

THE LIFESTYLER

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**The Supported
Life Style Hauraki Trust**
608 Queen Street
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OH, WHAT A NIGHT



On the 27th July, The Trust celebrated their 30th Anniversary. A week long calendar of events culminated at the Masquerade Ball held at the Thames Civic Centre.

We were delighted to be entertained by our MC, Miss Geena and her associates, Shavorn Aborealis and Hugo Girrl from Caluzzi Cabaret in Auckland. They wowed us with an amazing array of spectacular costume changes and show-stopping performances.

The ceremonial cake was cut by our longest resident Life Styler, Paul Rolton and our resident, Jean Branch. The hub of the Trust is considered to be Amy Street, where the cafe is located. Our very own Mardi Anderson excelled herself with the re-creation of Amy Street as a painted backdrop. The artwork was placed across the whole rear of the Civic Centre, an outstanding work of art.

During the week there were a number of ways which Life Stylers, whanau and staff could celebrate.

An art exhibition was held at Goldfields Shopping Centre with a Silent Auction of all the displayed art work. Trust movies played at the 608 Queen Street office for the week with Life Stylers and staff enjoying the reminiscing of past familiar faces.

The invitation was open to the public to come and meet us and enjoy our spaces.

More photos to be enjoyed on the back page.



CE UPDATE

We're at the end of another year at what feels to be a lightning pace.

The disability sector has been a crazy place this year, but even with the busyness, our fabulous team has given their all once again.

Our tense funding environment started our year off with a bang, and ongoing developments have kept us watching closely to ensure we know how the government is moving. We end the year but are still unsure where the sector will move next year.

Our Board grew this year from 7 to 9 as we farewelled 2 and welcomed 4 outstanding new board members as the Trust plans for the future. Good governance is essential in organisations like the Trust, and we are very fortunate to have the great people we do.

We've also completed surveys for Life Stylers, whanau, and staff and received great feedback. We also held the first family Zoom meeting. The feedback was very positive, and we will be planning more in the new year.

This time of year is a fabulous time to be at the Trust. Everyone starts to plan their trips home and time with families, and this year, we have a few more than previous years to remember, and miss.

Have a safe festive season and enjoy your time with loved ones.

We will see you in 2025.



SAMANTHA LEE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

COMMUNITY SPACES ARTSIDER

We have welcomed many new members to our creative space! Our tutors are customising the program to align with individual desires and inspirations. The Life Stylers have shown innovation, curiosity, and authenticity in expressing themselves within this environment.

Recently, the Life Stylers showcased their art at the Goldfields Mall in preparation for the upcoming art exhibition, as well as at the Launch Festival in Hamilton. Our creative space offers a variety of activities, including pottery, sewing, mosaics, clay work, banner making, painting, beadwork, and costume making.

We are excited to announce that some local artists will be hosting a Jewellery and Pottery workshop. We look forward to holding Artsider at the Café to hopefully entice people into this majestic space.



POTTERY CLASS

Sue from Artsider is hosting a pottery class for 5 people.

If you would like to attend, please put your name on the list at 608 Queen St office.

When she has 5 people signed up and paid, Sue will advise of the date for the class (it will be a Thursday).

Classes are available to Life Stylers.

\$40 per person

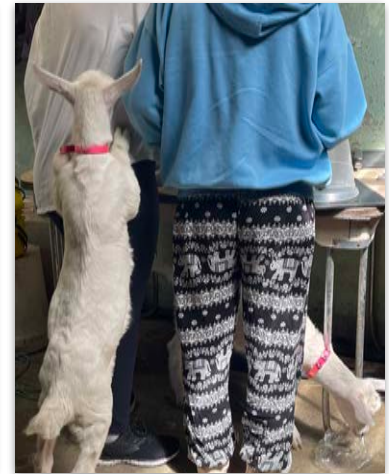
PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- 1 x session 10:30am to 11:45am (on a Thursday date TBC).
- Use of wheel, sculpting tools, training & clay.
- Kiln firing of your project.
- A minimum of people 5 per class.
- \$40 per person

FARM

The farm offers a nurturing and engaging environment where individuals can connect with nature through animal care and experience life on a farm. We warmly welcome our baby goats, calves, and lambs, who bring a delightful sense of mischief as they jump and frolic around while participants prepare their milk for bottle feeding. The ever-growing hens and our very own egg production are a baker's delight. The Kuni Kuni pigs, cows named "Kelly Cow," "Mouchie," and "Caramel," along with lambs, chicks, ducklings, and goats, are just a few of the wonders found on the farm. This hands-on experience fosters a sense of responsibility and cultivates empathy and respect for living creatures, enriching everyone's overall experience.

The farm serves as a tranquil space for mindfulness and personal growth, allowing individuals to explore their creativity and connect with the earth. We take pride in providing a space where every member can thrive, learn, and grow alongside our hardworking and enthusiastic Farm Manager and staff.



EQUILIBRIUM

EquiLibrium is our dedicated horse space, providing a unique environment for personal growth, connection, and healing. Interacting with horses offers a therapeutic experience that fosters emotional well-being and builds confidence. Life Stylers have a special fondness for Nugget, Fergie, Montana, Lunar, and Woodie, eagerly anticipating time spent with these animals.

In this space, Life Stylers learn the art of horsemanship, covering everything from basic care and grooming to riding and training. These hands-on experiences cultivate a deep sense of responsibility and compassion towards animals, encouraging participants to develop empathy and patience.

EquiLibrium also offers opportunities for skill development, allowing individuals to build teamwork and communication skills while working with horses. Whether leading or riding, each interaction is designed to empower individuals and promote a sense of achievement.

In summary, EquiLibrium is more than just a horse space; it is a nurturing sanctuary that promotes healing, connection, and empowerment through the transformative power of horses.





THE JAM JAR

The music space is a vibrant hub for creativity and expression. Everyone has the opportunity to explore their musical talents using a variety of instruments, including guitars, keyboards, and percussion. Life Stylers enjoy experimenting with different sounds and styles.



Our talented music tutors provide personalised guidance, helping individuals develop their musical abilities while encouraging collaboration and improvisation. Whether through group classes, jam sessions, or one-on-one lessons, each participant is given the chance to discover their unique voice.



Showcases at the 30th Anniversary Celebration, Roll Call, the Nga Putake o Toi ki Hauraki Cultural Diversity Event, Karaoke at the Café and Launch Festival in Hamilton, allowed our Band “J, K, L, M”, and Life Stylers to perform, fostering a sense of community and achievement. We believe that music is a powerful form of expression, and we are committed to supporting our members on their musical journeys.

ORIGINALWORX

OriginalWorx is an inspiring initiative that encourages creativity and self-expression. Life Stylers can explore various artistic mediums, helping them to develop their unique talents and perspectives.

Participants engage in hands-on projects ranging from visual arts to crafts, each designed to spark imagination and promote individual creativity. The focus is on the process of creating rather than the end product, fostering a sense of accomplishment and pride in personal expression.

OriginalWorx is led by experienced Tutors who introduce new techniques and materials, ensuring everyone has the opportunity to expand their skills. In addition, showcasing their work at local events and exhibitions allows participants to share their art with the community, highlighting their achievements and encouraging further exploration. The supportive environment nurtures confidence and encourages members to explore their ideas without fear of judgment.

Overall, OriginalWorx serves as a vital platform for creativity, personal growth, and social connection, empowering individuals to express themselves and discover the joy of creating.





CAFÉ

The Café is a vibrant gathering place that embodies community spirit and creativity. It offers a welcoming atmosphere for Life Stylers, their families, and the broader community to connect, socialise, and enjoy delicious food.

The Café serves as a hub for various events and activities, showcasing the talents of our Life Stylers and Staff through live music performances and monthly celebrations. With an emphasis on local and seasonal ingredients, the menu features a range of healthy and delicious options that cater to various dietary needs, fostering a sense of inclusivity.

The Café also provides opportunities for Life Stylers to gain valuable skills in hospitality and customer service, enhancing their self-confidence and employability. We recently welcomed Jean Branch to do the Breakfast Service along with our long-standing Kitchen Hand John Harrod.

Moreover, the Staff within this space create an inviting space for stimulating conversation and collaboration. Whether it is enjoying a warm cup of coffee or simply relaxing with friends, the Café truly embodies the essence of community and personal growth.

OPERATIONS TEAM

Earlier this year we farewelled our Operations Manager Phil Wightman, who moved home to Taranaki after 8 years working for the Trust.

We welcomed Dan Verry to the Operations team, who moved north to join the Trust after nearly 10 years living and working in Wellington.

A bit about Dan: Originally from the Manawatū, Dan grew up rurally and attended Massey University before heading down to Wellington, working in audit and finance roles in the disability, legal, housing and construction sectors.

Outside of work Dan is passionate about all forms of

sport, long-distance running, being outdoors and helping others.

Dan and his dog Doug are often out and about at the Trust – Doug has proven to be very popular with a lot of the Life Stylers.



If you would like to get in touch with Dan about anything to do with Operations at the Trust, feel free to contact him on 021743399, or dverry@suplife.org.nz



INVITATION TO:
Life Stylers, Families & Staff

JOIN US FOR A
SUMMERTIME
Christmas

SATURDAY | DEC 14 | 11AM - 2PM
608 QUEEN ST CARPARK THAMES

- Mr Whippy
- Photo booth
- Music
- BBQ lunch
- Candy Floss
- Games
- Face Painting

RSVP by 22 November to:
Imadgwick@suplife.org.nz

Let's Celebrate Together!



REMEMBERING THOSE WE HAVE LOST THIS YEAR

It has been a sad year with the passing of three of our friends living at the Trust:

Terry Dwyer

Terry is fondly remembered for the beautiful sounds of the organ music coming from his house and his love of planes and classic cars.



Scott Tupaea

Scotty is missed by his many friends at the Trust, Scotty enjoyed taking part in the beach clean afternoons or quietly socialising with others and he loved watching TV.



David Armstrong

David is remembered for his love of music especially Westlife, he enjoyed going for some fun rides in a mustang and always gave the best bear hugs.



Thank you to the families of these three wonderful men who openly invited the Trust staff and Life Stylers to share wonderful memories and be part of the process leading up to and including the funeral services.

A heartfelt thank you to all the staff at the Trust and Life Stylers who kept the support going for each other through these difficult times – you are all awesome.



Below is the list of planned communication with whanau for 2025. We will be holding online Zoom meetings along with the Life Styler newsletter.

Whanau Contact Zoom Meetings

March, July, September, December

The Life Styler

February, May, November

SERVICE DELIVERY

Greetings to All

2024 has been a busy year with changes, celebrations and loses. I would like to acknowledge the great work done every day by the Service Delivery team as staff strive to consistently provide support for Life Stylers' individual needs and goals.

COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS

As December is a busy events and activities month, we need to start the planning now in preparation for Christmas and the holiday season. We are requesting any information from families about your family member going home. Please let staff know as soon as you are able so we can plan to be supporting any travel arrangements, medication orders, and plan our staff roster over this time.

Staff will be planning the usual Christmas day lunch, presents and fun outings and activities for Life Stylers at the Trust over the Christmas holiday time.

SERVICES AREA STRUCTURE

Thanking everyone for the time taken to provide feedback to the proposed change of Services area structure.

Following the feedback and confirmation in September of the new Services area structure, we have spent the past few weeks conducting interviews for the new roles. I am pleased to let everyone know we have appointed into most of those positions and interviews will continue in November to fill the remaining positions. With the roll out of the new structure 1 Feb the goal is to provide better leadership to our

teams and to ensure our values – respect, integrity, courage and inclusiveness are lived here at the Trust. I will continue to keep everyone updated on the rollout with information about the leaders for each group of support workers including roles and responsibilities and contact details for the full leadership team.

WELCOME TO LIFE STYLERS

Coming to live at the Trust this year we have welcomed Benjamin Grant, Andrew Collumbell and Luke Leigh Lord. Benjamin has settled into living at the Trust. He loves playing cards, board games and attends Special Olympics bowls and athletics. Andrew is enjoying living in Thames and exploring the opportunity shops the Seagull Centre and creating treasures at OriginalWorx. Luke is a member of the Special Olympics Basketball team, has ridden a horse for the first time at EquiLibrium and enjoys social time with the many friends he has made since moving to the Trust.

Anything at all you would like to know more about from Service Delivery, any questions or feedback please reach out I would really like to hear from you.



Lesley Whitehead
Executive Manager
Wayfinder
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lwhitehead@suplife.org.nz

“Be the change you wish to see in the world” - Mahatma Gandhi

PHOTOS FROM THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY MASQUERADE BALL



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