



OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

Vol. 25 No 1, January 29 2016
www.opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

Published every
Thursday Fortnight

Phone and Fax 761-7016
A/H 761-8206
for Advertising and Editorial
ISSN 2324-2337, ISSN 2324-2345

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New police enjoying rural life style, page 6.



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Road clean up after collision



The collision at Tataraimaka.

A truck carrying palm kernel failed to take a 45km bend on SH45 at Tataraimaka on Monday January 25 overturned spilling its load

onto the road. The crash happened at around 5pm in the early evening. Police along with a fire truck attended A crane and several clean up

units were required to right the truck and clean up the load.

The single male occupant of the truck was not injured.

An investigation is currently being carried out to determine the cause of the collision, commented Constable Rob Keen who was in attendance.

He added that there have been numerous crashes within a one kilometre radius of the site of the collision.

Judge orders man to avoid town

A 36-year-old South Taranaki man has been told not to enter Opunake township. This was one of several orders made by Judge Allan Roberts when Shannon Andrew Pakiere Smith appeared

before him at the New Plymouth District Court on eight charges including rape, unlawful sexual connection and assault with intent to injure. The charges arose from an

alleged incident at Opunake on January 9, and involved three complainants.

No plea was entered, and Smith's lawyer, Susan Hughes QC applied for bail,

which police opposed.

In granting bail, Judge Roberts imposed a curfew from 7pm to 7am on days when Smith wasn't working, and made orders preventing him

from entering Opunake township or having contact with the complainants.

Smith is due to reappear in court on February 11.

Stent Road sign back

Last week, the rock marking the beginning of Stent Road (off State Highway 45) had been painted over, obscuring the legend to the annoyance of locals. This defacement, using black paint, occurred on Wednesday 20 January – probably in the early morning. However, as one local points out, it's not just annoying it is also a safety issue. For example, if an emergency required an ambulance vital time could be lost which could have serious (or fatal) consequences.

The South Taranaki District Council have given up erecting signs on posts because they are virtually immediately removed, and ideas vary as to why. One suggestion is that the perpetrators require a souvenir of a well-loved surf break. The rock took the



The rock back to normal.

place of street signs about ten years ago.

However, a roading contractor working for STDC mistakenly put up a sign about three weeks ago and it had disappeared within 24 hours.

Yet this week brings good news. 'Stent Road' has now reappeared on the rock in attractive gold paint. One resident has this to say, "We're proud of our rock – leave it alone."

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Letters to the Editor

A word to the council

Dear Council. We refer to "Your Water Tax" Invoice dated 31 December due for payment on 20 January 2016.

This is the second Invoice received since billing and taxing of water has occurred. The first one of \$ 239.42 seemed high, but it was paid. The second one of \$ 415.20 is now nearly double the first one.

This letter is written as a matter of complaint.

It seems that we are paying for water we are not using. Some 2,000 litres have been billed for in 80 days. Some 25 litres per day. The cost of those litres is approximately \$ 0.20 per litre.

When did council become the new Coca Cola water franchisee and distributor for South Taranaki?

You are rather lucky you don't even have to bottle it.

The first thing to note is your invoice does not refer to any dates of inspection of meter read. Secondly when we phoned to ask, "at what level does an alarm bell ring to alert people to over water tax?"

The figure provided was \$ 2,000. Now that would seem

a lot of water used and a major leak somewhere.

We are not a commercial enterprise where we can pass this cost on. And even if we were, I do not think another fifty cent charge on the coffee would be tolerated.

Talking to businesses in the street it would appear a few are paying for the masses. The question has to be asked of council.

"How much is too much for water?"

This is too much! What is the going rate for water? Whether we used it or not.

By a simple act of putting a meter on an existing water line, council becomes a "water tax collector."

I understand this maybe all new to all parties; but if questions are not asked and answered, then the problem will simply overflow, and we will be drowning in Water Debt and Taxes.

I am now scared to flush the toilet when I stare over the cash waterfall of South Taranaki District.

Your water feedback will be appreciated.

John R. Smith
Opunake

Herbert Denton, STDC
operations manager
responds

Dear Mr Smith,

The Council does not have a 'water tax'. However we do charge all water users a fee in order to recover (ie pay for) what it costs to build and operate our water supply. (For things like water treatment plants, reservoirs, pipes, power, staff etc). We do not generate any extra revenue from the charges.

In South Taranaki, as elsewhere across New Zealand, consumers pay either a set annual charge (we call this a Targeted Water Rate, and it applies mainly to residential customers) or; if the property has been identified as one likely to use more than the typical residential property (for example a business, farm or a residential property with a swimming pool), a water meter is installed and a metered rate is applied.

Previously, at your property in question, you paid the set annual water charge as part of your rates. However, prior to 1 July 2015 a water meter was installed at your property. This was because your property includes both a residential dwelling and a commercial business, and as such was identified as one which was likely to use more water than the average residential property. (As a comparison a family of four uses on average approximately 1,000 litres of water per day). With the water meter you are only being charged for the water that is going to your property.

Putting water meters into properties which use more than the average residential property, is part of the Council's plan to improve the way we manage this valuable resource throughout the district. It enables both Council and the consumer to measure and manage our water use more effectively, so there is less wastage (which is better for the environment) and consumers are only charged for what they use. It also provides a way of identifying leaks and means that residential users don't end up subsidising high water users.

In your letter (above) you also refer to a number of figures which are not correct. The latest invoice sent to you was for 162 cubic meters of water, which is 162,000 litres over the 80 day period. This means your average water consumption was 2,025 litres per day not 25. The current cost for a standard urban property on water meter is \$2.36 per cubic meter (ie per 1,000 litres). Therefore the actual cost is considerably less than 1 cent per litre.

You will generally pay anything from \$1 - \$2.63 per litre of bottled water at the supermarket. In comparison you receive quality, treated drinking water available on demand at your property for less than 1 cent per litre, which I feel this is a

Continued page 3

BBC:

Tomorrow

We rarely know what tomorrow holds.

A few months back I woke with a vague feeling of things not being quite right. While Margaret showered, that feeling became a certainty. Fortunately, my fire-brigade neighbour was finishing his keep fit run around the old soccer field. I called out, and he immediately took over the situation; calling up an ambulance. It was the seventh of November. The rest of the month was washed from my memory. Apparently, I owe my

survival to a team of Wellington and Taranaki doctors, many of whom were sure I was going to die. However, they were determined to do everything possible for me. One nurse has since told me of the night I had five baths and changes of pyjamas, necessary because of my feverish state. Family members told of my successful, but unauthorised, removal of the brain drain pipe from my head,

By mid-December I had abandoned my planned divorce. I had decided to marry a Zimbabwe nurse

(not that I can remember the nurse or any such plans). Also I gradually had to accept that this was New Zealand and not part of the Wild West or a British tropical outpost of a bizarre 20th century world.

I mention these things because most of my friends hope I get better, as if a stroke is an illness and not a loss of knowledge and skill. What I have to do is relearn how to act and think and to link - reconnect certain thought patterns with the realities I find around me. This is not

something that can be fixed by a pill or a potion.

It is now the end of January. Thanks to skilled doctors, nurses, and many others, I do have a tomorrow. Thanks also to friends and especially family, I do. But I don't know what tomorrow holds.

Does this diminish my Christian faith?

No. Through all of this I see God operating. I cannot say what will happen, what the future holds. But I know who holds my future.

Richard Oliver
Pastor Eltham Message Church



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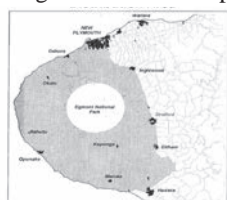
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website: www.opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

Editor Bernice M°Kellar -
Journalists/Sales Rolland M°Kellar
Bryan Kirk

Advertising/Production: Vanessa Smith
Tina Chapman
Thursday, fortnightly

Delivery: Registered as a newspaper.



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In 2005, to meet new Government drinking water standards, Council began a ten year programme to massively upgrade the district's aging water infrastructure. We invested a huge amount of time and money into improving the district's water supplies and completed nearly \$58 million of work since then. This included a new \$3.4 million Water Treatment Plant for Opunake, which was opened in 2014. Today our water supplies are more robust than they have ever been with new treatment plants, water bores, reservoirs and interconnections between some supplies. Our district water supply now meets all the latest drinking water standards, and we are in the enviable position of having completed most of the costly upgrades that many councils' are yet to face.

God's not dead - a response to Robert Shaw's article

Roberts article is headed "God is dead, and we killed him" words from a German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche.

Contrary to popular belief - God is not dead. He is alive and well. Many throughout history have tried to destroy His plan for humanity by killing off His people and destroying His manual for life here on planet earth.

A Pharaoh of Egypt (through fear of a nation becoming mightier than his) tried to kill off all the male Israelites at birth - Moses survived.

King Herod (through fear of another King usurping his authority) killed off all the children in Jerusalem two years and under - Jesus survived.

Hitler (through pride) tried to annihilate the Jewish race - Israel survived and became a nation in 1948. (Interestingly Friedrich was one of Adolf's favorite philosophers.)

When the Bible was translated into the language of the common man back in the 1500's much political effort was used to stop it. Large numbers of Bibles were burn, and its proponents executed. Yet the Bible is still the bestselling book in the world.

Robert's article states "modern science killed God." Things haven't changed since we came into the "scientific age". People who believe God is alive are often portrayed as intolerant in our modern P.C. world. Yet it is interesting that Charles Darwin's "Theory" of Evolution (which many scientists believe is fact) supports a mindset of intolerance that plagues our planet to this day. The mindset that certain races are lower on the evolutionary ladder than others. Hitler's blue-eyed blonde haired Aryan race was fuelled by this mindset. Another example was highlighted in an extreme way back in 1906 when Ota Benga, a Pygmy from the Congo, was caged

with primates as an exhibit in a St Louis zoo.

In contrast, it was a person who believed in God who championed the abolition of the slave trade in England in the early 1800's. William Wilberforce had a personal encounter with God, an encounter which gave him the courage and determination to battle against all odds to see God's will be done here on earth as it is in heaven. Check out the movie Amazing Grace.

God is alive. Many of the international aid agencies were founded by people who believe in God. People in need cry out to God - God hears their cry and awakens compassion within people who are able and willing to meet that need. Look in our own nation with volunteer organisations like City

Missions, Salvation Army, Presbyterian Support, etc.

Robert, you suggested that Christianity was a "compensatory religion" - behave well and you get your reward. While it is true that one of God's principles is "you reap what you sow", the essence of Christianity is this - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life." It's not amazing justice, so much as amazing grace.

Science is great. It allows mankind to discover and use all that God has put in His creation of the natural world.

But wait - there's more than just the natural world. Science can't measure Love, Hope, and Faith. Human beings are the only instruments that can measure

these.

Since God created mankind and gave us freewill - one thing hasn't changed - Choice. The Bible says in John 1: 10 "God was in the world, and the world was made by Him and the world did not know Him. He came to His own and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them he gave the right to become the children of God".

I have not read Friedrich Nietzsche's book but I do read the Bible, and I have found that when read with faith there is no shadow of doubt that God is alive and well in 2016.

I hope you've had a great Christmas and have stepped into a new year of hope and joy.

*Pastor Murray McEwan
The Wave*

St Mary's Head Girl named

Eva Langton from Opunake is this year's head girl at St Mary's Diocesan School in Stratford. A Year 12 current boarder, she is a strong academic having gained NCEA Level 1 with an Excellence endorsement and is currently sitting on a Level 2 Merit endorsement prior to external results.

Eva is a senior member of the school's Kapa Haka Roopu, and also sings in the school choir.

In 2015 she has been both Chapel Sacristan and Board of Trustees student representative.

Eva is a talented sportswoman, being the school Intermediate cross country champion and captaining the A Basketball team. She represented Taranaki in the Under 17 Girls team, and was named in the tournament team at the recent National Secondary School Girls Tournament in Palmerston North. She has also trialled for the New



**St Mary's Head Girl
Eva Langton**

Zealand Womens' Under 19 team.

Eva will study Chemistry, English, Mathematics with Statistics, Physics and Physical Education, with a broad career path in health.

She is a recent recipient of a scholarship to attend the Australasian Alliance of Girls' Schools Leadership Camp at Bond University, Queensland in January 2016.

Clarification

In our December 4 issue of last year we reported on the Roigard trial. In our report we referred to a witness Andy Wright stating that Aaron had expressed suicidal thoughts, but the timing of this was not included in the article. Evidently, these suicidal comments were made many years ago and

not in recent times. It was felt by members of the Wright family that the way this was reported suggested that the comments had been made recently - which was clearly not the case.

We are sorry for the distress and anger this aspect of our reporting has caused.

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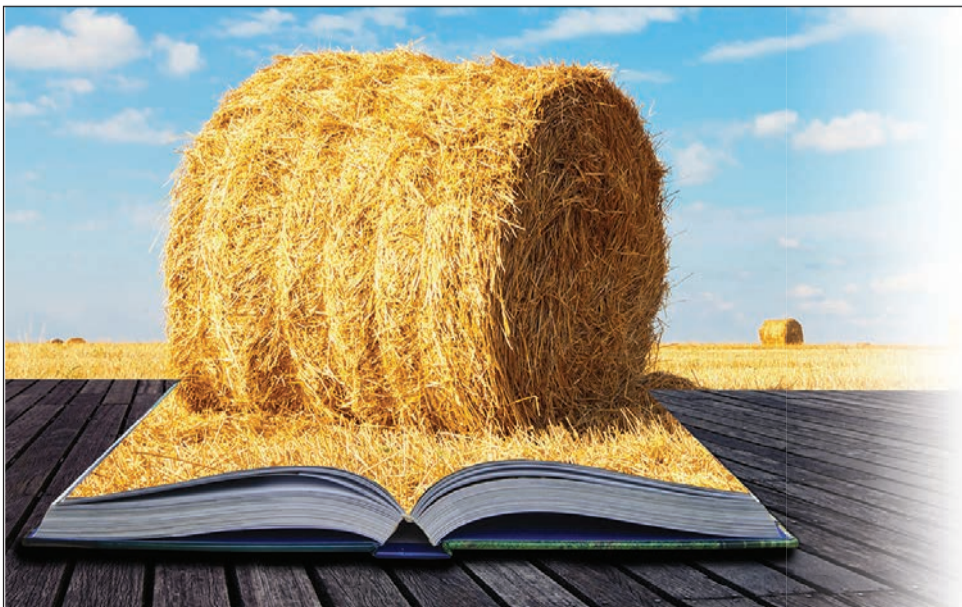
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COMMUNITY COMMENT

A new regime for recycling

At Monday's (25 January) Special Council Meeting, Council adopted a new kerbside rubbish and recycling collection policy which will start from 1 July.

The policy was introduced to provide greater consistency, transparency and fairness across the district and to ensure that Council does not take business away from local waste management companies.

South Taranaki District Council group manager of engineering services Brent Manning says the kerbside collection service is only meant for domestic/residential users, but over time some commercial and other non-residential groups were

included as, in the past, local waste collection services were limited in some areas.

"Now there are local waste management businesses which collect right across South Taranaki. Unintentionally Council has been competing with local business for this service, which is not what we should be doing," says Mr Manning.

"This Policy corrects those inconsistencies, returns us to our core role, which is providing a waste collection service for domestic customers, and makes it fair for everyone across the district," he says.

Mr Manning says over the next couple of months, Council will contact the 191 non-residential customers across

the district advising them of the change, and suggesting alternative private providers.

The Taranaki Regional Council also has a waste minimisation officer available to any business or organisation which may want advice on ways to reduce their waste.

"The Council is required by law (Waste Minimisation Act 2008) to promote effective and efficient waste management in our district, and in conjunction with our Waste Minimisation Plan that is what this policy sets out to do," says Mr Manning.

The new policy also puts a limit on having one set of (recycling and rubbish) bins for residential customers unless there are extenuating cir-

cumstances. (Note this does not apply to greenwaste bins)

"We want to encourage recycling," says Mr Manning. "Last September, we increased the capacity of residents to recycle with larger kerbside collection recycling bins and the introduction of glass crates. So the kerbside collection service should provide more than enough space for the typical household, if you are using it correctly."

For more information about the kerbside collection policy, or tips and hints on recycling, visit www.southtaranaki.com or contact Council on 0800 111 323.

Council backs districts digital future

The South Taranaki District Council (STDC) has agreed to establish a Digital Development Fund (DDF) of up to \$1 million to help provide high quality, high speed access to the internet and mobile networks across the district. STDC Chief Executive, Craig Stevenson, says the DDF comes in response to the Government's decision (in March 2015) to extend their Ultra-Fast Broadband and Rural Broadband Initiatives and establish a

Mobile Black Spot Fund, to the tune of \$360 million. "Councils across NZ were invited to submit bids to these contestable government funds. Unsurprisingly we are one out of 64 Councils who've expressed an interest in extending existing services under the Government's scheme. So, in an effort to create a point of difference with our bid, the Council has agreed to create this Digital Development Fund," says Mr Stevenson. "In today's world, being digitally capable is absolutely vital to economic prosperity. The Council believes improving our mobile cell phone and internet connections is one of the most important

things we can do to improve the district's economic and social development." "The Fund would be primarily used for co-investment with either the Government or other service providers to help build a high quality, open access, backhaul fibre network along all parts of SH3 and SH45 that fall within our district," he says. "This fibre network will then allow existing service providers to provide enhanced broadband and mobile coverage into our rural areas via wireless and other technologies," says Mr Stevenson. "We see this as a genuine opportunity to create better quality fast broadband for

our whole district, particularly in rural areas," he says. Mr Stevenson says the Digital Development Fund will be created by ring fencing up to \$1 million from the Council's Long Term Investment Fund. By using this funding source, the Council can ensure there is no impact on rates Mr Stevenson says the Council expects their bid for second round ultrafast fibre build to be considered by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment sometime in the first three months of 2016 and then subsequent locations related to Rural Broadband and Mobile Black Spot funding in the second quarter of the year.

On this month in history: Ronald Hugh Morrieson born

On January, 29, 1922 writer Ronald Hugh Morrieson was born in Hawera. He was a brilliant musician who played in a number of bands and he lead some. He could play a number of instruments including the guitar, double

bass, piano and saxophone.

In middle age he wrote novels and his first two were published in his life time - The Scarecrow and Came A Hot Friday. His other two novels Pallet on the Floor and Predicament were published

after his death. He is the only NZ writer to have all his novels made into films.

Later in life he had poor health and was probably an alcoholic. He died in 1972 aged 50.

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Taranaki superhero scenes to tour Taranaki

Taranaki - if you're within reach, have a look at the rock carving symposium on the Coastal Walkway, and my bomb sculpture down by Belt Road, now installed on New Plymouth's beautiful Coastal Walkway. [On the Virtual Tart news page](#) there's news about art classes, local exhibitions, and you can see the terrific brochure which will accompany the Super Hero exhibition touring USA - with

Graham Kirk's work in it. After a month at the Bedford Gallery in Walnut Creek, San Francisco, the exhibition will tour the United States for three years. Three of the four works that he has in the show feature the Taranaki landscape - Supergirl and Mount Taranaki, Batman and Robin at Pukekura Park and Wonderwoman and light over Okato. The other image is Wonderwoman in Paris - 1968.

They won't be the originals, but large prints that are being made from the files that Graham sent them. Being Human is a Strange Mix is an exhibition by Avril Douglas of England. I've known Avril's collage work for many years. It's good to now see her textile and sculptural work as well. Have a look. [On the Virtual Tart site](#) The GET REAL show will be online in February. Details on [the Virtual Tart site](#)

And, of course, ICE18, the 18th annual international collage exhibition/exchange, will be online and also hanging in a fine gallery in New Zealand during April. One work from each artist will go to the permanent collection of The Verbeke Foundation in Belgium. Details for taking part are on [the outofsight.co.nz site](#)

Dale Copeland

Rescued from the rocks



LEFT:

On January 16, the Taranaki Rescue Helicopter picked up a paraglider who had crashed on to rocks near Black Beach.

Helicopter crewman Ben Wallbank said they had received reports of the crash that morning. Along with a St John Intensive Care medic, the crew was able to locate the adult male paraglider after a brief search along the coastline. Due to the location of the patient, they had to pick up additional additional equipment and assistance from the police and fire service and fly them to the scene, Ben said. The patient was then flown to Taranaki Base Hospital.

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Not always just the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff

Tony Willetts' first visit to Opunake was "a few years ago" on a surfing trip to Taranaki, and Opunake was as far south as he came.

Now, having been at the Opunake Police Station since the start of the year, PC Willetts is back to stay.

"Opunake's been good so far, and everybody's been welcoming," he says. "I enjoy the small town policing role, and I'm looking forward to being part of the community."

Originally from West Auckland, he has been with the police for nine years. Five of these were in West

Auckland, and the last four have been in Kaikoura.

He describes Kaikoura as a town with a population of about 4000, which doubles over summer.

"Opunake's a wee bit smaller, which suits me," he says.

He notes the difference between police work in West Auckland, and smaller centres like Kaikoura and Opunake.

"In a small town, you can have an impact that you can't have in the city. You can make a difference, which can be very rewarding. You are



The new face at the Opunake Police station. PC Tony Willetts.

not always just the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff. In a small town, you've got the flexibility to be a bit more proactive

"It's a good job. You get out and about, and there's something different happening every day."

With interests which include surfing and fishing, he says Opunake is a good place to be.

He says he did a number of things before joining the police, including some overseas travel and working for an aluminium balustrading company. He is married with two children, aged one and four, who, he says, keep him busy.

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Opunake Volunteer Fire Brigade News

We got off to an early start on the morning December 19 when the siren went up at 5:26 to help the Rahotu Brigade extinguish a driftwood fire on the Kina Road beach. It looked like there had been a fireworks happening "on the Friday night and one of the rockets must have landed in the wood and set it alight overnight. It was reported to Rural Fire and we were sent to deal to it. Not a lot of harm was done, but it shows the dangers of firing the rockets in the wrong direction and the wasted time that is involved to putting the resulting fires out.

In the early hours of Saturday 26th, we were called to

assist the St. John Ambulance crew with a cardiac arrest patient. Unfortunately, we were unable to resuscitate Brian. We would like to pass on our condolences to Rewa and all of her whanau and friends at this extremely sad time. The AC/DC concerts won't be the same without you Pix, and now regrettably we have to think of the 2007 AC/DC song R.I.P. (Rock In Peace).

We were on the road again on Monday 28th looking for a vehicle that was upside down in a drain with the driver unable to get out. The trapped driver had made the emergency call herself, but was sketchy with the location and Fire Control thought she said she was on the Ihaia Road. She was extremely fortunate that a passing motorist spotted the upturned vehicle on the Wiremu Road, and kicked the window in to get her out. Luckily she escaped without injury to herself, but the car will require major surgery.

We were called again to the Wiremu Road on Wednesday 30th, to find a vehicle on its side in the Okahu Stream, between Ngariki and Kahui Roads. The two travellers

were still trapped in the vehicle, so we physically had to lift them out and get them to dry ground. They were checked out by Roger Blume, a First Responder with St John's, so when the ambulance arrived, it was a quick "load-up" and away it went. Apparently, the lady driver fell asleep and the vehicle clipped the guard rail and it was all over. Fortunately, neither was seriously hurt, but once again, the vehicle will require major surgery.

We kicked off 2016 with a call to Namu Road when a motorcycle owner tried to start his bike, and unfortunately, it backfired through the carburettor. This set the 64 metre square shed alight resulting in the building and contents being completely destroyed in the blaze. The property owners made sure all responding fire crews had a box of refreshments to wash down any inhaled smoke or ash. Thanks guys, it's always nice to be appreciated.

Our crew supported the Kaponga and Manaia brigades on the 12th at an incident on the Mangawhero Road. The owners could smell a burning odour in their house and

thought the worst. On inspection, nothing seemed to be glowing, "so the electricians took over to check it out. The fault was traced back to the toaster and a plastic bread bag. The bag had decided to fuse itself to the toaster, causing the smell.

On Saturday 16th we attended another motor vehicle accident on the Wiremu Road. Yes, the Wiremu again. Well we arrived at the spot, but those involved had already extracted their vehicle from the ditch and split the scene. So it was back to the station to give the appliance a wash.

When the 64 callouts for the 2015 year are broken down into categories, the majority were for Special Services. This is made up of things like setting up helicopter landing spots, gas leaks, flooding, clearing and/or repairs to storm and tornado damage, petrol spillage, accident debris from the road, or assisting the Police. Vegetation fires make up the next area followed by Motor Vehicle Accidents.

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A country cottage (pictured below) Malcolm and Jill have nearly completed, is almost ready to move to a central Taranaki lifestyle block. It is fully lined and insulated and it will be positioned to take full advantage of 360 degree views of the Mountain in the west to the hills in the east of Taranaki.

Also, with various items of old farm machinery available, much of this has been rebuilt into garden accessories; old cart wheels are ideal for rose and other supports. Malcolm



Nearing completion Malcolm inspects his latest building under construction. The gables inside are both attractive and make for extra strength. Low maintenance aluminium joinery is another important feature. This one will be finished with interior staining, as well as having an appealing veranda.



This 1910 style pony wagon is also for sale.

and Jill have a 1910 style pony wagon (pictured below) and gypsy garden planter for sale. Wagon wheels are also available.

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Putting out fires 1903 style

This photo of the 1903 Opunake Fire Brigade appeared in the last issue of the Opunake and Coastal News. Brigade members are (from left) G. Davis, J. Sinclair, A. Wallis, A. Reid, W. Markham, L. Swaysland, J. Stewart, W. Wallis, J. Ritson, R. Guy, and T. Tanner.

J. (John) Stewart had brought the fire pump from England and donated it to the Opunake township. A progressive and enterprising man, in 1882 he helped set up the first Opunake Town Board. He married a Miss Stevenson from Pihama in 1885, and owned an aerated (fizzy drink) factory in town. He set up a small dynamo to produce electricity to light up his factory and residence, and had dreams of setting up a larger unit, using water from the Waiau



River to supply electricity to homes and businesses in Opunake.

Other members on the Board in 1899 did not share John's vision, and it wasn't

until 1921 that the idea surfaced again. This time all thought it was a great idea, so it was acted upon immediately, with electricity being produced by 1922.

On this month in history; Janet Frame dies

On January 2004 NZ writer Janet Frame (Janet Clutha) died in Dunedin, aged 79. She had been suffering from a blood disease. Her early life was marred by long periods spent in psychiatric hospitals and she had many shock treatments. She was due to have a brain operation called a lobotomy when she won a literary award for her first book of short stories 'The Lagoon and Other Stories' (1951). The medical authorities decided against the operation when they learned about the award. Her first novel 'Owls Do Cry' (1957) was written in Frank Sargeson's famous

army hut. Along with Katherine Mansfield, Janet is considered our most outstanding writer by many people. If you are in Oamaru you can walk the Janet Frame Memorial Trail, which includes the Eden Street house where she spent much of her childhood.

army hut. Along with Katherine Mansfield, Janet is considered our most outstanding writer by many people. If you are in Oamaru you can walk the Janet Frame Memorial Trail, which includes the Eden Street house where she spent much of her childhood.

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Window is shutting on reasoned debate on justice policy



Hon Chester Borrows MP

A judge slams the government for poor policy and says government is giggery -poking the stats to make themselves look good. A man who should be in jail might have been on home detention or a community based sentence, but for the Judges insightful intervention. Within a day the minister finds an example of an escapee from home detention who should have been in jail, but isn't because a judge decided against the submissions of Probation and Police that he should not be in jail. Media reporting leads weight to the idea that people on Home Detention cut off their anklets and decamp, yet of the several thousand being monitored by electronic anklets, only 18 people did this last year. Perception is reality apparently. The conventions are that

the Judiciary and Parliamentarians don't criticise one another, yet the public don't care about the niceties of protocol, only about safety, and will believe anything negative that is said about the threat of crime and criminals. It reinforces what we all know to be true, crime is rife and we are all under threat.

We have the lowest crime rate in 30 plus years but have a record high prison population. The number of sentenced prisoners are stable, but are serving longer sentences because the public believes it needs protecting, and political parties have every interest in reinforcing whatever the voting public wants to think. The longer sentences are supposedly to keep bad beggars in for longer, yet nobody can prove that longer sentences have any deterrent effect on crime. No logical person could ever argue that making a prisoner serve the major proportion of their sentence before receiving any remedial treatment or rehabilitative interventions is of benefit to anybody, bearing in mind all these guys are getting out one day, and coming to live in a street near you. At the current rate, there will be a need for another prison in the next two years. Last year the prison population grew by

about a medium sized institution, 800 plus prisoners. A new prison build works out to about one million dollars per bed. So maybe a new billion prison is due soon. Remands in custody are sky-rocketing and it is nuts. The best investment by far is to put less money up front and spend it on those who we know will be filling that jail if we don't act quickly. That money, which would be spent in the thousands, and not the millions per person, would be on education, welfare, health, mental health, and family interventions. But according to the red-necks, this is all the jandal-slapping liberal stuff that is soft on crime and criminals. They would rather spend much more, less efficiently to reinforce their false views on the effectiveness of prisons, the justice system and the prospects of ever living in a low crime society. If the people in prisons are under educated, (81 per cent), under skilled, under the influence of drugs and alcohol, (83 per cent), motivated by violence, suffering from mental health disorders, (62 per cent), why wouldn't we target social spending first?

My fear is that the window for sensible debate and reform in the Justice system is closing. For eight or nine

years the major political parties have been aligned on the need to cut prison populations and spend money wisely ahead of youth embarking on a criminal career. But an Opposition desperate for an electoral win, a government desperate for another term, and social commentators desperate for relevance will all soon start screaming for tougher sentences.

They will want more draconian and short-sighted resolutions to social problems that fit sound-bites and justify retaining irrational fears and long held beliefs. They will want the answers to be even longer and tougher sentences. But the only realistic answer is to be smart on crime and the causes of crime, and it is not tougher on crime for the sake of toughness regardless of the expense, the ineffectiveness and the hopelessness of the cycle of spending such polices demand. Some people would rather their irrational fears be endorsed with more police, bigger prisons, longer sentences, longer court lists and a higher body count, than their community be shown to be safer with less of all of the above

Chester Borrows MP for Whanganui

Chester Borrows
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Young people shouldn't be left on the scrapheap

It beggars belief that in a country that has always prided itself on being ahead of the game and where employers are crying out for skilled workers across a range of industries, there are more

than 72,000 young Kiwis who don't have a job and are not in education or training. That's 11% of under 25 year-olds. What a massive waste of potential talent. Unemployment is rising,



Andrew Little MP

Apprenticeships scheme, which offers employers who are willing to train an apprentice the equivalent of the unemployment benefit. Previously it was restricted to 18 and 19 year-olds and capped at 3000 places each year. With the worsening unemployment situation and an increasing skills shortage in vital areas like building, it makes sense to expand it to include young people aged 18 - 24. We'll also remove the cap.

and our young people are some of the worst affected. National's policies have meant 90,000 fewer people are in post-school education, while there are almost 12,000 fewer apprentices in training than there were in 2007 under a Labour Government. These young New Zealanders shouldn't be left on the scrap heap. They are our future. We need to support them into training and give them the skills they and employers need now and in the long term.

The policy has already been given the thumbs up by the Industry Training Federation, with CEO Josh Williams pointing out it offered young people the chance of a productive pathway through the apprenticeship system. Supporting business to help young New Zealanders with on-the-job experience and qualifications will help break the cycle of long-term unemployment.

One way Labour believes we can reduce the stubbornly high numbers of young people not in school or work is by expanding its Dole for

Andrew Little MP, Leader of the Opposition

Andrew LITTLE
Labour List MP

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MAYOR'S COLUMN

Reflecting on our founding document

Hi everyone.
I hope you all had an enjoyable summer break and are ready for what a busy 2016 has to offer!

Coming up next week is our national day, on the anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi.

The treaty marked the start of what has become modern New Zealand. But how much do each of us really know about this founding document?

I think it would be fair to say that for many people,



Andrew Judd

their knowledge of the treaty comes from news stories

and discussions with family and friends, and perhaps from what was taught (if it was taught) at school many years ago.

Yet this is the agreement that established a partnership between two nations to create New Zealand and which continues to influence our politics and personal relations today. I believe it's worthwhile to understand what the treaty is, why there is controversy around it, and why it's said to still be relevant.

Because of this, I'd like

put to forward a challenge. In the lead-up to Waitangi Day, consider refreshing your knowledge about the treaty (I'll put some useful links for treaty information at the bottom of this column).

Read up on it, discuss it with your family, and consider the issues around its creation and how it has been applied or ignored in the years since.

I believe that more knowledge leads to more understanding, which is always a worthwhile goal to have.

Meanwhile, New Plym-

outh District Council will be holding a family event at Puke Ariki Landing from 11am to 2pm on Waitangi Day to commemorate our national day. Bring along the family and enjoy the music, hangi, food stalls, information stands and children's activities as we celebrate being part of a great Taranaki community.

I'll see you there!

Where to learn more about the Treaty of Waitangi

- Te Ara - The

Encyclopaedia of New Zealand: www.teara.govt.nz/en/treaty-of-waitangi.

- NZ History: www.nzhistory.net.nz/politics/treaty-of-waitangi.

- Archives New Zealand: <http://archives.govt.nz/exhibitions/treaty>.

- Network Waitangi - Treaty of Waitangi Questions and Answers: <http://nwo.org.nz/files/QandA.pdf>.

Andrew Judd

PHARMACY SELF CARE COLUMN: Relieving indigestion

Who hasn't suffered from indigestion and heartburn, especially after overdoing it with food or drink, or when rushing meals? These are very common conditions although for some of us, indigestion and heartburn happen for other reasons, and can cause considerable discomfort. It's good to know that help is available from your pharmacist.

With indigestion (or dyspepsia), we can feel sick and experience gas, or a bloated feeling, in the stomach. "Indigestion causes discomfort and pain in the area between your ribs and belly button, and occurs during eating, or immediately after" advise *Self Care* pharmacists. A common symptom of indigestion is heartburn, where there is a burning feeling rising upwards from the stomach towards the throat. The acid contents of the stomach return, or 'reflux', back into the oesophagus (the space

between the throat and the stomach, which is shaped like a tube) and causes irritation there.

Indigestion and heartburn can be caused by foods such as cabbage, onions, cucumber, curries and chocolate, certain drinks (e.g. alcohol, fizzy drinks, strong coffee and tea), eating food too fast; eating fatty or large meals, especially late at night., stress and anxiety, smoking, bending and stooping, being overweight, pregnancy, and certain medicines, such as aspirin, and other anti-inflammatory medicines for pain and arthritis.

Try to identify the cause of your indigestion or heartburn, and if possible avoid these things. If the medicines you take gives you symptoms, let your pharmacist or doctor know. Sometimes taking food at the same time as you take your medicines can help. Remember to take your medicines with a glass of water, while sitting or

standing upright.

According to *Self Care* pharmacists, "there are changes you can make to help prevent or reduce symptoms of indigestion and heartburn. They include stopping smoking, avoiding rich, spicy, fatty foods, and large meals late in the day, and eating smaller meals, having plenty of physical activity - at least 30 minutes most days; losing weight if you are overweight, and learning to relax and sleep well. Sometimes focusing on lifestyle changes may be all that is needed to stop indigestion and heartburn.

If medicines are required, your pharmacy has a wide range of products available for the short-term relief of heartburn and indigestion symptoms.

"We can assist you in selecting the one that is best for your situation", advise *Self Care* pharmacists. Antacids neutralise excess acid in the stomach. They can

provide quick and effective relief, but their effects don't last long. Reflux symptoms can be relieved by medicines called alginates that form a 'raft' on top of your stomach contents, helping to prevent them being regurgitated. Where these medicines do not help, or symptoms are experienced as often as two or more times per week, other medicines may be required that decrease the amount of acid made by the stomach. There are several different types of medication available that do this. Your pharmacist can, in certain circumstances, supply these medicines without a prescription for the short term relief of heartburn symptoms. Your *Self Care* pharmacist will advise if this is appropriate for you.

"If there is still no

improvement with lifestyle measures along with short-term use of medicines, or if symptoms suggest another cause, then we would refer you to your doctor for

further investigations and treatment", confirm *Self Care* pharmacists.

Prepared by Pharmacy *Self Care*, Pharmaceutical



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COASTAL OUTLOOK

Our statistics are not so good

Taranaki is economically depressed and under-developed. Last year we went into recession for two months. Poverty here is worse than elsewhere in New Zealand. Our children are more obese.

Our people have lower levels of school and university qualifications than the rest of New Zealand. Boys particularly get little from their schooling. Fewer Taranaki families have the internet in the home than the New Zealand average. Those in work in South Taranaki and Stratford, often work longer hours than people in other parts of New Zealand. About 5,000 Taranaki people cannot converse in English.

So what enables our Members of Parliament to



Dr Robert Shaw

claim we are doing well? The short answer is that our statistics are a bit odd.

Need to see us right

The first step in solving some of Taranaki's problems is to see us right.

In the jargon, we need a "Business Environmental Analysis" for Taranaki. It means you look at your whole living situation in an objective way.

The word "environment" here includes things social, economic and political, not just green stuff. Unless you know in detail about the situation in which you operate, you cannot produce a strategic plan. So it is with Taranaki.

But, our Members of Parliament show no signs that they actually see us right at all. They have come to believe their own propaganda.

Brilliant reports

Congratulations to Statistics New Zealand and the TSB Community

Trust. You fund work that begins for us the process of a Business Environmental Analysis. Your reports reveal the truth about Taranaki. Local people – those with their eyes open and who want to see – see the poverty and need, and your analysis confirms their observations.

and helpful, it was a joint collaboration between Louise Tester, Guild Research and Consultancy Services (working on behalf of The Bishop's Action Foundation); Donna Provoost and Kathleen Logan, Office of the Children's Commissioner; and, Rachel Roberts,

real impact on people.

Age distribution

Taranaki is full of children and old people. We do not have many of the middle-aged workers who generally do the hard graft and produce the economic base for the community.

Rich boys

The people with money are the boys. Our young males in unskilled and semi-skilled jobs earn high wages. This effect lasts until they are about 30 years of age. These boys – and there are plenty of them – push up the mean income of Taranaki and make us look good. That is not to say the boys are richer than the rest of us, just that they are richer than their counterparts in other parts of New Zealand.

Truth about Oil and Gas

Our industries are not ideal. You have to understand that the oil and gas industry is bad for Taranaki. Yes, I say it again; the oil and gas industry does not help Taranaki. It makes us poor! It provides a small number of unskilled and semi-skilled temporary jobs. It provides work for a host of small businesses for short periods. The industry generates unemployed people, it and it imposes environmental costs on us (particularly the land based operations).

Good for NZ

The oil and gas industry is good for New Zealand, not for Taranaki province. It provides export earnings for New Zealand which help the country as a whole. Taranaki helps the whole country and pays the price. We subsidise the more wealthy parts of our country.

Skills

The oil and gas industry does not provide in Taranaki for the development of advanced skills for the boys who earn high wages for a few years. Once the boys start to wear out, hit their thirties, they are out of work and they find they do not have skills that enable them to contribute to Taranaki. Their departure from the industry is most likely to occur when oil prices are low. The company retains its income level by cutting production costs (that is, it sheds workers).

Continued page 11



Independent reports, such as this one paid for by the TSB, are vital if we are to see Taranaki as it really is. Members of Parliament need to own up to our problems before they will ever solve them.

A worthwhile report is entitled "TSB Community Trust: A Child Centred Profile of Taranaki Children and Services". Clear, direct

Philanthropy New Zealand.

Our statistics mislead

To understand why Taranaki statistics do not give a true picture of our situation you need to grasp a few facts about our population. Our demographics are a bit odd. A report by Professor Natalie Jackson, Professor of Demography at Waikato University and Bry Kopu of the BMK Group Ltd, helps us to see our uniqueness.

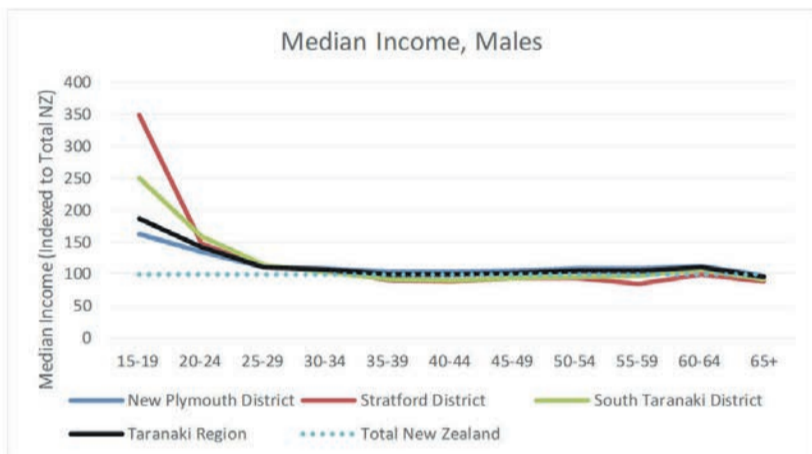
Small numbers

Taranaki is tiny. I mean there are very few people in Taranaki. Just 109,608 people in a 2014 report. This is about 2.6 per cent of the total New Zealand population.

Personally, I like that, it appeals to my anti-social nature. It is nice for me that the shops are largely empty and there is not much traffic. But it is not nice for us as a whole – it makes it hard to run a business, make money and get your children educated.

Quite small groups can make our statistics look good or bad. Little things can have a big percentage influence. In some cases, just one business can make our numbers look better but unfortunately still have little

Figure 4-7: Median Income by Age for the Census Usually Resident Population of the Taranaki Region and its TLAs, by Sex and Comparison with Total New Zealand, 2013.



Young males earn well in Taranaki, whilst the rest of us are about the same as the rest of the country. As there are plenty of young males the make Taranaki's statistics look good. (From TSB Community Trust Research Overview 2014)

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Memories of a Mastermind

Ida Gaskin, who died on January 8 aged 96 never forgot where she came from. Born in Wales, as Ida Jacobs, her family experienced unemployment during the Great Depression, leading to a lifelong commitment to democratic socialism. In later life this was reflected in involvement with the Workers Educational Association and the New Zealand Labour Party. In 1984, she came within a few hundred votes of winning the New Plymouth seat for Labour off National Party cabinet minister Tony Friedlander.

A graduate of London University, she is also remembered for her teaching career, for her time as Head of the English Department at New Plymouth Girls High School and as national president of the Post Primary Teachers Association. She is also remembered for her lifelong love of Shakespeare, which took her to the title of New Zealand Mastermind in 1983. All this and more was remembered at her funeral at St Joseph's Catholic Church, New Plymouth. There were

Welsh flags everywhere, the congregation sung Cwn Rhodda, and the Taranaki Male Choir sung Land of our Fathers as her casket left the church.

Ida's son David delivered the eulogy, and a tribute was given by Labour party leader Andrew Little, whose father, National Party stalwart W.O. Little had taught with Ida at New Plymouth Girls High School.

Maryann Street who gave a reading of Fear No More from Shakespeare's Cymbeline, paid tribute to the support Ida had given her as head girl back in 1972. In the years since she went on to become a Labour Party MP and party president.

Everyone agreed that whatever the state of her physical health, she retained to the end the razor sharp mind she had had since her days as the star school pupil in Wales.

I got to know Ida back in 1983 when she and I both made it through to the finals of the Mastermind TV quiz series. Based on the long running BBC series of the same name and hosted by Peter Sinclair, it was popular fare at a time when New



Ida Gaskin

Zealand still had only two television channels. Thirty two contestants, each with their own specialist subject vied for the title of New Zealand Mastermind.

My specialist subject was New Zealand Politics since 1945, her's was the Plays of William Shakespeare.

While most contestants, including myself chose a subject which we knew something about, and tried to fill in the gaps with some extra swot, Ida chose a subject she already knew inside out, which became apparent as the series progressed.

I first met Ida when our two heats were filmed, each involving four contestants.

She drew the series' first episode while I was in the second. I recall Ida saying how, just as she was leaving New Plymouth, her son had told her not to forget the name of the current captain of the All Blacks, to which she had given a dismissive wave of the hand. In the last question of the general knowledge part of the show, Peter Sinclair asked her the name of the current All Black captain.

"Pass," she said with a wry smile.

This lack of rugby knowledge notwithstanding, she still won her heat, enabling her to progress on to the next round. I followed suit soon after.

With Ida coming from New Plymouth, and me hailing from Otakeho, this meant Taranaki 2- rest of New Zealand 0.

Up to that time, Mastermind had been a male preserve. This time round there were the most female contestants there had ever been-eight, one for each episode. Of these four made it through to the next round, against an equal number of males.

With Ida and I both coming from Taranaki, we took the same planes to Auckland, and the same taxis to and from the hotel, so got to know each other a bit, and she was always good company and an interesting person to talk to. In her time she had dealt with several ministers of education, and her reflections on them were interesting. Despite her lifelong labour leanings, the one she seemed to have the most time for was a National Party minister, Brian Talboys.

There were two semifinals with the two highest scorers from each going through to the final. In the first semi, there were the two contestants from Taranaki,

me and Ida and two from Auckland, a doctor whose specialist subject was the 1947 New Zealand trotting season, and an Auckland university student who had chosen Rasputin.

Ida took the first slot, with me also qualifying by coming second. As Peter Sinclair said, it was a clean sweep for Taranaki.

"Who says Taranakians are as thick as cowpats," a letter writer to the Hawera Star said in the next issue.

Meanwhile, Jennifer Haworth from Waihi, with Elizabeth 1, and Joan Lees from Nelson with the history of the Girl Guide movement in New Zealand had comfortably brushed aside their male opposition in the other semi.

In the final, however it was all Ida, whose score of 29 eclipsed those of Jennifer on 23, mine of 21, and Joan's of 20.

It's been a long time since I last saw her, but I would occasionally bump into her, and the subject of Mastermind would occasionally come up in conversation.

Bryan Kirk

Our statistics are not so good

Continued from page 10

Cost on Taranaki

Unemployed workers who have young families, often ex oil and gas workers, become a cost to the New Zealand taxpayer. But the government has pushed to force people off benefits often for administrative reasons (such as missed meetings). These people will transfer to being unemployed and unsupported. Unsupported by our taxpayer money – but still they, and their children, have to eat. This transfers the burden from the New Zealand taxpayer to the Taranaki neighbour.

South Taranaki

South Taranaki is

worse off than the rest of Taranaki. A report entitled "TSB Community Trust: Research Overview 2014" makes this clear. On page 55 they say: "South Taranaki has the lowest proportion receiving New Zealand Superannuation or a Veterans Pension, reflecting its relative youth and relatedly higher proportions of Māori. South Taranaki also stands out in having higher than average proportions receiving either 'No Income', or a 'Sickness Benefit', 'Domestic Purposes Benefit', 'Invalids Benefit' and/or 'Income Source Not Stated'".

To make things worse, the South Taranaki population is shrinking. The loss was over 8.5 per cent for the past 15 years to 2013. For

comparison, New Plymouth gained about the same percentage (7.6 per cent). This is the real reason Hawera is so dead.

Information

If you want to find out what is happening, talk to people in pubs. Bit-by-bit you can piece together their stories, and then relate these to the economic situation of Taranaki. Social scientists call these chats "ethnographic studies," but they are also a good excuse to drink beer.

Political challenge

Members of Parliament become complacent when they are in power for long periods. They fall into bad habits of thought. They stick to catch phrases and glib answers. They do not think for themselves. They believe

the Party line. This means no-one fights for Taranaki.

Winston Peters

Winston Peters was smart enough to see the same situation in Northland. He was able to capitalise on his access to the national media, particularly television, to hit home to the people their true situation. National deserved to lose the Northland electorate because of its years of neglect.

In Taranaki, National will win again next year because

the opposition parties are weak and there is massive political complacency. In Taranaki there will not be anyone with the access to the media that Peters commands.

Specific targets

The goals for Taranaki are clear: new industry to widen our economic base, pave the hidden highway to begin tourism, develop the port, Maori development, fund obesity

and diabetes strategies on a grand scale, restructure tertiary and secondary education, increase funding for struggling schools, and strengthen local government. Our Members of Parliament need to deliver on at least some of these goals. But before they can do that, they will have to admit there are problems and be prepared to fight their own political party.

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Coastal Adult Riding Club Jumping Day results



Glenda Schumacher who won the Gamblers' Stakes, riding Diego.

On Sunday January 10, the Coastal Adult Riding Club held a Show Jumping day at the Hawera Pony Club grounds. David Schumacher (Stratford) was the judge for the jumping and Maureen Drylie (Eltham) judged the obstacle course, which was a useful practice for members of the team going to the North Island Teams Event at the end of January.

Results. T.A.M.3- 40cm. Kath Lambourn (Millenium Lady) Hawera 1, Paula Murray (Stevie) Hawera 2, Clare Dravitski (Mr. O'Rielly) Stratford 3, Caitlyn Robinson (Panda) Opunake 4.

T.A.M.3- 50cm. Stella Moore (Ellie) 1, Kath Lambourn (Millenium Lady) 2, Clare Dravitski (Mr. O'Rielly) 3, Leeann Clement (Ginger Kiss) Hawera 4.

T.A.M.3- 60cm. Donna Bunyan (Shadow) Stratford 1, Jenny Robinson (Wally) Opunake 2, Leeann Clement (Ginger Kiss) 3, Stella Moore (Ellie) 4.

T.A.M.3- 70cm. Jade Egan (Blondie) Stratford 1, Sabria Rasmussen

(Celebrity) 2, Donna Bunyan (Shadow) 3, Lara Williams (Sox) Stratford 4. Take Your Own Line. Jade Egan (Blondie) 1, Donna Bunyan (Shadow) 2, Stella Moore (Ellie) 3.

T.A.M.3- 80cm. Tina Egan (Rescue) Stratford 1, Thea Willemssen (Kirkwood Footlight) 2, Anna-Lee Innes (Miss Chief) Stratford 3, Emillie Husillos (Cisco) 4.

T.A.M.3- 90cm. Cloe Thompson (Spotcheck) 1, Fiona Fredrickson (Mr Carter) Inglewood 2, Ashley Johnston (Vee) 3, Emillie Husillos (Cisco) 4.

T.A.M.3- 1.00m. Keelah Mitchell (Dino) 1, Thea Willemssen (Kirkwood Footlight), Lara Williams (Sox), Holly Bonnar (Amani), 2nd equal.

T.A.M.3- 1.10m. Lara Williams (Sox) 1, Keelah Mitchell (Dino) 2, Holly Bonnar (Amani) 3. **Gambler's Stakes.** Glenda Schumacher (Diego) 1, Fiona Fredrickson (Mr Carter) and Tina Egan (Rescue) 2nd equal. **Obstacle Course.** Anna-Lee Innes (Miss Chief) and Kath Lambourn (Millenium Lady) 1st equal., Wendy Pulman (Luka) 3, Lily Moore (Kody) 4.

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Kelvin does it again

It's two in a row for Opunake's Kelvin Weir. After having won the New Zealand Kneeboarding title at Piha Beach just over a year ago, he has won the 2016 championship, held this time at Dunedin's St Clair Beach.

He finished ahead of Dunedin kneeboard surfers Malcolm Diack and eight time national champion Greg Bell, returning to kneeboarding after an 11-year interval. Again, keeping it in the family, Kelvin's father Murray who finished fourth

in 2015, repeated that placing this time round. "There was a bit of a cross wind which made picking up waves really hard," Kelvin said "You really had to choose your waves. A couple of waves might look good, but not turn out so well."

Last year Kelvin, as a 23 year-old, had finished first after having had a crack at the title eight times before. "I had been in the nationals since I was 15 or 16 competing in the Open. I got real close a couple of times, so it was really cool last year when I won it." Along the way, he had been able to pick up a World Junior title at Santa Cruz, California shortly after he turned 18. In September last year, Kelvin captained the New

Zealand team which took part in the World Kneelo championship held at Kiama, Australia. The team was managed by Murray Weir and included Waitara kneeboarders Jared Lewis and Mike Lewis, Lachlan Stevens from Oakura, and former Opunake surfer Cameron Stanley. Jared won the junior title, and Kelvin ended up in the world top 20, after going out following a disappointing semifinal performance. The world championships

are held every two years, so the next ones will be held in Spain in 2017, a country which Kelvin has previously visited and of which he has fond memories. Kelvin says his interest in the sport began when he was very young. "I started when I was four or five years old, catching the white water at Opunake Beach. I was always in the water growing up, practicing, practicing, practicing."

Success for Taranaki athletes at the Colgate Games



Georgia Prendiville (10) Egmont Athletics

A gold medal for Emma Shotter from the Egmont Athletic Club was one of the highlights for Taranaki athletes competing at their year's Colgate Games. Emma (11) picked up the medal in the Girls 1500 metre run Grade 11 at the North Island Games held at the Manawatu Community Athletics Track in Palmerston North on January 8-10. More than 120 athletes from the Taranaki region took part. In the Colgate Games, New Zealand's National Junior Athletics Championship. The 2016 Colgate Games ambassador and New Zealand champion 1500m runner Julian Matthews says it was grounding to see the kids competing at such an intense level at this year's Games. Matthews, who is aiming for the Olympics in 2016 after competing in the 2015 IAAF World Championships and the 2014 Commonwealth Games, says it brought back fond memories of his own time competing at the Games. "I was impressed by the amazing level of talent and dedication and I'm sure there were some future stars in the making." More athletes from Taranaki will also participated in the South Island Colgate Games held at the Saxton Oval, Nelson on January 15-17.



Two time New Zealand kneeboarding champion Kelvin Weir

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Shan Hickey from The Opunake Surf Lifesaving Club helping Santa

Making that trip to school as safe as possible

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

Nationally, over the past 25 years, the percentage of children who walk to school has dropped from 42 per cent to 29 per cent, and as a result, congestion around schools and the dangers it creates, is a growing concern. The risks are especially high

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

Over the next two weeks, Roadsafes Taranaki and the Police will be working together, visiting schools and patrolling some of the busiest locations. They will be talking to parents about the risks in the area, safe parking, and how to make their children's travel to and from school as safe as possible.

Police Sergeant George White asks that other motorists do their bit to help by driving to the conditions around schools. Children can be unpredictable, so slow down, be patient at crossings and expect the unexpected. Roadsafes Taranaki Coordinator Marion Webby says parents can help by parking further away from the school gates and walking their child a few hundred metres. This is a great opportunity to teach them basic road skills.



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Goodbye to a tough year, hello to a New Year

DairyNZ chief executive Tim Mackle says he is glad to see the back of 2015. "Like a lot of dairy farmers, I am pretty happy about farewelling 2015, and looking ahead to a New Year with better prospects and farmgate milk prices," he says. "Last year was certainly

a testing time for dairy farming. First there was the aftermath of the 1080 infant formula threat that flowed on into the start of 2015. We also started the year with a low milk price that got lower as the year progressed and had some serious flooding on farms in the middle of the year across some regions.

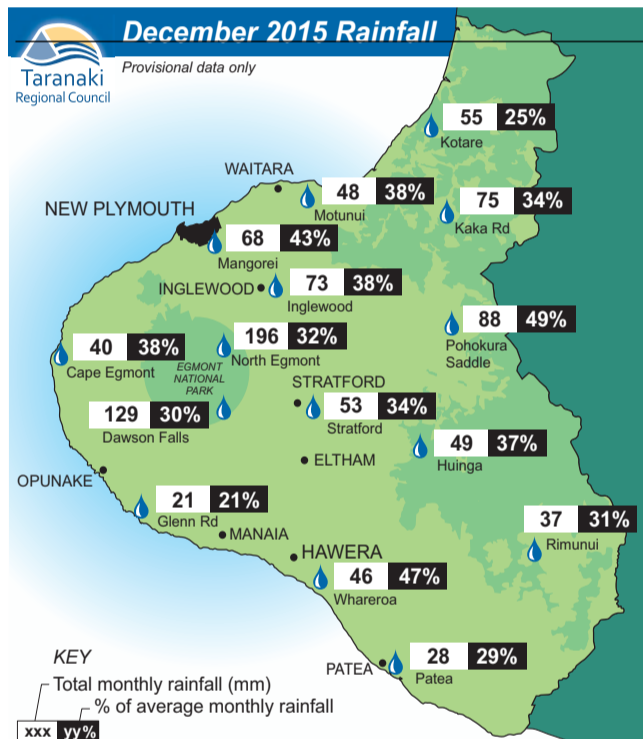
It was then rounded off by the welfare of bobby calves coming under the spotlight. "In all those cases the dairy industry banded together to overcome each challenge – by sharing information and support and by ensuring our collective voice was loud and clear. "With the low milk price we had around 40 farmers nationwide open their farm gates and their books, so that others could learn from their experiences – good and bad. They were happy to share this information as part of DairyNZ's Tactics campaign through events, online and in the news. DairyNZ also had to look at doing things a bit differently and asked farmers what they wanted in terms of support. In August 2015, as part of the Tactics campaign, DairyNZ staff conducted one-on-one feed review visits to help assess feed allocation and discuss spring feed management plans. Around 900 dairy farmers received a visit nationwide. "Rural professionals stepped up in this area as well. An example of this is accountants offering an hour of their time for free, to support one of the groups most affected by a low milk price –

variable order sharemilkers. Working in partnership with Federated Farmers and the dairy companies was also an important part of the approach to ensure all farmers knew we had their backs and were there to help them. "As we look to 2016, we are not out of the woods yet. The milk price is still low and on top of that we are facing a potentially dry summer in some regions because of an El Nino weather pattern. On top of all this, we are also dealing with the questioning of our reputation – where the action of a few let us all down. When video footage of the treatment of bobby calves was recorded by animal rights group Farmwatch and released as part of a SAFE campaign in November, I was immensely proud of how dairy farmers stood up and wanted to be counted and heard through various channels, including social media. Their only concern, despite a tough year and low milk price, was the welfare of those animals. You all showed how much you really cared. New Zealand heard you – and got in behind the need to show support for our industry and our farmers. "At the time I was reminded of a quote from a famous American basketball coach, John Wooden. 'Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are.' "We must, as an industry, continue to focus on



DairyNZ chief executive Tim Mackle.

building our character. We also want to keep hearing from farmers about the kind of support that they value the most and want us to deliver. "We've worked together as an industry to survive a tough year. Now we have to look forward to a New Year – and make sure our resolutions as well as our reputation are strong."



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Average year climate wise say experts

2015 was a dry, sunny year for New Zealand, but no hotter than average overall, according to NIWA's annual climate summary.

Australia's Bureau of Meteorology has released its 2015 climate summary which showed that 2015 was the fifth warmest year on record for Australia. "2015 was a sunny year for most and drier than normal for some as El Nino began its reign as the dominant climate driver in June," Chris Brandolino, NIWA Principal Scientist - Forecasting said. "While floods in Dunedin and Whanganui occurred in 2015, there were no sites that recorded near record or record annual rainfall. "However, several locations observed near record or record dryness (lack of rainfall). For example, Kaitaia experienced its driest year on record (records go back to 1948) with Wellington enduring its second driest year on record (records go back to 1958) and Kaikoura having its second driest year on record (records go back to 1898). Complementing the dryness was sunshine - there

were thirteen locations that experienced near record or record annual sunshine hours. "Tara Hills recorded the fourth coldest temperature ever observed in New Zealand, at -21°C, also the coldest for the year, on 24 June. On the other side of the spectrum, Timaru had the honours of the hottest maximum temperature in 2015 reaching a sweltering 36.4°C on 16 January 2015. Nation-wide, the average temperature by way of the seven-station series was 12.7°C. This was only 0.1°C above the long term average (1981-2010), however it was the 27th warmest annual temperature recorded since the seven-station series began in 1909." Dr Jim Salinger, Honorary Research Fellow, Department of Geography, University of Otago said 2015 was another year of extremes, with El Nino dampening temperature effects of regional warming trends. "From early autumn 2015 the Pacific Ocean again began to warm rapidly, with an El Niño declared in May as atmospheric indicators consolidated, providing a clear feedback onto the ocean. The El Nino event

peaked in November at values comparable to the strong El Niño events of 1997-98 and 1982-83. The 2015 El Niño is expected to continue to decline over summer. The result was more south westerlies over the country, with westerlies being particularly strong in October. "These conditions gave especially dry conditions in Northland, and dry conditions in north and eastern areas of both islands. The air flow from cooler sources meant that much above annual rainfall totals were not achieved anywhere. Conversely the more frequent south westerlies and anticyclones in the Tasman Sea gave a year of clear skies and higher than normal sunshine totals - with records achieved in several locations. "Even though the airflow was from 'cooler' sources, regional warming trends over the decades meant that temperatures were near average, rather than being below average, which is more typical of El Nino. Extremes were also prevalent - with last summer ending on a very dry note, and El Nino induced drought

developing during spring. "Perhaps the most notable extreme events were the Manawatu-Kapiti floods, and Dunedin floods in June 2015. The former were at least a 1 in 70 year event, and the latter more than a 1 in 100 year event. These sorts of floods are what can be expected with a warming world where the atmosphere holds more moisture. "Thus the climate story of 2015 was one of El Nino modifying warming trends, with the normal changeable climate of New Zealand. Every year has its own personality". Prof James Renwick, School of Geography, Environment and Earth Sciences, Victoria University of Wellington said conditions were typical of El Nino. "Despite 2015 coming in as the warmest year on record globally, by a large margin (final numbers yet to be released), New Zealand has had a fairly average year temperature-wise," he said. "Again, this is typical of El Niño - while it warms most of the globe, it tends to cool New Zealand. The very warm year globally was of course a combination of the climate change/global warming

signal and the El Niño. "Perhaps climate change was also implicated in the string of extreme floods mid-year, Kāpiti, Dunedin and Whanganui all experiencing

record or near-record floods within a few weeks of each other. A warmer atmosphere holds more moisture, so we get heavier rains when they happen - sometime



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Dry December for Taranaki


Rainfall was well below normal for December according to figures released by the Taranaki Regional Council. Totals ranged between 21 and 58 per cent of normal. There were very little rainfall days and when there was rainfall, the amounts were not large. There was only one Rain Watch issued by Metservice and that was from December 11-13, when the region saw a majority of its rainfall for the month. The Kaupokonui rainfall site recorded only 20.5mm of rainfall, or just 21 per cent of its normal monthly rainfall. Rainfall for the year on average was 108 per cent of normal. Three sites recorded below normal rainfall for the year, North Egmont (82 per cent), New Plymouth Wastewater Plant (97 per cent) and Stratford (99 per cent). Duffy's Farm near Whareroa recorded 133 per cent normal rainfall for the year. For the year the region received higher than normal rainfall in April, June and August, but below normal rainfall from October onwards. Due to the low rainfall in December, river flows were well below normal for the month. The Waitara River at Bertrand Rd had

an average monthly flow of 17,132 L/s, more than 3 times lower than its historical average of 52,216 L/s. The Wainongoro River at Eltham Rd recorded a new December minimum flow of 326 L/s, 51 L/s lower than the previous low. The Tawhiti Stream at Duffy's Farm also recorded a new minimum flow with 148 L/s, this being 2 L/s lower than the previous low. Water Temperatures were all above normal for the month by between 0.36 °C and 1.19 °C. The Patea River at Skinner Rd recorded a new maximum water temperature for the month with 21.96 °C, this is 0.15°C warmer than the previous December high. Air Temperatures were quite warm, with Brooklands Zoo recording the highest air temperature for the month

with 29.9 °C. The average air temperature for Taranaki for the month was 15.6 °C. Soil moistures were generally below normal through-


out Taranaki, with two sites, Kotare(Tongaporotu) and Patea recording new minimum soil moistures for December.

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Wetlands important for everyone's future

Sustainability is the central theme for this year's globally recognised World Wetlands Day, which will be marked in Taranaki on January 31 with a public field trip at Lake Rotokare.

The theme highlights the vital role of wetlands for the future of humanity, say the international organisers of World Wetlands Day.

Lake Rotokare, is one of the region's best-known wetlands, the scene of a dedicated, long-term community-driven effort that has resulted in impressive and award-winning conservation and environmental gains.

Elsewhere in the region, the vital role of wetlands on pastoral land is a strong emphasis for the Taranaki Regional Council in its work with landowners.

The Council's Director-Operations, Stephen Hall, says wetland protection is seen as a natural extension of the long-running and successful riparian management programme, under which thousands of kilometres of streambank on the ring plain



Lake Rotokare

are being fenced and protected with millions of native plants.

"We're telling farmers why it's a really good idea to fence any wetlands on their property as part of their riparian management work," he says. "It's important to remember that wetlands are

a valuable asset in terms of farm management, as well as environmentally."

He says wetlands store water during rainfall, helping to reduce flood levels. And in dry periods, they release water to help maintain farm supplies. And when wetlands are protected with

fences, this also prevents stock losses.

"The days of regarding swamps as just another bit of unproductive wasteland are well and truly over. They are the 'kidneys of the land, and in intensively farmed areas, they are often the most important ecosystems for biodiversity."

As well as keeping river systems healthy and consis-

tent, wetlands mitigate the effects of overland flow by removing nitrates and intercepting phosphates in runoff sediment. They are rich ecosystems that support a diversity of plant, animal and bird life. They also function as carbon sinks, provide recreational value, and can add landscape appeal to a farm.

The Taranaki Regional Council promotes wetland protection through education, advice and information.

This includes advice on fencing, planting and covenanting to protect wetlands.

Sunday's field trip runs from 10am to 1pm at Lake Rotokare, and includes presentations from agencies and groups involved in wetland protection in Taranaki, and hands-on sessions on lakeshore and swamp forest environments, monitoring techniques and wetland enhancement, led by Prof Bruce Clarkson and wetland ecologist Dr Bev Clarkson.

OPUNAKE ALLIED SERVICE STATION

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Art clearance at Village Gallery

The Village Gallery gets the year under way with an amazing array of art works in their first exhibition. 20 artists have contributed to the display entitled 'Creative Clearance'. This exhibition has become a regular feature for the gallery at the start of the year. Artists have the opportunity to clear their cupboards and offer their work at bargain prices in order to make way for more creations.

The works on sale range from paintings and pottery to mixed media and fibre art.

Of special note is a collection of large abstract works by new member Lyn Gray. These pieces are cleverly constructed from polystyrene shapes on board, and then painted. They would make an impressive feature in a contemporary home. For the more traditional, there is work by Jean Finer, Margaret Scott and Lorna Davies to name



Art works by Lyn Gray and Lorna Davies (and others), as well as Tony Waterson's woodwork.

a few well known artists. The Members gallery this time features a huge collection of donated prints, frames, books and magazines. These are being offered at bargain prices and well worth a browse. The exhibition continues till February 12. The gallery is open 10am -3pm Monday to Saturday.

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Qualified Carpenter / Experienced Builder required
A vacancy exists for a self-motivated builder with excellent work ethics in the South Taranaki region to do varied types of work.

Must be able to work unsupervised at times. Immediate start or when possible. Please apply by calling Cliff Loveridge on 06 272 2088 evenings or leave a message during the day

FUNERAL NOTICE

GADSBY, Rex Newall:

20.10.1940 - 5.10.2015

Dearly loved father of Michael and Nicole (Australia), Sandra Hammersley (Opunake), Ross and Jane (New Plymouth). Poppa to all his grandchildren. Dad's ashes have arrived from his home in Westmoreland, Jamaica.

Friends and family are respectfully invited to attend Rex's memorial service to be held at the Opunake Golf Club, Namu Rd, Opunake. Saturday 6th February at 1 pm.

For catering purposes (but not necessary) please RSVP **Sandra 027 345 9727 or Ross 0275 300 468**

PUBLIC NOTICES



OPUNAKE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

CHRISTMAS EVE PARADE RESULTS
1st Corkill Systems - 2nd Opunake High School - 3rd Opunake Playcentre
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OPUNAKE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Meeting 1st MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 5.30PM
Hughsons & Associates Boardroom at the Opunake Business Centre, 23 Napier St, Opunake
(opposite the CoastalCare Medical Centre)



RAHOTU SCHOOL welcomes all existing and new pupils on **MONDAY FEBRUARY 1ST**

School starts at 8.40am
Office opens on Friday 29th for all inquiries Ph: 06 763 8658



Stepping Stones

Early Childhood Education Centre
We are now taking Enrolments for 2016.
Please ring Sarah on 06 752 4289 or Sarah 027 322 3318
2502 Surf Highway 45, RD37, Okato

OPUNAKE RAHOTU VETERINARY TRUST

Financial assistance is available to students to undergo tertiary education relating preferably to agricultural or horticultural studies although consideration will be given to other applicants.

Application forms available from:-

The Secretary
P O Box 117

OPUNAKE 4616
PHONE 761-7150

EMAIL: nevisbrewer@xtra.co.nz

Auroa School & Districts 125th Jubilee



TARANAKI ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND
11th to 13th March 2016

For further information look on Auroa School's website **www.auroa.school.nz**

Or contact Jessica Mills by phone - 0276355874 or email - jessica.mills@live.com

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OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

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Next issue out December 4

CHURCH NOTICES

Opunake & Okato Co-operating Parish CHURCH SERVICES

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

Opunake Catholic Church

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

Other areas

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

ALL WELCOME

THE WAVE

Pentecostal Church 64 Domett Street, Opunake
Sunday Services 10.30am

Women's Group 10.30am Tuesday

Men's Group 7 pm Wednesday

Youth Group 7pm Friday

Come along or contact Pastor Murray
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PUBLIC NOTICES

HAWERA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

2016 School Year begins Monday 1st February. We are available to take enrolments from Friday 29 January 10am - 2pm.
466 South Road, Hawera - Ph: 06 278 4210

Call us today to advertise 06 761 7016
Next issue out February 12



This Year be Ready For Christmas

Workshop run by Budget Advice at CoastalCare
Wednesday 17th February 10am to 12pm.

Please register your interest by contacting Aretha at CoastalCare 06 761 8488

Budget Advice come to Opunake every Wednesday and have supportive, confidential and culturally aware trained advisors who can assist with:
A personalized budget plan.
Ideas to balance your budget.

A system on monitoring your budget that is right for you
Ideas on how you can reduce your debt.
Negotiate with creditors on your behalf.
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WHAT'S ON



JONATHAN YOUNG

MP for New Plymouth

Need to speak with your local MP?

Monthly clinics being held in Opunake, 3rd Monday of each month. 10am-12pm at the Opunake Business Centre. Please email or phone to book a time.

OPUNAKE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Meet on the 1st Monday of each month.

OPUNAKE COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB

First Sunday of each month at the Opunake Town Hall, 1-4pm. All welcome

SCHNITZEL NIGHT

Every Wednesday at the Stony River Hotel, Okato

COASTALCARE – LISA KEEN AUDIOLOGY

Wednesdays 9am - 5pm, for an appointment call 027 591 4222 - 0800 555 676

SURF INN

Every day free pool. Every Friday free sausage sizzle from 5. Every Sunday afternoon. Pool comp

COASTAL YOUNG FARMERS

Meet 2nd Thursday of every month at 7pm at the Okato Bowling Club.

TARANAKI COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME, MANAIA

Running every Thursday night from 7.30pm, 11 Surf Highway, South Road, Manaia.

EGMONT EUCHRE CLUB

Meets every Thursday 1pm at the Opunake Bowling Club

CAPE EGMONT HISTORIC LIGHT & MUSEUM

Open 11am – 3pm weekends, Bayly Road, Warea.

TODD ENERGY AQUATIC CENTRE

Family fun times 10.30am to 4.30pm.

COASTAL SINGERS

7pm every Thursday night. Contact 761 8654

ELTHAM BUSINESS ASSOCIATION FRIDAY MARKETS

8am to 1pm, Carpark of Touch Point, High Street, Eltham.

TSB BANK FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

13 December 2015 to 31 January 2016, Pukekura Park New Plymouth

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The Choons – Sunday, January 31 at Butlers Reef. 2-5pm.

PERCY THOMSON GALLERY

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Holding It Together:

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CREATIVE CLEARANCE & ART SALE

18th Jan – 12th Feb. Open daily 10am – 3pm (except Sun).

OPUNAKE COMMUNITY POOL OPENING HOURS

Lanes – Mon-Fri 6:30-8:30am. Mon 6:30-7:30pm. Tues 9-10am and 5-6:30pm. Wed 5:30-7pm. Thurs 9-10am and 6:30-7:30pm. Public 1-4pm Weekends and Public Holidays.

Aquafit classes – Opunake Pool. Tues and Thurs - 9-10am.

Mon and Thurs - 6:30-7:30pm. Tues - 5:30pm.

TE KIRI SPORTS AND REC SCHOLARSHIPS.

Applications now open until February. Forms available and explanations for criteria for applying. Ph(06)761-7228.

(06)761-7294.

PARIHAKA PA INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATION OF WATER, PEACE, POWER

February Sunday 7th at 2pm. Refer advert.

COASTAL CARE BUDGET WORKSHOP

Workshop run by Budget Advice at CoastalCare

Wednesday 17th February 10am to 12pm.

Please register your interest by contacting Aretha at CoastalCare 06 761 8488

06 761 8488

KAPONGA AMATEUR ATHLETIC CLUB

are having a dinner to celebrate 50 years of athletics at

Victoria Park Kaponga

18th March 2016 at the Kaponga Rugby Gym. Anyone

interested please contact: Helen Cameron - cameronclan@

ihug.co.nz Deborah Collins - pdcollins@farmside.co.nz

PUBLIC NOTICES



invites applications for grants from the

JD BASHFORD TRUST & ROYCE NICHOLLS TRUST

Applications are invited to the above Trusts from students who are New Zealand citizens or permanent residents and intend to take up practical farming as a career or be engaged in some occupation or profession directly concerned with primary production and for which special training is required. The combined application will cover both trusts.

Grants are made to students attending or desiring to attend a New Zealand Agricultural School, such as Taratahi or Telford and Universities providing an education in Farming or Veterinary Science only.

The level of individual grants paid is dependent on the amount of funds available, the numbers of students who received grants during 2015 and will be returning for 2016 and the number of new applicants.

Varying amounts are paid to successful applicants depending on their financial circumstances and the course to be taken, after giving priority to:

1. Residents of the South Taranaki and Stratford Districts
2. Residents of other areas of Taranaki
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The grants continue the legacies left by James Dawson Bashford (in 1962) and Claude Nicholls (in 1951). Both South Taranaki farmers had a vision that their legacies would support people with the capacity and drive to contribute as leaders of change, development and innovation that will ensure New Zealand's agricultural and veterinary science industries remain national success stories.

Applications close on Monday 22nd February 2015

Please apply in writing for application forms and information to:

The Bishop's Action Foundation

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Chartered Accountants

PO Box 141

Hawera 4640.

Coastal Community Transport Needs

YOU



The Coastal Community Transport service takes those people in need of **transport to appointments with Hospital, Specialist, WINZ and other groups.** We need to make some changes as this current scheme is not sustainable due to the increase in use of this service and no increase in funding. We would love you to come along and have input to help save Coastal Community Transport.

17th February 2016—7pm—9pm

CoastalCare Meeting Rooms

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Bryan Vickery, Maree Christensen, Russell Wicks, Simon Forsyth and Skie.

Music continues over Christmas and New Year

Colour Conversions and Opunake Players held three meetings over Christmas and New Year. Ashley Pedersen from Colour Conversions Video, Audio and Graphic Productions said despite the festive season, everyone was keen to carry on performing every fortnight.

On December 22, Ashley asked the artists to perform four varied items one after another. Despite some worried faces from this surprise request, they coped well. Folk singer Kevin Haycox handled this situation with ease, breezing through four consecutive songs. He said he could just keep singing all night.

Usually partnered with a female dancer, Simon Forsyth performed solo for the first time. No newbie to the stage, Simon is an award-winning dancer who in 2015 brought back numerous awards from the Kiwi Classic Latin American and Ballroom dance competitions in Auckland. He was captured on film by Colour Conversions at the Langham Hotel.

All eyes were fixed on Simon Forsyth's swivelling hips, as he danced to the spicy lyrics of "She tastes like Cola." He certainly has the moves, and his professionalism lifted

the bar for everyone. The local sheep farmer has been dancing for about 10 years.

Chloe Danz sang "Hallelujah" featured in the movie Shrek. "It was well worth coming along just to hear that", commented Mike Smith from Opunake Players.

At the end of the evening there was a heavenly presentation of Helen Reddy's "Angie Baby" sung by Neutrimetics consultant LeeAnne Shegedin, from Opunake. Where has she been hiding?

At the fourth meeting on January 5, Ariana Dingle (13 years), played two beautiful instrumentals on piano- "The Storm Begins" and "River Flows In You." Watch out for this young girl, she has star quality.

Jeremy Lo-Giacco, a fresh face from Eltham, played a sentimental ballad on harmonica, the 1978 Broadway musical hit "Don't Cry for Me Argentina."

Opunake High School student Sam McNeil (13) was somewhat hesitant about getting up on stage. Fortunately, Russell Wicks came to the rescue and accompanied him to fetch his guitar. Thank you Russell, Sam overcame his nerves and played us a heavy metal tune, "Sabath Bloody Sabath" on electric guitar. Proud grandad Peter McNeil remarked, "music runs in my side of the family". He said Sam has only been playing for two years. He has heaps of potential..

Half way through the evening Ashley asked the artists to think about an item they could perform together. Russell, Lisa and Jeremy rose to the challenge teaming up to sing the 1974 George Baker hit "Baby Blue".

Twelve artists performed individually, and in duos and trios, on January 19, covering songs from Kenny Roger's country classic "Gambler" to Jack Johnson's cruisy "Banana Pancakes." A highlight was a duet performed by Jack Fryer and

Chloe Danz who sang Jesse Jay's "Price Tag" with a rap twist. It was refreshing to hear some current music in the mix.

During the evening one of the performances prompted Simon to take hold of Jack's mother Skie and perform an impromptu partner dance. It was magical, and just so natural for both of them

Country style singer Dennis Carswell from Lepperton rocked up for the first time, and sang with a beautiful deep Charlie Pride quality voice. Dennis and Bryan Vickery are both Award Winners, placing first and second respectively at the 2ZH Country Music Club Awards in Hawera last year.

It was an interesting choice of song "Today I Started Loving You". Bryan passed a remark to Dennis, "don't look at me when you sing this song" They did not make any eye contact throughout the entire song.

Adding to the variety was an original classical instrumental piece from Bernice McKellar on

keyboards. This was Bernice's second live performance in front of other musicians, and she seemed surprised with the positive response she received. Then, performing a tune played simultaneously in two different keys F and C, Pat Dudley played button accordion followed by the unique sound of folk style singer, Noe Gillie with another original "My Love," just composed the previous week.

Everyone is becoming a lot more relaxed with his or her performances. Artists of all ages are now teaming up learning and growing together which is fantastic.

"We are still looking for more variety in the way of wind instruments, more dancers, drummers, bass players, comedians and more," Ashley said.

All artists willing to perform and work toward future live concerts are welcome at the next meeting at 7.30pm on Tuesday February 2 at The Lakeside Playhouse, Opunake on Layard Street.

Anne Montgomery

Stony River Hotel and Country Diner

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Menu

February 14, 2016
Valentine's Day
\$75.00 p.p.

Amuse Bouche / greetings from the kitchen
Fresh rock oyster with capsicum salsa
Or
French crepe stuffed with herb infused cream cheese
Both served with a glass of Lindauer Summer

Entree
Tasting platter to share
Smoked salmon mousse, Italian prosciutto, caper berries, homemade dips, French baguette, pickles, sundried tomatoes

Main
Beef eye fillet reef & beef with whole tiger prawns
Served on homemade potato rosti and julienne vegetables topped with green pepper bourbon sauce
Or
Mixed seafood platter
grilled John Dory, Tiger prawns, scallops, with vegetable linguini and ginger lime glaze

Dessert
Dessert variations for YOU
Blood orange tarte, marinated berries, vanilla ice-cream chocolate mousse, Chantilly cream, macaroons

Unforgettable Sri Lanka

A small group journey hosted by Sindy Jones departing 13 August 2016

Sri Lanka is an exciting, vibrant destination offering amazing wildlife, interesting heritage and ancient culture.

Sindy enjoyed her trip there so much she has tailored a 14 night itinerary which she will personally escort. Including the famous Rock Fortress Sigiriya, safaris in both Minneriya and Yala National Parkes famous for elephants and leopard, tea plantations and rail journeys, a spice garden with cooking class, the southern beaches, turtles, private walking tours and sunset boat ride.

A special highlight will be tickets for Randoli Perahera. With its elephants and tuskers, hundreds of drummers, dances and pilgrims this event promises to be spectacular. The 4-5 star accommodation has been handpicked to deliver an exceptional experience and flights with Singapore Airlines for comfort.

Call 06 757 5666 for a copy of the full itinerary and price or email travel@travelsmartnp.co.nz

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Calling all Entertainers

7:30pm Tuesday, 2nd February 2016
Young, old, amateur, professional.

Are you a musician, singer, actor, poet or dancer?
Do you have a talent that can entertain?

Opunake Players Inc. and Colour Conversions (Video, Audio and Graphic Productions) are starting regular performance driven evenings that will result in creating an entertainment platform for covers and original performances.

Join us for the beginning of a new opportunity - be part of future live shows.

Bring your own instruments, basic amplification will be provided.

Call us on 027 897 8941 for details. The sixth gathering - 7:30pm Tuesday 2nd February 2016 Opunake Players Theatre, Layard Street, Opunake.

Web Site www.colourconversions.com

Colour Conversions Limited
Video, Audio and Graphic productions
027 897 8941

Off grid art at Parihaka

(Sunday 7th Feb 2-4pm)
Water, peace, power
 January 29 to February 7 2016

Taranaki is about to host 25 artists, tangata whenua, thinkers, environmentalists, engineers and scientists for the event "Water, Peace, Power 2016."
 The project commences with a hui in the DOC Camphouse at the North East Visitor Centre of Mt Taranaki from January 29-31.

As global understanding of climate change is increasing, it is time for indigenous, tangata whenua and Western peoples to come together to discuss the human relationship with the environment.

From the discussion will emerge a set of principles guiding human actions in the environment, plus a set of protocols to assist artists when placing art works in the landscape.

The hui is followed by five days of workshops where the artists will experiment with 5 volt, 12 volt and solar energy as the power source for light and sound works.

These will be tested on Saturday and then on Sunday from 2pm to 4pm, the public is invited to Parihaka to view the works.

Guests include Lee Joachim, Manager Research and Development of the Yorta Yorta Nation Aborigi-

nal Corporation in Australia. He is accompanied by collaborators Tracey Benson an artist and Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Canberra, and Martin Drury previously a cartographer for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

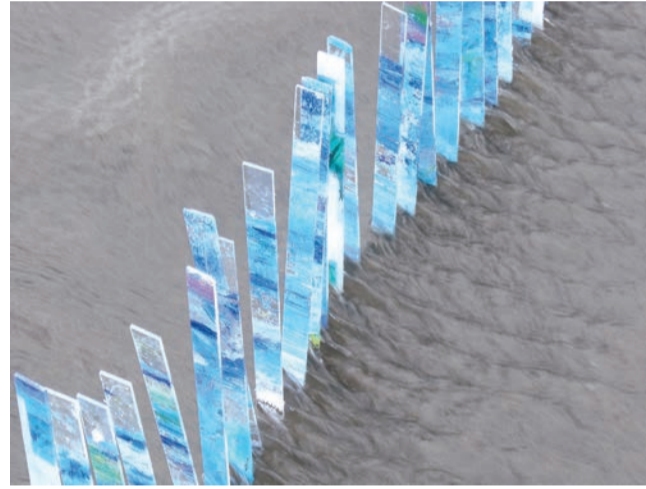
They are joined by Nina Czegledy, an artist-scientist who lives in Canada and Hungary, with locals Jo Tito, Kura Puke and Vallance Wrathall. Chris McBride of the Kauri Project (formerly organiser for the Wellington Media Collective and former Director of the McCahon House Residency) and Intercreate Research Fellow Sustainability Charlotte Sunde will attend, as will Charles

Dawson a Waitangi Tribunal facilitator and literary environmentalist.

Opunake engineer Andrew Hornblow, renowned Australian sound artist Nigel Helyer, and Ureiti born Allan Giddy will conduct the workshops in non-grid power sources. Giddy runs a division of the art school in the University of NSW in Sydney, which is entirely off-grid.

Many of the participants have raised their own costs in order to attend. The organisers are thankful to the community of Parihaka and Te Matahiapo Indigenous Research Organisation.

Ian Clothier, Executive Director, Intercreate Trust



Vallance Wrathall. *Wai*. Temporary installation, 2015.

What's On **butlers reef**

Sunday 31 January

The Choons

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	Oddball and the Penguins P Adventure Family 95min An eccentric chicken farmer, with the help of his grand daughter, trains his mischievous dog Oddball to protect a penguin sanctuary from fox attacks. Friday 5 th 7pm Saturday 27 th 1pm		Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip PG 92min Animation, Adventure, Comedy Alvin, Simon and Theodore come to believe that Dave is going to propose to his new girlfriend in Miami...and dump them. Saturday 6 th 1pm
	The Good Dinosaur PG 93 min Animation, Adventure, Comedy In a world where dinosaurs and humans live side-by-side, an Apatosaurus named Arlo makes an unlikely human friend. Saturday 30 th 1pm Saturday 13 th 1pm		The Dressmaker 119min Drama Kate Winslet, Liam Hemsworth, Hugo Weaving In 1950s Australia, talented dressmaker Tilly returns to her tiny hometown to right wrongs from her past. Wednesday 10 th 7pm Sunday 14 th 1pm
	Joy Comedy, Drama, True Story & Biography 2hr 04mins M This comedic biopic, based on the life of Joy Mangano - inventor and founder of a family business dynasty that has raked in over \$1 billion in sales. Sunday 31 st January 7pm		Daddy's Home Comedy 1hr 36mins M Violence, sexual references & offensive language Stepdad, Brad Whitaker, is a radio host trying to get his stepchildren to love him and call him Dad. But his plans turn upside down when the biological father, returns Friday 29 th January 7pm
	Point Break -BOUTIQUE PG-13 114min, Action, Crime, Sport. \$25 includes wine/beer tasty treats A young FBI agent infiltrates an extraordinary team of extreme sports athletes he suspects of masterminding a string of unprecedented, sophisticated corporate heists. Sunday 7 th 7pm		The Revenant R 156 min Adventure, Drama, Thriller A frontiersman on a fur trading expedition in the 1820's fights for survival after being mauled by a bear and left for dead by members of his own hunting team. Sunday 14 th 7pm Saturday 20 th 7pm

Wednesday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	29 Daddy's Home 7pm	30 The Good Dinosaur 1pm Secret in their Eyes 7pm	31 Joy 7pm
	5 Oddball 7pm	6 Alvin & the Chipmunks 1pm Joy 7pm	7 Point Break 7pm # Boutique#
10 The Dressmaker 7pm	12 Joy 7pm	13 The Good Dinosaur 1pm Point Break 7pm	14 The Dressmaker 1pm The Revenant 7pm

Remembering the prisoners from Parihaka

A Walk of Peace on the eve of Waitangi Day will follow the footsteps of prisoners from Parihaka who were marched along Queen St to the courthouse in 1881.

The Walk of Peace will start at 10am on Friday February 5 2016, and participants will deliver a weaving project – Te Korowai Rangimarie –

created at the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery by four master weavers and gallery visitors.

The Korowai is to be gifted to Tu Tama Wahine o Taranaki, a Kaupapa Maori organisation providing programmes and services across Taranaki to acknowledge their contribution to reducing violence in the region.

The Korowai was inspired by the artwork of Parihaka artist Ngahina Hohaia in the recent Govett-Brewster Art Gallery exhibition *Our Hearts of Darkness*, the White Ribbon campaign and the internationally recognised looped ribbon as a symbol of activism.

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery Director Simon Rees says it is important for public institutions to support communities and give voice to issues that hamper positive social development. "Violence is one such negative force in New Zealand."

Ngaropi Cameron from Tu Tama Wahine o Taranaki says the Korowai acknowledges the violence in our community but also promotes the message of peace from Parihaka.

"The deeper level of violence that needs to be addressed in our society and in particular in Taranaki is the issue of state violence," says Ms Cameron.

"The Walk of Peace signals a time for change, one that celebrates intergenerational diversity and tolerance within



A walk and a weaving project to remember the shameful events at Parihaka.

our community. We invite our community to walk with us to reclaim the sacred space

from our past and acknowledge the healing power of a silent procession."

The group will meet outside the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery at 9.45am.

WPP 2016
International Celebration of
water
peace
power

Parihaka Pa

2pm Sunday Feb 7th 2016

Art works created using 5 volt, 12 volt and solar power

For more information go to www.intercreate.org

For all ages. Booking is not required

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matahiapa

TSB Community Trust

Eltham gets the big screen

Four family friendly movies will be playing on the TSB Bank Superscreen at Eltham's Soldiers Park on Sunday January 31, and anyone (and everyone) is welcome to come along and enjoy the afternoon's free entertainment.

The movies kick off at 1pm with *The Lion King* (G), followed by the 2015 version of *Cinderella* (G) at 2.35pm,

then *Mike and Scully in Monsters Inc* (G) at 4.30pm, and the last movie for the day at 6.00pm will be *Hairspray* (PG).

As well as the movies, the kids can make use of the swimming pool which is open from 12 noon, the playground and the very popular skatepark. You will find some sweet treats on offer from the foodstalls

or you can bring your own picnic.

"It's going to be an awesome afternoon, really relaxing," says Events Coordinator Jody Bloor. "We want everyone to come along and have a nice lazy afternoon enjoying family movies on the big screen and the other activities on offer at Eltham's Soldiers Park." Movie times are an approximate only.

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