



OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

Vol. 23 No. 5 April 19, 2012
www.opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

Published every
Thursday Fortnight

Phone and Fax 761-7016
A/H 761-8206
for Advertising and Editorial
ISSN 1171-0624

Inside...



Eltham Cheese Day success for Marissa Clough (middle). See page 7.



Alana wins the Taranaki Rose of Tralee. Can she go on and win the NZ title? Turn to page 14.



Have you climbed it lately? Almost a century old. See page 9.

Fracking under investigation page 5

Dog remains missing - disturbing possibility

There has been a disturbing development in the situation regarding John Harris' missing dog. John received a phone call by a man who stated that the dog had been shot. The caller didn't give his name, but was reasonably specific about the time and

place of the alleged incident. For example, the caller said the dog was shot in the Wilson Road to Hickey Place vicinity, Opunake. Is the call a hoax? - it's hard to say.

John spent time in the aforementioned area asking people whether they had

heard any loud noises or observed any untoward or unusual activity. So far, he has had no relevant feedback.

If anyone has any useful information, especially if they heard a loud bang consistent with a gun going off, they need to contact the

Opunake police - information can be given on a confidential basis. Alternatively, we are happy to receive any information on the same confidential basis.

Meanwhile, there has been a lot of concern and anger concerning the situation.

One lady said, "Whenever I go out for a walk, I'm looking all around for signs of John's dog". She added, "I hope he gets his dog back soon, actually".

Another summed up what many people are thinking. "It's just terrible isn't it".

Character - not just raw talent



Hurricanes Coach Mark Hammett

A special guest spoke recently to a crowd of rugby supporters in South Taranaki at Lower Inaha Road, Manaia. Mark Hammett, Head Coach of the Hurricanes rugby team, was the keynote

speaker at the annual Taranaki Community Rugby Trust Farm Field Day on Wednesday April 11. He held his audience spellbound, as they listened - seated on hay bales in a haybarn on the farm - to his amusing anecdotes from

his days as a senior rugby player, including playing for the All Blacks. Outstanding rugby player Beauden Barrett was in the audience.

Mark spoke of his role as Hurricanes coach and the flak he took when he let go several senior players to make room for fresh, young talent. He admitted he was quite badly affected. "Sometimes I didn't want to get out of bed", he admitted.

However, he assured his audience that the changes were crucial to allow such emerging players as Beauden Barrett - surely an All Black of the near future - a chance to reach their full potential with playing experience for the Hurricanes. "If we didn't make this decision, we would lose them", he explained.

Mark also explained how character was very important in the modern rugby player, not just raw talent. He expanded this to explain how character and setting a good example was so crucial - not just in rugby, but in life in general.

He also spoke movingly of visiting a young cancer sufferer in hospital, also called Mark (a keen Crusaders fan), armed with various rugby goodies (e.g. balls, posters). When he returned next day with other goodies he was told that the youngster had died. His message was that there was a lot in life beyond rugby and winning as a player and coach.

Near the end of his speech, Mark said he had high hopes for the Hurricanes. "What we do each week is prepare to win. I want to win every game", However, he had a word of caution. "There are no easy games for us".

The new CEO of Taranaki rugby, Neil Partington was introduced. He had a word of

praise for Beauden Barrett. "Great to have you here - we need players of your calibre". Winning the position from 30 applicants he said, "I'm grateful to have this role". He concluded, "I get really excited about what the

was going from strength to strength, allowing substantial funds to be donated to help emerging rugby players in the province. A \$40,000 donation to community rugby was announced - an increase on last year. Ray



New Taranaki Rugby CEO Neil Pennington at the podium. The Ranfurly Shield to his right, on the ground Ray Barron and Michael Joyce (right) listen attentively.

future holds".

There were several other people who spoke, notably Ray Barron, who is the Chairperson of the Trust. He explained how the farm

said the farm, which has been going for less than four years, is on target to produce 190,000kg milksolids (MS) this year, a big hike on 2011's result. Ray concluded, "It

Continued page 3

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EDITORIAL

Church 100yr Reunion

St. David's Presbyterian Church, Otorohanga is celebrating 100 years on the weekend of 19th & 20th May 2012. For further information or registration please contact Aileen Berrigan 07 8737721 email: goldiedog@xtra.co.nz.

Dog stealing ratbags

If the rat bags who stole John Harris' dog have any self respect they will return it - or leave a phone number where it can be picked up.

He is an elderly, widowed guy in a wheelchair. And he doesn't just deliver pamphlets locally. He also puts a lot of time, at his own expense, into an organisation that helps disabled people throughout Taranaki. Unlike those 'low lifes' who are unable to think beyond helping themselves.

You can't convince me that with such a small population someone doesn't know something. So why don't they have the balls to speak up? Because if a guy like him who has given his whole life to the area can't see out his old age without community support when this sort of crap goes on, Opunake is stuffed.

John Leith

Oakura

It is with disquiet that I learnt recently of the intended closure of New Plymouth Prison, with no plans of replacing it with an equivalent facility in the New Plymouth region. Wanganui has been mentioned as the nearest prison of the same capacity for these prisoners to be placed, but *this is just too far away*.

There are many victims of crime, not least the families of people incarcerated. It surely should be seen as part of the rehabilitation

process that prisoners are able to be in close proximity to their families. One thinks of young children, who not only have cope with the fact that their parent is no longer in the home, as well as possible unkindness from outsiders. But to be deprived of their parent as well, seems as unnecessary as it is sad. For many families the option of regular visits to Wanganui will be financially out of the question.

Having been on a visit to the New Plymouth Prison

recently, I was struck at how solid it was, even if the building dates from an earlier part of our history. It would seem that the decision to close must have a lot to do with saving money. However, I hope the Government will rethink this decision and listen to the counsel of public figures such as Mayor Harry Duynhoven, who have spoken out against the decision.

Rolland McKellar.

AO words we want to hear a lot less of

Ever get sick of words that are annoying because you've heard them used - endlessly. Or are just annoying anyway. Here's our Top Eight.

1. **Munted.** Nothing in Christchurch was damaged - just munted. This word is also a candidate for the most annoying word of the century.
2. **Awesome.** One of our staff bought something in a shop. "Awesome", said the assistant as she handed over the change.

3. **Gutted.** This word is used indiscriminately - no matter how trivial the misfortune. "I dropped my ice cream on the floor - I was absolutely gutted".
4. **Going forward.** This is a newish one, usually employed by high flyers in business or politics.
5. **Package.** Usually used to describe the obscenely high salary some top executive will get (plus performance

- bonuses), while the real workers who work for a pittance struggle to live on 1% of the 'package' their boss gets.
6. **Legend.** Often reserved for someone you've barely heard of - often in a sporting context.
7. **World renowned.** Tends to be applied to a New Zealander - often a scientist - you've never heard of.
8. **A real character.** Usually someone you'd never want to spend more than one minute with.

B.B.C. Bible Believers Corner Resurrection

There are guards at Mohammed's tomb awaiting his resurrection. The Buddha's body was cremated and various parts are in monuments, such as in the temple of the tooth in Sri Lanka. The shrine of Baha u llah in Bahji near Acre Israel contains the remains of the founder of the Bahai movement. Confucius is buried in his home town of Qufu. The tomb of Jesus of Nazareth is empty.

If there is one key difference between the leaders of other religions and Christianity it

is that Jesus rose from the dead. And what is more incredible is that He told people that He would rise from the dead. And then He did it!

The biggest unbelievers were originally Jesus' own disciples. The 18 armed Roman Guards certainly believed he had risen, and so did the Jewish religious leaders. The guards there at the time saw the stone rolled back and they knew there would be trouble. Failure to guard means death. They had failed. The Church leaders of the time also knew the resurrection was true. They paid the soldiers to spread the false story that thieves had stolen the body. That had to be false as the guards were alive to tell that tale, and as we know, failure to guard meant death.

But the disciples took some convincing. Mary Magdalene claimed to have seen Jesus but no one quite believed her. Then two disciples heading back to Emmaus were met by a third person. When He joined them in a meal and broke the bread they suddenly recognised who He was.

They ran back to the others and told their story. And then Jesus Himself was among them.

They were scared; it must be a spirit, a ghost. But Jesus asked for some food and He ate bread and broiled fish. A spirit cannot eat food. At last they believed.

He had conquered death. He had been to Hell and returned. He had defeated the lord of this earth, and

He will return very soon now to make good His claim as King of Kings, Lord of Lords, God Himself.

Do you believe He has risen? Are you ready for Him to return?

Richard Oliver
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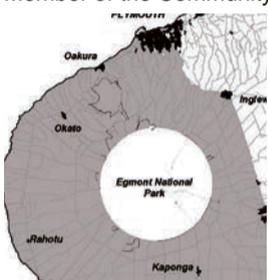
e-mail: Advertising ads@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz
Editorial editorial@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz
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website: www.opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

Editor Bernice M'Kellar -
Production Carol Marshall
Journalists Rolland M'Kellar
Kathryn Stanley

Delivery: Thursday, fortnightly

Registered as a newspaper.
Member of the Community Newspapers Association of NZ



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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Character - not just raw talent

Continued from page 1.

was an outstanding achievement by all people, especially you the rugby fraternity”.

The 160 hectare farm is leased from Origin Energy Resources – their Kupe plant is nearby. Another speaker was Max Murray of Origin,

who said his firm appreciated being part of a joint partnership. “Rugby’s an important part of the community’s structure”, he said. “It’s important for youth to get out there and participate”, he added. Alluding to storm damage at Kupe he said, “If

you see anything that does not belong on a farm, it’s probably ours” – to laughter. Another speaker Michael Joyce, who is Project Manager and Farm Consultant for the Trust farm, paid tribute to the farm’s sharemilkers, James Topliss and Abby

Boag, who are leaving for a new venture in the South Island. He said much of the farm’s success was the result of their endeavours and commitment. “They put their heads down and turned this place around to what it is today”, he said.

He also welcomed the farm’s new sharemilkers,

Charlie and Jody McCaig, who take over on June 1.

“Rebranding Opunake”

The new president of the Opunake Business Association Monique Sinclair was elected at the Opunake Business Association’s recent AGM.

Monique who has gamely and admirably shaved off her hair to raise money for cancer, after being elected to the position towards the end of the meeting indicated she clearly is going to be a proactive president giving a short and inspiring address about “rebranding Opunake” and focussing not just on business but the wider area.

“We’re all busy. We can focus on how we can help each other. How we interweave together,” she said.

Her election followed guest speaker Whanganui Member of Parliament Chester Borrows.

He gave an interesting address which ranged over a range of subjects and included a few funny anecdotes about fellow MPs.

There were interesting insights into other MPs. Like Winston Peters who Chester said was “good company” but “If he’s not in the media today he’s working out how he can do it tomorrow.”



Newly elected president of the Opunake Business Association Monique Sinclair.

On a more serious note Chester acknowledged we were getting into difficult times. “We’ve got to pay our bills. You can’t keep borrowing.”

He spoke about MMP hinting at the National Government’s lack of coalition part-

ners which could affect the outcome of the next election. “The interesting thing about MMP - we might not be here in three years,” he remarked “looking at the parties lining up.” And this was despite the last election being such a good result for National.

He also spoke about new Government policy - young people being “work ready” and having to pass a drug test, being accountable.

Also instead of handing out a benefit to say a woman under 20 raising children alone, paying the rent and offering budget advice “not so much because they don’t trust her - we don’t trust the men hanging round.”

He spoke also of the competition for jobs - of someone who said they had applied for 30 jobs and had just three acknowledgements of their application.

He spoke about looking after your customers and “buying locally”. Things are going to get a bit more difficult he said.

Chester also spoke about the construction of Parliament which was interesting.

He is a Minister outside of Cabinet - one of eight - four drawn from the National Party and 4 from their coalition partners. The former policeman and qualified lawyer, Chester Borrows is Associate Minister of Justice and Social Development and Minister of Courts involved with youth justice, youth crime and benefit fraud.



Hon Chester Borrows, an entertaining guest speaker.



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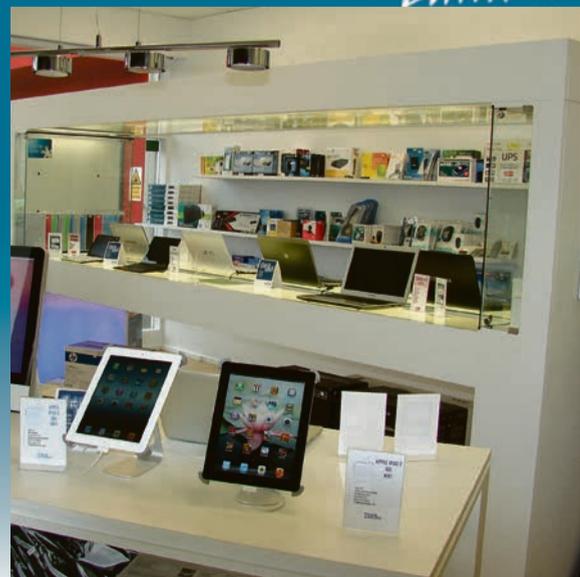
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Councillor's Comment



Ian Armstrong

The Council's Draft Long Term Plan has just been released and submissions are being called for. This plan is an important document for Council as it lays out what

the council expects to do over the next 10 years, how much the work is expected to cost and how it will be funded. It is expected that 60% of council's revenue over the next 10 years will come from rates so this is going to have a direct effect on most of us. Whilst the bulk of the large capital projects council had planned to undertake are done, the last major project is an upgrade of the Waimate West water supply system. This will enable council to meet the Government's water standards. The council is expecting debt to be \$102m

in 2012/13 increasing to \$145 by 2021/22. As explained above we are almost fully committed to the 2013/14 debt level however there is still a considerable amount of discretion as to the level in later years. This can be altered by changes in spending on items such as the planned upgrade of the Hawera Motor Camp, the upgrade of the likes of the Kaponga Swimming pool, and the improvement of roads beyond just renewing seal, such as is being done at the moment to the Kiri Road where considerable widening is being carried out. Faster

repayment levels to reduce debt will have an initial impact on rates however as debt reduces this will then allow the rate burden to be reduced. What is important is for us as Councillors to hear what you the public want. Submissions can be very brief and can be lodged at the LibraryPlus centres sent by mail to the Council or emailed to the council through its website at www.stdc.co.nz I encourage you to have your say.

Ian Armstrong

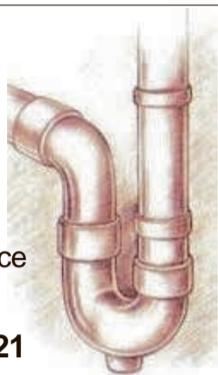
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For You Men out there - we need you here for a lifetime. I know myself that my husband has always said to me, "I don't need to lose weight and my eating and drinking is okay". This is by his standards of course you know!

So I asked him to jump on my special scales, which measured his visceral body fat at 15 (It does depend on your age, gender and weight). Only then did he realise that he did need to come and join us ladies on The Weight Loss Challenge in Opunake.

It has been 10 weeks so far and his thinking has changed dramatically and he now knows that having smaller food portions, making better food choices and exercising regularly is so important.

We both plan our exercises and food and write them in our diaries; we take turns in cooking our meals (Yes ladies, he can cook) and basically support each other when ever we can.

His overall energy levels have increased, as has his positive thinking and realizing about food, the amounts, and knowing that it is worth

having a healthier lifestyle. This is by his standards! So come and join us all at our next weight loss challenge. I would love to see more men participating with us on our weight loss journey.

Big progress is being

made with my group having lost 69.2 kgs and Sharon's Group 91.4 kgs, with a total weight loss for the Opunake Group of 160kgs. Keep it up Challenges! We are in the home straight! One more weigh in on the 25 April and

our Presentation night is the 2 May. So come on guys. I Challenge You! Get fit and get healthier with us all."

Yours Claire Mclean

Applications open for Storm Relief Fund

Applications are now open for people affected by the 3 March storm event which hit large parts of South Taranaki last month.

The call for applications follows the establishment of a Mayoral Relief Fund launched by South Taranaki Mayor, Ross Dunlop, to assist those struggling with the clean up. Mr Dunlop says he launched the fund last week because it's often in the weeks and months

following an event like this that people find they really need help. Donations to the Mayoral Relief Fund can be made at any South Taranaki District Council office.

Mr Dunlop says the Relief Fund will be available to South Taranaki residents who suffered damage from the 3 March storm. The Relief Fund will be administered by a trust made up of Taranaki's three mayors and the Chairman of the Taranaki Regional Council Applications will

be considered on a case by case basis and all grants will be capped at \$2,000. All applications must be made by 5pm Friday 1 June 2012.

Application forms can be obtained from any South Taranaki District Council

LibraryPlus centre, the main Council office in Hawera or the Council website www.southtaranaki.com. Applications can also be made online on the Taranaki Regional Council website www.trc.govt.nz/taranaki-disaster-relief-fund/.

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Commissioner for the environment - Nothing ruled out of fracking investigation

The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, Dr Jan Wright, has stated that she does "not want to rule out any concerns" in her investigation of fracking, and that she intends to follow her nose "using detective work".

This statement, made to the Opunake and Coastal News on 17th April 2012, followed our enquiries as to whether a 'scope of issues' had been determined. The Commissioner was asked 'if the investigation would go beyond the seismological issues surrounding possible earthquake risks' and include the 'nature' of the liquid material used for the fracking (historical/present), the storage of fracking liquids (historical/present), ground water changes, possible health effects, and monitoring/auditing responsibilities of government and any other agencies, such as the Regional Council.

Dr Wright replied that she "does not intend for the investigation to have a formalised scope, as it is not like a Royal Commission" and explained she needs flexibility to be able to follow leads and have 'the freedom to change direction' as issues arise. She stated that she would not "rule anything out."

This clarification was sought as statements by the Minister of Energy and Resources, Phil Heatley on Sunday the 15th to TVNZ's Q & A interviewer appear to pre-empt the Commissioner's conclusions. Mr Heatley stated that "I've got no concerns" (about fracking) as it "hasn't caused any earthquakes or contaminated any water in NZ and that gives me confidence." He especially described the Taranaki experience as being safe and positive.

However, My Heatley also went on to say that "I am delighted that the Parliamentary Commissioner to the Environment is looking at it ... (she) might discover things we don't know about and might make recommendations where we need to change things."

This statement follows those made earlier by Dr Smith, then Minister of the Environment, that "The work that has been done in the Taranaki region has suggested that there has been no environmental issues ...as all of the fracking has been done in New Zealand and proposed to date has been at very deep levels (of shale) where we cannot find any international evidence of environmental impacts."

According to South Taranaki District councillor, Michael Self, "The government's

campaign of 'Fracking is safe' has been very specific," (referring to seismological impacts and concerns about earthquake tremors). He states that "They don't look at what's going on with the waste; they don't look at every oil field. The Taranaki Regional Council is giving the oil companies carte-blanche to do what they want."

Other concerns raised have been that the oil companies are not disposing of the water and chemical waste from fracking safely. This claim is supported by those who state they have seen or worked in the vicinity of unlined storage areas.

This claim is refuted by the Regional Council as "[Waste] pits were lined with compacted clay which provides a level of protection for groundwater resources. More recent hydraulic fracturing activity has seen the use of synthetic liners which provide a higher level of protection." Clearly these contentions will be of interest to the Commissioner.

Claims have been made of water poisoning and resulting sickness in the tiny settlement of Kapuni. Local secondary school teacher and farmer, Sarah Roberts says that "The groundwater is not safe for drinking, stock use, or irrigation, and is right beside the Kapuni Stream.

The groundwater at Kapuni is not safe to drink." She blames it on poisonous water leaching from pits where it is stored after being used in fracking.

South Taranaki District Councillor, Michael Self, in support of their being harm from fracking has recounted that his mother sang in the Kapuni choir and that "Half the choir over the last few years have died of cancers. My mother was one of those. They all drank in the area. Over the past five or six years they were just popping off. You start driving down the road past the Kapuni gasworks and you look at the houses and you can reel off the people that have died in recent years."

He states that there has been a "curious cluster of cancer cases" and that even the Taranaki District Health Board admits that the death rate from cancer in the province is significantly higher than in the rest of New Zealand.

The complex interplay of emotive, scientific, and environmental issues will likely make the investigation fraught with difficulty – and interest. The Commissioner states "I realise this is a hugely contentious issue and I would hope to have a report tabled in the House before the end of this year."

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Rickets resurgence and Vitamin D

Vitamin D deficiency has become a widespread problem, as false media and government reports over the years have frightened the public into thinking that the sun will kill them, and that they have to lather up in sunscreen and wear several layers of clothing to stay healthy. But all this hiding from the sun has not only caused an epidemic in poor health, but it has also resurrected the condition known as rickets, in which poorly-developed bones become soft and weak, leading to pain, deformities, and to other problems, particularly among children.

Rickets had all but disappeared from the modern age – until the sun-scare campaigns drove people indoors or behind a coating of chemical-laden cream. And until we shed the coverings and expose our bodies to natural sunlight, or begin to supplement more with natural vitamin D, then the problem is only going to get progressively worse.

Dr Joseph M Reed, a children's orthopaedist at Southampton General Hospital in the UK has seen a massive resurgence of rickets in children, including those from sunny coastal

towns and those from middle and upper income families - an unusual demographic in which to see the condition.

Vitamin D is absolutely essential for the proper formation of strong, healthy bones in children. This necessary cofactor processes calcium and phosphorous, which are together used by the body to build healthy bones. Ultraviolet rays from natural sunlight are the best way to attain it.

Article supplied by Hardy's Healthy Living, the health shop in Centre City, New Plymouth

This month in History

On April 10, 1968 the interisland ferry Wahine foundered at the entrance to Wellington Harbour in the early morning during a major storm. The ship ended

up on its side. Of the 733 passengers 52 lost their lives – many from exposure.

A Court of Inquiry found that errors of judge-

ment had been made by the captain, but that the death toll could have been higher had the order to abandon ship been given at a different time

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Coastal Cops Eltham



Andrew Russ



David Lindsay

they are only just going up a little way in order to use the car parks around the TSB Bank. This is not the case and never has been! If you do this in the future expect to get a \$150 for driving the wrong way up a one way street. Laziness is not an excuse. Some people even continue on to the Cheese shop and beyond which is even more dangerous. A lot of people work at Fonterra here and are regularly using the road with trucks, forklifts and on foot. You are putting their lives at risk as they quite rightly are not expecting a car to come the wrong way down the one way. If you are one of these drivers who think "she'll be right, I won't get caught"

then think again as I have two complaints on my desk as I speak from members of the public about this very issue and the offenders will be getting the suitable ticket sent to them. And we always have the CBD cameras to back any complaint up.

an all too regular basis. Often the so called 'good kids' are involved in these behaviours. Unsupervised and bored kids will do stupid things if given enough opportunities so as parents it will be wise to limit these opportunities.

It is the school holidays at the moment and so far the school kids seem to be behaving which is good. As David said last week, you should know where your children are at all times. A popular place to hang out seems to be the primary school here in Eltham and as a result it is also a place where assaults, vandalism, burglaries etc take place on

Other than that, the annual cheese rolling event on Anderson Road was popular event and I enjoyed my time there. The views from up the hill are worth going to see and then you get to watch people chase cheese down a hill so all in all a great day with the great weather.

Constables Andrew Russ and David Lindsay

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 Web: www.nzwildhorses.com
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Applications close
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Opunake Fire Brigade News

Yes, I know, It's has been a while since I put an article in the paper, so I thought I had better pull finger.

With daylight savings been and gone, don't forget to change those smoke alarm batteries, or get one if you haven't got one already. Remember you have no sense of smell when you are sleeping. Also with daylight savings over, the sun will be lower in the sky on your way home from work, so let's be a bit more careful on the roads.

On the Fire Station front, we have had Yanna return after her time away down south. Yanna has brought back Mike Ford, who has been a

Fire Fighter at Ohakea. We would like to welcome Mike who is joining our team. We lose Louise who is off to Police Training College for a few months; we wish her the best in her new venture. There are still a few spare hooks on the fire station wall, so if you are interested in joining, give Chief Rodney Woods a call, or come down to the station on a Monday night.

We hosted the Taranaki Provincial Outdoor Bowls tournament at the Opunake Bowling Club on the 18th March, with 28 teams competing. The winning team from Opunake was R. Woods, D. Fleming Snr, M.

Maindonald and A. Woods. Many thanks to the Opunake Bowling Club for the use of their facilities and Tup and her team for keeping us fed.

Thank you to Des and Joylen behind the bar, well done and thanks again for a very enjoyable day.

We have had 24 callouts so far this year and 10 of those came from the storm on the 3rd of March. The callouts, which started at 4.20am, came in the form of trees across roads, TV aerials down and lifting roofs. It was a busy couple of hours for the Fire Fighters who managed to unwind later with a well earned BBQ.

Call outs since the storm:

A sparking power pole in Opunake saw us called out at 3.30 am on the 21st of March.

On the 23rd of March at 11.20pm we were called to a cowshed fire near Otakeho.

On the 25th of March at 6.20pm we were called to assist a male with breathing difficulties in Opunake.

On the 1st of April at 7.55 am we were called to assist a male who had collapsed.

On the 14 of April at 3.30 am we were called to the Opunake Rest Home to investigate a sprinkler alarm.

The Commissioner for the Environment Dr. Jan Wright

The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment has the role of providing independent advice on Bills and other matters of interest related to the Environment before Select Committees. This information and conclusions are made public. The current Commissioner, Dr Jan Wright, has

a multidisciplinary background with a Physics degree from Canterbury, a Masters degree in Energy and Resources from Berkeley in California, and a PhD in Public Policy from Harvard. Prior to her current role, Dr Wright worked as an independent policy and economic consultant for many different government

agencies and as a member of various Crown Entity Boards.

In the last year she has released reports on four major investigations – mining on conservation land, a strategic approach to bio fuels, state of the environment reporting and, most recently, the greenhouse gases associated

with large scale use of lignite. The Commissioner has a total of 16 staff. They come from a wide range of disciplines and bring a variety of work, academic and life experience to provide administrative, technical, and general support for the Commissioner's investigations.



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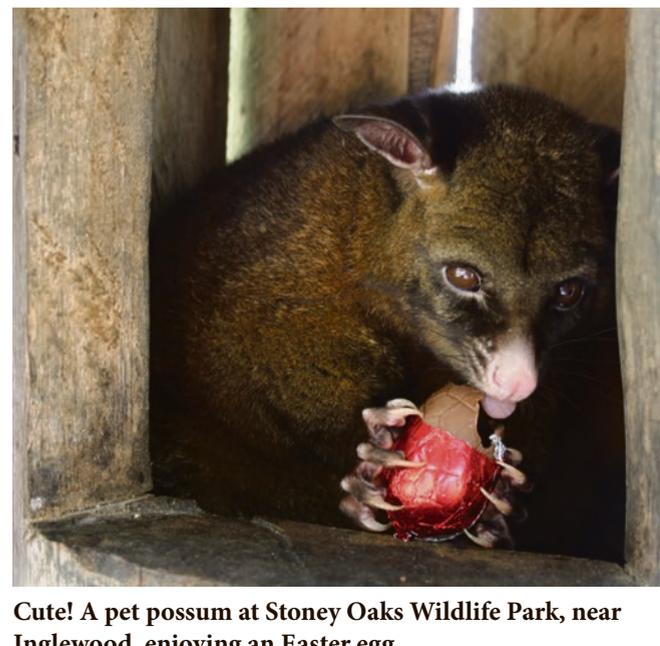
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Cheers, cheese and challenge



The runners in hot pursuit of the cheese wheel.

There was a huge turnout of people at Eltham's Cheese Day on Saturday April 7. For the third year in a row the sun shone brightly all day with almost no breeze. The event was well-organised by the Eltham Business Association and Chairperson Judith Rodgers was delighted at the number of people who turned up. "Fantastic," was her comment. She thought the number of entries for the actual races was higher than the year before.

Watching appreciatively was Cr Gordon Lawson, who is Chairperson of the Eltham Community Board. "A good muster", he commented. He also was pleased with the beautiful weather, which encouraged people to turn up, he thought.

The races started soon after midday, with Ken Swan as the compere who did a good job. The idea of each race was for the competitors

in each race to try to beat a spinning cheese wheel to the bottom of the slope. Mostly the humans beat the cheeses, it has to be said.

One well-performed family were the Cloughs of Eltham. Marissa Clough competed and won her race. "It was



Pictured from left are Stephen Clough, Marissa Clough (who won her race) and Deborah Clough.

pretty hard. You can't stop yourself at the bottom", she explained. She added, "It's pretty scary". Last year her

father Stephen won the Masters Men race. He even beat the local policeman Mark Taylor. However, Stephen didn't enter this year. "I thought I'd retire as champion", he joked.

The Mayor of South Taranaki Ross Dunlop got

roped in as the Official Starter for each race. He spoke enthusiastically about the event. "It's fantastic. I think

it's such a good way of celebrating what's happening in this town". He added with a smile, "Eltham is the cheese capital of New Zealand".

There was great live music - the lively four member band performing from the deck of a truck. The band member had t-shirts which read 'I love Bluegrass', which gives you an idea of the music they played.

The races were preceded the Market Day (from 10am) which continued until the end of the races. There was lots to eat and drink, as well as bargains to be had. On offer were books, sunglasses, hats, jewellery, aromatic oils, Kiwana Glass, teddy bears and children's toys, crystals - and more. For the children there was face painting and the Bouncy Castle.

You could even buy a "I survived Eltham Downhill Cheese Race" T-shirt, attesting to the fact a person took part in the races.

One stall was 'Absolute Body and Soul', run by Ceris Morgan Hart. She had a wide selection of products including her 'Absolute Aromas' range. Her candles, soy melts, bath lollies (etc) not only smell nice, they also have therapeutic benefits. She had a successful day. "I virtually sold out of all my products", she said.

Another stall was run by 'Escapism's Tracey Best, selling quality books, as well as other products such as zodiac perfumed oils, incense and soaps. "It was a fantastic day - I'm so pleased I set my stall up there", Tracey commented.

Well done Eltham Business Association for another great event.

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Hunt on for NZ's top carpentry apprentice

Entries are now open for the Registered Master Builders Carters 2012 Apprentice of the Year. This competition, a joint initiative by Carters, the Registered Master Builders Federation, and the Building and Construction Industry Training Organisation (BCITO) has \$100,000 worth of prizes up for grabs - as well as the coveted title.

The competition aims to provide a chance for carpentry apprentices to be recognised for their incredible talent, skill and drive and to highlight career opportunities in the building

and construction sector. Registered Master Builders Federation chief executive Warwick Quinn says that the industry is really gearing up for an influx of work over the next few years "and skilled carpentry apprentices will be crucial for the future of the sector."

Home-building consents have risen 8.3 percent in January compared with December 2011, with 209 consents issued in Christchurch alone, up from 61 in the previous month. This trend is expected to continue as the Christchurch rebuild, repairs to leaky

homes and the housing shortage in Auckland all bring about new projects within the industry.

"There will be plenty of work which will require an incredibly high demand for skilled builders, many of whom will be entrants or employers in this year's Apprentice of the Year competition," Mr Quinn says.

"It is important for employers to encourage young people to get involved, so they too can become a vital part of the industry's future," Mr Quinn says.

Entries for the Apprentice of the Year are open until June 28, 2012. The competition will be run in ten regions, with regional prizes as well as the national award. For further information, or to download an entry form, go to www.apprenticeoftheyear.co.nz. Entry forms can also be collected from Carters stores nationwide.

This week in History

On April 16, 1973 Arthur Allan Thomas was, once again, found guilty of the June 1970 murders of Harvey and Jeanette Crewe at their farm near Pukekawa.

The trial was held in the Supreme Court in Auckland.

Mr Thomas was earlier found guilty at his first trial in March 1971.

Eventually, the Prime Minister of the time Robert Muldoon enacted a Royal

Pardon, when it became clear that Mr Thomas has been wrongfully convicted. Mr Thomas received almost a million dollars in compensation for the nine years he spent in prison for a crime he didn't commit.

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Andrew Little, List MP

Anyone looking on at the ACC issue over the last few weeks could be forgiven for wondering what is going on. What started out as a serious breach of privacy for around 6700 ACC claimants has turned into a high-powered soap opera involving politicians, political power-brokers, pillars of the community and claims for millions of

dollars. There's no fewer than five investigations underway into what has actually happened. And now, as with all good dramas, there's even the whiff of court action.

The whole thing needs to be kept in perspective.

It's been well-established that there was a serious leak of information from ACC. Any wrongful disclosure of information by ACC is a serious matter because any personal information ACC holds is, by its nature, reasonably sensitive. They have information about our injuries and treatments we have had for them, and we are entitled to be assured that ACC has the best possible systems and operates to the highest standards in terms of managing information and protecting it.

So, it's right that there is an inquiry into how the origi-

nal mistake happened, even without knowing who the personalities involved were. The fact that there were various people occupying senior positions in a political party raises other questions, in particular about influence and access to decision-makers, which means inquiring into those people's conduct is also justified.

The later leak of the names of some of the personalities involved is more of a political sideshow, and reveals more about relationships within the National Party than it does anything else.

The real issue behind all of this is about how ACC deals with the more difficult claims and how it deals with some claimants, including some frankly difficult claimants.

ACC as a system for dealing with accidental injury is nearly 40 years old. It is seen

by many other countries as the most effective and efficient way of providing cover for accidents, and ensuring injured people get the treatment they need as well as compensation for lost earnings. It's not perfect, but it is efficient and effective.

But we need to ensure that decisions on difficult claims are dealt with sensitively and professionally. In many instances they are. But some are mishandled, and claimants are left feeling that their claim has been given short shrift.

One thing that must come out of the many inquiries now under way is an understanding of how to deal more effectively with difficult claims. That's what I will argue strongly for.

Andrew Little, List MP



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**Jonathan Young,
New Plymouth MP**

Our rural communities are a big part of our economy; its rural industries generate two thirds of New Zealand's export dollars and provide one in nine Kiwi jobs.

National is committed to lifting long-term growth in our rural economy to ensure that New Zealand farmers and rural businesses stay at the top of the global game. This is a key element in our plan to build a more competitive and productive economy. We've cut red tape

and reformed the Resource Management Act to reduce costs, uncertainties, and delays, and we're moving on to our second stage of reforms to achieve the right balance between our environmental responsibilities and economic opportunities.

The National-led Government is looking to reform local government to get council debt and spending under control. We have reduced company tax and income tax across the board, providing incentives for hard work and innovation and on 1 April, we reduced ACC levies for farmers and rural businesses.

We are providing \$35 million through the Irrigation Acceleration Fund to support the development of irrigation proposals that could boost exports by \$1.4 billion a year by 2018, and by \$4 billion a year by 2026. We will be investing up to \$400 million to support the development of new water harvesting, storage, and distribution in-

frastructure.

Anyone who watches reality television programmes on border controls will know that through ignorance or intent, people coming into New Zealand bring an assortment of items that can be detrimental to the economy. That is why we have committed \$75 million in a Joint Border Management System between MAF and Customs to improve biosecurity.

The Primary Growth Partnership is a government/industry investment and so far we have invested over half a billion dollars in primary sector research and innovation. We are investing in rural health and education, as well as creating the conditions for on-going innovation as we continue to invest more in new technologies including \$300 million for rural broadband.

The National-led Government has developed country strategies in our key growth

markets, such as India and China, to increase support for our exporters and make the most of the trade opportunities we have. We are also working towards free trade agreements with South Korea, Russia, and India, and with the United States through the Trans Pacific Partnership.

This year we've introduced New Zealand's first electronic livestock tracing system in order to improve protection for our rural businesses in the international marketplace and strengthen our biosecurity system.

Through sensible policy development, sound financial management, and industry consultation, National is delivering a smarter and more efficient primary sector. This is an important step towards building a brighter future for our rural communities and all New Zealanders.

Jonathan Young MP

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Broadband keeps on rolling

Local MP the Hon Chester Borrows recently welcomed another advancement of ultrafast broadband for the South Taranaki area.

"Broadband lets us connect with the world, which is especially important for those of us who live outside major metropolitan areas. I'm pleased to see the Government continuing to roll out ultrafast broadband to schools, libraries and medical centres in the South

Taranaki area," says Mr Borrows.

Today's announcements include a large number of South Taranaki sites, including the Patea and District Community Medical Centre, Waverley library, and Opunake Primary and High schools.

"This is another step forward in making sure that South Taranaki has access to the best IT

available, and reinforces the Government's commitment to using technology to help deliver a brighter future for New Zealand," says Mr Borrows.

A full list of schools, libraries and medical centres covered can be found in today's announcement by Hon Amy Adams, which can be found on www.beehive.govt.nz.

On this month in history

On April 9, 1873 **Julius Vogel** became Premier. He had just returned from England where he had gone to raise

loans, which went towards public works, notably railways.

In 1887 he introduced a Bill into Parliament for women's

suffrage, but it was not until 1893 that women were allowed to vote.

Sir Julius was Premier until July 6, 1875 in his first term.

To the top of the tower



The Hawera Water Tower

Hawera's Water Tower has stood for a long time – coming up a century soon. In fact, the foundation stone was laid 100 years ago in December, 11, 1912 by the Mayor AW Gillies. Another stone has the names of the Town Clerk, HS Elliot and the Borough councillors – one was W. Sargeson, who is the grandfather of Frank Sargeson often referred to as 'The father of NZ literature'. Frank was a great supporter of Ronald Hugh Morrieson's writing.

Te Hawera means 'the burnt place', originally the result of one Maori tribe burning the village of another

in the 1880s with considerable loss of life; no survivors by some accounts.

Later on, around the time of the late 1880s to the early 1900s there had been several serious fires in the town, culminating in the one in 1912 when many buildings in the CBD were razed. However, there was a problem; the water pressure from the Kapuni Stream, a gravity-supplied system, was insufficiently high to ensure the pressure needed to fight any future fires. The decision to build a water tower was born.

Borough Engineer JC Cameron designed the structure



The view from the tower.

and the construction was completed in January 1914 at a cost of 4,500 pounds (\$9,000).

Immediately there was a problem, later on in the same month of completion; an earthquake caused the tower to develop an alarming lean – 2 foot six inches to the south. Luckily remedial work was successful in correcting the lean to just 3 inches.

In 1932 red neon lights were installed around the top tank of the tower as part of the 50th Jubilee celebrations and in honour of the pioneers.

In late March 2000 large chunks of concrete started to fall off the tower and it was deemed unsafe and closed to the public.

Next year the resident of Hawera were consulted as to whether the tower should be restored or demolished. Perhaps mindful of the appalling decision to demolish the lifetime home of their

most famous writer Ronald Hugh Morrieson (for a fast food outlet!), the community opted for the former option. Renovation was completed in September 2004. This work included the removal and replacement of some suspect concrete, and associated steel, as well as the application of Migrating Corrosion Inhibitor to delay the corrosion of the reinforcing steel. Also windows were installed, the staircase was upgraded and lighting (inside and out) improved. This restoration cost 1.1 million dollars.

Climbing the tower is well worth the effort. The views are spectacular. Also, there are a number of interesting photos and associated information to read as you ascend. You may see few people as you climb, but you'll see even more pigeons – on the outside.

There are some interesting photos on the walls, such as the panoramic one by Robert Monroe taken in 1923 using his Cirkut camera from New

York. (The Alexander Turnbull library has 2,500 of his negatives).

More daring was the one of gymnast Brian Headley doing a headstand on the top balustrade. Chris Ekdahl took the photograph.

There is a nominal charge to climb the tower; you need to call at iSite, 55 High Street, Hawera. Phone 06 278 8599. The staff is most helpful in telling you what they know about this icon. Climbing the tower is quite popular. One staff member said about 175 people pay to climb it each week.

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Unique in-home educational service minimises childcare costs

One-of-a-kind educational service, **footsteps**, says its free programme is helping keep childcare costs down for the 900 families it supports throughout New Zealand.

"According to Statistics NZ, around 10% of children between the ages of 0 and 5 are cared for in the home. **footsteps** works with some of these families to provide a unique educational service that works alongside parents' chosen in-home caregivers.

"Our service is free, so parents get the assurance of a quality education during their child's formative years without the financial burden of paying an early childhood education teacher.

"Over the last 11 years, our qualified teachers have provided over 5000 families free educational assistance through our Ministry of Education-funded programme, which is a huge saving for each and every one," explains **footsteps** CEO, Kevin Christie.

With the costs on the rise, Kevin Christie says his staff is seeing more and more parents arranging childcare at home with someone they know and trust - like a grand-



Kevin Christie

parent, family member or friend. He says the challenge for parents in this situation is figuring out how to fit an educational component into their child's daily experiences.

"**footsteps**' unique programme solves this dilemma. Our 50 qualified, early childhood education teachers travel to the homes of their families each month. Their role is to provide caregivers with one-on-one support, advice and ideas.

"The time spent with a child and caregiver is 100% focused on providing enriching learning experiences at

home in the crucial years of birth through to age five," explains Kevin Christie.

In partnership with the caregiver, **footsteps**' teachers identify a child's educational needs and abilities and together work out ways to reach important milestones. Teachers provide caregivers with a range of fun learning resources and ideas about how to enrich a child's discovery and exploration.

"Every parent, at one time or another, has heard how important a child's early years are for setting a strong foundation for their overall development and wellbeing for life.

"In fact, in a study performed by the Brainwave Trust in 2009, it was discovered that around 85% of a child's brain develops before school age.

"Our experienced staff know how critical it is to provide children with meaningful educational experiences during the first five years. And **footsteps**' unique service helps parents get this right," says Kevin Christie.

In its eleventh year now, **footsteps** is continually expanding its service to sup-

port new urban centres and rural communities across the country.

The company is headquartered in Tauranga.

Media Contact:
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Nearer the Sun

This short story was judged - 'Very Highly Commended' in the 2009 Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards (Open section). The judge was Tessa Duder.

Let me tell you a bit about my mate, Tim. He lives in Opunake – I figure he is more of a mentor really. He's pretty old – I'd say about 70. But a young 70 and boy is he fit. We go for long walks and he is hard to keep up with, which is a bit tricky because Tim is a bit deaf and we'll be talking ninety to the dozen, solving the world's problems – along fairly left wing ways.

These days he lives alone. Apart from his books – stacked right up to the ceiling in some parts of his house. Far too many of them for bookcases to hold. His wife died about five years ago – doing what she loved best – playing indoor bowls in a competition. Just like that – bang. It was a stroke I think, or maybe a heart attack. Reading is what Tim likes doing best.

Tim is an interesting looking cove – quite slight, average height, but his goatee beard makes him look like a kind of Abe Lincoln. He's as skinny as a rake, with a heavily lined face – even the lines seem to have lines! Despite his age he's still not grey – at least only a bit. And he has a deal more hair than I have, despite being years older.

Tim seems to have met so many notable people – sometimes I wonder if he is stretching the truth a bit. I mean, how come he's managed to meet so many famous people? Yet he always seems to have facts and details to match his encounters. Who has he met? Well, one was the poet James K Baxter – whom he calls Jim and sometimes Jimmy.

"Drink and smokes were his downfall", stated Tim. He reckons James had met his wife Jacqueline in Opunake, where she'd

grown up. Another was the poet Allan Curnow – he'd been a lecturer in English at Auckland University. Tim said Curnow was always going on in lectures about the colour red – the colour reminiscent of sex. That shut me up – I'm a bit prudish in that department.

Me? I'm a teacher in Wellington and I visit Opunake quite regularly, with my parents retired farmers and living in the township.

One day up for the weekend last month, I called in on Tim – he made a startling suggestion, "Let's get up early tomorrow and climb Mt Egmont. There's not too much snow on it just now".

"Mt Taranaki – that sounds like a hike and a half. I'm not sure if I'm up to it", I replied.

Tim countered with, "Look lad, old A.H. Reed did it at the age of 85 back in the 1960s – a young buck like you should have no trouble. Even an old bugger like me has done it about eight times, I think – since I turned 60. We can go via the Stratford Mountain House – there's even a photo in the restaurant of the old chap, Reed at the summit.

"I suppose you've met him too?" I interposed.

"Well yes", replied Tim. "But that was long before he was knighted".

It was all planned, rations, maps, food and gear sorted out. I even had a cell phone – just in case. But, I slept in – until I was woken by a startlingly loud knock on the bedroom window.

"Come on – get your arse up," he shouted, a touch rudely, peering through the bedroom window. He'd marched round to my folk's house, all business-like and at the ready. I was up, showered and dressed in record time. Didn't bother shaving.

I drove us to the Stratford Mountain House. It was still pretty early when we got there – around 8am, dank, cold with some freshly fallen snow on the ground. Early – but evidently not early enough. Tim grumbled, "This is late – we should have been here an hour ago," adding with emphasis, "At the earliest".

We set off at a good clip. There wasn't too much snow to worry about. Soon we were high above the Taranaki plains. We could see forever. Tim was at it again.

"See down there – that's Stratford. Janet Frame lived there for a while".

"Where?" I asked. I've always been interested in Janet Frame.

"Oh, firstly in Miranda Street and then Juliet Street – she didn't stay in either house for long – even though she owned both.

"Why?" I ventured.

"Noise – lawnmowers in the hospital grounds and later, in the other house, trains. She never stayed long in any one place. By the way, I've never met her. I never will either – she's dead just now", he said with finality.

"See down that way – that's Kaponga. That's where Frank Sargeson's uncle Oakley Sargeson had his plumbing business – before he bought his farm in the King Country. Oakley installed virtually all of the township's major plumbing – it hasn't been replaced either", he intoned. He added, "Frank used to visit and wrote that he once saw a kiwi cross the road just out of the township". I reflected on the fact I'd never seen one – not even one with a DoC band around its leg.

Around 1pm we stopped for a lunch break. As usual, Tim had been setting a cracking pace. I was keeping up – just – mostly due to pride. (How much older than me, was he?) I was relieved when Tim asked if I wanted to stop for lunch.

"Perhaps we should", I replied – trying to sound nonchalant.

We'd been quiet for about ten minutes – unusual for us, when more name dropping started.

"I once met Dr Benjamin Spock", he commented. Now this definitely sounded a bit far fetched.

"At a medical conference? I didn't know you had a medical degree", I said with a sly grin.

"No no", replied Tim – Dr Spock spoke at an anti-Vietnam War rally in Auckland. "I can't remember too much about what he said, but I remember how he handled a noisy, disruptive opponent in the crowd. He simple ignored the diatribe and continued talking as if nothing had happened – he didn't try to answer any of the abusive comments which were made.

"Yes – I see Robert McNamara, who is called the 'architect of the Vietnam War' recently came out against the US military involvement", I commented by way of reply. "Hasn't he just died?" asked Tim. I nodded. A bit before my time, that war.

Tim tried to point out Colonel Malone's old farm, but I had trouble picking out where he was indicating. The farmer/lawyer died at Gallipoli. The Malone Gates are a Stratford icon.

Tim started to talk about writer Ronald Hugh Morrieson, but claimed he was as much a musician as a novelist.

"They called him 'Slapsy Morrieson' – because he played the double bass in bands around Taranaki. He played several instruments and taught music", explained Tim. I knew Morrieson had lived in Hawera virtually all his life and about the obscenity of the destruction of his home for a fast food outlet. Tim is pretty easy going – and rarely riled. But there was no mistaking the angry flash of his eyes as he recalled the struggle to save the writer's house in the early 1990s. Former mayor Mary Bourke and current mayor Ross Dunlop were very involved in the unsuccessful fight to save the house.

"Torn down – all for the sake of a bloody takeaway place", he exploded – but he said it less politely than that. Tim didn't often use bad language – just occasionally for emphasis, or when he was outraged.

He pointed out Eltham, where a film of Morrieson's novel 'Came a Hot Friday' was filmed some years ago. I recalled the crowd scene at Coronation Hotel and Billy T. James. We discussed the fact that another novel – 'Predicament' was recently filmed there. He said that many writers shunned Morrieson during his lifetime, but a couple – Sargeson and Maurice Shadbolt, recognised his true literary worth. "Shadbolt worked as a newspaper journalist in Hawera for a while", he commented.

"And there's Opunake", I volunteered – once home to writer Graeme Lay. I was gratified that I could finally make a contribution.

"Oh yes", Tim responded. "Of course he got into hot water because some of his short story descriptions exactly fitted some locals – in a less than flattering way". He added, "Later Graeme moved to Auckland and used to visit Frank in his Esmonde Road bach for a chat and a glass of Lemora wine. His novel 'The Mentor' was based on Frank".

It was getting quite chilly so I was more than happy to accept Tim's suggestion to, "get going".

"Yes, it's getting bloody cold", I complained.

"But we're getting nearer to the sun as we climb higher – should get warmer", Tim joked.

After a while of climbing upward, it got considerably colder and we came across

June planting for Sandy Bay



Planting at Sandy Bay to resume in June.

Despite the devastation of foreshore plants in autumn storms, Sandy Bay Society members are determined to start work again in June at Oaonui.

Peter Johnston, Chairman of Ngatitara Oaonui Sandy Bay

Society, said in a meeting: "We were shocked at the damage when the gale force winds swept through Sandy Bay at Tai Road. But we are resolute. There are sufficient funds to pay for 3,000 plants. And we'll manage this plant-

ing with the valued help of STOS staff and possibly Opunake High School Hilary Challenge students.

These March storms wreaked havoc south of Oaonui at Manaia and Patea where pine trees were top-

pled like matchsticks.

It has been a treacherous time for keeping the foreshore at Sandy Bay in good order. But there is some native bird life there, and needless to say, dogs are banned from Sandy Bay.

Gutters a problem for mobility scooters and wheelchairs



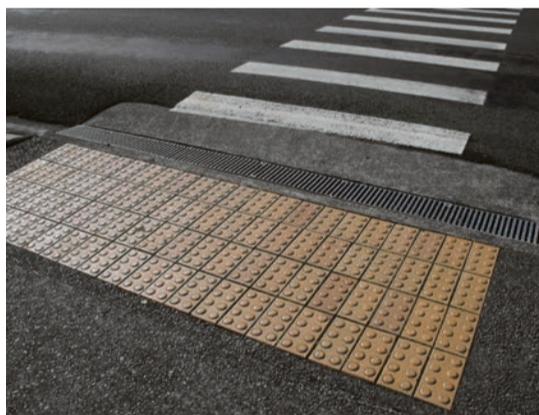
Gutters pose a problem when crossing the road.

The problems of navigating gutters in Opunake was discussed at the last Egmont Plains Community Board in Opunake.

While at the pedestrian crossing near the library there is a grate over the gutter, elsewhere such as outside Opunake Four Square poses a problem.

Indeed there is a problem generally in Opunake with wheelchairs and mobility scooters crossing the road where there are no such gratings.

An approach was made in the open forum by a resident.



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Cultural Day at St Josephs School, Opunake



It was just outstanding

This was Principal Dee Luckin's summary of his school's Maori Cultural week back in March. The school's



Storyteller Moira Wairama presenting 'the Taniwha of Wellington Harbour' to St Joseph's School students.

"It was just outstanding"

The Principal of St Josephs School, Opunake Dee Luckin was delighted at how well his school's Maori Cultural and Language week went back in March. His summary of the week was "outstanding" in terms of how much the students learnt and participated.

various Maori protocols, protocols and the like.

One of the highlights was the excellent storytelling of Moira Wairama. The hangi on the Friday was a great way to round the successful week off.

One parent commented that it was good for children, especially Maori ones, to learn about their culture.

For the week, the school's students were divided into mixed age co-operative groups to take part in the Maori language, art and craft and Tikanga. the students learnt a lot about

It was all a "huge success", enthused Dee.

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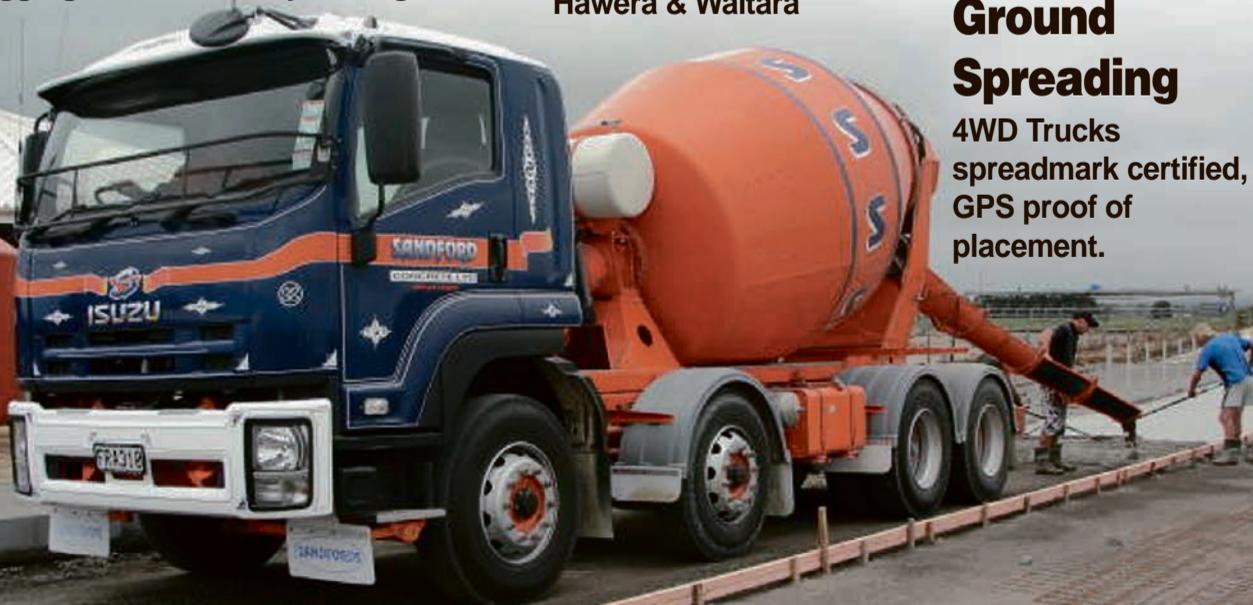
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St Josephs students learning KapaHaka. Back: from left Libby Andersen-Gardiner and Christelle Centano. Middle: Shinae Minhinnick and Ella Griggs. Front: Caleb Ward and Jerram Sinclair.

Nearer the Sun
Continued from page 10

quite a bit of snow. I noticed that Tim was not forging ahead quite as strongly as earlier and even occasionally stopped to catch his breath.

Then it happened. Tim fell over – he immediately tried to get up, but sat down again in the snow. After a few minutes he tried again. “It’s no good – every time I get up I feel as though I’m going to faint”, he gasped. “Hope I’m not going to kick the bucket on you lad”, he added - with a grimace.

I helped him shift away from the snowy ground to a bare rock and called 111 on my cell phone. After giving the details as to where we were, I looked at Tim with concern and hoped I wouldn’t have to do CPR -

not sure if I could remember how to do it. Luckily, Tim seemed to improve with rest – he tried just one more time to rise – but the same thing happened – he almost blacked out. By now, I was getting worried – big time.

It can’t have been more than 20 minutes later when, with huge relief, I heard the sound of the Taranaki Rescue Helicopter approaching – wop wop wop. I’d laid out our gear in a kind of SOS symbol. I ran about waving and shouting like someone demented. The helicopter pilot spotted me, and landed nearby. I helped the two paramedics stretch Tim on board – he seemed bloody heavy for a thin guy.

“Sorry chaps – I’m embarrassed about this – I used to be fit, but I guess the years have caught up with me”, he said, addressing

the pair, who said nothing, but smiled and nodded. Tim looked like he was more uncomfortable about causing a fuss and bother – rather than his predicament – that word again!

As we headed back in the chopper, Tim seemed to be almost back to his old self again. I strained above the helicopter noise to listen to more tales – C.K. Stead, A.R.D. Fairburn, Maurice Duggan, Dr Michael King – they all knew each other evidently and rows weren’t uncommon. Even Katherine Mansfield got a mention. The iconic writer didn’t appreciate D.H. Lawrence using her as his model for a character in his novel ‘Women in Love’. The two writers and their partners Frieda and John Middleton Murray lived in adjoining cottages in Cornwall once –

but it didn’t work out. I was about to ask Tim why, when it was time to land.

They didn’t keep Tim in Taranaki Base Hospital for long. But they did some tests and found a problem – and put him on the right medication. He has to take a couple of pills daily – otherwise he’s back to his old self. He’s still walking flat out, with me struggling to keep up. But we stick to less strenuous walks like around Opunake Lake or Ohawa Beach.

“One of Ronald Hugh Morrieson’s old haunts – his folks had a bach there”, Tim said.

“Does it still exist?” I asked. Tim shrugged. And he’s still going on about all these famous people – mostly literary - claiming he’s met many of them. But has he? – I just don’t know.

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Paul Symons with guitar.

Rahotu rocking

The Rahotu Tavern was certainly rocking Sunday night, a week ago, when local son Paul Symons took the stage.

The singer/song writer, based in Auckland, included his hometown in a North Island tour.

At well over six foot he struck an imposing presence as he performed to a packed Rahotu Tavern, the crowd clearly enjoying the raw sound.

Accompanied by his band, Paul sang a number of his own compositions, as well as a few cover versions of other people’s songs.

Paul, who played electric and amplified acoustic guitar, was also accompanied by musicians on amplified double bass, steel guitar and drums.

He had quite a nice line in talk too - explaining the background to some of his own compositions such as ‘Short Guys’. He - tongue in cheek - suggested they were too tall to make it citing famous short singers such as Paul Simon, Billy Joel and Prince.

The four worked their way through a great repertoire with a throbbing, primal sound, which struck a chord with the audience who as one succumbed to the beat. It was hard to be still!

I also enjoyed the few quieter numbers, which provided a nice contrast to the rhythmic rocking that characterised a lot of the pieces.

Paul who had performed at The Basement in New Plymouth several days earlier. Paul’s CD Shooting Stars - his second album - was available for purchase.

It was a great night and certainly the biggest crowd the Rahotu Tavern has seen in a long time.

Pity Paul’s lost to Auckland, but hopefully he’ll be back soon. It was a real treat to hear some original music.

And as for being too tall to make it, there’s a lot of people at the Rahotu Tavern who just might not agree.

We look forward to the next visit...soon.
Bernice McKellar



Proud mother and music teacher Elva Symons who was in the audience.

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Alana wins Taranaki Rose of Tralee



Alana Marshall (right) is crowned the 2012 Taranaki Rose of Tralee. She is pictured with her good friend Hannah Lawn, who won the title in 2011, as Hannah Crowley. Photograph by Mark Bellringer.

added, "I can't wait to go to the Nationals". These will be held in Wellington on 25-26 of May to choose New Zealand's Rose of Tralee.

Alana was encouraged by her good friend Hannah who won the Taranaki Rose Title in 2011.

The success of the occasion was enhanced by the fact that Alana had three tables of friends cheering her on. Not only that, but there were surprise visits by out-of-town relatives, such as a beloved aunt from Auckland. "To have won with everyone there was fantastic," explained Alana.

Alana has always been intensely aware of her Irish heritage. "I've always identified closely with my Irish side". She mentioned her mother, although not born in Ireland has the very Irish name of Nuala Flanagan - before she married her husband David.

The big night went off very well, with popular band 'On Yer Bike' providing great background music, as the guests enjoyed a sumptuous buffet meal.

Alana had praise for Louise Buhler of the Taranaki Irish Social Club and her Committee for their excellent organisation of this event.

Louise, in turn, is "very hopeful" of Alana's chances of becoming the New Zealand Rose of Tralee. "She'll do really well at the Nationals. She could well be the one to take the title".

All the best for the National Rose of Tralee final - hosted by the Hutt Valley Irish Club - and later, hopefully, Tralee, Ireland.

Alana Marshall of Oakura has won the coveted Taranaki Rose of Tralee title at a ceremony held at the Plymouth

International Hotel on Friday April 13. "I was absolutely stoked - awesome", was her reaction to the success. She

Race around the 'Naki

My legs hurt, I was exhausted and I couldn't sit down. My blisters had blisters on them, but I kept on going. I almost collapsed, and then muffled words came from a nearby mouth - "Keep on going," it said.

I fell to the ground. "I hate my legs", I thought. Someone slapped me. I let out a 'zombie's moan'. "Can I go back to school now?" I said.

"No," a voice said, "The amazing race has just begun."

We were on our way to the Chopstick Challenge. At this challenge we had to lift the small objects in our bowl onto a plate ... with chopsticks. I was up to my last split pea on to the plate when I heard a click. I looked down. "Where was my 'pea'", I thought frantically.

"Hey," a voice came from across the room. "Oh no!" I thought. My pea had landed

on the instructor's head. At long last we finished that challenge.

We figured out our next clue and set off down the street to the Sandford's Event Centre. We soon found that our challenge was a Hoop Shooting Challenge. AJ asked, "Does anyone play basketball?"

I raised my hand and shrugged. AJ said, "Show us what you got." I took the ball and chucked, thinking 'if I fail this will be major embarrassment...'

The ball fell short. I almost screamed. AJ took the ball saying, "I'll do the challenge." He chucked as hard as he could. It missed, it actually missed; then again, then again - this was hilarious. I was laughing so hard I didn't even notice the ball rolling along the floor towards my feet. I felt a small knock on my leg. I opened my eyes and saw the small orange ball. I picked it up and

walked to the goal. I chucked biting my lip. "In," I shouted. The ball fell back into my hands. I chucked again - in and again in. We had completed the challenge and in good time. We collected our next clue and left. "To the dairy next", announced Di after reading the clue.

We made our way around all of the challenges. Soon our pockets were filled with clues.

We came to the last clue. We decided that we would find our destination at school. We set off down the road. As we were crossing the road a car pulled up beside us, the window rolled down slowly. Inside a lady with white hair and black shades on leaned to the window to talk to us. "It's time for lunch." the window rolled up and she drove away. We walked through the gate knowing that we had done a good job.

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Following her passion



Kelly Rawcliffe, in her element.

I love it. It's so good, you're suddenly in a place where your passion is, enthuses Kelly Rawcliffe who has recently bought the Bernina Sewing Centre in New Plymouth.

For the trained primary school teacher, her venture into the business world is also a bit of a gamble. But it's one she's clearly relishing.

Originally from Rahotu, after completing her teacher training Kelly spent four years teaching at Manaia Primary School, then taught

Food and Nutrition and Textiles at New Plymouth Girls High School for 18 months before doing a Post Graduate Diploma at Waikato University in Human Development. Last year she taught at Mt View Primary School in Taupo.

Towards the end of the year I was beginning to consider owning a quilt and craft store, said Kelly who decided to pursue her life long interest. I've been sewing for ever, she says.

She bought the business on

February 1st. She's also since taken on a part time assistant Robyn Herbert, who has four years experience working in the industry.

Kelly is keen to promote sewing among younger people and has been holding sewing classes on the premises.

Patchwork is a good place to start. It starts simple - sewing straight seams. Then it can grow from that, she says.

"We want to inspire young people to find the fun of simple swing," adds Robyn

Herbert who is working three days a week.

They are running several sewing classes at the premises in 37 Devon Street 'on the hill', some of which Kelly teaches.

Currently running are school holiday classes for 9-14 year olds who are busy making school bags.

"They get to pick their own colours and material," says Kelly.

They're also holding beginner patchwork classes, age range 25 to 60 plus.

"It's never too late to start," says Robyn.

As well they're running kids clothes classes for adults for which a special tutor comes in.

Children's clothes are "relatively quick and easy to make," explains Kelly who is herself available to tutor classes elsewhere.

They also sell and service sewing machines.

They are also both designing and sewing on the premises.

"We want people to know we're new and exciting and we've got ideas," says Kelly who comments she particularly enjoys the customer contact. People are "so enthused and they come back and show you what they've made."

The Bernina Sewing Centre is open from 9am till 5pm Monday to Friday and on Saturdays from 10am till 1pm.

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BELOW Taylah Smith of Opunake shows off the finished projects from a class she attended at the Bernina Sewing Centre in New Plymouth. The students selected their own fabrics and were taught how to make some very attractive bags and hot water bottle covers.



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Coastal A player Hamish Lawn crashes up against Tukapa defence at Rahotu, with Don Fitzharris in support. Coastal won 34-23.

Some of the action at Rahotu last weekend



Coastal Colts players Jarred Waite and Shaun Neal faced a tough Stratford side at Rahotu. The boys unfortunately had two tries disallowed and lost 36-10

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Big changes afoot at the Stony River Hotel, Okato. Watch this space.

Great result for young team



Sadonie James from Opunake High School picks up her player at the Western Heights Tournament in Rotorua, playing against Waikato Diocesan School. Opunake placed third in the Junior Section Photo By Krysten Johnson.

The Opunake High School Junior girls Basketball team travelled to Rotorua at the end of March to compete at the Western Heights invitational tournament .

The girls exceeded expectations placing third in the Junior Girls section as they were seeded last at the start of the Tournament and quickly drew the attention of other teams with their breakneck style of play and determined defence.

Captain Brylee Kendall said of her team the girls all played so well and didn't give up against teams with far bigger players and that they have been training for this tournament from the start of term one with our awesome coaches. Husband and wife Debbie and Chook (Darrin) Hohaia have been instructing the girls Debbie coaches and Chook runs the training ,drills and plays Bex (Rebecca) Langton completes the team as Manager .

The Team that travelled to Rotorua were Brylee Kendall, Ashley Tito- Collins, Taylah Smith, Sadonie James, Jakartia Munro-Smith, Tara Clement, Joellen Hughson-How, Tiana -Vai Taumanu- and Tara Clement.



Jakartia Munro Smith laying up from her fast break with Tara Clement in support . Photo Krysten Johnson

Taranaki indoor bowling season underway

The Taranaki Indoor bowling season has started with the naming

of the teams to play at the Stratford Memorial Hall for Quadrangular on the 21st and

22nd. This is the NWWTH Event which is played between North Wellington, Wanganui, Taranaki and Horowhenua.

Team A: T. Bourne, A. Podjursky, S. Bourne, J. Langton

Team B: R. Ratahi, J. Newland, K. Hughes, Doris Brunton

Team C: D. Behrent, M. Watt, N. Thompson, B. Olliver

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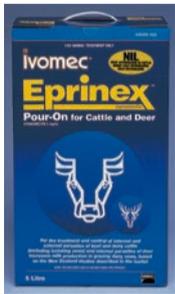
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Senior A

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Altum Coastal vs. Tukapa on April 14

Kelvin Weir led Altum Coastal onto a sun drenched Rahotu Domain in recognition of 50 plus games for Coastal in front of a capacity crowd. The Coastal team started with plenty of gusto to mount a constant display of combined team pressure and skill. With both backs and forwards combining, Coastal for the first half, never allowed the more fancied Tukapa team a chance to settle. Winger Michael Julian scored the first try after some superb lead up work from both the forwards and a sharp moving back line.

Coastal still had indecisive moments at the breakdown and from a penalty; Tukapa's Jack Cameron added 3.

For the next thirty minutes however Tukapa witnessed a Coastal team (spurred on by their loyal supporters), that had come to play. Steve Barron's in 'off the posts' for a penalty took the Coast to an 8-3. A grubber ahead by winger Gareth Goodin saw Brent Stevenson gather and score for Steve Barron to add the extras.

Coastal forwards attacked from rucks and mauls and with Kane Barrett and Dan Fitzgerald dominating the lineout, evergreen centre Chris Barron scored a well-earned try for all his efforts in the midfield. Steve Barron again slotted the extra two and the Coast



Steve Barron scores for Coastal - backed up by brother Chris, Brent Stevenson and Kane Barrett. Coastal Senior A won 34-23 against Tukapa.

were up 22-3 late into the first half.

Tukapa had their chances, but the Coast; lead by loosies captain Nick Lawn, Kelvin Weir and JP Le Prou pressured the visitors into mistakes leading to turnovers. The Coastal front row of Rangi Morgan, Pies Lawn and a fired up Mitch Campbell held the pack together as a disciplined unit. A desperate ankle tap by Coastal half John Julian halted his opposite number from scoring, an indication of how determined Coastal were to remain at the top of the table.

Half time score showed Altum Coastal 22 Tukapa 3. Altum Coastal turned

into the breeze, with sun at their backs knowing they had 40 minutes to keep out one of the premier teams in the province. Number 8 Kelvin Weir burst through the Tukapa pack and took Coastal deep into Tukapa territory only resolute defence from the visitors held Coastal out.

Ten minutes into the half Coastal's penalty woes of previous weeks returned and Cameron slotted two penalties to bring the score closer and to raise the anxiety levels of both Coastal spectators and players. However with Coastal's pack beginning again to dominate play 1st5/8 Stevenson scored

his second try after some positive lead up work and the Coast held a 27-9 lead over the boys from the city.

2nd5/8th Te Whaiti Mareikura with Chris Barron showed their attacking and defensive qualities as Tukapa began to apply the pressure with 15 minutes to go.

A rare penalty miss from Cameron saw Coastal head back into Tukapa's half, hooker Mitch Campbell showed speed in a movement that enabled centre Chris Barron to pick up his second try. Brother Steve once again showed he had his kicking boots on and slotted 2 more points.

Continued next page

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Rugby Results for Altum Coastal Senior A

Altum Coastal vs. Clifton 9-4-2012

Easter Monday saw a good crowd turn out to witness Altum Coastal take on Clifton at Okato in bright sunny weather. From the kick off Coastal went on to the attack and within minutes Coastal was leading 7-0 through a Chris Barron try with brother Steven adding the extra two.

As with previous games Coastal were guilty of slipping in different periods of play which let Clifton back in. The referee was scathing of Coastal's indiscretions and the penalty count grew. Because of this the game had a stop start nature, which at times failed to get going.

Though starved of the ball wings Michael Julian and Gareth Goodin showed the skills they have with Jeremy Newell and Paddy Stevenson showing out in the forwards. The first half ended with Altum Coastal under pressure from a fired up Clifton team and the scoreboard showing Coastal ahead 7-3.

The second half began

much like the first with the home side not grasping scoring opportunities as they came. Coach Joe Lawn made some early changes but this did not stop Clifton scoring to go out to a 10-7 lead over the Coast thanks to a converted try. With the penalty count mounting and both teams down to 14 men after a double sin binning, the game see-sawed back and forth.

Barron slotted another penalty, which evened the score up. This injected new life into the Coastal side and with the forwards, lead by 100 games veteran Paddy Stevenson and Kane Barrett, the hosts began to gain some scraps of possession. Goodin again showed his speed late in the game with some explosive bursts combining with his forwards to send Altum Coastal deep into Clifton's 22. From some solid forward work 1st 5/8th Brent Stevenson put Coastal in front. Clifton came back and grabbed a penalty in the last ten minutes from another Coastal infringement.

The game ended with Coastal's defence desperately shutting out a determined Clifton side and like Easter

Friday, holding on to win 15-13.

Point Scorers:
Tries to: Chris Barron and Brent Stevenson.

Penalty and conversion:
Steve Barron.

Final Score
Altum Coastal 15 Clifton 13

Player of the Day: Paddy Stevenson.

Altum Coastal Senior A vs. Southern 6 April 2012.

A breezy Sou- Easter became the leveller at Southern's home ground at Hicks Park where Altum Coastal Senior A struggled to put away a determined Southern team.

Coastal were penalized early and Southern 1st 5/8 David Brooks' kick was on target and Southern went out to an early 3-0 advantage.

The Coastal team stormed back and from a solid Coastal scrum Nick Lawn stormed over for a good try. Steve Barron added the extras and the Coast were in front 7-3. Utility forward Kane Barrett again showed out against a side that was causing headaches for the competition leaders, scoring and taking the Coast to a 12-3 advantage.

Altum Coastal penalty

count was not helping their efforts and from one of many infringements Brooks again found the posts bringing the hosts closer 12-6. Coastal then applied pressure into the wind only to be penalized from a quick tap that caught the Coast napping whilst listening to the refs reasoning. Southern moved the ball, had the numbers out wide, and scored. Brooks added the extra and Southern hit the front 13-12.

From the kick off Altum Coastal maintained the pressure and camped for the majority of the second half in Southern's half or 22. Barrett continued to be a handful with Number 8 Kelvin Weir pulling of some big tackles to keep Southern pinned down in there half. Coastal's mistakes and solid Southern defence kept the visitors scoreless.

The Coast forward pack crossed the try line on two occasions only to be deemed held up by the referee.

Mistakes dogged Coastal's game and it was left to fullback Steve Barron to kick a late minute penalty for the Coast to get out of

Continued next page

Altum Coastal Senior A v Tukapa

Continued from previous page

Altum Coastal went out to a 34-9 lead.

Lapses in a normally staunch Coastal defence allowed Tukapa to score twice in the dying stages, but with time running out the final whistle blew with the

score board showing, Altum Coastal 34 Tukapa 23, much to the delight of the Coastal crowd.

Point Scorers:
Tries, M. Julian, C. Barron (2) B. Stevenson (2).

Conversions, S. Barron (3), Penalty, S Barron.

Players of the Day Points
Chris Barron - 3

Te Whaiti Mareikura - 2
Mitchell Campbell - 1

Next week the boys need all

the support they can get as they take on Old Boys away.

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Results for Altum Coastal Senior Rugby Continued

Continued from previous page
 jail and remain unbeaten a lucky Altum Coastal 15-Southern 13.
 Points Scorers:
 Tries to K. Barrett and Nick. Lawn
 A penalty and conversion to S. Barron
 POD Kane Barrett.
 Congratulations go out to Kelvin Weir who played his

50th game for Coastal. Altum Coastal Senior A Rugby vs. Stratford. 31/3/12
 Altum Coastal hosted Stratford at the Sandford's Recreation Centre in Opunake to record their third win on the table with a 31-7 score-line that could have been more if the goals had been landed.
 Though the score blew

out at the final whistle the Coastal team found Stratford worthy advisories and defended stoutly.
 Player of the day was Chris Barron. Congratulations go out to Paddy Stevenson playing his 100th game for Coastal.
 Final Score.
 Altum Coastal Senior A 33 Stratford 7.

RAFFLE RESULTS

FOR SALE

Rahotu Pungarehu Lions Club

Easter Raffle result:
 Winner Maria Vanderpoel

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GARAGE SALE

OPUNAKE Lakeside Lions Garage Sale, Sat 21st 41 Gisborne Tce, 9am.

FOUND



A reader brought in this badge which they found in Ihaia Road, Opunake. It has engraved the words Coastal Taranaki Darts Association and Surf Highway 45. If it belongs to anyone can they contact the Opunake & Coastal News. Phone (06) 761 7016

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 Submissions open 31st March and close 30th April. Refer public notice.

POKER NITE

Wednesdays at the Opunake Surf Inn. Refer advert.

SCRAP & CHAT / CARD MAKERS EVENING

Mondays at Pastimes, Tasman Street, Opunake from 7-9pm. Beginners and new people welcome.

STDC LONG TERM PLAN – PUBLIC MEETINGS

Manaia – Thursday, April 19 at 6.30pm at the Manaia Town Hall.

TARANAKI PATCHWORK AND QUILTING REGIONAL SHOW DAY

Saturday, April 21 at the Opunake High School Hall, 10am-3pm.

OPUNAKE TRAILBIKE RIDE

Sunday April 22, top of Oeo Road, 10:30am – 3pm. Refer public notice.

EVERYBODY'S THEATRE AGM

Monday, April 23 at the Sandfords Event Centre, at 7pm. Refer public notice.

ANZAC DAY

Wednesday April 25, Opunake - meet at Opunake Town Hall at 6:00am, Manaia – meet at Manaia Town Hall 6:15am Refer public notice

KIDZSHOW 2012

27 April -20 May Opens Friday April 27 Percy Thompson Gallery, Stratford refer advert.

CREATIVE COMMUNITIES FUNDING GRANTS

Applications close April 27 at 4.30pm.

“1 NITE 2 DJS” – DJ TATZ & DJ SWAA

Every last Saturday of the month, April 28 at the Opunake Surf Inn. Refer advert.

NITESHIFT

Saturday April 28 at Butlers Reef, Oakura. Refer advert

SATURDAY AFTERNOON BLUES

Big Daddy Wilson at Butlers Reef, Oakura 3-6pm
 Sunday April 29 refer advert

MIRRORSCRIPT – PAINTINGS & SCULPTURE BY ROGER MORRIS

At PTO Gallery, Eltham. Exhibition continues till April 29. Open Friday-Saturday 10am till 5pm, Sunday 11am till 4pm and by appointment. Refer advert

Current exhibition runs until January 29th refer advert

CONFUSIONS

Three one act plays by Alan Ayckbourn brought to you by the Opunake Players, Sunday April 29 to May 5 at the Lakeside Playhouse, Opunake. Refer advert.

STDC LONG TERM PLAN – PUBLIC MEETINGS

Opunake – Tuesday, May 1st at 7pm at the Kaponga Town Hall. Refer public notice.

NEIL LUSK INDEPENDENT LIVESTOCK IN CALF HEIFER FAIR

Friday, May 4, 597 Hurford Road, Omata, 12noon. Refer public notice

OH MY GISH COMEDY TOUR

Sunday 13th May at Headlands, Opunake. Refer Public notice

SPACE

A First time parent. Starting in Opunake Tuesday May 15. Refer advert.

OPUNAKE PONY CLUB AGM

Wednesday, May 16 at Headlands, 6.30pm.

WEDDING OPEN DAY

Saturday May 19 a Okurukuru 11 am-4pm see advert

OPUNAKE FRIENDSHIP CLUB AGM

Monday May 21 at St Barnabas Church Hall, Opunake 9:30am. All welcome. Refer public notice

PUBLIC NOTICES

**Neil Lusk
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**CREATIVE COMMUNITIES SCHEME
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Applications for funding assistance for community-based arts activities in South Taranaki are now being called for. Your application will need to meet one or more of the following funding criteria:

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

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

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

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

Applications close **Friday 27 April 2012 at 4.30pm.**

PUBLIC NOTICES

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Opunake Cooperating Parish St Pauls, Havelock St,
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Okato - St Pauls - 10am, 1st & 3rd Sundays.

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**ANZAC DAY SERVICES
Wednesday 25 April 2012**

Residents are invited to attend ANZAC Day services of remembrance to be held throughout the South Taranaki District at the following times:

**OPUNAKE
ANZAC DAWN PARADE**

The Egmont Plains Community Board and the Opunake RSA cordially invite the public to the ANZAC Dawn Parade to be held in Opunake on Wednesday 25 April 2012.

The parade will assemble at the Opunake Town Hall at 6.00am to march off at 6.15am - Medals to be worn. (if wet the service will be conducted at the Hall).

Refreshments will follow the service at the Town Hall.

**MANAIA
ANZAC DAWN PARADE**

The Egmont Plains Community Board and the Maniaia & District RSA cordially invite the public to the ANZAC Dawn parade to be held in Maniaia on Wednesday 25th April 2012.

The parade will assemble at the Maniaia Town Hall at 6.15am to march off at 6.30am then proceed to the Band Rotunda for the service - Medals to be worn.

Refreshments will follow the service at the Town Hall.

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**Request for Taranaki Regional Transport
Committee nominations**

The Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) is seeking nominations for a vacancy on the Taranaki Regional Transport Committee (RTC) to represent access and mobility interests. The RTC is a committee of the TRC and is composed of representatives of a variety of transport stakeholders in the region. In addition to members representing the regional council, the New Plymouth, South Taranaki and Stratford district councils, and the NZ Transport Agency, the membership of the Committee includes a representative of cultural interests and representatives for each of the 5 objectives of the Land Transport Management Act 2003, one of which is improving access and mobility.

Nominations are to be made in writing and should state the name of the person being nominated, the experience, knowledge, qualities and skills of the person being nominated and their membership (if applicable) of any relevant organisation. Nominations are to be sent to:

Taranaki Regional Transport Committee – access and mobility vacancy
C/- Committee Administrator, Taranaki Regional Council
Private Bag 713, Stratford 4352.

Applications close **Friday 11 May 2012.**

Further information on this vacancy is available by emailing Fiona Ritson (Policy Analyst) on fiona.ritson@trc.govt.nz.

**B G Chamberlain
Chief Executive
Taranaki Regional Council**

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Govett-Brewster Art Gallery programme April 20



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Patricia Harwood and Scott Kilson get creative at the 'Sketch like an Artist' workshop, held at the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery in conjunction with the current exhibition Drawing the Line: Works from the Gallery's collection. Photograph: Kirsten Petersen.

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery programme 20-24 April 2012

Govett-Brewster Babes: Friday April 20 10am
 Mums, dads and caregivers, get your art and culture fix. Join us for a talk in the cafe on *Sara Hughes: The Golden Grain*. Adults \$5, includes morning tea at Cafe Govett-Brewster. Free entry for babies and toddlers.

Sketch like an Artist Workshop: Sunday April 22, 2pm - 4pm

Join Open Window artist, Whanganui-based Catherine Macdonald for a drawing workshop. All ages and levels welcome. Basic drawing materials provided or BYO. Seats are limited to 50 so book your place, phone 06 759 6060.

Monica Brewster Evening - Peter Ireland Tuesday April 24, 6pm - 8pm
 Meet guest speaker Peter Ireland who will discuss the serial aspect of Laurence Aberhart's photographs.

Ireland has been a freelance

curator and independent writer on photography for almost forty years. He is known for his strong convictions, curatorial skills and considerable wealth of photographic knowledge.

As an independent critic Ireland is interested in imagery from 1820 to the present, the development of the medium's history and the issues surrounding it as they intersect with the wider art world and New Zealand's effervescent culture.

Now based in Whanganui, Ireland's interest in photography was sparked

by studying New Zealand history in the later 1960s.

Never a photographer himself, this interest extended to contemporary photography work in the early 1970s, a period witnessing the establishment of the PhotoForum Inc, a non-profit society set up by contemporary photographers to promote the medium through publications and exhibitions.

Ireland curated his first photography exhibition in Wellington in 1971 and has since worked for institutions such as the former National Art Gallery, the National Library Gallery, and the Sarjeant Gallery and as an essayist for Te Papa's Brian Brake book.

He began publishing reviews of exhibitions and books in the mid 1970s and has appeared in journals such as the NZ Listener, Landfall and the former New Zealand Journal of Photography.

Today Ireland has his own photography blog and is a regular contributor to the eyecontact blog. He is currently writing a book Vivid Worlds: considering photography in New Zealand since the 1850s, which is due to appear in the middle of next year.

See www.govettbrewster.com for more details.

Maori music icon immortalised in multimedia tribute

A new album of music, reworking the Māori language masterpieces of the late Dr Hirini Sidney Melbourne, is the forerunner to a unique multimedia resource and a tribute to Dr Melbourne's contributions to the industry. It will be launched by record label, Black Media, in time for the Māori New Year, Matariki, in June.

Credited with the revival of taonga pūoro, or traditional Māori musical instruments, Dr Melbourne

encouraged tuākana-tēina (older-younger) mentoring in the industry. The tribute, 'He Rangi Paihuarere' comprises collaborative interpretations - by established and emerging Māori musicians - of melodies composed by the renowned songwriter, music educator and author.

Co-producers Peata Melbourne and Ngatapa Black say the completed project will celebrate Dr Melbourne's iconic music as interpreted by a new breed of Kiwi entertainers. "His songs are multi-layered," the pair explains. "On one level, they are catchy tunes to seemingly simple Māori words and rhythms. "Yet the songs, in fact, reflect a deep knowledge and profound understanding of Māori language and music and its association with the unique environment in which it was fostered, Aotearoa-New Zealand.

The CD is part of a larger project based on this philosophy, with experienced musicians working alongside up-and-coming rangatahi (youth) talent. The educational resource will include a DVD documentary and booklet tracking the entire recording process, allowing artists to share their knowledge and skills.

"This project supports and encourages all artists to incorporate te reo Māori into their work to the highest

international recording standards." The artists involved in this project are: Horomona Horo (taonga pūoro), Tama Waipara, Maisey Rika, Ria Hall, Katera Maihi, Maitreya (Jamie Greenslade), Kawiti Waetford, Soul Sister Aotearoa (Mel Davis), Majik Paora, Anna Coddington, Te Awanui Reeder (Nesian Mystik), Warren Maxwell and Teremoana Rapley.

'He Rangi Paihuarere' revives Dr Melbourne's melodies in a range of genre - from classical opera to electronic dub, from acoustic soul to the rap of artists such as Te Awanui Reeder (Nesian Mystik) and Warren Maxwell (ex-Trinity Roots). "We wanted to be able to cross over on mainstream radio and we wanted to try and make a hit the way we would a Nesian track," says Reeder.

Maxwell says he loves the 'Beatle-esque' nature of the song he chose, reminiscent of 'Eleanor Rigby' or Simon and Garfunkel's 'Scarborough Fair'. "I love the musical contrast of a melancholy song infused with poi rhythms giving it drive. The kōrero of the lyrics asking our tūpuna to awhi each generation, I believe, is so important to acknowledge in this politically correct digital era."

Jamie Greenslade, aka Maitreya, says he and Jason Kerrison changed their tune to reflect the times, both

musically and with regard to the journey of te reo Māori. "We did it with an electronic vibe - because that's the music we love - and with vocal effects which shoot te reo into the future. We also sampled the original vocals which were recorded by Hirini and a group of children at his marae in Ruātoki."

Musician Anna Coddington says she wanted to keep her song of choice simple to showcase the beauty of the lyrics and melody. "I think a lot of Hirini Melbourne's songs are like that - the lyrics and melody alone are enough. To me, that's the hallmark of a good song."

Peata Melbourne and Ngatapa Black say the completed project will be for all New Zealanders to enjoy.

"I worked closely with my uncle and was with him when he set up the Maori music showcase, 'Pao! Pao! Pao!'" says Peata Melbourne. "His aim was always to encourage young and emerging Māori artists in all fields, particularly in music as that was his passion - so this is the perfect vehicle to use his waiata (songs)."

'He Rangi Paihuarere' is funded by Te Waka Toi, the Māori arts board of Creative New Zealand. It is distributed by Ode Records and available in stores and online at www.oderecords.co.nz. For more information email info@blackmedia.co.nz.

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Big Daddy Wilson met the Blues in Germany

Big Daddy Wilson was born more than 50 years ago, in a small town called Edenton, North Carolina, USA. The population of Edenton counts for less than 6000, 55% African Americans, 25% below the poverty line. "We were very poor, but I had a very beautiful childhood", Wilson remembers. "Me and my sisters were raised by Mom and Grandma. We lived a simple life; we went

to church every Sunday. As a child I worked in the tobacco fields and in the cotton fields of Edenton, North Carolina, I was a real country boy. "I was a member of the Union Grove Jr. Gospel Choir.

Wilson sang in church, but he never thought about going on stage, singing as a profession. "I was extremely shy". His guardians meant well for the fatherless boy and they often sent him to church

also during the week as "That won't hurt him. Keeps little Wilson away from drugs and off the streets."

Young Wilson quit school at the age of 16, and sometime later joined the US Army. Being a poor black man in the south and living in a small town, jobs were scarce. Back in Edenton he had listened to music only in church and from the local, country radio station (WCDJ). But now he

went for the first time to a real blues concert in Bremen, Germany.

"I met the blues in Germany. I didn't know what the blues was before," Big Daddy Wilson says. "It was there that I found a part of me that was missing for so long in my life."

It did not take long and the shy guy who had written some poems started looking for melodies. He went on

stage, jammed all over the German blues scene and made an impression with his warm and soulful voice. He began touring with bands and as a duo and even released a few records.

"My sister came all the way to see me perform and she couldn't believe it. No, that's not my brother.

"It seems like all my shyness was gone - thanks to my music."

Mountain Safety Council plea for Tramping or Hunting Trips



'Plan and prepare' is the plea of the New Zealand Mountain Safety Council for outdoor activities, especially at this time of the year.

Recent severe weather events in the Taranaki region have served as warnings claims Chris Owens, Bushcraft Programme Manager for the Mountain Safety Council as "becoming compromised by inclement or a swift change in weather, your own physical limits or becoming injured could have serious consequences for you and your party". He added that "with longer trips comes the need to plan and prepare even more carefully as people may find themselves more than a few hours from the road end - and from help if it is required."

The New Zealand Mountain Safety Council (MSC) advises that before dusting off your pack and checking that the camp stove works, that you follow the five simple rules of the Outdoor Safety Code. "It could save your life," added Mr Owens. The New Zealand Outdoor Safety Code: 1. Plan your trip Seek local knowledge and plan the route you will take and the amount of time you can reasonably expect it to take. 2. Tell someone Tell someone your plans and leave a date to raise the alarm if you haven't

returned. Use the Outdoors Intentions process on the adventuresmart.org.nz website before you leave your house. 3. Be aware of the weather New Zealand's weather can be highly unpredictable. Check the forecast and expect weather changes. 4. Know your limits Challenge yourself within your physical limits and experience. 5. Take sufficient supplies Make sure you have enough food, clothing, equipment and emergency rations for the worst-case scenario. Take an appropriate means

of communication, such as a Mountain Radio or a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) and know how to use them.

For information about a range of courses such as bushcraft; navigation with both a map and compass and GPS; river safety and outdoor first aid run by the New Zealand Mountain Safety Council in your area, visit www.mountainsafety.org.nz

Fascination



Fifi, an ex-SPCA feline, is intrigued about this prickly visitor - a baby hedgehog. More about this meeting next time.



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Opunake Players present

“Confusions”

3 one act plays by **Alan Ayckbourn**



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With incidental entertainment by 'Ad Break'

Sunday April 29 to May 5

8.00pm

No performance on Wednesday May 2
at Lakeside Playhouse

Tickets \$15 Morris & Ockhuysen
No EFTPOS available for tickets



A Medley of Confusions

The cast of 'Mother Figure', from left, Suzi Stanley, Michelle Julian and Bill Hayward. The Opunake Players are performing two plays - 'Mother Figure' and 'Between Mouthfuls' by Alan Ayckbourn, as well as two other from Confusions by same playwright. The season runs from Sunday April 29 (8pm) until Saturday May 5 (No performance on Wednesday May 2). Tickets can be bought at Morris and Ockhuysen, Opunake.

Mutton dressed as lamb - you too could be part of this event

Are you a champion ram or lamb? Or even a sensational cougar?

Want to wear something inappropriate for you - too tight, too short! Lots of bling?

The latest Egmont A and P Association Woolshed Fundraiser - to be held on the 21st April Saturday at 6.15pm at Dunlop's Woolshed, Ohawe - promises a great evening and a chance to express the irrepressible you. Further, it's all for a good cause - to purchase a new tractor.

The woolshed fundraiser will include a three course sit down dinner catered by Rita Tidswell, Linda Morrison and Celine Filbee, cash bar/eftpos and live entertainment with Chicky Hopkins, Patea's own Diva (anyone who caught Chicky's performance with the Patea Maori Club at the recent Patea Swimming Pool

fundraiser will agree this is an act worth seeing here in your own back garden as her performances are rare in the area). Prizes will be for the Supreme Champion Lamb/Ram and best dressed cougar - not to mention the honour to the winners in local history.

All this for \$90 /head. Receipts will be available. Tables can be for 10 or individuals and transport will be available after the function back to Hawera and environs.

Contact Jan Dunlop 2785839 or 027 243 5981 janmdunlop@gmail.com for tickets. Also, if you cannot attend and would like to make a donation to the cause please contact Celine Filbee at the show office 06 278 8613 or PO Box 29 Hawera or ww.egmontshowgrounds.org

Auditions are done and dusted

The Hawera Repertory auditions for their first production of the year, *Dirty Dusting*, are now complete. Written by Ed Waugh and Trevor Wood and directed by Samantha Turner, the Hawera stage welcomes three of South Taranaki's well known actresses, Jane Lawrence, Felicity Willis and Carole Hosie who play Olive, Elsie and Gladys respectively. These ladies are joined by Ben Thomas in the role of Dave.

The trio of 'over the hill' but hard-working cleaners are facing the axe. They might be past their best, beyond their sell-by date and over the hill but they certainly won't take threats of redundancy lying down even with intimidation from their supervisor Dave. Instead, these game 'girls' set up a phone sex service and that's

when the fun really begins. Their bosses don't know about it, their families would never guess and their very willing customers are none the wiser. They're the only chat-line girls with dusters, attitude and

their very own bus passes! Don't miss the original old-timers who become good-time girls in this year's must-see comedy - *Dirty Dusting*. Performances will be at Repertory House, Collins

Street, Hawera from 20th to 30th June 2012. Seating will be at tables with coffee and dessert included in the ticket price.



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