story, we are delighted that you have made the decision." *Valley Profile* reporters **GORDON PREECE** and **ALICE PARMINTER** captured some of the region's new Kiwis.



Losa Cegumalua from Fiji, back row centre, and her family.



Renjith Kumar Muraleedharn Pillai, of India.



Geoffrey Hocking, from the United Kingdom.



New citizen Gillian Banham, left, with Hauraki District Council Mayor Toby Adams, and her husband John Banham.



Pārawai School students perform at the Thames-Coromandel event.



Thames-based Italian painter Fred Salimbene.



The De Haast family have made the Hauraki Plains their home. From left: Selwin, Alani, Lukas and son, and Marisa.



Robert Simmons and Kathy Warner, from the USA.



Graham and Helena Hamill, from Ireland.



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GBD served to property market

By GORDON PREECE

Community orientation and creating an “entertainment hub” in Thames has been Karl Edmonds’ goal at the Grahams-town Bar and Diner (GBD) and The Junction Hotel.

The manager of the Pollen St hospitality business for 11 years told *The Profile* he decided to put it up for sale to make way for “fresh blood” to “reinvigorate” the 154-year-old building.

“It’s time to have a change... being in the same place for 11 years is quite a long time and the past few years with Covid has been tough, and with the weather, and the Kōpū-Hikuai closing, it’s a little bit quieter,” he said.

“I just don’t have the drive that I did years ago to keep going, so it’s time for me to step aside and let some fresh blood come in and reinvigorate the place.

“I’m thinking now is a good time [to sell] so someone can get settled in, make any changes they want to now before summer, and then sometime next year the [Kōpū-Hikuai] will be open again, and Thames will be booming.”

Karl became the manager of the business when it was “the new cool place in town” in 2012, and in 2013, became its owner.

He had previously managed fine dining restaurants in Sydney for eight years before managing a lodge for two years in Miranda, where he is from.

“All the good times have been all the staff and all the events we’ve had. Pre-Covid times we had lots of big bands, big events,



Karl Edmonds plans to trade the taps for farm chores when the GBD and The Junction Hotel is sold. Photo: GORDON PREECE

big dinners, and we would do a monthly wine club, which I ran for probably eight or nine years,” he said.

“We had different winemakers from New Zealand come and do a tasting and we had a loyal following for that.

“Every Tuesday, we used to do a quiz night which would fill the whole place and Steampunk every year was massive because I was always part of the Steampunk committee [up until 2022].”

Karl said international and Kiwi visitors loved the character of the business.

“The tourists love staying upstairs in the hotel because its old rooms are clean and tidy and

they’ve got character,” he said. “They just love the idea of an old historic building when they walk in and it’s warm and it’s cosy.”

Karl said when the business was sold, he would pour his final glass, and relax at his family farm in Miranda and “talk to his pigs and chickens”.

“I’ve got a massive list of things I want to get done [on the farm], and when I’m at work dad has to look after all of that so once I’ve left here I can help him with that,” he said. “I would like to thank all my regular customers over the years for being friendly and loyal, and thank all of my staff over the years for all the fun times and their hard work.”

\$2k raised at bike event

Sometimes a storm brings a little sunshine, or so was the case when the original Big Bike Film Night was postponed from February due to the impact of storms that hit the Coromandel.

The Thames Mountain Bike Club had planned to bring the short film series back to Thames for the fourth time but road closures and damage forced a re-schedule to mid-June.

However, that allowed for the premier showing of *The Rolling Stars* film, created by Te Puru School students.

Filmed at the Ride Coromandel Bike Park, it features the handy camera skills of students who learned filmmaking and entwined it with digital storytelling on bikes, illustrating their love of riding and how important being on a bike is for them. Some of the students are now training for the Aims games in September, representing the growing sport for our region.

A bunch of them attended the evening to celebrate their part as stars and filmmakers and showcase the premiere event. The film can be viewed on the Ride Coromandel youtube channel.

Club members worked hard to create a fun evening, with a sell-out crowd, raffles, freebies, food and commentary on the cycling-related projects around town. The club is involved in looking after local bike parks - Moanataiari and Hotoritori, as well as the Karaka Track behind Thames. We also announced a new trapping initiative launching this spring starting with the Karaka Track and eventually back down the Waiotahi.

We also announced that TCDC is working with Kauaeranga Val-



Film stars from Te Puru School. Photo ALLY DAVY

ley residents and cycling community members on a proposal to build a pedestrian and cycle-friendly pathway up the valley. The aim is to help commuters and school kids get to town safely, locals get to the popular swing bridge swimming hole, and visitors get up to the DOC visitor centre and beyond, without risking their lives on the road. A number of public meetings are scheduled for this month and a survey is now open for comment: www.thecoromandel.com/destination-management-plan/feedback.

In addition, local families got behind the event with baking and another masterpiece of a mountain bike cake was created for the night.

Club owes special thanks to all the support this event received. Nearly \$2000 dollars was raised for our track maintenance programme, including \$200 from ticket sales, but more importantly, we raised awareness about the value of our local tracks and trails.

If anyone would like to learn more about the club, visit our website www.thamesmtb.club or find us on Facebook.

- Ric Balfour, event organiser

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Authorised by Scott Simpson, 614 Pollen St, Thames.



Cover Up display shows off threads

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

Thames Civic centre was piled high with blankets, scarves, hats, jumpers and all manner of knitted and crocheted goods as the annual Operation Cover Up display made its appearance.

The event, which is now 22 years old, was held from June 30 to July 1. More than 400 blankets and 600 jerseys, as well as a multitude of other items, were on display before being packed for shipping to Ukraine, where they will be donated to refugees and other people in need.

Rows and rows of tables were overflowing with the colourful items. Each piece was handcrafted and donated by people from the peninsula to the plains and beyond, and co-ordinator Carol Wilkes said they had no idea exactly how many people had actually contributed.

"Some people belong to groups and get together and knit, but then there's others who just knit and... drop it off at one of our dropoff points or something and we really don't know who they are," she said.

"The women of the peninsula have just knitted up a storm!"

The items are collected under the umbrella of Mission Without Borders, and each year they are sent on to Eastern Europe, where winter temperatures can reach a low of -25 degrees celsius.

Mission Without Borders volunteer Margaret Morritt has visited the orphanages of Eastern Europe. She said seeing the kids



Margaret Morritt, Judy Gould, Carol Wilkes and Kay Cunnington among a sea of knitted and crocheted items.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

receiving their knitwear was incredible, and the people were always so grateful for the support.

"They print thank you cards sometimes and send them over with pictures of the kids with their blankets wrapped around them and with their jerseys on," she said. "One of the women ... actually wrote a letter in her own language, her own hand, and she said, 'I really like the blanket you sent me, I wrap it around myself when I go out to milk my cow.'"

Operation Cover Up was always looking for new knitters, Carol said, and they were keen to welcome younger people to the group as well. "We really need to get more of what we're doing out there so that we can get a younger perspective, a younger generation come in and just - maybe even help, that would be lovely."

Goods were also welcome at any time of the year.

"The blankets are the main thing, but our people were a bit inclined to want to branch out from things like that, and so some people just love to do jerseys and other things, hats and scarves and slippers," Margaret said.

For those who aren't interested in knitting a full blanket, 20cm squares are also accepted as these can be stitched together into a blanket. Wool is preferred over acrylic yarn, as it is warmer, and donations of wool or money are also welcome.

DETAILS: To donate or enquire, contact Carol Wilkes, Ph 021 265 8215. Drop items to Thames Christian Bookshop, Needles & Pins, or Ph Judy Gould, 07 868 6899.



Minister visits Thames schools

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

Minister of education Jan Tinetti paid Thames a visit on June 30. It was a flying visit, with stops at Moanataiari School, Thames Early Learning Centre, Thames High School and Thames South School.

The minister also met with representatives from Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki and Hauraki Women's Refuge, followed by an informal hui with local teachers.

The students of Thames South School drilled the minister about her role, politics, and the beehive ahead of their visit to Wellington later this year. The minister, formerly a school

principal, answered questions about play-based learning, her fellow MPs and braving the media scrum on the way to Parliament.

Minister Tinetti said the trip was a chance for her to touch base with the area and get an idea of what was important to educators and service providers, as well as the children themselves.

"What we don't want to do is create a system that's Wellington-centric and that's why it's really important to come out and visit," she said.

"You can see the local essence in the schools here.

"It's been really great."



Minister Jan Tinetti (centre) and Coromandel Labour candidate Beryl Riley with students from Thames South School.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

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SPORTS

Francis Waitai takes on 'knockout artist' Jack Bowen

BOXING

Brace yourselves Hauraki, for an exhilarating collision of boxing supremacy as two formidable contenders prepare to lock horns in a battle that will leave fans on the edge of their seats.

On July 7, the much-anticipated showdown between New Zealand Super Middleweight Champion and WBC Australasia Silver Belt Champion Francis Waitai and the tenacious Jack Bowen will ignite the ring in Melbourne, Australia.

Hailing from Paeroa, Waitai has garnered a reputation as a force to be reckoned with.

Waitai has thrilled fans with his explosive power, lightning-fast combinations, and unwavering determination to conquer every challenge that comes his way.

Armed with immense skill and an unyielding spirit, Waitai is ready to showcase his talent on an international stage.

Awaiting him in the opposite corner is the relentless Jack Bowen, a rising star who has set the boxing world ablaze with his impressive performances, and several knockouts.

Known for his relentless ag-



Francis Waitai

gression, precision striking, and tactical brilliance, Bowen poses a formidable threat to Waitai's reign.

Waitai's coach, Shaun George, expressed his anticipation for this epic encounter, stating, "Francis Waitai and Jack Bowen are two exceptional fighters who embody the essence of boxing".

"The clash between these two titans promises to be an electrifying spectacle.

"Fans can expect a display of courage, skill, and unrelenting determination as these warriors leave everything in the ring."

Stay tuned to Francis Waitai's Facebook page for further updates, including pre-fight activities, press conferences, and broadcasting information.

Fall, alcohol suspected in man's death



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



Photo: SUPPLIED

A typical New Zealand bushman's hut.

John Drew felt all his bones sore, so he told Ann Gillan, wife of the proprietor of the Hazelbank Hotel at Grahamstown, Thames. It was October 1874 and he had come from Miranda with some mates, where they worked for Mr McDonald as bushmen. Some of the men parted company at the wharf and 38-year-old John went looking for lodgings at the Hazelbank. Ann's new lodger's eyes were black and bloodshot and he told her he'd had a fall at Miranda. He had a couple of meals and a glass of beer throughout the day and went to bed about 8pm.

The next morning John was up before his landlady, coming and going, and having a few drinks before sitting down to a plate of porridge and bacon and eggs for breakfast. He then returned to bed. Around 1pm, John was roused to see Mr McDonald who had come to pay the men's wages. He had a glass of whisky, but no dinner, returning to bed until 5pm when he came back down with two mates. He had two drinks of rum and milk, put his head on the table and fell asleep.

"You better got to bed," said Ann Gillian.

John got up but went into the parlour, where he lay on a sofa. Ann fetched a pillow and put it under his

head. He said he was not well; his bones were sore.

Christina Clarke, the Gillan's niece, living and working at the Hazelbank, came into the parlour about an hour later and sat quietly reading. Ann Gillan was frequently in and out of the room and observed John sleeping soundly. Between 8.30pm and 9pm he turned his head and stretched. Around 10pm Robert Lorimar, John's mate, saw him lying on the sofa and commented to Ann and Christina that he was having a good sleep. About 10.30pm, Ann tried to wake John to get him up to his bed but she couldn't get him to move. She called her son, and they got him into a chair, where they splashed water on his face and hands. They couldn't wake him, so they sent for Dr Lethbridge but when he arrived John was dead.

At the inquest it was established that although John was intermittently drinking over two days, he was not drunk. Robert Lorimar, who had lived and worked with him for about twelve months, said he had never known him to be troubled with sickness of any kind, although he had been inclined to drinking. John had told him that he fell over some rocks coming to Robert's house at night about twelve days previously. He turned up to work regularly though, treating the fall as a trifle.

Dr Lethbridge said death was due to syncope – a collapse owing to the condition of the brain. John had been more severely shaken by the fall than he thought, and then he took the very worst means to get over it, by using alcohol. It was quite evident to the doctor that the attack had been going on for some days. John gradually slipped into a condition of coma and probably he passed away in his sleep.

But the jury wasn't convinced - there were concerns raised around the liquor that John was drinking – could it have been contaminated with something? One juror remarked that this was the second case where a man had died after having drunk rum and milk from the same hotel. There was disbelief that John's fall could have killed him days later.

The Coroner wrote out the verdict but some of the jury objected to it and the Court was cleared. After some deliberation a convoluted verdict was agreed upon – John Drew died "by the visitation of God, in a natural way, of syncope during an attack of apoplectic coma, and not by any violent means whatsoever to the knowledge of the said jury; such cause of death being superinduced by the habitually excessive use of stimulants."

John is buried at Shortland cemetery.

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Health & Wellbeing

Build your social connections

OPINION



By BILL SHAW

If you had to choose one factor that would enhance your physical and mental health, what would it be? No doubt healthy diet, regular exercise, adequate sleep and healthy lifestyle choices spring to mind. Medical evidence highlights the importance of these factors to good health.

It may surprise you to know that there is another factor which is vital to health and wellbeing. It is our social connections with others.

Quality relationships with others is a powerful determinant of longevity and wellbeing. This is the central finding of the world's oldest study on health and wellbeing known as the Harvard study of adult development. Director of the study, Dr Robert Waldinger,

reports that good relationships are fundamental to our physical and mental health.

Life expectancy in Okinawa, Japan, is among the highest in the world. Ingrained in Okinawan culture is belonging to a small and tight knit group of 5 to 7 people called a Moai. Group members provide each other with social support through the ups and downs of life. Belonging to a Moai group is a principal element in the long lives of the Okinawans.

Think back to the Covid-19 pandemic. How did you cope with the social isolation caused by the lockdowns?

Studies inform us that the health risks of prolonged loneliness and social isolation are the equivalent to smoking 15 cigarettes a day and can shorten a person's life.

Everyone feels lonely from time to time, but when people feel lonely most of the time this can impact upon their health and contribute to feelings of depression, anxiety and negative coping skills such as unhealthy eating habits.

Life transitions and disruptive life events such as retirement and bereavement can increase the risk of both social isolation and loneliness.

The World Health Organization reports that the effects of social isolation and loneliness on life expectancy is compara-

ble to risk factors such as smoking, obesity and physical inactivity. Social isolation and loneliness are a public health issue in some countries. The British government in 2018 appointed a loneliness minister to tackle social isolation and in 2021, the Japanese government made a similar appointment.

Do not underestimate the value of social connections. It is important to keep your social relationships alive as they are crucial to health and wellbeing.

Maintaining and developing your social networks can be achieved by the following:

1. Make time for contact with others, either by phone, text or video chat.
2. Stay connected with supportive friends and family. Reach out to the people you care about.
3. Create a Moai group, which is a circle of friends who commit to support each other. This may be a group of 5-7 people who share similar values and interests who meet up for the sake of getting together.
4. Replace screen time with people time.
5. Make small talk while in queue.
6. Join a club or group that interests you.

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

Seasonal ailments advice

Well the weather has well and truly brought about all the usual seasonal ailments, so it feels timely to share the following advice, which has been written by Dr. Hayley Scott.

Why do we not always give antibiotics for cold/flu?

A cold is an infection of the nose and upper airways caused by a germ (virus).

They are extremely common and an adult can expect two to four colds a year and a child can expect five to six colds a year. Very young children in daycare may get as many as 12 colds in a year.

Many viruses can cause a cold. Infections of the throat or main airway, or the airways going into the lungs are also common. These infections are sometimes called laryngitis, tracheitis or bronchitis. Doctors often just use the term Upper Respiratory Tract Infection (URTI) to include any or all of these infections. Most URIs are due to a viral infection.

The common symptoms of a cold are a blocked (congested) nose, a runny nose, coughing or sneezing. At first there is a clear discharge (mucus) from the nose. This often becomes thick and yellow/green after 2-3 days. It may be difficult to sleep due to a blocked nose. You may feel generally un-



well and tired, develop a cough or mildly high temperature. In short, antibiotics will not cure a viral infection.

How can I get some help or assistance?

Our phone triage system and Respiratory Assessment Clinic are both run every day, so be assured we will always be able to make a plan for you or your child. In some instances it is perfectly fine to stay at home, rest and keep up your fluids. It is helpful to teach our little people to wash and dry their hands correctly, cough and sneeze into the crook of their arm. It sounds little but it makes a big difference.

Best wishes,

- Supplied by Team Health Ngatea



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SPORTS

Gym champs

On June 23, schools from the Thames-Coromandel and Hauraki Plains districts leaped, balanced and sprang their way through a series of routines for the Interschool Gymnastics Festival at Thames Gym-sports. More than 200 students from 12 schools took part in vault, beam and floor routines, as well as hip-hop, cheerleading and aerobics displays. **ALICE PARMINTER** was there to catch the action.



Piper Morrison, 9, performs a balancing move.



Jordan Batenburg, 9, Waihi Beach, sticks the landing.



Hikutaia School girls show their moves. From left, Faith Shortt, 12, Zarea Ching, 11, Denvor Kisling, 10, Holly Shortt, 10, Maia Whitney, 12.
Photos: ALICE PARMINTER



Lorna Daniel, 9, from Te Puru takes a flying leap.



Turned-out toes from Morgan Lange, 10 of Kaihere.



Mia Barakat, 10, from Waerenga School vaults into the competition.

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Dean Innis has been a local electrician since 1988.

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Owner Dean Innis said he had always had the Paeroa-based business but relit its spark three years ago after selling his share in a business in Auckland.

"Auckland wasn't for me so I came back here three years ago and that's why I went to *The Valley Profile* to do some advertising," he said.

Dean said his loyalty and connection to the area benefited his business.

"I'm really the only inspector around Paeroa or around the area so I do a lot of caravan electrical warrant of fitness and pre-purchase inspections for when people buy houses."

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Death Notices

LIMMER, John Stephen:
On Thursday 29th June 2023 at Tararu Care Home aged 93. Much loved husband of Barbara for 63 years. Loving father and father-in-law of Christine and Alan, Leigh and Leon, Maree and Blair. Grandfather to Nikky and David, and great grandfather to Abby. Forever in our hearts, a kind and loving gentleman. In accordance with John's wishes, a private cremation has been held. Thanks to the Tararu Care Home for their loving care of John. In lieu of flowers, donations to St John Ambulance.



Death Notices

REA, Gordon Leonard:
Peacefully on Thursday, 29th June 2023 at Ohinemuri Home Aged 89. Dearly loved husband of Betty. Adored dad of Peter and Pip; Suzanne; Andrew and Helen, and Lisa. Loved step-dad of Karen, Paula and his mate Kerry (deceased). Loved grandad and great-grandad to many. A Service for Gordon will be held at St Paul's Anglican Church Paeroa, on Wednesday, the 5th of July 2023 at 11:00 AM. Thanks to Ohinemuri Home for their loving care.



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Letters of Interest should be sent with C.V. to:
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CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 1pm Monday

Public Notices

Notice of 2023 AGM Thames Museum Society Inc
The Annual General Meeting will be held at Thames Museum Te Whare Taonga o te Kauaeranga, 1pm, Saturday 8th July. All welcome. Enquiries 027 868 6072

"Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans"
— John Lennon

Public Notices

HAURAKI AERO CLUB INC. NOTICE OF AGM

The AGM of the Hauraki Aero Club Inc. Will be held at the HAC Clubrooms Ngati Maru Highway, Thames
At 11.00am on Saturday 15 July 2023
Members and prospective Members welcome
Lesley Weston
Secretary

Public Notices



MOANATAIARI SCHOOL ZONE LIFTED

We announce that the Moanataiari School enrolment zone has been officially lifted, and we welcome new enrolments. Families residing anywhere in the wider Thames district can now consider Moanataiari School, an educational option for their children.

We have a passionate and dedicated team of educators, so we invite you to discover the enriching learning opportunities and vibrant community Moanataiari School offers. Join our school family and experience a supportive, inclusive environment that values diversity and celebrates individual achievements.

To explore enrolment options, contact us at 07 868 6504 for further information.
David Brock, Principal, Moanataiari School

NOTICE OF 2023 AGM PAEROA COMMUNITY SUPPORT TRUST



The Annual General Meeting of the PCST is to be held at 5.30pm Wednesday 12th July 2023 at the PCST Corehouse Building 21 Willoughby St, Paeroa
All Welcome
Ph 07 862 6110

Events

40th CELEBRATION FOR TMG

Thames Music Group is celebrating 40 years since the acquisition of its Yamaha Grand Piano with a concert featuring musicians from Hamilton, Auckland Thames and London on July 9.

Performers include John Broadbent, Dawn Finch, James Brown, Barrie Stewart, Jo and Tina Haakma, Francis Cowan and Jonathan Dunlop. Raised in Paeroa, John Broadbent studied music at Victoria University, graduating with a Bachelor of Music with first class honours. He was active as a pianist, chamber musician and teacher in Wellington and Belgium until a damaged finger cut short his professional career.

Dawn Finch is one of those talented pianists who can play anything by ear. As a 14-year-old in 1957, she began playing with family members in a rock and roll band in Morrinsville, going on to play for dances, Telethon and Happen-In with her brother.

James Brown is a Kiwipianist from the United Kingdom, who will appear on screen. Barrie Stewart was a member of Take Five, a successful vocal and dance group on TV before appearing on the BBC Dick Emery TV series in London and debuting on the West End at the Showboat Theatre Restaurant.

Jo and Tina Haakma, who, with other family members, were known as the famous-in-Thames Haakma Sisters. They are also stalwarts in Thames Music and Drama on stage and behind the scenes.

Francis Cowan became the head of collaborative piano at the University of Waikato after a long career, which included music making at Victoria University, Wellington Teachers' College, Southwell School, and St Paul's Collegiate in Hamilton. Jonathan Dunlop is a Doctoral Candidate at the University of Waikato, studying expressive pedalling techniques in late classical and early romantic piano performance with Katherine Austin.

DETAILS: The concert will be held at St George's Church in Thames on July 9 at 2pm. Tickets at the door, cash only. More info: thamesmusicgroup.com.

FIRST NGATEA MARKET

The first Ngatea Market will be held at the Ngatea War Memorial Hall on July 9 from 9am until 2pm. It will be a regular event held on the second Sunday of each month, and organiser Jodi McPherson said the rural town was excited to have a high-quality event draw in shoppers.

"It's a happy and vibrant market," she said. "I think Ngatea needs it, we're a little bit forgotten. But with the Hikuais closed, Ngatea's getting on the map a bit more."

There has been huge interest already, with over 50 stalls booked in and more on the waiting list.

Featured stalls include handcrafted items such as garden art, wooden items, baby items, clothing, jewellery, candles, soaps and baked goods, as well as musicians, tarot readings, food trucks and face painters.

"We've got so much stuff; it's chokka!" Jodi said. "It's something different, something the locals can get in behind."


KAUAERANGA MUSIC GIG

Aro, made up of husband and wife Charles Looker and Emily Looker, is a bilingual duo, sharing a passion for the power of language and music to tell stories and remind us of our cultural identity. At 2:30pm on July 9 at Kauaeranga Hall, Emily and Charles of Aro are presenting a collection of new songs celebrating stories of our natural heritage, including award-nominated waiata about the native birdlife of this land and songs inspired by marine life that live in the waters off our Coasts.

Their performance, in a mix of Te Reo Māori and English, includes elements of folk, soul, haka, and a touch of jazz, to bring audiences of all ages together in a celebration of the natural world that surrounds us.

Aro has been consistently broadcast on Māori Television and has featured on numerous radio stations across the country with interviews, live performances, and radio airplay. Inspired by the challenges that life brings, the pair are set to release their moving new waiata Aroā.

DETAILS: Tickets: Pre-paid \$22 txt: 021912993 or kauaerangahallmusic@gmail.com, or The Music Shop, 712 Pollen St, Thames.

Last month's winner of the lotto ticket was **Rebecca Howie**, who found Pete in the June 28th edition in the A1 Motorcycles advert. 
Go to page 2 for details on how to enter.

SUNDAY CONCERT

THAMES MUSIC GROUP



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Dawn Finch and Barrie Stewart



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Thames Valley Club Rugby

SENIOR A Saturday July 8th

Semi Finals

Hauraki North V Paeroa
Te Aroha COBRAS V Whangamata



All Senior A games start at 2.35pm (unless stated)
Teams named first indicate home team

Rugby United Under 21s V Waitete in Te Kuiti
1.00pm on Saturday 8th July

SENIOR B		Semi Finals	
Tairua	V	Whangamata	Sat July 8th 2.35pm
Coromandel	V	Hauraki North	Sat July 8th 2.35pm

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SUDOKU

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

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

EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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HARD

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

MEDIUM

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

EASY

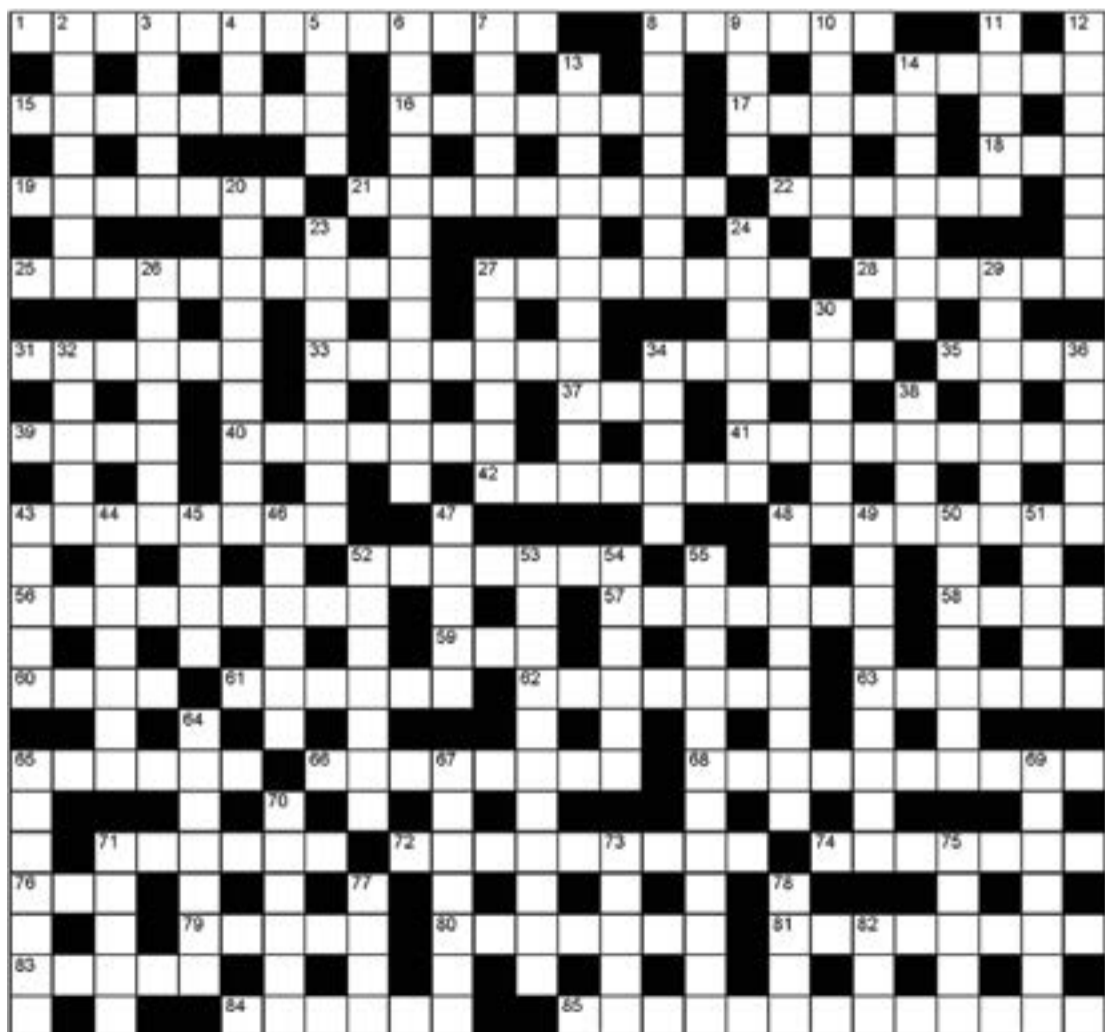
9	8	4	7	1	6	2	5	3
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3	7	1	8	5	2	4	9	6
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1	5	9	4	2	3	6	8	7
7	2	3	5	6	8	1	4	9
8	1	6	2	7	5	9	3	4
4	3	7	9	8	1	5	6	2
5	9	2	6	3	4	7	1	8

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JUMBO CROSSWORD

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Cope more or less satisfactorily (6,7)
 - 8 Take exception (6)
 - 14 Banish (5)
 - 15 Spherical (8)
 - 16 Green gemstone (7)
 - 17 Fathers (5)
 - 18 Spinning toy (3)
 - 19 Bureaucracy (3,4)
 - 21 Large yacht sail (9)
 - 22 Second-in-command (6)
 - 25 Unmoving (10)
 - 27 Made jump (8)
 - 28 Fletcher's product (6)
 - 31 Fairy (6)
 - 33 List in detail (7)
 - 34 Desert plant (6)
 - 35 Floppy (4)
 - 37 Cereal crop (3)
 - 39 Company (4)
 - 40 Back-stabber (7)
 - 41 11th-century Italian traveller (5,4)
 - 42 Ghost (7)
 - 43 Torpor (8)
 - 48 Final performance before retirement (8)
 - 52 Fruit flower (7)
 - 56 Sentimental reminiscence (9)
 - 57 Loving, romantic (7)
 - 58 Skater's jump (4)
 - 59 Whichever (3)
 - 60 Expressed in words (4)
 - 61 Cure-all (6)
 - 62 I glance (anag)(7)
 - 63 Wooden hammer (6)
 - 65 Gramophone needle (6)
 - 66 Enclosure for defence or confinement (8)
 - 68 Embroidery (10)
 - 71 Enlarge (6)
 - 72 Lack of confidence (4-5)
 - 74 Made sense (5,2)
 - 76 Friend (3)
 - 79 Merge (5)
 - 80 Condition in contract (7)
 - 81 Killer (8)
 - 83 Peripheries (5)
 - 84 Dark brown bitter beer (6)
 - 85 Currently being completed, delivered, or produced (2,3,8)
 - DOWN**
 - 2 Least attractive (7)
 - 3 First appearance (5)
 - 4 Long fish (3)
 - 5 Damage (4)
 - 6 Means poverty (anag)(12)
 - 7 "Go" light (5)
 - 8 Scrap, leftover (7)
 - 9 Barely (4)
 - 10 Trumpet-like instrument (6)
 - 11 Simple song (5)
 - 12 Capsicums (7)
 - 13 Fellowship (11)
 - 14 Wide tidal river mouth (7)
 - 20 Film machine (9)
 - 23 Hygienic (8)
 - 24 Greet (7)
 - 26 Win (7)
 - 27 Piste users (6)
 - 29 South American river (7)
 - 30 Rut (6)
 - 32 Aplomb (5)
 - 34 Dollar subunits (5)
 - 36 Tine (5)
 - 38 Warning device (4)
 - 43 Road divisions (5)
 - 44 Give evidence (7)
 - 45 Absent (4)
 - 46 Silly laugh (6)
 - 47 Grinding tooth (5)
 - 48 Blackened (8)
 - 49 Gathered (9)
 - 50 Migrating bird (7)
 - 51 Female relation (5)
 - 52 Aluminium source (7)
 - 53 Recoil, draw back (3,4,4)
 - 54 Laundry squeezer (6)
 - 55 Voter's compartment (7,5)
 - 64 Excess (7)
 - 65 Captain (7)
 - 67 Less expensive (7)
 - 69 Get-together of former associates (7)
 - 70 Blue dye (6)
 - 71 Mournful poem (5)
 - 73 Vegetable (5)
 - 75 Artist's support (5)
 - 77 Dexterous (4)
 - 78 Stinging insect (4)
 - 82 Drink cautiously (3)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Swear, 4 Under lock and key, 14 Surge, 15 Cabin, 16 Troubadour, 17 Vodka, 19 Pus, 20 Measles, 21 Ballerina, 22 Gauche, 25 Barometer, 27 Skewer, 28 Debate, 33 Falsehoods, 35 Owl, 36 Gained, 37 Pass, 39 Tin, 41 Microbe, 42 Pagoda, 43 Entourage, 44 Nomad, 45 Dressage, 50 Ma, 51 Pedestal, 55 Salvo, 58 Chairlift, 59 Upkeep, 60 Hallway, 61 Mar, 63 Site, 64 Haggle, 65 Nap, 66 Forerunner, 68 Heyday, 69 Repair, 71 Absconded, 76 Cotton, 77 Flavoured, 79 Mention, 81 Spa, 84 Ceded, 85 Negligible, 86 Basic, 87 Chaos, 88 Come rain or shine, 89 Beret.

DOWN: 2 Weaken, 3 Alias, 5 Norm, 6 Emulate, 7 Liable, 8 Choir, 9 Arrange, 10 Dove, 11 Endear, 12 Gripe, 13 Pensive, 14 Satchel, 18 Xenophobia, 23 Venom, 24 Retired, 26 Absorbs, 27 Sultana, 29 Adamant, 30 Rapier, 31 Colon, 32 Mettle, 34 Seam, 36 Gnome, 38 Steal, 40 Dupe, 45 Docks, 46 Exactly, 47 Sure, 48 Guitar, 49 Blame, 50 Mourner, 52 Dead ringer, 53 Silence, 54 Azalea, 55 Stagger, 56 Skips, 57 Beef, 62 Wreck, 67 Tactics, 68 Hassock, 70 Atlanta, 72 Blemish, 73 Voodoo, 74 Junior, 75 Docile, 76 Canal, 78 Vegan, 80 Trade, 82 Adze, 83 Flan.

SPORTS

Stroke of genius surfaces from Thames club

By GORDON PREECE

Diving into the culture at Thames Amateur Swimming Club led Helena Gasson to become a competitive swimmer and represent New Zealand.

The now 28-year-old has recently qualified for the World Aquatics Championships in Fukuoka, Japan, and in previous years, she has competed in international events including the 2016 Olympic Games and the 2018 and 2022 Commonwealth Games.

Helena told *The Profile* the Thames club, where she was a member between 2008 to 2012 while attending Hauraki Plains College, made her decide she wanted to become an olympic swimmer.

“We had really good coaches who set us up really well, it definitely was what I needed at that time throughout my teenage years,” she said.

“We had pretty cool training camps, and because it’s a small club it was really close so it was kind of like a little family that we had training there.

“You kind of appreciate that when you move to the big cities, the Auckland clubs aren’t quite as close, so that was probably a highlight of being at Thames.”

Helena, who grew up in Miranda and now lives in Red



Helena Gasson said her years at Thames Amateur Swimming Club prepared her for the world swimming stage.

Photo: SIMON WATTS

Beach, Auckland, said becoming an Olympian and getting fifth at the world champs last year was “very special”, as well as competing in the International Swimming League in 2020 and 2021.

“It was my life goal [the Olym-

pics], I didn’t really know how to explain it, but it was kind of relieving,” she said.

“The whole [Olympic Games] is next level and it was really exciting and all that stuff, but achieving what I wanted to achieve for such a long time.”

Helena said she was currently preparing for the Paris Olympics in 2024, and hoped to make it through to the semi finals in the World Aquatics Championships, which will be held from mid to late July.

She will be competing in the

50m fly and the 50m backstroke events.

“I’m in the water nine times a week for two hours and I have three gym sessions and a pilates session on top of that at AUT Millennium and Northern Arena [in Auckland],” she said.

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