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Freedom camping a hot topic at meeting

To camp or not to camp, that is the question. Freedom camping was a hot issue at a meeting held at the Sandfords Event Centre on April 17 to discuss the South Taranaki District Council's Long Term Plan.

The meeting was hosted by the Opunake and District Business Association and Association chair Bob Clark who chaired the meeting said the Association had come with some submissions of their own. One of these centred on whether or not the council should financially support infrastructure for freedom camping.

"We appreciate that it's a vexed question which is not going to go away," he said.

Opunake needed to attract visitors who are prepared to spend money, and while the average conventional tourist spent \$195 a day, the average freedom camper spent only \$48 a day, he said.

"I've noted an adverse community reaction to spending money for people who don't contribute to the local economy."

Opunake Beach Camp leaseholders Julian and Shelley Harkness said the beach acted as a window for Opunake.

"If we go for the \$48 tourist we are going to be turning away those spending \$190 a day," said Julian.

Shelley said freedom campers arrive at the beach at 7am where they wash themselves, their clothes and their dishes and stay all day, taking up the best car parks.

"We feel these freedom campers who are not self contained don't care about our community or our beautiful beach and don't pay their



Shelley Harkness addresses the meeting held to discuss the South Taranaki District's Long Term Plan.

way."

She showed a number of photos she had taken of what freedom campers get up to at the beach.

"It's not nice for our paying visitors to have to look at this," she said.

South Taranaki District mayor Ross Dunlop said the \$48 a day was still money being spent in the local community.

"People can drive down in untidy vans and have breakfast. It's not an illegal activity," he said.

Bernice McKellar said visi-

tors to the town needed to be welcomed.

"It's very short sighted to say these are quality tourists and these are lesser quality tourists."

New Plymouth MP Jonathan Young said he had fond memories of camping at Opunake Beach.

"Let's put the welcome mat out, but let's make sure they behave," he said, referring to freedom campers.

Continued page 3.



Paora Road where freedom camping is now forbidden.

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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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Fonterra closing stores

If being Fonterra I'd be very careful on making any hard decision about some of Farm Stores known as RD1 if they were to close them down, as it could become a big mistake.

To me, I'd be leaving New Plymouth and Stratford well alone as they are managing their areas fairly well. Leave Pungarehu open as it's managing Okato, Rahotu, Opunake and their inner areas extremely well.

As for Manaia and Kaponga they could easily merge into Eltham, staff and all, in Eltham township. Maybe making it bigger so they manage the coastal towns more towards the south and for those buildings that are left empty they could be utilised for some purposes other than farming.. as it's quite obvious that Hawera is doing okey, so I'd be saying to Fonterra think before you all leap into something they could all regret later on.

Tom Stephens,
New Plymouth

Main street being sealed

Here in Taranaki we have many upon many towns who have had many upon many famous New Zealanders who have made a name for themselves in whatever capacity of life they've been involved in as with Eltham being no exception.

Over the years this town as I've seen it has grown bit by bit and slowly it's population has grown and when entering this this town from either

New Plymouth or Hawera this town's main street always looks immaculate and clean.

It now seems Eltham's main street known as Bridge Street is the first ever main street in New Zealand to be tarsealed, which I believe it duly deserves so maybe this could be the start of many main streets being sealed here in our province of Taranaki and having it marked with its white road markers.

Tom Stephens,
New Plymouth



Surf board display aims to promote positivity

Surf board display says fun ahead

Opunake surfers have given up some of their surf boards to produce the town's newest tourist attraction.

About a couple of weeks ago, about 30 surf boards were placed on a Havelock Street fence adjoining the Club Hotel on the way to Opunake's iconic beach.

The idea came from the Egmont Community Arts Council.

"We had a great response from the community who

donated their boards for our colourful project," says Arts Council secretary Rhonda Crawford.

In the short time the boards have been up there have already been people stopping to have their photos taken. There have even been people wanting to trade for boards that are on display, but Rhonda says this is a no-go area.

"These are people's memories on that wall and we're just grateful that they have

donated them," she says.

The boards are now unfit for purpose, having had their fins and tails removed.

"They are no longer surf boards, they are now artistic elements," says Rhonda.

She says they wanted to bring a note of positivity.

"It's nice to have a colourful artistic element, which is what our group is all about. We want people when they come into town to get an amazing feel that we have got

people here who put in lots of time and effort. As soon as they turn the corner they are spotting the colourful aspect of the beach. It tells the story that they are on the way to having some fun."

She would still like to see more surfboards added, and there is room for them.

"We are very grateful that Daryl(Hickey) and Jimmy(Dodunski) have put up a good structure for us to put them on," she says.

ADELPHOS

While driving in New Plymouth I was listening to a Radio Live talkback show hosted by Mark

Sainsbury. It was just after the Australian cricket ball tampering scandal. He asked for telephone feedback on the question, "Is cheating ever OK?" Callers had some interesting answers. One caller thought that cheating showed how clever good cheaters really are—especially if they don't get caught at card playing. Others thought that cheating in small matters was ok. After listening for 25 minutes, only one caller thought that cheating was never ok. It seemed that our ugly cousins, Cheating and Lying, outvoted their outcast relative named Honesty.

Honestly?

At any rate, it's been said that individuals lie for four basic reasons: to make themselves look good, to make others look bad, to get something they don't deserve or to avoid getting something they do deserve. A growing number of psychologists and psychiatrists see compulsive or habitual lying as a mental disorder/addiction, and not a moral issue.

I wonder what affect lying, cheating and dishonesty has on a nation? The Australian cricket ball tampering episode highlighted the scandal of cheating in a cricket loving nation. After all, cricket "was" a gentleman's game. Lance Armstrong the legendary Tour de France winner damaged himself, the sport in France and cycling's

racing reputation throughout the world. The Russian doping scandal resulted in the entire Russian team being excluded from the Winter Olympics. And recent USA political scandals have disheartened Americans and people around the world. Dishonesty seems to bite both individuals and nations in the bum: diminishing confidence and trust.

Some studies tell us that teenagers tend to tell more lies because they are overly concerned about what others think of them, and, that adults generally tend to tell fewer lies as they get older. A Ted Talk presentation mentioned that in one study most adults told three innocent "white lies" per day and two big porky lies per week.

I could only laugh while watching the comedy movie *Liar Liar* starring Jim Carey. His struggle against lying landed him in hot water, as telling the truth created an array of embarrassing problems.

Perhaps the more contemporary meaning of Will Shakespeare's famous phrase might shed light

on the related issues of dishonesty, cheating and lying: "*This above all: to thine own self be true*".

Something to honestly think about the next time I'm tempted to tell a "little" lie. But of course

none of our Opunake and Coastal News readers would ever lie. Oops, I did it again.

Adelphos

Freedom camping a hot topic at meeting

Continued from page 1

Mr Young said the recent launch of the Taranaki Regional Economic Development Plan Tapuae Roa- Making Way for Taranaki by regional development minister Shane Jones was something Opunake could take advantage of.

"There's a real will from Shane Jones to come into Taranaki to listen and look at how we can bolster economic development in the region," he said.

The Opunake Business Association also wanted to see an Information Centre in town. Bob Clark said the Surf Highway is seen as a destination in its own right, and people coming through needed to know what attractions were on offer.

"The disappointing thing is that the library has become a de facto information centre, and that closes at 12 on a Saturday," he said.

About 50 people attended the meeting which was one of the last of a series held around the South Taranaki District. Mr Dunlop said every three years the Council has to review its 10 Year Plan and take it out to the public for consultation.

Projects the Council were working on included the Opunake Beach Master Plan. They were also looking at whether to amalgamate the Waimate West and Inaha water schemes. With Waimate West likely to need more water in the near future, the Inaha scheme is seen as the most likely source.

Recently appointed Council chief executive Waid Crockett said he had come from a similar role with a council in New South Wales, which like South Taranaki had a mix of rural areas and smaller towns, and the challenges were similar.

"How do we revitalise some of these towns and make them

more destinations rather than drive through stations?" he said.

Since taking up his position with the South Taranaki District Council, he was getting to know the area, he said.

"I lived in Opunake for my first four weeks here. I walked the walkways round here on a regular basis, and the Council is keen to see these sorts of things continue."

There are things which communities everywhere want to see, he said.

"Every community survey anywhere shows the number one issue for communities is how do we make our roads better and fix them up."

John Philpott of the Taranaki Regional Council spoke about progress on flood protection for the town which involved diverting water into the Waiau and Otahi streams. He said there a few things still need tidying up, but he was pleased with the way things had gone and with

the co-operation they had got from local land owners.

Ongoing maintenance should cost maybe \$10,000 a year at most, while the town stayed well protected, he said.

Steve Corkill voiced a note of caution.

"Within the next five years when we will have a one in a hundred year flood we will be able to test it," he said.

Other issues to come up at the meeting included erosion at Middleton's Bay and how user friendly footpaths are for people on mobility scooters.

Ray Hayward made a plea for the northern end of the district.

"There's no mention of Rahotu, Oaonui and Pungarehu. There's no mention in the whole consultation document of what's happening north of Opunake. I get the impression at times that the Council thinks everything stops at Opunake."

Waid Crockett said he had been to most of the meetings around the district, and he thought this was the most well attended one he had been to.



The president of the Opunake and Districts Business Association meeting Bob Clark addressing the meeting.



An attentive audience, among those attending the public meeting.



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COUNCILLOR'S COMMENT



CR BRYAN ROACH

Toughest year for farming in my generation

Council's Long Term Plan, is currently out for consultation. Community meetings were held in Opunake last week with good discussion about flooding, erosion at Middleton's Bay, how can we help our small towns, help encourage new businesses etc and anyone wishing to put a submission forward, must do so by 5pm Wednesday 2nd May 2018. Submissions can be dropped off to any LibraryPlus Centres or at the Council Administration Building in Hawera or online at www.southernregion.govt.nz or email longtermplan@stdc.govt.nz or you can even phone one in on 0800 111 323. Remember this is the plan for your district, and we would like to hear your thoughts.

Opunake Flood Diversion - the three diversion channels to prevent water from entering Opunake have been dug and completed. This should prevent future flooding of the township from inland sources. The last channel,

which was completed just before Easter, will prevent the retention pond from overflowing again. The Council



Trees too close to power lines.

has decided to maintain the two rivers in Opunake that flooded. This will involve an annual inspection and vegetation removal when required to keep them clean. If you see anything in these rivers that has the potential to block them can you ring the Council.

Power cuts have been more frequent this year and I have noticed that many of them have been caused by fallen trees. I have asked whether or not the Council can look into ways to help farmers remove any problematic trees along Council roads if they wish to do so. I see this as a win-win for everyone as it would potentially lead to less power cuts, road closures and essentially safer roads. This could be in the form of road closures, safety management plans, digger access on the

roading network prior to new tar sealing or new road upgrades. Remember there are only two ways a tree comes down, it's either cut down or blown down.

To my fellow farmers this has been the toughest year for farming ever in my generation. We've had it all, wet weather, drought, storms, power cuts, high winds, tornados. Keep your head held high and your best foot forward. Grass growth is unbelievable at the moment which will set us up for a good winter. Looking forward to next season.

Cheers

Roachy from the Coast

Oil and gas permits axed

The latest inventory of New Zealand's greenhouse gas emissions shows that there has been a 20 per cent increase in emissions from 1990 to 2016.

Climate Change Minister James Shaw announced the result of the inventory a few hours after Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said that the Government would not hand out any new offshore oil and gas exploration permits through the Block Offer programme. Professor James Renwick, Victoria University of Wellington says "The latest greenhouse gas inventory from the Ministry for the Environment shows some good news: gross emissions went down slightly from 2015 to 2016. But, our emissions overall have been fairly static for several years now. We may meet our national target for 2020, but to live up to the more stringent future targets, and for the country to become carbon-neutral by 2050, we need a lot more action than we've seen over the last decade. "Now at last, NZ seems to

be on track. The Prime Minister's announcement about stopping offshore exploration for fossil fuel deposits is exciting, and a real step in the right direction. We know that we can't afford to burn much more oil if we want to meet the Paris Agreement targets and avoid catastrophic climate change. "Plus, the government's new transport funding plan puts emphasis on public transport and active transport (cycling and walking). This gets us away from the outdated mantra of more roads and more cars that we saw from the previous government. Again, this will help New Zealand onto a low-carbon pathway. "New Zealand is a small player in global emissions of greenhouse gases but our actions carry huge symbolic weight. If any country can become zero-carbon, surely we can. It can only benefit us to be leaders in this crucial race to stabilise the climate. Professor Ralph Sims, Director, Centre for Energy Research, Massey University, comments:

"The latest greenhouse gas inventory up to 2016 shows emissions have tended to stabilise in most sectors over the past decade which is encouraging. The energy sector continues to decline overall due to higher shares of renewable electricity generation, but this masks the ever increasing transport emissions that are included under 'energy.'..

"Linked with this is the decision by Government not to offer any more oil/gas exploration permits. It is well understood that if we are to keep the planet from warming more than 2 degrees centigrade, of all the known oil, gas and coal reserves in the world, the vast majority will have to remain where they are rather than mine them then combust them for heat, electricity and transport, which would release the stored carbon into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide. "Therefore exploring for more oil and gas makes little sense if we are to keep New Zealand within its share of the Carbon budget. "The challenge for New Zealand to reach net zero emissions by 2050 will be difficult enough. So we simply have to start weaning ourselves off fossil fuels from now on. It won't happen overnight but looking for more gas and oil won't help."

Professor Dave Frame, director, New Zealand Climate Change Research Institute, Victoria University of Wellington, comments: "The new greenhouse gas numbers show the scale of the challenge ahead: while New Zealand's gross emissions aren't projected to grow, they aren't projected to fall very fast, either. It's good to see the Minister be clear that 'it won't be easy to meet our 2030 target.' That's been obvious for some time,

and it's why the existing target is already ambitious. "It's good for the climate to limit the expansion of the fossil fuel sector but economically it shifts a burden to regional development portfolios. It would be great to see New Zealand's regions flourishing economically, environmentally, culturally and intellectually: that would help us with our chronic productivity and skills issues. But how do they get there? If the announcement signals the beginning of a new New Zealand economy based on skills and high productivity, then that would be great. But without that support, the decision will remain vulnerable to being overturned by future governments.".. Dr Katharina Ruckstuhl, Associate Dean Māori Otago Business School, University of Otago, comments: "It should come as no surprise that the Government has announced the cessation of new offshore oil and gas exploration. However, the government was careful to note that current permits will continue, with some not expiring until 2050. This is roughly in line with the previous Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment's belief that gas - Taranaki's mainstay fuel - would still be needed for roughly 30 years until infrastructure and technology for renewables were in place. "The announcement creates uncertainty for NZOG's new Monaco-based owners, Ofer global, and any future development off the Otago coast, which is predicted to be a gas development larger than Taranaki's Kupe basin. With its share price falling on the news, it seems the market is not hopeful that NZOG will make good on its drill permit which is due to expire in April 2019."



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Children returned to mother

Late last year (December 8, page 7) our newspaper ran a story concerning a mother sitting on the pavement outside the Hawera office of MVCOT (as it was called at time), holding a placard which requested that her two children be returned to her. She had spent many days (and some nights) sitting in the same place. She also had an impressive display of many photographs of her children who were currently aged seven and ten. The children had been made wards of the state on September 6, 2017. The hearing was held in the Family Court in Hawera.

The mother concerned had been interviewed by several branches of the media, including television and all elected not to run (or screen) the story.

At the Opunake & Coastal News, we spent more time discussing this case than anything else we had covered in recent memory. We also had some legal input; after much debate and long phone calls with the welfare authorities, we decided to publish a modified version with no accompanying photographs.

We are aware that the welfare authorities have an unenviable job to do and have to deal with all kinds of unhappy

situations and deserve our support. However, they are not infallible and there were some aspects of this situation that has raised some questions.

Anyway, the story has had a happy conclusion, at least from the perspective of the mother and her children who are pleased to be back together as a family after five months of the children being placed in fostered care. People who foster children are mostly very special, outstanding people whose care is essential in many sad situations; however, these two children, who were kept together, were sent to two lots of foster parents and were not optimally treated it would seem..

The mother was due to attend a Court hearing on February 16 of this year, but following some positive input from several professionals, the two children were returned to their mother's care. The family were reunited on February 16, with the agreement ('Memorandum of Consent') signed on February 14.

The mother was obliged to sign the agreement, which stipulated, amongst other things that she must undergo 12 sessions of counselling. She disagreed with much of the content, but felt that unless she signed, her children would not be returned.

No doubt, the welfare authorities (Ministry for Vulnerable Children, Oranga

Tamariki) did their best, as they saw it, with this situation, but some aspects seem of concern. One of the concerns was the manner in which the children were uplifted. The mother, a slight middle aged lady, says she received an injury to her collarbone area from a policeman which requires ongoing and expensive expert care. "I cannot raise my arm above my shoulder," explains the mother. Surely, this alleged assault requires judicial investigation. Also of concern, a psychologist's report (reaching sweeping conclusions) was placed before the Court written by a psychologist who had amazingly never even met the mother.

The reporter, who wrote both stories, admits that there are two sides to every story and respects the work that welfare authorities carry out. However, it would seem that this case raises some concerns.

The reporter visited the home of this lady recently and can report that, in his opinion, the children are certainly where they should be with their mother. He was impressed with the warm and kindly relationships he witnessed. He was greeted in a friendly manner and enjoyed the pleasant family atmosphere.

The mother is concerned about the many situations she has heard about with respect

to other families. In activist organisations she has become involved with, she has been shocked to learn that some uplifted children have been sent to as many as 30 sets of foster parents - not all of whom were appropriate. Her final comment was, "My situation is a positive one. I've got my children back and they weren't raped."

She is, however, fearful when she hears a car approach that it may be the authorities back to remove her children. One child said to her recently, "I can't sleep. I'm so scared they are going to come and taken me away again."

The mother is also frustrated that often, when she emails a person in authority, including the relevant cabinet minister (Minister for Children), she receives no reply.

Bev Markham, Regional Manager Taranaki/Manawatu made the following comment: "This is a complex situation and the staff at the Oranga Tamariki, Ministry for Children, continue to work closely with the family concerned. We can't go into the details of the case but our focus is always on keeping the children safe. Every day we work with families who have the ability to make changes for the better, particularly when these changes strengthen their ability to parent."

Stolen car driven into supermarket

Rahotu has certainly been in the news lately with a tornado lifting the roofs of several houses, uprooting trees and downing powerlines.

Just two days after the tornado, Rahotu Four Square was burgled when a stolen vehicle was driven into the shop smashing the main doors.

The thieves got away with around \$4000 worth of goods, mainly cigarettes.

The owner Dipal Desai was alerted by a neighbour in the

early hours of Friday morning at around 4:30am when the burglar alarm was triggered.

Four houses at Okato were also burgled on the same night.

The Four Square supermarket also suffered minor damage in the storm when the roof was lifted and water got into the premises.

It's been quite a week said the owner. She said though she was touched by the kindness of the locals people who

rallied around and helped.

"I'd like to specially thank the community," said Dipal adding she was so glad that she lived in such a lovely community.



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COASTAL COPS

The tornado and its aftermath

Hello everyone
We have been fairly busy out on the Coast with tornadoes and thieves out creating havoc for us over the last few weeks.

A big thank you to the community for getting out and helping their neighbours tidy up the mess that the tornado left us with. It was good to see the community spirit in action as friends and families all came out to help clean up. Thanks to Brigitte and her staff who opened up Rahotu School as a base for Civil Defence and also to the Rapid Relief Team who came in and cooked food for all the helpers and families that had



CONSTABLE RHYSS CONNELL

to vacate their properties for a while.

Okato, Oakura and Rahotu were hit with thieves last week with a total of 10 properties burgled in the one night between the late hours of 12 April and early hours of the 13th. This culminated in

them using vehicles they stole in both Oakura and Okato and using them to break into the Rahotu Four Square. It would be fair to say that they were fairly organised and used a stormy night to disguise their movements and noise. Police are working hard on this and would appreciate any information that people may have either big or small to help us catch the people responsible. Police can be contacted by

ringing your nearest police station or alternatively calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

There has been a recent scam doing the rounds in rural areas in New Zealand where people are going around to houses claiming that they are there to pick up a Trade me purchase. It is possible they are seeing if anyone is home. This is likely a cover story that they will use if they

are caught on your property. If this happens take down the registration number of the vehicle and a good description of the people involved and let your local police know. We would be interested if this occurrence started to pop up around the Coast.

With the winter months approaching us, please be careful on the roads, and as the conditions change, adjust your driving habits accord-

ingly. We do have some tricky roads around the coast that continually catch our locals out and they need to be treated with respect.

A message I hammer home to all of my own family as I want to make sure they come home, as I do to all of your own families.

Have a safe week

Rhys

Senior Constable Goodman kept busy

Senior Constable Matt Goodman joined the Opunake Police on April 11 and admits he has been kept very busy. There have been a few burglaries, a ram raid of the supermarket in Rahotu and the recent storm and associated damage. Matt's last police position was in Tairua, Coromandel and he is settling into the community with his wife Andie and four sons.

Matt has spent 18 years in the police force and has served in many places including Auckland and Wellington. He was born in Northland and spent some of his formative years in Masterton.

He is keen to keep in close touch with the schools. "I like to work with schools - they are the heart of the community," he explains.

He likes to work with youngsters and has a solid coaching background in such sports as soccer, rugby (union and league) and especially



Senior Constable Matt Goodman.

rowing. "I've been a rowing coach for years," he says.

With his rowing companion

Steve Westlake, Matt won the Ward Evans Atlantic Rowing Challenge in November

2001, in the process breaking the record set by the late Phil Stubbs and Rob Hamill. (The Stubbs-Hamill record was 41 days 2 hours and 55 minutes). This involved an epic feat of 3000 nautical miles over 40 days.

Matt's wife Andie is also an outstanding rower and has won new Zealand championships in the past.

It's early days but Matt his enjoying his time here "another piece of paradise." He appreciates the common sense approach of locals such as the lady who stopped her car to help him return a frisky cow to its paddock a few days ago.

Welcome to the Coast, Matt



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Fish and Game rejects claims

Fish & Game has dismissed as "nonsense" Irrigation New Zealand's claims that irrigation is good for the environment.

The claims have been made by Irrigation New Zealand head Andrew Curtis, who is critical of the recent Government decision to stop funding large scale irrigation schemes.

Mr Curtis claims the move to stop funding big schemes will hurt the environment, not help it.

Fish & Game chief executive Martin Taylor says Mr Curtis's claims are ridiculous.

"This is just nonsense. The reality is that big irrigation schemes have contributed significantly to the water quality crisis the country is now facing," Mr Taylor says.

"Irrigation has allowed

intensive dairy farming to establish itself in unsuitable areas like Canterbury, where cow numbers have grown astronomically."

Martin Taylor says this massive increase in intensive farming has had a huge negative impact on the environment.

"Canterbury's Selwyn District is increasingly polluted to the extent that the region's health officials warn against giving babies water from some local supplies because aquifers are contaminated by nitrates. "The scale of the problem is shown by the fact that Canterbury is now using two thirds of all New Zealand's irrigation take.

"This means that over a year, a single big corporate farm can use the same amount of water as a town.

"For the irrigation lobby to claim that such excessive extraction of water from our rivers, lakes and aquifers is good for the environment ignores reality."

Martin Taylor says the facts are there for all to see and questions the irrigation lobby's new-found concern for the environment.

"When we raised concerns about the impact of industrial dairying on our waterways in 2001, we were labelled eco-terrorists by farming organisations," he says.

"Now the irrigation lobby claim they're helping the environment by re-charging aquifers or some other such mitigation.

"They are obliged to portray themselves as trying to fix things because they broke it in the first place."

See picture, page 7.

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PEPANZ disappointed at Block Offer changes

The Petroleum Exploration and Production Association of New Zealand (PEPANZ) is very disappointed in the Government's decision to halt offshore Block Offers, saying it is likely to affect New Zealand's energy security and international reputation. "The decision is a lose-lose for New Zealand's economy and environment, likely to threaten jobs and mean higher prices for consumers," says PEPANZ CEO Cameron Madgwick.

"This will do nothing to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and could make them worse. Because petro-

leum is produced to meet growing global demand, not exploring and producing in New Zealand simply means other countries will produce it instead and we will have to import it at higher cost.

"It also means New Zealanders will miss out on the substantial economic benefits that could come from new developments. The Government receives around \$500 million a year in taxes and royalties per year from the sector and employs over 11,000 people at peak times, all of which will decline without new activity.

"Our known gas supplies will run out in 11 years.

Apart from importing fuels with higher emissions, where else will we get energy from and how much will it cost consumers and businesses?

"Natural gas and oil provide over half of New Zealand's energy and are crucial to households, businesses, schools and hospitals. While other sources of energy are being developed there is no realistic way they can cover this demand in the immediate future.

"We are already seeing the potential impact this week with coal being used for electricity generation to ensure security of supply following the interrupted gas supply

from Taranaki.

"We are disappointed there has been no direct consultation with the industry and it is also a surprise given the Labour Party's 2017 energy manifesto talked of continuing offshore exploration.

"Huge investments have been made by companies already anticipating offshore block offers which have now gone to waste and people's jobs will likely be affected. It sends a worrying message to domestic and international investors on how open New Zealand is as a place to invest and create jobs.

"We ask the Government to talk with the industry ur-

gently. In the meantime, we will be carefully considering the ramifications of this decision and our options going forward."

PEPANZ has lodged a series of Official Information Act requests with Government agencies seeking the analysis behind the ban on offshore exploration for oil and gas.

"We remain deeply concerned about this decision and the manner in which it appears to have been made," says Mr Madgwick.

"It is concerning to still have no robust information from the Government on how this will impact New Zealand's future energy security. Households and businesses need to know what will happen when known natural gas supplies begin to run out in just a few years' time.

"The fact that some permits go through until the 2030s

is little reassurance given that our gas supply will run out long before then without major discoveries.

"Even in the unlikely event they are all drilled, most exploration only has an average success rate of around 10% to 15%. It would be very risky to rely on hoping we strike it lucky when we need energy to keep the lights on and keep New Zealand moving.

"We have also requested what research, if any, has been done on what this ban means for domestic and global emissions. It is unlikely to have any real impact given that it does not impact demand and that other countries will easily fill any supply gap we leave.

"Using the OIA is an unusual step for us an organisation but reflects the seriousness of this issue."

Author presents spiritual roadmap

Jacob William disrupts Christian status quo, calls for spiritual reassessment in revolutionary book

A Florida-based entrepreneur and writer has released his debut book, which diverges from commonly accepted Christian viewpoints, takes readers beyond the organizational, locational or emotional elements of current Christian religious dogma and, ultimately, emphasizes the spiritual transformative nature and depth the human spirit is designed to experience.

In "Crossruption: Journey of a Disrupted Life," author Jacob William explains that the modern world's practice of Christianity has gradually shifted from that of a literally

spiritual, Jesus-led perspective to one of pathos-driven belief and baseless labels. William's book disrupts traditional thinking about what it means to be Christian and speaks to divisive political, racial and religious issues that are perpetuated by the teachings of today.

"Religion was started as an answer to the inner emptiness of man. We go to church and do religious things in hopes that it will fulfill our inner emptiness, and often, we are fooled into thinking more religious activity will satisfy that inner vacuum," William said. "At present, Christianity is predominantly like any other religion of the world - an intellectual and emotional stimulant with no spiritual transformation. My

hope is that 'Crossruption' can change that."

Through relevant business metaphors, scripture-guided passages and his own personal testimony, William calls for a shakeup of the Christian mindset and an identity-focused reckoning for believers of all backgrounds. A practical, accessible resource, "Crossruption" delivers a roadmap for spiritual rebirth and transformation and encourages readers to reconnect with themselves and their creator. "Crossruption: Journey of a Disrupted Life" by Jacob William. ISBN: 978-1-5127-8738-2 (hardback); 978-1-5127-8736-8 (paperback); 978-1-5127-8737-5 (electronic)

Available at the [WestBow](#)

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Jacob William is a serial entrepreneur and the president and group CEO of Flatworld, a global corporation that provides IT and business consulting services. William was born and raised in a Christian household in India, where he was exposed to a diverse landscape of religions and spiritual practices. After experiencing a brush with death as a teenager, William underwent his own renewal of faith, ultimately inspiring the writing of "Crossruption." He currently resides in West Palm Beach, Fla. To learn more, please visit [www.crossruption.com](#) or follow William on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).



Irrigation is the subject of Fish and Game concern. However, this cow does not seem bothered!

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Halt to exploration just the start

Two weeks ago, the Prime Minister said her announcement to end any new offshore exploration will take effect in 20 or 30 years' time, and it was important to make it now so as to save communities and the nation from abrupt shocks later.

Within an hour of that announcement, New Plymouth's largest engineering firm halted all new employment. It was an abrupt shock that took effect immediately.

If the Prime Minister was listening, she'll now know about her misfire. But I've seen this sort of attitude before in the worst of religious zealotry. It's "we know best and we're immovable."

This very poor start to the Prime Minister's self-proclaimed mission to save the planet could have been avoided if she'd shown less fervour towards Greenpeace and more favour towards the people of Taranaki.

That would include genuine consultation, and consideration and respect for an industry that has made a huge contribution to the development of this country.

Genuine consultation isn't a few phone calls to industry and community leaders the night before the big announcement.

There was no pre-



JONATHAN YOUNG MP FOR NEW PLYMOUTH

election announcement that dismantling oil and gas was going to happen.

There was no thought of engaging the soon-to-be appointed Climate Commission to ponder this massive move. That would've brought smart independent minds to the task and given the Minister of Energy a bit more time to get up to speed with the petroleum sector and see how motivated they are to engage with transition.

With more time under her belt, the Minister of Energy wouldn't make statements to Parliament that New Zealand doesn't export gas, despite 48% of it being processed into Methanol for export. Ms Woods might as well say that New Zealand doesn't export milk, but we do export butter, cheese and powder.

Consideration should have been given to the fact that half of all oil never ends up in a car engine but serves the good people of New Zealand in

things like footpaths, roads, runways, rubber, crayons, combs, birthday candles, toothbrushes, telephones, and a myriad of other everyday things.

It should be considered that New Zealand seismic surveying regulations are considered the toughest in the world. Of the over 5,000 Maui Dolphin sightings in recorded history, only 26 have been south of New Plymouth, with 10 of those sightings from oil platforms and there is not one recorded death due to the industry.

Respect ought to be given when the petroleum industry's safety record is second to none, so much so that the government appointed the head of Shell to lead the Independent Taskforce on Health and Safety following the Pike River disaster.

Respect ought to be given when the sector's environmental practice is fully compliant to stringent obligations dished out by the Environmental Protection Agency, to the extent of requiring capture of all rainfall as it falls on their installations.

The safety and environmental requirements the New Zealand industry complies with are some of the toughest in the world.

And consideration should have been given to the fact

that the petroleum industry is hugely important for the energy security of this country.

However, none of that thought was given. And worst of all the decision the government has made will do absolutely nothing to reduce fuel emissions from our transport fleet here in New Zealand.

I am therefore predicting this is just the start.

No new permits for offshore exploration will move to no new permits for onshore exploration within three years. Expect a ban on imports of petrol and diesel vehicles within the decade.

Then we will see a raft of other economic activities being picked off one-by-one.

Just read Green Party literature and you'll see reductions in the national cattle herd (hence no more subsidies for irrigation), because the dairy and red meat industries are in their sights.

Emissions intensive industries are a goner. At some point I would expect James Shaw to tell companies such as NZ Steel and Pacific Aluminium to get with the programme.

We will see a raft of new taxes to pay for massive subsidies on renewable energy, hiking the true cost of electricity.

And if the Government is true to its climate change mantra, I would expect geothermal to go under the bus at some point, because their generators all emit CO2 and one, higher levels than gas.

I'm all for transition to a low carbon future – however, I'm in awe at how much the government has bungled this first step.

What was the rush that in-depth consultation with people who know all about fuel molecules couldn't take place?

Was all the haste about heading off to London's world stage with other Commonwealth leaders and her town hall meeting with Canadian PM Justin Trudeau?

As someone who has represented the New Plymouth electorate and know most industry leaders, I would've suggested the Prime Minister start dialogue sooner and do it for longer. She might have discovered the industry is developing ultra-low and zero emission fuels from natural gas feedstock, like methanol and hydrogen – something we can't do if we can't extract natural gas.

If Ms Ardern had waited for the soon-to-be-appointed Climate Commission to have an independent sector-neutral review, a more joined up plan

between all energy sectors could be put in place.

We could have ensured that energy security was never compromised. We could've empowered the Emissions Trading Scheme to be the true agnostic mechanism of change. Energy dependent industries across the country could maintain their business confidence and devise investment strategies around transition that are measured and affordable.

National will overturn the Labour/Greens decision when back in government. It's not about being dinosaurs on fossil fuels, it's because massive innovation is already occurring in this space and this is an opportunity not to lose.

I've come to the conclusion that the best chance to smoothly and effectively transition into a low carbon future, is a change of Government.

It might be a partisan view, but I'm confident that it's one that will be ultimately shared by millions of New Zealanders.

*Jonathan Young
New Plymouth MP*

National Party spokesperson for Energy and Resources, National Party spokesperson for Regional Economic Development (North Island).

New Zealanders have their say on future of education

Many teachers, young people, parents, school board members and grandparents have already had their say about the future of education, via the 'Education Conversation' initiative, says Education Minister Chris Hipkins.

"This fantastic response, in such a short time, means this is already the most popular education consultation in

decades. But we want even more people to join the Education Conversation - Kōrero Mātauranga, to help us build the world's best education system for all New Zealanders."

"Public education belongs to us all. Its future is too important to be left to politicians alone.

"So it's really important everyone gets online, fills out the five minute survey, and

has their say. In particular, we want to hear from those whose needs are not well served by the current education system, such as Māori and Pasifika, and those in need of additional learning support."

The online survey asks four questions about the future of our education system: What does a successful student of the future look like to you? What will they need to know

and be able to do? What things need to be in place to make sure every learner is successful? If you were the boss of education in NZ, what would you do first?

"The views shared through the education conversation will be discussed at the Education Summit in May and will then inform the strategies and reviews that are part of the education work programme I announced in

February," Mr Hipkins said. "Young people and parents have been really keen to join the conversation, and to share their ideas.

"Recently, for example, I met with some intermediate students and board members. They were quite clear about the skills our learners need to succeed.

"The students talked about wanting to learn more about technology, having more

one on one time with their teachers, spending more time in their community, and the value of experiences outside of the classroom. Board members talked about the importance of children having resilience and building emotional and social skills. "I encourage more people to go online and have their say so we can design the best education system in the world."

JONATHAN YOUNG
MP FOR NEW PLYMOUTH



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From Ngaruawahia to Opunake for new principal

Peter O'Leary says a school should be part of the community, and that's what he likes about Opunake High School.

For the last two years, Peter has been deputy principal of a school in Whakatane that has a roll around 1200 students. He has just taken over from Simon Fuller as principal of Opunake High School.

"I like it that there's no big fence around the school," he says. "I don't want there to be barriers. I want the community to be involved in the school. It's not a matter of us and them. For me it's we."

Having grown up on a dry stock farm at Ngaruawahia where he attended a primary school which was "close to bilingual," Opunake seemed a good place to begin his career as a school principal.

"It had a similar feeling to here," Peter remembers. "As I said to Andy (Opunake



Peter O'Leary is the new principal of Opunake High School.

High School board of trustees chairman Andy Whitehead) and the rest of the board, in the dealings I've had with the community here, it feels like home with the warmth you get from the people."

"The school has had great results nationally and the

community is 100 per cent behind and involved in the school. It's a great school, in rude health and going in a great direction, and I want to carry on that direction. The school is small and personable, and I felt it was a natural fit for me as

a first time principal to lead a school that's going in the right direction."

Peter graduated from Waikato University with a BSc and a Diploma of Teaching. He describes biology and science as his passion.

Another passion is football. He took up refereeing in 1994 and was made a FIFA referee in 2003. He has been involved in the New Zealand National League, A league and a number of international tournaments. His refereeing has taken him to the 2012 Olympics and World Cups in South Africa and Brazil. He retired from refereeing in 2015.

As well as Whakatane, he has taught in Auckland, Wellington, Hamilton and Whangarei.

"Students are similar everywhere," he says. You have amazing students. You have really great students and you have students who need

extra help and assistance."

Peter and Rochelle have sons Adam (10) and Ethan (9) attending Opunake Primary School. Peter is looking forward to taking the family for a hike up the mountain to the snow line.

"I love it the way that the higher you go, the vegetation changes," he says.

He is also looking forward to getting to know the local rivers and do a bit of fly fishing.

Others have tried to introduce him to other possible interests.

"Harry (James) has asked me to go surfing. That should be an interesting challenge," he says.

Keep your Rapid numbers clear

We have been on the road a lot lately with the various call outs, and have had difficulties spotting many of the rural rapid numbers. They either aren't there or they are over grown with weeds. As we drive up the roads, we try to read the rapid numbers to get an idea as to where "the property with the issue is," and we are unfortunately losing valuable time slowing down to hunt for them.

Remember we aren't the only ones who rely on these blue markers. The St John ambulance and the police use them as well as anyone delivering, servicing or just

visiting you, it is in your own interest to have one.

So please, if yours is missing, give the South Taranaki District Council a call on 0800111323 and they will get it sorted. If it is overgrown, either slip on the gardening gloves and pull the weeds, or grab the back pack sprayer and zap them. Remember, the seconds we lose looking for your rapid number may be the difference between life or death of a loved one, or whether you have to get the house insurance policy out or not.

On the 7th of this month we were dispatched to what was thought to be a house on fire

on the Namu Road. To our relief, it was only the remains of an old cow shed that had been damaged in Cyclone Gita and the farmer was cremating it. The farmer had his digger nearby to keep it all under control so we were soon on the road again.

We have had a couple of power pole call outs where there has been arching between the wires. There is nothing that we can really do in cases like this other than to make sure nobody is wandering below them.

The one call out that did consume a fair amount of our time was to a tree that had been struck by lightning

on the Skeet Road. Tankers from Eltham and Hawera were brought in to ferry water to the Kaponga Brigade, as were ourselves. It did take a good while to extinguish but we all won in the end.

Beau the Secretary

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Simon says good bye

Two days before term ended, Opunake High School said good bye to its principal. Next term Simon Fuller will take up a position as principal of Kuranui College at Greytown. It is a school of which his wife Laura is familiar.

"It's Laura's old school," says Simon. "All her siblings, parents, uncles and aunts have gone through there."

Simon and Laura had arrived in Opunake in 2014. Their daughter Quinn was born two years ago, and they have another child on the way.

"Laura gave up her career to move here," Simon told the school. "You may not know this but she could have been principal before me."

At a special Wednesday afternoon assembly, tributes were paid to Simon and his work as principal. The school's academic successes were noted which included



Outgoing principal Simon Fuller and wife Laura.

being the top school in New Zealand for its decile, as well as sporting and cultural achievements, and the way the principal was always available for anybody who wanted to stop by and have

a chat.

Deputy principal Andrea Hooper said Simon had digitalised the school and dragged it "kicking and screaming into the 21st century."

"The stuff that's happened in the last three years has only happened because of the foundation that's already there," Simon said in response.

"Opunake is New

Zealand's best kept secret, and this school is its best kept secret. This school exists to grow great people and I'm looking at 348 great people."

South Taranaki District

mayor Ross Dunlop said the events of the previous day when a tornado had hit Rahotu showed how important schools are to a community, with the Rahotu School being used as an emergency centre.

"If the schools are working well, the communities are working well.. Thank you for the good work you have been doing in this school. We do appreciate what you have done."

Board of Trustees chairman Andy Whitehead said he had come to know Simon as a friend and hoped that friendship would continue.

"Thank you for choosing to start your principalship here at Opunake High School. You have a passion for education and the skill for discovering what's inside a person."

Simon and Laura both said they had made many good friends in Opunake and were looking forward to returning again, this time as visitors.

Who are these people asks Hawera Genealogy?

A special morning tea was held by the Hawera Branch of the NZ Society of Genealogy on Friday April 13. This event was at the Hawera Library Plus. The focus of the (delicious) morning tea was to announce that names (and details)

were needed for many photographs the Society has, which are un-named. These are being shown on a wall-mounted television screen in the Library's Family and Local History Room in a continuous fashion. Although the Society has

over 1,000 photographs to be hopefully named, the current selection of 20 are from the 1990s.

There is an exercise book-and-pen available and visitors are urged to write in any names and details they know. Headings in the book include 'what was the event? when was it held? where was it held? why it was being held? as well as naming the people depicted.

Branch Librarian Ann-Louise Vonk gave a brief speech. She commented, "We are very lucky to be able to purchase a television to set up in the Family and Local History Room. It's such an asset. Hawera Library Plus certainly do appreciate it."

The Society donated money from their last annual book sale to enable the purchase of the television.

The Society's Convenor Jillian Williams, in a brief address, said that the selection was random and reflected the changing and evolving nature of Hawera society." She said there were five boxes of pictures in the

'Unnamed photo Collection' – yet to be shown.

Some of the events shown were people from Ramanui School Gala and the ATC Prize giving. There were couples, Boy Scouts, bricklayers, police, and even a child playing a piano accordion – and much more, so come and have a look. You might even see

someone from your own family - or even yourself.

The Family and Local History Room was built with the co-operation of the Hawera Branch of the NZ Society of Genealogy and funded by a NZ Lottery Grant. It was officially opened by the Mayor Mary Bourke.

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The launch of the Hawera Unnamed Photograph Collection at Hawera Library Plus.

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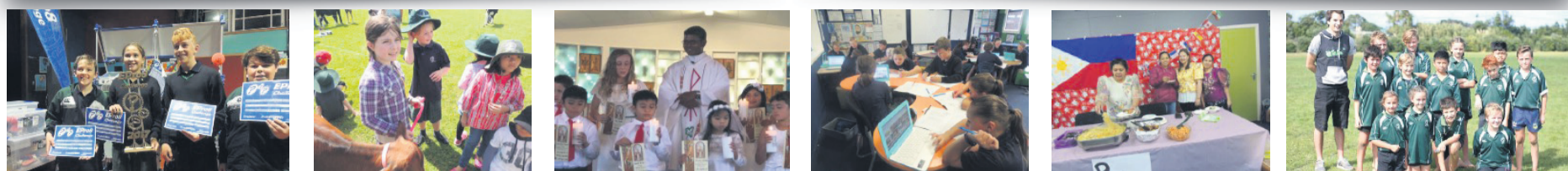
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New Staff

We welcome Mr Brook Murfitt to the position of Deputy Principal. Along with being the new DP Brook is also the teacher of the Year 7 and 8 students in Room 6, taking over from Mrs Bex Langton, who resigned at the end of 2017. Brook previously taught at Devon Intermediate, in New Plymouth and was there for five years. Being a keen sportsman himself, who enjoys playing rugby, touch rugby and cricket, Brook is excited to be the teacher in charge of sport at St Joes. He has already taken up the role of assistant coach of the

St Joseph's Hawks, working alongside Coach Aaron Langton, and coached the Year 5 & 6 Coastal Cup Rugby League team in last week's tournament.

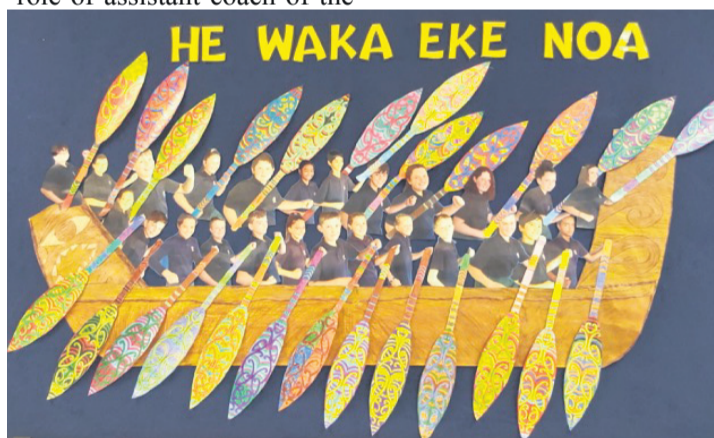
When asked what it is that he likes about St Joseph's, his response was, "I really love the holistic approach that our school takes towards learning. While literacy and numeracy are important, it is exciting to see sports, the arts, technology, Religious Education and cultural opportunities being offered, making for a well balanced curriculum."



Vibrant Classrooms

As you walk down the senior corridor, pieces of high quality visual art provide a feast for the eyes. Colour, texture, and the use of a variety of different media make the walls come alive. The corridor is an appealing space that students have the option of utilising as an extra work area. The artwork provides an inspirational back drop for

students and encourages them to be creative and original in their approach. Every classroom features its own unique style, reflecting the personality of the teacher and the interests of the children in the room. Self portraits, feather cloaks, waka, silhouettes of trees, and even the town we live in, are all examples of the quality pieces of work that you will see when you visit our school.



Student Leaders

All Year 8 students will travel down to Palmerston North to attend the National Young Leaders Conference in May. At St Joseph's, we believe that all students have the potential to be great leaders, therefore every Year 8 student has the opportunity to

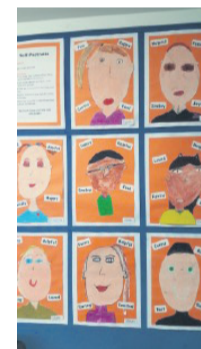
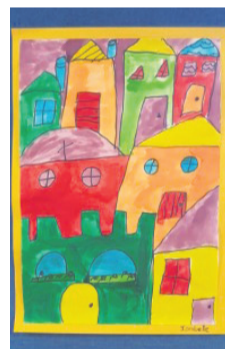
attend this invaluable leadership forum.

Lisa Tamati, endurance athlete, is one of this year's speakers along with Amanda Wilson, from the TV series, "Keeping Up with the Kaimanawas."

The conference takes place on Monday May 21st.



We try our best to live above the line.



PB4L - Positive Behaviour 4 Learning

Our school is a PB4L school. We work on affirming the positive aspects of being responsible, being respectful and being ready to learn. At St Joseph's our students are explicitly taught what each

of these aspects looks like and sounds like. Weekly certificates, awarded to students who exhibit these three concepts, are given out at assembly and published in our fortnightly newsletters. Newsletters are available on our school website, found online at www.stjo.school.nz

ENROLMENT INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE. PICK UP AN UPDATED INFO PACK, ARRANGE A SCHOOL VISIT, OR COME IN WITH ANY QUESTIONS THAT YOU MAY HAVE. WE ARE HAPPY TO HELP!

Faith, Values and Skills



Principal Margaret Duynhoven, PO Box 23, Allison Street, Opunake, 06 761 8388, principal@stjo.school.nz

Black sticky tar in Eltham

Your recent article regarding Eltham being the site of NZ's first tarsealed streets, brings to mind the Borough Council Depot on the corner of London and York Streets, where there was a tank and drum stand, along with sheds and a parking area for the Council trucks machinery, and roller, and the old 'tarpot', as we called it. This steel-wheeled tank full of

heated tar was towed by the roller to where the workers were sealing or just patching the streets, mainly by hand, through large hand-held cans. Of course there was also the equally important component of the road building, the crushed stone, without which the roads and streets often became very sticky shoe-traps in the hot summer days. This they also



The 1943 piggery at Routh Carr, Eltham showing the corrugated iron covering the old tarred wallboards.

Many of the farms had a large creosote-filled trough into which the sawn and dried timber and split posts were placed and covered with corrugated iron. When, after a good soaking, these timbers were lifted out and dried, they became a good durable, borer-proof construction material.

And what of the heavier black and very sticky tar? Even when quite hot and liquid it would not soak into timber, nor could it readily be heated en masse in large tanks for the soaking of larger, longer planks of timber. A fire under the tank could easily ignite the gas and tar above, to quickly turn into an unquenchable inferno. So if it was to be used, it would have to be carefully heated in smaller tins and brushed on by hand or broom.

It was on our family property, 'Routh Carr' where my parents were building up and running their farm to supply Eltham with fresh milk. The need for sound milking, implement and hay sheds, and a large piggery, meant that a large quantity of timber was needed. Most of this was able to be cut from large 20 to 25 year old pines growing on the property. Cut down and hauled, one log at a time to the Mill near the railway line on London Street, this timber was returned to be fillet-stacked to dry in the warm and breezy summer atmosphere.

drums and tank on the stand at the depot.

In the earlier days of worldwide and NZ municipal coal gas production, these two main by-products of the coal gas production, creosote and tar, were regarded as a nuisance waste product, and when not used as a heavy pitch for sealing together ship planks and decks, often ended up in distillation ponds, gullies, old ditches, stream beds and where available back into the former coal pits.

With the steady building up of the dairy and sheep industries about rural NZ, and as the hard, durable native timbers used for buildings, gates and fencing steadily diminished, the softer borer-prone exotic timbers such as pine and macrocarpa became more widely available. Thus there came the need for a means of timber preservation. Years before tantalising the main product used was creosote.

At that time, through the 1930s leading up to WW11, there was a NZ wide call for timber for packing cases for war supplies. The Army was out and about seeking, often requisitioning, the pine trees for this purpose. So it was agreed that, in return for their milling of sufficient timber for our farm's buildings, the Army could have a lot of what was left.

When the seasoned timber of various sizes was ready, the cold tar brought in kerosene tins, or small drums from the Council Depot, was heated on open fires and when very liquid, hand brushed or broomed onto the boards. What a job! Care had to be taken not to overfill the heating tins. They would swell up or tip, and the whole lot would easily set fire and burn away. They couldn't be dowsed with water and would have to be left to burn out. When one side of the boards was done and dry, they were turned over and the other sides tarred.

Because it had to be quite hot to apply, when cooled if it got onto hands or clothes it could not be washed off the hands or clothes, though a little mutton or beef fat did help the process. On one occasion, a hot

spread by hand..

However, besides the use of tar as a road sealing material, we often overlook the other uses of this product and the lighter, more liquid creosote - also byproducts of the gas works, stored in the

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Sylvia's column **Taranaki Community Expo approach to mental health**

Or what's wrong with our mental health and where do we go to find out who can help?

If you had a broken ankle you would know where to go to get it sorted and you would get it sorted. It's not quite like that with mental health issues. There's often shame, or a feeling it will go away. Some are in so deep,

or have been in it so long, that they can't see that there is anything wrong. Then there are the ones who know there is something wrong, but don't know where to go to get help. Then, sadly, those who get to the point of considering suicide, who can't seem to see another path. There's always other options. Where to go? I'll tell you shortly. Mental

health is often trickier to repair than a broken ankle, but even a small improvement in our mental health can make a positive difference. Anxiety and depression are very common. I have had both, and yes, they can often be repaired. Our community approach can hopefully make a difference for people who are struggling with a variety of issues. 'What's wrong

and can I fix it' is often a good place to start.

Who do we tell if we are mentally unwell? Strange though it may seem, hairdressers are often the ones. Or the check-out person at the supermarket who wants to know how we are. Or the farm adviser, doctor, neighbour, family member, teachers. That's pretty much all

of us. That can be you. Do you know what agencies and organisations work in the Mental Health Field in your area? Now is your chance to find out who can help with what.

A group of agencies and services, spearheaded by Supporting Families, are holding Mental Health Expo's in Hawera, Stratford and New Plymouth. First up is

May 16th, 6pm to 8pm, at the Hawera Club. All welcome. For further details check out <https://www.facebook.com/events/394380511036841/> or people can Search "Taranaki Mental Health Expo" in Facebook.

*Sylvia Huitson
NZ Rep to IASP*

Black sticky tar - continued from previous page

Sunday, with guests coming for lunch, three-and-four year-old John and Raewyn had been carefully dressed - Raewyn in a newly hand-knitted dress, John in a white shirt, and sent out to play, while Mum prepared the meal. When she called them to come in, there was no response until she heard them creeping up the back passage to the bathroom, there to be found desperately trying to wash the tar, not only from their hands, face

and hair, but also out of Raewyn's newly knitted woollen dress and off John's white shirt. They had found the tar brushes and decided to have a go at the board tarring.

The new dress and the shirt could only be burnt. You can bet that the farm hands nearly got a good tarring for leaving the fresh tar and timber out where the kids could get at them!

And starting with the milking shed, building by

building, the timber was steadily prepared. In most cases, the tar kept out the moisture and the borer. Yet if there was the smallest gap, or the boards were not tarred on the ends, or the borer was already in the timber, the dry rot set in. These boards, more especially the outer face cuts, often then became just a black borer-filled shell, and if on the outer wall, later needed to be covered in corrugated iron.

Yet even after over 80

years, this timber is mostly well preserved and many of the buildings firmly remain, a tribute to the old council-owned gas works and to those who spent many a hot summers day laboriously heating and brushing on the gallons of black sticky tar. It would be interesting to know how widespread was the use of tar for such timber preservation, what buildings may remain, and indeed what other uses this black product was used for in our

rural community.

The Piggery

The pine timber used to construct the piggery, built by Percy Pease in 1943, was all tarred by hand before it went up. While after about 30 years the outer boards needed to be covered with corrugated iron, as in the outside photograph, the tarred inner timbers are today as sound as when constructed 75 years ago. A view of the loft shows

this tarred timber. This loft constructed with very hard OB Rimu flooring, originally used for hay and pig food storage, then odd farm junk, has now been stripped of the rimu floorboards, these taken to make a sound floor in another shed loft.

The still intact, waterproof roof is of heavy corrugated fibrolite, well hand-screwed down.

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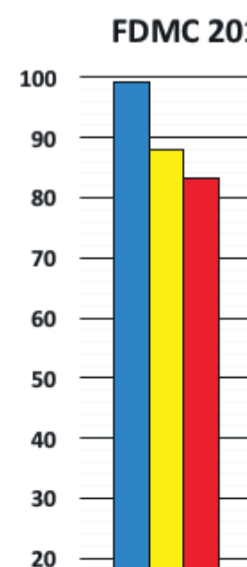
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A busy week

It had been a busy week with the storm commented a spokesperson from Powerworx. Trees falling on powerlines was the most common problem in ninety percent of callouts. The remaining ten percent was due to network failure, he said.

A tornado at the top of Ihaia Road - beyond Wiremu Road - struck a tree that fell on powerlines he added. Elsewhere felled powerlines draped in paddocks had to be repaired.

Powerworx were also busy at Rahotu replacing powerlines where a tornado wound its way through the town to devastating effect.

Many in the Coastal region were without power, some up to five days.

A power cut that affected some businesses in the main business area in Opunake on Monday April 23 however was not related to the storm but was due to several power poles in Layard Street being replaced.

The power was off from 9am till 3pm.

Power poles need to be replaced every 55 years commented one of the



One of the properties in Rahotu hit by the tornado.

men from Powerworx. There was also however an issue with the legal height of poles for road clearance which was a consideration in their being replaced.

Fibre optic cables are beginning to be laid in Opunake starting at Hickey Place in Opunake. It is anticipated that this will be completed in about a month. Though it will improve

Broadband in the town once disadvantage will be those old phones – useful when there's power cuts – will no longer be able to be used.

PS Another casualty of the storm: The editor returned home at 1am after working late on the Tuesday night of the storm to discover her French doors leading to her



The aftermath of the storm.



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Thirty seconds of mass destruction

A tornado which ripped into the coast lifted up the roof of Philip Field's house and dumped it back down again.

"It was horrible, I never want to be in another one like that again," Philip said of the tornado which came ashore at Rahotu on April 10 and then headed inland.

The tornado shredded three quarters of the roof of his Arawhata Road

of people who have been helping out. There's been a great community response."

Recent weather events had meant a busy time for Corkill Systems in Opunake who import and manufacture generators and supply them all around the country.

Steve Corkill says that after Gita they had decided to order a container of 48 generators instead of the 20 they otherwise would have done. The container is due

We've been extremely busy, mainly involving generators, sorting out generator issues and co-ordinating the generator we have for hire, which can be a bit hard if there aren't any generator switches at the cow shed, although lots of people do have them. It's worth thinking about putting them in when the next storm comes along. It saves a lot of time and stress."



Powerworx replacing power poles in Layard Street, Opunake.



Laying fibre optic cable, beginning in Hickey Place at the northern end of the town.

house and took out half the rafters. He was without power for two days, but two weeks later is still without lights because of the dangers posed by water leakage.

"It only took just 30 seconds of mass destruction," Philip said.

Despite the damage to his house, only three trees in nearby hard bush were taken out, although Philip says a neighbour had lost a shed and a line of trees.

The tornado came seven weeks to the day after ex cyclone Gita had slammed into the Taranaki coast.

"I had only just patched up a couple of sheds and then six or seven weeks later we get this," Philip said.

"I think Opunake should be the best place in the world to live, but not with tornados and crap like this to put up with. Thank God I've got insurance. It reiterates that it's worth paying the premiums."

On the Ngariki Road, Lloyd and Jo Morgan lost 200 trees after having lost 50 when Gita struck.

"This was the main course, that was the entrée," Jo said, comparing the two weather events.

Nevertheless she says they got off lightly.

"We have been very overwhelmed with lots

to arrive in the last week of May and 30 have already been presold.

"We have big standby generators for commercial industry, to more medium sizes for farms and smaller sizes for houses and sheds."

"Auckland is phoning us every day," he said.

This month's tornado had also meant his company were busy repairing as well as supplying generators.

"Not many people have the equipment to repair them, so it's provided an opportunity we hadn't been aware of before," says Steve

He says one generator he had placed a year ago on a property along the main highway had already done 80 hours standby work which he thinks is highly unusual.

"I don't know whether it's the season, but something's not right, either with the weather or maintenance," he says. "In the past people shared generators between farms but that's become more impractical with things like the requirements for keeping milk cold."

Trish Anderson of Sinclair Electrical says they have also been kept busy.

"On the whole people have been very understanding and know that a lot has been going on," she says. "It's been a good reason to keep your insurance up to date.

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Report says still gaps in our knowledge

The extent to which we have changed our natural landscapes is highlighted in the latest instalment of the Ministry for the Environment and Stats NZ's environmental reporting.

The report Our Lands 2018, also indicates significant gaps in our knowledge about land use and the flow-on effects to soil.

Professor Rich McDowell, AgResearch principal scientist and Chief Scientist for the Our Land and Water national science challenge comments:

"While this report does provide a snapshot of the state of the land as far as impacts, it is important to note that it does not provide

insights into the trends in relation to phosphorus in the soil, and macroporosity of the soil – and how land use, and intensity of that use, contributes. Phosphorus in the soil is one measure, but there are other variables at play such as compaction of the soil, that will dictate whether there is phosphorus run-off into waterways to do damage.

"What we do know is that the data for water quality (in regard to phosphorus) and sediment concentrations indicate that far more sites are showing improvements now (2004-2013) than before (1994-2003). This is despite changes in land use, land use intensity and indications that

phosphorus under dairying is enriched, and macroporosity of the soil is impaired. These improvements may be due to greater awareness, farmers being more proactive or policy changes. Efforts include the isolation of critical source areas that contribute most phosphorus and sediment loss from farms or catchments, and targeting critical source areas with measures to mitigate these losses.

"The question is always whether these efforts are enough to meet community aspirations of water quality."

Dr Ken Hughey, DOC's Chief Science Advisor comments:

"Our Land 2018 gives us a good idea of the state of New Zealand's land and the pressures that affect it, while not shying away from highlighting the knowledge gaps that prevent it from being a thorough picture. It's the gaps that I'm interested in. At DOC we have a robust data collection system, which has contributed to this report. Although we can provide data on biodiversity, ecosystems and land cover on public conservation land, the bigger picture for New Zealand is not quite so complete. This issue needs attention.

"There is much biodiversity that needs to be protected outside public conservation

land and that's where we need more information. Habitat fragmentation and habitat quality need attention and we need to get information on data deficient species in those habitats. Wetlands continue to be of major concern and data shows ongoing decline. This is another matter that needs attention.

"The good news is that although a high percentage of our native species are in trouble, our data also shows that where we have intensive management and/or landscape-scale pest control, we can stabilise populations and even reverse declines. Good examples include rowi, takahē and

mōhua. They are no longer in decline after multiple pest control operations.

"We're also working with central and local government, landowners, industry and communities to reduce the impacts of wilding conifers, a major threat to our ecosystems taking over natural landscapes including rare ecosystems. Wilding conifers occupy approximately 6% of New Zealand's total land area – over 1.8 million ha – and were spreading at rate of 90,000 ha per year. Without the control work of DOC and our partners, wilding conifers would have invaded 20% (5.4 million ha) of New Zealand's total land area."

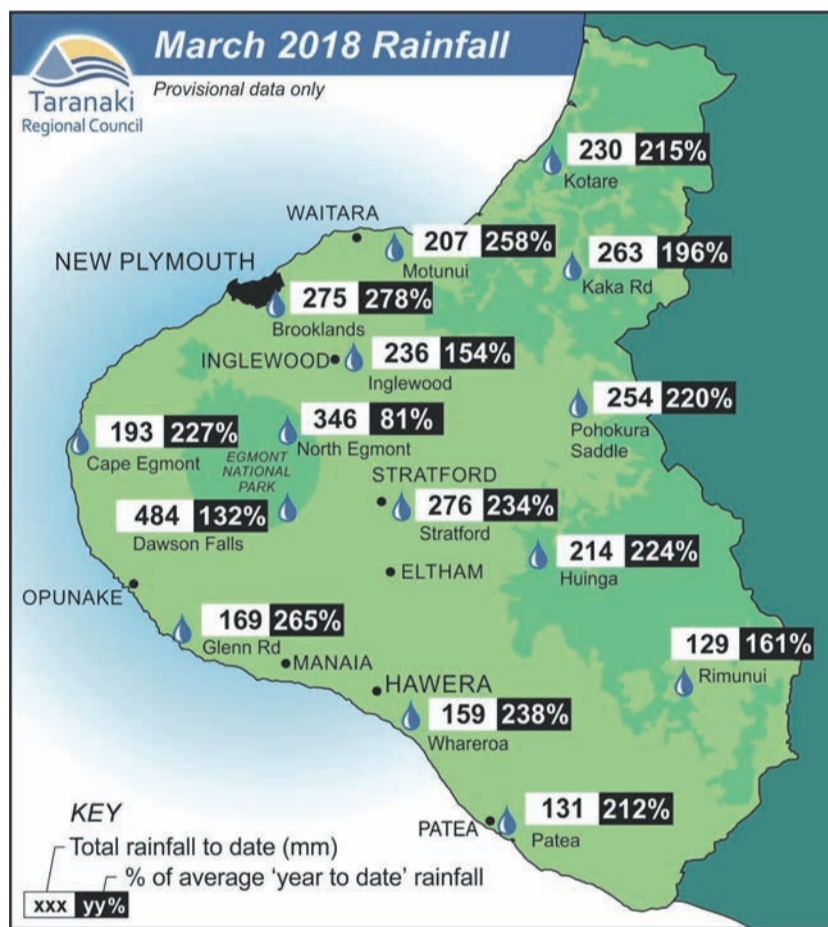
Double the rainfall for most of Taranaki

March was a wet month all over Taranaki according to Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) figures. All sites recorded above normal by between 132 % and 278 % except for North Egmont which only recorded 81 % of normal with 346.0 mm of rain. Brooklands Zoo recorded 275.0mm (278 %) of rain in March, with 74.0 mm of that falling in just one hour on March 21.

Twelve of the rainfall sites that are monitored recorded more than twice their normal March rainfall. These sites were: Brooklands Zoo (278 %), Motunui (25 %), Stratford (234 %), Huinga (224 %), Tongaporutu (215 %), Pohokura (220 %), Cape Egmont (227 %), Te Kiri (202 %), Manaia (265 %), Whareroa (238 %), Patea (212 %) and Charlie's Clearing (244 %).

Due to the heavy rain that occurred on March 7-8, and then from March 22-24, the two sites (Cape Egmont and Te Kiri) that had been sitting below normal at the end of February managed to catch up and are now sitting on 129 % and 136 % of normal respectively at the end of March.

Year to date rainfall is sitting between 111 % and 240 % of normal.



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Representing Taranaki in NZ final

James Holgate can often be found striding across the Taranaki farm he manages armed with a rising plate meter.

“I do weekly farm walks during the spring to measure pasture growth rates,” said the 26-year-old. “Once the spring flush has passed, farm walks are done fortnightly.”

The data collected is used to determine when paddocks should be grazed and to help create feed budgets.

James is a herd manager for Tony and Lorraine Lash on their 130-hectare Midhirst property milking 350 cows.

He joined the business in June 2016. The Central Taranaki Young Farmers member said the Lash’s encouraged him to grow his pasture management skills.

“Tony and Lorraine are really good at what they do,” he said. “They gave me the opportunity to jump in the deep end and expand the pasture management skills I had.”

Those skills and knowledge helped him win the 2018 Taranaki Dairy Manager of the Year on his first attempt at the title. James took home merit awards for feed



James Holgate

management, livestock management and financial management.

“The win was a big surprise,” he said. “I entered to learn more about myself and identify areas where I

needed to improve.” “The detailed judges’ feedback we receive as entrants has been a huge

confidence booster.” The farm’s herd is run in two mobs. The planned start of calving for next season

has been pushed back to August 7.

“Calving used to start in July, but that puts too much pressure on feed demand in early spring,” said James.

The calving date won’t be the only change on the farm. In June, James and his partner Tracy Kivell, who works at CMK Accountants, will step up to a contract milking position.

“We have always been saving money where we can to prepare for this opportunity,” he said.

It will mean James will be responsible for running the entire farm and mentoring a new staff member.

James and Tracy are planning to be 50:50 sharemilkers within four years on a farm of a similar size.

The couple is excited about attending the national finals of the NZ Dairy Industry Awards in Invercargill on May 12.

“I’m really looking forward to the experience, meeting new people and networking,” said James. “Whatever happens, I’m proud of what we have already achieved.”

Brad Markham

Keeping Opunake in the dry

The flooding threat posed to Opunake by the Hihiwera Stream has been addressed in a joint Taranaki Regional Council-South Taranaki District Council project that is nearing completion.

The stream and a small tributary burst their banks and flooded properties in the

township in August 2015, prompting investigations into the best way to reduce flood flows through the town.

The flood diversion project was designed and approved in 2017 after the Taranaki Regional Council and South

Taranaki District Council had studied the options and gained agreement from owners of land on which some of the work would need to be carried out.

The project has involved new channels, drains and culverts upstream of the

township to divert floodwater away from the Hihiwera Stream and tributaries, to the Otahi Stream to the north (Stage 1) and to the Waiaua River to the south (Stage 2). With pressure on the Hihiwera’s capacity eased by the first two stages, stage 3 involves constructing a

channel within the township to divert flood flows from the small tributary on Allison St directly into the stream itself.

“The major works have been completed and all that remains is a bit of tidying up within the town boundaries,”

says the Taranaki Regional Council’s Rivers Manager, Daniel Harrison.

“It’s pleasing that it’s come in on time and on budget. The scheme is designed to cope with a one-in-100-year flood, so we believe Opunake can be a lot more confident about the future.”

Rescue Helicopter decision puts lives at risk

Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) is concerned with the announcement of a proposal to curtail rescue helicopter service bases in Taupō, Rotorua and Te Anau.

“The closure of these bases will inevitably mean that people, who are in need of immediate care, are consequently waiting longer for medical attention, which is a concern,” says RWNZ Board Member and

Health Portfolio Convenor, Margaret Pittaway.

“People travelling through, living, working or enjoying outdoor pursuits within these areas are already isolated due to the nature of the geography.

“With winter fast approaching, there will be harsher conditions on the roads and along tracks where accidents are more likely to happen.

“This decision fails to

recognise the golden hour – where minutes can mean life or death.

“It is vital that communities and people travelling through areas which are a significant distance to major hospitals can feel safe knowing that medical care is accessible.

“It is about making sure everyone has access to immediate medical care, and we are concerned that the closure of helicopter bases critically impacts on the emergency services required for travellers and our rural communities in need,” says Mrs Pittaway.

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Politicking put aside on livestock rustling

Federated Farmers is greatly encouraged by the cross-party support for tougher livestock theft deterrents being shown by members of the Primary Production Select Committee.

Meat and Wool Chairman Miles Anderson spoke to the committee on the Sentencing (Livestock Rustling) Amendment Bill recently. He said it was heartening to see there was no politicking on the issue, just determination to work out the best ways of combating the problem.

"There's good momentum to put in place effective measures to tackle this serious and growing scourge."

Current wording of the Bill would make rustling an 'aggravating factor' at sentencing, giving judges

more leeway to order stiffer penalties. Federated Farmers wants the new legislation to go further, and allow powers of seizure of vehicles and other equipment used in the commission of the offence, as happens with poachers under the Fisheries and Wild Animal Control Acts.

"We're pleased that other submitters are in tune with this thinking," Miles said.

"If stock thieves know they could forfeit vehicles, trailers, firearms, trained working dogs, two-way radios, night vision and thermal viewing imagers, freezers, etc., it gives them considerable pause if they're thinking of raiding a farm.

"Moreover, if convicted rustlers lose such equipment, they can't go back to such thieving any time soon, and that forfeited gear can be sold, meaning there is some



Federated Farmers Senior Policy Advisor Ewan Kelsall, left, and Meat & Wool Chairman Miles Anderson, spoke to the Primary Production Select Committee on rustling. *Fuseworks*

money to reimburse the victims of the theft."

Miles highlighted for the Committee an anomaly with current laws. Wild deer belong to the Crown until they are shot on land where the hunter has lawful permission to be. If the hunter has no right to be on that land, he or she may be subject to prosecution and confiscation of gear under the Wild Animal Control Act.

"But if someone is unlawfully on my property and shoots a farmed deer or a steer or sheep, there's no seizure of gear on prosecution. Why is my farmed deer treated differently from a deer belonging to the Crown?"

The Federation's submission pointed out that rustling was robbing farmers of tens of millions of dollars

every year. It was also an animal welfare, biosecurity and food safety issue, with livestock often killed and butchered at night in the paddock, and no controls over subsequent storage and sale on the black market of meat from animals that may have just been treated with veterinary medicines.

Rustling added huge stress "Family farms are also the home of the family," Miles said. "Farmers feel obligated to investigate any suspicious activity to protect their property and their livestock while the rest of the family are left along wondering what is going on in the dark.

"Farmers who have suffered trespass, livestock theft and wild game poaching report feelings of suspicion and paranoia, loss of sleep and a reluctance to leave the property."

Healthy soil base of farming business

Much of the work farmers have underway to improve water quality has the co-benefit of improving soil quality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, says DairyNZ chief executive Tim Mackle.

Dr Mackle is responding to the Ministry for the Environment's Our Land 2018 report, which found soil degradation in New Zealand is the result of land use change, and in particular due to increased urban areas and agriculture.

"Our farmers rely on good quality soil for their businesses to be productive and profitable," says Dr Mackle. "We are working hard right now to address water quality, and much of this involves the way in which we care for our land and soil."

Healthy soil supports the productivity of agriculture, and filters water to help prevent waterways from becoming contaminated.

"No farmer wants to see their soil damaged, as it inevitably leads to a drop in productivity," says Dr Mackle. "We are seeing more and more farmers using mitigations like standoff pads and removing stock from the paddock at times when the soil is most vulnerable to compaction, and management of areas highly susceptible to erosion and sediment loss.

"We also know that good winter management, and targeted planting at specific times of the year, can all improve soil condition and therefore positively impact the levels of contaminants in our water.

"Many farmers across New Zealand have mitigations in place on their farms already, with great results for soil and water health as well as resulting in lower on-farm emissions. However we recognize that there is a need for this knowledge to transfer around the rural sector.

"We can't talk about just one environmental issue in isolation," says Dr Mackle. "We are heavily focused on improving water quality and reducing the dairy sector's greenhouse gas emissions. This work will directly improve the health of our soil.

"In June this year we are running a series of farmer workshops around the regions about climate change. The discussion will cover stocking rates,

feeds, fertiliser use, and planting opportunities, all of which effect soil and water health as well as on-farm emissions.

"Not all farms are alike, and each farmer needs to ensure they are running their farm in a way that is most suitable for their land and region.

"This report highlights the importance of the hard work the dairy sector is carrying out to improve its environmental footprint. We are an agricultural nation, but our success depends on balancing productivity and profit with sustainability. This report highlights where more work is required."

"We can't just talk about one environmental issue in isolation."

Rustling must be an offence say RWNZ

Rural communities need solid action from Parliament's Primary Production Select Committee on livestock rustling says Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ).

"We presented our oral submission in support of the Sentencing (Livestock Rustling) Amendment Bill to the Primary Production Committee, and called for more to be done to enable and empower New Zealand's rural communities," says RWNZ National Finance Chair, Rachael Dean.

"The Committee as a whole was supportive of the submissions which is great to see, however this support needs to be followed by actions starting with rustling being made an offence.

"Secondly, there needs to be effective punishment and powers to seize, both of which will act as a deterrent

to rustlers.

"The current situation with rustling is simply not being dealt with adequately, and it is resulting in significant financial loss for our rural communities.

"In addition to financial loss the emotional and mental wellbeing of rural families is affected by rustling which places additional stress on communities.

"It is critical that legislation exists to provide adequate support and protection for our rural communities - they are the backbone of our country.

"Amendments made to the Sentencing Act as proposed in this bill are crucial, however the fact remains that other pieces of legislation need to be fit-for-purpose. RWNZ wants this latter issue reported back to the House by the Select Committee," says Ms Dean.

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Bert Hamilton.



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Manaia Golf results

April 14. Men's Stableford. 1. Greg Elliott. 2. Grant Gibbs. 3. John Oliver.

Pee Wees. 1. Tyler Thomas and Nathan Thomas. 2. Connor Thomas, Page Thomas and Chantel Wong.

Drop Kicks. Gross. 1. Kieran Taylor. 2. Carter Symes. 3. Lucas Symes.

Kiwis. Gross. 1. Oliver Symes. 2. Zoe Reader. Putting. 1. Zoe Reader. 2. Oliver Symes.

Super Pee Wees. Gross. 1. Hannah Symes. 2. Riley

Symes. Putting. 1. Hannah Symes and Riley Symes.

April 21. Men's Stableford. 1. Trevor Larsen. 2. Gary Dowdle. 3. Jim Ngere. 4. Noddy Symes.

Junior. Girls. 1. Jayda Sharp. 2. Hannah Symes. Junior Boys. Nett. 1. Carter Symes. 2. Kieran Taylor. 3. Ashton Sharp. Putting. 1. Ashton Sharp. 2. Carter Symes. 3. Kieran Taylor.

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Premiers prevail despite injuries



Veteran Rick McKenna in action in his 100th game for Coastal.

An injury struck Coastal team headed for Okato to host Spotswood on Saturday April 14. With only 15 fit players, the bench was made up of seven players who had already played for the division 1 side.

A solid start had Coastal leading 10-0 after 15 minutes. Spotswood hit back with two penalties, before Coastal scored right on half time to take a 15 - 6

lead into the break.

In the second half, Coastal outscored Spotswood by two tries to one and took the match 27 - 11. Try scorers were Lisiate Folau, Troy Stevenson and Cal Davies (2) Rick McKenna kicked a penalty and a conversion, and Thys Vanderpoel also kicked a conversion. MVP for the day was Alex Kanvalu.

Coastal were hit with

another serious injury to Will Kirkland. Good luck with your recovery Will.

Round 4 and the boys were on the road again to take on competition leader Eltham/Stratford. Once again it was hard to find a fit team and numbers were boosted by the Division 1 squad.

The first half was a very close battle with the hosts taking a 7 - 6 lead into the break. Two outstanding

tries by Lisiate Folau and two penalties were enough to keep Coastal in charge of the match. Eltham/Stratford scored a late try to make the final score 22 - 12.

Points were scored with tries by Lisiate Folau (2), penalties by Thys VanDerPoel (4).

MVP for the day was Emmett Hurley.

Brian Olliver



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Division 1 in top of the table clash

FBT coastal Div 1 proved too strong for Spotswood United at Okato in round three running in nine tries to win 55-3. In conditions ideal for open expansive rugby the forwards were too strong at the breakdown allowing quick ball for the backs to score some quality tries. Beauden Fleming and David White in the forwards stood out with both scoring tries along with Hunter Van der Fits who worked hard all day. The half time score of 31-0 quickly altered with some nice breaks created and tries to Bryn Chard, Heinrich Fourie, Jamie Fevre Jordan Fleming and two to David Hughes with Thys van der Poel converting five gave us a bonus point and took us to the top of the table. Player of the Day was Jordan Fleming.



Emmett Hurley tries to evade some attention from defenders.

half was a real battle with some big hits on our boys, however we bounced back and levelled the score with five minutes to go. A slip in defence in the last play saw

Stratford Eltham win 33-26. Our points were scored by Heinrich Fourie (three tries), and Bryn Chard, with Jamie Fevre converting three. Player of the Day

was Heinrich Fourie. Next week we have a bye. The next game is on May 5 against Clifton in Rahotu at 1-00pm. See you there.
Gerard Kalin



Chris "Chrispy" Barron looks for a gap as the Div 2 juggernaut rolls on.



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A women's team at Coastal



The games have been competitive but great fun and the girls are playing with a good amount of skill and even more enthusiasm.

We have got a great culture off the field, so if you have always wanted to give it a go instead of just watching the boys, and have some fun off the field contact Deb 0274 085414.

Congratulations to Iritana Hohaia who was selected to wear the black jersey for the NZ Under 18 Sevens womens team who won the Oceania U18 Sevens Championships on the Gold Coast last week. Everyone at Coastal Rugby is proud of your achievements Iritana .

This year at Coastal we are stoked to be fielding a Women's rugby team that will compete in a Taranaki wide competition with Spotswood, Clifton and Southern.

The aim of the competition is to grow the women's game in Taranaki and those

who are playing for the first time are loving it. If you are keen to get involved contact Deb 0274 085414.

We have played a couple of games where we play 20 minutes of one team and another 20 against another.



Colts player Mitchell Fleming is well supported as he breaks up field.



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Don't spread unwanted freshwater pests this hunting season

With duck shooting season starting on Saturday May 5, Taranaki hunters are being reminded it's vital to clean their equipment between waterways to avoid the spread of unwanted freshwater pests including the invasive alga didymo.

When moving between waterways, all items should then be cleaned for at least a minute with a 5% solution of biodegradable dishwashing solution.

The reminder comes from the Taranaki Regional Council and the Ministry for Primary Industries.

"Unwanted freshwater pests such as didymo, lake snow, hornwort and oxygen weed pose a serious threat to our rivers, streams and lakes," says the Council's Environment Services Manager, Steve Ellis.

"Once in a waterway, they can disperse rapidly and destroy the environmental, recreational and aesthetic values of our waterways. So we are asking hunters moving between waterways to 'Check, Clean, Dry' any equipment that has come into contact with river or lake water - particularly



When moving between waterways, all items should then be cleaned for at least a minute with a 5% solution of biodegradable dishwashing solution.

boots," he says.

"Some freshwater pests, like didymo and lake snow, are microscopic and can be spread by a single drop of water. Even if you can't see the danger, you could be spreading it."

Mr Ellis says before leaving a waterway, people should check items and leave any weed or debris they find at the waterway.

"Drying will kill didymo, but even slightly moist items can harbour didymo and other microscopic pests for months. To ensure didymo cells are dead by drying,

the item must be completely dry to the touch, inside and out, then left dry for at least another 48 hours before use," says Mr Ellis.

"Following these simple procedures will help slow freshwater pests like didymo from spreading throughout New Zealand waterways. It's everyone's responsibility to try to preserve the environmental integrity of our waterways for future generations.

"Just remember to Check Clean Dry when moving from one waterway to another, anywhere in New Zealand."

Taranaki Indoor Bowls.

The Taranaki Indoor Bowls senior team participated in the quadrangular tournament with North Wellington, Wanganui and Horowhenua on the weekend of April 21-22. The tournament was hosted by Horowhenua at the Levin Sports Centre. Sixteen players represented

each province and a round of fours, pairs and singles were played against each of the provinces.

Individual provincial scores were, Wanganui 41 Taranaki 31, North Wellington 55 Taranaki 17, Horowhenua 30.5 Taranaki 41.5

The overall result for the tournament North Wellington were 1st Wanganui were placed second Taranaki were placed third and hosts Horowhenua were fourth.

Playing for Taranaki were Don Semple, Trevor Bourne, Karl Hughes, Sue Bourne, Jenny Hamley, Rose Ratahi, Andrea Berry, Cliff

Smith, Arthur Podjursky, Jane Augustine, Ray Finlay, Raewyn Fredrickson, Ella Smailes, Noeleen Picard, Tyler Gullery and Chris Read. Reserve Trevor Cox

In the Taranaki Inter Club competition which is a fours competition, six rounds have been played. Play for each game is either 40 minutes or eight ends. Leading the

competition are the Turuturu Club on 10 points followed by Cardiff Club and Stratford Club on 8 points then Normanby Club and Turi Club on 7 points.

In Open Tournaments coming up, the Taranaki Open fours are played on Sunday May 6. The Taranaki Open Pairs are played on Sunday May 13.

The Taranaki Open Singles sponsored by Farmlands Hawera are played on Sunday May 20. Please ring entries to tournament secretary Gordon Hamley 2785499.

Ray Finlay
Publicity Officer.

Two games medals from Taranaki

New Plymouth District Mayor Neil Holdom has hailed Taranaki's awesome Commonwealth Games athletes for bringing home two medals from the Gold Coast.

Michaela Blyde, from New Plymouth, won gold in the Sevens for New Zealand, while former

Spotswood College student Aidan Zittersteijn won the Cook Islands' first ever Commonwealth Games medal with a bronze in the men's pairs bowling.

"It's fantastic to see all the hard work and training pay off for Michaela and Aidan with two much-deserved medals," said Mr Holdom. "We are all very proud

of their achievements in Australia."

Mr Holdom also thanked Jacob Rapira, of New Plymouth, for his work as a boxing coach and Makahu's Kelly Jury's efforts with the Silver Ferns netball team.

Michaela and the Sevens team took the Gold on Sunday night when they beat old rivals Australia 17-12.

Aidan, 18, and his bowls partner Taiki Paniani won the bronze on Monday, 9 April when they beat Malta 17-11 in the bronze medal match.

New Zealand was able to secure fifth spot on the medals table with 15 gold, 16 silver and 15 bronze medals.

Year starts with some good shooting

The Eltham Smallbore Rifle Club has started their season with a bang. While the official indoor season started on 1 April, the Eltham Club have been counting their scores for a couple of weeks. On the opening night (Monday 2 April) the top shooter was split three-ways between Alan Drake, Paul Tidswell and Clare Bramley all scoring 98.5. Paul then went on to shoot a good double 97.5/98.3, Clare's double was 97.4/97.6, Garry Rowlands 95.4/98.5, Paul Longstaff 95.1/95.3, Bob Bramley 92.3/95.4. Group card shooters John McGill 96 and 95, Craig McGill 98 and 100, Keely Burnell (only recently having gone into a jacket and sling) 97 and 100 followed by an 84.1. Murray Chinery 93.2 and 96.4; Brian Hicks 94.1 and 93.2; Don Litchfield 94.2 and 95.3; Dave McGregor 94.3; Henry Armond 93.3.

Friday, 6 April, saw the first possible shot by Garry Rowlands 100.7 and an 'oh-so-close' by Paul Tidswell with a 99.9 as the first half of his double (the second half being a 97.5).

Newer shooters were also putting in good efforts with a friendly family rivalry between the Jones and Martin families. First

time shooter Paula Martin scored 99 and 100 on group cards followed by husband Dan with two 98s and friend Baylee Watson 97. Niece Keely Burnell then shot two 100 group cards to complete the family set.

Boston Taylor and Henry Armond also kept up their easy-going competition shooting 92.2, 91.1, 91.2 and 93.2, 92.1, 94.3 respectively. They're both new to D grade this year so we look forward to watching their progress. Dave McGregor, also new to D grade, shot 91.1 and 92.3. Bob Bramley shot consistently 95.1 and 95.2; Stephen Hicks 93.3 and 92.2; Murray Chinery 92.2 and 92.1; Brian Hicks 87.1 and 89.1. Clare Bramley shot 97.5 while Garry Rowlands shot 96.4 and 98.5 to accompany his 100.7.

On the official Club night on April 9, there was some good shooting. Bob Bramley showed some very good consistency shooting 96.3, 95.4, 96.2, followed closely by Don Litchfield with 95.4 and 95.2. New D-grade shooters were continuing their progress with Henry Armond shooting a very respectable 96.2 as well as two other scores in the 90s; Boston Taylor shot well with 93.2 and 94.2; Dave McGregor 89.0, 94.3 and 95.2 showed

improvement over the night. Keely Burnell, not long in a jacket and sling, shot a 100 group card followed by 75.0 and 86.0. Group cards Craig McGill 3 scores of 100; Zander Rupapera 99 and 98; John McGill 96 and 99; Eddie Hagenaars 99 and 100. Top shooter of the night was Paul Tidswell with two almosts 99.5 and 99.7. Fellow Master grader, Garry Rowlands, 95.3, 98.5, 96.5. Alan Drake 94.2; Brian Hicks 91.1, 95.2; Murray Chinery 91.3.

Friday April 13 was unlucky for some, but not for some of our shooters, including Paul Longstaff who shot a very impressive 99.5 in his first counting card of the evening, Brian Hicks who shot very well scoring 97.4 and 96.4 and Bob Bramley with 97.2, 95.0 and double card 97.4/95.3. D-graders Boston Taylor and Henry Armond continue their friendly competition with both shooting 95.2 which Boston backed up with 86.1 while Henry's second card was 93.4. Keely Burnell shot an almost-personal best 87.0 and 100 group card. There was consistent shooting from Clare Bramley with 96.2 and a double 95.2/95.3. Paul Tidswell shot the only other high score of 99.4 as well as 98.5, 195.7; Garry Rowlands



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QUALITY PAINTER AND PAPERHANGER - Ph: Bryan McNeil 027 465 8631

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BUDGET ADVICE every second Wednesday at Coastal Care. 9.30 - 12.30. Phone 0800 333 048

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NEW CLINIC - starting 9th Feb
No. 4 Butlers Lane, Oakura
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Contact Nigel Cliffe - South Taranaki Acupuncture
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Hawera - Opunake - Oakura

WANTED TO BUY

SCRAP METAL - for all scrap metal Taranaki wide, give us a call. Molten Metals (06) 751 5367.
www.moltenmetals.co.nz

GRAZING

GRAZING AVAILABLE fro Dairy Heifers for May to May period. Phone Richard 027 510 9667

PUBLIC NOTICES



OPUNAKE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Meeting 1st MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 5.30PM
Hughsons & Associates Boardroom at the Opunake Business Centre, 23 Napier St, Opunake (opposite the CoastalCare Medical Centre)

Orimupiko Reserves Trust AGM

Of the following reservations.
Open to all whanau with an interest in the following land blocks:
Orimupiko Pt 12 (Marae), Orimupiko Pa Sec 32 BLK 1X (Urupa), Orimupiko 1 (Land).
26.05.18@Orimupiko Marae, Eltham Rd, Opunake@10am
Agenda:
1. Mihi/Karakia 2. Apologies 3. Previous minutes
4. Matters arising 5. Financial support 6. Chairs report
7. Urupa/Land report 8. General business 9. Election of new trustees (2 or 5, Beneficiaries' input)
J Jones - Secretary Shared kai at 12.30

BEING A PARENT

Being a good parent or guardian is one of the toughest, yet most important, jobs you can do. Family Works can support you as you negotiate this journey.



GROWING TOGETHER

This group supports parents of pre-school and primary school children by building communication skills, understanding child development and providing them with strategies to manage problem behaviours.
Opunake Co-operating Parish, @ Havelock St
Six Thursday evenings 10th May - 14th June, 2018
6.30pm - 8.30pm
For more information or to register phone:
New Plymouth (06) 758 5037.
Stratford (06) 765 0531.
Or Hawera (06) 278 6385.

CHURCH NOTICES

Opunake & Okato Co-operating Parish CHURCH SERVICES

St Paul's Opunake Co-op & Rahoitu Opunake Cooperating Parish St Pauls, Havelock St 9.30am every Sunday and the Rahoitu - 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
Maniaia - Sacred Heart - 1st, 3rd Sat at 5pm (2nd, 4th & 5th Sat at Hawera's St Josephs)
Kaponga - St Patricks, Sunday 8.45am All welcome

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 6.00pm Sunday at Hempton Hall. Everyone welcome

SITUATIONS VACANT

RAHOTU FOUR SQUARE

JOB VACANCY
Convenience Store
Experience required.
Email CV to rahotu4square@gmail.com or contact Dipal on 06 763 8862



The Opunake & Coastal News is now available in newstands throughout Taranaki at the following locations:
Challenge Spotswood Petrol Station
The Health shop, Centre City
Westside Grille, Tukapa Street, Westown
Outside First National, Car Victoria and High Streets, Hawera

Look for the Newspaper Reading Cow on the newstands



PUBLIC NOTICES

SAVE OUR PUB



- COMMUNITY MEETING -
12.00PM FRIDAY 27TH APRIL 2018
RAHOTU TAVERN

You are all invited to attend a community meeting conducted by TSB Realty regarding the sale of the Rahoitu Tavern...

- Land, buildings + business + GST if any
- Lease opportunity - to the right person
- Current Liquor Licence Expires August 2018 (unlikely to be renewed)

Please RSVP for catering purposes by the 24th April 2018.

For more information or to immediately express serious interest in this profitable business opportunity, please contact

Jon Douds 027 292 8143 or Brendan Crowley 027 241 2817



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nz.open2view.co.nz/408282



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

Our next issue is due out on May 11.
Call us on 06 761 7016 to be in it!

What's On Listings



JONATHAN YOUNG

Need to chat with your Local MP Jonathan Young? Jonathan will now hold his meetings at Coastal Care. Refer advert for details. For more information phone: 06 7591363 Or email newplymouthmp@parliament.govt.nz

OPUNAKE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Usually meet on the 1st Monday of each month. April meeting to be held on Tuesday the 17th April. Refer advert.

OPUNAKE COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB

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

SCHNITZEL NIGHT

Every Wednesday at the Stony River Hotel, Okato

COASTALCARE – LISA KEEN AUDIOLOGY

Wednesdays 9am - 5pm, for an appointment call 027 591 4222 - 0800 555 676

TAI CHI BASICS

Thursdays 9am – 10am at Coastal Care Community Room

NIGEL CLIFFE ACUPUNCTURE

Thursdays 11am-4pm at Coastalcare, Opunake.

CLUB HOTEL TEXAS HOLDEM POKER

Wednesday and Thursday Nights at the Club Hotel.

CLUB HOTEL POOL

Tuesday Nights. New players welcome.

OPUNAKE SURF INN

Every day free pool. Every Sunday afternoon. Pool comp

COASTAL YOUNG FARMERS

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

TARANAKI COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME, MANAIA

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

EGMONT EUCHRE CLUB

Meets every Thursday 1pm at the Opunake Bowling Club

CAPE EGMONT HISTORIC LIGHT & MUSEUM

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

ELTHAM BUSINESS ASSOCIATION FRIDAY MARKETS

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

PREGNANCY HELP TARANAKI

Is now in OPUNAKE! Are you pregnant? Do you have a baby or young family? To hear more, like us on facebook www.facebook.com/preghelptaranaki/. Please come and meet us and find out how we may be able to help you.

OPUNAKE FRIENDSHIP CLUB

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

TAINUI DAY CENTRE - ST BARNABAS CHURCH HALL, 141 Tasman Street Opunake.

Each Monday at 10 am - 12:30 pm. \$2 donation. Join us for “Steady as you Go” gentle, happy exercise. Enjoy morning tea, over any discussion which is topical or deemed helpful. Chose a quiet game or join in with bowls or golf. If preferred just sit and watch. Stay as long or little time as you feel comfortable; but be assured of a very warm welcome. From time to time we invite speakers from different organizations who would prove most interesting and beneficial.

We look forward to seeing all our regular folk and meeting new members; we feel sure you will soon make new friends or find someone you already know.

Need more information call Jenny 7628080 or Glenys 6558025 they will pleased to help.

MOVIES AT EVERYBODY'S THEATRE IN OPUNAKE

Playing several days and nights each week. Refer timetable and ad for details..

PUKE ARIKI

Permian Monsters: Life before the Dinosaurs! March 10 - September 9 2018

The Golden Age: 20th Century Wood Engravings March 21 – July 29 2018

PAUL APOSTLE OF CHRIST

At Everybodys Theatre, Opunake on Sunday April 29 at 1pm and on Tuesday May 1 at 7pm. Refer editorial for Preview.

ART EXHIBITION NATIONAL COMPETITION WITH LYSAGHT WATT GALLERY

May 4 to June 10 at the Lysaght Watt Art Gallery, 4-6 Union St, Hawera. Refer advert for details.

TARANAKI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING

Mon. May7, 7.30pm. NPGHS Soc Sci Block, Rm O6. Speaker Jess Hilman (GNS) “Gas hydrates around New Zealand – geohazard and resource potential”

TRAVELSMART ARCTIC, ANTARCTICA & ICELAND EVENING

May 9 at Travelsmart New Plymouth. Refer last issue’s advert for detail.

FAMILY WORKS ‘GROWING TOGETHER’ SUPPORT GROUP WORKSHOP

Thursdays from May 10 to June 14 at Opunake Co-operating Parish. Refer advert for details.

STRATFORD A&P ASSN AGM

Monday May 14 2018 7.30pm at Skinner Hall Showgrounds, Stratford. A light supper will be provided. All Welcome.

BDO FARMING EXPO - ‘OPEN TO CHANGE’

Thursday May 17 from 10am to 2.30pm. At the War Memorial Centre, 55 Miranda St, Stratford. Refer advert for details.

PIHAMA LAVENDAR MARKET DAY.

May 20 at Pihama Lavendar. At the old Dairy factory, Main Rd, Pihama. Refer advert.

TUMAHU HALL AGM

May 26, 2417 Wiremu Rd, Okato at 7pm..

ORIMUPIKO RESERVES TRUST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At Orimupiko Marae, Elham Rd, Opunake on May 26 at 10am. Shared kai at 12.30pm. Refer advert for details.

ASIAN ADVENTURE WITH NICOLA FROM YOU TRAVEL, ELTHAM

Experience Singapore, Cambodia and Vietnam with You Travel. Travel times are from October 21 to November 2 2018. Refer advert for further details and contacts.

Loving Vincent

I’ve been to a number of events recently at the Len Lye Centre in addition to touring the iconic building named after and intended to pay homage to the artist Len Lye whose wind wand stands as another visible monument to the pioneering kinetic artist and film maker who linked movement to art.

These include a string quartet, a film about the British artist David Hockney and most recently, the award winning Loving Vincent about the artist Vincent Van Gogh.

The latter traced the life of the tortured artist focussing on his last few days raising questions as to whether he did commit suicide, whether his death was an accident or foul play. He was shot in the stomach. It also cleared up a few commonly held misconceptions that his brother Theo to whom he was very close and died six months after his brother, committed suicide. In fact Theo, a successful art dealer, died of natural causes from dementia paralytica, an infection of the brain.

Billed as the world’s first fully painted feature film, Loving Vincent was fascinating, not just for its subject matter but in how it told the story which was via Vincent Van Gogh’s paintings. It was a herculean ef-

fort, took four years to make and involved 125 artists who recreated the artist’s works in his distinctive style.

Visually breathtaking, it literally bring to life the works of the painter credited as the father of contemporary art.

In his short life Vincent did 800 paintings and sold just one in his lifetime.

There were interviews with his doctor, the proprietress at the inn he was staying when he died and other acquaintances.

The film ended with the moving tribute to the artist, the song Vin-

cent by Don McLean.

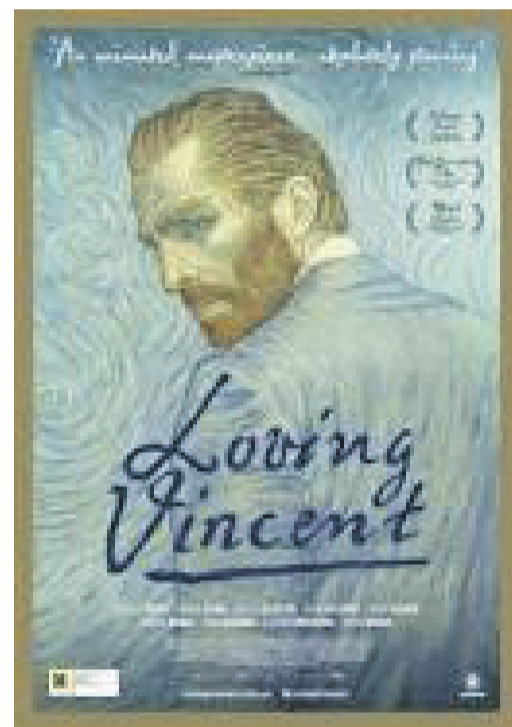
It was in all a truly a visual and auditory experience.

The Len Lye centre was the vision of former mayor Harry Duynhoven who I interviewed when he first became mayor.

As a contemporary art museum the Len Lye centre has become a real focus of New Plymouth’s growing reputation as a cultural centre and is an absolute gem.

Thank you to the organisers for bringing another interesting and enriching experience to us all.

Bernice McKellar



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Your community newspaper, part of the independent community newspaper network.

nz community newspapers

OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

www.cna.org.nz

Chairman's chat

Combined effort to make a future that works for Taranaki

Kia ora tātou katoa, greetings to you all. One of the many great things about Taranaki is the way our people can put differences aside and work together to achieve common goals. The latest example is Tapuae Roa – Make Way for Taranaki, which brings together councils, iwi, business and central government to focus on unlocking the best opportunities for regional growth and success.



The initiative has gained greater urgency with a recent Government announcement leaving a big question mark over the future of the oil and gas sector, one of the region's key industries. On the plus side, however, Regional Economic Development Minister Shane Jones was in town a few weeks ago promising \$20 million of investment in key projects identified in Tapuae Roa's new Action Plan.

The projects are in four streams – energy, food, the Māori economy and the visitor sector – and range from the Taranaki Crossing to a New Energy Development Centre, from restoring the Taranaki Cathedral to upgrading the Forgotten World Highway.

Given the regional uncertainties arising from the Government's energy policy, it will be vital for the Minister to make good on his

energy policy, it will be vital for the Minister to make good on his promises. For example, we hope that by announcing a \$400,000 study to 'put the focus on the Forgotten World Highway', Minister Jones is sending a clear signal that it won't be too long before this route is completely sealed and made safe and reliable.

And the success of the Taranaki Crossing relies on the Government pulling its weight in Egmont National Park, so we're eager for early signs that it shares our vision of developing world-class attractions to bring tourists to the region.

In the meantime, the wider Taranaki Crossing project is a key element in the regional Long-Term Plan this Council has been putting together for the coming decade. Thank you to all those who've made useful comments and submissions on the proposal to make Pukeiti a pivotal point in the new route. Your views will be considered carefully before final decisions are made in the coming weeks, so watch this space. - David MacLeod, Chairman

Tapuae Roa Action Plan (PDF, 6.8MB):
www.bit.ly/TaranakiActionPlan

Around & about the region

Web users, what do you think?



Users of the Council's website, www.trc.govt.nz, are invited to complete a quick, anonymous survey about how they use the site and whether it meets their needs. "We're always looking at ways to improve the website, and this feedback will give us valuable guidance," says the Director-Corporate Services, Mike Nield. "The survey consists of just a few questions, and there's also space for users to suggest any improvements they'd like to see."

www.trc.govt.nz/website-survey/

Improving lifestyles

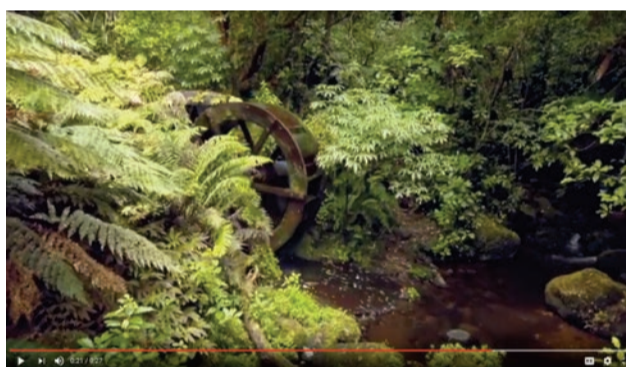
A Pukeiti secret revealed ...

What's the best thing about Pukeiti? Regional Gardens Manager Greg Rine needs only one word to describe his favourite aspect of the iconic rainforest rhododendron garden. Watch this video to find out what it is.

Greg also notes in the video that Pukeiti looks good all year round, and the new Rainforest Centre means it is an all-weather destination. And more good news: The café is open until the end of May – check out its cosy autumn menu.

Greg's video is part of a series of short clips in which current and former Pukeiti staff talk about different aspects of the property. These videos will all be available for viewing in the new Pukeiti Lodge after it opens in September.

All three of the Council's gardens – Pukeiti, Tūpare and Hollard Gardens – are open all day, every day, and each is the venue for mostly free public events that continue through the year. Coming up soon are a tour and talk on Tūpare's stunning maple collection as it puts on a spectacular autumn display (20 May), a Hollard



Video: www.bit.ly/PukeitiSecret

Gardens workshop on chickens in the garden (27 May), Pukeiti's annual bird survey (3 June) and a nature photography exhibition at Tūpare (9 and 10 June).

For more information on events, see www.trc.govt.nz/whats-on/ and for more information about each of the gardens, go to www.pukeiti.nz, www.tupare.nz and www.hollardgardens.nz.

Rural wisdom from JK

The region's rural-dwellers have an opportunity to hear Sir John Kirwan speak at forums organised by the Taranaki Rural Support Trust and Westpac. The rugby great will share his experiences and anecdotes, focusing on resilience and courage in the rural community, in two sessions on Thursday 10 May – at The Hub, Hawera (2pm-3.30pm) and at Sandford Events Centre, Opunake (7pm-8.30pm). Refreshments will be offered and the events are free. But seats are limited, so it's essential to RSVP to julie.mitchell@westpac.co.nz, stating location and any dietary requirements..

www.bit.ly/JKinTaranaki (PDF, 230KB)

Digital aid for farmers

The Taranaki Regional Council will lead the development of a simple digital tool to help the region's hillcountry farmers assess the viability of planting trees on their properties. The Government's Provincial Growth Fund will allocate \$250,000 for the project, Regional Economic Development Minister Shane Jones has announced. It could lead to jobs, and environmental and social benefits, Mr Jones said.
www.bit.ly/TreePortal

Supporting livelihoods

Flood diversion scheme to keep Opunake in the dry

The flooding threat posed to Opunake by the Hihiwera Stream has been addressed in a joint Taranaki Regional Council-South Taranaki District Council project that is nearing completion.

The stream and a small tributary burst their banks and flooded properties in the township in August 2015, prompting investigations into the best way to reduce flood flows through the town.

The flood diversion project was designed and approved in 2017 after the Taranaki Regional Council and South Taranaki District Council had studied the options and gained agreement from owners of land on which some of the work would need to be carried out.



The Hihiwera Stream floods an Opunake property in March 2015.

The project has involved:

- New channels, drains and culverts upstream of the township to divert floodwater away from the Hihiwera Stream and tributaries, to the Otahi Stream to the north (Stage 1) and to the Waiaua River to the south (Stage 2).
- With pressure on the Hihiwera's capacity eased by the first two stages, constructing a channel within the township to divert flood flows from the small tributary on Allison St directly into the stream itself (Stage 3).

"The major works have been completed and all that remains is a bit of tidying up within the town boundaries," says the Taranaki Regional Council's Rivers Manager, Daniel Harrison.

"It's pleasing that it's come in on time and on budget. The scheme is designed to cope with a one-in-100-year flood, so we believe Opunake can be a lot more confident about the future."

Your Councillors

New Plymouth Constituency

Tom Cloke	tom.cloke@trc.govt.nz
David Lean	david.lean@trc.govt.nz
Charlotte Littlewood	charlotte.littlewood@trc.govt.nz
Bev Raine	bev.raine@trc.govt.nz
Craig Williamson	craig.williamson@trc.govt.nz

North Taranaki Constituency

Mike Davey	mike.davey@trc.govt.nz
Donald McIntyre	donald.mcintyre@trc.govt.nz

South Taranaki Constituency

Michael Joyce	michael.joyce@trc.govt.nz
David MacLeod (Chair)	david.macleod@trc.govt.nz
Neil Walker	neil.walker@trc.govt.nz

Stratford Constituency

Matthew McDonald	matthew.mcdonald@trc.govt.nz
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Read the newsletter online:

www.trc.govt.nz/talking-taranaki-newsletter/

Sir John Kirwan to visit South Taranaki with the Rural Support Trust

It has been another difficult year farming with many in the province being challenged by the weather, wet conditions, dry conditions, cyclones and a tornado.

The Rural Support Trust has decided to bring Sir John Kirwan back to Taranaki. The last time in Hawera he had an audience of over 400 people. It was a very enlightening evening, he spoke around his past, growing up, his rugby playing career, his time coaching and the challenges they brought. JK was very open, honest and humorous around the stories that he shared, with a lot of learnings that apply to everyday life.

He explained in depth while he was looking okay on the outside in fact what was going on inside was very different, due to suffering from anxiety attacks.

A lot of his focus is also around keeping things in perspective and remembering not everything is in our control, not letting the little things become big things.

The feedback from those that attended last time was fantastic, with people talking about the event weeks after it had been, don't delay book your set for this community event.

There are two events, both are on May 10, the first at Hawera TSB Hub at 2pm with the second at Opunake Sandford Event Centre at 7pm. There will be a light afternoon tea and supper to follow.

These events are free and would encourage the Rural Community to attend the RSVP information is in the accompanying advert please reply to confirm a place.



The Taranaki Rural Support Trust invite you to a local get-together with Sir John Kirwan

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Delicious desserts!
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Open for brunch, lunch and dinner.

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“Puke Ariki TALKS”

Rediscovering the History of Ketemarae: Dr Caroline Phillips

**Wednesday 2 May, 5.30pm
Puke Ariki Museum Foyer**

Ketemarae was a group of Māori settlements set in a bush clearing near present-day Normanby. It was a significant location during the Land Wars, but afterwards sank from view. Fast forward 150 years and a roading project uncovered parts of an unknown Māori fortification. In order to identify the place, many different strands of information (written and oral histories, old survey plans, aerial photographs, geomagnetic survey, and archaeology) were woven together to revive the history of Ketemarae.

COMIC BOOK DAY
5 MAY 2018
1PM - 4PM
DISCOVER IT!

Activities: BOARD GAMES, FREE COMICS, COSPLAY DRESS UP, FACE PRINTING, MAGIC: THE GATHERING, CARD SWAP.

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY
1st SATURDAY IN MAY!
May 5, 2018
www.freecomicbookday.com

“Puke Ariki”



A word with Sir John Kirwan

The Taranaki Rural Support Trust in conjunction with Westpac invite you to a get-together with Sir John Kirwan.

JK will share his life experiences and anecdotes, with a focus on resilience and courage in the rural community.

Date Thursday 10 May, 2018

Time 2.00pm – 3.30pm
Followed by refreshments

Venue The Hub, Camberwell Road, Hawera

or

Date Thursday 10 May, 2018

Time 7.00pm – 8.30pm
Followed by refreshments

Venue Sanford Events Centre, Opunake

For more information and to confirm your attendance, please contact the Taranaki Rural Support Trust on trst@outlook.co.nz or by calling 0800 787 254.



Award draws record entries



Last year's winner, Mark Rayner and his Yin Yang work

The 2018 Lysaght Watt Trust Art Award presented by the Lysaght Watt Gallery has attracted a record number of entries this year,

96 artists were drawn to the 2018 theme "Rising" an 80% increase. Lynne Walker the Chair of the Lysaght Watt Gallery feels that it was a universal theme that appealed to a wide range of people compared to the 2017

theme of Yin Yang which attracted 54 entries.

The 2017 Winner of the Lysaght Watt Trust Art Award worth \$3000 was Whanganui artist Mark Rayner with his wool rendition of the theme. This year the gallery has received entries from Dunedin in the south to Whangarei in the north and all places in between.

The sixth Annual Awards

Prize giving and gala evening takes place on the May 3 and the Exhibition opens to the public on May 4, closing on June 10.

@#There are seven awards in total including a People's Choice which is awarded at the end of the exhibition and the Gallery committee is very appreciative of all the sponsors who support the Awards and the Gallery.

Musicians join forces after tornado havoc

Unity Wara from New Plymouth will be one of the performers this Sunday at the Rahotu Tavern helping raise funds for the families of Coastal Taranaki affected by the recent tornado.

See story page 31





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Open Daily
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 Tues - Sat 11am-2pm, 5-8.30pm
 Sun - Mon 1-8pm
Menu changing all the time
Lunchtime soup and home-made pastries
Pizzas Thursday & Friday nights - medium and large
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 Laundromat open hotel hours
 49 Main Rd, MANAIA
 Ph: 06 274 8341

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 Growers and Makers
MARKET DAY
 SUNDAY MAY 20 10am - 2pm

ART EXHIBITION
National Competition
 COMPETITION THEME
rising
 LYSAGHT WATT TRUST ART AWARD 2018
 4 May - 10 June
 4-6 Union St HAWERA
 Mon-Fri 10am-4pm Sat 10-1pm
 06 278 7611
www.lysaghtwattgallery.co.nz
Lysaght Watt gallery

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Morriesons Café Bar retain the history but revitalise the present

A new manager has just arrived from Auckland in Gurkirat Singh, to join Jagjeet Singh the assistant manager, along with their chef Akash Thakur. It is important to the management to retain the literary history aspect of the restaurant in Taranaki's best known author Ronald Hugh Morrieson, while meanwhile introducing some new innovations in the way of menu and theme evenings. The restaurant changed hands in November 2017.

Gurkirat already is most impressed with his new town. "People are more welcoming here, friendly and interactive." He adds, "They are chilled out and like to smile."

The staff are understandably proud of their new menu, which has many new dishes with the emphasis on fresh produce (not frozen), free range eggs, and gluten free (GF) food.

They have also extended the hours the restaurant is open - 11am to 9.30pm seven days a week.

The drinks menu is upgraded, with many more varieties of cocktails, a greater range of whisky, the "best" brands of wines and the provision of local craft beers on. Gurkirat and Jagjeet say theirs is the only restaurant in Hawera which has Guinness beer. Their prices are "very competitive." Also available are milkshakes, fruit juices, as well as tea and coffee.

The new menu is divided into Brunch (available until 3pm), Entrée, Dinner, Steaks, Desserts and Kids Meals. Burgers and Pizzas are also included. The Morriesons Tandoori Chicken Pizza should appeal to many patrons. There are also vegetarian options such as Morriesons Vege Pizza and Morriesons Vege Burger.

A feature of their menu is the fresh snapper - cooked the way you like it, crumbed, battered or pan fried. The fish is served with fries, salad, lemon wedges and tartare sauce.

Here is a selection of their delicious meals; for brunch you can have their Big

Brunch - free range eggs, with steak, hash browns, bacon, sausages, grilled tomatoes, mushrooms and fries. For an entrée you can enjoy Crumbed Brie deep fried with salad and cranberry sauce or Battered Scallops with calamari rings, fries and salad. For Dinner Braised Beef Ribs with potato mash, sweet braised carrots and jus may take your fancy - or perhaps you'd prefer hickory BBQ Angus Scotch slathered in

Manuka hickory barbecue sauce.

For dessert you can't go past their cheesecakes with a myriad of flavours. Homemade Brownies sound tempting served with ice cream, whipped cream, berries and chocolate sauce.

The Kids Meals, with very competitive meal prices, are all served with a free sundae which should delight the youngsters. On Sunday nights a child eats for free, for every adult who orders a

meal.

Morriesons have Steak Night every Wednesday from 5pm when Angus steaks can be enjoyed for just \$20 to \$25.

Definitely worth a visit is their Friday Music evenings (6pm-8pm), where the emphasis is on jazz - which was Ron Morrieson's great love. Local singer Leeanne Meikel alternates with Kambra, who deliver a bit of rock n roll as well.

A seafood night is also on

the horizon in the near future for those who love fish and shellfish.

The management have many plans for the future, with extra seating and a new carpet just a couple of improvements. Sky TV is coming soon, so patrons can watch the big sports events, including rugby games, as they happen - live.

Make sure you come along and enjoy the uplifting ambience, friendly service and delicious food at competitive prices very SOON.

We'll end with a few comments from their Visitors Book:

"Very nice meal, excellent service."

"Amazing food, lovely service and the cheesecake was amazing."

"Great service and lovely meals."

"Very friendly staff who were most helpful. Looking forward to coming again."

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A day for Mother

Is Mothers Day a hangover from the annual spring festivals the Greeks held in honour of Rhea, mother of Cronus? Or was it Hilaria, the Roman celebration of the mother goddess Cybele? Or was it the Mothering Sunday celebrated annually on the fourth Sunday in Lent, a celebration which had its origins in 17th Century England, but had disappeared by the 19th Century?

Does Mother's Day owe its origins to Julia Ward Howe? She is best remembered for The Battle Hymn of the Republic, a song which

inspired the Northern troops during the American Civil War. Yet her 1870 Mothers Day Proclamation called on women to rise against war, and she started a Mothers Peace Day observance on the second Sunday in June.

Generally, Anna Jarvis, a childless spinster is regarded as the true mother of Mothers Day. Her inspiration was her own mother Anna Marie Reeves Jarvis. She began by sending carnations, a flower which she felt symbolised a mother's pure love to a church service in Grafton, West Virginia. She lobbied to have Mothers Day declared an official holiday.

By 1911, it was celebrated in almost every state of the union, and on May 8, 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a joint resolution declaring the second Sunday in May as Mothers Day.

And in answer to the question, should it be Mother's Day or Mothers Day, Anna Jarvis trademarked the phrase "Mother's Day," arguing "Mother's" should "be a singular possessive, for each family to honor its mother, not a plural possessive commemorating all mothers in the world."

She died in 1948, aged 84. Mothers Day became

popular in Britain when United States servicemen in World War II brought the practice of celebrating Mothers special day with them across the Atlantic.

Today Mother's Day is celebrated in different countries on different days of the year, but the most popular day is the second Sunday in May, with New Zealand and Australia following the lead of the United States. The United Kingdom and Ireland have reverted to celebrating it on the fourth Sunday in Lent, the day the traditional Mothering Sunday would have been held.

Arts on Tour in Oaonui



Arts on Tour New Zealand Hits South Taranaki with Hopetoun Brown

Tickets are now on sale for the first AOTNZ shows to visit South Taranaki this year - in Oaonui (28 April) and Ohawe (29 April).

2017 Taite Prize finalists Hopetoun Brown will be joined on stage by arguably the country's finest trumpet player, Finn Scholes.

Event Co-ordinator, Jody

Bloor, says the fiery trio will play songs from across the Hopetoun Brown cannon; including their brand new long-player 'Don't Let Them Lock You Up'.

"This edgy show will take us on a fun-filled journey covering blues, soul, funk, jazz, Americana, and stomp as the performers swap trumpets, saxophones, bass clarinets, tubas, trombones and an assortment of strange keyboard instruments," says

Jody.

Jody says the South Taranaki District Council (STDC) together with funding from the TSB Community Trust is bringing a number of AOTNZ shows to South Taranaki between April and November. Towns that will host the shows include Ohawe, Oaonui, Rawhitiroa, Kakaramea, Pihamā, Opunake and Hawera.

"In previous years we have generally had just one show

in South Taranaki, but this year, thanks to funding from TSB Community Trust, we've been able to take more shows to the rural community at a discounted price," she says.

Tickets for the Oaonui and Ohawe shows can be purchased through Opunake LibraryPlus and the South Taranaki i-SITE.



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Musicians join forces after tornado havoc

Some of the very best musicians in Taranaki will come together this Sunday to help raise funds for the families of Coastal Taranaki affected by the recent tornado.

One of the organisers, Ray Hayward, from Raybern Entertainment said that he travelled through Rahotu on the morning that the tornado struck and was stunned by the devastation he saw.

"My heart dropped and I was deeply saddened by what I saw and realised how the lives of people could be changed in a heartbeat", he said.

A day or so later an email from Liz Sinclair, at Pihama Lavender, got the ball rolling to come up with a fundraiser. Ray said, "Liz simply said

we should do something for the tornado victims. I agreed and replied that an afternoon of music would be the way to go".

A meeting was held between the two, and Ray's wife Berna, and the fundraiser was underway. A message via Facebook was sent out to the bands and musicians of Taranaki to see who would be prepared to play at the event. The response was overwhelming with nearly 30 bands and performers agreeing to play. What had originally been an idea to have an afternoon jam session now became a full on concert allowing all those who were performing to have their own time slots.

So the line-up of bands and performers include Selah

Saints, Rythmik Fusion, Laconic Zephyr, Slam, Blistered Fingers, Shady Rudy, Majik Pizza Box, Ellusion, Black Frog, Alan Manu & Friends, Unity Wara, Nganeko Eriwata, Monique Matthews, Boss Heke, Angelica Schumacher,



Local Band Shady Rudy will play at the fundraiser

Wynne Bowers-Mason, Kimba Malloves, Terry Simpson, Ian Wallace, Gypsy Blue, Ash & Aiden, Stu Kemp, Dan Marks, Suzanne Fraser, Mountain Duo and Chloe Danz. Fire eater Emma Barrett will also give a display along with young rock guitarist, Sam.

The event is being held at the Rahotu Tavern from 2.00 – 6.00pm and everyone is encouraged to get along. Entry is a Gold Coin along with a non-perishable food item. The acts will be performing in two areas.

Ray says. "This event could not take place if it wasn't for the amazing support from Mark Dawson from PSL providing all the music equipment, Liz at Pihama Lavender, the

Rahotu Tavern, Rahotu and Pungarehu Lions and NZME who have provided a huge amount of radio and print advertising, and not forgetting the awesome

support from the bands and performers of Taranaki. Also the support of many others including the Fire Service and individuals who have contributed to the day".

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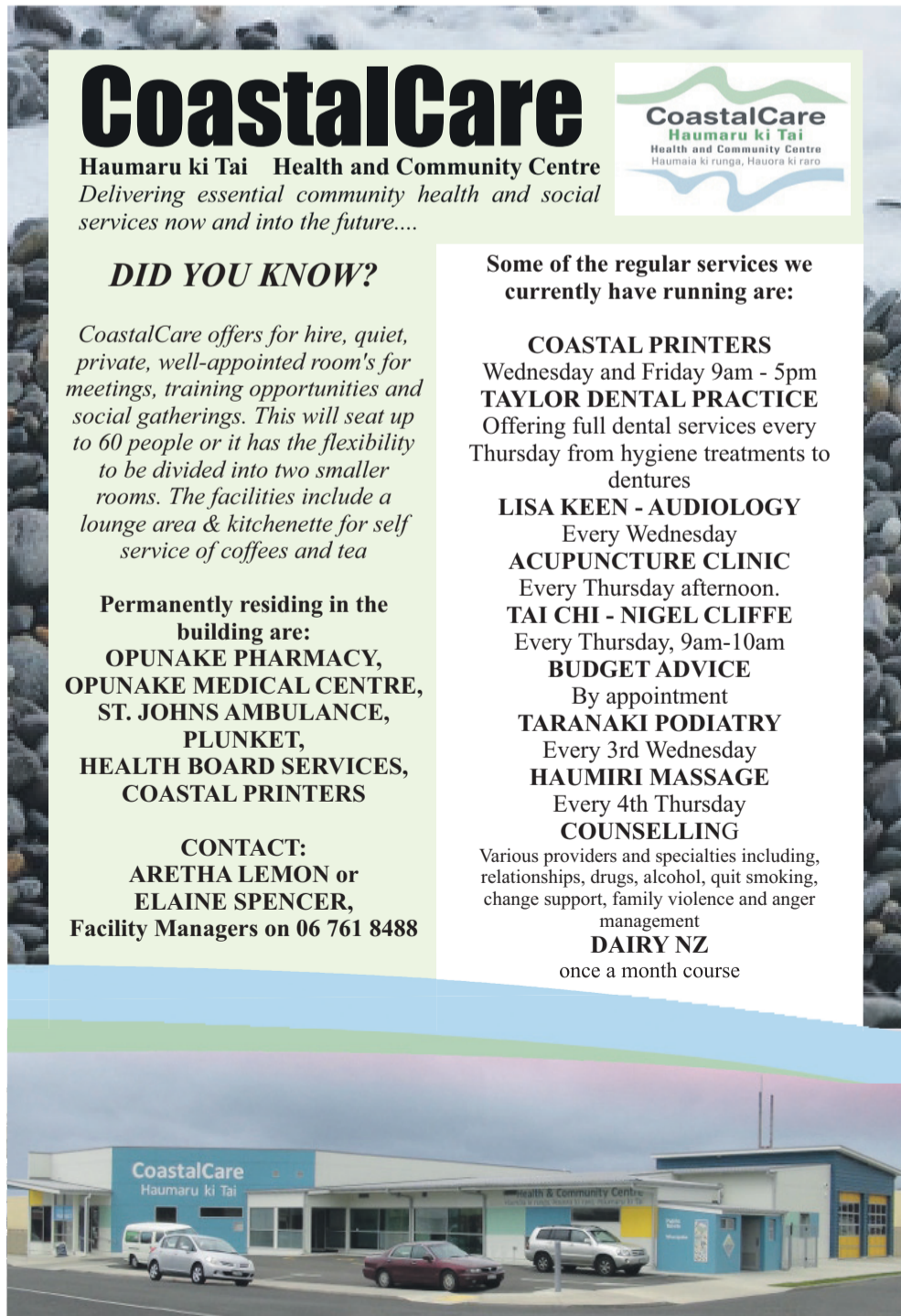
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Lollies, Popcorn, Ice-creams, Chocolate bars, Coffee & Tea For Sale	No Eft-Pos	Adults \$10, Students 4-16yrs \$8, Under 4 free Senior Citizens \$8. ID required for all R movies
SHERLOCK GNOMES Action & Adventure, Animation, Comedy, Kids & Family 1hr 26mins PG Fri 27 th Apr 1pm	LOVE SIMON Drama, Romance 1hr 49mins M: Offensive language, Sexual references Seventeen-year-old Simon is in love. But it's complicated - he hasn't told his friends or family that he's gay, and he doesn't know the identity of the anonymous classmate he's fallen for online. Fri 27 th Apr 7pm Sun 29 th Apr 7pm Sat 5 th May 7pm	
PETER RABBIT Adventure, Animated, Comedy, Kids & Family, Fantasy 1hr 34mins PG: Violence Sat 28 th Apr 1pm Sat 5 th May 1pm	EARLY MAN Adventure, Animated, Comedy, Kids 1hr 29mins PG Course Language Set at the dawn of time, when prehistoric creatures & woolly mammoths roamed the earth, Early Man tells the story of Dug, & sidekick Hognob as they unite his tribe against a mighty enemy Lord Nooth and his Bronze Age City to save their home. Sun 12 th May 1pm	
BLOCKERS Comedy 1hr 42mins R16: Nudity, Drug Use, Offensive Language When three parents discover that their daughters plan to lose their virginity on prom night, they launch a secret one-night operation to foil their children's plans. Wed 2 nd May 7pm Sat 12 th May 7pm	FILM STARS DON'T DIE IN LIVERPOOL Drama, True Story 1hr 45mins M: Sex References, Offensive Language What starts as a vibrant affair between a legendary femme fatale and her young lover quickly grows into a deeper relationship. Their passion is tested to the limits by events beyond their control. Wed 9 th May 7pm Wed 16 th May 1pm	
WALKING OUT !!ARTHOUSE!! Adventure, Drama, Mystery, Thriller, Festival & Independent 1hr 36mins M: Offensive language Teenager David journeys to Montana to hunt with his estranged father, Cal. Father and son are brought together by a brutal encounter in the wilderness. Wed 2 nd May 1pm Fri 4 th May 7pm	DIRTY DANCING Drama, Music, Romance 1hr 40min M Thu 3rd May 7pm	
THE BREAKER UPPERERS Comedy 1hrs 21mins M: Drug Use, Sex Scenes, Offensive Language The Latest Kiwi Movie. Two women cynical in love, set up an agency to break couples up as a way to avoid letting go and moving on with their lives Sun 6 th May 7pm Wed 9 th May 1pm Fri 11 th May 7pm	16 CANDLES Teen Romance, Comedy 1hr 33min PG Thu 10 th May 7pm	

Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
		27 Sherlock Gnomes 1pm Love Simon 7pm	28 Peter Rabbit 1pm Blockers 7pm	29 Love Simon 7pm
2 Walking Out 1pm Blockers 7pm	3 Dirty Dancing 7pm	4 Walking Out 7pm	5 Peter Rabbit 1pm Love Simon 7pm	6 *BOUTIQUE** The Breaker Upperers 7pm
9 Breaker Upperers 1pm Film Stars don't die in Liverpool 7pm	10 16 Candles 7pm	11 The Breaker Upperers 7pm	12 Early Man 1pm Blockers 7pm	13 Avengers 7pm



Farming through the clouds

With Gaylene Findlay, Partner BDO Taranaki

All over the world farmers are using drones to help increase yields while reducing costs and environmental impact.

Indeed, New Zealand's farming, forestry and energy sectors could reap up to \$190 million in economic gains if regulations enabled unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to safely operate beyond the line-of-sight of a human operator, according to a Callaghan Innovation report.

Although still in its infancy, the use of drones in New Zealand is growing and revolutionising the agriculture industry with crop spraying, analysing soil and fields, planting and monitoring crops, and mapping and checking livestock and the farm.

There are also many examples of where drones are being used as part of the normal everyday farming operations such as a \$2,000 drone being used to photograph 160 hectares to monitor changes, identify water leaks and checking



Ben Plummer from Drone Technologies will be at the BDO Taranaki Farming Expo May 17 to discuss modern farming applications for drones.

fence lines. Or the drone that takes 40 minutes to map a 238 ha farm to track stock grazing and plan r spring rotations.

While you may not need a licence to operate this vehicle under 25 kgs, there are rules to follow under the New Zealand Civil Aviation

Authority (NZCAA) and some common-sense drone etiquette to keep everyone and everything safe. Any drone operator needs to make themselves familiar with the rules www.caa.govt.nz/rpas and view the safety video at www.airshare.co.nz.

In a nutshell, you must take all practicable steps to minimise hazards to persons, property and other aircraft, fly only in daylight, give way to all crewed aircraft, be able to see the aircraft with your own eyes (not through binoculars, a monitor, or smartphone), not fly your aircraft higher than 120 metres (400 feet) above ground level, have knowledge of airspace

restrictions, not fly closer than four kilometres from any aerodrome, have consent from anyone you want to fly above, have the consent of the property owner or person

in charge of the area you are wanting to fly above.

Drones can cost anywhere between \$30 and \$10,000 and as with most things, you get what you pay for. Some

advice would be to do some research before you buy – depending on the purpose you would need to consider flight time, battery life and work conditions. Ask around the neighbourhood for feedback or put it on your next birthday list to have a play and get some practice before taking the next step.

If you are thinking about investing, drones used on the farm for photography and surveillance are tax deductible and can be depreciated at 50% diminishing value or 40% straight line. Talk to your insurance adviser about cover (including third party) and any restrictions on your policy.

Ultimately, drones can save farmers time, money and resources. Farmers can find out more about how to use drones at the BDO Taranaki Farming Expo on Thursday May 17 at the War Memorial Centre Stratford, from 10 am – 2.30 pm. www.bdo.nz/farmingexpo



Drones can save farmers time, money and resources. Farmers can find out more about how to use drones at the BDO Taranaki Farming Expo

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BDO Farming Expo

OPEN TO CHANGE

Thursday 17 May 2018, 10.00am - 2.30pm

War Memorial Centre, 55 Miranda St, Stratford

Regardless of how you and your business fared this season, to be sustainable in the future, it is important to be "Open to Change".

Join a range of speakers including former Olympic rower and cyclist Hamish Bond to discuss all things farming in Taranaki.

Event sponsor:



Register: www.bdo.nz/farmingexpo



Achieving sustainability on your farm is easier than you think!

The secret lies in a cow-centred approach

Join Pat & Cynthia at the BDO Farming Expo to discover how "asking the cows" can lead to better health, welfare and productivity



Pat Poletti
BVSc

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