



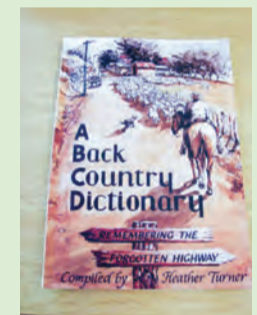
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Phone: 06 761 7016

23 Napier St, Opunake  
**OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS**

# Taranaki Community Rugby Trust purchase farm

The Taranaki Community Rugby Trust (TCRT) has purchased its own farm. The TCRT is a registered charitable trust established in 2008 with the purpose of helping to fund and promote community rugby in Taranaki. The Trust operates a successful dairy farming business, using the funds generated to support community rugby.

While TCRT has leased farms since its inception, the Trust has now purchased a 350 cow Dairy farm on Normanby Road Manaia. The farm has a 60 bale Rotary cowshed and a near new 3-bedroom Brick homestead. The 100ha property, with an additional 15ha leasehold, has in the past three seasons averaged production over 160,000 KGs M/Solids.

Chairperson of TCRT, Garry Carnachan says, "It is the best possible outcome for the Trust in that we know the farm well and can continue our relationship with our fantastic farm staff, advisors and supporters, making the transition from leasing to ownership as seamless as possible. We are very grateful to William and his family for this opportunity which will ensure Community Rugby within the province of Taranaki will continue to be supported by TCRT for generations to come."

"The Johnston family have successfully farmed this property for 42 years, bringing it from a dry stock farm in the late seventies to a highly developed dairy farm it is today. The Trust is proud and privileged to have been given the opportunity to firstly lease the farm for the last five years and then purchase the property and our sincere thanks go to William Johnston and family. The Johnston's congratulate the Trust on their acquisition and also that the farm serves them well for its intended purpose long into the future. In recent years TCRT has gained a great following,



From left, William Johnson, Scott Barrett, Anna Boulton and Carl Wilmshurst.

with Beauden, Scott and Jordie Barrett becoming ambassadors of the Trust and Colin Cooper championing the Colin Cooper Club Rugby Development Officer programme, which is partially funded by TCRT and run through the Taranaki Rugby Football Union. Scott Barrett says "It's fantastic to see that the work of TCRT over many years has enabled the trust to purchase a farm. The support they give every year to community rugby in Taranaki, especially the clubs and juniors, has been massive in making rugby available to everyone. With farm ownership they will be there for the long run which is a huge benefit for the game in Taranaki."

Along with the increased profile, TCRT was able to distribute a record \$235,000

to community rugby in 2021 supporting junior rugby in clubs, referees, the Colin Cooper CRDO programme, as well as the Women's, Pacifica, and U18 representative programmes. This brings the total amount distributed to community rugby by TCRT over recent years to more than \$800,000. Taranaki Rugby Chairman Andrew Thompson shares the sentiment, "The relationship we have with TCRT is the envy of many other rugby unions throughout New Zealand. For the trust to purchase a significant asset is exciting for the future of our community game here in Taranaki. The distributions we receive are actively spent in the community game where we focus on participation from young to old, including coach development."

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Registered office: 23 Napier Street, PO Box 74, Opunake

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

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

## Booster doses a real must

Look, before too long hopefully these 92% are now eligible to get their final dose, the booster vaccine. I’d encourage them to do so ASAP, as being one of the 94% that’s been fully vaccinated and I have my own vaccination pass, as it will stop any symptomatic infections.

Now maybe our government has got tough with which I do agree, otherwise our death rate in the country right now would easily be much higher than it is right now, so no matter how much people are moaning, questioning, grizzling and protesting over this mandate, at the end of the day they will all thank our government for doing what they had to do to combat this virus - regardless of all these negative comments of people around the country.

Here in Taranaki, already there has been 64 complaints about different businesses not following the Covid rules and four businesses in New Plymouth have all been fined \$4,000 each for doing the same thing.

If some people don’t get vaccinated they’ll all be extremely limited as to where they can go, so listen to what our New Plymouth Labour MP Glen Bennett is saying to us all, as he is doing a great job, despite all this negative feelings. Remember, if one wants to be virus free, lets those who haven’t been vaccinated, do otherwise as there’s a good

possibility of severe health consequences.

Tom Stephens, New Plymouth

## Cyclone Dovi strikes

Well before Cyclone Dovi struck our province, the top of the east coast copped the full blast of it, then it quickly travelled towards our province and, like always, left a trail of horrific damage in its wake, which affected most of our towns and coastal areas and our outlying farming communities.

Look, we cannot say that we were not warned by our Met Service that Cyclone Dovi was heading our way pretty quickly, but as a province were we all prepared for this? Like always, did we all take it for granted it was going to blow itself out? - but it didn’t as the only ones that were fully prepared were our Civil Defence, fire brigade and police – but no one else was.

We must all remember that people in America are always having severe hurricanes, cyclones, tornadoes and earthquakes, as all these four elements can be so devastating. They have all, in the past, ruined towns and cities far worse than we ever get here. There’s a Scout motto which says *We must all be prepared* – meaning always be prepared for the unexpected, especially when it comes down to these gale force winds and torrential rain.

Tom Stephens, New Plymouth

## Deadlines for copy

We find we are working very late on a Tuesday night to put the paper together for it to be at the printers first thing Wednesday morning.

Our deadline for copy is Monday 10am.

This gives us an opportunity to proofread the copy.

We continue to receive a lot of material on Tuesday and are struggling to process it all as well as put together the paper.

If you have trouble meeting this deadline can you let us know.

This deadline does not apply to the Cops and Fire Service columns where incidents can occur on the Monday and Tuesday.

We do appreciate your contributions, so thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Editor

## Opunake & Coastal News Paste Up Night



## Okato cell tower

I am writing as a follow up to the community meeting in Okato regarding the Vodafone tower installation.

Firstly I wish to thank Graham Chard for providing facts regarding the installation, and to a group of concerned residents. I wish to point out the similarities to the Oakura installation.

The meeting heard from the Oakura Bowling Club as to the reasons for turning down the offer. Research shows that quite a few places were considered for installation and all rejected for very good reasons. Close to houses. Close to busy roads. Close to intersections. Close to long term agreements which could not be sustained if organisations changed or closed. i.e Bowling Club.

Finally the cemetery was the best place.

The community understand that installation is the future but the community feel the best place has not yet been found. Open transparent conversation consultation results in positive outcomes for all parties.

Okato community people ask for the same consideration given to Oakura to be extended to their request that the outskirts of the town be more suitable and the Okato Cemetery also be considered. It is on a hill if this makes reception better.

The school farm could also be possible. It’s on the outskirts away from houses etc and the school could have the funding to go back into community.

Fifty two people of all ages attended the community meeting and it highlighted the number of new families now living in the town. All have a common goal, a family friendly sustainable environment for young and old to enjoy and foster a caring healthy informed community life style.

The meeting identified they would like regular updates of Kaitake board community meetings, not to be posted in the Oakura local paper the Post as it is not available out here, and not just on Facebook.

Lesley Dowding  
Okato.

## A letter to the Prime minister

Dear Jacinda, When you became Labour Party leader, seven weeks before the 2017 election, you had been a little-known list MP. We now know that nine months before being elected to Parliament in 2008, you had become President of the International Union of Socialist Youth. The fact that instead of immediately resigning from that role after becoming an MP, you continued on as President for a further fifteen months, should have caused concern - especially after a video emerged showing you referring to conference attendees as “comrades” fifteen times in seven minutes. Being trusting people, we didn’t think that meant you were a communist. We saw the media fawning over your elevation to Party leader so enthusiastically that the term “Jacindamania” was coined. And we noted that these media cheerleaders gave you favourable coverage during the election campaign. In spite of that, Labour received 956,000 votes or 36.9 percent, while 1,152,000 New Zealanders - 44.4 percent - supported National. That result showed the country had overwhelmingly voted for conservatism and stability. But Winston Peters, holding the balance of power and ignoring the wishes of the majority of voters, anointed you as our 40th Prime Minister. Kiwis are fair-minded,

## More Opunake & Coastal News’ out

We have printed more copies of the Opunake & Coastal News.

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### Hawera:

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Okato Takeaways



and you were given the chance to prove yourself. But while you had great communication skills, and what appeared to be genuine empathy, it soon became clear that true to your hard line roots you intended to impose destructive socialist extremism onto New Zealand. The first indication of your intention was your unilateral decision to ban new deep sea oil drilling to effectively close down New Zealand's oil and gas industry. This was done without warning, without consultation, and without Cabinet approval, on the eve of your first overseas trip as Prime Minister - allegedly so you could look decisive on the world stage. We saw this again following the Christchurch terror attack - even though the perpetrator was a deranged foreigner, you cracked down on the rights of law-abiding Kiwi firearm owners without warning, consultation, or proper justification. Driven by a seemingly insatiable desire for international recognition, you appeared oblivious to the livelihoods and lifelong interests you were destroying. We then became concerned in 2019 to hear you tell a meeting hosted by Bill Gates, that without our knowledge, you were imposing the United Nations Agenda 2030 onto New Zealand: "My Government is doing something not many other countries have tried. We have incorporated the principles of the 2030 Agenda into our domestic policy-making in a way that we hope will drive system-level actions. I believe that the change in approach that we have adopted in New Zealand is needed at a global scale." But while you were successfully embedding the UN's socialist agenda into every regulation and law change, your election promises of building affordable housing, reducing homelessness, and eliminating child poverty were all turning into dismal failures. And even though the media had largely stuck by you, by the end of 2019 the growing discontent - especially within the business and farming

sectors that were facing a tsunami of restrictive rules and regulations - was so widespread it was reflecting in the polls, indicating yours was likely to be a one-term government. That is until Covid-19 came along early in election year. Covid became a socialist leader's dream. It enabled emergency measures curtailing freedom and liberty to be embedded into every facet of our lives - with minimal Parliamentary scrutiny. Under the guise of fighting Covid you hired a multi-million-dollar Rolls Royce communications team to provide you with expert advice: as long as you could keep fear of Covid top of mind right up to voting day, your re-election was assured.

*Sent to the Opunake and Coastal News*

### Vodafone cell tower

Improving digital connectivity is vital for the Okato community and this has been especially highlighted over the past two years where more people have relied on being digitally connected to live, work, learn and play while navigating the global pandemic. For young New Zealanders in particular, being on the wrong side of the digital divide can have significant negative consequences for their future opportunities.

Vodafone understands that some people would prefer we put our cell sites out of sight and far away from them, but this is not possible. The infrastructure needs to be closer to the user to meet the capacity demands and in the last year alone demand for mobile data has increased by a whopping 60% and shows no signs of slowing down in years to come.

In Okato, mobile coverage is very poor and to provide additional capacity Spark has had to install a temporary cell site on wheels (COW) at the school for short periods of time. This new cell site

Vodafone is building will provide a permanent solution and significantly improve coverage and additional capacity to cope with the increasing demand for mobile data. It will also be critical for emergency services, during a response to a Civil Defence Emergency Management event and for those people who use their mobile phone as their priority communications channel.

Vodafone has carefully considered all the factors including the poor coverage and capacity in Okato, the feedback we received from the Kaitake Community Board, members of the Okato community and neighbours of the tennis club and has decided to progress with building the new cell site at the Okato Tennis Club with construction planned for a late March/early April start. Vodafone is proud to be making this investment in the Okato community by not only improving digital connectivity, but also committing to a long lease that will provide long-term financial support for the Okato Tennis Club.

We have worked with the Kaitake Community Board to ensure that the location of the new cell site in Okato is the best location available to provide connectivity to Okato. In Aotearoa New Zealand, all cell sites must operate within the limits set out under the New Zealand Radiofrequency Field Exposure Standard. Vodafone complies with the Standard. Mobile networks are safe and are used in every country in the world. Both the MoH, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and research by the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor conclude that there is no health impacts for people or the environment from cell sites.

The Bioinitiative Report mentioned in the *Opunake and Coastal News* on January 27 was explicitly debunked by the MoH's Interagency Committee on the Health Effects of Non-ionising Fields. The committee's Report to Ministers outlined that the Bioinitiative Report has "weaknesses that undermine its credibility

and conclusions" and stated that no weight should be placed on any of the report's findings or recommendations. The committee then referred to a further 21 national and international reviews of the research around radiofrequency and non-ionising fields, which also debunked the Bioinitiative Report.

The spread of misinformation in Okato about cell sites and 5G has been disappointing. We encourage people to get their information from credible and trusted sources and to talk to us if they would like to know where to access information.

*Lisa Mulitalo  
Community Relations  
Manager, Vodafone*

### Protesting at Parliament

Your recent editorial (February 24) supports the experience of the West Coast Lessees Association had who also protested to parliament back in 1998 under the administration of Prime Minister Jim Bolger. I was the chairman in those times where we as an association were negotiating with Government over major adjustment to our West Coast lease documents. These leases were enshrined in law by an act of parliament back in 1880 and this act gave farmers the confidence to buy and sell these leases on the open market (same as freehold land) when the time came to sell up and retire.

The prescribed proposals that were being offered to us renters was to take away with no compensation many of the parts of the contract and seriously undermine the value to the farmers involved which destabilised the whole market of property and the accompanying basket of rights. Our democracy is based on a property ownership system which could have had shaken the very foundation of our whole democratic society, so government directed us to negotiate with the iwi owners to come to a resolution, which we did several times and each time reached agreement with the iwi owners. But the

government never accepted any of the propositions that we jointly attempted.

So our Association resolved after those attempts to negotiate with the iwi owners, and when the final legislation came before the house we had to protest in the strongest possible way. So as the first reading was presented before the house we dispatched a convoy of 50-odd tractors and resolved to drive to parliament. That trip took three days. With cars and busloads of about 200 other members arriving on the third day we arrived in the parliamentary grounds. We were not allowed by the Speaker to speak from the steps of the house so we had also taken a farm trailer to act as a platform. There were three or four members of parliament on the steps waiting to greet us. Rodney Hide, and Richard Prebble came to mind, They then asked if a delegation of our committee would come inside, so Lynn Williams (Deputy Chairman, Jack Holder (our legal representative) and two other committee members went inside and commenced negotiations with the Minister of Maori Affairs, while I as chair went on to the back of the farm trailer and spoke to the gathered crowd with a loud hailer.

Later that days we departed the site and all came back to our individual farms. That should be the way that the parliament should handle a protest with respect for both parties. Negotiations went on for several weeks before a settlement was reached. With all giving away some value of their assets a compromised position was achieved. We never received full compensation from Government but I would just like to emphasise that we believed that we had no disagreement with the Maori land owners but our argument was completely and wholly with the Crown. And only the Crown could fund a solution.

That is how a sound Government should manage a protest to Parliament and why I am responding to your article.

*Morris Hey  
Retired Dairy farmer  
(former chair of the West Coast Settlement reserves from 1990 to 1998)  
New Plymouth*

### Wonderful School photos

Now in every issue of this wonderful newspaper it seems that Opunake High School seems to be featured, which is really great to see, as to me this newspaper would be the number one community newspaper in New Zealand.

I saw those wonderful colourful photos of the Opunake High School Prefect team for 2022, which is real great, but what has really captured my interest is seeing that wonderful and excellent coloured photograph of Opunake Head Girl Lexi McQuaig and Head Boy Tom Tito-Green, sitting in front of their school's tuki tuki panels and those wonderful Maori carved figures and no doubt it would be a great honour for these two young students having their photos taken in front of those ancestral designs.

In seeing those two high school photos, they reminded me when I was a pupil at Waitara High School many years ago when my cousin was our Head Girl prefect, so I wish the Opunake High School's prefects all the very best for 2022.

*Tom Stephens, New Plymouth*

### Help with the floods

We would like to give special thanks to our neighbours Manue and Marcus and their friends for their assistance.

Also special thanks to our friend Jenny Cavaney for providing us with a special meal at this difficult time and our friends for checking on us.

*Graeme and Marilyn McPherson*

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# Where would you go?

Wow, two floods in a week, during summer and Omicron now knocking on our district's door. Not to mention, the recent anniversary of the Christchurch earthquakes and the fact that Te Maunga is overdue for a wake up, it makes one wonder what would happen in a more severe emergency. If you weren't directly affected by the recent flooding in our area, you would've seen on social media, the impact it had on several residences and businesses. Farmers had bridges, culverts, fences and even land washed away causing thousands of dollars of damage. Several homes in Opunake were flooded and are still in the process of repair, not to forget the many homes in the outlying areas such as Rahotu, Warea and even Parihaka. Some schools were awash with rivers running through them and there is still some roads that are inaccessible. And this event, I would consider to be a mild one.

If the Alpine Fault was to rupture or Te Maunga erupted, the damage would be indescribable. Bridges and roads will be destroyed and there's a good chance



Flooding on the coast.

you may need to evacuate. But, where would you go and who would be able to help? Whilst there's nothing that can be done to prepare against an earthquake or eruption, most other scenarios can be prepared for. Before the second wave of rain came through in February, there was an astounding amount of work done by local community members and businesses to prepare the community as much as they could. Through big donations of sand from the local quarries delivered by local contractors bags and time, further flood damage was reduced the second time around. The Opunake Emergency Group(OEMG) alerts the community of any future events wherever

possible, for example, incoming cyclones. OEMG came together after a need was seen by ChairPerson Megan Dymond. "There has been a bit of back and forth over the years with new regulations and restructuring of agencies etc. Before I joined OEMG, I had been involved in several natural disasters - namely the storm that ripped through Patea in 2012 and Cyclone Gita in 2018. The devastation and upheaval that my family and neighbours experienced made it clear to me that local communities need to have a cohesive plan to work on, to ensure everyone is looked after during and immediately after, a significant event". This includes Pihama to Te Kiri and out to Warea

and of course all the bits in between.

In order to ensure no one is missed in future events, we need more volunteers from all of those areas. The group is currently working on securing local halls, clubs, marae, in any of those areas for evacuation centres and are currently applying for funding to have a generator plug installed at Sinclairs Electrical & Refrigeration Recreation Centre (Civil Defence Evacuation Centre). Megan and the team have been working closely with Glenn Hansen from the STDC and some have had training from TEMO (Taranaki Emergency Management Organisation - Civil Defence) and there is always extra training available for those who want it. "On saying that, volunteers don't need to have any training. We just need people who are willing to help check on people during and after an event," Megan said.

Megan can be contacted on 021 306668 or via email, shaun\_megan@hotmail.com

Megan Dymond.

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## ADELPHOS

# A Kiwi Barbecue

The summer barbecue is an iconic Kiwi institution. It might be in the backyard, the beach or a friend's place. That sweet smoke caramelises and infuses the meats and veges and has everyone anticipating their first heavenly bite. Even the wafting aroma of a neighbour's barbie has me wondering if I should fire up my own Webber grill. But most importantly, the barbie experience is about celebrating being together with others and making memories.

Here's an unforgettable account of a fish barbecue breakfast reunion right on the beach, "Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Tiberias. It happened this

way: Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. 'I'm going out to fish,' Simon Peter told them, and they said, 'We'll go with you.' So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize it was Jesus. He called out to them, 'Friends haven't you any fish?' 'No' they answered.

He said, 'Throw out your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.' When they did this they were unable to haul the net because of the large number of fish.' Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' As

soon as Simon Peter heard him say, 'It is the Lord.' He wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. When they landed they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish you have just caught.'

Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' None of his disciples dared ask him, 'Who are you?' They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came,

took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead' (John 21-1-13 NIV).

This is arguably the disciples' most unforgettable beach BBQ reunion with the resurrected Jesus. Their indelible memories with the risen Christ empowered them through difficult days of life-threatening persecution. In these anxious Covid times, why not enjoy the rest of our warm weather with get-togethers outdoors, having a barbie and being with friends and family. You might even try some fish on the grill at your next barbie. Maybe invite a neighbour who's living alone?

Manaakitanga,

Adelphos

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# Chief Executive faces up to Community Board

The rate increase will be less than originally planned but some may still end up paying a bit more. This was one piece of information shared by South Taranaki District Council chief executive Waid Crockett at the Taranaki Coastal Community Board meeting held at Okaiawa last week.

Mr Crockett was speaking about the upcoming Annual Plan in the Open Forum part of the meeting held at the Okaiawa Hall on March 1.

What had originally looked like a 4.68 per cent increase had been worked down to an increase of 3.79 per cent, but some may still end up paying more than this, he said. New property valuations are

expected to be released in the next six to eight weeks, and these will take effect from July 1. Increases in property prices are likely to be reflected in increased rates bills. Properties once valued at \$200,000 would now be at over \$365,000, while a \$600,000 property would now be over a million dollars.

"We're not the only district where there is occurring," he said. Some districts were looking at increases in valuations of over 95 per cent.

It would be urban rather than rural properties that would feel the brunt of the increase. The plus side of the increased valuations would

be that these ratepayers would have an increase in equity for their properties.

"A number of years back it was rural properties that had the significant increases, but I've never seen a cycle where we had such significant increases as we have had this year," he said.

"It would be a shame if everyone's going to be book rich but cash poor when it comes to paying their rates," said Community Board member Bonita Bigham.

Bonita Bigham asked if there could be anything in the plan to help improve the footpaths in Manaia. The town had a growing population of older community members, and

with footpaths only being on one side of the street, this often meant having to cross over to the other side.

Mr Crockett said there are other smaller centres in the district with footpaths on only one side of the road. This could be something the community Board might want to bring to the Council's attention. On another issue facing Manaia, he said there was expected to be proposals coming back to the Council on the Combined Facility, which had been a big issue in Manaia after the town's War Memorial Hall and Sports Complex had both had to close when they failed earthquake assessments.

Community Board

chairman Andy Whitehead said applications for the board's Discretionary Fund close on March 28, and the

board was keen to hear from community groups seeking funding for community projects.



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## Bad weather cuts mobile and internet coverage

The effects of two weekends of bad weather were thrashed out when the Taranaki Coastal Community Board met last week.

The Taranaki Coast had been lashed by heavy rains and strong winds during Waitangi Day weekend and the weekend following.

At the meeting held at the Okaiawa Hall on March 1, community board chairman Andy Whitehead said mobile phone coverage for much of the coast had been cut following the most recent spell of bad weather. The Spark tower on the Kahui Road was out for five days so there was no mobile or internet coverage for a

large part of the coast. The track leading to the tower had been washed away, which meant the tower could not be repaired.

Andy said he had recently got his land line back up and going, and this had proved to be his only means of communication during that time.

The South Taranaki District Council were working to ensure better services for those affected, he said.

"We don't think it's good enough that it could be out for so long."

South Taranaki district mayor Rob Northcott agreed.

"With the demise of landlines things are getting dire and we need to have alternatives if this keeps

going on," he said.

Andy said the Opunake Loop Trial had taken some "real damage" and there was a need to get in touch with the Taranaki Regional Council. Of particular concern were the two trees which had fallen into the Waiaua River, as reported in the Opunake and Coastal News (February 24).

"There's a 6-7 metre wide strip of soil between the river and the lake. If we get a strong northerly storm coming through that would take out the whole lake."

Community Board member Bonita Bigham who lives in Manaia said there had been significant flooding on the town's main street. This was often a problem, even at

times of slightly heavier than usual rainfall, she said. The area around the vet clinic was particularly prone to flooding.

"The surface water runs off the road," she said. "There are areas of Manaia that get flooded and swamped, but a lot of them are built on natural springs."

Andy Whitehead said that on a positive note there was feedback from Opunake that in Ponderosa Place, which had significantly flooded three times in a row, the diversion which had been placed above the town following flooding in 2015 was working extremely well.



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Taranaki Maunga in an interesting vision.  
Photograph by Arnold Cox of Stratford.

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# When backyard burning isn't allowed

A second weekend in a row of heavy rain saw the brigade out and about again dealing with more flooding around town, but thanks to the efforts of Megan Diamond and her Opunake Emergency Management Group (Civil Defence), flooding calls were kept to only four. What a fantastic job she and her

team did with the support of Primo Wireless to bring in truckloads of sand and sand bags. Thankyou also to the locals who bagged and distributed them around town, it was great to see everyone coming together and pitching in, it certainly reduced the number of flooding events we needed to attend.

We often get asked about back yard burning in urban areas around Opunake and if it's allowed. Council bylaws state that if your property is under 5000 square meters, the burning of house hold rubbish or green waste is prohibited if serviced by a weekly rubbish collection. It also states that burning on residential sections over 5000 square meters must not harm the environment or create a nuisance to neighbours. Occasionally

we are called to a back yard fire around town that is causing a smoke nuisance. In these situations, most people are happy for us to help quench the fire, but if the fire is not endangering life or property and the owner doesn't want the fire put out, there is not much we can do and the council should be called. Clear as mud you are all thinking, that's how we find it as well, so if your friendly volunteer fire brigade turns up at you

place, it is only because the 111 communication centre in Wellington has called us there. Where the Fire service does have the right to put out the above kinds of fires is during restricted and prohibited fire seasons. All properties in Taranaki, including residential and rural properties have to adhere to fire season conditions, and at the time of writing this we are back in an open fire season after the heavy rains. A good

resource is checkitsalright.nz. for all your fire lighting information. Recent callouts have been, four weather related calls, one landing zone required for the rescue helicopter, one medical event, one smoke investigation, two MVAs and an alarm activation.

*Andrew Pentelow  
(acting CFO)  
Opunake*

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## Mangatoki WI donate to good causes

Our February 2 meeting was held at Colonel Malone's Restaurant, Stratford, when 13 members and two of Helen Whyte's grandchildren attended. The meeting was opened by President Robyn Roberts, who welcomed us all. There were four apologies and one previous member, Bernice Hotter, rejoined our WI.

The minutes of the last meeting were read by secretary Helen Whyte, the correspondence was read and one sympathy card was sent. The Treasurer, Cathy White, read the statement and accounts to be paid. There were some reimbursements to be made, and a donation each to Relay for Life and The Tongan Relief Fund. A reminder of the South Taranaki Federations Founders' Day on February 21 at the Kaponga Hotel was given out.

Sick visiting was done, Mangatoki Church gardens at the Pioneer Village to be cleaned up on Tuesday, February 22. Donations for the Food Bank were given. The Raffle was won by Karen Joblin.

After the meeting we held our AGM for 2022/2023. President Robyn Roberts read her yearly report followed by Secretary Helen Whyte, who read the 90<sup>th</sup> year's



Trophy winners.

minutes and the secretary's report. Treasurer Cathy White handed out the year's bank statements for us all to peruse. All the reports were passed and recorded.

Election of Officers: Jenny Brown took the chair for the election of President. All officers were re-elected

en bloc. Secretary Helen Whyte presented President Robyn Roberts with her good service badge.

The yearly competition results: First overall, Robyn Roberts with 36 points. Second. Helen Whyte 32 point. Third. joint placing, Denise Carter and Bev Marx

with 31 points each. The meeting was then closed and we all enjoyed a beautiful lunch, and much talking and catching up was done being the first meeting of 2022.

On February 21, eight of our WI members attended the South Taranaki Federation of WI's Founders Day Lunch at The Kaponga Hotel. There were 37 WI members present. We were welcomed by President Phyllis Malcom and before the lunch was served, she read the history of the founding of the WI in New Zealand, by Anna Elizabeth Jerome Spencer, of Rissington, Hawkes Bay in 1921. The lovely lunch was served and afterwards, Liz Sinclair of Pihama WI, gave us a talk and picture show of her 2015 cruise to ANZAC Cove, Gallipoli, with her husband and others for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ANZAC's landing. This was an interesting talk and she was thanked by Freda McKurk. A number of catch ups were done during this meeting of WI members who had not seen each other for some time and an enjoyable time was had by us all.

*Lucy Moger  
Mangatoki WI Reporter*

## On this month in history NZSO has debut concert

On March 6, 1947 The National Symphony Orchestra of New Zealand, now the NZSO, made its concert debut in the Town Hall, Wellington under the

baton of Andersen Tyrer. In the audience was the prime minister Peter Fraser as well as some foreign diplomats. The 65 instrument orchestra was led by Vincent Aspey.

After God Save the King was performed, Carnival came next, composed by Czech composer Antonin Dvorak.

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Coastal farmers forgetting their woes.

# Surfing for Farmers great fun

Every Thursday evening a group of mostly farmers from all over Coastal Taranaki get together at Opunake Beach as part of an initiative called Surfing for Farmers.

The aim is to get farmers – male and female – off the farm and into the surf and is part of mental health awareness.

Started by farmers for farmers, it was originally launched in Gisborne in 2018 by Stephen Thomson and to date thousands of farmers around New Zealand have taken part in the initiative.

The Coastal session of Surfing for Farmers is held at Opunake Beach every Thursday evening from 5:30 to 8:00pm.

Co-ordinated by Simon Ripia, Vice President of the Opunake Board Riders Club, Harry James who is President of the Opunake Board Riders, coaches the farmers and afterwards everyone enjoys a barbecue and a few drinks in a social get together.

All equipment and coaching is provided free of charge.

The weekly event is open to all ages – from teenagers and up to those in their 60s says Harry who also runs a surf School on Saturday morning at Opunake Beach.

Surfing is an invigorating sport and is something of an art and lifestyle.

Says Harry the key is to “get the wave just before it breaks.”

He begins by advising people to lie on the board and surf in, progress to crouching, then eventually standing.

Among those gathered at Opunake Beach two weeks ago was Robyn Towing from Powerco, one of the sponsors of the event, who, admitting she’d “never surfed before”, was sportingly having a go herself.

At the usual barbecue and drinks held afterwards, Robyn handed out giveaways. “It’s always heaps of fun,” said Moana Hancock from Cardiff who is dairy farming with her husband. She and her husband had never surfed before.

She was wearing a summer wetsuit which she’d bought which kept her warm and was hoping to also get a thicker winter one.

Moana described the experience as “really good for mental health” and added: “We all struggle – you can get in a rut,” she said



The farmers start off with a warm up session. It’s important to warm up, explained Harry adding “We don’t go out cold.” He described surfing as quite physically demanding and added they start out with some simple exercises. These included stretching - working up the body from the ankles to the knees which were both important for balancing then hips used in balance and manoeuvring and finally the shoulders which were used in paddling.

continuing farming can be isolating. Having the dinner and drinks weekly was “a good connection meeting new people.”

After emerging from the tumultuous surf which Robyn described as “exhilarating” though she hadn’t quite managed to stand up, she found she didn’t fall off so much as previously. That’s progress.

Simon said they had a massive turnout when it started both from return surfers and those who had never surfed before.

Kale Grahame, an agricultural engineer from Opunake who’d also come along for the ride – so to speak – said it was a good opportunity to catch up with your clients.

“The waves were dumpy - big and sharp,” he said of the evening’s surfing.

Marcia Paurini from Rural Support who was there though declined to have a go surfing said the farmers lately had had it pretty tough with the recent rains and the cyclone. They’ve had to repair fences and bridges in the general clean up. “Connecting with nature and each other and getting off the farm is so good for your mental health,” she said. She cited bigger bills, animal welfare issues and Government regulations in connection with climate change, water quality and biodiversity were all things farmers had to comply with which added to the stress of the job.

Surf boards and wetsuits are also available to members of the public for hire from the

Opunake Boardriders Club which operates out of the old pavilion at Opunake Beach.

Members of the public can also book a lesson through the Opunake board riders.

Surfing for Farmers would like to thank all their sponsors. Without you Surfing for Farmers wouldn’t happen: Ballance Agri-nutrients, Bayleys, NZ Beef & Lamb, Meridian Energy, Jarden and Rabobank. Big thanks also to our local sponsors: Young Contracting, Dreamtime Surf Shop, Okato Veterinary Clinic, BP Lawns, Ecolab, CRV, Powerco and TOI Foundation.

Thanks Opunake Boardriders Club and Surfing for Farmers - having fun while learning the value of connecting with each other and nature.

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Simon Ripia with young surfer Liam Hoffmans emerging from the surf.



Winding down after a hard surf session.



# Reconnecting Taranaki with the world

As we take the next step in our plan to reconnect with the world, I know many people here in Taranaki will be looking forward to reuniting with family and friends from overseas. Thanks to changes announced this week, vaccinated Kiwis overseas can now return to New Zealand without entering MIQ or having to self-isolate. This means

travellers can hop off a plane and immediately connect with family and friends, as long as they test negative within 24 hours of arriving. This is an important step in our COVID response, and one I know many people here in Taranaki have waited a long time for. Being separated from loved ones has been, for many, one of the hardest parts of the pandemic. While it's been



**GLEN BENNETT**  
MP FOR NEW PLYMOUTH

tough, this effort has saved countless lives. Our border controls have resulted in New Zealand having fewer COVID deaths than most other countries, and ensured we could protect more people with boosters before Omicron spread into our communities. In fact, more than 70% of people aged 18 and over have now had their booster, which is fantastic to see. If

you haven't had yours yet, I'd really encourage you to get it as soon as you can. Boosters are our strongest weapon against Omicron, offering an extra layer of protection and reducing your chances of ending up in hospital. This is especially important as we see case numbers here in Taranaki increase. As we continue to face the COVID challenge, I want

to, once again, say a huge thank you for everything you're doing to keep our community safe. The next couple of weeks may not be easy, but I know that if we continue to work together and keep up those important health behaviours, we'll make it through.

*Glen Bennett*  
MP New Plymouth

# Kāinga Ora hasn't learnt its lesson

Housing Minister Megan Woods must explain why her claims of change at Kāinga Ora should be taken seriously when its CE and senior leaders defiantly defended their decision to publish an advertisement about a Labour Party candidate, even after being admonished by the Minister, National's Housing spokesperson Nicola Willis says. "Minister Woods previously assured Parliament that Kāinga Ora had learnt its lesson over its flawed

decision to publish an advertisement about Labour candidate Arena Williams, stating that she had written 'to the organisation on August 3, making it clear that this was well short of my expectations'. "Emails I revealed in Parliament today show Kāinga Ora ignored that criticism, thumbing their nose at the Minister when these issues were raised publicly. "These emails show senior staff at Kāinga Ora in November saying a number

of concerning things:

- A General Manager saying 'I don't like the implication of apology from us when we did no wrong'; and
- The Chief Executive saying '...as I am sure you will have been told, the judgement call you made was fine, I am happy to stand behind you on it. This little maelstrom will pass quickly, I just hope it doesn't make you too risk averse!...'
  - The Chief Executive saying 'the key issue for the Minister is the comments in your emails rather than the decision per se'

"Kāinga Ora's senior



**NICOLA WILLIS MP**  
NATIONAL SPOKESPERSON FOR HOUSING

leadership clearly have not taken the Minister's concerns seriously and have refused to take responsibility

for their actions, months after concerns were first expressed to them by the Minister. "I'm also astonished that even after the damning report into this saga was released last week by the Public Service Commission, no one at Kāinga Ora has been held accountable for its failure to meet its duties as a custodian of taxpayer money. "I will now write to the Public Service Commissioner to express my renewed concerns over the comments made in these newly-released emails, as

it appears as if he was not privy to these during his investigation. "New Zealanders deserve much better from an agency that employs more than a dozen people on salaries in excess of \$300,000 a year. "Minister Woods must explain why she continues to have confidence in the leadership of Kāinga Ora when not one person has been held accountable for these extraordinary failings."

*Nicola Willis*  
National Party  
Spokesperson for Housing.

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Presenting our winner for February, Campbell Contracting (Nadia Winks) is Brenda Simpson our new team member

# Work at Heimama Stream Bridge completed

Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency regional manager Maintenance and Operations Jaclyn Hankin says their maintenance contractors have been very busy following two successive weekends of heavy storm events. "It's been an incredibly busy time for our contractors, who have worked hard to help keep our state highways open and safe for all road users, under some challenging conditions. "Taranaki Regional Council rainfall data shows the 27 sites across the region where rainfall is captured received between 178% and 702% of normal rainfall for February, last month. This was mostly

in the first two weekends." One of the areas most impacted was the Heimama Stream bridge, just north of Opunake on State Highway 45, with the heavy rain resulting in erosion of the stream bank upstream of the bridge. "Fortunately, there was no damage to the bridge itself. However, if the erosion was to continue, such as in a future weather event, it might affect the bridge abutment," Ms Hankin says. "Over the past few weeks, our contractors installed 2,200 tonne of rock protection along the affected stream bank to prevent any further erosion and maintain the resilience of this section of SH45. "This work is now complete, with the area around the bridge in much better shape to withstand any significant rain events in the future."

delays to State Highway 3 at Uruti reopening to two lanes, following a slip in December last year. "Planned work to stabilise the slip was undertaken. However, due to the weather events, the site needed to be reassessed for safety. "This assessment has now been completed, with the road cleared and fully reopened. "Waka Kotahi is investigating more long-

term solutions to stabilise the Uruti Valley area and reduce the risk of further slips," Ms Hankin says. During severe weather events, like those experienced last month, Ms Hankin asks motorists to be mindful of contractors who could be out clearing hazards off the road. **The next issue of the Opunake and Coastal News comes out on March 24.**

# Happy Summer!

My offices are open for 2022.

**Steph Lewis** MP for Whanganui

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# New owners for Okato Four Square

On February 24 Okato Four Square acquired new owners in Rari and Sangita Kumar, who have a young daughter Avisha who is nearly 6. The couple were living in Auckland prior to their new venture in places such as the North Shore and South Auckland. They were in our largest city for about 12 years. They originally came from India. While up north Auckland Rari completed a Master of Business degree at Auckland University. Sangita attended university in Delhi, India.

It's early days, but so far the new owners are enjoying their new business. "We haven't had a day off since we've been here, but we're enjoying it." Rari adds, "If your mind is fresh, your body does not get tired."

One thing they are especially pleased about is the excellent employees they have. "They are a really good staff."

The new owners have certainly noticed a change in lifestyle since arriving in Okato. "There's less traffic. No one is in a rush, unlike Auckland. You get to talk to people, learn their names and find out what they do."

Apart from the incredibly wide range of merchandise in the supermarket, another



Some of the staff includes, from left, Richard, Lisa, Paige, Andrew, as well as new owners Rari and Sangita Kumar pictured outside Okato Four Square.

feature is the extensive hours Okato Four Square is open. They are open from 7am to 7pm, Monday to Friday. In the weekends they are open 7.30am to 7pm on Saturday and from 8am until 7pm on Sunday.

The couple have definite plans for the future, including "More organic and vegan items," – starting with (just introduced) organic tofu and vegan sausages, as well as generally stocking more lines.

They are grateful to their overall leader Foodstuffs.

"They have been so good, so helpful. They did more than we expected."

Rari and Sangita are well aware of the problems caused by the Covid pandemic, including the need for some people to self-isolate. "If you need help, let us know. We are happy to drop off groceries at your door. There will be no delivery charge."

At present the family is living in New Plymouth and commuting to Okato. However, they are keen to join the Okato community. "We are looking to rent

a house in Okato." Free time is a bit scarce just at present, but they are looking forward to taking Avisha to the beach, "She love that stuff," explains Sangita. Here are just a few of the quality foods, beverages and groceries available at Okato Four Square:

There is plenty of immediately available food for lunches, including hot pies, sandwiches, filled rolls and cakes. A wide range of fresh vegetables and fruit are appealingly presented.

Plenty of stationary items

are displayed including exercise books, chalks, pens, coloured pencils, glues, photocopying paper, and much more.

It is good to see cage-free and free range eggs stocked. An impressive range of bread can be purchased including gluten free options.

They have a liquor license and a wide range of wines, beers and ciders can be bought, with a selection chilled for instant use. Greeting cards are available as well as colourful wrapping paper.

Their frozen options include just about anything you could need including

vegetables, pizzas, prawns and kumara rosti.

Most of the popular magazines, such as North & South, NZ Geographic, Thrive, Cuisine and The Listener can be bought.

With Easter just around the corner there is an eye-catching display of Easter eggs and treats that are truly mouth-watering.

Anyway drop by at Okato Four Square. Not only are new owners Rari and Sangita continuing the supermarket's excellent tradition, they are seeking to take it to even greater heights. Excellent friendly service and quality goods are guaranteed.



From left, Sangita, Avisha (nearly 6) and Rari Kumar.

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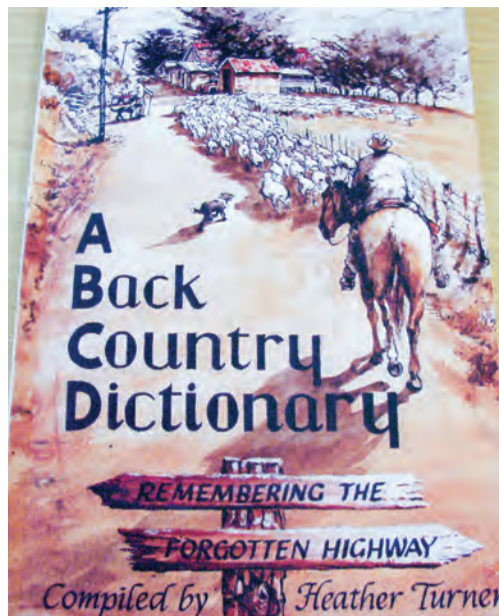


# A Back Country Dictionary: Remembering the Forgotten Highway - a book review

A Back Country Dictionary: Remembering the Forgotten Highway – a book review.

Written alphabet-style this collection of intriguing anecdotal stories, was

compiled by Heather Turner and appealingly illustrated by her husband, well-known artist Merv Turner. The book was printed by Razz Print & Design, 116 Molesworth Street, New Plymouth.



The book's front cover.

Many of the stories are the reminisces from the past, some dating from over a century ago. Most readers comment on the humour in the stories, as well as sparking their own parallel stories from earlier times.

However, the book is not paginated, so it is not possible to refer stories to a numerical place in the book.

There is an interesting map in the front with legend referring to roads, railways, rivers, saddles and tunnels, as well as the Forgotten Highway itself.

The many contributors are listed with their stories marked by their initials.

The stories vary in length from, in some instances just a word or two to over a page

such as the informative one about Marco School.

The stories cover a wide variety of situations, and many have the theme of how a spirited battle has allowed the inhabitants to deal with life, which was in many ways not very easy. There is tragedy, such as the man trapped during a burn-off, who lost his life in consequence, but most about the challenges of daily living.

Many of the stories are about animals and birds, both wild and domestic. One poignant tale was about the kitten trapped down a long drop, rescued by allowing it to climb up a broom handle to safety. Another story recalls locals seeing kiwis in the bush. Wild pigs feature in a number of the stories.

One youngster lost a threepenny piece as a ten-year-old, almost a century ago, and suspected thievery. Yet the coin was located years later (in 1978) by a metal detector engaged on the site of the now closed

school, along with other lost treasures, such as a brooch.

However, my absolute favourite was about a local character called Bill Shine, who was in the sights of the local stock inspector, angry that the errant farmer had repeatedly refused to have his sheep dipped. It transpired that he had a very good reason. (This incredible story is 12 pages from the back).

“Your accounts drip with authenticity. Well done. You have really found your metier. And Merv’s illustrations are splendid,” enthused Dr Brian Ronson, an anthropologist and former HOD of Sociology at Hong Kong University.

This excellent book is well worth buying and is a credit to Heather and Merv Turner, as well as the many contributors. You can contract Heather by emailing flyingcolours@hotmail.co.nz or phoning 022 187 0771.

Reviewed by Rolland McKellar

### Barbara the cow (1930s)

Cows wandered freely around the place at Tangarakau. One of them, Barbara, a lovely animal, I think was predominantly Ayrshire, which is a large framed breed. My parents stored potatoes in the washhouse, which was opposite the kitchen on the other side of the back porch and somehow Barbara discovered them. She only had to get herself halfway into the washhouse to be able to reach them.

Barbara must have been very hungry because cows don't usually choose potatoes. Anyway, she had a feast and, as a result, her stomach blew up and by



LEFT: One of the tales in the book. This one is by Howard Sinclair. Barbara the cow is stuck fast.

the time my parents woke, the cow was stuck in the doorway.

It must have been her efforts to extricate herself that woke Mum and Dad. When Dad opened the back door Barbara was halfway into the washhouse with her rear end still in the back

porch. He couldn't get into the washhouse so he decided if he pulled on her tail she might get the idea and back out.

That idea didn't work as space was tight so they figured if Barbara could be backed into the kitchen she could then walk out of the

porch and see where she was going. The plan worked and as Dad pulled on her tail Barbara eased herself out of the washhouse and backed into the kitchen.

It was at this stage that she decided to relieve her bloated stomach. She passed a huge amount of wind followed by a gush of liquid dung that hit my father in the chest and trickled down into his pyjama pants.

What wasn't on my father was all over the floor, walls, doors and furniture. Mum was furious.

I don't remember if the smell lingered, but I presume it did because this was well before air fresheners were thought of.

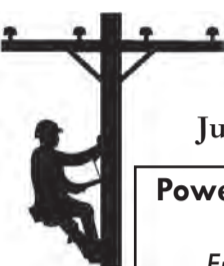
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Our team includes fully qualified cabinet makers and joiners who have extensive experience in the industry. We produce new items, as well as restore old but loved furniture. We offer the highest standards of quality and a personal touch to each project we work on. Craftmanship is central to

everything we do. Phillip Joblin Kitchen and Furniture are specialist joiners and cabinet makers with 21 years of experience in the industry. A family-owned and run business that operates in the Whanganui and Taranaki region from their base in Hawera (3 Mawhitiwhiti Road, Normanby), they offer a range of services.

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They offer a highly personal standard of service that includes ensuring each unit and cabinet they produce for

your new kitchen is finished with a personal touch.

They also specialise in furniture restoration. Whether it is chairs, a dining table, or any other item of furniture that you like for its appearance or its sentimental value, the team can bring life back into it and restore it to new. They are passionate about restoring old items of furniture, particularly items that were manufactured to a high standard using high-quality materials. Throwing these items away doesn't help anyone, plus you can save money by getting your old item of furniture restored.

To get a quote for furniture restoration and to discuss making the impossible possible with furniture, please get in touch.

The team is fully qualified and have the skills and attention to detail to ensure you get furniture for your home or business that meets your optimal requirements.

If you are looking for an expert joiner or cabinet maker call Phillip and the staff today on 06 272 8174, 021 0473 493 or email [ijjobs@outlook.co.nz](mailto:ijjobs@outlook.co.nz) to arrange a consultation and get a free no-obligation quote. The business is open

8.30am to 5pm weekdays, or by appointment. In the meantime take a look at their excellent website. **Quality services offered include:**

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Here is some positive feedback from one of Phillip's very happy customers:

*"We have recently had a beautiful kitchen designed by Phillip Joblin Kitchen and Furniture. Phillip's product knowledge is incredible! His ability to interpret my vision was also spot on. I found working with him and the team a fantastic experience right the way through and I would absolutely recommend them."* Jo & Murray Collins.

## Pot and container gardening



### A splash of living colour in pots.

Any pot or container is suitable as long as it has good drainage holes and is larger than the rootball of the plant you have chosen.

Think about how large the plant will grow – large plants require large pots. You may also need a saucer or pot feet to protect the surface where you are placing it.

For eye catching containers use three types of plants that perform different functions but work together in harmony. Thriller – the centre piece plant with colourful foliage, dramatic shape, flowers or fruit. Filler – usually flowering plants that complement the thriller, adding mass and texture. Spiller – These sprawl and tumble over the side of the pot to soften the edges and contrast with the thriller.

Use a premium container

mix containing water storage crystals, a wetting agent that spreads moisture to the roots, along with slow-release fertiliser.

Containers dry out quicker than your garden. Water plants daily in summer in early morning or late afternoon.

Fertilise with a slow-release granular fertiliser every six months to promote flowering and maintain health. During the growing season, extra feeding with a liquid fertiliser will give best results.

Camellias, hebes, hydrangea, olive and maples can be planted on their own in as a feature.

For fragrance plant daphne, gardenia, dianthus, rosemary and heliotrope.

For colourful displays use lobelia, pansy, viola, petunias, snap dragons,

Gardening with Palmers Gardening Centre



lavender, geranium, pelargonium, verbena, tropical impatiens and fuchsia.

Bold leaved perennials, such as hostas, do well in shady locations.

Spring bulbs are great in pots. Try daffodils, tulips, freesias, hyacinths, and crocus, or summer flowering bulbs like begonias, calla lilies and dahlias.

Cacti and succulents need little maintenance and can stay in the same pot for several years.

A huge variety of fruit and vegetables can be grown in pots and containers - try strawberries, citrus, dwarf fruit trees, potatoes, tomatoes, lettuce and herbs.

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# Opunakē High School

## Te Kura Tuarua o Opunakē

### CONTACT DETAILS

P: 06 761 8723  
Tasman Street, Opunakē 4616  
PO Box 4, Opunakē 4645  
www.opunake.school.nz  
admin@opunake.school.nz

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## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

We have been very fortunate this year to get in three of our major sporting and Interhapu competitions - Athletics, Swimming Sports and Cross Country. With many bigger schools having to cancel events such as these altogether due to the Covid Red Light settings, with some careful planning by Mr David Hughes and our PE department, we were able to have students participate to their fullest.

Athletics was, in particular, an absolute stand-out. For all the students present there was fantastic participation and a real sense of community - students encouraged one another, cheered each other on and picked each other up when they fell down. The tug-of-war was an absolute highlight, with Karo getting one over Awhina in the final in a titanic struggle - Awhina (left) and Karo pictured above.



Above: Te Raukura Winiata chucking the shot put.  
Left: Year 9 student Isabelle Neil flies through the air on the long jump.

## CHAMPION EFFORT

Whilst every student puts in some great mahi, these students were those we deemed our champions. Well done everyone!

### Athletics

Junior Girls: Karys Jones  
Junior Boys: Jayden Poole  
Int. Girls: Arna Bright  
Int. Boys: Harry Gibson & Koby Bird-Luke  
Senior Girls: Jorja Symes  
Senior Boys: Jaree Summerfield

### Hapu Results:

1st: Rimu  
2nd: Totara  
3rd: Awhina  
4th: Karo

### Swimming Sports

Junior Girls: Lilly Bright  
Junior Boys: Hadlee Marsh  
Int. Girls: Charlie Carr  
Int. Boys: Harrison Martins & Cayden Marsh  
Senior Girls: Ella Bright & Lexi McQuaig  
Senior Boys: Richmin Hughson-How

### Hapu Results:

1st: Karo  
2nd: Totara  
3rd: Rimu  
4th: Awhina

### Cross Country

Junior Girls: Aaliyah Torpey  
Junior Boys: Jayden Poole  
Int. Girls: Charlie Carr  
Int. Boys: Harrison Martins  
Senior Girls: Jorja Symes  
Senior Boys: Jaree Summerfield

### Hapu Results:

1st: Totara  
2nd: Rimu  
3rd: Karo  
4th: Awhina



Year 12 student Jaree Summerfield, seen here clearing 1.75m in the Senior Boys High Jump, won both the Senior Boys Cross Country and Athletics titles this year.

## Principal's Address



Kia ora Koutou,

**Ko te mokupuna te pūtake o te mātauranga.**  
*Placing the learner at the heart*

We have managed to make the most of the warm, summer days here on the coast, and have been fortunate enough to hold a Swimming Carnival, Athletics Day and Cross Country. During these days we have seen many of our students exemplify our DREAMS values especially those of Mana, Respect and Exceeding Expectations.

Our athletes have pushed themselves to the limit; jumping as high, throwing as far, or running as fast as they could. These examples of resilience, strength, speed and determination are to be applauded. It was also wonderful to see our tamariki having so much fun dressed in their Hapu colours.

Sometimes we lose sight of all the wonderful things happening around us, especially in light of the awful situation in the Ukraine, and the escalating pandemic. However, seeing our students immersed in the moment whilst competing in the pool, on the sports field or in the gym lifts everyone's spirits. I would also like to thank the school community for raising several hundred dollars to support the Ukrainian refugees. For such a small kura, we have a very big heart.

With the encroachment of the pandemic into our school we will now be adopting a blended learning approach to ensure students at home isolating can still access the curriculum. This does put extra pressure on our wonderful staff, but as always they have risen to the challenge.

I would also like to thank the Lions club for supporting us with our trail blazing Tiny Homes project. Their help was invaluable, supporting Mike Griggs to put the cover on to our building site. A sense of community is alive and well here at Opunakē High School.

We hope to repay the kindness for all the community support we constantly receive, by spending Friday weed releasing, planting, and sand bagging around the loop track. Along with doing beach clean ups at Main Beach and Middletons Bay. Our students are not only ākonga (learners), but they are also the kaitiaki (guardians) of this rohe (locale), and it will be great seeing them taking leadership opportunities in this space, and ensuring Opunakē remains the paradise we all know and love.

We would also like to extend an invitation to you all to come and visit our maize maze, for 'amazing' fun with whanau and friends. We will also be offering a hangi (tickets at the office), and a fright night in the maze - not for the faint of heart. Hope to see you all there.

Nga mihi,

**Andrea Hooper Carr**  
Principal

**OPUNAKĒ HIGH SCHOOL**  
**AMAZING MAIZE MAZE!**

**FAMILY FRIENDLY TREASURE HUNT**  
**19TH MARCH 2-5PM**  
**HEAPHY ROAD, OPUNAKE**  
**PRIZES TO BE WON**

**OPUNAKĒ HIGH SCHOOL'S**  
**FRIGHT NIGHT CORN MAZE**  
**19TH MARCH 7.30-10.30 PM**

**BE PREPARED TO BE SCARED**



Tuia Taitonga ki Tai

# Southlink Coastal



He karere tā te Kaunihera o Taranaki ki te Tonga News from the South Taranaki District Council

Welcome to this special quarterly edition of Southlink for Ōpunakē and Coastal News readers.

## Possible Disruptions to Council Services Due to Omicron



**Waid Crockett**  
Chief Executive South  
Taranaki District Council

Kia ora koutou,  
Over the past few weeks, we have been making preparations so we can keep operating our services as best we can under the government's COVID-19 traffic light system. However, due to the ongoing spread of the Omicron variant, it's possible that some of our services will be disrupted if our staff become unwell or need to isolate - our Aquatics facilities being a recent example.

We want to give you a heads up about some of the changes you might experience. Some of these may happen at short notice, but keep updated on our website, Facebook page or download our Antenna app.

If council facilities or services are impacted by staff and contractors becoming unwell or needing to isolate, this may result in:

- Temporary closure of one or more of our facilities (note: we will contact you if you have made a booking)
- Longer than usual call centre wait times
- Changes to services such as rubbish and recycling kerbside collection
- Delays in processing services such as consents, inspections and licensing

Thank you in advance for your patience and kindness towards our staff as they work hard to continue providing services in challenging circumstances.

## Home delivery, activity packs and contactless Click and Collect

A limited home delivery service is now being offered for those unable to come into their local LibraryPlus.

This free home delivery service is for those within town limits in Hāwera, Kaponga, Eltham, Ōpunakē, Manaia, Pātea and Waverley to people with children under 5, are isolating or high risk, and people over 65.

Activity packs have also been developed for families who are isolating.

A contactless Click and Collect service is also continuing to be offered at every LibraryPlus. For information on accessing these services go to the South Taranaki District Council LibraryPlus Facebook page, email [librarycontact@stdc.govt.nz](mailto:librarycontact@stdc.govt.nz) or visit [www.southtaranaki.com/libraryplus](http://www.southtaranaki.com/libraryplus).

## Mayor congratulates community on emergency response

I want to publicly extend a heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers, members of the emergency services (Fire and Emergency New Zealand, Police and Ambulance) the Ōpunakē Emergency Management Group, businesses, contractors, Taranaki Emergency Management and Council staff - all who worked tirelessly over the first two weekends of February to help look after each other and our communities during those extreme weather events. The way everyone pulled together during these events was awesome and demonstrated the typical spirit of the people from this great region. On behalf of the people of South Taranaki, thank you.

## Council approves up to \$400k for new roof at Ōpunakē Events Centre

At February's ordinary council meeting, South Taranaki District councillors confirmed their decision to spend up to \$400,000 to replace the Ōpunakē Events Centre's roof.

Councillors heard that the aging roof, almost 20 years old, has a number of leaks developing across it. A new roof for the community sports and recreation facility would cost between \$310,000 and \$360,000 based on current pricing and the Trust that runs the centre does not have the funds needed to replace it. Council Facilities Manager Phil Waite recommended the council loan-fund the new roof and increase the annual grant Council makes to the Trust, which was \$60,000 per annum in 2021, to repay for the term of the loan.

South Taranaki Mayor Phil Nixon said the Ōpunakē Events Centre was a very well used and important facility for the coastal community, but the pandemic had reduced the trust's income when the venue wasn't able to be used.

"The Trust had quite a nest egg put aside,



but COVID has eaten away a lot of the funds they had saved. The centre is a fantastic facility which fits with our vision of making South Taranaki the Most Liveable District and deserves our ongoing support."

More recently the partnership between the Trust and Council has seen a Councillor appointed to the Trust by the Mayor. An updated partnership agreement between the council and the Trust will also be finalised before the money is released.

## Are you enrolled?

The Local Body Elections are taking place in October this year.

Make sure you are you enrolled to vote by visiting [www.vote.nz](http://www.vote.nz).

Keep in touch with what's happening locally by visiting [www.southtaranaki.com/vote2022](http://www.southtaranaki.com/vote2022).



Plans for the new playground for Bowen Crescent

## Community Council Partnership

Last year, Ōpunakē's Bowen Crescent Playground was due for an upgrade, but Chair of the Ōpunakē Community Spaces Development Group Lisa Beynon had a vision of what she thought her community would like.

Through sheer determination, plenty of community donations and sponsorships a whopping \$63,858 was raised. With Council's \$50,000 contribution as well as a \$3,035 grant from the Taranaki Coastal Community Board they were able to have the playground they felt suited the District.

Removal of the existing playground was completed last week with work beginning early next week and lasting approximately 4-6 weeks.



# Coastal and rural properties always in demand says top property manager

“Some farmers don’t realise the income from renting out a farm house at the market rate” says Colin Tyler from Harcourts who has received the Top Property Manager Award for Business Development for the Wellington region. “They think it’s easier to leave it vacant whereas if the property was managed they wouldn’t have the hassle and could make an income.”

Colin’s area covers the region from New Plymouth and along the coast. His award was given by Harcourts covers the period from October to December 2021.

“I was chuffed, blown away, I had no idea,” commented Colin clearly delighted with the honour.

Colin who with his wife Sandi own a lifestyle block in Dover Road, Okato said

he kept working over the Christmas New Year period and noted “Properties were rented out reasonably quickly.”

He added “There’s a shortage of housing – we’re getting a lot of people from Auckland, Hamilton and Tauranga,” moving to Taranaki.

Colin said they were attracted to the quieter lifestyle and may have already had jobs lined up.

“Another reason for the influx was that a lot of people are moving back to New Zealand,” he added mentioning a comment from one client (quoting the song by Fred Dagg), “We don’t know how lucky we are in New Zealand with our lifestyle.” The friendliness of Taranaki people is also often remarked on. And the coast is also particularly sought after. “I get a lot of calls from people who want to live along the coast,” said Colin and are attracted to a rural lifestyle.

Colin has quite a number of properties that he currently manages. He also finds



Harcourts Colin Tyler receives Top Manager award.

Here however it’s a good community, he says, and much more relaxed.

As for the housing shortage Colin acknowledges rents have been increasing quite a bit in the last couple of years. Not enough houses are being built and more people are coming into the country, compliance and increasing cost of rates and insurance are also factors

Often “they’ve rented out their houses and are now moving back from overseas.” He also comments “There’s a lot of houses being sold but not coming back as rentals.” Any problem tenants he’s had over the years?

Colin says with their selection process they minimise problem tenants.

“I don’t get many phone calls after hours with complaints with our tenants.”

As far as the tenant goes there are three things a tenant has to do.

Firstly, pay the rent. Secondly, look after the house.

And thirdly, don’t annoy the neighbours.

tenants. Matching tenants with properties is part of the job.

He aims for “good owners and good tenants.”

His job also entails making sure the houses are compliant with the healthy home standards which are constantly changing.

Having a property manager means you take the stress out

of the owners. He’s constantly on the lookout for properties.

Before moving to Taranaki Colin did the same job in Auckland for three years. Compared to here he describes it as “extremely stressful,” which he puts down to mortgages and rents being higher. “People are more stressed out.”

*Congratulations!*

## Top Property Manager For Business Development

Wellington Region Quarterly Awards | October - December 2021



### Colin Tyler

Harcourts Team Taranaki Rentals

M 027 542 1853 P 758 4397

colin@taranakiharcourts.co.nz

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Cnr Belt Rd & St Aubyn St, New Plymouth

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<p><b>"As new"</b> \$69,990</p> <p>2018 Audi Q5 S-LINE 2.0, Petrol, Auto, 28kms</p>	<p><b>"One owner"</b> \$54,990</p> <p>2017 Toyota Hilux SR5 2.8TD 4WD D/CAB, Diesel, Auto, 56kms</p>	<p><b>"As new"</b> \$57,990</p> <p>2020 Mazda CX-9 TAKAMI, 2.5, Petrol, Auto, 40kms</p>	<p><b>"NZ new"</b> \$56,990</p> <p>2014 Toyota Land Cruiser Prado VX 3.0 TDi, Auto, 50kms</p>	<p><b>From</b> \$14,990</p> <p>2010 Nissan X TRAIL 4WD 2.0, Petrol, Auto, 2 to choose</p>	<p><b>"Immaculate"</b> \$39,990</p> <p>2011 Toyota Land Cruiser FJ CRUISER, 4.0, Petrol, Auto, 120kms</p>	<p><b>"Economy"</b> \$13,990</p> <p>2012 Toyota Aqua 5 DOOR 1.5 Hybrid, Auto, 49kms</p>
<p><b>"Full spec"</b> \$74,990</p> <p>2018 Land Rover Range Rover Evoque 2.0 TDi LANDMARK EDITION, Auto, 53kms</p>	<p><b>"One owner"</b> \$42,990</p> <p>2017 Toyota Highlander GXL 4WD, 3.5, Petrol, Auto, 86kms</p>	<p><b>"NZ new"</b> \$44,990</p> <p>2016 Land Rover Discovery 4 LANDMARK EDITION 3 Diesel, Auto, 194kms</p>	<p><b>Now</b> \$27,990</p> <p>2015 Ford Territory TITANIUM AWD 2.7, Diesel, Auto, 100kms</p>	<p><b>"NZ new"</b> \$67,990</p> <p>2017 Volvo XC90 D5 AWD MOMENTUM 2.0D 7 seater, T/DSL, 65kms</p>	<p><b>"Performance"</b> \$28,990</p> <p>2012 BMW X3 MOTORSPORT 3.0 TWIN TURBO, Petrol, Auto, 75kms</p>	<p><b>"NZ new"</b> \$23,990</p> <p>2018 Volkswagen Polo BEATS, Petrol, Auto, 37kms</p>





# Talking Taranaki

## Chairman's chat

### Busy year ahead in local government

Ka mihi nui ki a koutou katoa, greetings to you all. This may be the first *Talking Taranaki* for 2022 but we're already in the thick of what will be another busy year of challenge, change and opportunity.



It's shaping up to be a huge year for reform in the local government sector. Work on the future of local government, Three Waters and a planned overhaul of the Resource Management Act (RMA) is continuing apace both at national and local levels.

We will keep you up-to-date on significant developments.

The Council will also be stepping up engagement with the community around the implementation of the Government's Essential Freshwater rules. Please do take the opportunity to provide your thoughts and feedback. There's also the small matter of local

government elections to fit in later in the year!

And of course, we're starting our third year of life against a backdrop of COVID-19. It's

a worrying time for many right now as case numbers grow. Please, take care of each other and reach out for help if you need it. I'm confident the Council is well-prepared and has plans in place to ensure the continuation of essential services, while keeping our staff and the community safe.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge those affected by the recent heavy rain and Cyclone Dovi events. While devastating, it was heartening to see how everyone pulled together to help with the clean-up. Thank you for your mahi.

*David MacLeod, Chair*

## Around & about the region



### All go at Yarrow Stadium

Yarrow Stadium is on track to reopen for the 2022 winter sports season, with work currently underway to replace the West Stand roof. Subsoil drainage is being installed on the main pitch, ahead of laying the new GrassMaster hybrid turf. Meanwhile, work continues on the design for the new and improved East Stand.

→ [tinyurl.com/yarrow-roof](https://tinyurl.com/yarrow-roof)

### Annual Plan process streamlined

The Council has agreed to follow a streamlined process for the preparation and adoption of the 2022/2023 Annual Plan. As the proposed Plan contains no significant or material differences from the 2021/2031 Long-Term Plan, no further public consultation is required. This is in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002. A separate special consultative process will be held for the adoption of fees and charges under section 36 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

→ [www.trc.govt.nz/long-term-plans](https://www.trc.govt.nz/long-term-plans)

### Unlocking curious minds

Do you have an idea for a collaborative research project? Since 2015, Curious Minds Taranaki has helped fund 60 projects and funding of up to \$20,000 is now available for science, technology, and mātauranga research projects. Curious Minds is a Participatory Science Platform delivered by Venture Taranaki in collaboration with the Council and funded by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. Applications for the 2022 funding cycle close 21 March at:

→ [www.curiousmindstaranaki.org.nz](https://www.curiousmindstaranaki.org.nz)

## Taking Taranaki forward

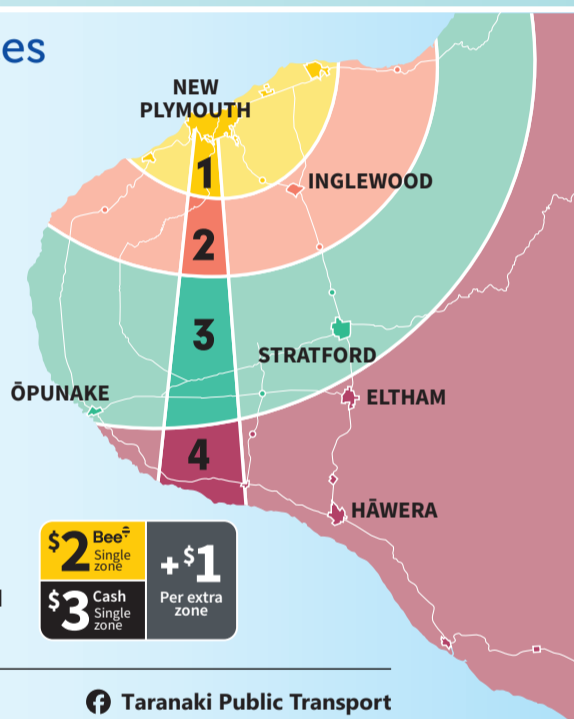
### Exciting changes for Taranaki bus services

It's been an eventful start to the year for Taranaki public transport, with a new simplified bus fare system and additional regional school bus services proving popular with passengers.

As of 31 January, the number of bus fare zones in Taranaki reduced from 25 to just four. There is now a flat fare for all passengers travelling within a single zone, with an additional \$1 for each boundary crossed. That means a single journey anywhere within New Plymouth (including Bell Block and Egmont Village) is just \$2 and a trip from Hāwera to New Plymouth is just \$5, with a Bee Card.

The start of the school year saw three new school bus services introduced, spelling great news for South and Central Taranaki high school students and their whānau. Two dedicated Your Connector services run from Hāwera, one going to New Plymouth Boys' High School and Francis Douglas Memorial College and another to New Plymouth Girls' High School and Sacred Heart Girls' College. There is also a new Inglewood to New Plymouth school service while the Ōkato to New Plymouth Boys' High route has been updated.

Feedback to date has been overwhelmingly positive, with passengers appreciating the improved accessibility and simplicity.



## Caring for Taranaki

### Support available for Taranaki residents affected by COVID-19

With COVID-19 now spreading rapidly through Taranaki, many of us will be affected in some way. If you or family members are unwell, we wish you a full recovery.

If you are self-isolating because you have COVID-19 or are a household contact make a plan and reach out to your networks. Think about who can safely deliver essential supplies to you. But if you are having trouble accessing food or other items call the Government's welfare support line 0800 512 337, 7 days a week from 8am-8pm.

If you employ staff or are self-employed, you can apply for Government COVID-19 financial support – this includes farmers. Go to [www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19](https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19).

Over the coming weeks TDHB is running a series of rural community vaccination clinics. First, second, booster and tamariki (5 and over) vaccinations are available, as are MMR immunisations for those aged 15-30. **No bookings needed, just walk in.** The DHB's vaccination team will be happy to answer questions and talk through any concerns you may have.

For more information about regular or pop-up vaccination clinics in Taranaki, or to keep up-to-date with the situation in our region, please visit [www.tdhb.org.nz](https://www.tdhb.org.nz).

### COVID-19 rural community vaccination clinics

Open 12pm to 6pm

March		
7	Inglewood	TET Stadium
8	Whangamōmona	Whangamōmona Community Hall
9	Kaimata	Kaimata Community Hall
10	Toko	Toko Hall
15	Rahotu	Domain Rugby Club
16	Oaonui	Oaonui Hall
17	Ōkato	Hempton Hall
18	Pihama	Pihama Community Hall
21	Auroa	Auroa Hall
22	Kaponga	Kaponga Hall
23	Bell Block	Fred Tucker Community Centre
24	Te Kiri	Te Kiri Hall
28	Eltham	Town Hall
29	Pātea	Hunter Shaw Building
30	Mimi	Waitoetoe Hall

*Kia kaha Taranaki, we've got this.*

**Unite against COVID-19**

## Your Councillors

### New Plymouth Constituency

Tom Cloke	tom.cloke@trc.govt.nz
David Lean	david.lean@trc.govt.nz
Charlotte Littlewood	charlotte.littlewood@trc.govt.nz
Elvisa Van Der Leden	elvisa.vanderleden@trc.govt.nz
Craig Williamson	craig.williamson@trc.govt.nz

### North Taranaki Constituency

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

### South Taranaki Constituency

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

### Stratford Constituency

Matthew McDonald	matthew.mcdonald@trc.govt.nz
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Read the newsletter online:  
[www.trc.govt.nz/talking-taranaki/](https://www.trc.govt.nz/talking-taranaki/)



# How to combat effluent odour

Got a smelly effluent pond? Or do neighbours complain about the smell of effluent when you spread? Never fear. There are solutions to strong smelling effluent...



MICHAEL PRESTIDGE

**The cause**

It's important to understand the reason your effluent might have a particularly strong smell to determine the best solution. The most common reasons for strong smelling effluent are:

- **Stagnation** – the effluent has been stored for a long time.
- **Aeration** – the effluent has been stored in unventilated storage, or below crust.

- **Lack of biological activity** – there's not enough good bacteria to kill the odour producing bad bacteria.

**Recommended solutions Pump Regularly**

Try to keep a good pumping regime to avoid effluent sitting too long in storage.



Keep an eye on the smell of your effluent pond.

As nutrients sit unused, they degrade, and like anything left to degrade, the odour increases the longer it is left.

Over summer or when it's dry, try to keep the pond/storage as low as possible. Not only will you be giving the ground a good dose of nutrients, but you'll have plenty of storage available for when the wet season sets in.

**Stir often and well**

Giving the effluent a good stir not only works to prevent crust forming and solids settling, it also gives the effluent some needed aeration. Just like food left sitting in a container, a stagnant effluent pond, tank or bladder tank will start to form a strong odour.

Use **PondBugs™** consistently

Regularly adding a dose of PondBugs to your effluent storage will help promote the biological activity needed for healthy effluent.

The PondBugs are an added dose of good bacteria that work to kill the not so good, odour producing bacteria. They also reduce pond crusting, improve the nutrient value, and reduce greenhouse emissions along

with other benefits.

**Avoid highly toxic cleaners**

When cleaning out the cow shed or anywhere that will wash into effluent storage, avoid highly toxic washes that use chemicals like chlorine. These highly toxic chemicals do a great job of cleaning and killing off germs...which also means the good bacteria in your effluent pond. This could be the cause of reduced biological activity in the effluent storage, and therefore increased odour. Use of these chemicals would also prevent natural effluent supplements like PondBugs from working.

**Apply with low pressure applicators**

Lastly, if you do have smelly effluent, use a low-pressure irrigator or an applicator like a RainWave for slurry tankers or Drag Hose systems. These low-pressure systems minimise the amount of wind drift, so you're less likely to get complaints from neighbours about the smell!

*Michael Prestidge  
Nevada Effluent  
Management Specialist*

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## Thumbs up for broadband

he announcement of a big push to upgrade capacity on congested rural broadband networks gets a big thumbs up from Federated Farmers.

“Every year Feds surveys members on broadband and cellphone coverage in rural areas, to gather data on the worst blackspots and inform our advocacy to government,” Federated Farmers NZ President and telecommunications spokesperson Andrew Hoggard says.

“The frustration of farming families whose businesses, distance education and everyday activities are hampered by poor or sometimes non-existent services comes through loud and clear.

“So news that upgrades to existing cell towers and construction of new towers should see 47,000 rural

households and businesses experience faster internet speeds and better reception by the end of 2024 will come as a relief.”

Agricultural production, not to mention meeting the swathes of new regulations and requirements coming at farmers on freshwater protection, greenhouse gas emissions and more, increasingly relies on fast and reliable internet connectivity, Andrew says.

As the government has just acknowledged, COVID restrictions - with more remote health consultations, remote learning and maintaining family connections - has added new layers of demand.

“The Rural Capacity Upgrade will help, so kudos to the government,” Andrew says.

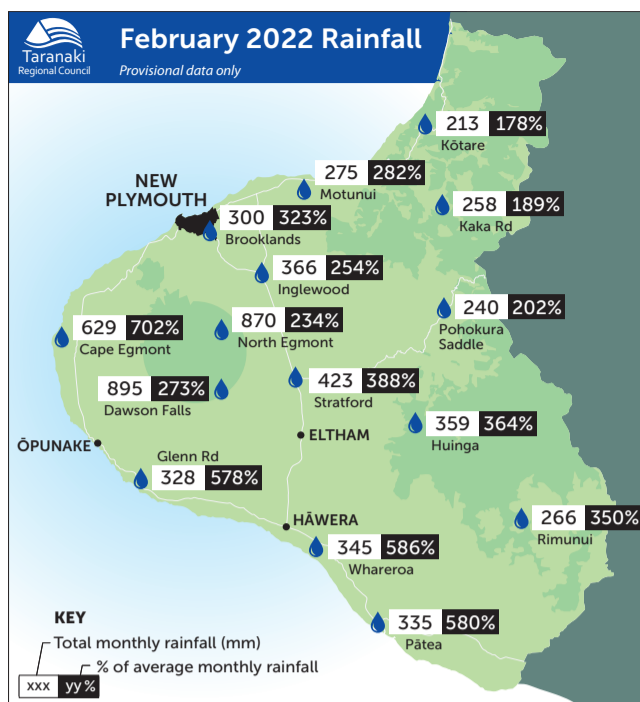


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# Weather records take a smashing

Rainfall for February was extremely high with sites receiving between 178% and 702% of normal, with an average of 354%. This rainfall really only occurred on a handful of days, February 5-7 and then a week later from February 11-13. The rainfall site at Cape Egmont recorded 628.6mm for the month, which is the highest February rainfall recorded for the site since records began in 1930. In just 24 hours, 413.2mm of rain fell on February 5-6 with the previous 24 hour maximum rainfall being 139.0 mm recorded in October 1998. Rainfall intensities were high for this event, with more than 44 mm of rain in a hour being recorded in two separate occasions at the site. Patea, Hawera, Manaia and Te Kiri also recorded extreme rainfall during February with rainfall ranging between



578% and 666% of normal. Te Maunga recorded between 221% and 273% of normal rainfall, with North Egmont recording its second

highest February rainfall on record with 869.5mm and Dawson falls recording its third highest with 895.0 mm. Twelve sites recorded

new maximum February rainfalls, these were: Kahui Hut, Mangorei Upper, Hillsborough, Brooklands, Te Kiri, Manaia, Hawera, Patea, Waitotara at Coast, Moana Trig, Omaru at Charlies and Cape Egmont.

Year to date rainfall is now ranging between 89% and 348% of normal, with an average of 181%. Kotare (near Tongaporutu), has recorded just 89% of normal with 232.5 mm, while Cape Egmont has recorded 348% with 646.6mm to date. With this February rainfall Cape Egmont has already received 47% of its normal annual rainfall to date.

Due to the higher than normal rainfall all river flows were above normal for the month by between 261% and 890%. The Kapoiaia and Tawhiti Streams recorded new February maximum flows, with 61,484 L/s (previous 36,284 L/s) and

16,135 L/s (previous 6,919 L/s) respectively.

Water temperatures for the month were below normal for all sites by between 0.22°C and 1.14°C, except the Waiwhakaihō River at Egmont Village that recorded its normal mean water temperature of 16.50°C.

Air temperatures were above normal throughout the region, with a mean air temperature, excluding Te Maunga, of 18.76°C, which was 0.70°C higher than the long term average. Eight sites recorded new February maximum air temperatures and they were: Mangorei Bushline, Motunui, Hillsborough, Cape Egmont, Manaia, Whareroa, Ngutuwera and Waitotara Coast. Waitotara Coast also recorded the maximum air temperature for the month with 30.96°C.

Soil moisture for the

month were above normal by between 1.48% and 12.31%, for all sites except Okoki, which had a mean soil moisture 0.91% lower than its February long term average. Okoki also recorded a new minimum soil moisture with 12.91%. Three sites recorded new maximum soil moisture for the month, these were, Cape Egmont, Te Kiri and Manaia, this was due to the significant rainfall that fell in these areas.

Soil temperature was generally above normal for all sites by between 0.06°C and 2.08°C, except for Manaia, which had a mean soil temperature 0.66°C lower than the long term February mean. Motunui recorded a new maximum soil temperature with 23.72°C, which was 1.01°C cooler than the previous February maximum.

## Beware the energy vampire

Analysis from Consumer NZ has found an innocuous kiwi classic, the old fridge residing in the garage or shed could driving up household power costs across the country, adding approximately \$200 annually to electricity bills.

A typical fridge today uses 40 percent less power than a comparable fridge from 20 years ago due to efficiency improvements. When you put away an old fridge in the garage or shed as a spare, you could be inadvertently introducing a nasty energy sucker to your home.

Fridges work best in spaces like cosy kitchens, where temperature variations are relatively small. Fridges in areas with large temperature fluctuations – such as an uninsulated shed or garage – have to work extra hard to keep contents cold and use more power to do so.

“You’ll typically pay about \$110 a year to run a relatively new fridge. That’s about \$70 per annum less

than the running costs of a 20-year-old fridge. Put that old fridge out on the garage and things get even worse – you can expect to be paying more than \$200 per year in electricity costs just to run it, and that’s assuming the fridge is in good working order. Costs rise when fridges get older as the seals degrade and internal parts lose their efficiency”, said Paul Fuge, Consumer NZ Powerswitch manager.

Wellington couple Madeleine and Kevin inadvertently inherited an energy vampire when they bought their home ten years ago. The previous owner had left an old fridge in the shed. It seemed useful for additional cold storage, and it seemed to work fine when they plugged it in. Consumer NZ contacted the manufacturer and determined the fridge was 22 years old.

Consumer NZ placed a power meter on the fridge and found running

the secondary fridge was costing hundreds of dollars a year. The couple have now banished their energy vampire, by turning it off.

“There are times a second fridge comes in handy. Parties, visitors, and family reunions can create a sudden need for extra fridge space temporarily. To have one without breaking the bank, ensure your fridge is only on when needed, keep it aired when empty, and try and keep your fridge full when you’re using it – thermal mass helps regulate the temperature inside, so it doesn’t have to work as hard”, said Fuge.

Using Powerswitch, Madeleine and Kevin were also able to find a cheaper power plan. By turning off the old fridge and changing power plans they will be shaving approximately \$800 off their annual electricity bill.

If you need to get rid of your old fridge, don’t throw it in the landfill. It contains

freon – a fluorocarbon that does the hard work keeping the fridge cold. Freon will melt ice caps if released into the wild, so it needs to be safely extracted and disposed.

The extraction of freon is usually why you’re charged

a fee to dispose of a fridge or freezer. Newer fridges don’t use freon, as they were banned in most countries and replaced with a less environmentally damaging refrigerant.

Most councils accept

fridges at a transfer station, but you’ll need to transport it there. Recycling businesses can also come to collect the fridge, usually charging a small fee of \$20 or \$30.

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# Electric milk tanker helps drive emissions down

The country's first electric milk tanker, a solar-panelled bus, electric off-road farm vehicles and new high powered EV charging stations are among projects to receive co-funding from the Government's new-look Low Emission Transport Fund (LETF), the Minister of Energy and Resources Dr Megan Woods has announced.

"The LETF is all about finding replicable solutions through innovative transport and infrastructure. The projects included in this

round show the potential for electric and low-emissions transport across a wide range of sectors: from all-terrain farm vehicles to heavy freight. Some of these are hard to decarbonise, so this is great progress towards reducing our transport emissions," says Megan Woods.

"We know it makes sense to partner with business as we continue our Covid-19 economic recovery, so we can simultaneously bring down emissions, and seize the opportunities that come

from creating new jobs in new industries. Focusing on transport in this way will also help us reduce New Zealand's reliance on global energy prices. That's why tackling climate change is such a core part of our economic strategy.

In total, 13 vehicle and technology projects will receive \$3,452,025, and 13 EV charging projects will receive \$3,001,400 in co-funding. Fonterra will operate New Zealand's first electric 46T milk tanker with battery-swap technology

at the Waitoa Depot, near Tauranga.

Bayes Coachlines will build a passenger bus with solar panels providing 5-10% of its own power and designed to have greater range and less maintenance than other electric buses.

MyFleet Rural will launch four Pickman 4WD, fully electric off-road UTVs throughout New Zealand at Field Days and A&P Shows.

Firth Industries will deploy New Zealand's first electric battery-swap concrete mixer truck, to operate in Penrose.

IntDevice will work with Auckland Transport to deploy a wireless charging ground pad solution at the Ti Rakau Drive depot for an Auckland Transport bus.

KiwiH2Ltd has exclusively licensed a commercialised dual fuel product from the UK, which converts diesel vehicles to run on 40% hydrogen, aiming to save 40% emissions. This will help fleets decarbonise until commercially available and viable 100% zero emission options are available in New Zealand. They will convert

two trucks to use this technology in this project.

Zenobe will supplement DC charging capability in grid-constrained areas by installing second-life electric bus batteries.

"The Government expanded the scope of the LETF to increase its impact and encourage innovation in the transport sector. These latest projects show the fund is doing what it is designed to do, with the sector embracing clean energy in some very sophisticated ways," says Megan Woods.

## Adapt now or never



Earth's climate is at a point of crisis.

Our narrow window for climate adaptation is closing, according to the latest international report - and how well we do it is a human rights issue.

The second section of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s latest report outlines how we can adapt to climate change threats.

And it says the costs will tend to pile highest on people who are least equipped to pay them.

"We are not all in this together," said report author Professor Bronwyn Hayward. "This is not all

about building seawalls and sirens, it's about investing in income protection, healthcare and education."

Dr Judy Lawrence, also an author of the report, said focusing on the most at-risk people will bring the biggest benefits, but the pace needs to drastically increase.

"Liveability of our cities is at stake... adaptation is going to have to ramp up," she said, "or there's going to be very stressed cities."

Farmers are already adapting to increased floods and droughts with actions like adjusting sowing times, but they too need to pick up

the pace, said report author Professor Anita Wreford.

"We know that these incremental changes will not be so effective and will reach their limits. There is a need there for more transformative changes to deal with increased frequency of events."

The report highlights indigenous knowledge and practices will be critical in responding to climate change. Waikato University Associate Professor Sandy Morrison agrees.

"You can see how quickly the world can react and find money in terms of the

Covid pandemic," Morrison, a contributing author to the report, said. "We don't seem to have the same rapid response when it comes to climate change and yet this is what Māori have been talking about for years."

The overarching theme according to report author Professor Bruce Glavovic: time is of the essence.

"Any further delay in concerted anticipatory global action on adaptation and mitigation will miss a brief and rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all."

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# Local knowledge will be put to good use

New CRV sales consultant Brooke Kennett will be a familiar face to many as she makes her way around farms in Coastal Taranaki over the next few months.

Brooke grew up on a Pihama dairy farm and has worked in various agriculture roles around the district, including most recently at Taranaki Vets. Her local knowledge and understanding of what Taranaki farmers are facing means she is well equipped to offer tailored solutions.

“Even though I had grown up on a dairy farm, it wasn’t until I went farming myself that I truly understood how each decision is crucial to ensuring your business is profitable in the long term,” says Brooke.

“With new demands on farmers, you really have to have the most efficient animals to keep ahead of the game. Making the right breeding choices is tough, especially with time constraints, and if I can make that decision-making process easier in any way, then I will consider that a win.”

After graduating from Lincoln with a Bachelor of Commerce (agriculture) Brooke spent time overseas before returning home, meeting her husband Logan,



CRV sales consultant Brooke Kennett.

and going dairy farming. They are now 50/50 sharemilking on a small farm near Manaia.

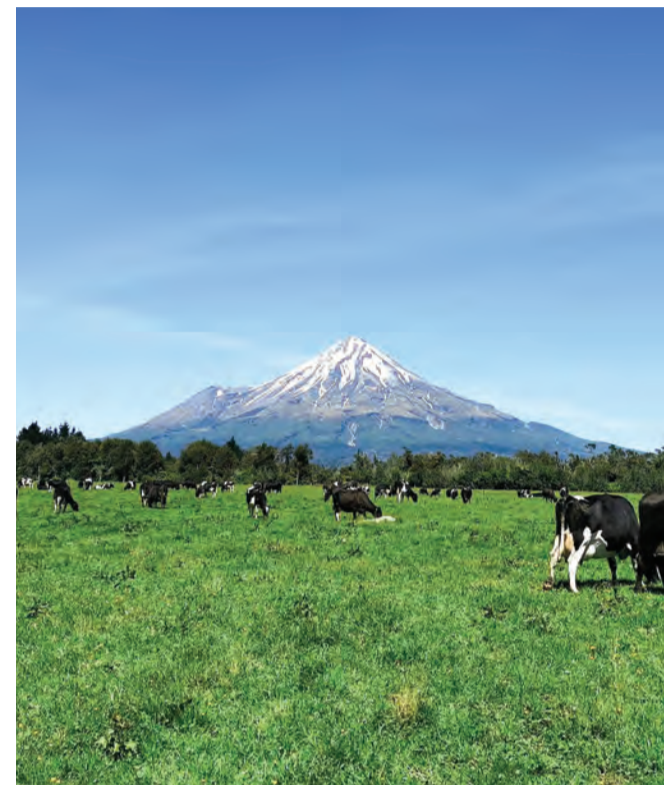
Joining herd improvement company, CRV, has allowed Brooke to pursue her interests in genetics.

“It wasn’t until we owned cows that I took more of an interest in genetics beyond seeing a cow as a generally

nice friendly cow. Now I want to have the best cows that display a range of traits to help drive our business.”

“I can’t wait to help local farmers achieve their goals by breeding a healthier and more efficient herd.”

To contact Brooke email [brooke.Kennett@crv4all.co.nz](mailto:brooke.Kennett@crv4all.co.nz) or phone 027 499 0162.



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# Opunake Boat and Underwater Club 2022 Tournament results

There was another successful tournament this year with some magnificent fishing days early on. This was followed by an ugly week, and then another two nice days towards the end of the tournament.

There were 37 boats entered with a record 185 anglers and 25 divers registered this year. The Gibson's Plumbing Lucky Snapper Draw was again keenly sought after with 57 people having a fish weighed in, the most ever in this draw.

Unfortunately, due to the large number of entries involved and with COVID restrictions on numbers we were forced to cancel the official prize giving and complimentary dinner evening, so all draws were carried out by the committee with a few onlookers on the Sunday afternoon.

Our usual auctions were set up as "Silent" auctions over the last few days which made things interesting but actually went as well as if we had done our traditional "Live" auctions.

The AgFirst \$1000 Early Bird draw was won by Ed Spicer and the \$1000 Lucky Snapper by Matt Cathie. Congratulations to these two young guys.

The annual five Rod and Reel set Raffle draw was won

by Jess Sayer again. Second year running. The second and fourth draws were both won by Jacob Foley, the third by Rusty Campbell and the fifth and final draw by Roger MacDonald.

The section placings were as follows

Snapper; first with 10.15 kg, Sean Luttrell, followed by Gavin Fox, Josh Cathie, Dave Cathie, Steve Corkill, Shannon McMillan, Mark Neal, Mike Walsh, Andy Nichols and Jess Sayer.

Blue Cod; first with a whopping 2.58 kg cod was Phil Sandford, followed by Ben Gibson, David Gibson, Matt Cathie and Gordon Beekman.

Kahawai first with a very nice 3.51 kg fish, Koby Sinclair, followed by Shannon McMillan, Lindsay Murfitt, Samuel Drought and Paul Mundt.

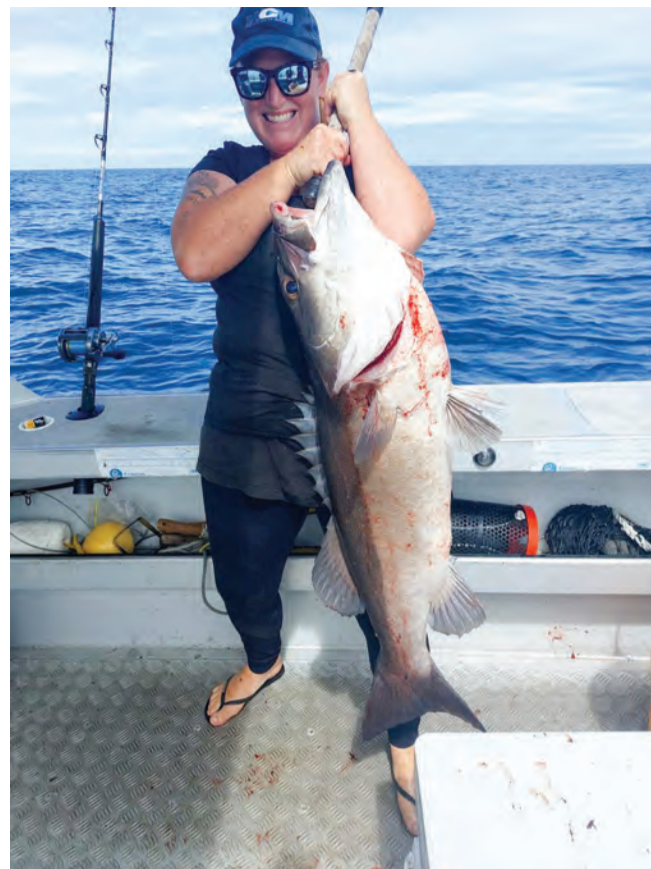
Gurnard; first with a 1.06 kg fish, Shaun Ehrhorn, followed by Gavin Fox, and Caddy Murfitt.

King Fish; first with a 12.5 kg fish, Tony Campbell followed by Paddy Walsh and Dom Tatham.

Tarakihi; first with a 1.63 kg fish, Steve Corkill, followed by Cam Stanley and Stephen Mourie.

Trevally; first with a 3.47 kg fish, Ben Gibson, followed by Caddy Murfitt and Jacob Foley.

Hapuku; first with a nice 14.75 kg, Jess Sayer, followed by Andrew Corkill and David Gibson.



Jess Sayer caught this Hapuku - first place with a nice 14.75 kg.



Tony Campbell first in his section with a 12.5 kg King Fish.

bubbles!

With the funds raised and grants and donations from so many we are now in a position to go ahead with our overdue ramp wall

repairs this autumn, weather permitting.

OBUC Commodore Simon, Head Organiser Gary and the Committee.



Dan Morgan with a 3.32kg John Dory.

Tuna; first with a 13.8 kg fish, Brian Quin, followed by Tracey Fogarty and Josh Hill.

John Dory; first with a good 3.32 kg, Dan Morgan, followed by Stacey Foley and Simon Foley.

Crayfish; first with a 2.15 kg, Andy Nichols, followed by Jason Transom and Simon Drought.

The Top Boat trophy with the most section points accumulated went to Big Blue, followed by Recession and Black Ops.

A massive thank you to all our sponsors and to all those who took part this year and made this tournament so successful. It was so nice to be able to get out and have some fun in our boat



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# Public asked to take extra care at beaches

While drowning numbers have been high this summer, the beach and coastal fatalities would have been far worse if not for the efforts of the country's Surf Lifesaving Service. Every fatal drowning is a tragedy, but there have been no deaths between the red and yellow flags this summer.

An early start to the warm weather saw packed beaches even before the start of patrol season on Labour Weekend, particularly in the Auckland and Northern regions which were under lockdown. The heat continued over the school holiday period driving large numbers of

New Zealanders to the beach to cool off.

Despite contending with the evolving landscape of Covid-19 restrictions lifeguard patrols have been maintained at all Surf Life Saving Clubs across the country. Seventy four volunteer Surf Life Saving Clubs continued to provide seasonal patrols, starting on Labour Weekend and ending after Easter, including one new club which joined the Surf Life Saving ranks this year at Baylys Beach, Northland.

Surf Life Saving New Zealand Central Region Manager, Charlie Cordwell

says, "It has obviously been a challenging summer right across the Central Region. I am delighted with how the lifeguards in the region have performed, they have done an excellent job."

Data for the last ten years (2020-2021) shows a staggering level of activity undertaken to keep people safe at the beach. There have been 11,364 rescues, 7,866 assists, 1,136,315 preventative actions, 3,397 searches, and 24,163 first aid treatments.

While summer has officially ended and many weekday patrols have now ceased, the lifeguards' job



Opunake Surf Lifesaving Club Members training.

is not completely over with meteorological reports predicting that higher than average temperatures will continue until Easter. Many beaches still have volunteer lifeguards present on weekends over the next few weeks (some going right through until Easter) and the Surf Life Saving Search and Rescue squads are on standby for callouts all year round.

Surf Life Saving New Zealand CEO, Paul Dalton, asks beachgoers to take extra care as the patrolling season

starts to wind down around the country.

"We want New Zealanders to continue to enjoy outings to the beach if this epic warm weather continues, but ask that they do it safely.

"Choose a lifeguarded beach where possible and swim between the red and yellow flags. Please be cautious if you're visiting a beach without lifeguards on patrol. Do your homework and check for the risks, don't overestimate your abilities and if in doubt stay out of the water."

Beachgoers can go to [www.safeswim.org.nz](http://www.safeswim.org.nz) to find out which beaches are patrolled and when lifeguards are on duty. The site also provides information on the hazards at a beach, such as strong wind or currents, to help plan a safe day out.

Read and understand the safety signs – and if surf lifeguards are on patrol ask them for advice as conditions can change regularly

- Don't overestimate your ability or your children's ability to cope in the conditions

- Always keep a close eye on very young children in or near the water – always keep them within arm's reach

- Get a friend to swim with you – never swim or surf alone

- Watch out for rip currents, they can carry you away from shore. If caught in a rip current remember the 3Rs: \*Relax and float, \*Raise your hand and \*Ride the rip

- Be smart around rocks: When fishing never turn your back towards the sea and always wear a lifejacket

- If you see someone in trouble, call 111 and ask for the Police

- Be sun smart – slip, slop, slap and wrap to protect your skin and eyes from the sun's damaging rays.

## Opunake Bowling Club



Egmont Shield Winners 2021-22, Opunake. (from left) Anne Woods, Heather Radford, Chris Commame, Kay Fleming, Joy Collins, Pauline Davy, Eileen Rothwell, Val Langton. Absent: Nell L'Ami, Marilyn Watts, Karen Wallace.

On February 8 the Opunake Ladies won the final of the Egmont Patrons Shield. Opunake being the Southern Division winners played Northern Division winner Waitara at Stratford Avon. Each club had two teams, and they played one game, with Opunake winning both. This was a great day, friendly but played with determination. All four teams went out to lunch together in Stratford.

On February 27 a very successful Under 8s tournament was held in brisk windy conditions. Good music added to the popular event. Many teams have already entered for next year's tournament. This year there will be four teams on the waiting list. First. Kaylin Huwyler, Lois agnew and Janelle Lane. Second. Kurt Smith, Briar Atkinson-Watt and Lesley Te Awa. Third. Dean File, Judy Crawford and Lea File.

Many thanks to all the sponsors. There was a great prize list and all teams received a prize.

The Women's Pairs Final was played in very strong and cold winds on February 28. After the allotted 21 ends the teams were even, so a sudden death end was played. The winners after the three and a half

hour marathon were Eileen Rothwell and Val Langton, who beat Chris Commame and Esther Ward-Campbell.

The final of the Men's Championship was played in perfect playing conditions on March 5. Pairs were won for the second year in a row by Kewene Ratahi and Daryl MacKenzie.

On March 5, three juniors contested the Men's Junior Singles in a round robin competition. They were Kewene Ratahi, Daryl MacKenzie and Levi Davis, with Kewene emerging victorious.

*Kay Fleming.*

## Sandfords Manaia Golf results

Ambrose. 1. Hakana Matata./ 2. Golfing Gibbies. 3. Hot Nuts. 4. The B.A. 5. 20 Whacks.

February 26. Saturday Men. 1. Noddy Symes. 2. Rod Le Fleming. 3. Trevor Larsen. 4. John Oliver.

March 5. Saturday Men. Symes Challenge Cup. Won by the Symes family. 1. Cory Symes. 2. Joshua Symes. 3. Cody Clark. 4. Phil Elliott. 5. Grant Hastie.

Juniors. Chipping over Goal Post. 1. Nixin Laing. 2. Carter Symes. 3. Caleb Symes. 4. Katie King. 5. Ash Laing and Archie Joyce.

Chipping into Umbrella. Carter Symes and Archie Joyce.



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VITAMIN A, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory. Boost the immune system.

ZINC. The essential mineral, everyday immunity, skin maintenance, hormonal health, vision. Signs you may be low in zinc are white spots on the nails, ongoing low immunity, loss of taste, poor skin healing.

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**Runners up National Bowling Final Janice Walsh , National president Fay Leonard , Raewyn Fredrickson and Ann Chisnall.**

# Manaiia Women's Institute

Manaiia Women's Institute were runners up at the Women's Institute National Bowling Final in late January and won the regional competition. On February 21 they represented the West Coast North Island region and went to Wellington to play off for the National Women's Institute final. The team members were Janice Walsh, Ann Chisnall and skip Raewyn Fredrickson

There were six teams competing and Manaiia came home with the runner up title. A South Island team from Romahapa won the title.

# Water runs clear after \$10 million project

After \$10 million and three years of hard work by New Plymouth District Council (NPDC), Inglewood's water is running clear again. The long-standing issue of discoloured water coming out of the town's taps has been resolved, with one-third of Inglewood's water pipes replaced and the project coming in under budget. Minerals were settling on the bottom of pipes and then being stirred up when they were flushed as part of maintenance. Adding to the problem was the age of the pipes and their cast iron composition. During the project, long-lasting plastic pipes have replaced 74% of the asbestos concrete pipes, 97% of cast iron pipes and 90% of steel pipes in Inglewood. In all, 15 kilometres (33%) of pipes have been replaced and the number of pipes in very poor condition has been reduced from 24% to just 6%. The final project cost is expected to be \$10.6 million, below the planned \$10.9 million.

"Our people have a right to expect safe, high quality drinking water from Council," says Mayor of New Plymouth District Neil Holdom. "Fixing Inglewood's discoloured water is a major project, as we tackle the district's water woes by investing \$248 million over the next decade to fix the plumbing." "It's required careful planning, a lot of coordination with residents and businesses, and the patience of locals when their streets were disrupted during construction," he says.

"The number of complaints about brown water in the town is almost zero and that is exactly the result we are working towards for locals who have had to endure the issues for a very long time." In October last year, two \$18 million water reservoirs on Henwood and Mountain roads were completed, adding the equivalent of 36,000 full bathtubs to the supply for Bell Block, Waitara, Lepperton and further north.

*Don't be shy!*

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# Oxfam Trailwalker 2022 goes digital

Due to the omicron outbreak and the current 'Traffic Light' setting, the Oxfam Trailwalker was due to take place in the Taranaki region this March will go digital.

Teams will be able to track and share their progress online on their own epic journey of 50km or 100km from anywhere in Aotearoa.

So far participants have raised over \$450,000 for the vital work we do across the Pacific and the world.

Oxfam Trailwalker Your Way will kick off on the March 26, with participants having until the April 4 (10 days) to complete their chosen distance (50km or 100km).

There will be over 1400 Kiwis taking part in the event Oxfam Aotearoa fundraising director Angela Janse van Rensburg said this new format titled Oxfam Trailwalker Your Way is a first for Oxfam Aotearoa:

"At Oxfam, the safety and welfare of all people are paramount in everything we do. With that in mind, and with Omicron case numbers rising daily, we have made the difficult decision to remove the in-person element from Oxfam Trailwalker 2022.

"Participants and teams

taking on the Oxfam Trailwalker challenge have been training hard for the event and have raised over \$450,000. So, although we're thrilled to bring a flexible version of the event, we acknowledge many will be feeling disappointed that we cannot meet in person this year.

"That said, we are excited to be able to bring our participants Oxfam Trailwalker Your Way. Teams will be able to track and share their progress online on their own epic journey of 50km or 100km from anywhere in Aotearoa while keeping themselves and others safe."

Oxfam Aotearoa Co-Chairs Luella Linaker and Luc Shorter said: "This change very much reflects the times we live in, and with the uncertainty the pandemic has brought to so many of us, this change will now give certainty for all Oxfam Trailwalker participants and support crew.

"We want to acknowledge the incredible hard work participants have put in so far, including raising money for the vital work we do across the Pacific and the world.

We want to acknowledge our dedicated Oxfam Aotearoa staff who are working tirelessly to bring Oxfam Trailwalker 2022 together.

Venture Taranaki director Justine Gilliland said:

"Despite no longer running the event physically in Taranaki, Oxfam's innovative approach to event delivery is to be applauded. They have provided a solution to those who have committed to undertaking the trail, as well as supporting local businesses, and individuals across the country during such challenging times for events.

"We encourage all of the teams to make the most of the challenge, and to keep their existing travel plans by coming to visit us in the region to get a taste of some of our trails and to reward themselves with some of our other unique sights, art, food and experiences."

As the original Oxfam Trailwalker track includes private land, Venture Taranaki has provided a list of public tracks and trails so individuals and teams can make the most of the region. The private tracks will not be available to the public.

# Robert Duncan to the rescue

The well-known artist Renee Amitae from Los Angeles had reserved the exhibition to show in March on the Virtual Tart site. But her beloved husband had just died of COVID, and she was, of course, too distraught to think of putting together an exhibition of her work.

With just a week to go before the deadline for writing the code, who could I ask to fill the spot? And the answer: littlebobbyduncan of New Jersey, USA. The artist of all media, and the friend



The Joys of littlebobbyduncan

the man, the attitude, the work, do have a look.

His exhibition is on the Virtual Tart site for March, and I thank him. His attitude, of finding immense joy in what he does, is a lesson for all of us.

(While you're there, follow the link to see his own website and you'll know why he's always been called 'littlebobbyduncan'.) A giant of a friend.

for all times.

If you don't know Robert,

Dale Copeland



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# Cradle Song at Cue Theatre



New Zealand playwright Albert Belz.

**CRADLE SONG**  
By Albert Belz  
Directed by Sharren Read

\$24.00 pp  
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groups 10+

6th - 16th April 2022  
7.30pm @ Cue Theatre, Inglewood  
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Content/Language  
May Offend

Cradle Song received development assistance from Playmarket

There are some strange comings and goings happening at Inglewood's Cue Theatre. They are rehearsing their next production 'Cradle Song' by New Zealand playwright Albert Belz. This award winning play, directed by Sharren Read, takes storytelling to another level. This play relies heavily on technology to create a mysterious and creepy atmosphere.

Sharren Read is very grateful for the support of some of our local 'creatives'. Lighting, sound and special effects star alongside the talented

and committed cast; Laurie Neville, Elicia-May Hitchcock, Shae Trownson, Kate Hansen, Christine King and Michelle Brougham. Sharren believes this play will offer audiences a new experience in theatre. She hopes they will walk away a little bit transformed, a little bit uplifted, questioning what was and thoroughly entertained.

'A nunnery is the setting for this chilling play. Belz wrote it after he heard about a mass children's grave being discovered in Tuam, Ireland. Two young women, Hahana

and Angie find themselves desperately seeking accommodation at an isolated convent, that was once a home for unmarried mothers, in the middle of nowhere as they travel through Ireland on their big OE. Creepy gets even creepier as a mysterious figure known as Briar Faith begins to haunt them, and they must uncover the traumas that lie buried in the place's history. Two nuns live alone in the convent, sometimes helped by the local mechanic Bartley. What do these three know and what are they not

telling? This story is disturbing, ominous and foreboding. This play is a bit witty and a lot compelling. Things take an unexpected turn and everyone is forced to confront their realities and come to terms with the roles they play in each other's lives. Slowly fear takes hold as events unfold and the play's curse of revenge seem to hold true and the cast find themselves caught up in a terrifying ghost story.

The play's season is 6<sup>th</sup> April-16<sup>th</sup> April. Tickets can be booked online <https://www.cuetheatre.co.nz/book-online/>

## Are you ready for Revolting Children and the Trunchbull to hit Taranaki?

The New Plymouth Operatic Society is thrilled to announce the final role of the headmistress Miss Trunchbull will be played by Justin Clinton-Gohdes.

Clinton-Gohdes is no newcomer to the NPOS having appeared as the Wizard in last year's production of *Wicked* and as the Bishop in *Les Miserables* for the society in 2018. With an extensive theatrical background, Justin is sure to please as he takes on the horrid Agatha Trunchbull, whose iconic character has tormented many a child reading the Roald Dahl classic.

The full cast has now been announced and begins their rehearsal schedule in preparation for opening night on July 7th at the TSB Showplace.

Tickets have sold in record numbers to date and this certainly not only demonstrates the popularity this musical has, but also the hope and desperation



Justin Clinton-Gohdes will be playing Miss Trunchbull in the New Plymouth Operatic Society Show Matilda.

audiences have to see quality live theatre again. *Matilda*, the Musical is directed by Carolyn Murphy, with Christopher Luke as musical director and Alannah Matthews as choreographer.

The show opens on July 7 and runs through to July 23 for a strictly limited season.

Tickets are available at Ticketek or at the TSB Showplace box office.

The cast is as follows:

*Matilda* Wormwood (Jointly played by) Bella Roubos, Layla O'Brien and Leah Gunson  
*Agatha Trunchbull* Justin Clinton-Gohdes  
*Miss Honey* Jess Stafford-Old  
Mr. Harry Wormwood Shaun Murphy  
*Mrs. Zinnia Wormwood* Krystal Leuthard  
*Michael Wormwood* Keegan Pulman  
*Mrs. Phelps* Donna Yeats  
*Rudolpho* Jesse Pearson

### CHURCH NOTICES

#### Opunake Co-operating Parish

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

#### Okato Co-operating Parish

Okato - St Pauls - 10.00am, 1st and 3rd Sundays each month  
Okato - St Pauls - 5.00pm, Evensong, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays each month  
Oakura - St James - 10.00am, 2nd and 4th Sundays each month

#### 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  
Maniaia - Sacred Heart - 1st, 3rd Sat at 5pm  
(2nd, 4th & 5th Sat at Hawera's St Josephs)  
Kaponga - St Patricks, Sunday 8.45am  
All welcome

#### St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato

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

#### The Wave

Pentecostal Church 64 Domett St, Opunake  
Sunday Services 10.30am  
Women's Group 10am Tuesday  
Men's Group 7pm Wednesday  
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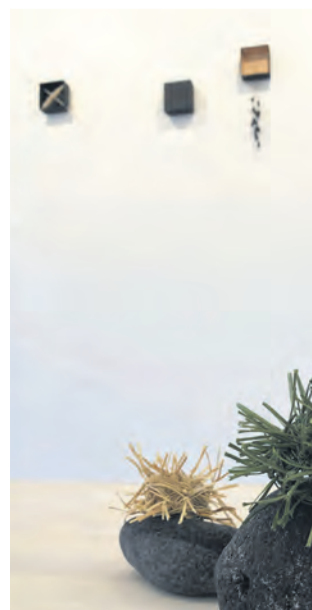
#### St. Barnabas Anglican Church

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

#### Okato Community Church

Meets 10.30am Sunday at Hempton Hall.  
Everyone welcome

## Beauty and The Beast solo exhibition of works by Isla Fabu at the from out of the blue studio gallery



In this carefully created exhibition of works, the viewer can engage with Isla's "ongoing exploration of connection to place, the nature of interbeing, and where we belong beyond human society."

The works have been created in a "time-receiving" process involving deep observation, feeling and listening to the materials being used. Muka, the inner fibre of harakeke, (NZ flax or Phormium tenax) is of particular interest and importance to Isla's current practice. In this exhibition she sites her delicately spun

and dyed muka (the beauty) adjacent to other materials (kikuyu grass) as a way of challenging what is really "beauty" and what is really "the beast."

This then asks the question of why do we view things in this good/bad construct and how can we come to see the beauty in the beast. There is a gentle thoughtful stillness to the exhibition that is enhanced by the beauty of the works and the loving care that has gone into their creation. Isla will be at the gallery until April 11.





# Celebrating 50 years exhibition

How many people have driven down Bridge St, past the Eltham Historic Society building and wondered what goes on inside?

How many have ventured in the door to enquire: look for family members past or history of their property?

For 50 years the Eltham & Districts Historical Society has been serving the district by preserving photos, newspapers and memorabilia of the districts past.

The Society is not a museum, but we do have some fascinating items of memorabilia, ranging from wartime posters to household items and even flags and maps.

To work here as a volunteer, one needs to apply a bit of detective work at times.

In a recent 'stock take' of our drawers an envelope was found with a Maori Soldier boy's photo inside. No name, except an invoice addressed to Mrs T Gardner, Patea. On further investigation and the help of Patea Historical Society, it was found to be a photo of William Wereta, the father of Topsy Gardner, Patea. To connect this photo



Maree Liddington with Lily's uniform.

Maori Battalion. This is just one item with a story that will feature in a coming exhibition at The Village Gallery, Eltham.

Also featuring is a wartime uniform from an Eltham member of the EPS. The name Lily Carmen is on the ID card; no address. It turns out that there was a Carmen's Bookshop in what is now Mike's Museum. Mr Carmen was in the Eltham Volunteer Fire Brigade, as well as being a bookseller, so it stands to reason that his daughter Lily might volunteer in the EPS. The Emergency Precautions Scheme was established in 1935 as a part of the home defence system. Its volunteer members used their fire-fighter and first aid skills in the aftermath of several natural disasters. The concept of civil defence developed out of this scheme. We are pleased to have this opportunity to display this unusual item in our gallery exhibition.

Not only wartime items will be on display. We have a collection of water colour paintings done by a Mrs Crump of Eltham around 1900. They show views of early Eltham that were never recorded by photograph. The dairy industry features quite strongly as one would

expect; dairy factory photos, paintings and prints as well as old Renco memorabilia.

Eltham Four Square is generously loaning us some

photos and memorabilia of local grocer, Jack Stark. It is hope that these will find a home at the Society after the exhibition.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS will be open at The Village Gallery from 14th March - 8th April, Monday - Saturday 10am - 3pm. Free entry.

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## CoastalCare would like to welcome Alex Jones Counsellor Bio

Alex grew up in London and has lived and worked in New Zealand since 2008. He is a father of three young boys and has lived in Taranaki since 2016. Alex is a registered counsellor (NZAC) and during his several year career so far, he has had the fortune to work in various different fields and with a variety of different presenting problems. These include, mental health, addictions, couples and family counselling, parenting difficulties, grief, trauma and violence prevention. Alex has a strong passion to ensure that people who come and talk to him feel safe and secure to tell their story and leave feeling empowered to make the changes they are needing.

"It is the client who knows what hurts, what directions to go, what problems are crucial, what experiences have been deeply buried".

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<p><b>THE BATMAN</b> Action, Crime   2hrs 55mins   M: Violence Fri 11<sup>th</sup> Mar 7pm   Mon 14<sup>th</sup> Mar 7pm</p>	<p><b>UNCHARTED</b> Action, Adventure   1hr 56mins   M: Violence Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Mar 7pm   Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Mar 7pm</p>
<p><b>THE BOOK OF LOVE</b> Comedy, Romance   1hr 46mins   M: Offensive language and sexual references Sun 13<sup>th</sup> Mar 7pm   Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Mar 7pm</p>	<p><b>SING 2</b> Animated, Family   1hrs 52mins   PG Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Mar 1pm</p>
<p><b>DEATH ON THE NILE</b> Crime, Mystery   1hrs 36mins   M: Violence Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Mar 7pm   Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Mar 1pm</p>	<p><b>MARK HUNT</b> Documentary, Sport   1hr 24mins   M: Violence, offensive language, drug use Mon 14<sup>th</sup> Mar 1pm</p>
<p><b>MONSTER FAMILY 2</b> Kids &amp; Family   1hr 43mins   PG: Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Mar 1pm   Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Mar 1pm</p>	<p><b>OFF THE RAILS</b> Comedy, Adventure   1hr 34mins   M: Offensive language &amp; sexual references Sun 27<sup>th</sup> Mar 7pm</p>

### \*\*\*TARANAKI ANNIVERSARY DAY\*\*\* Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March

**THE BATMAN**  
7pm  
Robert Pattinson is Batman in this noir reboot, said to focus on the caped crusader's detective origins. The Riddler plays a dangerous game of cat and mouse with Batman and Commissioner Gordon in Gotham City.

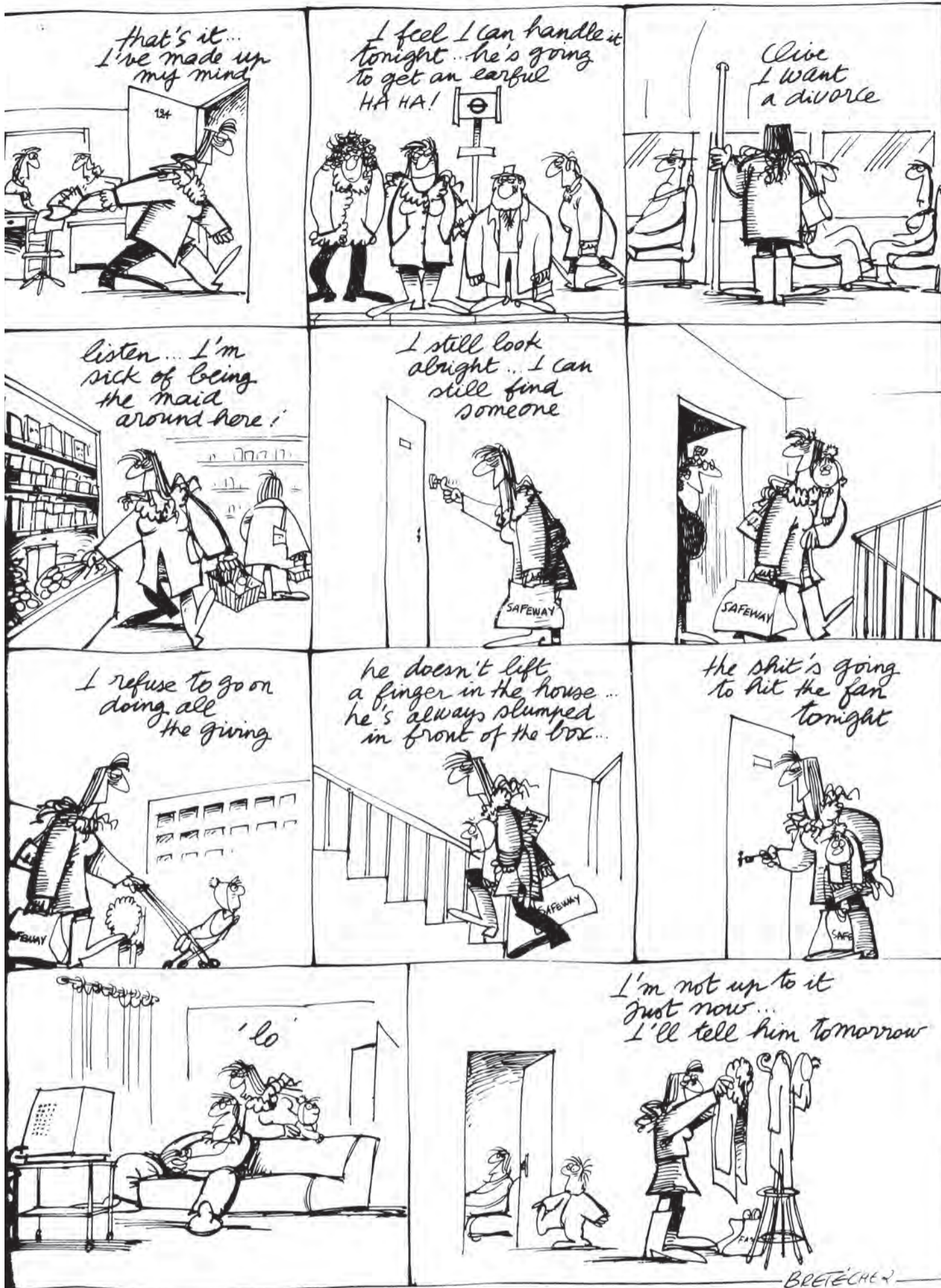


**MARK HUNT**  
1pm  
The autobiographical rags-to-riches story of Mark Hunt, the New Zealand MMA fighter who overcame staggering odds to become a UFC champion.





# DIVORCE



## What's On Listings

### ONGOING

#### Movies at Everybodys Theatre in

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

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

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

### TUESDAYS

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

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

### WEDNESDAYS

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

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

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

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

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

### THURSDAYS

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

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

### FRIDAYS

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

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

### WEEKENDS

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

### FROM JAN 18 2022

**Members New Year Exhibition:** At the Village Gallery, Eltham.

### MARCH 3 TO APRIL 11

**Solo exhibition - Isla Fabu:** At from out of the blue studio gallery, Halse Place, Opunake.

### MARCH 14 TO APRIL 8

**Celebrating 50 years:** An exhibition of photos and memorabilia at the Village Gallery, Eltham.

### APRIL 6 TO APRIL 16

**Cradle Song:** A production at CUE theatre, Inglewood. 7.30pm start.

### JUNE 11 TO 25

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

Here are a few of our new additions at Stoney Oaks wildlife Park. At left is our new Highland bull we have just purchased recently to breed with our Highland girls. His name is Hugo. We are also hand rearing two Fallow deer fawns from left Bells and Lesina. We have suffered severe torm damage at Stoney Oaks and have a lot of cleaning up to do--re fallen trees and damaged fences etc. Keep an eye on Stoney Oaks facebook page for next Open Day or ph 067567624.

Gail Simons, Stoney Oaks Wildlife Park.





**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 10 vacancies available for year 7/8 for Term 2, 2022.

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

**The deadline for applications is 3pm, Friday 25th March.**

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

**Shaun Kalin, Board of Trustees**

**TARANAKI NATIONAL ART AWARDS AGM**

**ATTENTION - TONIGHT**

On Thursday 10th March @ 7pm  
Hosted by Liz at Pihama Lavender,  
3510 South Road Pihama.  
All welcome. Drinks & nibbles provided

**LOST**

**LOST AROUND OPUNAKE** - Chrome exhaust guard for RE motorbike, approximately 180 x 80. Ph 027 7142 776, reward.

**Eltham Smallbore Rifle Club AGM**

25 March 2022  
7.30pm  
5 Pinny Drive, Eltham

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**McNEIL DECORATING**  
- for all your painting and decorating. Ph: Jason McNeil 027 233 4584.

**COASTAL GIB STOPPERS.** Phone Glenn 027 524 5745

**PUBLIC NOTICES**



Next Meeting is on April 4, 2022 at 5.30pm  
Hughsons & Associates Boardroom at the Opunake Business Centre, 23 Napier St, Opunake (opposite the Coastal Care Medical Centre)

**HCL BUILDERS** for concrete work. Ph 027 236 7129.

**HCL BUILDERS** for building decks. Ph 027 236 7129.

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

**CARPETS** second hand, large selection After Disaster Ltd 223 Devon St West, NP. Phone (06) 769 9265

**LAWNMOWING,** and section maintenance by local contractor SOS. Free quote. Ph 027 605 8437.

**WANTED TO BUY**

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

**FOR SALE**

**OLD BOTTLES** and pottery/Stone jars and crocks. Private collector. Top prices paid. Ph 021 141 8029.

**SITUATIONS VACANT**



Coastal Vets is looking for part time teatseal and dry cow therapy administrators for April/May/June. This would suit someone with experience handling cows/milking and who likes working in a fun professional team environment. Full training will be provided. The work is based out of the Opunake clinic. If you are interested please email: jpleprou@coastalvets.co.nz or phone 06 761 8105

**OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS**

**KEEP FIT & GET PAID FOR IT!**  
**Delivery people needed for parts of Manaia and Oakura.**  
**Suitable for any age.**



We pay good rates (15c per paper)

Ph 06 761 7016 and ask for Rolland.

**SITUATIONS VACANT**



**Ngaruahine Iwi Authority**  
*'Whānau Hapai ki Ngāruahine'*

Ngāruahine Iwi Authority is a health and social service provider across and beyond the Ngāruahine landscape and plays a key role in partnering with agencies and organisations to support whānau through deep and trusting relationships that offer meaningful outcomes that are culturally responsive, accessible, practical, and convenient.

We have a current vacancy readily available and invite applications for the following role:

**Whanau Ora Kaihapai [Navigator]** – Permanent Full time 40 hours per week

This is a core Community & Cultural Support role within the Ngāruahine Whānau Ora team supporting a relationship-based approach to meaningful engagement utilising our Whānau Hapai model of care in achievement of whānau plans, goals and aspirations and will work collaboratively with our Maori Health partners of Ngati Ruanui Healthcare and Tui Ora in delivery of the collective Mama Pepi & Mātua Service that aims to support whānau with tamariki under the age of five striving to ensure 'All Tamariki have the Best Start to Life'.

**Please note all positions require successful candidates to have Full Driver Licences**

**Proficiency with Ngāruahinetanga and Tikanga Maori is advantageous**  
**All new appointees will require background checks under the requirements of the Children's Act 2014**

**You must be fully vaccinated for Covid-19 before the close of 01 January to be able to fulfill the requirements of the 'Order' in this role.**

To apply for any of the above positions, please request an Application Form and Job Description by;  
Email: **Angelina.Cassidy@ngaruahine.org**  
Or, Telephone: **06 274 8047**

Applications close by **12 midday on Friday 18th March 2022**



**Ngaruahine Iwi Authority**  
*'Whānau Hapai ki Ngāruahine'*

Ngāruahine Iwi Authority is a health and social service provider across and beyond the Ngāruahine landscape and plays a key role in partnering with agencies and organisations to support whānau through deep and trusting relationships that offer meaningful outcomes that are culturally responsive, accessible, practical, and convenient.

We have a current vacancy readily available and invite applications for the following role:

**Kaitautoko [Health Coach]** – Permanent Full time 40 hours per week

This is a core Community & Cultural Support role within the Ngāruahine Whānau Ora team supporting a relationship-based approach to meaningful engagement utilising our Whānau Hapai model of care in achievement of whānau plans, goals and aspirations and will work collaboratively with our Maori Health partners of Ngati Ruanui Healthcare, Tui Ora and Pathways in delivery of the collective Te Manawanui Service that aims to support whānau to improve their self-management of long term conditions. This role has specific focus predominantly supporting enrolled patients of the Opunake 'Coastal Care' and 'The Practice' based out of Hawera Hospital.

**Please note all positions require successful candidates to have Full Driver Licences**

**Proficiency with Ngāruahinetanga and Tikanga Māori is advantageous**  
**All new appointees will require background checks under the requirements of the Children's Act 2014**

**You must be fully vaccinated for Covid-19 before the close of 01 January to be able to fulfill the requirements of the 'Order' in this role.**

To apply for any of the above positions, please request an Application Form and Job Description by;  
Email: **Angelina.Cassidy@ngaruahine.org**  
Or, Telephone: **06 274 8047**

Applications close by **12 midday on Friday 18th March 2022**



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### 2011 MAZDA AXELA SPORTS

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**\$14,995**



07-09 AXELA SPORTS 2.0, TWO FROM \$8995

### 2008 HONDA ELYSION VG 8 SEATER

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

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### 2014 SUBARU IMPREZA SPORTS 2.0i

LOW KMS. Tiptronic Auto with Paddleshift, ABS Brakes, Climate Control Air Con, Cruise Control, Auto Lights and Wipers, Electronic Stability Control, Driving Lights, Tinted Windows, Dual airbags, Spoiler, Alloy Wheels. 85km

**ONLY \$14995**



12 IMPREZA SPORTS HATCH 1.6 Auto 76km \$12995

### 2006 HONDA ODYSSEY ABSOLUTE

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

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### 2009 MAZDA ATENZA SPORTSHATCH 25S

Tiptronic Auto, Stability Control, ABS Brakes, Multiple Airbags, Dual Climate AirCon, Cruise Control, Keyless Operation With Remote Central Locking, Auto lights, Auto Wipers, Alloy Wheels, Rear Spoiler, Tinted Windows, Stereo inc BOSE BASE AMPLIFIER., 69KMS;

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