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New policeman for Okato and Oakura. See page 6.

Okato 150th celebrations a resounding success

Anthony Williams and his team should be very proud of the celebrations they organised, making Okato's 150 years memorable. One feature was the sheer comprehensiveness of the celebration – there was something for everyone. The event started last Friday March 6 with Peter Henderson as MC presiding over the official launch in the marquee tent.

A number of dignitaries spoke including Maori leader Dr Dennis Ngawhare-Pounamu, Peter Henderson, Mayor of New Plymouth Andrew Judd and Ross Dunlop, Mayor of South Taranaki. Dr Ngawhare-Pounamu spoke of the conflicts that have occurred along the 150 year journey, including confiscation of Maori land, but stressed that positivity has prevailed nevertheless, "Goodwill and peace will continue" - then performed a waiata.

Andrew Judd enthused at the huge turnout and near the end of his speech focussed on the youngsters present, "Great to see the kids, they are the future."

Ross Dunlop also mentioned the turbulent aspects of the 150 years, such as the land wars but concluded, "It's a neat time, Okato's got a great future." He jokingly added, – "Stay as you are, don't be like



Cutting the Anniversary Cake are Ray Rook, Okato identity and Luccas Ripia.

Oakura." Chairperson of the organising Committee Anthony Williams admitted that the organising of the event had not been easy. "It's been a real 'hard row to hoe' and we've had many obstacles," but concluded "Hopefully it will give Okato the celebration it deserves." One of the highlights was

the Float Parade on Saturday morning and a huge crowd was not put off by the inclement weather as they watched over 100 floats parade past, led by bagpipers and drums, as well as Clydesdale horses conveying a buggy of 'pioneers'. The floats represented many Okato organisations, but also celebrated prominent

families with names such as Smith, Moorby, Julian and Cassie, Goodin, McFetridge, Fox – just to mention a few. Corbett, Roebuck, Rook, Continued page 3

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Letters to the Editor

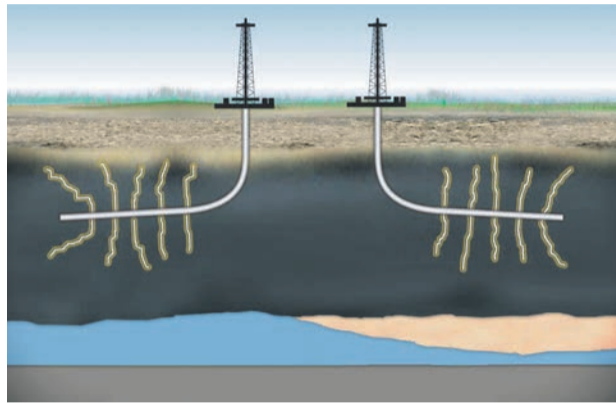
Fracking and farming

Taranaki could learn from Tasmania. Their government has just extended its ban on fracking for another five years. One of the reasons they do not allow fracking is to protect their reputation as a producer of fresh, premium and safe farm produce. There

has never been any fracking allowed in Tasmania.

With the growing emphasis on food quality in China, we should be concerned about this issue.

Robert Shaw, Opunake



Ladder accident

Recently while painting inside our shop in Opunake I had the misfortune to fall backwards off a ladder causing me to crack three vertebrae in my lower neck.

I would like to thank, firstly Dr Mitch Feller for his prompt response and diagnoses in calling rescue services. Then Ryan and the team from Opunake fire service and the St John team with all their equipment to deal with my situation. I felt their care and concern in every action in getting me to the ambulance. To the helicopter crew for their efficiency in arriving from New Plymouth to transport me to base hospital and their care as well. In A and E I was attended to more compassion and understanding of

my situation, which was unknown at this stage. Scans and xrays were taken as efficiently as possible and then I was transported to ward 3B.

Thanks to Nicole my day nurse in ward 3B who was always cheerful and ready to assist with treatment, again someone who loves their job. I am now recuperating well at home and in no small part it's due to the wonderful volunteers who give their time and commitment to medical services on the coast. Thanks again everyone for being there for me and all the get well wishes I have received.

*Bill Hayward
Opunake Fish Chips & More.*

How the Council can save money

New Plymouth District Council is seeking to save \$20m over the next ten years, by reviewing its structure then identifying and building efficiencies within it. One such area which is apparent to review, is council's staffing levels. As per the 2013-2014 financial report Council had 507 full

time equivalent (FTE) staff members, an unnecessary increase of eight from the previous year. Therefore the elimination of 25 FTE staff positions (or 4.9% of council's workforce) should be quite easy to attain.

These 25 FTE's receiving NPDC's average \$70,000

salary, plus a conservative \$10,000 each supporting infrastructure cost, totals \$80,000 annually per employee. This would save \$2m annually, or the \$20m saving being sought over the ten year period. The staff retrenchment could be attained largely through natural attrition leaving 482 FTE

employees. Those in the dairy and oil industries in Taranaki will be restructuring, identifying and building efficiencies far greater than 4.9% in their operating expenses at present.

Jim Lawn

Okato

B.B.C. The Picture

There is a very famous picture of Jesus knocking at a door at evening time. In the growing dark Jesus is holding a lamp in one hand while He knocks with the other. He is dressed in royal robes and has a crown on his head. This picture is called "The Light of the World". It was painted by William Holdman Hunt in the early 1850s and is based on Revelation 3 verse 20, John 1 v9 and 12 v46.

There is a mass of underlying meanings or allegories behind many parts of the picture. Jesus, crowned and dressed as King indicates the end of the age. It is late evening and almost too dark to see, an illustration of the today when Christ's message has been darkened.

Jesus Himself comes with the light, and that light is portrayed as a lantern. The light that Jesus brings is not

a fixed thing of history but a fresh revelation (light) for each age. He is the light and Christians are to walk in His light while He is in the light. You see Jesus moves onward and upward. Past faith, past understandings are not good enough. It must be scriptures being fulfilled today. And God's Word revealed today is Jesus of this time.

He stands outside of the Laodicean Church He walks with the light and knocks on

the door of people's hearts. And here is one of the most interesting insights.

All great artworks have to pass through a hall of critics. When this picture was inspected one critic questioned the artist as he thought a mistake had been made. There is no latch on the outside of the door. He asked the artist, "How would Jesus get in?"

Hunt replied, "I painted it thus, for the latch is only on the inside. Jesus cannot come in just by His will. You have to open the door to Him when He knocks."

Some people, seeing much war, pain, and death ask, why doesn't God take control?

He can't, He won't. He has given us all free will.

Jesus always knocks but it is up to you to open the door to Him. After all there could be no free will or real love if He forced His way into your life and made you see His light.

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Okato 150th celebrations a resounding success

Continued from page 1

In the watching crowd the Cassie family held a huge sign outlining personalities, past and present. "It's awesome. I didn't expect it to be so great," enthused one member who said some Cassie family members came from as far away as Invercargill to attend the celebrations.

One onlooker had this to say of the floats. "I thought they were absolutely brilliant. I especially loved the family floats. Such a shame about the weather."

The Okato and Districts Historical Society went to considerable lengths to set up an astonishing display in Hempton Hall. There was a plethora of photographs (including laden albums), news clippings, pictures, historical items, books, information on earlier commemorations, and important places such as Parihaka and Puniho Pa. Notable figures such as Te Whiti o Rongomai, Tohu Kakahi and LD Hickford were also included. It also covered the history of churches, schools, shops, dairy companies and the Boys Brigade.

A special moment was the cutting of the cake by Okato identity Ray Rook and youngster Luccas Ripia. The cake was a veritable work of art, baked by Charlotte Fisher. It had all kinds of decorations including the clock at the roundabout and pictures of buildings of interest. Kerry and Kate Lilley completed most of the cake's art work to a very high standard.

There was a church service held in the marquee involving all of Okato's

churches. Rev Albie Martin, Rev Kevin McFetridge, Rod Smith, Lesley Dowding, and Father Tom Lawn gave thought-provoking addresses. I was impressed with their contribution. The collection is going to help Keira Fraser, a stricken child who has a brain injury. "No matter what our calling or colour, we are all under one God," concluded Rev McFetridge.

Sunday night was a lot of fun with humorous skits to the fore. One was a take-off of TVs 'This Is Your Life' and various ex-staff members were called forth after their voice was amplified. Another funny one involved the Okato Pub morphing into a childhood centre and several beer drinkers' comic reaction. Grown men cavorted around in kiddies attire to the bemusement of real four-year-olds.

Congratulations Anthony Williams and your team

you've done Okato proud. The last word goes to Anthony, "Can I say that, along with the Organising Committee, who have spent 15 months putting the structure in place, we were supported by dozens of unsung heroes who all played their part during this time in making the celebrations a success, as they had an idea of the workload the Committee

was under and just wanted to take up the strain. Even during the weekend people offered their help in any areas. I am sincerely humbled by all the support. The true success lies with the Okato and District folk and all the friends and relatives who took the time to experience the activities of the Okato ad Districts 150 year celebrations."



One act that intrigued people.



A humorous skit based on the conversion of Okato's popular pub becoming a childhood centre - which brought the house down.

Public invited to health centre blessing

The Coastal Care Health Centre is nearly finished, with dates set for the blessing of the building, and the official opening.

There will be a chance to get a closer look at the new centre when the building is blessed on March 17.

The dawn blessing ceremony had been incorrectly advertised as

taking place on March 4.

The site had been blessed in May last year, before building started on land donated by the South Taranaki District Council and St John. Getting a property on Tasman Street had proved difficult, and the former South Taranaki District Council building and a site near the Opunake

Cottage Rest Home had been among other places looked at before deciding on the Napier Street site.

Members of the public are invited to attend the dawn blessing of the new Coastalcare building on Tuesday 17 March at 6.30am, followed by light refreshments. Everyone is welcome, gathering on the

site at the corner of King and Napier Streets, Opunake at 6am.

The Coastal Taranaki Health Trust is planning to have the official opening on April 2 and the building will be open for business after Easter.



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Cr Alex Ballantyne

Some thoughts from Eltham

Many thanks from Eltham to the hundreds of you from throughout the district who expressed your support for us recently. Enough to know that the offending "eader" will soon be re-sealed (after 521 polite requests) and then buried. Yes. I know. Enough said, but rest assured that the locals will continue to work to ensure a similar

fate can never befall an innocent population again.

Speaking of health, the last CENSUS continues to deliver interesting facts. Expect some good news on the government population-based funding, and recall that on average we now live a full 20 years longer than our forebears did only 100 years ago. At least we colonialists' descendants

do, our genetically-identical brown-skinned brothers and sisters still perish an average of seven years earlier. Your health boards are working on this, but take it from some Eltham residents, systemic abuse most certainly and demonstrably leads to poor health. NP ratepayers: for decades till now you've approved wards based on noth-

ing more than geographical residence. Take it from me, Chester Borrows councillor Rumball and the rest of your elected council; vote for a higher standard for our kids, not our grandparents.

Go with positivity for us all. Vote for a Maori ward.

Cr Alex Ballantyne
Eltham Ward, STDC

Civil defence no show disappoints deputy mayor

South Taranaki District deputy mayor Ian Armstrong says he is disappointed at the no-show at a community meeting to discuss Opunake's civil defence needs. Only nine people turned up at a meeting on March 3 at the Sandfords Event Centre to discuss developing a community emergency plan for Opunake.

The following day, Mr Armstrong, who represents the Egmont Plains on the South Taranaki District Council,

told the Egmont Plains Community Board that the low turnout was disappointing, given the lack of a plan as to how to deal with a civil emergency, and the need to get the various groups in town involved in developing one.

"It beggars belief that civil defence doesn't have at least a framework without people having to reinvent the wheel again. We need movers and shakers, people with links to get involved," he said. "It was suggested I should be the

figurehead, but there are four bridges between me and Opunake, so there really needs to be somebody in Opunake."

Egmont Plains Community Board member Brian Vincent said there is a need for everybody to prepare themselves.

"A lot of people don't even know where the water tobies for their properties, or their sewage outlets are. In the event of an earthquake, these would be the first things to go."

Cr Bonita Biggam said in

the event of a civil emergency, every centre's needs would be different, hence the need for every town to come up with a plan of their own. The experience in Manaia would be different to that of Opunake, she said.

Mr Armstrong said there will be another meeting at the Sandfords Event Centre on April 12, and this time round, he is hoping more people will turn up.

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Council pushing on with Skatepark

The on again-off again Manaia skate park appears to be back on again. Construction for the new park was due to start at the 56 South Road site in January, but was held up after neighbour Patricia Green said council contractors had damaged two sheds bordering her property, ripping the lid off a septic tank

in the process. Ms Green said this rendered the site a health hazard.

The South Taranaki District Council has now decided to go ahead, and asked council officers to proceed with planning, the council's community services manager Fiona Greenhill told the March meeting of the Egmont Plains

Community Board.

Pressco has said it would continue as contractor but wanted to see additional security measures put in. They would not be able to start work until mid-May, Ms Greenhill said.

A security camera would be installed and fences would be extended, although the

graffiti-strewn front fence facing South Road would be taken down.

"The supposed septic tank would be unearthed prior to work starting," Ms Greenhill said. "We don't believe there is a septic tank there, but we are going to dig up the ground anyway to remove any doubt."

Beach history sign missing believed smashed

A former South Taranaki District councillor says she is gutted at the destruction of a sign dedicated to Opunake's history.

Ann Hickey QSM, who served for 24 years as a district councillor before stepping down in 2009, said she was part of a group that researched the history which went on to a sign at Brewer's Lookout, overlooking Opunake Beach. The sign was one of several placed along the

Opunake Walkway explaining points of local historical interest, and overlooking the sea, it covered the history of the beach.

In late February, she noticed that the sign had disappeared, leaving only the two posts on which it had been attached. A week later somebody told her the sign had been smashed in two.

"It's a pretty stupid thing to do. It's cost us a lot of time, and it cost the council a lot of money," she said. "It took us a lot of weeks to do the research, and then turn it into something that was small enough to go on to a sign, but



Overlooking the sea, two posts are all that remain of a sign dedicated to the history of a seaside resort.

still make sense.

"It's all really gutting. It's our history, and you often used to see visitors driving up there and reading it."

Mrs Hickey said she hoped

people using the walkway would keep an eye out for any other acts of vandalism.

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From paddock...to Parliament...to paddock

After over 20 years in politics coastal Taranaki's farmer politician is back in Coastal Taranaki betwixt "the Mountain and the sea where I belong," says Shane Ardern.

In between he's spent a fascinating sixteen and a half years treading the corridors of power a world away from tiny Te Kiri where he grew up.

He's met world leaders such as President Clinton, prime ministers, three generations of the Royal Family and Nelson Mandela.

It's been quite a journey which began when Shane Ardern became electorate chair of first the Taranaki electorate, then the Taranaki King Country when two electorates were merged. He went on to succeed the seat vacated by former Prime Minister Jim Bolger when he retired.

The decision to himself retire from politics was, on senses, a difficult one.

Right at the beginning you always wonder about timing, said Shane. "Timing in politics is everything."

The decision was motivated partly by family reasons. His two sons, one with an IT degree had independently returned from overseas to farm, initially coming back to the family farm in Watino Road.

Shane's wife Catherine lived on the farm for "ninety percent" of the time Shane was in Parliament. When Parliament was in session Shane would commute to Wellington returning on Friday and leaving early Tuesday morning.

Shane regards his biggest achievement in Parliament as the role he played in the formation of Fonterra and the legislation that was required for the merger of the dairy factory. He was, he says, "totally non negotiable" on the need to have a marketing structure that would be of truly international scale." He adds though it was a tight vote. "Caucus had a one vote majority over a period of three years." From 1998 to 2003 it came up weekly in discussion. Shane sees the historic merger of the three



Shane Ardern, happy to be back.

major dairy companies the New Zealand Dairy Board, Kiwi and the New Zealand Dairy Group into one huge company Fonterra as being essential in becoming competitive and efficient in the world.

"We export 96% of what we produce which makes us unique in the world. The merger meant "we are able to sell our products that we export for a higher price."

Shane added that the meat and wool industry have still not created a singularly focussed marketing structure which would extract the highest possible world prices and they're paying a price for that. "One of my regrets is that I was never able to get them to change their structure. (Currently an 18kg lamb is fetching \$100 at the farm gate. In Europe the same lamb would sell for \$280 because that's what the market would pay. They could be receiving 100% more than they do now. If they did the New Zealand economy would potentially benefit enormously." He concedes though "the housewife would pay more for lamb" as happened with the dairy products.)

The low dairy pay out this season was because the international market had a major collapse in the dairy trade. This was due to several factors he claims citing firstly the Russian war. "The European Union put a range of sanctions on Russia because of the invasion of the Ukraine. Russia's response was to not buy European dairy products. This impacted on New Zealand which is a major exporter to parts of Europe, Germany, France and other countries in Europe."

China is however our greatest market. "China was building up infant formula as they had a signed contract for dairy produce because of the massive growth in China. The forward forecast however didn't eventuate hence they didn't need any more. While the baby formula contamination had some impact at the time Fonterra was in a joint venture with a China company who were supplementing the formula with melamine which is toxic at certain levels - the market "quickly recovered", says Shane. The botulism scare which turned out to be a false positive had equally flattened the markets in China short term.

"New Zealand still has a very high regulation for food standards that matches anywhere in the world," Shane insists.

Thirdly, the US economy had also affected the international dairy price.

Is New Zealand therefore too reliant on the dairy industry? Should we be investing in other industries. What is the alternative? replies Shane.

While he sees benefits in immigration, he is adamant that New Zealand land should not be bought by foreign nationals.

"Ultimately we are an agricultural country. The engine room of New Zealand's economy overwhelmingly is agriculture. It needs to be protected and it is."

Shane will be amusingly remembered for driving an old Fergusson tractor up the steps of Parliament in protest at the proposed introduction of the methane tax. The old Fergusson tractor was part of the protest from the Michael Fowler Centre to Parliament being driven by an irate elderly farmer.

It was Shane's idea "to drive this little Fergie up the steps of Parliament." He described the proposed tax from ruminant animals as inconsistent in that it didn't apply to other ruminant animals and was "an absolute blatant tax on farmers." He was charged with disorderly conduct, but it was thrown out in court as had been expected. Provocatively they had parked the little tractor "Exhibit A" legally parked outside the courthouse, says Shane with a grin.

Shane has another humorous tale which he relates happened in the early

days of entering Parliament. Catherine was on the Te Kiri School Board of Trustees along with Shane's brother Neville.

One summer evening they went to Sugar Juice for a meal. They were having a general discussion about Shane's experiences in Parliament. "I would often promote Opunake pointing out it was quite an industrial little town" to fellow politicians and "not the one horse town that they think it is." He had just finished telling them this when unbelievably "a single rider less horse went clip clopping through the main street of Opunake."

He had another funny experience when electioneering and dropped into the Whangamomona Pub. A chap in the later stages of celebrating the Dean Cup Rugby match confronted him in the bar. "He looked 7 foot tall with red hair and red eyes and had more hair growing out of his ears than I've ever seen," recalls Shane. The man advanced towards him with his finger waving and when he got to within shouting distance said "I've been driving for three days and nights trying to get away from your face." Shane's reply; "It's a bloody big farm." Afterwards he bought him a drink chuckles Shane.

Of his time in politics Shane comments it's "very stressful, it's a very knife edged career," in which "a huge majority can disappear overnight if you stuff up in Parliament and if you don't represent those who elected you."

As to contentious issues such as the deployment of troops to Iraq, he harks back to the sending of troops to Iraq a decade ago. "I had very mixed feelings at the time," he says. "With the benefit of hindsight we should have been slower in responding." He qualifies this by saying though that ultimately Blair and Bush acted on the advice they were given at the time in a reference to the weapons of mass destruction, which

have since been found to be a fallacy.

"They've got to go with the best information they receive."

Of the world leaders he's met he was impressed with US president Bill Clinton who he said was "very, very full on and commanding. He held your attention." They discussed the dairy industry "What amazed me was how well informed he was about New Zealand trade issues."

The three times he met the Queen three times he was impressed by how very skilled she was at her role. "She had a very good memory and was very well briefed about us as individuals. She knew who I was and where I came from." She also spoke about MMP and the election. There was a discussion going on in the UK at the time about the electoral system.

He also spoke to Prince Charles about agriculture and farming. "He knew I was a farmer," said Shane adding the future monarch was "A lot more astute and politically astute than his public persona would have you believe." He particularly warmed to the Duke who he described as having a good sense of humour. British Prime Minister David Cameron came over as "boarding schoolish and very English" and former Leader of the Conservative Party William Haigh who he spent three days with was "very born to rule English." He met Nelson Mandela though only briefly. And in New Zealand when they visited he met "Will and Kate" who he said were very very pleasant. "A modern young couple." He talked most to Kate who commented how beautiful she found New Zealand and how friendly the folk were. "They'd been staying at a retreat in the Wairarapa."

It's been quite a journey.

Shane describes politics as a "hugely fascinating and challenging career."

As to the future Shane is a little coy. He's had offers, but for the moment is "happy to be back on the farm."

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Eltham



David Lindsay

Hello people. It's been a while since our last article and we're well overdue.

Things have been flat out for both officers the last few weeks around Eltham.

Jobs of interest include, a 29 year old male arrested and charged for breaching a protection order, and a 20 year old male arrested and charged for the burglary of Antiques

Busy time for Eltham police

and Effects shop on High Street. A 24 year old male was arrested after a domestic incident and charged with male assaults female, wilful damage, assaulting police and cultivating cannabis.

Police recovered a stolen Suzuki motorbike and are following a good line of enquiry. A 17 year old male was arrested and charged with unlawfully taking a motor scooter from outside the Coronation Hotel in Eltham. A 39 year old male was arrested and charged with breaching a protection order.

A 24 year old male was summonsed and had his car impounded for sustained loss of traction for doing a 24 metre burnout outside the Police station on High Street.

A 41 year old male was summonsed for theft and

possession of cannabis.

The Eltham cameras are proving their worth again after many of the incidents occurring around the town have been caught on cameras and offenders identified and charged.

They are a fantastic tool, and it's nice to be able to play offenders the footage of their actions after they deny any wrong doing. Oh bugger.

We have had three separate thefts of seats and table furniture from the One One Three High Street Motel in Eltham since before Christmas until recently. Offenders are described as three males in their late teens who always head south on High Street after the thefts. The seats are chrome with blue seats, as well as a white seat, and two tables brown in colour.

Anyone with information please contact us on (06) 764 8055

We are attending a large number of domestic violence incidents in the last few months which is rather disturbing. We urge those in volatile relationships to seek some form of help like the Tutaki Trust who provide family violence counselling and services, rather than allowing the same incidents to repeat over and over, often in front of children, who don't forget that kind of behaviour.

The Tutaki Trust contact phone number is 06 9284517

That's all for now, take care out there.

Senior Constable David Lindsay and Constable Dennis Gibbon,

Eltham Police.

Constable Rhys Connell, new Okato and Oakura policeman



Rhys Connell is stationed in Okato and is keen to get to know the community.

Since the start of February a new policeman in Constable Rhys Connell has been on the job, based in Okato. Rhys replaces Richard Corry, who continues to live in Okato. Rhys is also responsible for the Oakura township and environs.

Before his new appointment Rhys was based in New Plymouth, involved with training for the the CIB. Other appointments have in-

cluded Rural Liaison Officer for the north Taranaki area, from a Waitara base.

Rhys has farmed in the Okato and Rahotu area so knows the district very well. He used to be a sharemilker and was farming for about 14 years, before he joined the police in 2006.

"I'm enjoying it. It's a bit of a homecoming of sorts," he says.

Rhys was born and bred in the Wellington area - Lower Hutt to be precise. However his Taranaki connection started young when his parents took over the Ashley Lodge in Eltham, which was

a restaurant at the time. He attended Stratford High School, before taking his first job as a farm worker, prior to becoming a sharemilker.

Despite his busy life, Rhys still finds time to coach the Spotswood Senior A rugby team, as well as doing a bit of mountain biking in the Mangahoe Forest.

At present his main focus is to get to know the people, including visiting the schools - such as Coastal Taranaki School and Oakura Primary School - as part of the process. "My main role is to get my name out there, meet people and be visible,"

he explains.

His main concerns so far have been to do with traffic. He is aware that there has been some overtaking on the double yellow lines, as well as too much speed through the village, although he hastens to say it seems to be non-locals who are remiss in this regard.

Rhys is keen for people to keep him informed.

"The community are the eyes and ears. Feel free to pop in to have a yak."

He stresses that whatever he is told can be in complete confidence with no names being mentioned or recorded.



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Vehicles shine on Anniversary Weekend

On Sunday, Hyway 45 Cruisers and the Scenic City Rod and Custom Club joined forces to help Opunake celebrate 150 years.

Hyway 45 Cruisers had been asked to do something for the sesquicentennial, and with the Scenic City Rod and Custom Club having their 10th annual Coastal Hot Rod Run on Taranaki Anniversary weekend, it seemed a good idea to incorporate that as well.

As a result over 40 hot rods, street machines, classic cars and motorbikes parked outside Sandfords Event Centre on Sunday for the Show and Shine Family Day. The previous day, many of these had been part of Okato's Sesquicentenary parade.

Proceeds from Show and Shine went to the Opunake Fire Brigade who were on hand demonstrating the jaws of life.

The Coastal Hot Rod Run had grown considerably from its early days.

"I had mentioned to a couple of friends of mine that I wanted to have a run based every year around Taranaki Anniversary weekend. We used to camp down the beach. Now it's grown so much, we get outsiders as well, and a lot of them come back every year," club president Gary Langlands said.

Among those who have been there from the start is Graham Bennett with a 1938 Ford Barrel Nose truck.

"Originally it was a three ton farm truck from up north," Graham said. "When I bought it 17 years ago, it was something that should have gone to the dump, but bit by bit as I could afford it, I've knocked it into shape."

Jim Murdoch from Rotorua has been coming for the last four years.

"It's a good run, with good hosts, who come to our one every year," he said. He had picked up his 1959 Ford Mercury Park Lane at the Longbeach Swap Meet from somebody who worked for Boeing and used it as a family car, while on a visit to the United States in 2001.

"Most weekends it's at a hot rod run or car event," he said.

David Murray of Eltham is the proud owner of a 1937 Chevrolet Coupe with a striking blue paint job.



Jim Murdoch of Rotorua and his 1959 Ford Mercury Park Lane.

"I have had it about three years. I had a 27 Roadster convertible, sold that and decided I liked this, so I got it. It gets a lot of attention," he said.

Also getting a lot of attention was Steve Gooch's 1928 Plymouth painted an equally striking red.

He has replaced the wooden wheel spokes, but much of the car is still much the same as when it was made.

"The doors are still the original wood," he said, opening them, and pointing out the nails.



David Murray and his 1937 Chev Coupe.

Left. Steve Gooch and his 1928 Plymouth.



Graham Bennett with his 1938 Ford Barrel Nose truck.



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Doing well on the Coast



Jonathan Young MP for New Plymouth

The last couple of weekends we've had some great parades in Taranaki. We saw everything big and beautiful from USA ... shiny and sounding great! That's right - Americana made its Taranaki tour again. And then last weekend Okato showed us life back in the last 150 years. Opunake knows how to put on a great parade too. Their Christmas parades was one of the best. Parades are part of Kiwi culture. It's great to see our communities come out and show off and there is a lot to be glad about in Taranaki and New Zealand. However we can and must do better. New Zealand is a small country at the bottom of the world and we

compete with a lot of bigger and more powerful countries. New Zealand is about the small guy doing well. Let's not forget about that. Let's hope that big corporates like Chorus and SOEs like NZ Post don't forget small town New Zealand too. The small towns doing well means the whole country is probably doing well.

And while you are thinking about how well you may or may not be doing, be assured that the government is working hard for New Zealanders. Delivering better public services to make a real difference to the lives of New Zealanders is one of National's priorities.

To reinforce our expectations, back in 2012 the Prime Minister set 10 specific results we want to achieve over the next few years.

These are in areas that have been challenging to governments, not just in New Zealand but around the world - such as welfare dependency, crime, child abuse, and educational achievement.

It's pleasing to see the latest six-monthly update of our Better Public Services programme shows we're making

progress in all areas.

For example, almost 5,000 people came off the long-term Jobseeker Support benefit in 2014 and the number of children who experienced substantiated physical abuse decreased by almost 200, or 5.6 per cent, over the 12 months to September 2014. Infant immunisations are at an all-time high, rheumatic fever rates have dropped considerably, and crime numbers continue to fall.

This programme is about challenging ourselves to do better, on behalf of the New Zealanders who need the most help, but also on behalf of taxpayers.

Our challenge now is to keep that progress going, as we try to help people who are harder to reach or who find change more difficult.

This means there will need to be more cooperation, more new ideas, and more reaching outside the public sector to find solutions. The Government is interested in doing what works to get results that change people's lives for the better.

We're extending three of our targets because we think we can build on the momentum

we have.

Our aim is to have 75,000 fewer New Zealanders on benefits by June 2018, and reduce the long-term cost of benefit dependency by \$13 billion.

As we've already signalled, we're changing the overall crime target to require a 20 per cent reduction by 2018, replacing the previous target of a 15 per cent reduction by 2017, which we've already achieved.

We're also lifting the target to increase the workforce skills of people aged 25-34.

There's still a lot of work to do and National will continue to focus on making strides on the things that matter to New Zealanders and their families.

We know if we can help our vulnerable get their lives on a more independent track, there'll be real gains not only in realising their potential, but also in savings for taxpayers.

Taranaki coastal is a great place. People who live on the coast have got real grit. Be proud of who you are.

Jonathan Young MP for New Plymouth

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On this month in history: Beethoven dies

On March 28, 1827 the great composer Ludwig Von Beethoven died and his funeral held in Vienna with an estimated 20,000 mourners. This was in contrast to Mozart whose funeral was very poorly attended.

On the same date, 32 years earlier, he had made his debut as a pianist aged 24.

The composer, who was deaf, is remembered for many great musical works including Fur Elise and his First Piano concerto.

On this month in history: Michelangelo is born

On March 6, 1475 Michelangelo Buonarroti was born in Italy. As a child progeny he was sent to the Medici School in Florence and was influenced by Plato's ideas in his study of Greek. Plato

believed the body housed the soul. Michelangelo studied anatomy by examining corpses, which helped him in his sculpting in marble.

He is remembered for such works of art as the marble statue of David and the painting on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.

On this month in history: Thorpe disqualified

On March 27, 2004 the great Australian swimmer Ian Thorpe ('Thorpedo') slipped off his starting block when about to defend his 400 metres freestyle title gained at the 2004 Athens Olympics. He was immediately disqualified.

Ian thought he had heard the starting pistol, but it was some other similar noise.

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Normanby Overbridge alignment welcomed

Whanganui MP Hon Chester Borrows welcomes Normanby Overbridge realignment. Whanganui MP Chester Borrows has welcomed progress on the Normanby overbridge realignment. "I am pleased to finally see

some work on this project after so many deaths, crashes, and near misses and so much lobbying from local people for the problem with the bridge to be solved," he said. "Eight years ago the three Taranaki MPs and Mayors went to NZTA with its pri-

orities including the Normanby Bridge. We were all in agreement and our priorities were accepted, so it is good to see we are finally getting a safer solution. "Having attended fatal crashes on the bridge as a policeman, and then witnessed

prosecutions on many occasions in Court as a result of poor alignment, and road road surfaces collaborating with bad driving, i am very pleased this death trap is being fixed. "It will be great for those affected families to see the remediation too.

"Thanks has to go to the community members such as Andy Beccard and his council colleagues, Mayor Ross Dunlop, and Taranaki Road Transport Association rep Tom Cloke for their continual lobbying and support for the project.

"I would also like to acknowledge police, fire and ambulance officers who will be breathing a huge sigh of relief when the project is finally complete. "We have all battled long enough for this project."

Manaia WI look back on a busy, positive year

The March meeting of the Manaia Women's Institute was held in the St. Cuthbert's church lounge. Seven members had enjoyed a Founders day picnic at the Patea beach. President Ann Chisnall welcomed members to the Annual Meeting, and secretary Desiree Phillips read the

annual report. The WI have had a busy year. Among material donations made during the year were 53 pairs of bed socks for local rest homes. 172 items were given to the local midwife - 17 singlets, 84 beanies, 24 jerseys, 31 pairs of booties, seven tank tops, three quilts, five blan-

kets and a pair of socks. Officers elected: President - Ann Chisnall, Secretary - Desiree Phillips, Treasurer - Phyllis Malcolm. Committee - Joy Brogden, May Mulholland, Edith Hicks, Meg Kelly, and Rickie Neil. Annual competition winners: Edna Free Trophy -

Shrub - Ann Chisnall. May Wright Trophy - Any other stem - Daphne Ashley. Mary Stevenson Cup - Home craft - Jenny Hamley. Jubilee Trophy - most points overall - Ann Chisnall. Barbara Barr Cup - most unplaced entries - Mavis West, Nicola Ashley, Lois

Crudis. Results of the March competitions were: Shrub. First Daphne Ashley. Second Phyllis Malcolm. Third Ann Chisnall. Other Stem. First Ruth Binns. Second Phyllis Malcolm. Third Joy Brogden. Home Craft. First Marion Smith. Second Ann Chisnall

Hand Craft - Babies Feeder - to be donated. First Daphne Ashley. Second Ann Chisnall. Third Rickie Neil. The Mary Hutton trophy was awarded to Freda Hill and the Wondering Coin was won by Elizabeth McAllister. Secret friends were revealed with some surprises

Now which one will I pat first? - eeny meany miney ...

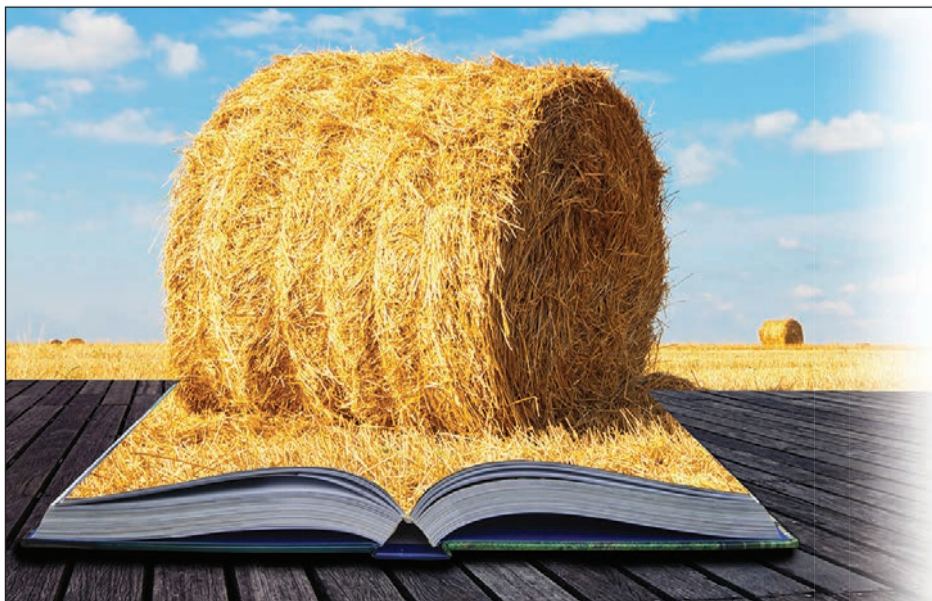


The girl with Tinsel and Reiko at Stony Oaks Wildlife Park.

this month history: roosevelt nominated

March 4 Franklin Del-Roosevelt accepted the nomination of the Democratic Party for the US presidency. He said, "All we have to fear is fear itself" as he outlined his ambitious plan to help his country recover from the Great Depression. Under his guidance the US make great gains.

He is the only president elected more than twice, but he died in office to be succeeded by Harry Truman.



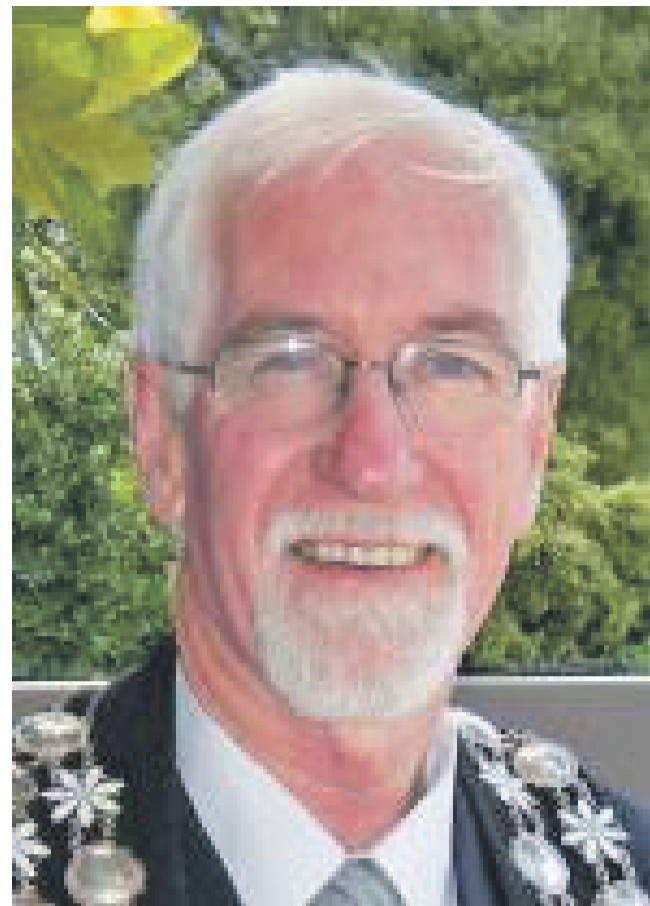
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Harry's back



Former New Plymouth mayor Harry Duynhoven is back at the Council table.

outh in 1987, defeating Tony Friedlander. Three years later he was out of parliament, losing to John Armstrong in the 1990 National landslide, but was back again three years later as MP for New Plymouth. In 2002, he had one of the largest majorities in the country, but lost to National's Jonathan Young six years later. He was associate transport minister, minister of transport safety and associate minister of Energy under Helen Clark. Awarded a QSO in 2012, he was mayor of New Plymouth from 2010-13.

With 3804 votes, Mr Duynhoven was, however a long way behind the other successful candidate, retired Port Taranaki chief executive Roy Weavers.

Mr Weaver said he was surprised at the extent of his win.

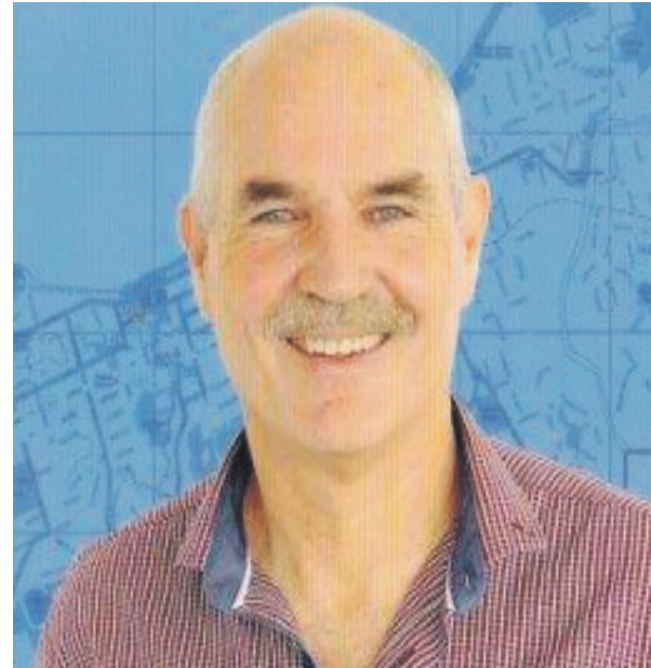
"What people have been telling me is that they wanted more experience on the council, more experience in governance, more experience in getting consensus around the table."

He said that in his role with the port, he knew all the councillors reasonably well, and was looking forward to working with them. "I just think people are looking to their councillors to not just serve their own interests, but they are wanting them to work as a team to look at issues and apply their skills and experience and make decisions as a group, then find some direction, rather than making one decision one day and another the next."

The highest polling unsuccessful candidate was Peter Barker (3068 votes). Former councillor Phil Quinney, who lost his council seat at the 2013 local body election, finished seventh with 1992 votes.

At the bottom of the poll in 13th place was perennial candidate Rusty Kane, who polled 211 votes.

This was the first New Plymouth council by-election since the 1970s. The two new councillors will be sworn in



The man who outpolled Harry. Fellow new NPDC councillor Roy Weaver.

on March 17.

Final result. Roy Weavers 7310. Harry Duynhoven 3804. Peter Barker 3068. Mary Barnard 3018. Neil Holdom 2475. Bev Gibson

2220. Phil Quinney 1992. Morris West 1870. Chris Manukonga 1575. Reuben Doyle 1517. Teresa Goodin 1039. Chris Wilkes 539. Rusty Kane 211.

Less than two years after being turfed out of the New Plymouth mayoralty, Harry Duynhoven is back at the council table.

lors elected in the New Plymouth City Ward by-election caused by the resignations of councillors John MacLeod and Len Houwers.

Mr Duynhoven has been a familiar face on the New Plymouth political landscape for nearly 30 years. He was elected MP for New Plym-



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Americarna hits Opunake with a hoot and a roar of engines



A onlooker's wave scores a wave, in reply from the driver of the red car.

On this month in history: Dr Spock dies

On March 15, 1998 paediatrician Dr Benjamin Spock died, aged 95. He wrote a famous book which sold 30,000,000 copies entitled 'Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care'.

His ideas were controversial and some claimed he advocated loose discipline in the rearing of children. Yet his children said he was a strict father in the home setting.

Before he became famous as a doctor he was an Olympian and won a gold medal at the 1924 Olympics as part of a rowing crew competing for the United States.

In meeting him the first thing that struck you was his height – he was very tall.

He visited New Zealand during the height of the Vietnam War to speak out

against military involvement. During the meeting, which was held in Auckland a vocal member of the audience tried to disrupt Dr Spock's speech. It was interesting to see how he handled it - he simply paused during the tirade then when quiet again continued as if nothing had happened. He did not try to counter what the man was shouting at him.

Dr Spock often took part in protests and was sometimes arrested. On one amusing occasion, he was unable to get through a crowd to sit where it was forbidden, as part of a protest. A policeman said, "Look just up there Dr Spock is a gap you can get through." (It was an anti-nuclear protest).

Dr Spock climbed through the gap, thanking the helpful policeman and was promptly arrested.

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Coastal Rugby buys



Margaret Fleming, Patron of the Coastal Rugby Club. Her late husband Bernie was the first chairperson of the Coastal Rugby Club.

After 20 years Coastal Rugby has achieved a long held goal, its very own farm.

"I don't think there's any other club in New Zealand that owns a dairy farm, it's unique in New Zealand said Life Member of the Coastal Rugby Club Ray Barron.

He was addressing those who attended an Open Day on Tuesday March 3. The farm, which is on Kina Road, was owned by Anne Fleming who, with her late husband John, raised 10 children there.

Ray went on to give an entertaining history of the Coastal Rugby Club before guest speaker former All Black captain Graham Mourie spoke.

The idea of a combined Coastal Rugby team was first mooted after a team approach from the three rugby clubs on the coast, Opunake, Rahotu and Okato 20 years ago. A full merger however did not take place till late 1996.

"The initiative came from players," said Ray adding that for several years Opunake and Rahotu were running combined teams and there was feedback that the



Coastal Rugby president Brent Davies.

players didn't want to go back to their own teams." Then Okato got involved.

"There was a sort of revolt," said Ray to an amused audience.

Ray who used to play for Rahotu was initially not involved, but did subsequently just six weeks before the final vote.

There seemed to be general agreement among the clubs that they should combine. "It was around the time dairy companies were also merging," said Ray. After the vote was taken the Coastal Rugby team was born.

Bernie Fleming from Rahotu was approached to be the first chairman of Coastal Rugby. He was widely respected and had a lot of "mana" said Ray. He was the inaugural chairman for the first three years. He continued - adding that it was ten years almost to the day since Bernie's passing on Feb-

ruary 21. Bernie's widow Margaret was in the audience and is now the Coastal Rugby Club's Patron.

"Bernie's leadership in these early days was absolutely crucial said Ray adding that Bernie remained involved in Coastal Rugby right up to his passing.

Paul Bourke was secretary of the new Coastal Rugby Club and Vicki Trolove was treasurer.

Coaching co-ordinator was Tom Goodin and Brent Davies, current President of Coastal Rugby, was Club Captain.

Former All Black captain Graham Mourie also became involved and the slogan "Men on a Mission" was born. He was forever coming up with "bright ideas proving why he was a great All Black Captain," said Ray.

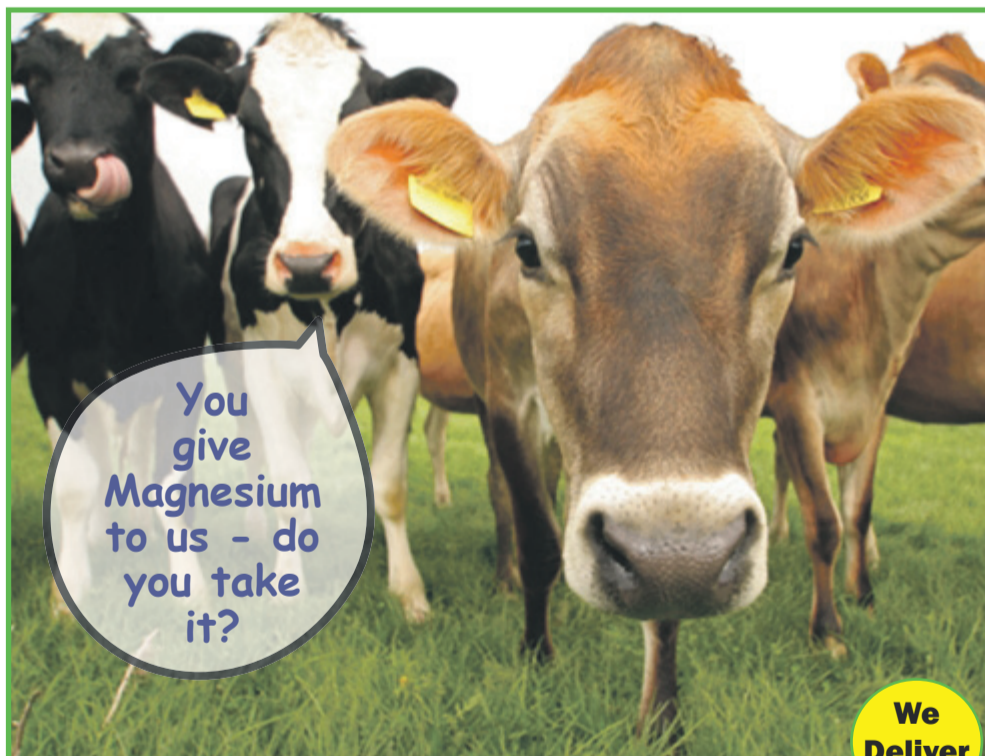
One idea was to buy the Rahotu Tavern that was on

the market. The lure of cheap beer seemed to be an added incentive. "After much debate around the table," however the question was posed and swiftly answered "what are we? - we're farmers" so the pub got put on the back burner. Instead the club leased a farm from Jim Lawn from Okato.

Sixty five cows were donated and a further 35 were free leased which meant they had 90 cows. Some of the leased cows were not secured, but that didn't seem to matter said Ray raising a laugh. Within five years they had paid off the herd.

In 1997 they took lease of the property which they had for 12 years. They next leased a farm owned by Paddy Baker. After 18 years leasing farms "it was pretty obvious the next step was farm ownership."

Any profits from the farm will not be taxed and will go



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Peter Moffit, farm advisor.

its own dairy farm



One of Coastal Rugby's younger supporters, William Kettlewell who is just 8 months old. Mother Jenny (nee Goodin), whose father Tom was also at the meeting, are long time supporters of the Coastal Rugby Club.



"It could have been a pub," said Graham Mourie who was guest speaker.

towards player welfare. Ray commented that they won the farm on tender over Francis Mullin who was at the gathering and judging by his amusement at the comment didn't seem to mind. The farm is mostly flat.

"I think as a club we should be extremely proud of the farm," concluded Ray.

Farm advisor Peter Moffit from Farmwise, who next spoke and will continue in his role as farm advisor on the 80 effective hectare farm" explained that it was originally a west coast lease farm that had been in the Fleming family for 30-40 years. In later years the previous owner employed 50-50 share milkers who will continue to run the farm. They have 240-250 cows and this season are on target to do 85,000 kg of milk solids. "The farm is in pretty food heart." The Farm Supervisor is Mark Trolove.

Peter, who with wife Larissa Kelbrick, in their second season as sharemilkers on the farm, then spoke briefly also giving some encouraging statistics. The farm has a 20 aside herringbone shed in which they have milked 230 cows this year. Last year they did 72,000 kg of milk solids. This year they averaged 4 kilo PKE a cow and next year is optimistically projected to reach 90,000kg. "We hope to milk more cows next year," said Pete.

"A lot of the decisions are by committee," added Peter Moffit.

Coastal Rugby president Brent Davis then in-

troduced Graham Mourie MBE who captained 57 All Black games and played 104 games for Taranaki and was last year inducted into the IRB Hall of Fame.

Graham was "a very strong advocate of Coastal Rugby, an inaugural coach and has Life Membership of the Coastal Rugby Club" introduced Brent.

Graham then took centre stage and embarked on an amusing address which began with his describing the purchase of the farm as "a fantastic end" to what was started.

"The aim was that we'd be financially sustainable in three years," he said.

He then went on to give further background prior to the formation of the club when "Okato were the champions." In the late 80s rugby on the coast was in decline, he said.

In 1992 they didn't win a game during the year. "In 1993 I was approached to coach it. We won the Sevens tournament, then had a really good year. Fifty (Philip Barrett, uncle of present All Black Beauden Barrett) was the captain," he said.

"The players drove the merger," Graham commented. If you wanted to survive you needed a unique area and your own building ground he said which was stipulated as from Pihama to Okato.

He recalls they managed to raise \$100,000, \$30,000 from marketing, \$30,000 from memberships and \$30,000 over the bar.

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Bill and Ali Hayward enjoying their new outdoor furniture.

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Bill and Ali Hayward's shop at 61 Tasman Street, Opunake has an appealing new look after an extensive upgrade.

Just for a start the premises have a commercial grade carpet laid throughout by RJ Eager (Stratford). "The carpet is now easy to keep clean and tidy. We're very pleased with it," comments Bill.

The premises are more spacious, with some wall and fixtures being taken out, and others repositioned, such as the ice cream station and coffee maker. "It's

easier for people," says Ali with a smile. There is more natural light because the modifications have allowed extra light from the skylights. "It's brightened it and opened it up," explains Bill.

The extensive electrical work ("a major job") was completed by Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration of Opunake to a high standard. "They were really good, really helpful," enthuses Bill.

The premises have also had a repaint and care taken to co-

Continued over page



Bill and Ali are very comfortably seated at one of the new formica tables.



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Colourful booths have also been installed giving customers a place to sit and eat.

...which many people admire and comment on



Bill serves a customer below the new menu board, which is "nice, clear and sharp."

Continued from page 14

ordinate colours within. The quality paints were provided by Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration.

There are two booths with brand new formica tables and very comfortable mini sofas to sit on to enhance the comfort of customers. The attractive tables were provided by Jones and Sandford of New Plymouth. "We wanted a 1960s milk bar look," explains Bill.

The legs of tables have been provided and expertly installed by AEA Stainless, so the annoying wobble one sometimes encounters in eating places is unlikely. "Marvellous," is Bill's comment. He adds, "They'll last for a hundred years."

The booths are bounded by "clean bright white" Seratone panels solidly installed by Kevin Taylor.

A bold bright menu board has been mounted above the counter, which allows the customer to see easily what is on offer, which now includes 'Meal Deals' - which are very good value for money. Speedy Signs of New Plymouth has completed all their signage requirements. Bill and Ali are obviously delighted with their work, which is, "nice and clear and sharp."

An interesting new feature is a huge, colourful map whereby pins indicate where tourists who visit the shop have originated from. So far patrons from European



Ali and Bill are intrigued by where their customers all come from and the different locations are pinned on this world map.

countries lead the way.

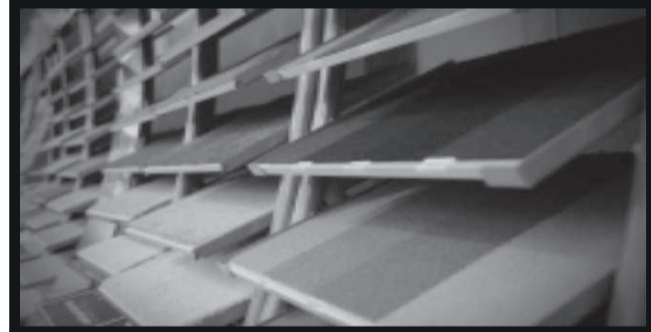
Outside on the pavement are some plastic chairs and tables, which are as "robust" as they are attractive. "I'm really enjoying the seating outside," says Ali. The

couple tell an amusing tale of why they had to switch from yellow to blue, because the insects ("midges") mistook them for flowers and settled on the original ones in droves.

"We've been blown away at how remarkable the changes are.

People genuinely like the changes," concludes Bill.

RJ Eagar Stratford are delighted to provide the floor coverings for Bill and Ali's renovations.



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Off to Okato

Centenary veteran returns for Sesqui celebrations

A wagon which helped Okato celebrate its centenary returned last week to help the town celebrate reaching the 150 year mark.

The wagon, built in 1910, was pulled by four Clydesdale horses, aged five, seven, eight and fourteen years old.

Tina Gunson (nee Goodin), originally from Okato, but now living in Ongaonga in Central Hawke's Bay had contacted Stephen Muggeridge and

asked him to bring some of his Clydesdale horses for the trip.

Tina said her two grandfathers, Mick Goodin and Keith Roebuck had driven the wagon in the Okato Centennial parade 50 years ago, and also used it to pick up the clock from New Plymouth for the Okato roundabout.

Clydesdales have always been part of Stephen's life.

"After a while they just become your mates," he said. He is happy to carry on a family tradition, passed

down from his father and grandfather. Recent outings with his favourite horses have included the Highland Games at Turakina and the Horowhenua Vintage weekend at Levin.

He took the Clydesdales from Featherston to Ongaonga, from where they were trucked over to Taranaki. After spending a night at Waiteika Road, they were hitched to the wagon at Opunake on Thursday morning, and made their way to Okato, stopping for a

night in Pungarehu en route. Stephen said the horses' diet comprises oats and chaff for energy, and good quality hay.

"They mature at six or seven, a lot slower than some of the other horses. They eat a bit of tucker when they go through the maturing stage, but once mature, they are easy to maintain."

Tina said she has a Clydesdale herself, back home in Ongaonga. "It's probably a bit sulky about being left at home," she said.

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Coastal Adult Riding Club Gymkhana results

The Coastal Adult Riding Club had its annual Gymkhana on Saturday 28 Feb., at the Egmont A&P Show grounds. The classes were judged by Aletta Lovell and Emma Hurrell of Hawera.

Results. Beginners Ring. Best Cared for Mount and Rider - Rachel Moore (Tully) 1, Brian Hamblyn (Ranger) 2. Best Rider - Rachel Moore (Tully) 1, Brian Hamblyn (Ranger) 2. Paced and Mannered - Brian Hamblyn (Ranger) 1, Rachel Moore 2. Horse suitable for Riding Activities - Rachel Moore (Tully)

1, Brian Hamblyn (Ranger) 2. Best Combination - Brian Hamblyn (Ranger) 1, Rachel Moore (Tully) 2.

Pleasure Horse Ring. Best Cared for Mount and Rider - Michelle Judson (Cruizee) 1, Jo Zehnder (Larrey) 2, Clare Dravitski (Mr O'Rielly) 3, Anna Lee Innes (Chloe) 4. Best Rider - Clare Dravitski (Mr O'Rielly) 1, Jo Zehnder 2, Anna Lee Innes (Chloe) 3, Michelle Judson (Cruizee) 4. Paced and Mannered - Michelle Judson (Cruizee) 1, Clare Dravitski (Mr O'Rielly) 2, Anna Lee Innes (Chloe) 3, Jo Zehnder (Larrey) 4. Horse suitable for Riding Activities - Clare Dravitski (Mr O'Rielly) 1, Anna Lee Innes (Chloe) 2, Jo Zehnder (Larrey) 3, Michelle Judson (Cruizee) 4. Best Combination - Michelle Judson (Cruizee) 1, Clare Dravitski (Mr O'Rielly) 2, Anna Lee Innes (Chloe) 3, Jo Zehnder (Larrey) 4.

Green Horse Ring. Best Cared for Mount and Rider - Maree Gulliver (Texas) 1, Krissi Kain (Latte) 2, Zoe Rook (Oscar) 3, Christina Wells and Toni Towers 4. Best Rider - Krissi Kain (Latte) 1, Toni Towers (Boof) 2, Maree Gulliver (Texas) 3, Zoe Rook (Oscar) 4. Paced and Mannered - Krissi Kain (Latte) 1, Zoe Rook (Oscar) 2, Toni Tow-

ers (Boof) 3, Maree Gulliver (Texas) 4. Horse suitable for Riding Activities - Christina Wells (Riz) 1, Maree Gulliver (Texas) 2, Krissi Kain (Latte) 3, Zoe Rook (Oscar) 4. Best Combination - Krissi Kain (Latte) 1, Toni Towers (Boof) 2, Zoe Rook (Oscar) 3, Christina Wells (Riz) 4. Open Horse Ring. Best Cared for Mount and Rider - Helen McCallum (EBL Posh) 1, Dannell Davis ((Chief) 2, Kirsten Gooch (Affair) 3, Kelsi Bayley (Anty) 4. Best Rider - Helen McCallum (EBL Posh) 1, Andrea Dingle (Forest) 2, Kelsi Bayley (Anty) 3, Dannell Davis ((Chief) 4. Paced and Mannered - Helen McCallum (EBL Posh) 1, Kelsi Bayley (Anty) 2, Kirsten Gooch (Affair) 3,

Nadia Huitson (Silerstone) 4. Horse suitable for Riding Activities - Nadia Huitson (Silerstone) 1, Kelsi Bayley (Anty) 2, Kirsten Gooch (Affair) 3, Andrea Dingle and Helen McCallum 4. Best Combination - Andrea Dingle (Forest) 1, Helen McCallum (EBL Posh) and Kelsi Bayley (Anty) 2, Kirsten Gooch (Affair) 3, Nadia Huitson (Silerstone) 4. Best Pair of horses- Maree Gulliver (Texas) and Krissi Kain (Latte) 1, Andrea Dingle (Forest) and Nadia Huitson (Silerstone) 2, Anna Lee Innes (Chloe) and Brian Hamblyn (Ranger) 3. Riding Club Mount Obstacle - Nadia Huitson (Silerstone) 1, Krissi Kain (Latte) 2, Anna Lee Innes (Chloe) 3, Andrea Dingle (Forest) 4.

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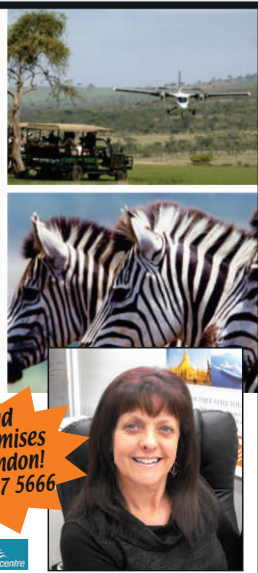
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Opunake High School Head students, 2015



Opunake High School student leaders Ashleigh Tito-Collins and Brody Chapman.

Opunake High School has selected Brody Chapman and Ashleigh Tito-Collins as their Head Students. What was their reaction?

"I was in shock. I couldn't believe it. It was something that I thought was out of my reach. I feel very privileged – to make my family proud," said Ashleigh.

"I'd never have expected it. It was amazing," commented Brody. He explained that as he is "not very sporty", it would have mitigated against his chances.

This year Ashleigh is studying statistics, english, biology and her two equal favourites - chemistry and physical education.

Brody is studying chemistry, physics, english, calculus and biology – his favourite.

Ashleigh's goals as leader

are to encourage students to bolster their self-esteem and believe in themselves. "I've got a lot of spirit and I'd like to use that to get participation in activities, in things up. She mentions athletics as an example of what she has in mind.

"I'd like to see school spirit enhanced – to see people take part in events. I'm not asking for excellence, I'm just asking for people to try their hardest," says Brody.

Hopefully, there is time for these two student leaders to find time for relaxation. Ashleigh plays Senior A

basketball and touch rugby. She also enjoys her job as a cleaner at the school. Brody enjoys quality time with family and friends. He also likes swimming, bushcraft and archery. Who said he wasn't sporty?"

Final comments? Ashleigh said she was excited that her hapu Awhina had won the Pohutukawa trophy for athletics. We've never won it before. It was a big thing to win it."

"It's an honour. I'll sincerely try my hardest – not just for me, but for those who look up to me," concluded Brody.

Coastal Taranaki School Head Students for 2015

Finnley Binsbergen (17) and Rodney Cruden-Powell (16) are the Head Students at Okato's Coastal Taranaki School.

"I was pretty stoked. Yeah it was a bit special," Finnley remarked about his promotion.

"Guess I'm pretty proud because my brother had it two years before – carrying on the family tradition," commented Rodney.

This year Finnley is studying biology, mathematics (statistics), english, design technology and his favourite geography.

Rodney's subjects are the same as Finnley's except that he is doing music instead of biology. Music is his definite favourite and he plays the drums.

Finnley's main goal for the year is to encourage his whanau (Maunga) to win the competition. Rodney intends to promote art and music within the school, so it enjoys the same status as sport at CTS.



Head students at Coastal Taranaki School, Rodney Cruden-Powell (left) and Finnley Binsbergen.

For relaxation Finnley enjoys both sailing (he has his own yacht) and skiing. Playing his drums and hockey are Rodney's main interests in his spare time.

When he leaves CTS Finnley intends study at Victoria

University, with a Bachelor of Science in earth sciences in mind. Rodney is still unsure about what lies ahead vocationally, but it will definitely include music. He will possibly study for a Bachelor in Music at university.

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Manaia Rugby Football Club looks forward to another year

The 2015 rugby season is almost upon us and Manaia is gearing up for another successful year. 2014 was a year of highlights. The U7's coached by Andrea Bird and Casey Laing had a lot of fun, and the team played really well all season. The U8's had new coaches in Cory Lott and Tyarn Katenene, and they soon had this team humming, only losing one game. Leroy and Nicola Nelley managed another title win, coaching the U10's through to winning the South Taranaki tournament. The U11's had another good year with Mark Gallie, and Fingers Walker and Shelley Craig getting their team to the semi's. The U13's backed up from winning the Taranaki Championship in 2013 with winning the John Major shield again in 2014. The coaching staff of Kepa Grindlay, Karl Piccard, Chris Putt and Makere Hook and the team had an outstanding season, going through undefeated, scoring 990 points for with only 8 scored against. They beat NBOB 98-3 in the final on Yarrow Stadium, which was a fair indication of the dominance they held in the competition throughout the year.

The U13 team won the Paddy Manu Sports Award for Team of the Year and Kepa Grindlay was a finalist in the Coach of the Year category. The following boys

made Ross Brown teams, Luke Hohaia, Mason Milham, Riley Putt, Tom Simson, Aston Wilson, Corbin Nelley, William Guthrie, Connor Mitchel, Matthew Piccard and Brae Scott. Corbin Nelley and Mason Milham made the Taranaki Ross Brown team and Tom Simson, William Guthrie, Shannon Haenga, Judda Turahui, Connor Mitchell and Meihana Grindlay making it into the Taranaki U13 team.

To cap this off, the club was proud when two of our boys, Meihana Grindlay and Judda Turahui earned scholarships to Kings College.

So with the new season about to start, we welcome all players new and old, back for another year in a country club that is proud of what it has achieved and for the 'club based fun atmosphere' it fosters during the season.

Registration days are held at the Manaia Sports Complex on the following dates; Thursday March 12 (4-5pm), Saturday March 14(1011am) and the following Thursday March 19 (4-5pm).

Any queries please ring Ross Clark (President) 274 5737, Megan Peters (Secretary) 272 6644, Nicola Nelley (Treasurer) 272 6661, or Simon Guthrie (Convenor) 278 5608.



Nearly 200 of world's best surfers to compete in Taranaki

Taranaki's two World Surf League (WSL) competitions in late March will turn into a surf-a-thon of the world's best following an oversubscription of entries.

Entries for the WSL's Women's Qualifying Series Port Taranaki Pro, and the North Beach Pro Juniors for Boys and Girls closed on February 25 with an oversubscription of entries from

Kiwi and international competitors.

However, with WSL's blessing, all entrants will be allowed to compete for the events based at Taranaki's Fitzroy Beach running from March 24 to 29, says event director Craig Williamson.

"It will be a challenge with our six-day event window to run the competitions with such large fields but with a

few venue options up our sleeves I'm confident we'll be able to get through it all," says Williamson, from Surfing Taranaki who host the event.

"The up side is that there'll definitely be international competition level surfing for the public to watch each and every day - if there are contestable surf conditions they'll definitely be out there

surfing which is great for spectators and supporters."

From the original limit of 72 entrants in the Port Taranaki Pro, there are now 92 including six competitors on the elite World Championship Tour (WCT) - Bianca Buitentag (SA), Laura Enever (AUS), Sage Erikson (US), Tatianna

continued on page 18



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Board riders express themselves



Opunake Board Riders celebrated Opunake's 150 years birthday with an old style surf expression session held at Opunake Beach Monday March 9.

Old boards from the 1960's, 70's and 80's came out the shed, and keen and talented local surfs lined up to have a go on the old style boards. Conditions were good and lots of fun was had.

Harry James did a handstand on his board, Murray Baylis and Arnold Hickey walked their boards and hung ten. Alex Corrigan rode a wave for the longest ride. Soul's son Shem showed style as the youngest and up and coming surfer.

Photo from right to left: Josh Baylis, Alex Corrigan, Harry James, Murray Baylis, Arnold Hickey, Soul Vallis and his two sons Sid and Shem.

Former Silver Fern succeeds netball stalwart

A former Silver Fern is the new head of Netball Taranaki. At the AGM held on February 23 at the Stratford District War Memorial Hall, Joan Hodson was elected to succeed longtime board member and president Julie Boulton, who has been on the board for 10 years, the last two as president. In this time the Board have had many successes and she is very proud of the achievements made in her tenure. "The development of a new long term strategic plan and the return of the Taranaki A team are a couple of key highlights in recent times, but it's the relationships developed over this time that will provide the fondest memories" she said.

Boulton recognized the commitment and challenges that comes with volunteering and the support needed and

ended her closing speech with the acknowledgement to her family. "The support they provided gave me the ability to do this role for as long as I have and I'm very grateful for this".

Netball Taranaki General Manager Steve Roberts says Julie has made a significant contribution to our sport in the last decade. "Always professional in her approach she has ensured that the game and members were always front of mind. Well known in the community, she has provided wise counsel and I know that she'll be at the courts first week of the season, contributing as she always does".

Roberts also said that whilst Julie will be missed he was very excited about what lays ahead. "With the work done in the past and a new team in place I'm comfortable that netball in

Taranaki is in a positive space going forward".

Hodson was a member of the Silver Ferns team which won the world championships in 1987. Since then she has coached the Auckland Diamonds and been a top international umpire.

Also at the AGM, life member Ivy Topping was elected as a new Board member, to join Joan Hodson and current board members board members, Jacqueline Baker, Maria Ramsay and Roger Wells.



Julie Boulton (Centre) with the past two Presidents Bev Raine (left) and Theresa Strachan.

continued from page 17

Weston-Webb (US), Dimity Stoye (AUS), and Nikki Van Dijk (AUS).

In the North Beach Pro Junior events, there are now 64 entrants in the boys' competition and up to 48 in the girls'. Jacob Wilcox will be returning from Australia to defend his 2014 championship title in the boys' Pro Junior, along with Tatianna Weston-Webb defending her girls' Pro Junior title from 2014.

"We have a lot of Kiwi competitors in the lineup as well which is fantastic to see," says Williamson.

"These are the only World Surf League events in New Zealand, and it gives our locals will have the chance to prove their competition

skills against the world's best from Europe, South Africa, Japan, the United States, and of course - our cousins from Australia."

The Port Taranaki Pro - a world Qualifying Series event enables surfers to earn valuable points to get on to the elite World Tour, and Taranaki local Paige Hareb will be looking to continue her determined and strong start on the QS circuit this year. Also to watch will be Whangamata's Ella Williams, as well as Muriwai Beach's twin dynamos Gaby Sansom and Bianca Sansom.

Hareb is currently ranked fifth on the QS, having achieved second place in the Hainan Pro in mid-January, and 17th place in the Australian Open in early February.

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SCRAP METAL South Taranaki. S.O.S. - Ph Dave: 0276058437

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

FOR SALE

STIHL equipment on special this month. Chainsaws from \$325. More specials instore. Collins Sports Centre. 06 761 8778.

MAGNESIUM OIL sprayed on the skin absorbs quicker than taking orally. For helping to reduce cramps, sleep problems, headaches etc at Hardys the health shop in Centre City 7587553

DO YOU HAVE an intolerance to wine, headaches after a small amount, could be the sulphites. At Hardys we have UB free, wine preservative neutraliser. Shop 18 Centre City 7587553

FLEE FLEA happy cats and dogs, a nutritional supplement when sprinkled on food deters fleas and improves the coat at Hardys the health shop in Centre City 7587553

SPECIALS Reinga Lily, good sized plants only \$3.95 to clear. Native tree specials only \$3-\$5. New Life Nursery. 183 Tasman Street, Opunake. 06 761 8067.

PUBLIC NOTICES

OPUNAKE SPORTING SHOOTERS (Incorporated) AGM
 Wednesday March 25th at Headlands, 7.30pm.
 All welcome.
 Any queries phone Trevor Beale (06) 272 8187

RAHOTU HOME & SCHOOL A.G.M.
 Wednesday 25th March 2015 at 7.00pm at the Rahotu Tavern Lounge.
 Everyone welcome.

SOCCER PLAYERS WANTED

Register with **Coastal Junior Soccer Club**
 New players welcome
 email: coastaljuniorsoccer@gmail.com or contact Graham Smith 027 426 1607 or 761 7500

MANAIA RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB
 Manaia Rugby Football Club
 Registration dates @ Manaia Sports Complex
 Thur 12th March 4-5pm
 Sat 14th March 10-11am
 Thur 19th March 4-5pm
 All players welcome. Any queries please ring Simon Guthrie 278 5608 or Megan Peters 272 6644, or Nicola Nelley 272 6661.

Physiotherapy wanted

For elderly woman in New Plymouth
 Please contact (06) 761 8206 or (06) 761 7016

PUBLIC NOTICES

Playcentre

Welcoming any new families into the area. Come and have a look at our child friendly facilities

Session Times: Tuesday & Thursday 9.30am - 12.30pm

Enquiries Contact: 06 763 8658

RAHOTU PLAYCENTRE

Whanau tupu ngatahi - Families growing together

CHURCH NOTICES

Opunake & Okato Co-operating Parish CHURCH SERVICES

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

Opunake Catholic Church

SUNDAY 8.30 am at Pungarehu (St Martins), 10am at Opunake (Our Lady Star Of The Sea).

Other areas

Manaia - Sacred Heart - 1st & 3rd Saturdays at 5pm (2nd, 4th and 5th Sat at Hawera's St Josephs).
 Kaponga - St Patricks, Sunday 8.45am
 Okato - St. Patricks - Saturday 6pm

PUBLIC NOTICES

Coastal Care Dawn Blessing

Members of the public are invited to attend the Dawn Blessing of the new Coastal Care building. This will take place on **Tuesday 17th March at 6.30am** and will be followed by light refreshments. Everyone is welcome, gathering on the site at 6am. The Coastal Taranaki Health Trust is planning to have the official opening on April 2 and the building will be open for business after Easter

PLEASE NOTE: The date for the blessing published in the last issue of the Opunake and Coastal News was changed to the above date.



Come join us at OKATO Playgroup

Welcoming parents & children from birth to six years old.

We have toys for all age groups, fun activities, arts, crafts, dress ups, music, baby area and much more.

Morning tea is provided.

Open on 1st & 3rd Wednesday each month (school term) from **10am to 12pm at St Lukes Hall on Carthew Street in Okato.**

Gold coin donation.

For further information, contact Charlotte on 027 514 5555.



COMMUNITY BOARD APPOINTMENT

At the Egmont Plains Community Board meeting held on Wednesday 4 March 2015 the Egmont Plains Community Board resolved to appoint Ms Sharlee Mareikura to the vacant position left by Sharon Arlidge's departure.

Sharlee was considered to be an excellent fit for the Board with her being community minded, approachable, professional and presentable. Sharlee also has a good understanding and knowledge of the Egmont Plains Ward and an appreciation and understanding of Maori and other cultural issues within that Ward area.

The appointment of Ms Sharlee Mareikura will be confirmed at the next Egmont Plains Community Board meeting held on Wednesday 15 April 2015.

Call us today to advertise **06 761 7016**



Recruiting now

HERE TO THERE WITH CARE

Red Cross Community Transport volunteers have helped 17,000 people get to their community appointments.

Why not join us?

New Zealand Red Cross needs more volunteers to drive vulnerable people to their health and community appointments. If you have a good driving record and would like to assist in this rewarding work, we'd love to hear from you. Call us on 0800 733 276 to find out more.

0800 733 276 www.redcross.org.nz NEW ZEALAND RED CROSS Community Transport

WHAT'S ON



OPUNAKE COMMUNITY POOLS

Aquafit & lane swimming. A/F – Mon 6:30pm, Tues/Thurs 5:30pm & 6:30pm, Tues/Fri 9am. Lanes – Mon-Fri 6:30-8:30am. Mon 6:30-7:30pm, Tues – Thurs 5-7:30pm. Public swimming Weekends & Public Holidays 1-4pm.

OPUNAKE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Meet on the 1st Monday of each month. Monday 2 March, Everybody's Theatre 5.30pm Get together 6pm Meeting.

OPUNAKE COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB

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

BARNEY AND CO

Mondays 1.30pm. St Barnabas Church Hall. Games, friendship, cuppa. All welcome.

ELTHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Corner York and Bridge Streets. Open 1.00 p.m. – 3.30 Thursdays and Fridays

SURF INN

Every day free pool. Every Friday free sausage sizzle from 5. Every Sunday afternoon. Pool comp

COASTAL YOUNG FARMERS

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

TARANAKI COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME, MANAIA

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

EGMONT EUCHRE CLUB

Meets every Thursday 1pm at the Opunake Bowling Club

CAPE EGMONT HISTORIC LIGHT & MUSEUM

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

TODD ENERGY AQUATIC CENTRE

Family fun times 10.30am to 4.30pm.

COASTAL SINGERS

7pm every Thursday night. Contact 761 8654.

ELTHAM BUSINESS ASSOCIATION FRIDAY MARKETS

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

SCHNITZEL NIGHT

Every Wednesday at the Stony River Hotel, Okato.

SESQUICENTENNIAL EVENTS

History Book. These are now available from the Opunake Library Plus.

COASTAL CARE DAWN BLESSING – DATE CHANGE!

Tuesday March 17 at 6.30am. Refer advert for more details.

PERCY THOMPSON GALLERY

TONY CARTER – March 5 – 29, opening Thursday 5 at 6pm. Refer advert. GLEN HAYWARD Feb 6 March 1st

TSB COMMUNITY TRUST – ROADSHOW TO DISCUSS BIG CHANGES TO THE TYPES OF GRANTS AVAILABLE TO THE COMMUNITY

Hawera – March 13, 12.30 – 1.30pm, Hawera War Memorial Hall

Opunake, 16 March, 12.30-1.30, Sandfords Event Centre.

TARANAKI MASTERS GAMES

March 12-15 refer advert

RAHOTU TAVERN COMING EVENTS

Dorky Memorial Pool Tournament 1pm Sunday 15th March. Wednesday 18th March Rahoitu Tavern Quiz Night - Get your team together for a night of fun and laughter. \$5 per player

6.30pm start. Spot prizes, raffles and best dressed team prize. Pre register by 15th.

Rahoitu DB Pool Team - looking for new members please register by 15th ph Tavern 06-763-8847. Tournament starts 17th March.

THE VILLAGE GALLERY

South of the Mountain. Hawera Art Club Exhibition – March 16 – April 10.

ST. MARY'S DIOCESAN SCHOOL

Open Day – Wednesday March 18 2015, 10am – 3pm

OPUNAKE PRIMARY HOME AND SCHOOL AGM

March 18, 10.30am at Soul Kitchen, Opunake

NEW PLYMOUTH BOYS HIGH SCHOOL HOSTEL OPEN DAY

Friday March 20, 2015 – 11.30am – 2.30pm. Enrolling now for 2016 and beyond. Please refer advert for further information.

CONNECT15

Connecting people to jobs and careers. TSB Hub, Hawera on May 22-23.

OPUNAKE SPORTING SHOOTERS

AGM – Wednesday March 25 at Headlands at 7.30pm.

RAHOTU HOME & SCHOOL AGM

Wednesday March 25 at 7pm at the Rahoitu Tavern Lounge.

TARANAKI HOME AND LIFESTYLE EXPO

TSB Stadium, 27-29 March – Refer advert for further details.

ELTHAM DOWNHILL CHEESE RACE

Easter Saturday, April 4 2015. Refer advert.

TET CUE THEATRE, INGLEWOOD

THE GAME'S AFOOT or HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS, 7 – 19 April. Refer advert.

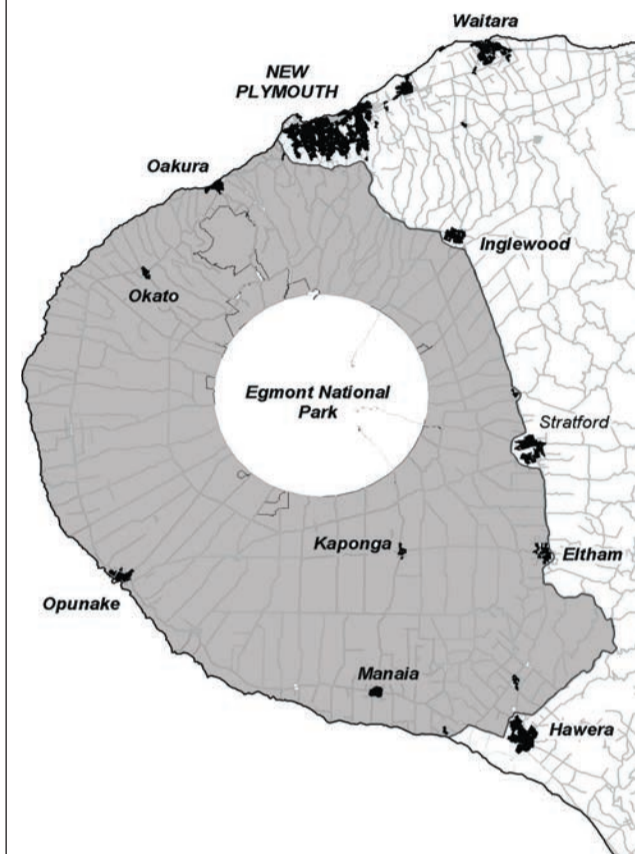
HAWERA REPERTORY.

ANZAC by John Broughton directed by Clive Cullen. 18 - 25 April 2015. Cinderella by Ben Crocker directed by Donald Campbell. 4 - 11 July 2015



OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

Distribution Map



NEW PLYMOUTH BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL HATHERLY HOUSE

An Outstanding Boarding School For Your Son
Providing growth opportunities in a family environment.

2015 Boarding Fees - \$10,840 pa. Exceptional Value



2014 ERO Report states –

- Many students achieve merit and excellence endorsements and success in scholarship examinations.
- Classroom environments are settled with students on task and engaged in their work.
- There is a positive tone and learning culture throughout the school.
- The hostel has strong systems for gathering and responding to student ideas, issues and concerns. It is important to extend these systems school wide. This should enable all students to have input to aspects of review, ongoing monitoring and improvement.

Hostel Open Day

See our boarding and school facilities and meet with the 'hostel family'.

Friday, March 20, 2015 : 11.30 am – 2.30 pm

Enrolling now for 2016 and beyond.

To confirm your attendance (for catering purposes), please contact:

Dawn Eaton (Headmaster's / Hostel PA) ☎ 06 757 6116 or E-mail office@npbhs.school.nz

Visit - www.npbhs.school.nz



South of the Mountain

Hawera Art Club Exhibition

16 March-10 April

THE VILLAGE GALLERY, 166 HIGH STREET, ELTHAM
OPEN MON- SAT 10AM -3PM

Downhill Cheese Race Great Fun! Don't miss out!
in **Eltham**

Easter Saturday April 4th 2015
Market Day starts at 9am
First race starting at 11am
Contact for Stalls:
Eltham Four Square 06 764 5310 or
Peggy on 06 764 8957



St Mary's Diocesan School, Stratford

Our parents choose St Mary's Diocesan Stratford because they want the best for their daughter, and they value the wide range of educational opportunities, in an all-girls setting, fostering each individual girl to realise her potential.

Centrally located in the heart of Taranaki, St Mary's Diocesan has been nurturing Year 9 to Year 13 girls for 101 years.

We are the only school in Taranaki that specialises in boarding, with great girl

centred facilities, we offer unique boarding options tailored to the individual needs of your family, including seasonal boarding for the farming community.

From Physics to Photography, our girls excel across a broad range of subjects and their academic studies are complemented by co-curricular choices as varied as Young Farmers Club, Kapa Haka and Glee, as well as traditional whole school sports and music events.

Our first class pastoral care and Big Sister programme ensure that new girls are connected to the St Mary's Diocesan family from their first day with us. Leadership and service opportunities allow every girl to develop their talents and skills

Small class sizes, passionate teachers and high academic expectations sit alongside our values of respect, responsibility, perseverance, service, and care, and reflect the special Anglican character of St Mary's Diocesan.

Our girl's-only environment, family atmosphere and boutique boarding facilities all allow girls to discover who they can be.

Help your daughter to realise her potential by selecting St Mary's Diocesan for her life-long learning journey

Boarding enrolments for 2016 are now open.

Come and visit St Mary's Diocesan on Open Day and discuss with us your boarding needs tailored to suit your daughter.

TARANAKI
HOME & LIFESTYLE EXPO

TSB STADIUM
27 - 29 MARCH
FRI-SAT: 10-5PM, SUN: 10-4PM

WIN A \$5,000 Resene VOUCHER

FEATURING **JO & DAMO**
FROM THE BLOCK NZ

homeandlifestyleexpo.co.nz

Stratford Painters

The March exhibition is by a group of painters who have met every week for more than a decade. In Stratford, Taranaki, New Zealand. See the work of 10 of these artists on the virtual tart website at

www.tart.co.nz. Packets of collages are rolling in for the 17th annual International exhibition/exchange. More than 3 dozen so far and it's only just March. I'm keeping up. Just. In other

news, the New Zealand dollar has dropped against the American, so if you've been thinking of getting one of my books, they're now cheaper for USA artlovers. They're on the 'Press' page of my website www.dalecopeland.co.nz.

Dale Copeland.



St Mary's Diocesan School Stratford

An integrated Anglican Year 9 – Year 13 Boarding and Day School in the heart of Taranaki

Where each girl is nurtured to realise her potential

OPEN DAY
WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH 2015 - 10am - 3pm



Come and visit St Mary's Diocesan on Open Day
Discuss with us your boarding needs tailored to suit your daughter

61 Broadway North, Stratford 4332 Telephone 06 765 5333

Email: office@stmarysstratford.school.nz

www.stmarysstratford.school.nz

If you're Irish come into the parlour

It is time to select a new Rose for 2015. Do you have the qualities of a Rose? Maybe you have not considered entering before now, and if not then you could be missing the experience of a lifetime. Don't delay, check to see if you are eligible - enter online www.roseoftralee.ie/roses

The Rose of Tralee Selection is now in its 58th year. Centres from all around the world select their Rose to represent their region on the world stage in Tralee at the International Rose of Tralee Festival, the largest festival

in Ireland. Televised to over a million viewers worldwide, its popularity continues to entertain, inspire and share in the stories and journeys of the 32 International Roses in Tralee each year.

The Rose selection is one of the highlights of the festival. Parades, fashion show, Rose Ball, live concerts, bands, discos, amusement park and street stalls, family entertainment, circus, races, Air show, and fireworks displays are some of the attractions bringing 200,000 to the small town each year.

It is a celebration and a highlight at the end of the summer break in Ireland.

The judging is based on the words of the song "the Rose of Tralee".

The selected winner will be an ambassador for her region, family and community, and is someone who enjoys socialising, meeting people and can communicate and relate well to others.

Judging for the Taranaki region will commence on Sunday April 19 with individual interviews, and the Taranaki winner will

be announced on Saturday April 25 at the final in New Plymouth. Tickets for the dinner and dance will be available at the Plymouth hotel reception. The judges will be looking for someone to represent Taranaki with the ability to also represent New Zealand in Tralee.

This contest is not just for the ladies. Yes, the lads can enter too. Last year Ciaran Forsyth from New Plymouth represented New Zealand at the festival as one of the 32 International Rose Escorts, and said it was, "one of the best experiences of my life, and would recommend the experience". There is a very busy tight schedule for both the Roses and their escorts, meeting sponsors, media interviews, parades, photocalls, autograph signings, and so on. It is a fun party atmosphere at the festival, and the Roses attract a fan following. Banners and poster are displayed in their support.

The escorts are there to support their Rose, and all the Roses during the festival, but are also part of the celebrations. The grand ball seats 1000 for dinner, and entertainment includes brass bands, aerial trapeze artists, and much more. There are three street parades through

the light-filled decorated streets, always a favourite moment and highlight.

There are two nights of televised live interviews with the Roses and the new International Rose is chosen. Not only is a Rose chosen, but the "Escort of the Year" is also announced.

Lads if you would like to be an escort, you too can enter online www.roseoftralee.ie/rose-escort.

For more information call Louise Buhler 06 274 8494 or view and like our facebook page "Taranaki Irish Club." www.roseoftralee.co.nz



2014 NZ Rose Lisa Bazalo with other International Roses at the Newbridge Silverware shop and museum, Newbridge.

Taranaki Irish Social Club Inc
Presents



Brooke Muggeridge
2014 Taranaki Rose



"Enter now"

Interviews - Meet & Greet Sun 19th April 2015
Final - Dinner & Dance Sat 25th April 2015

A fun filled contest for single women
18-27years of Irish descent

The winner will represent Taranaki at the New Zealand final, in Wellington, weekend of 6th June, 2015
You could win a trip to Ireland representing New Zealand!

ENQUIRIES - ph Louise 06 274 8494 or 027 3308510
ENTRY FORMS - www.roseoftralee.ie/roses
TICKETS - available from reception Plymouth Hotel, NP



**OPUNAKE
SESQUICENTENNIAL**
www.facebook.com/opunake150



The Highway 45 Cruisers held a successful show at the Sandfords Event Centre on Sunday.

Best hot rod: Steve Gooch.

Best classic car: David Murray.

Best motorbike: Warren Crawford.

People's choice: David Murray.

Furtherest travelled: John Mowat.

Their display is still in the Library.

* The short story/poetry competition entries have gone to judge Graeme Lay.

* We have many events on the calendar which have little detail or final dates. PLEASE let the committee know details as soon as possible as we want to reprint the brochure for distribution. Also if details are sent they will be published in the Opunake/Coastal News.

* The Sesqui committee fireworks display is now December 5 at the Sandfords Event Centre.

We did feel very sorry for Okato who had all their Sesqui events in such miserable weather. However it was very successful.

EVERYBODY'S THEATRE

Opunake - MOVIES - BOUTIQUE THEATRE - HIRE

For information email: everybodystheatre@gmail.com or check facebook- Everybody's Theatre

March 2015

Lollies, popcorn, drinks, ice-creams, chocolate bars, tea/coffee for sale
Upstairs Adults \$10, Students 4-16 \$8 Under 4 Free
Downstairs All \$12, Senior Citizens \$8. No Eft-pos

What We Did On Our Holidays

Comedy, Drama | 1hr 35mins | PG | Coarse language

British comedy heart-warmer from the creators of BBC series *Outnumbered*. Doug, Abi, and their three rug rats head to the Scottish Highlands for grandad's (Billy Connolly) birthday, whilst trying to keep their impending divorce a secret. Lionsgate Films UK
Saturday 14th @ 1 pm & Friday 13th @ 7 pm



The Theory of Everything

Biography, Drama, True Story, Romance | 2hr 03mins | PG

The extraordinary story of Jane and Stephen Hawking. Biopic on renowned theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking. Paramount
Sunday 15th & Wednesday 18th @ 7 pm



Wild

Biography, Drama, True Story | 1hr 55mins | R16 | Sex scenes, nudity, drug use & offensive language

The director of *Dallas Buyers Club* helms this true-story, self-discovery drama starring Reese Witherspoon (in an Oscar-nominated performance). Witherspoon plays Cheryl Strayed, who took it upon herself to hike solo across 1,800 kms of America.
20th 22nd & 25th @ 7 pm. Fox



Kingsman: The Secret Service

Action, Comedy, Thriller | 2hr 08mins | R16 | Violence & offensive language

X-Men: First Class and *Kick-Ass* director Matthew Vaughn brings another comic book to the big screen with this comedy spy tale. Eggsy is a wayward youth until recruited into a secretive global espionage agency by Harry Hart where he becomes part of their effort to bring down a genius super-villain. Friday 27th @ 7 pm. Fox



Paddington Bear

Comedy, Family, Kids | 1hr 35mins | G | Country of Origin: UK

The duffel-coated, galoshes-wearing family favourite bear hits cinema screens for the first time. Follows the comic mis-adventures of a young Peruvian bear with a passion for all things British, who travels to London in search of a home.
28th @ 1 pm. Studio Canal



Insurgent

Action, Adventure, Science Fiction, Romance | 1 hr 59mins | M

Shailene Woodley leads this follow-up to 2014's *Divergent*, the young adult dystopian sci-fi about a heavily-guarded community in the near future broken into five factions based on individual skill sets. Paramount. 29th @ 7pm. Rialto



Three in one at Percy Thomson Gallery

Percy Thomson Gallery in Stratford is currently featuring three artists – Michelle Rowland, William Whipp and Tony Carter. The exhibition runs until Sunday March 29 and is well worth seeing.

Michelle's exhibits mostly involve pastel on paper and her subjects are often animals or birds, such as in 'Tui Song'. There is, however, an impressive oil on canvas painting entitled 'Mountain Trail'. A very appealing collection of exhibits from this talented artist.

William Whipp prefers oils

using a wide brush, but also creates in a range of other media. He explains that coming to Taranaki 13 years ago unleashed his creativity and he produced a plethora of creative work. A dramatic work on display is the boat 'Rawara', encountering a terrible storm, which William has captured in a compelling fashion. "I love rivers, water and the stars," he declares. When he arrived in NZ from his native England he was taken by the art of Peter McIntyre, but didn't want to copy him. "I've tried over the

years not to paint like him," he says with a smile.

Tony Carter is a talented photographer whose range of very large photographs is huge and imaginative – often of people often referred to as 'characters'. "I like to photograph very honest open people, who live simple lives," he explains. I was intrigued by his photographs of 'Cindy', whose interests were reflected vividly in the pictures in her bedroom, including Marilyn Monroe, Elvis and James Dean.



'Mountain Trail' and the artist Michelle Rowland.



William Whipp with his painting 'Waitemata Harbour'.



Tony Carter with his photograph 'Cindy'.

cue theatre **THE GAME'S AFOOT**
or **HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS**
Written by Ken Ludwig
Directed by Joan Ertel

TET CUE THEATRE,
INGLEWOOD
7 - 19 April
Tickets from
INGLEWOOD BOOK CENTRE
PH 06 7567 032
\$22 per person
(\$20 group bookings of 10+)
www.cuetheatre.co.nz

Summer Sounds in stunning King Edward Park

Let's make the most of the fine weather – and what better way to enjoy it than spending an evening in our beautiful King Edward Park listening to some top quality music.

Summer Sounds is a new event to the South Taranaki District Council's events calendar which is set to be held on Friday 27 and Saturday 28 March. Both evenings will start at 5:30pm with local Taranaki band Guitarra followed by a

performance by St Joseph's Hawera Kapahaka Group - Hato Hohepa O Hawera, and then the main act, "The Starlets".

Sarah Kelly, Georgia Gumbley and Sarah Greenwood make up the dynamic 'Starlet' trio. These multi-talented performers, based in Christchurch, have graced the stages of professional theatres across New Zealand. Together, 'The Starlets' bring delicious three

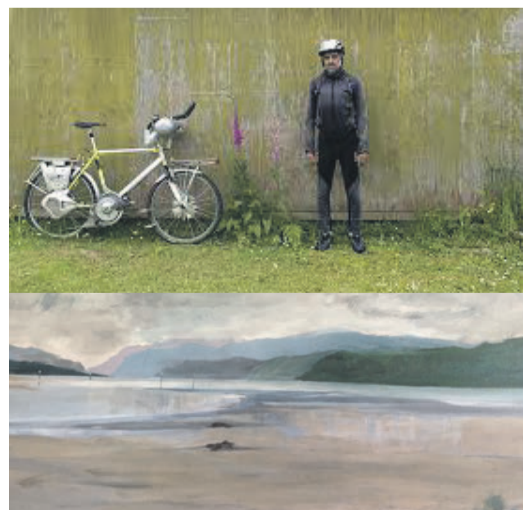
part harmonies featuring your favourite hits from vintage eras, snappy dance moves and first class entertainment.

"We are so excited to be able to entertain in Hawera. Our music is family friendly, fun and the well-loved melodies are infectious. We hope to have people at this event tapping their toes, singing along and maybe even getting up for a boogie!" says Starlets member Sarah Greenwood.

South Taranaki District Council events co-ordinator Jody Bloor wants to see as many people as possible come along to enjoy the evening's free entertainment. "You are welcome to bring along a picnic or make use of one of the food stalls which will be on offer."

"We want everyone to have a nice lazy evening enjoying the music in the beautiful surrounds of King Edward Park -It's going to be a great couple of nights," says Jody.

This event is proudly brought to you by South Taranaki District Council and supported by TSB Community Trust.



Another World

Portraits from Ohura

Tony Carter

March 5 - 29

join us for the Opening Thurs 5 @ 6pm

Over the Fence

Michelle Rowland & William Whipp

PERCY THOMSON GALLERY
PERCYTHOMSONGALLERY.ORG.NZ

MIRANDA ST.
STRATFORD
06 765 0917