



OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

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OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

Flooding hits the coast again

The same weather front that produced flooding on the West Coast thwacked Coastal Taranaki on Waitangi Day.

Over Saturday and Sunday, 191 millimetres of rain fell in Hāwera and 470mm at Cape Egmont, Metservice New Zealand reported. Elsewhere in the region 221mm of rain fell in Stratford, 235mm in Inglewood and 219.8mm in Patea and falls of 485mm were recorded on Taranaki Maunga.

Surf Highway between Okato and Opunake was closed for much of Sunday. The bridge on Mid Parihaka Road was overtopped with water forcing the road's closure. Stent Road, Opu Road, Coast Road and Pungarehu Road were re-opened, but on Tuesday, motorists were still advised to take extreme care.

"it was everywhere, water, water," said Rahotu Four Square manager Neha Patel. "The last two weeks it's been very dry, and we needed some rain, but this rain's too much. We got 200mm in 36 hours. It was terrible. We haven't seen this before. So many properties have been damaged. There's been flooding in people's houses and garages. The farmers are in a terrible situation and the cattle are scared."

She said they had been providing hot food and drinks for customers and for the emergency services who on Sunday had been hard at work through the day from 6am through to 4pm.

The Coastal Rugby clubrooms had also taken a drenching.

"We got a hell of a mess," said Dan Morgan. "We got a bit of water on our carpet like every other house in Rahotu. The grounds are OK, but the water came in here and couldn't drain away fast enough."

A Ngariki Road farmer, Dan said his own farm had been badly hit.

"It took out a lot of my fencing and wiped out my riparian plants, that's tangled up with my fences. I lost close on 250-odd posts. We needed the rain. We just didn't need this much."

For Rahotu School it was déjà vu. Last year they had had to end the school year early after heavy rain brought flooding on December 17.

"This was like December 17 times 10," said deputy principal Becky Muggeridge. "Everything



Rahotu was flooded for the second time in as many months.

has been thrown at us to test us, but we're very fortunate that none of our classrooms have been flooded."

With the school being at a lower point from the Surf Highway, water gushed from the road past the school buildings sweeping away plants, rubbish and anything under the school buildings, and then going on to submerge the school's back field.

"This was all awash. It came down as a river. It was literally up to our knees in the carpark," said Becky. She pointed to an upturned garden bed.

"That was in the ground the last time we left," she said.

Apart from some leaks and some damage around the office, the school buildings

had got off relatively lightly. There were sandbags at the entrance to the school office which had been supplied by the local fire brigade, but these had not been needed.

As often happens with such weather events, it was surprising what gets hit and what gets left alone.

"Where I live we had a crossing across a creek made of concrete power poles," says Becky. "Six power poles were dislodged, but a bamboo bridge made by two 10 year-olds survived the whole thing."

School principal Brigitte Luke says that on Sunday morning she got a phone call from her board of trustees chair Corey Helms who told her that flooding had hit the school like it had on

December 17, except this time it was more extensive. As the road was closed she wasn't able to get to the school, but the fire brigade, and the school's board chair, caretaker and others were there to give a hand.

The start of the school year would be delayed. The school bus system had been disrupted with Mid-Parihaka Road being closed, and the leaks in the buildings would be looked at. There would be a big cleanup of the back

field to pick up any debris and rubbish, including nails which could be potentially harmful to children playing on the field. There had also been excessive water flows from the sewage system which needed to settle and dissipate.

"We're pretty resilient out here. We get tornadoes and excessive rainfall, but everyone gets on with it," says Brigitte.

Warning signs have been put up at a number of places including Middleton Bay and Opunake Lake.

South Taranaki District Council spokesperson Gerard Langford said the signs would remain in place until levels are considered safe.

"Please do not collect fish/shellfish and plant life or come into contact with the water at these locations," he said. "As a general rule heavy rain flushes contaminants from urban and rural land into waterways and we always advise people not to swim in streams/rivers for at least three days after heavy or prolonged rainfall – even if a site usually has good water quality."



Roads and fences underwater near Pungarehu near Pungarehu.



The Mid-Parihaka Road bridge was rendered impassable.



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While we welcome free speech, the views expressed in the Letters to the Editor do not necessarily reflect those of the Opunake & Coastal News. Please limit letters to 350 words as we sometimes struggle for space to fit them all in.

Okato cell site woes

I found this article an interesting read. Like much of the spin we see these days, the grist to the mill appears to be a collection of half truths and unsubstantiated opinions which we are asked to take as hard fact - on both sides of the argument. I make the following observations qualified by fifty years' experience as a Registered Radio, Television and Electronics Technician.

Firstly, let's define what the "G" in 3, 4 or 5G actually means. It is not frequency, as in Gigahertz or any other multiple of Mr Hertz's electrical unit. It is simply an abbreviation for "generation" - just like your car - last year's model, this year's model, next year's model etc. (A marketing phrase which someone in the industry must now wish they had never thought of.) 3G/4G/5G simply refers to the current method of condensing as much data as possible into an available bandwidth. In fact, some 5G data uses exactly the same frequency range (1 Gigahertz, not 1G) as the early brick phones did.

While we're at it, let's define frequency. The number of times per second that an alternating current or voltage changes from zero to its positive and negative peaks and back to zero again. In this case, radio waves. The peak current, voltage or power has nothing to do with frequency. I'm not going to argue the toss about whether radio waves are harmful to human health - I know they are not (unless you stand directly in front of a narrow beam radar transmitter like the sailors did in WWII to gain a few hours of cheap contraception). If they were,

those folk living around the 50,000 watt Titahi Bay RNZ transmitter mast, or under the 200,000 watt Mt KauKau TV transmitter in Wellington for all those years would have been very unwell indeed. I noted the above transmitter power output figures to give context to the following numbers for cellphone sites.

3/4/5G site transmitter power ranges from 0.25 watts to 100 watts. The norm for somewhere like Okato is up to 20 watts. According to internationally accepted Okumura-Hata formulae, the radiated power of even a 100 watt transmitter at a distance of 100 metres is about one millionth of a watt - a micro-watt. There is a difference between transmitter input power and effective radiated power. It dissipates very quickly, hence the need for sites close to the customer base.

Now, a 60 watt light bulb, in terms of emitted light and heat will be in that range. Since at home your distance to a light bulb will be 2-3 metres, the impact from the light bulb on your body will be about a million times higher than that of the cellphone transmitter 100 metres away. It is general consensus in medical and biological research that the only impact of microwave radiation, as used in mobile networks, is the heating of the target object. If you're not hot, you're fine.

What concerns me is seeing incorrect statements like "5G radio frequencies (RF) which will incorporate exponentially higher and more intense frequencies than 4G are totally untested for safety" and "scientists and doctors have appealed to the EU requesting a moratorium on 5G rollout until testing can be carried

out." expounded as fact. What has the European Union got to do with it? One can only assume that the exponents of these statements are unaware of the work already done by Okumura, Hata and many other engineers who know the difference between frequency, bandwidth and wattage.

The Vodafone response, while having a certain advertorial spin, is in my opinion technically accurate. If you don't like the aesthetics of having a radio transmitter mast in the middle of your town, that's fine, argue it out, but please don't use incorrect data and scare-mongering to make your case. Worrying about it might cause headaches or any of the other symptoms noted in the published graph. I still like 3G as an operating system - Get started, Get on with it, Get finished.

Mike Smith
Opunake

Saving our kaimoana

I am so pleased to see the iwi from the Ngahapu o Orimupiko marae have now put a rahui(ban) from January 9 until July 31 2022, from Waiwiri Bay, arawhata to Rahui Toe Toe. That to me isn't long enough as it's believed about 70 cars, all having five people in them were on Arawhata Road taking paua well over their quota at their leisure, which to me is wrong.

On Waiheke Island they had the same problems, from people no doubt from Auckland City itself taking mussels, scallops, crayfish and paua at their leisure, so with the help of our Fisheries minister and the Department of Conservation, there is now a two year ban, and the island people are also helping their community police.

So, if our fisheries team is under-staffed, may I now suggest that all of our

community people who live along our coastline, starting from Waitotara, right through to Awakino start by getting involved, not only by keeping a watchful eye on their given areas, but also work in with their community police. By doing this, it would also be a good time to keep our streams, lakes, rivers and our beach frontages clear of any rubbish and whatever else.

Tom Stephens
New Plymouth

Communities helping out

I'd like to reinforce what our two police constables Chloe Ashton of Hawera and Matthew Stone of Hawera have said.

Now, thanks to the local community of Hawera, a search warrant was issued and an arrest was made, as many illegal items were found, plus there's been a number of aggravated robberies, shoplifting and thieving taking place, so to the residents of Hawera, keep up the good work.

As an ex Okato person, I do sympathise with Constable Matt Stone as he has an extremely large area to cover, so I'd like to suggest an idea if I may. Is it somehow possible that each organisation within the Okato area appoint a committee member to help out in some way, as it seems that thieving and burglaries are still occurring, so take heed of what your constable is encouraging you all to do.

I'd also like to wish everyone in our great province of Taranaki a very Happy New Year. I am also believing that we can beat this virus by us all having a positive attitude, as there's light at the end of the tunnel, so let's get back to the orange light, and maybe green

Tom Stephens
New Plymouth

ADELPHOS

An ABC Greek Alphabet Lesson

"It's all Greek to me," is a phrase sometimes used when someone finds an idea difficult to understand. Today unfortunately the world is well aware of two Greek letters: delta and omicron. Both identify viruses that pose a global threat to the world's health. We can only hope and pray that these destructive viral variants and sub-variants do not multiply and exhaust the 24 letter Greek alphabet.

In maths delta is a symbol (shaped like a triangle) for change. We've certainly learned that the delta virus randomly changes. Many branches of science use delta to solve problems by using

equations to measure and predict change/differences.

Epidemiologists tell us the delta variant has randomly evolved into omicron (the fifteenth Greek letter) or "o." Omicron literally means "little o" as opposed to the "great O" in Omega—the very last letter in the Greek alphabet. Don't confuse these two. I'll now explain why.

Jesus identified Himself by the great "O" Omega and alpha letters. Alpha is the first letter and Omega the last letter of the Greek alphabet. See if you can first figure out what Jesus is saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the

Beginning and the End who is, and who was, and who is to come" (Revelation 22:13 and 1:8 NIV).

While the letters delta and omicron produce foreboding and fearful thoughts, the letters Alpha and Omega produce hope that His return will establish God's heavenly kingdom on earth. By saying that Jesus is the First means He eternally preexisted at the beginning or Alpha of creation time (Genesis 1:1). In saying that He is the Last means He will come again at the end of Omega time to create a perfect and sinless heavenly world on earth (Revelation 21: 1-4).

Yes, it's frightening news that this world is coming to an end. But the Alpha and Omega letters represent hope and a new and heavenly kingdom on earth. Only God can grant us the needed vaccine entry passport. His three passport requirements are: 1.) a personal heartfelt repentance from sin, 2.) faith in Jesus and then 3.) applying biblical principles in our daily living. That's the gospel with a Greek twist from alpha to omega.

Oh yes, I hope that this message wasn't just all Greek to you.

Rangimarie and a belated Happy New Year,
 Adelphos

Taranaki overcome by non-stop rainfall

From Friday evening (February 4) until Sunday February 6 late afternoon it simply didn't stop raining in Taranaki. MetService reported that within just one section of this time – from 2am, Saturday until 1pm Sunday - 463.8mm of rain fell.

One weather station (at Cape Egmont) recorded a staggering 138mm of rain in just four hours (from 6am to 10am on Sunday). To put this figure into context, this amount of rain is the equivalent of the usual rainfall for the entire winter month of July.

With widespread surface flooding there were inevitably road closures, such as the State Highway 45 from Okato to Rahotu. One roadblock was positioned about 10km south of Okato.

A sign outside Parihaka stated Parihaka is closed. Near the entrance to the town, on Parihaka Road, the road was flooded for some distance and there was a



This building was sandbagged in an attempt to stop floodwaters from coming inside.

considerable accumulation of vegetation on the road making it impassable. One local stated, "The bridge is washed out."

One of the most affected towns was Rahotu, with large sections of the road flooded, as well as many properties. Sandbagging was needed in some cases, such as Camp

Egmont and Rahotu Primary School, which will remain closed (Tuesday February 8) because of flood damage.

North of Rahotu there were many stretches of State Highway 45 flooded and angry bloated waterways, such as Rautini Stream, littered the road in places.

Immediately south of

Pungarehu flood waters lapped the top of fence posts and a huge farming area on the eastern side of the road looked like an expanse of sea, complete with waves. The road was closed at this point.

Time will tell of all the damage from this huge rainfall, which MetService

has described as a "truly exceptional rainfall." However, it has been reported that there were only a small number of house evacuations and about 24 reports of buildings being flooded.

The grounds of Opunake High School were extensively flooded, but

Principal Andrea Hooper was relieved that the water did not make it into the buildings, thus allowing the school to open as expected.

There have been no reports of casualties at the time of this report being written. however, there is extensive damage to farm fencing and some bridges.



This attempt by one of our reporters to proceed down mid-Parihaka Road on Sunday was thwarted by vegetation pile up and a damaged bridge.

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RIGHT:
More flood photographs. Rahotu Primary School remained closed as a result of flood waters entering the buildings in places. This picture was taken on Sunday afternoon.



Just north of Rahotu, flood water extending from paddock to road.

Apology

Coastal Taranaki School Prizegiving was incorrectly titled 2020 in the last issue. It should have been titled 2021.

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Successful outcomes for Christmas Parade and Auroa Hall

There was a mix of virtual and face to face when the Taranaki Coastal Community Board's first meeting for 2022.

The board's deputy chair Sharlee Mariekura chaired the meeting, held at the Sandfords Event Centre on January 25, with board chair Andy Whitehead and board member Bonita Bigham joining by ZOOM.

Mary Moore from the Manaia Community Services Group thanked the board for supporting the Manaia Christmas Parade. While other towns had cancelled their annual Christmas parades, Manaia had decided to hold a Stand Still Christmas Parade with Santa and his helpers

visiting every street in town except South Road. Mary said that as far as they knew it was something which hadn't been tried anywhere else before.

"It was a wild success in the community. We gave away 250 ice blocks to little kiddies, and there were parties of adults who brought along their own refreshments. The kids were excited out of their minds hopping up and down to see Santa coming down their street."

She was asked if this could possibly be a regular event.

Mary said that Hawera businesses had been asked to donate prizes had been very generous, but this could be hard to repeat if done every

year. The parade had also involved a three hour walk for those taking part.

Board member Bonita Bigham said there are advantages to the usual format.

"One of the joys of the Christmas Parade is that the community connects together," she said.

The board voted to grant the Auroa Soldiers Memorial Hall the full amount it was asking for from the Waimate Plains Development Levy Fund. The fund is for community projects in the area making up the former Waimate Plains County Council. The hall was asking for \$4500

to help complete painting and building repairs to the outside of the hall.

In moving that the board grant the full amount being asked for, Cr Aaron Langton said the hall had already tried to find most of the funding themselves before coming to the board. It was also the first time in a few years that

they had approached the board for funding, and that they deserved credit for that.

There was some discussion as to whether the three weeks period between groups being advised of the funding round and the closing date might be a bit tight for some groups.

Young councillor explores Sub-Antarctic islands

Taranaki Council's youngest councillor and local conservationist, Elvisa Van Der Leden recently returned from an expedition exploring the Sub-Antarctic Islands as part of the True Young Explorers Scholarship with Heritage Expeditions.

Van Der Leden has the unique experience of landing on various islands with rich history and endemic plant and animal species such as the Campbell Island snipe which was thought to be extinct until it was rediscovered in 1997. A penguin enthusiast and local kororā monitoring volunteer, Van Der Leden was excited to see snares, hoiho (yellow eyed), erect crested and the eastern rockhopper penguins. Like kororā (little blues), erect crested penguins are in national decline and hoiho are predicted to become extinct on the mainland within the next 20 years. The only other colonies of hoiho are on the Auckland Islands. She also got to see elephant seals, albatross and dusky dolphins among a variety of other wildlife.

Van Der Leden considers the experience as a strong reminder of how vulnerable endemic and native species are without collective community and political action to protect them. She hopes that by sharing her photography, videos and experiences from the trip she will inspire others to "remember that they are part of the environment as



Above: Elvisa Van Der Leden. Below: Elvisa on the main Auckland Island.

Photo: Supplied



well and that we can all do our little bit to help decrease carbon emissions and reduce marine plastic pollution which are impacting marine birds and other species internationally".

The annual scholarship is open to 18-30 year olds

who must explain how they will share their experience and learnings with their community following the trip. The expedition travelled to Snares, Auckland, Campbell, Antipodes and Bounty Islands on the Spirit of

Enderby, a Russian ship with expedition guides and lecturers hailing from all parts of New Zealand. All the Sub-Antarctic islands are National Nature Reserves managed by the Department of Conservation.

RIGHT: Eastern Rockhopper, a penguin found on the Sub-Antarctic Islands.



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New flat fare system for Taranaki buses

Riding a public bus in Taranaki is a whole lot simpler, with the introduction of a new fare system.

As of Monday January 31, the number of bus fare zones in Taranaki has reduced from 25 to just four, with a flat fare for all passengers within each zone, with an additional \$1 for each boundary crossed.

For example, a trip anywhere within Zone 1 costs Bee Card users \$2. Zone 1 covers New Plymouth city and extends out to Waitara, Oākura and Egmont Village.

The changes affect Citylink school and urban services as well as the regional Connector and

Southlink services.

Taranaki Regional Councillor and Regional Transport Committee chairman Matthew McDonald says the new fare zones provide greater clarity to bus users.

He says the Council is working hard to make public transport more user and environmentally-friendly.

“Our community has told us they want more routes and buses that run more frequently. Getting our fare zones right is an important first step towards that.”

New route extensions will be announced over the coming months.

The new fare zones will mean small fare decreases for some users, including

adults on urban services and anyone travelling from Waitara, Oākura or Bell Block into New Plymouth.

South Taranaki travellers are also set to benefit, with a Connector fare from Hāwera to New Plymouth dropping from \$9.60 to \$5 with a Bee Card.

There will be small increases for other users. As part of the move to a flat fare, child fares on the Citylink services will be discontinued, adding between 15 and 40c per ride.

Concession fares for Community Services Card, Total Mobility Card and Access Card holders will also end, adding 20c a ride. Super Gold entitlements are unchanged.

Council Transport Engagement Manager Sarah Hiestand says this is the first time any bus fares have increased since 2008.

“The new system overall is expected to result in a small increase in revenue, which will be put straight back into delivering more and better bus services for the region.

“It’s always a balance between fares and public funding when it comes to buses and we believe we’ve got it right.”

The Bee Card is a bus payment card which allows you to ‘tag on and tag off’ the bus. It provides you with cheaper fares and is able to be used across nine regions around New Zealand, including Taranaki.

The Bee Card was introduced in Taranaki in 2020 and is used by 90% of

passengers. Cash fares are still accepted on the buses.



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New Plymouth Airport gains Level 2 in Carbon Accreditation programme



scope 3 emissions, or third-party emissions, as well as continuing to reduce scope 1 and 2. The end goal for the Airport is to become carbon neutral.

Left: New Plymouth Airport now has level 2 certification from the Airport Carbon Accreditation programme.

The next issue of the Opunake & Coastal News is due out February 24. Phone us on 06 761 7016 if you want to be in it



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Last week New Plymouth Airport was awarded Level 2 certification from the Airport Carbon Accreditation programme.

The internationally recognised and independently assessed programme acknowledges the efforts of airports to manage and reduce carbon emissions, and consists of six levels - Mapping, Reduction, Optimisation, Neutrality, Transformation and Transition.

“Being a small team this was a big challenge to take on, but one we felt passionate about. Gaining the certification sets the bar high and really shows the continued efforts the Airport is making to reduce

our emissions.

This is only the start of our journey with our end goal being to achieve Level 4+ accreditation which will demonstrate the Airport’s commitment to reducing absolute emissions,” said Jacqui Brown Marketing and Communications Coordinator – New Plymouth Airport.

New Plymouth Airport opted to go straight for Reduction, level 2 certification, as the new terminal building, finished in March 2020, provided a significant improvement in energy efficiency compared to the old terminal building.

This year will see continued efforts along with new plans to start the Optimisation

stage as we look to focus on Level 3.

“As one of the newer members who only joined ACI Asia-Pacific in 2021, we could not be prouder of New Plymouth Airport’s efforts in the journey to reducing carbon emissions. Their achievement of attaining accreditation directly at Level 2 demonstrates deep commitment and leadership in our region on this endeavour,” said Stefano Baronci, Director General of ACI Asia-Pacific.

Reducing emissions at the Airport was a big part of the overall new terminal design, now they will start to look at

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OPUNAKE FIRE SERVICE

A busy weekend for the brigade

Opunake Volunteer Firefighters have had a well-earned break from training over Christmas and the January period. To start training off for the year one of our members put down a hangi for the brigade, which was enjoyed by all. We train on Monday nights, so if you are interested in joining, come along from 7.00pm. Congratulations to Brian

Vincent who has been awarded a Queens Service Medal for his services to FENZ and the community. Brian has been involved with FENZ for 63 years, first as a firefighter, then operational support, and currently is brigade support. When the siren goes up, you can still find Brian at the station, taking phone calls and recording attendance.

Well done Brian. We would like to express our condolences to the Hunn family, on the passing of Gary. Gary was a Life Honorary Member of the Opunake Brigade and a Gold Star holder. Now that the whole country has gone to the red setting for Covid 19 the Opunake fire station is restricted to FENZ personnel only. All stations

around Taranaki, including Opunake, have plans in place in the event of a wide spread outbreak. These plans ensure Opunake and surrounding areas are will covered for any emergency event. We would love to come and visit your local school, early childhood centre, club or group but because of current restrictions we are currently unable to. The Opunake Fire Brigade was kept pretty busy last weekend with the flooding around town. Our first call came in at 7.10 am on Sunday

and our last of 11 calls was at 6.30 pm. We were very well looked after though, with one of our members cooking us breakfast, which some of us were able to finish between calls. Later, some yummy scones were brought in by one of our fire fighters' partners. Most of the calls were flood waters coming into homes and trying to divert water around them, and in a couple of cases water coming up through the shower drain hole. We would like to thank members of the public and local groups

who offered support, it was much appreciated. We were in contact with CD and FENZ area commanders during the morning and had plans in place if things deteriorated.

Other recent callouts have been a vegetation fire in Opunake, investigating smoke on Eltham Road, power lines arcing in Opunake, and a fatal MVA on Surf Highway 45.

Ngā mihi

Andrew Pentelow
(acting CFO)

Fine highlights duties

A \$48,750 fine imposed on a Taranaki property developer is a reminder that all landowners have environmental responsibilities, even if their land lies vacant and unused, the Taranaki Regional Council says.

The fine was imposed by Judge Dickey in the Environment Court at New Plymouth, after Herd Properties Ltd previously pleaded guilty to two charges laid by the Council over dust discharges from an undeveloped 6.5ha site alongside the Bell Block bypass in 2019 and 2020. It's believed to be one of

the highest fines imposed for dust discharges in New Zealand.

During one period of nearly eight hours in March 2020, dust from the site caused a traffic hazard and was dispersed widely, and heavily in places, among houses on the other side of the bypass. The company had previously been served with a number of abatement notices and infringement notices relating to earlier incidents.

While the company had previously applied a dust suppressant, it had been damaged by dirt bikes and a buggy that had had

unimpeded access, with no fencing or signage at the site. There had also been issues with the application of the suppressant, with volumes initially falling short of what was required. The landowner blamed procurement problems.

"Even if land is not being used, the owner has a duty to be aware of any potential off-site effects and take action to mitigate them," says the Council's Director-Resource Management, Fred McLay. "There's no excuse for ignoring your environmental responsibilities. That's the message in this fine."



The Taungatara burst its banks and became a raging torrent when bad weather hit on Sunday.

New board member welcomed

Utilities Disputes(UDL) says it welcomes Ruth Smithers to the UDL Board.

Ruth is the Chief Executive for FinCap and has experience as a leader and manager in the not-for-profit and government sectors in health and social services organisations. Ruth was previously Deputy Chief Executive at Tui Ora, a large iwi-based health and social services provider in Taranaki. Ruth has also run her own management consultancy and serves on a number of boards..

"We are delighted that Ruth is joining our Board," says Hon Heather Roy, Chair of the board of UDL (formerly

The Office of the Electricity and Gas Complaints Commissioner, or EGCC).. "Ruth's understanding of the issues facing the people we work with day in and day out, especially Māori and Pacific people, will be invaluable in how we continue to deliver our services to those who need our support."

The Board has also decided to appoint a future director for a period of 12 months. Corey Hebbard is General Manager at Te Rūnanga a Rangitāne o Wairau Trust. Corey has whakapapa connections to Te Ātiawa, Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Apa, and Ngāti Kuia, as well as Rangitāne. "Corey is passionate about caring

for communities, which is at the heart of who we want to help. We hope to learn as much from him as he will learn from us," says Hon Heather Roy.

After eight years with the organisation Major Campbell Roberts is stepping down. "Campbell was appointed to the current Board in 2017 during a time of change and growth having previously served as a consumer representative on UDL's former Board. The Office of the Electricity and Gas Complaints Commissioner' - from 2013," says Hon Heather Roy.

"

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Remembering local boy who made good

Colin Harvey who died in a drowning accident last month was a man who packed a lot into his life. He grew up on a Coastal Taranaki dairy farm and then went on to graduate from Massey and Auckland Universities. He started his own company supplying animal care products and successfully took on the larger multinationals along the way. He chaired the Animal Remedy and Plant Protection Association, and was a member of the Massey University Council. Other projects he was involved with included Country TV and the Hobbiton Theme Set. In 2008 he was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM).

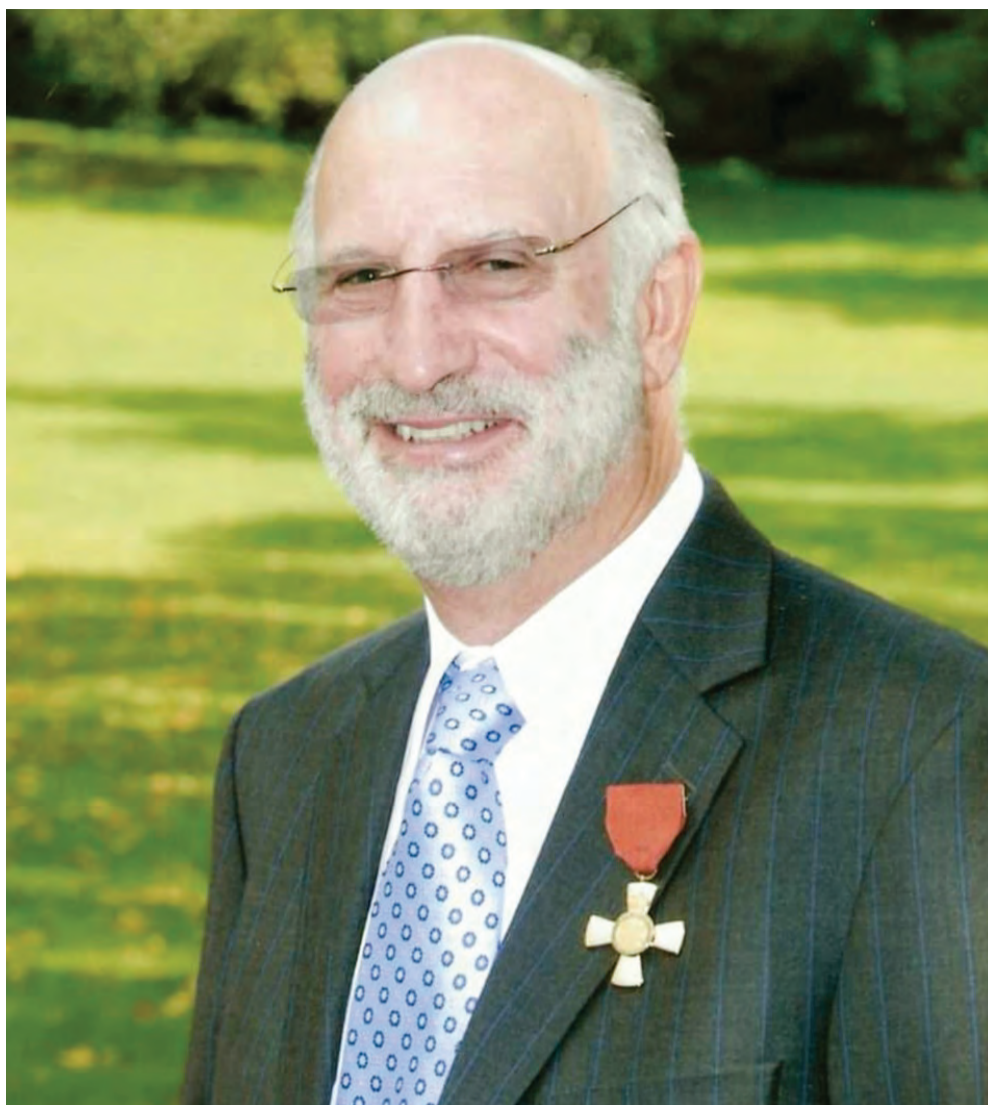
Colin was the sixth of seven children born to Dorrien and Alex Harvey. His siblings included well-known Taranaki farmer the late Don Harvey, Coastal Taranaki artist Margaret Scott, Merle Clark, Oaonui farmer Allan Harvey, Kevin Harvey (New Plymouth) and Vera Davies (Mount Maunganui).

Colin grew up on the family farm at Oaonui, and attended Oaonui Primary School, Opunake High School and New Plymouth Boys High School.

“Colin was nearly two years old when his father had a tractor accident which broke his spine,” Colin’s sister, Margaret and brother Allan told the Opunake and Coastal News. “His Dad spent well over a year in hospital, and many years in therapy before he was able to walk with callipers. This was a great hardship on all the family, his mother trying to run a farm as well as bring up seven young children.

“Colin contracted rheumatic fever at 11 years old, and spent three months flat on his back, bedridden. His mother would go to the library, weekly and come home with a pile of books. He read all the junior section at the Opunake library and moved to adult books. He became a very proficient chess player as well.

“Recuperating from his illness took quite some time as he had inflamed swollen painful joints.



Colin Harvey ONZM.

“Colin’s Dad knew from personal experience the benefits of water therapy so he took Colin daily into the baths in Opunake and this is where his love of water sports began.”

“He became an avid swimmer and with perseverance while at High School competed in all the swimming sports. While in the Surf Club was in the team which won the Tabor Shield and the march past in the NZ Nationals in 1962 in Christchurch.”

After finishing his schooling Colin completed a B.Agr.Sc at Massey University, and later a B.Comm at Auckland. For 17 years he worked for the British multinational Wellcome selling Coopers products in New Zealand and Australia before branching out on his own. Beginning with a cattle drench named Levicare which he had formulated and tested, and operating out of the spare bedroom in the family home,

he launched Ancare in 1985 with a mortgage on his house and \$15,000 in holiday pay. He established his new company as a supplier of animal care products, taking on multinationals like MSD Agvet, Coopers and Schering-Plough. At the same time he insisted his products only be sold through vets, as he believed all health products should be used only under advice.

In 1988 he founded the Animal Remedy and Plant Protection Association, and as chairman helped develop the Hazardous Substance Act and the Agricultural Compound and Veterinary Medicines Act. In 2008 his services to the agriculture and animal welfare sectors were recognised with the award of an ONZM. The previous year he had sold Ancare’s trading assets to Merial. He retained control of the research and development arm, Ancare

Scientific which continued to develop new products until Merial took this over in 2014.

Colin founded Country TV in 2008, of which was chairman, as he believed New Zealand needed a TV channel dedicated to the primary sector. He was also chair of the Hobbiton Theme Set. In his later years, he bought and farmed McKay Station at Wanaka.

He died on January 28 while holidaying at Lang’s Beach. Long-time friend Nick Launder says Colin’s death came as a shock.

“Colin was a classic local boy makes good,” he said. “He was very involved with Massey University. We often laughed a lot (along with Ashley Corbett) about being Opunake boys and had a lot of laughs together.

“He was very proud of being in the Surf Club team that won the NZ March Past title back around 1961. He had recently joined the Waipu Surf Club trading on his national champ reputation and loved Langs Beach where he and his wife Mary had a beach home for many years.

“His very sudden death came following a morning digging his garden and then went for a swim to cool off where

he was found by someone floating in the water.

“I’m still a bit shocked as we’d known each other for 70 years and shared many, many bottles of red wine. The locals at Langs Beach built a memorial and held their service on the beach.” Colin leaves his wife Mary, four children and their partners, and nine grandchildren.

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A case of quality versus quantity

The soaring cost of living is the most common complaint I'm hearing these days.

And with just cause.

Families are being hit in the pocket as every day costs likes food, fuel, utilities and housing costs spiral. Petrol alone has risen a whopping 30.7%.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) figures released by Statistics NZ on January 27 showed annual price inflation (the difference between the December 2020 quarter and the December 2021 quarter), hit 5.9% — up from 4.9% in the September quarter.

It was the biggest annual rise since June 1990 when inflation hit 7.6%.

While the Prime Minister refutes her government's

billions of dollars in spending on COVID-19 has led to this record inflation rate, National is calling for Finance Minister Grant Robertson to rein in his spending so he isn't adding fuel to the fire.

Simon Bridges, our Finance spokesperson says: "The 5.9% is a thief in New Zealanders' pockets, making us poorer. With wage growth of only 2.4%, New Zealanders are going backwards, and it is the least well off Kiwis who are hurt the most.

"Parents will have to put food back at the supermarket, workers will only be able to partly fill up at the petrol station and there is even less hope for young people trying

to buy their first home.

"Grant Robertson needs to show he understands this pain by reining in his spending. "Spending has been 40% higher throughout his time as Finance Minister than it was under his National predecessors, and this year he is planning to raise that to a staggering 68% more at \$128 billion, with \$6 billion in new spending."

National isn't calling for no new spending, but we want a greater focus on the quality of it and pulling back on the big numbers Robertson is planning to spend in 2022.

Big spending now will just push inflation higher hitting Kiwis in the pocket twice, as the Reserve Bank will need to hike up interest rates, to



BARBARA KURIGER
MP FOR TARANAKI/KING
COUNTRY

take the heat out of inflation. We don't believe Robertson's usual slick inflation response which blames the huge rise solely on international forces, which doesn't explain our

domestic inflation.

Meanwhile in the same period, our Australian neighbours have only faced a 3.5% rise.

There are many ways the Government can curb the rapidly rising costs.

Easing the tax on fuel is one that could offer immediate relief.

The year ahead

The full effects of Omicron's spread in the community are largely unknown as I write.

It's brought the cancellation of several annual events, many of them rural, which is a real blow to organisers.

Throughout February is a series of He Waka Eke Noa meetings for farmers to share their views during

the month-long consultation process and I'll be at some to listen.

For more information, visit the website — www.dairynz.co.nz/environment/climate-change/he-waka-eke-noa/have-your-say/

I'm also keen to be out and about in the community as much as COVID rules will allow.

If you are hosting an event you'd like me to attend, email me — Kuriger.teawamutu@parliament.govt.nz

Barbara Kuriger
MP Taranaki-King Country

Authorised by G Hamilton,
41 Pipitea St, Wellington

Entering new phase of COVID response

I'm sure many of you here in Taranaki will have heard by now that our border settings will be changing very soon and, over the coming months, all New Zealanders and key visa holders will be able to start entering the country without going into MIQ. This is a big shift, but it's one we're ready for.

More than 94% of our over 18s are fully vaccinated and 92% will be eligible for a booster by the end of February. With such high protection, it's time to shift gears to focus on our recovery. Reconnecting with the world will help to strengthen our economy, address worker shortages, and reunite whānau. This will take place in five stages, as different groups of people become eligible to self-isolate on arrival rather than going into MIQ. Firstly, from 11:59pm on 27 February, fully



GLEN BENNETT
MP FOR NEW PLYMOUTH

vaccinated Kiwis and other currently eligible travellers from Australia will be able to travel to Aotearoa without entering MIQ. Two weeks later, from 11:59pm on 13 March, fully vaccinated Kiwis and other currently eligible travellers elsewhere, as well as several categories of worker and their family members, will be able to do so. For further details on this and on the next steps in the plan, visit covid19.govt.nz. Travellers will be asked to

follow broadly the same self-isolation requirements we have for close contacts inside New Zealand — currently, 10 days. On arrival, they'll receive rapid antigen tests to use during their isolation period. Meanwhile, MIQ will remain in place for unvaccinated travellers.

Over the past two years, MIQ has been a crucial part of our COVID response. It has helped us save lives and livelihoods, leaving us with some of the lowest rates of hospitalisations and deaths in the OECD, a stronger-than-expected GDP, and historically low unemployment. It's also given us time to become one of the most highly vaccinated countries in the world and, now, to get boosted. This is super-important, as we know it's the booster that is making a real difference against Omicron.

If you're 18 and over and

had your second dose at least three months ago, you can now get your booster. Book, or find a walk-in clinic near you, at bookmyvaccine.nz. I encourage you to do so as soon as possible, and I thank all of you in the New Plymouth electorate who have already stepped up for this extra layer of protection. While some of you will be excited at the prospect of

reconnecting with loved ones, I know others will be a little anxious. Our careful, phased approach — alongside our high vaccination rates and the safeguards of the traffic light system — will reduce the risk of a surge of cases, enabling Kiwis to return to Aotearoa and skilled workers to enter while protecting people and our health system.

This reconnection plan is a key part of our work to secure a recovery that will leave New Zealand stronger than it was before the pandemic. We are in a new phase of our COVID response — moving forward together, safely.

Glen Bennett
MP for New Plymouth

Booster gap shortened

Booster doses of the Covid-19 vaccine will be available to anyone who has had at least a three month gap since their second vaccine dose.

Dr Dion O'Neale, Principal Investigator, Te Pūnaha Matatini; and Senior Lecturer, Physics Department, University of Auckland, comments:

"The shortening to three months for the period before people are eligible for getting a booster is big step in improving access to one

of the most important tools in keeping people protected from COVID-19.

"Data from the UK Health Security Agency indicates that for people three or more months after a second dose of the Pfizer vaccine, their protection against symptomatic infection is under 20%. This jumps to over 60% vaccine effectiveness against symptomatic infection after a booster dose. By reducing the interval between a second and a third dose, we are

significantly increasing the proportion of the population who are currently able to get a booster and take advantage of that protection.

"If we see good uptake rates for booster doses, with people getting their third jabs as soon as they are eligible, then that will help us to limit the rate of growth of the current Omicron outbreak, in addition to increasing people's protection from severe symptoms and hospitalisation.

"Slower vaccination rates for Māori during the initial vaccine roll-out meant that a four-month wait would have left many ineligible for a booster over the next month when we are expecting Omicron cases to grow significantly. Reducing to a three-month interval to become eligible for a booster can help with not leaving people unprotected during this period.

"It is also important to note that eligibility is not the same thing as access. If the issues that led to slower uptake for some groups during the initial vaccine roll-out are not addressed for delivering boosters then we risk seeing the same people left with higher risk of infection and the possibility of severe health consequences."

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Authorised by Glen Bennett MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

Labour

Sixty year marriage spanned the oceans

Arnold and Anne Megaw were in England when the People's Princess was killed in a Paris road smash.

"The whole country just stopped. It was unbelievable," recalls Arnold of the day in 1997 when Diana Princess of Wales died. "We used to go to Canterbury town for Christmas Carols and Canterbury would be alive with tourists, but the day after she died, you could have fired a shot down Canterbury and not hit anybody."

The death of Diana was one of many memorable moments from the Megaws' eight years living in Kent, England. Others included following the All Blacks around whenever they came to Britain to tour. When they returned to New Zealand, Anne wrote a book about their experiences.

The Megaws have lived in Hawera for the last two years, but were familiar faces around Manaia before then. Anne had taught at Manaia Primary School for 20 years, and Arnold's booming voice can be heard every ANZAC Day as the marshal at the Manaia Dawn Parade. Arnold Megaw and Anne Campbell were married at St John's Presbyterian Church on January 20, 1962. They have just celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. They have two sons and four grandchildren. Arnold and Anne had met at the Stratford Dance.

"Everyone used to go," recalls Anne. "There used



Anne and Arnold Megaw.

to be hundreds of people at these dances. South Taranaki and North Taranaki would all go to Stratford for the dance."

At the time, Anne who had grown up on her parents' Ketemarae Road farm was teaching at Auroa School while Arnold from New Plymouth was a commercial driver for the Atlantic Oil Company. They spent the first years of married life living in New Plymouth, where their two sons Kelly and Chris were born.

They shifted to Manaia when Anne got a job teaching at Manaia School. Arnold worked at Yarrows

Bakery, and later worked for the Waimate West County Council, ran a menswear's shop, sold tractors for C.B. Norwood, and was hardware manager at Farmers Co-op in Hawera. He was also a member of the Manaia Fire Brigade. Their two sons Kelly and Chris were both prefects at Hawera High School and played in the school 1st XV. Many a weekend would include following their sons' sporting endeavours around the province. Both sons would go on to Massey University, Kelly to study Agricultural Science, Chris to study Business. Kelly

later worked as a wool buyer. Last year Chris retired after 32 years in the New Zealand police with the rank of sergeant.

After 20 years teaching at Manaia, Anne landed a one year exchange teaching at a school in Kent, and Arnold was able to get work over there driving tractors. Once over there, they decided they liked it so much that Anne applied for and got a permanent teaching position. What began as a one year stay turned into eight years. While there they caught up with Noel and Melva Yarrow and other familiar Manaia identities who were passing through.

"We visited many countries in Europe and the U.K and had a marvellous time," said Anne. "Quite often on Sunday we would say, let's go to France and do our shopping."

Arnold visited the house where his father had grown up in just on the north side of the Irish border.

"The house still stands. There were four rooms, two up and two down, and about eight or nine youngsters were brought up there. That's the way it was back then," he said.

After eight years, with family getting on with their lives, Arnold and Anne decided it was time to return to New Zealand. Anne later wrote a book about her experiences, "A Kiwi in Kent: Reminiscences of a New Zealand Teacher."

In his younger days, Arnold did his Compulsory Military Training (CMT) and in recent times has been active in the Manaia RSA, taking on the role of parade marshal for the ANZAC dawn parade. A previous holder of this role was Pierce Joyce, an Otakeho farmer and Korea War veteran who had been chairman of the Waimate Plains County Council and mayor of the South Taranaki district.

"The first day I did that job I felt Pierce Joyce looking over my shoulder," recalls Arnold.

A couple of years ago, Arnold and Anne shifted to Hawera, moving from their spacious home which in an earlier life had been the Manaia Maternity Hospital into something smaller and more manageable.

Booster gap shortened

Continued from page 8.

Professor Michael Plank, Te Pūnaha Matatini and University of Canterbury, comments:

"It is excellent news that the gap between the second dose and the booster has been shortened to 3 months, meaning 1 million additional New Zealanders are now eligible to get their booster dose. With Omicron, getting the booster significantly reduces your own risk of getting seriously ill. It also reduces our collective risk that hospitals will be overwhelmed with Covid patients.

"To manage the impacts of Omicron, we need to boost as many people as possible, as quickly as possible. It takes a week or two for your immune system to respond to the vaccine dose. In a couple of weeks' time, it's likely we will have much higher infection rates in the community. So the time to get the booster is now. If you are eligible, please make a plan to get your booster and encourage your whānau and friends to do the same."

Stratford Shakespeare Festival postponed

The Stratford Shakespeare Festival had plans to be bigger and better in 2022 but sadly due to the Omicron outbreak, it is just another festival that has had its big dreams postponed to 2023.

"The events team of the festival, along with the Stratford Shakespeare Trust, has made the difficult decision to postpone the majority of the festival to 2023," Dixon Lobb of the trust explains.

Events such as the gallery

exhibitions, photography competitions, the school holiday programme and some films will still be shown in what the committee likens to a "plague adapted festival" on a smaller scale.

Shakespeare famous for his tragedy, comedy and historical plays, would have had more than enough to write about around the current situation of Covid and with events planned in 2023 that include improvisational and devised

work, it will no doubt be worth the wait to see what is created over the next year. The big festival is planned for April 1st – 15th 2023.

Stratford Shakespeare Festival

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Opunake & Coastal

News is on February 24.

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Ronald Hugh Morrieson Memorial Room is remarkable

Regardless of whether you are a tourist or a local person Tawhiti Museum's *Ronald Hugh Morrieson Memorial Room* is well worth a visit. Nigel and Teresa Ogle restored the final remnant (attic) of Ronald Hugh Morrieson homestead (following demolition), after the building had spent 19 years positioned outside on Robert Surgenor's Hawera property.

Ron Morrieson, Taranaki's most acclaimed author, lived in his Regent Street, Hawera homestead for virtually all of his 50 years (he died in 1972). Later, in the early 1990s KFC wanted the house removed so they could build their latest restaurant. There was much opposition with The Scarecrow Committee (Tim Chadwick, Nigel Ogle, Clive Cullen) leading the charge, but unfortunately the homestead ended up being demolished in 1992.

In 2012 there was special ceremony at Tawhiti Museum when the renovated attic, which had been saved from demolition, was officially opened, with Nigel and Robert Surgenor (who rescued the attic), cutting the tape. Mayor Ross Dunlop was the special guest and keynote speaker.

When you enter the two-storied building you almost expect Ron to come around the corner, as so much of his memorabilia and even his signed items are about. Downstairs are signed

The Attic

The room you are in was Ron Morrieson's bedroom from when he was a young boy until his death at age 50, in 1972. When the family home was being demolished in 1993 to make way for a fast-food restaurant, local builder Robert Surgenor purchased and removed the attic to use as a sleep-out for his daughter. Nineteen years later it was moved to the Tawhiti Museum and renovated to become part of the R.H. Morrieson display. Ron's family affirm that all his writing was done in this room.

Ron's attic becomes the upstairs to a purpose-built building at the Tawhiti Museum, December 2011.

Tawhiti Museum exhibit The Attic.

copies of his books: such as one *"To My Good Friends Diana and Mac, October 6, 1964."* This refers to Gordon Mac Sole (and his wife at the time), his best friend of the 1960s who has written a series of memoirs for this newspaper. There also are music scores on which Ron has written his name and a plethora of memorabilia and stills from feature films based on his novels; Ron is the only New Zealand writer

to have had all his novels made into feature films.

Upstairs is magical. A lifelike full scale model of Ron can be seen, cigarette in hand as he peers out his window onto Regent Street while thinking about his next words of wisdom. His room is a clutter of books, musical instruments, pictures and former school exercise books, as well as furniture and floor rugs.

Ron's beloved jazz music is playing constantly creating just the optimal nostalgic atmosphere. Playing nonstop is a video with the memories of several people who knew Ron personally. Included are relatives, fellow musicians

and a music tutee.

Ron wrote four novels: *The Scarecrow* (1963), *Came A Hot Friday* (1964) - both published in his lifetime and two posthumous ones *Predicament* (1974) and *Pallet on the Floor* (1976). Two short stories were published by Landfall after his passing. His writing has the quality that the more you read the more you find, such is his creative brilliance and depth of knowledge. Maybe his novelist friend Maurice Shadbolt sums the writing up best: He is our most precious writer who should, by rights, be our best-selling author.

"...the most original novelist New Zealand has produced,

a master of black humour who captured forever the life of smalltown NZ in the era from 1930 to 1950." (Bateman, New Zealand Encyclopedia, 1984).

Ronald Hugh Morrieson would have turned 100 on 29 January, had he still been alive.

Currently, Tawhiti Museum is open from Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, 10am to 4pm. Nigel and Teresa's museum has been described as the most outstanding private museum in Australasia, with dioramas and life-sized models skilfully created on the premises in the body shop.

Once you have had a good

look at the Ronald Hugh Morrieson Memorial Room there are a wealth of other first class attractions on offer, such as Traders and Whalers, Farm Powers Hall, Tawhiti Bush Railway, two intriguing shops eg. Lock, Stock & Barrel), as well as and Badgers Café for refreshments.

Tawhiti Museum is just five minutes out of Hawera at 401 Ohangai Road. (Just 4km from the Princes Street/SH intersection). You can make contact by phoning 06 278 6837 or emailing info@tawhitimuseum.co.nz their website www.tawhitimuseum.co.nz is well worth a look.

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A model of Morrieson at work.

Déjà vu for Donald



The Manaia Spud N A Bucket continues to be popular with the town's potato growers. The competition has been going for four years. This year the weigh-in took place on January 23 with Donald Strawbridge declared the winner with a spud weight of 0.345.

This year there had been 77 entries with each competitor receiving a seed spud and a bucket, and the competition starting on September 26 last year.

For Donald it was a case of déjà vu, having won the title back in 2019, the first time it was competed for back in 2019 with a spud weight of 0.137. Kevin Bird won in 2020 with a weight of 0.162, and last year's winner was Ian Taylor with a spud weight of 0.353.

Donald Strawbridge declared the winner

Wild Waiaua River



The recent rain effects on our regional rivers.

Gardening with Palmers Gardening Centre

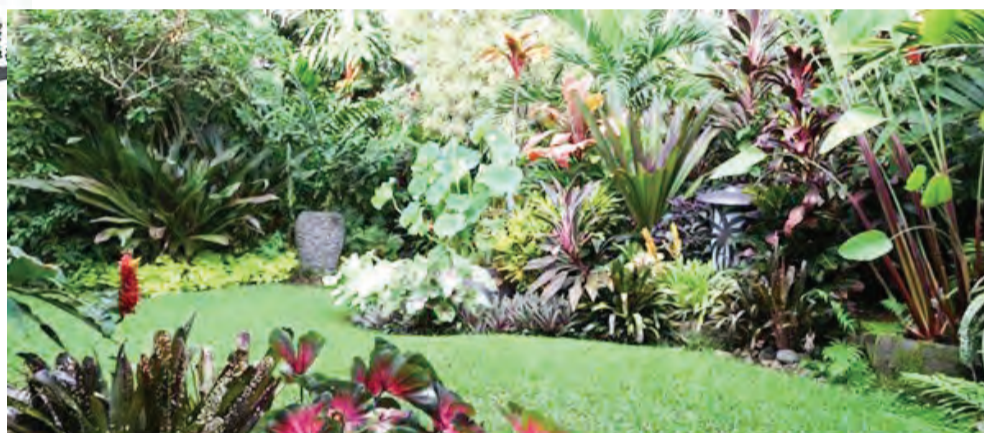


This hot, humid weather makes us think of the tropics. It may be some time before we are able to travel, but instead, we can easily create a tropical garden.

Firstly, clear the part of your garden that you intend to develop. Shade is okay. Leave any boulders, or even tree stumps as you can use these for structure. Add generous amounts of compost before planting and ensure that your soil is free draining.

Start by planting large, broad-leaf plants. Agaves, aloes, palms, bananas, taro and puka. Then add bright coloured foliage from plants like canna tropicana, bromeliads, phormium (flax), grasses and coprosma. Colourful flowering shrubs and perennials – vireya rhododendrons, strelitzia (bird of paradise), brunfelsia and hemerocallis (day lily) will make your display 'pop'. Mingle in fragrance – gardenias and frangapani (in

Making a garden for tropical times



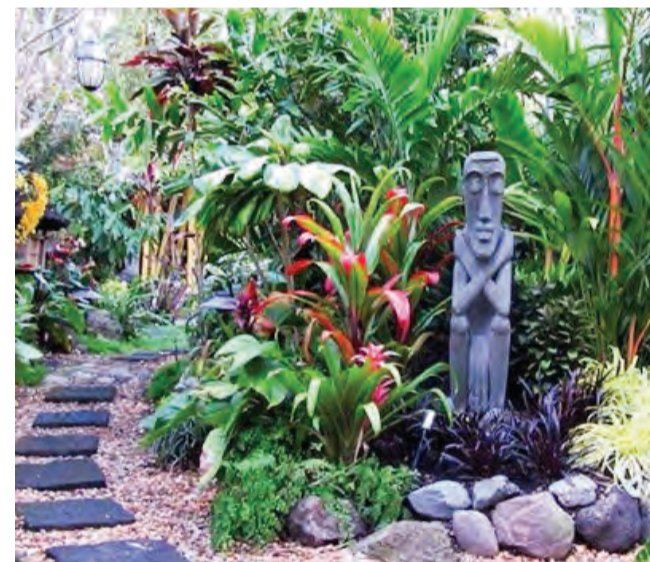
Create your own tropical paradise.

frost free areas). Add a touch of the tropics with climbers – bougainvillea, clematis, mandevilla and tecomanthe. Finish off with pebbles, rocks, crushed shell, large urns and pots, and a water feature.

Your situation will dictate the types of plants used in your tropical garden – is it sheltered or exposed, in full sun or part shade? Some palms will require a sheltered situation – like the bungalow palm. Others such as the washingtonia can be successfully planted in exposed areas. If planting in an area prone to frost, place frost tender plants into large pots and urns so that they can be moved in winter.

All these plants like Taranaki's temperate climate – rain, warmth, humidity. Other favourites are pseudopanax, radermachera, and palms including Nikau (rhopalostylis sapida), queen palm, phoenix roebelenii, Kentia, sago and foxtail.

Once established, your tropical garden will be low-maintenance and easy-care. Enjoy.



Easy Care ideas for tropical gardens.

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Walking the length of New Zealand

Imagine walking the entire length of New Zealand. However, try envisaging completing the 2,482 km journey aged 69/70, walking on two prosthesis hips, as well as two prosthesis knees. Retired farmer and author (*Don't Die Wondering: A Philosophical Motivational & Spiritual Guide Book*, 2018) Kevin Murphy achieved this feat, which took a total of 77 days. It should be pointed out that he did not complete the distance in one go, like his hero the late AH (Sir Alfred

Reed, but his journey was achieved in several stages, but he was careful to return to exactly the same spot where he had left off. Kevin loves to walk and has completed many of the great walks in New Zealand as well as overseas ones, such as the famous 800 km Spanish Camino de Santiago; due to Covid his overseas endeavours are somewhat curtailed at present. His New Zealand journey was backed by his wife Marianne, who followed in



Marianne Murphy and Kevin Murphy with maps of New Zealand.

a vehicle; An attached sign read: *Walking the length of New Zealand*. "I can't state how important Marianne, my supporter and organiser, was. She arranged the accommodation (mostly motels), the meals, the washing and updated family and friends with our progress," explains Kevin. He adds, "She also recycled the bottles I picked up." Kevin lost count after he picked up 4,400 of them.

The journey started at Cape Reinga on March 17, 2021 for the 69-year-old (He celebrated his 70th birthday on December, 11, 2021). Kevin enjoys symbolism "I carried two stones I picked up at Cape Reinga all the way to Bluff where I threw one in the sea and picked up another one at Sterling Point, so I now have one from each end of the country." He was lucky he didn't lose them as they rubbed a hole in his pocket.

Kevin walked with the aid of a 1.25 metre staff with a rubber bung at the base, which needed replacing every couple of days.

A special moment was in Taranaki when he was able to walk through a section of his former farm in Auroa. He

also visited his current home in New Plymouth. "For me this was as much a spiritual journey as a physical hike."

He kept to a strict regime. Stops were no longer than 15 minutes "Otherwise I'd seize up" as he sat on a red chair. The car was a no go facility, until he had completed his walk at the end of each day. Luckily, rain was not an issue - there were only four inclement days out of the entire 77.

His greatest distance completed in a day (10 hours 40 minutes) was 42kms when he walked from Balclutha to Mataura in Southland. "The next day I was buggered," admits Kevin. A Mymap app was used to record distance walked.

Although Kevin loved the scenic beauty of the surroundings, there were some low points, such as the moment he reached Timaru. "My feet were blistered, my back was aching and I felt exhausted."

There were also a few scary moments, such as a 7am crossing of the 1.8km Rakaia River Bridge, which had no provision for pedestrian access. Marianne followed with hazard lights flashing. Kevin was duly reported to the authorities, by locals, who stated that an "elderly man with a stick" was walking the bridge and there was community concern at the situation.

Another moment led to a few cross words between the

couple when Kevin thought Marianne had parked the car too close to the railway lines near Karitane, while they had a cuppa. Sure enough, next thing the alarm bells started ringing as Marianne desperately sought the car keys so she could back the vehicle out of the danger zone.

At one stage his endeavour was almost stymied; there was a 2.5km section of road works on Takaka Hill where cyclists and pedestrians were not allowed. "I sneaked along this section late on a Sunday afternoon."

The final two days of the journey were trying as it was both cold and wet. However, the couple were buoyed by the presence of nine members of the family (children and grandchildren), who accompanied Kevin for the last part of the journey. "This was so lovely and the time and distance flew by."

All in all it was a great experience and a tick high on Kevin's Bucket List. "I didn't feel emotional when I finished, the feeling was one of great satisfaction."

And has Kevin hung up his walking boots? (He wore out three pairs on his New Zealand walk). Hell no! He has his eye on the Hadrian's Wall walk in England and the Wainwrights Coast to Coast. However, the timing will depend on the strictures of Covid including quarantine regulations.



At the final destination Bluff are, from left, Tessa Cook, Kevin Murphy, Bethany Cook, Catherine Cook, Eve Burnside (at top of picture), Jack Murphy, James Murphy, Jyla Burnside, Tim Burnside, Judith Burnside and Marianne Murphy

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Informative Funeral Open Day a definite success



Funeral Director Glenn Rogers talking with two visitors.

On Saturday January 29, South Taranaki Funeral Services, located at 268 High Street, Hawera held an interesting Open Day, which went from 10am until 3pm.

During the day Funeral Director Glenn Rogers and Marcus Dunn (Assistant Funeral director) conducted tours of the premises and answered a multitude of questions. Also on hand was a well-resourced information table with many pamphlets, as well as their comprehensive pack 'My Life, My Funeral' which covers every aspect anyone

could possibly need to know. Included in this pack is, for example, their competitive Community Care Funeral Packages.

There were also several professionals on hand, including celebrants Don Stockwell and Jodi Muggeridge, Steffi Chapman (Lovell's Flowers), Petra Finer (Social Media and Funerals), and Pierre Erasmus (Thirtysix Plus Embalmers NZ), with Heather Brokenshire (St John) accepting donations for the projected new South Taranaki Ambulance station.

Attracting a lot of interest was Joanne Piper with her PAWS stall. PAWS stands for Pet Angel Wings and the unique (to New Zealand) service allows pet lovers to have their deceased pets undergo an environmentally sound process called Water Cremation. The end product is a white powder which can be kept in an urn or scattered. Try www.petangel.co.nz for more information about this Masterton enterprise.

Strict RED Covid protocols were upheld during the day with Peg Strang ensuring all visitors had their vaccine

passports on hand, as well as other requirements.

A selection of caskets were on display in the main Chapel including the well-known Settler. All caskets are produced in Masterton by Dean Taylor from a renewable source (pine timber). "He provides us with an excellent product, a real quality casket at a reasonable price," explains Marcus.

Glenn and Marcus are proud of Margaret's Legacy, whereby mobility scooters can be loaned (short term) free of charge. This service is provided in conjunction with Kevin and Marilyn Bromell of Mobility & More. This service was named in honour of the late Margaret Robinson-Davies who was a long time volunteer for many good causes including Hospice and the Cancer Society.

One place of interest was the Embalming Room and Pierre was a fount of knowledge as he has sold embalming products for many years, not only in New Zealand but also overseas. There are about a dozen different products each one dealing with a different aspect of the embalming process.

Glenn is proud of his series of historical photographs of Hawera in the main Chapel, which seats 150 guests. "This is my absolute favourite," he says, stopping to show several visitors one. It shows a street scene with McCormick's Funeral and Furniture, which is the forerunner establishment, preceding South Taranaki Funeral Services.

Glenn is pleased to have state-of-the art equipment for recording and filming services. "With this equipment we can webcast a service almost anywhere."

There is no doubt that all visitors of the well-organised Open Day left the premises much more informed. "Very interesting and informative," commented one visitor. "It was a great day with some great people," concluded another. Well done to everyone who helped to make the day a success including Amiria Wilson



Pierre Erasmus in the Embalming Room.

who helped us present the Funeral services by phoning 06 278 8088, or by emailing info@stfs.co.nz. The locally owned and family firm's website is well worth a look at www.southtaranakifunerals.co.nz



Joanne Piper's explanation of Wet Cremation for pets intrigued many visitors. It is called PAWS (Pet Angel Wings).

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New panels installed at the Historic Cape Light & Museum

Just before Christmas five informative backlit panels were installed at the Historic Cape Light & Museum in Bayley Road, Warea - just 3km off SH 45. The backlit panels were named, respectively, *History of Warea*, *Early Settlement*, *Warea District Life*, *Industry* and *Living On the Coast*. The project, which entailed the raising of a considerable amount money, was overseen by Trustees Ron Thompson and Len Pentelow, in conjunction with the Warea Domain Board, who were major sponsors. "It's taken ten years to raise the money," explains Ron.

Ron commented as he gazed proudly at the panels, "We're very pleased with it." However, as he admitted wryly, "The budget of \$20,000 was overrun." The final figure was \$25,000. He also said, "To get the panels right, that was the hard part." He mentioned that no less than 3,000 visitors had visited the museum over the last 12 months.

Equally delighted at the panels was Murray



Trustee Ron Thompson with two of the panels.

Burmeister, who has been on the Warea Domain Board about 20 years. "It's marvellous," he enthused.

Chairperson of the Warea Domain Board and Warea Community Board Brian Beardmore is also well pleased: "The panels are a credit to the Trust," he concluded.

The five panels are impressively large in size, are colourful and have a plethora of information including maps, pictures of people and places, visits of famous people (eg. Bishop

Selwyn and historian WH Skinner), as well as significant dates - such as in 2009 the Sea Rescue Trust was formed and in 1790 the first European residents settled the Warea district and much later, in 2009 the Sea Rescue Trust was formed.

Some of the notable people mentioned in the panels include the Parihaka leaders Te Whiti-o-Rongomai and Tohu Kakahi, as well as religious leaders such as Reverend Riemenschneider (and his Mission). Important industries are covered

such as flour mills, flax (harakeke) mills, and dairy industry. Archaeological treasures are outlined such as petroglyphs (rock carvings by pre-European Maori inhabitants). Also, the genesis (with dates) of many clubs and societies such as Warea Country Women's Institute, the Warea Outdoor Bowling Club, The Warea Croquet Club, the Warea Domain Board, Warea Home & School, Warea Tennis Club, Cape Egmont Voluntary Coast Guard,

as well as various shops, schools and businesses.

The museum is currently open Friday to Monday, from 11am to 3pm.

However, more volunteers are needed to ensure this continues. If you can help please phone Ron Thompson on 06 755 0051 or 027 240 8684. Ron wondered if visiting members of the Caravan Clubs could help in this way, by opening up the museum on the specified days.

There is no doubt that

the Historic Cape Light & Museum is one of the outstanding tourist attractions in Taranaki and a credit to Ron Thompson, Len Pentelow, Dave Gully and the memory of Chris Aylward, as well as the Warea Domain Board and many others, such as Brian Vincent QSM, builder Mac McKenzie and historian Kelvin Day. With the recent installation of these first class panels the already excellent museum must now be characterised as *superb*.



Warea Domain Board members, from left, Cory Juffermans, Barry Proffit, Murray Burmeister, Ruth Proffit and Trustee Ron Thompson with new panels in the background.

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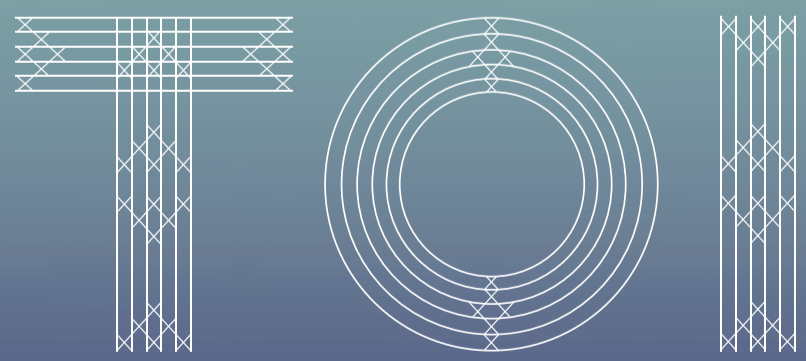
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Business caters for niche group in sewing community

A business which is the only one of its kind in New Zealand now has a shop front presence in Eltham.

For the last four years Helen Cloke has been running Nellie Joans Lingerie Findings as an online business, providing sewing supplies for people who sew their own lingerie, swimwear and active wear, dealing with clients all over the country and beyond. Now it has a storefront presence in the Eltham CBD at 181 High Street Eltham

Most of her customer base comes from New Zealand, with about 20 per cent coming from Australia. She also sends "the odd random

parcel" overseas, with one going to the North Pole. She says there are shops in Europe and the United States doing what she does, but hers is the only business of its kind in New Zealand.

"It's quite a little niche group of the sewing community, but it's one that's steadily growing," she says.

"It's surprising where you send parcels off to. It's more common to be sewing in the main centres as there are popular sewing communities there, than in the small towns. Sewing can be such a solitary hobby, so it's nice to make connections with other people that sew."

Helen has been sewing her own clothes for the last 15 years, and eight or nine years ago started making her own bras. It was then that she noted a gap in the market.

"Nowhere in New Zealand could I get what I needed. I had to purchase from overseas."

From this Nellie Joans Lingerie Findings was born.

"I started off as something small out of a personal interest, and I thought it was going to be a tiny part-time thing, but it's grown into something fulltime. I needed to move locations as it had outgrown my spare bedroom."

Helen says there are two reasons she got into bra-making. She enjoys the technical engineering side of her work and being able to play around with colours and fabrics. The other reason is a focus on comfort. She says so many women complain about their bra being uncomfortable, digging into them and how they can't wait to remove it at the end of the day. She wants to see something that is comfortable and tailored to each body.

"Most of my stock comes from Canada or the USA as they have quite a few lingerie specific fabric manufacturers



Helen Cloke with some of the materials from Nellie Joans Lingerie Findings.

there. My laces come from Europe and a few elastics are sourced from NZ companies. Finding ethical suppliers of quality fabrics and notions at a reasonable price is almost a full-time job in itself."

Helen grew up in Stratford and trained to become a landscape designer at WinTec in Hamilton, where she met her husband Lee.

She worked as a landscape designer for 16 years before

deciding she'd like a change of direction.

"I felt that I had achieved everything I had wanted to achieve," she says. Nevertheless she says the skills picked up as a landscape designer could be transferred to bra making, helping people choose colours and fabric combinations.

Helen and Lee now live in Stratford, work in Eltham,

and have an 11 year-old daughter Lily.

Nellie Joans Lingerie Findings shares the same building as Lee's business PB Electrical.

Future plans could include holding classes, ranging from beginners on how to use a sewing machine through to more advanced classes on how to fit and sew a bra.



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Helen Cloke

Pop-up COVID-19 vaccination clinics



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Friday 11 February	Inglewood, TET Stadium	12pm – 6pm
Monday 14 February	Rahotu, Domain Rugby Club	12pm – 6pm
Tuesday 15 February	Kaponga, Town Hall	12pm – 6pm
Wednesday 16 February	Bell Block, Fred Tucker Hall	12pm – 6pm
Thursday 17 February	Ōkato, Hempton Hall	12pm – 6pm

These clinics are walk-in only, no bookings are available.

Our vaccination staff are happy to answer any questions you might have or just have a chat.

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Takes 'fill ya boots' a tad to seriously at times

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A wanna 'b' surfer, but watched to much JAWS and gave up wanting...

Hes a pretty good guy and often does free stuff for our clients when he's onsite (we think...)

Wears shorts all year round cause he reckons his knee caps get sweaty

Swears like a trooper.....

.....dont worry we are trying to #@!%*"#! train him out of it..

His real name is Damian but for some reason his mates called him Chunkyou might know why when you see him....

His fear of insects has been known to have him running off the job.....!)

We left this spot empty incase he does any other cool stuff between now and when he comes to your place.....

Get in touch if you want to meet Chunk in real life or have work for us to look at - info@excavat.co.nz | [0800 314 437](tel:0800314437)

Grants of up to \$20,000 are available for Curious Minds Taranaki projects

Venture Taranaki, the regional development agency, delivers locally Curious Minds Taranaki, and has secured further funding until June 2024 with \$154,000 of project funding available to allocate annually.

Since 2015, Curious Minds Taranaki, a Participatory Science Platform (PSP), has funded 60 projects throughout the region to the value of \$1,001,728, with additional in-kind and co-funding exceeding \$788,900.

“We’re thrilled to have distributed over 1 million dollars of project funding. We know this funding has positive impacts within our communities, allowing schools and community groups to research and tackle problems and questions that matter to them,” says Justine Gilliland, Venture Taranaki Chief Executive.

Curious Minds Taranaki



Wētā Watcher, 2021 funded project. Taranaki students trialling Wētā Watcher technology to monitor and identify species in Te Papakura o Taranaki (Egmont National Park)."

Photo Venture Taranaki

is delivered by Venture Taranaki in collaboration with the Taranaki Regional Council and funded by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE). Applicants can apply now for funding up to \$20,000 to use towards their projects.

“Curious Minds Taranaki allows everyone to get involved with science, technology and Māori, through community-led projects which ask topical questions of the world around them, bringing together

science, technology, community, and business to develop solutions and innovations, while driving local learning and a passion for investigation and science,” continues Justine.

Expressions of interest are now open for the new funding round, and organisations and individuals are encouraged to register their ideas now.

“We look forward to hearing your ideas for projects and how we can help turn them into research action,” concludes Justine.



A Weta

Thanks for being Wai Warriors

Despite the hot weather in January, locals and visitors have been doing a great job saving water, earning a big thanks from NPDC. “Peak demand has been lower than the past and our water network has kept up.” Three Waters

Manager Mark Hall said.

“Unfortunately, local river levels are all low, especially in the Mangatete Stream, so we’re having to ban all outdoor water use in Okato from midnight February 3,” Mr Hall said.

“We’re

encouraging

everyone to keep up the great job saving water,” he said. “Our annual District-wide household water saving plans are in place, with sprinklers, irrigation systems and unattended hoses banned across the district until 31 March”.

Hand-held hoses can be used on the odds and evens system (even-numbered houses on even-numbered days and odd-numbered houses on odd-numbered days).

Be a Wai Warrior and help reduce our water use by making small changes to

your daily water habits.

The best time for watering your garden is early morning or the evening.

When it’s time to give the car a wash or clean the windows on your house, say no to the hose and get out the bucket and sponge.

When brushing your teeth, shaving, washing vegetables or doing the dishes by hand, you can save water by turning off the tap or putting in the plug.

CURIOUS MINDS TARANAKI FUNDING AVAILABLE NOW

Grants of up to \$20,000 are available to support community based science and technology research.



To register your idea or find out more info, visit curiousmindstaranaki.org.nz



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Opunakē High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Opunakē

CONTACT DETAILS

P: 06 761 8723
 Tasman Street, Opunakē 4616
 PO Box 4, Opunakē 4645
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GROWING GOOD PEOPLE FOR A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD | HE WAIHANGATANGA O TE TANGATA PAI I ROTO I TÉNEI AO HURIHURI

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?



INTRODUCING: THE 2022 PREFECT TEAM

Back Row (from left): Richmin Hughson-How, Nichol Ratahi-Corrigan, Liam Kidd, Cameron Quinnell, Josh Kruger, Lorin Symons, Philippa Gasson
 Front Row: Miriama Roach, Lexi McQuaig (Head Girl), Thomas Tito-Green (Head Boy), Kyla Coleman
 Absent: Bella Pivac, Cherish Robinson-Green, Lia Sefton-Zachan

Principal's Address



Kia ora Koutou,

Whakataka te hau ki te uru
 Whakataka te hau ki te tonga
 Kia mākinakina ki uta
 Kia mātaratara ki tai
 E hi ake ana te atakura
 He tio, he huka, he hau hū
 Tihei mauri ora!

*Cease the winds from the west
 Cease the winds from the south
 Let the breeze blow over the land
 Let the breeze blow over the ocean
 Let the red-tipped dawn come with a sharpened air.
 A touch of frost, a promise of a glorious day.*

Opunakē High School has had a beautiful start to the term, in spite of the challenges and restrictions of this troubling Covid climate, and life at our kura truly has the 'promise of a glorious' year.

The planning gone into orientation has ensured a smooth commencement for students to the kura. So, thank you to all of those kaiako (teachers) who have been here at school for nearly two weeks already putting plans in place. Your commitment to our rangatahi (youth) is inspiring.

We would like to welcome several new staff to our trailblazing kura:

- wonderful Wendy Eynon (Transitions/Careers),
 - practical Paul Coulton - (Engineering/jnr technology),
 - awesome Abbey Buckley - (English/Social studies)
 - amazing Alyssa Poole (Music),
- whilst we would also like to acknowledge
- bubbly Blake Robins (PE),
 - creative Kataraina Rongonui (Te Reo), and
 - magnificent Maria Spurdle (Sports Coordinator).

Together with our current staff and fabulous new year 9s, we are looking forward to an exciting and academically adventurous 2022.



Mrs Hooper with her son during the flooding at the school over Waitangi weekend. Fortunately, the school sustained zero water damage to any classrooms.

I'd like to celebrate our staggered orientation programme: Sam Bennett (Master of Ceremonies) inspired our Year 13s, whilst Paul Rangiwahia offered advice on resilience. A well planned peer support programme was enjoyed by our Year 9s, created and directed by our vibrant Year 13 Dean; Victoria Forsyth and our trail blazing prefects.

Year 11s had their team building and critical thinking skills challenged at a high-flying Vertical Horizon camp. Year 10s also had their fear of heights challenged with high ropes climbing and set themselves equally high expectations for 2022.

Our powhiri was a powerful celebration and welcome to all our new akonga (students). Students were inspired to be bold, courageous, take risks, fail fast but have the resilience to keep shooting for the stars. As well as to stay to true our school DREAMS values.

I would like to finish by giving enormous thanks to Cain Aldridge for refurbishing our skate ramp, a gargantuan effort from a community member. Another shout out would be to Jayden Forsyth (ex-student) and the Lions club for helping with the Technology Department Tiny Homes construction project. Not forgetting to thank Brian and Liz Gasson for spending hours pulling out maize in order to create our upcoming Maize Maze, watch this space.

'Growing good people for a rapidly changing world' is definitely alive and well in our community kura.

Nga mihi,

Andrea Hooper Carr
 Principal

SCHOOL APP

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Search 'Opunakē High School' to find us.



Head Boy and Head Girl at Opunake High School for 2022



Head Girl Lexi McQuaig and Head Boy Tom Tito-Green, pictured at Opunake High School.

Opunake High School has chosen Tom Tito-Green as Head Boy and Lexi McQuaig as Head girl for 2022.

When asked if he was surprised at his promotion Tom commented, "I was very very shocked. To be honest I thought others had much more potential."

Lexi said, "I just couldn't believe it. It felt pretty surreal. It's very special." She also commented on the high calibre of the other senior students under consideration for leadership.

In his role as leader Tom intends "just to work towards uniting the year groups of students, just to make it comfortable for students and staff." He also wants to "set the stage for next year's leaders to take over from us."

It's all about empowerment," explains Lexi. "Meaning health and well-being." She adds, "I want students to feel fully accepted and to make sure our school is a comfortable place of learning."

Digging deeper she shares, "I've been through a lot and struggled at times." She also said, "I've lots of ideas in the pipeline to help out students."

Tom is also the student representative on the Board of Trustees, as well as parliamentarian Glen Bennett's Youth MP for this

year's sitting of the Youth Parliament.

This year Tom will be studying Biology, History, Maori, Music and English. "I like them all equally," he says with a smile.

Lexi is engaged in an advanced educational programme, having passed NCEA level 3 ahead of time. She attends WITT two days a week. She is also working towards a Certificate in Exercise, Gateway, Environmental Studies and Te Reo Maori.

For relaxation Tom enjoys an occasional movie as well as spending time with his family. Lexi is a swimming instructor two nights a week and also works in a local dairy. She enjoys taking care of her health and fitness with a run or workout, as well as cooking a nutritious spicy meal. Her great love is poetry; she won the Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards (Secondary School Poetry) in 2020. (and was also third), as well as third in the Short Story section. In 2018 she was placed third in the Poetry section. Last year, he was runner up in the competition (Poetry).

When Tom leaves school he intends a degree in law or maybe Anthropology. Lexi will attend Massey University to study Dietetics, which should lead to a career as a dietitian.

Successful Taste of Taranaki Pop-up comes to an end

From November 2021 to the last weekend of January, 25 premium Taranaki food and beverage producers came together to showcase their products to the delight of locals and visitors to Taranaki.

The inaugural Taste of Taranaki Pop-up in Eltham was a collaboration between Venture Taranaki and South Taranaki District Council to shine a light on the strength and diversity the region has in producing food and beverage products.

"We're thrilled we were able to bring together local vendors to the one place over summer, providing them with another avenue to sell their products while telling our diverse food and beverage production story, and adding something new for visitors to our region," says Justine Gilliland, Venture Taranaki Chief Executive.

Eltham was a fitting home for the first Taste of Taranaki Pop-up, with the town's pioneering history in food production and

export. The cheese capital of New Zealand, the Fonterra Co-op (or its predecessors) has been in Eltham for over 100 years, rolling out internationally acclaimed and innovative cheeses, including the very first blue cheese in New Zealand, Galaxy Blue Vein, produced in 1951, and award-winning Kapiti-brand cheeses since.

South Taranaki Mayor Phil Nixon was very pleased with how well the community got behind the initiative.

"It was great to see so much support for the pop-up in Eltham throughout the summer. Plenty of locals became regular customers and visitors from all over the country enjoyed what we have on offer here," he said.

Over the 12-weeks, visitors to the pop-up were able to purchase a variety of local products from coffee, honey, freshly baked bread, sweet treats, specialty cheeses, dips, and seasonings. Along with a range of local beverage crafters and distillers, something Taranaki is becoming

increasingly known for.

Ricci Harbuck from Food Hugger Gourmet, maker of hand-crafted seasonal small batch apple butters, chutneys, and authentic American BBQ rubs, says "being part of Taste of Taranaki, as a new business, provided us with a unique opportunity to grow and connect with both a local customer base and beyond."

"We're working hard to establish ourselves as a national brand and we had strong sales to visitors to the region from areas like Auckland, Tauranga and Wellington. This exposure helps to spotlight our product

at a national level."

The pop-up has now officially closed, and after what looks like successful three months, \$1,500 will be donated to the Eltham Food Bank.

"In the spirit of supporting those who are doing it tough at the moment, we'll be making a financial donation to the Eltham Food Bank, along with some donated products from vendors who were part of the pop-up," says Mayor Phil Nixon.

The next step for Venture Taranaki and South Taranaki District Council is to undertake a thorough review of the pop-up from

a commercial viability perspective.

"We will analyse the entire project, including important feedback from our food and beverage vendors and our customers. In the coming months we'll release our findings for interested parties to consider this concept as an on-going enterprise opportunity," explains Justine.

"The pop-up demonstrated there's appetite from consumers and local producers wanting to be involved. It was fantastic to see repeat weekly customers, while adding another visitor experience to our region's

attractions, and piloting the further build out of our food tourism offering. There is significant potential in food tourism, for supporting our local communities through visitation and helping support our increasingly diverse food enterprises to develop and grow. We look forward to sharing the pop-up analysis soon," concludes Justine.



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Are PondBugs just the latest fad?

There's been a recent surge in the popularity of PondBugs and other similar effluent treatments, and you may be wondering what all the hype is about. Is this just a fad? One of those new products that looks and sounds great, but you later realise you don't actually need? In short, it's not just the latest fad, and it's something that's been around for a while but is only just getting widely recognised. Here's some more info...



MICHAEL PRESTIDGE

for any storage situation, typical signs your effluent could do with extra help would be an unpleasant smell and crust forming.

The popularity of PondBugs has increased of recent times as farmers experience the benefits and spread the word. The consistent trend is that farmers who have tried PondBugs continue to use it.

Why use it?

PondBugs are a simple way to keep your effluent pond clean and healthy, which in turn provides a smoother flow through your effluent system, and a quicker, more consistent release of nutrients out to pasture.

Benefits include:

- Reduces pond



Pond bugs. A multivitamin for your pond.

crusting

- Maintains pond capacity
- Improves the nutrient value of effluent
- Reduces odour
- Approved for use

on organic farms

- Enables cows to graze pasture sooner
- Improves soil biological health
- Helps reduce greenhouse emissions

When is the best time to

use PondBugs?

One of the best times to start treating your effluent pond/storage is right after emptying. This way you'll get everything working well as the pond starts to fill up, and the PondBugs will

have more time to get going before you need to pump out again. However, you can start any time.

How should PondBugs be used?

They are a really simple application – it's just one scoop per 50 cows, and you can tip them down the drain when you're washing out. Just be aware as they are live organisms, use of severe washing chemicals can kill the bugs as well as decrease biological activity in your pond.

PondBugs are an organic product and work best with regular use – usually weekly to keep up with new effluent being consistently introduced into the storage. Regular stirring will help distribute the PondBugs throughout the effluent and assist in keeping solids in suspension. They are a slow-release treatment – so it won't happen overnight, but it will happen!

*Michael Prestidge
Nevada Effluent
Management Specialist*

Urgent action needed on the special forestry test

Federated Farmers is calling on the government to live up to its pledge and review the Overseas Investment Act 'special forestry test' and be fair to sheep and beef farmers

Multiple government policies are driving farmland being sold for pine tree carbon farming, and a multitude of changes are needed to restore balance to land use policy, Feds Meat and Wool Chair William Beetham says.

"Sorting the special forestry test is straight forward and a good first step."

The Overseas Investment Act 'benefit to New Zealand' requirement is waived under the special forestry test when overseas investors buy farmed land for 'forestry activities'.

This policy makes it much easier for foreign investors to purchase New Zealand farms to convert to trees, and is one of many distortionary policies that are advantaging

carbon farming over other land uses such as sheep and beef farming, William says.

Technically, the forestry test indicates that the planted trees eventually be logged but there is no mechanism to ensure this actually happens, nor even any rules to ensure that pruning or pest control is done.

"That's not fair even to our responsible New Zealand foresters," William says.

"The recent spike in the afforestation of sheep and beef farms is not the result of consumer driven demand, but heavy-handed and short-term Government policies designed to incentivise more trees, regardless of whether or not they are the right tree in the right place."

The price of carbon under the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) has hit a record \$68 per unit. Polluting industries looking to offset their greenhouse gas emissions are behind big increases in the value of land used for raising sheep and

beef cattle.

"Overseas investors can simply plant pine trees, claim the credits, sell them and take the huge profits overseas, while New Zealanders carry the consequences now and into the future.

"Those wanting to use land to continue farming for the future prosperity of Aotearoa New Zealand are being out-bid. There is little benefit but a huge cost to future generations."

Other than when the trees are first planted for carbon credits, there's little or no employment benefit. Rural families move out, school rolls fall, meat processing industries suffer and it becomes a vicious cycle of rural downturn - never mind the loss of export earnings from meat and wool, William says.

A report commissioned by Beef+Lamb NZ from Wairarapa-based BakerAg last year found that between 2017 and 2020 some 24,956

hectares of land were approved for sale to overseas buyers under the special forestry test.

More recent data shows another 40 consents were granted under the special forestry test to a foreign applicant between July 2020 and August 2021.

"Federated Farmers is certainly not arguing against planting trees to sequester

greenhouse gas emissions. But we need to be strategic about it, and consider the long-term picture not just short-term mindless profit," William says.

"Feds is advocating for the restoration of policy settings that are agnostic toward land use and allow overseas investment through a smooth efficient system that benefits our nation."

On this month in history Clark Gable is born

On February 1, 1901 American actor Clark Gable was born. He is most famous for his role as Rhett Butler in 'Gone With the Wind', although he won his Best Actor Academy Award for 'It Happened One Night'.

He was known as 'The King of Hollywood' and also the 'iron man from Cadiz, Ohio'.

His last film was The Misfits' for which he

was paid \$1,000,000, his first seven figure fee. The film's script was written by playwright Arthur Miller and Clark starred with Marilyn Monroe, who was married to Arthur.

Clark never saw the film as he died of a heart attack before release. It was also Marilyn's last completed film before her untimely death.

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Making plantain (even) better – breeders on target for next advances



Captain CSP (centre), showing its cool season growth advantage over other cultivars in mid-winter on July 30.

Farming doesn't stand still, and neither does plant breeding.

Captain CSP (cool season plantain) reduces nitrogen leaching and raised the bar for cool season growth when it was released three years ago.

But we're already working on something even better.

We currently have several advanced new plantain crosses under careful scrutiny, bred for the ideal mix of plant characteristics to reduce nitrogen leaching.

That's not all

They've also been bred for more cool season growth

than Captain, plus higher overall yield, and increased persistence.

Cool season growth is one key objective because this is when your risk of nitrate leaching is highest.

The more dry matter a plantain grows during the cooler months, the more soil nitrogen it utilises, reducing your nitrogen loss to waterways and improving environmental outcomes.

Captain has more cool season growth than many other plantains, so it also provides extra feed when you need it most.

But we know there is

plenty of room for improved performance with plantain, not least because it is such a variable species.

Variability helps

Variability is good for plant breeders! It gives us more opportunities to single out key characteristics of plant performance that are measurably better than what has already been achieved.

Plantain's season growth patterns are a good example of this variability. Warm season growth is reasonably consistent between different plantain varieties.

But cool season growth is highly variable, ranging from

complete winter dormancy to higher DM growth than Captain, so we've been able to select aggressively for this trait.

Persistence is another key trait for many pasture species, and plantain is no exception – typically it is recognised as a short-lived crop, although well-managed Captain CSP will thrive for up to three years.

But we are going to improve that, combined with targeting higher overall dry matter yield, because this will really help with fitting plantain into farm systems.

Drilling down We have also increased our

focus on certain properties specific to plantain that industry scientists have identified as driving changes in nitrate leaching compared with ryegrass/white clover pasture.

Chief among these are plantain's lower dry matter percentage than ryegrass and higher ratio of water soluble carbohydrate (WSC) to crude protein (CP).

For now, Captain remains ideal for both red meat and dairy farmers who want a plantain with good cool season yield as well as other benefits.

For animals, it's palatable, easily digested and rich in

essential minerals and trace elements. Grazing utilisation is good, because Captain remains obviously upright in the pasture year-round.

Sow it as a specialist three year dairy pasture, mixed with hybrid ryegrass and white clover; or include it with new perennial ryegrass pastures.

Or mix it with red and white clovers for high liveweight gain and red meat finishing. You can also include it in perennial pasture mixes for sheep, beef and deer.

Call me for more – 021 495 594.

Bruce Paterson, Barenbrug Area Manager



Captain CSP is ideal for both red meat and dairy farmers.



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Is there more to facial eczema than zinc?

With the recent downpours, the increased risk of facial eczema is on everybody's mind.

Primarily affecting sheep and cattle, the fungus *Pithomyces chartarum* (*P. chartarum*) produces a hepatotoxin called sporidesmin, a toxin that damages liver cells and results in photosensitisation, inflammation and destruction of the skin.

There is no cure for facial eczema, so currently we rely on managing the risk with pasture sprays and zinc treatments. Given how much facial eczema costs the industry each year, it's surprising we haven't put more resources into researching systems that minimise or eliminate the risk of animal exposure.

While detection and disease prevention are the focus across the industry, eliminating the risk and staying on the front-foot would be by far the better option, would it not?

In the 1990's, scientists explored the possibility of an inoculant that outcompetes the fungi that causes facial eczema. The studies were successful in determining the feasibility of using atoxigenic (non-toxic) strains of *P. chartarum* for biological control. Pasture



EMILY HOUSE

that was treated with atoxigenic strains contained up to 80% less toxic sporidesmin spores than found in untreated pasture. The trial demonstrated that sporidesmin-producing spores of *P. chartarum* could be successfully reduced in pasture by the addition of atoxigenic strains, thereby reducing the risk of facial eczema in livestock. Since then, this research hasn't been developed further and so we look to other options to reduce the risk.

Results on studies looking at pasture diversity have yielded varying results in lowering the risk of sporidesmin being present in the pasture. Most studies have generally concluded that introducing herbs such as plantain and chicory into a ryegrass based sward does not lower the risk, however there are many anecdotal



accounts of facial eczema risk being lower in diverse pastures. Using pastures dominated by species that carry a much lower risk, such as Red Clover and Tall

Fescue may be one option. The catch here is that these species will not tolerate overgrazing and grazing management would need to be altered to suit.

Spores are generally concentrated within the lower levels of pastures and in the leaf litter so altering grazing management to allow for longer covers and higher grazing heights will also help reduce livestock exposure to spores. This is especially true if there is more litter present, as should periods of high humidity coincide with warmer grass minimum temperatures (over 12-13°C), there is potential for explosive and significant fungal growth. The argument against having higher covers is that more leaf litter will accumulate and spore counts will be increased, however studies have shown the opposite to be true.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that well managed multispecies pasture leads to diversity of litter composition which supports a thriving, diverse

microbiological population that competes with the undesirable fungal spores. Furthermore, increased earthworm numbers play a significant role in breaking down leaf litter and assisting in eliminating facial eczema spores. Management that encourages healthy biology in the soil should reduce the risk of facial eczema.

Re-evaluating suitable pasture species, grazing management and improving the soil's biological balance are strategies to proactively, as opposed to reactively, reduce the risk of facial eczema. While industry-wide facial eczema is an accepted part of farming, it does not need to be this way. Elimination may be possible with changes to soil, pasture and animal management – it's worth a shot.

Emily House
5th Business Agri

Wetlands are unsung heroes of environmental protection

Wetlands are important natural tools that combat floods, droughts and other extreme weather events, says Taranaki Regional Council Director – Operations, Daniel Harrison.

Wetlands, which are where the water table is

near the land's surface, or where land is permanently or temporarily covered by water, are among the world's most productive and valuable ecosystems and have not always been valued – despite the many benefits to water quality and biodiversity, he says.

“Wetland loss has mounted over the past 150 years; however, we're seeing more and more forward-thinking individuals, community groups, schools, landowners and organisations working and exploring how to restore these valuable ecosystems across Taranaki.

“Wetlands offer major benefits to our environment like storing carbon, capturing sediment and run-off, removing nitrogen,

reducing flooding and increasing biodiversity.”

New government regulations provide better protection for wetlands and World Wetlands Day is celebrated each year on February 2 to raise awareness on the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.

The new rules help increase public knowledge and appreciation of wetlands, and ensure landowners and government agencies commit to restoring and protecting wetlands, says Mr Harrison.

“Wetland restoration projects are currently underway all over Taranaki – from initiatives like the constructed wetland programme in Awatuna to filter farm run-off, to small-

scale projects on private land undertaken by community groups and individual landowners.”

Whether large or small, all wetland restoration projects call for good planning. Mr Harrison encourages people to contact the Council for advice about restoration planning, management, weed and pest control, native plant growing, revegetation, and reviewing potential funding eligibility.

“Together, we can continue making progress on conserving the wetlands across Taranaki that are not only an important part of the solution to support better climate and water quality outcomes, but also home to a diverse range of native birds, plants and insects.”



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Large field contests King of the Mountain Midget Champs

The date was originally planned for the New Zealand Midget Championship but after Speedway's governing body early in the season elected to postpone all National titles due to Covid uncertainty, it was the King of the Mountain Champs that would run on January 22 at the MG Taranaki Stratford Speedway instead and the competitors still turned up in high numbers from all over the country. Eighteen Midgets were on hand to contest the event and they produced fast paced racing with a few roll overs and incidents thrown in the mix to make entertaining racing.

Seeded into groups, all competitors raced heat races first to determine their starting positions for the all important twenty lap feature race that would decide the podium. After qualifying well with a first and second place in the heat races, local speedster Duane Hickman assigned himself a front row start for the feature and he quickly grabbed the prominent position at the front of the field when the lights went green. Auckland racer Brad Mosen, who had started mid

pack, quickly made his way towards the front and was soon challenging Hickman for the lead. After a lengthy battle at the front of the field, Hickman suffered a brake failure which forced him to retire with five laps to go. Greg Jones, who had rolled over during his second heat race and managed to continue on was running in second place with just two laps to go when he ran out of fuel, opening the way for Palmerston North racer Shane Dewar to claim second place behind Mosen while Kihikihi driver Mitch Fabish was third.

Stockcar drivers raced for their Best Pairs trophy. After three races it was the pairing of William Hughes and Kelvin Good that found themselves at the pointy end of the points table with an eighteen-point buffer over nearest rivals Kylee Symes and Karl Giddy. Hughes recording a win, a third place and a second place while Good recorded a seventh, fourth and ninth in his freshly modified car. The pairing of Caleb Coxhead and Wayne Booker were third.

A field of thirteen Streetstocks competed for



Brad Mosen won the Midget King of the Mountain Champs at MG Taranaki Stratford Speedway on Saturday night. Photos courtesy of Matt Julian.

the Darren Olsen Memorial trophy. Regular front runner Nic Smith again found himself collecting the first-place sash at prizegiving after consistent racing that netted him a win and two second place finishes. After Nick and Ron McGrath blocked competitors in the last race and allowed

Hayden Fox to pass three cars in one go, Fox finished second overall while Blake Dormer was third.

Modifieds and Youth Ministocks complete the race program. Races in the Modified class were won by Shaun Bloeman, Jason Kalin and Carl Hinton. Regan Ogle nabbed a good win

in the first Ministock race. William Campbell won the second, Lucas Symes was doing a good job running at the front in race three and looked to be a likely winner until he ran wide with a couple of laps to go which allowed Corban Swan to make an inside pass and collect the chequered flag.

Swan also won race four.

The next race meeting at the MG Taranaki Stratford Speedway was due to be January 29th. However, due to the change to 'red' in the Covid Protection Framework, this meeting was postponed.

Jarrold Macbeth



Jade Symes found himself facing in the wrong direction during Stockcar racing at MG Taranaki Stratford Speedway on Saturday.

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Sandfords Manaia Golf results

Saturday January 8. Men. 1. Rod Le Fleming. 2. Grant Gibbs. 3. Craig Jones. 4. Claudia Munro. 5. Phil Elliott.

January 15. 1. Sue Dunbar. 2. Logan Symes. 3. Wayne baker. 4. Jamie Johnston. 5. Kingsly Young. 6. John Oliver.

Monday night Ambrose. 1. Hakana Matata. 2. On Call. 3. Winks Rd. 4. Tui & Red. 5. The B.As.

Juniors. Symes Cup for

Most Attendance 2020. 1. Oliva Symes. Runner/Up Carter Symes. 2021. Luke Norris. Runner/Up Carter Symes.

Ambrose Golf. January 17. 1. Hot Nuts. 2. The Bots. 3. The B.A.

January 22. Saturday Men. 1. Jim Greenough. 2. Kingsly Young. 3. Bruce Duffus. 4. Neil Bryant. 5. Denis Hurcomb.

Opening Day. January 29. Stableford. Michelle Cathie.

43 Logan Symes 41. Jimmy Greenough 41. Rod Le Fleming 41. Jo Ropeha 41. Claudia Munro 40. Michelle Furness 39. Joshua Symes 39.

Juniors. Gross. 1. Jayden Poole. 2. McKenna Norris. Putt. 1. McKenna Norris. 2. Jayden Poole. Gross. 1. Jude Poole. 2. Luke Norris. Putt. 1. Jude Poole. 2. Luke Norris. Pee Wee. 1. Archie Joyce. 2. Theo Joyce.

New work on Virtual Tart website

An exhibition by three New Zealand artists, three very different styles, all well worth looking at. Dorothy Andrews, Jenny Bielawski and Anne Holliday. Click on tart.co.nz to see the exhibition.

In the Showcase Section, see new work by Paul Hutchinson, and from 40 other artists of New Zealand. It's a hot-bed of creativity, this part of the world.

We feel for our friends around the world, in countries which are hard-hit by the current pandemic. We have been fortunate here ... well-isolated and well-governed, but we don't take it for granted, not when so many of our friends are in the hard-hit countries. And hit by winter blizzards as well. I wish our empathy could be of some help.

*Dale Copeland. V
Virtual Tart website, art to
the world from the far south
Pacific*



Above: We will dance until the end of time. Dorothy Andrews

The winning South Taranaki team. From left. Ricky Clement, Jeanette How, Gillian Bird, Malcolm McDonald.

Success for South Taranaki

The South Taranaki team came away the big winners at the Lower North Island Croquet Teams Tournament held at Waikanae last month.

The team won 22 out of their 30 games, and all five "tests" against teams from Taranaki (North), Manawatu-Whanganui, Hawkes Bay, Wairarapa, and Wellington.

Three of the team, Ricky Clement, Jeanette How and

Malcolm McDonald play for the Park Croquet Club, while Gillian Bird plays for Hawera.

In the doubles, played at Waikanae, Jeanette and Ricky won all five of their matches, while Malcolm and Gillian won four of their five games.

The singles were played at Paraparamu, with Ricky and Gillian winning all five of their games, and Jeanette

three out of five.

South Taranaki last won the title in 2020, which they shared with Manawatu-Wanganui, something which under the current rules is no longer possible.

For Ricky and Jeanette it was their first time at the championships.

"I've been playing for 14 years, and this is the first time I've ever won this one," says Malcolm.

Air force dream becomes reality for Taranaki woman

Nobody was going to tell 12-year-old Lily Upton that she wouldn't make the cut for a career in the military.

Now at 20, she has graduated from the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) Officer Commissioning Course at RNZAF Base Woodbourne.

Growing up in Stratford, Taranaki, Pilot Officer Upton had some negative reactions when telling people of her future plans.

"Being a pilot was my goal. There was a boy older than me who applied for the Air Force and wasn't successful and based on that some people thought there would be no chance that I would be successful.

"It bugged me, but didn't put me off. I knew I wanted to do it - I had loads of support from mum who thought it would be a really good career."

Completing the 17-week course at Base Woodbourne was a real achievement.

"The course was really cool. There were some hard days - especially the first nine weeks, which was

military induction training, but most days I had to pinch myself and think, 'I can't believe I'm here'," Pilot Officer Upton said.

"I may not have made it as a pilot but my hard work paid off and I proved myself during the selection process and was instead offered a place as an air warfare officer, an opportunity I am proud to have been offered."

She is about to begin training with No. 5 Squadron and will be one of the first to learn the air warfare role in the RNZAF's new P-8A Poseidon aircraft, arriving at RNZAF Base Ohakea late next year.

"It will be really exciting to be working on a brand new aircraft," she said.

Pilot Officer Upton joined the RNZAF out of a desire for a challenging career that would also allow her to help people.

"I loved that the Air Force challenges you in terms of your trade skills but also your personal growth through the unique challenges and leadership opportunities. It sounded like a really exciting

career which provides really unique experiences."

If Pilot Officer Upton had an opportunity to speak with other aspiring aviator 12-year-olds, she would tell them the Air Force is an amazing opportunity and to go for it.

"Follow your dreams. Don't let anyone tell you it's not achievable, because it is," she said.

"There hasn't been a day yet where I have regretted or even questioned joining the Air Force. The recruitment process can seem long and perhaps a bit intimidating but it is worth it.

"If you are thinking about joining the best thing you can do is talk to people who are in or have been in the Air Force. It is one thing to read recruitment brochures and info but actually talking to people about what you can do in the Air Force will give you way better insight into what the Air Force is like and what's available."



Pilot Officer Lily Upton.

Here I go again

Hawera Repertory's June 2022 production of Mamma Mia the Musical is now in rehearsal. The Hawera Memorial Theatre Stage is set to ring out with the classic hits of ABBA. This guaranteed good-time show has played to over 65 million people worldwide. The allure and strength of this show is evident when you look at the regional coverage of the cast. The cast truly does cover Taranaki from North to South, including people from New Plymouth, Opunake, Hawera, Stratford, and Patea, and all towns in-between. When asked about why they wanted to do the show, knowing the travel commitment to do it, the following cast members had this to say:

Mel Henshilwood (New Plymouth) said ABBA was her first album and she loves this musical. Mel has watched a lot of Hawera Repertory's productions and knows that they produce quality shows. Jenny Bennett and Stacy

Manktelow, both from New Plymouth, have both been in a production of Mamma Mia before. Jenny said, "this show is such a buzz to be in". Its worth the effort to travel to. Stratford resident Karla Kimi who works in Hawera wanted to do a local production. She has been a professional singer and has always loved the music of ABBA. The forty-strong cast will have a connection with every part of Taranaki and they are all very excited to get to work and make this show come alive. Clive Cullen is directing the show, with Charles Pittams as Musical Director and Greer Anderson as Choreographer. The Cast has some incredible talent, which we will showcase in future articles. Ticket details, with a very generous early bird discount, will be out soon. Be sure to mark your calendar - you now have something fun and outrageously positive to look forward to mid-year.

Hawera Repertory



The cast and crew of Mamma Mia.

Cancer Society calls on supporters to stay the course

The Cancer Society of New Zealand has announced an alternative to traditional Relay For Life events. It comes after Covid forced the cancellation of the organisation's iconic street collection on Daffodil Day in August.

Cancer Society of New Zealand Chief Executive Lucy Elwood says "Covid continues to ruin all of our best-laid plans. However, we have quickly adapted and are making the most of

it. This year, we will walk apart, but not alone in Relay Your Way."

The Cancer Society will launch an easy-to-follow video that will guide supporters through the parts of Relay For Life everyone loves the most but in the safety of a space of people's choice.

"We know that Relay For Life is a chance to celebrate cancer survivors and carers and remember loved ones lost to cancer for

many people. We hope that people across Aotearoa New Zealand will participate in Relay Your Way this year and run, walk, or even dance laps with our online guide to support people affected by cancer," says Lucy Elwood.

The funds raised through Relay For Life are essential in helping cancer patients and their whānau get the care and practical support they need: from safe transport to treatment, through to specialist nursing

and psychology support, and accommodation for those travelling for treatment. Supporters also help fund ground-breaking cancer research and vital prevention programmes.

On average, Relay For Life raises around 2 million dollars to fund these crucial services. Therefore, the Cancer Society asks supporters to stay the course and participate in Relay Your Way. Gareth Mentzer from Hastings is going to

walk 12 hours and is trying to raise \$5,000.

"The Cancer Society is a great organisation that helps so many people, and just because Covid is here, it doesn't mean that people stop getting cancer. I want to do my bit to help and give back. I am going to throw a gazebo up on the front lawn and walk the neighbourhood. Hopefully, the neighbours cheer me on, and the family will step in for me when I need a toilet break," says

Gareth Mentzer. "Our events keep getting knocked down, while need for our services go up, so New Zealanders' efforts to raise funds for our work through Relay For Life are more vital than ever," says Elwood.

Fifteen Relay Your Way events are scheduled to take place across Aotearoa from late February through to April. To sign up and make a difference for those affected by cancer visit, www.relayforlife.org.nz

Green is gold at Pukekura Park

For the ninth year in a row, NPDC's Pukekura Park has been given a Green Flag award.

The Green Flag is an international mark of the world's best parks and is a recognised mark of excellence.

"I think the last two years of Covid restrictions have highlighted just how important it is to have good-quality green spaces in cities for people to relax in. I'm proud of our skilled and dedicated team for maintaining this outstanding park for the public," says NPDC's Pukekura Park Curator Kristian Davies.

"Pukekura Park is also a Garden of National Significance and a major draw for visitors and locals alike. The team is keeping it in good shape for future generations to enjoy."

The park has also been reconfirmed as a 5 Star

Garden of National Significance. Judged by the New Zealand Gardens Trust, the 5 Star rating goes to gardens that are highly recommended for their presentation, design and plant interest throughout the year and which have a distinctive identity of their own.

Pukekura Park is unique in offering a diverse range of landscapes, from remnant native bush, to vast lawn areas and garden displays, and has a world-renowned sports arena.

It also includes the Bowl of Brooklands, the Fernery and Display Houses and the popular Brooklands Zoo.

Experts assess a park for a Green Flag Award on 27 criteria, including horticultural standards, cleanliness, sustainability, community involvement and providing a warm welcome.



Park curator Kristian Davies and the Green Flag.

Airs look forward to clinics and to coming season

"The Taranaki Airs say they are very excited to be working with Opunake

Basketball Association to provide some coaching clinics over the coming month".

"Opunake has always been my home and to be able to get out to the coast always makes me happy, especially when you see what impact the Airs can have on these kids," says Taranaki Mountain Airs general manager Mitchell Langton.

"We are excited for the upcoming season, we have already announced a great bunch of talent and we still have a lot more to come. We believe that putting the community first has been a real hook to get all these talented players to the region".



Taranaki Mountain Airs General Manager Mitchell Langton.



A full and enthusiastic crowd at TSB Stadium, get along to the games and support the team.

OPUNAKE BASKETBALL
KIDS CAMP
 COACHED BY THE TARANAKI AIRS
 SATURDAY 12TH OF FEBRUARY
 12 YEARS AND UNDER: 11AM-12:30PM
 13-18 YEARS: 12:30PM-2PM
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 AT SANDFORDS EVENT CENTRE
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Home Game Schedule:

- Round 3. April 22 Friday 7:30pm Airs vs Giants TSB Stadium
- Round 5. May 5 Thursday 7:30pm Airs vs Hawks TSB Stadium
- Round 6. May 15 Sunday 3:00pm Airs vs Rams TSB Stadium
- Round 7. May 21 Saturday 7:30pm Airs vs Sharks TSB Stadium
- Round 8. May 29 Sunday 5:00pm Airs vs Nuggets TSB Stadium
- Round 9. June 5 Sunday 3:00pm Airs vs Saints TSB Stadium
- Round 10. June 10 Friday 7:30pm Airs vs Tuatara TSB Stadium
- Round 12. June 25 Saturday 5:30pm Airs vs Jets TSB Stadium
- Round 14. July 6 Wednesday 7:30pm Airs vs Bulls TSB Stadium



Yeti the Mascot.

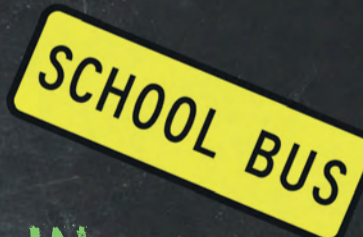
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Creative Clearance at The Village Gallery

14 Feb - 11 March 2022
The next exhibition in The Village Gallery is an opportunity for Members to display for sale some of their older works.

As our long-term Members are aware, this is an annual 'Sale' which attracts people who are looking for artworks. In addition, we ask for donations towards a Sales Table of art or craft-type items - books, magazines, frames, art or craft materials and equipment, etc, which we sell to raise funds for the Gallery.

This will be an opportunity for art appreciators to purchase work from some of their favourite artists at very reasonable prices.

It is always a treat to revisit creations and appreciate the efforts and imaginative skills applied in their making.

Also on display will be



Artwork from Sue Morton.

work from some of our new members.

The sales table is also a chance to gather some

bargains. This yearly event is always much anticipated so do not miss out. First in ... you know how the rest goes!

Please note gallery hours could change depending on COVID developments.

The Village Gallery



Artwork from Donna Hitchcock.

New date for SYNTHONY In The Bowl

SYNTHONY In The Bowl has been rescheduled to a new date of Saturday April 23.

Synthony, along with partners New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) and Venture Taranaki are proud to present the return of SYNTHONY In The Bowl - on a Covid-delayed schedule - with the biggest dance tracks from the past 30 years, performed by an Orchestra, DJs, singers and live performers at the beautiful Bowl of Brooklands.

"We understand the organiser's decision to postpone Synthony's February show given the circumstances, but are excited the performance will still be going ahead at the Bowl on ANZAC weekend, Saturday 23 April," says



The Bowl of Brooklands, New Plymouth.

Teresa Turner, NPDC Group Manager Community and Customer Services.

Major events attract thousands of visitors to Taranaki, who stay in

accommodation, dine out, shop and visit other attractions, adding to the vibrancy of our place. With new titles as the Most Liveable City and Sunniest Region in New Zealand, visitors still have countless reasons to come and explore Taranaki.

All tickets are automatically transferred to the new date of 23 April, 2022.

In the event of bad weather, the SYNTHONY In The Bowl rain date is Sunday April 24.

THE VILLAGE GALLERY
166 High Street, Eltham
presents

CREATIVE CLEARANCE
'Member's works on sale'

14 Feb - 11 March 2022
OPEN: Mon - Sat 10.00 - 3.00

EVERYBODY'S THEATRE
OPUNAKE

72 Tasman Street, Ōpunakē - www.everybodystheatre.co.nz - Phone 027 383 7926
February 2022
Adults \$10, Students 4-16yrs and Senior Citizens \$8, Under 4 free

<p>SPENCER Drama, True Story 1hrs 56mins M: Self harm Sun 20th Feb 1pm</p>	<p>KOATI Animated, Family 1hrs 31mins PG Sat 12th Feb 1pm</p>
<p>THE EYES OF TAMMY FAYE Drama, True Story 2hrs 6mins M: Drug use, sex scenes Fri 18th Feb 7pm</p>	<p>SING 2 Animated, Family 1hr 52mins PG Sat 19th Feb 1pm</p>
<p>BELFAST Drama, Historical 1hr 38mins M: Language Fri 11th Feb 7pm Sat 19th Feb 7pm</p>	<p>MARRY ME Comedy, Romance 1hr 58mins TBC Sun 13th Feb 7pm Sat 26th Feb 7pm</p>
<p>GOLD Thriller 1hrs 36mins R13: Violence, Language Sun 20th Feb 7pm</p>	<p>DOG Comedy, Family 1hr 30mins TBC Fri 25th Feb 7pm</p>
<p>BLACKLIGHT Action 1hrs 48mins M: Violence Sun 27th Feb 7pm</p>	<p>CLIFFORD THE BIG RED DOG Kids & Family 1hr 36mins G Sat 26th Feb 1pm</p>

CoastalCare
Haumarū ki Tai
Health and Community Centre
Haumarū ki Tai, Haumarū ki Tai

Haumarū ki Tai Health and Community Centre
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Taranaki Chiropractic

We have a new Service!!! Welcome
Taranaki Chiropractic!
Dr. Remington will be bringing his chiropractic services to Coastal Care starting this month!

Appointments can be made online at www.taranakichiropractic.co.nz, or by phone (027) 489 9000. A full 30 minutes spinal exam will be taken to evaluate your condition. If you've been suffering with neck and or back pain, are in an industry which causes daily stress on your spine, or simply want to make sure your spine is up to date on its WOF. I am excited to show you how I can help.

(MATTHEWS)
OPTOMETRY CLINICS:
Thursdays
10th and 24th Feb
10th and 24th March
7th April

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DIY COMEDY PRESENTS
A ONE NIGHT STAND
in Opunake

ONE NIGHT STAND IN Ōpunakē
We're bringing NZ comedy legend, multiple award winning comedian Brendhan Lovegrove to your fine town! Hosted by Central Raw Comedy Quest Champion Kajun Brooking, with support from Shaydee Tupu, Toni Marie and Lex!

Presale tickets are \$20 and are available from KiwiTicket and Everybody's Theatre - Phone 027 383 7926.

Door sales are \$30 and subject to availability.
Bar is open at 7pm and toasted sandwiches made to order on the night.
Sat 12th Feb 8pm

THE SUCKERS

What's On Listings

ONGOING

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

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

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

TUESDAYS

Opunake Walking Group: Every Tuesday 10am. Meet outside Club Hotel on Havelock St. Phone Margaret 027 477 5600 for more info if needed, or just turn up.

Life Drawing Group: Weekly at the Emporium, 86 Tasman St, Opunake 7pm to 9pm. \$10 to pay for the model. If anyone is interested please call Marianne Muggerridge on 06 274 5713.

WEDNESDAYS

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

Okato & District Historical Society open every Wednesday: At the Okato Community Trust Hall, 47 Cumming St, Okato. phone Meg on 06 752 4566.

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

Okato Market: In Hempton Hall, Okato 4.30 to 6.30pm.

Free singing experience with Taranaki Harmony Chorus: Meet every Wednesday at Inglewood Mamaku Centre, 7-9.30 pm Phone Helen 021 296 0700.

THURSDAYS

Coastal Young Farmers: Meet 2nd Thursday of every month at 7pm at Butlers Reef Bar & Cafe, Oakura.

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

FRIDAYS

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

Singer Songwriters, New Plymouth: Last Friday of the month at Little Theatre, 29 Aubrey St, NP from 7-11pm.

WEEKENDS

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

FROM JAN 18 2022

Members New Year Exhibition: At the Village Gallery, Eltham.

JANUARY 29 - FEBRUARY 13

Opunake Boat and Underwater Club Annual Competition: All craft to launch and retrieve from Middleton Bay, Opunake. See article and advert in this issue for more details.

FEBRUARY 12

Opunake Basketball Kids Camp: Coached by the Taranaki Airs. At Sandfords Event Centre, Opunake from 11am. See advert and story.

FEBRUARY 12 & 13

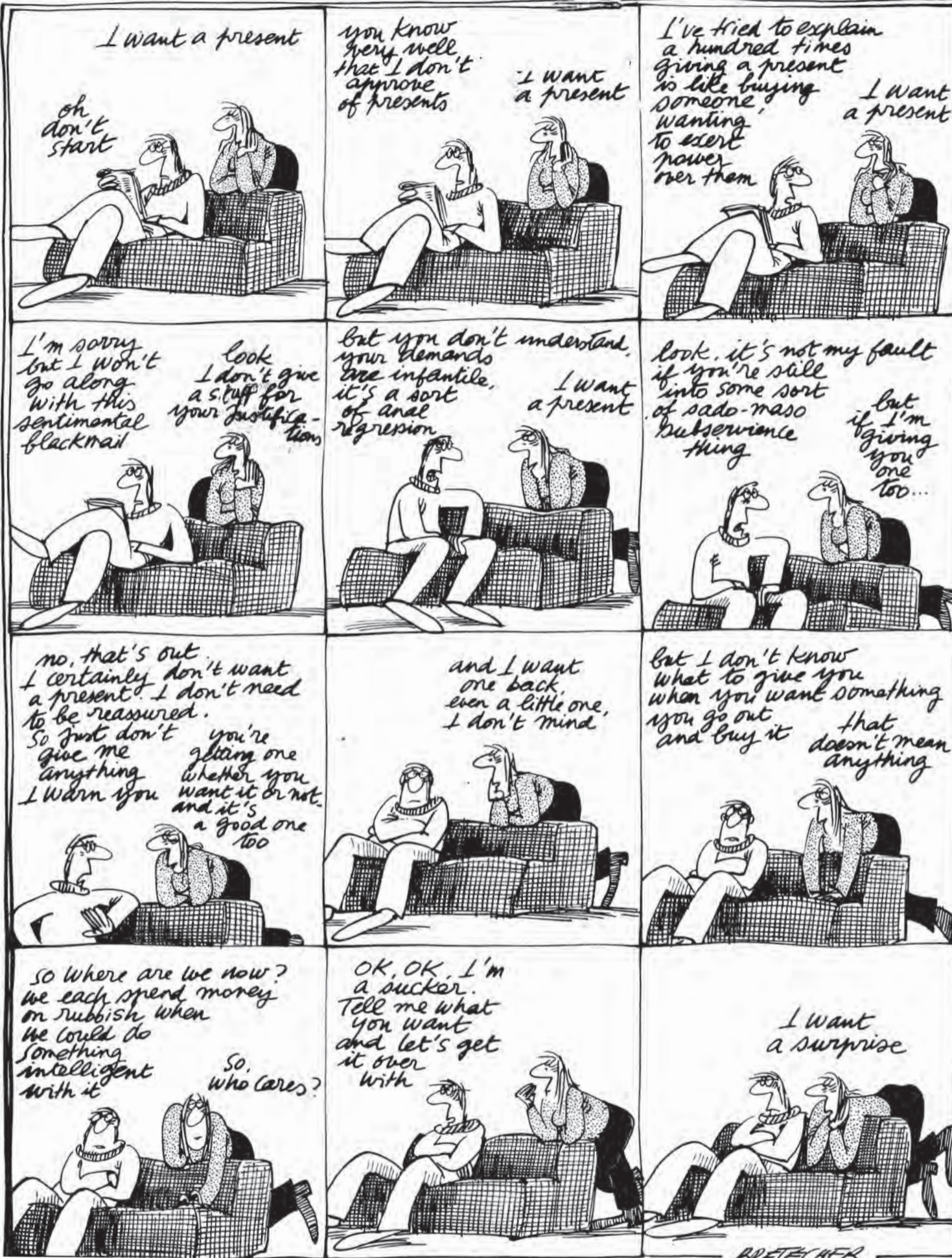
National Dahlia Show: At Hawera Memorial Hall, Hawera.

FEBRUARY 23

Rahotu and Neighbouring Community Groups Meeting: At Rahotu Hall, 6.30pm.

FEBRUARY 27

Life Drawing Tuition with Marianne Muggerridge: At Marianne's Oeo Rd studio. See ad for more details.



LIFE DRAWING TUITION WITH MARIANNE MUGGERIDGE

Beginners and experienced drawers welcome. Bring your own materials, paper, pencils, charcoal etc.

Sunday 27th February:
11.00am - 2.00pm at
Marianne's Oeo Road studio

There will be a follow up session on Tuesday 7-9pm, March the 1st at the Emporium Gallery, Opunake

For more information please ring Marianne on 021 482 464 or 06 2745 713

Numbers are limited



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06 761 7016

OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

PUBLIC NOTICES



THIRD RATES INSTALMENT

Ratepayers are reminded that the last day for payment of the third instalment of rates for 2021/2022 without incurring a penalty will be **Wednesday 23 February 2022**.

WD Crockett
Chief Executive



Next Meeting is on
Monday March 7, 2022
at 5.30pm

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

TRADES & SERVICES



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PUBLIC NOTICES



**Hawera Orchestral Society
Charitable Trust**

The Trustees of the Hawera Orchestral Society invite applications for financial assistance to be granted from the Trust to assist instrumental tuition costs. The main objective of the Trust is the advancement and encouragement of skills of musical students in or about the South Taranaki area. Priority will be given to residents of the South Taranaki area.

Application forms can be requested by emailing hos.charitabletrust@gmail.com.

Please return all Application forms to: The Trustees, Hawera Orchestral Society Charitable Trust, C/- Mr C Pittams, 5 Morrissey Street, HAWERA 4610

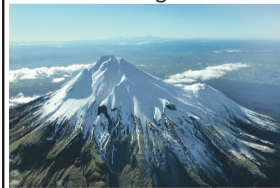
Applications open on the 1st February 2022 and close on the 31st March 2022

OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS
THE NEWSPAPER
TARANAKI
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newstands

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

Local news, local people, local businesses, local sport, local arts and events.
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Phone: 06 761 7016
23 Napier St, Opunake



The next issue of the Opunake & Coastal News is due out on February 24.

SITUATIONS VACANT

OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

DELIVERY PEOPLE NEEDED

We need reliable delivery people to deliver our fortnightly newspaper to part of Oakura and also for Manaia.
Please phone 06 761 7016.
Ask for Rolland.

BUILDER, looking for builder or hammer hand for renovations and alterations, based in Oakura.
Phone 021 162 2916

TRADES & SERVICES

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

HCL BUILDERS for building decks. Ph 027 236 7129.

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

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HCL BUILDERS for all kitchens. Ph 027 236 7129.

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SCRAP METAL - for all scrap metal Taranaki wide, give us a call. Molten Metals (06) 751 5367.
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DID YOU KNOW most medications can cause Co Q10 deficiency? Co Q10 is jet fuel for the cells, helps circulation, and is also a powerful antioxidant. At the Health Shop Centre City. 06 758 7553.

CHURCH NOTICES

Opunake Co-operating Parish
Havelock Street, Opunake - St Pauls - 9.30am every Sunday
Rahotu - Wesley - 11 am first Sunday of the month

Okato Co-operating Parish
Okato - St Pauls – 10.00am, 1st and 3rd Sundays each month
Okato - St Pauls – 5.00pm, Evensong, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays each month
Oakura - St James – 10.00am, 2nd and 4th Sundays each month

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

St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato
Saturday Vigil 6.00pm - 1st, 3rd & 5th Saturdays

The Wave
Pentecostal Church 64 Domett St, Opunake
Sunday Services 10.30am
Women's Group 10am Tuesday
Men's Group 7pm Wednesday
Come along or contact
Belinda Philp
027 935 6191

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

Okato Community Church
Meets 10.30am Sunday at Hempton Hall.
Everyone welcome

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