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

t was a mixture of shock and honour when acclaimed netball coach Ruth Aitken read she had been made a Dame.

She's been living back in her hometown of Paeroa for the past ew years, after a three-year stint in Singapore working with their netball association and national team.

Before that, Ruth was appointed the eighth Silver Ferns coach, fashioning an enviable record during her 10-year run. As coach, Ruth won a Netball World Cup gold medal in 2003 and back-to-back Commonwealth Games golds in 2006 and 2010. These were followed by silver medals at the 2007 and 2011 Netball World Cup and 2002 Commonwealth Games.

Now, Ruth has been named a Dame Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for her services to netball. She is one of six Thames Valley community members recognised for their services in this year's Queen's Birthday and Platinum Jubilee Honours

List, released on Monday. Among the list is also a Matatoki activist; a Thames kaumatua; and a shorebird conservationist.

Ruth told *The Profile* she had to read the Governor General's letter twice before the news sunk in. The acknowledgement comes 11 years after she was appointed an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit.

"I think that anytime you receive a personal letter from the Gov-ernor General it's incredibly special," she said. "I feel blessed to have been acknowledged twice."

Growing up in Paeroa was where Ruth's passion for netball began

"I remember starting netball with the Miller Avenue Primary School team, the frosty mornings at the netball courts in the do-main, having to sweep the acorns off the court, and having a lot of fun with my friends. It was a memorable start," she said.

"People often think that small towns are a disadvantage for young sportspeople, but the research actually shows that those who grow up in rural areas often have an advantage as they are able to play a number of sports as they are growing up. This is now seen as much more important than specialising in one sport early

Ruth also said support from parents, whānau, and local sporting organisations was also vital for young athletes to be given the op-portunity to play sports and improve. "Having been brought up in Paeroa gives you a great start... so go for it," she said.

Ruth said her time coaching Paeroa College netball would always be a highlight for her, as well as winning the 2003 World Champs with the Silver Ferns in Jamaica after a 16 year drought -not to mention the "amazing" welcome home parade that was held in Paeroa on her return.

"However, it's the people that make sport so memorable, and I have been privileged to work with some outstanding women and men over the years – players, as well as team management and administrators. That's what keeps you going," she said.

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Acclaimed netball coach Ruth Aitken has been made a Dame. Photo: MICHAEL BRADLEY PHOTOGRAPHY

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

long-term advocate for Maori-owned health and social services, and a Matatoki woman supporting marginalised members of the community are among those recognised in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours.

Denise Messiter (Ngāti Pūkenga ki Waiau), was named an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for her services to Māori and health.

The Thames woman played a key role in establishing Te Whāriki Manawāhine o Hauraki Māori Women's Refuge in the Hauraki and is currently its general manager.

She led the establishment of the Hauraki Housing Network, and the Pātaka Kai food rescue service based in Paeroa, and in the 1980s she helped co-ordinate the establishment of the Hauraki Māori Trust Board.

Denise also led the establishment of the Hauraki Māori-owned health service Te Korowai Hauora O Hauraki in the 1990s and was its inaugural chief executive, overseeing primary and mental health services and home-based care for kaumatua, and participating in the deinstitutionalisation of Tokanui Hospital.

Denise has also supported indigenous communities and organisations in South Africa and Australia on a voluntary



Queen's Birthday Honour recipient Denise Messiter, far right, led the establishment of the Pātaka Kai food rescue service based in Paeroa. File photo: KELLEY TANTAU

basis. Meanwhile, Dr Miriam Edna Saphira has been made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for her services to the LGBTQIA+ community.

From Matatoki, Miriam has been supporting vulnerable and marginalised members of the community, particularly children, women in abusive relationships, and the lesbian and gay community for more than 50 years.

She published her book The *Sexual Abuse of Children* in 1981, which has become a key

reference for those working with abused children and offenders, and has been a member of the Broadsheet feminist magazine since the late 1970s, highlighting issues such as domestic violence, rape awareness, child sexual abuse, sexual harassment and gay and lesbian rights.

In 2007, she established New Zealand's first museum of lesbian culture; The Charlotte Museum Trust, which aims to preserve and display lesbian cultural artefacts. and advocate for lesbian culture.

Other community members recognised include two from rural Hauraki: Miranda's Adrienne Dalton and Keith Woodley, who were both named Members of the New Zealand Order of Merit.

Adrienne Dalton co-established Te Whāngai Trust in 2007 as a social enterprise. which to date has supported around 800 New Zealanders to upskill with career opportunities supporting nature.

Adrienne has a background in special needs education and **CONTINUED ON P3**

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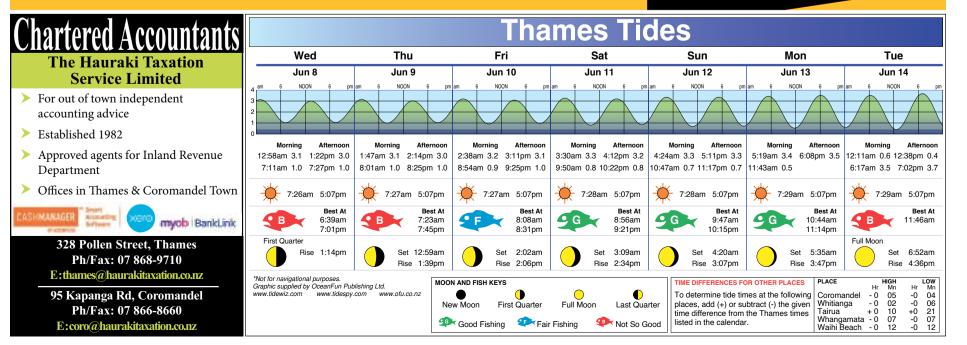
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The job's not finished'

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

Thames kaumātua and iwi Anegotiator says the work continues on Treaty settlements that have been ongoing since 2009. Walter (Wati) Ngamane, from

Thames, is a co-negotiator for Ngāti Maru, working alongside other iwi to complete Treaty Settlement Negotiations.

After being named a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for his services to Māori and tour-ism, Wati said the job was "not finished yet"

"The end goal keeps us focused. What else can you do?" he said. "You can't give up." According to the New Zealand

Government, as of August 2018, 73 settlements had been passed into law. The total value of all finalised settlements was \$2.24 billion

Wati, who has been the chairman of the Ngāti Maru Runanga Trust since 1999, and a trustee and chairman of Matai Whetu Marae since 2001, said he appre-ciated the support of the people "waiting patiently" during the settlement process. "Because I am involved in all

these things, it's also about the sacrifices that my wife and chil-dren and family have had to make over the years.

Wati is the principal repre-sentative between Ngāti Maru and Thames-Coromandel Dis-trict Council and Hauraki District Council.

He has been the co-chair of



chairman of Matai Whetu Marae since 2001.

Hauraki Rail Trail since 2016, and Ngāti Maru's education representative, supporting the development of rangatahi in the region. He has also taught at several schools throughout Hauraki and was a foundation member in establish-ing the Te Kohanga Reo movement in Pare Hauraki.

"If I didn't think any of it was important, I wouldn't do it, but [community service] is something

that was inherited from my fa-ther," Wati said.

"He passed it on to me, and it's just about being involved with dif-ferent things like the schools and education and iwi.

Wati also received a Thames-Coromandel District Council Community Service Medal in 2021, but he said the recognitions were "a bit of an embarrassment" "I know other people in the com-

File Photo: JOHN COWPLAND munity who would be more deserving of the [MNZM] than me, one of them being my sister who passed away earlier in the year.

"The recognitions are, personally, a bit of an embarrassment, because there's other people I know that are just as deserving, if not more deserving for this.²



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CONTINUED FROM P2

social care, and became involved with conservation working with Taskforce Green to restore native bush on her and her husband's farm.

She then set up Te Whāngai Trust with her husband as a pilot programme with the Ministry of Social Development, later personally funding its continuation. The trust has three nursery hubs from North Waikato to South Auckland, each run by local iwi.

Keith Woodley has been the shorebird centre manager for the Pūkorokoro Miranda Naturalists Trust for 28 years.

In that time, he has led an ever-expanding range of activities, from various annual courses, through organising visits of national and international speakers, and delivering talks to local schools.

In his time as manager, the Shorebird Centre has grown to be a popular stop for tourists and is the largest specialist natural history bookshop in New Zealand.

Keith has travelled regularly to China, and North and South Korea to work on projects and advocate for the protection of key habitats to maintain shorebird migratory patterns to New Zealand, including the signing of an agreement with China in 2016 and an application for World Heritage Status to protect these habitats.

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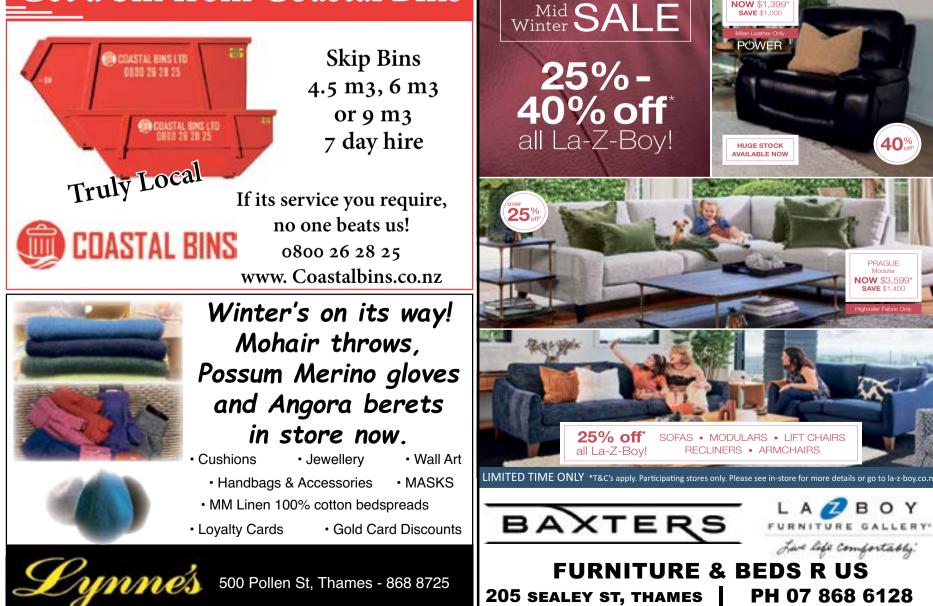
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Parking, speed changes proposed

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

Parking all day in the main **I** shopping areas of Waihī and Paeroa could be a thing of the past if Hauraki District Council's traffic and parking bylaw is

The council is proposed. The council is proposing to implement two-hour parking limits in the main shopping areas of Waihī and Paeroa, be-tween the hours of com-FDM tween the hours of 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday but excluding public holidays.

According to council, com-plaints have been made about people parking along the main drags "all day", using spaces that should be available for pay-

"Time limits help create a turnover of parking spaces, maximising opportunities for customers to park their vehicles in high-demand locations, council said.

"In both Paeroa and Waihī there is off-street parking availability for business owners and operators. In Waihī, there is unrestricted parking available at the Waihī Event Centre as well as the Mueller St car park. In Paeroa, there is unrestricted

In Paeroa, there is unrestricted parking available on Marshall St and Willoughby St." Meanwhile, council's speed management plan is proposing reductions to speed limits on some of the district's roads. A total of 63 roads have a

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ed limit change proposed, 21 of them being in the vicinity of a school, where council is asking for feedback on reducing speeds to either 30kmh for

urban schools or 60kmh for rural schools.

'We reviewed 106 roads, and have proposed speed changes to some, and identified some areas where work is needed to reduce or support existing trav-el speeds," Mayor Toby Adams said.

"It's about making sure our district is a safe, happy and healthy place to live and thrive for everyone, so we really en-courage our communities to have a say on the bylaw reviews and the speed management plan," he said.

Council is also installing a temporary speed reduction to repair a section along Hauraki Rd. The speed will be reduced from 100kmh to 80kmh, startfrom 100kmn to 80kmn, start-ing from the Cook Memorial towards Turua. This section of road will have an "area-wide treatment" in the next construc-tion season to repair the road and make it of a grain acumail and make it safe again, council

said. DETAILS: Feedback on the proposed changes close on June 20 at 4pm. Submitters are able to speak to council at a hearing on Wednesday, July 13. More info on the HDC website.





Aiya Toko-Watene, left, Pippa Taipari, Nathan Khudolyey, and Jorja Klaricich with their EPro8 awards. Photo: SUPPLIED

Turua students win EPro8 Challenge

By GORDON PREECE

Four Turua School students after winning their local EPro8 Challenge in their category. The annual interschool chal-

lenge, which aims to enhance students' knowledge of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), took and mathematics (STEM), took place over two days at Pārāwai School in Thames. Students from 11 schools around the re-gion competed, with year seven and eight students competing on May 25 and year five and six students on May 26

students on May 26. Turua School's "Breaking Thunder" team consisting of

Aiya Toko-Watene, Pippa Tai-pari, Nathan Khudolyey and Jorja Klaricich won the year 5

and 6 competition. Turua School teacher Kate Butterfield told *The Profile* the school was "so proud" of their tamariki.

"They came back straight afterwards and were completely ecstatic, waving their trophy in the air and [there was] a good deal of yelling about what they did... and we were so proud of them," she said. "All of our kids have shown

a real interest in it, a desire to participate, an interest to take it further and learn more in [STEM] areas.²

Kate said Turua School par-ticipated in EPro8 to give their students opportunities to practice their teamwork, communi-cation and problem solving.

"All of these things we see as part of 21st century learning, skills they'll need in their lives going forward," she said.

'Breaking Thunder were listening to each other, support-ing each other, they were trying different ideas... and the main

thing is that persistence, and I think they really showed that." Kate said Turua School wished Breaking Thunder all the best in the EPro8 grand final at St Paul's Collegiate School in Hamilton on June 21.





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Final roar for Thames Lions Club

By GORDON PREECE

fter 59 years of serving its After 59 years of serving his community, Thames Li-ons Club has officially called it quits.

Mike Furey, who was the club's final president for two years, told *The Profile* the decision was made after it couldn't attract enough new members.

"We had an opening evening but nobody came along, I had to go on the street to passers-by, we advertised and put it in the paper [for people] to find out about Lions, and I put heaps of notices in the shops

and we didn't get any members from it," he said. "So it's very sad... [for] peo-ple who join the Lions, our guiding principle is we serve, we try and serve the communi-ty. If we could've attracted new members, it would've been wonderful."

Mike said at the time of clo-sure there were around 12 members on the club's books but only five or six were active and even they had not been coming to meetings or being involved.

"They're all very sad because some of them have been in it a long time, they didn't want to see it close but there's no alter-

"For an incorporated society, you've got to have at least 15 members. With five [members] and with the secretary resigned, the end of my term and the treasurer wanting to take on responsibilities at another club, without those three and



Luis Velocci, left, Mike Furey, Jan Watson, Steve Watson and Shane Dinneen at Thames Lions Club's final Photo: SUPPLIED meeting.

just two other people it's not a club really." Mike said the club's initia-

tives over the years included holding stalls for Kauaeranga Valley Visitor Centre open days, installing a play boat at Porritt Park, cutting privet trees and helping with Model Barn open day car parking and the Paeroa Lions Club cycle rally.

Mike said the club also recently installed a community piano donated by Thames pi-ano teacher Sharyn Clark in Goldfield's Shopping Centre and hoped to get more projects off the ground. "I was all for get-ting the community involved in things... we have a whole list of ideas of what we could do but without people in the organisation to help it's not easy.

"I was looking to do a con-crete [table tennis table] out-side of Porritt Park but ap-parently Porritt Park is being developed... I was hoping that would be our last contribu-tion," he said.

"I'm looking to negotiate with Goldfield's to see if we can get some table tennis tables put in there with the funds that we've got left."

Mike said he also planned to give some of the club's remain-ing funds to other Thames organisations, would continue maintaining the club's signs in Thames and had given their resources to The Treasury

"We'd like to thank the community for all their support over the years... we hope we've served Thames well and that's all we were trying to do, make Thames better.

In <u>Brief</u>

BOOK LAUNCH

The Treasury Archive & Research Centre will launch their new book - More True Tales of Waikino and Waitekauri at an event Waikino Station Cafe on June 12 from 2pm until 4pm. The book is a new collection of local stories by local people from the Waikino and Waitekauri areas from the past and present. The book is also available to pre-order online at www.thetreasury.org.nz or at local bookstores.

MATARIKI PLANTING

The Western Firth Catchment Group's application to MPI's Tu Rākau Matariki grant programme has been successful, and will go towards a community planting event on the banks of the Hauarahi Stream, Kaiaua, on June 24. Organisers said the planting would be a great way to celebrate Matariki and continue the restoration of the stream. RSVP by June 22 to ric.balfour@landcare. org.nz

LAUNCH FEES

TCDC is changing boat ramp launching and boat trailer parking fees. Council endorsed fees of: a combined annual fee for boat launching and trailer parking set at \$115; a launching only annual fee set at \$45; a daily launching only fee of \$15 per day; and a daily combo boat launching and trailer parking fee of \$30 per day. Fees apply at nine council boat ramps from July 1; the remaining 17 would remain free to use.





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Thank You For The Music

Thames Music and Drama hosted Mamma Mia! The Musical between May 28 and June 4. The sold out show featured local entertainers singing and dancing with glitz and glamour on stage and lots of laughs from the audience. Reporter GORDON **PREECE** sailed to Kalokairi at Thames Civic Centre for a front row seat.



Wedding guests are in awe at the nuptials



Laura Hulley as Sophie, left, and Michael Deibert as Sky.



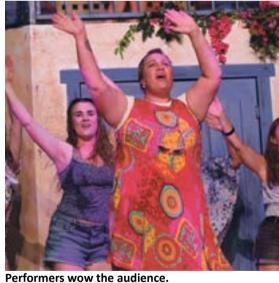
Dancing queens dazzle on stage.



Super Troupers ignite the Villa Donna balcony.



Ewan Grant-Mackie sings *Our Last Summer* with Erin Wigley.





David Bull performs Knowing Me Knowing You.



Bayly Hunt, right, pours a bottle.



Centre grants \$15k for community projects

By GORDON PREECE

Eight education providers are among those to each receive \$1000 grants from the Seagull Centre.

The Thames resource recovery facility rolled out a total of \$15,000 for 15 local community funding grants on May 30 to allow individuals and organisations to turn their environmental project vision into a reality.

The public could apply for the grants for projects that created opportunities for locals to engage in local environmental issues or if they focused on community resilience through sustainable living practices, food security, education, or environmental kaitiakitanga (guardianship).

Board member Karen Woodhall told *The Profile* the Seagull Centre initially planned to give away 10 grants but decided to increase to 15 after there were "so many worthy applicants."

"We went back to the trustees and said they're all worthy, can we please spend another \$5000?" she said.

"We did initially talk about it as a board but if we did go over 10, there was some leeway.

"Out of the 17 applicants there was definitely 15 who were well within the criteria, so we extended it to five."



Seagull Centre community grant recipients received a total of \$15,000 for community projects.

The Seagull Centre strongly encouraged youth to apply for one of this year's grants and Karen said it was great to have eight out of 15 recipients involving youth.

"We had four schools basically asking for the same thing which is garden to table... which is interesting because you'd think that would be well saturated by other things that are going on in the community but it's not," she said. "The (Kauaeranga Valley) Christian Camp, they were going to get children to plant the Central Kids application [to] restore Speedy Reserve, so again that's something the kids are going to do.

"Moanataiari, they actually got two grants because they're going to clean up [Burke St stream] here in front of us and they're also looking after the dotterels in Kuranui Bay."

Karen said there were more applications than the previous time the Seagull Centre made Photo: GORDON PREECE community grants available

three or four years ago. "In the meantime we've had to get our building and park here finished and that's what we were concerned about money-wise, getting this sorted out," she said.

"So that's the only reason why we haven't made the grants but now we're in a position where we're all sorted and are making some money, so it's time to give back to the community." Karen said projects that benefited from Seagull Centre grants needed to be completed before December.

"We'll ask them what they did with the money, maybe some before and after pictures, any comments or responses, we'll get some accountability out of it, but I think the main thing is that it's a visual thing," she said.

RECIPIENTS

Kauaeranga Valley Christian Camp, to purchase trees for youngsters to plant; The Basket Hauraki: Scope Food Action Rescue Plan targeting food waste; Matatoki School: garden to table; Thames Tongan Community: contribute to the cost of a container for Tonga; Central Kids Kindergarten Ngatea: regeneration of plantings in Speedy Reserve; Thames Coast Kindergarten: mulching and planting natives on Kindy grounds; Coromandel Area School - Rongoa Gardens for students to use in Māori healing ways; Thames South School: community gardens; Thames Coast Kiwi Care: pest control education materials; Moanataiari School: stream care, guardianship of Burke St stream and Kuranui Bay. Moanataiari School: creation of community composting system: Turua School: garden to table; KiriKiri Bird Corridor Group: pest control; Karaka Backyard Trappers Collective: pest control.



Paeroa College's cook-off

Paeroa College students took part in an Enviroschools Māra Kai Challenge on May 26, with each team needing to create a nutritious lunch of one cooked dish, one cold dish, and a nutritious drink or dessert. The two best plates from each team were served to the judges, Hauraki councillor Duncan Smeaton, and The Falls Retreat chef Brad King. The challenge had the students using as many fruit and veggies grown in the college's garden as possible. Also in attendance were Waikato Regional Council's senior education advisor Michelle Daly and environmental education facilitators Jenni Scothern King and Ruairi Kelly. Reporter Kelley Tantau caught the action.

Publishest Journalism



Te Au Pounamu Warren, left, and Wairua Parata show off their cooking abilities.



Ryan Ball and Carl Lucero made an apple crumble.



Amelia Parrish starts work on a kumara salad.

Georgia Begbie chops fresh pineapple.



Falls Retreat chef Brad King was one of the judges.



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RULLE (=)Increasing diesel costs impact farmers

By GORDON PREECE

Travelling and socialising less are one of many impacts in-creasing diesel prices are likely having on Hauraki-Coromandel farmers, Federated Farmers says.

Feder-Hauraki-Coromandel ated Farmers president Robert Craw told *The Profile* the district's farmers were prioritising travel for essential tasks due to high diesel prices, and cutting back on additional travel could cause isolation. "I can speak for myself as well...

unless it's a necessity trip it's not being done," he said. "Socialising is quite important

for farmers' mental well being and if they're going to have to reduce their potential holidays, travel and kids sports travel... because they can't afford the high fuel prices,

[it's] definitely going to impact." Mr Craw said the advocacy group for farmers noticed "a good couple of months ago" diesel prices would remain high.

"The government obviously signalled that with the fact that it [would] reduce the diesel mileage charge and diesel tax charges, and continuing to hold that longer indicated to us we're going to have to live with this for quite some time,' he said.

"On the back of a dry season, everyone's feeding out a lot more to supplement their livestock and we're also going into winter [so] everyone's feeding out every day anyway so it's making it quite a lot tougher on everyone's bottom

"Given the fact that we didn't budget for prices to be anywhere near this high, it's definitely go-ing to hit them in the pocket quite hard

According to fuel tracking web-site Gaspy, the average nationwide diesel price was \$2.65 per litre as at June 1, up by 18.75 cents in 28 days. Mr Craw said while Feder-

ated Farmers was giving advice to farmers to manage diesel prices, there wasn't anything further it could do.

"The big unknown now is are we going to have to live with this where it is now, and potentially increasing or is it going to stabilise is the big question," he said.

"Because diesel at this point is a necessity to us, we don't have the opportunity, option or luxury of electric vehicles that will do the job

"[So] we're just at a point that we just kind of have to suck it up and work out how we're going to manage it until alternatives come

along... so pretty hard to swallow. Mr Craw said the government could do more to provide diesel price relief for farmers and producers

"[The government] could look into ways they could minimise those costs so they could get prod-ucts to market at the cheapest rate possible so that the consumers are not having to wear that cost." The government reduced fuel

costs by 25 cents a litre in March for three months as part of its cost of living package. In May's Budget the government promised to re-duce fuel costs by 25 cents a litre through to August.





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Paeroa Little Theatre entertainment returns

By GORDON PREECE

Sixteen local entertainers Will ignite Paeroa Little Theatre's stage for an improv fundraising show on June 17. Chairperson Rowena Bu-

chanan told *The Profile* the event, dubbed *Friday Night at the Theatre*, aims to raise funds for the theatre's gen-eral maintenance and bring local entertainment back for Paeroa's community

'This year at the AGM the committee said we have overheads, we own the building and the land so we have the rates and the insurance and the power... those things mean we actually need to create something during the year to actually keep our heads above water," she said.

'Our own shows are our way we make money and we've been unable to get those off the ground partially because of lockdowns but also partially just because of people being in a loss groups cituation a less secure situation. "Bringing those shows

to Paeroa is something we think... really adds to the Paeroa community."

Rowena said the theatre, which had operated for more than 90 years, also had hall hire costs as its source of income which had also dropped due to Covid-19.

Committee member Don Neil said the show featured 16 entertainers from the Hauraki



Don Neil, left, and Rowena Buchanan are organising Paeroa Little Therate's fundraising show, Friday Night at the Theatre. Photo: GORDON PRECE

District We'll have some outstanding musicians, some dancers, storytellers, poets... there'll also be a couple of skits by lo-cal actors as part of that enter-tainment," he said. We've had a great response

from mostly everyone we've

considered to be part of it so we'll be looking at a great night's entertainment for a couple of hours Rowena said doors open for

the event at 6:30pm, and the show begins at 7pm. The event will be in two seg-

ments with an intermission,

and finish between 9:30pm

Rowena said 50 tickets would be available to purchase for \$20 each at the door on the night.

That's higher than we've asked for some of our shows in the past but because of the fundraising element we're hoping people will support that and be prepared to pay a little extra for the ticket," she said. **Details: Friday Night at the Thea-tre, Paeroa Little Theatre, 1 Fran-tre for the ticket and the theater** cis St, on June 17. Doors open 6:30pm, tickets \$20 available at the door.

Kauaeranga Music is back with Albi & The Wolves

Not since July, 2021, have the walls at the historic Kauaeranga Valley Hall resonated to the sound of music.

But that is set to change with Kauaeranga Music's first concert for 2022 on Sunday afternoon, June 12.

"We have been hanging out for this day, waiting until we all can feel safe to gather together for live music once again Kauaeranga Music's Peter Revell said.

"So many people have commented on how they miss the opportunity to kick back and engage with quality live music and musicians

Albi & The Wolves are set to

fire up the stage, and fill hearts with hope, with their energetic and relatable alternative indie folk songs.

The trio, Chris Dent, Pascal Roggen and Michael Young, has a huge sound that is simply created by an acoustic guitar, electric violin, double bass and their three voices. They have crafted a stage show full of energy and moments for reflection.

Since 2014 they have gone from strength to strength tour-ing in Australia, New Zealand and Rarotonga, and in 2018 they took home the Best Folk Artist Award at the Vodafone New Zealand Music Awards. What makes the band special is the sense of community that follows them everywhere they go - whether it's connection

through dance, laughter or singing, audiences feel radiant after shows and keep coming back

for more. Chris Dent (Lead Vocals, Acoustic Guitar, Stomp); Pascal Roggen (Electric Violin, Backing Vocals); Michael Young (Double Bass, Backing Vocals) DETAILS: Sunday 12 June at 2:30pm (afternoon indoor gig), Kauaeranga Hall, 437 Kauaeranga Valley Rd, Thames. Door sales \$25; Pre-book \$22 txt: 021 912 993, email: kauaerangahallmusic@ gmail.com, or Lotus Realm 714 Pollen St, Thames.



Albi & The Wolves are set to fire up the stage at Kauaeranga Hall





ENTERTAINMENT Monologues to give voice to Gallipol

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

An upcoming play that gives a voice to the many faces of Gallipoli was inspired by an improvised monologue at a Waihī

Actor Mark Wright, who has starred in almost 40 different television series including What Now and Shortland Street, was hosting an adults' acting work-shop back in 2021 with the Waihī Drama Society when he performed an off-the-cuff mon-ologue inspired by WWI. The performance was well-re-

ceived, with audience-members encouraging Mark to turn it into a play. "A number of them came up

to me and said I should write it down and turn it into a play, so that had been banging around in my head... I thought we were over Covid then, but last year we went back into it and [the play] went on the back-burner," he said

After being asked by Hauraki Anter being asked by Hauraki District Council to be part of an Anzac Day video series, Mark, an "amateur historian" performed a draft of his show at a "work in progress" evening in which au-dience members could provide feedback. He was spurred on to finish the play, and it will now have its premiere on June 11 at the Waihī Boyd Road Theatre. "I want the piece to be engag-

ing and entertaining, but also historical," he said. "It's putting



Mark Wright will premiere his play 'The Gallipoli Monologues' at Waihī this weekend.

humanity back into the facts and the figures. When you've got someone on-stage, live, speaking as a character as if they're there, I think it brings it home because

people can relate." Mark is an accomplished im-proviser and has been a regional, national, and international theatre sports champion, representPhoto: SUPPLIED

ing New Zealand at improv competitions around the world. He said the one-man play contained nine monologues based

on different characters, sym-

bolised by him changing hats "I've been consuming a lot of

verbatim accounts, letters, sto-ries, and have read a number of books... and how I write [the monologues] is I pick a charac-ter in my head and basically im-provise," he said.

provise," he said. "When it's fresh, I will do it again and record it on my phone, type it out, and edit it." Mark's great-grandfather was the proprietor of the Rob Roy Hotel in Waihī, while two of his great uncle's served in Gal-lipoli returning to Naw Zoeland lipoli, returning to New Zealand injured and dying shortly after WWI due to complications from their wounds. In 2014, he fronted a documentary series which saw him complete a "life-long dream" by travelling to Gallipoli and the Anzac Cove in Turkey. "[The play] is a bit of a roller

coaster of emotions. Obviously, we're dealing with a massive tragedy that has a massive im-

tragedy that has a massive im-pact on New Zealand to this day," he said. "The people are gone but the families live on, and it's impor-tant to keep the memories alive." *DETAILS: The Gallipoli Mono-logues, Saturday, June 11 at 7pm, and Sunday, June 12 at 4pm, on at the Waihī Boyd Road Theatre. Tick*the Waihī Boyd Road Theatre. Tick-ets \$30 at Waihi Stationery. If the June 12 matinee sells out, a second evening show may be added.

Journalism backed as well the set of the



Quartz found at Waihī

THE OLD POST

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.

1869

PThe Māori settlement of Waihī attracted a number of miners after auriferous quartz was said to be found there. The road from Ohinemuri to Waihī was a good one, running in the hollows of the range, and it was supposed that an alluvial field was somewhere between the two places. Unrest over the loss of Māori land meant gold diggers travelling between Ohinemuri Waihī and were not safe but the steamer Clyde sailed at once with a second batch of diggers, the remainder of which would be taken on a third trip.

Māori signal fires blazing in close proximity to Thames were repeated over two nights and appeared to be a communication to the Thames and Piako Māori. Residents were advised to not be alarmed.

A new gold discovery was made near the Miranda Redoubt - part of the stone was crystallised and the remainder was dark blue in which gold was plainly visible. Prospecting parties had been working there for some time and



possessions and equipment in the swag on his back. Photo: SUPPLIED

from the bearing of the reefs at Thames it was the conviction of competent authorities that the Waihōu River ran over some very rich quartz reefs. It was anticipated that the day would come when portions of sea beach exposed at low water would, by means of machinery, and the perseverance of miners, be worked to advantage.

Machinery for flax preparation was taken from Grahamstown to the Puriri estate of Messrs Hannaford, O'Keeffe, Brissenden, and Logan. The property consisted of about 8000 acres commencing at Puriri and extending to Hikutaia. A 20 horse power engine would drive twelve of Price and Fraser's flax machines. The development of flax was seen as second only in importance to that of the vigorous working of the quartz reets.

on hav was second as second only in importance to that of the vigorous working of the quartz reefs. The township of Hastings (Tapu) situated on a small flat backed by noble looking hills was predicted to prove the source of considerable wealth to the district. Tapu Creek took its course for miles through the hills and was one of the longest and best prospected on the Thames goldfield. The population was around 600 and was served by no less than eight public houses and six stores, which was amply sufficient to supply the population with all necessary comforts.

A petition to form the separate townships of Shortland and Grahamstown into a municipality so they were able to govern themselves better was presented to his Excellency the GovernorFew goldfield towns had grown into such respectable proportions as the towns of Shortland and Grahamstown had in the short space of two years.

The ti-tree and flax swamps had been changed into busy streets, and the sites of old peach groves were now thickly planted with houses. Aucklanders grumbled that their streets were not repaired, but at Thames there were no streets to repair and the inhabitants were more than justified in demanding some change for the better. Knitted items donated

The Kerepehi Women's Institute May meeting was held at Kerepehi Bowling Club. Vice president Carolyn Giles welcomed five members there as our president was overseas.

Our thought for the month was researched by Debbie Smith: "The more we co-operate, the better we operate". Debbie also supplied our raffle, which was won by Marion van Eyk. We only had one birthday this month, which was Elaine Jolliffe, who will get her present at next month's meeting when she returns. We drew our fundraising Mothers' Day raffle, which was won by one of our members, Sue Watson. One of our roll calls was to fill a matchbox with things starting with the letter F. It's amazing what you get. 1st Bev Adam-son, 24; 2nd Jan Edmonds, 20. Bev Adamson and Jan Edmonds presented 13 crocheted single blankets to Te korowai and three knee rugs. We had also been collecting children's pyjamas for their project Jammies in June for Middlemore Hospital, with 21 pairs and five pairs of knitted slippers sent from our Institute. COMPETITIONS: Flower: Bloom: 1st Carolyn Giles, 2nd Marion van Eyk, 3rd Jan Edmonds: Spike: 1st Jan Edmonds. 2nd Carolyn Giles, 3rd Marion van Eyk; Shrub 1st Bev Adamson, 2nd Jan Edmonds. 3rd Carolyn Giles. Herb: 1st Jan Edmonds, 2nd Marion van Eyk, 3rd Carolyn Giles. Vegetable: 1st Jan Edmonds, 2nd Marion van Eyk, 3rd Carolyn Giles. Homemade pot pourri hanging: 1st Bev Adamson, 2nd Debbie Smith. The next meeting will be on June 14 at Kerepehi Bowling Club.

GOLDFIELDS WI

The May Meeting of the Goldfields Women's Institute commenced with the aspiration and prayer. Thoughts were given for our federation president, Shirley Harding, who recently lost her husband. The Motto for the month: "Learn your lessons quickly and move on", was read by Val Bowen and the good deed was tissues, toothbrushes, combs, razors, etc for our emergency toilet bags at Thames Hospital. The roll call was the most embarrassing moment, which became rather hilarious with some of the ladies. Birthday girls this month are Carole Bridle and Beryl Allison, and raffles were won by Jean Brady, Carole Cresswell and Bev Schenkel. The table was again full of beautiful baby knitting, toilet bags, knitted or crochet rugs for the elderly, which we know will be well received when boxes are sent.

COMPETITIONS: Bloom: 1 Val Bowen, 2 Sue Fah. Cluster: 1 Sue Fah, 2 Val Bowen. Shrub: 1 Val Bowen, 2 Sue Fah. ORCHID: 1 Sue Fah.

DISTRICT FEDERATION WI

The Thames Hauraki Plains District Federation of Women's Institute held their social day recently in the Ngatea Memorial Hall. Stalls were set up in the hall, with members buying up large. Maramarua/Kopuku provided us with plenty of hot soup and buns for lunch, which was their way of making some money. This is a day to help Institutes raise money to send a delegate to the National Conference in Lower Hutt at the end of May. During the morning, two quizzes were held, and after lunch, a blind bottle auction was held, with many laughs when you realised how much money you spent on a bottle you were bidding on. Raffles were won by Helen Udy, Margaret Overdevest, and Jean Brady. This was a great day for all our Institutes in the area to have a get together, especially after the many functions in the past year having to be cancelled.

COMPETITIONS: Art: 1 Vera Sanson, 2 Bev Adamson, 3rd= Bev Schenkel and Jan Edmonds. Cooking: 1 Lynn McGuire, 2 Shirley Rea. Craft: 1 Vera Sanson, 2nd= Maxine Burke and Lynn McGuire, 3 Dawn Clark.



Voman's altruism feeds hungry Waihī

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

Sandra Fisher spends an extra \$200 a week at the supermarket.

Once her own groceries have been bought and paid for, she purchases ingredients that she will use in meals she then delivers around the community for free.

It's an act of altruism that first started in March this year.

"It was a bit of a lightbulb moment," she

told The Profile. 'I was cooking

with the baptist church and it was just [seeing] the quantity of food... I thought to myself: if this all goes - and it did - there is

such a need.' After Sandra launched her

Facebook page - Waihī Frozen Meals - she hit the ground running and was making 91 meals across three days. Now, she is making 91 meals

in 24 hours.

"I knew there was a great need out there, but I probably didn't realise it would become a full-time thing, but it definitely is," she said.

Sandra has been cooking at The Salvation Army in Waihī, and alongside two volunteers, she once spent 10 hours making 160 meals.

The meals are then frozen and hand-delivered to pensioners and families throughout the Hauraki town.

"I don't ask for stories. If people reach out, then I'm giving," she said.

There were quite a few isolating [from Covid] who didn't have the means to get food, and I have regular people who are mostly of the older generation, or people that have had accidents... then

⁶⁶I don't ask for sto-

ries. If people reach

out, then I'm giving."

there are some people who have weeks when they just can't make ends meet. - Sandra Fisher

The multitude of meals are kept in Sandra's

she said.

helping hand.

Sandra also has a dream of

hot meal to those in need of a

"I want to get it going as

there is no service here. When you're dealing with people

soon as possible... because

with alzheimer's or dementia... they're kind of left to

expanding into a 'meals on wheels' service, delivering a

stand-up or chest freezers, and are divided out depending on people's circumstances and the size of the household.

But with the rising cost of fresh vegetables, meat, and dairy products, Sandra said her mission was becoming "a struggle".

She's "one of those" people who shy away from asking for help, but is calling on monetary donations, or donations of food or petrol vouchers, to keep her cooking. "All of that would be great,"

Sandra Fisher has been making frozen meals for households since March.

cope on their own, which to me is wrong," she said.

"It all depends on the funding, but the ultimate would be to have a hot meal delivered Monday to Friday, and maybe sandwiches and a little dessert.

Sandra has been making meals such as vegetable or chicken fried rice, curried sau-sages, homemade soups, pasta Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

dishes, and when she was given roast meats, she dished them up alongside mashed potato and veggies. DETAILS: If anyone can help source a space for Sandra's service, or is interested in donating, contact Sandra via her Waihī Frozen Meals Facebook page.



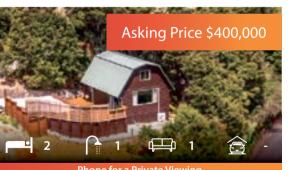




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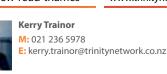


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<u>SPORTS</u> Cool runnings

Thames Valley's Secondary Schools Cross Country Championships ran smoothly on May 31 at South Farm in Mangatarata. Four of the district's schools competed with students facing challenging terrain over rolling hills, creeks and mud. Reporter **GORDON PREECE** caught the action.



Paeroa College year 10 Isabella Dryland runs up the hill.



Waihi College year 9 Koby Phillips races to the finish.



Hauraki Plains College students line up for the under 16 girls race.

Photos: GORDON PREECE



Thames High's Lorenzo Yamamoto has a great run.



Hauraki students James Wootton, left, and Reuben Williamson race down the straight.



Thames High's Hannah Laurence, left, races uphill.



HPC's Hamish Paterson puts in a great effort.



Local Radio Broadcasting to Paeroa & the Hauraki Plains Coromandel's CFM on 94.0FM

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73

THAMES VALLEY TANGATA ORA TRUST Thames Continuing **Education** The People's Wellbeing Trust Mobility Scooters Electric Lift Chairs **Speaker Series** DAILY LIVING AIDS MOBILITY EQUIPMENT · Bathroom and has been providing monthly Wheelchairs speakers to inform and **Toilet Aids** HIRE & SALES Walkers SALES & SERVICE raise interest in a vast Continence range of subjects for Daily Living **Products** over 10 years. Products -· We will also do Sadly the group Reachers, SockAids, our best to source has now closed. Proceeds have been Walking Sticks other products on gifted to the and more request Thames Library to continue to provide education for the 607 Mackay St, Thames (Opposite the hospital) • Ph: 07 868 7723 or 027 383 1117 • E: tvtot2017@gmail.com Thames Community. Opening Hours: 10am - 3pm Monday to Friday - After hours by arrangement **SUDOKU** 53 Fill the grid so every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 53 5 5 1 2 7 3 3 HARD 4 3 2 7 3 2 5 7 3 4 6 1 2 5 4 3 5 4 8 6 7 8 3 3 7 8 3 6 9 4 4 3 5 2 8 5 5 1 8 2 3 4 8 9 1 Company *IEDIUN* Puzzles © The Puzzle Comp www.thepuzzlecompany.co.r 2 2 6 1 9 1 6 2 3 5 5 7 2 9 9 8 6 8 7 8 3 2 8 5 2 4 9 3 7 7 4 6 (2) 2 2 6 9 4 7 EASY MEDIUM HARD EAS RO SSWORD RO ACROSS 65 Woven container (6) 27 Bluest (anag)(6) 66 Lacking energy or 1 Reveal information 29 Give the right to (7) unintentionally or enthusiasm (8) 30 Respiratory disorder indiscreetly (5,3,5) 8 Not convinced (6) 68 Place I go to (anag) (6) 32 Accused's defence (10) **71** Journey (6) 14 Say (5) 15 Uncurving (8) 16 Red-faced (7) (5) **34** Night-flying insects 72 Hideously malformed (9) (5) **17** Quick-witted (5) **18** Sour (3) 36 Walks in water (5) 74 Arm muscles (7) **38** Pack full (4) **43** Bed cover (5) 76 Spoil (3) **19** Distinguished 79 Cut off (5) musician (7) **21** Thwart (9) **80** Recipe (7) **81** Militant political crusader (8) 44 Left over (7) **45** Leave out (4) 22 Duty list (6) 46 Fluctuated (6) **47** Refrigerate (5) **48** Passed down object 25 Breed of horse (10) 83 Musty (5) 27 Programme (8) 84 Somnolent (6) 28 Spurn (6) 85 Tease or ridicule (8) **49** Water supply lake 31 Diamond, graphite, someone (4,3,6) charcoal element (6) DOWN (9) 33 Sound intensity unit 50 Salad vegetable (7) 2 Hidden or unexpected danger (7) 3 Power cables (5) **51** Room (5) **52** Analgesic drug (7) (7) **34** Creamy dessert (6) 35 Pack away (4) 4 Harbour boat (3) 53 Basic, undeveloped **37** Couple (3) **39** Large luxurious car **5** Dines (4) **6** Fizzy (12) (11)54 Gramophone needle Naming words (5) 7 (6) 40 Woollen fabric (7) 8 Modernised (7) 9 Winner's ribbon (4) 55 Express pleasure 41 Came into (9) to someone on their 42 Hearing distance (7) 10 Logic (6) success (12) 11 Army officer (5) 64 Recovery setback 43 Melt (8) **12** Flawless (7) 48 Innocuous (8) (7) **65** Stain (7) 13 Company part-owner (11) 52 Sticks (7) 67 Economical (7) 56 Green rust on **14** Seen (7) 69 Stalemate (7) copper (9) 57 Torrid zone (7) **20** Bitter (9) 70 Cereal pest (6) 58 Rip (4) 23 Her award (anag) **71** Ordeal (5) **59** Top (3) **73** Underwater gear (5) **75** Municipal (5) **77** Impulse (4) 24 Round of applause 60 Ceramic square (4) 61 Continued story (6) 62 Outlawed (7) 26 Of questionable 78 Money (4) 63 Wakened (6) value (7) 82 Male cat (3)

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Recital, 4 Complaints, 9 Affable, 13 Tame, 14 Gaelic, 15 Marina, 16 Protect, 19 Reserve, 20 Blow one's own trumpet, 21 Relish, 22 Harden, 24 Terminate, 29 Feathers, 30 Trance, 31 Headway, 35 Mandolin, 36 Siding, 37 Rile, 38 Eaves, 39 Die, 41 Sated, 43 Stewed, 47 Gaffe, 50 Tot, 54 Aphid, 55 Odds, 56 Canopy, 57 Bona fide, 60 Diverse, 61 Divots, 62 Synopsis, 65 Great Dane, 67 Kit out, 68 Jalopy, 72 Red-carpet treatment, 75 Present, 77 Trouble, 78 Fourth, 79 Rabbit, 80 Ball, 81 Steered, 82 Incomplete, 83 Nucleus.

DOWN: 1 Rotor, 2 Camisole, 3 Leaves, 4 Celebrated, 5 Macho, 6 Lampoon, 7 Israel, 8 Tango, 10 Forerunner, 11 Attempt, 12 Locket, 17 Prosperous, 18 Gnome, 21 Resumed, 23 Dismiss, 25 Escort, 26 Strict, 27 Tangle, 28 Gazebo, 30 Trite, 32 Deal, 33 Once, 34 Flea, 40 Impair, 42 Eddy, 44 Tycoon, 45 Wings, 46 Deposit, 48 Floppy, 49 Eradicated, 50 Toil, 51 Therapy, 52 Hide, 53 Assign, 58 Espadrille, 59 Unsuitable, 63 Adieu, 64 Tolerate, 66 Recluse, 67 Ketchup, 69 Regret, 70 Weirdo, 71 Option, 73 Thorn, 74 Eyrie, 76 Tells.



18 THE VALLEY PROFILE, June 08, 2022

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SPORTS RESULTS

THAMES VALLEY RUGBY Thames Valley Rugby Results: Tom Jordan Cup: Waihi Athletic 31-34 Paeroa; Mercury Bay WBD-LBD COBRAs; Coromandel 0-33 Thames; Waihou 10-12 Hauraki North. Leach Cup: Mercury Bay 34-5 Waihi; COBRAs 10-14 Waihou; Thames 20-14 Ngatea.

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Public Notice



GET WARM STAY WARM



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Contact Nikki 022 130 3885

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Protect the ones you love so they can keep doing what they love

Get prepared

Make sure you are registered with a GP, Māori or Pacific health provider, and check your prescriptions are up-to-date and still working for you.

If you have asthma, speak to your GP, Māori or Pacific health provider to make sure you have an asthma plan.

Get protected

Getting immunised is the best way to protect yourself and your whānau from serious illnesses like COVID-19, flu, measles and whooping cough. Every year we get new flu variants so we need a new flu vaccine.

Visit a mobile vaccination clinic, your GP, local pharmacy, Māori or Pacific health provider to get your immunisations up-to-date.

Get connected

Winter can be an isolating time for many of us. It's important to keep reaching out or checking in with friends and loved ones. Kōrero with whānau and check their immunisations are up to date.

Visit your GP before you get too sick or phone Healthline on 0800 611 116 for FREE 24-hour health advice.

For mental health support FREE call 0800 50 50 50 or txt 1737 anytime.

Contact your GP or local pharmacy for all your vaccinations. Waikato DHB **community and mobile vaccination clinics** are offering COVID-19 vaccinations, plus FREE flu and MMR immunisations to those eligible.

For more information and to find a vaccination site near you, go to **waikatodhb.health.nz/immunise** or call **0800 220 250**

Top tips to stay well this winter

✓ Eat well / Kai te kai tika

Stay hydrated – inside and out
 Kia tineia a roto me waho

Keep active / Kia kaha tonu

✓ Wash and dry your hands often
Me auau te horoia me te whakamaroketia ō ringaringa

Allow your body to get good rest / Tukua to tinana kia okioki tika

✓ Stay home if you are sick
E noho ki te kāinga mēnā kei te māujui koe

✓ Dress for the weather / Kakahua mo te huarere

/ Keep your home warm / Kia mahana tō kāinga

✓ Check-in with friends and loved ones
 Tirohia me ngā hoa me te
 hunga e arohaina ana

20 THE VALLEY PROFILE, June 08, 2022

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