



Inside

Walking the length of NZ for charity

“Missing hot showers,” says Claire on her amazing trek.

Claire Richardson, formerly from Tataraimaka, was just coming into Arthur’s Pass on Monday night (March 8) on her epic trek to raise money for hospice. She left Cape Reinga on November 28 and hopes to reach Bluff by April and is following the Te Araroa trail which runs continuously the length of New Zealand.

Thus far a total of 36 people including friends, family and friends of friends had accompanied her for part of the walk.

In late January some Coastal people walked with her. She was then near Palmerston North. As one of them, I was astonished at how far she had walked since then. “It goes really quick when you do a little a day,” said the 29-year-old medical practitioner, who was inspired to do the walk after working in the hospice as a trainee doctor.

She’d recently met with other people who were doing the Te Araroa trail which was “really cool,” said Claire. Six of them were now walking together she said - adding that in total 600 people had been doing all or parts of the Te Araroa trail this year. Of the six who, like Claire, are walking the length of New Zealand, some left a month before Claire, others a bit



Claire Richardson, who is walking the length of New Zealand to raise money for hospice, 27 November 2020. Packed up and ready to hit the trail.

later.

“It’s really good,” said Claire who was clearly enjoying walking with fellow trekkers. “We’re just doing a few river crossings,” she said adding that they were “off the

road” now.

Next they’ll be heading to Tekapo. She anticipates it will take ten days to get there.

“Every day’s a bit different,” she commented of the marathon trek. “Every day

you feel you’ve achieved a bit more,” she continued adding there was a sense of achievement. One thing she’s missed however was “having no showers for many days.”

Clair was staying that night (in relative luxury?!) at the Bealey Hotel near Arthurs Pass. She had been staying though mostly in back coun-

try huts. “Some are really nice but others are pretty basic,” she said, although they have fire places.” She was carrying food, a tent and a sleeping bag on the trek. Staying by a natural hot pool by Harper Pass, the main pathway for Maori when

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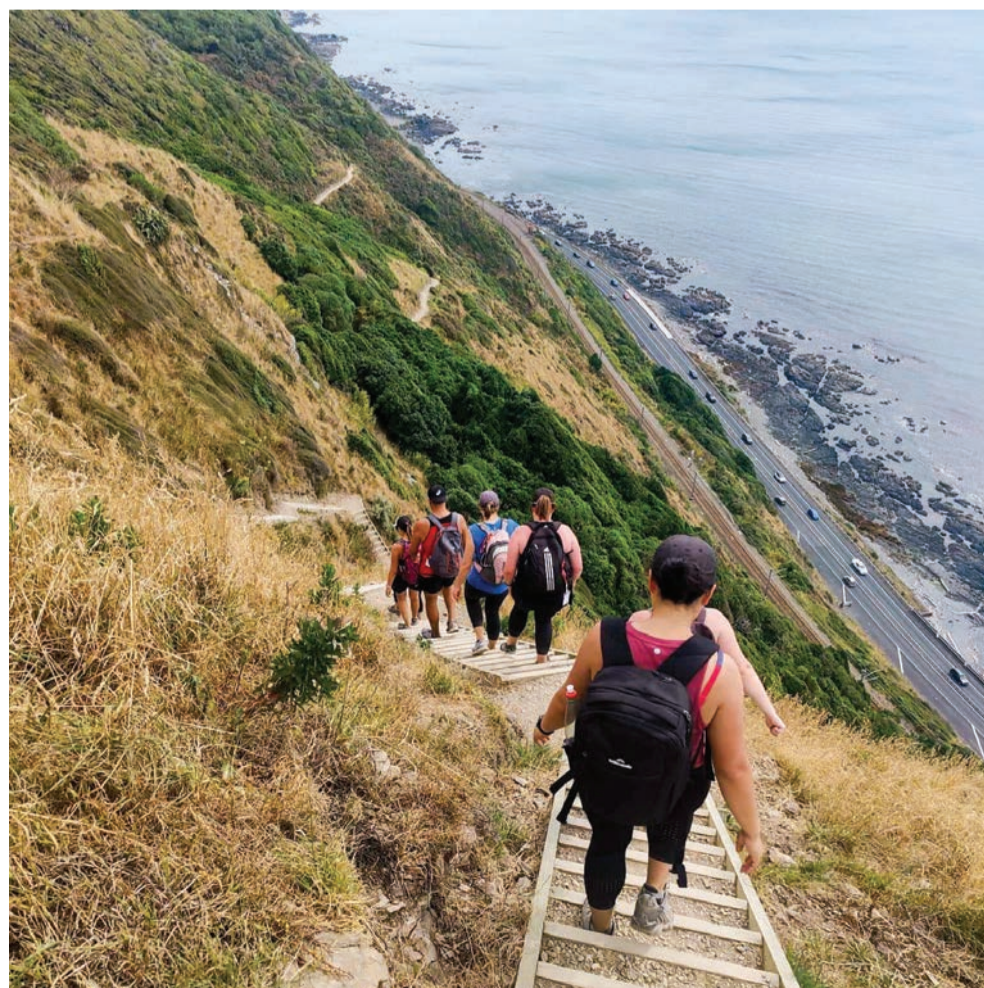


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In Dialogue with Papatūānuku, at From of the Blue Gallery. p24

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On the trail.

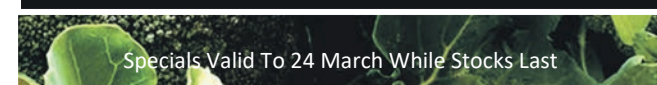
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Letters to the Editor

Community award for Mr Signer

I want to thank Aroha Healion for her letter on Mr Urs Signer as it seems he has plenty of time on his hands to get involved in so many coastal committees and trusts, so I wonder does he have his own time out? Now if this is the case, why haven't all these committees and trusts put his name forward to our Taranaki Regional Council for some sort of award?

My reason why I disagreed with Mr Signer's suggestions that our drilling for oil and gas is the cause of this so-called climate change is utterly wrong.

Look, every one of us must begin to realise that the oil and gas fields were put on our earth to be used by the whole world of today, tomorrow and in the future, as without these two elements, our various trains, boats and aircraft wouldn't be able to move and travel around the world, and within our countries of today, and as for the gas, people and our restaurants wouldn't be able to cook food, as our electrical stoves would take too long, and there would be an extremely large and rather expensive electricity bill to pay as cooking with gas is cheaper and quicker.

Ian McAlpine stated that when Maoridom fought each other, in which there were many upon many horrific battles, the winning tribe or iwi would take the losing tribe back to their pa, then engage in some bizarre rituals of cannibalism, which is absolutely correct, yet this has never been mentioned within Maori history. I've known this for some time, well before going to high school.

Tom Stephens
New Plymouth

Bravo Mr Mayor

South Taranaki Council had recently taken the step of bringing in Maori seats at the local government level for 2022. Until the Labour government recently passed a Bill removing a racist condition, petitioners had the ability to overturn the establishment of Maori seats by a local poll. This policy does not apply to general wards, thus it was a racist and undemocratic policy.

In accordance with the Treaty, Maori have the right to separate seats in local government. Contenders will stand for election and will be selected by voters on the Maori roll. Their presence on council will not

be at the whim of council members, nor by voters on the General roll. They will have been democratically elected.

As a South Taranaki voter I am pleased at this accomplishment since it is a fair and equitable decision, and I believe the majority of voters would agree. People like Craig Baylis (letters to the editor February 25 2021), Hobsons' Pledge and Mr Baylis's "silent majority" oppose Maori seats in local government, expecting Maori to accept secondclass citizenship. Instead of spreading discord and divisiveness, a change of mindset for these people is needed. The sovereignty of Maori must be respected.

Craig Baylis's "silent majority" no longer exists. All around us people are working to make our nation fairer, more equal. This is one step forward in that regard. Bravo, Mr Mayor and South Taranaki Council for your foresight.

Mary Moore
Manaia

Interested investors

I have no doubt that this year there will be property investors looking at properties right around Mount Taranaki, which is fine to a

point, as what they will have to and must consider is that during our province's winter it does get extremely cold wherever they want to live, either on the north or the south side of our mountain even when our summer winds blow, and when it rains also.

But our province must also be aware and don't get too carried away as there's many upon many Auckland people shifting away to different parts of the North and South Islands simply because some are getting sick and tired of always breathing Auckland's smoky and stale atmosphere, too many people, too much noise, and too much crime and violence, as when talking to some Auckland people living in our province they all said that Taranakians are extremely lucky that we have plenty of open spaces (land), are able to breathe fresh air from our mountain and sea, and are able to travel around the mountain seeing our wonderful small coastal towns thriving, plus being able to go to a handy beach not far away.

So let's not get too carried away. Remember no other province like ours has a mountain in the centre, and we are able to travel around it as freely as we all do.

Tom Stephens
New Plymouth

ADELPHOS

When friendships break up it can be emotionally difficult to accept. It has been said that there are three types of friends: occasional friends, good friends and great friends. The first type are often made with people we

see as acquaintances. They could be at work, church or the sports club. We might view their differences and varied viewpoints as refreshing and stimulating, but we don't see a lot of them. If these friendships dissolve,

there is not much emotional pain involved.

The second type of friends are good friends. Their friendships have often endured over a longer period of time. Mutual support typically existed for years involving being classmates, weddings, baby showers, funerals, birthday parties or just spinning a yarn. They might even lend you their car. These friends are a mutual blessing and a great support in times of need. They usually accept each other's little annoying idiosyncrasies. But if these friendships sink because of the betrayal of trust it could be emotionally painful. As a high school guidance counsellor I found it especially traumatic for girls when their BFF (Best Friend Forever) stabbed them in the back. It is often very hard for one party to accept without getting advice or counselling. But if good friends endure throughout your life then they would probably be considered great friends.

Great friends are the last group. They are great friends because they demonstrate trust, loyalty and commitment over time. They would

do anything for you. But these great friends don't use each other either. Their friendship is powered by mutual respect. They've got each other's back no matter what. Their vocabulary is filled with words like please, thank you and I'm sorry. They never take each other for granted and would help you despite the sacrifice and personal inconvenience. If you haven't seen them for years, things immediately go right back to the way they were. And just as important you can be honest with them without fear of judgement or rejection.

Great friendships never sink because they sail on the seas of self-sacrificial love. On a very rare occasion a great friend might even risk his/her life to save you simply because of their love. Jesus had that kind of great friendship love for every person ever born. All three friendship types are like silver, gold and diamonds. They all have a value. Whatever your faith, philosophy or religion, we are truly blessed to have one or two great friends in this life.

Adelphos

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.

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Walking the length of NZ for charity

Continued from page 1

Claire needs to be back at work at Taranaki Base Hospital in April and hopes to have ended her extraordinary mission by then.

While she has done "big sections" of the trail on her own, Claire has also had a lot of people joining her for support.

Five people from the Opunake walking group accompanied Claire starting at Fordell. Walking over country roads and the main state highways briefly, they ended their trek several kilometres along a windswept beach bidding farewell to Claire whose flatmate Jade Harrison had also joined her in this leg of the trek. "It was a great day."

The following day Bernadette Bourke from Pihama joined Claire for several days.

Bernadette was accompanied by her sister Katherine,

and they jointly did 35 kilometres – half that each as they had to keep moving their vehicle - from Bulls to Palmerston North via Feilding and Bunnythorpe. The second day was "more hilly" and they were off the road for much of it doing bush walks. They left Claire at the approach to the Tararuas.

Bernadette's husband Paul, who also accompanied Claire near Palmerston North, commented he was intrigued to see the levels of the huge floods of the 1880s marked as they crossed the Manawatu River.

Claire said she would like to thank everyone for their support.

Claire's initial aim was to raise \$10,000 but so far she has exceeded this amount.

If anyone would like to support the amazing (indomitable) Claire - she really is an inspiration - in her momentous fund raising venture they can make a donation to:

<https://givealittle.co.nz/fundraiser/claires-te-araroa-journey>



Claire (second from right) in Northland.

Te Araroa Trail

The Te Araroa Trail goes the length of New Zealand from Cape Reinga to Bluff.

People of course can join at any point. Those intrepid walkers who want to do the entire continuous 3000 kilometre trail take on average around 120 days (4 months). That's averaging 25 kilometres a day. (1600 kilometres for the North Island, 1400 kilometres for the South Island).

The walking trail includes off road walking trails as well as roads.

The Te Araroa trail, according to the website, is a different kind of trail from traditional back country tramping tracks. Intended to showcase everything New Zealand has to offer, it connects people, towns and cities where people meet New Zealanders, visit marae and stay with caring families. They also explore New Zealand beaches, volcanoes, mountains, rivers, lakes and valleys.

Bernice McKellar



Joining Claire (left) are from left Margaret Mullin from the Opunake Walking Group, Jade Harrison (Claire's flatmate), and Diane Campbell also part of the Opunake Walking Group near Fordell. Palmerston North marked the half way point of Claire's 3000 kilometre trek down the length of New Zealand. Other Opunake walkers included Judith Armstrong.



Claire (second from left) at one of the back country huts she stayed at in the Mount Richmond Forest Park in the Nelson/Tasman region.

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New teacher at Coastal Taranaki School

We are pleased to have Mr Steve Leppard joining us here at Coastal Taranaki School. He lives locally and felt the call to work in his community. He has taught at Manukorihi Intermediate,

Waitara High School and has joined us after 17 years at New Plymouth Boys High School. At New Plymouth Boys High School, he taught Woodwork, Engineering, Graphics and Metal work.

During his time teaching he was involved in rugby, clay bird shooting and rowing. He spent every Saturday during winter standing on a sideline supporting his students. His passion for his community and getting young men into apprenticeships and the



Steve Leppard.

workplace saw him develop an after-school engineering club with a local company (Falcon Engineering) where they build an electric car. This community relationship and programme saw many of the young men in his team move onto apprenticeships

and the workforce. We look forward to working with Steve and seeing his contribution to our school and community.

Publicity Officer
Coastal Taranaki School

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House prices continue to surge

New Plymouth's red-hot residential property market shows no signs of slowing down, according to Quotable Value(QV). The average house price is 17.1% higher than at the same time last year, and has increased by 6.5% in the past three months alone. The new average value of a home here is \$596,882.

Local QV registered valuer Danny Grace said the Taranaki market continued to be very active in New Plymouth, Stratford and South Taranaki. "Agents, mortgage brokers and bank lenders in the region all report to be very busy," he said.

"We have experienced market growth across all property categories, in all regions of Taranaki. Though the market has been strongest at the lower end, there have been recent big sales of higher value properties."

Mr Grace said there was

strong interest in well-located vacant sections, with continued busy building activity and the Marfell KiwiBuild project receiving strong interest. "Although more properties have come on to market during the summer months, demand is continuing to outstrip supply and we're continuing to see low levels of stock, which is continuing to put upward pressure on prices."

This comes at a time the LVR speed limits returned at the start of March. Most investors are now required to stump up a 30% deposit to grow their portfolio. Owner occupiers now require a 20% deposit from the start of March.

QV general manager David Nagel said: "With capital gains averaging over 15% for the past 12 months, we're still seeing many investors restructuring their finances to get around these restrictions."

"Investors will need a 40% deposit from May 2021, which could finally dampen their ability to compete with the first-home buyers for the very limited affordable housing stock," he said.

The average value increased 6.8% nationally over the past three-month period, up slightly from the 6.3% quarterly growth we saw in January, with the average value now sitting at \$856,835. This represents an increase of 15.9% year-on-year, an increase from annual growth of 15.1% last month.

All the major urban centres are showing strong gains in value with Palmerston North continuing to lead the way with 9.4% growth over the past three months. The twin Hawke's Bay cities of Napier and Hastings aren't far behind with both cities showing quarterly growth of 8.9%.

"The larger centres were

generally the first parts of the country to experience the very rapid value growth we've seen over the past 12-18 months, and this was primarily driven by both first-home buyers and investors competing for the very limited supply of entry-level housing stock. But the market strength has now spread to the higher-value locations in the major centres as confidence returns in the post-lockdown economic recovery," Mr Nagel said.

"We may see a gradual cooling of the market in the second and third quarters of 2021, particularly in the entry-level locations as property investors reach their credit limits and first-home buyers struggle to raise a big enough deposit. But with the long-term forecast for housing demand in New Zealand looking positive, it is difficult to see the market take a significant turn for the worse any time soon."

Retirement villages review overdue

Consumer NZ is backing recommendations by the Retirement Commissioner to review the Retirement Villages Act and ensure better protection for residents.

Consumer NZ has made a submission on the retirement villages White Paper released by the commissioner's office.

Consumer NZ's submission outlines issues it sees in a recent review of retirement village contracts. This review found contract terms that they say that privilege

village operators and risk leaving residents unfairly out of pocket.

Terms included those that:

- make residents responsible for maintenance of, and repairs to, the village's chattels, including the appliances in their unit
- deny residents the opportunity to benefit from any capital gain when their occupation licence is sold, despite being required to contribute to the property's upkeep
- result in residents being charged penalty interest if they make any payments a few days late, while the village retains discretion to decide whether

it will pay interest on money owed to residents

• attempt to exempt the village from liability for damage that the village may cause to the residents' possessions

• give the village wide-ranging discretion to decide what residents can and can't do, including whether they can have guests to stay, make improvements to their unit and raise reasonable objections to village developments.

A Consumer NZ survey of 1680 village residents found 63 percent were unhappy their agreement didn't allow them to get any capital gains when their

unit was sold. The survey also found low satisfaction among respondents with the fairness and readability of village contracts.

Consumer NZ says a review of retirement villages' legislation is needed to ensure residents are treated fairly. The vulnerability of many consumers living in retirement villages and the potential for significant financial harm from unfair terms provide strong grounds for reviewing the current framework.

Consumer NZ's review of retirement village contracts was supported by a grant from The New Zealand Law Foundation.

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Visiting Al-Noor Mosque the scene of the terrorism

It was a strange feeling visiting Al-Noor Mosque in early January this year. It was hard to believe such savagery had occurred in such a peaceful place, when on March 15, 2019 (1.40pm) so many people lost their lives to Australian terrorist Brenton Tarrant (28).

A small number of Moslem worshippers came and went during the time of our brief visit. The Al-Noor Mosque, built in 1984-5 is on the west side of Hagley Park, not far from the main road through Riccarton.

The victims were not only killed inside the mosque, but also in the car park as they tried to flee.



Al-Noor Mosque as seen from Hagley Park.

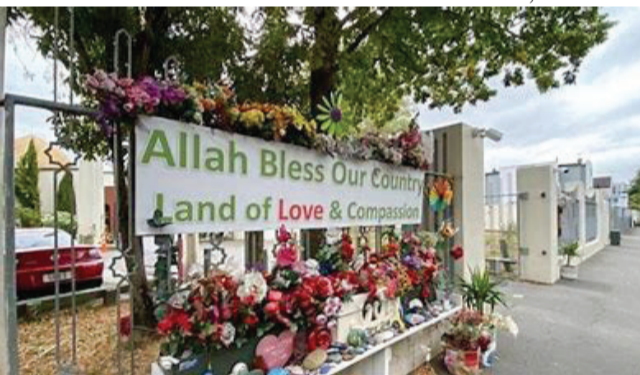


The front alcove of the mosque where the violence started.

One victim was a wounded woman lying on the pavement whom Tarrant callously fired at several more times to finish her off as she pleaded for help.

One man, Naeem Rachid, bravely attempted to tackle Tarrant but was shot. He later died of his injuries.

To the right of the entrance to Al-Noor Mosque grounds is a monument which was opened by the prime



Tributes of sorrow and sympathy line the perimeter fence of the mosque.

minister Jacinda Adern after the attack. "This was one of New Zealand's darkest days," she commented.

In the grounds was a large police van, although no police seemed to be present. It seemed unattended.

The roadside wall had many tokens of sympathy such as coloured stones with supportive messages.

Al-Noor Mosque was the site of most of Tarrant's murders, although about 12 minutes later he arrived at Linwood Islamic Centre, some 5 km east, where he

killed more people.

He was evidently on his way south to Ashburton to target another mosque when he was apprehended in Brougham Street, Sydenham just seven minutes after his murderous visit to the second mosque.

It should be noted that he was driving erratically at high speeds, sometimes on the wrong side of the road and even shooting at other motorists, so his targets were not only Moslems.

Originally he pleaded not guilty to 51 murders and 40 attempted murders and an act of terrorism, but changed his plea to guilty on March 26, 2020. On August 27, 2020 Justice Mander sentenced Tarrant to life imprisonment

without parole; this is the first time such a sentence has been handed down in New Zealand.

At his sentencing a number of bereaved relatives of his

victims confronted Tarrant. One young woman said,

"This terrorist, you (facing Tarrant), are a monster who murdered my father. You are also a coward."

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Waitara development statement

The NPDC have endorsed the Independent Commissioners' recommendation to greenlight a rezoning which will allow for more housing in Waitara. The application was to change the rules for an approximately 11 hectare piece of land on the Southern side of Waitara. In future, up to 110 sections could be developed on the site. The applicants worked closely with local Iwi and hapū as part of the hearing

process.

The Independent Commissioners said they were "satisfied that the amended Proposed Private Plan Change meets the council's obligations under the Act and meets the objectives of the Proposed District Plan."

Their final report said the plan change: Provided for cultural effects and impacts on Mana Whenua and recognised the importance of the area to Manukorihi

Hapū and Otaraua Hapū; provided for local housing supply factoring in projected population and housing growth for Waitara, ensured impacts from noise and light could be reduced, supported ecological restoration of areas around the Mangaiti Stream, would be sufficiently serviced by three waters infrastructure, and recognised that future planned SH 3 upgrades would ensure safe access.

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You have got to get your bum down here

The first port of call for cars in this year's Americarna was Opunake, and Opunake was decked out in red white and blue to greet them. Old Glory was very much in evidence along Tasman Street with star spangled banners fluttering in a strong

Coastal Taranaki wind as the cars made their way into town on Wednesday February 25. It was then on to Opunake Beach where they were parked up for the public to admire before heading back to New Plymouth in preparation for



Karl and Brenda Bullman, Tapanga Wright and Anthony Bullman with their Ford Thunderbird.

visits to Waitara, Inglewood, Stratford and Hawera, and of course the Americarnival to in New Plymouth that Saturday to wrap everything up. Karl ("T-Bird Willie") and Brenda Bulman from Morrinsville have been to

every Americarna except the first one. "It's called a disease," says Karl. "We didn't know about the first one, then our friends got in touch and said you have got to get your bum down here. Taranaki people are just so cool. I've

never met anyone who's been negative towards us or Americarna." He recalls the time a "total stranger" came up to him when he was filling his car with petrol to thank him to coming over for Americarna. Health problems has meant

this time Karl had to have his son Anthony drive him over. The Bulmans were there in Brenda's Camaro and the 1959 Ford Thunderbird which Karl says he is under strict instructions from the family never to sell. *Continued page 7.*



American vehicles lined up on Opunake Beach.

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You have got to get your bum down here

Continued from page 6.

It had been a total wreck when he imported it from Albuquerque New Mexico. The previous owner had had other cars in various stages of restoration, and it would appear didn't have the time or the energy to get on to this one, says Karl. Back in New Zealand, Karl, Brenda and their three sons Anthony, Nicholas and Dylan got to work restoring the car. This included reconditioning the cylinder heads on the kitchen table. Karl and Brenda have a photo of their three year-old son painting the rear mudguard. He is now 19. The Thunderbird is something they are more than happy to share with others, whether it be for weddings, rides for rest home residents, or other events. It has been so popular with children says Karl that it has sometimes got them into trouble with

He was there with his 1967 Cadillac. "Errol, the guy I bought this off had a brother working in America and he bought this in 1972. In 1980 Errol bought it off his brother and owned it for 27 years. The car came up for sale in 2006, and I went to J.R.(John Rae) with a photo of this and said if I could buy one of these could I go into Americarna, and he said yes. I bought the car, picked it up on 13 January 2007, brought it home, then went to the first Americarna and had fun." Peter and Lynn Jordan from Whenuapai were there with their 1945 Chevrolet pickup. Peter says he was 18 and had started his panelbeating apprenticeship when he bought it off his uncle and got it going. He later put it into storage for a time before restoring it once more.



Neville Carter and his Cadillac.



the parents of children who wanted them to buy one. Parked behind Karl and Brenda was Neville Carter from Stratford who says he has been to every Americarna, including the two held in Invercargill.

"It's just well used and it's a great truck," he says. "It's reliable and starts every time. You turn the key, give a couple of pumps on the accelerator and bang she goes."

Above: Peter and Lynn Jordan and their Chevrolet Pickup.

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TRC Maori constituency consultation now open

The Taranaki community is invited to have its say on whether the Taranaki Regional Council should create a Māori constituency for the 2022 local authority elections.

public is being asked the question: 'Do you support the establishment of a Māori constituency for Taranaki Regional Council?'

That would mean people on the Māori electoral roll would vote for candidates standing in the Māori constituency. Voters on the

general roll would continue to vote in the general constituencies.

The Taranaki Regional Council has stated its preferred option is to introduce a Māori constituency. However councillors are keen to hear the views of the public

before they make a final decision.

A hearing will be held on 6 April, where submitters can choose to present their views in person. Following the hearing, councillors will deliberate and vote on whether to proceed with a Māori constituency for the 2022 elections.

If the answer is yes, a representation review will be held to confirm how many constituencies there will be, their borders and how many councillors will represent each.

Council chairman David MacLeod says it is crucial Māori perspectives and cultural values are fairly

represented and understood at the Council decision-making table, alongside those of the wider community.

He says while the Council has been open with its preferred option, councillors will consider all feedback with open minds.

CoreLogic report shows continued decline in housing affordability

The CoreLogic NZ Housing Affordability Report for the fourth quarter of 2020 shows the ratio of house price/value to income has grown since their last report in the second quarter of 2020, and is at its equal highest since data-gathering began in 2004.

CoreLogic Senior Property Economist Kelvin Davidson says, "Although incomes have fared better than might have been expected given COVID, average household incomes have not kept pace with property value growth. Indeed, the latest Infometrics figures show a rise of just 1.3% in average household income in Q4 2020.

"Based on the historical data we have, houses are as unaffordable as they've been

at any time for at least 17 years, maybe longer."

Nationally, the house price/value to income ratio climbed from 6.5 in Q3 2020 to 6.8 in Q4. That is the highest level since late 2016, equalling the record since at least 2004. On the back of rapid growth in property values in the final few months of 2020, many local areas of the country have moved beyond cyclical highs.

Mr Davidson says, "A similar trend is evident in the number of years required to save a deposit. By CoreLogic's measure, this has risen from 8.6 years in Q3 2020 to 9.0, just shy of the highest-ever reading of 9.1 since recording began in

2004. In many areas of New Zealand, this measure has already surpassed previous peaks. The lengthening period of time required to save a deposit is a large hurdle for many would-be buyers."

For mortgage payments as a percentage of household income, the Q4 2020 figure was 33% across New Zealand as a whole, up from 31% in Q3 – despite further falls in mortgage rates. This figure is still lower than the long-term average (36%), but continued growth in property values and/or gradual rises in mortgage rates at some stage in the next few years could see this situation become less favourable for existing

homeowners.

Mr Davidson says, "There is not currently a broad discussion about the potential for mortgage interest rates to rise once more, but in thinking about the economy as a whole, property owners may be more sensitive to interest rates rises than they have been in the past. If interest rates rise from the current 2.5% to, say, 5%, that is a massive proportionate jump, and of course they apply to larger mortgages than we've ever had before too.

"That said, it's also worth pointing out that banks are still testing a borrower's ability to pay at theoretical 'serviceability' rates of 6.5% or more. So this at least provides a degree of reassurance about our ability to withstand higher market rates."

For renters, average rents are currently absorbing about 21% of household income, only slightly above the 'normal' level of 20%. This affordability measure tends to be more stable, given that over the long run, history shows rents generally rise at

a similar pace to incomes.

Outside the main centres, the vast majority of provincial areas are less affordable than normal on the price-to-income and years-to-save-a-deposit measures. Some are at their worst levels for at least 17 years (e.g. Kawerau, Rangitikei, Tararua, Masterton, Waitaki, and Clutha).

Although the falls in interest rates over the past 9-12 months have benefitted mortgage affordability, the sharp rise in property values lately is dampening a lot of that effect. In areas such as Kawerau, Otorohanga, South Wairarapa, and Horowhenua, the proportion of household income required to service a typical mortgage is above its long-term average, even despite low mortgage rates.

The pattern across most of the North Island has been worsening affordability, certainly from Whanganui southwards, and in Gisborne and Rotorua.

In provincial areas, Mr Davidson says growth in house prices – and therefore

decreasing affordability – may be attributable simply to their lower starting point. "As we have seen unaffordability rise in the main centres, some would-be buyers have likely turned to smaller centres and provincial towns to make purchases which have driven up the cost of buying in these markets. Previous better affordability will have made them an attractive proposition. At the same time, the primary industries have been resilient, and this has driven up property values in some regional markets.

"The key message from this report is that housing affordability worsened quite appreciably in the final three months of 2020," says Mr Davidson. "Any further declines will increase the divide between existing owners and those who aspire to buy, and lessen the pool of people who can actually enter the market, ensuring that this issue remains right at the top of the public agenda for some time to come."



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Triumph Stags a big hit with their owners



Triumph Stags line up at Tawhiti Museum. Lindsay Maindonald was one of the proud owners.

For Triumph Stag owners all roads led to Taranaki last weekend. Designed as a sports tourer by the Italian Giovanni Michelotti for the Triumph Motor Company, about 26,000 Triumph Stags were made between 1970 and 1978. Sixteen of these were at the New Zealand Stag Owners Club biennial gathering held in Taranaki during Taranaki Anniversary Weekend. While in Taranaki Stag owners sampled several of the province's attractions including Bryce Barnett's car collection, Tawhiti Museum and the Mountain House.

The Covid lockdown meant owners from Northland and Auckland hadn't been able to make it this time round, so numbers were down on previous times said Richard Glass of Hawera, who is the New Zealand Club captain. "We had 16 cars there on the weekend in various stages of repair, most in very good condition," he said. There are 230 of them in New Zealand. The New Zealand Stag Owners Club of which Richard is club captain has 133 members. "Some own two or three. Stag owners don't know when to give up," says Richard. "We're the biggest one

make, one model club in New Zealand. It's the same in England and in clubs all over the world. They are very strong in Germany, other parts of Europe and even in the United States." Richard says there would be four or five Triumph Stags in Taranaki. The owner of one of these is Lindsay Maindonald from Eltham, who has had his for the last six or seven years. "I got it all in bits and pieces and put it back together," he said. "It's a convertible V8. It's not everyone's cup of tea, but it's my dream car." Richard has been a Stag owner for the last six years. "I bought one that was pretty

beaten about. I would hate to think how much I spent on it." In the early days the Stag did not enjoy a good name. "They had a terrible reputation when they came out," says Richard. "They were released far too early, and the faults were not ironed out by the factories. The reputation has taken a long time to wear off." Today the Triumph Stag commands a strong loyalty from those who own them. "People who own them hold on to them," says Richard. "You don't see them for sale very often. Some own them for 20-odd years." Richard says that with their

steering and suspension they have a more modern feel than many other classic British cars. Along the way, the Stag came to develop a trendy reputation, he said.

"If you wanted to slip down to Monte Carlo you would get into your Stag and cruise down there at 100mph. There are some very nice examples around."

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A rare sight - Mount Taranaki with absolutely no snow. Photo taken in Inglewood.

Last month in history the first cars imported into New Zealand.

On February 19, 1898 the first cars arrived in New Zealand. The two cars were imported by politician William McLean and were

built by Benz. They were given the name Lightnings and Petrolette. A local newspaper, the Evening Post, described the

cars as "two neat looking vehicles without shafts." The cars had a top speed of 20 miles per hour (32 km per hour).

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Farmers leading transition to more sustainable future

For generations, farming and primary production have been key pillars of the Taranaki economy. The region remains home to a thriving and diverse rural sector that sustains over 10,000 jobs. However, farmers are continuing to look for ways to ensure the environmental, economic and social wellbeing of their

communities.

In early 2020 a group of farmers and growers from across the region came together to determine what could be done to mobilise the Taranaki rural community. This group became Taranaki Catchment Communities (TCC) who can now act as an umbrella organisation to support catchment



Trish Rankin.

community group formation and discussion around the region. With the assistance

of Venture Taranaki, TCC recently received funding from the Ministry of Primary Industries to complete a rural community facilitation project.

“This project will allow farmers from different catchment communities to come together and develop a plan to overcome key challenges in their area” says Donna Cram, TCC Chairperson. “It will support them to work together identify, understand and address the specific needs of their community.”

Venture Taranaki Chief Executive, Justine Gilliland, said that “it is promising to see the formation of TCC. They are showing real leadership in a sector already committed to meaningful change and this concept of bringing

catchment community groups together right around the region is both a first and necessary. We look forward to continuing to work with TCC as their plans and actions progress, supporting a sustainable future for all.”

The project is already resonating with many in the rural sector who have turned out in good numbers to recent community meetings. This is no surprise to Trish Rankin, Project Coordinator working on behalf of TCC who said, “most farmers are open to change but until now they haven’t had an opportunity to meet and discuss the main challenges and how they can be addressed. We’re finding that many neighbours have similar issues and are keen to work through them together.”

Consultation will

continue until the middle of April. The comments and discussion from community meetings will feed into future workplans that seek to address key barriers to environmental, social and economic sustainability in rural communities.

“We all run independent farming businesses, but we are interdependent on each other to do the right thing for our land, people and communities. We hope that this work is the start of positive change for generations to come,” concluded Donna.

For further information or to contribute to the work of TCC, please contact Trish Rankin Project Coordinator at trish@taranakicc.nz or 027 461 4586.

Trish Rankin.

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Have your say on ‘incoming tide of change

The region faces an ‘incoming tide of far-reaching change’ and the Taranaki Regional Council wants to hear the community’s views to help it decide the best way to meet new challenges.

The Council Chair, David MacLeod, says the TRC must invest more in environmental science to implement the Government’s Essential Freshwater reform package, which is shaping up to be the largest single project in the Council’s history. And more big changes are in the pipeline.

The issues are outlined in the Council’s Consultation Document and Long-Term Plan (LTP) supporting documentation that’s out for public consultation until early April.

“Freshwater has always been a major focus for this Council, and good progress has already been made,” says Mr MacLeod. “But along with the rest of the country, Taranaki is now

being called upon to do more and do better. This includes ensuring that this precious resource is managed in an effective and meaningful partnership with Māori.”

He says the Government’s ‘Three Waters’ reforms, new legislation to replace the Resource Management Act and an evolving response to climate change will also have a major impact on local government. “The TRC is riding an incoming tide of far-reaching change that’s bringing challenge and excitement on many fronts.”

Other issues highlighted in the draft LTP include the

future of the region’s public transport networks and the transition to alternative fuels for buses, the future of the TRC’s outdated office accommodation, participation in a Regional Recovery Plan and a review of the Council’s ownership of Port Taranaki Ltd.

For the financial year starting on 1 July this year, budgets in the draft LTP point to a total rates increase of \$21 to \$29 a year for residential properties worth \$500,000, and about \$60 a year for farms. Rates for many businesses would be slightly lower than the

current year. While the Council must budget for a significant increase in environmental science staff and resourcing, the extra cost will be partially offset by a big reduction in Yarrow Stadium rates thanks to a \$20 million ‘shovel-ready’ grant.

Submissions close on 9 April, with the Council to hold a hearing in May for those wishing to present their views in person. “Nothing is finalised yet and we’re urging everyone in Taranaki to think about the issues and let us know what you think,” says Mr MacLeod.

Service to theatre honoured



As part of Everybody’s Theatre Celebrations this bespoke Honour Board was erected to commemorate the Everybody’s Trust position holders since the Trust’s formation in 1980. This can now be actively updated and is therefore a lasting tribute to the members that have had a hand in continuing to make the theatre the success it is today.

The Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Patron are acknowledged for their service.

Maree Drought

An honours board for theatre’s office holders.

Rainfall below normal for most

Rainfall for February was varied with totals ranging between 38% to 141% of normal, with an average of 71%, according to Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) figures. Just five sites recorded above normal for the month, and these sites were: Dawson Falls (110%), Cape Egmont (117%), Te Kiri (141%), Patea (104%) and Ngutuweru (112%). Rainfall was recorded on just three to six days for the region, with the rainfall site Kotare (Tongaporutu) recording just 38% of normal for the month with 45.5 mm.

Year to date rainfall is sitting between 62% and 124% of normal, with an average of 86%. North Egmont has received just 62% of normal to date with 495.5mm, while Patea has received 124% of its normal rainfall to date with 156.2 mm.

River flows were below normal for all sites except the Punehu Stream at Pihama and the Tawhiti Stream at Duffy's Farm (Whareroa). These streams recorded above their normal February flows by 241 L/s and 249 L/s respectively.

Water temperatures were all below normal for February by between 0.42°C and 2.19°C. Also the Waingongoro River at Eltham (11.70°C), the Kapuni Stream (10.88°C) and Kaupokonui River near Manaia (12.06°C) all recorded new February minimums on record.

Stratford recorded the maximum air temperature for the month with 30.06°C, while Whareroa recorded the minimum with 3.39°C. The Mangorei at Bushline site recorded a new maximum February air temperature with 24.77°C (previous maximum 24.43°C), while Inglewood (5.98°C), Manaia (4.92°C) and Waitotara at Coast (6.45°C) all recorded new February minimum air temperatures. The average air temperature for February, excluding

Te Maunga, was 16.98°C, which was 1.14°C cooler than the long term February average.

Soil moistures were mixed for the month with Kotare, Okoki, Motunui, Hillsborough, Pohokura Saddle, Cape Egmont and Patea recording above normal by between 0.21% and 6.48%, while Okato,

Te Kiri, Manaia, and Waitotara Valley recorded below normal by between 0.74% and 3.51%. Soil temperatures were also mixed for the month with Pohokura Saddle, Cape Egmont, Manaia and Patea recording above normal by between 0.07°C and 0.82°C, while Kotare, Okoki, Motunui, Hillsborough,

Okato, Te Kiri, Waitotara Valley recorded below normal by between 0.13°C and 1.80°C.

Summer rainfall, which includes December, January and February, was near or

above normal for all sites except North Egmont which recorded just 73% of normal with 1012.5 mm. Rainfall elsewhere was between 92% (Ngutuweru) and 131% (Patea) of normal, with

an average of 108%. The majority of the rainfall fell in December (up to 50%), with less rainfall being recorded as we got further

Everybody's volunteer recognised



Award winner Richie Hughson-How.

The Opunake High School Award for Student volunteer in 2020 was presented to Richie Hughson-How at the Opunake High School assembly. This is awarded to students that have volunteered at Everybody's Theatre for more than a year and includes \$100 prize money. Ritchie has volunteered for many years

as cashier, shop cashier and projectionist.

Thank you for your contribution to the theatre Richie and we welcome any other students that would like to learn about the theatre operations.

Maree Drought
Everybody's Theatre

Gardening with Palmers Gardening Centre



Autumn is planting time as the ground is still warm and the first of the rain helps new plants, trees and lawns get established.

Summer flowering annuals are nearing the end of their flowering season. Remove old plants and start your preparation for your winter displays. Plant winter flowering annuals such as alyssum, calendula, cineraria, cornflower, lobelia, nemesia, pansy, primula, snapdragon and stock. Winter flowering annuals brighten up dull parts of the garden, either planted in the ground or in

containers.

Autumn is bulb season! Planting bulbs in autumn allows their flowers to germinate from the soil at the right time in spring to delight you with their blaze of colour. Spring bulbs come in an array of colours. There are all sorts of varieties to choose from including daffodils, tulips, freesias and hyacinths. Planting bulbs is easy. Plant your bulb in well-drained soil at the correct depth for its size (roughly twice the height of the bulb).

If your lawn needs work, autumn is the ideal time

to sow grass seed so it can establish itself over the winter months. A handy tip is to sow a mixture of grass seed as this provides a better all-year-round lawn.

Finally, add mulch to your garden as this helps stop temperature and moisture fluctuations that can stress your plants out. Mulching helps conserve moisture in your garden, suppresses weeds and keeps the soil warm over winter.

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Ammonia fish kill results in substantial fine

The total fine of \$337,500 imposed on Silver Fern Farms is believed to be the largest on record and sends a very strong message that the community will not tolerate actions that damage or threaten waterways and the species in them, says the Taranaki Regional Council.

An ammonia leak at the Company's Hāwera plant on

19 February 2020 resulted in unauthorised discharges of the toxic chemical to air, and also to the Tawhiti Stream when a water curtain was deployed to protect staff and the surrounding community. The contaminated water killed fish along a reach of 13km – the widest extent any such incident on record – and was of major concern to

the local iwi, Ngāti Ruanui. The Company pleaded guilty to two charges brought by the Council, and appeared before Judge Dwyer in the Environment Court at Hāwera.

The decision was highly significant, says the TRC Director-Resource Management, Fred McLay. The Judge's starting point

for the sentencing was \$450,000, the same as the starting point (before reductions for guilty pleas and other factors) in the case arising from the Rena oil spill off Tauranga in 2011. In the Rena's case, the fine was reduced to \$300,000. So the fine is believed to be the largest fine on record for offences of this type

and highlights the serious environmental and cultural impacts on the Tawhiti Stream, says Mr McLay.

Thousands, if not tens of thousands, of fish and eels were killed down a long reach of a stream that tangata whenua, in particular, value highly, he says.

"Staff and others were also put at risk," he says. "The

agreed facts put before the Court show the Company did not have adequate contingencies in place to deal with malfunctions in its industrial-grade blast-freezer plants. All consent holders should take note and check their own contingency plans and staff training."

Oakura Indoor Bowls

We kick off another indoor bowls season on Monday March 15 and are looking forward to another great season, with hopefully less interruptions than last year. The club began in the 1950s and is still going strong with other clubs joining us over the years. For those that don't know anything about indoor bowls we play through the winter season from March to September

at the Oakura Community Hall. The game is essentially the same as outdoor bowls although played indoors on a mat about 2m wide by 7m long. The bowls are about half the size of the outdoor bowls, which makes them lighter and easier to handle. It is a game for all ages and abilities, and is often called the "game for life" as I started playing at 10 years old and I'm still going

strong. Other members have been at the club for over 50 years and it is a testament to the fun nature of the club.

The only requirement is to wear flat soled shoes (no heels), so come along to any of the first few weeks in March and have a go at indoor bowls.

*Marvin Clough
President*



Junior player Katie Clough bowling during the 2020 closing night.

On this month in history Brunner Coalmine explosion

On March 26, 1896 there was an explosion in the Brunner mine on the West Coast of the South Island. A total of 65 men were

killed. Some of the miners died from asphyxiation waiting for rescue. Four days (working round

the clock) were needed to recover all the bodies. It was NZ's worst mining tragedy.

Bank closures in rural communities sharply felt

News that Kiwibank is closing seven branches,

five with direct impact on rural communities, is

disappointing says Rural Women New Zealand

(RWNZ). "Reductions in services

in rural communities is causing a deeper inequity of the provision of those services, compared with urban communities, adding pressures that are just not needed in this current social and economic climate," says National President, Gill Naylor.

"An agency model needs to provide spaces for private, complex discussions - it is not acceptable for people to be discussing their personal banking requirements with staff, while standing in a line of others who just want to pay a bill.

"RWNZ hopes that Kiwibank might use the agency model with other businesses to ensure that banking services continue to be offered in rural centres.

"RWNZ believes that rural communities need services close to where they live - this is particularly important for those where distance and lack of internet connectivity are more sharply felt.

"While we appreciate the need to streamline businesses and one solution is the agency model, there needs to be continued support for people to transact their daily lives in dignity.

"We would like to see rural proofing carried out before decisions are made to remove or reduce services, this will ensure that rural communities do not continue to miss out," says Mrs Naylor.

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ground work**



The Pouakai Crossing upgrade progressing slowly but surely

The Pouakai Crossing Trek upgrade project was funded by the National government in 2017 to be completed by the end of 2021.

The Department of Conservation staff are processing very slowly as the Pouakai Crossing Trek upgrade project was funded by the National Government in 2017 and to be completed by the end of 2021, there have been some sections completed and others in the process.

The Mangorei Track has had sections upgraded and completed and at sections of the Ahukawakawa Track at present being completed over the swamp and the section of tramp to the Pouakai Tarns wetlands.

Five kilometres of track has been completed in the Mangorei Track and the access across the Hidden Valley at the Kokowai Valley there has been no upgrade to the other 10 kilometres of track and no progress to several erosion rock sections including the Boomerang slip area and no site of the upgrade extensions to the Pouakai Hut to be completed by the end of 2021.

Although there has been



ABOVE: One section of the Pouakai Crossing. A trumper is aided by newly established steps.
LEFT: A trumper makes her way through profuse growth on another part of the Pouakai Crossing.



no work on the section of dangerous access track where a swing-bridge across the Manganui Access Gorge on the Taranaki Crossing upgrade project.

Ian McAlpine

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Have your say – these issues matter

Make sure your voice is heard on crucial issues that impact you and your family – your livelihoods, your lifestyles and the future direction of Taranaki. We're seeking your views on the plans, programmes and budgets we've drawn up for our new Long-Term Plan. We've summarised the key issues so you can easily understand them – and it's even easier to make a submission. Go to www.trc.govt.nz/LTPconsultation today!

Riding the tide of change

A message from the TRC Chair, David MacLeod



The Council is riding an incoming tide of far-reaching change that's bringing challenge and excitement on many fronts.

One of these is the health of our waterways, which is of vital importance to all in Taranaki. And thanks to long-term efforts and investments right across the community, Taranaki has already made good progress in improving the health of our rivers and streams.

But New Zealanders clearly want to see more and bigger improvements. So we must do more. The Government has started rolling out new standards, requirements and regulations, and the Council must make significant new investments in skilled staff, specialist equipment and expanded monitoring programmes.

The freshwater reforms also include requirements for greater Māori involvement in environmental management – and we can expect more of the same as new legislation emerges to replace the Resource Management Act. So expect to see deepening and more effective partnerships at all levels of the Council.

Other issues on our radar include:

- The future of our bus network. Do we want greener buses? Do we want them to cover more communities and/or run more often?
- How should we work together with other councils and agencies to support the development of the region and its recovery from the impacts of COVID-19?
- What should we do about the Council's offices, which are no longer fit for purpose?
- What does the community feel about the ownership of Port Taranaki Ltd. Is it time for a change?

We welcome your feedback on any or all of these issues and we look forward to hearing from you! Go to www.trc.govt.nz/LTPconsultation



David MacLeod
Chair, Taranaki Regional Council



'Right now the Council is riding an incoming tide of far-reaching change that's bringing challenge and excitement on many fronts.'

– David MacLeod

Have your say

www.trc.govt.nz/LTPconsultation

How to make a submission...



Online
Fill in the submission form online at www.trc.govt.nz/LTPconsultation



Which way for buses?

Many in the community want Taranaki's buses to run more often and in more places, and powered by alternative fuels. That message has already been delivered to the Council.

Now it's time to decide on the scope and pace of any changes, bearing in mind that ratepayers and taxpayers must also foot much of the extra cost.

Should we convert all the bus fleet to alternative fuel at once, or convert a portion for now to reduce the cost impact? And how happy are you as a ratepayer/taxpayer to help meet the cost of uneconomic bus services?

It's worthwhile having a say, whether or not you're a bus user. Public transport services are publicly funded, so tell us if you have any ideas for making them better and more efficient.



TRC office options

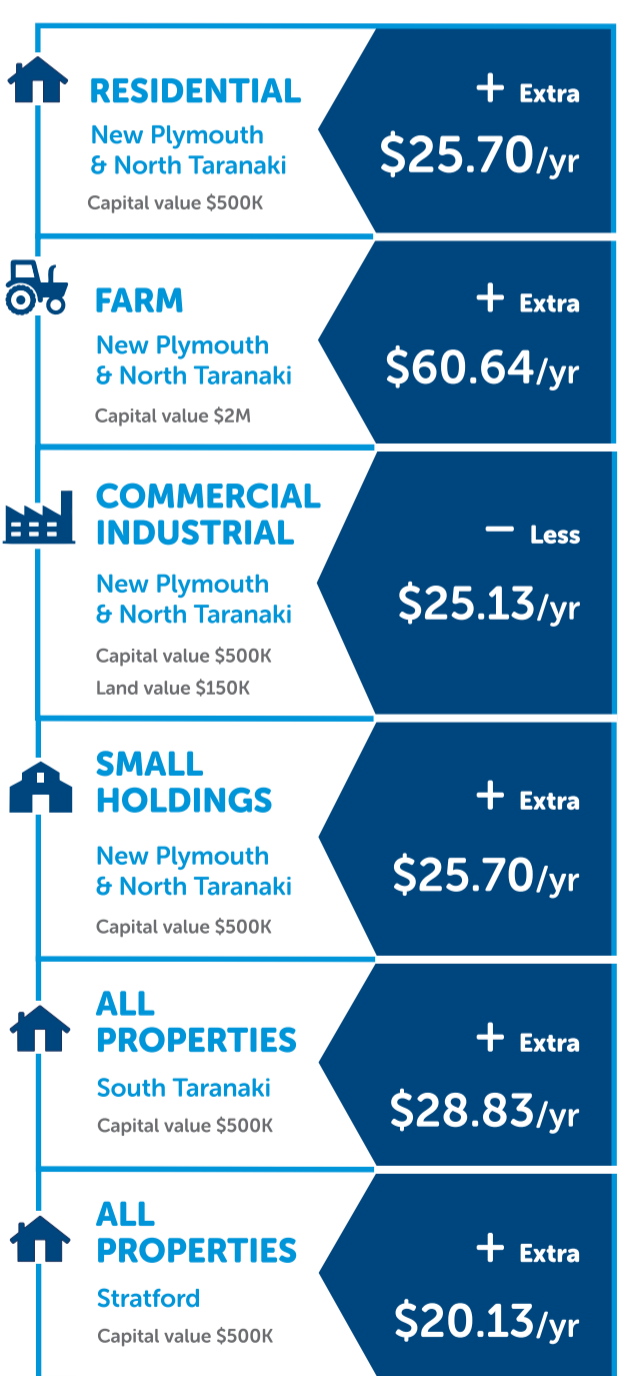
The Council operates out of the former Stratford dairy factory, which was converted to office accommodation in the 1980s. But staff numbers have increased and will continue to do so under new Government environmental requirements.

Even allowing for the increasing trend towards remote working, the existing office is too small and no longer fit for purpose. Refurbishment looks like the least expensive option, rather than building new on the existing site or elsewhere.

The Council's work touches the lives of Taranaki people in many ways. We have a duty to the public to work efficiently and to be good employers. We're interested in your views on options for addressing our office accommodation needs.

What will this mean for rates?

The total rate take (general and targeted rates) is planned to increase by \$1.38m or 9.9% for 2021/2022. For most ratepayers the financial impact can be measured in tens of dollars over the course of a year. The rates impact on your property might be different as the exact amount varies depending on where you live within the region, the services at your property, and the type and value of your property.



COVID-19 recovery opportunities

The Government continues to make financial support available for COVID-19 recovery efforts and it expects regions be united in their requests for funding assistance.

Taranaki's four councils and other agencies are working together on a Regional Recovery Plan incorporating a range of projects across all three districts, including iwi-led initiatives.

Projects that are potential candidates for funding assistance need to be thoroughly assessed and prioritised. And for those that make the grade, a compelling case for assistance must be developed and put to the Government.

This all costs time and money, but the potential returns make it a worthwhile investment. The Council has provisionally agreed to meet 20% of these costs, but let us know what you think.



Māori voices and Māori votes

Recent years have seen greater efforts to recognise and include Māori cultural perspectives and practices in decision-making as well as everyday activities. Change is continuing at pace, with the Council working to meet new Government requirements for greater Māori involvement in environmental monitoring and management, particularly for waterways. We can only expect the trend to accelerate as new legislation emerges to replace the Resource Management Act.

While the Council must comply with Government legislation and regulations, we're still very interested to understand what the community thinks. So go to www.trc.govt.nz/LTPconsultation and let us know your views on how we should ensure greater Māori involvement in the Council's decision-making processes.

Separately, the Council is also consulting the public about our proposal to create a Māori constituency in time for next year's local government elections. A decision must be made soon so there is a shorter deadline for feedback on this issue.

Go to www.trc.govt.nz/haveyoursay to find out more.



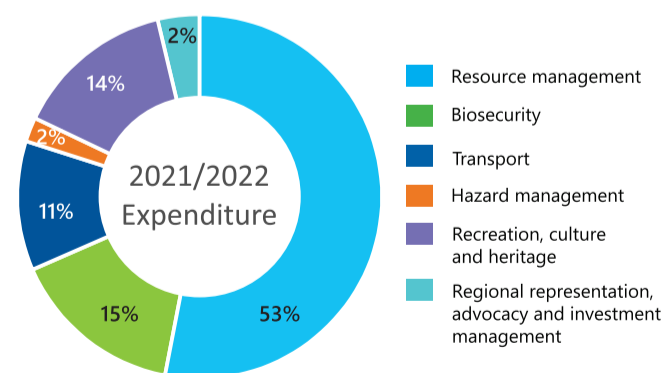
Port Taranaki's ownership

The Council's major investment by far is its 100% ownership of Port Taranaki Ltd (PTL). It's provided steady and reliable dividends that have offset rates over many years.

But it's wise to review your investments from time to time and the Council is going to undertake a review of its PTL ownership arrangements. If the review concludes that it's time for a change, we'll need to come back and talk to the community again.

It would be helpful to get an early idea of public opinion. Let us know your views on a full or partial sell-off, and what general approach we should take to investments – do we need greater diversity?

How will the money be spent?



Freshwater Vision:

What's your vision for our rivers and streams? Our planning team would love to know. Take part in their survey at trc.govt.nz/vision



Meeting freshwater aspirations

The Council must invest more in environmental science and policy to be able to implement the Government's Essential Freshwater reform package. It's shaping up to be the largest single project in the Council's history.

Taranaki already has a good story to tell about freshwater. Farmers, industry and councils have all been investing time, money and effort into making our rivers and streams healthier. Results have been encouraging but now we're being called upon to do more and do better. As well as taking on a lot more specialist staff and doing much more monitoring, the TRC also needs to ensure that this precious resource is managed in an effective and meaningful partnership with Māori.

The Council is obliged to make these changes. But we'd still like your feedback on the pace of change. Freshwater is a vital resource for the community on so many levels – cultural, spiritual, environmental or economic. Everyone has a duty to look after it so that future generations will also enjoy its benefits. Please take this opportunity to tell us what you think.

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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Post
Download the submission form on www.trc.govt.nz/LTPconsultation and drop it off or post it to us at:
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Timeframes
Submissions open: **8 March 2021**
Submissions close: **9 April 2021**
Public hearing on: **10-11 May 2021**
Adoption of LTP: **18 May 2021**

There's a lot happening behind this green door



The Green Door in Kaponga.

The Green Door was a one hit wonder for American DJ and singer Jim Lowe in 1956. Twenty five years later Welshman Shakin' Stevens reprised it with some success. It is also the name of a recently opened business in Kaponga. Located in a century-old house in Victoria Street, with a green door facing the mountain, it sells collectable music, CDs, vinyls and

musical memorabilia. "It's a good song that really rocks," says owner Garry O'Keeffe of the song that inspired the name of his business. "Somebody asked me what's happening behind that door. I thought I would paint it green, that's the Irish bit. I went through a whole lot of names, but I was thinking about the green door as it is right there on the street."

Now it is home to his extensive music collection. "I've always collected music and played music," he says. "There's so much there, I can't take it with me. Everything's for sale." His love and knowledge of music even prompted him to enter the popular TV quiz show Mastermind, making it through to the semifinals. "It's been a hobby buying and selling over the years,"

he says." I dealt in vinyl from a very early age when I was nine or ten. I really got into CDs when they came out in the 80s and 90s. They don't deteriorate and are just as good as the day they were made."

The advent of CDs also meant that some earlier music which he hadn't been able to get on vinyl was now available on CD.

His collection extends across the genres, whether it be blues, jazz, rock, pop, country or folk. When

had a vibe similar to what he had enjoyed in his 15 years running a hotel in Naenae. His interest in music is something he has always carried with him, often being in bands that played in the pubs he ran.

"I played in the Backgammon Club across the road in about 2000," he says.

John Dix, author of the New Zealand music history Stranded in Paradise, former long-time Parihaka resident and administrator of the

the least," says John. "I'd never even heard of Carson J Robison before Garry introduced me to the man's music and it was Garry who first turned me onto Jerry Jeff Walker, Return to Forever and Wild Man Fischer.

"And he's long been supportive of New Zealand music. NZ acts to perform at the Naenae Olympic Hotel during his tenure include Billy TK, the late Sonny Day and the Windy City Strugglers, as well as his own bands."



Above: Garry O'Keeffe surrounded by music.

speaking to the Opunake and Coastal News for this story he was sporting a T shirt honouring 60s band The Grateful Dead.

His collection includes a complete collection of the Shadows on vinyl, as well as a big selection of blues music from the 1950s.

Among the interesting musical instruments is a 1929 Oscar Schmidt Hilo guitar.

"It's not like a normal guitar. There's a certain art to playing them," says Garry.

After the United States acquired Hawaii there was a big rage for Hawaiian music through the 1910s and 1920s, and the Americans started making their own Hawaiian guitars, like this one. Oscar Schmidt had been an early producer of these guitars from Chicago. Alongside is a Gallotone guitar. These had been popular with John Lennon early in his musical career.

Garry and his wife Maureen have been in Kaponga for about a year having moved here from the Hutt Valley where they were in the hotel business for 30 years. Maureen grew up around Riverlea and Kaponga, and Garry says he felt the town

Parihaka International Music Festival says he has been a friend of Garry and Maureen "for decades."

"Much of the music he has collected is esoteric to say

Garry does a lot of his business online, but anyone wanting to see what he has on offer can phone him on (027)4128023 for an appointment.

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Lunch Menu

Fish and chips
Homemade Battered fish fillet served on the bed of seasoned crispy fries, side of freshly chopped salad & its dressing on top, served with Tartare sauce and a lemon wedge 20

Seafood Chowder
Traditional delicious Seafood chowder with the Flavouring of celery, drizzled with lemon juice, sprinkled with black pepper on top, served with a garlic naan cooked in a clay oven (Tandoor) 20

Teriyaki Chicken Burger
Lettuce over the bun, teriyaki sauce, Chicken patty, Swiss cheese, bacon, a slice of onion and tomato, served with crispy fries & Ketchup 15

Tandoori Chicken Salad
A fresh & healthy combination of greens, lettuce, Radicchio, cucumber, cabbage, coriander leaves & carrot served with smoky succulent chicken fillets cooked in tandoor, dressed with homemade fresh mint chutney with a side of crunchy Papadums 19

Grilled chicken cheese sandwich
White bread grilled with homemade dressing mixed with smoky succulent diced chicken, cheese, onion, capsicum salt and pepper, served with a side of fries and salad 15

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Finding the deal that fits

Chatting with David Maha it is obvious that he is a people person. It should come as no surprise then that he enjoys his current job as a Registered Financial Advisor with his own business Mortgage Link South Taranaki.

At one time, when the emphasis was more on "brokering the deal," he would have been called a Mortgage Broker. Today in the brave new world of compliance, the emphasis is more on helping customers find the solution that best fits their individual circumstances. "I think a lot of people don't know what to do, or their experience with banks hasn't been helpful," he says. "So that's where I fit in."

He has an office in Manaia, but can deal with clients anywhere in the country. He can meet his clients in



David Mahana of Mortgage Link South Taranaki.

his office, at their homes, or even by Zoom for those living further afield.

He is associated with Mortgage Link which is New Zealand-wide. At the moment he is their only adviser in Taranaki, although there are advisers in Whanganui and Waikato. He took up his current position in December after going through an accreditation process. Before then he had spent more than 20 years in the banking sector, with the ANZ and National Banks and more recently as the Manager of the Hawera Branch of Westpac.

David says his experience as a Bank Manager has helped him deal with clients. However, he is pleased that he is now no longer restricted to the products and policies of whatever bank he is working for.

"It's awesome to be able to have a range of lenders

as options. When you are at a branch with a Bank, you are limited to that Bank," he says. "If your deal doesn't fit the Bank you are with right now, I can look at different options. Sometimes people don't fit the criteria of any of the banks, then we can even look at non-bank options."

Just as he is not restricted to offering one Bank's products, he is not restricted to only seeing clients during that Bank's trading hours. With branches closing or restricting their opening hours there is less scope for personal interaction with his clients, he says. "What I liked the least, and why I jumped was where I was working three days a week and we were only open for four hours each day." He can now see customers throughout the day, any day of the week

David lives in Manaia and has strong links to this area.

His iwi is Ngaruahine, with his father's hapu being Ngati Haua of Otakeho, while his mother's is Ngati Tu of Manaia. His siblings were all born here, but the family shifted to Waitara where David was born. They later moved to Invercargill where he grew up.

Four years ago he was living in the Waikato when he decided he wanted to take a year off to learn Te Reo and he was encouraged to go home to Taranaki. "I was home for two months and loved it," he says. From there things got moving. The job with Westpac came up, and David and his partner bought a house in Manaia.

Now, with Mortgage Link South Taranaki David has the kind of job he says he had wanted to for a long time. "I really enjoy it," he says

Community funding without pokies

An alternative to pokie funding is getting the thumbs up from the Problem Gambling Foundation.

The new initiative called CommUnity, launches on 17 March and is designed to connect shoppers, merchants and community groups in a way that will put money back into local communities.

Problem Gambling Foundation Director of Communications Andree Froude says it is great to see a fundraising initiative that doesn't rely on people in some of our poorest communities putting money into pokie machines.

"We've advocated for years to end the community sector's reliance on funding from pokie machines, and this is certainly a step in the right direction as a viable alternative for community groups," she says.

"Pokies are the most harmful form of gambling in Aotearoa and there are five times as many of these machines in our poorer

communities so the people losing the money are the ones that can least afford it."

The Problem Gambling Foundation believes the time is right to introduce this initiative.

"If COVID has taught us anything, it is that we need to find new ways of doing things and sourcing a more sustainable form of funding for these worthwhile sports and community groups is no different," Andree Froude says.

In 2019, over \$939 million was lost on pokie machines in Aotearoa and approximately \$241 million was paid out in grants to community and sports groups.

"Problem gamblers contribute between 30-60% of the amount paid out in grants meaning they are losing the amount equal to grants, or considerably more," Andree Froude says.

"The current model of funding our communities with the proceeds from pokies is inequitable and

unethical. Any community funding alternative that reduces reliance on money from pokie machines and doesn't cause harm to our communities, is worth giving a go."

CommUnity founder, former New Zealand cricketer John Parker, said CommUnity's purpose is to generate funds for Kiwi community groups and is committed to giving money back to the community easing the constant pressure community groups face having to fundraise.

"With CommUnity, everyone benefits," said Parker. "Community groups win because they get untagged funds they don't have to apply or fundraise for, members win because they can feel great knowing they are supporting community groups they care about, and merchants win by having members directed to their shop and access to valuable insights into the members shopping habits."

In 2019 Gaming Machine profits (the amount wagered less the amount paid back as profits) for the New Plymouth, South Taranaki and Stratford came to \$24,186,631.40.

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Three slurry tanker must haves

Simply put, if you want a slurry tanker that's going to get the job done, keep you compliant, and last a lifetime, there are three essential components to look for. Forget about the added extras – if your slurry tanker doesn't have these, it's simply not going to cut the mustard.



LLOYD THOMAS

1. Corrosion resistance

For a slurry tanker to last, it's essential it is built to be corrosion resistant inside and out. While the outside protects it from the elements, the inside is even more important. Effluent is a highly corrosive material, and without a high level of corrosion resistance on the inside, pitting will occur and your tanker will rust from the inside out. Not only will this drastically reduce the life of your tanker, but there is a high risk of implosion as the metal becomes thin.

Recommendation: Look for a slurry tanker with heavy duty galvanisation inside and out. Galvanising is the most proven method for long term corrosion resistance, is no more expensive than other methods, and is a permanent solution. A lacquer coating will further protect the

galvanisation, make the tanker easier to clean, and most importantly – keep it looking better for longer.

2. The chassis

Any slurry tanker over 8,000 litres needs a full chassis and drawbar separate from the tank itself. This is to provide an adequate amount of shock absorption from any undulating terrain, and reduces shock loading through to the drawbar.

With a partial chassis the drawbar is integrated with the tank. This means the tank now becomes part of the integral structure of the machine, and stress is then transmitted through the tank. Given a slurry tanker is a pressure vessel, this is not ideal and is only suitable for slurry tankers 8,000 litres or smaller.

Recommendation: When



Forget about added extras your slurry tanker needs three things to cut the mustard.

choosing a slurry tanker over 8,000 litres in size, make sure it is manufactured with a full chassis.

3. Even application

Just as important as how it's built, is how it functions. An even spread is critical for

a number of reasons:

- You want your nutrients to be spread evenly and consistently across all areas of the farm. This is important for soil nutrition as well as helping to prevent run-off.
- Council compliance – as different rules come into play it is becoming more and more important to know what nutrients are being spread, and how much. Many farmers are getting ahead of the game by regularly testing the nutrients from their pond/storage after mixing, but before spreading for more control and accurate nutrient application.
- With slurry tanker applicators, an even spread

usually goes hand in hand with having good control over your application (after all, it would be difficult to achieve an even spread if the application was susceptible to wind drift). Better control means you're able to confidently spread within waterway boundaries or any other restrictions.

Recommendation: Don't get complacent when it comes to the spreading applicator of your slurry tanker. Make sure the applicator is manufactured to provide an even, accurate, and consistent spread of nutrients.

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BHL Feeds opens new bulk store facility



The New BHL Feeds Bell Block store.

BHL Feeds has built a new 3100m2 bulk store facility in Bell Block to service the Taranaki and South Waikato dairy farmers.

The Bulk store is positioned right next to the existing store giving us un-paralleled efficiency says Brett Mascull the owner.

“The store will be MPI approved to be able to take product straight off the ships at Port Taranaki offering farmers competitive prices and great service.

“We are a local family owned business that has invested a lot into supporting the dairy industry with not only the new store but bulk molasses tanks for blends, calf meal blending and bagging facility’s and our own trucks.

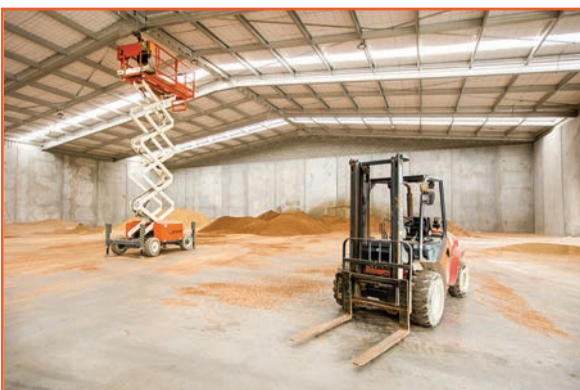
“We are very excited about the season ahead being able to offer a full range of products backed up with top service direct to farm. “



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Looking for an easier calving? Consider your fertiliser choices.

It's never too early to start thinking about how you can improve outcomes over calving and reviewing your autumn fertiliser choices is a great opportunity to increase your chances of a more successful spring.



EMILY HOUSE

Most of the common macro elements we apply as fertiliser are tied up in milk fever risk, including potassium, magnesium, phosphorus and calcium. Understanding and managing the levels of these nutrients in your pastures can go a long way to reducing the risk of milk fever (hypocalcaemia) and the many other related disorders over calving. Although the cause of milk fever is typically multifactorial, high dietary potassium and low magnesium are widely accepted as significant risk factors.

Applying potassium fertiliser in autumn can increase potassium levels in winter and early spring pastures, thereby increasing your risk of metabolic related issues over calving. The relationship to milk fever risk is tied up in the fact that high dietary potassium increases

the risk of a magnesium deficiency by interfering with the magnesium absorption mechanism in the cow. Magnesium plays a vital role in the prevention of milk fever as it is crucial for the efficient absorption and resorption of calcium.

In many instances where clients have applied autumn potassium fertiliser we have seen this carry through as higher than desirable herbage levels over the calving period, particularly if it has been a dry winter. Where high pasture potassium levels have been identified as a milk fever risk, removing, reducing or re-scheduling this autumn potassium application has been vital to removing this risk and improving calving

outcomes.

Herbage testing of cool season growth (in the case of spring calving) will give you an indication of how pasture potassium levels are tracking. Using soil levels alone means you risk overapplying nutrient which may lead to luxury uptake by pastures and higher than desirable pasture levels.

To add to the risk, herbage magnesium levels are usually lowest in winter/early spring, right when stock need it the most. Including a magnesium fertiliser such as Dolomite in your autumn fertiliser application is an effective way of lifting herbage magnesium levels if soil levels are low.

Generally speaking autumn calving carries less risk, as herbage potassium levels are typically lower and herbage magnesium levels are higher in late summer/early autumn. However, it's still worth pasture testing pre-calving to determine dietary potassium levels, particularly if you're experiencing milk fever in your herd. Magnesium fertiliser application is also likely still beneficial.

But magnesium fertiliser

can be expensive, so why not just supplement the cows? Magnesium deficiencies (even marginal ones) have the potential to limit animal performance in many ways other than grass staggers (hypomagnesemia) and milk fever. Importantly the cow needs daily access to magnesium as it's not stored by the body.

Relying entirely on magnesium supplementation increases the "supplementation risk."

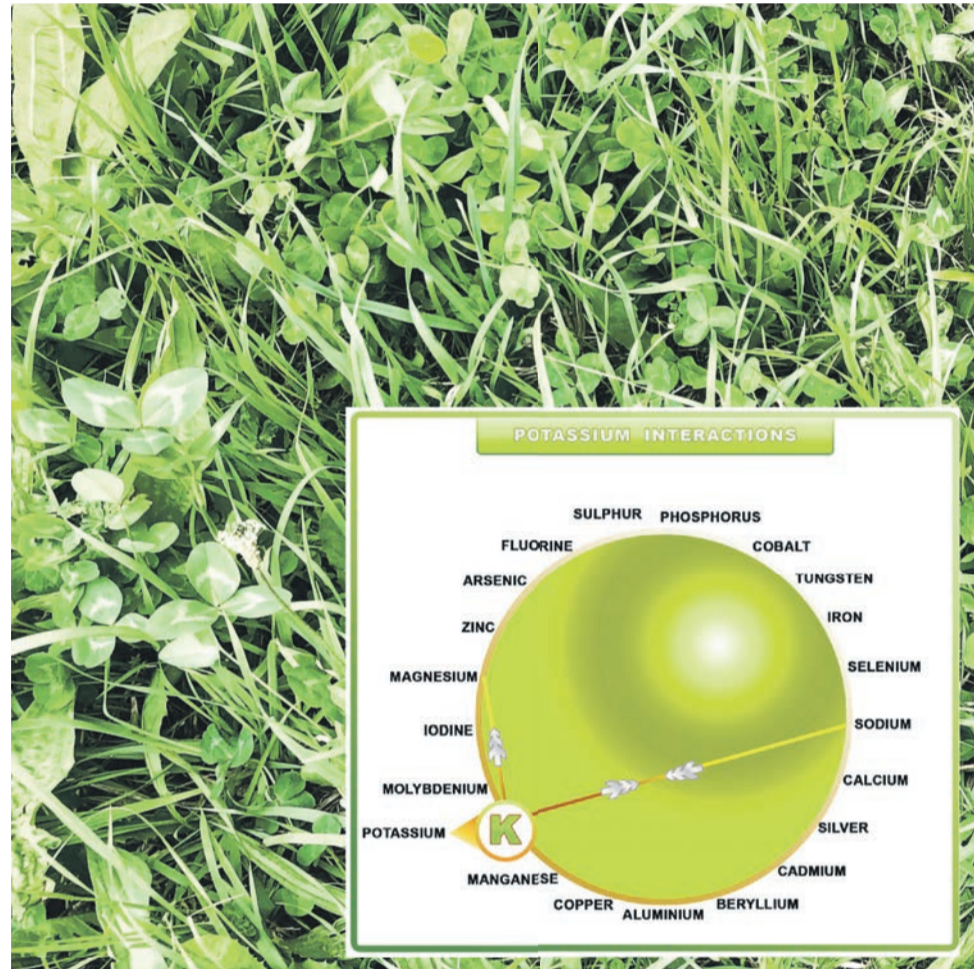
Magnesium tastes terrible so cows will avoid it if they can. Dusting is inefficient, especially in wet weather, as is water treatment. In short, there are a number of ways it can go wrong. At the other end of the scale, using too much magnesium can cause milk fever-like symptoms.

Aiming for low potassium (0.27-0.3 %DM) and high magnesium content in pastures over calving reduces "supplementation risk" and associated milk

fever risk.

If you're experiencing milk fever in your herd at any level, then it's worth considering your fertiliser choices and eliminating that as a contributing factor. As the causes of milk fever can be complex, a proper assessment of the risk factors is important to prevent it. Relying on mineral supplementation alone to mitigate dietary risk is naïve.

Emily House
5th Business Agri



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Coastal Rugby kicks off another season



A Coastal Team travelled to Tauranga for a pre-season game with the Greerton Marist Rugby Club last weekend. The boys displayed outstanding fitness running away with a 35-29 win over the impressive Greerton Marist side.

Welcome back to another great season as our teams look to challenge for Taranaki club rugby supremacy across all men's and women's senior grades and our junior grades.

We started the 2020 season well by hosting the inaugural Red Bull National Forceback Finals, but due to Covid we were into Level 4 lockdown before the season started. After a few false starts as Covid alert levels moved up and down the shortened season got underway with supporters keen to get out and about, resulting in bumper crowds at home and away games. The re-alignment of dates affected all clubs, with not all teams previously entered in the competitions fronting up, but rugby was played and for the first time in our history, Coastal won the Colts title. Unfortunately Covid alert levels had moved back up again which prevented spectators from attending the game, but the live streaming of the game showed a lot of TVs were tuned in watching the exciting, tight final versus the Stratford Colts. Huge thanks and congratulations to all those involved in getting the team together pre-season after not fielding a Colts team in 2019, coaching, managing and for nurturing the culture and friendships that grew within this team as the season progressed. Of special mention is the impact made by the three 'Pommie' boys, Luka, Aaron and Harry who arrived at Coastal on Red Bull day and couldn't believe the hospitality shown from day one, and were an integral part of the strong unit that this team became. Their wish to return to Coastal this season or when borders allow them

to reflects the impact that our club and people had on these young guys. Coastal was the only Taranaki club to field teams in all five afternoon senior rugby grades in 2020, so congratulations also to the Prens, Div 1, Div 2 and Women's teams for wearing the Coastal jersey with pride on and off the field, and all the best to all players and teams for the 2021 season."

The first games of the 2021 season will be played on Good Friday April 2 at Rahotu

Coaches/Managers for this season are as follows;

Prens – Coaches; Mark Davis, Alan Crowley and player/coach Ben May, Managers; Gerard Kalin and

Tim Hurley.

Colts – Coach; Ross Sinclair and Kane Barrett, Managers; Deb Davies and Ryan Hoskings.

Div 1 - Coaches; Craig Hammersley and Danny

Warren.

Div 2 – Coach; Jimmy Quay, Manager; Mark Harrop.

Women's – Coaches; Jalina Smith and Brooke Sim.

Janet Fleming.



A man that needs no introduction in Coastal Rugby circles, Kelvin Weir will be leading the Club Rugby Development Officer role for the Surf Highway 45 community. Contact Kelvin at kelvin.weir@trfu.co.nz for any rugby queries in our area.

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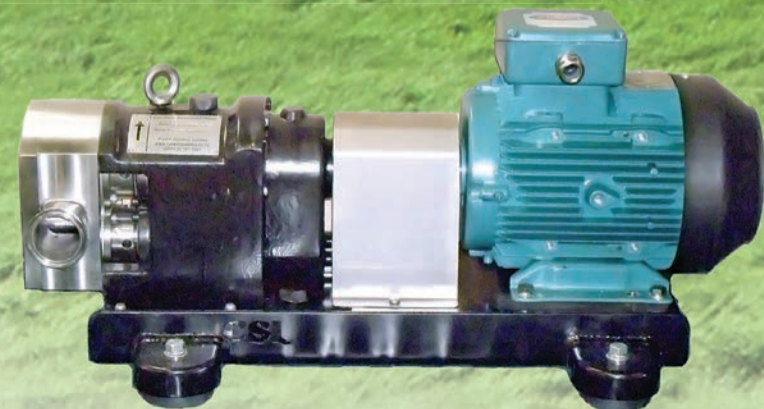


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Yarrow Stadium timelines firm up

Clearer timelines are emerging as good progress is made in the Yarrow Stadium Redevelopment Project. West Stand repairs are expected to be finished in November, with sporting and other events possible at the venue next year.

The West Stand repairs are mostly taking place under the structure. The foundations and the ground itself are being strengthened and stabilised to withstand seismic activity and meet earthquake safety requirements. This work also includes removal of the seats and the concrete bleachers under them.

“Completion date for the West Stand repairs is now projected to be November this year,” says David MacLeod, Chair of Taranaki Regional Council which owns Yarrow Stadium.

“While we all would have loved to have a stand usable in time for this year’s NPC rugby fixtures, this was always a hope, not a promise.



Repairs to New Plymouth’s Yarrow Stadium (above) are progressing.

The overriding priority is to get the redevelopment done properly, regardless of the time it takes.”

Laurence Corlett, Chief Executive of the Taranaki Rugby Football Union, says: “It’s fantastic that the Yarrow Stadium West Stand repairs are progressing well, ahead of a Yarrows Taranaki Bulls and Port Taranaki

Whio return in 2022.

“This is very exciting for all of our stakeholders including our players, commercial partners, members and the general public. Our immediate attention is on a successful 2021 season while the strengthening project is completed.”

Besides repairs to the West Stand, the Yarrow Stadium

Redevelopment Project also includes demolition of the East Stand, design and construction of a new stand,

refurbishment of the main pitch, and updated LED lighting for the main pitch. “It’s Yarrow Stadium

Plus,” says TRC’s David MacLeod. “We’re going for a venue that’s fit for a wider range of users and scale of uses. It will be worth waiting for.”

The West Stand repairs were the first tender let, and the community will be kept updated as timelines and details are finalised for other elements of the refurbishment project.

Mr MacLeod says the Council is very grateful for the Government’s ‘shovel-ready’ contribution of \$20 million towards the total project budget of \$50 million.

Yarrow Stadium’s two grandstands were declared earthquake-prone in 2017 and 2018, and closed to the public.

Maniaia’s 10 year wait is over

The Maniaia Bowling Club has broken a 10 year drought by winning the Challenge Shield. The Shield, which is for Men’s Fours is competed for every year between clubs in the Taranaki Southern Division. Next year it will be 100 years since G.Symes presented the Shield. The Maniaia club, which has 38 playing members last won it in 2011, although they have held it on a number of earlier occasions. In recent years the competition has been dominated by the Alton Club. The teams taking part in the competition this year were Maniaia, Stratford, Tower and Hawera Park.

The competition is played over 10 rounds and is based on the percentage of total wins for the season. Maniaia ended the season with a score of 66.6 per cent, which was enough to give them the title and the Shield.



Sandfords Manaia Golf Club results

February 22. Monday night Ambrose. 1. Tui & Red. 2. Putting. 3. The Bots.

February 27. Saturday Men. Nett Round. 1. Liam Campbell. 2. Bruce Duffus.

3. Rod Le Fleming. 4. Phil Elliott. 5. Gary Wallis and Grant Gopperth.

February 28. Juniors. Gross. 1. Kobi Symes Simpson. 2. Luke Norris.

3. Hannah Symes. 4. Jaxon Symes Simpson.

Putting. 1. Kobi Symes Simpson. 2. Hannah Symes. 3. Jaxon Symes Simpson. 4. Luke Norris.



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During the last half of 2019 a group of Opunakē High School teachers looked into the feasibility of building a tiny home as part of their curriculum. There was an opportunity for more hands-on learning and trade skills for those students who preferred this style of learning.

For many years, DVC Graphics teacher, Peter Clement, had taught a tiny home design unit as part of his Level 2 class. and with Michael Griggs keen to expand the scope of his Makers Academy, the Tiny Homes Project was born.

The 2020 year began with 12 students on-board, and so the build began in February, running for two days every fortnight until COVID stuck. This was a major blow to the building schedule - it wouldn't be a normal building without something go wrong, so like a normal building site delays were forced upon us so we had to re-evaluate the schedule.

Schools reopened and the Tiny Homes Project resumed. Over the year the students experienced many different aspects of the building industry, be it the builder, concreting, roofing, electrical, scaffolding and painting. They had the chance to work alongside trades people and discuss individual trades.

In 2021, Tiny Homes is up and running once again. 2020 was a trial year for this new programme and many hours were put in behind the scenes into the inception of the programme, the development of the building concepts as well as the development and delivery of the learning material/build.

It takes a full team effort from all stakeholders to ensure the success of the programme. The students play their part and work hard in varying weather conditions from hot sunny days of the summer term into the colder days later in the year. They also work hard on their documentation - a good skill to have if they wish to push onto do an apprenticeship. For their efforts all students receive 22 Level 3, Building and Construction Institute Training Organisation (BCITO) credits.

If you would like to check out the progress on our Tiny Homes, make contact with Mr Michael Griggs, mg@opunake.school.nz, or come by the Opunake Motel on Heaphy Road.

You can check out the progress online by joining our Facebook page or following the updates on Instagram.



TINY HOMES



Kyedon, Brody, Jayden & Rhys build the foundations for a big year.

[facebook.com/opunakehs.tinyhomes](https://www.facebook.com/opunakehs.tinyhomes) [@opunakehs.tinyhomes](https://www.instagram.com/opunakehs.tinyhomes)

SWIMMING SPORTS

It was awesome to come together as a school and get the competitive spirits flowing for Swimming Sports again. The action was plentiful, with heats, finals and the highly anticipated Inter-Hapu relays keenly contested amongst all four Hapu.

Congratulations to the following six students, champions in their respective age grade; Charlie Carr & Connor Forsyth - Juniors, Arna Bright & Charlie Rankin - Intermediate champions and Ella Bright & Joe Gibson - Senior champions.

Inter-hapu competing for the Pohutukawa Trophy was intense, with Totara being declared the initial winner, only for Rimu to claim the Swimming Sports title on count-back later. Congratulations Marcia Hale & Rimu on the win - Mrs Hale being the new Hapu Rimu Leader for 2021.



Principals Address



Nau mai, haere mai.

Another month has passed in our awesome kura on the coast. So many successes in such a short time. Our Swimming Sports Carnival was jam packed with impressive, powerful, and very fast athletes. Our Junior champions being Charlie Carr & Connor Forsyth, Intermediate champions; Arna Bright & Charlie Rankin and Senior champions; Ella Bright & Joe Gibson. The Year 13's delivered a hilarious synchronised swim performance, and Jamie Smith dropped some rip-roaring bombs.

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel the Gala. But we still hope you will support us by purchasing hangi and raffle tickets. We are looking to have another community event before the end of the term, so watch this space. We trialled our kai cooker at Meet the Teachers evening where a sunny evening was spent discussing opportunities for our wonderful rangatahi, over some very scrumptious tucker. Thank you to Hapu Awhina for your support with the food preparation.

We are soon to be starting our Academies/Wananga where we have some very creative new additions: carving, boxing, Rise (academy focused on empowering our wahine) to name but a few. These extras are in response to student voice, and in the case of RISE has been designed and organised by, and for our students.

Students have been spending their lunch times engaged in volleyball competitions or swimming whilst gaining academic successes in Health and Safety, Tiny Homes, Ecosystem studies, Mountain Biking and Hiking. As well as the day to day learning taking place in class. And it is only Week 5!!!

Our Enviro Leaders are out in force resetting the traps on our loop track to help our fragile, native and very unique ecosystem.

Opunakē High School is all about opportunities, so carpe diem all.

Noho ora mai ano
Andrea Hooper - Acting Principal

KA ORA, KA AKO | FREE LUNCHES AT OPUNAKĒ HIGH SCHOOL

We are really excited to let you know that Opunakē High School will be joining the Government free lunch programme from April 2021 - **Ka Ora, Ka Ako**. All parents want to provide their children with a lunch every day. We know that some of our community have been particularly affected by the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Offering a lunch for all our children who need it will go some way to helping families and whānau to support their rangatahi. This is why we have decided to take part in this programme.



Lunches will cater for the diet, health and cultural needs and will be available to all of our students. While we know there are hungry children in every community, we do not always know who they are. Providing lunch to every child means we do not need to single-out those who need it more than others. However, lunches are not compulsory, and you can continue to provide your child's own lunch if you wish.

Right now, we are working with the Ministry of Education on the best way to meet our school's needs. The programme will run until the end of 2021 and will be evaluated whilst it is running. If you have any further questions about this please contact our school office.



SCHOOL APP

Go to the App Store or Google Play on your Apple or Android device and Search 'SchoolAppsNZ' to download the app onto your device.

Search 'Opunakē High School' to find us.

OPUNAKE HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMY <RESET>

We are excited to be restarting Academy Days on Friday 19th March. Our rangatahi were encouraged to really think about their selections when opting into an Academy. Students were also given the option to Build Your Own Academy, with new academies popping up out of this - RISE (empowering our female students), Dungeons & Dragons, along with International Sports - exciting! We're looking forward to bringing you updates about how these academies unfold.

Clan Cameron Iar April 10, 2021 (Wanganui/Taranaki)

Whenever you have watched a pipe band parade, have you ever considered the origins of the pipers as they filed past playing their bagpipes, the music or maybe highland dancers and how they came to our shores and did their part settling NZ? As has happened with immigrants from other countries, the cause of this massive migration was due to the population growth in Scotland, which in turn caused competition for land, jobs, and housing. The failure of fishing, linen, and kelp industries led to high unemployment in the Highlands. The potato blight of 1847 spread to Scotland and left thousands of Highlanders close to starvation.

Scots have settled into communities across NZ, Dunedin is probably best known, with Waipu a close second.

It is interesting looking at Scottish settlement in NZ as many settled in the

South Island which was very much like their homelands in Scotland. They were a progressive race. In 1848 a small group founded the colonial settlement of Otago and began building the City of Dunedin. Within 21 years the University of Otago had been created by ordinance of the Provincial Council and opened on 5 July 1871. If you care to take the time many Scots settled other parts of New Zealand as well. In 1935 the idea of a Clan Cameron Association in New Zealand was originally suggested by Colonel Sir Donald Walter Cameron, 25th Chief of Clan Cameron.

"It was hoped ... at least one thousand Australian and New Zealand Camerons attend a Rally at Achnacarry the following June. The Rally was to spread enthusiasm for the Clan spirit and therefore be a great force for peace." By 1936 branches had been established in Auckland, Hamilton, Palmerston North, Masterton, Wellington,



Highland Dancing.

Dunedin, Tauranga, and Wanganui. By then 1,700 Camerons and their kin had joined the association. The beginning of World War II saw an interruption to clan membership which was not revived till 1956. The 1980s saw a flourishing clan membership and they celebrated 50 years at their AGM in Tauranga in September 1985. So here we are in 2021 celebrating 86 years of Clan Cameron.

There are several Scottish events held in many different New Zealand localities. Our nearest in Taranaki is the Turakina games where there's competitive Highland Dancing events, tossing the caber (a pole approx. 16-20 feet long 90-150 lbs) and Sheaf (bunch of cereal-crop stems bound together), and competitive piping and drumming.

Incidentally, highland dancing nowadays is performed mainly by girls. In days of earlier civilization, it was performed by males

as dexterity training for combat.

The Kilt is an interesting garment. After the Battle of Culloden, the British Government attempted to crush the rebellious clan system with an act of parliament banning the use of weapons, and making the wearing of the Kilt a penal offence in 1746. By the time the law was repealed in 1785 Scots had lost their desire to wear the Kilt and their weapons for performing the sword dances.

However, when Queen Victoria rediscovered the beauty of Scotland many of the ancient arts were revived. As a pertinent point of interest, the modern kilt uses about 8 yards of woollen material. If this garb could be more popular think how much this would be of benefit to New Zealand sheep farmers.

Neville Wallace.

In Dialogue with Papatūānuku:

'from out of the blue studio gallery' in Opunake is delighted to be hosting the solo exhibition of Birgit Moffatt from Otaki. Birgit draws on her natural surroundings for both

inspiration and materials. The resulting works are intricate but simple, delicate but grounded sculptural forms embellished with stitching, wrapping and other selective enhancements.

Birgit writes about her current exhibition **In Dialogue with Papatūānuku:**

This new Body of Work is a sensory exploration and discovery of te taiao, the

natural world, that leads to a deeper understanding and re-valuation of my relationship with te ngahere, the native bush.

I am exploring the potential of natural materials I am gathering on my daily walks through the bush, at the footsteps of the Tararua ranges. I often come home with my pockets and hands full of precious taonga from Papatūānuku such as bark, sticks, vines and seed pods.

In my studio I am transforming my findings intuitively into art works that are aesthetically appealing and highlighting their rich textures and organic forms by stitching, weaving, hand manipulation and natural dyeing. My intention is to create work using those materials without diminishing their wairua and original appearance.

Working in this way nurtures my creativity and connects me deeper with the ngahere, physically and spiritually.

'I always feel safe in the woods, like someone is laying a protecting cloak of green around my shoulders every time I am entering the bush.

In Dialogue with Papatūānuku is in the gallery until March 29.

The gallery is open Thursday to Monday 1 - 5 pm. Other times by phone appointment 021 407 424.

'from out of the blue studio gallery' is at 18 Halse Place Opunake 4616.



Timata Hou/ New Beginning. Photo credit. Birgit Moffatt

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Opunake Walkway Family Fun Dog Walk

Come and join Opunake Lakeside Lions on Sunday 14 March for a fun, furry, day out for all the family.

Registration and a sausage sizzle from 12.30pm at Sandfords Event Centre carpark. There will be spot prizes for the biggest dog, smallest dog, and hairiest

dog. Dog waste bags are provided and there are water stops along the way.

The Walk will follow the Coastal Walkway from Sandfords, through the Cliff Top Garden and on to the Opunake Lake. Walkers can then return to Sandfords or go on to circle the lake.

If you don't have a dog and can't borrow one, come and join the walk anyway. General walkers are welcome.

Cost is \$8 per dog, and general walkers a gold coin donation.

All dogs must be Council registered and on a lead.

Please also wear appropriate footwear.

So bring the family and the dog, remember the sunscreen and a hat, and join us for a walk.

This is an Opunake Lakeside Lions fundraiser in support of Barbwire Boxing to kick start our new Youth

Project Fund initiative which will benefit local youth and school projects. Lakeside Lions are also the proud sponsor of a Guide

dog puppy through the Blind Low Vision NZ Guide Dog Centre, and are involved in numerous local Opunake events.

Unlimited Palette

The Art > 70 exhibition was an inspiration to us all. And now we are showing; Unlimited Palette - an exhibition by four women artists from Waihi on the Coromandel Peninsula in New Zealand. On the Virtual Tart website Do have a look. There is work by Pam Lines-watercolourist, Berys Daly - mixed media/collage, Sally Thrush - printmaking and acrylic paintings, and Robyn Betterton - calligraphy/quirky sayings on board.

So much is still possible, even for those still restricted by the plague. Into your studios, this is where sanity lies.



Do have a look, send a message to the artists; let us all encourage each other, and show our appreciation of good work. Cheers from Dale in the far, safe south.

Stay strong, stay well, keep working towards an end of these tough times.

Dale Copeland

Left: Moonlight by Sally Thrush.

Twenty years at The Village

The Village Gallery celebrating 20 years 16 March-9 April.

The Village Gallery was opened in the original small Bridge Street, Eltham location on 30 March, 2001, and operated there for five years until moving to the present premises at 166 High Street in 2006. Some of the inaugural exhibitors and artists who showed their work at the Gallery in those first five years have been invited to exhibit their artworks in this retrospective exhibition. We have had a great response from these artists, and Richard Landers has generously donated one of his iconic glass sculptures as a fundraiser for the Gallery. Other artists include Maree Ballantyne, Wendy Neighbours,



The Village Gallery in Eltham.

Maree Liddington, Sheila Connell, Paul Burgham, Daphne Bland - painters, photographers, potters and fibre artists.

An Opening and Birthday

celebration is to be held on Friday, 26 March at 7.00 pm, with invited guests, artists, supporters and 'old' and current members of the Gallery attending

(COVID-19 restrictions allowing).

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<p>THE FOOD CLUB Comedy, English Subtitles 1hr 39mins M Offensive language and sexual references Sat 13th Mar 7pm Fri 26th Mar 7pm</p>	<p>EARWIG AND THE WITCH Animated, Family 1hr 22min PG Sat 20th Mar 1pm</p>
<p>COUSINS Drama, NZ Film 1hr 23min PG Fri 19th Mar 7pm</p>	<p>SUPERNOVA Drama, Romance 1hr 33mins M: Language Sun 14th Mar 7pm</p>
<p>THE LITTLE THINGS Crime, Thriller 2hr 8mins M Sat 20th Mar 7pm Sun 28th Mar 7pm</p>	<p>THE PINKIES ARE BACK Documentary 1hr 35mins E Sat 27th Mar 7pm</p>

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New exhibitions open at Lysaght Watt Gallery



What's On Listings



Expression in Yellow by Dan Mills.

Hawera's Lysaght Watt Gallery will launch two exhibitions this month, including a touring show by Puke Ariki and large paintings by a new Eltham resident artist, Dan Mills.

The 'Redecorating Taranaki' project focuses on ideas around creating new community taonga.

Medals, trophies and awards in Puke Ariki's collection tell tales of wartime bravery, sporting skill, and public recognition. They show us who we were and what values were important to us in the past. But what is important to us now? What has changed?

Taranaki jewellers Jennifer Laracy (Pungarehu) and Sam Kelly (New Plymouth) asked locals for their ideas. In 2019 they held a series of community workshops, including many at South Taranaki LibraryPlus branches, inviting people to tell us about and design a medal for someone they think deserves to be honoured. Taking inspiration from those stories and the objects in the museum's

storeroom, Jennifer and Sam have created ten new awards that represent what we value in Taranaki today. The Diversity Award, studded with Swarovski Crystal, celebrates the art of welcome and the vibrancy others bring. The Taranaki Whānau Trophy is in recognition of our role models and the ancestors who have come before us. Other values represented by the new awards include creativity, friendship, and sustainability.

Crafted using a range of jewellery-making techniques and materials, the new awards presented in Redecorating Taranaki say a big thanks to everyone who makes our region such a special place.

Dan Mills will present a series of five large paintings for his exhibition. Mills is a fine art and mural painter who has recently relocated to Eltham. He is known in Hāwera for his recent murals at the Hāwera RSA building and the southern entrance rail bridge. For this show, Dan presents a suite of

vibrant, large-scale oil and aerosol paintings on canvas, exploring dynamic colour fields and compositions with a hint of surrealism.

Mills says "My paintings are reactions to circumstance and surrounding. They're emotional and intuitive rather than intellectual or pre-conceived. I work on many pieces at a time. Usually each piece starts as a chaotic and accidental series splashes and marks, then become steadily more refined, some of my canvas' start out as drop-sheets, others occupy a space next to another work and absorb paint form the piece before it, many paintings leapfrog through my studio at a time."

South Taranaki District Council Arts Co-ordinator Michaela Stoneman says "The visual arts can show us a lot about identity; how art can help to define who we are and how we respond to where we live, either in the context of rural communities, New Zealand or globally. It's a pleasure to bring these two shows at our community gallery in Hāwera to celebrate our diversity and showcase exceptional work."

Redecorating Taranaki / Dan Mills: Large Paintings 10- 31 March - Opening: 6pm Tuesday 9 March 2021- All welcome

Lysaght Watt Gallery, 4 - 6 Union St, Hawera. Open: Mon - Fri 10am - 4pm and Sat 10am - 1pm.

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. Models always wanted; male, female, any age. If anyone is interested please call Marianne Mugeridge 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.

THURSDAYS

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

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

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.

Opunake Bowling Club Twilight Bowls: 5.30pm at the Club.

WEEKENDS

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

MARCH 7

Ngati Tara 26B AGM: 10am, Headlands Hotel, Opunake.

MARCH 9 TO APRIL 1

Diverse Locals II Exhibition: Lysaght Watt Gallery, Hawera.

MARCH 10

Taranaki National Art Awards AGM: 1pm, Sandfords Event Centre, Opunake.

Opunake Community Emergency Management Meeting: 7pm, Sandfords Event Centre, Opunake.

MARCH 11 TO MARCH 14

2021 TET Taranaki Masters Games: All around Taranaki. See article for more info.

MARCH 14

Opunake lakeside Lions Family Fun Dog Walk: 12.30pm. Sandfords Event Centre, Opunake

MARCH 16 TO APRIL 9

Celebrating 20 Years: At the Village Gallery, Eltham.

MARCH 17 TO MARCH 27

Love on the Beach: At the CUE Theatre, Inglewood

MARCH 22

NPBHS Boarding Open Day.

MARCH 23

Rahotu Home & School Association AGM: 7pm. Rahotu School Staffroom.

MARCH 30

Opunake Sporting Shooters AGM: 7.30pm. At the Clubrooms, Kaweora Rd, Opunake.

JUNE 4 TO 6

Coastal Rugby 25 Year Celebrations: Rahotu Domain.



NEW ZEALAND PRESS COUNCIL

Local news, local people, local businesses, local sport, local arts and events. Delivered free around the mountain every fortnight.



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OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

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DIVERSE LOCALS II

9 March - 1st April

Mon-Fri 10am-4pm Sat 10am-1pm

Lysaght Watt Gallery

6 Union St, Hawera

Follow us on facebook

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 Term 2, 2021. These vacancies are in New Entrant and Year 1 with limited vacancies in Year 2 to 8.

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

The deadline for applications is 3pm, Thursday 1st April.

If the number of applicants exceeds the number of places available, students will be selected by ballot. Ballots, if required, will be held on the 7th April.

Shaun Kalin, Board of Trustees



Office Rooms/ Board Room available

Long term, short term or casual basis

Building has kitchen facilities, wheelchair access, cleaning services and plenty of parking on Napier Street or at rear of building on King Street.

Inquiries to Brenda Pittams - Ph 06 278 4169

CHURCH NOTICES

Opunake Co-operating Parish

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

Okato/Oakura Co-operating Parish

Oakura - St James - 10am, 2nd & 4th Sundays each month
Oakura - St James - 9am Bible Reading, Prayer and Reflection every Tuesday
Okato - St Pauls - 10am, 1st & 3rd Sundays each month
Okato - St Pauls - 10.30am Fellowship time 3rd Thursday of each month
Okato - St Pauls - 6.30pm Silent Prayer and Reflection 3rd Thursday of 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
Manaia - Sacred Heart - 1st, 3rd Sat at 5pm (2nd, 4th & 5th Sat at Hawera's St Josephs)
Kaponga - St Patricks, Sunday 8.45am
All welcome

St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato

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

The Wave

Pentecostal Church 64 Domett St, Opunake
Sunday Services 10.30am
Women's Group 10.30am Tuesday
Men's Group 7pm Wednesday
Come along or contact
Murray Baylis
027 218 3377

St. Barnabas Anglican Church

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

Okato Community Church

Meets 10.30am Sunday at Hempton Hall.
Everyone welcome



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Phone: 027 555 1421

SOLVING THE AGRI / BUSINESS PUZZLE NEW ZEALAND WIDE

Opunake Sporting Shooters Inc.

AGM

Tuesday March 30, 7.30pm

At the Clubrooms, Kaweora Rd, Opunake

All welcome.

Any inquiries to Nigel Bright
027 268 8049

Rahotu Home and School Association AGM

Tuesday 23rd March @ 7pm
Rahotu School Staffroom

All Welcome



Next Meeting is on
Monday April 5, 2021
at 5.30pm

Hughsons & Associates Boardroom at the
Opunake Business Centre, 23 Napier St, Opunake
(opposite the Coastal Care Medical Centre)

SITUATIONS VACANT



SITUATION VACANT

CoastalCare is currently looking for a Contract Cleaner for their premises on 26 Napier Street, Opunake.
In the first instance please send your C.V. or contact Facility Manager Aretha Lemon at info@coastalcare.co.nz or phone: 06 761 8488



DELIVERY PERSON WANTED

We need a reliable delivery person to deliver our fortnightly newspaper to half of Manaia
Please phone 06 761 7016. Ask for Rolland.

TRADES & SERVICES

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COASTAL STOPPERS. GIB Phone Glenn 027 524 5745

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HCL BUILDERS for concrete work. Ph 027 236 7129.

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

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

HCL BUILDERS for building houses. Ph 027 236 7129.

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A NEW STUDY shows 'A' blood types are more susceptible to contract Covid 19. Herbs that are beneficial to assist the immune system for 'A' blood types are garlic or Kyolic, Echinacea, ginger. For more information: The Health Shop in Centre City 06 758 7553.

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