



OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

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A celebration of 70 years of marital bliss. Turn to page 11.



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Dramatic helicopter rescue. See page 10.



James 'Batman' Langton takes on kick boxer, Page 24.

The last post



Dismantling our post office

The postal service, which has operated since it was opened in Opunake as a post office on November 9 1960 by Postmaster General Michael Moohan, ceased at 1:30pm on Monday March 30.

"The death of a post office is the death of a town," commented Lorraine Langton, one of several customers who'd come in around the 1:30pm deadline unaware of what was happening.

Another customer arrived shortly after. Peter Janaway said he paid his bills there, and said its closure was bloody stupid. He referred to

"the stupidity of leaving this place empty," and described it as one more thing to kill a small town.

"We're losing all of our services," commented another customer Maureen Vincent. "It's happening everywhere."

"It's terrible. Another thing we're losing in a small town," added another who expressed concern about also losing the ATM machine. "It's bloody diabolical."

Chorus, who own the building, decided not to renew the lease on the building, and refused to give reasons, saying they are a private company, and that was their discretion. New Zealand Post's decision to axe the bill paying service meant the business could no longer operate as a going concern.

A reduced postal service will be provided by Pastimes - people will no longer be able to pay their bills as pre-

viously.

The Lotto arm of the business will operate from one of the town's two supermarkets.

Graeme and Judy have 33 years involvement with the Post Office in Opunake, the last 20 years trading as Opunake Post & Lotto.

The press release put out by New Zealand Post implied that their decision to offer a reduced postal service was linked to Graeme and Judy "retiring". This was misleading says Graeme, stating that they were not retiring.

In fact they had a buyer for the business who wanted to lease the building. New Zealand Post claimed it was not viable to continue to offer the bill paying service which, with the Lotto and retail arm of the business, plus the ATM machine, contributed to making it viable.

Graeme will continue his involvement with New Zealand

Post as a postie.

"Contrary to the press release put out by New Zealand Post, who never bothered to contact us, we are not retiring. We are going to continue working in Opunake," he said though conceded they might take a holiday or two.

The couple who together have clocked up 85 years involvement with New Zealand Post, are clearly hurt by their treatment by certain factions within New Zealand Post.

There has been no thank you or recognition from New Zealand Post for their long

service and loyalty. "Not even an acknowledgement of our years of service," commented Graeme.

The local people however have certainly shown their appreciation with a procession of well-wishers bearing Easter eggs, chocolates and home baking deluging the business.

"We would like to acknowledge and thank our very loyal customers and wish Rosie at Pastimes and Murray and Karen at Four Square 45 all the very best in their new ventures," Graeme said.

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Judy and Graeme Dodd with John Roach (right) from NZ Post.

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Letters to the Editor

Pioneer Scots: Expressions of interest sought

The Barque *Blenheim* set sail from Greenock Scotland on the 25th of August 1840 with 197 Scots, most in family groups, arriving in Port Nicholson [Wellington] at Kaiwharawhara on the 27th of December 1840.

These Scots were part of early settlement in New Zealand - building the road between Wellington and Petone, and working in many

of the early exploration and surveying parties until land became available. From there, they developed and farmed land mainly around the lower North Island, some opened businesses according to their skills, while others went further afield.

To mark this 175 years of settlement in New Zealand, arrangements are in place to hold dinners in Auckland on

the 22nd and Wanganui on the 25th of August to mark the *Blenheim's* departure, and a picnic at Kaiwharawhara Park in Wellington on the 27th of December 2015 to mark the arrival.

Visit the web page for the information on the settlers at www.blenheim175.wordpress.com. For further information contact:

Wanganui dinner: Ewen and Roz Grant 06 3273861 tullochgorum@xtra.co.nz

Auckland dinner: Norman Cameron, 09 33728442 norman.cameron37@gmail.com

Kaiwharawhara picnic: Hugh McPhail 04 4790951 blenheim175@gmail.com

Ewen Grant
Wanganui

EDITORIAL:

There was something incongruous about the loss of one service in Opunake coinciding in the very same week with the opening of another new facility, the new Coastal Care.

The latter is an example of what with a vision - coupled with true grit and determination - a community can achieve.

Which is why the closure of a vital business in the town Opunake Post and Lotto is to be lamented. The owners Graeme and Judy Dodd have spent their working lives in the postal service. They

were professionals and gave an exemplary service. And they cared about the town and contributed so much in ways outside their business to the wider community.

They were also, as a bonus, unerringly pleasant with a charming sense of humour. I remember early one frosty morning sleepily reaching into my post box for my mail and having it firmly grasped by another hand!

The couple were a true asset to the town and have contributed immeasurably to the town.

Alas Opunake Post &

Lotto is no more. The building in the main street will remain empty, Chorus who, following the split of NZ Post into its various arms and now owners of the building, chose to not renew the lease - arrogantly refusing to say why. This effectively crippled the business that Graeme and Judy had successfully built up by combining the postal service which included a bill paying facility with the Lotto arm and supplementing this by selling stationery items. Without a building the business could not operate

or indeed be sold.

And of course we have one more empty building in the town.

As I watched the sad spectacle of the NZ Post signs being removed last Monday at 1:30pm as bewildered customers entered the post building armed with letters and parcels watched on I felt a tinge of anger. And sorrow for Graeme and Judy who have served the community so brilliantly.

Your wonderful business was a true credit to you both. Your business will be much missed.

Editor

B.B.C. She

She was a prostitute. Her life revolved around satisfying her clients for money. But she had heard rumours of another nation, weird rumours.

It was said that they had come from slavery after many plagues had struck their taskmasters, that the army sent to remake slaves of them had been drowned at sea in a freak accident of nature.

It was said that God Himself had fed them in the barren wilderness, and that although they had journeyed forty years, their clothes and shoes had never needed repair and never wore out. Then these strange people

arrived nearby. They had started taking over cities and in those wars, they didn't lose a man.

This had to be God. And not just any God. All the nations around had various gods who seemed fickle in their dealings with mankind. This God seemed consistent and fair.

Then two men came. They didn't seem interested in what she had to offer. Little by little she pieced together that they were from that strange nation.

Here was her opportunity to make a break from the life she was living. Here was her opportunity to find out more about this God of their's.

She talked with them and believed. She hid them on condition they would save her from the destruction that was coming to her city. A red cord tied to her window was the signal to the invaders that her house was not to be destroyed.

And then they came, marching around the city day after day. They were scoffed at by the guards on the walls. This wasn't war, this was just a parade. On the seventh day they marched around the city seven times, and then the city walls fell down. That city was destroyed. All her clients died, all those who could accuse her died.

So Rahab joined the nation

of Israel and worshipped the one true God.

And that is what Christ offers all of us Rahabs today. Complete and utter destruction of all our past, all our failings, all our sins. As far as God was concerned, her past was completely done away with.

Oh, I almost forgot. Not only did Rahab marry, but she even got a mention in the New Testament, in Matthew 1 v5.

Rahab is one of only four women mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus Christ.

Richard Oliver
Pastor Eltham Message Church
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Coastal Care officially opens

A large crowd of well over a hundred people turned out on Thursday April 2 to watch the Minister of Health the Hon Dr Jonathan Coleman open Opunake's brand new Coastal Care facility.

Dr Coleman, who is also Minister of Sport, said in a short speech it was his first visit to Opunake, but he knew it as the home of two of his childhood heroes Graham Mourie and Peter Snell. He seemed impressed with the "state of the art" facility. "It is very much aligned with my ideas for health to get more services in communities to people who can stay in their local areas and receive their care nearby." He added that it was also great to get all the other services. "That's what integrated care is about. You've done a great thing, what you've achieved here is a legacy for future generations."

Prior to the official opening there were speeches by various dignitaries including Chairperson of the Coastal Taranaki Health Trust Dan Holmes.

"It's been a long time coming but it's been absolutely wonderful," said a delighted Dan Holmes before those gathered outside the complex.



Members of the Coastal Taranaki Health Trust from left Steve Corkill, Adrienne Hickey, Mary Lawn, Julie Morgan, Paul Bourke, David Tamatea, David Lusk, Dan Holmes and Lynda Corkill at the opening of Coastal Care.

He went on to give an account of how the new health and community centre came about.

The idea was first mooted about ten years ago when the doctor resident in Opunake had retired, the chemist had retired, the physiotherapist had gone and so had the dentist, said Dan.

The first act of the Coastal Taranaki Health Trust was to explore how other

centres such as Waitara had responded to changing community health needs. "It seemed that the best solution was to provide a stand alone facility which could also provide other services like visits from Inland Revenue. It was hoped that the new complex could also attract back people who had gone to the main centres."

A new all purpose facility was costed at something like 2.5 million dollars and fundraising began in earnest. "The first auction at Sandfords Event Centre convinced us that we could raise the money," said Dan. The fundraising was given a huge boost when they received a single donation from one individual, Mavis Hepworth (nee Corkill) of \$250,000. The TSB Community Trust also gave a grant of nearly one million dollars.

"It's a magnificent building. It's going to suit our purposes for many years," said Dan proudly adding "We hope it'll attract people back into the area."

Dan's final words were for his fellow Trustees beginning with the sterling work of the secretary of the Coastal Taranaki Health Trust Adrienne Hickey. He also paid tribute to Treasurer Steve Corkill whom he described as "a very astute businessman who put hours

into costing the project."

Dan Holmes then went on identifying each trust member by name enumerating their individual qualities and contributions to the project.

These were Lynda Corkill, "Boy is she enthusiastic and gets things done," Mary Lawn who formerly worked for GP Dr Brent Anderson and made a significant contribution, David Lusk "still in public affairs" and "an asset", David Tamatea representing Maori affairs who "kept us in trim and in line with cultural things", Julie Morgan who "worked her heart out" and Paul Bourke, semi project manager who "came later" and was "very reliable" and who co-ordinated the volunteers.

They were "A remarkable lot", concluded the Chairperson of the Coastal Taranaki Health Trust.

Lynda Corkill, who spoke next, singled out other

people for special mention presenting them each with individually inscribed keys.

They included Dr Brent Anderson.

The final award was for Mayor Dunlop who was presented with some



The Minister of Health Dr Jonathan Coleman speaking at the health centre opening..

mounted rolls of toilet paper for the new public toilets which are part of the new facility.

Ross laughingly accepted saying that, as his name was sometimes shorted to Dunny, it was "quite appropriate."

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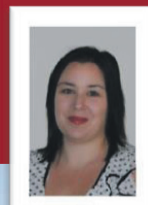
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Community comment

Council's plan is your plan

Councils 10 year Long Term plan is now out for consultation. Please take time to read the document which is now much easier to follow and understand, or attend one of the seven public meetings scheduled from 8-24 April.

In effect this is your plan as it impacts on all residents, not just ratepayers. Stop and think as daily from when you rise in the morning until you retire to bed at night there is Council involvement:

Roading: 1600km of road, 223 bridges, 2400 streetlights, 1600 km of footpaths
Water: 642km of pipes, 12 treatment plants disposal 8



Gordon Lawson

sewerage plants, 156km of pipeline – Stormwater: 75km of pipeline
Culture/Heritage 7

Libraries 10 cemeteries

Recreation/Leisure: 7 swimming pools, campgrounds, 9 urban halls plus support to 30 Rural halls, 31 playgrounds 700 hectares of parks/reserves, 38 public toilets, plus support for the Cinema Sandford Event Centre and control of the Hub.

Refuse collection and operating 7 transfer stations

But then there are 74 pensioner flats, building services, noise /animal control, Health service which includes the licensing of food outlets.

So you can see how council

involvement does impact - therefore it is *your* plan. Take time to consider and let us know if you believe that our proposal is your plan for the next 10 years.

Passing thought: Make this a year of achievements, you don't know what you can achieve until you try.

You can achieve anything you want if you help enough people get what they want.

Gordon Lawson Councillor/ Chairman Eltham Community Board

Commemorating Christ's crucifixion



Beginning Good Friday's Walk of Witness.

Opunake churches began Easter with a Maundy Thursday service at St Barnabas Church on Thursday night. A Passover meal and a foot washing ceremony served to convey something of the atmosphere of Christ's final night before his crucifixion on the cross.

Good Friday began with a

breakfast at St Pauls before the Walk of Witness. Starting at St Pauls, the cross was carried to the cenotaph, where more people joined the walk.

This year's walk was longer than that of previous years, going from the cenotaph to the Wave Church on Domett Street, along Tasman Street to St Barnabas, and then on

to Our Lady Star of the Sea on Whitcombe Street. From there the walk proceeded to Ihaia Rd, and then along King Street to St Pauls, finishing with a combined church service.

Walkers took turns at carrying the cross. Brief stops were made at each of the churches where songs would be sung,

and a reading or a message given. There was a good sized crowd by the time the walk ended, meaning a full church for the final service.

Having commemorated Christ's crucifixion on Friday, each of the churches had their own services celebrating Jesus' resurrection on Sunday.

Maata WI news

At the Annual Meeting of the Maata Womens Institute, the following officers were elected:-

President, Val Kerr; Secretary, Gill Campbell; Treasurer, Brenda Bod-

die; Competition Steward, Barb Campbell; Birthdays, Helen Dudley/Kathryn Gordon; Publicity, Val Campbell

Prizes for the year were awarded as follows:- Bloom Points Prize: 1st J Lawrence, 2nd G Campbell, 3rd

A Wright. Shrub Points Prize: 1st J Lawrence, 2nd D Downs, 3rd G Turner. Homecraft Points Prize: 1st G Campbell, 2nd V Kerr, 3rd J Lawrence

Overall winners: Molloy Cup (Floral) – J Lawrence. Woosnam Cup (Homecraft)

– G Campbell. Sally Ann Memorial (Most Points overall) – G Campbell

A presentation was made to Patsy Edwards who had served on the committee for the past four years.

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Spreading the word

Anybody in South Taranaki wanting to know more about Opunake's 150 year history now need look no further than their local library.

Each of the district's seven libraries will now have a copy of the Sesquicentenary book *Opunake 1865-2015* for their reference section. An hour before the opening of Opunake's Coastal Care Health Centre, Opunake Sesquicentenary Committee chairman and South Taranaki District councillor Bryan Roach was at the Opunake Library to present ten copies of the book to South Taranaki District Council mayor Ross Dunlop. So far feedback to the book had been positive, Bryan said. "The people who have read it have been just astounded by what's in there. It's good to get into a book stuff that otherwise would get lost as time goes by."

There had been considerable interest in people wanting to get their own copies of the book through queries at libraries, online and via the website, he said.

The committee is also looking for ideas for an iconic feature for the town, similar



Sesquicentenary Committee chair Bryan Roach (left) presents copies of the Sesquicentenary book to mayor Ross Dunlop. With them are from left, committee members Judith Armstrong, Jean Roach, Maree Drought, and customer services librarian Maria Brewerton.

to Manaia's Loaf of Bread or Te Kuiti's shearer. Bryan said he is pleased with the

response so far, but further ideas are always welcome. "It's going to be a two to

three year project," he said.

Lest we Forget



Kaponga RSA's Dick Pope speaking at the reinstatement of the Roll of Honour Board and World War 1 crosses at St John's Church in Kaponga, from the relocated St Mark's Church. The two crosses are from the battlefields of World War 1, and have the names of three men who grew up in Kaponga and made the ultimate sacrifice: WA Ford, HJ Faull and WT Faull. A purpose built cabinet to house St Mark's memorabilia was also unveiled by Hilary Law in memory of Derek and Pat Law. Photo K Christian.

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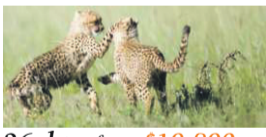
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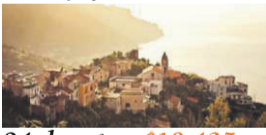
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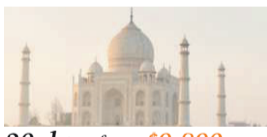
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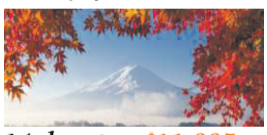
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Make sure, firearm owners that you let us know your change of address

Hi Everyone and hope you have had a good Easter and managed to spend some quality time with your family and friends.

I have been conducting a few firearms licence checks in the District and have to say that the standard of the firearms security has been pleasing. One reminder that I will give people is to ensure that your address is current. It is a requirement of your firearms licence to make sure that police have your recent address. You have 30 days after you move to make sure you notify firearms licencing that you have changed address,



Constable Rhys Connell

they will then send police out to check that your security meets the requirements.

Where people have been getting into trouble is when they don't change their address and the reminder notices that your licence is due for renewal is sent to your old address. Licence holders will

then often have their licence expire (as they don't look at it very often) and are therefore in possession of firearms illegally. More often than not Police are sent around to confiscate your firearms and there is a risk that you can be charged with an offence. I guess the message is keep your licence current and inform firearms licencing when you change address. This can be done on line by visiting www.police.govt.nz and clicking on the "change firearms licence address"

On March 29 a taxi dropped a passenger off on the corner of Oxford Road and Hickford

Place from New Plymouth. This passenger has done a runner without paying his fare. I have the footage from the taxi which clearly shows this young man, so I ask this person to contact me at the Okato Police Station to sort this matter out. I plan on putting this photo from the taxi in the next Coastal News asking people to identify him if he does not contact me, so in the meantime I ask this person to save himself the embarrassment.

Have a good week and enjoy the school holidays

Rhys

Helping prevent serious falls at home

University of Otago researchers are presenting the findings of a large-scale Taranaki study, which showed low-cost home modifications prevent falls around the home.

More than 800 Taranaki houses were studied to see whether injuries from falls could be prevented by some low-cost home repairs and modifications. The results of The Home Injury Prevention Intervention (HIPI) study, published in the top international medical journal *The Lancet* last year, showed that falls in the home could be reduced by a quarter.

Public meetings will be held in Hawera on Friday 10 April at 2pm, in the Community Centre Theatre Lounge, on Albion Street (opposite South Taranaki District Council offices), and in New Plymouth

on Saturday 11 April at 10am in the Council Chamber, at the New Plymouth District Council, in Liardet St. Researchers, building assessors and builders involved in the study will be present to talk about the results and answer questions.

The community trial conducted by the University's, Wellington's *He Kainga Oranga/Housing and Health Research Programme* showed that low-cost home repair and modifications effectively reduce home hazards.

Lead author Associate Professor Michael Keall says the public meetings were not only a chance for the study authors to present their research findings to the Taranaki community, but also an opportunity to say thank you to those who were involved with the research.

Between 2009 and 2013, *He Kainga Oranga* employed a local builder to carry out minor housing repairs, typically costing \$300 to \$600. Work was initially carried out on 436 houses in a randomly selected intervention group. After the trial was over, 406 control houses are receiving similar repairs, so all study participants will benefit from the intervention, Keall says.

All participants in the study lived in owner-occupied houses in Taranaki constructed before 1980, and had recently received government-subsidised home insulation retro-fitted by Better Homes. At least one person in each household was a holder of a community services card.

The research team looked at whether the intervention reduced ACC claims for injuries from home falls. Results

showed an estimated 26 per cent reduction in the rate of injuries caused by falls at home per year in those houses where modifications had been made.

For injuries judged to be most relevant to the modifications, a 39 per cent annual reduction in injuries was found.

Modifications in the trial included: handrails for outside steps and internal stairs; minor repairs and high-visibility slip-resistant edging for outside steps; repairs to window catches; grab rails for bathrooms and toilets; adequate outside lighting; fixing lifted edges of carpets and mats; non-slip bathmats; and slip-resistant surfacing for outside surfaces such as decks.

No doubt other modifications will be possible.

On this month in criminal history: Port Arthur massacre

On April 28, 1996 was the date of arguably the worst crime in Australasia's history. Martin Bryant shot and killed 35 people at Port

Arthur, in Tasmania. He wounded a further 18 people. The location is a former infamous convict prison, but is now a tourist mecca, despite

its bloody history – in modern times and historically.

The tragedy led to drastic action. Following an arms amnesty throughout Aus-

tralia huge mountain of firearms was amassed - and destroyed.

Martin Bryant, remains behind bars

On this month in history: Magellan died

On April 27, 1521 the famous navigator Ferdinand Magellan died after a clash with indigenous people in the

Philippines. His expedition was the first to circumnavigate the world, but Captain Magellan himself did not

make it, due to his untimely death.

Captain Francis Drake led the next circumnavigation.

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Honeyfield family reunion a success



Honeyfield reunion attendees congregate and chat just prior to the dinner on Saturday March 27 at the Plymouth International Hotel in New Plymouth.

By all accounts the Honeyfield Family Reunion was a great success. It was held on Friday March 27 to Saturday 28 March inclusive at the Plymouth International Hotel, in New Plymouth, as well as including a trip that toured places of family historical interest in Taranaki.

The event was capably planned by a Reunion Committee headed by David Honeyfield. The Committee members included – amongst others - Margaret Shegedin of Opunake and Kevin and Jackie Honeyfield of Okato. People came from as far afield as Australia, the USA and Great Britain, as well as all over New Zealand.

David Honeyfield was very pleased at the turnout of people. He said the 'Meet and Greet' on Friday night had 137 people and that the dinner on Saturday evening had an impressive 157 diners. He admitted, however, that the organisation by the Committee, "Has been a lot of work."

The dinner was held at the Grand Ball room and the Timandra Room with the guests treated to an excellent meal and service. Speeches were open to anyone who wanted to speak with the microphone passed around accordingly. The Honeyfield family are closely connected to the history of Taranaki and the Sat-

urday bus trip visited certain places of historical interest, such as the site of the Battle of Waireka in March 1860. Sadly, a number of people lost their lives. Several Honeyfield men fought including William, Henry, Edmund and James. Harriet's husband John Newman also fought. The latter two men were awarded medals for bravery.

The Te Henui Cemetery, where many Honeyfield pioneers are buried, was also visited. Alice Honeyfield donated the cemetery gates. Another place of interest visited by the bus was where Henry Honeyfield had a flour mill in the vicinity of Dawson, King and Queen Streets in New Plymouth.

It is pleasing that the Honeyfield Fountain has been restored after it by almost demolished by some miscreants driving a stolen car. It was donated by Alice Honeyfield and is positioned on the foreshore in New Plymouth, in view of the New Plymouth Walkway.

The bus headed down Lower Timaru Road to Rapid number 257, Kevin and Jackie's farm for refreshments. Nearby is the old Honeyfield homestead.

The bus went as far south as Patea. One place of interest was at 390 Main Road south Patea where the old Park Farm house site could be viewed. This was the location of the first land bought after the confiscation of Maori land from the Government leading to auctions in the Patea region.

Puke Ariki in New Plymouth has an intriguing exhibition, which has a mine of interesting historical information and photographs.

If you missed the reunion you may well be interested in the Honeyfield Family Books, available from Evagean Publishing Ltd, 28 Wyborn Road, RD2, Te Aroha 3392. You can phone Alison Honeyfield, phone 07 884 8783 or email her at Alison.honeyfield@xtra.co.nz

On this month in history: Duke Ellington born

On April 29, 1899 Edward Ellington was born. He is better known as the famous jazz musician Duke Ellington. The jazz composer and band leader was born in Washington DC.

As a child he learnt to play the piano and played in local orchestras. As a young man he made his first record in 1923. He moved to New York city and created the big band jazz

phenomenon. He became well known for his radio broadcasts as Duke Ellington and his 'Jungle Band live from the Cotton Club. He toured widely in the US and overseas.

He wrote more than 1,000 compositions including 'Bye Bye Blackbird' and 'I Found a Million Dollar Baby in a Five and Ten Cent Store'. He died in 1974, but continues to be revered.

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The strong economy is helping families get ahead

I recently had the honour of attending the opening of the Coastal Care Centre in Opunake with Hon Jonathan Coleman. This centre is an incredible achievement and an outstanding asset for the coastal community. The vision to bring together so many different service providers, and the years of hard work and fundraising to have the centre completed is to be admired and applauded. Congratulations again to all those involved, and what a stand out achievement that I'm sure will be a model for other rural communities.

We are continuing to ensure that our communities and families are getting the help they need to get ahead. We're ranked first in the world for social progress, more Kiwis are coming home to work and raise their families, but we know we can make New



Jonathan Young MP for New Plymouth

Zealand even better.

We're working from a solid base. New Zealand is doing well compared to other developed economies. Our economy is growing. There are 80,000 more people employed than a year ago, and wages are rising faster than inflation.

Households and businesses are benefitting from low inflation and a long period of stable, low interest rates.

We're improving public services in areas like welfare, health, education and law and order. The Government is working to get the books back to surplus and start repaying debt.

Our focus now is on managing the growing economy so we can lock in the sustainable growth needed to support more jobs and higher incomes.

This is important to help families get ahead, to help mums and dads, to give children a better start. To provide more opportunities for young people. To make sure that your children and your grandchildren can build their futures here – and that they want to.

National is ensuring that gains from our growing economy are flowing through to families. Nowhere is this better demonstrated than in a number of measures that

came into force on 1 April.

Paid Parental Leave, the parental tax credit, the minimum wage and Superannuation all increased on 1 April, while average ACC levies fell, and more people are being helped in to home ownership. Our new Home Start scheme will help around 90,000 Kiwis into their first home over the next five years.

Looking ahead, there are more policies designed to help families. From 1 July, children under 13 will have access to free GP visits and free prescriptions, and the average ACC levy for a private motor vehicle will fall by around \$135 a year.

We are heading in the right direction, and these policies will continue to help our families get ahead.

Jonathan Young

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We've all read stories about new mums giving birth in the back of cars, or on the side of the road.

Last year 13 Taranaki mothers - just over one a month - had their babies in ambulances before they could get to a maternity unit.

Now we have the Stratford birthing unit being forced to close, ostensibly because of a lack of midwives.

Locals quite rightly are up in arms at having such a significant service pulled from under them. They argued, along with local midwives, that the district health board was well-placed to step in and



Andrew Little MP

fight to keep the unit open.

But Taranaki DHB, like others around the country, is under the gun. Despite ongoing cost pressures - and it's well known that even the most financially savvy boards are struggling to break even - official advice shows up to \$200 million could be cut from their budgets in the next funding round.

That means weighing up the pros and cons of every service our DHBs currently

provide, or to put it less subtly, it means playing off the needs of one group of patients against the needs of another.

Expectant mums want and deserve the best of care. Yes, Hawera and New Plymouth are alternatives, but when communities start losing services there's a sort of domino effect that often kicks in.

If there's no maternity unit, then young families are less likely to want to live there. Without young families, schools will close, without schools there's no demand for teachers, and so it goes on.

At the other end of the spectrum we have an ageing population who now need to be sicker or in more pain than previously to get treatment. Unmet need has been described by one specialist as a 'national disgrace'.

To be told by a surgeon you need an operation but can't get one because you

don't meet the criteria must be heartbreaking. Meanwhile your condition can only get worse.

People finding themselves in either of these situations - new parents, older patients - must feel an implicit sense of not being cared about, a feeling that being comfortable about where you have a baby is not important, that having a hip operation before you are in intense pain is a waste of everyone's time.

To significantly cut funding, on top of years of underfunding, and then to expect the health system to meet patient need and community expectations is irresponsible and it's unfair.

Come May and the 2015 Budget the Government needs to ensure Taranaki DHB has enough money to provide all the services they are required to.

Andrew Little

Stratford closure effects likely to be felt further down the line

Top electrical apprentice named

Apprentice electrician Max Lumb has been named Taranaki's top electrical services apprentice in the regional heats of the Master Electricians Challenge.

Max, 21, won the industrial division of the competition, while Jamie Newell, from Wanganui, took the Domestic/Commercial division at the event held at WITT, New Plymouth.

They are now waiting to hear if they have reached the national finals of the Challenge, the country's toughest contest for apprentice electri-

cians.

About 100 apprentices are taking part in seven regional heats across the country. The top ten highest scoring contestants overall will go on to the two-day final at Hamilton's Claudelands Events Centre on 27-28 May.

Max, who is an apprentice at the Fonterra site at Whareroa, Hawera, said he'd thoroughly enjoyed the regional final.

"We were faced with all sorts of things we might encounter in the course of our work and basically had to put it together and make it go," he

said. "It's what I enjoy doing. The reason I decided to do the apprenticeship is that it is all about problem-solving. There is always new technology in this industry and it is constantly evolving."

Master Electricians operations manager Bernie McLaughlin said: "There was an extremely high calibre of entrants."

"All the contestants are apprentice electricians, mostly final year, who are combining on-job training with their employer with off-job training with a training provider."

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Cheese Day in Eltham popular



A huge crowd waited with collective bated breath.

Judging by the huge number of parked cars at Eltham's Downhill Cheese day on Saturday April 4, the event was very popular.

Thronges of people watched the races from their vantage point at the top of the slope. The event was ably organised by the Eltham Business Association and Eltham Four Square.

There were also many stalls and activities, which opened around 9am, two hours before the races themselves. One, which was as interesting as it was worthwhile, was aimed at ensuring people knew the dire consequences of having a car accident without a seat belt on. Roadsafte Taranaki has a device which simulated a car crash jolt, with a safety belt on a person game enough to take part. After one girl got quite a jolt the instructor asked tentatively, "Anyone else brave enough to try?"

There were lots of stall selling food and drinks such as pizzas, gelato, coffee, scones and lollies - you name it really. There were many crafts on sale including perfumed candles.

Police were on hand but there was no trouble of any kind.

A very good band was playing called 'K2 the Power', featuring Kieran Callaghan (guitar) and Karl Austen who played more than one instrument, including the saxophone. They played songs including those made famous by Dave Dobbin, Tom Petty, the Beatles and Cat Stevens.

Olwyn Duthie, the MC



One of the girls races almost looked like a co-operative enterprise.

ensured that everyone knew what was going on and where to go. "It's an awesome day - I love Cheese Day," she enthused. She added, "It's a very unique event and you can see beautiful Eltham from above."

Before the downhill races started the Fire Brigade had a race down the slope to reach a 'victim' who was stretched at speed up the slope. Next, golf balls, all numbered by hopeful punters, were rolled down the hill. The ball that rolled the furthest gained a

prize for the lucky person.

This year the cheese wheels had a definite tendency to roll to the left - perhaps a political statement for those who believe in such omens! A major sponsor and organiser, Michael Jago of Four Square, was the official starter for the races.

Results:

The Boys (7-10) race was won by Adam Tilt, with Harry Theodore second and Dylan Bent third.

The Girls (7-10) race was won by Heidi Sextus, with

Eden Turner second and Jana O'Brien third.

The Boys (11-13) race was won by Loka Manu, with Samuel Turner second and Caleb Turner third.

The Girls (11-13) race was won by Brooke Whittaker, with Sahara Hood second and Olivia Cook third.

The teenage boys race was won by Malachi Monahan. Kane Bretherton won the Open Men's race, while Miranda Taylor won the Open Women's race.

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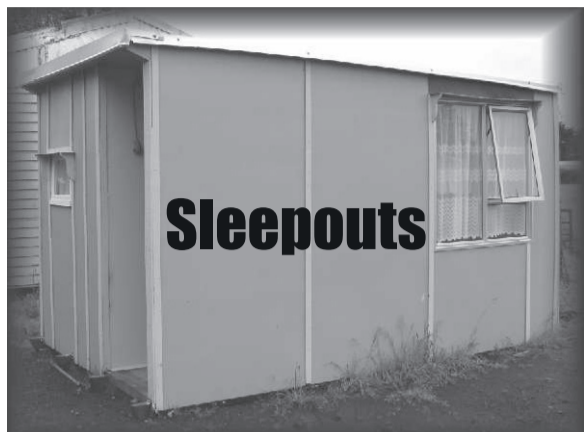
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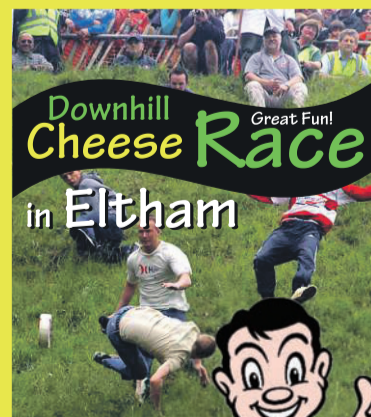
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Scouts and Venturers battle it out on the water

Nowells Lake on the Fonterra farm outside Hawera was once again the venue for the annual Central and South Taranaki Scouts and Venturers Rafting and Kayaking camp. This year the event was organised by Matapu Scout Group leader Adrienne Peters with assistance from the South Taranaki Venturers.

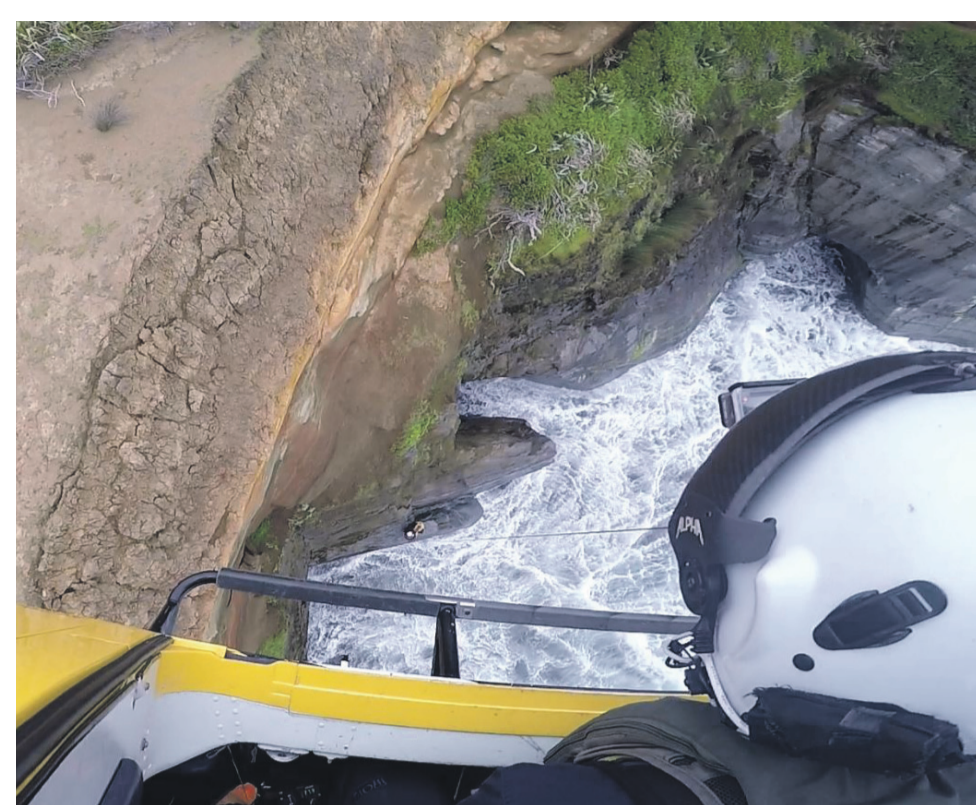
All the scout groups taking part contributed to a very enjoyable weekend of camping, cooking, kayaking, games and constructing rafts from drums and poles, using traditional skills of knots and lashings. In the main events, Midhirst came first in the Central and South Scout Raft Race, Matapu second and Stratford

third. In the venturer raft race Midhirst also came first, followed by the South Taranaki Venturers. The Matapu scouts won the South Raft Race Paddle Trophy. The individual kayak races were won by venturer Kody Simpson and scout Ruth Heine, both from Midhirst Scout Group.



Scout rafts setting off on a race on Nowells Lake with Mt Taranaki in the background.

Helicopter in cliff rescue



On Friday the Taranaki Community Rescue Helicopter winched a man to safety from a Tongaporotu cliff.

The Taranaki Community Rescue Helicopter was called to rescue a man trapped on a Tongaporotu cliff on Friday morning. After receiving reports of a man in difficulty and possibly in the water, the helicopter headed to the cliffs north of the Tongaporotu River mouth, taking a St John In-

tensive Care paramedic and a rescue swimmer with them. A man in his 60s had climbed three metres out of the water on to a narrow papa clay slippery ledge, where he was trapped by high cliffs and an incoming tide. The helicopter was positioned above the height of the cliff so that the rescue swim-

mer could be winched to the man, who was then secured in a "rescue nappy," winched up and placed on top of the cliff. The rescued man had been dressed for the conditions, and was well prepared with life jacket and marine radio, a rescue helicopter spokesperson said.

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On this month in history: Phar Lap dies

On April 6, 1930 Phar Lap died. The racehorse was born in New Zealand, bred by AF Robert, near Timaru, who sold him to DJ Davis of Australia in 1928 as a yearling. Phar Lap was trained and raced in Australia. After an indifferent start the horse improved greatly as a three-year-old eventually winning 36 of his 41 races. Ridden by Jim Pike, he won the AJV Derby in 1929 by three and

a half lengths, setting a new record time. He won the 1930 Melbourne Cup, despite an attempt to shoot him by a criminal. He was sent to the USA, but died after winning one race. There is mystery surrounding the cause of death, with some suspecting poisoning. The horse's body is preserved at the National Museum, in Melbourne.



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Honours for top South Taranaki volunteers

Six long-serving South Taranaki volunteers have been awarded with top honours when Special Olympics South Taranaki presents its 2014 Club Service Awards to volunteers who have provided more than a decade of service to the Club.

Special Olympics South Taranaki Chair Sharon Waller, says the commitment and support of volunteers is integral to the Club's success, and she is very pleased to be formally thanking its long-serving supporters.

"Without the long-standing support of these volunteers it would not be possible for our athletes to travel out of town to compete in regional and national competition events, and for us to provide the level of training and competition we do for our athletes with intellectual disabilities," she says.

"These individuals all give up their weekend and personal time for Special Olympics South Taranaki and are there for our Club and

our athletes 100 per cent. A heartfelt thanks to all of our deserving recipients."

The Club Service Awards are part of Special Olympics New Zealand's national award structure. 2014 is the first year this award structure has been in place, and there are two award levels available. Level One - Senior Volunteer Awards are presented to volunteers who have continuously served Special Olympics New Zealand at Club level for 10 or more years. Level Two - Long Service Volunteer Awards, are for those who have continuously served Special Olympics New Zealand at Club level for more than 20 years.

The South Taranaki recipients are: Senior Volunteer awards: Gillian Weir, Lynette (aka Lyn) Smailes, Kevin William Ryan and Jennifer Diane Rowlands.

Long Service Volunteer awards: Hugh (aka Garth) Weir and John Smailes

Seventieth Wedding Anniversary



Doreen (nee Maindonald) and Graham McElroy were married at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Opunake on the 14th of April, 1945.

They have spent their married life working mainly in the farming sector in the Opunake, Okato, Manaia, Eltham and Kaponga areas and latterly their retirement to New Plymouth.

They will celebrate this wonderful accomplishment with their family of five generations.

There will be open home for their family and friends at their New Plymouth home on the afternoon of Tuesday, the 14th of April.

Leigh raises over \$900 for St John in half marathon

Racking up a time of three hours and three minutes, Leigh Offord completed the 21.1km long Bayley's Mountain to Surf Half Marathon. As reported in the Opunake and Coastal News, she was taking part to raise

money for St John Opunake. She raised \$927.00 and presented the cheque to Raewyn Robinson.

"She said that St John Opunake were very happy that I chose them to benefit from sponsorship for my walk and

that the money will probably be used for equipment," Leigh said.

"I still cannot believe that so many people decided to sponsor me for my walk and although I am totally proud of myself for going way out

of my comfort zone and doing something like this, I am equally proud of the support I received from so many friends and most of the small local businesses I approached.

"I had pledges from over

80 individuals and small businesses in Opunake and I am touched with their support.

"It was very windy and wet at times, and certainly challenging, but I made it. I am disappointed that I was

not able to finish under 3 hours but there is always next year.... I was 24th from the 43 half marathon walkers and there were over 600 people out either walking or running that day. It was fun."



Leigh Offord (left) presents her cheque to Raewyn Robinson.

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Change at the top for Goodin

There's been a few changes at Goodin Contracting, reflecting a change at the helm. Mark Goodin and wife Samantha have recently purchased the Tractors and Machinery from Mark's parents, Tom and Lyn Goodin. They have taken this opportunity to rebrand as well, and are now known as Goodin Ag.

However behind the scenes, where the real work happens, there is little change to this successful contracting business, founded 35 years ago. "It's business as usual," says Mark and Sam, who officially took over last September. "We're proud to be starting the next chapter in the succession of what has become our family business," says Mark.

Mark, who has been a key

driver and is now Managing Director of their business admits, "for a start I didn't like it, being stuck in an office," but adds "I've come round," and says he quite enjoys organising. His new role includes liaising with clients, booking in jobs and allocating them to the drivers, then insuring a job is well done. Tom founded the contracting business 35 years ago, and Mark grew up on tractors, going out with his father at a very young age.

Despite being otherwise busy Mark comments, "I still really enjoy jumping in the driver's seat now and again."

While Samantha has taken over the bookwork role from Lyn, Tom is still a big part of the business, and "the most dedicated worker here," in-

sists Mark - adding he's a full time driver and an admirable mentor with years of knowledge, which he is able to pass on. "Dad's a very big asset to the business."

At the peak of the season - from the start of October to the end of April - Goodin Ag employ 25 staff, sometimes more. Their seasonal workers have often included 5-6 drivers from the UK. "It works out good, as it's



Mark and Samantha Goodin

the off season over there," says Mark, adding they usually come with previous contracting experience. Over winter they retain eight permanent staff. "We have great local talent and are proud of our team," says Sam,

Another key area during the transition which they have focused on is health and safety.

"We are keen to keep up with legislation and ensure all our employees get home at the end of each day," says Sam. With this in mind, they have introduced custom-made high visibility gear which you can't miss when out in the

field. "We're working with farmers and their Health and Safety systems including 'no go zones' to insure a safe working environment." These days there is also legislation on work hours; by law you've got to give a person a day off a week. All cabs are air conditioned, and "just as comfortable as your car," he says.

Mark recalls about ten years ago doing a two week stretch and only getting 3 hours sleep a night. This was in the days when they did 1,200 hectares of maize. "Now we're a manageable 850"

Supporting local schools and organisations is a key value of Goodin Ag as they continue to be proud supporters of Coastal Rugby - sponsoring the Senior Thirds. "Tom has always been a big fan of what Coastal Rugby have achieved, and we couldn't be more honoured to support the farm and team on his behalf" says Mark. "We believe that the support of farmers is what has enabled us to be where we are today and would like to show our support in return" adds Sam.

They've recently promoted Kevin Koboski to Workshop

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but business as usual



The team at Goodin's

Manager. Kevin is qualified in many fields with a wealth of knowledge. "He's taken over Chris' role maintaining the gear to just as good a standard to keep the fleet reliable and breakdowns to a minimum. Hitting rocks is the biggest problem," Mark says.

They have close to 100 pieces of machinery and tractors to maintain, completing 95 per cent of their own repairs and servicing to the fleet in the workshop over the winter months. They pride themselves on keeping their equipment in optimum order, says Mark.

He adds, "I like to get to every client on time and do the best - most affordable job possible," which is why he believes they've retained a large client base

who tend to come to him year after year. "I don't do door knocking." Mark is clearly relishing his new role in the business.

"I enjoy having a different challenge every month," he says. "I also enjoy the seasonal changes."

The low pay out has

affected them "a bit". Those extra jobs they'd usually do, farmers are hanging fire on. In comparison Goodin Ag are continuing with 'the tried and true, rather than the latest and greatest'

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When Rob and Mel Van den Brand entered the Taranaki Sharemilker/Equity Farmer of the Year two years ago, they surprised themselves by finishing in the top six. Having taken a break from the competition last year, they returned this year to take the title.

The couple who milk 210 cows on the James Bashford Trust farm on Rama Road, Otakeho, will host a field day on April 16, before facing the next round of judging for the national title, to be announced at a dinner in Auckland on May 2.

For Rob, it's a long way from his upbringing as the son of a Dutch mining engineer whose job took him all round the world. Born in La Paz, Bolivia, Rob lived in South America, the United States, the Netherlands, Papua New Guinea and Germany, before his family settled in Australia.

In 2001, an ambition to be a vet took Rob to New Zealand and Massey University.

"I enjoyed the social life a bit too much, and didn't make it through to the next stage," Rob said. So he decided on a BSc in Animal



Mel and Rob Van den Brand with son Riley.

Science instead, and was particularly interested in the Dairy Production Systems paper.

"My first exposure to

dairying was at university. Everyone was talking about races, and I thought, what is a race?"

He quickly latched on, and

was scoring high marks. He was even invited back into the vet course, but turned it down.

"I was enjoying myself too

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top in Taranaki

much," he said.

At Massey, he met Mel, a BBS student and farmer's daughter from Hawera whose parents, Murray and Judy Brown had won the Taranaki Sharemilker of the Year title back in 1981. Mel had always wanted to go farming, but her father had suggested doing something else first, so she went off to Massey to do accounting and economics, with a bit of agribusiness thrown in.

Meanwhile, Rob had gone from wanting to be a vet to wanting to be a farm consultant.

"Mel advised me if I was going to tell other farmers what to do, I needed to have exposure to the dairy industry first," Rob said.

So he got a job as a trainee herd manager, and then moved on to other farm management positions in the Feilding-Bulls-Himitangi area. With Mel having been accepted into the ANZ graduate programme, and based in Palmerston North, the arrangement worked well for a time. Then with Mel expecting the couple's first child, Sophie, now aged five, it was time for a rethink. Wanting to get closer to at least one set of grandparents, they looked at moving to Taranaki. It was

then that the Bashford Trust job came up.

Wanting to get to get to know more of the local people, Rob picked up a job as an AB technician. It was their first 50/50 position, and they have been there since 2010. They are looking to start another three year term, and will be upping their milking herd from 210 cows to 220.

Mel said production has increased most years.

"We've done 84,000 and 89,000(kg milk solids). This year we initially thought 87,000, but we just hit that yesterday (March 29), so we are looking at more 89,000-90,000. In these last two years we have had exceptional growth, and everything has fallen nicely into place."

The birth of Sophie was followed by that of son Riley, now two and a half. Two months ago Rob became a New Zealand citizen, and his ambition to be a farm consultant is on the back burner.

"I'm enjoying farming too much to look at other job opportunities," he said.

Rob and Mel believe they learned a lot from their first crack at the sharemilker title two years ago. Rob said back then, he had only been self

employed for three years and was a bit nervous. He was able to benefit from the judges' feedback, and this time round had a better idea of what to expect.

"We were quite a bit out of it the first time," Rob said. "As this is a low payout year, we reviewed our business again, so we thought why not enter the competition? It's a great experience."

Despite drops in payouts and dividends, he is upbeat about dairying's future, particularly given the need to feed a growing world population.

"Dairying is always going to have its ups and downs. If anything's been learned from last year and this year, it's that dairying must be in a strong position to ride the waves, and most farmers are pretty good at that," he said.

"If they can review their budgets and their break even points, there's no reason why they can't do well in the industry. For young people, the dairy industry offers one of the best avenues for equity growth. In what other industry can a 21 year-old, a 25 year-old, a 30 year-old have a million dollars worth of equity?"

Look after your new pastures



Annual Ryegrass (Hogan) doing its job in the Taranaki.

The dry has come, and gone for most of the region, autumn is here and conditions are still favourable to plant grass seed. Here are some tips and considerations going forward into the winter and long term for the following season:

Critical factors when planting seed at this time of year are soil temperature, moisture, fertility and a firm fine seed bed to ensure a successful establishment.

A very simple tool to use is monitoring soil temperatures from now on. Constant 10-12 degrees Celsius soil temperatures is perfect for seed germination so planting high performing varieties will still work well.

Remember new pasture sown this autumn must be treated as such for the first year of its life to ensure good performance and persistence in future years. Too often it is seen that after 6-8 weeks of a new pasture's life it gets treated like any older

paddock on the farm. Don't do this; it's a sure recipe for a short life pasture that will revert to native species.

Important steps include good use of fertilizer. Keep the new pasture out of nutritional stress. P for planting, N for nurturing.

Weeds are easiest to control when they are small.

Don't graze hard or pug through the winter. Use smaller lighter stock for that first grazing, and use the pull test before grazing.

Utilize Annual(6-9 month life) and Italian(9-18 month life) ryegrasses for those paddocks that are going in real late, giving some good quick grass production, and these are also a good tool to use in paddocks that are earmarked for cropping in the coming spring.

Pests- Black Beetle, Argentine Stem Weevil, and Grass Grub appear in high numbers at present, especially in coastal areas. Do a bit of digging around the farm to identify if there

are any issues, and treat accordingly. All too often the problem is identified when the damage is very evident. This is too late.

Final word- never be afraid to ask about any issues. It may save the cost of replanting or persistence failure later on.

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Next season will be challenging and cash will be tight

Industry body DairyNZ is advising farmers to focus on strong cashflow management as they look ahead to the 2015-16 season following Fonterra's half-year results announcement today.

Chief executive Tim Mackle says the challenge for farmers will be working through their cashflow position for the coming season. "This season is all but over. Fonterra's Forecast Cash Payout for the 2014/15 season of \$4.90 - \$5 helps provide some certainty for farmers.

"What we are concerned about is that the low milk price this season coupled

with a low retrospective payment this winter, about a third of what was received last year, will see many farmers dip into the red this spring. For many, they may not pop back up into the black for some time. Banks are telling us that many farmers will hit \$1.50-\$2/kgMS (kg of milksolids) in overdraft this September.

"Knowing those winter payments will drop in this next season will be second nature to many farmers. But the ones who have already forecasted their cashflows are surprised at how long they stay low. They are now taking steps to put strategies

in place to manage those impacts. That's a bit of a wake-up call for everyone," he says.

More than 845 people attended DairyNZ's Tactics for Tight Times events held this month around the country. DairyNZ's second round of farmer events will begin in April and dates are still being finalised.

"Our case study farmers are regularly updating us on their progress and talking about tackling that volatility challenge. What are they doing to manage cashflows for their businesses? We've found there's a lot of value in sharing experience amongst farmers to help everyone get through tight times," says Tim.

DairyNZ has calculated that

the average farmer needs \$5.40 in income per kg/MS just to cover farm working expenses and interest and rent this season. "A lot of farmers will not have a lot of leftover income to draw upon for tax and their own living expenses with the current low forecast milk price. Around a quarter will probably have to extend their debt this financial year.

"The 2015-16 season coming poses an even bigger challenge - when lower retrospective payments start to hit in July and August this year and many more farmers have to look at putting cost-effective measures in place to avoid escalating their debt. The key point is that farmers must assess their situation and plan ahead."

DairyNZ's data shows milk production for the 2014-15 season so far, from all farmers across all dairy companies, is tracking 3% ahead of last year. February, however, is showing a 6 to 7% monthly drop in production, compared to February last year. By the end of February, generally around 80% of the country's milk production for a season has been collected.

"Production is dropping away quite dramatically now so we're probably looking at New Zealand's milk production ending up not far behind last year's result. Production was up 10% last year - so that means we'll match a season that produced a record amount of milk.

"That's a heartening result given the dry conditions we've had around the country. It's a real testament to the way farmers are running resilient systems, learning and managing well through dry summers using a range of measures like once a day milking. However it's also sobering to see how much dry conditions cost the country and our farmers - millions in lost production. We were looking at being well ahead of last year's record production until the dry spell hit. It underscores the need to explore irrigation options in a way that meets everyone's needs," he says.

For the latest on DairyNZ Tactics for Tight Times, go to www.dairynz.co.nz/tactics

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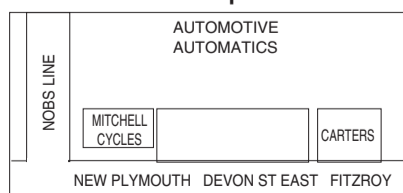
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Farmers now have the chance to safely dispose of dangerous chemicals.

Subsidised disposal of potentially harmful agrichemicals for Taranaki farmers

Taranaki farmers and growers are being urged to make use of a subsidised programme to get rid of their unwanted agrichemicals.

Agrecovery offers farmers the chance to safely dispose of potentially dangerous chemicals, with many free of charge or subsidised – they just need to book by 24 April 2015 at www.agrecovery.co.nz/chemicals/ or 0800 247 326.

Following on from previous collections, Taranaki Regional Council is again partnering with Agrecovery to support this programme.

Duncan Scotland of

Agrecovery says the collection is a crucial part of protecting the future of the industry.

“These are chemicals that pose a safety risk by being left in sheds, or eventually end up in our waterways or on our land.”

Safe and fully compliant, Agrecovery supports farmers and growers with a fully auditable report, which can be used for New Zealand GAP and other quality assurance programmes.

In 2013 it saw just over 2,000 kg of unwanted or expired agrichemicals disposed of in Taranaki, just under 10 percent of the

national volume collected that year.

Scotland is pleased with the numbers, but knows there’s more work to be done and hopes more farmers and growers will follow their neighbours’ example.

“We know there are still some properties with old and unwanted chemicals and we’d like to see those farmers and growers book them in for our upcoming collection.”

The programme is supported by 62 brand owners and is focused on horticultural, agricultural and veterinary chemicals and animal health products.

The programme doesn’t include household or garden chemicals; local councils can advise of disposal options.

Swedes farmer survey results

The results of an in-depth farmer survey carried out to help understand the factors behind the toxic swedes issues that hit Southland dairy herds last year are expected to be available by the end of May.

DairyNZ’s Southland regional leader Richard Kyte says DairyNZ interviewed 134 affected and unaffected farmers and 34 graziers last year as part of its study into why many cows became ill after feeding on swedes last season. The detailed interviews followed a general short survey of all dairy farmers that generated more than 400 replies. Analysis of all the survey data is now nearly complete. “We interviewed farmers across the region to help us

understand whether farm management practices may have been a contributing factor. We had some delays in getting the data from the field as farmers got busy just as we started approaching them for information. Until

all this analysis is complete, we won’t know if we need to gather more background information. We are expecting to have the results of all this work released to farmers from around mid to late May,” he says.



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Coach Terry Simpson helping locals keep fit.

Coastal Boxing Club is thriving

The Pungarehu-based Coastal Boxing club is thriving and in very good hands, spearheaded by Coach Terry Simpson and President Jason Allen. A Committee of locals, including Debbie Gibson, underpins the organisation's programme and goals.

The Club was started in 2011, with the idea coming from Fiona Sykes, the daughter of Terry's former coach - along the lines of providing something for the Coastal youth, apart from rugby.

Local businesses have got behind the venture. One business, Rahotu Panel and Paint even built a boxing ring in the hall for the club.

Boxfit classes are run every Monday and Wednesday and attendance is open to all, no matter what your age or gender. For all ages there is a 6.30pm start.

There is a very heavy emphasis on fitness and intense skipping was one of the early warm up exercises, followed by dynamic stretching.

There were a series of punching bags, of different sizes and the participants



Members Jack Hooper and Harmony Reid sparring.

spent a solid amount of time pounding these, with encouragement and direction from Terry.

One boxer was Harmony Reid (16), who has been coming to the club for about two years now. She looks very good. "I enjoy the boxing side of it and self-defence too. It's a good sport to get into," she commented.

One of the newcomers is Quinn Thompson, who started about four weeks ago. "It's really great, especially the fitness side of it," he said. He added, "The coach is really nice."

Looking especially sharp was Jack Hooper (16), who said, "I like the fitness and it's fun." At a later stage he and Harmony sparred in the ring, neither yielding an inch.

Jason stressed the importance of fitness. "It's 80% fitness," he declared. He also said, "You have to be totally relaxed," in the ring, not nervous or tense.

Later, Jason sparred with James Langton, who has made great recent gains to be ranked inside the top 10 in his division in NZ. "He's fairly heavy-handed," Jason remarked ruefully.

Terry explained the importance of sparring. "You have to get good sparring - that's the whole deal - the art of sparring without hurting each other.

At present the focus was getting good match ups for our tournament, which was to be held at Sandfords Event Centre next weekend on April 11. But sadly, due to a lack of nominations we are unable to hold the tournament.

The Coastal Boxing Club would like to say a very big thank you to everyone for their continued support.

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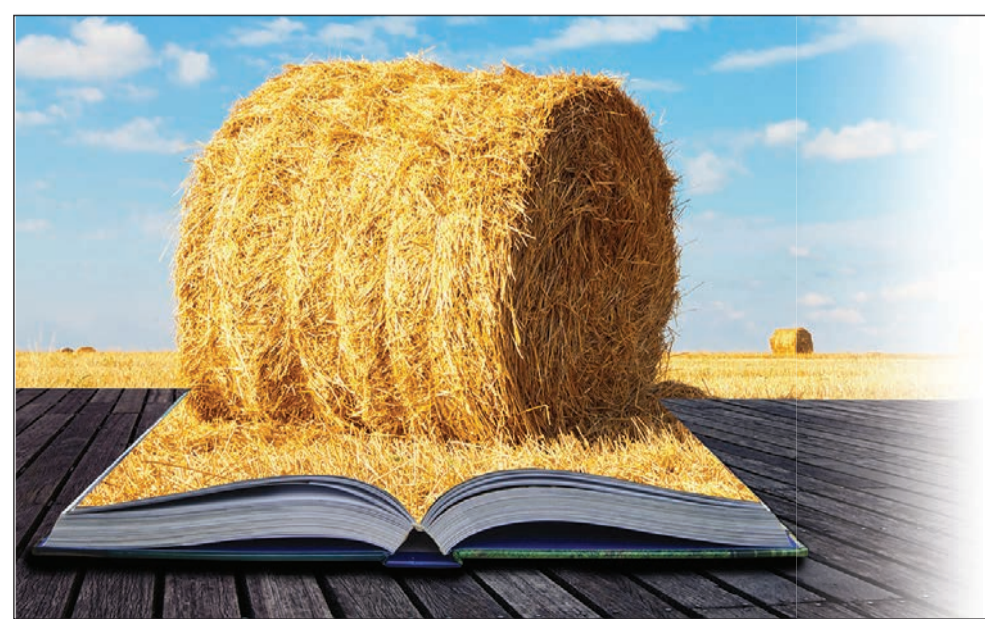
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A tale of bowls and cucumber

The Men's Cucumber Stakes was held on February 22 with 12 teams competing. This was a successful and enjoyable day. Cucumbers, tomatoes and bread and butter were available all day, along with a delicious ham salad lunch. Winners – Snow Baylis, Peter Charteris, Foxy Morgan and Mike Fevre. Paddy Deegan is our Junior Champion.

On the weekend of March 14-15, the Women's Championship Fours Team played at West End in the Champion of Champions Fours against the best drawn teams in Taranaki.

Our team of Bev Robinson (skip), Eileen Rothwell, Heather Radford and Pat Barrett played in the final against Joan Richard's Fitzroy team.

With Opunake leading most of the way, both teams were drawn after the final end. One more end had to be played, and with Heather gently tickling the jack, and Joan's two last bowls missing – Opunake was the winner 17-16. Well done girls. This meant that Bev now has seven points to a gold star, Heather two and Eileen and Pat got their first

ones. After having to be re-scheduled earlier in the year because of the weather, the Lambie Pairs were played on March 29, and eight teams from present or former Western Division members competed. 1st Des Lowry and Joe Rona. 2nd Kevin Crawford and Brian Crawford.



Cucumber Stakes winners – 1st (from left) Foxy Morgan, Peter Charteris, Mike Fevre and Snow Baylis

Keely Andrew Wins the Port Taranaki Pro

On March 29, Australia's Keely Andrew took the biggest win of her career at the World Surf League Port Taranaki Pro Women's QS6000 (Qualifying Series) at Fitzroy Beach New Plymouth.



Keely Andrew (AUS) carving to victory. Pic WSL/Will H-S

Andrew defeated Hawaiian Coco Ho in good on-shore 1m plus surf, opening the final early with a solid 5.83 and backing that score up with a 6.67 for a final total of 12.50 to Ho's 9.80.

The win gives Andrew an outstanding chance to qualify for the 2016 World Surf League Championship Tour, and has seen her rocket up the QS rankings to equal 4th place.

"This is a really important result for me. I haven't had the greatest start to the year, but this puts me back on track for sure," said Andrew. "I missed qualifying by such a small margin last year, and that has really made me hungry and deter-

mined to get there. I know this result is great, but I also know I need a few more strong results this year, so I can't get too carried away with the win even though right now I feel great." It was Coco Ho's second runner-up result at this event having placed second in 2013.

"I love it here in Taranaki, the waves are always fun and another second placing is a good result so I'm happy, even though I was hoping for the win. Keely is a great surfer, and I hope

I see her on the Championship Tour next year." Earlier in the day Andrew dominated her semifinal defeating another Championship Tour (CT) surfer Sage Erickson (USA/Santa Barbara) and posting the days top scoring ride (8.83) and heat tally of 16.56.

For Erickson the result was still satisfying and a great competitive hit out, leading into next week's event at Bells Beach.

"Keely (Andrew) had a great Semifinal and was in rhythm out there, whereas

I simply could not find a decent wave to really challenge her today," said Erickson. "A third place is a good result and I now head to Bells Beach in Australia feeling good about my surfing.

If there's one event in the world I'd love to win it's Bells so I'm looking forward to getting there.

Tessa Thyssen (BML) from the remote French region of Saint Bart's in the French Caribbean secured her best ever result, here placing third, and was eliminated in a close Semifinal by Coco Ho.

The Championship Tour surfers like Coco Ho and Sage Erickson now head straight to Australia for the Rip Curl Pro at Bells Beach.

For the aspiring Championship Tour surfers like Keely Andrew, the next major World Surf League Qualifying Series event is in Mexico in June.

Opunake Ladies Golf results

January 27. Opening Day Nett. M.Gibson 59. L.Offord 61. K.Pointon 64. J.Forsyth 64.

2's P.Smith 9th. A.Siciliano 6th. Nine holes. J.O'Rorke 43.

February 3. R1 Brennan Shield. Stableford. J.Deegan 43. A.Siciliano 42. L.Simpson 42. M.Gibson 39. Nine holes. J.O'Rorke 19.

February 10. R2 Brennan Shield Putting LQ1. A.Siciliano 30. J.Deegan 32. L.Offord 34.

February 17. R3 Brennan

Shield. M.Gibson 64. W.Vickers 65. T.Hurley 65. M.Wellington 67.

2's. J.Forsyth 6th. P.Smith 11th.

Winner Brennan Shield. M.Gibson. Runner-up T.Hurley.

February 24 Nett. J.Deegan 63. T.Hurley 64. D.Williams 64. W.Vickers 65.

2s. D.Williams, L.Simpson. March 3. R1 Bronze 2 and 3 strokeplay. Putting. A.Siciliano 26. M.Wellington 29. L.Simpson 29. W.Vickers 31. K.Williams 31.

March 31. Nancy

2's B.Gadsby 9th.

March 10. Silver and Bronze 36 hole strokeplay. R2 Bronze 2 and 3. Silver A.Siciliano 173. Bronze 1. L.Simpson 184. Runner-Up J.Cathie 186. Bronze 2. P.Smith 195. Runner – Up B.Gadsby 197. Bronze 3. T.Hurley 208. Runner-Up M.Gibson 220. 2's. A.Siciliano 15th.

March 24. Stableford. L.Offord 39. J.Forsyth 38. J.Deegan 38. W.Vickers 37. B.Gadsby 37. 2's. D.Williams 18th.

March 31. Nancy

McCormack. 36 holes foursomes. A.Siciliano and L.Simpson 150 Winners. W.Vickers and B.Gadsby Runners-Up. Nine holes J.O'Rorke nett 35.

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 Auroa School 75th Jubilee 1891-1966.
 Warea School & District Centennial 1884-1984.
 Te Kiri School & District 75th Jubilee 1900-1975.
 Te Kiri School & District Centennial 1900-2000.
 Kaponga Public School Centennial 1891-1991.
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PUBLIC NOTICES



OPUNAKE PONY CLUB A.G.M.
 Monday May 18
 6.30pm at Club Hotel, Opunake

ARE YOU A QUALIFIED MECHANIC looking for a job on the coast. Call Kelvin on 027 488 8021



PUBLIC NOTICES



OPUNAKE HIGH SCHOOL
 Te Kura Tuarua o Opunake
 A driving position is available for terms 2 & 3 Transporting students to WITT in New Plymouth 1-2 times a week.
 A clean and current drivers licence is required. For further details email admin@opunake.school.nz or phone the school office 06) 7618723
 Applications close 24th April, 2015
Addressed to: Mr G Watt, Opunake High School, P O Box 4, Opunake or email to above address

OUT OF HOURS MUSIC CLASSES
 Funded by the Ministry of Education

Weekly group instrumental or performing arts classes for Primary School children up to Year 8. These classes will be held outside of normal class hours, (i.e. before or after school)
To enrol, please contact the venue nearest you.
 Places in some classes will be limited.
 There may be a small annual administration fee.
 Students will be need to either own or hire their own instruments.

Instrument	Venue	Phone
Brass / trumpet	Devon Intermediate	06 7585266
	Mangorei	06 7587860
	Turuturu	06 2782200
	Highlands Intermediate	06 7584162
Classical Guitar	Highlands Intermediate	06 7584162
	Inglewood	06 7568040
	Mangorei	06 7587860
Drama	Opunake	06 7618367
Drums	Coastal Taranaki	06 7524022
	Devon Intermediate	06 7585266
	Highlands Intermediate	06 7584162
Flute	Devon Intermediate	06 7585266
	Highlands Intermediate	06 7584162
Guitar	Coastal Taranaki	06 7524022
	Devon Intermediate	06 7585266
	Frankley	06 7536436
	Hawera Intermediate	06 2785030
	Highlands Intermediate	06 7584162
	Kaponga	06 7646693
	Puketapu	06 7550973
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Piano / keyboard	Devon Intermediate	06 7585266
	Highlands Intermediate	06 7584162
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	Bell Block	06 7550838
	Coastal Taranaki	06 7524022
Marimba	Omata	06 7512308
	Woodleigh	06 7539585
Performing Arts	Highlands Intermediate	06 7584162
Saxophone / clarinet	Highlands Intermediate	06 7584162
Ukelele	Frankley	06 7536436
	Mangorei	06 7587860
Violin	Devon Intermediate	06 7585266
	Highlands Intermediate	06 7584162
Out-of-Hours Co-ordinator: Susan Case: susancase@clear.net.nz		

Our next issue is due out April 24

PUBLIC NOTICES

Playcentre

Welcoming any new families into the area. Come and have a look at our child friendly facilities

Session Times: Tuesday & Thursday
 9.30am - 12.30pm

Enquiries Contact: 06 763 8658

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Whanau tupu ngatahi - Families growing together

CHURCH NOTICES

Opunake & Okato Co-operating Parish CHURCH SERVICES

St Paul's Opunake Co-op & Rahu
 Opunake Cooperating Parish St Pauls, Havelock St,
 9.30am every Sunday and the
Rahotu - Wesley - 11am first Sunday of the month.
Oakura - St James - 10am, 2nd & 4th Sundays.
Okato - St Pauls - 10am, 1st & 3rd Sundays.

Opunake Catholic Church

SUNDAY 8.30 am at Pungarehu (St Martins), 10am at Opunake (Our Lady Star Of The Sea).

Other areas

Manaia - Sacred Heart - 1st & 3rd Saturdays at 5pm
 (2nd, 4th and 5th Sat at Hawera's St Josephs).
 Kaponga - St Patricks, Sunday 8.45am
Okato - St. Patricks - Saturday 6pm

WAREA INDOOR BOWLS



has now commenced
Monday April 13 at 7.30pm
Warea Hall
 All welcome
 Contact: Ruth 06 752 8146

WHAT'S ON



OPUNAKE COMMUNITY POOLS

Aquafit & lane swimming. A/F – Mon 6:30pm, Tues/Thurs 5:30pm & 6:30pm, Tues/Fri 9am. Lanes – Mon-Fri 6:30-8:30am. Mon 6:30-7:30pm, Tues – Thurs 5-7:30pm. Public swimming Weekends & Public Holidays 1-4pm.

OPUNAKE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Meet on the 1st Monday of each month. Monday 2 March, Everybody's Theatre 5.30pm Get together 6pm Meeting.

OPUNAKE COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB

First Sunday of each month at the Opunake Town Hall, 1-4pm. All welcome

BARNEY AND CO

Mondays 1.30pm. St Barnabas Church Hall. Games, friendship, cuppa. All welcome.

ELTHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Corner York and Bridge Streets. Open 1.00 p.m. – 3.30 Thursdays and Fridays

SURF INN

Every day free pool. Every Friday free sausage sizzle from 5. Every Sunday afternoon. Pool comp

COASTAL YOUNG FARMERS

Meet 2nd Thursday of every month at 7pm at the Okato Bowling Club.

TARANAKI COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME, MANAIA

Running every Thursday night from 7.30pm, 11 Surf Highway, South Road, Manaia.

EGMONT EUCHRE CLUB

Meets every Thursday 1pm at the Opunake Bowling Club

CAPE EGMONT HISTORIC LIGHT & MUSEUM

Open 11am – 3pm weekends, Bayly Road, Warea.

TODD ENERGY AQUATIC CENTRE

Family fun times 10.30am to 4.30pm.

COASTAL SINGERS

7pm every Thursday night. Contact 761 8654.

ELTHAM BUSINESS ASSOCIATION FRIDAY MARKETS

8am to 1pm, Carpark of Touch Point, High Street, Eltham

SCHNITZEL NIGHT

Every Wednesday at the Stony River Hotel, Okato.

SESSICENTENNIAL EVENTS

HISTORY BOOK

These are now available from the Opunake Library Plus at \$20 each. Paid orders can be made through all South Taranaki Libraries.

PERCY THOMSON GALLERY

Connections 2015 – April 2 - 24. Refer advert for more information.

WAREA INDOOR BOWLS

Monday April 13, 7.30pm at the Warea Hall.

TET CUE THEATRE, INGLEWOOD

THE GAME'S A FOOT or HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS, 7 – 19 April.

ABO ASIA PACIFIC TITLE FIGHT

Light-Heavy Weight – Saturday April 18, at the TSB Stadium. Refer advert for full details.

OPUNAKE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

AGM Monday April 20, 7pm at Everybody's Theatre. Refer advert.

HAWERA REPERTORY.

ANZAC by John Broughton directed by Clive Cullen. 18 - 25 April 2015. Cinderella by Ben Crocker directed by Donald Campbell. 4 - 11 July 2015

2015 TARANAKI ROSE OF TRALEE SELECTION

Saturday 25th April, 2015 – 6.30pm. Please refer advert for full details.

OPUNAKE PONY CLUB AGM

Monday May 18, at 6.30pm at the Club Hotel, Opunake.

COMING EVENTS for Opunake Sesquicentennial

Pihama Women's Institute' Walk for Cancer'

Held on working farms on Sunday April 19 in conjunction with the Opunake 150 year Celebrations.

ANZAC Day 25 April.

Here are the details of the various events for that important day.

Returned Soldiers Association

Opunake District RSA Inc celebrating 100 years ANZAC Day & 150 years of the Opunake district

ANZAC Day 25 April 2015 from 0600.

Final Sesquicentennial celebration.

This has been booked at the Sandfords Event Centre for December 5. The evening will finish with a fireworks display. Details still to be finalised.

Refer advert on page 23 for full details.

CREATIVE COMMUNITIES SCHEME Funding Local Arts Activities



Applications for funding assistance for community-based arts activities in South Taranaki beginning after Friday 29 May 2015 are now being called for. Your application will need to meet one or more of the following funding criteria:

- **Broad community involvement** - A project that will create opportunities for local communities to engage with and participate in arts activities.
- **Diversity** - A project that will support the diverse arts and cultural traditions of local communities, enriching and promoting their uniqueness and cultural diversity.
- **Young people** - A project that will enable and encourage young people (under 18 years) to engage with and actively participate in the arts.

Application forms are available from all LibraryPlus Centres, at the Council Contact Centre in Albion Street, Hawera or the Creative Communities Scheme Administrator, or on the Council website www.southtaranaki.com under Funding/Grants.

For further information, please contact Maryse Ropiha, the Creative Communities Scheme Administrator at:

South Taranaki District Council
 Private Bag 902, Hawera 4640
 Phone 0800 111 323 or 2780555
 Email maryse.ropiha@stdc.govt.nz

Applications close **Friday 8 May 2015 at 4.30pm**
 (for projects beginning after Friday 29 May 2015)

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Promote your events in the OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

Ph/Fax: 06 761 7016 - Call in at 23 Napier Street, Opunake
 or e-mail us: ads@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

People who put in public notices and display adverts in the **What's On Section** for events are welcome to additionally provide extra editorial and photos **FREE OF CHARGE**, to help promote the event.



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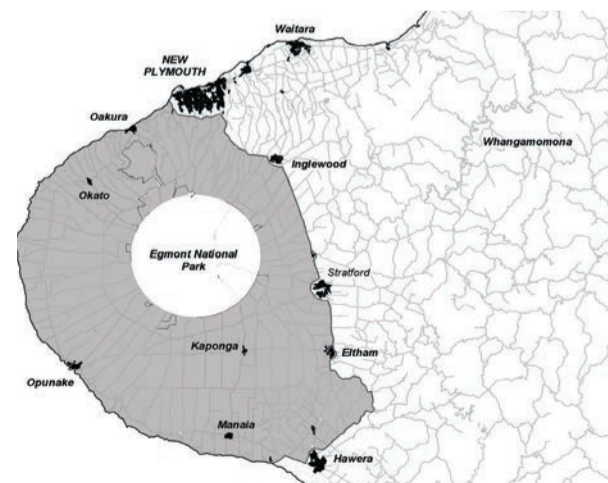
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Ian Walden, Sandy More (partially obscured) and Joanne Doyle enjoying the beautiful sunset from Cape Egmont Boat Club.

Good value meal against a sunset backdrop

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Your Hosts: Heimo & Renate Staudinger



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A combined initiative by the Cape Egmont Boat Club and the proprietors of the Stony River Hotel is good news for members and patrons. For the foreseeable future – perhaps continuing until mid-July - Heimo and Renate Staudinger's staff will be providing nutritious meals such as (fresh) fish and chips on Friday nights, at a very affordable price.

Cape Egmont Boat Club Commodore Phillip Barrett is very pleased with the new initiative describing it as, "Excellent." He appreciates how popular it is with families, who have to be conscious of their budgets, as well as the relaxed, casual nature of the arrangement. "The meals are popular and also good value," he comments.

Renate comments on the positive feedback. "People who have come in are very happy."

There is no need to dress

up, just come along as you are – perhaps farmers removing muddy gumboots at the door would be appreciated, but that about all. The Friday night meals, which are available from 6pm until about 8.30pm, are proving very popular, with 30 to 60 people turning up since the initiative started in February.

Heimo points out that the Friday night meals staff can also cater for functions.

Usually the evening are run by Stacey Ball and Joanne Eutturini, but the night we went there Heimo and Renate were also on hand helping in the kitchen. "When I'm here Stacey is the boss and tells me what to do," says Heimo with a smile.

"You can just sit and enjoy the sunsets – they are absolutely magnificent," says Heimo. Outside, one small group were doing just that as they enjoyed their meal on the veranda.

The menu included such

delights as Seafood basket, Beer Battered scallops, Calamari chips salad and Chicken schnitzel, as well as some intriguing sounding burgers. Most of the prices were under \$20 making eating out affordable for families.

There were meals of reduced sizes (three to choose from) to cater for the smaller

appetites of little children.

Takeaway meals are also available.

Renate and Heimo are very health conscious, so all food is cooked in vegetable oil which is heartening for those mindful of their cholesterol levels. "We don't use fat – it's not necessary anymore," comments Heimo.



Families enjoying their meal while keeping an eye on the rugby score on the big screen.

Below: From left Stacey Ball, Renate & Heimo Staudinger and Phillip Barrett (Commodore of the Cape Egmont Boat Club).



Connections 2015
 Jenny Bielawski • Elwyn Stone
 • Viv Davy • Antonia O'Mahony
 • Juliet Chell • Amanda Griffin
 • Dorothy Andrews

&
 17th
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April 2 - 24 2015
 Join us for the opening Thursday 2 April at 6pm

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 STRATFORD
 06 765 0917

The game is indeed afoot – at Cue Theatre

In April Cue Theatre will present a new Ken Ludwig play, described by critics as “an inspired whodunit” and a gift of laughter”, all of which it is. Sherlock Holmes addicts will of course recognize the sleuth’s iconic cry “The game’s afoot!” as he embarked on solving yet another crime, although in fact it was Shakespeare who used the words first. This Ludwig play won the Edgar Allan Poe Award awarded by the Mystery Writers of America for the best mystery play of 2012, but this playwright needs no introduction to Taranaki theatre goers who may well remember “Lend me a Tenor”, “Leading Ladies” or “The Beaux Stratagem” among others.

It is a challenging piece to produce, relying a great deal on lighting, sound and effects, as well as fine acting and a resplendent art deco set. Cue Theatre is confident that its team can answer the challenge.

“The Game’s Afoot or Holmes For the Holidays” is the play’s full title. It is loosely based ON a real actor William Gillette who was a star of the American stage in the early part of the 20th century. He collaborated



The cast. From left to right: Elizabeth McCafferty, Helen Cloke, Dixon Lobb, David Rohe (centre back), John K Butler (centre front), Karlina Nixon, Valda Hinz, Maree Spurdle

with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to write a play about Sherlock Holmes, which he starred in with enormous success for over 13 000 performances in New York and London over many years.

The play is set in December 1936, and the cast of a Broadway production of the Holmes play have gathered at the Gillette mansion to celebrate. A weekend of revelry is planned.

But amid the glitter of glamour and Christmas glitter all is not well. Real life intervenes quite nastily and therein lies the tale. Cue can’t wait to share it with you.

ICE17

Here it is: the 17th International Collage Exhibition/Exchange. 65 artists from 9 different countries have each sent in a package of their collage artwork. Have a look at the Virtual Tart website at tart.co.nz to see their work. There are three more packages still to come. Two are still tangled in the postal sys-

tems (one from Ukraine, one from Brazil), and one, I love this story, from an American artist who’s visiting New Zealand and got caught up in a week-long party in a village way up north. It’s taken her eight days to break loose and find a Post Office.

Dale Copeland



Don't be shy!
ARE YOU RECENTLY Married?
We would love to share your special day with our readers! Send in your photo and details of how you met etc, to: editorial@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

Taranaki Irish Social Club Inc
☆ ... Presents ... ☆
2015 Taranaki Rose of Tralee Selection
Brooke Muggidge 2014 Taranaki Rose

Live Band "Gumboot Tango"
Dinner, Dance & Entertainment
Plymouth International Hotel, New Plymouth
Saturday 25th April, 2015
6.30pm - late \$60pp
Photographer * Raffle * Cash Bar * Irish dancing
TICKETS: Plymouth Hotel Reception Phone 06)759 9128
Rose Entries still open and close Wed 15th April 2015

OPUNAKE SESQUICENTENNIAL

www.facebook.com/opunake150



Coming events for Opunake Sesquicentennial

Hope everyone had a Happy Easter.

The committee are still busy with this Sesquicentennial. Judith Armstrong is still waiting to hear from many organisations who have advised they are having a celebration. The details need to be sent ASAP. We will advertise this for you if you send us your details. There are several groups who have not sent in details. We cannot promote your event unless you give us details. The service is free.

OPUNAKE HISTORY BOOK

This is now published and available from the Opunake Library. All STDC libraries have a copy for you prepaid. They are only \$20 and are selling fast.

Pihama Women's Institute' Walk for Cancer'

Held on working farms on Sunday April 19 in conjunction with the Opunake 150 year Celebrations. This is the 21st year of the Walk for Cancer. An amazing \$30,000.00 has been raised during 20 years. All money has been donated to the Cancer Society. Come and walk off those Easter Eggs! Registration at Pihama Hall. 9.30am. Start 10.00am. From: Pihama Hall, Surf Highway 45, Opunake. Cost \$10.00 adults, \$5.00 High School Students, \$2.00 Primary School.

Non walkers are invited to visit ' Pihama Lavender', (the old Pihama Dairy Factory- main Road Pihama) The Pihama Womens Institute will be there for water refreshments. Toilet stops are available at the Pihama Hall and the old Pihama Dairy Factory. The Lavendar Shop will be open for purchases. The walk finishes at the Pihama Hall where lunch will be served. Any enquiries - contact Linda Campbell 067618997

ANZAC Day 25 April. Here are the details of the various events for that important day.

Returned Soldiers Association

- Opunake District RSA Inc celebrating 100 years ANZAC Day & 150 years of the Opunake district
- ANZAC Day 25 April 2015**
- 0600. Fall in at Opunake Town Hall
- 0615. Dawn parade at Opunake Cenotaph, followed by a cup of tea, coffee and sandwiches at the Opunake Town Hall Domett St, and Opunake High School students' speeches.
- 0730. Services Cemetery Service.
- 0800. Breakfast Fire Brigade King St, Opunake.
- 1130. Service at Te Kiri Cenotaph, Eltham Rd followed by pot luck community lunch at Te Kiri Hall
- 1730. Service at Lizzie Bell Cemetery 5.45pm, Pihama followed by pot luck finger tea for community in Pihama Hall.

Library displays and school holiday programme

These displays are proving very popular. Groups have bookings till the end of October. If you have not booked please ring Opunake Library and book with June. St. Josephs school has a great display which runs till the end of the holidays, then the Embroidery guild with the RSA are doing a display of hand-made poppies for Anzac Day. They have made 50 poppies and sent them to Waiouru for their Anzac display. The school holiday programme begins. Wednesday 15th

Final Sesquicentennial celebration.

This has been booked at the Sandfords Event Centre for December 5. The evening will finish with a fireworks display. Details still to be finalised.

Everybody's Theatre

Opunake - MOVIES - BOUTIQUE THEATRE - HIRE
For information email: everybodystheatre@gmail.com or check facebook- Everybody's Theatre
Lollies, popcorn, drinks, ice-creams, chocolate bars, tea/coffee for sale
Upstairs Adults \$10, Students 4-16 \$8 Under 4 Free
Downstairs All \$12, Senior Citizens \$8. No Eft-pos

Jupiter Ascending
Adventure, Fantasy, Science Fiction, Thriller | 2hr 07mins | M | Violence
From the streets of Chicago to far-flung galaxies, *Jupiter Ascending* tells the story of Jupiter Jones (Kunis), who was born with signs predicting she was destined for great things. Now grown, Jupiter still dreams of the stars but is destitute. Only when Caine (Tatum), a genetically engineered ex-military hunter, arrives on Earth to track her down does Jupiter begin to glimpse the fate that has been waiting for her all along.
Fri 10th, Wed 15th, Sun 19th @ 7 pm Roadshow

Shaun the Sheep
Adventure, Animated, Comedy, Family | G | Distributors: Studio canal
Small sheep, big movie. A stop motion animated Aardman Studios adventure following Shaun, whose mischief inadvertently leads to his farmer being taken away. The sheep and his flock head to the city to rescue him. Sat 11th, Mon 13th, Sat 25th @ 1 pm

Still Alice
Drama | 1hr 41mins | M | Offensive language
Harvard professor Alice (Moore) is happily married with three grown children, until she is diagnosed with the early onset of Alzheimer's disease. When the diagnosis of Alzheimer's arrives she is forced to deal with a terrifying future decline, while trying to maintain her career, marriage, and family life. Fri 17th @ 7pm. Roadshow

Cinderella
Adventure, Family, Fantasy, Kids, Romance | 1hr 45mins | G | Disney
Disney retells the fairy tale in live-action and under the direction of the great Kenneth Branagh (*Thor*). *Wrath of the Titans'* Lily James fills the crystal slippers, aided by her fairy godmother (Helena Bonham Carter) and thwarted by her step-mother (Cate Blanchett) as she's pursued by Prince Charming (*Game of Thrones'* Richard Madden). Sat 18th @ 1 pm & Wed 22nd @ 3.30 pm

Kingsman: The Secret Service
Action, Comedy, Thriller | 2hr 08mins | R16 | Violence & offensive language
Eggsy (Taron Edgerton) is a wayward youth until recruited into a secretive global espionage agency by Harry Hart (Colin Firth), where he becomes part of their effort to bring down a genius super-villain. Sun 12th Apr @ 7pm. Fox
The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel – 24th, 26th, 29th @ 7pm

Monday	Wednesday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		10 April @ 7pm Jupiter Ascending	11 April @ 1pm Shaun the Sheep	12 April @ 7pm Kingsman: Secret Service
13 April @ 1pm Shaun the Sheep	15 April @ 7pm Jupiter Ascending	17 April @ 7pm Still Alice	18 April @ 1pm Cinderella	19 April @ 7pm Jupiter Ascending
	22 April @ 3:30pm Cinderella	24 April @ 7pm The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel	25 April @ 1pm Shaun the Sheep	26 April @ 7pm The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel

Batman takes on ex kickboxer

For his next fight, Opunake's James "Batman" Langton goes from heavyweight down to cruiser weight, and takes on an opponent whose previous fighting experience has mainly been as a kick boxer.

His bout against Eden McGrath of Auckland will be one of three professional fights at the TSB Stadium on

April 18.

In the other bouts, Taranaki's Sam "the Terror" Rapira will face off against Australian Dean Purdon for the vacant IBO Light Heavyweight title, and "Smoking Joe" Blackburn of Wellington will fight Queensland's Marlin Toby in a super middleweight fight.

Langton has shed eight kilos

to be under 91kgs and make it into the cruiser division.

"I have some concerns, as the last time I did this, I lost a lot of power in the punches," he said.

Langton is on a winning streak, having won his last six fights. He is currently the country's number seven heavyweight fighter, and has a world ranking of number

270. He hopes to get closer to Number 150 by the end of the year.

"Once you are in the top 100-150, doors start to open," he said.

He admits to not knowing much about his opponent, who has made the transition from kickboxing.

"Like any fighter, you have got to treat him as a champion

fighter, and don't take him lightly. I've put more work into this than into any other fight. I've put in plenty of sparring with Simon Julian and Jason Allan, getting my ring fitness to a maximum level, and getting the body and brain used to being pushed to the absolute limit."

Rapira said being able to host a title fight in his home town of New Plymouth means a lot to him.

"I am so excited for this opportunity to fight for an IBO title. Opportunities like these don't come around every day, so I am grabbing it with both hands.

"We have worked hard to get Taranaki on the map in terms of boxing and I feel securing this is recognition for our strong local support for the sport" Langton said he rates Rapira's chances of taking the title.

"He puts everything he's got into every fight. He's sharper than I've ever seen him."

As well as the professional fights, there will be five corporate fights. In the

"Battle of the Bouncers," Morehu Ransfield takes on Steve Powell. Personal trainers Kelly Hopkinson and Michelle Lee go head to head in the "Fitness Fight." In the "Mikey versus Maca" fight, Mike Dromgool (Mikey D) takes on Craig Macfarlane (Maca). "The Politician versus The Publican" sees council candidate Reuben Doyle take on publican Kymon Hill. A clash of the codes sees Egypt Tangitutu (League) boxing Leighton Price (Rugby) in the Rugby versus League fight."

Corporate tables are available for companies and individuals who want to make a fun big night of it and could can be booked now by contacting Jess Rapira on 021 1008102.

Premium Seating costs \$40, Silver Seating \$32.50, Arena Seating \$24.95, There are also a Family Passes (2 adults/2 students Silver Seating \$100 or Arena \$65) and Student Passes \$15 Tickets are on sale from the TSB Showplace at and www.ticketmaster.com



James Langton (right) sparring recently with Jason Allen (President of the Coastal Boxing Club).

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LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT

SAM 'THE TERROR' RAPIRA

VS



DEAN PURDEN



CRUISERWEIGHT

JAMES 'BATMAN' LANGTON

VS



EDEN MCGRATH



SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT BOUT

'SMOKIN' JOE BLACKBOURN

VS



MARLON TOBY

PLUS 4 CORPORATE FIGHTS

Tickets from TSB Showplace Boxoffice

ph 0800 111 999 or www.ticketmaster.co.nz (BOOKING FEES APPLY) **Corporate Tables Available** - Ph Jess 021 100 8102

TICKETS: Premium: \$40 Adults: \$24.50 Student: \$15 Family: \$65

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