

The Valley Profile



Rugby season kicks off, sport P14

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July 2020

Scoot'n again



Paeroa Fire Station crew present the new scooter.



Siblings Heidi and Aaron Deeley with Stephen Swiggs.

Fire fighters chip in to replace beloved scooter

By TERESA RAMSEY

Stephen Swiggs is mad about anything to do with fire fighting.

Every time the Paeroa fire brigade siren wails, Stephen, who has an intellectual disability, is keen to be there. Inspired by his late father John Swiggs, who was deputy chief fire officer in Tokoroa, Stephen had all the

gear - fire fighting jacket, helmet, even a fire hose. However, all his treasured fire fighting memorabilia went up in smoke when his home caught fire on February 20, along with his beloved scooter. The fire was devastating for Stephen and his flatmates, siblings Heidi and Aaron Deeley, who lost everything. It was caused by a lithium battery in an

electric scooter exploding while being charged in the shed next to the house. The fire then spread into the roof of the house, which was empty at the time.

The electric scooter was bought by an Idea Services support worker, who needed it to keep up with Stephen. Before the fire, Stephen was regularly seen racing his scooter around

the Paeroa Domain, next to the Paeroa Fire Station.

Stephen is well-known at the station, so the fire fighters wanted to give back after the fire.

They all chipped in with \$20 each so they could purchase a new scooter for him, bought at cost from Hauraki Cycle Trail in Paeroa. Advanced Auto Painters spray-painted the scooter fire

engine red and Valley Signs kitted it out with fire and emergency stickers.

Paeroa Fire Brigade Chief Fire Officer Bill Rackham presented the scooter and a fire service jacket to Stephen at the fire station on June 9. Stephen was excited to receive the scooter.

"I like it, it's faster than the other bike," he said.

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The Valley Profile is a monthly community newspaper that delivers 100% local news in the Thames Valley region.

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We deliver 12,000 copies to every letterbox, reaching approximately 22,500 readers in Hauraki Plains, Paeroa, Thames and Thames Coast.

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News and advertising deadline is noon on the 20th of the month. We can design your advertisement at no extra charge but please give us as much notice as possible.

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Students lend a helping hand



A group of Paeroa College students spent several hours cleaning the Hikutaia Hall on June 19 as part of a Friday Academy programme for Māori boys. The group, called Te Tapu a Tane Ara, is made up of nine students who carry out community service, trips to Marae, team bonding and cultural activities. The aim of the group of year 11 and 12 students was to help with life skills and learn how to be "better men" and good role models, the students said. They cleaned up a mess inside the hall caused during the installation of a new roof recently. The building has also recently been repiled and fundraising continues for future renovations.

Thames Lions starts weekly walking group to encourage exercise

Thames Lions is starting a weekly walking and exercise group on Monday mornings.

Spokesperson Christine Kemp said the group may also add a Friday morning group if there was enough interest. The group was open to anyone and the aim of the group was to encourage physical exercise, which could be difficult for some, especially

after the Covid-19 shutdown, she said. "Becoming older it can be hard to get regular exercise, things take longer to do, muscles don't work as well and we feel cold faster and easier. Bring your toddlers in prams or your family dog or just yourself."

The group will meet at the Thames Croquet Club, Beach Rd, at 9:30am for a 9:35am start along the water-

front. The club is also involved with the installation of a memorial at Thames Airfield for Thames-born aviator Sir Keith Park.

"Sir Keith was an aviator in both the first and second world wars and turned the tide of the second world war. He is a man worthy of admiration and should be remembered."
- See story P5



Welcome to the first of what I hope will be regular updates on the fishing action in the Firth of Thames.

The fishing has overall still been fantastic right across the firth

with most anglers getting a feed of good quality snapper with the odd whopper being caught as well. Just the other day a local Waiomu angler went out in his boat 150m off shore and caught a 19.5lb snapper, weighed at Camp and Tackle. They also weighed in a 16lb caught in the farms.

The surf casting off the rocks has been tremendous with anglers getting a few good fish. Mullet is the bait of choice here, however one local angler had a lot of luck with a whole pilchard cast off the rocks with no sinker. Basically

stray lining, very successful.

The farms have been fishing well, I made two trips so far with mixed results, and was lucky enough to be out there the day the orcas visited.

Very few fish that day but a spectacular sight.

The charter boys have been doing very well with consistently good catches and happy customers.

They have been fishing A block in fairly close. Just look for the buoys that are really low in the water meaning they are still full

Date set for careers expo

The very first East Waikato Careers and Employers Expo will be held at the Thames Civic Centre on August 12-13.

The expo will build on the Coromandel Hauraki Business and Careers Expo, which has been running for the past four years.

This year's expo is run in partnership with Thames-Coromandel, Hauraki and Matamata-Piako district councils, the Hauraki Maori Trust Board and the education sector (NZ Skills and Education Group and CANDO) to help businesses and grow employment opportunities.

Thousands of senior secondary school students from around all three districts will be attending the expo, looking for internships, graduate programmes, casual, and part-time jobs. There will also be an opportunity for jobseekers to come and see what employment may be available as well.

"Hosting a two-day event, gives businesses more coverage, more opportunities to network and gets more students through the one location," Thames-Coromandel Mayor Sandra Goudie said.

"This is the place where business opportunities start, this is a fun day to make business contacts, market your business to get your products known further afield and recruit students who could be future employees."

More info: candothames.org.

of mussels. They tend to use pilchards for bait, the secret to making them last longer is to put a few frozen ones in a bucket of water and cut them as you need them, keeps them solid.

B Block is producing well, there has been a lot of seeding there so the snapper are after the spat.

I am a fan of mullet, can't go past it. My mate Brian swears by it and he catches fish every time a coconut, catching his limit within an hour or two the last few times he went out.

- Malcolm McGeorge

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JULY 2020

HIGH AND LOW WATERS							Thames																													
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY																														
<p>Thames Sun Times Rise Set 1st 7:32am 5:12pm 15th 7:28am 5:20pm 31st 7:17am 5:32pm <small>All times corrected for Daylight Savings.</small></p>	<p>FISH KEY GUIDE</p> <p> Good Fishing</p> <p> Fair Fishing</p> <p> Not too Hot</p>	<p>1</p> <p>H 2:51am 3.4 L 9:09am 0.6 H 3:33pm 3.3 L 9:42pm 0.8</p>	<p>2</p> <p>H 3:49am 3.4 L 10:11am 0.6 H 4:37pm 3.4 L 10:43pm 0.7</p>	<p>3</p> <p>H 4:48am 3.4 L 11:11am 0.6 H 5:38pm 3.5 L 11:39pm 0.7</p>	<p>4</p> <p>H 5:48am 3.4 L 12:07pm 0.5 H 6:33pm 3.6</p>	<p>5</p> <p>L 12:33am 0.6 H 6:45am 3.4 L 1:00pm 0.5 H 7:24pm 3.6</p>																														
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MAORI FISHING GUIDE BY BILL HOHEPA

Long locks lopped off for charity

By TERESA RAMSEY

Anthony Makiha has never had a haircut.

"Mum and Dad just sorta didn't want me to and then I just went off that, so I just never cut it," the 17-year-old said.

He usually plaits his hair in a braid that now reaches two thirds down his back.

But not for much longer.

On July 3, the year 13 Hauraki Plains College student will get his hair cut for the first time in his life to raise funds for charity.

"I've been wanting to cut it lately and this one day I was joking around with Mum in the car just saying 'I'm cutting it' and the next day Mum just said to me, what do you want to do with your hair?"

He decided to raise funds for the NZ Breast Cancer Foundation and the Blind Foundation.

Anthony wanted to support the Breast Cancer Foundation because breast cancer was prevalent in New Zealand and affected both women and men. He also wanted to support the Blind Foundation because his great-grandmother was blind.

Anthony's plait will be cut off by his Mum, Berta, at the college be-



Hauraki Plains College student Anthony Makiha will cut his hair for charity on July 3.

Photo: TERESA RAMSEY

fore being styled by a barber. He hasn't decided what kind of haircut he will have.

"I'll message the barber a couple of days prior and might do a bit of planning but he said we'll sort it out once I get there."

He's looking forward to having a more low-maintenance hairstyle.

"It'll feel a lot different and it'll just be better waking up in the morning with nothing to do because it takes a while for me to do in the morning and it's really messy and uncomfortable, that's why I plait it," he said.

However, the plait has also been problematic at times for the keen sportsman: "Sometimes it even whips around and hits me in the eye in rugby, I've experienced that multiple times".

Anthony plays for the college First XV team and made the New Zealand under 16 touch team for the past two years. He plans to study sport and exercise science when he finishes secondary school.

Anthony's initial goal was to raise \$1000 but he's already raised \$1205 so far.

"I knew there would be quite a

lot of people that would support it but a couple of people have contributed a lot, like \$200, which is pretty surprising."

He's "pretty excited" about the fundraiser but a bit nervous about getting his hair cut. "It'll just be really weird. So many people through sports know me through having long hair. Some might not [recognise me] from the back but I guess they'll get used to it."

Donations can be made directly to Anthony Makiha's bank account: 06-0457-0746929-10, reference: plait cutting.

Artist mentor programme launched

He Mana Toi Moehau Trust/Creative Coromandel have announced the launch of a new art initiative for the Thames-Coromandel District/Hauraki region - the pARTner Up Mentoring Programme.

With support and funding from Creative New Zealand's Arts Continuity Grant, pARTner Up will connect creatives with experienced artist mentors to help mentees take a step forward in their artistic careers. This coincides with the end of the Covid-19 lockdown and the ongoing need to sustain careers for artists, arts practitioners and technicians, groups and organisations. pARTner Up is a 9-month commitment delivered in two phases. The first phase runs from June 27 until September 30 and the second phase will run from October to March 2021 with a break over December and January.

Master Certified Coach and PapaAroha resident Linley Rose will facilitate the programme. She is a globally qualified and experienced coach and mentor, with close to 10,000 hours of coaching clients and training coaches in many diverse industry groups.

"We are looking for creatives who are strongly committed to developing their art practice and are willing to see the programme through from start to finish," she said. More info: Email info.creativecoromandel@gmail.com.

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Michael Hart is welcomed by Thames High leaders, right, and farewelled by his former Botany Downs Secondary College students.

Photo: TERESA RAMSEY

New Thames High School principal welcomed

By TERESA RAMSEY

Michael Hart discovered his calling as a secondary school teacher while he was volunteering at Youthline as a university student.

Mr Hart, who was welcomed as new principal of Thames High School at a powhiri on June 19, was studying a science degree at the University of Auckland at the time.

"There was a calling for me and part of that calling was being involved in Youthline. Part of that was a philosophy of person-centred counselling that was part of Youthline at the time, there was a person-centred education philosophy as well," he said.

"I was struck by that ... that's really what took me down the path of going into education - that broader

picture of people and becoming a full person and I think education has a huge role to play there."

Mr Hart was born in Mt Albert, Auckland, spent his early years with his five half-siblings in south Auckland and attended secondary school in west Auckland. He's the first of his family to move into tertiary education.

"I was brought up predominantly by a single mum and ... I'm a product of the state welfare system. I think that education is transformative, it certainly has been for me.

"There certainly could have been lots of different pathways I could've gone down and I was very fortunate that every school I went to was a great school."

Mr Hart went on to teach science at Mt Albert Grammar School, be-

coming head of science before becoming a foundation staff member at Botany Downs Secondary College in Auckland, where he was appointed deputy principal from 2011.

Becoming principal at Thames High was an opportunity to make a significant difference, he said.

"I think that I've got the right skills and experience to make a difference in this place at this time. I guess part of that is it's natural that we have a really strong relationship with our community."

Thames High had a strong and innovative curriculum, particularly in the junior school, and the school also had some fantastic resources, he said.

"The classroom spaces are very, very good and fit for purpose and having a wharenuui at the front of the

school - from my previous perspective we were dreaming of having a wharenuui."

The Jack McLean Community Recreation Centre was also an "amazing" shared resource, he said.

"But it comes down to people, people are the most important things, the relationships and the awareness of taiohi (students') needs, the caring of the kaiako (teachers), they scream out as strengths.

"You see them every day. It is the connectedness and the really caring professional relationships that teachers, or kaiako, have with the taiohi, the students. Also the connectedness of the taiohi themselves, they are really, really caring and connected young people. That to me is the essence of our strengths."

New composting boxes installed at Thames school

Moanataiari School students can now compost all its organic matter thanks to a new compost system.

The primary school received funding from the Ministry of Education's (MOE) Sustainability Contestable Fund for the project, which allows the school to compost all clean organic matter, from food scraps and garden cuttings to cardboard and compostable packaging.

A school spokesperson said the Carbon Cycle Co Ltd, along with students, had an incredibly rewarding day installing the system recently.

"Staff and students are looking forward to managing the boxes and utilising the compost in their school grounds and gardens," she said.

The fund was set up to support schools so they could reduce their environmental impact and improve operational efficiency. MOE received 365 applications, and Moanataiari School was one of 53 to have projects approved.

Moanataiari School will see three of their proposed projects implemented. The first of these is a hot composting system.



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Sir Keith Park memorial planned for airfield



An artist's illustration of the Sir Keith Park memorial

By TERESA RAMSEY

Michael Kemp remembers the terrors of the Battle of Britain in World War II vividly.

When he was just 3-years-old, he and his family took shelter underground while bombs were dropped on his village during the battle, killing his neighbours and destroying his village on the eastern coast of England.

"We were a cluster of five houses ... they dropped the bombs and four of the five houses were demolished and our house was the only one standing," he said.

"I can still remember the day today, that's how terrible it was."

Now 83, the Waerenga man hatched a plan to commemorate Thames-born Sir Keith Park,



Michael Kemp, left, with Geoff Furkert at the site of the memorial planned for Thames Airfield.

Photo: TERESA RAMSEY

the Royal Air Force commander who was in operational command during the Battle of Britain in 1940 and also the Battle of Malta.

"We had the right man at the helm, [Sir Keith Park], fighting the Battle of Britain, any lesser man would have failed and we'd have been lost to Germany," Mr Kemp said.

Sir Keith will be commemorated with a \$150,000 memorial to be officially opened at the Sir Keith Park Memorial Airfield in

Thames on September 12-13, which is the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

The project is a "dream come true" for Mr Kemp, who has been helped by members of the Sir Keith Park Memorial Airfield Society formed last year to complete the project.

The memorial will include a replica Hawker Hurricane aeroplane flown by Sir Keith during the war, along with a statue of Sir Keith in his flying kit to be erected at the site at a later date.

The replica Hurricane has been built in England and is currently being shipped to New Zealand.

Society president Geoff Furkert said the project would unlock business, tourism and aviation potential for Thames Airfield as well as becoming an ongoing draw card for Thames heritage, tourism and history.

Just over \$100,000 had been raised so far toward the cost of the project, with fundraising efforts ongoing, he said.

Commemorations planned for September 12-13 include an RSA formal dinner, a dawn service to inaugurate the Hurricane with a possible flypast of a Bristol Fighter Fb2 by NZ Warbirds, a wreath-laying at the statue of Sir Keith Park outside the Thames War Memorial Civic Centre with another flypast followed by refreshments and a display of Sir Keith memorabilia. For more information or to donate, visit: sirkeithparkmemorial.org.nz.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Please email your views to editor@valleyprofile.co.nz. Letters need to be 200 words or less and may be edited, abridged or rejected at the editor's discretion.

LIBRARY CUTS

The recent decision by the Thames-Coromandel District Council to cut its public library book budget by 90 per cent is alarming. What your Public Library offers is far more than a transactional service. It is social infrastructure, a place to be connected, a platform for your communities to build a better future for themselves, both in person and online. And this matters more than ever in a post-Covid-19 society. People are not born with the ability to read and literacy is a skill that is learned. Like all skills it is maintained and improved by practice. Practice that is pleasurable is much more likely to be continued. Cuts to the library's book budget damages a community's chance of a speedy economic recovery. Literacy is strongly correlated with educational success and economic well-being and is the core skill required to fully take part in modern life. Research indicates that improving individual literacy improves economic outcomes for those individuals. Without an adequate level of literacy, everything is a greater struggle and participation as a citizen is inevitably limited. Growing the membership of active readers and providing what our readers want is a key to ensuring librar-

ies deliver to the community. We all gain from a more literate, more capable population and public libraries have a key role to play in that outcome. Public libraries have a unique role and special responsibility to cultivate a love of reading across the whole community. Literacy empowers people, enables them to participate fully as global citizens and builds more capable and productive communities.

- Hilary Beaton, executive director, Association of Public Library Managers

TCDC RESPONSE

The Covid-19 situation has meant that life cannot continue as normal, and changes have had to be made in many areas. Council has had to respond across the range of services and activities it delivers, and the significant reduction in the new library books budget effectively pauses these purchases for a one-year period. The feedback on our proposed annual plan was very clear that people wanted as low a rates rise as possible, while still maintaining core services. No reduction in staffing or operational funding has been made to the activity, and it is anticipated the new library book purchasing budget would be reinstated for the 2021-22 year as part of the long term plan process. If we

get a large number of requests for new books in the next 12 months, then we can make an out-of-cycle budget request. Additionally, the Thames Community Board requested at its June 10 meeting that staff report back to the board's next meeting on July 8 with options to reinstate a significant proportion of the Thames Library's book budget, in a cost-neutral manner that would keep overall spending in the Thames ward at the same level.

- Bruce Hinson, Thames Coromandel District Council operations group manager

VOLUNTEERS THANKED

During your special appreciation week, June 22-26, we wanted to say a big thank you to all of the volunteers out there. This week is set aside each year to recognise the contribution that volunteers make in our society and country as a whole. Without volunteers, sections of many towns would grind to a halt. Volunteer appreciation week is also a time to celebrate, value and yes, appreciate the input, passion and commitment made to organisations, clubs and societies everywhere. If you are one of those people who give your time, energy and loyalty to a project or group that you

value, then we congratulate you and say thank you. Volunteering is also a very effective way to share your skills and abilities, particularly if you are an older retired person. Everyone who is lucky enough to have lived a full life and reached retirement age has many skills and abilities to contribute to their chosen community. Volunteering is a way to enrich your community whilst at the same time keeping your brain and body active. Like many organisations, Age Concern Hauraki Coromandel would not exist without our many wonderful volunteers. We are lucky to have so many experienced volunteers working for the betterment of the older person. At this time we must say an extra special thank you to those of you who are on our Board of Trustees, visiting our elders to increase each other's social connection, running our five falls prevention exercise classes, keeping our Chin Wag Café in Ngatea and Thames running like clockwork, performing light tasks for others such as changing light bulbs, telephoning housebound people on a regular basis, and so many other tasks that benefit the life of the older people in our district. Once again THANK YOU to you all.

- Kathryn Jury, Manager, Age Concern Hauraki Coromandel

TBA funding approved

Thames Community Board has agreed to \$80,000 in funding for the Thames Business Association (TBA) for the next financial year.

The support will come from the board's Thames promotion budget, which had \$90,000 per annum for three years ending this financial year. The remaining \$10,000 has not been allocated.

The TBA was founded in May, 2018, with an aim to develop a cohesive business community that drives positive social and economic outcomes. This is the third year the community board has granted \$80,000 to the TBA.

"This funding is a strategic investment that we'll see a return from in coming years," Thames Community Board Chair Strat Peters said.

TBA chief executive Sue Lewis-O'Halloran told the board the funding was a real opportunity to position Thames for the Covid-19 pandemic recovery.

"Thames is the economic engine of the Coromandel, with about \$500 million of the district's GDP coming through it," she said.



Sue Lewis-O'Halloran



Building a new footpath in Ngatea

Putting our best foot forward



We're starting work on a new footpath for Ngatea's main street, so if you're shopping in town, you'll most likely see our crews around from late July.

We know you've had a tough time with roadworks this year, especially if you own a business, so we're putting our best foot forward and doing everything we can to minimise disruption while this footpath work takes place. This includes working on sections of footpath about 100m at a time, and making sure you have safe access to your favourite shops at all times.

Having said that please remember that sections of footpath that we are working on will be construction sites so please observe safety protocols and follow the instructions of crews onsite.

If you have any questions about the project email Ngateafootpath@hauraki-dc.govt.nz and we will get back to you.



The new footpath will look something like this

The design

The design is based on the feedback we've received from you so far, including the development of the Ngatea main street master plan.

We heard that for you, practical makes perfect so we'll use simple robust and local materials, including exposed aggregate footpaths with coloured inlays in selected areas.

We've had to be practical about our available budget but, once we've got the basics right, we'll look at options for more streetscape work, and how it can be funded, further down the track.

Next steps

- ★ We expect to appoint a contractor in July.
- ★ Once a contractor is appointed, we'll work with them to develop a detailed work programme.
- ★ We're hoping to start work in late July.

Stay updated

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Any questions?

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Peters visits \$1.1 million development

By TERESA RAMSEY

Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters visited the Paeroa Historical Maritime Park on June 9 to view progress on the park's \$1.1 million development aimed at boosting tourism in the district.

Last year, the Paeroa Historical Maritime Park received \$730,000 from the government's provincial growth fund and \$400,000 in funding from Hauraki District Council for the first stage of the project.

Stage one includes a new riverboat to ferry people and bikes between the park and Wharf St in Paeroa township, along with pontoons, a boardwalk and riparian planting with native

plants at the Maritime Park.

Stage one will also include an upgrade of Wharf St in Paeroa, which will link to a purpose-built community jetty on the Ohinemuri River.

The Park has purchased the riverboat and visitors are expected to be cruising by boat into Paeroa next summer.

Stage two of the development will include a multi-centre with an educational focus, conference facilities and cafe.

Mr Peters said the project kept the region's history alive.

"The amazing thing about the Coromandel and Thames is that it was built by the water, through the waterways and streams, and keeping that culture alive and

keeping that history alive is seriously impressive," he said.

"It's a delight to be here and to add some serious grunt ... to the future of tourism development in this part of the country."

Hauraki Mayor Toby Adams said receiving funding to get the project off the ground was a "relief" and the development would bring the community together.

"This is going to be fantastic for our area, linking the river and the Hauraki Rail Trail. The economic benefits it has for our region are just massive," he said.

Paeroa Historical Maritime Park's Colin and Gloria James help Winston Peters plant a tree at the park.



KEREPEHI

We all got together once again after a 2-month break due to Covid-19. We met at the Kerepehi Bowling Club. President Elaine Jolliffe welcomed us all back after being away for the past 2 months. We had a minute's silence for Moira Keyes as she had passed

away during Lockdown. We had nine present and our roll call included donating a birthday present to go in our birthday bag. Our May birthdays were Ethel Fowl and Elaine Jolliffe who chose gifts from the bag. Cathie Hakka had celebrated her Golden Wedding Anniversary in May and was

Kerepehi Women's Institute celebrate 64 years with luncheon

presented with a yellow pot plant. Jan Edmonds also had her 54th Wedding Anniversary this month and was given a lovely homemade card made by Ethel Fowell. There were no flower competitions as we were all going out for lunch to the L&P Cafe in Paeroa to celebrate our institute's 64th birthday, which we were supposed to do in April. We all had a lovely lunch and a lot of catching up with everyone. Our next meeting will be on July 14 at Jan Edmonds place.

THAMES HAURAKI

Thames Hauraki Plains District Federation of Women's Institute's AGM was held at the Ngatea Hall Supper Room

on June 19, delayed because of the Covid-19 lockdown. Federation president Shirley Harding welcomed representatives from each of the eight institutes present along with Federation executive members. The meeting commenced with the aspirations followed by a minute's silence to remember those who have passed away since the last meeting. Shirley Harding then introduced Gareth Cook from Waihi, who spoke to us about no longer being able to use cheques. Shirley Harding then presented Toni Brumby and Dawn Clark with gifts as they both served four years in the federation and are stepping down. Toni Brumby

was also given a gift as she has been nominated on the national executive committee. Federation election of officers: president: Shirley Harding; secretary: Elaine Jolliffe; treasurer: Clarice Beaumont, Bev Schenkel and Shirley Rea. Raffles were won by Bev and Colin Schenkel, Maxine Burke, Shirley Mical, Dawn Clark, Graham Needham, Carolyn Giles, Trish McConachie, Shirley Rea, Noelene Kayes and Val Larsen. The Snowball Raffle, which is raising money for the 100-year celebrations in 2021, was won by Maxine Burke. After the meeting, several members enjoyed lunch supporting one the local cafes in Ngatea.

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Cause of mystery illness kept secret



As part of a Valley Profile series, MEGHAN HAWKES explores our local history by seeking out the stories behind Thames Valley headstones.

Fourteen year old Sarah McGruer had promised not to tell.

She steadfastly kept her silence as her older sister Georgina, 17, became increasingly ill.

The girls' stepmother, Theresa, noticed Georgina vomiting on Friday, 23 June, 1893. She was still ill the following day. Her father, George, manager of the Crown Mine at Karangahake, thought it was measles and gave Georgina hot whiskey and milk and put her to bed.

Georgina seemed sometimes better and sometimes not but by Monday, Sarah could keep her secret no longer. She told her stepmother that Georgina had been eating matches. The previous Friday, on seeing Georgina retching and suspecting poisoning, Sarah asked her what was the matter. She asked if she had taken carbolic acid, an antiseptic or precipitate powder, a hair parasite lotion for children. Georgina denied taking either but when Sarah said: "Then you have been eating matches" Georgina con-



Navigating the Karangahake Gorge – a race against time for both father and doctor.

fessed she had eaten three.

There was a wave of this in 1893, so much so that an *Auckland Star* report on yet another occurrence was headed 'The popular mode – eating matches.'

When Georgina's father was told on Monday evening, he found the idea preposterous and retorted it was all nonsense.

He examined his daughter and saw no sign of poisoning. However, Georgina was watched all through the long night. Towards 6:30am on Tuesday she was getting worse. She told her sister Sarah that she had eaten 36, and again 30 and then again 20 match heads. Sarah naively replied: "That will be 86 and if you took 13 more it would be 99", referring to a recent newspaper report of a girl who had eaten that amount.

She asked Georgina if she was going to eat any more and she replied she might. Young Sarah did not realise Georgina's life was in danger. About midday Georgina began moaning and complained of a headache. She had a drink of milk and lay down. By now very concerned her father raced

to Karangahake and telephoned for Dr Wright of Waihi to come at once to their Paeroa residence.

The doctor arrived about 1pm and prescribed for Georgina but almost immediately she deteriorated further. He stayed until 4pm. Two hours later, with Georgina rapidly declining, they sent for him again. Dr Wright remained another two hours before leaving. At 10pm Georgina finally dropped into a quiet sleep.

At 1am on Wednesday she suddenly sat up and began moaning.

Dr Wright was immediately sent for again but about ten minutes later Georgina died. Georgina had always been a quiet and shy girl. She had suffered from troublesome fits since childhood but her shattered family said all that could be done to make her cheerful was done. An inquest found that Georgina, while in a state of unsound mind, ate the heads of phosphorous wax matches causing death.

The white phosphorous of match heads was very poisonous. Ingesting them caused many accidental and deliberate deaths. In 1906 its use was prohibited.

Rescue helicopter petition delivered

A petition with more than 46,000 signatures was presented to parliament on June 16, calling for the government to bring back the Coromandel Rescue Helicopter service.

The Ministry of Health removed the Coromandel rescue helicopter last year as part of its 10-year modernisation programme for the country's air ambulance, instead using helicopters based in Hamilton, Auckland and Tauranga.

This raised concerns the lack of a rescue helicopter based in the Thames-Coromandel district could put patients at risk.

Coromandel MP Scott Simpson accepted the petition on behalf of the Coromandel community.

"The 46,439 signatures on this petition represent the anger, the frustration and the sense of betrayal of local Coromandel people and visitors alike," Mr Simp-

son said.

"The petition is a clear message to the government that speaks to the passion, energy and hard work of the volunteers who organised and helped collect signatures from all around the Coromandel region."

About four years ago, more than \$1 million dollars was raised by the community to build a purpose designed hangar and accommodation facility for the service in Whitianga, Mr Simpson said.

"Last summer for the first time in 12 years no rescue helicopter was based on the Coromandel Peninsula over the summer holiday period," Mr Simpson said.

"The people of the Coromandel need a chopper based in Mercury Bay at the Coromandel Rescue Helicopter Trust's hangar over the summer months and at long weekends. The government needs to bring it back."



Coromandel MP Scott Simpson delivers the petition to parliament.

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Andrew Ball and his mother Gaynor Ball with the herd of British Whites on the Waihou Riverbank.

Rare cattle a labour of love for Netherton family

By TERESA RAMSEY

Andrew Ball knows each of his rare purebred cows by name.

Every day, he and his mother Gaynor Ball feed the herd of 22 rare British White cattle windfall apples on their Netherton dairy farm next to the Waihou River.

The herd is a "hobby" the family has enjoyed for nearly 30 years.

"I just like them, they're different and they're quiet," he said.

Mr Ball has been developing the small breeding herd of cattle since 2013, after taking over

from his parents when his late father, Jeff Ball, wanted to retire.

His parents started the herd when they imported semen from a UK Royal Show grand champion British White bull in the early 1990s, along with a host of other British breeds, such as South Devon, English Longhorn, Sussex and Scottish Highland.

It was Mrs Ball's idea to import the British breeds.

"We had Friesian cows and I was sick of everything being black and white so I persuaded the old man to have some British breeds," she said.

"And then we had 16 or 17 different British breeds in the herd - we used to have the Rare Breeds New Zealand meeting here because we had all the different breeds and that was fun."

The other breeds dropped away over the years but they couldn't part with the British Whites, which were Mrs Ball's favourite.

"They are such lovely animals and the calves are so lovely when we're rearing them, really good calves. They grow so well."

The cattle were an extremely rare breed, especially in New

Zealand, Andrew Ball said.

"They're one of the oldest purebred breeds of cattle - about 400 years they've been recognised as a breed with that colouring."

The breed has a white coat with black or red speckles and coloured nose, ears and feet and black skin, which means sunburn is never a problem.

After working on a dairy farm in Tauhei, near Morrinsville, for many years, Andrew now manages the family farm for his brother, Stephen. They milk around 600 Friesians on the 235

hectare farm and use the British White bulls in the dairy herd to produce beef cattle for the sales, with many going to lifestyle blocks.

Andrew bought a young purebred bull from another breeder a few years ago for his herd. He currently has nine breeding cows and intends to increase the herd to 15 breeding cows.

He's happy with how the herd has developed.

"They've definitely got the characteristics of the breed if you look them up in the UK," he said.

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Rural Life

Mayoral drought relief fund opens

Farmers can now apply for financial help with feed transport costs through a \$250,000 Hauraki District Council Mayoral Drought Relief Fund.

People can apply to the fund from June 22 until July 13, Mayor Toby Adams said.

"That's only a three week window, so if you've been hit in the pocket for transport costs of supplementary feed, or cartage of livestock for grazing, make sure you get those forms filled out and back to us as soon as you can," he said.

Anyone who lives in the Thames Valley area and owns livestock (including equine) with a predominantly pasture diet can apply to the fund. However, it's expected applicants will have a feed plan in place and their pasture affected by low autumn rainfall. The Thames Valley area includes Hauraki, Thames-Coromandel and Matamata-Piako districts, as well as eastern parts of the Waikato District.

A Mayoral Advisory Fund Committee chosen for their farming experience and local knowledge will assess applications and distribute the grants. The maximum grant available per application is \$5000, with one application accepted per business.

"This process has really highlight-

ed to me how many local organisations are out there offering all kinds of support to our farming communities" Mayor Adams said.

"I'd like to acknowledge the great work they're doing and urge all our farmers to make use of the support networks that are available.

"We're also very grateful to MPI for their contribution. The effects of the drought have been bubbling away in the shadow of Covid-19 for some time and despite recent rain, many of our farmers are facing a really tough winter. We all need to get in behind them and show them our support."

The MPI funding is in response to a letter to the Agriculture Minister from Hauraki, Matamata-Piako and Thames-Coromandel Mayors, Coromandel MP Scott Simpson and Hauraki Māori Trust Board Chairman David Taipiri. MPI allocated \$500,000 to farmers in north Waikato and Northland, with \$250,000 of that tagged for farmers in the Thames Valley area. Hauraki District Council added \$10,000 to the local fund, with Matamata-Piako and Thames-Coromandel councils also contributing.

Application forms are available online at www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz, at council offices and some rural supply stores.

Free agriculture courses set to begin

A Thames Valley tertiary education provider hopes a raft of free agriculture courses will help farmers fill staff shortages due to Covid-19.

Many dairy farmers have been left without key migrant workers unable to return to New Zealand because of border restrictions prompted by the international Covid-19 pandemic.

Valley Education & Training organisation manager Mark Jennings said the staff shortage caused by the pandemic was an opportunity for New Zealand farmers to employ Kiwis.

"Having just come through the Covid-19 virus lockdown, migrant workers will be absent for a while," he said.

"There are enough young kiwis that can go into the agricultural labour market. Farmers say they haven't got time to train, haven't got time to mentor. We understand this.

"At Valley Education we strive to install knowledge, confidence and reality into our students - we have some good young people ready to go to work."

Valley Education & Training, based in Kopu, has been working with agriculture students in recent years, offering level 2 and level 3 courses designed to prepare students for farm worker jobs.

Meanwhile, DairyNZ has launched a campaign called *Go Dairy* to encourage more Kiwis into



Free farm courses may help fill the gap caused by Covid-19 restrictions.

dairy jobs. DairyNZ chief executive Dr Tim Mackle said there were an estimated 1000 jobs up for grabs on dairy farms nationwide.

"As the new season gets underway on June 1, even more positions are likely to become available," Dr Mackle said.

"For people who're looking for work and like the idea of caring for animals and the environment, there are lots of jobs and career

progression opportunities."

Dairy also paid one of the highest average wages of all the primary sectors, he said.

"For the most part, we're anticipating interested people will be from the regions where there are big job losses in tourism and hospitality and where there is dairying close by."

More info: www.valleyeducation.co.nz or www.godairy.co.nz.

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Rural Life



The number of illegal earthworks have tripled in the Waikato. Photo: WRC

Spike in illegal earthworks

Waikato Regional Council has been inundated with calls from across the region reporting illegal earthworks, with many of them directly impacting streams and rivers.

With 47 individual incidents in the Waikato reported since March 1 this year, including eight in the Thames Valley, council is calling for greater diligence from those undertaking any scale of earthmoving.

"Over the same period last year there were 16 incidents, so this is a very high number and reflects a lot of damage being done to the environment," council compliance manager Patrick Lynch said.

Despite many of the calls being received from members of the public during the lockdown period, the council's environmental incident response team was an essential service and responded to many of these.

"Though we may be looking to hold people accountable and

change behaviour, unfortunately the environmental harm is already done in many instances," Mr Lynch said.

"Often the purpose of the earthworks has been to increase or enhance pastoral land, but it comes at the expense of our natural wetlands and streams.

"All landowners and earthworks contractors need to stop and think before they commence any such work and ensure it is being done lawfully and without the risk of adverse environmental effect."

It was likely the more serious incidents would result in prosecution, he said.

Council urges landowners and earthworks contractors to contact council prior to any works in or about natural waterways and wetlands. Members of the public can also report environmental incidents to the council seven days a week, Ph 0800 800 401.

Livestock valuations can have long-term effects



By **TESSA FISHER**
Late last month IRD announced the herd scheme (National Average Market Value) values for each class of livestock.

This is one of the main methods used to value livestock for tax purposes.

This livestock scheme treats livestock as capital stock, and there are no tax implications as the livestock values change from year to year, assuming livestock numbers remain constant.

Rising one-year heifers and mixed-age cows increased in value from 2019 to 2020. However, rising two-year heifers and all ages of steers and bulls de-

creased in value slightly. National Standard Cost Scheme (NSC) is the other main method used to value livestock.

This schemes valuation is based on cost price (if any) plus a breeding, rearing and growing cost which is determined by the IRD.

Any changes in the NSC values for stock are taxable or deductible, even though the gain or loss is a non-cash increase or decrease. Livestock are treated as trading stock.

The two schemes can be used in conjunction with each other. But, once your livestock are recorded under the Herd Scheme, it is nearly impossible to change the valuation method of that particular livestock. Livestock is usually

the largest value asset for share milkers, therefore it is important to understand how the valuation of livestock impact tax this year, and in future years.

When downsizing or selling your herd, it is important to understand the tax impact of the livestock sale transaction and ensuring that the tax from this transaction is budgeted for in the future.

Livestock valuation is an important discussion to be having with your accountant. It is a complicated area, as it has immediate impacts on your tax, and can have longer term effects on succession planning.

- Tessa Fisher is a chartered accountant at Nick Hoogveen & Associates

Donated feed helps ease the burden for farmers



By **MICHAEL WEBSTER**
The 2020-21 farming season is now well underway.

Moreover, with this new start, it has brought a number of challenges to our farmers, the likes of which most have never seen before.

We have just concluded a 6-month period with minimal rain and at the start of June, most farmers in the area will have found themselves in the position of target pasture covers being well below the magical band of 2000-2400kgDM/ha.

Feed is scarce. These past few weeks have brought a reprieve to

most farmers with at least 100ml of rain in the first two weeks of June and the continuation of mild temperatures, which has allowed grass to grow.

However, the struggle to get pasture targets to a comfortable point prior to calving is still there.

To help ease the burden, a number of farmers from the greater Waikato region donated 180 bales of feed, which were then distributed, with encouraging messages of support written on each bale.

It was humbling to see the generosity of our fellow farmers during this challenging time.

In addition to this, a Mayoral drought relief fund for farmers in

the Thames Valley area including Hauraki, Thames-Coromandel, Matamata-Piako and eastern Waikato districts has been set up to help with costs incurred by farmers for transport and freight costs associated with bringing in feed during this difficult time.

Applications for the Mayoral drought relief fund opened on June 22 and you will have until 5pm on July 13 to submit your application.

To apply, simply download an application form at www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/our-district/drought-relief or complete online.

- Michael Webster is the Hauraki Federated Farmers dairy chair

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Volunteers earn driver licences

By TERESA RAMSEY

Mowing lawns, fixing computers, administration and retail are some of the ways Thames Community Centre volunteers are earning the cost of their driver licences.

The centre's Drivers and Volunteer programme was set up in 2017 to help people get their driver licences while giving back to the community.

Centre manager Jeff Whitfield said for every hour of community work, the centre contributes \$20 towards the cost of getting their licence, which can be upwards of \$400 for lessons, courses and fees.

"Over the last year, the centre has placed 68 volunteers in 19 different community organisations," he said.

"They've given about 900 hours back to the community. It's a privilege to meet and work with such great people, it's so rewarding."

Volunteering had many benefits and was also very useful when looking for a job, he said.

Sarah, who didn't want her last name used, said she was on and off the invalid's benefit for about

10 years before joining the programme.

"When I got my licence it was such a confidence boost and to work and get involved in the community I was living in, it really helped to get me back into society," she said.

"I just think they're doing an amazing job helping people. I was working at a minimum wage, low guaranteed hours job and now I'm full time in a salary job, which is a huge thing I never thought would happen."

"The centre's played a huge role in that, I think they're helping a lot of people with this programme."

Recently getting his restricted licence was a priority for volunteer Josiah Hudson, who lost his seasonal job in the Covid-19 shutdown because he didn't have his own transport to get to work. So far he's volunteered more than 120 hours at the Paeroa St John op shop since last year and plans to continue until he gets his full licence or a job.

"It's quite nice helping out other people, it keeps me busy," he said.

Volunteer Shane Mapu is work-



From left: Brennan Dollard, Louise Dean, Jeff Whitfield, Josiah Hudson, Mike O'Donnell and Shane Mapu. Photo: TERESA RAMSEY

ing toward getting his learner licence. He recently started the programme after also losing his job due to the Covid-19 pandemic. A jack of all trades with experience ranging from construction to hospitality, Mr Mapu said he enjoyed the volunteer work mowing lawns, looking after gardens and carrying out general building maintenance.

Brennan Dollard is a long-term volunteer at the centre who helps out with IT and social media.

He's clocked up more than enough volunteer hours for lessons towards his restricted license but

doesn't plan on giving up his volunteer role any time soon.

Organisations involved with the programme include Bright Smile Gardens, SPCA, Thames Music and Drama, Hauraki Domestic Violence Intervention Network, Thames High School, Thames i-SITE, Seagull Centre and Paeroa St John op shop.

The centre works closely with Te Korowai Hau Ora and Thames High for referrals, builds links with Workwise and welcomes enquiries from other providers.

More info: Ph 027 868 9797 or email trcc@xtra.co.nz.

Memorial service held

The June dinner meeting was the first chance for Ngatea Lions to gather since the Covid-19 restrictions and it was great to be able to catch-up with how everyone coped during lockdown. Guest speaker was Mike Beach from Paeroa Lions who discussed a range of projects.

A much-valued lion, Peter Corlett, died at the start of May and restrictions meant no large gathering for funerals were possible. Once restrictions were relaxed, many gathered for a tree planting memorial service. We will miss the drive and energy Peter brought to Lions projects, such as the Family Fun Day, Christmas Parade and Quiz nights. Our sympathy is extended to Tina and the families.

July is the start of the new Lions year and the club president will be Michael Laurich, supported by Stu Green, Bruce Foster and Brian McMillan as secretary and Alex Quinn as treasurer. Dinner meetings are held in the Hauraki & District RSA, with catering supporting local teams' or groups' fundraising efforts. Our club is proud to have Lion Brian McMillan elected as district governor for Lions District 202K for the 2020-21 year. Brian, who currently manages Ngatea Farmlands, will be guest of honour at a combined dinner meeting with the Hauraki Plains Lioness Club in August. - Bruce Foster

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Sports

Club rugby kicks off

Thames hosted Mercury Bay in round one of the 2020 Thames Valley Club Rugby Senior A Competition on June 20.

In a physical first round encounter, both teams threw the kitchen sink at each other, however it was Mercury Bay who dealt with the first game blues better, moving the Thames team from side to side and exposing their defence on several occasions. A number of mistakes from both teams kept each other in the game, however it was the Dwayne Mansell coached side who took the honours - final score: Mercury Bay 20, Thames 8. Thames try to George Havealeta and penalty to Jarrod Goodall;

Mercury Bay tries: Jamie Finnerly, Kegan Gunner, Connor McLeod/Jayden Tegg 1p/1c.

Hauraki North labelled themselves as a team to beat after their first showing in round one of the Senior A Competition on June 20. Up against a young and energetic Paeroa side, it took a while for both teams to settle back into game mode, with Hauraki North clinging on to a 10-6 lead at half-time. However, it was experience and home advantage which became critical for Hauraki North, running out as eventual winners. Final score: Hauraki North 32, Paeroa 6.

- Scott Day, Thames Valley Rugby Football Union

RESULTS: Senior A June 20: COBRAS 36 vs Waihou 8; Waihi Athletic 5 vs Whangamata 8; Hauraki North 32 vs Paeroa 6; Thames 8 vs Mercury Bay 20. **June 27:** Whangamata 10 vs COBRAS 3; Paeroa 12 vs Waihou 51; Thames 5 vs Hauraki North 23; Mercury Bay 35 vs Waihi Athletic 10.

DRAW: SENIOR A SILCOCK SHIELD

JULY 4: Cobras v Paeroa at Te Aroha 2pm; Whangamata v Mercury Bay at Whangamata 2pm; Waihi Athletic v Hauraki North at Waihi 2pm; Waihou v Thames at Te Aroha 2pm. **JULY 11:** Mercury Bay v Cobras at Whitianga 2pm; Thames v Paeroa at Thames 2pm; Hauraki North v Whangamata at Waitakaruru, 2pm; Waihi Athletic v Waihou at Waihi 2pm. **JULY 18:** Cobras v Thames at Te Aroha 2pm; Mercury Bay v

Hauraki North at Whitianga 2pm; Paeroa v Waihi Athletic at Paeroa 2pm; Waihou v Whangamata at Waihou 2pm. **JULY 25:** Hauraki North v Cobras at Waitakaruru 2pm; Waihi Athletic v Thames at Waihi 2pm; Waihou v Mercury Bay at Te Aroha 2pm; Whangamata v Paeroa at Whangamata 2pm. **AUGUST 1:** Cobras v Waihi Athletic at Te Aroha 2pm; Hauraki North v Waihou at Waitakaruru 2pm; Thames v Whangamata at Thames 2pm; Paeroa v Mercury Bay at Paeroa 2pm. **AUGUST 8:** Waihou v Cobras at Te Aroha 2pm; Whangamata v Waihi Athletic at Whangamata 2pm; Paeroa v Hauraki North at Paeroa 2pm; Mercury Bay v Thames at Whitianga 2pm. **AUGUST 15:** Semi finals; **AUGUST 22:** Finals, McClinchy Cup.



Thames player Fred Kei pushes through the Mercury Bay defence, assisted by David Ormsby. Photos: TERESA RAMSEY

RIGHT: Thames captain Corbin Saunders, centre, prepares his team for the next run.



Mercury Bay and Thames players prepare for a scrum.



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Sports

Black Sticks come home to pass on skills

The spirits of youth hockey players have been given a real boost after a series of training sessions with two current Black Sticks players, kick-starting the Thames Valley Hockey season back into life.

Home-grown Black Sticks Aidan Sarikaya and Tarryn Davey held a series of training evenings recently with about 70 young players, who made the most of their heroes' valuable time and knowledge to improve their skills and learn some new ones.

The duo's Black Sticks international commitments are currently on hold, so it was an opportune time to welcome them back into the heart of Thames Valley where they both grew up playing hockey. Our young sportspeople are very fortunate to have these wonderful role-models so willing to give back to their grass roots.

STRAPPING WORKSHOP

A basic sports strapping workshop will be held at 5:30pm on July 27 at the Paeroa Memorial Hall. The workshop is suitable



Current Black Sticks Tarryn Davey, second left, and Aidan Sarikaya, right, held a series of training evenings with young Thames Valley hockey players.

for anyone involved in adult or youth sport who has an interest in athlete welfare. The workshop will be facilitated by the Thames Physiotherapy Clinic and is a practical guide to strapping techniques and injury treatment and prevention. \$5 cover charge to help with strapping costs. A minimum of 15 participants is needed to make the workshop viable.

To register, email: hauraki@sportwaikato.org.nz or thamesc-oro@sportwaikato.org.nz. Phone Julie - 0274 864 955 or Bill - 021 944 516

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- Julie Stephenson, Sport Waikato Hauraki District Co-ordinator



Competing in the Martyn Barribal Memorial competition are Wanda Barribal, left, and Keven Caddy.

Photos: TERRY KING

Bowls returns with Barribal Memorial

The Kerepehi Bowling Club held its first day of bowls since the Covid-19 shutdown with the Barribal sponsored Martyn Barribal Memorial optional fours on June 7.

The Gordon O'Brien Memorial optional fours was scheduled for June 28 and the next event is the Richardsons Real Estate Ngatea optional fours followed by the

Tunncliffe Nissan optional fours on July 26.

RESULTS: Martyn Barribal Memorial: 1st 4 wins (Hauraki) Ros Mason, Rae Dudding, Pat Ridings, John Ridings; 2nd 3 wins (Kerepehi) Leon Taipari, Garry Parker, Wayne Sveistrup, FatuTausi; 3rd 3 wins (Paeroa) Arthur Thorburn, Jim Erbacher, Lois Curd, Anne Lyes; Club Prize: Del Graham, Phillipa Garrett, Tracy Harrison, Michelle Da Silva.

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Cheerful flowers brighten gloomy days

We are almost to the middle of winter but it really doesn't feel like it. The gardens are still experiencing warm days and few frosts. Although it is a bit gloomy, many cheerful flowers begin to emerge in the garden. Snowdrops, daffodils, fressias and many winter blossoming shrubs.



Freessias start to brighten winter

VEGETABLES

If dry enough, the empty spaces in the vegetable garden can be cultivated. Dig thoroughly to a depth of about 300mm, leave soil roughly turned to expose to the elements. Colder weather wintering improves soil tilth. Apply a heavy dressing of compost and leave as a mulch on the surface to be dug in later.

Asparagus: New beds require deep cultivation to about 400mm incorporating well-made compost. Open planting trenches to a depth of about 300mm and leave exposed to sunlight and frost, if any, which prepares the beds for planting. For established beds, lightly cultivate to avoid damaging dormant crowns and incorporate compost on to the top 40 to 50mm of the bed. **Broad Beans:** Further sowings can still be made but growth will be slow before the ground warms. Keep a check on pests and spray if required. Keep weed free.

Cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli: Cultivate lightly around planted seedlings, apply a side dressing of a balanced NPK fertiliser. Check for slugs and snails and use bait to control. **Carrots and parsnips:** Continue to harvest carrots. **Celery:** Continue to harvest outer leaves throughout winter months. **Chinese cabbages:** Further sowing can be made for spring harvest. **Garlic:** Still time to plant but be quick the shortest day has passed. **Leeks:** Main winter har-

vest continues. **Lettuce:** Continue planting hardy winter lettuce varieties. Keep weed free. **Onions:** Continue main season sowing. Pukekohe Long Keeper is the best main season variety. **Peas:** Make early sowings. Prepare ground thoroughly. **Spinach:** Make further successive sowings for continued spring harvest.

Vegetables to harvest: Artichokes (Jerusalem), broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbages, carrots, cauliflower, celery, leeks, lettuce, parsnips, silverbeet and yams. **Vegetable seeds to sow:** In containers under shelter – broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce, hothouse tomatoes. **Directly outdoors –** broad beans, onions, peas, radishes, spinach and turnips.

FLOWERS

Seeds to sow: In containers under shelter – Aquilegia, carnation, calendula, cornflower, pansy, poppy, primula, stocks and sweet pea. **Directly outdoors –** Alyssum and cornflower.

FRUITS

Check, repair and clean your spraying equipment ready for early spring use. Springtime spraying commences on early varieties of plums and peaches in late July. Complete pruning of apple, pears and grape vines. **Stone fruits:** Check for earliest signs of bud movement on

early season plums and peaches. Inspect terminal leaf buds critically. Green tip sprays are vital for control of leaf curl and bladder plum infections. Apply copper oxychloride or similar.

Other fruits: Apples, pears: Continue winter pruning. Appraise trees critically. Citrus: Early harvest of lemons and oranges, select carefully. Cold temperatures are responsible for intensifying skin colour but it doesn't necessarily indicate full maturity. Provide protection against cold. Grapes: Select the strongest growing canes when pruning. Cut out old wood which bore last season's fruit. Remove those which are thin and weak. **Passionfruit:** Apply copper oxychloride to protect against grease spot disease. **Berry fruits:** Complete pruning. **Strawberries:** Carefully cultivate around plants, side dress with a balanced NPK fertiliser. Mulch with either peas straw or pine needles.

ORNAMENTALS

Winter cold tints evergreens and conifers providing a range of colours. **Berries** such as idesia, holly and pyracantha brighten the garden and flowering species including hellebores, daphne, primrose, violets and magnolia are beginning to bloom.

ROSES

As a general rule lightly prune after each flush of flowering. Hard pruning in winter is required to stimulate the growth of sturdy fresh shoots. Remove old and damaged wood.

COMPOST

Cut up light prunings and twigs from fruit trees and rose bushes and include in the compost with lawn clippings and poultry manure if you have it. Aerate compost heaps to encourage rapid breakdown.

- Ngatea Garden Circle



The historic Kōpū Bridge has been a drawcard for cyclists and walkers.

Work begins on Historic Kōpū Bridge

By CAROLYN MCKENZIE

In a year unlike any other, the historic Kōpū Bridge enjoyed a busy and exciting start to 2020.

From the nostalgia-fest of the Brits on the Bridge photoshoot on St Valentine's Day to the hugely successful role the bridge played in the Tour Aotearoa Cycling Challenge a few weeks later, the 92-year-old bridge remains a proven drawcard to locals and visitors alike.

With around 60 people visiting Kōpū on Sundays in February and March to walk and cycle over the bridge, the Historic Kōpū Bridge Society and Trust members, custodians of the bridge, are convinced there is a role for the structure to feature in Thames' heritage and recreational landscape.

Forming a natural hub at the junction of the cycling trails between Kaiua, Thames and Paeroa, crossing the Heritage NZ Category 1 listed bridge is a traffic-free opportunity to admire and photograph life on the Waihou River from a unique viewpoint. At 463m long, it is an easy walk along its length, and

is entirely baby buggy, wheelchair and mobility scooter accessible. Before the Covid-19 shutdown, volunteers had been holding working bees to begin sprucing up the approaches to both ends of the bridge.

In the months ahead, work will begin to repair the mechanism to make the historic swing span, the sole remaining one of its kind in New Zealand, fully functional again. This includes a complete overhaul of the swing span's English-built engine. Designed by Christchurch-born civil engineer Professor J.E.L. Cull, construction began on the bridge in 1926 and it was opened with enormous fanfare just two years later on May 11, 1928. It spans the Waihou River on local kahikatea wood piles, which recent engineering studies have shown are still perfectly sound in spite of heavy use before the bridge closed in 2011.

The society welcomes new members and volunteers. To join or find out more about using the bridge for photoshoots or gatherings: www.historickopubridge.co.nz or [Facebook.com/SaveKopuBridge](https://www.facebook.com/SaveKopuBridge).

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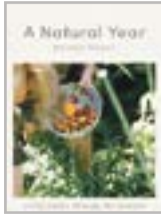
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8 Non Planting Day	9 Plant root crops Liquid Feed	10 Plant root crops Liquid Feed	11 Plant root crops Liquid Feed	12 Non Planting Day	13 Non Planting Day	14 Plant root crops, trees & shrubs
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29 Plant above ground crops Liquid Feed	30 Non Planting Day	31 Non Planting Day	July 2020 Moon Planting Calendar			

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Rach Stewart Photography @rachstewartnz

BOOK REVIEWS



A Natural Year
Wendyl Nissen

A Natural Year follows writer Wendyl Nissen's life in a peaceful countryside location over one year. A story of living the simple life in the country: gardening, foraging, fishing and living life slowly in harmony with nature. Beautifully illustrated and including 100 new and delicious recipes. Wendyl writes about the freedom that she has found in ageing and the joy that comes with it. She addresses her depression, anxiety and the mental well-being she's gained from her back-to-basics lifestyle and the practical things she does to live in a sustainable and natural way. In a world which can be full of stress and confusion, *A Natural Year* is a guide to a simpler, less complicated life. The perfect book to inspire us to live a more wholesome life in these times of change and uncertainty.

The Secrets of Strangers
Charity Norman



Five strangers, one cafe - and the day that everything changed. A regular weekday morning veers drastically off-course for five strangers whose paths cross in a London cafe - their lives never to be the same again when an apparently crazed gunman holds them hostage. But there is more to the situation than first meets the eye and as the captives grapple with their own inner demons, the line between right and wrong starts to blur. Will the secrets they keep stop them from escaping with their lives? A compelling, tense and heartfelt drama from a writer at the top of their game.



Slime
David Walliams

Welcome to Isle of Mulch, home to a large number of awful adults who like nothing more than making children miserable. And the island is owned by the most awful one of all - Aunt Greta Greed! Something needs to be done, but who is brave enough? Enter Ned! Ned has lived on Mulch all his life and whilst trying to get his own back on his trickster sister, Jemima, he discovers one of the great mysteries of the world - slime! What is it? Who is it? Where does it come from? And how does Ned use slimepower to take on the horrible grown-ups of Mulch? Another cracker tale from the world's biggest selling children's author, David Walliams.

Volunteering for St John 'rewarding'

It was the desire to help her community that attracted Ngatea's Jackie Lang to sign up as a volunteer ambulance officer.

She was encouraged to join by a friend who was studying towards a national diploma in ambulance practice.

"We used to volunteer at nights and sleep on station," she said.

Brimming with enthusiasm, the wife and mother of five completed her first responder training and embarked on her national diploma, qualifying as an emergency medical technician (EMT).

Although she was hired by St John, volunteering remained in her blood - Ms Lang is among 40 per cent of St John employees who also volunteer in their spare time. When she's not on the frontline, she enjoys spending time with her family, playing sport and fishing.

While the country was in lockdown due to COVID-19, volunteers like her were still on the road, responding to incidents.

"It was a privilege to be there for people in their time of need, especially given the heightened anxiety patients were feeling," she said.

"Just being there to reassure them was very rewarding."

After seven years of volunteering, Ms Lang's passion for serving has not wavered but invigorated her life.



Jackie Lang's passion for serving has not wavered after seven years.

"I have become more confident in my role and as a person," she said.

Frontline volunteers are always needed in communities like Ngatea and is something Ms Lang encourages others to consider.

"During my time with St John, I've made strong and everlasting friendships. I have a supportive St John family which makes volunteering easy."

Ms Lang was one of St John's 8576 volunteers honoured during National Volunteer Week on June 21-27, which celebrated the contribution of all volunteers.

St John estimates its volunteers contribute more than two million hours a year to New Zealand communities.

Volunteering is embedded in New Zealand's culture and volunteers are essential to healthy communities, with more than 8500 St John volunteers serving on the frontline, in community health programmes, area committees and events.

Collectively, they are improving health outcomes for Kiwis.

For more information about volunteering for St John, visit join.stjohn.org.nz/volunteer-jobs.

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2. *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* (The Hunger Games #0) by Suzanne Collins
3. *Aue* by Becky Manawatu
4. *Fast Asleep* by Michael Mosley
5. *Camino Winds* (#2 Camino Island) by John Grisham
6. *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk-Kidd
7. *Hideaway* by Nora Roberts
8. *A Natural Year* by Wendyl Nissen
9. *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich
10. *Vegful* by Nadia Lim

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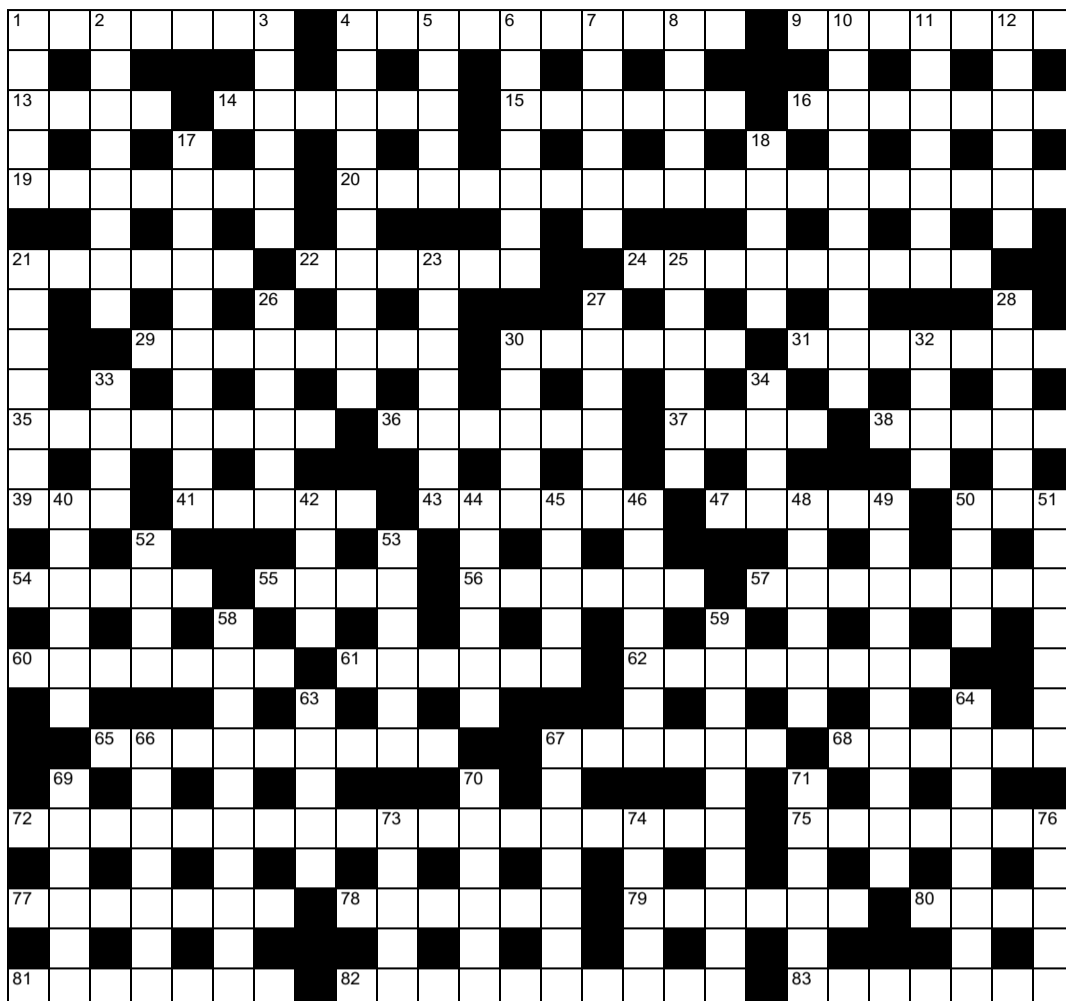
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- 9. Used on sporting injuries (3,4)
- 13. Close (4)
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- 19. Greed (7)
- 20. Honour a promise (2,2,4,2,4,4)
- 21. Like better (6)
- 22. Bird, kereru in Maori (6)
- 24. Travel timetable (9)
- 29. Put up with (8)
- 30. Marksman (6)
- 31. Weaponless (7)
- 35. Christian symbol (8)
- 36. Cut in half (6)
- 37. Honk (4)
- 38. Sorcery (5)
- 39. Behind (nautical) (3)
- 41. Art stand (5)
- 43. Steel beam (6)
- 47. Unseeing (5)
- 50. Weep (3)
- 54. Engine (5)
- 55. Grain store (4)
- 56. Reached a high point (6)
- 57. Long-distance event (8)
- 60. Arsonist (7)
- 61. Centre (6)
- 62. Unfit for eating (8)
- 65. Timing device (9)
- 67. Wet (6)
- 68. Help (6)

Down

- 1. Bamboo-eating animal (5)
- 2. Mariner (8)
- 3. English county (6)
- 4. US political party (10)
- 5. First letter of Greek alphabet (5)
- 6. Type of firearm (7)
- 7. Shooting star (6)
- 8. South American animal (5)
- 10. Simultaneous (10)
- 11. After hostilities cease (7)
- 12. Fruit used to make kirsch (6)
- 17. Traditional working hours (4-2-4)
- 18. Expiring (5)
- 21. Cure for all ills (7)
- 23. Dusk (7)
- 25. Agreement between countries (6)
- 26. Person of high IQ (6)
- 27. Diminutive (6)

Across


- 28. High country sheep (6)
- 30. Javelin (5)
- 32. Wander (4)
- 33. Flat-bottomed boat (4)
- 34. Chicken (4)
- 40. Coin replaced by the 20c in 1967 (6)
- 42. Wicked (4)
- 44. Hinder (6)
- 45. Curtain (5)
- 46. Silvery-white metal, Re (7)
- 48. Typeface with slanting letters (6)
- 49. There are seven of these vices (6,4)
- 50. New York and London district (4)
- 51. Feast (7)
- 52. Centre (4)
- 53. Astrological diagram (6)
- 58. Rule which says anything that can go wrong, will go wrong (7,3)
- 59. Person who eats no meat or fish (10)
- 63. Indistinct (5)
- 64. Talk out of (8)
- 66. Doubly (7)
- 67. Certificate (7)
- 69. Encrypt (6)
- 70. Sequence (6)
- 71. Knife (6)
- 73. Seat (5)
- 74. Data set in rows and columns (5)
- 76. Financial inspection (5)



Down: 1. Panda, 2. Seater, 3. Surrey, 4. Republican, 5. Alpha, 6. Shotgun, 7. Meteor, 8. Lama, 10. Concurrent, 11. Postwar, 12. Cherry, 17. Nine-to-five, 18. Dying, 21. Paracetamol, 23. Evening, 25. Treaty, 26. Genius, 27. Little, 28. Merino, 30. Spear, 32. Roam, 33. Punt, 34. Fowl, 40. Florin, 42. Evil, 44. Impede, 45. Drape, 46. Rhenium, 48. Heliac, 49. Deadly sins, 50. Soho, 51. Banquet, 52. Core, 53. Zodiac, 58. Murphy's Law, 59. Vegetarian, 63. Faint, 64. Dissade, 66. Twofold, 67. Diploma, 69. Encode, 70. Series, 71. Dagger, 73. Chair, 74. Table, 76. Audit.

Across: 1. Possess, 4. Reassemble, 9. Ice pack, 13. Near, 14. Trip up, 15. Outlaw, 16. Aniseed, 19. Avarice, 20. Be as good as your word, 21. Prefer, 22. Pigeon, 24. Hierarchy, 29. Tolerate, 30. Sniper, 31. Unarmed, 35. Crucifix, 36. Bisection, 37. Toot, 38. Magic, 39. Aft, 41. Easel, 43. Girder, 47. Blind, 50. Sob, 54. Motor, 55. Silo, 56. Peaked, 57. Marathon, 60. Frebug, 61. Middle, 62. Inedible, 65. Stopwatch, 67. Dampen, 68. Assist, 72. Antony and Cleopatra, 75. Amnesia, 77. Monocle, 78. Casino, 79. Bridge, 80. Rand, 81. Letdown, 82. Crustacean, 83. Retreat.

SOLUTIONS



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Like many organisations, Age Concern Hauraki Coromandel would not exist without our many wonderful volunteers all working for the betterment of the older person. At this time we must say an extra special thank you to those of you who are:

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- visiting our elders to increase each other's social connection
- running our falls prevention exercise classes
- keeping our Chin Wag Café in Ngatea and Thames running like clockwork
- performing small tasks for others such as changing light bulbs and addressing envelopes
- telephoning housebound people on a regular basis
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Listings are limited to the name of the club or group and a maximum of two contact names and numbers. Clubs and groups are responsible for keeping their listings up to date. Email: editor@valleyprofile.co.nz or Ph 07 862 7077.

Classical Music Club: Kim Reid, Ph 07 862 3839
 Craft Market: Lynette Mapson, Ph 027 617 4470
 Goldfields Women's Institute: Ph 07 868 8984 or Ph 07 868 7273
 Grey Power Paeroa: Ken Carter, Ph 07 862 7271
 Hauraki Bowling Club Mangatarata: Pene Koch, Ph 07 867 3380
 Hauraki Cardiac Support Club Thames: Ph 07 868 6148
 Hauraki Country Music Club: Tina Haakma, Ph 07 868 3443
 Hauraki Golf Club: Len Cameron, Ph 07 867 7660
 Hauraki Plains Co-operating Parish: Jane, Ph 027 471 4654
 Hauraki Plains Diabetic Support Club: Ryan Corr, Ph 07 868 8551
 Hauraki Plains Lioness Club: Jill McIntosh, Ph 07 867 7373
 Hauraki Plains Rural Show: Sonia, Ph 027 431 5825
 Hauraki Plains St John: Call or pop into the Op Shop, Ph 07 867 8073
 Hauraki Plains Youth Cricket: Anna Dodunski, Ph 027 466 4126
 Hauraki Vintage Machinery Club: Ph 07 887 8902 Ph 07 867 7089
 Health Groove Yoga and Mums n Bubs Yoga: Jo 021 027 48490
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 Kerepehi Women's Institute: Ph 07 867 6002 or Ph 07 868 8582
 Mahjong: Nola Walker, Ph 07 867 7301
 Music and Movement: Suzanne, Ph 07 867 7916
 Ngatea Badminton: Jenny Adams, Ph 07 867 3028
 Ngatea Chinwag Cafe: 10am-12 Tuesdays, parish hall, Darlington St
 Ngatea Community Garden: Jane, Ph 07 867 7245
 Ngatea Indoor Bowling Club: Ph 07 867 7889 or Ph 07 867 7230
 Ngatea Lions Club: Bruce Foster, Ph 021 043 9280
 Ngatea Playcentre: President, Ph 027 327 5536
 Ngatea Pony Club: Nicky Hamblyn, Ph 07 867 7078
 Ngatea Scouts: Kim Donaldson, Ph 07 867 7350
 Ngatea Women's Institute: Nola Walker, Ph 07 867 7301
 NZ Red Cross Thames: Betty Sutcliffe, Ph 07 868 6148
 NZ Society of Genealogists Thames: Pam French, Ph 07 868 6492
 Paeroa Grey Power: Linda Vickery-Pouesi, Ph 07 862 9107
 Probus: Jill McIntosh, Ph 07 867 7373
 Scrapbooking: Pam Tonks, Ph 07 867 7780
 SeniorNet Thames Valley Inc. Ngatea: Shirley Mical, Ph 07 867 5090
 St Paschal's Catholic Church: 07 867 7401 and 07 867 7056
 Tai-Chi exercise Kaiiua: Stacy, Ph 09 576 3705
 Tasty Books & Wine Tasting: Anne, Ph 07 867 3367
 Thames and District Machine Knitting Club: Ph 07 867 7165
 Thames Bonanza Club: Ph 07 868 6673
 Thames Chin Wag Cafe: Mondays 12.30pm to 2pm, 608 Queen Street
 Thames Creative Fibre Group: Kate Caldwell, Ph 027 2405 467
 Thames Dahlia Club: Paul Silvester, Ph 07 868 9346
 Thames Hauraki Parents Centre: Meike, Ph 07 867 3163
 Thames Hauraki Diabetic Support Group: Brian Corr, Ph 07 868 8551
 Thames-Hauraki Scottish Country Dance Club: Ph 09 232 7672
 Thames Lions: Monday walking group, meet 9:30am at Thames Croquet Club
 Thames Probus Club: Ph 07 868 9081
 Thames Toy Library: Lesley Ph 07 868 6274
 Thames Valley Adult Riding Club: Helen Pooley, Ph 021 233 1245
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New mural stands tall at HPC

A massive new mural has spruced up an empty space at Hauraki Plains College. The wall of the gymnasium was exposed after three prefab classrooms were removed

when a new block of classrooms was opened at the school. Graffiti artist Jonny 4Higher was commissioned to complete the mural on June 6. The mural, which is

about 6 metres tall, is based on Ngatea District High School past pupil Paul Dibble's sculpture, *Pioneer*, which stands in the Hugh Hayward Domain in Ngatea.

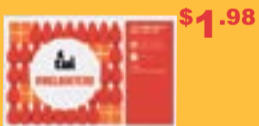
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