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# Aching for answers

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

Sienna Callis should be a regular 12-year-old girl attending school, hanging out with mates, and caring for the animals she adores so much. Instead, she spends her days fatigued and in pain.

Sienna has hypermobile Ehlers Danlos Syndrome (hEDS), a connective tissue disorder that affects her whole body. Her ligaments are more lax than they should be, causing a host of secondary issues including compressed veins, pancreatitis, and ongoing chronic pain.

Now she needs a specialist scan, a detailed diagnosis and a plan for her future medical care. The catch - she needs to get to Germany.

"We didn't want to go so public with sharing her journey, but it's important to raise awareness for others because she's certainly not the only one," Sienna's mum, Kim Callis, said.

"hEDS is a bit of an invisible illness because people don't really see all the bad parts of it like we do."

Sienna's ordeal began in May of 2022, when she was only 10 years old. An unexplained pain in her leg led to surgery at Waikato Hospital - the first of many extended inpatient stays.

"All her inflammatory markers were raised," Kim said.

"We were in hospital for 10 days."

The next two visits, the doctors found pancreatitis, highly unusual in someone Sienna's age. Then, in January, she was readmitted in excruciating pain.

"I would only compare it to a woman in labour with how her pains were - it came in waves," Kim said.

"Nothing would get it under control. Ketamine, morphine, fentanyl: you name it, she had it."

Numerous tests and hospital visits later, the doctors were out of options. Sienna was slapped with a 'chronic pain' label and told there was nothing they could do.

"Her pain came down to a six out of 10, but she was constantly tired. She would have these horrific flare-

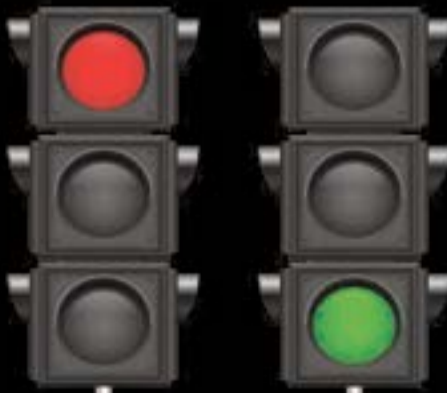
CONTINUED ON P2



It's the little things that keep hEDS sufferer Sienna Callis going - like her love for school, her friends and her animals. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

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# Expensive medical journey leads to Germany

CONTINUED FROM P1

ups that would happen at random and last anywhere between three days and a week," Kim said.

"We were just at the point where it was really taking its toll on her, on all of us."

The illness has left Sienna's family struggling to cope.

"There's no pattern behind her flare-ups. It's just really draining - the unpredictability and not being able to plan anything," Kim said.

"The financial burden has been huge, with the amount of time both Steve and I have had to have off work, and all the travel to and from the hospital and all the specialists and tests ... and because we've been so focused on Sienna we've really deprived her brother, he's just been left to his own devices."

Through months of research, Sienna's family began to suspect she might have hEDS. Kim found a support group and was also approached by New Zealand charity Kiwis Together to share their story.

"This lady who was in Germany with her daughter having compression surgery saw Sienna's story and reached out to us through Kiwis Together," Kim said.

"She said it was probably worth actually checking out if she had hEDS and ... abdominal vascular compressions."

Turning to the private health system, Sienna saw a vascular surgeon and a rheumatologist for even more tests. "She met eight out of nine criteria [for hEDS]."

Sienna's abdominal scans were sent to German paediatrician and abdominal vascular compression

syndrome specialist Dr Scholbach, who diagnosed her with compressed renal and iliac veins, a narrowing of the tube that sends food to the stomach, and several other suspected issues.

"The imaging wasn't good enough for him to tell exactly what compressions she did or didn't have," Kim said.

"He recommended that she [has] a quantitative colour doppler ultrasound ... this will help us to obtain an accurate diagnosis."

Because the technology and specialists aren't available in New Zealand, Kim said, the diagnosis will require travelling to Germany, something the family hopes to do as quickly as possible.

"The scan is going to cost us about \$10,000 plus flights, expenses ... it's not cheap," Kim said. "There is a high-cost treatment pool, but it's really, really hard to get funding ... even if we can get funding there, it's only going to cover the procedure. It's not going to cover flights, accommodation, food, the time off that we have to have from our jobs."

They also will need to return to Germany in the coming years for



Sienna has been in and out of hospital for 18 months, but there is little the doctors can do for her. Photo: SUPPLIED

an invasive, high-risk surgery to help manage the condition.

"We've got to allow \$160- to \$180,000 for that, too. It's \$100,000 for the surgery alone, and you've got to be there for a month."

But Sienna doesn't have a choice.

"We do know that with the development of puberty, more [compressions] can develop, and they can worsen. Typically between the ages of 14 and 16 is

where things can get really bad," Kim said. "We're hoping, because it's a huge, huge surgery, that we can actually hold off as long as we can. [But] the worry for us at the moment is we don't know the damage that this is all causing to her body, and we're really worried about the tube that carries food to the stomach because we don't want her to get to the point where she can't eat or drink."

Thankfully, the family isn't facing this alone.

"We're really grateful for the support from our village. Nethererton School, they've been there from day one for us. And all our family and friends, we just couldn't have gotten to where we are now without them. That sup-

port's huge," Kim said.

The school has planned a number of fundraisers to help Sienna get to Germany, and the family has also created a Givealittle page and planned a series of raffles thanks to offers from local businesses.

For now though, Sienna is trying to stay focused on the good days.

"Just one day at a time, it's all we can do," Kim said.

"For Sienna, her love of school keeps her going ... even with what she's going through, she's managed to attend 60 per cent of the time. She loves her animals as well.

"[And] she is that girl that is all about helping others, such a deep sense of empathy. When she was in hospital for the second time she saw all the Christmas decorations going up on the ward and she said to me, 'I know what I want to do with my money that I've saved: I want to buy gifts for the kids that will be in here on the ward at Christmas.'"

Kim hopes the family will one day be able to get back to normal life.

"She's been robbed of so much and so have we. From school camps to concerts ... It's so hard. As a mum, you don't unsee your child in that sort of pain. We just want her to get back to normal, to being a kid. No child should be made to suffer like this."

**DETAILS: Visit [givealittle.co.nz/case/supporting-siennas-recovery-to-donate](http://givealittle.co.nz/case/supporting-siennas-recovery-to-donate).**



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## Thames Tides

Wed Oct 11		Thu Oct 12		Fri Oct 13		Sat Oct 14		Sun Oct 15		Mon Oct 16		Tue Oct 17		
Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	
5:35am 2.8	5:58pm 3.0	12:12am 1.0	12:31pm 0.9	12:56am 0.9	1:13pm 0.8	1:36am 0.8	1:51pm 0.7	2:14am 0.7	2:28pm 0.7	2:52am 0.6	3:05pm 0.6	3:28am 0.5	3:43pm 0.6	
11:43am 1.0		6:30am 2.9	6:43pm 3.1	7:17am 3.0	7:23pm 3.1	7:58am 3.1	8:02pm 3.2	8:36am 3.2	8:39pm 3.3	9:12am 3.3	9:16pm 3.3	9:48am 3.4	9:55pm 3.3	
Sun 6:40am	7:30pm	Sun 6:39am	7:31pm	Sun 6:37am	7:32pm	Sun 6:36am	7:33pm	Sun 6:35am	7:34pm	Sun 6:33am	7:35pm	Sun 6:32am	7:36pm	
Best At 10:33am	10:53pm	Best At 11:13am	11:33pm	Best At 11:53am		Best At 12:13am	12:33pm	Best At 12:54am	1:15pm	Best At 1:36am	1:58pm	Best At 2:21am	2:45pm	
Rise 5:10am	Set 4:04pm	Rise 5:34am	Set 5:02pm	Rise 5:56am	Set 6:00pm	Rise 6:18am	Set 6:59pm	New Moon	Rise 6:40am	Set 8:00pm	Rise 7:05am	Set 10:09pm	Rise 7:33am	Set 10:09pm

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**MOON AND FISH KEYS**

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 Full Moon   
 Last Quarter

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

# St John cadet aids collapsed neighbour

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

A 13-year-old girl has obtained a prestigious accolade from St John after rushing to the aid of an injured neighbour.

Bella Plank, from Mararua School, has received the 'Challenge Coin' - a token that recognises "extraordinary acts" on behalf of Hato Hone St John.

It comes after a day in February, when - after just one term at St John Youth - Bella noticed a neighbour who had collapsed in her garden.

Bella and her friend went over to assist and, keeping calm, Bella "took control of the situation".

She checked on the patient, Lynley Burling, before ringing the ambulance and her mother, and Googling the symptoms to see if she could do anything more to help.

Lynley said she was "blown away" by how calm Bella was, and how she had "a thoughtful and considered response" to



Bella Plank, 13, with the neighbour she helped back in February, Lynley Burling. Photos: SUPPLIED



the situation. Bella's coin was only the fourth in the northern region to be presented, and Hauraki Plains

Youth divisional manager Marie Holtham said she was "extremely proud" of her cadet.

The Challenge Coin was created to recognise "extraor-

dinary acts that embody the value of St John" and previous recipients include a junior cadet from the South Island who received a coin for calling an

ambulance and assisting her mother when she was ill.

A senior cadet received a coin for doing CPR at an event she was attending, while a manager received one for assisting when she was first on scene at a mass casualty incident with more than 50 patients.

"The St John Youth Programme is fantastic for teaching our cadets, setting them up with such a range of life skills that will take them so far," Marie told *The Profile*.

"The opportunities are huge. We have on offer: camps, courses, badges, competitions, formal ceremonies, leadership training, and social opportunities. It's so fulfilling to see our new cadets incredibly enthusiastic and keen to learn and already taking advantage of some of these activities."

Bella's Challenge Coin was presented to her by St John's district youth manager Mike Earl, with Lynley Burling, Bella's mum and other whānau present.

**DETAILS: Hauraki Plains St John Youth meet on Tuesday nights during term at the Centennial Centre on Hayward Rd, Ngātea, 6pm - 7.30pm. It is a programme for ages 5 - 18.**



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# Iconic motorbike tour to raise funds

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

A contingent of riders will take the roads less travelled for a fundraising event hosted by the Waihi-Thames Valley branch of Ulysses.

The fundraiser - a "treasure hunt" dubbed Icons 150 - is the chance for local motorcycle enthusiasts to be involved in a national appeal.

"The Icons 150 is in conjunction with Ulysses' national baton relay, and that's to raise funds for cyclone-damaged properties," Waihi-Thames Valley Ulysses president Chris Brown said. "There's still a lot of need in the Hawke's Bay, in Muriwai, and up here."

Chris said the baton relay would kick off in Invercargill on November 5, with each Ulysses branch carrying a baton "made out of an old sewage pipe" into the next branch's territory.

It will arrive in the Thames Valley on November 14, with riders riding up to the Red Fox Tavern in Maramarua before camping in Miranda overnight. They'll then travel onwards to Maketu, where they'll pass the baton onto the Whakatāne branch.

Concurrently, each branch will also be raising their own funds by hosting events throughout the month. The Icons 150 will be held on November 4 and is something that was "dreamed up over a beer", Chris said.

Trevor Birchall is the club's runs co-ordinator, and he told *The Profile* anybody can take



Bruz MacGregor, Trevor Birchall, and Chris Brown are positive the first-ever Icons 150 ride will be a success this November.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

part in the day. But he's a stickler for road rules, he said, and all participants and their bikes had to be legal.

"We've checked out the route and we think it's absolutely fantastic," he said. "It's approximately 150kms and will take people 3.5-4.5 hours to get around it. It's like a treasure hunt, they have to find the icons and photo-

graph them."

Trevor said it didn't matter how the riders got to the icons, but they would get extra points if they photographed their bike in front of them.

"I've been a bit devious," he admitted. "These are roads you wouldn't normally travel - the best of the roads in the Hauraki." There's also an opportunity

for people to partake in a tour around the route, rather than compete in the "treasure hunt".

"We're positive it's going to be successful because we're motorcyclists," Trevor said. "We support things."

The national Ulysses Club is designed for over-40s who love motorcycles. The Waihi-Thames Valley branch's Icons 150 event

will start and end at Hauraki RSA in Ngātea, with riders to be assembled by 9.30am on November 4.

**DETAILS:** To enter, email [ig.elliott.mcgrath@gmail.com](mailto:ig.elliott.mcgrath@gmail.com), with your name, phone number, and bike rego.



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# Chronicling the voyagers of the Pacific

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

A shared passion for nature and local culture has resulted in a vibrant retelling of wayfinding history by two Comorandel creatives.

The new book, titled *Those Magnificent Voyagers of the Pacific*, was launched last week, and is the work of Thames writer Andrew Crowe and Puriri artist Rick Fisher.

The 64-page, nonfiction picture book chronicles 5000 years of wayfinding and navigation in the Pacific Ocean.

Throughout the story, alternating sepia-toned and full colour illustrations compare the Polynesian peoples' nature-based navigation techniques to the instrument-based techniques of their voyaging contemporaries in Europe and elsewhere on the globe.

The book is a follow-on from Andrew's tome *Pathway of the Birds: The Voyaging Achievements of Māori and their Polynesian Ancestors*, which took 15 years to write.

"I'm interested in the connection between people and nature, and I think this would be a culmination of that because it's through the natural world that I came to understand the complexity and the real skill behind the navigation of the Pacific people," Andrew said. "It's based on the observation of nature. And I came to understand that the more I



Author Andrew Crowe, left, and artist Rick Fisher have produced a non-fiction picture book detailing the voyaging history of the people of the Pacific. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

worked on this, how deep that connection is."

This time around, Andrew's aim was to appeal to all ages. Fact-boxes, notes and maps throughout the pages offer more depth for interested readers.

And the pictures, of course, are a crucial part of the story for younger readers. In fact, Andrew spent some time searching for an artist whose

work "clicked" with him, before being introduced to Ngāti Maru artist Rick Fisher's illustrations during a conversation with a Thames librarian.

"Now, I had seen Rick's murals ... and I noticed that there weren't any people in the pictures. And I thought, maybe he can't do people. [The librarian] showed me these pictures, his charcoal sketches, and blow me away, he can do people,"

Andrew said.

"You'll see that the illustrator's name appears first on the front cover.

"This is unusual, but intentional, to help acknowledge the huge contribution that Rick has made to giving this story and the people in it the mana they truly deserve."

At the time, Rick was fairly new to digital drawing, having picked up his daughter's iPad

during Covid-19 lockdowns to give it a go. But the artist threw himself into the creation of over 30 illustrations for the book, spending a total of 18 months putting the images together.

"That first picture [took] over 100 hours," Rick said.

"Rick brought it to me ... he said, 'I don't know if you'll like it, but this is my first go', and I went '[wow]'," Andrew added.

"He goes into this 100 per cent. There's so much in this - the more you look, the more you see."

The pair said they loved working together, and seeing their vision come to life.

"I try and portray [Māori/Pacific and Kiwi culture] in everything I do. You'll see it in my designs - I have that half-and-half blend there. So no one else can do it or tell that story according to how I see it," Rick said.

"I love to do this, to work together with somebody, and I have to say Rick was a wonderful working partner," Andrew added.

"It's just so rich, the whole thing, because it's just so personal. The fact that we can just sit together and ... celebrate this moment, it's great."

**DETAILS:** *Those Magnificent Voyagers of the Pacific* is available from Carson's Bookshop in Thames.



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# Heff's 'imagination boosters'

Misunderstood vikings who were not really after gold and booty but a good fish and chip shop are part of an exhibition running at the Thames Art Gallery in Tararu this month.

Paul Heffernan, otherwise known as Mr Heff, is the featured artist for October at the gallery in Tararu, and he creates wacky and whimsical characters from clay while his wife Kathy applies their colourful glazes.

Each piece comes with a small story and he hopes his work gives folk "a wee chuckle and a smile" as they explore the detailed pieces.

The exhibition features large "Dragons of Mirth" like Esmeralda, and smaller versions like Kerfuffle.

Misunderstood vikings searching for a good fish and chip shop are also part of the exhibition, as is a group of party pigs, including Felicity who believes the new health food is doughnuts.

Mr Heff calls his pieces "imagination boosters" and said grandparents and parents are often keen buyers of the wall hangings for children's rooms.

He also writes and illustrates children's stories which form part of the exhibition. He has picture books for five- to seven-year-olds and chapter books for older children.

His books are full of what he terms "Heff humour".

Robert the Polar Bear is perhaps his most popular picture book, while The Last Dragon Family kicks off a series centred around bumbling knights



Mr Heff is the featured artist for October at Thames Art Gallery in Tararu. Photo: SUPPLIED

who must save a princess from a dragon. The dragons are just not keen to take part.

He is currently writing The Pirates and the Treasure of Rat

Island - with "oodles" of illustrations that will keep him occupied for several months.

DETAILS: You can preview Mr Heff's work at [www.mrheff.co.nz](http://www.mrheff.co.nz).



The new market will run until April 27, 2024.

Photo: SUPPLIED

## Celebrating local at new summer market

The new farmers market at Waihi Beach is sticking to its values by choosing local businesses instead of overseas companies for its vendors.

Organisers of the market, held every Saturday at Waihi Beach School, say they have a strict "local-focused policy" in which vendors' ingredients must be sourced from within Aotearoa - not imported and on-sold.

"We want locals and our wider community and economy to benefit from the market, and the best way we can do that is to ensure that all inputs and outputs are purchased in New Zealand and/or made in New Zealand from New Zealand in-

gredients," stallholder Fin McDonald said.

"This means more money in our local economy and hopefully sets an example about a 'can-do attitude' to keeping businesses and families supported."

The market will be held every Saturday from 8am-12pm, rain or shine, and will run until April 27, 2024.

DETAILS: Located at Waihi Beach Primary School - free parking and access near the Community Center at 106 Beach Rd. For anyone wanting to become a vendor, visit [www.waihibeachfarmers-market.co.nz](http://www.waihibeachfarmers-market.co.nz) to find out more or email [info@waihibeachfarmers-market.co.nz](mailto:info@waihibeachfarmers-market.co.nz).

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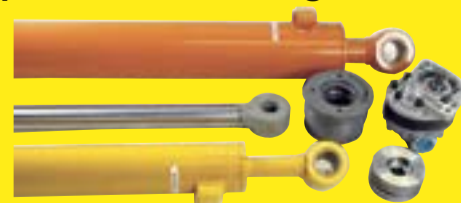
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**Best under pressure**

# 'Thomas' to live on thanks to volunteers

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

Once a main feature of the Moanataiari School playground, a derelict shunter engine now lies isolated and rusting on the edge of the school grounds.

But not for long - Thames Rotary is working to restore the lonely engine as part of their partnership with the school.

The shunter engine was donated to the school by local foundry and engineering firm A&G Price sometime in the early 1980s.

Ann Ridley, currently the school's neighbour, spotted the engine sitting on a rail turntable behind the A&G Price buildings in the late 70s.

"I used to see the train sitting there," she said.

"When I got involved with the school ... I said to [my husband] one day, 'you know, that would be a nice playground apparatus'."

Others jumped on the idea and eventually the locomotive did make its way to the school, where it has remained a proud part of the junior playground ever since.

"It was a big attraction," Ann said.

"What [other] school has an engine from an engineering firm that makes trains?"

School principal David Brock said there were a number of students who had chosen the school specifically because of the engine.



A restoration project is underway to bring Thomas back up to safety standards at Moanataiari. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

"The train is really very popular," he said.

"But it has been sitting out here for all those decades, it's starting to rust and I don't want to be the principal that removes the train because it plays a fairly special part in the kids' lives and experience here."

Luckily for David, there are a few train enthusiasts among

the members of Thames Rotary who are keen to lend a hand.

"We're very fortunate to have Rotary doing the repairs on this train," he said.

"The back is completely rusted out. The guys have gutted the floor to the train... we've started to make some progress."

"But in the meantime we've had to clearly rope the area off

- it's a hazard and we can't have the kids playing with it while it's in this current state."

Peter Vale, who is leading the restoration project, said Rotary was now looking for local businesses to donate time, resources or money to the project.

"Some of it is cast iron, but some of it is sheet metal - that's in a poor state of health," Peter

said.

"Materials not being used from engineering shops around the district would be most welcome."

"[The repair is] all relatively simple stuff to do."

Peter said he was happy to offer his engineering skills to Rotary and the school.

"It was always about the kids," he said.

"And for me it's something interesting to do. I've got the skills, and Thames Rotary is one of the best [community groups] I've seen - a dynamic bunch of people doing things."

David said the school was optimistic the engine could be repaired before the new school year, but said he was aware the timeline of the project would rely entirely on the availability of the volunteers and materials.

"I don't know how long the work's going to take, because these people are giving of their own time - it's a labour of love," he said.

"But we really look forward to it very much being repaired and fit for purpose. We're very grateful to the support that we're getting from Rotary."

**DETAILS: To get involved with the restoration of Moanataiari School's Thomas engine, contact Peter Vale on 0800 890 015 or email peter@industrialman.co.nz.**



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## Early closure of offices, libraries and Refuse Transfer Stations Wednesday 18 October 2023

Staff training is an important part of developing our culture at Hauraki District Council and essential for delivering quality service to our communities.

On **Wednesday 18 October**, we'll be closing slightly early so that all staff can attend a training and development event.

**Service Centres and district Libraries: 3:00pm close**

**Paeroa and Waihi Refuse Transfer Stations: 1:30pm close**

You'll still be able to log urgent service requests online or phone us 0800 734 834. Our apologies for any inconvenience.

## Apologies for kerbside collection delays

The start of our new kerbside collection service has not gone as smoothly as expected and our contractor Waste Management has written a letter of apology to share with you. They appreciate that after such a build-up of anticipation, it's been a bit frustrating for all.

Please have a read of their sincere apologies and explanation for what has happened. Things are getting back on track.

Toby Adams, Mayor - Hauraki District

### Collection delays



Thank you for your support over the past month.

Unfortunately the contract startup has not gone as planned. We're very disappointed that we have not been able to deliver the expected level of service from the outset.

We know this has caused upset in the community and for this we offer our sincerest apologies. Our new team, bins and systems are in place, but you may have noticed some of our collections are running behind schedule.

This is because we have designed and commissioned new trucks to pick up your food waste and glass recycling at the same time. It's a NZ-first innovation which means fewer trucks on the road, less carbon emissions and a healthier environment.

Unfortunately, there has been a holdup with our truck supplier which means we don't currently have all the collection vehicles we need. The full consignment of trucks is scheduled to be delivered over the next few weeks, meaning we'll soon be collecting all your waste and recycling on time, every time.

For now, if your collections are running behind schedule, please leave your bin out for collection the next day.

The team wants to thank you for your patience, understanding and continuing support of our drivers. It means a lot to us and we look forward to providing the community a good service as we move forward.

*The team at Waste Management, supported by Hauraki District Council*

## Remember to Flush out your taps



Some plumbing fittings have the potential to allow minute traces of metals to accumulate in water standing in the fittings for several hours.

Although the health risk is small, the Ministry of Health recommends that you flush a mugful of water from your drinking water tap each morning before use to remove any metals that may have dissolved from the plumbing fittings.

We recommend this simple precaution for all households, including those on public and private water supplies.

## Don't let the wind flip your lid

If you didn't receive a bin clip with your new bins, you can now pick up a FREE clip for your recycling bin from one of our service centres. They're designed to release automatically once the bin is turned upside down.

One complimentary clip per household. They are interchangeable between the rubbish and recycling bins.



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<https://youtu.be/i8yRqsVBu04>

## PAYT rubbish tags

Follow these easy steps to make sure the PAYT tag on your rubbish bin is well secured.

1. Write your address on the tag.
2. Feed B end through the black and red handles on the side of rubbish bin.
3. Open the perforated slot at B and feed A end through.
4. Lock your tag in position at C (top of the slot - as shown in the image).
5. Add cellotape to the slot at B to keep tag secure on windy days (optional).
6. Place bin facing the kerbside by 7:30am on your collection day.



**When buying your tags, please only purchase GREEN PAYT tags.**

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Orange tags are for Western Bay of Plenty District and blue tags are for Thames-Coromandel District. We can't accept them.





# Rural Life

## Hauraki fish farm permit approved

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

A coastal permit application to develop a kingfish farm in the Hauraki Gulf has been approved by the Waikato Regional Council.

The application, lodged by Pare Hauraki Kaimoana in 2020, was for a caged kingfish farm to be located within the 300 hectare Coromandel Marine Farming Zone (CMFZ) offshore from Coromandel Town.

Pare Hauraki Kaimoana, a subsidiary of the Hauraki Māori Trust Board, already holds the rights to use the CMFZ under the Māori commercial aquaculture claims settlement act 2004.

A hearing was held in April to hear submissions both in favour of and opposing the development. Concerns included a perceived lack of environmental mitigation planning and animal welfare issues, while supporters said the proposed farm would provide economic and employment benefits to the region and to local iwi.

The hearing committee made its final decision in July, granting the application.

The committee noted in its decision that the proposed farm would have a “moderate adverse impact” on the water quality and benthic [sea floor] ecology, but said it was confident that it would have minimal adverse effects elsewhere in the inner Hauraki Gulf and Firth of Thames. It said the aim of the CMFZ was to enable development of the aquacul-



A coastal permit application to develop a kingfish farm in the Hauraki Gulf has been approved by the Waikato Regional Council.

File Photo

ture industry in the Waikato, and stated that any impacts should be “managed at an acceptable level by adopting a precautionary approach through adaptive management conditions, including having an effective monitoring plan”.

Along with the coastal permit application, the company also sought a rule change to the Waikato Regional Coastal Plan, to allow it to place anchor lines and

structures outside the boundaries of the CMFZ. This change was approved by the council in its August 31 meeting, with councillors noting it would allow the farm to use the space more effectively. It was also noted that the change was only approved for the specified area of Pare Hauraki Kaimoana’s application, and only for as long as the company retained the right to operate in the CMFZ.

Further concerns about the extended anchor lines causing safety issues were dismissed, with the council saying this would be addressed directly by the resource consent.

The Hauraki Māori Trust Board was contacted for comment but did not respond before deadline.



## Surveys support Caulerpa response

Waikato Regional Council’s regular surveys of the region’s coastal marine areas will help support Biosecurity New Zealand to determine if the exotic Caulerpa seaweed is spreading throughout the Waikato region.

Divers started their annual surveys to determine the presence and extent of marine pests along the Coromandel Peninsula coastline in August and will then move to the west coast harbours of Port Waikato, Raglan and Kāwhia, where surveys are done every three years.

Senior biosecurity officer Danielle Kruger said divers had so far checked 573 vessels, 908 piles, 10,900 metres of pontoon and 15.51 hectares of benthic area or popular mooring sites in Tairua, Whitianga, Whangamatā, Whangapoua and Ahuahu/Great Mercury Island. Marine pests are mainly spread by heavily fouled vessel hulls, so the dive team checks the pathways of boats and check vessels, marine structures (marinas, wharves, jetties and moorings), popular anchoring spots and mussel and oyster farms.

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## Rural Life

# Farm planning essential for future

DairyNZ is encouraging farmers to plan for the months ahead, amid increasing costs and an expected El Niño weather pattern potentially bringing a variety of challenges on farm.

DairyNZ general manager of farm performance Sarah Speight said that right now farmers needed to focus on growing and utilising as much pasture as possible, as it remained the cheapest source of feed.

“Farmers are faced with high costs, so attention to detail and a focus on financial outcomes ahead of production will drive better business outcomes,” she said. “This is especially important at this time of year where pasture cover and getting cows back in calf will determine financial and production outcomes, not just for this season, but into next season too.”

Being cost-conscious is particularly important with DairyNZ having updated the national breakeven forecast to \$7.78 per kg/MS, an increase from \$7.51kg/MS. The breakeven milk price is the milk sale price per kilogram of milksolids to cover the farm’s costs in a season, excluding capital expenditure and principal repaid on loans.

This is above DairyNZ’s forecast average payout received of \$7.31kg/MS, which is based on the estimated milk receipts for the 2023/24 season, as well as dairy company dividends.

DairyNZ head of economics Mark Storey explained that the breakeven figure had been updated based on new pricing information, tax changes and in response to milk price and dividend payment announcements.

“Outside the breakeven milk price, we have seen farm expense forecasts increase, impacting overall costs, while revenue expectations have shifted with high dividend payouts, accompanied by decreasing milk price expectations for the 2023/24 season,” he said.

“It’s also important to understand your overall business. The breakeven milk price is one indicator, however operating profit margin, debt-to-asset ratio and return on assets are all part of a farm’s overall business picture.

“Some of these indicators are available on the Econ Tracker, to allow farmers to see how their numbers compare and consider where they may require additional support to get through the season ahead.”

Sarah said the expected El Niño weather pattern was also important to plan for, with budget restrictions in mind and the possible summer feed deficit.

“It is a balancing act between ensuring you are prepared for the months ahead, and not spending unnecessarily in a high-cost, low-payout environment,” she said. “Look to use the most cost-effective ways to meet shortfalls, including culling cows early, strategic nitrogen use, buying any required supplementary feed, planting summer crops or considering the use of deferred grazing as an option.”

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An EMT demonstrates the correct way to perform CPR on a mannequin.  
Photo: SUPPLIED/ST JOHN

# EV charging stations to come

To support holidaying traffic, ChargeNet has announced it will develop electric vehicle charging stations in Paeroa, Waihi, and Tairua.

The new ChargeNet sites, a mix of 75kW and 150kW chargers with charging for four vehicles at each site, will also be built in Whakatane, Greytown, Blenheim, Motueka, and Cromwell.

The eight new sites will add an additional 32 charging points across 16 charging stations, and are expected to be completed in early-to-mid 2024.

All sites will be powered by “climate positive, certified electricity that is sourced from wind, hydro, and solar”, ChargeNet chief executive Darius Wypych said.

“If we want more people to buy EVs, the charging stations need to be there for them. We want to open up the availability of chargers where everyday EV drivers need them most, based on demand.”

Alongside the charging points, ChargeNet has also announced the construction of an EV charging hub set to be installed at Tauriko, Tauranga.

# Call-out for more to learn CPR

Hato Hone St John’s Shocktober campaign is on this month, and the Paeroa branch is hoping to get as many people as possible trained in life-saving CPR.

Shocktober aims to equip more than 10,000 people across Aotearoa with the skills to perform CPR and use an automated external defibrillator (AED) through its 3 Steps for Life programme.

The primary activity of the campaign, dubbed the Heartbeat

Highway, is a nationwide road trip to host 3 Steps for Life training in more than 20 towns and communities across the motu before October 30. The campaign will have a particular focus on equipping people in rural and isolated communities with lifesaving skills such as calling 111, how to administer CPR, and how to use an AED.

Donna Thomas, an ambulance officer for Hato Hone St John in Paeroa and a 3 Steps for Life facilitator, said the team is aiming to

train as many people as possible in Paeroa on how to do CPR using the 3 Steps for Life course.

“[It] is free and only takes an hour and we can come to your home or business to run the course,” she said.

Jacci Tatnell, Hato Hone St John head of community education, said Shocktober aimed to tackle one of the leading causes of death in New Zealand: cardiac arrest. “Every day, six people experience cardiac arrest outside hospital care but, sadly, only about

one in 10 will survive,” she said.

While the statistics are alarming, Ms Tatnell said survival rates can more than double with help from bystanders.

“For every minute without CPR or defibrillation, a patient’s chance of survival falls by 10 to 15 per cent. Simply put, if more people have the confidence and skills to perform CPR and use an AED, more lives will be saved.”

**DETAILS: People can learn more about the course by emailing [3stepsforlife@stjohn.org.nz](mailto:3stepsforlife@stjohn.org.nz).**

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Te Pūkenga



## 2023 GENERAL ELECTION

# Local candidates prepare for Vote Day

The general election will take place on October 14, with voting now open. *The Valley Profile* offered each candidate an opportunity to introduce themselves to our readers and share their views.

### CALEB ANSELL, NZ First

Caleb Ansell has spent most of his life in service of other people. Having grown up in the lower end of the working class, Caleb sees the needs of many not being met and strongly desires to see New Zealand lift itself out of debt and back into being a net contributor to the world. Caleb Ansell sees that now it is most pertinent to our nation to return to the Kiwi values we left behind; family, freedom of speech and community building. Like Caleb, New Zealand First believes in the great potential of our country. We can and should be the world leaders in innovation and entrepreneurship, creating employment for more and more people. We need a healthy health system, built on need alone. We can be one people once again, united under one law and one flag. Let's take our country back.

### RAY COBB, NZ Loyal

I was born and raised in Thames and at present run a small business in Katikati. We have property on the Thames coast and a bush block in the Coromandel Forest Park. We have a vested interest in the Coromandel electorate. I have been involved with farming, forestry and related industry along with a 16 year period with the NZ Police. I decided to make a stand to help solve the many issues we are faced with today. My decision to stand for NZ Loyal as the Coromandel electorate candidate was not taken lightly. All previous political parties have had a hand in where we are presently situated as they continually ignore the causes and throw good money after bad and fail to listen to the community needs. NZ Loyal are a group of representatives that will reverse this trend by control being placed back in the hands of the people and implement policies to enable all our neglected institutions to function properly and to be fit for purpose and to end all divisive policies causing the dis-

ruption to our lives. A vote for myself and NZ Loyal will allow you to have a voice that will be listened to and acted on.

### PAMELA GREALEY, Green Party

I am Pamela Grealey, and I'm standing for the Green Party because of its commitment to building an inclusive, sustainable, and just Aotearoa. Our vision is one of unity, where the well-being of every citizen takes precedence over excess profits. My home in Kapanga Coromandel Town has afforded me firsthand insight into the challenges our region has confronted, particularly in the wake of devastating events like Cyclone Gabrielle. Green policies offer support for communities and individuals impacted by both the transition to a net-zero emission economy and the inescapable effects of climate change. I'm also a huge advocate for green public transport that better connects our region. In my professional life, I manage a business dedicated to empowering local entrepreneurs, fostering sustainable enterprises, and offering vital employment guidance. So Party Vote Green in this election and create a brighter, more equitable future for Coromandel and all of Aotearoa.

### BERYL RILEY, Labour

I'm proud to be standing for Labour in the beautiful Coromandel electorate with its diverse communities and resilient, community minded residents. Living in Thames near family, I'm part of a lively music scene and am a trustee for Thames Community Centre. My work takes me across Coromandel supporting people with mental health issues so I see the financial and other challenges families face daily. I will bring my skills and experience as a businesswoman, teacher, psychologist, school principal, and senior public service manager to being an effective Member of Parliament for Coromandel. I pledge to be a strong advocate for Coromandel's economic, social, creative, and environmental future: Helping families cope with the cost of living; Improving health and education outcomes for everybody and addressing



child poverty; Safeguarding our natural resources and tackling climate change, especially adverse weather events; Promoting best practice in policing and justice sectors; Championing local tourism; Developing job / business opportunities by promoting innovation and building infrastructure (roading, housing, and public projects).

### SCOTT SIMPSON, National

I'm asking for your vote again to represent you in Parliament and in a new Christopher Luxon, National-led government. The issues confronting our region confront New Zealand. Gang violence and ram raids show that we are not immune from the crime crisis sweeping the country. But this election the economy is centre stage. Stopping wasteful government spending and making sure taxpayer's dollars are treated with respect will be a high priority for National in government. We'll fix the economy, get inflation under control and reduce the cost of living. A Party Vote for National and a vote for Scott Simpson are votes to support rebuilding the economy, reducing the cost of living, restoring law and order and improving our schools and healthcare. Only a party vote for National can change the government and vote Scott

Simpson for Coromandel. Two ticks blue.

### SARAI TEPOU, NZ Outdoors & Freedom Party

As a midwife for nearly 30 years, Sarai opted out of the health industry due to the mandates enforced amongst herself and her peers in 2021. She's also qualified as a Registered Comprehension Nurse. In Women's Health, she provided professional services for child-bearing women as an Independent Midwife in all four corners of Auckland City. She's deeply concerned about the covid injections recommended by various agencies and feels these entities and other councils need to be challenged and made accountable.

### JOANNA VERBURG, ACT NZ

I strongly believe in equality, freedom of choice and personal responsibility for everyone. I'm a regular Kiwi girl who has experienced life the way it really is, I know what it's like to raise a child as a single parent, to be made redundant, to support someone you love through mental illness, to lose your annual crop in a storm, to wonder how you'll pay the bills. I've owned and worked on a kiwifruit and avocado orchard for the past 6 years and had



The local election candidates, clockwise from top left: Caleb Ansell, Ray Cobb, Pamela Grealey, Beryl Riley, Scott Simpson, Sarai Tepou, and Joanna Verburg. Photos: SUPPLIED

a 25-year career in corporate banking and foreign exchange, working with businesses and government departments all over the country. A key to growing our economy is to encourage growth in exports and small businesses, not stifling our No. 8 wire ingenuity as the current government is doing. I want to see New Zealand realise its enormous potential so that we can raise the standard of living for everyone.

**DETAILS: The 2023 General Election will be held on October 14. On election day, all voting places will be open from 9am to 7pm. Find your nearest voting place online at: [www.vote.nz](http://www.vote.nz).**



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## LETTERS

Send your letters to the editor: [editor@valleyprofile.co.nz](mailto:editor@valleyprofile.co.nz) or 2 Queen St, Paeroa, 3600. Letters must include your full name and address, be 250 words or less and may be edited, abridged or rejected at the editor's discretion.

## Former MP, Mayor queries 'giveaway votes'

In 2020, the 'giveaway vote' was 7.9 per cent of the total 'party vote' cast.

That 7.9 per cent party vote came from the 12 minor parties who were unsuccessful, but still managed to garner 225,182 party votes between them. The smallest was HeartlandNZ with 914 votes.

What happened to those 7.9 per cent party votes? They were apportioned on a pro rata basis to the successful parties.

This meant Labour scored an extra five seats from the party votes cast for all the minor parties.

National scored an extra three seats from those same party votes cast.

People don't seem to understand that even in protest, party voting for a minor party which is clearly not going to win a seat and get anyone into parliament, just means giving your party vote away.

Two hundred and twenty-five thousand, one hundred and eighty two people who, aware or not, gave away their party vote.

Meeting the 5 per cent threshold to be successful in an election is not as easy to do as some seem to think.

However, when an election is looming, and the polls start running, the numbers are pretty clear.

No matter what media you indulge in, there is usually no doubt about where the vote is generally heading. If, as in 2020, Heartland NZ was polling around 1 per cent, it's a pretty sure bet they were unlikely to be successful in the election.

That being the case, it would be an obvious giveaway party vote.

The great thing about democracy is that people can vote how they choose. We still have the freedom to choose, though not necessarily in all that we would like. People can create political groups, stand for elections and lobby for worthy causes.

Egos run riot, and everyone thinks they will win, as they throw their hearts and souls into campaigns up and down the country. Promises run riot along with the egos. But when the dust settles, and people look at the final result, will they be left asking the question – did I give away my party vote?

The really sad thing is, most people had no idea what happened to the 7.9 per cent of unsuccessful party vote for 2020. They don't know they just gave another five seats to Labour. Or another three seats to National.

Googling Elections NZ or the Electoral Commission doesn't provide the clarity one would hope for. Even the formula by which the allocations are calculated is more than most people could understand.

We shouldn't have to. But nor is anything mentioned with the necessary clarity that spells it out in Jack-and-Jill language.

If this brief synopsis of the party vote for minor parties provides some clarity for people, then if they do give away their party vote, they can do it knowingly. And they can be prepared for their party vote to be re-allocated to some-

one else. Now that's what I call a giveaway vote.

- Sandra Goudie, retired Mayor, retired Member of Parliament.

## NO 'GIVEAWAY VOTES'

At a general election, every vote is counted and goes towards the party you voted for. The official results of the election stand as a public record of how many votes each party and candidate received.

The official results also determine which parties will have seats in Parliament. Parties win seats if they receive 5 per cent or more of the party vote or win an electorate seat.

Once the official results are declared, seats are allocated to the parties that have made it into Parliament.

Only the parties that make it into Parliament are included in the calculation of how many seats each party gets.

At the last election in 2020, 7.9 per cent of the party vote went to 12 parties that did not make it into Parliament. Votes for these parties were not reallocated or redistributed to any other party.

They simply weren't used in the calculation of seats.

The votes for the parties that met the MMP thresholds in 2020 – Labour, National, the Greens, ACT and the Māori Party – were included in the calculation. Their share of seats reflects the percentage of the votes that went to parties who made it into Parliament.

- Chief Electoral Officer Karl Le Quesne, Electoral Commission

## SPORTS

Send your sports reports and photos to [editor@valleyprofile.co.nz](mailto:editor@valleyprofile.co.nz)

## HEARTLAND RUGBY

A finely tuned Whanganui team was too classy for Thames Valley and easily defeated the Swamp Foxes by 38 points to 3 in their semi-final for the Meads Cup played at Whanganui last Saturday.

The Butcher Boys put the blade to the Foxes with an almost faultless display of controlled rugby directed by their halfback Lindsay Horrocks.

In the first half, Thames Valley's defence was under constant pressure and Whanganui were rewarded with four tries, two conversions and a penalty goal to lead 27-3 at the break.

Thames Valley's only points came from a penalty goal kicked by Hendrix Beasley after four minutes.

The Swamp Foxes did lift their game in the second half. Twice they crossed Whanganui's line but were called back for infringements. In the end they were unable to score any tries while the Butcher Boys added 11 more points with a try, a dropped goal and a penalty to make the final score 38-3.

Since 2018, Thames Valley has been one of the top four Heartland teams, thereby qualifying for the play-offs for the Meads Cup each season. However, this was their least impressive performance and one would have expected a closer contest against a team that they had defeated in the first round.

Full credit goes to Whanganui for executing their winning game plan so effectively and at least the Valley boys did not let the score blow out in the second half.

In his 50th match for Thames Valley, Harry Lafituanai was well marked and did not get an opportunity to mark the occasion with a try.

Ngati Porou East Coast provided a stern challenge against South Canter-



Harry Lafituanai, who has now played 50 games for Valley, carries the ball against East Coast. Photo: TVRFU

bury in the other semi-final. With 13 minutes to go, the score was 17 all before South Canterbury ended up winning 34-17 and now host Whanganui in the final.

The 2023 Season: Thames Valley played nine games in 2023, winning six and losing three. The team scored 249 points with 258 registered against them. The six wins were all closely contested with the biggest margin being the 30-22 victory over West Coast. Fletcher Morgan, who was unavailable for Saturday's match as he had been chosen to participate in an All Black Sevens' Performance Week, was the side's top points scorer with 116 points and equal top try scorer with Leroy Neels – six each.

The best win of the year would be the 36-33 victory over Whanganui in Round 1. Thirty-six players represented Thames Valley this year with 24 being debutantes. When considering this large number of new players, the winning of six games and making the top four has probably made it a satisfactory season for the Swamp Foxes.

However, one felt that the team had the potential to do even better.

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ENTERTAINMENT

# A kinda magic on its way

After dazzling audiences throughout Australia, Queen: It's a Kinda Magic is crossing the ditch for its nationwide tour of New Zealand until November 11 - and The Profile has a double pass to giveaway.

After "roaring success" across the Tasman, Queen: It's a Kinda Magic is thrilled to be bringing sparkling new costuming and some previously unperformed Queen tracks to the stage on this tour, allowing die-hard fans to rock the night away.

Relive all the favourite tracks and hits from Queen whilst being treated to some of the rarer tunes, reimagined with care, and performed live on stage.

Classically-trained artist Dominic Warren continues in his role as the incomparable Freddie Mercury, singing and performing on both piano and guitar live on stage which has given him a deep appreciation for Mercury's impeccable talent.

"It's one thing to create these musical masterpieces, but a whole other thing to then be able to go and perform them in the unique, spectacular way that he did. He is a very hard artist to replicate but it's an honour to try," Warren said.

Queen: It's a Kinda Magic



Dominic Warren as Freddie Mercury. Photo: SUPPLIED/HEATHER CARDLE

promises the full rock concert experience, once again bringing audio, lighting and effects all specifically designed to be bigger, better, and even louder than last time.

Tickets are available for all shows at queenitsakindamagic.com.

# Creative cast produces 'plucky' pantomime

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

A plucky panto produced and performed by a young cast is being put on this weekend in Waihi.

Youth Theatreworks Waihi is showing 'The Quest', a pantomime entirely devised, scripted, and acted by a cast of seven-to-18-year-olds.

Victoria Menary said, as a charitable trust, Youth Theatreworks was "dedicated to providing performance and theatre opportunities" for the district's tamariki and rangatahi "in a safe and inclusive way".

"This term we are producing a pantomime which has been devised entirely by our cast of 13 students. They each came up with their own character and helped to devise the story and script," she

told *The Profile*.

"We have been working on this since early August, and the students have been working hard refining and rehearsing the show."

Victoria described 'The Quest' as a family-friendly story about a plucky orphan trying to find her long lost parents.

It includes an old king, a corrupt adviser, villains, time travel, a dragon, an elf, a brave knight and an unruly demon.

"Our talented young people bring their characters to life on stage," she said.

**DETAILS:** The show will be performed at 11am and 2pm at Boyd Rd Theatre in Waihi on Saturday, October 14. Tickets are \$5 and are available from Waihi Stationery.



'The Quest' has been entirely devised by a youth cast. Photo: SUPPLIED

### TICKET GIVEAWAY

The Profile has ONE double pass to giveaway to the November 5 show at the Thames Civic Centre thanks to Showtime. To enter, email editor@valleyprofile - subject line 'Queen' - with your full name and best contact details. Entries close Friday, October 20.

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Early voting has started. Election Day 14th October. Please call me if you want transport to a voting booth

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Authorised by Bob Salmond, 187 Featherston Street, Wellington



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# SPORTS

## 'Rush' croquet introduced to club

On September 21, Croquet NZ's national coach and sport development officer Greg Bryant visited the Thames Croquet Club to teach 24 players from Paeroa, Te Aroha, Waihi, Morrinsville and Thames two new things.

The first was a variation on the handicap scoring system for golf croquet which, in the 2024/25 season, will replace the old system.

Club president Sheryl McConnell said the new system took away the "extra strokes or free turns" for players on a high handicap when they opposed stronger players, and replaced it with a differing number of hoops needing to be run depending on the player's handicap.

For instance, in a standard first-to-seven game, Sheryl said a strong player with a handicap of three, playing against a weaker player with a handicap of 10, must run nine hoops to win, and the weaker player would only need to run five hoops to win the game.

"The most exciting thing we were introduced to was a game called Rush. It has taken elements of association croquet, ricochet croquet and golf croquet to produce a fast game on half-sized courts.

"It is expected to be eagerly taken up by secondary schools as it's a shorter game and several games can be played in one school period," Sheryl said.

"It's anticipated that existing players of these other disciplines will also love it as it is more interactive, adds a twist on what you normally do, and will force



Players at Thames Croquet Club were introduced to a new variation of the sport called 'Rush'.

Photo: SUPPLIED

players to upskill some shots such as roqueting."

Club captain Jill Maw and fellow players agreed that it was "a fun game", and it would be good to keep some courts marked out at half-size so they can give this new game "a fair trial".

"We had a beautiful day for our visitors and club members to learn two variations of the game of croquet.

"I came away tired and happy after such a busy day with like-minded people," Sheryl said.

"My thoughts a day later were: 'It's hard for old dogs to learn new tricks, but not impossible'."

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Tree Shapes offers a range of services, including pruning trees and hedges. TOP LEFT: Overgrown trees line a driveway.

BOTTOM LEFT: After a Tree Shapes trim.  
Photos: SUPPLIED





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# CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12pm Monday

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**Period of closure:** Sunday 26 November 2023, 9.00am to 6.00pm.

**Road to be closed:** South Road, Mangatarata, from Rapid 1.68 to end of road (1.6km gravel).

Alternative provision for ordinary vehicular traffic will be made with signs, cones and barriers to redirect traffic on detour.

It will be an offence under the above regulations for any person otherwise than under authority of an authorised permit to use the road for ordinary vehicular traffic during the proposed period of closure.

Any objections should be directed to Transport Manager on 07 862 8609 or [info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz](mailto:info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz) by 25 October 2023.

L D Cavers  
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Please join us to learn about what we do and how well we have done it.

Please confirm attendance to the AGM by emailing: [info@achc.org.nz](mailto:info@achc.org.nz); Phone 07 868 9790; or visit the Age Concern office at the Thames Civic Centre, Mary Street Thames.

# CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12pm Monday

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The Valley Profile/Coromandel App is seeking a highly organised and self-motivated feature writer to join our small but busy, award-winning newsroom full time on a one-year fixed-term contract starting November 15, 2023.

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We are looking for a reliable, hard working creative writer who:

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The successful applicant will be required to find and write features, advertorials, business profiles, cover events/breaking news and take quality photographs/video for the Valley Profile and Coromandel App. Some evening/weekend work may be required occasionally. Hybrid working environment. Clean driver licence essential.

Please send applications, including a resume and samples of your writing and photographs, to [editor@valleyprofile.co.nz](mailto:editor@valleyprofile.co.nz). Position description available upon request. Applications close October 20, 2023.

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# When canine parvovirus strikes

An 18 month old dog presented to our one of our clinics with vomiting, diarrhoea and lethargy. After examining the dog, the owner and vet discussed whether he could have eaten anything unusual, the answer was no. The vet looked at his vaccination history and saw he had been vaccinated three times as a puppy for parvovirus and twice for leptospirosis, but he had not had his annual booster. Due to his young age, the history from his owner, and his general appearance, we decided to test for parvovirus and he tested positive.

The reason we give three vaccines as a puppy is because the mother's antibodies that are passed onto the puppy through the milk, wane at different ages in each dog. The three vaccines are to protect the puppy (as best we can!) during this risky time, and, also so that we can give the best chance for the vaccine to work.

We also recommend that you don't walk in heavily dog populated areas, or socialise with unvaccinated dogs, until ten days after their third parvovirus vaccination (the vaccine must be given time to work properly before expecting good protection).

Most animals will respond well to the 12 or 16 week vaccine, but in rare cases their maternal antibodies may interfere with the vaccine, or their immune response isn't strong enough. The yearly booster is designed to catch these dogs that are then susceptible and might otherwise be unprotected.

Many dogs can't fight Parvovirus very well, as their immune system is so weak by the time they display clinical signs, as well as them being severely dehydrated. Infected dogs require hospitalisation on fluids, antibiotics to stave off secondary infections and anti-nausea medication, and many don't make it, despite the intensive care and supportive treatment.

Our current recommendation for parvovirus vaccinations is; three vaccines as a puppy at eight, 12, and 16 weeks of age, then a booster at 12 months of age, followed by repeat boosters every three years. Leptospirosis requires two vaccines four weeks apart at any age over eight weeks, followed by annual boosters.

Parvo tends to strike in the summer months and we have already had our first cases this season. Now is a great time to check that your pet's vaccinations are up to date, give us a call or book now. This lucky dog made it, many don't.

- Supplied by Anexa Vets



The columns for piers B and C are now visible at the Taparahi construction site, as work continues to bring SH25A back to a functional condition. Photo: SUPPLIED/WAKA KOTAHI

## SH25A update: It's beginning to look like a bridge

Progress is continuing at the Taparahi bridge site on State Highway 25A between Kōpū and Hikuai, and Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency says the forming of the piers and abutments is beginning to showcase how the bridge will look.

The completed bridge will have four structural supports - two piers and two abutments. The construction team completed the second pier, Pier C, at the end of September and last week focused on the completion of Pier B.

The next critical component is the delivery of the steel bridge beams. There are 15 bridge beams, Waka Kotahi said, which are being manufactured off site

in Napier. The bridge beams will be installed on top of the piers and abutments, forming the base of the bridge deck.

"We hope to see the first set of bridge beams lifted into place [this] week, weather permitting," the agency said in a project update.

"The wind is a key factor in determining when we can complete this work."

The team will also continue with installing soil nails, which will stabilise the slope and fan drains.

Meanwhile, the Kirikiri Stream bridge replacement has been postponed.

A recent tender process to replace the bridge at Kirikiri Stream on State High-

way 26 in Kōpū was unsuccessful due to the discrepancy between the tenders' asking prices and the available funding, Waka Kotahi said in a statement on October 3.

"As a result of this, and a shift in focus to recovery and resilience due to this year's weather events, this project will be re-tendered in 2024-2025," the agency said.

"In the meantime, we are seeking feedback from the tenderers involved so that we can try to be in a strong position when we re-tender. This will allow us to consider what level of redesign is necessary or if it's possible to reduce the cost of this project."

### In Brief

#### TAPU-COROGLÉN ROAD CLOSED

TCDC contractors Kelsey Construction say new road signs and site fences had been moved by people trying to get through. The Coromandel company started work this week on three repair sites on the road, which is expected to be closed until December. "We know the road has continued to be used since January, but the road is now closed and will be impassable due to large excavations," the company said. "We will be getting the road open ASAP. Thank you for your support and patience."

#### HALLOWEEN ALTERNATIVE

Around 400 people are expected to attend the annual Halloween Alternative event at Paeroa War Memorial Hall on October 31, from 5pm. Organisers say the event

will have a carnival atmosphere with silly games like Pick your nose and Smack the Rat. There will be food and prizes, including for best sports outfit. Entry: gold coin.

#### VISITOR SPENDING DOWN

Figures just released by Marketview on visitor spending in Thames-Coromandel District show total spending in March to August, 2023, is down 12.5 per cent on the same period last year, at \$94 million. Tairua was particularly badly affected with spending down 30 percent. Whitianga's spend was down 20 percent and Colville-Coromandel Town was down 13 percent. Both the number of transactions plus the average spend in each transaction is down, with tourism, hospitality and the retail trade particularly badly affected. The only bright spots on the horizon are that spending by international visitors rose by 6.3 per cent and food and beverage spending went up 1 per cent.

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## SUDOKU

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

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

EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

121

121

HARD

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

MEDIUM

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

EASY

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

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## JUMBO CROSSWORD

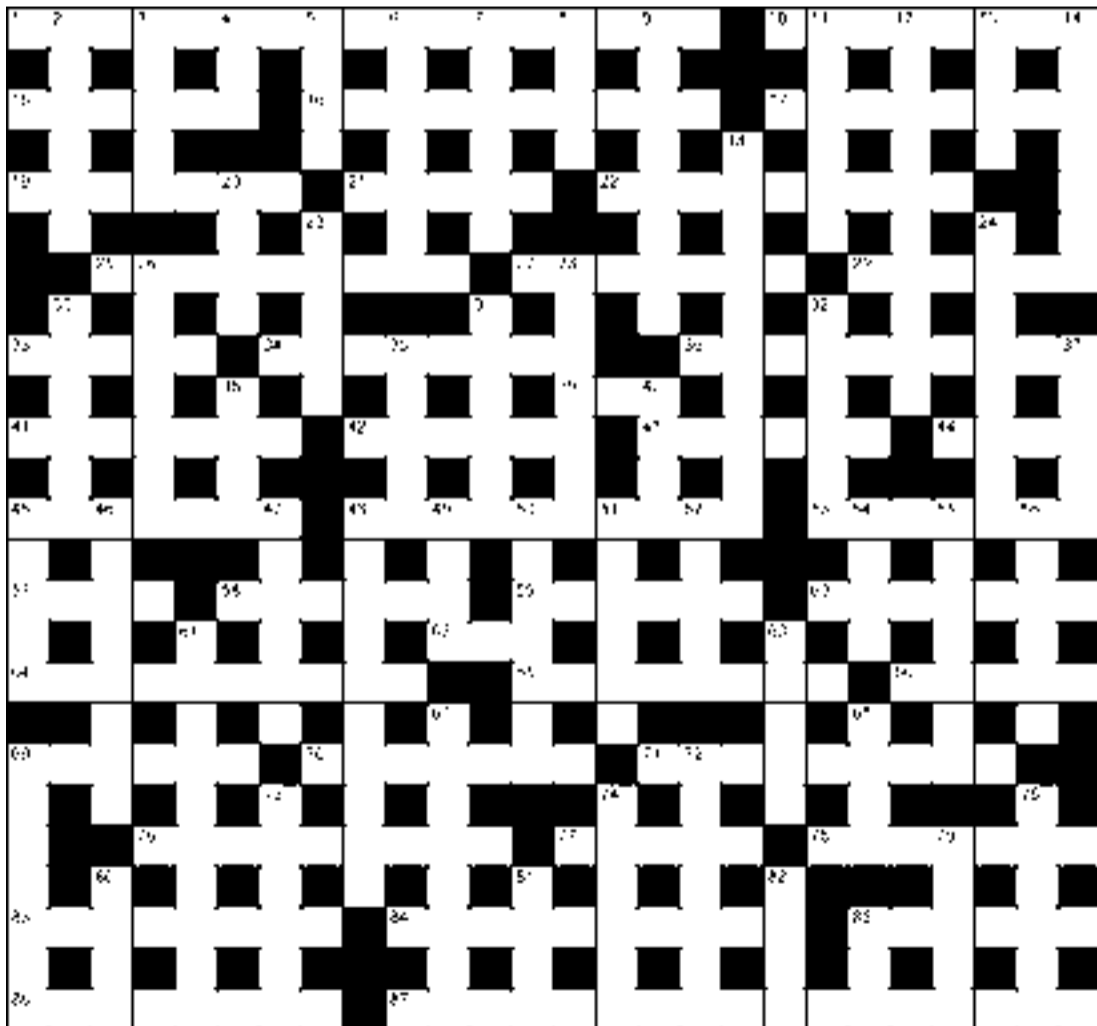
141

**ACROSS**

- 1 A drinking toast (5,3,2,4,3)
- 10 Bitterness (8)
- 15 Bread factory (6)
- 16 Disappointing ending (10)
- 17 Large snake (8)
- 19 Fabric (7)
- 21 Hobbles (5)
- 22 Building plan (9)
- 25 Undercover work (9)
- 27 Decorate or embellish (7)
- 29 Verified (6)
- 33 Soldier's decoration (5)
- 34 Avid reader (8)
- 36 Loan security (10)
- 39 Rascal (3)
- 41 Coal holder (7)
- 42 Eastern market (6)
- 43 Vigour (6)
- 44 Placid (4)
- 45 Progress (7)
- 48 Orbiting communication devices (10)
- 53 Cut into three (7)
- 57 Castle ditch (4)
- 58 Large hollow (6)
- 59 Drink of the gods (6)
- 60 Zealot (7)
- 62 Unhappy (3)
- 64 Place to sign (6,4)
- 65 Fearless and adventurous (8)
- 66 Narrow band (5)
- 69 Clothes maker (6)
- 70 Make known (7)

- 71 More potty (anag)(9)
- 76 Faulty (9)
- 77 Majestic (5)
- 78 Thrive (7)
- 83 Novel (8)
- 84 Turned to steam (10)
- 85 Writhe (6)
- 86 Assiduous (8)
- 87 Earn a living, especially for one's family (5,4,3,5)
- DOWN**
- 2 Rubbed out (6)
- 3 Build (5)
- 4 A month (3)
- 5 Expensive (4)
- 6 Mesh (7)
- 7 Reside in (6)
- 8 Surprise attack (4)
- 9 Young racehorse (8)
- 11 Middle (6)
- 12 Reduce to ashes (10)
- 13 Has (4)
- 14 Longed for (7)
- 18 In response (anag) (10)
- 20 Den (4)
- 23 Cast metal bar (5)
- 24 Pass (8)
- 26 Began (7)
- 28 Naval commander (7)
- 30 Save from danger (6)
- 31 Long journey (6)
- 32 Insult (6)
- 35 Australian "bear" (5)

- 37 Restrict (5)
- 38 Jumping insect (4)
- 40 Nuisance (4)
- 45 Muggy (5)
- 46 Slaughterhouse (8)
- 47 Every twelve months (6)
- 48 Laboratory workers (10)
- 49 Playthings (4)
- 50 Touchdown (7)
- 51 Provoke to action (6)
- 52 Dodge (5)
- 54 Tangible (4)
- 55 Strew (7)
- 56 Reviewer (6)
- 61 Getting better (10)
- 63 Fulcrum (5)
- 67 One who outlives another (8)
- 68 Equipment (4)
- 69 Double (7)
- 72 Spectre (7)
- 73 Get back (6)
- 74 Quest (6)
- 75 Oddball (6)
- 79 Steam bath (5)
- 80 Invoice (4)
- 81 Twirl (4)
- 82 Check and correct (4)
- 85 Take to court (3)



**PREVIOUS SOLUTION**

ACROSS: 1 Catch, 4 Jumbo jet, 9 Entire, 14 Leave, 15 Champing at the bit, 17 Chafe, 18 Lei, 19 Boycott, 20 Slandered, 21 Meagre, 24 Cartridge, 25 Drench, 26 Chorus, 29 Beaujolais, 31 Bat, 32 Screen, 33 Cuts, 35 Elk, 37 Last, 39 Apertures, 40 Eliminate, 41 Taint, 42 Reprieve, 47 Remember, 51 Agape, 55 Buttercup, 56 Releasing, 58 Rife, 59 Tar, 60 Tale, 61 Mirage, 62 Ado, 63 Proclaimed, 66 Beacon, 67 Reject, 69 Acclaimed, 72 Census, 73 Thesaurus, 75 Onerous, 77 Bar, 80 Rodeo, 81 Breed like rabbits, 82 Runny, 83 Repeat, 84 Financed, 85 Alien.

DOWN: 2 Aphrodite, 3 Comic, 5 Urge, 6 Bottled, 7 Johannesburg, 8 Table, 9 Extreme, 10 Tick, 11 Roamed, 12 Ladle, 13 Devious, 14 Lengthy, 16 Interrogate, 22 Crease, 23 Scarlet, 24 Cluster, 25 Detest, 27 Rhubarb, 28 Recite, 30 Site, 32 Skein, 34 Sneer, 36 Fife, 38 Awe, 42 Robot, 43 Patella, 44 Idea, 45 Victim, 46 Sauté, 48 Megalomania, 49 Married, 50 Elf, 51 Apparel, 52 Errant, 53 All of a sudden, 54 Warp, 57 Isobar, 64 Etiquette, 65 Country, 66 Bombers, 68 Exhibit, 70 Caution, 71 Subdue, 72 Crane, 74 Shelf, 76 Rebel, 78 Pose, 79 Here.

SPORTS

# Capacity crowd for Coromandel fight night

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

The biggest knock-out for the team behind Thames' inaugural Chaos on the Coromandel boxing event was witnessing the locals who stepped in the ring for the very first time.

Held on September 23 and organised by Never Surrender Boxing Club, Chaos on the Coromandel was a one-night fight-fest in which amateur and professional boxers put on a show for a capacity crowd.

Spokesperson Andrew Connaughton said the highlight for him was watching locals such as Cody McGregor, Tim Berensend, Codi Priest, and Richard Tuaili - who all "set themselves such a bold challenge".

"To watch people such as Tim Berensend, who set himself a goal to lose 40kg and box; to watch Codi Priest deal with that demon in his head and prove to himself that he has the 'kahunas'... people like Richard Tuaili who has used boxing to completely transform his wife's, his family's and his life is truly inspirational.

"It was very fulfilling and an honour to be there and watch that human emotion, to see a dream realised, and to be able



Cody McGregor in the blue gloves won this bout against opponent Kowhai Roxburgh. Photo: RICHARD HORNELL

to share that moment with our fellow man," he said.

With 190 people dining on the corporate tables, another

170 in general admission, plus the competitors and coaches, Andrew reckoned around 450 people were in attendance.

Feedback about the night had been "extremely positive", he said. "People have commented on how professional the event

was - superb food, great staff, great entertainment. Lots of: 'just what Thames needs', 'good to have a great night out in Thames', 'please do more events' comments," he said.

"We would actually like to do more, and involve more people from our region.

"We are currently working on some new concepts that we hope to bring to the whole of the Coromandel-Hauraki regions. But 100 per cent guaranteed... Chaos On The Coromandel will be back."

Andrew said the biggest challenges were all within his own mind, but the support of the Thames Valley community quickly quashed his initial fears.

"Will people come? Will we put on an event and nobody's there? Do people from the area want to come to a boxing event? The usual mind games," he said. "[But] it was a great evening. We are extremely grateful to all those in the community that bought a corporate table or ticket and supported our event. It was just nice to see people having a great time. As an event organiser, I don't think we could ask for more."



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