



# OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

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Chute Street, Normanby.

## Name change for street urged

A Hawera man, Gordon 'Mac' Sole has been campaigning for a street name in Normanby to have a new name. He is concerned that Chute Street wrongly commemorates a military man "who is no more than a murderer." The street was named in honour of General Sir Trevor Chute KCB, who was born in Kerry, Ireland in 1816 and died in 1886.

Tensions between Maori iwis and European settlers were high in the early 1860s, largely due to the land confiscations of two million acres (809,000 hectares) of tribal land by Governor George Grey in the 1860s. The land confiscated ranged from Pukearuhi in the north to Waitotara River in the south. A number of murders, attributed to Hauhaus,

exacerbated the situation with some European rurally-based families moving closer to New Plymouth for protection.

Major General Chute arrived for his second military stint in NZ in early 1865, to take over from General Duncan Cameron as Commander of the British forces in the colony.

He was nicknamed 'The Kerry Bull' because of his stentorian voice and robust appearance. He was also ruthless and brutal. He did not just confine himself to military engagement with villages where the Hauhau were based but his soldiers attacked a wide swathe of villages often with bayonets in lethal employment. His was a scorched earth policy with many unarmed villages attacked and burned and their crops, such as maize and potatoes, destroyed as well as village cattle slaughtered.

His several campaigns usually involved the route from Wanganui to New Plymouth and the area east of Mount Taranaki with forest warfare a specialty aided by Gustave Von Tempsky (before he was killed aged 40).

In one six week campaign General Chute covered 260 miles, capturing seven

fortified pas and destroying 20 unarmed villages. Some of the pas included, for example, Okutuku, Putahi, Otapawa and Ketemarae.

Not all his soldiers were European it should be noted. On one campaign he left Wanganui on January 3, 1866 with a force of 620 soldiers which included British infantry, local militia and 270 kupapa, so-called 'friendly' Maori warriors.

Maybe, they would be given another name today!

Mac Sole has made formal representations to the South Taranaki District Council and was very well received with the councillors erupting in applause at the end of his address. We await the result of his campaign with interest.



Major General Trevor Chute.

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**Buy local**  
 I am writing to advocate the concept of buying local. Apart from being loyal to local businesses there are other reasons to embrace this idea. Our local businesses are loyal to the community. Amongst other things they donate items for raffles for

fundraising by community groups. They advertise in the local newspaper and support activities such as Coast Rugby and the Taranaki National Art Awards. Last year Opunake embraced the idea of banning single use plastic bags and a continuing push has been made to clean

**EDITORIAL**

In 1993 Peter Ellis was convicted on 16 charges of child abuse, involving seven children at the Christchurch Civic Creche. (He was arrested on March 30, 1992). He was sentenced to ten years in prison and served seven; he was released in February 2000.

He may have been freed earlier, but he refused to participate in Parole Board hearings because he would be expected to 'confess' to crimes he has always maintained he was innocent of.

He is now terminally ill (advanced cancer of the

**Peter Ellis' wish should be granted**

bladder) and this year he has launched his final attempt to clear his name. The Supreme Court has agreed to take another look at, what many people consider are unsafe convictions.

Public opinion would seem to be on his side. For example, a poll taken fairly soon after his release in 1992 found that 51% of respondents thought he was innocent with just 25% thinking him guilty (24% were undecided).

Many prominent people also consider the verdict unsafe; one review in June 2003 included two former prime ministers (one a



up our beaches. The miles products travel to consumers are important to the environment. So it makes sense to shop locally rather than drive kilometres to do a weekly shop. It means more time to spend with family.

I believe supporting local businesses is strategically important for our community. If these businesses don't receive our support they will

slowly disappear and we will be forced to travel to larger centres to perform simple tasks like grocery shopping, banking, posting a letter, and filling up with petrol. I value the fact that all of these are at our doorstep.

I urge you all to vote with your purchasing power to keep our local businesses.

*The Economist.*

**ADELPHOS**

The term "new atheism" was coined in 2006 by journalist Gary Wolf. It's unlike the old atheism that respectfully dialogued and debated with Christians. New atheists today are too often hostile and demeaning towards individuals and their Christian faith. An afternoon *Radio Live* talkback host belittled a science teacher who questioned some "scientific facts" of evolution as "lunacy" and "believing in some fairy god guy in the sky." He told him to "take his medication" after abruptly hanging up on the caller. Peter Lineham a Massey University religious researcher commented, "In New Zealand when being rude about Christian churches nobody bats an eyelid at this anymore so there's no sacred protection."

Dr. Richard Dawkins is an evolutionary biologist and

author of *The God Delusion* (2006); he is arguably new atheism's most popular spokesperson. In YouTube debates he invites people to "mock Christians with the contempt they deserve." In his book, *River Out of Eden* (1996), he describes his non-existent Christian God as, "...a malevolent bully, vindictive, blood thirsty, racist, misogynistic, homophobic, infanticidal, sadomasochistic and capricious". He continues, "...In a universe of blind physical forces and genetic replication some people are going to get hurt and other people are going to get lucky and you don't find any rhyme or reason to it, nor any justice if there is at the bottom no evil and no good. Nothing but blind pitiless indifference... DNA neither knows nor cares. DNA just is and we dance to its music." Are

these words pure science or an axe-grinding bigotry against Christians, God and the hope in His love?

Dr. Dawkins has observed that our universe and DNA "appear" so precisely designed, that intelligent aliens may have panspermia seeded life on earth. Dr. Francis Crick, who discovered the structure of the DNA molecule in 1953, writes in his book, *Life Itself* (1981), that DNA "appears" highly programmed and designed and that, "...the origin of life appears to be almost a miracle..." But, he asserts that the alternative of a Creator God is "unthinkable." Crick, an ardent and outspoken atheist and antitheist like Dawkins, also believes intelligent aliens "might" have panspermia seeded our planet by being "...shipped to earth billions of years ago in spaceships".

Is this a scientific theory or science-fiction?

So why such scientific bigotry against a Creator God, while "seriously" proposing theoretically intelligent alien creators? Three reasons are: 1.) A growing number of molecular biologists and synthetic chemists are re-examining the highly programmed DNA molecule, arising from non-living chemicals. 2.) Astrophysicists are observing that our precisely functioning planets and universe are looking less accidental and more intelligently designed. 3.) Human nature resists accounting to a Creator God.

In contrast, Dr. David Berlinski's book, *The Devil's Delusion: Atheism and Its Scientific Pretensions* (2008), challenges the claims

*Continued page 3*

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# Stormy weather makes its way south



Shortly after tornados ripped across New Plymouth on Monday morning, parts of Coastal Taranaki were experiencing bad weather. Trees were taken down, as a tornado struck, causing damage around 10am. Among the casualties were a power pole and hedge on Oeo Road.

The Metservice report said an unstable northwest flow with an embedded trough had affected the North Island on Monday, bringing squally thunderstorms to western areas

## On this month in history David Lange resigns

On August 8, 1989 the Prime Minister David Lange resigned and his deputy Geoffrey Palmer took over. Mr Lange had been leader of a Labour Government since the landslide election day victory in 1984.

Mr Lange had been increasingly at odds with Roger Douglas, who had designed the reforms now known as Rogernomics. Mr Lange had gone along with many of the

reforms, including selling off many state assets, but wasn't keen on a flat rate of tax, which would have impacted on lower paid employees.

Mr Lange was at odds with others in the Cabinet who wholeheartedly supported most Rogernomic reforms and there were challenges to his leadership from Roger Douglas and Richard Prebble. In addition, Mr Lange was developing a problem

with the consumption of too much alcohol, according to one of his Cabinet Dr Michael Bassett, who wrote a book about his time as an MP entitled 'Working with David.'

In his own book Mr Lange described many of his Cabinet colleagues thus: "What a terrible group of people they were."

## The New Atheism—Mach 2

Continued from page 1

of Dawkins and Crick as pseudo-scientific pretensions. He is a secular Jew and a world-acclaimed mathematician and molecular biologist from Princeton, Columbia and Stanford Universities. Berlinski claims it's mathematically impossible (10 to the 77<sup>th</sup> power) for DNA's amino acids to bond with proteins in various organs, over

large time frames, to mutate into a "healthy" human. Many secular scientists in top universities are courageously re-examining new evidence and their own biases. Many dissenting scientists have been belittled, silenced or forced out of their university positions under the rules of the new atheism. Nonetheless, universities chant in unison, "EVOLUTION IS AN UNQUESTIONABLE SCIENTIFIC FACT!" Is










free speech now prohibited in talkback radio "and" academia?

I reckon it takes more faith to be an atheist than to be a Christian. Dawkins' above version of Neo-Darwinian DNA accidental life is fatalistic and depressing. No wonder there's so much hopelessness and suicidality today. Aren't we lucky to live in beautiful Taranaki?

Adelphos

## Whanganui Literary Festival

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# Mexico trip for Taranaki

Eleven people from Taranaki recently exchanged their rural province's coastal climes to spend time in one of the world's largest cities. At an altitude of 2240 metres above sea level, Mexico City is only slightly lower than the summit of Mt Taranaki. It is the largest city in the western hemisphere, the largest Spanish speaking city in the world, and one of the world's largest cities in area.

An eleven-strong missions group representing members of The Wave Church in Opunake and the Inglewood Christian Fellowship spent two weeks here last month, based at the Centro Cristiano Oasis Church pastored by Taranaki couple Bob and Shona Barnard.

While in Mexico City they helped out with the church's school holiday programme. In the first week the New Zealanders put their practical skills to use erecting scenery and props for the programme's Mansion of Mysteries set. This included putting up the giant's house, from which a different figure would emerge on each day of the programme. On one day it might be a pirate, on another a princess, or even the giant himself.

In the next week they donned servants' attire, along with Mexican church



Missions group from Taranaki dressed for action at the Oasis Church holiday programme in Mexico City.

members to help run the holiday programme, which saw 170 children turn up at the church over six days.

The New Zealanders also took part in church services with a number of locally produced sketches, each with their own unique take on the Gospel message, as well as the New Zealand song Wairua Tapu, sung in Te Reo, English and Spanish.

The Barnards came to Mexico 23 years ago, after having attended the Inglewood Christian Fellowship. Shona hails from Coastal Taranaki, having grown up on a Lower Pitone Road dairy farm near Okato. She recalls being given a book about missionary legend Hudson Taylor as a prize at Sunday School. This sparked her lifelong interest in missions.

"When other children were saying I want to be a fireman, or I wanted to be a nurse, or I wanted to be a policeman, I was saying I want to be a missionary," recalls Shona.

She also recalls watching TV reports every night of the earthquake which struck Mexico City in 1985

And killed thousands. "God put Mexico on my heart," she said.

In the same year Bob had become a Christian through Youth For Christ.

"At that stage, all I knew about God and Christianity was through Youth For Christ, so I thought I would be a youth minister," he said.

After a missions trip to the Philippines where he

saw firsthand how poverty affected children, he says he felt the call to work overseas with children.

After Bob and Shona were married they attended missionary college in Tasmania and learnt Spanish

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# missions group



A street scene.

at language school in Costa Rica. They arrived in Mexico in 1996 and were based at Cuernavaca for 12 years. In that time they worked in children's ministry with local churches and pastors. By the time they left for Mexico City, their work had morphed to include a community centre.

In Mexico City they ended up working in children's ministry with the Baptist Church and had started up a community centre for children and young adults, when there was another change in direction.

"In January 2012 the Lord called us to plant a church and be pastors," recalls Bob.

"Until then that had been way of our radar." Three months later their church, which still lacked a name started meeting in their home, with 13 people, including children.

Seven years later the Centro Christiano Oasis Church meets in a building that had at one time been a party hall. Around 100 people are at their weekly Sunday Church services.

With so many people having to work longer hours to make ends meet as well as having to spend a large part of the day commuting to and from work, the church introduced Saturday evening services for those who may not be able to make it on Sundays. These services draw 35-45 people every week.

The church also runs 40-50 classes during the week ranging from English, computing, crafts and sports. The people leading these courses are mainly volunteers from the church, although some from outside who

support what the church is doing have come on board to help out.

The children's ministry remains a big part of what the church does, whether it be school holiday programmes or one-off events that have catered for anything from 50 to 1500 children. These come with a lesson for the parents.

"We challenge the parents about the values the kids need to live by," says Shona.

Bob and Shona have a son Samuel who is married and living in the United States and a daughter Anya who is the church's worship leader.



Inside one of the churches.



An intriguing sculpture in the city square.

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BETTER TOGETHER

# John signs off

Over the past two weeks there have been a number of serious house fires across Taranaki. I find it interesting to look at what has caused these fires so as to learn from other people's unfortunate mistakes. The kitchen area of a house in Stratford was badly damaged by fire recently. This fire started in an appliance garage on the bench. A toaster inside the garage had been left switched on at the wall and when the roller door had been closed it pulled down the handle of the toaster turning it on. This then heated up the cupboard until it eventually caught fire. I have been to a number of fires in my career caused by the very same thing. The learning here is to be safe, turn the toaster off at the wall. A second fire occurred out in the rural area. The house was completely gutted and will need to be demolished. When living in rural locations we

must realise that it is going to take the brigade a while to reach our properties so we all need to take steps to look after ourselves in the case of fire. These can include making sure you have enough smoke alarms in your house and that they are installed in the right places. Remember to shut all the doors to reduce the spread of fire. Have a fire extinguisher handy to deal with any small fires. Ensure your driveway is clear of overhanging branches etc so fire engines can get down your driveway.

The Opunake brigade has had a few callouts over the past couple of weeks. On Wednesday July 31, the brigade responded to a car in a ditch on Ihaia Road. When they arrived they found a single vehicle in a ditch and assisted the driver out of the vehicle. The ambulance crew dealt with the driver while the brigade members took care

of the dog that was also in the car. The dog was taken by the fire crews to the local vets for checking over. There wouldn't be many dogs that get a ride in a fire engine to the vets. The next callout was on Friday August 2 when the brigade responded to a report of a car versus a fence on Eltham Road. The Kaponga crew got there first and turned the Opunake crew back as they were not needed at this event. On Monday August 5, the Opunake and Rahuto brigades responded to a fire alarm activation at the telephone exchange in Rahotu. The Rahotu crew arrived first, checked the building out and after establishing there was no fire turned the Opunake crew back. Later that night two appliances from Opunake responded to a reported house fire on Dorset St Opunake. When they arrived they found the wall around the fire place

on fire. This was quickly extinguished by the brigade. Again the importance of having the correct number of smoke alarms installed in the correct places cannot be over emphasised.

Sadly this will be the last article I write for the Opunake Volunteer Fire Brigade as I will be retiring from Fire and Emergency New Zealand after nearly 44 years' service next week. I hope you have found these articles interesting and informative and I thank you for taking the time to read them. Chief Craig Dingle will take over the reins from me.

Take Care out there everyone Stay Safe

And remember "Smoke Alarms Save Lives"

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# Obituary Jack Baker

Most Breeder's throughout NZ will be saddened by the passing of our good friend Jack Baker at the age of 93 years at the Feilding Rest Home on July 18.

Jack was a top stud stock representative of Wrightson's Stud Stock Division Palmerston North and he served breeder's throughout NZ over 24 years.

Jack joined the Company in 1964 and resigned in 1988. In 1962 Jack had a terrible car accident which was life-threatening as he suffered serious injuries.

Jack Baker was an ex Jersey breeder running his 'Treemorn' Jersey Stud. He gave up farming in 1963.

It was in June 1962 at the 'Sale of Stars' at Palmerston North that he offered Merriland Gold Venus VHC who was repurchased by her breeder Ron McDonald from Matamata, and her daughter Treemorn Noble Vicky, that was purchased by Allan Jenkins from Ngaere for his 'Allan-Glen stud.

As a stud stock agent, Jack Baker would be up with the very best. His knowledge



Jack and Irene Baker on the occasion of Jack's retirement in 1988.

of pedigree cattle was exceptional-he had a memory like an encyclopedia when it came to recalling an animal's pedigree.

Jack had great qualities such as integrity and a wicked sense of humour. These attributes played volumes in his success as a stud stock agent.

Jack used to escort many groups of breeders around the country viewing other breeder's stud Herds which was much appreciated.

Many breeders used Jack Baker's expertise and judgment to bid and buy specific cattle when they were unable to attend a sale. That's the faith people had in

Jack Baker.

Jack conducted many sales in many parts of NZ and was held in high esteem by everyone who knew him.

He leaves his wife Irene of 40 years to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

Allan Jenkins

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# More competitive, more convenient and personal

More competitive, more convenient and personal. I'm aiming to make it more competitive, convenient and personal, says Gary Arora who with his wife Nancy have bought Four Square 45 in Opunake.

They are now in the unique position of owning both of Opunake's Four Square supermarkets which are just four doors apart. Gary who has owned Opunake Four Square for three years says when Four Square 45 came onto the market he approached Food Stuff's to see if they would approve his buying a second supermarket in Opunake.

"Based on what I've done in the other store which they were pretty happy about they said I could," said Gary. There are 280 Four Square supermarkets in New Zealand, all independently owned, and anyone wanting to buy a Four Square supermarket owners have to be approved by Foodstuffs. "It's a franchise – they approve people based on their experience."

Though he has a monopoly – a word Gary doesn't like – he says the two shops will continue to retain their own identity. "They'll be two different stores with two different identities," and no, he won't be putting up prices, he says. "I'm not changing anything at the moment," Gary says but ultimately the aim is to "Make them even better and the prices even more competitive to give people a reason to shop local."

"There's not a lot of difference in prices compared with the big supermarkets," he says. In the future there will be a bigger range, he promises locals. Also when people request something they don't stock mostly he will get it in, especially if they're regular customers.

Interestingly, he says, price is not the only thing on people's mind. "There's a lot of research and price is not the main thing," says Gary. "Convenience and service, particularly



Gary and Nancy Arora with their daughter and Gary's mother.

in a small town, is important." He has no plans to install automatic scanning by customers which has been introduced in the big supermarkets. "I believe a lot of people are quite supportive," he says of their buying the second supermarket and recognises the importance of supporting local business for them to survive. "And in return we try and help," says Gary who adds he supports local businesses himself.

They have retained the same staff at Four Square 45 – all 16 of them. So nothing's really changed says Gary. Except, of course he's busier. Nancy however who has been working at the TSB in Opunake will now be joining

Gary full time in their two businesses. "I couldn't have done it without her," he says.

Prior to coming to Opunake, Gary had a restaurant in Hamilton and before that lived in Australia for 13 years but he prefers New Zealand and particularly Opunake.

"I love here, especially the people in Opunake," he says. Nancy's mother came all the way from India to help the family. His mother – his father passed away 12 years ago – lives between Gary and Nancy and their three and a half year old daughter Aria and Gary's brother who owns a Four Square in Waitara. "She alternates between the two of us," says Gary adding that his mother is currently on holiday in India.

Outside of working Gary likes to play pool and is "fond of cars – all sorts" he says. Nancy likes to cook and travel.

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# National MPs coming to Taranaki

National is doing the work in opposition to make sure we have the policies that New Zealanders want.

We've released a number of discussion documents this year and have had a positive response from the public in the areas of education, small business, the environment, seniors and the primary industries sector.

Later this month, the National Economic Discussion Document will be released. This is a keenly anticipated blueprint of practical sustainable solutions to our country's needs. Finance spokesperson Paul Goldsmith will visit New Plymouth on September 5



**JONATHAN YOUNG MP FOR NEW PLYMOUTH**

to present the document and gather feedback to help fine-tune our policies.

Paul will be the latest in a long line of MPs to visit Taranaki this year, with many more to come. Foreign Affairs and Trade spokesperson Todd McLay is here next month,

followed soon after by new Agriculture, Biosecurity and Forestry spokesperson Todd Muller.

Next month's Opunake constituent clinic will feature a special guest – Brett Hudson, who is National's Police spokesperson and also holds the portfolios of Commerce and Consumer affairs, Government Digital Services and Associate Transport. He'll give a quick summary of what he's finding around the country and then listen to any concerns and comments that you might have.

I'll remind you closer to the time, but please save the date – September 20, 10.30am at

CoastalCare. It would be great to hear from a range of groups and individuals.

Taranaki's MPs Harete Hipango, Barbara Kuriger and myself are working hard to make sure our region's voice is heard so we need you to keep letting us know what is important to you. Our discussion documents are available online at <https://www.national.org.nz>. We want to make sure they are as relevant as possible to your day to day and longterm needs, and would appreciate hearing your thoughts.

*Jonathan Young  
MP for New Plymouth*



Adrian Rurawhe MP speaking in Hawera.

## Labour out and about in South Taranaki

MP for Te Tai Hauāuru, and Whanganui electorate's buddy MP Adrian Rurawhe caught up with locals in Hawera on Saturday 10 August, answering questions and talking with people about local issues.

"As a local MP, and buddy MP to the Whanganui

Labour team, I'm always keen to get out into our rural communities and talk with constituents. It's important that people from all over Te Tai Hauāuru have the chance to talk to their representatives. The local Labour team is also doing some great work building

up a team of local members and supporters which I encourage interested people to get involved with," Mr Rurawhe said.

Mr Rurawhe spent time in the meeting discussing the Government's Provincial Growth Fund (PGF), saying "a key focus of the fund is helping communities like Hawera, Stratford and Whanganui to fund projects that will strengthen local economies, while providing more jobs and growth".

"I'm happy to help communities throughout the

electorate with their ideas. My electorate office is in Whanganui for people to get in contact." Mr Rurawhe said

Whanganui and South Taranaki will also benefit from a visit by Minister of Justice, Andrew Little in Hawera on 30 August.

"It will be a great opportunity for members of the local community to hear about the Government's progress in many areas, as well as a chance to ask questions or raise any issues" Community Organiser Tim Easton said.

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# Submissions invited on bill

Justice Minister Andrew Little has welcomed the first reading of the Referendums Framework Bill in Parliament.

The Referendums Framework Bill sets up the mechanics of any referendum to be held during the 2020 general election. It does not include specific cannabis referendum-related material. The Bill has now been referred to Parliament's Justice select committee.

"The select committee process is very important, and I encourage members of the public to have their say on the Bill when the Committee calls for submissions later



ANDREW LITTLE MP

this week" says Andrew Little.

"This Bill paves the way for the holding of a referendum on legalising the personal use of recreational cannabis, which the Government has announced will be held with the 2020 General Election".

The basis of the question on personal use of cannabis, a draft Bill, will come out of a cross-party Parliamentary group that every party has been invited to participate in.

"We have deliberately created a generic Bill because there is discussion of a possible referendum being held in 2020 on the End of Life Choice Bill" says Andrew Little.

The End of Life Choice Bill is a non-Government bill which is currently before Parliament. A decision will be made on whether this Bill will be put to a referendum

as part of the Committee of the Whole debate.

The cannabis referendum question on the ballot paper will be approved by the Government later this year and enacted through an Order-in-Council in early 2020.

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# Biggest increase to public housing in nearly 20 years

More than 2000 families have a place to call home thanks to the extra 2178 public houses delivered by the Government this year – the biggest increase in the number of public houses in approximately 20 years.

"By exceeding our target of 1600 additional public houses this year by 578, more New Zealanders now have a place to call home that is warm, and where they feel safe and secure," Minister of Housing Megan Woods said.

"One of our first actions in Government was to stop the sell-off of state houses. We're proud to have done that, and now to have boosted the public housing stock to support thousands of New Zealanders.

"The Government build programme continues to pick up speed and deliver homes across our communities.

"On average Housing New Zealand is building four new homes a day. As well as this, Housing New Zealand currently has about 2000 homes under construction or under contract.

"Housing New Zealand's stepped-up build programme is delivering more and more homes that are designed and built to modern standards including double glazing, insulation, and affordable heating such as heat pumps. "Registered Community Housing Providers are also making a significant contribution to increasing public housing supply. They delivered 955 of the

additional 2178 public houses.

"The Government recognises that the demand for housing continues to rise, driven in part by a shortage of supply, inadequate housing, homelessness, and insecurity of tenure.

"Public housing supports a range of Government housing initiatives like the successful Housing First programme for chronically homeless people, and transitional housing to support people in urgent need of housing.

"We will continue to build more public houses and make sure people move into them, and off the Public Housing Register as quickly possible," Megan Woods said.



Signs of Spring are everywhere, such as these these delightful flowers.

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# Mac Sole: Episode 11

*Continuing Mac's overseas experiences from the last issue. He is currently in Thailand.*

Next, it was on to Pitsanuloke to a fairly good hotel. Later in the night I went out to the hotel front to see a great line of

trishaws lined up waiting for customers. I offered the front taxi trishaw 10 Baht (50 cents), which he refused as this amount was not enough to take me anywhere. It took some time until he understood that I wanted him to sit in the back while



A trishaw in action transporting passengers.

I peddled the trishaw with him as the passenger around the block. On returning and

going past his trishaw mates he was waving and calling out to them. Their reaction

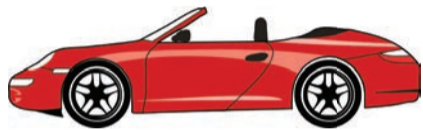
was something to behold. I gave him his money and on his face you could see he could not believe what had happened. I'd made another Thai mate and his trishaw mates probably thought "here's a crazy tourist." Anyway, I headed back to my hotel for a few gin and tonics, something to eat and later off to bed (1.30am).

On April 12, which is Thailand's New Year's Eve, I left Pitsanuloke at 7.30am and on to Sukothai to see various markets and temples. Jesus (a mate of mine), I'd had about enough of temples. On this occasion everyone throws water over each other and says "Happy

New Year." This process is called 'The throwing of the waters' and no one is offended. I got soaked a couple of times, but because of the great heat, the water is not unwelcome. I was at the hotel by 7pm, which was called the Lampong River Lodge.

The tour party was starting to loosen up including Yanks, Dutch, Swiss, Aussie, Kiwis, English and Spaniards. They were all starting to give me a hard time. Of course, I started it, staying up till 11.30pm drinking with the tour guide and another Burmese guide who were taking a party of Germans to Chiang Rai.

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## Roadmap to low emissions economy

The Taranaki 2050 Roadmap released last week aims to help the region's communities, enterprises, and residents navigate New Zealand's shift to the low-emissions economy of the future, while ensuring the important aspects of life in Taranaki can be shared by everyone.

The Roadmap builds on the

draft launched at the national Just Transition Summit held in New Plymouth in May. It includes the views of thousands of Taranaki residents who were engaged through workshops, online surveys, feedback opportunities, business and community events, as well as workshops with the region's school children.

The Roadmap sets a vision for 2050 of a low-emissions economy like no other and offers the region the opportunity to proactively manage the transition to the low-emissions landscape of the future.

"Through the innovative co-creation process we've used, we've been able to proactively confront the shift to a low-emissions economy, rather than wait for the impacts to be felt," says Venture Taranaki Chief Executive Justine Gilliland.

"Several clear themes emerged. People want a strong and sustainable environment, education options that move and flex with a changing world, attractive jobs, a lifestyle similar to our current one that everyone can enjoy, to lead the way in sustainable low-emissions energy, and a region that looks out for

and cares for itself and its people."

"In essence, we want Taranaki to continue to provide the legendary lifestyle many of us enjoy now, and extend this lifestyle to all our residents."

"Underpinning these goals are the three values of Manaakitanga, Kaitiakitanga and Kotahitanga as well as the themes of enterprise, sustainability, and inclusivity," Justine said.

The Roadmap has been welcomed by New Plymouth Mayor, Neil Holdom, who said "as New Zealanders increasingly focus on how we transition to a more sustainable low-emissions economy, Taranaki has an opportunity to showcase what can be done with innovation, the deep skills we have in Taranaki, and an inclusive, collaborative approach."

"Our Government has committed to partnering with the region to ensure a Just Transition to a new lower emissions future," Neil said.

"The challenge for the people and businesses of Taranaki is to come together to develop and support more efficient, low environmental impact, economic

opportunities that maintain the quality employment and wealth creation opportunities that underpin our fantastic standard of living and contribution to a high value, low carbon economy," Neil said.

"We have been delighted by the enthusiasm and hard work of a number of people in the Lead Group that co-created, designed and built the roadmap from the many people who provided thoughts and ideas. It's been great to have the people of Taranaki take the lead and determine the future aspirations of Taranaki," says Joanna Breare, Chair of the Lead Group that governs the project.

With the launch of the Taranaki 2050 Roadmap, the work programme will progress to creating specialised transition pathway action planning groups involving unions, iwi, community, education, and businesses, as well as local and central government, to create action plans setting out the short-term actions and medium-term strategy we need to meet the long-term goals and vision set out in the Roadmap.

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# Our pets are good for us

There is a wealth of evidence proving what many of us already know – our pets are good for us.

Studies show that pet owners have lower blood pressure, cholesterol and allergy levels. Pets can also ease feelings of loneliness, especially in the elderly.

Cats are the most popular companion animal in New Zealand, with 44% of households sharing their homes with at least one cat. Our feline friends become members of the family and trusted companions.

Few owners would question the importance of medicines in helping our pets lead happy, healthy lives. But less well understood is how much we benefit from their wellbeing.

The benefits – both physical and psychological – start early. Children learn a sense of responsibility from caring for pets, and research suggests that having a pet around the home in their first



**Bernice McKellar's little cat Mummypuss, who likes music.**

year can protect children from allergies later in life. In adulthood, pets have a proven effect on stress and anxiety.

By protecting the health of the animals in their care,

owners are also protecting the hugely beneficial relationships they have with these animals. Owners need to provide shelter, the right amount of nutritious food and ensure that cats

have veterinary treatment when needed, including vaccinations. This will ensure that pets live as long and as comfortably as possible. Supporting this crucial bond with our cats allows us to protect the health of the animals that do so much for our wellbeing.

International Cat Day is held on 8 August. The day was established by the International Fund for Animal Welfare in the early 2000s.



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# Shellfish alert for coastline

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has issued a public health warning advising the public not to collect or consume shellfish harvested on the West Coast (Taranaki/Waikato) of the North Island between Oakura north to Albatross Point south of Kawhia Harbour.

Routine tests on shellfish samples taken from this region have shown levels of Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) toxins above the safe limit of 0.8 mg/kg set by MPI. Anyone eating shellfish from this area is potentially at risk of illness.

Mussels, oysters, tuatua, pipi, toheroa, cockles, scallops, catseyes, kina (sea urchin) and all other bivalve

shellfish should not be eaten. Cooking shellfish does not remove the toxin. Pāua, crab and crayfish may still be eaten if the gut has been completely removed prior to cooking, as toxins accumulate in the gut. If the gut is not removed its contents could contaminate the meat during the cooking process.


Symptoms typically appear between 10 minutes and three hours after ingestion and may include: numbness and a tingling (prickly feeling) around the mouth, face, and extremities (hands and feet), difficulty swallowing or breathing, dizziness, headache, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, paralysis and respiratory failure and in


severe cases, death. If anyone becomes ill after eating shellfish from an area where a public health warning has been issued, phone Healthline for advice on 0800 61 11 16, or seek medical attention immediately. You are also advised to contact your nearest public health unit and keep any leftover shellfish in case it can be tested.

Monitoring of toxin levels will continue and any changes will be communicated accordingly. Commercially harvested shellfish – sold in shops and supermarkets, or exported – is subject to strict water and flesh monitoring programmes by MPI to ensure they are safe to eat.




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### MATHEMATICS - LOCATING

#### Locating – Spatial Awareness

Locating basically means ‘exploring in space’ Finding or locating something, such as a place, item or person.

Our tamariki are learning about ‘locating’ when they are:

- Moving around the environment (inside and out) and exploring the possibilities and limitations of moving in space.
- Moving objects around recognizing the relationships between people and other objects.

You can help to support your child’s learning by:

Using words such as:

- Side, short, tall, low, up, down, in front of, behind, middle, top, bottom, around, next to, over, under, last, first, corner, closer, in, out, on, under, high and so on.

Activities like:

- Jigsaw puzzles, I spy games, using maps and models of the world with children 3 and up
- Expand on the game “where is your...?” by adding “Your nose is in the middle of your face”, “Your nose is above your lips”, etc.....



LEFT: Edie (3), Hazel (4), locate where they live on our map at Kindy.

### SCIENCE

Our Internal Evaluation this year is centered around Science. We are trying to educate our tamariki about what a scientist is. We are asking the questions:

- What does a scientist do?
- What does science look like?

Am I / you a scientist?

Is anyone in my whaanau a scientist?

Science is such a HUGE topic. Science is everywhere. Our tamariki like to be able to have hands on experiences or be able to see what you are talking about. It is important for the tamariki to learn about scientists in our community. We have some parents/whānau coming to speak to the tamariki about their roles and how they use science in their work.

We have established a “Wonder Wall” to record tamariki questions about what they want to know more about the science world.

One of our projects is hatching some fertilised eggs and watching the life cycle of a chicken. Thank you to Te Āio’s whānau for lending us an incubator, and Nicola Hancock for giving us some fertilised eggs. We now have 11 days until our chickens hatch.



ABOVE LEFT: Our ‘Wonderwall’  
 ABOVE RIGHT: Chickens



### WIREMU QUARRY VISIT

At the end of last term we went to visit the Wiremu Road Quarry. Thank you to Tony and Michelle and their staff for showing us around the quarry.

LEFT: The tamariki watched the enormous diggers, tractor and trucks move the metal from one area to the other.

RIGHT: Travis (3) and his dad looked at the big machinery.



### THE MOANA ROOM

#### Look, look a chicken. Jethro shows respect.

The chicken appeared on Leo’s bike and Leo sat still and asked us to help her get off his bike after he had said hello to her. Leo was really respectful and was supported by Jethro who encouraged him to be quiet and still.

This is an example of how we are supporting Jethro to be respectful to living creatures which is a whānau aspirations you have chosen for him.



#### Our new piece of Māori art in the Moana Room

Maui has joined the Moana Room!

The majority of the tamariki love reading the book “Te Ika ā Māui”. This artwork supports the story and we have been acting out the story by pulling up the North Island with the harakeke rope that we made together. The tamariki love using their imagination.



### WHĀNAU NIGHT

Our whānau night was lots of fun and hopefully informative with our HEART philosophy being the focus. H – Health, E- Empathy, A – Aroha, R- Resilience, T - Tikanga

We had displays of our philosophy and what this looks like at Kindy. Whānau were welcomed by Nicola Stanley and our tamariki sang a couple of waiata for their whānau. Whānau enjoyed a yummy kai to finish off the evening.



LEFT: Shirley was talking to Kelly Langton about setting goals, while Celeste wrote a goal too.

# Dr Marie Brunsart, Chiropractor

A chiropractor, recently new to New Plymouth, is Dr Marie Brunsart B.S.c (Chiro). Originally from France, Dr Brunsart is nevertheless New Zealand trained. For the past five months she has been a member of the staff at GMC Chiropractors, who are located at 77 Eliot Street, New Plymouth. It is easy to find as the premises are located at the junction of Eliot and Pendarves Streets.

The other chiropractors she works with include Dr Paula Brown and Dr Cory Palmer, although he mostly works at the Stratford branch of GMC Chiropractors. Greg Miles is the overall principal of the firm practices.

Dr Brunsart combines a high level of chiropractic skills with a very pleasant manner, which make her very able to deal with children, in a family context, which is one area she specialises in.

"The work inspires me," she explains. "It's nice to see people come in and end up better and happier." She also enjoys the social connection with such people. "It's an awesome job," she concludes.

Chiropractic is focused on the relationship between the nervous system and the spine, she explains. "Making sure that our spine is functioning optimally is really important because our nervous system (i.e. our brain and all the nerves coming out of the spine) is what controls every single organ in the body," she continues. She is concerned that nowadays our bodies



Chiropractor Dr Marie Brunsart.

are faced with increasingly more stresses, whether it be physical stresses from a sedentary lifestyle, spending many hours sitting down affecting our posture, or chemical stresses from the many preservatives and additives that we find in our food, which can create some inflammation.

Many people think that chiropractic intervention focuses mainly on back pain and neck pain, but Dr Brunsart explains that, because of the link with our nervous system, having a healthy spine can actually affect our overall wellbeing. "This is because pain is only 8 - 9% of what goes on in our brain, but there can be a lot of dysfunctions before there is even pain," she says. "These are signs that your body is not working correctly, including poor sleep, lack of energy, decreased flexibility or poor

concentration." Dr Brunsart has been under care herself since she was a baby and she says it is very empowering to be able to take care of entire families, especially children because their spines and nervous system go through so many changes in the first years of life. "Kids fall so many times in the first 5 years!" she laughs. "Also, children are more and more exposed to technology which can lead to poor posture, especially in the neck. A study found that 1 in 6 Kiwi teenagers spend more than 6 hours on the internet. This trend of increasing screen time is quite alarming," she explains.

Dr Brunsart stresses the importance of preventative therapeutic measures, as opposed to reactive procedures. It is important, she explains, for people with problems to seek help sooner

rather than later. "You are never too old, too young, too sick or too healthy to benefit from chiropractic care," she points out.

Dr Brunsart leads a busy life, but she hopes to find time for her interests including surfing, horse riding, hiking and reading.

Dr Brunsart's hours are:  
Monday 7.30am to 9.30am and 2pm to 6pm.

Wednesday 7.30am to 11am and 2pm to 6pm.

Friday 2pm to 6pm.

You can make an appointment with Dr Brunsart by phoning 06 758 8334.

Learn more about GMC Chiropractors by accessing their website: [gregmileschiropractor.co.nz](http://gregmileschiropractor.co.nz)

GMC Chiropractors are running monthly free workshops, at 77 Eliot Street, dealing with a range of chiropractic related issues. The next one, entitled

*the effects of stress and tools to overcome it*, will be held on Thursday August 22 from 6.30pm to 7.15pm. The guest speaker will be Imogen Wood, a yoga teacher. There will be food and drink and a play centre for children. Interested people can sign up at [newplymouth@gmchiro.nz](mailto:newplymouth@gmchiro.nz)

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Dr Brunsart with a young client Evie.

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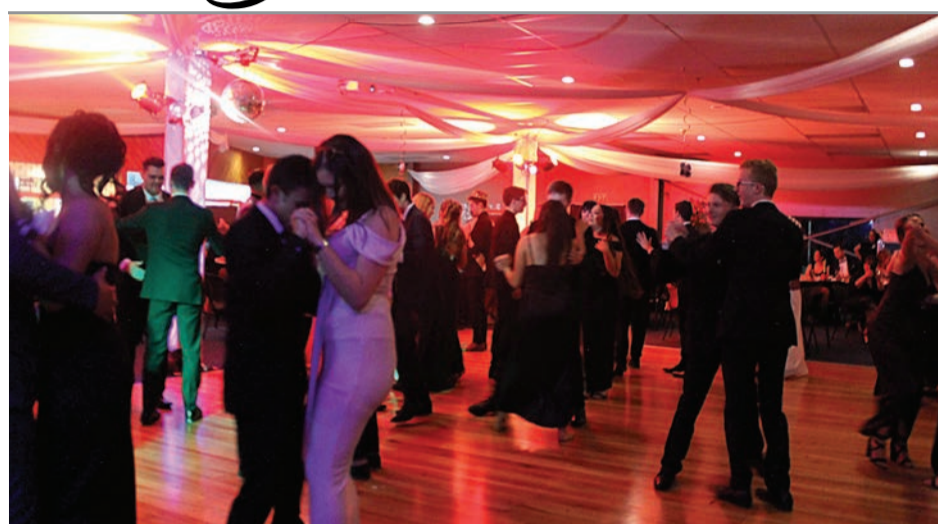
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## Hollywood Golden Gala

OPUNAKE HIGH SCHOOL BALL 2019



**Lexi McQuaig**

From the golden decor to glitzy dresses and sharp attire, the group of attendees to the Hollywood Golden Gala themed ball were the stars of the show. The 2019 Opunake High School Ball was held in the evening of August 10th at the Sandfords Event Centre exceeding everyone's expectations. Chloe Terrill shared, "This is not what I expected but it's so much fun."

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Kerry Walsh and the ball committee, the generous donation of ball gowns and free hair and makeup styling from Hellen Burley and everyone else involved in the flawless execution of this event, the night was definitely one to remember for years to come.

The evening commenced with couples strolling down the red carpet, being snapped by our paparazzi crew, and receiving a refreshing glass of champagne, non-alcoholic of course.

As the night proceeded, the attendees were provided with a wide range of sweet and savoury delights catered by Soul Kitchen which was "120%" according to Sam McNeil and they continued to mingle before the award ceremony.

Dinner turned to dancing and quickly nearly everyone was up on the dance floor. For some it was far from their comfort zone and others seemed to be totally in their element. Year 11 student, Tyran Jones, shared his thoughts on the night as it was his

first time attending, he said, "You know what, this is great. I recommend everyone come to the ball. The food is good and I've got great friends to spend this with."

As a part of the paparazzi crew and being another first timer to this annual event, I was left speechless at the effort put in to make this special night the success that it was. It was incredible to see the girls looking absolutely gorgeous in their gowns and how the couples all socialised and supported each other with aroha, respect and true mana. The smiles on everyone's faces were priceless as they danced the night away.

**Photos (clockwise from right):**

Whaea Kerry Walsh awards Princess of the Ball to Year 12 student **Meg Gibson**.

Our "Royal Family" (from left), **Sean Philips & Myah Kemsley** - Cutest Couple, **Regan Bloemen** - King of the Ball with his Queen - **Lia Harrop**, Princess **Meg Gibson** with her Prince - **Jackson Henare**, Spirit of the Ball - **Maddy Henare**.

**Lockee Robinson** shone bright on the dance floor, the first to get up and the last to leave.



## from the Principals desk...



Nga mihi o te wa ki a koe me to whanau  
Greetings to you and your family

Welcome back to Term Three. As you read the beginning of this term has been action packed with our senior students tracking their NCEA progress so far, the school ball and staff and students working together with the sports exchanges and Diversity Day.

The Ball was an amazing showcase and a magnificent occasion. It was a joy to see our students looking so splendid in their amazing dresses and sharp in their suits, all revelling in the occasion. Special thanks go to Whaea Kerry Walsh, Mr Bedford, and the Ball committee for their wonderful efforts with organising, setting up the Sandfords Event Centre and feeding us to ensure we enjoyed a star studded Hollywood event. I also acknowledge the waiters and waitresses and everyone else in our community who played their part in making this a memorable and enjoyable event. I was impressed with the maturity of all participants and the way they behaved at the ball and their recognition that it is a privilege to be part of it. Bring on the 2020 school ball!!!

Our senior students are busy completing their internal assessments and preparing for the benchmark exams that are set for week 8 in this term. These exams will provide important feedback and feed forward to our students as they prepare for their external exams in November. Currently senior students, whanau mentors, deans and teachers are working together to support students gain the necessary credits for their respective NCEA qualification. Faculties are offering extra revision and study before school, during lunchtimes and after school, so I encourage students to take up this opportunity to assist students to rise to their considerable potential.

The Opunake High School Strategic Plan needs updating and it is timely that we consult with you, our community. We have a changing student population and with the changing education landscape in Aotearoa, we need to gather information to enable us to identify major themes that we all think are important. With this in mind we have constructed a survey to capture your voice. This survey form is being sent out to our students, our staff and our community. The survey is open from 12th to the 26th August. Your response will enable Opunake High School to strategically plan for the next five years to continue to "Grow good people for a rapidly changing world" through educational leadership with a strong sense of community. We are looking forward to hearing from you, and are excited about what our future holds for the school and our rangatahi.

By the time you read this, Opunake High School will have participated in our first sporting exchange with Kuranui College on Thursday. This hopefully heralds the start of a long-standing exchange with Mr Simon Fuller's "new school" along similar lines as the Manawatu exchange.

Lastly a reminder that we celebrate Diversity Day on Thursday 22nd August with all of the different cultures we have at Opunake High School through song, dance, food and workshops. We'd like to extend an invitation to the Opunake community to join us for this event. Festivities start with a flag ceremony at 11.45am, through to a concert featuring local performers Derin Thompson & Selah Saints, as well as our school kapahaka group - Te Haumoana, along with several students.

If you have any questions, concerns or feedback do not hesitate to get in touch.

Noho ora mai ano  
Peter O'Leary - Principal

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## WHATS HAPPENING AT OPUNAKE HIGH?

Its looking busy in Term 3:

Careers Expo - Aug. 26th

Diversity Day - Aug. 22nd

Winter Tournament Week - Week 7, Sept. 2nd - 6th

Benchmark Exam Week - Week 8, Sept. 9th - 13th

End of Junior School, Trimester 2 - Aug. 30th

Start of Junior School, Trimester 3 - Sept. 2nd

Junior IDPs - Week 7, Sept. 2nd - 4th

### LOOKING FOR SOME EXTRA NEWS?

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@OpunakeHighSchool  
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## GROWING GOOD PEOPLE FOR A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD

*He waihangatanga o te tangata pai i roto i tenei ao hurihuri*

# Exhibition brings back fond memories

A large turnout of people turned out at the Govett-Brewster for the opening of their current exhibitions which included Fiona Clark's photos of a former Mr New Zealand Quentin Smith who grew up in Opunake.

Among those at the opening were Quentin's three sisters Gretchen, Lorraine and Heather who all now live in Whanganui. Of Quentin who was 18 months older than her, Gretchen said with a grin like all older brothers he would tease her and used to give her a little jab with his knuckle as he passed her "just to annoy me". He was a great friend of Peter Snell, she said adding the family lived next door to them in Opunake. She commented that Peter was "a great tennis player" and could also have made his mark in that sport. Quentin who lived in Christchurch passed away in 2009, aged 71.

Their cousin Piers who



Quentin's cousin Piers who was at the opening.



Quentin's three sisters. From left: Lorraine Harvey, Gretchen Frost and Heather Marion Smith with a photo of their brother.

grew up with the Clark family and was also at the opening recalls that Quentin used to lift up the 6 year old Piers as a fundraiser at various events.

The four were delighted to encounter Sandy Southcombe who also grew up in Opunake at the opening. A photo of Sandy as a 16 year old competing at the Opunake Beach Carnival was among the photos on display. He won the event the following year.

Sandy has fond recollections of the Opunake Beach Carnivals. "Hundreds of people would turn out every night," he said.

"The pubs weren't open, life was simpler," he reflected adding this was not that long after the war.



One of the kinetic art works.

He also recalled the circuses that used to visit the town which everyone visited.

Quentin's sisters were also able to confirm the name of the Miss Opunake who featured in one of the photos with Quentin at Opunake Beach in 1959. She was Marlene Jamieson.

Other photos in Fiona Clark's exhibition entitled Raw Material which tracked down people connected to her photographs, included the first woman to bench press 330 pounds. Touted as the strongest woman in history she won 6 world titles.

Other exhibitions to also open on Saturday August 10 were the Waking up Show by Elizabeth Thomson and Len

Lye, described as a dialogue between art and science, between the imagination and the physical realm. An exhibition about the creation of the world, the beginning of life and the planet and the coming to consciousness of the human mind, it was heady stuff. Intriguing and thought provoking, both artists used photography in unorthodox ways. Elizabeth's father was for a time the bank manager in Opunake and features in one of the works.

Two other exhibitors completed the new suite of exhibitions which continues till mid-November.

## Students help in Big Tree Plant



Eltham Primary School helped finish the big Tree Plant at Soldiers Park, Eltham recently.

The photo shows some of the pupils, helped by parents and teachers, planting trees on the south side of the Mangawharawhara Stream.

Maree Liddington

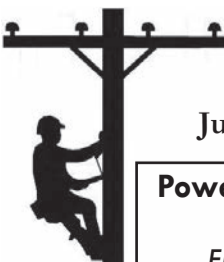
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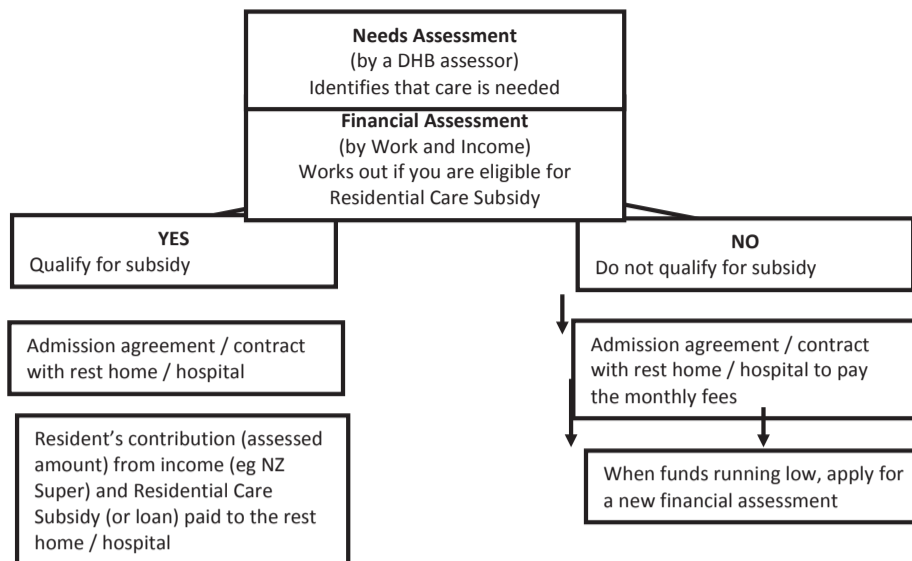
# Opunake Cottage Rest Home Updates

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who responded and completed the questionnaire about the Cottage. The response was overwhelming with 76 replies received which works about to almost 10% of the coastal households of which almost 50% were under the age of 65. We take from that our "Coasties" are thinking about their twilight years and what services that would like available in our own community. It was extremely obvious that people prefer to stay in their own homes as long as is possible and have assistance provided.

The other very clear response is that we want the Cottage to stay viable in our community because Opunake is a great place to live and we are used to the quieter and rural lifestyles, and that the residents are not locked in and free to still be part of this amazing community. There was a strong desire to be able to provide hospital level of care and some mention of potential dementia facilities. There was also extremely positive feedback about building both semi independent units and independent units and make them available to be either purchased or rented.

The other very strong indication from the questionnaire was the lack of knowledge about subsidised rest home living so we will provide further information about this. Going forward from the survey, the Trust will look into some of the enhancements that we can bring to the current facilities and services already provided by the Cottage. We are looking at making office space available at the Cottage to create a "Hub" for the care of the elderly in our community. We believe that if we can expand on our existing relationships with Hospice, DHB Needs Assessor and Access, then it is less likely members of our community slip through the cracks for whatever reason.

### Steps to Residential Care Subsidy:



We are currently seeking advice from Thomson and O'Neil regarding the units as to the best way forward to manage them. We are a Charitable Trust and Not for Profit Organisation so we need to make sure we have our ducks in a row before we commit to the expense of building etc. The other upgrades on our long term wish list may be put on hold in the interim as the Cottage is still very workable, but just looks a little tired. Some fresh paint, curtains and new kitchen units should make the facility much brighter. We continue to provide day care, respite care and full time care. There seems to be some uncertainty about respite care. Respite care is short term and can cover a lot of things, for example, recovering from surgery or illness and just a little help and until you are unable to go back into your homes. Respite care can cover people that are assisted in their own homes by family or carers who need a break, so a short term stay can be at the Cottage. Please contact the Nurse Manager at the Cottage if you have any questions about respite care eligibility. Some information to share with you about living in a rest home. Unfortunately, like most things today it is all about money. This means you are either self-paying or private, or subsidised.

Various factors go into these considerations. Following is a flow chart in respect of Residential Care Subsidy. The first thing is to get assessed and apply for Residential Care Subsidy. To get assessed, ask your family member, doctor, hospital, social worker or other health provider, to help you make a needs assessment appointment. Or, phone Sandra our manager at the Cottage Rest Home and she will get the process underway for you. If your needs assessment shows you need long-term residential care, your needs assessor will give you the Residential Care Subsidy application forms. These forms need to be filled in and sent to Work and Income promptly for a financial means assessment to see if you qualify for the Subsidy. If you are 65 or older, you and your partner's (if you have one) total assets must be \$230,495 or less. If you have a partner who's not in long-term residential care, you can choose whether the

total value of your combined assets is either: \$126,224 or less, if you don't want to include the value of your house and car, or \$230,495 or less, if you do want to include the value of your house and car. Your house isn't counted as an asset if it's the main place where your partner or dependent child lives. By way of explanation: A partner [or spouse] is assessed for full time care. The other partner [or spouse] remains in the family home and uses the family car. Any funds in excess of \$126,224 will be applied to the Rest Home fees. The balance of \$126,244 can be held for personal use/savings. A single [perhaps widowed] person is assessed as needing full time care. Assets including the family home and care are protected to the extent of \$230,495. In the event of these assets being more than \$230,495 the difference will be applied to Rest Home fees in the format that is assessed by WINZ.



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# Riding For Disabled celebrate the horses' birthday

Hawera RDA (Riding for the Disabled) runs riding therapy session every Wednesday at Hawera Showgrounds for people, mostly children, with physical, intellectual or social difficulties. Children from several local Hawera schools attend one of the four sessions, along with some from Normanby, Matapu, Opunake, and Patea.

The horse racing fraternity often hold races for horses in set age groups, so they have a set nationally recognised day to determine this, regardless of when they might actually have been born. This day is August 1. The Hawera RDA group decided to celebrate with an Open Day, celebration lunch for volunteers and visitors, and birthday-themed games on

their regular session on July 31. Dressing up and shopping for parcels, and Pass the Parcel games on horseback proved a hit with riders and helpers. Each session ended with the singing of "Happy Birthday" to their mounts and giving them apple, and riders were given gingerbread horses.

The new CE of NZRDA was invited. Jill Laplanche

drove up from Wellington for the day, having never been invited to a horses' birthday before. The Hawera group enjoyed meeting her and showing her what we do. The Showground caretaker was on hand to enjoy the lunch. Several visitors called

in, mostly family members of riders, and a couple of prospective volunteer helpers took advantage of the day to make contact and check us all out. Many of the volunteer helpers are into their retirement age, so it is encouraging to find younger

people interested. The weather was not particularly co-operative but luckily the group has the use of the large covered arena in such circumstances. A successful day was enjoyed by everyone.

Rosina Ellen



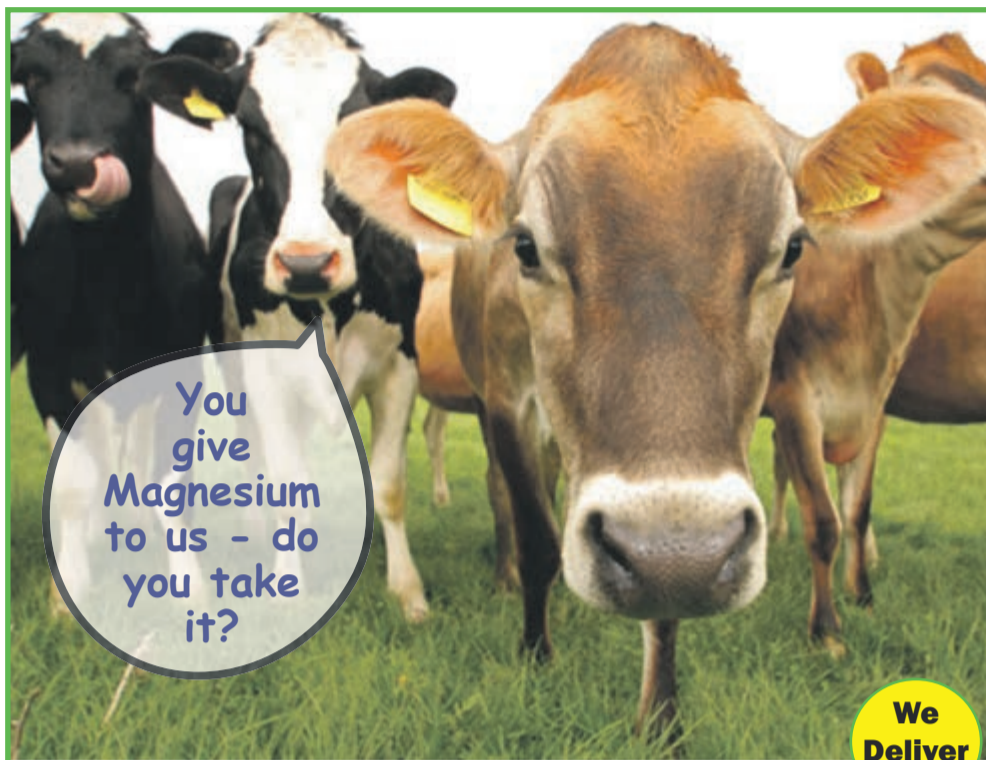
Ambury, Ryan on Lucy and Pat leading.



Gerald with Taite on horse.



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# DairyNZ director calls it a day

DairyNZ director Ben Allomes will step down from the industry good body's board this October.

One of DairyNZ's Board of Directors for eight years, Mr Allomes was elected by dairy farmer levy payers in 2011, as one of five farmer-elected directors. Since then, the Woodville-based dairy farmer has played a key role contributing to the governance of DairyNZ and provided key support around a range of issues, in particular people and talent.

DairyNZ chair Jim van der Poel credits Ben for his contribution to the board and his tireless advocacy for dairy farmers.

"Ben is a leader in his own right and we will particularly miss his passion for people and the younger generation. He really represents the next generation of leaders which are coming through into governance roles and we understand as a board, after eight years with us, he is ready to move onto new things, while extending the opportunity onto other farmers," said Jim.

"He has been a real asset on our board and we thank him for the contribution he has made. Ben will continue to play a leadership role going forward in the sector,



**Ben Allomes**

I've no doubt about that."

Mr Allomes was motivated to be part of the DairyNZ board, to give back to the sector.

"My wife Nicky and I have got a lot out of dairy

and I really wanted to give back and repay that through governance," said Mr Allomes. "It's been such a great experience. I will miss the diversity of the board and working with them,

debating and discussing things. I really want to thank the management team and all the amazing people I've worked with along the way.

"I've learnt a great deal through the width and breadth of DairyNZ. You're in a unique position to see the things DairyNZ do and the scope of things the organisation works across still blows my mind, to be honest. Our industry would be lesser if it weren't for DairyNZ's role in so many things."

During his time on the board, Mr Allomes has noticed a change in the sector which he hoped would eventually shift, encouraging farmers back to their innovative roots.

"Dairy farmers have built a successful industry based on innovation and being open to change. But we've had our values tested and challenged by our communities – farming is in our DNA, it's

part of us, and when our personal values are tested and challenged it affects us," said Mr Allomes.

"But we got ourselves here through innovation and change, and we need to continue with those strengths rather than focus too much on protecting what we have. Change got us to where we are now, let's focus on that positive change."

Mr Allomes encourages other farmers to look at standing for the board.

"We all have a passion for farming and unique skillsets and strengths. If you have passion and a skillset, with an interest in governance, that lines up nicely to give the board a go if you have an interest in governance," said Mr Allomes.

"Dairy farmers have been involved in industry good for decades – we formed DairyNZ, it's our organisation, we have a responsibility to influence its direction."

Mr Allomes farms in Woodville with his wife Nicky and four children. After attaining a degree in Applied Science, Natural Resource Management, Ben twice reached the grand final of the National Bank Young Farmer Contest and, with Nicky, won the New Zealand Sharemilker of the Year title in 2008.

He is chair of the Dairy Industry Awards Trust, was the DairyNZ representative on the Primary ITO partnership group and a 2015 Nuffield Scholar. In 2018 Ben and Nicky won the Innovative Employment Practices Award and Minister's Award at the Primary Industries Good Employer Awards.

From here, Ben plans to spend more time with his family, on the farm and looking at new opportunities. "I am an active relaxer, I don't sit down for long."

## Winter grazing task force set up

Minister of Agriculture Damien O'Connor has announced he is establishing a taskforce to respond to the animal welfare issues associated with the practice of winter grazing.

"Images of cows up to their knees in mud, unable to lie down and rest and calving in these conditions is unacceptable to me and I've heard loud and clear from the public that it's unacceptable to them too.

"Winter crop grazing is necessary in some parts of the country to provide enough feed for stock at a time when there's not a lot of pasture. Done well, it provides animals with quality feed to keep them warm over winter. Done

badly it means cattle can be knee deep in mud which gives rise to completely justifiable concerns for their welfare. Winter grazing also has an environmental impact and the government is working on ways to address that too.

"The Government has bottom lines on animal welfare and there are some people falling well below acceptable practice. Unfortunately, it's another situation of a small number of farmers letting the side down and bringing everyone into disrepute.

"It's time for greater co-ordination, faster action and consequences. MPI's Animal Welfare unit has stepped up its compliance

activity and is keeping a very close eye on the situation.

"Our international reputation depends on getting this sort of thing right, as does our social licence to operate within New Zealand.

"I know industry groups have been working to improve wintering practices and protect animal welfare. I want to add extra impetus to that work.

"I am bringing together a taskforce of vets, industry leaders and officials to identify the issues and bring me some solutions. I've asked the group to meet for the first time in the next few weeks and to present back to me with first-steps by the end of the month".

## A wet July for Taranaki

Rainfall for July was above normal throughout the region by between 107 % and 179 % of normal, with an average for the month of 139 %, according to Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) figures. Rainfall was

recorded on between 15 and 21 days, with the majority of the rainfall occurring in three separate events on the 2nd, 14th and 16th of July. The rainfall site at Kotare (Tongaporutu) recorded 352.5 mm of rain for the

month which is 179 % of its normal July rainfall.

Year to date rainfall totals are sitting between 77 % (North Egmont) and 119 % (Patea), with an average for the region of 92 %.

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# Leap of faith pays off

Shane and Kylie McDonald went in search of a reliable, simple tractor for their specialist farming operation in Bell Block, New Plymouth. They found Valtra.

Shane: "We had a look at a lot of different types and test drove a Valtra and really liked it, loved it."

"We did our research and saw it had won a lot of awards in Europe – machine of the year and tractor of the year."

They talked to their local agent, Field Torque in Stratford, and worked out which model with what specs would best suit them.

Shane and Kylie milk 700 Saanen goats and run a Simmental and Charolais beef stud.

There is a lot of harvesting required with dairy goats. Over their 90 ha, they regularly sow 50 ha of pasture and lucerne from August to May to provide feed for the goats.

"Goats like shorter grass, so we cut lucerne ever month and silage is cut more often and finer."

Over the last five years while building up the goat farm, Shane and Kylie made do with second-hand tractors, but were spending too much on repair and

maintenance.

Now they can afford to get what they want and it is a new Valtra T194 Versu. The Valtra T194 is 190 hp boosting to 210 hp. It has a front linkage in order to take a front mower.

"We need that power to run two mower conditioners. We never run out of power on hills and when carting between farms the power and automatic gears on the hills makes a huge difference."

Shane says the T194's 7.4-litre AGCO power engine is incredibly fuel-efficient.

"We filled it up when we got it. Then our son Jacan used it for 10 days. I got in and asked him when he'd filled it, and he hadn't. It just went through bugger-all diesel. The cost of running it is minimal."

Shane and Kylie also do some earth-moving contracting, and the Valtra tows their heavy tip trailers.

It also has a loader to move bales and load them on and off the trailer as they cart them between their various platforms and lease blocks. The 50 kph road speed makes the 11-km drive more efficient.

When they bought the Valtra T194 they also requested bigger tyres –



**Valtra T194**

710s on the back and 600s on the front.

"With Taranaki weather we wanted a bigger foot print and also we've found with towing stuff the tyres make a massive difference with more pull."

The transmission is a five-speed power shift. It has four ranges, each with five speeds. It can be operated as an automatic or a manual.

Its ability to be operated in a variety of ways is one of the things Shane likes about it. For example, when doing loader work there are two options for using the forward and reverse shuttle.

"We love how simple it is,

especially the touchscreen. It has all the functions I want, but it is easy to use. As we have staff, different people drive it. They are all surprised how easy it is to use. The screen is simpler than an iPhone."

The touchscreen provided also remembers settings. For example, Shane has saved the mower's settings – revs and speed – and can set the revs for gear changes.

"It can do so many things like changing the speed of the hydraulic control. We use a different flow for the mower compared to the tip trailers."

Shane and Kylie's Valtra

has six hydraulic valves. Shane likes that he can change the control of those valves. When he uses the loader he controls it with the joystick, but when mowing, he assigns the joystick to the mower with the touch of a button.

There are different options for hydraulic flow, 115 up to 200 litres/min. Shane chose 115 litres/min.

The cab is a happy place to work with all the mod cons like a good stereo, air conditioning and Bluetooth. It is very comfortable and very quiet, with lots of user-friendly functions, like the seat automatically calibrates for the operator's weight.

"It is a lot smoother than anything else we've had. Jacan drives it a lot and loves it."

It seems odd to single out windscreen washers, but this is a feature that Valtra has considered and improved, and Shane appreciates it.

"The wipers cover the whole window. In other tractors there's a gap between the engine and the cab on either side that gets dirty, but this does the whole lot."

The Valtra T194 has a long wheelbase of nearly 3m, however it is still manoeuvrable with a turning

circle of 5.25m.

Shane says service from Field Torque, Stratford has been outstanding.

"Vaughan sat down with us and worked out what we needed, and then kept us in the loop when it was on the water and when it was arriving."

Field Torque also spent time training Shane, Kylie and staff how to use it to get the best out of all the many features and functions.

It has been a good decision and as they replace their second hand tractors one-by-one, it will be to Valtra.

"We love it and we are really pleased with it. There aren't many around here, and with no track record in the area we wondered if we should do it. But I am pleased we went out of the square a little."

"Back up is only 30 minutes away and I am really pleased with the passion and the enthusiasm from the Field Torque staff around Valtra. They love the product and back it all the way."

**We welcome your contributions**  
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# Learning about the bee business

Want to learn the art and science of beekeeping? Develop a business opportunity with bees?

You can learn all the skills required for successful apiculture and assist pollination of fruit and

crops for the survival of New Zealand agriculture industry. If you have ever wanted to have your own beehive or want to work in the apiculture industry, sign up to this course.

I am a beekeeper of 35

years and have my apiaries at Weld Road Tataraimaka producing honey, queen bees and nucs.

Many come to the course with little or no experience with bees and have ended up with the confidence to get into it in a semi commercial way or just for themselves.

There is lots of practical work in the apiary, students become confident managing a beehive, assemble their own hive (provided as part of the course) then manage it through the season to harvest some delicious honey. The amount depends on the season.

Field trips and visits to working apiaries and honey extraction plants are planned later in the course and students sit the external American foulbrood (AFB) test to be able to recognise and manage bee diseases.

Course fees; \$1250.00 includes; A beehive and frames, base, lid and feeder, and hive strap (valued at around \$280 cost price).

The AFB disease recognition course fee - exam (usually an extra \$100.00).

Three text books (value \$100) and a course workbook and assessments.



Flowers where the bees work & gather nectar & pollen - students learn plant recognition skills for beekeeping

Accredited Level 3. The course is approved for Fees Free via Studylink. Please check if you are eligible <https://www.feesfree.govt.nz/>

Twenty workshops are held on Saturdays (usually fortnightly) in Stratford.

The course is for anyone

interested in bees, lifestyle block owners, hobbyists, permaculture, job seekers, and those who already have a few hives.

People attending the course must be a NZ citizen or permanent resident, be able to travel to Stratford for

the course, have their own vehicle or can ride share, and have the fitness required for apiary work

Environmental benefits include assisting with pollination of fruit and crops and maintaining bee numbers

Economic benefits include acquiring practical skills and seeking prospective apiculture work opportunities, developing your own business, or simply supplying friends and family with honey and bee products.

If you would like to secure your place on the course email me your physical address so I can mail out an enrolment form to you. Places are limited and usually fill up fast.

[keithplummer365@gmail.com](mailto:keithplummer365@gmail.com)

Keith Plummer

The next issue of the Opunake and Coastal News comes out on August 29.



Beehives at Okato. Students get a hive for them to build up..

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# Extra grazing is money in the bank

Picking the right chicory for summer crop can mean as much as \$325/ha worth of extra milk for dairy farmers this season.

It's all to do with a fast start in spring, and high crop yield over summer.

"Not all chicory cultivars are equal," explains Blair Cotching, pasture systems manager for Barenbrug Agriseeds.

"Some are perennial, but 501 Chicory is more of an annual type, and that has some really important benefits that ultimately mean more milk in the vat, or more liveweight gain for finishing stock."

Because 501 Chicory is an annual, it establishes faster and can be grazed sooner than slower-starting perennial types.

In some cases that early advantage adds up to one full grazing more than other chicory cultivars over summer and autumn.

"We've measured this dry matter yield difference in trials, and it's significant. For example, 501 Chicory grew 550 kg DM/ha more

than Choice. Imagine what you could do with that amount of feed over 10-15 ha of chicory!

"At a milk price of \$6.50/kg MS, this extra DM equates to increased milk production worth \$325/ha," Blair says.

Establishment costs are virtually the same no matter which cultivar is planted. But as these figures show, simply changing from one to another can add hundreds to the profit margin.

That's on top of the crop's nutritional, management and environmental benefits, Blair says.

Few other home-grown or imported feeds can match it for summer quality; animals love eating it; it doesn't need insecticide sprays and because it is tap-rooted, it is more resilient and water efficient than ryegrass in summer droughts.

"That means green, leafy, multi-graze feed when other paddocks are brown and dry, and less damage to existing pastures from over-grazing."

501 Chicory's deep roots also improve soil structure,



Picking the right chicory is important.

mine deep soil nitrogen (N) and pull up other minerals from the soil profile.

It is ideally suited to planting on effluent blocks, because it soaks up both

excess N and potassium (K), which are then re-distributed more evenly around the farm via the cows.

Nitrate leaching research has shown heifers grazing chicory urinated more frequently without increasing urinary output or urinary N, potentially reducing N loading and subsequent nitrate leaching from the soil.

"Farmers in sensitive catchments like it because it establishes well via direct

drill or minimum till, and can be renewed into grass in autumn the same way. So they're not getting the same soil N losses as they would with full cultivation."

That's better for fragile soils, too, he says.

For best results, 501 Chicory should be sown early, while moisture is available for good germination (as soon as soil temps are 12°C and rising), using treated seed at 10 kg/ha, and no deeper than 1 cm.



## Waitara HS win Agricultural Safety Challenge

Waitara High School were the winners of this year's Taranaki Secondary Schools Agricultural Safety Team Challenge held at Francis Douglas Memorial College on August 2. Spotswood College were runners up. The competition has been running for 22 years and five schools took part this year

Five schools entered the competition this year. Teams were made up of 4 students in each team and they had to compete in 7 events: Fire Safety, Firearm Safety, Quad, Tractor and Livestock Handling Safety, and Mental Health Wellbeing. There was also a quiz conducted by Land Based Training.

Section winners were Fire Safety - Waitara High School, Firearm Safety - Waitara High School, Quad Safety - Waitara High School, Tractor Safety



The winning team - Waitara High School. From left. Rylee Redshaw, Ael Huffam, Jack Butler and Caden Hull.

- New Plymouth Boys High School, Livestock Handling - Spotswood College, Mental Health

Wellbeing - Spotswood College, and Quiz - Waitara High School

was James Lawn of NZ Young Farmers who spoke on farm safety and farming as a career.



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\* Based on 550kg DM/ha extra yield and \$6.50/kgMS milk price. Yield data based on yield from combined trial analysis of Cambridge 11-12, and Canterbury 12-13.



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# MITSUBISHI MAKING ITS MARQUE IN HAWERA

By Mike Shaw

Autocity in Hawera has a new leading brand - revealed this week with the raising of Mitsubishi flags and signage at the Regent St dealership.

The addition of the triple-diamond marque has also prompted a renaming of the South Taranaki business - the new brand portion will be known as Autocity Mitsubishi South Taranaki.

That change does not mean the loss of any of the existing brands, general manager Aaron Wells assures customers. "We will still sell and service Holden and Mazda vehicles from our Hawera site, with the addition of the Mitsubishi brand" he says. "No-one loses... it's a gain for the district and our existing customers will still get the same service they have been enjoying."

Taking on the new brand in South Taranaki followed an approach from Mitsubishi Motors NZ to Autocity's Taranaki dealer principal Daryn Pennington, Aaron explains. North Taranaki was well served by the existing Mitsubishi franchise in New Plymouth, he says, but there was an opportunity to establish a sales, parts and service representation in Hawera and Daryn recognised that.

"Only last year, we revamped the dealership here and it offered a very good base for new product to be introduced. The first stock of new Mitsubishi vehicles has arrived and we are excited about the brand's future here."

The decision to take on the Mitsubishi brand required a serious investment in people, product, parts and knowledge and the three months from signing up the marque to this week's reveal has been a very busy period for the Autocity team of 12 staff in Hawera.

Technicians, parts and service staff, and sales people have all received specialist training with Mitsubishi Motors, via courses in Wellington, in-house in Hawera and on line. New technical equipment is on hand for the workshop services, a comprehensive range of parts has been delivered to the Hawera premises ahead of this week's launch, and there is a range of Mitsubishi models in the showroom, encompassing the ASX, Triton GLXR 4WD, Triton VXR 4WD, Outlander 2WD 2-litre, Outlander 2WD 2.4-litre, Outlander 4WD 2.4-litre, Outlander PHEV VRX, and Pajero Sport VXR.

The company has eight Mitsubishis in the showroom and a similar number elsewhere on site, with another nine vehicles on the way.

The effort to set up the Mitsubishi brand has received a special focus from newly appointed Mitsubishi South Taranaki brand manager Charl Swart, who adds that responsibility to his existing role as Autocity's fleet and rural sales consultant in the district.

Charl has settled comfortably into his work in Hawera, after moving here with his wife and twin daughters seven months ago. He had been running his own retail footwear business up north for 12 years, but the transition has been seamless, he says. "I am still dealing with customers; it's just a different product."

It has obviously helped that Charl is a car enthusiast and he will be focusing that passion on helping Autocity customers. So don't be



surprised if a new Mitsubishi Triton in 'Beast' mode pulls up in the farm driveway; it'll just be Charl calling in to say hi and to introduce himself.

Customers are spread over a wide area, says Aaron. "Our zone is from north of Stratford, down to Waitotara and there's a big rural sector in there."

With that knowledge, Aaron and Charl are planning a special emphasis on their vehicle models at this year's Stratford A&P Show in November. The firm has shown its product regularly at the Egmont show in Hawera, Aaron says, but he sees an opportunity in a high-profile showing at Stratford this year.

One of the premier exhibits will be the latest Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV - a technologically advanced plug-in hybrid electric vehicle, which is a vehicle that can use either an electric motor or an internal combustion engine to power the wheels. The electric motor can be charged by plugging the vehicle into mains electricity and on a full charge the Outlander PHEV can travel up to 54km in pure electric vehicle mode. Once the battery power has been used the internal combustion engine takes over, so there is no need for the driver to be concerned about how much charge is left in the battery.

"That's new to us," says Charl, "but there has been a lot of talk lately about electric and hybrid vehicles, and we now have a demonstrator vehicle on hand."

Aaron says the introduction of this technology to Autocity's vehicle range is exciting. Hawera is getting ready for increased use of such technology, he adds, with two charging stations already installed in the town - one at The Warehouse, the other at Pak 'n Save.



Aaron and Charl are expecting increasing interest in the new Mitsubishi range, with customers already lined up waiting to look at models. "We have multiple demonstrators, including Triton, Outlander PHEV, Mirage and Pajero Sport," says Aaron.

The Triton range has a model particularly attractive to commercial and rural customers, says Aaron - a cab-and-chassis model that can be customised with a rear tray deck. "We will have one of these fitted with a locally built Armourshield deck so those customers can see what they are looking at."

Autocity Mitsubishi South Taranaki demonstrators will be available as customer courtesy vehicles for people bringing their own cars into Autocity for servicing, Aaron says.

That experience may tempt them to take up one of the special price deals that Mitsubishi has running, complemented by in-house offers to mark the changes at Autocity Mitsubishi South Taranaki. "These are exciting times for us... and we are ready to go!"



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# Eltham Smallbore Rifle Club

The high score of the night on Monday July 29 went to Paul Tidswell with a 100.8, so very close to the perfect score. He also scored 98.4 and 95.2. Close behind him was Garry Rowlands with 99.4, 97.3, 99.4/99.5; Clare Bramley 98.4; Bob Bramley 98.4, 97.3, 98.4; Alan Drake 96.4, 96.5, 98.2, 95.4, 97.5/95.2; Bjorn Fowler 96.5, 98.3; Brian Hicks 96.5, 98.3; Craig McGill 95.2, 96.4, 94.2; Murray Chinery 92.1, 95.1, 92.1; Alex Sadovnikova 93.1, 92.5/91.4; Don Litchfield 89.1, 92.1; Henry Armond 90.1, 91.1.

New shooter Latif Robinson shot two good group cards scoring 96 and 99 while Crystal Gryshchuk, also a new shooter, scored 97 and 100 group cards. Junior shooter John McGill shot 99 and 98 on group cards.

Eltham hosted the Taranaki Association for the National Indoor Champs and Taranaki Closed Champs on Friday August 2. Each shooter competes in their grade against the rest of New Zealand and also against other Taranaki shooters. Congratulations to Alex Sadovnikova who was the highest placed Taranaki shooter, with sixth in D grade.

In the Taranaki Closed Champs competition Jason

Cameron (Hawera) placed first in Master grade, Trevor Jupp (Inglewood) first in A grade, Frank Eustace (Hawera) first in B grade, Luke Gibson first in C grade and Alex Sadovnikova first in D grade.

On Monday August 5, Paul Tidswell shot the top score for the week with a 100.8 followed by a 99.5 while close behind was Garry Rowlands 99.6, 98.5; Clare Bramley 96.5, 97.6. Junior shooter Henry Armond shot a very consistent 96.2, 96.2. Alex Sadovnikova 94.2, 95.5, 92.3; Alan Drake 95.2, 94.3; Bjorn Fowler 94.2;

Craig McGill 91.0, 93.5, 94.2; Murray Chinery 89.1, 94.0; Don Litchfield 90.0, 91.1. Group card junior shooter John McGill scored 99 group and 62.0 on a full card.

The club had a busy night on Friday August 9 with the Venturers group bringing six shooters who all had improving scores through the evening. Following that several visitors arrived and also had a fierce competition between themselves with Tayne ending up on dishes duty. Tash scored a respectable 100 group and 82.0; AJ 99 and 100 groups,

73.0; Keyarn 98, 98, 97 groups; Tayne 96, 96, 98 groups.

In the battle of the 99s Paul Tidswell came out on top with 99.8 while Garry Rowlands, Alan Drake and Clare Bramley all tied on 99.6. Paul Tidswell 98.4, 98.6; Alan Drake 98.6; Garry Rowlands 97.4; Clare Bramley 95.2, 96.4; Paul Longstaff 97.4, 92.3; Murray Chinery 92.3, 97.2; Brian Hicks 92.1, 96.5; Craig McGill 93.4, 92.3, 96.2; Bjorn Fowler 92.3, 95.1, 95.3; Stephen Hicks 94.2, 95.2; John McGill 74.0.

Clare Bramley

## Manaia Golf results

July 20. Saturday Men. Best Nett. 1. Jamie Johnston. 2. Bruce Duffus. 3. 3rd Denis Hurcomb. 4. Nathan Ngere. 5. Rod LeFleming

End of Month Tournament. 1. Caleb Andreoli. 2. Trevor Larsen. 3. John Oliver. 4. Jamie Johnston. 5. Kingsly Young

July 27. Saturday Mens. 1. John Oliver. 2. Jamie Johnston. 3. Gary Couper. 4. Kevin Murrell.

Juniors. Best Nett. 1. Jaden Siciliano. 2. Ashton Sharp. 3. Carter Symes.

Putting. 1. St Jaden Siciliano. 2. Ashton Sharp. 3. Carter Symes.

Ambrose. 1. Team Symes's Oliva and Hannah Symes. 2. Ho Bo's Payten Siciliano and Liam Campbell

August 3 Saturday Men Stableford. 1. Caleb Symes 40. 2. John Oliver 39. 3. Paul

Hunn 37. 4. Rod LeFleming 37. 5. Jim Ngery 36. Rulph Symes 36. Blake Symes 36.

August 4. Juniors. 1. Carter Symes and Riley Symes. 2. Hannah Symes and Oliva Symes



Chilled out Alpacas near New Plymouth.

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T/DSL, Auto, 72kms



"Full Spec"  
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## Taking Taranaki forward

### Community's commitment earns excellent waterway results

A national environmental excellence award is the latest accolade for Taranaki's mammoth efforts to improve freshwater health at a landscape scale.

And crucially, scientific monitoring continues to show the region's rivers and streams are the healthiest they've been for two decades, thanks largely to the Riparian Management Programme, a 25-year voluntary project by farmers, iwi, schools and community groups to fence and plant waterways.

The programme earned the 2019 Excellence Award for Environmental Well-Being from Local Government New Zealand for the strong leadership behind it, its proven results and its 'profound effect' on community well-being.

The voluntary scheme keeps stock out of waterways, cuts down effluent and nutrient run-off and shades streamwater to encourage native biodiversity.

More than 15,400km of Taranaki streambanks – about the length of New Zealand's coastline – are covered under the voluntary programme. NIWA scientists say it's likely to be one of the largest and longest-running restorative freshwater projects in the world. The figures are certainly staggering:

- \$128 million programme – 70% funded by landowners.
- 5.6 million native plants.
- 2,500 properties with a riparian plan, including all dairy farmers.
- 13,207 kilometres of fencing on streambanks.
- 6,000 hectares of native habitat protected.

Since the 1990s, the Taranaki Regional Council has worked with farmers to prepare fencing and planting plans individually tailored for each property. The Council also provides suitable native plants at cost and monitors progress and provides advice as



### Paradise regained on Opunake farm

One of the first Taranaki dairy farmers to start riparian planting and fencing in the 1990s was 83-year-old Gordon Symes. He still lives on the Opunake farm, which is now run by his daughter and son-in-law, Megan and Matt Symons.

"This is our little slice of paradise, but it wasn't always like this," says Megan, who grew up on the farm and has seen first-hand how the water has improved as streambanks have been fenced and planted. "I can remember trying to cross the river and the rocks would be all slimy

and slippery and the water level was low and warm, like unnaturally warm – it's because there wasn't the shade. Now it's a pleasure (since the streambank planting and fencing) that my children get to enjoy this and they love coming here and swimming."

Megan and Matt's property is one of about 1700 dairy farms in Taranaki, which all have a riparian plan with recommended fencing and planting.

Watch the video to find out more.

plans are implemented. The Council can also coordinate contractors for farmers who opt to use them.

An independent NIWA report in 2018 found that Taranaki's riparian protection work to date has contributed to improved freshwater health and a reduction in bacteria levels. And with the latest monitoring results (for the 2017-2018 year), long-term trends in waterway ecological health show significant improvements at

27 of the 59 sites monitored by the Council, and no significant decline at any of them.

Ecological health is regarded as the prime measure of freshwater quality and is assessed by examining what sort of tiny creatures are living in waterways.

Excellence award:  
[www.trc.govt.nz/excellence](http://www.trc.govt.nz/excellence)

Ecological monitoring results:  
[www.trc.govt.nz/monitor2019](http://www.trc.govt.nz/monitor2019)

## Around & about the region



### Exercise your democratic right

Council elections take place in October 2019. The people who are elected make important decisions that impact on all our daily lives and our region's environment and economy. So have your say! If you haven't already received a voter information pack, go online to enrol. To read the Council's Pre-Election report or find out about standing for election, go to the TRC website. Nominations close at noon on Friday, 16 August.

- ➔ [www.vote.nz](http://www.vote.nz)
- ➔ [www.trc.govt.nz/council-elections-2019/](http://www.trc.govt.nz/council-elections-2019/)



The whole family can play their part for biodiversity.

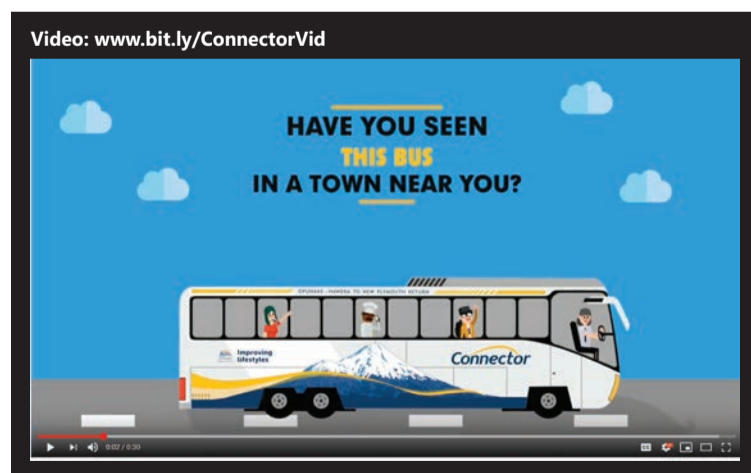
### Act now for sake of biodiversity

Towards Predator-Free Taranaki is now into its second year and it's already having an effect. Rat and possum numbers in urban New Plymouth have declined since the community-based campaign began at the end of May last year, and the trapping network in both rural and urban areas is expanding rapidly. It's a 10-year project so it's not too late to get involved - find out more on the TRC website. If you are already involved, please remember to record your catches on the TrapNZ website.

- ➔ [www.trc.govt.nz/pf-taranaki2050/](http://www.trc.govt.nz/pf-taranaki2050/)
- ➔ [www.trap.nz](http://www.trap.nz)

## Improving lifestyles

### Connecting the region from south to north and back again



Journey planner: [www.planmybus.nz](http://www.planmybus.nz)  
Connector bookings: [www.trc.govt.nz/myConnector](http://www.trc.govt.nz/myConnector)  
Connector timetable: [www.trc.govt.nz/Connector](http://www.trc.govt.nz/Connector)

The Hāwera-New Plymouth Connector bus service clocked up nearly 30,000 passenger trips in the 12 months to 30 June, and it's proving particularly popular with SuperGold Card holders who travel for free between 9am and 3pm.

The Connector makes four return trips between Hāwera and New Plymouth each weekday, extending from and to Opunake on the first and last trips respectively. It's a truly region-wide service taking in Normanby, Eltham, Stratford, Inglewood, Egmont Village plus minor settlements along SH3. Watch the video to learn more.

The Connector is so popular that you need to book if you want to catch the first or last service of the day. And it's easy to reserve your seat online!

You can also use our online journey planner to find out where and when to catch the Connector, or any of the Citylink or Southlink bus services also provided by the Taranaki Regional Council.



### Something for all at the gardens

Gardens are ideal places for quiet relaxation - and a lot more in the case of Pukeiti, Tūpare and Hollard Gardens. Their calendars are packed with organised public events, many of them free. In the coming weeks you can enjoy a workshop on garden design at Tūpare, traditional French raclette three-course meals at Pukeiti and Hollard Gardens, a botanical art class at Pukeiti or workshops on ornamental pruning (Hollard Gardens), garden borders and landscaping (Tūpare) or growing edible flowers (Hollard Gardens). See the TRC website for all the details.

- ➔ [www.trc.govt.nz/whats-on/](http://www.trc.govt.nz/whats-on/)

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**ARE YOU HAVING** problems with anxiety, are you having trouble getting the kids off to school, are they suffering from anxiety, come in for a free sample of the new Ethical nutrients mega magnesium night with passionflower. At The Health Shop in Centre City 06 758 7553.

**TUMMY BUG?** Antibiotics, you may need the new inner health advanced, a broad spectrum restoration of gut flora after antibiotics or a tummy bug, at The Health Shop Centre City 06 758 7553.

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Applications close 30th August 2019

**CHURCH NOTICES**

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

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

**Opunake Catholic Church**

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

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

**The Wave**

Pentecostal Church 64 Domett St, Opunake Sunday Services 10.30am Women's Group 10.30am Tuesday Men's Group 7pm Wednesday Come along or contact Murray Baylis 027 218 3377

**St. Barnabas Anglican Church**

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

**Okato Community Church**

Meets 6.30pm Sunday at Hempton Hall. Everyone welcome

**TO LET**



**Office Rooms/ Board Room available**

Long term, short term or casual basis Building has kitchen facilities, wheelchair access, cleaning services and plenty of parking on Napier Street or at rear of building on King Street.

Inquiries to Brenda Pittams - Ph 06 278 4169

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**RESTORE ELTHAM**

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- Restore Taranaki
  - South Taranaki District Council
  - Taranaki Regional Council
  - South Taranaki Forest and Bird
  - Ngaere School
  - Eltham Primary School
  - Eltham Timber and Supplies
  - Eltham Lions Club
  - Te Kahuri Nurseries
  - Stratford ITM
  - Stratford Masters Mitre 10
- Sponsors of the BBQ and all the volunteers who made our Community Tree Plant a great success.



**OPUNAKE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

**Meeting 1st MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 5.30PM**

Hughsons & Associates Boardroom at the Opunake Business Centre, 23 Napier St, Opunake (opposite the CoastalCare Medical Centre)

**NEXT AFTER 5**

**September 2 at the Opunake & Coastal News, Opunake Business Centre**

Come and enjoy a mulled wine and learn all about your local paper



**CREATIVE COMMUNITIES SCHEME Funding Local Arts Activities**

Applications for funding assistance for community-based arts activities in South Taranaki beginning after Monday 1 October 2019 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 Administration building on Albion Street, Hāwera, from the Creative Communities Scheme Administrator, or on the Council website [www.southtaranaki.com](http://www.southtaranaki.com) under Funding and Grants Support.

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

South Taranaki District Council Private Bag 902, Hāwera 4640 Phone 0800 111 323 or 2780555 Email [funding@stdc.govt.nz](mailto:funding@stdc.govt.nz)

Applications close **Tuesday 10 September 2019 at 4.30pm** (for projects beginning after Monday 1 October 2019)

**PUBLIC NOTICES**



**OPUNAKE TOUCH ASSOCIATION**

**REFEREES TRAINING NIGHT**

Thursday 5 September 6.00pm at Soul Kitchen, Sandfords Event Centre

Would be great to have all Coaches and Referees from all schools attend!



**OPUNAKE TOUCH ASSOCIATION**

**A.G.M**

Thursday 5 September 7.00pm at Soul Kitchen, Sandfords Event Centre

Please contact Philly 021 267 7993 for more information.

New committee members are most welcome!



**FIRST RATES INSTALMENT**

Ratepayers are reminded that the last day for payment of the first instalment of rates for 2019/2020 without incurring a penalty will be **Wednesday 28 August 2019**.

WD Crockett Chief Executive

**MUSIC**

**BLUES / JAZZ CLUB.** Interested musicians wanted. Ph 06 761 7054.

Next issue due out August 29. Contact us on 06 761 7016

**TRADES & SERVICES**

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

**McNEIL DECORATING** - for all your painting and decorating. Ph: Jason McNeil 027 233 4584

**HCL BUILDERS** for building houses. Ph 027 236 7129.

**COASTAL STOPPERS.** Phone Glenn 027 524 5745

**CARPETS** second hand, large selection After Disaster Ltd 223 Devon St West, NP. Phone (06) 769 9265

**HCL BUILDERS** for alterations. Ph 027 236 7129.

**LAWNMOWING** and section maintenance by local contractor SOS. Free quote. Ph 027 605 8437

**NEED WINTER FEED? HAY/ STRAW/ SILAGE** 027 384 4822.



**OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS**

Next issue due out August 29. Contact us on 06 761 7016

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**ONGOING**

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

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

**SUNDAYS**

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

**Open Mic at the Rahotu Tavetrn:** Every second Sunday from 1-5pm.

**MONDAYS**

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

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

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

**TUESDAYS**

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

**WEDNESDAYS**

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

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

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

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

**THURSDAYS**

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

**Coastal Young Farmers:** Meet 2nd Thursday of every month at 7pm at the Okato Bowling Club.

**Taranaki Country Music Hall of Fame, Manaia:** Running every Thursday night from 7.30pm, 11 Surf Highway, South Road, Manaia.

**Egmont Euchre Club:** Meets every Thursday 1pm at the Opunake Bowling Club

**FRIDAYS**

**Eltham Business Association Friday Markets:** 9:30am to 1pm, Carpark of Touch Point, High Street, Eltham.

**WEEKENDS**

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

**APRIL 6 TO OCTOBER 6**

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

**JULY 29 TO AUGUST 23**

**Colours from Hawera Exhibition:** At the Village Gallery, Eltham. Open every day except Sundays. Refer advert.

**AUGUST 10 TO MID NOVEMBER**

**New exhibitions opening at the Govett Brewster Art Gallery/Len Lye Centre:** Fiona Clark; Yuichiro Tamura; Waking Up Slowly; Open Window. At 42 Queen St, NP. Refer advert.

**AUGUST 18**

**Pihama Lavender Market Day:** From 10am-2pm. At the Old Pihama Dairy Factory, Main Rd, Pihama Refer advert.

**AUGUST 22**

**Opunake Simplifying Life:** Coastal Health Day. Opunake Main St, TSB Bank/Library courtyard. From 10am to 3pm. Refer advert in previous issue of OCN.

**SEPTEMBER 5**

Opunake Touch Association. Referees Training Night and A.G.M.. Sandfords Event Event. 6pm. Refer advert.

**SEPTEMBER 14**

**Fabricana, a Taranaki Hospice fundraiser:** Open to all crafters to sell surplus craft supplies. No finished items. Stall charges donated to Hospice. September 14th 2019.

Highlands Intermediate Hall. Enquiries to M Richardson 06 758 5101 email [lfr@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lfr@xtra.co.nz)

**SEPTEMBER 25**

**Whanganui Literary Festival, September 25 - October 6, EARLY BIRD SEASON TICKET TILL SEPTEMBER 6 \$70.** Refer to advert.

**Coastal Pacific/Trans Alpine 5 Day Package with Travelsmart Stratford:** Email or phone for more details. Refer advert.



**WAVERLEY - PATEA - HAWERA - RETURN**

Tuesday service links passengers with the Connector in Hawera  
 All fares \$3. Book at: Weir Bros - 06 278 5858

*Tuesdays & Thursdays*

**OPUNAKE - HAWERA - RETURN**

Via Kaponga - Manaia - Ohawe (on demand)  
 All fares \$2. Book at: Weir Bros - 06 278 5858

*Thursdays*

**OPUNAKE - NEW PLYMOUTH - RETURN**

Via SH45 - Parihaka (on demand)  
 Fares from \$3. Book at: Pickering Motors Ltd - 06 761 8363

*Fridays*

For more info contact:

South Taranaki i-SITE **0800 111 323**

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Check the timetable at [www.taranakibus.info](http://www.taranakibus.info).

Get your free timetable from the operators, South Taranaki i-SITE & Library Plus centres



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 August 29

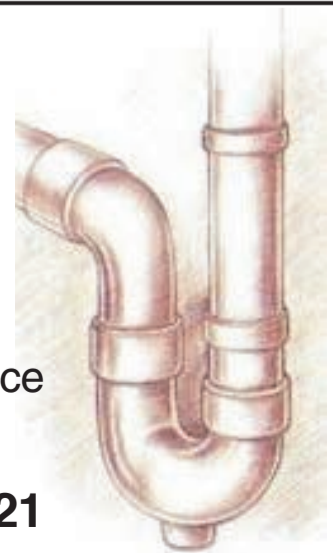
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# Westra focuses on face of Islam in NZ

Two upcoming exhibitions at Percy Thomson Gallery explore concepts and perceptions of community, the highs and lows of ordinary everyday lives, for those living from within and for those viewing from the outside.

'The Crescent Moon: The Asian Face of Islam in New Zealand' features a series of photographs by iconic New Zealand photographer Ans Westra and personal stories from 37 individuals of Muslim faith, written by Adrienne Jansen.

Westra was born in the Netherlands and came to New Zealand as a young adult. She has recorded much of this country's social history in documentary photography spanning almost 50 years. In 1998 she was awarded the Companion of the Order of New Zealand Merit for her services to photography and in 2007 she became an Arts Foundation of New Zealand Icon artist.

Jansen, a well-known writer, and a long-time teacher of English to new migrants, co-founded one of the first home-tutoring language programmes in this country.

The forerunner to the exhibition, a book with the same title, was published



Mahmood and Fatima Bhikoo.

in 2009. Commissioned by the Asia New Zealand Foundation, the book was designed to address misconceptions and stereotypes that had arisen about Islam, particularly after the September 11 attacks of 2001.

In the making of the 'Crescent Moon' Westra and Jansen travelled throughout the country interviewing ordinary people of Muslim faith going about their everyday lives. There are lawyers and farmers,

computer trainers and butchers, fourth-generation New Zealanders and new migrants. They talk with disarming honesty and humour about the media, about identity and about their faith – but mostly, they just talk about their lives as Muslims in New Zealand.

The Muslims whose thoughts and portraits appear in this exhibition represent many strands of Asian experience that have converged in New Zealand. Some are recent immigrants,

many other voices in the exhibition speak as Kiwi-born. All express an emergent indigenous Islam in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Muslim New Zealanders interviewed are ethnically, culturally, theologically and professionally diverse.

This book, and the accompanying exhibition, were created to open up dialogue and lead to greater understanding of Islam to the benefit of all. The Asia New Zealand Foundation considers this purpose to clearly still be as relevant today, as it was a decade ago.

Percy Thomson Gallery director Rhonda Bunyan was searching for a suitable exhibition to provide a vehicle for quiet reflection following the Christchurch mosque shootings.

'I 'rediscovered' The Crescent Moon exhibition still in crates at Asia NZ Foundation headquarters, following its return from Malaysia in 2015. This exhibition has been resurrected after several years in storage, and it couldn't be a more opportune time. I knew it would be perfect for the feelings I wished to convey, that as New Zealanders we can embrace both equality and diversity, through understanding and

conversation. 'Because of the emergence of militant group Islamic State, peace-loving Muslims face unusual challenges in finding acceptance and respect based on understanding.

'We have invited members of Taranaki's Muslim community to the opening event. Ans Westra and Adrienne Jansen will also attend the opening and will give a floor talk on Sunday 18 August at 1pm. Both are public events and all are welcome to attend,' says Bunyan.

Taranaki artist and printmaker Antonia O'Mahony's exhibition 'Tell It Again: Repetitions from the Archive' focuses on the western New Plymouth suburb of Moturoa where her family has lived for many generations. The work is part of her Master of Fine Arts thesis.

Moturoa is a suburb where industry butts up against the residential. Its unique characters and ramshackle structure led it to be nicknamed Tiger Town.

Antonia reflects on a community's everyday activities using source imagery from personal and historical archives.

'I wanted to uncover some of the subtleties of

this uniqueness. The best place to uncover the nature of this hard-working, hard-living community I remembered, was through its ordinariness... the repetition of the everyday that is both specific and universal.

'Printmaking is the medium I have chosen to explore this perpetuation of the commonplace. Hand based print mediums such as etching, lithography and woodcut, are heavily invested in process. Investigations into subject are slowed to a pace that channels its centuries-old history and the lineage of artists who have used it to express their ideas. It is alchemy, it is repetition, it is labour, it is contemplation on surprise revelations, and it is an instinctive pursuit to the heart of subject and process via the paper and plate. I have used its methodology to draw an analogy to the repetitions of daily life and to build a narrative of sorts that speaks of the both universal ordinary and that which is specific to this community.' Antonia's research is supported by Puke Ariki Trust.

The tandem exhibitions open on Saturday 17 August at 1pm. Westra and Jansen floor talk on Sunday 18 August at 1pm. All welcome



Image: Fazilat Rashid Ans Westra

## The Crescent Moon

THE ASIAN FACE OF ISLAM IN NEW ZEALAND

Ans Westra Adrienne Jansen

AUGUST 17 – SEPTEMBER 8, 2019

Opening event with special guest Ans Westra  
Saturday August 17 at 1pm. All welcome.

Developed by Asia New Zealand Foundation. Toured by Exhibition Services.



Tell It Again: Repetitions from the Archive

### ANTONIA O'MAHONY

An artist printmaker's reflection on a community's everyday activities using source imagery from personal and historical archives.

August 17 – September 8, 2019, Gallery 2

Image: Bert and Trixie, Antonia O'Mahony, etching and aquatint.

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# A night at the museum

On 28 August 1919, the Taranaki Museum opened its doors for the very first time - fast forward 100 years and join NPDC's Puke Ariki to celebrate 100 years of the Museum.

Mick Peck, take part in a scavenger hunt, get crafty in a poi making workshop and enjoy a slice of birthday cake. As well as the two events, *Whare Kahurangi: 100 Years of Collecting* is Puke

Ariki's popular temporary exhibition which looks back on a century of collecting our region's history and will be on show until October 6.

"Museum After Dark and the Family Party Day are an



Award winning magician, Mick Peck, will perform at Puke Ariki's Family Party Day on Saturday 31 August.



New Zealand national treasures, the Topp Twins, kick off the entertainment at Puke Ariki's 100 year celebrations on Friday 30 August.

eclectic mix of entertainment with something to thrill audiences of all ages. Both are free events and open

to all - the community has always been a big part of the Museum's story and history and we invite everyone to

celebrate this milestone occasion with us," says Puke Ariki Museum Manager, Colleen Mullin.



WHARE  
KAHURANGI

100 YEARS OF  
COLLECTING

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PUKE ARIKI MUSEUM

Friday 30 August  
7pm - 11pm  
Puke Ariki Museum

Celebrate with us as the Museum turns 100!

See Puke Ariki as never before and join us after hours for live entertainment, bar, food and the coolest venue in town!

Free event. 18+. Cash bar.

# A wedding among sea of flowers



The first dance at the beautifully decorated Pihama Lavender venue.

Recently married at Pihama Lavender were Jasmin Warren, daughter of Katrina and Bruce Warren of Okato and Bryan Martin, son of Randall and Erin Martin.

Petals covered the floor with candles glowing and perfectly set out chairs. The space had been totally transformed. It was stunning, inviting and intimate – the perfect romantic setting for

a wedding. I have no doubt that this wedding set up will go on to inspire many others!

As Jasmin entered, she looked absolutely beautiful in her custom gown, fitting perfectly with their theme.

Walking into their reception was yet another breathtakingly beautiful experience... flowers upon flowers and candles upon

candles created the most stunning space. There is something so special about a candle lit dinner among a sea of flowers and it was all created by the talented Jasmin and her team from Sentiments florists.

The first dance was one to remember as Jasmin and Bryan floated effortlessly around the dance floor, their passion for dance was obvious from beginning to end, followed by one of the most beautiful father daughter dances ever. The band were incredible and had the dance floor packed,

Photos  
Rebecca Inns Photography



The happy couple at Opunake wharf.



Jasmin and Bryan in the stunning grounds at Pihama Lavender.

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## Winter Fest

An author known for his historical research will speak on his latest book about a Stratford man who had been lost at war.

Historian and journalist David Hastings, who wrote *Odyssey of the Unknown Anzac*, is one of six authors to be a part of Taranaki Arts Festival Trust's newest festival, Winter Fest (15 August – 25 August 2019).

TAFT CEO Suzanne Porter says she's thrilled to bring such a rich story to the region.

"It really is such a compelling story, at the core of it is the

soldier's mother who never gave up hope to find her son."

Hastings book follows the trail of Stratford man George McQuay, who disappeared from the Western Front in 1916.

Ten years after the end of World War 1, the *Sydney Sun* reported that an unknown Anzac still lay in a Sydney psychiatric hospital apparently suffering from total amnesia.

Thousands of people in Australia and New Zealand responded to the story and an international campaign to find the man's family followed.

David used hospital and military records, diaries and letters of the soldier's contemporaries, along with family recollections to reconstruct George's long struggle to find his way home.

*Odyssey of the Unknown Anzac* is a story that looks

deep into the psyche of war and the pressure on young men to fight for their country, whether fit for duty or not.

Porter says it will be a treat to hear first-hand from Hastings on his process of unravelling McQuay's fantastic story.

"We're lucky to have David Hastings as part of the line-up of author talks held in the Libri Lounge at the TSB Showplace, New Plymouth. I would encourage people to look at the other authors and shows that are part of Winter Fest, there is something for everyone."

But Hastings visit isn't the only Winter Fest event to attract the South Taranaki crowd as a comedic show for the whole family will make its way down south in August.

Held at Kings Theatre and Hawera Memorial Theatre, *Still Life with Chickens* will explore the friendship

between two unlikely characters – an ageing Samoan woman known as Mama, and a mischievous chicken.

"It's important for us to not only programme shows in New Plymouth but also around Taranaki. *Still Life with Chickens* will tour to Stratford and Hawera. It's a hilarious play for people aged 10 to 110 so we hope the punters in the south will go out and enjoy it."

David Hastings, with *Odyssey of the Unknown Anzac* will be warming up the Libri Lounge at TSB Showplace on Saturday 24 August while *Still Life with Chickens* will take over Stratford's Kings Theatre on Wednesday 21 August and Hawera Memorial Theatre on Thursday 22 August.

TAFT's traditional biennial Taranaki Arts Festival has had a contemporary makeover and has evolved into a series of four niche festivals. Winter Fest, Spiegel Fest, Right Royal Cabaret Fest and Box of Tricks Fest. First up is Winter Fest a celebration of ideas, words and stories told through an unforgettable collection of author talks, comedy, music, dance and theatre. The 10-day August festival will welcome artists and authors from across New Zealand, Australia, Scotland and Indonesia. Winter Fest 2019 is on at the TSB Showplace 15 – 25 August and Stratford Kings Theatre 21 August and Hawera Memorial Theatre 22 August. Tickets are on sale now [www.winterfest.co.nz](http://www.winterfest.co.nz).

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**Pihama Lavender was honoured to be Jasmin's chosen venue for her stunning wedding**

# Boutique Literary Festival's Winning Lineup

The Whanganui Literary Festival Trust presents another excitingly diverse line-up of award-winning authors for this year's boutique, regional event, 25 September – 6 October.

The Whanganui Literary Festival 2019 keynote event features Ockham New Zealand Book Award 2019 for non-fiction winner, Joanne Drayton, and other well-known and well-loved authors such as Dame Fiona Kidman, winner of the Ockham New Zealand Book Award 2019 for fiction;



**Jo Drayton.**

crime writer, Paul Cleave; playwright Albert Belz, and

chef and cookbook author, Amber Rose.

Also appearing are kea conservationist Corey Mosen accompanied by his dog Ajax, columnist Leah McFall, sports writer Ron Palenski and novelist, essayist, and short story writer, Tina Makereti.

The week-long Fringe Festival that precedes the main event includes book launch presentations by visiting authors in partnership with the Sarjeant Gallery and Space Studio & Gallery, and other events where the public

can mix and mingle with the authors.

During the week Wanganui Repertory Theatre will stage *The Dignity of Risk*, a play by Joan Rosier-Jones, patron of the Whanganui Literary Festival. There will be singer songwriting performances, a literature quiz evening and literary walk, a lively panel discussion about a controversial topic, a bookchat morning tea and children's events - something to appeal to every literary taste and age group.

Whanganui Literary

Festival Trust Chairperson Mary-Ann Ewing says, "Our Literary Festival is an exciting ten days of celebration for readers, writers and people of all ages who love the world of books. We are proud of our unique boutique Festival. It is now an established part of Whanganui's literary culture and I am confident that our programme this year offers something for everyone to enjoy."

The Whanganui Literary Festival is an iconic event, supported by funding from Creative New Zealand, and

Whanganui District Council, and has a growing fan base from within and outside of Whanganui.

**Tickets for the main event are available from the Royal Wanganui Opera House. Early bird season tickets \$70.00 until 6 September or \$120.00 for 8 presentations. Tickets are also available at the door. Bookings may also be made by Internet, telephone or fax. [www.royaloperahouse.co.nz](http://www.royaloperahouse.co.nz) ph: 06-349 0511.**

## Symposium will focus on myrtles

The 2019 Myrtle Rust Science Symposium in Auckland, on September 9-10, will bring together organisations passionate about safeguarding and sustaining New Zealand's precious myrtles for future generations.

First detected in New Zealand in 2017, myrtle rust is now widely distributed across key parts of the North Island and in the north and west of the South Island. The invasive disease has the potential to damage many ecologically, economically and culturally significant tree species,

including pōhutukawa, rāta and mānuka. Investment in science is helping increase understanding of the disease and management options.

"More than 100 delegates are expected to attend the two day event, including researchers, science funders, central and local government, Māori, environmental and industry groups," says Naomi Parker, Manager Science Policy at the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI). Biosecurity New Zealand, part of MPI, is organising the two-day symposium with support from the Myrtle Rust

Strategic Science Advisory Group and the Department of Conservation.

"The symposium will discuss the latest research progress, and what it means for the organisations working to limit the impact of myrtle rust," explains Dr Parker. "We will also hear about what's happening on the ground to manage the disease, and what is needed from the science."

Dr Hughey says the science plan builds on research already underway and which will be shared at the September symposium. This includes the outcome

of more than 20 research projects commissioned by Biosecurity New Zealand, on subjects ranging from seed banking to integrating Mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge) alongside western science to better understand the disease and its impacts on native taonga.

Speakers will also share updates on the Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research 'Beyond myrtle rust' programme, and the recently established programme Ngā Rākau Taketake – Saving our Iconic Trees, administered by New Zealand's Biological Heritage Ngā Koiora.

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Every Tuesday and Friday
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| 8yr and under must be supervised by 14 yr or older   |   |
| ID required for all R movies   |   |
| <p><b>LATE NIGHT</b><br/>Comedy   1hr 41min   M: Language and sex references<br/>Emma Thompson stars as a late-night talk show host at risk of losing her long-running show in this comedy written by Mindy Kaling (The Office), who also co-stars as the show's new writer.<br/><b>Wed 21<sup>st</sup> Aug 7pm   Wed 28<sup>th</sup> 1pm<br/>Sat 31<sup>st</sup> Aug 7pm</b></p>                          | <p><b>YESTERDAY</b><br/>Comedy, Music   1hr 52 mins   M: Language, Sex &amp; drug references<br/>No-one in the world can remember The Beatles except a struggling musician, who uses this bizarre situation to his advantage in this comedic tale.<br/><b>Fri 16<sup>th</sup> Aug 7pm   Sun 18<sup>th</sup> Aug 7pm</b></p>   |
| <p><b>SPIDERMAN: FAR FROM HOME</b><br/>Action, Blockbuster   2hr 9min   M: Violence<br/>The first Marvel film after mega-blockbuster Avengers: Endgame sees Peter Parker's school trip interrupted when Nick Fury pays a visit. He needs Spider-Man's help to battle a new enemy: the Elementals.<br/><b>Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Aug 7pm<br/>Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug 7pm   Sun 25<sup>th</sup> Aug 7pm</b></p> | <p><b>LOST AND FOUND</b><br/>Comedy, Drama   1hr 36min   M: Language, sex references<br/>'Lost &amp; Found' is 7 interconnecting stories set in and around a lost &amp; found office of an Irish train station. Inspired by true stories.<br/><b>Wed 21<sup>st</sup> Aug 1pm</b></p>  |
| <p><b>CRAWL</b><br/>Horror   1hr 27min   R16: Violence, language<br/>A young woman trapped in a flooding house during a Florida hurricane must battle against alligators in this horror from Alexandre Aja (High Tension).<br/><b>Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Aug 7pm   Fri 30<sup>th</sup> Aug 7pm</b></p>  | <p><b>THE LION KING</b><br/>Animated, Kids &amp; Family   1hr 58min   PG<br/>Simba idolizes his father, King Mufasa, and takes to heart his own royal destiny on the plains of Africa. But not everyone in the kingdom celebrates the new cub's arrival. Scar, Mufasa's brother has plans of his own.<br/><b>Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Aug 1pm</b></p>                                    |
| <p><b>TOY STORY 4</b><br/>Animation Comedy   1hr 29mins   G<br/>When a new toy called "Forky" joins Woody and the gang, a road trip alongside old and new friends reveals how big the world can be for a toy.<br/><b>Sat 31<sup>st</sup> Aug 1pm</b></p>   | <p><b>PAVAROTTI</b><br/>Documentary, Music   1hr 54min   Exempt<br/>Voice...The Man...The Legend. Luciano Pavarotti gave his life to the music and a voice to the world. This cinematic event features history-making performances and intimate interviews, including never-before-seen footage and cutting-edge Dolby Atmos technology.<br/><b>Wed 28<sup>th</sup> Aug 7pm</b></p> |

|  |                                     |  |  |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Wednesday<br>14<br>Wild Rose - 1pm<br>Lost and Found - 7pm | Friday<br>16<br>Yesterday - 7pm     | Saturday<br>17<br>Secret Life of Pets - 1pm<br>Spider Man: Far from Home - 7pm | Sunday<br>18<br>Yesterday - 7pm                                  |
| 21<br>Lost and Found - 1pm<br>Late Show - 7pm              | 23<br>Spider Man: Far from Home 7pm | 24<br>The Lion King - 1pm<br>Crawl - 7pm                                       | 25<br>Spider Man: Far from Home 7pm                              |
| 28 !!ARTHOUSE!!<br>Late Show - 1pm<br>Pavarotti - 7pm      | 30<br>Crawl - 7pm                   | 31<br>Toy Story 4 - 1 pm<br>Late Show - 7pm                                    | 1 September **BOUTIQUE**<br>Fast & Furious: Hobbs and Shaw - 7pm |

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