

Top tips for Beach Hop, P3

# The Valley Profile

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## ONE TAG AT A TIME

Paeroa man Barry Jenkinson has been ridding the town of tagging for close to a decade. **KELLEY TANTAU reports**

Barry Jenkinson has already cleaned up two lots of graffiti this morning.

They were both on a fence down one of Paeroa's back roads, and he always tries his best to get to them quickly.

For around eight or nine years, 80-year-old Barry has been ridding the town of tagging, a task that he doesn't do for the praise.

But Barry's good deed hasn't

gone unnoticed, with bystanders saying thanks, supporters donating paints, and now - a district council Onya award for his service to the community.

"I was apprehensive [about the award] to start off with, but my partner's nieces came down from Auckland, and they encouraged me to get it," he says.

Barry's partner Mae passed away around eight months ago,

and he says she always supported him getting up early to remove the graffiti around town.

He thinks his first time was wiping away tagging that was on a power box, and, more recently, he hastily got rid of graffiti that had been painted on a water tank at the Paeroa Domain, removing it before the annual Lions fireworks event kicked off and thousands of people poured in.

"It just annoys me," he says of the vandalism. "It is very disappointing. Some of it you can remove with methylated spirits, and some you have to paint over."

Barry, who is a "born and bred" Paeroa man, is a painter-decorator by trade.

When he left school at 15, he was a bricklayer, but after six months, he started painting and decorating and has been doing it for more

than 60 years.

He has a big collection of paints - most of which are donated - and he does the selfless chore of removing graffiti for free, though recipients sometimes return the favour with a free lunch.

Members of the public tell him where to find the tagging, and sometimes he sees them while driving around town.

CONTINUED ON P8

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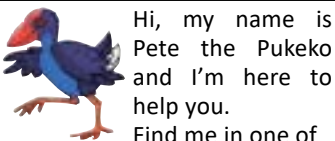
**NEWS/EDITORIAL**

**Publisher/Editor Teresa Ramsey**  
Ph 0204 0944 853  
editor@valleyprofile.co.nz  
**Senior Reporter Kelley Tantau**  
Ph 022 619 4889  
kelley@valleyprofile.co.nz  
**Reporter Gordon Preece**  
Ph 022 174 3988  
gordon@valleyprofile.co.nz

**ADVERTISING**

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# 'Boys will be boys' no longer

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

It's time to take back an idiom that "reinforces gender inequities" and flip it on its head.

The phrase "boys will be boys" is often used to express the view that poor behaviour is typical of young men and should not cause surprise when it occurs.

But Sally Christie, from the Hauraki Family Violence Intervention Network, says it's an expression that shuts down conversation and needs to have a new meaning.

"Boys are often uncomfortable about what other people are saying and want to talk about it, but the pressure from their peers and elders is so strong, and that's what we have to change," she said.

White Ribbon Day is on Friday, November 25 and is an international day when people wear a white ribbon to show that they do not condone violence towards women. According to White Ribbon New Zealand, there are more than 3,500 convictions recorded against men for assaults on women, while one in five women will experience sexual assault or sexual interference at some point in their lives.

This year, the campaign aims to promote healthy masculinity by taking back the phrase that excuses poor behaviour: 'boys will be boys'.

"These hyper-masculine stereotypes hurt men as well as women," Sally said. "If men don't fit the mould or feel uncomfortable about it, then where are they



Sally Christie from the Hauraki Family Violence Intervention Network says White Ribbon Day is a perfect way to raise awareness. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

left? And these are our brothers, and fathers, and kids. Men aren't thriving in this culture, so it's not about women wanting it different for us, we want it different for them."

According to research conducted by the University of Auckland through workshops with secondary school boys and young men in Tāmaki Makaurau, some of society's key ideas for what it meant to be a man gave boys "a narrow and limiting model for how they should be and act in the world".

It said that boys' friendship groups, and the importance of peer group loyalty and belonging, were powerful influences on behaviour.

"I want men to be able to say something like: 'I'm not going to have a beer tonight, I'm going to go home and take my kids for a bike ride' and for other men to support that and not say: 'You must be under the thumb,'" Sally

said. "But if the pressure in the group is too strong to do it then - do it later. Practise individually supporting somebody and then move into a wider group. No one gets to kick goals like Dan Carter without a huge amount of practise - and we're allowed to practise."

Sally said White Ribbon Day was a "perfect" way to raise awareness, but thought needed to be given on how to acknowledge it for the other 364 days of the year. "There is always a possibility for change, and I have huge faith in the younger generations thinking differently to mine, and being able to celebrate differences more than we ever did."

**DETAILS: For help or further information, contact Sally Christie at sallychristie@hfvin.co.nz or visit whiteribbon.org.nz and www.shiftingtheline.ac.nz**



# Gas, fast-food at Kōpū

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

A piece of flat land in Kōpū will soon be used to house a service centre "hub" - with a new BP gas station and a "quick service restaurant".

BP Oil NZ Limited applied for a resource consent application with Thames-Coromandel District Council back in May, 2021.

The application was approved last month and construction has since started at the site. According to the consent application, the new BP and fast-food restaurant will be located at 108 Kōpū Rd, on the western corner of the SH25 and SH26 roundabout.

The service station will feature one BP Connect shop and one petrol filling forecourt area consisting of eight double-sided fuel pumps; a car wash; an air and vacuum station and electric vehicle charging station; and two 100,000 litre underground tanks, holding Diesel, 91, 95 and 98 fuels.

In addition to the service station, the applicant proposes to construct a "quick service restaurant" on the eastern portion of the site, creating a service "hub" for passing travellers.

As no agreement has been entered into with a quick service provider such as McDonald's, Burger King, or KFC, the proposal remains generic but will be comprised of: a two storey building housing the restaurant which features a mezzanine dining level; a two-lane drive-through ordering system located clockwise around the restaurant; as well as 20 car parks.

The restaurant is proposed to operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



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Wed Nov 23	Thu Nov 24	Fri Nov 25	Sat Nov 26	Sun Nov 27	Mon Nov 28	Tue Nov 29
 Morning: 12:55am 0.7, 7:18am 3.4 Afternoon: 1:17pm 0.7, 7:22pm 3.4	 Morning: 1:43am 0.5, 8:06am 3.5 Afternoon: 2:05pm 0.6, 8:13pm 3.5	 Morning: 2:31am 0.4, 8:53am 3.7 Afternoon: 2:53pm 0.5, 9:04pm 3.6	 Morning: 3:18am 0.3, 9:40am 3.7 Afternoon: 3:42pm 0.5, 9:56pm 3.6	 Morning: 4:06am 0.3, 10:29am 3.8 Afternoon: 4:33pm 0.5, 10:48pm 3.6	 Morning: 4:55am 0.3, 11:20am 3.7 Afternoon: 5:27pm 0.5, 11:41pm 3.5	 Morning: 5:45am 0.4, 12:14pm 3.7 Afternoon: 6:23pm 0.6
 5:55am 8:14pm	 5:54am 8:15pm	 5:54am 8:16pm	 5:53am 8:17pm	 5:53am 8:18pm	 5:53am 8:19pm	 5:52am 8:20pm
 Best At 12:09pm	 Best At 12:36am 1:05pm	 Best At 1:35am 2:06pm	 Best At 2:38am 3:11pm	 Best At 3:44am 4:16pm	 Best At 4:48am 5:19pm	 Best At 5:48am 6:17pm
 Rise 5:06am, Set 7:25pm	 Rise 5:42am, Set 8:40pm	 Rise 6:26am, Set 9:52pm	 Rise 7:21am, Set 11:01pm	 Rise 8:26am	 Set 12:01am, Rise 9:38am	 Set 12:52am, Rise 10:52am

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Whitianga	-0	01	-0	06
Tairua	+0	10	+0	21
Whangamata	-0	03	-0	05
Waihi Beach	-0	12	-0	12



# Becoming Beach Hop ready, rain or shine

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

When gearing up for the country's largest rock and roll festival, which spans five days and four towns, there has to be a consideration of what hairstyle will withstand the elements.

"Everything is weather dependent. The car is weather dependent, hair is weather dependent... but even if it's raining, if there's enough hairspray in it, it's not going to waver."

Katie McLaren is a Paeroa pin-up and rock 'n' roll dancer well-known for wearing vintage outfits on the daily.

She will be in her element at the Repco Beach Hop, which kicks off in Waihi on November 23, before cruising to Thames, Onemana, and Whangamata.

"I find it hard to pinpoint just one thing to look forward to, but I really enjoy interacting with people from that community," she told *The Profile*.

"You spend five days doing it and when you get to Monday and Tuesday, you get the glitter crash, where you feel a little bit sad and lonely because you were all of a sudden engrossed in this scene."

Katie will compete in the Best Dressed Fashion Show at the Waihi warm-up party on Wednesday, before participating in the cruise-ins to other towns in her uncle's 1936 Ford Roadster.

Her top tip for fashioning a hair-do that can withstand the fickle weather? Start with a head scarf.

"I have a very big scarf obses-



Katie McLaren, a pin-up from Paeroa, will be in her element at the Repco Beach Hop this week.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

sion," she said. "I always buy scarves from op shops because they're only \$2 or so... and I quite frequently get sucked in and come out with four or five scarves."

Katie said an outfit worthy of Beach Hop can all start with a head scarf - just pick a colour and build an outfit around it.

Alternatively, high-waisted jeans, a black jacket, and a victory roll or pony tail can transport

women to the rockabilly era, while suspenders and cheese cutter hats, collared shirts and slicked back hair can make a man suit his surroundings.

"Don't be shy about it," Katie said.

"There are so many places where you can find inspiration. If you're a social media mogul, there's Facebook, Instagram, and Pinterest, and YouTube has heaps of videos

on how you can style your hair."

For Katie, whose wardrobe is full of swing dresses and chunky bracelets and brooches, Beach Hop fashion is an everyday thing, and she said she would love to inspire more people to step back into the more "sophisticated" style of clothing.

"The fashion that's coming back is 90s style, and it's very reminiscent for me - I was a kid in the 90s

and we'd always wear crop tops and boyfriend baggy jeans. I'm not a massive fan of modern fashion though," she said. "I never really had a place in fashion until now."

**DETAILS: Established back in 2000, Beach Hop has brought thousands of Kiwis together for its annual festival. For info, visit: beachhop.co.nz.**



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Around 20 people took part in the Pink Walk.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

## Walkers pretty in pink

Around 20 people donned their pink outfits on November 17 for the annual Zonta Club of Thames Valley Pink Walk from The Wharf to Kuranui Bay.

President Rosaleen Ward told *The Profile* the event was about encouraging the community to participate, raise breast cancer awareness and raise funds for the Breast Cancer Foundation.

"Zonta is an international organisation and we seek to raise awareness of women's issues and girls' issues and increase opportunities for women and girls," she said.

"Many of the women in this community have friends and family who have been affected overtime by breast cancer and now due to the much more modern treatments we have a better survival rate.

"We think it is a really great cause for women to support and [the foundation]

have a lot of great programmes, they do great research, and they also do a lot of advocacy work with the health department and the different parts of central government."

Rosaleen said this year's pink walk raised \$280 for the Breast Cancer Foundation. "They are very grateful for any funds we can raise, our funds go towards their programmes and their research and one of the things that happened recently is there's a new bill in Parliament," she said.

"[Dr] Shane Reti has advocated for raising the age of screening for women up to 74 years old and we think that's really great."

National Party health spokesperson Dr Reti said the private member's Bill to legislate an increase in the breast cancer screening age from 69 to 74 was added to the ballot box in October.

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Sooz Gilmer, left, and her son Hayden at Gothica Baby fashion store. Photo: NIKKI SANDERS

## Get your goth on

A gothic fashion store at Goldfields Mall has emerged from the dark shadows.

Gothica Baby owner Sooz Gilmer said she began selling homemade gothic jewellery, bags and t-shirts on Trade Me seven years ago and decided the time was right to sell her wares from a physical store. "Goth is how I've always been, I grew up when punk was starting to hit the British theme and I liked the fashion," she said.

"I'm hoping [customers] will be intrigued by our range of products, because I definitely think there is a market for what we're selling.

"There is gothic and natural stone jewellery, we have t-shirts that have been printed with my son Hayden's original artwork, and we also have some bags printed with his artwork."

Sooz, who also co-owns Gilmer Farms at Whakatete Bay, said the store was also a way to keep her son employed.

"I had been employing Hayden for the last couple of years to be my farm helper and he reignited a back injury and it took a very long time to heal," she said.

"I thought about what else we could do to continue to employ him and thought I could possibly have a shop.

"I had already met John [Freer] through the Rotary Farmers Market so I contacted him and asked if we could have a pop up shop in the mall and he said 'absolutely'."

Sooz said the store would be open for at least six months and planned to move into a bigger store with more items afterwards.

"We'd like to get into more clothing and shoes and create a specialty store for people who aren't into bling," she said.

Sooz said a website for her store was also available where her daughter Zoe modelled the stockings, gloves, sunglasses and some of the jewellery.



# New chair sparked by Santa Parade

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

The new chair of Positive Paeroa has had just six weeks to prepare and plan the town's popular Santa Parade.

And while it has been overwhelming, Janella Munns said she wouldn't have it any other way.

"It didn't phase me because I wanted the Christmas Parade to go ahead - the community doesn't need to miss out," she told *The Profile*. "That's one of the main reasons why I put my hat in the ring to be chairperson."

Last year, Paeroa's Santa Parade was cancelled due to the uncertainty surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic, with the society saying at the time it "agonised" over the decision.

But the town promoters needed a fresh committee to commit to putting on a parade this year, and one was established - with Janella as its chair - on October 26.

With the parade set for December 2, that's given her just over a month to get it established - a task made easier thanks to her former Positive Paeroa chairs, including Jo Tilsley who was the society's town promoter from August, 2012 to June, 2021.

"We're not reinventing the wheel because the past promoters have left everything there for us to pick up and run with," Janella said.



Business owner and advocate Janella Munns is Positive Paeroa's new chair.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

"We've been very lucky that Jo has documented everything and she is always only a phone call away. She's given us deadlines, she's given us contacts, and that's the sort of community we live in. Everyone wants this Christmas Parade as much as we do."

At the 2020 parade, Janella could be seen representing her business, Splinta's Firewood, wearing her wedding dress while walking the route as a fairy.

With a second business now under her belt - TreeShapes - as well as five children of her own,

Janella said her new voluntary role was easy to juggle because of her passion for Paeroa.

"I want to be able to show my family that it is okay to put your hand up and help in the community; it is okay to be seen as being positive.

"My mum was in the Santa

parades - she was in the pipe band - and we were so proud on the sidelines knowing that it was our mum leading the parade," she said.

"I'm not doing it for Splinta, I'm not doing it for TreeShapes, I'm doing it for the community and hope my kids will look up to me."

The new Positive Paeroa committee is also made up of Matt Bowie, Barbara Berry, Donna Jamieson, new Paeroa Four Square owner Tim Watts, and Grant Bowen - who is deputy chair.

Looking ahead, Janella has a goal to not only brighten up the town's main street, but she also hopes to have the L&P bottle in Ohinemuri Park repainted in time for Christmas.

"Like everybody, we've made it through Covid, we've got a smile on our face, and now we want to promote Paeroa in the most positive way," she said.

"We have got plans in the pipeline for next year - we can only go forwards."

**DETAILS: The Paeroa Santa Parade will be held on Friday, December 2, 6pm start from beside One3One (cnr Arney and Princes Sts), and will continue up SH2 before heading into the Paeroa Domain. If you have a float, walking group, or vehicle group that wants to be part of the parade, you can register by email to enquiries@paeroa.org.nz.**



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# Share joy through Christmas toy appeal

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

It's that time of year when a group of Santa's helpers wrap and distribute presents donated by kind-hearted residents eager to share the Christmas spirit.

The Paeroa Baptist Church is once again organising its annual Christmas Toy Appeal, and locals are being asked to drop unwrapped gifts under a tree in the Paeroa Information Hub before December 6.

Co-ordinator Jill Robertson said the appeal remained a much-needed precursor to Christmas.

"When I came on-board I didn't realise, looking from the outside-in, how much of a community thing this is," she told *The Profile*.

"The communication we've had from interested parties has been a real confirmation that there is a need in the community, and I'm excited about working with the community on this."

A dedicated team of volunteers will be wrapping the donated presents on December 9, before the gifts get distributed to around 20 organisations who supply the volunteers with names and ages of the young



Lois Waugh helped out with the wrapping last year.

File photo: KELLEY TANTAU

recipients. Gifts are given to children from babies to 12 years, and Jill - who is a retired teacher - can't imagine there will be a shortage of volunteers willing to help out this year.

"This is about being able to share, and everyone is bringing something to the table," she said.

"The parents are bringing their precious children to the table, and that allows us to share what we've got... so, it's not a soup kitchen, but more like a potluck."

Jill also had advice for people wanting to donate a gift, but didn't know where to start.

"How I thought about it was: when you're buying for your children or grandchildren, just buy an extra gift if you can. These kids are really appreciative and they deserve just as much as our kids and grand-kids," she said.

**DETAILS: Donated gifts are to be new or in excellent condition, and donations of wrapping paper is also gratefully accepted. Drop-off is at the Paeroa Info Hub in the centre of town. Place unwrapped gifts under the Christmas tree by Tuesday, December 6.**



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# Anna hangs up country music hat

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

Winning a country music competition was a touching goodbye for a singer who will now turn her attention towards other genres.

Anna Tukuitoga, 18, has been involved with the country music scene for more than a decade, but as the Paeroa singer wraps up her schooling at Hauraki Plains College, she's looking forward to focusing on other musical forms.

"I'm looking at going to Massey University, studying commercial music and majoring in music practice, so I think I'm going to take a step away from country music a bit and explore all types of music genres," she told The Profile.

"I'm excited but I don't know how to feel. It's just the idea of growing up, because country music has been such a big part of my life for so many years, and going down to Wellington is going to be so different."

Anna was only five-years-old when she became part of a musical trio established by her then-babysitter.

"She heard me singing in her garage one day, and asked if I could sing for her, so I sang and we formed a group with her grandkids," she said.



Anna Tukuitoga, left, alongside Alyssa Martinovich and Chloe Watson, formed a trio called Rodeo and won big at an entertainment awards night.

Photo: SUPPLIED

It's fitting then, that in Anna's final country music competition, she was part of a trio called Rodeo.

The group - made up of Alys-

sa Martinovich and former Hauraki Plains College student Chloe Watson - was only formed in June this year when they competed at the Waikato

Country Music Awards in Putaruru, winning the overall intermediate section as well as the open duo/group section.

This gave the trio entrance

into the New Zealand Country Music Association's Entertainer of the Year Awards, held at the Bethlehem College Performing Arts Centre in Tauranga in October.

Rodeo won the intermediate section, and Anna said it was an "amazing experience".

"It's so refreshing to see younger kids come through in country music, considering country music is very unique and not a very 'trendy' genre for most teens these days," she said.

"I'm so proud of the girls because when we first started out in Putaruru, we were quite unsure of each other; we lacked that connection and passion, but we all built it up by growing our confidence."

The trio sang two songs: Your Side Of Town by Maddie & Tae, and Young Love by The Judds.

Now, banjo-playing Anna said she might take a step to the side and focus on performing bluegrass music, but she says country music is in good hands.

"If the North Island and the South Island come together more, then we're in good hands... it's inevitable."



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# Shorebird Centre book takes flight

By GORDON PREECE

Keith Woodley hopes his new book about his nest for 29 years has something for everyone.

The resident manager of the Pūkoro Mirānda Shorebird Centre said *In Pursuit of Champions: The Inspiring story of the Pūkoro Mirānda Shorebird Centre* was his third tale after publishing *Godwits: Long Haul Champions* in 2009 and *Shorebirds of New Zealand: Sharing the Margins* in 2012.

"It's an updated history of the Pūkoro Mirānda Shorebird Naturalists' Trust, which has been going since 1975, and the story of the shorebird centre, which opened in 1990," he said.

"The shorebird centre itself, we see it as a community resource that's available for people to make use of for various functions.

"It's also an account of my time here as a resident manager, so I think a lot of people in the region would find something of interest in the story."

Keith, who was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) in this year's Queen's Birthday and Platinum Jubilee Honours, said he migrated to the centre from the Kāpiti Coast in 1993.

"I became interested in birds and the people at the trust had become aware I might be available," he said.

"They wanted someone to come and live at the place to keep the place open permanently.



Keith Woodley's 29 years at the Pūkoro Mirānda Shorebird Centre is highlighted in his new book.

Photo: SUPPLIED/LUKE APPLEBY

"Initially no one knew how long I would be here, I thought it might be a few months to a couple of years but didn't know it would be decades."

Keith swapped his binoculars with writing materials for the new book four or five years ago and the final manuscript was flocked to publisher Sherlock & Co earlier this year.

"[The book] charts the people behind the trust, the early founders back in the 1970s and 1980s who saw the need for a place of some sort on the Pūkoro

coast for a further study of shorebirds and the need to educate people about our shorebirds," he said.

"There's been about 43 species seen on the Firth of Thames historically but we're also currently involved in a restoration project on the coast and a number of other activities.

"So we see ourselves as casting a watchful eye over the natural world in this region."

Keith said the trust founders were Dick Sibson, Sylvia Reed, Beth Brown and Ronald Lockley.

"There's also another theme in the book which charts the godwit story and the revelations about what these birds are doing," he said.

"The trust has been connected for many years in China, South Korea, North Korea and Alaska where these birds stop, refuel and breed."

Keith said a launch for his new book was held at the shorebird centre on November 19 and a second launch was planned at Carson's Bookshop on November 27 at 12:30pm.

# Cleaning up Paeroa

CONTINUED FROM P1

Over the recent Labour Day long weekend, he cleaned up 10 different tags. On a normal week, he averages around three or four.

"I try to do it when it's fine, and I like to get it off as soon as possible," he says. "It has slowed down a lot in the last three-four weeks."

Barry says the Onya award, given to him at a special ceremony on November 9, is the first award he has received for his community service.

He wanted to thank those who nominated him for the award, and those who turned up to celebrate with him on the night.

Hauraki District Council said it removed graffiti on council-owned assets, such as public toilets, bridges, and in parks. In the past six months, graffiti and vandalism in general had escalated, particularly in Paeroa, with staff spending "hundreds of hours" each year to stay on top of it.

Without Barry doing his work, the town would be noticeably worse off when it came to tagging, Mayor Toby Adams said.

"We get that graffiti is a form of self-expression, but tagging and vandalism costs everyone.

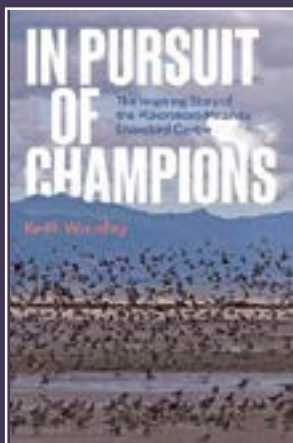
"We're very proud of Barry's commitment to his community and the difference that he makes. We can all learn a lot about that sense of duty to our community and showing respect for our place in it."



## BOOK LAUNCH EVENT

In Pursuit of Champions: The Inspiring story of the Pukoro Mirānda Shorebird Centre.

by Keith Woodley



'Keith Woodley serves as a kind of Gandalf of the estuarine wonderland of the Miranda shorebird colony, an all-knowing birding wizard who is alert to its magic in this fresh and always fascinating history.' - Steve Braunias

When: 12:30pm - Sunday 27 November

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# Local landscapes captured from air

By TALLIS AUSTEN, Paeroa College student

Growing up in Turua, 24-year-old former Hauraki Plains student Luke Mitchell always had an interest in photography.

What started as a love of taking pictures of nature and wildlife as a child blossomed into a talent and passion for capturing the world and landscapes around him.

Luke, who lives in Kerepēhi, describes himself as a hands-on learner.

During his time at college he developed his skills by photographing school sport events and mastering the art of aerial shots with a drone he bought himself.

It was through this development that he decided his personal style was better suited to sports and landscape photography.

“If I wanted to learn something new, I would read articles, watch online tutorials and keep trying until the photo turned out how I imagined it,” he said.

Since he left college in 2015, he’s been working full time at Pohutukawa Frame and Truss in Kerepēhi, but he spends his free time getting outside and doing what’s important to him.

“The hardest part of it all is balancing work and life around my photography - I always want



Photographer Luke Mitchell captures Paeroa from a drone.

Photo: SUPPLIED/LUKE MITCHELL

to be out with the amazing sunsets we get on the east coast or stay up during the night to capture the night sky.”

Luke has always drawn inspiration from the local landscape; he feels that his time spent outdoors with his camera is a space to escape into his own world and finds that this is when he produces his most natural photographs.

“When I want to go to a certain area or photograph a certain subject, I usually do it unplanned for the day and location. I find doing it this way is more enjoyable,” he said.

“Photography can start from anything that has a camera these days, just being out there capturing the moments is the

main thing. “Finding something that you enjoy taking photos of until you start getting photos that you admire.”

**DETAILS: Luke shares his work and a look behind the camera as he travels around different local towns on Facebook at Chilled edge photography and instagram at @chilled\_edge.**

## In Brief

### MOTORCYCLE PARKING

The Ulysses Waihi-Thames Valley branch will be offering parking for motorcycles attending the Beach Hop in Thames on Thursday, November 24. This will be at St George’s Church on the corner of Mary and Mackay Streets. The group will be asking for a “paper donation”, be it a \$5, \$10 or \$20 note, with half of all funds raised going to the preservation of the church and the second half going to the Hospice in Thames. Storage for gear will also be provided.

### KAIUA SEASIDE MARKET

The Kaiaua foreshore will be alive with the sound of music for the Kaiaua Seaside Twilight Market on Sunday, December 11 between 3pm-8.30pm. The Kerepehi Brass Band will perform, so bring your picnic chairs and blankets to enjoy the show. The Kaiaua Fire Station crew will be manning the barbecue, and the Garden Circle group will have a plant stall. All proceeds will go to the Kerepehi Brass Band.

### AWARD FINALISTS

Congratulations to Janet Mischewski (head coach at Thames Gymsports), Ride Coromandel Bike Park - Spirit of Coromandel Trust, and Whitianga Skate School who are finalists in the 2022 Waikato Sport and Active Recreation Awards. They’ve been invited to the Let’s Move Waikato event on Thursday, January 26, 2023 where the winners will be announced.

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# Death from drinking after 'goose chase'



As part of a Valley Profile series, MEGHAN HAWKES explores our local history by seeking out stories of life and death in the Thames Valley

Destitute gum diggers and bushmen in the Hikutaia ranges troubled Robert Raw, the Neavesville Hotel's licensee.

The previous Christmas a bushman, said to be of unsound mind and penniless, had been roaming about the hills. A policeman was dispatched to make inquiries. Since then, a lost gum digger at Neavesville had re-appeared, exhausted and wearing only a singlet. He had been drinking for ten days, and then, feeling very ill, drank half a bottle of painkiller. He left his hut, and from then until the time he arrived back in camp he remembered nothing. A few months later an old gum digger, 'Man-o-War Jack', was found lying unwell in his whare in the ranges. Sergeant Gillies consulted the Thames Charitable Aid Board, and men with a trap and two horses were sent to Hikutaia to retrieve him.

Charitable Aid Boards, established in 1885, distributed food rations, medicine and hospital treatment to the destitute.

It also admitted the sick, incur-



The Tairua ranges, looking eastward from Neavesville, 1896. Photo: SUPPLIED

able, elderly, and orphaned or neglected children to various institutions. It was to the Thames Charitable Aid Board in July, 1892, that Robert Raw reported two more cases of sick and impoverished gum diggers stranded the Hikutaia ranges.

The first, named Flynn, was in a distressed condition and needed to go to hospital. The second, named Mason, lay in his hut, did not work and was in a ragged, dirty state. Robert Raw said that Mason was not right in the head and would probably be found dead in his bed some day if nothing was done to help him. The Board took prompt steps to have the two sufferers brought to Thames.

On arriving at Flynn's hut it was discovered that the case had been greatly exaggerated, as he was quite well enough to have found his way to the hospital without putting the Board to the expense of conveying him there. Constable Hinton considered the report a "gross case of imposture." At the Brothers' Camp, Neavesville, Mason was found to be in good health and well able to work. Mason said he did not want any as-

sistance from anybody, was not destitute and could earn his own living. He had 70lbs of gum in his whare and was going to carry it to Puriri that day to sell it.

A long conversation was held with this man but nothing was found the matter with him. It appeared the Board had been put to the trouble and expense of a wild goose chase.

It seemed the object of those providing information was to get undesirable residents removed from their district. The Charitable Aid Board decided to have the press publish their concerns and publicly censure Robert Raw for circulating the reports.

Ironically Robert's own situation may have benefited from the involvement of Charitable Aid. In 1896 he left his wife Jean, 63, in charge of the Neavesville Hotel for about a fortnight while he was in Auckland on business. When he returned he found her in the 'horrors from drink'. She had been in a continual state of drunkenness since he left. She died three days later, without having medical aid, and was buried at Shortland cemetery.

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Messiah at St George's

St George's Community choir is excited to at last be performing Handel's *Messiah*. Rehearsals were stopped twice because of Covid-19, but the performances are still able to commemorate the 150th year reunion of the formal opening of St George's church in January, 1872.

Auckland Choral Society performed *The Messiah* in December, 1871, in the yet to be completed St George's church, a beautiful Victorian building that is as significant today as it was in the gold rush days. This well established choir appreciates being able to rehearse and perform in the church, which is known for its wonderful acoustics. Handel composed this oratorio in 1741, and it has since become one of the best known and most frequently performed choral works, often performed at Christmas time.

All the soloists are professionals with extensive singing careers. Elisha Hulton, mezzo soprano from Rotorua, was a soloist in 2017 and

is pleased to be performing with the choir again. Gina Sanders, soprano, from Auckland, and Iain Tetley, tenor, from Whanganui, have also sung with the choir in previous years. New to performing with St George's Choir is baritone Samuel McKeever from Wellington. Michael Bell, who is well-known for his talented performances on the organ at St George's, is accompanying the choir along with an orchestra of mainly local musicians. Dr Nichola Voice who performs under the name of Nichola Genn Harris is the Musical Director and Conductor.

With a choir of more than fifty singers, plus a sixteen piece orchestra, and an accomplished organist and professional soloists, these performances promise to be memorable occasions.

**DETAILS: November 26 at 7pm and November 27 at 2pm. Tickets: \$25 from Carson's Bookshop. Primary School-age free. Door sales available.**



St George's Community Choir will perform *Messiah*.

Photo: SUPPLIED

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# Rural Life

## Team creates community garden in Paeroa

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

Paeroa will soon have its own community garden thanks to a committed group of people passionate about providing māra kai to the public.

A site has been secured and dotted lines have been signed, and now it is hoped putting spades to soil is not too far away for Gypsy Roberts, Chris Maddern, Hinemoana Collier and Lois Waugh.

The four women are part of the planning and management team behind the Paeroa Community Garden, which will be located in Leach's Field, off Neil St.

It's been a six month hard slog for the group, but as Hinemoana told *The Profile*: "Short-term sacrifices make for a long-term reward".

The location of the māra [garden] is on Hauraki District Council land, and in September, elected members officially acknowledged their support of the project, granting the group \$1000 to help with the garden's establishment.

"I knew that vegetables were getting expensive, and there's a lot of people in this community who can't grow their own," committee member Chris Maddern said, "but there's [a garden] in Ngātea and so I thought: 'Why can't we have one here?'"



Gypsy Roberts, Chris Maddern, Hinemoana Collier, and Lois Waugh are part of the team creating a community garden in Paeroa. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

The intention is to set up the māra in Leach's Field as a "motherhood", with hopes that sister gardens can be established on other council reserves around town.

The location for the first garden was chosen because it was centrally located and access was easy and flat; the size of the space was suit-

able; it had a council water supply; and it had clean, fertile soil.

It will provide fruit trees and flowers, raised beds and pathways, as well as opportunities for educational, mental, and physical development.

Gypsy Roberts is a Hauraki Healthy Families systems inno-

vator with Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki. She said as part of Healthy Families' overarching vision, a community garden supported the prevention of chronic illnesses within the rohe.

"A lot of our other locations have been part of the development of community gardens... and the vi-

sion of the Paeroa garden is about supporting the sustainability of whānau and community through the sharing of māra kai."

The garden will also reduce organic waste through "robust composting techniques".

The group is still waiting on the finalisation of logistics such as fencing and groundwork, but looking ahead, they are excited to see youth, families, and locals utilising what will one day be a bountiful space.

"We've definitely got a long-term vision," Gypsy said.

"I think in small towns at the moment, unless you're part of a sports team or connected in some way, it can be isolating. The biggest thing from the garden is feeding our people, but we're also going to get more social connection as well."

The garden has been supported by organisations and locals, including Tony Coombe, Scotty's Tyres, Country Dog Garden Centre, Hauraki Reuse and Recycling Centre, Paeroa Concrete, Goldfields School, Hard Scapes, and Te Korowai.

**DETAILS:** To keep up to date, find Paeroa Community Gardens on Facebook or email [paeroacommunitygardens@gmail.com](mailto:paeroacommunitygardens@gmail.com).



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# Student Life

ADVERTISING FEATURE

## ‘Realising passions’

St Joseph’s Catholic School in Paeroa recently held a Careers Week in response to a review at the school which resulted in a new vision: ‘Realising our Passions’. Principal Emalene Cull said the aim of the week was not just about different kinds of jobs, but most importantly, it was about tamariki connecting with people who had passions that turned into careers. After a video message from Hon Chris Hipkins, the students had in-person and online visits from NZ Defence Forces, St John Ambulance, Auckland Zoo, NZ Police, and a Fonterra milk truck. They also met with singer-songwriter Eugene Temara (Origin Roots Aotearoa), Sr Jane Maisey (artist and Josephite sister) and also Kiwi chef Simon Gault. “This was a fantastic week of learning,” Emalene said. “Real, authentic, engaging and inspiring. The message about being passion-driven came across strongly to all our tamariki.”



A student gets behind the wheel of the Fonterra milk truck.



A student tries on a St John ambulance helmet for size.

Photos: SUPPLIED



St John ambulance, left, and Fonterra were part of the day’s activities.



## More support for students

Another 47,000 students will be able to access additional support through the school donations scheme, and a further 3000 kids will be able to get free and healthy school lunches as a result of the Equity Index.

That’s on top of nearly 90 per cent of schools that will also see a bump in funding when schools start receiving equity funding based on the Equity Index rather than the old decile system.

Education Minister Chris Hipkins said alongside the resulting changes to the school donations scheme and healthy school lunches, up to \$90 million in additional funding and support is going directly to schools and kura next year.

“What the Equity Index does is give us a much better picture based on much better data of which students need extra resources, and because of that we’re able to invest more in the right places,” he said.

Associate Education Minister Jan Tinetti said the government was also increasing the amount of money contributed through the school donations policy, as well as expanding the number of schools that are eligible.

If those schools and kura join the scheme, the families and whānau of around 47,000 young people at 155 schools will no longer be asked for donations, and approximately 3000 additional children will be eligible to receive free, healthy lunches at school.

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## Welcome to 2023

- Wednesday 1st February – Year 11-Year 13 Course Confirmation. Online bookings available, further information will be emailed out.
- Thursday 2nd February – Leadership Day (Head Students and House Leaders) 9.30am – 3.00pm
- Friday 3rd February – Year 13 Day Camp and POET Training 10.00am – 3.00pm
- Tuesday 7th February – Year 9 & all new students Pōwhiri starting at 9.45am – all new students need to be at school by 9.20am. Returning Year 10 - Year 13 students school year starts at 8.40am

Enrolments for new students from Tuesday 31st January 2023

### Uniform Shop and Chromebook Distribution:

31st January – 2nd February 2023 8.30am – 3.30pm  
School is closed 30th January – Auckland Anniversary Day  
6th February – Waitangi Day



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# Statue progress flies high

By GORDON PREECE

A private viewing of a statue of Thames born air marshal Sir Keith Park is opened for boarding on November 23.

Sir Keith Park Memorial Airfield Inc president Geoff Furkert told The Profile the 2.3m tall statue had been sculpted by Joanne Sullivan at her Helensville studio, and he had invited the 29 members of his society and statue donors to view it.

“The thought [for the visit] came from Joanne herself to raise the profile a little bit and have some sort of function before the clay model goes off to the foundry [in China for bronze casting],” he said.

Mr Furkert said the reason for the statue was to gain greater recognition and acknowledgement of morals and values set by Sir Keith.

“Above all he was compassionate, he spent time talking to people that he was associated with at all levels to make sure he really understood what was going on in that particular organisation,” he said.

“That’s a very strong role model for our current generations and we would like to see that promoted in Thames by this memorial.

“It also becomes part of the scene in the Coromandel, we’re already getting quite a

steady stream of people coming to have a look at the plane memorial and get an understanding of Sir Keith Park and that would probably intensify.”

Joanne told *The Profile* she hoped the invited visitors would be happy with her progress on the statue.

“I’m hoping they will be very happy with it, I’ve had some tremendously good comments on it and I’ve been eyeballed by a couple of people who ar-

*“I knew a little bit about the history knowing way back in school years that he won the Battle of Britain.”*

- Joanne Sullivan

kind of in the know.

Joanne said she was approached by Geoff Furkert in October 2020 to ask if she would be interested in creating the sculpture of Sir Keith Park.

“I knew a little bit about the history knowing way back in school years that he won the Battle of Britain,” she said.

“I then came up with a concept and presented the project and the bronze casting process to the [Sir Keith Park Memorial Airfield] committee a couple of months later.”

Joanne said she was then commissioned to construct the

statue in December, 2020, and began working on a maquette, or miniature model of the statue.

“It took some months to get the maquette done, I think it was finished in March [2021] because I went down for the Steampunk and showed it to the committee at the same time, and they were very impressed with it.”

Joanne then completed a clay model which she planned to send to a foundry in China in early December, where it will be made into a silicone rubber mould and poured over with wax.

“Providing the funds are available, the rough waxes will be here in early January and I will work the detail into the wax and resculpt the entire sculpture in wax,” she said.

“I will then ship them back to the foundry in late February, and they will start the bronze casting process.”

The finished bronze statue was expected to be returned to New Zealand in late July or early August, depending on funding, and planned to be unveiled at Thames Airfield before next year’s Battle of Britain commemorations in September.

Joanne Sullivan with her clay model statue of Sir Keith Park. Photo: SUPPLIED



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**Period of closure:** Friday 2 December 2022, 5.30pm – 7.00pm

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- Corbett St from (Belmont Rd intersection to King St intersection)
- King St (from Corbett Road intersection to Park St intersection)

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squeeze in a T20 match before the forecast rain arrived.

Luckily the weatherman cooperated and the dedicated young players from both teams enjoyed a morning's cricket.

With most batsmen from both teams abandoning proper levels of concentration and technique, the low scoring which resulted at least made for an exciting finish as Hauraki, with two needless run outs at the end of their innings not helping the cause, just failed to chase down Hamilton Boys'



mediocre total.

With the game concluding in bright sunshine and a high level of excitement prevalent, it was agreed that another 20 over per side game would be of mutual benefit and enjoyment

to the keen young sportsmen and the supportive parents who transport and support them every week.

As was the case in the earlier game, with few exceptions, the batting skills and critical thinking processes which coaches from both teams would have been hoping to see, were somewhat lacking.

The most positive aspect of the day's play for the Hauraki Plains College team was the high standard of bowling and fielding exhibited especially

during the second encounter.

All those who were given a chance to perform did a good job and with several outstanding catches being 'pouched', Hauraki cruised to a comfortable win in game two.

Man of the Match(es) on the day would have to be Richie Gemmell for his well constructed attacking batting efforts, while his one handed slip catch off Hauraki's outstanding bowler Cooper Green, stunned everyone including himself.

- Mike Cotter



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

MEDIUM

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

EASY

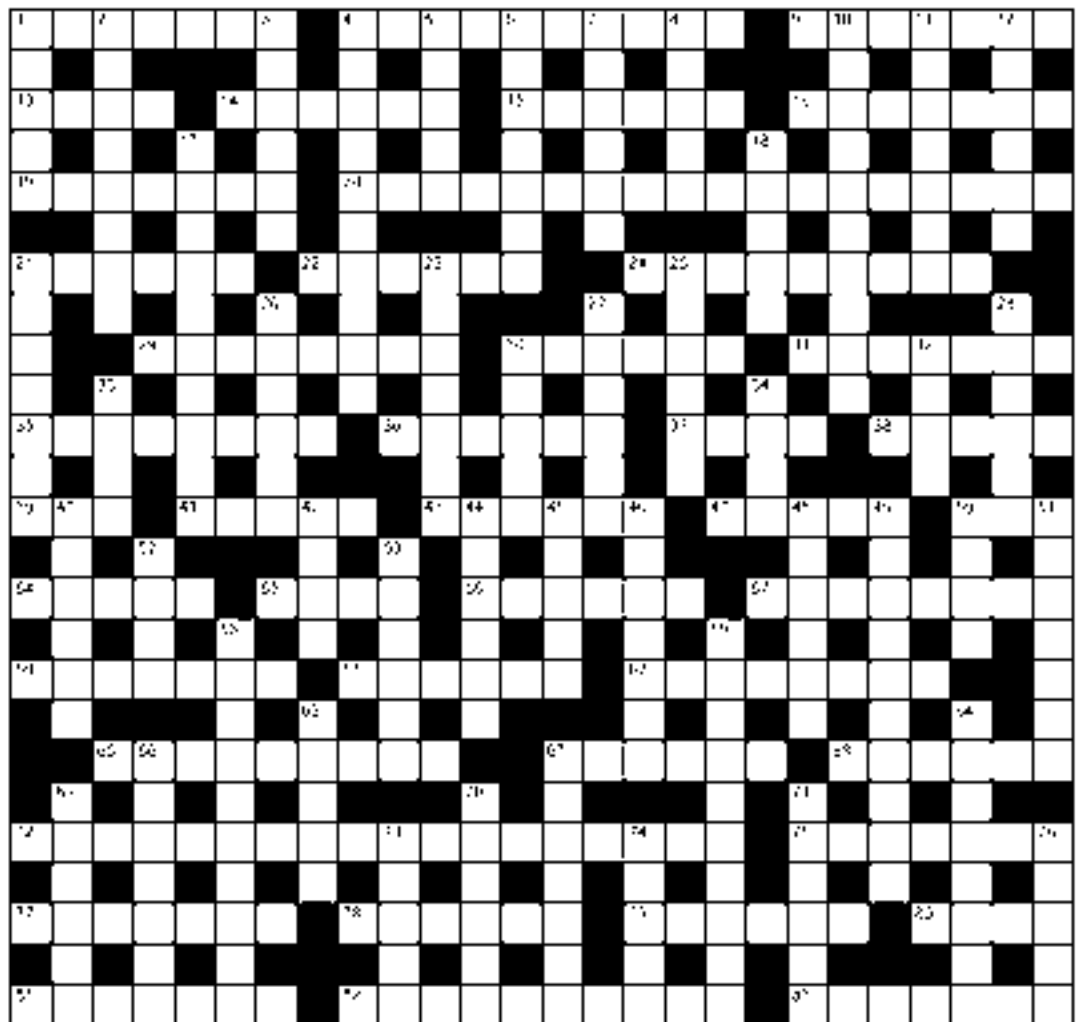
8	5	7	1	6	1	9	4	2	3
4	1	6	8	3	2	5	9	7	
2	9	3	7	4	5	1	6	8	
5	3	2	9	6	8	7	4	1	
7	8	9	1	5	4	2	3	6	
1	6	4	3	2	7	9	8	5	
3	2	8	5	9	1	6	7	4	
6	4	1	2	7	3	8	5	9	
9	7	5	4	8	6	3	1	2	

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## JUMBO CROSSWORD

97

- ACROSS**
- 1 Sketch (7)
  - 4 Business venture (10)
  - 9 Maltreating (7)
  - 13 Absent (4)
  - 14 Dash (6)
  - 15 Work out (6)
  - 16 Court decisions (7)
  - 19 Acrid gas (7)
  - 20 Completely, with nothing excluded (4,5,3,6)
  - 21 Repudiation (6)
  - 22 Camera stand (6)
  - 24 Carving (9)
  - 29 Government department (8)
  - 30 Commemorative tablet (6)
  - 31 Black-market (7)
  - 35 Breed (8)
  - 36 Imperfect (6)
  - 37 Smelter waste (4)
  - 38 Fasten (5)
  - 39 Fitting (3)
  - 41 Boisterous (5)
  - 43 Cavalcade (6)
  - 47 Roost (5)
  - 50 Toss (3)
  - 54 Flier (5)
  - 55 Retain (4)
  - 56 Prodded (6)
  - 57 Flood (8)
  - 60 Navigation instrument (7)
  - 61 Give chase (6)
  - 62 Witness (8)
  - 65 Injured with nails (9)
  - 67 Savage (6)
  - 68 Satellite state (6)
  - 72 Oppose the prevailing view (4,7,3,4)
  - 75 Survive (7)
  - 77 Room for clothes washing (7)
  - 78 Clock-regulating mineral (6)
  - 79 Lethal (6)
  - 80 Citrus fruit (4)
  - 81 Introductory music (7)
  - 82 Nonsense (10)
  - 83 Bed attire (7)
- DOWN**
- 1 Play (5)
  - 2 Scary (8)
  - 3 Distress signal (6)
  - 4 Elate (10)
  - 5 Uniform jacket (5)
  - 6 Declined to accept (7)
  - 7 Distribute sparingly (6)
  - 8 Soup, gravy base (5)
  - 10 Large buzzy fly (10)
  - 11 Trouble-maker (7)
  - 12 Lump of gold (6)
  - 17 Not known (10)
  - 18 Small rounded hill (5)
  - 21 Quandary (7)
  - 23 Wages advice (7)
  - 25 Awkward (6)
  - 26 Cricket bat wood (6)
  - 27 Frank (6)
  - 28 Sex drive (6)
  - 30 Might (5)
  - 32 Chancy; doubtful (4)
  - 33 Overabundance (4)
  - 34 Have concern (4)
  - 40 Hedge shrub (6)
  - 42 Composition for two (4)
  - 44 Grow accustomed (6)
  - 45 Stroll (5)
  - 46 Visually offensive thing (7)
  - 48 Haphazard (6)
  - 49 From now on (10)
  - 50 Rich soil (4)
  - 51 Beer factory (7)
  - 52 Boxing match (4)
  - 53 Partner (6)
  - 58 Threatened by extinction (10)
  - 59 14th-century plague (5,5)
  - 63 Hessian (5)
  - 64 Plant studier (8)
  - 66 Army officer (7)
  - 67 Cold storage (7)
  - 69 Eastern market (6)
  - 70 Looked fixedly (6)
  - 71 Dustlike grains on flower (6)
  - 73 Steam bath (5)
  - 74 Country in Asia (5)
  - 76 Topic (5)



**PREVIOUS SOLUTION**

**ACROSS:** 1 Off one's own bat, 8 Sudden, 14 Spine, 15 Gathered, 16 Tornado, 17 Patch, 18 Gnu, 19 Atheist, 21 Timetable, 22 Entice, 25 Increasing, 27 Chainsaw, 28 Pepper, 31 Sleigh, 33 Twosome, 34 Signal, 35 Next, 37 Row, 39 Ante, 40 Tankard, 41 Rebellion, 42 Yielded, 43 Restrict, 48 Domestic, 52 Militia, 56 Manifesto, 57 Stiffen, 58 Arid, 59 Lea, 60 Yank, 61 Bigamy, 62 Dolphin, 63 Eulogy, 65 Simmer, 66 Accustom, 68 Nationwide, 71 Mussel, 72 Decompose, 74 Oatmeal, 76 Woe, 79 Eyrie, 80 Shampoo, 81 Abdicate, 83 Rings, 84 Astral, 85 Slanging match.

**DOWN:** 2 Flatten, 3 Ochre, 4 Ear, 5 Odds, 6 Nothing to pay, 7 Agree, 8 Swollen, 9 Dupe, 10 Extend, 11 Siege, 12 Regular, 13 Camaraderie, 14 Shrivel, 20 Spaghetti, 23 Distinct, 24 Haggard, 26 Raiment, 27 Cloudy, 29 Predict, 30 Bamboo, 32 Lunge, 34 Swede, 36 Tonic, 38 Clue, 43 Rummy, 44 Synonym, 45 Rife, 46 Casein, 47 Slyly, 48 Definite, 49 Minnesota, 50 Swallow, 51 Icing, 52 Monarch, 53 Traditional, 54 Asylum, 55 Win hands down, 64 Measles, 65 Steward, 67 Utensil, 69 Drastic, 70 Debris, 71 Meant, 73 Pupil, 75 Mecca, 77 Beer, 78 Sari, 82 Dig.



SPORTS

# Silver kickboxing medals at world champs

By GORDON PREECE

Te Au Pounamu Warren “never planned” to roll with the punches inside kickboxing rings on the other side of the world.

The 17-year-old Paeroa College student earned two silver medals at the WKA World Kickboxing Championships in Wales in early November, and told *The Profile* he was “surprised” when he was selected in March.

“My coach Hemi Keelan grabbed most of the members at [Waihi Community Martial Arts] to try out for the WKA tournament in Auckland, it was a basic health trial, fitness testing, and pad work,” he said.

“I got in, which was surprising because my fitness is not really that good, but I think the main thing they were looking for was commitment towards the tournament or the martial art or any competition.”

Te Au Pounamu said he entered the kickboxing ring three years ago for health reasons and to develop his physical wellbeing.

“I had my gallstones removed so because of that the doctors told me I had to lose weight because it was a bit unnatural for a person my age and height,” he said.

“I kind of got into boxing because of my cousin Boston Peka, and that led me to muay thai.

“My coach asked me if I wanted a fight and I said ‘yeah sure I’ll try it out’ and now he doesn’t ask he just says ‘you’ve got a fight



Te Au Pounamu Warren said he enjoyed bonding with teams at the championships.

Photo: SUPPLIED

next week’.

Te Au Pounamu said before his world championship selection, he competed in four fights including a shot at a North Island junior boys title for openweight in September, 2021.

“[I’ve] been a lot more active and more confident - I find that a lot of people who take up sport or gym work develop more confi-

dence, and I find it fun,” he said.

“People wouldn’t really know I enjoy punching people.”

Te Au Pounamu said when he departed for Prestatyn in Wales with 40 New Zealand Kickboxing teammates and 15 supporters, including his sister Cherish Warren, he hoped to “have a good time” and meet people from different countries.

“I made friends with the Bermuda [kickboxing] team, Ireland, the USA and got to know people from our team and then hopefully to win something would be preferred but if not, just do my best,” he said.

“In Dubai we bumped into the All Black juniors, so that was cool, and we took a big photo with them so we had two New Zealand

teams on the plane [to Dublin].”

Te Au Pounamu said he competed in the 16-17-year-old boys category at the championships.

He planned to compete in muay thai and combat boxing, but due to limited fighters, he competed in the K-1 and Glory divisions.

“Both of those categories are similar, the only difference is in Glory you have five seconds in the clinch where you can just knee and in K-1 you can grab them and knee once,” he said.

Te Au Pounamu said he faced a Bermuda fighter in both divisions and despite losing two fights against him, he still earned two silver medals.

“It was kind of automatic, so that was funny and I feel a bit underwhelmed about the tournament because it was a bit disorganised but then I thought oh well, I’ll take it,” he said.

“[The New Zealand team] were stoked, any of us who won a medal they were stoked, we came over to the other side of the world just to fight but it was still even better for them if they won medals.”

Te Au Pounamu said after returning to New Zealand, he received a Hauraki District Council OnYa Sports Award on November 9 and a pōwhiri was held for him at Waihi Community Marae with his family and friends in attendance on November 11.

Te Au Pounamu said he would continue training for future kickboxing opportunities.

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