



# OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

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## Inside



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Rural support in tough times. Page 15.



The Print Shoppe continues but in a new location. Page 27.



Retrospective exhibition a must see. Page 26

# Opunake says goodbye to Val

Mention the name Val to anyone in Opunake and the surrounding districts and immediately one person comes to mind.

Everyone knew Valerie Daisy Wallace who sadly passed away on December 13, 2016.

When I first came to Opunake and became involved with the Opunake & Coastal News, unacquainted with the locals and seeking information about various things in the community, everyone seemed to refer me to Val Wallace. Eventually I was to meet this community icon and came to appreciate why she had such a profile in the tight knit Opunake community.

Val was involved in so many community concerns and with her great sense of fun had endeared herself to the community in a way few do.

Val was born in September 16, 1925 in Hawera the second of nine children and raised in, by her own account, a very caring but ordinary upbringing.

It wasn't always easy however. At the age of four she was taken to a specialist as she was unable to talk. When she did begin to talk it was with a stutter and she had trouble expressing herself and, Val claimed, she ended up with an inferiority complex. She soon however learnt to overcome her speech

defect. Val became a great talker.

She went to Meremere Primary School for seven years and, as it was not compulsory to attend high school and as money was short, there her schooling ended.

For the next nine years Val lived at home helping her parents on their dairy farm. She joined the 'Land Girls' an organisation created during the World Wars so women could work in agriculture replacing men called to the military. Her limited social life centred round tennis and table tennis.

In 1946 Val went nurse aiding at Dr Young's hospital in Hawera and the next year spent six months at Kimberley Levin Farm caring for intellectually handicapped people.

She went on to train as a maternity nurse and, after graduating, worked in several hospitals in the North Island eventually returning to Hawera where she worked at the maternity hospital.

In 1955 Val married Bill, a Meremere sheep farmer, and had a family of three children. She became involved with the Women's Division of Federated Farmers where she became treasurer and secretary and was awarded branch honours when they left the district.

*Continued page 3*



Val as she will be fondly remembered.

## Okato Four Square burglary ends in arrests

In the early hours of Sunday January 29 three thieves broke into Okato Four Square, stealing cigarettes and tobacco. Craig and Wendy Fleming, the owners, believe the raid was carried out somewhere between 3.30am and 4.30am. They got inside from the back of the building. "We have a feeling of violation," commented Craig.

However, the offenders made a mistake; they thought they had disabled the power source thus (they thought) throwing the security camera out of operation, but this was not the case, as the store has a back-up source of electricity. Good security camera footage of the thieves, who were wearing distinctive clothing and footwear, helped reveal the alleged offenders identity along with great help by the community with particular reference to Facebook.

Just 36 hours after the heist the alleged offenders were arrested and are now in custody awaiting trial. Craig and Wendy have installed further security ensuring any further raid will be virtually impossible and they urge other business owners to likewise invest in good quality security. "It really pays off," comments Wendy.

The couple would like to thank the huge response from

the wider community, which came in the form of Facebook, emails and visits, as well as

the Police. "Working together to solve crime," certainly helps says Wendy.



Okato Four Square which was burgled over the weekend.

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## Letters to the Editor

### Opunake's "new toilet"

I am a local that walks for my health and uses the Whitcombe Road at least three times a week.

On three different occasions I have had to turn away in disgust at a young man relieving himself on the steps of the "new toilet." Once at 1.30 on a Sunday afternoon.

The "toilet" is on the corner of Whitcombe Road and Allison Street, with the school on the opposite corner.

I must congratulate the management and team at Heartland Construction on having the foresight to build a toilet over the road from a school.

One would wonder how the STDC would give a permit

for such a building. This is a disgusting and filthy habit. Even the local dogs have the decency to find a pole or a tree to do their thing.

Also, what is with all the burn out marks all over town? There just seems to be more and more. Even on the main street. What great advertising for our little town? Just what we need visitors to see.

It's time to grow up and realise the world does not revolve around them.

*Disgusted Walker  
Opunake*

### Remembering the Jaycees

Our city of New Plymouth is extremely lucky to have a zoo at all. It was the New Plymouth Jaycee chapter that actually got the ball

rolling at the time and raised quite a large sum of money, picked the site and began to build. Suddenly the City Council of the time saw what was happening and wanted to be part of it, so between the Jaycee chapter and the council, the Brooklands zoo evolved to what it is today.

As an ex Jaycee myself I remember I was on the committee when we as a chapter raised money for the Capuchin monkeys by having a huge Mardi Gras between Liardet and Gover Streets in the main street of New Plymouth. It was a great night as we raised enough money for those monkeys and had enough money left over to bring in

others later on.

In those days every town in Taranaki had a Jaycee chapter, from Waitara, two in New Plymouth, Inglewood, Hawera, Stratford and Opunake., but sadly the Jaycee organisation in the whole of New Zealand no longer exists any more.

This organisation always did some extremely excellent community work in their cities and towns throughout the country.

*Tom Stephens  
New Plymouth*

### Stopping farm burglaries

Having between 15-20 burglaries a month is

*Continued page 3*



# OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

## Publication Dates for 2017

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL								
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**EDITORIAL** - 5pm Thursday prior to publication.  
**DISPLAY ADVERTS** - 5pm Friday prior to publication.  
**CLASSIFIEDS** - 3pm Monday prior to publication.

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Continued from page 2

absolutely and extremely unnecessary here in rural Taranaki. When stock or farm machinery go missing, farmers go grizzling to the police or to the media. It's too late then isn't it?

I really believe our farmers are not listening to our police, are too complacent, don't regularly check their properties enough, let too many matters go by without making a note of them to show the police, aren't careful enough on who they employ, and don't communicate with one another enough, which is extremely vital.

Farmers must communicate at all times and help each other when checking their properties,

take note when they see anything suspicious, lock away all farm machinery in their implement sheds, lock up their homes and take the keys with them on a special key ring.

Is or isn't that simple enough? Every farmer should take full responsibility for his farming items at all times. So come on farmers. Let's stop this nonsense once and for all. Otherwise you'll all get many farming items and stock stolen right in front of you all without even knowing it.

Tom Stephens  
New Plymouth.

### Why have community boards?

Maree Liddington's article Things don't work unless

we do (Opunake and Coastal News December 3, 2016) is so true.

Some people had asked Mrs Liddington why we need and have community boards. To these naïve people, the reason why each town in our country has community boards is that it allows people of and from their particular towns to make suggestions on what they would like to see happen for town development or anything else to improve their town's environment, helping their town to flourish so they can attract visitors and tourists alike and new people and industries. Community Boards then lobby their respective councils.

Every so often our community boards should

allow their townsfolk to a town meeting and bring their ideas. It's good to see Eltham's Community Board going to Kaponga to help them out. So let's hope that one day Kaponga can have their own community board.

Tom Stephens  
New Plymouth

### Reunion notice

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## Editorial

# Freedom camping

With tourism now New Zealand's biggest export industry we should be encouraging tourists – whatever shape or form they come in.

The world has finally noticed New Zealand and we must capitalise on New Zealand's growing reputation as a tourist destination as well as a desirable place to live.

Taranaki and particularly Opunake is a bit off the tourism track. Those who do venture our way are more likely to be people who enjoy the outdoors, experience our mountain, swim in our beaches, surf. In short, not the type of city tourist who stay in 5 star hotels betting in casinos and shopping. Taranaki attracts adventure tourists.

Which is why we should

allow freedom camping.

For those who don't relish spending their holidays wedged within a township of other campers, but would rather seek out their own unique spot in New Zealand's vast wilderness, they should be accommodated. Finding a place where you can convene with nature away from the usual trappings of civilisation has always been part of the charm of camping.

Taranaki needs to be promoting itself as welcoming freedom campers.

We need more people visiting, enjoying the experience, telling their friends and family back home so they too may trip to the other side of the world to share in our country.

Middleton's Bay in Opunake used to be a popular



The sign at Middletons Bay.

destination for campervans. That is until the South Taranaki District Council decided to forbid the harmless practice. There are limited facilities there including a toilet so what is the problem.

Now banned from this location people are now driven to camping on the green overlooking Middleton's Bay.

The rec ground was another favoured place –

with toilet facilities – until this was stopped and access denied.

It would be great to see the South Taranaki District Council take the lead in promoting freedom camping, especially where there are already ablution facilities and in this way promote the entire district.

So come on show some initiative and originality of thought.

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COMMUNITY COMMENT

# A victim of our own success

Now that school has gone back the good weather will probably kick in. As visitor numbers continue to rise, New Zealand is going through a few teething problems with the new Freedom Camping laws – and we're no exception. The South Taranaki District Council are doing their best to keep control and accommodate freedom camping in our district, but it's a work in progress. Public toilets and correct signage are the two main issues we are working on. Please don't remove the freedom camp-



Craig Dingle

ing signs as the council have no power to move people on if the signage has been removed. The "Camper Mate" app seems to be the main way Tourist are finding the spots to camp.

Taranaki has been a victim of its own success to a degree – first with the region's success at being named second best region in the world to visit in 2017 by travel bible

The Lonely Planet (which received huge national and international exposure) and the Kaikoura earthquakes which diverted a lot of tourists up this way. I think it's all about getting the right balance. As a district we want to welcome visitors most of whom are respectful and law abiding, but we also want to balance that with protecting our community and the en-

vironment.

Finally if you have any old surfboards you no longer need get them to Turning Heads Hair dressers in Opunake. The Surfboard Fence is coming.

Craig Dingle  
Chairperson

Egmont Plains Community Board

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In 1967 she and Bill bought a dairy farm in Patiki Road, Pihama where they lived for 18 years. As the family grew so did Val's community work, her get up and go attitude and her enormous energy gaining her a growing reputation on the coast. Val always said she was a 'busy child' and this certainly continued into adulthood.

She joined the Auroa branch of WDFP rising to President receiving Branch Honours later becoming an associate member of the Opunake branch. She was also a president and secretary of the Pihama Country Women's Institute and awarded a Good Service Badge for her

involvement. She was also a member of the Pihama Hall Board and a past president, secretary and treasurer of the Pihama Outdoor Bowls Club, a member of the Pihama Home and School and a member of the Auroa Anglican Guild.

In 1985 Bill and Val sold their farm at Pihama and shifted to Opunake but, as Val insisted, not to retire. It was just a change in residence and her busy life continued.

She was on the St John Ambulance Committee for 8 years and a member of the Opunake RSA Ladies section for 7 years. She joined the Opunake Lions Club, later the Opunake Lakeside Lions, becoming president. She was a committee member and an efficient co-ordinator of Home Care committed to keeping elderly or convalescent people living in their own homes. Home Care was deemed to be the most efficiently run in the country and Val received the Dominion Silver Tray in recognition of her services in New Zealand in 1991.

Val was also a member and past chairperson of the Opunake Community Health Committee established in 1988 by the Taranaki Area Health Board. In Pihama Val had been very active in establishing the local blood donors based at Pihama Hall and building up its numbers. She would spend hours on the phone contacting everyone the night before

and woe betide anyone who didn't turn up. The only excuse Val would accept was if you were pregnant and Val usually found this out before anyone else.

Val had a long association with Opunake's Cottage Rest Home and was among those on the steering committee to establish a rest home in Opunake and became secretary of the Cottage Rest Home Trust formed in 1990. She was seen as a tower of strength - involved in everything from making puree for the Rest Home's kitchen, to entertaining residents with her infectious happy, personality. She was also a co-ordinator of the Arthritis National Appeal, a volunteer at the Egmont Public Library in Opunake and a Friend of the Library. She was also a volunteer at Opunake's Everybodys Theatre and secretary of the Trade Aid Trust in Opunake. She was also chairperson and co-ordinator of the Opunake Food Bank established in 1991.

Val was also a member of the Opunake Players and a past secretary - performing engagingly in many past productions. Val's legendary sense of fun was often evident in community celebrations such as the annual Christmas parade where Val would be dressed as a ballerina, bumble bee or clown doing what she loved most – entertaining and raising money for community groups.

Somehow, among all this frenetic activity, Val got time to have a holiday and in 1976 went to England and Europe for three months and in 1979 headed to America, Canada and Singapore for a month. The overseas

holiday she most enjoyed however, was her last, in 1981, to China. Typically, Val shared this experience with over 34 organisations all over Taranaki.

In 1991 Val received a South Taranaki Citizens Award and in 1992 she deservedly was honoured for her sterling community work with a Queens Service Medal.

An abiding memory I have of Val was some years ago buying a computer off her. She arrived with the computer and I went to the door to get it from her car, there was Val, well into her eighties, struggling up the steps with this huge computer.

Val was certainly a force - and a force for good.

Several years ago Val, her health failing, left Opunake and moved to Hawera. It was a sad occasion.

Her huge funeral held at the Opunake High School Hall was testament to the many lives she had touched.

It was nice she'd returned. Val's energy, vibrancy and perhaps most her sense of fun will be much missed.

Val is survived by her three children Ann, Christopher and Peter, as well as several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

*This obituary was compiled in part from notes left with her great friend Val Tarrant. The two Vals had made a pact years ago that whoever survived the other would read out the others obituary. Unfortunately Val, who coincidentally also married a Bill and shared the same birthday with Val Wallace, though the latter was three years older, attended the funeral, but was not well and thus the prepared obituary was not read out.*

Bernice McKellar

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# Opunake Motels & Backpackers under new ownership

As of December 9, Opunake Motels & Backpackers at 36 Heaphy Road have new owners in Peter Clement and Esther Ward-Campbell. The couple appreciate that the former owners Ronald and Liane Ockhuysen have left the motels in such a healthy state.

Peter and Esther, who are both teachers, saw the accommodation venture as "a good opportunity, as well as work for their children," explains Peter. He is amused – and pleased – that his uncle and aunt, Doug and Bev Coxhead owned the motel some years ago. "Opunake is a great little town and a pleasant place to be," adds Peter.

Esther, who is originally from Takaka, Golden Bay, has a useful background she brings to the new venture. She has experience as chef and has worked in the hospitality industry. Her daughter Ruby is expected to take a role in running the motel, as does Peter's daughter Tara.

Gardening is a major interest for Esther and she has many ideas to enhance the property with new plantings. Apart from a herb garden, seasonal produce will soon be available for clients. Other plans include planting fruit trees, native trees and shrubs, including ornamental flaxes. Esther also enjoys swimming.

Peter is born and bred in Opunake and worked as a civil engineer prior to becoming a teacher. He is keenly interested in most sport and finds relaxation in cycling and playing lawn bowls for the Opunake Club. He also keeps a fatherly eye



**New owners of Opunake Motels & Backpackers, Esther Ward-Campbell and Peter Clement. Margaret Scott painted the stunning mural.**

on the basketball exploits of his children Tara and Joel, while his son Jacob is a keen fisherman.

The couple are environmentally conscious and plan to install solar panels, as well as a large water tank to harvest runoff water from the roof area.

Peter and Esther are also keen to cater for a very wide range of clients including disabled people. One cottage, the newest building, has been designed to help those in need of a ramp for wheelchairs, bathroom railings and a retractable shower seat.

The facilities include a six bedroomed backpackers lodge, four self-contained motel units and a three bedroomed cottage. Everything is in good order with the emphasis on comfort and even character. Despite the fact that all facilities are admirably catered for, the couple have plans for the future. These include a further upgrade of the backpacker cottage. At present, although a flourishing vegetable garden is already established, there

is still most of a two acre area to be developed even further possibly benefiting campers in various ways, including a camping and caravan area, a motorhome area and a fire pit.

You can learn more by viewing [www.opunakemotel.co.nz](http://www.opunakemotel.co.nz) You can make contact by phoning 06 761 8330 or emailing [opunakemotel.co.nz](mailto:opunakemotel.co.nz) Close to all amenities, yet in a peaceful location Opunake Motels & Backpackers promises a relaxing holiday with friendly hosts in Esther and Peter.



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## OKATO COPPERS

Hello everyone  
I trust that people had a good Christmas and New Year's break and hope that many of you got to get away for some of the holidays.

Christmas and New Years traditionally give emergency services a bit of a runaround and this year was no different, but to be fair not as busy as some other years have been. New Years Eve was fairly non eventful in Oakura and Okato despite numerous people attending the concerts held at Butlers Reef. The staff at Butlers run a pretty tight ship and had things running smoothly and police made no arrests at the venue at all. Everyone appeared to be in good spirits so that makes our job a lot easier. Good to see so many people having a good time. Certainly enjoyed a few good chats with some of you as you were exiting the venue, I'm sure some had sore heads the next day.

As it has been in the news a lot recently, the Okato Four Square was broken into over the weekend of January 28-29 and large



Constable Rhys Connell

amounts of cigarettes were stolen. We would really like to hear from anyone who has any information no matter how small and significant in regards to the burglary. It may be you have a missing piece of the puzzle be it a vehicle you may have seen or a little rumour that you have heard. It may be that you have been offered cigarettes for sale or know of someone selling cigarettes.

Also the Oakura BP had an attempt the previous night to the Okato Four Square, but attempts to enter the store were unsuccessful. Again we would like any information in

# Cannabis prevalent locally

regards to this matter as well. All information received would be kept strictly confidential and police can be contacted by ringing either the Okato land line on 06 7524111 or can contact me on my cell phone on 021 1914920. Alternatively police can be contacted anonymously by calling Crime stoppers on 0800 555 111.

This time of the year people usually like to grow their cannabis. Often we will locate it growing alongside rivers, bush areas and maize crops. Don't be naïve enough to think that people won't grow it on your property because they do. I know that it is prevalent in our community and has appeared in the local schools last year from time to time brought in by students. I'm not sure about you, but that is a real concern to me that our kids have such easy access to this drug. I'm keen to stamp it out of our community or at the very least put a dent in the sale and distribution to our community members.

In the last couple of years we have seized hundreds of plants growing in the areas I have spoken about and taken it off the streets. A lot of information we get has been passed onto police by concerned community members, so I thank them for their continued support.

If you know have any information regarding cannabis and other drug related offending then please let me know by again contacting me on my cell phone 0211914920 or again ring Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. All information will be kept strictly confidential.

Have a good week – hopefully summer is around the corner. Watch out for our kids as they return to school – I'm sure most of them will be raring to go after their long break, or more likely that Mums and Dads are raring to get them out of their hair for a little while.

Thanks in advance for your help over the things I have mentioned above

## OPUNAKE COPS



Constable Peter Sherrie

The actions of two young Opunake lads have impressed PC Pete Sherrie of the Opunake police.

Around December 29, 2-3 chilly bins had been taken from the Opunake camping ground. One of the victims was a visitor to Opunake who lost a whole chilly bin full of food.

"A local lady had two boys aged 2-3 who heard about it and suggested sharing their fruit," Mr Sherrie said. "Their mum said, we can do better than that and bought three bags of groceries."

They went to the camping ground where Mr Sherrie was on foot patrol at the time and asked him how they could

## Impressed by young lads

find the victim of the theft.

So impressed was he with the young lads wanting to do a good deed off their own bat that he immediately shouted them ice creams.

"You had people not living here who were affected by a crime in town, and it was locals who helped them out," he said.

While the actions of two lads may have been a good advertisement for the town, less impressive was the actions of a male spoken to for urinating on the side of the library.

"His silly explanation was that he couldn't make it to the toilets across the road," Mr Sherrie said. "There are a lot of visitors to town this time of year. People use the free WiFi at the Library. This isn't the image we want to portray to people visiting our town."

The Library was also the scene of a traffic incident.

"A male was spoken to who decided it was easier to drive his car off the road

between two barriers outside the library. His explanation was that he had to get some money out of the money machine. This was at 10 o'clock at night," Mr Sherrie said.

In other traffic incidents, a driver was stopped for driving at 168Kph on a rural road. He was twice the breath/alcohol limit. There were four passengers in the car at the time also consuming alcohol.

Another driver was stopped for driving at 153kph on a rural road. Both drivers are being dealt with by the courts.

Two vehicles were issued with green stickers during the Christmas-New Year break. One vehicle had no exhaust/muffler, making it extremely loud. The other had had no warrant of fitness or registration since 2015.

Other traffic concerns have included people not wearing seat belts, not stopping at stop signs, or driving on restricted and learners licences with passengers outside permitted

hours.

Mr Sherrie said he wanted to encourage people to use the 111 system rather than texting individual police officers.

"These people may not know who's on duty at the time. Using the 111 system gives us better time to respond. We had a couple of instances where this happened and it could have been dealt with earlier if it had been called through the proper channels.

"People might say we don't want to bother 111 as we think it might not be an emergency, but we would say let the people at 111 decide what priority the job is.

"We always want people to come and talk to us about what's happening in the community, no matter how big or small the problem is."

Peter Sherrie,  
Constable Opunake



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# Opunake Volunteer Fire Brigade grieves for John's family

Tuesday December 27 was an extremely sad day for the members of our brigade and the Sharpe family. It was the day ex fire fighter John Sharpe passed away after a very long fight with cancer. John may have resigned from the brigade a few years ago through the illness, but as far as we were concerned, he never left. A good number of us converged unannounced on his property a short while back, and gave certain areas that had been concerning John a makeover. We concluded the working bee with a barbeque, a beer and a lot of laughs. Rest in peace John boy.

The final call out for the year (our 71<sup>st</sup>) came in on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> when we were dispatched to a "hedge fire near the corner of the Eltham and Waiteika Roads." The call was phoned in from a house on the Watino Road by a concerned citizen, who had a guess as to what and where the fire was. Our two appliances were sent to investigate and found a controlled burn - off, of pampas grass being carried out half way up the Kaweora Road. The farmer had safety measures in place and the fire was under control so we headed for home.

The brigade once again took part in the very successful 2017 Opunake Beach Carnival. We had the fire service trailer which has all of the goodies that are given away, along with a gazebo, tables and chairs to make our life a little easier. It is always great to see the youngsters enjoying climbing in, around, and having fun in a fire engine. Often they see them in the line of duty with red lights and sirens going and they can be frightened so it's great to let them "explore" and get rid of any issues they may have.

Hopefully, we may get a trainee fire recruit or two from the carnival day, as a few people showed an interest in volunteering. We do have a couple of places coming up with two of our members heading offshore, so if you are thinking about joining the greatest family in the world, now would be a good time to put out some feelers.

Maybe you are a high school pupil in year 11, and intend staying around a while and have been thinking about the fire service. Five of our members are employed at the moment because of their association with the brigade. One is a permanent fire fighter in New Plymouth, as well as being in our brigade, two are oil and gas operators, another is the lead fire officer for the Fonterra sites in the lower half of the North Island and another is a trainer at the Oaonui Hot Fire Training facility. Two other members were also employed at the Oaonui training ground for a long period. I have given these examples to show that good careers can result from humble beginnings in the brigade.

We don't want anyone who just wants "Volunteer Fire Fighter" on their CV. We want people joining up for the right reasons and who can stay for a few years to help out the community. So parents please have a chat with your teenager, and if they want to know more, pop along on a Monday night at 7 o'clock and have a word with Rodney Woods, our Chief Fire Officer. If you have any queries you wish to check on before possibly fronting up at the station give Beau Le Prou a call on 761 7242 and he may be able to help. After all, you don't know where a

fire fighting background can take you.

We had to wait until January 20 for the first call out of the year when a Toyota van failed to take the corner at the bottom of the beach hill, and crashed into a power pole. The accident caused a lot of dinners to be spoilt as it knocked the power out for a good portion of the town. Luckily it was a quick fix for the power repair chaps once we towed the vehicle away from the pole. We didn't move the van until we got the okay from the power authority because we weren't exactly sure if all wires were dead.

We had a late night call out on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> when we responded to an "arcing" power transformer on the Mangawhero Road near Riverlea. I am still unsure as to why we were called as it is outside of our normal response area, and both the Kaponga and Manaia Brigades were also dispatched. However we did go for a drive, we had a look and returned back to base.

We were on the road again on the morning of Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> when a concerned neighbour rung in saying the unoccupied house next door had a roof flashing flapping about. It was a simple fix for "Fireman Sam" and we were soon on our way again.

The alarm was ringing again on Monday afternoon when we were called to block off King Street, so the Rescue helicopter could land near the Medical Centre. A patient was suffering from severe chest pains and the call was made to get him to Base Hospital as soon as possible. Everything went like clockwork, so a good friend and wonderful brigade supporter was soon heading off for vital

treatment. We would like to thank the good folk of Opunake for their understanding with the disruption that we caused when we blocked off the street.

Several members were involved with traffic management on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> for the Around the Mountain cycle race. We helped at various intersections to direct the support vehicles so they didn't cause havoc with the cyclists. Everything went fine and as a result of our participation, we will hopefully receive a small donation for our troubles.

The fire siren sounded a few minutes after the lunch time whistle on Monday 30<sup>th</sup>, when we were called to a small chemical spill at the Opunake Primary School pool. The school principal advised the kindergarten administrators of the incident even though there was no danger to their students' health. Two of the crew that had donned breathing apparatus went about containing the chlorine granules, and we were soon on the road again..

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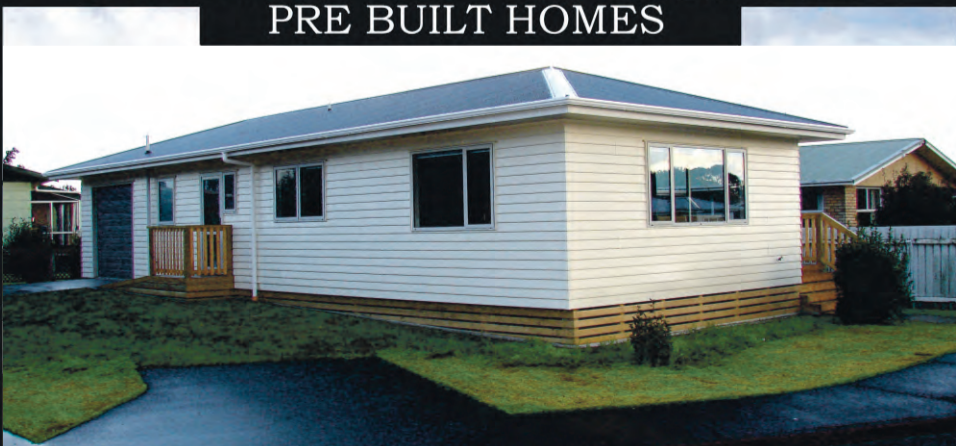
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# A massive leap backward for humanity

Back in 1987 the then Labour Government brought an end to one of the most racist policies New Zealand has ever enacted. Until then, successive New Zealand Governments had both actively promoted immigration from Great Britain, Ireland and Europe and actively discouraged immigration from other parts of the world, particularly Asia.

It wasn't a secret. Governments openly spoke of an immigration system based firmly on the principle that New Zealand was, and intended to remain, a country of European development.

What was acceptable in the early to mid-20th century gradually became intolerable as people came to realise that it wasn't just discriminatory to block people of a particular race, religion or country of birth from entering New Zealand, it was also against our best interests as a nation. Things began to change under



Andrew Little MP

the Kirk Labour Government in 1974, but it was only in 1987 that race-based immigration was completely replaced with a skills-based points system.

At the same time, the Government established a system for accepting refugees. Again it was not based on race, religion or country of birth but on need - assessed in an open and transparent way.

New Zealand was not alone in moving away from racist immigration policies. Enlightened nations around the world came to understand that intolerance was detri-

mental to the development of their societies and economies. We had learned about the importance of connectedness, of the vigour that diversity can bring to our communities and the important role treating people with decency played in maintaining peace around the world.

That all makes United States President Trump's decision to block people from certain Muslim countries and refugees from entering America all the more abhorrent. It marks a massive leap backwards for humanity. All that we have learned and all that we have gained from developing a deeper understanding of people who act, look and sound different from ourselves has been tossed on the bonfire of populist rage.

It will do nothing to make America safer; it will make the world a more dangerous place. The targeted nations will retaliate. It will drive alienated young people into the arms of the terrorists.

Sadly, some people will follow the President's lead and take out their anger on people for no other reason than that they are different.

New Zealand must say no to this poisonous prejudice by doing two things. First, we can demonstrate our humanity and rejection of Trump's policy by increasing the number of refugees we embrace each year to 1500.

Second, our Prime Minister Bill English can honour our tradition of standing up to bullies by publicly condemning Trump's Muslim ban. He wouldn't be sticking his neck out. Plenty of world leaders have already spoken up.

In a world of turmoil when we seem to be going backwards at an alarming speed, New Zealand must stand up and be counted amongst the mature and civilised nations who know the only way forward is tolerance.

Andrew Little MP

## Better connectivity for New Zealanders

Positive news came out for small town New Zealand last week. The government is investing \$300 million to expand the Ultra-Fast Broadband (UFB) programme to an additional 151 towns across New Zealand, plus 43 suburban fringe areas around the larger centres which were covered by the first phase of the programme. The good news is that Okato and Opunake are included in the latest plans for extending ultrafast broadband.

Connectivity has become an essential part of modern life. High quality internet makes a difference to the way we run our local busi-



nesses, with access to the digital economy and greater commercial opportunities. In schools, students and teachers can benefit from online learning resources, and explore innovative approaches to teaching and learning.

And it brings convenience

and efficiency to our everyday lives.

The Government recognises the role of high quality internet in driving economic and social growth. We are working hard to deliver the best possible telecommunications infrastructure to all New Zealanders. Rolling out faster, more reliable internet is a vital part of our plan in developing a productive and competitive economy, improving health and educational outcomes and creating more jobs for Kiwis and their families.

By the end of 2024, approximately 85 per cent of New Zealanders will have access to fibre, far exceeding our original target of 80 per cent by 2022. This will put New Zealand among the leaders in the OECD for access to fibre.

The government investment to get Urenui, Waitara, Inglewood, Okato, Opunake, Manaia, Eltham, Stratford and Patea connected up is just under four million dollars.

Out of that list of towns, Opunake with its 1,300 residents will get its ultrafast connections completed first, over the next couple of years, with over 23,000 more residents in Taranaki benefiting from this.

Through this phase 2 programme, the total number who can have access to ultrafast broadband will increase by another 423,000 people across 151 towns.

The second phase of UFB installations will start in 2017 and be completed between 2018 and 2024. Phase two of the build will see each build

area be completed within a 12 month period in order to provide as little disruption as possible.

Phase one of UFB has already brought fibre access to over one million households and businesses in 38 towns and cities across New Zealand. The level of UFB uptake is at 30 per cent, with over 300,000 connections.

The Government is ensuring more of our local businesses, schools, hospitals, and rural communities will be able to take advantage of a faster and more reliable broadband network, and the opportunities it provides.

Regarding the Broadband Initiative (RBI), a Request for Proposals was issued in October last year, to extend the Rural and provide mobile coverage to black spots on state highways and in tourist areas.

Around 293,000 rural New Zealanders are accessing better broadband under the first phase of our RBI programme. Under the RBI Extension, improved broadband will be delivered to communities unable to access broadband speeds of at least 20 Megabits per second. The Mobile Black Spot Fund will improve the availability of mobile services to areas which do not have coverage from any mobile operator. A long list of State Highway and tourism locations has been identified that the Government is interested in seeing proposals for.

Jonathan Young MP

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# Promotion for Jonathan Young

Prime Minister Bill English has appointed New Plymouth MP Jonathan Young as a Parliamentary Private Secretary to assist in Economic Development.

Parliamentary Private Secretaries are MPs appointed to assist Ministers but, unlike Under-Secretaries, they are not part of the Executive. They receive no extra remuneration.

“These are important roles that help ensure strong links between the Minister and caucus and help ensure communities are better served by the Government,” Mr English says.

“Mr Young will play an important role in helping encourage economic development, with a strong focus on regional New Zealand.”

Mr Young said it is a real privilege to be appointed by the Prime Minister to work in area that has such importance to New Zealand, especially regional New Zealand.

“It means I will work more closely with the Minister



**Jonathan Young MP (left) with the Prime Minister Rt Hon Bill English.**

of Economic Development, Simon Bridges, and other Ministers who have significant contributions into the economic success of the regions in New Zealand.

“Coming from Taranaki has given me insight into what a region can achieve through mature industries such as dairying and the petro-chemical industry; but when the international prices come off historic highs, it

forces you to look at the other areas of potential growth a region has. This has been the case here in Taranaki where I’ve especially championed development of the tourism sector over the last few years. I want to bring this experience to this role.”

Mr Young has been strongly committed to skill training in the regions and has developed initiatives to assist young people find their future in Ta-

ranaki and believes regional New Zealand is the best place to learn, earn and live, which is being appreciated more and more by those in the major cities.

“I am looking forward to working more closely with Mr Bridges and his team to see ongoing growth and development in regional New Zealand,” Mr Young said.

Melissa Lee is re-appointed as a Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Ethnic Communities Minister while Jian Yang will join her in that role. Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi will assist the Minister of Police, and Scott Simpson will work with the Environment and Conservation ministers.

A Minister cannot delegate any statutory roles or function to a PPS, however it is expected that the PPS represent their Minister at public events and deliver speeches on occasions when the Minister is not available.

# Labour and Greens commit to changing the Government

The Labour and Green parties’ joint State of the Nation event shows voters there is a plan to build a better New Zealand, says Leader of the Opposition Andrew Little.

“Everything we’ll do in government will be about building a better New Zealand: a country that is the envy of the world, where everyone has their shot at the Kiwi Dream.

“Both Labour and the

Greens believe that politics is about building a future for everyone. Like me, Metiria and James believe all our children deserve good housing, a world-class education, and the best start in life. We know that New Zealand’s future must be built on good, sustainable jobs that pay a fair wage.

“We will run surpluses, just like last time. We’ll grow the economy, and pay down Bill

English’s record debt. We’ve balanced the books before, and we’ll do it again.

“National are out of ideas and out of touch. They’ve got nothing new to offer.

“New Zealanders have a clear choice at this election. We can choose a tired Government with no new ideas, or we can choose a new, positive vision for a better New Zealand.”

Andrew Little shared stories

of his battle with cancer and about his son that shape his vision,

“Here’s my message to New Zealanders this year - if you want better housing, better health, better schools; if you share our vision for New Zealand, do this: join our movement to change the government.”

# Local MPs welcome UFB expansion in Taranaki

Taranaki MPs Hon Chester Borrows, Barbara Kuriger, and Jonathan Young have welcomed news of phase two of the Government’s ultrafast broadband programme to the Taranaki region.

“I am excited about the Government’s announcement that the Ultra-Fast Broadband (UFB) programme will be extended to 151 additional towns across New Zealand, plus 43 suburban fringe areas around the larger centres which were covered by the first phase of the programme,” says Kuriger.

“This expansion is great news for the country, and especially great news for the Taranaki region. Nine towns across Taranaki are set to be connected, driving the growth of our region and helping provincial New Zealand stay connected to the rest of the world,” said Kuriger.

“Broadband didn’t exist in 1999 but now we couldn’t function as a modern society without it, because it is essential to do business, educate, and engage outside

of Taranaki conveniently,” said Borrows.

“This is like the arrival of domestic electricity and telephone services were back in the mid-20th century - absolutely essential.”

“News that broadband is coming to Stratford, Eltham, Manaia and Patea is welcome indeed as there are many households and businesses in these towns dependant on

modern connectivity. Thousands of households and businesses are already making the most of the UFB network since phase one of the rollout, and phase two will enhance the connections,” said Borrows.

“Improved connectivity is valuable in growing our regional economy, driving innovation, and supporting our local education and health

services. This expansion will enable more businesses that rely on the digital internet platform to be located in Taranaki and connect with speed and reliability to anywhere in the world,” said Young.

“I have spent time over the last two years talking with businesses, understanding the

*Continued on page 11*



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# When Hawera declared itself a republic

In June 1879, the Wanganui Weekly Herald reported that Hawera had declared itself a republic with James Livingston as president.

A legend was born. It was only 10 years since the end of the Taranaki wars. At Parihaka, Te Whiti and Tohu were using non-violent methods to resist Pakeha encroachment into the Waimate Plains long

before Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King made such tactics famous. Surveyors' pegs were pulled up and furrows were ploughed on settlers' land.

On June 21, it was the turn of James Livingston as 15 Maori ploughmen crossed the Waingongoro River and started ploughing up his lawn.

Livingston was a 39 year-old Scot, born in Galloway in 1840. He had arrived in New Zealand in 1859 and later

took up land near Hawera from which he was driven following Titokowaru's victory at Te Ngutu-o-te-manu. Livingston had himself been a veteran of that battle. At the end of that war, the settlers returned and Livingston quickly became one of Hawera's leading citizens, being elected to the Patea County Council in 1876.

After the ploughmen entered Livingston's land, Premier Sir George Grey was informed, who said he would ask the local militia commander to investigate. The settlers took this to mean that their

concerns weren't being taken seriously and decided to act for themselves. The following day, they gathered at Livingston's farm and evicted the ploughmen.

Sixty armed men spent the night at the Livingston homestead. The ploughmen returned the next day and were again forcibly removed. At a public meeting that night an ejection committee was elected with Livingston as Captain. "An Ejection Committee has been elected by the President who wisely chose cool-headed men," the Wanganui

Weekly Herald reported. The republic even had its own flag which flew from the President's house. It was lost, and Livingston himself said in later years that he couldn't remember what it looked like.

The need for the republic ended with the arrival of Armed Constabulary under Lt Colonel John Roberts, who had been Livingston's commanding officer at Te Ngutu-o-te-manu. Together with the army of the republic, they patrolled the Hawera area, arresting more ploughmen. Livingston continued

to be one of Hawera's leading citizens until his death in 1915. Originating with a journalistic turn of phrase, the name Republic of Hawera still had sufficient potency to prompt an entry in the 1966 Encyclopaedia of New Zealand. In 1900, Livingston's Waipapa farm was broken up to provide land for small farmers. The name Livingston was mooted for the new settlement, but the object of the honour wasn't interested. Instead the name Toka Ora was chosen, which translates Stone of Life, so Tokaora it has remained.

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## St Mary's Diocesan School Dux



**Edie Thomas.**

Edie Thomas was Dux of St Mary's Diocesan School in 2016. She previously attended Kaponga Primary School, and last year's subjects included Biology, Calculus,

Chemistry, English, and Physics. She was first in class in all subjects with all internal standards achieved at Excellence. In 2015, she was the CEO of the school's Young

Enterprise team, and last year was Academic Captain. Edie has previously been a member of the student council and Stage Challenge, and awarded the Old Girls Scholarship in 2015.

Edie was awarded the Te Paewai o te Rangi University of Waikato Scholarship for Outstanding Academic Achievement, valued at \$25,000 where she will pursue a Science degree

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# Opunake couple commemorated on Wall of Remembrance

The placing of a Wall of Remembrance at the Opunake Cemetery by the South Taranaki District Council has been welcomed by David and Louise Knapman.

The first names to be placed on the Wall of Remembrance are those of David's parents, Thomas and Dorothy Knapman.

Thomas Knapman (Tom) was born and raised in Westown, New Plymouth. He was a scholar and a sportsman, qualifying in the trade as Plumber and Tinsmith. His wife Dorothy (Dot) emigrated from the UK aged 21 and worked for Dr and Mrs Walker until her marriage to Tom. They had one daughter Beverley while in New Plymouth. Tom joined the Airforce and served in the Solomon Islands during the Second world War.

On his return Tom and Dot moved to Opunake and Tom set up a plumbing business at 17 King Street next to the house they had purchased. Rosemarie and David joined the family. Tom and Dot were indefatigable workers setting up a business where Tom was recognised for 'prompt and efficient service' - 'and he always cleaned up after a job' customers remarked. Later, while still running the business they moved the workshop to Tasman Street and



**Dorothy and Thomas Knapman.**

lived for a year in their cottage on the Opunake Beach next to the paddling pool, while designing and building themselves a new home at 35 Fox Street opposite the tennis courts. They both enjoyed developing neat and flourishing vegetable and flower gardens on their properties.

Tom and Dot were both active in community and school activities. Tom was a member of the Volunteer Fire Brigade, the RSA and the Seaside Society. Tom also coached at the Wednesday night Athletics meetings. Dot took on responsi-

bilities in the Mothers Union and St Barnabas Church groups

After Tom died aged 54, Dot continued to live in Opunake until her death at age 63. They are survived by their three children Beverley (Whanganui) married to Russell Sinclair (deceased), Rosemarie (Auckland) married to Neil Cavaney and David (Opunake) married to Louise Ockhuysen. Tom and Dot's ashes were scattered at the crematorium gardens as they didn't want to 'take up any ground after they were gone,' but the family

are grateful to the South Taranaki District Council for agreeing to and building the Wall of Remembrance area in the Opunake Cemetery where contributing members of Opunake's history can be remembered.

## Local MPs welcome UFB expansion in Taranaki

*continued from Pg 9*

connectivity needs and working with the local authorities to put together the proposal for the extension of UFB," said Young.

"I'm incredibly proud of the Inglewood community who rallied together to produce an

awesome video highlighting Inglewood's bid for ultrafast broadband. This has resulted in Inglewood being one of the towns identified for connection," said Kuriger.

Taranaki towns already connected include New Plymouth and Hawera. Last week's announcement

extends the rollout to Urenui, Inglewood, Waitara, Okato, Opunake, Stratford, Eltham, Manaia, and Patea.

The expansion means an additional 23,000 locals will be better connected.

## Sun, sand and a happy smile



**Tiana-Mae Mullin-James (aged seven) who was placed first in the 7-8 year old section of the Opunake Beach Carnival in December, 2016. This photograph was brought in by proud mother Nikita Mullin.**



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# Reading rocks



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Adrian Kirk rocked in to Opunake Library Plus to pass on the message that reading is cool. Wearing his by now familiar Reading Rocks T shirt the professional entertainer was there to provide the entertainment for the Finale and prizegiving of the Library's summer reading programme. His visit was one of several to libraries in South Taranaki district supporting the district's reading programme. Originally hailing from Nottingham, home for Adrian for the last four years has been Dannevirke. "When you read books you go places in your imagination," he told his audience at the prizegiving on January 25. "When you go into a

book you open doors to a whole new world where you can see anything and be anything. So keep opening those doors and one day you will find the door for you." He began his act with juggling, then went through riding a unicycle (or loonycycle), balancing a ball on a pole, before ending his act with a display of aerobatics. "When aerobatics go horribly wrong, it's called aerosplatics," he said. A number of people from the audience helped him along the way including South Taranaki District councillor Clem Coxhead who had carried out a similar role at the Manaia Library Plus prizegiving that morning. Adrian introduced a number of books throughout his performance including the book which taught him everything he needed to know to be a professional juggler. "Because I learned to read, I taught myself these destructions, and now I can do them," he said. Librarian Maria Brewerton said 29 children had been on the Reading programme at the Opunake library, which had started six weeks earlier, just before Christmas. "We've had some very excited children and some very hardworking children," she said. "It really helps children keep their reading levels up for when school starts again."

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## ON THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

### Nelson Mandela released

On February 11, 1990 Nelson Mandela was released from prison. He had served 27 years of a life sentence, much of it on notorious Robben Island. He was born in 1918 the son of a chief and raised in a traditional lifestyle.

Concerned about the unfairness of the apartheid system, he joined the African National Congress (ANC), who stood for equality for all races through strikes, protests and boycotts. On release he was elected president and served from 1994 to 1999.

# Opunake Cottage Rest Home update

We are really now starting to see the benefits of the new management structure at The Cottage. Anne Woods was appointed as the new Facility Manager in early December and following spinal surgery, came back to work in early January in her new role. Anne has the overall responsibility of the Rest Home. The great news about Anne's selection, is that she has fulfilled many roles at the Cottage, and for the past couple of years has been doing a lot of the admin work associated with the manager's role. Anne has some great ideas and has excellent support from her staff in growing the future of the Cottage. Already the physical changes are evident as you enter the administration area of the home. We also have set up some networks for Anne to help her progress in this role with mentors, so she in turn can develop The Cottage further. In late November, we created a new role, Clinical Manager, and appointed Sandra Deegan to this position. Sandra's appointment is very exciting for the Cottage, especially as she had started in a role as care giver at the Cottage, and then went away from

Opunake and qualified as a registered nurse. Since her appointment, we have witnessed many much needed changes with both procedures and the care plans for our residents. Also she has opened up the communication lines between both the DHB at Base Hospital and also with local GPs which is benefitting the ongoing care of our residents. Sandra is also busy working through competency programmes with our Care Givers. Sandra holds the responsibility of all clinical matters, and then reports to Anne. We would like to take the opportunity of thanking Channa at the DHB for finding Meg McHugh who filled the gap of both the Manager and Registered Nurse during the latter half of 2016. We wish Meg well for her future and look forward to having her pop in. It was great to see and hear all the chatter and laughter at Meg's farewell in mid December. Looking ahead, our next project for the Cottage, is a brand new stainless steel kitchen. It will be difficult to get through the next audit with the existing original kitchen. We have appointed a project manager, Jenny Goddard, who is working with Southern Hospitality,

and we are finalising the floor plans and costings and then we will be applying to the TSB Community Trust for funding. We aim to have the new kitchen fitted out in May this year. We anticipate it will take about five weeks to completely strip the current kitchen and then the complete fit out of the brand new one. During this time, we will have a temporary kitchen portacom on site, so we won't have to rely on the local 'chip shops' to keep our residents fuelled. We continue to offer meals on wheels, and starting February we are looking at once a fortnight, to collecting the recipients and bringing them to the Cottage on the designated day for their meal and the opportunity to join in with our activities if they wish, or just have someone to chat with. If getting here is a problem, we are more than happy to collect them, and return them home afterwards, in our new purpose built Resthome van. This meal service is available to all members of our community if they wish to join us with advanced notice. We provide both Day Care and Respite Care at the Cottage. If you know of anyone in our community that struggles with the general day to day living at home, drop in and have a chat with our staff, or otherwise talk to the GP and they can refer the person to us. This can include people that have just had surgery or recovering from a nasty illness or accident, or, maybe in a household



Anne Woods and Sandra Deegan.

that someone needs full time care. We could take the person under our wing for a short period and give the carer a wee break. At the moment we do have a couple of empty rooms that are now ready for new guests. Our doors are always open, so

please come in and have a chat and see how we may be able to help you. The Board of Trustees, would like to say a big thank you to all the staff who stepped up and took on extra roles and duties during the latter half of 2016. It is

a huge credit to you all and particularly as the level of care of residents remained your key focus. Also thank you to the residents and their families who stuck by us over the past months. Lynda Corkill

## Back to school:

Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) remind drivers that school buses will soon be back on the roads after school holidays, and to remember the 20km/h speed limit when passing a stopped school bus. "It is very important in all communities, particularly in rural areas, that drivers are aware of the rule and safe speed limit of 20km/h passing a stopped school bus," says Fiona Gower, National President of RWNZ. Additionally, the organisation NZ School Speeds is encouraging government to consider lowering speed limits to a maximum of 30km/h in school zones at peak times, to bring these in line with the 20km/h School Bus

rule. "It is hoped that all political parties will agree to a speed restriction outside schools at peak times," says Lucinda Rees of NZ School Speeds. RWNZ also advocate for parents and caregivers to teach children about road safety when they are getting on and off the bus, at the gate or at the designated point on the road. Accompany children to the bus stop and ensure that they understand what to do. When picking up children, park on the same side of the road as the bus stop. Let friends and neighbours know that the buses are back on the roads and to watch out for children.

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# Kapuni couple ready to grow their business

The size of Matt and Nadine Gugi's dairy herd in central Taranaki would be almost unheard of in their native Switzerland. The couple contract milk 230 cows on Grant and Marina Gopperth's 70-hectare farm at Kapuni. "Prior to moving to New Zealand, we milked 46 Brown Swiss cows on a farm we leased from my family in the village of Zuben," said Mr Gugi. They calved year-round and employed two staff. The Gugis also grew maize and grain crops and ran an orchard. "The biggest dairy farm in Switzerland milks 280 cows, but the average has just 24 cows," said Mr Gugi. The hard-working

couple, who have four children, have wasted no time climbing the New Zealand dairy ladder since arriving here in early 2013. "We own 120 cows which are leased out and our plan is to buy a further 200 in-calf heifers this coming winter," said Mr Gugi. "We love it here," Mrs Gugi added. The couple's goal is to land a 50/50 sharemilking job, of between 300-400 cows, by June 2018. Mr Gugi entered the 2017 New Zealand Dairy Industry Awards to raise their profile and help grow their business. "It's a good way to analyse our business, identify strengths and weaknesses, and get judges' feedback on ways to improve."

The Gugis believe in fully feeding their cows from the day they calve, which can be quite labour intensive. "Our motto is 'Doing more, to get more'," said Mr Gugi. "We've increased milk production since coming to the farm in June 2015, while using the same amount of supplementary feed. "This season we're targeting a new farm record of 100,000kg of milksolids," he added. Matt Gugi, who has a Diploma in Agribusiness Management, is one of five entrants vying to be named the 2017 Taranaki Share Farmer of the Year.



Nadine and Matt Gugi.

## Trump agenda upsets scientific community

Donald Trump has been President of the United States just over a week, but already many US scientists have judged him a distinct threat to scientific progress. Reports of clampdowns

on the release of science-related information on environmental issues, moves to control the social media output of government agencies and an agenda to restrict the Environmental Protection Agency have even

prompted a fast growing movement to organise marches for science, including a proposed March on Washington D.C. Trump had already raised alarm in scientific circles with his comments on climate change and vaccination. «There's a sense of the new administration that it feels that scientists who work for the government are not its allies in presenting its political agenda," UC Berkeley biologist Dr Michael Eisen told the *Los Angeles Times*. As the American Association for the Advancement of Science reported, the country's scientists are now waiting to see what

impact Trump's approach to evidence-based policy may have on science and health research budgets. Writing in the New Zealand Listener, University of Otago international relations expert, Professor Robert Patman, said that Trump stands as a major roadblock to science diplomacy efforts aimed at solving the world's problems. "In short, many of the planet's major problems – in climate, food, water, energy and health – are of global proportions and almost all are linked, in some way to science and technology. Yet many states still cling to the Westphalian doctrine of unfettered sovereignty."



President Donald Trump

## Taranaki drowning deaths in 2016

There were four preventable drowning deaths in Taranaki in 2016 according to figures released by Water Safety New Zealand.

domestic setting, one offshore and one in tidal waters. One was in the 15-24 age group, one in the 45-54 group, and two in the 55-64 age group.

This was one more than for 2015. Three of the deceased were males and one was female.

There were 81 preventable drowning deaths for the entire country in 2016.

One fatality occurred in an immersion incident, one in a water sport/recreation incident, and two while the victims were in a powered boat. One death occurred in a beach setting, one in a

These were preventable fatalities including recreational and non recreational drowning deaths, but excluding deaths from road or air vehicle accidents, homicides, suicides, or deaths from an unknown origin.

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# Letting the sun shine in



Louise Thompson of the Taranaki Rural Support Trust drops off sunflowers for sale at Hawera. With her is Normanby Lions Club member Tony Keene.

In a first for the Taranaki Rural Support Trust, sunflowers were being sold as a fundraiser around the province on January 20. Helped by Taranaki Lions Club members and others, the sunflowers were on sale at 14 places around Taranaki, with more being sold at markets the following day. It all began with an idea from Okato farming couple Will and Margaret Fleming.

The idea of selling sunflowers had originally been Margaret's, Will said. Rural Trust co-ordinator Marcia Paurini liked the idea and things carried on from there. "Quite a few farmers plant sunflowers outside their maize. They are good for attracting bees and have an oil content which is beneficial too," Will said. Sunflowers also come with a symbolic influence. "Depression deals with the dark side of the mind. The sunflower looks towards the sun so we thought it would be a good flower to symbolise the cause." Marcia Paurini agrees.

"Will is one of the Trust's 40 Rural Facilitators and to use the sunflowers that he planted in October to raise awareness and funds for the Rural Support Trust was a fantastic gesture," she said. "A lot of people in rural Taranaki do not know that the Trust offers support to reduce stress and to help rural families resolve issues they face. His idea was a great way to increase awareness and we thank him for his support."

Will said Paul Bourke from Pihama had encouraged him to become a facilitator. "At one time there were probably 80 factories in Taranaki and farmers would go to the factories and talk to their neighbours, and

with hay making you would have about 30 people in the paddock. Nowadays you just get a contractor in and the farmer doesn't get to talk to anybody. Back then farms were smaller and you had more close contact. Now you have farmers on farms with no one to talk to. There's more financial pressure too. Everyone needs to know it's alright to talk to people about what's bothering them." Will said they had originally intended to sell the sunflowers about two or three weeks later, but they were ready sooner than expected, and about 1500 sunflowers were picked from Will's Okato farm and taken around Taranaki on the Friday morning.

Louise Thompson of the Taranaki Rural Support Trust dropped flowers off at Opunake and then went on to Hawera where they were being sold by members of the Normanby and Districts Lions Club. On arriving in Hawera, she said that the flowers were already beginning to attract interest in Opunake. "There were toddlers there who were saying, Mum, look at those flowers, because they were so bold and so beautiful." Will said there had been a lot of interest during the weekend with people buying flowers, making donations and asking about the work of the Trust. Will said he was open to

suggestions about ways the event could be run in future. "There are probably 10-15 different varieties of sunflower. Maybe we could experiment with different varieties and see which is best." The possibility of this becoming an annual event and being tried in other parts of the country had been raised. "It's in the lap of the gods with the weather. Next year it could be completely different. With warmer weather it could come earlier," Will said.



Will Fleming and his sunflowers.

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# Sale of site healthy sign for New Plymouth



Ravensdown has found a buyer for the current site of its fertiliser store as work continues on a massive \$30 million facility on a neighbouring parcel of land. Mike Davey, who is Ravensdown's Regional Manager for the Western North Island, has been with the company for over 50 years and his father worked at the New Plymouth site. "It's not so much the end of an era, but the start of a

new chapter for Ravensdown in the Taranaki. Lots of local farmers are interested in how the new store being built next door is going to help them," said Mike. "It's exciting for New Plymouth too because our rebuild programme freed up the existing land for other developers. The sale of the current site is an important milestone in our project as it helps to fund the new 14ha store next door.

"We're happy with the outcome - there was no shortage of interest which is an indicator that the Taranaki economy is trucking along.

There's obviously a lot of interest in what the current site is going to be used for, but the commercial agreement means that this can't be disclosed yet. The buyers of the current site will be announcing their plans for the site in 2017," added Mike.

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# Auroa farm manager takes on NZDIA challenge



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### Shaun Neal

A passionate young Taranaki dairy farmer has taken on a new challenge which he's hoping will help fast-track his career.

Shaun Neal (23) is in his second season managing a 330-cow farm owned by Simon and Gillian O'Connell at Auroa.

He's entered the 2017 New Zealand Dairy Industry Awards to improve his theoretical

knowledge and push him out of his comfort zone.

"I believe the detailed feedback entrants receive as part of the judging process, is one of the best ways I can learn and grow," says Mr Neal. "Preparing for the competition has made me analyse everything I do on-farm, as well as my goals for the future."

Shaun Neal graduated from Massey University with a Bachelor of AgriCommerce and hopes to be 50/50 sharemilking by June 2019.

"I've dedicated quite a bit of time looking at how I'm going to progress

up the ladder to business ownership," said Mr Neal.

"Next season, I hope to be contract milking between 300 to 400 cows."

The keen fisherman is already growing his equity. He owns livestock, which are currently leased out.

"I've got everything from mixed aged cows, right down to calves born this past spring," said Mr Neal.

"Replacement heifer calves are included in my salary package, which have been a great way to build equity."

Mr Neal attributes his advancement in the industry to having supportive farm owners.

"Simon and Gillian encourage progression and have allowed me to take on more responsibility this season, which has kept me motivated," he said.

It's been a tough season for many Taranaki dairy farmers, with low sunshine hours reducing the dry matter content of pasture.

Shaun Neal is one of nine entrants vying to be named the 2017 Taranaki Dairy Manager of the Year.

The first round of judging began on January 24 for Trainees, with Managers and Share Farmers facing judges the following week.

The regional awards dinner will be held on March 3.

## Top Stock International socks it to Facial Eczema

Christine Evans of Eltham is Sales Representative for Top Stock International, which provides a range of organic based stock supplements. The range is designed to maximise animal health, in particular Top Stock + Zinc which has been proven to reduce the incidence of Facial Eczema in cows and sheep.

The local business woman is enthusiastic about the product commenting, "I really believe in the product, the results I've seen have been amazing" - adding, "I wouldn't be involved otherwise." Having a vast knowledge in dairy farming and animal health Christine is also known in equine circles as a member of the Eltham Pony Club. She has been involved with the product since 2015 and her extensive sales territory incorporates the lower North Island (as far north as Cambridge).

Feedback from farmers using Top Stock + Zinc has highlighted a marked decrease in the incidence of Facial Eczema in their cows and sheep for as little as \$0.07cents per cow a day.

Top Stock + Zinc, is in liquid form and is blended using a deep sea kelp and molasses base. Kelp is used because it is the richest source of Amino acids which, when combined with molasses, provides a complex range of trace elements, minerals and essential vitamins, thus providing animals with a nutrient balanced diet. To this base Zinc Sulphate Monohydrate is added so ever 100mls contains no less than 10gms elemental Zinc.

Top Stock can be dosed orally via drench, added to feed mixes, Dosatrons, or petit Dispensers. It aids digestion, has immediate availability and assists in reducing stress and illness.

An important advantage of the product is that the combination of Zinc with other minerals and vitamins mitigates depletion issues caused by using Zinc in isolation.

The product can be custom-blended to meet individual needs and this incurs no further charge. It is available in 5, 20, 200 or 1000 litre containers.

Although the focus (at this time of year) is currently Facial Eczema being the main seasonal threat, the Top Stock range extends to all aspects of farming including Fertilisers.

You can contact Christine Evans on her cell phone 027 282 6322 or 0508TOPSTOCK, [www.topstocksupplements.co.nz](http://www.topstocksupplements.co.nz), Wonder Minerals (exclusive agents), Eltham 0800 100 350. Christine and the Wonder Minerals team look forward to helping with your farming needs.



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# Just Ask the Cows

What will dairy farming look like in another 10 years? One strategy to answer this question is to chart the current pressures on the industry and extend those trends. Environmentally, nitrate leaching, phosphate and effluent runoff will be increasingly regulated. Antibiotic resistance issues will reach tipping point and as such, antibiotic use in production animals will be curtailed. And, animal welfare regulation will fundamentally change our management systems.



Anticipating these sorts of changes is critical. Fighting to merely stay as we are is doomed to failure and will damage, perhaps fatally, the credibility of the industry. But how do we promote healthy and productive animals without the widespread use of antibiotics and hormones? How do we manage nutrient such that ecological attributes of waterways are enhanced while contributing positively to the climate change problem? And finally, how do we have an industry that is sustainable and enjoyable?

Just ask the cows! What do they need? What is limiting to their health and performance? Great farmers are great observers. Mix that with more detailed analysis of their milk production parameters, mating data, diet, what diseases affect them and what the pattern of disease is, and pretty soon we find they tell us an awful lot. Being led by this information takes us down an

intriguing trail. It requires us to control our use of phosphate fertiliser. It requires us to control the nutrient level in effluent blocks, and to use this resource more wisely. It requires us to control nitrogen inputs to avoid pastures with excess crude protein. It asks us how better to manage the nitrogen cycle. This in turn requires us to grow mixed swards with more clover. It promotes improving soil carbon to better manage nitrogen, promote clover and reduce nitrogen loss.

Responding to cow needs requires us to ensure they have sufficient and consistent energy intakes, and good weight management in the framework of balanced nutrition so that our cows work in their comfort zone rather than, as happens far too often, at the limits of their physiological ability to cope. It asks us about ensuring feed provision

and promotion of feed utilisation even in extended periods of bad weather. We then think about the promotion of shelter and methods of feeding to promote intakes and as such promote cow comfort.

Welfare wise, what are our disease rates and severity? What is our process for continuous improvement and how can we anticipate and prevent conditions that may cause pain, suffering and loss? What are the practices we have in place to carefully transition a cow from the trauma of calving to getting her into the best shape for a strong lactation and to get in calf nice and early?

Who would have thought that being driven by cow needs would arrive at a discussion about promoting soil carbon, effluent management and the amenity value of our farms? It also maximises the nutrient value and the food safety of our animal products. Not to mention a very strong ethical and welfare centred approach to the management of food producing animals.

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# Community offenders give back to South Taranaki

South Taranaki schools, community organisations and popular walkways are benefiting from community work projects managed by Hawera Community Corrections.

In 2016 offenders managed by Hawera Community Corrections completed more than 25,800 hours of community work across South Taranaki.

“Community work is a reparative sentence, so the offenders are giving back to their local communities. They work under the guidance of our community work supervisors, and they’re learning some new skills along the way,” says



Community Corrections workers at work at the Opunake Events Centre.

Alison Spurdle, Acting Senior Community Work Supervisor.

“We’re involved in a variety of projects in South Taranaki including clearing walking tracks at Nowells Lake, grounds maintenance at local schools and marae.

“A community work team tends to the ‘E-Kai’ Community Gardens and helps with the maintenance at Soldiers Park in Eltham.

“We’re also helping to keep the Opunake Events Centre and the adjoining skate park clean and tidy.”

Ms Spurdle encourages non-profit groups or organisations in South Taranaki to get in touch if

they have a project they need help with.

“We’re looking for new community projects for our community work teams.

“Any non-profit groups or organisations in South Taranaki looking for assistance should contact Hawera Community Corrections on 0800 477 622 to discuss the project.”

Community work is completed in supervised work parties or through projects sponsored by eligible agencies. This gives the community unpaid labour on a wide variety of projects.

Offenders can be sentenced to do between 40 and 400 hours of community work.

## Taranaki Councils consult on Easter Trading

“To shop or not to shop,- this is the question Taranaki’s three district Councils are asking their communities.

New Plymouth, Stratford and South Taranaki district councils are all currently consulting about whether their residents want shops

open on Easter Sunday.

South Taranaki District Council group manager of environmental services, John McKenzie, says the councils decided to consult at the same time to make it less confusing for the public, which reflects the collaborative relationship

the three councils have.

“All three councils are asking the same three questions: whether Easter Sunday trading should be allowed throughout their district, or just in specific parts of their district, or not allowed at all,” he says.

The move comes after

the Government changed the law in August to allow councils to choose their own Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policies.

While Easter Sunday is not officially a public holiday in New Zealand, shops are required to be closed, although a number

of shops like dairies, cafes, pharmacies, souvenir shops, garden centres and service stations are already exempt from the rule.

McKenzie says that Foodstuffs NZ, who own New World and Pak’n Save supermarkets, and Retail NZ had written to the

councils asking for public consultation on the issue.

Public consultation in Stratford District runs until February 10, while both New Plymouth and South Taranaki close on February 20.

## New Hawera Community Corrections site opens

Hawera has a brand new Community Corrections building that will be safer for staff, Corrections Minister Louise Upston says.

The building is part of a five-year nationwide renewal programme to make Community Corrections sites more secure.

Ms Upston said the purpose-built building has the best modern facilities and security of any new

Community Corrections site in the country.

“The building offers a safer working environment for staff as well as having facilities that encourage positive interactions with offenders and their families.

“The safety and security features at Hawera Community Corrections include CCTV monitoring, a main entrance that can be remotely locked, duress

alarms and swipe card access to staff-only areas,” says Ms Upston.

The new site also includes an improved community work area and dedicated rooms where work and living skills programmes as well as rehabilitation, motivation and maintenance programmes can be delivered. A new whanau room provides a comfortable space where staff can meet

families of offenders.

“Hawera staff have the tools and resources to manage offenders and keep the community safe,” Ms Upston says.

The 14 staff at the site manage 286 offenders on 339 community-based sentences and orders including home detention and community work.

The building was officially opened by Corrections chief executive Ray Smith on Tuesday.



Corrections chief executive Ray Smith and South Taranaki District mayor Ross Dunlop.

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# Coastal Riding Club scores home town win



On January 7-8, the North Island Riding Clubs Teams Event was held at Stratford Show grounds with 12 teams attending from as far afield as Hamilton Taupo,

Hastings and Kapiti. The local Coastal Riding Club team came out victorious for the second time over the five different phases, which involved Show Jumping, Showcross

Derby, Games, Quadrille to music, Obstacle course and Turnout.

The Coastal Riding Club team Parolympians who won the overall trophy at

the North Island Teams Event. Jade Zuppasich, Tina Egan, Wendy Pulman, Shah Bothwell and Shannon Coull.

Photo H. Kooistra.

## Fishing competition extended

The Opunake Boat and Underwater Club's 2017 STOS Annual fishing Tournament has been extended to February 18.

"The weather looks like it's going to be on the improve and we just want to make sure there's a reasonable number of fishing days to give everyone a chance of

getting a prize winning or trophy fish," tournament organiser Dave Cathie said.

"All species have been caught so far. In the first week we have had a 12 and a half kilo snapper and another at 10.7kg. We have had 70 anglers entered, and we would like to see more enter."

Tickets for the tournament can be bought from Collins Sports Centre.

All boats must have passed a recent recognised safety check and are to launch and retrieve only from Middleton Bay. All anglers on all boats must have paid up valid tickets before fishing.

Weigh-ins take place at the Opunake Boat and Underwater Club from 6pm to 8.45pm daily, and from 1pm to 5pm on the final day.

The total prize pool is \$11,000. The largest snapper caught will net a \$1000 prize. There are also prizes

for the next nine places.

There will be up to six prizes for the heaviest kahawai, blue cod, tuna, king fish, tarakihi and gurnard. There is also a dive section and a targeted fish section, as well as a top boat trophy, rod and reel raffle and numerous spot prizes.

Social evenings will be held at the clubhouse during the tournament with a complimentary roast meal for all ticket holders on the final night (February 18) at the club rooms at Middleton Bay before the prize giving.

## Jumping day a practice for teams event

On Saturday December 17, the Coastal Adult Riding Club held a Show Jumping day at the Hawera Pony Club grounds. David Schumacher (Stratford) was the judge for the jumping and Maureen Drylie (Eltham) judged the Obstacle course which was a useful practice for members of teams taking part in the North Island Teams Event held at Stratford on January 7-8.

Results. T.A.M.3- 40cm. Julie Roberts (Affair) Toko 1, Lydia Williams (Charlie) Hawera 2 Kath Lambourn (Millenium Lady) Hawera 3, Shirleena Budd (Esperanza) 4

T.A.M.3- 50cm. Shirleena Budd (Esperanza) Manaia 1, Lydia Williams (Charlie) 2, Jenny Lavoipierre (Muffin) Inglewood 3.

T.A.M.3- 60cm. Zoe Campbell (Entry) 1, Julie Roberts (Duffus) 2, Shirleena Budd (Esperanza) 3, Julie Roberts (Affair) 4.

Take Your Own Line. Jade Egan (Blondie) 1, Donna Bunyan (Shadow) 2, Stella

Moore (Ellie) 3.

T.A.M.3- 80cm. Kirk Myers (Tildy) Hawera 1, Jacquie Muller (Dabado) Eltham 2, Jill Watson (Holly) 3, Kate Roberts (Entry) 4.

T.A.M.3- 90cm. Aimee Schumacher (Diego) Stratford 1, Jill Watson (Holly) 2, Kyla Hamblyn (Horse) 3, Kelsie Chesswas (Skyla) 4.

Gambler's Stakes. Holly Roberts (Entry) 1, Fiona Fredrickson (Mr Carter) Inglewood 2, Kate Roberts 3, Kirstie Pryce (Nike) Hawera 4.

T.A.M.3- 1.00m. Kate Roberts 1, Aimee Schumacher (Diego) 2, Kyla Hamblyn (Horse) 3,

T.A.M.3- 1.10m. Shah Bothwell (Biggs) 1.

Obstacle Course Pairs. Shah Bothwell (Elsie) with Wendy Pulman (Luka) 1, Leslie Bloeman (Orey) with Lydia Williams (Charlie) 2, Julie Roberts (Dazzle) with Shirleena Budd (Esperanza) 3.

## OPUNAKE BOAT & UNDERWATER CLUB 2017 STOS ANNUAL FISHING TOURNAMENT

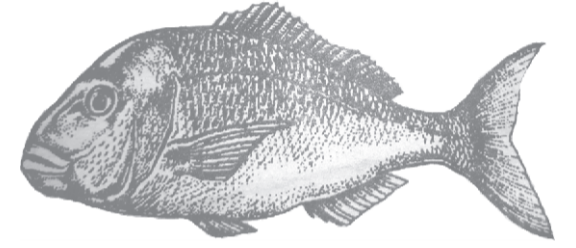
\* Now extended to 18th February!



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CONTACT

David Cathie - 06 761 8053 or 027 243 7602



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**Opunake Players Inc. AGM**  
14 February 2017 at 7.30pm  
The Lakeside Playhouse, 17 Layard St, Opunake

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**OPUNAKE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

**CHRISTMAS EVE PARADE RESULTS**  
Most Creative Float - Steam Punk. 2nd Most Creative Float - CoastalCare. Most Effort - Phillipino Society. 2nd Most Effort - Pihama CWL. Winner of Raffle - Nikita (No 507)

**TE KIRI SPORTS AND REC SCHOLARSHIPS**  
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**TANGATA WHENUA LIAISON FUND**

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;
- Cemeteries/urupa or wahi tapu sites; or
- 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.souhtaranaki.com](http://www.souhtaranaki.com), Administration Building, Albion Street, Hawera, anyLibraryPlus facility, or the Executive Assistant Community Services.

Closing date for applications is **Friday 31 March 2017 at 4.30pm**. For further information, please contact Executive Assistant Community Services on 0800 111 323 or [maryse.ropiha@stdc.govt.nz](mailto:maryse.ropiha@stdc.govt.nz)

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

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

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Maniaia - Sacred Heart - 1st & 3rd Saturdays at 5pm (2nd, 4th and 5th Sat at Hawera's St Josephs).  
Kaponga - St Patricks, Sunday 8.45am  
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# OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

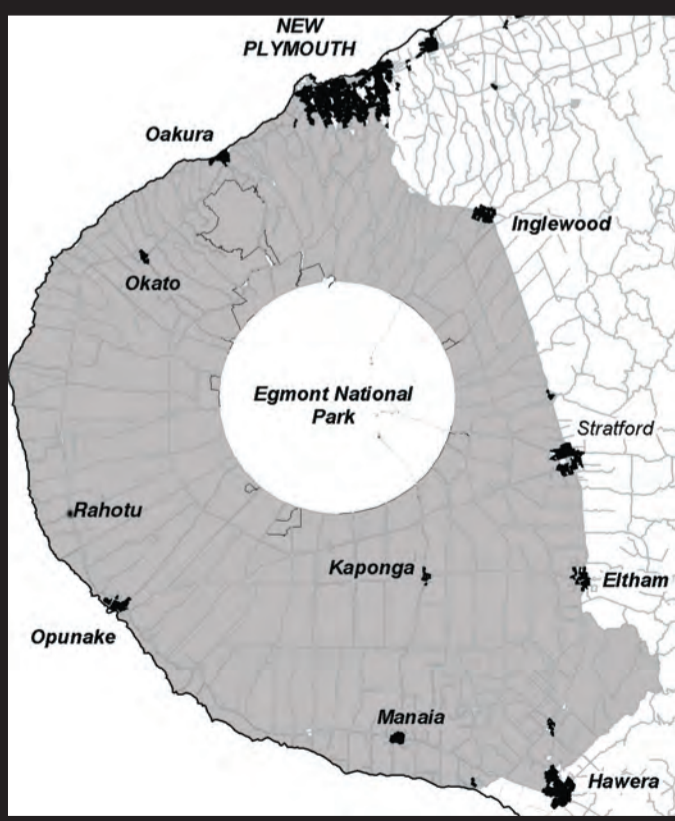
Ph/Fax: 06 761 7016 - 23 Napier Street, Opunake  
 or e-mail us: ads@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz



# What's On Listings

- JONATHAN YOUNG**  
 Need to chat with your Local MP Jonathan Young?  
 For more information phone: 06 7591363 Or email newplymouthmp@parliament.govt.nz
- OPUNAKE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**  
 Meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month.
- OPUNAKE COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB**  
 First Sunday of each month at the Opunake Town Hall, 1-4pm. All welcome
- SCHNITZEL NIGHT**  
 Every Wednesday at the Stony River Hotel, Okato
- COASTALCARE – LISA KEEN AUDIOLOGY**  
 Wednesdays 9am - 5pm, for an appointment call 027 591 4222 - 0800 555 676
- TAI CHI BASICS**  
 Thursdays 9am – 10am at Coastal Care Community Room
- NIGEL CLIFFE ACUPUNCTURE**  
 Thursdays 11am-4pm at Coastalcare, Opunake.
- CLUB HOTEL TEXAS HOLDEM POKER**  
 Wednesday and Thursday Nights at the Club Hotel.
- CLUB HOTEL POOL**  
 Tuesday Nights. New players welcome.
- SURF INN**  
 Every day free pool. Every Friday free sausage sizzle from 5. Every Sunday Pool comp
- COASTAL YOUNG FARMERS**  
 Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month at 7pm at the Okato Bowling Club.
- TARANAKI COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME, MANAIA**  
 Running every Thursday night from 7.30pm, 11 Surf Highway, South Road, Manaia.
- EGMONT EUCHRE CLUB**  
 Meets every Thursday 1pm at the Opunake Bowling Club
- CAPE EGMONT HISTORIC LIGHT & MUSEUM**  
 Open 11am – 3pm weekends, Bayly Road, Warea.
- TODD ENERGY AQUATIC CENTRE**  
 Family fun times 10.30am to 4.30pm.
- COASTAL SINGERS**  
 7pm every Wednesday night. Inquiries ph 761 8654.
- ELTHAM BUSINESS ASSOCIATION FRIDAY MARKETS**  
 8am to 1pm, Carpark of Touch Point, High Street, Eltham. Hello to you all!
- PUNGAREHU GOLF CLUB**  
 27 Holes Coastal Champs, Monday 6th February, Tee Off 9.00 - 11.00 am, Entry Fee \$25  
 All Welcome - Call Alan - 06 763 8255 to enter
- OPUNAKE PLAYERS AGM**  
 14 February 2017 at 7.30pm, at the Lakeside Playhouse, 17 Layard St, Opunake
- THE VILLAGE GALLERY CREATIVE CLEARANCE**  
 Art at affordable prices plus pre-loved books and frames.
- CALLING ELTHAM ARTISTS** - Are you an artist who lives in Eltham or has lived in Eltham? We invite you to submit an entry in our Community Art Exhibiton  
 10 April 5 May. Entry forms due 28 March. Enquiries to Maree 7645221; 0277773473

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



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

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

We want to be involved with your business call today and discuss your marketing options with the team.

COVERING THE COAST

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# OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

## Publication Dates for 2017

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL							
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**DEADLINES:**

**EDITORIAL** - 5pm Thursday prior to publication.  
**DISPLAY ADVERTS** - 5pm Friday prior to publication.  
**CLASSIFIEDS** - 3pm Monday prior to publication.

Adverts and readers' contributions may be phoned, faxed, posted or dropped into the Opunake & Coastal News: Phone and Fax (06) 761-7016 or a/h (06) 761-8206, 23 Napier Street, PO Box 74, Opunake.  
[www.opunakecoastalnews.co.nz](http://www.opunakecoastalnews.co.nz)  
**Phone/Fax (06) 761-7016**

# A colourful gallery

Village Gallery members start the year with an impressive display of work featuring pottery, paintings, woodturning, jewellery and fibre art.

This new exhibition titled 'Creative Clearance' is just that – a clearance of art. Prices are discounted so art works can find new homes and members can create new pieces.

The gallery has a new look for the start of the year. Members have painted bright flags which hang around the veranda, and a decorated bicycle a stands outside the door.

I challenge anyone driving through town not to notice the Gallery.

In this exhibition colour features also. Lorna Davies mixed media piece, We do like to be beside the Seaside catches the eye with brightly painted beach huts.

In contrast, the sombre statement on the dangers of the coal industry is very thought provoking, and is worth a second look. This acrylic work was created by Jena Finer of Hawera and is a diversion from her usual landscapes and still lifes.

The piece is titled, Bone and Blood is the price of Coal.

is a table of art books, magazines, frames and prints. There is something for everyone and affordable too. The exhibition

continues until February 10. The gallery in High St, Eltham is open Monday – Saturday 10 am – 3pm  
Maree Liddington



'For the sake of coal', on display at Village Gallery.



'We do like to be beside the sea', on display at Village Gallery.

## Busy holiday weekend at Tupare and Pukeiti

Fun galore for all ages is in store this holiday weekend, with family-focused events at two of Taranaki's premier heritage properties, Tūpare and Pukeiti.

The action's at Tūpare on Saturday February 4 with Pukeiti to the fore on Sunday February 5.

The Garden Fair at Tūpare on Saturday runs from 10am to 3pm, featuring live music and entertainment, food, classic motorbike display, arts and crafts, and games,

pony rides and family fun on the river flat. Arrive at 8am for a guided tour of the stunningly landscaped gardens, and there will be free house tours half-hourly from 10am to 12.30pm at 487 Mangorei Road, New Plymouth.

On Sunday there will be the Pukeiti Explorer Day rainforest walk to the Puketewhiti Summit from 10.30am to 2pm. Discover the mystery and stories of Pukeiti's enchanting

rainforest in this three-hour guided walk. Bring water, hat, picnic lunch and good walking shoes. 2290 Carrington Road, New Plymouth.

The fair and rainforest walk are part of a year-round programme of free public events at Tūpare, Pukeiti and Hollard Gardens, the three heritage properties owned and administered by the Taranaki Regional Council on behalf of the people of the region.

### CREATIVE CLEARANCE

Art at affordable prices plus pre-loved books and frames.

The Village Gallery 166 High Street, Eltham  
OPEN MONDAY - SATURDAY 10AM - 3PM

### CALLING ELTHAM ARTISTS

Are you an artist who lives in Eltham or has lived in Eltham?

We invite you to submit an entry in our Community Art Exhibition

10 April - 5 May. Entry forms due 28 March. Enquiries to Maree 06 764 5221 - 027 777 3473

The Village Gallery 166 High Street, Eltham  
OPEN MONDAY - SATURDAY 10AM - 3PM



Tupare Garden Fair.

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## More money for Taranaki's curious minds

Taranaki's pilot programme to encourage communities to embrace science and technology has been so successful it is being extended for a third round, meaning more local science and tech projects can get off the ground.

Taranaki is one of three areas to pilot the Curious Minds Participatory Science Platform, part of the Government's Science in Society plan to encourage and enable more New Zealanders to engage in science and technology. Curious Minds allows the

local community to work alongside scientists and tech experts on projects that are relevant to them.

The first two rounds of the pilot has seen eleven projects delivered in Taranaki, ranging from finding kiwi to extending the bat population, monitoring marine life to comparing electric and petrol-powered cars, and testing stone and metal carving tools to rediscovering heirloom vegetable varieties.

"It's fantastic that Taranaki's pilot project has been extended for a third

round and that more great ideas will be able to be progressed," says project manager Josh Richardson, of Venture Taranaki.

"What this means is that any school, community group, organisation or individual, who has an idea that needs scientific research to progress, can apply for up to \$20,000 to make it happen."

"The amazing diversity of the successful projects so far should help to stimulate some fantastic ideas, and we're looking forward to

Continued over page



# Redoubt a reminder of town's origins

While the Manaia Walkway may not be as well-known as its Opunake Coastal counterpart, it still has enough to keep visitors interested, including the town's own redoubt.

Leading up to the redoubt are the Meuli Steps, named after Lieutenant Lorenzo Meuli who was killed in the First World War

The people of Manaia had wanted to keep the redoubt as a reminder of the town's beginnings when all the other frontier redoubts were removed. When all the other frontier redoubts were removed,

Today much of the original Manaia Redoubt still remains, and is an integral part of the Manaia Walkway. The redoubt had been built in 1880 after a force of 80 Armed Constabulary under Colonel John Roberts were ordered to set up a position on the right bank of the Waiokura Stream. A veteran of the battle of Te Ngutu-o-te-manu, where the legendary Von Tempsky met his end, Colonel Roberts would a little over a year later lead a 1500-strong invasion force to Parihaka to arrest Te Whiti and Tohu.

The Armed Constabulary chose the disused pa site Te Takahe, and built a redoubt with watchtower and blockhouses. Two years later they left, leaving the local Waimate Mounted Rifles in charge.

The double walls of the blockhouses were filled with gravel, to hinder any bullets from coming through. In 1885, with the Waimate Plains firmly in settler hands, the order was made to remove the redoubts, but the Manaia one stayed. The original wooden tower, the Watchtower of the Plains blew down in a storm in 1912, and was replaced by the concrete tower which can be seen today. The blockhouses have had a few repairs in the years since, and concrete floors have been put in. They are the last of the frontier posts still on their original sites.

Visitors to the walkway, which starts at the Manaia Domain can enjoy contributions made at different times by local volunteers, organisations and businesses. made at different times by individuals, organisations and businesses. There's the Yarrow Dell, named for local businessman, the late Noel Yarrow, and a seat by the Waiokura Stream which was made by Keith Smith.

Further along is a bridge made from old power poles. When safety issues were raised about the sides of the bridge, the Manaia Lions Club stepped in and provided the railing.



The Watchtower of the Plains.

Three totaras commemorate Kaupokonui farmer and longstanding Waimate West County councillor Jack Landers, who died in 2008.

Other groups to have donated trees include South Taranaki Rural Women and the Manaia Womens Institute.

Forty species of native trees have been planted, attracting in more recent times the likes of the tui and the wood pigeon. It is only appropriate then that two of the streets in Manaia, Karaka and Patukukupa refer to trees that attracted birds to the area, and to where the birds gathered for food.

A recent addition to the Walkway has been a planting by the Manaia and District Returned Services Association of three seedlings descended from the Lone Pine which gave its name to the battle fought at Gallipoli a century ago, followed by the installation of a seat and commemorative plaque.

# More money for Taranaki's curious minds

Continued from page 24

working with Taranaki people to progress their ideas."

Two types of funding are available – seed funding to help ideas progress to project stage (up to \$1,000) and project funding of up to \$20,000 to test ideas and implement the project.

"We want to hear ideas about anything that could make Taranaki more interesting, better, cleaner, more sustainable, smarter, or protect and grow the environment and its inhabitants."

Successful projects will be relevant to the community, and have scientific and enduring educational value.

Applications for funding close on March 31, and projects must be completed by November 30.

The Participatory Science Platform pilot has been developed between the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, and the Office of the Prime

Minister's Chief Science Advisor and will be led in the region by Venture Taranaki, with support from Taranaki Regional Council.

Either a community group or their science partners can apply for funding.

Community groups include organisations and special interest groups such as students, schools, kura, local rūnaka, clubs, businesses and environmental or cultural-based organisations.

Groups can be a geographical community or a community of interest spanning several locations, but they must be substantively Taranaki-based. Research project funding can be used by science professionals and community groups/schools/businesses/Māori collectives and organisations to plan together and progress research projects. In addition, eligible costs also include research tools or consumables related to taking a project forward.



## The Poo Brew

THE PERFECT SOLUTION FOR HEALTHY BOWELS

A combination of herbal powders to assist in detoxifying the liver, cleansing the bowel, restoring gut permeability and reinstating good bacteria back into the gastro intestinal tract after sickness, antibiotics or anti-inflammatory. All of these listed below assist in the absorption of nutrients:

### Healing the gut

Our gut repair mix consists of Barley Grass, glutamine and Slippery Elm, which will soothe and heal the mucosal lining of the gastrointestinal tract.

### Detoxifying the liver

St Mary's Thistle assists in detoxifying the liver without causing headaches or nausea.

### Cleans the bowel

Psyllium is a bulking herb that goes sticky when mixed with liquid, as it passes through the intestinal tract it pulls the gunk off the intestinal walls, also important for removing the bad cholesterol from the liver.

### Putting good bugs back

Probiotics, or good bacteria, reinstates or puts back the good bugs in the gastro intestinal tract. They are your first line of defense against invading pathogens and virus's. Probiotics also assist in absorption of all vitamins and minerals especially B vitamins, B12 and iron.



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## Your guide to healthy bowels

### Bristol Stool Chart

Type 1		Separate hard lumps, like nuts (hard to pass)
Type 2		Sausage-shaped but lumpy
Type 3		Like a sausage but with cracks on the surface
Type 4		Like a sausage or snake, smooth and soft
Type 5		Soft blobs with clear-cut edges
Type 6		Fluffy pieces with ragged edges, a mushy stool
Type 7		Watery, no solid pieces. Entirely Liquid

1 – 2 indicates constipation and we recommend an increase in fibre, hydration and magnesium

3 – 4 indicates ideal stools which are easier to pass

5 – 7 shows loose stools, indicative of an irritated gastro intestinal tract. We recommend digestive enzymes, an increase in fibre and avoiding wheat

There are many functions of the liver; some include breakdown of food for absorption, protein production, detoxification, storage of vitamins, minerals and the breakdown of red blood cells. With all these functions a good healthy bowel is paramount to our health. If we eat three times a day we should have a bowel motion three times a day, if not the toxins accumulate.

### Do you have any of these symptoms?

- Inability to lose or gain weight
- Mood swings
- Nausea and or bad breath
- Overweight
- Intolerance to alcohol
- Intolerance to fatty food
- Foggy brain
- Head aches
- Unstable blood sugar levels
- Sugar cravings
- Poor digestion and bowel problems
- Itchy skin and rashes
- Excessive body heat
- Auto-immune dysfunction
- Frequent fatigue
- Slow metabolism
- Allergies
- High cholesterol and or triglycerides

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# Retrospective exhibition one not to be missed

Margaret Scott of Oakura has a major solo exhibition presenting almost 50 years of creativity. This exhibition will be at the Percy Thomson Art Gallery, Stratford - opening on Friday February 3 and continuing until Sunday February 26. The retrospective exhibition of 73 exhibits traces the artist's work from her early (teenage) efforts, using shoe polish and food colouring, to her much-appreciated contemporary work. The exhibition is entitled 'A Sense of Place'. Margaret describes her creativity as "contemporary realism" with a definite experimental bent. Yet she is open to a myriad of artistic ideas and techniques, which includes attending seminars and workshops whenever she can.

She mentions various earlier artists as mentors and influences, including Georgia O'Keefe, Rita Angus, Louise

Henderson, Michael Smither, William Sutton, Jeanne MacCaskell and Doris Lusk. One of these mentors was the late great Tom Kreisler, whom she describes as "a very major influence early on." However, just before his untimely death, she explains that she had an artistic disagreement with Tom, which highlights the fact that she always brings her own perspective, while accepting her work is nevertheless underpinned by the ideas and methods of her mentors.

Cubism was an artistic movement, which has influenced her, especially in her 1980s period.

Apart from Margaret's obvious talent, what is obvious is the wide-reaching diversity of her work - including both subject matter and medium. As well as painting with oils, acrylics and water-colours, she has worked with pottery,



**Margaret Scott with her remarkable painting entitled 'This Gathering Here Today is the Gathering that was Scattered to be Destroyed'. (The words of Te Whiti of Parihaka). The man in the painting is Te Miringa Hohaia who died in 2010. (He was also known as Milton Hohaia). This painting is discussed in some detail in the article.**

multi-media - and the use of the non-toxic printmaking method of solar plate etching - demonstrating her concern for the environment.

Margaret, as Margaret Harvey, was brought up on a dairy farm at Oaonui, just north of Opunake. The seashore and ocean, with its wildlife is never far from her creative endeavours. She was very interested in the wreck of the Gairloch (1903) and the remains of this ship (on the rocks at the end of Weld Road) feature in some of her paintings. "This wreck has always fascinated me," she states.

Her farm background is reflected in the cows which often are featured in her work, and her sea life creations, such as paua and seagulls are also well known. Recently, tuis have captured her artistic interest.

One painting (1989) which

caught my attention was one of Parihaka, with the late Te Miringa Hohaia, Te Whiti's marble tomb, a morepork, white feathers, Mt Taranaki and the oppressed Maori villagers depicted in the mists of time. The painting is entitled 'This Gathering Here Today is the Gathering that was Scattered to be Destroyed' (Te Whiti's actual words upon his return after two years imprisonment). Amongst the impressive body of work destined for the exhibition, this one captured my attention the most. As Margaret explains, "It tells the story of the events that happened on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November 1881. The ghostly images are of the prophets Te Whiti and Tohu who were arrested that day and the 2,000 people who sat on the Marae in passive resistance. On the hill above the Marae a cannon was placed and it is

said a dog climbed the hill and urinated on the cannon. The three feathers have become a symbol of the people of Parihaka and stand for 'Glory to God, peace on earth and goodwill towards people.'

Another remarkable painting is the huge and colourful work in acrylic paint 'Tropical Garden', which will end up as a triptych when the three composite pieces are assembled. This illustrates her love of nature in all its glory.

Also featured will be the first painting Margaret had accepted in a National Exhibition. This was 'Goat Girl 2', which was accepted for the Landscape Award at the Academy of Fine Arts in 1983.

'The Barbershop, Opunake' hangs proudly in the TSB, who bought the original (1988). The bank has loaned

the painting to Margaret for the exhibition.

Margaret is meticulous in recording her work, with emphasis on her weekend workshops and tuition for school-age students, as well as inspiring exhibitions she has attended and challenges she has faced. Her painstaking recording have resulted in *year books* that are extraordinarily detailed and worthwhile. Margaret is keen to share her ideas and skills wherever possible and these documents are invaluable, both currently and for the future.

Margaret's expertise is sought for art commissions and this includes both private individuals, plus corporations such as Fonterra. She has completed the artwork for a book written by Okato's Lesley Dowding, 'Midnight at the Lighthouse' (2007). Her placemats with its sea life theme (Jason Products) are popular both in this country and overseas.

Margaret's own book 'Self Portrait of the Paua' was written and published in 2016. This gives an intriguing view of her life and development as an artist.

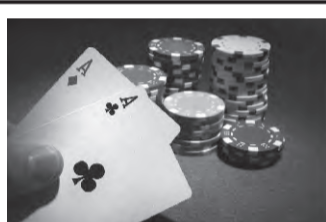
Her mural in Opunake (with co-artist Audrey Quinn) completed in 1989 entitled 'Pieces of the Past' took an estimated 650 hours, such is her attention to detail.

She has contributed in public ways such as serving as chairperson of the Egmont Community Art Council, and she was Head of the Fine Arts faculty for some time (1993 - 2003) at Opunake High School. She is an important member of the Oakura Art Trail, as well as the Taranaki Arts Trail.

A visit to her studio at 58 Messenger Terrace, Oakura is well worth the effort as Margaret has so much quality work on display and prints can be bought at competitive prices, as well as postcards of her art.

Make sure you find time to see this outstanding exhibition at Percy Thomson Gallery - a comprehensive sample of the lifetime creative work of a major Taranaki and New Zealand artist.

*Rolland McKellar*



## POOL TUESDAYS POKER WED-THURS

at the Club Hotel - Opunake 761 8213



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## MARGARET SCOTT

*a Sense of Place*

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## Tournament helps children and their families

Pungarehu Golf Club is hosting the "MellowPuff Trust Golf Tournament" on Friday February 3.

The charity golf tournament is organised by Terry Long and his committee in memory of his daughter Melissa who passed away 11 years ago.

The charity raises money to assist children and their families who are dealing with illness or having a tough time and just need a "break."

It will be a busy weekend

for the members and volunteers of Pungarehu as on Waitangi Day (Monday February 6), Pungarehu Golf Club holds its annual Coastal Champs 27 holes tournament sponsored in conjunction with "Golf Zone"

An invitation is extended to all golfers to come and play and be hosted by PGC Tee - off between 9am and 11am. Entry fee \$25. Call Alan Crowley 06 763 8255 to enter.

### Pungarehu Golf Club 27 Holes Coastal Champs

Monday 6th February  
Tee Off 9.00 - 11.00 am  
Entry Fee \$25

All Welcome - Call Alan - 06 763 8255 to enter

# Coastal Care comes to the rescue

Opunake's Print Shop is back in business and now operating as Coastal Printers.

In the December 3 issue of the Opunake Coastal News it was announced that as of Christmas, the Print Shop would be closing, thus ending a 30 year association with Opunake.

Since then the Coastal Care Health Trust has come to the rescue and bought the Print Shop's equipment, and as of January 25, Jenny Cavaney and Tina Chapman have been carrying on what they did at the Print Shop, this time out of the CoastalCare Health Facility under the new name of Coastal Printers.

"I want to say a big thank you to Coastal Care for rescuing the Print Shop," Jenny said "We were resurrected at Christmas time. What a blessing."

Tina said that before Coastal Care announced they would buy the equipment, they had a lot of customers coming into the shop and asking why they were closing, indicating the Print Shop was obviously wanted in the town.

CoastalCare manager Aretha Lemon said they didn't want to see Opunake lose another service.

"We agreed to purchase just before Christmas. We are all



CoastalCare Manager Aretha Lemon with Tina Chapman and Jenny Cavaney.

very excited and the Trust is very pleased to keep the printing services in Opunake. We hope people will support Coastal Printers."

Aretha said that as well as carrying on all the existing services they are looking to expand into other items like pens, mugs, T Shirts, photo

books and photo canvases, anything you can print a photo onto.

"Tina's passion is with the design and printing work so it's great she has been able to stay on board with the new Coastal Printers, Tina is always happy to help with logo design and we also offer

general typing for anybody who may want it,' Aretha said.

Coastal Printers office is manned on Wednesdays and Fridays, but orders can be made and collected at the CoastalCare reception on the other days of the work week.



## Thank you

Opunake and District Foodbank would like to thank everyone for their support during 2016.

The Christmas drive was another great success, providing Christmas parcels for 22 families who all appreciated their parcels very much. Thanks, goes to Opunake Fire Brigade, St John and Get Fit 45 for their collection around town, all those who donated to the collection and our small group of Foodbank volunteers who parcelled up the food and delivered the Christmas parcels.

The foodbank would not be able to operate without all the wonderful generous people and organisations. During 2016 there has been many individuals donating both money and food, as well as the following organisations having can days or food drives; Chatterbox Café, St

Joseph school, Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, Get Fit 45, Rahotu Lions, Rahotu 4 square, Pihama Women's Institute, Opunake High School, Sinclair Electrical, Highway 45 Cruisers Car Club, Opunake 4 square and 4 Square 45.

We were also lucky to have received a COGS grant in September 2016. All this has assisted us to help 252 adults and 195 children by giving out 150 food parcels. Lastly, I need to thank the small but tireless group of volunteers that make up the food bank committee. If you are interested in donating or helping with Foodbank please contact Aretha at CoastalCare 06 761 8488.

This is a wonderful community we live in and it always astounds me how generous and supportive everyone is of each other and the services we have.

The next edition of the Opunake and Coastal News is due out February 17. Phone us today on 761 7016 to advertise



### CoastalCare Health and Community Centre

CoastalCare offers for hire, quiet, private, well-appointed room's for meetings, training opportunities & social gatherings. This will seat up to 60 people or it has the flexibility to be divided into two smaller rooms. The facilities include a lounge area & kitchenette for self-service of coffees and tea

*Some of the regular services we currently have running are:*

#### LISA KEEN - AUDIOLOGY

Every 2nd Wednesday hearing evaluation, hearing aid assessment, ACC hearing evaluation and complimentary hearing checks.

#### TAYLOR DENTAL PRACTICE

Offering full dental services every Thursday.

#### ACUPUNCTURE CLINIC

every Thursday afternoon

#### SURFSIDE MIDWIFERY - JO LOCKTON

supporting you from conception until baby is 6wks old - home visits & clinics as needed

#### TAI CHI - NIGEL CLIFFE

every Thursday, 9am-10am, low impact exercise all welcome, gold coin donation.

#### FOODBANK

Tuesday's and Wednesday's 10am - 2pm, providing basic food parcels for those in need.

#### BUDGET ADVICE

advice and assistance with budgets and finances, every second Wednesday.

#### TARANAKI PODIATRY

every 3rd Tuesday - specialised foot care for all ages in clinics

#### TUI ORA

\* Haumiri massage koha based - every third Friday

\* Alcohol and Drug Counselling - weekly one to one counselling

#### SIAS HOFFMAN

one to one counselling, specialising in anxiety, depression, and relationship therapy.

#### DAIRY NZ

once a month course - delivers industry training to those in the Dairy Industry

#### PRIMARY ITO - MILK QUALITY COURSES

one day course looking at how to get the best quality milk production.

#### COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS - WEEKLY

supporting offenders addressing their offending & gain skills that will help them lead a crime free life

Also permanently residing in the building are:

- OPUNAKE PHARMACY, COASTAL PRINTERS,
- OPUNAKE MEDICAL CENTRE
- ST. JOHNS AMBULANCE - PLUNKET
- HEALTH BOARD SERVICES.



**CONTACT: ARETHA, MANAGER, on 761 8488**

## EVERYBODY'S THEATRE

**Opunake - MOVIES - BOUTIQUE THEATRE - HIRE**  
For information email: [everybodystheatre@gmail.com](mailto:everybodystheatre@gmail.com) or check facebook- Everybody's Theatre  
**JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2017**

Lollies, Popcorn, Ice-creams, Chocolate bars, Coffee & Tea For Sale		Adults \$10, Students 4-16yrs \$8, Under 4 free Senior Citizens \$8. No Eft-Pos	
	<b>ASSASSIN'S CREED</b> Action, Adventure, Science Fiction, Historical   1hr 55mins   M Violence and offensive language <b>Welcome to the Spanish Inquisition.</b> Lynch (Fassbender) discovers he is a descendant of the secret Assassins society. These memories allow him to relive the adventures of his ancestor, Aguilar, in 15th Century Spain, and equip him with the knowledge and skills necessary to take on the oppressive Knights Templar in the present day. <b>Wednesday 1 Feb 7pm Saturday 4 Feb 7pm</b>		<b>**Boutique** THE CATCH</b> Drama, Comedy   1hr 24 mins   NZ - Kaipara Harbor A Scotsman, a Maori and an Englishman enter a fishing contest... How far will they go to win? Fishing comedy/drama based on a true story about two mates in a Kaipara Harbour fishing contest who end up being blackmailed when caught cheating. <b>Sunday 5 Feb 7pm Wednesday 8 Feb 1pm Saturday 11 Feb 7pm</b>
	<b>A UNITED KINGDOM</b> Drama   111mins   M contains violence British period biopic starring David Oyelowo (Selma) as Botswana prince Seretse Khama and Oscar nominee Rosamund Pike (Gone Girl) as Ruth, together a mixed race couple whose marriage causes an international stir. <b>Saturday 28 Jan 7pm Wednesday 1 Feb 1pm</b>		<b>MONSTER TRUCKS</b> Action, Kids & Family, Science Fiction   PG   1 hr 44mins A teen finds a monster in a truck in this family adventure. Looking for any way to get away from the life and town he was born into, Tripp, a high school senior, builds a Monster Truck from bits and pieces of scrapped cars. <b>Friday 10 Feb 7pm Saturday 11 Feb 1pm Saturday 18 Feb 1pm</b>
	<b>PASSENGERS</b> Adventure, Drama, Science Fiction   1hr 56 mins   M Adult theme There is a reason they woke up. Chris Pratt and Jennifer Lawrence must save themselves, their ship and its 5000 passengers stuck sleeping in suspended animation in this sci-fi drama. <b>Friday 3 Feb 7pm Wednesday 8 Feb 7pm Sunday 12 Feb 7pm Wednesday 15 Feb 1pm</b>		<b>Also in February: The Edge of Seventeen, The Eagle Huntress, Lion, and XXX return of Zander</b>
Cage.			
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>
	27 Jan La La Land 7pm	28 Jan Sing 1pm A United Kingdom 7pm	29 Jan Assassin's Creed 7pm
1 Feb A United Kingdom 1pm Assassin's Creed 7pm	3 Feb Passengers 7pm	4 Feb Moana 1pm Assassin's Creed 7pm	5 Feb <b>** BOUTIQUE**</b> The Catch 7pm
8 Feb The Catch 1pm Passengers 7pm	10 Feb Monster Trucks 7pm	11 Feb Monster Trucks 1pm The catch 7pm	12 Feb Passengers 7pm

# Back to school safety tips

Thousands of students are marching back to school next month. Safekids Aotearoa has safety tips to keep children safe.

For children. They're safer in a booster seat till they're 148cm tall. Primary school children seated in booster seats in the back seat of the car are 59 per cent less likely to be injured in a crash than children using a seat belt alone.

Wearing safety helmets when cycling, scootering or skateboarding to school is a must. For cyclists, aside from being a law, wearing a helmet reduces the risk of severe brain injury by 74 per cent..

Avoid digital distraction—teach children to remove their earphones when crossing the road, and to stop walking if they need to use their phone.

Watch out for sneaky driveways. If you can't see the driveway from the footpath, remember to stop and look to make sure there are no cars exiting the driveway.

Have a school travel plan. Teach children to use a safe route to school, and

to be aware of dangers when walking, cycling or scootering. Closely supervise new entrants when walking to school for the first time.

For drivers. Double check intersections and crossings. A child might dart across the street when you least expect it. They are also pretty hard to see in between parked cars. Stopping at intersections and slowing down in high pedestrian traffic areas will give you time to check if your path is clear of children.

Slow down at school zones. 30-40kph variable speed limit zones will be operational again during school commute hours, and drivers are required to slow down when the lights are on or the signs are up. And even when they are off, be extra vigilant—an evening event or a weekend game might be on, so you still need to watch out for kids.

Passing school buses: Either way it's 20kph. If a school bus has stopped the law requires you to slow down and drive at 20km/h or less until you are past it no matter which direction you are driving



Students are back to school this week, please keep them safe.

## Driver behaviour around school children

Students are back at school this week and Roadsafe Taranaki is urging parents, students and motorists to work together to create a safe enjoyable start to the school year.

Over the past 25 years the percentage of children nationally who actively travel to school (walking or cycling) has dropped from 42 per cent to 29 per cent and as a result, congestion around schools, and the dangers it creates, is a growing concern.

The risks are especially high at the beginning of the year, when new students and their parents are still finding their way around.

Over the next two weeks, Roadsafe Taranaki and the Police will be working together, visiting schools and patrolling some of the busiest locations to talk to parents about the risks in the area, safe parking and handing out information to help parents make their children's travel to and from school as safe as possible.

Police Sergeant George White asks that other motorists do their bit to help by driving to the conditions around schools.

"Children can be unpredictable so slow down, be patient at crossings and expect the unexpected," he says.

Sergeant White also reminds drivers to take care in rural zones where children may be walking, crossing or standing on the side of the road waiting for the bus.

"Whichever direction you

are travelling, if a bus has stopped to pick up or drop off students, you must pass the bus at the legal speed limit."

Roadsafe Taranaki Coordinator Marion Webby says parents can help by parking further away from the school gates and walking their child a few hundred metres. This is a great opportunity to teach them basic road skills.

Remember: keep clear of bus stops, don't park or stop on yellow lines, don't stop in the middle of the road to drop a child off.

### OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

For advertising talk to us today on 761 7016

# BACK TO SCHOOL

## HELP MAKE 2017 A SAFE YEAR FOR OUR CHILDREN

### ROAD PATROLS HELP KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE

BE PATIENT AT PATROLLED CROSSINGS

### CHILDREN ARE UNPREDICTABLE

SLOW DOWN AROUND SCHOOLS AND EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

### ADVICE FOR PARENTS

# NEVER

## CALL A CHILD FROM ACROSS THE ROAD

### DRIVERS MUST SLOW DOWN TO 20KMPH WHEN PASSING SCHOOL BUSES DROPPING OFF CHILDREN WHICHEVER SIDE OF THE ROAD YOU ARE DRIVING ON TOWN OR COUNTRY THE SPEED LIMIT IS THE SAME

SCHOOL BUS



0800 111 323