



Inside

Okato residents seeks a safer positioning of proposed cell tower

Okato residents received a notice in their letter boxes (dated 16 December 2021) informing them that Vodafone intended erecting a “telecommunication facility” (cell tower) at the Okato Tennis Club, 12 Old South Road, Okato. Near the end it said: “We intend to lodge a Certificate of Compliance application with the New Plymouth District Council to confirm that the facility meets the permitted standards of the Resource Management Act and District Plan rules including compliance with the national safety standards for telecommunication providers.” The notice was signed Paul Kinghan, Site Acquisition Manager, Vodafone New Zealand Limited. The notice had an Auckland address. A fact sheet (and maps) followed with specific information, such as its height at 15 metres and that it was to be a 5G facility, as well as assurance that there were no health implications, according to scientific studies.

However, this notice was not the Christmas present many in the village were expecting or wanted. Direct action has included a petition, opposing the proposed placement of the tower in the heart of the village, which has been



From left, Kat Zuidema, Frank Roebuck, and Nicole Michelini who oppose the proposed siting of the Vodafone cell tower.

can give us service without putting a tower in our town, so why can't Vodafone,” explained Frank Roebuck. He added, “This is our home.” He said he was born and bred in Okato.

Other measures have included a letter of objection placed in all village letterboxes, a three page fact sheet, followed up by a flyer advertising a public meeting, which was duly held in the Okato Skate Park on Thursday 22 January (at 7.30pm). This meeting (and the other action) was organised by Penny Cullen, Kat Zuidema, Frank Roebuck and Lesley Dowding (minute recorder). The meeting was attended by 52 people.

The public meeting was introduced by Penny Cullen, followed by several speakers, including Graeme Chard the Chairperson of the Kaitake Community Board and there was an extended question time. Penny outlined the direct action taken so far, such as the petition: “The 200 signatures show that the greatest percentage of residents are opposed to the location of the tower.”

She was concerned about the limited radius of the tower to households and the various health implications (eg. Immune dysfunction, increased risk of cancer, headaches, insomnia). She explained that, as result of legislation (under the



Graeme Chard, Chairperson of the Kaitake Community Board sought to allay fears of health implications and will continue to liaise with Vodafone on behalf of the community.

National-led Government), Vodafone were not legally obliged to ask permission or consult, “which is extremely unfair.”

Another keynote speaker was Raig Kleinhans, a Network and Telecommunication engineer. He spoke of definite health implications of living in close proximity to a tower. He explained that he had been in letter communication with Jonathan Young (when he was Member of Parliament for New Plymouth), with one letter dated as early as September 4, 2019. He endeavoured to point out his concerns of 5G radio frequencies (RF): “which will incorporate exponentially higher and more intense frequencies than 4G are totally untested for safety.” He also pointed out that “over 200 highly

can be carried out before people are exposed to its frequencies.” He wrote a number of letters which were referred to other MPs in the Government, but the replies he received (he considered) did not adequately deal with his concerns about safety.

Graeme Chard spoke at length and stressed the importance of Vodafone, pointing out, “You can't stop it because soon we won't have phone lines. We need a cellphone coverage. He added, “All police cellphones are Vodafone.” He answered many questions and sought to allay some of the fears expressed by questioners.

When asked if he would agree to have a tower in his backyard he answered, “For \$10,000 I'd jump at it.” He also queried that 200 signatures was a majority of opinion and said there were 1,432 people in the area.

He agreed to find out more information from Vodafone and perhaps arrange a meeting to deal with concerns. “My job is to assist you to decide what path you can go down.”

Amongst the many questions included why a Vodafone representative was not present or anyone from the Okato Tennis Club. The club will receive \$9,000 yearly for 35 years by allowing Vodafone to place their tower on the land, by way of lease.

It should be pointed out that residents in the immediate vicinity of the proposed placement were all opposed to the intended location, so close to their

continued on page 2



A QSM for Brian. See page 5.



A battler for the Merchant Navy. See page 7.



Admitted to the Bar. See page 9.



In the national top 10. See page 16.



The vintage cars come to town. See page 18.

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www.opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

Editor: Bernice McKellar

Journalists/Sales: Rolland McKellar, Bryan Kirk

Advertising/Production: Vanessa Smith

Production/IT: Shane Butler

Delivery: Thursday, fortnightly

Registered as a newspaper.

Member of the Community Newspapers Association of New Zealand



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

Okato residents seek a safer positioning of proposed cell

continued from page 1

homes. Commented one, "My opposition comes from the fact that people in the community aren't happy about having it in the middle of the town where there are a large number of people living. It doesn't seem fair. Surely there are other options." She added, "There seems to have been little consultation, so if people are unhappy with it, why charge ahead?"

Another nearby resident Nicole Michelini said, "It's not okay that they can build a tower without consulting anyone." Her property backs onto the Okato Tennis Club area.

One of the organisers Kat Zuidema made an interesting point: "Vodafone will end

up with the opposite effect. People will not choose them as it (the tower) has been pushed onto us."

It must be kept in mind that as result of the legislation, Vodafone were not legally obliged to consult; how fair or democratic this is another matter!

It has been pointed out in one handout by the organisers: "Children are more vulnerable to the harmful effects and wireless technology has never been tested for long term safety."

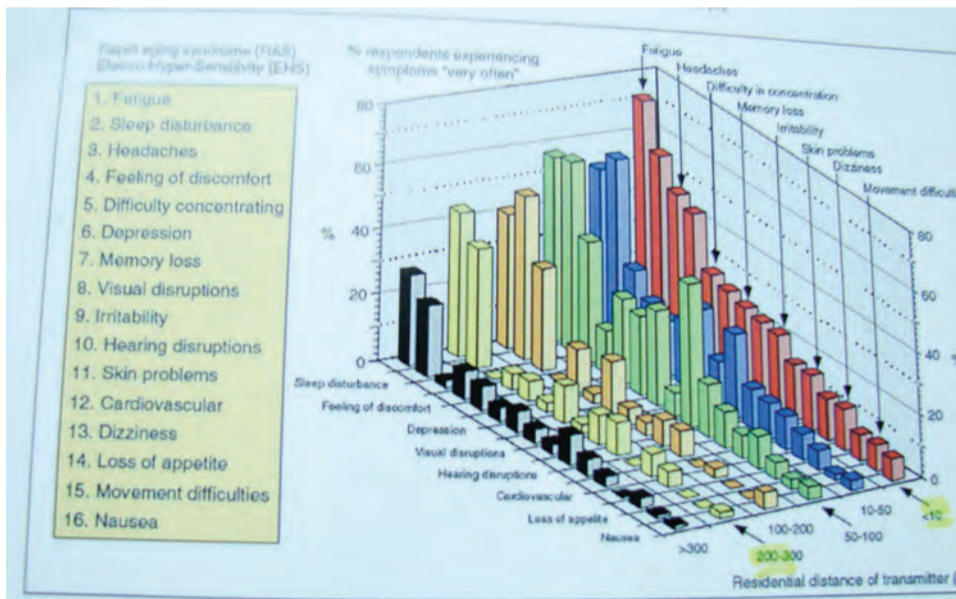
The proposed cell tower is just 65 metres from the edge of the Coastal Taranaki School grounds (where there are hockey goals posts) and 300 metres from the nearest school buildings.

After the meeting Raig Kleinahns considered some

more factual detail was warranted: "The Ministry of Health recommends using the NZS 2772.1:1999 Standard for Radiofrequency Fields. This standard permits a maximum wireless energy density absorption limit at 450 microwatts per square centimetre. As a comparison equivalent maximum values in countries like Switzerland or Italy are set to 10 microwatts per square centimetre. The Ministry of Health report also uses the Bioinitiative Report in their reference section. This report clearly shows that the last five years of new scientific studies tell us the situation is much worse than in 2007 and yet people around the world have so much more daily exposure than even five years ago.

Exposures are linked to a variety of adverse health outcomes that may have significant public health consequences.

The conclusions of the Bioinitiative report: <https://bioinitiative.org/conclusions/> states that the scientific benchmark for long term exposure is 0.003 microwatts per square centimetre. So that means the New Zealand standard of 450 microwatts per square centimetre is 150,000 times higher than the scientific benchmark for long term exposure. The following graph, which I couldn't show at the meeting, indicates the expected adverse health effects around a cell tower."



The graph above suggests that the issue of proximity of cell towers surely needs further investigation. The graph is included from the following scientific source: Santini, R., Santini P., Danze, J.M. Study of the health of people living in the vicinity of mobile phone base stations 1. Influence of distance and sex, Pathol. Biol., 2002, 50: S369-73.

On this month in history: Australian kayakers reach NZ

On Sunday January 13, 2008 Australian Kayakers James Castrission (25) and Justin Jones (24) reached New Zealand – in New Plymouth. They were aboard a nine metre fibreglass kayak and left Sydney on November 13. During their 62 day voyage problems beset them, such as lack of sleep, 30 foot waves and feeling they were bouncing in a giant washing machine. They travelled 2050 miles all tolled.

Upon landing they paid tribute to Andrew McCauley who attempted the same voyage but died (presumably drowned) within sight of New Zealand's coastline.

Deadlines for copy

We find we are working very late on a Tuesday night to put the paper together for it to be at the printers first thing Wednesday morning.

Our deadline for copy is Monday 10am.

This gives us an opportunity to proofread the copy.

We continue to receive a lot of material on Tuesday and are struggling to process it all as well as put together the paper.

If you have trouble meeting this deadline can you let us know.

This deadline does not apply to the Cops and Fire Service columns where incidents can occur on the Monday and Tuesday.

We do appreciate your contributions, so thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Editor

Opunake & Coastal News
Paste Up Night



Our next issue is out on February 10. Phone us on 06 761 7016.

More Opunake & Coastal News' out

We have printed more copies of the Opunake & Coastal News.

It is available on stands at the following locations

New Plymouth:

- Ate Forty One, Tukapa St, Westown
- Challenge Spotswood
- The Health Shop on the ground floor at Centre City
- The Store, Cnr Tukapa St & Wallath Rd

Waitara:

Outside the North Taranaki Community House Trust, 67 McLean St

Inglewood:

Inglewood Book Centre, 31 Rata St

Stratford:

Stratford Knit & Sew, 202 Broadway

Hawera:

Outside First National, Cnr of Victoria and High Streets

Outside Nursery Rhyme, 158 High St

Papers are also available at

- The Sunshine Dairy, Hawera
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- Swetes Dairy, Manaia
- Pastimes in Opunake
- Farm Source, Pungarehu
- Tim's Barbershop, Moturoa
- Okato Takeaways

Response of Vodafone to the preceding story

The Taranaki region is one of the first regions to benefit from Vodafone's turbocharged digital infrastructure investment programme to improve mobile phone and internet coverage around Aotearoa. Covid-19 has accelerated the use of digital services and data consumption, particularly in regional parts of the country. New Zealanders are increasingly turning to digital channels to work, live and play. Monthly mobile data consumption was up 60% on the Vodafone network in 2021 compared to the year before – a trend we expect to continue in the coming years.

When determining the location of the new cell site in Okato, Vodafone worked

with New Plymouth District Council and the Kaitake Community Board to ensure we had the best location available to us. Okato has very poor mobile coverage and will be one of the first sites in Taranaki to benefit from increased investment in digital infrastructure. This means there will be significantly improved mobile reception in the area, including improved internet speeds and quality of mobile calls.

The new 4G and 5G technology required to power cell sites means telecommunications providers need to have cell sites closer to the user. Therefore, building cell sites for urban users in out-of-town or rural locations,

such as hills etc and away from residential housing is no longer an option. We considered four locations in Okato, in the road reserve outside the tennis club, on the tennis club land itself and two locations on private land. If we located our site in the road reserve outside the tennis club, we would not have needed a lease and could do so by right, but our preference was to enter a lease with the tennis club, providing the club with guaranteed long-term funding, which also benefits the wider Okato community.

All radio frequency fields, including those used by mobile phones (3G, 4G, 5G), AM/FM radio, WiFi and televisions are non-ionizing waves. This means that

they don't have the power to alter the structure of a human cell. 5G, like all other mobile technologies such as 3G and 4G, operates well within the safety limits set out by international EMF exposure guidelines, which incorporate substantial safety margins, to deliver protection for everyone against health risks. Internationally, the independent World Health Organisation (WHO) monitors electromagnetic (EMF) and concludes there is no evidence from the decades and thousands of scientific studies undertaken to date that EMFs, including the frequencies used for 5G, pose any risk to human health.

In New Zealand, the Interagency Committee on the Health Effects of Non-

Ionising Fields monitors research into extremely low frequency electric and magnetic fields, and radiofrequency fields used to provide telecommunications services. The Committee reports to the Director General of Health, and includes representatives from government, industry, academic and consumer groups. These reviews conclude exposures which comply with current limits do not cause health effects.

Vodafone will continue to work with the Kaitake Community Board to ensure the community has access to independent information and research. We are disappointed at the spread of misinformation about cell sites in the village and

encourage the community to talk to us directly and do their research from credible information sources such as the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organisation.

Vodafone will continue to monitor international research and adhere to international guidelines based on comprehensive scientific research and independent analysis. Community Relations Manager Lisa Multitalo can be contacted on 021 4903 09 or communityrelationsteam@vodafone.com to answer any questions.

*Nga mihi,
Lisa Multitalo*

ADELPHOS

The sign of the Cross

He was born in a wooden manger and died on a wooden cross. Most people have heard the story in between. That cross of Jesus has become a sign and symbol of God's love and hope for the world. It is remembered in many churches by making the physical sign of the cross during worship services and before and after prayers. This practice has been well documented and traced back to the second, third and fourth centuries. However, the

custom became less used in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. Scholars are not certain why.

By the time of Martin Luther's sixteenth century Protestant Reformation it became strongly associated with the spiritual and political abuses in the Roman Catholic Church. As a result most emerging and competing Protestant denominations threw out the baby with the bathwater

and rejected the practice of teaching parishioners the physical signing of the cross. Unfortunately such close-minded thinking and prejudices still infiltrate our churches. Ironically, Luther valued and continued using the sign of the cross in his worship services. Over the years I have known many Protestant ministers who frown upon the Roman Catholic, Anglican and Lutheran practice of their parishioners making the sign

of the cross.

Today Eastern Orthodox and Coptic Christian churches make the sign of the cross from the right to the left shoulder. Whereas many Western churches (Roman Catholic, Anglican and Lutheran) go from the left to the right shoulder. However, both Eastern and Western Christians all once followed the Eastern Orthodox practice of moving right to left, until about the twelfth or thirteenth centuries. No one really

knows the exact dates for the change. But many historians believe our Western churches changed directions in signing the cross due to competitive, petty and prejudicial church attitudes.

During this time of addressing worldwide racism and prejudices, shouldn't this most holy and symbolic sign of the cross be liberated from the churches' own religious and cultural prejudices? It represents our living

communion with the Trinity of the Father, through the Son and in the Holy Spirit: One God in three personal manifestations.

Never be afraid or ashamed to ask God's blessing by making the sign of Jesus' cross. It is God's love gift to all humanity. The Devil cowers at the very thought.

Manaakitanga.
Adelphos

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

Extremely poor coaching

On reading Mac Sole's opinion of our recent All Blacks 15 game international tour I absolutely do agree with him that coach Ian Foster should entirely take the whole blame, as not only is he out of his depth, but its well beyond his capabilities, and as these first-time all Blacks got their first big taste of what International Rugby is all about, so if they want to be part of our All Black Rugby World Cup squad in

2023 in France, they've got to start toughing up and start lifting their game from now onwards.

In the last Rugby World Cup we cleaned out Ireland, yet I believe it was Foster and Fox who persuaded Steve Hansen to play the same 23 players against England, which completely backfired bigtime, then Steve Hansen resigned.

Once this happened, every one of us thought Scott Robertson would get his position, but I really squirmed when Foster got this position. We lost two

international games against Ireland and France, and I cannot see us winning the Rugby World Cup only under Scott Robertson, but if we do it will be only through some massive and miraculous intervention from God, not by Ian Foster, and if we don't our rugby union could end up with egg on their faces.

Tom Stephens

Dangerous condition of track

Are you and your readers around your way aware that the track in the Egmont National Park to the Waiaua



Photo taken from the summit looking at the Stoney River and Pyramid Stream where the erosion is at present.

Gorge Hut is now recut around the major slip up there, Reopening this track allows park-users to use

the Around the Mountain Circuit, which is great news. The issue with this is the dangerous condition of the

track around the Stoney River Track area where the Egmont National Park official track is in a very dangerous state and eroded state making it very difficult for trekkers with bigger packs.

The issue around there is not the Pyramid Stream erosion, it is the state the Department of Conservation has over looked, and in places ropes are required to get down eroded areas.

What is the Department of Conservation doing about this?

*Ian McAlpine
New Plymouth*

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Stories and links with the Pacific brought to life

How much do you know about New Zealand's historical people-to-people links with the Pacific?

Taranaki storyteller Lesley Dowding and writer and poet Mikaela Nyman want

to encourage young people to take an active interest in New Zealand's history and links with our wider Pacific region. And in the course of it, participants might discover something about

their own family history too. Mikaela and Lesley were delighted to recently be awarded a Creative Communities grant from the New Plymouth District Council for their exciting new project that is happening in 2022.

This is the first time the two artists collaborate to bring a small part of our regional Pacific history to life in storytelling and poetry, while offering creative writing workshops and coaching young people (years 7 to 9).

The project will be delivered through creative workshops and performances during Term 2 and Term 3 in 2022.

For this project, they are using the critically acclaimed *Sista, Stanap Strong! A Vanuatu Women's Anthology*, published by Victoria University Press in 2021, which Mikaela Nyman co-edited with Rebecca Tobo Olul-Hossen from Vanuatu. Adventure, drama and some dark truths about our regional slave trade are up for discovery!

The aim with this project is:

- To bring our regional Pacific history and connections alive through storytelling and poetry.
- To grow talent amongst young people.



Mikaela Nyman and Lesley Dowding.

To grow young people's self-esteem and confidence by coaching and mentoring them in how to perform their own work (reading stories, performing

poetry) in front of an audience. The project is organised and resourced by Mikaela Nyman (published poet, novelist, non-fiction writer

and editor) and Lesley Dowding (story-teller, writer and educator).

NPDC responds to red traffic light

All NPDC facilities remain open under the Government's Red Traffic Light Covid protection system while following the safety rules, says New Plymouth District Council chief executive Craig Stevenson.

"We indicated last year that if the Government moved to Red, we would most likely move to vaccination passes for our main public facilities," he says.

"From Wednesday 26 January any member of the public who enters our facilities will have to show a vax pass. Thousands of

people use these services each week and requiring members of the public to have a vaccine pass for these facilities gives us another layer of protection against the highly infectious Omicron in the fight against the global pandemic. It shouldn't be an issue for the 93% of the population who are fully vaccinated. We're excluding the Civic Centre on Liardet Street because of a lower volume of customers.

"Thank for your continued support of our staff as we implement vaccination passes. We also offer a contactless service so don't hesitate to pick up the phone or send us an email and we'll



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in place to manage a range of future scenarios, including some staff continuing to work remotely.

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Queen's medal for Opunake community stalwart

One of New Zealand's longest serving firefighters was among those honoured in this year's New Year's Honours List.

Brian Vincent of Opunake was awarded the Queens Service Medal for services to Fire and Emergency New Zealand and the community.

In December 2020 he became only the third person in the country to be awarded a 60 Year service medal. He is still with the Opunake Fire Brigade in a support role.

"Sixty three years ago, little did I ever think I'd be getting honours," he said. "I never gave it an inkling I'd get anything like this. There are plenty of people more important than me who have done wonderful things."

He says that although he has received some ribbing, nothing much will change as far as he is concerned.

"I'm still B.W," he says.

He will probably get his award in May. In the meantime he says he feels honoured to have received letters of congratulations from the Prime Minister, Governor-General and Fire and Emergency New Zealand.

He grew up in Rahotu and attended the local school where classmates included future Prime Minister Jim Bolger.

Brian first joined the fire brigade in East Coast Bays where he and his brother-in-



Brian Vincent with some of the congratulatory letters he's received. These have included letters from the Prime Minister and the Governor-General.

law were digging and laying water pipes.

"Up in East Coast Bays they were looking for volunteers," recalls Brian. "I didn't know how long I'd be up there, so I volunteered. I enjoyed it, so I naturally carried on when I came back to Rahotu and then transferred back to Opunake."

Back in Taranaki, he carried on working on gas lines and earth works, and worked on the Opunake sewage system. He did work for the Kiwi Dairy Co-Operative and the Maui development, and joined up with the Hot fire training ground at Oaonui.

In his time with the Opunake Brigade, the one fire that stood out was the one that devastated Opunake High School and destroyed the school hall in 1982.

Brian is a well-known figure in Opunake, having served on the Egmont Plains (now Taranaki Coastal) Community Board for 12 years and been involved with Lions, the Returned and Services Association, Everybodys Theatre and been a volunteer with the Historic Cape Lighthouse and Coastal Community Transport. He and his wife Maureen have

also managed the Opunake Beach Holiday Camp. While at the Beach Camp he took an interest in the work done by Department of Corrections workers. The Department asked him if he'd be interested in supervising these workers after he left the beach camp. This is something he continues to do to this day.

"They are all somebody's sons or daughters who have just gone off the rails," he says.

When he was living in Rahotu he would help "Boss" Whiting show movies at the Rahotu Hall on Monday nights. The movie he most recalls from that time?

"Gone with the Wind. I saw it two or three times," he recalls.

It was only natural then that he would be involved when Everybodys Theatre in Opunake was reopened.

Brian has an extensive knowledge of local history which has been put to good use as a volunteer at the Historic Cape Lighthouse. This knowledge was also in evidence when he was on the Community Board, with meetings often punctuated by historical insights from Brian on whatever was being discussed. At one

meeting he came with photos of Opunake Beach in the 1920s, pointing to what was then a towering rock, but today barely juts its head above the sandy surface.

He has been a member of the Lions Club for over 30 years. Another interest has been the RSA, of which he is now the Opunake President, something he took on because he said it was important the work of the RSA continue.

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Fellow firefighters stand to attention as Brian Vincent receives his 60 year medal with the fire service in 2020. Now his years of service with Fire and Emergency New Zealand have seen him receive a QSM.

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COASTAL COPS

Fatal accident closes highway

It's been a rough start to 2022 here in Taranaki. Opunake police attended a serious motor vehicle accident Monday January 17, involving a stock truck with trailer and a vehicle just north of Oaonui Hall on State Highway 45. Unfortunately the driver of the vehicle did not survive the impact, resulting in the road being shut down for the majority of the day. We thank you for your patience during this time. This is a

reminder to all road users to take care. Please do not drive distracted or under the influence, drive to the conditions, wear your seat belt, ensure your vehicle inspection is current, obey all other road rules and most importantly be aware of your surroundings and other road users. On a positive note, we thank our local community for all information received that resulted in an arrest following a search warrant. Police

located a substantial amount of methamphetamine, cash and seized illegally-held firearms. The male was charged for possession of methamphetamine for supply, possession of cannabis for supply, possession of drug utensils and unlawful possession of firearms. Please keep this information coming

our way, we are committed to disrupting criminal behaviour and ensuring our community members are safe and feel safe. Anyone who has concerns about criminal activity please call 111 if it is happening now and 105 if it has already happened. Information can also be provided anonymously to Crime Stoppers on 0800 555

111 A side note to all business owners. There has been an increase in aggravated robberies, burglaries and shoplifting in dairies/grocery stores. Ensure your security cameras are working correctly and that there are no obstructions that are covering any areas of your store. Educate your

staff on procedures in case of an unexpected incident to ensure they are kept safe.

Hope you all have been enjoying the sunshine! Be sun smart and slip, slop, slap and wrap!

Constable Chloe Ashton, Hawera Police

OKATO COPPERS

Still seeing thieves on the coast

Kia Ora and Happy New Year Coastal Community, I trust that you all had a safe and enjoyable festive season. I had a short break myself, enjoyed the sunshine and time with family at the beach.

I recall this time last year writing about COVID and that last year would be a year of uncertainty. It's still much the same it would appear. I ask that we continue to treat



CONSTABLE MATT STONE.

everyone, particularly those in the service sector, with

respect in relation to COVID regulations.

Unfortunately, we are still seeing thieves entering into our community and causing harm. I have a new project, supported by the Coastal Catchment Group, which I believe will assist in the reduction of these crimes. I encourage you all to install security cameras to assist with prevention and security in your homes. This small

cost now can save a large cost down the track if you were to become a target of thieves.

I look forward to seeing many of you throughout 2022. Until then, take care.

*Constable Matthew Stone
Sole Charge
Okato
Matthew.Stone@police.govt.nz*

Man killed in accident

A New Plymouth man was killed in an accident involving the car he was driving and a stock truck on January 17. The accident which occurred on Surf Highway between Oaonui and Rahotu was Coastal Taranaki's first road fatality for 2022, and the second in Taranaki.

Emergency services were alerted shortly after 9am and the highway was closed for several hours.

The driver and single occupant of the car has been named as Andrew Johnathan de Bruyn (47) of New



Emergency services attended a fatality on Surf Highway last week.

Plymouth. The truck driver was uninjured. The truck

was carrying three young bulls at the time which were safely removed from the

scene. The Serious Crash Unit has been investigating.

Restricted fire season for Taranaki

All of the Taranaki District was moved to a restricted fire season as of 8am Friday January 21.

Anyone wanting to light an open-air fire will have to apply for a permit and follow

the conditions listed on the permit. You can apply for a permit at checkitsalright.nz. Taranaki District Manager, David Utumapu says by putting these restrictions in place, we can provide advice

to the public around safe fire use before it's too late.

"It's been hot, and at times windy in Taranaki this summer - conditions that make it very easy for a fire to get out of control. Managing

these fires now will prevent problems later," he says.

"We want everyone lighting fires this summer to be safe and aware of the weather conditions. If it's hot and windy, please don't light a fire."

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Coming to end of long battle for forgotten service

For 21 years Merv Martin has battled for official recognition for merchant seamen who served in two world wars.

The former merchant seaman from New Plymouth has seen some successes along the way, but says there are still battles to be won. His advocacy for the Merchant Navy, along with other volunteer work for causes like Victim Support, Multiple Sclerosis and the Taranaki Multi-Ethnic Council saw him receive an MNZM in the 2007 New Year's Honours List.

Merv served in the Merchant Navy from 1952-65, and says merchant seamen have never received the recognition they deserved.

"I've never seen war, but I've sailed with guys who did," he says.

Eight New Zealand merchant ships were sunk in the First World War and another eight in the Second. Various numbers have been given of the number of New Zealanders killed. The true figure will probably never be known, as the men who served in the Merchant Navy were counted as civilians, and their nationalities were given as British. When their ships were sunk, their wages were stopped, and if taken prisoner they could not claim the protections afforded by the Geneva Convention. They were just as much in danger as those serving in the army, navy or air force. Now, at the age of 89, Merv is calling time.

"I've come to the point that I don't think I can do much more. It's better to go while I'm on the crest of a wave." He says that he has had a lot of support from the Taranaki community and wants to thank all those who have helped the Merchant Navy cause.

There have been successes along the way, like the setting up of a national Merchant Navy Association, recognition of the Merchant Navy as the fourth service, and September 3 being named Merchant Navy Day. One success which gives



Merv Martin about to raise "the red duster," the Merchant Navy ensign.

him particular satisfaction is getting his own RSA in New Plymouth to become the first, and so far only one in New Zealand to recognise merchant seamen as servicemen. He had been living in Australia for a time, and with his merchant navy connections had been welcomed into the Returned Services League (RSL). He found a different story when he came back to New Zealand to live and wanted to join the RSA.

"In the RSL I was treated like a king. When I came back to New Zealand, I boldly went up to the RSA here in New Plymouth and thought I could join and gain entry. I was told to buzz off in strong terms."

Undeterred, Merv, who had earlier done Compulsory Military Training joined via that route.

"I got on to the executive and raised hell about the

Merchant Navy not being represented. At their New Plymouth AGM in 2020 I moved a notice of motion that we should be included, and after a battle I managed to get it through."

He has advocated for veterans like Fred Crafar of New Plymouth who signed up on an American ship which ended up taking part in the Arctic Convoys supplying the Soviet Union. Merv organised a medal ceremony in 2013 when Fred was presented with two medals, two lapel pins and a citation from President Harry.S.Truman on behalf of the United States government. He was also honoured by the Russian government, but from his own country he received nothing.

There are still other battles that need fighting. The ANZAC Day Act gives the RSA charge over the Poppy

Day Appeal, but the rules of the national body state that the Merchant Navy is a civilian service so its veterans aren't recognised unless certain criteria. Merv says this means dependents of those who served in the Merchant Navy aren't eligible for welfare payments available to those who served in the army, navy or air force.

The constitution of the RSA national body has been adopted by each of the RSAs around the country, who can make their own additions. The national body will be bringing in a new constitution. Merv says that at this stage it's

unclear exactly what will be in the new constitution, and whether merchant seamen will be recognised, or how it could affect a sub branch like New Plymouth which has chosen to recognise the Merchant Navy.

In 2010 the then Minister of Arts Culture and Heritage Chris Finlayson declared the the Merchant Navy the Fourth Service.

While welcoming the minister's statement, Merv says it remains a statement rather than a proclamation, and Mr Finlayson said it would require a new statute or an amendment to the ANZAC Day Act to give it any teeth.

He says there has been a lot of support in Taranaki for remembering the Merchant Navy. The War Memorial at New Plymouth Boys High School recognises the Merchant Navy alongside the other services.

"Two hundred and seventy seven ex pupils from that school were killed, and two of them were merchant seamen," says Merv.

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Back in the office for 2022

My team and I are back in the offices for 2022 and we're looking forward to the year ahead.

After a full-on 2021, I hope that everyone enjoyed a well-deserved summer break and a chance to catch up with loved ones.

Over the holidays I took the chance to visit a few attractions near home, like Bushy Park, Lake Wairitoa, Kowhai Park, Castlecliff Beach and Windermere Farm. It was excellent to see people scanning in, using their vaccine passes, wearing masks and socially distancing where possible.

Being able to explore the region and spend time with the people we love over the festive season was, in large part, thanks to all your efforts last year so we could move to the Orange COVID Protection Framework setting before the Christmas holidays. Unfortunately, it now looks like we have community transmission of Omicron in New Zealand, necessitating a move to the



STEPH LEWIS
MP FOR WHANGANUI

Red Setting.

The fact remains though, that hard work of everyone across the motu means we're entering 2022, and our fight against Omicron better placed than many other countries. The cautious approach we've taken has delivered the lowest COVID cases and deaths per capita in the OECD. It's with this same cautious, evidence based approach, that we will now work together to slow the spread of Omicron.

The Red setting will help us to slow the spread of Omicron. It's crucial we use this time to prepare, and to lift vaccination and booster rates. A huge thank you to everyone in Taranaki

who is among the 92% fully vaccinated in the Taranaki DHB rohe.

Almost half a million tamariki aged 5-11 are now eligible to be vaccinated against COVID-19. The COVID-19 vaccine used for tamariki has a lower dose and smaller volume than the adult vaccine and is administered using a smaller needle.

It is a parent's choice to vaccinate tamariki, and it's important to get the information needed to make that choice. Parents who have questions about the paediatric vaccine should seek further information from their health professional, online at [Covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz), or talk to a trained advisor on the COVID Vaccination

Healthline: 0800 28 29 26.

Getting vaccinated now is a great way to help protect children before they go back to school. To find out which clinics offer the child Pfizer vaccine and make a booking at bookmyvaccine.nz, or by calling 0800 28 29 26.

Our response to COVID has saved livelihoods as well as lives. Investing in businesses

and workers has delivered better-than-expected economic performance.

Unemployment is at a record low and there's high demand for our exports. With this head-start to securing our recovery, we have huge opportunities before us in 2022.

Noho ora mai.

Changing up the conversation

This year, under new leader Christopher Luxon, my focus will be on restoring confidence among farmers and growers.

Since COVID-19 arrived on our shores in 2020, New Zealand's primary sector has ensured our economy has remained buoyant and deserves to be recognised for the contribution it has made.

While changes are needed, the Government's broad brush approach of unworkable regulations is not the way to achieve productive results. Planning within catchments and communities will find the answers we need to move forward.

As Shadow Minister of Agriculture, I will bring ideas to the table, listen to others and together, work out a path to a successful food and fibre future.

Key issues include methane measurement, water quality and quantity, workforce, technology and the services in your rural communities.

Methane measurements — Current metric measurement GWP100 calculates the warming effect of methane over a 100-year period which overstates the warming impact. Unlike CO2 methane cycles out



BARBARA KURIGER
MP FOR TARANAKI/KING
COUNTRY

of the atmosphere in 10-12 years. Better measurement method GWP* reflects that shorter cycle and is more accurate. Our farmers already produce food at the lowest emission rates in the world, so we need measures which don't result in the leakage of food production to farmers worldwide.

Water quantity and quality — While water is our most valuable resource, several proposed storage projects have been stopped or stalled due to regulatory restraint, cost or uncertainty. As we search for climate solutions and find new ways to produce both renewable electricity and energy, some smart minds should work together on ideas for multiple water storage infrastructure projects. We need 'can do' answers, especially for areas of New Zealand more exposed to drought. On our journey to cleaner water, we will focus on regional and local solutions taking into account local soils, rainfall and land use.

Rural workforce — We need more employees in

every area of the primary sector. We want to educate students better about the future opportunities open to them. But until we get there, we must bring in qualified immigrants and seasonal workers to ensure productivity is at its maximum potential.

Technology will help us pave a path to the future. We must be open-minded to new options and technologies. We must be brave enough to discuss what gene editing might add to our toolbox. A boost in rural connectivity will ensure our ability to use modern technology options that are available. **Rural Communities** have always been the heart of New Zealand. That heartbeat needs strengthening with better services for health, education, police, rescue

and wellbeing, along with robust infrastructure such as roads, water services and mobile services.

I will be following with great interest the new Rural Communities team within the Ministry for Primary Industries who have been tasked with keeping your interests to the fore with other ministries.

I am excited and looking forward to engaging with you in 2022.

Let's change up the conversation and ensure that farmers and growers can feel proud.

Barbara Kuriger
National spokesperson
for Agriculture

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Wellington.

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Let's keep moving >

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for New Plymouth

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Authorised by Dianna Lacy,
160 Willis Street, Wellington

Labour

Happy Summer!

My offices are open for 2022.

Steph Lewis MP for Whanganui

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Hāwera office: 06 278 2180

/stephlewiswhanganui

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Authorised by Steph Lewis MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington



Corey Vickers, lawyer



2020, before a role was made for her as a full time law clerk upon her finishing her tertiary studies and then as a graduate solicitor following her admission to the Bar.

Corey, who grew up on a farmlet near Oakura, attended Oakura Primary School and Spotswood College. While at Spotswood College she participated in the Waikato University Secondary Schools Mooting competition in 2014, her final year at the secondary college. The University administered/ran

to full time work on Monday the next week. The hardest time of my life would have been the first five months of 2021 when I was working full time and studying full time for my legal professionals, as well as holding committee roles on local and regional Young Farmers Clubs.”

However, she continues her involvement as a member of the Young Farmers Club. “They are my sort of people, down to earth.”

In Hamilton, despite her busy workload she still finds time



In front of the Hamilton High Court, Corey with her proud parents, Bryce and Noeline Vickers.

the competition. Her team was mentored by lawyers at Auld, Brewer, Mazengarb & McEwen, a New Plymouth firm. The Spotswood College Team was placed second and Corey was adjudged the Best Speaker of the competition.

She was a member of the Oakura Karate Club from primary school age, earning a black belt, as did her older brother Rhys and younger sister Megan. Her family is still good friends with Sensei Jim, the leader of the club.

She had several part time jobs while growing up and working in between study. At one stage she even delivered our newspaper in Oakura.

She admits that, at times as an adult, not everything has been especially easy: “As I was finishing University I handed in my last assignment on a Friday and went straight

for social soccer and social frisbee.

She is grateful for the guidance and support of mentor Shelly Carden, whom she first met through a Young Farmers Club in Hamilton. Shelly, who also works North End Law said, “If you ever need help with anything such as your CV, come and see me.” In a pleasant surprise, Shelly (an Associate) is now Corey’s immediate boss at the Hamilton law firm. Corey is mostly involved in Trusts, Commercial and Property work.

Congratulations Corey on your success and all the best for the future.

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Corey Vickers (left) with her mentor Shelly Carden.

December 3, 2021 was an important date for Corey Ellen Vickers (24), as she was admitted to the Bar as a lawyer (barrister and solicitor). Corey’s big day was held at the Hamilton High Court and she was a bit nervous as she stood with others all dressed in wigs and graduation gowns with a judge presiding over the ceremony in the presence of senior solicitors. “It’s your big moment,” Corey

commented. Corey is well-qualified having completed her Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) at Waikato University, while concurrently studying for (and completing) a Bachelor of Communications degree, majoring in Public Relations. She is currently employed by the North End Law firm in Hamilton where she has worked for about 18 months. Initially, she worked as a part time Deeds Clerk in August



Corey beside her childhood playshed.

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Emergency Departments need more doctors

The New Zealand Resident Doctors' Association, representing resident doctors in District Health Boards, is warning an Omicron outbreak could quickly overrun the country's emergency departments.

"Most of the country's emergency department rosters do not have cover for sick leave, so even small numbers of doctors falling sick or needing to isolate could create an unsafe situation," said Dr Deborah Powell, NZRDA National Secretary.

"When an emergency department doctor needs to take sick leave, short staffing means their colleagues cover their workload in addition to their own. When Omicron arrives and doctors start becoming unwell or needing to isolate in larger numbers, that is going to leave large gaps in the countries emergency department."

"We estimate the country needs about 100 extra resident doctors employed in emergency departments to cope with increasing patient demand and provide sufficient numbers of

relievers to cover gaps caused by sickness," continued Dr Powell.

A recent survey carried out of NZRDA members working in emergency departments reported:

- 4% - reported their roster had no doctors available to fill sick leave absences.

- 67% - disagree or strongly disagree their ED is sufficiently staffed to cater to current patient demand, including demand from seasonal peaks.

- 63% - reported on average more than 10 ED

patients waiting to be seen when they arrived to begin a night shift.

- 57% - agreed working in ED always or usually includes lengthy patient wait times or ramping (patients waiting in ambulances).

"Lockdowns, vaccinations and border restrictions were supposed to buy us time to prepare the health system. Those preparations must include assigning additional doctors to the emergency department to replace doctors who fall sick."



The Reno Team too busy to pose.

Renovations at the Playhouse

Now that the very successful season of Peter Pan has finished, Opunake Players Inc. are beginning a major upgrade project at the Lakeside Playhouse. Thanks to grants from Toi Foundation, South Taranaki District Council, and the ongoing financial

support of loyal audiences, the Playhouse will see new lighting over the seating, new carpet under the seating, new curtains and hospitality tables. This is all about creating a more comfortable and quieter space for the audience. The new carpet will be particularly welcome

after years of having the bare boards underfoot. "Treading the boards" should be reserved for the stage only. Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration will supply and install new recessed downlights and curtains in the auditorium in the near future, while the carpet and furniture will arrive later in the new year for installation before the next production.

A renovations team comprising Diane Baldie, Heather Jensen, Wendy Smith and Colleen

King started gathering information and quotes in early 2021, and have progressed to getting funding approved and granted. The Players have recently relined and painted the audience area walls in a dark green which adds some colour without compromising lighting effects for performances. They are looking forward to welcoming audiences to the refreshed Lakeside Playhouse for the next production in autumn 2022.

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Stratford Knit and Sew wins Christmas window competition

In a competition organised by the Stratford Business Association, Stratford Knit and Sew won the Christmas window display competition. A significant monetary prize accompanied the award.

“It was pretty good news,” commented owner Arnold Cox, “Really great.” The competition was held and finalised just before Christmas.

When asked why he did so well, Arnold said, “It had a nice layout with authentic things. It had a Christmas theme, a Christian one. There was also a decorated Christmas tree.”

When asked if he had anything else to add Arnold quipped, “We’ll just have to defend the title this year.”



Winner of the Christmas window competition in Stratford.

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Garden things to do in summer

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You probably have water restrictions so your ability to water will be limited. Give your garden a good soak every four days rather than every second day. Guide your hose close to the ground so you water the roots for maximum plant benefit and water early in the morning or late afternoon.

Keep your vegetable garden going by planting late summer crops of new lettuce and herbs. If you

have a greenhouse, you can still plant tomatoes, eggplant, cucumbers and peppers. Continue harvesting mid-season pip and stone fruit tree crops, berries and citrus. Picking fruit every day will encourage late fruiting. To set your fruit trees up for winter (especially citrus) apply (and water in) citrus fertiliser Citrus fertiliser can be used for other fruit trees including apples, pears, and feijoas. Picking vegetables regularly will encourage late growth - especially peas, beans, eggplant, cucumbers



and courgettes.

Gardeners always look ahead so if you grow from seed, it's time to sow seeds of winter vegetables including

cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, beetroot, winter lettuce, brussel sprouts, spinach, carrots, leeks and silverbeet.

Bulbs



Early spring bulbs such as anemone, ranunculus, tulips and daffodils arrive in store in February and can be planted in flower beds and pots. Bulbs can be planted now through to late autumn. By planting continuously through this period, you will be rewarded with a

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What the Tonga eruption means for the climate



On 14 January 2022, a very large eruption on Hunga Tonga–Hunga Haapai, an uninhabited volcanic island of the Tongan archipelago in the southern Pacific Ocean, began.

The Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai volcanic eruption is unlikely to have a significant cooling effect on temperatures globally, say NIWA scientists.

When a volcano erupts, it releases huge amounts of sulphur dioxide (SO₂) into the air. High concentrations of SO₂ are currently over the Pacific. This is happening in the troposphere, the lowest part of the atmosphere.

However, global climate will be impacted by how much SO₂ reaches the stratosphere, which is higher up than the troposphere. There, SO₂ is converted to sulphuric acid droplets over a few weeks. These aerosols can have a long-lasting radiative effect around the globe, reflecting incoming sunlight and lowering temperatures.

Thirty years ago, the

Mount Pinatubo eruption in the Philippines pumped 15m tonnes SO₂ into the atmosphere and cooled the earth by one degree for the next year and a half.

However, early indications from the Tonga eruption do not show extreme levels of SO₂ in the stratosphere.

More measurements need to be taken and further eruptions are possible, but it seems that this eruption event is unlikely to have a significant impact on global climate or change the direction of the global temperature trend.

However, some of the SO₂ has been wrapped into Cyclone Cody, east of New Zealand. SO₂ is a toxic, invisible pollutant, so for those in Tonga, this could cause short-term hazards to human health, including acid rain and 'volcanic smog'.

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STDC joins Communities 4 Local Democracy over 3 Waters

South Taranaki District Mayor, Phil Nixon was one of a large group of mayors, representing more than a million New Zealanders taking their Three Waters concerns to Parliament.

Communities 4 Local Democracy - He hapori mō te Manapori is a newly formed and growing group of 23 councils from around the country. The group was created in response to concerns about the Government's Three Waters reforms.

"Like the Government, we want to ensure all New Zealanders have access to safe drinking water and we are committed to working with the Government to achieve that," says Helen Worboys, Mayor of

Manawatu and Chair of the new group.

"No-one disputes the need for investment, but there's a better way to achieve the Government's objectives and we want to work in partnership with them on that," she says.

"Our action group will introduce fresh ideas for better water. But our fresh ideas will ensure that our local communities continue to have a say on how the assets that they have bought and paid for are used to achieve our health and environmental goals.

"This is an inclusive campaign - it's about safe drinking water for all New Zealanders, whoever and wherever they are. More meaningful Mana Whenua representation is an

important part of that. It's also an apolitical campaign - we're completely focused on the issue regardless of political affiliation," Mayor Worboys says.

South Taranaki Mayor Phil Nixon says the Council decided to join the campaign after Government ignored requests to change its decision.

"While we accepted that things needed some change, what really upset us and many of our ratepayers was Government's decision to force councils to be part of the Three Waters Reform without any consultation. I've never seen so many residents, so angry over a single issue - our communities are very clearly telling us that they don't want control of the

assets that generations of our ratepayers built up and paid for being taken away from them as part of the Government's plan," Mayor Nixon says.

"We don't believe that the best solution lies in putting our assets into what will be four of the largest companies in New Zealand - without being able to have a say in how those companies are run."

"And given the Government hasn't provided opportunities for genuine participation in three waters reform, we think it's entirely appropriate for our Council, in collaboration with other concerned councils, to represent the residents of South Taranaki and give them a voice," he says.



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Out of towners depleting seafood stocks

With Auckland Anniversary coming up, Coastal Taranaki locals are bracing themselves for an influx of out-of-towners intent on targeting already depleted kaimoana stocks.

The number of visitors who have been taking more than the legal limits of shellfish along 12km of coastline has drawn the ire of local residents and prompted the iwi of Orimupiko Marae to place a rahui banning the collection of shellfish from Waiwiri Bay, Arawhata to Rahui Toe Toe from January 9 to July 31 in order to preserve and regenerate the shellfish of the area.

Low tides have drawn hundreds of people to gather paua along the coast from Opunake to Oakura.

Oaonui farmer Karl Stanley says it has been a problem that's been getting worse in the last two or three years.

"It's only getting more developed and worse every year. It's unsustainable. It's certainly organised with someone organising it from elsewhere. There are large volumes of people out there at a time. One day there

were 70 cars at Arawhata road with five people to a car, and all taking paua. Certainly some were under-sized, and not it was not just paua they were taking, they were taking everything. What they left with was what the locals would do in a year. The Fisheries guys are under-staffed and need more resources. The government needs to pull finger."

He said that with Auckland Anniversary coming up a rush of out-of-towners coming to the coast could be

expected.

"We will need all hands on deck. We need volunteers on each foreshore to make people aware there's a rahui in place and they shouldn't be collecting."

Kaitiaki Jack Davey says a rahui was imposed late last year after a whale was beached near Opunake but this is the first time they have had to have one to protect the local kaimoana. He says he is worried about the longer term future of the local shellfish stocks.

"The majority of local people know all about the rahui, but the out-of-towners don't want to know," he says. "You try to educate them, but they have only one thing in mind, and that's to rape the coast. We see some of these people gathered down there and they don't care. They are turning the rocks upside down. You see the rocks and they're pink, which means they've been turned upside down. They're ruining it for all of us."



Visitors have been taking more than the legal limits of shellfish along our coastline

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Red traffic light system prevails everywhere

Monday January 24 marks the first full day of the so-called red traffic light system, with the concern about the widespread spread of the Covid 19 variant Omicron the spur. The system is less stringent than the earlier lock down measures. "The red setting allows businesses to remain open and domestic travel to continue, but includes mask wearing and gathering

restriction to help slow the spread of the virus and keep the pressure off our health system," explained Prime Minister Jacinda Adern. She expected the measure to be in place for "some weeks." It is expected that the use of the RAT (Rapid Antigen Test) will be more widely available and used. However, the PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) tests, although not very pleasant, remain as the


more accurate option. Although this variant is meant to be less deadly (at about 3%) than other variants, the problem is that Omicron is more contagious. Overseas analysis has indicated that the number of cases can increase from hundreds to thousands in as little time as a fortnight. Of particular concern, especially to people who live in Taranaki, was a number of recent aeroplane flights

of infected people from Motueka involving New Plymouth Airport. Also, before he/she realised they were infected one Air NZ flight attendant was aboard four more flights. Under the red light system, there is a limit of 100 people to be upheld in hospitality settings, public facilities, gymnasiums, weddings and church settings. A one metre social distance should be

maintained at all times. Educational settings, including early education centres, schools and tertiary facilities will remain open, at least at present. Staff at most places insist of viewing your double vaccination certificate. However, such places who do not adhere to this system, must restrict the number of people to just 25.

Taranaki DHB's Medical Officer of Health has said that vaccinations, testing and masks should help to limit this more contagious variant. He also encouraged parents and caregivers to have their children (aged 5-11) vaccinated as it reduces the chance individual households becoming infected. Others should seek the booster jab, just as soon as they are eligible.

Dr Jonathan Jarman,



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Opunake Fish Chips and More voted in New Zealand's Top Ten

Owner of Opunake's iconic chippie Allison (Ali) Coxhead has just received some exciting news. In a poll organised by Auckland newspaper the NZ Herald, voters placed Opunake Fish Chips and More amongst the Top Ten chippies in the nation. "I was amazed, honoured," commented Ali. The competition was part of the newspaper's Summer Herald's Searching for our most chippier chippie." "Iconic"? "Seriously, it deserves this word," explains the NZ Herald article.

The other nine finalists are from places such as Tauranga, Auckland, Hokitika and even Oban in Stewart Island. The Number one chippy in New Zealand will be decided soon – maybe Ali will soon have even more exciting news to enjoy.

What is the secret of Ali's success? Naturally modest, Ali came up with three possible reasons: "Firstly, I still make my own chips, which are sourced locally." She uses Agria potatoes grown in Brixton.

She pointed out that many chippies use frozen chips. "Secondly we cook in beef fat when most shops use vegetable oil." She added, "I've retained the historical way."

"Thirdly, I obtain fish as fresh as I can get it, six days a week."

She also has capable staff – eight employees work part time. "They are friendly, helpful and work hard."

For supplies Fish Chips and More rely on such respected firms as the Kiwi Butcher, Egmont Seafood, Talleys Fish, Dave's Patch and Bidfood, all of whom play an important part in the success story.



Ali Coxhead greets the punters at Fish Chips and More.

It is fair to say that Fish Chips and More has had its ups and downs, with a serious fire in 2018, but that didn't stop Ali. She kept her loyal customers happy by operating from a trailer parked nearby.

The shop reopened in September 2019 with an attractive facelift. We'll leave the final word to Lonely Planet, This is as good as fish and chips gets.

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Venture Taranaki distributes over \$1 million to Curious Minds Taranaki projects

Venture Taranaki, the regional development agency, is celebrating for two reasons: Curious Minds Taranaki has secured further funding and has a new funding cycle open for 2022; secondly, over 1 million dollars of project funding has now been distributed to Taranaki projects.

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

“We’re thrilled to reach such a significant milestone of funding distributed. We know this funding has positive impacts within our communities, allowing schools and community groups to research and tackle problems and questions that matter to them,” says Justine Gilliland, Venture Taranaki Chief Executive.

The addition of a new project at the end of 2021, Kororā Kōrero led by Ngā Motu Marine Reserve Society, aiming to understand the offshore behaviour of kororā (little blue penguin), has helped to reach the significant

milestone.

In collaboration with Ngāti Te Whiti hapū, Kororā Kōrero is engaging students from Central and Moturoa Schools alongside Port Taranaki to develop a community-led marine monitoring programme.

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

“Curious Minds Taranaki allows everyone to get involved with science, technology and Mātauranga Māori, through community-led projects which ask topical questions of the world around them, bringing together science, technology, community, and business to develop solutions and innovations, while driving local learning and a passion for investigation and science. “Curious Minds Taranaki projects contribute to a brighter future, helping to achieve our strategic goals of talented people, prosperity, a restored and regenerative environment, and inclusive

growth,” continues Justine.

Venture Taranaki has secured funding to deliver the Participatory Science Platform in Taranaki until June 2024 with \$154,000 of project funding available to allocate annually.

Expressions of interest are

now open for the new funding round, and organisations and individuals are encouraged to register their ideas now. People can also register ideas all year-round through the Venture Taranaki website and be the first to know of available funding and take

advantage of any other opportunities that become available.

“We’re excited we’re able to continue to fund collaborative projects that enable learning and investigations to enhance our backyard and the way

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

Blaze at Coastal Walkway

On January 6, thousands of dollars’ worth of plants and 10 years work by volunteers and schoolkids on the scenic Coastal Walkway went up in smoke due to a suspected act of carelessness.

A few hundred square metres, which included the habitat of native wildlife, just north of Te Rewa Rewa Bridge was left a blackened and smouldering after a fire believed to have been started overnight by an alleged discarded cigarette butt.

“Firefighters did a fantastic job containing the blaze but this is massively disappointing, especially for the volunteers and tamariki who put in the hard mahi over the last decade to protect and enhance this fragile sand dune environment by planting thousands of native plants



Walkers walk past the scene of a blaze along the Coastal Walkway.

Photo: NPDC

in the Living Legends area, and it’s a stark reminder of how careful we need to be in this dry, hot weather,” said NPDC External Relations Manager Jacqueline Baker.

“We manage about 1,600 hectares of parks and 82km of walkways and we rely

on hundreds of volunteers to help keep these areas looking beautiful. The fire has destroyed about 1,000 plants that were part of a valuable habitat for nesting shorebirds like the endangered native dotterel and we’re looking at a cost

to ratepayers of about \$20k.” New planting may begin in autumn subject to budget/logistics and it’s expected to take about seven years for the new plants to become fully established.

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A vintage day on the coast

Organisers were determined this year's Vero International Festival of Historic Motoring would go ahead.

Last year the rally of vintage cars touring Taranaki had to be called off because of COVID-19. This year, some changes to the original plans had to be made, but this failed to deter the enthusiasm of those taking part in the rally as they made their way into Opunake on Wednesday January 19.

"We've been waiting two years for this, and now it's here," said Jim Logan of New Plymouth. "The weather's been great. This is the first day it's been overcast."

The rally was held from January 16-21, and was a Vintage Car Club of New Zealand event. The high point was the Thursday evening street party in Inglewood. The day before there was a stop at Opunake to pick up a prepared lunch at the Event Centre while making their way along the Surf Highway.

Toko Lions Club members directed cars into the domain via the Longfellow Street entrance, and rally secretary Mark Masters was pleased with how things were going.



Cameron and Jim Logan with Dad's Model A Ford.

"This is excellent. Everybody's really enjoying themselves," he said. "Our intention was to bring the rally to the towns in Taranaki like Stratford, Hawera, Inglewood, New Plymouth and Opunake."

Mark says about 450 cars had registered and they had come from Cape Reinga to the Bluff, with about 40 being from Taranaki. They would have liked to have had the cars parked in the main street of Opunake, but

COVID restrictions meant this was impractical.

The day's drive along Surf Highway would take in points of interest like the lighthouse, Pukeiti and Parihaka.

"We have got a lot of people from out of town who may not know what Parihaka is about," says Mark.

Jim Logan's 1931 Model A Ford proudly sported the number plate "Dad's A." Jim had bought it from his own father back in 1965, who had

bought it from the original owner in Rotorua while he was doing a milk run.

The owner's name? A Mrs Ford.

"It was made in 1931, so it's probably one of the last, although they did make them into 1932," says Jim. "This one would have been made in Canada, as those ones were made with right-hand drive. On the run yesterday it just ticked 60,000 miles. Most would be hundreds of thousands."

Another car with a long history with one owner was the 1939 Austin Big 7 owned by Marshall and Jenny Harkerss of Kaikoura.

"We've had it for 57 years," says Jenny. "We've used it as a family car, then a work car, and when it got tired, we just parked it up and kept it fully restored."

Marshall learned sewing and over a three year period restored the upholstery.

"Everything is how it was. The motor and everything is all original," says Jenny.

Marshall had been working as a motor mechanic in Southbridge, Canterbury when he picked up the Austin from his old headmaster who wanted to sell it.

Jenny says they were enjoying the rally.

"The rally is amazing. We've seen some beautiful countryside and met lots of people from all over the country, and they've all got some interesting stories."

"I learned to drive in one of these," she said, pointing to a nearby Chevrolet.

Oliver and Nicole Midgley from Napier arrived in what Nicole dubbed "an original Hawke's Bay car," a 1925 Sunbeam. The original owner had been a Southern Hawke's Bay farmer who unable to serve in World War

I due to health problems resulting from childhood mumps saw his brothers go off to war while he was left to look after a 100,000 acre sheep station. He got the car as payment for a substantial wool clip. He had no children, so when he died it passed on to the Hunter family from Porangahau, to be used for family transport, and occasionally carrying hay bales.

In later years the car would be based in Christchurch and Auckland before finally returning to Hawkes Bay after Oliver and Nicole bought it. It had seen a lot in its time, including the 1931 Hawke's Bay Earthquake.

"It survived the 1931 Earthquake. In three years' time it will be 100 years old" says Nicole.

Also turning 100 will be the 1925 Morris Oxford parked next to Nicole's Sunbeam. Sitting back and enjoying lunch were owner Tom Mazey of New Plymouth with Chris Chambers from Timaru, a former football teammate who on this occasion was there as navigator. With both their wives having passed away, they enjoy getting out together with like-minded car enthusiasts. Chris is also co-ordinator

Continued page 19

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A vintage day on the coast

Continued from page 18 of the upcoming national Austin rally in Timaru.

“So far it’s been great and the entertainment’s been bloody amazing,” says Tom. His Morris Oxford has a strong Taranaki pedigree, being sold in Hunterville on November 11 to Adolph Theodore Christiansen who later became mayor of Patea. “My wife’s uncle had it, and he had a heart attack, then his son took it over and he had a heart attack. I took it over and I’ve owned it for 26-27 years.”

Murray Hawkes from Methven was there with a 1929 Rolls Royce Phantom which he says he bought eight years ago “in an act of



Murray Hawkes with his Rolls complete with the Spirit of Ecstasy icon.

blind stupidity.” “The engine’s a straight six. It was very sophisticated for its time. It can pass milk tankers and it does.”

The Phantom is the successor to the Silver Ghost, and this one was one of three ordered by the Nicholas brothers from Melbourne, Australia who had become wealthy from the development of aspirin. In World War II, a house belonging to one of the brothers was converted into a hospital and this car was converted into an ambulance.

“After being an ambulance it then suffered the ultimate

ignominy of becoming a wedding car, which it is not now,” says Murray.

It was one in a fleet of wedding cars in a wedding business operating on both sides of the Tasman Sea before Murray acquired it.

“I’ve just done a little bit of work to make it a bit more motorable,” he says.

“You should never drive a car that you could not love, although you don’t have to love it all the time. You shouldn’t get into a car that doesn’t put a bit of a smile on your face.”



Tom Mazey and Chris Chambers relax over lunch.

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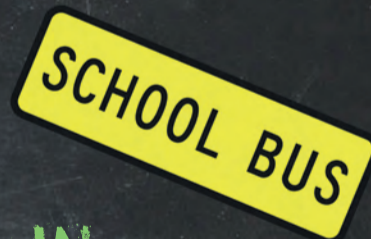
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Looking after your effluent pond or tank is essential, but follow best practices and it's simple and easy to do.

Emptying the pond

The effluent pond or tank should be emptied at the end of the milking season. This maximises the amount of storage available to take you through calving. A storm water diverter is also recommended. You shouldn't need to be irrigating during this time, and it will take some pressure off staff.

Emptying your effluent pond annually is important not only for maximising capacity, but also to ensure the nutrients are being used in a timely manner and not degrading in storage. Some councils require proof of annual emptying for consent to be granted.

Note: Don't completely empty the pond – leave 200-300mm to hold down the

lining.

Maintenance

An empty pond is a good opportunity for a visual check to make sure there's no damage to the lining or obvious leaks. For rubber lining, pay attention to the joins where it has the potential to pull apart.

Keeping on top of weed spraying around the pond, pump and stirrer is also important to prevent seeds from entering and getting spread out to pasture.

Stirring

Keeping the effluent well stirred is essential. The pond/storage should be stirred prior to pumping. With the right set-up this will ensure solids are kept

in suspension, and therefore able to be pumped out. We'd usually recommend a horizontal stirrer, and this needs to be the right length and positioned correctly for maximum effect and efficiency. Without adequate stirring solids will

accumulate at the bottom of the pond and their nutrient value will degrade. This will also impact storage capacity and put additional pressure on your pump.

Spreading

Once the pressure is off from calving, and the ground

is ready to take in some nutrients, it's time to go hard and get spreading. It can be a good idea to spread under maize and other crops as well as out to pasture.

Maximising spreading over November and December can also be a good idea to

allow for some time off over the Christmas/New Year period.

Keep a vigilant routine over summer. Not only is this a great way to keep crops and pasture irrigated, but it makes it easy to empty the pond again in autumn.

Problem ponds/tanks

While the above best practices should keep most effluent ponds and storage healthy, for various reasons some need a little extra help. If your effluent pond is still particularly smelly or crusty, adding an organic treatment like PondBugs™ can work to promote biological activity. They are like a multi-vitamin for your pond, helping to digest the organic matter making the effluent more consistent, better for pumping, and providing a faster release of nutrients back into the soil when spread.

Michael Prestidge
Nevada Effluent
Management Specialist

A record breaking December for some

Before the onset of a drier balmier January Taranaki experience a wetter than normal December, according to Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) figures. December rainfall was well above normal with totals ranging between 114% and 297% of normal, with an average of 228%. The first 16 days of the month saw rainfall occur on most days, with only 1 or 2 days of rainfall for the remainder

of the month. Hillsborough recorded 318.0 mm for the month, which was 297% of its normal December rainfall. Seventeen of the 27 sites that are monitored recorded new maximum December rainfall totals. These sites were: Kahui Hut, Hillsborough, Bell Block, Egmont Village, Inglewood, Toko (Huinga), Okato (Mangatete Rd), Cape Egmont, Te Kiri, Manaia, Whareroa, Patea, Omaru at Charlies Clearing, Omahine at Moana Trig, Waitotara Valley, Ngutuweru (Inland

Waitotara) and Waitotara Coast.

Rainfall for the year ranged between 94% and 125%, with an average of 110%. Only three sites recorded below normal for the year and these were: Tongaporutu (94%), Moana Trig (94%) and Ngutuweru (99%). Dawson Falls recorded 125% of normal for the year with 7403.5mm. Four sites recorded new maximum annual rainfall totals since records began, these sites were Kahui Hut (5766.5 mm), Okato (2348.5 mm), Te Kiri (1771.5 mm) and Patea (1428.4 mm).

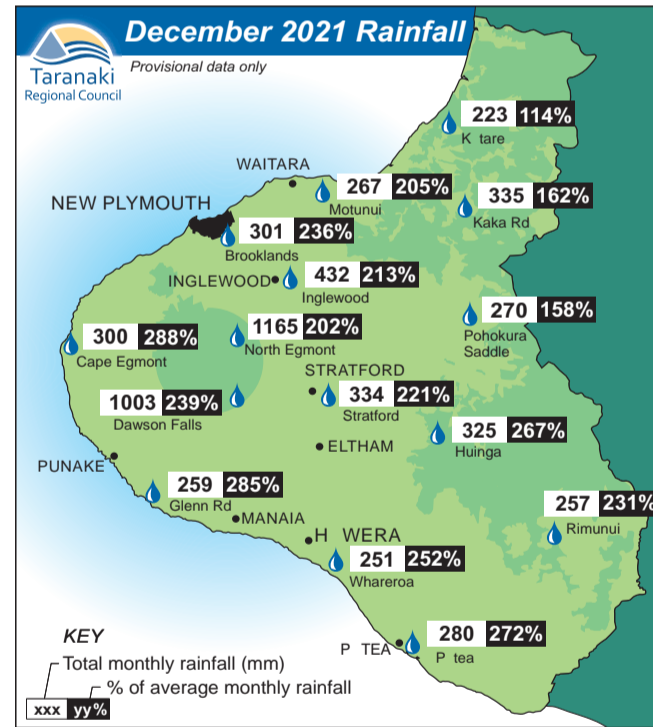
Due to the high rainfall for December, river flows were all above normal for the month by between 203% and 381% of mean December flows. The Kapoiaia Stream at Cape Egmont, had a mean December flow of 3,834 L/s, which was 381% of its normal December mean flow of 1,005 L/s.

Water temperatures were above normal for all sites by between 0.16°C

and 0.91°C, except the Waingongoro River in Eltham and the Timaru Stream (near Oakura). These sites recorded below normal by 0.17°C and 0.08°C respectively.

The maximum air temperature for the region for the month was 30.57°C and occurred in Inglewood on December 23. This is a new maximum for Inglewood as well, the previous maximum was 29.85°C. Stratford and Manaia also recorded new maximum December air temperatures for the month with 29.10°C and 26.46°C respectively. The average air temperature for the month, excluding Te Maunga, was 18.19°C, which was 1.79°C warmer than the long term December average of 16.4°C.

Soil moisture was above normal for the month for all sites by between 0.65% and 9.26%, except Waitotara Valley which had a mean soil moisture 0.49% lower than the long term average. Hillsborough recorded



a new maximum soil moisture for December with 35.60%, which was 0.15% higher than the previous average. Soil temperatures were above normal for the month by between 0.62°C

and 2.72°C for all sites. Three sites recorded new maximum soil temperatures for the month and these were, Motunui (22.10°C), Pohokura Saddle (21.85°C) and Te Kiri (24.10°C).

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DairyNZ campaign to attract Kiwis to dairy

A young female farmer with a love of rural New Zealand is helping to launch DairyNZ's latest campaign, which aims to give Kiwis a better understanding of what it means to be a dairy farmer.

DairyNZ chief executive Dr Mackle says DairyNZ's Join us campaign is part of a wider project - Here for the Long Game aiming to help communities understand what drives dairy farmers, and how they are working to provide a better future for their farms, the land, their families, their communities, and New Zealand.

"Dairy farmers are a core part of the economic, social, and environmental wellbeing of communities throughout New Zealand, and our wider Here For the Long Game campaign is a platform for dairy farmers to share with other Kiwis who they are and what they do in a way that's open and fun," he says.

"Welcoming and supporting new farming talent is vital to the sector's long game, so we're excited to launch a new campaign encouraging young Kiwis to get into the dairy sector," he adds.

The Join Us campaign looks into daily life on a



Shannon Munro.

farm - from working with machinery and technology, to caring for animals and the land.

"It's about showing young Kiwis that, for those keen to get stuck in, dairying offers a truly rewarding career and lifestyle. By joining us, you're not only securing your own future, but becoming part of creating a better one for all New Zealanders."

The Join Us campaign is fronted by Eastern Bay of Plenty dairy farmer Shannon Munro, who has been dairy farming for about 10 years.

With her husband and three

children, Munro says they opted to move away from urban city life to provide a different upbringing for her young family.

Her husband Steve was a builder and after the birth of their first son, she says they agreed that a city lifestyle wasn't what they wanted for their family.

They moved from Te Puke to Ngakuru, a rural community in Rotorua Lakes, where Steve found a job as a farm assistant. With her son in tow, Shannon helped with calving and rearing the calves.

Over the next decade

as their family expanded, they progressed into farm

manager and 2IC roles, and then into contract milking, moving around the country as opportunities came up, including farming in Canterbury and the Waikato.

"We are now about 30 minutes from Whakatāne and are in our first year leasing a 66 ha dairy block, which was previously leased by Steve's parents. We bought their 170 herd as they purchased a dairy farm."

Shannon says their three kids, aged between 3 and 11, love being on the farm, riding motorbikes and being hands on. They especially enjoy making huts in the bush and staying at the family's glamping spot next to the creek.

"The kids can enjoy a lot of freedom on the farm. At the

same time, they have lots to keep them busy and they're learning life skills they may not have otherwise learned in the city," she says.

The family is planning to stay on their farm for the next few years, but ultimately want to own their own small farm.

Shannon says that as a young, Māori woman she is proud to be presenting a different face to dairy farming and to be associated with the campaign to show people what dairy farming has to offer as a career.

"Dairy farming offers really great opportunities and a great lifestyle. There are lots of opportunities for people to progress quickly and it's very rewarding."

NAIT levy increases must achieve user-friendly system

Federated Farmers say if OSPRI is to catch-up on under investment in the NAIT platform and deliver on its workability and farmer support, levy increases are probably necessary.

OSPRI is consulting on proposals to increase the NAIT tag levy from 90 cents to \$1.35 and the slaughter levy from 50 cents to \$1.77. The initial levies in 2012 were \$1.10 and \$1.35 respectively but in 2014 were dropped to the current lower figures and haven't been reviewed since.

"It is frustrating for farmers to see levies take big jumps due to historical underinvestment in industry assets such as NAIT. It would be far better to have appropriate, well-planned investment

with gradual increases in levies rather than big increases to fix problems," Federated Farmers Meat & Wool Chairperson William Beetham says.

"But now, if we're to achieve a user-friendly system that delivers biosecurity critical to the sustainability of our industry, we'll need to get the revenue in place and hold OSPRI to account to deliver a system that empowers farmers, not frustrates them."

Federated Farmers Dairy Chairperson Wayne Langford questions whether the current planned investment goes far enough. "It is the act of tagging, registering and complying with NAIT that is an issue for farmers as well as the actual interface itself," Wayne says.

The NAIT Board is two

years into a five-year programme to replace the NAIT database, provide more regional and call centre support and generally make the system more reliable and easier to use.

"They've eaten up accumulated reserves to fund the program, and to continue the upgrade programme, they need more revenue," William says. "It's pertinent to note the 35 per cent Crown contribution is also proposed to increase from the current \$2.14 million to \$5.54 million."

"Bottom lines for Federated Farmers are that the drive for an accurate, up-to-date and reliable animal tracing system should provide direct benefits to farmers, particularly as regards ease of use and practicality."



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Hatcher wins Stockcar King of the Mountain Champs

Emilio Hatcher beat home his rivals in the biggest class of the night to win the Stockcar King of the Mountain Champs at the Plant and Fabrication Services sponsored race meeting at MG Taranaki Stratford Speedway on December 18.. With thirty cars taking to the track, racing was hectic and busy but Hatcher kept his nose clean in all three races to win the event by a four point margin from his nearest rival. He got his points tally off to a great start when he won race one from grid three and then finished fifth in race two and third in race three. It's Hatcher's first win of note in the Stockcar class and bodes well for him for the rest of the season. Regular front runner Bryce Jensen was second overall, and former New Zealand ranked number two Mark Duthie was third.



After receiving a shunt from his cousin Blair Uhlenberg, Brad Uhlenberg utilised the added speed to introduce Bruce Williams to the turn one concrete wall during the first Superstock race of the night at the MG Taranaki Stratford Speedway on Saturday night.

Images: Matt Julian

the Mountain champs and with the best field to date this season of twelve cars. After a rugged three races, Tauranga visitor Trent Amrein claimed the top spot

after recording a fourth, first and second placings. Blake Hooper was second while Craig Korff survived a couple of on track incidents to come home third. Usual

front runner Thomas Korff had a nightmare of a night with a DNF on race one before he then rode the wall in front of the grandstand in the last race while attempting

an outside pass on race leader Richard Dreaver.

The Midgets made their first appearance at the track this season with a field of ten cars, made up mostly of visiting drivers. Whanganui racer Brent Huijs was consistent over all three races, finishing in positions four, one and two which gave him a three point buffer over Duane Hickman for the top step of the podium. Hickman, who is driving a borrowed car currently, won races one and three but a DNF in race two saw his undoing. Palmerston North competitor Karl McGill was third.

Youth Ministocks were divided into two groups- Experienced and Mentors (new drivers). The experienced drivers were racing for the City of New Plymouth Classic while the Mentors were getting some all-important track time. With Caleb Coxhead on a stand down, Whanganui

competitor Trent James drove his car for the night and piloted it to first place in the City of New Plymouth Classic with a second place and two wins. Regan Ogle performed well all night and finished second while Corban Swan was third. In the Mentor group, Chase Korff won all three races. Lukah Phillips impressed the judges and was voted Youth Ministock driver of the night.

Superstocks and Streetstocks raced on the night also. Sheldon Arapere, Scott Williams and Scott Joblin were the drivers to carry the chequered flag in the Superstock class while cousins Blair and Brad Uhlenberg teamed up beautifully to dispatch Gisborne contracted racer Bruce Williams into and up the turn one concrete wall. All three Streetstock races were won by Nic Smith.

Jarrold MacBeth

Opunake Bowling Club Report

Our Ladies Pairs and Fours Tournament was held on January 13 with very strong southwest winds, making consistent bowls difficult.

We had a full green, with 14 teams. A hugely successful multi-draw raffle was held. First. New Plymouth Club. Val McEldowney(Skip),

Anne Brophy, Margie Carey and Elaine Hodge. Second. Inglewood. Cindy Nicholls(Skip), Lorris Rapitini, Margaret



Winners of the Women's Fours & Pairs (from left): Elaine Hodge (Skip), Margie Carey, Anne Brophy, Val MacEldowney.

McCallum, Lorraine Crowskey. Third Lepperton.

On January 15, round robin games were played for the Championship Triples. Five teams entered and the winners, with four games were: Pauline Davy(Skip), Eileen Rothwell and Val Langton. On February

The Julian Pairs were played on December 2, a popular ladies tournament with a full green. One team member needed to be currently or previously played in the Western Division. First. Pauline Davy and Chris Commane. Second. Lauren Bright and Lorraine Heal.

In the Taranaki Mixed Pairs, eight couples from Opunake played, and four qualified. After post section, one Opunake couple were left in the final four, Paddy Deegan and Rita Davey.

The Taranaki Women's Open Pairs were played at Tower. The team of Pauline Davy and Rita Davey qualified, and then advanced to the final four, and then the final. This was a very close game, but the eventual winners were Trish Howard and Sue Cottam from West End, beating the Opunake pair 21-18.

Also winners of the inaugural Under 5 Interclub competition was the mixed team of Levi Davis, Kewene Ratahi, Daryl MacKenzie and Julie Hemahema. They played the final against Lepperton, winning 18-17. A great result from our newer bowlers.

Results of some of our championships.

Women's Fours. Chris Commane(Skip), Julie Hemahema, Rita Davey and Ange Debique.

Men's Championship Fours. Paddy Deegan(Skip), Kewene Ratahi, Daryl MacKenzie, Levi Davis.

Men's Senior Singles. Levi Davis.

Southern Division. Ladies Shield. After three Tuesdays in a row having to be cancelled because of rain, we played the final at Tower, Hawera. The team of Joy Collins(Skip), Nel L'Ami, Heather Radford and Kay Fleming won in a very close final against Stratford. Whatever the result was going to be, lunch at a café had been booked for our two teams, and it was great to celebrate.

The result of the Xmas Bowling Club raffle kindly made by Bev Henderson and iced by Esther Ward-Campbell was Ticket 64, Karen Wallace.

Kay Fleming



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Lots on offer for large crowd at Boxing Night Speedway



Tyler Walker (#133) and Carl Shearer (#75) work together to put Manawatu Mustangs driver Ron Tye into the wall during Superstock Teams racing at MG Taranaki Stratford Speedway on Boxing Night. Images: Matt Julian

With three Taranaki titles on the line, two Superstock teams races and a Demolition Derby, there was plenty on offer to entertain the large crowd that arrived at MG Taranaki Stratford Speedway for the DairyMaster sponsored Boxing Night race meeting. Nine Modifieds were on hand to contest the FieldTorque Taranaki champs and the Ginge Hayward Memorial, including Huntly visitor Syd Ferguson and Auckland racer Daniel Crumpe. After three fast paced races where Jason Kalin recorded a win and two third places and Carl Hinton recorded a second, fourth and first, the

pair were tied on points for the FieldTorque Taranaki Modified champs. A four lap run off was required to determine the winner and after an initial false start, Carl Hinton kept his foot firmly pressed down on the accelerator pedal on the restart to run deep through turns one and two and drive around Kalin before staying in front for the four laps to win the Championship. Ferguson drove the wheels off his car all night to come home in third place. The Ginge Hayward Memorial was a one race affair, with a reverse grid start of the finishing order of the Taranaki Champs. Shaun Bloeman kept his nose clean

to win this race ahead of Ferguson and Kalin. Sixteen Minisprints from Stratford, Whanganui and Palmertson North contested the Zodiac Signs Taranaki Champs. Close and even racing in the class saw race wins shared between Daniel Nickel, Cory Ward and Karl Uhlenberg but it was Uhlenberg who was the most consistent driver and won the Championship by a one point margin from Ward. Cameron Hurley, who usually finds himself finishing fifth in most events, made a vast improvement forward and came home third. The championship didn't go so well for Mason Ward who was making

his debut in the class and lasted barely a lap before impressively flipping his car end for end in front of the grandstand. Racing for the second time this season, the Midgets were racing for their Taranki Champs too. A decent grid of twelve cars were present with a different format utilised to the Modifieds and Minisprints. Rather than three heats, the drivers raced twice, with their points accrued then determining their starting position in the one race final. Duane Hickman and Greg Jones were both very quick around the oval with a win apiece in the qualifying heats. The final saw Hickman start from grid two and Jones from grid one. The first attempt to start the race saw Jones tuck his car down low while Hickman ran wide, with Jones taking command of the lead. However, a caution for a racing incident saw a restart to the race and on the restart Hickman went a little quicker and deeper into the turn and grabbed the lead before the completion of the first lap. He stayed at the front for the duration of the fifteen lap race to win the Championship ahead of Jones and Whanganui racer Ben Huijs who made great progress through the field, especially in the later stages of the race, to come home

third. The Stratford Scrapers Superstock team lined up against the Manawatu Mustangs for two teams races and they were good teams races with some huge hits. Tyler Walker was protected on track by his team mates to win the first race for the home town team and the Scrapers looked like they were going to win race two as well when Blayke Adamson had a commanding lead. However, steering failure with just one lap to go saw Adamson stuck on the infield and the Mustangs were able to claw back the two laps they were behind to win race two. Youth Minisstocks and Stockcars raced on the night also with the Youth races being won by Bronson Pierce, Cory Symes and Corban Swan. Ryan Nolly won his first ever race in the Stockcar class before his car expired meters from

collecting the chequered flag for a victory lap. The other two races were won by William Hughes and Kyle Symes. A Demolition Derby completed the nights activities and after nearly fifteen minutes of crashing and bashing, Henry Tongariro was a clear winner and the only car left mobile. Myles Hughes was awarded the Best Presented prize, Andrew Hook and Joshua Tongariro were judged to be the best stirrers while Steve Reed won the Hard Luck prize. Demolition Derby competitors had a non contact race earlier in the night also and this was won by Regan Jordan. Speedway takes a break now for a few weeks. The next race meeting is on January 15th and will feature the Hinton Contracting Fireworks Spectacular.

Jarrod MacBeth



Minisprints raced for their Taranaki Champs on Boxing Night. Karl Uhlenberg (#28) looks to find a way through the field on his way to winning the event.

Snorkeling with the Experiencing Marine Reserves community

The latest Experiencing Marine Reserves community snorkel day at Nga Motu Beach on Saturday the January 15 was a huge success with 40 participants aged from 5 years old exploring their underwater backyard. This snorkel event was the first of five that have been planned for this summer in Taranaki after the December event was cancelled due to volunteer shortages and bad water visibility. The event was put on by the Nga Motu Marine

Reserve Society and delivered by a team of their EMR volunteers. Snorkel participants had the pleasure of learning a little more about their coastal marine backyard and reported great visibility and large schools of baitfish. Participants also saw schools of yellow eyed mullet, spotty, red moki, stingray and reef star. It was the first time ever snorkelling for 14 participants who all came out wide eyed and excited by what they saw living on the rocky reef just out from the Nga Motu

Beach toilets. It was also an exciting day for one of our trainee snorkel guides, Omkar Dandekar who snorkelled in the ocean for the first time at the event. Omkar completed his snorkel pool training in October last year and has been practicing in the pool ever since. On Saturday he shadowed one of our senior guides and got to test his new skills out in the marine environment. Omkar's goal is to learn how to free dive in future, and is excited to share his newly found passion for marine conservation.



Snorkel participants and their guides head out to explore the reef at Ngamotu Beach.

A big thank you to all the volunteers, who helped make the event so successful. The next Nga Motu Beach snorkel is organised for February 13. Marine Reserve facebook page or keep an eye on the Eventfinda website. Nicole Boniface EMR Coordinator



Above: Snorkel guides Mike Tapp and Sam McComb show these young snorkelers how to enter the water without breaking their fins.

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Barnes takes Taranaki Adult Ministock title

After always suffering from bad luck at her previous attempts, Whanganui racer Jemma Barnes at last had the stars align for her when she won the Taranaki Adult Ministock Champs at MG Taranaki Stratford Speedway on Saturday night.

Racing against eighteen other drivers in the competitive field, Barnes started her championship bid the best way possible when she won the first race from a grid one start. She then drove a brilliant race in race two and made up a large number of places to come home fourth from grid sixteen before finishing second in race three from grid eight, cementing her position at the top of the leader board. Barnes won the Taranaki Champs three points clear of nearest rival Roger Dettling, while Gary Adamson beat Nathan Nolly in a four lap run off to decide third place after the pair were tied on points.

The biggest field of Saloons to race to date this season contested the Heritage Shield, with visiting drivers from Palmerston North, Kihikihi and Auckland helping to boost the numbers. Races were won by David Ingram, Josh Smith and Craig Korff but it was Korff who was the most consistent driver and won the event after finishing second in race one and third in race two to along with the win in race three to amass enough points to be the clear winner. Josh Smith and Ted Ingram were tied for second place so a four lap run off was utilized to determine the minor places on the podium. Smith got the jump at the start and led for the duration to claim second with Ingram third.

Fourteen Streetstocks graced the Stratford oval



Craig Korff won the Saloon Heritage Shield at MG Taranaki Stratford Speedway on Saturday night.

to race for their Best Pairs trophy, the field consisting of twelve local drivers along with two Wellington competitors that had made the trip to go racing. With each driving in the pairings accruing points for their overall total, there were some interesting antics on the track throughout the night. Ron Washer won the first race from Blake Dormer while Adam Young claimed the victory in race two and Nic Smith, who was leading the first race until he was spun, finally got his chequered flag in race three. Points wise, Nick McGrath/John Young and Blake Dormer/Ron McGrath were tied at the top of the table. A run off with all four competitors determined the winning pair with Nick McGrath and John Young showing their dominance on the track to be clear winners. Adam Young

and Ron Washer were third. With the Stratford Stormers away racing in Palmerston

North, the Stockcar field was slightly smaller than usual. However, with stirrers'

money on offer, then was plenty happening in each of the three races. The first race

Jarrod MacBeth



Stockcars use their bumpers during racing on Saturday night.

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National titles for first time entrants

Kaupokonui farmer Brad Dowdle says he couldn't win anything when he was younger, but now he is a New Zealand champion. Brad was one of several Coastal Taranaki people to enjoy success at the New Zealand Lawn Tennis Championships and Taranaki Open held in Hawera between Christmas and New Year.

Brad came away from the tournament as New Zealand lawn tennis Men's Social Singles champion, and paired up with Graeme Norris from Manaia to take out the Men's Social Doubles.

Brad's daughter Eva was the 10 and under singles winner and 12 and under doubles runner up, while Opunake High School student Jorja Symes from Kapuni was the 18 and under women's winner. Oakura School student Luke Barnett was up against some top players and took out both the 10 and under, and 12 and under boys titles. He teamed up with Auroa School student Luke Norris from Manaia to win the 12 and under boys' doubles.

Hawera is one of the last grass court clubs in the country, so for the last few years it has hosted the New Zealand Championships, which has also doubled as



Eva Dowdle playing tennis.

the Taranaki Open.

Among those taking part were players from Auckland, Canterbury and Manawatu.

For Brad and Eva(10), a student at Auroa School it was the first tilt at a national championship for either of them. This is Eva's second year playing competitively. The lack of a junior league in South Taranaki means she plays for Rotokare in New Plymouth.

Winning the title this year continued something of a family tradition for Eva. Her great aunt Sandra Dowdle(now Sandra Feek) had won back in 1965.

Brad says he has always been interested in tennis and plays for the Manaia Club but has not played competitively for 15 years.

"Tennis has been a bit of a family sport for us. I was there watching the kids, and I thought I might as well have a go myself. Me and Graeme thought it would be a good social thing to do, so we had a hit and did very well."

Four singles and four doubles matches later he was a double New Zealand champion.

"I couldn't win anything when I was younger. The kids won more than I ever did," he says.



OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

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| JANUARY | | | | | | | FEBRUARY | | | | | | | MARCH | | | | | | | APRIL | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| SEPTEMBER | | | | | | | OCTOBER | | | | | | | NOVEMBER | | | | | | | DECEMBER | | | | | | | | | | |
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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, emailed, posted or dropped into the Opunake & Coastal News at 23 Napier St, PO Box 74, Opunake.
 Phone (06) 761-7016 or a/h (06) 761-8206, Email: ads@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz;
www.opunakecoastalnews.co.nz
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FOUNDATION

Opunake Boat and Underwater Club Annual Tournament

The tournament this year starts on Saturday January 29 through to Sunday February 13.

Early Bird tickets are still available through Symes Outdoor & Sports (formerly Collins Sports) or via the contact details on our Facebook page. The Early Bird \$1000 draw will be held at the prize-giving, you do not need to be present to win this year. Early Bird closes at 8pm on Friday January 28 at the clubrooms down at Middleton Bay. We will be having a BBQ and social time so it will be a good time to catch up and have any questions answered.

In addition to the OMV/McDonalds Sponsored \$1000 Snapper cash first prize (there are cash prizes out to ten places for snapper) we also have nine other fishing sections including Kahawai and Blue Cod to five places and John Dory, King fish, Tuna, Tarakihi, Gurnard, Trevally and Hapuka all to three places. For the divers there is the Crayfish section to three places also. All up there are over \$8,500 in prizes in these sections with points being awarded in the fishing sections towards our coveted Top Boat trophy.

Entry cost this year is \$60 per angler and \$20 per diver, the entry is the same after the closing of the Early Bird sales. Everyone on the boat over five years old absolutely must have a pre-paid ticket to go fishing. If even only one person on the boat does not have a pre-paid ticket then that whole crew and that boat will be



A whopper catch for Lyn Collins.

disqualified for that day's fishing. Murphy's Law says that will be the day you catch the big one!

If buying tickets after the tournament starts, call in to Symes Sports and Outdoor

or contact Jess (Treasurer) or Steve (Secretary) or one of the tournament committee (names and phone numbers on the tractor shed white board). You can pay online or in cash and we can arrange

for your ticket to be available in the tractor shed to pick up before you go fishing. There will also be extra entry forms in the tractor shed and a box to place yours in before launching. The duty

weigh master will have your numbered ticket available that evening.

Weigh-in if boats are out can be done daily at the clubrooms between 6-8pm. If you have to get away earlier in the day, call one of the official weigh-in crew with their names and numbers on the tractor shed whiteboard. Be patient as some of these hopefully may be out fishing also.

Note that only the weigh masters listed on the white board can weigh your fish in.

Gibson's Plumbing are again running the Lucky Snapper Draw. Weigh in any snapper from 4Kg to 6Kg inclusive at anytime throughout the tournament and be in to win the \$1000 cash prize, only one entry per angler please.

The annual rod and reel raffle will have the same format as last year, the tickets are \$10 each and there are currently four separate draws. The first drawn gets the choice of the four rod and reel sets plus goodies followed by the second with choice of three, etc. The premier set is around \$1000 in value. The raffle will be drawn at prizegiving. If you are not present a committee member will make the choice for you.

As usual we will be offering a complimentary meal at prize-giving including venison, roast beef and wild pork with vegetables cooked by chef Steve and helpers. The meal will be contactless self-service from 6pm approximately, with prize-giving from 7pm.

We have a large number of sponsored product spot prizes and vouchers. Your entry tickets need to be placed in the bucket

provided on prize-giving night and numbers will be drawn and the choice of these prizes will be offered to those who have not won a prize in the main fishing or diving sections.

The auctions this year will be interesting with the feature auction again being a day for two game-fishing on "Shamrock" valued at around \$2000. We also have a Metrotel Accommodation package and some very special Pogue's products from Ireland plus a wide variety of dairy related products and services including fertilizer and detergent as well as meat packs and various other tools and fishing goodies.

The final event of the night is the awarding of the Top Boat trophy, no prize to go with this, this boat crew will have enough from their winnings in the fishing sections already. The skipper will have both their name and their boat name engraved on this unique trophy for posterity.

The club is hugely thankful to all our sponsors and we ask that you please support those that support us. They are all listed on our entry form.

Should government requirements around gatherings change before prize-giving we will notify all entrants both by email and on our Facebook page of how our contingency plan will be run.

Fingers crossed for some great days out on the water, be safe and the very best of luck, OBUC Commodore Simon, Head Organiser Gary and the committee.

Opunake Boat and Underwater Club

Opunake Boat and Underwater Club Annual Competition



OMV/McDonalds Sponsored \$1000 Snapper Tournament 2022

Dates 29th Jan – 13th Feb inclusive

Ten Fishing Species sections, one Diving (Crayfish) section

Early Bird and Lucky Snapper Draws of \$1000 each at prize-giving on 13th February at 6pm, government rules may force a change in this format.

And over \$10K in prizes plus a complimentary family meal.

All craft must launch and retrieve from Middleton Bay, Opunake only

Competition Rules are on the official entry form.

Entry - \$60 per angler, \$20 per diver

Tickets available at Symes Outdoor and Sports, Opunake or at final registration night BBQ at Middleton Bay Clubrooms on 28th January.

Early Bird entry tickets close at 8pm

Please see our Facebook page for more detail

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Members work on show at Village Gallery

The first exhibition for the year 2022 is a Member's Exhibition 17 January until 11th February displaying an array of recent work with several new artists among them. The members support the Village Gallery - Eltham and originate from all over Taranaki. All artists and arts enthusiasts are encouraged to join the group and help out with promotion, contribute to the organisation and operations of the gallery to ensure its ongoing success.

Paintings, photography, pottery, mixed media and sculpture are included. An intriguing kinetic piece by Karen Waterson explores a new direction in her creative journey and echoes the confusion in today's environment. The range of varying subject matter, media and styles brings together a captivating display with a safe bet you will find something you will enjoy and appreciate.



Above left: Donna Hitchcock and her works at the Village Gallery. Above right: A Walker piece at the Village Gallery.

The dahlias are coming to Hawera

For lovers of all things dahlia, Hawera will be the place to be from February 12-13. The Hawera Horticultural Society is hosting one of this year's two national dahlia shows at the Hawera Memorial Hall. There will be food and market stalls, and there will be plants for sale. Vaccine passes are required.

Two National Dahlia shows are held every year, one in the North Island and one in the South Island, although growers from all around the country are free to exhibit in both, says Hawera Horticultural Society president Paul Lander.

With COVID continuing to make its presence felt, he says he's not sure how many exhibitors there will be, but things are looking up for a great show.

"It's been a great season for dahlias this year, with just the right amount of rain and not too much wind," he says. "There's an amazing variety of types, and different dahlias that people all year.



The Hawera Horticultural Society is hosting the National Dahlia Show at Hawera this year.

Specialists breed them for showing, but they are a wonderful garden plant as well. They are the sort of plants you can plonk in the garden and they can grow."

"They came from Mexico originally, and were only little, like a daisy-like flower, but now you have a huge range of them in quite a range of shapes and sizes. No doubt we will have them all on display."

Paul says the tubers on the dahlias were once eaten and tasted "absolutely revolting" before being superseded by potatoes.

The Dahlia Show takes place at the same time of year the Society holds their annual Summer Flower Show, and a "cut down" version of the show will run alongside the Dahlia Show.

"We've hired the whole complex," says Paul. "The Horticultural Show is open for anybody to enter, but

for the Dahlia Show, you have to be a member of the Horticultural Society or the National Dahlia body to enter."

One longstanding Horticultural Society member who is looking to enter this year is Spud Brogden. Spud has earned national and international plaudits for his expertise in growing daffodils but says he has less experience with dahlias. He said the last time he entered any in a competition was the last time Hawera hosted the National Dahlia Show, "about 20 years ago."

"I had some on the day, and did pretty well with them. That was just a fluke. I've never grown them since," he says.



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The National Dahlia Show

Sat/Sun 12th & 13th February, 2022
 12 - 5pm Sat, 10am-4pm Sunday
 Hawera Memorial Hall,
 Albion Street
 Food and market stalls
 Plants available for sale
 Vaccine pass required
 Entry \$5. Children - free.
 Contact:
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The art of the journey

The art of the journey: New Zealand's brand-new Coastal Arts Trail launches with the creation of a world first Gallery-Camper

The new Coastal Arts Trail is an easy, self-driving, art-lovers' tour across the lower West Coast of the North Island. The country's newest, and largest regional arts tourism experience features over 50 stops, thanks to a unique collaboration between the Manawātū, Whanganui, and Taranaki regions.

The Trail takes visitors through an eclectic mix of public art, street art, galleries and museums, as well as off-the-beaten-track studios and creative rural communities. This new art explorer road trip showcases the incredible variety of creativity on offer,



Creative development lead Curator Aimée Ralfini.

redefining what it means to take the scenic route.

With the creative spirit of the trail in mind, the Coastal Arts Trail has partnered with Quirky Campers NZ to design the ultimate trail companion, a world first gallery-camper. This is an art-immersive campervan, purpose-built and designed for the trail, and it will be

available for public booking. That is, of course, after it's been named: members of the public are encouraged to send suggestions. Will it be Vinnie Van Go? Artie? Vallery, or something else?

Justine Gilliland, Venture Taranaki CE says, "we're excited to see the Gallery-Camper come to life. It shines a light on the richness of the Taranaki creative sector, and, across the regions, gives visitors the opportunity to truly do something new".

Curator Aimée Ralfini has been appointed to lead the creative development of the Gallery-Camper. On the maiden journey along the Coastal Arts Trail, Ralfini will collect pieces that highlight the incredible work New Zealand artists have to offer in these regions, for installation in the campervan "Art has the ability to change the way we experience the world around us", says Ralfini. "A campervan designed specifically for a regional art trail presents a unique opportunity to view the world through a creative lens."

Bringing art outside of the traditional 'white cube' space, the Gallery-Camper is a good fit for Ralfini, who's passionate about strengthening the role art

plays beyond the gallery. This passion led her to pave the way for New Zealand artists in mainstream and social media. Her visual arts activation platform Art Ache similarly disrupts conventional ways of engaging with art, using events, digital billboard

campaigns, podcasts, and other tools to, as she puts it, 'strengthen New Zealand's creative muscle'.

Building the first Gallery-Camper, then, might not be too far out of character. For Ralfini, 'it breaks all the rules, about where we think art should be, and how we

interact with art. And that's a good thing.'

The Gallery-Camper is currently in development and in search of a name. Follow the journey on Instagram and book in advance via Quirky Campers.

Virtual Tart hits 25

The Virtual Tart website started 25 years ago! showing the work of 9 artists from Taranaki, New Zealand. We now have more than 40 artists, but nothing else has changed. I still steadfastly refuse to accept advertisements on the site, and my charges haven't changed! (Friends say I'm stupid)

To celebrate, we're showing the digital drawings / iPad paintings on the Virtual Tart site. And while you're there, have a look in the Showcase section - there's stunning new work by Karen Hamer. And my

have a look at new work by the Tartists, in the showcase section.

I hope 2022 treats you all well. Thank you for being there.

2022 - For all you artists, I hope it's a productive year. Make art for yourself, even if the world doesn't seem to be noticing just now.

This month, see Tony Rumball's digital drawings / iPad paintings on the Virtual Tart site. And while you're there, have a look in the Showcase section - there's stunning new work by Karen Hamer. And my

stuff? ... 2021 was my most productive year ever, with, I think, 26 new assemblages. And I've just about finished the first for 2022. Life is good, yes? It has to be.

If you're within reach of Taranaki in New Zealand, you've got till 30th January to see Resilience at the Percy Thomson gallery in Stratford, and to farewell Rhonda Bunyan, our terrific curator, who's retiring to pursue her own photography.

Stay well, stay safe, smile at strangers. - Dale

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Claire Jensen Art

The Brown Bach Studio is the home-based studio of local Opunake artist Claire Jensen who primarily works with recycled materials to create sculpture and functional design pieces. Her studio is located near to the historic Te Namu Pa and alongside the Opunake Loop Trail. You may visit Claire on Sundays 12-4 and by appointment.

Claire's studio is part of a collective of seven artist run galleries and studios in the area, Opunake Open Studios and Galleries, open to visitors throughout the year. Accessible by car, bike and foot.

More information available at www.clairejensenart.net
www.opunakeopenstudiosgalleries.business.site



Claire Jensen's Brown Bach Studio in Opunake.

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Grass Track Racing is back for Family Day out

On the 4th and 6th February (Waitangi weekend) at the Hawera Racecourse the Hawera Harness Racing Club, Stratford Trotting Club and Taranaki Racing Club are holding a two-day race meeting. This will be the first time they have all raced since Easter 2020.

The local trainers will be competing along with other trainers from across NZ. They are all excited to come and race on the grass as most of the racing is on all weather surfaces. The Stratford Cup will be on the first day with two Maiden Graduation races. Sunday will see The Hawera Cup sponsored by the South Taranaki Club, Taranaki Breeders Stakes and the Final of the Maiden



Winner of the 2019 Hawera Cup Night Hawk driven by D Butcher trained by S Dickson.

Graduation. This will be the only two days of full grass track racing seen in the North Island. Racing will start approximately 12pm both days with the Taranaki Kidz Kartz starting earlier with their new members.

On Sunday the Hawera Harness Racing Club are putting on some family entertainment with old

fashion games. I have heard a rumour that Mickey and Minnie Mouse may make a few appearances through the day.

Free entry on both days but you have to have your vaccine pass. We look forward to seeing you there.

Michelle Mair

Meeting for Rahotu and neighbouring community groups

The Taranaki Coastal Community Board is hosting a community groups meeting at Rāhotu Hall on Wednesday February 23 at 6.30pm.

South Taranaki District Council community development advisor Fran

Levings says the meeting is an opportunity for groups to share what they are working on so people can find out what is happening in their community and how they can support what's going on. "The Board has hosted

similar meetings in Ōpunakē and Okaiawa which have been well received and they are keen to take these out to communities in other parts of their ward."

"If your group would like to come along and share

your plans or activities, just give me a call on 021 159 6333, 06 278 0555 (toll free 0800 111 323) or email me at fran.levings@stdc.govt.nz.

The next issue of Opunake & Coastal News is February 10, 2022. Call us now on 06 761 7016 to be in it.

Rāhotu and Neighbouring Community Groups Meeting



Rāhotu Hall, Rāhotu
Wednesday 23 February, 6.30-8pm

An opportunity for Oaonui, Rāhotu, Pungarehu and Warea community groups to share what they are working on in the Taranaki Coastal area.

Come along and hear what's happening in your community!

If your group wants to present, email Taranaki Coastal Community Development Advisor Fran Levings at fran.levings@stdc.govt.nz

www.southtaranaki.com



Don't forget about all the beautiful animals at Stoney Oaks Wildlife Park near Inglewood this Summer. Remember to call 06 756 7624 to check opening hours.



72 Tasman Street, Ōpunakē - www.everybodystheatre.co.nz - Phone 027 383 7926
February 2022

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SPENCER
Drama, True Story | 1hr 56mins | M: Language, self harm
Fri 4th Feb 7pm | Sun 20th Feb 1pm

THE EYES OF TAMMY FAYE
Drama, True Story | 2hrs 6mins | M: Drug use, sex scenes
Sat 5th Dec 7pm | Fri 18th Dec 7pm

BELFAST **Boutique**
Drama, Historical | 1hr 38mins | M: Language
Sun 6th Feb 7pm | Fri 11th Feb 7pm
Sat 19th Feb 7pm

GOLD
Thriller | 1hr 36mins | R13: Violence, Language
Sun 6th Feb 1pm | Sun 20th Feb 7pm

THE ADDAMS FAMILY – ROAD TRIP
Comedy, Family | 1hr 33mins | PG
Sat 5th Feb 1pm

KOATI
Animated, Family | 1hr 31mins | PG
Sat 12th Feb 1pm

SING 2
Animated, Family | 1hr 52mins | PG
Sat 19th Feb 1pm

MARRY ME
Comedy, Romance | 1hr 58mins | TBC
Sun 13th Feb 7pm | Sat 26th Feb 7pm

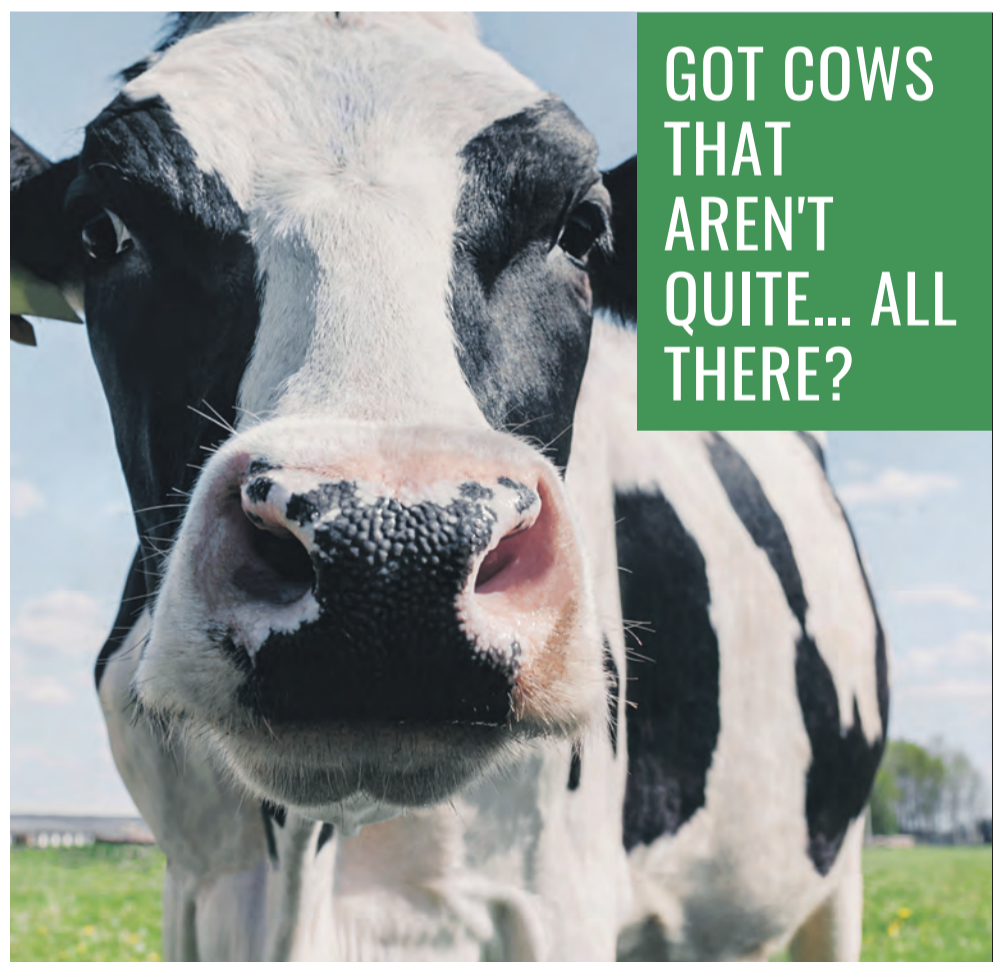
DOG
Comedy, Family | 1hr 30mins | TBC
Fri 25th Feb 7pm

ONE NIGHT STAND IN Ōpunakē

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

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

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



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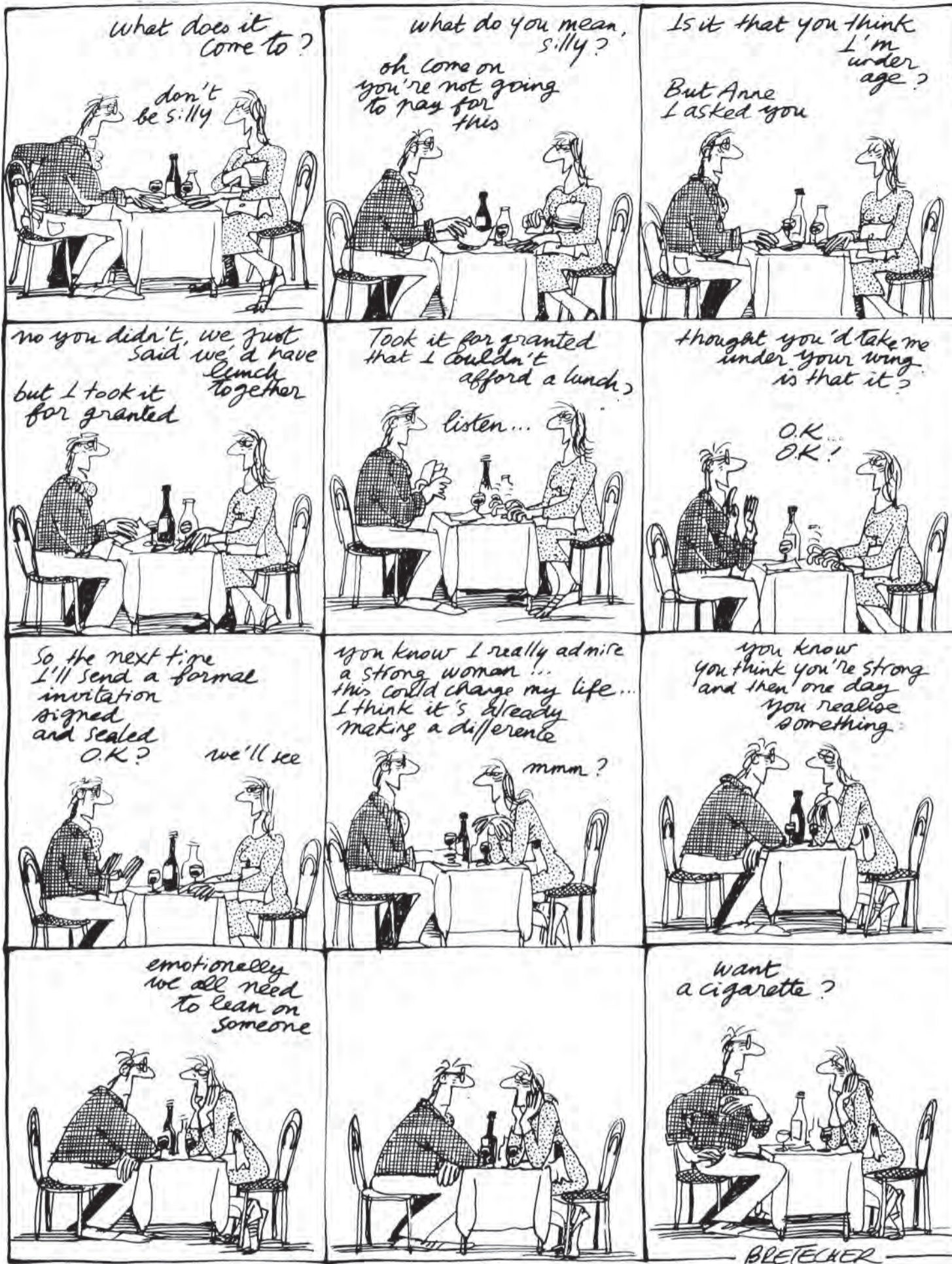


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Nigel Corbett
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ANZCO, AFFCO, and Silver Fern Farms are working with CoastalCare to help you take care of your "special animals", donating proceeds to CoastalCare Health Trust to help us with the building extensions we need to get closer to our fundraising target!

What's On Listings

AMAZON



ONGOING

Movies at Everybodys Theatre in Opunake: Playing several days and nights each week. Refer timetable in newspaper.
MONDAYS: Tainui Day Centre - St Barnabas Church Hall, 141 Tasman Street Opunake: Each Monday 10 am - 12:230 pm. Information call Jenny 7618080 or Glensys 6558025

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

TUESDAYS

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

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

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

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

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

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

THURSDAYS

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

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

FRIDAYS

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

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

WEEKENDS

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

DECEMBER 18 2021 TO JAN 30 2022

'The Art of resilience' exhibition by Rhonda Bunyan: At Percy Thomsom Gallery, Stratford.

COMMENCING JAN 2022

Holiday Art Workshops, Opunake: Explore techniques in sculpture and printmaking. Contact Claire on 761 8468

JAN 16 TO JAN 21 2022

VERO International festival of Motoring 2022: Throughout Taranaki. See article for details.

FROM JAN 18 2022

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

JANUARY 29 - FEBRUARY 13

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

FEBRUARY 12 & 13

National Dahlia Show: At Hawera Memorial Hall, Hawera.

FEBRUARY 23

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

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OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

PUBLIC NOTICES



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

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



We warmly welcome back our students and whanau for the first day of school on Tuesday 1st February. Please ensure your child has the correct school uniform, including a school hat. Enrolment at our school is governed by an enrolment scheme, detailed information is available at the school office.

EGMONT EUCHRE CLUB

meets every
Thursday 1pm at the
Opunake Bowling Club.

Inquiries, phone:
06 761 8277
or
06 761 8337

Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Tamarongo

2022 Enrolments:
Mon 31st Jan, 8.30am-2pm.
Tues 1st Feb, 8.30am-2pm
Start Date:
Monday 8th February 2022
Tuesday 9 February 2022
9.00am - all students in
Contact: Robyn Davey
Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o
Tamarongo
169 Tasman Street,
Opunakē
021 2346297
tumuaki@tamarongo.school.nz

BUDGET ADVICE
available by appointment,
home visits or at Coastal
Care office. Phone 0800 333
048.

TRADES & SERVICES



Contact Phill - 027 236 7129

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National Certificates in Forest Operations,
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PUBLIC NOTICES

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SITUATIONS VACANT

OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

DELIVERY PEOPLE NEEDED

We need reliable delivery people to deliver our fortnightly newspaper to part of Oakura and also for Manaia.

Please phone 06 761 7016.
Ask for Rolland.

CASUAL ON CALL
positions available for
kitchen staff and caregivers.
Contact Carmen, admin@
opunakeresthome.co.nz

FOR SALE

DID YOU KNOW most
medications can cause Co
Q10 deficiency? Co Q10 is
jet fuel for the cells, helps
circulation, and is also a
powerful antioxidant. At the
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and can't work out why?
What about having a hair
analysis at the Health Shop
in Centre City. Tests for
vitamin, mineral amino acid
deficiencies, also tests for
viruses, bacterial, fungal
infections, etc. Takes 1
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olive leaf, vitamin C, Zinc,
Kyolic, etc. Come in for a
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Marantz. Four big speaker
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DRUM KIT, double.
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CHURCH NOTICES

Opunake Co-operating Parish

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

Okato Co-operating Parish

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

Opunake Catholic Church

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

St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato

Saturday Vigil 6.00pm - 1st, 3rd & 5th Saturdays

The Wave

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

St. Barnabas Anglican Church

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

Okato Community Church

Meets 10.30am Sunday at Hempton Hall.
Everyone welcome

Wai Warrior
Residential water restrictions
are here

The use of sprinklers, irrigation systems and
unattended hoses is banned until 31 March.
Hand-held hoses may be used on the odds
and evens system.

be a
**Wai
Warrior**



Don't waste our water.
Visit newplymouthnz.com/WaterRestrictions

**LIFE DRAWING TUITION
WITH MARIANNE MUGGERIDGE**

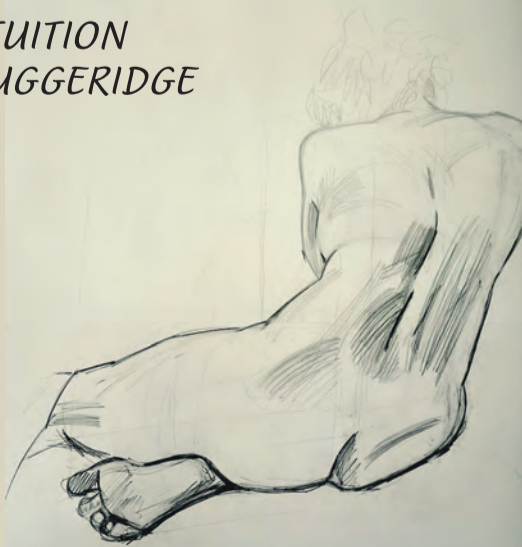
Beginners and experienced drawers welcome.
Bring your own materials, paper, pencils,
charcoal etc.

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

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

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

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DOHC 16V Engine, Tiptronic Automatic, Stability
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2.5 Turbo 5 Cylinder Automatic 5 Stage Tiptronic, Duratec,
Power Steering, Climate Control Air Con, ABS Brakes, Airbags x 6,
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12 AXELA SPORTS IN BLACK:
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Beautiful Hi Spec Example. Auto, QuadCam, 24 Valve,
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7 SEATER: NEW 7 SEATER SUV**

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Adjust, Electric Windows, 7 Seater, Reverse Camera & rear Parking Sonar. 62KM



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