



OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

Vol. 28 No 2, February 14, 2019
www.opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

Published every
Thursday Fortnight

Phone and Fax 761-7016
A/H 761-8206

for Advertising and Editorial
ISSN 2324-2337, ISSN 2324-2345

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Sixty years of happy marriage. See page 10.

Burnouts and donuts upset Opunake locals

A noisy, dangerous and illegal activity in Opunake is causing considerable concern and anger. At any time from 2am to 3pm some drivers are doing donuts and burnouts on the town's roads, notably at intersections. From the tyre marks and scattered rubber remnants the favourite spot appears to be the Heaphy and Whitcombe Roads intersection.

One local resident was woken at 2.30am. He was less worried about his disturbed sleep than the danger to people, as this activity is also occurring in the daylight hours. He said the activity has been going on off and on for about six months. "It's just stupid, someone will get killed."

Also very concerned is the Principal of Opunake School Lorraine Williamson. The Gisborne Terrace/ Longfellow Road intersection (beside the school) is badly marked by tyre rubber from donuts and burnouts. Just last week at about 3pm Lorraine heard the illegal activity just outside, and the police were notified. "I'd hate to see a student of ours hurt or even killed because of this behaviour," she said. She pointed out that the youngest students are not yet fully



The Heaphy and Whitcombe Roads intersection showing the results of dangerous driving.

versed in road safety. Perhaps it needs to be pointed out to these individuals that performing donuts and burnouts on public roads is highly illegal. Here is

a comment from the New Zealand Police: "Police take dangerous driving behaviour such as 'burnouts' and sustained loss of traction very seriously. This type of

driving is irresponsible and puts other road users at risk. Those caught driving in this way can face arrest, loss of their drivers licence and having their vehicle

impounded. Police welcome any information that may help us apprehend those involved in this type of driving behaviour."

Outdoor water ban for Okato

A ban on outdoor water use began in Okato on Wednesday as the Mangatete Stream's flows continue to lower.

Gardens may not be watered and cars and house windows may not be washed while the

outdoor ban is in place.

"We need substantial rain over a decent period before the Mangatete's flows will increase again. The long-range forecast has nothing more than a few showers coming our way so it's important that Okato residents stop all outdoor water use for water conservation," says NPDC Chief Operating Officer Kelvin Wright.

Meanwhile, continued high water use in Ōākura is putting pressure on the town's storage reservoir and firefighting reserve, and if the demand continues it could trigger an outdoor water ban there as well.

Mr Wright has urged Ōākura residents to cut back on how much water they use and keep to the odds and evens system for hand-held hoses.

"That's especially important on public holidays and weekends, when people tend to water their gardens and do other outdoor jobs," he says.

Last Sunday (February 10), residents in Ōākura again used 33% more water than the town's average daily demand whereas residents on the New Plymouth supply used just 6% more than its

daily average.

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Lower than expected rates expected

Rate increases in New Plymouth District next year are set to be less than previously expected.

The New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) has reduced the required rates increase for 2019/20 from approximately 5% to 4.6%, a total of about \$350,000 less than forecast in its 10-Year Plan. For the average residential ratepayer the rate rise will be about 3.82%.

"We know that every little bit helps for many families who are balancing a budget so it's fantastic to see that we've been able to prudently manage our costs, while continuing to invest in water resilience and Zero Waste 2040," says Mayor Neil Holdom.

The lower-than-expected rates requirement has been revealed in the draft 2019/20 Annual Plan which sets out

NPDC's budget and services for the next year, from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020. Last year NPDC achieved a general rates operating surplus of \$320,000, the Perpetual Investment Fund made a return of \$21 million and Standard and Poor's reconfirmed NPDC's financial rating as 'AA/A-1', the highest a local government body in New Zealand can get.

"The 2019/20 Annual Plan is very much a continuation of our back-to-basics focus on the core council infrastructure and responsibilities and people can expect to see more water, wastewater and stormwater pipes going into the ground, more roading investments, more zero waste initiatives."

The final draft Annual Plan will go to a full council meeting on 21 May for adoption.

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Editor: Bernice McKellar

Journalists/Sales: Rolland McKellar, Bryan Kirk

Advertising/Production: Vanessa Smith

Production/IT: Shane Butler

Delivery: Thursday, fortnightly

Registered as a newspaper.

Member of the Community Newspapers Association of New Zealand



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



Cycling through Opunake

Opunake often sees cyclists passing through, whether training or taking part in a planned event. The most recent event was the Cycle Challenge, which had over 500 cyclists travelling through the village. During Taranaki Anniversary weekend Opunake will be both a transit point and a destination.

On Saturday, 9 March the NZ Cycle Festival road event will be passing through, with cyclists riding from New Plymouth through to Hawera. The next day, Sunday 10 March, is the annual Opunake Lions downhill Mountain Bike ride from Arawhata Road down to Opunake

Beach. All proceeds from the Opunake MTB ride go back to Lions community projects, and proceeds from the road ride are used to support all cycling through Taranaki.

Any people who want to take part can find all details on the NZ Cycle Festival website www.nzcyclefest.co.nz, and can enter both events online.

No great ability is needed for either the road or MTB rides. The road ride can be joined as a relay team or solo rider, with an early start time for slow riders.

Joel Dodd, NZCFT Chair

Correction and apology

In our 31 January issue the caption for the story ‘A weekend of vintage farming awaits at Waitara’ on page 25 is not correct. The caption should read

Steve Rowat driving his Allis Chalmers B tractor towing a Bamford waffler. We apologise for this mistake.

ADELPHOS

In the Mark 10:17-31 passage a rich young man ran up to Jesus and fell on his knees. He wanted to know what “he must do” to earn eternal life in heaven. He was wealthy enough to fund Jesus’ entire three year ministry and he tried to flatter this popular miracle worker by calling him “good teacher.” Perhaps he thought his expensive religious animal temple sacrifices would have bought favour with God. But as Creator God, Jesus discerned his heart and realised that his wealth was his ultimate lord. And so again the love of money is the root of all evil.

In the Hebrews 4:12-16 passage Jesus is the living Word of God who perceived the innermost thoughts

and attitudes of this rich young ruler’s heart. Even though he followed the Jewish commandments, his immense power and wealth stopped him from following Jesus with all his heart. Jesus looked at him and loved him and said, go sell everything and give it to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven. The man went away sad. Jesus had nothing against his wealth. It was his love of money and power that prevented him from following Jesus “wholeheartedly.”

Like so many people today, this young man assumed he would “inherit” eternal life in heaven through his own religious or community good works. Jesus was trying to teach this young

The story of a Rich Young Man

businessman that following the 613 laws in Moses’ Torah could not change his heart. They were obligatory religious rituals. The many Old Testament rules were an outside-in expression. Jesus’ message was to first have an inside-out change of heart and “then” do good works.

Jesus didn’t come to abolish the law: but to expand, explain and fulfill it. He had this right because he proved through his healing and resurrection miracles that he fulfilled as Messiah the 300 messianic Old Testament predictions. He simplified his message to this young man and boiled the 613 laws down to two: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind and all your strength. And love your neighbour as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments (Matthew 22:37-40).

Jesus our high priest was God in human form and was sacrificed to forgive our sins. He became the one and final Old Testament bloody Good Friday sacrifice to forgive sins for

some parents who are teaching their children right from wrong:

As for that great big crane throwing thing from up there at that height. I was so disappointed, why did I have to sign that rule paper?

I understand Santa Claus throwing out sweets, he is the special person of the night.

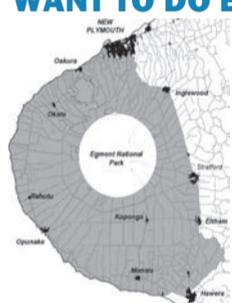
On today’s standard there is not much discipline or respect in our young people.

What is it going to be like 20 years from now? I feel so sorry for teachers today; teaching our young generation with their smart attitude and bad language and no manners.

We all live in a sad world.

Jan Kelsen, New Plymouth.

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Adelphos

Ps. Remember to worship your Creator God at your Opunake and coastal rural churches and all churches in The Opunake and Coastal News readership.

New leaders excited to be there

Joel Clement and Lia Harrop are this year's head prefects at Opunake High School.

They are excited about their school and want others to feel the same way.

"Our job as prefect teams is to spark life back into the school and get people excited again as this is such a great school," says Joel.

Lia says they want to encourage others to be leaders in the school. School bullying is one issue she would like to tackle this year, and she wants to make it possible for students to come and see prefects about this.

"Let's make school a happier environment," she says.

Next year she hopes to go to Police College.

"It's always been my goal since I was younger," she says. "I love being part of the community and being Head



Lia Harrop and Joel Clement. look forward to their year as head prefects.

Girl has helped me make that decision. I looked at Law, but this has the pull, as in so

many things you are dealing with real people. I don't think I would ever get bored."

She is currently studying English, Statistics, Biology, Photography and History.

Joel says he is passionate about environmental science and has a particular interest in climate change. To that end he is doing three science subjects, two maths and English in the hope of going on to University next year. He describes himself as "the youngest in a big family," and says he is likely to follow the path of older siblings who studied at Otago.

Joel and Lia both say they love surfing. Lia says she loves swimming, and Joel is on the school's Boys Basketball team. It is a sport in which Opunake has excelled in recent years, with the Girls team having won national titles. The Boys team hasn't quite matched that kind of success, although last year they did finish third in the country at the nationals.

Joel is the student representative on the Board of Trustees, and President

of Students against Drunk Driving at Opunake High School. Lia is representative on the Student Council. Both are Hapu leaders at the school.

School principal Peter O'Leary says naming the head prefects this year had been a "difficult decision."

"The calibre of our prefects for 2019 is pretty high," he says. "Joel and Lia will work with the school to enhance our students' opportunities. They are going to be leading from the front, so I'm really excited."

Every member of the prefect team is part of a portfolio, whether sport and culture, community service, school service or communication.

Peter says this year the school will have two goals, an academic focus, and a Hauora focus. These goals will apply to everyone whether students or staff, he said.

CTS Head students keen to unite Junior and Senior schools



Lucy Cruden-Powell (left) and Nicole Whittle.

The student leaders at Coastal Taranaki School for 2019 are Lucy Cruden-

Powell (Head) and Nicole Whittle (Deputy). Both are aged 17.

When asked if she was surprised to be chosen Lucy replied, "I was quite

surprised. I was quite happy and scared at the same time."

To the same question Nicole said, "I was really surprised, because I'd only been back in Term 4 (She spent some time as a boarder At Sacred Heart in New Plymouth). She added, "I was also shocked and happy."

Both leaders have the same aim to promote greater closeness between the Junior and Senior parts of the school. For example, during lunchtime they would go into the Junior area to organise games, as well as encourage whanau groups

after lunch.

This year Lucy's subjects include English, Music, Classical Studies, Business Studies and her favourite Art. Photography is a special interest, so it is not surprising that she intends a career as a photographer and is keen to travel. At present she has a part time job in a local café.

Nicole's subjects include English, Business Studies, Tourism and Hospitality and her favourite Physical Education. She is also doing a TOPEC Level 3 course on Thursday and Fridays. As a career she is interested in

joining the police force.

Despite their busy lives both young women intend to find some time for relaxation. For Lucy the emphasis is socialising with friends and reading. She also plays an electric guitar and has been member of a group. She is keen to join another group in the near future.

Nicole is a keen rugby player - both the fifteen person game and sevens. She is a capable swimmer and is involved as a surf lifesaver, although says she is less involved this year than she has been in the past.

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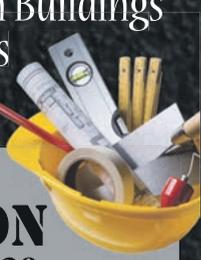


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MAYOR'S COMMENT

Reality bites: our Just Transition

In April 2018 our Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced the Coalition Government's intention to transition New Zealand to a net zero-carbon economy by 2050, pushing our country to the front of the queue of nations looking to address climate change.

Much of the media commentary looked at the failure of the Government to follow due process around the ban on future offshore oil and gas permits, the lack of consultation with industry or iwi, the damage that failure had on our reputation as a stable



Neil Holdom
New Plymouth District Mayor

investment destination and speculation on the impact of the policy on Taranaki's

economy.

But little has been written about what a net carbon zero 2050 Aotearoa will actually look like.

New Zealand produces around 80 million tonnes of carbon annually and our forestry sector absorbs around 20 million tonnes, leaving a balance of 60 million tonnes to be dealt with.

According to Motu Economics the average Kiwi household is responsible for about 20 tonnes of carbon a year. This comprises things like petrol or diesel, natural gas and also the process emissions involved in creating the products we consume like food and other goods.

So picture the challenge ahead for Kiwis to achieve

net carbon zero in 31 years.

What we are talking about is a fundamental change in the way we power our economy. A shift that will drive a massive reduction in our use of high energy density fuels like coal, oil, petrol, diesel and gas and convert most of that demand to electricity, requiring tens of billions of dollars of new electricity generation and major technological breakthroughs in energy storage.

Consider every petrol or diesel powered vehicle or machine you own and that in 30 years' time its equivalent will likely need to be electrical with some of the heavier vehicles and machines powered by hydrogen. That's everything from cars to trucks to

weed eaters, lawnmowers, earthmoving equipment to boats.

Tourism and farming are our biggest export earners and think about just how we will pull the carbon out of airlines, tractors or fertilisers and don't even mention the cow farts.

The change, known as the Just Transition, being signalled by our Government will be as significant as the change we have seen in our digital economy over the past 20 years.

And if we are to go anywhere close to meeting the 2050 target without the need to close industry, ration energy, face blackouts or swallow massive increases in household electricity bills we will need to plan and

invest early.

2019 will be the defining year for the Coalition Government as everybody watches to see whether they are prepared to match the talk with the money critical to making things happen.

2050 seems a long way off but, in terms of reinventing an economy, is a tight timeframe and Taranaki, as the anchor of New Zealand's current energy infrastructure, will be ground zero for the Just Transition.

It will require every bit of our innovative, can-do attitude and Government investments on a scale not seen for decades for New Zealand to hit this target while still being an affordable and attractive place to live.

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COUNCILLOR'S COMMENT

Missing big names in our community

Our thought's go out to the Hohaia Family with the tragic loss of Russel this week. Kevin Young and Russel Hohaia are two big names in our community that we have sadly lost this year.

Opunake Lions club are working hard on their loop track around Opunake. This Cycleway/walkway loop around the outside of the town will be a huge asset for



CRAIG DINGLE

the Opunake township. With the growth of electric bikes, mountain bikes and people just wanting to get fit. I see this track being well utilised.

The South Taranaki District Council is looking at locating some portable toilets at the southern top end of Middleton Bay. This is to accommodate the increasing use of the walkway and the freedom campers.

Tropical cyclone season is

upon us so fingers crossed they don't come down too far with the warm sea temperatures. Until next time.

Stay Safe
Happy Summer

Craig Dingle
Chairperson
Egmont Plains
Community Board

Six out of six for Tupare

Premier heritage garden Tupare has earned the NZ Gardens Trust's highest six-star rating – a distinction shared by only 13 other locations nationally.

The Trust warmly commends the New Plymouth property for the way it portrays its history while meeting the needs of a modern public garden, and it says the gardening and maintenance are of excellent quality. The six-star grading was awarded after a two-yearly review.

"It's something the whole region can be proud of," says Greg Rine, Regional Gardens Manager for the Taranaki Regional Council, which owns and administers Tupare.

"The Trust is very particular about its gradings, and garden enthusiasts nationally and internationally will take note. Tupare has genuine 'wow factor' – we hear it whenever a first-time visitor walks down the driveway."

Tupare's landscaped garden is sculpted from a hillside overlooking the Waiwhakaiho River and features a unique homestead designed by pioneering

Arts and Crafts architect James Chapman-Taylor. The property was originally developed by industrialist Sir Russell Matthews and his family from 1932.

"The six-star rating is the result of a lot of hard work Council staff and volunteers," says Greg. "Attention to detail is the key to its success - we put a lot of effort into maintaining the Arts and Crafts style, and we really focus on great plant compositions, high standards of maintenance and excellent storytelling."

Tupare is at 487 Mangorei Rd, New Plymouth. It's open daily and entry is

free. Saturday's garden fair runs from 10am to 3pm. The Council also owns and administers Pukeiti, and Hollard Gardens in Kaponga. See www.trc.govt.nz/gardens/ for more information.

Taranaki has one other six-star garden – the privately owned Te Kainga Marire in New Plymouth.

Other six-star gardens are in Canterbury (five), Auckland and Dunedin (two each) and Waikato, Wellington and Marlborough (one each).

Check out the six-star garden at Tupare.

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Six more Taranaki community science projects to launch

Six new Curious Minds Participatory Science Platform (PSP) projects will get the go-ahead in the first half of 2019, Venture Taranaki has announced, bringing the number of projects supported in Taranaki to 40 since the programme was launched.

Taranaki was chosen as one of three pilot regions for the Curious Minds PSP in 2015, and since then Venture Taranaki has allocated more than \$680,000 to community-based science and technology investigations.

“Curious Minds aims to make science accessible to our communities,” says the programme’s coordinator Josh Richardson of Venture Taranaki.

“This year’s projects span a diverse and interesting mix of scientific disciplines including estuarine ecology, hydrology, soil science, conservation science, and renewable energy

engineering.”

“What is really heartening is the prevalence of projects focused on our environment and testing ways in which technology could help us better protect it,” Josh says.

Projects are conceived, developed and proposed by the communities who will undertake them, usually driven by challenges or problems those communities see around them. Curious Minds enables groups to be matched with scientific or technical experts to help them progress the project.

“A fantastic example of this is the project by Ngamatapouri School, which is located 43km up the Waitotara Valley. The school, of just eight students is tackling the risk of flooding in the valley through utilising technology to develop flood warning systems that will help their community

better prepare for when the Waitotara River level rises to dangerous levels, which is frequently,” Josh says.

Students will design, build and trial a device to remotely monitor water levels to provide early warning of floods to the school and local community.

Projects approved for 2019 include Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga which will carry out a comprehensive assessment in the Urenui and Mimitangiata estuaries, with the aim of measuring the current health of these estuaries. The project will identify current and future threats that may impact on the health of these important coastal areas. Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga are doing this work with support from the Taranaki Regional Council and the Clifton Community Board and will be working with students from Uruti, Mimi

and Urenui Schools.

The Healthy Living Soil Project – Organic Farm NZ Taranaki/Whanganui is a collaboration to investigate the benefits of incorporating a scientific approach to the way we grow our food. Participants in the project - local small-scale growers, community groups and horticulture students - will gain a better understanding of their soils and how to grow healthy living soil that fosters optimal food production. With food and food science being key areas focus for Taranaki’s economic development, the outcomes of the Healthy Living Soil Project could have a big impact on growers and gardeners around the mountain.

I Whio that I could live here is a collaboration between Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust, Manaia and Auroa Primary Schools,

Ngāti Tū and Ngāti Haua hapū, Taranaki Mounga, Taranaki Regional Council and Fish and Game. The project is a weaving of mātauranga (knowledge, wisdom, understanding, skill) and Western science and is focused on the hauora (health, vigour) and wairua (spirit, soul) of the Kaupokonui River. The investigation will explore, measure and understand the health of the river along the upper, middle and lower reaches, spanning both the river’s cultural and ecological significance, and explore ways to restore the river to a standard that is fit for our native taonga, the Whio.

With Fish food and fringes from MAIN Trust NZ, students will monitor invertebrates and vegetation, and record environmental factors at their site. The project

will generate biodiversity records to measure changes over time, an important factor in gauging the success of habitat restoration. Students will work alongside restoration practitioners and learn about the important work that is being done to restore these important sites.

Sustainable energy generation for use in electric vehicles from New Plymouth Girls’ High School is a collaborative pilot between students, parents, teachers and the local community to investigate innovative and environmentally sustainable energy generation for use in electric vehicles. Generation methods will be evaluated in a school-based setting which can then be put into future full-scale implementation in the Tohonohono Marae situated in the school grounds.

Risks of cannabis in spotlight

The potential for cannabis-related harm is being downplayed in debates about the drug’s legal status, according to Otago researchers. In a joint editorial in the New Zealand Medical Journal by research Associate

Professor Joe Boden and the late Emeritus Professor David Fergusson, caution is urged before altering laws - with the researchers citing evidence from two of Otago’s long-running population studies.

“Most contributions (to the

debate) imply that cannabis is a relatively harmless drug, and that cannabis law change will only have beneficial consequences,” they write.

“We would argue that, on the basis of evidence generated by longitudinal

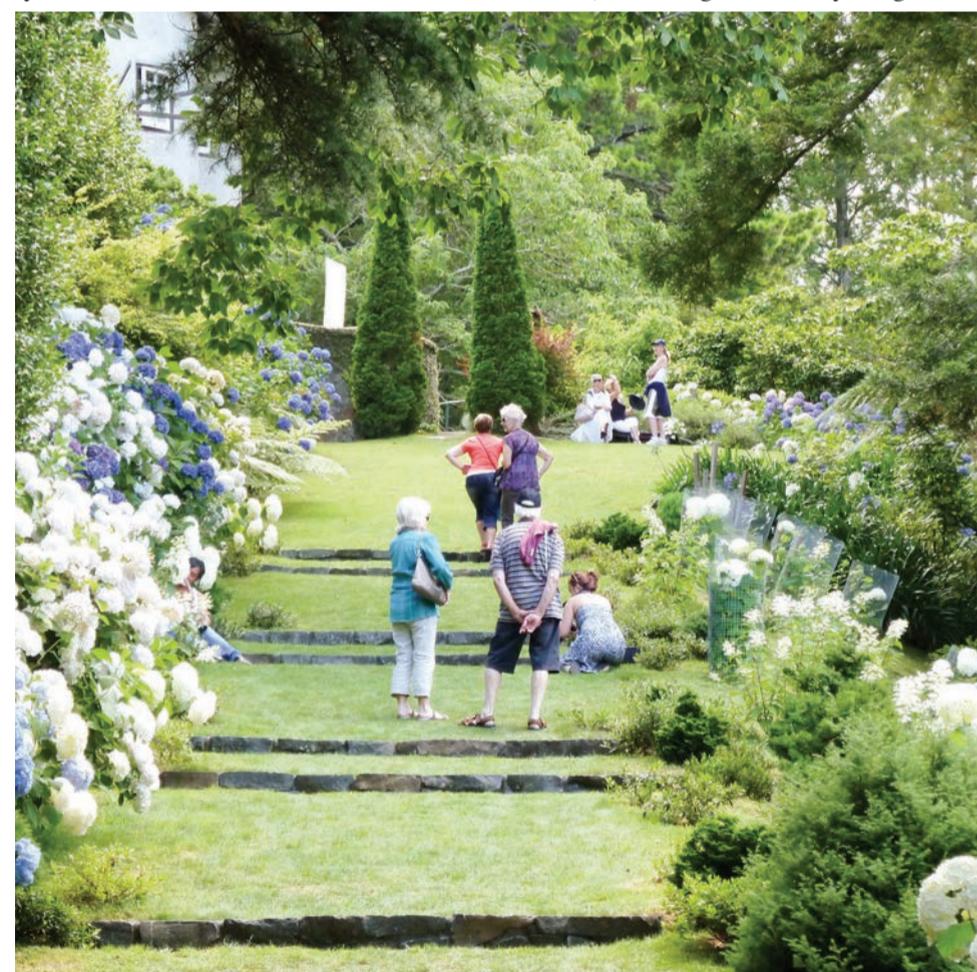
studies based in New Zealand, both assumptions are incorrect,” Stuff reported.

These studies - the Christchurch Health and Development Study and the Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Development Study - provide some of the most comprehensive data on cannabis-related harm in the world. Cannabis use by those involved in the Christchurch study was associated with educational delay, welfare

dependence, increased risks of psychotic symptoms, major depression, increased risks of motor vehicle accidents, tobacco use and other illicit drug use and respiratory impairment, Newshub reported.. Their proposal discouraged the use of cannabis, but proposed cautious decriminalisation and harsher penalties for supplying cannabis to those under 18.

Emeritus Professor Fergusson is the

former director of the Christchurch Health and Development Study and dedicated nearly 40 years of his life to the research, until he died in October last year. In another study, using cannabis just once or twice as a teen was shown to have the potential to lead to extra grey matter in the brain. Led by Dr Catherine Orr, of Melbourne’s Swinburne University of Technology, the study found a link between the extra grey matter in some sites and increased anxiety.



Check out the six-star garden at Tūpare.

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OPUNAKE FIRE SERVICE

Restricted fire season is here

Restricted fire season is here. Hot off the press this week is advice that the South Taranaki Area is now into a restricted fire season. What this means is that you are having a fire out in the open then a fire permit is required. This can be obtained by going online to www.checkitsalright.nz or contacting Fire and Emergency NZ (FENZ) on 0800 658 628. This has come about because of the effects of the long, hot, dry period the area is experiencing at present. Should this remain then it is extremely likely

that a total fire ban will come into force. As the name suggests this would mean that no fires at all would be permitted in the open. Should this happen then FENZ will promulgate this through the normal media channels.

While on the subject of things heating up the Opunake Brigade has been very busy over the past two weeks with five call outs attended. On the January 29 the Opunake along with the Rahotu brigade responded to a motor vehicle accident on Kahui Road. When the Rahotu brigade arrived they

determined that the Opunake brigade's assistance wasn't required. On the way back to Opunake the team received a call to another motor vehicle accident this time on the corner of Whitcombe and Longfellow roads. A vehicle had lost control and gone into a fence. The driver of the vehicle was unhurt so no further action was required by the brigade members.

On Wednesday evening January 30 the brigade attended a false alarm call out to Everybody's Theatre Tasman Street. Once the building was checked out by our crews the brigade

returned to station. Sunday February 3 had the brigade turning out to smoke reported in the area of Fox Street. Upon further investigation it was found the smoke was caused by a fire that had slightly got out of control and was getting very close a garage on a private property. The fire was extinguished with no real harm being done other than the resident getting a bit of a fright.

Just before midnight on Saturday 9th the brigade responded to an Ambulance assist on Waiteika Road. Sadly this did not result in a positive outcome for

the patient. The Opunake Brigade extends its most sincere condolences to the family and whanau.

Sunday was the annual Taranaki Provincial Fire Brigades Association fishing completion. This year it was hosted by the Patea Volunteer Fire Brigade. Colin Andrews from the Opunake Brigade came home with a trophy for the heaviest Kahawai. Well done Colin.

The past two weeks has seen two valuable members of the brigade leave the brigade. One has moved out of the area while the other has left

on her O.E. Again we ask that if you or anyone else you know would like to join the brigade you will be "welcome with open arms." The brigade meets on a Monday night from 7pm. We would love to see you here.

That's all for now. Please take extreme care out there in these dry conditions.

VSO
John

Defrosting leopard seal faeces leads to a surprise

They were defrosting leopard seal poo...you won't believe what happened next. For more than a year a frozen slab of leopard seal poo sat in a NIWA freezer.

The poo, known scientifically as scat and about the size of two bread rolls, is as good as gold for leopard seal researchers. It can tell them what these Antarctic predators eat, a little bit about their health and how long they may have been in New Zealand waters. It's so valuable to scientific research that NIWA marine biologist Dr Krista Hupman and the team at LeopardSeals.org run a network of volunteer scat



A leopard seal was an unexpected visitor to Opunake Beach last year.

collectors up and down the country who gather the evidence and send it to her

for analysis.

That's why a local vet, out checking on the health of a skinny leopard seal resting on Oreti Beach, Invercargill, picked up a scat sample, packaged it up and sent it to Dr Hupman who popped it in the freezer.

That was November, 2017. And there it stayed until it was removed by volunteers Jodie Warren and Melanie Magnan.

Their's is not glamorous work.

First they must defrost the sample. "Then we basically have to sift it. You put it under the cold tap, get all the gross stuff off, smooch it around a bit and separate the bones, feathers, seaweed and other stuff," explains Jodie.

to who might have taken them is the nose of a blue kayak.

If they're yours and you want the USB stick back, it comes with a price. The leopard seal researchers would like some more leopard seal scat please.

"The more we can find out about these creatures, the more we can ensure they are looked after."

There is information at

www.leopardseals.org on what the scat looks like (thick puddles in varying colours), how to collect it (gloves and an ice cream container!), and how to stay safe (keep at least 20m away from the animals).

Dr Hupman's work also includes analysing leopard seal sightings in a bid to determine whether they are becoming more prevalent in New Zealand waters.

On this month in history Cook Strait conquered by Lynne Cox

On February 4 1975 Lynne Cox became the first woman to swim the Cook Strait. However, the honour did not go to a New Zealander; Lynne hailed from the United States of America.

She set off from the North Island and reached the South Island in 12 hours and two minutes. She was aged just

18 and earlier had swum the English Channel.

At 19 she became the first person to swim the Straits of Magellan in Chile and the first to swim around Cape Point in South Africa. Later on, she swam the Bering Strait from Alaska to what was then the Soviet Union.

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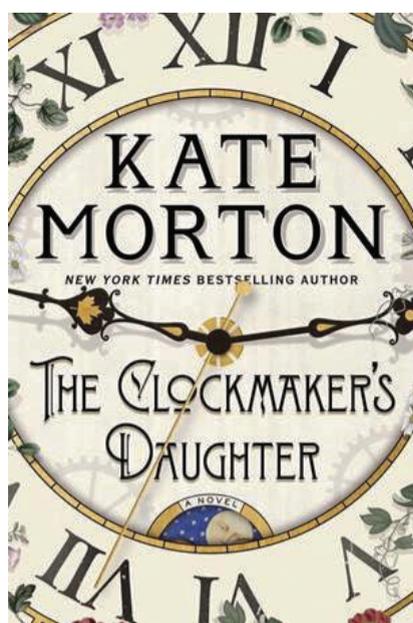
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Book Review The Clockmaker's Daughter by Kate Morton

Kate Morton, in my opinion is one of the best authors for writing novels that juxtapose between past and present in the voices of more than one character.

For the most part this story is told from the viewpoint of Elodie, who in the present day discovers an old leather satchel containing a sketchbook and a photograph of a beautiful young woman. She recognises the house as being one from a night time story her mother used to tell her and yet when she mentions it to her Uncle Tip, he denies knowing anything



about it and yet at this point, you know that he knows. This only makes Elodie even more determined to find out about the girl and the house who she finds out is a real house, now a museum, named Birchwood Manor.

As the story moves into the narrative of the other characters and time periods you need to keep your wits about you. At the beginning I realised the first character to tell a part of their story is in fact dead, but I wasn't sure who she was and it turned out a little later in the book that it wasn't who

I thought it was. As the story builds and the mystery grows you end up trying to piece together the puzzle of how all the characters are connected as well as weaving your way through the surprises, thrills and plot twists along the way.

Kate Morton also writes wonderfully about Birchwood Manor, the house that is such an integral part of the story that you feel you could almost live there and would most certainly recognise it if you came upon it while out walking

one day. The Clockmaker's daughter is an intricately written, multiple plot thread, and beautifully complex story that will draw you into it and only let go at the unexpected ending.

Maria Brewerton RLIANZA
Branch Librarian Opunake & Manaia LibraryPlus
South Taranaki District Council

Retreat is unique to Taranaki

Ongoing support from NPDC is providing vital support for people dealing with tragedy or life challenges, Taranaki Retreat's Jamie and Suzy Allen say.

The New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) invests about \$730,000 each year in the community and a recent funding partnership from the Community Investment Fund will give the Retreat Trust \$25,000 over the next five years.

The money will go to the Retreat's Support Team and follows \$20,000 in NPDC funding in 2017 and \$5,000 in 2015.

"The Taranaki Retreat does fantastic work in our community and NPDC is delighted to be able to support it over the next five years," says NPDC Chief Operating Officer Kelvin Wright.

"Our community is what it is thanks to the tireless work of charities and groups who go above and beyond to help those in need. We're happy to play a part in supporting their work through grants and funding each year."

Taranaki Retreat was set up by the Allens in 2015



A retreat for people dealing with tragedy of life's challenges.

following the death of their daughter Carrie in 2012. The family stayed in Ronald McDonald house while she battled cancer. That stay inspired the couple to create a space for individuals or families dealing with tragedy and life-challenges.

"Many, many people in our community are finding the pace and challenges of modern life are impacting their mental health. It is a hallmark of any region how it offers healing and

sanctuary. Taranaki Retreat is unique to our province, and an expression of aroha and compassion of which we should all be proud – the community itself provides this sanctuary, through its generosity and aroha," says Jamie Allen.

"In the Retreat's first 18 months of operation, more than 2500 requests for support have been received and responded to. Of course, this requires many resources, at every level. NPDC's

community funding support is literally a lifeline, and one that we know reflects the heart of Taranaki. Thank you."

In August the Allens received a NPDC Citizens' Award recognising the significant contribution they have made to the district.



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Woods reveals weak grasp of our energy needs

Megan Woods has again exposed her flimsy grasp of New Zealand's energy needs, demonising hydrocarbons at a time when many countries are using natural gas to reduce emissions, National's Energy and Resources spokesperson Jonathan Young says



**JONATHAN YOUNG MP
FOR NEW PLYMOUTH**

"The Energy Minister says green hydrogen will be the fuel of the future. But recent reports say electricity

produced that way would be three times the price of existing electricity. One report says the carbon price would need to increase up to 16 times to make hydrogen cost-competitive to natural gas for electricity generation. "Dr Woods can't have it both ways. She wants to keep electricity prices low but also completely decarbonise electricity generation and end all fossil fuel dependence in New Zealand. The reality is we need natural gas as a backup to renewable generation for

when the sun doesn't shine and the wind doesn't blow. "It is unfortunate to see the Energy Minister attack the industry group Petroleum Exploration and Production NZ (PEPANZ) for attempting to put a bit of balance back into the debate and she distorts the facts in the process. "Her claim that New Zealand would be left 'high and dry as the world changes' if we put 'all our eggs in the fossil fuel basket' is completely erroneous. Some 85 per cent of our electricity generation

is renewable. Thermal production, largely from gas, gives us a back-up to ensure the lights stay on. "The International Energy Agency estimates energy demand will increase by 40 per cent over the next 20 years and says natural gas production needs to ramp up to help meet that growth. "Dr Woods' views are extremely challenging for New Zealand's economy for negligible net benefit. She acknowledges this by admitting her officials haven't provided specific

estimates and that the impact on global emissions will depend on the response from New Zealand's large gas users. "New Zealand needs better leadership on energy issues and carbon reduction than this. We need a prudent, properly assessed pathway to a low-carbon future that works for the planet and for the New Zealand economy."

*Jonathan Young
Member of Parliament for
New Plymouth*

\$82 million investment to boost employment in the regions

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has announced the creation of a new skills and employment initiative – Te Ara Mahi (Pathways to Work) – to support workers and employers in regional New Zealand.

The Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) will provide an investment of up to \$82.4 million towards initiatives to boost skills and employments. "A cornerstone of the PGF is to create jobs, which means ensuring local people have the opportunity to take up work and support the delivery of PGF-funded projects around the country," Jacinda Ardern said.

"We want to support people to learn the skills needed for local jobs while also helping employers meet their growing labour force needs.

"We will set aside \$60

million for programmes in five of the PGF's surge regions (Northland, Bay of Plenty, Tairāwhiti, Hawke's Bay and Manawatu-Whanganui), which face particular challenges including high unemployment, low wages and lower productivity compared to the rest of New Zealand. An additional \$20 million will be allocated to non-surge regions with the remaining \$2.4m to support programme delivery.

"We will be investing in two specific programmes that support Māori and Pasifika – He Poutama Rangatahi and the expansion Ministry for Pacific Peoples' successful Pacific Employment Support Service. Both programme target rangatahi who are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET).

"The PGF investment will also support the development

of employment hubs to bring government agencies together to respond to specific needs of local employers and potential local workers.

"We're supporting businesses and employers to access the workforce they need when they need it, and giving them confidence to invest in expanding operations in the regions. This will help to accelerate job creation, leading to sustainable economic growth.

"These hubs will empower communities by bringing people and business together to access the full range of government employment support services, including access to work-readiness courses and training opportunities," Jacinda Ardern said.

Regional Economic Development Shane Jones joined the Prime Minister and

Employment Minister Willie Jackson at Mangatōia Station near Kaikohe to make the announcement.

"New Zealand's economy is growing and unemployment is at its lowest in a decade. Regional New Zealand deserves to share in the economic prosperity of a strong economy, and this funding will equip them with the skills and capability to succeed," Shane Jones said.

"Through the PGF we are able to amplify our investment in local people, including rangatahi Māori, who feature disproportionately high in NEET statistics.

"We're also able to scale-up the support available to employers to ensure they are able to take on local people to deliver on local projects.

"The PGF was always intended to improve employment outcomes for

people in the regions. By working with people and business, we're making a real difference in the regions and supporting local communities to thrive," Shane Jones said.

Employment Minister Willie Jackson has welcomed additional funding to support more young people in regional New Zealand to gain sustained employment.

He Poutama Rangatahi (HPR) will receive \$13.2 million from the Provincial Growth Fund as part of a wider skills and employment initiative – Te Ara Mahi.

"This boost to He Poutama Rangatahi reflects our Government's commitment to reducing youth unemployment and helping those young people who need extra support on the way to employment. Getting more rangatahi into fulfilling and long-term work benefits us

all," Willie Jackson said.

"The number of young people who are not earning or learning has been falling nationally but we must continue to stay focused on changing the story for our rangatahi in the regions, especially in places where the rates of young Māori NEETs remains high.

"Nineteen HPR programmes are already underway helping to get young people ready for work in sectors from forestry to hospitality. The additional funding is a welcome investment to meet the heavy demand that HPR has experienced.

"We're committed to turning the tide on youth unemployment and empowering more rangatahi in the regions to find meaningful work," Willie Jackson said.

JONATHAN YOUNG
MP FOR NEW PLYMOUTH

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NORTH ISLAND WIDE

OBITUARY Leo Sydney Hickey April 28 1937 - January 30 2019

Leo Sydney Hickey was a son, a brother, a husband, a father and a friend. He was the loving and devoted husband to Ann for 58 years.

Dad was a gentle man and a gentleman. Honest, reliable, loving, caring...traits he kept right to the end. He treated everybody with respect. He loved his family, his wife and his community. He had a great sense of humour and was always fun to be around.

Dad had a love for work and machinery but his greatest love was always for his family. Everything he did was for the future, for the next generation and future generations.

The New Zealand generation of Hickeys started with John Cornelius Hickey, born in Ireland in 1846, immigrating to Opunake for a better life. He married, built a house in King Street and farmed on the Namu Road. John Sydney Hickey, Dad's father was born in 1894 in Opunake and married Bridget Margaret Coyle from Hokitika. They built a house on the site where Leo and Ann's house sits today. They were great community people, involved in many organisations including the rugby union, dairy company and dairy board. It was about family, community and a better future, examples Leo built on.

Leo Sydney Hickey was born on April 28 1937 at the Opunake Cottage Hospital, the youngest of six children. He went to St Joseph's School Opunake, often arriving on a horse with his siblings. He loved his rugby. Dad then attended St Pat's Silverstream, Wellington. He hated it and left as soon as possible when he was 15. Dad was amazing at maths and could do complex calculations in his head quicker than it could be punched into a calculator, amazing sales people.

Dad got a job at a wool store in Wellington for a short time before moving to a better job at the Wellington Wharf. He loved the machinery... cranes, trucks and ships. He was really good at tying knots with ropes to secure loads. He bought a Norton 650- motor bike, regularly commuting from Wellington to Opunake to work on the farm. Dad came home to the farm, aged 17. There was no tractor, just horses.

Dad joined the Young Farmers Club and at a Young Farmers dance he met a young Rahotu school teacher, Ann Radford. They got married in 1961 when Leo was 23 and Ann 21.

At that time the Te Namu farm was 100 acres milking 50 cows through a six-bale



walk-through shed. They lived in the house built for his parents, and soon there were four kids under five: Chris, Graham, Darrell, Lynette, and four years later, Bronwyn.

We had a great childhood. Dad always encouraged us to do our best and always supported us. Dad was clever, strong, he could build things, he was a good engineer, he could work out how to fix things and always had a project on the go.

Dad craved knowledge and taught himself skills by watching others and reading. He was keen to pass that knowledge to us and had the patience of a saint.

In 1967, when he was 30 with five kids, he instigated and helped build Opunake Play centre. He got the plans, he got the land from the education Board and he got on with it. When Opunake Primary School needed a new swimming pool, he got on with that too.

When he heard the picture theatre was closing, he and Mac Calvert saw Bruce Whiting and bought it. They then got the community to raise the money and buy it back. They did this for us kids, for the other kids of Opunake and generations to come. Dad went on to manage the theatre for 18 years.

Dad was an avid traveller, visiting countries around the world with Mum, sometimes with the dairy industry and harbour board. He came home with interesting stories and souvenirs. This inspired us kids to travel. Dad loved the people he met and our home became a stopover for hundreds of visitors and exchange students from all around the world.

Dad the farmer was a great provider. There was

no great plan, things just grew. He loved machinery and developing the land. By the late 70s his focus shifted from milking and he had progressed from horses to tractors. His first was a Ferguson 24, then a 35, 135, 165, and in the late 70s a 188.

This machinery passion led to Hickey Enterprises, our hay contracting business. It provided us kids with a

summer job. We worked hard and peaked at 100,000 little bales one season-60,000 of which we mowed, raked, baled and satacked ourselves./

The drain digger and the stone picker were the best machines Dad bought. Dad loved the digger. Even in the last year or two as he became frail he worked out how to climb in and out

of the big machines...park by a bank or a rock, take a ladder or use a stick. He never wanted to stop. When he got going he was happy and despite some worry he always got home safe.

In 1973 Dad became a director of the Opunake Co-operative Dairy Company and chairman of Egmont in 1987. Dad loved the people, the machinery and the technology with Egmont achieving the highest milk payout for several years running. Amid industry changes, Dad preserved the Opunake/Rahotu Vet Group for the community with the trust giving thousands of dollars to local students annually to help with their studies.

Lion Leo loved the local Lions club. He was amongst the like-minded people who wanted to help in the community and help they did. Projects he worked on included the lookout and town toilets. They grew potatoes and sweetcorn to raise money.

Lion Leo got a taste for fundraising demolition work after the Opunake High School fire in 1982. He went on to organise the demolition of the Yep building, in conjunction with

Coastal Riders) to make way for the TSB, the sales yards, the Farmers Co-op.(working with Opunake surf Club), the beach cook house, the Opunake Rugby Club rooms and the site for the Coastal Care complex.

He loved his machines, the people, the community, his wife and his family.

Dad never set out to leave a legacy. It just happened because of who he was. Leo Sydney Hickey, always a part of Opunake. Always a part of our family.

Darrell Hickey from the eulogy delivered at his father's funeral (abridged).

On this month in history

Suez Canal opened

On February 17, 1867 the first ship passed through the Suez Canal. The preparation of the canal started in September 1859 in Egypt and completion took until November 1869.

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Sixty years wed - and counting

The 14th of February 1959 was a very special day - it was the hot sunny day Ian Hooper and Barbara Sargeson were married at St Johns Presbyterian Church in Hawera - just 60 years ago. Today, Ian and Barbara Hooper look back on over a half century of memories.

Another special day was in the spring of 1955, a day in October. The occasion was a Methodist Church Bible Class dance when Barbara caught sight of a young man and thought, "He's not a bad looking bloke." This was the day when Barbara and Ian first met. At the time 16-year-old Barbara was boarding at a Presbyterian manse with the Rev. Jim Young and his wife and Ian, aged 21, walked her home.

Barbara was brought up in Hawera and was the daughter of Elaine and Jack Sargeson. She was the eldest of five siblings. Jack was a carpenter before buying a farm, although Barbara remained in Hawera at her job at the Bank of New Zealand. Ian was one of the seven children of Olive and

Tom Hooper and grew up on a farm.

Jack is the first cousin of author Frank Sargeson who is often referred to as 'the father of New Zealand literature'.

After a courtship of about three years Ian and Barbara were engaged on February 21, 1958 then married a year later. "We both prayed about this step - we asked God," shares Barbara.

The newly wed couple's honeymoon hit trouble when the fanbelt on their Austin A35 car broke as they drove through the backblocks of Taranaki, but eventually they made it to the South Island where they had a camping holiday, although while in Dunedin it was a bit cold so a caravan was their abode.

Ian had acquired a farm, which was leased at just five shillings an acre, but the cheap deal meant the land was far from ideal. The 932 acres of land was swampy, rock ridden and infested with blackberry, gorse and ragwort. Six hundred acres of the farm was covered with bush. Little did the couple realise what a battle



Ian and Barbara Hooper married on 14th of February 1959 in Hawera.

These days with Ian and Barbara living in New Plymouth it is hard to believe it is the same Oeo Road farm. Their son Philip, his wife Lyneyre and their family live there and they have continued the process of improvements. Now, the property is a most attractive, weed-free and valuable dairy grazing unit.

The early 1960s saw the arrival of Ian and Barbara's family with Graeme (1960), Mervyn (1961), Joy (1963) and Philip (1965). Mention must also be made of foster daughter Karina in 1962, who remains in touch and looks back on the time with special memories of this kindly Christian couple. In 1974 10-year-old Lupi from Tonga also stayed with the family for a year and attended the Awatuna Primary School.

Ian and Barbara's busy lives have not stopped them from having many interests, especially the Christian church (Barbara is a licensed lay preacher). Ian has spent much time restoring a 1926 Model T Ford 'doctors' coupe as well as fishing off the coast. Camping has also been a great love as

they would have to make the farm profitable. "We were hard up all the time," comments Ian. Agreed Barbara, "It was very very difficult. We had to turn a dollar over twice before we decided to spend it."

Both Ian and Barbara had a series of paid jobs, while Ian dug ditches on the farm to establish good drainage, as well as clearing the weeds. Eventually, the farm was bought, but they had to pay five pounds an acre to do so. Most of the bush acreage was eventually sold to a consortium of the South Taranaki District Council, Forest and Bird and the Department of

Conservation. The farm ran sheep and beef cattle.

Barbara worked for Hardings Furnishings in



Ian and Barbara at their New Plymouth home.

Kaponga, the Awatuna Store and Taranaki Farmers, Stratford to mention just some of her employment (at different times), while Ian worked for the Awatuna Dairy Company and completed a stint as a sharemilker. These jobs were additional to their hard graft in breaking in an unprofitable farm!

The couple bought a small cottage for 60 pounds and had it shifted onto the farm. It had just two bedrooms and no toilet - they had to make do with a longdrop situated outside. By the time they had paid all the bills, including the shifting cost of 200 pounds, it had cost them 800 pounds for a liveable, if basic, home. Later, they made some improvements including enlarging the tiny lounge, adding two new bedrooms and establishing an inside toilet. They also built a woolshed.

well as travelling in their camper van. Barbara is keen on cooking, sewing, cake decoration, gardening, and she was the secretary for the Awatuna Hall for 35 years. For many years, as their children were growing up, related activities such as school, sport and cultural activities kept them busy.

Currently, Barbara is Chaplain at Chalmers Rest Home and at Taranaki Base Hospital.

In latter years Ian and Barbara have enjoyed a number of trips overseas to such locations as Australia, Indonesia (Bali), Canada, the UK and other European countries. They thoroughly enjoy their extended family which now includes both grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Congratulations, Ian and Barbara on attaining sixty years of a happy successful marriage.

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THE RESULTS ARE IN

Once again, our senior school did a tremendous job with their NCEA results in 2018. Congratulations to the following students on the rewards for all your hard work.

Year 11 - Merit Jackson Henare Caitlin Manley Kaiah Bloor Jessica Turner Ashleigh George Keifer Ericsson	Year 12 - Merit Luke Dixon Corban Bright Ruby Gatenby	Year 13 - Merit Stevee-Jai Kelly Keegan Grey Jacob Symons Sarah Haden
Year 11 - Excellence Danielle Kidd Kiana Kahukaka-Snowden Tamara Turnbull Meg Gibson Black Harkness Ariana Dingle Brydee Hunt Jamiee Siciliano Hayley Quinnell	Year 12 - Excellence Te Ao Eiffe Lia Harrop Sam McNeil Regan Bloemen Joel Clement Josh Barratt Cormach Hughson-How Michael McCarty Isabelle Cook	Year 13 - Excellence Aimee Abplanalp Katie Sinclair Laura Hickey Dylan Coleman Gianni Dear

WHAT DO THE YEAR 9'S THINK OF OPUNAKE HIGH?



JAMESON POOLE

How has it been settling into OHS?
When I first came in I was really nervous there was too many people around, but now I've managed to fit in really well.

What have you enjoyed most?
I like doing my Tech classes and coding.

What do you think of the junior curriculum?
I think that it is pretty cool to be able to do the stuff you want to do instead of subjects so high schools a lot funner.

This trimester, Jameson is taking Media Superstars, 1. 2. Infinity & Beyond (Maths), Whats the Buzz (Science), Vlogging, Sweet Tooth Backing and Year 11 Digi.



ATAHLIA SANSON WALKER

How has it been settling into OHS?
It has been amazing so far, the teachers are amazing

What have you enjoyed most?
I have enjoyed meeting new friends, and exploring different different places.

What do you think of the junior curriculum?
I think it has been interesting and different to what I'm used too.

This trimester, Atahlia is taking Manaakitanga, Movie Madness, Media Superstars, Societal Issues, Underbelly (English) and Maths Measurement



CAYDEN MARSH

How has it been settling into OHS?
It has being good, I have enjoyed getting to pick my own classes and do what your interested in

What have you enjoyed most?
It been good because you have got your own freedom

What do you think of the junior curriculum?
I really enjoy the junior curriculum because you get to be with the Year 10s.

This trimester, Cayden is taking Science Fair, Sport & Social Outdoors, Solar Car 1. 2. Infinity & Beyond (Maths) and Media Superstars

from the Principals desk...



Nga mihi o te wa ki a koe me to whanau

Greetings to you and your family

I hope you have all had a fantastic break over the festive season and are acclimatising to the regular routines the new year brings. I would like to begin by extending a warm welcome to all of our new students, whanau and teaching staff that have joined the Opunake High School community in 2019. This year we welcome 78 new Year 9 students as well as a number of students joining us in the other year levels.

Term One started with the powhiri to welcome new students to Opunake High School followed by our success assembly acknowledging those students who have gained Merit and Excellence endorsement in NCEA at Level 1, 2 & 3. The school academic goals and Hauora goal have been outlined to all students and we are excited to embark on a new journey of relationship based learning to exceed expectations.

An orientation program for all year levels focused on welcoming students and setting out the DREAM expectations for 2019. Year 13 students worked with our new Year 9 students around peer support, introducing them to Opunake High School whilst other Year levels had their own personalised orientation program.

Students have arrived at school in 2019 excited and have settled into the start of the year ready to learn. Smiling faces and happy chatter are all around as I have been visiting classes and talking to students in the school grounds. The positive and excited vibe around the school is fantastic.

This is the first year that all students at Opunake High School have school provided chromebooks to ensure they are future focused in their learning. This relentless focus on equity and excellence will enable all students to reach their potential, it is just one of the innovative ways we grow good people for a rapidly changing world.

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

Noho ora mai ano

Peter O'Leary - Principal

Mr O'Leary and Mr Blackstock gave Beach Ed a thumbs up



WHATS HAPPENING AT OPUNAKE HIGH?

Term One is absolutely action-packed with events:

Swimming Sports - February 14th

School Photos (Hapu, Year Levels, Family & Student ID) - February 18th

TSSSA Surfing - February 19th

Year 13 REC Overnight Tramp - February 20th-22nd

Athletics - February 28th

Year 11 Parihaka - March 1st

School Gala - March 7th

Year 12 Health & Safety - March 12th-13th

Polyfest - March 13th-15th

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MARCH 7TH 2019

It's not child's play NZ – and not for D.I.Y

Homeowners are being warned not to endanger the health and safety of family members - or risk invalidating insurance.

The plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying industry has launched a new look public awareness campaign, which aims to ensure homeowners are well informed before partaking in the kiwi spirit of DIY - and especially - be aware when buying a home. Martin Sawyers, PGDB Chief Executive says; "Homeowners need to know the key messages of the campaign to keep themselves safe, mitigate

risk and be aware that unauthorised work also affects their insurance policy."

On the D.I.Y front, it's no secret that Kiwis like to roll up their sleeves, use their ingenuity and get creative. When buying, for most, the icing on the cake is the upgraded bathroom and newly installed kitchen, complete with a gas hob and water filtration system.

But there's a red flag - who installed them? Who plumbed in the water filter, new shower and toilet? Failing to check the licence of who did the work and discovering later that it was

carried out illegally, leaves you viable.

As the new homeowner, you will be responsible for all problems on your property when it comes to eventually selling it.

Martin says; "Almost all aspects of plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying work are restricted and illegal to D.I.Y. Those carrying out this work must hold a NZ Practising Licence. And, for good reasons."

"Work carried out by unauthorised people can cause injury, illness, disease, damage to property and in the worse case scenarios loss of life."

"There are big fines associated with illegal work. For example, unauthorised sanitary plumbing work carries a maximum fine of \$10,000, and unauthorised gasfitting carries a maximum fine of \$50,000."

The PGDB's campaign will inform homeowners, businesses and DIYers about the simple steps they need take to reduce any risk, and to act safely and responsibly around plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying work. It's not child's play.

The NZ Practising Licence is the unique identifier for every Kiwi to look out for when hiring a tradesperson.

The number on the licence links to information on the public register (www.pgdb.co.nz). Consumers can quickly and easily look up details and be confident they're hiring a qualified tradesperson.

If a homeowner believes work has been done by

someone who is not authorised, or has concerns about the competency of a tradesperson, they can make a complaint to the Board.

Download the R.A.C app (report-a-cowboy) to report illegal activity and check the public register at www.pgdb.co.nz/app.

NPDC rolls out scooters for Pukekura Park

If you're not up to a stroll, you can now go for a roll through the world-class scenery at Pukekura Park.

Four new mobility scooters are available for free from the start of February for visitors who can't walk through the park, which won the prestigious international Green Flag award (the international mark of a quality park or green space) for the sixth year running last year.

"Pukekura Park is the jewel in the crown of the New Plymouth District and is perfect for a leisurely spin, opening it up to even more people," said New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) External Relations Manager Jacqueline Baker.

While NPDC owns the electric scooters, the Taranaki Disabilities Information Centre Trust (TDICT) will run the



Pukekura Park Curator Kristian Davies tries out one of the new scooters which will improve access to the park.

service. Anyone wanting to book a scooter in advance can do so by contacting NPDC by phone (06-759 6060) or email (enquiries@npdc.govt.nz).

npdc.govt.nz).

Users will need to provide personal ID to hire a scooter and sign a declaration that they're competent to drive on them. The service will be reviewed after three months.

Pukekura Park, created in 1876, includes the TSB Bowl of Brooklands and the popular Brooklands Zoo, and is host to high-profile events such as WOMAD and the annual TSB Festival of Lights, as well as concerts by international stars.

In the last year, the park has seen the development of the area outside the Tea House and the lookout over the Main Lake, as well as new shade sails in the playground and renovation of the fountain in the Fountain Lake.

NPDC manages some

1,600 hectares of parks and open spaces and looks after 82km of walkways including the Coastal Walkway.

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John will be missed

Former Fonterra chairman John Wilson who died last month is being remembered as a man who was passionate about the dairy industry.

The Te Awamutu dairy farmer who had been chairman of the dairy giant since 2012 stepped down last year following an

undisclosed health scare. He was 54.

He was first elected to the board as a farmers representative in 2003. Before then he had been the first chairman of the Fonterra Shareholders Council.

"He was very passionate about the dairy industry right

from the start," said Vaughn Brophy who represents the Coastal Taranaki Ward on the Shareholders Council, an area that now stretches from Kaupokonui through to Egmont Village. "He always put the dairy industry first and was taken well before he finished his work."

"He had one of the more high profile jobs in New Zealand. He was working with all the negative comments that get thrown our way without the knowledge of what dairyfarmers have done to mitigate those events."

"It was certainly evident in the years I've been on the council that he was always open as to what was happening at the grass roots level, and always open to hear what the farmers who milked the cows thought and where they were coming from. It didn't matter where you came from. If you were a smaller farmer you were as important as a larger farmer."

Shane Ardern, who was chairman of the the primary Industries select committee when he was MP for Taranaki-King Country said he knew John Wilson for 20 years.

"His contribution to the dairy industry was substantial," he says.

He remembers him as someone who had always



John Wilson.

shown an interest in farm politics and at the age of 30 had held positions in the then New Zealand Dairy Group in the Waikato.

"He was very active in the industry for his whole life. I guess to some extent there was always going to be an inevitability about him becoming a leader somewhere along the line. He was articulate, determined, focussed and well versed in the issue he would be addressing."

He said being chairman of the Shareholders Council had given Wilson a sense of the things his farmers would

and wouldn't accept.

Shane says that since leaving parliament he has kept in touch with John Wilson and had spoken to him on the phone 2-3 weeks before he had died. He had last seen him shortly before the September AGM at which he stood down as board chairman. He said that at the time he couldn't see any signs of the illness that led to his death.

In a press release, DairyNZ chairman Jim van der Poel also noted John Wilson's contribution.

"One of his greatest assets was that while John's passion

for dairy and his leadership skills saw him progress to spend much of his time as a director, he never lost touch with farmers and was always interested in farmer welfare.

"John was very supportive of DairyNZ too and his involvement in sector issues was invaluable, he always found time to get involved and was an active contributor to industry-good initiatives, including Mycoplasma bovis and the sector strategy, Dairy Tomorrow.

"Today is a sad day for dairy, for Fonterra and for DairyNZ. We will miss John."

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Taking care of the animals in the heat wave

As the heat continues around the country, MPI is reminding animal owners to keep livestock and pets well-watered and with good shelter.

Farmers and pet owners have special responsibilities towards their animals during a heat wave.

MPI's National Animal Welfare Coordinator, Dr

Wayne Ricketts, says the measures required are "fairly basic common sense things such as making sure animals have enough water, are in shade and there is

good airflow, as much as possible".

"This applies to pet owners as well as farmers," said Dr Ricketts, "and includes lifestyle block and horse owners".

"Basically, you've got to think of the things that you as human would do during a heatwave - to get into shade with good ventilation and have plenty of water to drink. It's all good common sense stuff, yet every time we have a heat wave MPI hears of animals being left without these things."

He said special attention needs to be paid to more vulnerable stock or pets such as those who have recently given birth and their offspring and animals with pre-existing medical conditions.

Owners should also take extra precautions for animals with bare skin, short coats or no pigment in their skin, as they are more susceptible to sunburn. Breeds with short noses (brachycephalic) can't regulate temperature well, and young, pregnant and lactating animals, or those with long hair or wool are also more vulnerable to heat stress.

For farmers it's critical that sufficient water supplies are available for stock to sustain livestock's water needs

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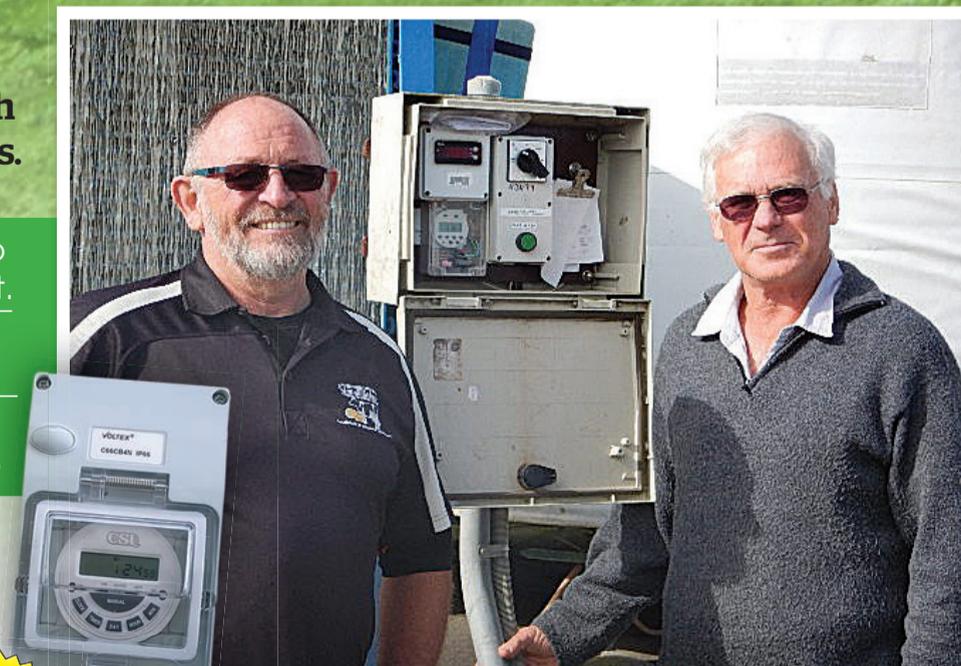
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New book looks at contest's 50 year history

Kate Taylor still vividly remembers the agony of crossing the line at the end of the gruelling agri-sports challenge in her only Young Farmer of the Year regional final.

"I was absolutely shattered. I totally get the mental and physical boundaries competitors push themselves to," she said.

Using chainsaws, fencing, swinging a gate, scanning ewes, driving farm bikes and tractors, were just some of the modules in the East Coast regional final at Dannevirke in 2001.

"I remember fighting with the fence. It was supposed to be five wires, but I only got two up," said Kate, who was still breastfeeding her daughter at the time.

Almost 20 years on, the Hawke's Bay freelance journalist has written a book on the colourful history of the prestigious agricultural contest.

In *50 Years Young: A History of the Young Farmer of the Year*, Kate meets winners, finalists and organisers, and shares their stories of passion and commitment.

"The book's full of personal stories about the dedicated people who've been involved with contest since it began in 1969," she



Kate Taylor.

said.

"Their passion for the contest and for the contest family has blown me away."

Kate spent last year travelling the country conducting interviews, taking photos and collecting information for the 288-page book.

"One of the highlights was catching up with old friends from NZ Young Farmers and telling so many stories that could never make the book," she said, laughing.

"I also loved meeting some of the people who have always simply been names on the back of the grand final programmes."

"One such moment was meeting up with 1992 winner Grant Catto. I have known his identical twin brother

Warwick, who won in 1995, for 25 years, but I'm not sure I'd ever properly met Grant," said Kate.

The Young Farmer of the Year has been testing the knowledge, skills and stamina of the country's food producers for five decades.

"Like many New Zealanders, I grew up watching the contest on television. The book has the same broad appeal to both rural and urban people," she said.

"It's not a farming book. It's a snapshot of how the contest impacted on people's lives while at the same time, it reflects changes in farming in those 50 years too."

NZ Young Farmers, which runs the FMG Young Farmer

of the Year, has been a major part of Kate's life.

"Every time I moved when I was younger I joined a new club. It was a great way to meet people and make friends. I met my husband Thomas when I joined Eskview Young Farmers," she said.

"When I was approached to write the book I didn't need any convincing to say yes."

The big question is, what does it take to win the FMG Young Farmer of the Year?

Kate puts it down to stamina, time management, building support networks, a wide general knowledge, the

ability to think outside the square, technique and being prepared.

50 Years Young is published by Massey

University Press and can be purchased from book stores and online.

Brad Markham

NZ FARMERS LIVESTOCK

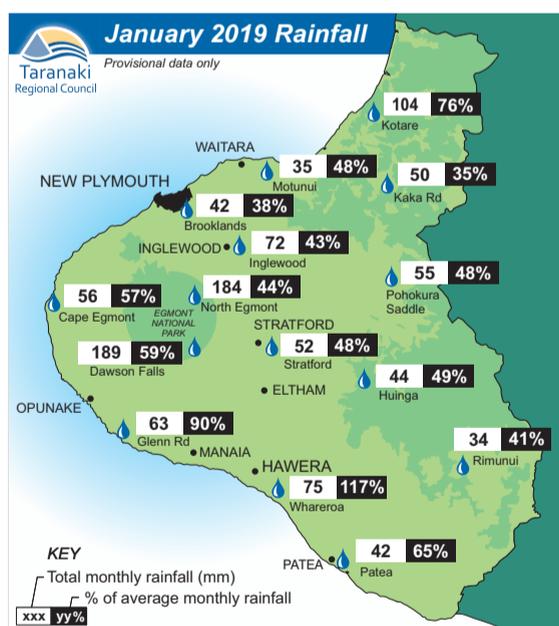
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A drier January for most

Rainfall for January was well below normal by between 35 % and 92 % for all sites except Duffy's Farm (near Whareroa), which recorded 74.5 mm or 117 % of normal, according to Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) figures.

The average rainfall for the month was just 58 %, with rainfall recorded on between four and 12 days (for sites outside of the National Park). The Motunui rainfall site recorded rain on just four days, and recorded only 34.5 mm (48 % normal). Okoki recorded just 35 % of normal for January with 50.0 mm of rain, which fell over nine days. The Duffy Farm site recorded 74.5 mm for the month, with 68.0 mm



of that falling in a two day period on January 14 and 15.

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Sick of being treated as rates mugs



Katie Milne with a collection of Federated Farmers' 10K Rates Mugs.

the level of concern about council costs," Katie says. "As an ironical nod to the fact many farmers' rates bills top \$10,000, we said the first 200 respondents to our survey would get a 'Federated Farmers \$10K Rates Mug'. These were exhausted barely three hours after the survey opened.

"The sad fact is, based on the rising costs, we're probably going to have to change to \$20K Rates Mugs." Of the 647 responses received at that point, 544 provided an amount of rates they pay, with an average of \$26,949 and median of \$21,388. Forty six pay

less than \$10,000, 199 pay between \$10,000 and \$20,000, 247 pay between \$20,000 and \$50,000, 43 pay between \$50,000 and \$100,000, nine pay more than \$100,000, with the highest amount \$176,533. Only 3.7% of respondents agree that they get good value for money from their rates, with 96.3% disagreeing. 87% of respondents consider roading to be the council activity mattering most to them. This was followed by planning and regulation (41.7%), land drainage (23.6%), water and wastewater (23.4%) and governance (23%). "Federated Farmers recognises the cost pressures on councils and we've said before we're delighted that

the Productivity Commission is now investigating how local authorities might fund infrastructure in the future, as well as looking into regulatory creep and cost-shifting by central government," Katie says. "Bills calculated on the current antiquated system of capital or land value-based rates often have little or no relationship with what a family, a business or a farm actually uses by way of council services. "And here's another message in this election year - we need people who have a sound understanding of rural and agricultural issues to stand, and get that perspective heard in Council chambers."

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across New Zealand, from February 11th through to the end of April. Experience Valtra's exclusive SmartTouch technology and Finnish quality first hand and in the field, with Valtra dealers and specialists available to show you through Valtra's award winning features.

The tour will be at Stratford Racecourse Pembroke Road Stratford from 10 am 3pm on Wednesday February 27, Thursday February 28 and Friday March 1. Get along to the Racecourse to test drive one of these magnificent machines. Contact Fieldtorque in Stratford 067658643

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Coastal made to wait for repeat of club final

Coastal will have to wait until week four to seek revenge against defending champions New Plymouth Old Boys in the 2019 CMK Taranaki club rugby competition, which kicks off on March 30.

New Plymouth Old Boys beat Coastal 29-9 in last year's finale at the TET Stadium in Inglewood, where Old Boys scored three tries in the last 20 minutes to seal their 17th title. However, the repeat of last year's final will be played on the same weekend as New Plymouth Old Boys' centenary on April 20.

The cross-town rivalry between Old Boys and Tukapa will come as early as the second weekend on April 4 at Vogeltown Park, which will be a repeat of last year's semi-final and again on May 25 at Sanders Park.

The repeat of the other semi-final between Coastal and Clifton will be held in the second week at the Rahotu Domain.

In week three, Spotswood United will host Tukapa for the Dan O'Brien Shield.

On Easter weekend, a selection of teams will play on Friday April 19 as well as Saturday April 20.

The final weekend of the first round will be held on



On April 20, Coastal and NPOB will again pack down against each other.

May 11 before points are halved in time for the second round where teams play each other again.

Semi-finals will be held on July 6 with Inglewood's TET Stadium hosting the club finals day on July 13, for the second consecutive year.

Community Rugby Manager Cole Brown said he is looking forward to

another exciting season and hopes the competition will be as close as last year.

"The competition was very tight last year and we hope that's the intention for 2019 which will build so much hype around the community. Last year's CMK club finals day was an example of the excitement that club rugby can bring with 4,000 people through the gates", he said.

Brown credits the calibre of coaches and resources within the province that makes the competition so tight.

"In the final week last year, we had seven out of the eight clubs vying for semi-final spots which emphasises the work coaches and volunteers are putting into our game."

Brown said a number of club rugby players earned

their first caps for the Yarrows Taranaki Bulls last year in the Mitre 10 Cup and others became established, enforcing the importance club rugby has on the province.

"It shows that there is a clear pathway from club rugby to representative rugby and this year it will more important than ever".

Brown also praises the

efforts of club chairs for putting their assistance in making the draw fit in and around their events and activities.

The Premier, Division 1 and Colts draws will mirror each other making it easier for clubs to field teams.

A club launch will be held prior to the season commencing.

CMK Chartered Accountants continue their valued association with Taranaki club rugby. The Taranaki business, which offers financial services and advice, has sponsored club rugby for the last three years.

"We thank CMK Chartered Accountants for their terrific support of club rugby. Their investment in our game ensures we are strong at the grassroots level, which flows on to our representative teams," Brown said.

CMK Chartered Accountants have been providing accounting, taxation and business development support to clients for nearly 70 years. They work with owner/operators, executives, business leaders and entrepreneurs to provide innovative systems and solutions to complement existing client processes and drive business growth.

Diet and Dance group starts in Opunake

A new group has started in Opunake to fill a much-needed service in the area. Many of us have vowed to lose weight and get fit in this New Year. Here's your chance. We need motivated people to come along and join us. Entry is by gold coin at the back of 'The Wave' church every second Saturday afternoon. The

next session is on Saturday February 23 at 2pm.

The diet is adaptable to your own favourite food and drink. It is based on 'The New Zealand Calorie Counter' book along with a high protein emphasis. Everything is provided.

The exercise is in the form of a mixture of dance routines led by Aida

Jespersion who recently moved here from the Philippines. She is good at what she does and makes exercise fun.

There will be a prize for the biggest loser at the end of term. Will it be you? Guest speakers will join us from time-to-time to add variety.

Our aim is to provide a non-judgemental, supportive atmosphere for your weight loss/fitness journey. See you there.

Suzanne Spora

Right: At the first session of 'Diet & Dance' on Saturday February 9. From left, Jackie Smith, Sharon Gilday and Aida Jespersen.



On this month in history

Peter Snell sets two world records

On February 3, 1962 Opunake-born Peter Snell set two world records in the same race on the grass track at Lancaster Park in Christchurch. The world records were for the 800 metres (1 minute 44.3 seconds) and the 880 yards (1 minute 45.1 seconds).

In his first book No Bugles No Drums he wrote that the pace was too fast in the first lap, but instead of easing up. He sped up. "So through some crazy impulse I threw away all test-book procedure and sprinted. This was pure effort against the stop watch."

DIET AND DANCE

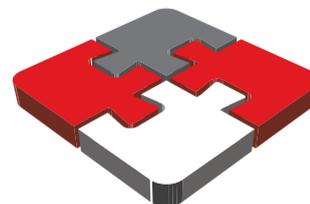
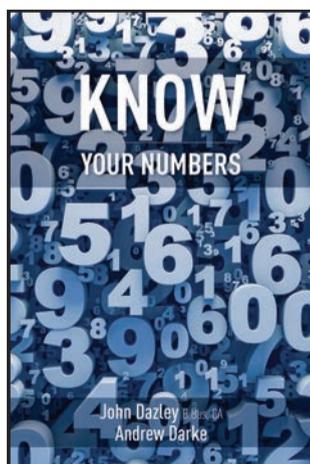
2pm February 23 at the Wave Church, 64 Domett Street, Opunake

and every second Saturday at the same time.

Lose weight and get fit in the New Year.

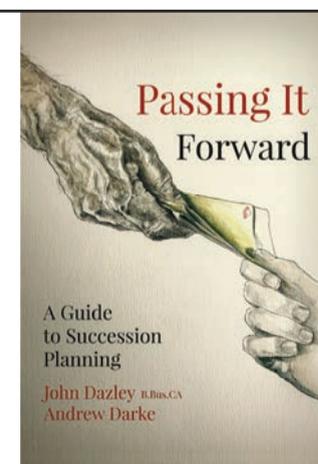
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Opunake Boat and Underwater Club OMV Fishing Tournament Results

Our annual OMV Taranaki tournament kicked off with registration night at the club rooms on January 25. There was some concern by the committee due to the persistent westerly winds up until the start but the weather gods smiled down and the sea conditions improved throughout the tournament to be absolutely beautiful by the finish on the afternoon of Saturday February 9.

The tournament finished up with a complimentary hangi style meal of beef, venison, lamb, chicken and smoked cod plus trimmings for all participants and their partners at the club rooms. There were lots of stories shared of the ones that were deliberately let go and the ones that unintentionally got away followed by prize giving and spot prizes for those that didn't make the leader boards, plus auctions and a raffle for a complete stray line rig.

Despite the odd windy day and some big swells during the tournament, the one hundred and one registered anglers plus divers almost all had an opportunity to fish, whether on their usual boats or by jumping in with someone else.

Shaun Neal won the \$1000 OMV sponsored cash prize

with his 11.60Kg Snapper. There were ten places for this section and he was followed by Malcolm Campbell, Dan Fergus, Lynda Corkill, Fiona Climo, Mike Corkill, Marty Fergus, Steve Corkill, Ross Sinclair and Stephen Coltart. All of these ten snapper placings were amazing fish over 20lb in the old language. What was also amazing were the reports from many boats of the numbers of large snapper that they caught and released to fight another day. It is good to hear the snapper fishery is so healthy.

Blue Cod was won by Jessica Sayer with a monster 2.38Kg cod followed by Gareth Collins, Richard Hewitt, Geoff Campbell and Kobe Sinclair, all five places had fish over 2Kg.

The Kahawai section produced five places with fish all over 2.9Kg with Marty Fergus winning with his 3.20Kg fish followed by Helen Woolford, Gerald Bourke, Grant Hill and Bradley Heath.

There were three places in the Gurnard section, with the winner being Leon Van Vurren, with a 1.06Kg fish followed by Richard Hewitt and third equal were Gerald Bourke and Steve Corkill.

John Dory was pretty much

a Bounty Hunter clean sweep with first being Grant Hill with a 2.86Kg fish, followed by Richard Hewitt. Sage Cooksley and Ben Gibson were third equal.

Trevally produced some good fish with Dave Gibson's 3.14Kg on top, followed by Danny O'Donnell and Dan Fergus.

Kingfish was won by Tony Campbell with an 11.08Kg scrapper, followed by James Pease and Graham Collis.

The Crayfish section proved quite challenging with very few decent sized crayfish to be found. The Cathie boys on Haunui found some, with James winning with a 2.05Kg, followed by Mick Severn and Nick Cathie.

As usual the "Top Boat" annual challenge trophy which is based on points earned for all prize winning fish (except Crayfish) was keenly contested by the skippers and their crews. This year the trophy was won by Marty and Dan Fergus on "Thumpa" just two points clear of "Big Blue" and another point down to "Bounty Hunter."

The auctions for meat packs, fertilizer and various vouchers and products were sought after with the old pro auctioneer Graham Payne



Shaun Neal accepts his first prize.

teasing the dollars out of reluctant bidders.

The raffle was a high end \$600 Stray line Rod and Reel Combo, and was won by John Corban who had only entered the last night before the finish of the tournament on Saturday. He crewed on the boat "E Fish n C" which had to be the most travelled boat in the tournament,

having gone past Manaia in search of big fish. There was of course the "Wally" prize for the dumbest reported event during the tournament. The empty petrol can went to a boat whose name I will not mention to match their empty fuel tank when heading back to the bay one evening. A bit less lead foot needed here.

The Club and committee sincerely wish to thank our valued sponsors that support us year after year plus all those that donated food and goods and those behind the scenes that pitched in to make this a successful event. Feedback to improve the competition in future is welcome.

Lastly a big thanks to all participants, we hope you enjoyed yourselves, tentative dates for 2020 are January 26-February 10. Mark your calendars, safe boating and tight lines

Lynda Corkill

Manaia Golf results

Saturday, January 26.
Men. 1. Jim Ngere. 2. Craig Jones. 3. Paul Hunn. 4. Josh Symes, Jamie Johnston and Grant Gopperth.

Monday January 28.
Ambrose. 1. Paul's Crew. 2. Left Overs. 3. Koomatata. 4. Otakeho Hackers.

Opening Day. Men. 1. Jacob Gopperth and. Stu Symes 39. 2. Greg Elliott and Lenny Symes 38. 3. Jim Ngere and Ashton Sharp 36. Ladies. 1. Michelle Furness. 2. Pinny Gibbs and Carolyn Koch.. 3. Marina Gopperth.

Monday February 4.
Ambrose. 1. Tui & Red. 2. Koomatata. 3. YTB. 4. Winks Rd. 5. The Poles.

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Going for gold and glory in New Plymouth

Some of the world's best young athletes are gearing up for Olympic gold in NPDC's parks, pools and roads.

Triathlon Australia's International Performance Centre has brought eight budding sport stars to New Plymouth as part of their build-up to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

The squad has five Australian triathletes and one each from New Zealand, Switzerland and Canada, here for two months of intensive training.

They've been swimming at NPDC's Todd Energy Aquatic Centre and the Waitara pool and running through Pukekura Park and other NPDC parks as well as the Huatoki and Te Henui walkways.

Coach Jamie Turner, who grew up in Waitara, says the district ticks all the triathlon training boxes.

"It's great swimming here in New Plymouth at the NPDC pools and also in the open water. There are great rural roads, awesome for cycling, here in Taranaki,



Budding triathletes, from left, Emma Jeffocat, Declan Wilson, Natalie Van Coevorden, Ashleigh Gentre, Callum McClusky have been training in the New Plymouth District including cycling on the Coastal Walkway.

and great running here in New Plymouth with the trail network and the parks," says Mr Turner.

Hosting the squad is a great reminder of how our district's progressing in building a lifestyle capital with a great mix of facilities, says NPDC Chief Operating Officer Kelvin Wright.

"NPDC looks after 1,600 hectares of parks and 1,200 kilometres of roads that take in some of the greatest scenery in the country. With that and our beaches and pools, who wouldn't choose to come here?" says Mr Wright.

New Plymouth wished the young athletes well and would be watching the medal podiums in Tokyo, he said.

"There are great rural roads, awesome for cycling, here in Taranaki."

Bike event flying to you

A complete program for all riders, featuring the premier event, the 100km Coastal Flier is heading from New Plymouth to Hawera on Saturday, 11 March.

For what may be one of the lowest entry fees around, you have a choice of Solo, Relay or Bone Collector categories, and as a special effort to show that we're not bike snobs we are opening the event to ebikes as well.

Entries are managed by EventPlus, so if you have ridden the Flier, Taupo or K2, you will already have an



account with them. So, let's get on with it – like, share and tag your mates.

The next issue of the Opunake and Coastal News comes out on February 28.



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FAMILY NOTICES

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Hooper-Sargeson: Ian and Barbara were married on 14th February 1959 at Hawera. Congratulations from all the family. Friends are welcome to call in at 285 Mangorei Road, New Plymouth on Saturday 16th February between 1pm and 4pm.

WORK WANTED

HI, MY NAME IS ETHAN WHITE. I have just completed Year 11 and achieved NCEA Level 1 at NPBHS. I am currently looking for any full time work in New Plymouth or Inglewood areas. I am available to start work immediately until I go to WITT in February 2019 to further my education. I am honest, hard working, reliable, show initiative and understand the importance of Health & Safety. Please give me a call on 027 511 4289 or email me at ethanwhite1313@gmail.com.

GARAGE SALE

GARAGE SALE. Rahotu Hall Saturday February 23, 9am to 1pm. Items include tables at \$10 each. Contact Jacqui at Automobile Rahotu. Ph 06 763 8811.

WANTED TO RENT

PLACE TO STAY and storage for Container. Ph 022 5653239.



Next issue due out February 28.
Contact us now to be in it!

Delivered free around the Mountain every fortnight.

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OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

PUBLIC NOTICES



South Taranaki District
creative COMMUNITIES nz

CREATIVE COMMUNITIES SCHEME
Funding Local Arts Activities

Applications for funding assistance for community-based arts activities in South Taranaki beginning after 24 April 2019 are now being called for. Your application will need to meet one or more of the following funding criteria:

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

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

For further information, please contact Kirsty Jamieson, the Creative Communities Scheme Administrator at:

South Taranaki District Council
Private Bag 902, Hāwera 4640
Phone 0800 111 323 or 2780555
Email kirsty.jamieson@stdc.govt.nz

Applications close **Thursday 28 March 2019 at 4.30pm**
(for projects beginning after 24 April 2019)



OPUNAKE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

PROMOTING OPUNAKE

Special meeting
Thursday February 21
At the Board Room
Opunake Business Centre
5:30pm

Your opportunity to promote what Opunake believes is good for Opunake

All welcome



THIRD RATES INSTALMENT

Ratepayers are reminded that the last day for payment of the third instalment of rates for 2018/2019 without incurring a penalty will be **Wednesday 27 February 2019.**

WD Crockett
Chief Executive



OPUNAKE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Meeting 1st MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 5.30PM

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

CHURCH NOTICES

Opunake & Okato Co-operating Parish CHURCH SERVICES

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

Opunake Catholic Church

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

St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato
Saturday Vigil 6.00pm

The Wave

Pentecostal Church 64 Domett St, Opunake
Sunday Services 10.30am
Women's Group 10.30am Tuesday
Men's Group 7pm Wednesday
Youth Group 7pm Friday
Come along or contact Pastor Murray 027 688 7378

St. Barnabas Anglican Church

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

Okato Community Church

Meets 6.30pm Sunday at Hempton Hall.
Everyone welcome

What's On Listings



ONGOING

The Opunake Music Club - Come along every fortnight and take part or just watch. Anyone welcome. Next meeting November 27 at Coastal Care, Napier Street 7:30pm.
Jonathan Young: Need to chat with your Local MP Jonathan Young? Jonathan will now hold his meetings at Coastal Care. For more information phone: 06 7591363. Or email newplymouthmp@parliament.govt.nz
Movies at Everybodys Theatre in Opunake: Playing several days and nights each week. Refer timetable in newspaper.
Pregnancy Help Taranaki: Is now in OPUNAKE! Are you pregnant? Do you have a baby or young family? To hear more, like us on facebook www.facebook.com/preghelptaranaki/. Please come and meet us and find out how we may be able to help you.

SUNDAYS

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

MONDAYS

Tainui Day Centre - St Barnabas Church Hall, 141 Tasman Street Opunake: Each Monday 10 am - 12:230 pm. Information call Jenny 7618080 or Glenys 6558025
Opunake Friendship Club: Meeting last Monday of each month in Opunake Town Hall at 1.30pm. All welcome.
Opunake Business Association: Usually meet on the 1st Monday of each month.

TUESDAYS

Club Hotel Pool: Tuesday Nights. New players welcome.

WEDNESDAYS

Lisa Keen Audiology at Coastal Care, Opunake: Wednesdays 9am - 5pm, for an appointment call 027 591 4222 - 0800 555 676
Schnitzel Night: Every Wednesday at the Stony River Hotel, Okato
Club Hotel Texas Holdem Poker: Wednesday and Thursday Nights at the Club Hotel.
Opunake Embroiders Guild: Meet 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, 10.30am-3pm at the Opunake Business Centre, Napier St, Opunake. Just come along or phone Sheryl 06 761 8769.

THURSDAYS

Club Hotel Texas Holdem Poker: Wednesday and Thursday Nights at the Club Hotel.
Coastal Young Farmers: Meet 2nd Thursday of every month at 7pm at the Okato Bowling Club.
Taranaki Country Music Hall of Fame, Manaia: Running every Thursday night from 7.30pm, 11 Surf Highway, South Road, Manaia.
Egmont Euchre Club: Meets every Thursday 1pm at the Opunake Bowling Club

FRIDAYS

Eltham Business Association Friday Markets: 8am to 1pm, Carpark of Touch Point, High Street, Eltham.

WEEKENDS

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

NOW ON

Paul Hutchinson - Backup Exhibition: At Koru on Devon
Velger Howighorst - Best Before, Reviving bthe useless: At Koru on Devon.
10 NOVEMBER - 5 MARCH 2019
Illusion, Nothing is at it Seems Exhibition: At Puke Ariki in New Plymouth
FEBRUARY 11 TO MARCH 8
By Dezine Exhibition: At the Village Gallery. Refer ad for details.
FEBRUARY 16 AND 17
Taranaki Vintage Machinery Club Hay Day: At 331 Waitara Rd, Brixton. On from 10am to 4pm both days. Refer article and ad for details.
FEBRUARY 17
Pihama Lavender Market Day: From 10am to 2pm. Refer advert.
FEBRUARY 20
Americarna in Opunake: 11.30am to 2.30pm. Refer ad.
FEBRUARY 22
Americarna in Hawera: 1-5.15pm. refer ad. Refer ad.
Electricarna Hawera: In Opunake from 3.45 to 4.15pm. At Pak'n'Sav from 5 to 7pm. Refer advert and article.
FEBRUARY 23
Americarna hits New Plymouth: Free bus to Americarnival in New Plymouth, departs Opunake at 8.30am. Stops along the way. Refer ad for times and details.
Diet and Dance: 2pm at the Wave Church, and every Saturday after that. Refer ad.
The Sound of Music movie showing: Everybodys Theatre in association with Stony River Hotel. From 5 - 10pm. Refer advert and article.
MARCH 14 TO MARCH 17
Taranaki Masters Games: Lots of Sports to enter into. Refer article and ad for details.
APRIL 6 TO APRIL 9
Coastal Pacific / Trans Alpine 4 Day trip with Travelsmart Stratford: Refer ad for details on this incredible package.

Electricarna 2019



Electric cars are becoming more popular with motorists.

Following last year's inaugural Electricarna in New Plymouth, the organisers are bringing it to Hawera this year. "Electricarna was so well received that we decided to have two events this year, in Hawera and New Plymouth," said Catherine Cheung of Climate Justice Taranaki. "We want to showcase alternatives to petrol cars and other ways to reduce our carbon footprint. By making your next car electric, car-pooling with your neighbours, using

public transport more often and cycling wherever you can, you will be making a real difference. If you own an EV or E-bike, bring it along. If you are curious about them but don't own one, come along. There will be enthusiastic owners to answer your burning questions," said Cheung. There were about twenty EVs and E-bikes at Electricarna last year. This year, the organisers are hoping for a greater variety: various Nissan Leaf including a 'cutaway Leaf', a Tesla, Nissan e-NZ200

light van, Hyundai Ioniq and Kona, Melo Yelo e-bikes, and possibly an electric rubbish truck. Electricarna will be held on Friday February 22, from 5 to 7pm, at Pak'n'Save Hawera, and on February 23, from 3-6pm, at New World New Plymouth. On Friday, a few EVs will be stopping at Opunake for a recharge and coffee around 3:45-4:15pm on their way to Hawera, if you want to catch them at the corner of Napier and SH45. More details are available on facebook.

New faces at Taylor Dental

Two former neighbours and classmates maybe coming to a dentist chair near you. Jonathan Martin and Scott Hohaia were both classmates and neighbours when studying dentistry at Otago University. They both did their placements in Masterton before graduating and are now practising as dentists at Taylor Dental in New Plymouth.



One time neighbours and classmates Scott Hohaia and Jonathan Martin are now at Taylor Dental.

Since 2016 Taylor Dental has been running weekly clinics at CoastalCare in Opunake. For most of the time this work has been carried out by Jessie Wilson, and more recently by Dennis Ting. Jonathan and Scott are both looking forward to seeing more of Taranaki. "Educating people about oral health is probably one of the most important things to me," says Jonathan. "I find people have heard of oral health, but may not be implementing what they have heard. In my daily talks with patients I try to reinforce oral hygiene habits. I find most are quite appreciative of the time I spend talking about that. I feel that educating and teaching people empowers them to take care of their own oral health." He says he likes to work with individual patients and see what's best for them. He had wanted to be a dentist since he was at high school. "I felt that if I were to be a doctor I would be hidden away in a hospital room somewhere, but by being a

dentist I would be part of the front line for oral health," he says. Jonathan, who has iwi links with Tuhoë, Ngati Whakaue and Ngati Kahungunu says he has a particular interest in Maori oral health. He and wife Piri have two daughters. He says he came to Taranaki because he heard it was a family friendly place, and he has found living in New Plymouth has met these expectations. "I've been enjoying walking the girls in the park and everywhere else New Plymouth has to offer. There are quite a few events going on around here." Unlike Jonathan, Scott's interest in dentistry came somewhat later. He was working as a building consultant for an engineering firm in Auckland. He was finding the work mundane and felt he needed a change. When an older sister went back to university to study medicine he thought he would look at something in the health field himself. "My wife Hilary suggested

dentistry as I'm detail oriented," he says. He went along to the open day Otago University were holding in Auckland and decided to give dentistry a crack. "I went back when I was 25, and I think having that maturity helped," he said. With Hilary originally coming from Taranaki he is no stranger to the province. Eight weeks ago they had their first child, a daughter. Scott's iwi links include Maniapoto, Tainui and Hauraki. Like Jonathan, whakapapa is important to him, and he says he is enjoying finding out about any other iwi links he may have.

Electricarna Hawera Friday February 22
 5pm to 7pm
 At Hawera Pak'n'Sav
 3.45 to 4.15: Opunake at the cnr of Napier St and SH45 for coffee and recharge
 (Organised by Climate Justice Taranaki - EV Enthusiasts)

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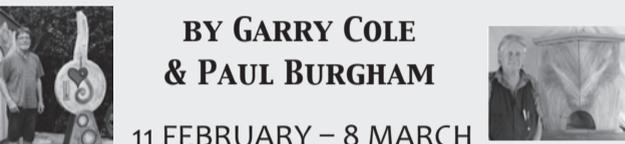
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OPEN MONDAY - SATURDAY 10AM - 3PM



Koru on Devon
Contemporary Gallery & Art Space

Paul Hutchinson - *Back Up*
Pauls first exhibition in a number of years

Volger Howighorst - *Best Before. Reviving the useless*
Award winner at the Taranaki National Art Awards

18B DEVON ST.EAST (level one)
Open Tues - Sat 10am - 2.30pm (or by arrangement)



Coastal Pacific / Trans Alpine 4 day Package
6th to 9th April 2019

Saturday - Bus Stratford to Wellington. Ferry to Picton
Stay the night at the Picton Yacht Club Hotel

Sunday - Travel aboard the Coastal Pacific from Picton, down the east coast of the south island through Kaikoura to Christchurch. Stay at the Parkview on Hagley in Christchurch.

Monday - Travel aboard the Trans Alpine, Christchurch to Greymouth & return. Stay another night at the Parkview on Hagley in Christchurch.

Tuesday - Fly Christchurch to New Plymouth - morning or evening flight available

Price - from \$1249.00 pp twin share
Term & Conditions apply - Brochure available

Option: extend your stay in Christchurch.



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Back Up – paintings by Paul Hutchinson

Paul Hutchinson of Puniho has been painting full-time for 45 years. He mostly stays in his studio painting for himself and seldom exhibits anywhere but on the Net, although he has been a prize-winner in several major exhibitions. He follows his own wishes rather than following any style which his audience has come to expect. Self-portraiture has been a frequent style (he says that he is the only subject who will stay still for long enough) but he is also well-known for still lifes and for landscapes.

He grinds his own pigments and makes his paints, pastels, waxes and crayons.

He says "I love the physical properties of paint, and for me the type of pigment used, and its intrinsic properties, is as important as its colour. I have been using a lead white paint which I make and grind myself. I have also been continuing my experiments



Self portrait Paul Hutchinson.

with the archaic encaustic wax medium in occasional large-scale works rich with texture and colour.

"While my work is always labelled as realism it is the dichotomy and dynamic between the physical paint and the depicted image that interests me most: before all else they are paintings."

The exhibition at Koru on Devon shows a mix of his styles.

Recent landscapes – a blaze of colour from the wilderness at Puniho; self portraits, fiercely expressionist, in a wide range of media; still life paintings, from tiny miniatures to large oils.

"Back Up" is showing at Koru on Devon until Sunday March 3.

The gallery is open from 10am- 2.30pm Wednesdays to Sundays. 18B Devon St. East, upstairs. (Opposite BNZ), or whenever the sign is out on the footpath.



Promoting Opunake

A dazzling selection of cars at Opunake Beach at Americarna 2018. The Americarna fleet will arrive in Opunake again on Wednesday February 20 and Hawera on Friday February 22 . Dress up your shopfronts and yourself. and get into the spirit of Americarna 2019.

The South Taranaki District Council is in the throes of appointing a Town Planning Consultant

who will be looking at projects for the five towns in the South Taranaki district.

It is anticipated their work will be completed by the end of June.

The president of the Opunake Business Association Bob Clark has organised a public meeting

be held on February 21 to get "views, ideas and projects happening so that our town gets our points of view heard."

The meeting will be at 5:30pm at the Opunake Business Centre so anyone interested in promoting Opunake should come along.

"We can't let the grass grow beneath our feet," says Bob. Everyone is welcome.



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Fun to share with friends and family
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The Sound of Music movie night in Opunake including food and entertainment.

The Stony River team have moved the mountains of Austria once more and would like to invite you to a long evening of entertainment in Opunake. Renate and Heimo, originally from the Salzburg

region, have booked out the Everybody's Theatre Opunake for you to enjoy the full "The Sound of Music" experience - including the movie. Together with Julie we will be running over

these luscious green hills, joining into each refrain while enjoying a golden schnitzel and a cool beer. Our entertainment will include singing and dancing thanks to our wonderful Taranaki groups.

The best dressed Taranaki Austrian in Lederhosen or Dirndl who shows up that night can enter our competition to win our big prize package worth over \$600. Win a weekend at Stony River and a sparkly

piece of Ringcraft Moana's new Edelweiss collection. The Miss Taranaki girls and the whole team of Stony River Hotel are looking forward to seeing you! 5 p m - 1 0 p m Ticket price \$50+ credit card

fee \$4.25 at Everybody's Theatre, Stony River Hotel or via eventfinda. (food included, GF options available) Bus tickets can be booked via Dalroy Tours for \$25 pp.

Nordic treats at Virtual Tart

The exhibition on the Virtual Tart site for February is: Scandinavian Watercolours - Abstract Landscapes by Marianne Gross of Denmark.

Do have a look, they're lovely things. On tart.co.nz - the Virtual Tart website

And while you're there, have a look at the News page .. see what else is going on.

Though born and raised in Thailand, Marianne Gross now lives and works in Denmark as an artist and a watercolour instructor. She mainly works in watercolour and mixed media in the crossroads between abstract and figurative painting in a style which has been called "minimalistic expressionism." Most of her works can be seen as landscape paintings, and she does admit to being greatly inspired by nature

and natural surroundings - but she does not aim to convey any kind of realism. Instead she wants to describe moods,

thoughts, and emotions. The subject matters may be quite simplistic and she makes use of very few colours in each

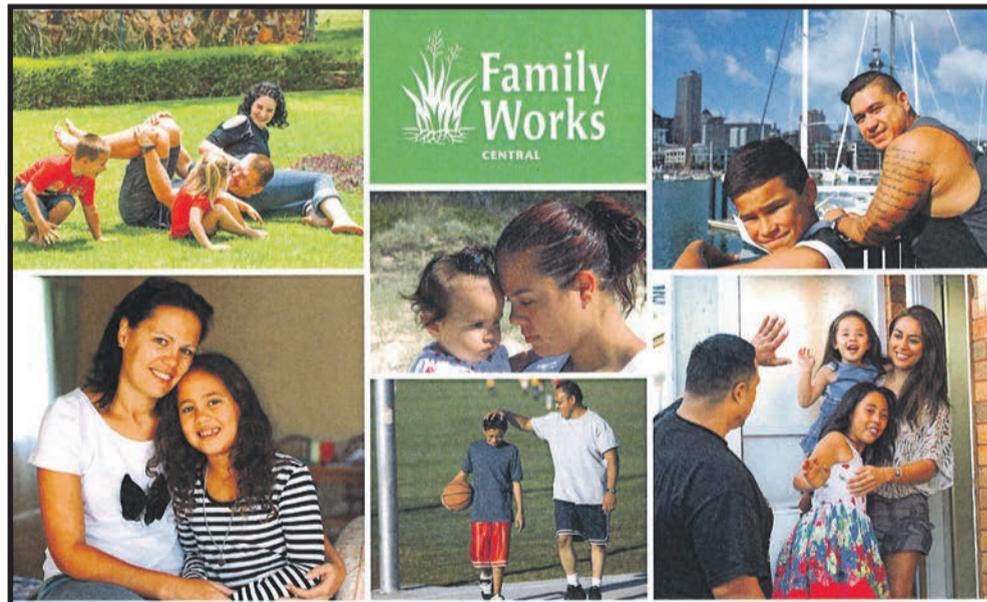
work, which might seem restrictive to some - but in Marianne's case these self-imposed limitations result

in dramatic expressionist paintings with contrasts in colours and in techniques such as areas of pure washes along with experimental techniques - anything goes as long as it serves the purpose of producing the desired expression. The contemporary Scandinavian watercolour style tends to be loose and free, and in Marianne's works, traditional

which now has around 2000 members. Marianne Gross has served as president of the society and is currently adjunct to the board as web editor. She has had numerous solo and group exhibitions in Denmark and the Nordic countries as well as in other parts of Europe and in 2014 some of her works were shown on the online Taranaki site "Virtual TART".



Landscape Abstraction



Family Works CENTRAL

Parenting made easy

Now that we have your attention, we introduce the Family Works Growing Together programme - because being a good mum, dad or carer is not always easy. Yet it's the most important thing you'll do in your entire life.

Having kids doesn't come with a manual. But if you're interested in building stronger relationships with your kids, if you want to add more practical skills to your parenting tool kit, and if you want to put some fun back into being a mum, dad or carer, then Growing Together could be for you!

This relaxed, informative and supportive group programme is usually made up of six 2-hour sessions over six weeks.

You'll come away with practical parenting skills and advice and support from parents in similar situations. You're not alone!

We cover topics such as:

- your kids' developmental ages and stages
- the importance of child-led play
- parenting styles
- the temperaments of your kids
- modelling behaviour and managing challenging behaviour
- setting boundaries, routines and structure
- listening skills
- building self esteem.

For more information or to register:

Phone Family Works on: (06) 758 5037; or (06) 278 6385; or (06) 765 0531

Costs: \$10.- per person for full course

Please register to attend.

Next programme:

Coastal Care Opunake, 26 Napier Street, Opunake

6 Week program Thursday morning's 21st & 28th Feb. 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th March 10.00 am - 12.00 pm

www.familyworkscentral.org.nz

EVERYBODY'S THEATRE

Opunake - MOVIES - BOUTIQUE THEATRE - HIRE
 For information email: everybodystheatre@gmail.com or check facebook- Everybody's Theatre
 Check out our website at www.everybodystheatre.co.nz - Phone 027 3837926

FEBRUARY			
Lollies, Popcorn, Ice-creams, Chocolate bars, Coffee & Tea For Sale		No Eft-Pos	
Adults \$10, Students 4-16yrs \$8, Under 4 free		Senior Citizens \$8. ID required for all R movies	
<p>INSTANT FAMILY Comedy 1hr 58mins M When Pete and Ellie decide to start a family, they stumble into the world of foster care adoption. They hope to take in one small child, but when they meet three siblings, including a rebellious 15-year-old girl, they find themselves speeding from zero to three kids overnight. Now, Pete and Ellie must try to learn the ropes of instant parenthood in the hope of becoming a family. Sun 17th Feb 7pm Fri 22nd Feb 7pm Wed 27th Feb 1pm</p>	<p>MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS Drama, History 2hr 5mins R13; Violence, Sex Scenes Queen of France at 16 and widowed at 18, Mary Stuart returns to her native Scotland to reclaim her rightful throne. But Scotland falls under the rule of Elizabeth I. Rivals in power and in love, and female regents in a masculine world. Wed 27th Feb 7pm</p>		
<p>THE SOUND OF MUSIC Drama, Family 2hr 32mins G This is a special screening in conjunction with Stony River Boutique Hotel See eventfinder for tickets. No door sales Sat 23rd Feb 5pm</p>	<p>BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY True Story, Drama, Music 2hr 14mins M; Offensive language, sexual references & drug reference Bohemian Rhapsody is a foot-stomping celebration of Queen, their music and their extraordinary lead singer Freddie Mercury. Fri 15th Feb 1pm</p>		
<p>GLASS Drama, Fantasy 2hr 12mins M; Violence Following the conclusion of Split, Glass finds David Dunn pursuing Kevin Wendell Crumb's superhuman figure of The Beast in a series of escalating encounters, while the shadowy presence of Elijah Price emerges as an orchestrator who holds secrets critical to both men. Sat 16th Feb 7pm Weds 20th Feb 7pm</p>	<p>STORM BOY Adventure, Family 1hr 39mins PG Mike Kingsley, a sheltered young boy, lives in a remote coastal region of Australia with his reclusive fisherman father, Tom. When a group of hunters kills a majestic pelican and orphans its young on the beach, Mike convinces his father to let him raise the chicks to adulthood Weds 20th Feb 1pm Sat 23rd Feb 1pm</p>		
<p>GREEN BOOK Comedy, Drama 2hr 10mins M; Offensive Language A working-class Italian-American bouncer becomes the driver of an African-American classical pianist on a tour of venues through the 1960s American South. Sun 24th Feb 7pm</p>	<p>THE KID WHO WOULD BE KING Adventure, Family 1hr 50mins PG Alex thinks he's just another nobody, until he stumbles upon the mythical Sword in the Stone, Excalibur. Now, he must unite his friends and enemies into a band of knights and take on the enchantress Morgan. With the future at stake, Alex must become the great leader he never dreamed he could be. Sat 16th Feb 1pm</p>		

Wed	Fri	Sat	Sun
	15 Bohemian Rhapsody - 7pm	16 The Kid who would be King - 1pm Glass - 7pm	17 Instant Family - 7pm
20 Storm Boy - 1pm Glass - 7pm	22 Instant Family - 7pm	23 Storm Boy - 1pm The Sound of Music 5pm (ticketed event)	24 Green Book - 7pm
27 Instant Family - 1pm Mary Queen of Scots - 7pm	1 March Glass - 7pm	2 March The Kid who would be King - 1pm Green Book - 7pm	3 March **BOUTIQUE** The Mule - 7pm

Free camping offer for South Taranaki WOMADers

Pack your bags for a WOMAD weekend away because festival goes from South Taranaki can camp for free.

In a festival first WOMAD is offering South Taranaki and Stratford residents the chance to receive a free three-day general camping ticket when they purchase a three-day festival ticket.

TAFT chief executive Suzanne Porter said WOMAD wanted to make it easier

for the whole of Taranaki to experience the award-winning festival this March. "It can be a long drive home after a wonderful, action-packed day at WOMAD, so we want to remove that deterrent for people," she said.

Porter said those who took up the offer would be able to experience the magic of WOMAD, as well as the camaraderie at the campsite. "It's a great way to get

yourself out of your everyday life, and it's just so easy - it's a two minute walk from the campsite and then you're at the festival. The campsite is also a very safe, family friendly area with regular patrols."

Porter said it was the support of many partners, including the South Taranaki District Council and the TSB Community Trust, that helped WOMAD happen and be of economic benefit to the



Camping at WOMAD.

Photo Peter Bennett.

Americarna is back



Ted Williams and his Buick at Opunake Beach Americarna 2018. Americarna will run from 20-23 February 2019.

whole region. "And although TAFT is based in New Plymouth we are committed to Taranaki as a whole and we want to see the whole of Taranaki coming together for WOMAD."

There are 100 free general camping passes available and the offer runs from February 1 to March 1. To be eligible residents must buy their three-day WOMAD ticket from either the Stratford i-SITE or the South Taranaki i-SITE.

They must present

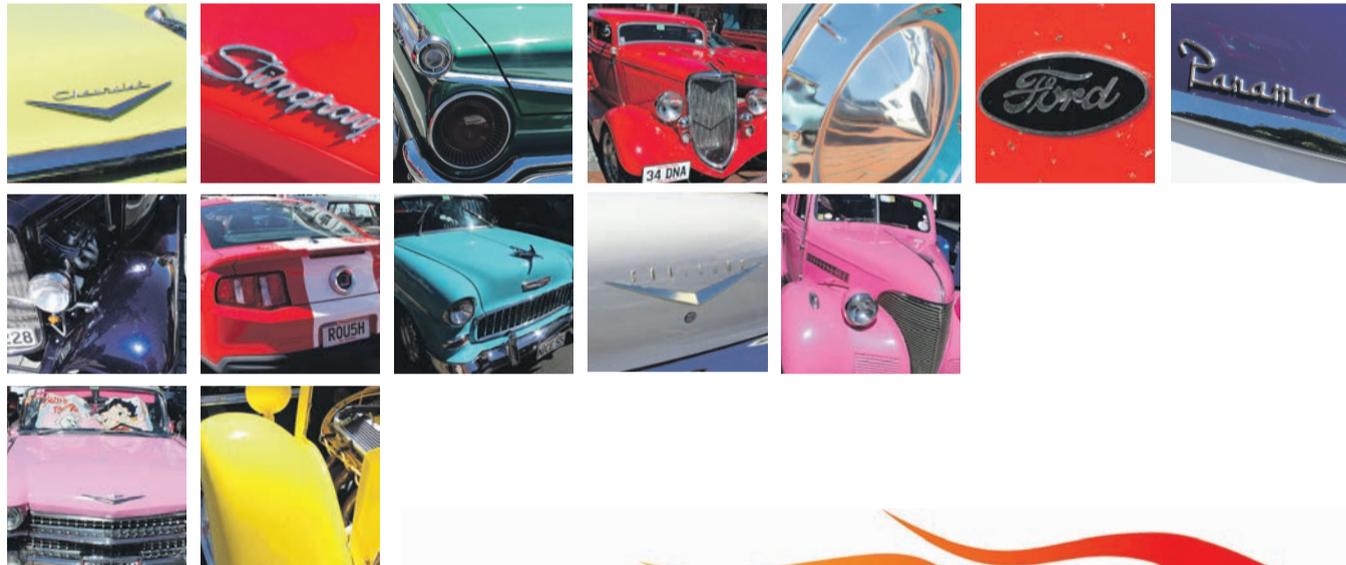
an official document that includes their name and address to prove they are in fact a Stratford or South Taranaki resident.

Documentation could include a rates invoice, a bank statement or a drivers licence with their address listed.

Your chance to experience the world!

Get your tickets now!

womad.co.nz



Hāwera

FRIDAY 22 FEBRUARY
1pm - 5.15pm

market stalls, window competition, scavenger hunt

1-5pm Live music
2.30-4.30pm Street drags,
3.30pm Fashion show



Ōpūnake

WEDNESDAY 20 FEBRUARY
11.30am - 2.30pm

Live music, food stalls

Brought to you by

With support from

