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# Drop in police numbers “another kick in the guts”

### “We are going to have a police officer a third of the time if we are lucky.”

From July 1 there could be only one police officer covering the Taranaki coast from Bayly Road to south of Manaia.

This area is currently serviced by the Opunake Police Station which is designated a three officer station, but one of these officers left nearly a year ago and has not been replaced. Another is taking up a position elsewhere at the start of next month.

The prospect of there being only one officer at Opunake concerns South Taranaki District Councillors Bryan Roach and Aaron Langton.

As of July 1 there will only be one officer at Opunake until the future of the station becomes clearer, says Cr Roach.

“I am absolutely disgusted that Opunake is going to turn into a one officer station,” he says. “The rate of crime in the rural sector is increasing and it’s such a large area for Opunake to patrol. We absolutely need a three officer station.”

The Opunake station covers an area stretching from Bayly Road in the north to south of Manaia, and everything from the maunga to the sea in between.

At one time the Opunake Station had a sergeant and three police officers, and there was also a police officer based at Manaia. Further back there had also been police officers based at Kaponga and Rahotu.

“There has been an increase in anti-social behaviour along the whole coast, and my biggest concern is that the government is looking at downgrading or removing all stations from the rural



South Taranaki District councillors Aaron Langton and Bryan Roach (right) outside the Opunake Police Station.

sector,” says Cr Roach. “It’s yet another kick in the guts for the rural community. If you’re not called Wellington, Auckland or Christchurch you get nothing..”

Concerns about the future of policing at Opunake come at the same time as similar concerns have been raised about stations at other towns in Taranaki like Eltham and Waverley.

The promised 1800 increase to Constabulary staff from July 2017 originally had a

target date of July 2020, but this has been extended to July 2023. As of June this year the target was 455 short at 1345.

Cr Roach says there needs to be more consultation with rural communities rather than having decisions imposed from above.

“I’m worried about response times particularly for one or two officer stations. There are times that there’s going to be nobody there, and people are worried if they have to come from New Plymouth

or Hawera or Stratford,” he says.

Similar concerns were voiced by Cr Langton.

“We are going to have a police officer a third of the time if we are lucky,” he says. “What do you do if somebody breaks into a house and you know that the local police are an hour away? Are you going to take things into your own hands?”

Like Cr Roach he is worried about what will happen if smaller stations are forced

to close.

“If it’s gone you will never get it back,” he says.

A statement from the Police media team say they can confirm that there are currently vacancies in the Taranaki area.

“We are actively working with our internal processes to fill these positions. We have an enthusiastic and motivated team here that carry out great work in keeping our communities safe and preventing harm.”

## Tower in place despite objections

The Vodafone cell tower has now been erected beside the Okato Tennis Club, despite the objections of most of the town’s residents, as expressed in a petition. Vodafone claimed to have consulted the nearest residents, but in fact this is not the case and the same people were opposed to the location of the cell tower.

A local expert Raig Kleinhans, a Network and Telecommunications engineer has contacted many people such as parliamentarians, New Plymouth District Council staff and others in authority to point

out the danger of such installations situated so close to population centres, but considers his concerns were not addressed. His reaction to the cell tower being now in place? “I’m absolutely gutted after all that work the community did to engage Vodafone and the Council (New Plymouth District Council) and it didn’t get anywhere.” He added, “Based on my experience it (the tower’s erection) was expected because the Council, Vodafone and the Government work hand in hand and do not care.”

Another resident Kat Zuidema

commented, “I’m really sad about it. You live in a community where no one wants it (the cell tower), but nobody listens.” She added, “Vodafone, a big multinational company is just carrying out their agendas, despite the wishes of the community which lives there.”

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**RIGHT:**  
The Vodafone cell tower in the heart of Okato, with the Coastal Taranaki School boundary shown just 65 metres away.





## Letters to the Editor

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

## Three myths

I respond to an article in your June 2, 2022 publication; "Busting Three Myths on Pasture Diversity" by Emily House and Nina Poletti, 5<sup>th</sup> Business Agri.

Was their approach a criticism of the farming method; Regenerative Agriculture? On closer reading, not so.

Regenerative Agriculture (RA) is essentially a tool to increase the sequestration of carbon into soil. Results, are healthy soils, a diverse, productive sward, healthy animals. Applied, are methods to advance the symbiotic processes, those beneficial biological interactions between plants, soil organisms and grazing animals.

(Myth 1) Using RA., adding soil minerals is unnecessary:

RA farmers must not reject application of other proven, environmentally sound techniques of farming. Native soils are not blessed with a balanced supply of the 16 or

so macro and micro chemical elements needed for healthy plants, soil biota and animals. Fertilizer applications need be applied at the right time, at the right rates. Not "whenever & more is better". Yes, regular soil and herbage testing is basic.

(Myths 2 and 3) Grazing species diverse RA pastures, animals self-select and self-medicate in respect to most nutritious forage and that which will avoid/fix parasitic infestations:

Somewhat maybe. It's down to quantity and quality of forage on offer. RA pastures offer a more continuous complex of grass, clover and herbs as feed, in high quantity and quality. Such pastures benefit grazing animals by providing feed over a wider seasonal range. It has greater resilience to climate impacts, its root systems access moisture and nutrients from wider/deeper soil horizons. (Providing stock manager avoids over grazing, "decking" and

"pugging" the pasture.)

But consider; farmed ruminants are bulk feeders. They compete. Their drive is to fill up quickly, then herd loosely, lie down, chew cud and digest for some hours before an evening refill. As this is their manner of feeding and herding, it works against the selective grazing, self-medicating and avoiding parasitic infections idea. If they look a bit dirty, time for a drench.

So hey, the virtues of R.A. may be over exposed by enthusiasts coaching its application. But do appreciate, that terms, "grass fed" and "regenerative farmed" are rapidly becoming provenance passwords in our export markets. Consumers already bid higher for that product across the auction board than for other.

Personally I'm checking RA principles work. Testing out on my small herd on my few acres. My method is to strip graze, enter at 3500+- kg DM/ha, exit at 1800+-kg DM/ha. My target to grow these 18 month Hereford and HF cross steers at a live weight gain of 1kg plus each per day. A 79 day round. Hay supple-

ment on wet/cold days only. So far it's working. More profit in growing and quitting stock faster than feeding less longer.

Lastly, some recommended reading. "Grass Fed Focus: A Cut Above The Rest." The Goldpine Post, June 2022. An article by Goldpines own journalists. Excellent.

Murray Crombie  
Oakura.

## Gun law changes

It's quite obvious that National's Taranaki-King Country MP Barbara Kuriger is somewhat in favour of this government's new gun laws proposals.

Firstly it's well known our gangs and crims acquire their firearms unlawfully, then not only do they dish out drugs of all kinds, but it now seems that our police around the world have been intercepting these drug imports, rounding up suppliers and receivers quite quickly regardless of how these drugs are imported.

Continued page 3

## ADELPHOS

# Rest

Have you ever been so tired that you couldn't keep your eyes open? When I was young, I used to work in cold storage and biscuit factories. Sometimes I had to do night shift. The nights seemed very long and sometimes driving home I could hardly keep my eyes open. The feeling was occasionally so intense that I needed to pull my car to the side of the road and have a few minutes shut eye. I now know that eyelids are muscles and like all muscles they get tired, heavy and need rest.

Rest is something we all need, but how many of us get enough of it? According to research, published in 2016, looking into the health and wellbeing of New Zealanders, one third (35%) of Kiwis were found to be either not getting enough sleep or compromised sleep. And the figure rose to 42% for those between the ages of 35 to 49. Sobering facts and they were pre-covid as well.

There are two types of rest. The first, has passive physical rest, including

napping and sleeping and active physical rest including yoga and stretching. The second is mental rest, where the brain stops being forced to make connections, process information and cement memories. Both are essential for good health and wellbeing.

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28 NIV)." What an amazing promise. He is inviting us to take our worries and the things that keep us awake at night to

Him. We are never alone and Jesus is always waiting for us. He is interested in us. And He promises to give us rest. Worth a try?

If you are interested in learning more about sleep, you may find the article helpful I wrote in the December 2, 2021 issue of this paper entitled, "Shut Eye." Just google The Opunake and Coastal News and click the archives section.

Manaakitanga and keep well.

Adelphos

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OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

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It is available on stands at the following locations

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The Health Shop on the ground floor at Centre City

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### Waitara:

Outside the North Taranaki Community House Trust, 67 McLean St

### Inglewood:

Inglewood Book Centre, 31 Rata St

### Stratford:

Stratford Knit & Sew, 202 Broadway

First National, Stratford.

### Eltham:

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### Hawera:

Outside First National, Cnr of Victoria and High Streets

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Papers are also available at

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Pastimes in Opunake

Tim's Barbershop, Moturoa

Okato Takeaways



## Letters to the Editor

# Feedback sought on safer speeds plan

NPDC is calling for public feedback on a proposed plan to manage speeds on our roads to make them safer and reduce the risk of serious injury or death.

Feedback has opened on phase one of our Interim Speed Management Plan (2022-2024) for urban and rural roads, which includes a series of recommendations for safer speeds.

“The simple truth is that no-one should die on our roads, but our death and serious injury crash numbers have continued to rise over the last 10 years,” says NPDC Transport Manager Rui Leitao.

“Speed is the key factor in deaths and injury crashes – no matter what the cause of an accident is, it’s speed that determines whether or not you’ll walk away from it.

“Everyone makes mistakes, we want to do everything we can to ensure that if people do, they have a greater chance of surviving,” says Rui.

“By bringing in safer speeds, in combination with our biggest-ever investment in road safety improvements, we’re creating a road network that’s forgiving of mistakes.”

The Interim Speed Management Plan follows two years of public engagement and feedback. It proposes the following changes over the next 10 years:

- 10km/h in shared spaces, e.g. lower Brougham Street, New Plymouth.



Still too many killed on Taranaki roads.

- 20km/h in parks and cemeteries
- 30km/h in busy places where there are a lot of people walking and biking, e.g. outside schools/kura; as well as proposing variable speeds (operating at peak times during pick-up and drop-off) at schools/kura on an arterial road.
- 40 km/h on residential streets connecting to main roads and where people live and play.
- 50km/h on arterial

roads where there is a high volume of vehicles and people moving, e.g. Mangorei Road, New Plymouth.

- 60km/h outside rural schools
- 60km/h or 80km/h on rural roads, depending on road design and surface.

Safer speeds is just one part of NPDC’s goal of 40% reduction in deaths and serious injury crashes on roads by 2030.

NPDC will be investing

\$64.4m in infrastructure up to 2030, targeting high-risk roads. An additional \$4m would fund education and awareness through Roadsafetaranaki.

Lower speed limits will also reduce communities’ carbon emissions and make it safer for people to walk and cycle.

Councils throughout New Zealand are delivering speed management plans as part of Waka Kotahi’s and Ministry of Transport’s Road to Zero campaign.

Tom Stephens  
New Plymouth

## Enforcing the rahui

With the gathering at Parihaka last weekend, there many people got together for the Puanga Kai Rua Festival last Saturday, and having a great time, they did not overlook their own hapa on our local coastlines, and reframed having shellfish on their menu (in fact nothing from the ocean coastlines).

Secondly, Matariki holiday weekend is just around the corner. What a great option for the Maori/Iwi leaders to step up and support their own hapu, by deleting shellfish (all ocean stocks, fish included) from the iwi’s menus, to give them a chance in the future. I agree, too many people lined up on our coastlines to get their quota of the shellfish, which led to the local iwi placing this rahui which should apply to everyone. 100 people say at Parihaka festival could mean 100 x 10 black-foot paua and 10 yellow-foot paua per person equals=1000 shellfish per variety for this group.

Who is enforcing this rahui to give our coastline life a chance, bro?

Ian McAlpine  
New Plymouth

We know we have gun clubs around the country teaching people how to use a weapon properly while some represent our country in world championship shooting events.

Well, before the Christchurch Mosque shooting, a delegation of some people met with former PM John Key, telling him that they had all been subjected to racial slurs from a certain group of people and they also feared something bad was going to happen and the answer they all got was that they had nothing to fear. Our former PM John Key was very wrong.

To me all our police should be and must be allowed to carry a firearm 24/7 as already we have one or two police being shot. Also we all know that our farming community all own a firearm and have a gun licence, as they go out and shoot possums, go pig hunting etc etc. , yet our society has changed so much over the centuries that our police must be allowed to carry firearms as they are paid to protect us.

As a person I hate guns at any time, yet I have been out possum hunting, but with an experienced, licenced person. Also. Who would want to live in America? I know I wouldn’t at all. Maybe just to visit. Nothing else.

# Tower in place despite objections

Continued from page 1

Another concerned resident Frank Roebuck said “I’m dumbfounded that democracy did not occur. He explains: “The door-to-door survey overwhelmingly voted that the tower should be placed on the outskirts of Okato. Vodafone and the Okato

Tennis Club chose to ignore the wishes of the residents. A sad day for democracy in Okato.”

Many people were concerned about the possible health implications of the tower being so close to households, such as immune

dysfunction, headaches, insomnia and an increased risk of cancer, as reported in some research findings.

Another concern was the cell tower’s proximity to the local school, with its boundary just 65 metres away.

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## Vodontop scam

Has anyone out there had a crowd who call themselves Vodontop, taking money on a monthly basis out of their VISA card?

If so we would love to hear from them.

I had a similar problem a while back with some outfit called Funrevamp. Again around \$100 each month was being

deducted illegally from my VISA card and it took me several months to notice unfortunately.

Interestingly when phoning VISA about the Funrevamp fraud the person on the other end of the phone after we got chatting said something along the lines “you’d be amazed what’s going on.”

We all here at the

Opunake & Coastal News have all been scammed plus we’ve done stories on unfortunate victims.

So let us know if you have any scams and we’ll forewarn our readers about these cybercriminals and hopefully curb their dealings, at least locally.

Editor

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COUNCILLOR'S COMMENT

# The heart of a volunteer

Recently I had the privilege of speaking at the Eltham Volunteer Fire Brigades 120th AGM. Wow, that's 120 years of a volunteer organisation providing selfless service to our community. And we have a Volunteer Fire Brigade in



STEFFY MACKAY

nearly all of our communities across the District. It makes you wonder how many hours of service they have provided for us, and imagine if we had to pay them an hourly rate? In today's society, volunteers are becoming a dying breed and rare to find. But we are so blessed knowing that if

the siren goes up in the hour of someone's need, the Fire Brigade will be there in a flash. Very often they are the first to arrive on the scene.

These volunteers are willing to sacrifice their time and energy to help the needs of others.

It reminds me of a fitting quote that says: "Volunteers don't necessarily have the Time, They just have the Heart" It seems a bit trivial to say "thank you", knowing how much the service they provide for our communities, is so vital. But know that our residents are extremely grateful and fortunate to have such caring

selfless volunteers that willingly turn up to aid and assist others.

But it's not just our Volunteer Fire Brigades that give their time and energy for others.

I would also like to recognise the other volunteer organisations that selflessly provide a service for our communities.

The various Lions Clubs who contribute to making a difference in our towns. They are always available to assist in events, community projects etc without hesitation.

The Community Patrols across our District give up their time to patrol our streets to

keep us safe. They are often out at unsociable hours whilst we are all tucked up in our warm houses.

And let's not forget the Rotokare team of volunteers that work endlessly to enhance our Rotokare Scenic Reserve. The countless hours you have willingly volunteered have truly made us a "Gem" for our District.

And the list could go on, but know that if you are one of the volunteers making a difference within our communities, you are very much appreciated!

I thank you and I salute you.

Cr Steffy Mackay

Victim Support thanks all our volunteers for their time, knowledge and experience to support victims of crime and trauma.



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# Iwi-Council partnership to consider combined Manaia facility

A new multi-purpose, shared facility for Manaia is being considered following the signing of a partnership agreement between the South Taranaki District Council (Council) and Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust (Te Korowai).

The agreement enables the two partners to start formal public engagement with key stakeholders and the wider Manaia community and then, if agreed, undertake a business case looking at the feasibility and ongoing viability of establishing a combined multi-purpose, multi-use Iwi and community facility in Manaia.

South Taranaki Mayor Phil

Nixon says the partnership is an exciting opportunity for both the Council and the Iwi to combine their resources to achieve a great outcome for the whole community.

For some time, the council has been considering what to do with the Manaia Town Hall and Sports Complex both of which were closed after being assessed as not meeting the minimum 34% new building earthquake standard.

In 2018 the council approved funding of up to \$1,000,000 to rebuild the town hall. However, following considerable consultation and no clear indication from the community on whether to

have a combined facility or two separate ones, a final decision had not been made.

At the same time Te Korowai was looking to relocate its head office from Hāwera to somewhere within the Ngāruahine rohe.

"As part of our assessment of options, we identified a need for something more than just a head office, but a cultural creative space to support large Iwi activities and which complements the role and mahi of our Hapū at a Pā level" says Te Korowai o Ngāruahine chair Paula Carr. "This space, if approved, would be a platform to promote Ngāruahine culture, identity and placemaking, which will raise the profile

of the Manaia community regionally and nationally," says Paula

As part of the agreement once the public engagement and business case has been completed either party may decide whether a combined facility is the best way forward or not.

"The partnership agreement doesn't commit either party to anything more than this first stage of investigation. However, the timing and potential benefits were such that it warrants careful consideration," says Mayor Nixon.

It's intended that the public engagement and business case will be developed before the end of the year.

## A cloudy Taranaki Maunga



RIGHT: Taranaki Maunga enveloped with cloud as recently photographed.



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MANATŪ HAUORA

# Cost of building a house skyrockets

The average cost of building a home in New Zealand's main centres has shot up 20.9% in the last 12 months, according to construction cost database QV CostBuilder. At the end of April, more than 60,000 rates were updated, resulting in a 20.9% increase in the cost to build a standard three-bedroom home since the same time last year.

The biggest elemental price increases since its last update at the end of 2021 were for stairs and balustrades, which went up 17.4% due to increases in precast concrete and structural steel, followed by substructure (10.1%), site preparation (9.7%), framework (8.3%), and windows and exterior doors (8%).

On average, each trade rate has increased by 6.7% since the end of 2021, with reinforcing steel up 29.2% in that time. The average cost of metalwork was also up by 18.4%, with external works (11.3%), piling (10.5%) and excavation (9.9%) rounding out the top five.

QV CostBuilder spokesperson and quantity surveyor Martin Bisset commented: "The fact that the cost of construction is increasing should surprise absolutely no-one, least of all those who are pricing and doing the work — but what is surprising is the sheer size of some of these increases, at a time when the construction industry is pretty much at capacity."

"With inflation and interest rates also rising, and supply



A building under construction.

chain issues still prevalent, there will be further price increases in the future," Mr

Bisset added. QV CostBuilder's database of more than 60,000 costs

across six regions of New Zealand — including Auckland, Hamilton,

Palmerston North, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin — is updated twice per year.

This latest update represents an average 4.7% increase in the price to build non-residential buildings and a 5.6% increase in the cost to build residential buildings since the last update at the end of last year. The average price of building a non-residential building has increased by 13.7% since April last year.

"It's important to remember these figures are averages for the six cities covered by CostBuilder and the cost of building will always be dependent on the level of finishes, internal layout, and whether it has a single or double garage," Mr Bisset said.

## Taranaki home values resist nationwide trend

The latest QV House Price Index shows the housing market has fallen back to the same levels seen at the end of November 2021, as rising interest rates and credit constraints continue to bite.

The average home decreased in value by 2.2% nationally over the past three-month period to the end of May, the same decrease in quarterly value change we saw in April, with the national average value now sitting at \$1,030,221. This represents an average annual increase of 10.5%, down from 14% annual growth last month. Taranaki's residential property market has cooled considerably from earlier highs — and yet it remains one of just a handful of regions with positive home value growth this quarter.

Much of that growth has occurred in Stratford, where home values have increased by an average of 10.2% throughout the first five months of this year. New

Plymouth's home value growth over that same period was just 0.7%, including a modest decline of 0.3% for this quarter.

The average home values in New Plymouth, Stratford, and South Taranaki are \$752,824, \$545,188, and \$500,777 respectively. Though homes dropped in value by an average of 2.2% this quarter nationally, there continues to be pockets of relatively robust home value growth in the provincial centres. In the North Island, Stratford (10.1%), Central Hawke's Bay (7.1%) and South Taranaki (5.3%) round out the top three for the three months ending 31 May 2022.

In the Auckland region, the average value now sits at \$1,469,625, falling 3.3% over the last three-month period, with annual growth of 9.9%, down from the 14.2% we reported in April.

QV General Manager David Nagel commented: "There's no question that

prices are falling, especially now as buyers take the upper hand in negotiations. It's really just a matter of how much further values will fall before finding the new equilibrium."

Wellington and Hamilton are showing the largest three-month value reductions with falls of 4.9% and 4.4% respectively. Napier and Rotorua, at 4.2 and 4.1% reduction in values, are not very far behind.

"Almost all of the country has passed the value peak of the market cycle. This was originally driven by investors and first-home buyers competing for limited stock, especially with the availability of low interest loans. That led to massive value increases to the more affordable locations, so it's no surprise these are the first values to get hit. But as the market downturn takes hold, even the higher valued properties have started being impacted now," he said.

"With interest rates likely to climb further to battle inflationary pressures, as well as economic uncertainty with the Ukraine conflict and continuing supply chain disruptions, we've still got a way to go before the market bottoms out. We're unlikely to see any significant value growth until at least 2023 when fully open borders might allow for the return of tourists and immigrants to New Zealand at pre-Covid levels."

Despite the latest quarterly value reductions, annual value growth continues to track positively with the average property in New Zealand increasing in value by 10.5% since May 2021.

The Canterbury region has recorded the highest annual growth at 24.9%, while the lowest growth has occurred in the Wellington region at just 3.1% growth over the past 12 months.

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# Queen's Birthday honour for mayor of Tarata

Before the interview started, Bryan Hocken wanted to make one thing perfectly clear.

"There's no I in the word team," the Tarata sheep and beef farmer said, after being awarded an MNZM (Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit) for services to agriculture and the rural community in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Anything he achieved could not have been done without the support of those behind him, he said.

"I didn't get this on my own. All the people around me helped me get this. Whether it's organising a working bee or a protest in Wellington, you've got to have an army behind you."

Bryan says he always goes into something with the intent of winning and having a vision of what he wants to achieve.

"I believe in the Seven Ps. Proper Prior Planning Prevents Piss Poor Performance."

A former President of Taranaki Federated Farmers he has been an outspoken advocate for farming interests. In 2003 he was a lead organiser of a Federated Farmers protest against the animal emission tax, dubbed the Fart Tax. This protest is perhaps best remembered for Opunake farmer and Taranaki-King Country MP Shane Ardern driving his tractor up the steps of Parliament. Bryan recalls the protest making its way along The Terrace on its way to Parliament with him carrying a loud hailer and leading the protesters in a chant to the tune of the French nursery rhyme Frere Jacques.

Other protests Bryan has

## Sandfords Mania Golf results

June 4. Saturday Men. 1. Jack Hopkins. 2. Wayne Baker. 3. John Oliver. 4. Nathan Ngere.



**Bryan Hocken with the stone commemorating past and present owners of MataRata Downs Station.**

been involved with have included those against the United States Lamb Tariff, the micro-chipping of farm dogs, and the public given access to farm land.

He has been on Beef + Lamb's Western North Island Farmer Council since 2011 and promoted beef and lamb through hosting visitors and organising events like the Beef + Lamb New Zealand Taranaki Big Dine In.

Known locally as the Mayor of Tarata, he's been on the Tarata Hall Committee since 1974, and was chairman for 36 years. When he stepped down as chairman, he was made patron, the first time anybody had ever been appointed to that position. He is President and a Life Member of Tarata Sheep Dog Trial Club, and Chairman of the Inglewood Veterinary Group.

People receiving honours are under strict instructions not to tell anybody before the honours are announced. While some may still tell

close family members Bryan didn't. Not even his wife Helen knew about it. He booked the Tarata Hall for the night of Queen's Birthday without giving any reason for doing so. When the Honours List was announced, the word went out to come along and bring "a plate and a mate." Ninety people turned up. Bryan says he was pleased to see both the Mayor of New Plymouth (Neil Holdom) and the "Mayor of the Coast" (John Washer) were there.

His home since he was six years old has been the 465ha MataRata Downs Station. His father Mervyn had bought it in 1955 from the Cartwright brothers who happened to be Bryan's wife Helen's father and uncle. Now the station is owned by Bryan and Helen's daughter and son-in-law, Sarah and Jarred Coogan.

Bryan says he holds a QBE or Qualified by Experience. "It's not the grades you make. It's the hands you shake. I left school before

I could sit School C to cut gorse on the farm."

When Bryan first got involved in farm politics, Mervyn had a warning for him.

"He said don't be all hair and dirty shoes," says Bryan. The reference to hair harked back to the days when men would apply brylcream to the hair to make them look good.

"Their hair would look all good on top, but their shoes would be dirty. You go into politics and look at people who could talk the talk but not walk the walk. My Dad's fear was that I would go into politics and neglect the farm."

Bryan says the evidence that he wasn't prepared to do this could be seen in 2019 when he and Helen, Jarred and Sarah won the Taranaki regional Ballance Environmental Award, the first time the farm had ever been entered in the competition.

Mervyn died in 2014 at the age of 90. Bryan, who had had his eye on a slab of andesite from the quarry

on his farm decided to use it to create a memorial to his father, and to all the other owners of the station including Helen's father, and going back to A. Neilsen in 1887.

He credits his friends Merv and Heather Turner for suggesting the inscription, "On this Shared Land we Stand."

"I said thank you, that's it," says Bryan. "It's only shared. You don't take it with you when you die."

The memorial was unveiled on July 6, 2014. Like the celebration of his Queens Birthday Honour, he had organised an event and invited people, not telling them what it was all about. Sixty people turned up

In addition to other honours he's received, Bryan received a New Plymouth District Council Citizens Award in 2007. For the master of the pithy saying who has always been

prepared to stick his neck out, perhaps it's appropriate the last word belongs to Bryan.

"You are either on the edge or you are taking up space."

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# Taking action on supermarkets as part of our cost of living support

It's hard to believe that we're halfway through the year already. It's been a busy first half of 2022. During the last month alone we have announced significant support for households and to back our local businesses. We're now taking the next steps with our work to fix our supermarket sector. In its current format the



**STEPH LEWIS**  
MP FOR WHANGANUI

supermarket industry doesn't work. It's not competitive and shoppers aren't getting a fair deal. I know people here in Taranaki are fed up with paying a premium for just the basics, while supermarkets earn \$1 million a day in excess profits. We're calling on supermarkets to open up wholesale access for their competitors, at a reasonable price. Opening up wholesale access will make it easier for new competitors to enter the grocery market, and ensure fairer prices for Kiwis. We're appointing the Commerce Commission as an interim 'grocery watchdog', to review the grocery sector and keep

supermarkets honest. We're also introducing a mandatory code of conduct and compulsory unit pricing on grocery products, to make it easier for consumers to compare prices.

These steps come on top of our recent work to stop supermarket "land wars", where supermarkets block competitors from setting up shop in certain suburbs. Given the pressure Kiwis are under due to global inflation, we can't afford to wait to make these changes. That's why we're taking stronger action than the Commerce Commission proposed, to make our grocery sector more competitive.

Taking action on supermarkets is just one of the ways we're helping to ease pressure on households. Additional highlights from the Wellbeing Budget 2022 I believe benefit people in Taranaki include:

- The removal of barriers to getting a drivers licence, helping 64,000 Kiwis get on the road to work.
- More paramedics, ambulances and helicopters so more people can get urgent care when and where they need it.
- Upgrades to rural broadband, building on the work we've already done to ensure around 80,000 rural homes and businesses are

better connected. This time of global uncertainty will pass, but it's important that we do what we can right now to support families here in Taranaki and across the country, through this tough period.

While I am on parental leave, I encourage you to let me know how the Budget 2022 has made a difference for you and your family by sending me an email to [steph.lewismp@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:steph.lewismp@parliament.govt.nz). I look forward to reading your messages when I return to the office soon.

*Steph Lewis*  
MP Whanganui

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## New legislation to improve water services

Local Government Minister Nanaia Mahuta says the Water Services Entities Bill is the first of several pieces of legislation to establish a new system for national water services that meets the needs of communities and the environment, while keeping costs low for households.

"The bill establishes four dedicated Water Service Entities that will enable infrastructure to provide safe and affordable drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services," said Nanaia Mahuta. "These changes will deliver clean and safe drinking water services at an affordable price for New Zealanders. By investing in such critical infrastructure now we can help secure



**Hon Nania Mahuta MP**

New Zealand's economy for future generations. "Everyone accepts the need for change. Without reform our water infrastructure will continue to deteriorate. Households, businesses and communities would face genuine public health risks, services that don't meet their needs, and rising bills of up to \$9,000 a year per household just for water services. "Years of underinvestment across the country has led to threats to water quality.

Pipes burst in our city streets, sewage flows into our waterways, and almost 500,000 New Zealanders in one year were forced to boil their water because of faecal contamination.

"This is unacceptable and the costs to communities and ratepayers are just too big to ignore. We are acting now because others wouldn't.

"Independent advice shows up to \$185 billion of investment over 30-years is needed to address underinvestment in maintenance and replacements, upgrade water infrastructure to meet modern standards, provide for growing communities and build resilience against climate change and natural hazards.

"The new water services entities will ensure all New Zealanders get the high-quality water services they deserve, no matter whether

they live in our biggest cities or heartland provincial communities.

"It will also ensure public ownership is a bottom line for this Government, and the Bill contains strong protections against privatisation that will ensure this essential infrastructure is safeguarded for future generations.

"The Bill also incorporates the recommendations of the Working Group on Representation, Governance and Accountability. It secures community ownership of the water entities, protects against privatisation, and ensures a stronger community voice in the new entities.

"It ensures the collective ownership of the entities by local government on behalf of their communities through a shareholding allocated on the basis of population, as recommended by the Working Group.

"The Bill contains robust mechanisms to provide for iwi/Māori

*continued on page 9*

**Barbara Kuriger**  
MP for Taranaki-King Country  
**Backing Rural and Provincial New Zealand**

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# New legislation to improve water services

continued from page 8

rights and interests in our three waters system but makes clear these rights and interests do not include

ownership.

“The bill will shortly undergo its first reading debate in Parliament and will then be subject to a full select committee process where

further public submissions will be welcomed,” said Nanaia Mahuta.

Further legislation will be introduced later this year to

enable the transfer of assets and liabilities from local authorities to Water Services Entities, and integrate entities into other regulatory systems.

Another piece of legislation will cover economic regulation and consumer protection, to ensure water services are reasonable and affordable.

A National Transition Unit will oversee the establishment of the new entities over the next two years.

## Defibrillator for CoastalCare

Opunake now has its own AED(defibrillator) which has been donated by the St John’s Taranaki District Committee, and is situated outside the CoastalCare building on Napier Street.

Anybody needing to use it can phone 111 and get a code to get into the lockbox where the defibrillator is stored.

The St Johns Taranaki District Committee members for Taranaki are Vlad Purguric and Raewyn Robinson.

“People by default go to the doctors, so that’s why it’s here,” says Vlad. “It’s top of the range and compatible with ambulance gear.”



LEFT: Raewyn Robinson and Vlad Purguric of the St Johns Taranaki District Committee with the defibrillator located outside CoastalCare.

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## Funding boost to empower women to farm for the future

Women will play a significant role in how New Zealanders farm for the future, and new Government funding will help them pave the way, Associate Agriculture Minister Meka Whaitiri said.

“We’ve committed \$473,261 over two years through the Ministry for Primary Industries’ (MPI’s) Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures fund to enable and empower women working in the dairy sector, Meka Whaitiri said.”

“Supporting these women to reach their farming leadership potential

will deliver long lasting economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits to New Zealand.

“This programme aims to create more value, develop new practices and support our extremely capable rural women into the future, it will also ensure diversity in the primary sector leadership of Aotearoa NZ which I welcome,” Meka Whaitiri said.

The funding will support the Dairy Women’s Network (DWN) to lead the Farming for the Future Leader’s Programme, which will

pilot a programme of wrap-around services for women. For example, it will develop training content and a central knowledge hub, and provide coaching to support female business group leaders in the dairy sector.

The programme will support DWN members to innovate and implement solutions to problems shared by their farm businesses. They will be able to share their knowledge with their wider communities and with DWN’s 11,000 members.

“The members of the programme will create a positive impact that is far

reaching, by providing channels to share solutions and innovations with their businesses, partners, farm teams, neighbours and communities.

“The Government is committed to working with regional communities to help them reach their economic and social potential.

“These strong social connections and access to tools and support from this programme will help build resilience, both for these women and for their farming businesses,” Meka Whaitiri said.

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## On this month in history Johnny Depp born

On this month in history Johnny Depp was born in Owensboro, Kentucky. His formative years were characterised by many shifts and his parents divorced when he was 15.

He is known as a painter, musician (guitar), producer and notably an actor. His first

film was A Nightmare on Elm Street (1984). He also acted in a popular television series 21 Jump Street (1987-1990).

As an actor he has won a Golden Globe, a Screen Actor Guild Award, two BAFTAS, as well as being nominated three times for

an Academy Award. In 2012 he was named as the world’s highest paid actor with earnings of \$75,000,000.

He is well known for the film series Pirates of the Caribbean (2003-2017).

He recently fared best in a legal case he took against his former partner Amber

Herd. She had claimed that he had engaged in domestic violence against her, which he denied.

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# Twenty drawbacks of electric vehicles

Paul Butler, the owner of New Plymouth car dealers Merit Cars feels the full story regarding evs is not being told by the industry or government. He comments: "I cannot in all good conscience sell vehicles which are not "green" when the overall costs of manufacture, maintenance, battery replacement and disposal are taken into consideration. If you are considering

buying an EV, please do full research, particularly on the life of the battery, the deterioration/degradation of battery over its 8/10yr life and replacement cost of the main ev battery at that time. We are happy to discuss options for anyone looking to purchase an alternative vehicle that will provide a "true green alternative" if you are interested. All evs will eventually be connected to the internet

and be able to be "switch off" by the "powers that be" to control where you go and how much power you consume and hence the "Apps" being developed and available so you can see your CO2 footprint. [https://www.onamission.world/companies?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIqOSEz\\_mr-](https://www.onamission.world/companies?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIqOSEz_mr-) Paul has submitted the following article which is food for thought.



An electric car receiving a charge.

For almost 10 years now, electric vehicles have been the talk of the car industry. From the early Tesla models up to today's Mustang Mach E, electric vehicles tried to show what the future of personal transport looks like. To some, they are appealing since modern electric vehicles introduced zero emissions and high-tech driving interfaces. However, EV manufacturers have hidden the downsides of those vehicles. The purpose of this list is to reveal to you the 20 things they won't tell you. Keep reading to discover why electric cars are still far from perfect. Here's why you should think twice before purchasing one.

**20. Short range anxiety**  
Range anxiety is the number-one factor when it comes to EV downsides. Simply, modern electric vehicles are still range-limited due to their small capacity batteries. Most affordable electric cars on the market have a bit more than a 130-mile-range. However, Teslas and some other expensive vehicles offer double that number. That is still not comparable to the average gasoline-powered vehicle, not to mention a diesel-powered vehicle.

Modern cars can cover 500 or even more miles on a single tank, so electric cars still have a long way to go.

**19. Long charging times**  
Long charging time is another big problem concerning electric cars. To fully charge the batteries, you need to connect your vehicle to a power source. This can often take at least several hours. However, Tesla and Porsche advertise their models with supercharging abilities. That means they can recharge their batteries to nearly 80 percent in just 20 to 30 minutes. Even though Tesla and Porsche have made significant improvements, charging is still far from the speed to fill a gas tank. Putting the fuel in your car only takes a couple of minutes compared to charging your vehicle overnight. If the industry doesn't find a solution to this problem soon, it could seriously hurt

the electric vehicle market.

**18. Trip planning problems**  
Small ranges and long charging times can put a strain on any road trip plans. You can't plan a fast trip in an electric car without knowing the location of charging stations. You will also need to know the estimated duration of charging or supercharging. Other factors to be aware of are the latest weather conditions and temperature changes. Those metrological circumstances affect the electric car's range significantly. That is why electric cars are only suitable for short trips. You can forget driving from coast to coast, at least not in a reasonable amount of time. You'll have to plan each charging stop along the way to avoid getting stranded in the middle of nowhere.

**17. Mostly good for urban use**  
So, what is the main playground for electric vehicles? Simply put, it's urban areas.

The EV's range is longer if you drive in the city. Second, there are far more charging stations in metropolitan areas. Also, if you run out of juice while driving in the city, which often happens with electric vehicles, you can easily find a cab, Uber, bus, or some other form of transportation to get home.

**16. Not so environmental-friendly**  
While it's true that electric vehicles have zero emissions, did you ever think about what it takes to make just one electric vehicle? Apparently, the process of making a big chunk of Lithium-Ion batteries as well as their disposal is polluting, since they aren't recyclable. Also, electric vehicles demand more electricity. That comes from thermoelectric or nuclear power plants, which are extremely dangerous because they're choking the Earth. The rising demand for electric power will only raise the level of global pol-

Continued page 11

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# that drivers overlook

Continued from page 10

lution. This is actually far beyond what internal combustion engines are doing now.

## 15. Too expensive

Since electric vehicles feature the latest, most advanced technology, they cost more. For example, there is a range of electric cars for sale on the current market, with the top models going for well over \$100,000. Although there are affordable models like the Volkswagen Golf E or Nissan Leaf, electric vehicles still cost significantly more than models that run on fossil fuels.

## 14. Repair difficulties

If you own an electric car, you can forget going to your local shop or fixing it inexpensively. Regardless of the type and the model, all-electric vehicles require specific maintenance and service procedures as well as extremely high safety standards. Also, servicing electric cars can be quite dangerous because most of

the car's mechanics consist of battery packs under high voltage. Also, in case of a fire, you can't just put it out with water. You have to use a special fire extinguisher since the batteries burn at a much higher temperature.

## 13. Too heavy

One of the main downsides of having a big battery pack underneath your car is the additional weight. While most modern vehicles are heavy due to all the extra safety and comfort options, electric vehicles are the heaviest champions. On smaller models like the Kia Soul EV, the electric batteries add around 450 extra pounds of weight. However, on some of the high-end models like the Tesla Model X, the battery pack weighs in at over 1,000 pounds. Also, the car itself weighs over 2.3 tons. Heavy vehicles mean more tyre wear, more energy consumption, and maintenance too.

## 12. Cold temperature issues

When it's freezing outside,

electric vehicles are notorious for displaying specific problems. One of the most common issues is the loss of battery power. It's similar to old cell phones that would stop working once you took them out of your pocket in the winter.

Since the bulk of the electric vehicle market is in the Northern Hemisphere where the winters are cold and snowy, cold weather battery drain can be a big problem for everyday use. Owners report a reduced range and even the failure to operate in especially harsh winter conditions. That could be life-threatening.

## 11. Low top speeds

Although there are some electric supercars with insane high speeds like the Rimac Concept One, most regular everyday EVs are quite slow. The top speed of the Golf E or Kia Soul EV is limited to below 100 mph, for instance. Having such a low speed is not only disappointing but it can also be a problem in emergency conditions or for European

drivers where the speed limit on the highways is much higher.

## 10. Highway driving consumption

To fully understand the range problem of modern electric vehicles, you have to comprehend the energy consumption circle. The advertised range that many manufacturers brag about is the average or city driving figure. However, the highway range is much smaller, sometimes up to 50 percent less. The reason is that electric vehicles get a lot of energy from regenerative braking, which is the process of getting some power back from stopping or coasting. During city driving, you use your brakes a lot, which reduces your energy consumption. However, while driving on the highway, there is far less or even no braking so the batteries drain quickly.

## 9. High heavy load consumption

Tesla may tease their fans

Continued page 16

## Gardening with Palmers Gardening Centre

# Top tips for strawberries

There is not a fruit that captures the essence of summer better than strawberries.

Plant strawberries in winter so the plants have plenty of time to get established giving you a bumper harvest come summer.

You will get the best flavour from strawberries that are planted in a sunny spot. Strawberries like to have room so give them at least 30cm of depth in the soil and at least 40cm between each row of plants.

Strawberries don't like to be waterlogged so ensure your soil drains well. Planting strawberries in small mounds will help prevent the soil from becoming too damp.



### Strawberries growing.

Pick the first flowers that come on your strawberry plants as this will promote better growth.

Feed when the flowers appear, this is the crucial stage where the plant will require the energy to focus



on producing healthy fruit. A complete fertiliser high in potash will be the most effective.

Runners are off-shoots of the strawberry plant. A young strawberry plant will not fruit as well if the runners aren't removed as they use up too much energy.

The best time to pick your strawberries is just before they ripen. Leaving them too long on the plant will only give pests a greater opportunity to get to them first.

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# War hero's homestead placed on market for sale

A grand historic home built for a heroic soldier who earned bravery medals in two world wars – and occupied for the past 60 years by family members linked to one of New Plymouth's foremost legal firms - has been placed on the market for sale.

The beautiful Neo-Georgian/Georgian Revival styled home was constructed for highly decorated Kiwi soldier Phillip Lyell Bennett and his family in 1930. Heritage records note the dwelling is the only large Neo-Georgian style home from the 1920-'30s period in New Plymouth.

Original owner Philip Bennett was born in Nelson in 1898 before moving to New Plymouth and joining

the New Zealand army in 1914 – seeing World War One service in the Middle East, Gallipoli, and France. Commissioned as an officer in 1918, he was awarded the Military Cross medal for bravery.

Bennett returned home to join an insurance company and had the homestead at 91 Belt Road built in a style befitting a gentleman. Bennett re-joined the New Zealand army in 1940 with the rank of captain - returning to desert conflict in the Middle East where he was wounded and sent back to New Zealand to recuperate.

After recovering from his injuries, Bennet again took up military duties as a staff captain posted in Fiji where



The historic homestead with an interesting history.

he was steadily promoted. In 1944, the now lieutenant-colonel Bennett was awarded the Distinguished Service Order during the Battle of the Green Islands against the Japanese just north of the Solomon Island Group.

At the conclusion of World War Two, Lieutenant-Colonel Bennett returned to New Plymouth where he sought the peace of the gardens in his beloved two-storey Belt Road residence – enjoying time lovingly tending its gardens and

lawns.

The Neo-Georgian/Georgian Revival architecture style Bennet sought for his home is based on the building style dating back to England between 1714 – 1840 when four kings, all named George, reigned in succession. Homes designed under the style are graciously proportioned along lines of understated elegance and based on symmetry - with gabled roofs, large multi-pane sash windows often with faux shutters on the

external walls, and elaborate doorways... all of which are seen in abundance

throughout the Belt Road home.

The property was purchased in 1958 by young up-and-coming lawyer Manning Reeves who joined the family-run legal practice St Leger H Reeves & Sons before going on to become a partner in one of New Plymouth's foremost legal firms, Reeves Middleton Young - now known as Connect Legal.

Manning Reeves and his wife Ann remained in the 260-square metre home for the ensuing 63-years - raising a family of six children in the elegant four-bedroom/three-bathroom/three-lounge manor, and only moving out recently to relocate to a retirement village in Auckland.

*continued page 13*



The appealing courtyard.



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# Otakeho celebrates milestone

On Queen's Birthday Weekend Otakeho celebrated 125 years of their hall being the hub of their community. The hall was opened on May 18 1897 by Felix McGuire the MP for Egmont. Before then the local blacksmith shop would be used for social functions. A temporary floor would be put in, a dance would be held, and the floor would be removed in time for the blacksmith to carry on his business the next day.

The hall was among the first in South Taranaki to be lit with electricity, courtesy of a water wheel and dam in a nearby stream being hooked up to a generator.

On Sunday June 5 about 70 people, including some who had come from around the country and overseas, were at the Otakeho Hall for a lunch catered by Anderson's Pies and Caterers to celebrate the 125th jubilee.

Kelvin Putt reminded everyone of some of the notable names with Otakeho connections. These included four All Blacks, the two



Otakeho Hall Committee life members Willie Fleming, Mary Anne Whakatutu and Kelvin Putt cut the cake.

sets of brothers, Alan and Hugh Good, and Don and Ian Clarke. There was also rugby coaching legend Bill

Freeman and Black Cap Peter Ingram.

Willie Fleming who was Hall Committee chairman

from 1999 to 2006 was inducted as a life member and then joined other life members Kelvin Putt and

Mary Anne Whakatutu in cutting the jubilee cake.

"Willie was a genuine community guy who took a lead in the hall and making it better," says incoming Hall Committee chairman Richard Walker. "Willie had been active in fundraising and organising working bees and had a lot of input into the refurbishment of the hall back in 1990."

After lunch Bryan Kirk gave a talk on the history of the hall. Anne Walker spoke about the Otakeho branch of the Women's Division of Federated Farmers who used the hall for many years.

Moirá Sayer spoke about school days in Otakeho and how the local school used the hall for annual events like the Fancy Dress Ball. Betty Tarrant recalled the Otakeho Badminton Club which in its heyday had won a number of Taranaki championships. She said the Otakeho Badminton Club had a "secret weapon" which was the structure of the hall itself, with the presence of the rafters producing playing conditions which visiting players might not be used to.

Richard Walker says the Hall Committee would like to thank everyone who attended, and everyone who had come from far away.

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## War hero's homestead placed on market for sale

Continued from page 12

Now the resplendent home at 91 Belt Road is being marketed for sale at auction on 17 June through Bayleys New Plymouth. Salespeople Neale Parkinson and Sarah Brooker-Smith said the stately manor was one of the city's finest homes – enjoying a near regal like presence on some 1,636-square metres of flat land with lush lawns, a sunken rose garden, and mature trees whose fruit the young Reeves children enthusiastically picked while mum Anne cooked home-

made jams and preserves.

"Entry to the home is through an imposing portico-covered front door with colonnades at the end of a grand pathway leading from the front gate – creating an aura of bygone grandeur and elegance," said Neale Parkinson.

"The home's lower-level features two large living rooms and two dining rooms – one of which is the home's original formal dining space. One bedroom with ensuite is located on this floor. Upstairs are the remaining three bedrooms and two

bathrooms."

Neale Parkinson said generations of the Reeves family enjoyed years of happy times running around the home's extensive gardens and jumping into the sparkling inground swimming pool – which even had its own pool house.

"This home has delivered decades of pleasure for the Reeves family, but the time has come for a new family to enjoy the history, character, and charm of this distinctive residence harking back to a bygone era, yet full of modern features – from the kitchen through to the bathrooms."

"It's easy to see why Lieutenant-Colonel Bennett found so much peace and

serenity at the home and its gardens at the end of his stellar military career."



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# A sunny autumn for Taranaki

Autumn 2022 was the equal second warmest autumn on record according to NIWA. Of the available, regularly reporting sunshine observation sites, the sunniest four locations in 2022 so far are Taranaki (1290 hours), Bay of Plenty (1203 hours), Greater Nelson (1194 hours) and Kāpiti Coast (1170 hours). Autumn 2022 was characterised by higher-than-normal air pressure over much of Aotearoa New Zealand and east of the

country, typical of La Niña, according to NIWA. This resulted in an easterly flow anomaly. The Southern Annual Mode (SAM), a proxy for the strength and location of the westerly winds that bring colder temperatures and wetter conditions to parts of New Zealand, was in its positive phase 66% of the time in autumn. This contributed to a lack of cold frontal systems, and when combined with easterly flow anomalies, caused several

dry and sunny spells in the West Coast, Southland, Otago and Canterbury high country. This was also the case for Waikato and Auckland where soil moisture levels were well below normal during May. The nationwide average temperature for autumn 2022 was 14.7°C (1.4°C above the 1981-2010 average from NIWA's seven station temperature series which begins in 1909), making autumn 2022 the equal-second warmest autumn on record.

The exceptionally warm autumn that the country experienced can be attributed to the record and near-record warm SSTs, higher-

than-normal pressure, a persistently positive SAM, and global climate change. Rainfall was more patchy across the season, with bursts of heavy rain events interspaced by long dry spells. In March, heavy rain hit parts of Northland, Auckland and Gisborne in a series of thunderstorms. A new national hourly rainfall record for a low-elevation station (less than 500 above sea level) was set at Maungatapere near Whangārei, where 103 mm of rain was recorded from 4 a.m. – 5 a.m. on March 21. In contrast to this, meteorological drought that had developed in late summer

in Southland worsened in March, before easing at the beginning of May. At the end of the season, a series of low pressures systems battered New Zealand, leading thunderstorms, a likely tornado in Levin, as well crop damaging hail. The highest temperature was 30.6°C, observed at Whatawhata on 9 and 15 March. The lowest temperature was -6.9°C, observed at Middlemarch on 28 May. The highest 1-day rainfall was 226 mm, recorded at Milford Sound on 20 April. The highest wind gust was 193 km/h, observed at Cape Foulwind on 20 May.



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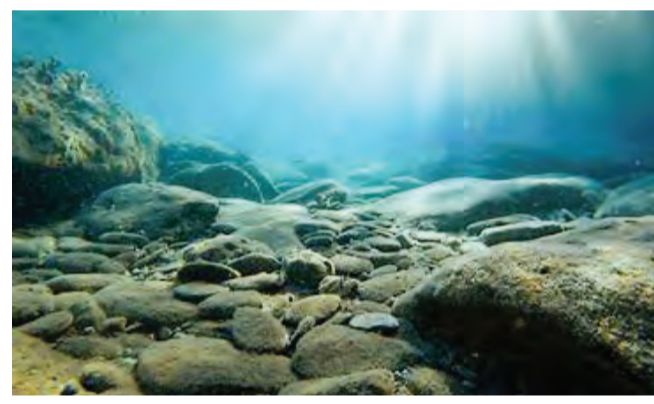
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## Ban seabed mining petition presented to Parliament

A petition signed by over 35,000 New Zealanders calling on Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern to ban seabed mining in Aotearoa was delivered on June 8, which is also World Ocean Day..

Kiwis Against Seabed Mining (KASM) and Greenpeace Aotearoa presented the petition to Green Party MP Eugenie Sage and Te Pāti Māori co-leader Debbie Ngarewa-Packer at Parliament, surrounded by iwi and



This pristine section of seabed is still free from mining, volunteer groups including Ngāti Ruanui, Oceanic Voices, the Deep Sea

but the door remains open to mining companies. The government must ban seabed mining to protect the health of the ocean that connects and nourishes us," says Hita.

KASM Chair Cindy Baxter says: "Over the past decade, with the support of thousands of people, we've successfully fought off three applications to mine the seabed in Aotearoa's waters, and we've won. We had to take it all the way to the Supreme Court, which has now quashed the 2017 Environmental Protection Authority's green light to Trans Tasman Resources (TTR) to mine the South Taranaki Bight. "Throughout this process, it has become abundantly clear that this activity cannot take place in our waters without causing irrevocable harm. It threatens biodiversity - from the pygmy blue whales in the South Taranaki Bight to Māui dolphins and the little blue penguin - the kororā. It's time for this government to draw a line in the seabed, and ban the activity altogether," she says.

Conservation Coalition (DSCC) and Environment & Conservation Organisations of Aotearoa New Zealand (ECO). The signatures were gathered by Greenpeace, KASM, DSCC, ECO, LegaSea, Forest & Bird, WWF and Te Pāti Māori. "Seabed mining is a highly destructive industry that bulldozes the seafloor, releasing carbon and harming the ocean and the creatures who call it home," says Greenpeace Aotearoa campaigner James Hita. "We're calling on the government to ban seabed mining in the waters of Aotearoa immediately. "Valiant efforts from iwi and grassroot groups have successfully stalled seabed mining operations so far,

continued page 15



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# Ban seabed mining petition presented to Parliament

*continued from page 14*

Phil McCabe, of the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition says: "New Zealand has a moral obligation to both share our stand-alone experience in forensically

scrutinising seabed mining proposals with the rest of the world and to call for caution on moves to enable the activity on a massive scale in the Pacific, by standing for a moratorium in international waters."

Greenpeace's James Hita says: "The New Zealand Government has a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to stop this dangerous industry before it starts. Banning seabed mining here would protect the

oceans of Aotearoa and set a strong precedent to support the efforts of our Pacific neighbours who are opposing deep sea mining in the Pacific and around the world. "The ocean is home to over

90% of life on Earth. It is one of our biggest allies in the fight against climate change, every second breath we take comes from the ocean, and damage to it will impact the livelihoods of billions of people. So today, on World

Oceans Day let's protect Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa by banning seabed mining here in Aotearoa," says Hita.

**Our next issue will be published on Thursday June 30**

# Shaping the next chapter for Pukekura Park

Generations of families have enjoyed the playgrounds, lakes, pathways and entertainment venues of Pukekura Park as it has evolved for nearly 150 years.

The challenge now is how to ensure it continues to meet the demands of future users while retaining its unique and special character.

NPDC is reviewing how Pukekura Park could look in the future, and the Strategy and Operations Committee will consider releasing potential ideas for public discussion.

"Pukekura Park is a beloved and iconic part of our region – generations of children have enjoyed it and made memories here for nearly 150 years. We want to make sure that any potential developments enhance those parts of it that make it special," says NPDC Manager Planning Juliet



**An artistic impression of a potential new Bellringer Pavilion to be located next to the southern terraces at the sportsground (concept only).**

Johnson. A variety of key park user groups have worked with NPDC to identify and shape ideas so that future demands of a changing community can be met. If the committee approves the draft discussion document, a two-month

public consultation will start on Friday 17 June.

Among the opportunities identified in the draft Pukekura Park discussion

document are:

- Replacing the Bellringer Pavilion with a building that meets modern building and sporting facility standards
- Revamping the Tea House plaza/Cannon Hill area to enhance visitor experiences
- Increasing the capacity of the Bowl of Brooklands to improve chances of signing touring acts by introducing terraced seating on the slope
- Installing a better style of temporary seating platform over the lake
- Creating an off-road commuter cycling routes to Gilbert Street from Kaimata Street and the racecourse, to meet an increased need among active travellers
- Altering the Fillis Street access area to strengthen visitors' first impression of Pukekura Park and make it more pedestrian-

friendly

- Creating an EnviroHub next to Brooklands Zoo – an education and work space for environmental sustainability.

The feedback on the discussion document will help NPDC prepare a draft Pukekura Park Management Plan, which would be released for consultation early next year.

In January 2022, Pukekura Park received the Green Flag Award for the ninth year in a row. The park officially opened on 29 May 1876 when lawyer Robert Hughes persuaded the Taranaki Provincial Government to buy 12 hectares of wasteland as a recreational reserve. It was initially named the Recreation Grounds, being renamed as Pukekura Park in 1908. Pukekura Park covers 52ha.



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# 20 drawbacks of electric vehicles drivers overlook

Continued from page 11

with the Cybertruck, a rig they designed to be the first fully-electric commercial vehicle, but the truth is, that is far from reality. No matter how strong or big your battery pack is, the energy consumption under a heavy load is excessive. Regardless of the big torque that electric engines produce, when you put a lot of weight on them, they drain the battery, and quickly. Yes, the internal combustion engine also uses more fuel under a load, but not nearly as much as the electric.

## 8. Ease of tracking your movements

Most upscale electric vehicles like Tesla Model S or Porsche Taycan have advanced infotainment and driving aid systems as standard equipment. Tesla even has the infamous autonomous driving system, which has proven to be far from perfect, resulting in many crashes, even some fatal ones. Those systems are designed to track your driving habits, locations, charging points, and so on. Are you sure that you want your every move to be recorded on a server?

## 7. Just plain ugly

There are some electric vehicles that are stunning beauties, but most of them are just plain ugly or

ordinary at the very least. In the case of the Golf E and Kia Soul EV, the design hasn't changed a bit. However, in the case of Tesla cars or the Nissan Leaf, the design is specific to the model and not everyone's cup of tea.

Even the 2021 Mustang Mach E, which shares many design elements with the regular, gasoline-powered Mustang, is not an attractive car. Most car enthusiasts think of the Tesla Model X as a big, egg-shaped design failure with falcon doors.

## 6. Threatening existing economy models

Some economic experts fear that the mass production of electric vehicles and focus on this kind of technology will destroy the current economic model. That, in turn, will affect global politics and all the worldwide monetary systems as well. If the oil companies lose their monopoly on energy and the oil-rich nations lose their authority on the global political scene, the world could be heading to another crisis. Also, think about the enormous car industry with all the companies that make fuel-related products, such as engine parts, fuel injection systems, transmissions, and drivetrain components. All those companies and millions of people will be out of a job, which would put further strain on the economy and

global standards.

## 5. Major car companies aren't so sure

Although almost all the major car manufacturers have at least one electric vehicle in their lineup, most of their CEOs are not fully convinced that electric cars are the future of the industry. Their board of directors and marketing people have observed how problematic the EV segment is, so they hesitate to go all-in on electric cars. Also, there is still a lot of money to be made on internal combustion engines and a lot more development to do, so none of the big-name players is going fully electric anytime soon.

## 4. Practically unusable in third world countries and markets

The EV craze is limited to just a few first world countries and markets in the world. But other than that, electric vehicles in other areas are non-existent. Even China, the world's biggest market, has a hard time implementing any initiatives for electric cars. If you go to remote parts of the world or any of the developing countries, you'll notice that fossil fuels are still the primary source of energy, and that's not likely to change soon.

## 3. Buyers still consider them a gimmick

Although Tesla has sold over 300,000 cars all over the world, with other manufacturers posting considerable production numbers, most car buyers still consider EVs to be some sort of a sales trick. Their specific operation procedures, limited usability, and different driving dynamics make them cars for tech geeks, but not as regular transport devices. Car consumers are still waiting for mass-produced electric vehicles that will fully replace gasoline-powered models. But to do that, they'll need to introduce some improvements that will draw buyers to EVs.

## 2. An EV can't be the only car in your household

Clearly, there are many limits to electric vehicles in general. Even if you own one or are looking to acquire an EV, you should know that it can't fulfill all your transportation needs. That's especially true if you have a family and need a dependable vehicle for your family. You could use your electric vehicle in the city for your everyday commute. However, if you want to go on a road trip with your family, you will need an internal-combustion vehicle due to range concerns and personal peace of mind.

## 1. A hard sell

Most drivers lease their electric cars and then return them to the dealer after a few years to get a new model. However, those people who

have bought electric vehicles could experience great difficulty selling them on the used car market or trading them in at the dealership. That is because electric cars depreciate much faster than gas-powered vehicles since the technology is so new and still evolving.

People looking for deals on the used-car market are still extremely cautious when it comes to electric cars. They don't know how the used electric vehicles act or how to maintain them properly. Many also don't know what the common problems are, for example. Hopefully, EVs will continue to evolve and improve, making them easier to drive long distances, less expensive to repair, and more dependable.



Callum Hurley.

## Double degree

Coastal boy Callum Hurley, son of Terence and Gill Hurley and grandson of the late Jim and Clare Hurley and Bill and Eileen Rothwell recently achieved a double degree of Bachelor of Commerce and Marketing and Bachelor of Law at Victoria University of Wellington.



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# Third placing for Taranaki couple

Matapu couple Murray and Rachel Perks have finished third in the Share Farmer category of the New Zealand Dairy Industry Award. They had earlier finished first in this category at the Taranaki regional awards.

variable order sharemilkers for Alistair, Stephen and Imelda Abbott, on their Abbott Trusts Partnership 134.45ha, 445-cow property.

Murray and Rachel took out the Leadership and Animal Wellbeing, Recording and Productivity awards, as well as over

\$19,000 in prizes.

The judges described the Perks as a focused, well-rounded, genuine couple who are the real deal.

“They have faced adversity both personally and professionally and have shown resilience and an admirable ability to

rebound,” they said.

The judges noted Murray and Rachel have a beautiful farm that has been in the family since 1883 and they are now taking it to the next level.

“They have fenced-off waterways and environmentally they’re

doing a fantastic job,” says head judge Guy Michaels.

“They’re continuing the farm legacy with the herd which is the one of the oldest recorded herds in New Zealand.”

The judges believe Murray and Rachel are exceptional role models and look forward to where they will

leave their mark.

First place went to Will Green (Canterbury/North Otago) with Todd and Renee Halliday (Central Plateau) second.

Taranaki was represented in the Dairy Manager category by Nick Besinga, and in the Dairy Trainee category by Kate Logan.



Taranaki Sharefarmers of the Year Rachel and Murray Perks with farm owners Alistair Abbott and Imelda Abbott.

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# Rural welcomed as priority group

It is great news that a rural health strategy joins the women’s health strategy in proposed legislation and we look forward to seeing the detail says Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ).

“We are extremely pleased that the Minister of Health and his colleagues have listened to rural stakeholders, including RWNZ, and a rural health strategy will now be included in the Pae Ora

Healthy Futures Bill,” says President Gill Naylor.

“For RWNZ to have faith in both of these strategies we need to know the current inequities of health services being experienced will be addressed, and that women and rural communities are placed at the forefront of decision-making.

“The inequity of care for women and children in Aotearoa New Zealand

is exacerbated in rural communities due to travel distances and lack of services.

“Women are at risk daily due to the lack of rural midwives and GP’s, long delays for cancer screening services, and if elderly, lack of regular home help.

“The issues we are seeing and hearing from our members and rural communities have solutions,

and we look forward to working with officials to ensure that the health and wellbeing of rural communities is a focus through the intersectionality of the rural health and women’s health strategies.

“Our rural mothers, children and families deserve access to a health system which puts them first,” says Mrs Naylor.

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# Can I spread effluent over calving paddocks?

We're often asked if it's safe to spread effluent over calving paddocks, and yes, you definitely can, but not too much. As with any paddock, adding too much brings the risk of nitrate poisoning, and paddocks with pregnant stock should keep a close watch on the nutrient levels entering the soil.



LLOYD THOMAS



Calving season is coming.

How do I reduce risk while spreading?

- Test your nutrient levels before spreading
- If your slurry has a high level of nutrients be sure to spread over a larger area or speed up your irrigator or slurry tanker for a lighter application.
- Don't over saturate your cow paddocks – in a calving paddock keep the nutrient level below a nitrate-N level of 0.15% or 1500 mg/kg (or ppm), or 0.66% nitrate.

Where calving paddocks are where the irrigation system is you may need to reduce the amount being spread throughout the calving season. In this situation it is important to have adequate storage and/or an alternative way to spread out to other paddocks such as a slurry tanker or drag hose system.

*Lloyd Thomas  
Nevada Effluent  
Management Specialist*

### How much is too much?

Hill Laboratories suggest a nitrate-N level 0.10 - 0.15% or 1000 - 1500 mg/kg (or ppm), or 0.44 - 0.66% nitrate is safe to feed non-pregnant animals. So to ensure you're not adding too much nitrate to the soil, it's important to test the levels in your slurry. While there are laboratories that can do this, having your

own testing kit can be a very cost effective option which enables you to test yourself on a weekly basis and adjust your spreading accordingly. A test usually only takes around five minutes to conduct.

### What happens if I spread too much?

Spreading too much can

result in excessive levels of nitrate in the soil, which is then absorbed by the plants and passed on to grazing cattle. When too much nitrate is absorbed by the plant, it can't convert

the nitrate into protein fast enough. Once consumed by cattle, it converts in the rumen, and then binds to haemoglobin in the blood, stopping the haemoglobin from carrying oxygen. This

is where death can occur rapidly from suffocation.

Pregnant or lactating cows have a higher risk of nitrate poisoning as they tend to consume higher amounts of feed within a short time.

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## Farmers continue to deliver

Last week's primary sector report shows New Zealand dairy farmers have overcome the odds – despite rising input costs, labour shortages, fewer cows and less production they have still delivered for our national economy.



Dr Tim Mackle.

DairyNZ chief executive Dr Tim Mackle said MPI's Situation and Outlook for Primary Industries report projecting the dairy sector will be worth \$21.6b this year – trending toward \$24b by 2026 – is a significant milestone for farmers.

"Farmers really are being challenged right now. Input costs and staff shortages are testing our farmers as we head into the busiest part of the year, when the impacts of stress will be felt the most. Farmers are also delivering on environmental work and implementing policy changes on farms too," said Dr Mackle.

"So to hear that their work is truly delivering for New Zealand – and there's a bright future for our food products – will buoy farmers as they

refine their farm systems to continue delivering product that's in demand."

The report said farm management and advancing

technology will help deliver increased on-farm productivity.

"Cow numbers are falling but the work being done

by farmers to improve dairy cow genetics and adopt new technologies is expected to pay dividends. It's a signal that our on-farm productivity can continue to thrive, thanks to advances in farm management practices.

"Importantly, this bodes well for work to be done for climate change solutions. We are actively exploring technology solutions and today's report sends a positive message just how well our sector does that."

Dr Mackle said the report is a reminder of the value of New Zealand's primary industries to the national economy.

"The work our farmers do daily to deliver a world-class product that is low carbon footprint continues to be sought-after," says Dr Mackle.

"We know the primary sector is important to New Zealand communities and as a nation for our quality of living. Our food and fibre products are in demand – and today's report suggests this will only increase."



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# He Waka Eke Noa an alternative to ETS

Primary sector climate action partnership He Waka Eke Noa has put forward its preferred system for how farmers will pay for their agricultural emissions instead of using the NZ Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS).

The Partners recommend a “farm-level split-gas” levy, meaning agricultural emissions are calculated and paid at the farm level, and the levy has different rates for short- and long-lived gas emissions. The Government will consider the recommendations and make a final decision at the end of this year.

Dr Robyn Dynes, Senior Scientist, AgResearch, comments: “As a food exporting nation, it is critical for the New Zealand primary sector to be taking

concrete steps to reduce its agricultural greenhouse gas emissions. This proposed levy and approach recommended by He Waka Eke Noa (HWEN) provides a means to reduce emissions and support sustainable food production.

“This recommended pricing approach is part of a larger ongoing effort and investment over the last two decades by farmers, iwi, government and scientists to find solutions to help meet New Zealand’s targets for reducing agriculture’s contribution to climate change.

“By taking a farm-level, split-gas approach, it does allow farmers clarity on relative contributions to emissions within their own farming systems. It also gives them the ability to make changes and apply the

greenhouse gas mitigations which will be most effective for their businesses, now and into the future as new mitigations come to market. This is important because we know the costs and imposition on farmers will vary significantly both across and within sectors.

“The recommended approach allows for ringfencing of any levy revenue generated from Whenua Māori to be recycled back to Whenua Māori, which also allows scientists to focus on supporting Māori farmers and landowners to find climate change solutions that work for them.

“There are limited tools currently available to farmers to reduce their emissions and therefore levy costs. Existing options include low methane genetics in sheep

developed by AgResearch in partnership with the government and industry.

“The encouraging thing as we look ahead is the signalled increase in investment coming from government and industry to accelerate the research and development of new mitigations, which may include methane and nitrous oxide inhibitors, new generation animal feeds that reduce emissions, and a methane-reducing vaccine. While the focus has been on methane produced by livestock as the largest single contributor to global warming from agriculture, we also need to recognise the role of nitrous oxide and ensure we are providing solutions fit for the spectrum of food and fibre producing industries.

“As we continue to engage with farmers, and develop and prove the efficacy of new tools, another important role for scientists will be gathering evidence to assist industry in understanding the potential to ‘stack’ these greenhouse gas mitigations and how much added value this might bring, including delivery to Essential Freshwater goals. One such example of stacking mitigations would be evidence of the size of the reduction in methane emissions where specialised feeds or feed additives are given to an animal that is already bred to produce less methane.”

Emeritus Professor Ralph Sims, Sustainable Energy and Climate Mitigation, Massey University, comments:

“Given the current market price for carbon is over \$75/tCO<sub>2</sub>-eq and rising, and the Government’s target for long-lived emissions in the Emissions Reduction Plan is net zero emissions by 2050, there appears to be a significant gap in what might be needed.

“The terms ‘renewables’, ‘hydrogen’, ‘biogas’, ‘bioenergy’, ‘solar’, ‘agrivoltaics’, ‘precision farming’, etc., are not mentioned at all – even though many landowners could in future diversify into such innovative land use areas of revenue generation

and utilise currently available technologies more widely as is the case elsewhere in the world. Landowners could than gain credits from such on-farm activities.

“After many years of inaction by the agricultural sector, at least this analysis of emissions pricing through the industry partnership seems to show there is now a greater agreement across the industry that agricultural emissions actually have to be reduced.

“The global food supply system produces around one quarter of total greenhouse gas emissions with around half arising from behind the farm gate. Food systems cannot be exempted from significantly reducing emissions if the UN target of staying below a 2 degree Centigrade temperature rise is to be achieved. Forest sinks are at most only a temporary measure to buy some time whilst domestic emissions are reduced.

“Given that changing climate is already resulting in an increasing frequency and magnitude of extreme weather impacts, with droughts, floods, storms, etc. already being experienced in many regions, the farming sector has more to lose than most from the ever-increasing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gas emissions.

“It seems surprising therefore that these recommendations for pricing emissions and incentivising their reduction are not far more ambitious.”

Honorary Professor Troy Baisden, Te Pūnaha Matatini Principal Investigator, Motu Affiliate, and University of Auckland School of Environment, comments:

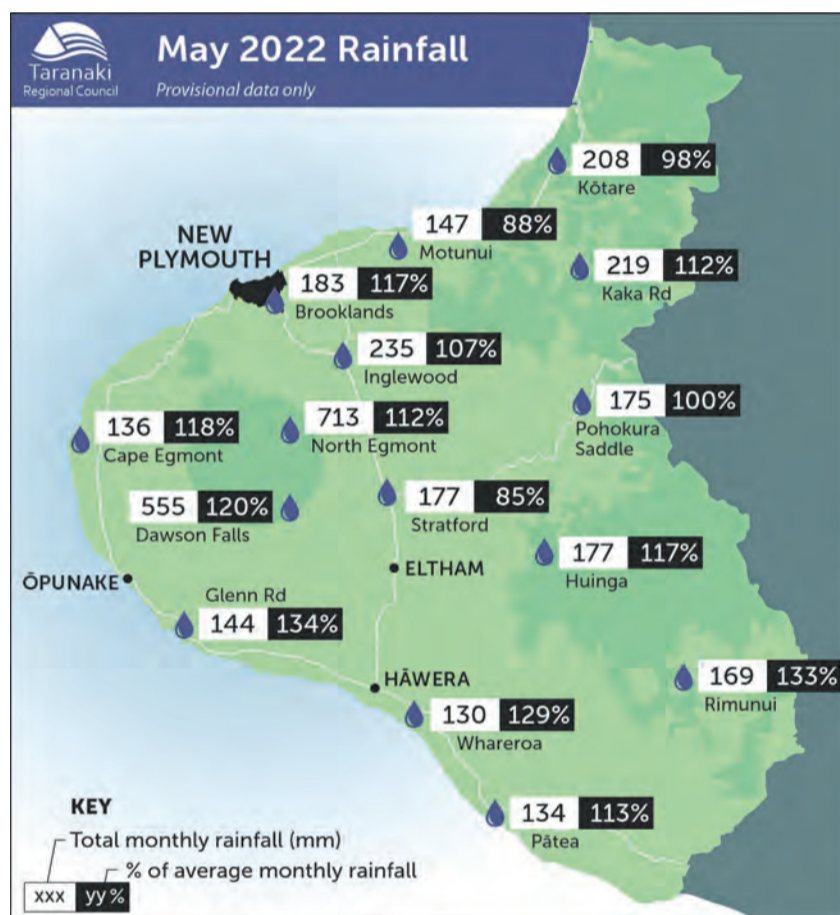
“The He Waka Eke Noa emissions pricing proposal represents an approach designed to work for a majority of farmers, in a way that may also work

with regulations designed to reduce impacts on water quality. A possible problem with the scheme is that it doesn’t encourage, and could hinder, radical innovation that doesn’t fit the calculators created, or that doesn’t benefit from the revenue recycled into research for the existing sector.

“Overall, there are reasons to think that the agriculture sector’s role in designing the emissions levy may make this proposal more effective than rules that would include agriculture in the ETS, if ETS pricing is unpredictable and its machinery is complicated to understand.

“The proposed levy’s recognition of the emission sources of the greenhouse gases with different characteristics and timeframes is a simple step toward understanding and controlling emissions. It would reward farmer-led innovation that reduces calculated emissions – as opposed to the default approach – which doesn’t reward farmers who produce more per unit of emissions. The proposed levy calculations may interact sensibly with water quality policies, since nitrate in water shares is driven by the same on-farm nitrogen excess as nitrous oxide emissions.

“The system’s approach of creating incentives for practices designed to reduce emissions follows the blueprint of policies that have worked for farmers facing environmental issues internationally and includes oversight so it can improve over time. It appears to keep the accounting and calculators reasonably simple, so they’ll be correct on average and encourage farmers to take the right actions with some flexibility.”



## A wetter than average May

Rainfall for May was generally above the long-term May average, ranging from 85.1% to 179.4%, with an average of 118% of normal, according to Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) figures. Rainfall was higher around the Maunga and Ring Plain, and in the south of the

region. Rain gauges from Stratford north east generally recorded below average rainfall for the month.

Year to date rainfall is sitting between 75.6% and 213.4% with an average of 121.8% of normal. North and eastern hill country rain gauges are showing rain

below normal, while most other locations are close to or above normal. Cape Egmont remains at over 200% of normal to date and has already received 80% of a typical year’s rain in five months.

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# Assistant coach job for Brad Cooper

Brad Cooper has joined the Yarrows Taranaki Bulls as an assistant coach for the 2022 NPC season.

Cooper, the current Taranaki Rugby Participation and Development Manager replaces Johnny Weston who made recently made himself unavailable for 2022 campaign due to work commitments.

The son of Yarrows Taranaki Bulls centurion and former head coach Colin Cooper will lead the backs under the tutelage of head coach

Neil Barnes. Taranaki Rugby Chief Executive Officer Mike Sandle says he was thrilled to bring Cooper into the fold.

"We are lucky to have someone with Brad's calibre available at such short notice to join our current Yarrows Taranaki Bulls, coaching team. With a wider training

group commencing training soon, it was important to provide clarity to players and to ensure we had coaching resources available to assist Neil Barnes and Jarrad Hoeata. Brad is developing into an experienced coach in his own right and has a fine pedigree being the son of Colin Cooper."

"We would also like to acknowledge and thank last year's assistant coach Johnny Weston. Johnny was highly regarded and respected and we are fully supportive of Johnny and the decision he has made to step down. We wish him well and one day we would love to see him throw his hat back into the coaching ring."

Yarrows Taranaki Bulls head coach Neil Barnes echoed Sandle's comments.

"There is an element of sadness, that we have to announce that Johnny



Yarrows Taranaki Bulls assistant coach Brad Cooper.

Weston is standing down as the Yarrows Taranaki Bulls assistant coach for backs and team attack, due to work commitments. Johnny had a massive impact in the attacking mindset, the team played with last year, and will be greatly missed."

"It is though, with a lot of delight, that we have managed to secure the services of Brad Cooper. I've had the privilege of watching him go about his work with coaches, adult players and school children, over the last couple of years, and to say I've been impressed, would be an understatement. He sees the game with an attacking mindset so along with Jarrad and the rest of our management team, we are excited to see what we can deliver together."

Cooper, a former New Plymouth Boys' High School pupil and current

NPBHS 1st XV assistant coach had an extensive playing career for Clifton (120 matches) and Poneke (2005/2006) before starting his coaching career with the Taranaki Under 16s in 2014. He then went on to coach Clifton, Taranaki 7s and the Taranaki Development side before moving on to NPBHS.

Cooper said he was excited at the opportunity of coaching at the provincial level.

"It's an honour to serve my community in a sport that's a passion. I was born into a rugby whanau and have obviously been surrounded by it from day one. I look forward to developing my tutelage under Neil and Jarrad and adding my own flavour to the backs and their development in the province."

## New role for former Namibian cricketer

Former Namibian international cricketer Chris Coombe is Taranaki Cricket's latest new appointment, taking on the organisation's Director of Cricket role.

Coombe - a right-handed

all-rounder who played 61 matches for Namibia between 2011 and 2018 - began in the role late last month.

The Director of Cricket role is a newly created position which will oversee The Good

Home Taranaki Cricket's cricketing and coaching development programmes from junior through to senior representative levels.

Coombe's appointment follows hot on the heels of Taranaki Cricket's



Taranaki Cricket's new Director of Cricket, Chris Coombe, left, and General Manager Ryan Evans at Pukekura Park.

appointment of Ryan Evans to the General Manager role.

Evans said Coombe, who arrived from Denmark in 2019 to play for the Stratford Cricket Club, had made his mark playing and coaching around Taranaki since Covid originally left him stranded in the province in 2020.

"It turned out to be a stroke of luck in the end," Evans said, "because since then he's become a key figure in our coaching programmes and took on the role as head coach of the Taranaki Women in the 2021/22

season.

"When this opportunity arose, Chris impressed us with his vision for developing coaching structures and systems that will stand us in good stead as the next generation of youngsters comes to the fore."

Evans said Coombe has shown a hunger for improvement, shown by the fact he is currently working through an international coaching qualification under former South African batting star Gary Kirsten, now the

batting coach for the IPL-winning Gujarat Titans.

"Through his playing career, Chris has also developed a number of international connections which could come in handy as borders around the world re-open following the Covid-19 pandemic," Evans said.

Meanwhile Debu Banik stays on with the organisation as a performance coach, where he will work first-hand with the region's best, and aspiring, cricketers.

"Debu has been involved with Taranaki Cricket for the past 19 years, so has a huge amount of knowledge to go with his technical coaching skills," Evans said.

"He has brought through current stars such as Will Young, Kate Ebrahim and Tom Bruce from a young age and we're looking forward to seeing Taranaki's reputation for producing quality cricketers continue under Debu's guidance."

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Blake Barrett has a dab for the Farm Source Prems against Tukapa.

## A game Coastal should have won

Tukapa were our opponents in our third game of the repeated first shortened round, a silly concept that the same four teams are involved with each other six weeks in a row but nevertheless a very important game for us because 20 points on the points table is where we need to be to qualify for a semi spot.

Covid forced a couple of changes, and with Blake Barrett and Alex Kalin on light duties all week due to having influenza, that still exists these days, we managed to still field a very decent side.

Tukapa came out of the blocks well and were up 0-5 playing into a stiff breeze which was a bit of a worry.

Then we upped our game and scored a powerful running try to Shamus Hurley-Langton and then a spectacular try to Harry Symes after a great catch and

pass from Rick McKenna, then Harry showed blistering pace to blitz the defence to score in the corner to give us 12-5 lead.

Tukapa scored a penalty goal, and then a marginal try late in the half to give them the lead 15-12 at halftime so we had to produce something special in the second half.

The second half was more of the same punch and counter punch. We built a lot of great play then the odd mistake or defensive error cost us badly.

With 15 to play after an excellent try, with a lot of phases to outstanding lock Beni Kalin topping off a great day for the Swiss international, making us right in the game 23-17.

We fought hard in the last 20 but couldn't get the job done. We struggled to buy a ruck penalty and unfortunately Tukapa scored a try with 3 to go, and we

ended up losing 30-17.

Gutting really. A game we could have/ should have won, but it's history now. Another loss and no points for the ladder, and we stayed on five points with a possible 20 points remaining in our last four games we have, so we need to get winning again, but with every team being a tough game every Saturday, it makes it an even competition.

For the Coast every player played well, Harry Symes was our Player of the Day. He had many touches, carried hard, and beat many defenders on his way to a heap of run metres. Not far behind him were Daniel Crowley, Beni, Logan Crowley and Chris Gawler.

Special mention to Blake and Alex who fronted not feeling anywhere near a hundred per cent, but showing the good Coastal spirit of helping your mates

out, and pride in the club, both turning in a very solid performance.

Simon Adam's benching along with Beauden Fleming also helped us have a strong squad on the day, with all our bench adding when required.

A must win next week is Inglewood at Inglewood last year's grand final but a game we must win for a semi spot.

Thanks to all our supporters and sponsors who we love having along each week and making it possible for us to represent the Coast every Saturday.

Great to see the Barrett boys Beauty and Scotty captaining their respective teams in the Super final this Saturday. A huge achievement for two local lads, another proud moment for their family and the club.

*Ride the wave.*



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## NPOB game was a lesson in rugby

We travelled to Vogeltown Park to take on the NPOB team that dominated us in the first shortened round, and they had a few stars like Daniel Waite, Cody Rei and Kalum Boshier, so we knew it wasn't going to be easy.

The game started well for us. We came out firing, with some excellent defence and some good ball giving us a couple of opportunities, but neither we could execute, and proved costly when the

game wore on.

OB were playing well and at the 25 min mark were leading 14-5 after a couple of defensive errors had let them in for two well worked tries and our only points to Thomas Kalin after a long build up.

Our line-out didn't have its best day, and with defence being passive at times, OB hit their straps to lead 21-5 at halftime.

The second half proved to be some of our worst rugby

of the last two seasons, and with OB on fire we were given a rugby lesson. They scored right on fulltime to give them a 59-5 win and a reality check for us.

We will regroup. We have a better team than that but just had one of those days and the boys are a good tight bunch and will be hurting after that.

Player of the Day was Dylan Schuler. He never lets us down, and along with young loose head prop Harry

Foreman scrimmaging well and Harry Symes recapturing his form on the wing after his major injury last season there were some positives.

Jeremy Newell and Morne Pistorious looked dangerous and gave it hundred per cent, the latter is a real talent at 18years old and has pace and skill to be a great player.

Chris Morrison controlled the game well and it would be a good watch if you were a NPOB supporter.



Chaeden Ngaia runs strongly for the Corkill Colts.



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Beauden Fleming has Kobe Sinclair in support for the FBT Div 1 team.



Nigs Young with the big fend for Goodin Ag Div 2 v Patea.

*Photos Spinna Photography.*



Jaymi Ngaia for the Frontrunner Womens tries to evade an Inglewood tackler.

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# Writing for Literary awards are now underway

Taranaki's poets and short story writers (and playwrights) need to be underway in preparation for the 2022 *Lysaght-Watt Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards* (Award Ceremony Wednesday October 19).

The contest is open to both secondary school students (in one section) and adults (in the Open section). Entries need to be submitted by 11.59pm on Wednesday August 17.

Don't make your entries too long as the limit for short stories is 2000 words and 50 lines for poems. This year a True Story category replaced the Research Reports, but this is only open to secondary school students; the limit is 750-1250 words.



This interesting display is at Hawera Library Plus.

The judges this time include Dr Airini Beautrais (Short Stories) and Dr

Robert Sullivan (Poetry). These award-winning writers will conduct literary

workshops; Dr Beautrais' one is at the TSB Hub, Hawera on Saturday June 18,

while Dr Sullivan's one is at the Hawera Library Plus on Thursday June 5. However, you need to book your place (there is no charge).

To register for the workshops phone 0800 111 323 or email entries@stdc.govt.nz

Matt Rilkoff of the Taranaki Daily News will judge the True Story section.

Prizes are generous; for example first place winners receive \$500, with smaller amounts for minor place winners.

There is much more information, so visit southtaranaki.com/rhm

Ron Morrieson lived virtually all his life in Hawera. Despite considerable opposition his homestead was demolished

and KFC now takes its place. He published four novels *The Scarecrow* (1963), *Came A Hot Friday* (1964) during his lifetime (he died in 1972) with two others posthumously *Predicament* (1975) and *Pallet on the Floor* (1976). He is the only New Zealand writer to have had all his novels made into feature films.

Also, the opening line of *The Scarecrow* is considered the best known in New Zealand literature.

The third biography, which celebrates the centenary of Ronald Hugh Morrieson's birth (January 29, 1922) birth and the first one for 25 years, is expected to be published next month.

Watch this space.

# The Great Comedy Show

The Great Comedy night is back again - this time with four comedians heading to two South Taranaki hotspots.

The show, annually hosted by local lad and nationally renowned comedian Ben Hurley, is heading to Eltham Town Hall on Friday 15 July and to Hawera's TSB Hub on Saturday 16 July.

Hurley, best known for his TV appearances on

shows such as 7 Days and The Project, says he looks forward to hosting a comedy event at home in South Taranaki year after year.

This time round he is bringing one of the most beloved comedians in the country, Dai Henwood. You'll know him from being a mainstay of kiwi TV for over 15 years including 7 Days, Dancing with the

Stars, Family Feud and the brand-new Lego Masters NZ.

Joining the lineup will be David Correos. Winner of the Billy T award in 2016, David then went on to be one of the stars of Taskmaster NZ series 2 and a regular on 7 Days.

Liv McKenzie is also joining the mix. Having learned her craft in New

York City, she is back in New Zealand and making appearances on 7 Days, The NZ International Festival of Comedy Gala, and Have you Been Paying Attention.

South Taranaki District Council Events Co-ordinator Emma Vennell chose the Eltham Town Hall for the event this year, saying it is a stunning hall that is ideal for stand-up comedy.

"It's a perfect venue for this type of event. Winter can be a slow time for events and getting out, so it is nice to be able to offer the community something like this."

Emma has also decided to bring a second show to the TSB Hub due to the demand for in person events.

"We would love to provide the opportunity for as many people to sit down and enjoy

a much-needed laugh," says Emma.

Tickets are \$40 each or table of 10 for \$350 and will go on sale at the South Taranaki i-SITE Visitor Centre and Eltham Library Plus from June 1. Both shows start at 7:30pm with doors open from 7pm. The show is R16.

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# Mamma Mia a visual and auditory feast well worth experiencing

Hawera Repertory Society's current musical Mamma Mia's season runs from June 11 until June 25 and all performances are held at the Hawera Memorial Theatre, in Albion Street, Hawera. Tickets are available from i-site in High Street. The musical is a celebration of the music of that wonderful Swedish pop group Abba; music and lyrics written by Benny Anderson, Bjorn Ulvaeus and Stig Anderson.

The highly capable production team is led by Clive Cullen (Director), Charles Pittams (Musical Director) and Greer Anderson (Choreographer). The huge backstage team numbers a staggering 70 people or thereabouts.

The adjective lavish springs to mind when viewing the colourfully spectacular costuming and elaborate revolving sets, which are frequently moved to great effect. The glossy, informative programme is a credit to its designers.

The cast is headed by Paula Frearson (as Donna) and Sarah Bird (as Donna's daughter Sophie) whose believable chemistry highlights their somewhat troubled relationship, despite their obvious devotion to each other. Sophie (aged 21) doesn't really approve of her mother's promiscuous past, leading her (i.e. Sophie) to invite three men to her upcoming nuptials, as any of the three could conceivably (pun intended) be her biological father.

Sophie's fiancé Sky (Regan Tate) plays the devoted partner with definite passion and elan. Their interplay is touchingly authentic – think Romeo and Juliet.

Deb Thomas (Rosie) and Emily Davidson (Tanya) are believable as Donna's friends and play saucy flirts with definite finesse. Superb acting from this duo.

The three 'maybe' fathers Sam (Hayden Baylis), Bill (Richard Baylis) and Harry (Shaun Campbell) show cheerful camaraderie with excellent acting and are comically believable in their roles.

Other actors included Tayla Steele (Ali), Samantha Hatcher (Lisa), Pepper Cody Ogle (Pepper), Aries Poutu (Eddie) and Andrew Beale (Priest) were all capable and well-suited to their roles. Well done.

The music was a nostalgic delight as we relived all the great Abba hits, thanks to the great singing – solo, duet, trio and ensemble. As the show went on, it just went from strength to strength, as reflected by the enthusiastic audience reaction of loud



Three Dads and daughter are, from left, Harry (Shaun Campbell), Bill (Richard Baylis), Sam (Richard Baylis) and Sophie (Sarah Bird).

cheering, clapping and much more.

There were too many musical highlights to mention. Sarah Bird was excellent – and maybe well-named and Paula Frearson superb. Deb Thomas, wow

what a lovely voice. Of the men Hayden Baylis' tenor voice especially struck a very positive note with me.

The acting was first class, with everyone seemingly word perfect (Vicki Ward as Prompt had an easy

evening!) The verbal and physical interaction between actors, both dialogue and singing, was a particular

highlight.

Humour was always to the fore and I absolutely loved the scene when the seven young men in flippers and breathing gear marched resolutely onto the stage – one of the funniest things I have ever seen. The scene with Sophie on the bed dreaming and a multitude of luminous hands was magical.

One of the absolute highlights was the outstanding dancing (I don't recall seeing better), which I will always remember. Choreographer Greer Anderson certainly deserves a gold medal, as do her supporting team.

The show concluded with a rousing performance, by the entire cast, of Mamma Mia, Dancing Queen (one of my favourites) and Eurovision Contest winner Waterloo.

Make sure you get your ticket without delay to see this fantastic musical which is a credit to Clive Cullen and everyone who is involved, regardless of being on stage, off stage or somewhere on the periphery.

*Rolland McKellar*



Three on a bed are from left Rosie (Deb Thomas), Donna (Paula Frearson) and Tanya (Emily Davidson).



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# Meet more of the fighters



## Natasha Norden

Moved to Opunake 18 months ago. She is a mother of four, who enjoys gardening, art and has always been interested in fighting. She has a background in Muay Thai but has always been passionate about boxing to get a better understanding about the sport. Tash used boxing as therapy to overcome the bereavement of her late mum and loves the fact that at Barbwire, we have built a culture around supporting and uplifting our youth in the community.

We wish Tash all the best for her fight.



## Amber Thomas

Amber has always been a keen sportswoman and has dedicated years of time to soccer and has obtained a scholarship to America in August. She moved to Opunake from Wellington six months ago and came to Barbwire Boxing to increase her strength and fitness, only to have found a passion for boxing and will be having her second amateur fight against Zoe Bewley. This will be a rematch as the pair have already had a fight earlier this year.

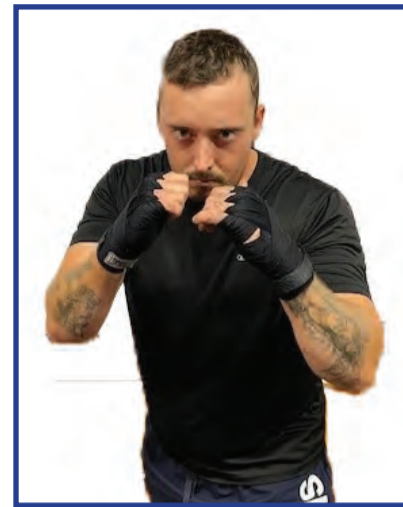
We wish Amber all the best in her rematch and her future with football in America.



## James Mc Donald

Living just outside Opunake, he played rugby along side his brother Layden (also fighting), and wanted to take on the challenge to fight. He is enjoying the experience and is mentally and physically preparing himself for this occasion as it is unique in a way to have brothers fighting on the same card. He works as a mechanic in Midhirst and is passionate about boxing also.

Wishing all the best to James for his fight.



## Layden Mc Donald

Moved to Opunake last dairy season (June) and was farming in Patea previously. Layden enjoys most sports and has played rugby in Kaponga alongside his brother who is also fighting in this event. Now working in Opunake, he thought he would put more effort into boxing as it is always something he has had a passion for. This will be Layden's second corporate fight and he is desperate to avenge his loss in Palmerston North earlier this year.

We are wishing Layden all the best.

## Soup-er Wellness Wednesday is now every Wednesday in June

Following the success of Soup-er Wellness Wednesday at the New Plymouth and Hāwera vaccination centres Taranaki

DHB is extending the vaccination incentive to happen every Wednesday in the month of June.

Everyone who has a

COVID-19, flu or measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccination on these days at either vaccination centre will receive a nourishing

cup of soup, bread and a winter wellness pack to help combat winter ills and chills.

Packs will include all sorts of helpful items, including tissues, hand sanitiser, rapid antigen tests (RATs), face masks, coffee sachets and more. Spot prizes of winter-warmer items like hot water bottles, beanies, bed socks (etc.) will also be available on these days.

Flu vaccinations are free for people at higher risk. This includes pregnant people, people aged 65 and over, Māori and Pacific people

aged 55+, people under 65 with certain medical conditions and children aged 4 and under with serious respiratory illness.

There is no need to book - just walk-in to the New Plymouth Vaccination Centre (at the Baker Tilly Building at 109 Powderham Street or the Hāwera Vaccination Centre at the TSB Hub on Camberwell Road.

Alternatively, people can get their vaccinations at any of the Winter Wellness Clinics happening in

communities throughout Taranaki over the coming months.

Rachel Court, Taranaki DHB Taranaki COVID-19 Vaccination Programme service lead says, "Vaccinations are a safe, easy and effective way to help you and your whānau stay well this winter. So, come on down to the Vaccinations Centres in New Plymouth and Hāwera or to our Winter Wellness Clinics around the maunga. We look forward to seeing you."

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**VS**

**JOCK WHEELAN**



**LAYDEN MCDONALD**

**VS**

**MICHAEL HARDY**



**JAMES MCDONALD**

**VS**

**KEVIN TAKARANGI**



**MANASE FILIHIA**

**VS**

**TROY DAVY-BEECH**



**CALEB THOMAS**

**VS**

**JONO HEAPS**



**TONI TUITUPOU**

**VS**

**CONNOR PERRY**



**NATASHA NORDEN**

**VS**

**NIKITA MULLIN**



**BOBBY KATENE**

**VS**

**DYLAN BARHAM**



**AMBER THOMAS**

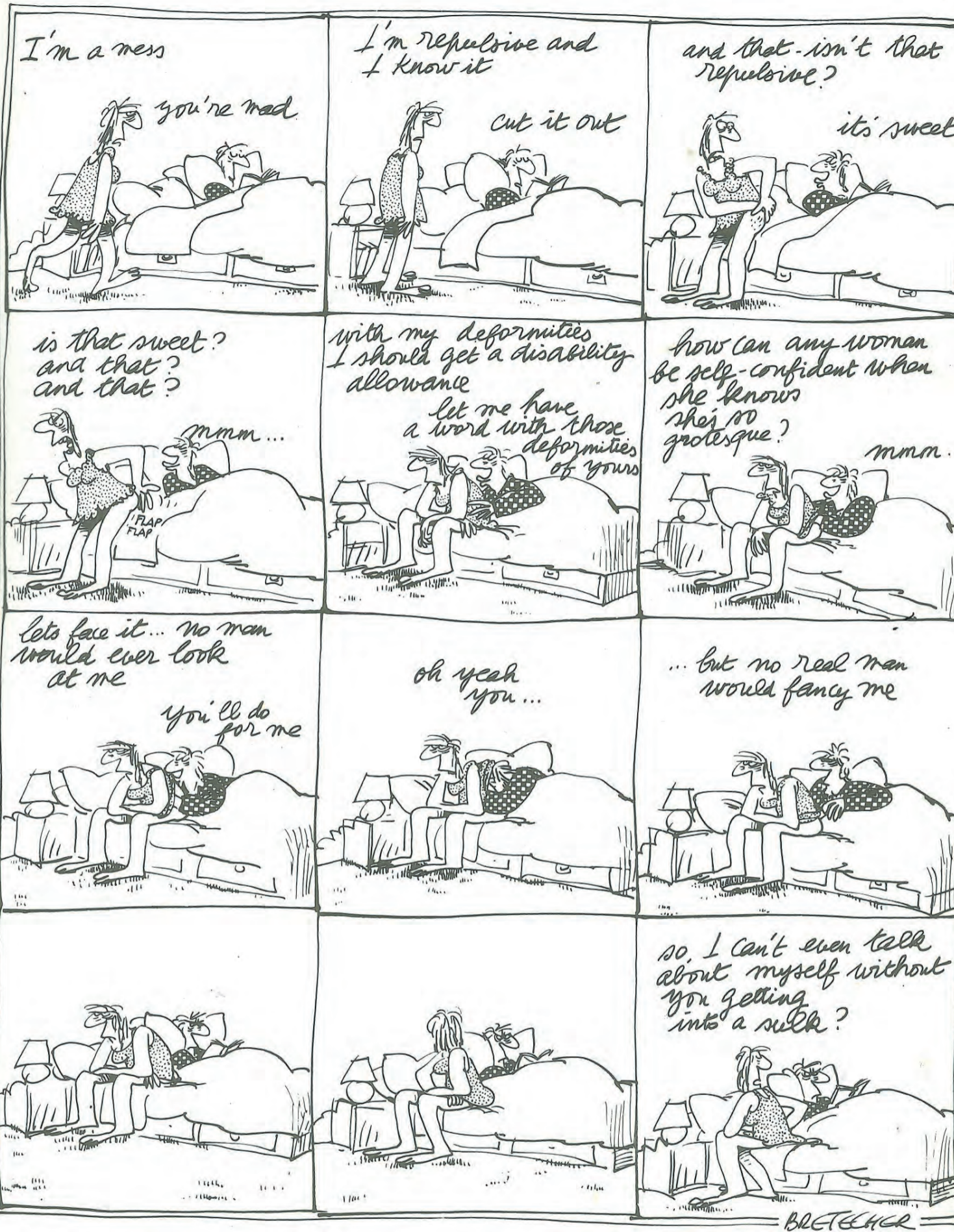
**VS**

**ZOE BEWLEY**



### What's On Listings

## MAGGIE AND MEN



#### ONGOING

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

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

#### TUESDAYS

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

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

#### WEDNESDAYS

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

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

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

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

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

#### THURSDAYS

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

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

#### FRIDAYS

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

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

#### WEEKENDS

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

#### MAY 26 - JULY 4

**'Call and Response' exhibition:** At from out of the blue gallery, Opunake.

#### JUNE 6 TO 30

**Ambury Hall 'Miration' exhibition:** At the Village gallery, Eltham.

#### JUNE 11 TO 25

**Mamma Mia:** A production by Hawera Rep. At Hawera Memorial Theatre.

#### JUNE 23-26, JUNE 30-JULY 3

**Opunake Players present 'Stiff'.**

#### JULY 2

**Quirky Quilters Event:** At the Opunake Bowling Club from 10am.

**Coastal Rumble:** Twelve action packed boxing fights. At Sinclair Electrical & Refrigeration Event Centre, Opunake.

#### JULY 4

**Opunake & Districts Business Association AGM:** At the Opunake Business Centre, 5.30pm.

#### JULY 7

**Opunake & Districts Foodbank AGM:** At the CoastalCare Community Lounge, Opunake. 10am.

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OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

# Get *Stiff* at Opunake Players

Rehearsals for Opunake Players production of *Stiff* are proceeding at pace and the cast and crew are loving it.

"We are having so much fun rehearsing *Stiff*, we know audiences will enjoy it too," says cast member Lynelle Kuriger.

*Stiff* opens on June 23 with other dates being June 24, 25, 26, 30, July 1, 2 and 3. Tickets are \$30 from Sinclair Electrical, but the first two nights have a special price of \$25. At the time of writing many nights are almost booked out so best be in quick.

*Stiff* is a cheeky, fast paced, modern farce about Angel Delight who inherits a funeral parlour on the death of her father, but only if she runs it as a funeral parlour for the next five years. Unfortunately, Angel knows a lot about prostitution



Some of the cast of *Stiff* take time out from rehearsal to pose. Left to right, Elaine Spencer (Roxanne) Monica Willson (Sherry), Christine Ryan (Mrs Beaton), Lynelle Kuriger (Angel) and Ethan Smith (Delilah) Out the back learning lines are Michelle Julian (Mrs R. Swipe), Sherrie Flanagan (Lawyer) and Blair Macbeth (Judge Beaton). Word at the theatre is that, despite being his first show, Blair reckons he'll be word perfect every night.

but nothing about funeral parlours. Result, well, lots of comedy. So if you're dying to have a night out, and you don't mind a bit of hard humour, this is the show for you. That you'll laugh is a dead certainty. A reminder, *Stiff* is not for the uptight.

Check out Opunake Players Inc. on Facebook for cast profiles and more information. For example, one cast members favourite line, who will remain nameless, "The only ghoulies I want to make contact with are hanging off George Clooney".

Director Alexandra Lawn has gone for authenticity as much as possible, and as such

has acquired a real coffin for some scenes, Many thanks to Glenn Rogers of South Taranaki Funeral Services for allowing its use. (It's unlikely any cast member will want to tempt fate and souvenir it after the show). Thanks also to Sinclair Electrical for providing our booking service. Always a pleasure.

*Stiff* by April Phillips, directed by Alexandra Lawn, Opunake Lakeside Playhouse from 23 June to 26 June, then 30 June to 3 July. Tickets available at Sinclair Electrical, \$25 first two nights, \$30 there after, Look out for posters around Opunake.

Opunake Players presents



STIFF by April Phillips  
Directed by Alexandra Lawn

Show dates 23 June - 26 June  
& 30th June - 3rd July 2022

## Govett Brewster Gallery exhibition celebrates ancient Persia



combine the contemporary experiences of life in that nation with his perspective in painted, sewn and moving images.

These works sit tellingly alongside Areez Katki's more sensuous embroidered references to family memories, domesticity and sexuality and enduring fragments of Zoroastrian and Persian history, elevating distinct cultural presences in our society.

Left: Wall hanging by Areez Ali. From War Rug – handmade wool and cotton carpet.

A current exhibition at the Govett Brewster Gallery, New Plymouth entitled There Is No Other Home But This has some remarkable creations by Khadim Ali and Areez Katki and continues until June 22. The exhibits (new textiles, embroideries,

animation and other media) explore the beauty, drama and history of ancient Persia. The huge colourful wall hangings, (in particular) which tell a story, were extraordinarily superb.


The exhibition explores the ways the artists Parsi and

Hazara ancestry is pertinent now for us all in their new nations as they now live in Australia and New Zealand respectively.

Khadim Ali's collaborative, large scale textiles made with input from women in Afghanistan



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<p><b>JURASSIC WORLD: DOMINION</b> Action, Adventure  2hrs 26mins  M Fri 17<sup>th</sup> June 7pm</p> <p><b>THE BAD GUYS</b> Animated, Family  1hr 40mins  PG Sat 18<sup>th</sup> June 1pm</p> <p><b>THE BOB'S BURGERS MOVIE</b> Animated, Comedy  1hr 42mins  PG Sat 18<sup>th</sup> June 7pm</p> <p><b>THE LION KING - Te Reo Māori</b> Animated, Family  1hr 29mins  G Fri 24<sup>th</sup> June 1pm</p> <p><b>WHINA</b> Drama, True Story  1hr 52mins  PG Fri 24<sup>th</sup> June 1pm, Sun 26<sup>th</sup> June 7pm</p>	<p><b>HOW TO PLEASE A WOMAN</b> Drama  1hr 47mins  M: Language Sun 19<sup>th</sup> June 1pm</p> <p><b>TOP GUN MAVERICK</b> Action, Drama  2hrs 11mins  M: Violence Sun 19<sup>th</sup> June 7pm</p> <p><b>MINIONS: THE RISE OF GRU</b> Adventure, Comedy, Family  1hr 30mins  G Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Jun 1pm, Sun 26<sup>th</sup> Jun 1pm</p> <p><b>NUDE TUESDAY</b> Comedy, Drama  1hr 40mins  R16: Sex scenes Sat 25<sup>th</sup> June 1pm</p>
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ANZCO, AFFCO, and Silver Fern Farms are working with CoastalCare to help you take care of your "special animals", donating proceeds to CoastalCare Health Trust to help us with the building extensions we need to get closer to our fundraising target!

# Latest Village Gallery exhibition is colourful, interesting and thought-provoking

The Village Gallery at 166 High Street, Eltham is holding an interesting exhibition of Stratford artist Ambury Hall, featuring acrylic paintings, mixed media sculptures and bright colourful ephemeral installations. The exhibition continues until June 30 and is entitled 'Miration,' which means Wonderful Surprise.

The opening was held on Sunday June 5 (at 2.30pm) and was introduced by Lorna Davies who said of the exhibition, "You can't help but be overwhelmed by the colour and stimulation." Referring to the keynote speaker Liz Bridgeman she said, "She is a well-known sculptor. Out of a big chunk of rock emerges a beautiful sculpture."

Apart from her sculptures, Liz also writes children's books and one of her short stories was placed third in the Lysaght-Watt Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards a while ago.

Liz referred to Ambury Hall as a "multi-talented man." She also spoke of his "compassion for other people." A Quaker (Society of Friends) herself, she also spoke of Ambury's interest in the same religious movement.

When it was Ambury's turn he spoke briefly then performed an eye-catching waiata.

He spent some of his time in 1960s United Kingdom and was involved in such protest movements as the Vietnam War and antinuclear weapons (CND Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament). His art was influenced by such artists as Andy Warhol,



Birds with a climate change message.

David Hockney and Roy Lichtenstein. "I am a 75-year-old emerging artist," he declares.

The exhibition has quite a few paintings, often with a nature theme, including

flowers, such as Red Hot Pokers.

Many of the exhibits are thought-provoking. One which caught my eye was a mirror with the words The Most Dangerous Animal

on earth – as it reflected a picture of myself.

Another one had a multitude of colourful bird images positioned on a draped plastic covering, which was entitled Climate Crisis. It had the following words: Normal bird migration has been interrupted by changed magnetic fields which birds follow. Their body clocks are unable to read changed temperatures. My brother in the UK has not heard a cuckoo for seven years.

A painting was entitled From Russia with Love, which may have been an ironic comment of the appalling situation of the genocide in the Ukraine, which continues unabated.

I warmly recommend that patrons visit this unique, colourful and thought-provoking exhibition by this talented artist.

Please be aware that the gallery has winter hours; open 10.30am to 2.30pm weekdays and 10.30am to 1pm Saturdays.

*Rolland McKellar*



From left Liz Bridgeman, Lorna Davies and Ambury Hall.

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## FOR SALE

**DR ORGANICS** Dead Sea mineral day cream, deodorants, body wash, hemp oil now at The Health Shop in Centre City, Late night Thursday, 06 758 7553.

**ARE YOU HAVING** health problems after the dreaded flu, not feeling right since? GPx now available at the Health Shop in Centre City, or if you can't get in, we will deliver. 06 758 7553.

## WANTED TO BUY

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

## PROPERTY APPRAISAL

**PROPERTY APPRAISAL** Contact Tara Gibson 027 766 4456. McDonald Real Estate Ltd Opunake.

## IN MEMORIAM

### I Love all Beauteous Things

BY ROBERT BRIDGES

I love all beauteous things,  
I seek and adore them;  
God hath no better praise,  
And man in his hasty days  
Is honoured for them.

I too will something make  
And joy in the making;  
Altho' tomorrow it seem  
Like the empty words of a dream  
Remembered on waking.

**Paula McKellar December 13 1917 - June 15 2019**  
Our dear mother. A favourite poem of hers above.  
Loved and remembered every day in every way.

### The folk who look happiest

And those who seem bright  
with smiles on their faces  
and feet that are light  
Are not always those who  
have lived in the sun  
But those who faced darkness  
And fought it, and won.

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

On Saturday July 2 the Quirky Quilters are hosting a Taranaki wide quilting event at the Opunake Bowling Club, Gisborne Terrace, Opunake.

Starts at 10am.

Phone Joyce Adams on 06 761 7057 for more information.



**AGM**

Monday July 4, 2022 at 5.30pm

All welcome

Opunake Business Centre, 23 Napier St, Opunake (opposite the Coastal Care Medical Centre)



**Auroa School**

734 Auroa Road, RD 28, Auroa, 4678 office@auroa.school.nz

**Applications for Out of Zone Pupils**

Auroa School is a decile 8 full Primary School (includes year 7/8 students) located in South Taranaki. Enrolment at the school is governed by an enrolment scheme, details of which are available from the school office.

The Board has determined that there are likely to be 10 vacancies available. No spaces for year 7/8 for Term 3, 2022.

Applications can be made by applying in writing to the school by either post or email and by visiting the school office.

**The deadline for applications is 3pm, Thursday 23rd June.**

If the number of applicants exceeds the number of places available, students will be selected by ballot.

**Shaun Kalin, Board of Trustees**

**SITUATIONS VACANT**



Opunake High School  
Te Kura Taarua o Opunake

**ŌPUNAKĒ HIGH SCHOOL**

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANT**

An opportunity for an I.T. support person has become available at Ōpunakē High School. The role includes the maintenance and administration of Chromebooks, MacBooks, Ipads Projectors, TVs and Apple TVs, Wifi Access Points, Network cabling, printing and the school's mobile management system.

This is a wonderful opportunity for someone interested in I.T. to work in a very supportive, collegial and forward thinking environment.

10 hours per week.

Enquiries welcome, applications should include a covering letter and CV. Please apply to:

The Principal  
Ōpunakē High School  
PO Box 4  
Ōpunakē 4645  
admin@opunake.school.nz

Applications close Friday 24th June 2022



**Opunake and Districts Foodbank AGM**

7th July 2022

10.30am CoastalCare Community Lounge

All welcome, tea and coffee provided  
Parcel and shopping volunteers needed.  
Secretary needed

To advertise, call us on 06 761 7016

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



**Opunake-Rahotu Veterinary Trust**

PO Box 117, Opunake - Phone: 021 729 471 - Email: ORVTrust@gmail.com

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENTS - APPLICATION FORM**

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

Full Name

Date of Birth:

Phone:

Email:

Sex:

Address for Correspondence:

Bank Account for Grant (if successful) Please attach proof eg Screen Shot or Deposit Slip.

Name of School or University attending at present (or occupation and employers name:)

Proposed Course or Degree:

Parent or Guardian Name:

Address:

Occupation:

Describe your relationship to the Coastal Farming Community:

Please provide proof of study and/or employment - ie statement of support from employer, 1<sup>st</sup> Semester results.

Signature of Applicant:

Date:

**Please return to: The Secretary, Opunake-Rahotu Veterinary Trust, PO Box 117, Opunake or**

**email to: [ORVTrust@gmail.com](mailto:ORVTrust@gmail.com)**

**Applications close 31<sup>st</sup> July and late applications will not be accepted**

**CHURCH NOTICES**

**Opunake Co-operating Parish**

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

**Okato Co-operating Parish**

Okato, St Paul's - Sunday Service every 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, 10am  
Okato, St Paul's - Prayer Meeting, first Thursday of each month, 7.30pm  
Oakura, St James - Sunday Service every 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, 10am  
Oakura, St James - Prayer Meeting, first Wednesday of each month, 7.30pm

**Opunake Catholic Church**

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

**St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato**

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

**The Wave**

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

**St. Barnabas Anglican Church**

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

**Okato Community Church**

Meets 10.30am Sunday at Hempton Hall.  
Everyone welcome

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### 2018 HOLDEN CAPTIVA LS EQUIPE 2.4P 7 SEATER

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**NOW ONLY \$24,995**

### 2018 SUZUKI SWIFT SPORT 1.4T NZ NEW

Turbo, Tiptronic Automatic, Lane Departure Warning, ABS, Adaptive Cruise Control with Autonomous Braking, Stability Control, Keyless Entry with Push Button start, Daytime Running Lights, Touch Screen with Apple Car Play & Android B/T, Reverse Camera, Multi Airbags inc Side Curtain, Driving Lights, Climate Air Con, 35km.



**ONLY \$22,995**

### 2010 NISSAN MURANO 250XV

VERY SMART & POPULAR HIGRADE SUV Auto, CD Player/Reversing Camera/Side Camera, Bluetooth Phone, Climate Control Air Con, Leather Trim, Cruise Control, ABS Brakes, Air Bags, Electronic Stability Control, Driving Lights, Keyless Entry & Operation, Tinted Windows, Auto Lights, Dual Sunroof, Alloy Wheels, 80km



**\$16,995**

### 2017 TOYOTA COROLLA GX 1.8 AUTO NZ NEW

Tiptronic Automatic with Sport Mode, Stability Control, Traction Control, Multiple Airbags inc Side Curtain, ABS Brakes, Lane Departure Warning, Emergency Brake Assist, Air Con, Stereo with Bluetooth USB & Aux, Remote central Locking, Auto Lights with Auto High Beam, Cruise Control, NEW ALLOYS Reverse Camera. 80km



**ONLY \$17,995**

### 2008 HONDA ELYSION VG 8 SEATER

Beautiful Hi Spec Example. Auto, QuadCam, 24 Valve, iVtec, V6, Alloy Wheels, 8 Seater. Bodykit, Headphone Sets for Rear Passengers. 74km

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### 2014-2017 NISSAN X-TRAIL ST 7 SEATER NZ NEW

2.5, Tiptronic Auto, Daytime Running Lights, Auto Lights, Driving Lights, Cruise Control, Multi Airbags, Air Con, Stereo with USB, Smart Key With Push Button Start, ABS Brakes, Stability Control, Reverse Camera, Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, Rear Spoiler, low kms



**3 FROM ONLY \$21,995**

### 2012 SUBARU IMPREZA SPORTS 1.6

Very Popular SPORTY HATCH Low Kms Automatic, ABS Brakes, Air Conditioning, Dual Airbags, Driving Lights, Reversing Camera, Four Wheel Disc Brakes, Power Windows & Mirrors, Electronic Stability Control, Keyless Entry with Push Button Start, Tinted Windows, Alloy Wheels. 75km



**\$12,995**

### 2006/2004 HONDA ODYSSEY ABSOLUTE

2.4 Automatic, Climate Aircon, Cruise Control, ABS Brakes, Dual Airbags, Partial Leather Trim, Driving Lights, Tinted Windows, Alloy Wheels 131km.

**FROM ONLY \$4,995**



2009 MAZDA 6 SPORT LTD 2.5 5DR NZ NEW: Tiptronic Auto, Stability Control, ABS Brakes, Multiple Airbags, Dual Climate AirCon, Electric Fron Seat Adjustment with Drivers Memory, Leather Trim, Cruise Control, Electric Sunroof, Remote Central Locking, Auto lights, Auto Wipers, Alloy Wheels, Rear Spoiler, Stereo inc Aux. 111kms

**ONLY \$13995**



### 2005 & 2004 TOYOTA ESTIMA G EDITION 8 SEATERS:

2.4 Automatic, 8 Seater, Power Windows, Remote Central Locking, Air Bags, ABS Brakes, Climate Control Air Con, Electric Opening Side Doors, ABS Brakes, Driving Lights, Alloy Wheels, Cruise Control. Low Kms. 2 to choose

**ONLY \$7995**



**1 SOLD**

### 2011 SUBARU EXIGA 7 SEATER

2.0 Tiptronic Auto, Remote Central Locking, Driving Lights, Electronic Stability Control, Rear Spoiler, Tinted Windows.

**40KM ONLY \$10,995**



### 2010 HONDA FIT 1.3 AUTO

Automatic, ABS Brakes, Dual Airbags, Air Con, Electric Windows, Central Locking. 96km



**ONLY \$8,995**

### 2013 TOYOTA RACTIS 1.5 HATCH LOW KMS

Tiptronic Auto, Stability Control, Electric Windows, Cruise Control, Keyless Entry with Push Button Start, Climate Control Air Con, ABS Brakes, Dual Air Bags, Tinted Windows. 68km



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