



# OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

Vol. 28 No 7, April 25, 2019  
www.opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

Published every  
Thursday Fortnight  
Phone and Fax 761-7016  
A/H 761-8206  
for Advertising and Editorial  
ISSN 2324-2337, ISSN 2324-2345

## Inside



Big turnout for Easter walk. Page 3.



Batman's big day looms. Page 5.



Test drive the car of the future. Page 6.



Big Ted rides off into the sunset. Page 9.



The scourge of the Waikato mow on the coast. Page 15.

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OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS



Strong turnout for 25 years walking for cancer.

PHOTO: Janet Fleming, Pihama

## Twenty five years walking for a good cause

Last week, the Pihama Cancer Walk marked 25 years.

The annual Walk run by the Pihama Women's Institute was started by Val Wallace after one of her grandsons faced his own battle with leukaemia. That first year the Walk raised \$400. This time, about a hundred walkers contributed to raising \$1600 for the Taranaki Cancer Society.

They came from as far away as New Plymouth and Hawera, and right around the mountain, said Pihama WI president Bernadette Gopperth.

She is pleased with the turnout and the way the day went. "The ages ranged from children in prams to more senior people. Some support us year after year. Some hear about it on the radio or read about it in the paper," she said.

The Women's Institute have always planned the Walk for the School Holidays and it's a formula which always seems to work. Whether the Walk is held on a Sunday, or during the week, as it was this year, the people still keep coming.

Continued page 3

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www.opunakecoastalnews.co.nz  
 Editor: Bernice McKellar  
 Journalists/Sales: Rolland McKellar, Bryan Kirk  
 Advertising/Production: Vanessa Smith  
 Production/IT: Shane Butler  
 Delivery: Thursday, fortnightly  
 Registered as a newspaper.

Member of the Community Newspapers Association of New Zealand



The Opunake and Coastal News is distributed free to every home and business within the rural area bounded in the north by the New Plymouth city border, extending east to Egmont Village, and around to the edge of Stratford, south to the Hawera city border and inland to Kaponga and through Eltham.

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**Coastal Rugby season**

In looking at the coastal Rugby clubs many draws for this year 2019 from the Premiers right down to the lower grades it's not going to be easy going, but that's how it goes sometimes.

If all grades want to be in their respective finals it's going to take a lot of hard work training and having the right attitude if you all want to win, plus being fit all the time as one cannot slacken off as it will be all go from start to finish.

But remember also there'll be other rugby clubs that will be wanting the same thing so for every game everyone must be prepared for a battle royal every Saturday against other rugby teams as nothing comes easy, as I learnt from experiences many years ago.

So I would like the wish the Coastal Rugby Club the very best for the 2019 rugby club season and to every

player. Make your sponsors extremely proud to see your team win, as you can all only do your best.

*Tom Stephens,  
 New Plymouth*

**The Jones boy**

Around our coast one always hears how many people or teams of all ages, males or females, are all becoming very prominent in their chosen sporting activities which is always good to hear, but it now seems a young 12-year-old who showed his golfing prowess at the Manaia Golf course by his father, not only attends the University of West Georgia, majoring in finance and mathematics plus on a golfing scholarship, led his university golf team called The Wolves to their first golfing success at the Buccaneer Spring Classic in Southaven, Mississippi, which is really great to see

happening for him.

Maybe one day young Sam may or might turn out to be a professional golfer and represent our country or be an accountant of some huge corporation, but who really knows what really lies ahead of him, so let's hope his university golf team can win again.

*Tom Stephens,  
 New Plymouth*

**We are all human beings**

Your issue dated 11 April 2019 contained a letter from Egalitarian in Rahotu. They wrote to point out that reports of 50 Muslim Kiwis killed in Christchurch were "all over the news" while news of 100 Christians killed in Nigeria by Muslims had not been reported on.

There are religious wars happening all over the world which are not reported upon locally. But I wonder what

point this writer is trying to make. Do Christian lives matter more than Muslim lives? We're all human beings. If truly they are Egalitarian would they not seek out stories such as these?

Tens of thousands of Muslims are fleeing to neighbouring countries by plane and truck as Christian militias stage brutal attacks, shattering the social fabric of this war-ravaged nation.

Poor Muslim farmers in a village in Gojra are putting their savings together and helping rebuild a church for the Christians in their neighbourhood."

"Muslims turned up in droves for the Coptic Christmas mass Thursday night, offering their bodies, and lives, as "shields" to Egypt's threatened Christians ..."

Muslims and Christians Join Jews to Mourn Pittsburgh Shooting Victims.

*Mary Moore  
 Manaia*

**ADELPHOS**

Coffee was supposedly discovered by a 9th century Ethiopian goat herder. He noticed his goats started prancing around after eating coffee seeds or beans. In Christian Europe, coffee was called "Satan's drink" by Pope Clement VIII (ca. 1536-1605) because of its Islamic origins. But, after trying a cup or two of this enlivening brew he energetically exclaimed, "This devil's drink is delicious! We should cheat the devil by baptising it." Later in the 17th century Muslim sultan Murad IV and others imposed strict penalties banning public coffee drinking as a social vice.

Bach loved his caffeine fix so much he dedicated *The Coffee Cantata* to his beloved black brew. Beethoven obsessively hand counted 60 beans per cup. Voltaire, who influenced both the American

**Coffee, Coffee, Coffee**

and French revolutions, was said to drink over 40 cups of coffee a day. Many a great idea in history was borne in a coffee klatch.

I remember Godzone in the 1980s and stopping at a Northland tea room for a cuppa. I was stunned that it cost an expensive \$2 for a level teaspoon of brownish powdery instant coffee in a brown and yellow Crown Lynn cup. Things are certainly different today.

Since the late 1990s Kiwis have become obsessed coffee consuming connoisseurs. We have an abundance of coffee roasters for a small country. One article claimed that the "average" Kiwi spends about \$17 weekly on coffee purchases, not including the occasional \$5.00 muffin. That would total almost \$1000 annually. In any case, \$1000

can be a financially devastating luxury to heavily mortgaged families. Good for our economy but not helping out with replacing Trevor's second lost high school jumper. One financially struggling couple I spoke with agreed on a budget, but, his wife was ashamed to say "no" to social coffee outings because friends would think she was poor.

When visiting cafés I've noticed most of the patrons were women hobnobbing with other women. They were laughing and enjoying their coffees/teas and having animated chats with female friends, whereas the men seemed to be eating quietly with their partners or silently smashing down their big breakfast special. The women did seem happier. But it's back to the weekly budget

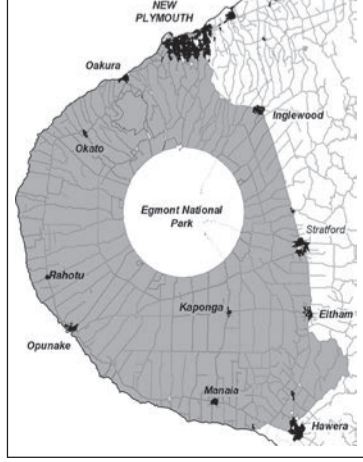
with needs and wants.

Jesus spoke of being trustworthy stewards of both our earthly and spiritual resources in the Parable of the Shrewd Manager. We might ask ourselves what we need and what we want. Perhaps a one-time purchase of a flash \$900 barista coffee maker for convivial social gatherings at home with friends? A \$20 coffee plunger? You might need to go out for a *caffè latte* to think about that. Oops! But please, don't misunderstand. Do support your local coastal café businesses: there are some stunners.

*Adelphos*

Ps. The sermons and after service coffee and treats are not too bad after a family friendly worship service at the Rahotu Church at 11:00 a.m. on the first Sunday of the month.

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**On this month in history prohibition defeated by soldiers vote**

On April 10, 1919 the votes of 40,000 overseas NZ soldiers swung the balance against the prohibition of alcohol in a nationwide licensing referendum.

Before the soldiers' votes were factored in the nation had voted for prohibition by 246,101 votes to 232,208. Therefore, national continuance was upheld by just 10,365 votes. Another referendum was held in December.

# Large turnout on Easter walk

In brilliant sunshine and under the watch of a misty mountain, Christians in Opunake gathered at the cenotaph on Good Friday to begin their annual pilgrimage through Opunake. Proceedings began with the group singing the national anthem before the group lead by Father Vijay set off singing How Great Thou Art.

Carrying a roughly hewn cross, the large group set off at 9am from the cenotaph overlooking Opunake Beach visiting each of the four churches in Opunake ending at St Pauls Co-operating parish where they joined in a moving service which was followed by a morning tea.

As the solemn procession walked through a largely deserted Opunake the group headed down Havelock Street to the main street, then up Ihaia Road turning into Whitcombe Road where they stopped to recite The Lord's Prayer before resuming their march to Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic church where Father Vijay quoted from the Book of Hebrew.

"Today all over the world believers are once again reflecting on the last journey of Christ, he said. "Let us continue to reflect he said ending with the word 'hope'.

The group then continued on, pausing as they approached Tasman Street to once again recite The Lord's Prayer before reaching St Barnabas church where the tolling of the church bell



Carrying the Easter Message around Opunake.

heralded Reverend Ian Sargent's moving address which focussed on little quoted Bible excerpts from Isaiah vs 52 & 53 which described the physical appearance

of Jesus: "So marred was his appearance he startled people as he still does," he said. The reading also mentioned how he was "despised and rejected by others".

Another rendition of How Great Thou Art in which a dog amusingly added his input at the end of the chorus and it was off to The Wave in Domett Street and an impassioned reading of Psalm 22 by Belinda Philp which graphically described Christ's physical and mental anguish and his appeal for everyone to follow Him.

A spirited rendition of the hymn Majesty followed then

Onward Christian Soldiers as the pilgrims marched for a final time down Tasman Street towards St Pauls Co-operating Parish pausing shortly before reaching the church to again say The Lord's Prayer.

Inside St Paul's Church joined by others a packed congregation watched a video of the significance of Good Friday was played which told the harrowing story of Jesus' death by way of the cross, his

flogging and "naked humiliation". Afterwards, people were invited to light candles.

Further readings followed from the Book of John on the subject of the Crucifixion.

The occasion in which all churches united and the mix of nationalities was a reminder of the importance of unity, love and peace.

This was, particularly this year, a source for contemplation.

## Twenty five years walking for a good cause

Continued from page 1

The WI also try to vary the Walk to take in different sights and points of interest around Pihama. In other years the Walk has started and finished at the Pihama Hall, with Peter Trollove taking a hand in

designing the route.

This year the Walk started and finished at Peter and Jen Trollove's Patiki Road home, with lunch in their garden which has become a regular feature of the Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival.

"The course went over different farmland and not so much along the rivers this year," said Bernadette. "The farms were looking pretty good with the mountain in front, and lots of grass around," said Bernadette.

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# Representation arrangements finalised

The Local Government Commission has released their determination on the South Taranaki District Council's (STDC) Representation Arrangements for the 2019 local government elections. The Commission has agreed

with the Council's Final Proposal.

The Council will be made up of the Mayor and 12 Councillors elected from four wards as follows: three councillors for the Taranaki Coastal Ward, two councillors for the

Eltham-Kaponga Ward, five councillors for the Te Hāwera Ward, and two councillors for the Pātea Ward

There will also be four community boards with four elected members each elected for: Taranaki Coastal

Community Board, Eltham-Kaponga Community Board, Te Hāwera Community Board and Pātea Community Board.

The Commission's Determination comes into force at the upcoming local government elections in

October 2019.

"This is the end of a process started back in 2017," says Waid Crockett, STDC Chief Executive.

"We had 21 submissions to the initial proposal and the Council made a number of changes as a result of

these, especially around the ward and board names. The boundary and name changes will be communicated to the public and potential candidates over the next few months as we prepare for the 2019 elections."

## Board makes up funding shortfall

Thanks to funding from the Egmont Plains Community Board, users of the Oaonui Hall will not be cut short.

When the Board met last week they voted to make up the shortfall to install two new urinals at the Oaonui Hall.

In their funding application, the Oaonui Hall Committee had said the cost of the new urinals was \$6689, of which the committee already had \$3000 available. At last week's Community Board

meeting they were asking the board to make up the \$3689 shortfall.

"The urinals are a 120 year-old feature of the hall," committee chairman Andy Whitehead told the board. "They are smelly and hard to clean. We have heard that from a hygiene standpoint they are not sustainable."

Mr Whitehead is also community board deputy chairman and declared an interest, so didn't vote when the board made their

decision. He said the hall is used by different groups like Indoor Bowls and the Gun Club, as well as for functions such as weddings and funerals. It had been one of the halls taking the lead in the Rural Razzle, which aims to get people in rural communities to get to know each other better.

The hall had also played a big part in reviving community spirit in Oaonui.

Mr Whitehead said that at one time it was possible for somebody to live in the area and not know anybody who lived more than one house away.

Community Board chairman Craig Dingle said he had been impressed with what he saw of the hall when the board last met there on March 6. The board voted to grant the full amount asked for.

## Council considers Industrial Park



STDC chief executive Waid Crockett.

The South Taranaki District Council is carrying out a feasibility study into the development of an Industrial Park in the District.

South Taranaki District Council Chief Executive Waid Crockett says the project is one of the Council's Long Term Plan actions to support economic development and sustainability.

"We have commissioned two companies, Veros and Rationale, to work together to conduct a feasibility study and business case into the concept of an Industrial Park," says Mr Crockett.

"The study would look at things like; need, an

assessment of costs and benefits, where the best location might be and what infrastructure would be required. A recommendation will then be made to Council whether or not there is a case for further development and, if so, next steps towards establishment."

The study, which has been part funded by the Government's Provincial Growth Fund, is expected to be finished by June.

Mr Crockett says the Industrial Park study is being carried out at the same time as master planning for the Eltham, Ōpūnake, Manaia, Pātea and Waverley town centres.

## Small step towards new natural gas exploration welcomed

An application to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) by OMV for activity off the Otago Coast is a required step towards further potential work, says the Petroleum Exploration and Production Association of New Zealand (PEPANZ).

"This is part of the normal rigorous regulatory process for any activity in our industry," says PEPANZ CEO Cameron Madgwick. "The EPA has an important role in assessing applications like this, including assessment of the plans and any material impacts activity might have."

"Overall there is very strict oversight and many rules and regulations before any drilling and production can begin. Our industry is very careful to work with local

communities and meet the highest safety standards possible, which is why it usually takes years for new projects to begin.

"This activity is not covered by last year's Government decision to end new offshore exploration permits. Existing holders are required by law to use these permits or relinquish them."

"While there is no guarantee, a discovery of natural gas would be a massive economic boost for Otago and New Zealand as a whole."

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# High noon for Batman



James Langton with the Honours Board behind him holding the sign he was prepared to carry along Tasman Street.

If James (Batman) Langton loses his next bout, he says he will walk away from his ongoing dispute with the Opunake Sport and Recreation Trust.

The Opunake dairy farmer and professional boxer is facing off against Nikolas Charalampous in New Plymouth on May 25 to defend the New Zealand Pro-Box title which he has held since December 2017. This bout will be of historical significance says James.

"There has never been a heavyweight title event in Taranaki history," he says.

For the last three years James, who is also a former New Zealand Boxing Federation (NZBF)

cruiserweight champion has argued that he should be included on the Honours Board at the Sandfords Event Centre which commemorates leading sports people from Coastal Taranaki. The names on the board include the likes of Peter Snell, Graham Mourie, Don Clarke and the Barrett brothers alongside names less well known to the New Zealand public. The Opunake Sport and Recreation Trust has argued that James has not met the criteria to be on the board, which include representing New Zealand at their chosen sport. James has argued that a number of the bouts he has fought against Australian boxers have met the criteria

and he has presented a letter from Pro-Box NZ president and International Boxing Organisation (IBO) vice president Steve Scott supporting this argument.

James said he was hoping to hear from the Trust committee after their latest meeting which was due to be held on Monday.

Earlier this month he indicated he was prepared to hold a protest match through the streets of Opunake on May 1 if the Trust continued to refuse his requests to be placed on the board. Since then, James said he had people stop him in the streets of town to express their support for his stand.

"I'd like to thank everyone

who's supported me on this issue," says James. He also believes the attitude of the Trust maybe changing since they were given the Steve Scott letter. James is now prepared to reconsider his strategy and the march will not go ahead.

"If my proposal is declined on April 22 when they have their meeting I would like to put this matter to the test by a simple scenario. If I lose my professional heavyweight title fight on May 25, I will walk away, never to mention it again, but if I do win the fight and they decline to put

the heavyweight champion on the board I will proceed this through the courts."

James says that the odds should favour the Trust. His opponent is younger, has a higher world ranking than him, as well as an outstanding record as both an amateur and a professional. He has had 18 wins and only two losses since turning pro.

Nevertheless, James is upbeat about his own preparation.

"My training is going well and I am mentally prepared for this. I am prepared to die in that ring instead of losing. I believe this is going to be one of the biggest sporting events in Taranaki history."

He says it will also be the high point of his 25 year

sporting career. He had taken up boxing at the end of a rugby career which included over 200 games for the Coastal Rugby Club. Two years later he won the NZBF title at the Coastal Rumble in Opunake, beating Monty Filimaea, only to lose the title later that year to Monty Betham in Auckland.

He later moved up to the heavyweight division and defeated Isileli Fa to take the Pro-Box title at Hawera in 2017.

As well as his boxing, James has been known as a high profile supporter of Taranaki charity The Little Fighters Trust which helps families with children facing health issue.

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## Native bird sighting first in 112 years

A tiny native bird, the toutouwai (North Island Robin), has returned to Pukeiti Garden for the first time in 112 years after intensive trapping has created a safe haven.

The small birds - weighing as little as 27-30gms - have been spotted around the café at Pukeiti Gardens several times in the past few weeks.

"It's exciting to see these little guys - toutouwai have been extinct from Egmont National Park for 112 years, but they're coming back

thanks to intensive predator control," Towards Predator-Free Taranaki Project Manager Toby Shanley says.

Taranaki Mounga Project have led an intensive rat trapping program in a 1000 hectare block on the north eastern side of Mount Egmont, with 2160 self-resetting A24 gas powered traps, creating a safe environment for Robin to survive and breed. Almost 100 robin have now been released in this safe area through 2017 and 2018.

"The sighting at Pukeiti, around 15 kilometres away, shows that with predator control robins are breeding and spreading to other areas. This is what we can expect to see more of as our community works together, removing predators as part of Towards Predator-Free Taranaki. It's great to see them settle at Pukeiti where Taranaki Regional Council has intensive predator control already in place" Mr Shanley says.

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# The Singers will not be forgotten

For 34 years the Coastal Singers were a presence in Opunake until dwindling numbers forced the group to disband in 2017.

Now their name is set to live on in the town where they made music, with plans to place a suitably themed mosaic sofa overlooking the Opunake Lake.

This will be Opunake's third mosaic sofa. The first of these was placed by Debbie Campbell and Robyn Chard in a Napier Street spot overlooking the Tasman Sea in time for the start of the 2016 Garden Festival season.

Debbie placed a second one with a harakeke (flax) theme earlier this year and when funding is made available she is all set to go on to the next one.

The design will reflect

the distinctive purple of the Coastal Singers' uniform.

Longstanding Coastal Singers member Jean Roach says part of the sofa will be paid for from some surplus money left over from when the Coastal Singers folded in 2017. Funding from other sources will be needed to cover the shortfall. There has been consultation with iwi, and Jean says the sofa will be a fitting tribute to the Singers.

"Those concrete settees are indestructible. You are never going to get them badly vandalised," she says.

She has fond memories of the Coastal Singers.

"We were a very cohesive group. It was a very easy group to belong to and a lot of fun. We all miss it dreadfully, but there were not enough people to keep it going."



The Coastal Singers in full voice.

"When we started Gabrielle Barr was the conductor and Noeleen Moir was the pianist. After Gabrielle left to teach on the East Coast, Noeleen did the whole thing. I don't think you would find anybody who would be able to do what Noeleen did. She would play the piano but could still listen to all the different parts. It was an amazing skill."

Three years ago, after 25 years leading the singers, Noeleen shifted from Opunake, and Peter Copeland looked after the group for a time while still carrying on

as conductor for Stratford Singers.

At its peak Coastal Singers had as many as 30 members, with some coming from as far away as New Plymouth every week for practices. When membership slipped to around 10, the decision was made to pull the plug.

Melanie Brown who was treasurer and historian still has albums and records dating back to when Gabrielle Barr set up a community choir at Opunake High School in 1983 and the choir's first outing at the Opunake combined carol

service that year.

They joined with other Taranaki choirs for Handel's Messiah, sung alongside Dame Malvina Major, and entertained various groups around Taranaki, including Lions conventions. There were the choir festivals where they joined with other groups around Taranaki like the Waimate Singers from Manaia. They also performed at funerals of well known local identities, including that of the group's founder, Gabrielle Barr.

Melanie who works at the

Opunake Cottage Rest Home joined back in 2001.

"One of the girls I worked with said, let's go for a look. I joined and I never looked back. I love to sing, and it was such a lovely, family-oriented sort of choir."

With the sofa due to be placed only a short distance from the Cottage Rest Home, she decided to do a tiling course with Debbie Campbell, and says it could be something which the rest home residents could be interested in taking part in.

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# Former Taranaki man brings up 30 years in the navy

Thirty years ago, Wayne Ratu sat opposite his school's careers adviser at Stratford High School.

"Wayne, what are you going to do?" the adviser asked.

The youngster, on the spot, spotted a Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN) recruitment poster on the wall behind the adviser.

"I'm thinking of joining the Navy," he said.

The careers adviser nodded, and to the boy's consternation, reached into a drawer and pulled out some paperwork.

Thirty years later, Warrant Officer Marine Technician (Propulsion) Ratu still reflects on that moment.

"He had the paperwork, he gave it to me, and I took them home. That was my career sorted out on the spot," he said.

Last month Warrant Officer Marine Technician (Propulsion) Wayne Ratu received his first clasp to his Navy Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, signifying 30 years of continuous service in the RNZN.

He remembers telling his mother about the idea when he got home from school.

"I had been looking at doing a building apprenticeship, but I had applied and hadn't heard back," he said.

"I hadn't been doing much at school. Mum was pretty

happy – she wanted me to have a trade, and Dad had served in the Army in the late 1960s."

He took a bus to Auckland from New Plymouth in June 1988.

"I had just turned 18, with no idea what I was going to do.

we got on the bus, there was dead silence – no one wanted to talk.

"Later, before signing on the line, things were calm and collected. As soon as everyone had signed, the orders started.

"Dad had told me what it

had quite a big intake, 120. Dad said to me, 'Stay for the whole thing. See it out. See what you think about it later.'"

"Later" turned out to be a long series of adventures, although being an engineer could be tough.

to work on the ship. That was the leadership style – that's your job, make it happen. And we would get the ship to sea."

He has been to a lot of countries, with a highlight being at Bougainville during the peace talks. He remembers taking out a boat with the Chief of Navy Rear Admiral Fred Wilson and the Papua New Guinea Prime Minister, Michael Somare, for a fishing jaunt.

"The bloody boat broke down, then it rained on us. The admiral looked at me and said, 'What's happening?'"

"It's smoking, sir," I replied." Rugby has been a big part of his career and once, while coach of RNZN Rugby, he spent three months coaching the Chinese People's Liberation Army rugby team.

"It's a great way to form a relationship with another country's military." This year, as assistant rugby coach for the NZDF, he will be especially busy, choosing the NZDF team to play in Japan at the International Defence Rugby World Cup.

Today, Warrant Officer Marine Technician Ratu is the Fleet Damage Control Instructor for the Maritime Operations Evaluation Team.

"I thoroughly enjoy it," he said. "I like training, mentoring, coaching."

The tough side of his 30

years in the RNZN has been the time away, but the support of his family has made it possible.

"HMNZS Te Mana's drills and exercises last year meant seven weeks out of the office. It never gets easy. My son is 23, my daughter is 28 – she was born on my 21st birthday.

"Family has to be a huge support network. This job doesn't exist without family support."



**Warrant Officer Marine Technician (Propulsion) Wayne Ratu received recently his first clasp to his Navy Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, signifying 30 years of continuous service in the Royal New Zealand Navy.**

"My bus arrived at the old train station in Auckland, and a Navy bus arrived. When

would be like. First night, everyone was a bit quiet, trying to find their place. We

"In the Leander days, we would have to stay behind while the crew went ashore,

## March play reading

Hostesses for the March Play Reading Circle at the Hawera Women's Club were Fiona Collins and Pauline Smith.

Cynthia Stone and Judy Greenwood opened the evening with a "deckchair drama". The two ladies were guests at a wedding, and hadn't seen each other since their younger University days. However, what should have been a happy reunion of old friends soon became

a showdown of a past deceit and betrayal. A very good drama presented by two accomplished actresses.

In a lighter mood, Judy Greenwood, Noreen Harris, Cheryl Jamieson, and Cynthia Stone presented the very funny 'Broadcasting Fruit Salad'. Each radio station was hosted by a presenter of a particular subject, and the radio waves were 'crossing' each other with very funny results, due to each of the

presenters unwittingly coming over the top of the previous one.

Fiona Collins then read 'Fair Rosamond' which told the story of the very naughty King Henry II trying to elude his wife the Queen whilst having a tryst with the fair Rosamond.

Pauline read three of her own writings including the dramatic details of a ghastly trip by bus in India.

Jane Lawrence's monologue

on the telephone as the Lady of the Manor, was fascinating as it conjured up the images of servants, gracious living and a different way of life we can only imagine.

To conclude the evening's entertainment, Fiona presented her play 'Witchery Woe' written by Marilyn Owen, and updated by Fiona. Modern day witches cackled and screeched whilst throwing creepy crawlies into a large black cauldron,

as they held an AGM, and tried to think up ideas to modernise their movement to attract 'younger' witches. The very believable witches were brought to life by Judy Greenwood, Noreen Harris, Cheryl Jamieson and Cynthia Stone.

June Parsons helped by serving supper at the conclusion of a good night's entertainment.

Fiona Collins

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## Lest We Forget

I am currently overseas on a study tour of new energy developments in Japan, the UK and Norway, but my heart will be very much at Taranaki's ANZAC Day commemorations.

A hundred and four years on from Gallipoli I think it is more important than ever that we remember the sacrifices made by our servicemen and servicewomen down through the years. The loss of those who didn't come back and the experiences of those who did changed the nature of our country. We must all strive to preserve the values they held dear, namely freedom, democracy and protecting the country of New Zealand



JONATHAN YOUNG MP FOR  
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we love.

This year, perhaps more than any other, we have been considering our ideals and way of life. There has been a great deal of discussion and thought about our national identity in the wake of

the Christchurch Mosque attacks. Social norms have been changing exponentially as the internet brings the rest of the world closer. Despite that, we remain a small nation at the bottom of the world - innovative, resilient and brave. We are a country I hope the ANZACs would be proud of and we must continually strive to protect the freedoms they fought for. Our way forward must be the way of peace and inclusion, honouring the past and looking into the future with hope.

New Zealand faces many challenges. There are strident debates on all kinds of issues from Cape Reinga to Bluff.

My plea is that whatever your passion, the best kind of memorial we can give to the ANZACs is to honour them by living positively in the society they fought for, where we respect each other, as we respect those who have gone before.

*Jonathan Young | MP for  
New Plymouth  
National Party  
Spokesperson | Energy  
and Resources | Regional  
Economic Development (NI)  
Chair | Economic  
Development, Science  
and Innovation Select  
Committee*

## Op-ed on hate speech

Protecting freedom of speech is vital to hold those in authority to account, challenge the socially and culturally dominant, and enable society to progress.

Freedom of speech can give force to new ideas, but also cause discomfort and offence. It is usually the first right to be lost under oppressive regimes, and among the first to be restored, at least in name, after revolutionary change.

The New Zealand Bill of Rights Act affirms our right to freedom of expression, including the right to impart and receive opinions of any kind. Protecting freedom of speech is crucial to our democracy and the ability of all citizens to participate meaningfully.

But in the immediate wake of the 15 March mosque attacks, many citizens from minority ethnic and religious communities told of how opinions and statements they routinely see on social media and other public platforms make them feel threatened, unwelcome and alienated.

Others have said these types of statements allow a climate to develop that is tolerant of harmful discriminatory expression.

A responsible government must consider these claims, and on a principled basis.

Consequently I have asked the Ministry of Justice to work with the Human Rights Commission to examine whether our laws properly balance the issues of freedom of speech and hate speech. The process should not be rushed, and I expect a report for public comment towards the end of the year.

The context for this stocktake is not just the horrific events in Christchurch, but also the history of free speech protection in New Zealand.

The reality is we already have laws to protect against what we call "hate speech", which are the Human Rights Act and the Harmful Digital Communications Act. These



ANDREW LITTLE MP

criminalise incitement of racial disharmony through written or verbal expression, and refusal to remove social media posts which are bullying or include humiliating intimate information about someone.

Is it right that we sanction incitement of disharmony on racial grounds but not, for example, on grounds of religious faith?

And how could there be any limitations on free speech, in light of the government's obligation under the Bill of Rights Act to protect it?

Our Bill of Rights draws on worldwide traditions to uphold basic human rights. The law has a close family link to one of the founding documents of the UN, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Declaration upholds freedom of thought and religion and the right to hold opinions "without interference". But, forged in an international effort determined to eliminate the hatred and discrimination that drove that Second World War, it also called on us all to act towards one another in a spirit of "brotherhood", and affirmed the right of every person to be protected against discrimination.

It drew on the revolutionary charters of the Enlightenment, the United States and French constitutions. Both protected free speech, with the Americans emphasising the equality of all people and the French stating liberty is the freedom to do anything which doesn't harm others.

When speech threatens

others, or is abusively discriminatory, then it has the potential to cause harm and encroach on the freedom of others.

As with the heritage that inspired it, our Bill of Rights recognises what it describes as justified limitations. It does so to ensure the exercise of a freedom by one person does not deny freedom to others.

Drawing the line is not simple. Protecting freedom of speech that challenges authority and orthodoxy will inevitably still cause offence to some.

But just being offensive or disagreeable does not necessarily make something harmful. Controversial issues in

New Zealand, such as immigration policy or indigenous rights and reconciliation with the Treaty of Waitangi, will continue to be the subject of public debate. And so they should.

Protecting our crucially important right to freedom of speech, while testing whether the balance is right regarding "hate speech", needs a robust public discussion from all quarters. This way we will ensure that all of our citizens' rights are protected, and every person can express their humanity without fear.

*Andrew Little is the Minister of Justice in the Coalition Government.*

## Right call made on CGT, Feds says

The decision not to proceed with a Capital Gains Tax has been welcomed by Federated Farmers and DairyNZ.

"It's clear the coalition partners have listened to widespread concerns that a Capital Gains Tax has too many downsides, including massive administration costs and the potential to put the handbrake on the progress of small and medium businesses vital to our economy," Feds economics spokesperson Andrew Hoggard says.

"It seems to us that New Zealand First has been pivotal in this decision, and we appreciate their pragmatism. "The Prime Minister spoke about new measures to tackle land banking and land speculation, an approach that has a much better chance of tackling our housing affordability issues than a CGT."

Federated Farmers is pleased the Government is committing to looking at the compliance cost reduction ideas mentioned in the Tax Working Group's report.

"There were a number of these that are worth looking at, including increasing various thresholds (e.g., for provisional tax) and

simplifying depreciation and Fringe Benefit Tax, and removing resident withholding tax on close company-related party interest and dividend payments," Andrew says.

"We're also pleased with the assurance that there will be no resource rental for water or fertiliser tax - at least in this term of Government."

DairyNZ chief executive Tim Mackle has also welcomed the announcement of no Capital Gains Tax.

"Farmers are relieved by this. They work extremely hard alongside other New Zealanders to build a strong future for their families, while contributing to the economy and communities."

"There would have been wide-ranging ramifications for farmers if a Capital Gains Tax had been introduced. There have been strong concerns for the sector since the Tax Working Group's report came out in February, as it described a system that looked likely to have significant implications for farmers across a broad range of areas from business asset valuations, administrative costs, succession planning and retirement schemes."



# Outstanding educator and school counsellor says goodbye

There was a special send off in the staffroom of Opunake High School on Friday April 12 for Simon 'Big Ted' Reid after 16 years working at the school. He was the school counsellor in addition to his teaching English. As well as several guest speakers there were many individual tributes to a man who had touched so many of his colleagues and students by his calibre as a person and his skilful dedication as an educator. There were also speeches from people who had known Simon in his senior roles in other schools where he had also made a positive impact. He also had made an important contribution to the sporting endeavours of students, especially in rugby.

The event was well-organised by Simon's colleague Murray Weir who delivered the introduction. He spoke of the "huge impact" Simon had made in the school in the classroom and with his colleagues, as well as in his leadership role with the PPTA. Murray gave a precis of Simon's teaching career and noted that 2004 was when he took up his position at Opunake High school. He had earlier trained as a teacher at Palmerston North Teachers College as it was called then. Some of his teaching has been in primary schools such as Otakeho where he was appointed principal and he has held senior positions in a variety of educational settings.

Murray's introduction was followed by a karakia led by Rangiroa Rongonui and the school song followed.

One of Simon's qualities is that he is able to connect meaningfully with students, no matter how challenged they may be.

The Board of Trustees Chairperson Andy Whitehead spoke of the "privilege" of working with Simon, both in his governance role and as a parent. "I'm sad to see you go," he concluded.

Kelvin Weir spoke of Simon's great contribution to rugby in his role as coach.



Opunake High School Board of Trustees Chairperson Andy Whitehead spoke to a large gathering of people at the Farewell for Simon Reid with Deputy Principal Andrea Hooper, Geoff Watt, Murray Weir and Simon Reid.

To laughter, he compared Simon to a grandfather clock and said, "Thank you for all that you have done."

An ex-student from Otakeho School Nathan Joyce spoke of Simon's unique contribution as principal. "Big Ted was a big tough man with a big heart and a lot of empathy for others." He added, "He had amazing ability to relate to anyone." He mentioned a memorable school trip in 1998 to the Marlborough Sounds when he was a student and the horrific trip on a boat in rough seas. He concluded by thanking Simon for, "The absolute positive influence you've had on our lives."

Viv Joyce, who was Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, explained that Simon arrived at Otakeho School upon his appointment as principal to find a falling roll and a school "not in good shape. He had a huge influence in increasing our roll." She continued to say that he promoted a "fun, safe learning environment where anything was possible for kids if they wanted to

achieve."

Former principal of St Joseph's School in Opunake Judi Gopperth spoke about her rewarding professional relationship with Simon as a fellow school leader. "Thank you for your unrelenting professionalism, as well as the planning and organisation you contributed to principal meetings." She concluded, "You are a great person and a great educator."

Geoff Watt mentioned Simon's considerable contribution to rugby coaching over a wide level of ages, including the First 15. He spoke of Simon's popularity with students. "They would actually jostle to get near him and their faces would light up." He concluded by saying "a truly exceptional teacher like you Simon will be greatly missed."

There were many other tributes including Vincent Edward's acknowledgement of how well Simon could connect with both students and fellow staff. "To lose Simon is a massive loss to the

teacher for my children."

Andrea Hooper and Dawn Collis sang a song featuring Simon with guitar accompaniment to the tune of 'Ten Guitars'.

Finally, Simon gave his final speech. "You've humbled me. I am just me. Somebody cursed me with the ability to connect with kids. My reward was on Wednesday and I was stunned. The art of good teaching is, for me, listening. Boys are boys and girls are girls, sure, but they need to know there are consequences. They need us like there is no tomorrow."

He concluded by saying, "It's been an absolute joy" to work at the school. "It is served well by everyone, the staff, Board, the Chairperson, parents and students. Thank you friends and colleagues. Look after our kids, they are the future. I'm just so much richer for the experience of Opunake."

After the presentation of a gift there was a rousing haka as a tribute to Simon, an exceptional educator and remarkable man.

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# Mac Sole looks back Episode 4

I continue these memories on a sad note. This being because, when I was 14, my dear dear grandmother passed away and was laid to rest at the Motu Awa Urupa, Winks Road, Manaia with many of my whanau.

This time was very sad for me, a feeling I was to have again in 1958 and 1986 in the passing of my parents, so back to my grandmother's passing. On the day of her burial I took a handful of soil from her grave to keep forever, or so I thought, but in the ravages of time the soil has been misplaced, but she will forever be in my mind and heart.

The next person I was to meet in bygone days and feel privileged to have done so, was George Nepia, a very well-known All Black. This meeting was brought about by me playing rugby for the South Island Maori Team with a game being played at Gisborne in 1957 or 1958 and the meeting took place at the marae in Gisborne. I was to have a long and interesting conversation with the above mentioned gentleman.

In 1957-58 I was to meet two interesting people. This



George Nepia the famous All Black member of the Invincibles team (1924).

was brought about by me getting an NAC flight from Paraparaumu Airport to Nelson where I was living at the time. (NAC is now Air NZ) and I was sitting at a table in the cafeteria by myself. The

café was well patronised. My table seemed to have the only spare chairs. A gentleman asked if he and the lady with him could share my table. I said yes and went back to reading. The couple

settled down. I looked up and then realised who my company were; shock upon shock they happened to be Walter Nash and Mabel Howard. I can't remember if Nash was Prime Minister at the time. By the time I was able to gather my thoughts and I'm sure they realised my surprise, they put my mind at ease by telling me they were heading for Blenheim to see the damage a huge fire had done to some fruit warehouses or something along those lines. At about 24 years of age old I was somewhat overawed.



Hon Mavis Howard MP, who was New Zealand's first female Cabinet Minister.



Sir Walter Nash who was Prime Minister of New Zealand.

## On this month in history Doris Day born

On April 4, 1922 Doris Day was born Doris Ann Kappelhoff in Cincinnati, United States, so she is now 97. She started in show business with the Les Brown Band, but decided early on to go solo.

Her first single was 'Sentimental Journey' in 1945. A very well known hit of hers was 'My Secret

Love', which became her fourth number one hit in the US singles charts. It also won the Academy Award for Best Original Song. She eventually recorded 650 songs.

She made her first film 'Romance on the High seas' in 1948 and by the early 1960s was the world's top female actress in terms of box office appeal. She acted

with such stars as Rock Hudson, David Niven, Frank Sinatra and Clark Gable.

She was also an animal welfare actress and a life long Republican.

She married four times with three of these unions ending in divorce (The other husband died). Sadly her only child Terry Melcher died of cancer.

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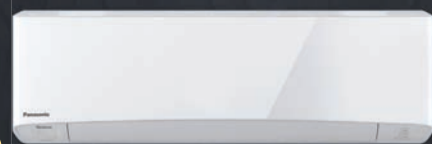
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# Kaponga WI members kept very busy

We are pleased with attendance numbers for both the March & April meetings, having only two apologies.

The meeting room at Coffee Mania Glover Rd, Hawera was a great venue for the March meeting with members being able to order their lunches before the meeting.

Fiona gave a report on the recent Regional Day with South Taranaki Federation hosting visiting members from North Taranaki and Wanganui.

With everyone gathering at Hollards Gardens, the day began with a welcome to the visitors, and morning tea, with plenty of time to

look around the gardens. As the weather was very fine many took this opportunity to enjoy the gardens. Then it was on to the Swiss Hall at Kaponga where the South Taranaki Federation Executive had lunch waiting for the group of up to 70 members.

After a fabulous lunch,

the Kaponga Swiss Club entertained, which rounded off a most enjoyable day out.

Eight of our members had attended the Federation AGM held at Kapuni Hall, and the Aunt Daisy Day had been attended by Dorothy, Fiona, Rayleen, Margaret Watts and Joy Eliason.

Diane West read out

last year's Secret Friends with some surprises when members found out who had sent their Birthday/Christmas present.

The new programmes have been handed out, each with our new Secret Friend's name inside. Nan Stokes was thanked for her excellent work in designing

and making them.

After lunch the group visited the Hawera garden of Jane Upson, and afterwards travelled to Hastings Road to view Lynn Watts craft and garden. Lynn served a lovely afternoon tea before the members travelled home

# Morning market at St Barnabas

Morning market at St Barnabas

Arriving at 7am in the dark, rain and wind, some stallholders who planned to be outside on the lawn,

squeezed inside, but other braver souls stayed outside, securing their gazebos, during the morning; one escaped and took off like a kite. Had we been blessed

with a fine day, chairs tables and umbrellas would have been placed on the lawn so stallholders and customers could enjoy morning tea in the sunshine.

All twenty two stall holders from Normanby, Hawera, Eltham and Opunake, with a mixed array of merchandise to sell, smiled and carried on and

created a lovely atmosphere. Thank you to everyone who came, we loved having you all. St Barnabas is richer financially and has made new friends.

The two raffle winners were, Easter Basket with wine, yellow 40E Edna Olliver, Grocery with wine blue 19E Heather Payne.

Hope to see you all again next year.



The stallholders were not daunted by the inclement weather and cheerfully attended their stalls.



A huge selection of quality goods were on offer at St Barnabas Market as well as friendly service with a smile.

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# New Zealand gun owners invoke NRA-style tropes in response to fast-tracked law change

Prime minister Jacinda Ardern announced a ban on military-style weapons within days of the Christchurch terror attacks.

In the wake of the Christchurch terror attack, and the subsequent ban on military-style semi-automatic weapons, social media has provided a platform for gun owners.

Media have examined the influence of the American National Rifle Association (NRA) in New Zealand. But there is an aggressive home-grown gun culture online.

The comment sections on a range of New Zealand firearms community Facebook pages reveal that the culture of many gun users is more extreme than the gun lobby wants us to believe. There are disturbing norms operating in local gun culture.

On the day of the shooting, some people posting on firearms groups' Facebook pages expressed shock and sorrow. Others were immediately concerned about how it would affect them as firearms users. Contributors on some sites openly discussed watching the shooter's livestream. Some Kiwi Gun Blog Facebook posters were interested in what firearms he used.



Marie Russell

One posted: Started with shotgun, then uses his AR15 to do the rest.

Some contributors to the page mentioned the victims of the attack but many clearly prioritised the perceived harm to firearms owners.

Very sad day. My condolences go out to the families. Only one group of people going down after this ... is licenced firearm owners unfortunately. Watch the sale of semi's [sic] go through the roof before the ban is announced. Bury your semi's now before they get taken off you.

Other users enthusiastically agreed. In response to a later post inquiring whether proposed gun law changes mean that "we would have to surrender our ar's [firearms]", a contributor replied "lose them in a safe place".

Another said of police:

"they will need a lot of search warrants and a team of people with spades."

Yet another added, mixing an American NRA trope with The Lord Of The Rings: "They will have to pull mine out of my cold dead hands. They will never get my precious."

The second amendment to the American Constitution has been interpreted as meaning that citizens have a right to bear arms, but in New Zealand owning guns is indisputably a privilege, not a right. The government has the right to ban high calibre semi-automatics, magazines and associated parts and to demand that owners surrender these weapons.

The use of NRA discourses on New Zealand firearms sites reveals confusion, or perhaps a state of denial, about what is legally possible in New Zealand.

I would rather see people with the right to carry for self-defence ... If a handful of those worshippers had been packing [carrying guns] that could have stopped this tragedy in the early minutes.

Owning a gun for self-defence purposes is not legal in New Zealand, but contributors frequently mention the concept along with variations on the right to own a gun.

We have found other NRA tropes on the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association Facebook page.

Guns don't kill people. People do.

Conspiracy theorists even raised claims that the shooting was a "false flag" event, staged specifically to discredit gun owners.

When Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced the ban on semi-automatics, only days after the mosque shootings, the gun lobby responded quickly,

expressing a sense of victimisation. The Facebook page of the Council of Licensed Firearms Owners (COLFO), a firearms umbrella organisation, carried a pastiche of Martin Niemöller's poem, portraying firearms owners as needing to protect themselves in the face of oppression.

Since the shooting, new contributors arriving on the pages seem surprised by these discourses. One visitor unwittingly charged in with posts saying "ban all MSSAs [military style semi-automatics], cars need registration. Drivers need licences ... why should guns be any different. What legitimate use do MSSAs have in civilian hands."

The suggestion that guns should be registered just as their owners are licensed did not go down well with regular commenters, who responded:

STOP terrorizing firearms owners! You extremist ... you're a disgusting human being.

Most comments come from men, judging by the names. This is unsurprising, given that 93% of licensed firearms owners in New Zealand are male. Violent misogyny appears on some of the pages, including many remarks about Ardern.

Very few contributors make actual threats, but any threatening posts were rejected on grounds of the law, not because violent or misogynist suggestions were unacceptable.

After New Zealand Police Association President Chris Cahill referred to the "radical gun lobby," one post said "if we were radical they'd be dead already".

We did not find white supremacist sentiments, or overt racism on these public

New Zealand Facebook pages. But there is almost no visible presence of Māori or non-Pākehā (non-white) people in the social media exchanges.

Senior gun lobbyists present licensed gun owners as sensible and responsible – the only legitimate voice on firearms. But these online posts reflect the culture within the group, whose voice has effectively stifled political debate and stymied changes to firearms law for decades.

Former police minister and now opposition MP Paula Bennett appointed two advisors from the gun lobby who encouraged her to reject 12 of 20 recommendations from the 2017 bi-partisan select committee report on illegal firearms.

In 2018, following a public outcry about defence personnel taking military firearms into a school, a Ministry of Education reference group developed guidelines for schools. The group initially

included only government employees, educators and representatives from firearms groups. When challenged, one of us (Hera Cook) was added as a health representative and observed how firearms experts persuaded the ministry not to keep a list of schools with guns.

Gun owners' social media posts show us that many firearms owners are not sensible and reasonable people. Faced with a tragedy, their response is to insist on a non-existent right to own firearms and to express willingness to break laws that do not suit them. It is past time that the desires of ordinary New Zealanders for peace and safety determined firearms policy.

Marie Russell  
Senior Research Fellow,  
University of Otago  
Hera Cook  
Senior Lecturer,  
University of Otago  
The Conversation

## Drop in Kiwi Saver satisfaction

Customer satisfaction with KiwiSaver providers has dropped in Consumer NZ's annual survey.

Consumer NZ chief executive Sue Chetwin said almost all of the 13 providers rated in the survey saw their customer satisfaction ratings fall.

"Overall, 48% of KiwiSavers were happy with the service they were getting from their provider, down from 52% last year," Ms Chetwin said.

Satisfaction scores for three of the biggest providers – AMP, ANZ and ASB – were significantly below the industry average.

"Only 36% of ASB customers were very satisfied with the service they were getting. AMP scored 37% and ANZ 41%,"

she said. Just two providers achieved satisfaction scores above 60%: Milford and Westpac both rated 66%.

But it wasn't all good news for Westpac: the KiwiSaver scheme rated below average for keeping customers up-to-date about their investments.

Ms Chetwin said the fall in ratings was likely influenced by sharemarket volatility, which had led to a bumpy 12 months for some funds.

But the quality of information consumers got about their funds also affected satisfaction, she said.

Consumer NZ's survey found: 75% didn't know what they paid in fees each

Continued page 13.

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# Wide range of work for new man at AB Equipment



Richard Walker, the new salesperson for AB Equipment.

AB Equipment has a new salesperson for Taranaki and Manawatu.

Richard Walker who is originally from the Hawkes Bay, comes from a contracting background having worked for other contractors. He's also run his own earthmoving contracting business.

He and his wife Emma, who has family in Taranaki, recently transferred to Taranaki from Hawkes Bay where Richard was working for AB Equipment.

He says he enjoys working for the company. While he liked the contracting, working as a salesperson is "a lot easier" he says adding he doesn't miss the dirty boots and the rain.

He also has a good understanding of the farming industry having grown up on a farm in the Hawkes Bay though it was "sheep and beef - there's not a lot of dairy over there", he says. He adds "there's more grapes than dairy."

AB Equipment at 29 Hurlstone Drive, New Plymouth sells new and used machinery and can supply any brands. This includes Doosan excavators and the Bobcat range which includes mini excavators as well as chippers and compactors and rollers used in construction and roading.

Richard commented there

had been a lot of changes with diggers and mentioned the Bobcat which they were continually modifying in the MC series and the R series to improve performance.

They also sell Manitou equipment for feeding out or moving bales as well as forklifts.

As well as selling new and used equipment AB Equipment do trade ins. They also hire out equipment and also conduct training courses and can help with advice.

Richard and Emma, who teaches drama at Stratford High School are settling well into Taranaki.

Richard who was in the fire brigade for 10 years in the Hawkes Bay recently joined

the Ngamotu Rural Fire Brigade.

He's also an assistant coach at the Inglewood Junior Rugby Club. He and Emma have two sons aged 11 and 12.

While AB Equipment also hire out equipment Richard is keen to push their range of new equipment and says buying can be a cost effective option. He's keen to make contact with contractors and is hoping to visit them.

"You could be buying instead of hiring," says Richard adding they have their own finance company as well.

Richard can be contacted on 027 553 9216.

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## Drop in Kiwi Saver satisfaction

Continued from page 12  
, and 44% weren't confident their KiwiSaver funds would be enough to support them in retirement.

Overall, just 45% thought their provider did a good job keeping them up-to-date about their investment.

Ms Chetwin said consumers also lacked

information about whether their funds were being ethically invested.

"For many, returns are just as important as knowing their money is invested responsibly. The majority said they'd be concerned if their cash was being invested in stocks such as gambling, pornography and weapons,

but didn't know whether their fund manager excluded investment in these areas."

Ms Chetwin said KiwiSaver providers needed to do better at providing meaningful information about their investment approach.

"Demand for responsible investment is growing

rapidly, but KiwiSaver providers aren't meeting this demand," she said.

## The Wahine founders

On April 10, 1968 the ferry the Wahine foundered at the entrance to Wellington harbour.

It got stuck on Barrett's Reef and gradually tilted, although not completely over. The captain gave the order to abandon ship. Of

the 733 on board 53 ended up dead, many of them from exposure as they landed in the very cold water.

Many of the deceased ended up washed up at Eastbourne, which was grim sight for survivors who also

landed there.

A Court of Inquiry did find some fault and errors of judgement, but also concluded that the death toll would have been higher had the order to leave been given at a different time.

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# Feds remain committed to working with Government on firearms

Federated Farmers will continue to work with the Government on firearms reform as the Arms Amendment Bill becomes law.

“Because of the urgency and immense public pressure surrounding the issue, it was a difficult task for the Government to give fair consideration to all aspects of when and why firearms are needed in rural New Zealand,” Feds Rural Security Spokesperson Miles Anderson says.

“We are very pleased that farmers and those who undertake pest control on farms are still going to have access to semiautomatic rimfire rifles, such as the .22 long rifle, and semiautomatic shotguns with limited magazine capacity. These firearms are essential for the control of small, mobile pest species often found in groups (such as rabbits,

hares, possums, Canada geese) where quick follow-up shots are important for the efficient and humane destruction of these pests.

“Our member survey showed that half of the 3,400 respondents own a semi-automatic shotgun or rimfire rifle, clearly showing what an important pest control tool these are on farm.”

“When it comes to dealing with the common agricultural pests of rabbits, hares and possums, .22 rifles and shotguns are what most farmers rely on,” says Miles Anderson.

Federated Farmers is disappointed that the Government will not consider an exemption to those farmers who can display a genuine need for centrefire semi-automatic rifles for pest control. Across the five million hectares of

*Continued page 15*

# A message from BHL Feeds



Well that’s our first season back in the dairy game nearly done and we would like to thank our farmer customers we have enjoyed supporting you through the season.

As a lot of dairy farmers know my wife and I started BLM Feeds 18-odd years ago and the business grew

steadily supplying dry and wet feeds. In 2012 we sold the business to Gardner Smith and six months later Gardner Smith was bought out by Graincorp. It wasn’t always my intention to sell but a change in Gardner Smiths business meant they were looking at entering the dairy feeds market, Gardner Smith were our storage for

molasses at Port Taranaki and Tauranga.

In March of last year we received our building back from Graincorp along with liquid storage and mixing gear, and we purchased a truck and trailer back.

We launched our new business BHL Feeds at Mystery Creek, and I am personally really enjoying

the contact and regular business the dairy industry provides.

We are further investing in more trucks and other gear and are excited about the season ahead and being able to offer top service from a family owned local business.

*Brent Mascull*

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# Scourge of the Waikato now at home here

Already a scourge in the Waikato, the threat of Yellow Bristle Grass infesting Coastal Taranaki farmland is continuing to be a big talking point at the Egmont Plains Community Board.

As reported in the Opunake and Coastal News (March 14) Oaonui farmer Chris Harvey had told the board at their March meeting held at the Oaonui Hall that somebody needed to take responsibility for this invasive plant which is not included in the Taranaki Regional Council's Pest Management Plan.

"If it gets into the pastures, the cows won't eat it, so it affects production," he said. "Being an annual plant it grows prolifically and it's aggressive."

The plant reproduces only by seed, which can be dispersed by water, soil movement, animals, machinery and as contaminants of crop seed and hay. A single plant can have up to 60 seed heads.

Early seed heads appear in late December, but mostly in January and February.

Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) environment services manager Steve Ellis said they had consulted with farmers, the community, district councils, the NZTA and other groups when drawing up the Pest Management Plan. He said a regulatory approach would not be appropriate or practical, be hard to enforce, and could require large areas of farmland being out of production for long periods of time.

Since then a meeting had been held on April 8 with local farmers, as well as representatives of the South Taranaki District Council, Taranaki Regional Council, NZ Transport Authority and contractors.

The subject was again discussed at last week's Egmont Plains Community Board meeting.



Immature Yellow Bristle Grass.

## Feds remain committed

Continued from page 14

privately farmed high and hill country in New Zealand, some properties have to deal with huge populations of large animal pests such as feral goats, feral pigs, wallabies, deer and thar. Others are faced with culling large mobs of Canada geese.

Efficiently controlling these pests in large numbers requires the use of semi-automatic firearms with large magazine capacity. Although not allowing the use of these specialised firearms by a select number of farmers, we were pleased that the Bill was amended to allow their use on private property by professional pest control contractors. It was also amended to allow the control of Canada geese with these firearms, which are not classified as a pest under any current legislation.

Federated Farmers is concerned that even these amendments will disadvantage landowners who are faced with these pests in high numbers. "Instead of doing the pest

control themselves as part of their farming business, as many have done for decades, farmers will instead have to rely on contractors and all of the risks and costs that come with outsourcing an important task of this type," Mr Anderson says.

"Federated Farmers will continue to advocate that rural landowners, who can display a genuine need to use these firearms as part of their business, should be eligible to apply for an exemption, just like any other professional firearms user in the Bill."

Feds will now look to work with the Government on the implementation of the amended Act, including the buy-back of firearms and parts which have become prohibited.

"The surrender and destruction of firearms that don't meet the new controls will be disappointing to many farmers, and other firearms users. But this is a vital step to ensure that we're never witness to this kind of tragedy in New Zealand again."

"The meeting on April 8 opened up the realisation that we have a major problem on our hands," South Taranaki District councillor Clem Coxhead said.

"In the Waikato you have paddocks covered in Yellow Bristle Grass, with a 30 per cent loss of production. I don't think our province should handle that."

He said in Taranaki, Yellow Bristle Grass is starting to infest maize crops. While the NZTA had probably been the biggest contributor to the problem with trucks bringing the plant into the province, there was also a need to keep pushing at the TRC which had failed to classify Yellow Bristle Grass as a noxious weed.

He said he had met with local MP Jonathan Young who had not previously been aware of what a big problem

it has become. Mr Young had told him he would bring the matter up with his party's spokesman, former agriculture minister Nathan Guy.

Community Board deputy chairman Andy Whitehead said the fact that it is now being seen as an issue needing attention showed the value of the board holding meetings in different parts of the ward. This had enabled local people to come along and air their concerns on matters which had not previously been seen as issues.

"If we don't encourage people to do something now, it's only a matter of time before it's declared a noxious weed," he said.

Mr Whitehead, himself an Oaonui farmer said the way the roads had been maintained had allowed the

plant to be established at an alarming rate.

He said the spread of Yellow Bristle Grass had been compared to that of Californian thistles, but while "callies" are unsightly, unlike Yellow Bristle Grass

, its still something cows are prepared to eat.

"In the pictures I have seen in the Waikato, it covers paddocks like a mat. I have never seen callies or docks do that."

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# Latest research presents strong vision for New Zealand's rural communities

The steady decline of our rural communities grabs headlines. Declining populations, an ageing demographic and a lack of jobs: does this really spell 'last one to leave, turn the lights off' for many communities? The Government has embarked

on a rural growth strategy to combat this decline. But has it got the formula right?

Heartland Strong, the title of an important and timely new book published this month by Massey University Press, has been carefully chosen. New Zealand's rural communities are indeed its heartland, and not only do they have enormous strengths but those strengths can also be maintained and enhanced despite the inexorable forces of demographic change. In short, where a community has resilience it can cope with and manage change so that life is still vital and rewarding for its residents.

The book is anchored by a ten-year study led by AgResearch senior social scientist Dr Margaret Brown

and involving a team from PWC. Their research into levels of resilience found that New Zealand's most resilient communities had in common:

- Strong social networks and resources
- Highly-developed digital technologies and innovations in rural entrepreneurship
- A functioning and progressive informal economy.

From Wairoa to Southland, the book's team of 14 writers found great examples of resilience and of ways in which it was built by different communities. 'It came up repeatedly that relationships, connectedness and support networks were what made each town', the book's editors say.

They argue that the



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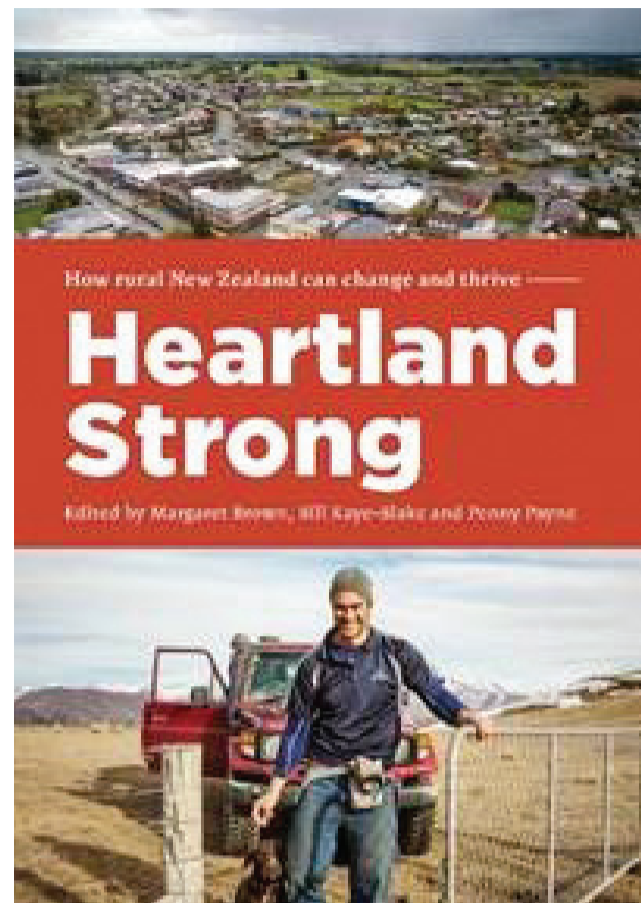


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lessons learnt by successful communities could be shared more widely. And they also point to the opportunity that lies in changing the way government services are delivered in rural areas. 'One overlooked opportunity is the interest and capability of many rural people, who would like to be engaged and valued in making decisions about rural resilience that directly affect them.'

With clearly written case studies located in a range of New Zealand settings, Heartland Strong offers invaluable information and inspiration for politicians and policy makers, farmers and businesspeople, economists, planners and investors. Its messages are critical. As the editors' note: 'The current trend in New Zealand's economic policies for regional growth

favours a market-led, business focused approach but it downplays social and community considerations and that needs further thought. New Zealand has a disconnect between urban and rural. Only around 20 per cent of the population lives in the countryside, and decisions are being made about them and for them by predominantly urban people, many of whom have little understanding or empathy for their rural neighbours. The continued centralisation of governance and resources to New Zealand's major cities, away from rural communities, can create a 'skeleton staff' feel in the regions, which can begin or exacerbate a cycle of decline.'

The editors and authors of Heartland Strong show there is another way.

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Captain Jeremy Newell carts the ball strongly as Coastal crash NPOB's centennial party.



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## Two close ones for Coastal Div 1



Ryan Anderson attempts to break a tackle for FBT Div 1 as they pip NPOB 26 - 22.



Cody Rothwell evades a few tackles on his way upfield.

Week 3 saw Southern hosting FBT Coastal DIV 1 on our first away game. With a promising start to the first half for Coastal, scoring two tries and slotting two conversions and a penalty they ended the first half with a 17-7 lead on Southern. The second half provided a fierce battle from Southern with two lead changes, and Coastal behind in the last five minutes. Coastal managed to dig deep and come up with a last minute try concluding the game with a close 36-33 win over Southern. Man of the match with an outstanding game was Jarod Davey.

Round 4 saw NPOB hosting Coastal on their centennial. Coastal knew that this would be a hard game due to the circumstances, and what a game it was. The first half saw Coastal and NPOB going toe to toe at a high pace with little stoppages. This proved a battle of the fittest for the two teams, with Coastal ending the half with a 14-7 lead over NPOB. Coastal were leading the game with NPOB close on their heels and managed to hold on to scrap away with a close 26-22 win. Stand out players were David Hughes, Jarod Davey, Richard Beckett and our man of the match Joseph Brophy with his up the guts meat pie through the NPOB defence. Next week Coastal FBT DIV 1 will host Tukapa at home.

*Makere Hook Coastal FBT DIV 1 manager.*



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Simon Adams wins clean ball off the top as Goodin Ag Div 2 clean up NPOB 56 - 3.



Corkill Colts Halfback clears the ball. The Colts went down 47 - 7 to NPOB.

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# Supreme winner backs High School



Nick Bull and Shoe Clinic NP were the 2018 Supreme Award winner at the TSB Bank Top Shop awards. The awards recognise customer service excellence and are organised by the Taranaki Chamber of Commerce. There were more than 13,500 nominations made by the public for the Taranaki Top Shop.

In New Zealand we pride ourselves on our system of 'free education'. As parents we all know the reality of providing our kids with all the necessary resources to maximize not only the learning opportunities, but also

the myriad of activities outside the classroom, that are vital in shaping our dream achievers from Opunake

High School. By the time you have paid for uniforms,

stationery and school trips, not to mention sports

equipment, the bills soon add up. But what makes the Coastal and Taranaki community so special is the willingness of businesses to step in and give families a hand.

Just recently the owner of Shoe Clinic Mr. Nick Bull, approached me and offered to donate sports shoes to the school for those students that play sport but may lack the resources to

purchase decent footwear. Calling

into his New Plymouth store on Saturday morning I was expecting to pick up a couple of pairs of shoes, I was

shocked and extremely grateful to find two large boxes stuffed with sports shoes. Nick is passionate about

sport and wants to help others experience the joy and healthy benefits gained from being active. The shoes

are under the care of our Sports Coordinator Mrs. Quinnell, who with the help of our PE department and sports coaches, is allocating them to students as needed.

One again, thanks Nick for your generous donation to our school. Make sure that if you need footwear for any sport, call in and see Nick at Shoe Clinic New Plymouth and support those businesses that support us.

*Mr. Barry Skinner  
Deputy Principal*

## Rebuild should not be at expense of other sports say Sport Taranaki

Sport Taranaki says it is concerned investment in the Yarrow Stadium rebuild may limit future opportunities for other sports investment in the region.

Concerns were expressed in a Sport Taranaki statement endorsed by Sport NZ.

As a follow-up to the sports codes meeting yesterday please find attached Sport Taranaki's position endorsed by Sport NZ regarding the Yarrow Stadium facility.

"The Taranaki region has worked hard to create a Regional Sport and Recreation Facility Strategy, and Sport NZ believe that any future development of Yarrow Stadium should be aligned with the principles of this strategy," the statement says quoting Sport NZ. "This approach will provide the best outcome, and help to achieve our joint goal of more New Zealanders having better places to play sport and participate in their chosen physical activity"

Sport Taranaki say they advocate on behalf of the sport and active recreation

sector for a healthy Taranaki.

"As such Sport Taranaki supports investment in facilities that maximise participation in community sport and active recreation for all Taranaki residents.

"The Yarrow Stadium proposals are focussed on the development of a facility for delivering commercial events. These events include spectator sporting events and therefore fall outside of our focus.

"However Sport Taranaki is interested in the components of the preferred 'Reinstate' (Option 2) which includes some community sport upgrades (a multi-sport turf on Field 2 and a new administration and gym block for rugby). There is a need, however, for these upgrades to be considered alongside other community sport priorities identified in the Taranaki Regional Sport and Recreation Facility Strategy.

"Sport Taranaki is aware that sports such as basketball, volleyball, netball, football, cricket and hockey have pressing

facility concerns in New Plymouth that are negatively impacting hundreds of participants each week. If ratepayer funding is to be utilised for sport facility development, Sport Taranaki strongly recommends that this is utilised for facility development that maximises participation in line with the Facility Strategy and as a consequence will grow healthy, vibrant communities.

Sport Taranaki has real concerns that investment in the Yarrow Stadium re-build will limit future opportunities for investment

in other sports in the region."

Sport Taranaki is leading the implementation of the Taranaki Regional Sport and Recreation Facility Strategy on behalf of the Steering Group., which includes members from the three District Councils, the TSB Community Trust, NZCT, TET, Sport NZ, and Sport Taranaki. The Steering Group is responsible for reviewing all sport facility development proposals and making recommendations to potential funders to ensure alignment to the Strategy.

## Teams named

Taranaki Indoor Bowls Centre Senior selector Trevor Bourne has named the following teams to play the upcoming quad against Wanganui, Horowhenua, and North Wellington to be played at Wanganui Jubilee Stadium on April 27-8. Team A: Don Semple, Jenny Hamley, Dillon Eades, Winnie Finlay. Team B: Gordon Hamley, Wayne Cameron, Chris Reed, Steven Vince. Team C: Rodney Morris, Rose Ratahi, Cliff Smith, Kim Mahupuku. Team D: Trevor Bourne, Sue Bourne, Andrea Berry, Ella Smailes. Reserve: Ray Finlay.



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# Trust honours three of its members

At the Cape Egmont Sea Rescue Trust monthly meeting in April a presentation was made by our patron Ken Donald in the form of a plaque to Frank Goodin, Phillip Barrett, and Chris Mullin. The inscription read presented to (recipient) for their dedication and commitment to the Cape Egmont Sea Rescue Trust.

limits endorsement) which allows the rescue vessel Cape Rescue to carry on training of its crew for any eventuality up to the 12 nautical mile limit.

The hour and half oral examination was conducted by a maritime officer who came up from Wellington. The other required criteria is 200 hours of logged sea time, medicals, eye sight examination, and current first aid certificate.

The event concluded with a supper and a few beers as the coast knows how.

A big thank you to all that helped to make the event successful

*Anthony Williams*



From left. Phillip Barrett, Frank Goodin, Chris Mullin and Ken Donald.

# Many shooters excel at Eltham Smallbore Rifle Club

There was another good turnout for the Club on April 8, and with two new people attending, it's always good to see enthusiastic new faces. It was a close competition between Troy Gibson and Mattia Buhler. Mattia won the first round with a 100 group card to Troy's 99 card. In the second round Troy came out on top with his own 100 to Mattia's 98.

on top by a single inner (bullseye) scoring 99.6, followed by a 98.4/97.5. Garry Rowlands came in next with 98.5, 99.5, 96.3/97.3; Bob Bramley 99.5/90.0; Paul Tidswell 98.6, 96.4/98.5. Newer shooter Alex Sadovnikova continues to show improvement with 97.4/97.5 in her double card; Bjorn Fowler 96.3, 97.4, 94.1, 95.2/93.2; Michelle Hofmans 95.2; Murray Chinery 95.2, 89.1. One of the most popular scores of the evening was 92.1 and 92.2 which was shot by Brian Hicks, Don Litchfield (twice), Frank Eustace, Craig McGill (who also shot his first double 96.2/88.2). Matt Vaughan also shot his second ever double scoring 75.2/76.0.

One possible was scored on April 12. Clare Bramley scored 100.7/98.6 and also 99.5; Garry Rowlands 97.5,

97.2/99.8; Alan Drake 99.4, 97.3/94.4; Alex Sadovnikova 91.3, 97.3, 96.2/91.2; Murray Chinery 96.5. Some very consistent scoring from Bob Bramley 97.4/97.4; Paul Longstaff 96.3/96.5; Henry Armond 95.3, 95.2. Brian Hicks 91.1, 94.2; Stephen Hicks 86.0, 90.0; Bjorn Fowler 86.1, 86.2, 89.2, 92.1/90.1; Craig McGill 87.1/87.0.

*Clare Bramley*

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**OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS**  
06 761 7016

# Maniaia Golf results

April 6. Men. 1. Wayne Baker 66. 2. Denis Hurcomb 67. 3. Neil Scown 67 and Blake Symes 68. 4. Ralph Symes 68.

Juniors. Pee Wees. 1. Liam Campbell. 2. Jayden Poole. 3. Jude Poole.

Senior juniors. Putting. 1. Kieran Taylor. 2. Ashton Sharp.

April 13. Men's Stableford. 1. Greg Elliott. 2. Jim Ngere. 3. Colin Koch. 4. Wayne Baker. 5. Trevor Larsen.

Juniors. 1. Carter Symes. 2. Jaden Siciliano. 1. Liam Campbell. 2. Hannah Symes. 1. Abby Marsh. 2. Jayden Marsh.

April 20. Men's Stableford. 1. Greg Elliott 38. 2. Jim Ngere 37. 3. Colin Koch 37. 4. Wayne Baker 35. 5. Trevor Larsen 35.

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**CHURCH NOTICES**

**Opunake & Okato Co-operating Parish CHURCH SERVICES**

St Paul's Opunake Co-op & Raho  
Opunake Cooperating Parish St Pauls, Havelock St 9.30am every Sunday and the Raho - 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 8.30am at Pungarehu (St Martins), 10am at Opunake (Our Lady Star of the Sea)  
Other areas  
Manaia - Sacred Heart - 1st, 3rd Sat at 5pm (2nd, 4th & 5th Sat at Hawera's St Josephs)  
Kaponga - St Patricks, Sunday 8.45am  
All welcome

**St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato**  
Saturday Vigil 6.00pm

**The Wave**

Pentecostal Church 64 Domett St, Opunake  
Sunday Services 10.30am  
Women's Group 10.30am Tuesday  
Men's Group 7pm Wednesday  
Youth Group 7pm Friday  
Come along or contact Pastor Murray 027 688 7378

**St. Barnabas Anglican Church**

141 Tasman St, Opunake  
Sunday Services 10am  
Communion 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sunday  
Prayer & Praise 1st Sunday  
Every 5th Sunday all 4 churches gather for a Combined Service

**Okato Community Church**

Meets 6.30pm Sunday at Hempton Hall.  
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**AWATUNA RESIDENTS PAST AND PRESENT**

are invited to the lifting of the Time Capsule at the cenotaph at AWATUNA Sunday 28th April @ 1.30pm  
Please bring a plate of food for afternoon tea and a chat in the Library.

The Awatuna Church print by Marianne Muggeridge and Awatuna Church pew will both be up for tender. Info for these will be available on the day.

All Welcome.

Any queries please ring one of the following  
06 758 3413, 027 268 3495, 06 274 5867, 06 274 5678.

We look forward to seeing you on the 28th April.

**BUDGET ADVICE** available by appointment, home visits or at Coastal Care office. Phone 0800 333 048.

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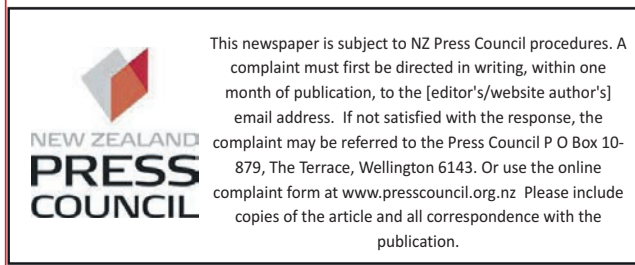


**OPUNAKE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**  
Meeting 1st Monday of each month at 5.30PM  
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**OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS**

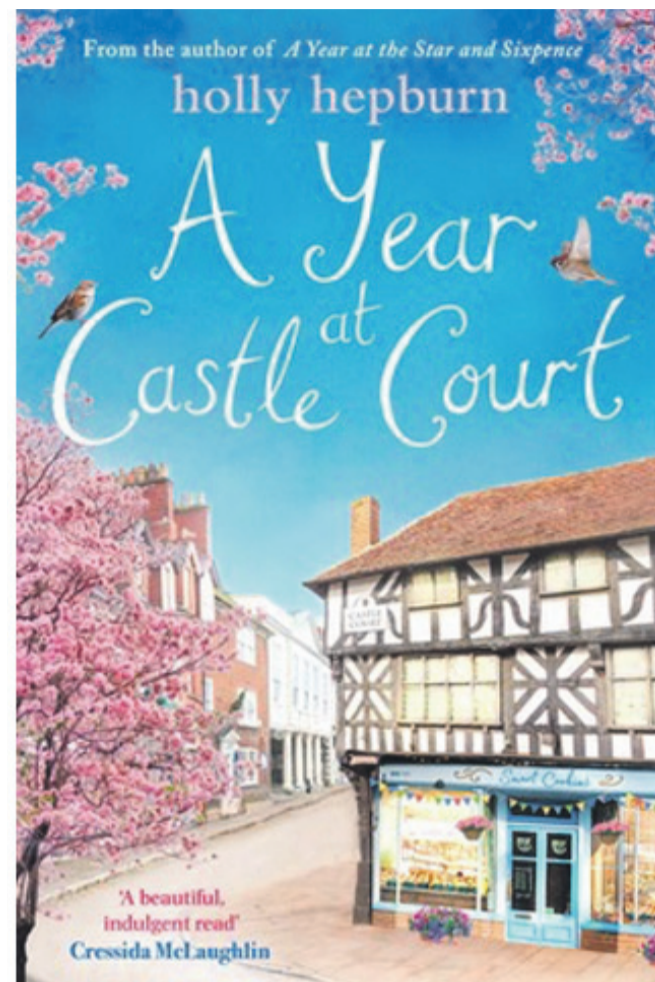
# What's On Listings



## Opunake Library Plus Book Review

# A Year at Castle Court by Holly Hepburn

If you are looking for a really nice story to put your feet up with, *A Year at Castle Court* is a great start. We wander through a year of the lives of Sadie and Cat who are both needing a fresh start after some very stressful difficulties. Sadie is a single mother who has left her unfaithful husband and is trying to keep herself afloat and Cat has had enough of long hours working in the kitchen of a Paris restaurant and fending off the unwelcome advances of the owners son. They invest all their money and time into starting their own biscuit shop in Castle Court, a three-storey food court tucked away behind Chester's bustling streets. Cat is the talented biscuit creator and Sadie has the icing and decorating skills. While most of the other business owners around them are friendly and welcoming there are two who are not. One feels unreasonably threatened and the other is simply nasty. These two people set against Cat and start to cause as much trouble as possible. Added to this stress, the shop floods just before Easter, the nasty Greg starts digging around in Cats past and Sadie's husband decides he wants to make their marriage work just as she finds herself attracted to someone else. For a while it seems opening their own business might have been a huge mistake. However this is a feel good read and it does have a happy ending. Cat and Sadie



This month's Opunake Library Plus Book review is Holly Hepburn's *A Year at Castle Court*.

find themselves surrounded by friends all supporting them, new loves on the horizon and despite the best efforts of their detractors and one cheating ex-husband everything turns out well in the end. Sometimes we just need a book like this to make us feel good. The book also revolves a lot around food, so you may want to have snacks on hand while reading.

You can reserve this book

at any South Taranaki LibraryPlus branch in person, or call us on 0800 111 323.

You can also visit <https://www.southtaranaki.com/Live/LibraryPlus>.

Maria Brewerton  
RLIANZA  
Branch Librarian  
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### ONGOING

**Jonathan Young:** Need to chat with your Local MP Jonathan Young? Jonathan will now hold his meetings at Coastal Care. For more information phone: 06 7591363. Or email [newplymouthmp@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:newplymouthmp@parliament.govt.nz)

**Movies at Everybodys Theatre in Opunake:** Playing several days and nights each week. Refer timetable in newspaper.

### SUNDAYS

**Opunake Country Music Club:** Second Sunday of each month at the Opunake Town Hall, 1-4pm. All welcome

### MONDAYS

**Tainui Day Centre - St Barnabas Church Hall, 141 Tasman Street Opunake:** Each Monday 10 am - 12:230 pm. Information call Jenny 7618080 or Glenys 6558025

**Opunake Friendship Club:** Meeting last Monday of each month in Opunake Town Hall at 1.30pm. All welcome.

**Opunake Business Association:** Usually meet on the 1st Monday of each month.

### TUESDAYS

**Club Hotel Pool:** Tuesday Nights. New players welcome.

### WEDNESDAYS

**Lisa Keen Audiology at Coastal Care, Opunake:** Wednesdays 9am - 5pm, for an appointment call 027 591 4222 - 0800 555 676

**Schnitzel Night:** Every Wednesday at the Stony River Hotel, Okato

**Club Hotel Texas Holdem Poker:** Wednesday and Thursday Nights at the Club Hotel.

**Opunake Embroiders Guild:** Meet 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, 10.30am-3pm at the Opunake Business Centre, Napier St, Opunake. Just come along or phone Sheryl 06 761 8769.

### THURSDAYS

**Club Hotel Texas Holdem Poker:** Wednesday and Thursday Nights at the Club Hotel.

**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

### FRIDAYS

**Eltham Business Association Friday Markets:** 8am to 1pm, Carpark of Touch Point, High Street, Eltham.

### WEEKENDS

**The Historic Cape Light & Musuem:** Open 11am - 3pm weekends, Bayly Road, Warea.

### APRIL 6 TO OCTOBER 6

**'Whare Kahurangi: 100 Years of Collecting' Exhibition:** At Puke Ariki, New Plymouth. Refer advert and article.

### APRIL 25

**Manaia Anzac Dawn Parade:** 6.15am start. Assemble at Manaia Bowling Club.

**Opunake Anzac Dawn Parade:** 6.00am start. Assemble at Opunake Town Hall.

**Opunake Anzac Day Public Service:** At the Services Cemetery, Opunake. Starts 8am.

**Te Kiri Anzac Day Service:** At the Te Kiri cenotaph. Starts 11am.

**Special viewing of Peter Jackson's 'They Shall Not Grow Old':** At Everybodys Theatre, Opunake at 1pm.

**Pihama Anzac Day Service:** At the Pihama cenotaph. Starts 5.30pm.

### APRIL 27

**Taranaki Rose Selection:** Meet & Greet and lunch, 11am. \$20 tickets at Plymouth Hotel.

**Taranaki Rose Selection Final Dinner & Dance:** 6.30pm. \$65 tickets at Plymouth Hotel.

### APRIL 27 TO MAY 10

**TET CUE Theatre presents 'The Ladykillers':** 2pm Sunday matinees, 7.30pm evenings. No performance on Mondays. Gala Night on Saturday April 27. Enjoy some nibbles and a glass of wine, starting at 6.30pm. Show starts at 7.30pm. Get your tickets online [www.cuetheatre.co.nz](http://www.cuetheatre.co.nz) or phone FunHo 756 7030. \$22.00 general admission, \$20.00 pp for groups of 10+. Refer advert in April 11 issue of OCN for details.

### APRIL 28

**Lifting of Time Capsule:** At the Awatuna Cenotaph at 1,30pm. Refer advert.

### MAY 6 TO MAY 31

**'Local Lenses' Exhibition:** In association with Stratford Camera Club. Opening event at noon on May 11. Photoshop workshop on Saturday May 18. At the Village Gallery, Eltham. refer advert for details.

### JUNE 7 TO JUNE 15

**Hawera Repertory Society presents 'Annie':** To be performed at the Hawera Memorial Theatre. Refer advert in March 28 issue of OCN for details.



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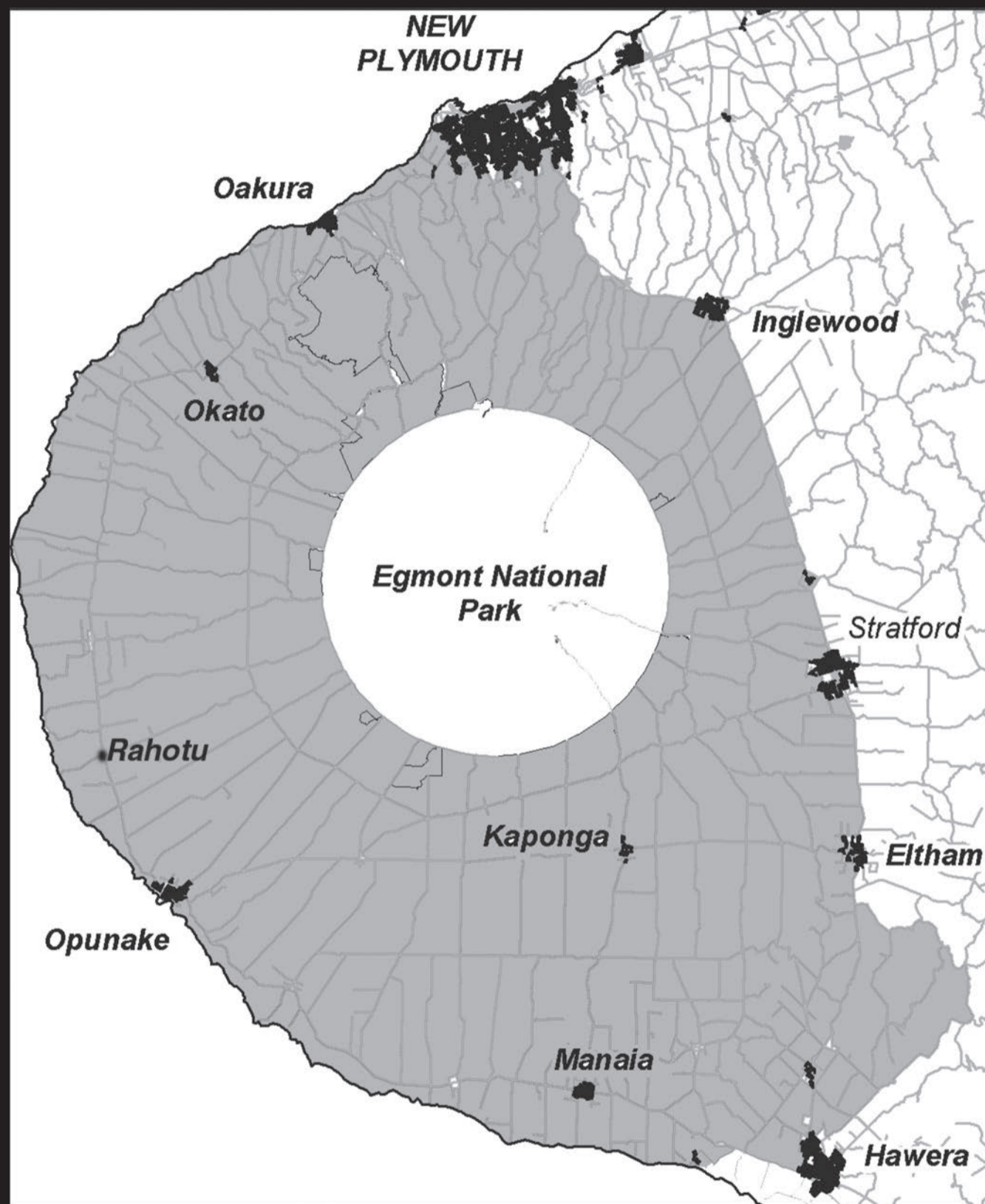
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# WANT TO DO BUSINESS IN OUR AREA? TALK TO US



The Opunake and Coastal News is distributed free to every home and business within the rural area, bounded in the north by the New Plymouth city border, extending east to Egmont Village, and around to the edge of Stratford, south to the Hawera city border and inland to Kaponga and through Eltham.

We are an independent newspaper based in Opunake, which is targeting both the towns and rural communities and we aim to have news coverage within all the areas of our distribution.

We want to be involved with your business. Call today and discuss your marketing options with the team.

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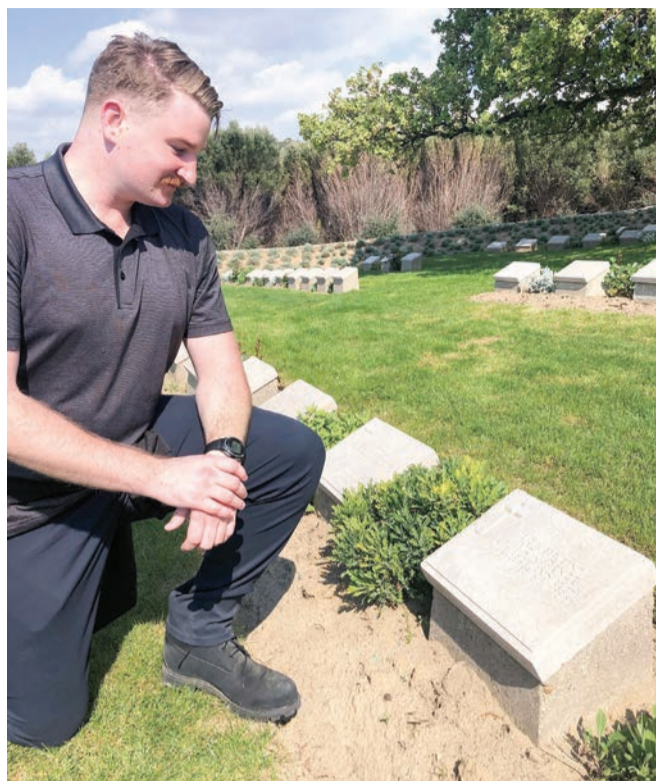
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# New Plymouth man proud of Gallipoli connection



Ari Burnu Cemetery lies between Anzac Cove and the Anzac Commemorative Site where the annual Dawn Service occurs on 25 April at Gallipoli.

The Aegean Sea laps at its edge and large spreading oak trees provide shelter to people paying respects at the graves of First World War soldiers.

It is here that Leading Aircraftman James Fuller walks slowly through the headstones, seeking the grave of his relative Private James McKenzie Spence.

Leading Aircraftman Fuller, a Royal New Zealand Air

Force drummer, is a member of the New Zealand Defence Force contingent conducting the Anzac Day services at Gallipoli. On 25 April, he will keep the beat as the catafalque parties march into position at the Dawn Service and at the New Zealand National Service at Chunuk Bair later that morning.

Having taken part in commemorative activities in New Zealand, including the Armistice Day Sunset Ceremony at Pukeahu National War Memorial Park, Leading Aircraftman Fuller knows how special this opportunity is.

“I am humbled to have a role in the commemorations here at Gallipoli,” he said.

“Being able to visit the grave of Private Spence means a lot to my family back in New Zealand.”

Private James McKenzie Spence, of Whangarei, served at Gallipoli with the Auckland Infantry Battalion. Before enlisting he was a journalist with the Northern Advocate and those journalistic skills would have aided him when he was appointed a signaller within the battalion.

However, the task of maintaining open communica-

tions could be a difficult and dangerous job and he died of a gunshot wound to the head on 16 November, 1915, just a few weeks before the evacuation.

Standing in the peaceful cemetery in the shadow of the impossible hills his relative would have fought on, Leading Aircraftman Fuller placed a poppy on Private Spence’s headstone.

“To walk the battlefields and gain a better understanding of what happened here really hits you emotionally,” he said.

Leading Aircraftman James Fuller’s relative James McKenzie Spence is buried at Ari Burnu Cemetery on the Gallipoli peninsula in Turkey.

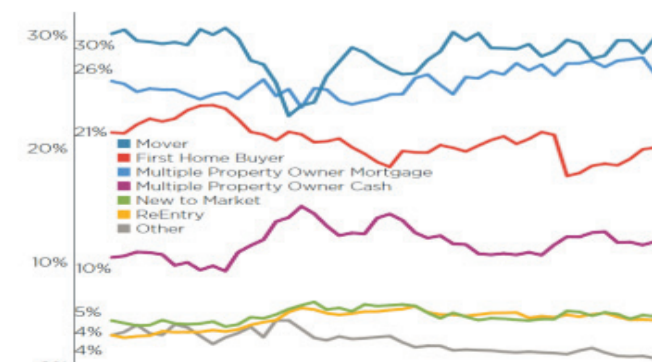
## First home buyers and investors neck and neck

In the first quarter of 2019, first home buyers (FHBs) and mortgaged multiple property owners (investors) each accounted for 24% of property purchases. For a long period of time, investors had a much larger market share, but things seem to be changing. This is not to say that there is always direct competition between the two groups, or that an investor buying is always locking out a FHB (or vice versa). But it’s still interesting that their market shares are similar and these may well continue to be the two groups to watch for the rest of 2019.

data for Buyer Classification is now complete and it confirms that ‘movers’ (existing owner occupiers) are less active than in the past, with first home buyers (FHBs) and mortgaged multiple property owners (MPOs) the key groups of interest at present.

Over the first three months of the year, ‘movers’ accounted for 27% of property purchases, which is down a touch from 28% a year ago and from 29% in Q1 2017. With the next step up the property-buying ladder still hard to achieve – e.g. due to the transactions costs (legal, estate agent), as well as any extra equity/debt required – it’s not really surprising that more movers are happy to stay put, and perhaps renovate instead.

According to CoreLogic Weekly Market Pulse and Senior Property Economist, Kelvin Davidson, the Q1



House buying trends.

KEY:

Movers: teal

First home buyers: red

Mortgaged property owners (investors): blue

Multiple property owner mortgage: purple



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# Don't walk away



Sunday 14th April 2019 was such an incredible day. The Taranaki RATS had Tama's first memorial ride after he passed in 2018. This started at Fern Lodge, and went to Oakura, then to Urenui and back to Fern Lodge. The Taranaki RATS and bikers then celebrated the pre-release for their upcoming single "Don't Walk Away" performed by Laconic Zephyr and .Matua Lewis Domb. Don't Walk Away represents our high suicide rate in New Zealand, Taranaki RATS want to break this silence and will not walk away. This project came about organically due to "Laconic Zephyr's" friendship with Pauline Webby. After the market Youth line event, Mphatic, an Auckland record producer contacted Joss Bines from Laconic Zephyr to inquire about Taranaki RATS cause. Mphatic gifted the "Don't Walk Away" song to Taranaki RATS to help fundraise and promote their cause for awareness and prevention of suicide in Taranaki.

A huge thanks to our Ambassador Suzy Hazelwood for supporting our cause as a international Anti Bully campaigner.

A huge congratulations to Declan Tangaroa from Hawera who won the art cover competition for the single.

Congratulations to Sean Warren from Inglewood who won the \$500.00 poker draw.

For further information go to Taranaki RATS Don't Walk Away and follow our link for release information. <https://www.facebook.com/ratsdontwalkaway/>

Joss Bines

Laconic Zephyr

## June planting at Sandy Bay

Hawera Repertory Society

**Annie**

HAWERA MEMORIAL THEATRE

7-15 June 2019

TicketDirect South Taranaki SITE NZME.



Sandy Bay Society members Andy Whitehead and Cynthia Mooney aim to plant native vegetation on June 18. Both these keen volunteers have worked for years to improve the native birds in their own habitat at Sandy Bay. Three New Zealand Dotterel chicks have fledged. This success is possible with the number of pests trapped and Cynthia regularly patrols the area. One of her duties is to bait the traps.

On June 8 the members of the Ngati Tara Oaonui Sandy Bay Society will meet at the Oaonui Hall at 1pm. Everyone is welcome to join the discussion group.

All the local community are encouraged to join the planting on the sand dunes.

### Local Lenses

STRATFORD CAMERA CLUB EXHIBITION

6th May to 31st May

Opening Event 11th May at 12.00 noon.

All welcome

Photoshop Workshop with Sue Morton,  
Saturday 18th May.

Contact Sue Morton to register or for more  
information.

Email: [huinga@gmail.com](mailto:huinga@gmail.com) or Phone/text 027 873 2335

Henry by Sue Morton

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# Soulful sounds at The Fitz

The Mike Gordon Jazz Trio who perform every Thursday night at The Fitz Restaurant and Bar in Fitzroy, New Plymouth are attracting a following.

Kim Stockman – formerly bank manager at the TSB in Opunake and now living in New Plymouth - goes there every Thursday night with her partner because she says

she really enjoys their music. They play mainly jazz and blues but are looking at expanding their repertoire to include a bit of Beatles, says Mike who is the vocalist. He also played keyboards and guitar. The other members of the trio include David Lilley on keyboards and Robert Greenfield on double bass.

Last Thursday night's performance also featured guest artists Robin Wells on saxophone, Graham Kirk on trumpet and Sarah Forman on drums. The group sang a number of old favourites such as The

Lady's a Tramp, Night and Day, Ain't She Sweet and I Only Have Eyes For You. Their soulful sounds seemed to go down well with the patrons, some getting up to dance.

Originally from the UK, Mike Gordon, now living back on the coast is an established musician with a fine singing voice. He's also lead vocalist in The Ritz Band and performs regularly at the Jazz Club in New Plymouth. He also plays a mean keyboards and describes performing at a piano show at the Jazz Club last June

as a particular "highlight". He's also periodically held concerts in Opunake's Everybodys Theatre.

Mike also teaches music at schools on the coast and in New Plymouth. The musicians are a

regular fixture at The Fitz performing from 6:30 to 8:30 pm every Thursday night.

A great way to while away a Thursday night, so head down to The Fitz in Fitzroy to hear them perform.



David Lilley on keyboards and Robert Greenfield on double bass, from the Mike Gordon Trio.



Kim Stockman (centre) and friends enjoying themselves at The Fitz last Thursday night.



Mike Gordon (centre) at The Fitz in Fitzroy with guest artists Graham Kirk on trumpet and Sarah Forman on drums.

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### EVERYBODY'S THEATRE

**Opunake - MOVIES - BOUTIQUE THEATRE - HIRE**  
 For information email: [everybodystheatre@gmail.com](mailto:everybodystheatre@gmail.com) or check facebook- Everybody's Theatre  
 Check out our website at [www.everybodystheatre.co.nz](http://www.everybodystheatre.co.nz) - Phone 027 3837926

**APRIL/MAY**

Lollies, Popcorn, Ice-creams, Chocolate bars, Coffee & Tea For Sale	No Eft-Pos	Adults \$10, Students 4-16yrs \$8, Under 4 free Senior Citizens \$8.																	
8yr and under must be supervised by 14 yr or older		ID required for all R movies																	
<b>DUMBO</b> Adventure, Fantasy   1hr 40mins   G Circus owner Max Medici enlists Holt Farrier to care for a new born elephant whose oversized ears make him a laughingstock in an already struggling circus. But when they discover that Dumbo can fly, the circus makes a comeback. Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> Apr 1pm   Sat 11 <sup>th</sup> May 1pm	<b>DAFFODILS ** BOUTIQUE**</b> Biography, Drama, Musical   1hrs 33mins   M A bittersweet love story told with beautiful re-imaginings of iconic New Zealand songs. Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> May 7pm Sat 11 <sup>th</sup> May 7pm   Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> May 1pm	<b>WHERE HANDS TOUCH</b> Drama, Romance War   2hrs 2mins   M: Violence, Nudity & Sex A rites of passage story of a bi-racial teen struggling for survival in Nazi Germany. Lenya has come of age during the chaos of war. Her mother has done her best to protect Lenya, but the racist credo of National Socialism has rendered her a pariah for her skin colour Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> May 7pm   Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> May 7pm	<b>FIGHTING WITH MY FAMILY</b> Comedy, Biography   1hr 49mins   M; Offensive Language & Violence Born into a tight-knit wrestling family, Paige and her brother Zak are ecstatic when they get the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to try out for the WWE. But when only Paige earns a spot in the competitive training program Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> Apr 7pm Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 7pm   Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> May 7pm																
<b>HELLBOY</b> Action, Fantasy   2hrs 28mins   R16; Violence Hellboy heads to England to defeat Merlin's consort and Nimue the Blood Queen in this reboot of the superhero film series. But their battle will bring about the end of the world, a fate he desperately tries to turn away. Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> Apr 7pm   Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> May 7pm	<b>DESTROYER</b> Drama, Thriller   2hrs 3mins   R16; Violence, Language & Sexual Content As a young cop, Erin Bell went undercover to infiltrate a gang in the California desert -- with tragic results. Years later when the leader of that gang suddenly re-emerges, Erin embarks on an obsessive quest to bring him to justice. Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> Apr 7pm   Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> May 7pm	<b>SHAZAM</b> Adventure, Action, Comedy   2hr 12mins   PG 13 We all have a superhero inside us, it just takes a bit of magic to bring it out. In Billy Batson's case, by shouting out one word - SHAZAM. - this streetwise fourteen-year-old foster kid can turn into the grown-up superhero Shazam. Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> May 7pm   Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> May 7pm	<b>LEGO MOVIE 2: THE SECOND PART</b> Animation, Action, Adventure   1hr 47mins   PG It's been five years since everything was awesome and the citizens are facing a huge new threat: Lego Duplo invaders from outer space, wrecking everything faster than they can rebuild. Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> May 1pm																
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%; padding: 2px;">Wed</td> <td style="width: 25%; padding: 2px;">Fri</td> <td style="width: 25%; padding: 2px;">Sat</td> <td style="width: 25%; padding: 2px;">Sun</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;"></td> <td style="padding: 2px;">26 Wonder Park - 1pm Hellboy - 7pm</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">27 Dumbo - 1pm Fighting with my Family - 7pm</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">28 Destroyer 7pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">1 They Shall not grow Old - 1pm Hellboy - 7pm</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">3 Fighting with my Family - 7pm</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">4 Lego Movie 2 - 1pm Shazam - 7pm</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">5 **BOUTIQUE** Daffodils - 7pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">8 The Guilty - 1pm Destroyer - 7pm</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">10 Shazam - 7pm</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">11 Dumbo - 1pm Daffodils - 7pm</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">12 Mothers Day Where Hands Touch - 7pm</td> </tr> </table>	Wed	Fri	Sat	Sun		26 Wonder Park - 1pm Hellboy - 7pm	27 Dumbo - 1pm Fighting with my Family - 7pm	28 Destroyer 7pm	1 They Shall not grow Old - 1pm Hellboy - 7pm	3 Fighting with my Family - 7pm	4 Lego Movie 2 - 1pm Shazam - 7pm	5 **BOUTIQUE** Daffodils - 7pm	8 The Guilty - 1pm Destroyer - 7pm	10 Shazam - 7pm	11 Dumbo - 1pm Daffodils - 7pm	12 Mothers Day Where Hands Touch - 7pm			
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## Chairman's chat

### A region of busy people



Ka mihi nui ki a koutou katoa, greetings to you all. From the Council table we can see and appreciate how people and organisations across Taranaki are working hard to improve their environment and their region.

It's this can-do attitude that made us confident about launching Towards Predator-Free Taranaki last year. And as we expected, the community has embraced this long-term project to restore Taranaki's biodiversity by removing rats, stoats and possums from rural, urban and conservation land. Elsewhere in this newsletter you can read an update on the project, and find out how to get involved if you aren't already.

You'll also find out about a major survey we're running to build a picture of where and how Taranaki people have fun and get their exercise at the region's beaches, rivers and lakes. The results will help us to ensure our environmental monitoring and regulation remain effective and relevant, so please take part! It will take 10 minutes maximum and you'll go in the draw for a two-night escape at the delightful and newly rebuilt Pukeiti Lodge.

Turning from the rainforest to the coast, Councillors were recently given a close-up look at Port Taranaki, of which the Council is the 100% shareholder. The port is a key economic asset regionally and its annual dividends to the Council help to offset rates. As Port Taranaki Ltd's



Port Taranaki visitors, from left: Chairman David MacLeod, Cr Craig Williamson, TRC Director-Corporate Services Mike Nield, Cr Michael Joyce, TRC Chief Executive Basil Chamberlain, Cr Matthew McDonald, Cr Donald McIntyre, Cr Bev Raine, TRC Director-Resource Management Fred McLay and Cr Tom Cloke.

most recent half-yearly report shows, trading patterns and cargo volumes remain volatile but the company's operational and financial prospects are strong in the short to medium term.

Last but by no means least, public consultation on our Yarrow Stadium proposals closed this week and we will carefully consider all the submissions you've sent us. There'll also be a hearing in May for those who wanted to put their arguments to us in person. Then it will be time for us to make a final decision. So watch this space!

- David MacLeod, Chairman

## Around & about the region

### Champion effort for biodiversity



If you live in New Plymouth, don't be surprised to hear from a neighbour or near-neighbour who's fired up about Towards Predator-Free Taranaki.

A pre-Easter workshop drew about 45 people keen to volunteer as either community champions or to check traps in public parks and reserves. The community champions will play a key role supporting backyard trapping efforts in their neighbourhood or suburb and ensuring catch data is gathered and collated.

And it was clear at the workshop that they're also keen to broaden the effort. These people are passionate about expanding the project and we're confident their enthusiasm will rub off on those living around them," says Project Manager Toby Shanley. "It's great to be able to harness this solid grassroots energy."

The region-wide project began last winter and aims to restore Taranaki's biodiversity by removing rats, stoats and possums from rural, urban and conservation land. It's being co-ordinated by the Taranaki Regional Council, supported by \$11.7 million from Crown company Predator Free 2050 Ltd.

Since the launch, backyard predator control has been gaining momentum in urban and rural New Plymouth, using child-proof and pet-proof trap tunnels supplied under the project.

However, more willing hands are needed – the goal is to have traps in one of every five New Plymouth households. To get involved, go to [www.trc.govt.nz/pf-taranaki2050](http://www.trc.govt.nz/pf-taranaki2050)

The project will expand around the region in coming years.

## Taking Taranaki forward

### Where do you swim? Let us know - you could be a winner

Are you a swimmer, a sailor, a surfer or an angler who uses any of Taranaki's beautiful beaches, lakes or rivers? Or do you love to cycle, walk or picnic near them?

We want to hear all about it! By completing a quick survey (seven to 10 minutes), you can help us gauge:

- Where and how our beaches, rivers and lakes get the most recreational use.
- How users are influenced by the amenities at their favourite haunts and the ease (or otherwise) of access.



newly rebuilt Pukeiti Lodge, with complimentary breakfasts.

This is our third major recreational use survey. Besides giving us an up-to-date picture of the recreational role of our beaches, lakes and rivers, the survey data will help us ensure our environmental monitoring is relevant. It will also give a useful indication of the pressures on water resources at popular recreational spots. So it's important! Water quality is a major consideration for any family deciding where to go for a swim or picnic.

Be sure to include your email address if you want to go in the draw for the special break at Pukeiti. The survey runs until 15 May. [www.trc.govt.nz/survey2019](http://www.trc.govt.nz/survey2019)

## Improving lifestyles

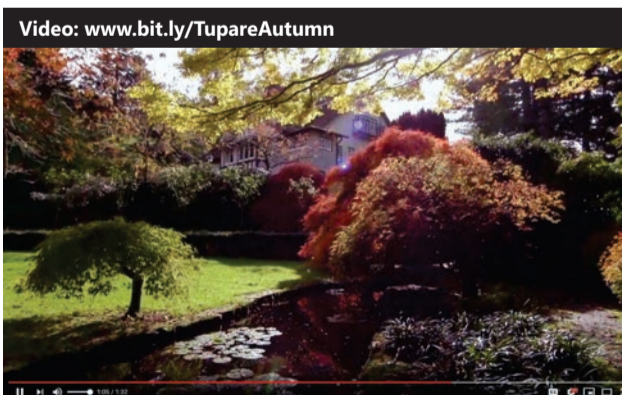
### Tūpare on a seasonal high

Tūpare is the place to be right now as its stately trees put on a fantastic seasonal colour show. It's a delight to be among the warm hues of autumn, watching the maples and other deciduous trees lay down their leafy quilt of amber, burgundy and golden tones.

Tūpare's Head Gardener, Mitch Graham, certainly enjoys autumn, as he explains in this video.

Visit Tūpare at any time of year and you'll see why it recently earned the NZ Gardens Trust's highest six-star rating – a distinction shared by only 13 other locations nationally. The Trust warmly commends the New Plymouth property for the quality of the gardening and maintenance, and for the way it portrays its history while meeting the needs of a modern public garden.

You can experience that history for yourself by taking part in one of the popular High Tea at Tūpare events. It's a fun afternoon, a chance for you to dress in your finest and relive Tūpare's splendour days. These events raise funds for Mangorei School and bookings are



essential. They run at 2pm on the first Sunday of every month from May to October. Tickets are \$20 a head and available from BlackBird Society, 79 Devon Street East, New Plymouth. Follow the link for more information: [www.bit.ly/NPhightea](http://www.bit.ly/NPhightea)

Tūpare is at 487 Mangorei Road, New Plymouth. It's open all day, every day and entry is free. [www.tupare.nz](http://www.tupare.nz)

## Your Councillors

### New Plymouth Constituency

Tom Cloke	<a href="mailto:tom.cloke@trc.govt.nz">tom.cloke@trc.govt.nz</a>
David Lean	<a href="mailto:david.lean@trc.govt.nz">david.lean@trc.govt.nz</a>
Charlotte Littlewood	<a href="mailto:charlotte.littlewood@trc.govt.nz">charlotte.littlewood@trc.govt.nz</a>
Bev Raine	<a href="mailto:bev.raine@trc.govt.nz">bev.raine@trc.govt.nz</a>
Craig Williamson	<a href="mailto:craig.williamson@trc.govt.nz">craig.williamson@trc.govt.nz</a>

### North Taranaki Constituency

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Donald McIntyre	<a href="mailto:donald.mcintyre@trc.govt.nz">donald.mcintyre@trc.govt.nz</a>

### South Taranaki Constituency

Michael Joyce	<a href="mailto:michael.joyce@trc.govt.nz">michael.joyce@trc.govt.nz</a>
David MacLeod (Chair)	<a href="mailto:david.macleod@trc.govt.nz">david.macleod@trc.govt.nz</a>
Neil Walker	<a href="mailto:neil.walker@trc.govt.nz">neil.walker@trc.govt.nz</a>

### Stratford Constituency

Matthew McDonald	<a href="mailto:matthew.mcdonald@trc.govt.nz">matthew.mcdonald@trc.govt.nz</a>
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### Read the newsletter online:

[www.trc.govt.nz/talking-taranaki-newsletter](http://www.trc.govt.nz/talking-taranaki-newsletter)