



OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

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Inside

Rains saturate Opunake



Opunake Members of Parliament visit Coastal Care. See page 3.



A special day for Manaia RSA. Turn to page 7.



Emma Cathie wins the big one at Junior Coastal Rugby. Read all about it on page 18.



Help solve the burglary at Headlands. Who is this scumbag. See page 6.



Local resident Chris Redin with flooding at his Opunake property.

They said it was the worst flooding Opunake had seen in 30 years.

The rains poured on the night of August 5-6, leaving Coastal Taranaki residents waking up to flooding which closed roads and streets, forcing some to evacuate, and leaving a massive cleanup job.

Underpasses and cowsheds were flooded, forcing a number of farmers to forgo the morning milking. Surf Highway 45 was closed for a time. Estimates vary as to how

much rain fell that night, but it appears the town bore the full force of the front, with well over 100ml recorded in some parts of the town.

All three schools in Opunake were closed, as was the public library, which had to close after water got into the wiring at the meter board, causing a fire, which was put out by the Opunake Fire Brigade in one of the first of many callouts that day.

A civil defence headquarters was set up at Sandfords Event

Centre.

"There's sewage running round my house at the moment," Opunake civil defence spokesperson Michael Roach said on Thursday morning.

"We are running around trying to do the best we can. The fire brigade are doing a really good job. They would be wet, hungry and tired by now."

The area between Otakeho and Rahotu appear to have taken the brunt of the flooding, although there were reports of trouble from Pungarehu.

"The Rahotu fire brigade was put on standby for us, but they've been struggling too," he said.

At 7am, the entire length of Whitcombe Road had been underwater, he said. The town's retention pond was well and truly overflowing, as was the creek along by St Joseph's School, he said.

"You couldn't see the teachers' carpark. I heard it was knee deep and up to hip deep in places."

At that stage he said he was concerned about forecasts of another front on its way.

"It will be interesting to see what happens tonight," he said.

Ironically, plans had been underway in Opunake to develop a civil defence plan to deal with just such a situa-

tion as this. South Taranaki District Council deputy mayor Ian Armstrong, who had been one of the driving forces behind this, said they had been "seven tenths of the way" to developing the plan before the storm hit.

Around town, residents were waking up to floods on their doorsteps. In King Street, John Harris said that the waters were flooding his place only five minutes after they had reached the house across the road from him.

"It filled up into my carshed,

and then it came in the front door. The kitchen was the worst affected. Then it dropped down as quickly as it came," he said.

Meanwhile a neighbour had to be evacuated from nearby flats.

With the retention pond nearby, residents of Gisborne Terrace expressed anger at the South Taranaki District Council about flooding to their properties.

"We said it would flood like that, and it has," said a man who didn't want to be named.

Chris Redin said he had been rung early that morning and told about flooding on his rental property.

He got there to find that at its height, the waters had completely submerged the back-door deck and gone through the vents. Floating debris meant the water couldn't escape, leading to flooding underneath his house.

His back fence was pushed out of shape, and what was once a children's playhouse was completely ruined.

"The garage was full of gear from when the kids were young," he said. "Now it's ruined. It probably happened because they (the council) didn't keep the grating clear."

Mr Armstrong said that earlier that morning he had heard reports that the walls of the retention pond had collapsed, but these turned out to be wrong. Nevertheless, once the water had overflowed, it meant nearby houses were then facing the full brunt of the deluge.

Continued on page 5.



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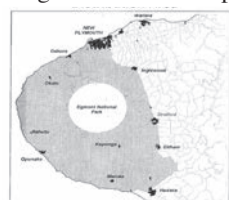
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Apology

We apologise for the misunderstanding - the editor was on holiday and thought the office was being attended by a member of staff. This was due to a Sorry for any inconvenience.

Send your your views to:
Letters to the Editor
23 Napier Street, Opunake.
Fax: (06) 761 7016

email: editorial@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz
You are welcome to use a pseudonym but must supply your name and address to us.

Community mourns the passing of business founder

The Opunake business community and the wider community mourns the passing of Bob Ockuysen last week.

Bob and the late Dudley Morris were the founders of Morris and Ockuysen, which was one of the biggest businesses in Opunake. The

business which went on to be owned by Bob's sons Bart and Ronald was sold 18 months ago to Brian and Monique Sinclair and is now

run as Sinclair Electrical. Our condolences go out to Bob's wife Margaret, their four children and extended family.

Editor

BBC: (Bible Believer's Corner): Christianity

Why even consider Christianity as an option for life?

There are several reasons. Firstly it is historically true. Western historical dates are based on the birth of Christ. Our dating system is either BC, "Before Christ", or AD, "In the Year of our Lord". Was all of history based on a fable? Unlikely, and there is enough evidence from people like Pliny the Younger Tacitus, Josephus and others to confirm the life death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as a historical fact. That isn't even mentioning the four eyewitness accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John or the writings of Paul. Secondly it doesn't stand

alone as a weird unrelated belief. Christianity links to the One God beliefs of Judaism, and more recently Islam. It also aligns with other many other ancient writings.

Thirdly it is the source of Western Law, belief in human rights, and mercy. Although there are older laws and moral teachings, the Ten Commandments are the best. When the teachings of Christ, "Love God and love your neighbour as yourself", are added then a workable legal system emerges.

Fourthly scientific research and the mathematical laws of chance reveal that life, the universe and

everything, appears to be designed. While popular TV documentaries and modern philosophy extol the grandiose scheme of chance, natural selection and survival of the fittest, the latest evidence points in a totally different direction. Tests prove that proteins cannot randomly link to create life. It is also mathematically impossible for mutations and chance to develop ever more complex life forms, even if there were billions of years available. And there aren't. The "Cambrian Explosion" of complex life (10 to 20 million years long) is all the time there is. Even then life arrives diverse and complete, much as we

know it today. And the information stored in DNA points to life being created by a far greater intelligence than that of mankind.

Finally, for me, there is my own experience. Supernatural things have happened, and keep happening in my life that, as far as I can see, only the existence of a resurrected Jesus Christ can explain. Why consider Christianity? Because it fits all the facts and it works.

Richard Oliver
Pastor Eltham Message Church
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Eddie and Nicole Olliver were married in Rarotonga on May 15. They are both former pupils of Opunake High School.

This photo had been incorrectly captioned when published in our July 31 issue. The Opunake and Coastal News apologises for the error.

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MPs see health centre for themselves



At Coastal Care. From left Chester Borrows, Steve Corkill, Jonathan Young, Barbara Kuriger, Paul Bourke.

The three Taranaki electorate MPs are among the more high profile visitors to drop in at the Coastal Care Health Centre.

Jonathan Young (New Plymouth), Chester Borrows (Whanganui) and Barbara Kuriger (Taranaki-King Country) were there on the afternoon of August 5 as the last leg of a trip looking at health services around the mountain. "We are now Team Taranaki," Mr Borrows said. "Three MPs all working together from separate electorates and separate communities."

This parliamentary recess they were taking time to look at health services in their electorates. In future

they might get together to look at other areas like business, justice, education or agriculture.

Barbara Kuriger, who is on the health select committee represents an electorate taking in swathes of Taranaki, King Country and the Waikato.

The communities within her electorate are different, but the issues tend to be the same, she said.

"People want good primary health care, good educational facilities, broadband, good connectivity. Overall the issues are very similar."

With dairy prices taking another hit, concerns have been raised about health issues like depression for people living in areas like

Coastal Taranaki dependent on dairying.

Mr Young says this is likely to pose challenges for health services.

"Part of the resilience of Taranaki people is that they get on with stuff and don't talk about things," he said. "This can also be a bit of an Achilles Heel of rural communities. People try to get through things themselves, and we've got to try to encourage them to get out and get support."

The nature of health services have also changed with the days of growing up with the family doctor becoming a thing of the past. Mr Borrows said GPs in some country area had been known to work

up to 100 hours a week. "No one is on their best game when they are working on their own for 100 hours a week. Having a number of locums and newer faces means another set of eyes looking at a medical condition."

He cites the example of growing up in Nelson, where his parents who had always seen the same doctor had health conditions which went undiagnosed until picked up by a locum. Steve Corkill of Coastal Care said Opunake had had successes in attracting people in other sectors to come and live here, and the challenge was now to attract health professionals to make Opunake their home. This meant making sure all the appropriate services were here, and setting up Coastal Care was part of that, he said. Mr Young concedes there are challenges in getting people to come to Opunake.

"Taranaki is designated as a hard to staff area, but I have heard of one doctor who came to Taranaki for the rugby, and others coming here because they liked the surf," he said.

"We had a bonding scheme introduced back in 2010, which in its first year stopped five doctors leaving Base Hospital. Having this health facility makes it far more attractive for health professionals to come to Taranaki."



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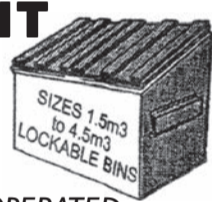
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COASTAL OUTLOOK

I would like to thank those who email me with news and opinions – I did not expect so much correspondence when this column began. This week let us talk about some light-hearted topics and a serious social issue.

Opunake Tui

I have been in Opunake for over a decade and I have never seen a tui in our town. Hence, we have a new expression – “as rare as an Opunake tui” or perhaps “as lonely as an Opunake tui”. Long-time residents tell me that the birds are on some local farms, but not in the town.

I asked Barry Hartley the Taranaki Regional Chairman of the Ornithological Society why we do not have tui. Barry wrote: “My thoughts would be lack of habitat which in turn means lack of a favoured food resource. The area was surveyed regularly for the Atlas Project, but there is little in the way of large bush areas outside of the national park”. The “Atlas Project” refers to www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz, a fantastic website.

I wonder if the absence of tui has something to do with the absence of green corridors from the mountain down to the sea. John Smith does well with his Opunake Butterfly Club. Perhaps he could also advance the interests of the tui and the bellbird.

Opunake Thrush

Local author, Rolland McKellar, has a short story entitled “Janet, Jacquie and an Opunake Thrush”. He writes historical fiction. These are stories about actual people and circumstances with fictional dialog. I hope he publishes a book of his stories for they are excellent.

The stories challenge the reader's knowledge of history and the people who appear. The Opunake Thrush story is about Janet Frame and Opunake author Jacquie Baxter. They meet in Stratford and visit Opunake.

Stratford

Janet Frame shifted to Strat-

**Dr Robert Shaw**

ford from Auckland about 1977. I asked the Stratford Council and the Stratford Library to direct me to the Janet Frame Memorials. There is not one stone to mark the fact that she lived in Miranda Street and Juliet Street. Evidently, Janet purchased the Miranda Street property for \$12,500 (Rolland's research).

Wander around the south of Scotland you will have notice all the mentions of Robbie Burns. This is the pub where he drank, he had a girlfriend who lived in this house and another in the house in the next village, this hill inspired a particular poem, and he rested under this tree. Burns statues and fountains abound. It shows local pride and local marketing at work. Not so in Stratford. Perhaps that is why house prices in Stratford fell 2 per cent in the last 12 months. They might have been the only place where houses became cheaper.

Opunake's famous person
How much involvement did James K Baxter have with Opunake? He must have spent some time in South Taranaki for he refers to our bird life in a poem to his wife. He says she sings like an “Opunake Thrush”: “In the kitchen she sings, Ko tenei to po, Like an Opunake thrush”.

Baxter's wife, Jacquie, was born and is buried in Opunake. Her mother (Mary Kingsley Papuni, died after childbirth 1 June, 1927, aged 20 years) and her grandmother (Julia Harrison, died 11 September, 1919, aged 58) are in adjacent graves. Be proud of these people Opunake, they are our history.

Jacquie is probably Opunake's most famous person, but not because she was Baxter's wife. She is famous in her own right, known by her pen name, J.C. Sturm. She is famous nationally and overseas, but she is virtually unheard of in Opunake. Jacquie Sturm had four names in her lifetime, if you count the name of her second husband.

Birds and matters grave

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road deaths (last year).

Our challenge

In general suicide is worse in the regions than in the cities. New Plymouth had 13 deaths by suicide, while South Taranaki had six and Stratford one. Given the relative populations of the areas, it is South Taranaki with the greatest problem.

**The grave of our best known poet James K Baxter, whose wife Jacquie came from Opunake.**

He was a professor of English at Victoria University of Wellington.

Baxter's grave

Last winter, on a rainy day, I drove from Opunake in search of James K Baxter's grave. The headstone is a white painted river stone marked “Hemi”. The area around it was overgrown. My photo reflects the failing light and the sombre mood.

Suicide increasing

Grave statistics have just been issued. Our suicide rate is rising fast. Now NZ has the highest rate ever. Last year, Taranaki has 20 suicides among the national total of 569. Compare the deaths by suicide (569) with the deaths by road accident (317). In Taranaki: 20 suicides to 11

James Keir Baxter is mostly remembered for his poems, many of which had a biting social commentary. However, less well known is the fact he was also a playwright, who wrote a dozen or so plays. One was called the Wide Open Cage.

He also set up communes, with the most famous being the one at Jerusalem beside the Wangsanu River.

These numbers do not appear high, but they indicate the families and colleagues who suffer. Most importantly, the numbers are of those who succeed at suicide – far greater numbers of people are depressed, face overwhelming problems and are ground into alcoholism and despair.

The suicide figures are a measure of social and economic well-being. They are more relevant than many of the “feel-good” statistics government publishes. Rural-Pakeha-men are a group of much concern, as are young people. I wonder what STDC's new 10-year plan says we will do for them.

Robert Shaw

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Rainfall saturates Opunake



Flooding in the streets of Opunake. Photograph courtesy of Dr Robert Shaw.

Continued from page 1.

“I can understand and sympathise with what they (the Gisborne Terrace residents) are saying, but would it have been different otherwise? I don’t know,” he said.

The pond had held the water back and provided protection for a longer period, but this had been an extreme weather event with a lot of rain on already saturated soils, he said.

The middle of town wasn’t immune from the flooding either, with adjoining businesses Ihaia Motors and AEA Stainless Steel suffering damage.

AEA owner Michael Quintus said a generator and a couple of welders of his were fully submerged.

“The water was coming through the fence, and it would have been about a metre deep,” he said. “It missed my house by inches.”

In Deiffenbach Street, a blockage further upstream fuelled a torrent of water, with a waterfall resembling

a mini version of the Iguassu Falls raging across the street and out to sea. Among the debris picked up on the way were a garden shed and a steel bridge.

Come Thursday evening and the waters were on their way down, but not the worries. Mr Armstrong said there were concerns further erosion might endanger the line along Dieffenbach Street carrying the town’s water supply, raising the possibility of the town being without water. The council asked him to draw up a roster of people to check up on things every hour through the night.

“We had people out at midnight, 1 o’clock, 4 o’clock. They really stepped up and were willing to help.”

He said he wanted to thank the people of Opunake for the way they had pitched in during and since the flooding.

“On Thursday, my phone was going nuts with people ringing up and asking, is there anything I can do to help,” he said.

On Friday, Taranaki civil defence emergency officer

Ben Ingram said they had arranged emergency accommodation for one family. With others making their own decisions to shift in with family and friends, it was difficult at that stage to say how many houses had to be evacuated, he said.


On the same day, South Taranaki District Council communications manager Gerard Langford said council building inspectors had visited 11 homes that had taken flood damage, and these had been assessed as safe and habitable.



Mr Armstrong said he



hoped to call a public meeting in the near future to discuss the town’s civil defence needs post flood. The council would also look at the town’s infrastructure issues like the retention pond.

What happened in Deiffenbach Street also posed lessons for the future, he said.

“We are going to have to look at some of these streams. Landowners have to keep their sections clear, and we should have a good look and make sure people are doing this.”



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Has anybody seen this man?



Police are asking if anyone can recognise this person seen breaking into Headlands Restaurant in Opunake on three different occasions. The first time was on the evening of July 30 when alcohol and food items were taken. He returned early the next morning and stole more food. Early last Tuesday, the same offender returned and stole more alcohol and food. The total value of items stolen is approximately \$600. If anybody recognises this person or has any other information relating to this burglary contact the Opunake Police station or the Hawera Police station if it is unattended.

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Poultry industry supports fine

The Poultry Industry Association of New Zealand (PIANZ) supports the \$15,000 fine given to an Auckland man for attempting to illegally import dried birds' nests, a Chinese delicacy that threatens New Zealand's poultry industry and native birds.

"New Zealand is uniquely free of major avian diseases and imports of dried birds' nests pose a grave threat," says Michael Brooks, Executive Director of PIANZ. "Birds' nests are made from the saliva secretions of the swiftlet bird, which can carry a number of significant avian diseases such as avian influenza and Newcastle Disease that have devastated poultry farms in parts of Asia, Africa, Europe, Australia and North America."

"The New Zealand poultry

meat and egg industries provide over 4,000 jobs and earn over \$2 billion a year. Avian diseases also pose a potential risk to the native bird population of New Zealand." In a successful prosecution brought by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), Tian Chi Lee, 40, of North Shore, pleaded guilty in Manukau District Court on July 30 to a Biosecurity Act

charge of knowingly attempting to possess unauthorised goods – 68 dried birds' nests. The fine of \$15,000 reflected the serious nature of Mr Tian Chi Lee's actions. He admitted that his brother in Malaysia had sent the birds' nests with a false declaration to a fictitious person because both men knew they were not allowed in New Zealand.

Six Dairy NZ spots up for election

Nominations have opened for farmer-elected directors on the board of DairyNZ, with one spot vacated by long-serving chairman John Luxton, who is standing down from the industry body. This year, three farmer positions are open for election to the Board of Directors and another three positions are up for election on DairyNZ's Directors Remuneration Committee. Nominations close on August 28, with voting held from September. John Luxton, DairyNZ's chairman since 2006/7, is standing down. He was a founding director

of DairyNZ, during the transition from two earlier industry organisations – Dexcel and Dairy Insight. John began as a director with Dexcel in 2003. Two other directors' positions are up for election, with Michael Spaans and Ben Allomes retiring by rotation, but still eligible to stand for re-election. The second election is for Directors Remuneration Committee members, which annually considers and recommends remuneration for directors of DairyNZ.

Returning officer Anthony Morton says nominations for all six positions must be received by 12noon on Friday, August 28. "All farmers paying a levy on milksolids to DairyNZ are eligible to stand for election." "If more than the required nominations are received, elections will be carried out by postal, fax and internet voting using the STV (single transferable vote) voting method. Votes will be weighted by annual

milksolids production. Voter packs will be posted on September 14 to all registered DairyNZ levy payers," he says. Results will be announced at the DairyNZ Annual General Meeting in the Waikato on Tuesday, October 13.

On this month in history Robin Hyde dies

On August 23, 1939 author and poet Robin Hyde died in London. She was born Iris Guiver Wilkinson. She was born in South Africa and worked as a journalist in the mid 1920s. Her first poetry book 'The Desolate Star' was published in 1929.

She wrote five novels, with 'The Godwits Fly' being one. As a result of a visit to China she also wrote 'Dragon Rampant'. Before her death she was intending to return to New Zealand.

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Manaia remembers Gallipoli battle

One hundred years ago, Alexander Herbert Graham was killed at Gallipoli, while serving with the Wellington West Coast regiment. "He left from Whanganui to go over there," his nephew John Graham said. "He was one of a group of New Zealanders who got mixed up with the Australians, and ended up at Lone Pine. He was killed with an Australian lad and his body was never found." Fought between August 6-10, 1915, the Battle of Lone Pine was an allied victory, albeit a costly one, with Australian troops gaining 150 yards, and suffering 2277 casualties as part of the August offensive which included the New Zealand attack on Chunuk Bair. On July 31 this year, in commemoration of this battle, about 30 people gathered near the Manaia Golf Club for the planting of three seedlings descended from the lone pine which gave the battle its name.



Manaia RSA president John Graham plants one of three seedlings given in memory of Gallipoli battle.

John Graham, who is now president of the Manaia RSA planted one, while life mem- bers Aileen Joyce and Tom Thompson planted the other two. These were among a number of seedlings raised in the Scion research nursery in Rotorua, collected three years ago from the Turkish red pine at the Paeroa Golf Course, itself a descendant of the original Lone Pine.

It was then opened up for individual RSAs to apply for one or more to be sent to them. "We applied, hoping for one, and ended up getting three," Mr Graham said. While, not entirely sure why their application was so successful, he believes it had been mentioned about his

uncle having been killed at Lone Pine. The Rev David Self told the gathering that there are plans to place a seat and commemorative plaque near the trees which would prove a valuable addition to the Manaia Walkway. "In our imagination, we can see these trees in a few years time, with a plaque and a bench for people to sit and remember," he said. After the planting, Josie Big- ham did the formal karanga, and John Hooker said a kara- kia. Mr Hooker said the area where the trees were planted, with the Waiokura Stream and Waiokura Marae nearby is a significant one for the Ngati Tu hapu. "This is a place where the children in the past would play and frolic," he said. "I used a spring basis for my karakia, about the songs of the cuckoo, harbingers of spring and growth and renew- ing our links with Gallipoli and the men who had gone away."

Eader affair hurt us says Stevenson

South Taranaki District Council (STDC) chief executive Craig Stevenson concedes the Eltham Eader affair has hurt his council's image. With a surplus at the height of the dairy season in October 2013, Fonterra had asked for the South Taranaki District Council's help in dealing with buttermilk waste. In a report to the South Taranaki District Council's August 10 meeting, Mr Stevenson said a mistake was made by a well meaning South Taranaki District Council staff member who has since resigned. "The staff member was seeking to balance the immediate and urgent needs of Fonterra with a sustainable solution for the environment. In his haste to achieve these twin objectives he got it wrong." The Eltham Earthen Anaerobic Digester (Eader) at the Eltham Wastewater Treatment Plant was suggested as a solution. Within a month, nearby residents were complaining about the rancid smell, and

public meetings were held protesting the dumping of the milk. The matter attracted national media attention and led to a split on the South Taranaki District Council. Cr Alex Ballantyne, who represents Eltham was dumped as deputy mayor following his criticism of council staff. The Taranaki Regional Council brought court action against both the South Taranaki District Council and Fonterra. In November 2014, the STDC was fined \$115,000. Fonterra has since copped a \$192,000 fine. The Eader is now in the final stages of decommissioning. "There is no doubt that the Eltham Eader incident impacted on the reputation of the South Taranaki District Council and the morale of both staff, and I suspect, elected members," Mr Stevenson told the council in his report. "As an organisation, we have spent years building a solid reputation based on getting 99 per cent of the things we do right, or close to

it. The Eltham Eader incident is a timely reminder that it only takes one error to undo many years of hard work. "One of the unfortunate by-products of the ongoing negative media surrounding the Eader was the potential for the entire town of Eltham's reputation to be tarnished by association with the Eader incident. The official records show that the negative effects from the problem at the Eader were intermittent and quite localised but the way it was portrayed in national media suggested that the whole town was continually suffering under cloud of stench. This caused considerable confusion and annoyance for many Eltham residents who were largely unaware there was even a problem at the WWTP." Mr Stevenson said he had apologised a number of times to the residents who had been affected, and would always regret what happened. He also regretted the damage to Fonterra. "It has always been my view

that the company approached us with a problem and we agreed to provide a solution. The fact we failed to deliver on that solution should only be seen as our problem, not that of the company. "From the time we discovered we had a problem, local management and staff from across New Zealand worked alongside STDC to resolve the problem." He said he also appreciated the support given by the Council's elected members, who had not been involved in the original decision. "The Eltham Eader incident was one of the tougher tests faced by the management of the South Taranaki District Council in recent years. I have no doubt that we passed the test, but I also have no doubt there are people in parts of Eltham who may disagree."

Manaia Women's Institute gives to SPCA

The AUGUST meeting of the Manaia Women's Institute was held in St. Cuthbert's Church lounge on August 4. The speaker was Val Kerr from Maata WI who gave us a demonstration of felting, and the Roll call was donations of pet food to be given to the SPCA

Reports were given on the Co-ord Lunch that some members had attended and the South Taranaki Federation Craft Day. Competition Results. Shrub. Ruth Binns 1st. Phyllis Malcolm 2nd. Ann Chisnall 3rd. Other Stem. Joy Brogden 1st. Phyllis Malcolm 2nd. Diane

Winerra 3rd. Home Craft. May Mulholland 1st. Ann Chisnall 2nd. Ruth Binns 3rd. Hand Craft. May Mulholland 1st. Anne Megaw 2nd. Ricki Neil 3rd. The wondering coin was won by Shirley Barr and the Mary Hutton Trophy was awarded to Joan Lloyd.

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Kids will keep getting bashed until we change our attitude

Most of us find family violence abhorrent. I'd like to say 'all of us' but that would be a lie. If we all hated family violence, there wouldn't be any. But New Zealanders are very good at it. Half of our relatively high murder rate is the result of family violence. Virtually all of our extremely high assaults on children are the result of family violence, including, the death of one child per month in the family home, usually at the hands of people supposed to love and care for them. We have a huge problem. We have done enough talking about it, and the law changes we have made and the policy changes we have implemented to beat the problem only go so far. With these changes has to come the attitudinal change. It is this change that is one of the largest hurdles we face. Because family violence happens between



Hon Chester Borrows MP

people in relationships, or just recently out of relationships, it is no surprise that manipulation by threats and intimidation through fear play a bigger role than in the usual run of the mill violence, such as that on the street or a punch up at a party, though the frequency of these events just underline that kiwis are quick to lash out. The suggestion is that new offences may be needed

which would form part of family violence legislation, so that convictions would give an account of the context of offending. Judges can then be instructed to pay special attention to these matters and make sure they have full historical facts before sentencing, as the law changes and policy back-up would trigger certain court procedures preventing the minimising

of violence offences away from the 'it's just another domestic' mentality. We already have factors which add weight to a sentence handed down for assault such as the presence of children, the language used, the relationship between parties to the assault and the currency of domestic proceedings, but there needs to be more. The most insidious quirk

of domestic violence is that it teaches our boys that it is expected and understandable that they grow up to beat their partners, and it teaches our girls they should expect a hiding from time to time. This even to the point when she says, 'he only beats me to show he loves me', which is the complete antithesis of a display of love, surely. The fact is that the more we know

people, the better we know how to push their buttons to annoy them. Family violence investigation, prosecution, and recovery are very complex areas to work in. We haven't got the responses we'd like as a nation in spite of the excellent results we have seen so far. It is a hard nut to crack, but we must

Chester Borrows

MAYOR'S COLUMN

The day the floods came

Last Thursday started as a normal morning, until Deputy Mayor Ian Armstrong rang to say *we have a big flood through the town - it's still dark and hard to see, but it is not looking good.*

I headed out after daylight and was able to see the tail end of the huge amount of water that had flowed through the town. By the time I arrived, the Fire Brigade had rescued people from their houses and made everyone



Mayor Ross Dunlop

safe. What amazed me was the intensity and the speed at which this event had oc-

curred. What also amazed me was the speed at which people responded to the event. Emergency Services and Council staff went straight into action.

As I worked my way around the town, there were some heart-breaking situations and I could see and feel the distress that people were going through. It was also good to know that there were people putting their hands up to help those in need.

The rainfall was some of

the most intense experienced in the area - more water than ever hit the town. Drains and culverts struggled to cope.

Our weather events seem to be getting more intense, and we may need to rethink how we deal with this.

Anybody who is struggling to cope, please contact the Council for help and advice.

Thanks so much to those who gave help and support to citizens in need.

Ross Dunlop

Opunake Volunteer Fire Brigade news, views & hints

In New Zealand, 25% of all fires start in the kitchen, so I thought I would give six points worth remembering when rustling up some kai in the kitchen. Firstly, never leave cooking unattended. This is the leading cause of house fires and is responsible for a third of all fire fatalities in The Land of the Long White Cloud. If you need to leave the kitchen, even for a minute, turn off the stove. Never throw water on a frying pan that is on fire, or try to carry it outside. If you can, use a pot lid or a large flat object like a chopping board, or a wet tea towel and place it over the pan to starve the fire of oxygen. If you do have a fire on your stove, try to turn the power or gas off, either at the stove or the mains. Clean your stove on a regular basis

to prevent build-up of spilled fats and burnt foods which can cause fires. If you have a range hood, clean its filters regularly. Did you know you can put these in the dishwasher to clean them? If you have been drinking, don't attempt to have a fry-up. Order take-aways from our local businesses or use your microwave instead. Lastly, keep curtains, tea towels, oven mitts and anything flammable well away from the cooking area. Wear tight fitting sleeves, or roll them up when you are cooking. If you follow these simple rules you will be able to stand on the footpath and see the fire engines in the Opunake Christmas parade. If you don't follow these rules, you'll get an even closer look at the engines as they will be parked up your driveway.

August 6 will go down in the history books as one of the brigade's busiest days. The first of our 25 call outs came in at 6:30 in the morning to 7 Ponderosa Place, and the last one at 4 o'clock was to 7 Wilson Road. As you can see seven was not a good number. The one and only good thing that came out of our extremely busy day was that no town folk or fire fighters were injured. In a lot of the calls there was very little we could do other than to check to see if everyone was okay. We carried or helped quite a few residents (and a dog) to higher ground, taped off power boxes that were "fizzing", lifted fridges and freezers out of the water, coned off flooded roads, and pumped out areas once the water receded. We

even had to tear around to the meter board at the library because water had got into the wiring, and this caused it to catch on fire. Luckily the fire was extinguished quickly so damage was restricted to only the meter board.

I would like to thank Fish and Chips and More for their donation of hot food for the hungry, wet fire fighters, and the fire fighters wives for the food they brought along to the fire station. It was all very much appreciated. Between now and the next edition please test your smoke alarm. If you need a new battery, contact the fire station (761 8199 on Monday evenings between 7 and 9), so we can arrange for you to collect a new one courtesy of the Lakeside Lions.

The Soggy Hose



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Opunake's Heartland Construction's Silver Award Winning home.

Taranaki Region's finest homes announced

Opunake builder Heartland Construction 2013 Limited has taken out a Silver Award in the \$300,000 - \$400,000 category for their Opunake home at the Taranaki Registered Master Builder 2015 House of the Year over the weekend.

Phil Brophy of Heartland Construction said this was the first time he had ever entered. "It was a combination of things that made me enter. The owner wanted me to put it in, and I wanted to go in," he said.

"My team did a good job, and I'd like to thank the owner for giving me a crack at it."

The results were revealed

at a gala dinner on Friday August 7 at Devon Hotel in New Plymouth. The winning builders were recognised by members of the Taranaki Registered Master Builders and members of the local building industry.

There were 10 Gold Award winners from the Taranaki region which will now be eligible, alongside Gold Award winners from up and down the country, to become National Gold Reserve finalists to be announced in September.

National category winners and the Registered Master Builders Supreme Awards for Renovation of the Year and House of the Year will be

announced at a gala dinner in Auckland in November.

The competition is structured on two levels – regional and national. Gold, Silver and Bronze Award winners are determined using a points-based system. A new build and a renovation in New Plymouth have been revealed as this year's top Taranaki homes, winning Supreme Awards in the Taranaki Registered Master Builders 2015 House of the Year.

Pepper Construction took out five regional awards with their winning home, including a Gold Award and category win for the New Home up to \$300,000, as well as the Taranaki Registered Master

Builders Supreme Award for the 2015 House of the Year. The company won the Craftmanship Award and the Sustainable Home Award for the same entry.

Bell Building was awarded the Supreme Award for Taranaki Registered Master Builders 2015 Renovation of the Year, as well as a Gold Award and overall category win for the Renovation Award over \$500,000.

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More pictures of the floods in Opunake



Several streets were closed due to flooding. The Opunake Volunteer Fire Brigade were kept very busy.



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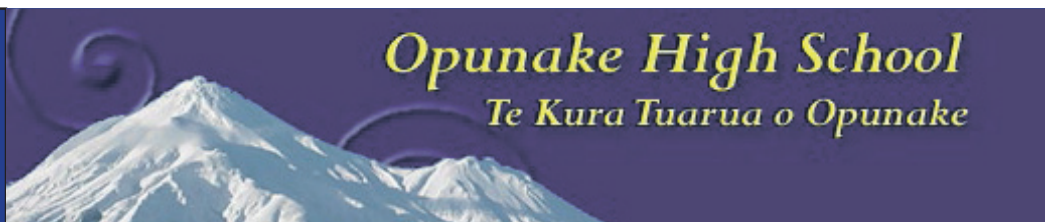
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TARANAKI SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FAIR



STEAM CARS

Year 10 Student Connor Smith makes the final touches to his steam car, preparing to race the car at the 2015 Fonterra Taranaki Science and Technology Fair.

The cars run on methylated spirits which is burned to heat water to steam, with the steam pushing a turbine.

Results:

- Connor Smith - First Prize 9-10 Steam Car Challenge
- Jacob Symons - Second Prize 9-10 Steam Car Challenge
- Jared Forsyth - Merit 9-10 Steam Car Challenge
- OHS Quiz Team - Merit Level 10 Quiz

Quiz Team - Katie Sinclair, Aimee Abplanalp, Flin Rosendaal, Jacob Symons

Below: Jacob Symons, Jared Forsyth, Connor Smith



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SCHOOL CLOSED

Due to heavy rainfall on Thursday morning 6 August the school grounds and surrounding district were flooded. Roads into Opunake were closed, therefore the school was closed for the day.

DAWN COLLESS

Dawn Colless was farewelled by Opunake High School staff and students at the end of term 2. Dawn has been our Resource Teacher of Learning and Behaviour for 14 years, and has been a huge positive influence on our students. Dawn was a significant influence in establishing DREAM values at our school, and has guided many students in positive decision making and helping to develop their mana and self belief.

Dawn's job is now more focused on the New Plymouth schools. Thank you Dawn for all your time, energy and advocacy around our students. While we continue to live the **DREAM** here, we wish you good fortune in realising yours.



Above: **Andrea Hooper** (left) and **Dawn Colless**

SCHOOL JACKETS

Students can order the new school jacket from Karams Clothes on the Coast, prices range from \$75-\$87 depending on size. The staff are currently wearing the smart jackets.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| 15 August | Ball |
| 21 August | Te Kahui Whetu 5:30pm |
| 24 August | BOT Meeting |
| 2 September | Home & School Meeting 7pm |
| 3 September | Opunake Has Talent 7pm |
| 15 September | Photo-life Team Photos |
| 21 September | BOT Meeting |
| 24 September | Course Selection Evening |
| 25 September | End of Term 3 |
| 12 October | Start of Term 4 |
| 26 October | Labour Day |
| 5 November | Senior Prize-giving |
| 9 November | Juniors Exam Week |
| 7 December | Junior Prize-giving |
| 8-10 December | Junior Camps |
| 10 December | End of Term 4 |



HILLARY

Hillary is an English Teacher from Anging No.1 Middle School China and joins Opunake High School for a month as part of the AFS Intercultural Exchange Teacher Programme. Hillary is from Anging, China, and her Chinese name is Huang Shanshan. Anging is a very beautiful city with a long history and 6 million people.

Photo right **Hillary** is teaching **Lorenza Peita** how to make dumplings. Hillary made the dumplings with the Yr 13 & Yr 12 Home Economics class. Chinese dumplings are a filling of pork of cabbage ground to a pate consistency encased in a pastry, cooked in boiling water and dipped into a dipping sauce of soya sauce and sesame oil. Delicious.

Hillary is also teaching students about the Chinese culture.

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And it All Came Spiralling Down ...

This short story by Tara Clement was judged as runner up in the Opunake Sesquicentennial Literary Competition (School Prose), which was judged by Graeme Lay of Auckland.

"We did it, we got the call up! We're playing in the semis tonight!" My teammates shout at me from all around the stadium, layering me with what could have been the greatest news in the world at the time. My mind begins to lose focus and starts to wander aimlessly, conceptualising the possibilities that could come from this one game. The disappointment of losing the previous quarterfinal is gone in an instant, instead replaced with feelings of elation and excitement. Until I am slapped in the face by my worst nightmare, or, more literally, by the announcement that suddenly comes in over the loudspeaker. "7:00 tonight, the first girls' semifinal will be played, Opunake High School vs New Plymouth Girls' High School." That's all it takes. One mere statement and as instantly as my levels of excitement have ascended, my heart is locked shut. I am empty. Weightless, with nothing to hold me down to Earth, nothing to anchor me and keep me on track. The plug has been pulled and just like the water in the ice bath in which we recover, my world comes spiralling down to nothing...

Her name is Joellen. She isn't just my best friend, she's more than that. Within the sport that we both loved, we've been to the extremes together. The success and satisfaction of winning finals, the heartwrenching moment of those narrow losses or not being named in

a team, we both understand it all, simply because we have been through the majority of it together. For years, I had taken it for granted that she would be playing beside me. Training together almost every day, Joellen having my back on court, me having hers, it had all allowed us to think it was going to last forever. As expected, over time we had grown more and more

accustomed to each other's style, on and off court, to the point where we could read like a book what the other was going to do next. We were close, really close. Until the decision was made that for the 2014 school year, Joellen would be changing from little, old Opunake High, and instead, attending New Plymouth Girls' High School...

Now don't get me wrong, going to different schools definitely didn't force us apart. We were still tight, and as cliched as it sounds, we were best friends for life. Which is exactly why the thought of having to play an extremely physical game against her practically wrenched my insides out. After all, this was Girls' High we were talking about, and as the top seeds, I knew they weren't going to be taking the game lightly. I usually wore the blue and yellow strip we called our uniform, with extreme mana, always going out of my way to represent our school to the best of my ability. But not today. I had never felt like this before, the feeling of not wanting to

participate in the one sport that I lived for. When I heard that announcement over the loudspeaker, I wanted nothing more than to crawl up in a ball and take refuge in the corner. Despite all this, I knew I had to seize the opportunity and play from my heart, not just for me, my family, the team, the school, and the community back at home, but if for no one else, for Joellen.

As we entered the stadium, I couldn't control it anymore. The door's lock secured behind me and faster than I could register what was happening, I was crouched over in front of the toilet. I could only hope that all my regretful feelings would resurface outside of me, along with the day's serving of lunch. The time alone gave me the opportunity to think the situation over, and that was exactly what I did, with a burning sensation in my throat, and tears welling up in my eyes. As the vile substance made its way up along the tunnel of my throat, I felt worse than I ever had before. The acidic taste left me with watering eyes and a feeling that had me thinking I should just give up now. But of course, I knew I couldn't. I had no more excuses. This was going to be all up to me.....

It was time. Time for all my fear and nerves that have been stacking up until this point to be put into action. As the ball left contact with the referee's hand, it glided through the air like a paper plane. Girls' High, of

course, won the tip. As we started to play a bit, I began to get a feel for it all again, and eventually all I could remember was the fact that this right here, was the game that I loved. My thoughts were cut short 'though, as the whistle blew in favour of Girls' High, and through the corner of my eye, I could see Joellen, making her way onto the court. I couldn't take my eyes off her. She looked even worse than I felt. From then on, if Joellen came anywhere near me, I would pass the ball off to my teammates, simply so I wouldn't have to feel the pain of having her near me, wearing the wrong coloured strip. I always knew the moment was going to reach me eventually, it was inevitable. Yet it still managed to shock me when it came...

I catch the ball and square up to the basket. All there is in front of me, is an open lane pulling me straight to the hoop. I have no choice. It's like a magnet, using all of its power to draw me nearer. My head drops down as I drive hard and strong to the hoop, mowing a defender down like a blade of grass on the way. "Hooooo." The ref blows her whistle and a genuine smile reaches my face for the first time since I found out about the game. I look down to see my victim, still lying still on the ground. My eyes meet hers, and my smile drops in an instant as realisation strikes me. The defender I had thoughtlessly knocked down just moments ago, it was none other, than

Joellen...

As our eyes meet, I don't know what to feel. There she is in front of me, eyes full of tears, shooting me slight looks of betrayal, making me feel something I have never felt before.

The game meant nothing to me after that point, I couldn't even focus properly. All I wanted to do was run off to their bench and sit with her, comfort her, and make sure that she was okay. I didn't think she'd appreciate that 'though. I was positive we were done. So much for 'best friends for life'... As much as I hadn't wanted her on the court with me at the beginning of the game, at this point I wanted nothing more than for her to step up to the bench and call for a sub, a sign that she was going to be okay and everything else was going to fall into place. But I was waiting for a sub that never came. She didn't return to the game, whether due to the injury being bad, or because of an ache from a broken heart, torturing her from the inside out...

It felt like a decade before the final whistle blew, signalling fulltime. The traditional handshakes went by like dominoes until suddenly the world seemed to halt. I had made contact yet again with those all too familiar hazel eyes. Our paces slowly brought us nearer until she was close enough to whisper in my ear. My heart clenched, waiting for the words that would demolish our friendship forever... "Don't worry about it, I faked it,"

she muttered. "It didn't feel right playing against you so I pulled the pin." She giggled and winked at me, as she returned to her team, celebrating the win that would put them into the finals. I was frozen. My legs locked in place, with an O shaped mouth hanging down. Who knows how long I would have been standing there for if it wasn't for one of my teammates tapping me on the shoulder and telling me to hurry up.

Looking back at the whole situation now, I feel like an imbecile. I've since realised that the struggle I'd had to face with having to play against Joellen that day, was nothing compared to the struggle she'd had to deal with herself. The controversy of her deciding which team to stay loyal to was a fact that I had been oblivious to. While I was too busy thinking about myself, there was my best friend, struggling, and I didn't even try to do anything about it I know that Joellen and I will meet again as opposition eventually. That's one thing that can't be prevented. However what I can and I will do is alter my mindset towards it all.

Regardless, I'm positive that we will both be hoping that the next time the lineup is in any way out of our favour and the plug has been pulled, when the water comes spiralling out of the bath, it won't be anywhere near as overwhelming as this time.

Tara Clement

Martial Mastery

This short story, written by Hone Grindlay, was judged by Graeme Lay as third in the Opunake Sesquicentennial Literary Competition (School Prose).

I stand in line, head up, chin out, feet parallel, my hands dangling by my side. My stomach is a coil of strain, roiling and rolling, caging the nerves inside. I try to project an outer calm, contain my nerves to the pit of my stomach. I ache. My legs are barely able to support me, my arms are tender, sharp stabs emanating down them, culminating at my forearms. Sweat drips onto my shoulders, trying in vain to reduce the redness of my face. I'm tired, I'm so tired. Through the fog that is starting to form at the edges of my vision, I hear a short bark of noise, speech I think. I focus on it, working out what is being said. Ken's talking to the club, congratulating us on our performance. My name is called, followed by

a loud clapping that emanates around me. My footsteps echo, consuming every thought, chasing away the demons of nervousness that have threatened to overwhelm me. I stand in front of everyone, my peers, my friends, my adversaries. NIE! My legs are locked, the stance set. SAN! The strain kicks in, my legs burn. SHI! Sweat beads on my forehead. GO! Sweat leaks down my face. ROKU! My legs start to quiver. SICHI! A glance at Shane, a determined nod in return. HACHI! Around me, students let the stance go, the strain too much. KYUU! Only the determined or stupid stay in position.

A pause before the next count, torturing us, weeding us out. JUU! Release. Standing up, I feel Sensei Ken's eyes on me, appraising I hope. We've been doing this all morning, going through technique after technique, showing off our kata mastery and our physical prowess. Child's play really. But now the main event is finally upon us, the individual sparring. I go through it all in a daze. Ironic really, that the event I was looking forward to most I can barely remember. I recall only blurs of sound and movement, my body and mind reacting as one which has been drummed into me since I first started. Harmony, it's what it's all about. Every time I made a mistake or did well, it didn't

matter. Harmony is the most important aspect of my training, training my body to be able to cope with and perform the moves I need and training my mind to know that I can do it. Harmony, it's what it's all about. That morning, I was so nervous. Before the grading I remember standing outside, the anxiety curling into my stomach, my breath clawing up my throat and choking me, making my face turn red. The introductions and sass I had practised over and over again in my bathroom mirror had been dragged back down my throat and dissolved in the acid of my stomach, as my knees threatened to buckle under the weight on my shoulders. I couldn't fail. I wouldn't fail. I'd spent too much time and put in too

much effort not to grade. I needed to see the results of a year and a half of everyday training. I was so nervous. I'm the only one standing at the front. They stare. They all stare. "Hereby awarded Seventh Kyu!" Ken shouts while my club clap the loudest and the heartiest, letting all present know where I'm from. The rest just clap, for it's still a great achievement. But a few stare and it's not like while I was training, it's a different stare, a somewhat accusing glare. Perhaps because I was called first, perhaps because they don't think I deserve it, perhaps because they just don't like me. With that glare comes a crash, all the nerves and worry cascading out of my stomach and radiating from my chest. That glare makes

it so hard. So hard to stand in front of them all and be talked to by Sensei Ken, so hard to be acknowledged while I'm feeling so empty.

But Shane's there, at the front of the dojo smiling like a fool and still clapping and behind him stands my club. They're my trainers, my friends and my rivals. They're all there and they all help. Their smiles shed the heavy tenseness of my shoulders and back, banish the nerves and the worry. Make it all worth it. The glares are still there but now they only make me want, desire one thing and one thing only.

My next belt. Sixth kyu and onwards.
Hone Grindlay

Down the Darkened Mountain and into the Light

Placed third in the Opunake Sesquicentennial Literary Competition (Adult), this short story was written by Rolland McKellar.

We were returning to Opunake from a memorable concert – ‘Music in the Snow’ – a band performing musical numbers, in a snowy paddock below the Stratford Mountain House. Illuminated by a three quarter moon, the last song ‘Nature’ had gone down a treat and they’d played it twice earlier to loud applause. We were all singing or humming the song, beating time on the car dashboard or seats, when we spotted her – a well-dressed woman, perhaps mid-20s with the emphasis on bright colours. She looked hopelessly ‘under the weather’, but was trying to hitchhike, jerking her thumb uncertainly in our general direction, while her legs had different plans.

Selfishness to the fore, we sped past. “Oh she’ll be fine – lots of people will be passing,” said Mary, who was driving. We looked back and there she stood forlorn, motionless – staring intently at our car as we became smaller and smaller to her eye.

“Look, she’s drunk. What if the wrong car picks her up and – well you know the rest?” ventured Tatiana. It didn’t take much; we reversed the car, weaving between the mounds of snow until we were alongside her. Mary took the lead and got out to speak to her, while I vacated the front seat to make room. Very drunk, yet paradoxically the hitchhiker spoke clearly and intelligently. She said she lived in Hawera, near White Hart Hotel. We guided her into the front seat, as she was heading determinedly for the back where three of us were crammed in already.

She kept talking then turning round to stare at us in the back that’s me, Tatiana and my sister Sally. “What are you doing here, how do you fit in the picture?” Every time Mary went to drive off, we got, “Wait – what is it with the two in the back?” – or similar – and she’d turn and stare fixedly at us. This routine went on for about ten minutes. We didn’t bother to tell her that there were actually three of us in the back.

Bright moonlight lit up her face. She was attractive, in a dusky way – perhaps part-Indian. She rarely stopped

talking, mostly thanking us for our kindness – time after time.

It was a funny set up. Both of us, myself and my sister were born from the first marriage. The break-up of our parent’s marriage had been painful and bitter, preceded by our father going from fling to fling, always apologising and promising it wouldn’t happen again, until our mother scooped us up out of our beds one night and left. For good. At least our father hadn’t been violent. Yet there we were, years later and our father – now remarried – had died, he’d suffered a sudden heart attack. His last words (we had been told) had been, “Oh no, I can’t see.”

The fatal process must have affected his vision in some way. He died in the same Hawera house where he’d spent his childhood. The avid pipe smoker had done quite well for a nicotine addict – he was 81. But there was a strange problem. The new family of my father and his much younger second wife had never been told about the first family (us), despite the fact they were now in their early teens, a boy 13 and girl 14.

We wanted to go to the funeral, of course, closure as much as anything. Yet here was our stepmother Marlene telling us, via a greeting card, pleasantly, yet firmly – we were not to come, with inducements to sweeten the unpalatable message. One of them was quite amusing – all the bereavement flowers would be sent to us. No thanks – both of us were very allergic to pollen!

Our own father – and we were not to attend his funeral because the new family, our half-sister and half-brother, did not know of our existence and may be upset, nay traumatised, by the sudden knowledge.

Finally our unsteady hitchhiker had stopped her staring routine, but still we couldn’t set off. “Look, I must tell you my story. I come from a wealthy family” and she stopped, turning to stare one last time at the backseat occupants. “I don’t get how you fit into the situation,” she repeated.

Before we had time to remonstrate or explain, she continued – as if still on the original topic, “But they are not a very nice family.” We waited with a high

degree of intrigue, but she said no more. Finally, she complained,

“Look, why are we still here? You’d better get going, or I’ll be locked out – again” – the last word stressed. She sounded a bit annoyed.

We rumbled down the darkened mountain and she was virtually silent for the rest of the trip, but our thoughts screamed. What was her story, we burned to know?

Through Hawera’s streets we cruised until suddenly, “Stop, I live here.” She rapped the side window of the car with her knuckles. The house was flash and near the Waihi Beach turnoff.

“I wondered about the rest of your story,” Mary dared. “Don’t feel obliged, but we’ll listen if it helps you get it off your chest.”

“My parents have a guilty secret and they think I don’t know,” she responded. “But I do, I saw some papers in a bureau drawer whilst I was tidying up. It’s something I had a right to know.” She paused. She continued, almost shouting,

“Every right in the world.” Then she opened the car door and stepped out.

The unpleasantness that followed can barely be explained. We’d always felt like the second class family. Maintenance often not paid, birthday presents rare, our one parent family struggling along in poverty, yet we knew our father had three properties – somewhere, one an expensive beach house. So the new family had it easy, well off, wanted for nothing.

However, it wasn’t the fault of the half siblings we’d never met. We yearned to meet them. Nevertheless, the conspiracy of silence had to be maintained in life – and now even in death. We weren’t allowed to attend the funeral and by now another relative was involved, an aunt, who barely understood our point of view, but to her credit tried to broker some kind of compromise.

We had put in our own death notice in the Opunake and Coastal News – an uneasy mix of defiance and entitlement – and this didn’t go down well at all. The aunt was angry at us.

“Don’t you know the children could read this?” She threw down the newspaper. “Imagine the shock – they’ve got rights

too,” she lectured. Leaving her angry frown stamped in our minds, she picked up the receiver and phoned Marlene.

“Well she’s absolutely furious,” she summarised – crashing the receiver down.

We were left with a mixture of righteous indignation and stunned shame, but with the former edging out the latter. “We played second fiddle in life, and now it continues in death,” I said.

“Why should we continue to support a lie, and uphold this ridiculous deception,” added my sister Sally. These comments – and others – just made our aunt even angrier. We headed off soon after to our motel to plan our next move, possibly a surreptitious attendance in the back row, hidden from view. But Sally was becoming mutinous,

“No, it’ll be in the second row, in full view,” she declared. A flash of angry eyes and she added, “And I’ll be getting up to have my say too, when it is time for valedictory speeches.”

It was the morning of the funeral and the phone rang very early at 7am. It was the aunt with a surprise. “Marlene has said you can come to the funeral and sit in the third row, one row (bar one) from the family. But, on no account must you reveal who you are and you must not speak to the children.”

Abjectly, we agreed.

It was a poorly attended funeral, with the St Mary’s Church perhaps a third full. At the function afterwards in the adjoining hall, I barely saw my half-sister Vivienne, and only from behind or at a distance; she was always talking to people, but my half-brother Jack kept coming up to me, eyeing me strangely, curious to know who I was. I dealt him variations of,

“Oh just a family friend,” but each time he seemed dissatisfied. What exactly did he suspect?

A week went by and I was in Morrisons having a quiet coffee. A young woman came in, dressed casually in jeans, one ripped at the knee. She looked familiar – yes it was. It was the tipsy hitchhiker of a few days ago. She came right up to me without a pause, pulling a chair up at my table near the staircase.

“Spotted your parked car – remembered your weird roof-rack. Guessed you’d be in here,” she declared. She continued,

“Oh, I’m just so embarrassed. Thanks so much for the other night. I’m not a drunk. But I was so upset – my boyfriend took off with another girl at the concert. There was nothing else to do, so I drank whatever I could lay my hands on. I’ll never do that again – hell of a headache the next morning.” She looked up at me and smiled ruefully, “Truly, I rarely drink. First

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and last time drunk – I’ve learned my lesson. I’m just so glad it was you and your friends who picked me up and got me safely home.”

The rest of our conversation was about American literature; she was studying it at Massey University – Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Twain and so on. She left with the words,

“We must keep in touch. I’m Carla, by the way,” but didn’t exchange contact details, concluding. “Next week – same time, same day, same place eh” – and marched out without waiting for a reply.

Same place, same time I saw her again. This time she looked very serious. She launched straight into what was on her mind.

“Can you believe this? Kept hidden from me for 26 years, the fact that my father has children from an earlier marriage. I’ve got brothers and sisters – I don’t know how many – and it has been kept from me.” She looked angry and sad in equal measure.

I sat down and wrote an impassioned letter to my father and stepmother, pointing out all the disadvantages of the situation being left as it was. I put things as pleasantly as I could, but my message was direct, no doubt. I didn’t expect a reply and never got one. Another ten or more

years went by. I suppose Vivienne and Jack still didn’t know of our existence in the true sense.

I met Carla, a third time, same place, same time. She was almost jumping up and down with excitement; she had some startling news.

“I’ve got a phone number – I dragged it out of my aunt. It’s for my unknown other family – well one of them a brother.” She opened her purse and produced a folded envelope. I stared at it and got a huge shock – it was my home phone number.

“Your aunt’s given you the wrong number – that’s mine Carla,” I gasped. I felt my face go red and bloodless white, in turn.

A year’s gone by. They say it’s never too late. I’ve seen heaps of Carla, or Vivienne Carla Wilson, my half-sister – she prefers to use her middle name. The more I see her the more I get to know her – and I like what I see. She summed it all up like this. “Down the darkened mountain and into the light.” A surprised laugh and she added, “Oh that sounds like a Hemingway story ‘Across the River and into the Trees’ – read it?” I nodded.

And my father (deceased) and stepmother? Well they’re forgiven – by all of us – and I hope they’ve even forgiven themselves, on earth and elsewhere.

Rolland McKellar

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Milk price drop will have big impact on rural communities

Rural businesses, not just dairy farmers, will feel a big impact from Fonterra's announcement that its 2015-16 Forecast Farmgate Milk Price is reducing from \$5.25 to \$3.85, says industry body DairyNZ.

DairyNZ chief executive Tim Mackle says the drop means a further reduction of \$150,000 for the average dairy farm income for this season.

"The harsh reality of this announcement is that Fonterra farmers won't actually receive \$4.25-\$4.35 because of the way the payment system works. It's likely to be more like

\$3.65," he says.

"The effect on the level of payments over a season will keep farmers' cash income constrained for at least the next 18 months, and it will take some farmers many years to recover from these low milk prices.

"At a national level the \$1.40 reduction means another \$2.5 billion dropping out of local economies. This obviously impacts on farmers and their own already stretched business cashflows. It makes it even harder for them to manage their way through. Milk price is now half what it was in 2013/14. We calculate around nine out of 10 farmers will need to take on extra debt to keep going through some major operating losses. For the average farmer you are looking at covering a business loss of \$260-280,000 this season, but for many it will be a lot more than that," he says.

"There are a lot of other rural servicing businesses that will be affected too. More than half a farmer's business income is spent on farm working expenses. Drops like this have a cascading effect through



DairyNZ chief executive Tim Mackle

rural economies.

"We have had a number of rural businesses tell us that they are very quiet at the moment and expect things to get even quieter. Times are tough for all businesses in the rural areas," he says.

The drop is estimated to

mean a loss of \$259 million in Taranaki. This is based on a \$1.40 drop multiplied against estimated regional production.

"This is the lowest milk price since 2002, and since

Continued over page

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Waikato-based Regal Haulage will take control of FBT's long haul fleet, shipping discharges and store management. Walker Bros have bought some bulk units as well as the silo delivery trucks, and will focus on delivering quality services to the rural community.

FBT will continue to operate on a reduced scale, specialising in spreading, log transport, quarrying, and fertiliser and grain storage in Waverley.

Spreading FBT farewell Tania Wallis after 11 years as office administrator, and wish her well for the future. They welcome Barbara Whitehead, who has transferred over from FBT.

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Continued from page 14 **Milk price drop will impact**

then farm costs have risen more than a dollar per kilogram of milksolids, and average debt levels have doubled – so that’s the double whammy farmers are facing,” Tim said. “It is also why we have to help them as much as we can to reduce the costs associated with producing milk. Low interest rates are helping, but our analysis shows the average farmer now needs a milk price of \$5.40 to break even, and this latest forecast is well short of that.

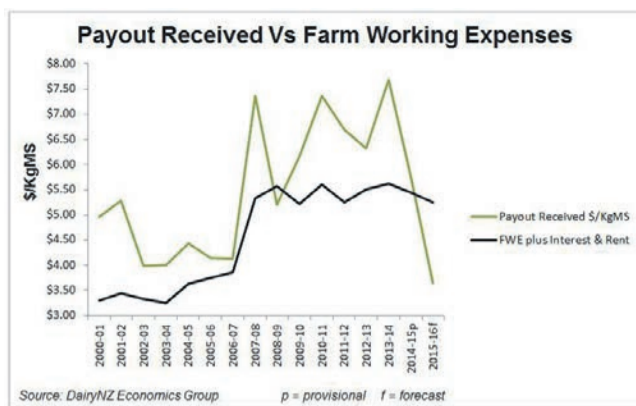
“Farmers know they can’t control the milk price, but they have some control over what it costs them to produce their milk. They’ll be doing all they can to focus on profitable production at minimal cost. More than 600 farmers have taken up DairyNZ’s offer of a one-on-one feed review visit so far and they are telling us that advice is proving helpful.

DairyNZ have held a meeting with Fonterra and

Federated Farmers and the representatives of the major banks.

“We wanted to discuss what we could do at an industry level, and we’ve agreed a few initiatives,” he says. “It’s important banks clearly understand how farmers are feeling, and how much is going on across the industry. We’re going to organise regular regional forums to ensure everyone is fully informed of what is happening, including progress on the rollout of DairyNZ’s Tactics campaign and the Federated Farmers-led initiative for sharemilkers.

“For sharemilkers we want to ensure we have put enough support behind facilitating conversations with owners to re-negotiate sharemilking agreements. We need sharemilkers in our industry – they are our future – we have to wrap support around everybody working on farms. We all



want to ensure rural mental health services and rural support trusts are supported to operate at their best, and the banks seem keen to offer help if needed,” he says.

Tim says the dairy industry has contributed enormously over the past five years to regional economies and to the nation – \$67 billion in export income since June 2010.

“It’s good to see other sectors stepping up and doing well right now to help regions and rural communities through this tough patch. We need to

keep our rural towns going strong while dairy dips. We’re conscious that a lot of businesses depend on the strength and scale of dairy, so it’s good to hear that sectors like tourism, viticulture and horticulture are having good growth this year – that should help ensure the viability of rural services and towns.

“We will bounce back – but it may take some time, so other sectors will need to step up to help our economy – and that will help us all get through this together,” says Tim.

Production drop forecast as farmers look to manage costs

The DairyNZ Economics Group is predicting at least a two to three per cent drop in New Zealand’s milk production this season as farmers try to improve the efficiency of their farming systems.

DairyNZ senior economist Matthew Newman says the official Ministry for Primary Industries cull cow figures show that farmers reduced cow numbers earlier than normal last season. “This looks likely to continue this season in response to low milk prices,” he says.

“Fewer cows along with less supplement use will inevitably mean less milk is produced and processed, and so we are at this point in the season forecasting a drop of about two to three per cent.

“We’re picking up the signals that our 14,000 levy-paying dairy farmers are intensely focussed on how to achieve cost-

efficient production this season. They are removing any unnecessary costs that will reduce the need to increase their debt and help minimise their losses. The number of cows going to meat processors is up 21 per cent, more than 185,000 on last year (to the end of May). That’s a very high level for the industry. Given this increase and the impact that will have on cow numbers, we don’t expect to see herd sizes increase this season across the country.

“The big question still hanging over the season is what the El Nino weather pattern brings in terms of the climatic conditions for farmers for late spring, summer and then autumn. We have had a cold July and that hasn’t helped grass growth. If we get dry conditions this summer, production could drop further.

“However, it is difficult to predict, as last year’s dry weather was followed by a good autumn, and production really bounced back quite quickly, with milk supply up more than three per cent at the end of last season. The seasonal conditions we are going to face going forward are unknown, but it’s likely that production will be down this year. We’re just not certain by exactly how much at this stage,” says Matthew.

“We know feed is a big cost for farmers, and they will also be looking to delay non-urgent repairs and maintenance, cut their fertiliser spend and any unprofitable supplementary feed. “Repairs and maintenance, fertiliser and supplementary feed costs make up about half of a farmer’s working business expenses. These are big cost items that are historically linked to the ups and downs

of milk price. So when milk price goes down, we will generally see these cost areas reduce,” says Matthew.

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Breaking the cycle – farming sustainability requires change

Albert Einstein once said the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.

The need for change in the dairy industry has prompted me to revise an article I originally wrote back in 1999 that is still very much relevant today.

When it comes to the ongoing economic welfare of today's farmers – the backbone of New Zealand's largest industry – all sectors must work together to create change. As history demonstrates, without change, we will continue to get the same results.

In 1999 the payout was at \$3.42. Back then, I stated that unless growth in production was controlled and emphasis placed on consumer products, farmers faced a payout of \$3.10 (in 1999 dollar terms) by 2017. The fact that \$4.40 today translates to \$3.01 in 1999 dollar terms has prompted this contribution.

In a nutshell: I believe no one should be unduly surprised by the dairy payout being in the \$4-\$5 range, although this season's \$3.85 payout is a record low in CPI adjusted terms.

After all, in 14 of the last 22

years (if next season's projected payout is considered), the CPI-adjusted payout has started with a \$3, \$4 or \$5.

In only six of the past nine years and in two seasons at the beginning of the century has the payout started at \$6, \$7 or \$8.

These recent 'high' payouts have been solely due to China's demand, while those in 2001 and 2002 were due to America diverting grain from dairy to biofuel production.

This trend has simply continued the long-running erosion of the payout; back in the 1950s farmers received \$10-12.

Clearly, history shows us that unless there are unusual global events, farmers will continue to be faced with payouts which make farming economically unsustainable when farming practises require \$5.50-\$6 to break even.

Surely then, New Zealand dairy must do things differently.

We need to appreciate that when it comes to cross-country dairy trade, New Zealand is a very big fish in a small pond. In my opinion, that is not a comfortable position for the fish – especially in times of drought.

New Zealand farmers produce only three per cent of all cows-milk produced worldwide; yet our dairy exports make up about 40 per cent of all dairy products traded internationally.

Only seven per cent of milk produced worldwide is exported – that's the small pool. Forty per cent of that seven per cent is contributed by New Zealand – that makes us the big but vulnerable fish.

Quite small blips either in demand for that seven per cent, or in supply, impact quite dramatically on New Zealand as the biggest trader in milk commodities.

So the question is, is that what New Zealand is and we are continuing to allow ourselves to be – a vulnerable commodity trader where returns for our farmers are at the mercy of the commodity world?

The CPI-adjusted payout to New Zealand farmers has at best remained static over the past two decades. Over that time, costs of production and compliance have increased markedly. Margins have been squeezed. Farmers have reacted as they have always reacted – by increasing scale and efficiencies.

New entrants have come in



Phil Beatson.

often at a corporate level; established farmers have expanded their operations in a bid to remain viable. But at the end of the day, economic sustainability is entirely dependent on a higher payout.

As I see it, again that will only be achieved when New Zealand stops being a 'commodity tragic' and becomes serious in adding value to supply the affluent world with high-quality consumer products.

Our big processors having the wrong KPIs isn't great when it comes to the welfare

of their farmer suppliers: success isn't just being able to process ever-increasing production. Greater focus on measuring success as sustainable and high pay-outs is surely needed.

Could the first steps to achieve high payout be to curb production and divert more resources to value-add? I often wonder what the pay-out would look like if New Zealand farmers supplied only 1 billion kg MS rather than 1.5 billion kg.

Perhaps we had an inkling in February when proces-

sors predicted that this season's production from New Zealand was likely to be one per cent less than last year. Auction prices spiked markedly but have declined since, with announcements that due to a favourable autumn, milk supply is in fact three per cent higher. It's simple supply and demand. The buyers of our commodities breathed easy.

Some would argue that curbing milk production might be good for today's

Continued on page 17

New life is black and white

A Manaia couple are pleased with their venture into black and white. After an "accident" last year led to the birth of black and white sheep, Gordon and Anne Chisnall decided to see if their sheep could produce the same this year.

"Last year we had a cross-bred Dorpor ram running with a few coloureds and crossbreds, and turning out black and whites," Gordon said. "The first ones last year happened by accident. This year we thought we might breed a few more of them as

a bit of a novelty."

A good summer meant lambing was a month earlier than usual, leading to the birth of nine black and white lambs, including one set of

twins.

The Chisnalls gave up dairying 20 years ago, keeping 10 acres where they keep 50 ewes and leasing out the rest of their farm.

"Sheep are not as big a tie as cows," Gordon said. "Sheep are better on the low lying ground, while cows pug it up."



Gordon and Anne Chisnall's black and white sheep.



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Keeping it in the family at Eltham Smallbore Rifle Club

Family groups were the feature of this week's shoot at the Eltham Smallbore Rifle Club. Brian Hicks scored 94.1, and 94.3 to beat his son Stephen who shot one card of 87.2; Heather Symonds shot cards of 92.1, 92.2 and 91.2 to beat her brother Cameron who managed 74.1, 88.1, and 87.1; Life

Member Murray Chinery scored 91.3 and 94.3, but was just edged out by his grandson Matt Sulzberger who scored 94.1 and 95.4; Naz McLeash has recently started on the full cards and scored 76.0 and 84.1, and her daughter Keira achieved a good average with 99 and 96 on the grouping cards. Garry Rowlands top scored

out of the senior shooters with high scores of 99.5, 99.7, and 99.8. Other scores were Frank Eustace 94.4, 96.2; Michelle Hofmans 92.3, 92.2; Adrian Clark 94.5, 90.1; Paul Longstaff 93.5, 96.5, 96.5; Bob Bramley 88.2, 88.3, 92.1; Don Litchfield 95.3, 91.1; Alan Drake 90.2, 91.1. On grouping cards,

scores were Angelina Harris 98, 100, Noel Hainsworth 100, 90.1. A week earlier, a good turnout of members of the Eltham Smallbore Rifle Club saw Cameron Symonds achieve his personal best in the D grade with a score of 90.3. Another new shooter, Angelina Harris achieved very good scores

of 99 and 97 on the grouping cards in her first attempt at target rifle shooting. Senior shooters Frank Eustace and Garry Rowlands both had high scores of 99.8 and 99.7 respectively. Other scores were Noel Hainsworth 79.1, 74.1, 76.0; Matt Sulzberger 92.2, 94.2; Adrian Clark 95.4, 95.3; Alan Drake 92.1; Geoff Coubrough 95.2, 96.3; Frank Eustace 98.2, 99.5, 99.8; Bob Bramley

72.0; Don Litchfield 93.2, 96.2; Brian Hicks 96.5, 93.1; Stephen Hicks 95.1; Kathryn Mischefski 95.2, 96.5; Cameron Symonds 87.1, 90.3, 87.0; Heather Symonds 92.2, 95.2, 89.1; Murray Chinery 92.2, 94.2; David Hartley 78.0, 82.2, 61.1; Garry Rowlands 97.5, 99.7. On the grouping cards scores were: Bob Bramley 97; Brian Cook 99, 98; Simeon Cook 94, 93;

A win for Oaonui

Oaonui won the Bridge Man Shield, previously held by Eltham, at the Inter Club Shoot at the Hawera Hub on July 28. Hawera was a close second by one point.

Hawera's Bruce Cameron top scored on the night with 199.15 with Doug Gibson second on 198.8.

Scores were: Oaonui: Dave Fake 194.10, Doug Gibson 198.8, Sam Gooding 197.10 =589.28, Hawera: Bruce Cameron 199.15, Jason Cameron 194.7, Frank Eustace 195.12=588.34 Inglewood 1: Brent Moratti 197.14, Kevin Bocock 187.7, Trevor Jupp 193.9=577.30, Inglewood 2 Billy Moratti 191.6,



Doug Gibson and Jason Cameron marking shot cards

Graham Moratti 191.7, Brian Shewry 188.5= 570.18, Eltham : Gary Rowlands 196.7, Kat Mischefski 190.5, Alan Drake 181.2=567.14, Inglewood 3 Ross Drinkwater 190.5, Lou Donnelly 188.7, Lou Butler 160.0= 538.12, Other scores were: Noel Hainsworth 178.0, Cameron Symonds 164.2, Heather Symonds 181.5, Murray Chinery 181.4

Swimming and shooting a good mix

Plenty of good keen shooters competed at the Hawera Hub range on August 5. One of the more notable shoots was from Joe De Costa who, after swimming next door at the pool in several races, came to the shooting and calmly shot a real tight 100group. Jackson Jennings was the only other one to shoot 100group. Dwayne Rangī continues to improve and had a PB of 92.4 Noel Hainsworth was up to his best with an average over his first two scores of 93.2. Mathew Peters scored well on a 94.3. Scores were: Dwayne Rangī 91.1, 92.4, Rico Symes Patterson 98gr, 83.2, Alex

Munro 82.1, 86.1, Jackson Jennings 100gr, Kade Lott 83.1, Brody Lott 90gr, 94gr, Llewellyn Farr 98gr, Dylan Farr 99gr, 97gr, Clayton Robinson 69gr, 79gr, David Kelsen 98gr, 98gr, 94.1, Aidan Kelsen 90gr, 92gr, Noel Hainsworth 93.1, 94.3, 89.0, Air rifle Steve Smith 91.0 Joe De Costa 100gr, Hayden Adreoli 97.3, Bruce Cameron 100.7, 100.8, 100.9, Jason Cameron 99.4, Frank Eustace 99.7, 95.2, 98.4, Mathew Peters 94.3, 89.1. Among the shooting of note a week earlier was Joe De Costa, who on his first full card scored a creditable 85.0. Steve Smith, shooting from the standing position,

scored 91.0 and 89.0. Noel Hainsworth was consistent with 91.0, 90.1, 91.2. Bruce Cameron is continuing in fine form with 100.9 and 100.7. Scores were: Dylan Farr 97gr, 97gr, Dwayne Rangī 89.0, 84.0, Llewellyn Farr 99gr, Steve Smith standing 91.0, 89.0, Geoff Coubrough 97.2, 96.2, 95.2, Ethan Fraser 92gr, 91gr, Max Hutchinson 95gr, 89gr, Alex Munro 87.1, 85.1, Jackson Jennings 98gr, 84gr, Kade Lott 87.0, 85.0, Brody Lott 89gr, Clayton Robinson 91gr, 76.0, Rico Symes Patterson 99gr, 78.2, Noel Hainsworth 91.2, 90.1, 91.2, Joe De Costa 100gr, 85.0, Mathew Peters 84.1, 88.1. Bruce

Cameron 100.9, 100.7, Jason Cameron 99.3, 97.6, Frank Eustace 98.5, 98.6, 97.4, Sam Gooding 99.6, 95.2.,

Continued from page 16

farmer, but not for 'NZ Inc.' I'm not so sure, provided we become suppliers of value-added products: higher per unit returns for value-add may gross equal or higher total revenues from less milk; fewer cows would mean lower environmental impact; and those employed in the dairy industry would have a more certain working future. New Zealand would certainly present itself in a greener and cleaner light to the affluent buyers of quality goods. Our processors need to put greater investment into research and development to make high-value products. It's human nature to point the finger at the big players but, many sectors need to shoulder responsibility including successive governments and farmers themselves. Politicians and the Commerce Commission have historically let New Zealand down badly. Aspects of the DIRA2001 are woeful. Fonterra is obliged to pick up all milk offered to it. In itself this encourages proliferation of stainless steel and

Breaking the cycle

forces upon Fonterra (and others) a KPI that is killing the industry – the ability to process increasing supply. Fonterra is obliged to provide rival processors with a regulated quantity of milk at farm-gate prices – what other industry does that? And while Fonterra has to pick up milk from all and sundry, competitors can cherry-pick from willing suppliers – surely they should be regulated along the lines of having to accept milk at the same price from any willing supplier within the radius of their furthest supplier from factory? Now that would create an interesting playing field. As it stands, legislation gives Fonterra a way out regarding farmer returns and gives its competitors unfair advantages in terms of a cheap supply of milk and the ability to choose suppliers. Our politicians must act with vision and urgency. Further, the Government needs to be more precise with targets they set for agriculture. I would hope when politicians talk about doubling production by 2025 they in fact mean productiv-

ity and not volumes of product. But do they? Do investments in large irrigation and water schemes really answer the issues New Zealand faces? And the agricultural industry has allowed all this to happen. It allowed DIRA to proceed with all its flaws and we now powerless in controlling the major companies. Farmers have allowed new milk into the system at a ludicrously low cost of entry; a share value based on stainless steel is peanuts compared to the value of industry structure and intellectual property that generations of farmers funded. It is time for politicians, processors and farmers to act. The need for change has never been more evident. **Phil Beatson - Genetic Development Strategist at CRV Ambreed**

Phil Beatson has contributed many articles commenting on dairy industry matters over the past 20 years. This article revives key issues raised in a Dairy Exporter article he wrote in 1999.

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Coastal Junior Rugby Prizегiving attracts huge crowd



Emma Cathie and Dallas Fisher had a great night at the prizегiving. Emma won the Shield for Most Outstanding Junior player, and (as far as we know) is the first female player to win the Shield. Congratulations Emma. Dallas was selected to play for the Ross Brown South team.

There was a large turnout of supporters and parents on Saturday August 1 at the Sandford Event Centre, Opunake for the Junior Coastal Rugby Prizегiving, with the major prize going to Emma Cathie. The MC was Michael Grayling the Convenor of Junior Rugby. Special guests included Brent Davies president of Coastal Rugby and Sean Luttrell representing the Taranaki Community Rugby Trust. In his speech Michael thanked the various sponsors for their generosity, which allowed equipment to be purchased including

such crucial items such as mouth guards. He also paid tribute to parents for their time commented, "You do an awesome job." He was referring to all the time spent bringing the young players to practices and games. A highlight was the presentation to Michael of a cheque by Sean Luttrell on behalf of the Taranaki Community Rugby Trust, which runs the rugby farm.

There were many awards, but the highlight was the winning of the premier award - the 'Most Outstanding Junior Player Shield' by Emma Cathie,

the first girl player to do so. Brent Davies complimented Emma on her sterling commitment and for being a great team player. A modest person, Emma's reaction was confined to, "Shocked" and "awesome." Another important accolade were the players named in the Ross Brown South team, namely Dallas Fisher, Cullum Tito, Scott Quinnell, Corbyn Sutcliffe and Caleb Clark. Those selected for the Ross Brown West team are Juan Niwa-Te Huia, Bailey Watson and Chaz Taipari. Also meritorious were Emma Cathie, Tyler

McNutt, ManaAtaahua Tamakaha and Luke Berquist being selected for the Taranaki Under 13 Open Weight Training Squad.

"That's really good for the future," commented Brent Davies of these 12 outstanding players.

The awards included Most Outstanding, Most Improved and Most Dedicated for the six age group teams, which ranged from the Under 6 players up to the Under 13 players. Mike Grayling paid tribute to the coaches for their commitment and dedication. The coaches were Donna Harvey (Under 6s), Richard Paton (Under 7), Paul Norgate (Under 9), Hamish Campbell & Mike Griggs (Under 10), Ricky Tito & Kylie Brophy (Under 12) and Matt Lawn, Mike Starsmore & Karl Berquist (Under 13).

A number of people complimented Michael on his excellent job as convenor and expressed the hope he'd stay on for next season.



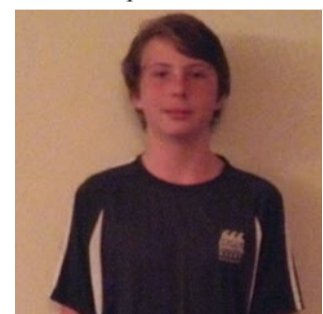
Most Dedicated Under 7 player Jethro Campbell and his Coach Richard Paton.

Coastal Opunake Junior Rugby Club Trophies 2015

Under 6
Most Outstanding Charlie Trethewey
Most Improved Blake Marshall
Most Dedicated Oscar Keller
Coach: Donna Harvey
Under 7
Most Outstanding Jacob Foley
Most Improved Cayden Paton
Most Dedicated Jethro Campbell
Coach: Richard Paton
Under 9
Most Outstanding Jono Lang
Most Improved Breckyn Drought
AJ Lawn
Most Dedicated Elijah Lash
Coach: Paul Norgate
Under 10
Most Outstanding Noah Lash
Tayne Clark
Most Improved Liam Drought
Most Dedicated Mahlee

Campbell
Coach: Hamish Campbell and Mike Griggs
Under 12
Most Outstanding John Grayling
Most Improved Nic Sinclair
Dylan Robinson
Most Dedicated Kale Jordan
Coach: Ricky Tito and Kylie Brophy
Under 13
Most Outstanding Luke Berquist
Uriah Terry
Most Improved ManaAtaahua Tamakaha
Most Dedicated Kian Abbott Butler
Coach: Matt Lawn, Mike Starsmore and Karl Berquist
Most Outstanding Junior Player Shield Emma Cathie
Coastal Opunake Junior Rugby Players selected for Ross Brown South team: Dallas Fisher, Cullum Tito, Scott Quinnell, Corbyn

Sutcliffe, Caleb Clark
Coastal Opunake Junior Rugby Players selected for Ross Brown West team: Juan Niwa-Te Huia
Bailey Watson
Chaz Taipari
Coastal Opunake Junior Rugby Players selected for Taranaki Under 13 Open Weight training squad: Tyler McNutt
Emma Cathie
ManaAtaahua Tamakaha
Luke Berquist



Coastal Opunake Junior Rugby Player Tyler McNutt has been selected to trial for the Taranaki U13 Squad.

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Stratford tournament could be key for Olympic bid

Whether the New Zealand Men's Hockey team make it to next year's Olympics could depend on beating Australia at a tournament to be held in Stratford in October. The draw for the 2015 Oceania Cup has been confirmed with the Black

Sticks Men and Black Stick Women set to play Australia, Fiji and Samoa from October 21-2 at the TET Multisports Centre in Stratford. The event, which is held every two years, has become increasingly important for the Black Sticks Men. The Kiwis need to beat World

No.1 Australia and win the tournament to book a spot at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. Oceania Cup secretary general Bob Claxton said it's great to have the trans-Tasman rivalry between Australia and New Zealand, as well as Fiji

and Samoa all competing at the same tournament. "Both Fiji and Samoa have made significant progress in the last two years, in particular, I think Fiji Men may surprise everyone with their ability. "This year we added Tonga and the Solomon Islands to

the Oceania hockey family and American Samoa, New Caledonia and Guam are keen to start playing by the end of 2016," said Claxton. A fourth place finish for the Black Sticks Women at the World League Semi-Final in Belgium was enough to confirm their

spot at the Games, but there's still lots on the line. Coach Mark Hager says the clear aim for his side will be to win back the title and be the best side in Oceania. The Kiwis were pipped 4-5 in a penalty shoot-out in the final against Australia at the last Oceania Cup held in 2013.

Coastal Adult Riding Club Dressage results



Wendy Pullman at the Winter Dressage series at the Egmont A&P Indoor arena. The first day of the Coastal Riding Club Winter Dressage series was held at Hawera in the Egmont A&P Indoor arena on July 26. Judges for the classes were Belinda

Wakeling of Kaponga and Sue Thorp of Lepperton.

Results. Class 1. NZ Riding Club Test 1 A. Dale Mosely (Bugs) Hawera 1, Anna Kissell (Serenity's Romeo) Lepperton 2, Fiona Fredrickson (Ziggy) Inglewood 3, Kath Lambourn (Millennium Lady) Hawera 4
Class 2. NZ Pony Club test D. Leslie Bloeman (Orey) Kaponga 1, Wendy Pulman (Luka) Stratford 2, Toni Towers (Burger) Hawera 3 and, Niki Perrett (Whistle The Blues) Hawera 3rd equal.

Class 3. NZ Pony Club Riding test J. Kate Worthington (Ascot) Toko 1, Niki Perrett (Whistle The Blues) 2 Leslie Bloeman (Orey) 3, Wendy Pulman (Luka) 4
Class 4. NZ Riding Club 2A. Kate Worthington (Ascot) 1, Paul Lavoipierre (Matilda) Inglewood 2, Kirsten Gooch (Affair) Toko and Sophie

Arnoux (Glynmawr Image) Eltham 3rd equal.

Class 5. NZ Riding Club 2B. Kirsten Gooch (Affair) 1, Niki Perrett (Kool Kat) 2, Jenny Lavoipierre (Muffin) and Paul Lavoipierre (Matilda) 3rd equal
Class 6. NZ Riding Club 3 A. Andrea Dingle (Evander) Opunake 1, Sophie Arnoux (Glynmawr Image) 2 Aimee

Schumacher (Sir Tristan de Lyons) Stratford 3

Class 7. NZ Riding Club 3 B. Andrea Dingle (Evander) 1, Aimee Schumacher (Sir Tristan de Lyons) 2

Class 8 Pairs Free-style. Jenny and Paul Lavoipierre (Matilda and Muffin) 1. The second day of the series will be on September 12.

Cobras stumble at last hurdle

A gutsy performance at Pukekura Park wasn't enough to produce a fairytale ending for the Coastal Cobras. Last year the Cobras were the wooden spooners. This year they made it all the way through to the Taranaki Premier Grand Final, up against last year's beaten finalists the Marist Dragons. The last time the Cobras

was back in 1993, when they faced off against the Waitara Bears. They didn't win on that occasion either. Teams from the cobras had however won the Development grade in 2012, and had three times made the finals of the Western Alliance, a competition taking teams from Taranaki through to Manawatu.

In a game played before 1000 spectators, the Dragons dominated the first half with five tries to lead 24-0 at the break. In the second half, the Cobras seemed to find a new lease of life, scoring all their points to win the half 10-4, with tries to Jason Castle and Renee McGee, and a goal to Mark Davis.

After congratulating the Dragons on their win, Taranaki Rugby League president Grant Coward said this season he had followed the Cobras' progress with interest.

"You are a credit to the coast and a credit to the game," he said.



Coastal Cobras playing at Pukekura Park had a tough final, but enjoyed great support.

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PUBLIC NOTICES



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Chief Executive

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Secretary

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PUBLIC NOTICES



CREATIVE COMMUNITIES SCHEME Funding Local Arts Activities

Applications for funding assistance for community-based arts activities in South Taranaki beginning after Friday 16 October 2015 are now being called for. Your application will need to meet one or more of the following funding criteria:

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

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

For further information, please contact Maryse Ropiha, 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 25 September 2015** at 4.30pm (for projects beginning after Friday 16 October 2015)

Call us today to advertise on 06 761 7016
NEXT ISSUE DUE OUT
AUGUST 28

OPUNAKE COMMUNITY BATHS A.G.M.

Wednesday 26th August 2015,
7pm at Headlands.

We need to fill positions of Chairperson & Treasurer.
Please come and support your community pool.

DAFFODIL DAY STALL



Friday, August 28th 2015

Opunake Lakeside Lions Project

Venue: RD1 Opunake Verandah - starts 9am

All donations of baking, produce, plants, handcrafts welcome.

Contact Margaret Holmes Ph: 761 8923



GirlGuiding
New Zealand

Leaders Wanted

We are seeking volunteer GirlGuiding Leaders to work with girls in varying age groups from 5 to 13yrs from Manaia and surrounding Districts.

Are you a parent / caregiver, a fully employed or part-time worker or a student looking for ways to support our local community? GirlGuiding offers a lot to both you as Leaders and to the growth of girls.

If you're over the age of 18 and like adventure and want to share your life skills to help girls and young women grow to become the best they can be, we'd love to hear from you.

Contact Rhonda Cato, District Co-ordinator, on 027 2540659 or Shelley Craig, on 274-8594 or 027 2301808

Call us today to advertise 06 761 7016
Next issue out August 28

CHURCH NOTICES

Opunake & Okato Co-operating Parish CHURCH SERVICES

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

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

Other areas

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

ALL WELCOME

THE WAVE

Pentecostal Church 64 Domett Street, Opunake
Sunday Services 10.30am

Women's Group 10.30am Tuesday

Men's Group 7 pm Wednesday

Youth Group 7pm Friday

Come along or contact Pastor Murray
027 688 7378

VEHICLE FOR SALE

CAR FOR SALE



1995 HONDA CRV \$4000 now \$2500 ono.
Please ph 06 752 4377

PUBLIC NOTICES

What's On Listings



JONATHAN YOUNG
MP for New Plymouth
Need to speak with your local MP?
Monthly clinics being held in Opunake, 3rd Monday of each month. 10am-12pm at the Opunake Business Centre. Please email or phone to book a time.

PIHAMA INDOOR BOWLS
Pihama Hall, Monday nights, 7.30 start
Everyone welcome

OPUNAKE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
Meet on the 1st Monday of each month.

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

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

SCHNITZEL NIGHT
Every Wednesday at the Stony River Hotel, Okato

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

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

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

TARANAKI COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME, MANAIA
Running every Thursday night from 7.30pm, 11 Surf Highway, South Road, Manaia.

EGMONT EUCHRE CLUB
Meets every Thursday 1pm at the Opunake Bowling Club

CAPE EGMONT HISTORIC LIGHT & MUSEUM
Open 11am – 3pm weekends, Bayly Road, Warea.

TODD ENERGY AQUATIC CENTRE
Family fun times 10.30am to 4.30pm.

COASTAL SINGERS
7pm every Thursday night. Contact 761 8654.

ELTHAM BUSINESS ASSOCIATION FRIDAY MARKETS
8am to 1pm, Carpark of Touch Point, High Street, Eltham.

OPUNAKE SURF INN – LIVE BAND
Ocean Breeze – Friday 14 August. Free entry.

BUTLERS REEF OAKURA
Friday 14 August, MATIU TE HUKI, playing in the front bar. no cover charge.

PERCY THOMSON GALLERY
Stratford and District 25 years and on from 1990. Stratford Camera Club Exhibition. July 24 – August 16.

PERCY THOMSON GALLERY
Wharehoka Smith Maarama AND ROSS NOLLY Damos' Sword.
August 21-September 13. Please join us for the opening Friday August 21 @ 6pm. Refer advert for full details.

EVERYBODY'S THEATRE AGM
August 24 at 7pm at the Theatre. All welcome.

OPUNAKE COMMUNITY BATHS A.G.M.
Wednesday 26th August 2015, 7pm at Headlands.

OPUNAKE LAKESIDE LIONS DAFFODILL DAY STALL
Friday 28th August outside of RD1 Opunake. Starting at 9am. Refer advert.

TARANAKI MALE CHOIR with THE COASTAL SINGERS
"Still Coasting". August 30th at 2pm at the Opunake High School Hall. Tickets available from Pastimes and at the door. Refer advert.

"LIZZIE BELL" PIHAMA CEMETERY BOARD AGM, MONDAY 31 August 2015, 7pm at 90 Puketapu Road, Pihama. New Committee Members welcome.

COASTALCARE A.G.M
Monday September 7 at 7.30pm at CoastalCare

STONY RIVER BOUTIQUE HOTEL QUIZ NIGHT
Mrs. Brown's fecking Quiz at Stony River, Friday 11th of September 2015. Refer advert.



HERE TO THERE
WITH CARE

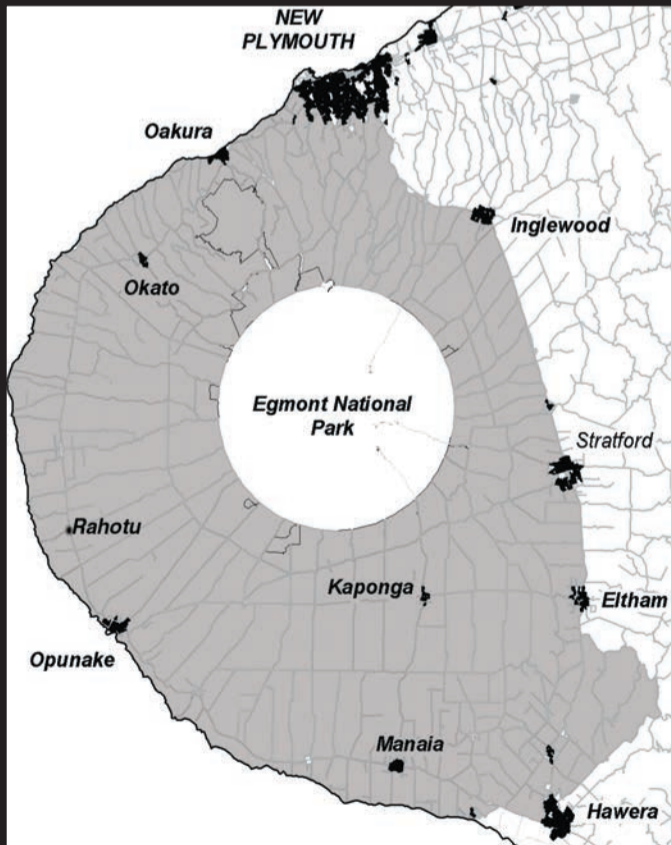
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TALK TO US



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

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

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

COVERING THE COAST

Promote your business or event in our area call us on (06) 761-7016



• 23 Napier St, Opunake • Ph/Fax 761-7016
• email: ads@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

Promote your events in the
OPUNAKE & COASTAL
NEWS

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

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

Thinking about Subdividing?

Call in and see me for a free consultation



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Sonic Delusion (left) and Adam Page.

Exclusive festival deal at Butlers Reef

The Taranaki International Arts Festival is hitting The Village this August. Adam Page is coming to town for one show only and to celebrate we have come up with an exclusive festival deal for you at Butlers Reef.

Simply get your tickets to see Adam Page and you will go into the draw to win a three day WOMAD NZ 2016 festival ticket to be drawn at the gig on the night. Head to Butlers Reef post-show and we'll have a free glass of mulled wine for all those who present their Adam Page tickets.

Using a loop machine, Adam Page creates layer upon layer of sound. He does beat-boxing, plays

percussion instruments, guitars, keyboard, jazz and harmony flutes, saxophone and uses his voice. Along with creating a masterful mash-up of sound, this comedic and sometimes contemplative all-rounder plays a mixture of musical genres, from light-hearted loops to Radiohead on saxophone. "I'm not just a clown, I can be hearty and soulful," he says.

Page has won multiple awards worldwide and played festivals everywhere, including the Edinburgh Fringe, Glastonbury and the Big Day Out. When speaking of his shows Page says, "I never think about the show, before the show - I just walk up on stage and it happens. There's

an amazing freedom in that." Every show is different and his intuitive and organic style is sure to make it a great night out for all and sundry. And so you don't have to end your night out so soon, we have arranged to have Sonic Delusion play live at Butlers on the night to keep the loop-love alive from 9pm with no cover charge.

Freshly-minted half-Kiwi (granted citizenship in February), Sonic Delusion frontman Andre Manella is known for his unorthodox gig venues - in 2013 he toured NZ playing concerts from the purpose-built stage on the roof of the family's housebus. But he is leaving his cosy home for the

night and joining us for an evening at Butlers Reef. So what can you expect to hear? Well 'too funky for folk and too folky for funk' - that's Sonic Delusion in a nutshell! From delicate heartfelt textures and tones to wide open foot-stomping atmospheric joy, his music is an upbeat concoction of folk, pop, funk and Latin, blended and layered with expertise on his well-worn loop pedal. As bass line, percussion, vocals and guitar are fused together the illusion is complete. Now that's what we call a night out in The Village.

Adam Page appears at the Oakura Hall at 7pm on August 21. Sonic Delusion will be at Butlers Reef at 9pm.

What's On 

Friday 14 August
MATIU TE HUKI
 Playing in the front bar
 no cover charge

1133 Main South Rd, Oakura
 Phone 06 752 7765 - www.butlersreef.co.nz

"STILL COASTING"
TARANAKI MALE CHOIR
 with
THE COASTAL SINGERS


Sunday 30th August 2015 at 2.00 pm
 Opunake High School Hall

Admission \$15, Seniors \$10

Tickets at Pastimes (Opunake) and door sales

 TMC proudly sponsored by
 The New Plymouth Club Inc

Stony River Hotel and Country Diner
 Your Hosts: Heimo & Renate Staudinger



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FECKING QUIZ
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 FRIDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2015

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 2502 Surf Highway 45 - Okato
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www.stonyriverhotel.co.nz

Rob's lessons on how to be a ringwright

Most of us will know Taranaki born jeweller Rob Wright. He has been fixing broken chains and replaced lost diamonds for over 40 years now. And many of his famous titanium mountain pendants have been sent overseas. As a manufacturing jeweller he has learned this trade here in Taranaki and worked in Australia for a while. During his long and challenging apprenticeship he had to master the task of fusing metals and setting stones. The environment of heavy tools, heat and long hours is not producing many followers of one of the oldest trades, Rob says. Seeing the raw metal being transformed into a shiny ring is truly something special.

Now Rob and his team at Ringcraft Moana give their customers the chance to experience a bit of this magic themselves. You can now

design and create your own ring/wedding bands under the watchful eye of Rob. After a sketch and agreement on metal, it is all hands on. Wax impressions of your ring sizes will be made, gold or silver will be poured and files will finish off your truly unique design. The course takes two hours and costs \$200 per ring in sterling silver. Other metals will be calculated on top. Also easy stone settings can be achieved within that time, Rob says. A great idea if you would like to create a special ring for yourself or together with your friend/partner.

For those who are not feeling arty they can always order a design directly.

You can contact Ringcraft Moana at 06 7527772, www.ringcraftmoana.com
 Open 7 days
 109 Surrey Hill Road, Oakura

RINGCRAFT MOANA Goldsmith Rob Wright and Team

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- Recycling
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18ct Gold Wedding Band \$788

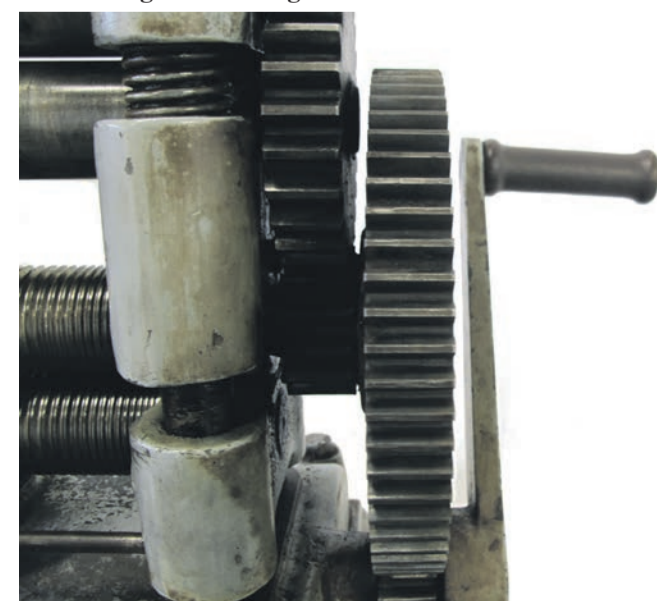
0.25ct Diamond Engagement Ring \$2,247

Open 7 days
 109 Surrey Hill RD, Oakura
 p: 06 7527772

www.ringcraftmoana.com



Above: Turn pure gold into a special ring. Below: Ringcrafts rolling mill.



Great food great prices at Headlands

Come in out of the cold, relax and sample some great food in pleasant surroundings at great prices.

Headlands café and restaurant have \$10 lunch specials available from 11.00am-2.00pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Just drop in or call to make a booking. Menu changes weekly. Check our facebook page for what dishes are being offered each week.

And there's more. Headlands have something for that special man in your life. Sun-

day September 6th is Father's Day and they are marking the occasion with a Father's Day special. The buffet will be served at 7.00pm. \$35.00 per person with a free beer or wine for Dad.

Among the delectable edibles on offer are whole carved ham on the bone, roast chicken, roast beef, creamy and roast potatoes, seasonal vegetables, salad, chocolate mud cake, pavlova and fruit salad.

Bookings are essential. Please refer to our advertisement.



Father's Day Special
Sunday September 6th 2015
 Buffet served at 7.00pm
 \$35 per person and a free beer or wine
 Bookings are essential

\$10 Lunch - changes weekly
 Tuesday - Thursday 11am - 2pm

Winter Dinner Menu
 Wednesday - Saturday
 Come in out of the cold, relax & take a break
Ph: 06 761 8358 stay@headlands.co.nz



The Coastal Singers

In memory of Gabrielle Barr

Opunake music identity Gabrielle Barr will be remembered at a concert to be held in the Opunake High School Hall on Sunday, August 30.

The concert, Coasting Along will be held in her honour and feature the Coastal

Singers and the Taranaki Male Choir.

Gabrielle, who died on June 7 formed the Coastal Singers in 1982 as a night class at Opunake High School.

She and Taranaki Male Choir's Music Director Don Boyd were also instrumental

in the design of the Opunake High School Hall.

The concert will begin at 2.00 pm, with tickets at \$15 for Adults and \$10 for Seniors available from Pastimes, Opunake, or as door sales.

Live Band!
Ocean Breeze
Friday August 14
 Starts 8ish - Free Entry

SURF INN, TASMAN ST, OPUNAKE 761 8387

Mary Barnard to sing at Cue

Why not come along for a beautiful evening of music? On August 22, Mary Barnard is singing at Cue Theatre in Inglewood.

Why not catch her singing beautiful love songs from 2pm and 7pm. She will be bringing along a special guest Bryan Vickery.

Tickets are \$22 each, and can be bought from the Inglewood Book Centre.

Some great art on show

Masterly paintings, the magic of light through glass. These can be seen in More Bottle - Still Life paintings by Paul Hutchinson. Also click on Virtual Tart website otherwise do your own magic with tart. co.nz Add www. and stir. Seriously though, lovely paintings. At 4pm on August 1,

Dale Copeland's Philosophy of the Found exhibition opened at Downtown Okato, featuring an assemblage of found objects, good company and the artist's talk.

The next day from 2-3 was the opening at Petit Paris in New Plymouth of Mark Bellringer's photographic work. And there's the newly-

reopened Govett Brewster Gallery and the shiny new Len Lye Centre. Something for all interests. And, because some collage artists got the wrong idea from my previous post, yes, the collage exhibition/exchange will happen next year in 2016. But not in 2017. Dale Copeland

Promote your events in the

OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

Ph/Fax: 06 761 7016 - Call in at 23 Napier Street, Opunake

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Opunake - MOVIES - BOUTIQUE THEATRE - HIRE
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www.opunakenz.co.nz/everybodys.html

Lollies, popcorn, drinks, ice-creams, chocolate bars, tea/coffee for sale

Upstairs Adults \$10, Students 4-16 \$8 Under 4 Free
 Downstairs All \$12, Senior Citizens \$8. No Eft-pos

<p>Paper Towns Drama 1hr 49mins PG13 PAPER TOWNS is a coming-of-age story centering on Quentin and his enigmatic neighbour Margo, who loved mysteries so much she became one. After taking him on an all-night adventure through their hometown, Margo suddenly disappears--leaving behind cryptic clues for Quentin to decipher. Ultimately, to track down Margo, Quentin must find a deeper understanding of true friendship--and true love.</p> <p>Saturday 22nd August 1pm Wednesday 26th August 7pm</p>	<p>Trainwreck Comedy, 2hrs 2mins R16 (for strong sexual content & some drug use) Ever since her father drilled into her head that monogamy isn't realistic, magazine writer Amy has made promiscuity her credo. As much as she enjoys an uninhibited life free of commitment. Amy is really in a rut. While writing a profile about a charming sports doctor, she finds herself falling in love for the first time and starts to wonder if it's time to clean up her act.</p> <p>Friday 28th August 7pm Sunday 30th August 7pm</p>
<p>Ted 2 Comedy 1hr 55mins R16 (for crude and sexual content, language and some drug use) Newlywed couple Ted and Tammy-Lynn want to have a baby, but to qualify as a parent, Ted will have to prove he's a person in a court of law.</p> <p>Wednesday 12th August 7pm Sunday 23rd August 7pm</p>	<p>Self/less Drama, Mystery & Suspense, Sci-fi & Fantasy 1hr 57mins PG13 In this psychological sci-fi thriller, a very wealthy man dying from cancer undergoes a radical medical procedure that transfers his consciousness into the body of a healthy young man. But all is not as it seems.</p> <p>Friday 14th August 7pm</p>
<p>Magic Mike XXL Comedy, Drama, Music 1hr 55 ins R16 Three years after Mike bowed out of the stripper life at the top of his game, he and the remaining Kings of Tampa hit the road to Myrtle Beach to put on one last blow-out performance.</p> <p>Friday 21st August 7pm</p>	<p>Mr Holmes Drama, Art House & International, Mystery & Suspense 1hr 45mins PG Long-retired and near the end of his life, Sherlock Holmes grapples with an unreliable memory and must rely on his housekeepers son as he revisits the still unsolved case that lead to his retirement.</p> <p>Saturday 29th August 1pm</p>

Wednesday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	14 7pm Self/Less	15 1pm Inside Out	16 7pm 5 Flights Up
19 7pm Self/Less	21 7pm Magic Mike XXL	22 1pm Paper Towns	23 7pm Ted 2 R16
26 7pm Paper Towns	28 7pm Trainwreck	29 1pm Mr Holmes	30 7pm Trainwreck

Two new exhibitions coming to Percy Thomson

Ross Nolly's *Damocles' Sword* and Maarama from Wharehoka Smith are the two exhibitions to be showing at the Percy Thomson Gallery in Stratford from August 21 to September 13.

Ross is a freelance photojournalist/writer.

His work is published in a variety of magazines, and he also works on long-term documentary personal photography projects for future publication and gallery exhibitions. This collection of images is a fictional dystopian tale of domestic animals



Untitled photograph. Ross Nolly.

WHAREHOKA SMITH

MAARAMA

AUGUST 21-SEPTEMBER

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE OPENING
FRIDAY AUGUST 21 @ 6PM

Stratford District
creative
COMMUNITIES

ROSS NOLLY
Damocles' Sword

August 21 - September 13

Please join us for the opening Fri 21@ 6pm

All welcome to the artist's talk Sunday 13th Sept @ 2pm

PERCY THOMSON GALLERY

PERCYTHOMSONGALLERY.ORG.NZ

MIRANDA ST. STRATFORD

06 765 0917

and domestic landscapes. Ross will hold an informal discussion about his work on September 13 at 2pm.

Wharehoka Smith presents a series of new work that demonstrates a strong understanding and intuition for aesthetics, colour, detail, space and dimension and

acknowledges the inherited skills of the traditional Toi Maori forms. This Toi Maori inspired exhibition offers viewers the many possibilities of interior and exterior architectural pieces with which to adorn and grace their homes and community spaces acknowledging people, place, History Tikanga, and Maturanga Maori.

The Gallery's current show 'Stratford Camera Club/Stratford and District 25 years on from 1990', finishes on Sunday August 16.



Waituhi Panel 3 Wharehoka Smith.

Modern Maori Quartet coming to town

Four actors who couldn't find enough work turned to singing to pay the bills.

The result is the Modern Maori Quartet, which will entertain audiences at the Taranaki International Arts Festival.

The quartet is one of six acts in the Around Taranaki tour, and member Matariki Whatarau is looking forward to touring with mates Maaka Pohatu, James Tito and Francis Kora (from the band Kora).

It was Tito's idea to start the quartet about three years ago, Whatarau says.

The men all went to Toi moshpits."

These modern men pay homage to the Maori show bands of old, and put their own spin on classic and contemporary songs, like their upbeat te reo version of Lorde's *Royals*.

The *Modern Maori Quartet* performs in Opunake on August 19, Eltham on August 20, Tikorangi on August 21 and The Famous Spiegelent on August 29 and 30.

The other shows on the Around Taranaki tour are *Batterie100*, *Richter City Rebels*, *MAMIL*, *Adam Page* and *Lines From The Nile*.

TSB Stadium

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FOWLER HOMES

EIGHT ACTION PACKED FIGHTS FROM 7PM

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North

ROB 'THE POWERDRILL' POWDRILL

South

JAMES 'BATMAN' LANGTON

Drilling Fluids Engineer

SCOTT TALIAULI

McCurdy Engineering

LYALL CLAPHAM

North

ZAC MCMAHON

South

RUKA TE MOANA

Drilling Fluids Engineer

PETER ARBUCKLE

McCurdy Engineering

Tickets from TSB Showplace

phone 0800 111 999 or www.ticketmaster.co.nz (BOOKING FEES APPLY)

TICKETS: Premium: \$45 Adults: \$30 Student: \$15 Family: \$75

HOSPITALITY TABLES: Phone Jess 021 100 8102

more info visit: WWW.rapiraboxing.co.nz follow us on: [facebook](#)

WANT TO DO BUSINESS IN OUR AREA?

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

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