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# Happy Holidays

Santa arrives in style on a horse-drawn cart in the Thames Santa Parade on Saturday. MORE PHOTOS: P23 Photo: GORDON PREECE

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The *Valley Profile* delivers 100% local news each Wednesday to every letterbox in Hauraki Plains, Paeroa, Waihi, Thames, Thames Coast and surrounding rural areas, plus bulk distribution Peninsula-wide, reaching approximately 35,000 readers.

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# Search reopens for Sara Niethe

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

The mystery surrounding Sara Niethe and the events following her murder on March 30, 2003, could all be solved with one phone call, a private investigator has said.

The Hauraki Plains mother-of-three was killed by Mark Pakenham at his home in Kaihere almost two decades ago. In 2013, Pakenham pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of manslaughter after police recorded him saying he had fatally injected methamphetamine into Sara.

Three years later, he was released on parole but has refused to reveal where her body is, claiming that he cannot remember.

Bruce Currie, a private investigator and former Waikato CIB senior detective, said at a public meeting on December 15 that there were two main theories to the case.

The first was that Pakenham disposed of Sara and the vehicle she was driving, a 1987 Honda Civic hatchback, on his own.

"If he did it himself, he had to dispose of the vehicle and of Sara and get back home and be ready to go to work just after 7am on the Monday, so it doesn't give him a lot of time," Bruce said. "Based on that theory, the vehicle is somewhere local in Kaihere, close enough for him to walk home afterwards."

The second theory was that someone helped him, and if that was the case, Bruce encouraged



Private investigator Bruce Currie speaks to Kaihere locals about Sara Niethe's case.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

that person to anonymously contact him, saying "this could be solved with one phone call".

"There's a strong likelihood that Sara will be with the car. The car was Pakenham's huge problem on the night," Bruce said.

"What did he do with it? There's not a lot of options. Dump it over the side of a bank? He's still got to get home, and he's still got to get to work by 7:20am."

Back in the 1990s, Bruce was in charge of the Waikato Criminal Investigation Branch. After finishing up in 1999, he became

a full-time rugby coach before starting a career in private investigation, working on cases throughout New Zealand.

When Covid-19 hit, Bruce picked up the threads of Sara's case and, with the support from her family, reopened the search for her body. He is hoping to enlist help from Search and Rescue but will need the Kaihere community to come on board and assist behind the scenes.

He is also appealing to farmers, hunters, and former residents who may know a place Pakenham would be able to conceal a body for 20 years.

Sara's daughter, Simone Niethe, attended the public meeting and said the renewed interest in her mother's death was at times hard to overcome.

"It just opens up so much that you want to lock away," she said. "We don't want to open it up and find nothing again."

**DETAILS: Contact Bruce about the case: Ph 027 844 1349, email [bruce@mrtracer.co.nz](mailto:bruce@mrtracer.co.nz), or visit [www.mrtracer.co.nz](http://www.mrtracer.co.nz). Information can also be provided to The Profile.**



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## Thames Tides

Wed Dec 21		Thu Dec 22		Fri Dec 23		Sat Dec 24		Sun Dec 25		Mon Dec 26		Tue Dec 27	
Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon
5:49am 3.2	5:54pm 3.3	12:21am 0.7	12:48pm 0.7	1:16am 0.5	1:41pm 0.6	2:09am 0.4	2:34pm 0.5	3:00am 0.3	3:27pm 0.4	3:50am 0.2	4:20pm 0.4	4:40am 0.2	5:14pm 0.4
11:53am 0.9		6:46am 3.3	6:51pm 3.4	7:40am 3.5	7:49pm 3.5	8:32am 3.7	8:46pm 3.6	9:24am 3.8	9:42pm 3.6	10:15am 3.8	10:36pm 3.6	11:07am 3.8	11:28pm 3.6
5:54am	8:37pm	5:55am	8:38pm	5:55am	8:38pm	5:56am	8:38pm	5:56am	8:39pm	5:57am	8:39pm	5:58am	8:40pm
Best At 10:46am	Best At 11:15pm	Best At 11:45am		Best At 12:16am	Best At 12:49pm	Best At 1:22am	Best At 1:56pm	Best At 2:29am	Best At 3:02pm	Best At 3:34am	Best At 4:05pm	Best At 4:34am	Best At 5:02pm
Rise 3:33am	Set 6:11pm	Rise 4:13am	Set 7:27pm	New Moon	Rise 5:03am	Rise 6:04am	Set 9:44pm	Rise 7:15am	Set 10:40pm	Rise 8:32am	Set 11:26pm	Rise 9:49am	

\*Not for navigational purposes. Graphic supplied by OceanFun Publishing Ltd. [www.tidewiz.com](http://www.tidewiz.com) [www.tidespy.com](http://www.tidespy.com) [www.ofu.co.nz](http://www.ofu.co.nz)

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Good Fishing	Fair Fishing	Not So Good	

**TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES**  
To determine tide times at the following places, add (+) or subtract (-) the given time difference from the Thames times listed in the calendar.

PLACE	Hr	Min	Hr	Min
Coromandel	-0	05	-0	04
Whitianga	-0	01	-0	06
Tairua	+0	10	+0	21
Whangamata	-0	03	-0	05
Waihi Beach	-0	12	-0	12

# Thames history in new playground

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

Thames' first Destination Playground will give a nod to the past by incorporating an accessible boat akin to the one that used to be berthed at Porritt Park.

The designers of the playground, Philippa Muir and her daughter Renee, have been inspired to construct a space which reflects Thames' history and the needs of its community.

"We've spent a bit of time here and we've talked to a lot of people," the Auckland-based designers told *The Profile*. "We've looked at the history, we've looked at the Wakatere and we know that the boat and the lighthouse were really important before."

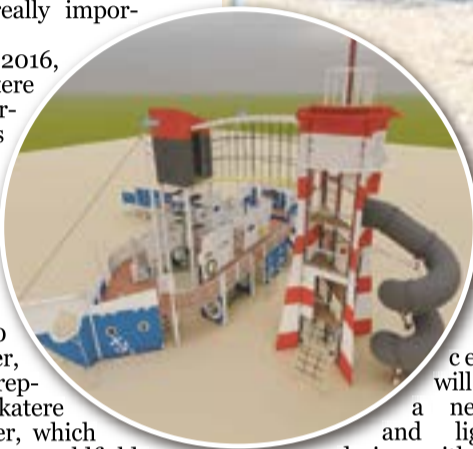
In October, 2016, the Wakatere boat at Porritt Park was dismantled to make way for a skate park. It was built by the Thames Lions Club more than 40 years earlier, and was a replica of the Wakatere paddle steamer, which linked the Thames goldfields and Auckland from 1896 until 1926.

The new playground, an innovative Destination Playground like those often seen in bigger



Playground designers Philippa and Renee Muir with their concept plan, left.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU



centres, will feature a new boat and lighthouse design, with all ages and all abilities able to use it.

The park will also feature an all-accessible carousel and seesaw, as well as water and sensory play. Construction is hoped to

kick off early next year.

"We don't want to put in elements that, for the first six months, look great and then start to deteriorate," Renee said. "What we're putting in will be able to be maintained for a long time."

The sustainability-minded designers also want to get "the best

value for money" and will reuse some of the items within the current Porritt Park playground, including the swings.

The wood chips would be used in landscaping, while items that don't get reused will be donated to kura and kōhanga reo around the area.

"We want to be able to provide

something that puts Thames on the map," Renee said.

Previously, the pair designed a destination playground in Takapuna, Auckland, which features a 9m-high tower with slides, which joins to a 7m-high climbing rope structure.

There are also in-ground trampolines, merry-go-round swings, and a giant mouse hamster wheel.

Philippa said the project was one of her proudest since establishing Future Landscapes 23 years ago.

"When you see the kids playing on it, the first thing you think of is: 'Oh my gosh, I got it right'. It's very gratifying and humbling," she said.

"Everybody gave a little in some way, and those projects are really nice. This one will be another nice one, with people giving time, supplies... it's not just a commercial job, it becomes a bit of a passion."

Thames' state-of-the-art and accessible jungle gym will be majority-funded by philanthropists, who have asked to keep their identities a secret.

It will also include a Changing Places public bathroom which meets the needs of people who cannot use standard accessible toilets.

**DETAILS:** To keep up to date, find Porritt Park Project on Facebook or email [porrittparkproject@gmail.com](mailto:porrittparkproject@gmail.com).



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# Tetra Pak recycling programme launched

By GORDON PREECE

Thames High School has combined a new breakfast club with a Tetra Pak recycling project to stop milk cartons from making it to landfill.

Ann Hoover, who is one of the organisers of both initiatives, said the breakfast club began serving students and staff in August after the school joined the nationwide Kick-Start Breakfast programme, which is a partnership between Sanitarium, Fonterra and the Ministry of Social Development.

“It’s a great way for us to build a community spirit and it’s there for anyone if they’ve missed breakfast,” she said.

“Different groups come in and out, play music, they like to get a hot drink, some love the toast and others have a little bit of Weetbix.

“I would say some days it’s as many as 25 or 30 but it fluctuates.”

Ann said Sanitarium and Fonterra provided the long life milk and the Weetbix for free and a koha [donation] from the school community went towards the tea, coffee, milo, and bread for toast.

Ann said the breakfast club also recycled the Tetra Paks [milk cartons] that were left over from the sittings.

“One of the requirements



Anja Watling, left, and Makayla Ladbroke delivered tetra paks to the Seagull Centre on December 8.

Photo: SUPPLIED

[for the breakfast club] was that we would recycle the Tetra Paks, because there’s this amazing Waikato company called SaveBoard that has found a way to chop it up and

turn it into a jib and ceiling board,” she said.

“We usually go through four [Tetra Paks] a week at least and sometimes more, and in order to recycle the Tetra Paks,

they must be flattened, thoroughly washed and completely dry.”

Ann said KickStart Breakfast co-ordinator Lorren Hawkins discovered the Seagull Centre

had begun recycling the Tetra Paks.

“On December 8, year nine students Makayla Ladbroke and Anja Watling went to the Seagull Centre to drop off all of the recycling, especially all of our Tetra Paks [more than 100 of them],” she said.

“Anja and Makayla have volunteered to help the breakfast club from the onset along with Lisa Barnett, Shannon Paki, and myself.”

Ann said the school was planning to establish a space in 2023 for the community to deposit Tetra Paks.

“The hope is that it will pick up and we’ve talked about how it can work to get the community as well to help with the recycling of them,” she said.

“They just have to be very clean and dry and if they’re not flattened the plastic inside condenses so they get damp and they can’t be used in the processing at SaveBoard.

“Thames High School would like to thank everyone who has supported the breakfast club and we look forward to continuing this programme next year.”

Tetra Pak collection points are also available at Ngātea Service Centre, Paeroa Refuse Transfer Station, Hauraki Repair and Reuse Centre, Waihi Service Centre, Waihi Refuse Transfer Station.

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# Build confidence before diving in

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

A swim teacher with more than 30 years' experience says staying within your ability can help people stay safe in the water this summer.

In a January 6, 2022 report, Water Safety New Zealand indicated that the preventable fatal drowning toll for the official 2021-22 holiday period was 14, a 180 per cent increase on the five-year average.

The holiday period was between December 24, 2021 to January 5, 2022, and in the years prior, the average preventable drowning death total was five per year.

There were three drowning deaths in the Waikato: two in rivers, and one at a beach.

Chris Jolly said any drowning death in New Zealand was upsetting because there was no need for it to happen.

Chris runs the Paeroa Swim School, which falls under the umbrella of Frogs Aquatics, established back in 2017.

Her most popular age-group of those learning to swim are young children between 6-14 months, but she also teaches school-aged children and adults who are be-



Swim teacher Chris Jolly, inset, says people need to be mindful before heading out into the surf this summer. Photos: SUPPLIED

ginners in water. "People need to build up confidence just by being in water in a safe environment," she told *The Profile*. "We get into trouble when we are not confident in water and head out to sea. It can even come down to the clothing you're wearing while swim-

ming," she said. "Swimming in the wrong clothing creates drag which causes more issues; you don't want clothes that are going to fill up with water and weigh you down." Chris has been teaching swimming for more than 30 years, but she admits she was not a water baby herself.

Hailing from England, she said she was taught to swim with her "head out of the water".

"I was determined that my children, who are Kiwis, were going to learn how to swim. We were living in Ngātea at the time and I rocked up to the swimming club and said I wanted to enrol my kids, and they said: 'So, what job are you going to do?'"

"So, I ended up getting on to the Learn to Swim pathway as a volunteer and got my diploma in swim teaching."

Now, Chris' "biggest buzz" is

witnessing a child who didn't want to put their face under the water, float for the first time.

"I get more excited than they do," she said.

However, people needed to not only build their confidence around water, but they needed to keep within their abilities and be mindful of their environment.

"We had a swimming pool at school - it was freezing, but as kids you didn't realise that, and I would go home and tell my mum I was floating and kicking without a board."

"She'd take me to our local beach which looked like an estuary because it's England, and I couldn't do it because it was the sea, it was different," she said.

"But even if all we do is give children and adults exposure to water, they're going to learn. If you're happy in and on the water, you'll go under the water, it's just a progression."

That was why it was so important for school pools to remain open and for education providers to encourage water safety, she said.

"That way, for those kids who are never going to get swimming lessons, you're still going to give them water confidence... and you're still giving them skills to help them survive."

**DETAILS:** Chris' swim school is based in Paeroa at Goldfields School on Norwood Rd. For information, visit [www.frogsaquatics.co.nz](http://www.frogsaquatics.co.nz).



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# Moore's Service Station celebrates 90 years

Caltex Paeroa prides itself on pumping 'novelty' forecourt service, gallons of food and drink for commuters, and providing a "fun" atmosphere for its staff.

Manager Paul Milner, who has been in the driver's seat for 23 years, said the business had been in his family since 1932.

"It's the longest running proper petrol station in Paeroa. Before that it was a setup selling cans from out of a shop and this was the first station that had proper pumps out the front," he said.

"It started with mum's father, he bought the business with his brother back in 1932 and then mum and dad took over in the late 70s, but mum had worked here from when she was a teenager as well with her sister."

Paul said the station offered petrol [91 and 95], diesel, and LPG for cars; gas bottle refills and swaps; air for tyres; furniture, car and caged trailer hire seven days a week, and now had a newly installed pay station so motorists could refuel with petrol and diesel outside opening hours.

"We also still try and offer a forecourt service as much as possible. We have at least two staff on at all times and sometimes three or even four during the busier times so we can get out and pump the gas, wash the windscreens, and check the oil if needed," he said.

"A lot of people that you see



Paul Milner says the forecourt service at Caltex Paeroa had become a "novelty." Photo: GORDON PREECE

from the city that maybe haven't been down this way for a while are quite surprised that a service is still offered, so they're quite happy about that and some see it as a bit of a novelty."

Paul said the station had sev-

en full time and five to six part time staff and there was always a "fun" atmosphere during their shifts. "It's not the most glamorous position at times dealing with people but having it as a fun place to come and work makes

the day go a lot quicker," he said.

"We've had people who go away from out of town for university and often they'll come back and work during holidays.

"If you didn't like it and it wasn't fun you probably wouldn't



Caltex Paeroa in 1949.

Photo: SUPPLIED

come back, so to have those people continually coming back is a sign we're doing things well."

Paul said he and his staff hoped for a high octane summer.

"Hopefully we should get some fine weather coming through, sell lots of ice creams and bags of ice," he said.

"We're selling our own ice which we bag on site now because we've had struggles the last three or four years getting ice supply at times, so we bit the bullet and spent some money and got a full modern ice machine that makes up to 900kg a day. "[Customers are also] more into wanting a bit of fishing tackle when they're off in the morning, so we stock that sort of thing, and good coffee is important now for people."

Paul said the station also supplied good quality pies, fresh sandwiches and a range of drinks, including more sugar free options for summer motorists.

- By GORDON PREECE

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Thames MenzShed members were treated to a roof shout by Moanataiari School students last week. Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

# ‘Roof shout’ for MenzShed members

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

Three members of Thames’ MenzShed were treated to an end-of-year roof shout, thanking them for their help in constructing a school treehouse which will soon become a popular hang out spot.

Since the middle of Term 3, Moanataiari senior students have been learning valuable skills with the local MenzShed.

Their lessons culminated in the construction of a three-level treehouse near the front of the school on Kuranui St.

“This is a treehouse that isn’t a treehouse,” Moanataiari principal David Brock said.

“The design is better than what I conceptualised because what the MenzShed have done is create a space for the kids to operate in which actually isn’t quite in the tree, but makes the tree accessible. You can see already that it is going to be a favourite spot for the kids.”

Mr Brock said there were trees scattered around the school that had been marked with a smiley face, meaning they were robust enough for the students to climb.

“You don’t want to stop kids from doing stuff,” he said.

“They need to be able to learn and do stuff with some element of risk and some element of safety.”

Next year, they are planning on building a second treehouse for the junior students by a pohutukawa.

MenzShed secretary Tony Winter told *The Profile* that he was impressed with the 10 Year 7 and 8 Moanataiari students who were involved with the MenzShed’s School Sheddies Programme.

The programme aimed to introduce pupils to the design, materials, assembly, and completion of wood-based projects.

“The whole objective was to introduce them to a stream of something other than all this push-button stuff,” Tony said.

“We wanted them to understand that something doesn’t just happen, it first has to be designed and thought through.”

On December 12, the students were helping Tony, and other MenzShed members Trish Beasley and Rae Barrington put the finishing touches on the treehouse.

They also hosted a ‘roof shout’ - an old, Kiwi tradition which acts as a way to say thank you to a team who have helped on a project.

Students Skyla Swindells, 13, and Lincoln Donaldson, 12, said they enjoyed the experience and encouraged other young people to give construction a go.

Moanataiari School and the Thames MenzShed have had an ongoing relationship for four years.

The students have not only worked on site at school, but they also visited the shed off Queen St, where they learned how to saw and cut wood, use hammers, and paint.

“We had to be very careful with the tool use. It was well-supervised and quite structured,” Mr Brock said.

“The last thing we wanted was kids going home missing digits.”

**DETAILS: For information on the Thames MenzShed, visit [menzshed.org.nz/thames](http://menzshed.org.nz/thames)**



## Plan for a safe-as Waikato summer

### Plan ahead

COVID is not taking a holiday and remains active in our communities. Avoid infection or reinfection by being prepared and knowing how to keep yourself and your whānau safe.



- Make sure you’re up to date with vaccinations, including any boosters
- Contact your healthcare provider for any health needs and make sure you have enough regular prescription medications
- When you’re travelling, take a kit that has enough rapid antigen tests (RATs), hand sanitiser and masks for the whole whānau
- Have a plan to isolate or get home safely in case you or someone you’re travelling with tests positive for COVID

Find out more at [Covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz)

### Holiday healthcare

Some medical centres and pharmacies may be closed or have limited hours during the holidays, for information on services in your local area visit [www.healthpoint.co.nz](https://www.healthpoint.co.nz)



<b>Unwell? unsure?</b>	Call <b>Healthline 0800 611 116</b> for free 24 hour health advice
<b>Visit a pharmacy</b>	A pharmacist is a qualified health professional who can give advice on minor medical issues or health concerns
<b>Need to talk? 1737</b>	<b>Free call or text 1737</b> any time to talk with a trained counsellor
<b>Always call 111 for emergencies</b>	Hospital emergency departments and many urgent care clinics remain open

### If you feel unwell

- Do not travel or take part in events or activities if you feel unwell or are sick
- If you get cold, flu or COVID symptoms, take a RAT test immediately
- If you test positive, you will need to isolate for 7 days
- For COVID health advice call **0800 358 54 53** anytime



*Kia hari, kia koa, kia haumaru*



**HAVE A SAFE-AS SUMMER**

# SPORTS



Parawai students Tyron Baker, Cortez Hogan, Tyler Smith, James Heap, Simiosi Tukia, Sienna Moore, and Miya Costello attended the event at Porritt Stadium in Hamilton. Photo: MICHELLE AITCHESON

## Ray Woolf to perform in Thames

By GORDON PREECE

The Thames Community Club will host a Thames Republic Day concert on January 14 to raise funds for The Prostate Cancer Foundation.

Committee member Peter Blakeborough said the inaugural event would be held at the Thames Civic Centre between 10am and 4:30pm.

The club chose to raise funds and awareness for prostate cancer because the disease was a "silent and invisible killer", he said.

"I know that prostate cancer is a deadly disease that sneaks up on people who don't expect there is anything wrong," he said.

"Ray Woolf is coming out of retirement for the event as a prostate cancer ambassador, and he will talk about prostate cancer when his slot comes up in the programme before he sings."

Peter said as well as Ray, 11 other entertainers are expected to perform and Thames Community Club and Thames Republic Day merchandise would also be for sale.

"We've agreed to an amount with the Prostate Cancer Foundation and they will get the initial profit, and when we've reached that magic number, the other expenses will go to the Thames Community Club," he said.

**DETAILS: Tickets are available from Carson's Bookshop or on the iTicket website. For more info contact Peter: Ph 021 115 0543.**

## Parawai students achieve in athletics

Year 7 and 8 Parawai School students attended the Waikato Full Primary School Athletics event recently and came home with top marks.

Tyron Baker, Cortez Hogan, Tyler Smith, James Heap, Simiosi Tukia, Sienna Moore, and Miya Costello attended the event at Porritt Stadium in Hamilton, doing well in their divisions.

Tyron Baker competed in shot put and discus and the 1500m,

placing second in discus with a throw of 23.10m.

Cortez Hogan competed in shot put, the 100m and the 200m and did well in his heats.

Tyler Smith competed in shot put and discus and placed second and third in these events, throwing 8.84m for shot put and 18.61m in discus.

James Heap competed in the 1500m and 800m, placing fourth in both his events with times of

5.25.20s and 2.35.57s.

Simiosi Tukia competed in the 100m, 200m and long jump and did well in his heats.

Sienna Moore competed in high jump, long jump, the 100m and the 200m, placing first in long jump with a jump of 4.59m, and second in the 200m finals with a time of 28.99s. Sienna also gained enough points with these placings to place third in the Year 7 girls overall champion.

Miya Costello competed in the 100m and long jump, and did well in her heats.

The Waikato Full Primary Schools Association provides sporting, academic, and cultural events for Year 7 and 8 students from primary schools across Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Thames Valley and King Country.

It gives children the opportunity to meet and compete with their peers at a high regional level.

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### PAEROA CHRISTMAS SERVICES CALENDAR

All are invited and welcome

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**Saturday 24th Christmas Eve** 5pm service at Paeroa Elim 7pm Mass at St Mary's Catholic

**Sunday 25th Christmas Day** 8am at St Paul's Anglican 9am at Paeroa Baptist 9.30am at Paeroa Bible Chapel

Merry Christmas from the Paeroa Ministers to our Paeroa Community



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# Classic vehicles set to roll into Ngātea

By GORDON PREECE

More than 175 custom and classic vehicles will rev into Hugh Hayward Domain on December 27 for the annual Ngātea Customs and Classics and Van Revival.

Organiser Rob 'Fish' Mackay told *The Profile* it would be the sixth year the event had been held and the community response had always been "really awesome".

"There's a real base for classic and muscle cars in the area and generally the community has been really good in getting behind it," he said.

"The initial reason for me starting up the car show was that I worked directly across the road from the venue [at Total Auto] and we're on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for breakdowns, and I wanted something in my area that I could attend.

"So Ngātea Customs and Classics and then on year two of my car show because I'm into custom vans I incorporated a van show called the van revival, that's a separate show within the car show."

Fish said he expected more than 175 "out of the ordinary" vehicles including hot rods, custom vans, motorcycles, and V8's to be on display at this year's event.

"We had 177 last year and if



Custom and classic cars filled Hugh Hayward Domain at last year's event.

File Photo: SUPPLIED

we can equal or top that, that's a great thing but we have room for 200 cars and can expand if we need to," he said.

"We ask vehicles to be in by about 9:30am, and we will have prizegiving from 12:30am to 1pm.

"We have awards for best van, bike, muscle car, classic car, best club turnout, station wagon, ute or truck, best vintage vehicles and raffles on the day as well."

Fish said it cost \$5 for vehicle entry and a gold coin donation for public entry.

"It's \$5 entry per vehicle

but if you bring your family in the vehicle it's still \$5 and the walk-in public we ask for a gold coin donation or if you have a family just chuck some dollars in the kitty, we're not too strict on that," he said.

Fish said the money raised at past events had been donated to local organisations, including St John Cadets, and this year he chose Hauraki Rowing Club. "I've had a couple of daughters coming through the ranks of rowing, my youngest daughter Emma was in the rowing club this year," he said.

"They have regattas all over

Karāpiro and the South Island, and there's a South Island trip coming up next year, so we're going to donate the money for some equipment for one of their trips."

Fish said last year's event raised just under \$900 and he topped it up to make it \$900 and was donated to Ngātea Volunteer Fire Brigade.

**Details: Ngātea Customs and Classics and Van Revival, Hugh Hayward Domain, December 27, 9:30am to 1pm, \$5 vehicle entry and gold coin donation for public entry, all proceeds to be donated to Hauraki Rowing Club.**

## In Brief

### TRAFFIC STATS

According to the Thames Business Association, the traffic stats for November from the town's ANPR camera included 355,649 vehicles entering and leaving Thames and 18 stolen plates/vehicles reported - a significant reduction from October's number of 28 and September's number of 30.

### ROAD RESURFACING STARTS

The weather is getting warmer, which means the Hauraki District Council's annual road resurfacing programme has begun, after a slight delay due to the wet weather conditions. "We understand this work can be disruptive, but it is a necessary and key part of our road maintenance programme," says Adrian de Laborde, Group Manager Service Delivery. You can check if your road is up for resealing this summer by viewing the road resealing schedule at: [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz)

### COUNCIL ON TRACK

Thames-Coromandel District Council has announced it has either achieved, or is on track to achieve, 68 per cent of its non-financial performance measures, compared to 65 per cent at the same time last year. Council's Quarterly Report was presented to elected members at the last meeting of the year, and stated that, out of 122 performance measures in place, 82 (67 per cent) are on track to be achieved, one per cent have been achieved and 31 (25 per cent) are not being measured this quarter.



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Patrick Gillbanks, left, André Gillbanks, Celia Gillbanks and Sam Venables Photo: GORDON PREECE

## Chipper windscreen service

Secure Glass has become the windscreen and chip repair shop for Paeroa locals since opening a permanent space in May, 2022.

André and Celia Gillbanks have operated the business for around 25 years, and offer a mobile windscreen and chip repair service in Paeroa, Thames, Ngātea, Waihi, and other Waikato towns.

They established a permanent base on Puke Rd post-Covid to make operations easier.

"We offer a chip repair service where people don't have to book it. Generally, they can just call in and do it on the day so no appointments are required," André said.

"The [windscreen] replacement side of it is normally booked in on an appointments basis and normally it's done within a two hour period, depending on whether or not a recalibration is necessary, then it may take an extra hour.

"We're also able to arrange all the claims and we work with all the insurance companies and brokers, so we get everything organised prior to the job.

"We figure business is about three things:

friendly and convenient service, and happy customers."

André said the customers from Paeroa and nearby towns had been very happy that a permanent shop had opened in their area.

"We've become the local windscreen shop to provide service where there would otherwise be none," he said.

"Their alternatives are to go elsewhere and generally a whole day is required and that's not convenient for a lot of people's busy lives."

André said the shop closes on December 22 and the team looked forward to welcoming customers when it reopens on January 16.

"If people are requiring service, I'm prepared to answer my phone where I can," he said.

"Because I know people get chips et cetera on their screens, holidays or not, so if people ring me or text me their details over the Christmas period I will endeavour to get back to them as soon as I can."

**DETAILS: Contact Secure Glass by phoning: 021 617 664, or visit [secureglassltd.co.nz](http://secureglassltd.co.nz)**

# Rural Life

## Swimmers: keep eyes open for toxic algae

Swimmers are being urged to check for potentially toxic algal blooms before they dive into lakes, rivers and streams this summer.

Water users should also be aware of the potential for higher levels of bacteria in waterways following periods of heavy rain, and avoid swimming for up to 48 hours.

Waikato Regional Council regularly monitors blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) levels and takes samples to check for bacteria along the Waikato River and in some of the region's shallow lakes.

Summer monitoring of the hydrolakes – Karāpiro, Maraetai and Ohakuri – started on November 2 and will continue until the end of April. Monitoring began on the rest of the lakes and river sites on December 5.

“Algae occur naturally in our rivers, lakes and streams, and flourish during hot and fine conditions,” regional council's water science team leader Thomas Wilding said.

“Most algae are harmless, but high levels of some species may be toxic and blooms may result in health warnings being issued.

“If predictions are correct and we're going to have another hot summer, there will likely be more incidents of blooms appearing. November 2022 sea surface temperatures were the highest on record, according to NIWA scientists, and all that heat translates



Summer monitoring of the hydrolakes – Karāpiro, Maraetai and Ohakuri – started on November 2 and will continue until the end of April.

Photo: SUPPLIED/WRC

to warmer growing conditions in our lakes and rivers.”

Mr Wilding said blue-green algal blooms are often found in waterbodies throughout New Zealand during summer months.

“Here in our region, blooms have been recorded in the Waikato River hydro lakes and Lake Taupō. Some of the shallow lakes, such as Waikare, experience more frequent blooms.

“It is important that you use

your own judgement before getting into the water. Algae can accumulate rapidly around the shore, despite it being clear the last time we sampled. If the water is bright green like pea soup, stay out. Extra care should be taken with toddlers and dogs as they like to put things into their mouths and even a small amount the size of a 50 cent piece can be enough to cause serious harm if eaten.”

Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand's National Public Health Service works closely with regional and district councils in the Waikato region to provide health advice, and Medical Officers of Health issue health warnings when monitored lakes are unsafe for recreational use.

Te Whatu Ora Waikato Medical Officer of Health Dr Richard Wall recommends that where cyanobacteria health warnings are in

place, lakes should not be used for any activity that involves skin contact with the affected water.

“Swallowing water from lakes affected by blooms should also be avoided,” said Dr Wall.

“Scums are a particular risk because they contain a high level of toxins. If contact with scum does occur, skin should be rinsed clean and clothing changed as soon as possible. This warning is particularly important for children.

“If people still choose to use the lakes when warnings are in place, or any other lake where there are visible changes to water colour, they should shower and change their clothing as soon as possible afterwards, even if no symptoms are noticeable,” he said.

Symptoms can include rash, skin and eye irritation; allergy symptoms such as hayfever and asthma; and possibly stomach upsets including diarrhoea and vomiting.

Warnings will be issued for the lakes that less commonly experience algal blooms.

Mr Wilding urged swimmers to check the [lawa.org.nz/swim](http://lawa.org.nz/swim) website before swimming, but added that it will only give an indication of what water quality was like at the time of sampling.

“That's why it's so important to check the water before you dive in.”

If you become sick after swimming, contact your health professional, and let them know where you went swimming.

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**Scott Simpson**  
MP for Coromandel

Season's greetings to all and a warm welcome to visitors to our region.

There will be plenty of summer community events planned and I'm looking forward to attending lots of them. I hope to see you there!

0800 550 330 • mpcoromandel@parliament.govt.nz

Funded by the Parliamentary Service.  
Authorised by Scott Simpson, 614 Pollen St, Thames.

## Rural Life

# Dog owners reminded to 'know before you go'

As the holiday season approaches and people make their way to the region's iconic beaches and national parks, the Department of Conservation is reminding people with dogs to do their research before setting out.

"Going on adventures with your dog is a great way to stay active and enjoy nature," says Laura Boren, Science Advisor at DOC. "We want people to get outside and enjoy the summer, but to do it responsibly."

DOC Rangers across the country report poor behaviour involving dogs - such as dogs attacking wildlife or people taking dogs where they aren't allowed - is the most common compliance issue throughout the summer months.

"One potentially confusing thing is rules for dogs vary across the country," Laura said. "For instance, dogs are never allowed in national parks or on offshore island reserves, but they are permitted on certain walking tracks or campsites."

If you're headed somewhere new find out if it is dog-friendly before arriving. DOC has a "dogs allowed" tick box on its website allowing visitors to filter for dog friendly areas, and local council websites contain information on regional beaches and walking tracks. "There is no one-size-fits-all approach to dog management. This is why it's crucial to do your homework."

DOC's Lead the Way programme offers other tips to help dog owners be responsible around wildlife, including a quiz which verifies dog owners as "wildlife-wise" and allows them to purchase a colour-coded lead which signals the temperament of their dog. "Being wildlife-wise means you know the steps to protect coastal wildlife,



**Dog owners can be fined up to \$800 for harming wildlife.** Photo: SUPPLIED

such as walking on the wet sand, scanning the area ahead for wildlife, and staying at least 20 meters from any wildlife. It's amazing how much a seal or sea lion can look like a piece of driftwood when it's resting on the beach," Laura said.

"Above all, when you're out walking, stay present with your dog and aware of their behaviour. It increases your connection with them and allows you to anticipate any possible trouble."

Coastal species such as korora/little penguin and kekeno/NZ fur seals are commonly attacked by dogs. Even seemingly harmless interactions, such as dogs chasing gulls, can distress birds enough to abandon nests or stop feeding chicks. Infringement fines can range from \$200 to \$800 or a court prosecution, depending on the offence. In some cases where dogs have attacked native wildlife, courts have ordered the dogs to be put down.

"Nobody wants that to be part of their summer. A bit of preparation can go a long way to keeping everyone safe this summer."

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SPONSORED CONTENT

# Rocket the goat's journey to recovery

By Dr Melissa Veltman BVSc



Rocket is a 14-year-old Billy goat that became progressively more ill over a period of a few weeks. He had chronic scouring, weight loss, and was off his feed, not wanting to touch even his favourite treats. Rocket was one of many in a mob of rescue goats however, he was the only goat showing signs of ill-thrift.

Rocket's owner became especially concerned when Rocket stopped following the rest of the mob into the steep hill country and instead favoured flat areas. Rocket's owner promptly submitted a faecal sample to our Paeroa vet clinic, and the faecal egg count revealed an abundance of worm eggs and coccidia. After a discussion with the vet, it was decided that Rocket needed a clinical exam to ensure there wasn't anything else contributing to his poor condition.

Rocket hadn't been wormed recently, however with such high worm burdens there can often be an underlying disease contributing to the animal's condition. Bacterial, viral, or other parasitic infections can compromise an animal's ability to cope with underlying worm burdens therefore a vet check is important. However, other than an arthritic limp, which was being treated with regular pain relief, Rocket's clinical exam and bloodwork did not show any other signs of disease.

Goats are much more susceptible to worms than other farm animals. Unlike



**Rocket is back to fighting fitness.** Photo: SUPPLIED

cattle and sheep, goats don't generate a natural immunity to internal parasites. Goats also metabolize the drugs used in drench products at a faster rate, therefore larger volumes of drench are required to treat internal parasites in goats. Pastures have higher worm burdens during autumn and spring due to warm temperatures and high moisture levels.

A few days after drenching Rocket for worms and coccidia, there was a dramatic improvement in his appetite and energy levels, and he started to put weight back on. Ten days after drenching Rocket, he was no longer scouring, and a second faecal egg count revealed no coccidia or worm eggs.

Rocket's owner says Rocket is back to fighting fitness and is now first to the gate for his treats.

- Supplied by Franklin Vets

# St John's health shuttle upgraded

By GORDON PREECE

A new Hato Hone St John Thames shuttle bus to transport members of the community to medical appointments and social gatherings has hit the streets.

The van, called *Trixie*, was officially blessed at St John Thames station on October 29 by the new St John Chaplain, Reverend Brendon Wilkinson.

Hauraki-Coromandel community engagement co-ordinator Nikki Tyrrell-Baxter told *The Profile* a new van was needed because the previous van was no longer deemed roadworthy.

"Back in 2017, we were given a Toyota mobility vehicle from the Thames Mobility Vehicle Inc group and it came with a sum of money that we were able to use to help fund the existing vehicle and to replace it when it was no longer fit for purpose," she said.

"So we've bought a beautiful new Toyota Hiace van, which has wheelchair accessibility and a hoist, and it's on the road, blessed and dedicated to



Thames Mobility Vehicle Inc members Phil Hankins, left, Thelma Chantrey and Clyde Beaufill.

Photo: SUPPLIED

transporting the community."

Nikki said funds from the Thames RSA Welfare Trust and the estate of Mr Joseph Verhaegen were also used to purchase the new van.

"We are very grateful to have the support of our community in making such initiatives possible as we wouldn't be able to fund a replacement vehicle, and the maintenance costs to keep

it on the road, without such donations," she said.

"We had a lot of people from within St John attend the dedication including our volunteer health shuttle drivers who give

their time and energy so generously transporting members of our community.

"Thames has over 30 volunteer drivers who put their hand up to help, even on Christmas Day transporting people to attend 'A Place at the Table' Christmas lunch."

Nikki said St John Thames chose not to disclose the total van cost.

Nikki said Thames Area Committee Chairman Ken Brokenshire and Commander of the St John Order and Thames Area Committee member Bruce McDonald assisted the Reverend with the blessing.

"Mr Brokenshire acknowledged the community's support and the long relationship held between St John, the Thames Mobility Vehicle Inc and the RSA Welfare Trust," she said.

"Mr McDonald commented that while the government contributes significantly towards the ambulance service, the remaining community programmes rely heavily on community support and our St John volunteers."

# Camping ambassadors out and about

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

Responsible Camping Ambassadors are now out and about helping freedom campers make the most of their stay while being good visitors.

Thames-Coromandel District Council has received \$93,095 from the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment to fund six camping ambassadors, who will be on the beat throughout the district this summer.

They'll be promoting the dis-

trict, suggesting things to do and see, monitoring freedom camping sites, and collecting data on how many visitors are using them.

They'll also be using the "Ambassador App" to record numbers of users at designated freedom camping sites and guide visitors to appropriate sites throughout the district.

Council's licensing and compliance manager Alice Crowther said the ambassadors started their shifts on December 12,

and will continue until Waitangi Weekend.

She encouraged locals and visitors to check council's new freedom camping bylaw to make sure freedom camping was allowed in a certain location.

"Make sure you have a plan B if a designated area is already full when you arrive," she said. "Look for the freedom camping signs and make sure to follow the instructions on them. Also, please remember to be a tidy Kiwi and clean up after yourself."

Freedom Camping is permitted in most public areas of the Coromandel, unless it is prohibited or restricted in council's new bylaw, Department of Conservation rules, or national legislation. Council's compliance team will be out seven days a week monitoring the district for compliance.

In areas managed by the district council, people can only freedom camp: in a certified self-contained vehicle (freedom camping is not allowed in tents);

and between 5pm and 9am for two consecutive nights unless otherwise sign-posted.

Freedom camping is prohibited in 84 areas, most of which are council reserves or roads.

Freedom camping is restricted in 25 other areas, mostly reserves, where freedom camping can only take place within a sign-posted designated place for a maximum number of vehicles.



The team at Anexa wish you all a very

# Merry Christmas

& A SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Anexa Vet clinics will be closed:

Xmas: Monday 26 December, Tuesday 27 December  
 New Year: Monday 2 January, Tuesday 3 January  
 Auckland Anniversary: Monday 30 January  
 Waitangi day: Monday 6 February

An after-hours service will be available.

**Anexa Vets Top Summer Tips**

- Never leave your pet in the car. Temperatures can reach double that of outside quickly.
- Chocolate is for YOU not your pets - it will make them sick!
- Walk your dog in the evening or early morning - footpaths get burning hot!
- Ensure your pets vaccinations are up-to-date, protect your pet from parvo and other nasty diseases.

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# Mystery of missing Thames miner



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

The last resting place for many in the Thames Valley was not the local cemetery but the spot where they took their last breath, alone and unnoticed.

During one month in Thames in 1874, some of these anomalies began to surface.

In early September, two boys came across a human skeleton in Wiseman's Gully. The spot had been a jungle of supplejack and undergrowth but had recently been cleared by a fire.

The remains were believed to be a middle-aged European with sound teeth who appeared to have died lying on his back. After a careful search, nothing could be found to identify him, not even a button.

Five years previously there had been a store near the area, and a number of miners lived in the vicinity but a local resident did not remember anyone being missing from that neighbourhood.

Over the left ear of the skull was a large hole but whether this had been caused by a blow or by



Shortland Cemetery in Thames.

Photo: SUPPLIED

some accident occurring while he was lying in the bush could not be determined.

The only person who had been missing for some time was Patrick Kinivan, a miner who had disappeared the previous December, but these remains appeared older than that.

The *Thames Advertiser* commented darkly on "another of those melancholy and puzzling discoveries of human remains which so frequently occur in this Colony, where waifs and strays of humanity - having none here to care for them, but probably dear to hearts in the home country - journey in the bush, and die there, or may be murdered there".

Several days later another skeleton was found by a council labourer digging a trench below the high-water mark between Sealey and Richmond Streets. It was about two or three feet under the surface.

Curiously, the leg bones were found laid alongside the body. There had been several bodies found on the beach since the goldfield was opened.

Local Māori said that many years previously a canoe full of

people was upset in the firth and the bodies washed ashore and buried in the sand as they were strangers to the district. Whether this skeleton belonged to one of this party could not be determined.

This was also not Patrick Kinivan, still the only known missing person at Thames.

More skeletal remains were then discovered when a skull gruesomely rolled out of a wagon while tipping debris from the Prince Imperial mine in November. A further search uncovered other bones and remnants of clothing.

Patrick Kinivan had finally been found but the discovery led to more questions than answers. The mine had not been worked in a long time and he could not have fallen down the shaft as he would have had to climb up some feet to get over it. The shaft was also planked over.

It was concluded that Kinivan, in "horrors from drink", must have somehow inexplicably got himself into the mine.

Patrick Kinivan was buried at Shortland cemetery, one of the few to be given a recognised resting place.

# Volunteers needed

Volunteers are desperately being called for what was once New Zealand's largest gold mining operation in New Zealand, the Victoria Battery Site in Waikato.

The site that once processed more than 800 tonnes of quartz each day is nestled in the heart of the Karagahake Gorge and is visited by thousands of visitors annually.

Today, the significant history of the site is brought to life by the battery museum, tram tours, and underground kiln tours, and is reliant purely on volunteers. With the busy holiday period approaching, the Victoria Battery Society, which manages the facility, is putting a call out for help.

Society chair Kerry Single said volunteers were critical in preserving the site's history and bringing its stories to life.

"The stories of the Victoria Battery site are incredibly special and unique, so preserving them for years to come is vital. Volunteers invest a lot of time into the site,

which means visitors can discover it in a way that suits them."

Kerry said the society "desperately" needed more help, and there was a range of roles for volunteers - from administration and maintenance, to tour guides and tram drivers. All relevant training is provided.

Kerry said the fact that the future for the site was completely dependent on volunteer availability was, at times, worrying, but the 'keep on keeping on' mantra was alive and well within the society.

"Finding volunteers is getting more and more difficult and if we continue with this trend, the future of the site really is unknown. I'm hopeful we will find some fresh energy in who can help us continue to make the battery site such a neat asset for the community."

**DETAILS: If you're interested in helping out, come to the site on a Saturday or Sunday or visit: [volunteeringwaikato.org.nz](http://volunteeringwaikato.org.nz).**



Volunteers are needed at the Victoria Battery.

Photo: GORDON PREECE

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# HDC NEWS



## *It's going to be a cracker of a summer!*

*Meri Kirihimete me ngā mihi mō te tau hou  
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*

This year has put local government in the spotlight with Three Waters; the future of local government reform and changes to the Resource Management Act, leaving a sense of uncertainty in the air. But one thing that hasn't changed is the way we go about business at Hauraki. We're about getting the best bang for our buck for our community and we've got an awesome group of Councillors to make that happen. There's energy, talent and youth in the team – bringing fresh perspectives and a commitment to work hard for this special rohe we all call home. There's mahi to be done and we're up for it! From all of us at Council, we wish you a happy and relaxing holiday season, stay safe, look after each other and treasure the moments with friends and whanau. Here's to a prosperous and inclusive 2023 – it's going to be a cracker!

*Mayor Toby Adams*

## *Keep it Clean, Recycling*

Remember, clean recycling means a better payout, which ultimately makes the service more affordable. Dirty or contaminated recycling can spoil a whole truck load, which then gets diverted to landfill. Every truck load of recycling that goes to landfill instead of recycling channels is dollars not being returned to the cost of service. Make your recycling efforts count – it's good for the environment and it has a big impact on the real cost of recycling and collections. Your efforts can make the difference!

## *Walkies?*

Although some of our reserves are dog free zones, especially over summer, we still have plenty of great spaces to take your best friend walkies. Check out our website for locations and times.

If your dog goes walkabout, phone us **0800 734 834** 24/7 to get reunited – we may have found them.

[www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/dogs](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/dogs)

Remember, if your dog poops, you gotta scoop! Help keep the sidewalks and public spaces poop free for everyone.

## *Keep an eye out for leaks*

Just like 'Where's Wally', leaks can be hard to find. We really appreciate it when you let us know if you spot a suspicious puddle or patch of green where it shouldn't be.

**Call us 24/7 on 0800 734 834.**

For ideas on smart water use visit [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/smartwateruse](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/smartwateruse)

## *Building inspections paused*

There will be no building inspections from 12 noon Friday 23 December to 8 am Monday 9 January. The regulatory clock for processing building and resource consents stopped at 5pm Monday 19 December and resumes at 8am Wednesday 11 January 2023.



## Council service hours for the holiday season

Ace the changes to our Christmas office and library hours and refuse collection days with this handy list. If it is urgent you can still reach us 24/7 on 0800 734 834. But if Santa gets stuck in the chimney, you'll have to call 0800 NORTHPOLE!

### Getting festive?

Alcohol bans are in place in all of our towns, and in some other places like beaches and reserves. Plan before you party - check out the rules at [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/alcohol-bans-hauraki](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/alcohol-bans-hauraki)

### Look out for motorbikes and cyclists

Whether it's zoom zoom or pedal power that gets you on our roads, please take care, slow down, drive to the conditions and look again at intersections. We want everyone home safe and well these holidays.



### Our Council offices

23 December - 8am to 12noon  
 25 December to 3 January - Closed  
 4 January - 8am to 4:30pm

### Our Libraries

23 December - Closes midday  
 24 December - 9:30am to 12:30pm (Paeroa and Waihi)  
 26 December to 3 January - Closed  
 4 January - 9:30am to 5pm

### Swimming pools

24 December - 11am to 5pm  
 25 December - closed  
 26 & 27 December - 11am to 5pm  
 28 to 30 December - 6am to 6pm  
 31 December - 11am to 5pm  
 1 January - closed  
 2 & 3 January - 11am to 5pm  
 4 January - normal hours continue  
 We now accept Eftpos at our pools

### Kerbside Collections over the holiday season

As both Christmas and New Year officially fall on the weekend, there is NO change to the kerbside collection calendars over those two weeks, even though the Monday and Tuesday are the observed holidays.

### Kerbside refuse and recycling

#### Whiritoa

MON 26 December Rubbish bags and all recycling  
 WED 28 December Rubbish bags and glass only  
 MON 2 JANUARY Rubbish bags and all recycling  
 WED 4 JANUARY Rubbish bags and glass only  
 No Saturday collections for Whiritoa at all

#### Waihi, Waikino

THU 29 December Rubbish bags and all recycling  
 THU 5 JANUARY Rubbish bags only

#### Karangahake, Mackaytown, Paeroa

THU 29 December Rubbish bags only  
 THU 5 JANUARY Rubbish bags and all recycling

#### Ngatea, Kaiaua, Waitakaruru

WED 28 December Rubbish bags only  
 WED 4 JANUARY Rubbish bags and all recycling

#### Kerepehi, Turua

WED 28 December Rubbish bags and all recycling  
 WED 4 JANUARY Rubbish bags only

### Paeroa Refuse Transfer Station

25 to 28 December - Closed  
 29 - 31 December - 12:30pm to 5:30pm  
 1 to 4 January - Closed  
 5 & 6 January - 12:30pm - 5:30pm

### Waihi Refuse Transfer Station

25 to 27 December - Closed  
 28 December - 10am to 4pm  
 29 December - Closed  
 30 & 31 December - 10am to 4pm  
 1 to 3 January - Closed  
 4 January - 10am to 4pm  
 5 January - Closed  
 6 January - 10am to 4pm

Councillors and Executive Management team photo



# /Richardsons

Ngatea / Paeroa



# /Richardsons

Thames



104 Pipiroa Road, Ngatea **\$599,000**

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- Large living spaces/2 Decks/Fire place
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- 809m2(m or l) Fully fenced section

**RN1447** 🏠 3 🛏 1 🚗 2

30 Phillips Road **Price by Negotiation**



- 7.9017ha / 19.5 acres(more or less) grazing
- Premium location - close to town
- Town water supply/well fenced/fruit trees

**RN1461**

8114 SH26 **Offers Over \$195,000**

**NEW LISTING**



This 1/4 acre section with phone, electricity & water, ready for development. Right next door to 8112 so you can buy both!

**RT5754**

8112 Paeroa Kopu Road, Thames **\$495,000**



Fronting onto the main road running through Hikutaia the property offers either a wonderful business base or 1 bedroom residential studio.

**RT5751** 🏠 1 🛏 1 🚗 1 🚗 1

Paeroa **Offers Over \$1,100,000**

**NEW LISTING**



- Heritage home, 8 brms, 3 living rooms, 2 bathroom
- Decked inground pool for summer entertaining
- 1416m2 (more or less) section

**RG1992** 🏠 8 🛏 2 🚗 1 🚗 3

Waihi **Offers Over \$2,200,000**



- Elevated 5.5 ha with sea views, native trees
- Modern 3 brms, office, ensuite, swimming pool
- 3 bay shed, bore water, loading race

**RRP226** 🏠 4 🛏 2 🚗 2 🚗 1

104 Hays Place **Offers Over \$660,000**



Elevated with views in the popular Parawai area in a cul-de-sac position with local primary school & dairy just down the road. Close to great fishing!

**RT5747** 🏠 3 🛏 1 🚗 2 🚗 1

3 Arthur Road, Ngarimu Bay **\$1,650,000**



This is an ideal family home located under 10kms north of Thames in sought after Ngarimu Bay. Perfectly positioned to make the most of the views.

**RT5748** 🏠 4 🛏 2 🚗 1 🚗 2

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# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

**Wishing you a relaxing holiday season and an exceptional new year.**

From the entire EVES Katikati and Waihi family, we would like to thank you for your continued support. We are truly proud of the property goals we have achieved for our clients, and we are looking forward to a prosperous 2023.



**EVES Katikati** 📞 07 549 0052 📧 katikati@eves.co.nz  
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2019 Toyota Corolla, GX, Hatch	\$25,990
2018 Toyota Hilux, SR5, Auto, 2WD	\$41,990
2017 Toyota Rav4, GXL, Auto, NZ New	\$26,990
2017 Toyota CH-R, turbo, 3 to choose from	\$29,990
2017 Kia Sportage, NZ New	from \$19,990
2017 Toyota Corolla, GLX, sedan,	\$18,990
2016 Toyota Rav4, 2.0 ltr petrol	from \$22,990
2016 Toyota Yaris GX, Auto	\$13,990

#### PAEROA YARD

2022 Hilux SR Extra Cab, EX-DEMO	\$66,990
2022 Kia Sportage Lx+ 2.0P 2WD NZ New, Towbar	\$39,990
2018 Toyota Hilux SR5, 2.8TD, 4WD, 6AT	\$48,990
2018 Toyota Rav4 GX 2.5P AWD SIGNATURE CLASS	\$34,290
2018 Kia Cerato LX, 2.0P, 6AT	\$15,990
2017 Nissan Navara ST 2.3D 2.WD 6MT	\$34,990
2017 Toyota Corolla GLX, 1.8P H/Back, Alloys, Auto	\$21,990
2014 Toyota Hilux 3.0TD, DCC, 4WD, 5AT	\$32,990

## Valley Toyota Thames

www.valley.toyota.co.nz • 07 868 8950  
Contact - Karl Richards 0274 084 564  
Christo Carstens 021 025 30264  
Finance - Terry Boswell 0210 445 929



## Tony Richards Toyota Paeroa

www.richards.toyota.co.nz • 07 862 7674  
Contact - Kent Ravenhill • 027 878 0642  
Finance - Kent Ravenhill 027 878 0642

# Gardening

## High temperatures, humidity forecast

A pre-Christmas check on the long term weather forecast indicated that we may experience an increase in precipitation and high temperatures increasing the chances of high humidity for January.

Moisture is a critical component of gardening and levels of humidity have a direct impact on moisture levels in the garden soil. It's about having the right balance, which is often out of our hands.

Maintaining soil moisture is so important to enable a continual and abundant supply of fresh summer vegetables. Considering the ever increasing cost of fresh fruit and vegetables, it makes good sense to increase the size of your garden if possible.

Including a few fruit trees is also worth consideration. Vegetables grow best in a full sun, sheltered position. Our local garden centres will give good advice for the most cost effective methods and your requirements.

Crops for harvest are beetroot, beans, cabbage, carrots, corn, cucumbers, lettuce, zucchini, peas, potatoes, spinach and tomatoes. It is a time of extreme growth so if your harvest is more than you can cope with remember your neighbours, family and friends.



Maintaining soil moisture is so important to enable a continual and abundant supply of fresh summer vegetables.

Revitalise plants after their spring growth spurt and keep them looking great through summer by giving them a homemade organic tea break.

You can either make your own - in a large bucket with a lid, add water to chopped seaweed, chopped up comfrey leaves, animal manure, fish guts, compost

or a mixture of any of these. Leave 3-4 weeks. Dilute with water when feeding to plants, don't make it too rich. Alternatively, you could buy liquid fertiliser from your garden centre.

I have a worm farm, so we collect lots of worm tea which is also a good option.

Keep an eye out for Black Spot

- large irregular black spots on leaves.

Rust - brown pustules on the underside of leaves. Powdery Mildew - a white or light grey coating on foliage and stems. Make sure that plants aren't crowded to ensure they have maximum air circulation.

Always water around the base

of the plants to avoid wet foliage and water early morning when possible. If despite your efforts powdery mildew does strike remove diseased foliage or whole plants immediately to help stop the spread. Crop rotation also helps to avoid spreading disease.

In the flower garden keep summer flowering annuals looking beautiful, dead head regularly and provide regular deep watering especially those in pots. Cut back any that have become straggly.

Don't forget to give your houseplants the attention they need in the hotter months and mist frequently.

Summer is hard for roses as humidity increases. If black spot becomes a problem, spray immediately and continue fortnightly. Dead head and give a light summer prune to encourage more flowering. Keep well-watered and mulched.

### Lawns

Water lawns weekly and avoid cutting them too short.

### Compost Heap

Turn frequently and keep moist.

Enjoy your garden.

- Ngatea Garden Circle

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# Gardening

## Rain a great benefit for gardens

The first month of summer has presented many challenges in the garden thus far.

With consistent heavy rainfall, strong winds, high humidity and even a tornado thrown in, gardens are perhaps not performing as you would normally expect for the time of year.

Although we are all wanting some fine sunny days, rain at this time of year is of great benefit. For those that are going away for the holiday season there is not as much worry of watering the garden and it lessens the chance of prolonged dry conditions for the rest of summer.

With the warm rain it is an ideal chance to put your indoor plants outside for a revitalising drink. Your plants will be refreshed and will thrive from being free of the chemicals that are in tap water. If you have a large number of indoor plants that may be difficult to move outside, try capturing some rain water and mixing some Ican Fast Food to give your plants a healthy boost.



In the flower garden, early Dahlias are just starting to flower. Stake them well, as the windy conditions will tend to make them fall over. Dahlias make a very beautiful showing and will continue to flower for a long period of time. Keep up with removing spent flower heads to encourage more to come along.

Dahlias can also be grown in pots, with many shorter growing varieties available. Dahlia Electro Pink is a stunning example, with its' cactus type flower heads and vibrant pink colour it is definitely a winner in any garden.



Dahlia Electro Pink is a stunning example. INSET: The Garden Dog raffle.

Vegetable gardens have certainly been put through their paces over the last couple of months. Some plants have not been faring as well as we would like. Beans have been slower to get started in some gardens and wind and rain have hampered sweet corn, tomatoes, courgettes and cucumbers. Although it is now on the late side to plant tomatoes, cucumbers, corn and courgettes can still be planted and will produce good crops.

Carrots, beetroot, lettuce, onions and pumpkins can also still be planted now.

Hopefully many of you will have the pleasure of new potatoes from the garden, pot or potato grow bag for Christmas Day.

All this unusual weather has also been tough on fruit trees.

Many lost blossoms before fruit could set and others that had fruit have had a lot blow off. It is unfortunate to lose fruit crops to the weather, but we can live in hope for a better harvest next season. Even with a reduced crop, keep up with feeding and mulching your fruit trees to ensure excellent plant health.

Any damaged branches need to be cleanly pruned and pruning paste applied. Pruning paste will help to ensure clean healing and less chance of fungal disease and bora becoming a problem. A big congratulations to Carolyn Purcell, the lucky winner of Country Dog Garden Centre Christmas Raffle. Carolyn is the recipient of \$250 worth of garden products to make her garden look great this summer.

Wishing a very Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and safe holiday season to all from our team.

- Supplied by Country Dog Garden Centre, Paeroa



All this unusual weather has also been tough on fruit trees.

## Give a living gift this Christmas

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**www.countrydoggardencentre.co.nz**

## Gilmer Farms

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
30  Plant above ground crops	31 Non planting Day	January 2023 Moon Planting Calendar				1  Plant above ground crops
2  Plant above ground crops	3  Plant above ground crops	4 Non planting Day	5 Non planting Day	6  Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	7  Full Moon	8  Plant root crops. Liquid Feed
9 Non planting Day	10 Non planting Day	11 Non planting Day	12 Non planting Day	13 Non planting Day	14  Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	15  Plant root crops, trees and shrubs
16  Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	17  Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	18 Non planting Day	19 Non planting Day	20  Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	21  Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	22  New Moon
23 Non planting Day	24  Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	25  Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	26 Non planting Day	27 Non planting Day	28  Plant above ground crops	29  Plant above ground crops



# Santa's grotto

Santa Claus paid a visit to Goldfields School in Paeroa on December 19. The students were given gifts and had a photo with the man in the red suit. Reporter **KELLEY TANTAU** witnessed the festive fun.



Goldfields' students Beckham, left, and Liam give Santa's visit a big thumbs up.

Photos: KELLEY TANTAU



Logan says thanks to Santa for his present.



Koston and Santa Claus had a ball of a time.



Santa and Sabia.



William Rule grabs a photo with Santa before he returns to the North Pole.



Santa and Luke.

**FRANKLINvets**

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Thank you for supporting our business.

Friday, 23 December	OPEN
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>Boxing Day</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>Tuesday, 27 December</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
Wednesday, 28 December	OPEN
Thursday, 29 December	OPEN
Friday, 30 December	OPEN
<b>New Years Eve</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>New Years Day</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>Monday, 2 January</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>Tuesday, 3 January</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
Wednesday, 4 January	OPEN

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**Merry Christmas**  
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**Meri Kirihimete**  
Wishing everyone safe and happy holidays from the Read Bros team

**Unichem Paeroa Pharmacy**  
**Christmas Opening Hours**  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

Saturday 24th Dec 9:00am - 2.00pm

Sunday 25th to Tuesday 27th Dec - CLOSED

Wednesday Dec 28 to Friday Dec 30:  
8.30am - 5pm  
Saturday Dec 31: 9am - 12.30pm

Saturday 1st to Tuesday 3rd Jan - CLOSED

Wednesday 4th Jan normal hours resume  
8:30am - 5:30pm

**Thames Medical Centre Festive Season Hours**

Day	Date	Hours
Sunday	25 <sup>th</sup> December	Closed
Monday	26 <sup>th</sup> December	Closed
Tuesday	27 <sup>th</sup> December	Closed
Wednesday	28 <sup>th</sup> December	Normal Surgery Hours (8.30am – 5.00pm) 3 Doctors on duty
Thursday	29 <sup>th</sup> December	Normal Surgery Hours (8.30am – 5.00pm) 3 Doctors on duty
Friday	30 <sup>st</sup> December	Normal Surgery Hours (8.30am – 5.00pm) 3 Doctors on duty
Saturday	31 <sup>st</sup> December	Closed
Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup> January	Closed
Monday	2 <sup>nd</sup> January	Closed
Tuesday	3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Closed
Wednesday	4 <sup>th</sup> January	Normal Surgery Hours (8.30am – 5.00pm) 3 Doctors on duty
Thursday	5 <sup>th</sup> January	Normal Surgery Hours (8.30am – 5.00pm) 3 Doctors on duty
Friday	6 <sup>th</sup> January	Normal Surgery Hours (8.30am – 5.00pm) 3 Doctors on duty
Saturday	7 <sup>th</sup> January	Closed
Sunday	8 <sup>th</sup> January	Closed

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

**Merry Christmas from the team at** **HMP HAURAKI PLAINS MOTORS LTD**

Thank you for your continued fantastic support throughout the year. We will be closing at 3pm Friday Dec 23rd & stat days only.

**THANKYOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT THROUGHOUT 2022**

from the team at **HAPPY HOLIDAYS** **helloworld TRAVEL** THE TRAVEL PROFESSIONALS

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS

# Christmas lights a passion for pair

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

Broken down by numbers, there are 43 plugs in and around Colleen and Pat Matthews' house, 48 solar panels, 140 batteries, and tens of thousands of lights.

But the number of people who have been entertained and enthralled by the Christmas displays put on by the Ngātea pair since 2010 is more difficult to calculate, yet their encouragement is what keeps the lights turned on.

Colleen and Pat are in their 13th year of decking out their Benner Dr abode with candy canes, twinkling bulbs, and Christmas trees, all to celebrate the festive season.

At night, the house is so bright you can see it as you round the bend, they told *The Profile* in the lead-up to Christmas.

"We started off doing little things, putting a few lights around and then improving on that. Now, every year I get told I'm not buying any more lights, but we do always end up buying more," Pat said.

The kindred spirits use ingenuity to make their displays last. A Christmas tree was part of the show for a decade before finally rusting

out. There's also a hand-made 'Merry Xmas' sign that is put on the front lawn each year.

They also come up with new and improved ways of doing things.

"I'd been dragging lights over the roof for years, pulling string and tennis balls, then one day in the middle of the night, I thought: why don't I just get long sticks and push them up with my fingers?" Colleen said.

Numbers-wise, she reckons Pat spent five hours a day for three weeks - around 200 hours - to mentally prepare and hang the lights ahead of December.

"I have a bench out there that I work on, and there's soldering irons and there's glue guns... you get half-way through and you get sick of it, but when it's all up and it goes, you get the pleasure of seeing other people enjoy it," Pat said.

The couple said their home has become known for its bright displays, and some nights, they can be outside talking with passers-by for "at least an hour or two".

And it's not only Christmas they look forward to each year.

Pat and Colleen also transform the property into a



Pat and Colleen Matthews' Ngātea home transforms into a Christmas wonderland every year. Below: The Benner Dr house all aglow.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

haunted house come Halloween - last year featuring Pat in a scary clown costume with skeletons and ghouls and monsters.

"You always wonder if it's going to be worth it, but peoples comments give you a kick out of it," Pat said.

"Plus," Colleen added. "We like having a challenge."



Merry Christmas

Health  
Ngatea

wishes everyone a Merry Xmas and a happy healthy New Year.

Merry Christmas

The Plantery  
*'plant based living'*

Merry Christmas to all

Thank you for 2022

I will be taking a break until January 8th, I look forward to seeing you then.

[www.theplanterystore.co.nz](http://www.theplanterystore.co.nz)  
The Depot, 715 Pollen St, Thames.  
Behind Café Melbourne

BURTON'S BUTCHERY

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all the team at Burtons Butchery. We will be taking a break from Christmas day and re opening on the 4th of January so get in early to avoid missing out.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from Thames Valley Tangata Ora Trust. Thank you for your support this year. We will be closing 1pm December 23rd and re-opening January 16th. Thank you for your support.

Cielo Hair

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from the team at Cielo Hair. We look forward to seeing you all next year when we return on Jan 10th.

ARKWRIGHTS ANTIQUES PAEROA

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year. We will be closed Christmas Day only

PAEROA - ANTIQUE TOWN OF NEW ZEALAND

Merry Christmas from The Public Office

We will be closed during the stats only and will be taking a break later in January.

We wish everyone a happy and prosperous 2023

Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year from us all at Thames Autos.

We will be closed from Friday Dec 23rd and back on Monday Jan 16th



St Francis students with their donated goods and Christmas angels.

Photo: SUPPLIED

# Town opens for Xmas shopping

By GORDON PREECE

More than 75 food and general stalls will line The Vibe and Pollen St for the Thames Xmas Night Market on December 21.

Organiser Lorraine Millar told *The Profile* the event will spread cheer and goodwill to the community between 4pm and 8pm.

"We're hoping everyone will come out and have something to eat and do a bit of late Christmas shopping," she said.

"The idea was to open the shops late at night and we've invited shops to be open, I know Pamper Me will be open late.

"Hopefully we can have

another one during the year or look at doing something else."

Lorraine, who also owns the Thames Treasures Indoor Market and operates the Grahamstown Car Boot Market, said the food on offer would include burgers, whitebait fritters, brownies, cakes, pizzas, macadamia nuts, nougat, candy floss, slushies and seasonal fruit.

"We also have Thames Community Patrol doing a fundraiser with a barbeque and we'll also have the band *Stir it Up* performing," she said.

**Details: Thames Xmas Night Market, December 21, 4pm to 8pm, The Vibe and Pollen St, food and non-food stalls.**

## Decorations and goodies to be donated by students

St Francis Catholic School year six, seven and eight students from its Piwakawaka room have studied the role of the Student Volunteer Army and how it responds to events in New Zealand during Term Four. Principal Oliver Fahey said students collected food offerings and made Christmas decorations and Christmas angels as part of their study. The collection will be donated to the Thames community foodbank to make Christmas a little easier for families.



Late-night shopping and a Christmas market is on in Thames this week.

**HUIRAKI TYRE and BATTERY**

**Wishing you a very Merry Christmas & safe travelling**

We are open Fri 23rd Dec til 3pm  
Sat 24th 9am -12pm  
28th - 30th Dec 8am-3pm  
Sat 31st 9am-12pm  
4th - 6th Jan 8am -3pm  
Sat 7th Jan 9am - 12pm

Thank you for supporting our small local business, we appreciate you

314 Pollen Street, Thames  
Ph 868 8182

*Earth Angel Magic*

**Blessings to you all. Have a magical Christmas filled with love, joy and peace**

The shop will be closed Christmas Day only.

**insider**

Thank you to all my wonderful dedicated customers. Have a lovely Christmas and see you next year.

I will be closing 1pm Dec 24th and reopening Jan 16th

**The Placemakers team wish you Merry Christmas & happy holidays.**

Christmas Trading Hours are  
**Closed** 24th 25th 26th 27th Dec.  
Open 28th 29th 30th 8.30am to 4.30pm.  
**Closed** 31st Dec 1st 2nd 3rd Jan.  
Open 4th 5th 6th Jan 8.30am to 4.30pm  
Open 7th Jan 8.30am to 12.30pm.  
Back to normal hours on the 9th Jan 7.00am - 5.00pm.

**PlaceMakers**

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*Happy Holidays*

Wishing you a safe & festive season

From Des, Christine & the family

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year**

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E: susannakruger20@gmail.com

**Magic Scissors**

**MERRY XMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM MAGIC SCISSORS.**

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO DRIVE SAFE AS SPEED KILLS AND COROMANDEL ROADS GET VERY BUSY OVER SUMMER.**

The Valley Education team wishes everyone a very **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

Thank you for your support.

The office closes 16 December and reopens 16 January 2023.

**Valley Education**  
07 868 7892 • 027 314 1577



# MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS

## Jingle all the way

More than 30 floats donned in Christmas colours spread cheer and goodwill to beaming crowds at the Thames Santa Parade on December 17, with schools, local businesses, and community groups taking part. Reporter **GORDON PREECE** headed along to capture the festivities.



Santa catches a ride on a horse and cart.

Photos: GORDON PREECE



Mitre 10 Thames delighted the crowd.



Thames Coast Community Kindergarten were on the nice list.



Thames Fire Brigade rider waves to the crowd.



Richmond Villas members ride in style.



Moanataiari kids are underwater.

Leanne, Sophia, Rachel & Ava would like to thank all our loyal supporters for the past year.

Have a Merry Christmas and a safe & Happy New Year.



We will be closing for a break on Dec 23rd and reopening Jan 10th



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The team at Fairview Thames would like to thank our customers for their support over the past year and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

We are closing for our Christmas break from midday Thursday the 22nd of December, returning 8am on Monday the 9th of January.

**Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.**

**Papreeka**  
Hair Salon in Ngatea

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our valued clients.

Thank you for your support & loyalty through 2022.

We will be closed from Dec 23rd until Jan 17th.

Ann & Lucy.



Wishing Our Burton's followers a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

We will be closing for a well deserved break.

The shop will be closed from December 23rd till January 9th.

Look forward to seeing everyone in the new year.

**ALLENS UNITED**  
Paeroa (2015) Ltd

Thanks for all your support in 2022.

We wish everyone a safe & Merry Xmas.

Happy New Year !!

May 2023 be kind to you all.

0800 862 720 | 027 442 0067



**INNIS ELECTRICAL**

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

Thanks to all my customers. We're having a break from Dec 23rd til Jan 4th.

027 539 5572

Shane, Chelsea and Kate would like to wish all our Customers a very Merry Xmas and Prosperous New Year.

A big thank you for your continued support.

Our Xmas/New Year hours will be:

December 24th- 27th – Closed  
December 28th – 30th 9.00 – 2.00  
December 31st – January 3rd- Closed

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Nola Jackson outside her new Magic Scissors venue on Pollen St. Photo: GORDON PREECE

## New salon for Magic Scissors

Magic Scissors on Pollen St offers “everything haircuts” for men, women and children without the need to lock in appointments.

Nola Jackson has owned the business for seven years and has operated from her new Pollen St venue for three months after shifting from another Pollen St venue.

“I’ve got a following of regular customers from down the road, people just want to walk in and get their haircut without appointments,” she said.

“Haircuts for men, women and children, pixie styles, short back and sides, layers, long

hair, short hair, trims and restyles, basically just everything haircuts.

“People either get their haircut as soon as they walk in or enjoy chatting with other customers while they wait.”

Nola said she hoped tourists and backpackers would return to Thames this summer.

“I’ve missed doing their hair, because it has literally been locals in the past few years so it would be nice to have tourists again,” she said.

**DETAILS: Find Magic Scissors’ new address at: 453 Pollen St, Thames.**

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**Profile**

# CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 1pm Monday

Death Notice	Gardening	Storage	Wanted to Buy
<p><b>Flooks, Alec William:</b>                      Died 13th Dec 2022 aged 86. Loved eldest brother and brother-in-law of Ray &amp; Nancy and much loved uncle of Alan &amp; Sammie, Sandra &amp; Bryan, Brett &amp; Suzy. Rest in peace Alec.</p> <p><b>Flooks, Alec William:</b>                      Past President, respected Life Member and current patron of the Kerepehi Bowling &amp; Sports Club. You will be missed Alec.</p>	<p><b>Stump Grinding.</b> All sizes, all areas. Free quote. Ph 021 060 7659</p> <p><b>Handyman</b></p> <p>Mowing, hedges, fencing, gardening, carpentry, painting, retaining walls, welding, waterblasting. Work is good quality and I will not attempt to work outside of my skills. Insured. Dennis Schuler 022 129 0169</p>	<p><b>Thames Valley Storage</b> – secure, dry units available, two sizes. Call Trev 027 4076966</p> <p><b>Motorcycles,</b> 4 wheelers &amp; side x sides. Going or not. Phone 027 216 6867. A1 Motorcycles</p> <p><b>Caravans,</b> horse floats, boats, trailers, motorbikes, outboards, quads. Any condition, anywhere. Ph Steve 027 622 0011</p>	<p>Aerial photos of Thornton Bay 1998 - 2020. Good money paid for the right pictures. Phone Peter 027 414 8633</p> <p><b>PLACE YOUR AD IN THE PROFILE:</b>                      022 130 3885  <a href="mailto:nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz">nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz</a></p> <p><b>Profile</b></p>

# DEADLINE

**We can now take your classified ads anytime before 1pm Monday, January 9**

022 130 3885 | [nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz](mailto:nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz) **Profile**

# Season's greetings

from

# The Valley Profile




*Teresa, Nikki, Kelley, Gordon, Geoff and the team would like to thank all our advertisers, contributors and readers for your support this year. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year!*

This is our last paper for 2022  
 The next issue will be out January 11, 2023

# CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 1pm Monday


**Public Notice**

**Extraordinary Meeting of Hauraki District Council**



Pursuant to Section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, public notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary Meeting of Council was held on Wednesday, 21st December 2022 in the Council Chamber, Hauraki House, 1 William Street, Paeroa for the purpose of the adopting the Draft 2021-22 Annual Report.


L D Cavers  
 Chief Executive  
 Hauraki District Council



[www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz)

**Public Notice**

**Temporary Road Closure**



Pursuant to the Section 11(e) of the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974, notice is hereby given that for the purpose of a Music Festival "Gold Rush 2023" event, the following roads will be closed to ordinary vehicular traffic for the period indicated below. During the period of closure provision will be made for ordinary vehicular traffic, which would otherwise use the road, to use alternative routes.

**Period of closure:** 11:00am Monday 3 January 2023 to 12:30am Tuesday 4 January 2023.

**Road to be closed:**

- Consols St: Cornwall St to Wrigley St (closure point at Wrigley St)
- Victoria St: Consols St to Kenny St (closure point at Consols St)
- Lawrence Rd: Entire road
- Maddocks St: Maddock St to Consols St (closure point 50m from Consols Street)
- Gilbraith St: Kenny Rd – road end (closure point at Kenny Rd)
- Margaret St: Entire road (closure point at Consols St)
- Wrigley St: Consols St to Waitete Rd (closure point at Parry Palm Ave/SH2 and Consols St)
- Canon St: Entire road (closure point at Parry Palm Ave/SH2 and Consols St)
- Cornwall St: Entire road
- Dean Cres: Entire road (closure point at Parry Palmer Ave/SH2)
- Orchard Road: Closure points Parry Palm Ave Slip (Village end) to Parry Palm Ave/SH2
- Village Way: Entire road (closure point Parry Palm Ave/SH2.

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

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

L D Cavers  
 Chief Executive  
 Hauraki District Council

**Situations Vacant**

**Staff Required for Gull Thames Service Station**

Staff required for Night shifts and Day shifts (Full time/Part time) positions available at Gull Thames. Suitable customer service experience, must be mature and have good communication skills.

**Please Drop your CV at Gull & Rockgas Thames 208 Pollen Street, Thames 3500**



**PAPER RUNNERS**

We have vacancies for reliable paper runners in Thames to deliver the newspaper that is being read.

*Please contact Geoff via email*  
[admin@valleyprofile.co.nz](mailto:admin@valleyprofile.co.nz)

for more information.

**Profile**

# Kauaeranga Visitor Centre Special Evening Event

## Saturday 7 January, 4pm–7:45pm

Dam release, gecko encounters, *The Lorax* movie, and more!

Pack a picnic and enjoy this special evening in the park.

Bring your gold coins for a great evening out!

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

— Dr. Seuss

**4.00pm** The wild dam release! – come and see history in action with Thames Rotary. Donations will assist with other community projects in Thames.

**4.30pm** Live gecko encounters.

Face painting.

Rotary Club sausage sizzle.

**6.00pm** **Movie Time**  
*The Lorax* – a wonderful, animated family friendly movie with a message about caring for our trees and planet. The imaginative world of Dr. Seuss comes to life like never before in this visually spectacular adventure from the creators of *Despicable Me!*

Twelve-year-old Ted will do anything to find a real live Truffula Tree in order to impress the girl of his dreams. As he embarks on his journey, Ted discovers the incredible story of the Lorax, a grumpy but charming creature who speaks for the trees. Featuring the voice talents of Danny DeVito, Ed Helms, Zac Efron, Taylor Swift, Rob Riggle, Jenny Slate, and Betty White, Dr. Seuss' *The Lorax* is filled with hilarious fun for everyone.

Spaces are limited.

kauaerangavc@doc.govt.nz. Ph: 07 8679080



The Bay of Plenty



## Hato Hone St John Thames

### Thank you to our supporters, suppliers and sponsors.

To all of our supporters, suppliers and sponsors, thank you very much for the support that you have provided to us through this challenging year.

Without the support of the community Hato Hone St John would not be able to provide those programmes and services that help to strengthen our community's resilience.

### Thank you to our volunteers and staff.

- > the volunteers of our Therapy Pets Reading Education Assistance Dogs programme
- > the volunteers that help with our Opportunity Retail Shop
- > the volunteers and staff that run our Health Shuttles
- > the volunteer Friends of the Emergency Department / Hospital
- > the volunteers of Thames Area Committee
- > the volunteers and staff on our ambulances
- > the youth and their volunteer leaders in our Youth programme
- > the volunteer Caring Callers
- > the members of the Order of St John of Jerusalem

Thank you for your dedicated service and contribution to your community through Hato Hone St John.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous and happy New Year

**St John - local people serving the needs of our community.**



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# The Valley Profile



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Thames

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The team at Peninsula Prime Meats wish our valued customers a Merry Xmas & Happy New Year and offer our sincere apologies for Michelle's customer service & behaviour throughout the year.

Thanks: Rob, Phil & Flo



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

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81

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HARD

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

MEDIUM

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

EASY

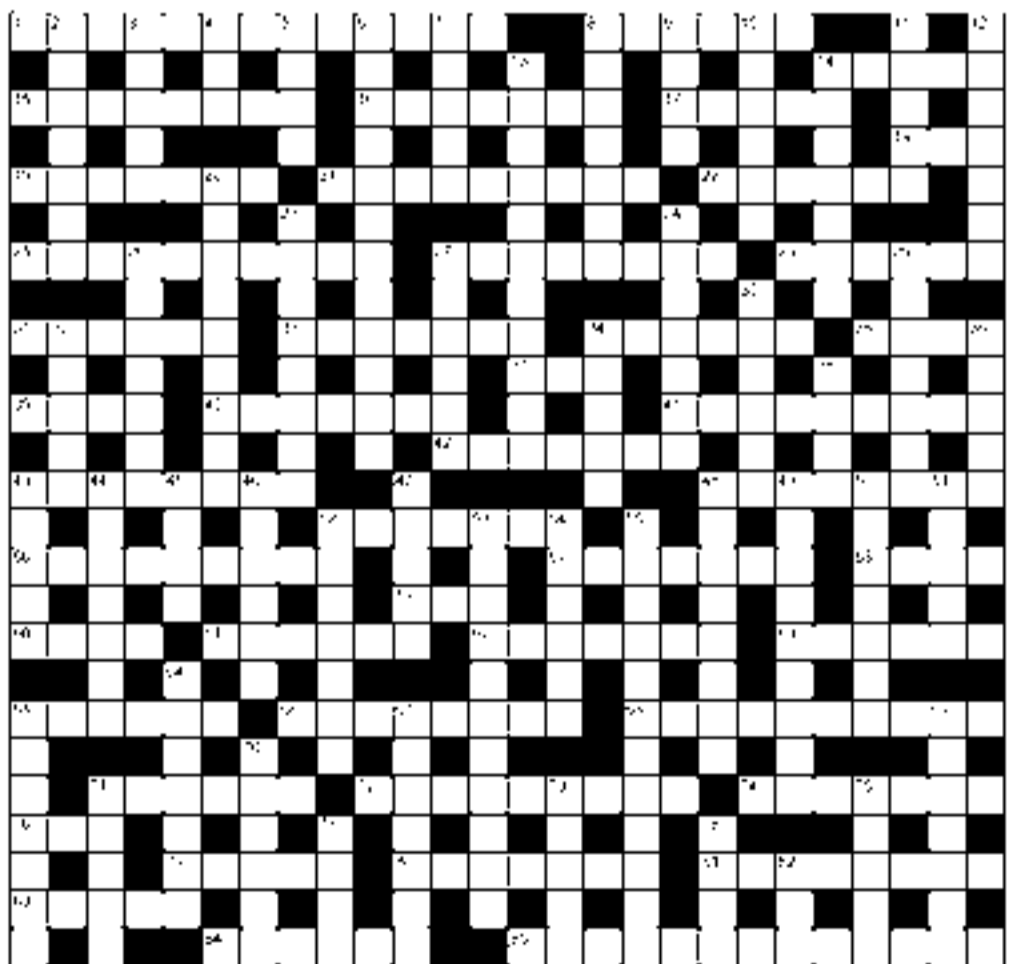
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# JUMBO CROSSWORD

101

## ACROSS

- 1 Not very good or significant (2,5,6)
- 8 Film theatre (6)
- 14 Around (5)
- 15 Plan of action (8)
- 16 Highlander's pouch (7)
- 17 Alcoholic drink (5)
- 18 Facial twitch (3)
- 19 Public road (7)
- 21 Bewitched (9)
- 22 Word of honour (6)
- 25 Painful disorder of the joints (10)
- 27 Known (8)
- 28 Say from memory (6)
- 31 Take away (6)
- 33 Tooth repairer (7)
- 34 Melted cheese dip (6)
- 35 Unforeseen obstacle (4)
- 37 Digit (3)
- 39 For nothing (4)
- 40 Men's ale (anag)(7)
- 41 Napkin (9)
- 42 Jewish vernacular (7)
- 43 Statue support (8)
- 48 Brief summary (8)
- 52 Swooped (7)
- 56 Sentimental longing for the past (9)
- 57 Gaining by work (7)
- 58 Submissive (4)
- 59 Weapon (3)
- 60 Arduous (4)
- 61 Spirit, courage (6)
- 62 Sneering laugh (7)
- 63 Covenant (6)
- 65 Favour (6)
- 66 Went before (8)
- 68 Stressed (10)
- 71 Shelled insect (6)
- 72 Pecking order (9)
- 74 High spirited, fun (7)
- 76 Take to court (3)
- 79 Satisfies completely (5)
- 80 Support in mine (3,4)
- 81 Tie (4,4)
- 83 Push roughly (5)
- 84 Film cutter (6)
- 85 Feign reluctance or unwillingness (4,4,2,3)
- 26 String instrument (7)
- 27 Weak and insubstantial (6)
- 29 Sets fire to (7)
- 30 Prey (6)
- 32 Uncanny (5)
- 34 Smelling unpleasant (5)
- 36 Rough estimate (5)
- 38 Grain store (4)
- 43 Party drink (5)
- 44 Merit (7)
- 45 Skin mark (4)
- 46 Debated (6)
- 47 Protuberance (5)
- 48 Rider's supports (8)
- 49 Dusk (9)
- 50 City buried by Vesuvius (7)
- 51 Bungling (5)
- 52 Dressmaker's guide (7)
- 53 Thoughtful (11)
- 54 Refused to grant (6)
- 55 Apt to shoot on any small provocation (7-5)
- 64 Back (7)
- 65 Continue obstinately (7)
- 67 Fast sailing ship (7)
- 69 Do like (7)
- 70 Dress (6)
- 71 Underneath (5)
- 73 Agrarian (5)
- 75 Exclamation of joy, exultation (5)
- 77 Employs (4)
- 78 Thought (4)
- 82 Tot up (3)



## PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Hot under the collar, 10 Straight, 15 Rescue, 16 Shrewdness, 17 Trespass, 19 Release, 21 Worry, 22 Imperfect, 25 Paramount, 27 Isolate, 29 Cathay, 33 Pedal, 34 Cassette, 36 Deliberate, 39 Lap, 41 Uranium, 42 Escort, 43 Oblong, 44 Snap, 45 Vestige, 48 Ginger beer, 53 Rivalry, 57 Oily, 58 Script, 59 Saucer, 60 Glucose, 62 Eye, 64 Attractive, 65 Nicotine, 66 Cadet, 69 Choice, 70 Snarled, 71 Fireplace, 76 Emergency, 77 Broad, 78 Headway, 83 Brickbat, 84 Compromise, 85 Voodoo, 86 Reporter, 87 Wipe the slate clean.

DOWN: 2 Opened, 3 Uncle, 4 Due, 5 Rise, 6 Harpoon, 7 Coward, 8 Lane, 9 Assemble, 11 Tariff, 12 Associated, 13 Glad, 14 Testify, 18 Best-seller, 20 Soak, 23 Loyal, 24 Shrapnel, 26 Against, 28 Shelter, 30 Decree, 31 Strong, 32 Winner, 35 Sushi, 37 Empty, 38 Rung, 40 Pose, 45 Viola, 46 Solution, 47 Excite, 48 Grievances, 49 Note, 50 Essence, 51 Bounce, 52 Event, 54 Idle, 55 Archaic, 56 Rasher, 61 Watchmaker, 63 Index, 67 Broccoli, 68 Glue, 69 Crowbar, 72 Italics, 73 Crease, 74 Brooch, 75 Pagoda, 79 Droll, 80 Limp, 81 Apse, 82 Beta, 85 Vie.

SPORTS

# Incoming chief ready for kickoff

By GORDON PREECE

Forming connections with the eleven Thames Valley Rugby Union clubs will be Scott Penney's first point of contact as the new chief executive.

The former head of community rugby for Counties Manukau Rugby Football Union replaces Paul Nisbet, who passed on his resignation in September after six months with the union for a new sport and recreation role in Auckland.

Scott told *The Profile*, he was "really excited" to don the chief executive jersey on January 16.

"I've grown up in Counties but have always had a little bit of passion for the Valley with friends that live there, and to be given the opportunity to be leading that little place is really exciting for me," he said.

"Because I've worked in the commercial side and the community side [for four years] with Counties, a lot of it is crossover so I got to know the [TVRFU] staff, and a fair bit of Counties spend a lot of time in the Coromandel over the summer."

Scott, who is also a former South Auckland police officer, said the new role would allow him to hone his skills.

"I'm really keen to develop as a person and being CEO of a place like Thames Valley gives me the opportunity to learn," he said.

"[TVRFU] has a lot of passionate people and a very passionate



Scott Penney, left, coached Counties Maunkau teams prior to becoming TVRU chief executive. Photo: RICHARD SPRANGER

board that is willing to give me a go.

"I know the community of Thames Valley has seen a revolving door a few times at my level, the CEO level, so it would be quite good to get a bit of continuity going but it's definitely a few years in my time hopefully," he said.

Scott said his first priority would be forming connections with all Thames Valley clubs.

"A big thing for me is connection, right through grassroots it is connections and getting to see what the community wants and how we can help our great game grow," he said.

"I look forward to meeting all the clubs right through from junior to senior and see what we can develop."

Scott said he would be commuting from Pukekohe to the Valley office in Paeroa during his time as chief executive.

"It's only an hour's travel for me

but that's nothing when I travel more than an hour around Auckland to pick up my children from sport on a daily basis," he said.

"But my mum lives in the Karangahake Gorge and I've got a few family connections all through Coromandel so I'm pretty sure I'll be able to get myself around."

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