



# OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

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## Wet weather fails to dampen Christmas Parade in Okato

Umbrellas were the order of the day at the Okato Christmas Parade, held on Sunday December 7. However, this did not prevent a huge turnout of people on hand to watch the Parade, which was organised by the New Zeal Church.

Leading the Parade, which set off from the southern part of Carthew Street (outside St Luke's Hall), was a police car with flashing red and blue lights, closely followed by three bagpipers and two drummers.

The floats were up to their usual high and imaginative standard. Animals seemed to feature prominently with horses and dogs, and the Okato Vets float reflecting the 'kindness to animals' message, "Don't forget your pets this Christmas."

Santa was ranging on the fringes of the Parade giving out goodies. Some said he looked a bit like Heimo of the Stony River Hotel,



The Stony River Hotel float with numerous Santa's helpers.

but surely that was just their imagination!

Various vehicles were adorned in various Christmassy ways and the Fire Brigade made a definite impact.

Red nosed riders on bikes were to be seen everywhere and little children had joined in the festive fun, in a dressed up way. There had also been a 'Decorated Bike Compe-

titition' for youngsters and these also were in the Parade showing off their imaginative creations.

"I just love the little Batman," one onlooker was

heard to say.

Lollies aplenty were hurled for onlookers who are good at catching, while nimble people were able to dodge the squirts from the water guns, which seemed to be in plentiful supply on-board some of the floats.

The Christian message was not overlooked either. "You'll find a baby in a manger," proclaimed the St Patrick's Church float, which was a timely reminder of the true meaning of Christmas – the commemoration of the birth of Jesus Christ 2,014 years ago.

All in all a great Christmas Parade. The winner of the best float competition was 'Crafty Chicks of Warea'. Congratulations to the organisers and all who took part. "We could not have done it without the support of the wider community," said one organiser from the New Zeal Church. A popular hangi concluded the event with an estimated 600 people having a memorable feast.

## Everybody's Theatre lands \$261k grant for restoration

Everybody's Theatre is delighted to receive a \$261,080 grant, the remaining budgeted amount needed to complete the planned theatre restoration.

New Zealand Lotteries granted the amount from the Community Facilities Fund on Tuesday after reviewing the application submitted

by the Everybody's Theatre Committee in August.

The committee have been actively applying for community grants and donations since 2011 and have successfully raised over \$800,000 to date. TSB Community Trust has already pledged \$150,000, of which \$50,000 was used to purchase the digi-

tal projector. South Taranaki District Council has granted \$29,000 toward a kitchen.

The full theatre restoration covers building work and re-lining from the earlier earthquake strengthening project completed in 2013, electrical work, kitchen, heating and fire alarm system installation, 70 news seats and interior

décor.

Debbie Campbell, Chairperson of Everybody's Theatre committee said "the theatre is a facility Taranaki people can enjoy and be proud of, and fundraising wouldn't have been possible or as successful without the support from the community."

"We are thrilled to reach this major milestone in the project after years of fundraising."

Ongoing local Coastal community fundraising has contributed over \$40,000

to date, and initiatives have included weekly raffles, book fairs, market days, boutique cinema nights, Lakeside Lions fundraising activities, Gary McCormick and Tim Shadbolt hosted events, Christmas Cake and bird house sales, and the Buy-a-Brick donation scheme. A special mention goes to Opunake businesses for their generous continued support.

Work will commence around March 2015 and we aim to continue screening movies at the weekends.

## Crash north of Opunake

On Thursday November 27 a van and a car crashed north of Opunake in the vicin-

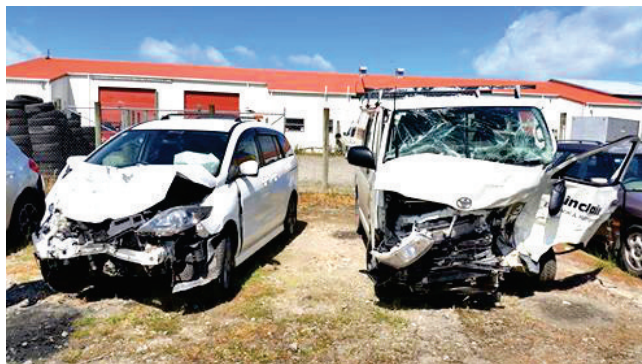
ity of Namu Road and State Highway 45. The accident occurred at 9.15am, leaving a man trapped inside his wrecked vehicle. After being freed by firefighters he was flown by the Taranaki Community Rescue Helicopter to the Taranaki Base Hospital. He has since been released from hospital.

By the look of the smashed

car he seems to be fortunate that his injuries were not life-threatening.

Sights like this should be a reminder to be very careful while driving as there will be a greater volume of traffic during the forthcoming holiday season. Keep your speed down and be extra watchful.

See also page 23



Both vehicles sustained major damage as can be seen in this photograph.

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**Letters to the  
Editor**

**Road repairs**

Due to road edges on our road being dangerous and needing urgent repairs, I contacted New Plymouth District Council in May. An email received May 28 from NPDC's roading contractor Opus stated "they have arranged with their maintenance contractor to undertake break repairs on Leith road to the beach, as they were increasing spending on this type of work hopefully this would be done by June 30<sup>th</sup>".

NPDC organised a meeting at Okato on October 13. The meeting was attended by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Okato's two Council representatives, Kaitake Community Board members, various NPDC employees and a half dozen local ratepayers. I voiced my concern that our road hadn't been repaired, and also other roads in the Okato area. I was scorned by friends as wasting my time attending the meeting, to whom I should have listened. All elected representatives agreed that the roads needed repair, and would

pursue the matter. I emailed Opus again on October 19 concerning the roads, and received a reply that "the work was planned for November as budgets became tight in June." Mr Aves of NPDC said that if the community has any roading concerns they should contact council. What for, I don't know. Okato residents have seen paint marks put on their roads, wear out, repainted, but no repairs. Combined with the recent threat of closing local swimming pools, this lack of roading repairs reinforces NPDC's attitude of neglecting services to those outside New Plymouth City.

*Jim Lawn  
Okato*

**Opunake**

A politician might claim that all publicity is good publicity. I don't think we, as a community, feel that way at the moment. Some journalists have chosen to sensationalise recent events and consequently caused an emotional response I feel unhelpful for our recovery. There is no doubt that recent

tragedies are just that. There is no doubt that there are evil elements causing very sad recent outcomes. There is also no doubt that we are a fine and strong community that has overcome traumas in the past, and can do it again. How? By talking together and agreeing on the critical values that define us. By working together to ensure the positive aspects of our community continue and grow. By each of us taking a step toward those positive outcomes. It's not someone else's job, it's ours. We can do this as a community. Each time I've prepared a candidate statement for the Local Body elections I have used the words "we choose to live in Opunake". This has been a wonderful town and district for us in so many ways. Warren and I have both had jobs we have enjoyed passionately. We've had colleagues that have encouraged us, challenged us and grown us. We have found spiritual richness here too. We have enjoyed the best of friendships. Our three sons have been able to enjoy experiences and an education that have launched them into fabulous futures. They have

been mentored by many fine and inspiring people and are each fine young people in their own right. As are many many others that have had the same start here in our community. There are so many reasons for this to have been our chosen home. But now we leave you for a new adventure. We leave much richer than we arrived. You have given us so much and expanded our knowledge and abilities in many dimensions. We extend a huge thank you to you all. I encourage you all to reflect on the good reasons you have for choosing to live in this community, and being involved in those reasons becoming even stronger. Don't be defined by others who don't have our understanding and love for community. Ka kite ano.  
*Sharon Arlidge*



Sharon Arlidge

**B.B.C. Predestination**

The wise men had to be in the east and recognise the star signs.

Elizabeth had to be barren so that the coming of her son, John the Baptist, was both a sign and a miracle.

Mary had to be of a certain age and be a virgin for the second Adam to be born.

Augustus Caesar had to demand a tax where everyone was required to register in their home town to ensure that Joseph took Mary to Bethlehem.

And there had to be no

room in the inn so that the Creator of the Universe, the Maker of all life, was born among the dirt and dung of a stable to show he could be born in our filthy hearts.

God loves each one of us and has a plan for us. That plan may be to recognise signs, it may be to bring a specific life into the world, it may be make a decision that will make someone else change position and move to make a prophecy come true. But each one of us is here on earth for a purpose.

That doesn't mean that everything in our lives is predestinated. All predestination means is that we will arrive at a specific destination, a pre-determined point. It doesn't mean that every detail of our life is pre-planned. How could free will exist if that were so? There has to be free will for God's judgment to be fair. There has to be free will so we can choose eternal life or damnation. And yes, that is a choice we freely make for ourselves.

The purpose for each life is part of God's great plan. The only way we can fulfil our purpose fully is to accept the life of Jesus into our lives.

God knows what we will decide because he knows everything. It's rather like us knowing the final score in an All Blacks game before we watch a replay. Every player had a planned (predestinated) position to play in, but each made their own choices of play during the match.

*Richard Oliver  
Pastor Eltham Message Church*

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# EDITORIAL Andrew Little's leadership of the Labour Party

Most commentators seem to agree that freshly-minted Labour leader Andrew Little is off to a good start. He certainly does not lack fire power in the House and he has a definite and clear agenda as to what he wants to achieve and what he prefers to disregard, such as raising the retirement age

beyond 65.

Mr Little has, for this new role, excellent credentials. Firstly, he has a solid and successful grounding in the union movement as President of EPMU; it needs to be remembered that the rise of the Labour Party and the union movement are intertwined.

Secondly, he has university qualifications in law and parliamentary legislation is all about law.

Thirdly, he has a solid background of successful leadership in various areas such as the Presidency of the Labour Party and earlier, he was a student leader at national level.

Finally, he is a plain speaking man who tends to get to the heart of the issue with honesty and candour.

He should prove an effective and accomplished Labour leader. But, can he best Mr Key, who has now seen off several Labour leaders? That remains to be seen. Anyway, the coming year should be

an interesting one from a political point of view.

The next round of opinion polls should be interesting.

## Opunake Health centre is beginning to look most impressive



Christmas is coming soon and so is the health centre in Opunake by all appearances.

### On this month in history: MJ Savage assumes office

On December 6, 1935 Michael Joseph Savage (1872-1940), who was born in Australia, assumed office as prime minister. His Labour Government had

won the General Election in convincing fashion. The West Auckland MP had become Labour leader in 1933 following the death of Harry Holland.

The Government did a lot to improve the lot of ordinary NZ people in the aftermath of the Great Depression and instigated the 'cradle to grave' security system.

Savage was regarded with reverence by many people who made sure they had his portrait prominently displayed. He died in office and there was much public grief.

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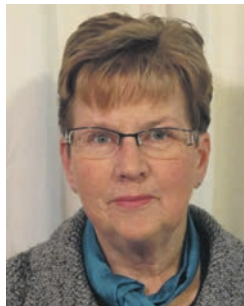
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# Community comment

## Good things take time!



Maree Liddington

It's Monday morning and what better way to catch up on what's happening, than taking a walk around the village. (I'm just back from holiday, so a catch up is needed)

One thing that catches my eye straight away is the near completed Eltham Toilet Upgrade (or Art Loos as it has been dubbed).

Wrought iron gates and grills have been hung; corrugated iron figures on the exterior mark the men's and

ladies entrances; a wavy tile motif swirls along the walls with framed artworks creating a gallery effect. Special mention must be made of a wall panel by the Shed Sheila's pottery group.

This decorates the vestibule of the ladies room. Considerable time and attention to detail has gone into the creating of this 'Tree of Life' artwork.

Remaining work to be done is the installation of mirrors with glass tile surrounds. The tiles have been created by local folk at a workshop with a local glassblower.

Silhouette figures are planned for the toilet doors.

The overall effect is warm and harmonious (the butter cream walls help). If there is a down side, then that would be the original stainless steel bowls and hand basins.

An official opening date has not been set, to my knowledge, but this needs to be marked as an occasion for celebration. This is a project that has taken time!

A big thank you to the Eltham Development group and local artists for holding onto the vision and seeing it through.

At Soldiers Park, Tom Smithers and team are busy completing the second stage of the Skate Park. I took a stroll down the walkway, but work is on hold here till old and dangerous trees are removed.

This will be a huge undertaking, and afterwards a massive replanting and tidy up will be needed. The area has huge potential, but will be another project that takes time.

The swimming baths are looking tidy and ready for all comers as the summer weather kicks in.

Business in town is chugging along as usual – the Christmas rush doesn't happen here (nice!). I suspect most people go to the shopping malls.

But, if you want relaxed shopping and gifts with a difference, then Eltham is the place to be. The Ladies Shopping Night went well, once again, and looks like an



'Tree of Life',

annual feature.

Seventy people through the Village Gallery, wasn't bad for one night. The gallery closes after December 19 for a month, to give the volunteer helpers a break and recharge for the new year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the willing volunteers who keep our community ticking, for their work and dedication over the last year. The Eltham Community Development Group is planning a public meeting early next year to get ideas for new project and initiatives around the town. So, keep this in mind for new beginnings in the New Year!

I hope you all have a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Maree Liddington  
Eltham Community Board



Exterior view of toilets.

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From 1 December 2014 there will be a change to telephone and broadband internet costs. Most people use the same company to provide both these services, and so they will not be affected by this change.

If you are currently using two different companies to supply your telephone and broadband, you may face higher costs each month. In this case, the best solution is likely to be for you to switch to a single provider for both services.

From 1 December, your broadband bill could increase by \$23.52 per month. This is because the costs for your

connection to the copper network are shifting from your telephone provider to your broadband provider. Your telephone provider's costs are going down by \$23.52 per month, and your broadband provider's costs are going up by the same amount

It is a commercial decision for your telephone and broadband providers whether they pass on the cost change to you. You might find that your broadband bill goes up but your phone bill stays the same.

If you use the same company to provide telephone and broadband services, you won't notice this change. If you use two different com-

panies for telephone and broadband, and your telephone company doesn't pass on the \$23.52 per month cost saving to you and reduce your monthly bill by this amount, there are several things you can do.

You can find out what your broadband company or your telephone company would charge you for a combined telephone/broadband package. A combined package is likely to be cheaper than what you were already paying for separate services.

While you are deciding what to do, your telephone company may be able to provide some assistance. You should contact them to find

out what options are available. You should always shop around with other providers to check that you have the best deal.

If you purchase telephone and broadband from two different companies and you're not sure if your broadband uses the same copper network as your telephone services, contact your broadband provider to find out.

And finally, these billing changes are separate from the Commerce Commission's processes to set the wholesale price of copper-based broadband services, which will also affect costs for broadband providers from 1 December.

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# Action Group slam Council over stink

There were angry scenes when the Eltham Eader Action Group took their case to the South Taranaki District Council last week.

The council had earlier admitted and been fined \$115,000 after charges had been brought against them in the Environment Court by the Taranaki Regional Council arising from the effects of a decision to allow Fonterra to discharge a mixture of buttermilk and raw milk into the Eltham waste water treatment plant.

The charges related to health issues affecting nearby residents arising from the stench coming from the plant on several instances between March and May this year.

Fonterra has denied charges brought against them by the regional council.

The Action Group presented a 300 signature petition to the council's December meeting calling for the reinstatement of Alex Ballantyne as deputy mayor. Mr Ballantyne, who represents Eltham on the council had been demoted after being seen as critical of council policy on the issue.

"This shows the council there is support for Alex, and it shows Alex there is support for Alex," Action Group member Maureen Drylie said.

Before the meeting, another member Mark Kelly said the court decision sent a clear message to the council.



The treatment pond at the Eltham wastewater plant.

"The judge called this extreme negligence, which is strong language coming from a judge. The people who did this are still in high paying jobs. If they had any honour and integrity they would have left already and fallen on their swords."

He also slammed the demotion of Mr Ballantyne.

"Alex has no idea why he was demoted. The mayor had said there was evidence he had gone against council policies. Where's that evidence? The mayor should front up and produce that evidence, instead of acting as judge, jury and executioner."

During the open forum, one man said he had made the shift from the Kapiti Coast hoping for a more relaxed lifestyle.

"I escaped the rat race to come to this area, and it has

not been a relaxing way of life for us. This has been sheer hell."

Council chief executive Craig Stevenson said the decision to allow the waste to be discharged had been an operational one.

"I stood up at a December 11 meeting and said it is an operational issue. I am ultimately responsible for the operation of this organisation, and I've been entirely consistent for 14 months now. I have lost track of the number of times I have apologised for this, and if it helps, I will again make one more apology," he said.

Mr Dunlop told the Opunake and Coastal News that the decision to discharge the waste had not been a good one.

"We have certainly learned, and we won't be doing that

again," he said. "We can all be clever in hindsight. The reason for putting the milk in had been thought of as a good environmental solution. In actual fact it did treat the waste successfully, but the nuisance and negative effect on the neighbours was unacceptable. We want to completely decommission the eader, bury it and move on."

Mr Dunlop said the cost of the fine would not be met by the ratepayers. The council would be looking to their insurers, as well as savings, such as the \$3 million saved in the waste water network by the development of new technology, to make up the cost.

He also defended the demotion of Mr Ballantyne from the deputy mayoralty.

"The deputy mayor is the second person in charge at the council, so it's really

important that what's said by the deputy mayor is correct in the public arena. Some of the statements made have been factually incorrect, such as talking about poisonous gases and the possibility that three people had died, with no evidence that happened is pretty irresponsible."

In his decision, Judge Brian Dwyer noted the irony of one local council prosecuting an-

other, representing the same ratepayers.

"I cannot direct the regional council as to what it might do with the fine it receives, however I observe it would be fitting if at least part of that fine was used for some environmental remediation or betterment project in the vicinity of Eltham with appropriate publicity to the community about that."

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## On this month in history: Captain Scott leaves Port Chalmers

On December 24, 1901 Captain Robert Falcon Scott left Port Chalmers (near Dunedin) for Antarctica. The highlight of their time in Antarctica (1901-1904) was a three man trek towards the South Pole. With Captain Scott were Dr Edward Wilson and Ernest Shackleton. They didn't make the South Pole,

but set a new record for the closest distance to it.

On the return trip Shackleton became ill and his companions helped him back. Once back at the hut, Shackleton was invalided back to Britain on the Discovery, which he greatly resented. Later, Shackleton led his own Antarctic expeditions

and was knighted.

Captain Scott went on to become better known for his own later ill-fated attempt to become the first man to reach the South Pole. Again he left New Zealand on the Terra Nova amidst great fanfare in 1910, but this time he was beaten to the South Pole by the Norwegian Roald

Amundsen.

Captain Scott died sometime around March 29, 1912, on his return from the South Pole, but it was not until November that the bodies of Scott and his two remaining Polar Party companions (Dr Wilson and Lieutenant Bowers) were discovered.

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# Rotokare Lake closed but Reserve remains open



## Lake Rotokare reserve

Due to high levels of blue-green algal bloom (Cyanobacter), the lake at Rotokare Reserve is closed to all users until further notice. The grounds at Lake Rotokare Reserve remain open for visitors. South Taranaki District Council environmental health officer, Doug Scott

says Cyanobacter is a naturally occurring algae capable of producing toxins, most commonly causing skin and eye irritation. However some of the toxins could potentially cause sore throats, asthma, paralysis and vomiting or diarrhoea. "Any visitors to the reserve showing these symptoms

should consult their doctor immediately or contact the Taranaki District Health Board Public Health Unit on 06 753 7798 for further information," says Mr Scott. "Visitors to the lake should not collect or eat fish and plant life, or come into contact with the water," he says. Mr Scott says there are a

number of alternative locations for those who want to go water skiing or the like, such as Lake Rotorangi at Glenn Nui, Tangahoe or the Patea Dam Camp site off Ball Road. The lake will remain closed until otherwise notified by the Taranaki District Health Board.

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# Council complaint sees man fined \$1500

An Auckland man has been convicted and fined for illegally carrying out insanitary plumbing. Silivenusi Lao pleaded guilty in the New Plymouth District Court to the charge of carrying

out sanitary plumbing without authorisation on November 27. He was fined \$1500 plus court costs and solicitor's fees. The charge developed from a complaint made by

a New Plymouth District Council building inspector in relation to the plumbing fit out of a beauty parlour and work carried out by Mr Lao. Plumbing, gasfitting, and drainlaying are regulated trades in New Zealand, and it is illegal for anyone to do this work unless they are lawfully authorised. At the time Mr Lao carried out the work at the property, he had never been licensed or otherwise authorised by the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board, the statutory body responsible for ensuring people who do plumbing, gasfitting, and drainlaying work are competent. "There are serious health and safety risks associated with sanitary plumbing carried out

by an unauthorised person. Any defective plumbing work has the potential to cause disease and serious damage to a property," Board chief executive, Max Pedersen said. "All authorised tradespeople are required to carry their current authorisation card. We urge consumers to ask tradespeople for this card before any work commences so that they can be assured that the work is being done by an authorised and competent tradesperson." "If a homeowner or building inspector believes that work has been done by someone who is not authorised, or has concerns about the competency of tradespeople, they can make a complaint to the Board."



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# Part of German film shot in Opunake

German film producer Niko Kuhnel loves New Zealand, and he loves Opunake. So it was only natural that his latest movie "...and the Rest is History" include four minutes shot in and around town. It also seemed natural that the movie have its New Zealand premiere at Everybody's Theatre. For Niko, it was also an opportunity to catch up with old acquaintances like Arnold and Adrienne Hickey, Detlef Schultz and Leigh Offord. "Opunake has been a special place for me for more than 10 years," he told the audience at the November 29 premiere screening. "I have watched two movies in this theatre, but I never thought it would show one of my own here." Also there was Niko's girl friend Carolin Zombik. She has a small part in the film, and can be seen posting a package in Opunake. Like Niko, she shares a love of New Zealand, having visited several times already. The first time was when she was four on a family holiday. Her parents had friends in Marlborough. "One of the first things we realised we had in common after we met was we had both been to New Zealand," she said. The film, which has German subtitles had its first screening

in Niko's home town of Frankfurt. The story begins with Tim Linde confronted by the sinister black suited duo of Paddy and Jamael wanting to know about the black folder recently mailed to him from New York. Tim is still getting over the trauma of the apparent breakup of his relationship with his girlfriend, the enigmatic Alex Berger. Just as mysterious is the number of people who seem to be interested in the folder's contents, including the strange woman who never seems that far

behind Paddy and Jamael. Why are they all so interested in what looks like nothing more than 50 year-old plans for spinning yarns? Who or what is Engelman pm? And where does Alex Berger fit in? Aided by nerdy friend Wolfgang and Yvonne, one of Alex's work colleagues, Tim takes the story through to its final twist and satisfying conclusion. En route there is the Opunake diversion featuring views of the beach, the mountain, Taranaki farmland and Tasman Street, as well as an appreciation

of hitherto unappreciated properties of Opunake sand. At the end of the screening, there was an opportunity for the audience to quiz the producer. Yes he did have the odd cameo, but this was done more to save money than out of any desire to emulate the great Alfred Hitchcock. The movie was a low budget affair featuring actors who are friends of the producer. Nevertheless everything seemed to fall into place, and it appeared a lot of fun was had in making the movie. There is a gentle humour

throughout the story, with the incidental music blending into, rather than intruding on the flow. The movie is alternately comedy, thriller

and mockumentary, as can be seen with the interviews reminiscent of Ricky Gervais and The Office. This is Niko's third feature film.



Niko Kuhnel and Carolin Zombik.

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# Labour's jobs study a chance to think ahead



Andrew Little MP

The world of work is constantly changing, but new technology means those changes are about to become massive, and we need to be thinking now about what the future holds.

Last week I outlined a programme of work the Labour Party is undertaking over the next two years to deal with

just this issue. We've set up a Future of Work Commission. It will be led by a number of senior MPs and will call on local and overseas expertise, including local academics. It will involve taking issues out to New Zealanders to get input and feedback, and develop a plan for the future.

As well as confronting a major issue, the purpose of this exercise is to show there is a different way of doing politics. We can involve people in putting ideas together from the outset rather than announcing completed ideas and asking people to comment. Usually what happens when we ask people to comment after the work has been done and the ideas developed is the input from people doesn't change much.

So, people don't feel they've been listened to, and they get put off getting involved in this type of activity again.

The issues with work are becoming fairly obvious. Already today, we see more casual and part-time work becoming the norm. A new form of employment has emerged called the "zero hour contract". Under this arrangement, a worker is obliged to be available for work each day, often having to turn up to work, but if the employer decides there is no work the worker is sent home. As there is no guaranteed minimum number of hours of work each week, the worker is not paid. It's an unfair and unbalanced system of work and has no place in modern employment arrangements.

As well as a growing change in working arrangements, there is also emerging technology that is taking jobs away. A recent US study predicted that 47 per cent of jobs there today won't exist in 20 years time. If we want to avoid future generations of working people from being thrown on the scrap heap, we need to be thinking now about where the next generation of jobs is going to come from and how we are going to help people into them.

The challenge of any government is to make sure people have economic and physical security. Dealing with the future of work now means economic security will be easier to achieve.

Andrew Little MP, Leader of the Opposition

## Christmas message



Hon Chester Borrows MP

Well, here we go again, it's Christmas. I am sure that the older we get the quicker Christmas rolls around. Many things stay the same such as the new gifts, presents and toys that we all need to buy from sheer love or a sense of duty. The shops implore us to purchase new gadgets with the tempting catch-line never to be repeated prices, and of course they aren't, because

Boxing Day sales will ensure that after you have paid top-dollar pre-Christmas, the attraction and value slides as the retailer makes way for a new, can't be without, line-up for next year.

Before I sound too much like the Grinch Who Stole Christmas though, I have to acknowledge that the whole shebang of Christmas is far more to do with the good stuff of peace, humility, faith, and friendship than the capitalist and carnivorous habits it has become known for. I think I look forward to the kiwi Christmas because our world stops and goes to the beach. This is something other nationalities long for but just can't seem to achieve. The northern hemisphere weather probably doesn't help, but the idea of a country just putting the brakes on for two or three weeks, and revelling in a relaxed renewing of acquaintances is novel but attractive. My only concern is that we are rushing away from this

tradition and allowing our oddness to be a cause of embarrassment, and so there is a pull towards congregating together in bigger mobs or to leave the country to hob-nob in others, nowhere near the beach.

In the end though, we have to accept that our lives are fast today, and the hiatus of a Christmas holiday break is not only attractive but necessary. The country has been through an election. There have been stresses associated with weather and economic conditions, exams, final yearly accounts for many, and the list of jobs for which Christmas is the deadline.

I have been relatively happy with my year and the fortunes it has brought with it. A great election win. This is the first time that an incumbent government has been elected three times and increased its number of Members of Parliament since 1896. Those who slag off the Prime Minister and the government forget

this record of popularity. Every time they abuse the government they abuse those who voted for them.

But as with a cycle of life, politics has its cycle. While we enjoy the company, friendships, the sun of summer, we know sooner or later winter will come. The next year may see some friendships wane, some hurts come and crests peak. The message is to enjoy what you have got while you can, and at the same time realise that tough times don't last.

Each New Year brings the hope of new challenges and rewards. The hope of Christmas being the birth of a babe in a manger can be allegorical of all that a new start can bring. Rest, refresh and renew, for next year will go faster than this, but boy what a ride! Happy Christmas everyone.

Chester Borrows

MP for Whanganui

## On this month in history: Jenny Shipley PM

On December 8, 1997 Jenny Shipley, aged just 45, became NZ's first woman Prime Minister leading a National Government. Realising he had insufficient support to remain leader (he was also Prime Minister) Jim Bolger resigned. Jenny Shipley

entered parliament in 1987 (Rakaia) and was Minister of Social Welfare, as well as Women's Affairs in Jim Bolger's first Government in 1990. During her time as Minister of Social Welfare benefits were significantly cut or 'restructured'.

She was born Jennifer Robson in Gore in 1952.

The first elected woman Prime Minister was Helen Clark, who finally lost her position when National's John Key took over and he remains as Prime Minister.

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# Okato culinary excellence extends to Dawson Falls Mountain Lodge



The uniquely beautiful dining room at Dawson Falls Mountain Lodge.

Many people have had the pleasure of sampling the hospitality of Heimo and Renate Staudinger at the Stony River Hotel, Okato. Indeed the Internet reveals a staggering 9.3 (out of 10) rating by the guests who have sampled their friendly hospitality. Now Heimo and Renate are soon to extend their service to include the restaurant and café at Dawson Falls Mountain Lodge, which is owned by their good friends Markus and Sera Hojdejewicz, who will focus on the accommodation side of the business. The two couples know each other from when Markus



Heimo and Renate Staudinger pictured at Stony River Hotel.

and Sera had a catering supply business in Feilding and Heimo was Executive Chef at the Kingsgate Hotel in the

town. "I bought a lot of quality food from their business," he says.

Heimo explains that he intends to take over this important aspect in gradual steps to ensure optimal success:

Initially, Heimo is catering for important functions, such as weddings and commemorative gatherings.

Next, by January 9, 2015 the restaurant at Dawson Falls Mountain Lodge will be available for hungry patrons on Friday and Saturday nights. Heimo will be in control of the kitchen. By the beginning of June, 2015 Heimo expects the stepwise process will be complete with the café busy, as well as dinner and lunch provided in the restaurant most days of the week.

"Dawson Falls Mountain Lodge is in a beautiful location and it is a shame for it not to be fully utilised." He continues, "I'd like to keep it as authentically European as possible – it is Swiss after all." The Lodge is on the lower reaches of Mt Taranaki, within the Egmont National Park. It is best accessed from Stratford, after travelling along State Highway 3 from New Plymouth. (Phone 06 765 5457).

Heimo is at pains to explain that this extension of his culinary arm will not lead to any reduction in restaurant excellence at the Stony River Hotel, "Our flagship," he says with a smile. To this end Heimo has trained his sous chef Sam Young to a high standard over the last seven months, "in my style of cooking." Sam will assume responsibility for ensuring Heimo's high expectations are maintained. "He's really enthusiastic, a young family man," comments Heimo.

In the meanwhile, Heimo and Renate are kept very busy, with 250 booked in this week – obviously word of mouth travels fast. If you'd like to book a table at the Stony River Hotel for New Year's Eve it would be wise to do it soon.

## Introducing the sous chef at Stony River Hotel



Samuel Young, the sous chef at the Stony River Hotel

the sous chef at Stony River Country Diner, having done a diploma in cookery at WITT in 2011. He gained experience at Butlers Reef in Oakura and Frederic's in New Plymouth. "I have a passion and love of food and take great pleasure in sharing the experience," he said. "In my time off, I love scuba diving, fishing and of course

### On this month in history a woman climbs Mt Cook

On December 3, 1910 an Australian Freda Du Faur became the first woman to climb Aorake/Mt Cook. The summit was reached by Freda at 9.20 in the morning.

She had two guides, the well-known brothers Peter and Alex Graham. The men encouraged Freda to reach the summit on her own and while she waited for them to join her, she admits she felt pretty lonely.

my Holden, but most of my time I love to spend with my beautiful partner Tamiora Trow and our three sons Hamuera, Hemi Ray and Cryxus. I'm looking forward to cook for you at Stony River Country Diner."

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# MAYOR'S COLUMN



New Plymouth mayor Andrew Judd.

Hello everyone. New Plymouth District Council has a busy few weeks to get through

before Christmas arrives. There is a Council meeting on December 16 (which you can watch online from 4.30pm via [newplymouthnz.com](http://newplymouthnz.com)) and plenty of preparatory work is going into the creation of a Draft Long-Term Plan 2015-2025. And on 8 December) some big names made their views known on establishing a Maori electoral ward in New Plymouth District. Winston Peters, Metiria Turei and Willie Jackson were among six speakers who took part in this public forum.

Meanwhile, I'm looking forward to Christmas and starting the summer holidays. Taranaki is a great place for families to get out and do things together – and a lot of it is free! Nowhere in New Zealand is it easier to go for a walk along a beach, through a park or on a mountain than it is right here.

The TSB Bank Festival of Lights in Pukekura Park is offering up free night-time entertainment as well as daytime Summer Scene activities – including a free January 15 concert by X-Factor competitors Moorhouse and Christchurch group Nomad at the TSB Bowl of Brooklands.

We also have Christmas at the Bowl on 14 December, and community groups are holding free Carols by Candlelight events around the region. I will be at many of these events with my family, just enjoying our fantastic landscape as much as possible in the coming weeks, and I hope to see

you out and about as well! Taranaki truly is Like No Other and summer is a great time to enjoy it. Merry Christmas, and I hope you have a fun and relaxing New Year.

*Mayor Andrew Judd  
New Plymouth District*



Highland cow and calf at the Stratford A and P Show

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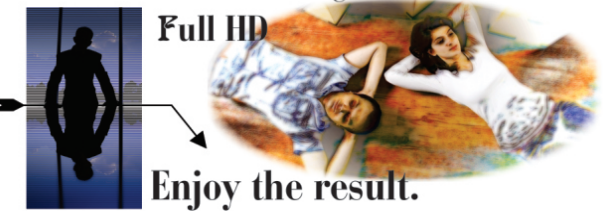
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# Village Gallery has a wide selection of 'Christmas Capers'

The Village Gallery's latest exhibition 'Christmas Capers' has an excellent display of artistic creations, which would make treasured gifts for

Christmas. On display were hand-dyed scarves such as a beautiful green one ('Lime Wrap') by Johannah Haaijema, Raku-fired pottery, such as Mary Foley's

'Little Lidded Treasure' and mixed media exhibits including 'Paris' by Donna Hitchcock. Jack Edward's fearsome tiger in 'Looking 4 You' was impressive. There were several works by Maree Liddington with 'Lava Flow' a hand-woven throw is an eye-catching example. An attractively multi-coloured scarf of hers was so appealing I bought it. With the true Christmas message in mind the pottery

'Cross' by Donna Hitchcock would be a worthwhile purchase for a religious recipient. One interesting item was a silk paper journal crafted by Felicity Willis. With just a few more days for 'Christmas Capers' to run (ends December 19), make time to see this worthwhile exhibition. The Village Gallery is open Monday to Saturday from 10am to 3pm. The address is 166 High Street, Eltham. *Rolland McKellar*

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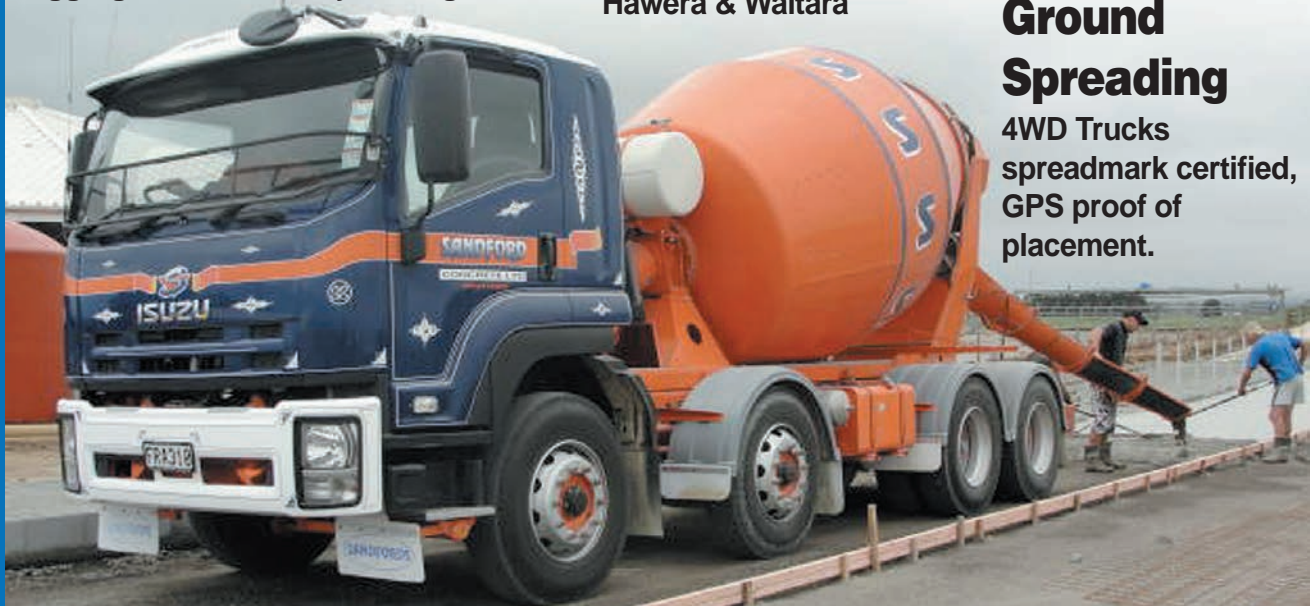
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Johannah Haaijema with a lime wrap



2014

# Opunake High School

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A huge 'THANK YOU' to our local community for making 2014 a successful and outstanding year in achievement and learning.



We are proud to be part of the Opunake Community.

Welcome to all new students to Opunake High School for 2015



Left: **Kendra Langton**, Top in Year 10 Subjects  
 Right: **Laura Hickey**, Top in Year 9 Subjects



### TSSSA Show-jumping 2014 Champions

With just one team competing against 20 highly competitive teams, Opunake High School again takes on the bigger schools and wins the CHAMPION.

**Cate Tulloch** (photo above right) places in both her 1.05 classes and even after dropping a pole is so fast she manages to win on speed alone, what a professional round. **Jakartia Munro-Smith** (photo above) placed second in the 95cm even with a shoe missing off her horse, she also placed 3rd on her sister's pony after Jacquelin Tulloch was unable to compete on the day. Thank you Jakartia for bringing both lovely horses to the competition, your



little grey pony is very entertaining and the crowd loved her airborne style. **Ashleigh Clement** was unable to bring her highly competitive pony due to an injury in the weekend and had to ride her very young horse which is just beginning training and showed her skills yet again as a highly competent rider.

Well done girls your dedication and hours of practise paid off and winning against 65 other riders, 20+ teams is a huge achievement. Just another reason why Whole Day at Opunake High school creates team work and results.

The girls also looked fantastic in their team uniforms and stood out from the crowd.

Mrs Andrea Dingle

### Junior Prizegiving

The Junior Prizegiving on Friday 5th December 2014 was well supported by parents and caregivers. Congratulations to all students that worked well this year and received awards. Also to the top achievers for Year 9 and Year 10 subjects.

#### Kendra Langton

Phillips Cup & Mary Pohutukawa Award  
 Top Student in Year 10 Subjects

#### Jessica Roach

Lena Sharrock Award  
 Runner-Up in Year 10 Subjects

#### Bella Shegedin, Brody Hitchcock, Kacy Bellve

Honours in year 10 Subjects

#### Laura Hickey

Kaupokonui Cup & Mary Pohutukawa Award  
 Top in Year 9 Subjects

#### Aimee Abplanalp, Daniel Potier, Katie Sinclair

Honours in Year 9 Subjects

### Leigh Laurence

Miss Leigh Laurence joined us at the start of 2014. She has been a real asset to the school as she is dedicated to students and their learning, even if they are scared of her!

Leigh has been a fantastic member of the Physical Education, Mathematics and Science Departments and has helped our students achieve great success. We are very sad to be losing Leigh but wish her all the best at NPGHS.



### 2015 Term Dates

Term 1	Wednesday 28 January - Thursday 2 April		
	21 January	Wednesday	Office Opens
	27 January	Tuesday	Teacher Only Day
	28 January	Wednesday	Course Confirmation Yr 11/12/13
	29 January	Thursday	Whole School Powhiri & Orientation
	9 March	Monday	Taranaki Anniversary Day
	2 April	Thursday	End of Term 1
Term 2	Monday 20 April - Friday 3 July		
	1 June	Monday	Queens Birthday
Term 3	Monday 20 July - Friday 25 September		
Term 4	Monday 12 October - Thursday 10 December		
	26 October	Monday	Labour Day

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# Seaview Farm Stables -

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Previously a livestock agent for 20 years, Gail finished up in May this year.

"I was looking for something else to do," she said.

The idea came after she hosted her son's 30th birthday and one of the guests commented "if I'd known this was here I would have got married here."

The concept also fitted in with Gail's daughter Casey who opened Casey's Cafe in Oakura in August last year and will be the preferred caterer.



Seaview Farm Stables.

Gail helped Casey get the cafe up and running and also contributed recipes. The theme reflects Gail's passion for horses.

She has "a couple of hunters as well as several thoroughbreds for breeding and racing."

She rides in the Egmont

Whanganui Hunt and comments it's a great sport because you can have kids through to grandparents taking part.

"There's few sports where the whole family can go out together."

The horses are available for photos shoots, adds Gail.

Their first official function was last week when they catered for the Lakeside lions Christmas function.

Though only just opened so far they've already got several bookings including a wedding and a birthday says Gail.

"We've only just launched and we're already starting to get a few."

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Next issue due out on December 18

Continued from page 12.

macrocarpa lined room which can seat a hundred comfortably with room for a dance band. There's two additional rooms off the main room which can be cordoned off, ideal perhaps for a make-shift bar.

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Gail with a bronze sculpture of a horse she bought in Dubai in a sheltered area of her garden - perfect for photos.

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# More of the same predicted in real estate market

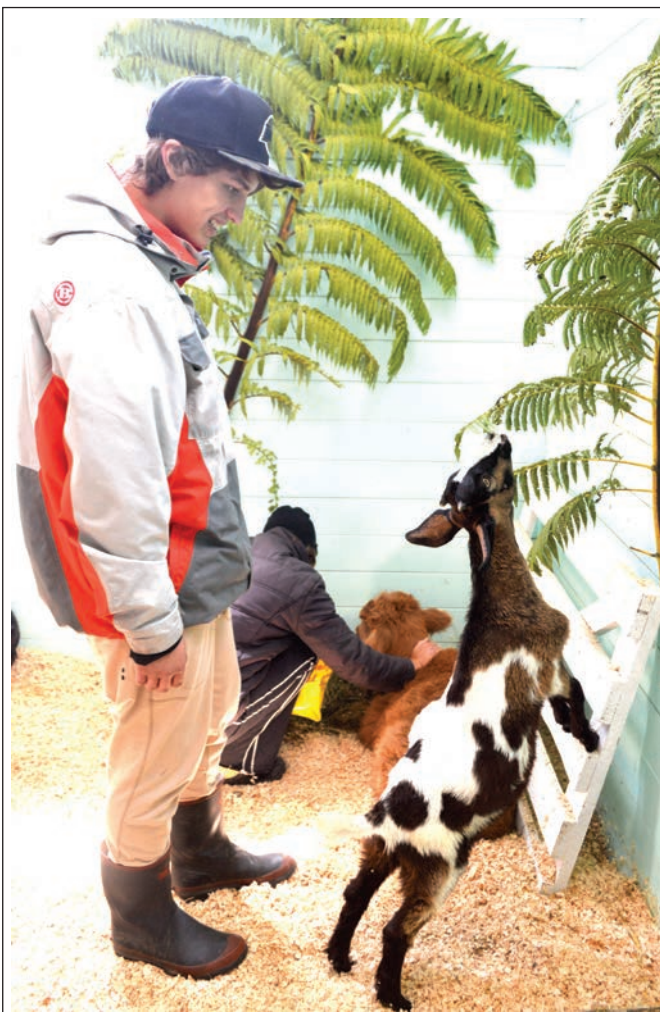
Selwyn Metcalfe of Selwyn Metcalfe Real Estate in Hawera predicts the property market will produce "more of the same" in the coming year.

"The Reserve Bank Loan Restrictions (LVR) have remained in place and this has had a big impact with October's 14 Hawera house sales, down 40% on the 23 house sales in October 2013. Let's hope next year will see renewed vigour in the market place and the economy bounce back," he said. "There are five factors that are involved when you sell your property - location, financing, marketing, the property's condition and price.

"Sellers and real estate agents have no control over the first two - location and financing. We can't change your property's location or the current lending and financial levels. "As the owner of your property, you are in control of the last two factors - the property's condition and price. You decide how you

present your property and at what price you list it for sale, however it will be the buyer who ultimately determines your property's value. "The last factor is marketing - and this is the factor that we as real estate agents are specialists in. The marketing of your property is paramount in achieving the quickest sale at the highest possible price for you as the seller."

REINZ figures show that in the fourth quarter of this year, seven grazing blocks had sold in South Taranaki, with the highest price paid being \$3.8million for 1723ha. Twelve lifestyle blocks during that time, ranging in area from 1-9ha. In October, the Hawera median sales price for residential properties was \$238,500 with a median rate value of \$205,000. From July to October, there were 60 residential property sales in Hawera, six in Normanby, seven in Manaia, one each in Eltham and Kaponga, 12 in Patea, nine in Opunake and three in Waverley.



Kidding around in Old McDonalds Farm at the Stratford A and P Show

Seasons greetings from the team at **AEA STAINLESS**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the community for your support in 2014. Wishing you all a safe & prosperous 2015.

Michael Quintus

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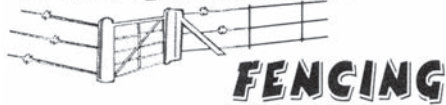
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**Dairy technology leaders celebrate  
Centre of Excellence**



Nathan Guy Minister for primary industries with the Waikato Milking Systems consultant Dean Bell

A company at the forefront of dairy technology innovation is welcoming an initiative which will see agribusiness offered as a subject to secondary students at seven New Zealand schools in 2016 and the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for agricultural science and business.

The Joint Venture between agricultural partners and St Paul's Collegiate School was launched by the Minister for Primary Industries, Hon Nathan Guy, in Hamilton recently. The agricultural partner organisations represent key sectors of primary

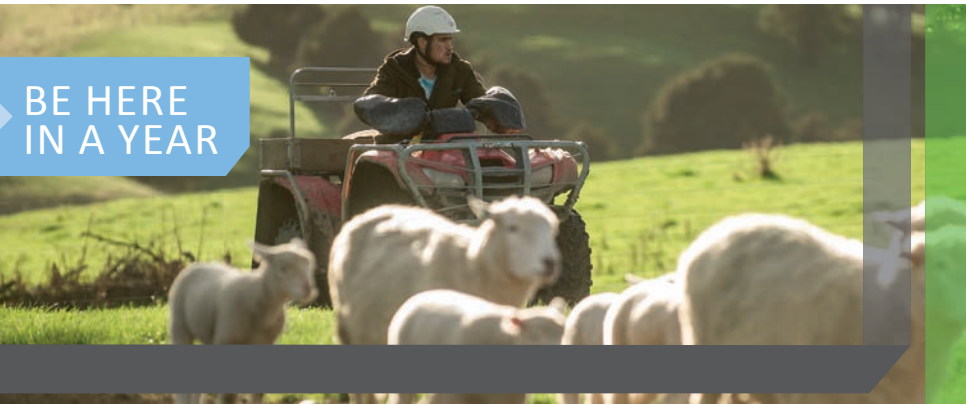
industries with Waikato Milking Systems representing the growth

area of dairy technology. Waikato Milking Systems CEO, Dean Bell, said New Zealand sets the standard for agricultural research, innovation and science around the world, but a rethink was needed on the way the sector was being 'sold' to young people. "Agriculture today has so many career options for young people, and I am delighted that this venture will put those before young people at a time in their lives when they are beginning to think about the future. "Our particular segment, dairy technology, has been at the cusp of innovation and growth in dairying but maintaining that momentum means that we need the brightest and the best coming through. Investing in those young people is an investment not only in the future of this company, but in New Zealand agriculture and the New Zealand economy.

"Currently it's assessed that around 100 graduates enter New Zealand primary industries each year but we need ten times that if the sector, and the country, is to achieve its potential." Dean Bell said Waikato Milking Systems has hosted visits from senior St Paul's faculty as well as current Year 13 students to give an insight to the vocational opportunities associated with agriculture. "The options are immense, not just within our sphere of business, I've been a member of the advisory group which has been a think tank on ideas for the broader industry needs and how that can be tailored into a tangible curriculum. "I see a long term commitment to the success of this program and to offering guidance to meet the changing needs of the sector as well as the students who participate."



Hollie Radford age 11 with Golden View Kage Ruby Reserve Champion pedigree calf and Monique Radford age 12 with Owkanui Virgil Dora Champion pedigree calf at the Stratford A and P Show

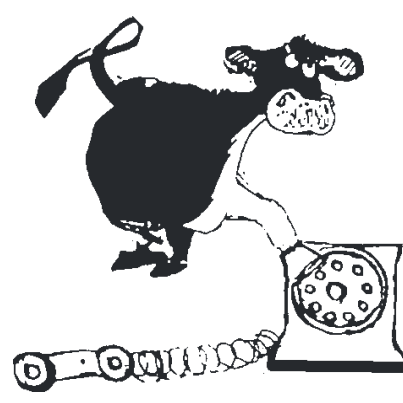


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# Success at Stratford

Coastal calves dominated the Boys and Girls Heavy Breed class at the Stratford A and P show First Toby O'Rourke St Joseph's Opunake, 2<sup>nd</sup> Arna Bright Rahotu, 3<sup>rd</sup> Matthew O'Rourke St Joseph's Opunake, 4<sup>th</sup> Ella Bright Rahotu



*Below*  
Bayleigh Collins and her Grand Champion calf Regan at the Stratford A and P show Bayleigh and Regan had an Outstanding Season winning Grand Championships at five shows and collecting forty ribbons and twenty two trophies congratulations Bayleigh! Great Work!



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# Coastal Five finish second in New Zealand



Kelvin Weir gets the ball away at the Mt Maunganui Beach Rugby tournament.

The weekend of November 22 saw the inaugural New Zealand Beach Rugby Tournament held at Mt Maunganui. A dozen teams from all over New Zealand including a few from the South Island competed.

Beach rugby (or Beach fives) is played on a field about 30 by 30m. It is almost a hybrid of Rugby and League as there are no (proper) rucks or mauls, and no lineouts or scrums. In any contact situation the attacking team has

two seconds to get the ball away, or it's a tap kick turn over. There are effectively no stoppages in a frenetic five minute half. The entire team is subbed every try, and you would have to be Superman to play a full half. It's a great game for players and spectators. Coastal's Kelvin Weir has played a bit in Europe where the game is huge, and saw the potential to take a Coastal team. With some great fundraising initiatives and a fair dollop of the premier

squad, the boys were off for the weekend. Despite a fairly intensive and late planning session the night before, the boys were up to it and played some great rugby losing only one round robin game by one point.

Some close and intense games saw them through the quarters and semis to the finals, where at full time they were 6-6 against a team from Tauranga.

Unfortunately the golden point went to the locals, but NZ runner up is not a

bad effort. Rick McKenna capped a fine day with tournament MVP. There are plenty of photos up on dropbox. Check out the new coastal Facebook page for the link.

There is huge potential to grow this game, and it could in time challenge sevens as the off season alternative to rugby. With the beaches and rugby mad population in Taranaki look for it sometime soon and don't miss it.

## Cousins Catch-up

These three cousins had a catch-up when the NZ Kiwi League Team played in Whangarei recently. Kiwi Coach Stephen Kearney's Grandmother, the late Mrs Shirley Edwin (nee Tapiki), and Chase and Connor Tapiki's Grandfather John Tapiki are brother and sister. Stephen took the two boys

to meet the team in the changing room after their win against Samoa. The two boys both started playing league as four year olds for Opunake team Coastal Cobras. They are now living in Whangarei and enjoyed getting the players autographs and taking photos.



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# Former Opunake resident smashes triple jump record

# resident smashes



A former Opunake resident has beaten a triple jump record that has stood for 10 years.

Atipa Mabonga (16), who now attends Central Southland College broke the national secondary schools senior triple jump record at the New Zealand Secondary Schools Track and Field championships held at Cooks Gardens in Wanganui during the weekend.

Her 12.21 metres bettered the previous record set 10 years ago by Nneka Okpala. Both had been coached by Lance Smith of Invercargill.

Atipa, who had never gone over 12 metres before, managed 11.60 metres, 12.03 metres, 12.21 metres and

12.14 metres. Her nearest rival, Adriana Mawhinney of Dunstan High School had a jump of 11.34 metres.

"I was not expecting it at all," Atipa said. "I was hoping for maybe a high PB of maybe 11.9, but this was ridiculous. I didn't believe it."

She also surprised herself with a "really successful long jump," in what for her had been a "fill-in" event. She had finished first equal, but was knocked back to second place on countback.

"I'm not sure I really wanted to go to Wanganui for just one event, and I wanted to support my friends as well," she said.

She already has a full



schedule coming up with the Australian championships in Sydney followed by the New Zealand championships in March, and the World Youth Championships in Columbia.

Her parents Edwin and

Fungai are in an equity partnership on a dairy farm near Otautau. The family had immigrated from Zimbabwe 12 years ago, and lived in Opunake for five years, until Atipa was eight, before shifting to Southland.

Former Opunake pupil Atipa Mahonga.

Players from Okato, Rahotu, Opunake and Pihama Outdoor Bowling Clubs entered a combined team in the Third Division Interclub Competition. This is the first time that these four Clubs have entered a composite team in this competition.

There were three Sections in the Third Division. Coastal won their Section and played the winner from the other two Sections, Fitzroy 2, to determine a winner for the Third Division. Coastal achieved this win on December 6, so will go up to the Second Division next year. Well done Coastal.

Congratulations also to the Opunake Ladies who won their Division 1 Interclub Competition the weekend before.. Good Luck for your play-offs.

Rodney Woods.

## Coastal Bowls News



The Coastal Team. Back Row: P. Charteris, J. Rona, I. Winters, D. Lowry. Front Row: R. Woods, K. Kape, A. Schrader, T. Mullin.

## Otakeho Indoor Bowls Tournament

The Otakeho indoor bowling club held their Christmas Tournament recently. The winners were the Otakeho Club team of

Don Semple (Skip) Jim Nickel, Kaye Bird and Dave Unsworth. The runners up were the Turi Club team of Wayne Scown (Skip) Jenni

Newland, Ella Smales and Colleen Reynish.

Lucky spot prizes went to Trevor Cox, Ann Chisnall, Kath Whyte and John

Bishop. The raffles were won by Jenny Hamley and Bill Schrader.

President Don Semple wished everyone a happy festive season.

## Indoor bowls tournament

The Waimate Plains Indoor Bowls Association played their annual Christmas tournament at Kapuni on Thursday night. Winners were the Otakeho team of Paul Midgley (Skip), Jenny Hamley,

Colleen Reynish, and Lesley Landers. Runners up were the North Taranaki team of Alister Wilson (Skip), Ivan Phipps, Elizabeth Morrow, and John Wilson.

Lucky prize winners were

Jim and Lynette Gargan, Ella Smales and Liz Cameron. Raffle Winners were Jack Stuart and John Wilson.

President Gordon Hamley wished all bowlers a happy festive season.

## You can be part of the New Plymouth Volunteer Team!

Taranaki sports fans could be showing the next football superstars the sights of our region.

Stadium Taranaki will host six games during the tournament and 250 volunteers are required to help in front of and behind the scenes.

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driving, operations assistants, competition assistants and spectator services.

If you are friendly, enthusiastic and want to help make the FIFA U-20 World Cup a huge success in Taranaki, this is your chance!

To volunteer visit [fifa.com/u20worldcup](http://fifa.com/u20worldcup)

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# Maree Christensen ‘Soaring to New Heights’

Maree Christensen from Puniho Road has just released her debut album titled ‘Soaring to New Heights’, a collection of 12

original songs all composed and sung by Maree with the exception of two numbers which were co-written

by her producer/arranger Ashley Pedersen. ‘The songs are predominantly about her

life, the lives of others and stories which she hopes will be understood and enjoyed by many,’ says Maree.

Opunake has a special place in her heart; her mother was born here, and Maree often spent school holidays in Opunake with her grandparents Margaret and William Hodson. For many years, they owned a farm in the area. They have now passed on and are buried at the Opunake cemetery.

Originally from Inglewood where she attended primary school, then Stratford High School, Maree married John Christensen in the Methodist Church in Inglewood. The couple spent much of her married life on the western shores of Lake Taupo where her husband managed sheep stations, ranging in size from 1,000 to 11,000 acres.

They eventually returned to Taranaki and settled in rural Okato. Sadly two years ago, John succumbed to cancer. Though she been writing songs and performing at music clubs and festivals and receiving positive responses from audiences, Maree has only recently found time to put out a CD.

She placed her family and the farm first, she comments. Initially, Maree had no intention of ever having her songs recorded, but friends and family encouraged her to develop her musical talent. She replied to an advertisement in the Opunake and Coastal News for Colour Conversions, a recording studio in Opunake with the view to recording a CD. After listening to her work, the owner of the business Ashley Pedersen said he thought her songs had ‘a lot of potential and were well worth developing for recording’. So, with Ashley’s musical expertise and with the assistance of wife Janet and assistant sound engineer Anne Montgomery, Maree’s first CD was born. ‘I’ve

received lots of support and encouragement from the Colour Conversions team,’ enthuses Maree adding they have enabled her to fulfil a lifelong dream.” This is eloquently expressed in one of her songs on the CD ‘I wrote the song’.

‘Music Is My Soul’, another track off the album describes her passion for music. Her catchy melodies and musical arrangements have attracted some nice comments thus far.” The songs have a lot of meaning - they tell a story, I love your voice, good singalongs, a nice journey through Taranaki, enjoyable,” are just some. (I especially liked Soaring to New Heights and Heartache. Editor)

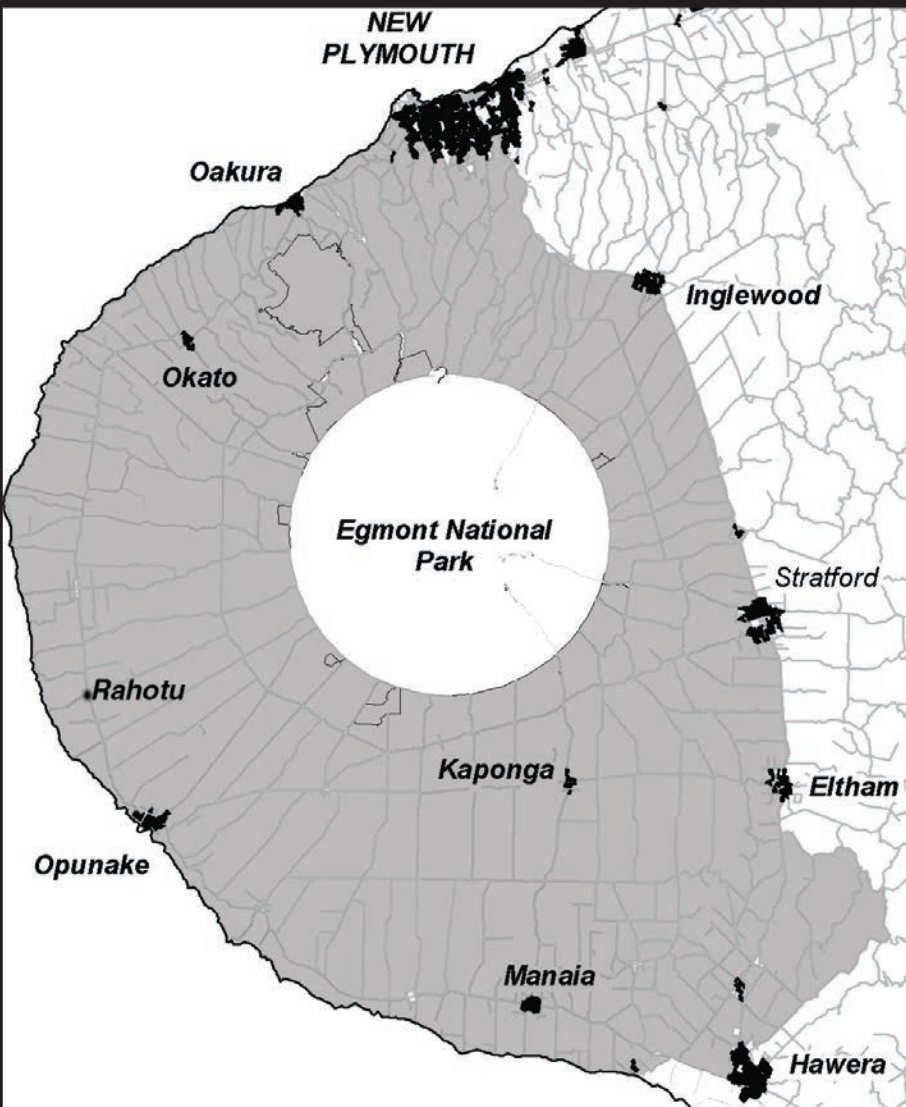
Songwriting comes naturally to Maree, and she is not stopping with the first CD. She has already created some songs for her next project.

Maree Christensen’s CD ‘Soaring to New Heights’ is available at Pastimes in Opunake. For further information contact Colour Conversions Studios on 0278978941.



Maree Christensen’s CD.

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



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

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

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## Time is running out

Time is running out for locals to get correctly enrolled to vote in the Egmont Plains Community Board by-election to ensure voting papers get sent to them in the mail.

The electoral rolls for the Egmont Plains Community Board by-election close on 16 December 2014.

‘‘Only those people who are correctly enrolled by the time the electoral roll has closed will get voting papers in the mail to vote in the by-election,’’ says Sandra Wood, Registrar of Electors for the New Plymouth electorate.

‘‘To get your voting papers in the mail you need to be enrolled or have your details updated no later than Tuesday 16 December 2014.’’

Currently 3975 Egmont Plains Community Board electors are enrolled to vote

in the by-election.

The by-election, to be held on February 11 next year will elect a new community board member. to take over from Sharon Arlidge who was a board member for 10 years, seven of them as chairperson.

‘‘People can get an enrolment form by calling 0800 36 76 56, by Freetexting their name and address to 3676, by requesting or downloading one from the elections website at [www.elections.org.nz](http://www.elections.org.nz) or at any PostShop.’’

Sandra says because the details of people who are on the unpublished roll are kept confidential, electors on this roll should contact the Electoral Officer, Barry Rollo on phone 06 759 6060, direct to get information on how to apply to cast a special vote.

## On this month in history Ernest Rutherford

On August 8 Ernest Rutherford was born in Nelson at Brightwater. He was the fourth child. His mother was a teacher and mill owner. After attending two of his brothers the family shifted to Taranaki. They had a farm near Pungarehu and had flax mills at Opunake, Warea and Pigeon Bay.

A Nobel Prize in Chemistry. Much of his scientific work was conducted at Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge. However, he also carried out important work in Christchurch at the site of Canterbury University (New Zealand arts centre).

Although he was primarily a physicist Rutherford won

He was acclaimed as NZ’s greatest person. He was made Lord Rutherford of Nelson and received the Nobel Prize.



# New Zealand Government's 'heads in the sand' climate policy

On December 7, across NZ from Ahipara in the far north to Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Invercargill, concerned kiwis gathered to put their heads in the sand on beaches — in satirical acknowledgement of the Government's 'Heads in the Sand' policies on climate change.

On Oakura beach, committed locals gathered despite the gloomy weather, to make their statement to John Key and Energy Minister Tim Groser: "Get your heads out of the sand and take some real action on climate change."

"Minister Groser is putting NZ to shame. Rather than curbing greenhouse gas emissions, our emissions are geared to rise by 55% from 2021-2030. The central government is ignoring climate science and local governments' calls for assistance to prepare for sea level rise. It seems oblivious to the plight of small island nations like Kiribati which is preparing a nation-wide evacuation for the day it will be submerged," said Catherine Cheung, Climate Justice Taranaki.



Many heads in the sand to symbolise Government inaction on climate change, according to Climate Justice Taranaki.

For the first two weeks of December, at the UN Climate Change negotiations in Lima, Peru, heads of states have been preparing for a new climate agreement to be struck in Paris next year. So far, the US, China, UK, Denmark, Italy, Portugal, Switzerland and others have all agreed to binding emission reduction targets.

Yet the NZ government is

pushing for a non-binding agreement, along with Australia and Canada.

"Surely a progressive nation like NZ can do better. We can lead the world by setting an ambitious emission reduction target, engaging the public seriously in this critical issue and chipping in our fair share of climate finance needed for adaptation and transition.

Not only will these save our clean green reputation, it might just help save us all from the catastrophic consequences of continuing global temperature rise, associated extreme weather and changing ocean chemistry," concluded Catherine Cheung.

Climate Justice Taranaki

## Increased chance of El Nino

There is now a greater chance of an El Niño weather effect in the next three months according to NIWA. Despite oceanic anomalies showing signs of a weak El Niño, the atmosphere has not yet fully shifted to El Niño conditions. In particular, patterns of convection and rainfall are lower than expected in the central Pacific.

The international guidance places the chances of El Niño developing over the December 2014 to February 2015 period at about 75%, a sharp increase from outlooks issued last month.

For New Zealand, El Niño events are typically (but not always) associated with stronger and/or more frequent westerly winds. Such a climate pattern typically leads to drier conditions in eastern areas and more rain in western areas of the country. Near normal rainfall is the most likely outlook for all regions of New Zealand, although there is a significant (35%) chance of below normal rainfall for the east of the North Island.

Meanwhile, waters surrounding New Zealand remain slightly warmer than average around the South

Island, and close to normal or slightly cooler than normal around the North Island. Sea surface temperatures for the coming three months are expected to be near average around the coasts of New Zealand.

During December 2014 – February 2015, lower pressures than normal are forecast over the New-Zealand region. This pressure pattern is expected to produce a weak southwesterly flow anomaly with perturbed conditions from time to time. New Zealand has a slightly elevated chance of having an ex-tropical system coming

within 550km of the country during the 2014 - 2015 Tropical Cyclone season. The tropical cyclone outlook indicates this risk will be highest between February and April.

For the Central North Island, Taranaki, Wanganui, Manawatu and Wellington, temperatures are most likely (45% chance) to be near average. Rainfall totals, soil moisture levels and river flows are all most likely (50% chance) to be in the near normal range.

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# Sunscreen testing results confuse



**Sun smart sweetie** - this wee lady knows what to do! Slip Slop Slap and Wrap this summer to protect you and your families from the strong Kiwi sun.

factor) or broad-spectrum tests. However, Consumer NZ CEO Sue Chetwin said most of the affected companies were able to produce evidence to Consumer's satisfaction that their sunscreens did meet their claims. "What it highlighted was major issues in sunscreen testing. For consumers to have faith in sunscreen products, health authorities need to deal with this issue. We'd like to see annual tests of products and annual auditing of test labs." Dermatest, which carried out Consumer's testing, said it wasn't surprised by the findings. It said variability can occur between lab batches used for determining SPF and the manufactured batches for sale, especially for products containing zinc oxide and titanium dioxide, where the active ingredients might not be dispersed

consistently throughout the product. The lab said the grade of zinc could change over time which could also affect the SPF and broad spectrum figures.

Chetwin said one of the test certificates provided by a company was dated 2009 and there is no requirement companies carry out regular testing on their products to confirm they still meet their label claims. A further issue for Kiwi consumers is sunscreens here are classified as cosmetics which means they don't require approval before they can be sold. Companies are encouraged to sell sunscreens that comply with the Australian and New Zealand standard. But products that meet standards in the EU or US are permitted. What's more sunscreens that don't meet any standard

can legally be sold here. Consumer reckons making sunscreens a therapeutic product (as they are in Australia) and ensuring they meet the Australian-New Zealand standard should be a priority. Sunscreen tips Look for sunscreen with an SPF of at least 30+, plus water resistance and broad spectrum protection Apply sunscreen at least 15 minutes before going out in the sun Apply plenty - about one teaspoonful for each arm, leg, back front and face (35mls for a full body application) Mopping up sweat or towelling dry will reduce your protection - apply another coat straightaway Sunscreen is only one part of your defence against harmful UV rays. Limit your time in the sun and wear cover up clothing. Contact Consumer NZ CEO Sue Chetwin:

Consumer NZ is concerned at the variability of results produced at sunscreen testing labs and is calling for annual testing of sunscreen products and auditing of labs. Consumer NZ has just tested a range of sunscreens, including children's products. In its test eight products failed either the SPF (sun protection

# Rural Women NZ calls for flashing signs to be approved for school buses

Rural Women New Zealand is deeply concerned about an accident in Canterbury, when a teen was hit crossing the road after getting off a school bus. "The accident may well have been avoided if the bus had been fitted with illuminated

20kph/h signs to remind drivers of the speed limit past a stopped school bus," says Wendy McGowan, Rural Women New Zealand's national president. Rural Women New Zealand took part in a trial of new LED signs in Ashburton last year, which included a public education and police enforcement campaign. Rural Women New Zealand hope the signs will be approved for general use on school buses in 2015. "Rural Women NZ has been advocating for years for public awareness and driver education around school bus safety, especially the 20K speed limit in either direction. Using technology to get the message across to drivers has been a big part of our campaign." The 'Either Way It's 20K' Ashburton trial saw

a marked drop in speeds when the flashing 20K signs were operating. "The flashing lights and illuminated signs are visible for a considerable distance, alerting drivers to slow down, especially in a 100kph zone. "Every day motorists speed past school buses, putting children's lives at risk on rural roads and non-urban State highways," Mrs McGowan says. The Transport Agency is in discussions with the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Education and Police on the possibility of wider use

of the signs from next year. In the meantime, Rural Women New Zealand urges drivers to be more vigilant and slow down to 20kph when passing a school bus in either direction. "Children of all ages can be unpredictable. It only takes a moment of inattention for a child to dart across a road without looking or misjudge the speed and distance of an approaching vehicle." Since 1987 23 children have been killed in New Zealand when crossing the road to or from school buses. At least 47 more

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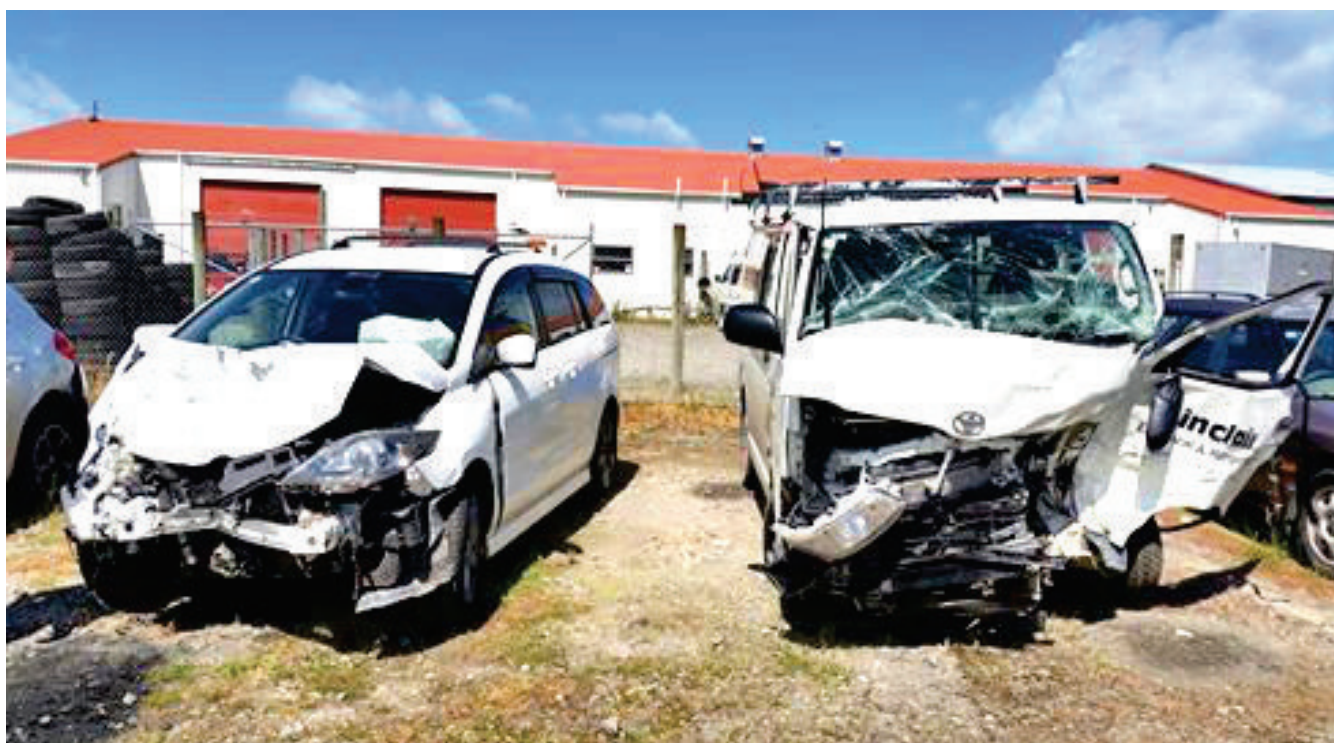
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# St John and NZFS Sign new Memorandum of Understanding

St John and the New Zealand Fire Service (NZFS) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding setting out who should respond and when, procedures for dispatching vehicles; equipment and training levels along with criteria for establishing NZFS First Response units. The NZFS provides a medical support response with St John ambulance along with non-medical assistance (lifting and extracting patients), while St John provides ambulance standby when NZFS anticipates they may need medical assistance at a call-out. St John Chief Executive Peter Bradley and Fire Service National Commander Paul Baxter say the updated agreement will ensure faster responses to emergency calls and

better outcomes for patients. "Our frontline personnel regularly support each other at emergency incidents," says Mr Bradley. "The Memorandum of Understanding provides a framework for how we can continue to do this clearly, consistently and in a way that makes best use of our joint resources." NZFS supports two types of medical responses. A nationwide co-response was introduced in December 2013 for the small number of urgent, time critical incidents (i.e. cardiac and respiratory arrests) amounting to nearly 11 call-outs a day. St John advises NZFS to dispatch a resource to provide additional personnel on scene to assist with patient management and improve their chances of survival. As well, NZFS brigades in



Two vehicles that were involved in a serious crash at the corner of Namu Road and Surf Highway 45 fortunately no one was seriously injured

56 rural and remote areas are trained as first responders by

St John. They are qualified in a higher level of first aid and initiate patient care until an ambulance arrives. "St John ambulance still attends these incidents, but if the Fire Service has a resource that is closer it can only benefit New

Zealanders and patient outcomes to use that resource," says Mr Bradley. Mr Baxter says the updated agreement fits with the Fire Service's vision of providing a prompt, efficient response to all types of emergencies, not just fires, which have

shrunk as a proportion of its overall work. "We attend approximately 8,000 medical emergencies a year, and this agreement will make our response to those medical callouts more streamlined and nationally consistent."



We are again providing our readers with a guide to the best Christmas activities and events for the summer months. This is a pull-out reference to activities and events in Tararua. If you would like to include our business, or any other activity in our guide, please contact us at [ads@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz](mailto:ads@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz). We are again featuring advertisers in this special edition of the paper. The advertising rates for this special edition will be the same as the regular rates. The advertising for this issue is from Monday December 15

## Has eating all those treats and drinking all that beer left Santa with Gout

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**OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS**

**SITUATION VACANT**

The Opunake & Coastal News is looking for someone experienced in the production of and other aspects connected with putting out a community newspaper to help in our next few issues of the paper.

Either:  
 Post a CV to The Editor  
 PO Box 74, or email bernice@opunake-coastalnews.co.nz

For further details phone The Editor on (06) 761 8206 (a/h) or (06) 761 7016.

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

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Session Times: Tuesday & Thursday 9.30am - 12.30pm

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

**Other areas**

Manaiia - Sacred Heart - 1st & 3rd Saturdays at 5pm (2nd, 4th and 5th Sat at Hawera's St Josephs).  
 Kaponga - St Patricks, Sunday 8.45am  
 Okato - St. Patricks - Saturday 6pm

**COASTAL TARANAKI SCHOOL**

**Certificate Prize-giving**

Thursday 11th December at 11am

**Trophy Prize-giving**

Friday 12th December at 10am

Please ensure all students are in correct clean uniform including footwear.

School reports and the school magazine to be picked up from the classroom teachers at the conclusion of the prizegiving.

Buses will be departing from school at 12.30pm

**Manaiia & Districts Lions Club**

**Annual Christmas Parade and MARKET DAY**



Main South Road, Manaiia - December 20  
 Markets start at 10am - Parade starts at 12pm  
 If your interested in having a stall or entering a float



Please contact  
 Kylee 0272387787  
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 Michelle 2748698





# WHAT'S ON

**OPUNAKE COMMUNITY POOLS**  
 Aquafit & lane swimming. A/F – Mon 6:30pm, Tues/Thurs 5:30pm & 6:30pm, Tues/Fri 9am. Lanes – Mon-Fri 6:30-8:30am. Mon 6:30-7:30pm, Tues – Thurs 5-7:30pm. Public swimming Weekends & Public Holidays 1-4pm.

**OPUNAKE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**  
 Meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month at 5.15pm. Now at 61 Tasman Street, behind Opunake Fish, Chips and More.

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

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

**ELTHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
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**SURF INN**  
 Free pool on Mondays, Tuesdays and Sundays. Pool competition starting Thursday at 7.30pm and Sunday at 1pm. Poker night on Wednesdays. AND MUCH MORE –.

**COASTAL YOUNG FARMERS**  
 Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month at 7pm at the Okato Bowling Club.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**SCHNITZEL NIGHT**  
 Every Wednesday at the Stony River Hotel, Okato.

**THE VILLAGE GALLERY – CHRISTMAS CAPERS**  
 Opening November

**BUTLERS REEF – SUMMER BAND LINE UP**  
 Clash of the Titans – Friday December 26  
 Shihad, Airbourne, I am Giant, Cairo Knife Fight – Monday December 2014  
 NEW YEARS EVE – KATCHAFIRE, BLACKSEEDS, SONS OF ZION  
 Devilskin – January 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Refer advert for further information.

**COASTAL TARANAKI SCHOOL PRIZEGIVING**  
 December 11-12. Refer advert for details.

**OPUNAKE PLAYERS – OLD TIME VARIETY**  
 December 8-12, 8pm at the Lakeside Playhouse

**CLUB HOTEL – LIVE BAND**  
 Alpine Connection – Friday December 12 from 7.30pm. Refer advert.

**ELTHAM CHRISTMAS PARADE and MARKET DAY**  
 December 13 from 10am to 1pm. Parade at 12 noon.

**CARBOOT SALE AND MARKET DAY – RAHOTU TAVERN**  
 Sunday December 14 – 9am to 12 noon. Refer ad.

**ST PAULS NATIVITY DISPLAY 2014**  
 At Havelock Street, Opunake. See advert in our What's On Section for dates and times.

**HEADLANDS – LIVE MUSIC, COASTAL LEGENDS**  
 Friday December 19. Bookings essential. Refer advert.

**MANAIA ANNUAL XMAS PARADE AND MARKET DAY**  
 December 20 from 10am. Refer advert.

**150YRS OPUNAKE BOWLING CLUB**  
 Fun Mixed Mufti Day. All welcome 11 January 2015 11am wet or fine. No entry fee. BBQ lunch available. RSVP Jan 3. Contact Val Coombe 7618273 Nel L'Ami 7618484

**HAWERA REPERTORY.**  
 ANZAC by John Broughton directed by Clive Cullen. 18 - 25 April 2015. Cinderella by Ben Crocker directed by Donald Campbell. 4 - 11 July 2015

**CONNECT15**  
 Connecting people to jobs and careers. TSB Hub, Hawera on May 22-23. Refer advert for full details.

The next issue of the  
 Opunake & Coastal News and the final  
 edition for the year will be on  
 December 18 2014.  
 Please could advertisers and  
 contributors get their adverts and  
 contributions to us as early as possible.



## Graduation dinner at the Stony

Graduation dinner at the Stony

In a departure from tradition this year Coastal Taranaki School held their end of year graduation dinner at the Stony River Hotel.

Around 45 attended which included the ten year 13 students as well as some of the teachers and parents.

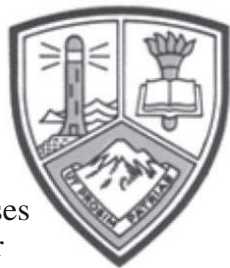
“It was a good night,” said Ben Naughton who teaches English at Coastal Taranaki School. They enjoyed a buffet after which individual teachers gave a little speech about each graduating student highlighting all their positive qualities and imparting some advice for the future before presenting them with a gift. Among the teachers was Margaret Mornington who had taught some of the students right through from when they had attended Warea School which closed some years ago. The students then got their chance to speak on their educational journey at Coastal Taranaki School.

Some of the parents then also made a few speeches. Traditionally the end of year graduation is celebrated

by a ball at the end of the year. This year however the ball was held in July. It was a lovely night.

### PUBLIC NOTICES

## OPUNAKE HIGH SCHOOL Gateway 2014



The students and staff of Opunake High School would like to sincerely thank the following businesses and organisations for providing work experience for our Gateway students in 2014:

- |                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Cameron Goodchap             | II Chefs                   |
| Cleaver & Moore              | Sandford Trucking Ltd      |
| Campbell Contracting         | Jayden Morgan              |
| Simon Drought                | Riding for the Disabled    |
| Riverlead Contractors Ltd    | Elite Farm Solutions       |
| Marc Gopperth Contracting    | Manaia Community Preschool |
| SPCA                         | Coastal Agri Services      |
| Mach 1 Yamaha                | Egmont Seafoods            |
| Dreamtime                    | Opunake Cottage Resthome   |
| Brooklands Zoo               | Aotea Security             |
| Ken Sanford Construction     | Hairazor                   |
| South Taranaki Panel & Paint | The Print Shoppe           |
| Headlands                    | Espresso Cafe              |
| Furlong                      | Bloemens Engineering       |
| Goodin Contracting           | O'Rorke Contracting        |

## OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

### CHRISTMAS IS FAST APPROACHING!



To avoid missing out on thanking your clients & customers send in your Christmas business messages to [ads@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz](mailto:ads@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz)

Our Christmas Issue and Holiday Guide issue will be out on the 18th of December. The Deadline for the issue is 5pm Friday December 12.



*Our Christmas Issue is due out on December 18!*

*Call us today to advertise your event!*

Opunake Co-operating Parish wish to present  
**A Christmas Nativity Display 2014**  
at Havelock Street, Opunake

The Church will be open Friday 12th, 13th & 14th  
and from 19 December to 24 December  
Times: 2pm to 4pm and 7pm to 9pm.

In between or thereafter until the 18th January by appointment  
Christmas Day Service 9.30am - All welcome

Contact  
Macey Luttrell  
761 8927  
or Elva Symons  
763 8650



100 TASMAN ST, OPUNAKE PH: 761 8213

## The Club Hotel, Opunake

**Live Band**  
Alpine Connection  
Friday  
12th December  
from 7.30pm

**Come and join in the fun!**  
MEALS - TAB AVAILABLE



# Making the Connection at the Club



Having wowed the crowds in Okato, Alpine Connection will be showing Opunake something of their unique style of music.

The band are currently in-house musicians at the Wednesday Schnitzel Night at Stony River Hotel, Okato.

The name Alpine Connection comes from the members' Swiss and Bavarian heritage, together with the idea of connecting with people through singing, and connecting with other musicians.

They describe their music as Swiss / Austrian and Bavarian with a French twist.

A diversity of musical Instruments like the accordion, brass baritone and the alphon provide a unique variety of sounds and great entertainment

With accomplished singer Athol on guitar and harmonica, the range of music extends to include Country, Irish and popular Rock and Roll of the 60s and 70s.

Konrad, Aaron and Athol have performed regularly at the Club Hotel in Opunake, and will be doing so again this week on Friday December 12 from 7.30pm till late.

## FIFA U-20 World Cup 2015 Mascot to make Taranaki debut at Christmas at the Bowl

The Official Mascot for the FIFA U-20 World Cup 2015 will be making a Christmas appearance in Taranaki.

The mascot was officially unveiled at Auckland's Santa Parade on November 30 as Wooliam, described as "a black sheep with attitude."

He was then taken down to Wellington, where backed by hip hop dancers, he performed at halftime in Wellington Phoenix's 5-1 thump-

ing of Melbourne City.

He will be seen for the first time in Taranaki at Christmas at the Bowl on Sunday 14 December.

Says Adrienne Kensington, Venue General Manager - New Plymouth: "We are excited to launch the Official Mascot at this iconic Taranaki Christmas family event.

"Sports fans young and old from all over the region will be in for a real treat at

Christmas at the Bowl with a special performance for you on behalf of the FIFA U-20 World Cup 2015. We can't say too much more at this stage, but we look forward to seeing you there!"

Dave Beeche, CEO of the Local Organising Committee (LOC), said that the key drivers for the selection process of the Official Mascot were clear from the start. "We wanted to ensure our

mascot was representative of the passion, colour, fun and excitement of our tournament as well being identifiable as something very Kiwi."

Indeed, once the character was identified, he was a clear fit to the FIFA U-20 World Cup 2015 New Zealand and confidence remains high. The mascot shall be popular with both the public and visitors alike and would prove a valuable asset to the tournament.

## Market Day

in Eltham CBD

Saturday 13th December  
10am to 1pm

Stallholders welcome  
Inquiries to  
Peggy 06 761 8957

Eltham Business  
Association

## headlands

Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and thank you for all of your support during 2014

Live Music - Coastal Legends  
Friday 19th December  
\$40.00 buffet served at 7:30  
Bookings essential

New Summer menu available

\$10 Lunch menu available Tues - Thurs  
Changes weekly - updates on Facebook

OPEN FOR CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST 24TH  
DECEMBER FROM 7.30AM  
\*CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY\*

Café/Restaurant Open 7days from 8:30am  
Ph 06 761 8358 stay@headlands.co.nz



## Christmas at the Bowl Sunday 14th December.

With a wealth of talent guaranteed you can be sure CHRISTMAS AT THE BOWL 2014 will be another excellent evening to join with family and friends and

celebrate a truly special Taranaki Christmas in the beautiful Bowl of Brooklands, New Plymouth.

Bring along your picnic, rug, sandchairs and all the

family for a great night at the Bowl. Pre-show music begins at 7pm, and our special Christmas show commences at 8pm. We conclude the evening at around 9.30pm

with fireworks. Candles and candle holders are provided all for a gold coin donation, so come along and join in the Christmas Spirit.



# Hawera Repertory have cast their production of ANZAC

As part of New Zealand's First World War Centenary, Hawera Repertory with support from the South Taranaki District Council is presenting *ANZAC* by John Broughton, a powerful and moving play which tells the story of NZ's part in World War I through the lives of soldiers, work colleagues and their families.

From the enthusiasm and patriotism at the start of the war, through the disaster of Gallipoli and the horrors of Flanders, and the effects on family, this is a play of action, humour, tragedy and pathos. Cast: **Harriet Evans** Hollie Weir, **George Greg** Richard Baylis, **Mr Fynmore** Mike Brotherson, **Gladys Lovell** Brigid Fraser, **Violet Lovell** Jo Lahman, **John Lovell** Ron Scott, **Hone**

**Brown Rangi Abraham** The play starts and ends in 1917 at the Dunedin railway station as Gladys and Violet wait for their brother's return from the front. John's wartime experiences are performed by the railway staff. We are taken through the journey from joining up and training in NZ, then the travel by troopship in 1914. Through Egypt, Gallipoli and

then France between 1914 and 1917 and then return to Dunedin railway station in late 1917. Performances will be in the Hawera Memorial Theatre from 18 to 25 April 2015. This will be the first time this play has been performed by a non-professional theatre company. Tickets go on sale through Ticket Direct in early 2015.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all our helpers and supporters from



## The Village Gallery

Eltham

Open Monday - Saturday 10am - 3pm  
Gallery closed for holidays - 20/12-19/01/15

# Car boot Market Day



Rahotu will be having a car boot Market Day on December 14 from 9am till 12 noon. It will be held in the Rahotu Tavern car park. Entertainment for the children will include a bouncy castle, face painting and Santa Claus will be putting in an appearance.

Daisy's Café will be open and there'll be a sausage sizzle with a sausage/coffee combo. With the last of the popular muso afternoons held on November 30 and plans to hold a community event monthly - last month a quiz night was held - the Rahotu Tavern is fast becoming quite a centre of social activity.



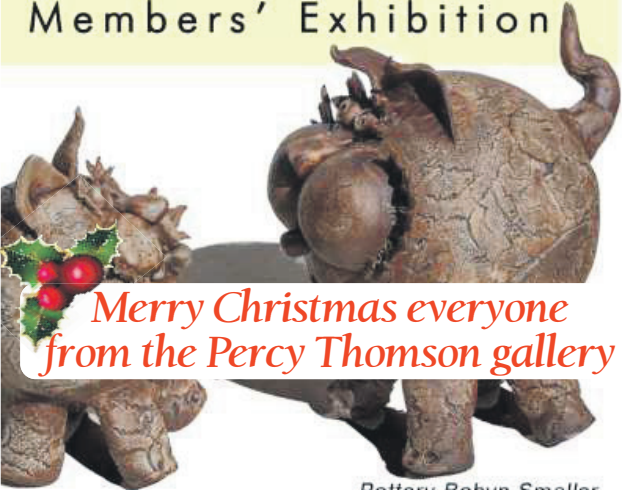
## OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

### DO YOU HAVE AN EVENT TO ADVERTISE!



If you wish to advertise an event such as a concert, play, activity, attraction, celebration, sporting event, band, festival or carnival in the paper we are happy to print supplied editorial and images to help promote the event - it will also be listed in our Chronological listing of what's on events.

## STRATFORD ART SOCIETY Members' Exhibition



Merry Christmas everyone from the Percy Thomson gallery

Pottery Robyn Smaller

27 Nov - 17 Dec 2014  
Miranda St Stratford 067650917  
Free entry

## PERCY THOMSON GALLERY

# Opunake Bowling Club



*The Opunake Men's Bowling Club was formed in 1903.*

A meeting of those interested in forming a Bowling Club in Opunake was held in the Foresters Hall on Monday 4 May 1903. About 40 persons were present. Mr C E Bryce, the convener of the meetings was voted to the chair and explained the objects there of, and after a little discussion Mr Baisley proposed and Mr F Des Forges seconded that a Bowling Club be formed in Opunake to be called "The Opunake Bowling Club". Carried unanimously. Extracts from the Minutes Book.

The Opunake Women's Bowling Club was formed in 1951, with similar aims to the Men's Club. Mrs M. Wan's sister, who started a Bowling Club for Women in Patea, suggested to Mrs Wan that she should do the same in Opunake.

Mrs Wan and Nurse Wehipeihana set about finding members. In the 1953 season, 24 founding members rolled the first bowls down the green in the next block over from the Men's Bowling Club. This had been given to them by Mr O Lewis with a peppercorn rent of 5/- per year.

The Men's and Women's Clubs had separate greens; the Men's had eight rinks and the Women's had six rinks. The Women purchased Sid Armstrong's house to make eight rinks and room for a pavilion. The green now houses the Pensioner's housing on the old green.

In 1978 the Men's Club purchased the Massey house and section to build the second green. Also purchased was the Western Bottling Company which is the site of the new pavilion today.

In 1982 the Women's Club joined with the Men's Club at the present site. A green was formed and a new pavilion built. This is a great asset to the town of Opunake. Everyone is welcome to come along to see the history within the Club.

**150yrs**  
**Opunake Bowling Club Fun Mixed Mufti Day.**  
**All welcome - 11 January 2015**  
**11am. Wet or fine. No entry fee.**  
**BBQ lunch available. RSVP Jan 3.**  
**Contact Val Coombe 7618273**  
**Nel L'Ami 7618484**

## Everybody's Theatre

Opunake - MOVIES - BOUTIQUE THEATRE - HIRE

For information email [everybodystheatre@gmail.com](mailto:everybodystheatre@gmail.com) or check Facebook- Everybody's Theatre

December 2014 *Visit our new Lolly Shop, stocking pop corn, ice-creams, lollies & drinks. No Eft-dos* **TICKETS: Upstairs \$10 Downstairs \$13**

**The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Pt 1**  
Action, Adventure, Drama, Science Fiction | 2hr 03mins | M | Violence | Origin: US  
The penultimate *Hunger Games* chapter with stars Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson, Liam Hemsworth, the late Philip Seymour Hoffman and director Francis Lawrence all returning from *Catching Fire*. As the cries for rebellion against the autocratic Capitol give rise to action, Katniss reluctantly becomes the people's symbol of change.  
Fri 12<sup>th</sup> & Sun 21<sup>st</sup> @ 7pm. Sat 13<sup>th</sup> 1 pm & Wed 17<sup>th</sup> @ 3.30 pm

**The Dead Lands**  
Action, Adventure, Drama, Historical | 1hr 47mins | R16 | Graphic violence  
*Where the warrior spirit was born.* Māori history is brought alive in this period action-adventure based on the traditional fighting art of Mau rākau. After his tribe is slaughtered through an act of treachery, the chieftain's teenage son Hongi (James Rolleston, *Boy*) must avenge his father's death in order to bring honour to the souls of his loved ones. Sun 14<sup>th</sup> & Fri 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7 pm

**My Old Lady**  
Comedy, Drama | 1hr 47mins | M | Adult themes | Country of Origin: USA, France  
*He's in the will, she's in the way.* Kevin Kline is Mathias, a broke New York drunk who inherits an apartment in Paris from his estranged father in this comedy-drama. He goes to France to liquidate the asset, but finds a refined old woman (Maggie Smith) living there with her protective daughter (Kristen Scott Thomas). Mathias learns the apartment is a 'viager' - an ancient French real estate agreement - and that he will not get actual possession of the apartment until the old lady dies. Sat 20<sup>th</sup> @ 1 pm & Sun 28<sup>th</sup> @ 7 pm

**Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day**  
Comedy, Family, Kids | PG | Country of Origin: USA  
Disney adaptation of Judith Viorst's award-winning children's book from 1972. Follows 11-year-old Alexander (newcomer Ed Oxenbould) as he experiences the worst day of his young life. When he tells his upbeat family (including parents Steve Carell and Jennifer Garner) about the misadventure, he finds little sympathy and wonders if bad things only happen to him... 24<sup>th</sup> @ 1 pm (3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Jan

**Love, Rosie**  
Comedy, Romance | 1hr 43mins | M | Offensive language and sexual references  
*They just can't get themselves together.* British Romantic comedy-of-errors about two life-long best friends who are secretly in love with one another. Their friendship blurs with romance when they move, from Dublin, to the US for university. 31<sup>st</sup> Dec @ 1 pm (4<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Jan)

**No movies 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> Dec. Normal movies from 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan**

WEDNESDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
10 PRIDE 1 pm	12 Hunger Games: Mockingjay Pt 1- 7 pm	13 Hunger Games: Mockingjay Pt 1- 1 pm	14 The Dead Lands 7 pm
17 Hunger Games: Mockingjay Pt 1- 3.30 pm	19 The Dead Lands 7 pm	20 My Old Lady - 1 pm	21 Hunger Games: Mockingjay Pt 1- 7 pm
24 Alexander and the Horrible, No good Day 1pm	26 No Movie	27 No Movie	28 My Old Lady - 7 pm
31 Love, Rosie. 1 pm	Jan 2 Nightcrawler @ 7pm	Jan 3 Alexander & the Horrible, No Good Day 1pm	Jan 4 Love, Rosie 7pm



# Oakura artists shine in leadup to Christmas



Brenda Cash from the Green Morris Studio

Oakura Arts Trail will hold another open day on December 14, from 10am to 4pm. There has been a lot of interest by the public and the artists to hold a one off special day before Christmas.

The last arts trail, which was for two weekends during the Powerco Garden Festival proved to be a very popular event, with some studios having over 400 people visiting from around the region.

This was the first time Brenda Cash from the Green Morris Studio has been open for visitors, and although she found it quite daunting at first, she soon found the people who visited were lovely. She felt a sense of accomplish-

ment to have people watch her work and be able to talk about her paintings.

Brenda has one show a year at Real Tart Gallery in New Plymouth, and gives all the proceeds to a different charity each year. Her work has a sense of whimsy and nostalgia, happy paintings that appeal to the general public. All her paintings are originals, and she works in acrylics, oils and mixed media.

The other artists that will be involved with the arts trail are Richard Landers, Kris White, Fay Looney, Susan Imhasly, Linda Barbour, Eleanor Field, Margaret Scott, Ringcraft Moana, Korver Molloy Gallery, and the Crafty Fox.

## Message from Dale Copeland

The exhibition of Taranaki art in Paris is now over. It was a huge venture, and an exciting reason to visit a wonderful city. Now we're all settling back into what passes as normal life. The exhibition on the Virtual Tart website for December is Natural Fusion, paintings by Janet Marshall of New Zealand. Janet is well known for her beautiful paintings of birds.

Festive season? Can't even think about that until I've given myself some time in my studio. Collages to make,

treasures-from-France to be enjoyed, assemblages to plan. Oh, and there'll be a new book. International Assemblage. The work of 26 invited artists. They'll have the January exhibition on the Tart site, and also be the contents of this book which is starting to look stunning. Hi ho, so many reasons to not do housework. Do send your collages in for the 17th International Exhibition/Exchange... March is getting closer. Cheers, and keep smiling. Dale

## Coming up at Cue next year

Director, Joan Ertel, has selected an experienced cast for Cue's next play.

"The Game's Afoot or Holmes for the Holidays" by Ken Ludwig will be staged early in the new year. The cast is: William Gilette (David Rohe), Martha Gilette (Elizabeth McAfferty), Felix Geisel (John K Butler), Madge

Geisel (Karlina Nickson), Simon Brigh (Dixon Lobb), Aggie Wheeler (Helen Cloke), Inspector Goring (Valda Hinz), Daria Chase (Marie Spurdle). Cue thanks all those who attended the audition and asks that those actors not chosen for this particular play keep in touch. Their interest is much valued.

*What's On*  
**Summer Bands!** *butlers reef*

**Fri 26 December - Clash of the Titans (Dragon, The Exponents and The Feelers)**  
**Mon 29 December - Shihad, The Datsuns, I am Giant, Cairo Knife Fight**  
**NEW YEARS EVE**  
**Katchafire - Blackseeds - Sons of Zion**  
**Fri 2 January 2015 - Devilskin and These Four Walls**

1133 Main South Rd, Oakura  
 Phone 06 752 7765 - [www.butlersreef.co.nz](http://www.butlersreef.co.nz)

## EMPLOYERS AND TRAINING PROVIDERS

Grab this opportunity to showcase your organisation, job opportunities, courses, and services at:

# CONNECT15

Connecting people to jobs and careers

**MAY 22 - 23**  
**TSB HUB, HAWERA**

Book your exhibition space today

### Interact and directly engage with our audience about:

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- training pathways
- employment options
- current vacancies

Event sponsorship packages available.

### Registration includes:

- exhibition space on both days
- exhibitor only networking function with guest speaker

### Special offer:

Register in 2014 and pay only \$200  
 Register in 2015 and pay standard \$300

### Check out

- [www.southtaranaki.com/Live/Youth/CONNECT-15](http://www.southtaranaki.com/Live/Youth/CONNECT-15)
- Find us on Facebook  Search 'TaranakiConnect15'
- Follow us on Twitter  @connect\_15
- Email [connect15@stdc.govt.nz](mailto:connect15@stdc.govt.nz) for details



Proudly sponsored by Fonterra and Origin Energy.  
 This event is organised by: South Taranaki District Council, Stratford District Council, Mayors Taskforce for Jobs, Agri-People, Taratahi, Feats, Parininihi Ki Waitotara, Taranaki Futures, Ki Uta Whanau Careers Taranaki.

