

OPUNAKE & COASTAL NOTE: The second of the s

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OPUNAKE & COASTAL

Jonathan Young launches his re-election campaign with a flourish



Jonathan Young MP.

New Plymouth Member of Parliament Jonathan Young launched his re-election campaign with a hard hitting speech

Special guest the Hon Judith Collins also spoke at the well attended event held at the New Plymouth International Hotel.

Jonathan Young was introduced by Peter Horton as entering Parliament in 2008 "Wrestling the seat off Harry Duynhoven" with a tiny majority of 105. At the last election he had increased this to 7733. "Extraordinary results. However, we need to get the Party vote – the Party vote will be crucial."

Jonathan mentioned that his mother Margaret was in the audience and also his wife Maura.

He referred to his last launch on April 30, 2018 with then National Party leader Simon Bridges. The Government had announced (in April 2018) that no new oil exploration permits would be allowed. "This didn't make any sense and there was no consultation with the oil industry," he said. He had a slide presentation of graphs that showed that, partly because the lake levels were low (less hydro power), more coal had to be burnt to produce electricity. "We've had to import 95% more coal from Indonesia when gas was a much cleaner option. He pointed out that Indonesian coal had worst emissions. "We're not allowed to mine our own coal now (so have to import offshore)." A concomitant cost was, "We've now lost hundreds of people out of the community."

He pointed out that the banning of oil exploration permits, rather than improving the carbon footprint, had actually worsened the situation. "If elected we will revisit the exploration ban," he promised.

Jonathan also was committed to improving the Taranaki Crossing, which he and Steven Joyce had tackled three years ago. He was critical that the three million provided by the government had only yielded 800 metres of progress.

He closed by outlining a new incentive scheme for young people to be called Creative Accelerator to replace the earlier model. This will encourage young people, in their late teens into either business or the arts.

Introduced by Deputy Chairperson of the electorate for the National Party, Peter Horton as having an amazing level of personal strength, determination and resilience, Judith Collins went on to also deliver a vigorous speech, which included witty observations and had her audience laughing much of the time. Her message, however, was

serious. Judith was elected in 2002 and her memoirs have recently been released (Pull No Punches: Memoirs of a Political Survivor).

Early in her speech Judith paid Jacinda Ardern a compliment, "She is very pleasant. No one is better than her at communication. She is Labour's best asset."

However, she was scathing about the Cabinet. "There are only three competent Cabinet Ministers out of 26." She named them as Megan Woods, Chris Hipkins and Grant Robertson.

She also poured scorn on what she sees as the Government's failings, with Kiwibuild a notable example. "They said they'd build 100,000 houses in ten years, but how many have they built? – just 300 so far."

She pointed out the grave economic situation we are in. "We are facing a major economic downturn. Many people have lost their jobs through no fault of their own." The solution? "We need to rebuild the economy." She pointed out that National was best equipped to do that. Turning her focus to the Government she commented, "That's the problem. Being very good at communication (is OK), but we have to deliver. She didn't consider her opponents were doing well in that respect.

As for the 36 million dollars

("and rising") spent by the Government on re-entering the Pike Mine, she described it as a waste. "And what's it going to find – two robots and a wheelbarrow." She concluded, "It's an absolute disgrace."

Interestingly, in answer to a question, she explained why she had, as a young woman, changed her allegiance from Labour to National (Her



Hon Judith Collins MP.

parents were Labour supporting farmers). Judith and her husband owned a restaurant at one time and after the dismissal of an employee (by her business partner) she faced unpleasantness, pickets and even threats by union officials, she explained. Two of these officials went on to become Labour MPs, although she did not name them.

The General Election will be held on September 19 and the other candidates for the New Plymouth seat include Glen Bennett (Labour), Rusty Kane (Independent), Murray Chong (New Conservative) and Kath Lauderdale (Social Credit).

Since covering this story Judith Collins has been elected as Leader of the National Party following Todd Muller's resignation.







Equality for all

When reading Emily Bailey's and Mary Moore's opinions on statues, I do agree with both women.

It's taken some time before

some people come to terms to really understand what the British colonial oppression was all about as they failed miserably in America and then set their sights on New Zealand where many upon

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Thursday, July 16, 2020

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many fierce and huge battles were fought.

In today's world sadly we still see this happening with people calling themselves white supremists who don't believe in peace, harmony and anything else and when seeing live on TV that terrible incident in Minnesota, I was extremely angry, which was not only terribly wrong, but disturbing to watch.

Look, here in New Zealand we must keep showing the rest of the world on how all ethnic peoples can live, work side by side, come together through inter marriages, care for each other as New Zealanders. However, we also all must not forget, but remember every one of us must respect each other's ethnicity, ethnic upbringing and culture, respecting each other's religious beliefs, understand their opinions and be tolerant of each other as no one in this whole world is perfect, which is the innate essence of peace and harmony.

> Tom Stephens, New Plymouth.

Statues and **Politics**

It's sad when the liberal leftist propaganda media machine of America, fueled and exacerbated by the conservative right, sets off viral global reactions in quite different world cultures. We've seen this in New Zealand's history of copycatting America's culture. The George Floyd tragedy is an example. With New Zealand Maori and Black American racial issues common, but, the two countries fundamentally differ with police shooting deaths, inner city crime and rioting. In the same way almost all major religions have general beliefs in common but fundamental differences in their views on an afterlife, sin and salvation. It's bad sociology to superimpose a one-sizefits-all American model on Kiwi culture.

there are general concerns in

Then there's the American model of the "victim mentality of identity politics" which means that "I win every argument" because of my group identity— ethnicity, colour, religion, sexuality or gender. The intersex victim mentality, for example, means that a female or male transgender/bisexual person of colour always has the higher moral ground in a debate and those disagreeing must be automatically labeled racist, homophobic, sexist, conservative, misogynist, a toxic male or white privileged. The American liberal left then "demands" that they must be silenced, humbly prostrate themselves and chant the mantra of the "apology subculture" for their alleged hate speech or "disgusting" opinions. We've seen many instances of prominent individuals being fired, or outcries to fire them, for an indiscreet and foolish slip of

the tongue. Even the article on page 13 in the June 18, 2020 issue of our paper, "Maori Leader Wants Marae Pulled Down," demonstrates where kneejerk copycat American thinking is leading New Zealand. To

EDITORIAL

Leadership change

been tumultuous day or two.

The covering of MP Jonathan Young's campaign launch and the visit to Opunake by fellow MP Judith Collins appearing in the first few pages of the Opunake & Coastal News happened before the change of leadership of the National Party.

Interestingly, one of our number at the Opunake & Coastal News less than 24 hours before Todd Muller tendered his resignation, predicted that Judith Collins would one day lead the National Party. No one anticipated however it would be so soon (the same person also identified Jacinda Ardern as a potential leader well before she became leader of the Labour Party).

As anyone who runs a business knows, the most difficult aspect is managing people. Todd Muller in his brief tenure as leader of the National Party discovered this. Being vigilant, and ultimately accountable for others actions, is difficult. The consequences of the rash initiative of former National Party president and activist Michelle Boag (who incidentally started a community newspaper in Waiheke Island and was once at a Community Newspapers conference) illustrate this.

Being a leader requires a combination of head and heart.

Whether Judith Collins with her own style will convince voters she has the right combination of goods remains to be seen. It's a delicate balance – a head without a heart will founder. A heart without a head will also.

Whatever happens we're in for an interesting time. After a most unusual year with the COVID crisis we now fasten our seatbelts and head

towards a General Election. May the better woman win.

statues and commemorative pictures should be pulled down because of the 19th century intertribal musket wars from 1810s to 1830s: Over twenty thousand Maori were sadistically slaughtered and cannibalised by opposing tribes and many more were enslaved. Using this destructive postmodern American view of history means that anyone valuing human life in Aotearoa should be offended and "demand" intertribal apologies and the wholesale bulldozing of countless marae. Isn't this intellectual and cultural suicide? Will we hold life threatening and out of control street protests to fight racism like America? Perhaps we should pull down most of Rome's statues and sculptures because the Roman Empire sadistically slaughtered millions of Christians for professing their faith? Let him who is without sin cast the first stone.

be logical and consistent

then, many marae, Maori

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had a dream that one day his four little children "... will not be judged by the colour of their skin, but by the content of their character." Leave the left vs. right culture wars of America to the Americans. Let's be original Kiwis, not copycats.

A concerned Kiwi and Coastal resident

Yes we do need newspapers

Our editor has asked us all, do we need a newspaper? My answer to this question is simply, yes, we all do, despite what technology has told us all, how great thou art and so on. So, if this was so, why on earth didn't technology with all its might and glory help counteract COVID-19 spreading throughout the world like it has done?

In some respects technology is good, yet I am still hearing some people say technology is great and wonderful, and we cannot do without it, simply because it made their minds lazier and lazier, never relying on it too much, yet it cannot still find a proper cure for cancer, which is the common denominator of many deaths around the world in today's modern society. How come our ancestors in the past survived without it? Simple. They all used their minds to sort out any problems that may have arisen.

To me having a newspaper regardless of what it's called or comes from, enables all businesses and organisations

to advertise themselves to us the public, keeping any local community up to date on what's going on.

As for the Opunake and Coastal News, it would most probably win the best overall community newspaper award in New Zealand, plus it would keep many people employed. Tom Stephens

New Plymouth.

Fun-time Tuesday Evenings in Opūnake

Easy, fun-time Tuesday evenings, Gather at 6.50pm, Emporium Gallery, Michaela bequeaths us space & time. Life drawing, drawing on tapestries of life, models interpose, dexterity, suppleness, & royalties of corruptible flesh, lines drawn, lives etched, there is power in a pencil, manipulate a nose, smooth a gracile leg, shave the thigh, shadow each visible rib. Stare at an unsheathed body intently, shelve puritance & prurience, neither has an invitation, body-shame & sleaze has no business here models open up like sun-kissed flowers note the observances under your eye, this nude as high art. as loving embrace technical challenge, dyadic swapmeet, she to us, us to her, art is an elevation of life, an ethos communed & collaborated attentiveness on the the page, eye on your prize. Trace musculature, calibrate skin, much easier to say connective tissue, than to draw, a 2B pencil does not lie, even if your very eyes are willing deception, & your hand, unwitting accomplice. Sketch a little encomium, in praise of our wondrous bodies, render a canvas for living, recording days of gladness & sorrow, watch the crow's feet shrivel, the breast sag with architectural majesty & strength, tell me now there is supreme power, the Buddhaland of calm enveloping her. The pure wonderland of arms, legs and torso, welded together with the skill of a hydraulic engineer, an artisan with clay on her hands, the architect of most sublime blueprints, Rhonda's studio, bedecked gallery walls, inspiration for everyone, recording lives meaningfully, at this moment, raison d'êtré on a Tuesday night.

Trevor Landers





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Judith Collins in Opunake

MP spoke at the Sandfords Event Centre in Opunake on Thursday July 9. She was accompanied by Jonathan Young, who is MP for the New Plymouth electorate. The meeting was chaired by Bob Clark who is Chairperson of the Opunake Business Association.

Judith was introduced by Jonathan who mentioned she was National Spokesperson for Regional Development, Economic Development and the Pike Mine Re-entry. "Judith is well known in New Zealand and especially Taranaki," he commented.

Judith pointed out that her grandparents resided in Okiawa. "My grandfather and grandmother faced quite a few challenges."

She referred briefly to the incident involving Southland MP Hamish Walker who released details of Covid 19 sufferers. "Todd Muller dealt with it decisively," she commented.

She contrasted that with Jacinda Ardern's dealing with former Health Minister Dr Clark who twice broke the lockdown regulations, "Which took two months. "I thought Todd Muller did the right thing," she concluded.



The Hon Judith Collins MP speaking at Opunake recently with Jonathan Young MP..

She gave a plug for farming. "Farming is back in fashion and it is seen as the backbone of the country again."

With respect to economic downturns she explained, "We tend to get hurt quite early and also come out of it later." She referred to the cost of the pandemic, "It is quite a bad time economically with big job losses ahead.'

Concerning our borders being closed she said, "Geographical isolation can be good, but it has its disadvantages. "We can't keep our borders closed forever" alluding to the negative implications for our economy.

Speaking of the Prime Minister she noted, "Jacinda Ardern is an extremely good communicator, she has empathy and is personally warm." However, Judith did not feel she is backed by enough capable Ministers. She singled out Phil Twyford who is the Minister for Economic Development and ranked at number four in Cabinet. She laughed and quipped, "What would he know about it? - nothing." She also mentioned Willie Jackson MP, the Minister of Employment. "Doesn't that fill you with dread?"

She added, "They just don't have the experience."

Despite the adverse opinion polls she felt National could win the September 19 General Election and needed to. 'Yes, I think we can do it. They will want us to be in charge of the economy." The way through, she considered, was by promoting more infrastructure improvement, such as roads, transport and water supplies. She cast doubt on the Labour-led Government's competence, with a glance at Kiwibuild. "They can't build houses and they can't

do anything else."

She said there were three key things to promote, "Jobs, jobs and jobs.'

She mentioned the cost of growing unemployment such as "social disruption and generational poverty." She admitted that National's employment strategy would cost money but commented, "It's better than the reverse."

Judith was adamant that the RMA (Resource Management Act) was a hindrance. "The RMA has got to go. It will not be tweaked, it will go." She felt its stringent regulations was impeding progress. "I don't know how our forebears could have broken in the land, with the RMA in place."

In response to a question Judith said that, in her political career, she was most proud of stopping smoking in prisons. "We were the first country in the world to ban it."

Pointing out that smoking requires matches and lighters she said an associated advantage was less fire emergencies in prisons. "There were 70 fires a year before the ban and since then there has been just one."

She was upset that pine trees are being planted on what was once farm land. "I just hate pine trees" and she explained that pine needles get into all sorts of places

where they shouldn't be such as reservoirs. "If they want to plant trees they should plant

native trees." When asked who she admired, past and present she mentioned former PM Helen Clark "who had courage," former leader Don Brash for the brilliant job of improving us in votes from 20.9% (2002 election) to 46% in the 2005 one." She also said she admired John Key, "although

he made some mistakes." She said her autobiography Pull No Punches: Memoirs of a Political Survivor was selling well at "Ten thousand copies a week. It's the best seller in New Zealand by a country mile."

In a brief speech Jonathan Young criticized the Government ban (April 2018) on the exploration of natural gases. "It has meant less natural gas available and the burning of more coal," "Because the dams were low and therefore less generation of hydro power being possible, "There has been fifteen shipments of coal from Indonesia," commented Jonathan.

"The ban on oil exploration permits was meant to improve the environment but it hasn't. "It was a stupid decision that was made." He added, "Doubling the use of coal has doubled the emission of greenhouse gases."

Gardener threatened at Cliff Top Garden

An Opunake woman was threatened by two "little thugs" while working at the Cliff Top Garden on Monday

afternoon. The Cliff Top Garden overlooking Opunake Beach is maintained by volunteers and is one of the popular drawcards of the garden festival season held every spring.

One of these volunteers. who asked not to be named said about 1.30pm she was approached by a young male aged about 12 carrying a hammer, while an older male, aged about 14 or 15, and carrying a backpack was standing nearby, acting as lookout.

"I was working at the garden on my own. I had put my plants in and just begun weeding and next thing he comes waving a hammer," the gardener said. "They threatened me and said they wanted my car keys. I told them to f- off and said I had not got a car, and that I had walked down. They said who's got that car over there? I said it must belong to somebody who's gone for a walk. "

She said she had a garden fork nearby which she was prepared to use if needed.

She had never seen either of those two before. Both were wearing dark clothes. The younger male had straight hair with a fringe while the older one was wearing a



Opunake's clifftop walkway

They left the scene when a car drove into view. The gardener then made a quick trip to the police station and

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followed this up with a few phone calls to her fellow gardeners telling them what had happened.



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COUNCILLOR'S COMMENT

Zero rates rise is good news

A busy June at Council ended well with the ability to set a zero rate rise and to hold fees and charges at the same level as last rating year. A big thank you to council staff for ensuring this rate freeze works for all of us. Also thank you to the previous council as their ground work in past years has provided a good base in this uncertain time.

The down side to this is some very worthy local groups have missed out on funding in this year's annual plan. We will be looking at including them into our Long Term Plan, which is one of the council's major

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CHRIS YOUNG

commitments going forward.

The recent Government announcement of funds to develop Parihaka is great news for the people of Parihaka and for the wider District. The idea Parihaka's history

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will be more understood is long overdue and I look forward to seeing the new developments as they come to fruition. We are also awaiting news of further Government funding for shovel ready projects council has in place.

In the "new normal post COVID-19" it is great to be out and about. We are all glad to see sports teams

and clubs opening up and games being played. Our ability to go to a local rugby game is one of the rewards that New Zealanders are enjoying because generally behaved well during lockdown. It is distressing to see what is happening globally and we can only hope that things can be brought under control in

While our borders are shut to international visitors, we Kiwis are encouraged to buy NZ and travel NZ. It's a great chance to get out and explore NZ without crowds of tourists. Buying locally made service and products is one way that we can support small businesses and it gives us all a chance to find out how many talented people there are in our communities.

I hope everyone has enjoyed the winter months and as I look forward to the busy spring on the farm. I hope people continue the strong community support shown through the lockdown

Chris Young South Taranaki District Councillor Taranaki Coastal Ward

New chief executive for TRC

The Taranaki Regional Council has appointed Steve Ruru as its new Chief Executive.

Mr Ruru (Ngāti Raukawa, Ranginui) Ngāti Chief Executive been Southland District Council since 2014, having previously served as Chief Executive of both the Kaipara District Council and Thames-Coromandel District Council. He's also had senior leadership roles in the health sector, and was Finance Manager at Waikato Regional Council in the early 1990s.

"Steve impressed us as an extremely able and farsighted leader who relishes challenges and maintains a strong focus on partnership with the community," says the Council Chair, David MacLeod. "And he clearly appreciates the need for both environmental and economic well-being."

Mr Ruru says the new role is 'a great opportunity for a new challenge and the chance to lead a regional council during an exciting period in the local government sector, particularly with the ongoing focus on the broader water agenda'.

He says he is thrilled with the appointment. "I am very much looking forward to the new role and the many opportunities that it presents to make a contribution to the Taranaki region.



Steve Ruru has been appointed Chief Executive of the Taranaki Regional Council.

"Initially I will be looking to develop new relationships with staff, elected members and the wider community to ensure that I develop a good understanding of their aspirations and the opportunities which they

see existing for making a difference.

"There is the opportunity to continue to build a topperforming organisation that continually adds value to the community it serves," Mr Ruru says.

Mr Ruru will take up his new role in early October. Until then, the TRC's Acting Chief Executive is Mike Nield, the Director-Corporate Services.

COVID-19 flattening the property curve

than expected transition down the lockdown levels

New Zealand's quicker has provided a timely

ALUMINIUM

reprieve for the residential property market. The real estate sector is reporting strong interest from vendors with listings back close to normal winter levels, while banks are reporting strong enquiry levels from potential buyers. But is the resurgence sustainable?

General Manager David Nagel said "The QV House Price Data continues to reflect a gradual decline with 13 of the 16 major cities we monitor showing a reduction in the rate of growth since May. This indicates the heat we saw in the market pre-lockdown gradually dissipating as the market begins to settle".

average nationally increased 1.3% over the past three month period, down from 2.4% in May, with the average value



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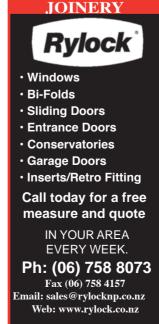
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Back to Parihaka for Community Board

For the second time Te Niho Marae at Parihaka has hosted a community board meeting. The first time was back in 2015 when the Egmont Plains Community Board held their regular meeting here.

On Tuesday, the board, which changed its name to Taranaki Coastal last year returned here for their July meeting.

Sharlee Mariekura recalled being inducted on to the board five years ago at the 2015 meeting.

Parihaka, which was once the centre of Te Whiti and Tohu's peaceful resistance in defence of their land, and scene of an invasion by 1500 Armed Constabulary in 1881 has again become the centre of attention with the news of a government grant to help with the setting up of a visitor centre at the village.

Maata Wharehoka told the community board about some of the memories of her time at Parihaka, including the ninth of June 2017 and the Deed of Reconciliation, a "precious day for Pakeha and Maori."

"It was an amazing time to witness the Crown arriving



Te Niho Marae.

and the people waiting for the Crown to arrive," she

Maata said it was time for the people of Parihaka to tell their own story about what had happened here.

"A lot of stories have been written about Parihaka that were not of us," she said.

South Taranaki District mayor Phil Nixon said he recalled June 9 2019 as a 'very moving day."

"I felt privileged to be part of it," he said. "I'm pleased the Crown has given \$14 million for you to tell your story in the way it should be told, and I look forward to see what comes from that. It will be great for our region and great for our country for the story to be told in the right way."

Brian Vincent, who was a Community Board member until last year, paid a visit and recalled his own long association with Parihaka, going back 60 years to his days as a contractor at Pungarehu.

When discussing Council's plans to set up a voluntary work register, Community Board member Bonita Bigham said in Maori communities like Parihaka a lot of work got done that wasn't talked about.

The Community Board

Opunake Artificial Reef from its Matters Arising list.

Board chairman Andy Whitehead said the Reef is a Taranaki Regional Council responsibility, and were hearing second-hand from people going to the Community Board with their concerns, when they should really have been going to the

Taranaki Regional Council. Phil Nixon said lessons learned by Eltham and Waverley taking part in the Innovative Streets Project could be applied to other towns in Taranaki.

He was also asked about the South Taranaki Sporting Hall of Fame where being nominations are sought for leading sports people from the district to be included. He said unsuccessful nominations remain on the books and are still open to be considered again, although it would still be good if these people are nominated again.

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COVID-19 flattening the property curve

Continued from page 4.

now sitting at \$738,018. This represents an increase of 7.4% year on year, slightly down on annual growth of 7.7% last month. The average value in the Auckland Region sits at \$1,082,541, up 1.5% over the last quarter, and remains

5.4% up year on year. "A combination of pent demand following lockdown, plus vast numbers of returning expats over the past few months has contributed to strong attendance at open homes, auctions and tenders in most locations throughout New Zealand. Record low interest rates have also helped to ensure prices have held up well so far with an active buyer pool dominated by

investors and first home buyers", says Mr Nagel.

New Plymouth data shows values increased by 9.8% over the last twelve months and 0.5% over the last quarter. The average value is now \$508,666.

QV Property Consultant Danny Grace says the Taranaki market is very active in New Plymouth, Stratford and South Taranaki. "Agents, mortgage brokers and bank lenders report to be very busy. The market is the strongest at the lower end, with the current low interest rates and LVR easing, meaning investors and first home buyers are in stronger buying positions" he says.

"Agents report strong interest leading to multi offers on lower valued properties, with comparable selling periods to the COVID-19 outbreak. While there have been sales of properties above this price range the volume is much smaller than that of the lower end of the market. While agents report interest in property at the higher end of the market they speculate that over the coming year, this may be an area of the market that softens" says Mr Grace.

"We are hearing from real estate agents and developers that there is interest in welllocated vacant sections, indicating that there are buyers out there still considering building. There have been sales of smaller properties with subdivision potential that were purchased by builders, indicating they are also somewhat positive.'

In North Island provincial centres, Waitomo leads in quarterly growth, up 9.9%,

followed by South Taranaki 6.6% and South Waikato 6.2%. Whanganui leads the way in annual growth, up 27.0%, followed by Rangitikei 25.5% and South Waikato at 22.9%.

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Big changes ahead for road north

Motorists travelling on State Highway 3 between Waikato and Taranaki are encouraged to allow extra time for their journeys, with multiple road works underway.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency Waikato Systems Manager Cara Lauder says as the Transport Agency focuses on improving the roads, increasing safety and making people's journeys more enjoyable, there are a number of sites on SH3 with traffic management in place. "State Highway 3 is a hive of activity at the moment, with lots of work underway. While we try to keep inconveniences and delays to a minimum, we urge motorists to be patient and recommend they allow extra time for journeys between Waikato and Taranaki."

The Awakino Tunnel Bypass is currently the main construction site on State Highway 3. This 2.3km



Awakino Tunnel Bypass - The tunnel on the left will be bypassed by two bridges across the Awakino River

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project involves building two bridges to take traffic away from the singlelane tunnel and includes a northbound passing lane.

Most of the bypass work is happening away from the main highway, so overall disruption is expected to be at a minimum through to the scheduled completion date of mid-2021. Retaining walls are currently being built at either end of the site, with traffic down to one lane and controlled by lights.

Other SH3 works currently underway include: barrier installation at Tongapurutu. There will also be retaining wall construction at Mangaotaki and the Awakino

Gorge, both of which are scheduled to be finished before Christmas, and resealing and repair works in the Awakino Gorge. These works should be completed before Christmas.

There will also be resealing works at various sites between Mokau and New Plymouth, and general road maintenance work around Te Kuiti and northern communities

Ms Lauder encouraged motorists to stick to the signposted speed limits and be patient when driving through road works sites.

"We want to keep everyone safe when driving through road work sites,".

ADELPHOS

Abortion is often considered a taboo topic. It is laden with emotional, political, scientific and religious overtones. Some women report negative emotional and psychological after-effects. Others report a sense of relief. Each woman is different. But the core value issues revolve around the so-called "pro-life" versus "pro-choice" positions.

There are questions and disagreements about what the human fetus is, its development and what it looks like. This brief article will mention and touch upon only two issues: 1.) What a developing

Abortion

human fetus is according to scientific descriptions and ultrasounds, and, 2.) the political influence of the Roe v. Wade decision. In this article, there is no room to mention the historical and postmodern issues involved: a woman's autonomy over her own body, necessary or convenient abortions, birth control education, male voices or religious views to name a few.

A major abortion issue involves the question of when human life begins in a mother's body. Some claim that "there is no clear answer to this question." However,

does the first cellular zygote genome have both parents' human DNA? All biologists answer yes. This is the very beginning of the DNA's biological plan for human life. Therefore, human life has a definitive scientific beginning. It is a biological fallacy to say that "no one knows when human life begins." Such a common slogan is not science; it is a politically branded or philosophical argument.

What can be seen in an ultrasound of an 8 week human fetus? At that stage one can see the formation of feet, toes, hands and fingers, sprouting ears, upper lips and nose, as well as the eyes and eyelids. From 10 weeks all the human organs have formed but are not yet functioning. With a woman's second pregnancy she can feel her baby kicking as early as 13 weeks. However, a first time pregnant woman can feel her baby kicking between 16-25 weeks. At 20 weeks one can view a video of their child sucking their thumb, covering up their ears to loud sounds, clapping, yawning or getting hiccups. It appears to be a little human being.

Worldwide debates and laws have been influenced by the USA's landmark Supreme Court decision of Roe v.

Wade (1973). It has impacted upon the globalised politics of abortion ever since. Their significant 7-2 ruling was that certain constitutional rights of an American "person" did not apply to the abortion of an in utero human fetus. (Roe v. Wade, 410 U.S. 113, 153-163 (1973). Different state laws do, however, protect developmental human fetal rights and refer to viability or non-viability (or the ability to survive or not). The controversial "pro-choice" feminist Naomi Wolf argued that the pro-choice lobby should acknowledge the "fetus, in its full humanity" and that an abortion results in "a real death."

An informed conversation on abortion should consider both a biological understanding and an interweaving of its many other threads composed of politics, human-rights, compassion, ethics and love. I hope the New Zealand government will consider your opinions in a referendum when passing further abortion legislation. No wonder abortion is considered a taboo topic.

Adelphos

PS. Be sure to attend worship and take advantage of the encouraging gospel message of a hopeful future at St. Paul's Church, Opunake every Sunday at 9:30 am.

Smoke leads to brigade callout

There's only been one callout for the Opunake Brigade in the past fortnight. A resident in Hickey Place came home mid-morning to find her lounge full of smoke. Making sure the doors to the rest of the house were shut. Opening the sliding door from the lounge to outside, meant the room could vent itself from smoke. Once safely outside she called 111. On arrival the Opunake Brigade used their thermal

imaging camera to check for hot spots. Trying to figure out where the smoke had come from wasn't easy. The only place showing excess heat were the tiles in front of the fire place. The fire had been lit the night before, but was now cold. We had to break up a couple of tiles to make sure nothing was smouldering underneath.

Till next time have a safe couple of weeks.

Craig Dingle CFO Opunake





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COVID inspired flax art to show at Te Papa

Three years after taking up flax weaving Purewa MacGregor will be showcasing her work at Te

Flax face masks designed by Purewa will be shown in the museum's Te Whare Pora section, along with that of Mathew McIntyre Wilson in the Maori Indigeneous Response to COVID-19 exhibition.

While Matthew works with muka or the fibre within the flax, Purewa works with the full bodied plant.

She says she had been in touch with epidemiologist Siouxsie Wiles to make sure her masks are as functional as possible, although she says it's still possible to catch COVID, even with a mask.

"I've always believed heavily in the healing properties of harakeke and I wanted to express it in an artistic way," she says.

Coming from Opunake, a town known for flax, flax weaving had always been part of her life. Her mother Tracey MacGregor, sister Niwa Brightwell and an aunty Pare Bennett have all been weavers.

"I grew up around it, but it was not until I was an adult that I took it up myself."

She says while her sister set the foundation for her work, she credits Hawkes Bay master weaver Fiona Jones

as the one who developed it.

"She gave me all my knowledge, and she's the reason why I am where I am today. She's the person who changed my whole life."

Purewa's face masks have attracted interest throughout the country, culminating in the invitation a month ago from a curator at Te Papa to be part of the Maori response to COVID exhibition. Her work has shown at the prominent Hori Gallery in Otaki, known for pushing the boundaries in Maori art. She remains however modest about her success.

"I'm still very much a student in the infancy of my abilities," she says.

All her masks are custommade.

"Weaving is a labour of love, so I don't pump them out," she says. "Everything I make is custom-made to that

The masks have proved particularly popular with men, who are also artists in their own right.

"It's really special to see how something like harakeke has come to be so that Maori men want to wear it on their faces," she says.

Purewa says she is pleased the designs of her masks have been taken up by the Ministry of Education and used in school literature.



Former Opunake High School student Purewa Macgregor.





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NPDC vote money for street spruce up

Building owners wanting to give their main street properties a spruce-up can now apply to a new \$50,000 fund, thanks to the New Plymouth District Council (NPDC).

Councillors on 30 June topped up funding to keep the District's main streets looking great, as part of the Back On Our Feet \$20 million relief package to help the economy recover from Covid 19. The extra investment will enable building owners in New Plymouth, Waitara and Inglewood to get a helping hand when they upgrade their properties, helping to encourage more people to shop locally.

Mayor Neil Holdom says the street-smart scheme is another great way NPDC is working to keep the central areas vibrant and lend a helping hand to shops, restaurants and cafes.

"Many local businesses are hurting and we need to help



economic storm. This extra funding can help transform your business at street level, bring in punters and keep the tills ringing. Small and medium sized businesses are the lifeblood of our community and we want to help them get Back On Their Feet."

The additional funding will go towards helping building owners to look at outside, structural or interior works and keep work and money coming in for property professionals, architects, and surveyors, and helping to brighten up building fronts and signage. In addition, owners of earthquake-prone buildings are allowed an extra 18 months to get engineering reports.

More than 70 per cent of people supported the main street building funding in an NPDC public survey on its Covid-19 relief package with close to a 1,000 pieces of feedback received.

Property owner John Shewry says the look of the buildings is a measure of the success of our CBDs and is key to attracting people.

"Many of our main street buildings could do with smartening up and this is the time to do it. It's a great opportunity to renew and reinvent what our main streets offer," says Mr Shewry.



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Heartening to meet with innovative people

.Parliamentary recesses are a valuable opportunity for me to spend more time with constituents and I've been making the most of that over the last two weeks.

It's heartening to be involved in conversations with our innovative local people who are planning ways to help with the Covid-19 recovery. The arts, business, education and energy sectors are working hard to get back on their feet and build jobs, while farming has again shown the way as the backbone of our economy.

I've met with a number of people who are concerned about the effect of Covid-19 on immigration matters. Some are hoping for permanent residency, others plan to bring family to New Zealand, others need to employ workers with skills that are unavailable in the current job market. Immigration New Zealand is working hard to clear a huge backlog of work, but if you or someone you know is worried about their immigration status, please make contact with my office and we will do what we can



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to assist you.

Another interesting project I've had discussions on involves ways to facilitate youth development and engagement in the areas of civics, governance and politics. The issue of getting young people interested in the democratic process has been gathering momentum in recent years and I'm in favour of anything that encourages active participation.

I've also spent time over the last fortnight sitting (via Zoom) on the Finance and Expenditure Committee. We've been hearing submissions on the Fuel Industry Bill.

This bill introduces changes to wholesale market arrangements in the fuel sector to improve transparency of pricing and to provide for rules to ensure that wholesale contracts are transparent and fair. That's something that has been top of mind in my Energy portfolio, where the effects of policy on household costs

have been a real focus.

Thank you to those who came to meet Hon Judith Collins last week whether in New Plymouth, Inglewood, Hawera or at the Sandfords Event Centre. Among her other roles, Judith is National's spokesperson for Regional and Economic

experience across a range

articulated a vision that resonated with the crowds. Parliament resumes next week, but if you have any issues that I can help with, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me at newplymouthmp@

parliament.govt.nz.

of portfolios really shines

through on occasions like

this and it's fair to say she

Jonathan Young MP for New Plymouth National Party Spokesperson: Arts, Culture & Heritage National Party Spokesperson: Energy & Resources

Taranaki well positioned for next stage

Despite there being no playbook for a situation like COVID-19, New Zealand's successful public health response is being held up as a global success story. Our team of five million worked together and made big sacrifices so that we could get the virus under control here faster than most countries. Now is the time to back up that successful health response with a robust economic plan which will get our economy moving again. Going into lockdown, Taranaki was well positioned, with low unemployment, a clear plan for where the region was going, and a number of projects already underway to help us get there. Supported by the Labour-led Government's initiatives to help workers - through the wage subsidy - and businesses through lowinterest loans, professional services support and other mechanisms, our region remains well positioned as we move forward. This fact was highlighted in the recent ASB Regional Economic Scoreboard, which placed



Glen Bennett

Development.

Taranaki as the secondstrongest region in the country. Rebuilding our economy will be a number of big construction and infrastructure projects, and behind each of these will be teams of skilled people. Right now, New Zealand needs its tradies more than ever. Recent changes made by the government will ensure the trades have the people and skills they need to keep New Zealand moving. These changes to trades training, which came into effect on 1 July, will see a massive ramping-up of training opportunities. Many more New Zealanders will now be able to train - or retrain - for free over the next two years, in a number of in-demand trades. This

presents a great opportunity for people who may have lost their previous job or who are looking at a move into the trades. As part of that programme the government is also providing a further boost for employers by allowing them to access up to \$16,000 to help hire a new apprentice or to retain an apprentice they already have. Once that programme is up and running in August, it'll also help employers keep their workers on the job, helping us rebuild faster and better. Our own Western Institute of Technology (WITT) has a real focus on trades and apprenticeship training, as well as offering degrees and diplomas. Courses on mechanical engineering, construction trade skills, carpentry, and plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying will help open up the trades that are crucial to keeping our region moving. The trades also provide the security of a lifelong career. If you're looking at options for your future, or need to explore a new career path, contact WITT for more information on their feesfree programmes, or Work and Income to sign up for the apprenticeship support programme.As the Labour Party candidate for the New Plymouth electorate, which stretches from Waitara to Opunake, I'm taking an active interest in how our communities respond to COVID-19, and helping them access the support that's there for them. Over the coming weeks I'll be holding a series of events where I'll be out and about, hearing from you. I'll be in Opunake once a fortnight. Stop by and introduce yourself -I want to hear from you about your experience and ideas, understand the issues and opportunities you're facing and think about how a Labour-led government can help.

Glen Bennett

Labour Party candidate

New Plymouth.

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On this month in history Women's Suffrage petition presented

On July 28, 1893 the Women's Suffrage petition was presented to the NZ

House of Representatives. The petition had the names of 31,872 women aged 21

or older. It consisted of 500 sheets which had been collected from all parts of

New Zealand. Once glued together the petition was 270 metres long. Canterbury and Otago were the areas best represented.

Sir John Hall MP, who supported women's right to vote, presented the petition to the House of Representatives on August 11, 1893. Despite some opposition, enough MPs voted in favour of the women's suffrage bill for it to pass; on September 19 1893 the Governor Lord Glasgow signed the new Electoral Act allowing women to vote.

Kate Sheppard (1848-1935), whose image is on our \$10, is the best known of the women who campaigned for women's suffrage.

In 1933, Elizabeth McCombs (1873-1935), a candidate for the Labour Party, became our first woman MP.





ed by Jonathan Young, Corner Gill & Liardet Streets New Plymouth

Pull No Punches: The Memoirs of a Political Survivor

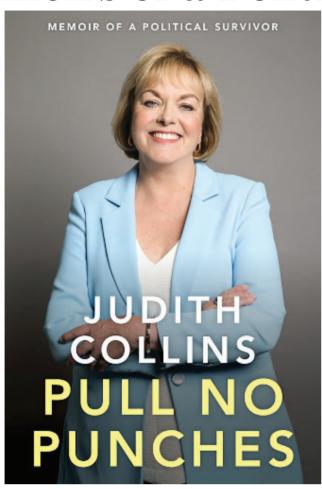
Judith Collins Member of Parliament for the Auckland electorate of Papakura recently released her memoirs, published by Allen and Unwin. The autobiography runs to 288 pages and is written in a very readable style. It is an interesting and enjoyable

The book covers her life to date, although the main focus is on her colourful political career, which has not been without controversy.

Judith was born in Hamilton on February 24, 1959 to Labour supporting parents Jessie and Percy Collins who had a farm. Initially Judith was a member of the NZ Labour Party.

As an adult, a negative experience with trade union officials over a restaurant she owned (with her husband David and a business partner) after an employee was dismissed dismayed her. "Our business survived but our belief in the Labour Party did not. To see two of those union heavies, who had threatened David, become Labour MPs and then Ministers was quite something." (page 65).

Her first success in politics came with her becoming class president at the age of ten at Walton Primary School. Her political career was launched.



She graduated from university with a Bachelor of Laws and later completed a Master of Laws with Honours. As a lawyer she worked for several firms before, in 1990, founding her own firm Judith Collins and Associated.

When she married David Wing Tung a Chinese Samoan, her father had reservations. "Nice chap. Shame he's black." (page 58). The couple have a son.

understandable pride Judith mentions with pride her elevation to the leadership of the Auckland District Law Society "... at 39 became its youngest recorded president" (page

However, the contrast of her legal career with her political career is quite clear. She was

first elected as MP in 2002 for the Clevedon electorate Auckland. When National won office in 2008 she won the new Papakura seat and was a member of the Cabinet as Minister of Police, Corrections and Veteran Affairs. In later Cabinets she has held a range of portfolios including ACC and Justice.

She says her proudest moment in politics is to do with banning smoking in prisons. "The smoking ban is the single ministerial accomplishment of which I am most proud" (page 129). There have been more than one controversy over the last 18 years which she has had to weather. She defends herself carefully and with lawyers care of detail - what she writes has the ring of truth about it.

Perhaps 2014 was her political annus horribilis. At the time she was Minister of Justice and keen to reform the law relating to domestic violence. Nicky Hager's book was published and entitled Dirty Politics, which used hacked emails from Whale Oil blogger Cameron Stater as its basis. Judith was somehow implicated (by email correspondence with Mr Slater) with the implied suggestion that she was trying to undermine Adam Feeley the head of the SFO (Secret Fraud Office). "John

Key said I could either resign or he would sack me." Despite telling the PM she was blameless she agreed to resign, which she did on August 30, 2014. Judith insisted, in turn, that there had to be an Inquiry. She was later totally exonerated by former High Court Judge Lester Chisholm, conducted the Inquiry.

In an earlier incident Judith had been accused (wrongly) of promoting her husband's firm Oravida (he was a director not an employee), which had arranged a corporate dinner. But Judith had already cleared the situation with John Key who, when she pointed this out, claimed to have no memory of the conversation (Later he changed his mind!). She was obliged to make an embarrassing public apology, "John said that if I was a junior (as opposed to senior) Minister I would have been sacked. (page 212). "I felt I had been thrown, well and truly, under a bus" (page 214).

There is so much more in this best-selling book and quite a few surprises, but limited space is an issue. I strongly recommend that New Zealanders read this absorbing biography about one of our most prominent and forthright politicians.

> Reviewed by Rolland McKellar



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Rural women morning tea shout can.

Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) is calling for a nationwide Mighty Morning Tea Shout on Wednesday July 29.

"The **RWNZ** Mighty Morning Tea Shout is an opportunity for us to thank all the people who worked Covid-19 through the pandemic lockdown and those who supported their communities during that time," says National President Fiona Gower.

"During lockdown many New Zealanders honed their baking skills and there is no better way to say thank you for a job well done than with a morning tea shout.

"Everyone is invited to take part in the RWNZ Mighty Morning Tea Shout.

"Joining is simple - think of someone to thank and deliver morning tea to them on Wednesday, 29 July.

"It is never a bad time to thank the people who have helped us through our Covid-19 response, so if you can't take part on the 29th, just say thanks when you

"RWNZ is suggesting that if the preference is to buy food, that participants support local bakeries and cafes that had to be closed during the pandemic response.

"Our team of 5 million has done an amazing job in response to the threat of the Covid-19 virus - we think it is important to celebrate that success, to say thanks to the essential workers and the people in our communities who helped all

of us through. "Generations of New Zealanders have enjoyed morning tea shouts and we think this is a perfect opportunity to use this tried and true way of saying thanks," says Ms Gower.

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Mac Sole: Episode 22: The start of my working life as a youth

Although still attending school, either primary Tawhiti or Turuturu (of which one, I'm lost in time), I worked for a Mr Ravji as a delivery boy. He was an Indian man who was kind to me. In later years I became aware that he socialised in the local hostelry with various people. I have nothing but kind memories of this gentleman whose descendants still operate the shop in the same position at the northern end of High Street, still trading as Ravji's Fruit Shop, despite doing so far from the 1930s.

10

Job two was with Post and Telegraph doing telegram deliveries. This position meant one stood next to the telegraph machine and as the message tape came from the machine the operator cut



Setting off to deliver a telegram.

and taped the message to the gram paper, then gave the telegram to the delivery boys who then delivered it

to the to the noted address. The story which I am to related was to be one for which I resigned my job. This was brought about by the telegram I was given to deliver was to an address in Glover Road which was a message about the death of a family member, but the number on Glover Road did not exist. Therefore, knowing the importance

official

showing declining natural

gas reserves are a real worry

for New Zealand, according

to the Petroleum Exploration

and Production Association

of New Zealand (PEPANZ).

gas production is forecast

to be 60% lower, raising

serious questions for New

Zealand," says PEPANZ

"While it's not all bad

Executive

Chief

Carnegie.

"By the end of this decade

figures

John

of the telegram, I spent some time trying to find the affected family. Rather than take the telegram back to the post office I went from house to house until I did find the family. On returning to the office the supervisor (bastard) castigated me for taking so long. I endeavoured to relate to him the problem, but he was not in a receptive mood so I resigned. Later, when he learnt the truth from the grieving family he tried to get me to remain, but because of his previous attitude, I refused.

Even in my employment the shadow of bad luck was to follow me. A six month misadventure was me working as an apprentice for a Baden Lane, a Hawera builder who employed a fairly large gang. Lane's home was a two storey home which still stands and looks good in Surrey Street. A rather large workshop was towards the rear of his home, but to get to the workshop one entered by a driveway from Wilson Street, which

Heather-Lea Boarding house which my mother was running. The workshop foreman was Colin Fairy who, in the fullness of time, was to run his own joinery workshop on Glover Road and whom I was to get to make a bedroom suite for me which I still have and use.

However, back to Mr Lane. When I started Lane told me I was signed up for an apprenticeship and my weekly wage was 1 pound 10 shillings per week, which now would be 3 dollars in today's money. Tradesmen's pay was nine pounds so my wage was not very much, but of course I was looking to the future.

After six months I asked Lane when I was to start trade night school which was part of the Apprenticeship Scheme, only to be told he had not legally signed me up for the apprenticeship so I had been working for 6 months, in reality, as a

The tradesmen I worked with told me to take him to Court over what he had done and he would have to pay me the Journeyman's wage Back Pay which would have been an extra 7 pounds 10 shillings a week. Back Pay for 6 months would add up to an approximate amount of 187 pounds, a lot of money in 1950.

I am unable to remember the men I worked with. One workmate a do remember was Wilf Schicker, but not having anyone to guide me through this process I let it go. However, I did go to Lane's home in Surrey Road on the Wednesday and asked him for my pay for the couple of days I had worked since my last pay, an amount of about 10 shillings. After arguing about it he paid me the money and I stopped working for him.

Crikey, surely my life and working life had to treat me in a better way, but I knew not to give in as luck and kindness should not be too far away - knowing if I was to work hard I would reap some rewards in years to

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labourer. was running next to the Declining natural gas reserves a real concern

> news, what happens if we don't make new discoveries or developments and our supply continues to decline? What - if anything - could we use instead, how much would it cost, and what would this mean for users?

"We are now effectively in a closed system with rapidly shrinking reserves and rapidly shrinking opportunities to replace them. This means we need to consider if we have the

right regulatory settings to encourage the investment needed to deliver the outcomes we all want affordable, reliable and sustainable local energy.

"This is especially important given the impact of Covid-19. Natural gas provides 21% of our total energy, helping power the export industries that will lead our recovery such as food production. It also provides heating, cooking and hot water for around 400.000 homes and users.

"Natural gas has a role in lowering emissions, as confirmed by the Interim Climate Change Committee last year. A strong supply of domestic natural gas means we could reduce the amount of coal we burn, keep electricity prices down and avoid the need to import LNG from Australia."

On this month in history Hamilton rugby game against the Springboks cancelled

On July 25, 1981 the Springboks were scheduled to play Waikato, as part of their rugby union tour of New Zealand. Anticipating anti-tour protest 535 police were in attendance Hamilton's Rugby Park.

After a perimeter fence

was torn down about 350 protesters invaded the pitch and linked arms in the middle of the ground. About 50 people were arrested including such prominent New Zealanders as Professor Karl Stead, his wife Kay and family.

The police received word that a light plane had been stolen from Taupo and was possibly headed towards Hamilton to join the protest. The game was announced as abandoned for security

As the protesters left the

ground (under arrest and otherwise), many attacked with fists, boots, bottles and cans.

South In imprisoned anti-apartheid leaders, notably Nelson Mandela, were heartened to hear of the protests.



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The Emporium Gallery and Gifts is simply superb

An exciting new venture has recently appeared in Opunake. Emporium Gallery & Gifts sells quality art created by well-known artists, but also has a wide range of craft on offer, as well as a studio at the rear of the shop where studio painter Rhonda Crawford can be seen creatively at work some of the time, especially in the weekend.

The Emporium at 86 Tasman Street, Opunake, which is both spacious and impeccably set out, is owned by Michaela Niederberger and is open Wednesday to Saturday 10am to 4pm. On Sunday it is open 10am to 3pm

The Emporium first opened its doors on June 17 so it is early days. However, Michaela comments, "It is going really well. Both locals and travellers from around New Zealand have been really supportive. Everything has a really good feeling. It's been a great response for us."

In reference to her mother Rhonda, Michaela says, "I



The attractively displayed art and craft is a feature of the shop.

aromatic blends as Lavender & Vanilla and Slow Roasted Coconut. They look classy.

The art on display is created by such talented artists as Marianne Muggeridge, Roger Morris (Remo), Dale Copeland, Paul Hutchinson, Shawn Crawford, Kirsty Meynell, Rebecca Beyer, Fern Parmentier, Joshua Wilson, as well as Rhonda Crawford. As well as paintings, there are sculptures, carvings, prints,

Some of the craft on sale includes jewellery, scented soaps, felt bags, coat hangers, clothing, books and crocheted items. "We want to have something

Roger Morris, Marianne Muggeridge, Paul Hutchinson, Liz Sinclair, Clair Jensen and Rhonda Crawford will be on hand to give direction where



Rhonda Crawford's painting 'Transitioning' has been chosen by celebrity chef Al Brown to be pictured on packets of his Good Joe's Coffee.

for everyone," comments Michaela.

Speaking about her art Rhonda says, "My style is surrealism. I paint from life, but I like to inject myself into it. In particular, I want people to recall their life as a child and what they engaged with at that time. As for influences she comments, "I loved the work of Dali and also the Impressionists such as Renoir, Monet and Turner." She concluded, "In Taranaki we have a high calibre of artists and a huge talent and it's getting better and better all the time."

The Emporium is also the venue for Life Drawing classes each Tuesday night from 7pm to 9pm. Such excellent artists as

neede

The Emporium Gallery & Gifts is a positive asset to Opunake and well worth a visit as there is such

an impressive display of appealing craft and art on offer, created by highly talented local artists and crafts people.



Marianne Muggeridge with her oil on lino painting 'Myfanwy and Marianne'.





Owner Michaela Niederberger is enjoying her new challenge.

do the business side. Artists don't really like to be market driven – that's where I come

However, Michaela is very enthusiastic about art herself. "I'm interested in modern art, abstract, expressionism and surrealism. I like artists such as Jack Pollard."

Her own creativity is reflected in the scented candles she makes, with such

rubber woodblock prints, etchings, Kiwiana art, and even a stone carving.

One of Rhonda's paintings entitled 'Transitioning' has been chosen by cooking celebrity Al Brown for the image to be used on packets of his Good Joe's Coffee. "I was wrapt," said Rhonda. The painting, featuring hydrangeas, is on display in the adjoining studio.





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Taranaki Regional Council Talking Taranaki

Chairman's chat

We bid haere rā to Basil Chamberlain

Ka mihi nui ki a koutou katoa, greetings to you all. It's a big day for any organisation when its Chief Executive for 30-plus years retires. When that Chief Executive is Basil Chamberlain, it's a significant event for the whole region and beyond.

Basil has devoted his life to this region since arriving from Southland 40 years ago. He started off working in the field for the old Taranaki Catchment Commission. But his abilities and potential were abundantly obvious and he was appointed Chief Executive of the Taranaki Regional Council on its formation in 1989.

You'll find more on Basil in this edition of Talking Taranaki. But as Council Chair, let me acknowledge the extraordinary service and leadership Basil has delivered throughout the past four decades.



His efforts have played a big part in the Council and region enjoying many successes over that time. Not that Basil would accept any credit personally - he always maintains that success is a result of team effort by staff, Councillors and the community.

I owe him a personal debt of gratitude, too. I became Chair at a relatively young age, and greatly appreciated the guidance and

wisdom offered by Basil and my Council colleagues.

Over the years, Basil and I made a lot of trips together as Chair and Chief Executive, and discussed many issues at great depth. Basil was always direct and honest with his advice, and contributed much to my personal development and Chairmanship

We all wish Basil a happy, healthy and lengthy retirement.

I'm very pleased that Steve Ruru (Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Ranginui) has agreed to become our new Chief Executive. Steve will join us in early October from Southland District Council, where he has been CE since 2014. He's also headed both the Kaipara District Council and the Thames-Coromandel District Council, and had senior leadership roles in the health sector.

Steve impressed us as an extremely able and far-sighted leader who relishes challenges and maintains a strong focus on partnership with the community. And he clearly appreciates the need for both environmental and economic well-being. I look forward to welcoming him to Taranaki.

David MacLeod, Chair

Basil Chamberlain - Chief Executive for 31 years Lengthy career of service to Taranaki

New Zealand's longest-serving local body chief has been farewelled into retirement, lauded for his 'extraordinary' contribution to the Taranaki community.

Basil Chamberlain had been Chief Executive of the Taranaki Regional Council since it was established in 1989. He'd been employed by its predecessors since 1980, starting out as a Water Resources Officer for the Taranaki Catchment Commission and Regional Water Board.

"The region has benefited immensely from his powerful intellect and his superb ability to strategize and develop robust and effective processes and programmes," says the Council Chair, David MacLeod.

"Taranaki is known as a place of creative, innovative and successful initiatives, and Basil has been at the forefront.

"The Riparian Management Programme and Towards Predator-Free Taranaki are just two notable examples of his approach: careful forethought and planning, adaptability as lessons are learned or circumstances change, and strong community involvement. No wonder these programmes are successful."

Mr MacLeod's predecessor as Chair, David Walter, says he greatly valued Mr Chamberlain's ability to condense complex issues into clearly understandable language without becoming entangled in excess bureaucracy or officiousness.

Mr Chamberlain was honoured with a Distinguished Management Award by the Society of Local Government Managers earlier this year, and an Outstanding Person Award by the Resource Management Law Association in 2013.

Mr Chamberlain has had numerous external appointments over the years, serving on Ministerial and departmental advisory groups and local government sector working parties and interest groups.

Around & about the region



\$5m boost for streamside work

A \$5 million boost from the Government's Jobs for Nature programme will accelerate completion of the Transforming Taranaki riparian management programme. The funding will help farmers who have voluntarily committed their time, effort and money to fencing and planting since the scheme began 27 years ago. "They should be incredibly proud of the work they have done," says the Council Chair, David MacLeod. Close to a million native plants will be distributed to Taranaki riparian plan holders in 2021, with the goal of planting 650km of waterways. A record total of nearly 600,000 plants was distributed last month (see video), bringing the grand total to 6.2 million since the scheme began.

www.trc.govt.nz/riparian-boost

TRC stalwart mourned

The recent passing of Eileen Pattinson, a long-serving staff member until her retirement in 2012, was mourned by many at the Taranaki Regional Council. Eileen joined the Taranaki Catchment Commission in



the late 1970s, working her way up to an admin managerial post before joining the TRC on its formation in 1989, as Personal Assistant to the Chief Executive. In her 23 years in this role, she undertook a wide range of support duties and she was highly respected and warmly regarded for her devotion to the welfare and well-being of staff and of the organisation as a whole. She lived and epitomised TRC's culture. Rest in peace, Eileen.

Taking Taranaki forward

Put achievers in the limelight

Taranaki people have another opportunity to bring the region's environmental achievers into the limelight, with nominations now open for the annual Taranaki Regional Council Environmental Awards.

"It's more important than ever for the whole community to appreciate and draw inspiration from those who work tirelessly in many different ways to ensure our precious native plants and wildlife are protected and can thrive in healthy ecosystems," says the Council Chair, David MacLeod.

"We know their efforts have been continuing even through the restrictions and difficulties thrown up by the COVID-19

"These people thoroughly deserve a pat on the back, be they marae or school students or farmers or businesses or community groups or your energetic neighbours."



The annual awards have been running 27 years, with 296 individuals, groups and organisations being honoured in that time.

The awards will be presented in October and cover five categories: business, community, education, dairy farming and land management.

Nominations close on 21 August.

See www.trc.govt.nz/awards for criteria and to make an online nomination. The awards are sponsored by Fonterra, Corteva Agriscience™, Methanex, Contact Energy and Todd Energy.

Your Councillors

New Plymouth Constituency

Tom Cloke David Lean Elvisa Van Der Leden Craig Williamson

tom.cloke@trc.govt.nz david lean@trc.govt.nz Charlotte Littlewood charlotte.littlewood@trc.govt.nz elvisa.vanderleden@trc.govt.nz craig.williamson@trc.govt.nz

North Taranaki Constituency

Mike Davey mike.davey@trc.govt.nz Donald McIntyre donald.mcintyre@trc.govt.nz

South Taranaki Constituency

michael.joyce@trc.govt.nz Michael Joyce David MacLeod (Chair) david.macleod@trc.govt.nz neil.walker@trc.govt.nz Neil Walker

Stratford Constituency

Matthew McDonald matthew.mcdonald@trc.govt.nz

Read the newsletter online: www.trc.govt.nz/talking-taranaki/

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Eltham crossing draws Eltham protest

Eltham residents brandishing placards greeted traffic making their way along the town's High Street one Friday morning.

On July 3 around 25-30 people made good on a promise to turn out and put across the message that there are serious safety issues with the town's main street, which also doubles as part of State Highway 3 between New Plymouth and Hawera.

As reported in the Opunake and Coastal News (July 2) there was particular concern about a pedestrian crossing leading to the town's Four Square store.

The protest comes shortly after Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) announced they would fund an Innovating Streets for People pilot study in Eltham and Waverley which will trial street improvements in February-March next year.

The purpose of the "protest/awareness exercise" was twofold said event organiser Mark Bellringer, to let drivers of trucks and cars know the crossing is there, and to make pedestrians aware of their responsibilities when navigating their way across.

While he welcomed the announcement from NZTA he said something needed to be done now to make the crossing safer.

The sun had not yet risen, when about 20 people gathered for a briefing at Stark Park. There was a



Lindsay Maindonald stands guard at the Eltham Four Square crossing while early morning traffic makes its way through town.

cheer when a southbound truck stopped to give way to a pedestrian at the Four Square crossing. After everyone was handed a sign they were assigned to different points along High Street. More people arrived later that morning, along with more signs.

Eltham-Kaponga Community Board member Lindsay Maindonald was standing with a sign at the crossing.

"I brought this up at the community board meeting and challenged the council how long they were going to wait before they did anything," he said. "This is an extremely dangerous crossing. We need something done now. I've been in Eltham for 20 years and the increase in traffic through Eltham has been phenomenal."

Former community board chair Maree Liddington said the crossing had been a big issue in town for a long time. Two years ago when the NZTA was carrying out consultations with Taranaki towns about State Highway 3, she had put the case for Eltham, and NZTA representatives had spoken to the community board

about it

Last year she had organised a petition which garnered 400 signatures in the space of one week.

"In a town with a population of about 2000 that's pretty good," she said. "We are a small town, but we've got a big voice. It just needs someone to hear us. What we want is action not consultation."

Kieran Williams, the owner of the Four Square to which the crossing led was handing out hot chips to warm everyone up on a cold winter morning.

"You don't have to be here long to see what a big issue this is," he said. "Half the time when I'm coming across I wave them (trucks) through as you can see they are struggling to stop as they come round a blind corner. Essentially you just want something that keeps everyone safe."

Gary Mosen said he had had two close calls on the crossing.

"Either you've got to reduce the speed or have flashing lights," he said.

Matthew Kidd who lives not far from the crossing said he had had three near misses.

"When trucks go past this pothole it shakes my whole house," he said.

Mark Bellringer said "regular" truck drivers who use the road know about the crossing and respect it. The message just needs to be passed on to others. He had earlier travelled with one truck driver who said he always drove at around 30kph through this part of town. Even then, said Mark, they had seen one car pull out in front of them.

He said he was pleased with the turnout.

"We got 22 plus people out at 7.30 in the morning. We're definitely slowing the traffic and making them think about it."

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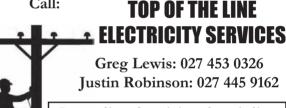
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Coastal Taranaki School is a vibrant area school situated in Okato, only thirty kilometers from Taranaki's main city New Plymouth.

The school caters for students from Years 0–13 (5 to 18 years old) and offers a variety of learning experiences alongside the core subjects required by the New Zealand government.

SPORTS

Coastal Taranaki School has been working hard to reintegrate sport back into our kura post the COVID-19 pandemic. This had been a gradual process to begin with, with all safety regulations and policies recommended by sport NZ adhered too. We have many keen athletes who have been waiting patiently to re-commence their sports. Our leaders in our sports committee have worked wonderfully to reintroduce sport internally through many skills and drills days. It was fantastic to see our year 7 girls, Jasmine Kemesly, Francie O'Sullivan, Shiloh Baylis and Cairah Forrest run interactive skills sessions for our aspiring netballers.

Ryan from TSSSA has also been out to CTS for the past three weeks. He has been teaching our keen basketballers the basic skills and key rules. We look forward to Ryan continuing his basketball programme in term 3.

Kelvin from Taranaki Rugby has also been back into CTS and has taken some awesome sessions of rippa-rugby. Room 21 and 19 have been the lucky recipients to date, with our intermediate school next in line to enjoy in some quick rip festivities!

We are excited to see the re-introduction of skills4life recommencing for both our Primary and Intermediate aged students. This programme run by Kelly Sports/Sport Taranaki aims to provide all students with skills to achieve in their chosen sports, whilst equipping our students with important life lessons such as humility, working as a team and manaakitanga. This will be an exciting programme for our tamariki moving into term 3.



Our footballers have already recommenced their seasons! It is awesome to see so many CTS students giving it their best on a weekly basis. Ida, our football-mum-extraordinaire, informs me we have scored some amazing goals already! Keep it up, team.

Finally, Term 3 sees the re-introduction of our beloved team sports along the coast. All the best to our netballers, rugby players and other individual codes who recommence. Give it your best and remember to look after your mates and coaches as we re-enter the sporting spaces post COVID. Coastal Taranaki School looks forward to our inter-school sport days recommencing in term 3 and we will provide up-dates on the when and where of these exchanges when they come to light.

PUANGA / MATARIKI

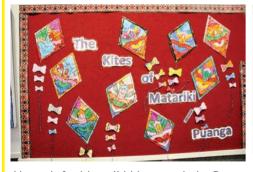
Tērā a Puanga ka rewa ki te pae.

Puanga has risen above our maunga signalling the beginning of a new year. Coastal Taranaki School celebrated this annual event with a pre-dawn ceremony attended by the wider whānau of our kura.

We were blessed with a beautiful clear sky, making it easy to see Puanga (Rigel), Matariki (Pleiades) Tautoru (Orion's Belt) and Kōpū (Venus).

This was followed by a pancake breakfast organised and prepared by our Senior Kaupapa Māori students who did a fantastic job making sure everyone was fed. This was an awesome way to gather together, to reflect on the past year and finish Term 2.

Mauri Ora!





Above left: Matariki kites made by Rooms 15/16 Above right: Senior Kaupapa Māori students Below left: Pre-dawn Puanga ceremony Below right: Year 4/5 korowhai (cloak) for Matariki





MUSIC

Yay- this term we have moved into our flash new music studio rooms! The soundproof walls have been wonderful in helping students practice with a sense of privacy as they experiment on new instruments and songs. Lots of great music being made as the seniors move towards presenting their work to an audience.



YOUNG ENTERPRISE SCHEME

Our Young Enterprise Team, Ora, recently delivered their business pitch to a panel of four judges in New Plymouth. This event was Challenge Two of five challenges which our students will have to meet during 2020. Te Ahumairangi Waaka, Taysha Ryder and Nalani Renau represented our school proudly and achieved 86 points out of 100 for their presentation and placed in the top 5 groups in Taranaki!

At school the students have been busy making coffees and the before school sales to staff have been very popular.



Bayleys Taranaki passionate about the province



Angela Sefton.

The team at Bayleys Taranaki, are passionate and professional property experts brought together by their love for the province and cover the region from well-located offices in New Plymouth and Hawera.

Bayleys Taranaki General Manager, Dean File says, "We have specialists across all sectors, residential and lifestyle, rural, commercial and industrial, as well as property management."

"In the residential and lifestyle market prices have certainly held up well, following on from the Covid-19 lockdown, with excellent demand for most properties offered for sale. We are also seeing high levels of enquiry from overseas, with expats looking to return



Dean File.

to New Zealand certainly looking to buy, "said Dean.

The reality is that New Zealand is considered a very safe part of the world, especially now. Angela Sefton is a Residential and Lifestyle salesperson for Bayleys and specialises along the coast, including Opunake.

Angela has a real and genuine passion for

Opunake, owning an Opunake property and appreciates first-hand all that this area has to offer.

"It is a great lifestyle or holiday destination, with popular beaches for swimming, surfing or recreation, an assortment of shops including cafés, and a picture theatre. It offers a friendly and enjoyable pace of life, away from the



John Blundell.

rush of a bigger city," said Angela.

"Bayleys are proud to support a rather diverse range of sporting and community groups right around the mountain. Amongst these are a partnership with Taranaki RFU to support the High School and College 1st XV competition, as well as the Taranaki Thunder Basketball team, which has strong Coastal Taranaki ties", says Dean.

Bayleys Rural salesperson, John Blundell is also very supportive of a number of groups along the coast, including Coastal Rugby, appreciating just how vital it is to help these clubs or groups as they play such an important part in the wellbeing of the local community.





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ranged between 79 % and 147 % of normal, with an average across all sites of 111 %, according Taranaki to (TRC) council regional figures.. This is the first where average rainfall has exceeded 100% of normal across monitored sites in 2020. Just six sites

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recorded below rainfall for the month and these sites were: Kahui Hut (98 %), Pohokura Saddle (97 %), Manaia (88 %), Charlies Clearing (79 %), Moana Trig (85 %) and Ngutuwera (91 %). Rainfall fell regularly across the month, with rain being recorded on between 13 and 20 days across most

sites. Monitoring sites on Mount Taranaki recorded rainfall on between 21 and 24 days.

Due to the drier than normal start to the year, the year to date rainfall is below normal across all monitored sites. Rainfall totals across sites ranges between 60 % and 93 % of normal, with an average of 78 %. Waiwhakaiho at Egmont Village has recorded 1012.0 mm (93 % of normal) for the first six months of the year, while Manaia has recorded just 323.0 mm (60 %).

River flows were mixed for the month with four sites (Manganui, Waiwhakaiho, Waiongana, and Kapoaiaia) recording between 117 % and 143 % of normal, while the other five sites (Waitara, Waingongoro, Punehu, Tawhiti and Whenuakura) recorded mean flows of only 62 % to 74 % of normal.

maximum temperature for the month was 20.33 °C recorded at Brooklands Zoo, while the coolest was -0.08 °C recorded at Whareroa. The mean air temperature for the region was 11.66 °C, which was 0.79 °C warmer than the long term June average. June also saw two sites record new monthly maximums, these were Brooklands Zoo (20.33 °C) and Motunui (19.00 °C).

Due to the warmer than normal air temperatures during June. water temperatures were all above normal for the month by between 0.32 °C and 1.12 °C. The

Timaru site recorded a new June maximum water temperature of 12.94 °C.

Due to the lower than rainfall normal the start of the year, soil moistures for the month remained below normal by between 0.02 % and 14.28 %. Four sites recorded new June minimums, these were: Hillsborough (23.74 %), Okato (10.50 %), Te Kiri (21.36 %) and Waitotara at Coast (24.13 %). Soil temperature sites recorded above normal by between



0.55 °C and 2.05 °C. No new extremes were recorded.

Farm manager fined for hitting cows

A Whangarei farm manager has been fined \$3,130 for failing to minimise pain and distress in dairy cattle.

Michael Luke, Ian 62-year-old former dairy Mangapai farm manager, appeared in the Whangarei District Court on July 6 for sentencing after the case was brought to court by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI).

The charge was related to hitting a cow with an alkathene pipe and a metal

Luke entered a guilty plea to a representative charge under the Animal Welfare Act 1999. He was convicted and ordered to pay \$3,130.

As a farm manager, it was Luke's responsibility to ensure the dairy cows in his care were handled in a way that minimised the likelihood of unreasonable or unnecessary pain and

MPI director of compliance Gary Orr said people who were in charge of animals had a duty of care toward them. MPI investigates reports of animal mistreatment and appropriate action

against offenders.

"The law is clear on these matters and anyone would agree this does not meet our high standards for the care of animals."

Between 1 April and 18 May 2018, Luke handled violently, dairy cows including striking them with excessive force with an alkathene pipe and hitting them about the legs with a metal pipe.

Luke hit one cow in particular about the legs with a metal pipe so severely that both legs were badly swollen and she struggled to walk.

In a statement, MPI said instances where individuals are seen to demonstrate poor standards of animal welfare impact on the New Zealand public's perception of the dairy industry, and the perception of the industry overseas. This in turn impacts on responsible industry players and New Zealand as a whole.

"In New Zealand, everyone must take responsibility for animal welfare. We strongly encourage any member of the public who is aware of animal ill-treatment or cruelty to report it to the MPI animal welfare complaints freephone 0800 00 83 33 so that prompt action can be taken," the statement read.

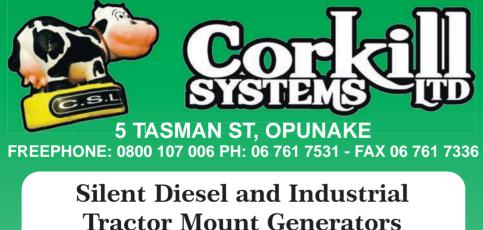
SAFE CEO Debra Ashton says film footage had been taken after complaints had been made by farm workers.

"This man repeatedly beat the animals under his care and has walked away with one of the lightest sentences that we've seen in a while It's a shocking outcome," she says.

The evidence gathered by Farmwatch had been deemed inadmissible by the judge.

"If MPI had done their job properly, it wouldn't be left to volunteers to gather evidence of animal abuse,' says Ashton. "Unless MPI is stripped of their animal welfare responsibilities, animals will continue to be abused and fall through the cracks of the system."

Ashton says she wants the Minister of Agriculture O'Connor Damien support the establishment of a Crown entity with the sole responsibility of ensuring Zealand's welfare laws are adhered to.



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Boost for Transforming Taranaki Scheme

A \$5 million Government funding boost accelerate completion of the Transforming Taranaki management riparian programme, following more than 25 years of fencing and planting of waterways by Taranaki farmers.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has announced Taranaki Regional Council scheme was one of 22 Council-submitted regional projects awarded a total of \$62 million from the Government's Jobs for Nature Programme.

Council chair David MacLeod says the funding is fantastic news for the region. It will help farmers who



Close to one million native plants will be distributed in Taranaki next year.

have shown commitment to implementing riparian plans

to complete their planting. "Riparian plan holders have voluntarily committed their time, effort and money to fencing and planting since the scheme began 27 years ago. They should be incredibly proud of the work they have done and

the impact it is having on our water quality and landscape," Mr MacLeod "This new funding will

significantly reduce costs

and allow many landowners

to make that final push to the

finish line."

Close to one million native plants will be distributed

holders in 2021, with the goal of planting 650km of waterways. A record of nearly 600,000 plants were distributed this financial year, making a total of more than 6.2 million since the scheme began.

As at 30 December 2019, a total of 87.4% (14,012 kms) of the region's streams were fenced and 75.6% (9,270km) of streambank that required planting or vegetation were protected by vegetation.

The \$5 million funding is also expected to provide employment for more than 100 people over the life of the project.

Mr MacLeod says the environmental benefits of the programme are improved water quality and an increase in biodiversity, with the plants providing habitat for native birds and cover for aquatic species.

An independent NIWA report last year found the ecological health of Taranaki rivers and streams was either improving or not showing any significant changes. At many sites, testing showed the best results since monitoring began in 1995.

Mr MacLeod says the Council encourages landowners to push on with their riparian plans and take this opportunity to bring their properties up to speed before new regulations come

Council Land Management Officers will be in touch with riparian plan holders over the coming months.

Wool can be shiny and new again

Federated Farmers says harnessing outside expertise and being market driven are keys to developing a sound strategic roadmap for reviving New Zealand's strong wool sector.

In its vision and action report, the Wool Industry Project Action Group says it believes we are on the cusp of a natural fibre renaissance led by more environmentally and socially conscious consumers. A new approach is needed to seize this opportunity and turn things around for the sector.

"We agree with that assessment," Federated Farmers Meat & Wool William Chairperson Beetham says.

"Making sure the process is customer-focused and open about what needs to change will be critical.'

The recommendation for creation of an Executive Officer role to drive action is sensible, William says.

"The most important part of this role would be sector connection and coordination, bringing farmers closer to those who sell the end product. This will add significant value to wool through shortening the value chain and creating transparency through the supply chain.

Achieving governance will be the prime factor if the sector is to avoid a repeat of earlier failed attempts to turn around the fortunes of strong wool.

"The Governance oversight recommended in the plan, in my opinion, should be professional and selected based on their skills and insights, with the ability to deliver strong governance systems.

"Any board established shouldn't be too large, have diversity, should consider the growing Maori economy and be able to embrace the food and fibre sectors vision of Te Taiao (working with the natural world/our environment).

"The governance should not be compromised, it must create accountability and drive the vision"

There are young people in our industry all over New Zealand who also 'get' Te Taiao and they're doing amazing things with wool in fashion, home décor and related sectors, William said.

"These are the people who put our environment, cultural and social connections at the forefront of why they do what they do. To me, these are our leaders and this is the integrity in our brand that we need to be focusing on."

Agriculture Minister Damien O'Connor is right when he acknowledges there is no single idea or government policy to solve the wool sector's problems, Williams says.

"Let's gather the very best talent we can find, and get on with this. If we can effectively highlight to global markets and consumers the incredible qualities of natural wool to warm themselves and their homes, we can make wool 'shiny and new again'.

"Building wool returns through a market-driven process, back to a point where it comprises a large amount of New Zealand's sheep and beef farmers' income, would deliver jobs and prosperity for all New

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FARMING Thursday, July 16, 2020

Farm sector pleased changes provide certainty

DairyNZ and Federated Farmers say they are pleased the government has announced that they are extending employer assisted temporary work visas which are due to expire by the end

DairyNZ people team leader Jane Muir says the six month extension is excellent news for farmers and the estimated 3000 dairy farm employees whose temporary visas are due to expire.

"The dairy sector, farm employers and our farm employees on temporary visas have been calling on the government to provide a solution. We are pleased they have listened," said Ms Muir.

"We are about to go into the busiest time of the farming year with calving urgently sought certainty that farmers would be able to keep their existing staff."

Federated Farmers and DairyNZ have repeatedly highlighted to government the plight of migrant workers needed by the dairy sector, both those already working in the country and those stuck overseas.



Ian Lees-Galloway

"We need these people. They are key to our daily business on-farm," Federated Farmers immigration spokesperson Chris Lewis says.

DairyNZ has a GoDairy campaign underway to attract and train Kiwis for the 1000 additional jobs currently up for grabs on dairy farms.

"In the medium to longterm we expect to see dairy's reliance on migrants decrease but it will take time our migrants have skills we can't replace quickly,

they are highly valued and they can help train Kiwis,' said Ms Muir.

Immigration Minister Ian Lees-Galloway had announced the government is shifting a stand down period that applies to some migrants by six months to February 2021.

Migrant workers who were subject to the 12-month stand-down period and were going to have to leave New Zealand this year, will now be able to stay for the duration of the extension.

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Michael and Leslie Thank You!!

As you may already be aware we have sold our engineering business to Gary and Christina Preston of Preston Engineering.

Much will stay the same as: Mike is contracting to Preston Engineering on a daily basis, however, retains ownership of Michael Bloemen Engineering for the Manufacturing and Servicing of our High Runner Backing Gate and Bloemen Chainless Bale Feeder. Gary has been with us for over a year now, getting familiar with the day to day operations of the business. Both local to Taranaki, Christina comes from a dairy family and Gary brings with him 22 years of Rotary Platform experience.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all. It has been a pleasure and honour to be of service throughout your various projects, repair and maintenance work over the past 24 years.

We wish everyone well and look forward to continuing to provide the very best service going forward.

We wish Gary and Christina all the best for the future.



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High Runner Backing Gate



Will you grow enough grass this season?

Spring-sown crops will be vital this season to help keep animals well fed on Taranaki farms.

Pastures affected by dry conditions last season could grow much less grass than normal in the next 12 months, and bought-in supplements are both scarce and expensive.

Looking towards spring, home-grown forage like chicory, brassicas, maize and fodder beet could be the best way to fill this pending deficit, says a local agronomist.

Janelle Gillum, who works in the pasture systems team at Barenbrug, says some farms started winter with lower than average pasture covers, and this could continue.

"Then we face a really important question – what can we use to make up the difference?"

The true extent of pasture damage caused the dry may not become clear until soils start to warm up, and spring grass in some paddocks simply doesn't come away as expected, Janelle says.

She's urging farmers to start thinking about this sooner rather than later. The most effective response in many situations will



Janelle Gillum.

be sowing larger areas of summer crop than usual.

The key is to look at feed requirements for the coming season at the budgeted level of production, and stock condition, then subtract the likely effect of the dry on grass growth.

Home-grown feed is always a more cost-effective way to fill such deficits than anything that arrives in a truck, Janelle says.

Annual-type chicory like 501 Chicory is one of the easiest summer feeds to fit into many systems, because it's a multi-graze crop that will provide high quality feed from December through to March, and potentially April.

As well as growing valuable extra DM/ha, it has high ME and protein to keep cows milking or lambs

growing well in summer.

Interval rape and Dynamo turnips also have a good fit for increasing farm DM growth, as do mixes of cultivars, such as chicory and red clover, which provide different fodder flows.

"Fodder beet is a potential option for autumn feed, and of course maize is a high yielding crop for silage production, which is very important given the effect of the dry on farmers' own supplement reserves."

There's no one size fits all solution – the answer is more likely to be a mix of different options depending on farmers' individual situations, Janelle says. In all cases, however, advance planning will help ensure the best possible result.



Chicory.









Sam Iones.

Manaia Golf results

Jones on his inclusion in New Zealand Golf's 2020 Academy Squad. Also well done to Ethan Jones on winning the 2019-2020 Helena Harbridge Award. This was achieved by working hard as a golfer and a student. He was nominated by the coach and staff.

Congratulations to the Manaia S4enior Men's Pennant team (Sam Jones, Caleb Symes, Caleb Andreoli, Paul Hunn, Kerry Otene) on winning the Taranaki Senior Men's Te Ngutu against New Plymouth Manaia five and a half-New Plymouth half.

June 20. Saturday Men. 1. Ralph Symes. 2. Grant Gopperth. 3. Kevin Murrell. 4. Denis Hurcomb. 5. Sam

End of Month. 1. Nathan Ngere. 2. John Oliver. 3. Jamie Johnston. 4. A. Conner.

June 27. Saturday Men. 1. Sam Jones. 2. Grant Gibbs. 3. Grant Gopperth. 4. Blake

July 4. Saturday Men. 1. Logan Kennett. 2. Neil Scown. 3. Phil Elliott. 4. Trevor Larsen.

Junior. 1. Ashton Sharp. 2. Jaden Siciliano. 3. Liam Campbell. 1. Oliva Symes. 2. Carter Symes. 1. Payton Siciliano. 2. Hannah Symes. 3. Luke Norris.

July 11. Saturday Men. Third Round Sowman Trophy. 1. Phil Elliott. 2. John Oliver. 3. Trevor Larsen. 4. Paul Hunn and Gary Dowdle.

Manaia Golf Club

New premier hockey league underway next month

The country's top men's women's hockey players will feature in a new Premier Hockey League launching next month.

The eight-team (four men and four women), 28-match competition will double as a selection event for the Vantage Black Sticks as they rebuild towards

next year's postponed FIH the women. Pro League and the Tokyo Olympics.

be held at the new purposebuilt National Hockey Centre in Albany. The the Minister of Sport and league will run from August 20-23 and September 9-13 for the men, and August 27- NZ and Minister Robertson

Hockey New Zealand CEO Ian Francis said they The inaugural league will were excited to deliver the competition following the funding announcement from Recreation Grant Robertson.

"We're grateful to Sport 30 and September 17-20 for for the incredible support,

and look forward to bringing top-class domestic hockey to our communities".

"Hockey in New Zealand underwent a comprehensive strategic review to ensure we were fit-for-purpose to achieve one of our key goals for the Vantage Black Sticks Men and Women – to win medals at the upcoming

Olympics.

"We have evolved our system to ensure we work more closely with the next tier of players, as well as helping bridge the gap between club and international hockey. This will not only help our national team's performance on the world stage, but it will continue to grow our game."

Players for the league will be selected from across the country and are all available for Vantage Black Sticks selection. Many are part of the newly developed Performance Network, and all have been back training to prepare for full match play next month.



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On this month in history Homosexual Law reform passed

On July 9, 1986 the Homosexual Law Reform bill was passed in the NZ Parliament. This measure legalised consensual sexual acts between males 16 years and older.

This removed the provisions of the 1961 Crimes Act which criminalised this behaviour.

Labour Party Fran Wilde (later Dame) was the instigator of this reform. She was later elected mayor of Wellington.

Labour MPs voted 46-7 in support while National voted 35-3 against and Social Credit 2-0 against also.

Earlier, the National Party 's Venn Young in 1974 proposed a similar change in the law (Crimes Amendment bill) removing criminality for homosexual acts for men 21 and over, but this was defeated 34-29 (with 23 abstensions).

Venn Young was the father of current MP for New Plymouth Jonathan Young.



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Tough fortnight for Premiers



Rick McKenna leapfrogs the opposition.

It has been a tough two weeks at the office for the Farmsource Coastal

Premiers.
On Saturday July 4 Coastal took on NPOBs at Rahotu.
Coastal had won two from two and NPOBs had lost two from two.

NPOBs started on fire with a try in the opening two minutes. Coastal only managed a penalty by Rick McKenna in the first half and went into the break trailing 3-22. The home side controlled possession for long periods during the second half, but often failed to convert into points. Turnovers cost Coastal points and NPOBs took the match 42-15.

Point scorers for Coastal were Jeremy Newell and Jacob Gopperth (tries.) and Rick McKenna)a penalty and a conversion).

Man of the match was Scott Meekins.

A week later and competition leaders Tukapa travelled to Rahotu. Coastal scored first in a very tight first half, but the scores were locked at 5-5 at half time.

The second half was just as tight as the first with the lead changing three times. It was anyone's game until the end, but Tukapa came out on top 21-12, a last minute penalty

depriving Coastal of a bonus point. Coastal scorers were Jeremy Newell and Rawiri Naniseni (tries) and Rick McKenna (conversion).

Man of the match was Josh

Next week Coastal travel to Inglewood, so join the supporters and support the boys. There is some fantastic rugby to be watched. See you there.

Brian Oliver

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game of three halves for Coastal Women

With only three teams in the competition this year a game of three halves was held in Inglewood on Saturday July 11. It was a crisp morning with loads of snow on the mountain to provide a stunning backdrop for the day. Coastal took on the Southern team in the first half of the day. Southern are putting their hand up to be the front runner for the title with NZ sevens player Gayle Broughton and ex Coastal Iritana Hohaia player directing the team around the field. Coastal showed gutsy defence and made Southern work for their tries which all came from long range efforts.

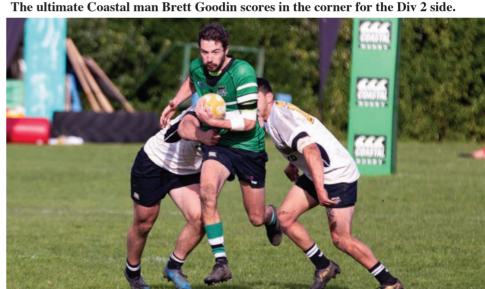
The second half of the day against Clifton was much improved with Coastal managing to hold onto the ball for long periods of time to build pressure. After holding the ball for a few phases space opened up out wide for Leah Barnfield to score Coastal's first try of the day. Brooke Sim was back from injury and showed some great direct running to open up Clifton through the middle and get Coastal's second try under the posts which was converted by Danielle Muggeridge. Coastal were under the pump and after a few penalties in quick succession in their own half they were shown a yellow card. Clifton used the extra woman to capitalize on a try. With time almost up on the clock the kick off was taken. Clifton didn't secure it and

ended up with a lineout on their 5m line. It was scrappy with the ball lose in goal. And wowee I have never seen Nicole Whittle move so quickly. She must have been doing some speed work during lockdown.... She got

a bit of whiteline fever and wanted that meat pie more than an undie run. A good way to finish the game of three halves.

Coastal's next game is against Clifton on Saturday July 18 at Tikorangi.





Trent VanderPoel finds a gap.



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A loss and a win for the Colts



Jacob Whittle stretches out to score against NPOB.

Corkill Systems Colts played NPOB on July 4 which we knew was not going to be a walk in the park. The boys started with a hiss and a roar and scored in the first two minutes with a try by Sione Tuitupou in the corner. Old Boys returned the favour about 10 minutes later. Both teams were grinding it out for the next 25 minutes in what was a low scoring affair. Coastal managed to sneak in a try

by Jacob Whittle just before half time to see the score 10 - 5 to Coastal

The second half was a hard battle as both teams were there to win. Coastal showed solid defence, as a very good and determined Old Boys side kept bringing it to us. Finally the boys got ball in hand and found some forward momentum which sent Harry Remnant over the line with Kobe Sinclair slotting the conversion. In

a game that saw two teams playing good positive rugby, the score was always going to be close. NPOB scored in the last minute taking the win 19 - 17

On July 11, Corkill Systems Colts took on Spotswood at Spotswood. Coastal were a little slow to get going with Spotswood putting in an outstanding performance and making our boys work hard. Kobe Sinclair was the first to score with a full field

runaway try. With the boys working hard,a few more tries were scored and by half time the score was 24 - 0 Coastal.

In the second half our hard working forward pack gave our backline a constant supply of good front football. This allowed us to play a good open running style of rugby which was enjoyable to watch. Final score 64 - 0.

Deb Davies

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Artists Corner



Liz Sinclair **Oil Painting**

"I am a Kiwi and have spent 27 years living overseas in various countries. This experience has influenced my work. The enjoyment of other cultures and alternative artistic interpretation has had a particular influence on my use of light and shade and also my interpretation of colour.

I am an artist and a gardener, so much of my inspiration comes from nature, particularly

My preferred media are oils and pastels. I do enjoy sculpture as well. My works are available for purchase at Pihama Lavender and on the website for Opunake Open Artists. Liz Sinclair, Pihama



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Oil Painting Liz Sinclair

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Radioactive

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Sam Riley, Anya Taylor-Joy, Simon Russell Beale, Aneurin Barnard, Katherine Parkinson. Screening at Everybodys Theatre. Sunday August 2 at 7 pm

Yes, Boutique night is back. Relaxing in a lazyboy chair or on a comfy couch, enjoying a fabulously yum platter, and a glass of your favourite beverage. What

Starring: Rosamund Pike. a great way to wind up your weekend.

> Everybody's Theatre's first Boutique is the mesmerising story of Marie Sklodowska-Curie. I found it fascinating to see into the world of someone who is a household name, but really knew nothing about. Chaka Khan's song "Woman in a Man's World" couldn't be more apt. It's difficult to believe she achieved such



Marie and Pierre Curie

scientific breakthroughs and bold acclaim. Science wasn't my strongpoint at school. I blame my third form Science teacher, Mr W, who wore police mirror glasses so you had no idea who he was looking at. We then had to cope with a change of teacher, as he was expelled for some sort of cavorting with a fifth former at the school social. Anyway, even lacking faculty of the scientific nature, Marie's story totally drew me in, and combined with the romance of her marriage to Pierre Curie (Sam Riley), *Radioactive* is hard to fault.

It's not all happy sailing. Pierre sensibly suggests ripple effects from their discovery of radium and polonium. We are shown the negative outcomes in flashforward sequences that could be executed with a bit more skill. There is scandal too. Marie stands her ground, with the determination, courage and wit she exhibits from the outset of the movie. I love her direct communication and no-frills attitude. Though, she has a moment of regret, wishing she'd been frillier toward her husband.

"You have one of the finest minds I've met. It just so happens that mine is finer." – Marie Curie

Director, Marjane Satrapi, totally nailed the ending. It could have fallen into a hole of asinine emotion, but she managed to give it a certain forthright credence. Much like Marie herself.

I walked out of Radioactive feeling inspired by a woman who, in a man's world, brought home two Nobel Prizes, and raised two daughters. One of whom went on to further her mother's discoveries. I felt ready to go out to conquer, and affirm my own place on the planet. Maybe not in science, thanks to Mr W, but definitely in my own field of expertise. If Marie can do what she did 118 years ago, there's nothing holding us back now. Except ourselves.

Jane Forkert

Opunake LibraryPlus book review

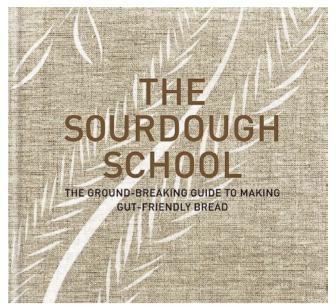
The Sourdough School by Vanessa Kimbell

It's still soup and toast weather out there which is what I have been enjoying since I have been making some fabulous sourdough bread. Therefore I have decided to share this wonderful book I have been learning from.

I love the easy science of this book, the explanations are clear and helpful and the recipes fun and easy. I think it suits beginners and more experienced bakers although I do see reviews are quite mixed online. I freely ignore reviews and like to make up my own mind and in this case it was a good decision.

Other good sourdough baking books I read this week were: Modern sourdough: sweet and savoury recipes from Margot Bakery by Michelle Eshkeri and Wild sourdough: the natural way to bake by Yoke Mardewi-Caddy

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Maria Brewerton RLIANZA Kaiārahi Whare Pukapuka

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The Province of Art

We are fortunate in New Zealand - good management has brought us out from lockdown.

Artists had no outlet for their work - galleries closed, no buying visitors to the studios. So here we emerge. On the Virtual Tart website. More than 120 artworks, from 20 Taranaki artists, some needing a bit of income, and some needing to clear some space for new work. A



Paul Hutchinson - Self Portrait in a Mask

couple of months of making, and no more room on the walls. So we hope there's something that appeals to

Titled The Province of Art read that either as Taranaki, New Zealand's province of art, or the legal meaning of province ...the purpose of art. The province

of art is to give pleasure and thought and beauty to the observer, and also to be the livelihood and survival of the artist.

Here's hoping. The Province of Art Put together at no cost to the artists, thanks to support from Creative New Zealand.

Dale Copeland

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**BOUTIQUE'S ARE BACK **

Drama, True Story, Romance |1hr 43min |M; Sex

THE QUEENS CORGI

Sat 18th July 1pm

Sun 26th July 7pm

RADIOACTIVE

scenes, offensive language

Sun 2nd Aug 1pm I Sat 8th Aug 1pm

WHITE RIOT

72 Tasman Street, Opunake - www.everybodystheatre.co.nz - Phone 027 3837926

JULY 2020

Adults \$10, Students 4-16yrs and Senior Citizens \$8, Under 4 free

THE WRETCHED

Horror|1hr 35mins|R:16: Violence and Horror Fri 17th July 7pm

Drama, Thriller|1hr 27min |M; Language, Sexual Themes Sat 18th July 7pm

A BUMP ALONG THE WAY Comedy, Drama| 1hr 35mins | M; Offensive Language, Sexual References

Sun 19th July 7pmlSat 25th July 7pm

THE HIGH NOTE

Drama, Romance|1hr 53min|M; Offensive Language Fri 31st July 7pm

THE LAST FULL MEASURE Drama, War |1hr 56min |M; Violence, Offensive

Fri 24th July 7pm ISun 26th July 1pm

Help us paint the stage - Vote for us with Colourplus - online or instore at Sinclair Electrical

What's On Listings



Labour Party candidate Glen Bennett: Every second Tuesday 10am to 12 noon at Coastal Care, 26 Napier St, Opunake. Next meeting is on July 21.

Jonathan Young: Need to chat with your local MP Jonathan Young? Jonathan will now hold his meetings at Coastal Care. For more information phone: 06 7591363. Or email newplymouthmp@parliament.govt.nz

Movies at Everybodys Theatre in Opunake: Playing several days and nights each week. Refer timetable in newspaper.

SUNDAYS:

Open Mic at the Rahotu Tavern: Every second Sunday from 1-5pm.

MONDAYS: Tainui Day Centre - St Barnabas Church Hall, 141 Tasman Street Opunake: Each Monday 10 am - 12:230 pm. Information call Jenny 7618080 or Glenys 6558025

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

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

Life Drawing Group: Weekly at the Emporium, 86 Tasman St, Opunake at 7pm. \$10 to pay for the model.

WEDNESDAYS

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

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

THURSDAYS

Coastal Young Farmers: Meet 2nd Thursday of every month at 7pm at the Okato Bowling

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

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

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

WEEKENDS

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

"Don't Forget Your Roots" exhibition: At Lysaght Watt Gallery, 6 Union St, Hawera. Open from 10am-2pm Mon to Friday and 10am to 12pm Saturdays. **FRIDAY JULY 17**

'Taranaki Interclub 2020' Photography, Print & Digital Exhibition: At the Baptist Church, Stratford from 6-7pm. Brought to you by the Stratford Camera Club.

SATURDAY JULY 18

Car Boot/Small Livestock sale: At Rahotu Tavern, 9am start..

SUNDAY JULY 19

Opunake Surf Life Saving Club AGM: At the Surf Club, Opunake, 10am. **Cape Egmont Boat Club AGM:** At the Club Rooms, Bayley Rd, 12pm.

Orimupiko Reserve Trust AGM: At Te Kohanga Reo O Te Namu, Tasman St, Opunake.

Kaponga Fishing Club AGM: At the Kaponga Fire Station, Kaponga, 6pm.

Opunake & District Business Association meeting: 5.30pm at the Opunake Business

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 5

Pihama Hall Society Inc AGM: 7pm at Pihama Hall.

THURSDAY AUGUST 6 TO SATURDAY AUGUST 8

Ben Hurley - The Straight out of Lockdown Tour: At Waverley, Pihama and Ohangai. See ad and editorial from the last issue of OCN for more details.

Heads up for the Taranaki **Interclub 2020**



Fishermans Hut and Hawkdun range

hosting the 2020 Taranaki Inter-Club.

The Taranaki Interclub event is held annually combining the four Taranaki Camera Clubs – New Plymouth, Inglewood, Hawera and Stratford.

The groups take turns at organising the day which consists of presenters, a salon of prints and digital images from both Club Sets and individual Camera Club members, and a chance to meet and interact with other photography enthusiasts sharing ideas, inspiring and motivating each other while sharing good food and refreshments.

The results from a highly contested annual competition, a judged set of six prints and a set of six digital images from each club is always eagerly awaited.

An exhibition of the print and digital entries will be on display 6-7 pm Friday July 17

Stratford Camera Club is in the Baptist Church Hall with free entry.

> Guest photographer Pauline Neilson (Whanganui) will entertain, challenge and enlighten us with her presentation.

> As an artist Pauline Neilson wants to convey the feeling, not simply produce an image of an object, person or landscape. Starting as a commercial photographer, she merged her artistic passions and extended her work into digital painting and personalised books. Her art is not only her own visual story but the life story of others. She has produced books documenting the long term, passionate involvement that rural New Zealanders have with their land and communities.

> Her biggest early frustration has been the limitations in her knowledge of the use of the tools of her artistic trade so she has invested

time in ongoing study and experimentation to learn her craft and develop her own style to create art that puts down on canvas what she feels and how she experiences the elegant mystery of life.

Her artwork is a blending of her interpretation of what she sees and an in-depth knowledge of the tools she

Her art sparks something in her viewers that reminds them to take a breath and remember why they are here and what is important. To savour the natural world that teaches us through sacred design about balance and harmony, chaos and excess, and about change.

Pauline lives in rural Wanganui. She has been working as a photographer since 1990 and exhibiting her art throughout New Zealand and internationally since then.



The Louvre 2.

Lorraine M

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4 day old Calf sale Held every Thursday at Hawera A&P **Show Grounds at 12.30pm**

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Livestock Representative - Coastal Taranaki, NZ

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The Village Gallery, Eltham, presents: **OHAWE BEACH ROCKS!** 28 July to 21 August An exhibition featuring work from the members of the Ohawe Creative Community: McAlpine, Ann Goulden, Amy Thor Carly Murray, Dave Lee & Anne-Maree Godfrey, Errin Rita, Sylvia Thompson, Tracey Christodoulou The Village Gallery | 166 High Street, Eltham OPEN MONDAY - SATURDAY 10AM - 3PM





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Inquiries to Brenda Pittams - Ph 06 278 4169

Motor vehicle round trip to New Plymouth:

Time: 2.15 hours,

Cost: 122 kms at 0.76 cents (AA published rate) \$92.72

Motor vehicle round trip to Hawera:

Time: 1.25 hours,

Cost: 88 kms at 0.76 cents (AA published rate) \$66.88

Community Spirit

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Farm Source Gibson Plumbers Ian & Judith Armstrong Jean Roach the Coast Little French Bird Photography

Karams Clothes on Opunake & Coastal News Opunake Chinese Opunake Beach Kiwi

Opunake High School **Pastimes** Phoenix 45 **Pickering Motors** Pihama Lavender Ravbern Entertainment Retro on 45 Sinclair Electrical & Refrigeration Turn Heads Viv Scott

Holiday Park Your business could be here if you join the Opunake & District Business Association

PUBLIC NOTICES

CAR BOOT / **SMALL LIVESTOCK SALE**

\$5 per boot or pen Proceeds to Rahotu Hall 9am to 1pm Saturday July 18 All Welcome



UNPACK YOUR BAGGAGE

Jane at Happily Equanimous Ltd facilitates cellular memory release along with acupulsing (acupressure and holistic pulsing). Working on a physical and emotional level to help let go old wounds/trauma/setbacks that cause discomfort and dis-ease in the body and mind. Feel lighter and happier. To find out more contact: 021 113 3069 or

happilyeq@gmail.com or @happilyequanimous (facebook).

OPUNAKE

& DISTRICT

Next Meeting is on

August 3, 2020

at 5.30pm

Hughsons & Associates

Boardroom at the

Opunake Business Centre,

23 Napier St, Opunake

(opposite the Coastal Care

Medical Centre)

Orimupiko Reserve Trust AGM

26th July - 10am Te Kohanga Reo O Te

Namu Tasman St, Opunake

Addition to the agenda:

Nomination of trustees by rotation and vacancy

PIHAMA HALL SOCIETY INC AGM

Wednesday 5th August 2020, 7pm at the Pihama Hall

All welcome

T. Stevenson, Secretary

LOST

KEYS, somewhere Opunake some weeks ago. Similar to photo. Please phone 06 761 7016 or 06 761 8206.



WANTED TO BUY

SCRAP METAL - for all scrap metal Taranaki wide, give us a call. Molten Metals (06) 751 5367. www.moltenmetals.co.nz

BOTTLES pottery/stone jars and crocks. Private collector. Top prices paid. Ph 06 753 5761 or 021 141 8029.

A MAGNIFYING GLASS to assist someone to read, a glass one. perhaaps someone has one that they no longer need. Phone Fay 06 761 0940 or 06 761 7016.

WANTED TO RENT

WANTED TO RENT. Cottage or two bedroomed home in Opunake for 65 year old pensioner. Non smoker, non drinker. Please

call the OCN office.





STRATFORD CAMERA CLUB invites you to

'TARANAKI INTER-CLUB 2020'

Includes photography from the New Plymouth, Inglewood, Hawera and Stratford Camera Clubs. Free public pre - viewing of photography print and digital exhibition. 6-7pm Friday 17th July Baptist Church, 74 Portia St, Stratford. Enquiries Sue Morton President 027 873 2335 or Jocelyn 06 765 7596



Opunake-Rahotu Veterinary Trust

OPUNAKE RAHOTU VETERINARY **TRUST**

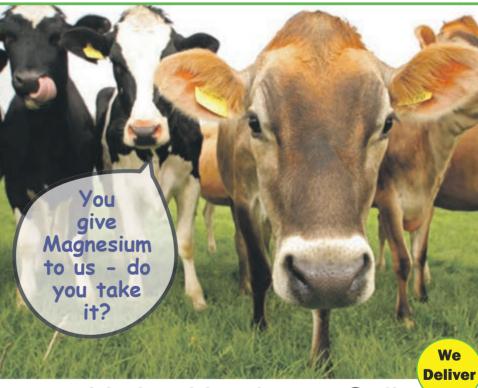
Applications are now open for students to apply to the Opunake Rahotu Veterinary Trust for financial assistance. To qualify for this grant you must be studying or in an apprenticeship and have a relationship to the Taranaki Coastal Farming Community (Okato - Kaponga – Oeo)

Applications close 31st July 2020. Forms available from: The Secretary

> PO Box 117 Opunake 4616

Phone: 021 729 471 - Email: ORVTrust@gmail.com

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