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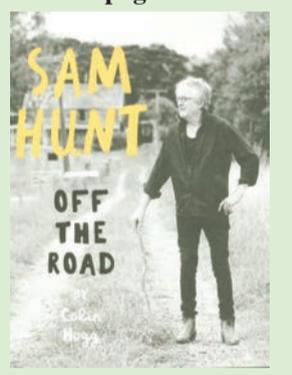
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Kaponga mourns rugby hero. Page 7.



A close friend of Ronald Hugh Morrieson and prominent in Maoridom, Gordon 'Mac' Sole looks back on his life, beginning this issue page 10.



In conversation with Sam Hunt, no longer touring. Page 11.



Americarna, here we come. Page 14,15.



Sport Taranaki getting Taranaki running. P. 28.

Ten years on reef bags are already disintegrating

Opunake man Chris Fuller says he is shocked at how soon it has taken for geotextile bags left over from a failed artificial reef project to fall apart.

The artificial reef at Opunake Beach, the brainchild of Raglan-based company ASR had been announced with much fanfare in 2006. Four years later the project was dead in the water and uncompleted, leaving geotextile bags sitting dormant on the seabed at the main beach.

Last year Chris told the Egmont Plains Community Board that he had opposed the project because the geotextile bags used in making the reef were made of recycled plastic, which he described as "quite a flawed project when used in a marine environment."

At the time he said a marine biologist had told him the geotextiles have a life of 20-30 years in relation to keeping its structural integrity for the purposes of the reef.

He says photos he took while diving at the beach earlier this month show that the bags are already disintegrating.

"I was personally alarmed at the extent of the degradation of the bags," he says. "I would have viewed six or seven bags and at least three were disintegrating, one was under stress, while two were holding together. I thought it would be 25 years before this would be happening. I didn't think it would happen in 10."

"Most people think the bags are sitting there tight in the



Chris Fuller holds a piece of one of the bags coming apart from the failed artificial reef project.

water," he says.

He said pieces of ripped geotextile were flapping away in the water and he produced a shred of the material that came from one of the ripped bags.

"Immediate action is required to stop the release of geotextiles and plastic particles from filtering into the marine environment and the food chain of the ocean," he said.

"I'm really keen on getting this sorted once and for all so we can look at some positive ideas for our community

such as a fully functioning recycling centre or maybe a flax mill so we can make things to replace our plastics."

He says he had been talking with the Taranaki Regional Council and was pleased with their acknowledgement of the issue.

Taranaki Regional Council resource management director Fred McLay says his preliminary view is that expertise is needed in approaching the problem.

"The information I have got about the condition of the reef

is concerning," he says. "We need a quick fix, but we also need a long term fix for the bags that remain intact. My challenge is to get appropriate expertise to do both these

jobs. I am very grateful for the support of the likes of Chris Fuller and Steve Pivac and others, and I intend to work with these people going forward."



Underwater photos taken by Chris Fuller show bags from the never completed artificial reef are coming apart.



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King Edward Park has five stars

Well bless my soul. It was only a few months ago before Christmas that Hawera's King Edwards Park was awarded the Green Flag Award for many years of hard dedicated work, but now it seems that King Edward Park has now joined parks like Hofmans, Oakley, Pukerata, Stanleigh, Hollard Gardens, along with many like Nikau Grove, Pukeiti, and Pukekura Brookland Park, which now has five stars.

According to the New Zealand Garden Trust description this King Edward Park is an outstanding example of a public space with well-considered healthy and innovative and inspiring plantings with well-integrated features with its playground and oriental gardens.

So once again to all staff members of the King Edward Park many congratulations to you all as you all deserve this five star award.

What I'd like to see, if it's at all possible is for all our towns big or small to have their own parks so it can also attract not only the locals, but visitors and our tourists, as they really do love to see garden parks, as it's believed some places overseas don't have such things as parks like we have, here in Taranaki and New Zealand.

Tom Stephens, New Plymouth

Photographer on the New Years Honours list

Many congratulations must go to our lady photographer from Koru Road Oakura who was recently honoured in the New Year's Honours



Letters to the Editor

List receiving the Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) award for services to the arts.

It seems she has sold 60,000 copies of the New Zealand landscape promoting our country overseas. As it was in 2004, she became the first ever woman President of the New Zealand Institute of photography.

Now this is what I've been trying to say for ages as I am now seeing many adults and children from many different coastal towns winning national awards in many endeavours and they are all finally getting recognised for it.

So if this is so, all of these marvellous little coastal townships could now start promoting themselves in whatever they have, not only what the locals really like, but don't forget the visitors and most of all our tourists as it wouldn't surprise me one little bit that something will attract them, like bees to a flower, so let's see what each town can

come up with.

Tom Stephens, New Plymouth

Navigating the reef issue

A letter from Tom Stephens in the 31 January edition ('A disaster in the making') included some inaccuracies. The Taranaki Regional Council Hearing Committee that considered the application, by the Opunake Artificial Reef Trust, heard submissions in support and opposition to the application. Arising from submissions, a bond was provided for in the consent in case the reef had to be removed. STDC provided a bond guarantee for the Trust, and the guarantee has been called. The TRC is now working with members of the community to assess the state of the reef structure, and removal options.

Fred McLay

*Director - Resource Management
Taranaki Regional Council*

ADELPHOS

A Christian prayer to put on the full armour of God

Dear Lord,
I desire to be obedient by being strong in the Lord and the power of your might. I recognise that it is essential to put on the armour that you have provided. I do so now with gratitude, praise and by faith as effective spiritual protection against the spiritual forces of darkness.

I confidently take the belt of truth — I take Jesus who is Truth as my strength and protection and ask wisdom and discernment to believe, live, speak and know only truth.

Thank you for the breast-

plate of righteousness. By faith I appropriate the righteousness of Jesus Christ and ask you, Jesus, to walk in your holiness in my life today.

Thank you, Lord, for the shoes of peace. I desire that my feet should stand on the solid rock of peace, and, as I walk in obedience to you, the God of peace promises to walk with me.

Lord I lift up the shield of faith. By faith I trust in you to be a complete and perfect shield.

I recognise that my mind is a target of Satan's deceiving

ways. I take the helmet of salvation, recognizing that the Lord Jesus Christ is my salvation. I shield my head with Him and invite His mind to be in me.

I take hold of the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, affirming that it is God's guidance for us. Enable me to use it not only to defend me from Satan deceptions, but to claim its promises.

Thank you dear Lord for prayer. Help me to keep this armour well oiled. I desire to pray at all times with depth and intensity as the

Holy Spirit leads me. Grant me a burden for others in God's family and enable me to see and assist them through prayer as the enemy attacks them.

All these things I ask in the mighty name of Jesus Christ my Lord.

Amen
(Based on Ephesians 6:10-18)

Adelphos

PS. Remember to worship your Creator God at our rural coastal churches and all churches in the readership of The Opunake and Coastal News

On this month in history Peter Tork dies

On February 21 Peter Tork (born Peter Thorkelson) died at the age of 77. He was a member of the pop group The Monkees, who outsold the Beatles in Britain for one cal-

endar year in the late 1960s. Born on February 13, 1942 Peter was a singer and bassist for the 'manufactured' group which starred in a comedy/musical show starting in 1966

on NBC. The series won two Emmy Awards.

At first they were not allowed to play their instruments because producer Don Kirshner employed session musicians. After a stormy (especially with band member Mike Nesmith) reaction eventually The Monkees won their point.

They had five top ten albums (four reaching no 1) in America and their single 'I'm a Believer' (penned by Neil Diamond) was number one for nine weeks in the US.

Peter had health problems with heart surgery, cancer and addiction problems. Another band member Davy Jones died in 2012.

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Putting on our thinking caps

A special meeting called by the president of the Opunake Business Association to discuss opportunities good for Opunake attracted around thirty people.

Among the ideas mooted were a town square, a museum, angle parking down the main street, maintenance of the murals, continuous verandas and a park on Ihaia Road.

Other suggestions included improving the lake and addressing the weed problem, a garden at the northern approach to the town like the one at the southern end of town and improved input from the South Taranaki District Council in the maintenance of gardens, slowing heavy traffic in the middle of town, the painting of buildings in the main street, extending Hickey Place, providing facilities for freedom campers and promoting Opunake nationally pointing out cheap housing and the town's many facilities and attractions.

Opunake generating its own hydro power as once happened using the lake and growing medicinal marijuana were other suggestions.

The South Taranaki District Council has appointed a Town Planning Consultant and submissions will be heard on how to improve the five towns in the South Taranaki district by June 30 2019.



People attending the meeting on February 21 at the Boardroom at the Opunake Business Centre.

Tourism spending in NZ has reached a record \$39.1 billion

Stats NZ has released its tourism satellite figures for the year ending in March.

It showed a 7.7 percent increase in tourism spending from the previous year.

The official figure is above the initial estimates given to the industry at the Tourism Summit Aotearoa last month, which valued the industry at \$38b.

That included \$16b international spending and \$22b of domestic visitor spending.

The latest figures show domestic visitor spending surged to \$23b in the last year, a boost of \$1.4b from the previous year.

A 9.6 percent rise in international tourist spending meant the sector hit \$16.2b.

Stats NZ national accounts senior manager Susan Hollows said the boost in domestic visitor spending was linked to strong increases across the accommodation, hospitality, passenger transport, and retail sectors.

"Continued strength in visitor numbers across key international markets, on the back of additional airline and cruise capacity lifted spending by international tourists," Mrs Hollows said.

Tourism Industry Aotearoa communications manager

Ann-Marie Johnson said it was a continuation of spectacular growth enjoyed in recent years.

"These figures reinforce our insight that tourism will continue to grow and sustain employment across our country. It means that a career in tourism is a viable and stable choice for young people, which is an area of particular importance to the industry," Ms Johnson said.

The annual tourism spend figures showed an extra \$29 million dollars a day was being spent in communities across New Zealand compared to 2014 spending data,

she said.

"Prioritising the sustainability of the tourism industry ensures we can manage and grow our contribution to New

Zealand's economy whilst offering more benefits and opportunities to the communities in which we operate," Ms Johnson said

The next issue of the

Opunake & Coastal News

is on March 14

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COUNCILLOR'S COMMENT



CR. STEFFY MCKAY

Have your say about our District's future

board cube asking our people the following questions:

1. What do you love about our district, your town, your community?
2. What ideas do you have for our future?
3. What could we do better?

To date we have had good participation from our communities and have had lots of feedback. This data will be collated and used to drive the Council's priorities in the Long Term Plan 2021 -2031. This project is designed to seek feedback from the ground up.

If you haven't had a chance to share your thoughts on our Cube, it's not too late. We have mini colourful cubes at all seven of our District Libraries, so just pop into your local library and write your

ideas on a cube and then pass it back to your friendly librarian.

There will be a second opportunity for you to have a say for our Town Revitalisation Plans. In the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan the Council has committed to undertake Revitalisation Plans for five of our small Towns – (Waverly, Patea, Opunake, Eltham and Manaia). Originally it was planned to do one town's plan a year, but we have now decided to do all five towns at once. This is far more cost effective for our ratepayers and we will have ideas for all five towns that again can be used to

drive the Council's priorities in our next Long Term Plan 2021-2031. In the very near future there will be a number of stakeholder workshops and focus meetings being held with all five towns. The ideas / thoughts from our community will be used to shape the Master Plans for the future of those towns. Each of these towns has their own unique character and mix of retail and commercial businesses. So I am expecting to see diversity amongst the towns' Masterplans, as I don't believe a cookie cutter approach will work. Revitalizing our CBDs can be a springboard / catalyst for the

rest of the town to improve. This is all about creating a better world that results in improving the places we live, work and play.

Lastly I would just like to ask you all to please be a Water Warrior. We have been very fortunate in our District to not have had to put water restrictions in place for a long time. But we still need to be diligent, especially with the lack of rain and abundance of heat. We need to conserve our usage so we don't run out. If we all think carefully on how we use our water we might be able to get through summer without water restrictions.

An easy way everyone can help out every day is: When you brush your teeth don't have the tap running. That would be an amazing conservation of our water supplies if all of our District's residents didn't have running water whilst brushing their teeth.

As I finish this article I realise that I feel a bit dehydrated, as I have been sitting writing, in this heat wave. I should grab a glass of water but I might do my bit to conserve and grab a beer instead. Cheers everyone.

Cr Steffy Mackay

The South Taranaki District Council is currently running a Community Vision Project.

This is a Community engagement project designed to find out what are our Community's needs, desires and vision's are for our future. I can hear some of you saying "What's the point, they never listen," well this is your chance to have a say. Our staff and elected members have been out and about at our summer community events with a huge black-

Partnership leads to new role

Te Kāhui o Taranaki and the Department of Conservation (DOC) are pleased to announce the appointment of Wayne Capper into the unique and newly developed role of Kaitiaki Whenua Ranger.

The Kaitiaki Whenua Ranger role will be a partnership role between the DOC and Te Kāhui o Taranaki to support the management of the cultural redress sites transferred to Taranaki Iwi.

As owners responsible for the management of these cultural redress sites Te Kāhui o Taranaki created the Kaitiaki Whenua Ranger position to manage the sites. Wayne Capper has been recruited to the role where he will be employed by Te Kāhui o Taranaki and will be hosted by DOC in their Historic and Visitor Assets team for two years before transitioning back to Te Kāhui o Taranaki.

"We're excited about the Kaitiaki Whenua Ranger role and working with DOC," says Te Kāhui o Taranaki chairperson Leanne Horo.

"A partnership of this nature is a first between Iwi and DOC so we look forward to the opportunities that will develop as a result of this truly unique relationship."

"We welcome Wayne Cap-



Wayne Capper.

per to the DOC Ngā Motu team and look forward to providing Wayne with skills training, on the job work experience and a strong health and safety culture. This is an exciting role, supported by a strong partnership and one we are very proud

to host for the next two years," says Gareth Hopkins, Operations Manager, Ngā Motu/New Plymouth District Office.

The Treaty settlement between Taranaki Iwi and the Crown is legislated through the Taranaki Iwi Claims Settle-

ment Act 2016. As part of this settlement the Crown transferred 30 cultural redress sites from the Department of Conservation to Te Kāhui o Taranaki. Such sites include Te Koru Pā, Tataraimaka, Omata and Tāpuinikau.

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Vera Putt's oak tree turns a hundred

Soon after arriving in Okato on 15 July, 1919 with her Kiwi husband Clyde, Vera Putt (nee Williams) planted an acorn in the grounds of St Paul's Church. "I wondered why she had planted an acorn; she wanted some reminder of her home, a little bit of England," explained Beverley Forsyth, one of her grandchildren.

A special celebration was held on Saturday February 23 to mark the century since the planting of what is now a huge oak tree. The main organisers included grandchildren Stephen Webling, Glenys Putt, and Wendy Clement.

About 55 descendants of the couple arrived from as far afield as Wellington, Hawkes Bay and Australia to mark the special occasion, held in the Church grounds. Some descendants, who reside in the United States and Australia, were not able to attend.

There were speeches from Brent Webling, Glenys Putt, Beverly Forsyth, as well as St Paul's Church leader Lesley Dowding. After gathering under the oak tree for the initial speeches the relatives had refreshments in the hall, as well as a toast to the past, present and future.

Later, rides on Glenys' Clydesdale horses-and-cart was on popular offer, as well as a visit to the Okato Cemetery to see the graves of Vera, Clyde and other relatives.

The keynote speech was delivered in the church hall by John Sydney Putt (born 1929), who has spent countless hours researching the family history. He is the sole survivor of the children of Vera and Clyde who included Joyce Edyth (born 1920), Doris Anne (born 1922), and Mervyn Clyde (born 1927). Sadly, Mervyn just missed the celebration as he died recently.

Vera Marion Gertrude (1900 - 1976) met Clyde Ab-



The gathering of descendants of Vera and Clyde Putt under the century old oak tree in the grounds of St Paul's Church, Okato.

ner Putt (1892 - 1964) when the young soldier was on leave in London from serving in World War I in France. The couple were married in Holborn, London on March 5, 1919, soon after the end of the war. Clyde had been a farrier (shoeing horses) for the Second Battalion of the Wellington Regiment, which was engaged in trench warfare in France. After serving as a soldier from late 1915 to 1919, Clyde was honourably discharged and the couple boarded the troopship 'Kigoma', bound for New Zealand. They travelled third class on the very overcrowded ship and conditions were reportedly grim with outbreaks of mumps and storms during the

six weeks at sea. Males and females were separated - even if married! Vera was the first war bride in the district.

Clyde, who was a blacksmith by trade, returned to work as a farrier in Okato and their first own home was on Upper Kaihihi Road. They later bought a house in Carthew Street, Okato next to what was then Coastal Motors. (The two-bedroomed cottage no longer exists). However, initially he worked for his father on their 202 acre farm at the corner of Hampton Road and South Road (SH45).

Vera was described as a lovely person who adapted well to her new life. "She was an amazing person, who was very humble. She had old school values and was the grandmother everyone would have wanted to have," said Brent.

John said, "I never recall being smacked." He concluded with emotion, "I didn't tell her that I loved her as much as I should have." Vera was an avid member of St Paul's

Church and held positions in the St Paul's Ladies Guild and also the Women's Division of Federated Farmers.

Continued page 9



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Total fire ban for South Taranaki

In our last report we mentioned that because of the dry conditions a restricted fire season had been declared for South Taranaki. As there has been no significant rain fall since then the South Taranaki is now in a prohibited fire season. This means that there is a total fire ban on any outdoor fires. This is likely to stay in place for some time. To check online

go to www.checkitsalright.nz If you see any smoke / fires please don't hesitate to Dial 111 and report it. On Sunday 17th the brigade was turned out to provide scene protection at a Motor Vehicle accident on Tasman St by the Club Hotel. The accident was only minor so the brigade was stood down upon arrival. On Thursday the brigade was called out to a medical event. When our

crew arrived at the station they realised that this was to one of the brigade members. The brigade attended along with St John's. The patient was transported to Taranaki Base Hospital where he is currently recovering. We wish him a speedy recovery and hope to see him back amongst us soon. On Sunday morning the brigade responded to powerlines arching on King

Street. The brigade stood by to ensure the situation didn't get any worse until the arrival of the power authority. On Monday morning 25th at approximately 8:20 am the brigade responded along with the Kaponga brigade to a tanker versus car on the Eltham Road. Two adults and a baby were in the car with both adults requiring to be cut free. One was

airlifted to Taranaki Base hospital while the other was transported by Ambulance along with the baby. The baby was in the back in a capsule and correctly fastened in protecting it from any injury. This really brought home how important it is to ensure children are in the proper car seats and are correctly secured.. On Tuesday 26th the brigade responded to a call of smoke in the area around Hickey Place. They checked the area out and couldn't find anything so returned to the

station. As mentioned earlier if you see anything which you think is not right don't be afraid to give us a call. With this continued dry spell we all need to be careful out there. As always if you or anyone you know would like to come and join this fantastic team come along on Monday nights. You will be warmly welcomed. That's All

VSO
John

New name and ownership but quality continues

Since November 2018 Fairview Aluminium, Hawera has been in the capable hands of new owners Greg and Rochelle Steer, but there has been a change in name; the respected firm is now Fairview Hawera and is situated at 159 Princes Street, Hawera. Greg had been working for

the previous owner Wayne Jones since the age of 18, 25 years of uninterrupted service. Recognising his expertise and loyalty Wayne gave Greg first refusal of buying the business and Greg accepted. "Wayne made the offer. He always said I would get the first option." He adds, "We're enjoying

it - it's a new challenge, something different." He admits, however, he is putting in huge hours including the weekends. What are the main challenges? "Time

employment. "I'm the office person now. XERO is amazing," explains Rochelle. In acknowledging the excellent management of Wayne, Greg is keen to

and keep doing what he was doing," explains Greg. However, a few changes have been enacted, such as Rochelle re-organising the reception area where clients meet to outline their needs. There is much more natural light now and a planning table will be arriving soon. Also on offer soon will be the provision of thermally broken joinery to ensure even less heat is lost through windows.

illustrated brochures provide information on such requirements as entry doors, windows, and various glass solutions for windows and doors. Also included are door configurations for such things as sliding doors, bi-fold doors and hinged, French and entry doors. Also outlined are window configurations including awning and casement windows, sliding and stacking windows, bi-fold windows, as well as faceted, box, bay, louvre and green house windows. The range of options is staggering. Also amazingly outlined are the many advantages of aluminium and related products such as increased light, adequate ventilation, optimal insulation, energy efficiency, sound reduction, safety, security, reduced maintenance, durability, aesthetic appeal, and enhanced outlook.

The factory area itself is spacious and has a very orderly appearance with lots of natural light. Health and safety is well catered for. On offer are comprehensive customer kits, which outline the huge range of products

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Greg Steer handling the office side of the business.



Greg with a selection of his quality Fairview stock.

management gets me a little bit," he admits. As well as Rochelle as the Office Manager, continuity is maintained with Kieran Hussey and Jackson Pollard continuing in their

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OBITUARY Ian Matheson Eliason

June 6, 1945 - February 24, 2019

Taranaki Rugby double centurion and life member, patron and past president of the Taranaki Rugby Football Union Ian "Legs" Eliason has died, aged 73.

Eliason holds the New Zealand provincial record with Canterbury's Fergie McCormick of 222 first class games for his province. This was achieved from when he was first selected as an 18 year old in 1964 through to 1981, when he retired, aged 36.

Taranaki Rugby chairman, Lindsay Thomson, said it was an incredibly sad day for Taranaki and New Zealand rugby, and that Eliason was a "humble passionate rugby ambassador who will be greatly missed but fondly remembered."

Eliason was born in Kaponga, and attended Opunake High School. He played for the Kaponga Primary School, then progressed through Taranaki Primary School rep teams, Kaponga Rugby Club and beyond. He played his entire club career for Kaponga, and went on to coach after his playing days were over.

Trevor Cox who was Kaponga Rugby Club president for 18 years remembers locking the scrum with him in the 1960s. "He stood out amongst the players, and as a lineout player he was unreal," he



Ian Matheson Eliason

says. "In those days, you didn't lift, you jumped, and you had a greasy leather ball which was more like a stone than a football. He was always very competitive, so I was always left with the scraps."

Even back then he owned the nickname for which he later became known as an All Black. "He was a big leggy guy, so he was always Legs or I.M," says Trevor. Eliason was selected for the

All Blacks' 1972 internal tour and made his debut against Marlborough three weeks short of his 27th birthday. He scored two tries for the All Blacks on that tour, one each against Wairarapa Bush and against Manawatu.

Later that year he was selected for the All Blacks tour of Britain and France. He played in 11 matches on tour, beginning with the one against British Columbia on the way to Britain and ending with the game against the South West Selection at Tarbes, France played on January 31, 1973.

Although never selected for a test, he appeared 19 times for the All Blacks. He may have missed out on playing the England team on tour, but seven months after his last All Black appearance, he was in the Taranaki team which beat the English tourists 6-3 at Rugby Park in New Plymouth. This was also his 100th appearance for Taranaki.

In 2016 he was at the His 200th appearance for the province was also against

an international team, when Taranaki beat Italy 30-9 in 1980.

Rugby photographer, Peter Bush, in his book "A Life in Focus" said Eliason was the man he believed most epitomised what it means to wear the All Black jersey.

"He, to me, was the warmest, friendliest, and I still think he stood for what an All Black, if you came from a lesser province, was all about," he wrote.

Eliason and his wife Ngaire later shifted to New Plymouth but he continued to take an interest in his former home town.

Trevor Cox recalls Eliason being a tour guide on trips to the 1995 and 1999 Rugby World Cups. He says Eliason was always a "Kaponga man through and through." Even after he left the area he was never involved in any other club, and would frequently come back to Kaponga for Old Timers' Days and other functions

In 2016 he was at the Kaponga Primary School jubilee. He spoke to the

Opunake and Coastal News reporter, and recalled his provincial career including clashes with the great Colin "Pinetree" Meads.

"The game's changed since then," he said. "The guys are faster and bigger, and the hits are a lot harder, and the game's played more for entertainment."

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On this month in history Selwyn Toogood dies

On February 27, 2001 popular radio and television personality Selwyn Toogood died in Wellington aged 84. He is best known for his television show 'It's in the Bag'. He was famous for saying, what'll it be the money or the bag." One poor

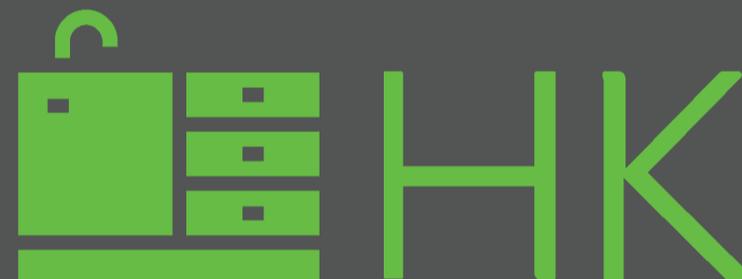
lady opted for the bag and got a packet of wipes when she could have taken home a considerable amount of money.

Another well known show he appeared in was 'Beauty and the Beast'.

He notched up 800 tlevised

programmes of this show and had an estimated viewing public of 250,000.

In 1999 he received a special Lifetime Achievement Award from the Academy of Film and Television Arts in New Zealand.



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Ten things the PM didn't mention in her statement to Parliament

The Prime Minister's statement to Parliament, more than a third of the way through the term, would've been a great opportunity to come clean with New Zealanders about the Government's progress with its vision for our country. It was a wasted opportunity more notable for its omissions than what was included.



JONATHAN YOUNG MP FOR NEW PLYMOUTH

Here are 10 important issues that the PM avoided mentioning:

1. That job creation has slowed from 10,000 a month under National to just 650 a month. No surprise there since the Government's job creation schemes have been exposed as smoke and mirrors. Example: Just 54 jobs created from the Provincial Growth Fund despite Shane Jones' claim that it had put upwards of 10,000 people into work. Employment growth has stalled.
2. That economic growth is slowing with no plan other than to tax Kiwis more. The Reserve Bank lowered its track for GDP growth over the next four years and the PM's claim that growth is 'exceeding expectations' begged the question: Whose expectations? What is clear is that more taxes are on the way, including a deeply divisive Capital Gains Tax. The Government thinks it can tax its way to prosperity and boost productivity on the way. That is economic nonsense.
3. That unemployment

- has increased by 10,000 in the past three months. The Government has tried to put a positive spin on the latest employment data. While the jobless rate remains relatively low, New Zealand has dropped five places to 14th in the OECD rankings. The number of NEETs (people not in education, employment or training) rose by 26,000 in the latest quarter. While the data should be treated with caution it suggests there's actually more 'nephs on the couch'.
4. The deteriorating relationship with China. The Government has needlessly eroded the goodwill built up with our biggest trading partner. It has missed valuable opportunities for face time, muddied our relationship with an apparent tilt away from China and used poor judgment in its choice of words on defence. The showcase event to ring in the China-New Zealand Year of Tourism is on hold and the PM can't get a date to visit Beijing.
5. The Government's

impending plan to impose a Capital Gains Tax on hard working Kiwis. The last thing New Zealanders need is more taxes and this one would be a doozy – retirement savings, small businesses, farms, family baches, investments would all be under attack. Every extra dollar the Government takes out of Kiwis' back pockets is a dollar out of the household budget. By contrast, National believes Kiwis should keep more of what they earn.

6. A plan to reduce emissions while safeguarding the economy. The Government has gone for cheap soundbites over credible policy. Example: The ban on new offshore oil and gas exploration without considering how gas is an ideal transition fuel (fewer emissions and also provides security of supply so the lights don't go out. The PM got to crow about it at overseas summits, but at home it is a story of economic damage caused by ignorant policy decisions against the advice of officials.

7. The \$5 billion her Government has stripped out of New Zealand's roads. We're not sure where Ministers in this Government take their holidays, but they clearly don't have to contend with the logjams on our busiest regional highways. It is just wishful thinking that you can migrate all the road journeys that Kiwis take onto rail. Our roads are a vital network for our

economy and don't deserve to be robbed of funds to pay for a slow tram in Auckland.

8. A plan to reduce the cost of living, such as rents which have gone up by \$40 a week. Why would a Government that's putting a 'well-being brand on Budget 2019 enact policies that hurt our low-income families the most? Because poor policy choices have unintended consequences. Extending the bright-line test, ring fencing of losses, more burdensome regulations, the ban on foreign investment and the threat of a Capital Gains Tax all service to drive up rents. National would tax less.

9. A plan to reduce serious crime and keep victims safe. The Government appears intent on emptying our prisons no matter what. Of course National wants criminals to be rehabilitated, but we don't want to put their rights over the rights of their victims and the vulnerable in our communities who deserve to be protected.

10. A vision for New Zealand beyond vague intentions, photo-ops and soundbites. The Government assures us it will have a coherent strategy just as soon as all of its 233 working groups have reported back. In the meantime, it is rolling out a \$3 billion slush fund and wasting billions more on failed policies such as fees-free tertiary education.

Jonathan Young
Member of Parliament for
New Plymouth

Housing found for Taranaki households

The latest public housing data for Taranaki shows that 43 households were provided a place to call home in the last quarter, says Housing and Urban Development Minister Phil Twyford. The figures reflect households who were either on the Housing Register or the Transfer Register, which is comprised of those whose

existing public housing no longer meets their needs. "Our Government has been clear that the best way to tackle the housing crisis is to build more houses, and the best way to tackle homelessness is to build more public housing – that's exactly what we are doing. "Since coming to office, our Government has built 1,191

new state houses. "Each new state house and community provided home means one less family living in unacceptable circumstances, such as cars, garages and under bridges. "While progress is being made on building more homes, we know demand for housing continues to increase. The hidden homeless that we warned about at the beginning of last year are continuing to come

forward with the Housing Register increasing in Taranaki by 12 households. "We need to build more public housing, and we remain committed to increasing supply by 6,400 new places in the next four years, 55 of which are expected to be in the Taranaki region. "We are on track to achieve this goal," Phil Twyford said

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Giving to the community

The Opunake Lions Club recently celebrated their first 50 years and for most of that time they have been running their annual Pig in the Barrow raffle. Every year proceeds go to a local community cause. In previous years these causes have included the local ambulance, Surf Club, Fire Brigade and Coastal Community Transport

This year proceeds have gone to the Opunake Foodbank. On Friday Opunake Lions Club president Ian Armstrong and secretary Colleen Starsmore were at CoastalCare to present a cheque for \$1000 to Opunake Foodbank chairperson Linda Campbell.

This is a busy time for the Foodbank with schools starting for the year and families already having to buy books and uniforms, said Linda.

"We are very lucky to have fabulous people who raise money for this community of ours," she said.



Ian Armstrong presents a cheque to Linda Campbell. With them is Colleen Starsmore.

The next issue of the Opunake & Coastal News is on March 14

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Vera Putt's oak tree turns a hundred

Continued from page 5

She was a great cook, a capable seamstress with her Fairisle knitting a specialty, made butter in a wooden churn and milked two house cows by hand. Not at all bad

for a London girl transported to the colonies!

Clyde was less available to his children, due to his long hours of working, but he was very keen on cricket (with bowling his strength), fishing, had a passion for

photography and he even set up the first radio in Okato. In the evening he was apt to recite poetry with Rudyard Kipling's 'Gunga Din' a favourite. "He was a jack of all trades and a master of many," explained John. He

concluded, "He was a great dad and we loved him very much."

On Sunday February 24 a special service at St Paul's Church concluded the special occasion.

"It's been a fantastic occasion and great opportunity to celebrate one of the defining happenings in the life of Okato and great to celebrate the bravery of my grandmother and grandfather, as well as other pioneers," concluded Brent Webling, just before heading back to his home in Wellington.



John Putt with pictures of his parents Vera and Clyde.



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Mac Sole looks back

Gordon Sole of Hawera, who is commonly known as Mac (from his middle name McClinton), looks back over a long life now that he is in his mid-eighties. The Opunake and Coastal News will be serialising reflections on his interesting life.

Mac is Chairperson of the Wharepuni Marae, in Fraser Road and Chairperson of the Ngati Tupai hapu.

He also had a prominent role in Taranaki Rugby.

In an earlier issue, we ran a story when Mac and his great writer friend Ronald Hugh Morrieson were banned from Middleton's Hotel, Opunake in the 1960s. (These days it is now known as the Club Hotel).



Gordon 'Mac' Sole.

Tawhiti Museum has original issues of 'The Scarecrow' and 'Came A Hot Friday' with personal messages to Mac and his then wife Diana from Ron Morrieson inscribed within.

My Early Life as a Child and Youth

Some of this era was not as I would have wished, being a time when a relative treated me somewhat unfairly. I'll call the relative 'Zac', which is not his real name.

In about 1949 my father bought a David Brown 'Cropmaster' tractor, which changed life on the Fraser Road farm and the work

accordingly. One advantage was that I didn't have to catch the two horses every morning and put them on to the wagon, which would then take the milk to the Fraser Road factory about two miles north of our farm. During school days I would take the milk to the factory. The manager was a Mr Knolman. The tractor made this area of work somewhat easier, although backing the tractor and trailer is almost a hundred percent opposite from horses and wagon.

But the downside of the tractor was contracting for other farmers and by doing so meant that Zak would not be home to do the afternoon milking. He also, at times, socialised at the odd hotel and would get home somewhat inebriated.

On one sad occasion myself and Albert Rangī, who was about one year older than myself and lived with us, had an unfortunate experience. Albert and I started milking about 4.30pm and machine milked a few cows when the power went off, so we started hand milking our herd, which numbered about 85. About 11pm we saw the tractor at the road gate and it was coming down to the shed. On entering the shed Zak was furious and obviously well under the influence of drink. He wanted to know why we hadn't finished the milking - not accepting there was no power for the milking machine, we being young primary school kids with very tired hands milking

probably 70 cows. The end result was Zak gave me a bit of a bashing, after which I needed medical care, but he wisely did not touch Albert, maybe because of Albert, not being family, he may have had legal problems. The end result was hospital for me.

On another occasion Zak was building a new milk stand at the shed to suit the tractor. Bill had erected all the boxing for the concrete. Albert and I mixed the cement on the shed floor by hand and filled two Texaco buckets which, if I recollect correctly, were 10 or so litres as we know them now. I would carry them out to Zak at the boxing. It was better to carry one in each hand for balance out to Zak, then back to the shed for more if Albert had mixed enough again. If not, we would mix more together. This was a tough hard job for primary school kids and sad to say this very heavy work would have tested a fully grown adult. For me, it was back to hospital a second time, the work proving too much for my body.

At times when my father was not at home to cook our evening tucker, Zak would send me to the house to cook the evening meal. On this instance I left our shed to cook the meal and Zak told me to mow the lawns while the tucker was cooking. We had big lawns and a hand mower and at this time I had back troubles which, at times, even now gives me problems. On this

occasion I was lying on the lawn, unable to get up, so when Zak came to the house having finished milking and found me, he told me to get up, which I couldn't. Zak took off a wide leather belt, which he always wore and hit me. I couldn't get up so he hit me harder and harder. All I could do was cry, but he kept hitting me. My memory is lost on some things that happened, but it was dark when my dear mother was standing near me. Seeing my plight, I guess Zak must have phoned her to come to the farm, as she lived in Hawera (six miles away) at the Heatherlea Boarding House, Wilson Street. She called an ambulance, so it was off to the hospital for a third time. Thanks Zak.

Now, about 2000/2001, on my return from Australia, I was at Zak's home in Collins Street, Hawea when out of the blue he said to me, "I'm sorry."

I looked at him and knew why he said this. He had obviously carried this guilt for fifty or so years for the previously stated incidents. I looked at him fact to face and knew of his sincerity and all I said was, "It's okay Zak, thanks." All over, I was of the opinion that his early life was not one anybody would wish for.

In future writings I may mention other occasions that were not great for me, but at this stage they do not come to mind.

On this month in history a man is elected to Parliament while in prison

On February 18, 1878 George Barton, a Wellington lawyer, was elected to Parliament while he was in prison. He had been

sentenced to a month in prison for 'contempt of Court' because he criticized Appeal Court judges whom he was appearing before.

Mr Barton's son, who was also called George campaigned on his father's behalf in the by-election. When the victory was announced supporters went to the prison and Mr Barton

was allowed to appear at a window, but not to speak.

Later, Mr Barton became a Native Land Court judge.

Currently, in NZ all prisoners have been denied their democratic right to vote, which many people believe is unjust. Hopefully, this wrong will be reversed by Parliament.

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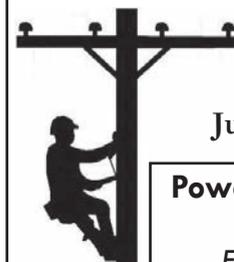
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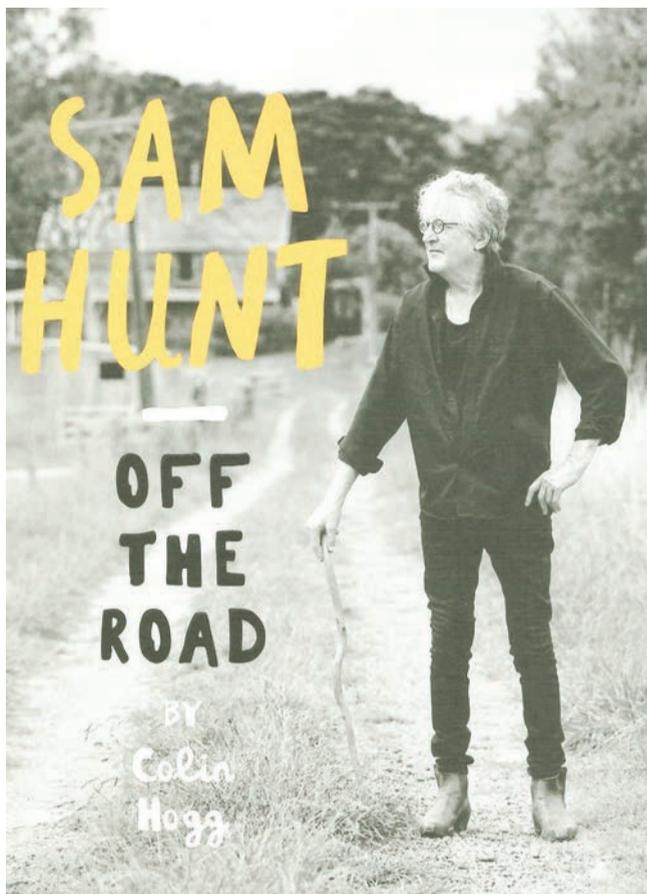
Book review: Sam Hunt - Off the Road (2018)

Written by Colin Hogg. Published by HarperCollins Publishers (New Zealand), Limited, Auckland. (239 pages).

This is an easy read, hard to put down book, written as a question-and-answer dialogue with the well-known author Colin Hogg talking with his close friend Sam Hunt, arguably New Zealand's best known living poet – along with Professor C.K. Stead. The two men met at intervals over several months, with a tape recorder employed to record their discussion.

The title Sam Hunt – Off the Road' refers to the fact Sam is no longer touring the country, speaking at hotels, schools and town halls as he did for so many years. People will recall, for example, his popular Roaring Forties Tour with Gary McCormick which came to New Plymouth. "I got sick of touring. I especially hated airports to the point of neurosis. However, the expanding of engagement, that part I do miss."

People have been amazed that Sam has such a



prodigious memory for a huge number of poems, including his own and many others. This remarkable ability even came to the attention of a university professor. "He has some sort of telepathy, some oversized part of his cerebellum

wherein are filed hundreds of poems – his own, other people's - some of them long and complex with strange turns and rhymes." (page 65).

Only You
When the house is warm,
when there's peace,
The old spirits
While you're sleeping
return
In the morning
You notice a difference
It feels like a full house.
With only you in it.

The book has a series of intriguing black-and-white pictures. Some show Sam in different situations including at home in his Far North home where he has lived for 18 years or so. One is of Sam as a baby with his mother.

Interspersed are poems of Sam's, but also include others from his special friend and mentor James K Baxter, as well as W.B Yeats, another poet he admires. Other poets whose work he recites include C.K Stead, whom he also appreciates, as well as A.E Houseman, Edward Arlington Robinson and Sarah Broom. There is a useful index at the back which lists all the poets whose poems he recites in

the book. One poem of Baxter's he mentions is 'High country weather'. "And now I think, of course, of those beautiful lines James K Baxter wrote when he was seventeen years old." (page 58).

Alone we are born
And die alone
Yet see the red-gold cirrus
Over snow-mountain shine

Upon the upland road
Rise easy stranger
Surrender to the sky
Your heart of anger

I've always loved this poem myself and it was a thrill when Sam recited it over the phone when I spoke to him (by telephone) about the book recently.

Sam is very open and even revealing about his life. The

part about his formative years is especially interesting. I was intrigued that he recited one of Baxter's poems while a school student quite genuinely and got into strife - including being sent to the school's principal.

Also in the book are extracts from an earlier book written thirty years ago when these two men collaborated. The book was entitled 'Angel Gear'. However, at this time they had only recently met.

I thoroughly recommend this fascinating book about one of our most loved and important poets, Sam Hunt. Colin Hogg must be commended for writing this book, his tenth, in such an entertaining and informative way.

Rolland McKellar

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Opunake High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Opunake

Books and gardens make a successful mix



books they no longer wanted for others to pick up, borrow or even keep for themselves is one that has been tried all around the world she says.

"I decided to put one up in Opunake for the children," she said.

With her mother Margaret being one of the volunteers helping out with the Clifftop Garden this seemed a logical place to put it.

They got the required approval from the Council to place it there and installed a mailbox once used by the late Gail Drought.

Eight months later with the Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival in full swing, the library had become so popular that an extra box was added courtesy of Gail Drought's parents Ron and Nevis Brewer. The box, made by Ron and decorated by Nevis was put in for children's books. At the

same time Ron installed two bird boxes he had made further along the garden path in time for the start of the Garden Festival season.

Margaret says she has taken on the task of keeping the library boxes stocked.

"I'll probably do this for the rest of my life," she said "It's great to see the younger generation and the older generation getting together to make something happen in the community. Some children don't have access to books and don't belong to libraries."

The Library had attracted interest from locals and from visitors from around the country and around the world.

"Freedom campers have written notes to us, one saying that our copy of The Hobbit has gone all around the world," says Margaret.

Janine Mullin sees books keep coming in at the Clifftop Library.

On February 17 2018 the Clifftop Library began with a converted mailbox along a garden path overlooking Opunake Beach. A year later the Library celebrated its

first birthday. Where there was once just one box, there are now two, from which books can be left, borrowed or taken.

Located on the Clifftop

Garden which has become an integral part of the annual Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival, the library was the brainchild of Janine Mullin.

"Our busiest time was the

summer just gone when kids are off school and people are travelling through Opunake," says Janine.

The idea of having a place where people could leave

A Masters for Melody

Melody Rose Mitchell graduated with a Master's degree in Nursing with First class Honours from the University of Auckland in November.

She attended Rahotu Primary and Opunake High Schools before graduating in nursing at the then Taranaki Polytechnic. She worked at Middlemore and Waikato Hospitals. It was then back to Middlemore where she was an associate charge nurse. She came home to be a charge nurse at Taranaki Baser Hospital, before going back to Waikato as a nurse manager.

Her career has exposed her to big and small hospitals, which gave her the ability to develop her skills, and as a result get involved with nurse specialties at national level.

She is the daughter of Pam and the late Peter Leatherby and granddaughter of the late Rawinia and Desmond Leatherby.

Pam says Melody's motto has always been "shoot for the stars and you'll reach the



Melody Rose Mitchell.

moon."

Thanks to her husband Greg, to her sister Barbara Mathys and to those who have encouraged her to move forward..

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Opunake first to see the cars at Americarna

The owner of a 1965 Canadian Valiant barely got away with his life when he escaped Africa for New Zealand in 1969.

Last week the car he brought back with him was at Opunake Beach as part of this year's Americarna.

"It's all original, just repainted," says current owner Kerry Williamson from Te Puke.

The car which could be described as either a Canadian Valiant or Dodge Dart had been assembled in Zambia, so it has always had right hand drive. The original owner was a New Zealander who fled Africa in 1969 when war broke out, bringing the car back home to Gisborne with him.

"He and his family got out fast," says Kerry.

This is the third time Kerry and his wife Mary have brought the car to Americarna and each year, consistent with the car's origins they have brought soft toy African animals along with them. Another popular talking point is the model of the 1961 engine under the bonnet which powers the car.

The car has been in his family since 1974 when his father from Feilding acquired it as part of his car collection. This collection later passed on to Kerry, although the Canadian Valiant is the only one of these he still owns.

Since 1987 Kerry has lived in Te Puke where he worked as an engineer in the kiwifruit industry.

"I'm semi-retired now. I just drive buses," he says.

He points out that the Dodge Dart has another claim to fame.

"One of the most famous car songs ever written, the Little Old Lady from Pasadena is about the Dodge



Mary Williamson arrived in a Zambian-assembled Canadian Valiant..

Dart. The Mustang boys always claim everything, so we challenge them on that one," he says.

Kerry and Mary's vehicle was one of the hundreds who made their way to Opunake Beach. The annual celebration of the American automobile has been going for 12 years now and this year Opunake had the honour of being the first place to be visited by those taking part. They made their way along

Surf Highway into town with American flags lining Tasman Street. At the beach, food stands were available and Boss Heke entertained everyone with songs carrying an appropriate American theme.

Brothers Clive and Don Ross from Whangarei and their wives Carol and Shirley were among the early arrivals and parked alongside each other near the changing sheds. Once there they proceeded to give their vehicles a shine. For both of them this was their first Americarna.

Clive had brought his 1930 Model A four door sedan



...as the cars made their way into town along Tasman Street.

with him, while Don arrived in a 1937 Chevrolet which he has dubbed Fifty Shades of Gold. Don had bought his car off someone from someone in Lower Hutt back in 2011.

"I've slowly built it up for ourselves to enjoy in our retirement. We are a couple of old pensioners enjoying life," he said.

Taking the car to Taranaki for Americarna seemed like a good idea.

"We've been around the South Island in it twice, and we were running out of places in New Zealand to see."

Clive bought his car off somebody from Blenheim

a year and a half ago. It has a three inch roof chop and runs a 350 Chev motor.

"I stripped it down to bare metal and then built it up," he says.

"I've had hot rods over the years. I heard about Americarna and thought it would be a good run for the car to come down."

Closer to home, Murray and Kirsten Sutton from Egmont Village have been coming for the last seven years, and once more they brought their Ford Hiboy Roadster with them, which

Continued page 15.

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Opunake first to see the cars at Americarna

Continued from page 14.
had been built in Southern California. Murray bought it and converted it to right hand drive. In other years they also have also brought

Kirsten's 1971 Chevelle along with them. Among those enjoying the day was Paul Ekdahl of New Plymouth. "What a magnificent turnout. You would be hard

pressed to find a gathering of American cars like this anywhere in New Zealand," he said. "To have this number of cars packed into a venue like Opunake Beach is amazing to see. It makes it



Murray and Kirsten Sutton came in their Ford Hiboy Roadster



The annual celebration of the American automobile was a hit with all ages.



The brothers from the north. Clive Ross lovingly tends his Model A...



all worthwhile owning one." Paul has brought cars to Americarna before, but this time round he was just there to enjoy the beach and look at what everybody else had brought. "The majority of these are muscle cars and they are in pristine condition," he said. "You always had Ford and General Motors competing so much to see who would make the most powerful car and there are some powerful cars here. You would have 70,80,90 horse power running around here."

Americarna attracted all sorts.

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Fertiliser of future could help save environment

It's always an interesting question to ask someone what they'd do if the New Zealand government gave them a billion dollars to work on a project. For Harvard University professor Dan Nocera, who has been a Plenary speaker at the MacDiarmid Institute's AMN9 conference, the answer is simple.

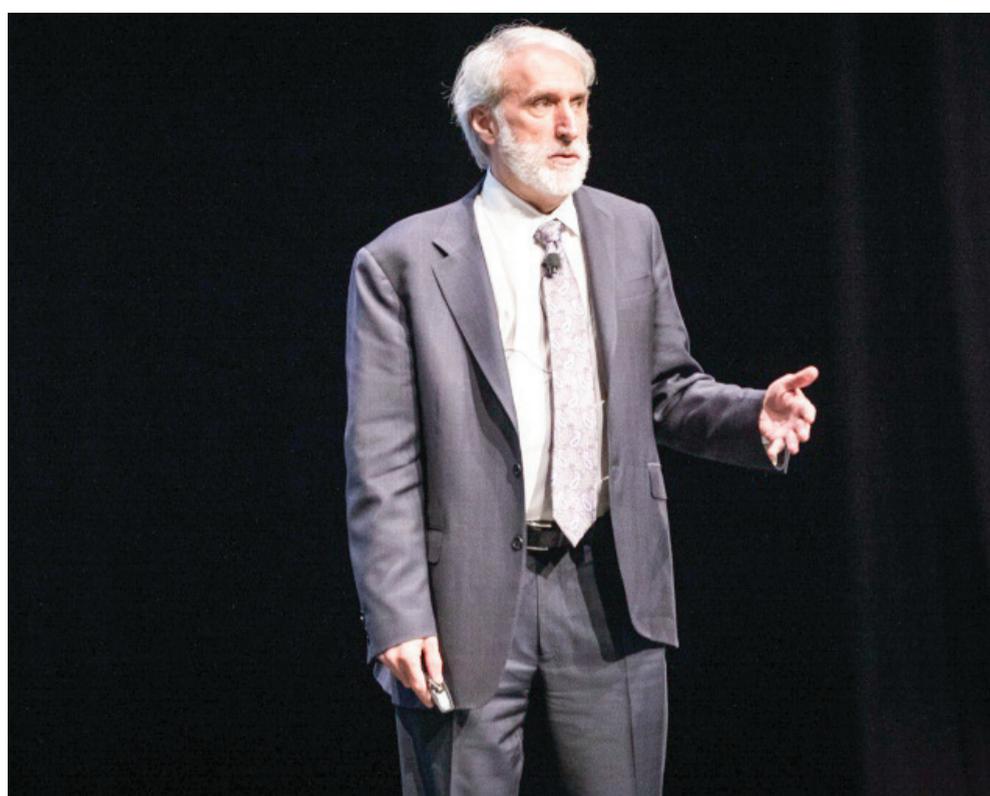
He'd build a pilot reactor, two or three stories high, which could house his bionic photosynthesis technology. From there, it could pump out bio-fertiliser that could radically improve crop yields, help sequester huge amounts of carbon and store it in the soil, and dramatically reduce the amount of runoff from farming that ends up in rivers. The kicker? "I wouldn't need a billion, I've built pilots before. I think with \$25 million you could get really solid data. I want to get a pilot to the point where a major partner could come in and engineer the hell out of it, and then start widespread implementation."

In 2011, Professor Nocera's research team announced they had created an 'artificial leaf' – effectively a piece of solar technology that conducted photosynthesis at a much more efficient rate than plants could manage – specifically to separate hydrogen and

oxygen. That could have significant benefits in terms of generating hydrogen for fuel – a potential source of energy that could be significantly cleaner than the fossil fuels that currently power the industrialised world.

In 2017, it was the 'bionic leaf,' which turns solar energy into biomass and biofuels, using a genetically modified bacteria to do so. The process behind that can also be used to make biofertiliser, which tests have shown to be astonishingly effective. When it was applied to effectively dead soil, it increased the yield of a crop of radishes by 300%. That means it could be used to grow food almost anywhere, even with the most depleted soils. The bacteria doesn't end up in any of the food, either, but New Zealand's GE free policy would still be a hurdle

The biofertiliser is also 'carbon negative', which means that it helps sequester carbon from the atmosphere back into the soil itself. It's estimated that if this soil was applied across the USA, more than 900 million tons of carbon could be stored in soil every year – though for scale, the USA produced more than 5 billion tons of carbon in 2017. Currently, around 2% of the world's



Professor Dan Nocera speaking at the MacDiarmid Institute's amn9 conference at Te Papa in Wellington (Mark Faamaoni)

energy use goes towards the creation of fertiliser, which produces a huge amount of carbon emissions in the process, because the required hydrogen to make ammonia is taken from natural gas.

"The fertiliser thing has legs," says Dr Nocera. He likens regular fertiliser to being a bit like sodium chloride – also known as table salt. "It's an ammonium salt. And so as a salt, it dissolves in water, so you get massive runoffs, it just goes with the water stream. My nitrogen isn't a salt – it's a solid biomass in the bacteria, and that only has runoff if the whole particulate soil runs off, which is erosion. So if there's no erosion, I don't get any runoff."

Sound familiar? Environmental activists are currently pointing the finger at fertiliser companies, arguing that the runoff is poisoning waterways. The quality of freshwater has become a

source of huge angst for many New Zealanders, and this biofertiliser could help repair some of the damage. It's also more efficient, given that runoff takes nutrients with it that are useful for plant growth, which makes it very close to being a self contained system.

Currently, pilots are being conducted overseas to build reactors in which this process can take place. In practice, a farmer could even set one of these reactors up at their own farm, or have a movable reactor temporarily visit their farm to drop off fertiliser. That's the sort of development that would push this from a nice idea, to an actually scalable business model.

What is the government's role in all of this? Professor Nocera sees it as being to "de-risk" the process, so that then major companies can come in and give it the investment that is needed to

take it to market. But why can't it be governments themselves who scales these projects up, if they're so important?

Basically, because they don't have the money to go up against what is described as 'legacy infrastructure' – already existing technology that has been heavily invested in by corporate giants, to the point that it reaches economic maturity. It's one of the huge problems in the drive for clean energy at the moment, that oil companies are so heavily entrenched, that they can't simply be dislodged – they have to have a carrot dangled in front of them to convince them that switching to something better is worth the effort.

Currently, because that legacy infrastructure exists, that means there's basically no market to make the switch. "When I give public talks, everyone thinks that Exxon Mobil is out to kill me, or Shell, and they're trying to stop this, but they aren't," says Professor Nocera. "The reason it's not penetrating is because

there's no discovery that any of us could make, that would replace a \$17 trillion investment." It's the major reason why he redirected his research away from a focus on fuel, towards a focus on biomass and fertiliser instead. There is legacy infrastructure around that, but Professor Nocera's approach could already be relatively economically competitive against it – and that's especially the case if environmentally damaging externalities were priced into the system.

But because of the success this bio-fertiliser has been shown to have on dead soil, the potential market is huge, and bigger than the existing fertiliser market itself. That's currently worth about \$200 billion worldwide. On the other hand, re-energised soil could be worth hundreds of billions more, given the billion hectares of infertile and degraded soil around the world, and the growing global population.

There's evidence as well that the government is taking Professor Nocera's ideas seriously, or at the very least is interested in hearing him out. Professor Nocera has now had a few conversations with officials at MBIE, and has nothing but praise for how the NZ government has committed to tackling climate change. Minister of Research, Science and Innovation Megan Woods, who spoke at the opening of the conference, told the room that "we must actively encourage partnerships between industry and deep science, to develop sustainable innovations, that help New Zealand adopt new technologies and clean energy solutions, which combat the impacts of climate change, resource depletion, and environmental pollution." She wasn't speaking specifically about Professor Nocera's research, but the parallels aren't hard to spot.

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"Unlike some other endophytes, NEA endophytes look after your stock. They have excellent animal performance with no risk of staggers in dairy cows, and a very low risk of staggers in sheep or deer.

"They're also effective against pests like Argentine stem weevil, black beetle



Graham Kerr – science behind NEA endophytes tells a compelling story.

and root aphid."

Graham says the science behind NEA endophytes tells a consistent and compelling story.

Between 1999 and 2018, 21 separate animal safety trials have been conducted, each lasting eight weeks at the height of summer, when the adverse health effects of some endophytes, such as ryegrass staggers and

ill-thrift, are most likely to manifest.

Stock weights, growth rates and health are frequently assessed in these intensive, replicated trials.

Similarly Barenbrug Agriseeds has run many dozens of field trials throughout NZ as well as 18 separate insect bioassays to measure insect protection and pasture persistence.

"A lot of people are surprised when they realise just how much testing has been conducted over the past 20 years into NEA endophytes," he says.

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Feds want regulation of stock agents

The Federated Farmers Meat & Wool Council is calling for compulsory regulation of the stock agent industry.

“No-one likes more rules and regulation but to protect all parties in the sale of livestock we believe it is the best way forward,” Feds’ Meat & Wool chairperson Miles Anderson says. “Discussions about this topic have run hot and cold for years. We need some finality.”

The NZ Stock and Station

Agents Association has created a code of conduct and set up an independent body that can adjudicate on complaints about the actions of stock agents.

“But with all respect to the Association, membership and thus adherence to the code is voluntary and we understand it currently only covers about 65% of all stock transactions. Less reputable agents - a minority in the industry - are unlikely to become voluntary members and even if they do, when trouble arises they can

simply resign and continue to trade,” Miles says.

A fully enforceable and regulated industry would be able to stop agents trading, and potentially be able to impose redress.

As well as potential losses from fraudulent transactions, Federated Farmers members have also raised concerns about biosecurity risks, where there is misrepresentation - either accidental or deliberate - and the limited ability to seek redress in a

voluntary system.

Another potential regulation that deserves debate is one that would require any stock agent who trades livestock on their own behalf to do so through an auction system or another agent, and not conduct the transaction on their own behalf.

“A lot of ill feeling is caused when a stock agent buys from a farmer when it’s not clear he is acting on his own behalf, keeps the animals on his property for a

day or two, then on-sells at a substantial profit.”

Miles says the Meat & Wool Council does not envisage an increased cost to the farmer from regulation because for most companies and agents there would not be a huge change from how they are currently operating with their own internal processes.

“We are hoping for a positive response from the government to support this.”

There will be some who try and tie the Council’s

advocacy for regulation to complaints made in relation to a former employee of a stock trading company in the South Island. Miles says irrespective of the current SFO investigation into that, “it is well past time some sensible regulations were brought in to cover stock agencies.

“The vast bulk of stock and station agents operate in an exemplary manner. We need regulation to be fair, to give them protection as well, not just the farmers.”

NZAEEL updates economic values for dairy cattle

Economic values used to calculate dairy cattle breeding worth (BW) are being formally updated by New Zealand Animal Evaluation Limited (NZAEL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of DairyNZ.

The February NZAEL update reflects an increased global demand for high fat dairy products, with milk price and the relative value of fat and protein being two of the biggest factors in the calculation of dairy cattle BW. Dairy farmers were informed of this update last September and it is now in effect.

Economic values (EVs) are an estimate of a trait’s value

to a New Zealand dairy farmer and contribute to an animal’s BW - the industry index which ranks cows and bulls on their ability to breed profitable and efficient replacement dairy heifers.

DairyNZ’s strategy and investment leader Dr Bruce Thorrold says the value of milk fat has steadily risen in recent seasons due to strong consumer demand for milk fat products.

“This rise in milk fat value is now reflected in BW so, for BW in 2019, milk fat and milk protein have almost equal weighting,” said Mr Thorrold.

Farmers can expect that the cows bred from high ‘BW2019’ bulls will have

an increased ratio of fat to protein in its milk. The price changes for fat relative to protein have produced large shifts in BW, both between and within dairy cattle breeds.

Breeding decisions have a permanent and compounding effect on dairy herd profitability and the aim of NZAEL is to identify animals whose

progeny will be the most efficient converters of feed into farmer profit. BW is the index used to rank cows and bulls according to their ability to meet this objective.

“This information gives farmers insights into which bulls can add the most value to their breeding programme in a market where fat is a high value component. Ongoing development of our breeding

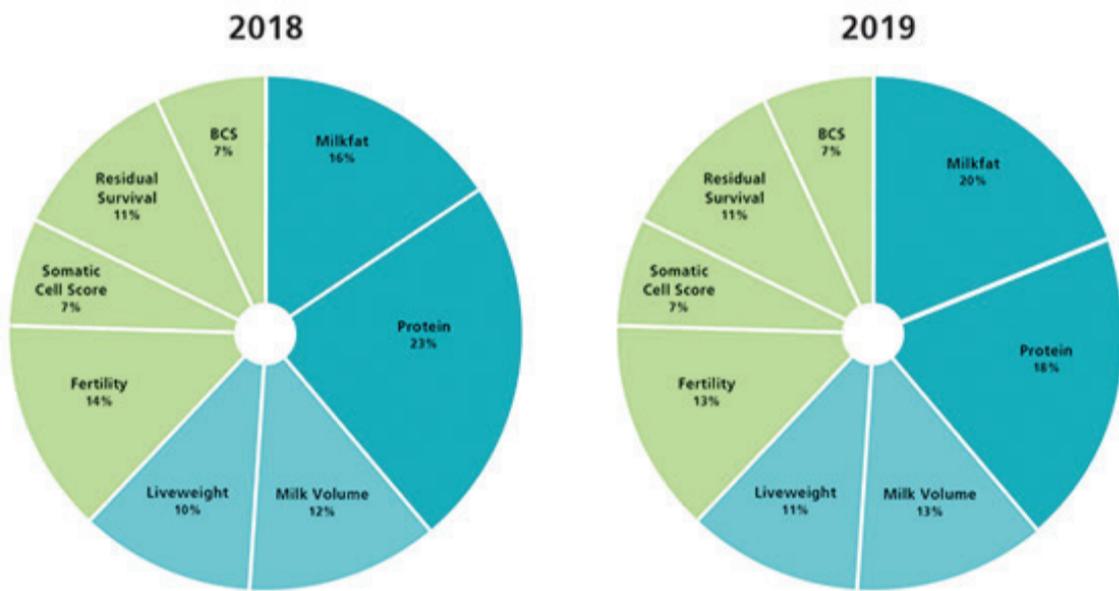
programme is essential to improving our national dairy herd and the genetics behind how our cows produce milk, profitably and efficiently.”

Economic values are updated by NZAEL every year to reflect changes in values, ensuring BW remains relevant in an ever-changing market environment.

Calculations of economic values account for milk

production, historical, current and forecast milk prices, income from culls, surplus cows and bobbies, the cost of generating replacements and general dairy farm expenses.

Of the top 200 bulls ranked by BW in 2019, 70 percent are Jersey, 25 percent are crossbred and 5 percent are Holstein-Friesian.



Rural input needed on recommendations

Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) calls on the Government to make rural communities central to their decision making regarding any changes to New Zealand’s tax system.

“The recommendation that Government should

use cloud-based accounting software to help small businesses reduce compliance costs fails to acknowledge that many rurally-based business owners do not have access to adequate internet and cellphone coverage,” says National Chair, Penny

Mudford.

“RWNZ’s 2018 submission to the Tax Working Group raised our concerns about the lack of rural and small business sector representatives on the Working Group.

“This lack of representation has clearly distanced the

rural sector and rurally-based small business owners from discussions.

“We urge the Government to ensure all tax payers’ perspectives are taken into account to achieve the best outcomes for rural communities,” says Ms. Mudford.

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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 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



Shaun Neal won the \$1000 cash prize with his 11.60Kg Snapper.

OPUNAKE BOAT AND UNDERWATER CLUB NOTICE

We wish to acknowledge and thank the following sponsors for their support for our 2019 annual fishing and diving tournament:

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| McDonalds Real Estate | Silver Fern Farms |
| Taranaki Building Limited | Fonterra Farm Source |
| Campbell Contracting | ASB bank |
| Malcolm Campbell Livestock | |

And all those who donated food, equipment, time and energy to make this another successful tournament, the committee and club members sincerely appreciate your efforts, we look forward to seeing you back for our next annual tournament starting 25th January 2020 - Commodore and Committee

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Kiwis lap up Coastguard lifejacket upgrade



1,603 safety items, such as crotch straps, which prevents a lifejacket from slipping up over your head when in water, and provided advice on best boating practice and safety tips.

Old4New spokesperson, Sue Tucker, said the van has become a hub for people wanting to find out more about water safety.

“The van attracts a lot of attention and excitement, which is great to see,” she said. “We feel people are starting to realise just how important wearing a lifejacket is. It greatly increases your chances of survival if you do end up in the water.”

Many of the lifejackets handed in were unusable and downright dangerous, and every year there is always one that should be in a museum. This year it was an oilskin lifejacket surrendered in Greymouth, which was approximately 75 years old and may have been used during World War II.

Coastguard New Zealand CEO Patrick Holmes said the campaign has grown in popularity since starting five years ago.

“It has been heartening to see the warm welcome the van receives in places and the increasing number of families stopping by to get new lifejackets fitted,” Holmes said. “The van not only makes it easy for people to upgrade old lifejackets but to find out more about how to stay safe on the water.”

Holmes said the younger generation can influence behaviour change when it comes to lifejackets.

“Often you see all the young people on a boat wearing lifejackets but not the parents,” Holmes said. “But everyone on board needs to wear one and kids often pester older family members to put one on. A lifejacket never ruins a day on the water.”

People also learn about lifejacket use and care when they visit the van, Holmes said.

“Lifejackets that are over 10 years old should be replaced even if they look okay to the eye. Seawater, sun and general wear and tear impact how effective they are and many old lifejackets won’t even float, which is a serious concern in an emergency,” he said.

Since the campaign started five years ago, over 10,000 old lifejackets have been traded in and taken out of circulation. “This means thousands of Kiwis are now safer out on the water. We are incredibly proud of the difference this campaign is making in our communities,” Holmes said.

Lifejacket exchange is a hit with safety conscious kiwis.

Thousands of Kiwis around the country are sporting much safer lifejackets thanks to a Coastguard water safety campaign.

The annual Old4New Lifejacket Upgrade campaign wrapped up recently which saw 3,462 old, damaged or obsolete lifejackets traded in over the

peak summer holiday period for discounted modern fit-for-purpose Hutchwilco lifejackets. There were almost 500 more lifejackets traded in this summer

compared to last year’s campaign.

The campaign van was on the road for nine weeks and stopped at 61 different locations around the country.

Families brought their old lifejackets to the van and purchased new lifejackets at discounted prices. As well as selling lifejackets, the Old4New crew distributed

Preventable drowning toll down but rescuenumbers continue to climb

New Zealand’s 2018 preventable drowning toll might be the second lowest in 20 years but Water Safety New Zealand

(WSNZ) says there is no room for complacency. The provisional toll is down from 92 in 2017 to 68 in 2018. This is the second

lowest total on record after 2010 with 64.

WSNZ CEO Jonty Mills says while the number is encouraging it has been a summer of rescues and lucky escapes with frontline emergency services reporting record numbers. “One preventable drowning is one too many. We need to see a continual downward trend in the toll over a

number of years.”

“The water safety sector is doing a fantastic job keeping people safe in, on and around the water. Frontline services, the likes of Surf Life Saving and Coastguard are largely dependent on volunteers and donations to continue the important work they do” says Mills.

Notable from the statistics for 2018 is the high number

of fatalities in the 65+ group with 18. That’s five more than the five year average. “11 of these were immersion incidents, where someone has ended up in the water when they had no intention of doing so. Six were swimming incidents so make sure you have support with you or swim in patrolled

Continued page 21



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Taranaki look to Shield challenge

Yarrows Taranaki has a chance to win back the coveted Ranfurly Shield when they play Otago in week five of the Mitre 10 Cup.

The challenge will be played on Sunday September 8 in Dunedin and will be the first Ranfurly Shield match for Taranaki since losing it to Waikato 33-19 last season.

It will be a nervous wait for Taranaki fans as Otago host Southland and Manawatu prior to Taranaki's visit.

Throughout the season, Taranaki will play 10 matches including five home games at Yarrow Stadium during the regular season.

Southland and Northland will open the 2019 competition on Thursday August 8 in Invercargill.

Taranaki will be playing away from home for the first two weeks of the competition with their opening clash against Counties Manukau in Pukekohe on Saturday August 10 in cross-over action. Taranaki travel south to play Manawatu on the following Saturday in the Championship division.

Taranaki will want revenge against Northland, as the Taniwha pipped Taranaki in last year's competition, at



Taranaki fans pack the stand.

home on Sunday August 25. Northland last played in New Plymouth during the 2010 competition. Taranaki then host rivals Tasman a week later on Sunday September 1 in a cross-over match before heading south to Dunedin the following weekend.

Bay of Plenty could

potentially be Taranaki's first Ranfurly Shield challenge of the year at Yarrow Stadium on Saturday September 14 before travelling to Hawkes Bay on Friday September 20.

Southland will head north to New Plymouth on the opening game of week eight

on Thursday September 26, before Taranaki travel to Waikato for another cross-over match on Sunday October 6.

Taranaki's final match of the year will be played on Friday October 11 at home against defending champions Auckland, who

Taranaki nearly beat last season.

Taranaki Bulls Head Coach Willie Rickards is happy with the 2019 draw which includes some key home games.

"The local players have started training already and we are looking forward to

playing back at Yarrow Stadium. Our fans are important and provide great support that really lifts the team. Their support will be huge this year".

While being relegated to the Championship division of the Mitre 10 Cup, Rickards is confident Taranaki can have an improved season.

"We had a lot of learnings from last year and we are willing to make those key changes this season. Our focus this year is to put in performances that our community are proud of", he said.

Taranaki Rugby Chief Executive Officer Jeremy Parkinson said the union was looking forward to a great season and is relying on local fans to support rugby in the province.

"It's going to be the same situation as last year, but we still have capacity for 14,000 fans and we are calling on them to support the Bulls", he said.

Taranaki will also play three pre-season matches against Auckland, Waikato and Manawatu.

Taranaki Rugby will announce their forwards coach in the coming weeks due to the departure of Paul Tito to French club Pau.

Preventable drowning toll down but rescue numbers continue to climb

Continued from page 20

areas" says Mills. Immersion incidents are the deadliest non-recreational activity with 28 deaths followed by swimming the deadliest recreational activity with 22 deaths. "10 of the immersion incidents occurred at home either in home pools, baths or ponds which is a reminder to be vigilant about water safety in the home" says Mills.

Beaches had the most preventable fatalities with 18

followed by rivers with 13. Eight fatalities at beaches involved swimming, while six were land based fishing. "Always swim between the flags and whatever the activity follow the water safety code: Be prepared, watch out for yourself and others, be aware of the dangers and know your limits" says Mills.

A big positive is the major drop in powered boating drowning deaths - an 83% decrease on 2017. 2018's

total of five boating fatalities (powered and nonpowered) is significant when compared with the 19 in 2017 and the historical average of around 18 each year.

Jonty Mills says credit must be given to Maritime NZ, Coastguard NZ and the work of the organisations involved in the Safer Boating forum. "A decade of work encouraging boaties to wear their lifejackets is paying off. It remains the most important thing a boatie can do to stay safe. In 60% of all boating deaths in 2018 a lifejacket wasn't worn."

The 2018 15 - 24 age group toll was the lowest since records began. It was half of the 2017 total and almost

half the five year average.

"Our major safety marketing campaign The Swim Reaper supported by ACC targets this age group so it is pleasing to see the numbers heading in the right direction. We are currently doing research around what direct influence the campaign is having on behaviour change" says Mills.

The under-fives toll was three - the same as 2015 and 2016 and a 57% decrease on the 2017 toll of seven. "Sadly however we've had three under-five fatalities already so far in 2019. We will continue to reinforce the message around constant active adult supervision of

young children at all times" says Mills.

The Waikato region had its lowest toll since records began, down 55% on the five year average. Auckland

and Bay of Plenty had the most fatalities with 13 each followed by Northland with eight. There was one fatality in the Taranaki region.

Manaiia Golf results

February 9. Saturday. Men's Stableford. 1. Winston Kidd 50. 2. Colin Koch 45 and Grant Gopperth 45. 3. Paddy Heta 42 and Greg Elliott 42. 4. Rod Le Fleming 41, Grant Gibbs 41 and Paul Hunn 41.

Juniors. Putting peewees. 1. Payton Siciliano. 2. Chantelle Wong. 3. Hannah Symes.

Seniors. Putting. 1. Ashton Sharp. 2. Jaden Siciliano and Lucas Symes. 3. Kieran Taylor.

Junior Inter-Putting. 1. Oliva Symes. 2. Carter Symes and Jayda Sharp.

February 11. Monday night Ambrose. 1. This & that. 2. Otakeho Orange. 3. Koomatata.

February 16. Saturday. Men's Stableford. 1. Lenny Symes 49. 2. Shelton Symes 41. 3. John Oliver 39. 4. Bruce Duffus 37.

February 18. Monday night Ambrose. 1. Butcher and Choppers. 2. Otakeho Hackers. 3. YTB.

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GRAZING AVAILABLE

DAIRY HEIFER GRAZING available on a May-May contract and holdover cow grazing available long term.

WORK WANTED

GARDENING - Experienced (18 yrs) weeding, pruning etc. Ph Eden 06 763 8634 or 027 464 4896



LOOKING FOR WORK?

At the suggestion of a regular advertiser, the **Opunake & Coastal News** is considering starting a **Work Wanted** column in the classified section of the paper which will be free. This is partly to fill a gap in the media. Another newspaper used to run such a column. Anyone seeking work is invited to submit their details to the paper. Your skills, experience, availability etc, is a suggestion but this will be up to the person.



PUBLIC NOTICES



TANGATA WHENUA LIAISON FUND

Karanga, karanga ki a Rangi e tū iho nei
Karanga, karanga ki a Papa e takoto ake nei
Kia rarau ngā tapuwae a tāngata
Putanga ariki
Tihei Mauriora.
Ki ngā waka o Taranaki ki te Tonga.
Nau mai, haramai ki te kaupeka tono pūtea nei.
Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou
Ka ora ai te iwi.

As we call to Rangi above
And we call to Papa below
Thus, we gather the people
The leaders
So, we share the breath of life.
To the canoes of South Taranaki
Welcome to the new application period.
With your basket and mine
The people will prosper.

Te Pūtea ā-Iwi

The Tangata Whenua Liaison Fund was established to support projects and initiatives which help develop positive relationships between Tangata Whenua, Council and the community as a whole.

This could apply to:

- Marae or other community facilities;
- Urupā/Cemeteries or wāhi tapu sites; or
- Ngā Mahi ā-Toi/Performing and visual arts.

Applications for grants from this fund are invited from marae committees, hapu or other interested groups or organisations.

Application forms are available from Council's website www.southtaranaki.com, Administration Building, Albion Street, Hāwera, any LibraryPlus facility, or the Executive Assistant Community & Infrastructure Services.

Te rā tatū mā ngā tono; **Ko te Rāmere, te Rua tekau mā whitu o Poutu-te-Rangi, 4.30 i te ahiahi.**

Closing date for applications is **Friday 27 March 2019 at 4.30pm.**

For further information, please contact Kirsty Jamieson on 0800 111 323 or kirsty.jamieson@stdc.govt.nz

Rahotu Home and School Association AGM

Monday 25th March @ 7pm
Rahotu School Staffroom
All Welcome
S Bolland, Secretary

Taranaki National Art Awards AGM

1pm, Tuesday 12th March 2019
Sandfords Event Centre, Opunake
Further Information at contact@taranakiartawards.co.nz



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held at the clubrooms
5 Pinny Drive Eltham
On Monday 18th March 2019 at 7:30pm.
All members and intending members welcome.
Club nights Mondays and Fridays from 7pm.
All gear and tuition supplied.
No Firearms Licence required.



OPUNAKE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Meeting 1st Monday of each month
at 5.30PM
Hughsons & Associates Boardroom at the Opunake Business Centre, 23 Napier St, Opunake



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday March 16 at 7.00pm,
Opunake Fire Station
Drinks and Meet & Greet at 6.30pm
Supper at conclusion of meeting
Inquiries to Sec. Rev. Geoff Williams
06 761 8510



AGM
Friday 15th March 2019
7.00pm
To be held in Manaia Bowling Club Riemenschneider St
ALL WELCOME
G. Chisnall, Secretary
Ph 06 278 1505

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



THE NEWSPAPER TARANAKI LIKES BEST

Next issue due out March 14.
Contact us now to be in it!

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 the useless: At Koru on Devon.

MARCH 1

'A Songless land' Exhibition opening: At Percy Thomson Gallery, Stratford. An artist's exploration of Beech, Kamahi and Kauri forests, 7pm. Refer advert.

MARCH 2

Motel California - Eagles Tribute Show: At Butlers Reef, Oakura, 8pm start. refer advert.

10 NOVEMBER - 5 MARCH 2019

Illusion, Nothing is at it Seems Exhibition: At Puke Ariki in New Plymouth

MARCH 7

Opunake High School Gala: At Opunake High School. 5.30pm start. Refer advert on page 12.

FEBRUARY 11 TO MARCH 8

By Dezine Exhibition: At the Village Gallery. Refer ad for details.

MARCH 9

Diet & Dance 2pm at the Wave Church and every Saturday after that.

MARCH 10

Taranaki Harvest Feast: At Stony River Hotel, Okato. From 11am-6pm. Refer advert.

MARCH 12

Arthritis New Zealand 'Managing Arthritis' Clinic: At Coastal Care, Opunake from 9.30-11am. Refer advert.

MARCH 14 TO MARCH 17

Taranaki Masters Games: Lots of Sports to enter into. Refer article and ad from last issue for details.

APRIL 6 TO APRIL 9

Coastal Pacific / Trans Alpine 4 Day trip with Travelsmart Stratford: Refer ad from previous issue for details on this incredible package. Ph Travelsmart Stratford on 0800 00 3804.

APRIL 7

Sport Taranaki Rainbow Run: New Plymouth Coastal Walway. Refer article and advert.

The history of Hollards



A happy Hunter Pennington of Kaponga picks up a balloon at last year's Hollards Family Fun Day.

Hollard Gardens was established in 1927 by Bernie and Rose Hollard. Now owned and managed by the Taranaki Regional Council, it is a Garden of National Significance.

The name Hollard is synonymous with gardening. Garden enthusiasts in New Zealand and overseas have, for many years, added Hollard Gardens to their bucket list of places to visit.

Bernie Hollard's interest in all things horticulture began in his early years while he helped his grandparents in their garden. In 1926, he bought the Upper Manaia Rd dairy farm, but was quick to bring in sharemilkers so that he could focus on his gardening. He was known to be working from dawn until

dusk in the large garden, with Rose often having to search for him to remind him to eat. He was a hard-working and patient plantsman. He believed that the best plants were the ones worth waiting for. The plant that he bred and was well known for was the Rhododendron Kaponga which took 12 years to flower.

As a regular contributor to a national gardening magazine, Bernie was recognised by his peers for both his horticultural knowledge and his generosity in sharing it.

Hollard Gardens is unique in the fact that it is an achievement of almost a lifetime of work by a private individual. It is a plantsman's garden and a reflection of

patience and horticultural skill. Bernie selected his plants based on personal appeal and on whether they would fill gaps in his existing collections of species or varieties. The overall design of the garden considered not only the aesthetics, but whether a plant would thrive in its environment. Bernie's wife Rose Hollard worked alongside him in the early years and grew her own knowledge of plants.

From the early 1970s, the gardens were open to the public over Labour weekend as a fundraiser for the Kaponga Lions Club. Although Hollards was a private garden, visitors were welcome and enthusiastic gardeners. Horticulturalists and ornithologists visited by appointment. In the peak season, busloads of people arrived.

Bring the family along for the Hollards Family fun day this weekend On Sunday March 3, from 10 am -3pm there will be face painting ,pony rides a scavenger hunt some cool games and a sausage sizzle. Entry is free.

Hollard Gardens
 1686 Upper Manaia Rd, Kaponga
 Open all day every day - free entry
 Ph: 0800 736 222 www.hollardgardens.nz



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23 Napier St, Opunake
OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

A Songless Land (NZ premiere)

Sue Cooke March 1-24
Percy Thomson Gallery
Stratford.

I grew up in a forest. It's like a room. It's protected. Like a cathedral... it is a place between heaven and earth.

- Anselm Kiefer

In 2015 Sue Cooke, a Whanganui-based landscape artist, received

a year-long grant from the Pollack Krasner Foundation in New York that funded drawing, research and development of proposals for artwork based on the past and current deforestation of New Zealand's indigenous forests.

A Songless Land is one of the proposals that grew out of drawing in Northland's



Sue Cooke.

Photo Matt Smith

Kauri forests and Southland's Beech forests. Opening first at Percy Thomson Gallery in Stratford, Taranaki, the exhibition immerses viewers through the mediums of ink, canvas and paper in deforestation, regeneration and highlights natural beauty in order to focus the audience's attention on protecting New Zealand's small and ever-diminishing indigenous forest stock. There was a time, in Aotearoa New Zealand, when the early European settlers' children could not hear their teachers in the schoolroom due to the deafening sound of the indigenous birdsong. The birds thrived in an ecosystem of mature forest lorded by the ancient columns and canopies of Kauri, Beech, Rimu and Totara giants.

Our biodiversity held a special place in global environmental history due to the isolation of an island nation many miles from larger landmasses. It was a completely different experiment in evolution to the rest of the world. The imagery in A Songless Land references destruction, healing and the beauty of New Zealand's indigenous forests. A Songless Land highlights the ease and speed with which mankind can

annihilate mature stands of trees, hundreds of years old but gives us hope for the forests amazing albeit slow ability to heal itself.

A Songless Land is made up of three distinct series of artworks. In the large gallery eight tall thin, collagraphs on canvas will focus on the theme of destruction using totems and ghost trees inspired by the dead Kauri trees of Northland and the mature Beech trees of Southland. The centre piece will be Long Hee Lee, measuring 3.5 metres high by 16 metres long; this image focuses on the theme of regeneration. The work will be made up of 20 loose canvas banners, depicting an amphitheatre of regenerating Kamahi forest in Southland, at the site of the wholesale destruction of mature podocarp forest by European and Chinese loggers and goldminers from the 1870s to 1950s. The Beech at Ohau series of 11 Monoprints highlights the melancholy beauty of the surviving Beech forests.

A Songless Land has relevance and appeal for all age groups. Deforestation is an environmental issue that affects all communities. Climate Change is closely linked to deforestation and is the issue of our times. Disease is also closely linked with deforestation and Kauri dieback is a particular issue that requires New Zealanders to take action. In addition to the exhibition, public programmes include a public conversation with Sue Cooke at 11am on March 2 and art workshops for Taranaki's school children.

Opening Friday 1 March 7pm. All welcome.

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AMAZING GRACE/
ROCKY MOUNTAIN WAY
ALREADY GONE
JAMES DEAN
BEST OF MY LOVE
& MANY MORE

ONE OF THESE NIGHTS
LYING EYES
TAKE IT TO THE LIMIT
AFTER THE THRILL IS GONE
HOTEL CALIFORNIA
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You are warmly invited to the exhibition opening of

A SONGLESS LAND
AN ARTIST'S EXPLORATION OF BEECH, KAMAHI AND KAURI FORESTS
SUE COOKE
1 March 2019 at 7pm

We also invite you to participate in a conversation with the artist 2 March 2019 at 11am

Photo: Matt Smith

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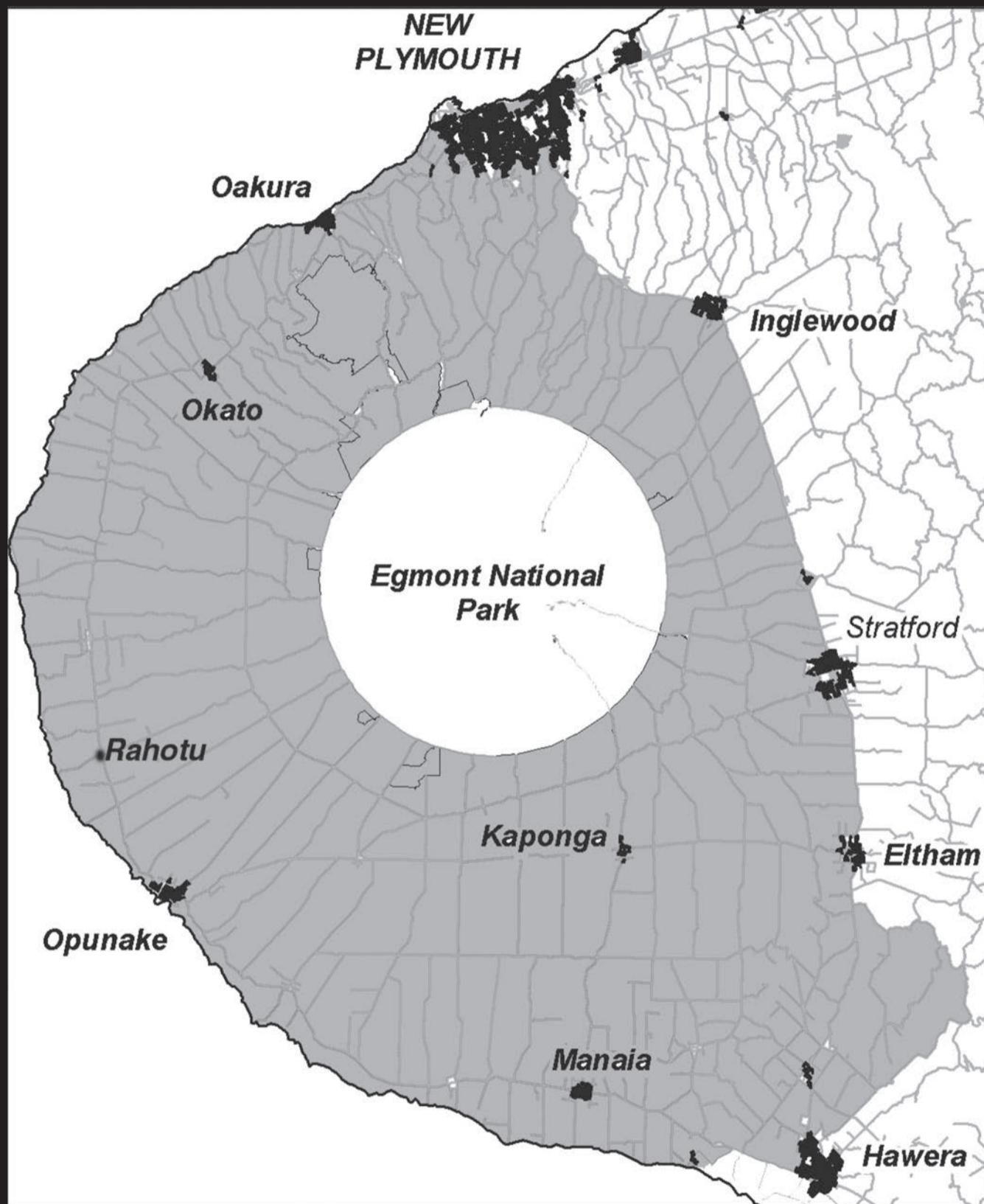
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The Opunake and Coastal News is distributed free to every home and business within the rural area, bounded in the north by the New Plymouth city border, extending east to Egmont Village, and around to the edge of Stratford, south to the Hawera city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

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

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Rugby League hero to speak at Bake-off



Tawera Nikau to speak at Eltham.

Tawera Nikau has represented New Zealand in rugby league, playing 19 tests as a forward. After having his right leg amputated he has been an ambassador for

the Achilles Foundation which gives people with disabilities the opportunity to participate in mainstream events. He has been awarded the MNZM for services to rugby league and the community and in 2011 was recognised as an Emerging Leader by the Sir Peter Blake Trust.

At 7pm on March 22 he will be at the Eltham Town Hall as guest speaker at the Great Eltham Cheese Scone Bake-off.

Nikau has been inducted into New Zealand Legends of League and has captained the New Zealand Maori team at the Rugby League World Cup. He sits on the New Zealand Rugby League Board of Directors and is a

selector for the Kiwis.

Since his accident he has completed the New York Marathon three times. In 2010 and 2015 he completed the Oxfam 100km Taupo Trail Walker which raises funds for Oxfam New Zealand.

The Great Eltham Cheese Scone Bake-off is sponsored by the Eltham Business association, and will be followed by a Market Day and celebration on the following day.

Proof on the plate



We always knew The Good Home had great steaks, now we have the plate to prove it. The Good Home was a recent winner of a Beef and Lamb award for consistently providing high quality steaks to its customers. So if you haven't tried one of our great steaks, try one today. Holding the Award Plate are head chef, Zac and David, the owner of The Good Home.

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Optometrist and optician now at Coastal Care

Coastal Care is adding yet another service to its Opunake Health facility, an optometrist and a dispensing optician. From Browning and Matthews in New Plymouth, they will operate out of Coastal Care every two weeks.

Dan Wilton, the optometrist, does eye tests and prescribes glasses and contact lens including hard lens suited to people with some eye conditions like keratoconus.

Dan also offers another special type of lens you can wear at night so you don't have to wear lenses for the day. They are called Ortho-K lenses. "Not all optometrists can fit them," says Dan, a graduate of Auckland University. "They reshape the cornea when you sleep," he explains adding "they're particularly suited for children who are myopic (short sighted)". The special lenses also slow down the progression of myopia, thus have a therapeutic effect. "That's one of the biggest motivations I have for fitting them," says Dan. Though ideal for children they can also be fitted to adults in some cases.

Dan emphasises the importance of regular eye tests which give a full health



Dan Wilton, optometrist who will be at Coastal Care every Thursday fortnight.

check and can test for eye conditions such as glaucoma, macular degeneration and cataracts.

"Regular eye checks can help preserve your vision."

Diet is important too he says. Eating leafy greens and coloured vegetables – not just carrots – have been linked to slowing the progression of macular degeneration.

Sunglasses are also important in eye health. "In New Zealand we develop cataracts earlier due to more UV exposure," says Dan.

"The sun is so much harsher in New Zealand. UV protection is important," says Dan adding that as long as sunglasses have UV

protection they're fine which most sunglasses have. If you wear prescription glasses you're also protecting your eyes. The clear prescription lenses Browning and Matthews use afford one hundred percent UV protection. Contact lenses also have UV protection. Car windows also give protection, he adds.

Dan spent his early years in Gisborne though his family moved around a bit he says. After training in Auckland he moved to Taranaki.

"I really like working with Brownings," says Dan. A keen surfer he adds also "I really like the surf".

Dispensing optician Peggy Savage complements the eye care service at Coastal Care.

"I specialise in the lenses and the design of the lenses," says Peggy. "He (Dan) gives me the prescription and I suit the glasses to your lifestyle."

Whether people work in an office in front of a computer, or outside, are factored into the most suitable glasses.

"Your working distance has an impact what lens design and what glasses you need." Gender too can also play a part. "Women have shorter arms and read closer than men," she says.

Sun protection is also a factor if you work outside, says Peggy. "We're looking at UV protection. "We use Zeiss lenses in all our glasses which give one hundred percent UV protection." It used to be only photo chromatic lenses – those that darken on exposure to light – that gave full protection. Now all Zeiss lenses do, she says.

"Fashion, function and fit," sums up her role she says adding that fashion is cyclical.

Currently clear plastic frames and finer metal frames with contrasting bridges are in fashion.

They can also supply sun glasses if there's a demand,

including prescription sun glasses.

Born and bred in Taranaki and a proud grandmother of 7, Peggy is learning Spanish at the moment in preparation for going to Peru in August "to teach women how to sew." She belongs to Knox Church in Waitara. A contingent is going from the church and the aim is to teach women a skill and also help children in orphanages. They'll be taking a suitcase of clothes for the women and children and

also glasses. It sounds like a worthy cause.

Coastal Care manager Aretha Lemon said they were "rapt to have the first optometrist here" and said she'd like to thank the TSB Community Trust who funded the equipment for the optician.

"It's really great to see Coastal Care growing their service said Aretha.

Dan and Peggy will be at Coastal Care every Thursday fortnight.



Peggy Savage, specialist eyewear consultant.

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MARCH

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Adults \$10, Students 4-16yrs \$8, Under 4 free Senior Citizens \$8. ID required for all R movies

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.
Fri 1st Mar 7pm

BEN IS BACK
Drama | 1hr 43mins | M; Drug use
19-year-old Ben Burns unexpectedly returns to his family's suburban home on Christmas Eve. Ben's mom, Holly, is relieved and welcoming but wary of her son's drug addiction. Over a turbulent 24 hours, new truths are revealed, and a mother's undying love gets put to the test as Holly does everything in her power to keep Ben clean.
Wed 13th Mar 7pm | Wed 20th Mar 1pm | Fri 29th Mar 7pm

GREEN BOOK
Comedy, Drama | 2hrs 10mins | M; Offensive language
Dr Don Shirley is a world-class African-American pianist, who is about to embark on a concert tour in the Deep South in 1962. In need of a driver and protection, Shirley recruits Tony Lip. The two men soon develop an unexpected bond while confronting racism and danger in an era of segregation.
Sat 2nd Mar 7pm | Sun 10th Mar 7pm

COLD PURSUIT
Drama, Thriller | 1hr 59mins | R16; Violence, suicide themes
Nels Coxman's quiet life as a snowplow driver comes crashing down when his beloved son dies under mysterious circumstances. His search for the truth soon becomes a quest for revenge against a psychotic drug lord named Viking and his sleazy henchmen.
Wed 6th Mar 7pm | Sat 23rd Mar 7pm | Sun 31st Mar 7pm

THE MULE
Drama, Crime, Thriller | 1hr 56mins | M; Offensive Language
Earl Stone, a man in his 80s who is broke, alone, and facing foreclosure of his business when he is offered a job that simply requires him to drive. Easy enough, but, unbeknownst to Earl, he's just signed on as a drug courier.
Sun 3rd Mar 7pm | Fri 8th Mar 7pm | Sat 16th Mar 7pm

WHAT MEN WANT
Comedy, Romance | 1hr 57mins | R; 16 Language & Sexual Content
Passed up for a well-deserved promotion, Ali Davis wonders what else she needs to do to succeed in a man's world. Hoping to find answers from a psychic, Ali drinks a weird concoction that suddenly allows her to hear what men are thinking.
Sat 9th Mar 7pm | Fri 15th Mar 7pm | Sun 24th Mar 7pm

EIGHTH GRADE
Comedy, Drama | 1hr 34mins | M; Sexual references, Language
Thirteen-year-old Kayla endures the tidal wave of contemporary suburban adolescence as she makes her way through the last week of middle school -- the end of her thus far disastrous eighth-grade year. Wed 13th Mar 1pm

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 2nd Mar 1pm | Mon 11th Mar 1pm

Mon	Wed	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1 Glass 7pm	2 The Kid who would be King 1pm Green Book 7pm	3 **BOUTIQUE** The Mule 7pm
	6 Mary Queen of Scots 1pm Cold Pursuit 7pm	8 The Mule 7pm	9 How to Train your dragon 1pm What Men Want 7pm	10 Green Book 7pm
11 The Kid who would be King 1pm Aquaman 7pm	13 Eighth Grade 1pm Ben is Back 7pm	15 What Men Want 7pm	16 Ralph breaks the Internet 1pm The Mule 7pm	17 Celia 7pm



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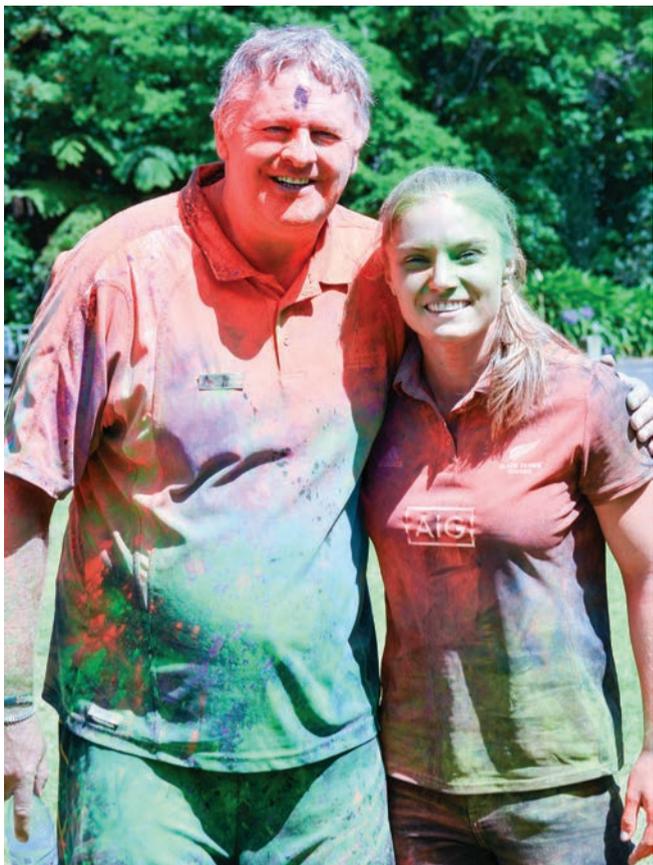
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Even the Fastest get Caught by Rainbow Run Colours



Terry Long and Michaela Blyde at the Rainbow run

Taranaki's own Michaela Blyde, New Zealand Rugby Sevens Player, got caught out at the Taranaki Youth Forum when Sport Taranaki pelted her with Rainbow Run colour.

"What an awesome thing for Sport Taranaki to be doing," says Michaela after she got her breath back. "It's taste pretty gross though."

The Mitre 10 Rainbow Run is exploding back onto New Plymouth's Coastal Walkway on Sunday April 7 thanks to Sport Taranaki. Early bird family tickets will be on sale from Monday February 18 at 9am through to Sunday February 24 only.

This event is a fun, colour spectacular and fantastic way to get Taranaki families

active. Sport Taranaki are offering early bird family tickets at a discounted price to inspire more families to get active whilst enjoying the bright and brilliant party atmosphere that is the Mitre 10 Rainbow Run.

"We want to see if there are any kids out there that can run as fast as Michaela." Says Terry Long, Sport Taranaki's Event Director. "Every year the event gets bigger, the smiles broader and the laughter more contagious. We can't wait for Taranaki to run the rainbow again this April."

This year we have extra bright fluoro colours to throw at the runners. The party will be starting with music, dancing and family fun right from the beginning of the run and the fun will keep going right through to The Seaside Markets at the finish line with delicious food and drink options. There will be spot prizes from Mitre 10 and the notorious mass colour throw to end the run.

There will be a bus service available for Rainbow Runners again this year from the corner of Breakwater Rd and Pioneer Rd to take participants through to the start.

The Mitre 10 Rainbow Run funds Sport Taranaki's programmes throughout the Taranaki community. Sport

Taranaki is a regional sports trust which supports and promotes sport and active recreation in the Taranaki region.

Early bird family tickets are discounted to \$50.00 (usually \$70.00) and include two adults and two children.

General release for all tickets will be on Monday February 25. Ticket prices will be Family \$70.00 (two adults and two children), Adult \$30.00, Student \$20.00 (13-18 years), Child \$10.00 (12 years and under). Bus tickets will be an additional \$3.00 per person.

Tickets will be on sale through www.eventfinda.co.nz



Sport Taranaki staff attacking Michaela.



Participants get pelted.



Rainbow Run 2019

Sunday 7 April

New Plymouth Coastal Walkway



Get Your Tickets: www.eventfinda.co.nz