



# OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

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## Life with 15 years non parole for murder

The man who admitting killing Desroe Bishop in September last year has been sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum 15 year non-parole period. Shiloh Dallas Mariekura 34 was sentenced by Justice Susan Thomas in the High Court at New Plymouth on Tuesday of killing the 37-year-old Opunake man.

Judge Thomas said Mariekura had 48 previous convictions, four of which related to threatening to kill people. These included a 2008 conviction of assault and threatening to kill Mr Bishop.

Mariekura had been released from prison in April 2013 with the condition that he was not to enter Opunake. However, on September 4 he had been told that he could stay overnight in town to attend a family funeral. At 5am the next morning he arrived at Bishop's place. There was an argument and Mariekura pulled a boning knife, stabbing Bishop 54 times, including two fatal wounds to the neck. The assault took place in front of the victim's son.

Continued page 3



Have a great festive season everyone and happy holidays.  
Photo of Golden, the possum, kindly supplied by Stoney Oakes Wildlife Park, Inglewood.

## School's vision - from good to great

"The vision, then, is to take Coastal Taranaki School from *good* to *great*," said Coastal Taranaki School's principal Allan Miles in his inspiring speech at the annual Prize-giving Ceremony held on Friday December 12.

A highlight of the ceremony was the naming of Siobahn Manuel as the Dux (Cross-

man Cup) for the highest academic achievement for 2014. Chase Yates won the Proxime Accessit Cup as Runner Up Dux.

"I was very very surprised and pleased - it was a tight race," she conceded after the announcement. She also won several other awards including the McLaughlin Cup (Senior speech, Years 11-13), the Clark Cup (Tourism and Foods award), the Herbert Smith Trust award (English Years 11-13), the Geography Cup (Years 11-13), Head Student Cup, Ikaroa Lodge Award and the Carpe Diem

Cup (student who has best displayed the core values of CTS).

Chase Yates also won other awards, such as Joseph Manu Memorial Cup (Best Maori Scholar), Year 11-13 Mathematics, Okato Swimming Club Senior Boy Champ, Senior Boy Cross-country and the Boys Athletic Cup. Next year he intends to join the NZ Airforce as a paramedic.

After a welcome by Margaret Normanton, a karakia was led by Chris Luke. The National Anthem in both English and Maori followed. Next, a speech by John Pullar,

Deputy Chairperson of the Board of Trustees followed. He spoke of the community consultation process, which underpinned the three year Strategic Plan. While paying tribute to existing staff he commented, "It's exciting to see the lift new teachers give." After outlining the CTS's many achievements, he concluded, "What parent would not want their children taught by such passionate teachers?"

### Inside



Life jacket returned.  
See page 35.



Helping Opunake youth.  
Page 9.




'Old Time Variety' with the Opunake Players.  
Superb entertainment.  
Turn to page 5.



Trucking mishap.  
Refer page 34.  
See our pullout  
Holiday Guide. Page 13.

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After all the less than positive news about Opunake, someone felt inspired to put some positive prose in print.

**Opunake**

There's a special little country town  
Right down beside the sea  
It used to be a thriving place, it's called Opunake.  
The people are so friendly here, they welcome everyone,  
Lately its been in the new, but the town is not at fault.  
Just because some bad things happened  
Don't blame us, call a halt,  
Some talented people come from here  
I can name a few  
Don't put us down, look beyond, and see us  
For the good things that we do.  
School leavers, they go out of town, to follow a career  
The shopkeepers are cheerful, hope you have a good day  
Great to see you here  
A beautiful hilltop garden, high above the sea  
Created by the Lions Club, what a credit to them  
Just amazing and its free.  
To stroll along the walkway and around the lake  
The beach and the sea and children's playground  
So many things you do not see, if you close your eyes  
Country Music, don't you know? That music is the soul  
It really is a paradise, our little Opunake  
Great things can be created here  
If you take the time to see.

Maree Christensen

**We're being read everywhere ...man**

Since going on line the Opunake & Coastal News is reaching a wider audience which seems to be growing. People from Bulgaria to Japan to China are reading the paper. We received 30,000 plus hits according to recent statistics. That's a lot of hits according to Shane Butler from Pilot Computing in Opunake who looks after the Opunake & Coastal News computers who accessed the data. After New Zealand, the most visitors came from Australia, then China followed by Japan. We have one avid reader from Bulgaria.

Editor

The Editor and Staff at the  
**Opunake & Coastal News**  
would like to wish our valued readers and advertisers a wonderful Christmas and a memorable New Year

Thank you for your support throughout 2014



**OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS**



Amy Raxworthy and Tayla Stutchridge and Homer Simpson from Superior Cars in New Plymouth wishing everyone a merry Christmas.

**BBC Seeing God this Christmas**

"Can anybody see God?" a boy asked his mother. "If God is so great, why can't we see Him?"

His mother said, "Well, why don't you ask your Sunday school teacher."

The Sunday school teacher said, "Ask the pastor."

The pastor said, "Certainly not, sonny. No one can see

God and live." And the little fellow was amazed at the pastor's statement.

The young lad lived down on the river, near an old fisherman. He used to go out on the boat with the old man sometimes. One day the two of them went fishing on the river and while they were there a short sharp

summer storm blew up and they pulled in and got behind some trees. After a while, the storm cleared away, and they started off back home downstream in their little rowboat with their catch. As the old man rowed there came a rainbow behind the boat. The old fisherman, with his silver-tipped beard,

was watching that rainbow.

The little lad sitting in the stern of the boat noticed the teardrops running off the gray beard. He said, "Can you answer a question that it seems no one else can answer? You were looking at that rainbow. We're taught in the Bible that God made the rainbow. If God is so great, can anyone see Him? The pastor told me no one could see Him. The Sunday school teacher said no one can see Him. What do you think?"

The old fisherman was so overcome, he pulled his oars in the boat and hugged the little lad in his arms, and he said, "God bless your little heart. All I've seen for the past forty years has been God." "But", he said to the lad, "He has to be on the inside, first, before you can see Him on the outside. If He's inside you, He will use your eyes to see Him.

Christmas is really all about God being born in the stable of your life. Then you can really see Him.

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# School's vision - from good to great

Continued from page 1

The special guest was former student Clayton Dando, who is an officer in the NZ Royal Navy. Of his time at CTS he said, "I loved every minute of it." Less enjoyable, at least at first, was his time in early training to be a naval officer as a 17-year-old. "It was physically demanding, as well as mentally demanding." He spoke of being woken in the middle of the night and put in a dark tunnel, which he had to find a way out of. However, he emerged in 2006 as a commissioned officer. He concluded with this advice for current students, "Set a goal, make it smaller and you'll certainly achieve it."

Earlier, the Head Students Siobahn Manuel and Matthew Moffitt gave memorable speeches.

Siobahn listed many highlights of her time at CTS, including a school trip to Rarotonga. She mentioned several teachers by name including Mrs Richardson of whom she admired, "Your ability to do absolutely everything". She concluded that CTS had taught her, "To aim



Former student of CTS, Clayton Dando, a NZ Royal Naval officer, who gave the keynote speech.

high and not stop till I get there."

Next year she will study for a Bachelor in Health Science (Paramedics) at Whitireia NZ, Porirua.

Using a powerful voice to good effect Matthew spoke of his shock of coming to a big school after being enrolled in a tiny primary - one with just 22 students. To laughter he mentioned several naughty escapades. This led to his personal philosophy of, "Look back on mistakes, learn from them and also have a laugh." He

concluded, "CTS will remain etched in my heart forever."

All speeches were well received, but perhaps Matthew's received the greatest applause. Principal Alan Miles speech was comprehensive and wide-ranging. He acknowledged many strengths and successes, "... 80% of students - the primary school - were receiving an education 'at' or 'above' the community's expectations," but conceded "...that many secondary students were not and that we needed to do

better."

The many triumphs were too many to list, but included the Year 7 and 8 Lawn Bowls Team winning the Taranaki Intermediate title. In conjunction with this he mentioned the legacy of the late mentor Mrs Val Honeyfield. The Coastal Sting Year 4/5 Netball team finished the season undefeated. Senior music students Rodney Cruden-Powell (Year 12) and Kevin Cochran (Year 11) produced a single with mentor Peter Jeffries, which is soon to be pressed in Nashville, USA.

The work of FOCTS was acknowledged for their successful Lamb, Calf and Community Gala Day.

Alan acknowledged the excellent work of staff, including those who were leaving such as Ted Normanton. He concluded,

"To all who bring energy, wisdom and dedication to CTS most especially our inspiring teaching and support staff, thank you for another amazing year. May you find peace, relaxation and the reward of reflection with family and friends over the summer vacation. To all students who make each day one to treasure we celebrate your successes today and look forwards to sharing your journey next year."

### Student Leaders in 2015

Sports captains: Anne Maree Harris and Dekodda Tippett

Arts Captain: Finnley Binsbergen

Head students: Rodney Cruden-Powell and Finnley Binsbergen

### Special Awards (not already mentioned)

Cheryl Vosper Memorial Award (Service to the library): Jasmine Stone

Head Girl and Boy 2014: Siobahn Manuel and Matthew Moffitt

Garry Brophy Cup (Citizens Award Years 1-6): Jack Luke

Corbett Award (Knowledge and Kindness, Year 6): Dylan Beardmore

Gold Cup (Service to Intermediate School): Corbyn Sole

Newall School Community Cup (Most helpful senior student): Jana Taingahue-Rongonui

AWE Scholarship (Student undertaking tertiary studies with an environmental component): Matthew Moffitt

Komene Memorial Award (Demonstrating cultural leadership): Jana Taingahue-Rongonui

Te Rangi Uenuku, Gaye Taingahue Memorial Award (Displaying caring, pride and leadership): Jana Taingahue-Rongonui.



Chase Yates, Proxime Accessit (Runner up Dux) and Siobahn Manuel, Dux



A proud recipient holding his award aloft to the amusement of, from left a senior student, Ted Normanton and Coastal Taranaki School Principal Allan Miles.

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# Councillor's Comment: The end of a busy year



## Stepping Stones

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Cr Ian Armstrong

I, as a councillor, must share responsibility for. However a lot of other very positive work has occurred.

Four upgraded water treatment plants, Opunake, Eltham, Rahotu and Waimate West, have been opened. The results of this work totalling millions of dollars will protect users well into the future.

A refreshed Economic Development Strategy, new Open Spaces Strategy, revised bylaws, a revised Revenue and Finance Policy, a huge effort into the 2015-2025 Long Term Plan, the District Plan and Hawera Town Centre Strategy has meant an awful lot of work for both council staff and councillors.

A bug trial (now called Advanced Microbial Digestion) has been running for some time in the Waverley and Hawera effluent ponds. Over the past 12 months 80 per cent of the sludge in one of the Hawera ponds and 70 per

cent in the Waverley pond has been removed by the action of the bugs. This has been a tremendous result, and to my knowledge not trialled in New Zealand before on such a large scale. This has saved council millions, compared with conventional methods of de-sludging.

Among other items, the councillors' final workshop for 2014 to be held on Thursday December 18 will include a briefing and discussion on walkways and cycle ways. This report considers what we have, predicted future demand, possibilities for extensions and new ways. From this workshop, costs will be calculated and incorporated into the Long Term Plan draft for your input.

I have really felt for the new councillors over the past 12 months, as the work load has been far greater than I have known before.

2015 will bring to us, we think, new legislation on

earthquake prone buildings. While we think we have a reasonable idea as to what this legislation will include, the final version will set in place the timeframe, and where a number of the costs will lie. While there was a considerable amount of publicity about the ramifications to Stratford, all South Taranaki towns will be affected. We only have to wander down any of the commercial streets to see the truth in that comment.

Today (December 16) I received notification that tenders had been confirmed for the Normanby Overbridge. This is scheduled to be finished by 25 January 2017 and will result in a major re-routing of State Highway 3a just north of Normanby.

So in all, a very busy 12 months with a number of extremely positive outcomes.

All the best for the festive season and may your wishes for 2015 come to be.

Ian Armstrong

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With 2014 coming quickly to the end, it's perhaps timely to have a look back and reflect on what has been.

The Eltham Eader has taken centre stage, and it is extremely unfortunate that the ramifications of the decision to take the butter milk into this facility has overshadowed so many other activities council has been involved with. This comment is not meant in any way to downplay or belittle the action and results which

## A Trucking mishap



RIGHT: A truck overturned on the corner of Wiremu and Saunders roads at about 2.30pm on Monday. No other vehicles were involved and nobody was injured.

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RMVT



# Old Time Variety – lots of talent

The Lakeside Playhouse's latest show 'Old Time Variety' ended its season on Friday 12 December after five performances starting on December 8 featuring the Opunake Players.

I absolutely loved it. I was amazed at the depth of talent on display, visually and vocally. It is hard to review and pick out highlights because it was just so good.

I don't think I stopped smiling during the second half item 'Fast Train to the Poorhouse'. Everyone played their part with panache and finesse, but Paul Andersen-Gardiner has to be one of the funniest actors anywhere. His deliciously evil Throckmorton V Dirthmal was just outstanding to my mind. Dawn Mills as Pansy Pureheart gave an assured performance, which was a standout. And the outrageously flirtzy Candy Samples, played by Stephanie MacKenzie was captivating.

The lively dance by the four girls in colourful costumes (Katie Potier, Sophie Andersen-Gardiner, Myar Smith and Laura Almazan)



From left, Dawn Mills as 'Pansy Pureheart', Paul Andersen-Gardiner as 'Throckmorton V Dirthmal' and William Andersen-Gardiner as 'Bud Fuddled'.

was amazing and so capably choreographed by Clare Andersen-Gardiner.

Chloe's Danz' solo 'Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas' was just so beautifully sung, it would be hard to

imagine a better performance.

Isn't Mike Smith a great singer? His 'Johnny Cash' performance with Chloe Danz as 'June' was most enjoyable.

The 'vocal interludes' and

'Mr Sandman & Java Jive' with Helen Duff, Chloe Danz, Michelle Julian, Kate Julian and Honey-Rose Hutchins were delightful and impeccably good.

'Send in the Clowns' with Honey-Rose Hutchins was very well done and poignant – up to her usual high standard. 'Black and White Rag', with Helen Duff and Alan Love on a pair of pianos kept everyone toe tapping to their musical artistry.

A lot of impressive work went into the authentically-looking sets for 'Napoleon's Piano', a Goon Show take off and the players performed well, although I have to admit I'm not really a fan of this style of comedy.

I was so pleased I saw this show. However, the thought struck me – this show is just so good it should be toured around the different towns in Taranaki. Congratulations to all, on both sides of the stage, for your superb show.

Rolland McKellar

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Live On Air, The Goon Show, 2014 - Opunake Players style.

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# Te Kiri WI hear memories of a South African childhood

We had an enjoyable ride out to Kingfisher Cottage for our Christmas meeting. As all of us came from farms, we discussed how the grass was growing, how contented the cows in the paddocks looked, and all the round bales of hay waiting to be picked up.

Kingfisher Drive has a very long drive through beautiful native bush. A very delicious luncheon was served, with kebabs, savouries and platters of fruit and small cakes making a wonderful prelude to Christmas.

At meeting time we had a chuckle over how our seeing eye dog had woofed a Christmas greeting to us.

We were thrilled with a fourth equal with our table in the Japanese competition. Merle Clement had brought her laptop so we could all see the tables in the competition.

Judith read an interesting Institute report from our 1977

meeting where our president Sue Muggeridge was welcomed as a new member. This came from a newspaper report from a time before the Opunake News was printed.

Our guest speaker Nevis Brewer gave a very interesting talk on her childhood in South Africa. Her father was a policeman and her mother looked after boarders. Nevis said she and her sisters never sat at the table with them, but took their meals and ate them on the doorstep in the sun.

One of her aunts was in hospital and her father went to visit her, taking the children with him. They were told not to get out of the car. After sitting in it for ages, one of her sisters told Nevis she was going to drive the car and have a ride up town. The keys had been left in the car, so she started it, and it ran downhill with her sister steering, but it hit a concrete fence. A man

came running to the car and saw they were OK. He told them to get out of the car, only to be told they weren't allowed to, as Dad had told them they weren't allowed to as Dad had told them to stay in the car. Nevis didn't say what happened after that.

At Christmas time, one of the boarders was Father Christmas. There were quite a few children gathered at their place, and Father Christmas was giving out the presents, but brushed his arm on a candle, and the fur on his sleeve caught fire and badly burnt his arm. Nevis and her sisters put two and two together and decided who was Father Christmas as his arm was bandaged.

As they grew older, the girls didn't mix with the African boys, and they didn't like the white girls.

When the war came, there were soldiers everywhere.

Ships landed in Durban. There were blackouts, but the war never interfered with their lifestyle. Nevis said entertainers visited, and her sister acted with Noel Coward. Nevis showed an African doll dressed in native clothes some ornaments of African boys, and two beautiful paintings which a servant had given her. Nevis was thanked and given a gift in appreciation.

Members used their imagination, and there were some really beautiful gifts in our gift exchange.

After a piece of Christmas cake for afternoon tea, and Exchanging Christmas greetings, it was homeward bound.

A big thank you to our committee, and holiday greetings to all our readers and a happy new year to you all,

*Mavis West*

**Merry Christmas from**

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**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year**

**CLOSED:** Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> & Friday 26<sup>th</sup> December  
Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> & Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January

Thank you for your support, Safe motoring from Judy, Jason, Carol, Belinda and Rex

**Wishing all our clients and friends all the best for Christmas and the New Year. Thanks for your support this year.**

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# Lifejacket reunited with running great



Peter Snell and the returned lifejacket.

The statue of Opunake's favourite son has been reunited with its missing lifejacket. The Peter Snell statue next to the library had been one of seven statues around the country adorned with a lifejacket as part of Safer Boating Week, an initiative launched by Maritime New Zealand and the National Pleasure Boat Safety Forum to promote safer boating practices in the leadup to Labour weekend. Other statues so honoured included the statues of John Plimmer in Wellington, Dove-Myer Robinson in Auckland and Pania in Napier.

The lifejacket had been put on the statue on Friday October 17. Some time between 6.05am and 1.00pm on the following Sunday, the jacket went missing.

This Tuesday the jacket was returned to its rightful owner. It had been handed in at the Hawera Police Sta-

tion three weeks after a story about its disappearance had appeared in the Opunake and Coastal News, South Taranaki District Council community development officer Marcia Haigh said.

"It found its way back to us at the council this morning," Marcia said on Tuesday. "As we were going out to Opunake we thought we would return it to its original owner."

*Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year*

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## On this month in history:

### Sir Peter Buck dies

On December 1, 1951 Sir Peter Buck died. The famous physician, politician and anthropologist died in Honolulu where he had worked at the Bernice P Bishop Museum since 1926, the last seven years as Director. He was born at Urenui in North Taranaki in either 1877 or 1880, and traced his lineage from the Ngati Mutunga iwi. Like many other great Maori leaders he attended Te Aute College in Hawke's Bay, and later graduated in medicine from Otago Medical School. Teaming up with Maui Pomare

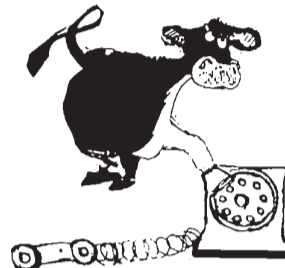
from Waitara they helped arrest what was seen as a worrying decline among the Maori paeple. Buck and Pomare both entered politics. Buck was MP for Northern Maori from 1909 to 1914. Buck, Pomare and Apirana Ngata from the East Coast were involved in the Young Maori Party.

Also known as Te Rangi, Hiroa, Buck served overseas during World War 1 with the Maori Battalion, and was awarded the DSO for bravery. After the War he specialised in improving Maori health, as chief Maori

medical officer and director of the Maori Hygiene Division with the Department of Health. With time anthropology became his focus. The Pacific region and Polynesian material culture was his main area of endeavour.

Of his published work his book 'Vikings of the Sunrise' was his most noteworthy book. Suffering from cancer, Buck returned to New Zealand in 1949 to receive a knighthood from his old friend Governor General Bernard Freyberg.

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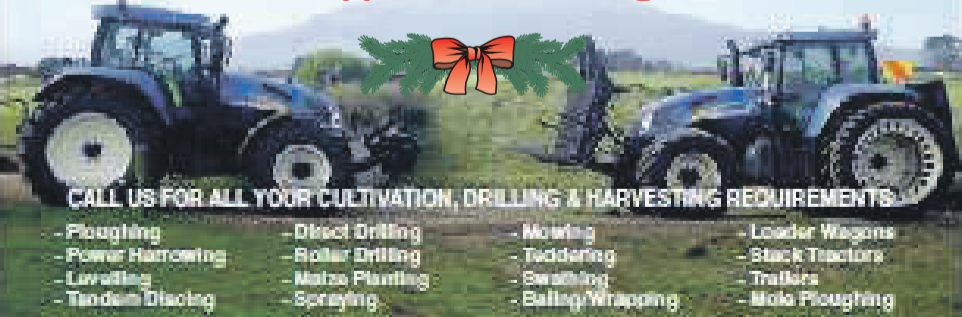
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# National working hard for New Zealanders



Jonathan Young MP

economic growth, lift education and skills, get more people into work, and support families and help households get ahead.

The economy is performing solidly, jobs and wages are growing, and businesses are confident and hiring more staff. More Kiwis are voting with their feet and either staying in New Zealand or coming home.

We're continuing to see improved results from our public services in areas that really matter – such as better health care, lower crime, higher educational achievement, and more New Zealanders moving off welfare into work.

New Zealanders delivered National a strong mandate for a third term and we're getting on with the job of investing taxpayers' money wisely, responsibly managing

the country's finances, and building a more productive and competitive economy.

The Government and New Zealand finished the year strongly.

On the international front we won a coveted seat on the United Nations Security Council after a decade-long campaign. We concluded negotiations for a free trade deal with Korea, which will build on the \$4 billion worth of trade between our two countries. And we welcomed a number of world leaders to our shores including Chinese President Xi, who with our Prime Minister, this year has agreed to lift the goal of two-way trade between our countries to \$30 billion by 2020.

On the home front we announced a housing package to help first home buyers and get more houses built. We passed the Employment Re-

lations Bill to ensure flexible labour markets that create more jobs for Kiwis. It was one of 73 bills passed in a busy parliamentary year. And we approved the first 11 communities of schools, which will work together to share expertise, leadership, and quality teaching, as part of our plan to lift achievement in Kiwi classrooms.

I'm looking forward to another busy year as we focus on the issues that matter for our community, and for all Kiwis – a stronger economy with more jobs and growing wages, better frontline health and education services, a safer New Zealand, and rebuilding Christchurch.

In the meantime, I wish you a very merry Christmas, and a happy and safe New Year.

Jonathan Young

# Christmas season a chance to look back and look ahead



Andrew Little MP, Leader of the Opposition

The festive season is a time to look back and look ahead. To learn from our recent past and to think, plan and prepare for what lies ahead.

The year just gone has seen its fair share of ups and downs. Election years usually do, especially for politicians. For the Labour Party, we tried earnestly to campaign on a number of big and important policies. To help families when baby arrives, we offered best start so that there would be extra support when families need it most, especially poorer families.

To alleviate the pressure on the housing market, especially for first home buyers looking for something affordable, we promised Kiwibuild, a programme to build 100 000 affordable homes over the next ten years. On health, we promised to maintain the

real value of health spending so we didn't see more and more people missing out on surgical and other health care.

And supporting all this was a carefully laid out financial plan showing these policies were financially supportable.

But very little of this got heard by the time the election campaign got under way. Important issues in the campaign got drowned out by allegations of "dirty politics" and claims against the Prime Minister by a group of overseas champions of a less secret state. Their "moment of truth" turned out to be anything but.

Election day duly came and the national government was returned with a healthy result. Labour's vote suffered its fourth successive decline.

And so, now we are regrouping. We are taking time to look back over the last several elections, and then to talk and listen to New Zealanders.

The purpose of this exercise is as much to find out what is on people's minds, as it is to find out what has changed in New Zealand that we have not kept up with.

Looking ahead for New Zealand, we will look seriously at the impact of a much reduced milk fat pay-out. The fall in commodity prices this year has been significant. We know when cash dries up on the farm, the towns and cities feel the squeeze.

The issues about ensuring a good start for kids, about making sure more New Zealanders can get into their own home, and that our health system meets our needs haven't gone away. They will remain priorities for us.

Enjoy the festive season. From my family to yours, may this time be peaceful, restful and fulfilling. Merry Christmas.

Andrew Little MP

## On this month in history: Liberal Party era ends

On December 19, 1911 the long Liberal Government era ended. The Liberals, led by Sir Joseph Ward won 33 seats, but William Massey had 37. There were also 4 Labour MPs and 6 independents.

The first Liberal Government was led by John Ballance and when he died in office, Richard Seddon took over. Richard Seddon also

died in office on board a ship travelling from Australia to NZ.

The Liberal Government heralded legislation allowing women to vote (1893), the first NZ old age pension (now called superannuation) and passed legislation which greatly improved working conditions for employees and protected children from exploitation in workplaces.

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# SWEET home Opunake

The Opunake community has been praised for the way it has supported the Social Sector Trial. Although there has been some recent negative publicity about the town, the people of Opunake have been prepared to put their hands up and address the issues facing them, Social Sector Trial manager Mel Loft said.

Also known by the acronym SWEET(South Working to Enable and Empower Teens) The Social Sector Trial is run in South Taranaki by Tui Ora. It seeks to draw together the five social sector agencies of Police, Justice, Health, Education and Social Development, as well as other interested groups like schools, Maori wardens, and local businesses to help youth, and reduce offending, truancy, alcohol and drug harm, and increase the number of young people in education. The trial is also backed by an advisory panel chaired by Mayor Ross Dunlop.

It began in 2013, and has been going in Opunake since February this year, when the first of two consultative hui was held at the Sandfords Event Centre.

"The two consultations at the Event Centre included a range of community members, the mayor, schools, local business people, families, Maori wardens, police, and public health," Mel said "What everybody reiterated was that the health and the well-being of the community is key, and they were really proactive in coming around to



Some of the team at SWEET. From left Jenna Ladbrook(youth clinician), Emma Symons(administrator), Mel Loft(manager).

address the issues," she said.

Following this meeting an Opunake Community Action Group was set up. "They meet monthly and looks at sustainable projects like the development of a youth space so that young people have a place where they can feel safe and engage in pro-social activities," Mel said.

There is also a youth health team working to address issues like physical health, mental illness and alcohol and other substance abuse.. They have also funded gym equipment to the high school to help those who can't afford to keep themselves physically fit.

"It's a well-resourced community, and because of the environment they are really proactive with tight knit members who really want to change the culture," Mel said. "They are putting their hands up. If you have got the engagement, you have got the ability to transform the community. It's about timing, what is the right time for the community to press forward. There's the feeling, this is a good time for us."

Mel said one issue affecting Opunake appears to be alcohol and drug abuse, and what looks like generational abuse.

She praised the contributions made by local police

and Opunake High School in addressing this and other issues.

"The first meeting in Opunake was in February 2014, but the police have been on board since June 2013. Opunake High School has been very very engaged across the Social Sector Trial, and very proactive policing has been thoroughly successful."

Mel said she hopes the Social Sector Trial's contract will be able to extend up to 2017.

There will be further consultations in the new year around the new action plan for June 2015, when the existing contract ends.

## Kaponga WI News

A group of 28 members of Kaponga WI, and husbands and friends met at The Furlong's Two Chefs Restaurant for their December meeting and Dinner.

President Fiona Collins welcomed the group, and

congratulated Jo Jones, Joy Eliason, Diane West and Dorothy Hughes, on gaining second place for the WI Federation International Day "Japan" Theme. Their individual articles on the card table display were of a high standard and the

presentation was superb.

Nine members had attended the day held at The Fat Cow Cafe, where guest speaker Sachiko Bulfin spoke about life in Japan.

Rayleen McDonald and Joy Eliason have received their 50 years service badges, and join Fiona Collins, Margaret Watts, Marie Frandsen and Mollie

Nicholas who have been members for over 50 years.

Val Eliason has been a member for 59 years.

Members will gather at the home of Carolyn Nicholas, New Plymouth on January 12 2015 for a knit-a thon, where they will continue to knit the Anzac Poppies for the Waiouru Army Museum WW 1 Centenary Poppy Project.

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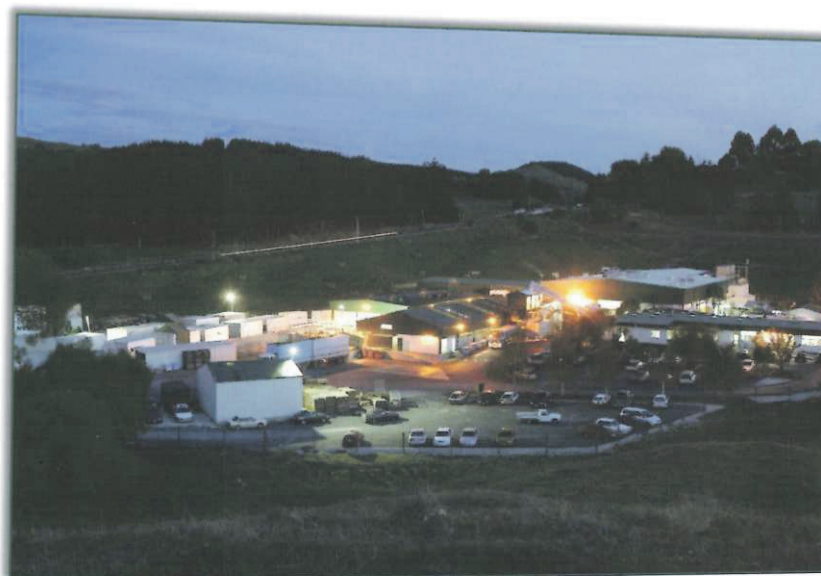
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## MAYORAL COMMENT

# Have a happy and safe Festive Season



STDC Mayor Ross Dunlop

Season's Greetings to all. Christmas is just around the corner and this is always a good opportunity to reflect on the year just gone.

We started the year with great optimism and enthusiasm for so many things which were mostly fulfilled. Coastal Taranaki has had a good year with much to be

proud of. I was delighted to recently attend a function to recognise the contribution Dan Holmes has made to the Opunake community. This function was about more than just Dan. His achievements have been remarkable, but he encapsulated what is so good about this district. People who are resourceful, modest and just get on with the job.

We also farewelled a couple of remarkable ladies from the Community. High School Teachers Maria Potter and Sharon Arlidge are going to be difficult to replace, but let's just say thanks for their presence and contribution to our district for the time they were here.

Early in the year we cel-

brated the opening of the new water treatment plant for Opunake. This has been a much needed upgrade and the town is now no longer facing water problems every time it rains. Recently we also opened the new Eltham, Rahotu and Waimate West water treatment plants to bring to completion about \$58 million of district water scheme improvements since 2005.

It's so good to see great progress on the New Medical Centre in the centre of Hawera. This is going to be a great asset for the community and another example of the resourcefulness of the Coastal community.

I was so very proud to be present when the Prime Min-

ister John Key was in our district and spent some time with the Auroa school students, who have made such a success of their robot project. The PM was most impressed with these talented young students.

Christmas is a time for catching up with family and friends. It can also be a very stressful and lonely time for some, so please keep a lookout for those who need support. If you're driving over the holiday season take care on the roads – remember to stay calm and take plenty of breaks.

I wish you all the very best for Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Warm regards

Ross Dunlop



One way of having a relaxing Christmas day. Photo taken at a Whanau Day at Opunake Beach.



The partners and staff wish you a Merry Christmas and best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and a very Happy New Year.

Our office will be closed from 4.00pm on Tuesday 23 December 2014. We will reopen on Monday 12 January 2015. We will have a skeleton staff on to assist you if required from Monday 5 January 2015.

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## How to stay sane at Christmas

1. If it's all getting too much, shut yourself in the toilet and do some deep breathing

2. If you are on

your own, enjoy your own company or go to a community Xmas dinner and make some new friends

3. If you think there is something wrong with your family and everyone else gets on great with theirs then you are wrong. There will be many people falling out with their families – Xmas can be the most stressful time of the year

4. If you are going to eat a lot more, then try and exercise a lot more – it helps with the guilt

5. If this year was a bad year for you, then make next year better. Solve some problems, do some fun stuff, refuse to have a bad year next year

6. Try and do something YOU want to do on Xmas day – it helps to stop you getting resentful

7. If you're getting angry then walk away – partners need to let you walk away to diffuse anger. Talk about it when you are getting on well, not when you are not getting on well

8. It's ok to say no to kids when they ask for stuff you can't afford. You can tell them you know how it feels as you would like a jet ski or a Lamborghini but you can't afford that either.

9. Be grateful all the shops are shut and enjoy your day as best you can

10. Try smiling or laughing all day – if it doesn't make you feel any happier at least you will be cheering up friends and family

Spare a moment to feel for those all over the world suffering from warfare, Ebola, drought, famine etc Find someone to hug, even if it's only your dog or teddy bear

Enjoy Xmas if that's what works for you. If you can't handle Xmas – remember it will all be over the next day Merry Xmas and take care of yourself, you deserve it.

Sylvia Huitson  
 South Taranaki  
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# HUGHSON & ASSOCIATES

### CHRISTMAS HOURS

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# Word of advice: Christmas gifts that are unwanted. Do you know your rights?

While many of us will probably receive everything on their wish list, it is likely that there will be at least one present you can live without. What are your rights for getting a refund from the shop?

**The unwanted gift**  
If you've received a present that's perfectly usable, you are not automatically entitled to a refund. A shop doesn't have to give you a refund if you:

- decide you don't want the goods after all
- find the same

thing cheaper elsewhere

- bought something for someone else that they don't like or already have
- bought clothes that don't fit or something that doesn't match what you already have.

**Talk to the shop**

Before you buy something that you are unsure about, ask whether the shop has a return policy or offer.

Some shops have a 'change of mind' return policy. The policy usually says:

- you have a limited time to return the goods
- goods can be exchanged for other goods or a credit note
- proof of purchase is required.

**What if the gift is faulty?**

The Consumer Guarantees Act gives certain rights to you when the goods are faulty or not of

acceptable quality. You have the right to take the goods back to the shop and they are required to put the problem right.

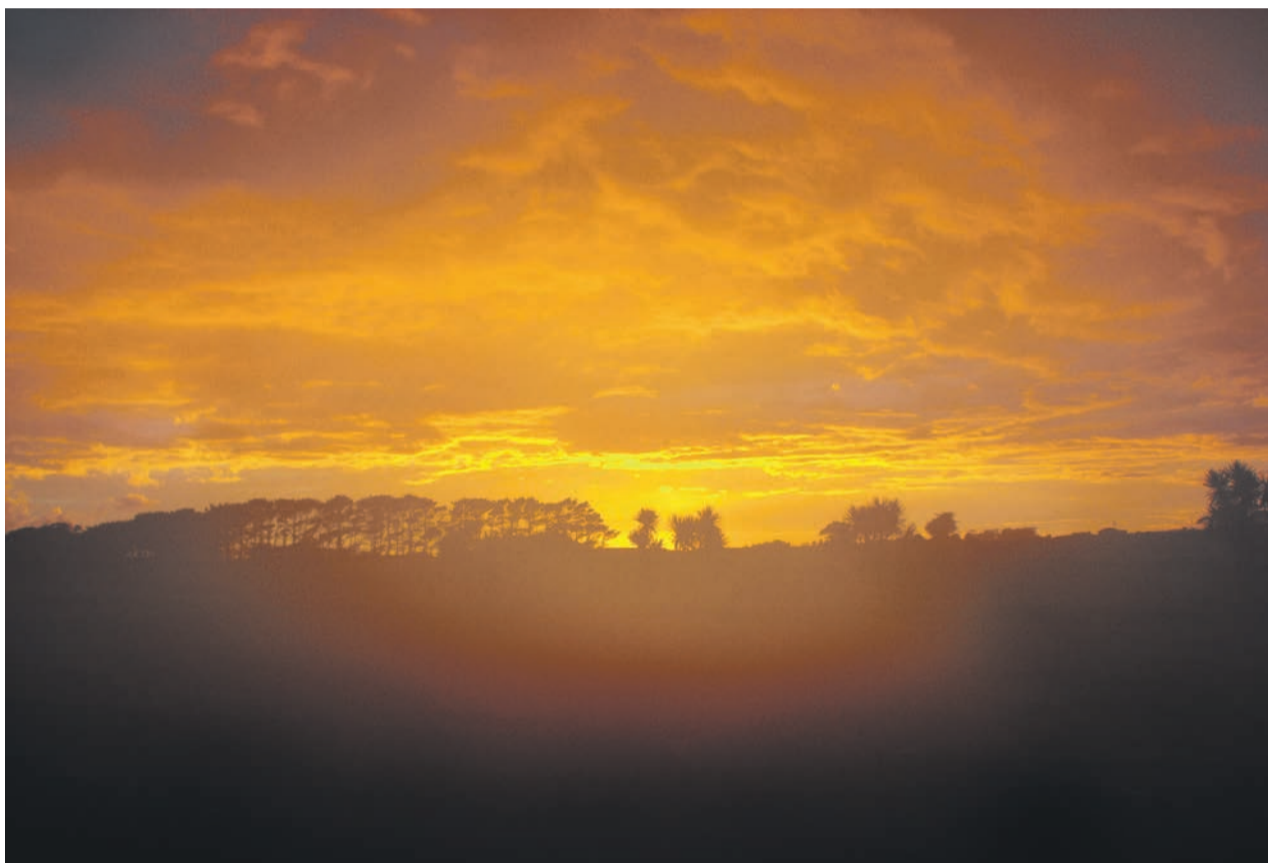
If goods can be repaired in a reasonable time, then you must allow the shop a chance to make this repair. The shop may choose to refund your money or offer replacement goods. If they will not or cannot fix the problem, then you can insist on a refund of your money.

You may need to provide some proof that the goods

were bought at that particular shop if you were given the goods as a gift. It is not required by law that you have a receipt – any proof of purchase will do, such as an EFTPOS or bank statement that identifies what was purchased.

**Need more information?**

- See the following pages on our website:
  - "Change of mind refund": [www.](http://www.)



A spectacular sunset taken when travelling the Surf Highway. Hard to keep your eyes on the road. Editor

## Increased chance of El Nino this summer says NIWA

There is now a greater chance of an El Nino 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 per cent, 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 per cent) 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 per cent chance) to be near average. Rainfall totals, soil moisture levels and river flows are all most likely (50 per cent chance) to be in the near normal range.



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### On this month in history: King Edward abdicates

On December 10, 1936 King Edward VIII abdicated so he could marry the woman he loved Wallis Simpson, a twice-divorced American. Edward had to choose between the throne or the woman of his dreams and he followed his heart and chose the latter.

The British Prime Minister of the time Stanley Baldwin consulted widely amongst the leaders of the various Commonwealth countries, suggesting several possible scenarios. At the time Michael Joseph Savage was Prime Minister of New Zealand, who gave forthright feedback.

Eventually, Mr Baldwin read a message from the king to the House of Commons, "After long and serious consideration, I have determined to renounce the throne to which I succeeded on the death of my father and I am now communicating this, my final and irrevocable decision."



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# What's On in the 'Naki Summer Guide



Opunake Surf Lifesaving Club Members will be on patrol at Opunake Beach this Summer Marlene Ruka ,Courtney Keech and Michael (Speed )Debique on duty head out on the new ramp recently upgraded at the beach. Be careful this summer and swim between the flags at every patrolled beach in Taranaki

Welcome to the Opunake and Coastal News 2014 - 2015 Summer Guide to What's On in the 'Naki - showcasing what our region has to offer. Whether you are into Surfing, Golfing, or Adventure We have it all here for you. We also showcase our Beach Carnivals (a fantastic family day out) As well as some places that you must visit - such as the Tawhiti Museum and Technology Museum. Keep this guide and use it over the coming summer months.

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### Free Festival Bus

Supported by TSB Community Trust - Arrives 30mins prior to performances and departs at 10pm. Available from: Hawera, Eltham, Stratford, Inglewood, Urenui, Waitara, Bell Block, Opunake, Okato and Oakura.

#### Sunday 4 Jan

- 'Gypsy Brass Extravaganza' featuring Niko Ne Zna

#### Thursday 15 Jan

- 'Bowl Night Out' featuring Moorhouse and Nomad

#### Tuesday 20 Jan

- 'Country Night' featuring Jason Bradley & Abby Christodoulou

### Free Summer Scene Bus

Supported by TAG Oil & Horizon Energy Services – Arrives midday and departs 2.30pm. Available from: Eltham, Stratford and Inglewood.

#### Saturday 27 Dec

- 'The Big Dig Beach Extravaganza'

#### Saturday 10 Jan

- 'Teddy Bears Picnic'

- Registrations are essential. Ph David Bird to register – 06 759 6060
- Registrations close two days prior to departure date. You must be 14 yrs of age or older to use this bus service unless accompanied by an adult.



# Have fun at Pouakai Zoo this summer

Pouakai Zoo is a family friendly zoo - you can hand feed some wonderful animals such as goats, alpacas, cattle, sheep, kune kune pigs and all the bird life roaming the zoo grounds including peacocks, ducks, pigeons, emu's and ostrich.

Bring lunch and sit back to watch monkeys swing, meerkats play, and enjoy observing our wonderful lion pride. Our lion pride and tigers are fed daily at 1.30pm so be sure to include this into your visit to the Zoo. Take a stroll through the 'bush walk' to visit the livestock

on the west side of the Zoo. You get the chance to say hello to our reptile collection - this is also a great photo opportunity. Enquire about a personal guided tour to learn more about the animals here at Pouakai Zoo.

Book now for your animal encounter with Poppett at the Capuchin Monkey Zoo. Gift Vouchers are available for your animal encounter.

Pouakai Zoo is a privately owned family business, with 100% of funds coming directly from our visitors, so we thank all visitors to the Zoo.

Opening Hours are Tuesday to Sunday 10.00am to 4.30pm, including public holidays (Closed Monday and Tuesday - normal weeks). Open every day from Boxing Day 10 am 4.30 pm

The Summer holiday programme at Pouakai Zoo is open for booking now

How to book in your zoo keeper?

To book in your zookeeper, call 7533788 or text 0212926251 or email to pouakai.zoo@xtra.co.nz. Please let us know the age of children and the preferred date. You could also provide information about any of children's special interests. We are normally open from Tuesday to Sunday, but in the school holidays and on public holidays, we will be open every day during school holidays and public



Junior Zookeepers prepare the food for the animals



The Donkey loves to get a massaging brush

holidays. We cater for five years old and older, and groups are welcome.

This is not limited to school holidays, so you can book in whenever you would like to do it. Parents drop off at 10.30am, pick up at 3pm.

Please bring your lunch and suitable clothes and footwear for wet days.

The cost is \$55 per child. Call or email about the group rate.

The programme starts at 10.30 to 11.00 with hand

feeding all farm animals and getting familiar with the location of the animals.

11.00 to 11.30 Feed reptiles(water Dragon, blue tongue lizard, bearded

Dragon, walking fish, turtles).

11.30 to 12.00 cut fruit and vegetables for monkeys and brush donkeys.

12.00 to 12.30 lunch and watching an animal documentary.

12.30 to 1.30 hand feeding monkeys.

1.30 to 1.50 watching lion and tiger feeding.

1.50 to 2.20 visiting tiger bed room and draw floor plan.

2.20 to 3.00 feed possum and meerkat.

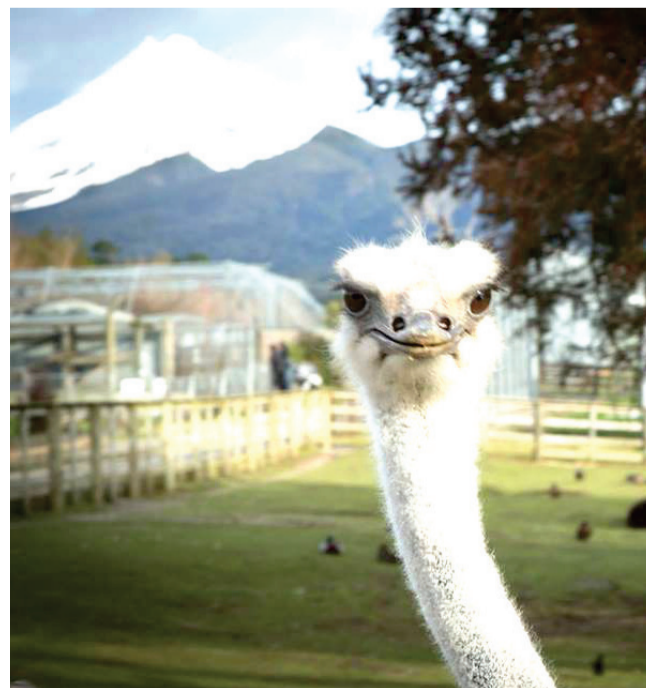
Other jobs or activities include cleaning the turtle pond, gardening, feeding the birds, treasure hunt, a bear hunt in the bush, and researching online about the big cats.

This is just a basic schedule to give you an idea what we could do. It's adjustable to meet every individual need. No bad weather at the zoo. Jobs are endless, so are the fun and learning opportunities.

Join us now.



The Ostrich and Poppet the Capuchin monkey like to keep an eye on events at the Zoo



Bookings for your opportunity to be a zookeeper for the day are open now for the summer holiday period.

## Merry Christmas



We would like to thank all our customers throughout the year and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe new year.

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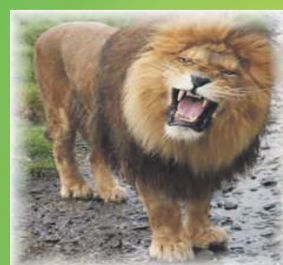
Nigel, Jenny & Staff wish to thank their customers for their support in 2014 and wish you a happy and prosperous New Year!

Call into the shop after the parade for some Christmas Cheer!

Merry Christmas everyone!

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# Christmas at the races



Thousands of people enjoy the atmosphere at Pukekura Raceway

Whether it's the action of the racing, the glamour of the events such as Ladies Day and Fashions On The Field, or to socialise with friends and family, a day at

the races is a 'must do' for many in Taranaki. Our last two race days of 2014 are action packed!

Christmas At The Races kicks off at 3.11pm, with

an 8 race card and has DJ Dinnie spinning the tunes in the La Mer Lounge after the last race. What a great way to celebrate the end of the working year.

Farmlands Fun Day is a great day out for the whole family with family orientated entertainment including a bouncy castle, colouring competition, and goodie packs for the first 300 kids through the gate. GA \$5, kids (under 18) are free!



Winners from a recent event at Pukekura Raceway.



These ladies enjoyed some refreshments at Christmas at the Races last year

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



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**Twilight Christmas at the Races**  
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**Farmlands Family Fun Day**  
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## Pukeiti puts fresh focus on plants and play

Everyone, from the serious plant lover to the most playful of visitors, is catered for in a series of upgrades at Taranaki's iconic Pukeiti rainforest garden.

Work is well under way on a three-year programme of improvements, and progress to date includes:

- Construction of two tree-

houses, with two more to come.

- New wayfinding signs and plant labels, with more to come.

- Upgrading main garden tracks to provide all-weather access.

"The tree houses in particular have proved popular – and not just with small fry either," says Greg Rine, Regional Gardens Manager for the Taranaki Regional Council, which owns and manages Pukeiti on behalf of the people of the region.

Mr Rine says signage and track upgrades are ongoing projects, and planning is under way for further improvements including upgrades of the car park, entrance and covered exhibition area.

"We consulted widely with interested parties – the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust, iwi and others – as we drew up this programme of improvements, and it's exciting to see the planning come to fruition," he says.

"The summer months and holiday breaks are an ideal opportunity for Taranaki people to see Pukeiti."

Pukeiti is open daily from 9am to 5pm and entry is free. Founders Café, located in the Pukeiti gatehouse, is open daily (except Christmas Day) from 10am to 4pm, until January 31. See [www.pukeiti.org.nz](http://www.pukeiti.org.nz) for more information.

For news, pictures and happenings from the Taranaki Regional Council's three heritage properties, Pukeiti, Tupare and Hollard Gardens, follow TaranakiRegionalGardens on Facebook or TaranakiRG on Twitter.

## Pukekura Park

Often described as the jewel in New Plymouth's crown, Pukekura Park covers 52ha (128 acres) right in the heart of the city and is one of New Zealand's premier botanical gardens. With a diverse range of landscapes, the park features bush walks, formal gardens, lakes, children's play areas, a sports area and a tea house. The park includes the Fernery and Display Houses as well as the adjacent garden estate area of Brooklands.

Home to the acclaimed TSB Bowl of Brooklands and Brooklands Pukekura Park, the Recreation Ground, now known as "The Rec", was established in 1876. It was the vision of local lawyer Robert Clinton Hughes, who persuaded the Taranaki Provincial Government to purchase 12 hectares of wasteland 'near New Plymouth' as a recreational reserve.

It was only in 1907 that the name 'Pukekura' was

bestowed upon the park. The stream that had been dammed to form the lake bore the name Pukekura, which means 'red hill'. The original valley of the Pukekura Stream was 'a fern, furze (gorse) and tutu filled gully' which has been transformed over the years into one of New Zealand's best known public parks.

The park has steadily increased in size. The additions of Brooklands and the Maranui Gully in the 1930s made it 50 hectares in extent.

Pukekura Park was, for 53 years, controlled by an independent park board. Since 1929, it has been administered by New Plymouth Borough Council and its successors.

The park contains a unique amalgam of botanical environments, lakes, native forest and formal gardens which has long been viewed with pride by the residents of New Plymouth and Taranaki.

## Garden Fair at Tupare

The splendour of Tupare will be the scene for another New Year Garden Fair on Saturday, January 10, – and the event at the iconic New Plymouth property has a retro twist with a family focus.

Besides live music and a wide range of stalls featuring original art and fabulous food supplied by many local businesses, there will also be old-fashioned family

games on the river.

"Tupare's New Year garden fairs are always well attended – it's a great opportunity for locals to show their holiday guests the stunningly landscaped grounds and unique Chapman-Taylor home," says the Taranaki Regional Council's Regional Garden's Manager, Greg Rine.

"This year we're really excited to add fun fam-



One of the Taranaki Regional Council gardens

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## Chaddy's seal

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◀ Dave (Chaddy) Chadfield giving instructions on how to operate his charter boat, Rescue III.



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The Todd Energy Aquatic Centre.

## Upgrade on the way at Aquatic Centre

A four-month upgrade at the Todd Energy Aquatic Centre will make the indoor pool area brighter and better-functioning. The indoor area will be closed from January 5 to May 2 next year for the upgrade, which means the sauna, steam room, hydrosides and family change room will also be unavailable. "The outdoor pools will be open during this period though," says Manager Aquatic Recreation Operations Mike Roberts. "There'll be temporary steps and a handrail into the main pool for easier access as well as the hydraulic hoist for disabled customers. "We'll also provide all of



The newly upgraded facility.

our usual programmes such as aquarobics and swimming lessons in the outdoor pools, as well as inflatables and lane swimming. "We apologise for the disruption this shutdown will cause but when the indoor pools reopen in autumn, we'll have

a better-functioning facility." A major part of the upgrade is the replacement of the indoor pools' tiles. It will take four months to remove the current tiles, lay the new ones and cure them before the pools are refilled with water. Also, the air ventilation system will be cleaned and serviced, the family change room painted, and isolation valves installed so that maintenance or repairs can be made to the pools' operating equipment more easily while the pools are still in operation. Members with a gym-swim-sauna or swim-sauna passes might wish to put their memberships on hold during the upgrade, and instead buy a cheaper swim-only membership for the four-month shutdown. Their original membership would restart when the indoor pools reopen, without losing any of their membership period – just ask at the aquatic centre reception.



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49 weeks out of every year, racking up an impressive playing history that has made them the nation's tightest live outfit. Today, after hundreds of gigs and four classic albums, Katchfire are road warriors whose music is guaranteed to hit you with no pain. Tickets are on sale now!



The stage at last year's Oakura Beach Carnival.

## Taranaki Arts Trail has so much to offer

The Taranaki Art Trail has so much to offer. Artistically speaking, Taranaki punches well above its weight.

Just for a start there are a surprisingly large number of art galleries where you can see and even purchase quality art. Just to mention a few, there is the Percy Thomson Gallery (Stratford), the Village Gallery (Eltham), the Lysaght Watt Gallery (Hawera), as well as the Korver Molloy Gallery (KM Gallery) just north of

Okato.

There are an amazing 73 artists' studios to visit where you can meet artists and view their creations. Some of the artists include Marianne Muggeridge, Roger Morris, Margaret Scott, Dale Copleland, Paul Hutchinson, Alby Carter, Anna Korver, Steve Molly and Caryl Murray. As regards fabric Maree Liddington's exceptional work can be seen at the Village Gallery in Eltham.

If you are interested in mu-

erals Opunake's Mural Trail is a must to see. While in Opunake see the statue of Olympian Peter Snell, created by Fridtjof Hanson (New Plymouth) in clay and cast in bronze by Ross Wilson from Marton. The statue of the Opunake-born athlete is just outside Opunake Library Plus.

Sometimes gardening is intermingled with art and craft; Eves Garden Gallery in Stratford is well worth a visit.

You should not leave without taking a visit to Te Whiti Museum where history meets up with Nigel Ogle's aston-

ishing creations which tell a story of the past times in Taranaki.

We'll finish with a quote

from award-winning artist Dale Copleland. "My studio is my refuge, my haven. Joy in jetsam, philosophy in jetsam."



A well-equipped artist's studio - one you may encounter on the Arts Trail

## Taranaki Arts Trail wants to hear from you

The planning for the 2015 Taranaki Arts Trail on June 13 and 14 is well underway with requests for the folders coming in from outside the region already. If you are an

artist, resident in Taranaki and interested in finding out more about this great event please contact Amanda 757 2065 or email [taranakiartstrail@gmail.com](mailto:taranakiartstrail@gmail.com) for further

information.

The Taranaki Arts Trail facebook and website are also a great way to keep in touch with what is happening.

## A moment in artistic history: Frances Hodgkins

In July/August, 2008 the Percy Thomson Gallery in Stratford had a very special exhibition - that of Frances Hodgkins, 'The Link with Kapiti' (Field Collection).

Frances Hodgkins (1869-1947) is one of our most internationally renowned artists, with much of her work completed in Great Britain.

She was born in Dunedin and took lessons from GP

Nerli, an Italian artist. She gained first class passes in the prestigious South Kensington examinations.

In the 1890s she travelled throughout NZ sketching, painting portraits and landscapes as well as completing illustrations for publications, such as The Witness and the Otago Daily News.

In 1901 she went to England and travelled widely

throughout Europe. Her work was accepted for the highly respected Royal Academy.

From 1919 she started painting in oils. She was greatly influenced by European painting.

Still life and landscapes interested her most in latter years.

Her work is widely exhibited in Europe, Australia and New Zealand.

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# Blast in the New Year at the Oakura Beach Carnival

Start with a blast into 2015 at the Oakura Beach Carnival, Taranaki's famous New Year's Day celebration. Now running for its 45<sup>th</sup> year, this annual event features the mega water slide of at least twenty metres long. It'll be heaps of fun for kids of all ages - and their parents.

The Oakura New Year's Day Carnival organisers have been able to secure great entertainment for this exciting day. Tom Batchelor, X Factor favourite, returns to Taranaki to headline the stage acts which include Blistered Fingers and Plain Motion from NPBHS. World class FMX freestyle

motocross professional riders, Nick Franklin and Luke Price, will perform daring tricks mid-air that will wow the crowd. Their aerobatics have given these stars licence to ride with Nitro Circus and the Crusty Demons. Nick is keen to show off some of his tricks that have him keep touring the world as a Red Bull X Fighter.

Old favourites like the Little Miss Taranaki and Mr Muscles contests for under 10 year olds are back. There will also be The Great Big Dig, helicopter rides, and plenty of food options - from kebabs to ice cream as well as an array of retail stalls.

Admission is free - how rare it that - although a gold coin donation will be gratefully received by the organisers.

"We are excited to be able to offer the carnival again to

children, families and wider Taranaki community and we also hope that through the generous donations we are able to give back and support groups that practice within our community," says

one of the organisers, Sara Greensill-van Prehn.

People attending will also be encouraged to help the community by buying a ticket, or tickets, in the Quick Fire raffles that will run on

the day. Besides, the chances of winning are so much higher than other known commercial activities.

The event starts at 11.00am on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January, of course, at Oakura Beach.



*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  
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ily events like sack races, three legged races, and we are encouraging artists to sketch a-scene in our outdoor garden art room, or budding photographers to submit their pic of the day, perhaps a family portrait or a snapshot that captures the theme of theme of the day. It's the sort of fun families had together seven or more decades ago when Tupare was the home of Sir Russell Matthews and his family."

For early birds, a guided walk starting at 8.30am will be an opportunity to learn more about the history of the property and its stunningly landscaped gardens, carved out of a hillside overlooking the Waiwhakaiho River.

The Garden runs from 10am to 3pm, so forget breakfast and come for brunch or lunch.

There will be tasty treats from local 'foodies' including hotcakes and great coffee, pastries and breads, gourmet burgers, bacon' butties' or a vegetarian delight.

Stay for a satay or a sizzler, a Sauvignon or a cold beer - or perhaps a toffee apple, popcorn or a fresh organic juice.

Be entertained with live local music performances, and enjoy the garden art, plants and keepsakes not to mention the family fun, demonstrations on the river, pony rides and gymnastics. There's fantastic times and something for everyone.

**11am Start** **Free Entry!**

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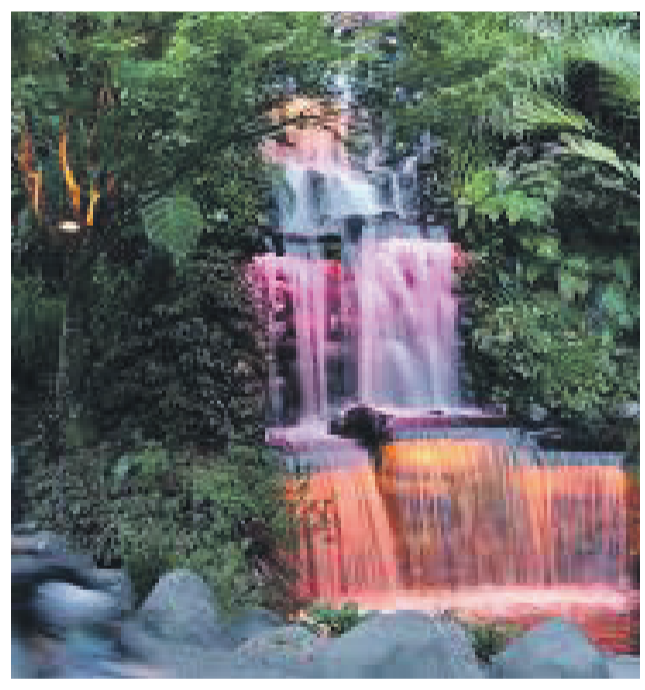
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Pukekura Park's iconic summer festival wants you to 'Share the Magic'! The TSB Bank Festival of Lights opens this Sunday (14 December) with a new programme of feature light installations, evening entertainment and daytime activities for children and families. "Every day is different during the festival, so people can return throughout summer and have a new experience that's memorable and fun," says Manager Events Melissa Devine-Collins. "The festival's theme is 'Share the Magic', which originates from the feeling of magic when you enter the festival for the first time and share the experience with friends and family. "We're also running a Share the Magic competition with a \$2,000 Air New Zealand travel voucher as the prize – just look for the oversized photo frame by the row boats to take part." Poet's Bridge is the site of the lighting installation Cloud 9, which encompasses

giant bird nests, large water droplets and the rich colours of a sunset reflecting on stylised cloud formations. Tripping the Light uses glowing spheres across Fountain Lake to create waves of colourful patterns, and Flock of Birds brings a new dimension to the black-light area. The evening On Stage entertainment starts on Boxing Day, and the programme includes a free concert in the TSB Bowl of Brooklands that featuring New Zealand X-Factor favourites Moorhouse, a Rod Stewart tribute performance by Rud Stewart, New Plymouth, singer/songwriters and Wellington nine-piece Balkan Gypsy brass band Niko Ne Zna. On Stage is supported by TSB Community Trust, and will have performances on the Taranaki Daily News Stage at the Hatchery Lawn six days a week (excluding Mondays), and on the ITL Engineering Stage at the Boat Shed Lawn on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. The daytime Summer Scene programme is sponsored by Tag Oil and Horizon Energy Services and includes a fun scavenger hunt, the hugely

popular big beach dig, craft-making, dance workshops and magician shows. "The Twilight Movies in the Park programme is always really popular, and we have The Golden Bearing sculpture back as well as the TSB Bank bubble kiosk and the illuminated row boats on the Main Lake," says Mrs Devine-Collins. The TSB Bank Festival of Lights runs until 24 January. Festival programmes are being delivered to Taranaki households, and are also avail-

able at New Plymouth District Council's Civic Centre, TSB Bank branches, Taranaki i-SITES and Taranaki libraries. This year the TSB Bank Festival of Lights was named New Zealand's Most Outstanding Event by the New Zealand Recreation Association (NZRA), and the Best Established Community Event by the New Zealand Association of Event Professionals. More information about the festival, its programme of events and the Share the Magic competition is online at festivaloflights.nz.



**Stoney Oaks Wildlife Park**  
Open Boxing day and Daily during the Holidays till the end of Jan 11am to 4pm No Eftpos

Don't miss the Ultimate Animal Experience. We are bottle feeding: a fallow deer fawn, highland calf, goats and lambs so don't forget your camera. Take a fairy bushwalk, row the boat, meet our bison and yak, kiss a llama, brush highland calves, rub pigs tummies and hand feed possums, cuddle baby rabbits. Bring a picnic and enjoy close encounters of the animal kind.

Ph 06 756 7624 for prices & directions.



# Lord Rutherford and the Lighthouse



The replica of the Cape Egmont Lighthouse which also houses a fascinating museum on Lord Rutherford is well worth visiting.

The museum and replica lighthouse is open every weekend from 11am till 3pm on Saturday and Sunday.

The lighthouse which is alongside the Cape Egmont Boat Club at the end of Bayly Road, is a replica of the Cape

Zealand's most famous son, Nobel Prize winner Ernest Rutherford. Lord Rutherford's family settled at Pungarehu in - Lower Parihaka Road - where they ran a flax mill as a family business. Sadly the original house in Tipoka which they built has since been pulled down. Ernest Rutherford also interestingly invented smoke detectors, of particular interest to Brian who has been a

member of the Opunake Fire Service for 53 years.

A climb to the top of the replica lighthouse is rewarded with panoramic views of the coast.

The original Cape Egmont Lighthouse which was originally on Mana Island near Wellington, has stood in its present location since 1870.

If anyone is interested in becoming a volunteer to man one of the coast's true treasures, they can contact one of the trustees on the Cape Egmont Trust, Len Pentelow, Ron Thomson and Chris Aylward.

**Visit the Cape Egmont Light and Museum – visit a site of fascinating local history. See displays of the light house, and shipwrecks along the coast, and a presentation of how the light evolved and worked.**

**Open Saturday- Monday, 10.30 – 2.30pm. Bayley Road, Warea - \$2 donation.**

**Cape Egmont Historic Light & Museum**  
**Open 11am - 3pm Weekends**

**Gold Coin Donation - Bayly Road, Warea**

## Lord Rutherford

**at home with the RUTHERFORDS**

**JAMES AND MARTHA'S STORY**

James Rutherford was a practical, hard-working man who valued education because he had little himself. He grew up near Nelson, working alongside his father and brothers to clear land, grow crops. He became a wheelwright, general engineer and flax miller.

James and his brothers fought with the Volunteers in the Taranaki land wars during the 1860's.

Martha Rutherford (nee Thompson) emigrated from England when she was 13 with her mother to New Plymouth, where her uncles ran Shuttleworth Bros, Merchants and later also the White Hart Hotel. Martha was evacuated to Nelson as a war refugee in 1860 after their farmhouse was burned down during the Taranaki land wars.

**FAMILY LIFE**

Martha was a school teacher until she married James Rutherford in 1866 and began her own family of 12 children.

She taught her children to read, spell one syllable words and know their multiplication tables to 12, before they started school. Three of her boys died at Havelock, two drowned and one of whooping cough.

**NORTH TO TARANAKI**

In the South Island, James' business was not going well. His brother had established a flax mill at Foxton so James searched the coast for a good flax area which he found in the newly opened lands of the Taranaki coast.

On January 30, 1888, the Rutherford family, all their household possessions, 3 horses, flax mill engine, wagons, 3 Havelock men to staff the mill and 800 birch sleepers for fence posts were loaded onto the steamer S.S. Murray, bound for New Plymouth. They arrived the next day, after a very rough passage.

**THE S.S. MURRAY**

117 feet long with an iron hull, she worked between Pictou, Havelock and Nelson and the West Coast. It cost £10,000 to charter the ship for the move.

### One of the exhibits at the Museum

Ernest Rutherford who graces our \$100 note, received the Nobel Prize for Chemistry for his work on radioactivity.

At the time the Rutherfords came to Pungarehu - Ernest's parents James and Martha briefly previously ran the White Hart Hotel in New Plymouth - the land had been open to settlers for a few years. Martha was a school teacher before marrying and having 12 children. She taught all the children to read and do their multiplication tables before they started school.

James, practical and hardworking also valued education though he had little himself, became a wheelwright, general engineer and flax miller.

James and the two older boys set up a flax mill at Tipoka just south of Pungarehu. Later they established two more flax mills at Warea and Opunake - the latter, the last to close, in 1930.

Ernest who was 17 at the time his parents moved to Pungarehu completed his education at Nelson College later joining the family. He left New Zealand in

189 and was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1908 for his investigations into the disintegration of elements and the chemistry of radioactive substances. He also deduced the structure of the atom.

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**Peter Snell 1500 metre event**

A 1500 metre run/walk for all ages and abilities to be held on

**Thursday January 15, 2015 at 10.15am.**

Certificates will be issued for all competitors, entry fee is a gold coin donation. Enter on the day from 9.30am.

The event will be down the main street to the Sandfords Event Centre and return starting at the Peter Snell statue.

For further information contact **BILL HAYWARD 761 8772** or email: [abill.hayward@gmail.com](mailto:abill.hayward@gmail.com)



**OPUNAKE LAKESIDE LIONS**

**Golf Ball Roll**  
**Friday January 9**  
 50c per ball  
 Sales at top of Middletons Bay Hill  
 Rolling from 5.30pm  
 Sausage sizzle and Drinks available

**Collins Sports**  
**Take a Kid Fishing Day**  
 in conjunction with the  
 Opunake Surfcasting & Angling Club

**7th January 2015**  
 start fishing from 5.30am  
 Age limit is  
 Primary school & under  
 \$2 Entry Fee  
 Registration at  
 Collins Sports Centre  
 Weigh in at Opunake Beach  
 (Lions Stage) from 6-6.30pm  
 (don't be late)

**Heaps of Spot Prizes**  
**2 Major Spot Prizes at the end of prizegiving!**  
 Contact: Collins Sports 06 761 8778  
 Paddy 027 230 5820

# Opunake Beach Carnival 2014

## Collins Sports Centre Take a kid fishing

Take a kid fishing will be held on Wednesday 7th January the competition is open to all children primary school age and under. Mums and Dads get out there and get the kids fishing. Great prizes to be won. Register at Collins Sports Centre, \$2 entry fee applies.

We will weigh any species caught on the day on a hook line and sinker. No nets please. Final weigh in will be at 6-6.30pm scales at the Opunake Beach stage followed by prize giving and a lolly scramble, and a sausage sizzle.

**Brian has all the fishing gear fr kids of all sizes**



## Wave Church Bushwalk to Waiuia Hut

Friday 9th January - a tramp up the gentle slopes of Mt Taranaki to the Waiuia Hut as part of the Opunake Beach Carnival programme. The walk is a fairly easy one for anyone with reasonable fitness - it is about 2- 2 1/2 each way. The track fol-

lows an old road that leads up to the remnants of the old Oaonui Hut, before traversing across to the Waiuia Gorge Hut where there are spectacular views up the west side of the mountain. The Waiuia Hut is an ideal place to eat lunch.

The walk will start at 10am. Participants should bring lunch, drink, sturdy comfortable footwear and a waterproof jacket. Meet at the top of the Upper Ihaia Road. The cost is \$10 per adult, \$3 per child under 13 years. The walk is organised

by The Wave Church with funds going towards their mission trip to Thailand in 2015.

There will be refreshments supplied at the end of the walk.

Phone Murray Baylis 761 8067 for more information.

Opunake & Lakeside Lions Present the **Opunake Beach Carnival** FREE ADMISSION

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**COLLINS SPORTS CENTRE** TASMAN ST, OPUNAKE PHONE: 06 761 8778

**LIONS INTERNATIONAL**

**TSB Community Trust**

**SATURDAY JANUARY 10**

7/1/15	<b>COLLINS SPORTS CENTRE TAKE A KID FISHING</b> - Registrations on the day or previously at Collins Sports Centre, Opunake \$2 - Weigh in at the Opunake Beach Stage that evening at 6-6.30pm. Don't be late. Great prizes!	Brian Collins (06) 761-8778 or Paddy Walsh (06) 761-8863 027 230 5820
9/1/15	<b>WAVE CHURCH BUSH WALK TO WAIUAU HUT</b> WHERE - Upper Ihaia Rd, Opunake 10.00am. \$10 adult \$5 under 13 Contact Murray Baylis 761 8067 Fundraising for Mission Trip to Thailand	
9/1/15 5.30pm	<b>GOLF BALL ROLL</b> Middletons Bay	
	<b>CARNIVAL DAY!</b>	
10/1/14	150 YEARS CELEBRATORY PRIZE DRAW 3 MAJOR PRIZES 1 X \$500 2 X \$250	
10am-2pm	<b>HOURLY RAFFLES</b> - All good prizes <b>BABY, TOTS, MR MUSCLE, OPUNAKE MR MUSCLES (13 yrs &amp; over), MISS TEEN &amp; MISS OPUNAKE CAMPBELL CONTRACTING BIG DIG</b> 3 Sections - everyone gets a prize. 3 MAJOR PRIZES	

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## Golf Ball Roll



The Lakeside Lions Golf Ball Roll is being held Fri 9 Jan 5.30pm at Middleton's Bay: 50c per ball, sausage sizzle \$1 drinks \$1 and fun prizes come and roll with us.

**Proud Sponsor of the TAKE A KID FISHING - Wednesday 7th January**

**Register in store**

**Kids fishing sets from \$25**  
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**Brian has all you need to catch a feed!**  
 Merry Christmas from the staff at Collins Sports Centre

**COLLINS SPORTS CENTRE**  
 Tasman St, Opunake Ph 06 761-8778



# Opunake Beach Carnival 2014

## Opunake Beach Carnival Day



Get in early to get a great spot at the Opunake Beach Carnival

Have great fun in the sun at the 2015 Beach carnival to be held on Saturday 10th January - no entry fee a great day for the whole family.

Bring your beautiful babies, toddlers and mini muscle men to show off their talents at the Opunake Beach stage contests. First contest starts at 10am The Big Dig which will run from around lunch time. Every entrant gets a prize with major prizes being brand new bikes Sponsored by Campbell Contracting and

supplied by Collins Sports Centre.

Miss Opunake Beach contests will be held in the afternoon. Categories will be Miss Junior Opunake 10-12 years, Miss Teen Opunake 13-15, and Miss Opunake 16 years and over. Fantastic prizes. \$2 per entry, Miss Opunake is \$5 to enter.

All day activities include Mini Jeeps, Merry go Round, Bouncy Castles, Bumpit Zorb balls and a Shooting gallery with hourly prize draws food, coffee and crafts for sale.



The dragon at Opunake Beach is popular in summer



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OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

### OPUNAKE GOLF CLUB



**BUSINESS HOUSE MIXED AMBROSE**

**Starts Wednesday January 21, 2015**

Entry Fee \$10 per team per night (meals available)

Tee Off: between 4.30 to 6.30pm

Teams: of 4 (golfers and non-golfers)

If you require players or are available to play contact Golf Club 761-8070 or Lawrence Robins 763 8770

**Everyday Play Available**

\$10 Green Fees - Affiliated Golfers

\$15 for Non Affiliated

Students \$10



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# A good day for a walk in progress

It is now possible to start walking from anywhere in Opunake and reach the Opunake Walkway. Although the largest formal walkway in South Taranaki, it is very much a walk in progress, something that is being added to all the time. The latest stretch, developed in the last year, links the Opunake Cemetery to Hickey Place. The new stretch of walkway includes a site where it is believed the first cannonball in New Zealand was fired in 1834.

There are plans to develop the walkway further, with the possibility of it beginning with a walk under the Waiuaa Bridge being considered.

It is now possible for visitors to see and experience the town's history by just following the signposts. Whether it be the lake, the beach, Middleton Bay, the Cliff Top Garden or the additions lovingly placed there by just some of the volunteers who have made their contributions over the years. Among the latter are Olive's Grove, named after Olive Armstrong, and Dudley's Bridge, named after Dudley Morris, a stalwart of the local Lions Club and a longtime sup-

porter of the Walkway.

Once known as the Lions Walkway, the efforts made by the Opunake Lions Club over the years include the Lions Lookout giving visitors striking views of the Opunake coastline.

From the Walkway it is possible to look over to the historic Te Namu pa site. It was here in 1834 that 800 invading Waikatos were stopped dead in their tracks by Taranaki Maori under Wiremu Kingi te Matakatea.

The Orimupiko and Armed Constabulary cemeteries mark the places where many people associated with the town left this life, while the Opunake Cottage Hospital is the place where many began



Mary Dobie's grave.



On the walkway round Opunake Lake.

their life journeys. Among the latter was Peter Snell. Born here in 1938, he now lives in Texas. In between he became one of this country's greatest sportsmen, winning the double of gold medals in the 800 and 1500 metres at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

Among other points of interest is the memorial to Mary Dobie. A 27 year-old Englishwoman, her brother-in-law was commander of

the Egmont military camp, and she was due to return to England. A noted illustrator, her work had been published in the London Gazette. On November 25, 1880, she went to sketch Te Namu Bay. Her body was found in a flax bush, with throat cut, later that night. The original suspect was one Walter Stannard, but then a local Maori named Tuhiata confessed. He was later hanged.

# Peter Snell's 1500 to be marked in home town's 150<sup>th</sup>

Opunake will again honour their famous son this summer. Born in Opunake in 1938, Peter Snell achieved the double of gold medals in the 800 and 1500 metres at the 1964 Olympics, a feat very rarely achieved at the same Olympics.

The first Peter Snell Fun Run, held earlier this year, attracted 400 entrants.

"I was amazed. I said at the time it was fantastic," Bill Hayward who organised the first event said. So successful was the run that it was decided to do it all again this summer on January 15.

When Peter Snell achieved gold at Tokyo, the 1500 metres was known as the mile. Fifty one years later, metrics have replaced imperial measurements, and the mile is now the 1500 metres. With 2015 being the year Peter Snell's old home town celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and the run beginning at 10.15am, the symmetry

seemed ideal.

Tasman Street will be closed from 9.45-11am for the Peter Snell 1500 metre event.

"We will have a decent lot of prizes like we did last year," Bill said.

Entry is by gold coin donation and the run will be 1500 metres, starting at the Peter Snell statue, turning around near the high school, and finishing up back at the statue.



Opunake's tribute to its famous son.

# Opunake Golf Club



## Opunake Golf Club Namu Road.

The Opunake Golf Club is located 2.5km up Namu Road, 3kms north of Opunake. The original Club was a 9 hole links course located on the cliff tops behind the present Cottage Rest Home.

The course is contained on 125 acres. It was originally a 'West Coast Settlement Reserve Lease' owned by John Halpin.

The present site was purchased in 1969 and on 23 November 1970 it was resolved that the freehold

be purchased. Financing of the purchase was by way of 320 debentures of 25 dollars, mostly taken up by the members. The remainder was taken up by public-spirited members of the community.

The new course was opened for play in 1971.

Sheep graze on the fairways. They are mowed on a regular basis and the greens are kept in excellent condition.

The course is 5309 metres. The course is surrounded by Pohutukawa trees and Pine

trees, with great views of the mountain and sea.

The par 71 course has a first nine of 36 and a second nine of 35. Overall there are four par fives, nine par fours and five par threes. The shortest hole is 112 metres and the longest hole is 436 metres.

A modern and spacious clubhouse provides members and visitors with a pleasant atmosphere to enjoy the social side of golf. The club offers golfers a hospitable welcome and a true country

experience.

The clubhouse and course are also used by other groups and businesses for various activities.

## Club Information

President L W Robins 7638770

Mens Club Captain J Deegan Ph 7617010

Ladies Club Captain: Diane Williams (06) 761 8802.

Ladies Secretary: Wendy Vickers (06) 274 5690

Clubhouse: (06) 761 8070.

PostOfficeBox75,Opunake. Membership: 110 members

Club Days: Men, Sunday

Ladies: Tuesday

Ladies: (9 holers) Tuesday or Saturday 9.30am

Subscriptions: Men and Ladies \$300

Junior (Primary School) \$30.00 (Secondary School) \$60, Summer Sub \$150.00 Associate \$150.00

Greens Fees: on affiliated \$15 affiliated \$10

## Rahotu Four Square

Surf Highway 45, Rahotu  
Ph: 06 763 8862

Merry Christmas and a happy  
New Year to you all.  
All the best for 2015  
Donald, Maree and Staff

Spend \$25 or more til December 24th and go in  
the draw for a \$100 gift basket (1st prize),  
\$75 gift basket (2nd prize), \$50 gift basket  
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**Four Square Colouring in Competition!**

2 age groups

Pre-school - 6 years and 7-12 Years

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# A great place for a summer stroll

Visit the Dawson Falls/ Te Rere o Kapuni roadend this summer. This spot in the Mt Taranaki/ Egmont National Park offers a range of walks from under an hour to over four hours.



**Wilkie Pools, a popular summer walk at the Dawson Falls road end.**

The five minute barrier free walk to the Dawson Falls Power Station lets you see one of the world's oldest continuously operating generators and a 10 minute walk from the carpark gets you to Te Rere o Noke or Dawson Falls. Maori know the waterfall as The Falls of Noke, named after the warrior who hid from his pursuers behind the falls.

Wilkie Pools is well worth a visit and the walk to the pools, is barrier free. Manual wheelchair users may need a push in a couple of places but the boardwalk heading through the goblin forest, offers a friendly surface. If you continue on, and this part is not barrier free, you'll

cross the Kapuni Stream, (impassable in heavy rain), before meandering past small waterfalls, bubbling springs and the intake weir for the power station.

A family friendly 1 hour 30 minute walk will get you to Waingongoro Hut where you can stay the night. Buy your tickets before you set out. It's \$15 for adults (18+

years), \$15 for youths, (11 to 17 years) and children 10 years and under are free. There are 16 bunks here and it operates on a first come, first served basis.

Syme Hut and Lake Dive Hut are other popular overnight tramping destinations. It's a challenging climb to Syme Hut - 5 to 6 hours return, while Lake Dive is

a 7 to 8 hour return tramp. The lower level track crosses many streams while the upper track takes you up into the tussock fields. Combine the two for a varied tramp.

And if it's a organised walk you want, try the one to Waiaua Hut on January 3 run

by the Wave Church. Meet at the end of Ihaia Road at 10am. You'll head up the Ihaia Track for two hours and you're there! You'll need your lunch, some sunscreen, water and a hat...and something warm to wear in your backpack. It's easy coming

down!

DOC's looking for your feedback on the National Park. Complete the online survey before January 17 <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/mttaranaki> or pick one up from the Dawson Falls Visitor Centre.



**Just one of numerous huts on Mount Taranaki.**



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**Hazlewood's Horse Ornament Museum**

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# Summer water safety

This summer the people of Taranaki will again flock to beaches, rivers and lakes for fun and relaxation. Most, at least to some degree, recognise that all aquatic environments present potential hazards, yet they are often unsure of what precautionary measures can be taken

to make their enjoyment of these playgrounds as safe as possible. Always remember SAFETY, when enjoying the water, must be the first priority. It's a parent's responsibility to keep their kids safe in and around the water. Supervision without any distractions is the single most important

precaution you can take. Proper supervision in and around water means a responsible adult keeping young children in their care both WITHIN SIGHT and WITHIN REACH. If you haven't already, start your child's water safety education, teach them simple rules about what's acceptable when enjoying the water, like always being with an adult and swimming between the flags at the beach. Enjoying the beach should be both safe and fun, especially if you follow a few basic safety tips. Swim Between the Flags and listen to the advice of lifeguards. On patrolled beaches surf lifeguards put up yellow and red flags on beaches where they are patrolling. The area between the flags is constantly monitored and is the safest place to swim at the beach. For those that love their fishing and diving don't let the rush to enjoy these activities lead to tragedy. Skippers you are responsible for the safety of all on board. Manage the risk by always taking and wearing life jackets, checking the marine weather forecast, ensure you have at least 2 reliable means of communication and leave the alcohol back on shore to be enjoyed later



Shinae Gallyer and Charlie Hooper love the water at the Opunake Community Swimming Pool.

along with those 'the one that got away' stories. Divers, please DiveSafe

this summer, never dive alone and plan your dive and dive your plan.

For more information on enjoying the water safely visit [www.watersafety.org.nz](http://www.watersafety.org.nz)

**LOTTO**

Make summer last forever

**200 Extra Prizes to be won!**

Merry Christmas and happy New Year from the team at Opunake Post & Lotto - 06 761 8687

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Senior Opunake Lifeguard Michael Corkill takes the new volunteers through their Bronze Medallion course.

## Keeping our countryside clean and green this summer

Rural communities are gearing up for the summer holidays and Rural Women NZ would like to remind campers of some simple steps to keep our countryside clean and green, just as we like to promote it. campers, especially those

without onboard toilet facilities, should camp in designated areas such as holiday parks and Department of Conservation camping grounds to avoid problems seen in past years of unwanted 'leftovers'. "For the past few years we

have been highlighting the problem of campers without onboard toilet facilities fouling our rural roadsides and the emptying of effluent and grey water down cattle stops and roadside drains," says Liz Evans, Rural Women New Zealand national president. "We have seen some improvement since the Freedom Camping Act was passed in 2011 and need to keep this up." The [www.camping.org.nz](http://www.camping.org.nz) website provides a 'one stop shop' for campers. It includes information on keeping safe, facilities, regional camping, what to do and where to stay in New Zealand. If people are wanting to 'freedom camp' they should assume nothing, and check with i-Site visitor centres or Department of Conservation offices to find out where they can freedom camp. "And if you're travelling in a rural community, and you're not sure, ask a local."

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# Everybodys Theatre



Everybody's Theatre is open during the Holidays thanks to a recent upgrade and earthquake strengthening. Come and see the latest movies in Opunake.



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Rahotu Panel & Paint wishes to thank all their customers for their support over the last year. We wish you a Merry Christmas and good luck for 2015

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# Tawhiti Museum



Tawhiti Museum is a must do experience for everyone of all ages! Visit the Museum, Ride the Bush Railway and grab a bite at Mr Badgers Cafe.

A diorama at the Tawhiti Museum tells the story of an incident in 1869 when four months after the battle at Te Ngutu o te Manu, Colonel McDonnell left Wanganui to return to Te Ngutu to check out if any Maori had returned to re-occupy that site. What makes this story interesting is not so much whether the village had been re-occupied, but who Mc-

Donnell took with him on this audacious trek into the 'enemy territory' beyond the Waingongoro River. 'Kupapa' is the word given to those Maori who chose to fight on the side of the Pakeha during this turbulent period. They normally acted as infantry – front line skirmishers and scouts – but on this occasion he supplied his sixty Kupapa with horses and

all the necessary equipment for the daring expedition. As his mounted unit moved north from Wanganui it passed through the lines of some elitist Pakeha cavalry – the 'Wanganui Volunteer Cavalry' and the 'Kai Iwi Cavalry'. But so incensed were they to be upstaged by these ragged pretenders that they refused to serve alongside their Kupapa allies.

They were promptly ordered to return to their respective camps and await discipline on McDonnell's return.

Unfortunately how exactly they were disciplined has not been recorded, but it serves to illustrate the distinctly fragile relationship that existed between Maori and Pakeha - even when they were fighting on the same side!

## See Ron's attic

Well worth a look is the restored attic where Ronald Hugh Morrieson (1922-1972), Taranaki's best known writer, wrote his four novels. He is the only New Zealand writer to have all his novels made into feature films. Ron was also a musician of

great ability, who played in bands, as well as being an excellent music teacher. After sitting in a paddock in Hawera for about 19 years following the demolition of the writer's Regent Street home, Nigel Ogle, the owner/curator of Te Whiti Museum, painstakingly restored

the attic at great expense. There are some interesting items of memorabilia including part of the film set of the filmed version of his novel 'Predicament'. There is also a video, which had a number of interesting interviews of people who knew him personally. One surprise

– Ron has a son. The mother was Georgina, his girlfriend at one time. In the restored attic is a realistic model of Ron busily writing at his desk, amidst his bed, furniture and musical instruments. He is looking out towards what was once Regent Street, Hawera.

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# DINING & ACCOMMODATION GUIDE

Taranaki



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# DINING & ACCOMMODATION GUIDE

Taranaki



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# NZ FARMERS LIVESTOCK

# Taking a century to see in a New Year

On New Year's Eve at the Opunake Surf Inn, Tansi Productions dancers will combine with favourite local singers Unity Wara and Tira Wilson to celebrate 100 years of service to the local coastal community. They will be bringing you top hits from the last century, including the Burlesque 20's to Cabaret 30's, the swinging 40's, the rocking 50's and

60's, and into the 70's with all those favourites such as The Beegee's, ABBA, and some good old Motown classics. Later they will see

the New Year in with a mix of 80's iconic rock songs, and party after midnight through the 2000's. The Opunake coastal

community will get a real chance to bring in the New Year with plenty of music, dance, and fun at this truly iconic venue.



Performers Cassy Woller, Unity Wara and Erin Tate will be presenting a stunning showcase at the Opunake Surf Inn on New Years Eve.

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# CRV Ambreed celebrates 45 years



Mr Haslett with the paper cow.

It's a momentous year for CRV Ambreed, who this year celebrates its 45th year in business.

The company, now part of the world's third largest artificial breeding company, has come a long way in the last 45 years.

It was set up by a small group of farmers in 1969 under the company name American Breeders Service. The founders began operating in a facility on the outskirts of Hamilton in 1970, with a core business of dairy semen production for the New Zealand market.

Managing Director Angus Haslett said the company has had 'a couple of changes' since then, the most recent and significant when it was purchased by a large 30,000-farm Dutch cooperative CRV Delta in 2003 to become CRV Ambreed.

"CRV Ambreed, or American Breeders Service as it was known at the time, was the first company in New Zealand to operate a licensed

artificial insemination centre outside a producer border control when we began operating out of our bull centre in 1970," said Mr Haslett.

"Now we have about 25 per cent market share in New Zealand and we are exporting high quality semen to South America, South Africa, Australia, parts of North America, and UK and Ireland. About 1.8 million straws of semen are distributed to domestic and export markets from its facilities each year," said Mr Haslett. "As we have grown we have adjusted our facilities to support that growth, but it's only this year that we have taken our business to the next level and built a purpose built facility where we can create excellence and continue to grow well into the future," said Mr Haslett.

### The changing face of CRV Ambreed

In 1973, Animal Breeding Services Ltd merged its interest with American Breeders Service, the world's larg-

est AI company.

"This bought a far wider range of the top North American beef bulls to New Zealand, as well as the technical assistance of the vast American company," said Haslett.

This merger was dissolved in 1976 when the Kiwi staff of Ambreed NZ Ltd. purchased the interest of American Breeders Service.

The new company operated as Ambreed NZ (1976) Ltd. for a short time, later to be changed to Ambreed NZ Ltd.

In July 1983, the total shareholding of Ambreed NZ Ltd. was purchased by Animal Enterprises Ltd., one of New Zealand's largest livestock exporting firms. In 1989, New Zealand Dairy Board bought Ambreed NZ Ltd. from Animal Enterprises Ltd.

"At this stage, almost one-quarter of all the dairy cows in New Zealand were mated

to CRV Ambreed produced semen," tells Haslett.

NZDB continued ownership of CRV Ambreed until 1997 when once again staff successfully negotiated a management buyout. At that stage the company was supplying some of the highest merit sires to the industry and continuing to offer a wide range of genetics, ranging and services to the dairy industry.

In 2003, the company was sold to CRV Delta, a global AI company based in Holland who was world renowned for their capabilities in AI, herd recording, animal evaluation indexing and dairy cattle development. CRV Delta is a farmer cooperative with some 30,000 farmer shareholders.

"With having not far off half a century of experience in the local market, CRV Ambreed has been a pioneer in bringing the latest technology and herd improvement methods to New Zealand farmers.

"From introducing the first DIY artificial insemination training schools in 1972, to being the first to offer genomically selected bull teams and NZ-proven sexed semen in 2008, we've made it our job to provide the best and latest tools to help our farmer clients lead the world in grass-based seasonal dairy production," tells Haslett.

He said next month's opening of the CRV Bellevue Production and Logistics Centre will be more than fitting for a 45th birthday celebration for the company.

"The next 45 years are looking good for CRV Ambreed. We'd like to keep pace with organic growth and as we improve our product we will also improve our market share."

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Ash and Staff wish everyone a Merry Christmas and safe & happy motoring.

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# People urged to keep Emergency Department for real emergencies

The Taranaki Base Hospital is determined to keep its Emergency Department (ED) for real emergencies over the Christmas/New Year period. This follows a reduction in presentations at its ED over the past five months.

In Taranaki, both Medicross and Phoenix Urgent Doctors are available 24 hours. "Another example is parents concerned for their baby if they wake late at night with a temperature. They don't need to visit ED, but can instead call 0800 Healthline - it's a 24 hour service. Nurses will address the symptoms,

recommend a care plan and help to reassure worried parents," said Dr Ellington.

People can also download and use the free Healthline symptom checker app that provides expert health advice and information from Healthline, complementing the Healthline telephone ad-

vice service.

To download visit [www.healthline.govt.nz](http://www.healthline.govt.nz). If a patient comes into ED and would be better seen by a GP, ED staff are able to ring and make an appointment with the patient's GP or direct them to a general practice who are available so that care is not compromised.

Acting Head of Emergency Department, Dr Brad Ellington said, "Based on the reduced presentations at ED between July and November this year, we could expect 2500 less people through ED in 2015. This is a good start but we need to keep the momentum going over the Christmas holidays and keep ED for emergencies only."

While the festive season is often a time for families and individuals to celebrate, emergency departments in Taranaki are often stretched to their limits with increased patient admissions, particularly on Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Many presentations could be avoided had people gone to their GP's prior to the holidays.

Dr Ellington said, "It's really important people make an appointment to see their GP now and get organised by renewing prescriptions and making sure they are up to date with tests and other health needs before Christmas. This keeps the ED free to deal with patients who need serious and more urgent medical help over the holidays."

The Taranaki DHB and Midland Health Network has 96% of GPs in Taranaki working together to ensure patients are seen in the best place so they receive the best care and keep ED for emergencies only all year round.

"People do have other options," said Dr Ellington. "If someone suffers from a stroke, they can visit their pharmacy or urgent care centre instead of coming to ED."

## Moving house



A house on the move from Sutherland Road, Manaia to Arawhata Road, Oaonui. It has been a busy year for Taranaki Building Removers.

## Help share the word for road safety campaign

As part of the What Are You Missing road safety campaign, Let's Go has launched banners for use in Facebook posts or as email signatures.

"These banners have four key messages about road safety for all road users, whether you're on foot, on a bike or in a vehicle," says Transport Coordinator Liz Beck.

"We want people to be more aware of what's happening around them when they're

using the road - what are they missing? These banners are an opportunity for people to start a conversation about what they see on the road, and to perhaps have a think about what they can do to change their behaviour and make the road safer for everyone."

The banners can be downloaded from the Let's Go's website at [lets-go.org.nz/Getting-Around/share-the-road](http://lets-go.org.nz/Getting-Around/share-the-road). Shell Todd Oil Services General Manager Rob Jager encourages people to get involved in looking after each other on the roads.

"We want people go home safely every day to their families while still being able

to enjoy an active lifestyle in this wonderful region where we live. By using these banners, people are showing that they're part of the effort to have zero deaths on Taranaki roads this summer," says Mr Jager.

The four banner messages are: Make good decisions - never assume you have been seen when crossing the road. Look twice - when you quickly scan the road your brain only picks up what it is expecting to see, so take a second look. Be seen - be comfortable in bright colours when out walking and riding, and slow down - people can be unpredictable.



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# Nail and tanning salon comes to Opunake



Shontelle King in her newly opened nail and tanning salon.

Opunake now has its own nail and tanning salon.

Shontelle King has been caring for nails since 2007, gaining experience in Rotorua and Auckland through Tammie Taylor and Surmanti. She has now opened her own nail and tanning salon in Tasman Street, Opunake.

There's been a need for helping those who may have trouble cutting their own nails, whether through difficulty being able to reach, arthritis in the hands, the effects of an accident or other factors, Shontelle said.

Now people can come in and enjoy a foot soak, and a cut, file and buff of the toe nails, cuticle work, exfoliant of the foot and moisturising.

A small amount of acrylic can be put on the nail, and is useful for those times when the nail is ripped so far down the side that it can't be pulled off, and plasters get dirty and wet or keep slipping off. A small amount of acrylic that can't even be seen will take that whole hassle away. Also having acrylics can help nail biters knock that terrible habit.

Acrylics don't have to be

long or white and pink.

A splash of colour always looks good on your toes while wearing jandals. Shellac on your toe nails keeps them looking great for up to six weeks

Or come in and get a gorgeous all-over natural tan.

There's no orange here. It's all natural and made in New Zealand

Shontelle says she is happy to open in the evenings by appointment for those who work late, or those whose busy lifestyle makes this a more convenient time.

Shontelle is also selling a range of large wall art/stickers.

"I thought with all our farm houses and rentals in the district, large wall stickers are a sure way to brighten up a room without that huge cost, and without any damage to the walls. This is sure to win the kids over with their favourite super hero or heroine on their bedroom wall. It may even be a good distraction on the ceiling when putting your little one down for a sleep, or on the toilet door when toilet training."



Shontelle with some of her samples of the sticker art available for children's rooms.

Shontelle lives in Opunake with her five sons who go to Opunake Play Centre, Opunake Kindergarten, Opunake Primary School and Opunake High School.

"I have met such wonderful people here and made some amazing lifelong friends," she said.

"Opunake has been the perfect place to bring up five energetic boys. There is just so much to do here, and the people make this community such a wonderful place to be. The people here have just

all been so supportive, not just with the nail shop, but through the schools, kindy and the great parents who run the playcentre. I hope the nail shop will also help bring in out-of-town people to our lovely village as well."

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DELIVERY BY ARRANGEMENT

RIGHT: Sharon Arlidge was farewelled at St Pauls Co-operating Church a week ago. She and husband Warren are shifting to Wanaka, after an involvement with the Opunake community that has spanned more than 30 years.

As well as being chair of the St Pauls parish council, she was a member of the Egmont Plains Community Board for 10 years, seven of these as chair.

She will also be remembered by many as a teacher and deputy principal at Opunake High School.



## Sleep could slow relative decline-Study

### Sleep could slow relative decline-Study

A study has shown getting quality sleep could slow the cognitive decline associated with Alzheimer's disease, which affects around 1 in 100 New Zealanders. The research results, published in the Clinical Interventions in Aging journal, suggested getting a good night's sleep could be even more important than many would imagine - perhaps even helping to hold off mental deterioration. More than 48,000 Kiwis were estimated to suffer from Alzheimer's disease in 2011,

and that figure is projected to triple to affect 2.6% of the population by the year 2050. In the placebo-controlled study, some patients with Alzheimer's disease were treated with add-on prolonged-release melatonin (commonly called the 'sleep hormone') to measure the effects of increased sleep on their brains. According to the report, the melatonin had positive effects on cognitive function compared to the placebo treatment, suggesting a possible link between poor sleep and cognitive decline. The research has once again highlighted the importance of quality sleep, and the power it has to ensure good health in both body and mind. Sleep has been proven to affect almost every tissue in the body, and scientists believe getting regular deep sleep could help keep heart disease, obesity and diabetes at bay. Not only that, but getting enough sleep helps enable a clearer head, improved memory, and a stronger immune system. "Sleep is such an essential part of ensuring good health and mental acuity, no matter how old you are or what health issues you may be facing," says Simon Musgrave of

sleep support company Tru2U. "Sleep is as important to health as food and water. And studies like this one conducted on Alzheimer's patients are proving how much of an impact sleep could have on your quality of life not just now, but also as you age." Try to establish a regular time that you go to bed and get up every day - setting up a routine helps your body regulate sleep and get to sleep easier. Set a buffer of one hour before going to bed where you don't watch TV, use your computer or smartphone to allow your brain and body to calm down and relax before sleep. There are good quality natural remedies available if sleep is evading you - choose a product that contains tart cherries, such as Tru2U Sleep Support Montmorency Tart Cherry Juice Concentrate, as the phytonutrients present in the fruit have been shown to support healthy regular sleep patterns, for a restful nights sleep. If you're having trouble drifting off, try downloading an app to help you zone out - nature sounds, rain water falling on the roof, or meditation, it's all available at the click of a button and may help you get into deeper sleep, faster.

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## Celebrating peace on Earth at St Pauls



LEFT: St Pauls Co-operating Church has a Nativity Display open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and then again from December 19 to December 24, from 2pm to 4pm and 7pm to 9pm.

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### Santa's Lament

"I think it's time that I retired," said Santa Claus one day.

"It isn't Christmas now, it's just a 'Festive Holiday'. Children are not interested in teddies, dolls or trains; It's Play stations, computers, mobile phones, or guns and planes.

People have no time for Christ in Christmas celebrations,

They're far too busy texting all their friends and their relations.

They Twitter and they Tweet and then fill up their Facebook page

And give no thought to those who cannot earn a proper wage.

The planet may be warming but men's hearts are growing colder."

But all at once an Angel came and tapped him on the shoulder.

"Come, cheer up Santa, don't be glum; God laughs at Man's pretensions,

For who *created* silicon that triggered these inventions? In many places still you'll find the Christmas spirit thrives,

and volunteers bring Christmas cheer to homeless people's lives.

Full churches all around the world resound with songs of praise

To welcome in the Christ Child on the happiest of days.

Deep down in many people's hearts they know that God is there,

and when they really need Him they will turn to Him in prayer."

"To only pray in trouble," Santa frowned, "is not traditional."

"But don't forget," the Angel said, "God's love is unconditional.

The men who turned up late received exactly the same pay

as those who had been working hard since early in the day.

So quickly, Santa, get to work! don't keep the children waiting.

It's time to make those visits that they're all anticipating.

And don't retire, get with it! Treat those gadgets with aplomb,

then take the plunge and go online @santaclaus.com".

### On this month in history:

### Arthur Allan Thomas pardoned

On December 17, 1979 Arthur Allan Thomas, the farmer twice convicted of murder, was pardoned on the intervention of the Prime Minister of the time Robert Muldoon.

The murders of Harvey and Jeanette Crewe occurred in June 1970 at their home near Pukekawa.

As there were serious flaws in the case against Mr Thomas, he was awarded a free pardon and compensation of nearly a million dollars.

Later, it was discovered that a spent cartridge had been deliberately planted in the soil in the garden, by a detective (or detectives) in an attempt to incriminate Mr Thomas. There have been books written about the case and various theories put forward, but nothing conclusive.

Recently, Rochelle Crewe, daughter of the murdered couple, requested that the case be reopened.

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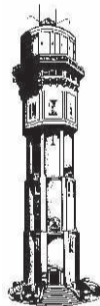
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FAIRVIEW  
WINDOWS & DOORS HAWERA

## Farmers will need tactics and supportive suppliers

DairyNZ has released a statement to support proactive action and understanding of the situation facing Dairy farmers this season. This follows the drop in Fonterra's forecast Farmgate Milk Price for the 2014/15 dairy farming season to \$4.70 from \$5.30.

This milk price is the lowest in the last six years, the milk price in 2008-09 having been \$4.75. DairyNZ is offering them some advice on tactics to cope with the challenging times ahead especially as costs have increased in that time.

DairyNZ's chief executive Tim Mackle says while managing in a low pay-out year is nothing new for many farmers, "We expect farmers will have to apply more thinking and planning around cashflow and business management decisions as a result of this latest forecast.

Around 86 percent of milk produced in New Zealand comes from Fonterra farmers. They will also be quite rightly expecting agri-business suppliers including banks to share the load and pitch in to help them manage their way through this.

"We'll be encouraging farmers to focus on making cost-effective choices, rather than just straight cost-cutting. Farmers will need a budget and projected cashflow that they update regularly in these circumstances. It's a concern to hear that a great number of farmers are not regularly monitoring cash budgets against actuals and it's an area where closer scrutiny can really pay off.

"If they don't have that then they should be talking to their accountant or banker and getting them involved in developing one. DairyNZ also has a range of budget templates to help farmers get started. It's all on our website or available through our 0800

DAIRYNZ number," he says.

"We are also pulling together research, data and lessons learned from similar seasons and providing this to farmers via events ahead of next season.

"Given that farmers have probably spent 60 percent of their total farm working expenses for this season by December, there is limited potential to cut back on farm working expenses.

"The main areas where farmers might make cuts could be repairs and maintenance this autumn and capital expenditure. Feed management decisions will need careful planning to ensure cows are in good condition for calving next year. Another area that requires close scrutiny is off-farm grazing costs for 2015 - farmers would do well to negotiate a better rate from their graziers when these are locked in early in the New Year.

"We've calculated that around a quarter of dairy

farmers are facing some business risk this season at the \$4.70 milk price. That means they will have difficulty meeting their interest payments, rent and farm working expenses without incurring more debt," he says.

A good level of retrospective payments over this past winter reflecting a record milk price last year have been crucial in boosting the total milk income for most farmers for 2014/15. "However, we are mindful that some people who started out this season will not have these payments and will need extra support," he says.

"We think the 2015/16 season is when things will crunch financially for many people. We are gearing up to help farmers share advice and options with each other for remaining profitable.

"We don't expect milk prices to recover in the first half of 2015. So the start of the season next year in June will be when things could get

really tough for farmers and they'll need a robust plan that includes some practical and useful tactics up their sleeve to cope financially."

DairyNZ's six tactics for farmers are:

1. Assess the current state of your business. The first step is to get clarity on your financial position.
2. Understand your options and create a plan.
3. Execute the plan well - keep the basics of good farm and business management in mind.
4. Focus on good pasture management to ensure you maximise use of what you can grow as feed within your own farming operation. Pasture has already been paid for. Don't waste it.
5. Identify those who can help you succeed and ask for and use that support.
6. Communicate with partners, staff, bankers, accountants and other rural professionals.



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Mark, Sam & the Team



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# One Year On - Water accord report released

A report on the first year of operation of the Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord has been released showing there has been good progress on key environmental actions including stock exclusion from waterways, effluent and riparian management and accreditation of expert advisers.

Some of the areas identified as needing more work by the industry are nutrient management data collection, effluent compliance in some regions and data collation and verification systems across all dairy companies.

The Water Accord is a voluntary dairy industry com-

mitment to improving water quality, led by DairyNZ, the Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand (DCANZ) and dairy companies.

A broader new Water Accord was launched in July 2013 involving all dairy companies, with a number of targets and commitments across the dairy sector.

DairyNZ's environmental policy manager Dr Mike Scarsbrook compiled the One Year On report with assistance from dairy company staff and other sector bodies.

Some of the key achievements highlighted in the

report include every dairy company having an assessment programme in place for new farm conversions, effluent assessment systems in place for farms across all dairy companies, stock exclusion from farm waterways across the country, and regionally-tailored waterway planting advice for farmers

"We've made meaningful progress in our first year of operation, and we'd like to thank farmers for all the work they have done. There is still a lot more to do but there are lots of examples where farmers are making a real contribution to improving

water quality," he says.

"We need to put a greater focus on nutrient management data collection at the farm level, and on how to benchmark and deliver useful information back to farmers. The dairy companies are going to lead a review of how we collect information across the industry to ensure we can gather more data and lift the level of reporting from farms," says Dr Scarsbrook.

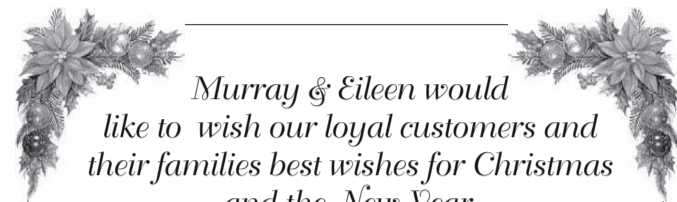
"We're going to learn from this report and keep on improving. The big focus is on getting better collation and alignment of how we collect our industry data across the

dairy companies for next year's report.

"We've achieved some, but not all our targets for this first year so we need to keep working on all the initiatives we have underway. We've got new EnviroReady field days for farmers, a Warrant of Fitness programme for effluent systems and 15 local projects focused on water-

ways. We are committed to proactive environmental stewardship," he says.

The industry is also working on a three year water use study on over 100 dairy farms across the country. Data from the first 59 farms was collected during the 2013/14 season. Preliminary results will be available in 2015.



*Murray & Eileen would like to wish our loyal customers and their families best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.*

*Thank you for supporting us!*

*We will be closed 25th - 28th Dec and 1st to 4th January.*

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## Growing dairy heifers - a focus on what good looks like

A Northland heifer-rearing focus farm is being established along with four others around the country as part of a DairyNZ-led initiative to provide graziers with the tools, knowledge and resources to grow dairy heifers more effectively.

An open day was due to be held on the Northland focus farm in Okaihau, owned by Alister and Lyn Candy, on November 26.

DairyNZ productivity team leader Rob Brandendale says that while DairyNZ has done a lot of work to help dairy farmers improve herd reproduction, working with graziers on growing heifers was a gap that needed to be addressed.

"Graziers as a group of farmers have been largely left to their own devices, and we want to change that by providing them with a forum to share knowledge.

"Heifers are the future of the dairy herd, and with the ban on inductions from next season, heifer rearing has become even more critical to improving a herd's

reproductive performance," says Rob.

"The grazier-dairy farmer relationship is key to growing great heifers, and they both have to get away from a 'them and us' situation. We want to create a win-win relationship where everyone contributes."

The focus farms will showcase good practice, provide a forum for sharing experiences and be actively involved in the development of knowledge, tools and resources for both graziers and dairy farmers.

A second Northland focus farm will be established near Mangawhai on graziers John and Geraldine Taylor's farm, with an open day to be held early 2015.

DairyNZ is establishing the focus farms in collaboration with dairy farmers, graziers, grazing companies and industry organisations Beef + Lamb and LIC.

Other focus farms will be located in King Country, Manawatu, and North Otago.

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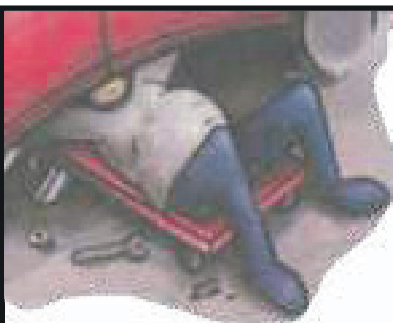
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20kg dog).

Signs of poisoning include vomiting, diarrhoea, restlessness, excitability and seizures. So if you find a chewed up scorched almonds box on the floor, or your chocolate cake turns into a pile of crumbs and dog slobber, you had better call immediately!

If you have one of those

garbage guts dogs that help themselves to the rubbish, be really careful with disposal of bones. Cooked bones, especially turkey and chicken carcasses, can be really dangerous and can get stuck

inside a dog just about anywhere from the front end to the back end! Give us a call if you have any concerns!

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## On this month in history: Tasman and Maori clash

On December 19, 1642 four of Abel Tasman's men were killed by Maori warriors in a small boat. Abel Tasman's men responded in kind - several Maori warriors were killed in retaliation. As his two ships sailed away he named the area Murderers Bay, but now it is called

Golden Bay.

The Dutch explorer is credited as being the first European to discover NZ, although supposedly he never landed. Captain James Cook was the first European to land in 1769.

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## Taranaki Development's Most Promising Player named

Jesse Parete has been named as the 2014 recipient of the Steelfab Taranaki Development Most Promising Player award. He plays for the Manaia Magic.

The former Hawera High School and NPBHS pupil Jesse Parete, 21, has a Manaia background where his mother has been the local constable and he hails from a strong rugby league background.

In Jesse's younger days he was a local and national sensation for the Normanby Okaiawa Knights before catching the eye of NRL scouts. In 2009 the back rower was named NZRL Young Player of the Year and signed for the Mel-

bourne Storm where he made regular Under 20 appearances.

2014 has been a moving year for Jesse Parete which culminated in a Tender-Link Taranaki ITM Cup cap against the Bay of Plenty Steamers and a Central Regions Sevens title with Nexans Olex Taranaki. However it was his continual eye catching performances for the Southern Sharks in the JD Hickman Premiership and the Steelfab Development team in the Northern Regions competition that have set the platform for a big year on the field.

A stand out lock or flanker for the Southern Sharks this season, Parete had a qual-

ity season under Kelvin McDowell where his raw strength, physicality around the ruck, his carries and an exceptional ability to offload the ball in contact came to the fore. At 1.86 metres and 105kg was able to breach the defensive line and setup those around him with ease.

Parete will be looking to continue his development as he strives towards his second Nexans Olex Taranaki Sevens national campaign over the coming six weeks.

Well done Jesse Parete, the Steelfab Taranaki Development Most Promising Player for 2014.

*Nikita Hall TRFU*

## Dances with fawns



These two delightful fawns are from Stoney Oakes Wildlife Park, near Inglewood.

## On this month in history: First NZ Olympic yachting gold medal

On December 5, 1956 the Canterbury yachtsmen Peter Mander and Jack Cropp won the Sharpie class at the Melbourne Olympic Games. This was the first time that NZ had competed in Olympic yachting. On their way to the gold

medal the pair won three of their seven races, with the Australians winning two. The New Zealanders won the gold medal on a count-back from the closest rivals, the Australians.

Peter Mander went on to become one of New Zealand's

most successful yachtsmen, with wins at world class level in many different kinds of boats.

In 1964 H Pedersen and E Wells won a gold in the Flying Dutchman class at the Tokyo Olympics.

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**FOR SALE**

**PIANO** - Challen suit learner, good condition. \$300 ono. Ph 761 8052

**MOBILITY SCOOTERS** new from \$999 Powerchairs, from \$1,999. Trade in needed. Lottery Grant Scooters + forms. Free Delivery. Scooterman 06 769 9061

**WHEELCHAIRS** from \$299. New models with attendant brakes, lightweight from 9kgs. Scooterman 06 769 9061

**WALKERS** folding with brakes + seat from \$159. New colours. Scooterman 06 769 9061

**CALF FEED** Keep you calves growing with BLM's Grower Blend - Effective and economical. Phone for a delivered price BLM Feeds Ph 0800 313 300

**PALM KERNEL** Available in bulk, small truck loads and bags. Ph BLM Feeds 0800 313 300

**PRO COW SHED** Balanced silo feed. Priced from \$424/tonne plus freight and GST. BLM Feeds 0800 313 300

**PRO COW** Proven range of feeds. Balanced, well priced and gives results. BLM Feeds Ph 0800 313 300

**LIQUID FEED** New blended products for energy and production. Excellent pricing. BLM Feeds Ph 0800 313 300

**SORE BACK** headaches, sciatica? Why not give the Bowen Technique a try. Available at Hardys the health shop in Centre City. Ph: 7587553 for an appointment.

**RAFFLE RESULTS**

**PRO COW 30** Economical energy feed. Effective for late cycling cows. BLM Feeds Ph 0800 313 300

**DDGS** Excellent high protein feed with energy. Available in bulk, small truck loads and 1 tonne bags. BLM Feeds Ph 0800 313 300

**MIXEDGRAINPELLETS** From BLM contains grains and legumes - excellent protein and starch source - very palatable. BLM Feeds Ph 0800 313 300

**DAIRY FEED** Mixed grain pellet/DDGS combo. Cost effective high energy high protein feed. Very economically priced. BLM

**SPIRULINA** 250 tabs \$35.40 get your greens daily for health, vitality and energy. At Hardys the health shop in Centre City. 7587553

**XYLITOL** natural sweetener, tastes just like sugar. Low GI and 75% less carbs. \$11.50 500grms At Hardys the health shop in Centre City. 7587553

**GARCINIA** Cambogia 12,000mgs powerful weight management product, with free Slimfast Energiser. \$37.40 At Hardys the health shop in Centre City. 7587553

**REMEMBER** our Christmas trays, handmade selection, of nuts, fruit, and sugar free, also made to order. Nice idea for Christmas when you are stuck for ideas. At Hardys the health shop in Centre City. 7587553

**WANTED TO BUY**

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

**SCRAP METAL** South Taranaki. S.O.S. - Ph Dave: 0276058437

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**OPUNAKE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION MEETING FEBRUARY 2, 2015 AT SANDFORDS EVENTS CENTRE**

5.30pm meeting then drinks and nibbles at 6.00pm courtesy of Venture Taranaki, who will be outlining their services including mentor schemes, painting schemes for business frontages etc. The Taranaki Chamber of Commerce will also be there along with Jonathan Young MP, Taranaki

**Playcentre**

Welcoming any new families into the area. Come and have a look at our child friendly facilities

Session Times: Tuesday & Thursday 9.30am - 12.30pm



Enquiries Contact Sarah: 06 763 8724  
**RAHOTU PLAYCENTRE**

Whanau tupu ngatahi - Families growing together

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Maniaia & Districts Lions Club Annual Christmas Parade and MARKET DAY**



Main South Road, Maniaia - 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  
 Debbie 0275432298 or  
 Michelle 2748698

**EGMONT COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL present MAHITAHI RARANGA TUKUTUKU**

**10 Day Tukutuku Weaving Workshop 12-16, 19-23 January 2015**

with Kaumatua Kui Wai Uatuku  
 Orimupiko Marae, Eltham Rd, Opunake  
 Workshop includes: Assembling panels & framework, the history, the art & the craft of Tukutuku Weaving, A forum to relate the makings of Tukutuku Panels, designed and crafted by locals, Tukutuku Weaving, identifying with who and where we are today, teamwork.  
 Contact Nicola Wright to register or for more information  
 Text or Ph: 022 401 5616  
 Nau Mai Piki Mai Haere Mai  
 Supported by South Taranaki Creative Communities.

**Opunake Christmas Parade**

Christmas Eve  
 Wednesday 24th December

**Prizes**

**1st: \$250 2nd: \$150 3rd: \$75**

Participants please note: Floats will be pre-judged before the parade, so assemble in Layard St by 7pm. The parade starts at 7.30pm. The theme is the last 50 years in Opunake. Winners will be presented with their prize immediately after the parade and the winner of the raffle will be announced. Members of the public are encouraged to assemble on the TSB corner directly after the parade for the prize-giving.



**OPUNAKE & OAKURA MEDICAL CENTRE**

Telephone 06 761-7324

Dear patients

Please take note of our opening hours for December and January Holiday period. Should you need medical assistance - Please call the emergency numbers 0800 611 116 or 111.

OPENING HOURS	
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2014	8.30am - 5pm
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2014	8.30am - 5pm
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	8.30am - 1pm
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2014</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> December 2014</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	8.30am - 1pm
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	8.30am - 1pm
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2014	8.30am - 1pm
<b>Thursday 01<sup>st</sup> January 2015</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>Friday 02<sup>nd</sup> January 2015</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2015	8.30am - 5pm

We would also like to take this opportunity to wish all our patients a safe and happy holiday.

**REFLECTIONS COUNSELLING SERVICES**

Seasons Greetings to all



The practice will be closed from 12.30pm Wednesday 17th December 2014 and will reopen on

Tuesday 20th January 2015 at 9.30am

Best Wishes

Faith - Counsellor/Practitioner  
 Jocelyn - Office Manager



Come meet us at Stoney Oaks

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

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

**Opunake Catholic Church**

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

**Other areas**

Maniaia - 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



**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Rahotu Pungarehu Lions Club**



**RAFFLE RESULTS**  
**1st** No 564 Laurent  
**2nd** No 499 Stanley Hill  
*Thank you for your support*

**UNVEILING**

Whanau and friends are invited to the unveiling of  
*Desroe Mare Bishop*  
**1st January 2015**  
 at the family Urupa  
 Witiara Road, Oaonui  
 and thereafter  
 3211, Eltham Rd, Opunake (JBs) for Hakari

Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year to everyone from the  
**Opunake & District Foodbank Committee.**



We, the Committee would like to thank the community, church groups and schools for the many donations of food, meat and money over the past year.  
 Without this generous help we would not be able to continue with the foodbank.  
*Once again our grateful thanks.*

**NZ FARMERS LIVESTOCK**



*Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!*

*Contact Tim Hurley - 027 445 1167*

**Christmas Timetable Changes Opunake-New Plymouth Bus Service**



During the festive season, the weekly Friday bus service between Opunake and New Plymouth will instead run on:

- **Wednesday 24 December** (with a later departure time from New Plymouth at 2.30pm that day)
- **Wednesday 31 December** (New Year's Eve) – at regular scheduled times

The Opunake-New Plymouth timetable will return to the regular schedule on Friday 9 January 2015.

**Connector Bus Service**

The Hawera-New Plymouth Connector service will not run on the following public holidays: Christmas Day 25 December, Boxing Day 26 December, New Year's Day 1 January, or Friday 2 January.

The Monday-Friday Connector service will return to the regular schedule on Monday 5 January 2015.

Details available on [www.taranakibus.info](http://www.taranakibus.info)

Working with people | caring for Taranaki



**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**

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

**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>

**ST PAULS NATIVITY DISPLAY 2014**

At Havelock Street, Opunake.

**HEADLANDS – LIVE MUSIC, COASTAL LEGENDS**

Friday December 19. Bookings essential.

**TARANAKI THOROUGHBREED RACING**

Twilight Christmas at the Races, Monday 22 from 3pm.  
 Family Fun Day, January December 7

**Opunake Combined Churches.**

**16th Dec:** COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE

ST PAULS CHURCH 7PM - AND AT WESLEY CHURCH RAHOTU, 8PM

**24th Dec:** ST BARNABAS CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - 9:30PM

**24th Dec:** OUR LADY OF THE STAR - CATHOLIC MASS 9PM VIGIL, PRECEDED BY CAROLS AT 8.30PM

**25th Dec:** CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE 9:30AM AT ST PAULS

**25th Dec:** CHRISTMAS DAY MASS AT PUNGAREHU CATHOLIC CHURCH 9AM

**30th Dec:** 10AM COMBINED SERVICE OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA

**4th Jan:** 10AM ST PAULS CHURCH

**11th:** JAN 10AM THE WAVE

**18th:** JAN 10AM ST BARNABAS

**25th:** JAN 10AM OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA

**PERCY THOMSON GALLERY**

DamBusters Raid, December 23 – January 31

**OPUNAKE COMBINED CHURCHES**

16th Dec: Community Carol Service St Pauls Church 7pm - and at Wesley church Rahotu, 8pm

24th Dec: St Barnabas Christmas Eve service - 9:30pm

24th Dec: Our Lady of the star - Catholic Mass 9pm Vigil, Preceded By Carols at 8.30Pm

25th Dec: Christmas Day Service 9:30am at St Pauls

25th Dec: Christmas Day Mass at Pungarehu catholic church 9am

30th Dec: 10am combined service Our Lady Star of the Sea

4th Jan: 10am St Pauls Church

11th: Jan 10am The Wave

18th: Jan 10am St Barnabas

25th: Jan 10am Our Lady Star of the Sea

**MANAIA ANNUAL XMAS PARADE AND MARKET DAY**

December 20 from 10am.

**THE CLUB HOTEL – CHRISTMAS EVE**

Live Music!

**SURF INN – NEW YEARS EVE**

Celebrating 100 years with the Opunake Surf Inn. Party back to the Future. Refer advert for further details.

**CLUB HOTEL – NEW YEARS EVE**

Karaoke

**TAKE A KID FISHING DAY**

January 7 from 5.30am. Refer advert on page 23 for further details.

**LAKESIDE LIONS GOLF BALL ROLL**

January Friday 9 at the top of Middletons Bay Hill. Rolling from 5.30pm.

**HIKE TO WAIUA HUT**

Friday January 9. Refer advert on page 24 for further details.

**SESQUICENTENNIAL**

**December - January Events** See *Opunake Library Plus* for details

St Paul's Combined Church Christmas Decorations  
 11 Dec onwards

Business Association Christmas Eve parade  
 24 Dec

Opunake Surfcasting & Angling Fishing days  
 5 - 9 Jan

Opunake Lions & Lakeside Clubs Golf Ball Drop  
 9 Jan

Opunake Lions & Lakeside Clubs Beach Carnival  
 10 Jan

Opunake Bowling Club Tournament  
 11 Jan

Peter Snell 1500m Run/walk - Tasman St  
 15 Jan am

**OPUNAKE BEACH CARNIVAL 2015**

Saturday January 10. Refer advert on page 23 for full details.

**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

**10 DAY TUKUTUKU WEAVING WORKSHOP**

January 12-16, 19-23 2015.  
 Orimupiko Marae, Eltham Road, Opunake. Contact Nicola Wright to register or for more information txt/ph: 022 401 5616

**PETER SNELL 1500M EVENT**

January 15 at 10.15am. Refer advert.

**OPUNAKE GOLF CLUB**

Business House Mixed Ambrose  
 Starts Wednesday January 21 refer advert

**3 DAY KETE MAKING WORKSHOP**

January 26, 27, 28 2015  
 Suitable for ages 16 years and over. \$20 per person.

Orimupiko Marae, Eltham Road, Opunake. Contact Nicola Wright to register or for more information txt/ph: 022 401 5616

**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.

**Everybody's Theatre**

'Heartland' Opunake Movie 15 Jan pm

**TE KIRI SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

Applications are now open for this financial help. Applications must be in by February 2015. (Paid out by 20 April, 2015). Certain criteria exist. Phone Margaret Mullin for application forms on 06 761 7294



# Flax weaving to take centre stage

The Egmont Community Arts Council present a unique opportunity to the Opunake townsfolk, a community project that will coincide with the 2015 Sesquicentennial celebrations. The project, Mahitahi Raranga Tukutuku, or Tukutuku weaving together, begins with a 10 day workshop from January 12-23. Kaumatua Kui Wai Uatuku will tutor and guide the learning into the meaning and technique of tukutuku weaving. This is a privileged moment to have a master from the days when Opunake was rich with master weavers, kete, piupiu, korowai, tukutuku, whaariki, tapora, taniko, tipare, kono and pete. The land was rich in natural resources, fine fibre flaxes, the taore, mud (paru) to dye the fibres, and the growth to nourish the mud.

The nannies and aunts who Kui Wai teamed up with were hard working people and very supportive towards community-based projects. They strived to establish a sense of permanence for their loved ones and the generations to come, and this can be seen with the taonga adorning the Opunake High School foyer, and in the hands of their descendants who continue the practice of Maori arts and crafts in its many disciplines. There are many families who have a long history and strong connections to Opunake. We invite and encourage you all to take part in this project. Tukutuku weaving for most is a once in a lifetime experience. This project is about the life and times of all people who called this town home, and

the woven panels will last a lifetime. The workshop is designed to train and pre-train old and new learners to the craft. Once prepared, and the concept understood, each of the 15 panels can then be worked on throughout 2015. Contemporary materials have been sourced for this project as they are readily available, durable and easy to care for. Plastic coated straw or cane will be the weaving material, as it is strong, colourful and bright. We are keen to hear from anyone who may have any of this, or knows where any can be obtained. The theme for the panels will be for the families to design their story of origin, or for a symbol that represents their heritage. The completed panels will end up on the walls of Ev-

erybodys Theatre. We welcome you all to Mahitahi Raranga Tuku-

tuku, beginning January 12, 2015 with a powhiri at 9am. Proudly supported by South

Taranaki Creative Communities. Egmont Community Arts Council

## OPUNAKE KINDERGARTEN

Whitcombe Road  
(Behind Opunake Primary School)

**For children aged 1 to 5yrs**

Open Monday to Friday, during school term, 9am to 3pm

*Feel welcome to call in and view our amazing facilities.*

Please contact us asap for Term 1 enrolments.

Enquiries: Call in, phone 761 7440 or email [opunakekindy@xtra.co.nz](mailto:opunakekindy@xtra.co.nz)



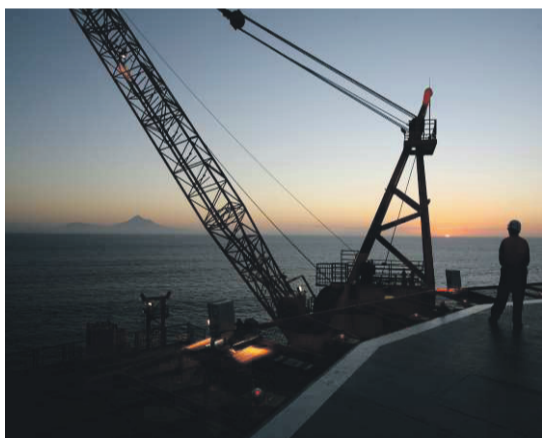
## OPUNAKE SESQUICENTENNIAL

[www.facebook.com/opunake150](http://www.facebook.com/opunake150)



### Maui Natural Gas Field

The Maui natural gas field has been an integral part of the Opunake community for the last 45 years. One of the largest gas fields of its kind in the world when it was discovered in 1969, it went into commercial production in 1979. A landmark Maui Gas Contract, signed by the joint venture parties and the Crown, provided a long-term basis for the sale and purchase of Maui gas for 30 years. For decades it was the mainstay of New Zealand's energy supply providing about 90% of New Zealand's natural gas demand, today its about 20%. Over the decades nothing has been more important to Shell Todd than safety and caring for the environment. There is a relentless focus on making sure everyone goes home safely each evening and that we look after the beaches and rivers we all love. The company values its partnership with Iwi, hapu and neighbours, and listens to regular feedback. With strong roots in the community, it is pleased to have created local employment opportunities and contributed nationally to New Zealand's economic prosperity through substantive royalties and taxes to the Crown.



Now in its twilight years, a programme of 20 well interventions has been underway at Maui since 2007 using innovative technology to extend its life. The team at Shell Todd would like to thank the Opunake community for its ongoing support over the decades and wishes it all the best for its 150 year celebrations.

### Sesquicentennial December - January Events

See Opunake Library Plus for details

St Paul's Combined Church	Christmas Decorations	11 Dec onwards
Business Association	Christmas Eve parade	24 Dec
Opunake Surfcasting & Angling	Fishing days	5 - 9 Jan
Opunake Lions & Lakeside Clubs	Golf Ball Drop	9 Jan
Opunake Lions & Lakeside Clubs	Beach Carnival	10 Jan
Opunake Bowling Club	Tournament	11 Jan
Peter Snell 1500m	Run/walk - Tasman St	15 Jan am
Everybody's Theatre	'Heartland' Opunake Movie	15 Jan pm

### On this month in history: Dame Kiri Te Kanawa's Covent Garden debut

On December 1, 1971 Kiri Te Kanawa, aged 27 (born 1944 in Gisborne), made her debut at Covent Garden, London as the Countess in 'The Marriage of Figaro'. She performed the same role in a summer opera festival in

New Mexico. She sang at the wedding of Prince Charles and Princess Diana, as the Prince was a big fan of the opera singer. She was made a dame for her services to music in 1982. Early in her career she

was tutored (1959-1965) by Sister (Later Dame) Mary Leo, who also trained Dame Malvina Major. She won the NZ Mobil Song Quest and the Melbourne Aria competition in 1965.

## Everybody's Theatre

**Opunake - MOVIES - BOUTIQUE THEATRE - HIRE**

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

**Dec/Jan 2015** TICKETS: Upstairs Adults \$10, Students 4-16 \$8 Under 4 Free  
Downstairs All \$12, Senior Citizens \$8

**My Old Lady** Comedy, Drama | 1hr 47mins | M | Adult themes  
Mathias, a broke New York drunk who inherits an apartment in Paris from his estranged father, Mathias learns that 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  
Follows 11-year-old Alexander as he experiences the worst day of his young life. When he tells his upbeat family about the misadventures, he finds little sympathy and wonders if bad things only happen to him... **24<sup>th</sup> Dec & 3<sup>rd</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Jan @ 1pm**

**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> Jan & 7<sup>th</sup> Jan @ 7pm**






**Nightcrawler** Mystery & Suspense, Drama | 1hr 57min | R16  
NIGHTCRAWLER is a pulse-pounding thriller set in the nocturnal underbelly of contemporary Los Angeles. Finding a group of freelance camera crews who film crashes, fires, murder and other mayhem, Lou muscles into the cut-throat, dangerous realm of nightcrawling. **2 Jan & 11 Jan @ 7pm**

**Annie** Drama, Kids & Family, Musical & Performing Arts | PG | 1hr 58min  
Originally left by her parents as a baby, with her mean foster mom Miss Hannigan (Cameron Diaz). But everything's about to change when the hard-nosed tycoon and New York mayoral candidate Will Stacks makes a thinly-veiled campaign move and takes her in. **5 & 14 Jan @ 1pm**

**The Hobbit: Battle of Five Armies** Action & Adventure, Science Fiction & Fantasy PG13  
As the fate of Middle Earth hangs in the balance, the races of Men, Elves and Dwarves must decide whether to unite and prevail -- or all die. **9, 14 & 18 Jan @ 7pm**

**Paddington Bear** Comedy PG 1hr 35min  
A young English boy befriends a talking bear he finds at a London train station. A live-action feature based on the series of popular children's books by Michael Bond. **10 & 12 Jan @ 1pm**

**Big Hero 6** PG Animation, Kids & Family 17, 19 & 28 Jan @ 1pm

MONDAY	WEDNESDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	<b>17 @ 3:30pm</b> Hunger Games: Mockingjay Pt 1	<b>19 @ 7 pm</b> The Dead Lands	<b>20 @ 1pm</b> My Old Lady	<b>21 @ 7pm</b> Hunger Games: Mockingjay Pt 1-
	<b>24 @ 1pm</b> Alexander and the Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day	<b>26</b> No Movie	<b>27</b> No Movie	<b>28 @ 7pm</b> My Old Lady
	<b>31 @ 1pm</b> Love, Rosie.	<b>Jan 2 @ 7pm</b> Nightcrawler	<b>Jan 3 @ 1pm</b> Alexander & the Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day	<b>Jan 4 @ 7pm</b> Love, Rosie
<b>Jan 5 @ 1pm</b> Annie	<b>Jan 7 @ 1pm</b> Alexander and the Horrible, No Good Very Bad Day @ 7pm Love Rosie	<b>Jan 9 @ 7pm</b> The Hobbit : Battle of Five Armies	<b>Jan 10 @ 1pm</b> Paddington Bear	<b>Jan 11 @ 7pm</b> Nightcrawler
<b>Jan 12 @ 1pm</b> Paddington	<b>Jan 14 @ 1pm</b> Annie @ 7pm The Hobbit: Battle of the Five Armies	<b>Jan 16 @ 7pm</b> Fury	<b>Jan 17 @ 1pm</b> Big Hero 6	<b>Jan 18 @ 7pm</b> The Hobbit : Battle of Five Armies

Children will be treated to ice blocks and lollies after the Christmas Eve movie 24 December @ 1pm