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Inside



It's not a dog, it's not a cat...it's a goat! Page 2



National Party leader in Hawera. Page 7.



The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe a great treat. Page 5.



Pirates take over Coastal Taranaki School. Page 9.



Driving trucks for 50 years. Page 17.



Me 'n' Gus, the musical. Back page.

Disappointment for Coastal fans

Coastal Rugby fans made their way to Inglewood on Saturday with high hopes that this would be their year.

Coastal had earlier taken out the inaugural Taranaki Women's title with a win against Clifton. The Premiers and Division 1 and Division 2 teams had all qualified for the CMK 2018 Club Rugby Finals after having won home semis the weekend before.

In one sense it was déjà vu. A year ago all three teams had made it through to the finals, which that year was held at Yarrow Stadium at New Plymouth. On that occasion, Division 2 had beaten Patea and Division 1 had beaten Spotswood United so were going in as reigning champions. The Premiers had lost narrowly 17-14 to Tukapa. This time Tukapa had failed to make it back, having been beaten by New Plymouth OB at the previous weekend's other semi.

With Yarrows Stadium being unavailable, all roads led to TET Stadium in Inglewood. In addition to three team buses, two supporters' buses had left Opunake at 10.30am and picked up people from Rahotu, Warea, Okato and at several points around New Plymouth. By the time they got to Inglewood, they had brought along 90 supporters. This was in addition to those Coastal fans who had arrived there on their own steam.

"We're going to win the whole lot," said Adrienne Young.

Peter Johnston who had farmed at Kina Road, Oaonui, but had since retired to New Plymouth said he still supported Coastal.

"We're still interested in



Riding the Wave in the stand during the Premiers game. From left. Hannah Burton, Lisa Appert, Victoria McCullough.

Coastal Rugby and we're going to see some good games," he said.

The first of the finals being played that day had kicked off at 11am, but for Coastal things began with the Division 2 final against Inglewood United on the No.2 field at 12.30pm, with the Division 1 final against Southern starting half an hour later at the main stadium.

Inglewood got off to a strong start and were up 15-5 at half time. The 10 point margin remained with the two sides trading unconverted tries. When Coastal scored a try in the corner, a conversion put them three points short and they had a sniff of victory. A

penalty attempt which could have levelled the scores and possibly taken the game into extra time was missed, giving Inglewood the win 20-17.

Coastal coach Jamie Taylor said Inglewood had capitalised on Coastal's mistakes.

"Inglewood did the correct things and had a little more attitude in the first 20 minutes of the game and showed it. After that our boys needed to dig deep and get our set pieces right."

Inglewood United captain Duncan Corlett paid tribute to Coastal.

"You guys set the standard for the last four or five years." He said it was a special day

for his Inglewood team, being able to win a home final on home turf.

Extra time was the determining factor in the Division 1 final. Halfway into the first half, Coastal nearly scored, and did touch down a few minutes after that. Another converted try gave them a 14-0 lead at half time, before the old cliché about a game of two halves kicked in. Southern put on 14 unanswered points to make the score level at fulltime. It now came down to golden point. The game would go on with the first team to score being the winner. A Southern

try sealed the matter.

Coastal coach Alan Crowley said playing golden point was a new experience for his players.

"Southern carried the ball really well and finished a bit stronger," he said.

As presentations were being made, the two Premiers teams were already making their way on to the field.

In the stand, Coastal supporters Hannah Burton, Lisa Appert and Victoria McCullough were waving a banner which said Ride the Wave.

Continued page 23

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Phone: Office (06) 761-7016, A/h (06) 761-8206

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For accounts, email: accounts@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

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Letters to the Editor
23 Napier Street, Opunake.

Fax: (06) 761 7016

email: editorial@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

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Halloween Scare Tactics

Good to see the letter, “Scare Tactics by National”. However, in his latest article, Mr. Young persists with more scare tactics by lamenting how Labour “will” cause deaths in healthcare when he writes, “The Government’s decision to abolish the health targets will cost lives.” Please leave this kind of scare tactic for gullible children on Halloween. For nine years National framed their health “social investment” model in financial terminology promising “eventual” long term positive health returns for Kiwis. Our health should not be treated like the long term return on a high risk Kiwisaver account. National wrote health policies on paper but didn’t front up with the hard cash. And there is still 9 billion dollars unaccounted for which has adeptly disappeared due to **accounting** magic. Are nurses, teachers and farmers happy about that? National has still failed to see that the health and lives of «all» New Zealanders has been compromised by nine years of waiting for pie in the sky social investment health returns. The cheek. Pots shouldn’t call kettles black.

A former National voter

Plastic bags impacting our irreplaceable environment

Plastic bags are a large portion of the litter in our streams, and are often ingested by animals, clogging their insides, which results in sickness or death. They

contain many toxins and chemicals including BPA, which has direct links to cancer.

They are made from oil. Each bag uses about the same amount that would drive a car 115 metres. We should be horrified by the impact that these unrecyclable, toxic, animal trapping objects are having.

So all you tidy Kiwis or eco friendly people, let’s sign some online petitions, have our say, refuse plastic bags at the supermarket.

A good tip is: load your groceries into a trolley, then straight into the boot of your car (without bags - it only takes seconds longer, when unpacking).

We all need to do our bit to save Taradise (and other regions)

Yvonne Wara Ward,
Opunake

Upgrading Bayly Road

With the increasing amount of traffic using Bayly Road, from visitors to the Historic Cape Light and Museum, the Cape Egmont Boat Club members towing their boats and the milki tankers, this particular road itself is seemingly in need of some urgent repairs, as according to Mr Van der Fits, the existing tar seal is about 25-30 years old and hasn’t been touched. If left any longer, I believe it could stop any visitors from seeing this wonderful historic lighthouse.

I do believe we have the best province, not only in New Zealand, but in the world, so it’s extremely vital that any road which harbours any historical value, whether in North, Central, Coastal or South Taranaki be looked after. We cannot afford to let



Letters to the Editor

ourselves down at all because other provinces are now doing what we are doing. We have got to be always one step ahead of them, otherwise they’ll be capitalising on our mistakes.

Tom Stephens
New Plymouth

The rise of PKE

I have observed with great interest, the rise and rise of PKE. This product was not even an option for the dairy farmers until approximately 20 years ago. How did this happen?

At this time the European community refused, or at least were given the option to refuse, genetically engineered(GE) food through mandatory regulations in food labelling.

The most used culinary oils for frying at that time were canola, soybean, cottonseed(which KFC used at the time, according to a letter I have), corn oil, and of course tallow, lard and butter.

Due to our laws in NZ the oils used could be simply named “vegetable oils” on the packaging. Only those who called up or wrote to the manufacturers were given the actual oils used. At the time I personally rang up a major chippie manufacturer to find out and was told they were now using “Palmoilene” to which I replied....”So, what the heck is that? The rep was unable to answer except that she didn’t know.

This meant that the general public were kept in the dark and therefore unable to make the decision whether or not to eat products containing GE oils. All the above oils (except “Palmoilene”) were already partly made from GE plants. There are inherent problems with these oils. For example, they increasingly ever more so, contain substantial amounts of the herbicides (eg glyphosate/ Round-Up) that the plants are engineered to resist.

I noted an article in the Coastal News lately declaring that our food is safe to

eat in regards to pesticide/ herbicide residues. What the public are not told is the New Zealand Government has specifically not included food testing for glyphosate when it carried out it’s latest food safety testing saying that this will be carried out independently at a later date (according to the latest Soil and Health magazine).

Round up/glyphosate is now turning out to be not as safe as we were led to believe and appears to be interfering with our digestion process and hence our health(Look up Shikimate Pathway).

Anyway, as people around the world began to veer away from GE oils, the uptake and demand for non GE oils raced away especially for the new palm kernel oil.

At a certain point the manufacturers were inundated with the waste product from this oil production called PKE(Palm Kernel Expeller). It was protein rich and it was found to be a good supplement for cows. Initially, it was almost given away..... but when it was seen to increase milk production substantially the demand rose. However, due to insufficient testing of the side effects of PKE on dairy cows a considerable flaw was not found at the time.

This flaw consisted of a change in the composition of the milk. As I understand certain products cannot be satisfactorily made from milk produced overly using PKE, and that now farmers are being penalised if their milk reflects this. Also, there may be implications for our health with the alteration of fats composition. Incidentally, ”organic” milk producers must not use PKE.

Another side effect of the Palm Kernel oil industry is the amount of deforestation occurring in the areas it is grown, depleting the natural habitats of a substantial number of animals as we know. Anyone flying over these areas frequently has seen the massive amounts of land being converted to palm kernel palm plantations.

Continued page 3



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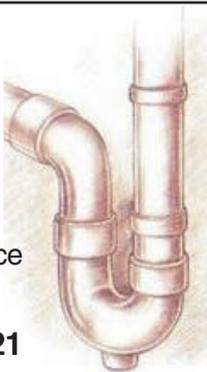
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That's a funny looking cat

A few days ago on Sunday I heard a funny noise from the vicinity of the back door in our Okato house. Maybe a cat was coming through the cat flap. I had a look and got a big surprise - that's a funny looking cat trying to get in, I thought. Hang on, it's not a cat, it's a goat. The goat, was repeatedly thrusting its head through the cat flap, determined to get in. It was as if the goat thought this was its home - only we don't have any goats, just two cats.

When the goat pulled its head back for an instant, I quickly snibbed the flap shut. But that didn't work as on its next thrust it pushed the cat

door over the snibs.

I very briefly opened the door, but quickly closed it because the goat thought this was another cool way to gain entrance.

I went out the front door to get a good look at our unexpected visitor and I could see a black and white goat trailing a chain. I took the chain and endeavoured to lead the goat to the carport for shelter as it was raining heavily.

At first the goat seemed friendly, but then wanted to butt me - maybe it's idea of a game! (But not mine). It's horns looked very sharp and I was in pyjamas.

I took off at speed down the



An unexpected visitor as seen through the cat flap.

driveway seeking a gate near to take refuge behind. That the bottom where I intended didn't work - the goat was

right behind me. However, I managed to tie the goat by its chain to the fence.

Once dressed, I set off down the street to try and find the goat's owner. Eureka - first place I tried, just 100 yards away I found the owner and the goatly visitor's stay was soon over.

One of our cats must have encountered the goat and hid for hours and was very nervous about the back door area with much tentative side-to-side peering. It was quite psyched out by our goatly visitor.

Rolland McKellar



I just want to come in!

ADELPHOS

Do you know people who don't enjoy communicating very much? Do they too often resort to a one or two syllable word answer? Like any good relationship, prayer is effectively communicating with God by talking, carefully listening and being open to getting a meaningful response. Poor communication with close relations, or anyone can be quite frustrating. Wouldn't it be helpful if you both really heard and understood each other?

So how can we be sure that God hears our prayers and we will receive and understand his answers? The apostle John wrote an assuring letter to Christians saying,

Waiting for water to boil

"We are certain that God will hear our prayers when we ask for what pleases him. And if we know that God listens when we pray, we are sure that our prayers have already been answered" (John 5:14 New Testament in Contemporary English). These few words are the heart of what faith and prayer is all about. Without faith we are incapable of understanding this prayer promise. It won't make sense. This article now focuses on the most well known type of prayer—prayers of asking or petition.

Clearly, the key to answered prayer is asking in faith, with the right motive and according to God's re-

vealed will. All people can learn how to pray in God's will and listen for answers by praying and discovering his will in his Word. This seems like circular reasoning. And it is. Babies learn how to walk by walking, falling down and getting back up again. We are meant to circle right back to God when seeking guidance in times of trouble. Then if we ask in faith and in the name of Jesus, "...he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him" (1 John 5:14-15 New International Version). But remember the ugly cousins—fear and doubt—will try to sabotage our faith. Resist.

In a nutshell, all people who pray (even children) have a guarantee from God's Word that He always hears and answers prayers when we ask in faith, and in the name of Jesus, for things that are pleasing to him. Secondly, our prayers are already answered because God makes immediate decisions: "we know that we have what we asked of him" (1 John 5:15). But there's no guarantee that God will reveal his answer according to our time schedule. God has free will, perfect wisdom and the right to answer yes, no or wait in his perfect timing.

Discerning these answers

can seem like a confusing business. We might get a "no" answer because our request is not pleasing to God or in our best interests. A "yes" answer may not be what we expected. And a "wait" answer may be even more challenging because we might impatiently confuse it with a "no" answer. "Wait" answers sometimes seem like we're waiting for water to boil, but, his timing is always perfect.

When our emotions run wild in times of stress, the solution is getting caught up again in that holy circle of praying, reading and trusting God's promises in His Word. God helps those who reach out to him. Sometimes answers are revealed through our friends and circumstances as well. But in every situation we can rest assured in Jesus' promise to his people, "Surely I am with you always, even until the very end of the age". Remember that when God shuts a door he always opens a window.

Adelphos

The rise of PKE

Continued from page 2

So, to summarise, the actual base cause behind this set of debacles falls back to the genetic engineering of a food and insufficient testing (or suppression of results perhaps) and no adoption of the precautionary principle before it becomes allowed in mainstream use as food or supplement. The precautionary principle demands that we thoroughly research and test something beforehand.

Rectification in this case? Place pressure on manufacturers using GE products by not buying from them, and

instead only buy products where the manufacturers specifically note the actual oils used. Good examples of non GE oils at this time are sunflower oil, olive oil, coconut, safflower and ricebran oils. I note that there are chippies easily available manufactured with sunflower oil.

And farmers may need to go back to regular traditional grass and hay feeding, which the world is now clamouring for, and is willing to pay a premium for.

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COUNCILLOR'S COMMENT

A new town for next hundred years



CLEM COXHEAD

What's been on my mind over recent weeks? Several things but the current one is how we can do more for our community by working together. I attended the last Opunake and District

Business Association meeting on a cold night. The numbers were small and we discussed how hard it is to attract our members in all sorts of organisations to be more active.

I attend many meetings and functions and see the same old folk doing a different role but still actively involved. The age old thing about being old aged and still leaders in the community is a regular conversation.

We as councillors have just finished our Long Term Plan after almost weekly meetings trying to pay for our future plans and activities. During that time it was the same folk who took the time to make submissions.

So what of the future of our many organisations such as halls, churches, sports clubs, business organisations, school committees etc?

As a councillor I am conscious of trying to fairly support everyone in our Egmont Plains area which will now stretch from Stoney River in the North to Manaia

in the south.

How do we support the many clubs and organisations under a bigger umbrella that gives us a better vision of what we can do by working together?

I have been thinking about a new organisation with a name similar to Coastal Progress or Coastal Vision. The name may not be important but this organisation would have every known organisation in our area as a member for a membership fee of say \$10.00 per year.

This organisation would look at the big picture of the coast for the benefit of all.

What would the vision include? Would we have better access to such organisations like TSB community trust Lotto etc? I am sure we would.

Is it possible that a few folk would enjoy being say a treasurer or secretary to a number of groups and be based in an office somewhere in the coast?

Would this organisation be able to make submissions

that would have real clout? Would this organisation put up candidates for local body elections?

Would we set up a training program to develop leadership for our young folk for the future?

Would this group have some input into tourism especially around the coast not just Opunake?

Finally I will set the cat among the pigeons by suggesting the following.

Centralise Pungarehu and Warea into the area now known as the Coastal Boat Club. They already do this, but let's formalise it so it can grow as a very popular tourist outlet.

Maybe a new name to put it on the map.

Opunake is a very important town in the province as a growing tourist destination. We have lots of folk looking for a place for surfing and lifestyle or retirement.

We don't have any really special buildings and we have too many. We have lots of wind and rain so let's look

at clearing any old buildings and rebuilding a new shopping centre with indoor shops that are warm and efficient to run.

We can spend hundreds of thousands dollars on old buildings and still have cold old inefficient places to shop for the next one hundred years.

I would like to see the Post Office turned into a high tech office for hire by the hour or long term to business folk who would like to spend time here surfing and still run their business.

How do we finance something like this? I have some ideas but would love to hear what you have to say.

We will have the initial negative reaction as is normal but after some discussion and input from us all we will do what Opunake normally does best. Sports complex: done. Coastal Care: done. Everybody's Theatre: done. New town for next 100 years: I would love to hear your thoughts.

Clem Coxhead

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Shrouded in cloud

RIGHT

An unusual shot of Mount Taranaki shrouded in cloud.



On this month in history Live Aid concert held

On July 13 1985 the Live Aid concert was held at Wembley Stadium, London, England. The idea of the massive concert was to raise money to help people starving in Ethiopia. The concert

was organised by singer Bob Geldorf of the Irish group Boomtown Rats

The concert - which had bands such as Wham and Dire Straits and soloists like David

Bowie - attracted 72,000 people and was watched on television by 1.5 billion people around the world. The concert raised over 30 million pounds.

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The finale.

Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe - superlative production

Hawera Repertory's latest production the 'Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe' is a tribute to all who contributed to its production. The play was written by CS Lewis and was adapted by Glynn Robbins. The show I saw was a matinee held at 4pm on Sunday June 24 at the Hawera Memorial Theatre, Albion Street, Hawera. The show was superbly directed by Samantha Turner in conjunction with Stage Manager Sandra Richards and a considerable number of backstage helpers.

Lucy explores an old wardrobe in Professor Kirke's house and encounters a magical world of fauns, dwarves and talking animals, which she introduces to her (at first) disbelieving siblings. A huge and scary adventure follows. I won't say anything more as it may spoil the story for intending patrons.

It would be hard to single out any of the excellent actors - and actresses - several very young - as all were well-suited to their character roles and word perfect. Their costumes were delightful and the make-up imaginative. Aslan the Lion was most intriguing, although perhaps he could have benefitted by a more complete covering to hide the internal workings more. He was created by Bobby Logan, superbly voiced by Hayden Baylis and ably operated by Bobby Logan and Rangi Abraham.

The Pevensie children included Peter (Noah Hunt), Susan (Abigail Landsborough), Edmund (Jordan Dawson), and Lucy (Jemma Ogden). Others include Professor Kirke (Jason Cressingham), Mrs McCready (Michelle Greig), Mr Tumnus (Richard Baylis), the White Witch (Ainslie Alexander), Dwarf (Andrew Beale), Maugrim (Lyndon Greening), Mr Beaver (Ben Thomas and Mrs Beaver (Rubeana Reader).

The supporting cast included Shane Martin, Joshua Hobman, Jamie Sayers, Sinead Clancy, Kaylee Mihaljevich, Caleb Lewis, Grace Legge, Jayden Kingi, Josh Bird, Krzysztof Kowal,

Liz von Rooyen, Rosie Butler, Sabrina Pickles, Sonja Smith and Tara Butler.

The sets were magnificent (well done Kevin Cameron and your team) and must have taken many hours of painstaking effort. The aesthetically appealing writing in the background must kept many people busy. Also impressive were the sound effects and lighting - the thunder and lightning, for example were frighteningly good. Virtually all dialogue was clearly heard.

Plenty of action accompanied the dialogue with the various stirring sword fights

springing to mind.

Even the sturdy colourful programme is a work of art which should be kept in a safe place as a memento of this great show.

I see that Three One-act plays are coming up later this year (5 - 15 December). I recall last time I saw Hawera Repertory's one act plays I was so entertained that I booked to come a second time. As everyone knows Hawera Repertory's shows are always high quality and compare very favourably with professional productions.

Rolland McKellar



The children in the wood.



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Busy fortnight for Opunake brigade

The big blow on Sunday July 8 was the start of seven callouts for this fortnightly period. We were dispatched to check out a situation where a piece of corrugated roofing iron had wedged itself in power lines on Surf Highway 45 between the Kina and Namu Roads.

Gordie was a little reluctant to climb the pole to get it down so we decided to let the power company do that. There is not a lot we could do in a situation like this, so it wasn't long before we were on our way back to base camp. We didn't have to go far to

another call out on Sunday. A property on King Street was having building modifications to an outside wall and the heavy rain decided to visit...inside. We blocked up the gaps, placed a few sand bags around, put two tarps up, mopped up and then walked back into the fire station. Yes, it was our building.

The morning of July 9 came around fast when we were called to a smoking ceiling light at a Pihama property. The home owners were woken around 5am with an unusual sound and found the lounge light fizzing and puffing out smoke. They soon had two fire engines and our fire support van and trailer rocking up to check it out.

Our new TIC (Thermal Imaging Camera) was slipped out of its charger to check for "hot spots" in the ceiling cavity. Not only do these cameras save us a lot of time, they also give peace of mind to our team as well as the home owners that everything has cooled down and all is safe.

I must point out that when we were fund raising and saving for the TIC, the Pihama Women's Institute were extremely generous with a donation that enabled us to obtain it. Who would have thought that one of its first outings would be at the home of one of the ladies from the Institute.

We were rolling again in the afternoon when a tree was blown over on the Arawhata Road and took the power line with it. While we were placing cones either side of the incident, fire control radioed up to say the STDC had been advised about the tree, as were the lines company and both were on their way. Hearing this news and realising that there was nothing else we could do, we were soon heading back to base camp.

Our practice on Monday night was a very interesting presentation from one of our local policeman Matt, who

was supported by a member from the Serious Crash Unit. Andrew Pentelow, our Training Officer invited the Rahotu, Manaia and Kaponga brigades as well as the St Johns along so we could all get a better understanding of what is required from us at serious accidents.

They advised us to take a few photos of the scene as soon as we got there just in case there is a death later down the track and we are called to give evidence. There have been cases where fire personal have "got to work" with the clean up and moved vital debris or evidence... stuff that may be required at a later date. So if you see us at an accident and we are just hanging about doing not a lot, it's because we haven't been given the OK to start sweeping. However if you see other brigades, Kaponga for example, standing about doing not a lot, it's probably just normal for them!

Lucky we had the "accident talk" on Monday night because on Tuesday evening we were called to a car versus truck on the main street. Unfortunately the



BEAU LE PROU

driver of a car parked outside the Surf Inn didn't see the dark coloured truck coming and proceeded to do a u turn in front of it. The car was punted on to the footpath next to Sinclair Electrical's front door, but somehow managed to stop without harming the shop frontage.

The two shaken occupants suffered mild injuries so, as a precaution were transported by our local St John ambulance to hospital. It was marvellous to see so many off duty St John personnel turn up to help out. It only happens in small rural towns like ours.

The Thermal Imaging Camera was out again on Wednesday night when we were called to a house fire

at Te Kiri. Luckily, it was only an outside security type light that had fizzed and subsequently, burnt an area around it. The camera was put to good use and we leave knowing that there is nothing going on inside the wall cavity that could spring into life as soon as we leave. These cameras are worth their weight in gold.

We had our 50th call out for the year on Saturday July 14, when we were turned out to the Coastal Care Medical Centre. A nearby generator was puffing out fumes which were picked up by the sensitive alarm system, and set it off. We checked it out and were back in the station in no time at all.

If you have any queries regarding fires, the fire service or are thinking about possibly volunteering, get in touch with your local fire brigade and they will help out. Brigades in our area either practice on Monday or Tuesday nights (from 7-9) so rock along and see what goes on.

Secretary Beau



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Shortly after 4pm on Tuesday Opunake emergency services were called to a single vehicle accident on Surf Highway between Opunake and Oaonui.

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Bridges pulls crowd in Hawera

Space seemed sparse when Simon Bridges turned up to speak in Hawera last week. On Monday, the National Party leader had begun a busy day with a public meeting in Whanganui, before speaking in Hawera and Inglewood. He finished the day with a public meeting in New Plymouth. By the time his Hawera meeting started at 1am it became apparent that the hall that had been booked for the occasion may have been a bit on the small side as more and more chairs were brought in. By the time Mr Bridges arrived there were about 150-200 people who had come to hear the National Party leader. He introduced himself as a "Westie" who had grown up on the Te Atatu Peninsula, son of a Baptist minister and a primary school teacher. He studied law in New Zealand and at Oxford where he met his wife Natalie. They have three children. He describes his father-in-law as a "proud working class Welshman." Mr Bridges worked as a crown prosecutor before entering parliament. The job of an opposition party was twofold, he said. First they had to hold the government to account. "When we think they're getting it wrong we tell them about it. The Key years were good for New Zealand and a strong effective opposition would have made us better. When they get it right we say so, so for those times in the last nine months when they have got it right, we say you got it right and we support you." The second part of an opposition's job was to listen to the voters. "The now-government in opposition was lazy. They had slogans but they didn't develop any plans for New Zealand. We want to learn from that, otherwise we don't deserve your vote." Mr Bridges said he didn't think Taranaki would benefit much from regional



Simon Bridges (right) with Ali and Soha Butt of Hawera.

development minister Shane Jones' regional investment fund. "I think it's a political slush fund," he said. "It's just about spraying trinkets around. So far most of it's gone up north and they got more than they ever asked for." He said that at a time the government was "slicing off oil and gas" and "talking down farming," money should be spent on infrastructure instead. "Ultimately it's just a compensation fund and you in this area deserve a lot of compensation." He was asked if he thought there would be an early election. "Anything is possible," he said. "The most likely scenario is that this government will go on for another two to two and half years. Turkeys don't vote for an early Christmas. But if I woke up in a week, a month or six months and it had all fallen apart I would not be surprised. New Zealand First and the Greens don't talk to each other. I've not seen a government like this in my lifetime. It's worse than it

looks." He admits one term governments in New Zealand have been rare. "There has not been a one term government in my lifetime, but there was one just before that (the Third Labour Government), and this government is looking like that one. It's deeply inexperienced and in complex economic times they don't have the answers." At 41, Mr Bridges is a young man in political terms, but he is up against a prime minister who is four years younger. After the meeting he was asked if he thought National would have any problems reaching out to the younger voter. "We have to find ways to connect to people that are relevant to them," he said. With older voters this may mean having public meetings while younger voters may be reached more easily through other means such as social media. He said New Zealand had a parliamentary rather than a presidential system and opinion polls still

showed National as the most popular political party. Among those wanting to have a chat with Mr Bridges was Ali Butt of Hawera and his 12 year-old daughter Soha. "We came to see a new young leader and hear what he has to say," Ali said. "It's good that young people can lead this country, like Jacinda Ardern."

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Government should support industry and innovation

While the investment in developing hydrogen fuel infrastructure in Taranaki announced last week is welcome, it does not make up for the Government's reckless decision to ban oil and gas exploration.



JONATHAN YOUNG MP FOR NEW PLYMOUTH

Supporting the development of zero emission hydrogen

transport fuel was identified in the previous Government's economic plan for Taranaki as a way to help the region grow.

Having low or zero emission energy for heavy haulage will be a step forward towards achieving a low emission economy, as well

as creating a new industry in Taranaki to help boost jobs and growth.

It's exciting and innovative and if anyone can do it the people of Taranaki can.

But supporting innovative new efforts like this should have been done alongside oil and gas exploration and not as a belated effort by the

Government to soften the blow it dealt Taranaki just months ago.

That ill thought through decision affects thousands of jobs and the Taranaki region and the damage it has done far outweighs the benefits of investing in pilot projects.

The Government needs

to overturn the ban while still getting alongside our innovators.

Jonathan Young

New Plymouth MP

National Party Energy and Resources spokesperson

Funding for Taranaki hydrogen infrastructure

Acting Prime Minister, Winston Peters, has announced a Provincial Growth Fund investment to help develop hydrogen fuel infrastructure in Taranaki.

During his visit to New Plymouth, Peters said a grant of \$950,000 will be made to Hiringa Energy and its partners which is seeking to develop zero emission hydrogen transport fuel.

The funding will be used to scope the engineering and design of two hydrogen generation facilities, up to four mobile compressed hydrogen storage and



Winston Peters, Acting Prime Minister.

distribution containers, and up to three hydrogen refuelling stations.

"Hiringa Energy and its partners should be congratulated for this foundation project. It has the potential to provide further employment and investment opportunities through clean energy technology," said Mr Peters.

"This funding supports the next step towards developing a specialist skill base in the region to support hydrogen projects. This project's deliverables will help grow the industry that

has the potential to reduce emissions and provide clean, sustainable, secure energy."

"Since the first investment from the Provincial Growth Fund into Taranaki, the government has invested \$21.4 million into initiatives that will provide economic development opportunities in the region," he said.

Regional Economic Development Under-Secretary Fletcher Tabuteau also announced \$600,000 from the Provincial Growth Fund for Venture Taranaki to employ a transitional

economy manager.

Hiringa Energy CEO Andrew Clennett says he hopes the support will be the beginning of something more long term.

"We're thrilled to get the government support and the endorsement that hydrogen is potentially a solution worth looking at," he says. "We see it as a very positive step which will really help us focus on the options."

He says they are hoping to attract interest from councils interested in using hydrogen to run their vehicle fleets, as well as progressive truck

and freight companies and individuals. They can also be used to power forklifts.

Taranaki-based Hiringa Energy was incorporated last year and Andrew came on board as CEO in September.

"In the regions there is a bit of a tyranny of distance, so it may not be practical to have lots of charging stations for vehicles with electric batteries, so we're looking at having a refuelling station in Taranaki and up to two more outside Taranaki, so we need to determine where they will be," he says.

Mangatoki WI mystery trip to Mainland

Fifteen members met up at Karen Joblin's at 4.45am to leave for New Plymouth Airport on June 15 for our Mystery Trip. On arrival at the airport we found out that our destination was Christchurch, our flight being at 6.35am.

On arrival we were met by the van company and went for our breakfast at the Old Vicarage, Halswell Road. After breakfast we drove down to Akaroa. On the way we visited Pyhtofarm Herbal Learning Garden at Little River where owner Valmai Becker showed us her garden and did a demonstration. We then drove into Akaroa and

visited the Giant's House Garden where we saw artist Josie Martin's sculptures, mosaic garden and contemporary art gallery. We headed to the prize winning fish and chips shop for a hot lunch and a warm up. We then had some free time to shop and then visited the fudge shop in Akaroa. We also visited the Little River gallery and the cheese shop at Barry's Bay. From here we made our way back to Christchurch and the Ibis Hotel.

The next morning after breakfast we all went over to the Tram Station and caught a tram ride around the city

to the museum where we spent some time, some had lunch there and others went elsewhere. After lunch we boarded the tram to go and look at Quake City on Durham Street. This was very interesting so we stayed on for some time. During the afternoon some members went to the lipstick making and some went shopping.

The third day was cloudy and warmer, and we all packed up and left the hotel and drove over to the Westfield Shopping Centre at Riccarton where we had breakfast. We then did shopping for about two hours. From the shopping

mall we visited the Wigram Airforce Museum, very interesting. We visited the Antarctic Centre for an hour or so, having a ride in a vehicle something like a snowmobile, before having a tour of the centre. After the centre, we were dropped off at the airport. We arrived back in New Plymouth about 8pm. A great three days were had by all. Thanks must go to the organisers, Cathy White and Karen Joblin and our driver Olwyn Duthie and also those other few who helped make it a fun trip.

Lucy Moger, Mangatoki W.I. Reporter

Maniaia Women's Institute

The July meeting of the Maniaia Women's Institute was held in the St. Cuthberts church lounge

Our speaker was Kim Peters from St. John who spoke about the use of defibrillators and what to do in an emergency. Competition results: Shrub. 1. Phyllis Malcolm. 2. Daphne Ashley. 3. Joy Brogden. Any Other

Stem. 1. Daphne Ashley. 2. Phyllis Malcolm. 3. Joy Brogden. Homecraft - three iced cup cakes. 1. Janice Walsh. 2. Ann Chisnall. Handcraft - Knitted Booties. 1. Daphne Ashley. 2. Joy Brogden. 3. Ann Chisnall. The Wondering coin was won by Ann Chisnall.

Meg Kelly

The next issue

of the

Opunake & Coastal News is on August 2.

JONATHAN YOUNG
MP FOR NEW PLYMOUTH





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School productions are here to stay at Coastal

It's been a while since Coastal Taranaki School last had a school production. That all changed in the last week of term when they staged Pirates of the Curry Bean.

"The board and management team undertook community consultation at the end of last year and a prominent part of the feedback was that they wanted to bring back the school productions, so we responded with Pirates of the Curry Bean," said school principal Scott Walden. Students from Years 1-13 were involved in the show with all junior school classes having an onstage role to play alongside the main characters.

A large number of backstage helpers, including new students, teachers, support staff and volunteers were involved in all aspects of the show, from props to makeup, costumes and set design. Rehearsals began in the second week of term, and three shows were staged in the week before school holidays began, and just before the busy time for the farming community got underway. All shows were packed out, with a full house of about 230 on the final night.

"Our next appearance will probably be the Christmas float," Scott said. "School productions are here to stay and we look forward to the next one."

The production was directed by Raeleen Luckin with Margaret Normanton as production manager. They took a script by Craig Hawes and made one or two adaptations, with references to Okato and Stent Road making their way in.

The story opens with Jack and Liza Periwinkle dreaming of finding an island with hidden treasure where all their dreams would come true. Their mother Pearl is strongly opposed to them following this dream as the sea had claimed their father Stanley who had gone



Captain Redbeard (Billie Thomson) and pirates.

missing many years before. Throw into the mix a map showing the location of Captain Swaggersword's hidden treasure and Pearl is kidnapped by Captain Redbeard and his pirates Jack and Liza set off in pursuit catching a ride on the Crusty Frog with Captain Cod and Admiral Horatio Hornhonker, who in marked contrast to C.S.Forrester's creation is a landlubber who wouldn't know a bow from a stern.

Before the Crusty Frog can go anywhere they must get the go ahead from health and safety officers A.Wally and A.Pratt.

Eventually they find their way to the island of Lumbago and the treasure, but are captured by the natives. In the plot's final twist it turns out their leader Chief Wonga is really Jack and Liza's long lost father who also goes by the name Captain Swaggersword, something their mother had long hidden from them.

Bryan Kirk



The islanders of Lombago.



From left. Pearl Periwinkle (Briana McCreedy-Scouller), Jack Periwinkle (Ocean Baylis), Liza Periwinkle (Millah Barron).

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Keyboard Jamboree an enjoyable afternoon

The Keyboard Jamboree held at the Mayfair in New Plymouth on July 1 was an afternoon of contrasts.

It featured four pianists who all performed at the Taranaki Jazz Club at the Taranaki Jazz Club's monthly meeting by invitation.

First off were Sarah F and her Confederates, a four-some comprising Sarah Foreman on piano accompanied by a bass player, guitarist and saxophonist.

Sarah and her pianist husband Peter before coming to Taranaki were part of Taupo's renowned "Jazz Renaissance". She now plays in the Taranaki Steam Band.

Their repertoire consisted of some laid back jazz numbers which the audience seemed to enjoy. It was a loose ropey sound typical of a certain jazz genre and set the scene for a musical afternoon.

Next up was Matt Sagen who included some of his own compositions including a touching tribute to his wife in honour of their seventeenth wedding anniversary. It was nice to hear some original music in addition to the other other jazz standards in his repertoire which went down well with the audience.

After a short interval we enjoyed an energetic display of boogie-woogie by Feike de Bock. A Life Member of the Taranaki Jazz Club, it was an impressive performance and a contrast to the laid back sounds we'd enjoyed in the first half. I couldn't help thinking of the famous complaint by Emperor II on listening to a piece of Mozart's music that there were "too many notes" generally perceived these days to be the criticism by an ignorant person unable to embrace new sounds. There were certainly many notes and executed with flourish and competence by a real talent in Feike. I enjoyed it.

Last up was a personal favourite Mike Gordon. Accompanying himself he sung a number of songs ranging from some old favourites which would have resonated with the largely older audience, through to some more recent hits. A highlight for me of the older songs was his moving rendition of the war time song The White Cliffs of Dover which brought a tear to my eye. Mike's version of Moon River was another high point and I enjoyed his version of the playful 90 year old song



Mike Gordon performing at the Keyboard Jamboree.

What's the Use of Worrying. Of the more recent songs he gave a lovely version of Bob Dylan's I'll be Seeing You which Mike said when he first heard on

his car radio had such an effect on him it made him stop the car. One of Mike's final numbers was the exquisite Peter Skellern hit You're a Lady. It lost a little without

its lush orchestral accompaniment but was still a great addition to the programme. Mike has a nice performing style which includes conversing with the audience.

In all it was a lovely way to while away a Sunday afternoon.

Bernice McKellar

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The Plastic Ocean a chilling reality check

The average use of a plastic bag is just 12 minutes. Over a hundred people watched a screening of the documentary *The Plastic Ocean* at Opunake's Everybods Theatre – a record for a private screening at the theatre and one of the first audiences in New Zealand – last Thursday night.

There were some confronting images: a whale dying a painful death later found to have 6 square metres of plastic sheeting in it, dead fish on the shore which when opened up were found to have up to several hundred pieces of plastic in their stomach, seals rescued from being throttled by 'necklaces' of plastic and a turtle found to be 'floating funny' and unable to dive was found to have ingested plastic bags. Turtles feed on jelly fish and mistake plastic bags for jelly fish. This lucky turtle also survived.

Every bit of plastic ever made is in the planet in some way – only a fraction of the plastic is recycled. And most of it seems to end up eventually in the ocean – about 8 million tonnes a year. There was also underwater images of plastic junk on the ocean floor. Much of the plastic however remains suspended in the water, like a sort of plastic smog. In some places there's more plastic than plankton. Mistaken for plankton and food, it gets eaten by marine life. The fallout from the world's love affair with plastic was also illustrated with some sobering statistics.

Three hundred pounds of single use plastic is made for every person over a year. Sixty three billion gallons of oil is needed just to supply the United States with water bottles. The problem is that almost every bit of plastic ever made is in the planet in some way – only a fraction of the plastic is recycled. Most of it ends up in waterways and via that the ocean. A memorable image from the film was of a tiny island in the South Pacific. With a population of just 35, the tiny atoll was being choked by metres of plastic piled up on the shore threatening to overwhelm the small land mass. Amongst all this depressing footage however there were small shards of hope. A plant that has been invented that changes plastic back to its original form. In a process called pyrogenesis, an extreme thermal process converts organic matter to a syngas, hydrogen and carbon monoxide eventually forming a sort of nutrient rich slag that can be recycled. In some countries there are recycling booths where people get paid for recycling bottles. There was also other alarming information about the chemical make up of plastic. A lot of plastics have chemicals and some BPA (bisphenol A) a compound that mimics the female hormone estrogen which is impacting on people's health. The smoke from burning plastic is also thought to contain carcinogens. Plastic via fish



Fiona Young and Chris Fuller at Opunake Beach.

is also thought to be entering the human foodchain. It was powerful stuff and certainly made me think twice when I visited the supermarket after watching it. The overriding message of the documentary: It's got to stop and we all have a role to play. We should demand that things are not delivered in plastic. Avoid single use plastic. Don't put plastic anywhere where it will end up in a landfill. A Plastic Ocean was brought to Opunake by Fiona Young and Chris Fuller. Fiona, who is originally from Taranaki has been living in Canada for some years

and is interested in people's health and works in wellness which she says is directly linked to environmental issues. After the documentary Fiona spoke and there was some discussion about the film. She hopes to return to Taranaki to settle in some months but was due to fly out to Canada to continue her promotion of the environmental message. Opunake High School student Katie Sinclair who has organised several beach clean ups also spoke briefly after the film. A beach clean up of Manihi Beach was also organised for several days after the film screening by Chris Fuller who has been organising beach clean-ups with Youth at Risk for the last 15 years. There are plans to show the film to New Plymouth and South Taranaki District councils and to the general public in the near future. South Taranaki District Council mayor Ross Dunlop was in the audience. "We're hoping to bring awareness of these heart breaking realities which will facilitate to cleaning up and going beyond plastics," says Fiona. Well done to Fiona and Chris for giving us all a timely reality check. *Editor*



The half tonne of plastic that was picked up from Manihi Beach on the Sunday after the screening.

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South Otago farmer named Young Farmer of the Year

South Otago sheep farmer Logan Wallace has been named the 50th FMG Young Farmer of the Year.

The 28-year-old took out the coveted title in front of a crowd of 1,000 people in Invercargill.

Elated locals cheered as their hometown boy made his way through a standing ovation and onto the stage.

"I'm absolutely ecstatic. Being named the FMG Young Farmer of the Year has always been a dream of mine," he said.

It's Logan's second attempt at the title and means the sought-after winner's trophy will be staying in Otago/Southland region.

The Waipahi sheep farmer convincingly beat six other finalists after three days of gruelling competition.

The event saw the men tackle fast-paced practical modules, technical challenges and an agri-knowledge quiz.

"We are immensely proud of Logan. He's put his all into the contest," said Logan's father Ross Wallace.

"It's something he's wanted to do since he was a boy."

Logan Wallace runs 2,300 ewes on a 290-hectare farm, which he leases from his parents.

The intensive sheep breeding and finishing property also carries 700 hoggets and 400 trading sheep.

The Clinton Young Farmers member, who has



Young Farmer of the Year Logan Wallace

mild dyslexia, is heavily involved in his local community. He leads a youth group and is a Land Search and Rescue member.

"I used some of those search and rescue planning skills this week to ensure I didn't waste any time," he said.

"Logan Wallace is an extremely deserving winner," said Andrea Brunner from FMG.

"He has demonstrated the breadth of knowledge, skill and capability required to be crowned the FMG Young Farmer of the Year."

"The calibre of the finalists this year is testament to the depth of talent we have in our rural sector," she said.

Allan Anderson won the prestigious title in 1970 and is the longest surviving Young Farmer of the Year Grand Champion.

"This win will be life changing. Logan should bask in the warmth of the

win and make the most of the opportunities it will present," said Allan.

The victory is made even more special because the contest, which began as a radio quiz in 1969, is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

"It's pretty special that the grand finalist in the region hosting the 50th year managed to win the contest," said contest chairman Dean Rabbidge.

"I'm proud of the entire Otago/Southland region for pulling together to make this grand final week such a success."

Second place went to Cameron Black, who's a Christchurch-based rural consultant for New Zealand Agri Brokers.

Bay of Plenty contract milker Josh Cozens took out third place and the agri-knowledge challenge.

Brad Markham.

Court sends message

Fred McLay, director resource management with the Taranaki Regional Council says the importance of having an appropriate farm dairy effluent disposal systems which is regularly checked and maintained was highlighted in the Environment Court in New Plymouth on July 10..

John and Alison Vernon, dairy farmers of Denbigh Road, Midhurst were fined \$45,000 after earlier pleading guilty to one charge against each under the Resource Management Act, brought by the Taranaki Regional Council.

Untreated dairy effluent was found to be discharging onto land and was flowing from an area of ponding into an unnamed tributary of Rum Keg Creek. The discharge arose from a hose that had been disconnected from a travelling irrigator after there had been blockages in the effluent pump.

In a separate case, Block 8 Farm Ltd, on Block 8 Road Waverley, which has Kevin and Diane Goble as directors, was fined \$54,000 after earlier pleading guilty to two charges under the Resource Management Act, brought by the Taranaki Regional Council.

The oxidation pond system on the property was found to be non-compliant with consent conditions and dairy effluent from the second pond was flowing 40 metres down a steep bank into the unnamed tributary of the Moumahaki Stream. The discharge to the tributary was dark coloured and odourous. The unnamed tributary was observed to be significantly affected along the entire 2.2 kilometre length, says Mr McLay.

"Consent holders have a duty of care to ensure their effluent treatment systems are regularly checked and maintained to ensure

consent compliance and the protection of our valuable freshwater resource," he says.

"Council officers inspect dairy farms annually in the Taranaki region and when necessary undertake follow up inspections and/or enforcement action.

"It's disappointing that a small minority of farmers are still not operating to the required standards that the overwhelming majority of farms achieve.

"The court has sent a clear message that those who do not take their environmental responsibilities seriously will be penalised."

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RSA Poppy Appeal changing lives

RSA 2018 Poppy Appeal changing lives
New Zealand Returned and Services' Association (RSA) have paid tribute to New Zealanders for their generosity and empathy for current and former service personnel through the 2018 Poppy Appeal. The Appeal raised \$1.7 million in donations across New Zealand.

The theme of the 2018 Poppy Appeal – not all wounds bleed – generated significant discussion and focus around the mental health challenges faced by current and former service men and women as well as their families.

RSA National President BJ Clark says the RSA's ability to support those impacted by service relied on public donations.

"Poppy Appeal funds are used to provide essential services for the health and resilience of New Zealand's current and former service personnel, and their families".

"We are grateful for the fantastic public support through donating on and around Poppy Day; for all our volunteers who contribute their time and effort; and for our corporate partners who contribute so generously



RSA Poppy Appeal 2018 shines a light on Veterans' mental health.

to the Poppy Appeal. That support enables us to care for those who have served our country at home and overseas," he says.

The funds raised through the Poppy Appeal will assist in many ways, including recovery from psychological trauma and helping the families of current and former military personnel deal with health or hardship issues. In 2017, there were

19,992 welfare interactions completed by over 150 volunteer RSA support advisors. Many of these were face to face interactions with veterans in need of help.

Clark says it is critical New Zealanders understand that younger servicemen and women have been impacted by their time in uniform as much as their older predecessors were.

"Many of those who serve – whether deployed

in recent conflicts, or in routine service – face major challenges as a result of the actions and circumstances they witness and participate in."

The RSA Poppy Appeal was supported by a team of Poppy Appeal Ambassadors, including former New Zealand SAS soldier Willie Apiata VC; soldier Lt-Col Melanie Childs; former soldier and widow Tina Grant; All Blacks coach

Steven Hansen; filmmaker Sir Peter Jackson; mental health advocate and comedian Mike King; and Naval reservist and recording artist Rebecca Nelson.

Helping out in the street appeal were members of the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF), RSA members, volunteer collectors and other supporters including members of the US armed forces stationed at the US Embassy in Wellington.

New Zealand currently has about 41,000 veterans of overseas military deployment: 11,000 from the period from WWII to Vietnam, with another 30,000 who served in in New Zealand's 42 overseas deployments since 1974.

Tens of thousands more New Zealanders have served without a recognised operational deployment – though may have undertaken disaster relief, counter-narcotics operations, fisheries protection and search and rescue, or other challenging work.

NZDF currently employs about 14,532 people: 11,667 service personnel, and 2,865 civilian staff.

The RSA is a nationwide movement of over 100,000 people, dedicated to supporting and remembering

those who have served and sacrificed for New Zealand. The RSA was formed in New Zealand in 1916 by returning ANZACs during World War One to help Gallipoli veterans and their families suffering from the effects of service.

The RSA is a volunteer-led charity, assisting affected as a result of military service, and their families, and advocating for their wellbeing and interests.

The Poppy Appeal has been running for 96 years, making it New Zealand's oldest continuously run appeal. RSA Chief Executive Jack Steer says the longevity of the appeal reflects New Zealand's long-held commitment to assisting countries near and far in times of conflict; in peace-time missions and other deployments in aid of others.

"The Poppy Appeal funds can only be used to provide help and support to those veterans and their families. And that help is available regardless of whether they are RSA members or not. All funds collected by clubs locally is also deployed locally, providing care to those servicemen and women and their families living in your communities," Mr Steer said.

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Term Two Happenings

It has been an extremely busy term at St Joseph's. Lots of learning happening inside and beyond the classrooms.



Puke Ariki - Dinosaur Tour

May 9th saw the junior school enjoy an action packed day of learning, outside of the classroom, when they visited Puke Ariki. For Room 4 the trip was a launch pad into their inquiry learning unit, 'Walking with Dinosaurs'. Blake Marshall enjoyed finding fossils in the boxes, Maya Mackenzie loved the moving dinosaurs, and Renee Fleming took pleasure in scaring classmate Oliver Willis with a dinosaur puppet! The senior students had their turn the next day. Crystal Jordan and Melah Sinclair were both impressed with the four moving (animatronic)



dinosaur models that were on display.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who supported the teachers in supervising the children over the two days of trips.

Digital Literacy Parent Information Afternoon with Jacqui Sharp

On Tuesday 15 May an open afternoon was held for parents and whanau to see how digital learning is implemented in the classroom programmes in all classroom levels. Jacqui Sharp, Digital Learning Facilitator led an informative session explaining her role in the professional development of staff in digital literacy, and in the direction that digital learning will take in the school.



Leadership Assembly

On Thursday 24th May the Year 7 and 8 students were presented with their leadership badges. This event was held in Our Lady Star of the Sea and was officiated by Emeritus Coadjutor Bishop Owen Dolan. Mr Peter O'Leary, Principal of Opunake High School attended, along with head students, Dylan Coleman and Aimee Abplanalp, and ex St Joseph's students, and prefects of Opunake High School, Daniel Potier and Sarah Haden.

Senior students received badges for each of the various leadership roles they hold within the school community. These included; House Captains, Social Committee, Pastoral Committee, Student Council, Environmental Committee, and the Sport/Fitness Committee.

Student Voice is highly valued at St Joseph's and the leadership groups are tasked with putting forward ideas, organising events and supporting different fundraising activities. Mr Murfitt organised the badges in response to feedback gained from the senior leaders.

Friendship Club

The school choir and the senior guitar group performed at the Friendship Club gathering on Monday 28th May. The choir was accompanied by Mrs Stephanie van Vuuren on the piano, and the guitar group was led by tutor, Mike Gordon. Well done to the performers.

Catholic Conference Convention

The Board of Trustees, and all school staff travelled to Wellington to attend the triennial Catholic Conference Convention from the 13 - 15th June. The school was closed for 2 days to enable all staff to be a part of this year's conference. Kaumatua welcomed the guests and attendees at the opening ceremony and asked them to use this season of Matariki as a time of reflection and growth.

A wide variety of different speakers ensured that everyone took away with them a message of joy, goodwill, hope and encouragement. St Joseph's was given an iPad in recognition of the commitment they made to have all of their staff and BOT attend. The school would like to acknowledge the financial assistance provided to them by Pub Charities, which was used to fund the registrations for the staff and Board to attend this amazing event.



Technology at use during a maths lesson in the Year 2 class.

Faith, Respect, Integrity, Humility and Excellence

Congratulations to the St Joseph's Hawks winners of the Opunake Basketball Association Year 7 & 8 A Grade Competition for 2018. Pictured below with Coach Aaron Langton.



Faith, Values and Skills



Principal Margaret Duynhoven, PO Box 23, Allison Street, Opunake, 06 761 8388,
principal@stjo.school.nz

Fun with Shakespeare's Sisters

The 27th Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand National University of Otago Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival (SGCNZ UOSWSF) held in Wellington over Queen's Birthday weekend attracted some 750 participants from 24 regions throughout the country. These include actors, musicians, dancers, crew, student and adult directors plus supporters.

Beginning with an official welcome at Government House for many of the participants and another at the newly opened Te Auaha, and ending with the Assessors' Feedback Session and an inspirational talk by internationally renowned Miranda Harcourt, at Parliament, the students were treated to a range of Wellington's prestigious venues and people. Also giving inspiring talks were SGCNZ Alumni, Allan Henry - Mocat artist and stage combat choreographer for film and stage, Estelle Peacock - 2007 Winner of the Costume Competition, with a successful career in that industry, and our own *Donald Trump* (aka Alexander Sparrow).

The Competition Prize Winners and Scene Awards were presented in the Michael Fowler Centre, where the students had performed, in a ceremony with Hon Grant Robertson

as MC.

From the Taranaki region, Hawera High School's Sasha Finer won second equal for her *Othello* design in the SGCNZ/Adam Foundation Shakespeare Static Image Competition. Sacred Heart Girls' College New Plymouth was awarded the Outstanding Imagination and Commitment to the Text Award and the Outstanding Movement/Dance Award both for their scene from *Macbeth*, and Sacred Heart student Samantha Lusty won the Extraordinary Performance Award for her performance as Witch 2 in *Macbeth*. Nicole Jeanson from Stratford High School received a place at the National Shakespeare Schools Production (NSSP), a week-long theatre intensive culminating in a public performance, held in Dunedin from 29 September to 7 October this year.

The Supreme Winner of this and of the SGCNZ/Morrison Music Trust Shakespeare Music Composition Competition join the 46 young actors and student-directors selected from the 24 Regional and National Festivals to spend a week together, this year in Dunedin, for SGCNZ's National Shakespeare Schools Production (SGCNZ NSSP) - a intensive week of workshops, tours, rehearsals and culminating public performances.



Sacred Heart College Students perform *McBeth*.

"It is particularly pleasing to see the increasing depth into which the young people delve, whether as one of the 70% student-directors, or actors, of the five and 15 minute scenes, or writing rationales to go with their entries in the six allied competitions," commented SGCNZ CEO, Dawn Sanders, "Providing more opportunities to develop enquiring and imaginative young minds has never been more important, with superficiality of the use of technology much of the time, and AI fast changing, in particular, their lives and future career paths."

Every year there are some new schools, which have

never participated in the National Festival before. This year one of these was Geraldine High School, from which one student was

also selected for SGCNZ NSSP.

Several groups decided to perform in Maori settings. A last minute group from

Wellington East Girls' College was included, when one pulled out four days prior to the Festival. It was a beautiful scene with Romeo speaking entirely in Te Reo, to the delicate Juliet, speaking entirely in English. It received a well deserved standing ovation.

The assessors - Alison Rose from the UK (courtesy Trinity College London), Anna McCrossin-Owen from Australia and Professor Lyn Tribble from the University of Otago in Dunedin, were all "blown away".

"I was overwhelmed and enchanted by the skill, passion, energy and commitment of the students brought together from all over New Zealand by a shared love of Shakespeare at the extraordinary SGCNZ University of Otago Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival," remarked Alison Rose.



Students performed at the annual Sheilah Winn Shakespeare festival in Wellington.

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Club celebrates the Jersey

A longtime commitment to the Jersey breed was recognised when the Taranaki Purebred Jersey Club held their annual dinner last month.

Presentations were made to Malcolm, Donald and Margaret Revell to recognise the part the Revell family have made to the club.

The herd on the family's Beledene Stud on Lower Duthie Road near Kaponga had gone up for sale back in April, attracting hundreds of people and big prices.

Beledene Sam's Starlee went for \$38,000, the most ever paid for a Jersey in New Zealand. Starlee had previously been twice crowned NZ Pedigree Dairy Cow in New Zealand.

The sale was the end of a 70 year era, with the Beledene herd having been started by Malcolm, Donald and Margaret's parents Arthur and Margaret back in 1949. The herd's origins can be traced back to Jenny, the first Jersey cow to come to Taranaki back in the 1860s.

Also presented at the club's annual dinner were the 2017-18 production awards. Taking out a large number of them were Chris and Rachel



For their years service to the Jersey breed, a presentation was made to Margaret, Donald and Malcolm Revell.

Wilson of Camaro Jerseys at Inaha.

Chris and Rachel took over from Chris's parents Pat and May Wilson about 27 years ago and have 250 cows with 45 heifers coming through each year. They breed their own bulls and have seven breeding bulls currently on

the property.

"We've preferred to breed from our bulls and improve our herd that way," says Chris. "We've tried to learn as we go and we've had a lot of advice from people like the Revells along the way. We've gone for longevity and production as well as

the constitution or look of an animal."

Among the awards they picked up was for the oldest cow producing over 335 M/S, for 14 year-old Camaro Improver Jeremia at 348 M/S. They also picked up the awards for the three year-old, five year old, six

year-old, eight year-old, nine year-old and ten year-old.

Being a pedigree herd, their production figures might not be reflected through the Breeding Index or Breeding Worth figures which are often looked for, but Chris says there is a demand for his young weaner bulls.

"There's a lot of demand for the ones we don't need," he says. "We don't have any issue in selling our four day old bull calves. They buy them and then sell them as breeding bulls."

Also announced at the awards were the winners of the Unigold Trophy and Riverswood Trophy. The Unigold Trophy is for a team of three cows by the one Sire and went to Lynleigh Lord Cochrane from Tyndale Jerseys Team 1.

The Riverswood Trophy for a team of three In-calf heifers went to Glamorgan CB Lord from Glamorgan Jerseys.

The final award was for the Taranaki Cow of the Year presented for the cow with the most points won throughout the show season having competed at the Egmont A & P, Stratford A & P and the Taranaki Purebred Jersey Feature show held each January. This went to Beledene Centurion Marnie, which while not fetching as high a price at the Beledene dispersal sale as Beledene Sam's Starlee still commanded a highly respectable \$30,000.

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Normanby man's half century driving trucks

Trucks have always been a big part of Alan Lord's life. He may have recently retired from 51 years driving them, but his home in Normanby is just across the road from the site where his lifelong interest in trucks all began with the family trucking company. In his garage is a 1939 Ford V8 truck he has lovingly restored.

"It was going to be my retirement project, but I finished it before I retired," he says.

He picked it up from Mountain Road near Eltham and completely rebuilt it.

"It was a farm truck, but hadn't moved from the shed in 24 years," he said. He lifts up the bonnet.

"It has alloy heads. Now this was pretty rare for back in 1938."

Alan worked as a plumber after leaving school but eventually joined the family trucking company Norfolk and Sons which was based across the road from where Alan now lives.

Having been brought up in a trucking family though, his involvement with trucks had started before then, including working in haymaking gangs



Alan Lord thumbs through his photo album detailing his 50 years of driving trucks.

when still at school.

The company had been founded by his mother's family. When his father Jack took it over he stuck with the name, but his son Ian, Alan's older brother changed it to Ian Lord Transport when it was his turn to take over.

Alan recalls haymaking and carrying stock as well as fertiliser.

"There was a lot of bagged fertiliser then," he says. "We used to do a lot of wool but a lot of those back country farms are in pine trees now."

The company was sold to Sandfords in the early 1980s and Alan stayed on, driving stock trucks for them. He left to drive milk tankers for the Kiwi Dairy Co-operative, forerunner of Fonterra

for three seasons, before returning to Sandfords where he drove bulk trucks. He was with Sandfords until he retired in February this year.

When first driving for Sandfords he drove a Hino with a three axle trailer with a 24 tonne payload. Six or seven years later when he went on to drive a Scania

with a four axle trailer it jumped from 24 to 30 tonne. With Sandfords having a quarry, there was a lot of metal carting work for farm tracks and races as well as carrying chips for roadwork for different councils.

He has driven a big variety of trucks in his time, starting with his first, an OLB Bedford and ending with the DAF trucks, which were the last ones he drove for Sandfords. His favourites

were the Volvos which Sandfords had just before then. He points to a photo in his album.

"I did a million k in that one. That was a bloody nice truck."

Meanwhile his beloved Ford V8 truck has become a familiar sight along the coast, being a regular at the Opunake Christmas Parade, painted in Sandfords colours.



Alan Lord and his 1939 Ford V8 truck.

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Logan Crowley takes on the big boys and is assisted by Sam Lawn.

Another club rugby season has come to an end. On July 7, Farmsource Coastal Premiers took on Clifton in Rahotu, to earn a place in the final. It was a tough battle, with Coastal coming out on top 17 - 10. Tries were scored by Liam Hurley and Jeremy Newell, with Rick McKenna kicking two conversions and a penalty. The final was played in

Inglewood on July 14 against NPOB. A very tight first half had NPOB leading 8 - 6 at the break. Coastal took the lead 20 minutes in to the second half, but couldn't hold on. NPOB scored three late tries to win the match 29 - 9. The score didn't reflect the closeness of the game, but NPOB deserved their win. Overall it was a fantastic season. The team struggled

to keep a fully fit squad and relied on Division 1 players to back up on the bench for most of the season. Most of the team were forced to play the full 80 minutes every week in a very tough run into the finals. Coaches Aaron Fisher and Ricky Tito were full of praise for the team, and with a lot of players vowing to return next year, things already look promising for

the 2019 season. A big thanks must go out to all of the club's sponsors and also to the club committee who do so much work behind the scenes. Thanks also go out to our supporters who gave the team so much encouragement throughout the season. See you all next Season.
Brian Olliver



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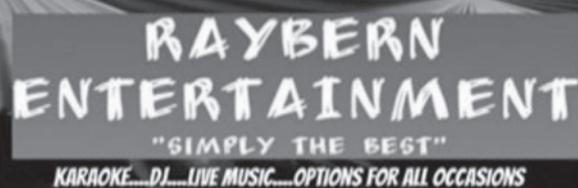
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Final lost in extra time



Trent van der Poel offloads to Jared Davy.

The Coastal Division 1 Semi Final v NPOB at Rahotu on July 7 was a game that needed to be won if we were to defend our title. With a fully fit squad, FBT Coastal Division 1 came up against a rampant Old Boys forward pack that pressured our line for the first ten minutes. As shown all season the Coastal defence held out NPOB and the only points they were able to get were two penalties. The remainder of the half belonged to Coastal with total dominance. Daniel Doyle along with Hamish Kape crossed over for tries through constant attack that Old Boys couldn't contain. Halfback Jarrod Davey

directed play confidently as always and allowed the backs to show the supporters some well executed moves that led to tries by Trent van der Poel and David Hughes. The second half was a solid effort put in by everyone with James Cathie charging his way over and Jarrod Davey also scoring. Jamie Fevre converted four tries with the final score 38-6 and a trip to Inglewood for the final.

On Finals Day at Inglewood, FBT Coastal Division 1 were up against Southern. Both teams had a win against each other in round robin so a close battle was expected. Coastal started off well with lots of possession and good ball control spending the majority of time on attack but

found it difficult to break the Southern defensive line. After continuous attacks we were finally rewarded with a try to Ben Brophy who crashed over with Jamie Fevre converting. At 7-0 up and having a slight edge on Southern it could have opened up but finals rugby brings out the best on the day and neither team was going to give up easily. A disallowed try in the corner by Trent van der Poel, which was ruled a knock on in goal, could have been the turning point, however, not long after another dominant forward drive led to a try by Joe Brophy and was converted by Jamie Fevre giving us a 14-0 lead at half time. In the second half Southern scored

after relentless attacks and the momentum had swung. A couple of opportunities to score were closed down by some desperate defence and although the boys gave it everything, they couldn't get across the line. Huge defensive efforts by all couldn't stop another try being scored by Southern and the game was all locked up 14-14. With golden point it was the first team to score to take out the championship and after ten minutes Southern were able to score out wide to end the game and win 19-14. Thanks to our main sponsor FBT and all of our supporters for your continued support.

Gerard Kalin



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COASTAL RUGBY

Thanks from Div 2



Kieran "Bull" Sim does the hard yards.

Hi all. Well what a year for the Coastal rugby teams. It's been great to be part of coaching the Div 2 side.

This year we won all our season games but we just couldn't finish of that last game against Inglewood.

The number of players involved this year has been great to see and to be a

part of, with Jamie Taylor, myself and Craig McLean coming in as manager.

Support from the older players and new players has made the job easier, and I hope to see the team come together to get another title for the club next year. We hope players like Steve Barron who got a big number

of tries through the season can keep going.

We had a very strong forward pack that dominated against the other teams. The backs were impressive with the odd time having to play forwards in the back line with people away, but that's what senior thirds is all about, having fun and doing

what needs to be done on the day.

I'd like to thank Goodin AG for the support to the team and all other sponsors for your ongoing support to the club.

Signing off for the year

Sheldon Keech

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Disappointment for Coastal fans



Lots of action in the Division 2 final against Inglewood.



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Coastal Rugby Prizegiving Friday 20th July from 6pm

Continued from page 1

“Hopefully it’s third time lucky,” Victoria said. After 15 minutes the score was level at 3-3, before another penalty put Coastal ahead. The lead changed again with an unconverted OB try, which gave a halftime score of 8-6. Coastal pulled ahead with another penalty, but after that Old Boys put on 21 unanswered points to win 29-9.

Coastal coach Aaron Fisher said he wanted to thank Coastal supporters who had been with his team from “Day One.”

“The whole coastal catchment is a big one, and they’ve travelled a lot to support us.”

He paid tribute to his team. “We’ve got a good bunch of boys who battled well to the end. They are all local boys who are proud of the coast.

“That try against the run of play with 10 minutes to go changed the momentum of the game a bit, and we didn’t capitalise on a couple of breaks.”

Coastal captain Jeremy Newell admitted he was disappointed with the final result.

“They ran away with it in the end. It’s been a very good season from the start to where we are now. I didn’t think we would get this far.”

Coastal did not go away from the day completely empty-handed. Once more they were able to pick up the Roger Young Cup for top overall Club.



Coastal Rugby Club extends an invitation to you. Please join us in celebrating a successful rugby year.

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Eva takes a break back home in Opunake

Basketball is a lot noisier in Nebraska than it is in Opunake. That is one thing Eva Langton has picked up in her time at Western Nebraska Community College.

for St Mary's Diocesan School in Stratford where she was Head Girl, as well as the Opunake Basketball Association and the Taranaki Thunder Women's Basketball team.

"The biggest difference is the volume and vocalness on the court and on the bench," she says. "Here it's ridiculously quiet. Over there everyone's screaming and hollering. Over there it's like a show."

While she is back home in Opunake, she still has to do an online course in public speaking. She continues to play for the Taranaki Thunder and is looking forward to taking part in the upcoming national tournament in Dunedin.

Eva, who is on a basketball scholarship is halfway through a two year general studies course. The academic year runs from August to May, so Eva is back home in Opunake.

Eva says basketball over there is more intense than it is here. While at Opunake she would be practicing 2-3 times a week, in Nebraska she practices every day.

Before going to Nebraska, Eva had played basketball

"It's a definite step up from what we do here. Everyone is as equally committed,



Eva Langton in her Western Nebraska Community College Cougars Uniform.

because they're over there to play basketball and to study. So everyone's equally committed and passionate about playing."

Her team won their section in the regional competition of the NJCAA, the Junior College Division, but lost out in the regional final against Casper, a team once coached by Angelo Hill who now teaches at Opunake High School. They were however to get an at large bid allowing them to take part in the nationals held in Lubbock, Texas. In the first round, they were knocked out by Tallahassee from Florida who went on to win the competition. Eva's team could claim the honour of scoring the most points against them. Meanwhile,

the team which beat them in the regionals, Casper also exited after the first round.

Eva has another year to go at Western Nebraska and hopes to find somewhere else where she can carry on her studies and her basketball. With only her and another girl from Germany returning, the team she will be playing for will be different to the one she was playing with before.

Western Nebraska Community College is based at Scott's Bluff, an inland town 1500m above sea level.

"Being so far inland, I've definitely missed the beach and the mountain, but I've really enjoyed it and I'm looking forward to being back next season," she says.

Playing basketball in the city that never sleeps

Joellen How always wanted to live in New York, so when a chance to study and play basketball there came up she took it.

Island.

Joellen has played basketball since she was 11. She made her way up through the Taranaki Country Basketball Under 13 and Under 15 sides, and then the Taranaki Under 17 and Taranaki Under 19 teams. When she was 17 she was a member of a Junior Tall Fern team which played against China at



Joellen How, Opunake Basketball player in New York.

home in New Zealand. Her basketball has taken her to Australia twice and to Las Vegas twice.

She applied to the online Custom College Recruiting website which helps young players get noticed by overseas coaches. She attracted interest from a number of Division 2 colleges, including the college where fellow Opunake basketballer Eva Langton is now based. In the end, the appeal of living in New York swayed her to a four-year course at Division 1 college Wagner.

"From all the movies and TV shows I've always

wanted to live there," she says.

She started at Wagner a semester earlier than she would normally have done, and is now halfway through her sophomore year. She is studying Business administration, majoring in finance and minoring in psychology.

With a roll of 2000, she says Wagner is a smaller school and more like being in Opunake. The basketball, however is quite different.

"It's very intense and a huge step up from New Zealand," she says. "It's a lot more competitive and the coaches are very serious. They play very fast, so there's lots of running. Everything is just faster. Americans are very loud. Not only is the crowd loud, but we have to be loud. If we're not talking on the court, or even on the bench, we get an earful from the coach."

She says she has made "heaps of friends" over there. These include four other New Zealanders on various sporting scholarships. Her basketball team includes two Australians and a Londoner.

They play in a 10 team conference which includes sides from Connecticut, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

"Hopefully in three years time if we do well enough we can play teams from all over America," she says.

In the meantime Joellen is looking towards leaving an Opunake winter and returning to a 30 degree New York summer.

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Young Kiwis take on the world in pool championships

Fifteen of New Zealand's top junior pool players are heading to the United States to compete at the VNEA Junior World Pool Championships.

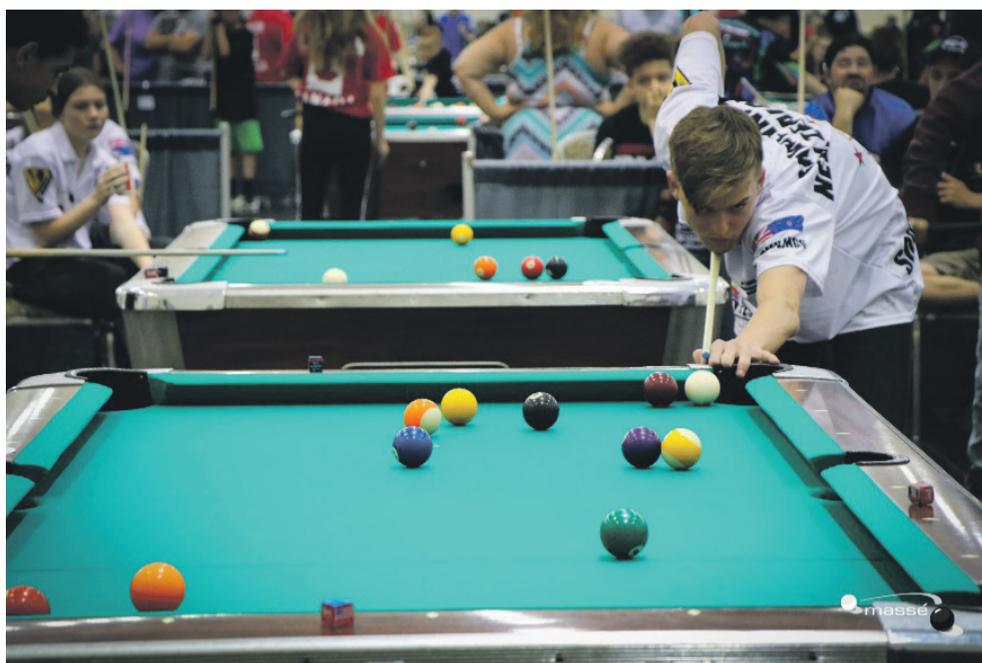
The Valley National 8-ball League Association (VNEA) is one of the world's largest amateur pool leagues.

The New Zealand players, who range from 12 to 20 years, have qualified for the tournament and will compete in Sioux City, Nebraska in late June.

Bernie Endres, team manager and general manager of cue sports club Massé, says the team is loaded with talent and has the potential to take out the top spots during competition week on 21 - 24 June.

The team is captained by 17-year-old Avondale College student Deon Rawlings won the Under 18 Male 8 Ball Singles title in 2016 and was part of the New Zealand team who won the Under 18 team title in 2017.

Rawlings is looking forward to returning to the competition and seeing friends from last year. He's keen to make an impact on the international



Avondale College student Deon Rawlings (17) is gearing up to compete at the VNEA Junior World Pool Championships in Sioux City, Iowa.

stage saying, "I want to show the rest of the competition that I mean business."

"Pool is a great sport to be a part of because it does not rely on physical capability. This means that no matter who you are, you can be great at this game," says Rawlings.

The team also features

17-year-old New Plymouth Boys' High School student Mario Hildred who was recently crowned the Oceania Under 21 Singles Snooker Champion and 14-year-old Waikato Diocesan School for Girls student Alyxandra Jones who is the reigning Under 14 Female 8 Ball Singles

champion.

"There's a lot more pressure this time around because last year I didn't go with any expectations," says Jones. "It's a bit more competitive this time."

Jones, who likens pool to a slightly more physical game of chess, says that gender and age are no factor in the sport

with mental focus making the greatest difference.

"You can be male, female, young or old, or in a wheelchair and still play. As long as you can see over the table, you're all good," says Jones.

Endres says while cue sports has always been strong in New Zealand, it is becoming more diverse. The club has more than 13,000 members, of whom about half are women and many of those are juniors.

"Pool is a sport that seems to fly under the radar but it seems the current members see the value in it and are spreading the word. The sport teaches you skills that are transferable off the table such as self-discipline and patience.

The junior team has been preparing for the championship over the past year under the guidance of coach Jimmy Henry. They've also had sessions with sports psychologist Jason Yuill-Proctor, from High Performance Sport New Zealand, who has worked with many of the country's elite sports people

and teams.

The Kiwi juniors will compete against nearly 300 players in Sioux City in a variety of disciplines including singles, scotch doubles and teams competitions.

The senior team recently returned from the 38th Annual VNEA World Pool Championships with several accolades.

Hamilton's Denise Wilkinson won the Women's 8 Ball Singles and was runner up in the Women's 9 Ball Singles. She was also named in the Women's All Star Team, meaning she was one of the top four female players of the championship. Wilkinson was also part of the Women's 8 Ball team, the Southern Stars alongside Brooque Pologa (23), Kimberley Cullen (41), and Agnes Kimura (43), who won the title over Canada.

Auckland's John Harrison came runner up in the Men's 8 Ball Singles and was also part of the men's team who finished fifth out of nearly 350 international teams.

Taranaki Indoor Bowls

The final night of the Taranaki Indoor Bowls Interclub competition was played at Normanby Hall on Friday June 29. The final three rounds of this fours competition were played and the final result was very close. The winners were the Turuturu club with 14 points and second was Normanby club with 13 points and third equal were the Cardiff and Stratford Clubs, both with 12 points.

The Sheehan Shield which is an interassociation pairs competition was played at the Kapuni Hall on Friday

July 6. Four games of nine ends or 35 minutes were played. Each association had six teams competing. The Central Association were too strong and won the competition with 30 points. Waimate Association were second with 23 points and South Association third with 21 points.

The Taranaki Indoor Bowls team competed in a quadrangular tournament played at Hutt Valley on July 14-15. Individual results were Hutt Valley 47. Taranaki 25. North Taranaki 53.5. Taranaki 18.5. Upper

Hutt Valley 41. Taranaki 31.

The North Taranaki Team proved to be too strong and won the tournament with 135.5 points followed by Hutt Valley on 123 points, Upper Hutt Valley on 99 points and Taranaki on 74.5 points.

Win Finlay with seven wins was the most successful Taranaki player and Jenny Hamley and Nigel Berry both had five wins.

Ray Finlay
Publicity Officer

Mania Golf results

July 7. Men. 1. John Oliver. 2. Trevor Larsen. 3. Gary Dowdle. July 14. 1. Kingsly Young. 2. Trevor Larsen. 3. Denis Hurcomb. 4. Jim Ngere.

Results for Juniors who took part in the Reid Plumbing Age Group Tournament at Fitzroy. 18 holes. Ashton Sharp 1st. Nine holes. Carter Symes 2nd. Kieran Taylor 3rd. Jayda Sharp 4th. Six short holes. Hannah Symes 2nd. MacKenna King 3rd.

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Regional Land Transport Plan for Taranaki 2015/16 – 2020/21: Mid-term Review for the 2018/19 – 2020/21 period

The Regional Land Transport Plan for Taranaki 2015/16 – 2020/21 (RLTP) is now publically available after a Mid-term Review for the 2018/19-2020/21 period. The RLTP was adopted by the Taranaki Regional Council on 26 June 2018.

The RLTP sets out the strategic direction for land transport in the Taranaki region over an approximately 30 year planning horizon; states the regional priorities for the 10 year period of 2015/16 – 2025/26; and outlines the proposed land transport activities over the first 6 years. It has had a three yearly review undertaken in response to the requirements of the Land Transport Management Act 2003.

The final RLTP is available online at www.trc.govt.nz/buses-transport/transport-planning/transport-planning-document. Copies are also available for inspection at all public libraries and council offices in the region. Alternatively, a free copy may be requested by emailing publications@trc.govt.nz or phoning 0800 736 222.

Basil Chamberlain
Chief Executive

Working with people | caring for Taranaki



AGM

Opunake Country Music Club
Sunday August 12 at 3.30pm
Opunake Town Hall



Advertisers who put in public notices and display adverts in the What's On Section for events are welcome to additionally provide extra editorial and photos FREE OF CHARGE, to help promote the event.



WE LOVE TO RECEIVE YOUR PHOTOS

But please check their quality before sending them to us

We love to receive your photos for inclusion in the Opunake & Coastal News BUT photos that are either fuzzy, tiny, unfocused, or thumbnail size are unusable for us.



We need photos of acceptable quality if they are to be included. Fuzzy, tiny, unfocused, and thumbnail size photos will no longer be accepted. Although some cellphones take good quality photos, most do not. Please send us photos taken with a camera if possible.

From July 2018, if the quality of photos submitted for inclusion are not deemed acceptable by us, we will ask you to send either a better quality photo, or it will not be included in the Opunake & Coastal News.

The Opunake & Coastal News is available at newstands in:

- New Plymouth - Challenge Spotswood,
- The Health Shop,
- Westside Grille
- Waitara - Outside North Taranaki Community House Trust
- Stratford - Perera's Paper Power
- Hawera - Outside First National

OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS
THE NEWSPAPER TARANAKI LIKES BEST



Look for the Newspaper Reading Cow on our newstands

Our next issue is due out on August 2. Call us on 06 761 7016 to be in it!

CHURCH NOTICES

Opunake & Okato Co-operating Parish CHURCH SERVICES

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

Opunake Catholic Church

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

The Wave

Pentecostal Church 64 Domett St, Opunake
Sunday Services 10.30am
Women's Group 10.30am Tuesday
Men's Group 7pm Wednesday
Youth Group 7pm Friday
Come along or contact Pastor Murray 027 688 7378

St. Barnabas Anglican Church

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

Okato Community Church

Meets 6.30pm Sunday at Hempton Hall. Everyone welcome

PUBLIC NOTICES



Jump
to it!

Get your copy at a newstand near you, today!

- Parera's Bookshop, Broadway, Stratford
- Outside First National, Cnr Victoria and High Streets, Hawera
- Challenge Spotswood Petrol Station, New Plymouth
- The Health Shop, Centre City, New Plymouth
- Westside Grille, Tukapa St, Westown
- The Store, Cnr Tukapa St & Wallath Rd, Westown (By the Locals Café)
- Nth Taranaki Community House, 67 McLean St, Waitara
- Inglewood Book Centre, 31 Rata St, Inglewood

OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

What's On Listings



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

OPUNAKE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Usually meet on the 1st Monday of each month.

OPUNAKE COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB

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

MOVIES AT EVERYBODYS THEATRES IN OPUNAKE

Playing several days and nights each week. Refer timetable in newspaper.

SCHNITZEL NIGHT

Every Wednesday at the Stony River Hotel, Okato

COASTALCARE – LISA KEEN AUDIOLOGY

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

TAI CHI BASICS

Thursdays 9am – 10am at Coastal Care Community Room

CLUB HOTEL TEXAS HOLDEM POKER

Wednesday and Thursday Nights at the Club Hotel.

CLUB HOTEL POOL

Tuesday Nights. New players welcome.

COASTAL YOUNG FARMERS

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

TARANAKI COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME, MANAIA

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

EGMONT EUCHRE CLUB

Meets every Thursday 1pm at the Opunake Bowling Club

CAPE EGMONT HISTORIC LIGHT & MUSEUM

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

OPUNAKE EMBROIDERERS GUILD

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

ELTHAM BUSINESS ASSOCIATION FRIDAY MARKETS

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

PREGNANCY HELP TARANAKI

Is now in OPUNAKE! Are you pregnant? Do you have a baby or young family? To hear more, like us on facebook www.facebook.com/preghelptaranaki/. Please come and meet us and find out how we may be able to help you.

OPUNAKE FRIENDSHIP CLUB

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

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

'A MELTING POT OF CREATIONS' EXHIBITION

At the Village Gallery, Eltham. July 2-27. By Fleur Le Bas. Refer advert for details.

OPUNAKE PLAYERS PRESENTS 'ME 'N' GUS'

July 14-28. At the Opunake Players Theatre. Refer advert and article for details.

COASTAL RUGBY 2018 PRIZEGIVING

Friday July 20 from 6pm. Rahoitu Clubrooms.

POWERWORX OPUNAKE CUP

Saturday July 21, Pukekura Raceway, New Plymouth. Bus leaves from Opunake. Refer advert for details.

ARCHBISHOP RICHARDSON WILL BE AT ST BARNABAS ANGLICAN CHURCH IN OPUNAKE JULY 22

Everyone is invited to join us at our special morning service at St. Barnabas Anglican Church, 141 Tasman Street, Opunake on Sunday July 22nd at 10 am. We are so pleased that we will be joined by Archbishop Philip Richardson and wish to extend a warm welcome to the community of Opunake.

BOOST YOUR TOWN DIGITAL SKILLS TRAINING

July 26 at the NP District Council Chambers. Refer advert for details.

NZ FIRST WHANGANUI ELECTORATE AGM

Saturday July 28 at 1pm. At RSA Whanganui, St Hill Street. Refer advert.

NZ FARMERS LIVESTOCK CALF SALES

Hawera on Mondays July to August, Stratford on Fridays starting July 27. Refer advert for details.

STONY RIVER GOES WILD

August 18 to 29. Refer advert for details.



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This newspaper is subject to NZ Press Council procedures. A complaint must first be directed in writing, within one month of publication, to the [editor's/website author's] email address. If not satisfied with the response, the complaint may be referred to the Press Council P O Box 10-879, The Terrace, Wellington 6143. Or use the online complaint form at www.presscouncil.org.nz Please include copies of the article and all correspondence with the publication.

Celebrating the humble veggie

This year's Powerco Taranaki Garden Festival is celebrating the humble vegetable garden, a home-grown chef done good and the spirit of the region.

There are 40 diverse and fabulous gardens right around Taranaki in this year's TAFT-organised festival. The October 26 to November 4 festival also has a full programme of events and a focus on growing edibles.

Festival manager Tetsu Garnett says three gardens fall specifically into the new category – the Roebuck Farm at Omata, Korito in New Plymouth and Pukemiro at Onaero.

"It's the way the world is going; people are opening their eyes to healthy living, caring for the environment and growing food themselves, in their own gardens."

The trio will give visitors an insight into many growing practices on extremely different properties.

Jodi Roebuck, whose farm has just starred on Country Calendar, will be doing daily 2pm tours to show people around the market garden where a variety of salad greens are grown in abundance.

He believes it's important for people to grow their own food for many reasons:



Jodi Roebuck and Tanya Mercer's small market farm at Omata is one of three festival gardens fully focused on growing food. Photo credit: Jane Dove Juneau

"Health and wellbeing; the local food movement supports local production and keeps money in the region and also for taste and money savings."

The three-hectare property is an example of a bio-intensive market garden and restoration grazing farm starring sheep.

"Small farms can make a livelihood with innovative tools and techniques while improving the soil," Roebuck

says. "While these three are highlighted, there are a large number of festival gardeners with veggie patches," Garnett says.

Among those with edibles are Jennifer and Ken Horner at Hawera, Roslyn and Murray Holyoake in New Plymouth and June and Colin Lees near Stratford.

At Cairnhill Garden on the Forgotten Highway, the Lees have three veggie patches, and these are forever flourishing. "I've always had a vegetable garden because the flavour is better, and you can't run to town every time you want a lettuce," she says. "You know what's been put on it – there's no artificial stuff on my food."

Not only are they constantly picking fresh produce from their long-time festival garden, they've also got a

deep freezer full of broad beans, broccoli, cauliflower and peas.

That would appeal to world-renowned chef Ben Shewry, who's hosting a sizzling event in the festival.

He owns the acclaimed Melbourne eatery Attica, which has just been named the 20th best restaurant in the world and No 1 in Australasia. The restaurant even grows many of its own ingredients in its own nearby garden, greatly inspired by his parents, Kaye and Rob Shewry, who have New Plymouth festival garden Where the Wild Things Are.

"To get a chef of his calibre

is just fantastic," Garnett says.

At this event, Shewry will be cooking gourmet sausages made to his recipe and pairing them with Bliss Lager, a collaboration between Attica and the Garage Project.

Shewry says he doesn't believe he would be the cook he has become without growing up in Taranaki. "I'll be telling my story – the influences of Taranaki, the land, the bush and my mother's garden."

The event is being held at 6.30pm on November 2 at Mitre 10 Mega in the Waiwhakaiho Valley.

Another new star of the

festival events programme is Juno Gin.

This New Plymouth-based business is offering a distillery tour of its Westtown premises on the first Friday of the festival and visitors can get a second taste of the award-winning spirit at a cocktail and canapes event on November 1. This is being held in the Holyoake Garden in central New Plymouth, where people can meet the festival organisers.

Other events include wine-tasting, a long lunch, dance party, a Bollywood Goes Floral event, the ever-popular Chapman-Taylor tours and the Gardena Speaker Series set in gardens around Taranaki.

Public gardens also play a huge part in the 31-year-old festival, and each year visitors enjoy the free guided tours at Tupare, Hollard Gardens, Pukeiti, Pukekura Park and, for the first time this year, Te Henui Cemetery.

TAFT CEO Suzanne Porter says the garden festival is one of the major events on the region's calendar each year, and it has a hugely positive impact on Taranaki's economy.

Last year's festival attracted 3487 visitors to Taranaki, and of those, 42 per cent were here for the first time and 69 per cent were from outside the region. This resulted in 13,736 visitor nights in Taranaki.

The festival also generated \$2.5 million in gross domestic product in Taranaki, and \$5.1 million of new spending in the region.

The Army Band of Switzerland comes to New Zealand



The Swiss Army Band will perform in Stratford and New Plymouth.

On the occasion of the Swiss Confederation's 727th anniversary, the Swiss Army Band will entertain the citizens of the Taranaki region on 29 July and 30 July after performances in Auckland, and before moving on to Wellington.

The tour of New Zealand by the Swiss Army Band is

a first. It has never played so far away from the Swiss mountains.

The repertoire of the band includes traditional Swiss songs and marches and favourites of classical and modern music.

Concerts will take place at Band Rotunda in the Pukekura Park on Sunday 29

July and at the Devon Hotel on Monday 30 July.

The Swiss Army Band performs at the Swiss National Day Celebration at the National War Memorial Hall in Stratford on Sunday 29 July. Tickets are available through the Taranaki Swiss Club.

20th Birthday

Sale on now

See Leigh and Patrice

at 80 Tasman Street, Opunake Ph 06 7618171

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Puke Ariki needs you

NPDC's Puke Ariki is seeking out collectors for a new exhibition and wants to hear from people with a passion for the peculiar.

Whether it is collecting teddy bears (arctophiles), cheese labels (tyrosemiophiles) or medals and military badges (falerists), Puke Ariki wants to share collectors' stories and learn about why they stockpile their beloved treasures.

"We are looking for collections of all shapes and sizes, from collectors of all ages, no matter how weird or wonderful, to be part of next year's exhibition," says Puke Ariki manager Kelvin Day.

The exhibition celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Taranaki Museum with an exhibition of Taranaki collections, starting with the collection by W.H. Skinner that launched the museum

in 1919.

The W.H. Skinner collection laid the foundation for what is now the regionally and nationally significant Puke Ariki Heritage Collections.

Skinner's work as a surveyor brought him into contact with many Māori in Taranaki and he developed a life-long interest in Māori culture and history.

Concerned that Taranaki lacked a proper museum and that items were being lost to the province, he and his son, Henry Devenish Skinner, offered the collection to the New Plymouth Borough Council in 1913 on the proviso that a suitable, fire-proof building was built. The newly built museum extension to the Carnegie Library opened in August 1919 with the Skinner Collection on display.



David Clark. Record collector.

Meanwhile, local mountain man Derek Andrews has an incredible collection of 16,292 items he has found on Mt Taranaki during his 800 ascents of the mountain. His collection includes thousands of pieces of glass as well as items from a crashed aircraft, crampons, coins and golf balls.

"I'm still finding things each time I go up the mountain which are brought to the surface," he says.

And music mad David Clark's entire home is filled with 45s, CDs, DVDs and more than 4,000 LPs. "My favourite band is madness and I guess my collection is a bit mad as well!"

Collectors wanting to take part can get in touch with the museum to include part of their treasured items in the new display.

Paleoartist to speak at Puke Ariki



Julius Csotonyi, Paleoartist

International paleoartist, Julius Csotonyi, the creator of the beautiful imagery that forms part of the Permian Monsters exhibition that is currently on show at NPDC's Puke Ariki Museum is visiting New Plymouth on Sunday August 5. From 3-4pm at the Puke Ariki Museum foyer he will chat with guests about his scientific background and how this influences his attempts to restore as realistically as possible the curiously alien environments and creatures that earth has hosted in its deep past. Julius will take visitors on a visual tour through the exhibition and discuss the how, and why of his career as a paleoartist.

Julius Csotonyi is a free-



Gorgonopsians, Julius Csotonyi

Part of the Permian Monsters exhibition that is currently on show at NPDC's Puke Ariki Museum

lance natural history illustrator and biological sciences graduate. His passion has been drawing dinosaurs since childhood, but over the years Julius has expanded his portfolio to include all branches of scientifically inspired artwork. He has collaborated on projects with several major museums and book publishers from around the globe, including the Na-

tional Geographic Society and the Royal Tyrrell Museum, working closely with scientists and drawing on his own scientific background. An MSc graduate in Ecology and Environmental Biology (University of Alberta), and a PhD graduate in microbiology (University of Manitoba), Julius has published scientific papers on mutualisms in Utah and unusual bacteria at alien-

looking deep ocean hydrothermal volcanic vents. His style ranges from pencil and ink line drawings to watercolour, pastel, two-dimensional digital illustrations and three dimensional digital models; and his work encompasses dinosaurs and other prehistoric life, sharks and other living animals, as well as some space art, fantasy and science fiction themes.

NZ FARMERS LIVESTOCK

Hawera Calf Sales
at Hawera Showgrounds - Mondays 12pm
through July and August

Fridays at 1pm starting July 27th
Stratford Calf Sales at Showgrounds.
Active buyers in the paddock for friesland
bulls and beef calves

All calves must be accompanied by a Bovis
declaration farm, TB card and Nait tags

**FOR MORE DETAILS contact your local NZFL
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18th - 29th August 2018

"Stony River goes wild"(Wildwochen)

In tradition with Austrian hunting season
beginning in Autumn we present:
Specials from Ostrich, Venison, Duck, Goat,
Lamb and Fish as well as our Stony River
"Classics"

Boost your town

On June 27, almost 20 Hawera business owners participated in #BoostYourTown, a free workshop-based skills programme designed to help business communities lift their online presence and performance.

Local businesses talk about building their businesses online here <https://www.facebook.com/theaboutuspage/videos/10155826331899151/>

Hawera is one of just 13 towns receiving workshops this year which provide local business owners and community group leaders the latest training and advice for building new connections on Facebook and Instagram, reaching new customers. The training is designed for people new to online as well as those wanting more advanced skills.

Another will be held in New Plymouth on July 26, co-hosted by the Wheelhouse.

The workshop runs from 5.30pm to 8.30pm. It's free to attend but people are asked to register in advance at www.aboutus.co.nz or <https://www.facebook.com/events/2016836041977998/>

Steve Adams, founder of About Us, has been helping small businesses improve



A digital workshop to be held in New Plymouth on July 26, co-hosted by the Wheelhouse.

their digital skills for several years. Steve says, “#BoostYourTown aims to capitalise on the global

reach of Facebook and Instagram to elevate the

online presence of regional communities, putting towns

‘on the map’ and attracting more visitors and customers.”

AboutUs PRESENTS

#BOOSTYOURTOWN

Whakanuia tō taone

DIGITAL SKILLS TRAINING FOR NEW PLYMOUTH

POWERED BY facebook

THURSDAY 26 JULY, 5:30-8:30PM / DISTRICT COUNCIL CHAMBERS 84 LIARDET ST

#BoostYourTown Comes to New Plymouth

Kia Ora New Plymouth! We've partnered with Facebook to run a series of free digital skills workshops in towns around New Zealand.

Come along and learn all about how to use Facebook and Instagram to boost your business and your town.

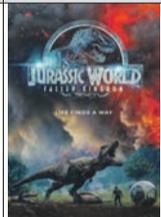
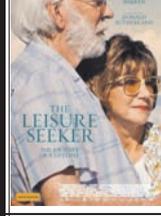
Bring along your device and we'll take you through the basics of getting your business on Facebook and Instagram, show you how to create cool content and unlock the secrets of ads and analytics.

The workshop is free to attend but you need to register. Go to [facebook.com/theaboutuspage](https://www.facebook.com/theaboutuspage) to sign up.



EVERYBODY'S THEATRE

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 Check out our website at www.everybodystheatre.co.nz – Phone 027 3837926
JULY & AUGUST 2018

Lollies, Popcorn, Ice-creams, Chocolate bars, Coffee & Tea For Sale		No Eft-Pos		Adults \$10, Students 4-16yrs \$8, Under 4 free Senior Citizens \$8. ID required for all R movies	
	ANT-MAN AND THE WASP Adventure Action 1hr 58mins PG Scott Lang grapples with the consequences of his choices as both a Super Hero and a father. As he struggles to rebalance his home life with his responsibilities as Ant-Man, he's confronted by Hope van Dyne and Dr. Hank Pym with an urgent new mission. Sat 21 st Jul 7pm Fri 27 th Jul 7pm Sun 29 th Jul 7pm Wed 1 st Aug 7pm		JURASSIC WORLD : FALLEN KINGDOM Action 2hrs 8mins M: Violence It's been 3 years since Jurassic World was destroyed by dinosaurs. It now sits abandoned by humans while the surviving dinosaurs fend for themselves. When the island's volcano begins roaring to life, Owen and Claire mount a rescue to save the remaining dinosaurs. Fri 20 th Jul 1pm Sun 22 nd Jul 7pm Sat 28 th Jul 7pm		LIFE OF THE PARTY Comedy 1hr 45mins M: Sexual References When her husband dumps her, dedicated housewife Deanna heads back to college - landing in the same class as her daughter. Plunging headlong into the campus experience, the increasingly outspoken Deanna embraces freedom. Fri 20 th Jul 7pm Wed 25 th Jul 1pm Fri 3 rd Aug 7pm
	INCREDIBLES 2 Family Comedy 1hr 58mins PG Helen is called on to lead a campaign to bring Supers back, while Bob navigates the day-to-day heroics of "normal" life at home with Violet, Dash and baby Jack-Jack—whose superpowers are about to be discovered. Sat 21 st Jul 1pm Sat 4 th Aug 1pm		TEA WITH THE DAMES **Arthouse** 1hr 23mins M: Offensive Language Dames Eileen Atkins, Judi Dench, Joan Plowright and Maggie Smith have let the cameras in on a friendship that goes back more than half a century. The four acting greats discuss their careers and reminisce about their humble beginnings in the theatre. Wed 25 th Jul 7pm Wed 1 st Aug 1pm		HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 3 Animated, Kids & Family 1hr 34mins PG Mavis surprises Dracula with a family voyage on a luxury cruise. On route, romance blossoms between Dracula and the ship's mysterious captain. Now it's Mavis's turn to play the overprotective parent, keeping her dad and Ericka apart. Sat 28 th Jul 1pm
	THE LEISURE SEEKER Action, Drama, Romance 1hr 52mins M; Suicide, Language & Sex scenes A runaway couple go on an unforgettable journey in the faithful old RV they call The Leisure Seeker, travelling from Boston to The Ernest Hemingway Home in Key West. They recapture their passion for life and their love for each other on a road trip that provides revelation and surprise right up to the very end. Sat 4 th Aug 7pm		ADRIFT ***BOUTIQUE*** Drama, True Story 1hr 36mins M: Language As the two avid sailors set out on a trans-oceanic journey, Tami and Richard couldn't anticipate they would be sailing directly into one of the most catastrophic hurricanes in history. After the storm hits, Tami awakens to find Richard injured and their boat in ruins. With no hope for rescue. Sun 5 th Aug 7pm		
Wed	Fri	Sat	Sun		
	20 Jurassic World: 1pm Life of the Party 7pm	21 Incredibles 2 1pm Antman and The Wasp 7pm	22 Jurassic World: 7pm		
25 Life of the Party 1pm Tea with the Dames 7pm	27 Antman and The Wasp 7pm	28 Hotel Transylvania 3 1pm Jurassic World: 7pm	29 Antman and The Wasp 7pm		
1 Tea with the Dames 1pm Antman and The Wasp 7pm	3 Life of the Party 7pm	4 Incredibles 2 The Leisure Seeker 7pm	5 Adrift 7pm		

Physiotherapy on the coast

Established in New Plymouth 27 years ago, New Plymouth Physiotherapy has now come to the coast. Since March they have been operating a clinic in Oakura for four half days a week and late last month they started operating out of Coastal Care in Opunake.

Physiotherapist Amy Lean says it was so busy she realised another clinic would be needed, so Friday afternoons were added.

New Plymouth Physiotherapy now offers half hour appointments from 1pm-5.30pm on Tuesdays and 12.30pm-4pm on Fridays.

Her work includes biomechanical assessments, acupuncture, return to work programmes, strengthening/gym programmes and breathing assessments for both ACC and private patients. "We see everything," Amy says. "We have people with posture issues from desk jobs right up to farmers who have to be on their feet all day."

Clients can come directly to the clinic and don't need any referrals.

Amy says New Plymouth Physiotherapy can also conduct educational sessions on injury prevention for



Physiotherapist Amy Lean now working at Coastal Care.

different clubs or groups of people.

The use of Corkill's Gym has also been allocated to

New Plymouth Physiotherapy clients for their rehabilitation.

Amy has been working at New Plymouth Physiotherapy

for the last two years. Before then she was working in Balclutha. With her partner Malcolm coming

from a farming family in Tataraimaka, she made the move to Taranaki and now lives in Okato. A graduate of

Otago University she also has a post graduate certificate in sports therapy.

Amy is already familiar to many on the coast having been the physiotherapist for the Coastal Rugby Club for the past two years and taking over the role of secretary of the Okato Squash Club.

New Plymouth Physiotherapy was started by Anita Walsh and since December has had a change of ownership to Lydia Radich who has been with the practice for 10 years. Amy says that if things get busy in Opunake, Lydia's help can be called upon.

The Oakura clinic operates at 4 Butler's Lane behind the Four Square supermarket from 9am-12 on Tuesdays, 2.30-4.30pm on Wednesdays, 9am-12.30pm on Thursdays and 7.30am-11.30am on Fridays.

New Plymouth Physiotherapy is also active in the Oakura community with their sponsorship of Kaitake Junior Rugby.

The Opunake and Oakura clinics are in addition to New Plymouth Physiotherapy's existing clinics at Powderham Street and at the Rampage Gill Street and Rampage North gyms.

Water and us

Water and Us is a talk given by Anthony Wilson on Wednesday 25 July from 5.30pm - 6.30pm at the Puke Ariki Museum Foyer

Water is an important resource and a highly contested current issue. With recent events in New Plymouth, events in Havelock North, and the water crisis in South Africa, this is a topic foremost in many people's minds. This

lecture will provide current information and discuss this contentious issue. Brought

to you in partnership with Soroptimist International New Plymouth.



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NEW PLYMOUTH PHYSIOTHERAPY



New Plymouth Physiotherapy
8 am - 6.30pm
144 Powderham St
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CoastalCare offers for hire, quiet, private, well-appointed room's for meetings, training opportunities and social gatherings. This will seat up to 60 people or it has the flexibility to be divided into two smaller rooms. The facilities include a lounge area & kitchenette for self service of coffees and tea

Permanently residing in the building are:
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CONTACT:
ARETHA LEMON or ELAINE SPENCER,
Facility Managers on 06 761 8488

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Wednesday and Friday 9am - 5pm
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TAI CHI - NIGEL CLIFFE
Every Thursday, 9am-10am

BUDGET ADVICE
By appointment

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HAUMIRI MASSAGE
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COUNSELLING

Various providers and specialties including, relationships, drugs, alcohol, quit smoking, change support, family violence and anger management

DAIRY NZ
once a month course



Me 'n' Gus the musical great entertainment

Some time ago I listened to some Me 'n' Gus stories by Frank S Anthony resurrected on National Radio.

They were amusing tales of a couple of hard case Taranaki farmers trying to make a living from dairy farming in some pretty inhospitable country shortly after the Great War.

They were humorous stories and playwright Paul Andersen-Gardiner from Opunake had the brilliant idea of creating a musical based on the stories.

The Opunake Players had their opening night of Me 'n' Gus on Saturday July 14 at Opunake's Lakeside Playhouse.

The two title characters are Mark Hendrick (played sensitively by Michael McCarty) and the ebullient Gus (played by Cheval Graham).

Life is not without its challenges as we witness the pair's equally inept attempts to farm and find love.

It was the days of innocence – dances in country halls where ladies bought a plate, of waltzes, men in braces and waistcoats who drove motorcycles with

sidecars and The Opunake Players captured the bygone era beautifully drawing the audience into the central characters humorous escapades and feckless search for love.

The boorish Gus's cringe worthy attempts to woo the formidable Violet (Georgie Graham) and Mark, the sweet natured Rosie (Chloe Danz) coupled with their foray into

farming results in a catalogue of disasters.

Gus is attacked by a bull, the sidecar en route to Ngahere Gardens with their precious dates ensconced rolls, a self important father makes frequent intimidating appearances and the bank manager turns up with regularity to remind the young farmers of their overdue mortgage repayments.

The four well drawn main characters give strong performances.

The over confident Gus, the sensitive Mark, the formidable Violet who seems to be permanently on the war path and the demure Rosie

are all beautifully drawn and give great performances.

They are supported by a talented cast which include the bombastic father of the sisters (Paul Andersen-Gardiner), the fastidious land agent and 'city dude' played by Ian Hitch, the annoying bank manager (Paul Kuriger) and bidder (Kyle Cresswell). John Smith made a great auctioneer while Elizabeth Andersen-Gardiner and Christine Ryan were caring nurses and Mike Smith, an obnoxious politician.

To write the musical and the libretto, compose the songs and cho-

reograph the musical numbers was a fantastic and ambitious feat.

As well as the farcical antics, I loved some of the songs, beginning with This Girl I've Met with its charming chorus echo. I also particularly liked Rosie's numbers. I also enjoyed the jovial catchy Take the Opportunity and the touching winsome appeal of the more reticent Mark "I never know what to say to women before he embarks on his solo "I've met a girl" and lyrics 'then I met you'.

The revolving stage was a clever innovation that helped set the scene.

The end – well I won't tell you – but suffice to

say we all went home happy. And amused.

In the audience were some of the descendants of the author of the original Me 'n' Gus stories who still reside in Taranaki.

Directed by Lynelle Kuriger with music by Jo Doolan and Helen Duff and Susie Stanley in charge of the costumes it was great entertainment.

Perhaps the most credit however must fall to the writer Paul Andersen-Gardiner who recognised a great idea and brought it to life.

The musical continues its run till July 28.

Bernice McKellar



From left Gus, Rosie, Violet and Mark in Me 'n' Gus.



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