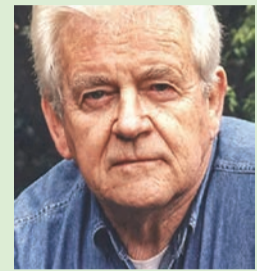




## Inside

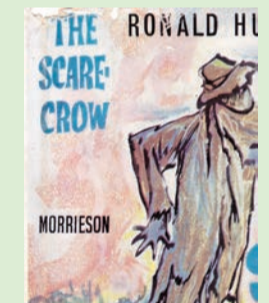
An expensive free sample. Page 2.



Actor who starred in local movies, television and theatre remembered. Page 7.



A memorial to William Cutfield King slain while attending his livestock.. Page 9.



What you can pick up in a second hand bookshop in Eltham. Page 11.



Sky's the limit for Kaponga Hotel hosts. P15.

# Uncertain future awaits Eltham icon

A question mark hangs over the future of an Eltham building, popularly known by locals as one of the town's grand old ladies.

The Eltham Municipal Building on Stanners Street was built in 1911 and was once home to the Eltham Borough Council. In more recent years parts of the building have been used by the likes of Young Farmers, the Assembly of God Church, the Eltham Historical Society law firm Thomson O'Neil and a couple of non-profit organisations. It is one of 13 buildings in town that carry a Historic Places listing, but it has been closed to the public since August 2018 after a seismic assessment rated the building at only eight per cent of the New Building Standards (NBS) Grade E.

This month the South Taranaki District Council is to consider its future. On Monday the Eltham-Kaponga Community Board voted to make its own recommendations for the building's future. These are that the board agree that no further use for the building would justify the costs of strengthening and maintaining it, that the



Historic building's future hangs in the balance.

building be declared surplus to requirements and that it be put up for sale for a nominal

sum subject to a purchaser having the means and willingness to strengthen and

maintain the building. Should no purchaser be found within 12 months then the building would be demolished.

Community Board member Lindsay Maindonald said he would have preferred the matter be discussed at a public meeting so the public could have their say on the building's future.

"I believe the community

should be consulted and brought into the discussion, and not told afterwards," he said. "We are elected by the community and our responsibility is to them, not to have it decided by an in house decision. They say they discussed it with the public in the 1990s but this is a whole new ball game."

Continued page 3



Kiwi Youth Ambassadors.

## Taranaki youth to go without for climate change

Taranaki youth to go without for climate vulnerable communities in Malawi

New Zealand's largest youth fundraising event, the World Vision 40 Hour Famine, is back for its 45th year, with many Taranaki students set to take on a

challenge or give something up – and it's all in the name of supporting climate vulnerable communities in Malawi.

Spread across 40 hours from June 5-7, 90,000 New Zealand youth are expected

Continued page 3

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## Letters to the Editor

### A very poor show

Recently ANZAC services were called off for the first time in a century, and your May 7 edition featured a lone piper paying his respects at Papamoa Beach.

What a great pity the South Taranaki District Council cannot do the same, and muster the energy to keep the star atop the Manaia Rotunda lit.

This building is a memorial to the dozens of local families decimated in World War, their names listed on each side in solemn memory of their heroic deeds.

Once upon a time, if you were driving down Manaia Road from Kaponga, this beacon of respect would welcome any travellers into the heart of Manaia town, but now, and for over a year, the lack of heart by STDC is the only thing on display.

I call for this situation to be rectified, and if the council can't afford a new bulb, I have to wonder about their sincerity and ability to do

anything worthwhile at all.

R. Herdson  
Manaia

*The South Taranaki District Council replies. "The Council is aware of the lighting issue on the band rotunda but unfortunately the problem is with the underground cabling and is a bit more complicated than simply replacing the bulbs. However, the Council are working on it and hope to have it working again soon."*

### Help our police

During this lockdown it seems that police, not only in our province, but elsewhere had to deal with some people who had been breaking the lockdown rules quite frequently.

Look, our police wherever they may be have enough to deal with, without having stupid idiots flaunting these lockdown breaches, and stupidly thinking they are some sort of heroes, unlike most of us who have taken this virus extremely seriously. Others

think it's a big joke. Well I say, let them think that.

So wherever we live, let's help our police in Taranaki to combat these idiots and quickly report, otherwise they will spoil it for the rest of us, as the sooner we can get back to where we were, the quicker we can get rid of this virus. So let us become more vigilant on what's going on around us.

Tom Stephens  
New Plymouth

## COVID-19 has rocked the world

On reading the editor's article on COVID-19 I do believe she's absolutely correct by stating that our world is experiencing this pandemic like it did 100 years ago when the Spanish Flu virus became deadly, but not as bad as that time. I really feel empathy for those countries who are fighting this virus, and for those people who have lost loved

ones and friends.

So who is to blame? China, the World Health Organisation (WHO) or our overpopulated world's pollution? I have no doubt the source will be found, and there will be an extremely powerful vaccine found, so the whole world can be vaccinated all in one go. No doubt it could become compulsory.

For every one of us, I do believe it's been an extremely weird two years, starting off with the Christchurch saga, the White Island incident, and now the COVID-19 virus, yet the coalition government has come out on top.

Look I hope for everyone's and the world's sake we can get over this horrible virus but I still believe we have all got to check our healthiness, otherwise this virus could easily return, so in the meantime please take care of each other, as I believe we can beat it.

Tom Stephens  
New Plymouth

## An expensive free sample

We should be wary of spending too much time on the internet. Here is a cautionary story that occurred back in March highlighting the danger of revealing your credit card number over the internet.

Spotting an incredible product of a health/medical nature the browser discovered that a free sample was on offer. This sounded pretty good so he pressed the appropriate keys. A while later the product marketer, who were based in the United States (with a doctor as the

CEO), asked if the browser minded paying a \$19 courier charge. The browser thought that was probably fair so indicated yes. (Now the marketer had the browser's credit card number!)

A while later the browser was surprised to see an offer of reduced price for further supplies of this wonderful product. Why would I want to agree to that when I don't know if the product is worthwhile and helpful? thought the browser, so he indicated no.

A few days later the

browser's credit card bank statement arrived and he got a shock. For a start the \$19 courier fee had ballooned to \$31. Well, maybe the American exchange rate caused that. Further down, a much bigger shock; the browser had been charged a further \$85 for a second sample despite having indicated NO.

With the browser's credit card number on American computers for all to see, the credit card number needed changing which required a trip to the bank.

A phone call to the company yielded an assurance that no further supplies would be sent or charged for. However, they were not prepared to return the amount illegally taken from the credit card account, as the sample was already on the way.

Was the browser dealing with a scam or just a health product firm with questionable business practices? Who knows. However, one thing for sure it was a very expensive free sample costing the sadder but wiser browser over \$130 all tolled. So be warned.

## ADELPHOS

"Excuse me, nurse, can I talk with you? You might think it's a bit crazy but..." Many people claim to have had Near Death Experiences (NDEs). This article is based on conversations with three cardiac nurses with over 40 years combined experience and numerous international NDE research studies. Patients, while under a general anesthetic or during a cardiac arrest on a hospital operating table or bed, saw themselves from above their own body. Some patients experienced moving toward an inexpressibly peaceful white light before returning to their body and gaining consciousness. Others related that they were somehow able to nonverbally communicate with this light. Upon awakening, patients often described the conversations and actions of staff while not conscious. Many tell of having a second chance

## What are NDEs?

at life with new desire to fulfill a purpose or draw closer to God. I'm guessing that some reading these words have had NDEs. According to the International Association for Near-Death Studies (IANDS) in the USA, Australia and Germany, 6 -15% of the population have experienced NDEs.

NDEs are typically those where our spirit temporarily leaves our body, but then returns. The apostle Paul himself seemingly had an NDE experience when he was stoned and left for dead (Acts 14:19-20). Once he spoke of being taken up into the third heaven and heard "inexpressible" things (2 Corinthians 12:4 NIV). Similarly, NDE patients often find words inadequate to describe their experiences: many never tell anyone.

From scripture we know that our spirits are created by

God and return to Him when our body dies. Here are just four examples. 1.) When Jesus died on Good Friday He said, "Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit" (Luke 23:46 RSV). 2.) Stephen, the first Christian martyr in the Bible, said while being stoned to death, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit" (Acts 7:59 RSV). 3.) Jesus promised the repentant dying thief on the cross next to Him that his spirit will be with Him that day—"... Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43). 4.) Likewise, when Jesus miraculously resurrected Jairus' 12 year old dead daughter we read that her spirit returned from God to her body (Luke 8:55). Her spirit gave her dead body renewed physical life, not the other way around. Therefore, it is clear from scripture that when believers die their spirits enter into God's presence.

When Jesus returns, the spirit of each believer will be united with a new and perfect resurrected body.

NDEs give us a glimpse of the spiritual part of who we are. However, we live in a time when mainstream atheistic science disregards spirituality: Because it can't explain it in measurable material terms. Some claim NDEs are just a chemical brain hallucination. But as Einstein said, "The finite cannot grasp the infinite." If you had an NDE I hope you've been helped by reading this article. You're not crazy. I wonder how it affected your life?

Adelphos

PS. Remember to worship God at the Okato Community Church while you can, 6:30 pm. Sunday at Hempton Hall. Everyone welcome.



# Uncertain future awaits Eltham icon

Continued from page 1.

He said it was seen in town as an “iconic building, one of a set of four.” As well as its “twin” and next door neighbour in Stanners Street, the Eltham Town Hall, the other two “Old Ladies” are the Bank and Post Office buildings.

Mr Maindonald said the current mayor had campaigned on listening to the district’s satellite towns and this was his chance to do something about it. He said the Council had been prepared to call a public meeting in Manaia about the future of the Manaia Sports Centre.

As well as a meeting, there should be an Open Day, so the public could see the building for themselves, he said.

In the Open Forum part of the meeting, Eltham business and community leader Joe Menzies said he “wished to see the building retained in

some way, shape or form.” He recalled his involvement with the Eltham Health Trust which had wanted to buy the building to use as a Community Health Centre, but this had not happened.

Cr Steffy McKay said the cost of earthquake strengthening had been put at \$1.8 million.

“That’s nearly two million dollars. That could do a hell of a lot of good around town,” she said. “When you look back at history and what’s happened to the building since the Council moved out, it’s been historically quite underused. It’s been put up for sale and nobody’s been interested in buying it.”

Community Board deputy chair Sonya Douds said holding a public meeting would stir up emotions about feelings of attachment towards the building but wouldn’t solve the issue of how it’s to be paid for.

“I don’t think anybody wants to see a building destroyed, and that’s the feeling you are going to get from a meeting. The reality is someone has to pay for it.”

Mayor Phil Nixon said any buyer had to show they had the means to fix it up.

“We don’t want another Patea Hospital,” he said.

South Taranaki District Council corporate property manager Karen Metlick questioned whether it would be safe taking



Debating the Eltham Municipal Buildings future.

people through the building. She had noticed when she looked around there last week there had been a marked deterioration compared to a previous visit back in March.

“I don’t think the top tier is really safe to take groups up there. I went through one room and I could see

visible daylight through the ceiling. It’s a big old building which has a porous skin, and gets very damp and cold in winter.”

Mr Maindonald said the \$1.8 million figure was just one estimate, so it could still be possible the work could be done for less. He also questioned whether the 12 month

period was too short to find a suitable buyer. He voted with the other community board members in favour of the recommendations, but added that he still preferred the matter had been referred to a public meeting.

# Taranaki youth to go without for climate change

Continued from page 1

to take part and raise much-needed funds for the people of Malawi who are experiencing the chaos caused by extreme weather events, like droughts, cyclones and floods, that are resulting in food shortages, hunger and malnutrition. On top of this, COVID-19 has brought with it added pressure for these communities.

This year, five Kiwi Youth Ambassadors – Izaak Wilson, Jess McLennan, Alyssa Wilson, Daniel Rickman and Hayley Gotlieb – are championing the 40 Hour Famine, having travelled to Malawi in late 2019 to meet some of those who will benefit from the efforts of everyone taking part; children, families, schools and farmers who’ve been impacted by extreme weather events.

“I don’t think there was really any one moment when it just clicked for me that ‘this is the reality of living in Malawi in 2020’, but it has sunk in a little more every single day since I’ve been back in New Zealand,”

says McLennan. “It’s in the everyday moments that I think about everyone I met and what I saw in Malawi, like when I look at my mum cooking dinner and think to myself, I wonder if Prisca’s mum has enough food to cook meals for her kids today? Or when I pull veggies out of the fridge and think to myself, I hope Yohane’s family have had a good harvest, so they have food to eat,” she says.

“I know that every single person who signs up for the 40 Hour Famine, and the money they raise, will help create real and actual change for the climate vulnerable Malawians who need it most.”

World Vision New Zealand National Director Grant Bayldon says the 40 Hour Famine is a calendar item he looks forward to each year, adding that this year it seems all the more crucial for the charity organisation to provide a platform for NZ youth to rally together and make change.

“As the world shifts, the challenges Malawians face remain – and this means now,

more than ever, we need to do all we can to fight hunger and injustice.

“This is our chance to show the world what great global neighbours we can be. As we do what we can for the vulnerable here, let’s also do what we can for the most vulnerable around the world.”

Bayldon adds that he’s ‘really looking forward to seeing what challenges people take on, or what things they choose to give up for 40 hours, in order to make a life-changing difference for the people of Malawi’.

“The people of Malawi are facing a twin crisis: As they struggle with the impacts of climate change, they face the added pressures of COVID-19. They need our support more than ever.”

Money raised in the 2020 40 Hour Famine will make a difference by providing schools and farmers with seeds for crops, watering systems and goats so the people of Malawi can build resilient and sustainable farming and reduce the impact of climate change on their communities.

This important work will also ensure they’re able to better cope with external factors out of their control, be it extreme weather events or a new virulent virus.

Those who take part can choose their own challenge or select something to give up – like going without transport, furniture or technology – and ask people to support their efforts by donating.

Since it started, in 1975, the New Zealand 40 Hour Famine has raised more than \$80 million and brought hope to thousands of children living in poverty in more than 40 countries.

More than three million New Zealanders have participated in the 40 Hour Famine since it began.

Extreme weather events are causing loss of crops for communities who rely so heavily on them – 71.9% of Malawians are subsistence farmers who rely entirely on what they can grow to survive. One bad yield, due

to drought or flooding, can mean the difference between surviving and children going to bed hungry.

World Vision is working with communities in Malawi

to help them adapt to and mitigate extreme weather conditions, so their human rights are safeguarded and realised.

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### COUNCILLOR'S COMMENT

Last year we were visiting family and friends in the UK and touring Europe on a 50 day adventure to celebrate my 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday. This year we have experienced 50 days of lockdown, add to that a ruptured patella tendon, and 2020 has been an extremely different experience. Not being able to visit family has been difficult. This was made harder in the friendly rural community setting where going past our neighbours and friends without stopping to say hello is definitely against the norm. The extended

summer sunshine has been much appreciated, but as we moved out of lockdown and adjust to the new normal of hand sanitiser and recording the shops and places we visit, the weather has decided that indoors is the best place for us to spend Queens Birthday weekend. June 1 is also 'change over day' for the farming community with many families leaving their homes and starting a new future without the traditional community farewells. Whether your views are that the government moved too fast or too slow, the

# What a difference a year makes



ANDY WHITEHEAD

The same can be said for the council's obligation to provide assets to our local community. We will always desire better facilities but are also realistic in knowing these things cost money. The Taranaki Coastal Zone prides itself on the can-do attitude that supports our local schools and sports clubs, making its own walkways and bike tracks, installs its own seating and artworks, doing its own tree planting and gardens. Taranaki Coastal Community Board is always looking at ways to help. We have a limited amount of funds at our discretion when you have run out of other funding options for a community project. We are also advocates to and from

the council when we hear about your desired projects or concerns. Two areas we are working through at present are installing drinking fountains near existing playgrounds and connecting the town centre and main beach plans. We are also aware of playground upgrades, your concerns around the lake and long term planning for the next 10 years. Taranaki Coastal Community Board will be holding community meetings to gauge the community's wishes later in the year, and we look forward to hearing your ideas and needs.

Thurs 4 June at 2:30pm and Parihaka Tuesday 14 July at 2:30pm. We may not be able to answer all of your questions but the excellent staff at council can always find us the best connections who can. If there is anything you feel the council needs to improve please ring 0800 111 323 or send in your request on the Antennor App. If you have any environmental concerns about the lake, rivers, our beaches or pest control please ring TRC on 0800 736 222.

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Nga mihi nui.  
Andy Whitehead  
Taranaki Coastal  
Community Board Chair

Please come to share your ideas and have your say at our community board meetings; at Sandfords Event Centre

sacrifices have proven to be worth it as we continue to record minimal or zero daily new cases of the Covid 19 pandemic that continues to sweep across the world.

There was always going to be a balance between the financial cost and the risk to people's welfare.

## Boost to Warmer Kiwi Homes delivering jobs

Insulation installers for the Government's Warmer Kiwi Homes programme are gearing up to take on more staff following a \$56 million funding boost, the Energy Minister Megan Woods said.

Dr Woods says the funding boost will deliver an additional 9,000 insulation and heating retrofits, and will also see grants increase to 90%.

The Minister visited Community Energy Action (CEA) in Christchurch as the charitable trust gears up to meet increased demand.

"CEA is just one of the companies across the country saying they will increase the size of their team off the back of the recent funding announcement.

"I am delighted that the trust is looking to expand so soon after the Warmer Kiwi Homes programme went on pause during Alert Level 4."

Installers contracted to the programme are back out in the community installing insulation and efficient heaters using robust health and safety protocols.

The sector, which currently employs 1,300 contractors across 90 companies has been busy since getting to Level 3 of the COVID alert system, completing 700 heating and/or insulation retrofits since

April.28.

The Warmer Kiwi Homes programme has also recently reached a significant milestone with more than 20,000 installs of insulation and efficient heaters nationwide, Minister Woods said.

"We are very proud of this achievement – that's a large number of Kiwi households looking forward to a warmer and drier home this winter."

As of the beginning of March there have been over 600 insulation and heating retrofits in the Taranaki region under Warmer Kiwi Homes, including 561 insulation retrofits, and 58 heating retrofits.

"Insulation and efficient heaters don't prevent the

spread of Covid-19 but a warm, dry home does protect the most vulnerable and decreases the risk of hospital admissions from respiratory disease."

"We're also proud of the significant third-party funding that has been leveraged through the programme to date. With the Government now meeting 90% of the cost, we expect that top-ups from third-party community organisations will make retrofits free of charge to many applicants.

Dr Woods encourages homeowners to find out if they are eligible and apply for a grant.

"It's important that you make sure family members and friends know about the

grant offer which makes insulation and highly efficient heating much more affordable, for instance homeowners looking at having a \$3,000\* heat pump installed will only pay \$300.

"It's a great opportunity to improve the quality of New Zealand housing, as well as the health, comfort and wellbeing of people," Megan Woods said.

The Warmer Kiwi Homes programme is part of Labour's Confidence and Supply Agreement with the Green Party.

Heaters in retrofits are capped at \$3,000, including GST. Heating retrofits have been available since 1 July 2019)



Energy and Resources Minister Megan Woods, CEA installation manager Les Norris and CEA insulation installer Ryan Forman

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# Mountain spectre

The unusual Broken spectre also known as mountain spectre was captured by local mountaineer Lindsay Maindonald recently when climbing Mt Taranaki.

The phenomen shows the magnified shadow of an observer cast upon clouds opposite the sun's direction.

The image of Lindsay who took the photo is visible surrounded by a faint halo of coloured light formed when uniformly-sized water droplets in clouds refract and scatter light.

According to Wikipedia, the "spectre" appears when the sun shines from behind the observer, who is looking down from a ridge or peak into mist or fog. The light projects their shadow through the mist, often in a triangular shape due to perspective. The apparent magnification of size of the shadow is an optical illusion that occurs when the observer judges his or her shadow on relatively nearby clouds to be at the same distance as faraway land objects seen through gaps in the clouds, or when there are no reference points by which to judge its size. The shadow also falls on water droplets of varying distances from the eye, confusing depth perception. The ghost can appear to move (sometimes suddenly) because of the movement of the cloud layer and variations in density within the cloud.

There are many references to Broken spectres in literature. Coleridge wrote of it in his poem "Constancy to an Ideal Object".



ABOVE: An eerie image of Lindsay taking a photo projected onto an adjacent ridge.

The explorer Eric Shipton saw a Brocken spectre during his first

ascent of Nelion on Mount Kenya with Percy Wyn-Harris and Gustav Sommerfelt in 1929. He wrote:

Then the towering buttresses of Batian and Nelion appeared; the rays of the setting sun broke through and, in the east, sharply defined, a great circle of rainbow colours framed our own silhouettes. It was the only perfect Brocken Spectre I have ever seen.

Lindsay and his friend had climbed to 5-6000 feet.



An example of the unusual phenomenon from Wikipedia.



It was a stunning day. Lindsay having lunch. The ground was frozen he said.

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# Jonathan Young selected for National

During a tumultuous lockdown period, Jonathan Young has been kept busy helping stranded travellers return to New Plymouth, facilitating assistance for employees who've found themselves suddenly out of work, and contacting hundreds of local businesses, community groups and individuals to make sure they have access to what they need.

"I'm obviously very proud to have been selected as National's candidate for New Plymouth and have another opportunity to represent all the people of this electorate". The 2017-20 Parliamentary term was Jonathan's first in opposition and he's been busier than ever. "Constituent work is incredibly important to an Electorate MP and throughout this term, I've been able to help out a huge number of people. Immigration, tax, health and employment issues have been the biggest concerns,

but you never know from one day to the next who's going to come through the door needing assistance with a problem."

Added to that, Jonathan has earned the portfolios of Energy and Resources, Regional Development (North Island) and Arts, Culture and Heritage. "It's highly appropriate that those three portfolios are all held by the New Plymouth MP - we are the Energy capital of the country, we've shown great innovation and enthusiasm for achieving infrastructure projects, and our creative and cultural

reputation is second to none in the country." New Plymouth National Party Chair Kevin Murphy said Jonathan Young has been a tremendous servant for the electorate. "Jonathan has a strong involvement in youth development, the arts, energy and business. He brings tremendous experience and enthusiasm and we're thrilled to have him as our candidate. "I'm looking forward to the Election 2020 campaign. National has fresh ideas, strong values and practical plans to get New Zealand working again!"



Jonathan Young



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## Powering a way through Manaia



PowerWorx staff were busy adjusting street lights in Manaia on Wednesday last week. Two 64 metre wind turbine blades were due to pass through town on their way from Port Taranaki along State Highway 45 and State Highway 3 to the Waipipi Wind Farm near Waverley. With the height of the turbines likely to make it a tight fit navigating the Manaia roundabout the lights at the roundabout intersections were being lowered, said Powerworx manager Bruce Wilson. This meant putting the lights on swivels.


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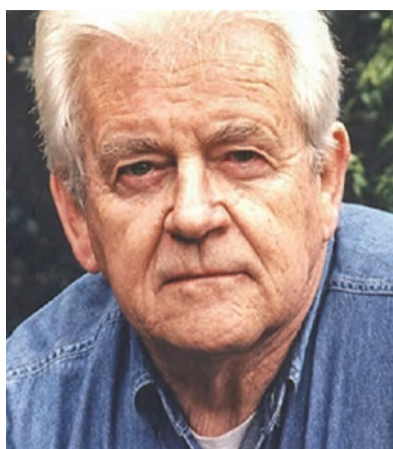
# Obituary Bruce Allpress (1930 – 2020)

Veteran actor Bruce Allpress died on April 23, aged 89. He had been suffering from Motor Neurone disease (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis). His five children were at his bedside.

Bruce spent his formative years in Dunedin and got the acting bug when his mother took him to see a stage production.

Although he is best known for his acting on television and films, he also has worked as a director and producer for stage productions.

In latter years he owned an antique shop in Albany, Auckland



Bruce Allpress

called Albany Hill Antiques, although this lasted until 2018.

His huge involvement with NZ television started in the mid-1960s with the Cheeseman Singer series a black-and-white minstrel show.

Some of the many television shows he acted in included Close To Home, High Country, Jocko and Hunter's Gold. He was a regular of the Billy T James show.

Some of the feature films he acted in included two films based on Ronald Hugh Morrieson's novels The Scarecrow (US: Klynham Summer) and Came A

Hot Friday. Both films won awards in New Zealand and overseas. In Came A Hot Friday he acted with the great Billy T James of whom he said, "With Billy it was more party than work." Other films he acted in included, Beyond Reasonable Doubt, Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers, The Piano and The

BMX Kid.

His final film was Rest for the Wicked in 2011.

Among his awards he won two Feltex Best Actor awards in 1981 and 1983 for Jocko.

Actor Peter Elliot commented, "Bruce was an icon of the era."

## New owners welcomed

Opunake Discounter has changed hands just months into first opening late last year.

The new owners are Gurpreet Kaur and Sukhvir Singh who took over just after the Level Four Lockdown ceased.

The couple from Hawera who previously owned the Hospital Dairy in Hawera for 7 years were attracted to Opunake because it was near the beach and they "wanted a change". They are living in Opunake with their three children aged 14, 10 and 7 who are all attending schools in Opunake.

Opunake Discounter was closed over the lockdown.

Since opening, Gurpreet said business "is picking up". In terms of the superette everything is much the same she said and will continue to sell takeways including their popular chicken and chips, cone ice creams, fruit and veges and grocery items. Their opening hours are unchanged.

They've also retained the same staff

Gurpreet commented on the friendly welcoming community. "People have been coming in with cards and flowers," she said adding it had been "lovely".

Some of the people she already knows from Hawera



From left Sukhvir Singh, Gurpreet Kaur and Mandeep Singh from Opunake Discounter delighted with the welcome they've received from locals.

and added "quite a few have moved to Opunake".

Prior to owning the dairy in Hawera they lived in Auckland but clearly have no regrets about moving to Taranaki.

"It's much nicer and a bit cheaper," said Gurpreet adding there's "no rush" and it's a better life style.

They also enjoy walking and have been to the

top of Mount Taranaki "once" said Gurpreet.

She also had some nice comments about the Opunake & Coastal News which they used to stock for people in Hawera and used to read themselves.

"People like it," said Gurpreet adding that people would come in religiously every second week to get it.

### On this month in history

In 1901 New Zealand was invited to become a state of Australia. In January 1901 the Australian colonies (as they were then) federated to

### NZ declines being a state of Australia

become the Commonwealth of Australia.

Premier (later renamed prime minister) Richard Seddon appointed a Royal Com-

mission (chaired by lawyer Albert Pitt) recommended against joining, because of loss of independence as a separate colony and also the undermining of a link with Great Britain.

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# A shadow cabinet custom-built for the Covid-19 recovery

There is growing pressure around the country to get to Level 1 when restrictions on the economy are a lot less. If you're a business owner, this is critical; if you're a health professional then you may have a range of thoughts. Suffice to say (and hopefully when you read this), New Zealand is seeing no new cases for two weeks now. That can't be said for the economy as thousands of jobs that are being lost every week. Here in Taranaki, we've lost about 1,000 jobs to date. Infometrics senior economist Brad Olsen has forecast Taranaki could lose up to 5,500. Let's hope not, because that puts individuals, couples, families and whanau under enormous strain and risk. The wage subsidy scheme has been very supportive to



**JONATHAN YOUNG MP  
FOR NEW PLYMOUTH**

employees and companies during the lockdown period, but now we need to help businesses get back on their feet. The National Party's new leader Todd Muller has put rebuilding our economy front and centre, highlighting our focus on protecting jobs.

Continuing the wage subsidy scheme relentlessly through to the election

and possibly beyond is not addressing the underlying issue that businesses have lost their working cash flow. As an example, I was contacted last week by the owner of a contracting firm whose workers are ready to get on the job, but can't because there's no cash flow to fund supplies. That is not an isolated case. By not directly assisting businesses like this, we run the risk of losing jobs that would be viable in normal circumstances. Their loss will continue to create longer queues at Work and Income offices which could be avoided by some positive action. The longer we wait the more businesses will go under and the more jobs will be lost.

Added to that, the greater burden on the Government as they pay out Jobseeker

support and have less revenue coming in from PAYE and GST.

The decision to target National's team of 55 MPs on Covid recovery should be seen as a proactive and positive move to get on the front foot. Amy Adams, coming out of retirement to oversee a new Covid-19 Recovery

Portfolio demonstrates an innovative commitment to finding practical answers.

National's MPs each contribute real-world expertise across all walks of life, and everyone is listened to as we develop solutions.

We have consistently called for financial support for businesses. Alongside the wage subsidy, injecting grants to cover overheads would keep operations running and protect jobs.

The tax measures being suggested don't come through quickly enough to make a difference.

Todd Muller has highlighted the importance of small businesses by taking on that portfolio. They are the beating heart of our communities, an essential part of the Kiwi way of life. It's great to see that being recognised with people getting in behind the likes of the Go Local Go Taranaki campaign.

Last week, Todd Muller announced the first part of National's plan to deal with the looming unemployment crisis, after job numbers collapsed by a record 37,500 in April. The JobStart programme provides a \$10,000 cash payment to businesses for

each hire they make, aiming to create 50,000 new jobs. The first \$5,000 comes in at the beginning of their employment and the second \$5,000 after 90 days.

Finally, the last thing we want is for a resurgence of infections and to have to go back into lockdown. We must protect the gains we've made and continue to be vigilant with our health and hygiene practices.

*Jonathan Young  
MP for New Plymouth  
newplymouthmp@parliament.govt.nz*

*National Party  
Spokesperson: Energy & Resources*

*National Party  
Spokesperson: Arts, Culture & Heritage*

## Worst is yet to be seen and felt

With the health of the nation at risk, the Government has rightly focussed on the health of our people. However its prognosis and treatment has weighed entirely on physical health, in isolation of our greater wellbeing. An analogy to the now well-known and practiced Maori model of healthcare "Te Whare Tapa Whā" the four pillars of health – physical, spiritual, social/family, and mental – would not have been amiss in the Government's treatment and response remedy for COVID-19. Now that the 'curve' has flattened, so too has our economy. But health and economy are connected. The economy

provides for and nourishes us and it is the livelihoods of workers and business owners across New Zealand. The subsequent social burdens resulting from prolonged mandatory shutdown and a flattened economy will be an over-inflation in mental health presentations, job loss, lower household income, and isolation, particularly in our vulnerable and elderly communities. A report from think-tank Kōi Tū: Centre for Informed Futures, predicted an impending recession could create social division and increase rates of depression and PTSD. These are things we must now plan and provide support for.



**HARETE HIPANGO MP FOR  
WHANGANUI**

The Government and Ministry of Health have dominated and commanded the response. Over the past few weeks, stories have emerged from New Zealanders adversely affected by the restrictions on freedoms of movement. The cracks are starting to

reveal. Surgeries, treatments, diagnoses and general health have been side-lined. The High Court was called on to overturn the Ministry of Health's refusal to let a man visit his dying father, a woman described a harrowing and lonely birth under lockdown restrictions, and a family could not farewell or grieve their 18-year-old son's death. It calls into question the legality of lockdown and the overarching control Government and the Ministry of Health have on civil liberties. Parliament was extraordinarily suspended and replaced by daily media briefings and controlled communication.

The Epidemic Response Committee was a National Party initiative as a means to try and retain the public's voice and expression to the government when it was no longer present via the House of Representatives – the democratic voice heard in Parliament, suspended during COVID-19, when it could have been retained.

The New Zealand public has seemingly relinquished its democratic rights to question and challenge the lawfulness of actions, unhesitatingly accepting a 4+-week lockdown, enamoured by the marketing orchestration of a Prime Minister dominating the public domain.

It is unheard of for New Zealanders to start turning on one another, reporting people for "breaching" lockdown, when in fact the lawfulness of the lockdowns and home detentions are deliberately obfuscated. We have developed a mob mentality so driven out of fear and scare-mongering by a leader and Government where the statistical and scientific evidence and legal powers of jurisdiction simply cannot support their positions.

It also questions the "transparency" and "compassion" of the most open and transparent Government. These decisions and restrictions have prohibited people from being with their loved ones in times of need, imposed sanctions and punishments, and impacted wellbeing of New Zealanders through the crippling of the economy and livelihoods.

In administering the treatment for COVID-19, it appears that the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment has had little early engagement counterbalancing the curve with an economic-impact strategy. As a result, our waka of wellbeing has taken a big hit. Many enterprises and the New Zealand economy are struggling to keep afloat. Many businesses and jobs are already sunk. We have even more challenging days ahead to keep our heads above water.

The worst is yet to be

*continued on page 9.*

## Harete Hipango MP for Whanganui

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Authorised by Harete Hipango MP,  
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**JONATHAN YOUNG**  
MP for New Plymouth

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



# Worst is yet to be seen and felt

continued from page 8

seen, and felt. We are at the earliest stages of any economic recovery effort, which would benefit if the PM's COVID-19 catch cry of "we went hard and we went early" were applicable to recognising and realising the plight of SMEs and the New Zealand workforce. The Prime Minister said coming

out of lockdown too soon would be "rolling the dice," but it is employers who are rolling the dice, as each day passes with uncertainty and mounting pressure. The state of our economy is beyond essential, it is critical. We now have a local and national economy in need of critical care. Our economy has, by

the Government in the early response to COVID-19, not been deemed as a necessity of life.

Sadly, our SMEs like sacrificial lambs have been lead and bled, disproportionately bearing the brunt of the Government's Covid-19 response. The Government took the

right steps to contain the virus but it's stalling on what to do next. Recently, Simon Bridges announced National's plan to get New Zealand working again. To reduce the damage and save jobs, we would for starters offer GST cash refunds up to \$100,000 for small businesses and tax incentives

to boost investment. New Zealanders need direct cash flow and every opportunity to get back to work.

And whilst we all struggle in the ongoing and continuing days of economic recovery, please make sure to shore up our local businesses and enterprises with as much

support as we can give them to keep them afloat and their heads above water, until such time as an economic recovery and buoyancy steadies their waka and their enterprise.

*Harete Hipango  
MP Whanganui*

## Mac Sole Episode 19: The Second World War and Napoleon

My earliest recollection of the Second World War with some clarity was when myself and two others stood at the school gate and had a discussion on the possible advent of Russia joining the axis powers in Hitler wanting to rule the world. This discussion was about 1940 - 1941 so I would have been about seven or eight years of age. When Hitler's forces invaded Russia he called the invasion Babarosa, but by doing so he destroyed any collaboration and enjoyed the same fate as Napoleon some 130 or so years earlier.



**Napoleon Bonaparte**

I may add a wee bit of trivia about Napoleon. He was the person who instigated the method of street numbering; odds on one side and evens on the other. Another bit of trivia: when Napoleon invaded Egypt he discovered

that the lead bullets could be used write - thus the advent of the lead pencil. However, back to my childhood and memories of Fraser Road. During the War one memory was that every week a magazine called the Auckland Weekly had, in the middle pages, photographs of servicemen killed, wounded or missing. It was a very sad read.

Then there was The Roads Home guard, which was made up of local men taking part in military training, aka 'Dad's Army.' Another memory was of the trenches dug under the hedges on the road edges to which

Jack Hunt (A Maori), who did part time work for us objected. He was a person who was supposedly in the First World War. He promptly filled in the trenches as he thought the Japanese were not going to be around any time soon and all the trenches did was kill the hedgehogs and such like that fell in. Accordingly,

Jack to the best of my recollection, was never taken to task by the military authorities even though such action could be considered treason.

## William Cutfield King (1829 - 1861)

William Cutfield King was a farmer, soldier and a politician. He was on his horse on 8 February 1861 when shot and killed while tending to his cattle on his farm called Woodleigh. These days the location is the New Plymouth suburb of Frankleigh Park.

His relatives and friends have erected a memorial to him on Beaumont Crescent.

It was the time of the first Taranaki War (March 1860 to March 1861), which had flared up because of the purchase of disputed Maori land at Waitara. Te Teiri sold 600 acres to the Crown but the preeminent leader Wiremu Kingi and others disputed his sole ownership. There were isolated murders and many settlers left their



**The memorial to Captain W.C. King**

farms for the relative safety of New Plymouth. Captain King was an officer in the Taranaki volunteers and on this fateful day he rode to his farm to check on his cattle. He was shot and

wounded by Ngati Ruanui warriors. He tried to escape but unfortunately his horse was also injured. Further shots rang out and he was killed. He left a wife Eliza Mary (died 1911) and two

daughters. He is buried at St Mary Church cemetery.

Just prior to his death Captain King had just been elected to Parliament, representing the electorate of Grey and Bell as an Independent. Captain King was born in Devon and came to NZ as a 12-year-old in 1841 on board the Amelia Thompson with his parents Captain Henry King and Mary Anne King. His father became the first Commissioner of Taranaki.



**The plaque.**

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## Chairman's chat

### We're keeping an eye on the future but the rates on hold

Ka mihi nui ki a koutou katoa, greetings to you all. The Council last week decided to budget for no change in general rates (0% rather than a 3.8% increase originally considered). With the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic uppermost in mind, we've carefully tuned and trimmed our spending and programmes while keeping any impacts to an absolute minimum. Overall, we're taking a 'business as planned' approach based on the public consultation and decision-making that went into the 2018/2028 Long-Term Plan and the 2019/2020 Annual Plan.

It's clear that two vital ingredients in Taranaki's recovery will be the resilience and community-mindedness of the region's people, and the advantages offered by our environment and natural resources. Care for the environment and sustainable use of natural resources have been consistent and enduring themes of the Council's major programmes.



These include the Riparian Management Programme, which has seen the Taranaki landscape transformed by millions of native plants and thousands of kilometres of fencing along rivers and streams. And despite COVID-19, record numbers of plants are going out for planting this year, paid for by farmers under this unique partnership with the Council.

We're expecting a similar result next year. This programme is bringing independently verified improvements to freshwater quality, and the Council's focus is already transitioning to maintenance, monitoring and compliance.

We're also starting to see encouraging results in Towards Predator-Free Taranaki, which has been embraced enthusiastically across the region. The programme is still in its early days but the Council's own biodiversity monitoring, as well as community anecdotes aplenty, suggest it's already giving Taranaki healthier ecosystems where indigenous plants and wildlife can thrive and grow in numbers.

Meanwhile, the Council's multi-year

upgrade programme at Pukeiti has resulted in new visitor facilities, more recreational options, better infrastructure and increased capacity for important research and conservation work. With domestic tourism set to take on much greater importance, the Council will continue with the upgrades.

This will be the second year running with no change to the general rate. There are minor and largely immaterial changes to targeted rates for transport and river and flood control. The Yarrow Stadium targeted rates continue unchanged, noting that existing loans and commitments still need funding, as will any future options. The works programme remains on hold pending a careful review of proposals taking into account changing circumstances.

The Council remains focused on supporting livelihoods, improving lifestyles and taking Taranaki forward. These will be priorities for the entire region as we lift our heads and move forwards in the coming months and years.

- David MacLeod, Chair

## Around & about the region



### Mia wins with rosy suggestion

Four-year-old Mia Edmonds (pictured) had some big news to share with her friends as lockdown restrictions eased. Mia was judged winner of the Pukeiti Passport Challenge, a summertime competition to name a new vireya rhododendron bred by Keith Adams in New Plymouth and raised at Pukeiti. Mia's choice was 'Rosy Comet' and the name is now being registered. To qualify for entry, Mia and other hopefuls had to get special 'passports' stamped at each of Taranaki Regional Council's three heritage properties, Pukeiti, Tūpare and Hollard Gardens, as well as at Puke Ariki. The prize for Mia and her family is an overnight stay at the soon-to-be completed Pukeiti Family Hut.

→ [www.pukeiti.nz](http://www.pukeiti.nz)

## Improving lifestyles

### Garden adventures shared with community during lockdown

Taranaki Regional Council staff kept themselves busy and productive during the Level 4 lockdown. One outcome was two series of short videos whose usefulness to the community will long outlive the pandemic response.

Council educator Dr Emily Roberts teamed up with her Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust colleague, Ash Muralidhar, to produce an 11-part series called Backyard Biodiversity.

These videos show families how to discover, protect and improve their backyard habitats for native species.

Emily and Ash produced two videos a week, covering such topics as the native creatures and plants that are likely to live in backyard ecosystems, finding out what they are, profiles of

interesting species including mantises, birds and geckos, and different ways to help native plants and wildlife grow and thrive in a backyard setting.

Watch the first video here and see links to all 11 at

[www.trc.govt.nz/backyard-biodiversity](http://www.trc.govt.nz/backyard-biodiversity)

Meanwhile Tūpare's Mitch Graham produced five 'how to' videos aimed at home gardens.

The first three videos in the series look at establishing a vegetable garden, and the others cover potting up, and caring for citrus trees.

Watch the first video here and see links to all five at

[www.trc.govt.nz/garden-tips](http://www.trc.govt.nz/garden-tips)

Video: [www.trc.govt.nz/backyard-video](http://www.trc.govt.nz/backyard-video)



Video: [www.trc.govt.nz/tupare-tips](http://www.trc.govt.nz/tupare-tips)



## Taking Taranaki forward

Video: [www.trc.govt.nz/pukeiti-welcome](http://www.trc.govt.nz/pukeiti-welcome)



### Council operations back in full swing

Taranaki Regional Council offices are open to the public with all pandemic response requirements strictly observed.

Citylink, Connector and Southlink bus services are running but with changes to ensure current requirements are complied with. See

[www.trc.govt.nz/covid-19-transport](http://www.trc.govt.nz/covid-19-transport)

Pukeiti, Tūpare and Hollard Gardens remain open, but again all requirements must be observed.

Any organised public events at these venues will be limited to appropriate numbers. See [www.trc.govt.nz/covid-19-guidance/gardens](http://www.trc.govt.nz/covid-19-guidance/gardens)

And as the video makes clear, the gardens are primed for visitors.

## Farmers step up to the mark

The first farmers involved in Taranaki's Self-Help Pest Programme are now in the driver's seat, marking a significant milestone in an expanded campaign to reduce the predator threat to both biodiversity and farm production. The new scheme builds on the long-running Self-Help Possum Control Programme, expanding it to mustelids such as ferrets, stoats and weasels. The expansion came in 2018, in conjunction with the launch of Towards Predator-Free Taranaki. Stage 1 is taking place in the Waiwhakaihō catchment, where Taranaki Regional Council contractors set up and maintained traps through an initial knockdown phase. Now the onus is on the landowners to keep the effort going. The programme will roll out across the region in the coming years.

→ [www.trc.govt.nz/pest-milestone](http://www.trc.govt.nz/pest-milestone)

→ [www.trc.govt.nz/pf-taranaki2050](http://www.trc.govt.nz/pf-taranaki2050)

## Your Councillors

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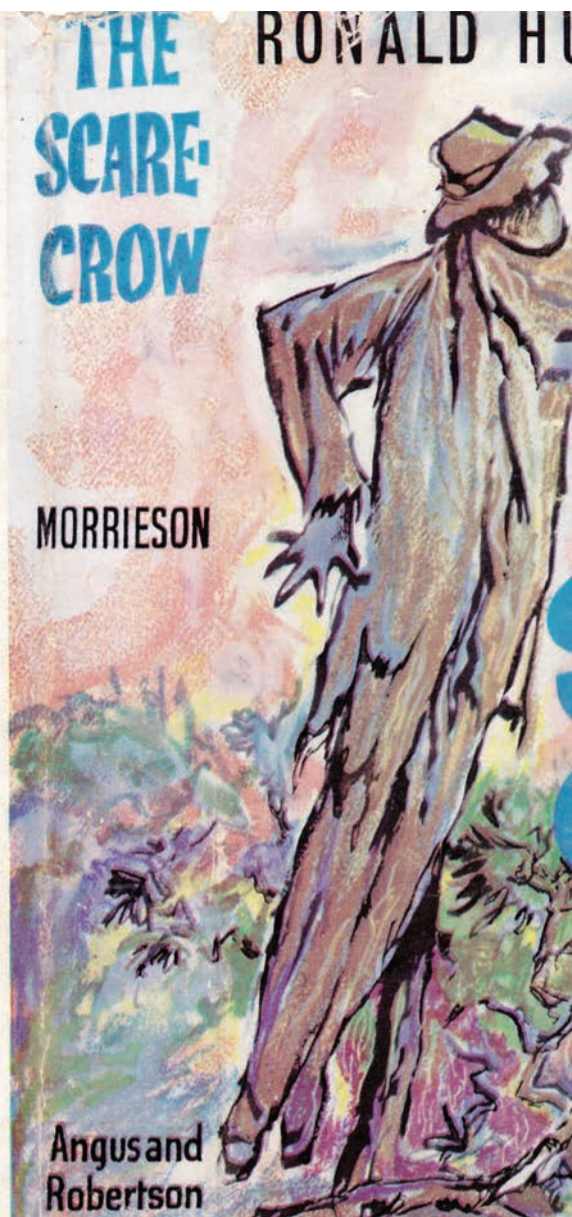
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# A great book from a great bookshop

*Ronald Morrieson writes, from Hawera, New Zealand:*

I WAS born in 1922 in the house where I still live. The house was built by my maternal grandfather, Charles Bartly Johnson, a Shetlander, an organ builder and violin maker. My late father, Hugh Francis Morrieson, son of an Indian army surgeon, forsook medicine for music, and my mother is an associate of Trinity College, a pianist and teacher. I was educated at Hawera, passed my University Entrance and went to Auckland University where I heard someone playing the piano and, homesick, caught the night express back to Hawera. I had intentions of returning to my studies but was offered a job playing double-bass in a dance orchestra. The night life and carefree ways of a dance-band player suited me fine and I gigged in different bands and led my own until I was thirty-seven, when I gave up playing for teaching. But all this time, right from school-days, I had known the only thing that really came easily to me was writing. Early in the piece, before I began teaching, I did a lot of different things in the daytime, just for kicks and to meet people. I was a barman, a billiard marker, a borer-eradicator salesman, a delivery supervisor for a newspaper, a brush hand, a freezing worker, a truck driver and once a hotel cook took me in hand to make a chef of me, but we got back a week later and the only feed we had the whole time was tomato soup.



I could barely believe my eyes; bookshop owner Jason Reid of Reid Books, 160 High Street, Eltham was holding up the book I have been seeking for about five years. The book in question was the original (1963) edition of Ronald Hugh Morrieson's *The Scarecrow*. I must admit I was a bit nervous when I asked the price, but ended

up relieved. I bought the classic book for a very good price.

The book was published by Angus and Robertson, an Australian publisher, as was his next novel *Came A Hot Friday* (1964). Ron Morrieson had tried, and failed, to get his first two brilliant novels published in New Zealand, during his lifetime.

Inside the book is written *With Love and Best Wishes From Mother*, Christmas 1953. I couldn't help wondering who they were.

The novel traces the fortunes of a down-at-heel family the Poindexters in a manner where they are caught up in a net of murderous crime, strange happenings, horror, but intermixed with humour

and compassion. It is undoubtedly a remarkable New Zealand novel.

My particular interest in this book was to see the dust cover where Ronald Morrieson writes from Hawera, New Zealand. He writes of his life, his family, his education, his musical interests and his various jobs.

Ron Morrieson has the distinction of being the only New Zealand writer who has had all his novels made into feature films. The first line in *The Scarecrow* 'The same week our fowls were stolen Daphne Moran had her throat cut' is widely acknowledged as the best known in New Zealand literature.

Reid Books is the most intriguing bookshop I have encountered in a long time. It is packed with interesting books including biographies and many on the history of Taranaki. Make sure you have plenty of time to spend in this fascinating bookshop.

Not only is Jason friendly and helpful he has a

comprehensive knowledge of NZ books and their authors. He is also happy to seek out books you'd like, such as the original edition of *Came A Hot Friday* he is sourcing for me from Australia.

Reid Books sells new books, used books and collectables. The shop is open 10am to 4pm Tuesday to Friday, as well as Saturday and Sunday 10am to 3pm. The phone number is 027 291 4850. Make sure you find time to visit this excellent bookshop.

## On this month in history: The Listener first published

On June 30 1939 the first issue of the *Listener* was published, which was owned by the Government. The magazine was intended to take advantage of the increased importance of radio broadcasting. The first Editor was Oliver

Duff and the circulation was 380,000.

The magazine had exclusive rights to publish radio programmes and later on television programmes.

The first issue featured the 'Golden Days of NZ Rugby' and an article entitled

'NZ Greets the King', but ironically, he didn't come.

The *Listener* used to feature short stories on a regular basis. Dame Joy Cowley originally specialised in short stories before her fame as a children's writer. However, she had to put up

with over 50 short stories being rejected before her first one was accepted for publication, by Monte Holcroft, who was Editor by this time.

Eventually, Mr Holcroft looked forward to publishing Joy Cowley's short stories.

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# New Curious Minds projects further connect citizens to science



Curious Minds projects benefit Taranaki citizens.

Venture Taranaki has announced four new Curious Minds community science projects, bringing the total number of projects in the region to 46 since 2015, with \$740,000 in overall funding to help local residents test their ideas and observations with science.

The four new projects span coastal monitoring, understanding and possible development of natural resources, exploring virtual reality use amongst Alzheimer's patients, and changing recycling behaviours at point of sale.

"These projects reflect diverse responses to opportunities of utilising scientific research to explore the world around us," says Venture Taranaki Chief Executive Justine Gilliland.

"Curious Minds seeks to prompt people to think more deeply about the world around them and look for aspects of their world which bear deeper thinking or closer scrutiny. We then connect these ideas with the

scientists and other technical experts to develop and test that thinking."

"Fostering this greater connection has the potential to start a life-long fascination with science and innovation amongst the younger Curious Minds participants, while opportunities to develop a greater understanding and new products is often a driver for other project groups."

"As we look at recovery from COVID-19, programmes like Curious Minds become increasingly important. Exploration and testing hypothesis and ideas can help lead to innovation and advancement, not just in the studied field, but across the board."

"This has the potential to help us deal with factors such as a global pandemic, but also to take a more analytical look at the world around us."

Led by Venture Taranaki and funded by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Curious

Minds works with school and community groups who have questions or ideas that can be explored or tested with science. Teams partner with the science or technology expertise to help them engage with science and understand more about topics relevant to them.

Our Green Ōpunake Journey will see Ōpunake Kindergarten, Sustainable Taranaki explore the impacts of point of purchase information on recycling behaviour. The project will collect a baseline of what people say they are doing versus what they actually do when it comes to recycling, and then test the impacts of presenting shoppers with recycling information and calls to action on improving recycling behaviour, culminating in a comparison looking to positively shift recycling habits.

Seachange Surveys is a citizen science project that aims to help local communities monitor coastal species - primarily

kaimoana (seafood) - in their rohe moana (coastal area). The project is led by Wild for Taranaki and supported by a wide range of community organisations and business, including Ngā Mahanga a Tairi, Taranaki Iwi, Ngā Motu Marine Reserve Society, Highlands Intermediate, Taranaki Green School, Omata School, Coastal Taranaki School, and Drone Technologies NZ.

Seachange Surveys will provide methods to monitor changes over time and allow communities to effectively manage their kaimoana species. The project aims for these methods to be simple, efficient and adaptable so that they can be applied to a range of coastal species and sites by varied participant groups including school groups and local Iwi/Hapu.

Papa Pokepoke explores the unique features and properties of papa/clay found within the Ngāti Mutunga rohe. The project will see scientists from GNS

and Verum Group worth with Ngāti Mutunga to foster a greater understanding of the physical make-up of papa and how it originated in Taranaki. The project will then investigate how this abundant resource could provide a valuable, sustainable and environmentally friendly

material for building, pottery, and rongoa (traditional medicinal uses). The project also offers the opportunity for Ngāti Mutunga and their community to further understand the whenua they whakapapa to and to strengthen that relationship.

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Collaborate

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#### LEARNING ASSISTANT COMMUNICATION WITH WHĀNAU

During the unprecedented time we are facing and with the change to distance learning during Levels 3 and 4 of the Covid-19 epidemic, our amazing team of Learning Assistants were busy from their home bubbles with weekly calls to every Coastal Taranaki School family.

The contact with whānau and students was to ensure that everyone is on the same page in regards to home based learning programmes, our online platforms delivering teaching content, general wellbeing, technical and teaching support. In most cases it was a chance to have a friendly chat and keep our whānau up to date on important matters and the transitions through the Alert Levels.

#### MOTOCROSS

Early in March our Motocross team produced an amazing result at the first round of King of Schools event in Te Kuiti. Liam Hooker finished 5th overall in his class. Overall our school is 8th out of 94 in the primary/intermediate schools. For a lot of our kids it was their first event to ever ride in. We were meant to be heading to Rotorua for the next round of competition and hopefully sometime in the future the event will still happen. Massive thanks to Cooks Honda and Puniho Engineering for all the support in sponsoring our team.

The team: Liam Hooker, Ethan Hooker, Curtis Hooker, Josh Burmeister, Te Mokena Walden, Te Ihorangi Walden, Ryan King, Te Kaewa Bradley, Luka McLean, Billy McLean and Kyan Cox.



#### COMMUNITY SERVICE

During Level 4 lockdown brothers Liam, Ethan and Curtis Hooker were keeping busy, they picked up a whole bag and a half of people's rubbish from the side of the road. The boys had a big talk with mum Brenda about why people shouldn't litter and the effects it could be having on our planet.

Well done boys! keeping our community and the environment a little bit cleaner.



#### SENIOR STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL

Our NCEA students were interviewed prior to returning to school for Term 2. I would like to express my thanks on behalf of the secondary team to our students, whānau and caregivers who attended our back to school interviews. Your presence with our NCEA students enabled these interviews to be successful. It was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with our students and to have a 'round the table' chat with all subject teachers present. It assisted us to identify together with our students any gaps in their learning due to the Covid 19 lockdown and any other issues that have arisen from this experience. We have been able to put strategies in place to ensure our students will still be able to attain their goals for 2020. Well done to those students who attended on their own, you showed a great sense of maturity and willingness to succeed.

On Tuesday morning the Year 9 and 10 students were interviewed for a shorter period of time by their Levels teachers, Matua Ben and Mr McMorland. This recent experience of lockdown affects us all and in different ways. Our team believes that meeting with our students individually as they transitioned back to school was reassuring for them to know that we are here to help and support them with whatever issues are generated from this lockdown experience.

Marian Richardson  
Secondary Team Leader

This is just to say  
I have broken  
the TV  
that was in  
the lounge

And which  
you are  
probably  
going to take away

Forgive me  
it was  
the hammer's fault  
so hard  
and so strong

By Jai Coppen - Room 17

#### CARETAKER OF 25 YEARS RETIRING

Our school caretaker of 25 years Mr Graham Dudley has made the very big decision that it is now time for him to enjoy some retirement. While we are pleased for Graham and his wife Marie, we are also saddened to lose a valued member of our team at Coastal Taranaki School. Graham takes immense pride in our school grounds which have always been so well presented and cared for. Graham had previously been a Dairy Farmer and the associated skillset supported him with the varied roles and challenges of caring for our school buildings and property over these many years. He has seen the school transition from Okato College to Coastal Area School, and worked with a number of school principals and teachers. When the COVID Levels and restrictions allow us to have a social gathering, we will enjoy a celebratory meal with Mr Dudley and his family. In the meantime, we wish him good health and a long retirement.





# New hosts settle into life at Kaponga

A fortnightly Indian Curry night is proving a big hit at the Kaponga Hotel. The hotel's new owners Kris (Karthik) and Jenny (Jahnaui)Chitneni say there are more treats they want to introduce in the months ahead.

"I want to make this place the best place to have a fine dining experience and to have more fun and socialising activities," says Kris.

The couple made the shift from Auckland and took over the hotel on January 26. They have a four year-old daughter Bahudha who attends the Manaia Community Preschool.

Their first visit to Kaponga had been in November last year when they were looking at buying the business.

"I like this place. Not only the hotel, but Kaponga, the mountain, the people and the way they treat each other," says Kris. "I find this is a good place for my daughter to grow up, and she's learning lots of useful things."



The new mine hosts at the Kaponga Hotel. Kris Chitneni holding daughter Bahudha, with wife Jenny.

Kris says they are also appreciating how it is a much more affordable place to live than Auckland.

He arrived in New Zealand from Hyderabad, India in

2008. Later Jenny came over and they were married in 2015.

Before coming to Kaponga, Kris had been in the hospitality business

for 10 years, while Jenny had worked at Sky City in Auckland. Since March, the team has been joined by former Sky City chef Arash Arshdeep, who Jenny

knew from her days working there. While Arash looks after the kitchen along with local Rochelle Saunders, and Jenny, who also looks after the café, Kris looks after the bar.

The hotel is open from 9.30am till late seven days a week, and the Café serves brunch and lunch from 9.30am-2.30pm every day. Dinner is available from 4pm-9pm.

The Kaponga Lions Club have their regular monthly meetings here.

The Indian Curry nights held every second Sunday have proved particularly popular.

"Many people love our Indian curries as they are authentic," says Kris. The curries, whether sit-down or takeaway have to be pre-ordered so that the right mix and quantities are made.

"A couple of weeks ago we cooked 80 orders," says Kris.

As winter kicks in, he hopes to be able to have roast meals on the Sunday nights when the curries aren't being served.

The café has a new brunch and lunch menu which includes gluten-free options, and dishes can be customised to meet diners' needs.

As well as the bar, café and restaurant, there is also the accommodation available, with five refurbished rooms, two single and three double, all with a view of Mt Taranaki in all its majestic splendour.

Kris has yet to venture up the mountain but hopes to do so one day. He says he is looking forward to becoming more active in the local community. This may include helping others in need. Having played cricket when living in India, it could also include sponsorship of local sports or other activities.

## Delivering security for construction subcontractors

Subcontractors will have greater certainty, more cashflow support and job security with new changes to retention payments under the Construction Contracts Act says Minister for Building and Construction, Jenny Salesa.

A recent review of the retentions money regime showed that most of the building and construction sector is complying with the Act. However, there is more work to be done to protect subcontractors in two particular areas - firstly, to prevent co-mingling retention money with working capital, and secondly to provide clear, regular and useful information on where and how retention money is held.

"We have listened to the sector and are making the necessary changes to ensure our builders, plumbers,

electricians, and other tradies are better protected in the unfortunate event of developer or construction firm insolvency" Jenny Salesa said.

"We know when big contractors fall over, it's the subcontractors that are hit the hardest. This Government is delivering security for our subbies.

The changes include: introducing a new offence and penalties for company directors and firms who don't comply with their responsibilities, strengthening how retention money is held to prevent firms from dipping in to retention money to use as working capital, and requiring those holding retention money to issue a transparency statement stating how much is being held and where.

"These changes will give subcontractors greater confidence that contractors holding retention money are looking after it. They will be able to clearly see where and how this money is being held.

A new offence will be introduced to improve compliance, with the penalty for failing to comply being a fine up to \$50,000 for company directors and \$200,000 for firms.

"These changes will share risk more fairly across clients, head contractors and subcontractors, and reduce the financial burden on small to medium businesses, which make up the majority of the construction sector."

The changes also support objectives from the Construction Sector Accord, a shared commitment between government and

industry to transform the construction sector.

Under the Accord's Construction Sector Transformation Plan, there is an expectation that all Accord members will comply with the retentions regime - holding retention money separately and proactively sharing information on their accounts with subcontractors.

"Ultimately, this Government is making common-sense changes to the Construction Contracts Act to give certainty to our subcontractors, who are the backbone of the building and construction sector and are essential to the COVID-19 economic recovery" said Jenny Salesa.

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## BACK FROM LOCKDOWN, BACK TO LEARNING

It was almost as if no-one had ever been away. It was almost like a deadly virus had not spread around the world like wild-fire. Almost.

On Monday 18th May, Opunake High School reopened its doors to students as the COVID Lockdown Level 2 changed so that school was deemed safe to continue learning.

Of course things are different at OHS now, students are sanitising as they enter the classroom each lesson, and disinfecting workspaces as they leave. We are trying our best to maintain safe distances from others where possible.

As the allowable numbers for gathering in groups has lifted, sports are starting to get back underway although most competitions won't be re-starting until Term 3. Coaches, managers or teachers in charge will be in touch about each respective sport and when practices and games will commence.

Over the lock-down we held our first ever online Iwi by compiling video from our staff and student leaders into one larger YouTube clip (this is still available online). YouTube Iwi will continue for a large part of 2020, as our hall will be out of action for most of Term 3 as well.



**CLOCKWISE (from top L):** Head Girl Meg Gibson addressing Year 9 students during our online Iwi, Detroit Rameka busy working away on a landscape drawing, our Tiny Home Builders got straight back onto the job site completing foundations for their building project, Mr Geoff Watt just being Mr Watt.

What has been most impressive about our students has been how quickly everyone has settled back into their learning. Our staff have taken a measured approach, checking our student well being while trying to gauge what online

learning had been completed. Our seniors are well and truly getting stuck into their NCEA work, with our Year 9 and 10's actually starting a whole new trimester on their first day back (as if there wasn't enough other new things happening!)

The staff and students at Opunake High School are a remarkable bunch, each and everyone deserves congratulating along with a virtual handshake - we're practicing keeping safe distances after all.



Nga mihi o te wa ki a koe me to whanau  
Greetings to you and your family

Welcome to the new look teaching and learning with COVID Level 2 at Opunake High School. We continue to focus on well being as our Number 1 priority post-COVID lockdown and our transition down the COVID levels.

Growing good people for a rapidly changing world is what we do, and all of our students and staff are leading the way with hygiene in COVID Level 2. We are sanitising our hands prior to each class, ensuring that all contact points are cleaned with disinfectant and contact tracing as part of our COVID Level 2 protocols. The first two weeks of school at COVID Level 2 have been focused on reconnecting and re-establishing relationships with all staff and students and consolidating the learning that happened with our Learning @ Home online/distance programme during COVID Lockdown. With the government announcement last week we are now in a position to start training and practicing with all sports teams. The planning by the various sporting bodies including School Sport NZ, Sport Taranaki and its partners means that the appropriate risk mitigation measures will be in place before season start dates for each team. Ongoing, these plans and measures will be updated as new guidelines are announced by the Government and will be updated on our website and usual media platforms.

The mobile dental clinic which visits Opunake High School during the start of Term 2 has been impacted by the COVID lockdown. Since the clinic is unable to visit school, dental clinic staff are contacting whanau directly to meet student needs and offer advice and assistance where needed. Our Public Health Nurse is available at school for all students every Monday and she can be accessed through the main office. Our Guidance Counsellor continues to be available for all students and she can be contacted through the main office or email [guidance@opunake.school.nz](mailto:guidance@opunake.school.nz)

Academic success is the core business of our school, currently we are investigating changes to Academy Day to enable all of the senior students to focus on their NCEA assessments in a supported manner with their teachers. This will mean that senior students will have one day every two weeks to focus exclusively on their academic NCEA assessments. Our Junior students have started their Trimester Two courses and all junior students will continue with their Academy day that is linked to our good person profile and focused on what we can do to contribute to our community.

The renovation of the school has restarted after the COVID lockdown, with the Science block having the roof upgraded and the exterior of the block being completely repainted. The gym is currently undergoing renovation and this is expected to be completed by the start of Term 3. Next on the renovation schedule is the hall and parts of the administration block and the AE room. The BOT is also investigating other classroom upgrades throughout the school to upgrade teaching and learning spaces for the benefit of all students and staff.

If you have any questions, concerns or feedback do not hesitate to get in touch.

Noho ora mai ano  
**Peter O'Leary - Principal**

## WHAT DO Y9'S THINK ABOUT OPUNAKE HIGH?



**CHARLIE CARR**

**How has it been settling into OHS?**

I've met loads of new friends, love the sports, teachers, academics and classes and really hope we can go back soon!

**What have you enjoyed most?**

I have really enjoyed sustainability academy days especially when we went up to Tongaporutu! Also the sports days have been loads of fun.

**What do you think of the junior curriculum?**

I think that the junior curriculum is really interesting and has given me loads of new learning experience!

**What was the best thing about lock down?**

Having no routine and just freestyling it everyday - waking up late, chillaxing and going to bed super late. Not to mention hanging out with my family!

In Trimester 1, Charlie took Tall Stories (Art), 1 2 Infinity & beyond (Maths), Sustainable Future (Social Science), Graphics 101, Cirque de Soliel (Health/PE) & Fantastic Beasts (Science)



**KRIMZIN KATIPA**

**How has it been settling into OHS?**

I've settled into Opunake High very well.

**What have you enjoyed most?**

Definitely the Gala last term

**What do you think of the junior curriculum?**

I think it's a good curriculum as I feel I can adapt to those standards

**What was the best thing about lock down?**

Probably working hard on the work that I have to complete because I have nothing else to do.

In Trimester 1, Krimzin took Tall Stories (Art), 1 2 Infinity & beyond (Maths), Sustainable Future (Social Science), Micro Organisms (Science), Music Performance - Grade 1 & Problem? What Problem! (Maths)



**CARIS BRADFORD**

**How has it been settling into OHS?**

Settling in has been okay for me as I knew quite a few people before coming to OHS

**What have you enjoyed most?**

Getting to know other people.

**What do you think of the junior curriculum?**

There are a lot of subjects to choose from at OHS meaning you have a big chance on doing your favourite subject.

**What was the best thing about lock down?**

Taking my time to do my work, sometimes I feel rushed in the class room!

In Trimester 1, Caris took Film, Summer Sports, Creative Writing, Disaster (Social Science), Photography 101 & Plant Growing.



**CHERIE CHICHERITA**

**How has it been settling into OHS?**

I feel really welcome when I come to Opunake High School and all the staff and teachers are very kind

**What have you enjoyed most?**

I enjoyed my time at OHS especially when I take all the subjects where I learn a lot more things.

**What do you think of the junior curriculum?**

Junior Curriculum is really great, it gave me ideas on the expectations of teachers on the students when you reach senior level.

**What was the best thing about lock down?**

I've spent more time with my family and it also helped me to focus on my school work since I am comfortable working at home.

In Trimester 1, Cherie took Film, 1 2 Infinity & beyond (Maths), Sustainable Future (Social Science), Graphics 101, Photography 101 & Plant Growing.

**UPCOMING EVENTS  
OPUNAKE HIGH**

**Academy Day** for Years 9 & 10 - Starts June 12th  
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**Start of Term 3** - July 20th  
**School Ball** - August 8th

ALL EVENTS AFTER MAY 11th SUBJECT TO SCHOOL & FACILITIES RE-OPENING

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# The hidden victims of the duck shooting season

Animal advocacy group SAFE say thousands of birds will be injured this duck shooting season.

Projectiles released when a shotgun shell is fired can spread out to hit non-target birds flying nearby, and these birds can lie in agony for hours until they finally die, say SAFE.

"An estimated 200,000 birds will be needlessly maimed in New Zealand this season," says SAFE



The intended victims of the duck shooting season.

Campaigns Manager Marianne Macdonald.

"New Zealand is home to many species of ducks and other water birds, each with their own charming characteristics and unique beauty. Australia has already

banned duck shooting in three states." Macdonald says duck shooting is inherently cruel and New Zealand should take Australia's lead on the issue. "Overseas studies indicate wounding rates from duck

shooting could be between about 10% and 30%. To understand the impact of this causal violence, SAFE is asking the Government to commission an independent review of injury rates.

**Our next issue is June 21. We welcome your contributions. Call us on 06 761 7016.**

## BUSINESS IN OUR AREA?

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

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## Generous grant to help needy

Lesley Dowding of the Okato-Oakura Co-operating Parish received a rewarding phone call last week from the TSB Trust. They were granting the parish \$2,000 to go towards the existing scheme of providing food parcels for those families in need. The message was: "We wish to give you \$2000 for all the work in the community as a one off. It will not affect your grant application." Lesley's reaction? "I was overwhelmed and humbled." She added, "I am amazed and did not expect this."

Lesley thought it remarkable because no application had been lodged for this grant. Lesley had recently sent an application on behalf of the Parish for a Capital grant. She mentioned the Parish's activities during Covid 19, Level 4 at the end of an email to the TSB Trust, and subsequently was interviewed. The TSB Trust had heard about the scheme by word of mouth as the help to date had been much appreciated.

The recipients of food parcels are families who need assistance, as well as those recently bereaved. They also did random acts



An example of a food parcel to help a family in need.

of kindness to families with four or more children. So far about 15 families have benefited from the Coastal areas of Warea, Pungarehu, Okato and Oakura.

Lesley explained that the Okato Fire Brigade are a major donor to this worthwhile scheme through their annual Christmas appeal. A local business also gave generously as did individuals who were aware

of the scheme. The Church Council of the Okato-Oakura Co-operating Parish also set aside some funds during Covid 19, to use to create the parcels.

As well as food parcels being provided, vouchers have been bought and given by the partner church St James to families in the Oakura area. These are redeemable at the Oakura Four Square. In Okato,

where St Paul's Church, is situated, a similar scheme provides vouchers redeemable at the Okato Four Square.

Lesley is grateful to the TSB Trust, others donors and helpers for their kindness.

We congratulate Lesley and her supporters for this valuable example of Christian benevolence in action.

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# Sulphur Fertiliser – unsung hero or unintended foe?

I recently came across marketing material from a fertiliser company touting the importance of sulphur fertiliser. In their rundown of why sulphur is the “Unsung Hero,” they went so far as to claim that sulphur is rarely found in excess and is more often deficient. While this is definitely true for certain soil types, as a blanket statement this claim is misleading. In fact, our tendency to throw sulphur fertiliser at our pastures without fully understanding the consequences could be causing more trouble than good. How so?

Let’s consider pasture sulphur levels. Levels considered sufficient for



Emily House.

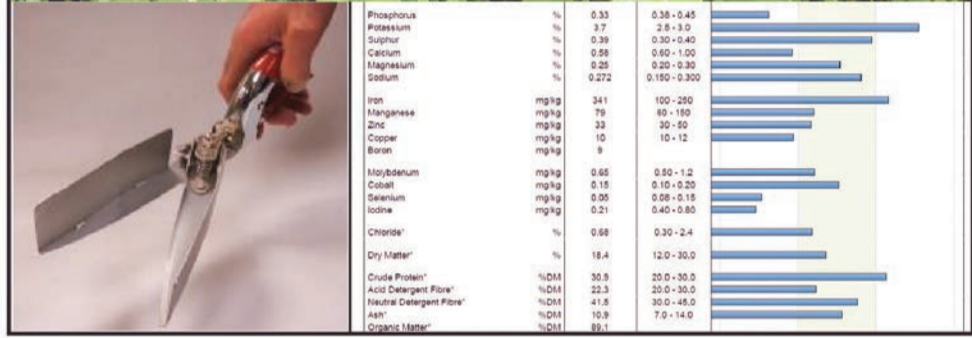
optimal pasture growth and health are in the range 0.27 - 0.32% DM. Of 250 client pasture samples (ryegrass/clover) taken from across the country <30% of samples had herbage sulphur levels identified as low with respect to active pasture growth.

The dietary sulphur range considered optimum for animal health is between 0.21 – 0.30% DM. Interestingly ~85% of pasture samples were above the optimal range for animal health, and ~70% above the range for optimal plant growth. Basically, a large proportion of pasture samples have excess sulphur with respect to animal requirements.

Other than in the context of high sulphur swede and kale crops, the notion that livestock may be consuming too much sulphur receives very little attention. But like other nutrients, sulphur can be consumed in excess at levels that can be harmful.

I recognise it’s possible our sample population is biased, as farmers come to us because they are experiencing animal health issues and limitations to production that they haven’t otherwise been able to solve. In the majority of cases excess dietary sulphur, while not the sole cause, is implicated in these health and production issues.

In fact, it has previously been identified that diets containing 0.3-0.5% showed reduced animal



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performance. “There is a very real possibility that you are limiting your cows’ productivity by the effects of high sulphur” Dan Gould, Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital

At >0.4% DM sulphur can become toxic, and cases of polio encephalitis in sheep, lambs and cattle have been reported with dietary levels as low as 0.4% DM. With 20% of our client herbage samples with pasture sulphur at or above this level that represents a significant risk to animal health and performance.

I’d argue it’s time we took a more considered approach to the use of sulphur fertiliser. More sulphur isn’t always better and very rarely is it the panacea required to increase production. Before you apply sulphur fertiliser, consider the impact soil moisture, soil temperature and microbiological activity are having on your soil Sulphate Sulphur test results. Including Organic Sulphur and Total Sulphur in your soil test will give you a much better idea of the overall sulphur status of your soils. Pair it with a herbage test and you can be even more

confident with your decision to apply sulphur fertiliser or not.

By applying unnecessary sulphur fertiliser to our pastures, we are at best wasting money on nutrient we don’t need, and at worst we’re limiting the productivity of our livestock. So, ask yourself what impact sulphur is having on productivity and animal health outcomes on your farm? Is it your unsung hero, or could it be your unintended foe?

Emily House  
5th Business Agri

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# Taranaki voice heeded in new freshwater measures

The Government's revised stance on freshwater regulation validates the serious concerns raised in this region and elsewhere about its original proposals, says Taranaki Regional Council Chair David MacLeod.

"We all want our waterways to be healthier – we share that goal with the Government," says Mr MacLeod. "However, we had major concerns about the ability of the original proposals to deliver. We told Wellington their initial plans would have brought unpredictable and likely only marginal environmental benefits, but would have taken a very heavy toll on the social and economic well-being of this region and many others."

"The announcement indicates the Government is moderating its approach and seeking to build a more worthwhile, rational, science-based freshwater regulation regime. We're still working though the details. But in general, this change of stance is to be welcomed. The Council's strong and evidence-based submissions were substantially agreed with and key changes made."

Notably, the Government has delayed any decision on

a key nutrient limits pending further analysis of their worth, rather than going ahead with strict limits that one study estimated would cost \$100,000 each for up to a third of the region's farms, threatening their viability. It has also not proceeded with proposals to universally use OverseerFM in water regulations – the Council strongly advised the OverseerFM model was not fit for that purpose.

"We're delighted the Government agrees OverseerFM is best used as originally intended – for farmers to review and improve on-farm nutrient management," Mr MacLeod says.

The Government has also eased up on an initial proposal to impose a blanket 5m setback for all riparian fencing, saying now that 3m is the minimum. Importantly for Taranaki, all existing Council riparian plan fencing can remain and will be accepted as compliant, which the Council strongly advocated for.

The Government has also backed off what would have been harsh constraints on dairying in the Waingongoro catchment, instead progressively targeting freshwater farm plans by which dairy farmers can



David MacLeod.

implement farm-specific management to improve efficiency and reduce off-site effects.

Overall, Mr MacLeod says it's clear the Government has taken account of many of the points made in the Council's submission.

Mr MacLeod says that Government was firmly

reminded the Taranaki region has, over time, collectively demonstrated strong commitment to improving freshwater health, taking carefully considered long-term action and spending millions of dollars on interventions of proven effectiveness.

"If anything, the original

proposals threatened to undo a lot of good work and goodwill and bring hardship and deprivation to communities engaged in productive and sustainable enterprise. We are still working through the amended proposals, but we're encouraged that the voice of reason appears to have been heard, at least in part.

"We all know we have more to do in both our rural and urban areas, but Taranaki people know how to roll up our sleeves and keep moving forward – we've consistently led and shown New Zealand that it is not about endlessly changing plans, policies, meetings and paper – it's on-the-ground actions that change and improve our environment."

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## Freshwater package responds to rural communities' anxiety

Changes to central government Freshwater regulations reflect farmer feedback, Federated Farmers says.

"While we're still working through the detail, the high level policy decisions indicate the government has heeded some of the rural sector concerns," Federated Farmers environment spokesperson Chris Allen says.

"What farmer groups seek now is the opportunity for input to ensure the final regulations and National Policy Statement matches the intent of the policies. And if the regulations are shown to be flawed or impractical, the government needs to be open to changing them."

"Farmers and rural communities put a lot of time and effort into providing feedback on the initial proposals, outlining concerns with the practicality and cost, and the lack of recognition of work already underway on-farm."

"The thousands of people who turned out at meetings up and down the country, organised by Federated Farmers and industry bodies Beef & Lamb NZ and DairyNZ, showed a level

of unprecedented concern. As a result there have been much needed changes to timeframes, some of the water quality limits and rules around stock exclusion.

"The proposals still have some sharp edges that will bite our farmers and rural communities at a time when we need it least," Chris says. "Given there is no further opportunity for us to provide input into the national framework, as it will now become law, Federated Farmers is now focused on ensuring these proposals have an appropriate implementation plan."

"We want to work with the government and regional councils to this end. In particular we want to ensure there are no more amendments to national freshwater objectives so farmers know what they're working towards."

"As we've been saying all along, we want regulation that recognises and responds to the good work farmers are doing, and the importance of food production to our communities."

"That means supporting farmers to find the high value actions for improving water quality at a farm level in the catchments and hotspots

where it is needed, building on the work farmers have been doing around fencing streams and rivers, planting riparian strips, covenanting land with outstanding biodiversity and investing in improved effluent systems."

*"There have been much needed changes to timeframes, some of the water quality limits and rules around stock exclusion."*

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# Good grazing practices urged as weather closes in

The Winter Grazing Action Group says farmers are taking steps to improve wintering systems despite the challenges of COVID-19 restrictions and weather events.

Action group chair Dr Lindsay Burton said it was important everyone worked together to ensure farmers had the right tools to get through winter.

“Ensuring you follow a gradual transition plan when moving your animals from pasture to crop and back again will help prevent issues. This is particularly important for cattle wintered on fodderbeet,” says Dr Burton.

“For farmers, the focus heading into winter should be on providing the right feed at the right time, as well as shelter and easy access to drinking water. Doing this should have the flow-on effect of limiting stock movement and help reduce damage to crop and soil.”

Farmers and rural professionals should refer to the levy organisations websites – Beef+LambNZ, DairyNZ & Deer Industry NZ. They have advice on good winter grazing practices and specific recommendations for



Photo: Dana McMurray.

transitioning stock onto crop and balancing the diet which differs between the species.

During the lockdown period, Dr Burton says the action group has remained committed to progressing its

work to improve wintering practices, meeting virtually to keep up the momentum.

“We recognise the good work that has already been done by farmers throughout New Zealand but particularly

in Southland, to improve their wintering systems. The

fact that everyone has been so proactive, in spite of the

challenges they have faced with adverse weather events and COVID-19 restrictions, should be applauded.”

Following a nationwide anti-grazing campaign which highlighted some Southland cows standing in mud, Agriculture Minister Damien O’Connor set up a taskforce which undertook a review of current practices and made 11 recommendations to be taken forward by the pan-sector Winter Grazing Action Group.

The recommendations, which included some work to understand and mitigate the causes of the animal welfare consequences from intensive winter grazing practices; and work to recognise the barriers to adopting improved animal welfare practices, have been taken up by the action group with gusto, Taskforce chair Dr John Hellström says.

“Improving winter grazing systems is not something that can be achieved overnight but the action group is on the

Continued page 21.

## Backing horticulture

The Government is backing a new \$27 million project aimed at boosting sustainable horticulture production and New Zealand’s COVID-19 recovery efforts, says Agriculture Minister Damien O’Connor.

“Our horticulture sector has long been one of New Zealand’s export star performers, contributing around \$6 billion a year to our economy. During and post lockdown they’ve become a lifeline for a number of redeployed workers from industries such as tourism, forestry and hospitality,” he said.

“Our growers and producers will play a critical role in our economic recovery. The Government knows this which is why in Budget 2020 we committed \$38.5 million to help the sector seize further opportunities for future growth. This adds to that investment.

Mr O’Connor said

A Lighter Touch is a collaboration between government and industry. The aim is to create new growing methods and crop protection measures that reduce chemical use, and spur greater production.

“Our high-value overseas consumers want to know the story behind their food. They want greater assurances that the food and fibre they buy is produced in a sustainable way – and they’re willing to pay a premium for it.

“We have a great story to tell because our growers are among the most efficient and sustainable in the world. There is an opportunity for New Zealand to become the world’s preferred supplier of plant-based food products. This project will help us seize that opportunity, create more demand, generate higher export returns, and grow rural communities with new jobs.”

Horticulture New Zealand Chief Executive

Mike Chapman said the importance of biological methods and increasing production was reflected in the investment from the different sectors.

“Our growers want to take greater care of the environment but there are only a few viable options for pest and disease control currently.

“This is why this project is so critical. It will speed up development of agro-ecological crop protection techniques that are both environmentally sound and effective. We are excited by what this project will be able to deliver for the different sectors involved and New Zealand’s economy.”

Foundation for Arable Research chief executive Alison Stewart said finding new effective, efficient and sustainable weed, pest, and disease management options was a priority for the arable industry.



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# Life's a blast

Len Pentelow has been busy blasting rocks that cannot be removed by any other way in Arawhata Road. In a fairly "standard job," large rocks in a paddock have been reduced to manageable size.

A bulldozer unable to dislodge the rocks meant they had to be broken up, hence Len's intervention.

"Bryan brought his digger over but the rocks were set in hard metal and he couldn't shift them.

Len's also been busy on a neighbour's property laying more charges. There were three rocks all very close together like a nest of eggs comments Len.

The andesite rocks are volcanic and are from one of the eruptions of Mt Taranaki, added Len.

"There's a lot of these rocks in the Lahars all of varying hardness."

These particular rocks were very hard smooth rocks.



## Good grazing practices urged as winter closes in

*Continued from page 20.*

right track and I'm confident that the recommendations the taskforce made are being progressed to ensure improvements for this winter and beyond."

The action group is focussed on educating farmers on careful management when introducing stock to new feed types and ensuring contingency plans are in place to manage any severe or prolonged wet winter weather.

In the short-term, Burton says there are actions farmers can take now to ensure the immediate welfare of their animals, including making appropriate shelter available when needed as well as suitable areas for stock to lie down.

"That could be as simple as planning to graze the best sheltered paddock last, and keeping it 'up your sleeve' for a weather event.

"Changing practice will take a long time. This is not a one-winter solution but we will keep working with farmers and sector leaders to improve things now and in the future."

Winter grazing techniques were put under the spotlight last year after a nationwide anti-grazing campaign highlighted some Southland cows standing in mud, and prompted the Agricultural Minister Damien O'Connor to set up a taskforce in response.

The taskforce was succeeded by an action group in early 2020 to take forward recommendations ahead of winter.



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# Increase of gatherings means community rugby



**2014 Coastal Senior Thirds Taranaki Grade Champions.**

The Government's announcement increasing the size of gatherings from 10 to 100 has been welcomed by the Taranaki Rugby Football Union.

measures in place as the wider rugby community moves towards a 'return to play' process before the start of the CMK club competition.

provincial unions have been working with New Zealand Rugby on appropriate measures clubs and teams should take in order to remain safe under Alert Level 2.

Teams can resume training provided that all Level 2 requirements for contact tracing, hygiene measures and social distancing (including 10-person training bubbles) are met and signed off by the TRFU. Training bubbles can increase to 100 with all other Level 2 requirements remaining.

Pre-season matches can kick off from June 13 with the CMK club competition due to kick off on June 20.

Community Rugby Manager Cole Brown said it's really encouraging that clubs can commence training

as Taranaki builds towards the start of the CMK club season.

"We are all looking forward to getting some club rugby underway when it's possible to do so. All clubs have been briefed on what is required and they have been really receptive as we continue to play our part to keep our players, coaches and volunteers safe."

Meanwhile, Bayleys 1st XV competition, Port Taranaki Secondary Schoolgirls and Burger Fuel Ferdie Rugby competitions will kick off in Term 3.

Under Taranaki Rugby's Level 2 protocol, players must register before training for contact tracing purposes, and groups will be given designated areas. Sanitisation will be available before and after trainings. Players will have to bring their own water bottle and towel. Players need to depart the training immediately once the session is completed. Anyone in a club team feeling unwell must stay at home. Each team will be given a first aid kit

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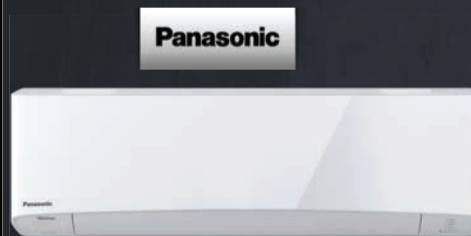


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# Success for Opunake Surf Life Savers

The Opunake Surf Life Saving Club came away with a gold medal at the SLSNZ BP IRB North Island Championships held at Paekakariki Beach in February.

The Opunake Surf Life Saving Club team of Samuel Drought(crew), Caleb Lawn (driver) and Bethan Upton-Hansen (patient) won the Under-19 Male Single Rescue event at the North

Island championships held at Paekakariki in February. The lockdown meant the cancellation of the national championships, and with it any chance of the Opunake team being able to take a

crack at the national title.

The Opunake Express team won their heat, meaning they qualified for the A final, along with second and third placegetters East End Moto and the Waikanae Big Boys, and the three placegetters from the other heat. They then took the title ahead of teams from Mairangi Bay, Waikanae, East End, New Plymouth Old Boys and Waimarama.

“I was over the moon,” says Caleb. The 17 year-old Year 13 student at Francis Douglas Memorial College did admit to feeling “pretty gutted” that they weren’t able to compete for the national title.

The team had been doing three or four trainings a week since October.

“We were in the Under-19s training for a gold,” he said.

He had joined the Surf Life Club when he was 10,

and been a life guard since he was 13. He has been involved in a number of rescues in that time.

“I really enjoy the ocean,” he says.

Samuel said he has been in the Surf Club since he was “real little” and has been a lifeguard since January. Within a couple of weeks he was in his first rescue. He was one of two lifeguards who went to the aid of a man in his mid-20s who had got into difficulty swimming past the wharf.

“I was a bit excited doing my first rescue and pretty happy when we got him on to the boat and he was still breathing.”

Fiona Climo of the Opunake Surf Life Saving Club said the championships involved 14 clubs and 174 competitors.

“For the majority of the team this was their first

time competing in IRBs at a National event.

All of the team achieved their personal best, worked amazingly as a team supporting each other on and off the water. Both A and B finals achieved by all.”

“Congratulations to everyone, the days are long & hard & everyone plays an important part, the crews, patients, tool handler, team manager, coach, boat handlers, supporters,” she said.

The team was made up of: Under 23: Callum Hickey (driver), James Cram (crew). Under 19:

Caleb Lawn (driver), Sam Drought (crew). Patients: Aliza Snow, Bella Pivac, Bethan Upton-Hansen, Liam Doughty (patients). Liam Drought (tool handler), Jemma Pentelow (manager), Fiona Climo - Coach/Mechanic



Sam Drought (crew), Bethan Upton-Hansen (patient), Caleb Lawn (driver).

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## Manaia Golf

.May 23. Saturday Men. Wayne Baker 69. Matt Laing 69. Caleb Symes 71. Neil Scown 71. Josh Symes 73. Logan Symes 73. Ethan Jones 73.

Juniors. 1. Oliva Symes. 2. Liam Campbell. 3. Luke Norris. 1. Abby Marsh. 2. Jayden Marsh.

End of Month Tournament. 1. Dion Sarton. 2. Ethan Jones. 3. Nathan Ngere. 4. Jim Ngere. 5. Matt Laing.

May 30. Saturday Men. 1. Kingsly Young. 2. Paul Hunn. 3. Dale Symes. 4. Ethan Jones. 5. Jacob Gopperth and Phil Elliott. 6. Grant Gopperth.

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under the watchful and all knowledgeable eyes of retiring owners Ian and Marianne Jordan. The hard work and long hours that Ian and Marianne had put in over their 47 years in business was admirable and was well worth it for the business base they had built and skilled

staff they have trained. We have retained all staff and now combined, we have a solid team of 11 available to service Taranaki-wide.

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continuing the legacy Ian and Marianne have created here in Stratford and getting to know more of our South Taranaki and Coastal customers. Call in and see our friendly staff or give us a call today.

*Narelle Wratt*

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# Queen & Slim

Starring: Daniel Kaluuya, Jodie Turner-Smith, Bokeem Woodbine. Director: Melina Matsoukas. Writers: Lena Waithe (screenplay by), James Frey (story by) "The black Bonnie and Clyde". - Uncle Earl

Queen & Slim was challenging yet totally engaging to watch. It aligns with the current event of George Floyd's tragic passing, so tests those emotions already close to the surface. This is a movie of many facets. It's romance, it's a bright light on the rampant racism and moronic cop mentality in America, it's a sliding-doors of 'what ifs,' and it's some very poetic lines of love and self-reflection. One interesting aspect is the ripple of perceptions, which all differ in each minor character. It surprises with blatant attempts to shock, and I was. Even though I knew what I was seeing, and knew this was a scenario on the big screen, I wanted to reach for the rewind button, just to make sure. There is only one wardrobe change for Queen (Jodie Turner-Smith) and Slim (Daniel Kaluuya). It fits well

with the shift they are forced to make as they run for their lives. She slides into a tiger print mini-dress, stepping away from her polar neck skivvy. He dons a red tracksuit and his naïve vulnerability has us wanting to yell "Oh for goodness sake, don't do that," at the screen several times. Queen and Slim start out fairly self-assured and self-contained, but heading toward this change of attire the unravelling begins, and new depths of persona emerge.

Either fate or the universe (actually Tinder) throw these two together, their connection evident. Though there is initial reluctance from Queen, they almost seem like an old married couple. Reminded of my own parents when Queen reacts assertively to Slim's chewing.

Melina Matsoukas (director) was raised in The Bronx, and this being her first feature film - she really gets it right. The performances are faultless by all actors who appear to fit their roles like gloves. The cinematography portrays a subtle edginess. When researching for the movie Matsoukas found herself in



Screening at Everybody's Theatre on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm.

a black neighbourhood in Ohio, watching six cars get pulled over within half an hour. One of which was a white Honda Accord. "That's Slim right there", she said, "This is what it looks like on a Tuesday night... how your life can be turned around in two seconds."

This is a must-see movie, if not for yourself, then for all the Angela 'Queen' Johnsons and Earnest 'Slim' Hines who have endured undeserved injustice.

Jane Forkert

## Everybody's Theatre note

Just a quick reminder that numbers are limited, as seating is upstairs only. Online booking recommended. Doors will open 15 minutes earlier to allow for contact tracing

procedure. Entry is through the shop, please stay in your own bubbles and observe social distancing. Children must have an adult attend with them. Look forward to seeing everyone back.

## A project for lockdown

As we emerge blinking into more-or-less-normal life, and while feeling for our friends around the world, these have been strange times. I wish you all safety and good health.

It may please you to see how I've spent these weeks of lockdown.

Since 2008 I've been meaning to put together another book of my assemblages and thoughts. And since 1995 I've intended to make another big edition of handbound books..

Lockdown .... the perfect opportunity. The first few weeks writing it, and as soon as the printing house was able to get a bundle of printed pages to me, I started sewing. I'm pleased with it. 'Philosophy of the Found' Do have a look, <https://dalecopeland/Philosophy/Books.htm> to see the first 25 books.

I'm aiming at an edition of 100, trying to make five books each week. Managing so far (just), but Taekwon-Do training starts again this

week (YAY!) so available time will be shorter. Wish me well.

Dale Copeland



Above: The old woman from Mensa KNOWS what she's losing.

At Left: By their fruits ye shall know them.

Dale Copeland



72 Tasman Street, Opunake - [www.everybodystheatre.co.nz](http://www.everybodystheatre.co.nz) - Phone 027 3837926

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

Everybody's Theatre Trust are so excited to announce we are open.

To see the movie selection please check our website, facebook page or the schedule in the doorway.

We are screening Friday night Sunday night - doors open 6.15pm and Saturday afternoon children's movie - doors open 12.15pm

All children must be supervised.

Entrance is through the shop at this stage - one bubble at a time, please sign the register in the foyer and come early to help with the flow.

Upstairs seating and seats are limited to enable social distancing.

Our volunteers are working hard to keep everything running and cleaning in-between each person and screening.

Thanks so much for your support. We appreciate it.

Hot off the press we have created a concession card buy 10 and get 11. you can only purchase at <https://www.eventspronto.co.nz/>



Gift Vouchers

Great gift idea!

The Cinema has no boundry; it is a ribbon of dreams - Orson Welles



Some of the regular services we currently have running are:

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Facility Manager on 06 761 8488



# Queues as Puke Ariki and libraries reopen



Daisy and Teddy Walmsley are all smiles now Puke Ariki's Library is open again.

craving a good read. "Our library team has gone above and beyond during the lockdown, lending out record numbers of eBooks and eAudiobooks – some 12,600 in April - with Puke Ariki open virtually 24/7 for our residents," says Ms Baker. "We're now safely open for business for those wanting to get their hands on everything from magazines newspapers to romance novels to children's and young adult books." Level 2 measures at the libraries include contact tracing registers for all those who enter, hand sanitiser at numerous locations including the entrance, multiple cleans each day and restrictions on how many people can go in at any one time. "Our libraries are incredibly popular with about 850,000 visits each year so if people could limit their time to around half-an-hour that would be great as it would mean more people get to visit them. We thank everyone for their patience and kindness as we all adapt to our new Covid-19 reality."

While readers have feasted on eBooks and eAudiobooks

during Alert Levels 3 and 4, bookworms itching to get their hands on the real thing queued outside Puke Ariki as it opened its doors for the first time since the lockdown.

Urenui have all reopened under Covid-19 Level 2 with measures in place to keep people safe as they browse for books.

Puke Ariki Library and New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) libraries at Bell Block, Waitara, Inglewood, Oakura and

NPDC Spokesperson Jacqueline Baker says Puke Ariki has done an amazing job virtually as people stayed in their bubbles and the reopening meant there was now another option for those

Residents wanting to give feedback on NPDC's Back On Our Feet measures to help residents and local businesses hit by the Covid-19 economic storm will be able to fill out a hard copy survey at Puke Ariki and the Bell Block, Inglewood and Waitara service centres.

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## Artists Corner

Wonder Woman at the Te Henui River mouth is the one of the latest creations from Coastal Taranaki artist Graham Kirk.

### WANT TO DO BUSINESS IN OUR AREA?

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

We want to be involved with your business. Call today and discuss your marketing options with us.

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**CHURCH NOTICES**

**Opunake & Okato Co-operating Parish CHURCH SERVICES**

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

**Opunake Catholic Church**

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 10.30am Tuesday Men's Group 7pm Wednesday Come along or contact Murray Baylis 027 218 3377

**St. Barnabas Anglican Church**

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

**Okato Community Church**

Meets 6.30pm Sunday at Hempton Hall. Everyone welcome

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**WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**

**65th Wedding Anniversary!**

van der Sar - Postma

Congratulations Mum and Dad on reaching 65 years of marriage. May you have many more years yet! Jack and Eelk van der Sar were married at Kaponga Presbyterian Church on 29th March 1955 by Reverend Nummy.

We love you lots! Thank you for all you've done for us throughout the years!

Love and kisses, The van der Sar children, and grandchildren.

Friends, please feel welcome to visit them at their present address in 2 Tiverton Crescent, New Plymouth.

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**COASTAL COMMUNITY TRANSPORT**

Coastal Community Transport is now able to resume our service of transporting people to appointments as we were prior to the Covid-19 outbreak. As we are still in Level 2, conditions will apply. No person to have any symptoms of illness, e.g coughs, sniffs or colds. Person is to be seated in rear passenger seat. CCT have a free call number 0800 223390 and have retained Jennie, whom most of you will have communicated with, but if needed, leave a message and it will be actioned on asap. We are no longer aligned to Red Cross but based locally. CCT is reliant on grants and donations so any donation/koha will be gratefully accepted. Any enquiries contact Mike Williams 027 359 3704.

**AGM Opunake Bowling Club**

14th June 2020

1.00pm at Clubrooms All members welcome

The next issue of the Opunake & Coastal News is due out on Thursday the 21st of June 2020.

If you would like to advertise your product or event, then call us on 06 761 7016 or email us.

**PUBLIC NOTICES**



**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 8 vacancies available for Term 3, 2020. These vacancies are mostly in New Entrant and Year 1-3 with limited vacancies in Year 4 to 8.

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, Wednesday 17th June.

If the number of applicants exceeds the number of places available, students will be selected by ballot. Ballots, if required, will be held on the 18th June.

Rodney Mullin, Board of Trustees

**Te Namu Iti (Ngatitamarongo 6)**

To all Owners and Beneficiaries

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

To be held on Saturday 20th June, 11am in the Boardroom, ex old council building, 23 Napier Street, Opunake

**AGENDA**

- Karakia timatanga
- Apologies
- Minutes of previous AGM
- Matters arising
- Chairman's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Election of Officers
- General Business: Erosion of Urupa
- Karakia whakamutunga

**Enquiries to:**

**Paul Eiffie - Chairperson - Ph 06 763 8321**

**Motor vehicle round trip to New Plymouth:**

Time: 2.15 hours, Cost: 122 kms at 0.76 cents (AA published rate) \$92.72

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| Cottage Resthome     | Photography                     | Retro on 45                         |
| Country Connections  | Opunake & Coastal News          | Sinclair Electrical & Refrigeration |
| Craig Corrigan Ltd   | Opunake Chinese                 | Turn Heads                          |
| Dreamtime Surf       | Opunake Beach Kiwi Holiday Park | Viv Scott                           |
| Everybody's Theatre  |                                 |                                     |
| Fabulous Flowers     |                                 |                                     |
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